

A Present Help

David was a shepherd boy. For most of his young life, he led his father's sheep over the hillsides, finding the greenest pastures for grazing.



There was a time when a hungry lion roared into the flock of sheep and seized a lamb in its jaws. David leapt forward and struck the lion with all his might, knowing he must fulfill his duty as the herd's protector. The lion dropped the lamb but turned on David, snarling fiercely. David grabbed the lion's beard and battled him

with all of his courage and strength until, finally, the lion lay dead at his feet.

When the battle was over, David knew it was the Lord who gave him the strength and courage to defeat the lion. He wrote, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1).

We are like the simple, defenseless sheep, and the devil is like the roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour (1 Peter 5:8). We are no more a match for the devil than the little lamb that David rescued. We must have the Good Shepherd to protect us and be our present help in times of trouble! God understands that we cannot fight against the devil with our own strength. Because He wanted a people who would depend upon Him, He created us with a need for His protection; but He has made Himself readily available to us. We can call on Him at any time, day or night. He is continually at our right hand, willing to protect and deliver us, just as He delivered David; but He cannot lead and protect you if

you do not obey Him. Just as a lion will devour a sheep that wanders from its shepherd, so will Satan attack and destroy you if you do not obey and follow the Lord.

David's sheep continually became so intent on looking for the most enticing and tender grass that danger crept upon them unaware. But David was watching and quickly herded the wanderers back to safety. The Lord shepherds us the same way David shepherded his sheep. We are not able to see the dangers all around us, but God sees every trap and will keep us out of harm if we follow His directions and keep our eyes upon Him.

Learn to follow the Lord while you are young. He gave His life to save you! He wants to be your shepherd and guide throughout your life. His desire is to protect you and provide for you in every way. He knows you will meet many troubles along the way, but He has promised to look ahead for danger and help you every time you call on Him! He will safely bring you to live with Him in Heaven. He knows the way!

Nelda Sorrell

Key Thought: We are as helpless as lambs. Our eternal safety depends on having the Lord as our Shepherd!

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

Just Stay Afloat

Ensenada, Mexico, 1995. Tim spread a beach towel on the warm sand of Corona Beach and lay down.

"Are you going to get in the water?" asked his wife, Pam.

"I just want to think awhile," he answered. "We have been married ten years now. I've been spending my life making money. I'm wondering if there isn't something more important that I should be doing."

"I can't believe you are this near the ocean and not going to swim," she remarked.

Tim watched her as she dove into a big wave. It looked so tempting. However, today he wanted to hear from God. He needed to be better acquainted with Him, so he could know the will of God for his personal life. Was he pursuing God's plan for his life or was there something else God wanted him to do?

He watched the waves tossing back and forth. "I don't want my life to be tossing back and forth between victory

Questions

1. What roared into the flock of sheep?
2. When can we call on God for help?
3. What is the devil like?
4. God cannot lead and protect us unless we _____ and _____ Him.

and failure. God, please make me stable. Make me strong so I can be a good example for my children,” he prayed. Then he lay back down and had a long conversation with God.

The next thing Tim knew, he was waking up. “I think I will jump in for a few minutes,” he said to Pam who had just returned from swimming.

“But you’re not wearing swimming clothes.”

“That’s alright. I’ll just swim in these.” He jumped in. “Ahh, this feels great!” he shouted. He flipped over onto his back and paddled out into deeper water. The Chapultepec beaches in the Ensenada Bay were usually safe. Tim didn’t know, however, that storms had shifted the sand below the water. Suddenly, he realized he was far away from shore and in very deep water. A strong current was rushing him out into the open ocean!

As soon as he realized its power, he slipped off his heavy jeans and started swimming hard against the current that was forcing him farther and farther from safety. A little at a time, he seemed to be getting closer to shore, and then a wave would force him back out. For what seemed like a long time, he tried getting back to the shore. “Help! Help!” he called, but the roar of the waves drowned out his voice.

He could see people playing on the beach. “Help! Help! Help! Help!” he called again and again. He also called in Spanish, hoping he could attract the attention of some Mexicans nearby.

For at least an hour, Tim kept struggling until every ounce of his strength was gone. “Oh Lord,” he prayed, “please don’t let me drown. What will my family do? How will Pam make a living for our five children?”

He struggled on until he realized he was fainting. I guess this is my end, he thought. An image of his children, fatherless, flashed before his eyes. I must struggle on. I must. I must. Moments later, he was fainting again. “Oh, Lord,” he cried. “I must have your help. I can’t leave my children fatherless at such young ages.”

At that moment, a strong thought entered his mind. Just stay afloat. Lie on your back and float. Keep your nose above the water. Just stay afloat. The words came over and over.

“Help me stay calm and trust You,” he prayed as he floated on the water. Looking toward the north, he could see the bay getting larger and larger. He was moving inland toward the shore!

On and on he floated; on and on toward the shore. At last, he felt the sand. He struggled to his feet and

walked almost to the edge of the water. There, he collapsed on the shore.

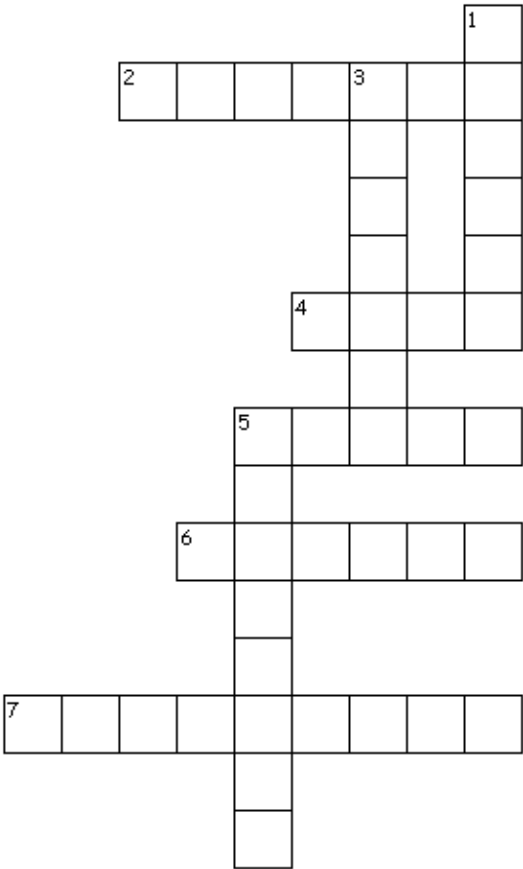
Pam came running. “Let me rest,” he mumbled.

Charlotte Huskey

Answers: 1. A hungry lion. 2. Any time, day or night.
3. A roaring lion. 4. Obey, follow.

Refuge and Strength

Word list: Anytime, Courage, Heaven, Lion, Protected, Refuge, Sheep, Shepherd



Across

- 2. The Lord gave ____ to David to fight the lion.
- 4. The devil is as a roaring ____.
- 5. We are as defenseless ____.
- 6. God is our ____ and strength.

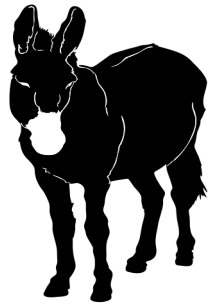
7. David ____ his sheep against the lion.

Down

- 1. If you follow God, He will lead you to ____.
- 3. When can you call on God?
- 5. David's occupation

Balaam's Donkey

Balak, the king of the Moabites, was very afraid of the children of Israel because they were so mighty and great in number. He had heard stories of their great victory in the country of the Amorites, so he sent his men to visit Balaam and ask him to come curse the children of Israel.



When they arrived with Balak's request, Balaam told the men to stay the night while he waited to hear from God. During the night, God spoke to

Balaam, saying, "You will not go with these men to curse the children of Israel, for they are blessed." Although the men had brought rewards to Balaam, he informed them that God would not let him curse the people, and the men departed.

Balak sent more men to visit Balaam. They tried their best to persuade him, saying, "Please do not let anything keep you from coming with us! Balak will promote you to great honor and give you any material possession you want." But Balaam told the men that even if Balak gave him a house full of silver and gold, he could not go against God's word. Even so, he invited the men to stay the night in the area while he waited for God to speak to him again. During the night, God said to Balaam, "If the men of Balak come to your house in the morning, go with them, but remember what I have told you. You cannot curse the children of Israel."

The next morning, Balaam did not wait for the men to return to his house, but saddled his donkey and went to find them. God was not pleased, so he sent an angel with his sword drawn to stand in Balaam's way. Upon seeing the angel, the donkey turned aside into a field.

Balaam smote the animal to turn her back to the path, for he could not see the angel. But, because the path they traveled was walled on both sides, the angel was blocking the way. When the donkey saw the angel again, she thrust herself into the wall and crushed Balaam's foot. Again, he smote her. The angel of the Lord went and stood in a narrow place where there was no room for the donkey to turn away. When the donkey saw the angel, she fell down under Balaam. He was so angry, he smote the donkey again with his staff.

The Lord opened the mouth of the donkey, and she said unto Balaam, "What have I done to you, that you have struck me three times?"

"You mock me!" Balaam answered. "If I had a sword in my hand, I would slay you at once."

The donkey spoke again to Balaam, saying, "Am I not your donkey? You have ridden me every day since you owned me, and have I ever done you wrong?"

"No," Balaam answered.

Then, the Lord opened the eyes of Balaam and he saw the angel, standing in the path, with his sword drawn. Balaam bowed down his head and fell on his face. The angel questioned him about beating his donkey. He told Balaam if the donkey had not seen him and turned aside, he would have slain Balaam and spared the donkey.

Balaam told the angel of the Lord, "I have sinned because I did not obey what the Lord commanded me to do."

Dena Porter

Key Thought: God might speak to us in an uncommon way to get our attention.

Memory Verse: We ought to obey God rather than men. Acts 5:29

Strange Pets

One day, a friend, Pepe, brought our children a burro. Excitedly, we gathered around the pickup to see our new pet. "Is it big enough to pull a cart?" Bobby asked. "He looks so little."

"I'm sure he is. Donkeys are very strong for their size," James answered.

"Can we buy a cart?" Tim asked.

"Maybe later, but first we will need to train the burro."

At that moment, Pepe reached over the side rails of the pickup to fasten a rope on the burro's neck. The burro

Questions

1. Why did Balak send for Balaam?
2. Did Balaam ask God about going to curse the children of Israel?
3. Did God want Balaam to curse the people?
4. What made Balaam's donkey different from other donkeys?

whirled quickly and kicked the pickup’s side rail with his hind feet. Pepe jumped back and said, “The burro is very frightened, but he will calm down.”

An hour later, Bobby took a bucket of water to the burro. The burro bit at Bobby and kicked the bucket of water over.

After weeks of good care, the burro had not changed. He tried to kick and bite anyone who came near. It became dangerous to have children over for Sunday school. It was almost impossible to keep every child away from him.

We tried several times to give him away, but no one wanted him. Finally, we asked Brother Harland Smith for advice. “I believe the San Diego Zoo will buy old animals,” he said. After all attempts to tame the burro or give it to someone in Mexico, we said goodbye to our strange gift at the San Diego Zoo.

Soon after we were rid of the burro, someone offered us a milk cow. That was great. Our children needed milk. We made a deal, offering to give them a little money for the cow.

When our milk cow arrived, we hurried out to see it just as we had with the burro.

“It’s a long horn,” Bobby shouted. “Wow!”
“Not a real long horn,” James corrected. “Just a cow with long horns.”

“She looks mean,” Tricia said and hid behind me.
I gazed at the light brown, bony cow. She was not at all what I had imagined we were getting. Her beady eyes flashed back and forth as if trying to decide which of her enemies she would attack first. I took Tim by one hand and Rosi by the other and went inside the house. Tricia followed close behind me. I wanted them safe in the house when the cow was let out of the truck.

Through the crack in the door, we watched the cowboy tie the long rope that was around her neck to the pickup. Then, he opened the tailgate. The cow bellowed and looked fearfully at the ramp and backed away. The two cowboys jumped into the truck and tried pushing her down the ramp. She tried horning them, so they jumped out of the truck. Next, they both pulled her down the ramp. She bellowed all the way. When her feet hit the solid ground, she dashed away. The rope tied to the truck

snapped as if it was a piece of string.
One cowboy jumped in the truck’s cab. The other jumped in the truck’s bed and began swinging his rope over his head as the truck sped away. They bounced over sand dunes and around scrub mesquite bushes trying desperately to rope the cow. Away they sped across the field to the fence. The cow jumped the fence, ran across the divided highway, and disappeared from sight, still running toward the mountains. The boys came driving back by the house and shouted, “We’re going to the mountains to get her.”
That was the last time we saw our milk cow. We were disappointed and relieved at the same time.

Charlotte Huskey

Answers: 1. He wanted Balaam to curse the people who came from Egypt. 2. Yes. 3. No. 4. His donkey talked to him.

The Donkey Speaks!

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 first letter in the first row to begin solving the puzzle. (Hint: Keep track of the letters you have already used to make solving easier.)

				L	O	R	D	
				M	O	U	T	H
							.	
T	H	F	N	T	E	D		
T	O	P	E	N	H	Y		
		D	E		K	E	E	
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Volume 66, Quarter 1, Week 2. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck. Contributors: Dena Porter, Charlotte Huskey. 2016.

Pride Before a Fall

Sennacherib, king of Assyria, captured cities all around



Jerusalem. He was confident that he could easily conquer Jerusalem too. His great army surrounded it. Then, Rabshakeh, one of Sennacherib's generals, called to the people of Jerusalem, saying, "The great king of Assyria says, 'Don't let your king,

Hezekiah, deceive you. He will not be able to deliver you. Neither let Hezekiah make you trust in the Lord, saying, 'The Lord will surely deliver us.' Have any of the gods of the other nations delivered them out of the hand of the king of Assyria? How then will God deliver Jerusalem?"

Hearing this, the men tore their clothes and went back to tell Hezekiah everything Rabshakeh had said. When the king heard, it he went into the house of the Lord to pray. He also sent men to the prophet Isaiah to tell him, "This is a day of great trouble. It may be that God will hear the words of Rabshakeh whom the king of Assyria has sent to reproach the living God. Pray for God to help us!"

Isaiah sent word back to Hezekiah saying, "The Lord says, 'Don't be afraid of the words that you have heard. The servant of the king of Assyria has blasphemed me. He will return to his own land and there I will cause him to be killed by a sword.'"

Soon Rabshakeh got word that another king had come to fight the people of Assyria, so he went back to his own land. But, he wrote a letter to Hezekiah, saying, "Don't let your God in whom you trust deceive you, saying, 'Jerusalem will not be given into the hand of the king of

Assyria.'"

When Hezekiah read this, he went up to the house of the Lord and spread the letter out before Him. He prayed, "O Lord God of Israel, you alone are God. Hear the words of Sennacherib who has reproached the living God. Now, O Lord our God, save us that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you are Lord God, even you only."

God then sent Isaiah to tell Hezekiah, "I have heard your prayer. The king of Assyria shall not come into this city."

That very night, the angel of the Lord went to the enemy camp and killed 185,000 soldiers. There was nothing for Sennacherib to do but return home in utter defeat. Then, while he was worshipping in the house of his idol god, two of his own sons killed him with a sword.

God proved that He was indeed the living God!

Nelda Sorrell

Key Thought: Pride exalts self and dishonors God.

Memory Verse: Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall. Proverbs 16:18

Falling on a Cactus

Rosi lived with her family in a very small trailer, so she played outside a lot. She usually played with her brother, Tim. But when she had to play alone, she liked to climb in tall trees. Her carefree nature blended with God's great outdoors.

Every Sunday morning, her daddy, James, drove a bus through the valley of La Mission, picking up people who wanted to worship God with him. One Sunday morning, Rosi begged to ride along with him.

That morning, while waiting to pick up a family, James ran a short distance up the hill to invite Susanna. Rosi, thus left without supervision, grasped the opportunity to climb a tall tree nearby. She quickly went from branch to branch until she was high in the tree, and then she looked down. Happy that everyone in the bus was watching her, she walked out toward the tip of the branch and bounced up and down. By now, many of the children were out of the bus. They began clapping and yelling, "Bravo, bravo." Encouraged by the cheering children, Rosi stepped off the branch and swung herself back and forth, holding only to a branch over her head.

Questions

1. Why was Sennacherib confident he could conquer Jerusalem?
2. Who said, "The king of the Assyria shall not come into this city"?
3. How many soldiers did the angel kill?
4. How did Sennacherib die?

By now, the women began screaming, "Be careful! Be careful! You are going to fall and kill yourself!"

I'm too good of a climber to hurt myself, Rosi thought.

Suddenly, from her height, she saw her daddy leaving Susanna's house. Quickly, she hurried back down the tree and jumped into her seat on the bus. The bus was full of chatter. The children were praising Rosi and the mothers were scolding her, but she was too busy with her self-satisfaction to hear them. James was late, so he hurried on, ignoring the noisy chatter. Apparently, he never heard what the mothers were saying.

Rosi had been climbing trees since she was five years old. A large prickly pear cactus grew at the bottom of the tree beside their home. However, Rosi always managed to get up in the tree without touching the cactus. One day when she and Timmy were playing, Rosi got a hankering to climb. Up the tree she went. "Come on down," Timmy called. "We haven't finished the game."

"That game is boring," Rosi called down. "Come on and climb the tree. It's more fun."

"I don't like to climb," Timmy protested.

"Look, it's easy. It is like climbing a ladder after you get up to the branches. Just step on one limb and then another."

"But how do I get up to where there are limbs?"

"Wrap your legs around the tree and pull yourself up a little at a time or go get Daddy's ladder. But I don't need a ladder. I'm a good climber. Come on. It's so much fun up high."

"And this cactus? It has stickers; long, wicked ones. What if I fall into it?"

"Oh don't be afraid. Just don't look down at it, look up at me." Rosi was going higher and higher. Just then she looked down to see if Timmy was watching her. While looking down, she grabbed another branch over her head. She didn't see that the branch was dead. When she pulled on it to swing herself up onto the next limb, the dead branch broke. Rosi lost her balance on the branch where she was standing. She grabbed for the trunk of the tree, but was too far away. She reached for another limb as she was falling. She got a hold on it, but it didn't stop her from falling. Moments later, Rosi was sitting on the wicked prickly pear cactus. She was crying, "M-m-ma-ma!"

"Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall." Proverbs 16:18

Charlotte Huskey

Answers: 1. He had conquered cities all around Jerusalem. 2. God. 3. 185,000 soldiers. 4. Two of his own sons killed him with a sword.

Obey God!

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

Proverbs 11:2

Galatians 6:3

Jeremiah 9:23

Proverbs 29:23

Psalms 101:5

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Volume 66, Quarter 1, Week 3. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck. Contributors: Nelda Sorrell, Charlotte Huskey. 2016.

Obedience

God has a great love for children. He has a beautiful plan for the life of everyone. Ephesians 6:1 and 3 say,



“Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.”
An obedient child will find it easy to obey God.

The devil’s purpose is to capture and destroy young lives by planting rebellion in children’s hearts. Disobedience is dangerous, but God, as a wise and loving Father, is able to

keep His children safe as long as they stay within His protection.

It is important to cultivate an obedient heart, and obedience to parents is just the beginning. Throughout one’s life, there will always be authoritative figures and laws to obey. Hebrews 13:17 instructs, “Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves....” Ephesians 6:5 also states, “Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters...” An example of this is when one gets a job, he/she must obey the boss. Titus 3:1 says: “Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates...” Yes, God wants His people to obey the laws of the land. Learning to be immediately obedient to parents and those in authority is the necessary foundation of a truly happy and successful life. The earlier this lesson is mastered, the better.

Parents and bosses are not the only ones who are placed

in authority. God gives our pastors the responsibility of watching and warning us. We need to carefully follow their advice. Just as pastors and parents are in authority, school teachers are also our leaders and instructors, and we must also obey them.

Obedience is hard for some children; they do not like anyone telling them what to do. However, since the foundation of the rest of one’s life is laid at a young age, it is important to study God’s word, learn His commandments, and prayerfully ask Him for an obedient spirit early in life. Listen carefully to the instructions God gives through his ministers as the Gospel is preached. When His commandments and directions are obeyed, God will protect and keep His children from the snares of the enemy. An obedient child will bring honor to his/her parents and to God, as well as be a great blessing to others.

-Nelda Sorrell and Dena Porter

Key Thought: A child that is obedient to God will be blessed.

Memory Verse: Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord. Colossians 3:20

The Missing Pony Tail

One day, Tomas Mendoza brought us a young goat. I suppose he thought we would make birllia (barbecue goat) with it. Instead of barbecuing the goat, we made it our pet.

During the day, we tied the goat in the field near the house. At night, we kept it in the house, protected from thieves and hungry dogs. With church benches, we made a little corral in one corner of our chapel-living room.

Our goat soon learned to love the children. He ate from their hand and followed them like a dog when they went to the store. He played “king of the mountain,” butting heads with both Bobby and Timmy.

One Sunday morning, after bathing Rosi, I said, “Be very careful and don’t get your dress dirty. You are all ready for church.”

“I be careful, Mama,” she promised. “Me no get dirty.”

As I was gathering up my clean clothes, I called to Tricia, “Watch Rosi while I am getting ready. She just went outside.”

Questions

1. Who has a great love for children?
2. An _____ child will find it easy to obey God.
3. What does the devil work hard to plant in children’s hearts?
4. It is important to cultivate what kind of heart?

Moments later, Tricia opened the door and called, “She’s out there petting the goat. I told her no, but she said, ‘Goaty won’t get me dirty. Goaty clean.’ When I try to pull her away, she screams.”

“Then just leave her alone, but don’t let her play in the dirt. I’ll be right out.” James had taken the boys to pick up people at the Tomato Ranch north of town. I had no other help. I splashed and scrubbed as quickly as possible, but before I could get dressed, I heard Rosi crying. The sound was getting louder as she came into the house.

Soon she was inside and her crying was echoing off the cement block walls. She was trying to say something. I listened carefully. “Goaty, mean Goaty, me hair! Goaty, me hair!” she was saying between sobs.

I peeked out from behind my bath curtain. There stood Rosi, holding a few strands of her hair. Her pony tail was gone! “What happened to your pony tail?” I shouted.

“Goaty eat me tail,” she cried.

“And the other one?” I asked. “Turn your head around.” The three-inch pony tail on the other side of her head was still in place. “Well, you should have obeyed Tricia when she tried to get you away from the goat,” I said sternly.

I had trouble keeping the children’s attention during the Sunday school class that morning. All the girls wanted to look at or feel Rosi’s hair. It was short against her head on one side and three-inches long on the other.

A few weeks later on a Friday night, Brother Harland Smith stopped by on his way to El Alamo. The following morning, he said to me, “Last night I thought for sure this house was full of rats. I kept hearing noises, but I was so tired that I couldn’t wake up. I would try to open my eyes and find my flashlight, but my eyes kept shutting on me. Finally, sometime this morning, I felt what I thought was warm breath on my face. Quickly, I opened my eyes, and a goat was looking down at me!”

“It’s a good thing he didn’t find your hair in the night,” I said. “That goat likes to eat hair.”

Brother Harland rubbed his hand over his thinning hair and said, “It doesn’t feel like there is any less than before I went to sleep.”

“Just be thankful. A few Sundays ago that goat ate Rosi’s hair right off her head.”

“You have to be kidding,” he said.

“No! I’m not. Just wait till you see her.”

Ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. 1 Peter 5:5

-Charlotte Huskey

Answers: 1. God. 2. Obedient. 3. Rebellion. 4. An obedient heart.

Obedience

Word list: Bosses, Commandments, Direction, Foundation, God, Obedience, Parents, Pastor, Teachers, Youth

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

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Volume 66, Quarter 1, Week 4. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck. Contributors: Nelda Sorrell, Dena Porter, Charlotte Huskey. 2016.

Esther

When the Babylonians carried the Jewish captives from Jerusalem, Esther's family was among them. And when



Esther's father and mother both died, she was left as an orphan in a strange land. Her cousin, Mordecai, took her and brought her up as his own daughter. He lived in Shushan, the palace, where he faithfully served the king.

One day, when Esther was grown, a decree came from the king that all of the most beautiful young women in the kingdom should be brought to the palace

so that he could choose who would be queen. Esther was very beautiful, so she was taken to the king's house. There, she quickly gained favor with Hegai, the one who was in charge of her. She trusted him and carefully followed his advice because she wanted to be acceptable to the king.

When it was Esther's turn to present herself to the king, she was offered everything that might make her more attractive before the king. She did not ask for expensive jewels or fine clothes, but instead she used only what Hegai suggested: her modesty, virtue, and beauty. They were her greatest assets.

The king loved Esther and set the royal crown on her head. He made a great feast in her honor. Even at court, Esther was admired not only for her beauty but also for her modest looks and graceful manners.

Mordecai told Esther that she should not tell anyone she was a Jew, for they were not a favored people in the kingdom. Eventually a time came when the king's chief officer persuaded the king to sign a decree that said all the Jews in the kingdom would be killed. When Mordecai learned of the decree, he sent word to Esther that she should plead to the king for her people.

Esther sent word back to Mordecai that the king had not

sent for her in thirty days. To go to him without being called would mean certain death if he did not extend the golden scepter to her. Because of this, she was afraid to go before him.

Mordecai sent back the warning that she, too, would be killed if she did not have the courage to go before the king. Mordecai begged for her cooperation, saying that the reason God had chosen her to be queen was for this very purpose.

Esther told Mordecai to gather all the Jews that were in Shushan. They were neither to eat nor drink for three days and nights. Esther and her maids would also fast, and then, she would go before the king. She said, "If I perish, I perish!"

But again, Esther found favor in the king's sight. The wicked law was reversed, and the lives of the Jews were saved.

-Nelda Sorrell and Dena Porter

Key Thought: True beauty comes from a pure heart.

Memory Verse: Beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.
Proverbs 31:30

The Missing Pony Tail

Early Saturday morning, Ramona and her father knocked on our door. "Sorry to bother you so early, but we need prayer. Ramona is going into Tijuana to take a test this morning. Please pray that God will keep her calm and help her know how to answer the questions," her father explained.

"Come in," I said. Then, I asked, "Is this the test to see if you qualify to visit the president?"

"Oh, yes, yes," Ramona said with a big smile.

We knelt, prayed, and then laid hands on her and prayed again.

We anxiously awaited the result of the test. When the news came, it was bitter sweet. Ramona's scores were the highest. However, because she took the test alone, some thought her scores should not be compared with those of students testing in a large group.

Later, Ramona was accepted as the student to represent her area of Baja California Norte. Thirteen students and their chaperones traveled all night and day, and they arrived in Mexico City about 8:00 p.m.

The following morning, they toured the city and saw many historical and famous sites. In the evening, the

Questions

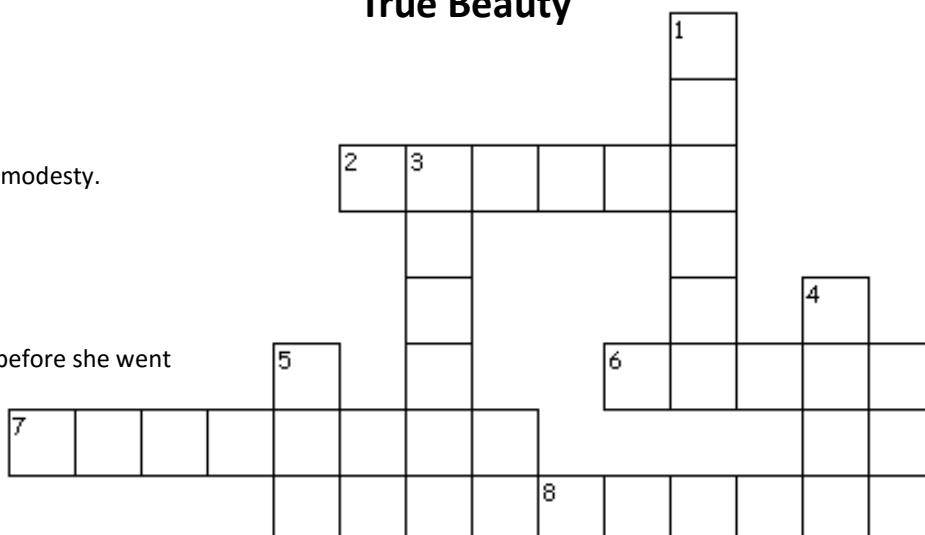
1. Why did Mordecai raise Esther as his own daughter?
2. What were Esther's greatest assets?
3. Why was Esther afraid to go before the king?
4. How long did the Jews fast?

Across

2. The woman who became queen.
6. Esther's adviser.
7. The queen's uncle.
8. Esther's ____ came from her virtue and modesty.

Down

1. One of Esther's greatest assets.
3. The name of the palace.
4. What the Jews and Esther's maids did before she went to see the king.
5. Esther's nationality.



group ate dinner and danced at the hotel. Ramona ate dinner then excused herself to her room.

When the big evening that they were to meet the president came, the girl's dormitory room was alive with excitement. Some were putting on beautiful clothing, others were having their hair combed by the women chaperones, while others went to the beauty shops to have their hair styled.

"Aren't you going to have something done to your hair?" one of the girls asked Ramona.

Ramona had already been thinking about her hair. She had decided the way she usually combed her hair was the way Christ wanted her to comb it. "I guess not," she answered.

"Are you really going to see the president the way you are?" asked another. "You can borrow my make-up."

"No, thank you," she answered again. "I don't wear make-up."

When the girls were ready to go, the one who slept beside Ramona said, "I'd be ashamed to go dressed the way you are."

Ramona said nothing for she wanted to please Jesus more than she wanted to look beautiful to the world.

At the dinner that evening, the girls and boys from Baja California Norte sat together at a table. After the meal was finished, President Lopez Mateos announced, "I will ask two students from each state to come forward to receive trophies and honors for their state. I will call the name of the state and then two names, one boy and one girl. When I call your name please come up on the platform to receive the honors for your state."

True Beauty

Answers: 1. Her mother and father were dead. 2. Her modesty, virtue and beauty. 3. She had not been called.

One state and then another was called. Everyone was excited, hoping they would be called. At Ramona's table, some whispered among themselves about who he might call. Finally, he called Baja California Norte. "Will Jose Gonzales Perez and Ramona Esquires Villa please come forward?"

"Ramona!" the girls gasped.

Jose and Ramona walked up on the platform. "I want my picture taken with you," the president said to Ramona. "You are a perfect example for others to follow." Saying that, he put his arm over her shoulder and motioned for the photographer to snap the shot.

Ramona was very happy that God had given her strength to be true to Him, even in unusual circumstances.

On her fifteenth birthday, Ramona received a package from President Lopez Mateos. It was a framed photograph of Ramona with the President. An enclosed letter read:

Happy birthday to a wonderful girl! We will always remember you.

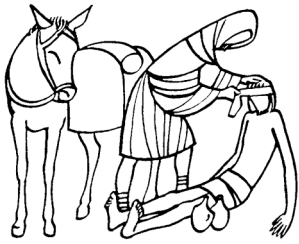
President and Señora Lopez Mateos.

Charlotte Huskey

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Volume 66, Quarter 1, Week 5. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck. Contributors: Nelda Sorrell, Dena Porter, Charlotte Huskey. 2016.

Love Your Neighbor

One day a lawyer came to Jesus and asked Him a trick question. "Master, what shall I do to have eternal life?"



Jesus knew this man had studied the Law of Moses for many years and understood it well. Instead of answering the lawyer's question, He asked him, "What is written in the Law of Moses?"

The lawyer replied, "Moses wrote that we should love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our strength, and with all our mind. And he also wrote that we should love our neighbor as ourselves."

"You have answered right," Jesus said. "Do this and you shall have life in heaven."

But the lawyer had another question. He asked, "Who is my neighbor?"

In answer, Jesus told him this story: "A certain man traveled the road from Jerusalem to Jericho. On the way, he was ambushed by robbers who took everything he had, even his clothes! Then they beat him unmercifully and left him by the side of the road, half dead.

"Before long, a priest came along. He saw the injured man lying there, but he did not stop to help. He did not even say a kind word to the man, but moved to the other side of the road and went on his way.

"Next, a Levite came by. He did stop and look at the poor wounded man lying by the road, but he did nothing to help him. He hurried on his way, leaving the man to die.

"The wounded man may have died if a kind-hearted Samaritan had not come along. When he saw the man, he stopped and bent over the stranger. The wounded man

was a Jew. Even though the Jews were not friendly to his own people, the Samaritan felt he must help this Jew who was in great trouble.

"Gently, he poured oil on the man's wounds and bandaged them. Then, the Samaritan placed the Jew on his mule and took him to an inn where he could be cared for.

"The next day, the Samaritan had to continue his journey. He gave money to the innkeeper and instructed, 'Take care of this man until he is well. If you need more money, I will pay it when I come back.'"

When he had finished this story, Jesus asked the lawyer, "Which of these three men was a neighbor to the one who was attacked by robbers?"

"The one who showed him mercy," the lawyer answered.

"Go, and do as he did," Jesus told him.

-Nelda Sorrell and Dena Porter

Key Thought: Be kind and merciful to anyone in distress, even your enemy.

Memory Verse: Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Matthew 19:19

A Fearful Night

When we moved to Rosarito Beach, we learned that El Cinco de Mayo is a day of extraordinary celebration in Mexico. It commemorates the Mexican army's victory over the French forces of Napoleon III on May 5, 1862. It is celebrated by parades with elaborate floats, street dancing, brightly colored costumes of the era, feasting, fireworks, and a lot of drunkenness.

In the afternoon, the neighbor children created their own parade. They marched back and forth in the driveways. Some boys carried sticks—make-believe guns—over their shoulders. Some were beating on cooking-pot drums. Bobby wore a cute hat and carried his toy rifle. Timmy toddled beside him wearing James' hat down over his eyes. One of the larger boys carried Tricia on his shoulders and called out as they paraded, "La reina, la reina (the queen)." I suppose they were celebrating El Cinco de Mayo.

Because we had recently moved to Rosarito Beach, we knew nothing of the customs--our day had been normal. That night, after worship, we went to bed as usual. Later, we were awakened by someone screaming, "Jaime, Jaime! Jaime!"

Questions

1. What question did the lawyer ask Jesus?
2. Who should we love as we love ourselves?
3. What happened to the man as he traveled from Jerusalem to Jericho?
4. Who was a neighbor to him?

"It sounds like Cipriana," I whispered. "Hurry, James."

We slipped into our clothes. James jumped into the car and turned it so the headlights shone directly on the door of Cipriana's house. She stood in the doorway holding her young son. Blood streaked her white skirt. She chattered frantically while pointing inside the house. "Do be careful," I cautioned. "Someone inside must have a knife." Other men came running.

I watched as James and the neighbor entered the house. They came back one on either side of Salvador, Cipriana's husband. His pants and shirt were splattered with blood. They helped Salvador into our car. Cipriana jumped in beside him. "I'll be back," James shouted as they sped out onto the highway.

Mary, Rudy, and Shirley were also watching. "Let's pray," I whispered, then I closed and locked the door.

We knelt on the mattress where James and I had been sleeping. I was thankful to have them with me. We each prayed for our protection and for James' safety driving on the narrow, curvy road to the hospital in Tijuana.

More and more neighbors gathered outside. Their voices sounded angry, and as they talked, we prayed.

"Let's find some verses about God's protection," I suggested.

Bobby was awake now and went to get our Bibles. "The Lord is my shepherd," he suggested.

"Good," I said.

Rudy found it first, and he read, "The Lord is my shepherd... I will fear no evil: for thou art with me..."

"Here is another one about fear," Mary said. "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment" (1 John 4:18).

"But, but, but, how can we not be afraid in times like this?" Shirley questioned.

"I don't know," I answered. "I think I have read a verse that said singing would help."

Rudy began reading, "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? ...For in the time of trouble he shall hide me, therefore, I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the LORD."

"Maybe we should sing," Mary suggested.

We sang, and it helped to calm us.

When James returned, he told us that Salvador and his brother had been drinking in celebration of El Cinco de Mayo and got into an argument. Salvador wanted to hit his brother but knew he should not, so he swung his fist

away from his brother. Not realizing how close he was to the window, he accidentally hit the window. It broke and ripped his arm open. "The ligaments in his arm were cut in several places. He may never be able to use his fingers again," James said sadly. "See what drinking can do? He will regret this day for the rest of his life."

Charlotte Huskey

Answers: 1. "What shall I do to have eternal life?" 2. Our neighbor. 3. He was ambushed by robbers. 4. The Samaritan.

The Good Samaritan

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.)

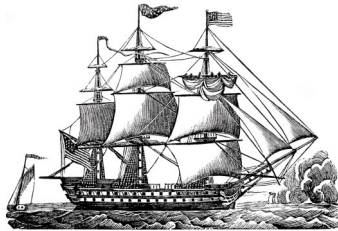


O V
D T L O R D
I O O O S D E H E
N G A O E T R

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Volume 66, Quarter 1, Week 6. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck. Contributors: Nelda Sorrell, Dena Porter, Charlotte Huskey. 2016.

The Gospel is Spread by a Storm

God told Paul that he must spread the gospel in Rome. Not long after this, Paul was arrested. He and several



other prisoners were put on a ship headed for that very place, but the sailing was not good. The winds were strong, and when they finally reached a safe harbor, Paul warned the captain that it

was too dangerous to sail further. But the captain of the ship set sail anyway.

They had scarcely left the harbor when a tempestuous wind, called Euroclydon, swept down on them. They could not turn back, nor could they make headway against the hurricane-force wind. The captain of the ship could not help remembering Paul's warning.

Since they could not make it back to shore, it was safest to keep as far from it as possible. So, heading out into the open sea, the ship was left to drift aimlessly, driven by the fierce wind. But, God was in control. One night, an angel appeared to Paul, assuring him that he would reach Rome safely. The rage of the fiercest storm could not prevail against God's purpose. Paul was confident that God would spare him to accomplish the work He had appointed him to do.

Two weeks passed. Then, one night around midnight, the sailors discovered they were nearing land. By morning, the ship had begun to break apart. Those who could swim made for the shore while others grabbed broken pieces of wood. By holding onto them, they were carried to the shore by the waves.

Meanwhile, the islanders watched anxiously. As soon as those from the ship were near enough, they ran to help them, and built a large fire where the shipwrecked men could warm themselves.

As soon as Paul got to shore, he joined the others in bringing sticks for the fire. As he threw the wood into the flames, a poisonous snake fastened itself to Paul's hand. With one quick motion, Paul shook it off into the fire. The islanders watched in horror, expecting to see Paul drop dead immediately, but Paul remained alive, aweing the islanders. He used that opportunity to share the gospel of Christ.

While on the island, Paul discovered that Publius, the governor of the island, lay sick with a fever. Paul laid hands on and prayed for him, and he was immediately healed! When word of Paul's works spread, many other sick islanders came to be prayed for and were also healed.

God used the terrible storm and shipwreck to change Paul's direction. Through his visit, the islanders were given the gospel and shown the great love and power of God!

-Nelda Sorrell and Dena Porter

Key Thought: When we let God direct us, He will cause even our troubles to work out to His good purpose.

Memory Verse: And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28

A Good Place to Sleep

La Goleta, Michoacan, April, 1992.

Pastor Humberto stood in front of the small group of believers in Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico. "Does everyone understand that this is not a vacation? It is a mission trip."

"Yes, yes, we understand," they cried in unison.

"What is the purpose of the trip?"

"To introduce our families to Christ," Hector answered.

"That is correct. You have each given money to cover transportation expenses and a little food. We have no money for hotels. We may have to miss some meals and we may have to sleep outside on the ground. Are we ready to sacrifice comforts for the sake of the Gospel?" They nodded in agreement and finished preparing to begin the journey.

That evening James, our son, Ben, Jeremy Booher, Doug Cole, and I arrived in Tijuana. Our station wagon had quit

Questions

1. Where was Paul's ship headed?
2. Who told the captain it was too dangerous to sail?
3. What happened when Paul put sticks on the fire?
4. Who was Publius?

running east of Albuquerque, New Mexico, but after we prayed, God repaired it and we arrived on the expected day.

Carrying the new parts for our car, in case it broke down again, we started out from Tijuana on a 9,000 mile trip. Seventeen of us, with all our luggage and bed rolls, were packed together in a twelve passenger turtle-top van and our station wagon.

Everything went fine until the evening of the fourth day. Near La Goleta, Michoacan, the van broke down. With only a few hours of daylight left, James quickly decided what new pieces were needed. Leaving fifteen passengers beside the highway, he and Humberto took the station wagon back down the mountain into the nearest town to buy the parts.

Some of our group began canvassing the neighborhood, giving out Gospel leaflets. While they were gone, the local bus pulled into the usual bus stop, which happened to be alongside our broken-down van. One man who got off the bus spoke with us. He said that he was a Christian and asked if we were also Christians. Then he disappeared up the mountain trail.

Before long, he came back down the trail with several men, women, and some children. The man introduced us to his pastor. The Pastor said, "We have a small church up on this hill. We have come to invite you to come with us and rest."

When our group was together again, we shared the good news, and those who were not working on the van went up to the church building. There we rested while the young people visited as best they could with new friends who spoke only Spanish.

That night, the congregation gathered and we had a worship service together. When the service was over, the men set up a table and the women brought out food they had prepared. We were invited, as guests, to fill our plates first. Everyone ate together and visited as if it was a family reunion. And were we not one big family? We had the same Father because we had been born again in Jesus, whether we were American, Mexican, Indian, or another nationality.

That night, some of us slept in the church and others were invited to different homes to sleep.

Our destination that evening had been Julia's mother's home in Tacasuario. However, God had planned that we meet new members of the family of God and that we make memories that will be long remembered. Instead of the van breaking down being a nightmare, it gave us good places to sleep and pleasant dreams.

When we arrived in the town of Tacasuario, where Julia's family lived, our reception was quite different.

Read "New Testament Confetti" in next week's edition of *The Compass* to find out about it.

Charlotte Huskey

Answers: 1. Rome. 2. Paul. 3. A poisonous snake fastened itself on his hand. 4. The governor of the island.

Spread the Gospel!

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

Mark 16:15

Matthew 24:14

Psalms 96:3

Matthew 28:19

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Volume 66, Quarter 1, Week 7. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck. Contributors: Nelda Sorrell, Dena Porter, Charlotte Huskey. 2016.

Be as a Bible Hero

The great men in the Bible all possessed strong faith in God. Although they were surrounded by evil, they



proved that God is able to keep His children faithful, no matter what opposition they meet. These great men are proof that, by God's help, we can also be powerful tools for Him!

One technique that Joseph, Moses, Timothy, Daniel, and other Bible heroes employed was that they purposed in their hearts to always obey God while they were young. They boldly faced lions, giants, angry kings, and rulers

because they knew God was able to deliver them. The stories of Joseph and Moses best prove this to us.

Joseph's brothers hated him because Jacob, their father, loved Joseph more than all his other sons. When Joseph told his brothers that he had dreamed that they all bowed down to him, they looked for a way to get rid of him.

But God had His hand on Joseph. He prevented his brothers from killing him. Instead, he was sold as a slave to Egypt. There God used him to save the lives of his brothers and their families. Joseph is a much better person to idolize than one of today's sports heroes or entertainment stars.

Moses was very young when he was taken from his home to live in the Egyptian palace. He was taught all the wisdom of the Egyptians and educated in a system which did not revere God. Nonetheless he remained faithful to the God of his parents and never forgot what his parents taught him in the first few years of his life.

Questions

1. What did all the great men in the Bible possess?
2. Who had his hand on Joseph?
3. Moses refused to be called the son of _____ daughter?
4. We can _____ God by our _____ as Moses did.

As the son of Pharaoh's daughter, Moses may have become the next ruler of Egypt. But he refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter because he was surrounded by idol worshipers who cared nothing about the one, true God. The riches of Egypt were available to him if he chose to follow their idolatry. Yet, in such a hostile environment, he stood firm in his convictions and loyal to God. He chose instead to suffer affliction with the Children of Israel in order to be faithful to God (Hebrews 11:24-27).

Devotion to God cannot begin too early. Little children do not need to wait until they are grown to work for God. In fact, children who do nothing for God while they are young are likely to do little or nothing for Him later. Even though there is evil all around us, we can honor God by our lives as Moses and Joseph did!

Nelda Sorrell

Key Thought: Purpose in your heart to serve and obey God while you are still young.

Memory Verse: Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.
Matthew 5:16

New Testament Confetti

We were traveling across Mexico, visiting extended family of some believers who had gotten saved in Baja, California. We arrived in Tacasquaro, Michoacan, at the home of Julia's mother. As we drove through town, we saw many people standing outside the Catholic Church and also many were in the plaza where musicians were playing.

"Let's go see what is going on uptown," Ben suggested as soon as we had met Julia's family.

"Yes, let's go," Doug agreed. "See if your mom or dad will also go along so they can interpret in case we want to talk to someone."

"And, let's take tracts to give away. This is a good opportunity to reach more people," Jeremy added.

When we arrived at the plaza in front of the church, a male voice was speaking through a microphone. We looked around to see where it was coming from and saw a speaker on the top of the church. We stopped to listen. "What is he saying?" the boys asked.

"It sounds like he is warning the people against us."

"Really? Tell us, what did he say?" Doug insisted.

I listened carefully until he stopped speaking. "I think he said, 'A group of heretics have arrived in town. They will be trying to persuade you against the mother church. Do not listen to them. Do not receive anything they try to give you. I speak this by the authority of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.'"

"Does he think we are that bad?" Ben questioned.

"He is just trying to keep the people coming to his church," I said. "After a person knows Jesus as their personal Savior, they stop paying the priest to pray for them."

We tried laughing off the embarrassment as if nothing had happened. We went through the plaza smiling, greeting people and trying to give away our tracts. Needless to say, the majority of our tracts were rejected. A few people were polite enough to take one.

That night, in Julia's parent's home, our group sang from the Hymnals de Gloria (a Spanish song book). We also read verses from the Bible and prayed. Julia's family seemed to enjoy it. We were told that neighbors had hidden outside the fence so they too could listen.

The following morning, we chatted with Julia's family while making tortillas from freshly ground estamal (hominy). We cooked them on the metal top of the adobe stove. Then we ate a Mexican desayuno (breakfast). Oh, so yummy.

In the afternoon, a cousin gave us a personal guided tour of some Tarascan Indian sacrificial altars and burial grounds that were at the edge of the town.

That evening, all the family gathered in the courtyard with us for worship. They sang with us and read from the Bibles we loaned them. To thank them for their hospitality, we presented them with small gifts, including a Bible and a New Testament.

Our plans were to leave early so that we could arrive in Mexico City before the evening rush hour traffic. Early the following morning, we quietly gathered up suit cases and bed rolls and headed for the van. At the door of the courtyard, Brother Humberto stopped us. Looking very serious he said, "Let us all bow our heads and have prayer before loading." He prayed earnestly that God would protect us. Then he opened the door.

We gasped! Confetti made from torn up printed material was all over both vehicles.

"This is a torn-up New Testament, probably the one we gave them last night," Humberto whispered. Julia burst into tears. She cried almost all day.

When we investigated the confetti, it was indeed bits of Bible verses.

Charlotte Huskey

Answers: 1. Strong faith in God. 2. God. 3. Pharaoh's. 4. Honor, lives.

All About Bible Heroes

Word list: Convictions, Daniel, Egypt, Faithful, Hero, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Pharaoh, Slave, Timothy

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

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Volume 66, Quarter 1, Week 8. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck. Contributors: Nelda Sorrell, Charlotte Huskey. 2016.

God's Time

As we walk our individual spiritual roads, we each have a different path and plan that our Heavenly Father has laid out before us. He has prepared the perfect order of circumstances, spaced out in His perfect timing, to bring us closer to Him.



But, often times, we are so busy charging down the road, thinking our own thoughts, and focusing on what we want that we don't stop to listen if we are in step with God's rhythm or if we're walking at His pace. He may desire that we slow down. He may attempt to point us in a different direction. He may wish that we stop to attend a matter along the way. But, because of our hurried pace and distracted ways, we go on our own way, oblivious to His desires.

All the while we are shirking God's desires, we wonder why we don't feel close to our Creator or why we cannot hear His still, small voice in the midst of our struggles. We wonder why things don't seem to be working out in life or why the relationships with those closest to us are falling apart.

God does not desire that we go through life in this manner. Take the time to put all of life's frantic schedules and duties on hold. God wants to hear from His children on a daily basis. When we take the time to talk with God and tell Him about our struggles and triumphs, we will begin to hear His voice as well. In the quiet moments, just before going to sleep or after waking, take a moment to ask God if there is anything He would like to share. In the afternoon, amidst life's daily routine, take ten minutes, in the quietest corner of the heart, to speak with and listen to God.

Questions

1. Why do we often miss God speaking to us?
2. When will we begin to hear God's voice?
3. Our ____ to God increases when we align our thoughts with His.
4. When will we be assured a successful Earthly life and an eternal life with Christ?

Our likeness to God will increase with every opportunity we take to align our thoughts and desires with His. When we let Him take the lead, compassion and understanding take the place of jealousy and anger. Our desire will be to help those around us who are hurting, whereas we were too self-absorbed to notice before. We become gentle and loving with those closest to us, even in times of struggle or tension. And suddenly, instead of charging down life's path, unaware of God's gentle, leading voice, we are walking hand-in-hand with Him--following His lead, traveling at His pace.

When we allow God to lead us in our everyday lives, our trust and dependence on Him increases with every step. Even when we cannot see what's ahead or when we don't understand why He is leading us down a certain path, we can rest assured that our best interest is His only desire. As we follow His timing and guidance, we worry less about what could happen and begin to focus on what He has for us to do.

It is only when we fully trust our Creator, when we place our hands in His, and follow His leading guidance for our lives that we are guaranteed a successful Christian life and a glorious eternal existence with Him.

Lindsey Gellenbeck

Memory Verse: Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not. Jeremiah 33:3

Key Thought: Communicating regularly with God keeps us in step with His rhythm and pace.

Won by Love

Ernesto and Delores were two of our close friends in La Mission. James met Ernesto in Ensenada, and, suspecting James to be a missionary, Ernesto introduced himself. He told James of the only church in the town where he was living—a Catholic Church where only a few people attended services. "We need someone to teach us. Won't you come and help us?"

"I'll pray about it," James promised.

"I would especially like for you to help a family that is living under the bridge," he said.

"May I go back to your house and meet this family?" James said. "You live north of here, don't you? I'm headed that direction right now."

When James got home that night, he told us about the family living under the highway bridge. We gathered up all the clothes and blankets we could spare to give to the family.

James went to La Mission, took the clothes, and had a little worship service with Ernesto and the family. He visited them again at different times and thought that God was telling him to move into the area.

In the spring of 1966, we moved from El Cajon, CA, to La Mission. We visited the home of Ernesto often. He was the caretaker of a beautiful home built on a cliff bordering the Pacific Ocean. Although he lived in a large house, his personal quarter was one large room and bath. It opened onto the street behind the big house. Ernesto was content with his living and praised God for supplying his daily needs. He constantly radiated happiness.

Ernesto's wife, Delores, however, was not satisfied. She was a hard worker and wanted someday to have a nice home like the one she cleaned. Between this and her other unfulfilled wishes, she was an unhappy, bitter person. She fussed about having to clean the big house. She grumbled at the weather. She snarled at her children, and she criticized her husband. She complained that Ernesto should provide better for her and their three children: Ester, Abigail, and Daniel. She was not satisfied having only her daily needs supplied met.

Ernesto often said, "Have faith Dolores, be content with what God gives, and He will give us a home when He sees best."

"God helps those who help themselves," she would snap back. "Go find another job so we can have money to save. I do most of the work around here anyway. You can work another job and still help me."

Poor Ernesto, who was almost blind, worked hard, but his eyesight kept him from getting a second job. He tried hard to please Delores. He brought her flowers, candies, or others treats occasionally, which she accepted with remarks such as, "That money could have been spent for something more useful." Whatever Ernesto did, Delores complained about it.

Often when we went to visit, we could feel the tension. We would pray with Delores, and try to help her accept the state she was in, and to believe that God would make needed changes. She always respected prayer and assured us that it helped her. But when we would go again to visit, we would find her in the same angry mood.

After we moved away, God allowed a terrible flood in La Mission. Dolores was sure God sent the flood because

many people, including herself, had rejected Christ. Finally, she surrendered to Christ.

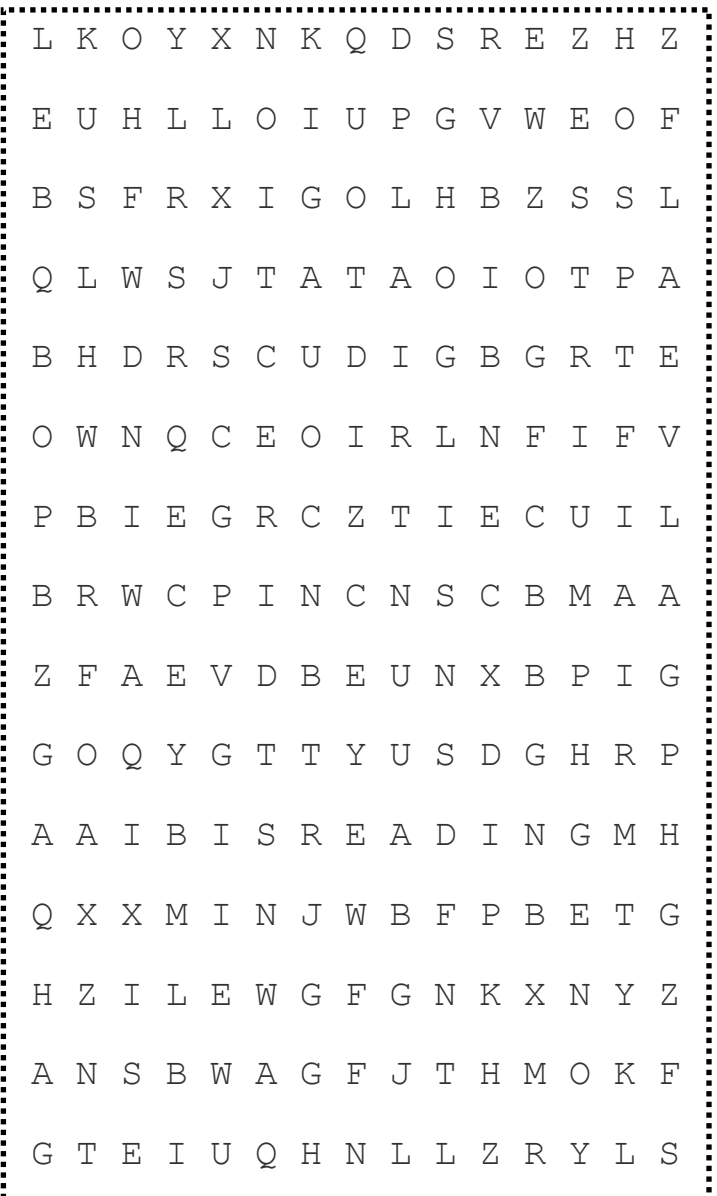
Several years later, when we returned for a visit, we found Dolores a happy, contented Christian.

Charlotte Huskey

Answers: 1. We are too busy. 2. When we speak with Him. 3. Likeness. 4. When we trust God and let Him lead.

God's Timing For You

Daily, Direction, Listening, Praying, Quiet, Reading,
Successful, Timing, Trial, Triumph



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Volume 66, Quarter 1, Week 9. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck. Contributors: Lindsey Gellenbeck, Charlotte Huskey. 2016.

Spreading the Gospel

When Paul was struck blind on his way to Damascus, the Lord sent Ananias to pray for his sight to be restored. The Lord told Ananias that He had chosen Paul to tell everyone about Jesus. Paul spent the rest of his life preaching the gospel everywhere he had the opportunity.

While Paul waited in Athens for Silas and Timothy, he was amazed at how many different gods the people worshiped. There was even an altar to the Unknown God!

Paul found a Jewish synagogue and went there to speak to the Jews about Jesus. He used every opportunity to preach Christ to the people. Some listeners were sincere, but many were just curious. They had never heard about Jesus and His resurrection. They thought Paul was talking about a strange new god.

Soon they asked him to speak on Mar's Hill. This was the place where important matters were discussed.

As Paul looked over the crowd of wise men and curious listeners, he longed to present the gospel to them in a way they would understand. He prayed for wisdom to know how to reach the people.

"You men of Athens," Paul began, "I see that you are too superstitious. As I was walking through the city, I saw your many altars to different gods. I even saw one whose inscription read, 'To the Unknown God.' He is the God about whom I preach.

"This God made the world and everything in it. He does not live in temples made by men. His spirit lives in all, true believers. Every born again Christian is a living

Questions

1. What had God chosen Paul to do?
2. Where did Paul find an altar to the Unknown God?
3. Who is a living temple of the living God?
4. What did many of the wise men do when they heard about the resurrection?

temple of the living God! It is He who gives us our life and breath.

"This God is not far from any one of us. He wants people of every nation to seek and worship Him. He is not like gold or silver or stone that man shapes into an idol. He is the true God.

Now that you know about the true God, He wants you to repent of your sins. The day is coming when He will call all men to judgment." Then, Paul told them about how God had raised Jesus from the dead.

Many of the wise men laughed when they heard about the resurrection. Others asked him to come back another time and tell them more, but there were several who believed Paul's words.

Nelda Sorrell

Key Thought: Jesus lived in Paul's heart and directed his life. He wanted everyone to know about Jesus and the one, true God.

Memory Verse: Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? (1 Corinthians 3:16)

No Thank You

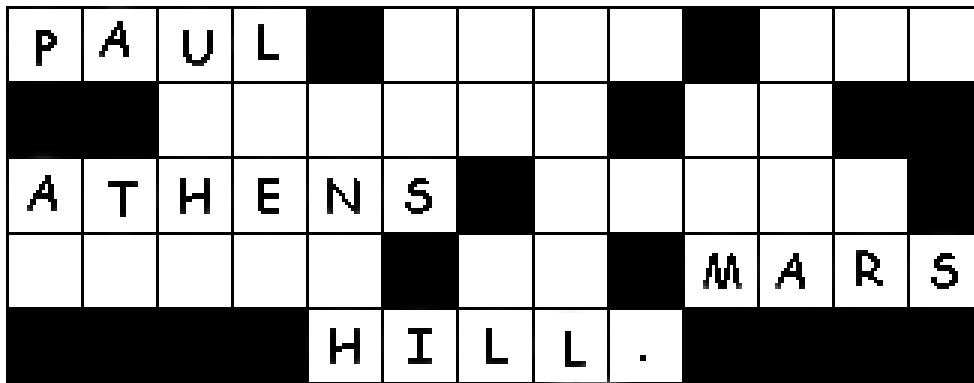
Crecensio pulled his boat close to Professor Abel's door. "¿Esta listo?" (Are you ready?) he asked as he shouted above the storm.

"Si," Abel answered. Abel handed out a washtub filled with dishes and cooking utensils. Crecensio passed it on to Ruben, who placed it in the boat. Next, he handed sacks of clothes, bundles of blankets, a box of books, and a small box of toys. Abel stepped into the boat and they rowed up to the school. Abel's older boys were waiting in the rain, ready to unload the boat and carry their belongings up the hill into the schoolhouse.

Now that Abel and his family were safely out of the flood, Crecensio and Ruben sped away to the Reyes' home and loaded things they had not been able to take in their pickup before the water became so deep.

"Did anyone get Doña Margarita?" Ruben asked.

"Señor Reyes tried to take her out when he was taking his family out, but she did not want to leave. I think she is the only one left in the valley. The Crossweight boys have a boat too and have been working all day getting families out."



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 first letter in the fourth row to begin solving the puzzle. (Hint: Keep track of the letters you have already used to make solving easier.)

A
 L N U T
 P U S T O E D O F T S
 J E S E O P O L B O T H E

Answers: 1. To tell everyone about Jesus. 2. In Athens.
3. Every true Christian. 4. They laughed.

"We better check on her as soon as we unload these things. It's getting dangerously dark already. In the darkness, a log or some other big object might crash into us and break a hole in the boat," Señor Crecensio said.

A while later, Ruben slowed down and turned the boat motor off in front of Doña Margarita's door. "Say, Doña. Are you ready to go out to safety?" he shouted above the noise of the rushing water.

"I'm safe right here in my home. No flood's going to wash my house away. You youngsters go on home and get some rest," she said.

Crecensio pulled his rain coat tighter around his shivering body and called loudly, "But, Doña, it is still raining. The water might get so deep it will cover your house. Come, we'll take you up on the hill, high above the floodwater."

"No, muchas gracias," (No, many thanks) she said.

"Doña, we came to help you. Come on, let us take you to safety."

"No, thanks, I'm safe right here."

Ruben wiped the water from his face and said, "Guess we'll have to head back."

Far into the night, after Crecensio fell asleep, he felt a hand on his shoulder. "Wake up," his wife, Chuy, whispered, "Someone is calling for help!"

"What?"

"Sounds like a woman's voice. She might be drowning!"

"It's probably Doña Margarita. It's a wonder the flood hasn't already washed her away."

"Hurry, then, and see if you can get her out."

"I dare not get out in the flood water when it is dark. Besides that, we and Señor Reyes have already tried to bring her to safety. She wouldn't come."

The rest of the night, Doña Chuy prayed for protection for the woman who was crying for help.

At the break of dawn, Crecensio and Ruben were at Doña Margarita's home helping her climb off the roof. She had sat there in the storm during most of the night.

"Why didn't you get into the boat that came around offering you a ride to safety?" the doctor at the Red Cross station asked.

"I didn't believe I was in danger," she answered.

Many people are like Doña Margarita. They think they are safe without Jesus. However, they do not realize that Satan has plans to destroy them. They should accept Jesus while they have the opportunity.

Charlotte Huskey

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Volume 66, Quarter 1, Week 10. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck. Contributors: Nelda Sorrell, Charlotte Huskey. 2016.



Junior Sunday School

Volume 66, Quarter 1, Week 11

Singers Win the Battle

Jehoshaphat, the ruler of Israel, was greatly alarmed!



Three armies were coming against him. Because of their vast numbers, he knew he could never win a battle against them. His only hope was that God would

intervene for him in an extraordinary way, and deliver him by His strong arm of power.

The need was so urgent, Jehoshaphat called all his subjects together in Jerusalem to seek the Lord by fasting and prayer. He prayed, "Oh, God in heaven, in thy hand is there not power and might? And did you not say when we cry unto thee in our trouble that thou wilt hear and help? Three nations are coming to destroy us. Help!"

Then, Jehoshaphat reminded the Lord that He had commanded the Israelites to not invade the land of these enemies. "Now look how they reward us!" Jehoshaphat continued. "They have come to cast us out of the possessions that you gave us. Oh, our God, won't you judge them? We have no might against this great company that comes against us, nor do we know what to do! But our eyes are upon you."

God heard their humble cry and sent His spirit to His servant, Jahaziel. Through Jahaziel, God assured the people, "Do not be afraid of this great multitude. The battle is not yours, but God's. Tomorrow you must go down against them, but you will not need to fight. Just stand still and watch God save. He will be with you!"

Obediently, Jehoshaphat and the people got up early to meet the enemy. On the way, Jehoshaphat stopped and encouraged his men. Then he appointed singers to sing to the Lord and praise the beauty of His holiness. The singers went out in front of the army singing, "Praise the Lord, for His mercy endureth forever."

When the singers began to sing and praise, the enemy

began to attack those of their own army! Soon they had destroyed themselves.

When Jehoshaphat and his army reached the watchtower in the wilderness, they looked out over the enemy. They were amazed at what they saw. There was no great multitude of soldiers – instead, there were only dead bodies. No one had escaped! As the people were singing and praising the Lord, He had caused the enemy to fight among themselves until everyone had destroyed one another.

Because of their victory, the Israelites were blessed with the spoil of the other armies. There was such an abundance of riches and precious jewels, it took them three days to gather it. The spent the fourth day in thanksgiving to the Lord for His great deliverance.

Nelda Sorrell

Key Thought: When our trust is in God, we can sing in the face of the greatest trouble because we serve a mighty God!

Memory Verse: For the battle is not yours, but God's. 2 Chronicles 20:15

God Will Fight for You

"Hallelujah, hallelujah," called Juan and his friends, as Tim and his sister, Rosi, were walking home from school with Abigail, Ester, and Serafin.

"Glory to God," added Fransisco.

Rosi yelled angrily, "Los hallelujahs son mejores que ustedes los pecadores!" (The hallelujahs are better than you sinners.)

"Way to go!" Tim cheered.

"I wish they would leave us alone," Rosi fussed.

Tim and Rosi were being mocked because they came from a Christian family. Although most of the people in the small town claimed to be Christians, many believed that they should pray to the Virgin Mary. Tim's dad taught that everyone should pray to Jesus.

"I suppose we should pay no attention to them," Ester said. "Maybe they will stop sooner."

However, the boys did not stop! Instead, they influenced others to also mock. They also started hiding in the bushes along the creek bank and throwing hard dirt clods and rocks at them. Sometimes they chased Tim, Rosi, and their friends for quite a distance.

Each time they mocked or threw rocks, Rosi threw angry words back at them.

Questions

1. Why was Jehoshaphat greatly alarmed?
2. Why did he gather all his subjects to Jerusalem?
3. Whose battle was this?
4. What did Jehoshaphat and the people see when they looked out over the enemy?

"I am ready to let those guys see how it feels to be rocked," Tim said.

"I'm glad. They sure need it, but mamma doesn't want us fighting. And I know I should not be raging, but I just can't stop getting angry. Dad does so much for these people. He pulls their teeth, sews up their wounds, cleans their sores, and hauls them around in his van. This is how they show their appreciation. It makes me so mad," Rosi replied.

"One of these days, we'll get even with them. You will see," Tim said as they hurried on.

"Why are you breathing so hard?" their mother asked when they came in the door.

"We ran most of the way because the boys were stoning us again," Tim answered.

"This has been going on a long time," she said. "And, it's getting worse. You children can hardly be outside, even in our own yard without someone throwing rocks."

"But, Serafin and his family are still our friends," Rosi remarked.

"Yes, they are."

"Some of the girls are against us, too," Rosi added.

"And some boys from the orphanage are picking on us now," Tim said.

"Momma, can't you talk to Mr. Lopez at the orphanage and see if he can stop them?" Rosi asked.

"Well, yes, I could. But Jesus said if they hit you on one cheek, instead of fighting, just turn to them your other cheek," Mother answered.

"But, we can't do that," they both said at the same time.

"Yes, it's hard, but if you learn now to control your emotions and to not fight back, you will be much happier all your life. God will fight for you if you don't fight back." Mother answered. "I'll read what Jesus said during family worship," she promised.

That night during family prayer, Mother read Matthew 5:39, "Resist not evil ...," and Romans 12:19, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord." Then they prayed earnestly that God would take care of the problem.

The following morning, Dad said, "I think you should take your dog, Piloto, to school. He will not hurt anyone. Tell Piloto to stay beside the large rock on the south side of the school, and he will be there until you get out of class."

They took their dog, and he stayed beside the rock while they were inside the school. He walked proudly in front of Tim, Rosi and their friends as they started for home.

When the boys started throwing rocks, Piloto kept barking and growling until he chased the children away, answering their prayer.

Charlotte Huskey

Answers: 1. Three armies were coming against him. 2. To seek the Lord by fasting and prayer. 3. The Lord's. 4. All dead bodies.

Battling with God

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

Psalms 33:4

Ephesians 5:19

Joshua 1:9

Isaiah 12:5

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Volume 66, Quarter 1, Week 11. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck. Contributors: Nelda Sorrell, Charlotte Huskey. 2016.

Talent of Faithfulness

The Syrians lived in a country north of Israel. Sometimes they attacked the cities of Israel and took anything they could in their raids. They even took people and children for slaves.



In one raid, a little girl was captured and taken to Syria. Naaman, the captain of the Syrian army, saw the little girl and bought her to serve his wife.

No doubt, the little girl's parents grieved for her and prayed for her safety. They did not know that God would use their little daughter to accomplish great good. She became a missionary, though it was against her will.

After a time, Naaman discovered that he had a dreaded, deadly disease called leprosy! The king of Syria was very sorry when he heard the news that his army's captain was sick.

The little slave girl remembered Elisha, the prophet of God who had done many miracles. She had faith to believe that Elisha would heal her master, Naaman. Bravely she told his wife, "If only my master were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would heal him of his leprosy."

Naaman would have gladly given all he owned to be well again. When his wife told him what the little girl said, he hurried to tell the king.

This was good news! The king wrote a letter to the king of Israel on Naaman's behalf, asking if Naaman could visit the prophet Elisha.

When Naaman traveled to Israel, he delivered this letter to the Israeli king. The king was greatly worried that the king of Syria was only looking for an excuse to make war against him, so he did not direct him to Elisha. However, Elisha heard about Naaman and told the king to send him to his house. The king directed Naaman there.

When Naaman and his servants came, Elisha sent his servant to tell Naaman, "Go and wash in the Jordan River seven times. Then, your leprosy will be gone and your skin will become new!"

Naaman was insulted that Elisha had not even come out to meet him. "Why should I bathe in that muddy river?" he fumed.

His servants knew that he must obey the prophet if he ever hoped to be well. At their persuasion, Naaman did as Elisha instructed. God honored his obedience and healed him!

The little captive maid proved that even a child has a God-given talent and can be a faithful witness for Him. Ignoring her own pain, she shared her knowledge of God's healing power so Naaman would not suffer. Her tragedy brought great good to Naaman—the knowledge of the one, true God.

-Nelda Sorrell

Key Thought: Even a child has a God-given talent and can be a faithful witness for God.

Memory Verse: Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you. Luke 6:27

No More Stone Throwing

La Mission public school had dismissed, and the students were leaving.

"Goodbye, 'Hallelujah Girls,'" Juan ridiculed towards Rosi and Abigail. "We'll see you down by the creek."

"Ha, ha, ha, and you don't have your dog to protect you from us anymore," mocked Francisco. "Now who is going to take care of the poor little 'Hallelujah Girls?'"

"Come on, everybody who wants to have some fun," Juan called out to the children gathered in the school yard. Francisco, Alicia, Gloria, and others ran after Juan.

Rosi clinched her fists and turned away so no one could see her angry, red face. She wanted to yell, "I hope something terrible happens to you." However, a few days ago she had won a great victory over anger, and she was trying hard to not let it master her again. She bit her lip to keep from shouting at Juan.

She felt so alone without Tim, Ester, or their dog, Piloto, who chased the mean boys. Her daddy would also be busy visiting people in the evenings, so she and Abigail would be walking home alone for a while.

"Juan said he would meet us at the creek," Abigail whispered to Rosi. "Why don't we walk on the highway

Questions

1. What dreaded disease did Naaman have?
2. Who believed that Elisha would heal Naaman?
3. What did Elisha tell Naaman to do?
4. What great good did the captive girl bring to Naaman?

and cross the valley nearer to your home where it is safer?"

"Mom says to not walk on the highway. It's too dangerous. It is also much further, but it might be better than getting hit with stones," Rosi answered.

"Then, let's go," Abigail said, and, picking up her heavy backpack, she started walking toward the highway.

"I can't disobey Mother—that's as bad as being angry."

"Oh, come on. She may never know."

"It would still be wrong. I can't disobey," Rosi insisted.

"And so, you'll just get hurt?"

"I hope not. Maybe we can sneak along by Austin's house, so they won't see us."

"Yes, we can do that and cross the highway there."

"No, Mom says to always go under the bridge and not cross over the highway."

"Just one time," Abigail pleaded.

"No!"

"Rosi, I can't believe you are that obedient. You sure have changed."

The girls walked by Austin's place and had just passed under the bridge when the gang started running after them and throwing rocks. They ran as fast as they could with their heavy backpacks. When they were safe on the side of the hill near Rosi's house, Abigail asked, "Did you hear someone crying?"

"Yes, it sounded like Alicia. You think she fell down or someone hit her?"

"Maybe. I hope she did. She should get hurt for hurting us," Abigail answered.

That evening, Rosi told her mother how they wanted to walk on the highway to avoid being stoned, but that they didn't.

"Will God make them stop hurting us because we didn't fight back, and I obeyed you?" Rosi asked.

"I hope so," Mother answered. "The Bible says, 'Children obey your parents in the Lord for this is right,' " Mother said.

Later, Rosi's sister, Tricia, learned that Alicia had been hit in the back of her head so hard that it cracked her skull. Alicia's mother was furious. She demanded to know who had done this terrible thing. Alicia told her it was an accident.

"An accident?" Alicia's mother asked.

"We were throwing rocks at the 'Hallelujah Girls,' and

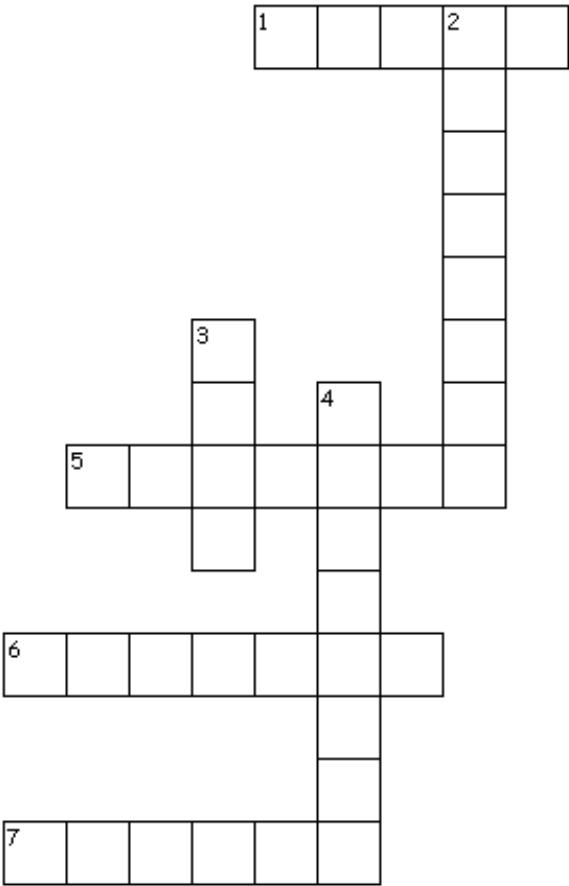
one of the rocks accidentally hit me," she said. After Alicia's mother heard the whole story she was ashamed that her children were being mean to other children. She thought other parents would feel the same, so she told the mothers in the neighborhood. Together the parents soon stopped it.

Charlotte Huskey

Answers: 1. Leprosy. 2. The little slave girl. 3. Go wash in the Jordan River seven times. 4. The knowledge of the one, true God.

Namaan's Story

- | | |
|---|---|
| Across | Down |
| 1. The little ____ became a missionary. | 2. Namaan's disease. |
| 5. The river in which Namaan washed. | 3. The Israeli king worried that the Syrian king wanted to make ____ against him. |
| 6. The prophet. | 4. Namaan was ____ of the Syrian army. |
| 7. Namaan's home country. | |



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Volume 66, Quarter 1, Week 12. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck. Contributors: Nelda Sorrell, Charlotte Huskey. 2016.



Junior Sunday School

Volume 66, Quarter 1, Week 13

Stephen's Prayer

The apostles were faced with the challenge of taking care of many widows. They called the disciples together and said, "Choose seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business while we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to preaching the word."

The first man chosen was Stephen, a man full of faith and power. He had done many wonders and miracles among the people.

However, certain religious leaders argued with Stephen and tried to prove that Jesus was not Christ. But, God gave Stephen such wisdom that the leaders could not deny that he spoke the truth.

Stephen's convincing proof that Jesus was indeed Christ enraged them. Since they could not stop his teachings by disputing them, they hired men to go among the Jews and accuse Stephen of blasphemy. Wherever these men went, they lied, "We have heard Stephen speak against Moses and against God!"

When the rulers and scribes heard these words, they arrested Stephen and brought him before the council. The men who had been hired to tell lies about Stephen were called on to tell what they knew about him. While the false witnesses spoke, the council watched Stephen closely. Even though his face shone like an angel's, they continued to accuse him.

Bravely, Stephen stood up and told his accusers the familiar story of their people, beginning with Abraham. He reminded them that their fathers had disobeyed God's laws. This made the leaders very angry!

God let Stephen see into heaven. Looking up, Stephen said, "I see the heavens open, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God."

At once, the rulers cried out loudly. They held their hands

over their ears so they would not have to hear Stephen say another word. Suddenly they rushed at him, seized him, and dragged him outside the city gate and stoned him. His murderers laid their clothes at Saul's feet.

As the rocks beat him mercilessly, Stephen called upon God, saying, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" Then, kneeling down, he cried with a loud voice, "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge."

No doubt, it was in answer to that prayer that Saul was saved. Most of us have godly parents, relatives, or friends who have prayed for us to be saved. Some, however, have not had this blessing. Jesus prayed for everyone! He said, "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word" (John 17:20).

Nelda Sorrell and Dena Porter

Key Thought: Stephen prayed that God would forgive his murderers. Paul was saved in answer to this prayer.

Memory Verse: Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. Acts 7:60

Angels in the Sky

Rosi and Abigail sat on a big rock beside the adobe school house. "You going home?" their friend, Miriam, asked.

"Dad is coming for us," Rosi answered.

"You are afraid to walk by yourselves, and you can't come with us. We don't like 'Hallelujah Girls!'" Juan mocked.

"Ha, ha, ha," the boys laughed as they ran down the hill toward the corn field along the creek bank.

"I'm so glad your Dad is coming. I hate walking home without Tim and Ester," Abigail said.

"I do too. I wish their class could still come in the afternoon, so we wouldn't be alone," Rosi complained.

They sat there until all the students and the teachers had left. Then, Rosi said, "My dad must not be coming; we better go on walking."

As they walked across the field, Abigail remarked, "I hope the boys have gone home so they won't be throwing rocks at us."

"I do too," Rosi answered. "But if they do, we'll have to be strong and suffer for Jesus."

When they came to where the path turned and went along the creek, Abigail stopped and said, "It is so dark and scary along here; the bushes are thick and the trees

Questions

1. What enraged the religious leaders?
2. What did they hire men to do?
3. God let Stephen see into _____.
4. For whom did Jesus pray?

so big.”

“That’s where the boys hide,” Rosi whispered.

“There they are! Run!” Abigail screamed.

Suddenly, rocks were flying all around them. “Run, ‘Hallelujahs,’ run!” The boys yelled.

A huge hard dirt clod hit Rosi right on her throat. It burst into pieces and the dirt fell down inside her blouse. Her anger flared! She started to yell ugly words as she had often done the year before. Then, she remembered she had been praying to overcome anger. She clinched her fists and kept on running. I won’t get angry. I’ll be like Jesus, she told herself. Slowly, the anger left.

“Why are you smiling?” Abigail asked. “Doesn’t it hurt where that big one hit you?”

“Well, yes, but I didn’t get angry.” Rosi felt like she had conquered a great army!

From the patio of her house up on a cliff, she stood watching poor Abigail walking home alone. She was so glad that Abigail was still her friend. She had just seen her friend, Serafin, with the boys throwing rocks.

Rosi went inside, changed clothes, and when she came back out, there sat Serafin on her patio! She put her hands on her hips and started to scold, “Why were you throwing rocks at me if you want to be my friend?”

Instantly, her happiness left. I will not not be angry, she told herself. Jesus’ friends turned against him, and he forgave them. So I will forgive Serafin.

She sat down beside him and looked out toward the west. “Isn’t the sunset beautiful?” she asked. And then, she gasped in surprise! There in the sky, over the ocean, were two doors with writing on them. They were shaped like the Ten Commandments. It must be a message from God. I wonder what it says? she thought. The clouds looked like angels hovering around, and the evening sunbeams gave the vision a heavenly glow. “Look! Look, Serafin!” she cried, pointing toward the picture in the sky.

“I don’t see anything,” he said. He stood up and shaded his eyes for a better look. “I still don’t see anything but clouds and sun rays.”

“Can’t you see the doors with writing on them? It must be written in English because I can’t read it. I’m going to write it down so Mom can read it to me.”

She hurried inside and out again, but the picture was gone.

Rosi said to herself, “I will be faithful, for someday, Jesus will tell me what was written on those doors.”

Charlotte Huskey

Answers: 1. Stephen’s convincing proof that Jesus was indeed Christ. 2. Accuse Stephen. 3. Heaven. 4. Everyone.

Stephen’s Prayer

Across

5. The ____ took care of the widows.

6. The apostle that was full of faith and power.

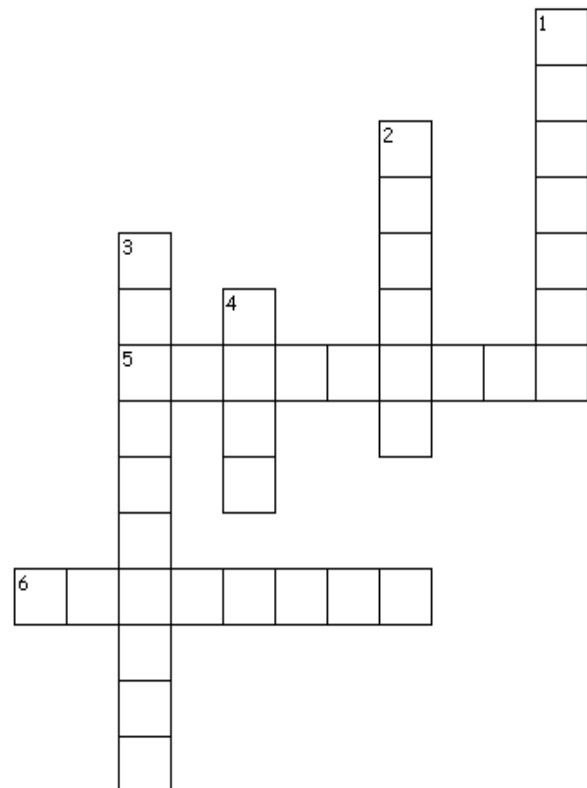
Down

1. "Lay not this sin to their ____!"

2. Stephen's face shone like an ____.

3. Stephen was accused of ____.

4. "I see the ____ of Man..."



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.
Volume 66, Quarter 1, Week 13. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck. Contributors: Nelda Sorrell, Dena Porter, Charlotte Huskey. 2016.