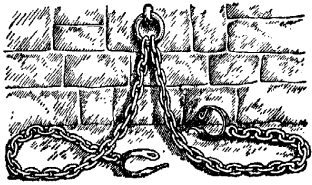


Unplanned!

When our plans change, how quickly do we complain and



grumble? It doesn't take long before we are unsure about the purpose of those changed plans or unexpected suffering. We seem to accept

pleasant unplanned events—like a surprise birthday party—relatively well. But what about unplanned events that are NOT so pleasant?

Paul and Silas, preachers for God, experienced a very unplanned circumstance. A visit to jail. They were thrown into the inner jail because they were preaching and healing people in the name of Jesus Christ. It seems a little unfair that they were thrown in prison for simply trying to do what God called them to do, right? The complete story is recorded in Acts 16:19-27. Paul and Silas had just cast an evil spirit out of a slave girl. Her masters were very unhappy about this, for she had made them a lot of money. For this reason, they took Paul and Silas to the rulers of the city who commanded them to be beaten with many stripes. They were then thrown into the inner prison and had their feet put tightly into stocks. They hurt. They were in a dark place. They could have justifiably been so discouraged as to hang their heads in defeat.

But wait! Paul and Silas sang praises to God at midnight! Can you imagine that scene?! They deliberately chose to focus their eyes on God and not their unplanned and painful circumstances. The Bible explains what happened next, “Suddenly, there was a great earthquake so that the

foundations of the prison were shaken: Immediately, all the doors were opened, and everyone’s bands were loosed. The keeper of the prison, awaking out of his sleep and seeing the prison doors open, drew out his sword and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had fled. But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, ‘Do thyself no harm: for we are all here.’ Then he called for a light, sprang in, began to tremble, and fell down before Paul and Silas. He brought them out, and said, ‘Sirs, what must I do to be saved?’ And they said, ‘Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.’” That night, the prison keeper and those of his house were saved, baptized, and rejoiced in Lord!

When things don’t go your way, stop! Before you complain, get angry, or discouraged, remember this: Paul and Silas SANG in the unplanned hours of their lives! Many times, God has another plan bigger than we have the ability to comprehend. We cannot see ahead, but God can, so let us trust Him!

Sis. Julie Elwell

Key Thought: When things don’t go our way, God may have a different and better plan.

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

Being Part of God’s Plan

“James, did you hear that?” I questioned.

“Yes, that pipe in the road hit the van. I tried to miss it.”

We were traveling through the Sonora desert on highway 15, about 75 kilometers south of Guaymas, Sonora, Mexico.

Suddenly, the red light on the heat gage began flashing, indicating that the motor was very hot. James slowed down and pulled off the highway. He jumped out quickly, and crawled under the car.

“The water line is broken into two pieces, and the water has drained out. That pipe must have hit it,” he informed me. “I hope there is a town of some sort not too far away, for it is a long way back to Guaymas. I must not drive without water so I’d better go find some help. You

Questions

1. What kinds of things happen that you don’t like?
2. Why is it so easy to be discouraged with unpleasant, unplanned situations?
3. How did Paul and Silas respond to being beat and then thrown into jail?
4. Can we always see the big picture? Can we trust God?

two stay here and protect the car.”

I watched as James hurried along the highway. We had no idea how far he would have to walk. I saw him trying to flag down a truck that was passing, but it sped on. Later, he tried getting a car to stop. Poor guy, I thought. He may have to walk ten miles or more, and he has driven most of the night and has had no breakfast.

After he was out of sight, I settled down to find some comfort from the Bible. The first verse I thought of was, “In everything give thanks.”

“God,” I said, “I can’t say from my heart that I am thankful to be stranded in the Sonora desert, but I am thankful that we picked up Carolina’s son, Daniel, while visiting her in Caborca. At least I’m not alone in this desolate place. But God, we need to be in Culiacán tomorrow when the meeting starts.”

I soon found out, however, that there were other things for which to be thankful. We thought we were parked by an abandoned shack. But a woman came out from it and invited us to eat with her. She had only beans and tortilla to serve, but they tasted delicious, and her shack was cooler than the car.

We talked about one thing and another, and then I shared some of my experiences with God with her. After that, to keep Daniel from being too bored, I played soccer with him. The woman thought it quite strange that an old woman with white hair could play soccer.

Four hours later, James came back in a truck, ready to tow us to a garage. “This is Sister Josefina’s brother, Francisco,” he said, introducing me to the truck driver.

“Josefina that lives in Ensenada?” I asked excitedly.

“Yes.”

“How did you meet him?”

“While you were in Oklahoma last fall. Francisco’s son, Ruben, came to visit his Aunt Josefina. She brought him to church several times. He was such a nice, young man that I wanted to keep in contact with him, so before leaving, he gave me his address. The bus driver who picked me up told me the nearest town is Vicam. The name Vicam rolled around in my head a few times, and then I remembered that Ruben lived there.”

I hugged James and answered, “It must be God’s plan that we see Ruben again and meet his family. The accident is God’s way of getting us where He wants us.

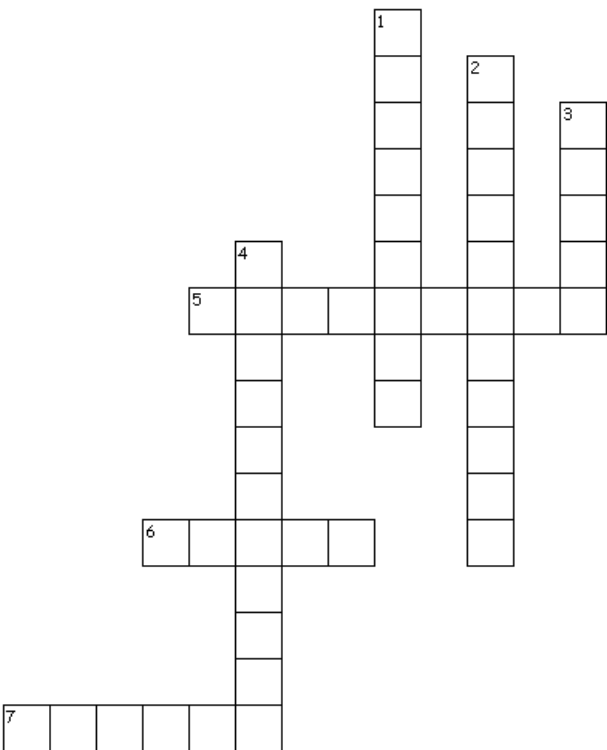
We aren’t stranded. We are just where God needs us.”

James continued, “I had no trouble finding Ruben’s family. Fransisco sells fish, so almost everyone in town knows him. He borrowed this truck to tow us to a good mechanic. Things couldn’t have worked out better.”

From *Traveling with God* by Charlotte Huskey

Paul and Silas

Word list: baptize, complain, earthquake, jail, jailkeeper, Paul, Silas.



Across

- 5. The jailkeeper was saved and ____.
- 6. one of God's preachers.
- 7. one of God's preachers.

Down

- 1. God does not want us to ____ when we experience

unplanned events.

- 2. the man who was saved because of Paul and Silas' singing.
- 3. The ____ caused the jail doors to open.
- 4. the place in which Paul and Silas sang.

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 2, Week 1. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck. Contributors: Julie Elwell, Lindsey Gellenbeck, Charlotte Huskey. 2016.



Junior Sunday School

Volume 66, Quarter 2, Week 2

Ambassadors for Christ

Jesus came to earth with a message – He gave His message both by His words and by the example of His life. He brought a message of salvation, of peace, of mercy, of righteousness, and of love. He spoke His message the exact way He wanted it to be given

to the people. We can study His words and His life in the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John – the four Gospels of the New Testament. There came a day, however, that Jesus ascended back into Heaven and He was no longer physically walking and talking here on the earth. He needed ambassadors – or representatives – to continue to share the message of the gospel that was so important to Him!

To whom did God give the responsibility of continuing to share His message? In the beginning, it was to the twelve disciples who preached in many different countries. The apostle Paul was also an ambassador for Christ. After one particularly difficult day in Jerusalem in which he had been taken before the council and chief priests and had reason to fear for his life, the Lord stood by him that night and said, “Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness of me also at Rome.” Rome was approximately 1430 miles from Jerusalem, but God wanted the message of the gospel to be shared in Rome, so He entrusted Paul to take the trip to relay that message!

Paul eventually made it to Rome, as a prisoner. Although he was in prison, many people were allowed to come to where he stayed. He preached about the kingdom of God and persuaded them all that he believed in what he

taught about, Jesus Christ. Some joined in his belief and others did not.

While in prison, Paul also wrote four books of the Bible -- Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon. Paul’s prayer, as recorded in Ephesians 6:19-20, noted his wish was that, as an ambassador for Christ, he would be able to bravely share the good news of the gospel whenever he opened his mouth.

Today, the true message of Jesus still needs to be given to neighbors, family members, friends, teachers, people we just ‘happen to meet,’ and people of our country and of other countries. It is important to memorize Bible verses and pay attention to our parents, Sunday school teachers, preachers, and other godly people we know.

As we study to know God, it will help us be better equipped to be good representatives – or ambassadors – for Christ. People in our world today need Jesus – and Jesus needs you!

Sis. Julie Elwell

Key Thought: As a Christian, you represent Jesus by your words and how you live your life. God wants to use you to bring other people to Him.

Memory Verse: Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:20

Completing God’s Plan

We were broken-down in the Sonora desert, somewhere between Guaymas and Ciudad Obregon. We waited beside the road for four hours while James hitch-hiked to the nearest town to find help. James came back with Fransisco, who would tow us to the city of Vicam.

Lorena, Fransisco’s wife, had a meal waiting for us when we arrived. Later in the evening, other extended family members came in to hear recent news from their Aunt Josefina, whom we had just visited.

We shared with them everything we knew about Josefina, her daughter, and her two grandchildren. James said, “We set up a tent near her home and preached the message of salvation through faith in Jesus. Josefina now believes in Christ. She testifies to having tranquility and assurance in her life that she never had before.”

“We have also accepted the gospel,” Fransisco told us. “Tomorrow evening we will have prayer meeting in a home. Can you be with us?”

Questions

1. What is an ambassador and what do they do?
2. In what ways were the 12 disciples and Paul ambassadors?
3. If we call ourselves Christians, does it matter how we conduct ourselves? Why?
4. Why is it important to study and know the Bible?

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.)



“Yes, I’ll be glad to,” James answered. “My wife also gives lessons in child raising.”

“Maybe we can arrange for the women to meet during the day while you are here,” he answered.

We then passed out our Spanish songbooks and sang several songs. James read from the Bible, and we prayed together.

The following day, we prayed as we made our way to the cottage where James would give a Bible study.

Wednesday, Francisco’s son, Ruben, visited me after school. He sat down beside me and asked, “What do you think about evolution? My teacher believes it, but I just can’t.”

“I have done a lot of research about evolution” I told him. “There is much evidence to prove that nature was created by a master designer. Each plant or animal reproduces another like itself. There are millions of fossilized plants and animals from long ago, which are basically the same as the plants and animals we have today.”

We talked for a long time, then he said, “I wish I had evidence to show him.”

I took a book from my suitcase. “Look Ruben! This book has a lot of proof. Take it to your teacher tomorrow. See if he will read it.” Ruben asked many questions, and I was amazed that I had read articles that explained those very questions. God had already prepared me.

The following evening, Ruben told me his teacher had asked to take the book home. “I hope that’s all right,” he said.

“The book is yours,” I said.

Thursday night, James preached in the church where the family attended. Friday afternoon, I gave a lesson on child raising to a group of mothers. Soon after I finished, James came in and said, “The car is ready to go, however, I don’t have the \$200 to pay the mechanic. I will go again on the bus to Obregon and get more money from the bank.”

“No, you won’t need to do that,” Francisco said. “I’ll pay whatever you lack. The mechanic knows I will pay him whenever I have the money.”

“Just come with us now and I’ll get the money for you at the bank,” James offered.

When Ruben told me goodbye, he said, “Today the teacher said a lot of positive things about the book. And now, several students want to read it.”

“I hope it will help them,” I said.

“Thank you again for giving it to me,” he said.

Francisco and Lorena went with us to Obregon. James drew money using our debit card and gave him enough to pay the mechanic and extra for himself. They returned to their home by bus, and we drove the 270 miles to Culiacán through the night.

From *Traveling with God* by Charlotte Huskey

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 2, Week 2. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck. Contributors: Julie Elwell, Lindsey Gellenbeck, Charlotte Huskey. 2016.

Alive or Dead?

Did you know that a living, healthy, active person can be spiritually sick or even dead? It's true! When we do



wrong or live
sinfully, we can
physically walk,
run, shout, and

move all over the place, yet the spiritual side of us is completely still, with no movement whatsoever. Not even the strongest wind or earthquake can bring the spiritual side of us to life.

When Jesus was on the earth, He caused the blind to see, the lame to walk, the deaf to hear, and even brought the dead to life. When the man with palsy was let down through the roof desiring for Jesus to heal him, do you know what Jesus told the man first? He said, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee." The people were amazed. Jesus not only healed the man physically, but He also forgave the man's sins. In other words, he quickened him spiritually. The man's spiritual side was more important to Jesus than his physical side, so he healed the spiritual side of this man first.

If you have a keyboard and only half of the keys work, would it be considered a completely functioning keyboard? The argument could be made that half of the keys really truly work. Maybe you can type the letters Q, W, E, R, and T on one side of the keyboard, but on the other half of the keyboard, letters Y, U, I, O, and P don't work and are "dead" keys. Wouldn't it be time to buy a new keyboard? In the same way, we are made of two parts; physical and spiritual. If our physical side functions reasonably well and we are able to run, jump, play, and talk, but the spiritual side of us is "dead" because of sins

we have committed, then we have a problem.

The good news? Jesus can "quicken" the spiritual side of us and make us 100 percent whole and alive. We have to ask ourselves a question: Do we want to completely give our lives to Christ? He can and will forgive and forget all our wrong-doings. We don't have to be spiritually dead! It is such joy to have the burden of guilt lifted off our shoulders. So many people in our world walk around half-dead when all they have to do is give themselves to Jesus, the One who has the ability to quicken them and make them wholly alive!

Sis. Julie Elwell

Key Thought: My
Choice: Do I want to be
spiritually quickened?
What will my answer
be? God would love
nothing more than for
me to answer, "Yes!"

Memory Verse: And
you, being dead in your
sins hath he quickened
together with him,
having forgiven you all
trespasses. Colossians
2:13

Mario Finds Christ

Nova stooped to enter the door of the little wooden house. In the corner was the casket, and in it, Cesar was lying cold and still.

Cesar's father, Mario, staggered in the back door. He swayed back and forth, then headed for the casket. "Cesar, Cesar!

Get up from there," he demanded. "Here, I'll give you a hand." He banged his hand hard into the casket.

"Watch out!" Nova cried, as the casket tottered.

"You can't keep me from helping my son," Mario snorted. Then he raised his fist toward heaven and shouted, "God, why did you take my boy, my only boy, my pride and my joy? I hate you. Give him back, I say. Give him back now."

Nova laid her hand on Mario's shoulder, and said, "I know it's hard, but we must submit to God."

"I'll never submit to God," he retorted angrily. "I'll never pray again."

"Oh, Mario, please don't say that," Nova begged.

"I'll say what I want," he stormed.

Four years passed, and his family struggled to live as Mario stayed drunk. His wife looked haggard and years older. Joanna, their daughter, had to move to the city to earn money to help her family.

Questions

1. Can a physically healthy person be spiritually dead?
2. Did Jesus heal the physical or spiritual side of the sick man first?
3. Which part of a person is more important: physical or spiritual?
4. Who can make a person spiritually whole?

Each time Nova visited Mario, she urged him to seek God, but he would only rage and curse God. Her mother and brothers tried many ways to get him to stop drinking and turn to God. He also raged at them.

Nova had two months of vacation, so she went home to be with her Mother. She saw Mario drunk day after day. One day she saw him standing at the bus stop.

"Where are you going?" she asked.

"To Conco. I'll be back tonight." But he didn't come home. They found him in the hospital. Someone had knocked him out and stolen his billfold. He wasn't seriously hurt so they brought him home.

Three days later, Nova saw him at the bus stop again. "Hi! Are you going to town?"

"Yes, I'm going to Conco."

"You'll just get drunk again."

"That's just what I want to do. I'm so miserable. I can't live like this. I'm going to stay drunk 'til I die."

"Oh, please don't," Nova cried.

"Yeah, that's what I'm going to do."

"Listen, Mario, we have guests at Mom's house. Some brothers from the United States are visiting our family. They want to meet you, too."

"Really?"

"Yes, really. Wouldn't you like to meet them?"

"You think they would visit a drunk like me?"

"Sure they would. They are at Laurel's right now. I'm sure they will visit you tomorrow."

"I don't believe it," he said staunchly.

"Believe me, they will, if you are at home."

"Well, if you say so," he muttered and started walking toward his house. Suddenly he called, "Nora, Nora."

"What?"

"Ask your visitors to come and pray for me."

Nova nearly flew home. "Mom! Mom!" she called as she ran through the door. "You won't believe what happened."

"What is it?"

"Mario asked to have the brothers pray for him."

"It's too good to be true," Mother gasped. They hugged and cried together, then fell on their knees and thanked God.

The following morning at 8:00 a.m., Nova and the brothers went to Mario's house. After introductions and

a little small talk, they got right to the point of this man's great need for God's saving grace. Mario was soon crying and begging God to forgive him. After about two hours of earnestly praying and rebuking the devil, Mario said, "I feel so clean."

Mario was standing near the same spot where he had cursed God and said he would never pray again. Now, instead of raising his hands cursing God, he was raising his hands praising God.

From *Traveling with God* by Charlotte Huskey

.....

Verse Race!

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

Romans 8:10

1 John 3:14

1 Corinthians 1:18

Ephesians 2:1

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 2, Week 3. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck. Contributors: Julie Elwell, Lindsey Gellenbeck, Charlotte Huskey. 2016.

Eternal Glory

With everyday trials and struggles in mind, Paul endeavored to encourage the Corinthians that their hardships were not in vain. Paul encouraged the saints in Corinth with these words: For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory (2 Corinthians 4:17).

His words were emphatic and descriptive, obviously written with great passion, and are still applicable to Christians today. It is so easy to adopt the mindset that a life of comfort and ease is the best and most profitable way to live; but, history is not filled with saints who lived carefree, protected lives—it is filled with stories of those who grew to incredible strength through horrific sorrows and hardships. It was in the midst of moments of doubt and testing that their great and memorable characters were born.

Knowing that the greatest victories come from the hardest trials does not always make them easier. Paul tries to comfort us, saying, “We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed,” (2 Corinthians 4:8-9). One can gain strength in knowing that persecution may come our way, but we will never be forsaken or left alone. Circumstances or people may cast us down, but none have the strength to destroy us.

When facing the trials of life, whether big or small, it is needful to remember that those trials are working for us an eternal glory. Yes, the trials seem heavy, cumbersome, and too big to carry, but Paul used the words “light affliction” to describe what we face during our time on earth. Compared to the everlasting glory that we will

experience in Heaven, our earthly trials are just that—light and short-lived. Our hardest battle on earth will be as speck of dust when we reach our goal. There, dwelling in Heaven for all of eternity, we will partake of an exceeding, everlasting weight of glory.

While living our lives, we will experience hardship. Sometimes, it will concern our everyday activities surrounding jobs, homes, or money. Sometimes, it will be the death of a loved one. Sometimes, it will be in service to the Lord. Every inconvenience and hardship handled with God-given grace add to our eternal weight of glory. Circumstances that appear to have no silver lining, no purpose, or beneficial effects are also adding to our reward. There may be times that we suffer without seeing the good it brings forth, but without our knowledge, God is working the situation out to His perfect purpose.

Do not be cast down though troubles surround you. Do not be overtaken, confused, or in despair. You will never be forsaken in your time of need, and all of the light afflictions you bear add to your exceeding and eternal weight of glory!

Sis. Lindsey Gellenbeck

Key thought: God uses the trials we endure on earth to add to our eternal glory!

Memory Verse: For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.
2 Corinthians 4:17

Trouble Becomes a Blessing

We had just crossed the international border and were in Mexico. Our first stop was at a money changing office. We lined up at the door, and everyone exchanged their dollars for pesos.

“The next stop is the immigration office to get visas,” James told our group as he stuffed his billfold with new pesos. For every \$1.00, we received 12 pesos. “It’s isn’t far away, but we need to take our cars to get the sticker on the wind shield. Everyone act mannerly, and we won’t have any trouble getting through.”

We parked near the immigration office and got out. The line was long, and we waited for an hour. Then we had to fill the extensive paperwork. Everyone was on their best behavior, and all the paperwork was approved. An officer took the stickers for and put them on the three cars. We were all jumping in the cars, eager to get going, when

Questions

1. To whom did Paul write about the weight of glory?
2. Of what kind of circumstances are the greatest Christians born?
3. What words did Paul use to describe our troubles on Earth?
4. Why did he describe our earthly troubles in these words?

suddenly the officer turned around and hurried back into the office. We waited for his return because we could not go until the sticker was on the car. After what seemed to be a long time, another officer came to where the adults were standing. "We have run into some problems," he said. "We cannot give you permission to enter our country."

"What did you say?" Lloyd asked.

"A group entering must fill out papers ahead of time so that the history of the group can be investigated. Also we must have on record where you will be staying and what you will be doing each day of your stay."

"We are just three families and a few of the children's friends traveling together. I speak Spanish and my friends do not, so they asked to cross with me," James explained.

"I know what you are," the officer answered rather hatefully. "You are a church group coming to convert our people to your religion. We don't need another religion in Mexico."

"We have brought a lot of good clothes to give away, and we brought toys for the children at the orphanage in Uruapan, Michoacan," Lloyd protested.

"Sorry, you have to do it the legal way." He spun around and walk quickly away.

"We can't go?" the children asked.

"Let's go to the park, and while you children play, we will decide what to do," James said.

At the park, an American man, Pedro Sanchez, came over to meet us. After getting acquainted, the man asked, "Could you use some Spanish Bibles?"

"We have been hoping to get some Bibles. In the area where we are going, there is a great need for them," James answered.

"I'd be happy to give you a box full."

"Oh, that would be wonderful," James answered.

"God must have ordered this trouble so we could meet that brother and get the Bibles," I said as we headed toward Pedro Sanchez's home.

Pedro was expecting us and had things set up for us to camp at his home. At intervals of every three hours, one car of our group went through the inspection station and received permits to enter. We were the last one of our group to go in. The officer ordered us to empty the van. We did, then he inspected it and placed the sticker on the windshield

While we were reloading the van, the officer who had refused us yesterday came back on duty again.

Thankfully, the sticker was on the windshield and the legal papers in James pocket.

"It was plain to see he was angry," I said as we drove back to Pedro's house.

An hour later we were together on the road headed for Southern Mexico.

From *Traveling with God* by Charlotte Huskey

2 Corinthians 4:17

Word list: afflictions, Corinth, endure, eternal, exceeding, glory, light, trials, weight

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

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 2, Week 4. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck. Contributors: Julie Elwell, Lindsey Gellenbeck, Charlotte Huskey. 2016.

The Law of Love

While Jesus was ministering on earth, a lawyer once asked him, “Master, which is the great commandment in the law?” Jesus answered, “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and greatest commandment.” But Jesus didn’t stop there. He continued by saying, “And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law,” (Matthew 22:39-40). In practice, we find that living out the second commandment is not always easy.

Living as Christians, our lives are often open to the ridicule of the world. In these situations, we find ourselves required to love those that hurt and persecute us when our first inclination is to retaliate and harbor hurt feelings. However, Jesus requires a higher standard of living. Not only does He ask us to treat those individuals well and cleanse our hearts of bitterness, He calls on us to carry His pure, unadulterated love to those who are hurting. We are His vessels of the Gospel, going out into the world and shining His light to those who are lost. Neither feelings of superiority and self-righteousness nor stand-offish attitudes are acceptable in our Christian outreach.

Just because we have accepted Jesus’ forgiveness and purified our lives does not make us better than those who are lost and hurting. Romans outlines this, saying, “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God,” (Romans 3:23). No man or woman to walk the earth is without need of the Savior, and it is vital to remember that when endeavoring to reach out to the lost. You may look at the actions of a lost soul and feel as though their sins are repulsive and offensive, but knowing

Questions

1. What did the lawyer ask Jesus?
2. What was the first commandment with which Jesus answered?
3. What was the second commandment with which Jesus answered?
4. What are some methods Jesus used to minister?

that does not change the fact that you, too, have sinned and offended God in some way or another. Holding on to that knowledge helps us, as Christians, to remain humble and compassionate toward those who have not yet felt God’s saving grace.

It is also important to remember to be open and available to those who are seeking God. Befriending the unsaved was a practice of which Jesus often partook during His ministry (Luke 7:36). Visiting, sharing meals, spending time—Jesus used all of these methods as a way of ministry, and so can we. The lost souls after which we seek will never know God’s love and forgiving power if we do not show it through our time, attention, and friendship. We should not be shy in these areas, nor should we be afraid of suffering negative effects when we partake of the friendship of those living without Jesus. His love is all-powerful and will easily conquer the evil in any situation. Our friendship is the only Godly love some may ever know.

Do not hold back or refrain. Do not let yourself become burdened by hurts. But rather, let Jesus’ love and forgiveness shine through your life. Christians do not live unto themselves—they are required by God to spread His love, for, on that principle, His entire law depends.

Sis. Lindsey Gellenbeck

Key Thought: Our purpose as Christians is to reach out to the lost, and show them God’s infinite love.

Memory Verse: “And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. Matthew 22:39

Love is Powerful

We were sitting in the little, green schoolhouse on the Santa Caterina Indian Reservation studying when big Gregorio gasped. I looked over at him and saw fear in his eyes. “Pablo is coming, and he is drunk. He’s real mean when he is drunk. We have got to get out of here!”

My Mother, Virginia Wittenborn, was teaching a group of Pai Pai Indian children to read Spanish and compute numbers. There had not been classes on the reservation for many years. The government had sent teachers from time to time, but they didn’t always stay long. Therefore, several of the boys were fifteen or sixteen years old or older. Many of them were also big and muscular. Gregorio was over six feet tall and several others almost as tall as him. They had broad shoulders and strong muscles. Only a few older girls came because it was not considered very important that girls got an education.

They were also needed to help their mothers at home, doing the cooking, washing, and tending their crops. The Indian women did most of the work.

I was surprised that Gregorio was afraid of Pablo, considering his stature, but he jumped out of his seat in obvious fear. "Sister," he said to my mother, "this man will kill whoever gets in his way when he is drunk."

"No, Gregorio, he isn't that mean," Mama said calmly.

"Oh, yes, he is. We've got to get out before he gets inside here." Gregorio was almost wild with fear. I was getting afraid, too and so were the other children. They were all off the benches and standing, just waiting for permission to leave.

"We need to hide in those rocks," Gregorio said as he pointed to the big rocks on the hill behind the outhouse.

"Well, if you really think he is that dangerous, you all may go," Mama said hesitantly. "Watch for rattlesnakes around those rocks."

Sister Edith grabbed Walter by one hand and Aurelia, the smallest Indian girl, by her other hand and followed the boys. My sister Diane and I, along with the other children, followed her. "Aren't you coming?" I asked Mama as I was going out the door.

"No, I am going to talk to him."

I looked back and saw my little, quiet, peaceful Mother standing beside the little, green schoolhouse. She was looking at Pablo as if inviting him to come in. "Be careful, Mama," I called back as we were climbing. We climbed until we came to the big rocks. We didn't stop until we were behind the rocks, hidden from view of anyone at the school.

After playing on the rocks for a while, Sister Edith said, "I think Pablo must be gone by now. We better go back to class."

We raced down the hill to the schoolhouse. I could hardly believe my eyes. There stood Pablo just inside the door of the school. He was leaning on the door looking much like a big, whipped puppy. My plump little mother was gently scolding him. I have no clue what she was saying as I understood very little Spanish or Pai Pai, but Pablo was nodding his head in agreement.

When she was finished, he said, "Muchas gracias," and walked away very slowly.

"Sister, what did you do to tame the wild beast?" asked Gregorio.

"I invited him in and made him a cup of hot chocolate," Mama answered. "Love has great power."

Story of Lois Ray, as told by Charlotte Huskey

Love

Commandments

Friendship

Glory

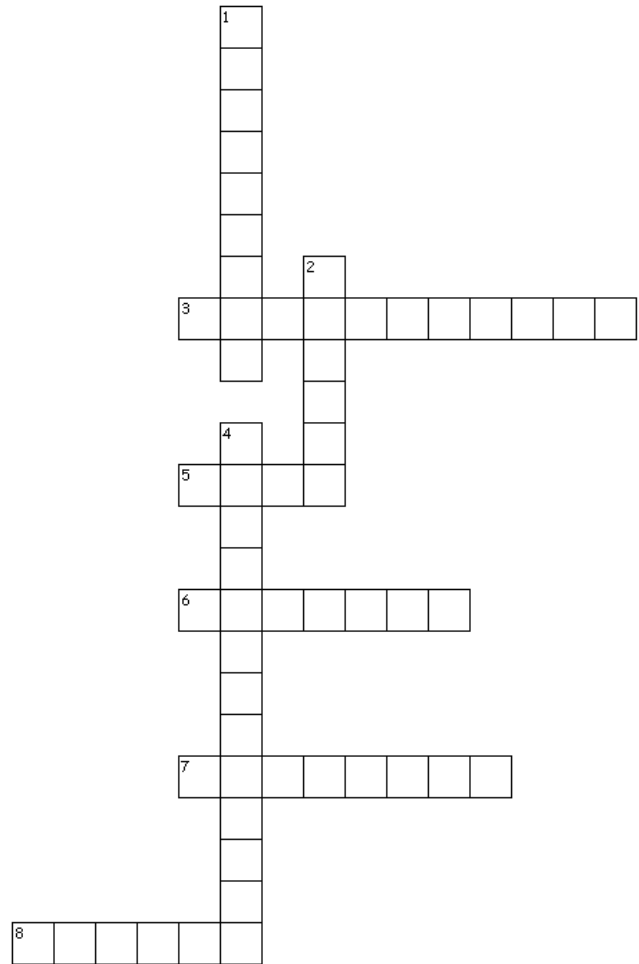
God

Jesus

Neighbor

Savior

Vessels



Across

3. A way of showing Godly love.
5. Love the Lord thy ____.
6. Every man, woman, and child are in need of the ____.
7. Christians are ____ of the Gospel.
8. "All have sinned, and come short of the ____ of God."

Down

1. Thou shalt love thy ____ as thyself.
2. ____ visited, shared meals, and spent time with the unsaved.
4. On these two ____ hang all the law.

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 2, Week 5. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck. Contributors: Julie Elwell, Lindsey Gellenbeck, Charlotte Huskey. 2016.

Unknowning Influence

The book of Acts tells the story of a man named Saul, or as he was called later, Paul. This man was determined to see the Christians destroyed. Acts 8:3 says, "As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women



committed them to prison." Saul's goal in life was to end Christianity, and his methods of accomplishing that were violent and hateful. However, God got Saul's attention in a miraculous way. Saul was on the road to Damascus, his purpose in going there was to find more Christians to imprison. Suddenly, Saul was blinded by a supernatural light, and God spoke to him from the heavens. Through a series of circumstances, Saul changed his life from that day forward, preaching God's truths and spreading the gospel.

This story is not an unfamiliar one, and it is one that encourages a soul to believe in the miraculous transformation of sinners. However, in this day and age, God does not often speak in an audible voice or shine His brilliance down to earth. But His desire to see sinners transformed to beings of truth and godliness is still the same. How, then, are these sinners' souls to understand God's beautiful way of living?

Farther back in Saul's story, we read of him being present at the stoning of Stephen, a follower of Christ. Acts 7:58 says, "And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul." Stephen's garments were

laid at Saul's feet, a sign that Saul agreed to his slaying. Just before Stephen died, he called upon God, saying, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit... Lord, lay not this sin to their charge" (Acts 7:59-60). Saul heard the last, reverent, and pleading words of the man he was watching die.

What effect do you suppose those words had on Saul? Do you think they replayed in his mind while he tried to fall asleep? Do you wonder, maybe, if in Saul's heart of hearts, he knew God saved Stephen and answered his last prayer? And perhaps, while Saul was trembling under the immense light and voice of God on the road to Damascus, he remembered Stephen's humble words. I can't help but think that the memory of those words began to soften Saul's heart—a turning toward God that he might even have been unaware of himself.

It is incredible to think that while Stephen was being stoned in the street, he was unknowingly changing the life of an onlooking man. Partly due to Stephen's faith and obedience to God, Saul became one of the most influential teachers and ministers of his time.

Knowing how Stephen inadvertently changed Saul's life for the better, how do you think your life affects those around you? You have an influence on your friends, siblings, parents, classmates, etc. There are people watching your life of whom you may be totally unaware! Live in a way that will encourage them to reform their habits. Be an example of how a Christian should act, and whether you realize it or not, you are making a difference for those around you—you are God's voice to those who haven't heard Him speak.

Sis. Lindsey Gellenbeck

Key Thought: Someone may give their life to Christ because of your Christian example.

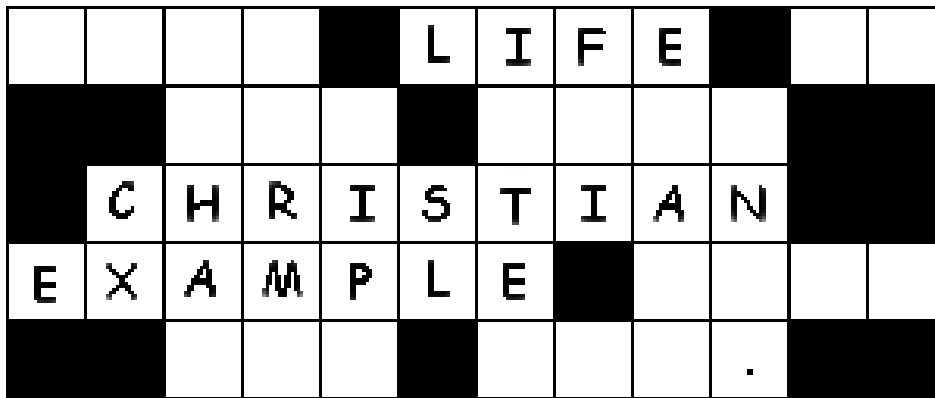
Memory Verse: And straightway [Paul] preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God. Acts 9:20

The Stolen Sleeping Bag

"Get in the car and let's go to prayer meeting while Mario is gone. He isn't interested in serving God. He just wants to ride along with us so that he can visit with Ramona," I said.

Questions

1. How was Saul treating the Christians?
2. Who did he watch die?
3. What were the words the dying man prayed?
4. What effect did that man's prayer have on Saul?



Y O T A Y S N L O M E
M R E O E S Y I S
U H E

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

We were soon on the main highway and driving toward Rosarito Beach. Larry, a boy from Michigan who was staying the summer with us, spoke: "I'm glad we left him." Bobby and Tim agreed with Larry. They, too, sensed that Mario was just pretending to be a Christian. "I can't speak much Spanish, so I never get a chance to talk with Ramona when Mario is near. He rattles on until we are ready to come home." James nor I commented on Larry's statement, although in our hearts we thought that Ramona needed a Christian friend like Larry.

Both Mario and Larry were staying with us. Mario was a hitchhiker James had brought home on one of his trips to Tijuana. We were living in a small trailer. Each night, Larry moved the dining table against the wall, threw his sleeping bag on the floor, and slept. Each evening, Mario unfolded the back seat of our 1958 Chevy station wagon and used that for his sleeping place. Both young men were about the same age and each thought they were in love with Ramona. There was constant conflict between the boys, but they kept it under control in our presence.

When we returned home that night, Mario was not there. We went about our usual routine before bedtime, thinking he was possibly visiting at the neighbors and would see the lights on and come back to the trailer. We finished eating and cleaned the kitchen. He still hadn't come. I sent the children to bed. Larry pushed the table and chairs to one side to make room for his sleeping bag. He then went into the hallway to get it from the closet.

"Hey, my sleeping bag is missing," he gasped. Instantly we knew what had happened. Quickly, I started looking through the cupboards to see what else was missing. Bobby and Tricia were awake, so they jumped out of bed and checked their hidden treasures. Larry was going

through his suitcase checking for missing items. Next, I checked the bathroom, towels, soap, shampoo, and razors. Larry's shaving kit was missing.

One evening, several years later while in Ensenada, we stopped in to visit a church. I don't remember the name of the church nor why we went there. The preacher was in the pulpit when we walked in. To keep from being noticed, I put my finger to my lips and motioned our five children into an empty bench near the back, and we sat down quietly.

Thinking I knew the preacher, I began trying to recall where I had seen him. I had hardly begun my search, when he spoke loudly into the microphone. "Praise God! Brother and Sister Huskey just came in. Will you please stand—I want everyone in here to meet you." All heads turned toward us as we stood up. "These are the people who showed me the way to live. I would not be here today if this family had not proved by their lives that living for God is the best way. Please remain until after meeting, so I can visit with you."

Then it all came back to me: Mario, Larry, Ramona, the sleeping bag and the shaving kit.

After service, he asked about our welfare, remarked how the children had grown, and did a bit of reminiscing. Then he apologized.

From *Growing up with God* by Charlotte Huskey

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 2, Week 6. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck. Contributors: Julie Elwell, Lindsey Gellenbeck, Charlotte Huskey. 2016.

In Christ Alone

In Daniel 3, we read the familiar story of the three



Hebrew children. When King Nebuchadnezzar commanded that all of his subjects worship a golden idol, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to bow, standing firmly on

the commandment that God had given them: "Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them," (Exodus 20:3, 5).

When King Nebuchadnezzar asked them why they would not bow, they answered confidently, saying, "We are not careful in how we answer you. We know that the Lord can deliver us from the fiery furnace. But if he chooses not to, know that we still will not bow to your idol." Their words angered the king so much that he heated the furnace to seven times its normal temperature and bound and threw Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego into the furnace!

Even with all of the odds stacked against them, the Hebrew children knew they could not lose their battle, and they were greatly rewarded for their infinite trust and dependence on God. While in the midst of the fiery furnace, the ropes that had bound them fell off, and they spent those few glorious minutes in the presence of Jesus himself.

How wonderful they must have felt in their spirits when King Nebuchadnezzar called them out from the furnace! Not a single hair on their head was singed, and no smell of smoke lingered on their clothing. The king proclaimed, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego who sent his angel to deliver the servants who trusted in Him! They were willing to give their lives in order to worship their God alone!"

Questions

1. Why were the three Hebrew children thrown into the furnace?
2. What did King Nebuchadnezzar say when they came out of the furnace?
3. When is it easy to become discouraged as modern-day Christians?
4. How will we be ultimately be rewarded for trusting God?

Reading this story is always encouraging, for God rewarded the faith and dependence of His children with a miraculous work! But while living as modern-day Christians, it is often hard to see the direct rewards of our faith in God. There are times we are called upon to trust Him implicitly, with no reservations or doubts.

Because we know that He is able to care for us in every way, we do our best to submit to His will, believing in faith that we will be delivered. However, it can be discouraging when such monumental faith brings forth little to no visible results.

Be comforted by the fact that our faith in God will be rewarded no matter what happens to us. If we hold Him up as the savior of our souls, He will deliver us from every possible evil. The three Hebrew children lived out a miraculous deliverance, but consider if they had died instantly when thrown into the furnace, they would have been rewarded for their faith and dedication by an eternal existence with Him!

As Christians, we cannot lose. God can work out every possible situation for His glory and our good. But even if the unthinkable happens, we will still gain a heavenly crown!

Sis. Lindsey Gellenbeck

Key Thought:

When we chose to trust God implicitly, we will be rewarded during our earthly lives, but we will also receive a heavenly crown.

Memory Verse: He

answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God. Daniel 3:25

God Sends Food

The Japanese had control and were forcing everyone to accept the Shinto religion. One day, they came to the school where Ahn was teaching and ordered all the teachers and their students to go upon a mountain and worship a Shinto god.

Ahn had been fearing that this would happen, so she had been praying for God to give her strength for the test. As she trudged wearily up the hill, she was praying, "God, help me to be faithful to you." She had already heard some other Christians saying that they had decided it would be best to bow in order to keep peace, although they were not worshiping Shinto in their hearts.

Ahn knew one of the Ten Commandments said, “Thou shalt not have any gods before me. . . . Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God,” (Exodus 20:3, 5). “God,” she cried as she was nearing the top, “can I bow just to avoid trouble?” Suddenly Ahn remembered the story of the three Hebrews who did not bow to the Image of Gold. They were thrown into a burning furnace because they had obeyed God and did not bow to the idol. God kept them from burning, and that caused the king to believe in God. The king had then ordered everyone in his empire to worship the true God.

It would be wonderful if something like that would happen, Ahn thought. However, if it didn’t, Ahn was sure she would be arrested and put in jail.

“I will give you strength to obey me and to suffer for me,” God whispered to Ahn’s heart.

Hundreds of people were on the mountain that day. Teachers stood all around the Shinto god with their students in rows behind them. Everyone was facing the image.

When the time came to bow, Ahn knew she would not bow, so she closed her eyes fearing she might fail if she saw everyone around her bowing. It was only a minute but it seemed like a long time until Ahn heard the rustling as the crowd stood erect again. The music played again and the students and teachers started their march back to the school. Ahn could hear her students whispering about “that teacher who didn’t bow.” The police were waiting on the school yard for Ahn. She was arrested and taken to jail.

Ahn was first put into one jail and then another. God caused her to be moved to different jails so that she could witness to many prisoners. Wherever she was imprisoned, she prayed every day. Many prisoners whom she encountered laughed at her for praying. They teased her saying, “If your God is as real and as powerful as you say, why doesn’t he get you out of this miserable place?”

In one jail, the prisoners challenged Ahn to pray for food by saying that if God did send food, they would believe in Him. Ahn prayed and asked Jesus if she should pray for food. Ahn thought Jesus said, “Yes, tell them you will pray for food and God will send it.” So Ahn told the prisoners.

The message that “Ahn says that God is sending food” was passed from one cell to another. Many laughed. Some made jokes about it. However, as the days passed and the winter became colder and colder, the prisoners became more serious. They realized they needed more food to help keep them warm as well as to keep from starving.

A few weeks later, the guards brought in more food than they had ever been served. They even had plenty of white rice, which to a Korean, is better than ice cream.

“Now we know there is a living God,” the prisoners said.
From *Standing for God* by Charlotte Huskey

.....

Verse Race!

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

Exodus 20:3, 5

Matthew 6:13

Psalms 34:17

Jeremiah 1:7-8



Junior Sunday School

Volume 66, Quarter 2, Week 8

Saving Sustenance

Have you ever worked hard all day, pushing yourself to get a task done, and realized that you had completely forgotten to eat? Suddenly, you felt that your knees were a little shaky and your muscles seemed weak and nutrition-less. Your body needed sustenance, or food. It needed nutrition, vitamins, and calories to keep running at full speed.

Spiritually, you can get in the same place. It can start to feel like you are running from one task to another—go to school, do your homework, eat dinner, go to church, go to bed, wake up, do your chores. The to-do list is never-ending, and there is hardly a moment to catch your breath. But eventually, you start to realize that your spirit is weak. Maybe you snap at your brother, have an attitude toward your mom, or feel like church is a drag. Maybe you are the only one that notices by the disquiet you feel in the pit of your stomach when you lie down and try to sleep.

God didn't create you to rush from place to place, accomplishing this and that, without spending time to get the spiritual sustenance you need. Just like you would physically, your spirit will die of hunger. Thankfully, He is faithful to remind you that you need to return for an infilling of nutrition—a return to your Bible, a return to your favorite prayer spot, a return to peace and quiet in your soul. God can only truly meet your spiritual needs if you take the time to be still and open before Him, and that place of peace cannot be accomplished by a quick verse and prayer of thanksgiving as you dash off to take a shower. No, you must set aside a chunk of time and dedicate your thoughts to God's word. Only in that time

Questions

1. What will happen to our spirit if it is not fed?
2. What can we do to partake of God's spiritual food?
3. In what state does our soul need to be in to receive sustenance?
4. What will God give you if you share your struggles with Him?

of quietness and peace before Him will He be able to fully meet your spiritual needs.

Trust God to care for you. He doesn't want you to be without His sustenance. If you are struggling with something in particular, tell God about it in your quiet moments. He won't leave the feeling of disquiet in your soul. He will give you exactly what you need to fight your battles. He will provide joy beyond comparison in your darkest moment. He will give you the direction for which your soul longs. However, you must do your part: pray in a quiet place with your focus solely on God, read His uplifting and challenging words and take them to heart, and allow yourself to be quiet and receptive to His ministrations. Only then will He fill your hungry soul with His great and saving sustenance.

Sis. Lindsey Gellenbeck

“Drop Thy still dews of quietness,
Till all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress;
And let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of Thy peace.
Breathe through the pulses of desire
Thy coolness and Thy balm;
Let sense be dumb, its beats expire:
Speak through the earthquake, wind and fire,
O still small voice of calm!”

(Taken from Streams in the Desert)

Key Thought: In quietness, through God's word and sincere prayer, our spiritual hunger is satisfied.

Memory Verse: This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. John 6:50

Apples for Ahn

Ahn was in prison because she was a Christian and would not accept the Shinto religion. Every day, she prayed for grace to endure the cold, the hunger, and the abuse that every prisoner endures. She also prayed to keep a forgiving heart. Ahn prayed for all the prisoners. She prayed for the cruel guards, the angry jailers, the kind jailers, and the tired, over-worked janitors of the prison. Whenever Ahn was moved into a different prison, things changed in the prison because she was praying.

Ahn also prayed for her own needs. One time, Ahn thought she needed apples to strengthen her body. She

prayed, "God will you please send apples to the prison."

For weeks, Ahn prayed every day for apples.

"Why don't you quit praying?" her cellmate said. "It's winter and there are no apples on the trees."

But Ahn kept praying for apples. Then one morning, Ahn heard Jailer Kuriyama telling Jailer Jue that a ration of apples had just come in.

"I saw them, but they are rotten," Jue answered

They are probably just brown from being frozen, Ahn thought.

As soon as Kuriyama had given the keys to Jue and left, Ahn called Jue and asked, "Are there apples for the prisoners?"

"Yes, but they are rotten apples."

"Rotten apples would taste better than the weed soup we are eating," Ahn answered.

"So you want a rotten apple?"

"Yes."

"I'm sure I can get you one," she said smiling.

"Don't laugh at me," Ahn reproved. "Isn't most of the food we get nearly rotten?"

"Seems to be," Jue agreed.

Each time Ahn heard Jue's footsteps in the corridor, she rushed over to the food slot hoping Jue would put an apple through to her.

All day, Ahn thanked Jesus for apples, but she never tasted one. Jue went home, and Kuriyama came on duty again. As soon as she could get Kuriyama's attention, Ahn asked, "Are you giving us an apple today?"

"Those mushy, soggy apples are no good."

"But I want one. I want any kind of apple," Ahn pleaded.

"Please, get me a rotten, mushy apple."

"Okay," Kuriyama said. Before long, Ahn saw her at the door with a bag of apples. "Oh, thank you Jesus for the apples," Ahn said. Kuriyama sat the bag of apples beside the door and rushed down the hall to attend to a problem. Ahn huddled near the food slot and waited. She waited all day as Kuriyama hurried about her work.

Evening came and Kuriyama left the prison.

Ahn could see the bag of apples sitting beside the door where Kuriyama place it that morning.

Jue was on duty again. She brought several apples and dropped them through the food hole into Ahn's cell. After waiting two days, Ahn at last held an apple "What a wonderful aroma! Thank you, Jesus," she exclaimed.

"Thank You, God. You are still alive and answering

prayer."

A prisoner in Ahn's cell frowned and said, "Rotten apples? Is that the kind of food God sends?"

"I love them," Ahn said as she bit into the soft apple.

"Then you can have mine." She tossed her apple to Ahn. Quickly dropping her precious apple on her lap, Ahn caught the other apple. It burst open in Ahn's hands. Ahn sucked the sweet soft apple out of the broken skin. Then she ate her own.

"These apples aren't rotten, they have been frozen and thawed," Ahn told the other women. "I could not bite a firm apple. God has softened these apples for us. You probably couldn't chew a firm apple either."

For a week, Ahn ate sweet, soft apples. Soon, many of the prisoners were happily eating the soft, thawed apples.

From *Standing up for God* by Charlotte Huskey

Feed Your Soul

Word list: calm, disquiet, physical, pray, quietness, read, spiritual, sustenance, weak

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

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 2, Week 8. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck. Contributors: Julie Elwell, Lindsey Gellenbeck, Charlotte Huskey. 2016.

Giving to God

If a farmer in the Old Testament had 10 cows, 10 sheep, 10 baskets of fruit, and 10 baskets of grain, he was required to give 1 cow, 1 sheep, 1 basket of fruit, and 1 basket of grain back to God. This was called



tithing, which was giving ten percent. The Children of Israel gave their offering to the Levites. Levites were one of the twelve tribes of Israel; their job was to work in the temple, offer sacrifices to God for the people, and do God's work. The Children of Israel were also required to give ten percent of their crops and herds to help the poor people; the strangers, the fatherless, and the widows of the country. Part of their tithe was also given to help support the festivals. These were celebrations the Children of Israel took part in to remember the wonderful deliverances and help God had given them. (Leviticus 27:30-34; Numbers 18:24; Deuteronomy 14:22-27)

The reason God wanted the Children of Israel to tithe (or give) to Him was so they would not be selfish. He wanted them to remember Him. He also wanted them to help the people who didn't have as much as they did.

The New Testament does not teach tithing – or giving ten percent. It does teach giving though! Do you know what Jesus wants from us now? He wants us to give him ALL of our heart, soul, mind, body and strength! Does that mean we have to give Him all our money, too? No, not necessarily; but, He still wants us to give to the ministers who preach to us and to help those in need. In Acts 11:27-20, a famine was noted to be going on in Jerusalem. Saints from the church in Antioch decided that each man would give what they were able to give to buy food for

the saints in Jerusalem. Even though we do not live under the Old Testament law, God still wants us to give money to support those who work for Him; he still wants us to give to the poor, the widows, the orphans, and the strangers.

You might say, "I don't have any money!" Do you remember when Jesus was preaching the Sermon on the Mount? He was surrounded by thousands of hungry people. A young boy brought five small loaves of bread and two fish to Jesus to feed the crowd. The disciples scoffed at the meager offering; BUT, Jesus performed a miracle and MULTIPLIED the boy's offering! You might not have much, but Jesus wants you to give what do have. Maybe it is just a kind word to somebody. Maybe it is a drink of cold water to somebody who is thirsty. Maybe it is money to put in the offering box. God has given us so many things to enjoy. We don't want to just be takers. We also want to give back to Him! As you get older and start earning an allowance or when you get a job, you always should remember to give God whatever amount of money He impresses on you to give. Without God, we would not have anything!

Sis. Julie Elwell

Key Thought: A liberal, giving heart brings joy to the Lord--Let us give freely and cheerfully.

Memory Verse: Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. II Corinthians 9:7

What Would Jesus Say About Your Offering?

I leaned against the cold wall of the church of God chapel in Chapultepec, Mexico, and watched as the children filed in from their Sunday school classes. They stood in front of the congregation and sang, "Nieto do rayo, por Cristo, Yo quiero semprie ser..." (Jesus wants me for a sunbeam, to shine for him each day...).

"Contemos 'En la Cruz,'" (let's sing 'At the Cross'), a male voice shouted as the children were getting settled in their places. So we sang "En la Cruz" and four other songs. After that, we bowed on our knees and two brothers prayed one at a time, while we agreed.

Then it was time to take up the weekly Sunday morning

Questions

1. What does *tithe* mean?
2. What did the Children of Israel give to God and how was it used?
3. What does the New Testament teach? Giving or Tithing?
4. How can you give to God?

offering. While the congregation was singing, people were walking up the aisle and placing pesos and coins in the offering basket. The six-inch straw basket designated to hold the offerings sat on a small table in front of the plain, homemade pulpit.

The first one to put in an offering was a little girl whose family is very poor because her father was an alcoholic. Then came the bubbly four-year-old grandson of Francesca, bouncing up the aisle to drop his grandma’s offering in the basket. Francesca had worked hard for many years, raising her fatherless children. God blessed her with a good, modest home. She was always faithful to give.

I saw Sister Josephine coming up the aisle. She was dressed, as usual, in her red hand-me-down dress and white shoes. She gave an offering every time she came to church. Josephine was an elderly widow who cared for her simpleminded daughter. Her kitchen had no roof until the previous Christmas when the church in the United States supplied money. James and I had helped her install it.

Among the others who pressed forward was 85-year-old Don Romulo. His steps are unsure and he leaned heavily on his cane for stability. In this condition, he went uptown each day and cleaned cars to have money for food and for giving.

Suddenly, a little boy dashed past me and hurriedly dropped in a few coins. It was Fredrico’s smallest son. Fredrico was a father of five who had been out of work for about a month.

None of these people received food stamps, welfare checks, or food from charities as the poor in our country do. What deep, stirring thoughts I had while watching these needy ones giving to the Lord. None of them gave what was left after their own needs were supplied. Each of them gave money they needed for themselves.

Once, when Jesus was watching people give their offerings, he said that the offering of a few pennies which a poor widow gave was more than the many dollars that the rich gave. It was because she gave money that she needed for food and clothing.

What would Jesus say about the way you give? Did you give up something you wanted so you could give to God? Did you give of your own money or was it money handed to you to put in the offering? Was the offering you gave ten percent of your earnings (one dime from each dollar)? Was it nearer to five percent (One nickel from each dollar)? Perhaps you gave one percent of the wages you earned (one dime from ten dollars).

What will Jesus say about your offering? I want Jesus to

speak well of my offering. So as I sat and watched those needy people give to God, I promised Him that I would give more of my income to Him. Will you do the same?

Charlotte Huskey

Offerings

Word list: bread, cows, fish, fruit, give, kindness, money, offer, orphans, poor, sheep, strangers, time, tithe, widows

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

Prayer—Part One

In the Bible, Jesus instructed his followers how to pray with the well-known prayer, saying, “Our Father which



art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name...” (Matthew 6:9). That prayer is all-encompassing, and is a wonderful guide to teach Christians how to pray. But there were many instances recorded in the scriptures where Jesus himself prayed, and from those, we are given the opportunity to observe and learn.

In the morning – Mark 1:35 says, “And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.” It is a good practice to say a prayer in the morning, even if your daily devotions take place in the evening. Communicating with God before you begin your daily activities puts you in a spiritual frame of mind, allowing you to handle trying situations with grace, and making it easier to reconnect with God as your day progresses.

For others – “But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren” (Luke 22:32). Jesus was speaking to his disciples when he said this, exemplifying his great care for their spiritual well-being. As Christians, we are required to carry a godly concern for fellow believers and lost souls alike. When we can, God would have us reach out in physical or material ways, but mostly, He wants us carry a of prayer burden for those around us, so their faith will not fail them. “Strengthen thy brothers,” Jesus instructed, and by praying for others, we are fulfilling that commandment.

Questions

1. What is the best way to start your day?
2. What are we doing for our brothers when we pray for them?
3. When can we be completely honest with God in our prayers?
4. Does God want us to pray for longer periods of time than we are used to?

Alone – “And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone” (Matthew 14:23). Here, we see Jesus departing from the multitudes that were constantly following Him, taking the time to find a quiet place, without any of his disciples, family members, or friends. He knew the importance of communicating with His Father in private, and we should also make this a habit in our prayer life. It is only alone that we can be perfectly honest with God about the deepest desires of our hearts, and it is only alone that God can speak His eternal and personal truths into our spirits.

Key Thought: Jesus gave us many examples of how to pray during His ministry.

Memory Verse: Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. Jeremiah 29:12

Without ceasing – Luke 6:12 says, “And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.” Here, again, Jesus departed from His followers, but He did not spend just a few brief minutes in prayer. He continued to pray all night. The Bible does not specify for what Jesus prayed for so many consecutive hours, but this tactic of long prayer sessions is going extinct in our modern way of living. Jesus showed us by His example that this is a tool we have at our disposal. The question might be asked, “What could we, as Christians, accomplish, if we employed our powers of prayer for longer, more devoted periods of time?” The Christians of old were able to accomplish much by prayer, and it often feels like God is not listening as closely, or answering as powerfully as He once did. But perhaps it is the prayer-warriors who are not fighting as diligently. In your personal life, use the tool of “ceaseless prayer” to garner God’s attention and respect. He will not leave you without an answer when such effort and perseverance is put forth on your part.

As a teenager, it is often overwhelming to find the time, energy, and space to pray. But challenge yourself to find a quiet place—challenge yourself to pray for five more minutes than usual. God will reward your efforts!

Sis. Lindsey Gellenbeck

The Lord's Prayer—Part One

"Come, Becky," mother called. "It is time for evening prayer."

Becky put her bike in the garage and came in the house. "Tomorrow we go to Sunday school, so you must get up early."

"I don't want to go to bed," Becky wailed.

"We can't always do what we want to do. We do what is best to do," mother answered. "It is best to go to bed early on Saturday. Come. We are the only ones home tonight, so we will pray first. Then we can bathe and get our clothes ready for tomorrow."

"Can I wear my new red dress? And are we going to repeat the Lord's Prayer again tonight? I like to say the Lord's Prayer. It's easier and quicker and I don't have to decide what to say when I'm praying. And I need to know it incase I'm asked to pray in public. But Mama, it doesn't seem like I'm actually praying."

"It is because you are not praying it from your heart."

"How can I pray it from my heart?"

"I am glad you asked. Let's just sit here on you bed and we will talk about how to pray the Lord's Prayer from the heart."

"Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name,' is the first part we say. You understand that God is the creator of all life, so He is the father of every one. However, to those who love and obey Him, He is more than just the giver of life. He is personal and loving like your dad."

"He will love and help me, just like my daddy does if I obey Him?"

"Yes Becky, but if you pray the Lord's Prayer pretending you are obedient and you are not trying to be obedient, your prayer is a disgrace. If you trust God just as you trust your dad, then you are saying from your heart that God is also your Father."

Becky smiled and said, "That is really great to have the creator of everything be my father. Sounds too good to be true." Mother nodded.

"Hallowed be thy name' is another way to tell God that he is holy and worthy of honor and praise. If you honor God by your actions, you are saying it from your heart."

"Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven'. This part of the prayer is dealing with our attitude toward God. To pray these three phrases from the heart, we must allow Jesus to be king over our life. We must also be trying to obey his rules in the Bible. The

only way for God's will to be done on earth is for us to do it. Becky, if you are willing to do God's will instead of doing your own wishes, then this prayer will be from your heart."

Becky asked, "And for his kingdom to come, it must come into my heart?"

"Yes, that is true. The only way God's kingdom can come is for it to come into our lives. When his kingdom is in us, it is on earth for we are made from dust of the earth."

"Oh, Mother, I want God's kingdom in my heart more than anything else."

"Becky, it isn't always easy to submit to God's way. Whenever it is hard, remember, 'We do not do what we WANT to do, we do what is BEST to do, and God's ways are always BEST.'

"You can have a wonderful relationship with Jesus if you will continually pray the Lord's Prayer from your heart."

"Let's discuss more about this prayer tomorrow night."

Charlotte Huskey

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 second row to begin solving the puzzle. Keep track of the letters you have already used to make solving easier. (Hint: Refer to the last paragraph of the lesson for a clue.)

C	H	A	L	L	E	N	G	E
			J	E	S	U	S	
							.	

Y O U A S E D Y
A P O R P R A F
S R Y E L
T

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 2, Week 10. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck. Contributors: Julie Elwell, Lindsey Gellenbeck, Charlotte Huskey. 2016.



Junior Sunday School

Volume 66, Quarter 2, Week 11

Prayer—Part Two

Last week, we learned four different examples that Jesus



gave us to follow when we pray. In the morning (Mark 1:35), for others (Luke 22:32), alone (Matthew 14:23), and without ceasing (Luke 6:12). Jesus gave still more examples

of how we should pray.

For God's will – In Luke 22:24, Jesus prayed, "Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine be done." Jesus was praying these words just before He was taken into captivity to be crucified. This battle was the hardest battle of Jesus' earthly existence, and no doubt, He was battling His own desire to live more than anything else. As Christians, we often say that we want God's will in our lives, but when it comes right down to submitting to His plan, we have trouble laying our own desires and wants aside. Jesus lead by example in this instance, giving up His very right to live in order to allow God's plan to work. We are called upon to act in the same way—sometimes we may have to give up small things, sometimes we may have to give up big things. Either way, God wants us to truly desire His will above our own, and in order to do that, we must pray often that He gives us the strength to follow His directions.

With thanksgiving – "Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou has heard me" (John 11:41). Here, Jesus was thanking God for resurrecting His dear friend, Lazarus. God's generosity in blessing His children is beyond measure, and it makes Him happy to hear thanksgiving coming from the mouths

of His children! Thank God daily for your clothing, food, house, family, and friends, and when you have a request of Him, go to Him with a thankful heart and grateful words.

With honesty – In John 12:27, we read a different account of Jesus praying before His crucifixion. He prayed, "Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour." A different translation of this verse reads, "Now my soul is in turmoil, and what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No! It was for this very reason that I came to this hour" (ISV). Jesus did not hold back what He was feeling at this moment. He told God exactly what was going on in His heart. "Now my soul is troubled! Now my soul is in turmoil!" His human emotions and desires did not match up to His desire to do God's directing. But instead of being ashamed or dishonest about that, He was open and honest with God. In doing that, God was able to grant Him great power to go through with His purpose. The same applies to us as followers of Christ. When we are hurt, sad, angry, or disappointed, God wants to hear us speak that to Him. He will bless our honesty with comfort and power.

Sis. Lindsey Gellenbeck

Key Thought: Jesus lived an exemplary prayer life. He prayed for God's will, with thanksgiving, and with an honest heart.

Memory Verse: But in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. Philippians 4:6b

The Lord's Prayer—Part Two

Becky is learning how to pray the Lord's Prayer from her heart.

"Give us this day our daily bread."

"Becky, because your home always has food, it may seem strange to you that Jesus told his followers to ask God each day for their bread or for their needs. In Bible times and in many countries today, people have only enough food for one day. Although we have food, we have many other needs that God must supply daily. Can you name some needs that God supplies each day?"

Becky answered, "Yes, the sunshine. We could not live without sunshine. Water and air are other things. Also,

Questions

1. How can we lay aside our desires in order to follow God's will?
2. What kinds of things should we thank God for on a daily basis?
3. How should we come before God with our requests?
4. How will God bless us if we are completely honest with Him?

we need friends, families, and courage. We could not live without God.”

“Becky, you are so right. Realizing that you need God’s help every day is like praying the words, ‘Give us this day our daily bread.’”

“Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.”

“This phrase of the Lord’s Prayer is conditional. The way you respond to those who offend you is the way God responds to your offenses.”

“Do I offend God?”

“Yes, Becky, every person offends God. Not loving and appreciating all he has done for us is an offense. Also, each of us offends others, although it may be accidental. Our happiness depends greatly on being able to forgive offenses. When we release others of their duty to apologize, it releases us of the intense pain of the hurt.”

“But how can I forgive Peggy for telling lies about me? A lot of my friends won’t even speak to me now, and I didn’t do what she said that I did.”

“You think Peggy should admit her words were untrue, however, she may never admit that. What you can do, with God’s help, is be nice to Peggy and do nothing to hurt her. If you are kind to her, God will heal your hurting heart.”

“I hope so,” Becky said as she wiped tears. “So if I am nice to Peggy, I am praying from the heart that God will forgive me when I am ungrateful or selfish?”

“Yes, you are praying from your heart, ‘Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.’”

“I’ll try,” Becky mumbled.

“‘And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,’ is the next phase.

“Temptation is usually considered a desire to do something unacceptable by God. Another form of temptation is what people call ‘trials and tests.’ These are problems that cause us to either grow stronger for God, or be discouraged and lose faith. A storm may cause a tree’s roots to grow deeper and thus strengthen the tree, or it may destroy the tree by blowing it over. Just so, we ask God to protect us against difficulties we cannot manage. We are asking God to lead us away from discouragement.

“This prayer was first written in the Greek language. The Greek word translated ‘evil’ also means ‘the evil one’ or Satan. Becky, we all need God’s protection from Satan. Satan is the prince of this world. His evil powers are everywhere. Every day we need God to deliver us from the influence of evil.

“The prayer ends with ‘For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen”

“As you said, we cannot live without God. Each person and everything in heaven and earth belong to Him. Therefore, it is a disgrace to God to pray this prayer, asking that he give to us His kingdom, His will, His guidance, His protection, His forgiveness, His provisions (everything we need), and yet we are unwilling to be his obedient servants.

Submit to King Jesus, become a loving servant, and God will answer your prayers, for then you are praying from the heart.”

Charlotte Huskey

.....

How Should We Pray?

Word list: honesty, generosity, submit, thank, troubled, willing

Across

5. "Now is my soul ____."

Down

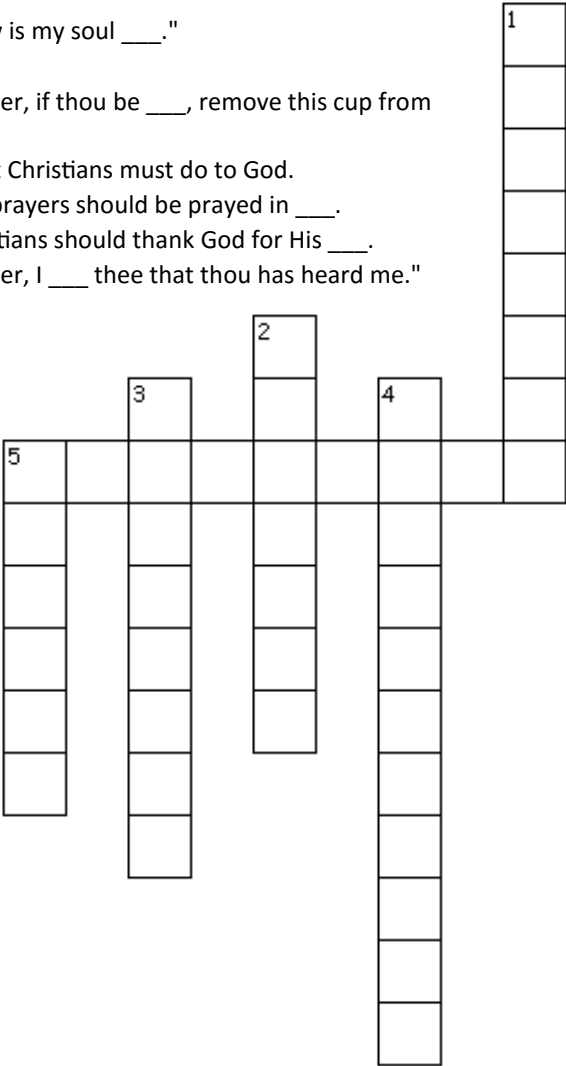
1. "Father, if thou be ____, remove this cup from me."

2. What Christians must do to God.

3. Our prayers should be prayed in ____.

4. Christians should thank God for His ____.

5. "Father, I ____ thee that thou has heard me."



Nebuchadnezzar's Pride

In Daniel chapter four, we read the story of king



Nebuchadnezzar. His kingdom, Babylon, was the most powerful and wealthy kingdom in the world at the time of his reign, and because of that, he was a very proud and selfish ruler.

One night, he had a vision in his sleep and couldn't decide what it meant. So he called all the wise men he knew to come and interpret it for him. However, the magicians, astrologers, wise men from the east, or soothsayers (tellers of the truth) could not tell king Nebuchadnezzar what his dream meant. Finally, feeling dissatisfied, he called Daniel, or Betleshazzar, into his throne room and demanded that he interpret it, knowing that Daniel was a holy man who was strongly connected to God.

Daniel obliged the king, telling him that the dream was a warning. Daniel said, "You have been an oppressive king. You show no mercy to the poor, many of which are poor because of you. You do not act in a just manner. For all these sins, God asks you to repent and begin living a righteous life."

King Nebuchadnezzar did not listen to Daniel's advice, but continued living and ruling as he was before the dream. A year later, he strolled around his palace and said, "With my immense power, I have built this great kingdom of Babylon!" But before the words could fully leave his mouth, a voice from heaven interrupted, saying, "King Nebuchadnezzar! The kingdom will be taken from you!"

From that point forward, king Nebuchadnezzar's senses left him. He became like one of beasts of the field, eating grass and sleeping on the ground. He lived like a wild beast for seven years, and believed himself to be one,

having no contact with any man, woman, or child.

This period of punishment was God's way of teaching Nebuchadnezzar humility. As king of Babylon, he had been overly proud of his accomplishments, extremely conceited in his own power, and arrogant enough to ignore the blatant warning of the dream Daniel interpreted for him.

When Nebuchadnezzar returned to his senses after living seven long years as a beast of the field, he said, "Those that walk in pride [God] is able to abase" (Daniel 4:37b). A scripture in Proverbs 16:18 says, "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall." Again, there is warning against pride in Proverbs 6:16-17a: "These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look..."

It is obvious after recounting the story of king Nebuchadnezzar and reading a few scriptures that pride is not something God is pleased with. However, human nature makes it very easy to fall into pride's trap. For some individuals, this is a harder battle to fight than for others. Adopting a prideful attitude makes it nearly impossible for God to be the center of our focus, or for His light to be shone through our lives. He desires that we be humble and needful of His fulfilling spirit, for it is only then that our hearts and minds can be truly satisfied with thoughts of Him and intentions of love and outreach.

Allow Him to be your fulfilling substance. Do not let pride and the lifting up of yourself drown out His light and love.

Sis. Lindsey Gellenbeck

Key Thought: When pride takes over, God's light and love are unable to shine through your life.

Memory Verse: Those that walk in pride [God] is able to abase. Daniel 4:37

The Lost Money

It was Saturday evening. Dink's mother, Mabel, had just finished paying the men and women for picking beans on her father's farm. Mabel counted the remaining money. "That is a lot of money," Dink exclaimed.

"Yes, it would take you about all summer to earn this much. Monday morning we'll need to take it to the bank."

Early Monday, Dad said, "Dink, I don't have time to take the money to the bank, so I'm asking you to do it. You are

Questions

1. Who did Nebuchadnezzar call to interpret his dream before he called Daniel?
2. What did Daniel warn the king of?
3. What was Nebuchadnezzar's punishment for pride?
4. How is God's light able to shine through your life?

very dependable and a good driver, and I am sure you will get this money safely deposited into the bank.”

“Yes sir,” Dink answered, her hands trembling as she took the bulging billfold. She felt proud, for she was only sixteen years old and the youngest of four children. What if I lose it? She thought as she was driving into Salem, the town where her dad did his banking.

Dink and her mother, Mabel, arrived at the bank at 12:00 p.m. and it would be closed until 1:30 p.m. “That will give us time to do our shopping first,” Mabel said. “I need to buy groceries. Then let’s go to Penny’s. They are having a big sale on winter clothes.”

At Penny’s, Dink began looking through clothing on a large table. “Look Mama, everything on this table is 75% off.”

“Then pick out what you girls will need for school.” Dink excitedly began choosing clothes to fit her two sisters and herself. She laid the billfold down and held a skirt to herself to see if it was the right length. “These sure are good bargains,” Dink remarked as she continued digging and sorting through the pile of clothing.

After a while Mabel said, “I think the bank will be open now. Take the clothes to the cash register and I’ll pay for them from my money.”

Still chattering excitedly about the wonderful bargains, Dink proudly carried them to check out stand. Mama paid for the clothing, then back to the bank they went.

As Dink stopped in front of the bank she screamed, “Oh, Mama, I left the billfold on the table full of clothing.”

“Hurry, Dink, hurry! We must get back before someone finds it!”

As Dink rushed back to Penny’s, she was thinking, Why did I do such a foolish thing? Why didn’t I lock the money up in the truck? Why did I get so excited about the clothes? I have done just what Daddy said I wouldn’t do. “Oh Lord, help me,” she prayed.

Dink ran straight to the table and began searching. She felt down under the clothes thinking the billfold heavy with money had fallen under the clothing. Then she shook each piece. Mama was looking other places and telling the different clerks what had happened. “It has to be right here—this is where I laid it down to measure the skirt.”

They searched until Mama finally said, “We can’t stay here all night. We must go.”

“I can’t face Daddy,” Dink cried. “He had so much faith in me. He’ll never trust me again.”

“Take me by the newspaper office and I will put an ad in the lost and found column,” Mother said.

They rode home without talking. Dink could hear her mother softly praying.

Dink was wiping tears.

“What shall I say to Daddy?” Dink asked just before they arrived home.

“Tell the truth,” Mama said. “Ask him to forgive you.”

Dink hated to hurt her daddy, she feared seeing the great disappointment in his eyes. “Oh dear Jesus,” she cried. “Do have mercy on us. Please comfort Daddy’s heart and prepare him for this. My dear Daddy that worked so hard to earn this money, give him strength.”

From *Our Father in Heaven* by Charlotte Huskey

Verse Race!

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

Proverbs 11:2

James 4:6

Jeremiah 9:23

1 John 2:16

A Merciful God

In one of the most momentous occasions in the Old



Testament, as recorded in Exodus chapter 31, God called Moses up to the top of Mount Sinai. He wanted to talk with him and give him tables of stone on which he wrote the Ten Commandments. Moses was in the top of the mountain forty days and

forty nights without food or drink. Aaron was to look after the people while Moses talked with God.

While Moses was on the mountain, the people got restless and impatient waiting for their leader to come back down. They told Aaron, let us make gods which shall go before us because we don't know what has happened to Moses. So, Aaron told the people to bring all their golden earrings to him. Aaron made a golden calf then proclaimed a "feast unto the Lord" the next day. The next morning, the people got out of bed and hurried to begin worshipping their new idol, which did not involve worship of the true God at all.

In the meantime, God told Moses to go back down the mountain because the people had greatly sinned. Moses left the presence of God and descended the mountain, carrying the two very important tables of stone on which God Himself had written. When Moses saw the golden calf and saw the people dancing, he was very angry. He rashly threw the tables onto the ground and they broke. The stones on which God Himself had written lay scattered in pieces on the ground.

Moses entrusted the care of the people to Aaron, but Aaron led them down a sinful road by making the idol and allowing them to worship it. God entrusted Moses

Questions

1. In what ways did Moses fail? In what ways did Aaron fail?
2. Are there consequences to our sins?
3. Why is confession an important part of obtaining God's mercy and forgiveness?
4. What has God entrusted you with?

with the two tables of stone, but when Moses became angry he threw the stones down. It is important to notice what happened next: God, because of His great love, showed mercy to Moses, Aaron, and the Children of Israel. God re-wrote the law on two new tables of stone and gave them to Moses a second time, and Aaron continued to serve as the high priest. Although many of the people repented and God forgave them, 3000 men lost their lives because of this sin.

Have you ever done something you knew was wrong? Maybe you outright sinned or maybe you were just neglectful. The Bible says that ALL have sinned and come short of the glory of God. The great news is this: God's mercy and His love is higher than the sky and deeper than the deepest ocean. If we fail to tell God we are sorry for our wrong, then consequences will follow, and our relationship with God will be broken. However, when we confess our wrongdoing, God delights in giving us something great – forgiveness! We should be very careful how we handle the important things God has entrusted us with.

Sis. Julie Elwell

Key Thought: We never need to be afraid of confessing our failures to a loving and merciful Father.

Memory Verse: If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. I John 1:9

Where is the Money?

As Dink and her mother, Mabel, were driving home, Dink was scared of having to confess to her dad that she had lost the money he had given to her. "I think I would rather die than to face my dad," she said to herself.

"That is just what you need to do," a small voice seemed to be saying.

"But I died to self when I presented myself a living sacrifice to Jesus during camp meeting last summer," Dink reasoned.

"But you felt so proud of yourself when your dad sent you with his money. Pride is something God hates. Die to pride and put on the new man. I have a new life for you."

Having a new life won't comfort my poor dad. That amount of money represented months of hard work for

him. How many needed things will we do without because of this loss? Dink was hurting beyond tears. She felt torn, broken, and useless.

Dink prayed all the way home. She knew Mama was also praying.

When they walk into their home, Dad was sitting in his chair reading the Bible as he usually did at the end of the day. Dink lay aside the new clothes—just the sight of them caused pain—and busied herself putting away the food they had bought. She worked as long as possible trying to avoid confessing. But, she knew it had to be done, so bracing herself to keep from crying, she slowly walked up to his chair, and blurted out, “Oh, Daddy, please forgive me. Please, Daddy, please. I lost the money!”

“What??? The money? You lost the money?”

Mama came in and explained—the bank being closed, shopping, and finding bargains, the billfold had been lost. She ended by saying she had put an ad in the newspaper, hoping an honest person would find the money.

Dink saw the hurt in Dad’s eyes. She was crying now. However, he acted too shocked to talk. After a few minutes, he said, “Well let’s have prayer and go to bed.”

The family didn’t sing that night, but each one prayed that God would help recover the money. The following days were like death. They worked. They ate, but there was no visiting or story telling that usually accompanied meals. They sang and prayed before going to bed, but even the singing seemed sad.

On the third evening after the money was lost, while having family worship, the telephone rang. “I saw an ad in the paper about a lost billfold,” a woman was saying. “I found a billfold. If you can tell me about the billfold and what was in it, you can come and get it.”

Mama said, “There was \$300 cash in it, a driver’s license for Charlotte Hightower, and my Sunday school lesson notes.”

“That is what is in this billfold. I live on the south side of Salem. When will you be coming?”

“Tonight,” Mama said without hesitation. “Thank you—thank you. We live fifteen miles away in Marian, so it will be a while before we arrive.”

“We will be waiting for you,” the lady answered.

“Okay, Dink, you lost it, so you drive up there in the night and get it, and be sure and give the woman a reward,” Dink’s father instructed.

Dink had never driven to Salem in the night. She was afraid and crying, but she bravely said, “Yes, daddy.”

All the way to Salem, Dink and Mama were thanking God.

Mama thanked the woman, gave her \$5.00 (almost a day’s wages), and then said, “God will give you a greater reward for being honest.”

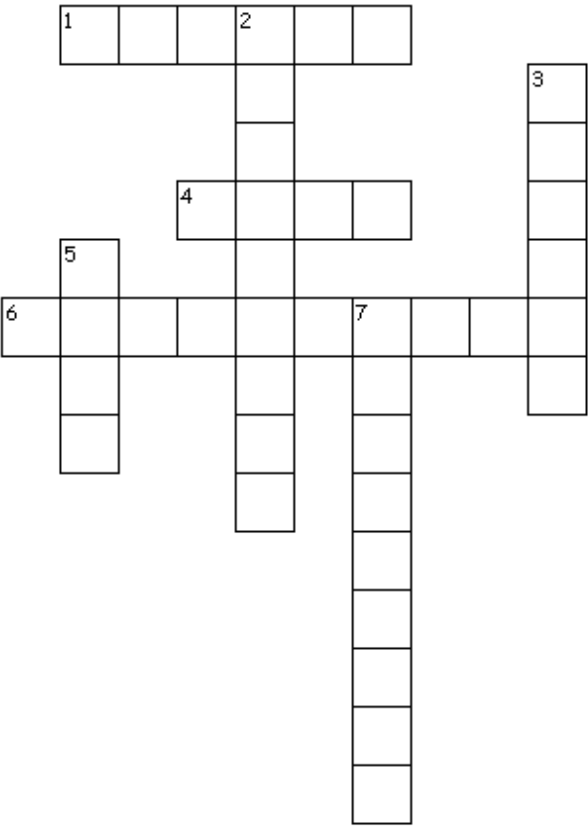
The following day, Daddy took his money to the bank.

From *Our Father in Heaven* by Charlotte Huskey

.....

Unplanned Circumstances

Word list: Bigger, Earthquake, Keeper, Paul, Preaching, Sang, Unplanned



Across

- 1. The ____ of the prison was saved.
- 4. A preacher who was thrown in jail.
- 6. The event that opened the gate of the jail.

Down

- 2. Paul and Silas were thrown in jail because they were ____.
- 3. God’s plan is ____ than our own.
- 5. What Paul and Silas did while in jail.
- 7. Unwanted changes

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 2, Week 13. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck. Contributors: Julie Elwell, Lindsey Gellenbeck, Charlotte Huskey. 2016.