

The Beautiful Way

Primaries
(USPS549-000)



Vol. 33 No. 1

Jan., Feb., Mar., 1982

Part 14 Jan. 3, 1982

JESUS IS TEMPTED OF THE DEVIL

Luke 4:1-13

One day Jesus went far out into a desert place to pray. He wanted to be alone with God. Jesus stayed in the desert, or wilderness, for forty days talking to God. During that time Jesus did not have any food to eat.

After the forty days, Jesus was hungry. The devil came to Jesus to test Him. He wanted to get Jesus to obey Him. The devil said, "If you're really the Son of God, turn these rocks to bread." Jesus was hungry, but He did not want to obey the devil. Jesus said, "God's Word says, 'Man shall not live by bread alone.' " Jesus would not turn the rocks to bread. The devil then took Jesus to the top of a high mountain. The devil showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world. The devil ruled these kingdoms. "I will give you power over all these kingdoms, if you will bow down to me," the devil said. Jesus answered, "The Word says, 'Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God only.' " Jesus would not bow. The devil then tried to get Jesus to jump off a high building, but Jesus said, "It is said, 'Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.' " Jesus would not obey the devil.

Memory Verse: Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. James 4:7.

Mother Explains Baptizing

"Richard, I'm so glad you're home from school," said Bennie with beaming eyes. "I've missed you all day."

"Do you want to go outside and play?" Richard asked as he got a couple of cookies from the cookie jar. He handed one to Bennie.

"Sure," replied Bennie. "Let's play baptizing, and this time I get to be the preacher."

"But, Bennie, I'm bigger than you are so I should be the preacher," Richard said.

Mother had been standing nearby mixing up a cake, listening to the children.

"Boys, do you know why people are baptized," Mother asked.

The boys thought for a moment.

"I think it means they are washing away their bad ways," Richard replied.

"No, Richard," Mother said, as she sat down in a chair near the table. "Water cannot reach our hearts. Before a person is baptized, he must already be clean from his bad ways. That is what people go to the altar for. There they ask God to forgive them of their wicked and selfish ways. When they mean it with their whole heart, God forgives them and makes their heart clean."

"If they are already clean then, why are they baptized?" asked Bennie.

"Well," said Mother, "being baptized represents something that has really taken place in the heart."

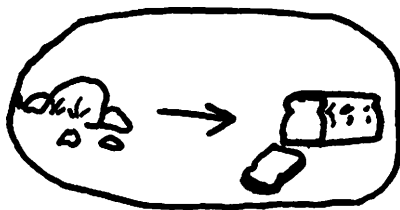
"What does 'represent' mean?" asked Richard.

"Richard, you know on your birthday I always bake a birthday cake for you? On your last birthday I put seven candles on it. Each candle represented, or

stood for, a year of your life," Mother explained. "The candles were not actually the years you had lived, but represented those years. Baptizing is not a change of heart, but it represents the change in the person's heart. It shows that in his heart he has died out to wicked and selfish ways. Coming up out of the water represents that in his heart he is alive to Christ and the ways of goodness."

"I'm really glad you told us what it means," said Richard. "I didn't know what they were doing."

"Richard, as you and Bennie get a little older, ask God to help you to understand more about living for Him, and He will help you. —B. H.



QUESTIONS:

1. What did Jesus do in the desert?
2. Who tried to get Jesus to do wrong?
3. What did the devil want Jesus to do to the rocks? Did He turn them to bread?
4. Did Jesus ever obey the devil?
5. Whom should we obey?

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Part 15 Jan. 10, 1982

JESUS CALLS HIS DISCIPLES

Matt. 4:17-22; Luke 5:27; John 1:43-48

One pretty day Peter and his brother Andrew were down by the sea fishing. They had just dropped their nets into the water when Jesus came by. "Peter, Andrew, leave your nets and follow me. I will make you fishers of men," Jesus said to them. The two brothers got up and left their nets. They went with Jesus. As Jesus walked on along the shore, He saw James and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father, Zebedee, fixing their nets. Jesus said, "James, John, come with me." The two men left the boat and their father and followed Jesus. Zebedee wondered where his sons were going.

Jesus called other men to leave their work and follow Him. One man He called was a tax collector. Jesus needed some helpers. He needed some men to help tell others how to come to God. Jesus chose twelve special men to be with Him. He called them His apostles. They went everywhere with Jesus, listening to Him preach and watching Him do great things. Jesus taught His apostles many things. He wanted His apostles after He died to tell others about Him and the wonderful things He did.

Memory Verse: And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me. Mark 1:17a.

Being Good to An Enemy

Rene and Tony were playing in the snow. It was great fun to pack some snow together and then roll the ball along the ground picking up more snow. The ball got bigger and bigger. Pretty soon they would have a ball big enough to make a snowman.

"Look," said Tony, "My ball of snow is bigger than yours, so it should be the bottom." Indeed, Tony's snowball nearly reached his waist. He rolled it over near the sidewalk. Then Rene rolled her snowball over to it. The children picked up Rene's snowball and put it on top of Tony's. They packed some snow around the place where the two big snowballs joined together.

"Here," said Rene, "we can use these two black buttons for his eyes." She pushed the back of the buttons into the top snowball.

"And this carrot that mother gave us can be his nose," said Tony as he pushed the big end of the carrot into the snowball. The children enjoyed making their snowman. They were having so much fun.

Whiz! Bam! A snowball whizzed past their heads and hit their snowman in the head, knocking his carrot nose sideways. Tony turned to see who the attacker was. Yes, it was Ralph, the boy next door. Ralph was always trying to tear up what they were doing. Tony quickly reached down to get some snow. He would hit that Ralph in his face and knock his nose sideways!

Just as Tony was packing the snow together, a voice seemed to say, "Love your enemies. . . . Do good to them that hate you." His anger began to cool. But how could he be good to a mean boy like Ralph? Whiz! Here came another snow-

ball, but this time the aim was not so good.

"Hey, Ralph," called Tony. "Don't knock our snowman over. Why don't you come on over and we'll see if we can make a bigger one."

Ralph stood for a moment. He could hardly believe that Tony would want to play with him since he had hit their snowman.

"Yes," said Rene smiling, "Maybe we can make a whole family of snowmen: a mother, father, and some children."

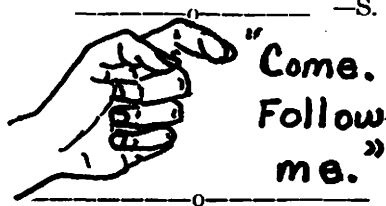
Ralph opened the gate and slowly walked into the yard.

"I'm sorry I threw at your snowman," Ralph said hanging his head and raking the snow back and forth with his foot.

"Well, it didn't do much damage," said Tony. "I fixed his nose. Here, you can put this rag around his neck for a scarf."

Ralph smiled and reached for the rag. Tony smiled, too. He was glad he had treated his enemy with goodness.

—S. W.



QUESTIONS:

1. What were Peter and Andrew doing at the sea?
2. Did they follow Jesus?
3. Who did Jesus see in a boat with their father?
4. Did James and John follow Jesus?
5. How many apostles, or special followers, did Jesus call?

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Part 16

Jan. 17, 1982

JESUS' PRAYER LIFE

Matt. 26:36-45

Jesus was a man, yet He was the Son of God. He knew things that other men did not know. Jesus had power to heal the sick and raise the dead. Jesus was the greatest Man that ever lived, yet He took time to pray to God. To pray means to talk to God. Many times Jesus would slip away from the crowds that followed Him. He would go to a quiet place and talk to God.

One night Jesus and some of His disciples went to a garden outside the city. Jesus knew that on the following day He would be nailed to a cross. Jesus told His disciples to wait for Him while He went a little farther on to pray. Jesus fell down on the ground and began to pray. He cried out for God to give Him the strength He would need to face the things ahead of Him. He came back and checked on His disciples. They were asleep. "Could you not watch with me for one hour?" He asked them. "Watch and pray." He went away again and prayed. God sent angels to give Jesus strength.

Do you pray to God each day? We should follow the example Jesus set. We should talk to God every day.

Memory Verse: Pray without ceasing. 1 Thess. 5:17.

Rather Play Than Pray

Daddy used to tell us a story about a little boy who didn't want to take time to pray.

One warm, spring morning, Davie was in a hurry to get outside. He wanted to pretend he was a pioneer living in the fort he had built in the fence row. He also planned to ride his bicycle and play in his daddy's big barn. He had a big day ahead of him.

Davie started out the door. "Wait a moment, Davie," his mother said. "Let's have prayer before you go outside."

"Aw, Mom, do we have to pray every morning?" Davie asked with a cloud on his face.

"Davie, we should thank God each morning for His protection through the night. We also want to ask Him to go with us through the coming day and keep us from harm."

Davie knelt down and bowed his head with the rest of the family, but his mind was on the fun ahead of him.

Davie had a wonderful time riding his bicycle and playing in the fort. It was a great day! But while he was in the barn he jumped off some bales of hay and his foot went down on an old piece of metal. Oh, how it hurt! Davie began to cry and limped to the house.

"Mom," he wailed as he entered the house, "I hurt my foot."

His mother cleaned and bandaged his injured foot. Then she prayed and asked God to take away the pain and heal Davie's foot. In just a few minutes his foot didn't hurt anymore. Davie realized that we should take time for God when things are going good, so He will hear us when we are in trouble. —M. W.

What Counts Most

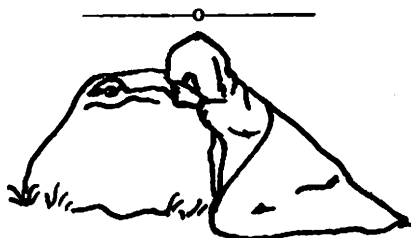
"I have learned a dozen Bible verses this week," bragged Joe, as he walked to Sunday school with Ted, another member of the class.

"I have learned only one," admitted Ted. "But all the week I have been trying to use it as a guide in what I do. It kept me busy remembering to use that one verse."

"What was the verse?" asked Joe.

"Just a short one," answered Ted, "but a big one to follow: 'Children obey your parents in the Lord,' was the one I took. Every day I found some way I could do it better if I followed it carefully."

"Well," admitted Joe, "I haven't had time to use any of the verses I learned. I guess I'll try learning some and using them."



Jesus prayed
in the garden.

QUESTIONS:

1. What does it mean to pray?
2. Did Jesus pray to God?
3. Where did Jesus go to pray?
4. What did Jesus' disciples do while He prayed?
5. Does God want us to pray to Him?

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Part 17

Jan. 24, 1982

JESUS RAISES THE DEAD

Luke 8:41-55; John 11:1-44

One day a man named Jairus came to Jesus. He fell down at Jesus' feet. "Master, my only daughter is very sick," he cried. "Please come and heal her." While he was yet speaking to Jesus, one of Jairus' servants came up. "Do not trouble the Master," the servant said to Jairus. "Your daughter is dead." Jesus told Jairus to have faith in Him and He would heal the girl. Jesus went to Jairus' house. He went into the room where the dead girl lay. He took her hand in His and said, "Maid, arise." The girl rose up and was alive and well. Her mother and daddy were happy.

Another time Jesus' friend Lazarus was sick, so Jesus went to see him. When He got there, Jesus found that Lazarus had been dead four days already. Everyone was sad because Lazarus was dead. Jesus went to the tomb where Lazarus was buried. Many people followed Him. There was a big stone covering the entrance of the tomb. Jesus told some men to take away the stone. "Lazarus, come forth!" Jesus called out. He arose and walked out of the tomb. How wonderful that Jesus could raise people from the dead!

Memory Verse: Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life. John 11:25a.

Susie's Selfishness

Susie was a very stubborn little girl. She always wanted her way in everything she did. When she played with her little friend, Tammie, Susie always wanted to be the boss and tell what to play. Sometimes Tammie wanted to play hop-scotch, and Susie wanted to swing. The girls always ended up swinging if that's what Susie wanted.

One day the little girls were playing house under a big oak tree in the back yard. It was summertime and the weather was hot. Both girls wanted their house in the best part of the "old shade tree."

Tammie laid her doll down and started to make a place for the bed.

"I want that spot for my house," said Susie, as she pushed Tammie's doll aside and laid hers down. "You can make your house over there."

Tammie picked up her doll and moved to another spot. Tammie soon forgot her disappointment as she and Susie played house with their dolls.

The girls were enjoying their play so well that they did not notice the cloud coming up. The wind began to blow. At first it blew only slightly, but now quite swiftly. The wind blew the little blanket off Susie's doll and she had to chase it. Just then a large limb fell from the tree, landing right on Susie's new doll. "Oh, no!" Susie cried as she pulled the limb off her doll. The doll's head was cracked and its dress was torn and dirty.

A voice seemed to speak to Susie, "This happened because you were selfish and had to have this place for your doll."

Susie was sad that her doll was all messed up, but she felt even worse thinking of how selfish she was. She asked Tammie to forgive her. Susie learned that when people choose the best for themselves it sometimes turns out to be bad. —B. H.



Lazarus came
forth.

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QUESTIONS:

1. What did Jairus want Jesus to do?
2. What did Jairus' servant tell him?
3. Did Jesus bring the girl back to life?
4. What man did Jesus raise from the dead?

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Jan., Feb., Mar., 1982

Part 18

Jan. 31, 1982

JESUS HEALS

MATT. 9:27-31; Mark 7:31-36

One day two blind men heard that Jesus would be passing their way. As Jesus came along the road, they began calling to Him, "Have mercy on us," they cried as they followed the sound of His footsteps. Jesus asked them, "Do you believe that I am able to give you sight?" They said, "Yes, Lord." Jesus touched their eyes and said, "According to your faith be healed." Immediately the men could see. Oh, how happy they were!

Another time some people brought a man to Jesus to be healed. This man could not hear or talk. Jesus took the man away from the crowd of people. He put His fingers into the man's ears and he spit and touched the man's tongue. As Jesus looked toward heaven, He said, "Be opened." Suddenly the man could hear and he started talking! Jesus told the man not to tell anyone what had happened. But the man was so happy about what Jesus had done for him that he told everyone he saw.

Jesus can still heal today. He wants us to have faith and trust in Him.

Memory Verse: Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever. Heb. 13:8

Does Daddy Want Prayer?

One day Daddy was busy working around the barn getting his machinery ready to go to the field. Davie was following him around trying to help.

Daddy was trying to get some rusty nails out of an old board. "Ouch!" he cried, as he missed the nail and hit his thumb.

"Daddy, don't you want me to pray for you?" Davie asked, looking up at his dad.

"Oh, it doesn't hurt much. Thanks anyway, Son," Dad said as he again started removing more nails from the board.

That afternoon Daddy was clearing vines and tree limbs out of the fence row. Daddy would chop off the limbs and Davie would drag them over to a place and pile them together. Later Daddy would burn the pile of brush. Davie liked to help Daddy work.

Suddenly Daddy jumped away from the fence row. A swarm of bees were after him! Daddy could not get away from the bees in time to keep from getting stung. Several stung him on the forehead. The bee stings caused Daddy to get a very bad headache.

As Daddy started for the house, Davie ran up to him. Daddy said, "You can pray for me now, Son. I need God to help me." Davie believed that when you ask God to help you out, He hears and makes it better. Davie prayed and God soon took his dad's headache away.

God is pleased with the faith of children and honors that trust in Him. He helps work out their problems and heals their bodies when they are sick.

—————o————— —M. W.

"May I be thankful for the assurance."



Jesus healed the
blind.

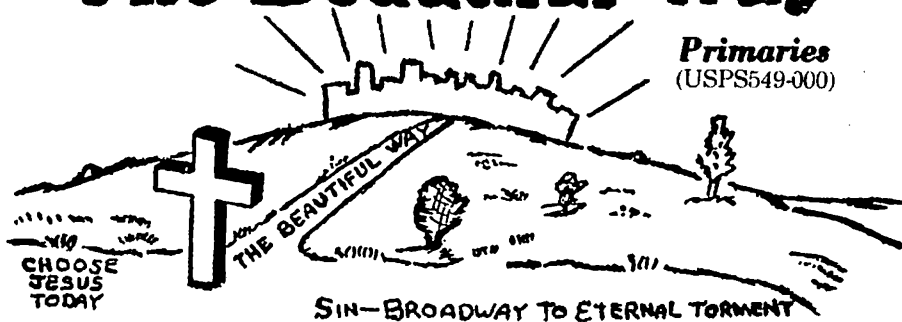
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QUESTIONS:

1. Did two blind men want Jesus to heal them?
2. Did Jesus make them able to see?
3. What was wrong with the other man that Jesus healed?
4. Did the man tell others what Jesus did for him?
5. Does Jesus heal today?

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Part 19

Feb. 7, 1982

JESUS FEEDS FIVE THOUSAND

John 6:5-14

A large crowd was following Jesus. They listened to Him preach and they saw Him heal the sick. Wherever Jesus went the people followed Him. They had been with Jesus for some time, and He knew they were hungry. Jesus said to Philip, "How shall we buy bread that all these people may eat?" Philip looked over the large crowd. "Two hundred pennyworth is not enough money to buy bread for this many people." Andrew spoke up, "There's a boy here with a little lunch basket. He has five barley loaves and two small fish. But what is that among so many people?"

Jesus said, "Tell all the people to sit down." Then He took the little boy's lunch and prayed to God. God caused the fish and bread to increase. The disciples passed the food out to the hungry people. The people ate till they were full. Then Jesus had the disciples pick up the leftovers. The number of people who had eaten was 5,000, and there were twelve baskets of leftovers taken up.

Jesus tells us that He will take care of our needs. He feeds the birds, and we know that He cares much more for people than for animals.

Memory Verse: It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone. Matt. 4:4a.

On the Rock

"Each of you get your little sand buckets and follow me," Mommy said, standing by the outside door. Mommy and the children were going to replant an ivy.

"Children, let's look for rocks to put in our buckets," Mommy said. "There are all kinds of rocks. Some are big as potatoes; some are as small as marbles, and even some rocks are wee, wee, tiny like a roly-poly bug. We are looking for just the right rocks. We don't want any as fat as red apples, but none so skinny that they break when you step on them."

The children started looking for just the right rocks. One time when Mommy took a fat, jagged rock out of Don's bucket, he was upset.

"We are going to plant our nice ivy on top of these rocks, so we want only smooth, round rocks," Mommy said.

"Oh," said Don, "our plant will stand on these rocks then?"

"That's right," Mommy said.

Soon they had enough rocks. Then they began to plant their pretty ivy.

"The rocks are first," Mommy said, and she carefully chose the very best rocks. "Let's lay them all along the bottom of the planter." Don and Karen each took turns placing rocks in the planter.

"Now, let's put fresh, clean soil over the rocks and then the plant," Mommy said. That's the way they did it, patting fresh soil around the ivy, also.

"Now," said Mommy, "does planting our plant remind you of a song we like to sing?"

Karen nodded yes. "The wise man built his house upon a rock," she remembered.

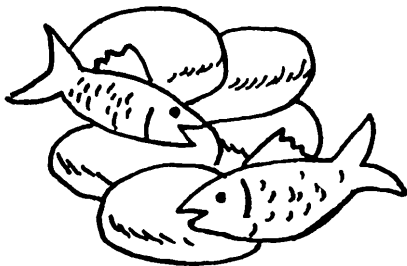
Then they all sang together, "The wise man built his house upon a rock..."

After they were through singing, Don remembered something.

"The rains haven't come down on our ivy yet, Mommy."

"Oh, that's right! We forgot to 'send the rain down.'" She took her water can and poured cool, refreshing water down over the whole ivy.

"That make-believe rain was like a blessing from the Lord," said Mommy. "It was such a cool, refreshing drink for a thirsty plant." —Sis. Connie Sorrell



Five loaves and
two fish feed
five thousand.

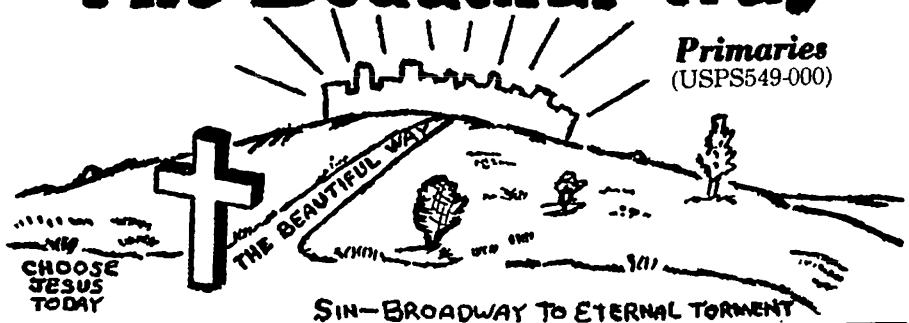
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QUESTIONS:

1. Where did Jesus get the food to feed the big crowd?
2. What was in the boy's lunch?
3. How many people did Jesus feed?
4. How many baskets of leftovers did the disciples take up?
5. Will God take care of our needs?

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Jan., Feb., Mar., 1982

Part 20

Feb. 14, 1982

JESUS STILLS THE STORM

Mark 4:35-41

Have you ever been in a storm? It's rather frightening, isn't it, when the lightning flashes and the thunder rolls, and the strong winds blow?

One evening Jesus and His disciples were in a ship out at sea. A great wind came up and began to toss the ship about. High waves beat into the ship. The disciples tried to keep the water out of the ship, but the waves came in faster and faster. They knew that any minute the ship would either sink from the waves or be torn apart by the winds.

Jesus was in the back part of the ship asleep. As the storm raged, the disciples became very afraid. Finally one of them awakened Him. "Master, we are in danger. The ship is about to sink. Do you not care if we perish?" Jesus looked at the roaring waves. "Peace, be still," He said in a calm voice. Immediately the sea became still and the wind stopped blowing. The night was clear and peaceful. The little ship sailed gently on the beautiful sea.

Jesus asked them, "Why were you afraid? Do you not have faith?" If you are ever in a storm, ask God to keep you from harm.

Memory Verse: . . . God created the heaven and the earth. Gen. 1:1

Are You "Much Afraid"?

I knew a little girl once that could have been named "Much Afraid." That name would have surely fit her.

"Much Afraid" had a plaque that glowed in the dark hanging on the wall of her room. The plaque said, "I will trust and not be afraid." But she didn't obey those words and caused herself lots of worry.

When she first started to school she was afraid every morning before the school bus would come. She was afraid the bus driver would not stop the bus to pick her up. She made herself miserable when it could have been an enjoyable adventure to her if she had trusted and not been afraid.

"Much Afraid" was also scared of the creeks her dad had to drive through on their way to all-day meeting each month. Usually the creeks were nearly dry, so it was really nothing to be scared of. If they were flooding, her parents would not try to go through.

At other times when traveling, the little girl's parents would sometimes get on the wrong road, and "Much Afraid" would cry just like they were lost for good. But do you know, they always found their way out and never stayed lost!

Doesn't "Much Afraid" sound silly? If you've been acting like her, remember her plaque—"I will trust and not be afraid." You have an almighty Father and His angels watching over you. We should trust and not be afraid.

—M. W.

Pray that you will learn the things from the Bible that God wants you to know.

Sharing

There is no joy in keeping things
All to oneself, you know.
The happiest child is he who is
Unselfish, and who so
Makes use of blessings God doth give
To spread a lot of cheer
Around him every single day
In every month and year.



The Storm-tossed Boat

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QUESTIONS:

1. Who created the heaven and earth?
2. Does God control the weather?
3. In our lesson, where were the disciples when the storm came up?
4. What was Jesus doing?
5. Did the storm stop when Jesus told it to?

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Part 21

Feb. 21, 1982

JESUS WALKS ON WATER

Matt. 14:22-32

Have you ever been in a boat out on a lake? It's lots of fun, isn't it? People are supposed to wear life jackets when they're in a boat, in case the boat wrecks or they fall into the water. The life jacket will hold them up. People also swim in water. But have you ever heard of anyone who could walk on water? Jesus could.

Jesus' disciples were out on the sea in a boat one night. As they looked out across the water, they saw what looked like a man walking on the water. That could not be—it must be a ghost coming toward their boat, they thought. They began to cry and shake with fear. Jesus saw that they were afraid and called out to them, "Don't be afraid; it is I." Peter answered, "If it is really you, Lord, bid me walk on the water to you." Jesus said, "Come." Peter stepped out of the boat on to the water. He did not sink. He began to walk toward Jesus. As he walked, he took his eyes off Jesus and looked at the waves and felt the strong winds. Suddenly, his feet and legs began sinking down into the water. He cried, "Lord, save me." Jesus reached out His hand and saved Peter.

Memory Verse: Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand. Isa. 40:12a.

Honesty

It was a hot summer day and Carol was bored.

She decided she would take a walk through the woods. When she started to go out the door, the heat of the day hit her in the face just like the heat from an oven door. "Oh," she moaned. "I know what I'll do. I'll call my friend, Susie."

"Hello, Susie, this is Carol. Would you like to come over today and go swimming."

"Carol, I really would like to go swimming, but I am grounded this whole week."

"Well, Susie, is your mother home?"

"No!"

"Well, Susie, I have a good idea. If you would come over while she is gone, she would never know. Why don't you just come on over and we'll have loads and loads of fun in our swimming pool."

"B-B-But, Carol, if I would come over I would be disobeying my mother, God, and my daddy. Carol, do you have a Bible?"

"No, I don't, Susie."

"Well, in the Bible in Exodus 20:12, it says, 'Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.' Also in Galatians 6:2, 3, it says, 'Honor thy father and thy mother; which is the first commandment with promise; that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.' Carol, now do you see why I won't come over?"

"Yes, I see what you're talking about now."

"See, Carol, if I would go over to your house, I wouldn't be honest."

"Oh, Susie, thank you so much for telling me what God's Word says."

"Oh, you're much, much welcome. Carol, tomorrow is Sunday school. Would you like to come?"

"Oh yes, oh yes! What time will it be? Could my mom come, too?"

"Yes, your mom can come. Anyone can come. We want everybody to be saved and live for God. Sunday school is at 9:00."

"Susie, we better get off the phone. We've been talking for one hour. Well, good-bye!"

"Carol, don't forget to say your prayers before you go to bed, okay? Good-bye!"

—Charlene Flynn



Peter begins to sink

QUESTIONS:

1. Who was out in a boat?
2. Who came to the ship walking on the water?
3. Who else started walking on the water?
4. What happened when Peter took his eyes off Jesus?
5. Did Jesus save him?

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Part 22

Feb. 28, 1982

JESUS IN THE HOME OF LAZARUS

Luke 10:38-42; John 12:2-8

Jesus was visiting in the home of His friend Lazarus. Lazarus had two sisters—Martha and Mary. When Jesus came to visit, some of His disciples came with Him. Martha wanted to have a nice meal for all her guests, so she spent much time in the kitchen preparing the food.

Mary was glad to have Jesus in their home and she did not want to spend all her time in the kitchen. She wanted to stay near Jesus. She wanted to hear Him tell of the good things of God. Martha felt that Mary should help her with the cooking and other work. Jesus said, "Martha, Martha, you are concerned about many things. There is one thing most important. Mary has chosen that better part." That "better part" is learning about God.

Then Mary poured some ointment, or perfume, on Jesus' feet. This was her way of showing her love to Jesus.

One of Jesus' disciples said, "Why wasn't this ointment sold and given to the poor?" Jesus replied, "There will always be poor people, but I will not always be here. She did this for my burial."

Memory Verse: How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace. Rom. 10:15a.

Darkness and Light

"Now, Kevin, this is the third time tonight I have told you to go to bed," Mother said as she turned from the sink of supper dishes to see coming to her a sleepy little boy with crumpled pajamas.

"But, Mama, I can't see!" Kevin complained.

"You can't sleep?" Mama asked.

"No, I can't see in the dark," Kevin replied.

"Well, you're not supposed to see when you're sleeping, Honey. You shut your eyes to sleep."

"But I don't want to go to sleep," Kevin insisted. "Mama, I can't see in the dark. What if a big lion or a bear comes to get me? I want to see it so I can run away before it gets me!" and Kevin drew closer yet to Mama.

"Now, Kevin, there aren't any bears or lions in our house," Mother comforted him, "but I understand your fear because even big people have fears. Many, many big people are afraid of the night darkness, too, but let me tell you about another darkness people have within their hearts, souls, and minds. Darkness in the heart is sin. (Acts 28:26) It is somewhat like the darkness of night. Your bedroom is dark and outside it is dark because God 'put the sun to bed' on the other side of the world. But by morning what will happen?"

Kevin chuckled because he knew.

"By morning time, the sun will be raising its red, sleepy-eyed head over the tips of each blade of grass in the east field and as the sun wakes up more and more, it soon is smiling down from 'way above the tree tops. Remember how yellow, bright, and plump the sun is?"

Kevin nodded to Mother's question.

"Well, did you know we can be just that bright in our hearts every day and night, too?"

"How can I have light in me?" Kevin asked in a puzzled voice.

"Jesus is like the sun. We must love Him and open up our hearts to Him and then He will put a happy song in our heart that will lighten up our innermost being." Mama said, "The light of Jesus makes us bright and happy inside. When we have the light of Jesus in our hearts, we don't have to be afraid of the dark any more. The light of Jesus takes away the darkness of sin from our hearts."

— Sis. Connie Sorrell



She anointed
His feet.

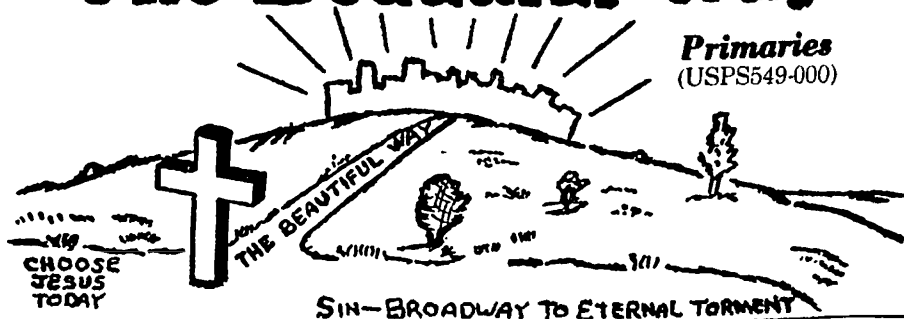
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QUESTIONS:

1. Who was visiting in the home of Lazarus?
2. Who were Lazarus' sisters?
3. What was Martha doing?
4. What did Mary pour on Jesus' feet?
5. According to Jesus, why did Mary do this?

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Part 23

Mar. 7, 1982

JESUS ENTERS JERUSALEM

Luke 19:28-40

Jesus and His disciples were going to Jerusalem. They stopped on a hillside near a little village. Jesus told two of His disciples, "Go into the village. As you enter the village you will see a young donkey tied. No one has ever ridden on him. Untie him and bring him to me. If anyone asks why you are taking the donkey, say, 'The Lord hath need of him.' " The disciples went into the village and found the donkey as Jesus said. They brought the donkey to Him.

Jesus rode on the donkey's back into Jerusalem. As He rode along, a great crowd gathered and followed Him. Some lay down their coats for the little donkey to walk on. Others cut branches from palm trees and placed them in the way as a carpet. The people loved Jesus. They cried, "Hosanna to the Son of God. Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord."

Some people among the crowd said to Jesus, "Rebuke these people who give you such praise." Jesus said, "If these people did not give me praise, the rocks would cry out in praise unto me." Jesus wants us to still give Him praise today.

Memory Verse: Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. Psalms 150:6a.

A SCHOOL PLAY

Tammy was so happy to have a part in the fifth grade play. She was to be a flower. Since she didn't have many lines to say, she said them over and over so many times till she knew them perfectly.

Several days after the parts had been given out, the teacher handed each one a note to give to their mothers, telling them how the costumes were to be. Tammy's heart dropped when she read of what the costume was to consist. All the flowers were to wear ballerina suits. Her mother was a Christian and would never let her wear that, she knew. Besides, Tammy herself was a Christian and did not want to stand before a group of people dressed in such a manner.

Tears were in her eyes as she showed her mother the note. At first her mother said nothing, but seemed to be thinking of what would be the best action to take.

Later that night while Tammy was doing her homework, her mother called the teacher. Tammy's mother was very kind, but told the teacher how she felt about dressing her little girl. She suggested another idea—that the little girls who were to be flowers all wear long green dresses made from crepe paper and that they wear cardboard hats with a big flower on top. She even volunteered to make all the hats. The teacher said it sounded like a good idea and that she would talk to some of the other mothers and see what they thought.

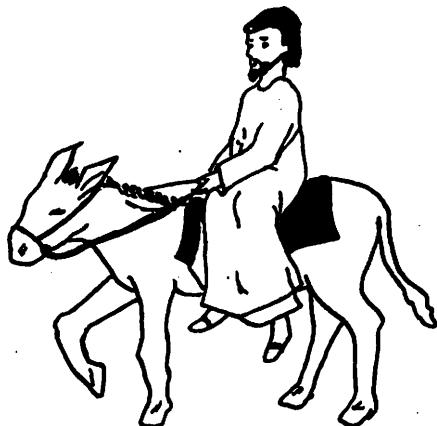
The next day the teacher sent another note home with each of the girls who were to be flowers. It had been decided to change their costumes to long crepe

dresses. Tammy was delighted, and as soon as she got home she told her mother all about the change in plans.

We should be careful to always live pleasing to God, and not do something we feel is wrong just to be with the crowd.

—Sandra Whitson

Christians are people who believe in Jesus. He is their Lord and Saviour. They trust Him. They want Him to live in their hearts. They believe in Jesus.



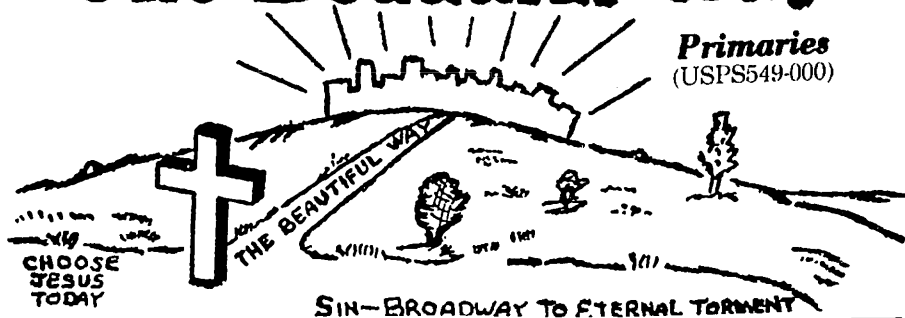
The Grand Entry

QUESTIONS:

1. What did Jesus ride into Jerusalem on?
2. Did a big crowd follow Him?
3. What did the people lay on the ground for the donkey to walk on?
4. Did the people praise Jesus?
5. What did Jesus say would praise Him if the people didn't?

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Part 24

Mar. 14, 1982

JESUS CLEARS THE TEMPLE

John 2:14-16

Back at the time of Jesus, people would go to the temple to offer sacrifices to God. In fact, the temple in Jerusalem had been built for God to live in.

One day Jesus went to the temple. He expected to see people praying and honoring God. Instead, He saw people who had set up a market there. They were selling doves, sheep, and oxen. Jesus was much displeased. He took a cord and made a whip and drove the money-changers out of the temple. He poured out the money and let the animals loose. "Get these things out of the temple," He said. "The Scriptures state that this is to be a house of prayer, but you have made it a den of thieves."

Jesus wanted people to show respect to God's house. Today we do not go to the temple to worship God, but we do go to a meeting house, or church house. Jesus wants us to respect the meeting house. We should not run and play in it, but we should sing and pray to God. Let us always show honor to God when we are in the meeting house.

Memory Verse: Praise ye the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary. Psalms 150:1a.

Cindy Gets New Friends

Cindy was sad as the car pulled out of the driveway. She looked one last time at the house that had been her home for nearly as long as she could remember. Down the road they traveled following the big, orange moving van that carried their furniture.

When Cindy and her family arrived at their new house in Arizona, she saw several little girls standing on the sidewalk. Cindy looked at the girls as she got out of the car, and they looked at her. But no one waved or smiled. Each day Cindy would see the girls playing next door. Cindy sat on the porch steps hoping the girls would ask her to play, but no one did. Cindy did not like the new neighborhood. She wanted to move back to their old house in Tennessee.

When Sunday morning came, Cindy and her family went to the little church house a couple of blocks away. As Cindy walked into the Sunday school class, there sat the little girls she had seen playing next door. Cindy did not think she would like this Sunday school class.

The lesson was on "being friends." The teacher said that Jesus is our best friend and that He wants us all to be friends to each other. She read from the Bible, "He that would have friends must show himself friendly."

Right after class, the girls came up to Cindy. They said they wanted her to be their friend and that they were sorry they had not talked to her before. Cindy was so happy. She invited the girls over to her house for the afternoon. —B. H.

"David was a man after God's own heart. He loved the Lord from his youth."

When you are in the woods, don't spend all your time at play, but look at the trees, the leaves, flowers, and plants that God has made. They will tell you about God. They bring to us thoughts of God. Someone has said they are the smiles from God. They can teach us many good things.



Jesus made
a whip of
cords.

QUESTIONS:

1. Where did Jesus go?
2. What did He find some people doing in the temple?
3. Was Jesus happy at what He saw? What did He do?
4. Does Jesus want us to show respect in the meeting house today?
5. Why do we go to meeting?

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Part 25

Mar. 21, 1982

JESUS IS BETRAYED

Matt. 26:14-16; John 18:1-3

Sometimes when Jesus would preach to the people the priests wanted to stop Him. They knew if the people believed Jesus, they would not believe the priests. But the priests were afraid if they tried to take Jesus, the crowd would not let them. They wanted to find Jesus when He was away from the crowd.

One of Jesus' disciples, Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and told them that for a certain amount of money, he would take them to Jesus when He was with only His disciples. They gave Judas thirty pieces of silver to do this.

One night Jesus was on a hillside near the city praying to God. The only ones with Him were the eleven apostles. Judas led a group of soldiers to where Jesus was. As the soldiers neared Jesus and His little band of men, Judas walked up to Jesus and kissed Him. This was the sign to let the soldiers know which one was Jesus. The soldiers took Jesus with them. Jesus could have called many, many angels to attack the soldiers, but He willingly went with them. He wanted to give His life that we might live.

Memory Verse: Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. John 15:13.

Learning to Obey

One day Mother had to go to the store and leave Christie and Lori alone.

"I will be gone only a few minutes, girls," Mother said. "Stay in the house until I get back."

After Mother left, the girls were looking out the window when they saw a white rabbit in the backyard.

"Oh, why don't we go outside and see if we can catch it?" suggested Lori.

"Mother said for us to stay inside the house," Christie replied. "We will have to wait until she gets back."

"But she didn't know we would see a rabbit outside," said Lori. "I think I will go see him and come right back."

Lori chased the rabbit until he ran out of sight. She then saw some pretty flowers at the edge of the yard. She thought she would pick a little bouquet. While she was picking them Mother drove up. She ran to Mother with the pretty flowers. "Look, Mom, what I picked for you."

"Lori, the flowers are pretty, but you disobeyed me. I told you to stay inside the house. Now you must stay in the house the rest of the afternoon while Christie plays outside."

Lori learned what the verse means that says, "To obey is better than sacrifice." The Lord wants us to obey His Word and He also wants us to obey our parents.

—Sandra Whitson

Naughty Julie

One day Mother baked cookies. The cookies smelled good. Mother gave Jane and Julie each two cookies. Then Mother said, "Those are the only cookies you may have until supper."

In a little while, Jane went into the

kitchen. She saw Julie getting some more cookies. She said, "You are a naughty girl, Julie."

God is not pleased when boys or girls are naughty. But God loves naughty boys and girls.

Boys and girls do wrong things sometimes. God loves all boys and girls. The Bible tells us so. God does not love the wrong things boys and girls do.

God sent Jesus to be our Savior. Jesus died on the cross for all our bad things. Jesus will forget about the bad things if we tell Him we are sorry and ask Him to forgive us. That is wonderful!



Judas gets
30 pieces
of silver.

QUESTIONS:

1. Where was Jesus when the soldiers came to take Him?
2. Who betrayed Jesus?
3. What did Judas do to let the soldiers know which one was Jesus?
4. Did Jesus go willingly with the soldiers?
5. Who could Jesus have called to fight for Him?

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Jan., Feb., Mar., 1982

Part 26

Mar. 28, 1982

JESUS IS TRIED

Mark 14:53-65

The soldiers led Jesus into Jerusalem to the high priest. They had a trial. Now at the trial there were men who lied against Jesus. But the testimony of the men who lied did not agree. Some said one thing against Him, and some another. They tried and tried to find something to convict Jesus for, but it was pretty plain that He was innocent. Finally the high priest asked Him, "Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?" Jesus said, "I am." Then the high priest cried out, "Blasphemy! What need we any further witness?" The people agreed that Jesus should be put to death. They began to spit in His face and to hit Him.

Then the high priest took Jesus to Pilate, a man who had the authority to put Jesus to death. Pilate questioned Jesus and felt He was innocent. He had his soldiers beat Jesus. Pilate thought that would be enough punishment. But the people were not satisfied with that punishment. Pilate asked the people what they wanted Him to do with Jesus. They cried out, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!" In order to please the people, Pilate delivered Jesus to be crucified.

Memory Verse: But he was wounded for our transgressions. Isa. 53:5a.

Stay Out of Streets

Sally was in trouble. She had disobeyed Mother again. Mother had told her over and over not to get in the street without holding to Mother's hand because fast cars whizzed down that street. Mother had warned Sally over and over again to NOT GO NEAR THE STREET ALONE, but Sally had been careless. Forgetting Mother's command, Sally had gone out in the street with her baby doll while trying to follow a stray puppy home. As soon as Mother became aware that Sally was in the street, Mother went after her and brought her into the house. Sally knew she had disobeyed.

Mother got the switch off the top of the refrigerator and led Sally to the bedroom. After Mother had finished spanking her, Mother took Sally up in her arms to talk to her.

"Sally," Mother said, "do you know how dangerous it is to be in a busy street?"

Sally sat crying on Mother's lap.

"Even big people do not go out into the busy street without watching carefully for cars. Cars are powerful and the drivers cannot stop them as quickly as they want to sometimes. What if a car came racing down the hill and you were in the street. Maybe the car didn't stop in time and it hit you. It could run over your legs, bruising, cutting, and scraping your tender skin and maybe breaking the bones in your legs so badly that you wouldn't be able to walk again. Not only could it hurt your legs, but it could break your arms so that you couldn't write or eat by yourself any more. Worst of all, a car could kill you if it hit you in the street and that would grieve Mama and Daddy so much but Sally wouldn't

know about it. She would be cold and lifeless because she disobeyed Mama, went into the street any way, and was hit by a car she didn't see. See how bad it is to get in a busy street without Mother there to hold your hand while you cross. Never disobey Mother again!"

Sally was just sniffing now. "I wanted to get that puppy, though," she said.

"Don't let anything ever lead you astray from what Mama tells you to do, my dear. If you see someone or something doing a 'no-no,' don't follow after that one because he is not being a true friend to you then. Mother is your true friend and I know someone else who will never lead you into danger but loves you very much. . ."

"Jesus!" Sally finished saying for Mother. —Sis. Connie Sorrell

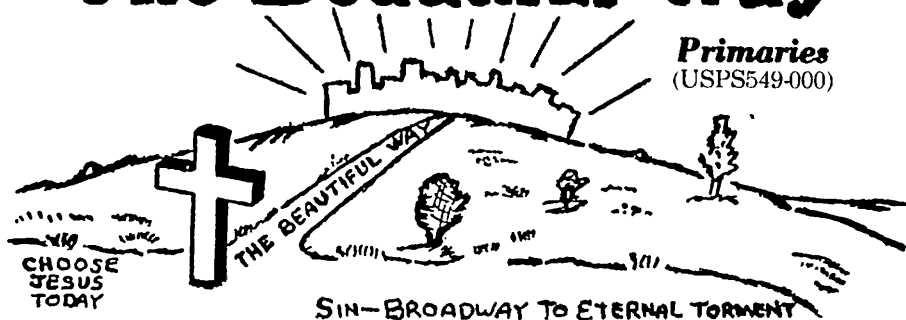


QUESTIONS:

1. Was Jesus given a trial?
2. Did the people lie in their testimonies against Him?
3. When the chief priest asked Jesus "Art thou the Christ?" what did Jesus answer?
4. What did the people want to be done with Jesus?
5. Did Pilate think Jesus should be put to death? Why did Pilate let Him be crucified?

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Part 14

April 4

JESUS IS CRUCIFIED

Mark 15:29-34

Wicked men were jealous of Jesus because He did good works. His goodness made other people see their badness. They led Jesus outside the city to crucify Him.

Bam! Bam! The nails were hammered into Jesus' hands and feet. "Uh-h-h!" He groaned with pain. He had already been lashed with a whip, but the men wanted to see Him die.

As Jesus hung suffering on the cross, many people came to look at Him. Some of them said, "If you're really the Son of God, come down from that cross!" Others laughed. Some spit in His face. Jesus looked down upon them. He felt sorry for them. He prayed to God. "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."

For six long hours Jesus hung on the cross. There were two other men crucified on crosses beside him. They were thieves. Some soldiers came and broke their legs to make sure they were dead. Jesus was already dead, so they did not break His legs. A soldier stuck a spear into His side.

Memory Verse: For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son . . . John 3:16

A New Body

Laddie was sad. He stood looking out the window, now and then wiping a tear from his cheek. Mother walked up behind him and put her hand gently on his shoulder.

"I know you'll miss Grandpa," she said tenderly. "But he's with God now."

Laddie turned and looked up at his mother. "But I didn't want to put Grandpa in the ground. I won't ever see him again." Laddie broke into sobs.

Mother sat down and drew her sobbing child into her arms. As she held Laddie closely and wiped away his tears she began to talk to him.

"Laddie, do you remember last fall when you helped me dig holes in my flower garden? Do you remember what we put in the holes?"

Laddie drew in a sniffle. "Yes, we put tulip bulbs in the holes."

"And do you remember that we covered those bulbs with dirt?" Mother asked.

"I remember," replied Laddie.

"You kept asking me why we had to put them in the ground. I explained that that was the way God wanted it to be. That if we did not plant the bulb, it would never be a beautiful flower," said Mother. "And now what did you tell me you saw just the other day?"

"I said that brown bulb we planted has popped up as a bright red tulip," Laddie said.

"That is the way with Grandpa," explained Mother. "His body was weak and sick. It was so weak that he could not live. That tired, weak body was put in the ground. But one day when God gets ready, Grandpa will come out of the grave in a new, strong body."

"Will it be beautiful like the red tulip?"

Laddie asked.

"I don't know just what it will look like, but I'm sure it will be beautiful."

Mother replied smiling.

"I'm glad that Grandpa will have a better body some day," Laddie said as he again looked out the window at the beautiful red tulip.

—S. Whitson

Never Alone

Tony was crying. The big boys had gone to the pond to skate on the ice. Tony wanted to go, too. Mother said he was too little. He had to stay home.

"I'm all alone," Tony said to Mother. "Nobody is here to play with me."

Mother dried Tony's tears. Then she said, "Tony, come into the kitchen. You can help me make cookies."

Soon Tony was helping Mother make cookies. It was fun.

He smiled and said, "I'm not alone now, Mother. I am with you."

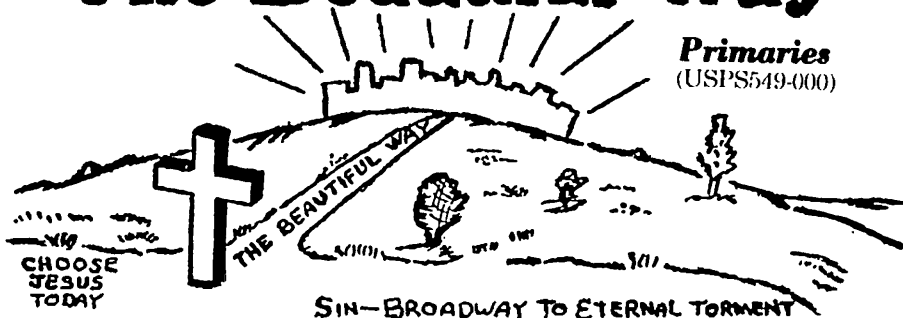
God's children are never alone. God is always with us. God is everywhere. We can pray and worship God anywhere. He never leaves us.

Questions:

1. What was hammered into Jesus' hands and feet to hold Him to the cross?
2. Did some of the people laugh at Him?
3. Who was crucified beside Jesus?
4. Why did the soldiers not break Jesus' legs?
5. What did a soldier stick into Jesus' side?

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Part 15

April 11

THE RESURRECTION

Matt. 27:57-60; 28:1-8

The soldiers took Jesus' body down from the cross. Jesus' friend put it into a hollow place in a rock. He had carved out the cave-like tomb for himself to be buried in, but he wanted to give it to Jesus. The soldiers rolled a big rock in front of the opening to the cave. This was on Friday.

Early Sunday morning some women came to Jesus' tomb. They brought spices to put in the tomb so it would smell good. The women said, "How will we get the rock away from the door of the tomb? It is too heavy for us to move." Just as the women reached the tomb, they stopped in surprise and fright. The rock was lying beside the door of the cave. There sitting on the rock was an angel in shining white. The angel saw that the women were frightened. "Fear not," he said to them. "I know that you're looking for Jesus. He is not here. He is risen." The angel showed the women the place where Jesus' body had lain. The women were afraid, but very happy. They hurried to tell others that Jesus had risen from the dead.

Memory Verse: But now is Christ risen from the dead.

1 Cor. 15:20a.

A Sunrise Service

Brent rubbed his sleepy eyes as he stumbled out of bed. He pulled on the pants and shirt his mother had laid on the chair for him.

Brent walked into the den, yawned, and sat down on a footstool. "What's a sunrise circus, anyway?" He asked his Mother as he pulled his socks on.

"Sunrise service," Mother said, pulling Amy's dress down over her curly head. "We are going to meet with some other people over on Black Mountain. We will sing and pray. Then someone will tell about when Jesus was resurrected from the dead. The meeting will be just at the time the sun is rising for the day."

"But why is it at sunrise? why not at sundown?" Brent asked as he covered his yawning mouth.

Mother talked to Brent as she continued dressing little Amy. "When Jesus was buried He stayed in the grave three days. Early on the morning of the third day, maybe just at sunrise, He came out of the grave. The sunrise service is in memory of Jesus' coming out of the grave.

"Another thing, Brent, when people die and are buried we think of darkness. But just as the sunrise does away with the darkness of night, Jesus' resurrection did away with the darkness of death. Someday our bodies will come out of the grave to a bright new day."

"When I see the sun peep over the mountain, I'm going to think about Jesus bringing light," Brent said as he finished tying his shoelaces.

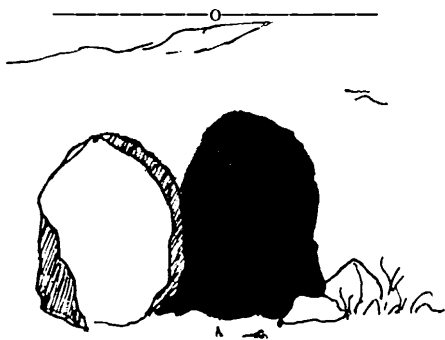
"Jesus did bring light," Mother said as she helped the children with their sweaters. "And we want to tell other people about the light of God."

"Are we all ready to go?" Daddy asked as he came into the room carrying his Bible.

"All ready," Brent smiled. "We want to see the light that makes the darkness go away."
—S. Whitson

A STRING OF BUSY BEES

Be hopeful, be cheerful, be happy, be kind. Be busy of body and busy of mind. Be earnest, be trustful, be firm and be fair. Of all misbehavior, be sure to beware. Bethink ere you stumble, of what may befall. Be true to yourself, and be faithful to all.



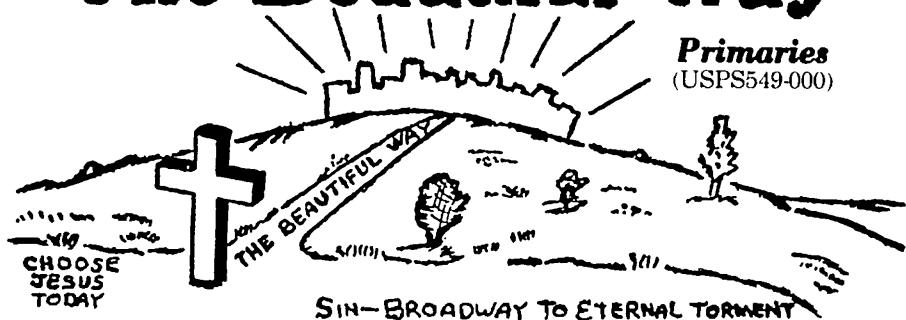
The tomb
was empty.

Questions:

1. What was put in front of the door of Jesus' tomb?
2. Why were the women going to Jesus' tomb?
3. Who did the women see sitting on the big stone?
4. What did the angel tell them?
5. Were the women happy?

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Part 16

April 18

A RISEN SAVIOR

Luke 24:13-31; Acts 1:9-11

Two men were walking down the road to Emmaus. They were talking about the amazing things that had happened in Jerusalem. A third man came up and walked with them. "Why are you sad?" He asked them. "Are you new here in Jerusalem?" the two asked the man. "Do you not know what things have taken place? Jesus, a great and mighty prophet was crucified. We had thought He was the one to save God's people. After He died His body was put in a tomb. This morning some women went to His tomb and found it empty. An angel told them that Jesus had risen from the dead." The three men talked on and on. When the first two men reached their house, they invited the other man to eat with them. This man blessed the food. Suddenly the men knew who the stranger was. It was Jesus! Then Jesus just disappeared from sight.

For forty days Jesus walked and talked with His disciples. Then one day as they stood on a hillside, Jesus began to rise into the air. The disciples watched Him go into heaven. An angel said, "This same Jesus will someday come back the same way He left."

Memory Verse: For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven . . . 1 Thes. 4:16.

God's Angels

Jeremy and Candace were enjoying going through Grandma's old trunk in the attic.

"Hey, Candace, look at this hat," Jeremy said as he stuck a wide brimmed hat with a colorful peacock feather on his head.

"Ha-ha," laughed Candace, "you look like a picture I saw of a Spanish explorer."

Candace slipped a long white robe over her head and it draped down to the floor.

"You look like an angel," said Jeremy. "All you need are wings."

"Maybe I could use the feather from your hat as a wing," said Candace reaching for the feather.

"No," said Jeremy as he darted around a chair. "Angels' wings are not made of feathers anyway."

"Yes, they are," said Candace, "how else could they fly?"

"There aren't any real angels," Jeremy said.

"Oh, yes, Jeremy, there are real angels," Mother said as she walked across the attic floor closing the door behind her. "There may be angels in this room right now."

The children looked all around the room. "How do we know there are angels if no one has ever seen them?" asked Jeremy.

"Some people have seen angels," explained Mother. "Do you not remember that angels appeared to the shepherds the night Jesus was born? Also, after Jesus was resurrected from the dead an angel appeared to the women at the tomb. The Bible tells about many angels."

"But are there angels nowadays?" Jeremy asked.

"Yes, there are still angels," Mother said. "They rarely appear to people, but angels are all around to protect God's children. The angels help keep dangerous things from hurting us."

"I'm glad to know God loves us so much that He has His angels with us all the time," Candace said as she hugged Mother. —S. Whitson

Big Questions

How many stars are in the sky?

How many hairs are on your head?

How many gallons of water are in the ocean?

These are big questions that you can't easily answer. With all the great books and big libraries we have, we still know very little about ourselves and the world we live in. We know even less about heaven and our life after we leave this earth.

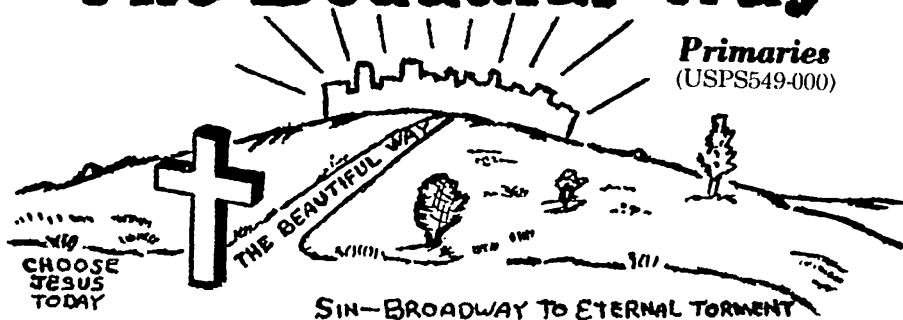
It is fun to learn, but certain things are only for God to know. God knows all things. It is wonderful to serve the God who created and who understands all things. —Sel.

Questions:

1. What were the two men talking about on the way to Emmaus?
2. Who came up and started walking with them? Did they know it was Jesus?
3. What happened to Jesus when He was eating with them?
4. Did Jesus' disciples watch Him go into heaven?
5. Will Jesus come back from heaven some day?

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April, May, June, 1982

Part 17

April 25

JESUS CHOOSES TWELVE APOSTLES

Matt. 10:1-8; Mark 16:14, 15

When Jesus began preaching, crowds followed Him to hear His words and see His miracles. Some men even left their jobs to follow Jesus. One night Jesus spent all night in prayer. He wanted to choose some men to be very close to Him. He wanted to choose the right men, so He needed help from God. The next day Jesus chose twelve men and He called them *apostles*.

Jesus took the twelve apostles with Him nearly everywhere He went. He taught them many things. Sometimes he sent them on special missions to tell others about Himself. He told them to heal the sick and cast out devils, to raise the dead, and to help widows and orphans. As they went about telling others the good news of Jesus, the disciples were often hated, treated spitefully, and sometimes flogged. But the disciples continued on their mission because they loved and believed in Jesus.

The twelve men Jesus chose as apostles were: Peter, James, John, Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon, and Judas Iscariot.

Memory Verse: . . . He called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve . . . Luke 6:13

Being A Helper

"Next week we plan to have a revival meeting here," the Sunday school teacher informed the children. "Bro. Yates had these papers printed that tell about the meeting. Would some of you children like to go to the houses in the neighborhood and pass them out?"

"I will," several of the children said at once as they raised their hands and waved them about in the air.

"You must be willing to do this one or two afternoons rather than playing with your friends."

Some of the hands went down. Some of the children did not want to give up an afternoon of play to pass out the meeting notices.

"You may meet some people who will refuse to take them," the teacher continued.

A few more hands went down. These children did not want to face people who were unpleasant.

"If the weather is rainy you must wear a raincoat and hat and have the papers covered."

More hands went down. If it were rainy these children did not want to get outside. There were only five hands left up.

"Now, you five children will be Bro. Yates' helpers. You can tell the people about the meeting. He will not have time to get around to tell everyone himself."

"We will be like the disciples," said Kerry. "They told people about Jesus because He could not tell everyone Himself."

"That is right, Kerry," agreed the teacher, "and the disciples had to give up other things in order to work for Jesus; just as you are giving up an afternoon of play."

"You said that Jesus still needs disciples today," said Mel. "I'm glad to be His helper." —S.W.

A Little Missionary

I may not go to India,
To China, nor Japan;
To work for Jesus here at home
I'll do the best I can.
I'll tell of His great love to me,
And how I love Him too,
And better far, I'll show my love
In all that I may do.

The little waterdrops come down
To make the flowers grow,
The little rivulets flow on
To bless where're they go.
The little seeds make mighty trees
To cool us with their shade.
If little things like these do good
To try I'm not afraid.

I'll be a missionary now,
And work the best I may,
For if I want to work for God,
There surely is a way.
I'll pray for those across the sea,
My offering, too, I'll send,
And all within my power I'll do,
This great bad world to mend."

—Sel.

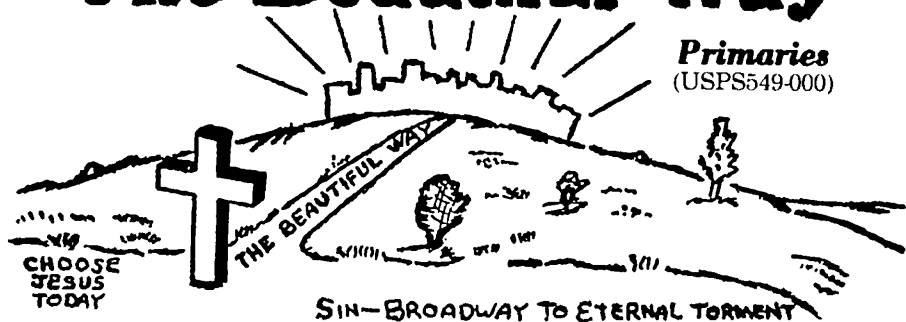


Questions:

1. How many men did Jesus choose to be especially close followers?
2. What did He call these followers?
3. What did Jesus send the apostles out to do?
4. How did people treat the apostles?
5. How many of the apostles can you name?

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Part 18

May 2

THE DISCIPLES JAMES AND JOHN

Matt: 4:21, 22; Luke 9:51-55; John 19:26, 27

One day Jesus saw James and John in a boat with their father. Jesus called to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." James and John left their father and followed Jesus. They listened to Jesus teach. They saw Him heal people who were sick. They were with Jesus when He raised a girl from the dead.

Jesus wanted to go into a certain village, but the people would not receive Him. This upset James and John. They said to Jesus, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and burn these people up?" But Jesus did not want to harm the people. He wanted them to believe in Him.

When Jesus was hanging on the cross, He looked down at John. He asked John to take care of His mother. John then took Jesus' mother and cared for her as his own mother.

James and John went to other countries telling others about Jesus and how He could save from sin. Herod began to put Christians in prison and even had some killed. He had James killed with a sword.

Memory Verse: And they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed him. Matt. 4:22.

Following God

"I came to tell you good-by, Jason," said Danny as he opened the gate.

"When will you be leaving?" Jason asked.

"Daddy said that we will fly to New York in the morning. We will be visiting some friends there a few days and then fly on to Africa Thursday."

"I guess I may never see you again, Danny," Jason said with a sad look on his face.

"Yes, that may be true, but I will write to you. Mother wrote your address in a notebook. I will tell you all about life in the jungle village. You can write and tell me all about what's going on at school and here in the neighborhood," Danny said eagerly.

"It will be fun to write letters. Bu-but," Jason stammered, "you're my best friend. I don't know why you're leaving your big house to go live in a hut anyway."

"I think it will be kind of fun to live in a hut and eat outside all the time," replied Danny.

"But Daddy said he can't understand why your dad is giving up a good job to to live in a land of savages," said Jason.

"Some of them are savages. Daddy said that is why he feels led to go to them. He wants to tell them about God and the way to heaven. He wants them to learn about God's love and the happiness it will bring. Daddy says that when they learn about Jesus, they quit their savage ways," Danny explained.

"But isn't he afraid to live there?" Jason asked.

"Well, maybe a little. But Daddy says he would be more afraid to disobey God, and God has told him to go. Suppose no one ever told them about God? If I were there I would want someone to tell me

about God."

"I guess I would, too," Jason admitted. "I will miss you, but I will pray that God will take care of you."

"Thanks, Jason. You'll always be my friend and I will pray for you, too."

—Sandra Whitson

Helpful Hands

On a large sheet of paper trace around your left hand. Then do the other hand. You may have to ask someone else to draw around the hand you use for writing. Copy this poem at the bottom of the hands. Hang this picture on your wall as a reminder to be kind and helpful.

Hands to pet a kitten,
Hands to point the way,
Hands for helping others,
Use your hands today.

Hands to pick a flower,
Hands for playing ball,
Hands for showing kindness,
To be a friend to all.

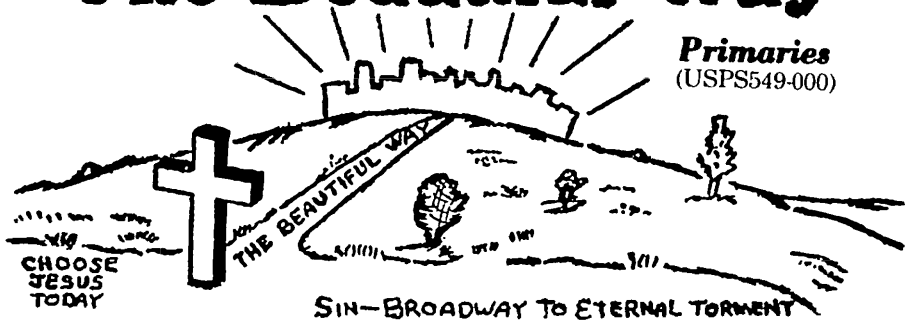
—Selected

Questions:

1. Who were mending nets with their father?
2. Did they leave their father to follow Jesus?
3. What did James and John want to do to the people who would not receive Jesus?
4. Who took care of Jesus' mother after He died?

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Part 19

May 9

THE DISCIPLE PHILIP

John 1:43-45; Acts 8:26-39

When Jesus was going to Galilee He saw Philip. Jesus said, "Follow me." Philip was happy to follow Jesus. He went to his friend, Nathanael, and said, "We have found the one that Moses said would come—Jesus of Nazareth." Philip wanted to share his good news with others.

One day an angel appeared to Philip. The angel told him to go down a certain road into the desert. Philip did as the angel commanded. As Philip was going along, he saw an officer of the Queen's court sitting in a chariot. As Philip went up near the chariot, he saw that the man was reading from the Bible. He was reading the book of Isaiah. Philip asked the man, "Do you understand what you read?" The man looked up. "How can I understand unless some man teach me?" he asked. Philip taught the man what the Bible said. The man said, "Here is water, why can't I be baptized?" Philip told him, "If you believe in Jesus with all your heart, you may be baptized." The man replied, "I believe that Jesus is the Son of God." Philip baptized the man.

Memory Verse: The day following Jesus . . . findeth Philip and saith unto him, Follow me. John 2:43.

Flowers for Mother

Jill held the little bunch of golden wild flowers in her left hand. Oh, there were some pretty blue bells! She stepped out of the little path and reached for the blue flowers. She gently tugged at the tender stems. She carefully placed the delicate flowers in the little yellow bouquet in her other hand. Yes, the lovely blue bells went just right with the bright yellow flowers. She smiled. Mother always liked yellow flowers.

She remembered one spring morning just a year before. She and Mother had been walking along this same path. "Look, Mother," Jill had cried with delight. See those flowers? Aren't they pretty?" Jill had picked two or three of them and handed them to her mother. Mother had smiled and held them up to smell of the tiny wild flowers her little daughter had picked for her. "Oh, Mother," she cried, "the flowers are just the color of your eyes."

Jill thought about her mother's eyes now as she laid a soft kiss on the flowers she clutched in her hand. Tears filled her own blue eyes. Yes, Mother would like these bright little flowers, if . . .

Jill wiped away the tears that were blinding her eyes. She walked on along the path till she came to a little white church house. She walked on past the little church house and opened the gate to the cemetery. Jill walked over and knelt beside a grave. The dirt was not fresh, but grass had not yet started to grow over the grave.

Jill put the flowers in a little jar that was there beside the marker. Yes, her mother would like the flowers if only she could see them. But Jill's mother had gone to heaven only a few months before. Her body had been laid beneath the

dirt here where Jill knelt.

Jill was glad she had always obeyed her mother. Jill had told her mother many times that she loved her. Jill missed her mother, but she knew Mother was with God.

Do you love and obey your mother?
God wants you to. —S.W.

Henry Takes Turns

"Let me swing now, Henry," said Nell. "I don't have a swing in my own yard. Let me take a turn on your swing."

"No, I want to swing all the time! It belongs to me," said Henry.

Daddy heard what Henry said. He walked over to the swing. "Henry, did you know that I have to take turns sometimes?" said Daddy.

"Big people like mommies and daddies don't have to take turns, do they?" asked Henry. He stopped his swinging to listen.

"Yes, they do," said Daddy. "When I drive the car, I must stop at red lights. Other cars can then pass in front of me. It is their turn to go on the street. When the light turns green, then it is my turn to go. God is glad to see both big people and little people take turns. God wants us to love others and to let them have their turns!"

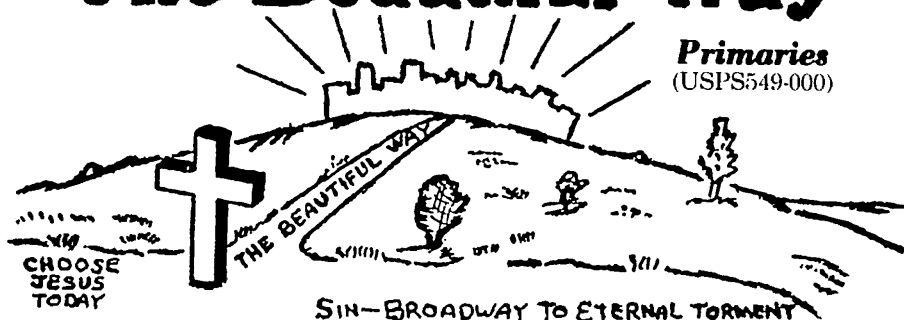
"I want to be like Daddy and take turns," said Henry. "I want to make God glad. Nell, you may swing now. It's your turn." —Sel.

Questions:

1. Was Philip happy to follow Jesus?
2. What did Philip tell Nathanael?
3. Who told Philip to go to the desert?
4. What was the man in the chariot doing?
5. How was James killed?

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Part 20

May 16

THE DISCIPLES MATTHEW AND NATHANAEL

John 1:45-51; Lk. 5:27-32

Most of you have three names—your first name, middle name, and last name. Some of you also have nicknames. Today we're going to talk about a man named Nathanael. His other name was Bartholomew.

One day Philip came to Nathanael and said, "We have found the one that Moses spoke of—Jesus of Nazareth." "Can any good thing come from Nazareth?" Nathanael asked. As he was walking toward Jesus, Jesus said, "Look, here is an Israelite in whom is no deceit." "How do you know me?" Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, "Before Philip called you I saw you under the fig tree." Nathanael said, "Thou art the Son of God."

Another man was named Matthew, or Levi. He was a tax collector. Jesus walked by where Matthew was collecting the taxes. Jesus said, "Follow me." Matthew left his tax collecting job to follow Jesus. Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to supper. He also invited some sinners. Some people would not eat with sinners. Jesus said, "I came to save the sinners."

Memory Verse: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. Luke 27:32.

Making Friends

"Hey, don't talk to that boy. His clothes are dirty and he has holes in his shoes. He must get his shirts out of a rag bag," jeered Bill.

"Yea, and I've seen whiskey bottles in his front yard," said Allen. "Mom says his dad goes to the bar every night."

The small group of boys continued playing with their airplanes. Some of them made faces at the little boy leaning against the tree across the street. The little boy was dressed shabbily and his clothes needed to be washed. His face was one of loneliness. One could tell he really wanted a friend.

Gary could not seem to take his eyes off the lonely little boy. "He cannot help it if his dad drinks," he told the other boys. "And he probably doesn't like wearing ragged clothes. If I were in his place, I would want some friends."

"I won't be friends with a tramp," Bill replied.

Gary walked away from the group of boys. He went over to the little boy across the street.

"Hi," he said with a smile. "My name is Gary. What's yours?"

"Tad," the little boy answered shyly.

"We've been flying our airplanes. Do you have one?"

"No," replied Tad.

"Do you want to play with mine?" Gary asked.

Tad looked into Gary's eyes. "Your friends won't like it if you play with me. I heard the things they said."

"I'm sorry for the things they said," Gary answered. "Dad said that Jesus wanted to be friends with people who didn't have any friends. I love Jesus and I want to be like Him."

"I really believe you do love Jesus,"

Tad replied.

"Are you a Christian?" Gary asked.

"I guess not. I don't even know what a Christian is."

"A Christian is someone who loves Jesus and does things to please Him," Gary explained. "Would you like to go to Sunday school with me?"

Tad did go to Sunday school with Gary. He, too, learned to love Jesus.

—S.W.

Better Than Soap

"Look, Daddy," said Charles. "I have something black on my hands. I can't wash it off."

"That is tar," said Daddy. "I know what will take it off."

Daddy got a can of soft grease soap. "Rub this on your hands, Charles," he said.

Charles did and all the tar came off. "That is good. It is better than soap," he said.

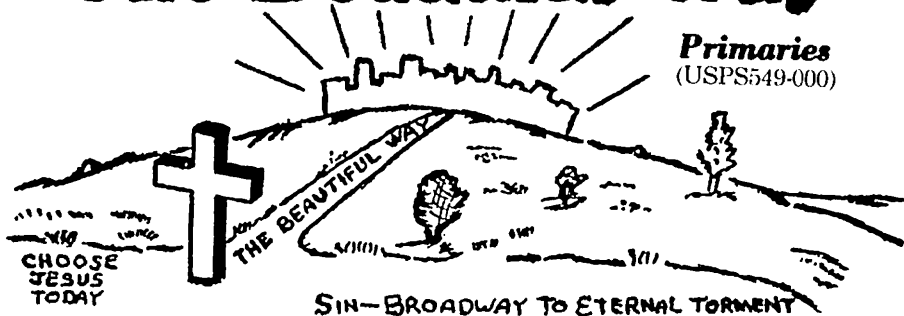
"Daddy said, 'Yes, Charles, it is good. But it cannot clean your heart. Jesus said that wrong words and wrong deeds come from a bad heart. There is only one way to get a clean heart. We must ask Jesus to be our Savior. He will take the bad things away.'"

Questions:

1. What other name was Bartholomew called?
2. Where was he when Jesus first saw him?
3. What was Matthew's other name?
4. What was Matthew's job?
5. Who did Matthew invite to supper?
6. Who does Jesus want to save?

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Part 21

May 23

THE DISCIPLE ANDREW

John 1:35-41; Matt. 4:18-20

One day John the Baptist was walking along with two of his disciples. One of the disciples was Andrew. Jesus walked by and John looked at Him and said, "Look! the Lamb of God!" Andrew and his friend looked at Jesus. "Let us follow Him," they said. As they followed Him, He turned around. "What do you want?" Jesus asked them. "Master, where do you live?" "Come and see." Andrew and his friend went with Jesus and spent the day.

Andrew was happy to be with Jesus. He went home and told his brother Peter about Jesus. "Peter," he said, "Come with me. I have found the Christ." Andrew took Peter to meet Jesus.

Now Andrew and Peter were fishermen. One day they were down at the sea fishing with nets. Jesus came by and called to them. "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Andrew and Peter followed Jesus. They liked to catch fish, but Jesus would help them to catch men for God. He meant that Andrew and Peter could help Him pull men out of the sea of sin. Andrew liked to lead people to God.

Memory Verse: Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. Matt. 4:19b.

A Disappointment

Eric yawned and turned over in his bed. The early morning light was creeping in at the edges of his curtain. Suddenly he threw back the covers and sprang out of bed.

Today was Saturday. Eric was going fishing with his friend Jeff and Jeff's father. Eric had looked forward to this day for a week. Yesterday evening he had gone to the barnyard and dug up plenty of worms and put them in a can of moist soil. He could hardly wait!

"Good morning, Mom," Eric said happily as he entered the cheery, yellow kitchen. "That bacon surely smells good. Maybe you can fry fish for supper."

"Eric," Mother said slowly, "your dad's helper cannot come to work today. The corn must be finished up since your dad has to leave town Monday. He cannot find anyone to help him. I'm afraid we're going to have to ask you to give up your fishing trip to help with the corn."

Eric's face fell. His eyes blurred with tears and his throat felt like it had cotton in it.

"But, Mom," he pleaded, "I haven't been fishing all spring. Jeff is counting on me to go."

"I know it means a lot to you, Eric. Your dad has tried to get someone else to work, but he can't find anyone," Mother explained.

Two tears slipped from the corners of Eric's eyes. He had looked forward to this day. Now it was to be a day of work instead of pleasure. The bright morning suddenly seemed dreary.

Just then Dad walked into the kitchen. One look at Eric's face told him what had taken place.

"Eric," Dad said as he pulled out a chair, "I will not make you give up your

fishing trip to help me. If your heart is not in helping me, you would probably not be much help anyway. I know how much you wanted to go fishing."

Eric thought about sitting on the creek-bank pulling in a nice fish. Then he thought of the work his father must do. It made him feel important to know his dad really needed him.

Eric brushed away the tears. "I guess Jeff won't catch all the fish today," he smiled. "There will still be some for another day."

Dad smiled and put his hand on Eric's shoulder. "Thanks, Son. I appreciate your sacrifice. And just for this, how would you like to go to St. Louis with me next week?"

Eric's face brightened. He had made a good choice.

—S. Whitson

-----o-----
"Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? . . . Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: . . . Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?" Matt. 6:26-30.

Questions:

- o-----
1. Who did John the Baptist call the "Lamb of God"?
 2. Did Andrew and his friend follow Jesus?
 3. Who did Andrew tell about Jesus?
 4. Did God make Andrew and Peter fishers of men?
 5. Does God want us to lead people to Him?

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Part 22

May 30

DOUBTING THOMAS

John 20:19-29

Jesus had been crucified and buried. It was now the first day of the week. The disciples were together. All the disciples were there but Thomas. Suddenly Jesus appeared right in the midst of them. Later the disciples told Thomas, "We have seen the Lord. He is alive." Thomas knew that Jesus had been put to death. He could not believe that He was alive. "I will not believe unless I put my finger in the nail prints in His hand. I must also put my hand in his side where He was pierced by the sword."

About a week later the disciples had met together again. This time Thomas was with them. The doors were closed. Again Jesus suddenly appeared before them. "Thomas, reach out your finger and feel the nail prints in my hand," Jesus said as He stretched out His hands toward Thomas. "Put your hand in this wound in my side." Thomas knew this was Jesus. "My Lord and my God!" He cried.

We have never seen Jesus with our eyes, but He wants us to believe in Him. We do not want to be a "doubting Thomas."

Memory Verse: Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed. John 20:29b

Trusting God

"Mamma, how do we know God hears us when we pray?" Timmy asked.

"Because the Bible tells us He hears us," Mother answered.

"But Kenny said he prayed for a new bicycle before his birthday and he didn't get it. He said he won't ever pray again. In fact, he said he didn't think there was a real God," Timmy told his mother.

"God doesn't always give us what we ask for because sometimes we may ask selfishly, Timmy. Also, God can see ahead and know if the thing we want will be good or bad for us," Mother explained. "Timmy, sometimes God plans to answer our prayer, but maybe it's not the right time. God knows just the best time to give us what we ask for. Can't you think of some times that God has answered your prayer?"

Timmy thought a minute. "Yes, last week I couldn't find my library book. I asked God to help me find it and He did. Oh, yes, I remember last winter when David was in that bad car accident. The doctors thought he would die, but I asked God to make him well and God did."

"I can think of many times that God has answered prayer. We must remember that God is to us like mothers and fathers are to their children," Mother said. "Sometimes you ask me for candy. Maybe I tell you to wait till after lunch. Sometimes I tell you 'no' because you have had too much already and I know more would not be good for you. That is the way God is. He wants to give us what is best for us."

"And I know you love me even if you don't give me candy every time I want it," Timmy said as he put his arms around his mother.

"We should always love God, too, Timmy, even if He doesn't always give us what we ask Him for," Mother said as she gave him a squeeze. —S.W.

An Airplane Ride

Bobby was going on his first airplane ride. He and his daddy were going to a big city beside the ocean. Mother went with them to the airport in the car. It was raining and a dark day.

"Can we fly in the rain?" Bobby wanted to know.

"Yes," answered Father. "This is just a little storm."

Bobby and his father got on the plane. The plane warmed up. Then they fastened their seat belts. Bobby was excited. Suddenly they began to taxi down the runway. They left the ground and flew into the clouds.

"Look, Daddy," exclaimed Bobby, "The sun is here. I thought it wasn't out today."

"It is always in the sky, Bobby," said Daddy. "Often it is hidden by the clouds. But it is always there."

Sometimes we might think that God is not with us. But He is like the sun. He is always there. He is with us in church, at home, and at school. We must never forget that God is always with us.

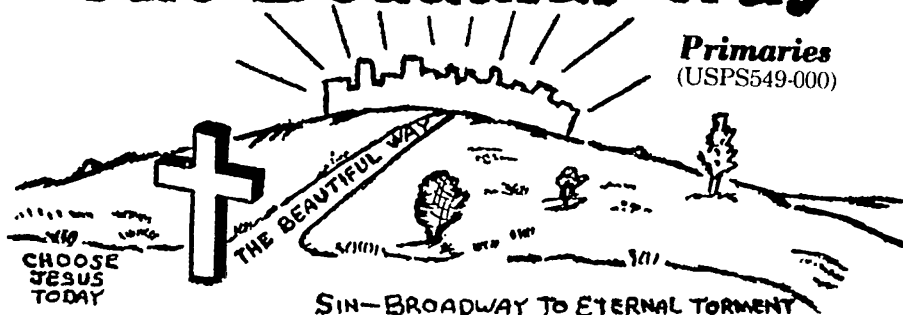
—Sel.

Questions:

1. Who appeared to the disciples?
2. Which disciple was not with them?
3. Did Thomas believe Jesus was alive?
4. When Thomas saw the nail prints in Jesus' hands did he believe then?
5. Does God want us to believe in Jesus although we've never seen Him?

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Part 23

June 6

THE BETRAYER JUDAS

Matt. 26:14-16, 47-50; Matt. 27:3-8

Jesus told His disciples, "One of you shall betray me." The disciples were shocked. "Is it I?" each one asked. When Judas Iscariot asked, "Is it I?" Jesus said, "Thou hast said it."

Judas Iscariot went to the chief priests. He told them he would lead them to Jesus when He was away from the crowds that often followed Him. The priests gave Judas thirty pieces of silver.

One night Judas led some soldiers to the place Jesus went to pray. The soldiers had swords and clubs. If Jesus would not come willingly, they would take Him by force. Judas went up to Jesus and kissed Him. That was the sign for the soldiers to know which one was Jesus.

After Jesus was tried and sentenced to death, Judas was sorry. He went to the chief priests. "I have betrayed an innocent man," Judas cried. "What do we care?" they sneered. Judas threw down the thirty pieces of silver. The priests bought some land with the money. They used the land as a cemetery. Judas felt wretched. He went out and hanged himself.

Memory Verse: Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil? John 6:70b

The Missing Purse

Cindy stood before the teacher. Her knees trembled and she batted her eyes trying to keep back the tears.

"I didn't take the purse," Cindy said.

"Well, how did it get in your desk?" Mrs. Mims asked.

"I-I don't know," she replied.

Mrs. Mims had left a coin purse filled with money on her desk. She left the room for a few minutes during recess. When she returned the purse was gone. She asked the children had anyone taken anything from her desk. All the children denied taking anything.

"Cindy and Susie were over at your desk," Jeff said.

Both girls denied having touched the purse. Mrs. Mims asked the children to look around the room for her little green purse.

"Hey, I see something green in Cindy's desk," one of the children said. It was the green change purse.

"Cindy, it is wrong to take things that don't belong to you. It is also wrong to tell a lie," Mrs. Mims said. "You must stay after school and clean the blackboards as punishment."

Cindy's lips trembled and she wiped away the falling tears. Everyone thought she was a thief, even her best friend Susie would not sit by her at lunch.

School was over and Cindy was cleaning the blackboards. At first she had felt miserable and cried a little. As she worked though, she began to sing.

"Cindy," a trembling voice said behind her.

Cindy turned and saw Susie standing there with tears in her eyes. Suddenly Susie burst into tears. "I'm sorry, Cindy. I-I'm the one who took the purse. I only wanted to look at the shiny beads. But

Mrs. Mims came in while I had it and I got scared. I stuck it in your desk. Please forgive me."

Cindy stood and looked at Susie a moment. She felt sorry for the girl. Cindy walked over and put her arms around Susie. "That's all right, Susie. I forgive you."

"I will tell Mrs. Mims and the class I-I did it," she said as she dried her tears. "I guess I'm not your friend anymore, am I?"

"Yes," Cindy said. "You are still my friend because you are sorry for what you did. You've asked me to forgive you and I have."

Both girls smiled and hugged each other.

—Sandra Whitson

Prayer

Did you ever notice that everything seems to go right when you talk things over with God at night before you go to sleep? Praying at bedtime is the perfect quiet way to end your busy day. God gives you His special blessing that makes you forget your troubles and tired feelings.

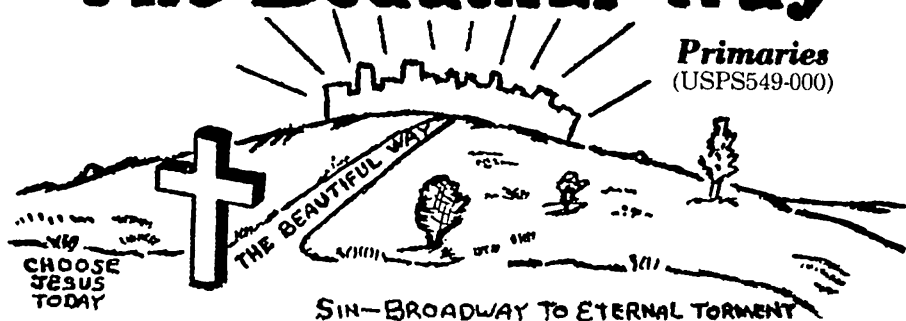
Well, why wait so many hours for night? Try talking to God in the morning if you have been forgetting this special time. Just take a few minutes to invite God to go with you to school or play before you leave your bedroom. God will help you through the day. —Sel.

Questions:

1. What did the disciples ask when Jesus told them one would betray Him?
2. Which disciple did betray Jesus?
3. How much money was Judas given?
4. What was the money finally used for?
5. What happened to Judas?

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Part 24

June 13

THE DISCIPLE PETER

Matt. 26:31-34; 69-75

One night Jesus told His disciples. "This very night all of you will be offended because of me." Peter spoke up, "Though all men may be offended because of you, I will not!" "Peter," Jesus said, "Before the cock crows at morning you will deny me three times."

That night Jesus and His disciples went to a garden to pray. They saw a group of men coming with torches. It was soldiers with swords and clubs. The soldiers were coming to take Jesus. Peter would protect Jesus. He drew his sword and swung it at the soldiers, cutting off one of the soldier's ears. But Jesus did not want to fight. He told Peter to put up his sword.

The soldiers took Jesus to the palace. Peter sat outside the palace and a woman came to him saying, "Weren't you with Jesus?" Peter was afraid. "No!" he exclaimed. He went out on the porch. Another woman said, "This man was also with Jesus." Peter spoke loudly, "I don't even know the man." Later Peter denied knowing Jesus a third time. Then the cock crew. Jesus looked at Peter. Peter was sad and went out and wept.

Memory Verse: Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. Matt. 26:34b.

Standing Up for Jesus

"Only sissies go to Sunday school," jeered Jerry. "That's just a place for babies."

"Yea," boasted Sammy, "we have better things to do than that. You guys don't go to Sunday school, do you?"

The other three boys stood listening to the jeering remarks. Two of the boys looked rather embarrassed, and shuffled their feet uncomfortably. But Brandon spoke up: "I go to Sunday school *and* church, and I like to go."

"He likes to go! Did you hear that, guys? You probably go because your mother makes you," Jerry said.

"Sure, Mother wants me to go, but I would want to go anyway. I used to say and do bad things, but when I went to Sunday school I learned of how Jesus can change one's life. At first I thought it was only the 'softies' who went to Sunday school. But I realized it's the cowards that don't go," Brandon explained. "I used to be such a coward that I would lie to get out of trouble. But after learning about Jesus and letting Him help me, I am strong enough to stand up for the truth."

"Ar-are you calling us cowards?" said Sammy puffing up his chest and doubling up his fists.

"I'm not calling you anything," Brandon replied. "I'm saying that cowards are afraid of the truth. And in Sunday school we learn what truth is."

Sammy looked over at Jerry. "We ought to lay him out for that," said Sammy.

Jerry looked somewhat abashed. "Aw, leave them alone," he said.

Sammy dropped his fists. His daring fell away when he saw that Jerry would not back him up.

"How would you fellows like to go to Sunday school and see what I mean?" Brandon asked.

"I guess I could go one time maybe," said Jerry.

"That will be great," replied Brandon. "We'll come by for you Sunday morning."

—Sandra Whitson

Happy children are those who are willing to obey their mother, father, teachers, and other grown people who know best.



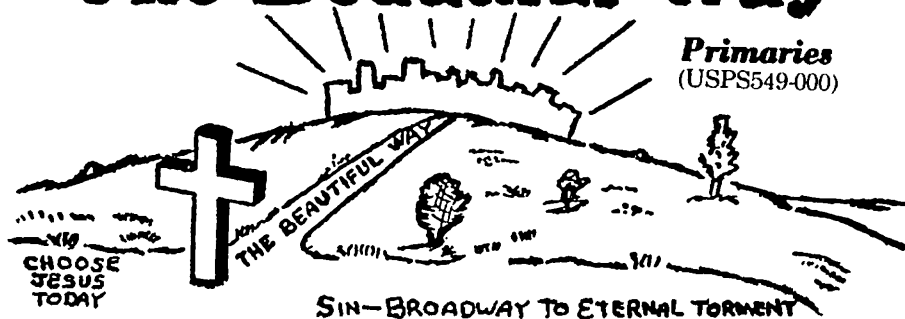
Peter wept
bitterly.

Questions:

1. Did Peter think he would deny knowing Jesus?
2. What did Peter do when the soldiers came to take Jesus?
3. Did Jesus want to fight?
4. How many times did Peter deny Jesus?
5. What happened after the third time he denied Jesus?

The Beautiful Way

Primaries
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Part 25

June 20

A CHANGED PETER

Acts 3:1-7; Acts 4:13-20

Peter and John were going to the temple to pray. Just as they entered the gate, there lay a crippled man. The man was begging for money. Peter told him, "I do not have any silver or gold, but what I have I will give you. In the name of Jesus rise up and walk." Peter took the man by his hand and lifted him to his feet. The man stood up and then began to walk. He was very happy.

The rulers and priests brought Peter and John before them. "In whose name do you work these miracles?" they asked the two men. "In the name of Jesus, whom you crucified," Peter replied. Then Peter boldly told them about Jesus. The rulers were amazed. They knew that Peter was not a well educated man, but he spoke as one with great learning. "You must not preach in the name of Jesus anymore," the rulers said. Peter replied, "Is it better to do what you want or what God wants? We cannot keep from telling the things we know to be true."

One time Peter had denied knowing Jesus because he was afraid. Now he had the Holy Spirit to make him strong.

Memory Verse: Then Peter . . . said, We ought to obey God rather than men. Acts 5:29.

A Protective Father

Barry and Marc were playing marbles on the sidewalk. Marc had a new bag of beautiful cat's eye marbles. He gave half of his marbles to Barry.

Suddenly they heard a noise in the cedar tree nearby. A bird was crying shrilly and darting in and out of the branches of the tree.

"Hey, look at that bird," said Barry. "He's really excited about something."

"He acts kind of wild, I think," said Marc.

Barry walked over closer to watch the bird. Marc sat down on the sidewalk and looked up at the tree.

"Hey, Marc, come here," called Barry. "Look! there's a bird's nest high up there in the tree. I can see a bird in it."

Marc's eyes looked up where Barry's finger pointed. Just then three little fuzzy heads popped up inside the nest. "That must be the mamma bird and her babies in the nest," said Marc. "But what is that other bird trying to do?"

The bird seemed to cry more loudly and to dart faster and faster in and out of the branches.

Barry's father stepped up behind the boys. He had been sitting in a lawn chair reading the newspaper. "I imagine that is the father bird, and he must sense some danger to the Mother bird and young birds," Father commented. He stood looking up into the tree.

"Yes, there is the danger," Father said. "Do you see what the bird is after?"

The boys looked intently into the tree. Suddenly the bird darted into the branches and back out. Something fell down through the branches to the ground.

"Oh, a snake!" exclaimed Barry.

"Yes," said Father. "The snake was trying to reach the baby birds. The father bird protected his family."

Barry reached over and took his father's hand and held it against his cheek. "I'm glad I, too, have my father to protect me."

Father smiled. "God gave fathers a special place in the family—to lead and protect it. Even animal fathers protect their family." —S. Whitson

A Wish

I wish that our mother could take us
Where Jesus walks by the sea,
And that He could say as He once did:
"Let the little ones come unto Me."
I wish I could feel the gentle
Touch of His hands and hear
The blessing He gave to the children
Who once were gathered near.

I said this to my mother,
And she said that she wished so, too,
But she said that in her praying
She brought us, and He could do
For us as He did for those others
Who followed Him on earth's way;
That He sees us waiting, and loves us,
And can bless us as well today.

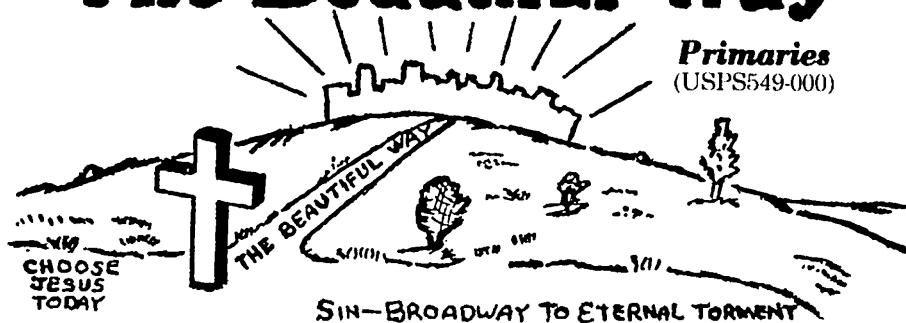
—Sel.

Questions:

1. a. Who did Peter and John see at the temple gate?
2. What did the man want?
3. What did Peter do for the man?
4. Did the rulers tell Peter not to preach in the name of Jesus?
5. Who did Peter say he should obey rather than men?

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Part 26

June 27

STEPHEN, THE MARTYR

Acts 6 and 7

The apostles were busy telling people about Jesus. They needed someone to distribute food and clothing to the people. Stephen was one of the men chosen for this. He was a man full of faith and who had much power with God.

One day some men of the synagogue began to disagree with Stephen. They took him before a group of elders and scribes. The people lied against Stephen. Stephen talked to the men. He told them of the promises of God to Abraham. He told them of how the Israelites had time and again turned against God. "You are just like your fathers who persecuted and killed the prophets," Stephen told them. This made them very angry. They came upon Stephen hitting and biting him. Stephen looked up. "I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God," he said. This made the men even angrier. They dragged Stephen out of the city. They began to pound him with rocks. Stephen fell to his knees. "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit," he cried, "and lay not this sin to their charge."

Memory Verse: And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people. Acts 6:8.

Where Is Heaven?

"Mommy, where does God live?" Jay asked as he came into the kitchen where his mother was baking cookies.

"God lives in heaven," Mother said.

"But where is heaven? If it's in the sky why can I see birds up there, but I can't see God?"

"Jay, the Bible says there are different kinds of bodies. The kind of body that we have and that birds have is an earthly body. We can see and touch earthly bodies," Mother explained. "But God has a heavenly body and we cannot see and touch it. Heaven is in the sky but we cannot see it because it can only be seen by heavenly bodies."

"Will we ever see God, then," Jay asked.

"Yes," Mother replied. "Someday we will have a heavenly body and then we can see God and Jesus. One time a man looked up and he saw heaven."

"Who was it?" Jay asked.

"It was a man named Stephen. He tried to tell the people that Jesus could help them if they would turn from their wicked ways. They got angry at Stephen and began to hit him with rocks. Stephen looked up into the sky. He saw God sitting on His throne and Jesus standing beside Him."

"But how could he see God if he was in an earthly body?" asked Jay.

"God was about to take Stephen out of his earthly body, so He gave Stephen heavenly eyesight," Mother said. "And although we do not see God as Stephen did, God is still there."

"Is Jesus still there, too?"

"Yes, Jay, Jesus is in heaven with God right now."

"I'll be glad to get a heavenly body some day and see Jesus." —S. W.

Do What You Can

A poor old woman in China had been saved, but she seemed to be unwilling to be baptized. Someone asked her, "Why will you not be baptized?" She replied, "You know Jesus said to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature, baptizing them. I am an old woman and I cannot go to all the world. I may be able to go to the next village but no more. Do you think Jesus will be willing for me to be baptized when I can do no more?" They told her that He would. Then she was baptized. Just do all you can. —Sel.



Questions:

1. Who was chosen to distribute food and clothing?
2. Did the people lie against Stephen?
3. What did Stephen see when he looked into heaven?
4. What did the people do to Stephen?
5. Did Stephen want God to punish the ones stoning him?