

The Beautiful Way

Primaries
(USPS549-000)



Vol. 33, No. 3

July, August, September, 1982

Part 14

July 4

SAUL SEES THE LIGHT

Acts 9:1-8

After Jesus was crucified and raised from the dead, His disciples went about telling others about Him. The people who turned from their sins and believed in Jesus were called Christians. Saul believed in God, but he did not believe in Jesus. He had many Christians beaten or put into prison.

One day Saul was going to the city of Damascus. He was on his way to get some Christians to put in prison. As he and some men were going along, suddenly a very bright light shined down from heaven. Saul fell to the ground. A Voice said, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" Saul was afraid. "Who art thou, Lord?" he asked. The Voice said, "I am Jesus, whom you persecute. It is hard for you to kick against the pricks." Saul replied, "Lord, what will you have me to do?" The Lord said, "Go into Damascus and I will tell you what to do." The men could hear the voice but could see no one. The light had blinded Saul's eyes. The men led Saul into the city. For three days Saul could see nothing.

Mem. Verse: Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. Isa. 60:1.

God's Light

"Marc, did you feed the dogs when I told you to?" Mother asked.

"Oh," Marc said as he clapped his hands over his mouth. "I forgot."

"You must go feed them now."

"But, Mom, it's dark outside. I can't see where their dish is," Marc complained.

"You should have fed them when I first told you to. It was light then," Mother said. She opened a drawer and took out a flashlight. "Here, you may use your daddy's flashlight to light your way."

Marc took the light and went outside to feed the dogs. In a few minutes he returned.

"Mom, when I was outside the flashlight made a bright path for me to walk in. I turned the light off once, and I couldn't see anything. I was scared of the dark. But Daddy's flashlight is bright and I was not afraid with it shining."

"Did you know that God has a light that is brighter than the flashlight?" Mother asked.

"He does?" Marc asked surprised. "Oh, you mean the sun, don't you?"

"The sun is a light God made, but I mean a different kind of light," Mother explained. "Just as the flashlight made a path through the darkness for you to walk in, God's light shows us how to walk through this wicked world. Sin is dark. There is a lot of sin in the world. It starts in people's hearts. Lying, cheating, stealing, saying bad words, and treating people unkindly are some of the sins of darkness. Many people stumble around in the darkness of sin all their lives. God's light is called *truth*. He shines it into people's hearts, so they

will know how to keep away from the darkness of sin."

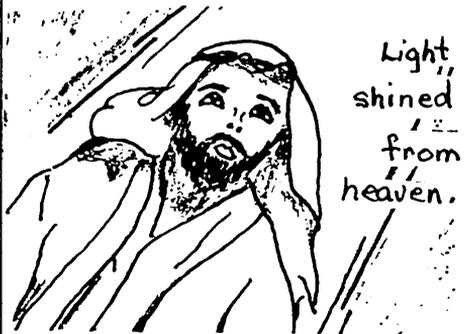
"If God shines His light of truth, why doesn't everyone walk in it?" Marc asked.

"Just as you turned off your flashlight, some people turn off the light of truth," she said. "They will not listen to the minister preach and they will not read God's Word to try to find His light. They think they can make it all right in the dark."

"I nearly fell in a hole when I was in the dark," Marc said. "Those people might fall, too."

"Yes, many people fall into holes that the devil has made, and they never get out. We must be careful to pray, read the Bible, and listen to the minister so we can follow the light of truth."

—Sandra Whitson



Questions:

1. Did Saul believe in Jesus?
2. What did Saul do to the Christians?
3. What shined down on Saul from heaven?
4. What did the voice tell him to do? Whose voice was it?
5. What did the light do to Saul's eyes?

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Part 15

July 11

ANANIAS SENT TO SAUL

Acts 9:10-22

After the bright light of God shined down on Saul, he could not see. For three days Saul fasted, or did not eat any food. During those three days Saul prayed to God. He wanted to do God's will.

There was a Christian man in Damascus named Ananias. God appeared to Ananias in a vision. "Ananias," God said, "I want you to go to the street called *Straight* and the house of Judas. There is a man named Saul there. I want you to touch his eyes that he may receive his sight." Ananias couldn't understand why God would send him to Saul. "But, Lord," he said, "this man has done much harm to the Christians. He came here to put some in prison." God said, "Go and do as I tell you. I have chosen Saul to tell others about me. He will suffer many things for my name's sake."

Ananias went to the street called *Straight*. He found Saul and put his hands upon him. "Brother Saul," Ananias said, "the Lord has sent me that you might receive your sight and also the Holy Spirit." Saul could see again.

Mem. Verse: But blessed are your eyes, for they see. Matt. 13:16a.

A Changed Man

"Jerry, do you know who was at church today?" asked Eddie. "Bob Miller and his dad!"

"Really!" exclaimed Jerry. "What were they doing there, trying to crash the meeting?"

"That's what I thought at first," said Eddie, "but Mr. Miller stood up and testified. He said that he knew he had been a wicked man and had not taken care of his family. He said he knew also that he had been a poor example for his children to follow. Mr. Miller said that a few nights before when he had been drunk, he got hit by a car. When he sobered up, he realized that he could have been killed. He knew that the only way he could straighten up and live right was if God would save him. He said he begged God to forgive him for all the wicked things he had done. He said God forgave him and cleaned up his life. He said he doesn't even want liquor any more."

"Do you think he really means it?" asked Jerry. "He's been a drunkard for years, and even sometimes beats his children and wife."

"I thought about that, too. But Daddy said we must try to encourage him to live for God. He said that time will tell if he really means to live for the Lord," said Eddie.

"If he stays sober over a week, I'll believe God really has changed him," Jerry commented.

"Daddy said that God likes to clean up the most wicked people so others can see the power of God."

For the next few months people watched Mr. Miller closely. He did not go to the bar at night as he had for years. He went home at night to be with

his family. He was able to keep a good job and provide for his family's needs. Before, he would often get fired from jobs because of going to work drunk. And often his family had worn ragged clothes and didn't have enough to eat because he spent the money for liquor. But now his life was different. His life proved that God had saved him and changed his life. —S.W.

God Cares for Us

God who made the sunshine
And drops of pearly dew,
Who made the bright blue heaven,
Takes care of me and you.

And God who made the starlight,
The grass and flowers so fair,
Who gives the golden moonbeams,
Gives us His tender care.

—Sel.



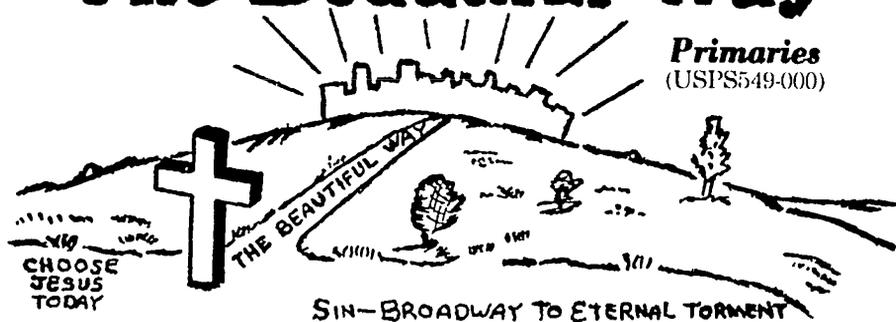
Ananias laid his
hands on Saul.

Questions:

1. What did Saul do the three days he couldn't see?
2. What man did God send to heal Saul?
3. Did Ananias at first want to go to Saul?
4. Did Ananias do as God told him?
5. Was Saul chosen to work for God?

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Part 16

July 18

SAUL ESCAPES FROM HIS ENEMIES

Acts 9:23-30

After Saul became a Christian, he wanted to tell others what Jesus had done for him. He told the people of the bright light that had shined down from heaven and how God had spoken to him. He told the people how God had opened his eyes after being blind for three days. He went all about the town of Damascus preaching and talking about Jesus.

Some of the Jews did not believe that Jesus was the Son of God. Saul told of many wonderful and miraculous things that Jesus did. The Jews could not dispute the things Saul said. They did not want others to believe in Jesus. They decided to kill Saul.

There was a high wall all around the city. To enter or leave one must go through one of the gates. The Jews put guards at each gate. They would kill Saul when he left the city.

Saul found out that the Jews were plotting to take his life. The disciples tied a rope to a big basket. Saul got in the basket and they let him down over the walls of the city. God helped Saul to escape from his enemies.

Memory Verse: Then the disciples . . . let him down by the wall in a basket. Acts 9:25.

A Protective Basket

Rodney stood beside the basket that had tiny pink and blue ribbons all over it. He smiled as he looked at his new baby sister.

"She doesn't really look like a girl," Rodney said to his mother. "She doesn't have as much hair as I do."

Mother smiled. "She doesn't have much hair now, but as she grows, her hair will grow, too."

"Does she have teeth?" Rodney asked.

"No, but someday she will get teeth. Right now she's too little to chew food, so she doesn't need teeth," Mother explained.

"Why don't we call her 'Moses' since she sleeps in a basket," Rodney said running his hands over the basket and smoothing out the bows. "Our Sunday school teacher told us about baby Moses sleeping in a basket."

"Do you remember why Moses was put in the basket?" Mother asked.

"Yes. The ruler said that all boy babies were to be killed. So Moses' mother put him in the basket and let him float down the river."

"That's right," said Mother. "Moses was found by a princess and she took him as her own child. The basket helped him escape being killed."

"You know what, Mother?" Rodney asked. "The teacher told us a story of another man who was saved from death by hiding in a basket. Do you know who it was?"

Mother put her finger to her forehead and pretended to think without getting an answer. "Who was it?" she asked.

"It was a man named Saul. Some men wanted to kill him as he left the city. So they watched by the gates. His friends put him in a big basket and let him

down over the city wall with a rope. The basket kept him from being killed, too."

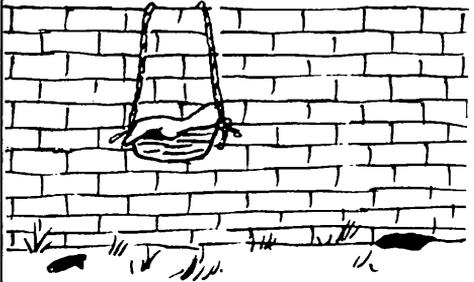
"I'm glad you remember the Bible stories, Rodney," Mother said. "We will think of the baby's basket as being protection for her, too."

"No one wants to hurt her, though," Rodney said.

"That is true," said Mother, "but the sides of the basket keep her from rolling out onto the hard floor. That would hurt her."

Rodney smiled. "I'm glad we can help protect our little baby." —S.W.

God did not ask us to give Him our heads, our hands, nor our feet, but He wants us to give Him our hearts. The secret is that when you give Him your heart, He also has your head, hands, and feet.



Questions:

1. Did Saul tell others about Jesus?
2. Did the Jews want to kill him?
3. Where did the Jews wait to kill Saul?
4. How did Saul get out of the city?
5. Does God protect us from our enemies?

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Part 17

July 25

PAUL PREACHES TO THE GENTILES

Acts 13:42-52

Do you remember of hearing stories about the Israelites? These were the people God chose through whom to show forth His miracles and to one day bring the birth of a Savior into the world. In the New Testament the Israelites were called Jews.

We have been studying how God chose Saul to preach the gospel. Saul was also called Paul, meaning of little stature. We do not know how tall Paul was, but perhaps he was a small man.

One day Paul and Barnabas went into the synagogue to preach. The synagogue was filled with Jews. Paul preached about Jesus, but most of the Jews were not interested. The Gentiles, or sinners, wanted Paul to preach to them. So the next week nearly the whole city gathered to hear Paul preach. Paul told the Gentiles that through Jesus they could be saved as well as the Jews. This made the Jews jealous. They did not want God to love anyone but the Jews. They tried to make Paul and Barnabas quit preaching. Paul and Barnabas had to go to other cities to preach. Paul and Barnabas wanted everyone to come to Jesus.

Mem. Verse: For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. Rom. 10:13.

Gifts for Mother

Cindy picked a beautiful bouquet of wild flowers and took them to Mother. Mother was very happy to get the flowers.

"That was sweet of you, Cindy, to pick the flowers for me," Mother said smiling. "I will put them in this vase and set it on the table. The flowers will brighten up the house."

Cindy was glad that Mother liked the flowers.

Just then Harold came into the house holding something behind his back.

"Do you see the pretty flowers I picked for Mother?" Cindy said with her head held high.

"They are pretty," remarked Harold. "I have something for you, too, Mother."

He brought out a little plaque from behind his back. He put the plaque in Mother's hands.

"If I searched the world around
There would never be another
Who would mean so much to me
As my own precious Mother,"
Mother read. "Why Harold this is very sweet."

"I'm glad you like it. Daddy helped me write the verse, but I painted the letters and roses myself," Harold explained.

"I have two very dear children," Mother said as she put an arm around each of her children and drew them to her.

Cindy pulled away. She seemed to be pouting. "You like Harold's plaque more than my flowers because it took more work."

"Why, Cindy, I like the plaque *and* the flowers. I can enjoy both of them," Mother said.

"You can throw away my flowers," said Cindy.

"Cindy, you have a poor attitude. God does not want you to be jealous, and I do not want you to be jealous," Mother said. "Jealousy only makes people unhappy, the way you are unhappy right now. I love *both* of you, even if you never gave me a gift. The thing that makes me really love you is when you are good and try to please God. That makes me happier than any gift."

Cindy hung her head. "I'm sorry, Mother. I don't want to be jealous. I'm glad we both had something to give you."

"Cindy," Harold said, "do you want to help me make a plaque for Daddy? We can work on it together."

"Oh, Harold," Cindy cried and clapped her hands. "That will be nice!" Cindy then hugged her mother. "I love you, Mother, and I'm glad you like Harold's and my gifts."

—Sandra Whitson

THE BIBLE FOR ALL

Myra listens as her daddy reads the Bible to her.

Many other children, some in our country and some far away, also need to hear about the Lord Jesus. Will you help them to hear about Him?

Questions:

1. What was another name for the Israelites?
2. Did Paul first preach the gospel to the Jews? Did they believe what he preached?
3. Who wanted Paul to preach to them?
4. Were the Jews jealous?
5. Who can be saved?

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Part 18

August 1

PAUL PROCLAIMED A GOD

Acts 14:8-20

Paul and Barnabas came into the city of Lystra. They began to tell the people about Jesus. There was a man who had been crippled from birth. He had faith that God would heal him. Paul told the crippled man to stand up. The man stood up, walked, and began to leap. All the people were astonished. They thought that Paul had so much power that he must be a god.

Now the people in the city of Lystra did not know there was only one real God. They thought there were many gods. They thought there was one god of the moon, one god of the sun, and one of the stars, plus many, many others. "These men are gods in human form," the people cried one to another. "Let us sacrifice to these gods," the priest told the people. The people brought oxen to sacrifice to Paul and Barnabas.

Paul and Barnabas ran in among the people. "Do not sacrifice to us," they cried. "We are not gods. We are only men as you are. There is only one God. It is He who made the heavens and the earth." Paul told them all about God.

Mem. Verse: For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus. 1 Tim. 2:5.

How Big Is God?

"Daddy, how big is God?" Dana asked one day.

"Well, He's big enough to see everything that goes on in the world," Daddy said. "He sees the people here in Oklahoma, He sees the people in West Virginia, and also the people in Japan and China. He is so great He can see us all at the same time."

Dana thought a moment. "But how can one person see everywhere at the same time?" she asked.

"Dana, there is only one sun, yet the same time it is shining into your bedroom, it is shining into millions of other bedrooms. The sun is giving light to a lot of people in different places at the same time," Daddy explained. "God does not have a human body like you and I. We can only see so far. But God is a spirit and He sees everywhere."

"Can God hear more than one person pray at the same time?"

"Yes," said Daddy. "God's ears are like His eyes. He can hear people all over the world at the same time. When you are praying beside your bed, there may be hundreds of other children kneeling beside their beds praying to God. But God hears each one who is praying. He can also answer all the prayers, and He remembers what each one asked for."

"God must surely stay busy," said Dana.

"Yes, I'm sure God is busy," replied Daddy. "It is somewhat hard for us to understand how God can do so much at one time. We are people and think as people think. But God is a far greater being than people. He is not limited in seeing, hearing, remembering, and other

such things as we are."

"I'm glad God is so big," said Dana. "He is big enough to help me the same time He is helping others. I don't have to wait in line for Him to help me."

—S.W.

Left Her to God

Over in West Africa there was a school full of boys and girls. Some missionaries had gathered them together and were teaching them to read and write. One day one of the girls hit one of her schoolmates. When the teacher found out about it, she asked the girl who was hit, "Did you strike her back?"

The girl answered, "No."

"What did you do?" the teacher asked.

"I left her to God," the girl answered.

Do you hit back—or leave the folks who hurt you, to God?

Easily Broken

A small girl was once punished for wrong-doing. She said, "Oh, those commandments do break so easily!"

It is very easy to sin. That is the reason we should ask Jesus every morning to keep us from sinning through the day.

Questions:

1. What happened to the crippled man?
2. How many gods did the people believe in?
3. Did they think Paul and Barnabas were gods?
4. What were the people going to do with the oxen?
5. Did Paul tell them about the one true God?

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Part 19

August 8

PAUL IN PRISON

Acts 16:16-33

There are people in the world who can do strange things considered to be witchcraft. This power is of the devil. When Paul and Silas were in a certain city, a girl who had the power of witchcraft kept following them wherever they went. Paul grew tired of having the girl follow them about. Paul turned to her and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command thee to come out of her." The evil spirit left. The girl was happy to be free from the power of the spirit, but her masters were angry. She had brought in much money for them through witchcraft. The men had Paul and Silas thrown into jail.

That night they were praying and singing to God. Suddenly the jail shook from an earthquake and the prison doors swung open. The chains fell off their feet. The guard was scared that the prisoners had escaped. He was about to take his own life. Paul said, "Do not harm yourself. No one has escaped." The man feared God and wanted to be saved. Paul talked to the guard about the Lord. He became a Christian that night.

Mem. Verse: And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. Acts 16:26a

Singing the Hurt Away

Rita and Richard were so excited that they could hardly go to sleep.

"Now go to sleep and when you wake up in the morning I will have a picnic lunch all ready to take to the zoo," Mother said as she tucked the children into bed.

The next morning the children woke up without being called.

"I hope we have some peanuts to feed the monkeys," Richard said as he stooped down to get his shoes.

"Yes, and I think Mother said she would pop some pop-corn to take to feed the ducks," said Rita as she started combing her hair.

Just then Mother came into the room. A sad look clouded her face as she looked at the happy faces of her children.

"Children, I'm sorry, but we can't go to the zoo today because it is raining."

The children looked up at Mother, and listened. Sure enough, they could hear the rain as it beat against the window. They had been too excited to notice it before. The happy smiles were replaced by looks of gloom.

A tear slipped from Rita's eye. "Why did it have to rain *today*?" she whimpered.

The children were very disappointed, so Mother promised to take them to the zoo the following Friday if the weather was nice. But the children still seemed to be downcast and gloomy.

"I know we like the sunshine, and sometimes the rain spoils our plans, but we do need the rain," Mother said. "I know what we can do. We can sing some songs about rain. Let's see how many songs we can think of."

Mother started singing, "*The wise man built his house upon the rock. The*

wise man built his house upon the rock. The wise man built his house upon the rock, and the rains came tumbling down."

Very soon the children began to sing along and they did the hand motions, too.

"I know one," said Rita, and she started singing, "*There shall be showers of blessings. Showers of blessings we need. . . .*"

The children thought of many songs about rain. Then they tried to see how many songs they could sing about sunshine. Their singing cheered their hearts and drove the hurt away.

—Sandra Whitson



Questions:

1. What power did the girl in our lesson have?
2. Did Paul cast the evil spirit out of her?
3. What did her masters have done to Paul and Silas?
4. What happened when the earthquake shook the prison?
5. Did the guard become a Christian?

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Part 20

August 15

BELIEVERS RECEIVE HOLY GHOST

Acts 18:24-19:12

One day Paul went to the city of Ephesus. There he found some people who believed in Christ. Paul began to talk with them. "Have you received the Holy Ghost since you believed?" he asked the Christians. "The Holy Ghost? We've never even heard if there be such a thing," they told Paul. "Have you been baptized?" Paul asked. They told Paul they had. "Unto what then were you baptized?" They said, "Unto John's baptism." Paul told the people that John only prepared men's hearts to receive Jesus, but that Jesus was the One who could cleanse sins. Jesus had told His disciples to baptize "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." Paul baptized the people. Then Paul laid his hand on them and they received the Holy Ghost.

Before Jesus died, He had told His disciples that He would send the Holy Ghost to comfort them. The Holy Ghost would also teach them the truth. Today after people are saved Jesus wants them to let the Holy Ghost come into their hearts. This is called *sanctification*.

Mem. Verse: But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you. Acts 1:8a.

Learning About The Holy Ghost

"Mother, when Bro. Smith was baptizing the people today, he said, 'I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.' What did he mean?" asked Brent.

"The Father is God, and the Son is Jesus, and the Holy Ghost is the Holy Spirit," Mother explained.

Brent thought a moment. "I know about God and about Jesus, but who is the Holy Ghost?"

"The Holy Ghost is a Spirit sent from God to live in the hearts of Christians," Mother said. "The Holy Ghost is actually part of God Himself."

"Does everybody have the Holy Ghost?" Brent asked.

"No," replied Mother. "A person must first repent of his sins and believe in Jesus. Then he devotes his life to God and the Holy Spirit comes into his heart."

"What does the Holy Spirit do?"

"The Holy Spirit teaches one the way to live for God. Do you remember the stories of Abraham and of Noah?" Mother asked.

"Yes, I remember," Brent answered.

"Well, God Himself used to talk to Abraham and Noah and others. But God wanted a way not just to talk with people, but to live inside them. The Holy Spirit lives inside a person and gives him power to keep from doing wrong. It gives a person power to stand up for the truth, even when there are enemies around."

"I always thought it would have been nice to have been Noah and have God talk to me. But I guess it's better to have God's spirit living in you all the time."

"Yes, we should be very thankful that we live at the time we do. We can enjoy some good things from God that thousands of years ago the people could not enjoy."
—S.W.

If you can't get what you want, want what you can get.

God will show you what He wants you to do if you read the Bible. It will please Him when you obey.

If you go about looking for happiness, you are certain to miss it. If you try to give happiness to others, some of it is sure to rub off on you.

No "If" In It

A young girl was asked how she became a Christian. She said she read in the Bible about the leper who said, "Lord, if thou wilt, Thou canst make me clean." Jesus put forth His hand and touched him and said, "I will, be thou clean."

The girl said she noticed there was an *if* in what the leper said, but no *if* in what Jesus said. "So I knelt down and prayed," she said. "I took out the *if*. I said, 'Lord Jesus, You can, You will, make me clean.' And Jesus took me just as I was."
—Sel.

Questions:

1. Unto whose baptism had the people been baptized?
2. In whose name did Paul baptize the people?
3. Did the people know about the Holy Ghost?
4. What will the Holy Ghost do for a person?
5. Does God give people the Holy Ghost today?

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Part 21

August 22

PAUL STIRS UP MAKERS OF IDOLS

Acts 19:24-41

Paul was preaching in the city of Ephesus. Many people there worshipped the goddess Diana. Diana was just a statue made by man, but people bowed down and prayed to it. They bought little statues, or shrines, of the goddess to put in their homes. When Paul told them about the one true God, many people took the statues out of their homes and would buy no more.

The men who made and sold these statues, saw they were losing their customers because of Paul and the men with him. They began to go throughout the city shouting, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians!" They stirred up the people against Paul. The mob took two of Paul's friends to harm them. The townclerk said, "Leave the men alone. We know that we worship Diana, and no matter what anyone says, her power is real. These men have broken no law, and you may be in trouble for causing this uproar." The mob let the men go.

Many places that Paul preached, the people were stirred. But God took care of Paul wherever he went.

Memory Verse: God . . . dwelleth not in temples made with hands. Acts 17:24.

The Second Commandment

Jamie was learning the ten commandments. She had been studying them all week. Finally she had learned all ten of them and recited them to Mother.

"That's good," Mother said, "you have learned them well."

Jamie clapped her hands for joy. "Now I can say them in Sunday school class."

She took her list from Mother and looked it over again.

"Mother, what does this mean, 'Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image'? What is a *graven image*?"

"A graven image is something that someone makes, such as a statue of wood, clay, or metal," Mother said.

"But what's wrong with making statues? There is one in the park of George Washington. Did whoever make that break one of the commandments?" Jamie asked.

"No, that is not what God was talking about. At that time, and even sometimes today, people made statues, or images, and bowed down and prayed to them. They thought the statues could answer their prayers."

"That sounds silly," Jamie said. "People should know that a statue can't hear."

"And a statue cannot answer prayer and grant desires, either," Mother explained. "God does not want people to pray to things that man makes. God wants us to pray only to Him."

"You said that sometimes people today still pray to images. Do they not know about God?" Jamie asked.

"In some places in the world, Jamie,

people do not know much about God. They have never read the Bible, nor have they had ministers to preach to them about Jesus," Mother said. "But there are other places that people continue to worship the images, even after hearing about God. God wants us to tell these people who worship images about Him, so they will be responsible for their wrongdoing."

"I'm glad I know about God. I like to pray to Him, because He hears me," Jamie said. —S.W.



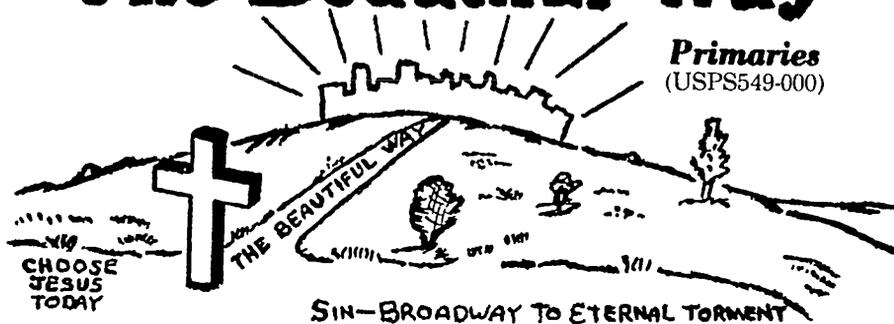
The people worshipped Diana.

Questions:

1. What goddess did the people of Ephesus worship?
2. Did Paul tell the people about the one true God?
3. Did some of them believe Paul?
4. Why were the men who made the shrines upset?
5. Can a man-made statue answer prayer?

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Part 22

August 29

PAUL IS TAKEN PRISONER

Acts 21:27-33; 23:11-24; 24:24, 25

When Paul was in Jerusalem, a number of Jews stirred up the people against him. They said that Paul taught the people against the law of Moses. They said that he defiled the temple when he brought in a Greek, but this was not true. He was with a Greek in the city, but he did not take the man into the temple. The chief captain heard the uproar and had Paul bound with chains. It seems that the enraged Jews wanted Paul to be killed. But Paul was a Roman. Therefore the Jews could not kill him.

The chief captain had Paul taken to another city to see the governor, Felix. Some of the Jews made a vow that they would not eat until they killed Paul. An army of soldiers rode along with Paul to keep anyone from harming him.

After a few days, Felix sent for Paul to hear his story. Paul talked to Felix about righteousness and about the judgment. Felix was scared; he trembled. But Felix would not yield to God. "Go your way for now," he told Paul, "I will call for you at a more convenient time."

Mem. Verse: Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation. 2 Cor. 6:2b.

Janet Waited Too Long.

Mommy was making cookies in the sunny kitchen. She mixed up the flour, eggs, sugar, and milk. Then she stirred in some chocolate chips. She put the dough by spoonful on the cookie sheet and then in the oven to bake. She had just put the last of the cookies in the oven.

"Janet," Mommy called, "Come here and you may clean the bowl where I mixed the cookie dough."

"I will be there in just a minute," Janet replied. Janet was playing with her paper dolls. She thought she would play a little longer before going into the kitchen.

Five minutes passed. Ten minutes passed. Mother needed to clean up the kitchen. She washed the spoons and the cups she had used. She washed the cookie sheet. When Janet had not come in fifteen minutes, Mother washed the bowl in which she had mixed the cookie dough.

Janet came into the kitchen. She looked all around. "Where is the bowl you said I could clean?" she asked.

"I have just washed it," Mother said.

"Washed it!" Janet wailed. "But you said I could eat the cookie dough left in it."

"You should have come when I called," Mommy said. "I waited for fifteen minutes before I washed it."

"But, Mommy, I wa——"

"Janet, you have no reason to complain. You didn't come when I called, so quit crying. Next time you will know to come when I call."

Janet dried her eyes. She knew that

Mommy was right. Next time she would come when Mommy called.

We should also listen to God when He talks to us. He may not wait for us to listen if we try to put Him off.

—S.W.

A Big Difference

Two sisters had been living in different cities. They had come home on a visit. While away from home, one of the girls had become a Christian. After a few days the other girl said, "I don't know what caused it, but you are a great deal easier to live with than you used to be."

When Jesus comes in, it should make a difference.



Paul
was
bound.

Questions:

1. Who caused an uproar against Paul?
2. Where did the Jews say Paul had taken a Greek?
3. Was Paul bound with chains?
4. To what man was Paul sent to be judged?
5. Did Felix say he would send for Paul later?

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PAUL BEFORE AGRIPPA

Acts 26:1-29

Paul had been in jail for two years now. The governor of Judea, Felix, was no longer in office. The new governor was named Festus. Many of the Jews still wanted to see Paul dead. The Jewish priests went to Festus and told him their charges against Paul. Festus sent for Paul. Paul told him that he wanted to be tried by the Emperor of Rome, Ceasar. Festus decided to write a letter to Ceasar.

One day King Agrippa came to the city. Festus wanted the King to hear Paul. Paul was brought before the King. He told the King how he had once done bad things to Christians. He had had them beaten, put in prisons, and sometimes even killed. Paul told the King of the bright light that shined on him from heaven, and of how the Lord spoke to him. Festus said, "Paul you are out of your mind with too much learning." But King Agrippa said to Paul, "You *almost* persuade me to be a Christian." Paul said, "I wish that you, O King Agrippa, and everyone else that hears me were Christians."

Memory Verse: Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian. Acts 26:28b.

Almost Persuaded

Daddy came home from work. He had a sad look on his face.

"Well, I guess you heard about old Mr. Brown, didn't you?" he asked Mother.

"No, what happened?"

"He was drowned in the flood waters," Daddy replied.

"Oh, no, how terrible!" Mother exclaimed as she put her hands to her face in alarm.

"Why didn't the rescue men pick him up in their boat?" Timmy asked.

"They tried," Daddy said. "They went to his house before the waters had reached the level of his top step. They told him that the river was still rising further north, which meant the water would get higher and higher here. He said he didn't want to leave his house; that he had lived there fifty years and it had never flooded. The men kept warning him of what was about to happen. Finally they had almost persuaded him to get into the boat, but just as he put one foot on the side of the boat he looked back at his house. 'No,' he said, 'this ol' house is all I've known for fifty years. I can't leave it now.' He turned back and went inside the house. The men had done all they could and there were other families to be rescued, so they left."

"Well, how high did the waters get?" Timmy asked.

"It was about three feet inside his house at the highest point. It is figured that he slipped and fell, and then drowned before he could get back up."

"He should have gone with the rescue men. Oh, if only he had listened!" Mother said.

This is the way some people are about God. They read the Bible or listen to the minister, and are almost persuaded to become a Christian. But *almost* is not enough. One must be persuaded to action, or he will be lost.

—Sandra Whitson

Confess means to admit. God gives us a new heart when we confess our sins and trust in Jesus to be our Savior. "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." Rom. 10:9.

The
King
heard
Paul



Questions:

1. Who was the new governor of Judea?
2. Who did Paul tell about his experiences with the Lord?
3. Did Festus think Paul was out of his head?
4. What did King Agrippa say to Paul?
5. Did Paul want the King to become a Christian?

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Sept. 12

PAUL IS SHIPWRECKED

Acts 27

Paul had been taken prisoner. He was being sent to the city of Rome to be tried by the Emperor. Paul and some other prisoners were on board a ship sailing to Rome. A strong wind began to blow. It was hard to steer the ship. "Sirs," Paul said to the captain and the guard over the prisoners, "I feel that this will be a dangerous voyage. Not only is the ship in danger, but our lives as well." The guard did not listen to Paul. The captain assured him that everything would be all right.

They sailed on and the stormy winds grew more and more fierce. The men were scared. Paul said, "Cheer up, men. An angel appeared to me tonight and assured me that our lives would all be spared." Soon the ship got in some shallow water and hit the ground. The front of the ship stuck in the mud, but the back part of the ship was broken apart. The ship was near an island, so some of the men jumped into the water and swam to shore. Others got on boards and floated to land. No one was killed.

Mem. Verse: When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee. Isa. 43:2a.

The Titanic

Jerry and David were wading down the stream following their boats. Jerry had a red boat and David had a blue one. Sometimes the boats would drift to the side of the stream and get caught on some rocks or a dead tree limb lying in the water.

"Look!" exclaimed Jerry, "They are sailing fast now!" The little boats were in a swift current. The boys had to run to keep up with the boats. *Splash! Splash!* The boys went through the water, lifting their feet high.

Suddenly David's boat hit against a sharp rock. The boat turned on its side. Water began to seep between the floor and the side of the boat.

"David, let's play like your ship is sinking, because I think it really is," said Jerry.

"My ship is the *Titanic*. We'll pretend it hit an iceberg, because that is what happened in real life," David explained.

"You mean there was a real ship named the *Titanic*?" asked Jerry.

"Yes," replied David. "It was a big ship. Some people thought it was so well built that nothing could sink it. They called it the 'unsinkable' ship."

"What happened to it?"

"It hit an iceberg and part of the ship was ripped open. Water began to flow into the ship and it began to sink. There were no ships around to save the people, but they did have some lifeboats on board the *Titanic*. Some of the people would not get on the lifeboats. They did not believe the ship would sink. But it did, and there were a lot of people on board. Those people drowned."

"I guess they wished they had gotten on the lifeboats when it was too late," said Jerry.

"Yes, and Daddy said that Jesus is like a lifeboat. He wants to save people from the ocean of sin. But many people think they will be all right, and so they stay on the ship of 'self.' But they will realize they're sinking when it is too late to get into the Lifeboat," said David.

"I want to stay in Jesus' lifeboat," said Jerry. "He is the safest captain there is."
—S.W.

Betty Prays for Joan

When Betty was saved, she wanted her sister Joan to be saved and come to Jesus. Joan refused, so Betty prayed for her. She said, "Jesus, Joan won't come to you. Will You please make her want to be saved?" That is one way that Betty brought Joan to Jesus.



They swam and floated to shore.

Questions:

1. Were Paul and some other prisoners sailing to Rome?
2. What kind of weather arose?
3. Were the men scared?
4. What happened to the ship?
5. How did the men get to shore?

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Part 25

Sept. 19

ON THE ISLAND MELITA

Acts 28:1-10

After the ship which Paul was on wrecked, the men all swam ashore. They were on the island of Melita. The weather was cool and the men were wet, so the island people built a fire. As Paul put some sticks on the fire, a snake came out and bit him, hanging onto his arm. The island people drew in their breaths, saying one to another, "This man must be a wicked person! Perhaps he is a murderer!" They thought Paul was being punished because of some evil in his life. Paul shook the snake off his arm into the fire. Paul did not die. He did not even get sick. The island people watched him with wide eyes. They had never seen anyone bit by a poisonous snake and not be harmed. "He must be a god," they said to each other. One moment they thought he was a devil, the next moment a god.

The father of the island chief was very sick. Paul prayed for him and God healed him. All the sick people on the island came to Paul for prayer. Paul would pray for them and God would heal them. The island people loved Paul.

Mem. Verse: . . . they changed their minds, and said that he was a god. Acts 28:6b.

Falsely Accused

Several boys were standing around in a group in the park.

"Which one of you took my knife?" Allen asked accusingly. "I laid it on the table before I went to swing. Now it's gone."

"I didn't take it," said one after the other of the boys.

"Well, somebody took it, 'cause it's gone."

"Maybe it fell off the table," one of the boys suggested. "Let's look for it."

As the boys began looking all around the picnic table on which Allen said he had laid his knife, Eric bent down to look under the table. He put his hand on the edge of the table to steady himself. "Ouch!" Eric cried and jumped back. He had put his hand near a wasp nest underneath the table and he got stung on his hand by a couple of wasps. The other boys ran away from the table. They looked at Eric's hand. It had two swollen red spots. Tears stung Eric's eyes.

"I'm going home till this stops hurting," Eric said in a shaky voice. The other boys watched him walk across the park.

"It's too bad he got stung," one of the boys said.

"Maybe he took the knife is why he got stung," another boy said.

"Hey, that's probably what happened! He's being punished."

"But if he took it, why didn't he give it back after he got stung?"

The boys talked among themselves and decided that indeed Eric must have taken the knife.

Just then Allen's big brother Creel walked up. "Here's your knife, Allen. I borrowed it while you were swinging."

He handed the knife to Allen.

"Eric didn't take your knife after all," one of the boys said.

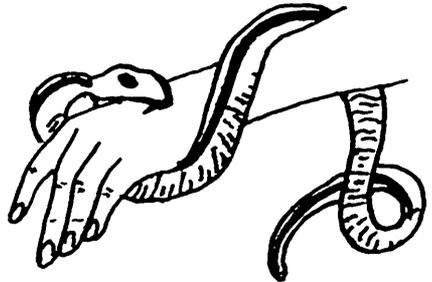
"Yes, I guess he just happened to get stung," said Allen. "I'm sorry I accused him of taking it." —S.W.

Leaves Fall Down

The leaves are falling all over town,
They're gold and green and red and brown.

The wind knocks them down into a heap,

So in the winter the trees can sleep. —Sel.



The viper fastened
on his hand.

Questions:

1. What did the island people do to help dry the men from the ship?
2. What came out of the fire?
3. What did it do to Paul?
4. Did the people think Paul was a murderer?
5. What did they think when he didn't get sick?

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Part 26

Sept. 26

PAUL AT ROME

Acts 28:16-31

Paul and the other prisoners finally reached the city of Rome. The other prisoners were taken to the captain of the guard, but Paul was kept by himself, except for a soldier who stayed with him. After a few days Paul called the Jews together. The Jews were the people God had worked with since the beginning of time. Most of the Jews did not believe that Jesus was the Son of God.

"Brethren," Paul told the Jews, "I have done nothing wrong. I am a prisoner because I preach Jesus Christ as the hope of God's people." The Jews wanted to hear about the gospel.

One day the Jews gathered together to hear Paul preach. He told the people about Jesus and tried to convince them that Jesus was the promised Messiah. He preached from the morning till the evening. Some of the Jews believed, and some did not.

Paul stayed in the city of Rome for two years. He preached and taught the people about the Lord. Although Paul was beaten, put into prison, and in a shipwreck, he told others about Jesus.

Memory Verse: I have fought a good fight . . . I have kept the faith. 2 Tim. 4:7.

Suffering for the Lord

Bro. Stephens and his son, Keith, were closing the doors to the mission house for the night. Keith watched the group of men slouching at the corner of the building. They were talking among themselves, but it was so low and slurred he could not make out what they were saying. These men had caused trouble earlier in the day.

As Bro. Stephens and Keith turned their backs to the men to go to their car, a hard clump of dirt came whizzing through the air, just missing Bro. Stephens' head. He automatically ducked and put his hands to his head to protect himself from any other coming clumps, but the second one hit him on his shoulder.

"Ha-ha! Scared Preach?" one of the men jeered. "Where are those angels that are s'pose to protect you?"

"Must be flying off somewhere else," another one said mockingly.

The men were all laughing now with loud guffaws.

Bro. Stephens sent Keith to the car and turned to face the men. Without speaking, he stood and looked directly at one, then another, until his eyes had slowly taken in everyone in the group. His quiet, unflinching look caused the men to lose courage. Slowly the men began to drift away one by one, until the last one dropped his head and slouched off down the street.

Bro. Stephens got into the car where Keith was waiting anxiously for him. As they rode along Keith watched his dad.

"Why don't you close the mission, Daddy?" Keith asked. "Men like that aren't worth your time anyway. And wh-what if they should hurt your really badly?" Tears stung Keith's eyes.

Bro. Stephens thought a few moments. "There are always men like that around to cause trouble. It is discouraging sometimes. But then I think of the ones who have come to know God through the mission's efforts, and I know I must keep on. There have been a lot of men whose miserable lives have been changed into ones of peace and usefulness. Even with men like those around, it is still worth keeping the mission open to help even one honest soul who seeks God," Bro. Stephens said with a smile. "Don't worry, Keith, God will take care of us."

Keith knew his father was right.

—S.W.



Paul's trip to Rome.

Questions:

1. What city did Paul finally reach?
2. Was Paul kept with the other prisoners?
3. Did Paul preach to the Jews?
4. Did the Jews believe in Jesus?
5. What were some bad things that happened to Paul?

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Part 14

Oct. 3

GOD CREATES THE EARTH

Gen. 1:1-5; 2:1-23

Long, long ago, even longer than we can imagine, there was God. God never had a beginning, because He has always been. God decided to make a world. He is so powerful and wise that He made the earth, the moon, and the stars. He made the grass to be food for the animals and to keep the dust from blowing all over. He made the mountains so the rain would run off and form rivers and lakes. He made all the animals, and last God made man. God made the first man from the dirt of the ground. He made our bodies in such a way that we could live by eating some of the things He had already created. He gave us minds with which to think and souls with which to love Him. Everything God made was good because it had a purpose.

Since God never had a beginning, He can never die. He is also just as wise and powerful now as in the day He created the earth. If all the wisest men who ever lived were grouped together, they would still know only a speck as compared to what God knows. Isn't it wonderful to know that a wise God loves you?

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

Did We Come From Monkeys?

"Daddy, what makes mountains?" Angie asked while she was on a hike with her family.

"God made the mountains, Angie," Daddy explained. "No one knows just how He made them, because no one was around at that time. But He knew there must be some way for the waters to run into rivers and lakes. So He made the high places."

"Did God make everything?" she asked, looking about her at the tall trees and the mountain stream nearby.

"Yes, dear, God made everything."

"Daddy, John said that the plants and animals all started out as one-celled things and over thousands of years developed into other kinds of life," Allen said. "His teacher said that people came from monkeys."

"Ha, ha!" laughed Angie. "How silly! Why aren't monkeys still turning into people?"

"That's a good thought, Angie," Daddy said. "If it were true that people evolved from lower forms of life, there would be some in an in-between stage right now. I read an article the other day in which some scientists stated that animals are in distinct and fixed groups. When a freak animal, or one that is different from its kind is born, it usually has a short life-span, most of the time without ever producing offspring. When God made man, He made a complete man. Our bodies didn't just happen to be the way they are, but God's great mind designed them."

"Why do some people think we came from monkeys, then?" asked Allen.

"It is hard for most people to just accept things," Daddy said. "They want to know about everything and how

everything came about. If they cannot figure things out, their minds come up with possibilities, or theories.

"One day I was driving down the road and saw something ahead," Daddy went on. "I first thought, 'Oh my, that's a dead dog in the road,' and I felt sorry for it. As I got closer I thought, 'No, it is colored like a raccoon. I wonder what a coon is doing this close to town?' I slowed down and swerved to miss it, and just then it blew into the air. It was a paper sack."

"Ha, ha!" laughed the children.

"Just as I tried to figure out what was in the road from a distance, men try to figure out what happened thousands of years ago. Their thoughts are not always what really happened, just as mine were not. We must just trust God and be thankful that His mastermind knew just how to make our bodies."

—Sandra Whitson



God created the earth.

Questions:

1. How old is God?
2. Who created man?
3. Name some other things God created.
4. Did God create everything for a purpose?
5. Is there any man as wise as God?

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Part 15

Oct. 10

THE THREE IN ONE

John 17:1-5

Long, long ago, even before men were upon the earth, there was God. God consisted of three beings—God the Father, God the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three were one, much as a tree is one yet consists of leaves, roots, and trunk. God knew that some day He must send His Son to earth as a man to be a sacrifice for sin. He also knew that some day the Holy Spirit would live in men's hearts to lead them in the right way.

After Jesus was born and had grown to manhood, He saw the need to be baptized. As He was coming up out of the water, the Holy Spirit in the likeness of a dove hovered above His head. At the same time a loud Voice from heaven spoke. It was God. He said, "Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." There they all appeared at the same time—Jesus as a man, the Holy Spirit as a dove, and God as a Voice.

Today the Holy Spirit lives in the hearts of Christians, and leads us in the way we should go. Jesus is on the right hand of God in heaven. God is not like humans—He is a threefold being.

Memory Verse: I and my Father are one. John 10:30.

A Lesson From an Egg

"Mother, is Jesus and God the same person?" Allen asked as he sat down on a stool to watch Mother bake a cake.

"No, not really, Allen," Mother said. "They are both divine beings that, with the Holy Spirit, make what we call the 'Godhead.' Sometimes they may be considered as one, but they each have a role to play in salvation that is separate from the others."

Allen looked puzzled. He did not know what Mother meant.

"How can the three be one, and yet be three?"

Mother thought a moment. Then she walked over to the counter and picked up one of the eggs that were lying on the table.

"Allen, what is this?" Mother asked, holding up the egg.

"An egg," he replied, wondering what she was getting at.

"Now watch," Mother said as she tapped the egg gently against the counter top. The egg cracked and Mother opened the shell into two halves. She held the egg over a cup and let the white run into the cup. She then put the yellow, or yolk, into another cup.

"Allen, I have separated the egg into three parts. I can throw the shell away now, but what was the purpose of having the shell as part of the egg anyway?" Mother asked.

Allen looked at the egg shell and thought. "I guess it was to hold the gooey parts of the egg together."

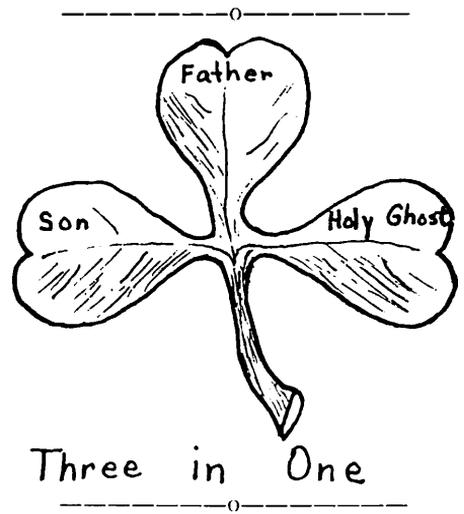
Mother smiled. "Yes, I guess that's one way to say it." Mother held the two cups for Allen to look at. "I will use this egg white to make fluffy frosting for the cake. The yolk is no good for that. I will

scramble the yolk with some more eggs for breakfast in the morning. Do you see how three things go together to make up one thing?"

Allen smiled. "I understand better now, Mom. God created the earth and has things under His power. Jesus died for our sins. But what does the Holy Spirit do?"

"The Holy Spirit lives in the heart of each Christian and tells him what is right to do."

"I will always think of God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit when I look at an egg."
—Sandra Whitson



Questions:

1. What are the three different beings that make up God?
2. Was Jesus with God when God created the earth?
3. When Jesus was baptized what hovered about His head? Who spoke out of heaven?
4. Where is Jesus now?

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Part 16

Oct. 17

SATAN, A LIAR

Gen. 3:1-6; John 8:44

When God made Adam and Eve, He put them into a beautiful garden to live. The garden was filled with sweet smelling, colorful flowers. There were lots of shady fruit trees on which hung all sorts of good tasting fruit. Everything was beautiful and good, except for one thing—Satan was there. We do not know how Satan got into the lovely garden; in fact we do not know how Satan came into the world. The Bible tells us that Satan, or the devil, sinned from the beginning and that he was never truthful. So, we know that Satan was always evil and the enemy of God.

Satan talked to Eve and told her lies. He told her that God did not want them to eat of a certain tree because it would make them as wise as God. God had told them that if they ate of the fruit, they would die. The devil said that was not true. The devil talked Eve into eating of the fruit. She died spiritually, or was no longer innocent before God. Neither could she live forever on earth. Satan still tells lies today to get people to do wrong. When people listen to the devil instead of to the voice of God, they die spiritually.

Memory Verse: . . . the devil sinneth from the beginning.
1 John 3:8b.

Was the Devil Ever in Heaven?

One night in family worship, Daddy read the story of how God made a beautiful garden for the first man and woman on the earth. They were very happy until the devil led them to do wrong.

"The devil is still leading people to do wrong today," Daddy said as he closed the Bible Story Book.

"Daddy, where did the devil come from and who made him?" Angie asked.

Allen spoke up. "Dick said the devil was an angel in heaven at one time. He got too proud and wanted to make himself equal with God. So God threw him out of heaven."

"That's a false teaching, son, but the devil has many people believing that. The devil knows if people believe that something evil was once in heaven, then they will think that they can get into heaven with something evil in their lives," Daddy explained.

"We do not know just exactly where the devil came from. Perhaps just as God has always been, the devil has always been. The devil is **very** powerful and full of evil. But God is **more** powerful and full of goodness. We do know that the devil was around when man was first put on the earth, because he led them to do wrong."

"Does the Bible say he was never in heaven?" Allen asked.

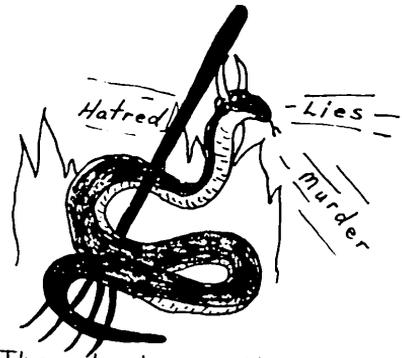
Daddy picked up the Bible and thumbed through it until he found the Scripture he wanted. "In John 8:44, it says, 'Ye are of your father the devil...he was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth.' Also, here in 1 John 3:8, it says, 'He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning.' So you see, the

devil was wicked from the start. He was never good and pure."

"Dick says the Bible calls the devil 'Lucifer', and said he was cast out of heaven. Is that in there?" Allen asked, beginning to doubt all of Dick's words.

"The Bible speaks about Lucifer, but it is not referring to the devil. It says plainly that it is the king of Babylon. He was so powerful at one time that he felt on a level equal with God. God caused him to be cast down from his high position. He was made to eat grass as an animal."

"I'm not going to listen to any more of those silly ideas that Dick tells me about the Bible," said Allen, folding his arms over his chest. —Sandra Whitson



The devil sinneth
from the beginning.

Questions:

1. Was the Garden of Eden good and beautiful?
2. What was the one bad thing in the garden?
3. What did the devil talk Eve into doing?
4. Was the devil ever good? Does he try to get people to do wrong today?

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Part 17

Oct. 24

BEING BORN AGAIN

John 3:1-6; 2 Cor. 5:17

One night a man called Nicodemus came to talk to Jesus. Jesus was telling him about salvation. Jesus said, "If a man is to see the kingdom of God, he must be born again." Nicodemus was puzzled. "How can a man be born again?" he asked. "Can he become a little baby again when he is old?" Jesus said, "A fleshly body has a fleshly birth, and a spiritual body has a spiritual birth." Jesus meant that one's spirit must be completely changed to become a Christian. A person's selfish and wicked thoughts and desires must die. Good and pure desires will be born in his heart and mind.

Before people are saved, their hearts are selfish. Often they do not think of helping other people. Many of their thoughts are ugly and this causes them to say and do unkind things. But when they come to God those evil and selfish thoughts die. New thoughts and desires come into their hearts and minds. These new desires cause them to do good things. Jesus wants people to repent of their sins and come to Him. He will make new people of them.

Memory Verse: . . . Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. John 3:3b.

The Story of Byron

Angie and Allen sat cross-legged on the rug in front of Mother's rocking chair. Mother was reading to them. It was about a boy named Byron who had gotten among some wicked boys and had taken up some of their bad ways. He had told lies to his mother, gambled, cheated, and had even stolen some things. In time, he got into trouble with the law and was brought to trial. How miserable Byron was! He was very sorry for those terrible things he had done, and wished he could wipe them out of his life. The judge saw that Byron was sorry for the bad deeds and did not put him in jail, as he did the other boys. Byron wanted with all his heart to straighten up his life. His mother talked to him and told him how to come to God. Byron prayed and asked God to forgive him. He then lived his life for God.

"Byron was a happy boy because he no longer had the guilty feeling on his heart," Mother said as she closed the book. "Also, his mother was happy that her bad boy had let God change his life."

A tear was in Allen's eye. "Mother," he said with quivering lips, "I have not done all those bad things that Byron did, but I have done some. I have told you lies sometimes to keep from being punished. I also took some money from your purse. I am sorry, Mother, really I am. I don't want to get into the trouble that Byron got into," he sobbed, putting his head in his mother's lap.

"Dear, if you are really sorry, ask Jesus to forgive you," Mother said kindly. "Ask Him to put a new heart in you that will cause you to want to do right and not wrong."

Allen prayed to Jesus and Jesus forgave him of his bad deeds. Allen was so happy! After that, Allen would ask

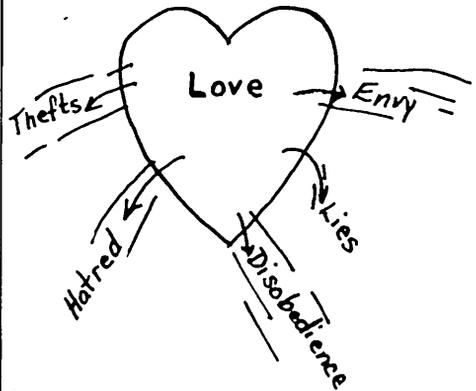
Jesus to help him when he was tempted to do wrong. —Sandra Whitson

Homes for All

God made a plan for everything,
His creatures great and small;
He planned a home for everyone,
Because He loves them all.

The fish all live in the water;
Birds build a cozy nest;
The turtle likes a muddy pond;
Bees have a comb for rest.

The rabbit's hole is a burrow;
The squirrel's in a tree,
Each has its own snug little home,
And—I've a house for me. —Selected

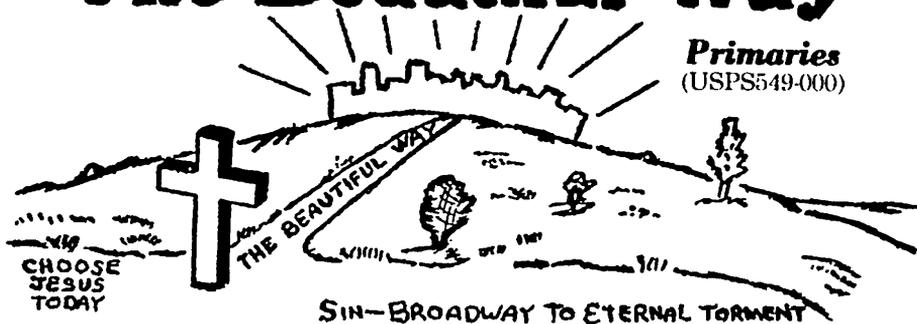


Questions:

1. Who came to Jesus one night to talk about salvation?
2. What did Jesus tell Nicodemus he must do to see the kingdom of heaven?
3. Did Nicodemus understand what He meant?
4. What becomes new about a person when he comes to God?

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Part 18

Oct. 31

BEING FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

John 14:15-17; Eph. 1:11-14

Have you ever tasted soured milk? Ugh! How terrible to pick up a glass of milk and when you taste it find it spoiled! It is not fit to drink, so you pour it all out. After washing the glass you pour some fresh milk into it. Ah! how cold and refreshing! You were not satisfied with just pouring out the bad milk, but after your glass was clean, you wanted to fill it with something good to drink.

This is the way it is with salvation. When you get saved, all the bad things are taken out of your heart and it is made clean. But now you need to fill it with something good. When a clean heart is filled with the spirit of God, or the Holy Ghost, we call this **sanctification**. It is good for the heart to be filled with God's Spirit, or the devil will try to fill it up again with bad things. When a person gets saved, he repents of his sins and forsakes them, believing in Jesus to cleanse him. When one gets sanctified, he sets his life apart for the Lord, believing Jesus to fill him with the Holy Spirit. If we are filled with the Holy Spirit we can keep sin out of our hearts and lives.

Memory Verse: . . . present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God. Rom. 12:1.

A Changed Mr. Dickson

Angie and Allen were out in the backyard playing.

"Hello, Allen! Hello, Angie!" Mr. Dickson called from the yard next door as he came out of the garage with a rake in his hands.

"Hi, Mr. Dickson!" called the two children as they waved at him.

"Are you going to rake your yard?" Allen asked.

"No, I raked mine last week, so it doesn't need it very badly," he replied. "Mr. Jeffries broke his leg the other day and of course he isn't able to do his yard work, so I thought I would do it for him. He doesn't have as large a yard as mine, so it will not take too long."

"Do you want us to help you?" Angie asked.

"We can put the leaves into bags for you," Allen added.

"Well, that would help me out a lot and I'd enjoy your company," said Mr. Dickson with a smile. "But first go ask your mother and see if it will be all right for you to go."

Both children ran into the house. With Mother's permission, they went with Mr. Dickson to clean the yard. They enjoyed working, but were tired and dirty when they finished.

"Mom," said Allen that evening when he was getting ready for a bath, "Mr. Dickson gave Angie and me each a dollar for helping him. He also stopped and got us an ice cream. He sure has changed, hasn't he? Do you remember how grouchy he used to be, especially to children?"

"Yes, son, I remember," Mother said. "There has been a big change in him. That just shows how God can make a new person out of a man."

"He is just like a new person," Allen

said. It's nearly like somebody else living inside him.

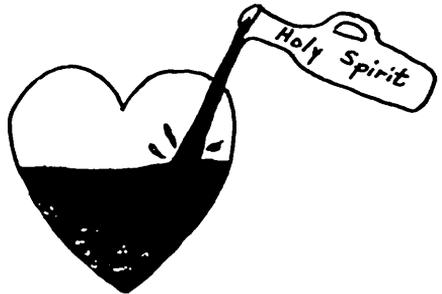
"There is someone else living inside him—God's Holy Spirit," Mother said with a smile. "When God's Spirit lives in someone's heart, it causes him to be happy and at peace with others.

"I wish everyone had the Holy Spirit in him." Allen said. —S.W.

Thinking of Mother

"Pretty flower," Lillie said as she held it up for her mother to take. "I picked it for you."

"Oh, thank you! That is so sweet of you to think of Mother." —M.M.



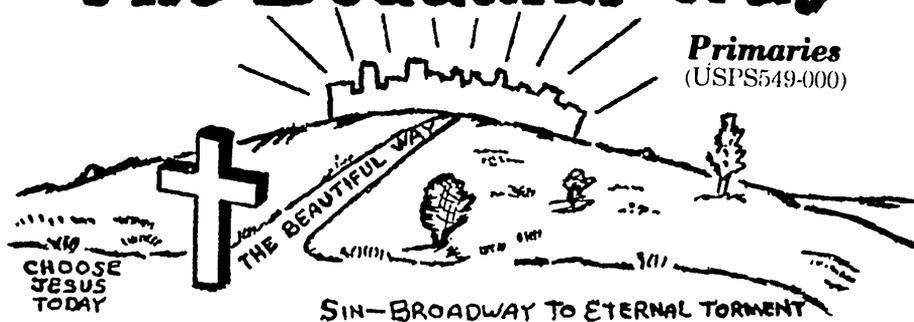
Sanctification

Questions:

1. When a person gets saved is his heart cleaned?
2. Should a clean heart be left empty?
3. With what does God want to fill a clean heart?
4. What do we call it when the Holy Spirit fills one's heart?
5. If God's Spirit does not fill one's heart, what will the devil try to put in the heart?

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Part 19

Nov. 7

WHAT IS BAPTISM?

Matt. 3:13-17; Acts 28:19

Jesus walked down to the bank of the Jordan River. There He saw John the Baptist. He told John He wanted to be baptized. At first John did not want to do it. He did not feel worthy of baptizing the Son of God. But Jesus told John it was needful for Him to be baptized. They walked out into the waters and John baptized Jesus. Just then God spoke from heaven, "This is my Son in whom I am well pleased."

God was pleased with Jesus because He was fulfilling God's will. God is pleased with us, too, when we obey His commandments. Jesus told His disciples to preach the gospel to everyone. He said to baptize the ones who believe. Baptism does not cleanse a person's heart; only the blood of Jesus can do that. After we get saved, Jesus wants us to be baptized. When a person is baptized, the minister dips him under water and then brings him right back up. The putting under water represents a burial—that person has died to sin and the world. The coming up out of the water represents a resurrection—he is alive to Christ.

Memory Verse: He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. . . Mk. 16:16a.

Brent Learns About Baptism

"Daddy, Michael said he was baptized yesterday and that the water washed away his sins. Is that true, Daddy?" Brent asked as he sat down in the porch swing beside his dad.

"No, son, water cannot wash away our sins. Water can wash dirt off our bodies, but sin is of the heart. Only Jesus' blood can wash away sins from our hearts," Dad explained.

"Does it not help us to live better when we're baptized?"

"No, one must be living good before he is baptized," Daddy said. "We must already be saved before we are baptized to please God."

"Well then, why are we supposed to be baptized if we're just the same before and after?" Brent asked.

"Brent, do you remember last summer when your Uncle Bob graduated from high school?"

Brent nodded.

"We went to the graduation ceremony, if you remember. There Uncle Bob was given a diploma," Daddy continued. "Now that diploma represented the completing of twelve years of schooling. It didn't really give your Uncle Bob any knowledge; he had already gained the knowledge in class. The diploma just symbolized that knowledge, and let others see what Uncle Bob had accomplished.

"Baptism symbolizes something that has already taken place in the heart. It lets others know that we are dead to sin and alive to Christ."

"I knew that Michael didn't seem very different to me," Brent said. "He never has told me that he was saved, so he may not know what it really means to be baptized."

"That is probably true, Brent," Dad said. "God doesn't want us to be baptized when we are too young to know what it means."
—Sandra Whitson

What Can We Give?

Our dear Lord gives us all so much,
Such generous gifts of love,
Such tender care and grace and strength
From heaven up above.

What can we give in glad return?
What can we give to say,
"We love Thee, gentle Saviour, Lord?"
Let's give our hearts today!

—Selected



Baptizing them in the
name of the Father, and
of the Son, and of the
Holy Ghost.

Questions:

1. Who baptized Jesus?
2. Was God pleased when Jesus was baptized?
3. Is a person supposed to be baptized *before* or *after* he is saved?
4. What does being put under the water represent?
5. Does God want every Christian to be baptized?

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Part 20

Nov. 14

ONENESS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

John 17:11-23, 1 Cor. 1:10-13

God made all the people in the world. He wanted them to love Him and to love one another. But at the start people began to argue with each other. The first two brothers in the world—Cain and Abel—did not agree. Cain was jealous of Abel's offering to God, so he killed Abel. People began to divide into groups. Some worshipped idols, others worshipped the sun and moon, and still others worshipped the true God. As time went on, the ones who worshipped God began to disagree in their beliefs. Some believed that the souls of man would live in heaven, while others felt that there was no life after death.

God wanted His people to be one—He wanted them to know the truth. Before Jesus died on the cross, He prayed to God that all His disciples and those who believed because of them, would be one in God. He did not want people to believe different things. He wanted them all to be led by the Holy Spirit.

Today God still wants His people to be one. He is not pleased with division. The Holy Spirit leads all believers in the same way.

Memory Verse: So we, being many, are one body in Christ . . .
Romans 12:5a.

Plowing With Oxen

Marc and Eric were on a trip with their dad in Mexico. They had stopped beside a big field where a man was plowing with oxen. The oxen walked side by side. When the man told the oxen to go to the right, both oxen went to the right. When he told them to go to the left, they went to the left.

The boys sat on the rock wall watching the man plow.

"Dad," Marc said, "how can the oxen work so well together? They turn at exactly the same time and their pace is right together."

"Let's ask the man when he gets down here," Dad said.

When the man reached the end of the row near the boys and their dad, Dad spoke to the man in Spanish.

"How do your oxen work so well together?" he asked. "Have they always worked together?"

"No," the man replied. "This ox on the left is the mother that I've worked with several different oxen. The other ox has worked with its mother here, and with its brother. I train the oxen myself, so they obey my commands. I train them all the same so they can work well together."

"Have you ever used any oxen that would not work with the others?"

"Yes, once I had a very stubborn ox. He wanted to do things his way. He would not keep in step with the other oxen and he would not obey my commands," the man said. "He was old and had always worked alone under a different master. I could not use him because he would not work with the others."

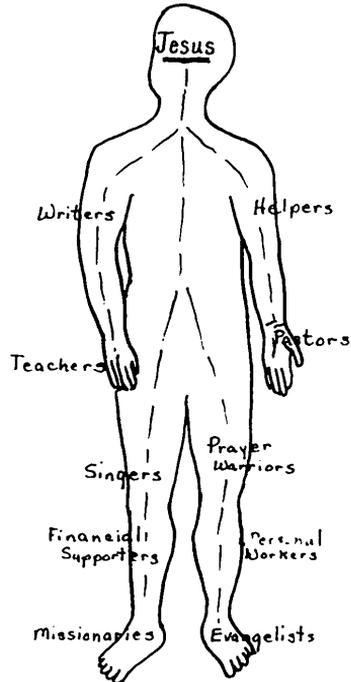
Dad told the boys what the man said as they watched him continue his plowing.

"Boys, we are very much like the oxen," Dad said. "Jesus is our Master and if we follow His instructions, we will work well

together."

"I guess if we don't work with others, but want to go our own way, God can't use us, just as the man couldn't use the stubborn ox," Eric said.

"That is right. When we obey the voice of God, we can pull together." —S.W.



Questions:

1. Who were the first brothers to disagree over a religious matter?
2. What did Cain do to Abel?
3. Does God want His followers to be one?
4. Who will lead people into the truth?
5. If we all follow the Holy Spirit will we be one?

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Part 21

Nov. 21

FREEDOM FROM SIN

1 John 3:4-9; 1 Cor. 6:9-11

Sin is a bad thing. Sin is doing something that you know is wrong to do. When man was first created he began to sin. Even men who loved God often listened to the devil and would do bad things. Over and over they would ask God's forgiveness and offer sacrifices. God knew that within himself man could not always do right. The devil is more powerful than man. But God is more powerful than the devil. God knew He would have to cleanse man's heart and live inside Him if man was to be strong enough to always do right.

Jesus was the sacrifice for our sins. When we repent and give our lives to the Lord, He cleanses our hearts. He forgets all the bad things we ever did. Not only does He make us clean, but His Spirit gives us power over the devil, so we can always do right. People sin because the devil is guiding their hearts and minds. When people let God guide their lives He will keep them from sinning. God loves His people and wants them to be holy. We can only be holy by drawing close to God.

Memory Verse: Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; . . . 1 John 3:9a.

A Clean Vase

Annie and her mother were rummaging through boxes at a garage sale.

"Look!" Annie exclaimed. "Here is a little china doll! The only thing wrong is this chip on the back of its head."

Mother was holding up a bud vase that was all stained and dirty.

"You're not going to get that dirty thing, are you?" Annie asked.

"I think I will," Mother said. "It doesn't cost much and I think it might be lovely once I clean it up. It will match your curtain and spread perfectly."

"I don't want that old thing in my room!" Annie exclaimed.

The next day Annie came into the kitchen to ask her mother a question. Mother was putting a red rose into a beautiful crystal vase.

"Oh, how pretty!" she exclaimed, clapping her hands together. "That is the most beautiful vase I've ever seen. I wish I could put it on the bureau in my room."

"But you said you didn't want it in your room," Mother said smiling.

"I said I didn't want that dirty vase you got at the garage sale in my room," Annie replied.

"This is that vase, my dear," Mother told her.

"What!" she said in surprise. "But it's so clean and pretty. It doesn't look like the same vase at all."

"I cleaned all the dirt and stains from it," Mother said.

"May I put it in my room?" Annie asked.

"Yes," Mother said. "And when you look at it, I want you to think about how God can clean up a life just as I cleaned up this vase. He can take away all the sin and meanness from a person's heart, and make them sweet and pure."

"I want my life to be clean and pretty like this vase," Annie said as she turned to take the vase up to her room. —S.W.

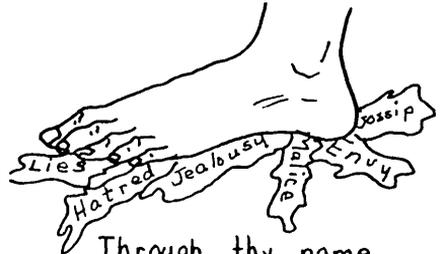
Just Obeying

I would never have believed
There is such delight
Just in doing what I'm told,
From each morn till night.

But I've found it really true,
That the sweetest way
For a child of any age
Is to just obey.

It gives Father lots of joy,
And makes Mother glad.
Let us then obey, and keep
Them from being sad.

—Selected



Through thy name
will we tread them
under that rise up
against thee. Ps. 44:5b

Questions:

1. What is sin?
2. Who makes people sin?
3. Who can keep people from sinning?
4. Can God cleanse the heart of a bad person?
5. Who guides a Christian's life?

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Part 22

Nov. 28

JESUS CAN HEAL

Mk. 8:22-25; James 5:1-5

One day Jesus went into the town of Bethsaida. Some people brought a blind man to Jesus. They wanted Jesus to heal the man. Jesus put his own spittal upon the man's eyes and asked him if he could see. "I see men as trees walking," the man replied. Jesus put His hands on the man's eyes again. This time when Jesus took His hands away the man saw clearly. Jesus healed the sick people wherever He went.

Jesus gave His apostles power to heal the sick. Sick people would come to the apostles to be healed. They laid their hands on the sick and prayed to God. God made the people well.

The Bible tells us what to do when we get sick. "Call for the elders [or ministers] of the church," and let them anoint you with oil. "And the prayer of faith shall save the sick." God wants us to have faith in Him. When we get sick He wants us to pray and ask Him to heal us. God is great and can do all things. He is just as powerful as He was when He walked about on earth and healed the sick people. Believe in the Lord.

Memory Verse: Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever. Heb. 13:8.

God Hears a Mother's Cry

Many, many years ago, a mother was on the back porch washing her clothes. She did not have an automatic washer as people have today. Washing was an all-day job. Her husband had drawn the water from the well that morning before he had left for work. He had filled two and a half tubs full of water.

Baby Doris was playing in the sand outside. Since they lived far out in the country off a dirt road, Mother did not have to worry about Doris getting into the street. There were no streets around.

Mother was busy heating the water and gathering the clothes she needed to wash. Now and then she would check on her little girl to make sure that she was okay.

Mother had been in the house a few minutes and realized that she had not heard Doris' giggles and squeals for a little while. She decided that she had better check on her baby. She went to the screen door and looked out to where the child had been playing all morning. Doris was not there. As Mother opened the door and stepped out on the porch, her eyes saw something that filled her with terror.

"Oh, my God, help!" she cried, as she dashed to the tub of water in which she saw her little girl's legs dangling from the top. The child had fallen head first into the water and could not get out.

As the mother lifted the child quickly out of the tub, she saw that her little girl was already black and blue in color. She was not breathing and her eyes were half open and did not move.

"My baby is drowned!" she cried, clutching her baby to her breast. "Oh, God give her life! Give her life!" She fell to her knees, still holding the baby tightly in

her arms. With tears she cried out to God.

Within a few moments the little girl's mouth began to twitch. Soon she began to cry. She was alive!

"Thank you, thank you, God," the mother cried. "You have restored the life of my child."

God hears us when we call to Him with our whole hearts. —Sandra Whitson



Jesus healed the blind man.

Questions:

1. What was wrong with the man who came to Jesus?
2. Did Jesus heal the man?
3. Did God give His apostles power to heal?
4. What does God want us to do if we get sick?
5. Is God powerful enough to heal us today?

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Part 23

Dec. 5

THE LAST SUPPER

1 Cor. 11:23-29; John 13:4-17

Jesus knew this was the last time He would be with His disciples. Tomorrow He would be crucified. He took a cake of bread and returned thanks to God. He then broke the bread in two and gave it to His disciples. "Take this bread and eat it. It is my body which is broken for you." Then He poured some grape juice into a cup. After He drank from the cup, Jesus gave it to His disciples. "This is my blood that is shed for many. Do this in remembrance of me." Each of the disciples drank as Jesus told them to. Jesus wanted His disciples to eat the bread and drink the juice after He died, in memory of His death.

That same night Jesus got up from the table and wrapped a towel around His waist. He took a basin of water and washed His disciples' feet. They did not understand why Jesus did this. He said, "Ye also ought to wash one another's feet. Do as I have done to you." Jesus did not want any of His disciples to feel they were better than the others. Jesus does not want us to feel puffed up above others.

Memory Verse: If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them. John 13:17.

Jerry Makes a Kind Choice

Jerry had come to stay with his grandmother for several months, while his parents were travelling across the sea. Jerry had always lived in Washington D. C. because his dad was a senator. Now his dad was on a foreign mission, so he had come to Indiana to stay on the farm.

Jerry felt somewhat shy as he walked into the classroom, because he did not know any of the boys and girls. The teacher had told the class that Jerry was the son of a senator, so most of them were eager to become his friends. By the end of the day Jerry knew most of the children and did not feel so shy.

The next day the teacher told the children that new desks had arrived.

"The new desks are made for two, so you will have to choose desk partners," she told the class.

Many of the boys wanted to be partners with Jerry.

"He will probably want to sit with me," thought Eric, "because my dad is the principal of the school."

Jeff thought Jerry would sit with him because his dad was the sheriff of the county.

Butch thought, "Jerry will sit with me because my dad owns the biggest ranch in three counties."

Several more boys wanted to sit with Jerry, each one hoping for the honor. Jerry noticed a boy sitting quietly by himself in the back of the room. His clothes were patched and Jerry remembered this boy had been the last to be chosen on the ball team the day before.

"Hey, Danny, is anyone sitting with you?" Jerry asked, walking over to the boy.

"I guess not," the boy said timidly.

"Do you mind being my desk partner?" he asked. "I noticed that you knew the names of those odd butterflies yesterday. I like butterflies, so maybe you could teach me a few things, if you will."

Danny's face lit up with a smile. "I don't know a whole lot about butterflies, but I'll tell you what I do know. And I'd like to have you for a desk partner."

The other boys saw that Jerry did not care about how much money his friends had or who their dads were. Jerry loved God and knew that money or a big name does not matter to the Lord.

—Sandra Whitson

Some boys and girls never learn much because they are not good listeners. Learn to fix your mind on the one who is talking, and listen to what is being said.



"This bread is my body.
This cup is my blood."

Questions:

1. What did Jesus break in two and give to His disciples?
2. What did He say the bread was?
3. What did Jesus say the grape juice was?
4. Whose feet did Jesus wash?
5. Does He want us to wash one another's feet?

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Part 24

Dec. 12

THE RESURRECTION

Matt. 28:1-7

A few days after Jesus was crucified some women came to His tomb. They wanted to put good smelling spices on His body. But what! The tomb was empty! An angel appeared to the women and said, "He is not here but is risen." Jesus had been dead and in the grave, but now He was alive.

Because Jesus rose from the grave, it means that we, too, will rise from the grave. Everyone who lives for Jesus will be resurrected to live a new life in heaven. Can you imagine being in a cemetery when Jesus comes? The graves will burst open and the bodies will come out and go into the air to meet Jesus. They won't be the decayed bodies that have been in the ground for years, but they will be new bodies that can never die. Then the Christians who are living will undergo a change in their bodies, and they, too, will rise into the air to meet Jesus. We do not know just what our new bodies will be like, but they will be far better than the bodies we have now, for they will not feel pain and will never be sick.

Memory Verse: . . . and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 1 Cor. 15:52b.

An Old Grave

Grandpa and David were walking along a trail through the woods. Grandpa had romped and played in these woods as a boy. It had been many years since he had been here.

"There used to be a little church house over there. There are the rock pillars still standing," Grandpa pointed out as he walked about touching the pillars and remembering his childhood.

"Come over here, Grandpa," David called. "This must be an old tombstone."

Grandpa walked over to where David was kneeling beside a dark rock slab that was leaned against some rocks.

"Yes, the graveyard was over here," Grandpa said as he took his knife and scraped some of the moss off the stone. "I can't make out the name. The weather has worn away most of the letters."

"Here's another one. I can read the name, I think," David said as he bent to try to figure out the markings on the stone. "P—r—u or y—o—r. Pryor! That's the name—Pryor. Did you know any Pryors, Grandpa?"

"Yes, I did. Let's see if we can see what the first name says." Grandpa rubbed away some dirt but could not decipher the first name.

"Look, Grandpa, here are some numbers," David pointed below the name.

"It looks like 1907 and 1915," Grandpa said. "Why, this is the grave of a boy who was my best friend—James Pryor. I remember when he died of pneumonia the winter we were both eight years old."

"How terrible to die at that age!" David remarked. "I will be eight next year. I would hate to die and never see my family and friends again."

"He'll see them again, David," Grandpa said. "One day these bodies will come out of the ground and will be turned into new bodies. Everyone who lived for God will all be together with the Lord. Death is not the end; it's only a waiting time."

"I want to always love Jesus so I can meet my family and go to be with Jesus someday," David said.

—Sandra Whitson

When God made the trees, animals, and birds, He said they were very good. The vine is for grapes; the wheat for bread; the bee to give honey; and the sheep for wool. Even the cat is good to catch mice. God's things are good.



Jesus' tomb was empty.

Questions:

1. Where were the women going with the spices?
2. Was Jesus in the grave when they got there?
3. What happened to Jesus' body?
4. What will someday happen to the bodies now buried?
5. What will happen to the Christians who are alive when Jesus comes?

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Part 25

Dec. 19

A PLACE CALLED HEAVEN

John 14:1-3; Rev. 21:23, 24

It was the night before Jesus was to be crucified. "I am going away," He told His disciples. "Do not be sad. My Father has many mansions. I am going to prepare a place for you to come and be with me." His disciples listened closely. They wanted to go with Jesus wherever He went. But Jesus said they must wait. He said that some day they could come to heaven to be with Him.

Jesus said that if we love Him, someday we, too, can go to heaven to be with Him. The Bible tells us a little of what heaven will be like. The sun will not shine there but it will be light. There will be no need of the sun, because God's glory will be so bright it will be light all the time. The streets will be as bright and as precious as gold. There will be no crying there, because everyone will be happy. There will be no sickness or death there, because everyone will have bodies that cannot suffer pain. Heaven will be better than we can even imagine. Don't you want to go to heaven when you die? Always love Jesus so that someday you can go to heaven to be with Him.

Memory Verse: In my Father's house are many mansions.
John 14:2a.

Precious Stones

Allen and Nathan were looking through a glass at some valuable stones.

"My, those are beautiful!" exclaimed Allen. "Look at that smooth one that looks like it has red spots in it. I wonder what that is?"

"That's a jasper," a voice behind the boys said. The boys turned to see who was looking over their shoulders. It was one of the men who worked in the museum. He smiled at the boys.

"Do you know the name of each of these stones?" Nathan asked.

"I know what most of them are," the man replied.

"What is that green one? I think it is pretty," Allen said.

"That's an amethyst."

"And what's that purple one that looks like it has a star on top?" Nathan asked, pointing to one of the stones in the case.

"That's a sapphire," the man told them.

"Those stones must be worth a lot of money, huh?" said Allen.

"These gems are some of the rarest of their kind and are worth several million dollars."

"Whew! That's a lot of money!" Allen remarked.

"I've heard of the names of these stones in Sunday school class. The teacher said the Bible tells about them," Nathan said.

"Yes, the Bible uses these stones to describe heaven," the man explained. "These stones, as you can see, are very beautiful and worth a lot. Heaven will be filled with such beauty and will be worth far more than these stones."

"Daddy says that heaven is worth more than all the money on earth,"

Nathan said. "That's hard to believe."

"That should not be hard to believe," the man explained. "God made all these stones you see here and many more, and put them on the earth. He made the earth for *all* men to enjoy, good men and bad men. God made heaven as a reward for righteous men. So, if it is a reward, we know it will be far better than what we have here on earth."

"Why there might be stones in heaven that we don't even have here on earth," said Allen.

"I'm glad God is so rich," said Nathan.

—Sandra Whitson

Jesus has told us to watch. He said that He will come in a moment when you will not know. But if you are always doing what He has told you to do, you will always be ready for His return. So "watch" your words, your actions, and your deeds.



Reward of the Righteous

Questions:

1. Where was Jesus going?
2. Did His disciples want to go with Him?
3. Will the sun shine in heaven?
4. What will give light in heaven?
5. Will anyone be sad in heaven?

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THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS

Luke 16:19-31

There was a rich man who dressed in fine clothes and had all kinds of good foods to eat. He did not care if other people had anything to eat or not. Lazarus was a poor beggar. He sat beside the rich man's gate, hoping the rich man would give him food.

Lazarus died and the angels carried him to Abraham's bosom, or heaven. There Lazarus was peaceful and happy. The rich man died and went to a place of torment, or hell. The rich man was miserable. The flames burned his body and his throat. He could see far off into heaven. There he saw Lazarus. "Father Abraham," he cried. "Let Lazarus just dip his finger in water and bring it to me to cool my tongue." Abraham replied, "Do you not remember that you lived in comfort on the earth while Lazarus suffered? Now Lazarus is living in comfort. Besides, there is an impassable gulf between here and there, over which no man can cross." "Well, send Lazarus back to my house to warn my brothers not to come," the rich man pleaded. "If they will not repent by the words of prophets, they will not repent if one rose from the dead."

Memory Verse: Depart . . . into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels. Matt. 25:41.

The Smell of Brimstone

Debbie was sitting at the kitchen table watching her brother Michael do a science experiment.

"What is this for?" Debbie asked, as she picked up a glass tube filled with a blue liquid.

"Put that down; you might drop it," Michael said as he took the tube from Debbie. "That might hurt you if you got it on your hand. If you're going to stay in here you must just watch and not touch anything."

"Okay, I will watch you."

Debbie watched Michael as he mixed things in test tubes. Sometimes the things he mixed bubbled up and sometimes the colors would change. Debbie watched as Michael put something yellow in a little container and held it with forceps over the stove eye. The yellow stuff started burning.

"What a pretty blue flame comes off that yellow stuff!" she exclaimed. "What is it?"

"This is sulfur," said Michael.

"O-oh!" Debbie said as she pinched her nose. "That stuff stinks like a rotten egg!"

Michael laughed. Just then Mother walked into the kitchen.

"Oh, my! You must be burning sulfur," she said as she wrinkled up her nose.

"Yes. It does stink, doesn't it?" he said. "I would hate to have to smell it all the time."

"That's what hell will smell like," Mother said.

"How do you know?" Michael asked.

"The Bible mentions hell as a lake of fire and brimstone," Mother explained. "Brimstone is sulfur. Put this stick into

that hot sulfur and watch what happens."

Michael did as Mother suggested. "The sulfur sticks to the stick."

"Yes, and that is the way it will be in hell," she said. "The flames will melt the sulfur and it will stick to the people."

"Oh, that will be horrible!" Debbie shuddered. "Hell will be hot and stinky."

"Yes, hell is a very bad place. But if we live for God we will never have to know the pain and misery of hell."

—Sandra Whitson



Fires of Hell

Questions:

1. Why was Lazarus at the rich man's gate?
2. Did the rich man want to help Lazarus?
3. Where did Lazarus go when he died? Where did the rich man go?
4. What did the rich man want Lazarus to do?
5. Why could Lazarus not go to the rich man?