

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 41, No. 3    **Primaries**    (USPS549-000)    Part 15    July 1, 1990

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## THE GOOD SAMARITAN

One day while Jesus was teaching the people, a lawyer stood up and asked Him a question. This lawyer wasn't interested in learning what Jesus taught. He only wanted to trick Him. Jesus knew why the lawyer was questioning Him, yet He answered the lawyer wisely. In answer to the lawyer's question, "Who is my neighbor?" Jesus told this story:

"There was a man who took a trip from Jerusalem to Jericho. On the way some robbers caught him. They took all his money, tore off his clothes and then beat him until he was half dead, before leaving him on the road.

"Soon a priest happened along that same road and saw the poor injured man. But the priest did not try to help the man in any way. He just crossed over to the other side of the road and passed by him.

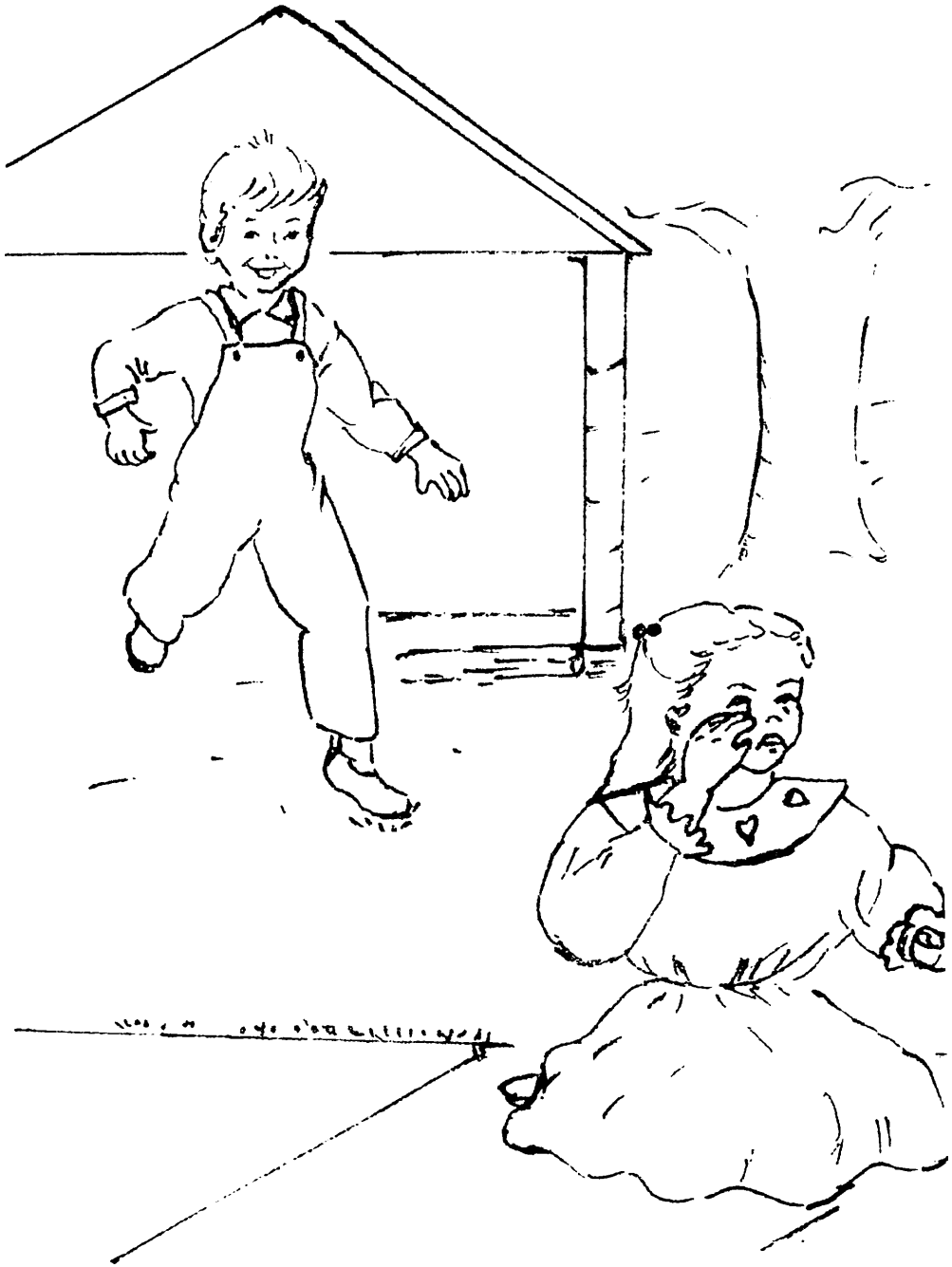
"Later a Levite came along and saw the wounded man. He came and only looked at him and then, like the priest, crossed over to the other side of the road and left the man without offering to help him.

"But when a man who was a Samaritan came along and saw the man, he felt sorry for him and wanted to help. After he had bandaged his wounds, the good Samaritan put the wounded man on his own mule and took him to an inn. He cared for him all night and the next morning gave money to the innkeeper and told him, 'Use this money to take care of this man until he is well. If it costs you more, I will pay you when I come back.'

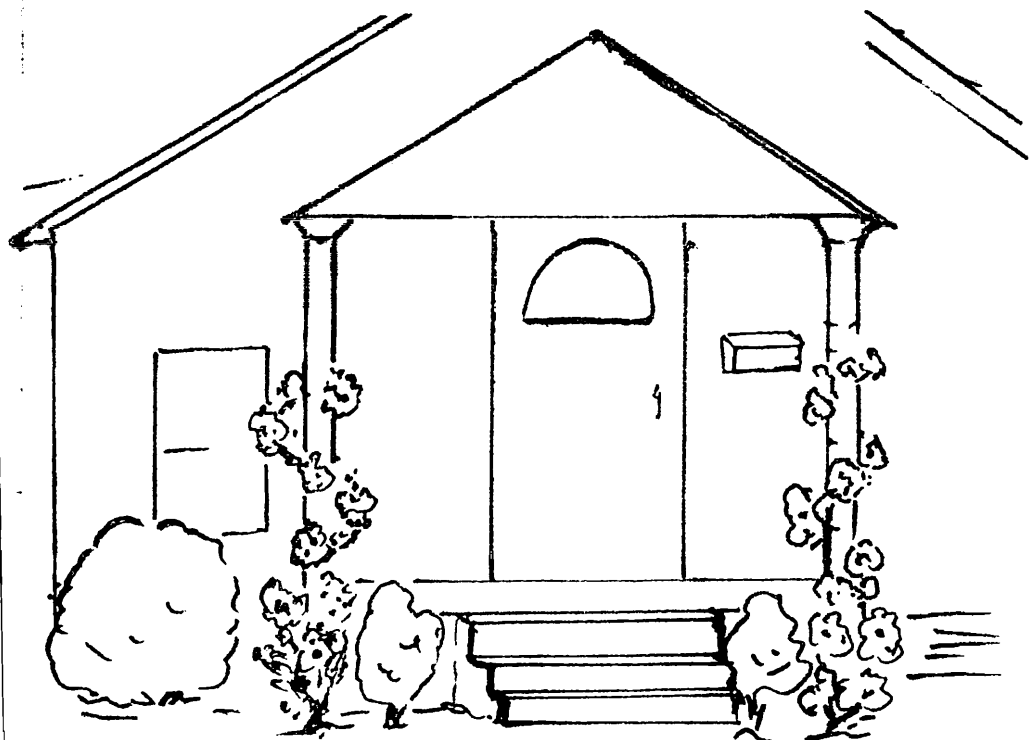
When He had finished telling this story, Jesus asked the lawyer, "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the wounded man?" The lawyer answered, "The one who showed mercy on him."

Jesus told him, "Go and do the same."

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



**“Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.” James 4:17**



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# The Lost Doll

"I wonder what our little neighbor girl is crying about?" said Mother to Kim as they sat on the front porch reading the morning mail.

Kim looked up and saw Mandy sitting on the porch step next door. Tears were pouring down her little face.

"I will go and see what is wrong," said Kim. She left the porch and went over to Mandy's lawn. "Mandy, what is wrong?" Kim asked kindly. She sat down by Mandy and put her arm around her.

"Oh, I can't find my favorite doll," said Mandy sadly. "I looked everywhere in my bedroom, but she wasn't in her doll bed—she wasn't anywhere at all. She isn't even in my house. I have looked and looked. I hope she isn't out on the lawn, wet with dew. That would just ruin her lovely curls! Oh, I wish I could find my dolly!" and Mandy cried out a big boo-hoo!

"There, there," said Kim gently. "Let's pray and ask Jesus where to find your doll. He knows where it is right now, and He will help us if we will only ask."

Then Kim and Mandy bowed their heads. "Dear Jesus," prayed Kim, "You know where Mandy has left her doll. Please show us where it is. Comfort Mandy's heart so she will not worry about the doll until we can find it. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen."

Mandy sniffed. "I already feel better," she said.

Kim patted her shoulder again. "It always feels better to share a problem with a friend, and then it really helps lift the load when you share the problem with Jesus. Now tell me, Mandy, when was the last time you saw your doll, and where was she?"

"Last night I was playing house with Linda here on my front porch," sniffed Mandy.

"Have you asked Linda if she has seen your doll?" asked Kim. "Let's make sure your doll isn't hiding somewhere around your house. Then, if we don't find her, we shall ask Linda about her."

So Kim helped Mandy look and look, but they did not find the doll. They asked Linda, but the doll wasn't with Linda either.

"Remember when we were playing house?" said Linda to Mandy. "My daddy was getting in his car to go to town and we asked to go with him. Remember that we went with him and he bought us an ice cream cone? Didn't

you take your doll with us in the car? Maybe you left her in my daddy's car!"

Mandy's face lit up as she remembered what had happened.

"Yes, that is probably where my doll is! Let's go check in your car!"

But Linda's daddy had already left for work in the car.

That evening the girls rushed to meet him as he drove in the driveway. Sitting well and content in the back seat was Mandy's doll! She had gone to work with Linda's daddy!

Mandy hugged her doll with joy. "Thanks for helping me hunt for her," she said to Kim and Linda. "It felt so good to know others cared."

—Connie Sorrell



## Questions:

1. Who stood up and asked Jesus a question?
2. What did he ask?
3. What happened to the man as he traveled?
4. What did the priest do when he saw the man?
5. What did the Levite do?
6. Who helped him?
7. Where did he take the wounded man?
8. Which one was a good neighbor?
9. What did Jesus tell the lawyer?

Answers: 1. A Lawyer. 2. "Who is my neighbor?" 3. Some robbers caught him. 4. He crossed over to the other side. 5. He came and looked at him but didn't help him. 6. A Samaritan. 7. To an inn. 8. The Samaritan, because he showed him mercy. 9. "Go, and do the same.")

Lesson Texts: Luke 10:25-27.

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 41, No. 3    Primaries    (USPS549-000)    Part 16    July 8, 1990

## THE UNMERCIFUL SERVANT

Peter came to Jesus one day and asked Him, "How often do I have to forgive my brother when he does me wrong? Must I forgive him seven times?"

Jesus told him, "Not just seven times but you must forgive him seventy times seven." To teach Peter why he must forgive, He told him this story:

"There was a king whose servant owed him a lot of money. When the king found that his servant could not pay, he commanded that the servant and all his family should be sold to pay the debt. Hearing this, the servant fell down at the king's feet and begged, 'Have patience with me and I will pay you.' The king felt sorry for him and said, 'I will forgive you all.'

"The servant soon met one of his fellow servants who owed him only a small amount of money. He asked the man to pay his debt, but the poor man could not. The servant angrily grabbed the man by the throat and demanded that he pay.

"Then his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged, 'Have patience with me and I will pay you.' But the servant would not forgive him. Instead he had him thrown into prison until he would pay the debt.

"Other servants of the king saw all that happened. They felt sorry for the poor man who had been thrown into prison for such a little debt. They went to the king and told him what had happened.

"The king called the servant and said, 'You are wicked! I forgave you all the great debt you owed me because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have felt sorry for your fellow servant as I did for you?' Angrily the king commanded the servant to be thrown into prison until he could pay him all.

Finishing the story, Jesus told Peter, "You must forgive everyone from your heart or my heavenly Father will not forgive you".

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

"If ye forgive men their trespasses, your



“heavenly Father will also forgive you.”



## Dogs And Cats

"Mother, I wish Billy's dogs would leave my cats alone," said Cindy as she came into the kitchen where Mother was cooking supper.

Mother sighed. "Please don't fuss about the dogs and cats," she said. "Wash your hands and help me finish supper. The dogs are in the pen and the cats are out. As long as the dogs stay in, they won't hurt the cats."

Quietly Cindy washed her hands though she was still worried about her cats. Billy liked to tease her, and he had threatened to let the dogs out of their pen so her cats would learn not to steal the dog food from the top of their feeder.

Cindy was carrying a stack of plates to the table when her younger brother came running in with the bad news—Billy's dogs were out of the pen! Now Mother was alarmed and ran outside with Cindy. The white cat was clawing up a tree with Jaws right below, growling. Calico's tail was nearly nipped off as the other dog chased her under the neighbor's house.

"Billy, what is the reason for letting these dogs out?" asked Mother.

"Oh, I'm sorry, Mother," said Billy. "They just slipped out the gate when I was going in to play ball with them."

Suddenly Jaws ran towards the street where fast cars were coming and going. Billy raced after his dog. "Jaws, Jaws, you come back!" he called, but Jaws wasn't listening at all. She headed straight for the busy street.

"If his dog gets run over by a car, that will serve him right," declared Cindy.

"No, no, Cindy, I am ashamed of you!" said Mother. "That would make your brother very sad!"

Just then there were screeching brakes, a light thump, and then the yelping and howling of a dog in pain. Mother rushed to help Jaws and Billy, who was crying now. Jaws was not bleeding anywhere, but the car had badly bruised her back legs. She felt so sore that she laid around in the back yard for some time, seldom getting up. The cats seldom came out from hiding either. They were so afraid the dogs would be after them again.

Through the dog and cat fuss, Billy and Cindy learned a lesson.

"Here is some dog food for your cats," said Billy as he handed Cindy a cupful of dog chunks.

"Why, thank you, Billy," exclaimed Cindy. Then she felt ashamed about wishing Billy's dog would get hurt, so she said, "I am sorry about Jaws. Is she doing any better?"

"Yes, some," replied Billy. "I'm very glad she didn't get hurt worse or killed. I guess the Lord wanted to teach me a lesson, and I won't let the dogs out again if I can help it. I'm sorry, Cindy."

"I'm sorry, too," said Cindy. "I'll pay you for the dog food that my cats eat—I don't want them to be thieves, you know!"

"That's okay," said Billy. "They don't eat very much anyway."

"Billy, let's not fuss over the dogs and cats any more, okay?"

"Okay, Cindy," agreed Billy. "Nobody ever wins a fuss." —Sis. Connie Sorrell



### Questions:

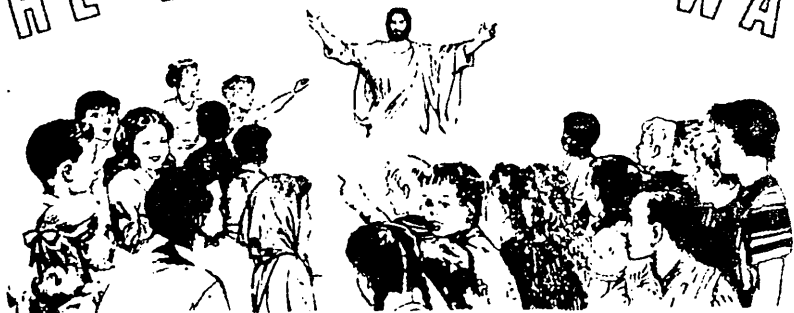
1. Who came to Jesus and asked how many times he had to forgive others?
2. How many times did Jesus say he had to forgive?
3. Why did Jesus tell Peter a story?
4. Who owed the king a lot of money?
5. What did the king do when the servant fell at his feet and begged for more time to pay?
6. Who owed the servant only a small amount of money?
7. What did the servant do when his fellow servant asked him to have patience with him?
8. Why did the king say the servant was wicked?
9. Why must we forgive everyone from our hearts?

[Answers: 1. Peter. 2. Seventy times seven. 3. To teach him why he must forgive. 4. His servant. 5. He forgave him all the debt. 6. His fellow servant. 7. He had him thrown into prison. 8. Because he would not forgive. 9. If we do not, God will not forgive us.]

Lesson Texts: Matt. 18:23-35.



# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 41, No. 3    Primaries    (USPS549-000)    Part 17    July 15, 1990

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## THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

Jesus often taught the people by parables, or short stories. One day He told them the story of a sower who went out to his field to plant seeds. As he walked back and forth across the field, he scattered handfuls of seed on the ground.

Some of these seeds blew onto the road where birds came and ate them. Others fell on stony places where there was not enough dirt for them to take root. These soon withered in the hot sun and died. Still other seed fell among thorns which grew up so thick that they choked out the good seed.

But some seed fell on good rich soil where it grew and produced much more seed than had been planted.

Later Jesus explained the meaning of this parable. He said that the sower is like a person who speaks the Words of God. The different places the seed landed is like the hearts of people who hear the Words of God.

When people do not understand God's Word, their heart is like the roadside. Just as the birds came and ate the seed, the Devil comes and takes away the Word so that the people soon forget what they have heard.

The stony places are like the hearts of people who at first receive the Words of God gladly. But these people do not continue to obey God's Word and so quickly turn back to their old evil ways.

The cares of life and the desire to make money act like thorns in the hearts of some people. At first they receive the Word of God but soon get too busy. God's Word is choked out and cannot grow.

But those who hear the Word of God and love and obey it have hearts like the good soil. The Word of God grows and is fruitful in their lives.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**“Be ye  
decei**



**doers of the word, and not hearers only,  
giving your own selves.” James 1:22**



# Worker Of The Garden

Carefully Jim hid the fat bean seed into the ground. Then he covered a little dirt over the seed. Moving six inches down, Jim planted another seed the same way. Jim liked to plant the fat bean seeds and he liked to see the little bean plant pushing its way up through the hard ground. So soon that little plant becomes a big leafy bush. Then white blooms unfold beneath the leafy shade. These blooms make tiny dark green beans that grow and grow until they are ready to pick and cook and eat.

Oh, did Jim love to eat fresh green beans! Still thinking about them made his mouth water as he faithfully planted each bean seed.

"Are you nearly finished planting the green beans?" Jim's daddy asked as he came over to the row where Jim was just finishing.

"Yes, I am," replied Jim.

"Six long rows of green beans should be enough," said Jim's daddy. "Now we need to plant corn, squash, peas, and whatever else your mother wants. Our potatoes are already coming up. We need to water them as well as these planted bean seeds."

Jim nodded in reply and soon had the garden sprinkler watering the potatoes and green bean seeds. The next day he helped his daddy plant the other vegetable seeds. By the next week, the baby bean plants were coming up out of the ground, but something else was coming up in the same rows with the bean seeds. It was ugly weeds. Jim hoed and pulled out the weeds while his daddy tilled the ground and made it easier for the plants to grow.

The garden plants were all coming up nicely when something else terrible happened. It seemed that overnight tiny bugs were clustered all over the green bean plants. They were eating the leaves and killing the plants! Jim and his daddy worked quickly to kill all those bugs that were trying to kill their green bean plants.

After supper a few days later, Jim's daddy said, "I think the green beans are going to make it now. It's dark outside, son, so would you please turn off the water sprinkler."

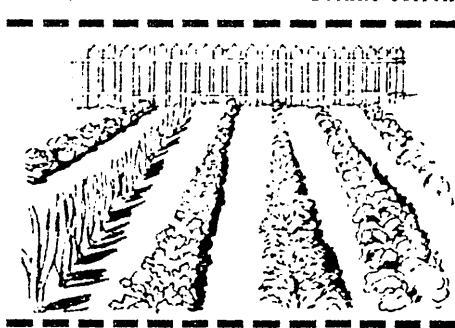
Jim went outside to do so. As he walked along the garden fence, he saw something brown and furry under the green bean bushes. A rabbit was eating tender blooms

off the bushiest Jim clapped loudly and chased the rabbit. Then he fixed the hole in the fence that the rabbit had come through.

Finally there were full-grown green beans to pick and cook. Jim ate the green beans and other vegetables with a thankful heart. He knew just how much work it took to have good food to eat. He was glad he had willingly helped his daddy in the garden.

Just so, Jim wants to be a willing worker for Jesus. He wants to always plant the Word of Truth into the hearts of men and women. Then he prays that nothing will destroy the planted Word of Truth. If Jim is likewise faithful, he will someday enjoy heaven with Jesus.

—Connie Sorrell



## Questions:

1. What are parables?
2. What did the sower go out to his field to do?
3. What happened to the seeds that blew onto the road?
4. Why couldn't the seeds take root in stony places?
5. What happened to the seeds that fell among thorns?
6. Where did the seed fall that grew and produced?
7. Who is the sower like?
8. Who takes the Word of God from the hearts of some people?
9. Whose hearts are like the good soil?

Answers: 1. Short stories. 2. To sow seeds. 3. The birds ate them. 4. There was not enough dirt for them to take root. 5. The thorns grew up and choked them out. 6. On good rich soil. 7. A person who speaks the Words of God. 8. The Devil. 9. Those who love and obey the Word of God.)

Lesson Texts: Matt. 13:1-8, 18-23.

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 41, No. 3    Primaries    (USPS549-000)    Part 18    July 22, 1990

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## TARES AMONG THE WHEAT

Jesus taught the people by telling them yet another parable. He told them, "The Kingdom of God is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But at night, while everyone else was asleep, his enemy came and sowed tares, or weeds, among the wheat that had been planted and then went away. Soon both the tares and the wheat sprouted and grew.

"When the servants saw weeds coming up along with the wheat, they asked their master, 'Didn't you sow good seed in the field? Where did all these tares come from?'

"The man answered, 'An enemy has done this!'

"The servants asked, 'Shall we go and pull out all the weeds?'

"But the man told them, 'No, you might pull up some wheat with the tares. Let them both grow until the harvest. Then we will gather up the tares first. After we have bound them into bundles, we will burn them. But the wheat will be gathered and put into my barn.' "

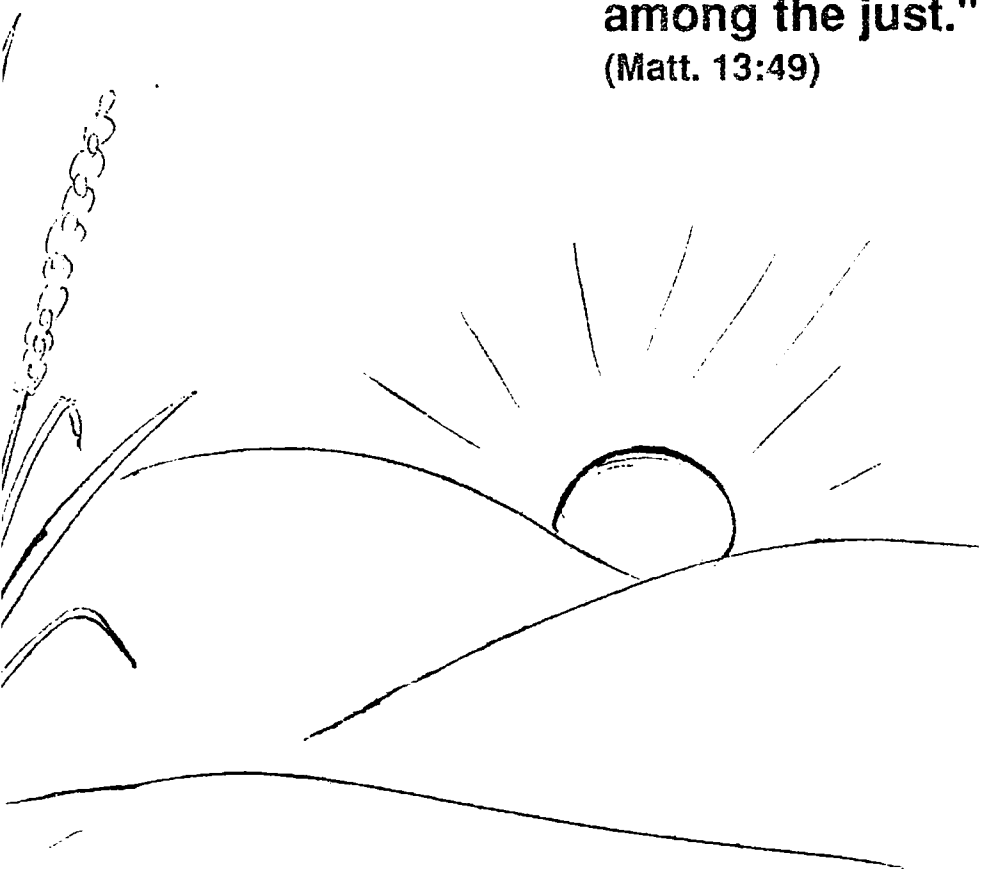
When Jesus had sent the multitude of people away, His disciples asked Him to tell them the meaning of the parable of the tares. He explained, "The one who sows the seed is the Son of man. The field is the world. The good seeds are the children of God, but the tares are the wicked people. The enemy who sowed the weeds is the Devil. The harvest is the end of the world.

"Just as the tares in the parable were gathered up and burned, so shall it be in the end of this world. The evil people will be gathered up and cast into hell, but the children of God will be taken to live with God forever."

—Sis. Nelda Scrrell



**"At the end of the  
world: the angels  
shall come forth,  
and sever the  
wicked from  
among the just."  
(Matt. 13:49)**



# Ugly Devil—Beautiful Jesus

I wish I could tell you just how ugly and how wicked the Devil really is. He is for everything that is bad. There is not one thing good about the Devil. He is always trying to destroy the beauty that God made. Remember how the Devil came to Eve in the form of a snake and caused her to eat the forbidden fruit? Because Adam and Eve obeyed the Devil instead of God, they were punished and sent out of the beautiful garden. The Devil is still turning people away from the beautiful plan of life that God wants everyone to enjoy.

People obey the Devil when they steal, cheat, lie, or kill someone. The Devil tells people to smoke cigarettes, drink beer or liquor, and use drugs or dope. The Devil wants people to get mad and fight. He is the beginner of all wars. The Devil wants everyone to be selfish, greedy, and hateful. The Devil causes mothers and fathers to divorce and make little children cry. Anywhere there is trouble, the Devil is there also.

He is so awful that God has prepared a huge lake of fire for him to burn in some day. God has allowed a few persons to see hell and then return to tell others what they saw. They always tell of the licking flames of fire, the screaming and cursing of people, and the evil spirits who are there. When those few persons returned back to life, they quickly let Jesus into their hearts and they stopped listening to the Devil. They had seen hell and they knew the Devil was there and wanted them there also.

Hell and the Devil are just as real as some ruler in a foreign country that you have never visited. Let's take China for instance. You have never visited China but you know it is a country because you see it on the globe. You know there is a ruler of China because you read about him in the newspaper, yet you have never met him in person. You may never see hell and Devil with your eyes until you die, but they are there and very real. You do not want to obey the Devil and go to the lake of burning hot fire when you die.

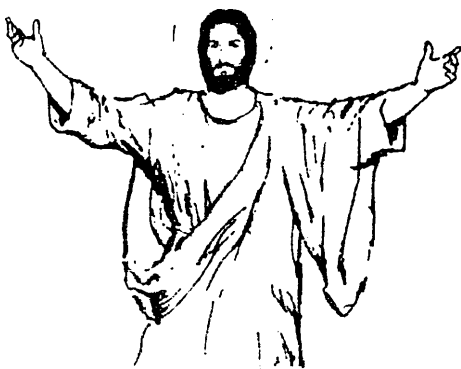
Instead, live for Jesus and obey Him. He will help you not to lie, be selfish, greedy, or hateful. Just ask Jesus to live in your heart and you will see how happy He can make you! Then if you will obey Jesus and God's

Word, The Holy Bible, He will keep you out of trouble. Jesus can make something beautiful out of your life.

Someday Jesus will then take you to heaven where there are beautiful flowers, streets of gold, and pretty angels singing.

The Devil can't get into heaven, and there won't be any wickedness there. Heaven will be beautiful, happy and peaceful.

I want to go there, don't you? Let's all live for Jesus every day of our lives. —Connie Sorrell



## Questions:

1. What kind of seed did the man sow in his field?
2. What happened one night while everyone slept?
3. What are tares?
4. Why didn't the man let his servants pull out the weeds?
5. Who asked Jesus to tell them the meaning of the parable?
6. Who are the good seeds?
7. Who are the tares?
8. When is the harvest?
9. Who will be taken to live with God forever?

(Answers: 1. Good seed. 2. His enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat. 3. Weeds. 4. Because they might pull out some of the wheat too. 5. His disciples. 6. The children of God. 7. The wicked people. 8. At the end of the world. 9. The children of God.)

Lesson Texts: Matt. 13:24-30, 36-43.



# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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## THE WEDDING FEAST

As He often did, Jesus again used a parable to teach the people about the Kingdom of God. He told them "The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who made a marriage feast for his son. When everything was made ready, the king sent his servants to tell those who had been invited. But the people would not come.

"Again he sent other servants to tell the people that he had everything prepared and waiting for them to come. Still the people would not come. Instead, some made fun of the invitation, while others who were more wicked took the servants and killed them.

"When the king heard what they had done, he was very angry. He gathered his army together and destroyed the murderers and burned up their city. He told his servants, 'The wedding is ready, but those who were invited are not worthy of coming.'

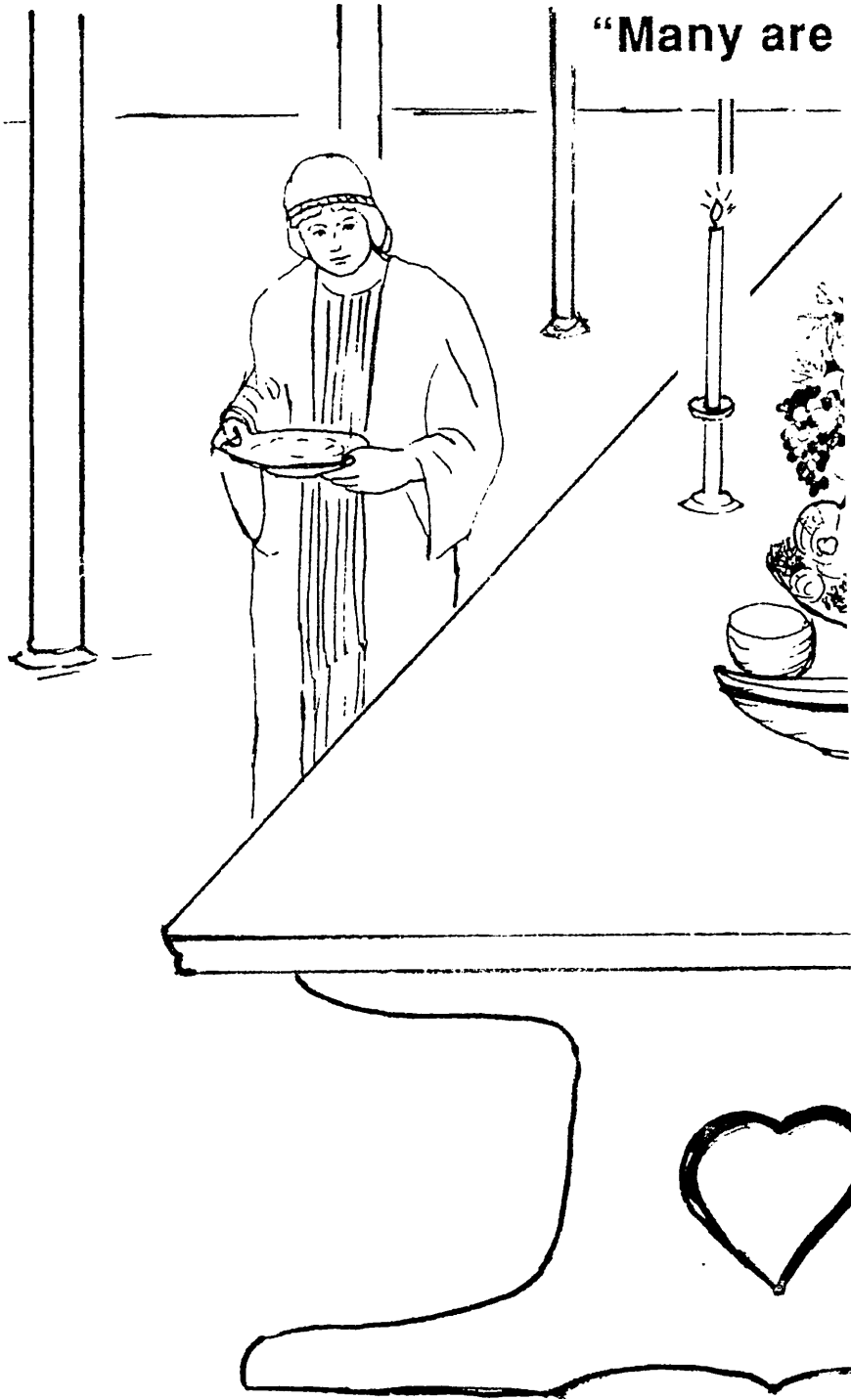
"He sent his servants out again telling them, 'Go into the highways, and as many as you find, bid them to the marriage.' The servants went out and gathered as many as they could so there would be guests for the wedding.

"When the king came in, he saw one guest who didn't have on a wedding garment. He asked the man why he had no wedding garment on, but the man was speechless. The king then commanded that the man be bound and taken away."

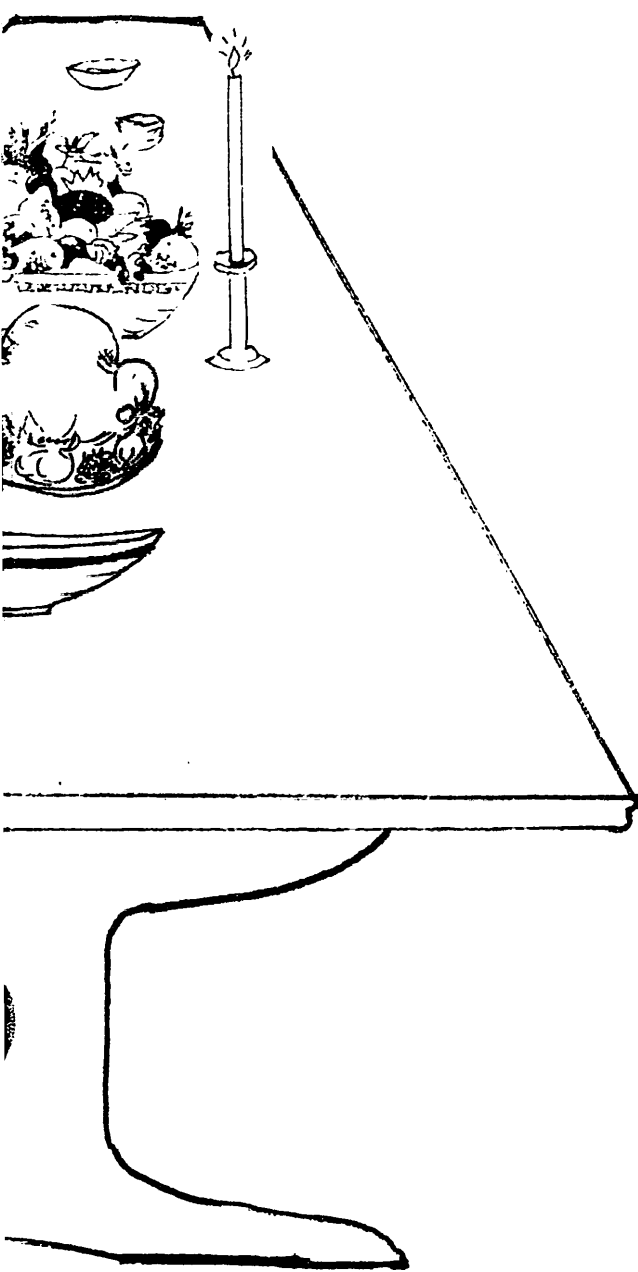
Just as the king had prepared the wedding feast, God sent Jesus to make a way for all to be saved. When we hear about Jesus, that is our invitation to enter His kingdom and be saved. Many refuse to come and be saved. Still others mistreat and even kill those who tell them about Jesus. When we are saved, we are given a robe of righteousness, which is our wedding garment.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**"Many are**



**called, but few are chosen.” (Matt. 22:14)**



# The White Clean Envelope

"There goes the mailman," said Teresa. "I'll go check the mail box and see what we have!"

Soon Teresa brought Mother a couple of sale papers and a neat, white, square envelope. Teresa watched as Mother glanced over the sale papers. Then Mother eagerly opened the neat white envelope.

"What is it, Mother?" asked Teresa. "Who is it from?"

"It is a wedding invitation," replied Mother. "Our cousin, Louise, is getting married in a couple of weeks."

"Oh, can we go?" exclaimed Teresa. "I just love to see a bride walk down the aisle with her long white wedding gown swishing with each step. I like to see the bride and groom hold hands and kiss each other. And wedding cake is always so good to eat. Oh, please, Mother, can we go to Louise's wedding?"

"I would like to go, also," replied Mother. "But we must ask Daddy first and see what he says. The wedding is 400 miles away from here, so it will be an entire weekend trip. Daddy will need to decide about this trip."

"Yes, Daddy said they could go! He asked for one day off from work, prepared the car for the trip, and saved back enough money to pay for the trip."

Mother washed and ironed their clothes, then packed them into suitcases and clothes bags. She bought a wedding gift and wrapped it in pretty paper. Mother also brought a few snacks to nibble on while they were riding in the car for such a long way.

Finally they left on their trip. "We really had to plan and pack for this trip," said Teresa. "I'm glad we were invited to the wedding, though. All the work will be worth it, won't it Mother? When we greet the family and see some of them again—besides watch the bride and groom be married—then we will forget all about the work we did to get there, won't we, Mother?"

Mother nodded. "Yes, honey, we may be tired now, but later we will have a good time, and later still, we will have happy memories."

Daddy then spoke up, "Jesus told stories about weddings. Only those who had wedding invitations could come and enjoy the wedding feast. Each one at the wedding

needed to be prepared and dressed properly before they could share cake and refreshments with the bride and groom. Do you know, Teresa, what this means in spiritual terms?"

Since Teresa shook her head, Daddy went on speaking. "The call to be saved is the wedding invitation. Only those who prepare their hearts and come to Jesus will go to the wedding. Jesus wants our hearts to be as clean and white as a pretty bride's dress. Only the invited guests who have clean pure hearts can be at the wedding."

"Weddings are happy times to me," said Teresa. "Do you suppose Jesus likes weddings also?"

"I suppose so," agreed Daddy. "He refers to His Church as the Bride and to Himself as the Bridegroom. We must live clean and pure every day so we will be ready when Jesus, the Bridegroom, comes back to receive His faithful Bride."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell



## Questions:

1. What kind of seed did the man sow in his field?
2. What happened one night while everyone slept?
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5. Who asked Jesus to tell them the meaning of the parable?
6. Who are the good seeds?
7. Who are the tares?
8. When is the harvest?
9. Who will be taken to live with God forever?

(Answers: 1. Good seed. 2. His enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat. 3. Weeds. 4. Because they might pull out some of the wheat too. 5. His disciples. 6. The children of God. 7. The wicked people. 8. At the end of the world. 9. The children of God.)

Lesson Texts: Matt. 22:1-14.

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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## THE TEN VIRGINS

Jesus told His disciples another story about the kingdom of heaven, using the parable of the ten virgins. He said, "It is like ten young women, called virgins, who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Now five of these were wise but five were foolish. The foolish virgins took no oil to keep their lamps burning brightly, but the wise took oil with them. The bridegroom did not come right away. The young women waited and waited, but still he did not come. They became so weary that they all fell asleep.

"About midnight someone called out, 'The bridegroom is coming. Go out to meet him.'

"Immediately the young women got up and trimmed their lamps so they would be ready to meet the bridegroom. The five who were foolish soon discovered that their lamps were gone out and they had no more oil. They said to the five who were wise, 'Give us some of your oil.' But the wise answered them, 'If we give you oil, we will not have enough for ourselves. Go and buy some for yourselves.'

"While the foolish young women were gone to buy oil, the bridegroom came. Those who were ready with their lamps burning brightly went in with him to the marriage and shut the door.

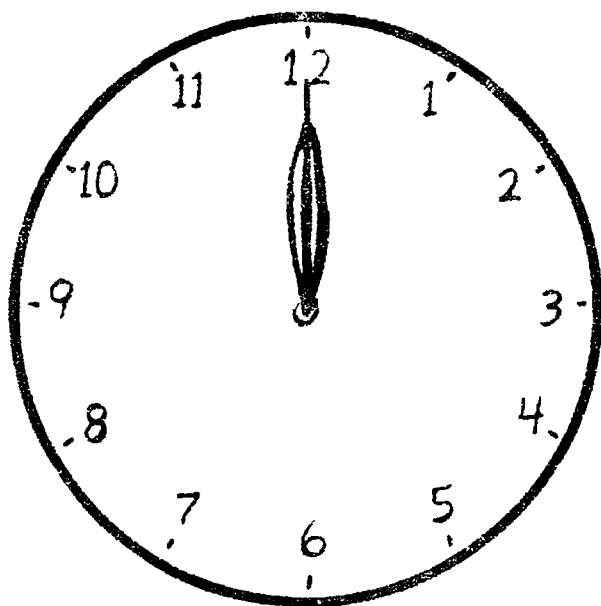
"Afterward the foolish young women came and called out, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' But he answered them 'I don't know you.'

By this parable Jesus taught His disciples that they must always be ready for His coming. If they were not ready when He came they would be shut out of His kingdom.

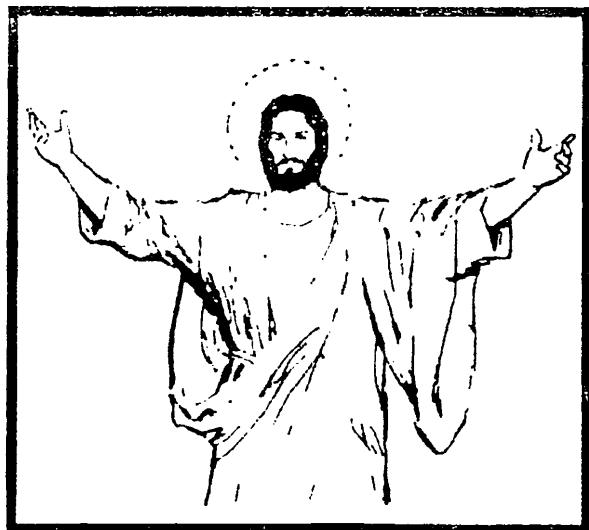
—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



**"See then that ye walk circumspectly [cannot as fools, but as wise," Eph. 5:15**



What time did the Bridegroom come?



Who is coming?

utiously],

# Ready To Go

"I'm ready to go," said Scott as he sat down on the couch before his mother.

"You don't have your socks and shoes on yet, Scott," Mother reminded him. "Get your socks and I will help you put your shoes on."

Scott jumped off the couch and hurried to get clean socks from his drawer. He sat down and pulled the socks on by himself, but it did help to have Mother put on his shoes and tie them tight.

"Now I'm ready to go," said Scott.

"Well, you need your hair combed, Scott," replied Mother. "Go get the green comb on the bedroom dresser, and I will comb your hair."

Scott obeyed Mother and soon handed the comb to her. While Mother combed his hair, Scott held very still.

"Just a minute," Mother said as she finished, "Your ears look dirty. My goodness, when was the last time you washed your ears?" Mother asked.

"Oh, I don't know," replied Scott. "I think my ears like to be dirty."

"Now, Scott, go get me some Q-tips in the bathroom and we shall unplug your ears."

So Scott went to the bathroom, got four Q-tips and brought them back to Mother. Scott stood quietly while Mother gently cleaned his ears.

"Surely I'm ready now," said Scott. "I think I've been very patient, don't you, Mother?"

"Yes, you have been," Mother replied with a smile. "Now you watch at the front door because Daddy is going to come by and get us. We want to be ready and waiting and not be late."

"I don't want to be late!" said Scott. He bounded for the front door and looked for Daddy's blue car. Daddy wasn't there yet, but Bisket, the cat, was. Scott opened the door to pet her. Bisket meowed and looked up at Scott.

"Are you hungry, Bisket?" Scott asked. "Just a minute and I'll go get you something to eat." He hurried to the pantry where the sack of cat food was stored. He brought the sack back, found Bisket's dish on the porch, and poured some cat food in it. Suddenly, Scott heard a honk.

"Hurry," Daddy called, "or we will be late to the dinner!"

Mother was about to lock the door when she saw Scott had the food sack. "Just set it inside the entrance hall," she said. "You don't have time to put it up now."

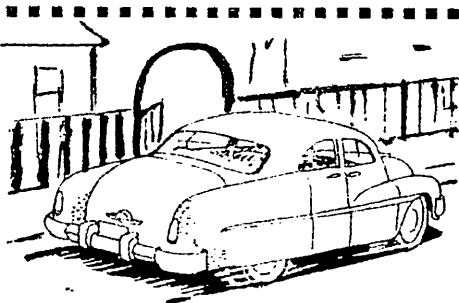
"I didn't think we would ever go," said Scott as he shut the car door behind him.

"I appreciate you being ready," said Daddy. "You seem happy, Scott. You must be ready in your mind, also."

"Yes," said Scott, "I'm ready to go!"

Daddy smiled. "Always patiently obey your parents," he said, "then you will be happy and ready for Jesus when He comes."

—Connie Sorrell



## Questions:

1. How many virgins did Jesus tell about?
2. Who did they go out to meet?
3. How many were wise?
4. How many were foolish?
5. What did the wise take with them?
6. What did they do after they had waited a long time?
7. What time was it when someone called out, "The bridegroom is coming?"
8. Where were the foolish virgins when the bridegroom came?
9. What did Jesus teach by this parable?

(Answers: 1. Ten. 2. The bridegroom. 3. Five. 4. Five. 5. Oil to keep their lamps burning brightly. 6. They fell asleep. 7. About midnight. 8. They had gone to buy oil. 9. They must always be ready for His coming.)

Lesson Texts: Matt. 25:1-13; 5:14-16; Eph. 5:13-17.



# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 41, No. 3    Primaries    (USPS549-000)    Part 21    Aug. 12, 1990

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## THE TALENT

Jesus told the people that the kingdom of heaven was like a man who traveled into a far country. Before leaving home he called his servants and gave them money. He gave five talents to one, two talents to another and to the last servant he gave only one. The servants were to use their master's money to make more money while he was gone. The man knew that his servants did not all have the same ability so he gave the most money to the one who could do the most with it. Then he left to go on the long trip.

The servant who had received five talents went right to work using his master's money, and before long he had earned five talents more. The one to whom his master gave two talents used them to gain two more talents. But the servant who only received one talent dug a hole and buried it.

After a long time the master came back home. He called for his servants, anxious to learn how they had used his money.

The first servant gladly told his master that he had used his five talents to gain five more talents. His master was so well pleased that he told him, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things."

Next came the servant who had been given two talents. He told his master, "You gave me two talents. See, I have used it to gain two more talents." His master was well pleased and made him a ruler also.

Last of all came the one who had received only one talent. Reluctantly he told his master, "I was afraid to use your money, so I hid it. Here is your one talent." His master was greatly displeased and ordered the one talent to be taken from him and given to the one who had ten talents.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



**"Blessed is that  
servant, whom his  
lord when he com-  
eth shall find so  
doing."**

**Luke 12:43**



## Becky Sings For Jesus

Becky was a bright, happy girl who was very friendly also. She liked to attend church and learn about Jesus. Most of all Becky liked to sing about Jesus. God had given her a pretty voice, and people liked to hear her sing.

One summer day Becky was under the shade tree swinging in the swing her brother had tied on the tree for her. She was singing "Jesus Loves Me" when a neighbor girl came by her house.

"Who is Jesus?" Kathy asked. "Is He your boyfriend?"

"No," replied Becky. "He is my Saviour. Jesus died on the cross that I might be saved from sin and go to heaven some day."

"So that makes you think He loves you?" asked Kathy. "Has Jesus ever said, 'Becky, I love you?'" "How do you know Jesus loves you?"

"I know He loves me," replied Becky. "Whenever I pray to Jesus, He always listens and talks to me. He makes me well if I've been sick; He comforts my heart if I've been crying; He helps me be good and He makes me happy. Now wouldn't you say Jesus loves me?"

"I guess," said Kathy. She just didn't feel happy.

"What you need to do is go to Sunday school with me," Becky told Kathy. "If you learned about Jesus and He became your Friend, then you could sing 'Jesus Loves Me,' also."

"I don't know if my mother would let me go to Sunday school," said Kathy. "She doesn't like churches very much."

"I'll go with you and we shall ask her," said Becky as she jumped out of her swing.

Becky asked Kathy's mother so politely that Kathy's mother finally said yes. Kathy had never been to Sunday school before, so she watched everything Becky did and tried to do just the same. Becky was patient with her friend, and the teacher was pleased to see Kathy. Kathy was pleased to take her Sunday school paper home, and she had her mother read the paper to her again.

Kathy went to Sunday school again and again. Soon she understood the stories of Jesus. She wanted to live for Jesus and be His friend also.

Becky told her how to get saved from sin. "Just ask Jesus to take away your ugly ways.

and believe in Him. Then He will do what you ask and make you feel good inside."

Now Becky and Kathy would sing "Jesus Loves Me" together under the shade tree.

"My mother said if she ever goes to any church, she would go to your church," Kathy told Becky.

"Oh, she is very welcome to come," said Becky. "Let's go and ask her about it right now!"

Since Becky sang about Jesus and knew how to lead Kathy to Jesus, Jesus trusted her to talk to Kathy's mother about salvation.

Little children can lead adults to the Lord. Use your time and talents for Jesus.

—Connie Sorrell



### Questions:

1. What did Jesus say the kingdom of heaven was like in this story?
2. What did the man give his servants before leaving home?
3. How much did he give to the first servant?
4. How much did he give the second servant?
5. How much did the last one get?
6. What did the servant with five talents do?
7. What did the servant with two talents do?
8. What did the servant with one talent do?
9. Which servant was the master displeased with?

[Answers: 1. A man who traveled into a far country. 2. Money. 3. Five talents. 4. Two talents. 5. One talent. 6. He took it and made five more talents. 7. He gained two more talents. 8. He buried it. 9. The one who hid his money instead of using it.)

Lesson Texts: Matt. 25:14-30.

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# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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## PARABLE OF THE WORKERS

In another parable, Jesus taught that the kingdom of heaven is like a man who is a landowner. This man needed men to work for him, so he went out early in the morning to hire someone. After agreeing to pay each man a penny a day, he sent them to the vineyards to work.

The man still did not have enough workers, so he went out about 9:00 a.m. and hired more workers, agreeing to pay them what was right.

About noon and again at 3:00 p.m., he went out and hired still more men to work for him. At about 5:00 p.m., he went out and found men standing doing nothing. He asked them, "Why have you stood here all day doing nothing?"

They answered him, "Because no man has hired us." He told them to also go to his vineyard to work, promising to pay them whatever was right.

When it was time to quit work, the man told his servant, "Call the laborers and pay them, beginning with the last workers who were hired."

So, beginning with those who had been hired about 5:00 p.m., just one hour before quitting time, and continuing to those who had worked all day long, the servant paid each man a penny.

When those who had worked since early morning saw that those who had worked only one hour received a penny, they supposed they would get more since they had worked longer. When they received the same pay, they felt cheated and murmured against the one who had hired them.

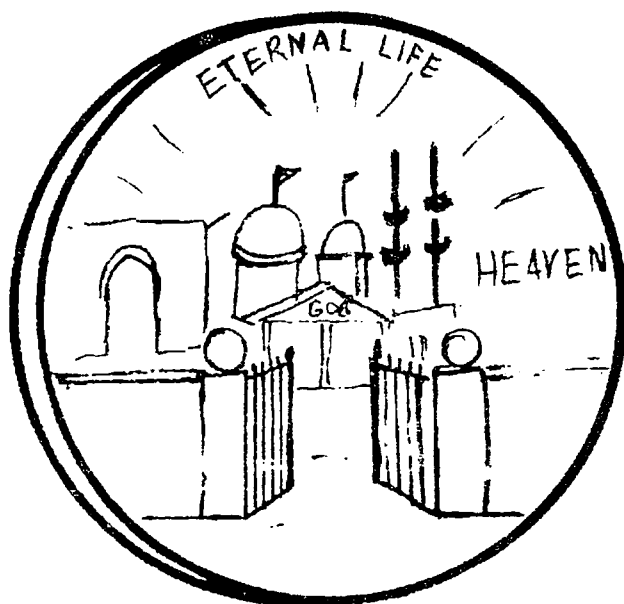
The landowner spoke to one saying, "Friend, didn't you agree to work for me for a penny? If I want to, can't I pay the last workers the same?"

By this story Jesus taught that all who work for God will receive the same reward—eternal life, which is God's gift to us.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



“He that goeth forth and weepeth, beari  
seed, shall doubtless come again wit  
bringing his sheaves with him.” Ps. 126:



ng precious  
h rejoicing,  
6

# Grandfather's Salvation

It was very good news indeed—Ted's grandfather had gotten saved! He had been very sick and doctors had told him that they could not help him any more. They told Ted's family that Grandfather would not live many more weeks. Doctors can not make anyone live forever.

Ted and his parents knew Grandfather did not have Jesus in his heart. He hadn't been a really wicked man, but if Grandfather wasn't living for Jesus, he wouldn't go to heaven when he died. Ted's father requested prayer for Grandfather when they were at church. During family worship, they prayed for Grandfather to be saved before it was too late. Ted couldn't bear the thought of his big deep-voiced Grandfather burning forever and ever in the Devil's lake of fire. He prayed earnestly that God would deal with Grandfather's heart. He wanted Grandfather to repent of his sins and let Jesus live in his heart.

One Monday while Ted was sitting alone by his grandfather's bed, he wanted to tell Grandfather how much he was praying for him. Ted didn't know how to say it. He prayed that God would give him the right words to say.

Suddenly Grandfather turned off the television. "All that stuff on there is so fake," grumbled Grandfather. Then he turned his head to look at Ted. "What have you been doing, Ted?" he asked.

Ted paused a moment in silent prayer. "This may be my chance to talk to him about praying to Jesus," Ted thought. Then out loud he said, "Yesterday I had a friend over after church and we put a model car together. John is one of my best friends because, you see, we got saved the same night. Now we kinda keep each other encouraged as we do things together."

Grandfather was quiet for a moment, but then what he said really surprised Ted. "You live for Jesus all the days of your life, son, so you won't be a hopeless old man facing death like I am."

"But, Grandfather, you don't have to be hopeless!" cried Ted. "You can still be saved!"

"I'm afraid God doesn't want me now," said Grandfather. "My life is nearly over."

Ted was crying now. "We will pray that

God's Holy Spirit will visit your heart," he said. "God wants you to be saved—I know He does!"

Before long there was a tearful prayer meeting in Grandfather's room. Grandfather's deep voice cried out to Jesus for salvation. Jesus answered prayer and washed away his sins. Everyone praised God! Grandfather made some things right that he had done wrong. Then, Friday, Grandfather went peacefully to be with Jesus.

Now Ted plans to live for Jesus all his life so that he can someday be in heaven with Grandfather and Jesus. —Connie Sorrell



## Questions:

1. What did the landowner need?
2. When did he hire the first workers?
3. How much did he agree to pay them?
4. When did he hire the last workers?
5. Why had the last workers done nothing all day?
6. Who was paid first?
7. How much did each worker get paid?
8. Why did some of the workers murmur?
9. What reward will everyone receive if they live and work for God.

(Answers: 1. Someone to work for him. 2. Early in the morning. 3. A penny. 4. 5:00 p.m. 5. No one had hired them. 6. Those who were hired last. 7. A penny. 8. They thought they should receive more than those who had only worked an hour. 9. Eternal life.)

Lesson Texts: Matt. 20:1-16.



# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 41, No. 3    Primaries    (USPS549-000)    Part 23    Aug. 26, 1990

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## THE WICKED TENANTS

Jesus said, "Listen to another parable. There was a certain man who planted a vineyard and fenced it. After digging a winepress in it and building a tower, he hired farmers to take care of his vineyard while he went to a far country.

"When it was harvest time, the man sent his servants to the farmers to get some of the fruit. Instead of giving the servants the fruit, the wicked farmers treated the servants badly. They beat one of the servants, killed another and threw stones at yet another.

"Later the owner sent other servants, still hoping to get some of the fruit. But the farmers treated them just as badly.

"Finally the owner decided to send his own son, saying, 'They will respect my son.'

"But when the wicked farmers saw the owner's son coming, they said to each other, 'This is the heir. Come, let's kill him and take the vineyard for our own.'

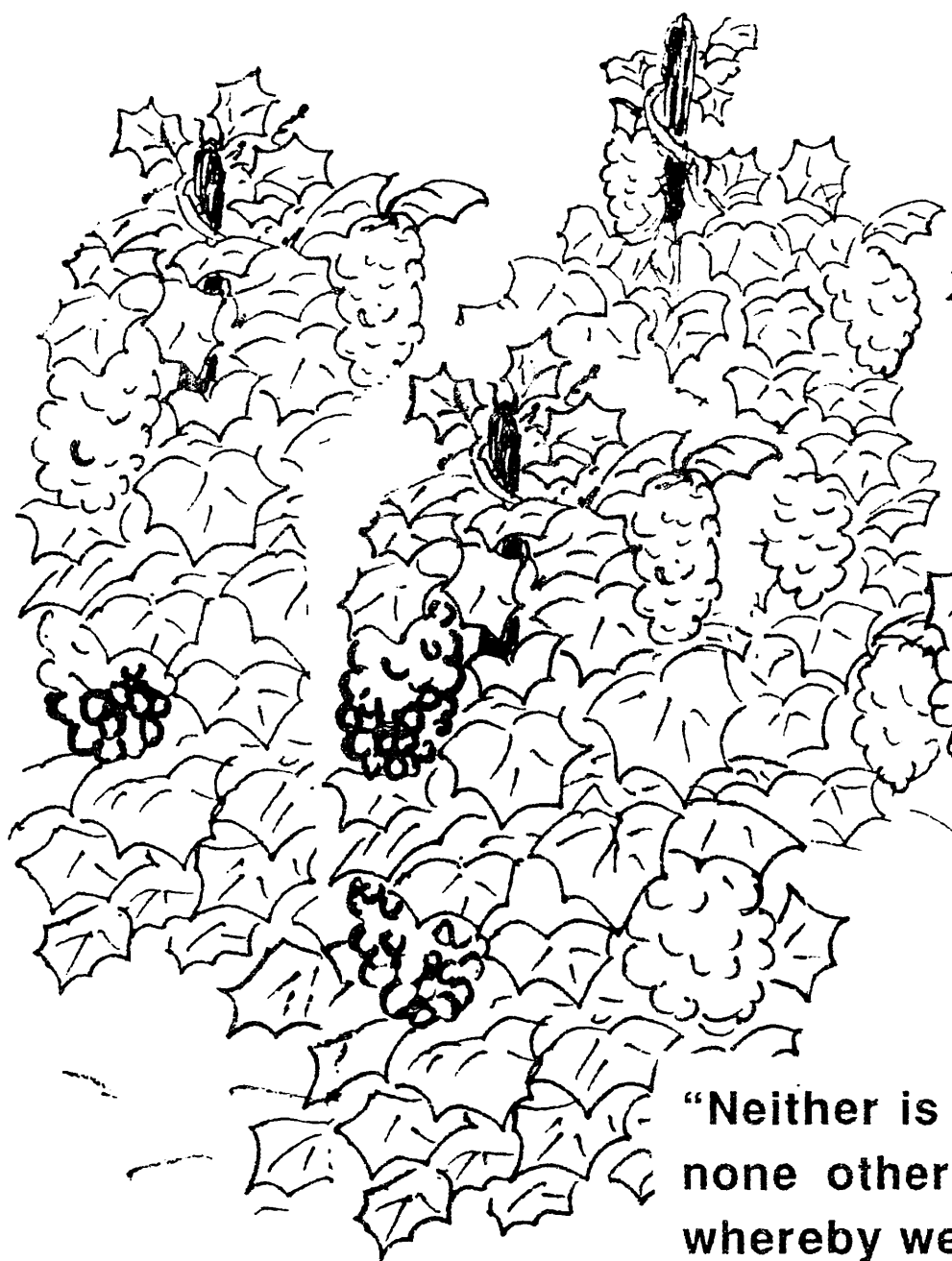
"So the wicked men caught the son and killed him."

Then Jesus asked those who were listening, "When the owner returns, what will he do to those wicked farmers?"

The people answered, "He will destroy those wicked men and hire better men to care for his vineyard. Then he will get some of the fruit of the vineyard."

Standing in the crowd were many enemies of Jesus. Speaking boldly to them He said, "The Kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation who will show by their lives that they are the children of God."

—Sis. Nelda Scrrell



"Neither is  
none other  
whereby we



there salvation is any other: for there is  
name under heaven given among men  
must be saved." Acts 4:12

## Jerry's Questions

"How do you let Jesus in your heart?" asked Jerry. "Do you cut a hole right here by your heart, put Jesus in there, then put a Band-Aid over it?"

"Now, Jerry, that would be rather painful, wouldn't it?" asked Mother with a smile. She explained a little more. "You can't put the body of Jesus into your natural body. Having Jesus in your heart is a spiritual term; not meaning the body of flesh we see, but in the heart of the soul that hides in the body. You can not actually see Jesus living within, but you can hear and feel Him."

"When are you big enough to get saved?" Jerry asked.

"The very first time you hear Jesus talk to your heart," replied Mother promptly. "Get saved while you are a boy and live for Jesus all the days of your life. Has Jesus been talking to your heart?" she asked Jerry.

"Well, kinda," said Jerry. "I don't think I would get into so much trouble if Jesus was in my heart."

"You are very right about that!" said Mother. "Jerry, would you like to pray now?"

Jerry nodded, so Mother and Jerry knelt down by the couch and Jerry asked Jesus to come into his heart. He felt better then! Jerry found that the blood of Jesus really did wash away sin!

"I sure wouldn't want to be one of those wicked men who had Jesus crucified," he told Mother. "They got into a lot of trouble and they are probably still burning in hell today."

"If they didn't get out of their troubles here on earth and ask Jesus to save them, then they **are** still in hell today," agreed Mother. "Jesus gave them many chances to get right though. While He was on earth, He did so many miracles that surely they could see the hand of God. They didn't like Jesus because He wasn't rich and wouldn't bow to them. When Jesus wouldn't become a proud man like one of them, then they were jealous of Him and wanted Him to be destroyed."

"They didn't kill Jesus for long, did they?" said Jerry. "In three days He came out of the grave."

"Yes," said Mother, "and aren't we glad! Now we can claim Jesus as our Saviour and have hope of entering heaven some day."

"I don't want to go to heaven yet," said Jerry. "I want to be your boy for a while."

Mother bent and kissed Jerry's cheek. "You shall always be my boy," she said. "You may live to see the end of the world. Someday Jesus will come again in the clouds. Those who know Jesus will go up to be with Him. The wicked shall be judged and sent to hell."

"That would be something to see!" said Jerry with his eyes flashing.

"You must live for Jesus," said Mother, "so you will be glad to see Him when He comes!"

—Connie Sorrell



### Questions:

1. Who told the parable in our lesson?
2. Where did the man go after he had hired farmers to take care of his vineyard?
3. Why did the man send some of his servants to the farmers?
4. What did they do to the servants?
5. Who did the owner finally send?
6. Why did the farmers kill him?
7. What will the owner do to those wicked farmers when he returns?
8. Who were standing in the crowd around Jesus?
9. What did He tell them?

(Answers: 1. Jesus. 2. To a far country. 3. He wanted some of the fruit. 4. They beat one, killed another and stoned another. 5. His own son. 6. They wanted the vineyard for their own. 7. He will destroy them. 8. His enemies. 9. "The Kingdom of God shall be taken from you.")

Lesson Texts: Matt. 21:33-44; Acts 4:10-11.

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 41, No. 3    Primaries    (USPS549-000)    Part 24    Sept. 2, 1990

## Prayers Of The Pharisee And The Publican

Jesus knows what is in our hearts. He can read our thoughts. As the people crowded around Him one day to hear His Words, He knew that some there were proud. They felt they were more righteous than others. Instead of loving others as themselves or esteeming others better than themselves, they looked down on others they thought were sinners and despised them.

To teach these people a lesson Jesus told this story:

"Two men went up to the temple to pray. One was a Pharisee and the other a publican, or tax collector.

"The Pharisee stood and prayed loud enough for all to hear, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men are. They are unrighteous, unjust, and unfair in business. I thank you that I am not a sinner like this publican. I fast two times every week, and I give tithes of everything I own.'

"But the publican stood away from the crowd. He felt so unworthy that he would not even lift up his eyes toward heaven when he prayed. Instead, with bowed head he beat his chest and said, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!'

Jesus then explained to the people, "I tell you, this publican went back to his home with God's blessing upon him rather than the Pharisee. For whoever lifts himself up in his own sight does not please God. But everyone who will humble himself, God will lift up and bless."

No doubt Peter heard Jesus tell this story and learned the lesson well. Years later he wrote in the Bible, "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time."

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**“Surely God will  
neither will the Almi**



**not hear vanity,  
mighty regard it."**

**Job 35:13**



# Sarah, Don't Be Bossy

Sarah was the most stuck-up girl in the whole school. Really, no one liked her very much because she was bossy and fussy. The only reason she had friends was because she was rich and sometimes she would invite a few girls over to her nice big house to play. Sarah's mother was rather nice, and she would treat the girls to ice cream bars and delicious chocolates. Somehow the girls found they could tolerate Sarah's bossiness so they could enjoy those chocolates at her house.

After school one warm day, Sarah and three friends were playing dolls on her patio.

"I am the banker's wife," said Sarah, "and my two children, Brittany and Braniff, shall have the best doll clothes to wear."

"Now, Debbie," said Sarah to a friend, "you can live right here. Don't you think this chair makes a good house? I do! Kim, you can play with this doll and comb her hair carefully. Set your house up over there. And Karen, you can live over here next to me. Now we are all set up!"

"Listen, Debbie," said Kim quietly. "I'll trade you dolls. This is one of Sarah's old favorites."

"No, thanks," said Debbie. "She is so old, nearly all her hair is combed out. I like the one I have."

"Sarah, I want another doll," said Kim.

"That doll is very nice," said Sarah. "You can just put a hat on her head if you like."

So Kim put a hat on the doll's head. The girls were playing very nicely when Sarah's mother came out on the patio.

"My, you girls are so quiet that one would hardly know you four are here," she said. "How would you like some refreshments?"

"I hope it isn't ice cream bars again," said Sarah. "You always serve them."

"Well, darling, what would you like?" asked Sarah's mother.

"I would rather have grapes. You said yourself that they are more healthy."

"Indeed they are! Just be patient, girls, and I will bring you out a nice cluster of green grapes."

As Sarah's mother hurried back inside to get the grapes, Debbie frowned at Karen and said, "I don't like grapes!"

"I don't either," said Karen, "but I guess we must be polite and eat a few."

After their snack of grapes, Sarah wanted to show the girls her new bike.

"I don't want any of you girls to ride it," she said, "because you might wreck it. Let me show you how fast it will go down this hill."

As Sarah rode her bike faster and faster down the hill, her hands somehow slipped on the handle bars. She lost control of the bike, hit a curb, and shot head first into some bushes. It looked rather funny, and the girls could hardly keep from laughing as they helped a disgusted Sarah out of the bushes.

This may have happened to teach her a lesson: "Pride goeth before a fall and a haughty spirit before destruction." —Connie Sorrell



## Questions:

1. Who knows what is in our hearts?
2. What can He read?
3. In the story Jesus told, how many men went up to pray?
4. What is a publican?
5. Which one prayed loudly?
6. Who bowed his head to pray?
7. Which one went home with God's blessing?
8. Whom will God lift up and bless?
9. Who learned this lesson and later wrote the same instructions in our Bible?

(Answers: 1. Jesus. 2. Our thoughts. 3. Two. 4. A tax collector. 5. The Pharisee. 6. The publican. 7. The publican. 8. Everyone who will humble himself. 9. Peter.)

Lesson Texts: Luke 18:9-14; Ps. 10:4; Prov. 6:6-17; 1 Pet. 5:5-6.



# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 41, No. 3    Primaries    (USPS549-000)    Part 25    Sept. 9, 1990

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## THE BARNS WERE TOO SMALL

Jesus spoke a parable to the people saying, "There was a certain rich man whose land produced great crops. This man thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no room to store all my crops.' Then he thought, 'I know what I will do. I will pull down my barns and build greater ones. Then I will store all my crops in these larger barns.

" 'With such great supply I will say to my soul, "Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink and be merry." ' "

"But God spoke to the rich man and said, 'Thou fool! This very night you are going to die. Then whose will these great crops be that you have stored up?' "

Jesus then said, "So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." .

Later Jesus instructed his listeners about how they should be good stewards saying, "That steward who obeys his lord's commandments is a faithful and wise steward. No matter when his lord returns home, he will find him doing as he was told. His lord will be well pleased with him and will make him a ruler over all that he has.

"But if that steward decides that his lord is not coming home for a long time and begins to mistreat the other servants and misuse his lord's property, then his lord will come when he doesn't expect him. He will find the steward disobeying him. This steward will be punished.

God has given all of us something to do for Him. We must always be careful to do all that God wants us to so that when He comes He will find us obeying Him. If we are faithful and wise stewards, God will reward us.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

“Whoso ha  
brother hav  
compassion  
in him?” I J



ath this world's good, and seeth his  
ve need, and shutteth up his bowels of  
n from him, how dwelleth the love of God  
ohn 3:17



# The Needed Water Gun

Tom and his mother were shopping in the store when Tom found something in the toy department that he had always wanted.

"Mother, how much does this water gun cost?" he asked.

"You don't need a water gun, Tom," said Mother. "It would just get you into trouble."

Tom giggled at the thought of what trouble it would probably make. "Oh, I wouldn't squirt you with it," he told Mother. "I would only squirt the boys. I wouldn't squirt it in the house, either, but only outside. Please, can I—I've **always** wanted a water gun of my very own! It's so hot outside. I can cool off with it getting wet and cool when the breeze blows. I can water your flowers with it and I could wash my hands with it. Then when I get thirsty I could just squirt some in my mouth and have a drink! Mother, I could use this gun for so many things. I just really **need** it!"

Mother had listened patiently to Tom while she looked for laundry soap. "Tom, I don't plan on buying that water gun with my money. It costs a dollar and two quarters. Do you have that much money in your pocket?"

"Yes, I do," said Tom. He pulled out a dollar, two quarters, and one dime. "Is this enough money?" he asked.

"Weren't you planning to put some of your money in the missionary box, Tom? Buying the water gun will take all you have and you won't be able to buy any candy or gum for another week. Are you sure you want that water gun so badly?"

"I want it very much," said Tom. "I will give this dime to the missionary box and go without any candy or gum for a whole week. Just let me have this water gun and I'll be happy."

"Okay," agreed Mother. "You are spending your own money the way you wish. Make sure you do give the dime to the Lord."

So Tom bought his water gun and had fun with it the first day. Eric and Bill, the neighbor boys, had water guns also. They had a contest to see whose gun would shoot the farthest. Tom's gun did the worst.

"I'll tell you what will make your gun squirt better," Eric told Tom. "Put a little dish soap

inside, and that ought to make the water slicker."

"Have you done it to your gun?" asked Tom.

"Well, no," said Eric. "Mine doesn't need it because it shot the best. Doesn't it sound reasonable to put soap in the gun and make it do better? It would be like putting oil on a motor."

Tom listened to Eric, but the dish soap water didn't squirt any better than the plain water. Eric thought he didn't put enough soap in, but Bill thought he put too much. Tom had put a whole capful and he didn't think he should put much more.

"I'll just keep it like it is," Tom finally said. "At least it squirts even if it doesn't squirt the farthest."

But the next morning Tom was a very sad boy. The soap had dried inside his gun and it never, no never squirted water again. All this taught Tom a very valuable lesson: Treasures that money can buy will often ruin and make you sad instead of happy. What you think you need, you often don't have to have.

At least Tom did put some money in the missionary box. Next week he put more money in it.

—Connie Sorrell

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## Questions:

1. Whose land produced great crops?
2. What did he not have room to store?
3. What did he decide to do?
4. Who spoke to him?
5. What did He call him?
6. What was going to happen that very night?
7. What kind of steward is he who is obedient?
8. How many of us have something to do for God?
9. What will God do for us if we are faithful and wise stewards?

(Answers: 1. A certain rich man's. 2. His crops. 3. Tear down his barns and build greater ones. 4. God. 5. "Thou fool." 6. He was going to die. 7. A faithful and wise steward. 8. All of us. 9. He will reward us.)

Lesson Texts: Luke 12:15-21, 41-48.

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 41, No. 3    Primaries    (USPS549-000)    Part 26    Sept. 16, 1990

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## THE LOST SHEEP AND COINS

All the publicans and sinners came to hear Jesus speak. The Pharisees and scribes complained, "This man receives sinners, and even eats with them." The Pharisees and scribes felt they were much too good to even be close to the publicans and sinners.

Knowing how the Pharisees and scribes felt and what they were saying, Jesus told them this parable: "There was a man who owned one hundred sheep. While caring for his sheep in the desert, one became lost. The shepherd let all ninety-nine in the desert to go and look for the one that was lost. He did not stop looking for it until he found it.

"And when he found it, he laid it on his shoulders and rejoiced. When he got home, he called his neighbors and said to them, 'Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep that was lost.' "

Jesus explained, "There is more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just people who do not need to repent."

He immediately told them another parable saying, "A certain woman had ten pieces of silver but lost one. She lit a candle, swept the house and looked for it carefully until she found it.

"When she had found it, she called her friends and neighbors together, saying, 'Rejoice with me! I have found the piece which I had lost!'

Again Jesus explained to them, "Likewise, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Jesus came to seek and to save all who were lost. When a sinner was saved, He was very glad. He hated to see those who thought they were already righteous and would not repent.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**"I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth."**

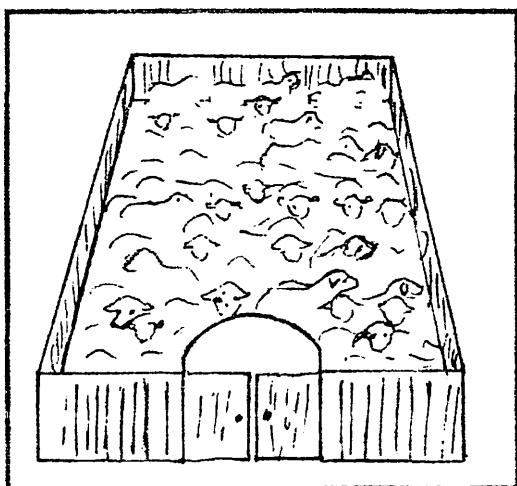
**(Luke 15:10)**



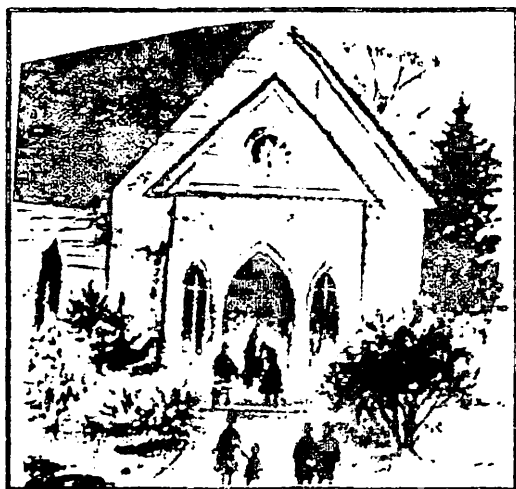
**Draw lines to the right answers.**



**What does the sheep  
represent?**



**What do the 99 in the  
fold represent?**



# A Prisoner Whom Jesus Found

(A true story)

Michael was a very troubled boy. He was abused and beaten by the five different men his mother had lived with. Michael was bitter and angry at the world, so he drank, smoked, and shot drugs trying to forget the troubles in his life. Then one day he did a terrible deed. He killed a young girl. The police found Michael and put in him jail.

Michael stood before a judge and jury and they sentenced him to die for the murder he committed. While Michael was in prison, he was mean and feared by the other men there. Michael was one of the prison bosses.

One day trouble broke out among the prisoners and Michael was blamed for most of it. For punishment, he was put in solitary confinement. Bro. Harold, a prison missionary, asked to visit Michael in his cell. After telling the gospel story to Michael, Bro. Harold left him a small New Testament Bible. The next time Bro. Harold visited him, Michael was eager to hear more about the love of Jesus and the way to be saved.

God had mercy on Michael and began to talk to his heart. Michael then felt sorry for his sins and one day he cried and prayed and begged to be saved from the awful chain of sin. The blood of Jesus washed away his dark stains of sin and made him a new man. No more did the men fear Michael but they respected him.

Bro. Harold came weekly to the prison for Bible study and Michael was always there, eager to hear more about Jesus. He took classes through the mail so he could read the Bible better. Then, after graduating from high school, he took some college courses also. In seven years he was a completely different young man than he had been the first ten years he had been in prison. The love of God had made him care for others and for himself. He wanted to witness for the Lord Jesus, so Bro. Harold had him testify on video tape and these tapes are still shown to thousands each year.

Because of his good conduct, Michael was going to be paroled from prison in 1989 so he could witness in person with Bro. Harold. He had been a lost sheep Jesus had found in the dark prison house of sin. Many people rejoiced to hear that he was now saved.

Then one day in March of last year, the Lord Jesus called Michael to come and be in heaven with him. Michael was killed in a fatal accident while in his cell in prison. Bro. Harold was very sad and did not understand at first why the Lord took Michael before he could go into the world and witness more for the Lord. Then the Lord spoke to Bro. Harold and told him that Michael would face new problems once he was released from the cell and into the streets. Therefore, Jesus felt it would be better for Michael to come to heaven while he was saved and ready to go. The new problems may have caused Michael to be lost again.

There is not one sinner too wicked or mean but what the blood of Jesus cannot wash away the sins and save the person's soul. Jesus came to save those who are lost in sin.

—Connie Sorrell

## Questions:

1. Who came to hear Jesus speak?
2. Who complained?
3. How many sheep did the man own?
4. How many sheep got lost?
5. How did the shepherd find his lost sheep?
6. Why did he want his neighbors to rejoice with him?
7. How many pieces of silver did the woman have?
8. Who came to seek and save all who were lost?
9. Why would some people not repent?

(Answers: 1. The publicans and sinners. 2. The Pharisees and scribes. 3. One hundred. 4. One. 5. He left the ninety-nine and went to look for it. 6. Because he had found his lost sheep. 7. Ten. 8. Jesus. 9. They thought they were already righteous.)

Lesson Texts: Luke 15:1-10; Jere. 3:12-14.



# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



Vol. 41, No. 3    Primaries    (USPS549-000)    Part 27    Sept. 23, 1990

## THE UNJUST JUDGE

Jesus knew that God is too wise to always answer us the first time we pray. Sometimes He lets us come to Him again and again before He gives us the things we ask. He wants us to be sincere about what we pray for and not give up. One day He spoke a parable to the people to teach them to keep right on praying until their prayers were answered.

He said, "In a certain city there was a judge. This judge did not fear God. He was not interested in helping other people.

"There was a widow in that same city who needed help. She had been wronged by an enemy. She could not punish her enemy or get back what he had taken, so she went to the judge and begged him to help her. She knew the judge was unjust, but she also knew he was the only one who could help her.

"The judge was not interested in helping the widow. At first he did not even pay her any attention. But the widow just kept coming to see him.

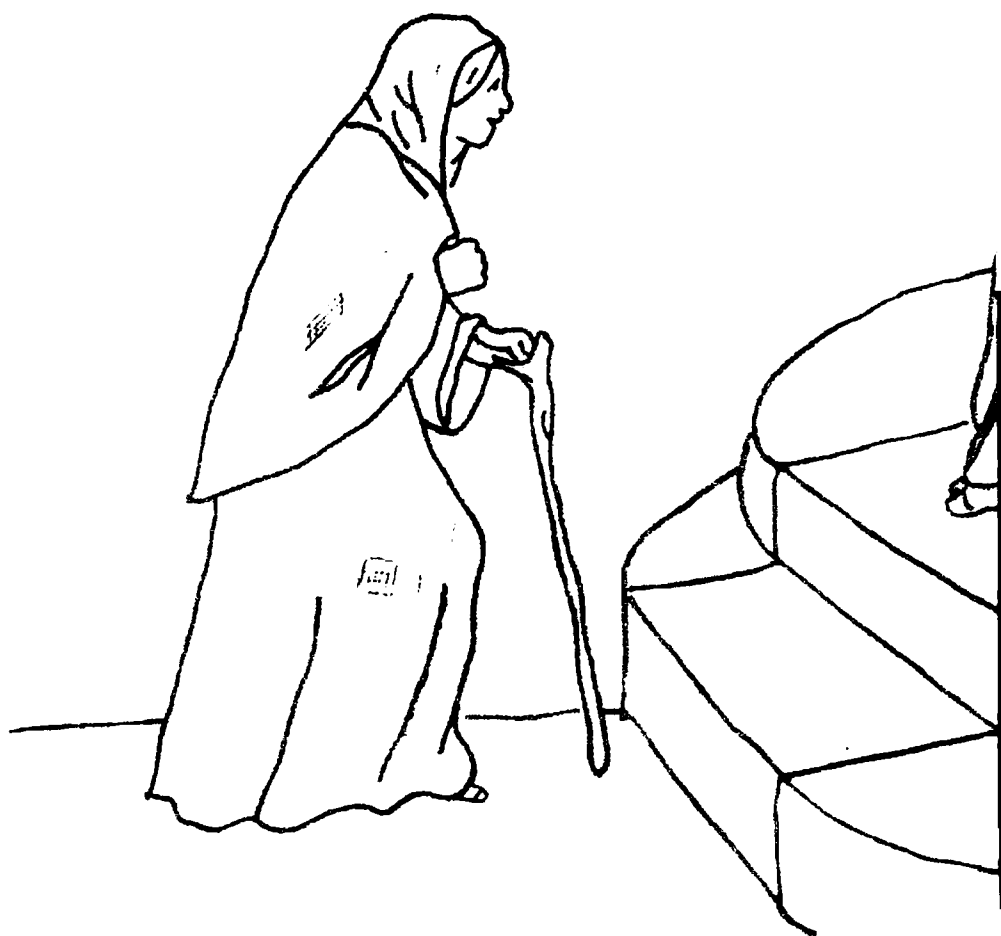
"Finally the judge got tired of the widow coming to him. He said, 'Though I do not fear God, nor regard man, I will do what this widow wants so she will quit bothering me.' "

Then Jesus said, "Learn a lesson from this unjust judge. He did what the woman wanted because she would not quit coming to him. And won't God also answer the prayers of those who come to Him day and night?"

At another time the disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray. After telling them what to say, He instructed them, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**“O thou that hearest prayer, unto thee :  
come.” Ps. 65:2**



shall all flesh



# Pray Without Ceasing

Emma's mother was sick. She could not get out of bed but needed to rest. Emma's daddy was worried about her. He told Emma that they must pray earnestly for Mother because only Jesus could heal her. She was very weak and helpless as she lay in bed, so Emma's daddy took care of her in the evenings. During the day, a kind sister from church stayed at Emma's house and cooked the meals and cared for Emma and her mother.

"Sis. Carrie, I wish my mother wasn't so sick," sighed Emma one morning after breakfast.

"We must keep praying for her," replied Sis. Carrie. She patted Emma's shoulder. "You have been such a sweet brave girl," Emma. I know the Lord's ears are open to your prayers. Have faith that the Lord knows all about your mother."

"I wonder if God has heard our prayers yet," said Emma. "If He knew how bad my mother really is, He would want her well just as I do. I wonder if God isn't off in a mission field in China somewhere."

Sis. Carrie smiled. "God is everywhere, honey. He can be in China at the same time He is here. He holds this whole world in His hand."

"Do you suppose He hasn't seen my mother in bed then? Maybe our house is too little and God just hasn't found it yet."

"Those things do not hinder God in finding His people nor in hearing their prayers," said Sis. Carrie. "What God looks into is the heart. You must pray with faith that God is going to hear your prayers. Keep praying. Ask the Lord to talk to you, and often He will whisper words of comfort or tell you something you should do. God is a Spirit and He dwells in the hearts of men and women, boys and girls. Material things do not hinder God from hearing or seeing."

"Well, He sure is poky in answering our prayers," said Emma. "But I will try to be patient. I know God is very busy. There is probably a lot of other sick people praying to Him besides us."

"Yes, but God loves to hear us pray to Him," said Sis. Carrie. "We must just pray and believe that He will heal your mother at the right time."

Emma did pray. While she colored with her crayons Emma prayed. While she sang to her doll she prayed. While she took a bath she prayed. Emma prayed without ceasing.

Then one day Emma's mother was strong enough again to sit up in bed. As she gained strength, she was able to walk with help to the kitchen table. It was so nice to have Mother at the table eating with the family once again! Now Emma knew that constant prayer with steady faith was the secret to answers from God. She kept praying.

Mother gained back her health and, in time, was cooking and cleaning house like she had always done. Then do you know what Emma did? She constantly praised the Lord for healing her mother. When she colored she thanked the Lord. When she played with her doll she thanked the Lord. When she went to bed at night she thanked the Lord for healing her mother.

—Connie Sorrell

## Questions:

1. Who knew that God was too wise to always answer our first prayer?
2. What did this parable teach the people?
3. Who did not fear God?
4. Who needed help?
5. Who did she ask for help?
6. How did the judge treat her at first?
7. What did the widow do?
8. Why did the judge finally help her?
9. What did the disciples want Jesus to teach them?

(Answers: 1. Jesus. 2. To keep right on praying until their prayer was answered. 3. The judge. 4. The widow. 5. The judge. 6. He didn't pay her any attention. 7. She just kept coming to him. 8. He got tired of her coming. 9. How to pray.)

Lesson Texts: Luke 18:1-8; 11:9-13; John 14:13; Ps. 91:15; Isa. 65:24; 1 John 5:14-15.

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 41, No. 3    Primaries    (USPS549-000)    Part 28    Sept. 30, 1990

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## THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

The kingdom of heaven is so great it can be likened to many things. Jesus spoke many parables to help the people understand better what it was like. Speaking in a parable, Jesus told the people, "The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed which a man took and planted in his field.

"A mustard seed is a very small seed, but when it is grown it is a large tree. Birds of the air nest in its branches, it is so large."

Jesus also told the people, "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hid in a field. That treasure was so great that when a man found it, he quickly covered it up again. He was so glad to have made the great discovery, that he sold all he had and bought the field so the treasure would be his.

"And the kingdom of heaven is also like a merchant man who was looking for good pearls. Then when he found that one perfect pearl, he went and sold all he had and bought it.

"And again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net which is thrown into the sea. In it the fisherman gathered all kinds of fish. When the net was full, the fisherman pulled it to shore. He then sat down and began separating the good fish from the bad. The good fish he kept, but the bad he threw away.

"That's the way it will be at the end of the world. The angels will come and cut off the wicked from among God's children and cast them into a furnace of fire."

After giving them the last parable about the Kingdom of God, Jesus asked His listeners, "Have you understood?"

They answered, "Yes, Lord."

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



**"The kingdom of heaven is like unto a net  
cast into the sea, and gathered of e  
Matt. 13:47**



et, that was  
very kind."

# A Vision Of Heaven

(A true story)

I would like to share with you a beautiful dream that the Lord gave me one night. Perhaps it will help you to know more what heaven will be like.

First I dreamed I was waling down a pretty shaded street here in my hometown. I was on a sidewalk under a big shade tree when I heard someone crying. I walked up some steps and into a house where I saw my friend, Mary, whom I went to school with when I was a little girl. Mary was crying and sobs were shaking her small body, so I put my arm around her and asked what was wrong.

"My mother died," she said.

"Was she ready to go?" I asked, remembering how her father had hung himself.

Mary seemed to think her mother was saved. Then I noticed that there were others in the room crying also. I asked Mary who was going to feed supper to all the family who were there. She only shook her head like she didn't know.

"Well, I'll go get them something to eat," I told Mary. "I'll be back before long with some food for the family."

I went out of Mary's house and back to the shady street. On the sidewalk I met Bro. Gene and Sis. Dora Lela Beisly. I told them about Mary's mother dying. Sis. Dora Lela said, "Oh, if I could only see, I would make something for the family to eat."

I assured Sis. Dora Lela that the Lord understood, as she had been faithful to help many times. Then as I hurried on, I thought about how this old earth has so many troubles, sorrows, sickness, blindness and cares. I began to long for a better place, when suddenly in my walk I rounded the corner and came upon a beautiful street. The sun was so bright yet everything felt and looked so lovely. There was a long row of houses on one side of the street with well trimmed green lawns and white sidewalks. The street was golden and it glistened in the sunlight. On the other side of the street, there was a sparkling blue sea of water. It looked cool and refreshing. Over the water there was latticework of green bridges, and on the edges of each green bridge, there were flowers of pretty bright colors.

Then, over the arching bridges came little children singing and skipping. They wore white blouses or shirts and blue skirts or trousers. Each child had a basket swinging on their arm. They were picking the flowers on the edges of the bridges. I was afraid they would fall off, so I tried to call to them to be careful. Then the Lord let me know they were on the other shore, or in heaven. I said, "Oh, Lord, I want to join those children!" But He reminded me that I was to take food to Mary's family. "Do a little more work for others," He told me, "and then you can come here also."

So I left that beautiful street where the colors were so bright. I went through a messy yard and then to a house where I started cooking, but my mind was still thinking about that beautiful place I had seen. Then I awakened from my dream.

Yes, heaven is real. We must prepare to go there when it comes our time to die. Be saved today.

—Connie Sorrell



## Questions:

1. What did Jesus say the kingdom of heaven was like in the first parable?
2. What size is a mustard seed?
3. What kind of plant does it make?
4. What else did Jesus say the kingdom was like?
5. When the man found the treasure hid in the field, what did he do?
6. What did he sell so he could buy the field?
7. Who separated the good fish from the bad?
8. Who will separate the wicked from the children of God at the end of the world?
9. What did Jesus ask His listeners?

(Answers: 1. A grain of mustard seed. 2. Very small. 3. A tree. 4. A treasure, a good pearl and a net. 5. He covered it up again. 6. All that he had. 7. The fisherman. 8. The angels. 9. "Have you understood?")

Lesson Texts: Matt. 13:31-33, 44-53.



# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 41, No. 4    Primaries    (USPS549-000)    Part 14    Oct. 7, 1990

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## GOD CREATES THE EARTH

There was once a time when there was no world. But even then there was God. God is eternal. That means He has always existed and always will.

Black darkness lay everywhere like a thick blanket. God in His great power spoke the words, "Let there be light," and there was light. God was pleased with the light. He divided it from the darkness, calling the light day, and the darkness night. This was the first day of time.

On the second day, God created the blue sky above us. He called the sky heaven.

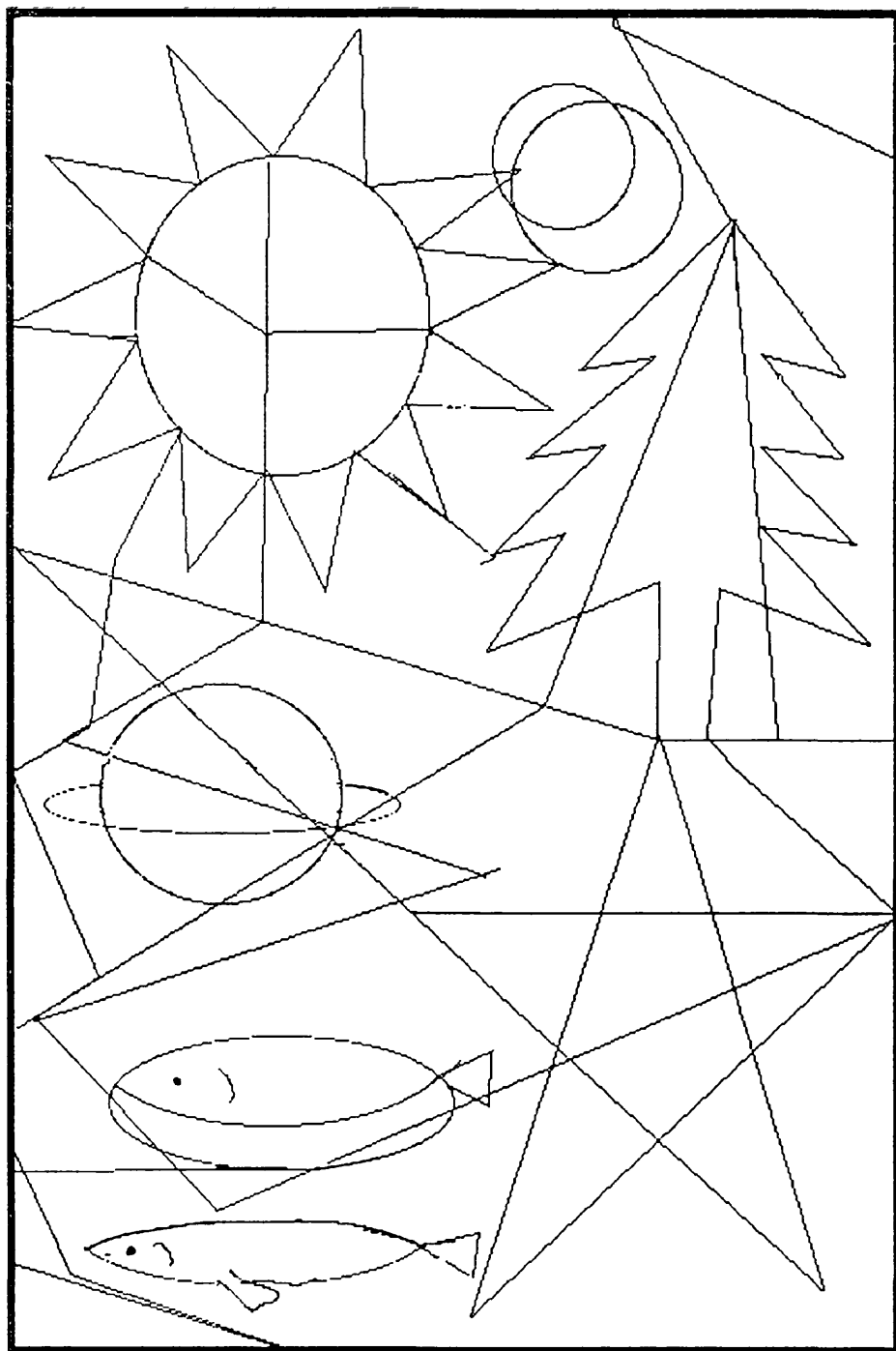
The third day God gathered together the waters to form oceans, rivers, and lakes, separating them from the dry land. God called the dry land earth. The earth was bare; it had nothing growing on it. God caused a carpet of grass to cover the bare ground. He created beautiful flowers to grow here and there. And on this same day, God created trees of all kinds.

On the fourth day God made the sun, the moon, and the stars to shine from heaven. He made the sun to give us bright light all day and the stars and moon to shine at night. God saw that all He had made was very good.

The earth was now a beautiful place to live. So on the fifth day God created birds to fly in the sky and all kinds of fish to swim in the waters.

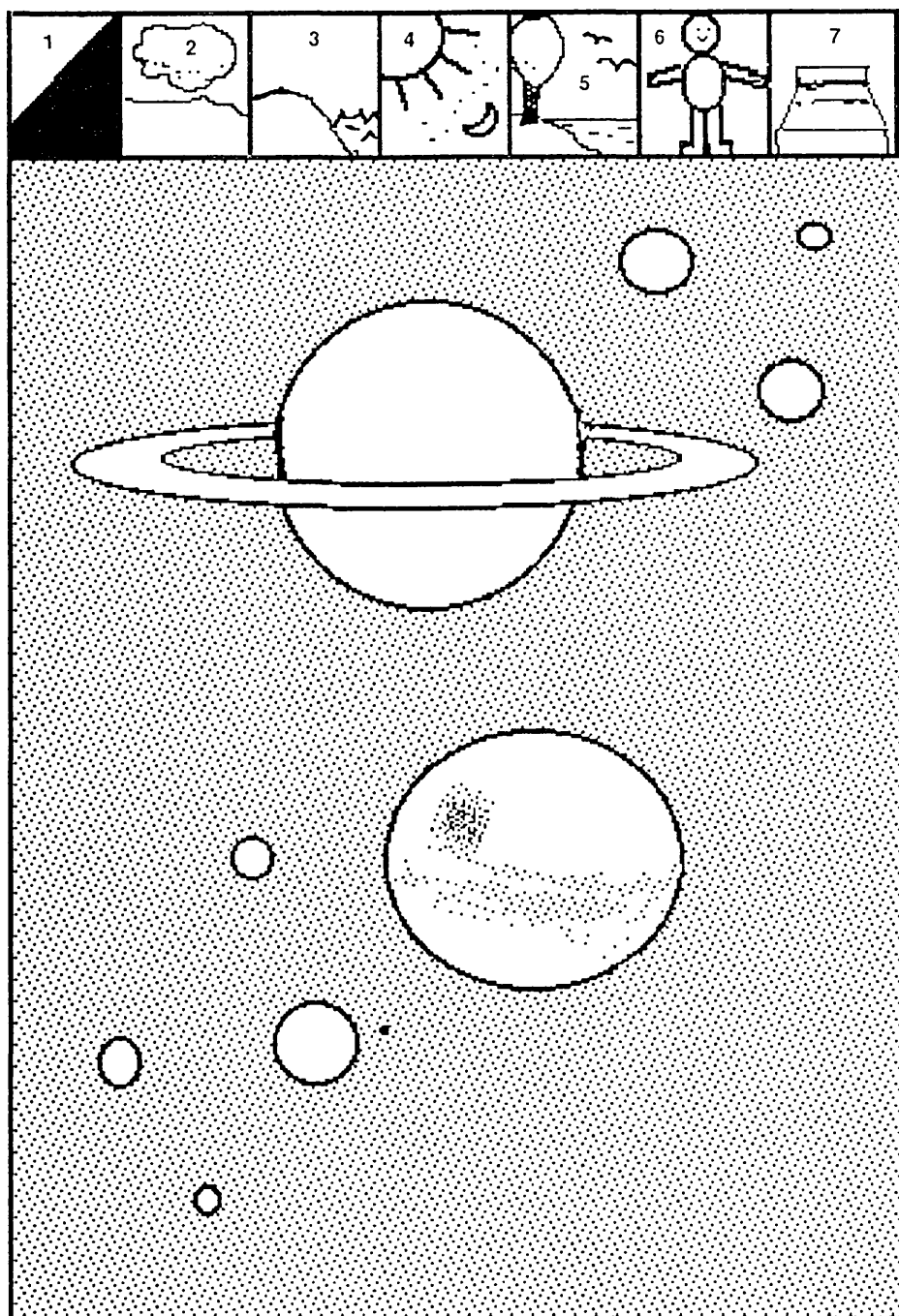
It was on the sixth day that God said, "Let the earth bring forth the living creatures." On this day He created the cattle, beasts of the field and all the animals. Then God said, "Let us make man in our image." So God created man in His own image to enjoy and take care of the beautiful world He had created. As the sixth day ended, God looked out over all that He had created and saw that it was all very good. —Sis. Nelda Sorrell

Can you find the things God created?



(sun, moon, star, tree, planet, fish)

**"In the beginning God created the  
heaven and the earth." (Gen. 1:1)**



# Who Made The House?

◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆

Ricky came hurrying into his house because he had an important question to ask Mother. He found her in the laundry room putting clothes in the washer.

"Mother," said Ricky, "did God make our house? I told Frank that God made everything and he said, 'No, God didn't make your house—some men did, because I saw them do it!'" Mother, do you know who made our house? Did some men make it or did God?"

Mother closed the washer lid then turned to Ricky with a kind look on her face. "Let's go into the den where we can sit down and visit about it," she said. Once they were seated, Mother told Ricky who had made the house.

"Ricky, our house has bricks, mortar, wood, and shingles on it. Bricks are mostly made from special clay. Men take this clay, shape it in rectangles and bake it in a very hot kiln or oven. Then, other men put the bricks in place with mortar. Brick mortar is made with sand and cement. Cement comes from limestone. Men mix just the right amount of these two things and add water, then presto! there is the mortar ready to stick bricks together. Men made the bricks and mortar, but who made the clay, sand, cement and water?" asked Mother.

Ricky's face lit up with a smile. "God made the earth and water in the very beginning, didn't He, Mother?"

"Yes, Ricky," agreed Mother. "God made the earth and clay, sand, and water—all come from the earth that God made. How about wood, where does wood come from?"

"Wood comes from trees," said Ricky.

"Yes, men cut down big tall trees that grow in forests. They cut off the branches and send the trees to mills where machines trim and cut them into useful wood. Men use wood to build houses, but remember the wood comes from trees, and who made the trees?"

"God made trees!" exclaimed Ricky.

"Yes again," said Mother. "God made the trees, plants, grass, flowers—everything we see on this earth. God made all good things for men and women to use for building houses, for making clothes, or for food to eat. Men **built** the house, but God **made** the things that a house is made of. God made the clay, water, wood, and even the men who built the house. So Ricky, men built the house out of the things that God has made."

"Alright!" exclaimed Ricky jumping up from his seat. "I shall tell Frank just that!" Away he raced out the door to find his friend and tell him what Mother had said.

"Frank," said Ricky, "our house is made of cement, sand, water, and wood. God made all these things so men can use them to build houses. Men built the house, but God made the things it is made of. God even made the men who built the house."

"Well, I hadn't thought about it that way," said Frank slowly. "Men wouldn't have anything to build the house with if God hadn't made the things they needed. God did make everything!"

—Sis. Connie Sorrell



## Questions:

1. Who existed even before the world?
2. What covered the earth like a thick blanket?
3. What did God create on the first day?
4. What was made on the second day?
5. God created what on the third day?
6. What did He create on the fourth day?
7. On which day were birds and fish created?
8. On the sixth day, what did God create?
9. Whom did God create in His own image?

Answers: 1. God. 2. Darkness. 3. Light. 4. The blue sky. 5. Oceans, rivers, lakes, grass, flowers and trees. 6. The sun, moon and stars. 7. The fifth day. 8. All the animals and man. 9. Man.

Lesson texts: Gen. 1.

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 41, No. 4    Primaries    (USPS549-000)    Part 15    Oct. 14, 1990

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## THE FIRST HOME

On the sixth day of creation God created man. This man, Adam, was different from the other creatures God had made. He was made in the image of God and had a living soul. God gave Adam charge over all the animals and let him give them names.

God saw that Adam needed someone to help him and be his companion. One day God caused Adam to fall into a deep sleep. As he slept, God took one of his ribs and from it He made a woman to be with Adam. When Adam woke up he found the helper that God had made to be with him. He called her Eve.

Adam and Eve had a beautiful home. God put them in the Garden of Eden to live. In it grew all kinds of plants and trees to produce food for them. God also planted two very unusual trees in this garden. One was the tree of life. If anyone ate fruit from it they would live forever. The other tree was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

It was Adam's job to take care of this garden. In return, Adam and Eve were free to live there and enjoy all the good fruit and vegetables that grew in the garden. They had only one rule to follow: they were not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

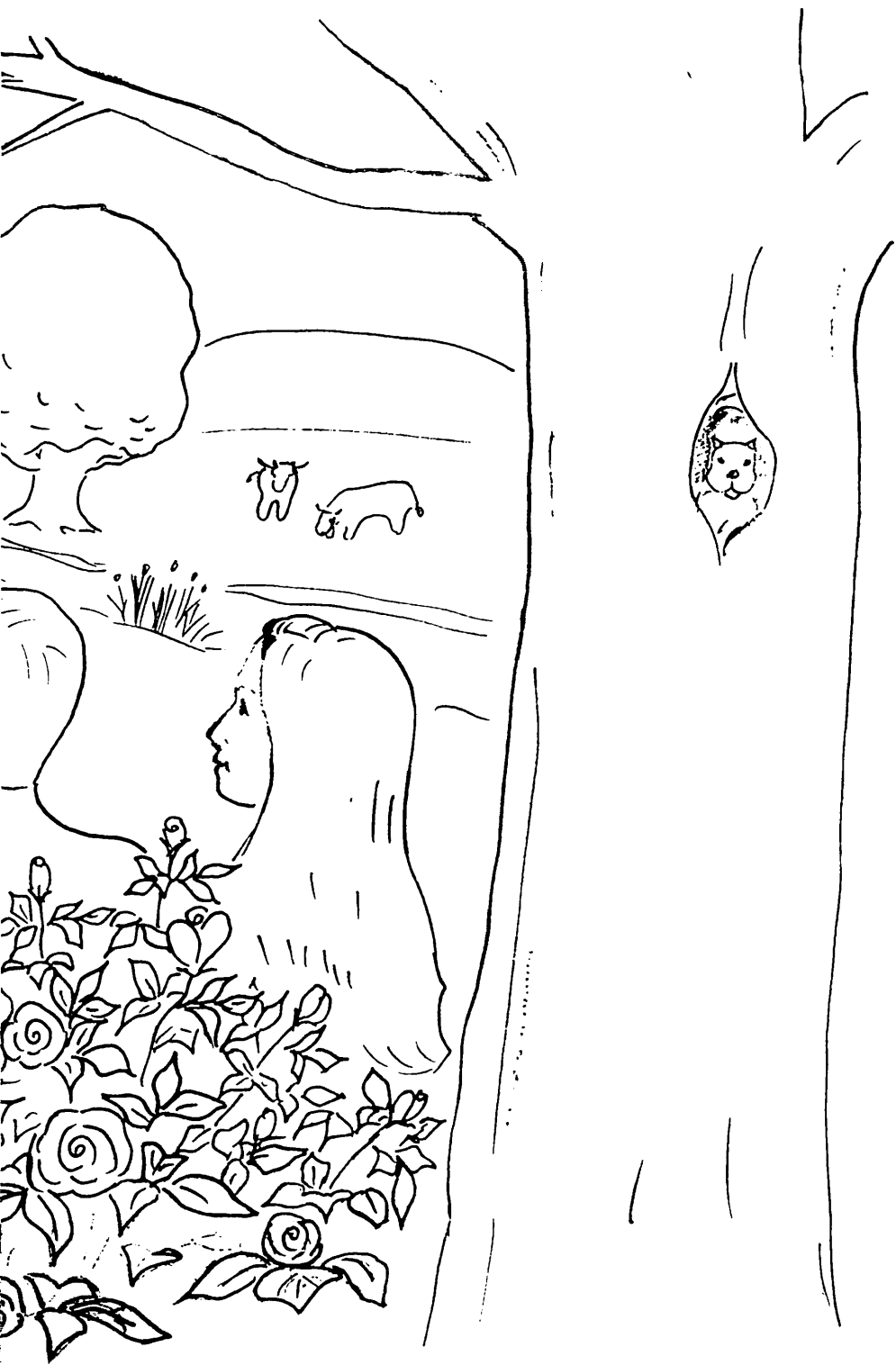
Adam and Eve were very happy in their garden home. God had given them many good things to enjoy. They knew nothing about sin and evil. They were never sick nor sad. God visited them every evening and talked with them. What a happy life Adam and Eve had!

For six days God worked to finish His creation. As He looked out over all that He had created He saw that everything was very good. He was well-pleased with the beautiful world He had created. —Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**"The Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it."**

(Gen. 2:15)





# Picture On The Wall



Ricky and his sister, Sandra, were in the living room of their home coloring pretty pictures in their color books.

"Look, Ricky," said Sandra, "do you like the picture I colored?" Ricky looked at Sandra's picture. "Yes, it looks pretty," he told her. "You color pretty."

"Do you think I color pretty enough to color a picture for Mother?" asked Sandra. Ricky nodded his head and turned back to his own color book where he was busy coloring a clown. Suddenly he realized Sandra was not coloring in her color book. She was over by the wall behind the couch.

"Sandra, what are you doing?" asked Ricky coming over to her.

"I'm coloring Mother a pretty picture," replied Sandra.

"No, don't color on the wall! Mother won't like the picture on her wall!" cried Ricky.

Sandra looked up from her coloring. "Well, I heard her say she wanted another picture for the living room wall, and you said I colored pretty enough to make her a picture, and, and, . . ." Sandra was nearly in tears now because Ricky looked so upset at her and was taking her colors away.

"I hope we can wash this off the wall before Daddy sees it," he told her. "You should know better than to color on the wall. This looks like a person you were drawing. Whose picture were you trying to draw on the wall?"

"That is Adam. God made Adam out of dirt and I was going to draw him on the wall. I don't think God would care if I drew Adam on the wall."

"Daddy and Mother always said not to write on the wall, Sandra," insisted Ricky. "That isn't taking care of the house. I don't think God would like for you to do it, because He told Adam to take good care of His garden, so He wants us to take good care of our house. I think we had better wash all this off before Daddy sees it!"

Ricky and Sandra were busy scrubbing the wall when Mother came into the room. After Sandra told Mother why she had drawn on the wall, Mother did not scold very much. She helped the children clean the wall, and when they were finished, it didn't have a mark on it.

"God made our house, anyway, didn't He, Mother?" asked Ricky. "Remember when you told me how God made the clay, water, and trees so men could use them to make houses?"

"Yes, I remember that," replied Mother with a smile. "God told Adam to take care of the garden and name all the animals. Adam was God's friend. He was special because he had a living soul that would live forever and ever."

"I know we are Adam's great-great-great-great—— grandchildren and God gave each one of us a living soul also," said Ricky. "I want my soul to live in heaven someday. Didn't Jesus say He has a mansion waiting for us in heaven?"

"Yes, Ricky, you know the Bible very well for your age. That will be a help to you in following Jesus towards your mansion in heaven."

"What is a mansion?" asked Sandra.

"It is a big beautiful house that only rich people can live in," replied Ricky. "Sandra, you have a mansion in heaven also."

"Let's take care of our house and keep it clean and tidy," said Mother. "Now pick up your colors and coloring books and put your other toys away. Let's make the house look nice for Daddy. He will be coming home soon."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

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## Questions:

1. On what day did God create man?
2. What was the first man's name?
3. Who did God create to be his wife and helper?
4. Where did Adam and Eve live?
5. What would happen if Adam ate fruit from the tree of life?
6. What was Adam's job?
7. What one rule did Adam and Eve have to follow?
8. Who visited Adam and Eve every evening?
9. How long did it take God to finish His creation?

Answers: 1. The sixth day. 2. Adam. 3. Eve. 4. in the Garden of Eden. 5. He would live forever. 6. To take care of the garden. 7. They must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. 8. God. 9. Six days.

Lesson texts: Gen. 2:8-25.



# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 41, No. 4    Primaries    (USPS549-000)    Part 16    Oct. 21, 1990

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## THE WICKED SERPENT

Even as far back as Adam and Eve's time, the Devil was working against God's plan for only good to be in the world. Satan thought of a plan to make Adam and Eve do wrong. He would appear in the form of a serpent and persuade them to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

One day the Devil, disguised as a serpent, asked Eve, "Has God said that you should not eat the fruit of every tree of the garden?"

Eve answered, "We may eat of every tree except one. God told us not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil or we will die."

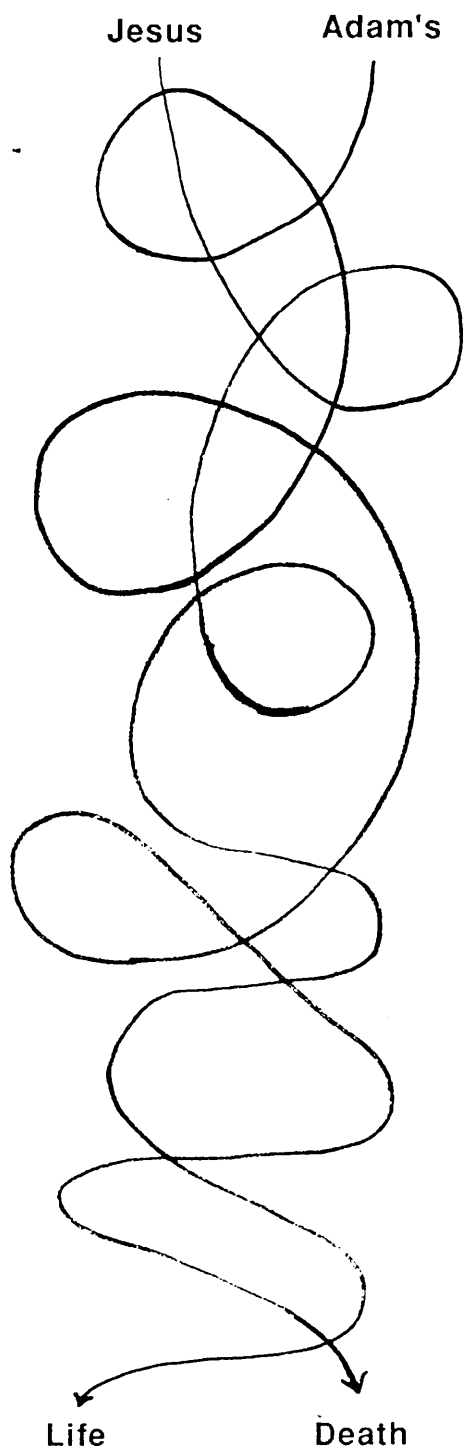
"You will not die," the serpent answered. "God knows that if you eat from this tree you will become as wise as gods knowing good and evil."

Foolishly, Eve listened to the Devil and then looked at the fruit that God said she should not even touch. It looked so good, and she did want to be wise, so she picked some of the fruit, tasted it, and then gave it to Adam to taste. Immediately they knew they had done wrong. Now, with sin in their hearts, they were afraid to meet God, so they hid from Him.

Soon they heard a voice, "Adam, where are you?" God knew they were hiding because they had disobeyed Him. God's heart was filled with sorrow and pain. Adam and Eve had listened to the Devil. They had chosen to disobey Him. Now they could no longer live in the beautiful garden home God had made for them. He could never talk with them as He had before, because sin had entered their hearts and spoiled their lives.

But God still loved Adam and Eve. He promised that someday He would save mankind. He did this by sending Jesus. Through Him we can be forgiven of our sins and have pure hearts just as Adam and Eve had.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



**"The Son of God was manifested,  
that He might destroy the works  
of the devil." (1 John 3:8)**



# Guilt Changed Ricky

"Why Ricky," said Daddy at the supper table, "you have hardly said one word this entire meal. That's not like my boy who usually chatters like a squirrel and chirps like a bird."

Ricky glanced up at Daddy with a weak smile on his face then he looked back down at his plate that was still full of food.

"Maybe he has a frog in his throat," suggested Sandra.

"No, sister," chided Mother. "Ricky do you not feel very well? Maybe I should take your temperature."

"No, no, I'm just not hungry tonight," replied Ricky. "May I go to my bedroom now?"

This time Mother and Daddy allowed Ricky to leave the table while food was still on his plate. They thought Ricky was sick in his tummy, but Ricky really felt bad in his heart.

Instead of Ricky lying on top of his bed, he crawled under it, then from his pocket he slipped a neat little knife. It was his friend's knife. Jeff had lost it that day while they were playing. Ricky found it, but he never told Jeff. He just pretended to hunt for the knife while all the time knowing it was in his pocket.

Ricky knew Jeff liked this knife very much, but then Ricky liked it too. Ricky had listened to the voice that said, "Finders, keepers; losers, weepers"; Jeff shouldn't have been so careless with his knife. Now keep the knife safer than Jeff did."

At first Ricky felt okay about keeping the knife. Now he was feeling worse and worse until his mind was thinking only about this knife that wasn't his. That's why he couldn't talk much at the table—he didn't want to say something about the knife.

Suddenly there was a knock on Ricky's bedroom door. Quickly he put the knife in his pocket and rolled out from under his bed just as Daddy opened the door. "Oh, we thought you might be in bed," said Daddy. "Son, is something wrong? You act nervous. Would you like to talk to me about something?"

Ricky stood silent for a minute. One voice was telling him, "Be still, Daddy wouldn't understand." But the knife felt so heavy and warm in his pocket. Then a kind gentle Voice said, "Be sure your sins will find you out. Daddy will know about the knife sooner or later. Don't you want to get rid of this awful guilt?"

"Daddy," began Ricky, "is it right to keep something if you find it but know whose it really is?"

"That is pretty close to stealing," said Daddy, "and the Bible plainly tells us: Thou shalt not steal." What happened, son?"

Then Ricky told Daddy everything that had happened and showed Daddy the knife. "I think I had better take the knife back to Jeff right now, don't you think so, Daddy?"

Daddy thought so too and Ricky hurried away to Jeff's house. That night in family worship, Ricky asked Jesus to forgive him. When Jeff got up from prayer he felt so much better! He was happy again!

"Is there any supper left?" he asked Mother. "I feel like eating now!"

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

## Questions:

1. Who has always worked against God?
2. In what form did he appear to Eve?
3. What did the Devil want Eve to do?
4. Who first picked the forbidden fruit and tasted it?
5. Who did she give a bite to?
6. Why were Adam and Eve afraid to meet God?
7. What did they do?
8. Why couldn't God talk with Adam and Eve as He had before?
9. How did God promise to save people from sin?

(Answers: 1. The Devil. 2. As a serpent. 3. To disobey God and eat fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. 4. Eve. 5. To Adam. 6. Sin was in their hearts. 7. They hid from God. 8. Their hearts were sinful. 9. By sending Jesus.)

Lesson texts: Gen. 3.

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 41, No. 4    Primaries    (USPS549-000)    Part 17    Oct. 28, 1990

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## THE FIRST CHILDREN

Because Adam and Eve had disobeyed God, they had to leave the Garden of Eden and find another place to live. Now Adam had to work long and hard to get enough food to eat. Eve too had pain and sorrow. Their home was not as happy as it had been before she sinned.

Although God was greatly disappointed with Adam and Eve, still He did not want them to be alone. One day God gave Adam and Eve a baby boy. They named him Cain. Some time later God blessed their home with another baby boy and they named him Abel.

When these two boys grew up, they were interested in different things. Cain liked to grow plants while Abel enjoyed taking care of animals.

Adam and Eve could no longer talk to God as they had in the Garden of Eden. Now they must worship Him by offering sacrifices to Him. They taught Cain and Abel to worship God and confess their sins to Him by offering sacrifices.

One day Cain and Abel brought sacrifices to the Lord. Cain brought some of the fruits and vegetables that he had grown. Abel brought some of the finest sheep from his flock. God must have seen that Abel was truly sorry for his sins. He was pleased with Abel's offering and accepted it.

But God was not pleased with Cain's offering. This made Cain very angry. God warned him that there was sin in his heart that would cause him great trouble if he didn't get rid of it.

Later Cain met Abel in a field and quarreled with him. He became so angry that he killed his brother. Once more great sadness was brought to Adam and Eve because they had disobeyed God. —Sis. Nelda Sorrell

"Abel was a keeper of sheep, but C



n was a tiller of the ground." (Gen. 4:2)



# Playing TV Cowboys

Children, never act like you are shooting someone and point a gun at them. I know of two cases where a boy killed his brother as they were playing together. I shall tell you about one boy whom I went to school with when I was a little girl.

Bobby was like most school boys. He was rather shy, but he obeyed his teachers fairly well. He was mischievous and fun-loving, but he really wasn't naughty—just a little silly at times.

Bobby and his big brother, Gilbert, (called "Gil" for short) liked to watch cowboy shows on TV. They loved to see those cowboys get into a gunfight. The cowboys would pull guns and bang! bang! bang! some men would get shot and maybe fall off their horses or off of a rooftop or down a cliff. In just a short time several bad guys would be killed and the good guys would win the gunfight and leave in triumph. Oh, Gil and Bobby loved to watch those cowboys have gunfights! They begged their parents to get them some play guns so they could be cowboys too.

With play cap guns, Gil and Bobby took turns being the bad guy and the good guy. The good guy usually shot and killed the bad guy who would fall to the ground and roll just like the bad guys did on TV. Then the good guy brother would go over and coax the bad guy brother to get up and quit acting dead. The boys loved this play because they were doing just like the TV actors did. Maybe they dreamed of someday being TV cowboy actors like John Wayne or Roy Rogers. Whatever their plans were, I am sure they did not plan their cowboy play to end in the sad way it did.

One day when their parents were both gone and the boys were at home alone, they watched TV cowboy shows for a while, but soon bored with that they began to play cowboys themselves. This time Bobby was the good guy and Gil was the bad guy.

Gil took his cap gun and ran outside to hide and set up his position behind a tree or big rock. When Bobby got his cap gun, he happened to notice his father's shotgun behind the front door. They lived in the

country and his father had wanted to shoot a coyote or wolf that was killing their chickens. The gun was there by the door, ready to use as soon as the coyote came in sight. Suddenly a thought crept into Bobby's mind and perhaps he chuckled somewhat when the thought came. Wouldn't Gil be surprised if he came out to get him with their father's shotgun?

It seemed like such a good idea to Bobby that he reached and grabbed hold of the shotgun. He didn't know much about it, but he knew where the trigger was. Bobby burst out the door calling to Gil to come and fight.

As Gil stood up to play, Bobby shot the gun right at Gil. As soon as Bobby shot the gun he knew he shouldn't have done it. Gil fell and when Bobby ran to him he saw his brother's head shattered and bleeding. Bobby began to cry and sob as he held his brother's bloody head in his arms and lap, but Gil was dead, never to play with Bobby again.

This fatal incident wrecked Bobby's mind and life. He couldn't attend school but had to seek counseling to overcome his grief. Bobby learned the sad hard way that watching and playing like TV cowboys can lead to sorrow.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

## Questions:

1. Why did Adam and Eve have to leave the garden?
2. To get food to eat, what did Adam have to do?
3. What was the name of the first baby boy?
4. What was his brother's name?
5. What did Cain like to do?
6. What did Abel enjoy taking care of?
7. Whose sacrifice was God pleased with?
8. Who became very angry?
9. What did he do?

Answers: 1. They disobeyed God. 2. He had to work long and hard. 3. Cain. 4. Abel. 5. He liked to grow plants. 6. Animals. 7. Abel's. 8. Cain. 9. He killed Abel.

Lesson texts: Gen. 4.



# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 41, No. 4    Primaries    (USPS549-000)    Part 18    Nov. 4, 1990

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## A MAN NAMED NOAH

Adam and Eve had other children besides Cain and Abel. Each of them had children of their own. Before many years passed, there were many people on the earth.

Adam and all his children lived to be very, very old. One man, Methuselah, lived 969 years. No one else lived this long. By the time of Methuselah, there were many, many people in the world. Most of the people were very wicked. Their hearts were full of sin. They did not love God nor try to please Him. They did not teach their little children to love God and do right, so as they grew up they became more and more wicked. When God looked down and saw all the sin and wrongdoing, He was very sad. He was sorry He had even created man.

God decided that the people on the earth were no longer fit to live. He would send a great flood of water to destroy these bad people.

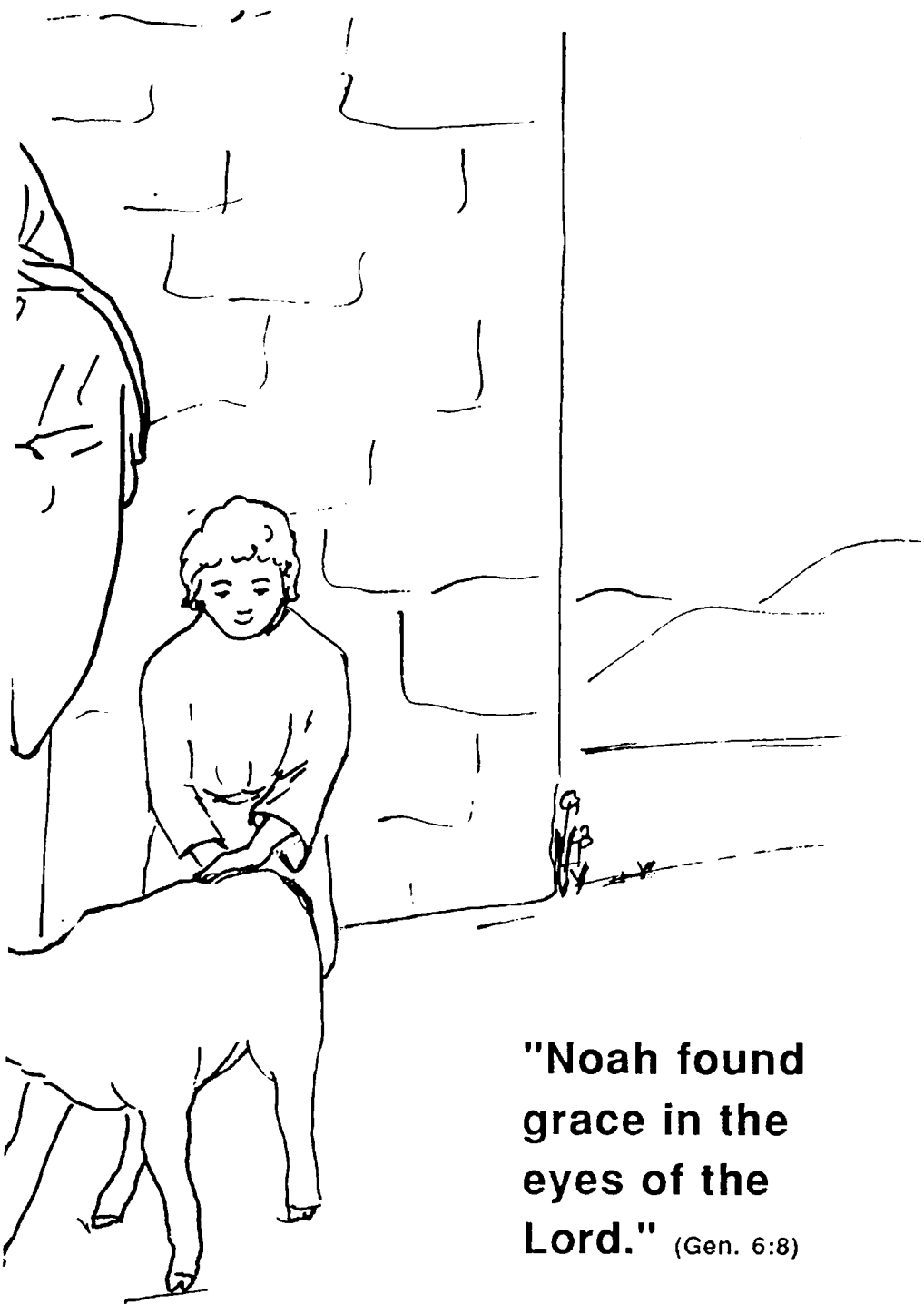
But God saw there was one man who was trying to do right. His name was Noah. Even though the people all around him were very wicked, Noah always tried to obey God. He taught his three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth to love and obey God too. This pleased God.

Noah often spent time talking to God and learning better how to obey Him. One day God told him, "The whole earth is filled with sin and wickedness. Because all the people are so evil, I am going to destroy everyone."

God wanted to save Noah and his family from being destroyed in the great flood so He told Noah to build an ark. The ark would be big and strong so all his family could be safe inside it.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell





**"Noah found  
grace in the  
eyes of the  
Lord." (Gen. 6:8)**

# The Ark Of Safety Today

Jeremy was in his Sunday school class listening to his teacher tell the story of Noah and the ark. "The men and women were so-o-o wicked that God just wanted to end their wicked lives. He sent the great flood to destroy them all—except for Noah who, said the teacher, was serving God faithfully.

Jeremy had a question to ask so he raised his hand. "Teacher," he said, "do you think people are just as wicked today as they were before the flood?"

"What a grown-up question!" exclaimed the teacher. "Yes, the wicked people of our world today are displeasing God. Every day we read in the newspapers about murders, fights, drug abuse, stealing, and gambling. People don't wear modest clothes and have proud hearts which causes them trouble. There are divorcees and many broken homes. Little children are beaten and kicked and badly mistreated by big people. Yes, there is much wickedness in our world today."

Jeremy raised his hand again. "Teacher, my daddy says that there are many earthquakes, floods and hurricanes today and that Jesus said it would be this way when people get so wicked again."

"Yes," said the teacher. "In Matthew 24:7-8, Jesus said, 'For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows.' Today we also hear about wars where one nation fights against another nation. Many people are killed and little children are hurt and left homeless and hungry. We have sad wicked times today much like it was before God destroyed the earth with a flood."

Then a girl raised her hand to speak. "Next time God is going to destroy the earth with fire, isn't He, Teacher?" asked Carrie.

"That is right," said the teacher. "I am glad you children know the Scriptures so well.

Your parents must be teaching you good things at home and that shows up in Sunday school. Remember Bible Scriptures and obey them. Never leave the people of God and the truth which is preached by God's ministers. This is the only place of safety from the flood of wickedness in our world today. Don't let the proud flashy lusts of sin enter into your minds and hearts. You don't want to drown in sin. Stay true and faithful to God and you will be safe from the sins of this world."

"I want to be like Noah," said Jeremy. "He and his family were safe in the ark when all the other people were screaming for help when the flood began to come."

"God is patient," said the teacher, "but when He sends judgment, it is quick and powerful. What God says and does is final, and not one person on earth can change what He does."

"I want to be God's friend now," said Carrie, "because I want Him to be my Friend when troubles come."

Then everyone in the class agreed they would be a friend of God also.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

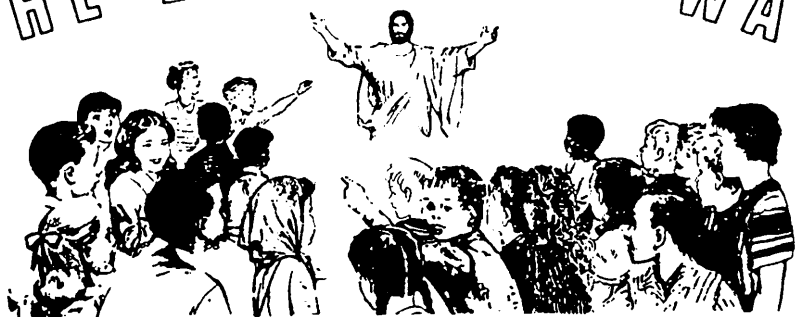
## Questions:

1. Did Adam and Eve have other children besides Cain and Abel?
2. Who lived longer than anyone else?
3. How long did he live?
4. When God looked down, what did He see?
5. When He saw this, how did it make Him feel?
6. What did God decide to send to destroy these bad people?
7. Who was trying to do right?
8. Whom did Noah teach to love and obey God?
9. What did God tell Noah to build?

Answers: Yes 2. Methuselah, 3. 930 years, 4. Shem, Ham, and Japheth, 5. Sin, 6. A great flood, 7. Noah, 8. His three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, 9. An ark!

Lesson texts: Gen. 5; 6:1-13.

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 41, No. 4    Primaries    (USPS549-000)    Part 19    Nov. 11, 1990

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## NOAH BUILDS THE ARK

The whole world had become very wicked. God decided on a way to get rid of sin and wickedness. He would cause a great flood to cover the earth and destroy the wicked people.

But God remembered one man who loved and obeyed Him. That man was Noah. Even though the people all around him were wicked, Noah served God.

God told Noah that the world would be destroyed by a great flood. He promised Noah that he and his family would be saved because they obeyed Him.

God said to Noah, "Build an ark. When it is finished you and your wife and your sons and their wives may go into the ark. You will live there until the flood is over. You must also take a pair of every kind of living thing into the ark with you and plenty of food for your family and the animals."

Noah believed everything God told him. He listened carefully as God told him just how to build this big boat. It must be very strong and very, very big. Noah had never seen an ark, but he was sure that God knew just how it should be. He began building the ark just as God had told him.

It took Noah many years to build this great ark. While he worked, Noah warned the people around him that there would some day be a great flood. He told them they should stop their wicked ways. But no one believed him. They could not imagine the whole earth being covered with water. There had never been such a thing before.

So, while the people all around him laughed at the huge three-story houseboat he was building on dry ground, Noah kept right on building until everything was just as God said it should be.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**"Noah did according  
unto all that the Lord  
commanded him."**

(Gen. 7:5)

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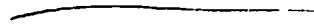
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## Cara Shows Kindness

It was cold and windy when Cara came home from school, so she was very glad to see that Mother had a fire burning in the fireplace and that she was in the kitchen baking cookies. Cara hummed as she slipped off her winter coat and hung it up in the closet.

"Cara, how was school today?" asked Mother as she took another batch of cookies from the oven.

"Oh, all right," replied Cara. "May I have some cookies and milk while I tell you about things?"

Mother smiled. "Okay, but wash your hands and face first. Remember to always clean up after school."

Cara obeyed cheerfully. Soon she was happily munching on a warm chocolate chip cookie. Now she was ready to tell Mother about her day at school.

"Some of the girls really picked on poor Megan. She is so shy and I know they hurt her feelings by talking bad to her and not letting her play games with the rest of us. She said she didn't want to play with us anyway and she walked away from us but, Mother, I know she was about to cry. The other girls just laughed about it, but I didn't want to hurt Megan's feelings. I prayed to Jesus and asked Him to tell me what to do. Jesus wanted me to make friends with Megan. So the next time we went out to play, I talked with Megan and told her I was sorry for the way the other girls had treated her. That seemed to make her feel better."

"Good," said Mother as she patted Cara on the shoulder. "Is Megan a new girl at school?"

"Yes," replied Cara. "She dresses rather poorly and she is so shy! That is why the children aren't nice to her, but that still isn't right. Why do people want to be so wicked, Mother? It makes a person feel so dirty and ugly when one mistreats another."

"People are still deceived by the same Devil that tricked Eve and then Adam back in the Garden of Eden," replied Mother. "The Devil tells people that it is 'easier' to serve him. He makes the broad way of destruction look glamorous until they fall into the trap of

sin so tightly that they lose hope of ever getting out again. Cara, remember that there is safety and hope in living for Jesus and obeying His Word. I am very pleased that you were kind to Megan. The other girls may not like you being a friend to someone they are mistreating. They may even mistreat you, but, nevertheless, be kind and friendly to all the children at school. That is the happy way!"

"I know it made me happy when I was nice to Megan," said Cara. She finished the last bite of cookie and last sip of milk. "The girls may laugh at me because I live for Jesus and don't want to hurt someone's feelings, but I am happier inside than they are. Besides, some day there will be a reward in heaven for us who live for Jesus. But if those girls don't live for Jesus. . . ." Cara shook her head sadly, ". . . they will go to the lake of fire where the Devil will be."

Mother put her arm around Cara. "Yes, it is very sad to think about," she said, "but it is dangerous to live for the Devil, because the wicked shall be punished and go to hell. God's Word tells us so, and His judgment is final."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

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### Questions:

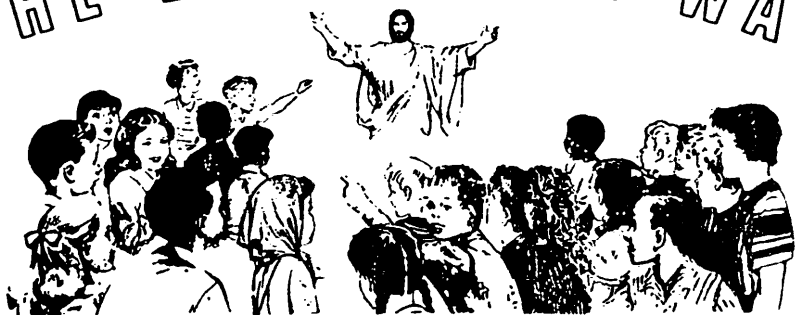
1. What did God want to get rid of?
2. Who did God remember?
3. Who did Noah serve?
4. What did God promise Noah?
5. What did God tell Noah to build?
6. What would go into the ark with Noah and his family?
7. What did Noah do while he worked?
8. How many of the wicked people believed Noah's warning?
9. Who laughed at the huge houseboat Noah was building?

(Answers: 1. Sin and wickedness. 2. Noah. 3. God. 4. That he and his family would be saved from the flood. 5. An ark. 6. A pair of each kind of animal. 7. He warned the people that there would be a great flood. 8. None of them. 9. The people still around him.)

Lesson texts: Gen. 6:14-22.



# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 41, No. 4    Primaries    (USPS549-000)    Part 20    Nov. 18, 1990

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## A GREAT FLOOD

When Noah had finished building the ark and everything was ready, God told Noah, "Come into the ark with all your family. In just seven days I will cause it to rain on earth for forty days and forty nights. Every living thing will be destroyed by the great flood."

God caused two of every kind of animal, bird, and creeping thing to go into the ark. If they were good for food, seven pairs of birds and animals went into the ark. When all were inside, God Himself shut the door.

For seven days Noah and his family waited in suspense. Would it really rain as God had said it would? Would there really be a great flood?

But then, at the end of the seven days, it began to rain. It rained as it had never rained before! It seemed that the very windows of heaven were opened and great sheets of water poured out. Soon even the tiniest streams became raging rivers. Rivers overflowed their banks and water began to cover every inch of dry land.

Now the wicked people knew Noah had told them the truth. How they wished they had listened to his warnings! They could have been safe in the ark too. But now it was too late! The ark was closed and the water was rising higher and higher. They rushed from their homes and climbed as high as they could to escape the dark swirling water. Animals ran everywhere trying to find a place where they would be safe from the terrible flood.

For 40 days and 40 nights the rain poured down. Water covered everything, even the highest mountains. Every living thing had drowned. Only Noah and those with him in the ark were safe. The ark floated on the floodwater for more than six months before coming to rest on a mountain-top.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

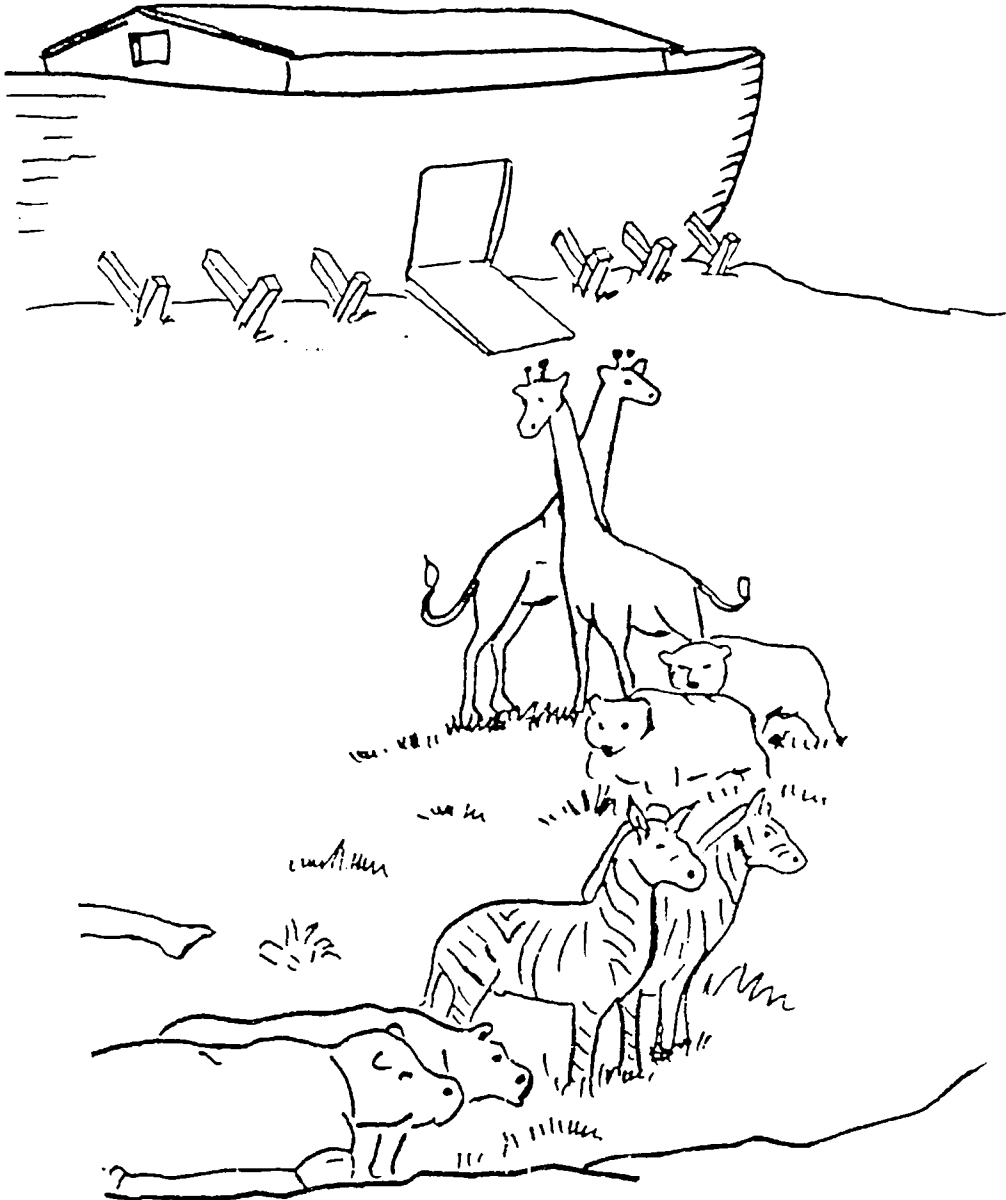
"It came to pass after seven days,  
that the



waters of the flood were

upon the earth."

(Gen. 7:10)



# The Zoo Visit

The Wilson family was visiting the zoo and what a wonderful time they were having! Billy liked the monkeys who stared back at him when he made faces at them. One monkey tried to make the same face, and big brother John said the monkey did look just like Billy had looked. Of course he was teasing, but Billy had to tease him back when they came to the hippos who Billy said favored John. Sissy liked the bears who reminded her of the cuddly teddy bear she slept with at night. Daddy liked the elephants and wanted to see them perform tricks. Mother liked the deer and the sheep, but she thought they would be somewhat whiter if there wasn't so much dirt in their pen. They counted the rings on a turtle's back, watched groundhogs pop up and down from their holes in the ground, and then they rode the train around the entire zoo.

"Oh, I am tired," said Daddy as they were going through the gates to leave.

"I'm so tired of walking," said Billy, "but I am tired of the smell. A zoo and a barnyard have that one thing in common. I don't think I want to ever work at a zoo. Maybe I should be a baker at a bakery and keep John nice and plump."

"It's a good thing you aren't Noah or one of his sons," said Sissy. "If you hadn't lived with the animals in the ark, you would have drowned in the flood."

"Well, I lost my chances of ever being Noah," replied Billy with a laugh. "That ark probably was hot and stuffy inside with all those animals breathing and eating. That poor family was probably afraid."

The Wilson family was already in their car and driving home when Sissy thought about the lions and tigers that were in the boat also. "Daddy, did Noah put the lions and mean animals into cages so they wouldn't eat the little animals?"

"Yes, I believe so," said Daddy. "We can mostly only imagine what it was like in the ark. God told Noah to take food for his family and for the animals. God is a God of miracles,

so He could have caused the animals' hunger to subside, or not be as much as when they were free. No doubt the animals were afraid too when the ark would tip this way and that. Noah and his family must have prayed to God often while they were locked in the ark."

"If you would have been there, Sissy," said Billy, "you could have used a real live bear for your bedtime teddy bear."

"And Billy could have taught the monkeys a lot more funny faces," chuckled John.

"Now, children," said Daddy, "there are some important lessons to learn from the story of Noah and the ark. He may have had it hard in the ark, and then afterwards his family had to begin life all over again which was hard also. But God chose Noah to keep the covenant between God and man. This was a blessing. If it had not been so, we would not be here today because we are great-great-great—grandchildren of Noah."

Everyone was quiet for a bit then Billy spoke up, "I sure am glad Noah obeyed God," he said, "because this earth would be very boring without people and animals on it."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

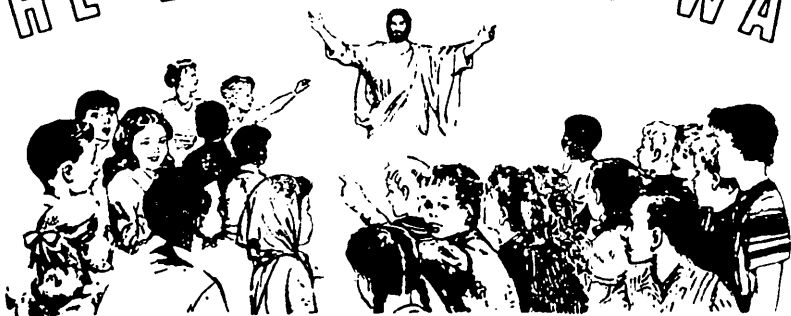
## Questions:

1. Who spoke to Noah after he finished building the ark?
2. What did He tell him to do?
3. Who caused the animals to go into the ark?
4. Who shut the door of the ark after everyone was inside?
5. How long was it before the rain came?
6. Had it ever rained that hard before?
7. Who wished they had listened to Noah's warnings?
8. How long did it rain?
9. How long did the ark float on the floodwater?

Answers: 1. God. 2. To come into the ark with his family. 3. God. 4. God. 5. Seven days. 6. No. 7. The wicked people. 8. 40 days and 40 nights. 9. For more than six months.

Lesson texts: Gen. 7.

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 41, No. 4    Primaries    (USPS549-000)    Part 21    Nov. 25, 1990

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## NOAH GIVES THANKS

Even though the rains stopped after 40 days, the water stayed on the earth for a long time afterwards. Finally God caused a wind to blow over the face of the earth to help dry up the water. He remembered Noah and those with him in the ark and was preparing the earth to be their home again.

Noah waited many days after the ark came to rest on the mountain-top. Then one day he opened a window in the ark and let a raven fly out. Later Noah sent out a dove. The dove soon flew back to the ark because she could find no place to roost. A week later Noah sent the dove out again. In the evening the dove flew back to the ark with an olive leaf in her beak. Now Noah knew the water had gone down and the earth was becoming green and beautiful once more. The next week when Noah sent the dove out, she flew away and never came back.

Noah knew the flood was over. It was time to uncover the ark. When he looked out he saw dry ground. For more than a year Noah and his family had been in the ark. How good the beautiful green earth looked to them!

God told Noah, "Come out of the ark with your wife and your sons and your sons' wives. Bring all the animals out of the ark also."

Noah opened the door of the ark. He and his family stepped out on dry ground. All the animals came out. How thankful they were to be alive!

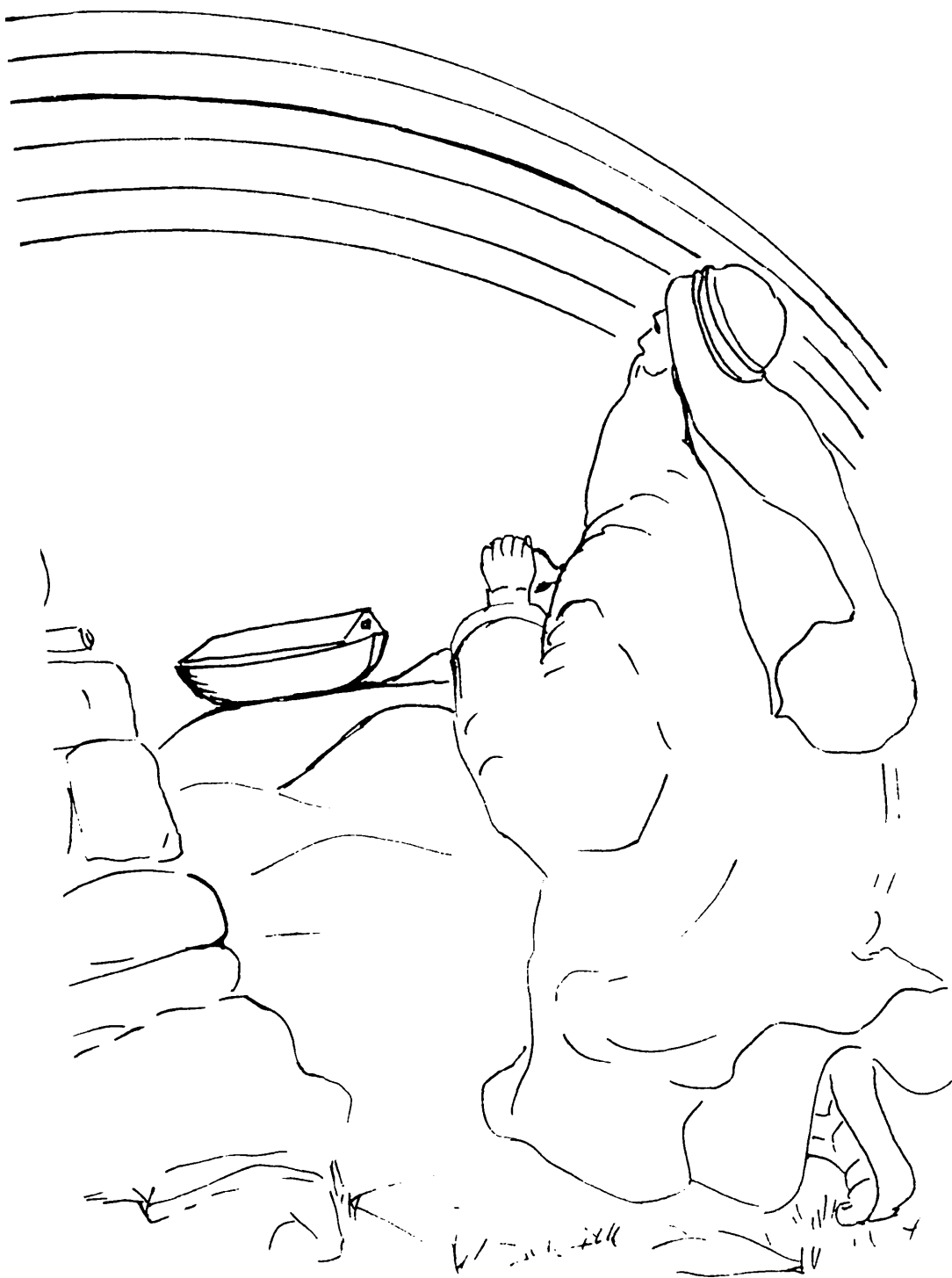
Noah built an altar and offered sacrifices of thanksgiving to God. God was pleased with the offering and promised Noah that He would never again send a great flood to destroy the whole earth. As a sign of His promise, God set a beautiful rainbow in the sky. This promise belongs to us also. We can remember it and be thankful every time we see a rainbow in the sky.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



**"I do set my bow in the  
cloud, and it shall be for  
a token of a covenant  
between me and the  
earth." (Gen. 9:13)**





# Blessings Of A Family

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The old home place was full and bursting with life. There were Grandpa and Grandma, uncles and aunts, and cousins, cousins, cousins. Some were in the living room, some in the dining room and kitchen, and two wee little babies were sleeping in the bedroom. The buzz of voices could be heard clear out to the driveway where the cars were lined neatly in a row. This was Thanksgiving Day in America. All the family wanted to be home for this holiday.

Every time more family came in the door, Grandma hustled from the kitchen to give each one a kiss and hug. Grandpa was jolly and teased anyone who sat beside him for very long. One cousin had brought his new puppy who barked at the children and ran between the grown-up's feet until one uncle put the puppy out for good. That made most of the children want to go outside also, and soon the lawn became a noisy playground where boy cousins were climbing trees and girl cousins were playing games on the wide sidewalk. Everyone was having a wonderful time until one boy cousin tore a hole in his best dress pants just as his mama looked out the window. Of course he was scolded for climbing a tree in his best pants and he had to sit in a bedroom while his mama sewed up the tear. They were just planning to tease the girls and make them holler when Grandma called everyone to come and eat.

Finally, each person (but the two wee little babies) was standing around the dining room and kitchen ready to offer thanks for the food. Several glanced over at Grandpa then bowed their heads as they saw his snow-white head bow in prayer.

"Our Father who art in heaven, we thank thee for this opportunity to once again gather the family around the table upon which sets the blessings of food you have so generously given us. O, Lord, we love each one who is here, from the youngest to the oldest, and we know that you love them also. We ask you, Lord, to safely guide us through the troubles and storms of life that we may all reach the harbor of rest, which is heaven above. It is the desire of our heart, O Lord, that each one here will be around the throne of God someday in eternity. Right now we are thankful to you for the good health you have given us

each one and for the times you have healed our loved ones when they were sick. Now help us to be a blessing one to another as we have fellowship this lovely day which you have made; in Jesus' name, Amen.

It wasn't long before everyone had a plateful of turkey or ham, mashed potatoes and gravy, corn, green beans, hot rolls, lemonade, and pumpkin pie with whipped cream.

After the dishes were done, guitars and musical instruments were brought out and the family joined in singing songs of praise to the Lord of glory. Pictures were taken and some aunts brought photo albums which everyone looked through until it was quite late in the evening. By bedtime, the house was quiet again and only Grandma and Grandpa were left to dream about the pleasant day they had enjoyed.

Such a rich family heritage is a gift from God. Be thankful you have a family.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell



## Questions:

1. How long was it before the rain stopped?
2. Why did God cause a wind to blow over the earth?
3. What did Noah first let out of the window of the ark?
4. Why did the dove fly back to the ark?
5. When the dove flew back out a week later, what did she bring back in her beak?
6. How long were Noah and his family in the ark?
7. How did Noah show God how thankful he was?
8. What did God set in the sky as a sign of His promise?
9. Why should we be thankful when we see a rainbow?

(Answers: 1. 40 days. 2. To help dry up the water. 3. A raven. 4. She couldn't find any place to rest. 5. An olive leaf. 6. For more than a year. 7. He built an altar and offered a sacrifice of thanksgiving to Him. 8. A rainbow. 9. Because the promise that God will never destroy the earth by a flood again is to us also.)

Lesson texts: Gen. 7:17-24; 8.



# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 41, No. 4    **Primaries**    (USPS549-000)    Part 22    Dec. 2, 1990

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## AN ANGEL VISITS THE TEMPLE

For many years Zacharias, a priest, and Elisabeth, his wife, had prayed that God would give them a baby, but they had never had a child. Now, since they were both so old, it seemed useless to ever hope that their prayers would be answered. Although God had not given them the baby they had hoped for, still they loved and served Him.

As a priest Zacharias would go to Jerusalem to serve in the temple at certain times. One day as a great crowd of people were at the temple praying, Zacharias entered the holy place to burn incense. Suddenly an angel appeared to him. When Zacharias saw him he was very much afraid.

The angel told him, "Don't be afraid, Zacharias; your prayer is heard. You and your wife Elisabeth will have a son and you will name him John. He will bring you much joy and gladness. He will be great in God's sight and will cause many people to repent of their sins and serve God."

As Zacharias listened to the angel it seemed that what he said was just too good to believe. He asked the angel, "How can I know this will come true? I am an old man and my wife is also old."

The angel answered, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God. Because you did not believe what I told you, you will not be able to say anything until the child is born."

The people who had been praying wondered why Zacharias stayed in the holy place so long. When he finally came out he could not speak to them. The people believed that Zacharias must have seen a vision.

When it was finally time for Zacharias to return home, he still could not speak a word. Now he believed what the angel had told him.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

"There a  
unto him  
of the Lc



12

3 -  
4 •

appeared  
an angel  
1."

(Luke 1:11)



# Angels Visit Today

By a misty stream in the Smoky Mountains, a college professor and his wife were walking together, hand in hand. The tired professor was seeking a place away from the busy cares of Harvard University. He was troubled and worried over problems in his life, so he thought the beautiful grand hills of nature would calm his mind. He and his wife did not say a word but enjoyed the quietness of the rippling water, singing of birds in the treetops, and the symphony of other little creatures in the woods.

It was a perfect place to pray, but the professor did not pray. He did not even think there was a God. He was a man who only believed what he saw with his own eyes or felt through his own experience. He was an agnostic.

"If there is a God," he thought, "let God show himself to me. I have never felt God near me nor have I seen anything to actually prove there is a God, so why should I pray to him?"

The professor and his wife walked on through the misty hillside woods. They were feeling better, but still they felt tired and concerned about the future.

Suddenly they heard voices. Both of them heard the voices and they stopped to listen. Who else was in the woods besides them? They heard no footsteps. They saw no parting bushes. Yet there before them were three young women clothed in shining white robes. They did not seem to see the professor and his wife. They were busy visiting with each other. Their faces had a lovely glow and their voices sounded like music. They passed by the professor and his wife and floated out of sight within a minute.

The spot where they had been seemed enchanted. The professor nor his wife felt like speaking for a long time. They just stood there wondering if they should believe what they saw. Finally he said, "You saw the young women I saw, didn't you?" His wife nodded. "Who do you think they were?" he asked again. She didn't answer him for some time. Then she said, "You know like I know that they were angels. They were celestial beings. There was such a glow—a heavenly glory about them. Surely, my dear, we have seen messengers of God."

Though the angels never spoke to the professor, they had given him the message God wanted him to receive. From that time on the professor began to seek after God. He studied the Bible and he prayed.

Soon the professor realized he needed to be saved from his sins. His salvation was real to him. Now he had God to help him with the heavy trials and problems in life. The professor and his wife were much more happy now.

Angels have done many important things for God. Remember Lot and his wife? Angels told them to flee from Sodom and even took hold of their hands and hurried them out. Angels appeared to Abraham, Jacob, Joshua, Gideon, Samuel, and several others. Angels were also present around earth before Jesus was born and sometimes when Jesus was on earth. An angel released Peter from prison and visited John on the Isle of Patmos. Angels are really real and someday we will be with them if we stay faithful and true to God.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell



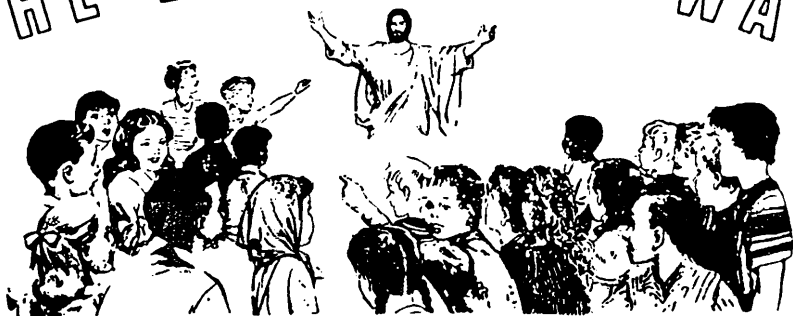
## Questions:

1. Who was Zacharias?
2. What was his wife's name?
3. For what had they prayed for many years?
4. Where did Zacharias go to burn incense?
5. What appeared to him there one day?
6. What did the angel tell him?
7. What did the angel say the baby's name would be?
8. What was the angel's name?
9. Why couldn't Zacharias speak when he came out of the holy place?

Answers: 1. Zacharias, 2. Elizabeth, 3. For a baby, 4. Into the holy place, 5. An angel, 6. "Don't be afraid, you will have a son," 7. John, 8. Gabriel, 9. Because he didn't believe what God said.

Lesson texts: Luke 1:1-23.

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 41, No. 4    Primaries    (USPS549-000)    Part 23    Dec. 9, 1990

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## GABRIEL'S MESSAGE TO MARY

It had been six months since Gabriel had spoken to Zacharias in the temple. Zacharias had not spoken a word since the visit. He and his wife, Elisabeth, knew they would soon have a baby son. How happy they were that at last their prayers were to be answered! About that time God sent Gabriel to earth again. This time he went to the city of Nazareth where a young woman named Mary lived. Mary was all alone when the angel suddenly appeared to her.

Gabriel said to Mary, "The Lord is with you, Mary. You are greatly favored and blessed among women."

When Mary saw the angel she was greatly troubled. She did not know what the angel meant. Gabriel told her, "Don't be afraid, Mary. You have found favor with God. You will have a son and you shall call His name Jesus. He will be great. He will be a King who will reign forever."

Mary was very surprised at what Gabriel said. She couldn't understand how his words could come true. "How can this be?" she asked.

Gabriel answered, "The child who will be born to you will be the Son of God." Before he left Gabriel told Mary, "Elisabeth, too, will have a son even though she is old. Nothing is impossible for God to do."

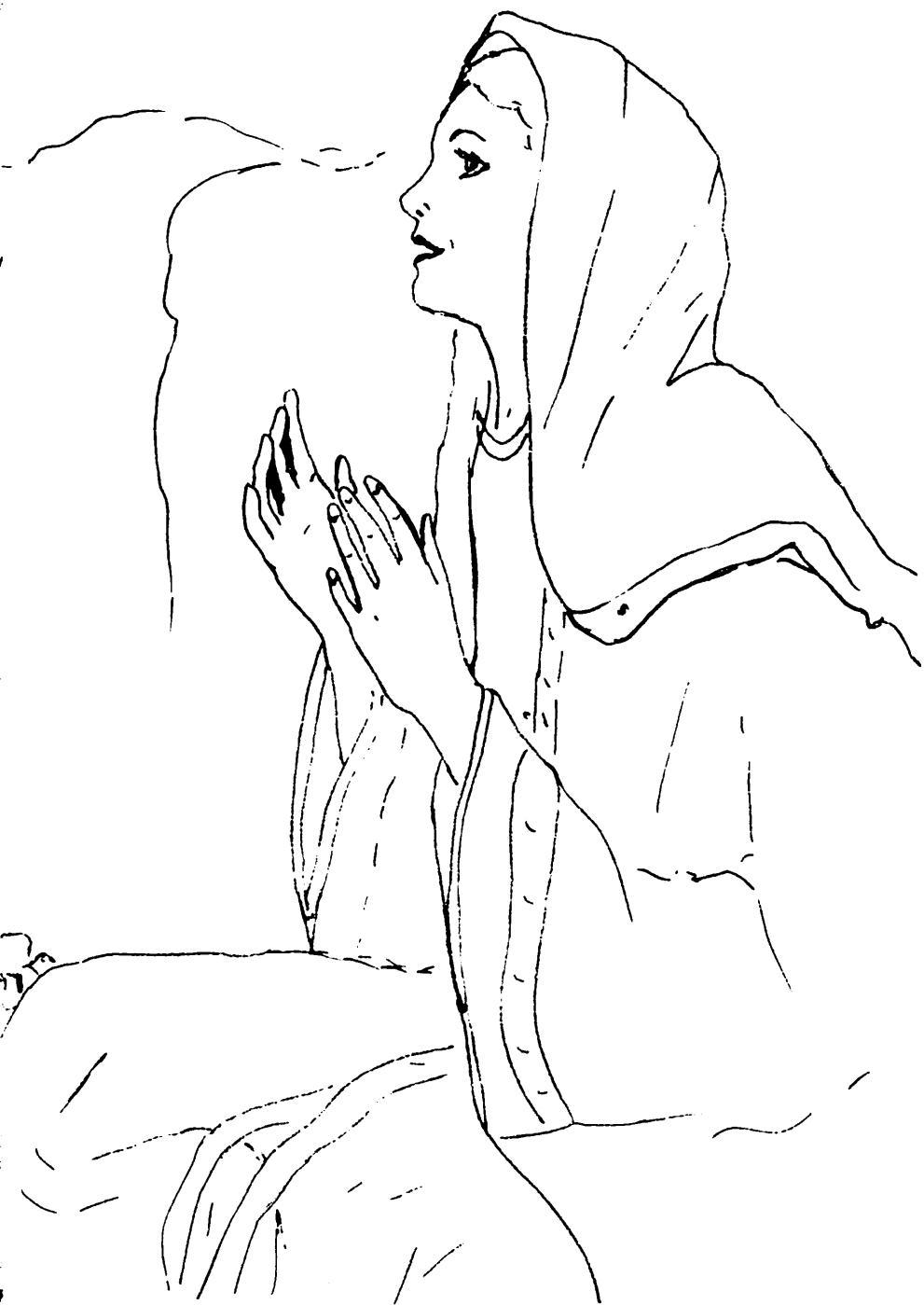
Mary believed and told Gabriel, "Let it be as you have said."

Mary thought about what the angel had told her. She was happy to hear Elisabeth would have a baby boy. She wanted to see her even though it was a long way to her house.

As soon as Mary stepped into the house, God caused Elisabeth to know that Mary would be the mother of the Saviour. —Sis. Nelda Sorrell



**"The angel said unto her, Fear not,  
Mary: thou hast found favor with  
God."** (Luke 1:30)



# Why Lie About Christmas?

Debbie and her family were out Christmas shopping. The stores were crowded. Some people carried sacks and boxes full of surprises they had bought for gifts. Store clerks were busy helping customers find just the right gift.

All stores had Christmas decorations and many had blinking lights. Out in the shopping mall, there was a huge tree all decked out with big bows, candy canes, lights, and tinsel. Underneath the tree there was a booth set up called Santa's chair. There sat a man dressed in red and white who took children on his lap and asked what they wanted for Christmas. If the parents wanted, they could have a picture taken of their child and Santa.

When they walked by Santa, Debbie took hold of her Mother's hand. "I don't have to sit on his lap, do I?" she asked. "You buy me my Christmas gifts because you love me, and that old fat man doesn't bring me a thing. I wish all these other children had good parents like I do. Then they would know the truth about their Christmas gifts and love their parents for it and not that old funny man."

"Debbie, it is sad how people will follow after a lie or myth instead of believing the truth and bringing Jesus into their lives."

Mother and Debbie couldn't talk more until they were in the car. "I just like the simple story about baby Jesus," said Debbie. "Why can't people have more pictures of baby Jesus instead of Santa Claus?"

"Well, Debbie," said her father, "I think I can tell you one reason why. If people believed that Jesus was born as the Son of God, then they would have to accept the Bible and what it teaches. This would lead them to be sorry for their sins and bow before Jesus who is the only One who can forgive them and write their names in the Lamb's book of life. People love their sins and they won't bow before Jesus, so instead they make up stories about Santa Claus and sing songs to him."

"Doesn't that make Jesus feel sad?" asked Keith who had been listening to Daddy also.

"I wouldn't like for people to sing 'Happy Birthday' to someone else on my birthday! It isn't fair to put Santa Claus in Christmas and not mention the real reason we have Christmas. Jesus probably feels very sad about this."

"Yes," said Daddy, "it does grieve God's heart when people will follow a lie and not the truth."

"Will you read us the story about baby Jesus in the Bible again this year?" asked Debbie. "I never get tired of hearing about baby Jesus."

"Every year I will read the story," said Daddy. "Someday when you children are grown and have homes of your own, I hope that you will read the story from the Bible to your children. It is a good tradition to carry on."

"I agree with you," said Mother softly as she patted Daddy's arm.

—Sis. Connie Sorrell



## Questions:

1. How long had it been since Gabriel visited the temple?
2. Who knew their prayers were to be answered?
3. Who sent Gabriel to earth again?
4. Who lived in Nazareth?
5. Who told Mary, "The Lord is with you"?
6. What was Mary to call her baby Son?
7. Who told Mary that Elisabeth would have a son?
8. Where did Mary go after Gabriel left her?
9. Who caused Elisabeth to know Mary would be the mother of the Saviour?

(Answers: 1. Six months. 2. Zacharias and Elisabeth. 3. God. 4. Mary. 5. Gabriel. 6. Jesus. 7. Gabriel. 8. To Elisabeth's house. 9. God.)

Lesson texts: Luke 1:26-56.



# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 41, No. 4    Primaries    (USPS549-000)    Part 24    Dec. 16, 1990

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## A BABY NAMED JOHN

One day, just as God had promised, a baby boy was born to Zacharias and Elisabeth. They knew this baby was a special gift from God. Their friends and relatives came to see Elisabeth and her new baby and rejoice with her.

Like all Jewish people did then, Zacharias and Elisabeth planned to give the baby a name when he was eight days old. On that day, the relatives came to see what name they would choose. They were sure they would name the baby Zacharias after his father and this is what they called him.

"No, do not call him Zacharias; his name is John," Elisabeth told them. She knew that the angel had said, "Thou shalt call his name John."

"No one in your family is named John; why would you name him that?" they asked. They motioned to Zacharias, asking him the baby's name.

Zacharias understood what they wanted. He motioned for a writing tablet. When they brought it, he wrote plainly, "His name is John."

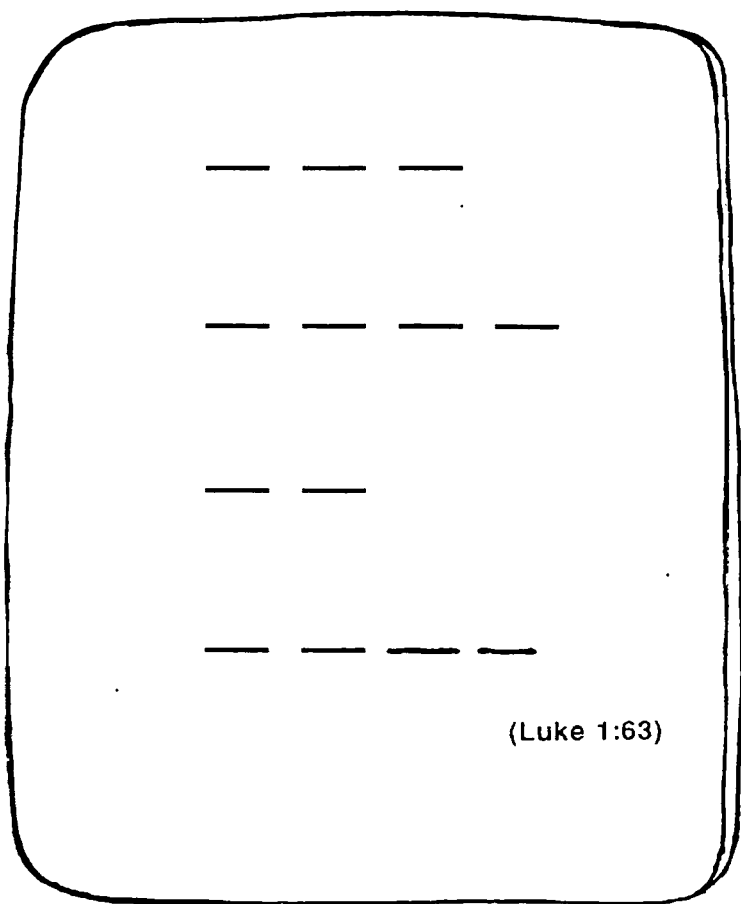
The people were surprised that he would not give the baby his own name. They were even more surprised when Zacharias suddenly began talking. His first words were praise to God for giving them this wonderful baby.

The people knew this must be a very special child. News of John's birth spread quickly throughout the hill country where Zacharias and Elisabeth lived. As the people spoke of him they wondered, "What kind of child will he be? Surely the hand of God is on him."

John grew to be a fine boy who was strong and wise. He loved to be alone to think about God. While he was still a young man, he went to the desert to live. There he prayed and got ready to do the great work God had given him. He was to prepare the people to receive Jesus.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

He asked for a writing  
table, and wrote, saying,



(Luke 1:63)





# Candymaking Time



From the kitchen came glorious aromas. Mother, Margie, and Betty were making Christmas candy and what a sweet job it was!

"Mother, come quickly," called Margie. "I think the peanut brittle is coming to the hard crack stage. Look on the candy thermometer and see!"

Mother checked, and sure enough it was ready to turn out on the greased cookie sheets. The girls watched as Mother handled the heavy job of pouring the candy out of the hot kettle. Then they greased their clean hands and began to carefully pull the candy until it was thin and crispy.

"Are we going to make chocolate-covered cherry candies?" asked Margie.

"I like smooth peppermint candies that we mold into pretty shapes," said Betty. "Can we make both kinds of candy?"

"If you girls will help me," said Mother, "I think we will be able to make both kinds and perhaps some fudge and divinity also."

"Then shall we take candy to some of our friends?" asked Betty. She remembered how they had given candy gifts last year.

"Yes," said Mother, "we will try to make the neighbors each a box. Then some of Daddy's friends at work will need some for Christmas cheer."

"I would like to make some for my school-teacher," said Margie, and Betty nodded that she would also.

"We better make a lot of candy," said Mother, "because there are several we want to share some with."

All day and into the evening Mother and the girls worked to make soft smooth fudge, red and green divinity, crispy peanut brittle, perfect chocolates and pretty peppermint Christmas candies that just melt in your mouth. The next day they wrapped the candies and arranged them nicely into baskets. They were planning to go Christmas caroling that night and then they would drop some of the baskets at the homes of the listeners.

"I do so much enjoy making and giving candy!" exclaimed Margie. "Truly it is more blessed to give than receive!"

"It was fun making all this candy," said Betty, "and we know we can't eat it all, so I'm glad we can share it with others!"

Mother chuckled at Betty who was rather plump and didn't mind if people thought so. "I am glad to hear that you girls enjoy giving at Christmas time," said Mother. "Above all, we must remember why there is a Christmas time. If baby Jesus had not been born, we would still be in darkness, hating and envying one another. Jesus came and brought the saving grace that was needed to lighten this dark world. We must let others know that the light of God's Son shines in our hearts. That is the reason for giving gifts and showing kindness to those about us. Actually, we must remember others all the time all through the year. However, it is just nice to do something extra special this time of year."

"I'm so glad we did not live before Jesus came," said Margie. "Because then we may have never gotten a chance to go to heaven unless we were Jews or became a Jew."

"I'm glad too," said Betty, "because then we couldn't have Christmas!"

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

## Questions:

1. What had God promised to give Zacharias and Elisabeth?
2. Who came to see Elisabeth and her new baby?
3. How old was the baby when they named him?
4. What did the relatives think they should name the baby?
5. What did the angel say his name would be?
6. How did Zacharias tell them what name to give him?
7. What happened to Zacharias once the baby was named?
8. Where did John go to live?
9. What was the work God gave him to do?

Answers: 1. A baby boy. 2. His friends and relatives. 3. Eliza baysed. 4. Zacharias. 5. John. 6. He wrote plainly. 7. He was able to talk. 8. In the desert. 9. To prepare the people to receive Jesus.)

Lesson texts: Luke 1:57-80.

# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 41, No. 4    Primaries    (USPS549-000)    Part 25    Dec. 23, 1990

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## JESUS IS BORN!

Everyone in the town of Nazareth where Joseph and Mary lived were very excited! The Roman emperor had commanded that a count of every person should be made. He wanted to make sure that he was collecting taxes from everyone. Each person in Judea had to go to the town from which their family had come and be enrolled there. No one dared disobey his command.

Joseph and Mary were soon on their way to Bethlehem because they were both of David's family. Bethlehem was a small town, so it was soon overflowing with people who had come there to be counted. When Joseph and Mary arrived, they couldn't find a single place to stay.

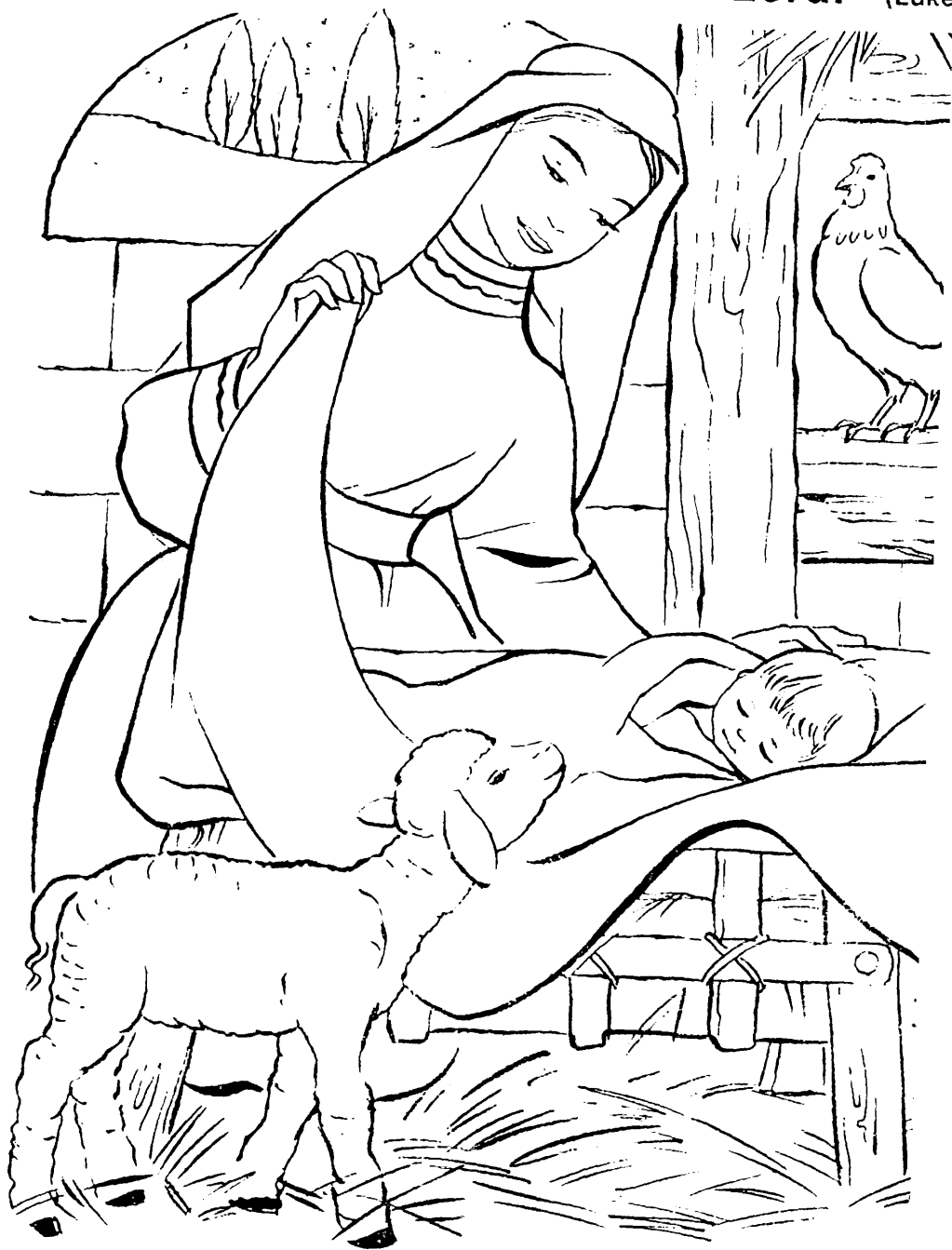
Mary was very tired after the hard trip. She had to have a place to rest. The only place Joseph could find was the stable of the inn, so that is where they prepared to spend the night. That very night Baby Jesus was born. Mary wrapped him in soft cloths and laid him in a manger, or food box for the animals which had been filled with soft hay.

No one else on earth knew that Jesus had been born, but the angels knew all about it. God sent one of them to tell some shepherds who were watching their sheep on the hills around Bethlehem. The shepherds were afraid when they saw an angel suddenly appear out of the darkness! The angel told them, "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; You will find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

The shepherds hurried to Bethlehem where they found Mary and Joseph and baby Jesus. The shepherds knew this must be the promised Son of God.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell

**"For unto you is born this day in the city  
a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." (Luke**



# of David

(1)



## Warmth For The Baby

Snow was quietly falling outside the Wilson's home, but inside, the fireplace was glowing gold and orange with the warmth of a fire. Cozy in an armchair, David watched the fire, then the snow, then he looked up at the little manger scene spread out on the piano top. "Was baby Jesus warm or cold sleeping in the stable?" "Did He cry a lot or was He sleepy most of the time?" "No doubt He was well cared for because His mother, Mary, was a good lady or else God would not have chosen her to be His Son's mother."

David was thinking about baby Jesus when there came a knock on the door. "Who could be calling so late at night?" wondered David. His mother and baby brother were already in bed and his father had not yet come home from work—he was out salting the roads so cars could travel safely. David went to the door and asked: "Who is it?" like he had been taught to always do.

"It is Peggy," said a neighbor's voice. "I wonder if I could borrow a cup of milk?"

Quickly David opened the door and invited the neighbor lady inside. "I will get you some milk," he told her, taking the cup that she offered. "I hope you are not too cold from coming in the snow."

"Well," it's not too much warmer than our house," she replied. "Our only source of heat right now is the kitchen stove and oven. I hope we can get more heat turned on soon. It is very hard on the baby. He seems to have a bad cold that won't leave."

"Is this milk for the baby?" asked David.

"Yes, it is," sighed the young mother. "I hope to get more milk in the morning. Our money and groceries are so low right now. The children understand they can have only one gift each for Christmas until Daddy has more money and we can turn the heat back on. Well, thank you, David, for the milk. I must hurry as I left the baby crying. Maybe warm milk will comfort him."

David watched her go through the six-inch snow on the ground. Then he sat back down to wait for Daddy. He looked at the manger scene again. There was Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus. "Had baby Jesus been cold laying in that manger?" "Surely Mary wrapped Him warm and tight in those swaddling clothes." "If it had been my little brother,

I would have warmed Him up." Suddenly David thought of the neighbor baby. His mother said he was cold and she was trying to warm him. Here David sat warm and cozy by a nice fire while a baby next door was cold. He didn't know what to do, but something should be done right away, he was sure.

David heard his daddy drive up to the house and he was ready to open the door when Daddy came on the porch. Soon he had told Daddy about the neighbor lady and her cold baby. Daddy promised to visit them the first thing in the morning.

Daddy found out that the neighbor man had been without work for a while and their family was rather poor. David's parents decided to pay the gas bill so they could have heat again.

When the Church of God went Christmas caroling, they stopped to sing at this neighbor's house. It really touched their hearts. When the singers were about to leave, they gave the family fruit and some canned food.

It made David's heart so happy to know that he had helped one baby not to be cold on Christmas night. —Sis. Connie Sorrell

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### Questions:

1. Where did Joseph and Mary live?
2. Who commanded every person to be counted?
3. Joseph and Mary both belonged to whose family?
4. Where did Joseph and Mary go to be counted?
5. Why did they go to a stable to spend the night?
6. What is a manger?
7. Who did Mary lay in the manger?
8. Who told the shepherds that Jesus was born?
9. The shepherds knew this must be whose Son?

(Answers: 1. In Nazareth. 2. The Roman emperor. 3. David's. 4. To be counted. 5. It was no room for them in the inn. 6. A feed box for animals. 7. Baby Jesus. 8. An angel. 9. God's.)

Lesson texts: Luke 2:1-39.



# THE BEAUTIFUL WAY



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Vol. 41, No. 4    Primaries    (USPS549-000)    Part 26    Dec. 30, 1990

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## THE GREAT TOWER

Noah and his three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, made new homes for their families after the flood. Soon children were born to them. When these children grew up they made themselves homes, and again children were born to them. Once more there were many people on the earth.

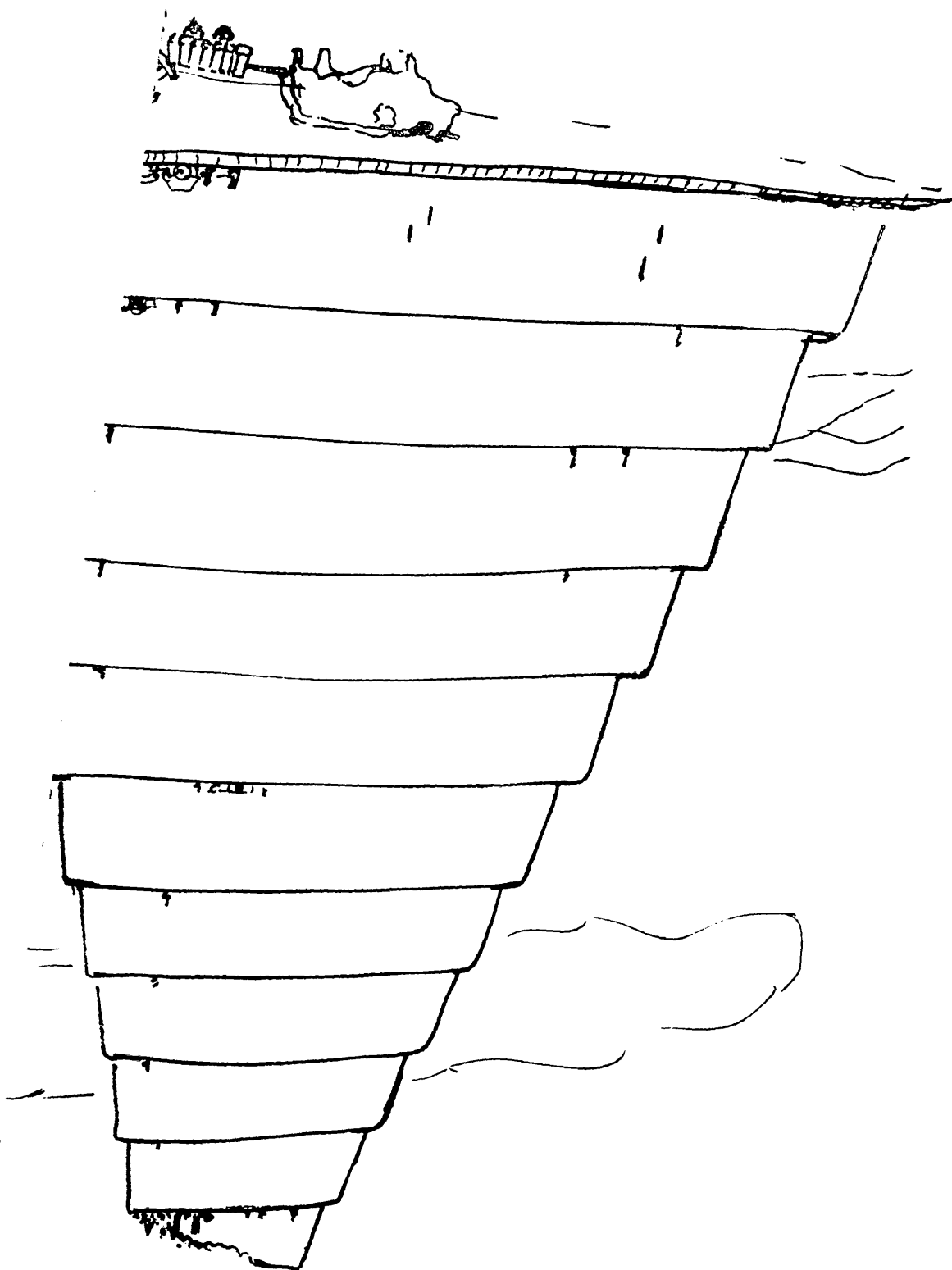
From the mountain where the ark had come to rest, the people moved to a plain in the land of Shinar where they found plenty of materials to make bricks. With these bricks the men were able to make strong houses and walls. When they saw what a strong city they could build, the people said to one another, "Let us build a city and a tower so great and high that its top will reach right up to heaven. Then we won't be scattered over the earth and separated from one another."

The people worked hard to build a great tower. Some made bricks, some made mortar to hold the bricks together and others laid the bricks on top of each other. The tower grew taller and taller.

But one day God looked at the city and the tower and He was not pleased. He knew that if the people finished the tower they would become even more sinful. Already they had become more interested in erecting the tower than in worshiping Him. The work must be stopped!

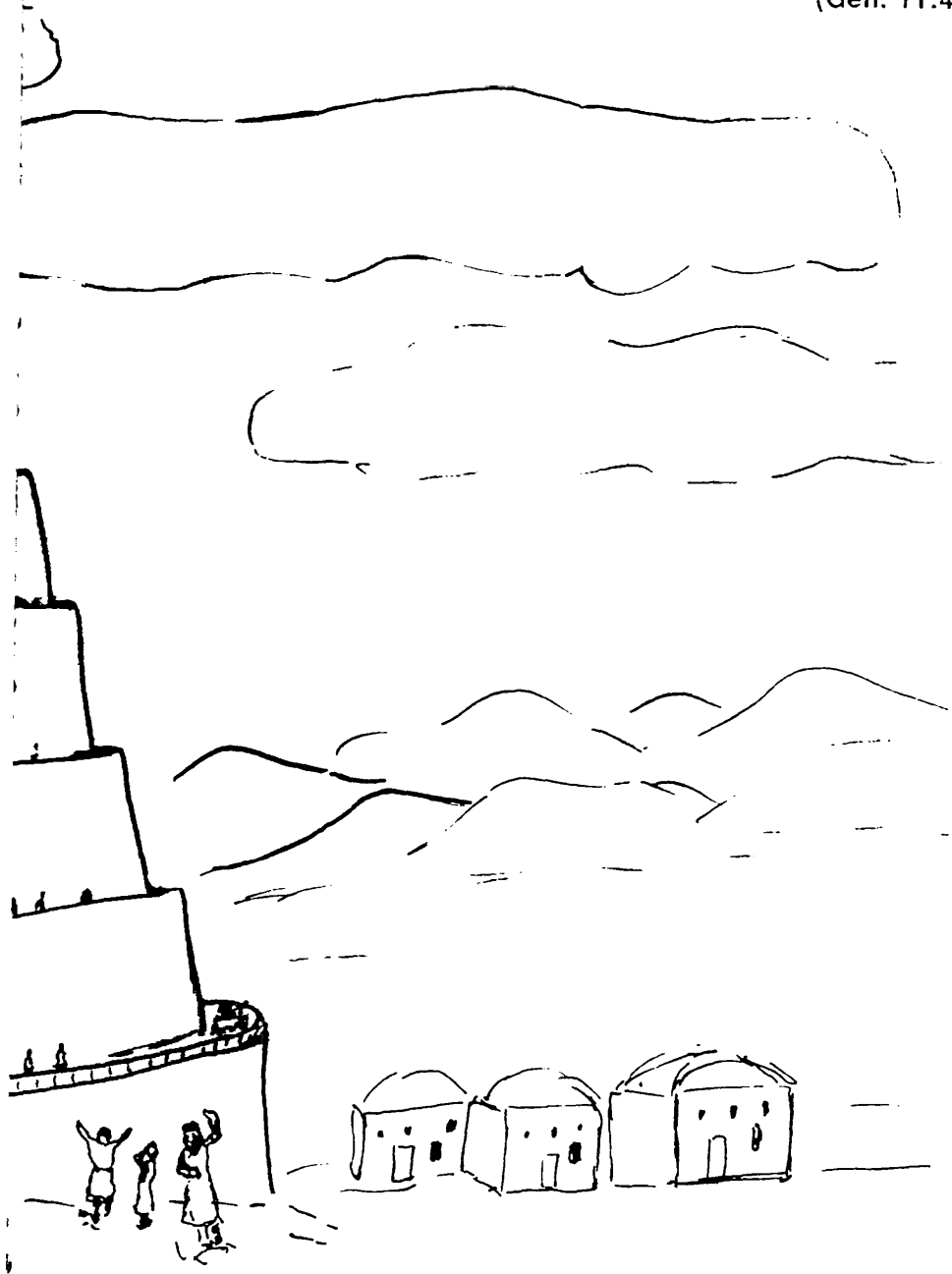
Until now everyone had spoken the same language, so God decided to cause them to speak different languages. Now when they tried to work together, they were not able to understand what each was saying to the other. When one would ask for some material to work with, the other couldn't understand what they wanted. Finally those who spoke the same language moved away from the others. The people began to scatter out over the earth as God had planned.

—Sis. Nelda Sorrell



**"Let us build a city and a tower  
whose top may reach unto heaven."**

(Gen. 11:4)



# The Blessing Secret



Tina and Tracy were twin sisters who liked to tell secrets to each other. One Sunday after church they were talking together when Carrie came up to them.

"What are you two talking about?"

"Well," began Tina, "it's a secret."

"Yes," agreed Tracy, "we want everyone to be surprised when it happens."

"When what happens?" asked Carrie.

"When the new year begins," giggled Tina.

"Oh, everyone knows about the new year coming in just two days," said Carrie. "That's no big secret."

"We have something special we want to do, so that is the secret," said Tracy, and Tina nodded.

"Okay, you two can keep your secret," said Carrie. "I won't ask you any more about it." Then she went on her way to visit with others.

"I guess we should have told her our secret," said Tina. "We must be friends with other girls also, and that means we need to visit with them."

"Oh, we visit with them enough," said Tracy. "they just don't understand us. It will be fun to do our secret on New Year's Day at Sis. Howard's house. Then everyone will know our secret!"

On New Year's Day, Sis. Howard had her Sunday school class together for a meeting. The twins had planned for 12 people besides the teacher and themselves. That was just how many came!

After everyone had arrived, Sis. Howard called the children into the living room. "Now we plan to have some games," she said, "but mostly we want to dedicate this new year to God and ask Him to use us in a way that will please Him. Now I think Tina and Tracy have something they want to share with us."

The girls hurried to the bedroom closet where they had stored 15 balloons. Each balloon had a ribbon tied to it and at the end of each ribbon was a paper that was rolled and tied.

"This has been our secret," said Tina. "We wanted you all to be surprised! The notes on the end of each balloon's string has a bless-

ing on it. That is how we want the Lord to bless you in the new year of 1991."

"Now we are going to let the balloons go," said Tracy. "Each person can have a turn choosing their balloon, then they get to read the blessing to the rest of us. You may keep the balloon and blessing, or we thought about letting them both float away outside so they may be found by someone else and bless them."

Then with giggles and chuckles the children began to choose a balloon. One balloon note said, "I pray that God will bless you with more patience this year than you had last year." Another said, "I pray that you will consider others more than yourself so you will gain new friendships this year." One said, "I pray that God will give you more diamonds of peace and rubies of love to wear on your heart this year of 1991."

Soon all the balloons were chosen and read. "It was a nice secret," whispered Carrie to the twins. "I hope all these blessings do come true!"

"Let's let the balloons go outside now," said Tracy. "We can pretend it is our prayers ascending to the throne of God."

—Sis. Connie Sorrell

## Questions:

1. Who made new homes for themselves after the flood?
2. Name Noah's three sons.
3. Where did the people move?
4. What did the people make to build houses with?
5. What did they decide to build?
6. How high did they want to make the tower?
7. Who was not pleased when He looked at the city and tower?
8. How did God stop the people from building the tower?
9. Did the people ever finish the great tower?

Answers: 1. Noah and his three sons, 2. Shem, Ham and Japheth, 3. The plain in Shinar, 4. Bricks, 5. Assyria and a great tower, 6. So high it would reach up to the sky, 7. God, 8. He caused them to speak different languages, 9. No.

Lesson texts: Gen. 9:18; 11:9.