Bad Shopping Manners

It was a pleasant autumn Saturday



when Mother and Linda went shopping at the grocery store. Linda liked to look at the fresh vegetables and fruits laid in neat sections all in a row.

The bags of orange carrots were by the round heads of lettuce and green peppers. The soft avocados, shiny jalapenos, and green onions were followed by the husky stalks of broccoli and white cauliflowers.

Red and yellow apples, sticky pineapples, hard coconuts, oranges and yellow bananas started the fruit section. There was a display of fresh peanuts and pecans with a scoop in them. Nearby was a roll of plastic bags that could easily hold a few spoonfuls of nuts.

While Mother and Linda were busy selecting their choice of vegetables and fruits, another mother and her daughter turned their shopping cart into the same aisle. Linda noticed that the girl was about her age so Linda smiled at her. The other girl frowned and went around her mother away from Linda's view.

Questions:

- I. Who did Ahab marry?
- 2. Who did Athaliah worship?
- 3. How long was Ahaziah king?
- 4. What was Athaliah determined to do?

Linda sighed. She had only meant to be friendly. She looked again at the long row of vegetables and then glanced into the mirror that sat behind the entire row. Naturally, she looked for the other girl and saw her reflection in the mirror.

Linda watched the girl pick up a nice red apple, look at her mother, and—Linda caught her breath in surprise—that girl began eating the apple.

"Mother, look!" whispered Linda. "That girl is eating an apple and she hasn't paid for it yet."

"Now, Linda, are you sure she didn't bring it into the store?" asked Mother calmly.

"No, I saw her take it from the other apples," declared Linda. "Isn't that stealing?"

"If she hasn't paid for the apple, that is stealing," agreed Mother. "We don't eat any fruits or vegetables until they are paid for."

Just a minute later, Linda and Mother both saw this girl and her mother crack a few peanut shells and eat the peanuts in them. Linda also saw them sample some strawberries. When the other girl saw Linda watching, she made a face at Linda. Linda shook her head and turned away. She was glad her mother taught her better manners than that.

Sister Connie Sorrell

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Volume 66, Quarter 4, Week 1. Lindsey Gellenbeck, Editor. Johanna Booher, Illustrator. 2016.



Primary Sunday School

Volume 66, Quarter 4, Week 1

The Wicked Queen

When Ahab, the king of Israel, married the wicked princess, Jezebel, he brought great trouble to his people and to his country. Ahab did not teach Jezebel to love and worship the true God. Instead, Ahab served her idol god, Baal. He even built a house for Baal and altars where the people offered sacrifices to this idol.

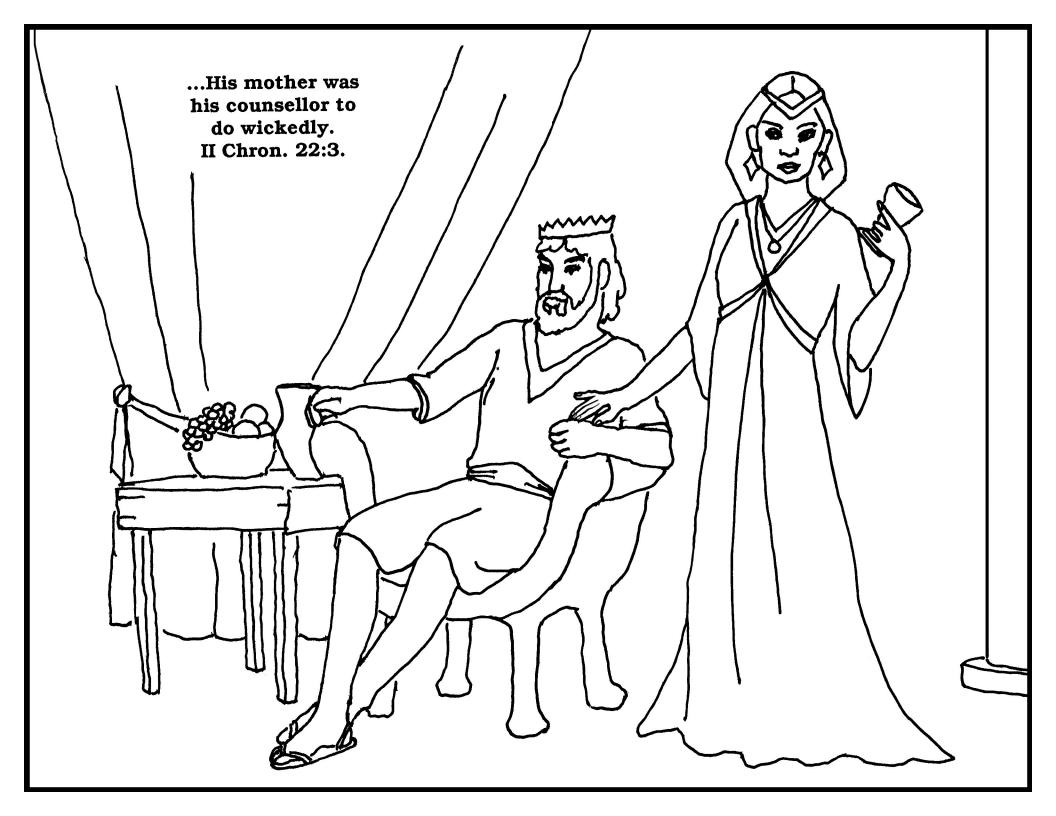
Ahab and Jezebel had a daughter named Athaliah. Like her parents, Athaliah worshipped Baal instead of the true God. One day, Jehoram, the king of Judah, asked Athaliah to be his wife. When she became queen of Judah, Athaliah still worshipped Baal. Soon Jehoram forsook God and worshipped Baal also. He was a very wicked king. Because of him, most of the people also worshipped Baal.

Elijah, the prophet of God, was very sorry the people were turning away from the true God to worship idols. He wrote a letter to King Jehoram and told him the awful trouble he would have because he had turned to idols and would not obey God. Because he had caused the people of Judah to forsake Him, he would die from a terrible disease.

Jehoram read the letter but he did not change his wicked ways. Soon great trouble came to his kingdom, just as Elijah had warned. A great army came against him and robbed him of his treasures. They took away his sons, leaving only the youngest one. Then the Lord caused a terrible disease to come on Jehoram. Still he did not turn to God. After two years. he died of the disease.

After Jehoram's death, the youngest son, Ahaziah, became king. Ahaziah was also a wicked king because Athaliah, his mother, was his advisor. He was king for only one year before he was killed.

When Athaliah learned that her son, Ahaziah, was dead, she was determined to rule Judah herself. She ordered all the king's children to be killed. She thought there was no one left to rule the country now but herself.



Rule of Kindness in the Milk Barn

One Sunday afternoon, Jerry was in the milk barn helping Grandpa prepare to milk his 83 cows. Psh-psh went the water hose as Grandpa sprayed the stainless steel milkers. Swish-swish went the old straw broom as Jerry swept clumps of feed into the gutter.

The drumming of the water and humming of the milking machines made sweet harmony to Jerry's ears. How pleasant it was to be in the milk barn with Grandpa!

"Pull the feed bin lever and fill the feeders," Grandpa called to Jerry. "We need to get in the first eight cows so we will be done early. Tonight is church service and we don't want to miss that!"

"Okay," replied Jerry as he obeyed. The sweet feed tumbled down all eight chutes and rattled into the feeders. Then Jerry opened the doors on each side of the barn and let four cows through each door.

Clack-clack went the cow hooves on the concrete floor. Their heads bobbed up and down as each one took her place in a stall.

Jerry went down a few steps where Grandpa was four feet or so beneath

Questions:

- 1. Who did Jehoiada and his wife, Jehosheba, love and serve?
- How long did Athaliah rule over Judah?
- 3. How old was Joash when he was crowned king?
- 4. Who rushed to the temple to restoreorder?

the cows. He watched while Grandpa put a milker on each cow as she ate from the feeder. Grandpa looked at Jerry and winked.

"Cows are creatures of habit," he said.
"A dairy cow soon knows what to do in the milk barn. If we changed something in the barn or in our way of milking, the cows would notice the difference. Watch how I do things, and soon you can milk the cows by yourself."

Jerry grinned. He observed as Grandpa silently worked with each cow. Some cows were more nervous than others and swished their tails more. One cow kicked the guard rail.

Grandpa never hollered at a cow nor hit one. He quietly and firmly controlled the cows so that each one gave all the milk she could.

After milking, Jerry helped Grandpa clean the barn.

"Grandpa," said Jerry on the way to the house, "I like helping you in the barn but I don't think I could do it by myself."

"Sure you could," replied Grandpa with a pat on Jerry's shoulder. "You've helped me enough to know what to do."

"But what if the cows don't mind me?" asked Jerry.

"Just remember the system of rules," said Grandpa. "I trained all these cows when they were calves and they know kind firmness. Remember this commandment: Have respect for my cows and they will respect you."

Sister Connie Sorrell



Jehoiada, The Wise Priest

Jehoiada was a priest of the one true God. He saw the wicked ways of the king and the people who worshipped Baal and he knew the Lord was greatly displeased with them. Jehoiada's wife, Jehosheba, was the King Ahaziah's sister. She was not like her brother. She loved and served God rather than Baal.

When Athaliah ordered all the king's children to be killed, she did not know that one baby boy, Joash, was still alive. Jehosheba, his aunt, had rescued him. Since Joash was only one year old, Jehosheba hid him and his nurse in the house of God.

For six years, wicked Athaliah ruled over Judah. But God had said that only the descendants of David should sit on the throne of Judah. Jehoiada knew that Joash was the true king of Judah. He carefully planned a way to crown him king.

When Joash was seven years old, Jehoiada called for the Levites and those who worshipped the true God to come to the house of God in Jerusalem. How glad they were to learn that one of the king's sons had been saved! They wondered how they could ever make him king instead of wicked Queen Athaliah.

Jehoiada carefully explained his plan for crowning Joash king. He told the priests and the Levites to divide into three groups. Each group would guard a different door or gate of the temple, the palace and the city. No one must enter the temple except the Levites. The people must keep watch just outside the temple. The men agreed to do just as Jehoiada had planned.

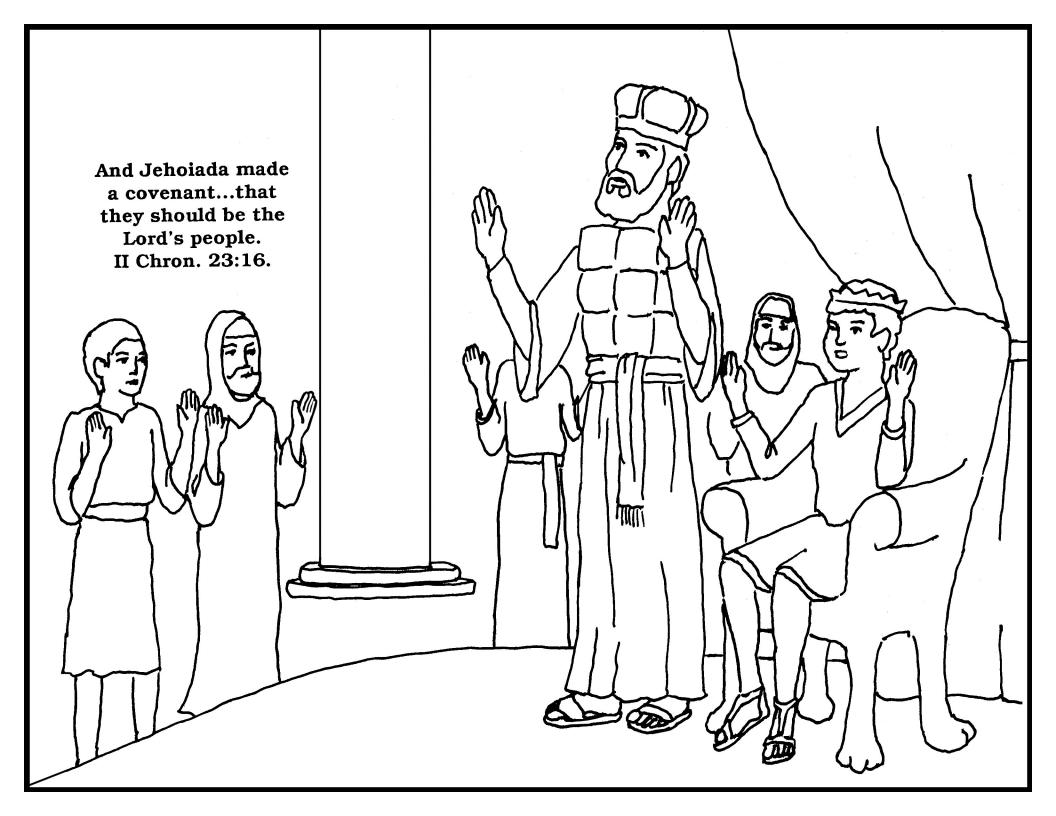
So on the Sabbath, with the Levites standing as guards all around the temple, little Joash was brought before the people. Jehoiada and his sons placed a crown on Joash's head and anointed him. Everyone was so happy they began to shout, "God save the king!"

When Athaliah heard the shouting and saw the great crowd of people, she rushed to the temple to restore order. "Treason, treason!" she shouted. But there was no one to save her or obey her wicked commands. She was taken out of the temple. Joash was now the king of Judah.

Sister Nelda Sorrell

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Volume 66, Quarter 4, Week 2. Lindsey Gellenbeck, Editor. Johanna Booher, Illustrator. 2016.



Milking Alone

"Jer-ry," called Mother facing Jerry's



bedroom. Jerry stuck his head out of his bedroom door. "What, Mother?"

"Jerry, Grandpa just called and asked if you could do the milking for him this afternoon? He doesn't feel very well and should stay in bed. Could you take his place?"

"I guess I could," said Jerry slowly. What a big job to do all alone! While Jerry put on his work clothes and barn boots, he whispered a prayer. "Lord, help me to remember what to do and how to do it. Give me strength and wisdom. Let the cows be good and keep me patient. In Jesus' name I pray, amen."

When Jerry came to the milk barn, the cows were already waiting outside the gate. Jerry hurried through the preparations that he had helped Grandpa do. Then he opened the gates to let the cows come in.

This was the hard part. Standing down in the pit, Jerry used the stepstool to reach under a cow and put the milkers

Questions:

- What did Jehoiada teach Joash?
- 2. How long did Joash rule Judah?
- 3. What did Joash want to do to the temple?
- 4. Why did great trouble come to Joash and his people?

on her. However, he was quite able to do like Grandpa in handling the milkers so the cows weren't nervous with him.

Jerry was making good time and everything went smoothly the first hour. He remembered grandpa's commandment, 'Respect my cows and they will respect you.' Jerry didn't holler at the cows or hit them. He kept his patience even with the nervous cows.

Then toward the last Jerry was becoming tired and perhaps the last cows were tired also. Since cows can't talk, there is no sure way to know what happened but one cow began to kick in the stall. She was kicking at the milkers to knock them off. Jerry rushed over to turn of this milker's valve. He barely got it done in time before she kicked again and hit his arm holding the milker.

At first, Jerry thought about hitting her with the big stick Grandpa used to divide the cows. But he knew Grandpa wouldn't handle this cow that way. Instead, Jerry gently rubbed her size with the stick to calm her down. Soon she did not seem upset anymore, so he put the milkers back on her.

This was a relief to Jerry and he whispered a prayer of thanks under his breath. By the grace of God, he had kept the commandment of kindness. That evening Jerry left the barn feeling a few inches taller.

Sister Connie Sorrell

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Primary Sunday School

Volume 66, Quarter 4, Week 3

A Little Boy Becomes King

Joash was only seven years old when he came king. His uncle, Jehoiada was a wise priest who loved and obeyed God. Jehoiada taught Joash how to rule the people wisely. Jehoiada's wife, Jehosheba, had rescued Joash from being killed. Jehoiada and Jehosheba, his uncle and aunt, were like parents to Joash.

As long as Jehoiada lived, Joash did what was right in the Lord's sight. He ruled as king of Judah for forty years in Jerusalem.

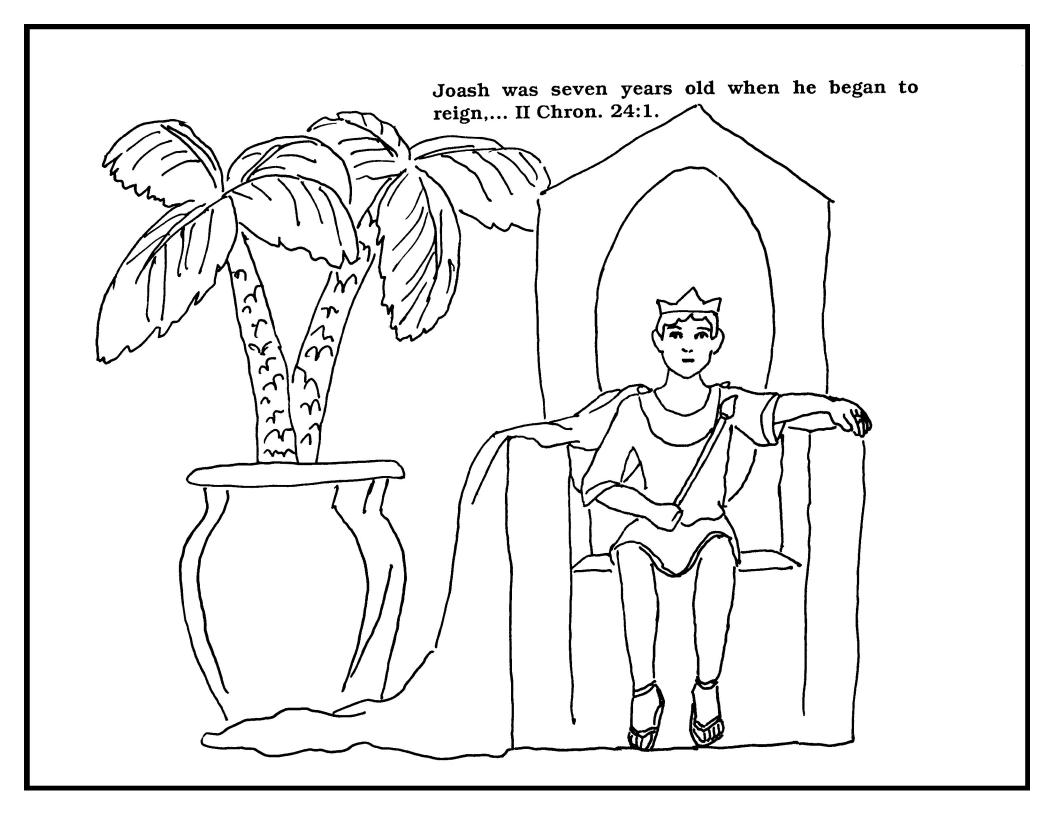
When Joash was older, he saw that the house of the Lord was in need of repair. It had been many years since Solomon built the temple. Now it was very old. While Athaliah was queen, she ordered her sons to take away many of the beautiful decorations and place them in the house of Baal where she worshiped.

So after calling the priests and Levites, Joash instructed them to go to all the cities of Judah and collect money to repair the temple. He urged them to collect the money quickly so they could begin work soon.

But the Levites were slow in the collecting the money. Finally Joash ordered a chest to be made and placed by the gate of the house of the Lord. Then the king commanded all the people to bring their offering for the repair of the temple. The people were glad to know the temple would be repaired. They gladly gave their money. Each day the chest was emptied and put back by the gate. Each day the people brought their money.

Soon there was enough money to repair the temple and enough left to replace the vessels of gold and silver. Once more the house of the Lord was beautiful. The people gladly brought their sacrifices and worshiped God in the temple as long as Jehoiada was priest.

Jehoiada lived to be one hundred and thirty years old. After he died, the princes of Judah, who worshiped idols, persuaded Joash to forsake God. In his last days Joash did many things that displeased God. Great trouble came on him and the people of Judah because they no longer obeyed and worshiped God.



Called to the Homefront

(BASED ON TRUTH.)

Bro. Clifford Lente was a minister who



really did care about people. When he was a boy, he had lived in a small town where nearly everyone went to church and the streets were safe

at night. Now Bro. Cliff was the pastor of a large church in a big city. This was very different for him, his wife and three children.

When Bro. Cliff drove his family to Sunday school on the first day of the week, he had to drive by old apartments and vacant houses where plywood was nailed over the windows and doors. Dirty men sat on bus benches, tired women scuffled by and ragged children played sidewalk games.

This all touched Bro. Cliff's heart. By the time he reached the chapel, he was fired up and ready to preach to the congregation.

"All of you need to look around and see the poverty in this city," he preached. "What are you doing to help the poor and needy? The scriptures tell us that

Questions:

- 1. Why did Jonah go to Tarshish?
- Why did the sailors throw things overboard?
- 3. What was Jonah doing during the storm?
- 4. What did Jonah tell them to do with him?

we do not well if we turn away from the needs of others and live in comfort ourselves. We are to give of our surplus to help the poor—not just give them money, but also time and spiritual help. Let us read Matthew 25 and the last verses." Then Bro. Cliff explained to the congregation that these people were like the ones described in the scriptures.

After the last prayer was given, Bro. Cliff would stand at the back door of the chapel and shake everyone's hand as they went out. Often someone would say he had a good message but no one seemed to have time to visit these city people and bring them to church.

One Sunday after service, a little elderly lady shook Bro. Cliff's hand and then she said something that changed his life. "What are you doing, sir, to help these poor people you are so concerned about?" she asked him. "Are you practicing what you preach?"

At this, Bro. Cliff felt a pang of guilt pierce his heart. What was he doing to help? He had become so involved in preaching about the problem that he himself was not helping with the problem. Right then and there Bro. Cliff decided to make a change in his life and in the lives of these street people. He didn't know what to do, so he began to pray. That was a good beginning.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Sister Connie Sorrell

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Primary Sunday School

Volume 66, Quarter 4, Week 4

Jonah Runs Away

God spoke to Jonah, "Get up and go to Nineveh, that great city. Warn the people because their wickedness has come up before me."

But Jonah did not obey. He thought he could hide from the Lord. Then he wouldn't have to warn the people of Nineveh. At Joppa Jonah found a ship sailing to Tarshish. Jonah paid his fare and climbed into the ship. He was so tired he went down into the ship and found a place where he could lie down. Soon he was fast asleep.

But the Lord had His eyes right on Jonah. As soon as the ship set sail, the Lord sent out a great wind into the sea so there was a mighty storm. It seemed the ship was breaking apart! The sailors saw they would soon be drowned if the storm continued. Each one began praying to their god to stop the storm. Then they threw everything overboard they could spare. The hoped to lighten the ship so it wouldn't sink.

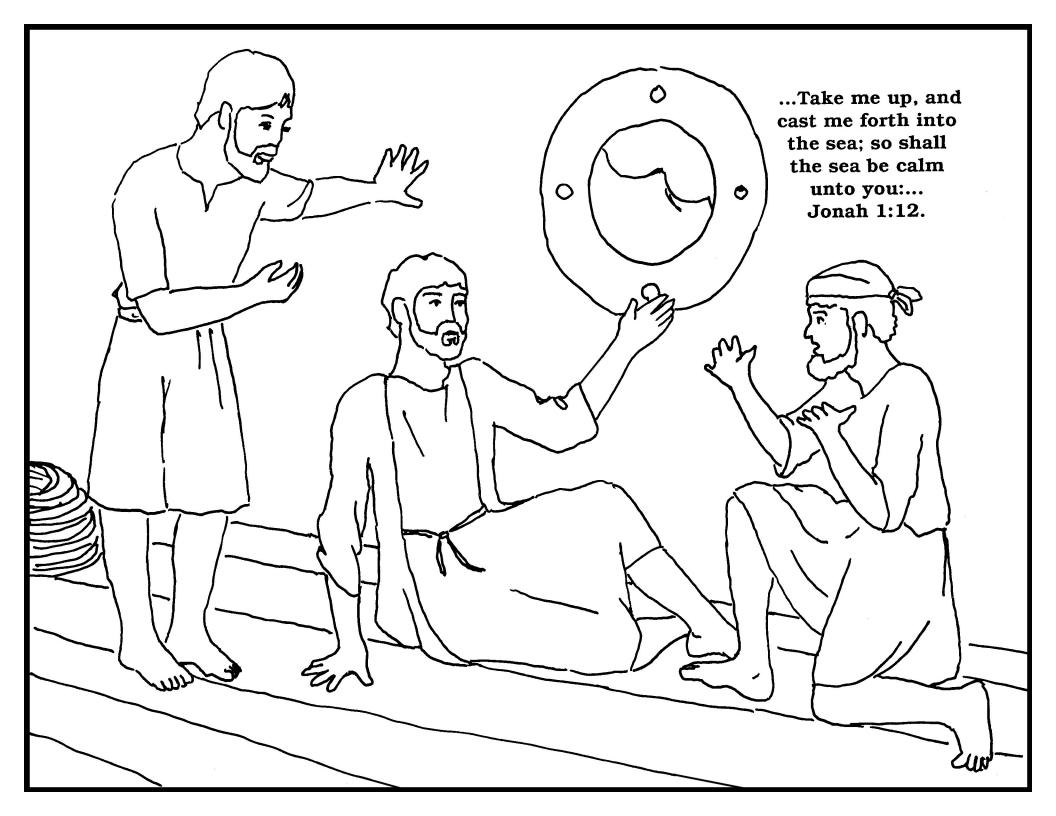
All the while Jonah lay fast asleep. Suddenly he was awakened by the shipmaster shouting, "What do you mean, O sleeper? Get up and call on your God. Perhaps He will have mercy on us so we won't perish."

Jonah did not feel like calling on God for help. He knew he had run away from the work God wanted him to do. Finally the sailors decided to cast lots to see who had done evil to cause such a great storm. The lot fell on Jonah. "What have you done to cause this evil upon us?" the sailors asked him. "Where did you come from?"

"I am an Hebrew," Jonah answered. "I fear the Lord God of heaven, which made the sea and the dry land." Then Jonah told them how he had tried to run away from the presence of the Lord.

When the sailors heard this they were more frightened than ever. How could anyone hope to run away from such a mighty God? "What shall we do to you so the sea may be calm again?" they asked Jonah.

"Take me up and throw me into the sea," Jonah answered. "Then the sea will be calm. I know that this great storm is upon you because of me."



Boys Who Need Correction

(CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK.)

An elderly lady in Bro. Clifford Lente's church gave him the challenge to "practice what he preached." He was wanting the congregation to reach out and do something for the poor people of the community but he himself was not really helping them either. So Bro. Cliff and his wife began to pray for the Lord to open some doors for them to work through.

One night, a robbery occurred at the chapel. It was one of several recent robberies in that part of the city. Bro. Cliff talked with the police officers who came to report what had been stolen.

"We know it is a gang of young boys doing these robberies," one officer told him. "We have an idea who they are and where they go but we haven't been able to catch them yet. They are restless street boys who don't have much to do."

After the officers left, Bro. Cliff began to pray for these boys. "Lord, what could I do to help these boys?" he prayed. Late the next night he was driving in the area by the chapel when he saw three young boys dodge into the shadows of a local

Questions:

- What happened as soon as Jonah fell into the water?
- 2. What swallowed Jonah alive?
- 3. How long was Jonah in the fish's belly?
- 4. What did Jonah tell the people of Nineveh?

business. Bro. Cliff's heart skipped a beat. These were probably the guilty boys. What should he do?

Quickly, Bro. Cliff pulled his car over to the curb where he could watch the boys. He looked into their faces so he might identify them later. Right away they knew that he was watching them so they disappeared around a corner.

As Bro. Cliff drove home, he prayed for these boys and others like them who needed Jesus in their lives. When he reached his house, he called the police department and asked for the officer whom he had visited earlier.

"I would like to help these boys," he told the officer. "What type of training or requirements is there to qualify me to help?"

"I don't know what type of training it will take to help these boys," replied the officer. "I guess, in your field, you need to pray for them and have a willing heart to correct their lives."

Well, Bro. Cliff had been praying for them and he did have a willing heart to help them but how could he 'correct their lives?' He didn't know how to do that. These boys needed more help than what Bro. Cliff felt he could give. Who could train him for this type of work?

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Sister Connie Sorrell

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Primary Sunday School

Volume 66, Quarter 4, Week 5

Swallowed Alive!

Even after Jonah told the sailors he was the cause of the great storm, they were not willing to throw him overboard as he told them. They rowed hard and did all they could to get to safety but the storm was too great. Finally they cried to the Lord and said, "We beg you, O Lord, we beg you, do not let us perish for this man's life." Then they picked up Jonah and threw him into the water.

As soon as Jonah fell into the water, the storm became calm. The sailors feared God exceedingly, seeing how mighty He was. They offered a sacrifice to Him and made vows because He had calmed the storm and saved their lives.

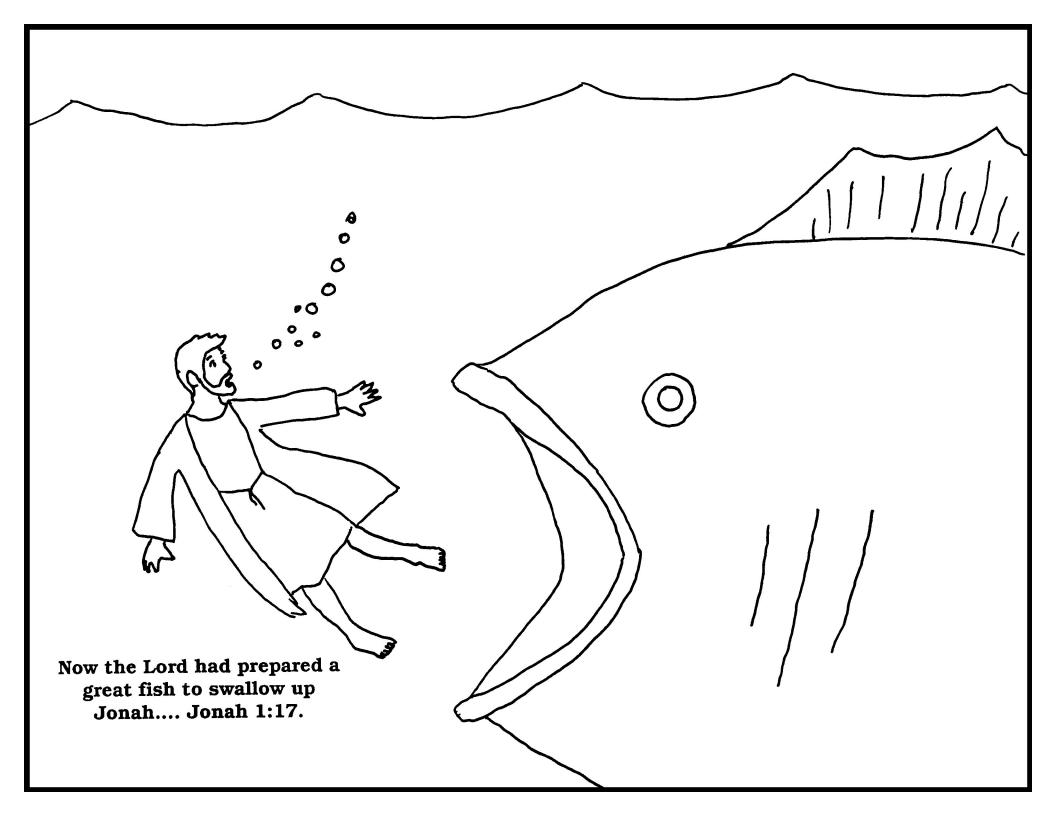
Jonah sunk deeper and deeper into the sea. It seemed he would surely drown. But God had prepared a great fish that was right there when Jonah fell into the water. It opened its huge mouth and swallowed up Jonah, alive!

Jonah was inside the fish for three days and three nights. All that time he prayed to the Lord his God out of the fish's belly. God heard Jonah's prayers. He spoke to the fish and it vomited Jonah out on the dry land!

How thankful Jonah was to be on dry land! Then God spoke to him again. He told him, "Get up; go to Nineveh, that great city, and preach to it as I told you before."

This time, Jonah was ready to obey. He hurried as quickly as he could to Nineveh, just as God had told him. Once he was inside the city gates Jonah began to shout, "In forty days Nineveh will be destroyed!" The people stopped to hear what Jonah had to say. They believed his words and were so sorry for their sins they proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least.

Even the king came down from his throne and took off his royal robe. He put on sackcloth, and sat in the ashes and commanded, "Let neither man nor beast taste anything: let them not feed nor drink water. Cry mightily unto God and turn everyone from your evil way. Who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not?"



Too Young to Be Robbers

(CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK.)

"BR-R-RING!" rang the telephone at Bro. Cliff's house. He reached for the phone by his desk and answered.

"Hello, Lente's residence."

"Mr. Lente, this is the dispatcher of the Glendale police. We need you to come in right away to identify some possible items stolen from your chapel on 503 West Maple Street. You are the pastor of this church, am I correct?"

"Yes," answered Bro. Cliff. "Have the young robbers been caught? I am interested in them."

"We do have five minors held in connection with this robbery and several other local robberies. Do you know any of these boys or are you witness to any of their crimes?"

"No," replied Bro. Cliff. "I will be there shortly."

All the way to the police station, Bro. Cliff was praying for wisdom and for the boys who needed correction. He wanted to help them but he wasn't sure how to help.

Bro. Cliff was really saddened when he saw the boys. Two boys were thirteen

Questions:

- Who ordered the people to fast and pray for forgiveness?
- 2. What did Jonah build for himself?
- 3. What did the worm do to the gourd?
- 4. Who/what are most precious to God?

years old and three boys were twelve. Their shoulders were thin, their arms looked frail, but their faces wore a hardened look.

"Since these boys are all juveniles, we will send the two oldest boys to a state boys' correctional center," said the chief of police. "The younger three will be put on probation." He stroked his chin in thought. "All five will probably end up in prison someday if they don't make a change."

Bro. Cliff spoke up quietly. "Could I talk with the boys one at a time?"

"Sure," said the chief. He let Bro. Cliff use his office for this purpose. With each boy, Bro. Cliff asked what his hobby or interest was. Then he asked each boy what he wanted in life. One 12 -year-old named Bill really talked with Bro. Cliff. He seemed sorry for the trouble he was in and wanted to do better. He lived with his mother and two younger brothers in a small apartment. He said he was bored most of the time but he would like to be a photographer someday.

After the visits, Bro. Cliff had made up his mind. He spoke with the chief. "I would like to work with Bill if that could be arranged," he said.

"Sure," said the chief. "We'll talk to his mother. She will probably be delighted."

Bro. Cliff was also pleased. The Lord was answering his prayers. (TO BE CONTINUED.)

Sister Connie Sorrell

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Primary Sunday School

Volume 66, Quarter 4, Week 6

Jonah and the Gourd

To Jonah's surprise, the people of Nineveh listened to his preaching and believed what he said. They were eager to hear what they could do to save themselves and their city from being destroyed. They were truly sorry for their sins. The king even ordered that everyone should fast and pray for the Lord to forgive them.

When the people of Nineveh showed such great sorrow for their sins, God forgave them and decided He would not destroy their city as He had planned. This made Jonah very angry. He did not want the people to find favor with God. They were enemies of his country and he hoped they would be destroyed.

After he finished preaching, Jonah went outside the city walls and waited to see fire fall on Nineveh. On the east side of the city Jonah built himself a little booth. He sat in the shade of the booth and waited to see what would happen to the city.

Then God prepared a gourd that grew up quickly. Its large leaves shaded Jonah's little booth and made him much more comfortable. Jonah was very happy for the gourd.

But God prepared a worm. The next morning the worm ate the plant until it withered and no longer shaded Jonah's booth. Then, when the sun came up, the Lord prepared a strong east wind. It blew hard against Jonah's booth and the scorching sun beat on his head. Jonah was so miserable he wished he could die. He told the Lord, "It is better for me to die than to live."

Then God spoke to Jonah. "Are you doing right to be angry for the gourd? You have had pity on the gourd even though you did not plant it nor work to help it grow. The gourd came up in one night and perished in a night. Shouldn't I have pity and spare Nineveh, that great city where thousands of helpless children live?"

Jonah realized then that people are most precious to God and He cares for everyone. He saw how selfish he had been to mourn over the gourd instead of rejoicing that the people had not been destroyed.



Project One for Brother Cliff

(CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK.)

"Bill, you shot some good pictures," said Bro. Cliff. He was admiring the picture that a young 12-year-old boy had so carefully developed in their newly made dark-room.

Bill grinned. "They aren't too bad," he commented. "Next time I might come in a little closer."

"Yes, you might," agreed Bro. Cliff. "Each time you can learn something to make the pictures better and that's the way to become professional."

Bill shook his head. "I'll never be great at it but I like to try."

"Why can't you be great at it?" asked Bro. Cliff. He looked into Bill's eyes. "You have a lot of potential. Don't give up on yourself before you even get started. Here is some more film. Let's take some 3D pictures this time."

Soon Bro. Cliff and Bill were busy with a camera and another scene. Every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday evening, Bill came to the darkroom built in a shed on the church grounds. Bro. Cliff was pleased that Bill would talk to him and they became good friends.

Questions:

- Who made King Uzziah prosper?
- 2. Who gave him gifts?
- How did Uzziah sin?
- What did God bring upon him because he disobeyed?

Also, Bill began to come to church. He

Several months passed and Bro. Cliff could see good changes in Bill. Together

However, Bill's old friends did not appreciate the changes they saw in Bill. When they saw him they would hoot mockingly and even throw stones at him.

safety.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

would slip in the door just before service started and would sit down in the back seat. Then he would leave during the last prayer. When Bro. Cliff saw Bill later, he would thank Bill for coming to church. Every time they were together, Bro. Cliff would have prayer with Bill but he never "preached" at Bill. He wanted Bill to see the love of God and come to the Lord himself.

they had bought some better clothes for Bill. Now he looked cleaner. He held his shoulders straighter and walked with confidence. Best of all, he did not curse nor say bad words anymore. Bill was really making a change and Bro. Cliff was thankful.

Bro. Cliff attempted to talk to these boys. He wanted to invite them to join their photography lessons but these boys only sneered and walked away. Bro. Cliff prayed for them and for Bill's

Sister Connie Sorrell

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Primary Sunday School

Volume 66, Quarter 4, Week 7

King Uzziah

Uzziah was only 16 years old when he became king. For 52 years he reigned over Judah. Uzziah wanted to do what was right. His counsellor was Zechariah, a true prophet of God, who taught him how to please God.

As long as Uzziah was obedient, God made him prosper. He helped him win many battles. Soon his enemies were giving him gifts. He became very wealthy and people everywhere knew that Uzziah was a great and mighty king.

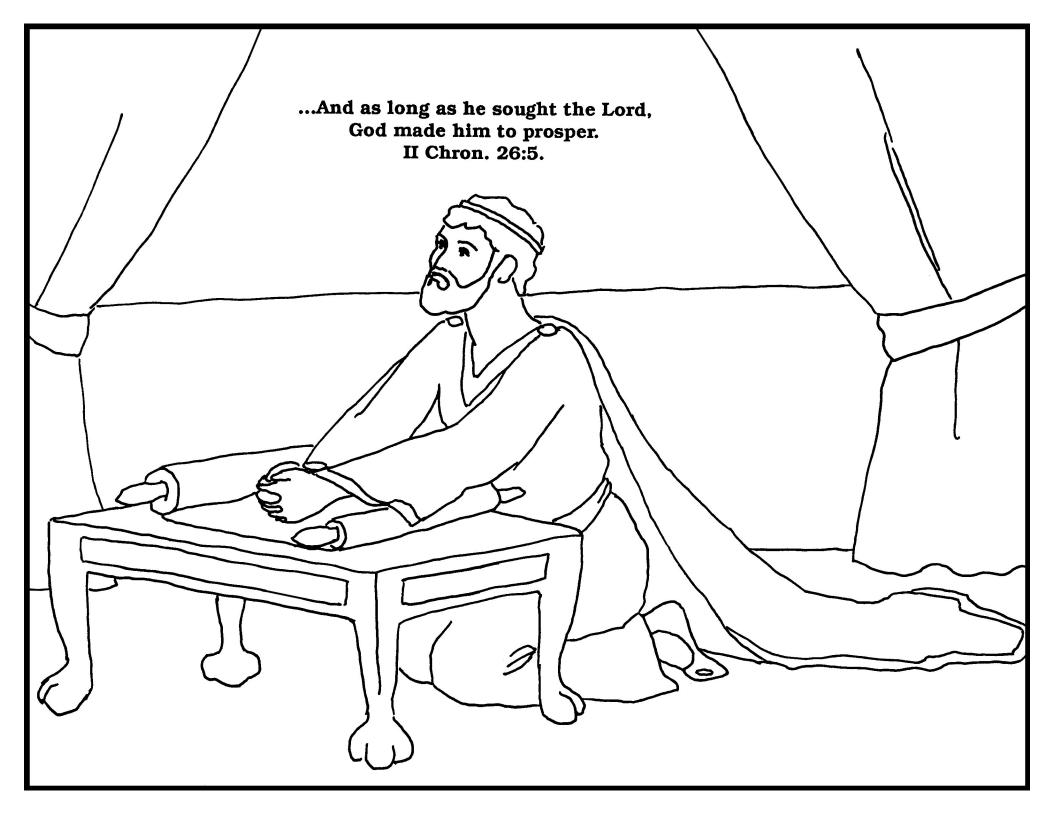
Besides his great wealth, Uzziah built an army of powerful men to help the king against his enemies. The king gave his soldiers the very best weapons to fight with. Wise men in the kingdom invented machines that could shoot large rocks and arrows a long distance. Uzziah placed these in the towers and on the walls of Jerusalem to protect the city. So Uzziah became very strong and famous.

Uzziah built towers in Jerusalem and in the desert. He dug many wells to get water for his large herds of cattle and to water his great vineyards. Judah had not been this prosperous since Solomon was king.

But then a very sad thing happened. Because he was so strong and mighty, Uzziah became proud. This led to his destruction. He did not leave God to worship idols as his father had, but he sinned by disobeying God. One day Uzziah decided that because he was such a great king, he could go into the temple and burn incense upon the altar.

Azariah, the priest, was horrified when he saw Uzziah go into the sanctuary. Taking eighty priests with him, he tried to stop the king. "Only the priests, the sons of Aaron, are consecrated to burn incense unto the Lord," they warned. "Go out of the sanctuary!"

The king became very angry when the priests tried to stop him. Holding the censer in his hand he stepped toward the altar. As the priests watched, leprosy covered Uzziah's forehead. God had brought leprosy on him because he had disobeyed. Never again could Uzziah cone into the house of God because of his dreadful disease.



Sudden Trouble

(CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK.)

Sunday morning, Bro. Clifford Lente took his family to church and preached to his congregation as usual. However, something unusual happened—Bill did not slip in the back door just before service nor was he there to leave as soon as service dismissed. Bro. Cliff was worried. Bill, his 12-year-old friend, did not come to church that morning.

On his way home from church, Bro. Cliff went by the old apartment building that Bill lived in. "I hope Bill is okay," he told his wife. "Please wait here in the car with the children. I want to see if Bill is home."

Bro. Cliff walked up the creaky, metal stairs that led to the apartment where Bill, his mother and two younger brothers lived. The odor of greasy onions and liquor was overwhelming, but Bro. Cliff continued to the third floor where he stopped before a battered wooden door.

Knock, knock, knock.

"Hello, I'm Clifford Lente," he called through the shut door. "Is anyone home?"

Questions:

- How long was Ahaz king?
- 2. What kind of kina was Ahaz?
- 3. What brought Ahaz and his people to ruin?
- 4. Why wasn't Ahaz buried with the other kings?

No one answered. No one ever came to the door. Bro. Cliff finally went back to is waiting family. "I didn't see one person," he told his wife. "Not even a neighbor opened a door nor did I hear any voices."

"Maybe they are still at church," said his little girl.

"I wish they were," sighed Bro. Cliff with a sad look on his face. "They probably are sleeping off the bad effects of the liquor they drank last night. Let's pray for Bill, his family and neighbors. They need Jesus to live in their hearts."

Bro. Cliff's telephone was ringing when he walked in the door of his house. It was the chief of police. "Mr. Lente, could you come down to the station pronto? There was a robbery and murder last night and we have Bill here in connection with it."

"I'll be right there," said Bro. Cliff as he hung up the phone. "Honey," he said to his wife, "Bill is in trouble. Sorry I won't be here for lunch. I'll eat later. Pray for me and Bill."

Soon, Bro. Cliff was at the police station where he learned about the robbery at a small grocery store whom an elderly lady owned. A group of boys ganged against her and she died from the injuries they dealt her.

"We arrested Bill," said the chief.

"Please let me talk to him," said Bro. Cliff sadly. (TO BE CONTINUED.)

Sister Connie Sorrell

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Primary Sunday School

Volume 66, Quarter 4, Week 8

Wicked King Ahaz

When Uzziah died his son, Jotham, became king in his place. Jotham did what was right in God's sight and was king for 16 years. During his reign, Jotham built cities in the mountains of Judah. He built castles and towers in the forests.

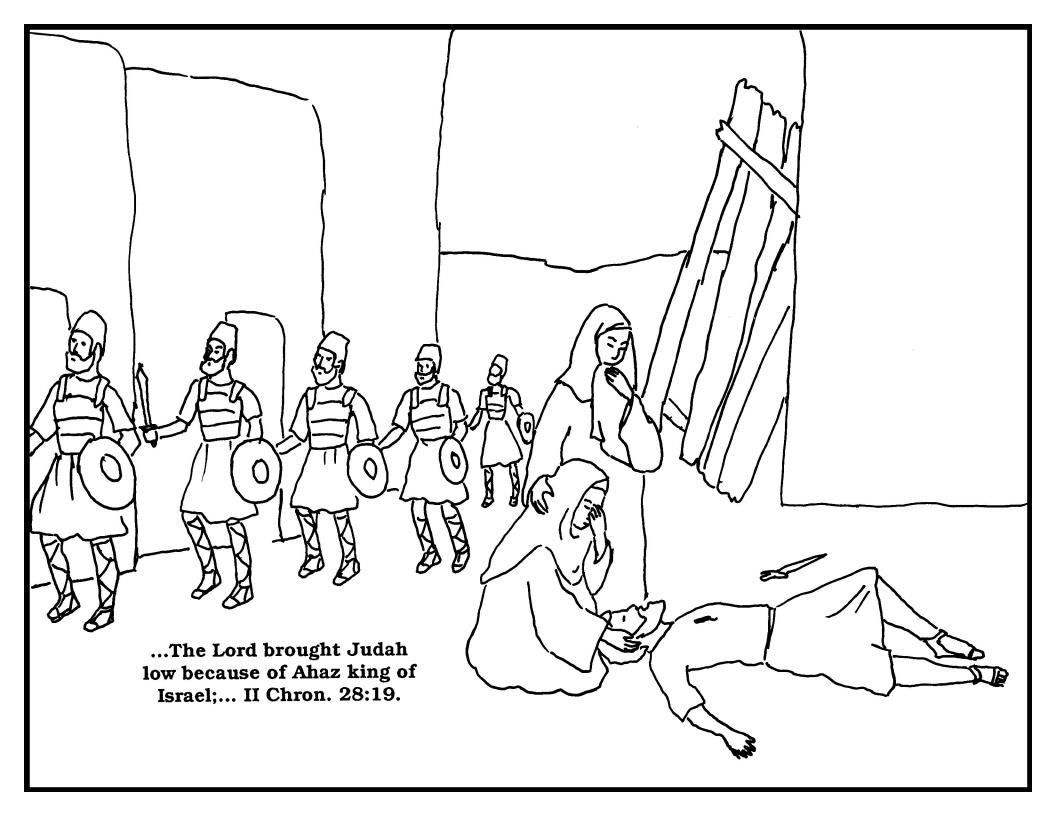
When Jotham fought with the Ammonites, he won a great victory. For years the children of Ammon paid him 100 talents of silver and much wheat and barley. Jotham became mighty because he followed the way of the Lord his God.

After Jotham was dead his son, Ahaz, became king. Like his father, he ruled for 16 years. But he did not follow the Lord as his father and grandfather had. Ahaz was a very wicked king. He made images which he worshipped instead of God. When Ahaz went to war he did not have the Lord to fight for him. Instead, God delivered him into the hand of the king of Syria. Many of his people were taken as prisoners.

In another battle, Ahaz was defeated by the king of Israel. Thousands of his brave soldiers were killed in this battle because he had left the Lord and refused to serve Him. The children of Israel also took 200,000 people captive and carried away much wealth to Samaria.

Later, the Edomites and Philistines invaded the kingdom of Ahaz. They robbed the cities and took people away as prisoners. Still Ahaz did not change his wicked ways. He would not turn to God. This time he sent to the king of Assyria for help. The king of Assyria demanded much money from Ahaz, but did not help him against his enemies. Then Ahaz turned to the gods of his enemies for help. "Because the gods of the kings of Syria help them, I will sacrifice to them so they will help me," he thought. But his idol worship only brought Ahaz and his people to ruin.

Ahaz gathered the vessels of the house of God and cut them in pieces. He shut the doors on the house of the Lord and instead made altars in every corner of Jerusalem for his idols. Because Ahaz brought so much trouble to his country, he was not buried with the other kings of Israel.



Bill's Story

(CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK.)

"Bill, please explain to me everything that happened last night," said Bro. Cliff gently. They were in a private room at the police station where Bill was held in connection with a robbery and murder. Bill was so ashamed he would not lift up his head to look at Bro. Cliff.

"I was with the wrong crowd that you warned me about," he said quietly. "I didn't know their plans. They told me I needed to have some fun for a while and forget the serious picture-taking stuff. They talked bad about you and they swore like they always have. I thought I would just go with them but not do anything." Bill looked at Bro. Cliff. "I didn't do any of the stealing and hitting, but I was there." He lowered his head again. "The police went to my mom's last night and told her about it. Now she's mad at me and if I tell who is in the gang, they will be mad at me. And—and I let you down. I—I'm sorry." Bill wiped the back of his hand across his nose. "I don't have anywhere to go and I have no friends, so I'd better go to a boys reform home where there are other boys just as bad as me."

Questions:

- 1. Who was the greatest king of Israel?
- Who cleaned the house of the Lord?
- 3. Where did Hezekiah go early in the morning?
- 4. What kind of offerings did the people bring?

By this time Bro. Cliff had tears streaming from his eyes. He put an arm around Bill's shoulders. "You do have a friend," he said to Bill. "The love of Jesus has sent me your way to help you. Do you want to make a change, Bill? Do you want help?"

"I don't think there is much hope for me," he replied in a choked voice. "You helped me so much—I tried to do what's right—but I failed—I can't do it—it's too hard to do what's right." Bill was now sobbing and Bro. Cliff held him in a fatherly embrace.

"Let's pray, Bill. Let's take it all to Jesus and ask Him to wash away these sins and failures. He can make your heart clean and give you strength to do what's right."

Soon Bill had prayed to Jesus and felt a peace come over his heart. However, Bill was still in trouble with the law.

"Let's talk to the chief," said Bro. Cliff.
"Remember Bill, the best way out of
this trouble is to be honest. If you stay
honest, your story will always be the
same."

After some discussion and paperwork, Bill was allowed to go home with Bro. Cliff. Though he didn't say it, Bill felt thankful that Jesus had sent Bro. Cliff to him.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Sister Connie Sorrell

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Primary Sunday School

Volume 66, Quarter 4, Week 9

A Great Thanksgiving

After Ahaz died, his son Hezekiah became king. Hezekiah was 25-years-old when he became king and ruled over Judah for 29 years.

Hezekiah was much wiser than his father. He chose to do right in the sight of the Lord. He trusted in the Lord God of Israel and became so great that there was never a greater king of Judah.

In the very first year of his reign, Hezekiah opened the doors of the house of the Lord and repaired them. He gathered the priests and Levites and commanded them to sanctify themselves and the house of the Lord. They were to clean the holy place so they could once more worship God.

"Our fathers have done that which was evil in the eyes of the Lord our God," Hezekiah told the priests. "They shut up the house of the Lord and have not burned incense nor offered burnt offerings in the holy place to the God of Israel. That is why the Lord brought such great trouble on them. Our fathers have been killed by the sword and our daughters and wives are in captivity because of this.

"Now it is in my heart to make a covenant with the Lord God of Israel that He will turn His fierce wrath away from us. The Lord has chosen you to stand before Him, to serve Him, and to minister to Him and burn incense. Be faithful and do it."

The priests and Levites were glad to do as the king commanded. When they had sanctified themselves they cleaned the house of the Lord. After eight days they happily reported, "We have cleaned the house of the Lord as you commanded. We have also prepared all the vessels that King Ahaz destroyed. They are before the altar of the Lord."

So Hezekiah got up early and gathered the rulers of the city, and went up to the house of the Lord and offered sin offerings for the kingdom, for the sanctuary and for Judah. Then the people brought a thanksgiving offering and bowed down and worshipped God. They sang praises with great gladness and thanksgiving.



One Happy Triumph

(CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK.)

It was a wintery Saturday morning. Outside the cold wind roared and shook the warm, little shop where Bro. Cliff and Bill were inside playing chess.

Many things had taken place in the past few months. First, Bro. Cliff and his wife prayed for the Lord to give them a work to do for Him. Along came Bill, a 12-year -old boy who needed correction. Bro. Cliff befriended Bill and taught Bill how to take pictures and develop them in their makeshift darkroom.

Soon Bill was coming to the church Bro. Cliff pastored. Then Bill got into trouble when he went with a group of bad boys to have what they called "fun." By telling the truth, Bill was able to prove that he was not involved in the robbery and beating that those boys did. Through this trial, Bill learned a valuable lesson—don't run with a bad crowd if you want to do what is right. Bill asked Jesus to forgive him. He became a saved child of God!

Bro. Cliff moved his family and Bill moved with them. Another happy event

Questions:

- Who was king over the ten tribes of Israel?
- What two prophets were sent to warn Israel?
- 3. Who captured the Israelites?
- Who came to teach the strange people living in Samaria about the one true
 God?

was yet to come. They were just waiting for the right papers to arrive through the mail.

At present, Bro. Cliff and Bill are involved in a game of chess. "It's your turn to move Bro. Cliff," said Bill teasingly. "What were you dreaming about? You're already married."

"Well, it is my turn!" exclaimed Bro. Cliff. "Where did you move, anyway, Bill? I guess my mind isn't much on this game, is it?"

"No," said Bill, "but I'm not complaining. It's about time I win another game."

"I guess you have won this one," agreed Bro. Cliff as Bill took his king with the next move.

Suddenly the shop door opened and Bro. Cliff's wife burst into the room. "Cliff! Bill! Here are the papers! Now, Bill, you are legally our son!"

What a rejoicing took place! There was hugging, shouting and praising the Lord! Bro. Cliff was so happy that he cried tears of joy.

"Son," he said to Bill, "when Mom and I prayed for a work to do for the Lord, we did not know He would send us someone as special as you. We love you, son."

(THE END)

Sister Connie Sorrell

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Primary Sunday School

Volume 66, Quarter 4, Week 10

Israel is Captured

While Hezekiah was ruling over Judah, Hoshea was king over the ten tribes of Israel. Jeroboam, the first king of Israel, had set up two golden calves in his kingdom for the people to worship. Even though God sent prophets like Elijah and Elisha to the ten tribes of Israel, not many of the people were led back to the worship of the true God. Most of the kings were evil idol worshippers and the people followed their example. They rejected God and without His help they became weaker and weaker.

Many years passed. Nineteen kings had ruled over Israel. God had helped them out of trouble many times but still they would not turn from idols and serve him.

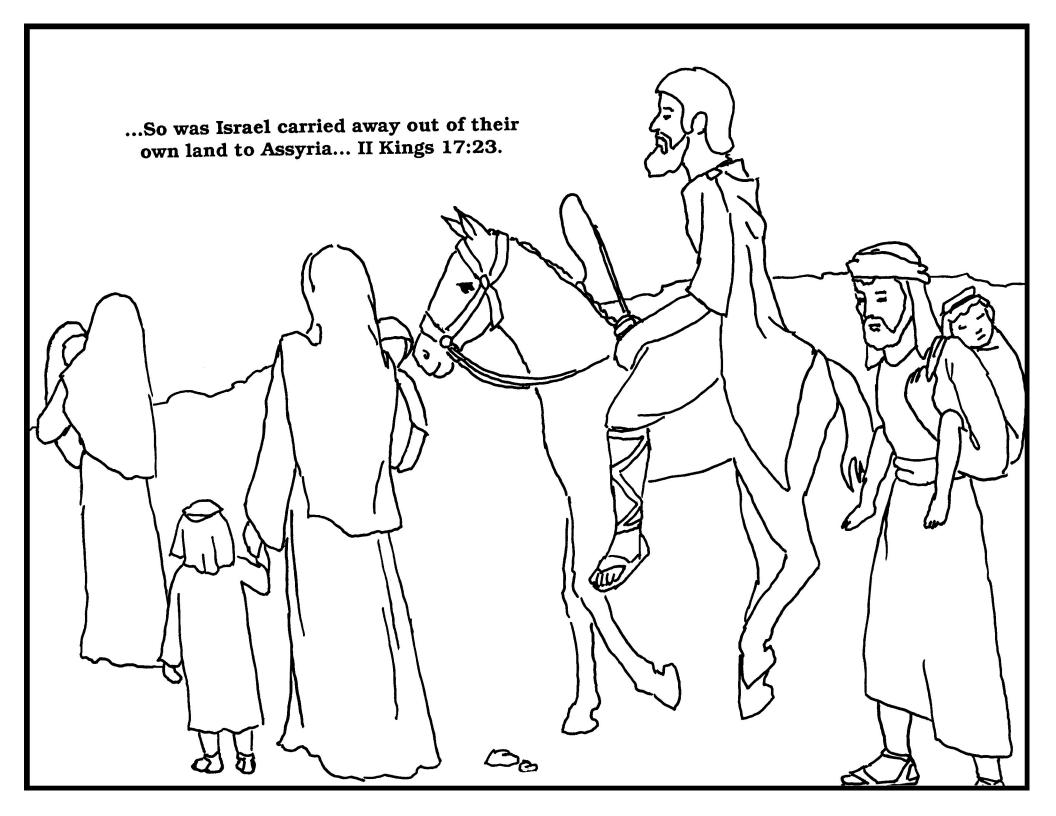
Finally, God allowed the Assyrians to capture some of the Israelites. They were taken away as slaves to a strange land. Hoshea was left as king of Israel and ordered to pay heavy taxes to the Assyrians.

One year Hoshea refused to pay. The king of Assyria sent his army again. This time he took Hoshea and many people to Assyria. Only the poorest people were left behind. Those who were taken away were never allowed to return to their homeland.

Then the king of Assyria brought people from other countries to live in the city of Samaria instead of the children of Israel. These people knew nothing about the true God. They worshipped only idols. The Lord sent lions that killed some of the people. The people sent a messenger to the king saying, "The people you have sent to Samaria do not know the manner of the God of the land. He has sent lions among them and some have been killed."

So the king of Assyria commanded, "Take one of the priests back to Samaria. He will live there and teach the people the manner of the God of the land."

A priest was went and he taught the people how to worship the true God. But they did not worship Him with their whole hearts. They still worshipped their own idols while trying to worship God.



War Pictures

Jerry was looking at pictures in a news reporting magazine. So many reports were talking about fighting and killing in other countries. Jerry's heart was saddened by the hungry looks on the poor people's faces. Little children were crying and men were dying.

Jerry just had to talk to his dad! He picked up the magazine and went into the den where his dad was relaxing in his big, brown recliner.

"Did you see these pictures, Dad?" asked Jerry as he put the magazine in his dad's lap. What is the war about? Why are there so many children hungry? These people look so sad!"

"War of any kind is an awful thing," said Dad as he put his arm around Jerry's shoulders. "War brings suffering to everyone involved. There really aren't any winners when lives are taken, land is destroyed, and people are left wounded in body and soul.

"Why don't the police stop the fighting?" asked Jerry. "I would help these people if I were a policeman."

"Son, Dad said, looking Jerry in the eyes, "I don't understand all about war and suffering. I don't think anyone really does. I do know that God sees it all and

Questions:

- Who was Zacharias?
- What were the people doing while he was in the temple?
- 3. What did an angel promise him?
- 4. Why was Zacharias unable to speak?

He is sad when people do not choose to live by His plan.

"In the beginning, God did not plan for man to kill. Adam and Eve listened to the devil and man became bound by sin. Do you remember who committed the first murder?"

"Cain killed Abel because he was jealous," replied Jerry.

"Yes," agreed Dad. "Cain was punished for that murder. God put a mark on him and sent him away from the other people.

"Because the children of Israel lived under the old law, they had to bring a sin sacrifice for their sins. This was to cover their sins by the blood of the perfect lamb. In the Old Testament times Israel often fought battles but they also had to sacrifice to cover this evil. Remember that sin causes war, Jerry. Even wars of today are caused by sin."

Jerry and his dad then talked about the sad war pictures in the magazine. The eyes of the people reflected terror and worry. The fighting seemed so senseless.

"Dad, Jesus would help the hurting, wouldn't He? He wouldn't be fighting and killing."

"You're right, Jerry," replied Dad.
"Christians should not kill even in war.
Instead, we should help the wounded and share with them the love of Jesus."

Sister Connie Sorrell

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Primary Sunday School

Volume 66, Quarter 4, Week 11

An Angel Visits the Temple

Zacharias and his wife Elisabeth lived in the land of Judea where Herod was king. Zacharias was a priest. Both he and Elisabeth served God faithfully and were righteous before Him, keeping all His commandments and ordinances.

For many years Zacharias and Elisabeth longed and prayed for a child. Now they were both too old to hope for such a blessing. Still, they served God faithfully.

One day Zacharias left his home in the hill country to go to the temple. It was time for him to serve there by burning incense before the Lord. All the men in Zacharias' family had been priests because they were descendants of Aaron, the first priest of Israel. Elisabeth was also of the family of Aaron.

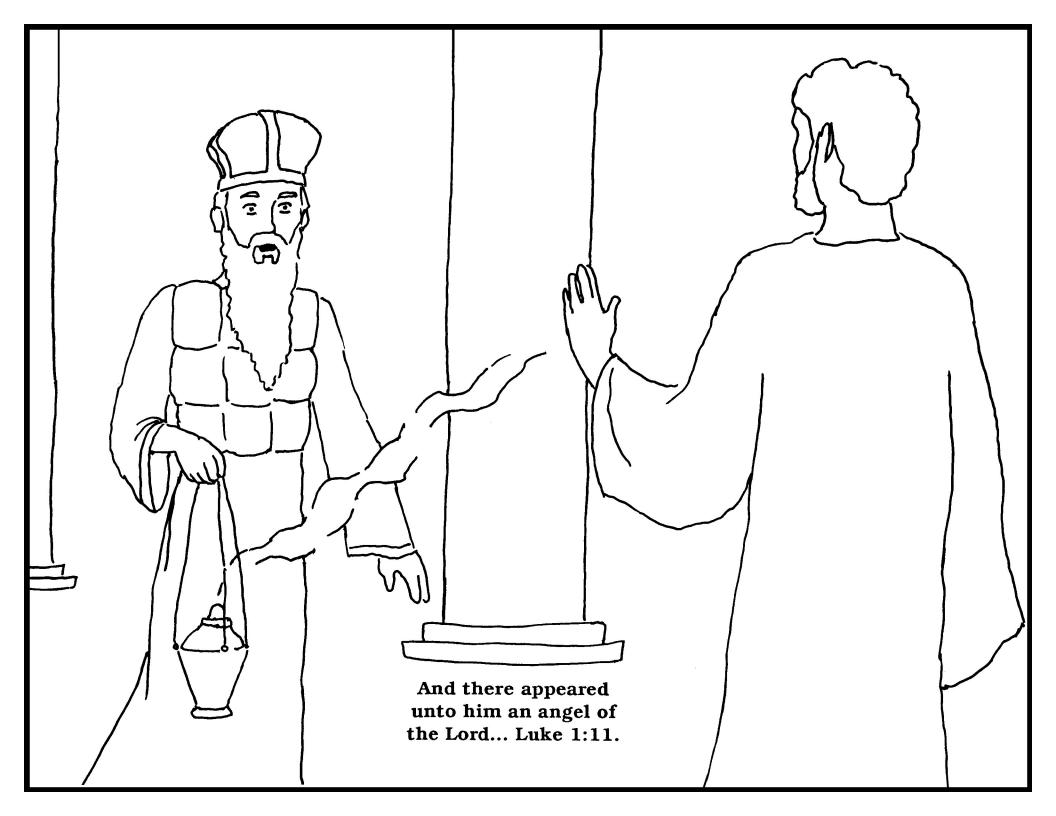
As Zacharias went into the temple of the Lord, the whole multitude of people were praying in the outer court. Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared before him, standing on the right side of the altar of incense.

When Zacharias saw the angel, he became very troubled and his heart was filled with fear. But the angel told him, "Fear not, Zacharias. Your prayer is heard, and your wife Elisabeth shall bear a son. You will call his name John. He will bring you much joy and gladness. He will be great in the sight of the Lord and will be filled with the Holy Ghost. He is chosen to make ready a people, prepared for the Lord."

When Zacharias could speak he asked, "How shall I know your words are true? I am an old man and my wife is old, too."

"I am Gabriel," the angel answered. "I stand in the presence of God and am sent to tell you this good news. You will be dumb and not able to speak until the day that these things happen because you did not believe my words."

Meanwhile, the people waited for Zacharias and wondered why he stayed so long in the temple. When he finally did come out he could not speak to them. They knew he had seen a vision in the temple because he motioned to them with his hands.



The Gift of Quilts

Big, soft flakes of snow were falling outside the farmhouse window but Linda was so busy cutting fabric that she did not notice them. Grandma, Mother, Aunt Sue and Linda were making quilts for the poor refugees in northern countries.

"This quilt is nearly done," said Mother. "This makes nine quilts we have already!"

"I have all the pieces cut and ready for the next quilt," said Linda. "Do you really think we will get 12 quilts made today?"

"With such faithful workers, I believe we will!" exclaimed Grandma. "I wish we could make more. Twelve quilts are such a small amount compared to the great need."

"I wish we did have time to make more," sighed Aunt Sue. "My heart goes out to those poor, homeless people who have gone through such an evil war. I wish we could give them more than just quilts. They need to know about Jesus and have hope of eternal life where there won't be any wars."

"I know what we can do!" exclaimed Linda. "We can send a Christmas card

Questions:

- What was Gabriel's message to Mary?
- 2. What would Mary's son's name be?
- 3. What was special about the coming child?
- .4. Who else was to have a son?

with each quilt. Our cards have a picture of baby Jesus on the front and then the Christmas story inside. Wouldn't that be a good thing to do?"

"I don't know," said Mother thoughtfully. "These people can't read English. They probably wouldn't know what the pictures means either."

"There wouldn't be any harm in sending the cards," said Grandma. "We can roll a Christmas card into each quilt and then pray that God will use the cards to open some hearts to Him."

"I will call Daddy right away," said Linda as she went to the phone. "He could bring 12 cards when he comes to take us home."

By evening time there were 12 quilts ready with a Christmas card rolled into each one. The quilts were put into a sturdy box, wrapped in brown mailing paper and sent to a mission that takes quilts overseas.

For several nights, Linda prayed for the ones who would receive the quilts and see the Christmas cards. She felt so warm and happy inside. That feeling is the "thank you" blessing from the Lord.

Sister Connie Sorrell



Primary Sunday School

Volume 66, Quarter 4, Week 12

A Girl Named Mary

As soon as his time to serve in the temple was over, Zacharias hurried back to his home. Elisabeth must have been surprised to find her husband could not say a word. The only way he could let her know about the angel's visit was by writing. Soon Elisabeth knew that she would someday be the mother of the wonderful son the angel had promised. She and Zacharias happily waited for the day of his birth.

Again, God sent Gabriel with a special message. This time he was sent to a city of Galilee, named Nazareth. There he was to visit a pure and lovely girl named Mary.

One day as Mary was alone, she was startled when an angel suddenly appeared before her. "Hail!" Gabriel greeted her. "You are highly favored and the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women!"

Mary was very troubled. She wondered why the angel had come. She did not know what his words meant.

The angel comforted her by saying, "Fear not, Mary. You have found favor with God. You will have a son and will call His name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Highest. The Lord God shall give Him the throne of His father David and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever. There will never be an end to His kingdom."

"How can this be?" Mary asked.

"The Child who will be born to you will be called the Son of God," the angel answered. Then he told Mary, "And your cousin, Elisabeth, will also have a son. With God nothing is impossible!"

Mary believed the angel's message. "I am the handmaid of the Lord. Let it be as you have said," she told Gabriel.

After the angel left her, Mary thought about his wonderful message. She knew one person she could share it with. She must visit Elisabeth!

Sister Nelda Sorrell

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Early Randy

Jerry and Linda were already up and listening to Christmas songs when Randy woke up and came waddling into the living room.

"Is it Tismas yet?" asked two-year-old Randy.

"No, tomorrow is Christmas day!" exclaimed Linda. "Eat this piece of candy from your calendar and you will only have one more piece left. That means that tomorrow will be Christmas!"

Randy eagerly took the little candy from his calendar that had once held 25 pieces of candy.

"When is tomorrow?" asked Randy.

"Tonight you will go to bed and sleep. When you wake up, it will be tomorrow," answered Jerry.

Randy didn't reply because his mouth was full of candy.

Soon the children were laughing and playing together while they listened to O Holy Night, Beautiful Star of Bethlehem and other Christmas carols.

By afternoon, Randy was tired so Mother laid him down for a nap. Then

Questions:

- Where did Joseph and Mary find a place to rest?
- 2. Where did Mary lay newborn Jesus?
- 3. Who appeared to the shepherds?
- 4. What did the shepherds do when they found Baby Jesus?

Jerry and Linda went into the kitchen to help Mother make Christmas cookies. They liked to sprinkle the green and red sugars on the stars and ribbons that they cut from the cookie dough.

Two hours of baking joy passed by very quickly. Then Mother heard a little noise in the living room. "Randy, did you wake up?" called Mother as she came into the living room. She turned on the light. Yes, Randy was awake and he was already busy.

"Merry Tismas!" he exclaimed as he held up a newly unwrapped toy of his. "I woke up and now it's Tismas!" he said.

Mother smiled at Randy's mistake. "Don't open anymore, Randy," she said. "You're still a little too early."

"But I woke up and ate the tandy," declared Randy.

By now Jerry and Linda had joined Mother and they were laughing. Randy felt like he had given Christmas Day plenty of time to arrive!

"Bring your new truck into the kitchen," Mother told Randy. "You can play with it while we finish baking Christmas cookies."

The next morning, everyone opened their presents. It really did pay to wait.

Sister Connie Sorrell

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Primary Sunday School

Volume 66, Quarter 4, Week 13

Jesus is Born

Caesar Augustus, the Roman emperor over Judea, sent out a decree that all the world should be taxed. Each person must go to the town from which his family had come to be taxed. Even though it was almost time for her baby to be born, Mary and Joseph left their home in Nazareth to go to the town of Bethlehem because they were both the descendants of David.

Now Bethlehem was just a small town. It was soon crowded with the people who had come to be taxed. When Mary and Joseph arrived, they could not find a single place to stay. Joseph looked all over town for a place for Mary to rest. All he could find was space in a stable where the animals were kept.

Mary was so tired she was glad to have a place to rest. That night, Baby Jesus was born. Mary wrapped him in soft cloths called swaddling clothes and gently laid him in a manger.

The same night, shepherds were watching their flocks in the fields near Bethlehem. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared before them and the glory of the Lord shone around about them. They were very much afraid!

The angel spoke to them. "Fear not," he told them. "I bring you good tidings of great joy! For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. You will find the Baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."

Then a multitude of heavenly host appeared with the angel. They were praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men."

As soon as the angel had gone away, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass!" Leaving their flocks, they hurried to Bethlehem. There in a stable, they found Mary and Joseph with Baby Jesus. Kneeling before the manger, they worshipped the newborn King.

