



Junior Sunday School

October 1, 2017

ZION—OUR HOME



Lesson Text: Psalm 48:1-3, 12-14;
Matthew 5:14

The City of Jerusalem has long been a symbol of God's kingdom. In fact, Jerusalem means "City of Peace." There isn't a lot written in the Bible about how Jerusalem was built, but the fact stands that it has been around for thousands of years and is a symbol of hope, security, peace, and strength. This was especially true for the Children of Israel, but Jerusalem's symbolism is still relevant today as it applies to our spiritual lives as well.

Jerusalem is built on a hill, or small mountain, named Mount Zion. Historians believe that this mountain was the same place Abraham took Isaac to be sacrificed to the Lord.

We remember that the Lord provided a sacrificial lamb in place of Isaac at that time. From the city, you can see almost all the surrounding country. It is the highest point for miles around, and it is surrounded by strong stone walls. In Biblical times, those walls served to defend Jerusalem against any enemies that might try to overtake the city.

Memory Verse

Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion... Psalm 48:2

Key Thought

Jerusalem is the representation of our spiritual home, the City of Zion. It is a place of refuge, peace, beauty, and light.

The temple that Solomon built was on a smaller mountain atop

Lesson Discussion

- Compare Jerusalem to the City of Zion. What are the similarities?
- Which Old Testament story is believed to have taken place on Mount Moriah?

- Discuss the temple overlaid with gold plates. How does it represent God's light reflecting in our lives?
- What must you do in order to dwell in God's holy city—the City of Zion?

Mount Zion called Mount Moriah. Does that sound familiar? Large, heavy plates of gold covered the outer temple walls. When the sun rose, the temple shone so brightly a person could not look upon it without hurting their eyes.

The temple's glow was so incredible that it could be seen from many miles away, and was a beacon to all those coming toward Jerusalem.

Jerusalem sounds like a wonderful place, doesn't it? Think about it in relation to the place God has prepared for us to dwell spiritually. He wants us to be protected, defended, and provided for. He wants to shine His light through us, that the world can see Him and find refuge in Him.

Psalm 48:1-3 says, "Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of his holiness. Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King. God is known in her palaces for a refuge." Zion, our spiritual home, is beautiful! It is set up on a hill and protected by strong walls. It is a place of safety for God's children, and is a beacon of hope for all the world.

"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid." Jesus spoke those words in the Sermon on the Mount. In the same way that the temple could be seen from miles away, we are also clearly visible to those in the world as a beacon of light. God shines His glory into our lives and we reflect it out as a testimony of His greatness.

To establish this wonderful, beautiful spiritual city, God had to provide a sacrificial lamb, just as He did for Abraham and Isaac.

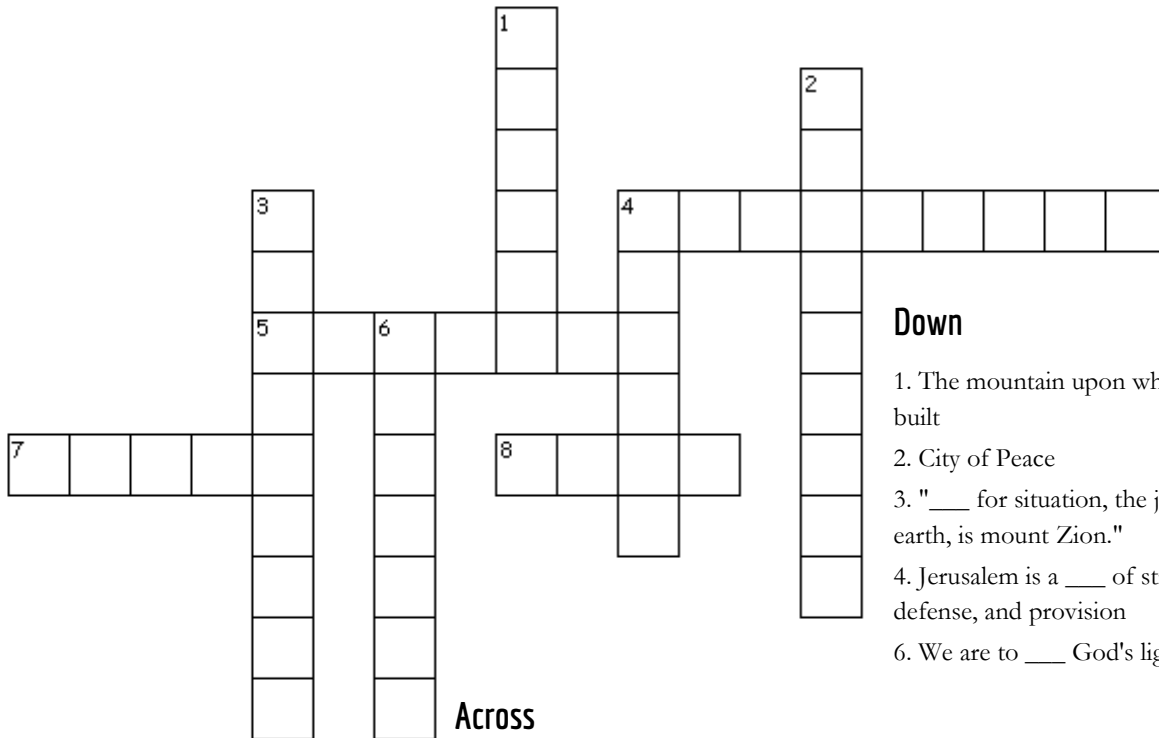
His beloved son, Jesus Christ, was sent as a lamb without blemish to the slaughter—slain in the place of you and me so that we could dwell in safety and peace.

Psalm 48 continues to say, "Walk about Zion, and go round about her: tell the towers thereof. Mark ye well her bulwarks, consider her palaces; that ye may tell it to the generation following. For this God is our God for ever and ever: he will be our guide even unto death." Tell of Zion's strength and beauty to everyone around you, and the generations after you.

When you accept Jesus' sacrifice, you gain the incredible privilege of dwelling in a place of beauty, peace, and safety; and that place is Zion.

Lindsey Gellenbeck

Learn About Zion



Down

1. The mountain upon which the temple was built
2. City of Peace
3. "___ for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion."
4. Jerusalem is a ___ of strength, hope, defense, and provision
6. We are to ___ God's light into the world

Across

4. Jesus was offered as this in order to establish the spiritual city of Zion
5. It is believed that this man offered his son to the Lord on Mount Zion
7. "Ye are the ___ of the world."
8. The mountain upon which Jerusalem was built



Reflect God's Light!

Materials:

Heavy cardstock paper, Aluminum foil, Glue or Tape, Siccors, Crayons or Markers (optional)

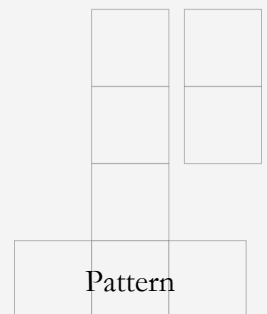
Directions:

- Cut a simple 3D box out of the cardstock (See pattern—not to scale. Each square should be between 2 and 3 inches square). Color if desired and tape/glue the box together.
- Cut a simple rectangle from the cardstock, and a matching rectangle from the tinfoil (see pattern—cut to same scale as the cube). Tape/glue the foil onto the cardstock and fold rectangle in half to act as the roof to your house.

- Use a flashlight, bright light fixture, or sunlight to reflect on the roof of your house, just like the Temple in Jerusalem!

Application:

Your life is just like the shiny roof of the Temple in Jerusalem. If you allow God to coat your soul in His rich golden goodness, His light will reflect off of you and shine into the world around you. As you reflect God's love, people will be drawn to you, and you will be able to share your testimony and give people hope of eternal life, through Jesus!





Junior Sunday School

October 8, 2017

A BEAUTIFUL TEMPLE



Lesson Text: 1 Timothy 6: 16, John 2:19-20, John 15:3, 1 Corinthians 6:15-20; Ephesians 5:26-27; Hebrews 13:15-16

The temple of God is meant to be a beautiful place where God lives with people. But throughout the Scriptures, we see the glory of this dwelling place ruined as man disobeys God.

God loves His creation, and He wants to dwell among us.

We read from the beginning, when God made Adam and Eve, He placed them in the Garden of Eden. Here, God dwelled with them, and their communion was beautiful. But Adam and Eve disobeyed God and were kicked out of the Garden of Eden.

Later, God instructed Moses to make a dwelling place for Him. God still wished to live with people, so He saved the children of Israel from Egypt and told Moses to build the Tabernacle. Moses obeyed. The beautiful Ark of the Covenant, which held the Ten Commandments, was kept inside the Tabernacle. The Tabernacle was also where

God dwelt with man again. But the children of Israel disobeyed God in the Promised Land, and their enemies defeated them.

Memory Verse

Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

1 Corinthians 3:16

Key Thought

Our hearts are the temple of God and are made beautiful by the cleansing power of God's word.

Lesson Discussion

- What patterns do you notice about the dwelling place of God and man as we read on in the Bible?
- What happens when man disobeys God?

- How did God restore the dwelling place between Him and man?
- What important item helps man stay cleansed and dwelling in the same place with God?

However, God still loved His people and wanted to be with them. Years later, God blessed David to be king of Israel and lead the people back to God. David wanted to build a new temple for God, but God wanted David's son, Solomon, to build the temple. The king of Tyre helped Solomon build the new temple in Jerusalem.

This temple's interior was made almost completely of gold. It was beautiful.

The Ark of the Covenant was placed in this Temple.

However, when the kingdom of Israel departed from God's law, they were exiled and their temple was destroyed.

Again, God desired to be with His people. When the children of Israel returned to their land years later, a foreign king, the king of Cyrus, allowed them to rebuild their temple. God blessed Zerubbabel to lead the people in the building of the second temple. However, this second temple wasn't as beautiful as Solomon's.

Closer to the time of Jesus' birth, King Herod decided to make another temple to replace Zerubbabel's temple. His new temple was called Herod's Temple.

When Jesus was born and grew to manhood, He came and drove everybody out of Herod's temple, for it was no longer a place of holiness and worship. Then Jesus told the people, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up" (John 2:19). At that time, the people did not understand what Jesus meant, but He was talking about His crucifixion and resurrection.

Jesus is the temple of God, and because Jesus lives in our hearts, we too can be the temple of God.

There are chapters and chapters in Exodus dedicated to describing the beauty of the tabernacle that Moses built. In 1 Kings, you can read about the extraordinary beauty of the temple that Solomon built. Just like the Garden of Eden, Moses' tabernacle, Solomon's temple, and Zerubbabel's temple, our hearts are made beautiful by the indwelling of Jesus.

God's law is no longer written on tables of stone but on the tables of our heart. Ephesians 5:26-27 says, "That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish." That means that the word of God teaches us how we can be perfect and blameless before God. It is only by following His ways and loving Him completely that we are worthy of being His dwelling place, just as the tabernacle and temples in Bible times.

A Brother in Christ

How Can You Be the Temple of God?

Race against your classmates to find these verses in your Bible!

1 Corinthians 6:19

Romans 12:1

1 Timothy 4:8

Philippians 1:20

Psalms 100:3



Materials:

- Empty and clean pint carton (half and half or heavy cream are the easiest to find)
- Colored construction paper
- Sequins, colored ribbon,

washi tape, other attractive craft supplies

- Scissors
- Glue
- Exacto knife or box knife

Beautiful Temple!

Directions:

- Cover the outside of the milk carton with construction paper.
- Cut pieces of construction paper in the shapes of doors and windows.
- Use your craft supplies to decorate the outside of the carton to look like a church.
- Cut a slit in the top and a little door in the back of the carton to form a piggy bank.
- Use the decorated church as your Sunday school offering box!

The Beautiful Way (primary) and *The Compass* (junior) Sunday school literature can be downloaded at sundayschoolliterature.com or churchofgodeveninglight.com/beautiful-way. Please email questions or input to gellenbeck.lindsey@gmail.com.

Volume 67, Quarter 4, Week 2. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck. 2017.

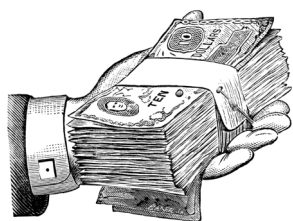


Junior Sunday School

October 15, 2017

THE BEAUTY OF SALVATION

An Imbalance of Debt



Lesson Text: Matthew 19:16-30; Malachi 3:10; John 19:1-4

Imagine this scenario: It's a hot July afternoon and your friends are walking to Dairy Queen for some ice cream. You run into

your house and beg your mom to go, but when she agrees, you realize you spent the last of your savings a couple weeks ago. "Mom," you ask sweetly, "may I please borrow \$10?" Once again, she agrees, and as you dash out the door with the money in your pocket, you hastily call over your shoulder, "Don't worry, Mom! I'll pay you back!"

A week passes and the sequel for your very favorite book is released. While browsing the store with your Mom, you see it sitting on the bookshelf, but once again, you find yourself out of money! "Mom," you say in your most convincing voice, "do you think I could pay you back if you bought this book for me? I have been waiting months for it to come out!" Your mom looks at you and

says, "Honey, you already said you would pay me back for the ice cream last week and you haven't done that." The situation you are in is called being in debt—you owe someone.

Memory Verse

For the Lord taketh pleasure in his people: he will beautify the meek with salvation. Psalm 149:4

Key Thought

We owe an overwhelming debt to Jesus. We can never repay it, but the beauty of salvation is that our love is enough for Him.

Lesson Discussion

- What does it mean to be in debt?
- Discuss Jesus' death on the cross. Did He deserve the death of a sinner?
- What do we owe to Jesus? Can we ever repay Him entirely? What does He ask of us in repayment of our debt?
- What are some specific examples of ways we can repay the price Jesus paid for us?

Did you know that we, as Christians, are in debt to Jesus?

He paid the ultimate price so we can live free from sin and go to heaven when we die. We owe Him EVERYTHING!

There was a young man in the Bible who did not realize just how much he owed. He came to Jesus and asked, "Master, what do I have to do to gain eternal life?" Jesus answered, "Keep my commandments." The man asked which commandments, and Jesus listed the commandments that Moses brought down from the mountain. The man said, "I have done these things from a young age! What else must I do?" Jesus responded, "Sell everything you have, give the money to the poor, and follow me." The rich man just could not part with his earthly treasures and walked away with a sorrowful heart.

Later, just before Jesus died, He stood before the council and Pilate, beaten and crowned with thorns. Pilate understood or at least suspected who Jesus really was. When the mob called for Jesus' crucifixion, he said, "Behold, I bring him forth to you, that ye may know that I find no fault in him."

Jesus paid the price of every person's sin when He died.

He was sinless, blameless, pure in thought and action, perfect, and beloved of God. Do you begin to understand how unworthy each of us are of His sacrifice?

But here is the beautiful part—we have the opportunity to accept Jesus' sacrifice and we don't even have to pay back our debt. In fact, we could not pay it back if we tried. All Jesus asks of us, is to spend our short time on earth submitting to His will for our lives. And again, the beautiful part is, His plan for us is always good!

Malachi 3:10 says, "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouses... and prove me now herewith... if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." Tithes are our sacrifice to God—our feeble attempt to repay our overwhelming debt.

We must give Him our love, time, and willingness to serve Him. His plan for us after that is a beautiful, overflowing life on earth and a beautiful, eternal life after death.

Can you see the beauty of salvation? Every arrangement Jesus has made for us is to our benefit, and though we will never be able to repay our debt, our undying love and commitment is enough for Him.

Lindsey Gellenbeck

Search the Scriptures!

If Jesus is so generous with us—in forgiveness, love, and even money—should we be stingy with those around us? See what the Bible has to say! Follow the clues to find verses about generosity and money-smarts!

Clue 1: The first part of a letter from Paul to a church that starts with “C.” The verse is found in the first two chapters, and includes the phrase, “the first day of the week.”

Clue 2: A book written by King Solomon, and the name of the book means “Teacher.” (This book is before a book that is considered a love letter.) The verse is found in the fifth chapter and includes the phrase, “this is also vanity.”

Clue 3: This book is named after a city that used to be a world power, and the author is Paul. The verse is found in somewhere in chapters 12-14 and includes the phrase, “Owe no man any thing....”

0000

DATE _____ 20__

PAY TO THE ORDER OF _____ \$ _____

_____ DOLLARS

MEMO _____

⑆ 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 ⑆ 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 ⑆ 1 2 3 4

Jesus Signed My Check!

What is a check used for? It is used to pay for something, right? In the United States, we use dollars on our checks. In Mexico, they use pesos. In France, they use euros. What kind of currency (or money) do we use in our spiritual world? Don't be silly! We don't use money! There is nothing we can do to pay for eternal life--Jesus already paid for it. Discuss with your class

how you think Jesus would fill this check out for you. After all, He is the one paying your debt.

Fill in the spaces on your check with the correct answers.

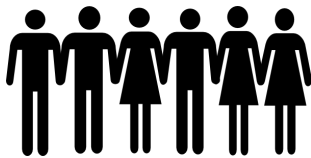
- What date would be appropriate? Perhaps the date you got saved! What day did you ask Jesus into your heart?
- Who would He put on the line that says, “Pay to the order of?” Jesus paid your debt to His Heavenly Father. God is a god of judgement as well as love. He needs to be paid for the wrongdoings of humanity.
- How much goes on the dollar line? What did Jesus have to do in order to pay your debt? That's right! He was crucified for you.
- In His check to God, Jesus would put your name in the memo. He died just for you!
- And on the line in the bottom right corner, Jesus would sign His name, authorizing you to be debt free and Heaven bound!



Junior Sunday School

October 22, 2017

THE BODY AND FAMILY OF CHRIST



Lesson Text: 1 Corinthians 12; Acts 9:39-40

Have you ever visited an exhibit that displayed the workings of the human body? Or perhaps you have studied it in your science class at school. It is truly amazing to see how each part of the body coordinates with the others to create a working, functioning, and capable being. God is truly the master Creator!

He created each part of our body to work together in order that we can accomplish our daily activities. But He also created a “body” out of the people of His church as well.

Each individual has a special part to play that allows the entire group to accomplish God’s will.

Paul wrote about the Body of Christ in his first letter to the Corinthians. The entire twelfth chapter explains how God gives each person a special gift that contributes to the body.

Remember Dorcas from Acts? She was a woman who was raised from the

Memory Verse

But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.

1 Corinthians 12:18

Key Thought

Each one who is living for God has a place to fill in the beautiful Body of Christ, and all of God’s people create a family that loves and supports one another as they work together.

Lesson Discussion

- Discuss Dorcas and her gift. What are some other gifts that Biblical characters possessed?
- How important is the gift of teaching? Is it more important than the gift of prayer?
- What is a family meant to do for one another? How does this apply to those in God’s family?
- Think of things you are good at. How might God call you to use those things in His body?

dead by Peter. While he was in her house praying over her, the widows that knew Dorcas wept and told Peter of the beautiful garments Dorcas had sewn for them. Dorcas had a God-given gift that she fulfilled—the gift of helps. She provided garments for those who were not able to provide for themselves.

1 Corinthians 12:14-18 says, “For the body is not one member, but many. If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling?”

But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.”

Peter was trying to explain to the church at Corinth that each person has a place to fill, and God has put them there for a reason. Just because a teacher is not a singer, does that mean the teacher is not important? Just because the prayer warrior is not a preacher, does that mean the prayer warrior is not important? The teacher, singer, prayer warrior, and preacher are just a few examples of jobs that need to be filled in the Body of Christ.

Every job and responsibility is equally important to God. The members rely and depend on each other to fulfill their God-given roles.

Later in the chapter, Peter also explained that the Body is made up of many different kinds of people. Verse 13 says, “For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free...” Not only does Jesus’ body function and fulfill a purpose, but it also creates a family that each Christian can be a part of. It does not matter what a person’s background is, where they come from, or what they have done. If they give their life to Jesus, they are a part of His body. Mark 10:29-30 says that there is not one person who has given up their home, family, or land for the sake of the gospel that has not received 100 times the number of brothers, sisters, mothers, and fathers as before.

Can you see the beauty that God has created in His body? Not only does each person fulfill a divine purpose, but every Christian has a large, warm, and loving family to rely upon. They have a group of people that have the same goals and beliefs, and each can draw strength from one another. This is the plan of God for His body of people.

Lindsey Gellenbeck

Music Match

Fill in the missing words and phrases using the bank (below/above.) Then, sing this familiar song as a special with your Sunday School class.

You will _____ we say _____ round here. It's because we're a _____
and these folks _____. When _____ has a _____ we all

And rejoice in _____ in this _____

I'm _____ I'm a part of the _____,
I've _____ in the _____, cleansed by His _____!
Joint _____ with _____ as we _____ this sod,
For _____ of the _____,
The _____.

Family of God - Jesus - notice - so glad - been washed - family - one - share the tears - family so dear -
family of God - heirs - brother and sister - family - are so dear - fountain - travel - heartache - I'm part -
each victory - blood



Materials:

- Hammer
- Pliers
- Screwdriver
- Nails
- Small scrap wood

Directions:

- Hold a nail steadily against the scrap wood.
- Use the saw to pound the nail into the wood.
- Use a pliers to pound the nail into the wood.
- Use the hammer to pound the nail into the wood.

Application:

There are three tools sitting here: a hammer, pliers, and a screwdriver. Which tool do you think worked the best to hammer the nail into the piece of scrap wood? Definitely

Unique and Useful

not the pliers or the screwdriver!

Does the fact that the pliers and the screwdriver could not drive a nail make them less useful? No! They are not meant to drive nails into wood. They were *designed* for different jobs.

We, as Christians, are the same way. Just because your neighbor may be good at something you are not does not make you less valuable! Chances are, you are better at something different than your neighbor is not.

God uses each of His children in different ways. Each one is *designed* for different jobs. Don't be discouraged if you see someone doing something better than you! You were designed for something different.

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Volume 67, Quarter 4, Week 4. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck. 2017.



Junior Sunday School

October 29, 2017

EXPERIENCE GOD'S STRENGTH



Lesson Text: 1 Samuel 17; 2 Corinthians 12:9; Isaiah 40:31

Have you ever faced a situation that had you shaking in your boots? You may have looked at the circumstances and thought to yourself, "There's no good answer here. I'm doomed." It may sound a little dramatic, but the truth is, we face situations that scare us. Maybe it's something as simple as public speaking, or perhaps you feel as though God is calling you to reach out to the new kid at school and befriend them. You need His strength for other things too, such as maintaining a good attitude toward your parents, or having the self discipline to do your school work. Taking these things on and conquering your fears is no easy feat--it takes internal strength that has to come from God.

There is a story in the Bible that most of us are familiar with, but the underlying theme exemplifies God's incredible strength. David faced a giant when he was a very young man. He was only considered worthy enough to keep his father's sheep. He had been left behind when it came time for battle,

Memory Verse

As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

Colossians 2:6-7

Key Thought

Your strength does not lie in your abilities or your determination; rather, your faith in God will bring you the strength you need to win your battles.

Lesson Discussion

- How did David's experience with the lion and the bear help him fight Goliath?
- What is the significance of David refusing the armor of Saul? How can you apply

that principle to your own life?

- How was David's battle with Goliath a testimony to those around him?
- What must you have in God in order to receive His strength?

and the only reason he ended up near the fray was to bring his brothers some food.

Still, David had experience that allowed him to be absolutely certain that God would deliver the giant into his hands.

At the battle, David told King Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him.... The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine." Saul attempted to outfit David in armor that would protect him from Goliath, but David knew the armor was not necessary for his success. He told Saul, "I cannot go with these; for I have not proved them."

The physical armor had not proved itself to David, but there was Someone who had. When facing Goliath, David boldly proclaimed his victory in the name of the Lord, saying, "This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee.... And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD'S, and he will give you into our hands." What incredible faith!

This story is well known, but can you see from whom David received his strength? He didn't place his trust in armor, in the Israelite army, or even in his ability to sling a stone hard enough to kill Goliath.

His faith was in God because he *knew without a doubt* that God would deliver him.

The lion and the bear had proved God's faithfulness and strength.

In the same way, your previous experiences with God prove His strength to you. Can you think of a time in your life when you prayed for strength to accomplish something you knew you could not do on your own? God loves answering those prayers for His children, for it is those experiences that solidify and strengthen your faith in His strength.

Paul wrote, "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9). Isaiah 40:31 speaks of running without weariness and renewed strength.

Take courage and have faith!

God's desire is to give you incredible, beautiful, unending strength to fight your battles.

It is His desire that you reach the end of your life with a testimony like David's. He was considered a mighty man of battle, and it all started with enough faith on his part to give the battle into God's hands. You can do the same, and God will make you a mighty warrior for Him.

Lindsey Gellenbeck

Personal Application

God does not want timid, fearful Christians, because He has strength and bravery to give you! The lesson today asked you to think of a time when you prayed for strength. Take some time to also think of something that you have avoided praying about. Maybe it involves school, admitting to someone you were wrong, or asking for forgiveness. Use the lines below to write your thoughts, and then pray for faith to believe God will give you the strength to meet your fear head on!

Deeply Rooted

Materials:

- One potted flower
- One cut flower in a vase

Application:

What is the difference between these two flowers? One is cut and one is potted. How do you think these two flowers would react to harsh conditions? Which one would survive? Most likely the potted flower, right? The cut flower has been cut off from its source of life, but the potted flower has roots that grow deep into the soil to sustain it. These flowers represent a choice you have to make. Will you be like the cut flower, wilting under harsh conditions? Or will you choose to allow your faith in God to grow roots, giving

you strength and life? David had incredible faith in God and was able to withstand the harshest battles! Remember that your choice to have faith in God's strength will sustain you and give you life.



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Volume 67, Quarter 4, Week 5. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck. 2017.



Junior Sunday School

November 5, 2017

BEAUTIFUL WORSHIP



Lesson Text: Psalm 29:2;
John 4:1-30; Luke 19:37-40

“Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness” (Psalm 29:2). Did you know worship is a beautiful thing? It is God’s greatest blessing to hear and see His people lifting up His name and praising His goodness. He desires each of His followers to use their voices, hearts, and lives to worship Him.

In Luke 19, we see by Jesus’ words how important it is for God’s children to worship Him. A multitude of people were praising Jesus and declaring Him their King and Lord. When the Pharisees asked Jesus why He did not rebuke the people, He said, “If these people were to hold their praise, the rocks themselves would cry out to worship me.”

We absolutely cannot be successful Christians without praising Jesus Christ, our beloved Savior.

Memory Verse

Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

Psalm 29:2

Key Thought

Christians must worship God by upholding His truth and adopting a spirit of love toward Him.

When Jesus met the Samaritan woman at the well, He taught her about salvation and the water that quenches all thirst. The woman asked Jesus, “Our forefathers worshiped here on this mountain, but you say

Lesson Discussion

- Who will worship God in your place if you do not?
- What are the two ingredients to true worship?
- Discuss how you can apply both ingredients to your own life.
- Think about the woman at the well. Why was her testimony effective?

that Jerusalem is where all should worship.” Jesus answered and said, “Believe me, the time has come that men will no longer worship here or in Jerusalem. God is a Spirit, and everyone who worships Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.” She said, “I know that the Messiah, whose name is Christ, is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.” Jesus answered, “I, who speaks unto you, am He.”

Can you imagine the woman’s excitement at this moment? She suddenly realized the truth of the man with whom she was speaking. She left her water pot at the well and ran into the city, telling everyone she met of Jesus. “Come! See a man who told me everything I have ever done! Is this not Christ?!” Many people came from the city to meet Jesus because of the woman’s testimony.

Why were the words of the woman so effective in moving people to Christ? Jesus taught her *mind* about the water that would satisfy her every need. She had the truth! But there was something else she was missing.

Jesus said every person that worships God must worship in *spirit* and in *truth*.

When she accepted that Jesus was the true Messiah, she accepted the spirit of Christ. She was filled with the excitement and fulfillment that true worship brings. She needed both ingredients in order to worship God completely, and because she had true worship coming from her heart, her testimony was wonderfully effective!

The same is true in your life. Most of us have grown up with the blessing of knowledge. We know what the Bible teaches and we understand that we need salvation in order to please God. Does this knowledge alone make our worship to God acceptable? No, we also need the spirit of true worship.

We need to feel in our hearts the gratitude and awe of worshiping a God who loved us enough to send His son to die on our behalf.

This is what Jesus meant when He said that a person’s worship must be in spirit and in truth in order to be acceptable. The two must work together.

How can you apply these things to your own worship? Remember that God will only accept your praise and worship if you are upholding the **truth** of His teaching, and if you are filled with a **spirit** of adoration for Him. Remember also that if you do not lift your heart and voice in worship to Jesus, the rocks will cry out in your place to praise a savior as worthy as our God.

Lindsey Gellenbeck

Proclaim His Salvation

Fallen Phrase Directions: All the letters have fallen to the bottom. They got mixed up on their way down, but remain in the same column. (Hint: Keep track of the letters you have already used to make solving easier.)

S			G						H		
		O	R			D		C			R
H					A					I	
				R					I		
			I				L			Y	
	G										
			E				O		D		

T E E L A L I
 H G D C L T H Y
 G S H S O G O G T A
 I O R R A O V O R I S
 S I R I A T L E R I M R N
 H L N P S T D L A D E O E

Follow the Recipe!



Materials:

- Mentos
- 2 liter of diet soda

Directions:

- Empty approx. $\frac{1}{3}$ of the soda out of the two liter. Leave the cap off.
- Place it in an open space outside that will not require cleaning.

- Take 5-8 Mentos and quickly drop them into the two liter—back away quickly. Watch the reaction!

Application:

The soda represents the truth of God's word. The Mentos represent the spirit of love toward God. Alone, neither of these ingredients do any good, but when you put them together, they take on a life of their own! In the same way, you must have both ingredients for your worship to be alive. How exciting it is to watch the effects of the two working together!



Junior Sunday School

November 12, 2017

PLEASURE IN PAIN



Lesson Text: 2 Corinthians 11:24-31; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Our lessons the last few weeks have explored different aspects of the beauty of God—His creation, His temple, His plan of salvation, His family, and the strength He give us. Everything God does is truly beautiful and very good. Today, we want to explore an idea you may not have thought of as “beautiful.”

Did you know that the ability to experience pain is a real gift from God?

Have you ever broken a bone, fell while running and scraped up your arms and legs, or maybe sprained an ankle? Injuries can cause bruises, make us bleed, and cause pain. Sometimes we cry, it hurts so bad. We don't like to get hurt!

Let's consider the apostle Paul. God used Paul in a great way, but he didn't get a pass on pain.

Memory Verse

Therefore, I take pleasure
in infirmities, in
reproaches, in necessities,
in persecutions, in
distresses for Christ's sake:
for when I am weak, then
am I strong.

2 Corinthians 12:10

Key Thought

Pain protects us and has
its own kind of beauty.

He was put in prison multiple times, beaten, stoned and shipwrecked three times. There were times he didn't always have enough food, clothing, sleep, or friends. To top it off, he was given a “thorn

Lesson Discussion

- Discuss times you have been injured or in pain. Did anything good come out of those times?
- What kinds of hard things did Paul experience?
- Why is pain really a gift in disguise?
- Does God know what He is doing even if we don't?

in the flesh.” Have you ever gotten a splinter or stuck by a thorn? They may be little, but they hurt and it is hard to get them out! We don't know what Paul's “thorn in the flesh” was, but it was likely some kind of physical problem. He asked God three times to take it away, but God, in His wisdom, said “No.”

You might ask, “How is all this pain good?” Or you might ask, “Is there even a place where there is no pain other than heaven?” Surprisingly, such a place does exist in Southern India where a community of lepers live. Leprosy is a disease in which, in the most advanced cases, people literally feel no physical pain. The disease kills nerves that cause them to feel pain. One such man was born into a family with much money, but because he got leprosy he eventually became an outcast. People on the street would see his sores and call him names. Restaurants would not serve him food and he could not ride on busses. Why? Because he could not feel pain to warn him of the possible consequences of walking too long on his feet or working too hard with his hands. These people eventually become very disfigured. A person with leprosy who uses a splintery hammer does not feel the splinters enter their skin and so infection eventually sets in. Another person might step off a curb and sprain an ankle, but they do not feel pain so they keep walking. These people WISH they could feel pain to warn them to be careful when they get hurt.

God created pain. Even though pain makes us cry and hurt, we can learn to be thankful for it.

It is a very hard lesson, but pain is actually a protection for us. When God allows hard things in our lives—maybe the loss of a friendship, or feeling alone in a group of people, or maybe even the loss of a loved one—we can be sure that pain will work for our good. If we never had any pain we might become proud and continually sin because there would not be any hard times to remind us of our need of God.

Paul recognized God's wisdom in allowing so many painful things, and he submitted to God's plan for his life. Next time something happens that causes you pain, rather than think of it as something completely bad, realize that God created pain to protect you both physically and spiritually, even if you don't understand why.

Sister Julie Elwell

Thanksgiving Prayer Challenge

Part 1

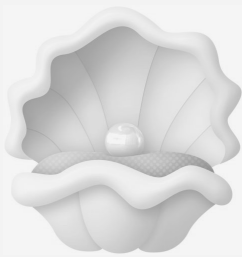
Two weeks ago, we discussed how God does not want fearful Christians. Today, our lesson reminds us that the battle is not ours, but God's! In addition, God wants us to praise Him in our storms. This week, will you accept a prayer challenge?

Prayer Challenge: Every time something irritates you, scares you or worries you this week, praise the Lord! Take your concerns to God, and then leave them there as you praise Him!

Just as God won the battle for the Israelites when they praised him, so will He go before you and win your battles when you lift His name in praise, song, and meditation.

Keep this paper on your bedside table, in your desk, or somewhere easy to access, and keep track of the things you praise God for! When the week is over, look back over your list and see how God has used painful circumstances to bless you.

Pearls of Pain



The beauty of a single pearl, or a inner lining of its shell to make the sand smooth. string of the precious stones, is This still does not ease the oyster's suffering. Again unmistakable. Few jewels capture and again the oyster coats the sand, but all the at- the eye quite like a perfect pearl. tempts to get rid of the irritant have little effect. As Know how the pearl came to be? far as an oyster is concerned, what we call a "pearl"

In the beginning, it is only a grain of sand. That tiny is nothing more than great suffering. But one day the little irritant slips inside the tight seal of an oyster's oyster is fished from the water and opened. The gem shell, and immediately causes discomfort. With no inside has amazing beauty and holds great value – all way to expel the grain of sand, with no way to ease because the oyster had great suffering. the pain, the oyster coats the sand with a layer of the



Junior Sunday School

November 19, 2017

PRaise!



Lesson Text: 2 Chronicles 20:1-4; 12-22; 2 Thessalonians 5:16-18; Psalms 100:4-5

Have you ever heard someone say, "Praise the Lord!"? Praise is when we express warm approval for someone or something.

When we praise the Lord we are telling God by our words and our actions how much we love and appreciate who He is and all He does for us!

Jehoshaphat (Juh-hoh-suh-fat) was a king spoken of in the Old Testament who woke up one day only to be told a great army had come to fight against Judah, the country he ruled. It doesn't sound like his day started very well! When he heard this bad report he was afraid. He knew this great army could kill many of his people, and maybe even kill him. He did not put his pillow over his

Memory Verse

He [Jehoshaphat] appointed singers unto the LORD, and that should praise the **beauty of holiness**, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the LORD; for his mercy endureth for ever. 2 Chronicles 20:21

Key Thought

Prayer will help us PRAISE, and praise is beautiful to God.

face, get depressed, or pretend the problem didn't exist. He got out of bed, got dressed, and went to the house of the Lord where he earnestly prayed. He also sent a message to everyone that they should fast and pray. *(To fast means to go without food in order to show God you are serious about your prayer.)*

Lesson Discussion

- What bad news did Jehoshaphat wake up to?
- Name the things he did RIGHT when he heard the news.
- Talk about why prayer is necessary in order to be able to praise.
- Discuss specific ways we can Praise God in everything.

God spoke through a faithful man and told Jehoshaphat, "Do not be afraid. You do not need to fight this battle. I will fight it for you." How relieved he must have been to receive this message. Early the next morning the army of Judah went out to fight their enemy. But first, they loudly SANG and PRAISED THE LORD!

When they began to sing, the Lord started fighting their battle for them.

The army of Jehoshaphat won a great victory that day. In addition to returning home with great joy, they also returned with many riches and precious jewels—more than they could carry away. It is important to note their victory STARTED when they prayed and then when they praised.

In 1623 there was another group of people who also found themselves in trouble. The pilgrims who sailed to America were struggling to survive in a new land. The third year after arriving, the spring and summer were very hot, leaving their crops dying in the fields. Perhaps they were also afraid. William Bradford, the governor of the colony, knew what he needed to do. He ordered a day of fasting and prayer, much like Jehoshaphat. Soon thereafter rain came! God heard and answered their prayers. To celebrate, a day of thanksgiving was proclaimed, a holiday we still celebrate today.

Do you wake up sometimes like Jehoshaphat or the pilgrims and realize that things are just not going your way? Maybe you don't have a great army at your bedroom door, and maybe the corn in your garden (if you have one) is not dying, but maybe you just wake up on the wrong side of the bed. Maybe someone you love is not saved. Maybe you are having friend problems. Your first response should be to pray! Prayer opens our hearts to praise.

First Thessalonians tells us to REJOICE evermore, and also says to give THANKS in everything. Do you know what is sandwiched in between those two verses? Prayer!

We simply will not be able to praise without prayer.

While we may not go around saying, "Praise the Lord" out loud as we walk through the house or at school, we can smile and be cheerful. It takes a strong person to praise and sing when they are not feeling like it, but God has *promised* to make us strong and fight our battles. We have every reason to CELEBRATE God's goodness to us, 365 days of the year, in everything.

Sister Julie Elwell

Thanksgiving Prayer Challenge

Part 2

How did you do last week with the prayer challenge? Do you feel strengthened and encouraged in the Lord?

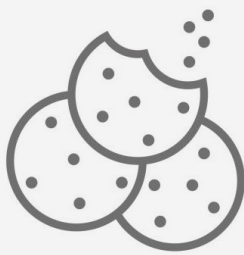
This week, our lesson focuses on praise. God desires a beautiful heart, yet how often do you focus on your physical appearance instead of how God has made you beautiful inside? If you drew a double bar graph charting the time you spend thinking of yourself and the time you spend thinking about God, what would it look like?

So often, we obsess about our clothes, our hair, our weight, and the “cool factor” we desire others to see in us. This obsession is not pleasing to God.

Prayer Challenge: When you catch yourself thinking about your physical appearance, praise God and thank Him for giving you legs to walk, a voice to speak, a home over your head, good friends, etc.!

For example, if you think a negative thought about your hair, praise God that you have hair on your head! If you see a boy in town with larger muscles than you and wish you could look like him, praise God that you have arms that can help bring the groceries in for your Mom!

Combating negative, self-absorbed thoughts with positive, praise-filled thoughts will draw you closer to God and perfect your spirit, “which is in the sight of God a great price.” Organize your thoughts below.



Materials:

- Packaged snack of your choices (i.e., crackers, cookies, twinkies)

Directions for the Teacher:

- Open the package and take a few bites.
- Talk about how wonderful the snack is. Praise it!
- Offer the snack you have already eaten off, as an after-thought, to the other students.

Half-Eaten Praise

Application:

What about you? Do you give God leftovers when it comes to praise or do you give all your energy to prayer and praise? Is it a halfhearted effort or is it the very best you have to offer?

If you invited the president to come to your house for dinner, would you pull out the leftovers—the half-eaten dishes of food in your refrigerator—for him to eat? No. You would serve him the very best you had to offer.

Let's not give God our leftover time or leftover attention. With your **WHOLE** heart praise the Lord!

The Beautiful Way (primary) and *The Compass* (junior) Sunday school literature can be downloaded at sundayschoolliterature.com or churchofgodeveninglight.com/beautiful-way. Please email questions or input to gellenbeck.lindsey@gmail.com.

Volume 67, Quarter 4, Week 8. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck. 2017.



Junior Sunday School

November 26, 2017

A CLEAN AND BEAUTIFUL HEART



Lesson Text: Philippians 4:5-9; Psalm 51:10; Mark 7:14-23

Have you ever spilled something on your mom's white tablecloth? She probably assured you that it would come out in the

wash, but she may have had to use special stain removers, scrub at it a little, and let it soak for a couple hours to get it clean. And in some cases, even that won't completely remove the stain. Then, the beautiful tablecloth is no longer perfectly clean and white, and the ugly spot is noticeable every time she uses it.

Did you know your mind and heart are like that pristine white tablecloth?

You are born with a heart that is pure and a mind that is clean. Of course, children always have their ugly thoughts and attitudes, but every person reaches an age where they begin to choose what they allow their mind to dwell on. They reach an age of accountability, and those ugly thoughts and attitudes will begin leaving unappealing stains and marks on their minds and hearts.

Memory Verse

Create in me a clean heart,
O God; and renew a right
spirit within me.

Psalm 51:10

Key Thought

A clean heart and mind is
priceless and beautiful, and
it is the will of God that
each of His children think
only on His truth and
loveliness.

Jesus taught His followers and disciples about their thoughts. He said, "Listen to me and

Lesson Discussion

- What defiles a person? That which he/she puts into his body, or that which comes from his/her heart?
- Think about your own mind. What are some ugly thoughts you struggle to control?
- What are the consequences of letting ugly thoughts fester in our hearts and minds? Is it easy to remove their stain?
- How much is a pure heart and mind worth? Is God interested in helping you maintain a beautiful heart/mind?

understand what I tell you. There is nothing you can put into your body that will defile you, but the things that come out of you, they will defile you." The Law of Moses instructed the children of Israel against eating unclean meats, but Jesus was clarifying that it wasn't the meat that defiles, but the words and thoughts that come from a person's heart. When His disciples asked what He meant, Jesus continued to say, "Anything a man puts in his body enters into his belly, not into his heart. From the hearts of men come evil thoughts." Jesus listed many of the evil sins that defile a person, including theft, envy, wickedness, lying, pride, and foolishness. (Mark 7:14-23)

Keeping your mind from dwelling on these things is sometimes very difficult! Life brings situations that tempt you to have an uncharitable attitude toward your parents, teachers, siblings, or friends. Perhaps you see someone who acts or behaves differently and you are tempted to think you are better than they. But it is important to understand that those kinds of thoughts are the "stains" on your heart and mind. They are the defilement that Jesus was talking about.

In truth, sometimes it feels good to harbor an attitude or some ugly or unjust thoughts. We are human and we are flawed!

Allowing those kinds of thoughts to sit and fester in your heart creates stains that are painful to remove.

Jesus has the stain remover that will eliminate any spot, but the process is often long and painful.

There is great beauty and value in a mind and heart that have been kept clean and pure for God. There are always accidental spills and stains, but if you choose to allow God to keep your thoughts on Him, He will be faithful to maintain your beautiful heart and mind!

Philippians 4:8 lists the kinds of thoughts that are pleasing to God: true, honest, just, pure, lovely, and of good report. The verse goes on to say, "If there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." What a challenging list! It eliminates a lot of unclean and vile things that enter our minds. How wonderful to be able to remain spotless and clean!

When you struggle to keep your mind clean and focused, offer a prayer of faith.

God will be faithful to help you maintain that beautiful and priceless purity of heart and mind that He wants from His children. You will be rewarded for your faith.

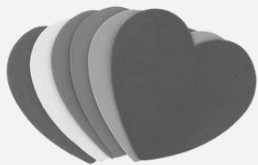
Lindsey Gellenbeck

Squeaky Clean!



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

God's Way of Thinking



Materials:

- Thin craft foam, cut into the shape of a heart
- Washable markers
- Permanent markers

- Warm soapy water

Directions:

- Write the words "Unclean Thoughts" on the heart with the washable marker.
- Submerge the heart in the soapy water, scrub the marker off.
- Watch the heart come out clean!
- Write "God's Thoughts" on the heart with the sharpie.

Application:

This is a simple demonstration of how God washes our hearts clean from impure thoughts. Remember that God's desire is that your mind and heart remain clean and stain-free. He has the power to remove the thoughts from your mind that should not be there, and in their place, He wants to permanently inscribe His way of thinking into your heart and mind. Pray daily that you will allow His way of thinking to become your way of thinking!

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Volume 67, Quarter 4, Week 9. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck. 2017.



Junior Sunday School

December 3, 2017

THE BEAUTY OF CREATION



Most people have read the first chapter of the Bible many times. It speaks of the incredible miracle of Creation. With just a word, God spoke into existence the heavens, the stars and planets, the land and sea, night and day, and plants and

animals. He looked at all of this and declared it good. The work of His hands was beautiful! He had created something awe-inspiring--something that was a reflection of His own goodness and majesty.

We can all testify to the beauty of our world. Have you

Memory Verse

When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? And the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honor.

Psalms 8:3-5

Key Thought

All of God's creation, in the Earth and in the sky, is beautiful and majestic. But the crowning glory of His creation is YOU, His beautiful masterpiece.

ever taken a walk in the woods and heard the wind rustling the leaves? Perhaps one of your favorite views is at the top of a rise where you can see a valley stretched for miles below you. On a winding road in the foothills, you may come around a bend and see an enormous, snow-capped mountain standing like a guard to the plains beyond.

Lesson Discussion

- Read through the first chapter of Genesis. What did God create on each of the six days?
- Think about the animals and how they obey God without question. What can we learn from them?

• Did God create you half-heartedly or with incredible love and intention?

- How does He want us--His beautiful creation--to respond to His desire for worship and obedience?

How can our hearts not sing God's praises when we behold these majestic creations?

Girls, have you ever sat and admired a horse as he races across a field with his mane and tail flying in the wind? There is something about how his muscles bunch and stretch--there is a majesty in the way he holds his head as his hoofs pound across the ground. Boys, have you ever envied a lion for his incredible strength and cunning? Did you know that a lion's roar can be heard from as far as five miles away? Perhaps you have sat and watched a bird in flight or looked on in amazement as a cat gave birth to kittens. God created each one of these creatures for His purpose. They do His bidding without a second thought and glorify their Maker in doing so.

It is easy to marvel at the wonders of the land and sky and the diversity of the animals and plants. But did you know that when God was finished creating these things, He still felt as if something was missing? He declared everything good, and could have stopped there on the fifth day.

Still, God wanted more. He wanted hearts full of love, and lives full of purpose. He wanted worshipers and companions.

So on the sixth day, He created Adam and Eve.

Genesis 1:27 says, "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them." Later, in Genesis 2:7 it says, "And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."

Despite the beauties that God had wrought from nothing and despite having a world full of wonderful things to look upon and enjoy, God was not satisfied. He wanted to create YOU. He formed you in your mother's womb, putting thought into each of your physical features, personality traits, and natural tendencies. He created you in HIS image, breathed HIS life into your body, and placed in your heart a need to worship Him. He wanted you as a companion.

He wants you to love and desire Him above everything else, because you are His beloved creation.

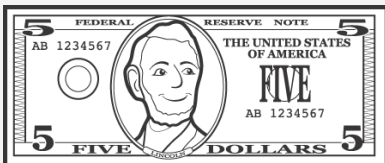
If you are ever tempted to be dissatisfied with your looks, or if you find yourself frustrated because you are not more like him or her, remember your favorite landscape or animal, or perhaps the ocean or starry sky. God created them with care and intention. He created them for a purpose. But even more so, He created you. He is pleased with you just the way you are, and just like the work of the first five days of creation, He looks upon you and says, "It is good."

Lindsey Gellenbeck

The Great Creator

These scrambled letters are either animals or topographical features that God created.

NOCEA	
ALLFTERWA	
RSEHO	
TAC	
REAB	
ONTMUINA	
BBRITA	
OGD	
ETRES	
GIP	



Materials:

- Five dollar bill

Application:

Who wants this five dollar bill? Think of something you would buy if you had five dollars!

(Crumple the five dollar bill)

Now who wants it? Has it lost any of its worth because it's wrinkled now?

(Drop the bill and grind it with your foot)

How about now? Is it still worth the same amount as it was before? Would it lose value if a corner was torn off? Can you still buy the item you thought of before the bill was

Worthy

crumpled and stepped on? The money is still worth its original value!

God still wants you, even after you have crumpled yourself up by disobedience, attitudes, or wrongdoing. You have lost NONE of your value because of those things.

(Smooth the bill out)

He wants you to give yourself to Him, and let Him smooth you out. Just like you can purchase things of value with this five dollar bill, God can do amazing things of value with you, if you will let Him.

Teacher's Note: You can act this object lesson out to give the children visual understanding of their own worth.

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Volume 67, Quarter 4, Week 10. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck. 2017.



Junior Sunday School

December 10, 2017

SAFETY IN STANDARDS



Lesson Text: 2 Timothy 3:12-17

Imagine that you are asked to walk across a balance beam without falling.

Do you think you could? Most of us could probably manage to walk across without too much trouble. But imagine the balance beam is stretched across two high-rise buildings and you are more than 50 stories in the air! Further, imagine you are carrying a fifty-pound weight in each hand and the wind is gusting at 50 mph. Would you still do it? What if the reward for making it to the other side was \$100,000? That would definitely make you wish you were capable of accomplishing the feat, wouldn't it? This analogy is kind of like your life as a Christian.

Memory Verse

This day the LORD thy God hath commanded thee to do these statutes and judgments: thou shalt therefore keep and do them with all thine heart, and with all thy soul.

Deuteronomy 26:16

Key Thought

Even though you don't always understand why your parents ask you to do certain things, remember that following their rules will keep you safe from the hurt and heartbreak that accompanies following your own way.

You have been asked to cross the balance beam called life, and the stakes are high.

The dangers are many, but the reward is greater than anything you can imagine!

Let's ask one more question. Would you walk across the beam--

Lesson Discussion

- Standards--what does the word mean? What are some standards that you are expected to follow?
- Think of a real-life scenario that would be the equivalent of falling from the balance beam with no net underneath.

- Why is it important that you follow the rules and expectations of those who teach you?
- Will you have to follow these rules your entire life without understanding why they are important?

winds, height, weights, and all--if there was a safety net only ten feet below? If you knew that you would land safely in the folds of that cushy net should you fall? That's a lot more likely, isn't it? You wouldn't be half so scared, and it would give you confidence that you would be okay!

In the same way, the standards, or things we have been taught as an acceptable way to live, are a safety net for us in our Christian lives. Read 2 Timothy 3:12-17. Paul tells Timothy to continue following the teachings he has received from those he respects. He has watched them live out a successful Christian life, and therefore can be assured that their teaching was sound and godly. Most of us have had the privilege of parents who live godly lives. However, parents are not the only ones who you can look to. Your Sunday school teacher, pastor, or perhaps your grandparents are also good examples to follow.

Think of the things your parents or spiritual leaders have taught you. Have they taught you not to lie, steal, and cheat? Have they warned you against bad attitudes and participating in activities or conversations that aren't clean? Have they required you to dress modestly, avoid excessive entertainment, and attend church consistently? Do these things seem unnecessary or worthless?

You may not always understand the things your parents or leaders ask you to do, but ignoring their warnings and advice is like charging across that balance beam, weights in hand and winds blowing, with absolutely nothing underneath you to catch your fall. Conversely, abiding by the rules your parents have given you ensures that your walk across the beam is protected by that cushy, springy net. A slip or even a fall will not be the same life-threatening experience that it would be without the net.

There is great danger in allowing yourself to be deceived into thinking standards are not necessary.

The world teaches you to "do whatever makes you happy," however it becomes obvious very quickly that this philosophy leads to heartbreak and ruin. Yes, following the expectations your parents have set for you can be difficult, and sometimes you will not be popular for following them.

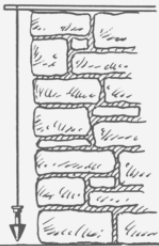
But remember that *your safety* is in those standards.

There will come a time when you will completely understand why your parents have asked these things of you, and you will be thankful you chose to keep that safety net underneath you as you cross the balance beam. Remember, there is a reward waiting for you on the other side!

Lindsey Gellenbeck

Struggling with Standards

During lesson discussion, you thought about some standards that you are expected to follow. Take some time to think about a standard your parents have that is hard for you to want to obey. Allow your hearts and minds to be honest with each other. Ask Jesus to reveal to you why you struggle with that standard, and ask Him to help you stay obedient to your parents as you seek His understanding. Use the lines below to organize your thoughts.



God's Plumb Line

This is a tool you don't see everyday, and it's not as commonly used now as it used to be (a lot of carpenters use a level in its place). This tool is called a plumb line. It has two parts to it--a weight and a string. The plumb line has been used as a tool for thousands of years. In fact, it is referred to in the Old Testament.

Here is how it works. When a wall is being built, it is important that it be straight up and down. It shouldn't weave in or out. To check the wall, the worker unreels the plumb line and dangles the weight at the end of the string. Of course, the string with the weight on it will hang straight down because of gravity. The builders can then see if their wall is straight or not.

God mentions the plumb line in the Old Testament book written by the prophet Amos. He says that he will measure the people to see if they are righteous or not.

God is completely perfect. I'm sure none of us measures up to being perfect. Thankfully God is willing to forgive us when we ask Him.

Yet if we want to be called God's children and want to have a close relationship with Him, we should remind ourselves that God expects us to act godly. Oh, we may think we are better than so and so and just as good as Joe Blow, but God isn't comparing us to them. God is comparing us to what is right and proper.

When you listen to your parents, Sunday school teachers, and the preacher, and when you read your Bible and listen to your conscience, you are becoming aware of God's standards for you. It's as if He's putting His plumb line up against you.

Remember that God forgives you when you fail Him. Ask Him to help you be the person He wants you to be. He can help you measure up.



Junior Sunday School

December 17, 2017

GLAD TIDINGS OF PROPHECIES AND PROMISES KEPT



Lesson Text: Genesis 3:14-15; Luke 2:8-14; Joshua 21:45

A promise made is a promise kept. If you say you will do something, then you need to honor your word and do it—this is called integrity! Did you know there are an astounding 8,810 promises in the Bible?!

The very FIRST PROMISE God made was back in Genesis, almost right after His creation. After Adam and Eve sinned, God *knew* we would need Jesus to save us from sin and He was already planning the *perfect* gift for us. God told the serpent (who tempted them) that a woman would have a son—a son who would destroy his power!

Imagine making a promise and then waiting 4000 years to keep it!

Memory Verse

And we declare unto you glad tidings, how that the promise which was made unto the fathers, God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children.

Acts 13:32-33a

Key Thought

God will always keep His promises, and we, as Christians, should be people of our word as well.

God not only told us that Jesus WOULD be born, He also told us *when* He would be born, *where* He would be born, and *how* He would die. There are over 300 prophecies of Jesus' birth in the Bible. Every single promise happened just *exactly* like God promised it would.

A mathematics and

Lesson Discussion

- God's first promise was made when, where, and for what purpose?
- What were *glad tidings* of our lesson?
- Discuss some of God's other promises in the Bible.
- Why is it important to keep your promises? Discuss trust.

astronomy professor, Peter Stoner, made the statement that the chances of just 8 of the 300 prophecies coming true by sheer chance is 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000 (one hundred quintillion)! It would be the same as marking just ONE silver dollar, covering the whole state of Texas two feet deep with them, and then expecting a blindfolded man to walk across the state and on the very first try find the ONE coin you marked.

Four thousand years passed after God's first promise of a Savior. Perhaps the people thought He forgot His promise. Maybe He changed His mind or was just busy and decided He didn't want to send Jesus. But no!

One night *glad tidings* were brought to shepherds as they watched their sheep on the hillside. An angel appeared and said: "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." God had not forgotten His promise after all!

Jesus was the fulfillment of God's first promise to humankind!

Believing God never breaks His promises helps us trust Him. When He said He would do something—He did it! Joshua 21:45 tells us that not one of the good promises God made had failed; they all came to pass.

A friend told of two girls who were counting their pennies.

The first girl said, "I have five pennies."

The second girl said, "I have ten pennies."

"No you don't, you only have five pennies!" said the first girl.

The second girl quickly replied, "My father said that when he comes home tonight he would give me five cents, and so I have ten cents."

The second girl's faith in her father was so strong that even though she did not yet have the five cents, she counted it as already being hers because it had been promised by her father.

God keeps promises better than anyone else ever has or ever will.

We can trust God completely. He never lies, and He's always with us. Whether anyone else keeps the promises they make to you, you can remember how Jesus fulfilled God's promise. God loves you, He made you, and He'll always keep the promises He makes. Make it a priority to keep *your* promises to other people the same way God keeps His promises to us! Be a promise-keeper, not a promise-breaker.

Sister Julie Elwell

Christmas!

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

Messiah

Shepherds

Angels

Gabriel

Zacharias

Wisemen

Herod

Cyrenius

Mary

Anna

Judaea

Galilee

Joseph

Simeon

Elizabeth



For Teachers:

Say: We're going to start today by playing a game about promises. Put the balloons in the middle of a table, form groups, and stand on opposite sides of the table.

Say: Each group will be given five minutes to blow up as many balloons as it can. But each group has to tell the other group ahead of time how many balloons it promises to blow up in five minutes. And the balloons have to be fully blown up; you can't just blow them up partway! The group that comes closest to fulfilling its promise will be able to spend five minutes telling the other group what to do. If you fail to keep your promise, you'll have to follow the directions of the winning group for five minutes. Go ahead and talk with the rest of your group, and decide how many balloons you think your group can blow up. You want to blow up more balloons than the other group!

Give the children a few moments to make their predictions. Then

I Promise

say: Okay! Are groups ready? Blow up your balloons!

Have the groups try to blow up the number of balloons they've promised to blow up.

After five minutes, have kids stop and count the balloons.

Allow a minute for the group of kids who won to decide the kinds of things they're going to make the other kids do. Make sure they're within reason. For example, it's fine if they have the other kids do jumping jacks or make silly faces, but it's not okay for them to ask the other group to lick the floor of your meeting room.

Supervise as the winning team bosses the losing team around. Then gather kids together.

When people don't fulfill their promises to us, it makes it hard for us to trust those people. But God made a very special promise to us, which he was very faithful to fulfill. Today we'll learn what that promise was and discover that Jesus fulfilled God's promise.

The Beautiful Way (primary) and *The Compass* (junior) Sunday school literature can be downloaded at sundayschoolliterature.com or churchofgodeveninglight.com/beautiful-way. Please email questions or input to gellenbeck.lindsey@gmail.com.

Volume 67, Quarter 4, Week 12. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck. 2017.



Junior Sunday School

December 24, 2017

A HUMBLE KING



Lesson Text: Matthew 2:1-6; Matthew 2:11-7; Philippians 2:3-9

Have you ever been around someone who thought they were really cool? Maybe they strutted around, did all the talking, and just felt like they should be the center of attention? There is a lot of talk and no action. Most of the time we don't like to be around people like that. In a different situation, maybe an important person—the pastor of your church, a guest speaker, or someone you look up to—takes special notice of you. Maybe they smile and ask you how you are doing and want to hear about what is going on in your life. We feel good when that happens, don't we? We are talking about a word called humility. If someone is humble, they don't think they are “so important” and better than everyone else.

It is Christmas time and we are celebrating an HUMBLE KING—Jesus. He is one of those

Memory Verse

Where is he that is born King of the Jews? And she [Mary] brought forth her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. Matthew 2:2; Luke 2:7

Key Thought

A truly great person is a humble person.

“important people” — the VERY most important person of all. He is not just the king of a small, little country, but of the entire universe—the C r e a t o r of everything. He didn't go strutting around, proud as a peacock; He did c o m p l e t e l y t h e

Lesson Discussion

• Discuss what it means to be humble?

- How did Jesus (King of all Kings) prove he was humble?
- How did Samuel Morse prove his humility?
- Who should always get the glory for every good thing we accomplish? Why?

opposite. He came down from His perfect home in heaven and was born in the lowliest of places—a stable. He later died the lowliest of deaths on a cross.

He *proved* by His life that He was the HUMBLEST of kings.

He wasn't all talk with no action!

What a glorious night it must have been when the angels announced Jesus' birth. Can you imagine the wonder on Mary's face when she looked on the face of her baby boy from heaven? The cows and sheep were no doubt also lulled into a peaceful state! As Jesus grew into adulthood and began to realize He was the Son of God, He still didn't act like He was more important than everyone else. He mingled with the outcasts of society. He had no place to call His own. Jesus is our humble king.

There was another man who recognized Jesus as King. His name was Samuel Morse. He was born in 1791 and invented the telegraph, a machine through which coded messages were sent. They didn't have telephones or cell phones back then. A long push on these machines was called a dash and a short push was called a dot. Every letter had a designated dash/dot combination which became known as “Morse Code.” It is said that Samuel always prayed and asked God to give him more light and understanding as he conducted experiments in his laboratory. When he got flattering honors because of his inventions, he never felt like he deserved them or was superior. He felt God had been pleased to reveal the knowledge of electricity to him in order to help other people. In a big celebration with many people shortly before he died, his final message over the telegraph machine was this: “Greetings and thanks to the Telegraph fraternity throughout the world. Glory to God in the Highest, on Earth Peace, Goodwill to men.” He then finished his message by signing his name, S.F.B. Morse.

Humility is a beautiful character trait.

We are instructed to be like Jesus. We should think more about other people than ourselves and realize just how little we are without Jesus .

As we celebrate His birth, be thankful for His humility! Even today He is sitting on His throne as a king just waiting to hear our prayers. He isn't so busy that He leaves His seat in heaven to go take care of *more important matters*.

WE are important to this Humble King!

Sister Julie Elwell

Morse Code Alphabet

A	•-	N	-•	0	-----
B	-•••	O	---	1	•----
C	-•-•	P	•--•	2	••----
D	-••	Q	--•-	3	•••--
E	•	R	•-•	4	••••-
F	••-•	S	•••	5	•••••
G	--•	T	-	6	-••••
H	••••	U	••-	7	--•••
I	••	V	•••-	8	---••
J	•---	W	•--	9	----•
K	-•-	X	-••-	.	•-•-•-
L	•-••	Y	-•--	,	--••--
M	--	Z	--••	?	••--••

Decode the message!

(Each line is a separate word.)

•---- • •• •- ••

•• ••

--- •- •-

••• •- -- -••• ••• •

-•- •- •- ---



Materials:

- Latex balloons
- Various sized objects (such as a pencil, crayon box, and small bouncy ball)

Directions:

- Stretch a deflated balloon around a pencil.
- Stuff a deflated balloon in the

crayon box.

- Squeeze the bouncy ball into the deflated balloon.
- Blow the balloon up and attempt the previous three directions.

Humble Balloons

Application:

Today, you took a deflated balloon and stretched it, scrunched it up, and filled it with smaller objects. Were you able to do the same things with it once it was blown up?

How do you think this applies to us as Christians?

When the balloon is blown up, it is no longer flexible. It is puffed up and can only be one shape and can only be used for certain things. A puffed up person is not as useful to God as a flexible, pliable, humble person. Humility makes us flexible, usable, and moldable in God's work.

(Source--Bible Teacher)

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Volume 67, Quarter 4, Week 13. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck. 2017.



Junior Sunday School

December 31, 2017

THE PRODIGAL SON

THE BEAUTY OF REDEMPTION



Lesson Text: Luke 15:11-32

In the fifteenth chapter of Luke, Jesus tells a story that illustrates the incredible power of redemption. The story starts when the son of a wealthy man asks his father for his inheritance. This father was kind and generous, and took care of the needs of his son. The son's desire to obtain his inheritance came from his own selfishness.

The father knew this, but still granted his wish. The son immediately left his father's house and began partaking in the pleasures of the world. No doubt he indulged in unhealthy food and drink, and treated those around him with little respect. The Bible explains that the young man "wasted his substance on riotous living." He was irresponsible, selfish, and deceived himself into thinking he would find happiness in the world. Things didn't go according to plan, however, and he soon found himself in the midst of a famine with no money

and no friends. In order to survive, he took a job feeding the pigs.

Jewish law forbade the Jews from eating pork,

Memory Verse

I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance. Luke 15:7

Key Thought

Jesus came so every sinner could be redeemed, just like the prodigal son.

Lesson Discussion

- What was Jesus' purpose in coming to earth?
- Compare and contrast: How did the son leave his father's house? How did he return?
- Did the son pay for his

choices?

- How do you think Jesus wants you to treat someone who is in sin? Should you look on them with shame, or should you see someone who needs the redemption of Jesus?

so to keep a herd of swine meant that he had hit rock bottom.

The young man got so hungry that he desired to eat even the husks leftover from the pig slop.

No person took pity and offered him food or help. Finally, he came to his senses and thought, "How many servants in my father's house have bread leftover from their meals, and here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and return to my father's house, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against you and against heaven, and I am not worthy to be called your son. But I will serve you faithfully if you will hire me as your servant.'"

The young man journeyed to his father's house.

To his amazement, his father was standing at the road waiting for him, and saw him coming from a distance.

With great compassion, his father ran to meet him, threw his arms around his beloved son, and kissed him. No doubt the young man could not believe the reception he received from the father he had so grossly wronged, and in an attempt to account for his wrongs, he started to say what he had planned. Before he could even finish his speech, his father interrupted him, saying to the servants, "Bring the best robe for my son, a ring for his finger, and sandals for his feet. Get a fat calf from the field, slaughter it, and prepare it for a feast! This is my son who was dead, and is now alive! He was lost but now he is found."

Can you imagine the love in the father's voice as he proclaimed his acceptance to his son?

This father *knew* his son had been selfish and irresponsible. He *knew* that his inheritance was gone, and that his honor and respect had been wasted on worldly things. But his father's heart was too filled with love to condemn his son for his actions. The prodigal son paid for his mistakes, and now that he had returned, his father couldn't wait to open his arms of love and pour out all of his riches on the son he thought was lost forever.

This is the incredible beauty of redemption. God sees all and knows all, and yet, when one lost and impoverished sinner returns to Him, His only desire is to redeem them from their shame, dishonor, filth, and wretchedness. His arms are open and waiting, and any who will come to Him will receive all the riches His house offers.

Lindsey Gellenbeck

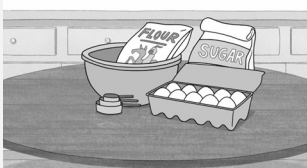
Food for Thought

The prodigal son's father welcomed him home with open arms. Sometimes it is hard for us to welcome and accept someone as a Christian after they hurt us, or if we think they are not doing "everything right."

But this story illustrates the way God loves a sinner who asks Him for forgiveness. He opens His arms and forgets the prodigal child's bad deeds.

The devil wants us to think about people's wrongdoings. He wants us to talk about them with other people so we ruin a person's reputation. It is sinful to refuse to let go of grudges, judgments and self-righteousness.

Micah 7:19 says that God casts our sins into the depths of the sea when we return to Him. If we truly want to serve the Lord, don't you think that He expects us to also cast someone's sins from our mind to a place where we will never think about them again? How does He expect us to treat that person?



God's Chocolate Cake

Materials:

Boxed cake mix, Eggs, Oil, Chocolate chips, Bowl, Spoon

Directions:

- Throw the cake mix, eggs, chocolate chips, and oil in the bowl without opening or measuring anything.
- Use the spoon to mix the ingredients together.

Application:

Did throwing all of the unopened ingredients into the bowl work? Do you think your cake would be a success if you tried to bake it that way?

No, of course not! It doesn't make any sense! It proves that just because you have all the right ingredients does not

mean you will be successful.

The same is true for your Christian life. You may possess all the right ingredients--love of God, a good Christian home, regular church attendance, knowledge of Jesus--but if you don't *use* those things correctly, your life will not be a success!

Use your good Christian home, like eggs, to bring structure to your walk with God. Use regular church attendance, like oil, to bring flavor and richness to your walk to with God. Use your knowledge of Jesus, like the flour and sugar (cake mix), as the substance of your walk with God.

Most importantly, use your love of God, like the chocolate chips, to bring joy and meaning to your Christian walk.