



Junior Sunday School ■ January 7, 2018



A New Day, A New Year, A Fresh Resolve

New things are such nice things! Have you held a clean, crisp, new book, eagerly anticipating the adventures each page will tell? Do you know the way your heart speeds up just before starting a foot race, looking down at your foot just behind the start line and hoping with everything in you that you will run faster than you have ever run in your life? Isn't it fun to open that first Christmas gift—the one you maybe had been wondering just what was inside? A new book, a new day, a new gift, a new chance to win in a race....these are things that make our hearts happy! Did you know that today includes something new?

Today is the first Sunday of a brand-new year—a year full of possibilities!

Let's think about Noah for a few minutes. Noah was 500 years old when God instructed him to build an ark. God's plan was to destroy the world with a great flood because men and women were so wicked and sinful. Day after day for at least 100 years Noah worked

Memory Verse

Remember not the former things, neither consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing. I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert. Isaiah 43:18-19

Key Thought

Yesterday is gone. Today and tomorrow are fresh with no mistakes.

Lesson Discussion

- Talk about something new you received that you really like and the reasons why.
- Do you think it was coincidence that Noah stepped off the ark on the first day of the first month of the

year? Was it important to God that Noah have a fresh start?

- Can we "just decide" to be a better person or can we be good by ourselves? Whose help do we need?
- Should we use our yesterdays for lessons? With what attitude should we look forward to our tomorrows?

hard. He planned. He picked up his hammer and nails. He sweated in the sun.

He no doubt endured the ridicule of his neighbors. But he kept working in faithful obedience to his God.

One day, the huge ark stood finished—ready and waiting for rain. God commanded Noah take two of each kind of animal into the ark.

Finally the day came when Noah took his wife and his three sons and their wives into the gargantuan ark. God Himself shut the door. What would happen now? Would it really rain? Scripture tells us that, just as God said, "all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, the windows of heaven were opened," and the "rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights." The most violent, raging storm the world has ever known began.

Even though Noah knew in his head what God said He was going to do, actually experiencing the ride in this ark was probably the scariest thing he ever experienced. Finally, the rain stopped. However, the flood waters were so high above the mountains that it took many weeks and months for the waters to recede. In fact, the Bible tells us Noah and his family were on the ark for a long 378 days.

Listen to this—an exciting and cool piece of Bible trivia: Genesis 8:13 tells us that on the first day of the first month—or in other words, the first day of the year, Noah removed the covering from the ark. The water was gone! That would be like our January 1st! Now doubt he drew a deep breath of fresh air and anticipated a new start!

For Us: Yesterday is gone forever. We can't live our days over or undo our mistakes. Don't let the devil beat you up over past mess-ups.

Today is a gift given by our merciful Saviour. Tomorrow, if God wills, is full of untapped, new and exciting possibilities and full of fresh, unspoiled pages.

If you displeased God in your yesterdays, ask Him for forgiveness. (He will forgive you!) Then determine that every day of this next year you will walk with Jesus by HIS help! While a "good year" does not mean every day will be full of candy and parties, it will indeed be a good year with Jesus' hand in yours! Think of the days ahead as running a race with Jesus. If He is on your team, you WILL win!

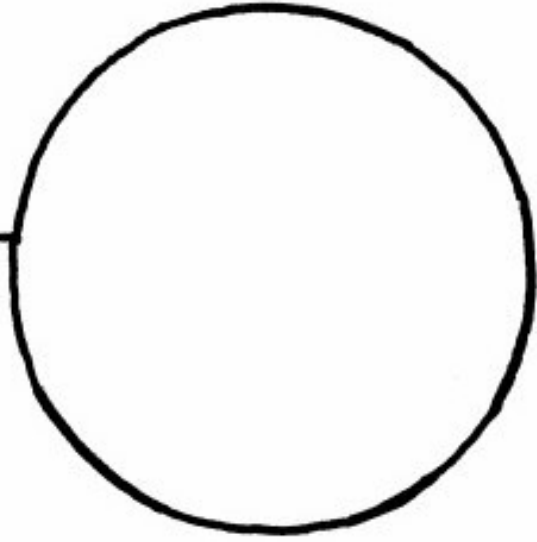
Sister Julie Elwell

REFLECTING

Most people make New Year's Resolutions on January 1st. Do you remember what you resolved to do last year? Use the space below to write last year's resolutions and how you fulfilled them with God's help. If you didn't make any, write about how God has led you to dedicate more of your life to Him.

[illegible]

Fill out some God-centered New Year's resolutions on the door hanger and cut it out to hang on your bedroom door. Looking at it will help you remember your resolutions!



's

(YOUR NAME HERE)

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS



I will help my family with _____



I will invite someone to church.



I will give some of my money to _____



I will tell a friend about Jesus.



I will memorize _____ new Bible verses.

I will pray for _____



I will _____

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.

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A Most Valuable Name Elijah, the Tishbite

The Jews kept very careful records of names for many generations. (See Genesis 5 and Matthew 1.) We tend to skip over all the names because: 1) some are very hard to pronounce and, 2) they really don't mean much to us. But guess what?! Behind every name was a REAL person, a REAL life, and a REAL story of someone who either chose to serve God or follow their own selfish desires.

Elijah, known as the fiery prophet of the Old Testament, is introduced to us only as, "Elijah, the Tishbite."

We know nothing about his parents, siblings, childhood or education. We do know he was a hairy man who wore the skins of animals for clothing. However, these were unimportant details compared to how Elijah lived his life. He is the most frequently referred to prophet in the New Testament. Why? Not because he came from a rich family or had nice things. Not because he

Memory Verse

Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God. 1 John 3:1

Key Thought

It is much more important to be a son or daughter of God than anything related to our outward appearance or family tree.

Lesson Discussion

- Was it an accident that Elijah's background information (name of parents, etc.) was left out of the Bible? What was most important about Elijah's life?

- Will the names on our family tree be

enough to get us into heaven? Why or why not?

- Name some things people sometimes place importance on (i.e., nice clothes). Name things God puts value on.
- Fill in the Blank: My name is: _____. The most important thing in my life is: _____.

was good looking or wore cool clothes. Rather, he is remembered for being a prayer warrior. He listened for and obeyed God's voice over and over again. He boldly declared God to sinful people.

The name Elijah means: "My God is Jehovah."

The fact that God was his Father is all we really need to know about his lineage!

The following story about a boy who didn't know his father is a mixture of fiction and fact, but illustrates a beautiful point:

A man named Fred was a preacher on vacation with his wife. One evening while eating at a restaurant, an old man started talking to them. When the old man asked Fred what he did for a living, Fred saw this as a chance to get rid of the old man and end the conversation. He said, "I am a preacher." The old man said, "A preacher? That's great! Let me tell you a story about a preacher." He sat down at their table and told the following story. As he did so, Fred's annoyance changed to deep humility.

The old man explained that he was born without knowing who his father was. This brought him great shame in the community in which he lived. One day a new preacher came to town so the boy decided to go to church. The preacher was good, and so the boy went back over and over, but his shame went with him. He would slip into church late and try to leave early so he would not have to talk to anybody. But one week he got so interested in the sermon he forgot to leave. Before he knew it the service was over. He rushed to get past the people and out the door, but he felt a heavy hand on his shoulder. He turned around and saw the preacher, a big, tall man, looking down at him. The preacher said, "Whose son are you?" The boy died inside, the very thing he wanted to avoid was right here. But before he could say anything, the preacher said, "I know who you are."

I know who your family is—I see a resemblance. Why, you are the son...you are the son of God!"

The old man told Fred, "You know, mister, those words changed my life." And he got up and left.

While the easy-to-answer questions about our lives are important to God—our name, address, height, weight, eye and hair color, along with the names of our parents and siblings—far more important are the choices of right and wrong that we make and whether or not we have bowed at His cross and accepted Him as our Father. Have you opened the door and invited Jesus in?

Sister Julie Elwell



My name is _____.

I am _____ years old.

I was born in _____.

My address is _____.

My favorite food is _____.

My favorite color is _____.

My favorite number is _____.

My favorite animal is _____.

When I grow up, I want to be a _____.

I like to _____.

_____.



A WHITE STONE

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

Revelation 2:17

Materials:

- Kitchen scale
- A small stone for each child (can be found in craft stores if none can be found outside)
- Permanent marker or paint pen (at least one color)
- Option: bring several colors of markers/pens and allow children to decorate their “White Stones”

Directions:

- Lay the child’s “All About Me” worksheet on the kitchen scale and record the weight.
- Using the permanent marker or paint pen, write each child’s name on a stone.
 - Weigh it and record the weight.

The verse in Revelation is thought to refer to a custom in ancient times. Judges would give the accused (or the person on trial) a stone--either white or black. Black indicated that the accused had been found guilty, and white indicated that they had been found innocent.

God is declaring your innocence and setting you free by giving you His name. When you compare how much you “weigh” in this world against how much you “weigh” to God, the balance will tip in God’s favor every time! No amount of earthly riches, fame, or glory will ever be worth more than God’s name written in your heart, and your name being written in the Book of Life.

THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ January 21, 2018



Scripture Reading: I Kings 17:1-16

Abruptly, suddenly, and with barely an introduction, we first meet Elijah, the incredible prophet of the Old Testament, standing before Ahab, the wicked king of Israel. Elijah boldly declared to Ahab there would be no rain or dew in the land for three years. Sadly, Israel had turned its back on God and started worshipping dead idols of stone. Because of their sin, Elijah was sent by God to tell Ahab of this dire punishment. Just as Elijah predicted, the clouds disappeared. The hot sun beat down upon the earth, cracking and drying the soil. The famine had begun.

God told Elijah, "Go hide by the brook named Cherith."

Two marvelous things happened by this brook: Elijah had water to drink in a land where water was scarce, and God commanded ravens to feed him.

Every morning the ravens brought him bread and meat. Scripture does not tell us how Elijah passed his days; no doubt he spent much time in prayer and meditation. As the

Memory Verse

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19

Key Thought

The circumstances of life can cause us to worry, but God has the ability to provide for every need of our life.

Lesson Discussion

- In what three unusual ways did God provide for Elijah and then for David Brainerd?
- Do we ever get our wants and our needs

mixed up? Can we be assured God always hears and answers our prayers?

- In what way does God care for the needs of the flowers and animals?
- Does God ever run out of creative ways to provide for our needs? If not, should we worry or trust Him?

sun approached the western horizon and his stomach started growling, no doubt he started thinking about supper. Maybe he thought about the fact there were no well-stocked cupboards close by. God did not fail him! The ravens returned again, bringing with them more bread and meat for Elijah's evening meal.

In time, the brook dried up and the water disappeared. What would Elijah do now? Again, God was faithful. He instructed Elijah to go to Zarephath (zar'-e-fath) where a widow woman would feed him. It was very difficult for women without husbands to survive in those days; in fact, this particular woman had only a handful of meal left for her son and herself. She thought she would gather two sticks, make a fire, make one last, little cake, and then she and her son would die. Why had God sent Elijah to this woman rather than to a more affluent family? However, God spoke and Elijah unquestioningly obeyed! Elijah reassured the widow woman that if she would make him a cake first that God would provide meal and oil every day.

God did just as Elijah had spoken and she, her son, and Elijah had food to eat until the famine ended.

David Brainerd was another man for whom God provided in a most unusual way. In 1743, at 20 years of age, he was called to preach to Native Americans of New Jersey and Pennsylvania. He kept a diary during these days. The pages record countless hours and days of frequent and fervent prayer to his beloved God. While on one mission trip, an intense storm forced him to seek shelter inside the hollowed out remains of a large tree. Time passed and he became hungry, but it was too dangerous to go out and look for food. Soon, a squirrel came and deposited several nuts near where Brainerd sat. As Brainerd ate the nuts, he realized God had sent the squirrel, just as he sent the ravens to feed Elijah.

The God of Elijah—the God of David Brainerd—is YOUR God and He is MY God.

Perhaps our needs are not for food. God has richly blessed us with plenty. We should never be ashamed to bow our heads and thank Him at each meal.

Maybe our needs are physical. Maybe they center around feeling uncertain of our place in a group of friends. Maybe we are struggling with understanding a difficult school subject. Take courage. Pray often to the God who loves us so much. God's eyes never leave us and He is more than able to provide for our needs.

Sister Julie Elwell

The Israelites wandered in the desert after their escape from Egypt but they always knew where they were going because of pillars of fire and smoke. _____	Saul, a man who opposed the spread of the Gospel, was blinded by a divine light and given a new understanding of God. His life was never the same! _____
Peter was spreading the Gospel when he was imprisoned by the religious leaders. _____	Ruth and her mother in law were poor widows who had no means of providing for themselves. _____
Noah was faithful to God in a wicked world and followed His instructions to save his family. _____	Mary and Martha's brother, Lazarus, died and Jesus came to visit them. _____
The woman with an issue of blood touched the hem of Jesus' garment with a heart full of faith. _____	Abraham was called upon to sacrifice his only son and was obedient to God. _____
Nicodemus, a religious leader in Jerusalem, sought Jesus out with a desire to learn the truth of the Gospel. _____	Stephen looked up and saw Jesus standing at the right hand of God while he was being stoned for preaching the Gospel. _____



There are many instances in the Bible when God provided for His people. Sometimes He provided food, sometimes healing, and sometimes peace. Match up the stories below with the provision that God made.

Safety	Sacrifice
Purpose	Salvation
Peace	Guidance
Healing	Food
Comfort	Escape



GOD CARES FOR YOU!

Read Matthew 6:28-34

"Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."

Directions: Find a partner! When your teacher says go, begin counting the hair on your partner's head (count

for 60 seconds). How many hairs did you find?! Let your partner count the hairs on your head for the same amount of time.

Now step outside and take a look at the plants growing around you. They are beautiful! But what are they doing to make themselves so lovely? That's right! *Absolutely nothing.* God is the one caring and providing for the trees and flowers. They're needs are entirely met by Him!

God knows the number of hairs on your head! Your friend couldn't count them all, even if they had all the time in the world. You observed how He cared for even the flowers of the field—how much more is He going to care for you?! He knows your needs even before you do, and all it takes is trust on your part to receive all the blessings in His storehouses.

God's desire is to provide as miraculously and completely for you as He did for Elijah. Trust Him for every need you have—He will never fail you.

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THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ January 28, 2018



Is It My Fault? The Widow and Her Son

Scripture Reading: 1 Kings 17:17-24

The famine Elijah predicted was in full swing in Israel. No clouds could be seen and the ground was cracked and dry. However, God provided daily oil and meal for Elijah, the widow, and her son. Sadly, the son got sick and died. The widow woman was understandably distressed. She said to Elijah, “Are you trying to remind me of my sin by causing my son to die?” She was afraid and was not sure if she was being punished for her sins.

Have you ever felt guilty for wrongdoing and wondered if it was your fault when something bad happened?

Maybe you failed on a test, got sick at school, or got embarrassed in front of your friends. Perhaps someone close to you is sick or has maybe even died. Perhaps your parents fight a lot or are divorced.

Memory Verse

He that covereth his sins
shall not prosper; but
whoso confesseth and
forsaketh them shall have
mercy. Proverbs 28:13

Key Thought

Unconfessed sin brings
guilt, but forgiven sin
brings great confidence.

Lesson Discussion

- Discuss what happened to the widow woman and why she was distressed. What did Elijah do?
- Do we always understand why bad things happen? What did Jesus say about this?
- When might a “bad situation” be the result of your sin? (*Hint: Think about the girl and Jonah who tried to hide their sins.*) Are there consequences to sin?
- What does God do with our sins when we confess them? Does this give us confidence that they are “lost forever?”

Consider this: Jesus told us in Matthew 5:45 that the sun rises on good and bad people and rain falls on good and bad people. We may never understand why bad things happen either to us or to people we love, but we *do* know that good and bad people both suffer.

We *can* have confidence in this: If we have confessed our sins to God (and to those we have wronged), God said He would fling our sins as far as the east is from the west. He also said he would cast our sins into the depths of the ocean. “The Challenger Deep” is the name for the deepest known point in Earth’s oceans today. It is approximately 36,200 feet below sea, which is just under 7 miles deep.

When God forgives our sins they are GONE.

If we try to “hide” our sins, however, guilt will always make us unsure of why bad things happen. I read a story of an 11-year-old girl who tried to hide her sin! She tried to poison her school principal in an attempt to keep her parents from finding out that she had been in a fight at school. She had a classmate deliver a cupcake containing three pellets of rat poison, but another student warned the principal and the plot was discovered. The consequence for this deceit was that the girl was sent to a school far away. Secret sins do not usually stay secret!

Remember when Jonah tried to run away from God “secretly?” It turns out God knew where he was, he was “found out” and punished for his unconfessed sin by being thrown overboard. A big fish swallowed him. For three days and nights he had opportunity to repent and think about his actions!

Many times, hard situations cause us to remember things we have done wrong—and that is okay! God wants us to remember our sins so we can get them cleared up! God’s heart is to do us good and not evil; to forgive and have mercy.

After God’s forgiveness, we have to forgive ourselves and then trust that God knows and is big enough to take care of every difficult situation in our lives.

In the widow woman’s distress and questioning, Elijah had great faith. He took the dead boy to his own chamber and laid him on his bed. He stretched himself out on the boy and cried three times to the Lord. The Lord heard the voice of Elijah and brought life back into the boy. Elijah took the child back to his mother and said, “See, your son lives.” The woman said to Elijah, “Now I know you are a man of God and the word of the Lord in your mouth is truth.”

Sister Julie Elwell

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SECRETS SINS

■ BUTTONS ■ CHALLENGER DEEP (ONE WORD) ■ ELIJAH ■ FAITH ■
■ FORGIVENESS ■ LIGHTBOARD ■ SECRET ■ SODA ■ WINDOW ■ XRAY ■



SIN REVEALED

Thou hast set our iniquities before thee, our secret sins in the light of thy countenance. Psalm 90:8

What happened to the buttons you put in the glass of cola? Did they stay hidden in the bottom of the cup, out of sight and out of mind? No! They floated back up to the top where everyone could see them. That glass of cola is like your heart and those buttons are like sins you might try to hide. Secret sins *never* stay hidden for long. Eventually, they will come back to haunt you. Most of the time, they come back during your lifetime, but if they don't, they will most certainly come back on the day of Judgement.

Do you know what doctors do with x-rays to look at them? They put them up to a light board. When the light shines through the special x-ray film, all of the imperfections of the bones can be seen. David talked about our secret sins in this verse from Psalms. What did

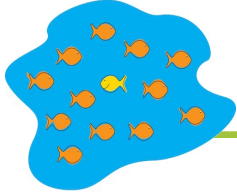
he say God did with them? That's right—God brought them to the light of His countenance. Deceit and secrets will not stand in the face of God's truth. We can't hide anything from Him. It is much better to confess everything to God and let His forgiveness wash you clean!

Materials:

- Clear drinking glass
- Can of cola
- Several plastic buttons
- Spoon

Directions:

- Fill the drinking glass with approx. 4 ounces of cola.
- Drop the buttons into the glass.
- Observe what they do, and then retrieve them with a spoon.



Swimming Upstream Obadiah Dares to be Different

Scripture Reading: 1 Kings 18:1-20

Nobody wants to be different. We want people to like us and one of the safest ways to do that is to blend in with the crowd. But following Jesus and living the life of a Christian has never been about blending in. To follow Him means to speak differently, dress differently, behave differently, and act differently than those who do not follow Him.

Obadiah, the governor of King Ahab's house, was a man who dared to be different. He was a man who "feared the Lord greatly." King Ahab and Queen Jezebel were very wicked rulers who did not follow God. Yet, day after day, Obadiah rose from his bed with determination to serve God no matter what evil influences surrounded him.

When Queen Jezebel persecuted and would have killed God's prophets, Obadiah risked his life and his position in King Ahab's household.

Memory Verse

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Romans 12:2a

Key Thought

**You will never influence the world by being like it.
Dare to be different!**

Lesson Discussion

- Discuss who Obadiah was and how he courageously lived out his faith even though he was surrounded by wicked men and women.
- Is it easier to cave to pressure to be like the world or dare to be different? Who promised to be our help?
- Can we blend in with our unbelieving friends and still be a Christian? Give examples of how we should be different.
- What is our ultimate goal in serving God? What beautiful "Home" is promised the Christian? Will it be worth "being different" to get there?

He hid 50 prophets in one cave and 50 prophets in another cave. Every day he courageously took bread and water to these prophets of God.

It should be no surprise to us if we, like Obadiah, are different when we choose to serve God. We may not be included in all the activities our unbelieving friends take part in, but Jesus encouraged us that He overcame the world and we can do the same! When we don't laugh at bad jokes, when we refuse to enter a gossipy conversation, when we dress modestly, when we behave with integrity, we are choosing a winning way.

We "go against the flow" because we realize that ultimately following Jesus is the better decision.

It has been said that, "A dead thing can go with the stream, but only a living thing can go against it." Salmon are fish that begin their lives in rivers or streams. They eventually make their way downstream to the ocean where they feed on other fish and grow larger in size. When they reach adulthood, they undertake an amazing journey and swim upstream back to the original stream or river where they began their lives. Sometimes this means swimming up rugged rivers with miles of rapids and even waterfalls they have to leap in an effort to make it "back home." As Christians, God wants us to determine, like Obadiah, that against all odds we will courageously swim upstream—against the current of the world, until we make it home to heaven.

Back to Israel, King Ahab, Obadiah and Elijah! The famine was getting worse and the horses and mules would die without water. King Ahab told Obadiah, "Travel throughout the land until you find water." As Obadiah traveled, he unbelievably met Elijah on the road. When Obadiah first recognized the prophet, he was afraid, but Elijah calmed his fears. He instructed Obadiah, "Go tell King Ahab I want to see him." When King Ahab saw Elijah he said, "Are you the one who is troubling Israel?" Elijah courageously and boldly answered, "I am not the one who is troubling Israel. This famine was sent by God because you and your house have forsaken the commandments of the Lord and followed Baalim (an idol)." Elijah told Ahab, "Meet me on Mount Carmel with all 450 prophets of Baal." Ahab was not inclined to disobey Elijah's command, so he gathered all the people together. Next week we will witness a great demonstration of God's power on Mount Carmel!

In the meantime, as you start a new week, swim upstream against the flow of the world!

Don't let the germs of sin contaminate your life in Christ. God will greatly reward you for your courage in daring to be different!

Sister Julie Elwell

OIL AND WATER



Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 1 John 2:15

What happened when you added the oil to the water? Did they mix or stay separate? After reading the verse from John, what do you think the oil and water represent?

Materials:

- Quart Jar with a lid
- 2 cups water
- 1 cup oil
- Red food coloring
- Long handled spoon
- Flashlight (the light on your phone works fine!)

Directions:

- First, pour the water into the jar. Add the oil and watch what happens!
- Add a few drops of the red food coloring. Watch where it goes!
- Shake the jar up and then watch it settle. Shine your flashlight through the oil and water, and see which one it lights up.

The water is representative of the WORLD that we live in—John instructed us not to love the world or the things that are in it! The oil is representative of YOU—God has called you to be entirely separate from the world.

What happened when you added the food coloring to the jar? Did it mix with the oil or the water? The food coloring is representative of SIN—we do not want the sin of the world to contaminate us. Jesus can give us the ability to repel any sin that comes our way!

Finally, what happened when you shook the jar? Did the red sin mix with your clean, pure oil? Yes, and the Bible tells us that we have all sinned. But thankfully, Jesus was sent as our redeemer—He can make us clean again!

When the light shines through the jar, does it light up the blood stained water very well? How about the oil? Did it light up when the light hit it? Yes! Let the light of God shine through your life as you live separately from the world.

Draw lines to match the verses below with the steps of your oil and water experiment!

Extra Challenge: Memorize these verses this week as you think about what you have learned about being separate from the world!

1. You poured the oil and water into the same jar and they stayed separate!

2. You added food coloring to the jar and it slid right through the oil and turned the water red!

3. You shook the jar and watched as the oil and water mixed together and turned red.

4. You watched as the red water slowly sank to the bottom and the clean oil rose to the top of the jar.

5. You shone a flashlight through the oil and water and the oil is what lit up!

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Isaiah 1:18 Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove

Matthew 5:14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

1 Peter 1:16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

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Who is the True God? Showdown on Mount Carmel



God gave many warnings to the children of Israel not to serve other gods. They ignored His commandment and turned to idolatry anyway. Perhaps they wished to unite their worship of the true God with the worship of Baal. Maybe they wished to avoid breaking ties with the past, not wanting to completely reject God, but at the same time wanting to enjoy the worship of Baal, which no doubt included impure forms of worship.

Baal (ba'al) who was thought of as "lord of the heavens" was a god associated with agriculture. He was believed to be the giver of life and all men were dependent on him to sustain their farms, flocks, and herds. He was also called "Hadad", the storm god, who would provide plentiful rains after hearing his voice of thunder.

King Ahab, ruler of Israel, married a woman, Jezebel, who did not believe in the true God. She only worshipped Baal and 450 of Baal's prophets ate at her table daily. The Bible tells us King Ahab did more to cause God's anger than

Memory Verse

No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Matthew 6:24

Key Thought

Be convinced that God is God. The gods of this world will blind us to this truth if we bow down to them.

Lesson Discussion

- What is an idol? How did God challenge the idol Baal?
- Describe the events on Mount Carmel. Did Baal answer the prophets? How did God demonstrate that HE was truly God? Did it

take a long time for Elijah to get an answer to his prayer?

- Name some gods of our world. Is it easy to want God AND the gods of the world? Can we serve both?
- What can we do to unlock God's power in our life? (*What did Elijah do?*)

any kings before him, building altars to Baal and worshipping this pagan god.

When Elijah came along and declared a famine in the land, God was directly challenging Baal, the god of agriculture.

God wished to show His people that He, not Baal, controlled the rain.

Perhaps the people wondered during the long three and one-half years of famine if Baal was unhappy with them? Or was it God? In the midst of this uncertainty about who was truly God, Elijah called the people to Mount Carmel. He asked them, "How long will you try to have things both ways? If Baal is God, worship him. If God is God, worship Him." The people agreed. It was showdown time.

All day long, 450 prophets of Baal called for their god to send fire from heaven; this would surely be an easy task for a god associated with lightning bolts. Perhaps the men, women and children of Israel stood by watching and holding their breath. But there was no response. Elijah mocked them. He said, "Maybe your god is talking. Maybe he is on a trip. Maybe he is sleeping and needs to be awakened."

The prophets of Baal cried, leapt on the altar, and cut themselves with knives until blood gushed out. Still, Baal was silent.

The day passed and the prophets of Baal finally gave up.

Elijah called for 12 barrels of water to be poured over his sacrifice. The trench built around the altar was filled to overflowing. He then prayed a very simple prayer to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel. He said, "Let it be known this day that you are God. Hear me, O Lord, that the people may know that you are the Lord God, that they may turn their hearts back to you." God *immediately* sent fire from heaven. It burned up the water, the sacrifice, the wood, and stones of the altar. When the crowd of people saw this, they had their answer about who the *true* God was.

They all bowed down and said, "The Lord, he is God; the Lord, he is God!"

Today, God is still God. The most popular person you know is not God. The most talented sports player in the industry is not God. The smartest person is not God. The prettiest or most handsome girl or guy is not God. The richest person is not God. You are not God. People worship all these things in our world—popularity, sports, intelligence, riches, and, selfishly, themselves. The gods of this world have no life in them. It is only when we serve and pray to the TRUE God that the power of heaven will be unlocked in our lives.

Sister Julie Elwell



WATCHMAN NEE

In his book *Sit, Walk, Stand*, Watchman Nee describes a preaching mission to an island off the South China coast. There were seven in the ministering group, including a sixteen-year-old new convert whom he calls Brother Wu.

The island was fairly large, containing about 6,000 homes. Nee had a contact there, an old schoolmate of his who was headmaster of the village school, but he refused to house the group when he discovered they had come to preach the Gospel. Finally, they found lodging with a Chinese herbalist, who became their first convert. Preaching seemed quite fruitless on the island, and Nee discovered it was because of the dedication of the people there to an idol they called Ta-wang. They were convinced of his power because on the day of his festival and parade each year the weather was always near perfect.

"When is the procession this year?" young Wu asked a group that had gathered to hear them preach.

"It is fixed for January 11th at 8 in the morning," was the reply.

"Then," said the new convert, "I promise you that it will certainly rain on the 11th."

At that there was an outburst of cries from the crowd: "That is enough! We don't want to hear any more preaching. If there is rain on the 11th, then your God is God!"

Watchman Nee had been elsewhere in the village when this confrontation had taken place. Upon being informed about it, he saw that the situation was serious and called the group to prayer.

On the morning of the 11th, there was not a cloud in the sky, but during grace for breakfast, sprinkles began to fall and these were followed by heavy rain.

Worshipers of the idol Ta-wang were so upset that they placed the idol in a sedan chair and carried it outdoors, hoping this would stop the rain. Then the rain increased. After only a short distance, the carriers of the idol stumbled and fell, dropping the idol and fracturing its jaw and left arm.

A number of young people turned to Christ as a result of the rain coming in answer to prayer, but the elders of the village made divination and said that the

wrong day had been chosen. The proper day of the procession, they said, should have been the 14th.

When Nee and his friends heard this, they again went to prayer, asking for rain on the 14th and for clear days for preaching until then. That afternoon the sky cleared and on the good days that followed there were thirty converts. Of the crucial test day, Nee says: The 14th broke, another perfect day, and we had good meetings. As the evening approached we met again at the appointed hour. We quietly brought the matter to the Lord's remembrance. Not a minute late, His answer came with torrential rain and floods as before.

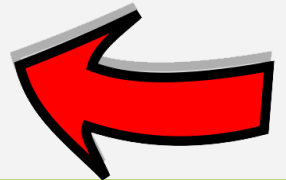
The power of the idol over the islanders was broken; the enemy was defeated. Believing prayer had brought a great victory. Conversions followed. And the impact upon the servants of God who had witnessed His power would continue to enrich their Christian service from that time on.

You Can Win!, Roger F. Campbell, 1985, SP Publications, pp. 35-36

WALK THIS WAY! WALK THAT WAY!

Teachers: This section is for you to read and instruct the children.

Have the students stand up in a line. Tell them they have to go in whatever direction you tell them. Call out left, right, right, left, left right, etc. going faster and faster until they can't keep up. Have them sit and discuss: Can you walk in two directions at the same time? No! When I said left, you went one way. When I said right you went another. Elijah compared worshipping idols as trying to go two directions at the same time. He told the people they would have to decide what direction (or path) they would take. Going toward God meant going away from Baal. They couldn't have it both ways. Jesus said something similar: "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon." Matthew 6:24. He said that serving mammon (money, the world and its things) would lead you away from God, even to the point of hating Him! We have to decide, like Joshua did (Joshua 24:15) to serve 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.
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Bold Faith and Answered Prayer Elijah Prays for Rain



Elijah was bold. He had incredible faith and prayed for many God-sized miracles. He prayed for a drought in Israel. He prayed God would raise the widow's son from the dead. He prayed and called fire down from heaven on Mount Carmel. God answered Elijah's faith-filled prayers over and over again.

Although God had proved Himself to be the *true* God on Mount Carmel, the land still desperately needed rain after three and one-half years. Elijah once again found himself praying to his God—to our God. Elijah never lost his ability to recognize his desperate need for God. He threw himself down onto the ground and put his face between his knees in intense prayer. *Six times* Elijah implored God for rain. Six times his servant gazed long and intently at the sea for a sign of rain. *Six times* the sea remained an unruffled sheet of gold, glaring under the setting sun of an empty sky. *Six times* there was no response.

Memory Verse

The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. James 5:16b

Key Thought

The solution to every problem we face is faith plus prayer.

Lesson Discussion

- What outstanding trait did Elijah have? Did God answer his prayers? Give examples.
- "I'm giving up!"

Discuss why it is easy to give up when we pray. *Should* we give up?

- Do you believe God hears our prayers even when He *doesn't* answer them?
- What part of Sister Faith Stewart's situation at the children's home did you like the most?
- Look up the verses that *follow* the Memory Verse. Who are they about?

Elijah did not give up, but tenaciously bowed his head once again in prayer.

Finally, after the seventh prayer, the servant joyously announced, "Behold, there arises a little cloud out of the sea about the size of a man's hand!" He told his servant, "Go tell Ahab to get his chariot ready lest the coming rain flood the river and road and prevent him from returning home." What great faith! Elijah saw a very small cloud and *knew* God had answered his prayer before the rain had even started!

Dark clouds gathered until the sky was black. The wind howled and the drenching rain poured down in sheets. The cracked and parched ground drank in the rain.

Elijah's prayers had been heard one more time. The famine in Israel was over.

The God of Elijah also answered prayer for Sister Faith Stewart, another woman of prayer and great faith. She cared for 120 orphans in a children's home in Havana, Cuba. Water had always been hard to come by, but in 1950 a great drought settled over them. Shortages of water were reported everywhere. The well at the orphanage had completely gone dry. The neighbors had no more water to share. Nothing could be kept clean, no cooking could be done for many days, no bathing of the children could be accomplished and there was no water for laundry work. The final blow came when engineers tested the well to a great depth and there was no sign of water. *Nothing could be done.* The conditions were tragic.

Sister Faith Stewart testified they had prayed earnestly for water, but they had "*not yet prayed through.*" So on May 10, 1950, at 2 p.m., a group of workers fell on their faces before God. They forgot everything else. They prayed from the depths of their hearts for WATER. At 3 p.m., one hour later Sister Faith said, "We heard a loud, happy cry ring out over the place." "Water, water, come and see!" "OH, THERE IS WATER—CLEAN, PURE WATER—LOTS OF IT!" They all rushed out to see and sure enough, running from all the water pipes was water, clean and pure. In just a few moments, the neighbors, having heard the cry, came running with buckets to take water to clean or cook. "Praise God forever and forever!" The postman and many others heard of this miracle and came to see. What a wonderful opportunity to magnify God before the people! From that time forward Sister Faith testified to "an abundance of water day and night."

The God of Elijah—the God of Sister Faith Stewart—He is OUR God too!

Sister Julie Elwell

FIVE FINGERS OF PRAYER

Keep your priorities in order!

Instructions: Trace your hand in the circle and fill in the fingers with the priorities listed below.

4. The fourth finger is our ring finger. Surprising to many is the fact that this is our weakest finger, as any piano teacher will testify. It should remind us to pray for those who are weak, in trouble, or in pain. They need your prayers day and night. You cannot pray too much for them.
5. And lastly comes our little finger, the smallest finger of all, which is where we should place ourselves in relation to God and others. As the Bible says, The least shall be the greatest among you. Your pinkie should remind you to pray for yourself. By the time you have prayed for the other four groups, your own needs will be put into proper perspective and you will be able to pray for yourself more effectively. Should you find it hard to get to sleep tonight, just remember the homeless family who has no bed to lie in.

Submitted by Rev. Greg Amos

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1. Your thumb is nearest to you so begin your prayers by praying for those closest to you. They are the easiest to remember. To pray for our loved ones is, as C. S. Lewis once said, a sweet duty.
2. The next finger is the pointing finger. Pray for those who teach, instruct and heal. This includes teachers, doctors, and our church leaders. They need support and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction. Keep them in your prayers.
3. The next finger is the tallest finger. It reminds us of our leaders. Pray for the president, leaders in business and industry, and administrators. These people shape our nation and guide public opinion. They need God's guidance.



CALL ON GOD!

Because he hath inclined his ear unto me, therefore will I call upon him as long as I live. Psalm 116:2

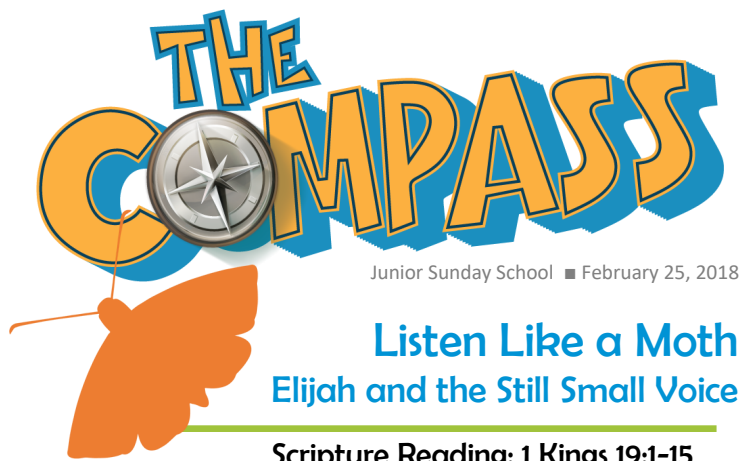
What are your parents' phone number?

What is your grandma's phone number?

Can you use a cell phone to call them when you are in your car? In a house? On a boat? At the park?

Why do you use a phone to call your parents? Maybe if you need help, have a question, or need someone who will listen to your problems!

God tells us to call on Him, but in order to call on Him, we have to know the right number! There is only ONE way to get a hold of God and that is through Jesus! God will answer *whenever* we call, and we can call Him from *wherever* we are. We just have to be willing to take the time and make the effort to "call on Him."



Listen Like a Moth Elijah and the Still Small Voice

Scripture Reading: 1 Kings 19:1-15

Enjoyable things such as singing along to our favorite song, hearing our best friend's voice, and learning something new and fascinating are all made possible by our sense of hearing.

The ability to hear also keeps us safe by warning us of danger, such as when the smoke alarm goes off or of a car coming down the street toward us. The ability to hear is something we should always thank God for!

God wanted to teach Elijah a lesson about hearing—and listening! After Elijah had prayed seven times and a mighty rain had fallen on Israel, ending the drought, he had yet another problem to face. Queen Jezebel was very angry he had killed the 450 prophets of Baal. She wanted him dead. So Elijah ran.

Have you ever wanted to run away? Most children have at least thought of the idea and some have actually tried it. The thing was, God found Elijah. He found him discouraged and asleep under a juniper tree in the wilderness. As Elijah slept, an angel touched him and said, “Arise and eat.” Elijah looked and there was a cake

Memory Verse
In quietness and in confidence shall be your strength. Isaiah 30:15

Key Thought

**Sit still.
Be quiet.
Hear God.**

Lesson Discussion

- Why did Elijah run? Did he outrun God?
- Discuss the lesson God taught Elijah on the mountain and how He did it.
- Is it hard for you to get quiet? Why? Discuss practical ways to put “quietness” in practice.
- Why is “hearing like a moth” something we should strive for?

baking over a fire and water to drink. The angel came to him a second time, touched him again and said, “Arise and eat; because the journey is too much for you.” So Elijah arose, ate and drank. He then journeyed for forty days and forty nights until he got to Mount Horeb.

God again found Elijah in a cave. He just could not run away from God!

God asked him, “What are you doing here?” Elijah told God, “I am the only one left who is serving you and they want to kill me.” God told Elijah to go outside and stand on the mountain.

The Lord then passed by in a great, strong wind that shook the mountain and broke the rocks. But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake there was fire. But the Lord was not in the fire. Surely God must be in these great demonstrations of power! But no. After the fire there was a still, small voice.

When Elijah heard the still small voice he wrapped himself in his coat and the Lord began to quietly talk to him. God reassured Elijah that he was not the only one left still serving the true God.

Noise is all around us. School, chores, homework, entertainment, talking—these things keep our ears full of noise all the time. Sit down. Get quiet. Turn the electronics off. Relax. Let your mind think about God and the things you are thankful for. Learn to hear and know God's voice. You might not know it right at first, but if you read the Bible, learn and memorize Scripture, and become familiar with the things God talks about, you will begin to recognize when He is talking. Pray. It is good to develop the habit of just STOPPING to be quiet. Even if it is only for 10 or 15 minutes.

Develop the spiritual ears of a plain, old “boring” moth. Did you know that moths have the most extraordinary hearing of any other animal? Bats have good hearing too and they are always looking for moths to eat. But. The moth has better hearing and they use their great hearing to outwit their enemy. The devil is our main predator. He is doing everything he can to destroy us.

If we learn to be quiet, like Elijah, and hear like a moth—learn to hear and recognize God's voice (and the voice of Satan) --we will be saved from great spiritual harm.

Sister Julie Elwell



TURN IT DOWN!

There are SO many different kinds of noise. Can you think of some in your life that might distract you from hearing God's voice? What can you do in order to eliminate or minimize the effect that noise has on your spiritual hearing? Often times, the "noise" in our lives are not things that are necessarily *bad* but things that can distract us from God. Read the list of "noise makers" below and write a sentence or two about eliminating/minimizing their volume.

Cell Phone

Music

Computer

Playtime

Schoolwork

Friends

Entertainment

You think of one!

Teachers Materials:

- A few varied instruments (recorders, harmonicas, and kazoos are easily purchased at a dollar store, etc.)

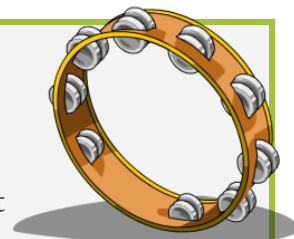
Directions:

- Give the instruments to a few children and have them stand in a line.
- Choose one child to be the "listener" and have them stand between you and the line of instruments.
- Direct the children with instruments to play all at once on your three-count. While they play, whisper the listener's name.
- Whisper the listener's name again without the instruments playing.

WHISPER MY NAME

Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. James 4:8

God's voice is not difficult to hear. It can often seem hard to know the mind of God because we cannot hear Him with our physical ears, and He does not always speak to us in concrete ways. But there is something you can do to "listen like a moth" as you read in today's lesson. When you tried to hear your teacher's voice above the noise of the instruments, it wasn't easy, but when it was quiet in the room, his/her whisper was easily heard! The same principle applies to hearing God's voice. If you choose to allow life to be constant background noise, you will never hear Him! But if you go to your room, shut the door, and read your Bible quietly, you will be much more capable of hearing His quiet, gentle voice in your heart.



THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ March 4, 2018



But I Want It! King Ahab's Covetous Heart

Scripture Reading: 1 Kings 21:1-29

Kings pretty much have everything they need and want, right? King Ahab didn't think so. He was in his vacation palace in Jezreel—his "second" beautiful home. But he had a problem. He was not content with what he had. His neighbor, Naboth, owned a vineyard on which King Ahab cast a longing eye. He told Naboth, "If you give me your vineyard, I will give you a better vineyard or pay you for it." But Naboth did not want to sell his family's prized land. How unhappy King Ahab was. He was so displeased that he went home, lay down on his bed, turned his head to the wall, and refused to eat. The king pouted!

The queen passed by King Ahab's room and saw he was unhappy. When she discovered the cause she said, "Get up and eat. I will take care of this! You are the king and you should have whatever you want."

Through a very devious and wrong scheme, she had Naboth, an innocent man, put to death. She then told King Ahab, "The vineyard is now yours!"

Memory Verse

Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

Luke 12:15

Key Thought

The cure for a covetous heart is contentment.

Lesson Discussion

- What did King Ahab covet? How did it cause him to sin?
- What are things you are tempted to covet? Why do people want things they don't have?
- Is it disrespectful to God to covet? Why?
- What are practical things we can do to be content with what we have?

Do you think King Ahab was happy now? As he walked along the paths of his new vineyard, he unexpectedly encountered a man he did not want to see. Elijah. Perhaps the juicy grapes went slack in his hand and his heart dropped to the ground. Elijah said, "I have found you. God knows you are responsible for Naboth's death. Because you have done this, you too will lose your life." King Ahab trembled when he heard these words. No longer did he enjoy the vineyard. He tore his kingly robes and dressed in sackcloth. When God saw Ahab was really sorry, he lessened the punishment.

Covetousness had not brought King Ahab the happiness he thought it would.

To covet is to desire something that belongs to someone else. The tenth commandment God gave to Moses was: "Thou shalt not covet." God knew people would want what they don't have. Have you heard the saying, "The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence?" The truth of this proverb can be seen in the countryside when a cow or horse squeezes their head underneath a fence, trying to get at the juicy, green grass just on the other side of where they are standing. Many people are never satisfied with their own situation; they always think others have it better.

While it is not wrong to see something we like or want, remember that our desires can very quickly lead us down a wrong path.

When feelings of discontentment start moving around and growing inside of us, we need to take a deep breath, stop, and pray.

The cure for a covetous heart is to be content with what God has given us and be happy where He has placed us.

Consider this story: "A little girl was walking in a garden when she noticed a particularly beautiful flower. She admired its beauty and enjoyed its fragrance. "It's so pretty!" she exclaimed. As she gazed on it, her eyes followed the stem down to the soil in which it grew. "This flower is too pretty to be planted in such dirt!" she cried. So she pulled it up by its roots and ran to the water faucet to wash away the soil. It wasn't long until the flower wilted and died. When the gardener saw what the little girl had done, he explained, "You have destroyed my finest plant!" "I'm sorry, but I didn't like it in that dirt," she said. The gardener replied, "I chose that spot and mixed the soil because I knew that only there could it grow to be a beautiful flower."


Sister Julie Elwell

COVETOUSNESS IN YOU?

Despite our best efforts, covetousness is something that can creep into our hearts without detection. Search your own thoughts and feelings about life—is there something that you are coveting that God would like you to relinquish? How can you use generosity to help stem the tide of covetousness in your heart?

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

A SPECK IN THE SKY



A few years ago, a man in Detroit stepped out into his back yard, and looking up saw a speck in the sky. It grew larger and larger. Then he discovered it was something alive, a struggling, living mass of something slowly descending to earth. What he had first seen as a speck, had now revealed itself to be two large bald eagles in deadly combat. The huge birds were fighting in the sky over a fish. The fish had already dropped to the ground, but the birds had continued their struggle until they were bloody and exhausted. With a last wild scream, each made a fatal plunge at the other, and both birds came tumbling down to earth—dead, falling side by side, within a few feet of the man who had been witnessing the fierce battle of the sky. Greed had destroyed them.

So it may be with a life. Greed grows upon one. The selfish man finally destroys himself. Beginning as a speck, greed, if unchecked, will pull us down from the highest and noblest life just as it did those two birds of the sky. Unless we destroy greed it will destroy us.

W. G. M., in *Youth's Comrade*.

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THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ March 11, 2018



Elijah's Legacy

Legacy: "Something received from an ancestor"

One time there was a farmer who was very old and ill. He knew he would die soon. He had a large farm which was big enough to provide for all his children. He had lived a good life but regretted that his three children were lazy and fought much of the time. He had worked hard to leave them the legacy of his farm and *he wanted to help them see what a precious thing it was to work the land and provide for their families.* One winter day, he called them to his sick bed. He said, "Children, I have accumulated great wealth." They asked where it was, but he told them, "You have never seen it. It is buried deep in the fields. That is where you will find your legacy."

A short time later the farmer died. His children were sorrowful because they loved their father. They decided

to stop fighting and go looking for their legacy. So they dug and dug for days. They dug till they were too tired

Memory Verse

I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first existed in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am convinced that this faith also exists in you.

2 Timothy 1:5 (ISV)

Key Thought

The greatest legacies left to us are godly lives by which to pattern our own lives.

Lesson Discussion

- What is a legacy? What legacy did the farmer leave his children?
- Discuss concrete examples of godly attributes of Elijah's life. What story of Elijah's life stands out the most to you?
- Who has most impacted you spiritually in a good way and who do you want to pattern your life after?
- Does searching for God and getting to know Him take time? How can you get to know God better?

to dig anymore. By that time, it was spring and time to plant their crops. Since they had already dug up the earth they decided to plant the field.

Fall time came and after harvesting their crops they started digging again, looking for their legacy. They dug for days and days until once again they had dug up almost all the farmland. One of the siblings said, "We have dug and dug and we still have not found our legacy. I am too tired to keep digging. Still, it is spring and time to plant the crops. Since we have already dug up the earth we may as well plant our seed." So they did. This happened for several years; they dug and dug the rich farmland looking for their legacy. Year after year they planted their crops. They began to realize they were living comfortably from money obtained by their crops. They finally stopped digging for the treasure and just continued working the farm. They had finally found the legacy their father had left them.

Did you know Elijah, the prophet we have been studying, left us an even greater legacy? He left us an example of how we should live for God.

Over and over God spoke and Elijah obeyed. Over and over Elijah was persistent in prayer. Over and over Elijah demonstrated faith in God. Elijah declared a famine on Israel by God's command and famine came. Elijah journeyed to the brook Cherith at God's command and ravens fed him daily. God told Elijah to go to a widow's house; he obeyed and God provided daily food. Elijah prayed three times and raised the widow's dead son back to life. Elijah called prophets of Baal to Mount Caramel and boldly, through simple prayer, called fire down from heaven, proving the power of the true God. Elijah prayed seven times until rain poured down. Elijah allowed himself to be taught that sometimes his strength was not enough and he had to rely on God. Elijah learned to listen to the still, small voice of God.

At the end of Elijah's life, a chariot and horses of fire came and took him to heaven.

Did you know we serve the *same* God today? Elijah's God is YOUR God! Search until you find Him and *know* Him. Search longer and harder if you need to. Make decisions to obey God faithfully every day. Pray persistent, faith-filled prayers. Make wise choices. Find godly men and women who are good examples for you to follow.

Live your life so someday you will have also left a legacy of a godly, obedient life.

Sister Julie Elwell



LIVING THE DASH

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses. 1 Timothy 6:12

What does “Living the Dash” mean? When reading the story of someone’s life, many times their name is given, along with a date of birth and date of death. For example: Abraham Lincoln (February 12, 1809 — April 15, 1865.) So we know when Abraham

Lincoln was born and when he died. But what about the dash in the middle? The dash represents 20,517 days of LIVING between his birth and his death; it represents 20,517 days of growing, maturing, and making either good or bad decisions. It represents a LIFETIME of choices. What about your dash? When were you born? You don’t know when your last day is yet, but TODAY you are “Living the Dash.” Every day you are writing the story of your life by your actions and choices. Jesus told us that the kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field. As you “Live the Dash” SEARCH till you find the treasure hidden in the field and then keep searching and learning every day of your dash.

TREASURES OF THE FIELD

But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal. Matthew 6:20

Like Elijah, you can cultivate good “treasures” in your life. Look back at Elijah’s life and think of the positive, godly traits he displayed. Are there other people in your life that have similar traits?

Use the space below to jot down some practical ways to develop these traits.

Love: _____

Obedience: _____

Thoughtfulness: _____

Kindness: _____

Generosity: _____

Affection: _____

Prayer: _____

You think of one! _____

Faith in God: _____

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The First Passover Unleavened Bread and the Blood of Salvation

Scripture Reading: Exodus 12

The Israelites were enslaved in Egypt for a long time. They had no freedom to do as they pleased and no hope of coming out of bondage. The pharaohs, or kings of Egypt, forced them to work hard to build the Egyptian empire, but they weren't allowed to enjoy the beautiful buildings they had labored so hard to build. But, God had promised the land of Canaan to Abraham, a promise He planned to keep! The children of Israel longed for this deliverance from their oppression. The time finally came that God sent Moses to lead His children out of the bondage of Egypt and to a new land of promise and plenty—the land of Canaan!

The story of the Israelites being led out of Egypt and slavery into the Promised Land is symbolic;

that means that it represents another story or truth.

God allowed the Israelites to be enslaved and set free in order to give us a picture of how sin enslaves us and how He wants to set us free by salvation.

Memory Verse

Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us. 1 Corinthians 5:7

Key Thought

In the Passover, unleavened bread represents a life free from the sin in the world, and the blood of the lamb represents salvation from death and bondage.

Lesson Discussion

- Discuss what leaven, or yeast, does to bread when it's used. Why did God want the Israelites to eat bread without it at the first Passover?
- Why did the lamb that was sacrificed have to be perfect? What did the blood of the lamb save the Israelites from when it was painted on the doorpost?

- How does unleavened bread and the blood of the lamb apply to your life?
- Spend some time talking with your teacher or parents about the first Passover and what it meant. Ask any questions you might have!

When the time finally came for the Israelites to leave Egypt, God gave them specific instructions on what to eat and wear. They were to eat unleavened bread (bread without yeast) for seven days. On the appointed night, each family was to kill a lamb without blemish and paint their doorposts with the blood from that lamb. Then they were to cook and eat the lamb.

The night the doorposts were painted, the Lord swept through Egypt and every house that was not painted with blood from an unblemished lamb woke up to find that their firstborn son had died. This was the final plague God sent on Egypt. After this “passover of the death angel” an anguished cry from Egypt could be heard. How relieved the Israelites were to have followed God's instructions in putting the blood over their doors. From that time on, the Israelites upheld the Passover every year in remembrance of their freedom from Egypt and slavery.

You may be wondering why God had the children of Israel eat flat, tasteless bread and paint blood on their doorposts. It sounds kind of messy and gross! However, God wanted to tell a story with those things too—they are symbolic!

The bread God commanded the Israelites to eat was to be unleavened. When leaven, or yeast, is added to bread, it changes the chemical nature of the bread. The yeast feeds on the maltose (or sugar) in the flour and releases carbon dioxide (or gas) which is what makes the bread rise. Amazingly, the first recorded instance of yeast being used for bread is in Ancient Egypt!

God was calling the Israelites to separate themselves from Egypt, a corrupt and wicked empire.

Yeast represents the sin and evil of the world. He wants us to separate ourselves, just like the Israelites did! Our lives should be “unleavened,” or absent of the corruption and evil that is in the world.

God also commanded that the lamb killed for each family be without flaws or spots. The blood of that lamb was for the saving of the firstborn son in the household. Is there another instance when the blood of a perfect sacrifice meant people would be saved? Yes!

That lamb represents Jesus, the perfect sacrifice whose spilled blood was, and still is, the salvation of the world!

Around Easter, a lot of congregations will take communion. That means that each member who is saved and living for Jesus eats a piece of unleavened bread and drinks a sip of juice. Have you asked Jesus into your heart? Has His blood been painted on the doorpost of your heart? Are you living separate from the world? Is your life free from sin and wrong? If you know the answer to these questions is “yes,” then God would be happy to see you eat a piece of bread and take a sip of juice as a way to say thank you for bringing you out of the bondage of sin!

Lindsey Gellenbeck

PAINT YOUR DOORPOSTS!



BLOOD
BONDAGE
COMMUNION
DOORPOSTS
EASTER
EGYPT
ISRAELITES
LAMB
PASSOVER
SACRIFICE
UNLEAVENED
YEAST

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

THE HAPPY HEART OF A SERVANT

Know ye what I have done to you? Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another. John 13:12-15, 34-35

(Read John 13 in it's entirety to get a better picture of the practice of feet washing.)

In Israel at the time of Jesus, the job of the very lowest servants was to fill a basin with water and to wash the feet of those that entered the house. Roads were dusty and the common footwear of the time was open sandals—there was no way to keep one's feet from being thoroughly coated with road grime!

It was here, at the Last Supper and just before He was crucified, that Jesus instituted the practice of feet washing. His purpose was to remind the disciples that they were not only servants of God, but also servants to each other. Before Jesus explained what it meant, Peter

protested strongly that his Lord would *not* wash his feet. After all, the disciples understood who Jesus was—the *very son of God! The King above all kings!* There was no way Peter was going to allow his *master* to debase Himself so far as to wash his feet. But after Jesus told the disciples what it was about, Peter said, “Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head.”

Jesus doesn't intend for us to wash each other's hands and head, but washing each other's feet is symbolic of the attitude of servitude that we must have for each other. Jesus wanted us, His followers, to be willing to humble ourselves and perform the very lowest and most menial of tasks—not only for each other, but for Him! It is in this humility of spirit and action that we will find true fulfillment and joy.

If your congregation partakes of the practice of washing feet around Easter time—or anytime—remember the example that Jesus set and that His intent was for us to be willing to have the heart of a servant.

lmg



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THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ March 25, 2018



Jesus, the Passover Lamb

Last week, you read about the first Passover in Egypt. Each household was to kill a perfect lamb and paint their doorposts with his blood. Every house in Egypt whose doorposts were not painted awoke the next morning to find that their firstborn son had died.

When we think of painting blood on our doors today, it seems a little gross! But God instructed the Israelites to do that for a reason--the killing of a perfect lamb was symbolic of the perfect sacrifice that would bring salvation to mankind: Jesus! The deaths of the first born sons of Egypt was also symbolic. It represented the death that comes to every sinner who does not accept the sacrifice of Jesus' death.

The son of God who became a man walked perfectly during His earthly life.

Jesus' purpose was to come to earth and be the unspotted, willing sacrifice for our sins. He is our Passover lamb!

Memory Verse

Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. John 1:29b

Key Thought

Jesus is the true and final Passover lamb. His blood is the salvation of every sinner who comes to Him for release from the bondage of sin.

The story of Jesus' death is familiar to

Lesson Discussion

- What saved the firstborn sons from death in the land of Egypt? What saves you from spiritual death?
- Why does the Bible refer to Jesus as a "lamb" in many places?
- What are some attributes shown by Jesus that resemble a lamb?
- From what kind of slavery does the blood of Jesus release every willing man or woman? Have you been released from your bondage?

most of us. He was meek, quiet, and willing to die as the very people who should have been thrilled to hear the story of salvation bound Him, beat Him, and killed Him. The Bible refers to Him as the Passover lamb more than once. Peter referred to Jesus, saying, "...the precious blood of Christ, as a lamb without blemish and without spot..." in his first letter. Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 5:7, "For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us..."

There was a man by the name of Henri Barbusse who told a story of two soldiers during World War I. One of the men was wounded to the point of death, and knew his time on earth was ending soon. The other man had lived a delinquent life before the war and had already spent time in prison. The dying man pulled the wayward soldier close to him and said, "Listen, Dominic, you've led a bad life. Everywhere you are wanted by the police. But there are no convictions against me.

My name is clear, so, here, take my dog tags, take my wallet, take my papers, my identity, my good name, my life and quickly, hand me your papers that I may carry all your crimes away with me in death."

What the dying man did may not have been very honest, but it illustrates a point, doesn't it? We are like the criminal soldier, our lives haunted and ruined by our own sinful choices. Jesus, like the soldier who had lived a good life, died in order to give us His name and a new life. The passover lambs that were killed in Egypt marked a new era of freedom for the Israelites. The Egyptians no longer had power over them, and the Israelites left the land in which they were slaves in order to enter the land God had promised them.

Jesus' blood is like that of the lambs whose blood was painted on the doorposts in Egypt.

We must have the blood of Jesus applied to our hearts in order to be saved from death and set free from bondage.

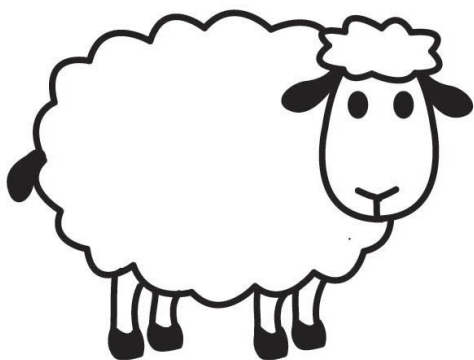
It was spilled for our cleansing, healing, and deliverance.

And thankfully, we know the end of the story. The true and final Passover lamb, our beloved Jesus, did not stay dead. He rose again and released His people from slavery to sin, just as the Israelites were set free from Egypt's bondage. The power and corruption of sin can no longer touch our lives because the Lamb of God spilled His very blood for you and me.

Lindsey Gellenbeck

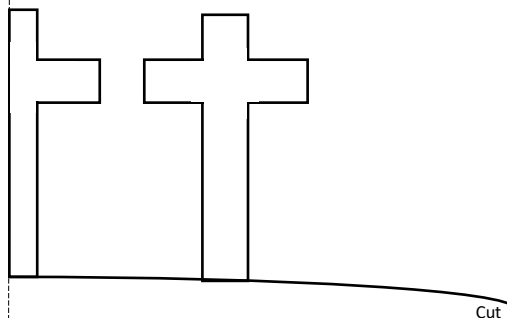
Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. John 1:29b

Fold

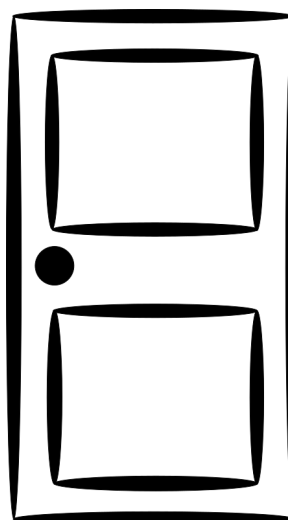


Fold

The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.
1 John 1:7



Cut



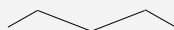
Fold

And without shedding of blood is no remission. Hebrews 9:22

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Color the doorposts with red to represent the blood of a lamb. Color the rest of the craft in your favorite colors!
2. Cut the rectangle out around the outside edges.
3. Fold in half on the center fold line with the lamb and door pictures on the *outside* of the fold.
4. Cut out the outline of the crosses.
5. Fold the sides to form an accordion shape with the paper.
6. Separate the outline of the crosses from the top of the paper by straightening the very top of the paper out.

The paper should be able to stand on it's own when you are finished folding and cutting. The bottom edge of the paper will be folded into this pattern (while the top edge is a little straighter):



REFLECT

Why was Jesus' death necessary to save you from spiritual death? Are there specific failures (such as bad attitudes, disobedience, or selfishness) that Jesus has already helped you to overcome?

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