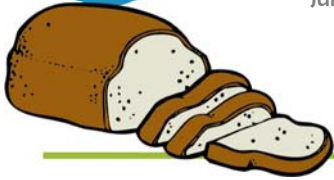


THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ October 7, 2018



Cast Your Bread You Reap What You Sow

Scripture Reading: Ecclesiastes 11:1-2; 2 Samuel 24; Luke 21:1-4

Have you ever heard someone say, “You reap what you sow?” Did you know that concept is actually from the Bible? There are many stories throughout its pages that reinforce the thought. To reap what you sow means that if you cause trouble, you will get trouble, and if you do good things, good things will also happen to you. The world likes to label the relationship between actions and consequences with fancy names, but God is the one that created it!

The Bible also uses the analogy of how some things float on the top of the water. Have you ever stood at the side of a lake and tossed a piece of bread, a leaf, or a flower onto the water? Which way does it go? The tides of the lake wash it back up onto shore! Ecclesiastes 11:1 says, “Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days.” That verse is using an illustration to make the same point:

Whatever kinds of actions come out of you will eventually come back to you.

Lesson Discussion

- What does it mean to reap what you sow?
- How are “you reap what you sow” and “cast your bread on the water” similar?
- What was David sowing when he chose to act without God’s permission?
- What kinds of things would you like to reap? What do you need to sow in order to get those things?

Memory Verse

And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace. James 3:18

Key Thought

Your actions will always return to you. Kindness is returned with kindness; trouble is returned with trouble.

If you throw kindness out to those around you, they will usually show kindness to you in return. If you throw anger and harsh words out to those around you, anger and harsh words will be thrown at you.

In 2 Samuel 24, you can read about King David and how he reaped what he sowed. He decided, without clear instruction from God, to count all the fighting men in his kingdom. There were 500,000 men! As soon as his servant got back from counting, David’s heart smote, or struck him, with conviction. A prophet of God came to David and said, “The Lord has given you a choice between three consequences for acting without His permission and trusting in the strength of your army instead of God. You can experience seven years of famine, flee for three months from your enemies, or have three days of a terrible disease in your land.” David chose three days of disease, and in those three days, 70,000 of his strong men died.

That story is just one example of how a person’s unwise actions can cause great trouble.

David chose to trust in the power of his own army and act without the permission of God.

What was the result? Three miserable days and a lot of lost men. How terrible David must have felt!

What about the poor widow and her two mites?

In Luke 21:1-4, there were rich men all around her pouring bags of gold into the offering at the temple, but Jesus praised her for giving everything she had, even though it was a small amount.

She reaped the praise of Jesus Himself for casting all that she had into the offering!

Galatians 6:7-8 sums up the entire thought when it says, “...whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.” If you choose to spend your time and effort in your own selfish desires, you will always feel sadness and emptiness. If you always choose your own needs and wants over helping others and treating them with kindness, you will accomplish nothing but destroying your life. But if you spend your time following God’s words and treating others with kindness, a peaceful life and an eternity in heaven are your reward!

Lindsey Gellenbeck

ONE GLASS OF MILK



One day, a poor boy named Howard Kelly was selling goods from door to door to pay his way through school, found he had only one thin dime left, and he was hungry. He decided he would ask for a meal at the next house. However, he lost his nerve when a lovely young woman opened the door. Instead of a meal, he asked for a drink of water. She thought he looked hungry, so she brought him a large glass of milk.

He drank it slowly and then asked, "How much do I owe you?"

She gently looked at him and replied, "You don't owe me anything. Mother has taught us never to accept payment for a kindness."

He said, "Then, I thank you from my heart."

As Howard Kelly left that house, he not only felt stronger physically, but his faith in God and man was strong also. Before that moment, he had been ready to give up and quit.

Years later, that young woman became critically ill. The local doctors were baffled. They finally sent her to the big city, where they called in specialists to study her rare disease. Dr. Howard Kelly was called in for the consultation. When he

heard the name of the town she came from, a strange light filled his eyes. Immediately, he rose and went down the hall of the hospital to her room. Dressed in his doctor's gown, he went in to see her. He recognized her at once. He went back to the consultation room determined to do his best to save her life. From that day, he gave special attention to the case.

After a long struggle, the battle was won. Dr. Kelly requested the accounting office to pass the final bill to him for approval. He looked at it, then wrote something on the edge, and the bill was sent to her room. She feared to open it, for she was sure it would take the rest of her life to pay for it all. Finally, she looked, and something caught her attention on the side of the bill. She began to read the following words:

"Paid in full with one glass of milk." Signed, Dr. Howard Kelly.



BRICKS AND RAISINS

These two items have been sitting in front of you while we read about reaping what you sow. But what could raisins and a brick possibly have to do with that?! Let's think about it for a minute.

What do you do with a brick? Build a house or a building, right? Have you ever driven by a house with wooden siding and said, "What a beautiful

brick house?" Of course not! A house with wooden siding is not a brick house.

What if you were to go to a bakery and were to order a loaf of raisin bread, and the baker

handed over zucchini bread? Would you take a bite and say to yourself, "My, what delicious raisin bread?" Of course not! Zucchini bread is not raisin bread.

Your life is the same as that brick house and the raisin bread. What you put into your life is what your life will become. You can't put bad attitudes, disobedience, and selfishness into your life and expect to be blessed and peaceful! Just like you have to use bricks to build a brick house and raisins to make raisin bread, you have to put godly obedience and selflessness into your life if you want to be blessed and happy.

Materials:

- Brick
- Raisins or raisin bread

Directions:

Set the two items on a table or somewhere the children can see them while you read through the lesson. After finishing the lesson, story, and object lesson, allow them to enjoy the raisins or raisin bread as a snack.

THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ October 14, 2018



Am I Too Cool?

Humility Toward
God and Others

Scripture Reading: James 4:10;
Luke 7:36-50

Have you ever had friend or classmate who was so proud, they weren't any fun to be around? Maybe they thought they were the best at everything, or maybe they had more money than everyone else and thought that made them much more important.

It is not enjoyable to be around proud people, but, even worse, they aren't pleasing to God!

James 4:10 says, "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up." What does it mean to be humble? It means that you don't think more highly of yourself than you do of others, and you definitely don't think more highly of yourself than you do of God! It's one of the keys to being a successful Christian.

A prime example from the Bible is when Jesus met a woman who showed what real, godly humility looks like. When He was eating dinner in the house of a Pharisee, a woman who was known as a sinner came in and stood at His feet. She cried tears of repentance and let them fall on Jesus' feet, drying

Lesson Discussion

- What is the definition of humility? How can you apply it in your life?
- How did the woman display humility toward Jesus?
- Does Jesus reject a person who asks for forgiveness if he/she is truly humble in his/her heart?
- Can you think of someone in your life who lives out humility?

Memory Verse

Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up. James 4:10

Key Thought

Be humble with God and with other people, and you will be rewarded.

them with her hair, and kissing them. Then, she took some very expensive oil and anointed Jesus' feet with it. The Pharisee saw what was happening and thought to himself, "If He knew who this woman was, He would not let her touch Him, for she is a sinner!" Jesus knew what the Pharisee thought and answered him out loud, saying, "I came to your house and you gave me no water to wash my feet, but she has washed them with her tears and dried them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but she has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet.

This woman, whose sins are many, are forgiven, for she loves me."

Jesus then turned to the woman and said, "Thy sins are forgiven. Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace."

This woman was truly humble! She knew she had committed many sins, and she didn't think too highly of herself to clean and kiss Jesus' feet and pour expensive oil over them. She was not proud or stuck-up, and, in return, Jesus openly praised her and blessed her with peace and forgiveness.

Another illustration of this humility is Samuel Morse, an inventor and electrician. He designed the telegraph, the first machine people used to communicate over long distances. When he was receiving rewards for his accomplishments, he said,

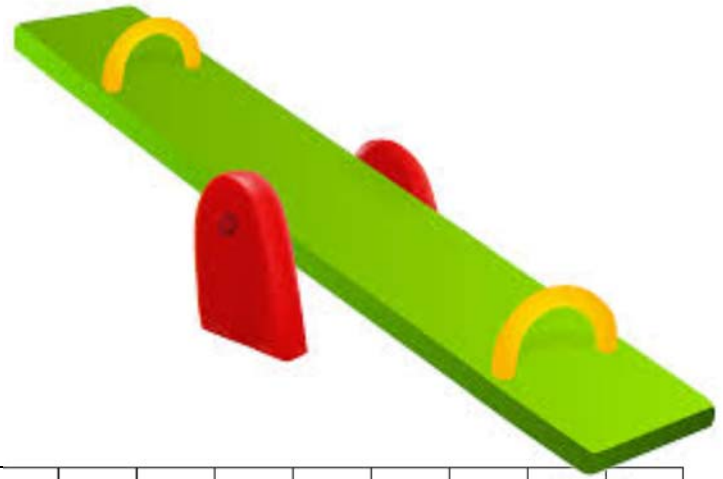
"I have made a valuable application of electricity not because I was superior to other men but solely because God, who meant it for mankind, must reveal it to someone, and He was pleased to reveal it to me."

This sounds like a man who was humble before God, and he was openly praised!

Think about your own life. Are you too proud to do the dirtiest job? Do you think you are too cool to be friends with the rejected boy or girl at school? Do you think your sins aren't bad enough that you need to ask Jesus to forgive you and tell Him you love Him? Don't be tricked into thinking you are better than other people or better than God! He loves you and created you, but, without humility, He will not accept you as His child.

Lindsey Gellenbeck

CRACK THE CODE!



2, 9, 4 13, 6, 9, 25, 16, 25, 4 25, 26, 21, 7, 23, 11

6, 10, 12, 11, 25, 7, 2 13, 10, 7, 7 3, 25

6, 5, 12, 3, 7, 25, 8 21, 24, 8 6, 25 13, 6, 9

6, 5, 12, 3, 7, 25, 11 6, 10, 12, 11, 25, 7, 2

13, 10, 7, 7 3, 25 25, 26, 21, 7, 23, 25, 8.

14:11

7, 5, 18, 25

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
21	3	17	8	25	2	19	6	10
J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
14	18	7	12	24	9	15	22	4
S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	
11	23	5	16	13	26	1	20	



HUMILITY IN ACTION

What happened when we used just the cleaner without water? Did it clean the board very well? No, it didn't! But when added to water, the cleaner did an amazing job of taking the dirt off!

We are kind of like that powder. We aren't much when you look at us all by ourselves, and we don't have much power all on our own. But when we team up with God (who is kind of like the water), we are able to do amazing things! We have to allow ourselves to disappear into Him, just like the cleaner disappeared into the water. If we are humble enough to be used by God, we will accomplish amazing things with His help!

Materials:

- A bucket of water
- Powdered household cleaner such as Ajax
 - A dirty board
 - Scrub brush

(If the weather doesn't allow for an outdoor demonstration with these objects, it can be replicated on a smaller scale for indoor demonstrations. Use old a dirty coin or something similar instead of a board.)

Directions:

- Wash the board first with just the powdered cleaner. Not much dirt will come off.
- Add the powdered cleaner to the bucket of water and scrub the board again. It will come out much cleaner!

THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ October 21, 2018

Faith and Obedience They Go Hand in Hand

Scripture Reading: Genesis 22;
1 Peter 1

We have all heard and probably memorized the verse that says, "Children obey your parents." Part

of the reason God asks us to obey our parents is so we also learn obedience to Him! He has placed some rules in our lives to keep us safely on our way to Heaven.

Did you know that obedience to those rules is part of having faith? Faith and obedience go hand in hand.

In Genesis 22, God asked Abraham to do a very hard thing. He asked him to take his only son, Isaac, to the top of the mountain and sacrifice him to God. How tragic that would have been! The Bible says that God was testing Abraham's faith. Do you know what Abraham did? He obeyed. What?! His son died on the altar on top of that mountain? No, Isaac did not die. When Abraham and Isaac got to the top of the mountain, Abraham had obeyed God so completely

Lesson Discussion

- What does obeying our parents have to do with obeying God?
- What did God ask Abraham to do?

How do you think Abraham felt about obeying?

- Did Abraham obey God completely? What is complete obedience called?
- What does God do for us when we obey completely?

Memory Verse

For so you have the true end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.

1 Peter 1:9

Key Thought

By obeying His instructions, you will show God that you have faith in His promises.

that he had already had the knife in his hand, but God provided a ram for the sacrifice instead. An angel of the Lord stopped Abraham from sacrificing his son, but Abraham was ready to obey God completely. That is called faith.

God had promised Abraham that he would be the father of many nations. That means Abraham would have so many descendants, grandsons, great grandsons, and great-great-grandsons that they could not even be counted. How was God going to fulfill this promise if He asked Abraham to slay his only son? Well, God never intended for Abraham to sacrifice Isaac. He just wanted to know that Abraham would obey Him no matter how hard of a task God asked him to complete.

We are proving our faith to God when we are willing to obey Him in everything. Faith takes work. Sometimes faith takes hard work. Sometimes God asks us to do hard things, like have a good attitude towards our parents when they get us in trouble or be willing to share our most prized possession with our brother or sister.

It is our outward obedience to God that proves the faith we have in our hearts.

In the middle east, men train Arabian horses to be fully obedient. The trainers test their horse's obedience by depriving them of water for many days and then turning them loose near water.

As the horses are about to drink, the trainer blows his whistle. If the horse has learned obedience, he will return to his trainer without drinking.

The trainer rewards the horse with water for his obedience. Because of this, the horse learns that he will not die of thirst if he obeys his trainer.

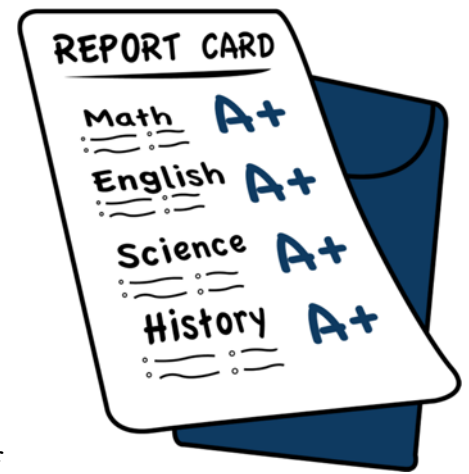
God does the same thing when we obey in faith. He rewards us with blessings we can't even imagine. Abraham's family grew and multiplied into the entire nation of Israel! In just 400 years, there were so many of them, they could not be counted. Just like the horses that are rewarded with water when they obey, God rewarded Abraham with many descendants for His faithful obedience.

In the first book of Peter, the author explains that we might face hard times, but the reward of obedience and faith in those times is the salvation of our souls. Not only will God bless our lives on earth, but He will take us to heaven if we show our faith by obedience!

Lindsey Gellenbeck

STRAIGHT A's

We want lots of things, don't we? What would you like right now that you do not have? It's a good thing we don't have everything, otherwise we might stop trying! One thing all of us would like to have is good grades. Getting good grades is hard work, isn't it? If you work very hard in school and do all your homework, your grade card might look like this one! This is a good outcome of hard work.



Wouldn't we all like to have joy in our hearts too? The Bible tells us that if we have faith in our hearts, we will also have joy! We learned today that faith is proven by obedience. A lot of people believe that Jesus is the Son of God, but they don't act like they believe it. They don't have faith. When you obey the things you believe in, then you have faith.

One of the most amazing rewards of faith and obedience is joy. God promises us joy while we live on earth and joy when we go to live with Him in Heaven.



THIS WEEK'S REPORT CARD!

Directions: Keep this paper next to your bed or on your fridge this next week. Every time you complete one of the activities below, reward yourself with a star or a sticker. Remember that obedience to your parents and God is how you will prove the faith inside your heart!

	Clean your room		Complete a chore your mom or dad gives you
	Show kindness to a lonely person at school, or any place!		Share with your siblings
	Help an elderly person		Read your Bible and pray
	Work hard on a homework assignment		Have a good attitude toward your parents
	Make your bed		Tell a friend about Jesus
	Put money in the offering at church		(Write your own!)



Scripture Reading:

1 Peter 2:19; Matthew 5:45

Have you ever had a friend tell a hurtful rumor about you? Maybe, a friend wanted to participate in an activity that you knew was wrong, and when you decided not to join in, they abandoned you for friends who were “more fun.” Perhaps you’ve even been openly made fun of for being a Christian and behaving differently than those around you. None of these things feel good when they happen. They are sad and painful to endure, and they can even discourage us in our relationship with Jesus. But, did you know that God considers pain and suffering helpful learning experiences for us? Let’s look at the Bible and see what God says about it.

The most common story in the Bible about suffering is Job. He was a rich man with many herds of livestock, a lot of land, good health, and a large family. Every day, he offered sacrifices to God, and even offered sacrifices for his children who were choosing their own

ways over God’s. He prayed that they, too, would learn to love God as he did. Does anyone remember what happened to Job? Satan saw that he was a righteous man and asked God if he could tempt Job to sin.

God gave satan permission to tempt him but told satan that Job would be faithful. God believed in Job’s love for Him.

The enemy tried many things to get Job to turn against God. He killed all of Job’s livestock, allowed his children to die, gave Job a terrible sickness, and even got Job’s friends and wife to turn against him. Did Job turn against God? No!

He suffered all that pain and heartache but remained faithful and reverent to God.

What an amazing faith! God rewarded Job with even greater wealth, restored health, and even more children.

How can all of that suffering be a good thing? Why did Job have to suffer so much pain? The Bible tells us that Job learned great respect and obedience to God through this hard time. He came to realize that God was the only true source of joy and peace. Job learned a lesson through the things from which he suffered.

No one wants to suffer in life. Pain and sadness are things that we try to avoid. In Matthew 5:45, we read about rain that falls on those who are doing wrong and those who are doing right. God didn’t promise His children that their lives would be one long, sunny day. Hard times happen to everyone.

But Jesus is like our umbrella. He is our protector and shelter from the “rain,” or hard times, in life.

Jesus Himself suffered while living on earth. Hebrews 5:8 says that even though Jesus was the very Son of God, He learned to obey because of the things from which He suffered. If you have asked Jesus into your heart, you will go through some hard times because you have chosen to be a Christian. But through the painful times, you will be able to come close to God and love Him more.

Lindsey Gellenbeck

Lesson Discussion

- Think of your life. Have you ever suffered pain because you are a Christian?
 - What did Job learn through his pain and suffering?
 - What does the Bible say about suffering?
 - If we are trying to live for God, where will we go when we begin to suffer?

Memory Verse

Though he were a Son,
yet learned he obedience
by the things which he
suffered; Hebrews 5:8

Key Thought

We shy away from pain
and suffering, but God
wants to teach us
wonderful lessons during
the hard times we go
through.

WORD SEARCH!

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

Faithful
Hard
Job
Lessons

Obedience
Pain
Protector
Respect

Rumor
Sadness
Suffer
Umbrella

Wealth

OH, LORD, LET ME BE A POTATO

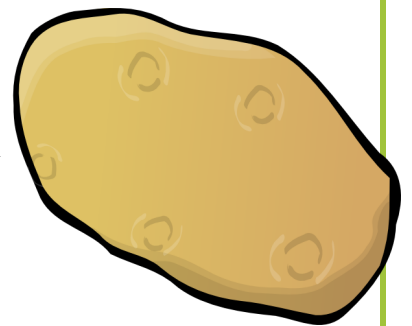
Materials:

- One raw egg and one boiled egg
- One raw potato and one boiled potato

Directions:

Show the class the raw egg and raw potato first. Discuss the characteristics of each (is it hard or soft inside?). Read the following excerpt and then pass around the boiled egg (peeled) and the boiled potato. Discuss how the boiling water changed each piece of food and how it applies to their lives.

While my husband Frank and I were living in Pakistan many years ago, our six-month-old baby died. An old Punjabi who heard of our grief came to comfort us. "A tragedy like this is similar to being plunged into boiling water," he explained., and "if you are an egg, your affliction will make you hard-boiled and unresponsive. If you are a potato, you will emerge soft and pliable, resilient and adaptable." It may sound funny to God, but there have been times when I have prayed, "O Lord, let me be a potato."



THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ November 4, 2018



My Heart Struck Me A Matter of Conscience

Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 24:1-7;
1 Timothy 4:2

Does anyone remember the story about King Saul and David? King Saul was anointed as the first king of Israel, but he was not faithful to the Lord. Because of his disobedience, Samuel anointed David instead. King Saul was jealous, angry, and hateful toward David, although David had never treated Saul with anything but kindness and respect. If you've heard or read this story before, you'll remember that Saul spent much time and energy seeking David out to kill him which caused David to flee for his life.

How do you suppose David felt about being hunted down by the king? Surely, thoughts must have come to him such as this: *"I have done nothing to deserve such terrible treatment! The Lord should strike down King Saul for his cruelty and hatred. I am completely innocent!"*

In his humanity, David could not have enjoyed the situation. However, he clung to God and trusted him.

Lesson Discussion

- Where does our conscience come from? What does it tell us to do?
- Do you think King Saul's conscience told him not to seek David to kill him?

- Why do you think David's conscience told him not to kill King Saul?

- Take turns describing a time when your conscience struck you. Did you choose to listen, or did you ignore it?

Memory Verse

And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offense toward God, and toward men. Acts 24:16

Key Thought

Our conscience is a gift from God that leads us away from poor choices and toward godly decisions.

Finally, David had the opportunity to end it all. King Saul had three thousand men searching for him while David hid in a cave with his own men. As the search wore on, Saul came into the very cave in which David hid to rest. David's men said to him, "This is the day the Lord delivers your enemy into your hand! Kill the king while you have the chance." What a temptation! As soon as King Saul died, David would be the king, and, in that moment, he had the chance to bring that about.

David crept forward with his sword, ready to end the king's life. But, just as the king's garment tore under the blade, David's heart struck him. His conscience told him that it was not right that he kill the king.

Your conscience is a gift from God. It is that inner voice that directs you and tells you the difference between right and wrong.

Think about when your mom or dad tells you to clean your room, and, instead of cleaning, you sit down to read your favorite book. Inside, you can feel a twinge of something unpleasant and uncomfortable. Perhaps your friends are spreading unkind rumors about another person, and, in your heart, you feel a heaviness because you know gossiping is hurtful and wrong. These situations are examples of when your conscience directs you toward the right decisions—decisions with which God is pleased.

In 1 Timothy 4, the author warns about those who will depart from the faith in the end times. He describes the people, saying, "...having their conscience seared with a hot iron..." When you burn your skin bad enough, it kills all the nerves, leaving only dead, unfeeling flesh behind. Your body no longer registers pain in that area. You might slice the end of your finger off and never know it until you saw the blood!

Imagine what kinds of terrible decisions you might make if you consistently silenced the voice inside you that told you when you were making poor choices.

What a tragedy your life would turn out to be.

Next time you feel your heart strike you from within, remember that God gifted you with a conscience because He desires you to have a clear and perfect conscience. Only by faithfully following His ways can we keep our consciences clear.

Lindsey Gellenbeck

MATCH THE VERSES!

But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ.

Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly.

Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:

But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

Hebrews 13:18

2 Corinthians 4:2

1 Titus 1:5

1 Corinthians 8:12

Hebrews 10:22

EXPIRED LICENSE

When Sargent Clay Bishop, of the Hawkins, Texas, police department opened his wallet the other day, he noticed his driver's license had expired. Embarrassed at having caught himself red-handed, he had no alternative. He calmly and deliberately pulled out his ticket book and wrote himself a citation. Then, Bishop took the ticket to the city judge who fined him five dollars. "How could I give a ticket to anyone else for an expired license in the future if I didn't cite myself?" Bishop asked.





Junior Sunday School ■ November 11, 2018

Good News!



Scripture Reading:

Matthew 28:19

Do you love Jesus? Have you asked Him to live in your heart, and do you do your best to faithfully follow His commandments?

If you can answer “yes” to these questions, you have cause for celebration! You are a Christian—a believer and a follower of Christ, the Savior of all mankind. There is so much joy and peace that is found in Him!

But did you know that being a Christian is not just about how wonderful and joyful it makes you feel? There is so much more to the story!

Think about Paul. He is one of the main “characters” we read about in the New Testament and had an amazing salvation story. God Himself met Paul on the road to Damascus and directly addressed his sinful ways. From that moment forward, Paul was a changed man—so much so, that he changed his name from

Memory Verse

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth! Isaiah 52:7

Key Thought

God can use you, even at a young age, to spread the Gospel. Sharing salvation with others is part of your job as a Christian!

Lesson Discussion

- Can you recall some of the things Paul went through in his quest to spread the Gospel?
- How is his mission to tell people about Jesus affecting your life?
- If one man's life (Paul's) can be so powerful, how much do you think God can do with

an “ordinary” person like you or me?

- Why is it so important to spend time reading the Bible and praying?

Saul to Paul! Does the Bible’s account of Paul end on the road to Damascus? No! We read about him throughout almost the entire remainder of the New Testament. Paul took the salvation he so joyfully received from God and began spreading the Gospel. He wrote thirteen of the New Testament books—letters to different churches and people in need of encouragement.

The rest of his life was dedicated to telling people about Jesus, his beloved savior.

Paul’s story of spreading the word so fully is amazing and not very common. But, did you know that what you can do to spread the Gospel is just as important to God as what Paul did? God calls every single one of His children to share the good news! In Matthew 28:19, it says, “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost...”

This is the job of a Christian—not only to enjoy the benefits of salvation, but to point as many people to Christ as he/she can!

You might be wondering how you can spread the Gospel. Has God called you to be a preacher, Sunday school teacher, missionary, or song leader? Probably not, but He might one day! In the meantime, you can show those around you Jesus’ love by being a faithful friend, obeying your parents, working hard at school, cheerfully doing your chores, and being brave enough to tell your friends about God. Even the people in your own house, who might already be Christians, will benefit from your example of salvation!

Take time every day to read from your Bible and have quiet conversations with God. Your alone time with Him will give you the knowledge, desire, and courage to be bold in your faith and strong in your beliefs! It will make following His ways so much easier; and when you get a chance to tell someone you know about His love, the excitement it brings will surpass anything you’ve ever felt!

Some of Jesus’s last words to His disciples were about spreading the Gospel. You might think what you can do or say won’t make a big difference, and you might never see the result of your efforts. But, God will use you in amazing ways if you are faithful and willing to share the good news!

Lindsey Gellenbeck

PAUL'S MISSION TRIPS



Can you find the names of some of the cities Paul visited on his missionary journeys? How many of the names do you recognize as names of his books in the Bible?

Antioch	Thessalonica
Cyprus	Athens
Derbe	Corinth
Perga	Cenchrea
Galatia	Ephesus
Troas	Caesarea
Neapolis	Macedonia
Philippi	Jerusalem

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 N Q S L Q O I N Z L L K Z I Z G I A B U M O U V V H K U Y D



INVITE A FRIEND TO SUNDAY SCHOOL!

We read in our lesson that Jesus instructed that we go into the world and preach the gospel. (*Remove one piece of candy from the bag.*) Imagine this piece of candy represents the first child to come to Sunday school. He loved it so much that he or she went home and asked a friend to come the next week. (*Remove a second piece of candy and lay it next to the first.*) The next week, there are two children in Sunday school. That week, they both went home, and each invited another friend. (*Remove two more pieces and lay them next two the first two.*) On the fourth week, each of those four people brought a friend, and now there are eight children in Sunday school! (*Lay four more pieces out for a total of eight.*) Imagine this goes on for a couple more weeks. (*Remove candy as you speak, and when you reach 64, simply dump the rest of the bag onto the table.*) Eight children turn into sixteen, and sixteen into thirty-two. Thirty-two turns into

Materials:

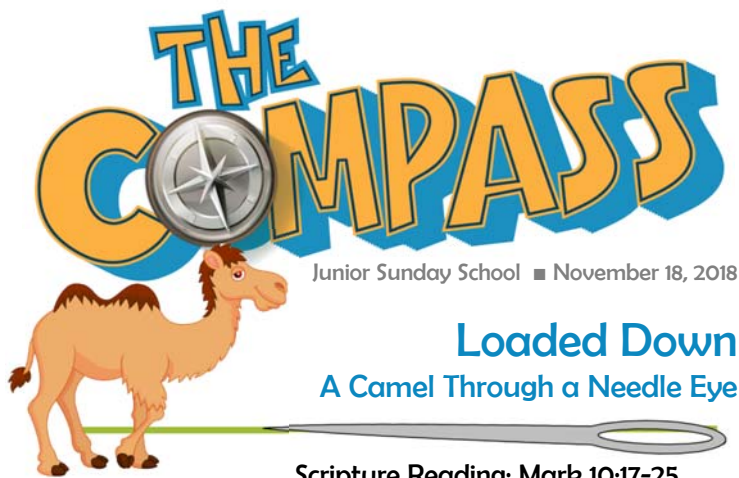
128 pieces of penny candy in a bag (or something like unpopped popcorn or pennies, but candy is more impactful and can be used as an after-class treat)

sixty-four, and sixty-four into 128!

How long did it take for the Sunday school class to grow from one child to 128 children? Eight weeks! That's all!

This illustration is meant to show us how easy it is for God to multiply our efforts at spreading the Gospel. Everyone may take two pieces of candy. Enjoy one for yourself and take the other to a friend who you know needs Jesus. When you give him/her the candy, take the opportunity to preach the Gospel! God will reward you!

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 68, Quarter 4, Week 6. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck. 2018.



Scripture Reading: Mark 10:17-25

What is the first thing you woke up thinking about this morning? Was it breakfast? Maybe, it was your memory verse for Sunday school. Or perhaps, it was your very favorite doll, game, sports equipment, or toy. Did you know that Jesus talked about not loving riches and possessions more than loving Him? Thinking about something other than Sunday school or God first thing in the morning doesn't mean you have sinned, but let's take a minute to look at what's important.

We have probably all read the story of the rich young ruler in Mark 10:17-25. He came to Jesus and asked what he needed to do to inherit eternal life. Jesus quoted a few commandments, and the young man replied, "I have obeyed all of those laws since I was a boy!" Jesus knew what this young man loved, and He called upon him to give it up. Jesus said, "Sell whatever you own and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then, come, take up your cross and follow me."

Lesson Discussion

- Why was the rich young ruler so grieved to learn that Jesus wanted

him to sell his belongings?

- Jesus doesn't necessarily ask us to sell our things, but where should our belongings fall on the priority list?
- When you buy something new, does it satisfy you? What does it make you want?
- Does keeping your physical space uncluttered help you keep your focus on

Jesus? What are some practical ways to "declutter" your life?

Memory Verse

For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Matthew 6:21

Key Thought

Having a lot of "things" takes our focus off of Christ. It is easier to love Him first when our lives are not over-cluttered with belongings.

Jesus asked the rich young ruler to give up his money, his belongings, his possessions, and status.

Do you remember what the young ruler did? He left Jesus feeling grieved and sad because he owned many things. In the end, he just couldn't give up the things he owned and loved. What do you suppose the end of that young man was? Did he make it into heaven? Jesus commented to his disciples, "How difficult it is for a man who has wealth to enter into the kingdom of God!" Later, He said,

"It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God."

You might be wondering how all of this applies to you. Most of you probably don't have jobs or make your own money yet, but this principle applies to your life! It is so easy for us to accumulate piles of stuff, and it's easy for that stuff to take our focus off of Jesus and our spiritual walk with Him. You have a magazine subscription that you look forward to reading every month, and the editions pile up on your desk. A new video or computer game is released, and you just can't stop playing until you've won every level. You see a new accessory to your favorite doll, sports set, or lego collection. Everyone at school is wearing this cool, new sweater style, and you just don't feel good enough until you get one! Meanwhile, your closet, desk, toy box, bedroom floor, bookshelf, and garage space fill up to overflowing with things that you just "have to have."

It's not the money or the "things" Jesus was worried about. He was worried about His followers loving Him first, above all else. A commonly quoted verse in Matthew 6:21 says, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Think about this verse in a literal sense. Do you treasure your belongings above everything? If so, your heart belongs to your riches.

Do you treasure God above all else? If so, your heart is safe in His keeping.

Jesus wants you to make it to heaven, so, like the rich young ruler, He's asking you to put your "riches" behind you and follow Christ.

Lindsey Gellenbeck

17 9 11 17 7 11 4 5 10 9 11 17

18 12 4 10 9 1 18 17 7 4 4

14 5 11 26 9 18 7 11 12 18 21 12 9 16

22 12 11 17 18 12 4 10 9 1

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J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
20	25	4	19	14	5	15	24	1
S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	
18	11	6	10	22	8	23	13	

TAKE HOME CHALLENGE

Take this lesson home and talk to your parents about it. Spend time in prayer with them and ask God to show you how to put Him above your belongings and to show you some things that you could eliminate from your life. If your parents give their permission, go through your room/toys and make a thrift-store donation box of things you feel like are distracting you from God.



LOADED DOWN

Ask for a volunteer. Tell them to put their arms out in front of them. Take the pizza box and ask them, "Is there anything ungodly about pizza?" Of course, they will say no. Place the pizza box across their outstretched arms. Continue in the same manner with all of the other items you have brought in for this object talk. Soon the volunteer's arms will be loaded with many different items. Tell them, "Now the fun begins!" Tell the volunteer to try to open the door and leave the classroom without dropping (or setting down) any of the materials that they are currently carrying. Next, have them try to crawl under a table without dropping (or setting down) any of the materials. Most importantly, have them look up your current memory verse in the Bible, without dropping the materials.

Jesus was not saying that rich people cannot enter the kingdom of God, but He was warning us not to let the material things of this world become more important than our relationship with God. The items our volunteer carried were not evil or ungodly, but they did make it hard to do other tasks. In the same way, we can keep ourselves so busy that we do not have time for God. We need to put God first and not allow other interests to push God out of our lives.

Materials:

- Pizza box
- Several toys
- Large ball, cup
- Video game cases
- Sports magazines
 - Bible

(Be creative with the list of materials above. These are only examples.)



Junior Sunday School ■ November 25, 2018



Walking in Love: The Three C's Creation. Commandments. Choice.

And this is love, that we walk after
his commandments. 2 John 1:6

Have you ever bought a new pair of tennis shoes and then tried them out by seeing how fast you could run? Shoes protect our feet from rocks, sharp objects, and all other rough surfaces. Our next three lessons will not be about walking in shoes, but rather *walking in love* and what that means.

It is no secret that everyone needs love—it has been proven!

Love was the reason God created men and women in the first place. He created a beautiful earth with green trees, blue oceans, and thousands of amazing animals, but it wasn't enough for this simple reason.

God is love. He is the definition of love.

The trees, oceans, and animals could not love God back the way He desired. So He created Adam and then Eve. They had the ability to love Him back in a way animals and trees could not.

Memory Verse

And walk in love, as Christ
also hath loved us.

Ephesians 5:2

Key Thought

If we say we love God with
our mouths, we will prove
that love by choosing to
walk in His
commandments.

Lesson Discussion

- Do you believe—really believe—God created YOU?
- How did Jesus prove His love?
- How about you?

Talk about specific ways

you can prove your love for God.

- Is it always easy to choose to do right to prove your love? Do you sometimes fail and do the wrong thing? What is the answer? Stay down or keep walking?

God walked and talked with Adam and Eve in the beautiful garden. He loved them and they loved Him back. With God's love also came a *commandment*. They could eat the fruit from every tree except one. God wanted to see if they really loved Him enough to choose Him more than anything else.

Fast forward thousands of years! God also created you and me. Yes, you came from your parents. You might look like them and have some of their mannerisms. But it was GOD who breathed life into you. Your life is not a random accident! Spilling milk all over the floor and then having to clean it up with a rag is an accident!

God created you ON PURPOSE and craves your attention and love.

Love is more than just a fuzzy, warm blanket of nice feelings and words however. It requires something from us! I can say with my mouth, "Mom, I love you." But I prove that love when I, with a cheerful attitude, obediently take out the trash, clean my room when asked, or obey other instructions she gives me. Words are easy to say. If someone says they are your friend but says bad things about you to someone else, are they a true friend? Or, did they just form the words with their mouth?

In the same way, we can say we love God, but we prove that love Him by *walking in his commandments*.

Walking in His commandments simply means we obey the words He left us, words which are recorded in the Bible.

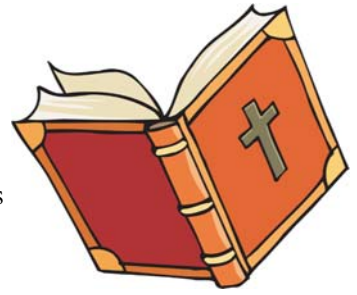
Jesus didn't just ask us to "walk in love" without first doing the same Himself. He proved His love. The hard way. The expensive way. He didn't throw out cheap words of love like feathers in the wind. He walked up the hill of Calvary with a cross on His back. He chose to die for you and me.

TO SUM IT UP: If all the ocean waters were ink, if every stalk of wheat was a pen, and if all the sky was paper, there would not be enough water, ink, or space to write about the love of God. It is bigger than we can imagine. He created us. He gave us commandments and asked us to walk in them. He then gave us the choice of whether or not we would return His love.

Sister Julie Elwell

WALKING IN LOVE

Look up the verses and fill in the blanks.



1. I have made the earth, and _____ man upon it: I, even my hands, have stretched out the heavens, and all their host have I commanded. **Isaiah 45:12**
 2. For this is the love of God, that we _____: and his commandments are not grievous. **1 John 5:3**
 3. _____ you this day whom ye will serve. **Joshua 24:15**
 4. And when _____ was ninety years old and nine, the Lord appeared to _____, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect. **Genesis 17:1**
 5. _____ was just a man and perfect in his generations, and _____ walked with God. **Genesis 6:9**
 6. And this is _____, that we walk after his commandments. **2 John 1:6**
 7. He that saith he _____ in him [God] ought himself also to walk, even as he walked. **1 John 2:6**
- Answers (not in order): Abide, Abram x2, choose, created, keep his commandments, love, Noah x2

ORDER BRINGS BEAUTY

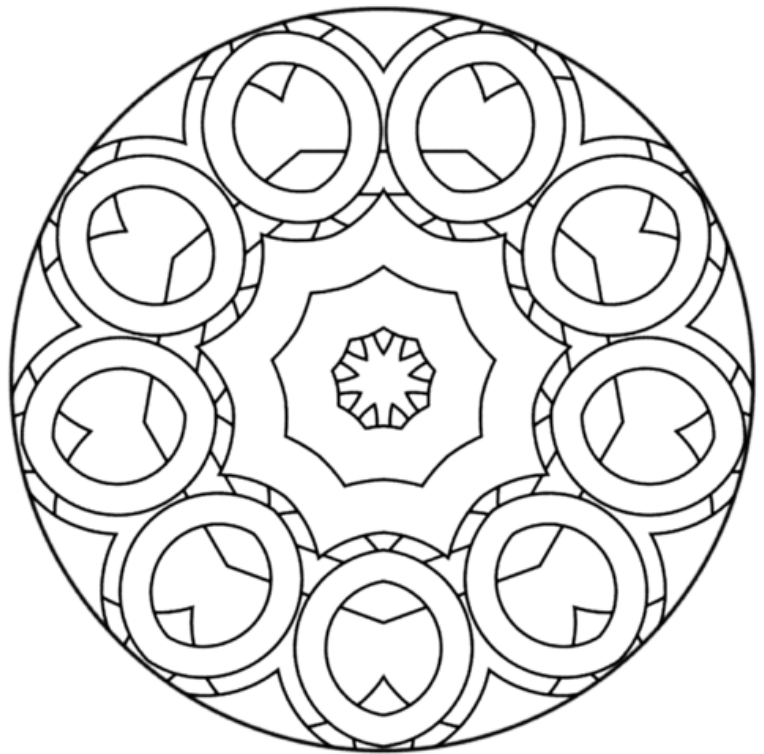
Materials:

- Colored pencils

Directions:

Choose different colored pencils to shade in each section of this Mandala design.

Application: Some people might say there are too many “rules” to living for God. But, try to think of it a different way. In order to create an organized and nice-looking colored design, you have to color **INSIDE** the lines. Did anyone scribble different colors all over their page? (*That is what small children do who have not “learned” to color.*) In the same way, God’s commandments are designed to bring order to our lives. We are unique individuals, and God does allow us choices—just like different students will choose different colors for each space of this design. He simply asks us to walk in his commandments because He loves us. He wants to make our lives beautiful as we stay within the boundaries of those commandments. (*Love God, love your neighbor, do not lie, do not steal, accept Jesus as the only way of salvation, live humbly, and do right, to name a few.*)





Junior Sunday School ■ December 2, 2018



The Golden Rule Treating Others in a Golden

Serving God is not complicated. It is not a tangled or tricky maze

where paths run into dead ends and you become confused trying to find your way through. If you have ever walked through a cornfield maze, you understand!

God gave Moses approximately 600 laws recorded in the first five books of the Bible: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus and Deuteronomy. That is a LOT of laws to remember! When Jesus came, however, He boiled them all down to two simple commandments.

1. Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, with all thy mind, and with all thy strength.

2. Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

Sounds easy enough, right?! Maybe it is not as easy as it might seem on the surface, but it is not complicated to remember! Love God with everything in you and treat other people the way you want to be treated.

The second commandment is known as the GOLDEN RULE.

You will not find the exact words “Golden Rule” in the Bible, but what it means is this: it is excellent and is of great value!

Memory Verse

For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even this; Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. Galatians 5:14

Key Thought

Treat others exactly the way you want to be treated.

Lesson Discussion

- What is so golden about the Golden Rule? Can you recite it?
- Who spoke the Golden Rule and where is it located in the Bible?
- How do you feel when you treat others the way they should be treated? How do you feel when you treat them the way you feel they deserve?
- Why should we treat others well?

The exact words were given by Jesus on the Sermon on the Mount in the gospel of Matthew and are as follows: “Therefore *all things* whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and prophets.” In simple terms, this means that in *everything* we do, we should treat other people the same way we want to be treated—this is the main idea of all 613 of the Old Testament laws.

Below are some great examples of the Golden Rule in practice:

- If you don’t want to be lied to or deceived, don’t lie to or deceive others.
- If you want to be treated with mercy, then be merciful to others.
- If you don’t want others to be rude to you, then do not be rude to them.
- If you want others to treat you kindly, then treat them kindly.
- If you want to be forgiven when you mess up, then forgive others when they mess up.
- If you don’t want others to interrupt you while you are talking, then don’t interrupt them.
- If you want others to follow through on their promises to you, then follow through on your promises to them.
- If you want people to pay you what they owe you, then pay others what you owe them.

These are just a few examples! Can you think of more?

The Golden Rule is basically switching places with other people in our minds and then treating them as if we were the ones walking in their shoes.

Is it always easy to put other people before ourselves? We tend to be selfish and to want what *we* want! If our siblings annoy us, many times we *want* to be annoying back. If someone treats us rudely, many times we *feel* like being rude back.

But, living the Golden Rule is not acting based on our feelings. It is realizing that every single person, whether we like them or not, is just as important to God as we are.

It is realizing that every person deserves to be treated with love. It is treating others with a heart of love in spite of our feelings. To be able to live out the Golden Rule and love our neighbor, we first have to be following the FIRST commandment, to love God. We will talk about that one next week!

Sister Julie Elwell

BREAK THE CODE!

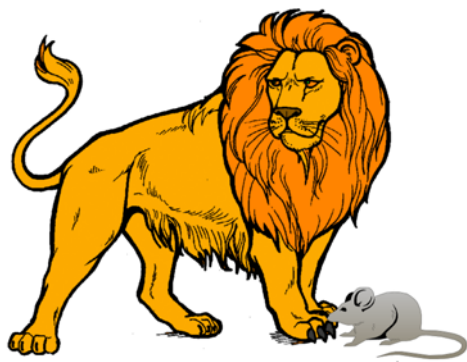
USE THE FOLLOWING GRID TO BREAK THE CODE. LETTER "H" WOULD BE 32, "P" WOULD BE 14.

41 53 15 43 54 53 53 54 32 51 34 44 11 44

55 53 15 35 53 15 23 41 32 11 25 51 54 32 51 33

41 53 15 43 54 53 55 53 15

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4	D	I	N	S	X	
5	E	J	O	T	Y	



THE LION AND THE MOUSE

PEOPLE WILL OFTEN TREAT YOU AS YOU TREAT THEM

A mouse woke up the big lion. As the lion was about to eat him, the mouse protested, "Please forgive me and let me go, and I will help you someday." The lion agreed to this; although, he laughed at the idea that a little mouse could help him. One day, the lion was caught in a hunter's net from which he could not free himself. The mouse climbed into the trap and gnawed away the rope with his sharp teeth, thus allowing the lion to escape. The mouse then said, "As you helped me, so I also helped you."

LI-LI AND THE MOTHER-IN-LAW

GOLD CAN TRANSFORM RELATIONSHIPS

A girl named Li-li got married and lived with her mother-in-law. Since the mother-in-law was difficult to live with and rude, Li-li decided to kill her. Li-li went to her doctor to get slow-acting poison. The doctor said, "Just so that people don't suspect you, treat your mother-in-law very nice, as you'd like to be treated." So, as she slipped a little poison into her food each day, she was nice to her mother-in-law. A funny thing happened: the two started getting along much better and became best friends. So Li-li went back to the doctor and said, "I now love my mother-in-law and don't want to kill her; please give me something to counteract the poison." The doctor replied, "I gave you ordinary vitamins; the only poison was in your attitude."



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Volume 68, Quarter 4, Week 9. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck. 2018.



Love God will All Your Heart An Unfair Trade!



And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.

When my son was in grade school, he came home happy! He made what he thought was a very smart trade! The bag of fruit snacks he had taken to school that morning looked so good to another girl that she gave him \$20 for it! I, indeed, also thought it was a “good” trade, although I wondered about the fairness of it. After all, this girl could have gone to the store and bought two or three boxes of fruit snacks with several bags in each box for less!

Does God make “good trades” or does He take everything we have when He requires us to love Him completely?

Memory Verse

My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways.

Proverbs 23:26

Key Thought

God does not want “part” of our love. He asks for *all* or it.

Lesson Discussion

- Can you think of “trades” you have made with your friends?
- How much of our heart does God ask for? Can we “sort of” serve God? Why or why not?
- In the two parables Jesus gave, was it smart for the men to have sold everything they had?
- What do we need in order to love God with all our heart? (Ironically, HE gives us the new heart we need in order to have the ability to love Him completely.) Who gets the “better” end of the deal?
- Do we owe all our hearts and lives to God? Why?

Let’s think about these parables Jesus gave: He said the kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hid in a field. When a man found this treasure he, with great joy, sold everything he had and bought the field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant man looking for valuable pearls. When he found one pearl more valuable than all the rest, he sold everything he had so he could buy it. Were these men left with *nothing*?

A rich young ruler came to Jesus and asked, “What must I do to be saved?” He was a moral man and listed for Jesus all the commandments he had kept from the time he was a young man. Jesus looked at him and “loved him,” but said, “You must do one more thing. Go sell whatever you have, give to the poor, and then you shall have treasure in heaven.” Does the *selling all* part sound familiar? In this case, the young ruler was sad at Jesus’ words for he had great riches he was not willing to part with.

He loved Jesus, but he loved his riches more.

Yes, we have give up some things in order to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength! We must choose to live differently from the world. We must give our untrue, impure or bad thoughts to God and stop thinking them. We do not tell bad jokes or stick around when our friends start acting in ways that are bad. We choose to bite our tongue when we get annoyed with our siblings. We are cheerfully obedient when our parents ask us to do something. We are respectful and listen in church. We take time to memorize Bible verses and pray. Can you think of others?

But. What does God give us in return for the things we “give up” in order to serve Him? He promises to be a forever best friend. He gives us peace when we are scared. He takes away the guilt of our sin. He gives us comfort when we are sad. He gives us strength when we don’t feel strong. He gives us joy when we feel sad. He helps us know what choices to make. Psalms 68:19 says it this way, “Blessed be the Lord, who *daily loadeth* us with benefits.”

The things we give up in order to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength is really an unfair trade! We receive FAR more from God than we are asked to give!

Sister Julie Elwell

I LOVE...



God does not “take away” things we love unless they are things that take us away from Him. He simply asks us to love Him MORE. We cannot “sort of” love God. Jesus said, “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.” Think about the things you love! God gave us the ability to love in the first place, and, most likely, the things you have listed are okay. Just make sure that your heart is not divided!

Make a list of all the things you enjoy doing—sports, hobbies, activities. Include people you love.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____



BOWL OF GOODIES!

Hand out a bowl and spoon to each student. Hold out the disgusting food and ask them to take some and eat it. Try to convince them. Say, “As your teacher, it would really make me happy if you would obey me and eat this.” Allow them to to “twist” their arm. Finally give in and move to the fruit/candy bowls. Allow each child to choose two favorite fruits/candy and given them a scoop of each.

Materials:

Bowls, spoons, assorted fruit/candy, and a piece of disgusting food (*mixed vegetables, cooked liver, or some other “undesirable” food*)



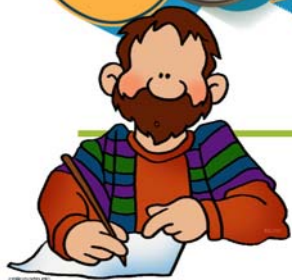
While they are eating tell them what your favorite foods are and why you like them. Explain that just like them, you don’t like liver or mixed vegetables (or whatever the disgusting food is). When we love something or someone, it is because there is something about them that we want and enjoy. We don’t love something simply because we are forced to or someone tells us we *have* to. God is the same way. He does not force our love because then it would not be true love. If we don’t love him with our emotions, our choices, and our passion, then we are just pretending. God wants us to choose to love Him with all our heart and soul.

make faces. Try

THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ December 16, 2018

Perfect Words



Scripture Reading: Matthew 12:1-14

Have you ever played the familiar “Telephone Game”? Players must sit in a circle or stand in a straight line. They need to be close enough that whispering is possible, but not so close that players, other than those directly to their right, can hear each other whisper. The first person in the line or circle whispers a word or phrase into the ear of the person sitting or standing to their right. *(For example: A bunch of yellow bananas launched on a blue boat.)* The players whisper the phrase to their neighbors until it reaches the last player in line. The last player then says the word or phrase out loud so everyone can hear how much it changed from the first whisper at the beginning of the circle or line. What tends to happen to the original phrase spoken? As it is repeated many times over, it changes. People hear wrong. They repeat wrong. They don’t actively listen. They add or take away from the original phrase. *(Try playing and see what happens!)*

Memory Verse

You shall not add to the Word which I command you, neither shall you take away from it.

Deuteronomy 4:2 (MKIV)

Key Thought

We cannot improve the perfect words of God with our own ideas.

Lesson Discussion

- Do you ever want to “change” the instructions your parents or teachers give you? Just a little bit? Give an example and talk about *why* you want to change the instruction.
- Talk about why messages change and get mixed up in the Telephone Game.
- How important is it that we not change the words God has given? Did the Pharisees do this? Give two examples.
- Are we smart enough to always know what God’s words mean? If we don’t know, what should we do?

Did you know that many different men were inspired by God to write the 66 books of the Bible? Unlike the Telephone Game, however, the words amazingly contain no contradictions.

The ideas and messages of every book from Genesis to Revelation agree with each other! The problem is, many people say they don’t believe the Bible or don’t like certain parts of it. They may try to add their own ideas or subtract the things they don’t like.

The Pharisees were a group of Jewish rulers who lived during the time of Jesus. They were determined not to break any of the laws that God had given to Moses. This sounds good on the surface, but the problem was, they had added hundreds of their own unnecessary, man-made rules to “help” people keep the law. If people broke one of *their* rules, they felt that person was also breaking one of God’s rules. They lost sight of what God wanted in the first place and that was a loving relationship.

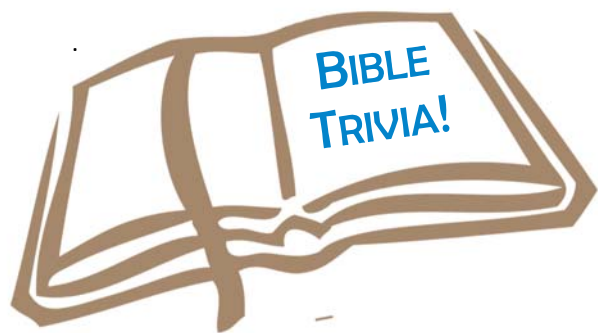
One Sabbath day, Jesus and His disciples walked through fields of corn. They were hungry, so they began to pick the ears of corn and eat. While God’s law to Moses was to not work on the Sabbath so the people might rest and honor Him, the Pharisees added their own interpretation to this law. They claimed Jesus and His disciples were breaking the Sabbath by working *(picking ears of corn)*.

Almost immediately afterward, Jesus entered their synagogue where there was a man with a withered hand. Eager again to accuse Jesus of breaking the Sabbath, they accusingly asked, “Is it lawful—is it okay—to heal on the Sabbath?”

Jesus pointed out later that all the Pharisees did by adding these man-made rules were to add heavy burdens to the backs of the people. The thing is, the words of God were meant to bring us peace, and God wants a relationship with us and wants to give us eternal life. He doesn’t want to make our lives miserable! He has given us the words of the Bible and the Holy Spirit to help us know exactly what He means by the words He has spoken.

Proverbs 30:5 tells us that “every word of God is pure.” We cannot randomly come up with a “more perfect” way to live than what God has already given.

Sister Julie Elwell



Did you know statistics report the Bible has far outsold any other book with 3.9 billion copies sold in the last 50 years? The Bible has been translated into over 2,000 languages. It contains history, entertaining stories, poetry,

תנ"ך קדוש

"Holy Bible" in Hebrew

Βίβλος

"Holy Bible" in Greek

philosophy, and personal letters. It is made up of 66 books starting with Genesis and ending with Revelation. The first 39 books of the Bible are referred to as the Old Testament and were originally written in the Hebrew language—these books were written before Jesus was born. The last 27 books are referred to as the New Testament and were originally written in Greek; they were written after Jesus' birth. The oldest book of the Bible is Job, written 400 years before Moses.

The following story gives us a good picture of why we can't mix the pure word of God with our own ideas: A farmer went each week to the Farmers' Market to sell cottage cheese and apple butter made on his farm. He carried these in two large tubs and used two long-handled spoons to ladle the cottage cheese or apple butter into smaller containers the customer brought. One day, he got to the market and discovered he had forgotten one of his spoons. He felt he had no choice but to use the one he had for both the cottage cheese and the apple butter. As the day passed, the farmer dipped first into the cottage cheese and then into the apple butter. Before long, he couldn't tell which was which.

PURE WATER

Materials:

- A pitcher of water
 - Cups
- Cooking oil

Fill the cups part way with water and ask the children to drink them. Ask them what they drank and let them answer. (*Water*). Talk about how water is good for us. Ask them to pretend that what they were drinking was the faith their mother, father, pastor, Sunday



School teacher, and Christian friends have shared with them. Faith is filled with love, forgiveness, hope, peace, joy, and all the other good things God gives to us. Then add clear oil to the cups and fill them up again with water. Ask the children to taste the new drink. (*Many will not try it and that is alright.*) Ask them if they like the taste. Explain that the water now has something added that it doesn't need. In the same way, some people try and add something to the Word of God that it doesn't need. It is perfect and pure just as it is. We cannot improve on what God taught us. When we try, it makes it bad.

Application/Challenge: God loves us. He gave us His pure word to give us a good life. Do not view the Bible as a boring book or, even worse, just a book of rules to make our lives miserable. Jesus said He came to bring us living water—water that will quench our heart-thirst and give us everlasting life.

THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ December 23, 2018



The Invisible Gift

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-20

It is almost Christmas Day. How would you feel if your parents gave you “invisible gifts” for Christmas—gifts you couldn’t see and had to just pretend to open?

We like things we can appreciate with the five senses God gave us. (*Can you name them?*)

Christmas is enjoyable because of what we see with our eyes

touch with our hands, *smell* with our noses, and *taste* with our mouths, and *hear* with our ears—things like colorful lights, presents wrapped in pretty paper, warm sugar cookies, and the beautiful music of Christmas carols.

Before we can talk about this invisibility, let’s must remember the real reason we celebrate Christmas:

Many hundreds of years ago, a very real gift was sent from God to earth. Mary was a young mother, probably about 14 to 16 years old. She and the man she was to marry, Joseph, had

Memory Verse

The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Romans 6:23

Key Thought

Jesus is the best gift we can receive.

Lesson Discussion

- What gifts do you want for Christmas?
- How would you feel if you received an

“invisible” gift?

- Who/what was the greatest gift God sent to us from heaven?
- Name five details from the story of Jesus’s birth.
- Jesus could “seem” a little more boring than the presents you receive on Christmas. Is He? Talk about how different your life would be without the gift of Jesus.

entered Bethlehem after a long journey. So many people were in town that they could find no place to sleep. The inns were full. In desperation, Joseph found a simple stall with hay. Perhaps the cows and sheep were jostling for space around them. No sleep was to be had, however.

That night, Mary gave birth to the Son of God—in the form of a tiny baby boy. His name was Jesus.

She wrapped Him up tightly and placed her new, sweet baby boy in a manger, a box full of hay from which cattle normally ate.

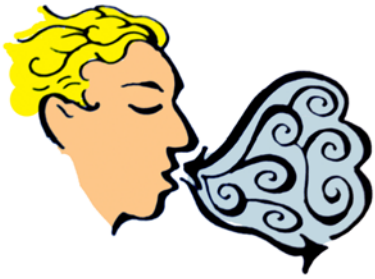
The angels of heaven announced Jesus’ birth. Shepherds on a hillside not far away were watching over their sheep that night. All of a sudden, they were startled out of their normal routine. They were scared and their hearts began beating very hard. A bright angel appeared in the dark sky and said to them, “Do not be afraid. 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.” Suddenly, there were many angels filling the night sky. They sang, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”

Is Jesus invisible to us? Jesus’s birth and the announcement of his birth was not an *invisible gift*—at least not to those who physically witnessed His birth and saw the angels in the sky. A short 30 years later, Jesus was not *invisible* to the people His hand touched and healed. He was not *invisible* to the crowds who gathered on the hillside to hear Him preach. He was *not invisible* to the disciples who ate with Him, slept with Him, and followed Him. It *was not an invisible cross* on which He hung, and it was not an *invisible tomb* in which they laid Him.

It was not an invisible angel that rolled the stone away, and it was not an invisible Jesus that rose and went back to heaven.

The truth is, though, that we *can’t* see Jesus with our natural eyes or hear Him with our natural ears today. Does that make the brightly wrapped presents we have in front of us more exciting than the “invisible-to-us” gift of Jesus? Is He really invisible? (*Read on for an answer*).

Sister Julie Elwell



BREATHE DEEP!

Have you ever stopped to think that on every side of you is one of the most wonderful things God has created? It is above you, below you, and to either side of you. It is with there when you wake up and when you go to sleep. It is in your house and outside. It is invisible. It is a gift of God, and you can't live without it. What is it?

Answer: It is the AIR you breathe! (Aren't you glad AIR is free?)

But imagine for a minute that you decide you don't need air—that you aren't going to use it anymore. After all, you don't have money to pay for it and you don't want to take something that is not yours. So you decide you will just stop breathing.

Activity: Everyone in class stand up in a circle. Hold your breath for as long as you can. How long did it take before you changed your mind and decided you needed air? Do you think you might look foolish deciding you don't need air?

Just as God has given us air to breathe so that we may live, He has given us the *free* gift of Jesus. No, we can't see Him with our natural eyes, or feel him with our natural hands or hear Him with our natural ears, **but** Jesus is real. Romans 8:34 tells us that right now Jesus is at the right hand of God in heaven listening to our prayers.

In the same way we need air, we need Jesus. If we *could* foolishly hold our breath forever, what would happen? Of course, we would die. If we decide we don't need Jesus, the same thing will happen. Jesus is the BEST free, invisible gift we could have ever received from God.

Hold out your hands. Open your heart. Receive the gift of eternal life through Jesus! He will give you a very real peace, a very real joy, and a very real love. And, you don't need an allowance or money to pay for it!

YMAR

ESUSJ

PEHOSH

EIMNESW

PEHSEHRD

TATCEL

PESEH

UNSCRAMBLE!



Answers:

Mary
Joseph
Wisemen
Shepherd
Cattle
Sheep

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 68, Quarter 4, Week 12. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck. 2018.



Junior Sunday School ■ December 30, 2018

Yesterday. Tomorrow. Today.

Today is What Counts



Scripture Reading: Nehemiah 8:4-12

Do your clothes ever need to be thrown in the dryer or ironed to smooth the wrinkles in them? My four-year-old grandson was watching me steam the wrinkles out of my clothes the other day. I explained to him, “Do you see this steam? It takes out all the creases and folds in my clothes.” He asked curiously, “But *where* do the wrinkles go?” He then wanted to open the steamer I was using to see if he could “find” the wrinkles. Do you think he found them?

Time is the same way.

We can't “find” time once we have lived it.

In fact, there are no wrinkles in time. When the year ends two days from now, we will have lived 12 months, 52 weeks, 365 days, 8,760 hours, 525,600 minutes, and 31,536,000 seconds. Do you remember what you were wearing, how your hair was combed, and exactly *what* you were doing on April 23, 2018, at 4:10

Memory Verse

This is the day the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Psalm 118:24

Key Thought

Yesterday is gone.
Tomorrow is not promised.
Find joy in TODAY.
Live godly TODAY.

Lesson Discussion

- Where does time go? Literally?
- Think about what you did yesterday, last year. Talk about some of your favorite memories. Does anyone want to mention decisions they wished they could have improved?
- Why were the Jews sad when they heard the law? What did Ezra tell the people to do?
- What do we have to be joyful about today? What specific choices can we make to live right today?

p.m.? What *will* you be doing on October 24, 2019, at 9:38 a.m.? You probably don't know the answer to either of those questions! One more question: What time is it right now? What are you wearing? What are you doing and what are you thinking about?

The Bible gives us these truths: Our days on earth are as a shadow. Our days are no bigger than the width of the palm of our hand. We cannot go back and relive our yesterdays. We don't know what will happen tomorrow. But we DO have today!

Let's think about the encouragement that Nehemiah gave the Jews at a time when they were weeping over their memories of yesterday.

The Jews had sinned in many terrible ways, even though God had repeatedly warned them. He gave them first chances and second chances. He *wanted* them to change their ways, but they chose to do things their own way. Finally, God punished them for their disobedience, and they were taken out of their homeland of Israel to be slaves in Babylon. After decades passed, God allowed the Jews to return to their homeland. What a happy day for those Jews who wanted to go back home!

Nehemiah 8 gives us the following picture of a day in which the law was preached to the people after they had returned to Israel: Men, women and children crowded into the street by a water gate. Ezra, a scribe, stood behind a pulpit made of wood high above the people. The book of Moses was handed to him and the people stood up. As Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and the people answered, “Amen, Amen” and lifted up their hands. They then bowed their heads and worshipped the Lord with their face to the ground.

When the people heard the words of the law, however, they wept. No doubt their hearts hurt as they remembered the mistakes and sins of their past. But Ezra gave them great words of comfort and hope. He said this:

Go your way. Eat the best food and drink the best drink. Share with those who don't have anything. TODAY is holy to our God. Don't be sorrowful. The joy of the Lord is your strength.

Memory is from God—use it to remember the fun times. Learn from your mistakes. The ability to reason gives us an idea of what tomorrow might bring. Plan wisely. But TODAY—NOW—is the time given to us by God. Live with joy. Live to please God.

Sister Julie Elwell

THINK ABOUT TIME

Complete each sentence related to TIME, drawing from your own experience.

My favorite memory last year was _____

My least favorite memory was _____

What did I learn from them both? _____

Today is a gift. I will eat and drink the best of what God has given me (ENJOY)! God's gifts to me are:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Look up these verses and fill in the missing words.



Jesus Christ is the _____

yesterday, _____

and forever. **Psalm 90:4**

Take therefor no _____ for the _____: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. **Matthew 6:34**

Thou hast made my days as an _____ . **Psalm 39:5**

Behold, _____ is the accepted _____; behold, now is the day of salvation. **2 Corinthians 6:2**

ACTIONS BECOME HISTORY

Everything we do—every decision we make, every word we speak, every place we go—it all becomes part of our personal history. The nails left in the board can represent the good things I do, the good choices I make. But sometimes, I nail useless and bad nails into my board. I may try and pull them out, but the holes are still there.

Materials:

- A board
- Nails
- Hammer

Directions:

Take a hammer and hammer one of the nails into the board. Hammer a second nail into the board. Hammer a third nail into the board. And another. And another. Each nail represents a choice. Now. Pull two nails out of the board. Is the board the same? Observe the two holes where the nails were.

We cannot change history. But we can learn from our mistakes. You might fill the holes with plastic and wood and work hard to sand the filler smooth. If you go to all that trouble, will you want to hammer a useless nail in that same spot again? We are able to correct some of our mistakes, but we can never undo them.

Ask God to forgive your mistakes of yesterday—He will! Further, when you are tempted to nail bent and rusty nails into the board of your life, He will be the hand on your shoulder, the small voice in your mind, that reminds you, “I can help you do better!”

A fresh year is in front of us. Resolve in your mind and determine in your heart that for today—and for all the “todays of tomorrow”—you will be careful to ask God for the words He wants you to speak and the choices He wants you to make.

