

The ANSWER

Teacher's Guide



LESSONS 14-26

WHO IS JESUS?

THE
Answer

www.apostolicfaith.org

A Bible study resource for use at home and church.

SEARCH



Lessons 14-26

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Note: At times, the lessons are taught out of sequence to coincide with holidays. See the accompanying datesheet for the current lesson schedule, which is also available online at www.apostolicfaith.org.

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Teacher’s Guide

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Lessons 14-26

Apostolic Faith Church

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The Teacher’s Guide has been written as a help for you—the teacher. This guide is a resource of background information, supplementary Scriptures, responses to SEARCH questions, supplemental questions, plus other information that will be helpful.

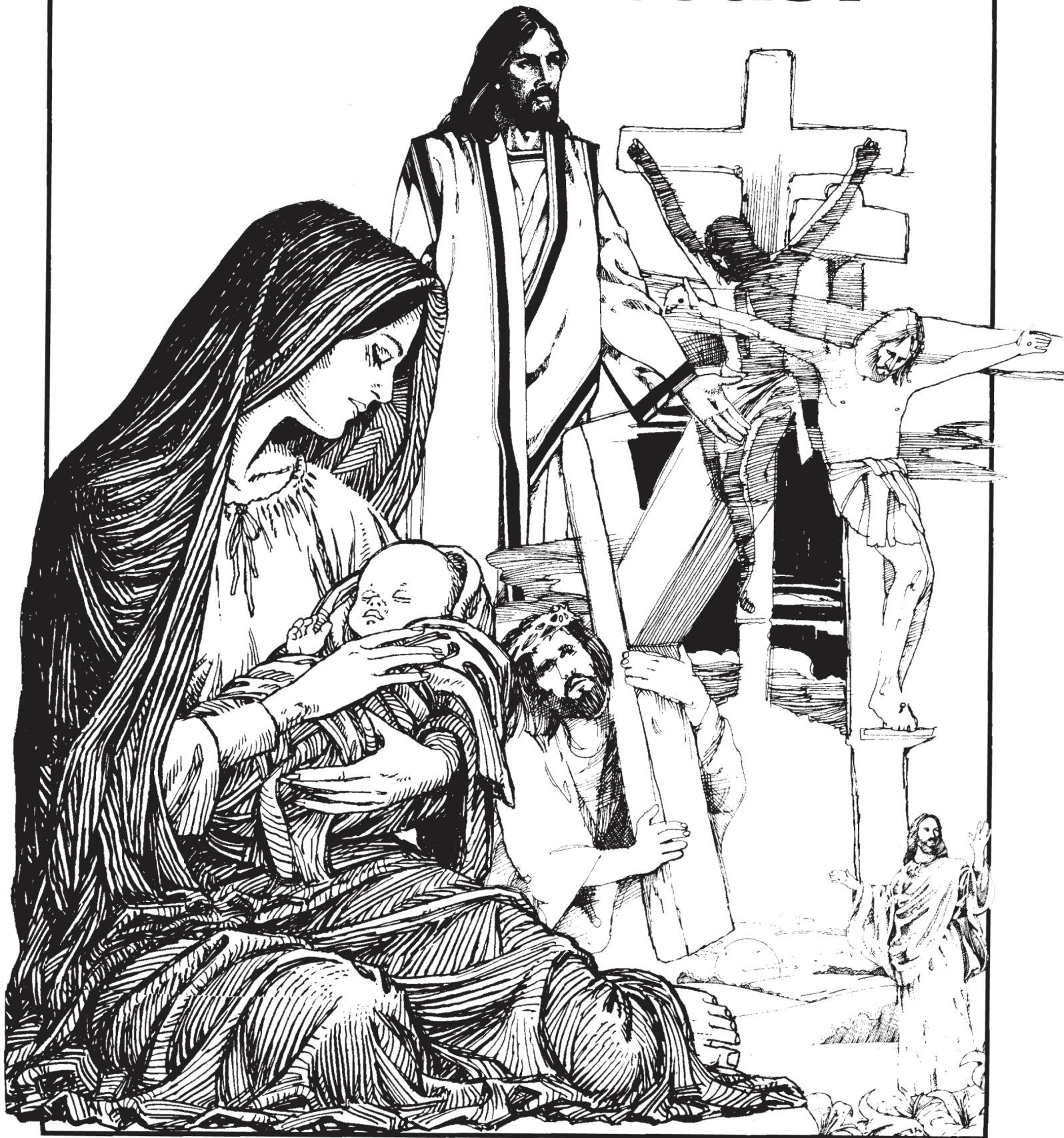
This guide is for those who teach either junior or senior levels. You may not find it practical to use all the material provided for each lesson. Each one must choose what would be applicable to his or her class. In addition, we hope the suggestions for each lesson will help stimulate your thought processes toward lively discussion within the class.


In order to be prepared for junior-level teaching, it will be necessary to obtain the students’ book. This will enable you to relate the text to the story given in The ANSWER.

Included in the material covering each lesson will be space for filling in your opener, additional discussion notes, and your wrap-up. A vital part of your teaching is being prepared before class starts. The students can tell if you have come unprepared.

This guide should be taken to your Round Table and also to class to assist you in your teaching. It is not a substitute for your own research of the lesson, but it is to enhance your study each week. May God bless you as you endeavor to help others SEARCH through the Scriptures to find the ANSWER.

Who Is Jesus?





Profile of an Effective Teacher

1 An effective teacher plans and prays about each lesson.

2 He prays for his class as a group and for each member individually.

3 He gets new ideas from God for ways in which he can impart the lesson to his students.

4 He enjoys his students and shows by his speech and action that he enjoys them.

5 He knows each student, where he lives, how many are in his family, where he goes to school, his likes and dislikes, and what his needs are.

6 He accepts each student as he is, aiming to guide him in becoming a new person in Christ.

We all want to be effective Sunday school teachers. Here are a few suggestions that will help us evaluate how we are doing. How about it? Do you see some pointers that might help you improve your teaching techniques?

7 He visits in his students' homes and becomes acquainted with the students' parents, thus showing them that he really cares about their child.

8 He tells his students about other church activities that they should participate in, such as Young People's meetings.

9 He attends Round Table, and also willingly participates in other Sunday school and departmental functions.

10 He remembers his students' birthdays and special days, making his students feel important.

11 He finds ways to stress major points in an understandable manner, relating them to the specific age and interests of his students.

12 He explores new ways of teaching, always evaluating and adapting his methods as different ways of teaching come to mind.

13 He incorporates variety so that his students are not always sure what is coming next as the class time proceeds.

Remember, Spirit-filled teaching is quick and powerful. Creative and varied methods may help us to get the point across, but we must depend on the Holy Spirit to anoint our words and help our students be receptive to them. Without the blessing of God, the most carefully prepared lesson will have little effect. But we have that wonderful promise of the Holy Spirit's help in John 14:26, "He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." In asking for His presence and help in teaching our Sunday school classes, we may be sure that we are in the will of God.

BULLETIN BOARD



BULLETIN BOARDS are a definite “plus” in the classroom, regardless of the age group you teach. Some teachers make the mistake of thinking that the bulletin board is insignificant, and that it doesn’t really matter what is displayed on it. But if you want to stimulate your class by a comfortable and interesting environment, how you decorate your bulletin board is an important factor.

Sometimes the department supervisor will ask the teachers to decorate in a certain way, but there may be times when you are expected to decorate on your own. And frustration can mount as you attempt to come up with ideas! In fact, one of the first questions a Sunday school teacher usually asks about bulletin boards is, “Where can I get ideas?” There are ideas all around you, and you will find that your creativity increases dramatically once you train yourself to be continually on the alert for them. Try looking at magazines, mail advertisements, greeting cards, posters, calendars, and children’s coloring books. Visit school libraries and classrooms, and make sketches of their ideas. Go to a teacher’s supply store for ready-made borders, backgrounds, letters, and stencils.

Remember that the students in your class might like to be involved. Consider having your students help you when it comes time to decorate. Use this opportunity to increase their interest in the classroom, and at the same time you will be saying, “You and your work deserve a place of honor.” Older students may be divided into teams and given the responsibility of decorating at assigned times. Following are possible ideas that encourage student involvement.

- Display their handiwork on a blank wall, using a border, caption, or additional decorations to tie it all together.
- Encourage students to bring seasonal or nature items to display such as flowers, fall leaves, fresh fruits and vegetables, seashells, driftwood, or rocks.
- Ask them to bring magazine pictures or news items having to do with your session topic, and display them.
- Have a poster corner where students can take turns bringing and displaying an appropriate poster for one month.
- Whenever possible, use your students’ photographs and their names in your bulletin board decorations.

BASICS



As a good teacher, you will want to create the very best learning atmosphere in your classroom. In order to achieve that goal, an environment where the students are comfortable but not bored is a must! The decor of the classroom must continually be fresh and new. Ideally, decorating should coincide with the theme of the quarter being studied, or represent the seasons of the year.

The following seasonal suggestions may provide some ideas.

FALL

- Harvest
- Apple trees
- Thanksgiving
- School bells or books (back to school)
- Real or paper leaves in fall colors
- Fall pictures
- Squirrels and acorns
- Cornucopia with pumpkins, gourds, Indian corn

WINTER

- Christmas decorations
- New Year's decorations
- Valentine decorations
- Winter pictures

- Snow scenes
- Snowflakes
- Sleds

SPRING

- Kites
- Rainbows
- Umbrellas, raincoats and boots
- Pussy willows
- Birds
- Easter decorations
- Large paper flowers
- Baby animals
- Mother's and Father's Day
- Tulips and daffodils
- Butterflies

SUMMER

- Barefoot boys in straw hats
- White clouds
- Baseball and picnics
- Hiking, swimming, fishing, etc.
- Ocean scenes
- Shells, sand buckets and shovels
- Summer flowers
- Strawberries
- Independence Day decorations



Theme Thoughts

Old Testament history paints a colorful picture of God's dealing with man, but the New Testament brings us to the climax of God's redemptive work—the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

"Who is Jesus?" is the thought-provoking question which establishes our theme for this quarter. Looking into the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, we trace the story of Jesus' time on earth, including His birth and some of the major events of His life.

We find, as we delve into this story, that the incidents and occurrences recorded in a biographical sketch of Jesus hold many important lessons relevant to our lives today. These lessons are summarized in the objectives for each week.

Some of the highlights of Jesus' ministry and His personal example to us are brought out in such lessons as His calling of the twelve disciples, His example in resisting temptation, and His formula for happiness as found in the Beatitudes. The quarter concludes with one of Jesus' parables which emphasizes the importance of being firmly grounded so that we might be able to grow as Christians.

The purpose of this quarter is to introduce your students to Jesus Christ, not just as a personage of Biblical history, but as a living Savior who wants to be directly and personally involved in their lives.

TEXT Prophecy — Fulfillment
 Isaiah 9:6,7 — Matthew 1:16
 Isaiah 7:14 — Matthew 1:18-25
 Micah 5:2 — Matthew 2:1
 Prophecy Yet to be Fulfilled — Acts 1:10,11;
 1 Corinthians 15:51,52; 1 Thessalonians 4:16,17

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES Numbers 24:17; Isaiah 53:1-12

OBJECTIVE The students will be able to list several biblical prophecies which came to pass concerning Jesus' birth. They will recognize that the yet unfulfilled prophecies concerning His second coming will just as surely come to pass.

KEY VERSE FOR ANSWER Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. — Isaiah 7:14

KEY VERSE FOR SEARCH And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger. — Luke 2:7

**ANSWER
TITLE:**

Good News!

**SEARCH
TITLE:**

History in Advance

REFERENCE INFORMATION

Isaiah is one of the major prophets, and most people regard him as the greatest of Old Testament prophets. He is pre-eminently the Prophet of Redemption. Even his name means "salvation of Jehovah." In the Book of Isaiah, which he wrote, he prophesied of the coming Messiah. Isaiah lived in Jerusalem and his prophecies mostly concern Judah and Jerusalem. Many times God's promise of a Redeemer or Messiah shone as a beacon when righteousness was seemingly at a low ebb. Isaiah lived during the time the ten tribes were taken into captivity.

Micah was a contemporary of Isaiah. *Micah* means "God-like." He was the sixth of the minor prophets and was a prophet of Israel and Judah during the reigns of

Jotham, Hezekiah, and Ahaz. He prophesied regarding the Messiah and the destruction of Jerusalem and Samaria.

Bethlehem is called the City of David since it is the birthplace of King David. Jesus was born in Bethlehem, as both Mary and Joseph were descendants of David. Bethlehem is about five or six miles south of Jerusalem.

The Hebrew word *Messiah*, used in the Old Testament Book of Daniel, refers to Jesus as the "anointed one"—Israel's Messianic hope. *Christós* (Christ) is the Greek form of the name "Messiah," and is used throughout the New Testament.

(continued on page 10)

YOUR OPENER

History in Advance

TEXT:	Prophecy — Fulfillment	Prophecy Yet to be Fulfilled
	Isaiah 9:6,7 — Matthew 1:16	Acts 1:10,11
	Isaiah 7:14 — Matthew 1:18-25	1 Corinthians 15:51,52
	Micah 5:2 — Matthew 2:1	1 Thessalonians 4:16,17

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: Numbers 24:17; Isaiah 53:1-12

KEY VERSE: And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger. — Luke 2:7

Throughout the 4000 years of history before the coming of Christ, we can see how God master-minded His plan of salvation which would be fulfilled in Christ. In the Old Testament we find many authors of different ages and places supplying the bits, pieces, types, shadows, and detailed predictions which describe Christ's purpose in coming to this earth, His manner of life, the reason for His death, and His triumph over death through the Resurrection.

The same prophets who gave us advance details of Christ's first coming speak expressly of a coming day when righteousness will triumph over evil. As surely as the details predicted were fulfilled in Christ's first coming, just so surely shall this earth experience the Rapture of the saints, and then the coming of Christ with His saints for 1000 years of peace, good will toward men!

1. What is prophecy? (Consult Webster or a Bible dictionary.)
2. What is the mark of a true prophet? See Jeremiah 28:9.
3. Who received this promise, "... and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed"? See Genesis 12:3. Explain in your own words what this promise might mean.
4. Isaiah wrote over 700 years before Christ was born. Compare Isaiah 7:14 with Matthew 1:18-25 and comment on how we benefit by studying prophecy and its fulfillment. See also 2 Peter 1:21.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION NOTES

RESPONSES

1. Webster defines *prophecy* as "the function or vocation of a prophet; specifically, the inspired declaration of divine will and purpose," or "the prediction of something to come." While the prophets did not confine their message to foretelling the future, the predictive element was a frequent part of the prophet's message. For this study, the students should concentrate on the nature and accuracy of these prophetic predictions as they relate to the first coming of the Messiah.
2. A true prophet is one who conveys God's will and purposes to the people, including the divine revelation of future events. The mark of a true prophet is that one hundred percent of what he says by the Word of the Lord will come to pass.
3. God gave that promise to Abram. This Scripture is generally recognized as a Messianic prophecy. As your students give their explanations, direct their thoughts toward how Christ's coming has blessed the nations with salvation.
4. As the students compare these Scriptures, their discussion should bring out that faith is generated as they study the detailed fulfillment of prophecy.
5. The virgin birth is the fulfillment of God's promise of a Savior for the salvation of the world. The class should understand that without the virgin birth, Christ would have been just a man. The Bible declares that He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and that He is in fact the Son of God.

5. Why is the virgin birth of Christ important? See Luke 1:26,27,35.

6. Who is the prophet referred to in Matthew 2:5,6? And how do we know that the Jewish scribes of King Herod's time knew about this prophecy and understood it?

7. Memorize the five beautifully descriptive terms used in Isaiah 9:6 to denote Christ's names. Place the name which you think best applies opposite the New Testament Scriptures given below:

Matthew 21:15; Acts 2:11

Matthew 28:20

John 14:27

John 3:1,2

John 10:29,30

8. Describe in your own words the future event pictured in 1 Corinthians 15:51,52 and 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.

9. Summarize the event prophesied by the angels in Acts 1:11 which has not yet happened. See Zechariah 13:1,2,6,9; 14:3-11 and Revelation 20:4. How are we certain that this event will take place?

10. In Matthew 24, Jesus gave us signs which were to immediately precede His return to earth. These included the appearance of false Christs, wars, famines, pestilences, earthquakes, persecution of Christians, apostasy of previous believers, worldwide preaching of the Gospel, and the re-emergence of Israel as a nation. Seeing these signs around us, we cannot help but conclude that we are living in the time of the soon coming of our Lord. Among the living, who will be caught up to join the Lord in the air when the Trumpet of the Lord sounds for the Rapture of the saints? See John 8:31; 1 John 1:7 and Revelation 2:3.

6. The prophet was Micah. He, like Isaiah, prophesied about 700 years before Christ came. When King Herod demanded of the chief priests and scribes where Christ was to be born, they were able to answer, "In Bethlehem of Judea: for thus it is written by the prophet . . ." referring to Micah 5:2.

7. Wonderful, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, Counsellor, Mighty God. These New Testament verses help to reinforce the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy concerning the sonship and deity of Christ. Ask your students if they can give other New Testament verses which describe Jesus.

8. These verses describe the Rapture of the saints, which takes place in the azure above. This event takes place prior to Christ's return to rule on the earth in the last days of the Gentile age, but before the climax of the Great Tribulation. See 2 Thessalonians 2:1-8. Jesus himself warned that no man, not even the angels in Heaven, know the hour or the day for this appearing—a time known only to God the Father (Matthew 24:36,42). He further exhorted His disciples to be ready for "in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of Man cometh" (verse 44). The objective here is to present this event, not as a story or as an ethereal hypothesis, but as a future fact—as sure as if it already had happened! Your students need to sense the urgency for preparation for this great event.

9. The event is the coming of Christ to rule this earth in peace for 1000 years—the Millennial Reign of Christ. Your students should understand that they can be assured of this event because of the unerring history of prophecy fulfilled to date, and because of the witness of the Holy Spirit, through His personal work in their lives.

10. This question can serve as a wrap-up in which the class investigates, through Scripture, who will be given a new body and caught up to meet the Lord in the air when He comes to catch away His bride—the Church. A close examination of the seven churches (Revelation 2 and 3) will show us that Jesus' followers must . . .

A. be presently experiencing their first love for Christ. (Ephesus)

B. be faithful in persecution and trial even when their lives are threatened. (Smyrna)

C. be kept from all sin and uncleanness. (Pergamos and Thyatira)

D. be actively living and testifying for Jesus Christ. (Sardis)

E. walk in complete obedience to God's Word and in all the light they have. (Philadelphia)

F. not let material things cleverly steal first place in their lives, but even in material prosperity, maintain their zeal and ardor for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. (Laodicea)

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YOUR WRAP-UP

Reference Information (continued from page 7)

The Wise Men who came from the East seeking the “King of the Jews” were, in fact, searching for the promised Messiah. It is supposed that these men were Medes and had a priestly function in the Persian Empire. Their rejoicing, shown through worship and gifts, at finding the Christ Child, was quite a contrast to King Herod’s troubled state.

Herod, known as Herod the Great, ruled Judea from 37 B.C. to 4 B.C. He died during the time Joseph, Mary, and the young child Jesus were hiding in Egypt.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

What does the word *prophecy* mean?

What is the importance of biblical prophecies?

Why did Jesus come to earth as a baby and not as an adult?

How and why does Jesus’ coming affect you? Does it affect anyone else?

The biblical prophecies concerning Jesus’ birth were fulfilled. What are some biblical prophecies concerning Jesus’ return to earth?

Name some prophecies being fulfilled in our day.

Can you name some other men of God who prophesied in Bible times and whose prophecies came to pass?

In the ANSWER story, what prophecy did Jim’s father say was one of the best known? Who was it about?

THINGS TO DO

Teach the lesson from a scroll you have made, writing only main verses of this lesson. To make an “old” manuscript-looking scroll: Crumple a sheet of 8-1/2 x 11" paper, soak the paper overnight in a solution of coffee or tea. Lay the paper out to dry on newspaper, then iron it. This will make the paper creased and yellowed. You will then need two 10-inch dowels on which to roll the paper.

Use a tiny earphone or headset and microphone to illustrate God giving His message into a prophet’s ear in spite of the noises of the world. Show your students a daily weather forecast; a circular about an upcoming

election; a news clipping about a coming event; an advertisement for an upcoming sale; etc. Explain that these are “prophecies” of a sort which we see every day. We accept the fact that these events will happen. Then show the Bible—God’s forecast of what will be occurring in our future.

Hammer sixteen nails into a large board. Prepare sixteen cards with Bible verses written on them—eight prophecies and eight fulfillments of those prophecies. Mix up the cards and hang one on each of the sixteen nails (verse side facing board). Number the blank sides from 1-16. Divide your class into two teams. Teams take turns having one person choose two cards. If the cards are a set (a prophecy and its fulfillment) that team takes those cards and tries to match another set. If the chosen cards are not a set, the cards are returned to their places on the board and the other team takes a turn. The game continues until no cards remain on the board. The team with the most sets wins.

Answers for ANSWER

Promises True

Before Jesus left this world He made a promise to His disciples. The promise also applies to His followers today. Do you believe His promise is true and for you? Use the code to find out what the promise is.

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

I N M Y F A T H E R ’ S H O U S E A R E

M A N Y M A N S I O N S : I F I T W E R E

N O T S O , I W O U L D H A V E T O L D

Y O U . I G O T O P R E P A R E A

P L A C E F O R Y O U . J O H N 14:2



TEXT Luke 1:26-38; Matthew 12:50; Romans 6:13

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES Judges 13:2-21; Daniel 10:5-12; Matthew 7:21

OBJECTIVE Using the account of Mary's submission as an example, the students will be able to relate several reasons why it is important to subject their lives to God's bidding.

KEY VERSE FOR ANSWER For with God nothing shall be impossible. — Luke 1:37

KEY VERSE FOR SEARCH Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness. — Psalm 143:10

**ANSWER
TITLE:**

The Special Message

**SEARCH
TITLE:**

Gabriel Speaks Out

REFERENCE INFORMATION

The angel Gabriel appeared to Mary in person, but an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream (Matthew 1:20). Mention of Gabriel also appears in Daniel 8:16; and Luke 1:19 tells us he appeared to Zacharias.

It was important, for all our sakes, that Mary submit to God's will. Jesus told us that the only people to enter Heaven would be those who do "the will of my Father which is in heaven." Peter's words, when he was told not to teach in Jesus' name, were, "We ought to obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29). How important it is that we apply these words to our hearts and lives as we walk before God today. We need to be able to say, as Mary did, "be it unto me according to thy word."

In a Jewish community of Jesus' day, the prospective bridegroom took the initiative and traveled from his father's house to the home of the prospective bride. The father of the woman then negotiated with the prospective bridegroom the price that must be paid to purchase his bride. When the bridegroom paid the purchase price, the marriage covenant was thereby established.

At that point the man and woman were regarded to be husband and wife, even though no physical union had taken place. The moment the covenant was established, the bride was declared to be set apart exclusively for the bridegroom. The groom and the bride then drank from a cup over which the betrothal benediction had been pronounced. This symbolized that the covenant relationship had been established. After the marriage covenant was in effect, the groom left the home of the bride and returned to his father's house. He remained there for a period of twelve months, separated from his bride. During the period of separation the bride gathered her wardrobe and prepared for married life. The groom prepared living accommodations for his bride. After this period of separation the groom, best man, and other male escorts left the house of the groom's father, usually at night, and conducted a torchlight procession to the home of the bride. The bride was expecting her groom to come for her; however, she did not know the exact time. Thus, the groom's arrival was preceded by a shout. The groom then received the bride, along with her female attendants, and returned home.

YOUR OPENER

Gabriel Speaks Out

TEXT: Luke 1:26-38; Matthew 12:50; Romans 6:13

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: Judges 13:2-21; Daniel 10:5-12; Matthew 7:21

KEY VERSE: Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness. — Psalm 143:10

RESPONSES

1. Allow time for the students' answers. Ask your class if they think she recognized Gabriel as an angel. Then call their attention to the salutation—not at all a normal greeting. No doubt she wondered, “Why should I be highly favored and blessed?” This would indicate her humility.
2. He told her to fear not. Your students should note that Mary had not yet received the message the angel had come to give her, so her fear was not in consideration of what lay ahead. But perhaps she realized that the message would be of great import, or sensed that God was placing a call upon her life. God offered comfort and reassurance even prior to the actual expression of what she was called to do. How does God offer this same support to us today?
3. Mary does not demonstrate a lack of faith. She simply wants to know how the plan God had for her could be carried out, knowing that this was contrary to nature. Many times the details of God's plan for our lives may seem difficult from the natural point of view. But if we are submissive and trust Him, taking each day one step at a time, we have an assurance that He will see us through.

Our lesson is part of the Christmas story which undoubtedly has been told and retold more than any other story ever written. So without dwelling long on the historical fact of Jesus' birth, let us consider why God singled out Mary for the highest honor ever bestowed on a woman. Her willingness to submit to God's plan was, no doubt, one of the reasons He chose her over all the young virgins of the house of David to be the mother of His Son, Jesus.

1. In Bible times, God often used angels to carry messages to people. Since this was so, why do you think Mary was troubled at the angel's greeting?
2. What did the angel say when he noticed Mary was troubled?
3. Do you think that Mary showed a lack of faith when she questioned the angel about how this could be? Explain.

5

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION NOTES

4. What was Mary's response to the message that her child would be called the Son of God? What characteristics did she demonstrate by that reply?

5. In what ways did Mary exhibit these character traits?

6. Why are the attributes which Mary exemplified necessary for one serving the Lord today?

7. In reference to our key verse, the first phrase implies that doing the will of God may need to be learned. What are some of the ways the Lord teaches us? What can we do in order to be apt learners?

8. What are some of the benefits that are promised us if we are submissive to God? In addition to our text, see John 7:17, Romans 8:14-17, and Romans 12:2.

4. "Be it unto me according to thy word." List the different characteristics your class mentions. Some may be faith, self-denial, humility. Ask your students to discuss how all of these relate to being submissive to God's will.

5. She showed her faith by believing what the angel said. She was already espoused to Joseph, so she faced the chance he would refuse to go through with the marriage when he found that she was with child. Also, it undoubtedly meant changing other plans even if Joseph didn't refuse to have her, showing a spirit of self-denial. She was submissive to the will of God in that she immediately said, "be it unto me according to thy word." Even though she had been given this great honor, she showed humility when she said, "behold the handmaid of the Lord."

6. Allow your students to respond. Some additional Scriptures: "Without faith it is impossible to please [God]" (Hebrews 11:6); "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross . . ." (Matthew 16:24); "He that doeth the will of God abideth for ever" (1 John 2:17); "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God that he may exalt you in due time" (1 Peter 5:6).

7. Your students' answers to the first question may be: through observation of how the Lord has worked for others, through the teaching of His Word and His ministry, etc. Discussion of how we can be apt learners should focus on our being obedient doers of the Word of God, always striving to draw nearer to Him and cultivating a spirit of submission.

8. Matthew 12:50 tells us that we will be Christ's brother, and sister, and mother. Discuss the benefits brought out in the other Scriptures given, and any others your students may mention. The conclusion should be reached that we will never go wrong when we wholly yield our lives into the control and direction of God.

YOUR WRAP-UP

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

What were some of the qualities God looked for in a mother for His Son?

Mary was chosen by God to bear in her body God's own Son. How can we compare that to the privilege we have as Christians?

Do you think Mary could have refused the privilege? Why or why not?

How would you feel if the angel Gabriel, or any other angel, appeared to you?

What are some of the qualities we should strive for in our lives that would make us able to be used by God?

What other Bible characters showed willingness to be used by God in spite of adverse reaction from those about them?

Think of some important occasions in life: graduation, engagement, marriage. How can we be submissive to the will of God regarding these?

In the ANSWER story, Susan stated the reason Mary was chosen of God. What was that reason?

THINGS TO DO

Have your students ask you questions about today's lesson, also last Sunday's lesson on prophecy. Can they stump the teacher?

Have students share some "impossibilities" (miracles) that have occurred in their lives. Or you may wish to invite a guest speaker to give part of his/her testimony.

On a pencil, tape the name of someone your students would know. Explain that the pencil belongs to that person but you rather like it, and think perhaps you will keep it for yourself. Debate with yourself on this; then decide to break it in two and give the owner part of it. Ask

why this would not be a satisfactory solution. The point should be made that we should not withhold anything from God. We should submit to Him whatever He asks from our lives since, as Christians, we belong to Him.

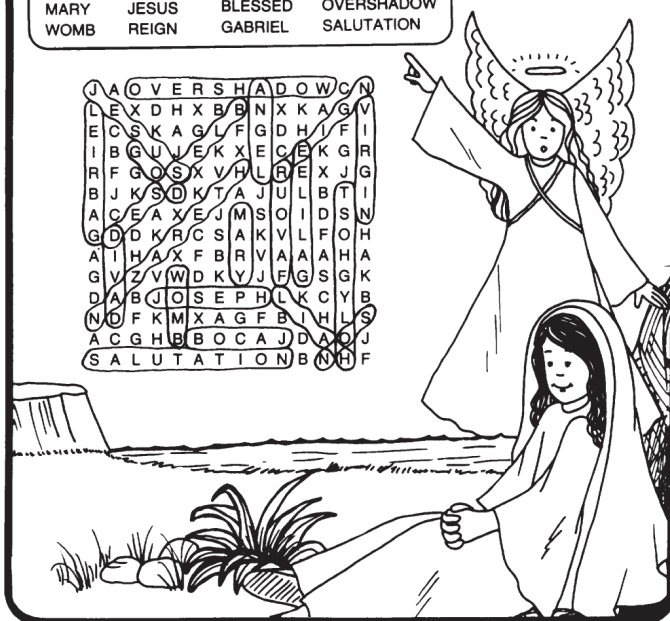
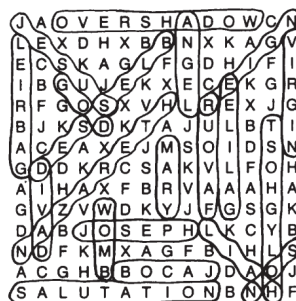
Make a big chart with the letters W I L L I N G written down the left side. Have the students help you fill in words beginning with each letter, focusing on things we should be willing to do for Jesus. Example: W — witness, welcome, win; I — invite, intercede; L — love, listen.

Answers for ANSWER

A Special Message

Mary was visited by the angel, Gabriel. The message she was given was that she was chosen above all women to be the mother of Jesus — our Lord and Savior. Mary was willing to do whatever God asked of her. Are you? The words in the wordfind are from the Bible text.

GOD	ANGEL	FAVOUR	GALILEE
SON	DAVID	JOSEPH	NAZARETH
HAIL	JACOB	VIRGIN	HOLY GHOST
MARY	JESUS	BLESSED	OVERSHADOW
WOMB	REIGN	GABRIEL	SALUTATION



TEXT Luke 2:1-20

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES Romans 5:7,8; Ephesians 2:4-8

OBJECTIVE The students will be able to recount the events which took place at the time of Christ's birth. They should recognize the great love God showed to mankind in giving His own Son.

KEY VERSE FOR ANSWER For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. — Luke 2:11

KEY VERSE FOR SEARCH For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. — John 3:17

**ANSWER
TITLE:**

The Greatest Gift

**SEARCH
TITLE:**

An Angelic Proclamation

REFERENCE INFORMATION

The Romans did not have dominion over all the world. The phrase, "that all the world should be taxed," means just that part of the world that was under Roman government. One of those places, Bethlehem of Judea, was the ancestral home of Joseph, and was where he needed to return to be taxed according to the decree of Caesar Augustus. Even though there were two Bethlehems existing at the time of Jesus' birth, one in Judea and one in Galilee, Luke writes that Joseph and Mary went "into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem." This leaves no doubt as to which city was the birthplace of Jesus. King David, as a lad, tended his father's sheep in the fields near Bethlehem, perhaps the same fields where his forebears, Ruth and Boaz, met. These may even have been the same fields where the angels delivered their message to the shepherds.

In verse 17 we read, "They made known abroad the saying, which was told them concerning the child." These shepherds were the first to proclaim the Gospel of Christ. Jesus' birth was announced by an angelic proclamation saying that a Savior was born "which is Christ the Lord." His name, Jesus, was not mentioned at that time but His name had already been chosen—not by Joseph and Mary, but by orders from God through the angel Gabriel. The name *Jesus* is the Greek form of the Hebrew name *Joshua*, both meaning "God saves," or "Savior." It was a favorite name and used often in those times, thereby becoming quite common. It is, no doubt, for this reason that in the Bible, Jesus is often called Jesus Christ to distinguish Him from others of the same name. The word *Christ* means "anointed one," and referred to the One anointed by God to be the Savior of mankind.

YOUR OPENER

An Angelic Proclamation

TEXT: Luke 2:1-20

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: Romans 5:7,8; Ephesians 2:4-8

KEY VERSE: For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. — John 3:17

RESPONSES

1. Mary lived in the area of Galilee in the city of Nazareth which was many miles north of Bethlehem, the city in which Jesus was to be born. The point to make here is the accuracy with which Micah's prophecy was fulfilled. In discussion, bring out that prophecies yet to be fulfilled will be fulfilled in detail.

2. Caesar Augustus made a decree that all should be taxed. Everyone needed to return to the city of their lineage. Joseph took Mary and went to Bethlehem for this taxation because they were of the family of King David. Let your students know that God controls the whole world and He can cause the world rulers to do His will even if they are ungodly.

3. God knows the hearts of all men, and He knew these shepherds were honest enough to believe the proclamation. They were in a place where they could note the wondrous works of God. God looks for the honest hearts today who will have faith in Him. The discussion should bring out that it was the love of God that caused Him to reveal the birth of Jesus to the shepherds. God loves all mankind today and will reveal His will to those who respond to Him.

The angelic proclamation, "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11), announced God's greatest gift to mankind. This message was given to the shepherds on the Judean hills. They did not doubt the wondrous declaration, for they saw the attendant glory, and they would soon spread the news to others. God's angels must have realized the importance of the announcement, for as soon as the good tidings were made known, a multitude of the heavenly host joined in the exultation, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men" (Luke 2:14).

1. Where was Mary living previous to the birth of Jesus? Where was it prophesied that Jesus should be born? See Micah 5:2.

2. What circumstance did God use to make sure Mary would be in Bethlehem at the birth of Jesus?

3. Why do you feel God chose to proclaim the good news to shepherds rather than to some authoritative figures?

4. What did the shepherds do with the great news that was told to them?

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION NOTES

5. Write what you feel is meant by the word *pondered* as used in verse 19.

6. Read Philippians 2:5-8. In your own words, explain why you feel it was necessary for Jesus to be born "in the likeness of men."

7. The celebration of Christmas can be used to spread the story of Jesus. Write down some ways the Christmas season can provide opportunities for evangelistic outreach.

4. They hurried to Bethlehem to see the newborn Savior. After they had seen Him they began telling other people about Jesus. They returned to their flocks praising and glorifying God. Ask your students how they glorify God today. Your class should conclude that God is glorified by the life that the Christian lives and by the testimony that he gives.

5. Your students will likely conclude that the word *ponder* means to "weigh in the mind, consider carefully, meditate." Let them give their ideas, guiding the discussion to bring out the importance of meditating on the things of God. When one does this, the love of God for mankind is apparent to them in a greater measure.

6. Encourage your students to give their explanations. Guide them to the conclusion that Jesus was born and lived as a man so that they might be assured that He knows how they feel when they have physical needs, such as being tired or hungry. The students should understand that this was all part of God's great love for them.

7. Your students may list the following: Sunday school program, Christmas concert, taking a Christmas program to the retirement centers, taking Christmas boxes to the shut-ins. The class should conclude that they do these things because they love Jesus and they love people. Jesus loved them while they were yet sinners, so they should have the desire to let other people know about His love.

YOUR WRAP-UP

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

What character attributes were possessed by the shepherds as indicated by their actions?

God's gift to the world was a result of His love. What are some other reasons for gift giving? Compare or contrast these reasons with love as a motive for giving.

Why does giving a gift that we ourselves treasure or value have so much more meaning than just a casual gift purchased as an obligation? What does God's gift of His own Son tell us about His feelings toward mankind?

What can we give Him to show our love for Him?

Can you give at least two reasons why Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem at the time of Christ's birth?

When Jesus was born, He was wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger. What does this mean? What does it tell us about the purpose of His coming?

Why do you suppose God sent His Son to be born in a stable instead of a mansion or a palace?

What does Christmas mean to you?

In the ANSWER story, what would indicate that Peggy understood the true meaning of Christmas?

THINGS TO DO

Take a gift-wrapped package to class. Discuss the various things that make up a package (ribbon, tape, paper, box). Ask your class how a three-year-old opens a package. The package is enticing but he knows that what is inside matters more than the outer covering! Tell them that our gift to Jesus should be ourselves. We come in all shapes, sizes, and colors, but God cares about what's inside.

In the corner of your classroom, you might want to construct a manger. Build the manger by nailing pieces of wood together. In the manger, place some hay (or straw) and a doll. Wrap the "Baby" in swaddling clothes. On a large sheet of cardboard that can stand, write the key verse and place it beside the display.

Ask your students to make a list of some of the things they own that are precious, special, or important to them. Have them draw one or two items on hearts cut out of

construction paper. On a large construction-paper heart write the name JESUS. Tell the students that Jesus is God's only Son and He is very precious to God. But God loved us so much that He was willing to give His Son in order to pay for our redemption. If we want to be redeemed, we must give our hearts to Jesus.

Accordion-fold a long strip of paper, and trace an angel on the top section. Cut out the angels (keeping them attached at the sides) to make a fold-out of an angel choir. On the skirt of each angel, write a portion of the key verse, so that when the angels are stretched out the entire key verse is displayed. This could be a nice addition to a class bulletin board.

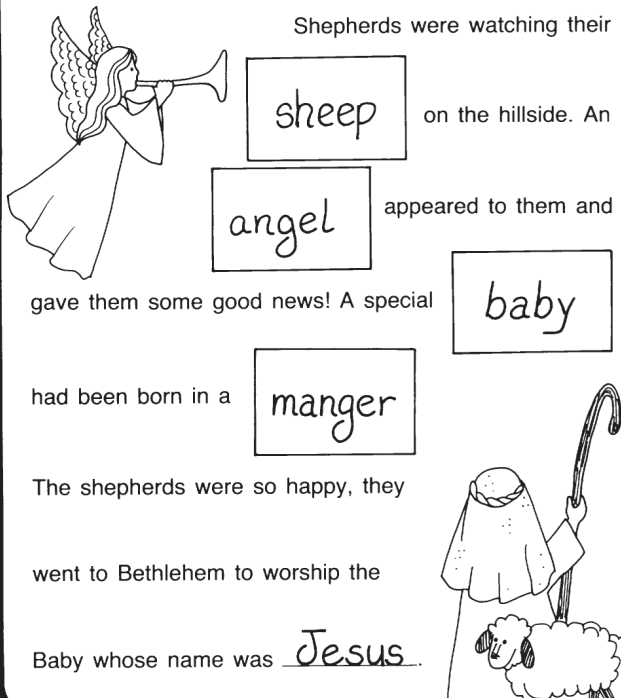
Use a nativity set to retell the Christmas story. Let each child move one of the characters as the narrative develops. They might enjoy putting voices with the characters; for example, saying what they think the shepherds may have said when they first saw Baby Jesus.

Answers for ANSWER

Good News!

The incomplete story below is about a special birth. Finish the story by drawing a picture in the empty boxes to replace the missing words.

Shepherds were watching their sheep on the hillside. An angel appeared to them and gave them some good news! A special baby had been born in a manger. The shepherds were so happy, they went to Bethlehem to worship the Baby whose name was Jesus.



TEXT Matthew 2:1-12

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES Isaiah 55:6; Matthew 6:33

OBJECTIVE The students will be able to explain why the example the Wise Men set in their diligent search for the King of the Jews is one we should follow in seeking for things of spiritual value.

KEY VERSE FOR ANSWER Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.
— Matthew 2:2

KEY VERSE FOR SEARCH I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.
— Revelation 22:16

**ANSWER
TITLE:** **Follow His Star**

**SEARCH
TITLE:** **What “Star” Are You Following?**

REFERENCE INFORMATION

The Book of Matthew focuses on Jesus as the kingly Messiah, foretold by the Old Testament prophets. Matthew, the author, was a companion of Jesus.

We are not given an exact location of the home of the Wise Men, only that they came from the East. As stated in the first lesson of this unit, it is supposed that these men were Medes and had a priestly function in the Persian Empire.

The descendants of Shem settled along the Euphrates River and in that general area. Their historical background was handed down from generation to generation and some of them retained a knowledge of God’s plan for mankind. Job, for one, worshiped the true God, and

was declared to be a perfect man. Balaam, who made some beautiful prophetic predictions concerning Israel, spoke of a “Star out of Jacob” (Numbers 24:17). That Star was Jesus. How fitting that God would use a special star in the heavens to reveal to these Wise Men that, indeed, the King had been born.

Gold was the most precious of all metals. Frankincense was an incense used in the worship of God. Mixed with spices, it was used in tabernacle worship. Anyone duplicating the fragrance of the perfume for personal use “shall even be cut off from his people” (Exodus 30:34-38). In Revelation 8:3, incense is said to be a symbol of prayer. Myrrh is a fragrant, bitter tasting resin, used as perfume, incense, and in medicine.

YOUR OPENER

What “Star” Are You Following?

TEXT: Matthew 2:1-12

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: Isaiah 55:6; Matthew 6:33

KEY VERSE: I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star. — Revelation 22:16

RESPONSES

1. Review with your students some of the Old Testament Scriptures which spoke of a coming Messiah. Point out that the Wise Men evidently had knowledge of these prophecies. Were they the only ones of the day who anticipated a coming king? See “. . . the people were in expectation . . .” in Luke 3:15.

2. Let the students offer their thoughts. No doubt they will conclude that Herod likely was troubled because he felt that his position could be in jeopardy. Perhaps the people of Jerusalem, too, were concerned at the thought of a new king of whom they knew nothing about. Then ask your students to draw a parallel between Herod’s response upon hearing the Wise Men’s news and the response of many today upon hearing the truth of the Gospel.

3. The chief priests and scribes knew the prophecy of Micah which told that Christ’s birthplace would be Bethlehem. Why didn’t they follow the star? It would seem that the star was visible only to those who were looking for it. The Wise Men of the East were apparently watching for the star, and recognized it when it appeared. Jesus enlightens every man that comes into the world, but if a person neglects to walk in the light, he receives no benefit from it.

4. They knew they were going in the right direction again. How does God let us know that we are going the right way as we seek to follow Christ today? Let students share the different sources of encouragement they have received as they have sought to follow Jesus.

The sighting of the star in the east was the beginning of the diligent search by the Wise Men. Their mission served to answer the question, “Who is Jesus?” We have the opportunity to follow their example as we seek for things of spiritual value so that we might know Christ better.

1. How do you think the Wise Men knew that they were searching for the One who was “King of the Jews”? See Matthew 2:2.

2. Why do you think Herod, and all Jerusalem with him, was so troubled upon hearing of the newborn King?

3. How did the chief priest and the scribes know where Christ should be born? See Micah 5:2.

4. Why were the Wise Men so happy to see the star again after they departed from the king?

5. What did the Wise Men do before they presented their gifts to the newborn King?

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION NOTES

6. What gifts can we offer the Lord today? See Romans 12:1 and Hebrews 13:15,16.

7. The Wise Men followed the star which led them to Christ. God still gives man a light to follow. What do you think directs us to Christ today?

8. Are many seeking to follow the Savior today? Why or why not?

9. The Wise Men followed the star even though the journey was difficult. They persevered until they reached their goal. Using the Wise Men as an example, what should our attitude be as we strive for the heavenly goal?

5. They worshiped Him. That was their offering of praise and recognition of His royal position. After that, they "presented unto him gifts." With which do you think God was most pleased? The next question discusses how we can follow their example.

6. Discuss how we can offer ourselves to the Lord. When we are careful of what we read or watch, what we listen to, where we go, and what we say in praise and testimony, we are presenting ourselves to God.

7. Discussion should center around the fact that the star was a sign to the Wise Men. Our signs could be a testimony, the fulfillment of Scripture as seen in our generation (wars, earthquakes, famines, the Jewish nation, etc.), the availability of the Bible, and the presence of the Holy Spirit.

8. Stress that some are truly seeking to follow the ways of Christ today. However, many are not following Him. No doubt, the Wise Men did not understand why others didn't follow the star they saw. In our day, too, it is difficult to understand why so many choose another way.

9. As the students discuss this question they should conclude that they must follow Christ, walk in the light, persevere until the goal is reached. Ask your class what they must do to fulfill these requirements.

YOUR WRAP-UP

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

Why did Noah and his family escape destruction?

How old was Noah when the Flood came?

How long did it rain upon the earth?

What were some of the characteristics of Noah that caused him to find favor with God? Why might these characteristics be important to people today?

Noah was given very specific instructions. How important is it to follow directions in order to escape judgment or to reach desired goals?

What are the directions for escaping sin and judgment?

Think how it must have been for Noah to build the ark. How would you feel if you did not understand boat building yet were directed to build a craft with which you were not familiar?

What is coming upon the earth soon, that God compared to the time of the Flood?

Noah escaped by obeying God. What must we do to prepare for Heaven?

What comparisons might be made between conditions on the earth today and those in Noah's time?

Do you think God will again destroy man from the face of the earth? Why or why not?

In the ANSWER story, Kim disobeyed her parents. What did she do to cover up for her disobedience? Will a "cover-up" keep one from being punished? Why or why not?

THINGS TO DO

Using the alphabet as a guide, ask each student to name an item that went into the ark; for example, A — aardvark, B — baboon, C — cat. If a student cannot think of something, just go on to the next person.

Show your students pictures of the ark and a cross. Explain them in this way: ARK — The ark was prepared


to save Noah and any who would believe and follow him into it. Eight people, in all, were saved from that destruction. CROSS — God sent Jesus to die for us. If we will believe and follow Him we will be saved from the end-time destruction. How many people, in all, will be saved?

Bring a road map and a Bible to class. Have your class look at the map and help you choose a starting point and a destination. Decide the best road to travel. Now that you know the best way, it would make no sense to start traveling on back roads or streets that go in the opposite direction. The same is true when we know we want our destination to be Heaven. The Bible is our road map and it tells us that the only way to get there is to repent of our sins. How foolish to think we can get to Heaven in any other way.

Answers for ANSWER


Great Joy!

The Bible tells us that when the wise men saw the star they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. Do you know what else they did? To find out you must decide if the statements below are true or false. Color the T's after each sentence if the statement is true or color the F's if the statement is false. Fill in the blank lines at the bottom of the page with the letters you discover.

<p>1. They saw His star in the east.  <div style="display: inline-block; text-align: center;">FFFF FFF F FFF</div></p> <p>2. They found Him in Bethlehem. <div style="display: inline-block; text-align: center;">FFF FFF FFF FFF</div></p> <p>3. They saw the young Child. <div style="display: inline-block; text-align: center;">FFF FFF FFF FFF</div></p> <p>4. The Child was in a manger. <div style="display: inline-block; text-align: center;">FFFF TTTT FFF TTTT FFFF</div></p> <p>5. The Child was with His mother. <div style="display: inline-block; text-align: center;">FFF FFF FFF FFF</div></p> <p>6. They fell down and worshipped Him. <div style="display: inline-block; text-align: center;">FFFF FFFF FFFF FFFF</div></p>	<p>7. They gave Him gifts. <div style="display: inline-block; text-align: center;">FFF FFF FFF FFF FFF</div></p> <p>8. They were warned in a dream. <div style="display: inline-block; text-align: center;">FFF FFF FFF FFF FFF</div></p> <p>9. They returned to the king. <div style="display: inline-block; text-align: center;">TTTT TTTT TTTT TTTT TTTT</div></p> <p>10. They departed to their own country. <div style="display: inline-block; text-align: center;">FFF FFF FFF FFF FFF</div></p>
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W O R S H I P P E D

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10



TEXT Luke 2:21-40

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES Numbers 23:19,20; Psalm 119:89,90; James 1:17

OBJECTIVE Your students will be able to rehearse the promise made to Simeon, and its fulfillment. They will further be able to summarize the past four lessons and conclude that God’s promises are as infallible in our day as they were in that time.

KEY VERSE FOR ANSWER There hath not failed one word of all his good promise. — 1 Kings 8:56

KEY VERSE FOR SEARCH Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised). — Hebrews 10:23

ANSWER
TITLE:

SEARCH
TITLE:

The Lost Key

God’s Promise Fulfilled

REFERENCE INFORMATION

The praise expressed by Simeon and Anna is paralleled by that of Hannah and Zacharias. A heart that can praise has already obeyed. Anna was of the tribe of Aser—one of the ten tribes of the kingdom of Israel. Her family must have been one of several which had returned to God from idolatry, in the time that Hezekiah proclaimed the Passover in Jerusalem. See 2 Chronicles 30:1-11.

Jesus was presumed to be forty days old when taken to the Temple. The Law required every new mother to be

separated from society for thirty-three days of purification after what was termed the seven days (for a male child) of her uncleanness—forty days in all. See Leviticus 12:2 and 4.

The pair of turtledoves brought by Jesus’ parents were for a burnt offering and for a sin offering. The rich were required to bring a lamb, but the poor and middle class could bring either two turtledoves or two pigeons.

YOUR OPENER

God's Promise Fulfilled

TEXT: Luke 2:21-40

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: Numbers 23:19,20; Psalm 119:89,90; James 1:17

KEY VERSE: Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised). — Hebrews 10:23

Jesus made a permanent impression on everyone He came into contact with. Even Herod and the others who rejected Him were never the same again. Today, all who will receive Him, as Simeon and Anna did, will obtain the benefit of the promises recorded in the Word of God. Jesus is our salvation and through Him we have a new outlook on life and a beautiful hope for the future.

RESPONSES

1. He was *just*, which means "righteous; upright," and *devout*, which means, "earnest; fervent." These show a sincere devotion to one's faith. Bring out that these attributes are necessary in order to live close to God, as Simeon did, and receive His answers to their prayers and His promised blessings on their lives.

2. The Holy Ghost revealed this. God's Spirit was upon Simeon and directed him into the Temple at the very time Jesus was brought in by His parents in obedience to the Law of Moses. Bring out that, likewise, the "Promise of the Father" is to send the Holy Ghost into our lives today to lead us and guide us.

3. His eyes had seen God's salvation in the Baby Jesus, as God had promised him. Ask the students what brings that sort of confidence into the heart. They should conclude that it is faith in God's promises, and a determination to fulfill all the requirements of God in their lives.

4. Mary and Joseph were obeying the commandment of the angel who appeared to both (Luke 1:31 and Matthew 1:21). The angel told Joseph, "He shall save his people from their sins." Ask your students to enumerate the promises given Mary concerning her Son (Luke 1:32,33). Which of these promises have we seen fulfilled? Which are yet to come?

1. What are two moral attributes mentioned in Luke 2:25, which adorned Simeon's life?
2. Who revealed to Simeon that he would not see death before he had seen the "Lord's Christ"? What role does that Person have in our lives today?
3. Why did Simeon bless God and know, with confidence, that he could now "depart in peace"?
4. What was the significance of Mary's giving her firstborn Son the name Jesus? See verse 21.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION NOTES

5. What attitude is manifested in the lives of each of those who recognized the fulfillment of promise and were privileged to see the Baby Jesus?

The Shepherds — Luke 2:15-17,20

The Wise Men — Matthew 2:9-11

Simeon — Luke 2:27,28

Anna — Luke 2:38

6. Look back over the past four lessons. Briefly summarize what promises were given, and state how these were fulfilled in the text of today's lesson.

7. What parallel can we draw between the days in which we are now living and the promises of God, and the prophecies of His Word which were fulfilled by Jesus' first advent?

8. Noting the key verse, what connection can be found in holding fast the profession of our faith without wavering, and God being faithful to His promise?

5. All of them were filled with joy. They gave praise and glory to God. They spread the news of His birth. Discuss with your students their reaction when they see the fulfillment of one of God's promises to them. It is their privilege then to tell others of these fulfillments, just as the shepherds, Wise Men, and Anna and Simeon did in their day.

6. Your students should begin by reciting some of the prophecies concerning Christ's birth given in the Old Testament, and how they were fulfilled in the New. Gabriel's message to Mary foretold the birth of her Child, who would be called the Son of God. The proclamation of the angels brought "good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people." The promise in Micah was that from Bethlehem would come One to rule God's people. Your students should recognize that all of these promises were fulfilled at the birth of Jesus.

7. Knowing that every prophecy concerning Jesus' birth was fulfilled completely, we can be confident that the promise of His second coming as King of kings and Lord of lords will come to pass also. Just as Simeon, the Wise Men, and others looked for the promised Messiah, so we can look forward to Jesus' return to earth. At that time He will come to take us to be with Him forever.

8. It is easy to have faith in the One who always keeps His promise. Discuss with your students the fact that God is delighted to fulfill His promises to those who have faith in Him. With these elements working together in their lives they can be assured that they are "more than conquerors." Referring to Hebrews 11, have your class list several names of people who had outstanding promises fulfilled in their behalf. Focus on the fact that faith in God was uppermost in their lives.

YOUR WRAP-UP

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

What is a promise?

How are God's promises different from man's?

If we don't believe God's promises, does that mean they won't happen? Why or why not?

What promises of God have been fulfilled in your life-time?

What was God's promise to Simeon? Was it fulfilled?

What is God's promise to Christians today? How will it be fulfilled?

What do you think verse 27 means when it says, "And he [Simeon] came by the Spirit into the temple . . .?"

Do you think that God directs our steps so we are at a certain place at a certain time? Has this ever happened to you? Explain how you would feel if you followed God's leading. How do you think you would feel if you didn't?

What did Simeon do immediately after seeing Jesus? Why?

Do you think Simeon or Anna would have seen Jesus if they had not believed? Why or why not?

In the ANSWER story, what thought came to Corey that was a means to finding the lost key? What did he do regarding this and did it help? How?

THINGS TO DO

Show a clock to your students, and discuss with them what it is like to wait for something really special. Time seems to go so slowly when we are waiting for a special event. As Christians, we are waiting every day for the second coming of Jesus. Although we don't know the exact time of His coming, we do know it will be soon—maybe today! We mustn't just sit and watch the time go by. We must be like Anna and Simeon, getting ready and doing the Lord's work.

Have a small gift ready (and hidden) for each child in your class (a pencil, a nickel, a bookmark, etc.). Tell your students you have something for each one of them. Invite them to ask what and when you'll give the gift, but don't give them an answer; just ask if they believe you. Go on with the lesson and once in a while ask if they still believe you'll give them something. Toward the end of class time produce the gifts, and then bring out that

Jesus' second coming is even more sure than the gift you gave them.

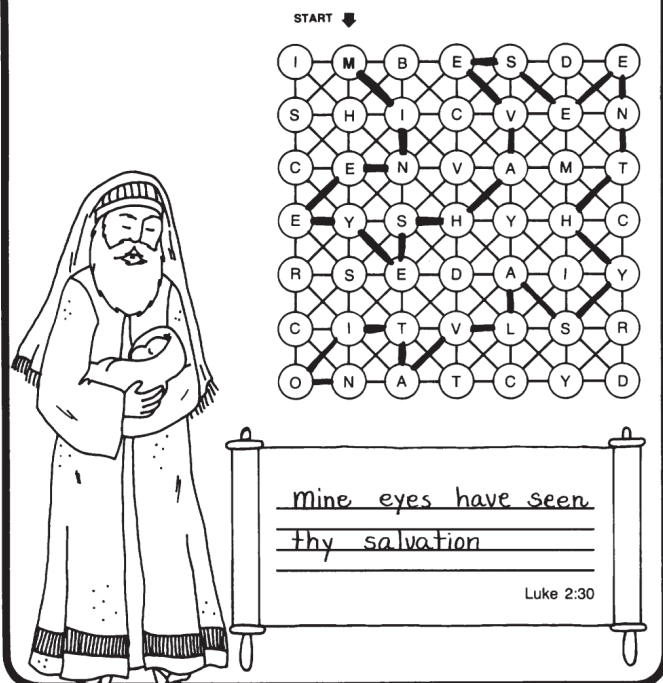
To illustrate that we don't know when Christ will come, bring a stopwatch or timer to class. Set a certain amount of time on the watch. Pass around among the students a heart on which you've pasted pictures of a home, money, food—pictures which represent the "things of this world." The student may hold the heart as long as he wishes, collecting for each five seconds a reward (candy, penny, play money). But if the buzzer goes off while he is holding it, he is out and must forfeit all he has collected. Continue doing this until only one person is left. Present that person with a heart holding a picture of Jesus. Explain that the others held onto the things of the world, even though they knew the buzzer might sound.

Write some simple promises and rewards on separate slips of paper and place them in a hat. (Example: If you read John 3:16, I will give you a nickel. If you shake hands with Mary, I will give you a candy bar.) Ask the students if they really believe you will fulfill the rewards. Let each one pick a promise from a hat, then do what you said you would! Discuss how sure God's promises are.

Answers for ANSWER

It Pays to Wait

Simeon was promised that he would not die until he had seen the Lord's Christ. Luke 2:30 tells us what he said when he finally saw Jesus. Find the verse in the maze of circles below. The first letter is M. Move along the lines that connect the circles. Use each letter only once. Write the verse below.



TEXT Matthew 2:13-23; Psalm 91

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES Psalms 37:3,25; 103:3-5; Isaiah 40:29-31; 43:2; Revelation 3:10

OBJECTIVE The students will be able to describe the method by which God spared His Son Jesus from the wrath of Herod. They will further be assured that God's providential care will surround the one who is God's child today.

KEY VERSE FOR ANSWER For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. — Psalm 91:11

KEY VERSE FOR SEARCH Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. — Psalm 91:9,10

RESOURCE MATERIAL Tract No. 22 — Weighed in the Balance
Tract No. 66 — Rescued by God from a Watery Grave

**ANSWER
TITLE:**

A Warning in the Night

**SEARCH
TITLE:**

God's Providential Care

REFERENCE INFORMATION

Warned by an angel of God in a dream to flee Bethlehem and the wicked King Herod, Joseph took Mary and the baby Jesus to Egypt, fulfilling the prophecy in Hosea 11:1. King Herod, furious at being outwitted by the Wise Men, ordered the killing of all the male children in Bethlehem and all that region who were two years of age and under. This brutal action fulfilled the prophecy of Jeremiah when he wrote, "Thus saith the LORD; A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, and bitter weeping; Rahel weeping for her children refused to be comforted for her children, because they were not" (Jeremiah 31:15).

Egypt, where God's people had been slaves, became a refuge for His Son—Jesus. For a year, perhaps slightly more, they lived in Egypt, the Bible does not tell exactly where. Tradition says it was at On, or Heliopolis, located only ten miles from where modern Cairo is built. It is assumed that Joseph and Mary traveled with a caravan as was the custom in those days for reasons of safety. Because of bandits who robbed and killed, it was foolish to travel without the safety of large numbers. Joseph and Mary had to be especially careful for they had the rich gifts that the Wise Men had brought, which may well have financed their trip to Egypt and their living there.

YOUR OPENER

God's Providential Care

TEXT: Matthew 2:13-23; Psalm 91

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: Psalms 37:3,25; 103:3-5; Isaiah 40:29-31; 43:2; Revelation 3:10

KEY VERSE: Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; there shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. — Psalm 91:9,10

RESOURCE MATERIAL: Tract No. 22 — Weighed in the Balance, Tract No. 66 — Rescued by God from a Watery Grave

We walk through a world that is fraught with dangers, and the only source of true protection is God. In our text, God's providential care is beautifully shown by the angel's directing Joseph to take the young child Jesus and His mother to Egypt. However, God's care is not limited to the preservation of His Son. It is fulfilled in the life of each one who follows His Word.

- 1. Give a definition of divine *providence*. Who enjoys this blessing?
- 2. By whom and for what reason was Joseph instructed to take Jesus and Mary into Egypt? Why was Egypt chosen? See Hosea 11:1 and Matthew 2:15.
- 3. Why did Herod order the killing of children who were two years of age and under? See Matthew 2:16-18.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION NOTES

RESPONSES

- 1. The dictionary defines *providence* as “divine guidance or care. God conceived as the power sustaining and guiding human destiny.” Allow time for the students to give their definitions, then discuss how it is possible to enjoy this blessing. Help the class to bring out that God guides as much as each soul will allow. The people who yield to God and serve Him have His promise, “I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee” (Hebrews 13:5). Other promises of divine providence are in Psalm 23:5; Matthew 6:31-33; John 14:2; 2 Timothy 4:8.
- 2. An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream so, that Jesus might be protected from the anger of Herod. The prophecy had been given approximately 740 years before, that God would call His Son out of Egypt. Bring out in discussion that God's wisdom provided the safe course for His Son at this time. A few years later, however, God's love for the world allowed Jesus to be crucified so that all who believe in Him might have their sins forgiven. Divine providence provided safety for Jesus until that appointed time. Ask your students for other examples of providential care in the lives of God's children.
- 3. He felt mocked by the Wise Men's leaving the country instead of returning to Jerusalem. Since he had no idea which child was a threat to his kingdom, he ordered the slaying of all children in that age group. In what way is Christ a threat to a sinner's kingdom? Point out that Christ is opposed to a life of sin, which many wish to hold onto. If Herod had realized what Christ's kingdom offered him, would he have resisted it? Discuss what Christ offers the sinner.
- 4. The angel appeared to Joseph three times. One time God himself spoke directly to Joseph in a dream. Encourage your students to read their lists of ways in which God shows His providence, then emphasize that often God uses His Word to guide them. He may use a thought from a sermon, testimony, song, or their conscience to show them His will and direct them in His way. Prayer is very important in helping them follow God and, thus, enjoy His providential care.
- 5. The key is in Psalm 91:1,2—dwelling in the secret place of the most High, and choosing to trust Him. Ask the class if they would not appreciate divine providence being manifested in their behalf. Bring out in discussion the fact that this tremendous blessing is dependent largely upon the individual. When a person determines to keep himself in the center of God's will and has the purpose in his heart to trust God in every circumstance of life, then God does sustain and guide that person. “In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths” (Proverbs 3:6). “Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you” (James 4:8).

4. In Matthew 1 and 2, how many times did an angel appear to Joseph with instructions from God? List several ways that God shows His providence today.

5. In Psalm 91, a key is given by which divine providence may be obtained. What is that key?

6. In applying the Scripture to our day, make a list of at least six blessings promised to us in Psalm 91.

7. When the devil tempted Jesus (Matthew 4:6), he quoted Psalm 91:11,12. What part of that quote did the devil leave out? Why did Jesus resist the temptation?

8. Psalm 91:14-16 seems to be a direct quote from God. What might be meant by “set his love upon me,” and “shew him my salvation”? See John 3:16.

9. Give an example of divine providence in your life, or in the life of someone you know.

6. These blessings include: He will deliver us from danger (verse 3), protect us (verse 4), keep us from fear (verse 5), He is our perfect refuge (verse 9), His angels watch over us (verse 11), He will support us (verse 12), give us victory (verse 13), He loves us (verse 14). The primary discussion point is that we need and can receive the same divine help and protection today as did the godly in Old Testament times. The Christian wrestles not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers of darkness, so we need the whole of God’s spiritual armor. See Ephesians 6:12-18.

7. The devil omitted part of verse 11, “to keep thee in all thy ways.” Whether this omission was meant to change the meaning of the verse or not, we don’t know, but we do know that Jesus seized on the great principle involved in the promise itself. Jesus rejected the temptation because He knew that such an act would be presuming upon God’s providence. When we are tempted to recklessly presume on God’s divine protection, we have fallen into the devil’s trap. Satan will use any means he can to make us follow him. God’s providential care showed Jesus the folly of following the devil’s temptation. Divine providence will help us today when we are facing trials or the temptations of the devil. God always makes a way for His followers to escape (1 Corinthians 10:13). The key is to follow God’s instructions.

8. Those who love God with all their heart and soul will see salvation through His Son, Jesus. John 3:16 restates this in a beautiful way. God gave His Son for the salvation of every one who believes in Him. Throughout the Old Testament the promise was given that the “willing and obedient” should live long in the land the Lord gave. In the New Testament Jesus enlarged the promise: “Whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die” (John 11:26). This is the promise of eternal life—physical death being but a transition from earth to glory. The Psalmist had great comfort in knowing God’s care surrounded him. God’s child today has even greater promise of providential care as he travels the upward way that leads to eternal life.

9. Encourage the students to relate the examples they have written. Sum up the lesson, reinforcing the truth that God’s love and interest in souls are not limited. Miracles of God’s power are happening in all parts of the world, the requirements being that people love, serve, and have faith in God. You might even bring the page from The Light of Hope entitled “Letters.” Excerpts from the testimonies written on this page certainly show that God’s power is in operation throughout the whole world.

YOUR WRAP-UP

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

What qualities in Joseph made God choose him for his special role? Does God look for these qualities in us?

Since an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph and told him what to do to avoid harm to the infant Jesus, what can we expect of our guardian angel?

What can we do to have God's hand over our lives?

What verses in Psalm 91 tell us what we must do to expect God's protection?

What are some things God might protect us from?

If you did something that your mother or dad or teacher had warned you not to do and you knew it was dangerous, do you think you could expect a guardian angel to help you? Why or why not?

If God is really watching over us and protecting us as Christians, why do accidents and troubles sometimes come to us?

Can you tell of some time when the Lord took care of you or someone you know?

What are some examples from the Bible where God's voice or directions were not followed?

In the ANSWER story, in what way did God provide money for their journey and their stay in Egypt?

THINGS TO DO

Illustrate God's protection by using the following object lessons: a blanket of love (wrap up in a blanket); God's hand in ours (use a glove); carrying us through each day (sandals or footprints).

Create a matching game using Bible characters and the situations from which God delivered each of them. Make two sets of 2" x 3" cards from two different colors of paper. Use one color for the character names (one name per card) and the other color for the situations (one situ-

ation per card). Divide your class into two groups. Give each group a complete set of names and situations. See which side can correctly match them first. Examples: Daniel/Lions' Den, Three Hebrew Children/Fiery Furnace, Paul and Silas/Prison, Noah/Flood, Children of Israel/Egyptian Army in Pursuit.

Select a child and have him pretend he is Joseph. Let the rest of the class interview him. Have questions prepared to help the interview keep moving.

Show your class a map of the area in which this lesson took place and how far Joseph had to take his family. Compare it with a map of your state at the same scale.

Answers for ANSWER

Special Protection

Our lesson today tells us how God protected Jesus from harm. God still cares about His children today. Fill in the missing words of the verse below and then write those words in the puzzle.

The angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt.

Matthew 2:13



TEXT Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; John 1:15-34

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES Luke 3:22; John 14:26; 16:13-15; 1 John 5:7

OBJECTIVE The students will be able to cite scriptural evidence supporting the existence of the Divine Trinity.

KEY VERSE FOR ANSWER Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. — Matthew 28:19

KEY VERSE FOR SEARCH The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. — 2 Corinthians 13:14

RESOURCE MATERIAL Tract No. 25 — The Trinity

**ANSWER
TITLE:** **The Bully**

**SEARCH
TITLE:** **The Holy Trinity**

REFERENCE INFORMATION

The Jordan River, where Jesus was baptized, is the main and largest river in Palestine. Its source is at the base of Mt. Hermon and it empties into the Dead Sea.

John the Baptist and Jesus were cousins and only six months apart in age, John being the older. We aren't told about John's childhood relationship with Jesus, but we do know that when Jesus' time came to minister to the world, John was ready to fulfill his ministry to Jesus. His was no obscure baptism, but was well attended by followers of John who witnessed the Holy Trinity working as one.

Jesus' own claims, as well as the Holy Spirit's revelation, established in the minds of New Testament Christians these convictions: God is One, Jesus is God, the Holy

Spirit is God, and the Three Persons are united. With these convictions well attested to by the Early Church fathers, the council of Nicea, 325 A.D., brought the biblical data into focus in a doctrinal expression to which Bible-believing Christians down through the centuries have adhered—the Holy Trinity.

Some of the attributes applied to the Triune God (the Holy Trinity) are: All-powerful, Deuteronomy 32:39; Eternal, Deuteronomy 32:40; 33:27; Omnipresent, 1 Kings 8:27; Infinite, Isaiah 43:13; A spirit, John 4:24; Self-existent, Acts 17:24,25; Immutable, James 1:17. There are many attributes of personality and office which belong to and constitute the divine nature of God, which may be referred to as the "full assemblage of those perfections which God ascribes to Himself in His Word."

YOUR OPENER

The Holy Trinity

TEXT: Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; John 1:15-34

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: Luke 3:22; John 14:26; 16:13-15; 1 John 5:7

KEY VERSE: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. — 2 Corinthians 13:14

RESOURCE MATERIAL: Tract No. 25 — The Trinity

The New Testament states that one of God's purposes in sending Christ to this world was to reveal Himself more fully to man (John 1:17,18). The study of the Holy Trinity is a glimpse into God's divine nature as revealed to us more clearly in the New Testament, for without this fundamental precept there can be no deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, or of the Holy Spirit. Through the Trinity we see real unity in God the Father's love, Jesus' grace and intercession, and the Holy Spirit's comfort and presence in us.

1. Genesis 1:1 states, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." The Hebrew word for God here is the plural form, "Elohim." Used together with the singular form of the word, "created," we see the unity of the divine Godhead in the work of creation. Verse 2 of this chapter refers to "the Spirit of God," completing the reference to the Trinity. What words in each of the following verses demonstrate the Trinity? See Genesis 1:26; 3:22; 11:7 and 1 John 5:7.

2. What does the last part of 1 John 5:7 tell us about the Trinity?

3. In the Matthew account of John's baptism of Jesus, describe how each person of the Trinity was revealed.

RESPONSES

1. In the three verses in Genesis, the word "us" is used denoting the plurality of the Godhead. The verse in 1 John, explicitly states, "For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word [Christ], and the Holy Ghost: these three are one."

2. "These three [the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost] are one." Discuss the fact that the word "Trinity"—the triunity of the Godhead—is not used in the Scriptures, but is definitely implied. Neither is the word "Persons" used. The word "Persons" was evidently the nearest image the human mind could conceive of in the mysterious relationship of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost. It has been suggested that perhaps the word "Persons" is too concrete and fixed as the human mind conceives it today; and for that reason, the term "Personalities" is preferable. However, the Scriptures use the term "Godhead."

3. In verse 17, the Father spoke from Heaven, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." In verse 16, we find, "... the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him." Jesus was there incarnate to receive the heavenly sanction. Thus we have the three personalities of the Godhead in evidence.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION NOTES

4. Why do you think the account of John's water baptism of Jesus occurs in all of the four Gospels?

5. John the Baptist spoke of Christ's ministry as fulfilling and exceeding his own. What promise was given to those who believed in Christ regarding the third Person of the Trinity—the Holy Spirit? See Matthew 3:11 and Mark 1:8. What promise is given to people today in this respect? See Acts 2:38,39.

6. What is the contribution of each person of the Godhead toward the salvation of mankind? See Romans 5:5,6. For a clearer understanding of the work of the Holy Spirit, see John 16:8,13,14.

7. In what attitude of prayer and worship should we come into the presence of the Triune God who extends to us His infinite authority and power? See Isaiah 55:6,7; 57:15 and Hebrews 13:15.

4. Allow time for the students to give their answers, which may include the thought that Jesus is our example and that His baptism gives clear evidence of the Trinity. Discuss with the class that God's words do not have to be written more than once to be valid and obeyed, but when the Spirit inspires four authors to write the same truth we are more apt to recognize the importance of that truth. In further contemplation of this question, emphasize the fact that the account of Jesus' baptism is one of the clearest evidences of the Divine Trinity.

5. The students should recognize that Christ promised to pray to the Father that the gift of the Holy Ghost might be given to His believers, and to men today under the Latter Rain Gospel. Bring out in discussion that under the Old Testament dispensation a comparatively few people attained to a close walk of communion with God. Even the High Priest could enter only once a year into the Holy of Holies where the Spirit of God dwelt. The Scriptures explain that Jesus opened the way for all believers who have been forgiven and sanctified through His Blood to experience the Third Person of the Trinity in receiving the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

6. The Father loves the world; Jesus gave Himself for the world; the Holy Spirit bears witness with our spirit, and teaches us as we enjoy the blessings of salvation. This question gives an opportunity to discuss the truth that it requires the agency of each of the Godhead to provide salvation and eternal life to man. As someone has said, the Trinity is needed to make a Christian, the Trinity is needed to cheer a Christian, the Trinity is needed to complete a Christian, and the Trinity is needed to create in a Christian the hope of glory. As we have already learned, the Trinity was united in the creation of mankind, and here we see the Godhead united in the salvation of man.

7. The sinner should come to God in repentance, realizing that God is high in Heaven and holy. He dwells also with those who are humble and continually give Him praise and thanksgiving. In concluding this lesson, encourage a verbal interchange of thought concerning the glory of God. Too often contemporary Christianity assumes an almost flippant relationship of man to God. The Almighty God is brought down almost to the level of human beings, and the result is the departure of the glory of God. Let us ask ourselves: Is our service to God given exclusively to glorify Him? Be it daily living, on the job or in the home, be it a ministry of music, song, testimony or preaching, is it all done to glorify God? Or could there be an element of self-exaltation involved? Are we concerned about the commendation of others? Let us resolve that our heartfelt attitude will always be, to God be the glory.

YOUR WRAP-UP

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

What does the word *Trinity* mean?

We have different relationships, and receive different benefits from the various members of our family: father, mother, brother, and sister. Yet we are all one family. What special relationships and benefits do we have from each member of the Holy Trinity?

How does the baptism of Jesus confirm the Holy Trinity?

How does the account of the Creation indicate the Holy Trinity was involved?

Can you name some instances in the Bible where the Holy Spirit led or directed someone?

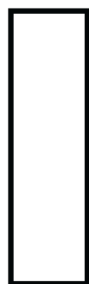
Are there times own life that God's Spirit directed in a specific way?

In the ANSWER story, what was being studied in Jerry's Sunday school lesson that was particularly difficult for him to understand?

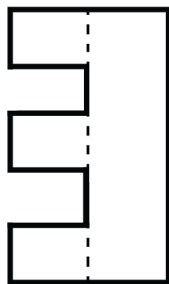
What did Jerry think might help him? How did he follow up on this?

THINGS TO DO

Cut a piece of construction paper or typing paper like the following diagram and fold on dotted lines. Fold the tabs toward the back so children see a number 1. Explain that there is one God and yet there are three Persons in one. As you explain, you can unfold the tabs so the paper looks like a 3.



folded



unfolded

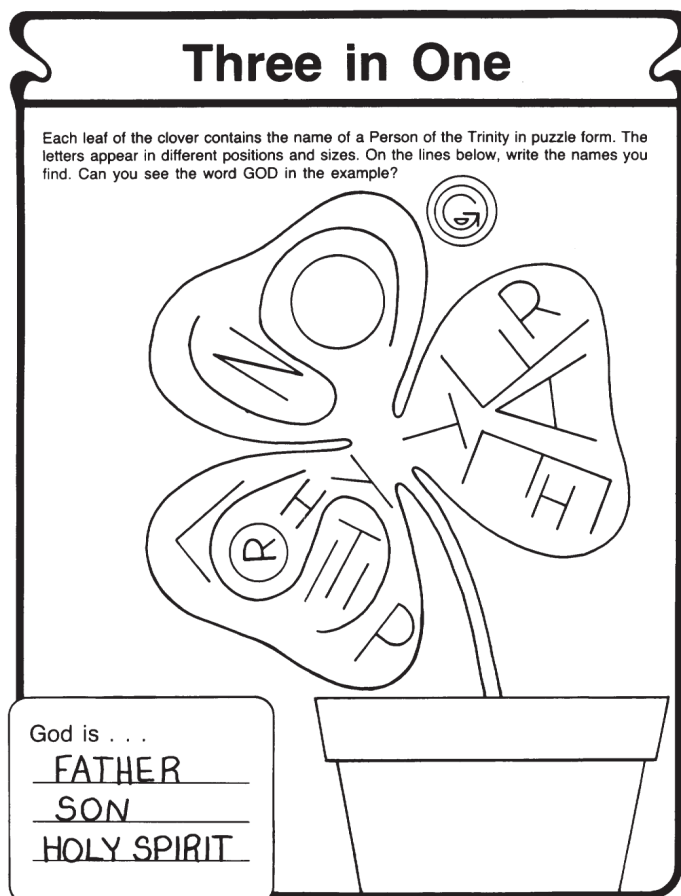
Cut a large circle or heart from construction paper. Cut the shape into three interlocking pieces (like a jigsaw puzzle). On each piece write the name of One of the Trinity. On the reverse side of each of those pieces, write

what that One has done and will do for us. (Have your students help with this part.) Use the pieces to illustrate the oneness of the Trinity, as well as various attributes of each Personality. You may find using the puzzle a good way to review the lesson at the end of class time.

Bring some objects that have three separate parts, yet make up one whole. (Examples: Egg — shell, white, yolk; Apple — skin, fruit, seed.) Talk about how each part has individual characteristics and purpose, but together they form one whole. Compare this to the Trinity.

For each child prepare three strips of paper (long and narrow), each a different color. On one write, "God the Father." On the next, "God the Son." On the third, "God the Holy Spirit." Help your students make a three-link chain with their strips of paper so that each link is connected to the other two. Point out that you have three parts but only one chain. Each part is different (different color). Liken this to the three personalities of the God-head.

Answers for ANSWER



TEXT Luke 4:1-15

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES 1 Corinthians 10:13; Ephesians 6:11-17; 1 Peter 5:8-10

OBJECTIVE The students will be able to relate the account of Christ overcoming temptation. They should further be able to identify what temptation is, and enumerate several ways in which it can be resisted.

KEY VERSE FOR ANSWER Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan. — Luke 4:8

KEY VERSE FOR SEARCH Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. — Ephesians 6:13

**ANSWER
TITLE:** **Temptations in Life**
**SEARCH
TITLE:** **Overcoming Temptation**

REFERENCE INFORMATION

Jesus shows us that the vital key to facing temptation victoriously is the Spirit: “And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness . . . and Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee.”

As we read Luke’s account of Jesus’ temptation, we can see that Satan worked in such a way as to question Jesus’ claim to being the Son of God. Satan said, “If You are the Son of God. He also offered Jesus all power and glory on the condition that Jesus would worship him [Satan], even though all power and glory already belonged to Jesus. The only way Satan can start to get a hold on a man’s heart is to put a doubt in his mind. The Bible records the temptations of numerous people, but two accounts of temptation stand out above all others and in stark contrast to each other—the temptation of Adam and Eve and that of Jesus Christ—but in both, the devil

started out creating (or trying to create) doubt. Adam and Eve were tempted in the paradise called Eden, and Jesus was alone in the wilderness. Adam was tempted through his helpmate Eve, and Jesus was tempted personally and directly by Satan. Adam and Eve were in a garden surrounded by plenty, while Jesus was in a wilderness and almost at the point of starvation. Adam yielded to Satan’s temptation and sin was brought into the world. Christ resisted temptation and conquered sin. Adam’s disobedience forced him out of the Garden and severed his relationship with God. Jesus’ obedience brought Him into a closer relationship with His Father who eventually received Him into Glory.

After Jesus was baptized by John, at first glance it would seem that He was tempted with three simple desires: food, fame, and power. But a closer look shows that Satan’s temptations were not quite that simple. Instead

(continued on page 38)

YOUR OPENER

Overcoming Temptation

TEXT: Luke 4:1-15

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: 1 Corinthians 10:13; Ephesians 6:11-17; 1 Peter 5:8-10

KEY VERSE: Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. — Ephesians 6:13

What better way could Jesus understand our problems and temptations and show us how to overcome them than to face them Himself? Hebrews 4:15 tells us that He “was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.” Since He has been through suffering and temptation He knows what it is like when we suffer and are tempted, and He is wonderfully able to help us. See Hebrews 2:18.

RESPONSES

1. After Jesus was baptized in water, the Holy Ghost descended on Him as a dove (Luke 3:21,22), and verse 1 tells us He was full of the Holy Ghost. We, too, can be filled with that same power—the baptism of the Holy Ghost (Acts 1:8). Ephesians 6:11 helps us understand that having on the whole armor of God also helps us stand against the wiles of the devil.

2. Yes, it would have been wrong because it was a suggestion of the devil, not God. Ask your students if there would ever be an occasion when it would be allowable to do what Satan suggests. Your students should conclude that if they know Satan is prompting them to do something, they had better not give in to him, for he always has an ulterior motive. One thing will lead to another, and it will always be away from God. You may also wish to touch on the point that Christ did not have to prove He was the Son of God. Satan knew very well that Jesus was God’s Son.

3. Satan tried to employ pride and greed to cause Jesus to want what he offered. Satan is a usurper and had no right to offer what Jesus himself helped create, and what was already His. See Daniel 7:14.

1. What did Jesus possess that helps in overcoming temptation? See verse 1. Can we have the same help?

2. Would it have been wrong for Jesus to have turned that stone into bread? Give a reason for your answer.

3. What did Satan use in trying to cause the Lord to accept his offer of the kingdoms of the world? Were these kingdoms his to give?

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION NOTES

4. When Satan tempted Jesus to worship him, how did the Lord answer him? Can we defeat Satan in the same manner?

5. As a last resort, Satan also tried using Scripture to make his final temptation acceptable to the Lord. What was that Scripture, and how does Satan use Scripture when trying to deceive people today?

6. What is temptation, and will it come to a well-established Christian? Is it sin?

7. Write several ways by which we can overcome temptation.

8. While God has made it possible for everyone to be overcomers, what should a person do if he has yielded to the temptation to sin? See Revelation 2:5.

4. Jesus told Satan, "Get thee behind me," and used Scripture to prove that we are to worship God only. Help your students understand that they, too, can use Scripture to defeat Satan. We are told to resist the devil and he will flee from us. See James 4:7.

5. Satan quoted Psalm 91:11,12, but his was a deliberate misuse of God's Word. The intent of that Scripture concerns those who accidentally stumble, not those who would willfully cast themselves from a high place. Today, Satan uses false prophets who twist the Scriptures to their own destruction and the destruction of those who follow them. See 2 Peter 3:16.

6. *Temptation* means "enticement, allurements, attraction to do evil or to become lax in our spiritual responsibilities." No matter what our spiritual standing, we will be subject to temptation as long as we live. But it is only if we yield to temptation that it becomes sin. You may wish to broaden your discussion of this question by asking your students what type of temptation might commonly come to a new Christian, or to a Christian with many years of serving the Lord behind him. The point should be made that the devil is cunning and will seek to attack at the most vulnerable point. He will not tempt a well-established Christian with an all-out violation of God's commandments, but Satan may tempt that Christian in ways which might cause him to become lukewarm. That alone could cause him to eventually lose his salvation.

7. "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation" (Matthew 26:41). Shun evil companions (Proverbs 24:1). Pay your vows (Ecclesiastes 5:5). Guard your tongue (James 1:26). Be careful what you read or look at. Don't enter any place that you would not take the Lord. Be careful what you listen to. Allow time for your class to share what they have written, and to think of other ways in which they might overcome temptation. Review the key verse to wrap up your discussion of this question.

8. We must repent and seek again to be justified by Christ. Ask your students to enumerate some Bible characters who yielded to temptation, but subsequently repented and were restored to God's favor: Jonah, David, Peter, etc. Wrap up your lesson by using 1 Corinthians 15:57 and 2 Corinthians 2:14, showing that victory over every temptation of the enemy is possible through Jesus Christ.

YOUR WRAP-UP

they were food without work, fame without accomplishment, and power without effort. Satan still uses these tools as he works to tempt man away from following God.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

Can a Christian who is thoroughly established still be tempted? How?

What would you consider the dangerous characteristics of the tempter, Satan? Why?

Is temptation sin? When does temptation progress to sin?

How does our need for proper physical nutrition compare to our need to take in nourishment through God's Word for spiritual stamina to resist temptation?

What does it mean to "tempt" God?

How can Scripture help us fight the devil?

How can we recognize temptation?

Why does Jesus understand our temptation?

What are some of the things that might tempt a person your age?

Do you have to yield to temptation? Why or why not?

In the ANSWER story, many problems are recorded in the diary. Have you faced any similar problems? If so, how did you handle the situation?

THINGS TO DO

Use two hand puppets and illustrate a few short, simple temptations, and a response for each. Make some good, some bad. Have students keep a personal tally of right and wrong responses.

Show a fishing pole and a fly for catching fish. Describe how, in order to catch a fish we must tempt the fish by using attractive bait. Satan also uses attractive things to fool or tempt us.

In large letters on construction paper, write several Scriptures that can help us fight the enemy (a different colored paper for each Scripture). Back the paper with felt or flannel material, then cut each verse into individual words. Give each child a set of words, and as they

are unscrambled put them on a flannel board. Discuss how we can use God's Word against the devil. Recite each verse together several times. Take out key words and say them again as a method in helping to plant the promises in the children's hearts. The following are a few possibilities of Scriptures to use: Deuteronomy 33:25; Proverbs 3:6; Isaiah 40:31; Hebrews 13:5; James 4:7; 1 John 4:4; Revelation 12:11.

Divide your class into two groups. Give each student a piece of paper with the word TEMPTATION written down the left margin. Allow the students five minutes to see which group can come up with the most words (beginning with the letters in *temptation*) naming things we might be tempted to do. Give one point for each word. Five extra points can be given if a student names something for every letter.

Show your students a duck decoy and a duck call. Explain that in the same sense that these items are used, Satan often uses objects and words to try to fool or tempt us into thinking wrong is right.

Answers for ANSWER

Don't Give In!

Use the code below to find God's formula for overcoming the temptation of Satan.


CODE:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
◇	●	◊	♥	■	▣	#	✂	☎	✓	✱	✱	✱
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
☞		◄	⊗	▲	○	□	♥	☆	☒	☒	☒	◆

Who is the "Lamb"?

J E S U S!

✓ ■ ○ ♥ ○



AND	THEY	OVERCAME
◇ ☞ ♥	□ ✂ ■ ☒	☆ ▲ ☒ ◇ ✱ ■
HIM	BY	THE
✂ ☞ ✱	● ☒	□ ✂ ■
OF	THE	LAMB, AND
☞	□ ✂ ■	★ ◇ ✱ ● ◇ ☞ ♥
BY	THE	WORD
● ☒	□ ✂ ■	☒ ▲ ♥ ☞
THEIR	TESTIMONY.	
□ ✂ ■ ☞ ▲	□ ■ ○ □ ☞ ✱ ☞ ☒	

TEXT John 1:35-51

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES Isaiah 6:8; Mark 3:14,15; Acts 9:15,16; 22:21; Ephesians 4:11,12

OBJECTIVE The students will be able to describe Christ's call to His disciples. They will further be able to discuss the importance of being alert to the calling of God in their own lives, and answering that call.

KEY VERSE FOR ANSWER And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. — Matthew 4:19

KEY VERSE FOR SEARCH Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. — Matthew 16:24

**ANSWER
TITLE:**

Chosen

**SEARCH
TITLE:**

God's Call

REFERENCE INFORMATION

Besides Peter and Andrew, and James and John, Scripture cites other times when two brothers were called, but in those cases they had opposite reactions to the call of God (one answering and one not).

Cain and Abel — Genesis 4:1-7

Esau and Jacob — Genesis 25:31-33

Parable of two sons — Matthew 21:28-31

Prodigal son and his brother — Luke 15:11-32

When Jesus was looking for disciples, He did not go among the scribes and Pharisees, men who had studied the Old Testament Scriptures and were at the head of the Jewish church. Those men were filled with their own ideas and would not listen to Christ's teachings. Neither did He go among the rich, because they thought they had all they needed and were not looking for the heavenly

Kingdom. Jesus went, instead, among the humble folk and sought out men who needed help and who loved the truth. Among them He found men He could trust to carry on His great work after He returned to Heaven.

A *disciple* (Greek, *mathetes*, a learner) is a pupil of some teacher. The word implies the "acceptance in mind and life of the views and practices of the teacher." In the New Testament it means, in the widest sense, those who accept the teachings of anyone, whether it be Moses, John the Baptist, the Pharisees, or Jesus. Usually, however, it refers to the followers or close associates of Jesus Christ, and sometimes to the twelve Apostles. More often though, it refers to the believers, the Christians. The term *Christian* was not applied to disciples until the founding of the church at Antioch. See Acts 11:26.

YOUR OPENER

God's Call

TEXT: John 1:35-51

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: Isaiah 6:8; Mark 3:14,15; Acts 9:15,16; 22:21; Ephesians 4:11,12

KEY VERSE: Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. — Matthew 16:24

RESPONSES

1. The students will see that the preaching of John the Baptist caused the attention of the disciples to be drawn to Jesus. The presence of Jesus was pointed out by the statement of John the Baptist. "Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29,36). Ask your students to explain why this statement offers one of the greatest reasons to answer the call of Christ.

2. It will be noted that the first step for the disciples, as well as any new Christian, is to actively follow Jesus. Ask your students if they feel the disciples were fully aware of what following Jesus would mean, or the extent of the call He was placing upon their lives when they chose to follow Him. When the call of God comes to people today, is it always clear and definite? Discussion should bring out that sometimes the call of God must be taken one step at a time; for instance, by making ourselves available for God's service and doing whatever He gives us to do. Christ sees each action and will lead us a step at a time as we prove our willingness to follow Him.

3. He believed Jesus to be the Messiah, and immediately went out to seek for his brother Peter, whom he introduced to Jesus. It might be worthwhile to note that although Andrew was not often referred to, he was always laboring behind the scenes to bring people to Christ: the lad with the loaves and fishes (John 6:8), and the Greeks who came to see Jesus (John 12:20-22). Your students should see that they do not always have to be in prominent positions or engaged in service that can be seen of men in order to be valuable workers for the Lord.

4. As your students cite some reasons, they should understand that, though there are many excuses, none of them are valid. Some such excuses may be: I am so weak in myself; there are too many hypocrites; I am not a very bad sinner; I cannot understand. Remind your students that in Jesus' parable, those who made excuses were barred from the feast.

In calling men and women to follow Him, Jesus always spoke in words that could be comprehended by the hearers. The message of the Gospel is not veiled to the understanding. Throughout the centuries God has called countless men and women who answered and left all to follow Him. How vital it is to be alert to the calling of God in our own lives, and then to answer that call!

1. What circumstances brought about the disciples' first contact with Jesus?
2. What was the first simple step taken by the disciples?
3. What was Andrew's reaction when introduced to Jesus?
4. State some of the reasons people might give for not following Christ, or for not answering His call.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION NOTES

5. How did God's call to salvation come to you?

6. After a person has answered God's call to salvation, he will undoubtedly be called to do some particular service for God. How does God's call for service come to individuals?

7. What might be some of the common reactions or feelings of a person when God calls him to do a particular task?

8. God does not ask everyone to do the same task, but there is one thing that every Christian is called to do. Using Psalm 107:2, identify a calling that every Christian shares, and explain how it can be answered.

5. Begin the discussion by having your students tell of the different ways in which God's call came to them. This is a good opportunity to enumerate the different means by which the Gospel message is conveyed to individuals—preaching, testifying, singing, distributing literature, etc.

6. As your students respond to this question, it should become apparent that God calls His followers to work for Him in a variety of ways. It may be through the suggestion of the ministry, through a strong persuasion which comes as one seeks the will of God, through revelation of Scripture, etc.

7. Your students' responses to this question might be that, though he may feel honored or inadequate, each person needs to realize the supreme importance of this call to service. Your students should understand that God gives strength for each task He calls them to do, therefore it is vital that they follow through and do it.

8. Every Christian is called to tell others of the redemption they have received through Christ. Our duties and responsibilities in the Lord's service may vary, but our goals and objectives are the same—to glorify God and point men and women to Jesus Christ. Ask your students to mention some of the places where a verbal witness for Christ can be given, thus helping them to recognize that their testimony should not be reserved solely for a church service. Conclude your lesson by re-emphasizing the importance of being alert to the call of God in whatever manner it comes, and being ready and willing to answer that call.

YOUR WRAP-UP

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

What did Peter and Andrew do after Jesus told them to follow Him?

How might we hear or recognize God's call to us? How can we be sure that it is God's call and not just our own desire?

Name some things God might call a young person to do?

Peter and Andrew left their nets, their occupation, when Jesus came by. What are some things we might be required to give up in order to answer God's call?

How much did the disciples understand about their calling?

The disciples were able to follow Jesus physically: they ate where He ate and slept where He slept. How are we, as Christians, able to follow Jesus today?

What are some things that you feel God has called all Christians to do?

The ANSWER story tells why some people fail to answer God's call, or find the truth. What is that reason?

THINGS TO DO

As an opener for your class, have a short game of "Follow the Leader" where the students try to do exactly what the teacher does. You could recite the key verse, open your Bible to the Scripture text, bow your head in opening prayer, etc. Lead into the lesson, explaining that Jesus calls us to follow Him.

In a piece of net, put a number of paper fish on which you have written some situations. These should be circumstances where a person might feel a call from God to do something specific for Him. Have each student take out a fish, read the message aloud, and tell what he thinks should be the response or action taken. Examples of some situations might be:

- A new neighbor moves in next door. You wonder if he goes to Sunday school, but he looks older than you and you are not sure if he is friendly.
- Your locker partner asks you to skip class with him.
- Your science teacher assigns a report on evolution.

Show your students pictures which illustrate choices we make every day. With each picture ask such questions as: Would you rather take a trip to the beach or the mountains? Do you want a red dress or a blue sweater for your birthday? Would you prefer to drive a Honda or a Ford? Talk about how we all have a much more important choice to make, to follow God or not. Show a

picture of Jesus and contrast it to a group of friends or something else they might choose instead of Jesus.

Visual aid: Dog whistle or dinner bell, used to summon someone.

Call one of your class members on Saturday evening and give him a message. Ask him to call another member of your class with the same message. That person in turn should call another person with the message. On Sunday morning in class, see how many of your members received the message. Emphasize how important it was for each person to pass the message along. Compare this to Andrew and Philip, who passed the message of the Messiah along to Peter and Nathanael.


Give each class member a sealed envelope on which the words OFFICIAL CALL TO DUTY is printed on the outside. Have each student open his envelope to see what duty he has been assigned to perform in class that day (answer lesson questions, recite key verse, read Scripture text, close in prayer, etc.). Compare this "call to duty" to Jesus' call to Christians. Do we always know exactly what duty we are to perform for the Lord? How do we find out what we are supposed to do?

Answers for ANSWER

Tell Me About It

When Jesus lived on earth He had twelve special helpers who were called His disciples. Below is a list of their names. Read Matthew 10:2-5 and fill in the missing letters.

B A R T H O L O M E W
J A M E S
M A T T H E W
T H A D D A E U S
S I M O N
J O H N
P E T E R
T H O M A S
J U D A S
P H I L I P
J A M E S
A N D R E W



Dear _____,

Signed _____

Wouldn't it be fun to talk to one of the disciples? Pretend you lived during Biblical times. Write a letter to a disciple of your choice. What will you ask him? What do you want to know about Jesus?

TEXT John 2:1-11

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES Matthew 8:5-10,13; Mark 5:25-34; Luke 5:18-20,24,25; John 9:11

OBJECTIVE The students will be able to state the particulars of Jesus' first recorded miracle, noting that this miracle was the start of His public ministry. The students will understand that the Lord works miracles often as the result of faith and obedience on the part of the recipients.

KEY VERSE FOR ANSWER Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it. — John 2:5

KEY VERSE FOR SEARCH This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him. — John 2:11

ANSWER
TITLE: **His First Miracle**

SEARCH
TITLE: **Jesus' First Miracle**

REFERENCE INFORMATION

Cana was a small city of Galilee. Its probable location is about eight miles northeast of Nazareth (no one knows for sure). By saying this was "Cana of Galilee," the evangelist distinguishes it from another Cana, which was of the tribe of Asher, just southeast of Tyre. See Joshua 19:28.

The term woman as used in verse 4, was a title of respect, not an insult as some suppose. See also John 19:26.

Waterpots were set in a convenient place for the use of the Jews in washing their hands before they sat down to meat, and probably for other purposes of purification.

The number of pots was proportioned to the number of guests. The six waterpots at this marriage at Cana, contained two to three firkins apiece, which probably measured a total of 126 gallons.

The governor of the feast was either one of the guests elected to preside over the occasion, or a professional hired for the job. He supervised the sacred ceremony as well as the progress of the festivities.

This first miracle can symbolize spiritual truth, the wine typifying the joy and ministration Jesus came to bring. Only the Creator can recreate us. His attendance at the feast could be thought of as Jesus' blessing on marriage.

YOUR OPENER

Jesus' First Miracle

TEXT: John 2:1-11

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: Matthew 8:5-10,13; Mark 5:25-34; Luke 5:18-20,24,25; John 9:11

KEY VERSE: This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him. — John 2:11

RESPONSES

1. Cana of Galilee was probably located about eight miles northeast of Nazareth and west of the Sea of Galilee. Jesus and His disciples had been invited there to attend a marriage. This was a time of social fellowship, and should inspire us to recognize the importance of keeping Jesus as the center of every part of our lives.

2. Mary knew that Jesus was the Son of God. From what we read, she never entertained any doubt of this fact. She believed that Jesus could perform miracles even though He hadn't done so up to this time. Students should conclude that even if they haven't seen Jesus perform a miracle in their lives, He is still able to do so. But, faith is a necessity if they are to receive anything from God.

3. Jesus said that His time had not yet come. In another place, He said that He always did the will of His Father. Up to this moment, Jesus showed no compulsion to act. But perhaps Mary's faith moved the Father to allow Jesus to meet the need of these people. The Bible doesn't tell us the reason Jesus chose this to be the first of His many miracles. Discussion should bring out that many times a situation may arise in which there is little encouragement to believe a miracle will transpire, but faith does move the arm of God.

4. Responses to this question may vary. Some students may suggest that Mary had confidence that if a problem was brought to the Lord He would be sympathetic to the need and would do something about it. Other students may bring out that Mary recognized the need for obedience to Jesus. If the people had not obeyed Jesus, would the water have been changed into wine? Read Matthew 6:8 and discuss how God is aware of our needs.

What joy there is for the person who has faith in God and will obey His Word. Obedience brings blessing, for we find that the Lord works miracles often as the result of faith and obedience on the part of the recipients. In our lesson today, we see how these two ingredients combined to set the stage for Jesus' first recorded miracle, and the start of His public ministry.

1. What was the name of the village where Jesus performed His first miracle? What was the occasion that had brought Him there?

2. Why do you think Mary said to Jesus, "They have no wine"?

3. Why didn't Jesus encourage Mary to believe that He would do something about the need?

4. Why do you suppose Mary told the servants, "Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it"?

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION NOTES

5. Jesus told the servants to fill the six waterpots with water—no small task when we consider that in all likelihood it was drawn from a well. Since these servants weren't employed by Jesus, why do you think they obeyed Him when presumably they should have been trying to obtain more wine?
6. Jesus' first miracle actually came about without His having any physical contact with the water, or in "telling" the water what it should become before it was served. Since it was performed with such simplicity, how do you suppose the servant felt when he drew wine from one of the pots and gave it to the governor of the feast?
7. What was the response of the governor of the feast when he tasted from the cup given to him by a servant?
8. Can we expect to see miracles if we do as Jesus commands us? Explain. See 1 John 5:14,15.
9. In our text, who believed on Jesus because of the miracle?

5. The servants had been given a suggestion by Mary, and they may have been inspired by the faith that Mary had in her heart. Our attitude of faith as Christians can be transmitted to others, as can our lack of faith. If we as Christians live by the principle of doing whatever Jesus tells us to do, those around us may be influenced to do the same thing.
6. A variety of answers may be given. The servant might have been hesitant or dubious. He may have been reluctant, but as a servant he was compelled to do what this guest asked him to do. The discussion should focus on the point that the important thing is not how they may feel about a commandment from the Lord, but that they should do what the Lord says. Ask your students what happens when one doesn't follow the Lord's directions.
7. The governor of the feast inquired why the best wine had been saved for the last. This is testimony that when Jesus does something for us, He always does a perfect job. Even sinners know when God works a miracle.
8. The days of miracles did not end when Jesus ascended into Heaven. God works miracles for the believer today. Some additional promises to this effect are in Matthew 21:22 and John 15:7.
9. His disciples believed on Him. Ask your students to discuss how every miracle witnessed increases the faith in the heart of the believer. Summarize the lesson by paralleling the comment of the governor of the feast regarding the bridegroom's having saved the best till the last, with the Christian's hope for the future. The Christian receives the blessing of the Lord here, but in the end he will receive eternal life in Heaven—again, the best is at the last.

YOUR WRAP-UP

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

What is the meaning of the word *miracle*?

What miracle did Jesus perform at Cana?

Did Mary expect Jesus to perform a miracle? How can you tell?

Why do you suppose Jesus performed this miracle (beside the fact that they needed more wine)?

Who knew of the miracle? How do you think they reacted to the power of Jesus?

What did the servants do to show Jesus that they believed He could perform the miracle? What must we do to show the Lord that we believe He will take care of us?

Did miracles only happen while Jesus was here on earth? Why can we still expect miracles to happen today?

What are some commands the Lord has given us?

Why is it important to do what God asks of us?

In the ANSWER story, what effect did the miracle which Jesus performed have on the servant Ahiah?

THINGS TO DO

For each student provide a mug or a styrofoam cup, with some concentrated grape juice at the bottom of each cup. Cover the tops of these cups before class starts. When telling the story of the miracle at Cana, pour water into each cup and let the students drink the grape juice.

Have the students act out a short skit about the servants who obeyed Jesus. You can assist them by finding fictional names for the servants, and discussing the feelings that these servants might have had and their reactions to Jesus' miracle.

Add some food coloring to a glass of water. Point out that we can change the appearance of the water, but it is still water. Only God can change its nature.

Bring to class a stone pot or container that resembles a waterpot. Fill it with slips of paper on which you have written some of the promises God gave to us if we obey Him. Have each student draw one out, read it, and

explain its meaning in his own words. These should illustrate that God does reward obedience.

Discuss what the servants' thoughts might have been after hearing Jesus' command. (For instance, We don't need water. What good will that do? etc.) Then give some examples of commands or situations your students might encounter and ask the class what their first reaction would be, and what the results of obeying or not obeying might be:

— Your Sunday school teacher points out a new student and asks you to go sit by him and be friendly. You are shy and don't know what to say.

— You've been invited to a party, but Mom says Dad will pick you up at 10 o'clock. You're sure no one else will be leaving that early.


— A group of girls you've really admired at school invite you to a slumber party. But it is on a church night and Mom says she wants you to go with the rest of the family.

Answers for ANSWER

The First of Many

Jesus' first recorded miracle was at the marriage in Cana of Galilee. That was just the start of many miracles. Listed in the circles below are a few miracles that we should remember because of the numbers involved. Find the correct numerical answers to the questions and write the answers in each circle. Then find the sum of the numbers in the circles that overlap and write the sum in the correct place. The first set of numbers has been given to help you start.

<p>Number of lepers (Luke 17:12)</p> <p>10</p>	<p>How many loaves? (Matthew 14:19)</p> <p>5</p>	
<p>163</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>Number of fish (John 21:11)</p> <p>153</p>	<p>What day was the marriage? (John 2:1)</p> <p>3</p>	
<p>154</p>	<p>9</p>	
<p>How many thanked Jesus? (Luke 17:15)</p> <p>1</p>	<p>How many water pots? (John 2:6)</p> <p>6</p>	
	<p>7</p>	



TEXT Matthew 5:1-12; Psalm 119:1-6

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES Psalms 84:11,12; 128:1,2

OBJECTIVE The students will be able to give, in their own words, the meaning of each of the Beatitudes. This should help them realize the necessity of following Christ’s perfect formula to obtain true happiness.

KEY VERSE FOR ANSWER If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.
— John 13:17

KEY VERSE FOR SEARCH But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.
— James 1:25

ANSWER
TITLE:

SEARCH
TITLE:

A Valuable Lesson

Ingredients for Happiness

REFERENCE INFORMATION

Jesus taught His followers how man ought to live, but His teachings turned ordinary human ideas about happiness upside down. Contrary to general opinion, He taught that it is not the schemers, those who bend the rules, who are the real successes. The truly happy ones are those who recognize the futility of self-reliance and learn to depend wholly on God. Everything else follows from this. The people who can be certain of future bless-

ings are the humble, the forgiving, the pure, those who set their hearts on what is right, who try to heal the rifts.

No one is sure about the exact location for the Sermon on the Mount. Two locations are accepted—the Horns of Hattin, south of the Sea of Galilee, and the location which is now called the Mount of Beatitudes, a hilly region not far from Capernaum, toward the west.

YOUR OPENER

Ingredients for Happiness

TEXT: Matthew 5:1-12; Psalm 119:1-6

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: Psalms 84:11,12; 128:1,2

KEY VERSE: But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed. — James 1:25

RESPONSES

- 1. It means “happy,” but specifically the happiness that is only to be found in serving God and obeying His Word. It denotes a peace of mind. Jesus said, “My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you” (John 14:27). To be truly blessed of God is different from any happiness the world can bring.
- 2. We must “look” into the perfect law of liberty, “continue” therein, “not be forgetful,” and “be a doer.” Discuss with your students how each of these can be accomplished.
- 3. We are admonished to endeavor to have all of these Christian attributes in order to receive God’s full blessing on our lives. A true disciple or follower of Christ desires to keep all His commandments.
- 4. Listen to the students’ answers and share with them your thoughts. Following are some suggestions you may offer.

Jesus’ teachings to His disciples and the multitudes as found in Matthew 5, 6 and 7 are known as the “Sermon on the Mount.” The blessings He pronounced at the beginning of that message are called *The Beatitudes*, which means “perfect blessedness or happiness.”

- 1. What is the meaning of the word *blessed*, as found in the Beatitudes?
- 2. In reference to our key verse, there are four requirements in order to receive the promise that we shall be blessed in our doings. List these four requirements and briefly explain each.
- 3. How many of the basic ingredients for happiness listed in Matthew 5:3-12 are necessary if we wish to follow Jesus and truly be His disciples?

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION NOTES

4. Listed below are eight basic ingredients Jesus gave for happiness. After each of these give a short definition of what you think is meant. In the next column, list Jesus' promise to those who exhibit that quality.

Quality	Meaning	Jesus' Promise
The poor in spirit		
They that mourn		
The meek		
They which hunger and thirst after righteousness		
The merciful		
The pure in heart		
The peacemakers		
The persecuted for righteousness' sake		

The poor in spirit: This quality indicates humility and absence of pride, one's realizing a need before God. Romans 12:3 tells us not to think of ourselves more highly than we ought to think. The kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who exhibit this quality.

They that mourn: After realizing their need, they must have a contrite spirit before God, which indicates a remorse and sorrow for their sins. God looks favorably on that one (Isaiah 66:2), and gives him comfort and forgiveness.

The meek: This denotes a mild and gentle spirit, and patient disposition, not easily irritated. Explain that this is just the opposite spirit of those in power in the earth, both in Jesus' time and today, but Jesus said that these (the meek) shall inherit the earth.

They which hunger and thirst after righteousness: Bring out that just as physical hunger and thirst are fulfilled and satisfied by food and drink, so God has promised to spiritually fill and satisfy those who have a hunger or deep desire for righteousness and the things that are pleasing to God.

The merciful: This shows a kindness, compassion, and willingness to forgive beyond what would normally be expected of one. Stress that they were undeserving of God's mercy, yet He gave it to them. In like manner, they should show mercy to others.

The pure in heart: One who exhibits holiness. Impress upon the students the importance of sanctification, holiness, purity. Jesus said that the pure in heart shall see God. Hebrews 12:14 tells us that without holiness no man shall see the Lord.

The peacemakers: They who make every effort to promote peace with others will be called the children of God. Jesus was called "The Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6). Paul the Apostle tells us to live peaceably with all men (Romans 12:18), and James 3:18 tells us the results of the actions of those who make peace.

The persecuted for righteousness' sake: Jesus impressed upon His listeners that the kingdom of Heaven is the reward awaiting those who are patient and even rejoice when they are persecuted because of their righteousness. Show that the times the students are ridiculed because they are Christians cannot be compared to the sufferings some have gone through for Christ. Paul said that "all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution" (2 Timothy 3:12).

Summarize your lesson with the thought that there are abundant blessings available for those who will follow Jesus' requirements for happiness as outlined in the text and the key verse of our lesson.

YOUR WRAP-UP

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

What does *blessed* mean?

What does it mean to be “poor in spirit”? Give an example in terms of our everyday living. Go through this with each of the Beatitudes.

What do you think *mourn* means?

How do we become “pure in heart,” and who will we see if we are?

What do you think *meek* means? Why will the meek, rather than the domineering or proud, inherit the earth?

As you put on the characteristics taught in the Beatitudes, how will this show others that you love Jesus and want to live for Him . . .

in your home?

at school?

at play?

among those who are of a different race?

at Sunday school and church?

Name some prophets who were persecuted.

In what ways can a person find happiness in this life if he is poor in spirit, if he is mourning, or if he is being persecuted?

How do the Beatitudes relate to a Christian’s happiness? What verse especially indicates this?

Why did Jesus teach the Beatitudes? What have you learned about God from the Beatitudes?

In the ANSWER story, how did Chuck’s grandfather help him to understand the principles Jesus taught in the Beatitudes?

THINGS TO DO

Draw nine happy faces on hearts, writing one of the Beatitudes on the back of each. Use these to bring out the point that we can be blessed (more than happy) if we apply the Beatitudes to our lives.

Make a matching game of the Beatitudes, dividing each verse into two parts and making two complete sets. Divide your class into two teams. Have each team open a Bible to Matthew 5, and let them race to see which team can be the first to correctly match the verses.

Try to act out each of the Beatitudes by yourself. Have your students guess which Beatitude is being portrayed.

Give each student a sheet of paper on which the word BLESSED is printed down the left side. Ask them to write as many words as they can (beginning with each letter in the word *blessed*) that are things with which God blesses people today.

Answers for ANSWER

A Happiness How To

Some people have a hard time understanding the Beatitudes. The word *beatitudes* means “blessings.” Those who are blessed of God enjoy great happiness and joy. In the boxes below are two ways to say the Beatitudes. One way is the Scripture from the Bible. The other is a way to say them that might be simpler to understand. Match up the Scripture verses in Box 1 to the meaning in Box 2. Put the letter from Box 2 on the line next to the verse it matches in Box 1.

Box 1

- E Blessed are the poor in spirit: for their’s is the kingdom of heaven. (verse 3)
- H Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. (verse 4)
- A Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. (verse 5)
- D Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. (verse 6)
- F Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. (verse 7)
- B Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. (verse 8)
- I Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. (verse 9)
- G Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness’ sake: for their’s is the kingdom of heaven. (verse 10)
- C Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven. (verses 11 & 12)



Box 2

- A. The earth will someday belong to those who are patient and gentle with others.
- B. God will be seen by those whose hearts are free from all sin.
- C. There is a great reward in Heaven for those who are treated badly and have lies told about them just because they love Jesus.
- D. Those who want to learn to serve God better and better will receive that wish.
- E. Heaven is for those who do not think they are better than others.
- F. Those who don’t hurt or punish anyone who is in their power will receive mercy themselves.
- G. Heaven is for those who are treated badly just because they love Jesus.
- H. Those who are sad will be comforted.
- I. God’s children are those who want to make peace.

TEXT Mark 4:1-20

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES Matthew 13:1-9; Luke 8:4-15; 1 Corinthians 3:11-15

OBJECTIVE The students will be able to define the four types of soil, and parallel them to man's spiritual awareness and development.

KEY VERSE FOR ANSWER Grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. — 2 Peter 3:18

KEY VERSE FOR SEARCH Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. — John 15:8

ANSWER
TITLE:

SEARCH
TITLE:

Good Ground
Roots That Go Deep

REFERENCE INFORMATION

Jesus taught, using parables to illustrate a point. This method aided the memory of His hearers. To those who desired to know, the Lord revealed the meaning of the parable. Matthew 13:10-15

In Bible times after the soil had been plowed with a crude wooden plow, pulled by oxen or other animals, the farmer sowed the seed on the ground and then used some method to get it under the soil. There were two methods of sowing: one was tossing the seed by hand; the second, to attach the bags of seed to animals, with

holes in the bags large enough for the seeds to trickle out. As the animals walked over the plowed ground, the seeds were distributed. In this story, likely the seed was thrown by hand.

In the story of the Sower and the Seed, the Sower is Christ or His followers. The Seed is the Word of God. Seeds over 4,000 years old found in the tombs of the Pharaohs still germinate. This is a wonderful illustration of the fact that God's Word never grows too old to produce "new life."

YOUR OPENER

Roots That Go Deep

TEXT: Mark 4:1-20

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: Matthew 13:1-9; Luke 8:4-15; 1 Corinthians 3:11-15

KEY VERSE: Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.
— John 15:8

The parable of the “Sower and the Seed” is one that applies anytime God’s Word goes forth. The sower sows the seed, the seed is God’s Word, and the ground is the soul in whom the seed is sown. Within the four classes of ground discussed in this lesson, each person can be found.

RESPONSES

- 1. Let your students give their definitions of a parable. They should understand that it is a simple story or natural illustration used to communicate a spiritual truth, moral lesson, or religious principle. Matthew Henry called parables spiritual or heavenly things described in language borrowed from things of this life. A parable is a comparison between natural things with which men are familiar and spiritual things with which they are not so familiar.
- 2. Parables served a two-fold purpose. They revealed “the mysteries of the kingdom” to those who would know and treasure them. On the other hand, those who were insensible to spiritual things heard only a story which provided temporary entertainment.
- 3. Allow time for your students to offer their explanations, bringing out that this phrase refers to spiritual perception rather than physical hearing. Ask them to point out the difference between physical hearing and spiritual hearing. Sometimes people may hear the message of the Gospel with their physical ears, and yet not respond to it. Stress that the difficulty is not with the physical ears or mind, but with the heart. It is this issue with which the parable in our text deals.
- 4. The fowls of the air devoured it. Have your students define the *wayside ground*. Those by the wayside are “indifferent hearers who are spiritually deaf.” What tactics does the enemy use to prevent people from heeding the Word? He takes it away before it can take root. What would the remedy be for this situation?

- 1. What is a parable?
- 2. Why do you think Jesus sometimes used parables when teaching?
- 3. Jesus often said, “He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.” What do you think that means?
- 4. What happened to the seed that fell by the wayside? How does that describe the spiritual awareness of some people?

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION NOTES

5. What happened to the seed that fell upon stony ground? What spiritual characteristics does the stony ground describe?

6. What happened to the seed that fell among the thorns? How does thorny ground parallel with the spiritual life of some?

7. How can we prepare ourselves to be good ground? Make a list of suggestions.

8. Do you think it is better to produce thirty, sixty, or a hundredfold?

9. Look up the references for the following Bible characters and write down what type of ground you think they represented. Be prepared to explain your answers.

A. Saul — 1 Samuel 28:15

B. Solomon — 1 Kings 11:4

C. Belshazzar — Daniel 5:22,23

D. Zacchaeus — Luke 19:6,8

E. Judas — John 6:70,71

F. Felix — Acts 24:25

G. Paul — 2 Timothy 4:7,8

H. Demas — Colossians 4:14; 2 Timothy 4:10

5. Your students should define *stony ground* as “unstable or emotional hearers.” Have your students make a detailed list from Scripture of characteristics exhibited by this ground (shallow, easily offended, lack of endurance, lack of stability under affliction and persecution, etc.). You may wish to refer your students to Matthew 13 and Luke 8 for supporting details. How can one guard against acquiring these undesirable characteristics?

6. The thorns sprang up and choked it. Your students should conclude that these are encumbered hearers. Their priorities were set up wrong. What are some specific cares of life that entangle people today? In what way are riches deceitful? How do they encumber? What can one do to insure that his heart will not become thorny ground?

7. Establish a circle response (Teacher's Handbook, Page 34) to bring out the possibilities. One item that could start your discussion might be the importance of hearing during church (i.e. song services, testimonies, Scripture reading, preaching). How can our hearts be cultivated? watered?

8. Whether we produce thirty, sixty, or a hundredfold is not what is important; it is rather that we produce the best that we are capable of producing. See Colossians 3:23.

9. Following is a list of “soils” represented by each Bible character. Be aware that there may be more than one acceptable answer. Your students may interpret the verses in a slightly different way; for example, choosing stony rather than thorny ground.

A. Thorny — The seed was received, sprang up, endured for a time, then was choked by cares of life. 1 Samuel 13:13

B. Thorny — The seed was received but was then choked out by love of this world.

C. Wayside — The seed trodden down, was never received.

D. Good — The seed was received with understanding and yielded fruit.

E. Thorny — The seed was received but along came a lust for other things.

F. Wayside — The seed just lay there, and was snatched away by Satan.

G. Good — The seed was received, kept, and brought forth much fruit.

H. Stony — The seed was received with joy but had no root, so only endured for awhile.

YOUR WRAP-UP

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

Can you illustrate each type of soil and relate it to man's spiritual life?

The "stony" and "thorny" hearts of people have a couple of things in common. Can you name them?

How can we prepare ourselves to be "good ground"?

Where was Jesus when He taught the parable of the Sower and the Seed, and who was He speaking to?

In verse 2 of our text, why was this parable spoken of as "his doctrine"?

In what ways can a person build Christian character into his life, rather than just barely hold on?

What is our responsibility after we hear the Word of God? What if we reject it?

How can this story help you?

In the ANSWER story, what were the two Sunday school teachers discussing and what comparison was made?

THINGS TO DO

Take five sheets of construction paper of varied colors, and five sheets of white construction paper. Cut all the sheets of paper into large heart shapes. Cut a door in each sheet of the colored paper. Back each colored heart with a white heart. Paste pictures of (or draw) each type of soil onto the white hearts. Inside the fifth heart paste a small purse mirror. After discussing the four types of soil, ask your students what kind of soil they are. Open the fifth heart and let them look at their own reflection.

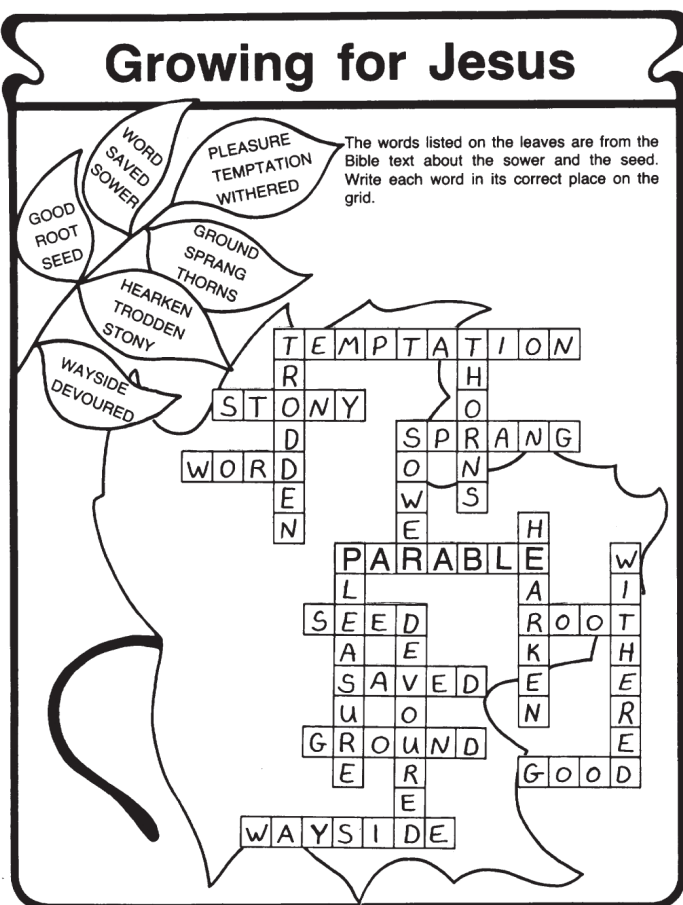
Show your class a cross section cut from a tree to show the rings of growth. Use this to illustrate how we must grow in Christ step by step. As we grow we can know more of Jesus and His love.

Show your students one strong plant, and one wilted or withered plant. Use them to illustrate that the Bible

says we need a special kind of nourishment to be strong Christians. We need good doctrine, godliness, and godly exercise. We need to nourish ourselves with the Bible and with clean thoughts, prayers, love, and care for others. This is spiritual exercise which helps us grow strong.

Show your students some weights, barbells, or other types of exercise equipment. Explain that a Christian life is similar to weight lifting. First, God is the source of your strength; second, God trains you in His Word so you will be prepared; third, you must practice and live your life to honor God; and fourth, you must grow in God to handle progressively larger problems. You must cultivate good soil to be a healthy Christian.

Answers for ANSWER



TEXT Review Quarter Texts

OBJECTIVE The students will be able to summarize the main points of the lessons studied during this past quarter, forming an accurate picture of Christ's life, His purpose and teachings.

KEY VERSE FOR ANSWER Thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. — Matthew 1:21

KEY VERSE FOR SEARCH This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.
— 1 Timothy 1:15

ANSWER TITLE: **Quarter Review**

SEARCH TITLE: **Quarter Review**

REFERENCE INFORMATION

In thinking of the life of Christ, we most often focus on the time that He spent here on earth as described in the four Gospels. Yet His full career spans the ages. Before the worlds were, Christ was, and all things were made by Him. By the incarnation, Jesus took upon Himself the human form in order to reveal God to man in a way mankind could grasp. He gave Himself for their redemption. With the successful completion of His work here on

earth, He went to be with the Father in Heaven, where He remains, representing and making intercession for mankind before the Throne. This He will continue to do until His return to this earth to rule His millennial kingdom. At the ending of time on this old earth, the dead, small and great, will be judged, some to enter into everlasting life with Jesus Christ for all eternity, and the others to be separated from Him for time without end.

YOUR OPENER

[illegible]

RESPONSES

1. In reading these Scripture references, the students will know that all Scripture is inspired by God, and that none of it will pass away. Just as past scriptural prophecies have been fulfilled, so will the prophecies in God's Word that are meant for the future come to pass.

2. Your students may respond to this question in different ways. Some may say no. Others may say that it depends upon the circumstances. In reading Psalm 143:10 and Philippians 2:13, the point should be made that they do not do God's will completely in their own strength, but they ask God to teach them. God, of course, does all things well. His teachings are the best. Someone has said, "It is not hard to keep a consecration to do God's will if one really has made the consecration."

3. God knows the hearts of all men. He knew the shepherds were honest enough to believe the proclamation. Point out that God still looks for honest hearts today. The discussion should bring out that it was God's love that revealed the birth of Jesus to the shepherds. God loves the honest-hearted persons and will reveal His will to them.

4. The students' answers will vary, but emphasize that the Wise Men were observant, for they saw the star announcing Jesus' birth; they were determined, for they traveled a long distance to see Him; they were spiritually-minded, for they worshiped Jesus and gave gifts to Him when they found Him. Bring out, through discussion, how these traits enhance a Christian's life. An observant, determined, spiritually-minded person will not find it difficult to follow Jesus in this world.

5. It is easy to have faith in the One who always keeps His promise. Discuss with your students the fact that God always brings to pass that which He has promised. When the element of faith is working in the believer's life, he can be assured that he, too, will see the Savior.

6. Using Psalm 91 as a basis for the answer, we can be sure that God takes good care of His people. An analysis of this Psalm shows that all circumstances of living are considered and provision is guaranteed. Have someone in the class read Psalm 103:2-6, then ask the students to decide if the Lord has omitted anything necessary to an overcoming spiritual life.

Quarter Review

TEXT: Review Quarter Texts

KEY VERSE: This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. — 1 Timothy 1:15

1. In rehearsing the lesson on prophecy and fulfillment, how can we be assured that prophecies yet to be fulfilled will come to pass? See Luke 21:33 and 2 Timothy 3:16.

2. Using Psalm 143:10 and Philippians 2:13 as references, is it difficult for a Christian to do God's will? Support your answer.

3. The good news of Jesus' birth was made known to the shepherds by a heavenly host of angels. How is mankind today made knowledgeable of God's love and plan of redemption?

4. What qualities stand out in the example of the Wise Men in their search for Jesus? Describe why these same traits are valuable in a Christian's life today.

5. Simeon was rewarded for his faithfulness when he saw the promise of God fulfilled in the Christ Child. Noting Hebrews 10:23, what correlation can be found between holding "fast the profession of our faith without wavering," and God being faithful to His promised return to earth?

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION NOTES

6. The heavenly Father spared His Son from the anger of Herod. In what ways is providential care extended to God's children today? See Psalm 91.

7. In 2 Corinthians 13:14, each member of the Godhead has an attribute expressed. What are these attributes and how did the Apostle learn this truth?

8. We learned in the study of overcoming temptation that everyone is tempted, and that temptations come from Satan. How can we be assured of victory over temptation? See James 4:7.

9. Explain the difference between being alert to God's call and answering His call. Give two reasons why answering God's call is so important.

10. Has God performed a miracle in your own life or on your behalf? If so, list briefly the steps that were taken by you or those involved to move the hand of God.

11. In studying the Beatitudes we find the thought of happiness in each of them. How does a person obtain this happiness in his own life?

12. After studying the parable of the sower and the seed, describe the kind of "soil" you yourself strive to be, and why.

7. God's love, Jesus Christ's grace, and the Holy Spirit's communion. With student participation, bring out that the Apostle Paul was a firm believer in the divine Trinity. How did Paul know about this important truth? Paul already believed in God, then he met Jesus on the Damascus Road. As he walked in the Light, he soon received the baptism of the Holy Ghost, becoming knowledgeable of the third Personality of the Godhead. Rehearse the fact that it is not necessary to know the depths of the wonderful mystery of the Godhead in order to be saved, but as we walk in the Light of His grace, more and more of this knowledge will be revealed to us.

8. Knowing that temptation is from the devil, the student can determine how to overcome temptation. In reading the verse in James, they can see that if they resist the devil, he will flee from them. Discuss with your class the importance of the first part of that verse, submitting themselves to God. In what way can they do this?

9. To be alert to God's call is to feel His presence prompting you to take action for the cause of Christ. This is good and necessary. But more important is the follow-through in answering God's call. If we answer His call we will have the hope of eternal life and also be a light to others so that they can have that same hope. An everyday illustration of taking action over just being alert is the May 18, 1980, Mount St. Helen's eruption in Washington State. Everyone on the mountain had been alerted to probable disaster, but those who died had obviously not followed through by taking action to the alert.

10. Students should bring out a variety of personal experiences, or those of acquaintances. Help to develop the fact that Jesus still performs miracles today. It should be brought out that Jesus never performs a miracle to satisfy the curiosity of the unbeliever or the spectator. Faith and obedience are what God looks for when He works miracles in our lives today.

11. In referring to James 1:25, we recognize that we must be doers of God's Word, and not forgetful hearers. Ask your students what are some of the rewards promised to those who exhibit the quality of character and lifestyle described in the Beatitudes.

12. Most of your students will no doubt want to be "good ground." Ask for volunteers to give their reasons why. Possibly the thought will be brought out that they want to be fruit-bearing Christians to bring forth spiritual fruit for the Lord. Ask someone in the class to turn to John 15:1-11 and read some of the rewards promised to each person who brings forth fruit in his Christian life.

YOUR WRAP-UP

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

What important lesson did you learn from this study about Jesus?

Why is the study of Jesus' life important to Christians?

What are some of the things Jesus taught through personal example?

Why do you think Jesus came to earth?

Jesus is an important figure in history. What is He today?

How would you answer the question on our theme page, "Who Is Jesus?"

Can you trace the major events of Jesus' life on earth?

Why do you think some people responded to Jesus' ministry on earth and others rejected Him? How does this parallel to the responses of people in our day?

THINGS TO DO

Make Bible Tic-Tac-Toe games for two teams. Under each spot on the grid write a question concerning one of the lessons. Cover the squares so the question cannot be read. Let one student from each team select a space. If he is able to correctly answer the question in that square, he may place his X or O on that spot.

Set up a contest matching key verses and texts. The contest can be between members of your class, or you might want to challenge another class. Write out two sets of cards (24 in each set) giving a text or Scripture reference on each card. See which team can match all 12 verses with their text references first.

Draw a simple game board for each student, showing a number of steps to a goal. Select several questions

about the past lessons and write them on slips of paper. Have students take turns choosing a slip of paper. If they are able to answer the question, they move ahead one spot on the game board. First one to the goal wins.

Make a time-line of the major events of Jesus' life on earth. Put each event on a separate card, and have your students help you arrange the cards in the proper sequence.

Answers for ANSWER

Focus on Jesus

On the small slips of paper are key words from the lessons studied during this quarter. Find each of them in the word-find.

222
PROPHECY
FULFILLED

223
GABRIEL
MARY

224
BETHLEHEM
SHEPHERDS
ANGEL

225
WISE MEN
STAR
GIFT

226
JERUSALEM
SIMEON
TEMPLE

227
DREAM
EGYPT

228
BAPTIZED
JOHN
DOVE

229
WILDERNESS
TEMPTED
SPIRIT

230
DISCIPLES
FOLLOW

231
MARRIAGE
MIRACLE
CANA

232
MOUNTAIN
BLESSED

233
SOWER
SEED
PARABLE

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

All of these words point toward
one key figure —

Jesus!

Answers for Quarter Review Activities in *The Answer*

Use the four words that are missing from the following key verses to complete the magic word square.

K	N	O	W
I			O
N			R
G	O	O	D

Where is he that is born KING of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. — Matthew 2:2

There hath not failed one WORD of all his GOOD promise. — 1 Kings 8:56

If ye KNOW these things, happy are ye if ye do them. — John 13:17

Who told Mary that God had chosen her to be the mother of His Son? Write the letter of the alphabet that comes before each letter found in the following sentence.

Pof ebz Nbsz xbt tjuujoh bmpof. B wpjdf tbje, "Epo'u cf bgbsje, Nbsz. J bn Hbcsjfm, uif bohfm pg uif Mpse."

One day Mary was sitting alone. A voice said, "Don't be afraid, Mary. I am Gabriel, the angel of the Lord."

Hidden in this word-find are the names of seven people we studied about during this quarter. Can you find all of them?

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

Is it true or false? Mark a T or an F on the line before each sentence.

F The shepherds told no one about what the angels said.

T Herod gathered together the chief priests and scribes to ask them where Christ would be born.

T An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and warned him of danger to the Baby Jesus.

T John preached that the One who would come after him would baptize the people unto repentance.

T Satan told Jesus that he would give Him all the kingdoms of the world if Jesus would cast Himself down from a pinnacle of the Temple.

F When Simon Peter met the Lord, he immediately went and told his brother Andrew about Him.

T Jesus' first miracle was performed during a marriage at Cana of Galilee.

F Jesus taught that the pure in heart should be called the children of God.

F The seed that fell on stony ground was snatched up by fowls of the air.

On the line following each of these quotations taken from lessons this quarter, write the name of the person or persons who said it.

"Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God." Gabriel

"Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign." Angel

"He that cometh after me is mightier than I." John

"Mine eyes have seen thy salvation." Simeon

"Where is he that is born King of the Jews?" Wise Men

"Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it." Mary

"Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven." Jesus

Answers for Extra Activity Pages in *The Answer*

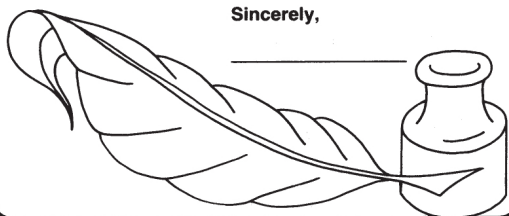
Activity Page 41

Sharing God's Word

Look at all the key verses from this quarter and choose your favorite. If you were to share the verse with a friend what would you say? Do you know what it means? Just for practice use the lines below and write a letter to someone. Include the verse and the Scripture reference. Explain why the verse is important to you.

Dear _____,

Sincerely,



Activity Page 42

Character Cinquains

A cinquain (sin-cane) is a type of poetry. Cinquains have this form:

1st line — one word naming the subject.

2nd line — two words describing the subject.

3rd line — three words telling about the subject, ending with "ing."

4th line — two or three words telling how you feel about the subject.

5th line — another name for the subject.

Choose three different subjects studied this quarter and write a cinquain about each one.







SAMPLE SUBJECTS:

Jesus
Shepherds
Mary
Wise Men
Joseph
Angels
Simeon
John
Disciples



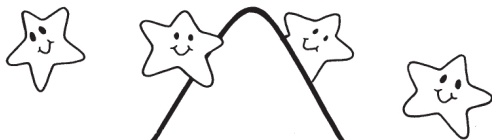
SAMPLE CINQUAIN:

Parable
Moral lesson
Comparing, Teaching, Inspiring
Full of meaning
Story

Activity Page 43

Morning Star

Jesus is the "Star" of the lessons this quarter. Have you learned who He really is? In the message below all the vowels are incorrect. Replace the incorrect vowels with the correct vowels (A=E, E=I, I=O, O=U, U=A) and you will discover who Jesus is and what He can mean to you.



JASOS ES MIRA THUN JOST U GIID MUN EN HESTIRY. HA ES

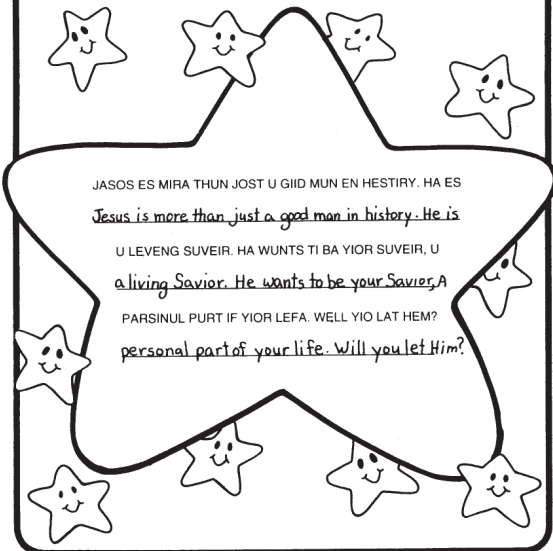
Jesus is more than just a good man in history. He is

U LEVENG SUVEIR. HA WUNTS TI BA YIOR SUVEIR, U

a living Savior. He wants to be your Savior. A

PARSINUL PURT IF YIOR LEFA. WELL YIO LAT HEM?

personal part of your life. Will you let Him?



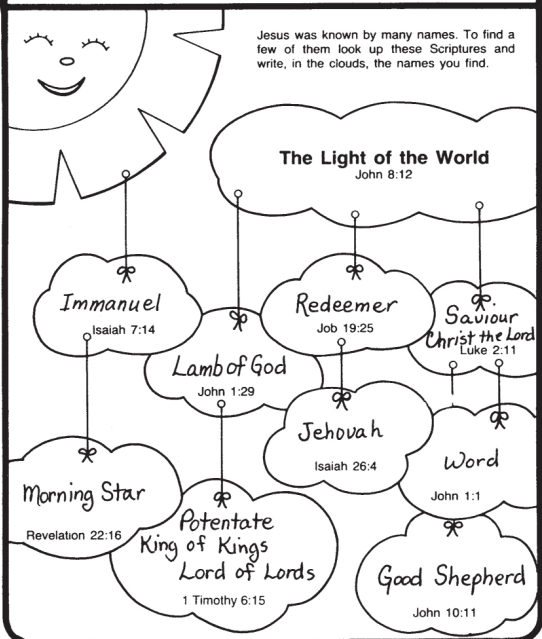
Activity Page 44

Name Mobile

Jesus was known by many names. To find a few of them look up these Scriptures and write, in the clouds, the names you find.

The Light of the World

John 8:12



Teacher's Name _____

A Bible study resource guide for teachers

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