

Lesson 92

TEXT Genesis 3:1-10; Romans 5:12-14

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES Genesis 6:5; Isaiah 43:27; 53:6; 64:6,7; Romans 5:15-21

OBJECTIVE The students will be able to explain how the consequences of Adam's disobedience extend to all mankind—that all are born with sin in their hearts.

KEY VERSE FOR ANSWER For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God. -Romans 3:23

KEY VERSE FOR SEARCH Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.- Romans 5:12

ANSWER TITLE: **The Problem**

SEARCH TITLE: **Adamic Nature**

REFERENCE INFORMATION

Sin continues to be a prevalent force within individuals and society. We cannot eliminate the sins of the heart—love for this world, jealousy, envy, anger, unclean thoughts, etc.—by restraint, even though restraint will provide us with a much improved life here. The Adamic nature will still be felt, and at times will assert itself despite our best efforts, without Christ to suppress and conquer it. As in Proverbs 20:9, "Who can say, I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin?" Before his conversion, Paul the Apostle was a Pharisee of the strictest sort, trying zealously to keep all the Law. However, in Romans 7:19,24 he confesses, ". . . the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do . . . O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?"

In order for there to be salvation from sin there must be a recognition of one's need. "Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:3). The thrust of this lesson is to cause each of us to see our exceeding sinfulness in the sight of God when we are outside His plan of redemption. Both our inherited sinfulness and our actual willfully committed sins stand between us and God. We were born in sin because of the fall of man, and we willfully choose sin—until we choose the Savior. We are agents of our free will, for so God created even Adam and Eve. The choice between sin and the Savior is mandatory. We cannot escape it. If we say we will not choose, because we were born in sin and are sinners by nature, we find ourselves slaves to sin—we have chosen sin!

YOUR OPENER

Adamic Nature

TEXT: Genesis 3:1-10; Romans 5:12-14

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: Genesis 6:5; Isaiah 43:27; 53:6; 64:6,7; Romans 5:15-21

KEY VERSE: Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned. -Romans 5:12

RESPONSES

1. Allow time for your students to express their thoughts. They should conclude that from Genesis through Revelation, the Bible makes clear that God created man with a free will. Point out to them that we are not puppets, but people who love God because we want to love Him. You might wish to discuss with your class the following examples of choices: Exodus 32:26; Deuteronomy 30:19; Joshua 24:15; 1 Kings 18:21; Mark 10:21; John 6:67; Revelation 3:20.

2. Examples offered may include: Abraham and Lot, Jacob and Esau, Joseph and his brothers, Saul and David, Elijah and Ahab, Jeremiah and Jehoiakim, the twelve disciples of Christ, and the rich young ruler. Help your students to conclude through analysis of the examples cited that in each case man's free will was exercised. As a preliminary to the next question, conclude your discussion of the examples offered by discussing the choice of Adam and Eve which is recorded in our text.

3. Your students should be aware that the serpent's subtle approach was designed to create doubt as to what God has said and His providence—in other words, to cause Eve to wonder why God would say it. The doubt which he planted in her mind eventually led to the fatal choice she made. In the course of this discussion, ask to what extent the tactics Satan uses today parallel the approach he used with Eve. Your students should conclude that doubt is still one of the most powerful tools of Satan in influencing the choices people make.

Even though crimes of a violent nature may seem unlikely and far removed from your way of living, each of us has done things we later regretted. Why is this so? How does it happen that none of us, just by trying, can totally eliminate doing wrong things or thinking angry or evil thoughts? People who wish to find excuses for their sins often blame God for the sinful state of things, but by searching the Scriptures we find that man has a sinful nature because of the original transgression in the Garden of Eden. This can only be changed through salvation.

1. Why has man had the choice to obey or disobey, even from the beginning? What does man have that enables him to obey or disobey?

2. God does not compel us to love Him, even though He is our Creator. If you think on this subject you will conclude that there is no such thing as unwilling love. So, we can see there will not be one person in Heaven who did not really want to go there—who did not really want to love God and serve Him! God, through Christ, has provided the way. Every person must choose! The Bible evidence is indisputable. Contrast the choices made by Cain and Abel in chapter 4 of Genesis. Give three other scriptural examples of contrasting choices.

3. Identify what the serpent's first words to Eve were designed to do. How did this relate to the choice she eventually made?

3

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION NOTES

4. Satan knew that as long as Adam and Eve depended upon God, they could not be ruined. He therefore endeavored to seduce them from this dependence, using doubt and lies, saying, "Ye shall not surely die." What were some of the effects of their yielding?

5. Eve's statement proves her detailed knowledge of God's instructions. She knew that God had decreed the death penalty for disobedience in eating the forbidden fruit. Why did Eve decide to follow the serpent's suggestion instead of God's instructions? Note several mistakes she made which may help us avoid Satan's trap.

6. Explain the meaning of our key verse.

7. What proof do you see that the sinful Adamic nature in man is at work in the world today? List three or more specific items. If you wish, bring clippings to class from newspapers or magazines to illustrate your points.

THOUGHT PROVOKER: Though we are, or were, all guilty in the sight of God—"all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God"—God in His mercy provided a remedy. In 1 Corinthians 15:22 we read, "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive."

4. As your students discuss the questions, they should bring out that Adam and Eve's eyes were opened, they saw they were naked, and they hid themselves from God. They should see that conviction for their wrongdoing came upon them in that moment, and they felt their estrangement from God. They had known only good to this moment, and now they knew evil. Discuss with the class how this evil still affects the human race.

5. She listened to the serpent's reasoning. By this we learn that we should give the devil a deaf ear. She conversed extensively with the serpent. James 4:7 says, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." She decided to trust her own reasoning rather than God's command. She did not call on God for help in this crucial decision. As your students offer their thoughts as to where Eve went wrong in this situation, help them understand how they can avoid making the same mistakes in regard to sinful temptations which confront each of them.

6. Allow time for your students to discuss their explanations of this verse. Help them realize that the events recorded in Genesis are verified through Paul's statement to the Romans. You may wish to point out that David also was aware of the fact that he was born with a sinful nature, as evidenced by his cry in Psalm 51:5.

7. Some of the proofs suggested may include: crime, violence, spiraling divorce rate, discrediting of God as Creator, and the rejection of Jesus Christ and the moral principles He established.

YOUR WRAP-UP

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

What happened when Eve yielded to temptation?

Did Eve's yielding to temptation affect only her? Who else did it affect? Do the things we do have any effect on others? How?

Eve should not have spoken to the serpent. What happened when she did?

What effect did the sin of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden have on all mankind?

What are some of the evidences we can see of Adamic nature, even in small children?

Why do we say everyone is born with sin in his heart?

Is there a way to be released from the curse on all mankind? If so, what is it?

Adam blamed someone else for his sin. Who was really at fault in the beginning? Who is at fault when we disobey God today?

In our ANSWER story, what did Ben think he had inherited from his father? Had he?

How did Mr. Hunt explain to Ben why man has an inclination to do wrong?

THINGS TO DO

Prepare a large bulletin board for your class. Ask the students to bring newspaper and magazine articles which illustrate man's sinful nature. Have each student comment on the articles he brought as you collect them and post them on the board.

Bring a picture of a small child having a temper tantrum illustrating how the inclination to do wrong is even in the very small child.

Discuss with your class that if you are told not to touch a hot stove because it will burn you, and you disobey, it could leave a scar. Tell them this is what happened to Adam and Eve. They were told not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, or they would be punished. They did and the results are with us to this day.

Divide the class into two equal sections. One section is to give examples of right choices made by Biblical characters. The other section is to give examples of wrong choices made by Biblical characters. Allow each section approximately five minutes to give as many examples as they can think of. Compare the amounts given by each section.

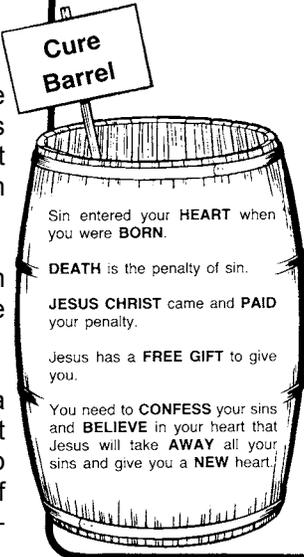
Bring some objects to class which illustrate effects of the curse: a rose with thorns; a wormy apple; a weed; something to indicate sickness, such as a thermometer or a Band-Aid; etc.

Have your class do a skit on Adam and Eve, but have them show what Eve could have done or said under the circumstances, and what Adam could have done to stay true to what God had commanded him.

Answers for ANSWER

There Is a Cure

The key verse says, "For all have **SINNED**, and come **SHORT** of the glory of God." The sentences in the Cure Barrel offer the cure for the Adamic-nature problem. In the puzzle below, circle the words printed in **BOLD** type in the key verse above and in the Cure Barrel below. Look forward, backward, up, down, and diagonally.



Cure Barrel

Sin entered your **HEART** when you were **BORN**.

DEATH is the penalty of sin.

JESUS CHRIST came and **PAID** your penalty.

Jesus has a **FREE GIFT** to give you.

You need to **CONFESS** your sins and **BELIEVE** in your heart that Jesus will take **AWAY** all your sins and give you a **NEW** heart.



F	M	O	P	S	T	C	F	A	D	K	I	S	O	P
A	R	L	T	I	U	O	G	B	L	J	M	T	A	R
F	D	E	V	N	F	N	H	I	M	N	E	I	T	E
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10

The Remedy — A Redeemer

TEXT: Romans 5:15-21; 1 Peter 1:17-25

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:12-14; Hebrews 9:11,12; Revelation 5:9

KEY VERSE: For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. — Romans 5:19

RESOURCE MATERIAL: Tract No. 49 — The Atoning Blood

RESPONSES

1. Allow time for a volunteer to give a summary, which should serve as the starting point for this study.

2. All can be redeemed because of God's love. Pose a hypothetical situation to your students in which they are choosing to redeem one object from among several. On what would they base their decision? Bring out that they would look for quality, condition, workmanship. Compare this with Christ's redemption of man—a redemption available regardless of status, nationality, wealth, age. Conclude by re-emphasizing that God's wonderful love opened the door of redemption to all who would believe in Jesus Christ, God being no respecter of persons.

3. These verses bring out that we are justified or redeemed through the Blood of Jesus, rather than through corruptible things or the keeping of certain traditions.

God's commandment was clear and plain. Adam could eat fruit of any of the trees in the Garden except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, "for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." Adam disobeyed God and ate of that tree. Spiritually, he died immediately. Physically, he died some years later. The curse of sin passed upon Adam and all future mankind. The situation would have been hopeless, except for God's love and grace. Along with the curse upon sin, God promised a Redeemer—our Lord Jesus Christ.

1. The word *redeem* means, "to buy back, repurchase, or free from the bondage of sin." Review the previous lesson, and in your own words briefly summarize why there was a need for redemption.

2. "All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). This being true, who then can be redeemed? See John 3:17; Romans 5:17; 1 Peter 1:17; and 2 Peter 3:9.

3. There are those who think they can purchase their own redemption by giving largely to religious organizations or worthwhile charitable concerns. Others may depend on their own good works or their adherence to certain rules of conduct to make their way into Heaven. Read 1 Peter 1:18,19 and describe how the Bible says we receive redemption.

5

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION NOTES

4. In what unique way does Jesus Christ qualify to be our Redeemer? Use 2 Corinthians 5:21 and 1 Peter 1:19 to help you with your answer.

5. When was Jesus Christ foreordained as our Redeemer from sin?

6. How does the Apostle Peter compare the life span of man with the grass of the field? What does this have to do with redemption?

7. The disobedience of Adam in the Garden caused the curse of sin to pass upon all men. The obedience of Jesus Christ brought redemption, or righteousness, to all who believe in Him. How can one avail himself of this redemption?

8. What is the end result of our righteousness through Christ Jesus, if we remain faithful? See Romans 5:21. Find another verse in the Bible which gives a parallel promise.

9. How does Matthew 16:26 relate to man's redemption?

4. Help your students discuss why Jesus was the only One who could purchase their redemption. (He was the only One born without sin.)

5. 1 Peter 1:20 tells us Christ was foreordained before the foundation of the world to be the Lamb without blemish and without spot. Discuss with your students what this tells us about God's concern for mankind.

6. To show the brevity of man's life span, the Apostle Peter compared it to the life of grass, which is relatively short. Call the students' attention to the truth that they have no promise of tomorrow. They should conclude that redemption must not be put off.

7. Allow time for someone in your class to explain the way of salvation, specifying conviction, repentance, and faith in the merits of Jesus' atoning Blood.

8. How wonderful it is that righteousness through Jesus Christ brings eternal life. John 3:16 gives the believer a parallel promise. Discuss how redemption is their means of receiving eternal life.

9. Your class should conclude that their redemption is of utmost importance. Even though one might gain worldly prestige or a vast fortune, it holds no value when weighed against eternity.

YOUR WRAP-UP

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

Why do we say Jesus is our Redeemer?

What does it mean to redeem something?

What price did Jesus pay for our redemption?

Why was Jesus the only One who could be our Redeemer?

In the ANSWER story, Ben asked Mr. Hunt how his heart could be changed. What was Mr. Hunt's reply?

How can we avail ourselves of the redemption offered through Jesus?

If children resemble their parents, how do born-again children resemble their Heavenly Father?

What brought sin into the world in the first place?

How was a way of escape made for us today?

What one Man provided a way of escape? How did He do it?

What was special about Jesus that made His death and resurrection mean so much to us today? (Son of God)

THINGS TO DO

Have someone in your class look up the words "Redeemer" and "remedy," and read the definitions to the whole class.

Do a chalktalk with a hill and a cross. Put a stick man walking up the hill with a heavy load on his back. Bring out the point that Jesus died on the cross to help us. He will carry our heavy load if we take it to Him. He is our Redeemer and the Remedy for our sins.

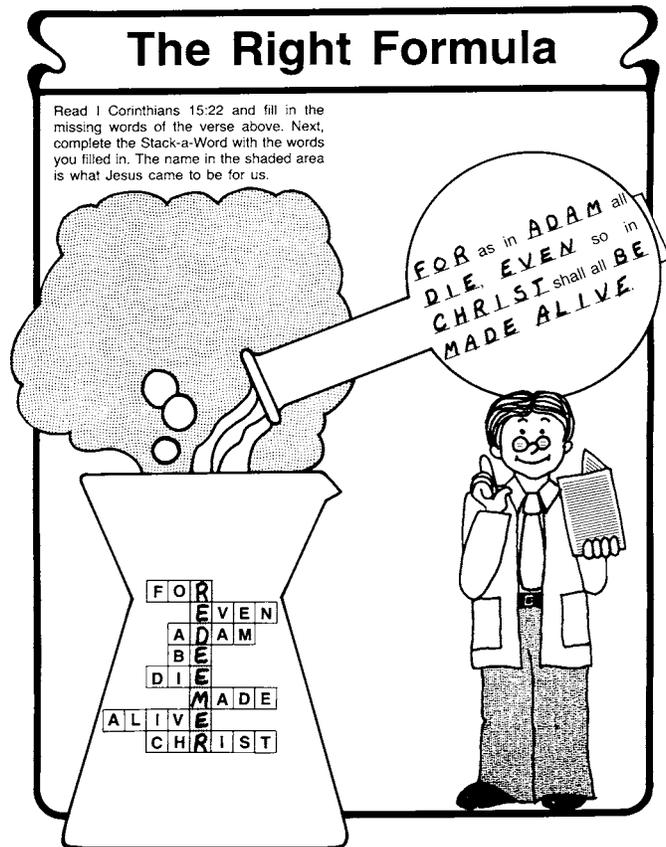
Have the class work out a skit, portraying what a person who redeems us does for us. It could be someone carry-

ing a heavy load with one person lifting it from his back. Have one of the class then liken it to our Savior and what He does for us.

Have your class design a poster, illustrating the theme of today's lesson. "The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul" (Psalm 19:7).

From the lesson Scriptures find words which fit these definitions: decayed, not counterfeit, delivered from sin, paid a ransom, sin, divine mercy, to be copiously supplied, judged guilty, to make free from defilement.

Answers for ANSWER



Lesson 94

TEXT Psalm 38:1-18; Acts 24:24-27

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES Ezekiel 33:10; John 8:7-9; Acts 9:6; 16:29,30; 26:28,29

OBJECTIVE The students will be able to explain that conviction is a realization of one's sinfulness before God, and that it is necessary to bring one to repentance.

KEY VERSE FOR ANSWER No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him. — John 6:44

KEY VERSE FOR SEARCH Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? — Acts 2:37

RESOURCE MATERIAL Tract No 22 — Weighed in the Balance
Tract No 86 — From Bowling Alley to Pulpit

**ANSWER
TITLE:** **Convinced of Sin**
**SEARCH
TITLE:** **Conviction**

REFERENCE INFORMATION

Shortly after Paul's conversion, the Lord foretold that Paul would suffer for Him, and would even carry His Name before kings (Acts 9:15). By the time our lesson occurs, Paul had suffered much for the sake of the Gospel. He was witnessing to Governor Felix and would soon give his testimony to King Agrippa.

Felix had been the Roman Governor of Palestine for a number of years. He knew something about Christians, for there were multitudes of them under his jurisdiction. Now he was to sit in judgment on the most noted of all Christian teachers. Paul made a deep impression on Felix. Felix sent for him often, but his covetousness kept him from accepting Christ or releasing Paul. Drusilla, his wife, was sister of Agrippa.

Felix's behavior was similar to that of Herod Antipas (Mark 6:20). Concerning Felix, Cornelius Tacitus (one of the world's greatest historians) declared, "He exercised the power of a king with the mind of a slave." Felix's treatment of Paul's case certainly bears out this character analysis. He deliberately sacrificed duty and justice for his own selfish ambition. Paul had to languish in prison for two years on his account.

We find conviction for sin as far back as Adam and Eve, when they hid themselves from God. Also, in Genesis 4:13, Cain said unto God, "My punishment is greater than I can bear." Deuteronomy 28:65 says, "The LORD shall give . . . a trembling heart."

YOUR OPENER

Conviction

TEXT: Psalm 38:1-18; Acts 24:24-27

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: Ezekiel 33:10; John 8:7-9; Acts 9:6; 16:29,30; 26:28,29

KEY VERSE: Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? — Acts 2:37

RESOURCE MATERIAL: Tract No. 22 — Weighed in the Balance; Tract No. 86 — From Bowling Alley to Pulpit

RESPONSES

1. The Apostle went to the trial with a cheerful attitude. He knew that the charges against him were false, and he hoped that Felix, having a greater knowledge of the Jewish law, would see through the accusations of the Jews. Discuss with the class other possibilities that could have been responsible for the Apostle's cheerful attitude, such as, a conscience void of offense toward God and man, and another opportunity to be able to witness for Christ. He believed in God and knew that He was able to bring him through any circumstance.

2. He had some knowledge of Christianity (verse 22) and wanted to know more. Paul's appearance before Felix (verses 10-21) must have made him realize that there was something different about Paul. Discuss how your life as a Christian may bring conviction to others.

3. Paul's message caused Felix to tremble. This fact tells us that God's Spirit was faithful to his heart and that his day of enlightenment had come. Why would the governor tremble when it was Paul who was on trial? The conviction that caused Felix to tremble showed him that he was responsible for his sins and that he must answer to God for them.

The dictionary lists several meanings for the word *conviction*, but we are concerned with the one which says, "an aroused perception of error or sin; a strong admonition of the conscience." It would be impossible to come to the Lord unless we realize our need of Him. The Spirit of God is faithful to show us our need and to draw us unto the Lord. He speaks to us through our conscience and we are made to realize that we are sinners and need to repent.

1. Paul was called upon to stand trial before Felix, the Roman governor of Judea. What was Paul's attitude, and why? See Acts 24:10-13.

2. Felix deferred sentence until the chief captain, Claudius Lysias (Acts 24:22-24), should come, but why did he call for Paul?

3. What effect did Paul's message have on Felix? What does this tell us concerning Felix?

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION NOTES

4. The governor told Paul, "Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee." How did his response indicate that he was being convicted? Why is it dangerous to try to evade conviction?

5. What did Felix hope that Paul would do?

6. In Psalm 38, David graphically portrays a man under conviction. This may well have been something he experienced personally, or it may be allegorical. In any case, it is an excellent description of a person feeling the guilt of his sins. In verse 1, what does David indirectly acknowledge?

7. Aside from physical afflictions, explain, in your own words, how conviction affected David. See Psalm 38:3,4,6,8.

8. Contrast the effects of conviction on David and Felix.

9. Read Acts 2:37-41. What brought about the salvation of the three thousand souls who were mentioned in this passage?

4. Felix's statement shows that God was dealing with him, that he was endeavoring to put off making a decision. Some people try to evade God's convicting hand, or delay doing what the Spirit shows them must be done in order to be saved. Ask the class what is the best way to get away from conviction. No doubt their answers will bring out that the best way is to follow the Spirit to salvation and forgiveness of sin. As you consider the second question, discuss with the class that the danger lies in the fact that, as in Felix's case, the one who tries to get away from conviction without repentance may never have another opportunity to come to repentance. The Bible does not tell us that Felix ever found a "convenient season."

5. He wanted Paul to give him money for his freedom, but since Paul didn't, he left Paul bound. Ask your students how stifling the conscience takes one deeper into sin and eventually to a lost eternity.

6. He realizes that he is deserving of the judgment of God, but he pleads for mercy. Discuss with the class how all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. See Romans 3:23. Ask your students why the realization of one's sinful state is absolutely necessary to bring him to repentance.

7. Verse 3—lack of rest. Verse 4—iniquities are too heavy a burden. Verse 6—troubled and mourning. Verse 8—heart disquieted. Guide your class to the conclusion that real pungent conviction is in reality a blessing, even though the effects of it are agonizing.

8. David repented, and Felix turned aside the conviction. Discuss with the students the difference in the responses of the two men to conviction and the importance of repentance. The class should be impressed with the fact that it is very dangerous to presume on the mercy of God. The Lord has said His Spirit will not always strive with man. See Genesis 6:3.

9. Your students may respond with such answers as, "Peter's message," or "the Spirit of God." Guide their attention to the phrase "pricked in their heart," establishing that conviction rested upon them. Your lesson can be brought to a conclusion by discussing the thought that though the Spirit of God may deal with a multitude of people at the same time, and though many people may be saved during the same meeting, yet the Lord deals with each person as an individual.

YOUR WRAP-UP

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

How does the Lord show us if we have done wrong?

What does the Psalmist say are God's feelings toward sin?

Is it possible to come to God any time?

Which verse in the Psalm is the turning point of his conviction? (Verse 18)

What is conviction?

Where does conviction come from? Why?

What are some of the signs that a person may be under conviction?

What are some of the ways people respond to conviction?

Why is conviction a good thing?

In our ANSWER story, what did Mary do when she felt conviction?

What do you think might have happened if Mary had ignored the conviction she felt?

THINGS TO DO

Find the definition of *conviction* in the story.

Let students illustrate Psalm 38:4.

Outline several punishments that might be given because of some wrongdoings: jail sentence, being grounded, car keys taken away, no weekend ski trip or beach trip, etc. Assign one punishment to each student. Then tell them that if they don't want to be punished all they need to do is say they are sorry and that they will do right from now on. When they have all been forgiven, assure them that this is what God expects from a sinner, and His forgiveness is that simple.

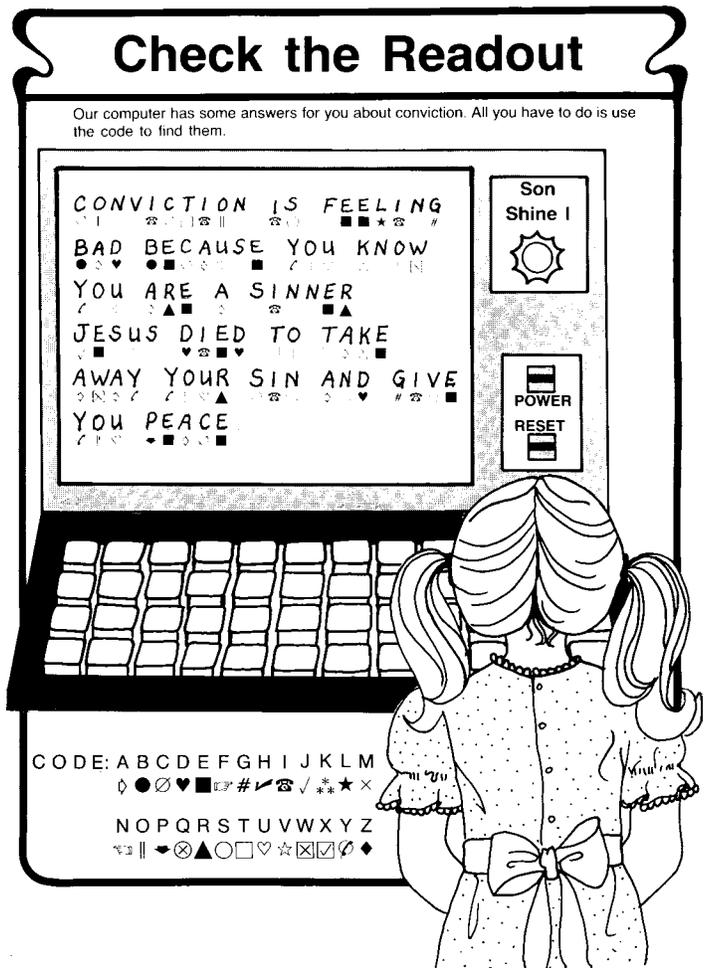
A short writing assignment might be fun for your students. (Give them all the personal help they may want.) Offer them a choice of what to write; such as a prayer, poem, song, letter, or news item. The subject, of course,

is conviction. Give them some key words to use: guilt, sin, conscience, convinced, knowledge, sorry, change, etc. If they want to, let them share what they have written. (Some children of this age are too embarrassed to share this type of thing with their peers.) This exercise will mainly be to acquaint them with a good definition of God's conviction.

Using an overhead projector, show the outline of a ladder. On the rungs of the ladder write the steps to salvation: conviction, feeling sorry, asking forgiveness, believing, receiving.

Write the letters of the word conviction down the side of your paper. Then have each student take one letter and, starting with that letter, write a sentence pertaining to conviction.

Answers for ANSWER



Lesson 95

TEXT Ezekiel 18:20-32; 2 Corinthians 7:9,10

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES 2 Chronicles 7:14; Proverbs 28:13; Mark 1:15; Luke 15:7

OBJECTIVE The students will be able to explain that repentance is a godly sorrow for sin with a renunciation of it, and it is necessary in order to receive salvation.

KEY VERSE FOR ANSWER Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts. — Isaiah 55:7

KEY VERSE FOR SEARCH Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. — Isaiah 55:7

**ANSWER
TITLE: Which Direction?**

**SEARCH
TITLE: Repentance**

REFERENCE INFORMATION

The Prophet Ezekiel (Yehezkel, "God strengthens") was the son of a Zadokite priest. He was deported to Babylon in 597 B.C. with King Jehoiachin. The prophet's wife died the day the siege of Jerusalem began, 588 B.C. (Ezekiel 24:1,2,15-18). The prophet resided at Tel Abib, a town on the Chebar, a canal known from Babylonian sources which flowed from the Euphrates fork above Babylon, through Nippur, winding back into the Euphrates near Erech.

In the fifth year of Jehoiachin's exile, Ezekiel began his prophetic ministry, continuing till at least April 571 B.C. (Ezekiel 29:17), his last dated utterance. He ministered

principally to those in exile, and had a large note of consolation in his messages, but he endeavored to show the people that they had been at fault, not the Lord.

Much is said in the prophets to the effect that Israel's captivity was due to the cumulative sins of preceding generations. The captivity generation, overlooking the fact that they were "worse than their fathers," were now trying to lay the blame on their fathers. The burden of our text is that God judges every man on his own individual and personal conduct. It is an impassioned appeal to the wicked to repent.

YOUR OPENER

Repentance

TEXT: Ezekiel 18:20-32; 2 Corinthians 7:9,10

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: 2 Chronicles 7:14; Proverbs 28:13; Mark 1:15; Luke 15:7

KEY VERSE: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ó
Isaiah 55:7

RESPONSES

1. The students should know that the penalty for sin is spiritual death and that the wicked must turn from all his sins. Discuss the fact that in the very beginning (Genesis 2:17) the Lord made that rule and it is still in effect today. See Romans 6:23.

2. Your students will note that there are several promises given in these Scriptures. In the key verse we have the promises that if we return unto the Lord He will have mercy upon us and that He will abundantly pardon. In our text in Ezekiel, it says if the wicked will turn from the sins he has committed and do that which is lawful and right he will surely live and not die, and none of the transgressions that he has committed will be remembered against him. In 1 John, eternal life is promised. In discussion, bring out that these benefits are not only enjoyed on this earth, but also provide an eternal hope for the future.

3. After the students have shared their thoughts concerning this question, point out the fact that the people John was speaking to had to prove by their lives that they had repented and were eligible for water baptism. When one repents, his actions bear this out. He will be doing things that prove his repentant spirit. When he has repented and been forgiven, he will go forth and sin no more.

When Jesus began to preach, His message was, "Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 4:17). What is repentance? Who is to repent? How does repentance affect an individual? God's Spirit causes us to understand that this message comes from Heaven and is directed to each of us. We cannot repent without God's help. So the Holy Spirit was sent into the world to "reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment" (John 16:8), thus leading men to repentance.

1. Repentance is a godly sorrow for sin with a renunciation of it, and is necessary in order to receive salvation. What is the penalty for sin as stated in our text in Ezekiel? What does the prophet say the wicked should do?

2. The Spirit reveals sin. Without this enlightenment from Heaven one will never be able to comply with the call to repentance. One must first realize he is a sinner and that God's judgment hangs over his Hell-bound soul. Then the Holy Spirit assures him there is hope. You aren't doomed forever. There is forgiveness of sins through the Name of Jesus if you will repent. Using the text, the key verse, and 1 John 2:25, list the promises made to those who turn away from their sins.

3. Before Jesus came, John the Baptist preached the message, "Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 3:2). He preached with such power and anointing that whole cities in that area were emptied of their inhabitants as people went out to hear him. Some did repent, others did not. There were many scribes and Pharisees who joined the crowd presenting themselves as candidates for baptism but who had not repented of their sins. John rebuked them saying, "O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance" (Matthew 3:7,8). What do you think John meant by the words in the 8th verse?

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION NOTES

4. Many people in Christian circles today believe that once you have given your life to the Lord you are eternally secure, and that there is no way you can drop out of fellowship with Christ. In our text in Ezekiel, find a verse that refutes this idea and explain, in your own words, what that verse says. Then find a verse in the New Testament which states the same truth.

5. Many times people like to place the blame for not being a Christian on someone else. They use this as an excuse to justify themselves for living an ungodly life. From our text we realize that the blame rests upon the one who sins. "The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him." If they continue to excuse their ungodly lives, and fail to repent, they will find that sin has negative repercussions. Briefly tell how sin ruins lives today.

6. The Lord said that He had no pleasure in the death of the wicked. He loves all mankind. It is not His will that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. He didn't say, "join a church," or "subscribe to some creed," or "do the best you can to live a good life." He said, "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish," (Luke 13:3). What provision did He make so that the wicked would not have to die? List several Scriptures that prove the Lord is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

7. Our text in 2 Corinthians 7:9 tells us that Paul rejoiced because the people sorrowed to repentance. What is the difference between being sorry and having sorrow to repentance and what is the outcome of both?

8. Jesus said that He came not to call the righteous, but the sinners to repentance. We should understand that repentance was necessary under the Law (of which John the Baptist was a representative), but it is of no less importance under the dispensation of grace (of which Jesus is a representative). Many people think that God is so merciful that they can come to Him any time they are ready. We are warned in the Bible against presuming on the mercy of God (Psalm 19:13). Read what is said about Esau in Hebrews 12:17, and then explain why it is dangerous to put off the call of the Lord.

4. The student should understand that verse 24 refutes the idea of eternal security. We want to make sure the class understands that the righteous man who turns away from his righteousness and returns to sin will have to pay the penalty for sin. There is no such thing as eternal security as it is taught in many organizations today. The one who goes back into sin becomes a sinner and will have to repent again if he expects to enter Heaven. There is no such person as a sinning Christian. Verses supporting this in the New Testament would include Matthew 24:12,13; 2 Peter 2:20; and Revelation 2:4.

5. It should be obvious to the students discussing this question that without repentance one cannot receive the gift of forgiveness from sin. Therefore, the person who decides to remain a sinner will not only experience tremendous negative consequences here on earth, but will also end up eternally lost. Some of the negative consequences may be broken homes, alcohol addiction, drug addiction, and the love of riches without satisfaction.

6. After the class has shared their answers to this question and Scriptures they have found, help them realize that we have a Redeemer who paid the penalty of death. In realizing this, we have an obligation to come before our Redeemer in sorrow and with a repentant heart in order to know what it means to be pardoned from the penalty of sin. In addition to our text, some references for this question could be found in John 3:16, Acts 4:12, and 2 Peter 3:9.

7. After discussing this question with your class, they should realize that being sorry makes one feel bad and can eventually bring some so physically low that they could die. On the other hand, godly sorrow for sin unto repentance brings joy and the hope of eternal life. Even in Heaven there is joy when this occurs. Luke 15:7,10

8. Allow your class to discuss the different reasons why it is dangerous to put off the call of the Lord. One of those reasons might be that we do not know when the Lord will come. He could come at any moment. We do not know when the Spirit of God will make His final call to our souls. We do not know when our physical lives could end suddenly by means of an accident or illness. Do not hesitate as a teacher to express your concern that the members of your class know they have made their peace with God before it is too late. Offer to pray with anyone who would like to stay and pray after class time. Allow time for this to happen because this is the whole purpose for which we are gathered in Sunday school.

YOUR WRAP-UP

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

What does it mean to repent?

Why and of what do we need to repent?

If we repent, what will happen?

Why do even good people need to repent?

What made Dave, in our ANSWER story, realize he was on the wrong ship?

What are some things that might make us realize our need to repent?

Why do some think just believing that Jesus died on the cross is enough to be saved?

Why do you think repentance is important to gain salvation?

Do you think we can cling to our sins and still be saved? If we don't repent, what will be our reward? If we do repent, what is our reward?

In the steps to becoming a Christian where does repentance fit in? (Answer: conviction; repentance; forsaking sin; believing; receiving salvation.)

Does being sorry for your sins make you a Christian? Explain.

What is the difference between repentance and salvation?

Sometimes a person may say he is sorry and not really mean it. Do our parents always know when we mean it? Does God?

If we repent of our sins can we sin again? Explain.

THINGS TO DO

Materials needed: Cut a cross out of red paper; letters S, I, N, O, cut from black construction paper; letters H, I, M, cut out of purple construction paper; an empty box wrapped as a gift; and a flannel board. Put letters S I N on the board and tell students, "This is a picture of you and me before Jesus came into our hearts. We are the ìlî in the middle of S I N." Using Romans 6:23, explain that the wages of sin is death—eternal death. Talk about wages we earn. Then show the gift and tell about the gift of God being eternal life. It's a free gift, but we must be sorry for our sins and repent, asking Jesus into our hearts in order to receive this gift. God gave His best gift—put up cross and place the letters S I N on it. God's

Son took our sins on the cross, place O over I making it S O N. After Jesus comes into our hearts we are in H I M, the Lord Jesus. Place letters H I M on board.

Have two students in your class act out this situation: Someone took your sweater, then brought it back and said he was sorry. You forgive him. But the minute your back is turned, he takes it again! You begin to wonder if he really had been sorry. Use this skit to illustrate that when we give our hearts to the Lord we must really be sorry. We tell the Lord we are, and promise if He will save us we won't do bad things again. We must mean what we tell Him, and He will forgive us.

Use your Bible and a bell. The Bible is like a bell to the unsaved. It sounds an alarm, and is a warning to tell them of the dangers of evil that lurk ahead if they don't repent and turn from their sins. It warns them to change their course and keeps tolling even when they don't listen. When they do listen and get saved, the Bible becomes a joy bell, because there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth (Luke 15:10). It is also a dinner bell, ringing for us to come and dine with Jesus to feed on His Word.

Answers for ANSWER

Are You on the Right Ship?

The sea of life is a big place. Is your ship headed in the right direction? The H.M.S. Victory is headed for Glory. How can you be on that ship? The answer is in the sea path. Starting with the letter R, write down every other letter. Go through the path twice. Start with J the second time. All the letters will be used. Use the lines below to write on.

REPENT AND TURN FROM YOUR WAYS AND GOD WILL SAVE YOU. ASK JESUS TO FORGIVE YOU. TURN FROM WRONG. BELIEVE. BE SAVED.

Lesson 96

TEXT Ephesians 2:1-8; 1 John 1:9

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES Isaiah 45:22; John 3:16; 1 Timothy 2:1-4; Revelation 22:17

OBJECTIVE The students will be able to explain that salvation is the gift of God's grace by which we receive forgiveness of sins.

KEY VERSE FOR ANSWER For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men. — Titus 2:11

KEY VERSE FOR SEARCH For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God. — Ephesians 2:8

RESOURCE MATERIAL Tract No. 30 — The New Birth

**ANSWER
TITLE: Changed
SEARCH
TITLE: Salvation**

REFERENCE INFORMATION

On the Epistle to the Ephesians: This magnificent epistle was evidently addressed to the church in Ephesus, but intended also as a circular letter to neighboring churches. The omission of the phrase, "at Ephesus," (Ephesians 1:1) in two of the oldest manuscripts suggests that early copyists shied away from localizing the letter when it was also intended for reading in other churches in the vicinity. Paul had spent three years in the Ephesian metropolis. He wrote this letter about A.D. 61 or 62 from prison in Rome, the first of his so-called Prison Epistles, and sent it to Asia, together with Colossians and Philemon.

The word, "grace," occurs twelve times, showing that this epistle is an exposition of the Grace of God.

Salvation is the principle theme of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. Without any allusion to salvation, the Bible would be a very small book. God first stated His plan of redemption in the Garden of Eden. From then on, we have many types and shadows in the Scriptures that point to the coming Redeemer. Many of the prophets foretold details of His coming and of His death, and they were accurately fulfilled as prophesied.

YOUR OPENER

Salvation

TEXT: Ephesians 2:1-8; 1 John 1:9

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: Isaiah 45:22; John 3:16; 1 Timothy 2:1-4; Revelation 22:17

KEY VERSE: For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.
— Ephesians 2:8

RESOURCE MATERIAL: Tract No. 30 — The New Birth

RESPONSES

1. Ask your students for their definitions, and use these to establish that all who are not saved are spiritually dead and that salvation brings spiritual life. Discussion should bring out that to be saved a person must first be convicted. See John 6:44. This conviction is evidence of God's grace, for God would not be obligated to convict a sinner. Conviction helps lead the sinner to repentance, which is also necessary before receiving salvation. See 2 Corinthians 7:9-10.

2. Allow time for students to give their responses. Hopefully they will bring out that walking according to the course of this world means following the trends and fashions of this present life. In 1 John 2:15, we read that if a man loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. Discuss with your students that a person need not be a lawbreaker or someone very wicked to be walking according to the course of this world. The Bible says that if a man is not for God, he is against God. See Matthew 12:30. Salvation brings about a change.

3. In discussing the answers to this question, the students should conclude that if we do what 1 John 1:9 says—confess our sins to the Lord—He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins. The key verse brings out that we obtain salvation through faith. Unless a person believes that the shed Blood of Jesus actually avails for him, he cannot receive this experience. The necessity for doing this is that we might have eternal life. See John 3:16. The students should be aware that the soul will spend eternity in one of two places, and salvation is absolutely essential to reaching Heaven. See Matthew 18:3 and Romans 6:23.

After a person has been convicted of his sins and is truly repentant, he must believe that the Lord will save him. He will then receive an experience of Bible salvation, an act of God's grace by which he receives forgiveness of sins. This is not just a mental assent or a hope-so or guess-so type of Christianity, but His Spirit will witness with that one that he is a child of God. See Romans 8:16.

1. Give the meaning of the word *quicken*, as used in the first verse of our text. Review the last two lessons which deal with conviction and repentance. How do these two words relate to the word *quicken*?

2. Explain in your own words what walking "according to the course of this world" might mean.

3. Peter tells us that our salvation has been purchased through the shedding of the Blood of Jesus on Calvary. He speaks of this as redemption, and explains that this was God's plan for our salvation before the world was created. These words are precious to us when we consider that Jesus gave His own life to be our Redeemer. *Redemption* means literally, "the buying back and freeing of our souls from sin and its penalty, death," which was brought upon the world by Adam's transgression. Jesus paid the ransom price in the only way possible to satisfy God's justice, by the shedding of His innocent Blood. How can this great salvation be obtained, and why is it necessary?

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ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION NOTES

4. If after one has been converted he then returns to sin, is that person still a Christian? Using Ezekiel 33:12; 2 Peter 2:20,21; and 1 John 3:8,9; 5:18, explain your answer.

5. Our text states that God is merciful and has great love for us. Do you think He might overlook just a little sin in our lives? Explain.

6. Who is the prince of the power of the air? What influence does he have in the lives of sinners? How does he attract the Christian?

7. Who are the children of disobedience? Who are the children of wrath?

8. Tell in your own words the meaning of verses 6 and 7 of our text.

4. Discuss with the class that when a person sins he is no longer a Christian. If he returns to sin (backslides) he breaks his relationship with God, and would need to repent and do his first works again in order to be restored. Some religious organizations have established a doctrine called "eternal security," saying that once you are saved, or become a child of God, you are always saved no matter what kind of life you live. This is not according to God's Word. Jesus said, "He that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved" (Matthew 24:13). Continue the discussion bringing out that this endurance is a life being lived without sin.

5. In referring to the former question, continue your discussion concerning God's great love and mercy even to the extent of giving His Son to die on the cross. If one commits even one sin, he must repent and seek God's forgiveness. If not, he will go to a lost eternity because of the rejection of God's love and mercy. When His love comes into the heart, all sin goes out.

6. The prince of the power of the air is Satan. He is the spirit that works and rules in the lives of the disobedient. Ask the class to enumerate different ways that Satan might approach a person to bring about his spiritual downfall. Probably the class will bring out that sometimes Satan appears as an angel of light while at other times as a roaring lion. He may come in the form of temptation to evil, maybe as a doubt, fear, or discouragement. He may come as flattery or a lie, or as false accusation against a Christian. Discuss with the students how to obtain the victory against the devil: "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (James 4:7).

7. The students should understand that the reference to "children of disobedience" does not refer just to lawbreakers or those disobedient to parents or teachers. All who are disobedient to God become part of this category. In discussing the phrase "children of wrath" the students should conclude that "all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23) and thus are subject to the wrath of God until they are saved.

8. Encourage the students to give their responses which should point out that these verses summarize the results of taking advantage of God's salvation. In concluding this lesson discuss with the class that verse 6 seems to speak of Christian fellowship here on earth. Verse 7 focuses on the ultimate reward of everlasting life in ages to come.

YOUR WRAP-UP

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

What is sin?

Name the advantages of having salvation. What are the advantages of being a sinner?

What does it mean to "confess our sins"?

What does it mean to be saved? Saved from what?

How do we get saved? What do we have to do first?

Why do we need to be saved?

How can we tell when God saves us? How will our lives be changed afterwards?

Our ANSWER story brought out that sometimes people pretend to be something they are not. Why will it eventually show up if we pretend to be a Christian, if in fact we have never had a change of heart?

What does *quicken* mean in Ephesians 2:1? (It means, "to restore life.")

Although we are still breathing and are still very much alive, why do you think we need to be brought back to life as Paul says in Ephesians? What make us dead spiritually?

Discuss what the grace of God is.

Name some differences between a person who is saved and one who is still in sin.

THINGS TO DO

Present a beautifully gift-wrapped box to the students. In the box put a sign that says "salvation." Before opening the gift box, discuss with the students what a gift is (i.e. a token of love to someone you care for). Make sure that the students understand that this beautiful gift from God is for everyone, regardless of nationality or merit.

Material needed: Black paint and paint thinner (use oil paint).

Presentation: "The other day, I was painting and I got some paint on my finger, just as you see I have today. We are going to let this paint represent sin. Everyone born into this world has a sinful heart, for "all have sinned" the Bible says. The question is how to get rid of sin. There are people who try to cover it up like this. (Close hand.) You see what happens—it spreads. (Paint will be

on the palm of your hand.) Perhaps you can cover up sin from the sight of others, but not from the sight of God. I can try to wash it off, but it won't wash off—by our own efforts we can't wash sin away. People try to remove sin in many different ways but they all fail. Let's try this paint remover. The paint comes off. Just as there is only one way to remove paint, so there is only one way to remove sin—by the Blood of Jesus which was shed on Calvary. Use a small cardboard box (shoe-box size) and fill it with dirt to represent a person's life. Pull several dandelions out of the ground (roots and all if possible) and transplant them into the box of dirt. The dandelions represent sin (they keep multiplying and they choke green grass and beautiful flowers). For this lesson, chop off the top of the dandelions (leaving the roots) to show that when Jesus saves us from sin, He takes the sin out of our lives.

Use a manual-winding wrist watch that is stopped. This watch represents someone who does not have Jesus in his heart. Life just does not seem to be going anywhere and there is no purpose to his life. (Wind the watch.) When Jesus comes into the heart, it begins to tick—it has new life. It is no longer the same.

Answers for ANSWER

A New Beginning

Salvation is a new beginning — the most important beginning of all. Below is a list of sentences with a word hidden in each. Jenny has listed all the hidden words for you. They are things we gain and things we are rid of when we are Born Again. We've found the first one for you. Have fun finding the others.

1. All the activity is in school and not at home.
2. That horse likes grain, but alfalfa it hates.
3. We all agree Diane is beautiful.
4. She was told that everyone had gone home.
5. A real oven will get hot, but not a toy one.
6. Why did Mom tape a cereal coupon to her purse?
7. Bring your stuff early or you'll be left behind.
8. That frog would hop everywhere if we let it.
9. There is nothing more yucky than germs.
10. The clerk told us that if we went down to aisle J, oysters would be on the left.

FAITH
HATE
LOVE
ANGER
PEACE
SINS
JOY
FEAR
GREED
HOPE

Jenny

Next divide the words and write them on the correct sign at the bottom of the page.

GAIN
Faith
Love
Peace
Joy
Hope

RID
Hate
Anger
Sins
Fear
Greedy

Lesson 97

TEXT John 17:9-23; Hebrews 13:12

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES Leviticus 20:7,8; Ephesians 5:25-27; 2 Timothy 2:20,21; Hebrews 2:11; 12:14,15

OBJECTIVE The students will be able to define the experience of sanctification as an actual work of God—a definite work of grace whereby the heart is purged and cleansed of the sin nature, making the believer holy and one with God. It includes one's setting himself apart for God.

KEY VERSE FOR ANSWER For this is the will of God, even your sanctification. — 1 Thessalonians 4:3

KEY VERSE FOR SEARCH Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate. — Hebrews 13:12

RESOURCE MATERIAL Tract No. 125 — Sanctification

**ANSWER
TITLE:** **The Second Step**
**SEARCH
TITLE:** **Sanctification**

REFERENCE INFORMATION

While the noun *sanctification* does not occur in the Old Testament, it is evident that many received a definite experience of sanctification. David realized that he was born with a sinful nature and prayed that God would blot out his transgressions (willful sins) and cleanse him from the sin with which he was born. (See Psalm 51:1,2,5,9,10.) Isaiah experienced a need for holiness when in a vision he stood before God. A holy being touched his lips with a coal from off the altar and said that his iniquity was taken away and his sin purged (Isaiah 6:1-7).

Usually, in the Bible the word *sin* refers to the inherent sin passed down through the ages from Adam and Eve, while the word *sins* means actual transgressions. Under the Law there were sacrifices that pointed to two works of

grace. The trespass offering had to do with the individual transgressions of the one who brought the offering (Leviticus 6:1-7). When the offering for sin was presented, no mention was made of actual trespasses (Leviticus 9:3,15). This offering typified heart cleansing. The verb *sanctify* appears frequently in the Bible. Its meaning is primarily to "separate from the world and consecrate to God." To sanctify anything is to declare that it belongs to God. It may refer to persons, places, days and seasons, and objects used for worship. The word *saint* comes from the same root and means "a sanctified one"—one who belongs to Christ.

The Bible teaches that sanctification is twofold: man's consecrating himself to God, and God's purging man's heart through the Blood of Jesus Christ (Hebrews 9:14).

YOUR OPENER

Sanctification

TEXT: John 17:9-23; Hebrews 13:12

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: Leviticus 20:7,8; Ephesians 5:25-27; 2 Timothy 2:20,21; Hebrews 2:11; 12:14,15

KEY VERSE: Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate. ó Hebrews 13:12

RESOURCE MATERIAL: Tract No. 125 — Sanctification

RESPONSES

1. Jesus was praying for His disciples. They had answered Jesus' call to follow Him and had been faithful throughout Jesus' ministry on earth; therefore the disciples were saved people. For further proof, Jesus said of them, "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world." Ask your students what "not of the world" might mean today.

2. Verse 14 tells us that "the world hath hated them." The discussion of the second question should bring out that a disciple of Jesus is different from the world through the change salvation has wrought. Sinners become angry and uncomfortable because a Christian's life causes conviction to unbelievers.

3. The verses in Ephesians bring out that Jesus' plan is that His people have perfect fellowship with one another, with Himself, and with God. Begin your discussion by talking about why unity is important in business, family relationships, branches of the government, etc. Then zero in on why unity among believers is even more vital, bringing out that this unity affects their spiritual lives and, eventually, their eternal destiny.

When a person turns to God, repenting of and forsaking his sins, God is faithful and just to forgive those sins. However, there still remains in the heart the sin-principle which was born in him. He is not responsible for it; it was handed down from his forebears. Yet, God has made a way for this to be removed. The same Sacrifice that brought salvation to man also provides the means by which he might be sanctified—a second, definite work of grace in the heart, in which the principle of sin, or Adamic nature, is eradicated. Therefore it is necessary to seek sanctification.

1. Who was Jesus praying for in John 17:9? What would you say was the spiritual condition of these people? Why do you think so?

2. What verse from today's lesson proves that the world hates the followers of Jesus? Why is this true?

3. In verse 11, Jesus prayed to His Father, "that they may be one, as we are." Ephesians 4:3-6 gives a further description of this oneness. Why is this unity among believers so vital?

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION NOTES

4. Jesus prayed, "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." What is sanctification? How does this experience help a follower of Jesus?

5. The dictionary gives two definitions for the word *sanctify*: "to set aside for a sacred purpose or to consecrate," and "to free from sin, or purify." When Jesus said, "I sanctify myself," to which of the definitions did He refer? How do the two definitions apply to us when we seek to be sanctified?

6. How do we know that sanctification is within God's will for us? See John 17:15-20; 1 Thessalonians 4:3.

7. Why is sanctification necessary in the life of a Christian? See Matthew 5:8; Hebrews 12:14.

8. Describe, in your own words, what you think the key verse means. See also Leviticus 16:11-19,27.

9. How do we know that Jesus' prayer was answered in the lives of His disciples? See Acts 2:1.

4. Allow your students time to bring out their definitions of sanctification, and the results it brings in a life. Establish that sanctification is the second, definite work of grace whereby the sin-principle, or Adamic nature, is eradicated. The experience of sanctification removes the sin-principle and helps the believer to be kept from the evil of the world. Jesus' prayer for His own was for their safekeeping in this present world and to keep them unspotted from the world. Sanctification insures fellowship with God and adds to their usefulness in this life.

5. Jesus was referring to the first definition. Jesus Christ was without sin and therefore did not need to be purified. However, it was always His determination to do His Father's will. His words, "I sanctify myself," indicated His setting Himself apart for a sacred purpose, or consecration. As the class discusses the two parts of sanctification, help them see that their part is to consecrate their lives, their ambitions, their all to God as they seek sanctification. When their consecration is complete, and they believe, God does His part: frees them from the sin nature, cleansing and purifying their hearts.

6. The students should understand that sanctification is not only possible, but it is God's will that each believer should seek and obtain this experience. Jesus prayed that all who believe on Him would be sanctified. Discuss with your students why it is that some people don't receive this experience.

7. Holiness and heart purity are other words for sanctification, and these verses give holiness and purity as a requisite for seeing God. Everyone is obligated to walk in the light that God has given him. To those who have been saved, but have not had time or light to seek for sanctification, we can be thankful that God is not only a just God, but also merciful, and will hold them accountable only for the knowledge they have had. See 1 John 1:7.

8. Under the Old Testament Law, the blood of the sin offering on the Day of Atonement was brought within the veil, before the mercy seat, but the remains of the animal were taken to a clean place outside the camp and burned (Leviticus 16:11-19,27). Explain how this was a type of the offering of our Lord Jesus of Himself upon the cross of Calvary, outside the city for our sanctification.

9. Acts 2:1 states that on the Day of Pentecost, the disciples were all with one accord in one place. This is the oneness for which Christ prayed. Discuss what results sanctification produces today.

YOUR WRAP-UP

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

What does it mean to be sanctified?

In our ANSWER story, Dan wondered why he needed to be sanctified. How did his dad explain it?

Why do we compare sanctification to having the root of a tree removed?

What does sanctification take out?

Holiness and purity are two other words sometimes used for sanctification. What do they mean?

Jesus prayed for His disciples to be sanctified that they might be "one." What do you suppose Jesus meant by that? Can we be one with Christ too?

Why is unity important?

Why does the world hate Christ's disciples?

How does sanctification make us one not only with other Christians, but also with Jesus Christ and God the Father?

What is meant by "holy living"? What is it like to live a holy life? Discuss how the holiness of Jesus, as well as other characteristics of His (i.e. purity, love, godliness), become ours when we are sanctified.

How can you be sure that you are sanctified?

Do you think sanctification is necessary or is it just an option?

THINGS TO DO

Share with the students the experience of your sanctification—the difference between your life before sanctification and your life afterward.

The unity that occurs among Christians is the result of sanctification, as the Father and the Son are one. Bend one straw to illustrate how weak it is alone. This illustrates that the new Christian is vulnerable. Now hold out a bundle of straws bound together to represent Christians who have been sanctified and made into one body. Ask a student to bend it. This represents the strength God gives when we are sanctified and made one in the

bond of love. (This can also be done with one page out of a telephone book and a whole telephone book.)

Show your class a jar smeared and half-filled with dirt. Ask the students how that jar can be clean again. First, (like salvation) you must throw away the dirt, then (like sanctification) you must wash the jar. Demonstrate this in class to show how we are like that jar. (A coffee cup filled with coffee would do.)

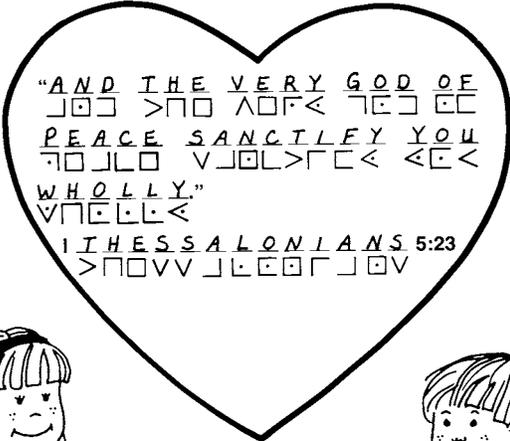
Use the dandelion plant (from the last lesson) to illustrate what sanctification means. Show the students how the root of sin must come out. Compare it to removing the root of the dandelion to be sure it won't sprout and grow again. (If the question of backsliding arises, be sure your students understand that the seed of sin can be replanted and grow in our hearts unless we are diligent to make sure this does not occur.)

Answers for ANSWER

It's in God's Plan

Sanctification is a very important part of God's plan for all of us. Decode the verse below and find out how important it is that we should be sanctified.

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



"AND THE VERY GOD OF
 PEACE SANCTIFY YOU
 WHOLLY."
 1 THESSALONIANS 5:23




Lesson 98

TEXT Acts 1:8; 2:1-13; 3:1-7

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES Joel 2:28,29; Matthew 3:11; Luke 24:49

OBJECTIVE The students will be able to explain that the baptism of the Holy Ghost is a necessary enduement of power on the sanctified life, given so that we can be more effective in the service of the Lord.

KEY VERSE FOR ANSWER But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you. —Acts 1:8

KEY VERSE FOR SEARCH For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. — Acts 2:39

RESOURCE MATERIAL Tract No. 14 — The Baptism of the Holy Ghost

ANSWER TITLE: **Provided with Power**

SEARCH TITLE: **Baptism of the Holy Ghost**

REFERENCE INFORMATION

When our lives are filled with the Holy Spirit, He will flow through us in such a way that He will touch the lives of others.

Pentecost took place in A.D. 30 and is the birthday of the Church. It occurred on the fiftieth day after Jesus' Resurrection, the tenth day after His Ascension to Heaven. This was the beginning of the Gospel era. Pentecost took place on Sunday. The Gospel harvest of the world began at this time. How fitting that the Feast of Pentecost should also be known as the Feast of the First Fruits and the Feast of Harvest.

Jesus, in John 16:7-14, had spoken of the coming of the Holy Spirit era. It was inaugurated on that day in a miraculous manifestation of the Holy Spirit, with a sound from Heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and with tongues as of fire as it sat upon each of those who were in the upper room.

The word *Comforter*, used in John 16:7, is a translation of the Greek word *Paraclete*, which literally means "called to one's side," hence, "advocate." Because of this, we can easily see why the Holy Spirit is called our Intercessor and Counselor.

YOUR OPENER

Baptism of the Holy Ghost

TEXT: Acts 1:8; 2:1-13; 3:1-7

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: Joel 2:28,29; Matthew 3:11; Luke 24:49

KEY VERSE: For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. — Acts 2:39

RESPONSES

1. The purpose for "tarrying in Jerusalem" was to ensure proper preparation. Premature action may, and probably will, hinder success. It will prevent any subsequent action from being as effective as it should be, or would have been, if preparations had been made. The disciples were promised that they would have power after they received the Holy Ghost, just as we are.

2. The discussion with your class should bring out that the baptism of the Holy Ghost is the Holy Spirit dwelling within the life of the sanctified believer, rather than just an occasional visitation. They should see that this experience is given so that one may have power to be a witness, and also to have the comfort and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

3. They were to seek for power from on High to witness. Lead your class into a discussion showing that as they seek for the gift of the Holy Ghost, they should not be praying to receive a manifestation of tongues, but rather, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. However, when the Spirit does come, He will be accompanied by the speaking of a language through the one who receives the Spirit. This language is always foreign to the speaker.

4. The listeners were convinced by the fact that

One of Jesus' last instructions to His disciples was that they tarry in Jerusalem until they were endued with power from on high. As they obeyed His word and tarried in one accord, they all received the experience of the baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire, speaking in other languages as the Spirit gave utterance.

1. The disciples were commanded to tarry in Jerusalem until they received the power. Why was it important for the disciples to wait for this power, rather than to start right away to preach the Gospel? How does this principle apply to us?

2. Jesus told His disciples He would send the "promise of the Father" upon them. This promise was that they would be baptized with the Holy Ghost (Acts 1:4,5). See also Joel 2:28. What does it mean to be *baptized* with the Holy Ghost? What is the purpose for which this experience is given? See also John 14:26 and 15:26.

3. There is no Scripture or verbal instruction by Christ that the disciples were to seek for a manifestation of tongues when seeking the gift of the Holy Ghost. If not tongues, what were they instructed to seek for? See Luke 24:49 and Acts 1:8.

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ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION NOTES

4. What phenomenon in the receiving of the gift of the Holy Ghost convinced the listeners that this was of God?

5. The disciples did not know how long they would have to continue in prayer, but they were encouraged that before many more days had passed they would receive the Gift. What spiritual attributes did the disciples display as they waited for the outpouring of the Spirit? See Acts 1:14 and 2:1.

6. It is interesting to note that among the first acts recorded after the Day of Pentecost is that of disciples going to a prayer meeting. What significance does this hold for us in our day?

7. What was one of the first acts Peter did which gave evidence of the power he received at Pentecost by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit?

8. Some may feel that only those who are called to be preachers, evangelists, missionaries, or to do similar services need the baptism of the Holy Ghost. What does Acts 6:1-6 reveal to us?

those of the multitude each heard speech in his own language. Discuss with your class how this evidence has been reinforced by present-day experiences. Give time for your students to cite specific examples from their own knowledge.

5. Discussion should bring out that as the disciples continued in prayer and supplication, they were all with one accord, or in agreement. Your students should conclude that sanctification is still a prerequisite for receiving the baptism of the Holy Ghost today.

6. Discussion should bring out that although the disciples had just received a marvelous infilling of power, they still felt the necessity of prayer. From this we can learn that through prayer we must also keep in constant touch with God in order to maintain His power in our lives.

7. Peter took the lame man by the hand and lifted him up. Discuss with the class that no doubt it was the Holy Spirit who inspired Peter to this action. We don't see a moment of hesitation—he acted in complete faith.

8. These verses show that men "full of the Holy Ghost" were chosen to fill positions other than those of preachers, evangelists, or missionaries. Discuss with your students how the baptism of the Holy Ghost better qualifies a person to work for the Lord, no matter in what capacity, showing them that the Spirit guides, comforts, and brings to remembrance Christ's instructions.

YOUR WRAP-UP

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

In our ANSWER story, to what did Christy's dad compare the baptism of the Holy Ghost?

Can people work for God without the Holy Ghost? Why do we need it?

What is the witness that we have received the baptism? Is it important to seek for that witness?

What is the baptism of the Holy Ghost?

What does the word *baptism* mean?

Why was the Holy Spirit promised to the Apostles?

How do we prepare for this baptism? What must our lives be like? Why is it important for us to first make sure that we are saved and sanctified?

Discuss the different ways you use the power of the Holy Ghost.

THINGS TO DO

To help explain salvation, sanctification, and the baptism of the Holy Ghost, show your students a glass half-filled with chocolate milk that has gone sour (or any other liquid mixture that will make the glass look dirty). Show how this glass is like us when we are sinning. Bring a pitcher of clean water and tell how God wants to fill us with that clean water, but before He can do that, we must be clean. The old mixture (sin) in the glass must be poured out (salvation). Then the glass must be cleaned and washed (sanctification), and, finally, the new clean water can be poured into the glass until it overflows (baptism of the Holy Ghost).

To introduce the lesson, use a flashlight, radio, tape recorder, or anything else that uses batteries. Show that we need the baptism of the Holy Ghost for power. When we do not have the Holy Ghost in our lives, we do not

have the power that God wants us to have, we are like a flashlight without the battery. When we have the power, we become useful and ready witnesses for God.

Show your class two plants—one full and healthy, and one which hasn't been watered and is drooping. The plant without water is not beautiful or healthy in appearance. Compare that to how we as Christians must be cared for and must have all we can get from God in order to be useful.

Answers for ANSWER

Do I Need It?

Do you know what the baptism of the Holy Spirit is? Let's find out. Read Acts 2:1-4 and fill in the missing words in the sentences below. Next put the numbered letters in their proper blanks in the battery at the bottom of the page. Don't you agree that it's important?

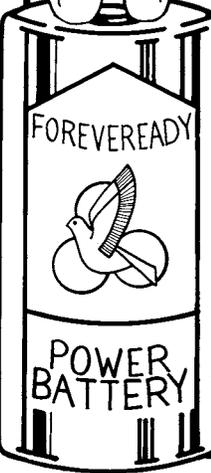
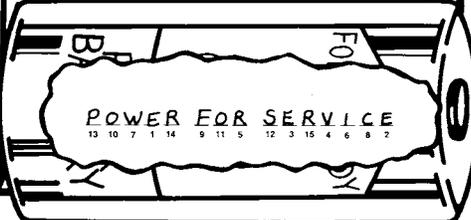


And when the day of ¹PEN²TEC³OST was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

And suddenly there came a sound from ³HE⁴AVEN as of a ⁵R⁶USHING mighty ⁷W⁸IND, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

And there appeared unto them ⁹C¹⁰LOVEN tongues like as of ¹¹F¹²LRE and it sat upon each of them.

And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost and began to speak with ¹³O¹⁴THER ¹⁵TONGUES as the ¹⁶SPI¹⁷RIT gave them ¹⁸UTTERANCE.

Lesson 99

TEXT Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:14-20

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES Matthew 24:14; Luke 24:45-48; Acts 26:17,18

OBJECTIVE The students will be able to explain what the Great Commission is and how it applies to their own walk with God.

KEY VERSE FOR ANSWER And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. — Mark 16:15

KEY VERSE FOR SEARCH Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. — John 20:21

ANSWER TITLE: **Reaching Out to Others**
SEARCH TITLE: **Into All the World**

REFERENCE INFORMATION

The word *world* in Biblical usage has a number of meanings. Among those meanings are, "the universe including the heavenly host, the inhabitants of the earth, the whole mass of men alienated from God and hostile to the cause of Christ, or worldly affairs." However, in our text in Mark, the meaning is "the whole circle of the earth."

The Old Testament world encompassed that portion of the earth from Greece to Ethiopia and from Persia to Spain. The southern portions of the Roman Empire were included in the New Testament world. Though our world has greatly expanded in the centuries since the time of Christ, the final command of Jesus to His disciples, which

we refer to as the "Great Commission," is as imperative and relevant as ever.

Webster defines the word *commission* as, "an authoritative order, charge, or direction." The commission given to the disciples was delivered directly by the Great Authority. Those who accept His dominion in their lives recognize that it is still the responsibility of believers in this day to obey that charge.

Between verses 18 and 19 of our text in Mark, there is a lapse of forty days, in which Jesus appears several more times before His Ascension.

YOUR OPENER

Into All the World

TEXT: Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:14-20

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: Matthew 24:14; Luke 24:45-48; Acts 26:17, 18

KEY VERSE: "Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you." — John 20:21

RESPONSES

1. The Great Commission was, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel." Jesus was speaking to His eleven disciples, called the Apostles. It was at this same time that Jesus told them to tarry in the city of Jerusalem until they received power from on high (Acts 1:4). He knew that the work would be so great that it could not be performed except through the agency and direct help of the Holy Spirit.

2. Allow time for your students to give their answers. These could include: the Spirit helps our infirmities; we do not always know what to pray for, yet the Spirit makes intercession for us even when our prayers are but groanings (Romans 8:26); the Spirit of truth will guide us into all truth; He will show us things to come (John 16:13). How important that is in these last days just prior to Jesus' Second Coming! "As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God" (Romans 8:14).

3. The power that God gave was to be used with humility. They were exhorted to rule over the Church faithfully, watching for the souls of men, as they that must give account. (See Hebrews 13:17.) The Apostle Paul listed the qualifications of an elder: "If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly. For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not self-willed, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre; but a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate; holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayer" (Titus 1:6-9).

4. The disciples went forth, and "preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following" (Mark 16:20). The signs included healing of the sick, delivering the demon-possessed, and raising the dead to life. Unbelievers were converted and established in the faith.

After His resurrection, Jesus gave His eleven disciples what we now call the Great Commission. He told them to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to everyone. The Gospel is the Good News that Jesus lives, and all who believe on Him will be saved. The disciples were to teach the people God's Word and to assure them that Jesus' presence would always be with them. That commission is for Christians today too. The world has grown and every Christian has his or her part to do in spreading the Gospel. Great joy is experienced by all who love Jesus, when a new soul is added to the Church.

1. Just before Jesus ascended into Heaven, He gave His Great Commission. What was that Commission, and who were directed to have a part in the work?

2. Constant communion with God the Father was vitally important for the disciples, and the Holy Spirit was the important communicating Agent that they needed. He fills the same office for the Church on earth today. Name several of the ways in which overcoming Christians are dependent upon the Holy Spirit today.

3. Jesus told His disciples, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." Jesus imparts a portion of that power to His followers to help them perform the work of His Kingdom on earth. How was this God-given power to be used? Were the disciples to rule with rigor the Church and people who came under their influence?

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION NOTES

4. The disciples were to preach Christ's message of salvation. That message was not just for a select few. Jesus had commanded them to preach to "every creature," wherever they could be found. What were the results that followed the disciples as they went forth preaching and teaching as Jesus had commanded?

5. Although Jesus' Great Commission was given to the eleven disciples who were with Him at the time, they could not speak the Gospel to every person in every part of the world throughout all the ages of time. However, the Gospel faithfully proclaimed made new disciples who in turn took up the commission. We know that Jesus promised, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." What did He mean by that?

6. The Apostle Paul is an example of one who became a "new disciple," and obeyed Christ's command to preach the Gospel. Name some of the situations that Paul faced during his ministry.

7. Implicit faith in the Son of God will bring about great and marvelous things. Jesus assured the disciples that mighty miracles would follow their preaching of the truth. List some Scriptures which give us assurance that Jesus Christ still manifests Himself in behalf of those who truly honor and work for Him today.

8. The Great Commission included water baptism. It is an outward act that is indicative of the inward work performed by the grace of God. It is performed in behalf of those who have given their lives to Christ. How is the Holy Trinity represented in the ordinance of water baptism?

5. When Jesus gave the Great Commission, He encouraged His disciples by promising that His divine presence would be "with you always" — until making converts, baptizing, and building up the Christian through the Word, would be no more — "even unto the end of the world." The Holy Spirit that Jesus had promised was always with those disciples as they went about preaching and teaching the Good News to everyone they met. In that same way, Jesus is always with His followers today. His presence can be felt by those who love Him and obey His Word.

6. Allow time for the class to enumerate their thoughts in regard to Paul's ministry. Their answers could include such things as, the Jews taking counsel in Damascus to kill Paul, but he was let down over the wall in a basket; Paul and Barnabas were persecuted in Iconium; Paul was stoned at Lystra; Paul and Silas were beaten and imprisoned in Philippi. The Apostle also witnessed many miracles of healing and deliverance through God's power, saw many Gentile churches established for Christ, and was instrumental in revivals and in many souls being saved from sin. In the end he could say, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith" (2 Timothy 4:7).

7. Your students might include the following Scriptures in their list: Matthew 28:20; John 17:20; Hebrews 13:5,8. Some say that the miracles of the Gospel ceased when the first Church was fully established. They would have us believe that the baptism of the Holy Ghost was given only to secure a successful start for the Church but now is a thing of the past. Nothing can be farther from the truth, because true faith in God will bring about the same results in our lives as it brought about in the Early Church. The Latter Rain Gospel of today has witnessed the same miracles that accompanied the preaching of the Gospel after Pentecost. God will work for His people to the extent that they allow Him to work.

8. The disciples were commanded to baptize "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." These are the three persons of the Godhead. However, there is only one immersion. This typifies the death and burial of Jesus, and His triumphant Resurrection. (See Romans 6:3-6.) We can see this when we read of Jesus' baptism (Matthew 3:16-17). At that time, the three Persons of the Godhead were present. Jesus Christ, the Son obeyed the ordinance; the Father in Heaven witnessed to the fact by saying, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased"; and the Holy Ghost, the Spirit of God, descended like a dove and alighted upon Jesus. The convert who obeys this wonderful ordinance may not see any demonstration with his natural eye or hear any words with his natural ear, yet the Godhead witnesses in the heart to the fact of his obedience.

YOUR WRAP-UP

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

What does the word *Gospel* mean?

We aren't all called to travel abroad to spread the Gospel. How, then, can we do our part in the Great Commission?

What are some of the ways the Gospel is spread today?

Why is spreading the Gospel important for Christians?

What are some of the excuses people use for not witnessing to the power of God in their own lives?

Who do you know that might need to hear the Gospel?

Why do you think Jesus gave His disciples the power to work miracles?

Jesus said, "In my name," they will cast out devils. Do you think Jesus' name is just as powerful a tool today as it was when He was on earth?

Do you think Jesus meant we would be safe to pick up deadly serpents any time we felt like it? Why not?

Are people still healed today when God's people lay hands on them and pray?

THINGS TO DO

Ask your class the following questions, and let the students take turns answering each question. WHO was the first person to invite you to Sunday school or tell you about Jesus? WHAT did you hear in Sunday school that you had never heard before? WHEN did you know that you should be saved? WHERE do you want to spend eternity? WHY do you think it is important to share the Good News with those who do not know Jesus? Talk about the fact that every Christian needs to do his part in God's work so that nobody can say, "You never told me about Jesus. You never told me that He loves me."

Telling the Good News of Jesus' love to all the world is a big job. Each Christian needs to do whatever Jesus calls him to do. Use this activity to illustrate to your class that any job can be done more quickly and efficiently if each person does what he is supposed to do, when he is supposed to do it. Have all your students stand in a circle, about an arm's length apart. Hand a stack of books (or some other bulky object) to the student next to you, and tell him to pass the books to the next person in line. That person hands them to the next person, etc. When the books are finally returned to you, tell six of your students to step into the middle of the circle. Tell the others not to move from the spot where they are standing. Again, pass the books around the circle, which is now minus six "workers." (If your class is large enough, you might want to have six more move into the center of the circle, and pass the books around again.) As the activity starts

again, each person has a longer distance to reach to pass the books to the next person. If two people from the same area have stepped out of line together, the reach is even greater! The books do finally reach their destination, but it would have been so much easier if the other people were in the places they should have been.

In the Search Key Verse are the words, "as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you." Divide this activity into two parts. Draw a line down the center of a blackboard. At the top of the left column write the words, "As my Father hath sent me," and at the top of the right column write the words, "even so send I you." Under the first title, have your students help you make a list of things that Jesus did while He lived here on earth: loved, healed, saved, prayed, performed miracles of many sorts, preached, was a friend, etc. Under the second title, ask your students to help you list things Jesus expects His people to do until He calls them home to be with Him in Heaven: love, pray for healing, tell the Good News, be a friend to others, etc. In essence, the Christian's mission is to carry on the purpose of his Master's mission. Jesus had said almost this same thing in His intercessory prayer for His Apostles (John 17:18). In that same prayer He said "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word." How wonderful that Jesus included each of us!

Answers for ANSWER

The Great Commission

The words listed below are from our lesson. Write each of them into the correct spaces on the grid.

GO
SEND
EVERY
PEACE
WORLD
FATHER
GOSPEL
PREACH
APOSTLES
CHRISTIANS

Lesson 100

TEXT Acts 10:1-48; Romans 10:12,13

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES Matthew 28:19,20; Luke 4:18

OBJECTIVE The students will be able to explain some of the miraculous ways the Holy Spirit enlightens people to their spiritual needs.

KEY VERSE FOR ANSWER Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons. — Acts 10:34

KEY VERSE FOR SEARCH For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. — Romans 10:12

**ANSWER
TITLE:** **An Individual Call**
**SEARCH
TITLE:** **A Universal Call**

REFERENCE INFORMATION

Peter was an outstanding leader in the early days of the Church. He was the author of two Epistles, First and Second Peter. This was his second journey from Jerusalem (Acts 9:32; 11:2).

This particular outpouring of the Holy Ghost happened about A.D. 40. Up to this time the Gospel had been preached only to the Jews, Samaritans who observed the Law of Moses, and converts to Judaism, known as proselytes. The Apostles seemed to think that the Gentiles had to be circumcised before they could be accepted into the Church. However, God soon made it plain that the Gospel message was for all men.

Caesarea was a city which was built at a vast cost between 25-13 B.C. by Herod the Great. It was named in honor of his patron, Augustus Caesar. It was the official residence of the Herodian kings and of Felix, Festus, and the other Roman procurators of Judea. This sea-coast city was situated on the line of the great road from Tyre to Egypt, approximately seventy miles northwest of Jerusalem. A wall, some 200 feet wide and standing in

120 feet of water, formed the backside of the harbor. It was made of enormous blocks of limestone, some of them 50 feet by 10 feet in size.

The Italian band was a cohort of Roman soldiers stationed in Caesarea. The Roman army was divided into legions, the number varied from three thousand to six thousand. A legion was subdivided into ten cohorts (or bands), the cohort into three maniples, and the maniple into two centuries containing, originally, one hundred men. In addition to the legionary cohorts, independent cohorts of volunteers served under the Roman standards. One of these cohorts was named the Italian.

Joppa is a Mediterranean seaport town thirty-five miles northwest of Jerusalem. Timbers cut in Lebanon were floated from Tyre to Joppa for the building of Solomon's Temple (2 Chronicles 2:16), and also for the building of the second Temple (Ezra 3:7). Hence, it became the port of Jerusalem in the days of Solomon. Jonah boarded a ship at Joppa when fleeing from God. Today Joppa is known as Jaffa.

YOUR OPENER

A Universal Call

TEXT: Acts 10:1-48; Romans 10:12,13

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: Matthew 28:19,20; Luke 4:18

KEY VERSE: For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. — Romans 10:12

Up to this time the Gospel had been preached only to the Jews, Samaritans who observed the Law of Moses, and converts to Judaism. The Apostles seemed to think that the Gentiles had to be circumcised before they could be accepted into the Church. However, God soon made it plain that the Gospel message was to all men. In this lesson we learn that, by an extraordinary series of events, an orthodox Jew is witnessing to a Roman centurion. It was God's divine orchestration that caused this unusual occurrence.

RESPONSES

1. Your students should see that Cornelius feared God and taught his family to fear God. He helped the unfortunate and prayed to God continually. We can conclude by these facts that Cornelius was a very unusual Roman centurion. He was evidently in direct contact with God, and therefore in a position that God could bless him.

2. Discussion with your class should bring out that this revelation is important to us as Gentiles, because it assures us that we, too, can be partakers of the blessings of the Holy Spirit, as well as the Jews of that day.

3. The point of this question is to develop fully the lengths to which the Holy Spirit will go in dealing with numerous isolated individuals all at the same time to bring about a common purpose. Allow time for your students to share similar experiences from their own lives.

1. What spiritual attributes did Cornelius, the Roman centurion, exhibit that caused God to take note of his life (Acts 10:2)? What conclusions can be drawn about the type of person this man was?

2. Peter had a vision of a sheet which was let down from Heaven. In the sheet were all kinds of animals that were considered by the Jews to be unclean, but God revealed to Peter that they had been cleansed. God used this to open his understanding that the Gentiles were to be full beneficiaries of God's graces. Why is this revelation of such great importance to us?

3. We see the moving of the Holy Spirit throughout this entire account. He moved in Cornelius' house in Caesarea, and then at the house in which Peter was staying in Joppa—He instructed Cornelius to send for Peter, and told Peter to return with Cornelius' servants. What is the limit to which God will go to reach a hungry soul? Relate an experience in your own life or in the life of an acquaintance wherein the Holy Spirit has worked in a special way in this regard.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION NOTES

4. Why would it have been natural for Peter and the Jews who went with him to hesitate to go into Cornelius' house? See Acts 10:28 and Leviticus 20:26.

5. As Peter preached Jesus to Cornelius and his house, they received the baptism of the Holy Ghost. Verse 34 of our text states, "God is no respecter of persons." In the context of Peter's statement, what is the significance of this verse? Name several souls who would have been lost if Jesus had not reached out to them, even though others thought they were not worthy.

6. Paul the Apostle recognized the universality of the Gospel call, and this was reflected in his words to the Romans. He told them, "For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call on him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:12,13). Elaborate on the ways the Lord is "rich" to anyone who comes to Him in honest repentance.

7. Read Matthew 28:19,20, and note here the phrase which ties these two verses to the theme of this lesson. Think of a story or conversion experience of someone you know about which illustrates this theme.

4. It was in the Jewish Law that Jews were not to keep company with those from other nations. However, by God's miraculous intervention, and Peter's openness to the teachings of the Holy Spirit, the doubts or questions were removed from Peter's mind and he went willingly.

5. This verse reconfirms what was brought out earlier in the lesson: Peter was thoroughly convinced that God's grace was being extended to the Gentiles as well as to his own people. Peter could see that there was no partiality with God. As your class offers their suggestions of "unworthy" people who were reached by God, the objective to our lesson will be emphasized.

6. Your students' responses may include the fact that God is rich in mercy, in forgiveness, and in grace to the one who comes in true repentance. Though the cultural influences and material advantages of believers in different areas of the world may vary to a wide degree, all true children of God will experience the same benefits of salvation.

7. The phrase is "teach all nations." Allow time for your students to share personal stories or testimonies reflecting the spread of the Gospel around the world. Come prepared with a missionary story to begin the discussion. Wrap up the lesson by reinforcing once again that God's call is for the "whosoever will."

YOUR WRAP-UP

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

Who were the two men mentioned in our ANSWER story? How were their stories different?

How has God talked to you? Name some ways and times.

What is your responsibility when God calls you?

What two things did the angel say had gone up from Cornelius as a memorial before God?

Describe what Peter saw when he was on the rooftop. Why was this important at the time?

What did Cornelius and his household learn from this experience? What specific gift did they receive from God?

What did Peter and the brethren learn from this experience?

What are some ways the Holy Spirit speaks to people? Can you remember a specific time when God talked with you or warned you that you should give your life to Him?

THINGS TO DO

Have a testimony tract appropriate to the lesson for each child to take home, read, and share with his/her family.

As you are teaching your class, turn on a hidden tape recording of a voice admonishing the children to serve the Lord. Explain that God sometimes talks to people just this plainly and at other times in very subtle ways. Have your class make a list of different ways or situations through which God might speak to us: a friend, a song, music, illness, injury, nature, a sermon, a testimony, etc. Ask your students how God spoke to them?

Have an adult with a testimony appropriate to the lesson come to class and tell the students of when God called him.

Have someone in class represent an atheist and let the rest of your students try to tell him the Gospel story.

Use this activity to illustrate that God is no respecter of persons. Take several metal object—paper clip, safety pin, nuts, bolts—that would be responsive to magnetic attraction. Add plastic or aluminum objects which will not respond to a magnet. Pass a magnet over them. All the metal objects will come up to the magnet. Point out that the magnetic power is still there (God calls everyone) but some things do not respond to the magnet. Some people do not say yes to God's call, and He won't force them to come. However if someone wants to become responsive to God they can ask Him for a heart that will answer His call. (Attach a paper clip to a lightweight object, and it will come to the magnet.)

Answers for ANSWER

Will You Serve Jesus?

People of the Early Church shared in the work of the Lord. Certain men were chosen for special jobs. Read the story in Acts 6:1-6 and unscramble the words below. Remember, the Gospel call was not just for the Early Church. It is for everyone today too.



Two groups of people:
SWERBHE HEBREWS
CNAISREG GRECIANS

What the Apostles did to set men apart for service:
DYEARP PRAYED
DAIL SNDAH NO METH
LAI D HANDS ON THEM

Another name for Jesus' followers:
SELPICSID DISCIPLES

What the Apostles would continue:
REYPAR PRAYER
YISMINRT FO ETH DRWO
MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Kind of men chosen for special work:
FO STOHN ROPTER
OF HONEST REPORT
LUFL FO ETH YLOH
TOGHS DNA MODSWI
FULL OF THE
HOLY GHOST
AND WISDOM

The seven men chosen to serve:
EPTNHES STEPHEN
CARNOIN NICANOR
NITOM TIMON
LIHIP PHILIP
SANMERAP PARMENAS
SALINOC NICOLAS
RUSOHCOR PROCHORUS

Lesson 101

TEXT Acts 6:1-6; 8:5-8,26-40

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES Matthew 16:24; Luke 14:33; 1 Timothy 3:1-13

OBJECTIVE The students will be able to give reasons why it is need-ful to be filled with the Holy Spirit, and to be consecrated to do His work before they can be used extensively in His service.

KEY VERSE FOR ANSWER Thou shalt be his witness unto all men of what thou hast seen and heard. — Acts 22:15

KEY VERSE FOR SEARCH And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. — Mark 16:20

Used of God

REFERENCE INFORMATION

Summary of Acts 6:1-6: In A.D. 34 the number of Christ's followers had greatly multiplied. Up to this time it seems that the Apostles administered all the business affairs for the Church as suggested in Acts 4:37, ". . . and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet." The Greek-speaking, non-Palestinian Jews in Jerusalem complained of unfairness. So the Apostles' answer to their complaint was to let them choose seven of their own number to oversee practical matters, men of spiri-tual caliber, who would be a credit to the Church.

Summary of Acts 8:5-8: The first part of chapter 8 took place in A.D. 38 and records one of the first persecutions of the Church in the stoning of Stephen and Saul's threatening and laying waste the Church. These perse-cutions devised by Satan to destroy the Church became,

instead, an instrument of its dispersion and establishment.

Summary of Acts 8:26-40: At the height of Philip's flourishing Samaritan campaign, God called him away to meet the needs of an individual.

Gaza is approximately fifty miles southwest of Jerusa-lem, being situated on the great coastal highway from Mesopotamia to Egypt. It is at the edge of the desert and at the junction of a trade route from southern Arabia. The Ethiopian eunuch was converted on the road from Jerusalem to Gaza. A Jewish proselyte and treasurer of Candace, queen of Ethiopia, he was converted to Chris-tianity through Philip the evangelist. Nothing is known of him after his return to Ethiopia.

YOUR OPENER

RESPONSES

1. Philip was called upon to administer the physical necessities to the widows of the church and to serve tables. This task was important in that it would give the Apostles opportunity to spend their time in the Word of God and prayer. At the same time it would solve a problem that had arisen in the church. Discuss with the students why it is necessary for the ministers of the Gospel to have help in the work of the Lord. As your students discuss what types of helpers are most needed in the church today, they should conclude that every worker is important and needed. If we do our work faithfully, we will be rewarded accordingly, whatever our task may be.

2. The Church of Jesus Christ is a spiritual organism. Only those who are born of the Spirit of God and are serving God in Spirit and in truth are eligible to work for the Lord. These men were called upon to serve in the church and for the church, though their tasks may have seemed somewhat menial. It is obvious that those called by God are worthy of the respect of all the body of believers. Discuss with the students that each and every call or appointment is significant and exacting. We must give our best to the work if we are to be considered faithful in it; and in so doing we will be taking a step toward greater and more exacting responsibilities.

3. Encourage your students to give their answers. Possibly they will list the qualifications given in the text: honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom. What does it mean to have an honest report? No doubt it has to do with the appraisal of those who know a person. Perhaps a person did not always have an honest report, but after he was saved he became honest, and people were soon aware of that fact. Ask the students what it means to be full of the Holy Ghost. Guide the discussion to the thought that a person has not only availed himself of the graces and gifts that God has provided, but he is using those blessings. There is a difference between receiving and using the experiences that God gives. It is significant that the word "wisdom" is mentioned here in connection with the Holy Ghost. The wisdom that we must have, if we are faithfully going to execute the service of God, is that wisdom which comes from Above. This wisdom is "first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy" (James 3:17).

Used of God

TEXT: Acts 6:1-6; 8:5-8,26-40

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: Matthew 16:24; Luke 14:33; 1 Timothy 3:1-13

KEY VERSE: And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the work with signs following. — Mark 16:20

It is good, especially in the work of the Lord, if responsibility can be distributed among as many people as possible. This is sound practice for several reasons. In the first place, there are to be no "lords over God's heritage" (1 Peter 5:3), but all are to be "subject one to another," and "clothed with humility" (1 Peter 5:5). Like the stones that were cut and shaped in the quarries and then brought to the Temple site, the saints of God are prepared by God for a specific place in His Church. This is accomplished through the consecration of one's self to God and the seeking of His gifts and graces. All of God's people have a place in the work of the Lord. None are excluded; none are forgotten; none are to be inactive. None are considered unworthy of some place in the service of God in a capacity that fits their capabilities. Each one, then, will be rewarded for the manner in which he fills his God-given responsibility.

1. What was the first recorded task Philip was asked to do for the Lord? Why was this task so important? What types of helpers are most needed in the church today?

2. The duties to which Philip and the other six men were appointed consisted of ministering to a physical rather than a spiritual need. Why, then, would the Apostles require spiritual qualifications? See John 4:23,24.

3. In your own words define the spiritual qualifications required by the Apostles for this task.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION NOTES

4. What circumstances brought Philip to Samaria (Acts 8:3-5)? How did he seem to react to his circumstances?

5. Philip was the first called upon to help the Apostles, and in Acts 8:14,15 we read how two of the Apostles came to help Philip. In what way did Peter and John help Philip? How did their actions set an example for us?

6. Give a specific example of how a person was used of God to help you.

7. In today's lesson, how did being full of the Holy Ghost help Philip?

8. Philip was living his life to be used of God when suddenly he had the opportunity to speak to one who wanted to hear the message he had. God gave him that privilege because he was living a spotless life, filled with God's Spirit. Many people have similar opportunities today only to be passed by because their ears aren't in tune with God's directing Spirit. How can you insure that you will be alert to the opportunities God sends your way?

4. There was great persecution against the saints in Jerusalem, so they were scattered abroad. Philip seemed to make the best of an unfortunate situation and went to Samaria to preach the Gospel. Discuss with the class that often something which seems to be adverse to one's spirituality can in reality become a blessing to oneself and to others. If a person keeps himself consecrated to the Lord's will, being full of His Spirit, God is able to turn any sort of situation that He allows into a glorious result. Many have been pronounced incurably ill, only to have a divine touch and be restored to perfect health. Many have been persecuted almost beyond endurance, only to see the Lord deliver completely and to His honor.

5. Peter and John prayed for the new Christians in Samaria that they might receive the Holy Ghost. They also testified and preached the Word while they were there. Ask those in your class who are saved if they had help when they prayed for salvation, for sanctification, for the baptism of the Holy Ghost. More often than not those who have received experiences from the Lord had help when they prayed and were thankful for that help. Why is this so? Jesus said, "If two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 18:19). Discuss with the class that being full of the Holy Ghost and helping others pray and receive the Christian experiences is one of the highest callings that a person can have. It takes consecration to spend the time and effort to be an effective helper at the altar of prayer.

6. Encourage your students to give their answers. They may bring out that others have been helped through a testimony, or through encouragement to seek the Lord. Many times young people are able to influence their peers to pray through to salvation. Sick people have received healing because of the united prayers of Christians. Hopefully, your students will enter into the discussion and many thoughts will be discovered as to how an individual can be used of God to be a helper to others on the pathway that leads to life eternal.

7. The Holy Ghost first taught him, later spoke to him, then led him, gave him boldness to approach the eunuch, helped him to expound the Book of Isaiah, gave him power to be a witness, and finally guided him on to his next job. This example should reinforce the need for having the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

8. This question should cause self-examination. There is a price to pay to be used of God—it doesn't just happen. It takes consecration, dedication, practice, study, time, self-denial, and a determination to go through to the end.

YOUR WRAP-UP

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

Why does God use people to work for Him?

What are some of the things we can do for Jesus?

What are the qualifications for those who will be used by God?

In our Bible text, Philip left a great revival. Why? What does this tell us about the value of one soul?

Did Philip know why he was going when the angel of the Lord told him to go to Gaza? Why did he not protest and question the will of God?

What does it mean to be faithful?

What does *consecrated* mean?

In our ANSWER story, we learned about a young man named George. What were some of the jobs he did for the Lord?

Name some of Brother George's attributes that pleased God.

Name some things which the Lord could call you to do for Him today, whether they be in church or elsewhere. Discuss how you can prepare yourself to be ready.

When should a person consecrate his life to God?

THINGS TO DO

Bring a set of blueprints to class. Did the finished building turn out just like the blueprints? Usually there are some changes. Discuss how, for our own good, God sometimes makes changes in the plans we have for ourselves.

Bring a school yearbook or a clipping from a newspaper about a famous person— the birth of a child, a wedding, an obituary, etc. Read of the accomplishments, honors, or awards he obtained. Has it changed your life? Do you remember him? Will he be remembered 200 years from now? Talk about the accomplishments of some of the people in the Bible, such as Philip, Peter, Noah, Elijah, John, and Paul. How has what they did hundreds of

years ago affected your life today? Will their works last? Why?

Bring items to class, such as the following: a pen to represent writing ability; a musical instrument to represent musical talents; a tape recording of someone singing to represent singing ability; a set of paints and a paint brush; pencil and drawing paper; a broom. Explain that each object represents special talents God gives to different individuals.

Help your students make a checklist of talents, abilities, and special skills which they can consecrate to the Lord. Make the lists attractive enough so that the students can hang them on their bedroom walls.

Answers for ANSWER

Preach the Gospel

Jesus told His disciples to go into all the world and preach the Gospel. On the flag below are the names of some Bible lands where they went. How many can you find in the Word-Find?

EDOM	JORDAN
TYRE	JUDAEA
EGYPT	GALILEE
JOPPA	DAMASCUS
SYRIA	BETHLEHEM
CANAAN	PHOENICIA
EMMAUS	

• Jerusalem
• Bethlehem

Mediterranean Sea
Sea of Galilee

Jordan River
Dead Sea

Joppa

N
E

W
S

Holy Land

X
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E
H
E
M
C
O
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TEXT Ephesians 6:10-18

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES Isaiah 59:17; 1 Thessalonians 5:8; Hebrews 4:12

OBJECTIVE The students will be able to explain why it is necessary to prepare themselves fully for spiritual warfare, and will be able to describe how this can be done.

KEY VERSE FOR ANSWER Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. — Ephesians 6:11

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:** **Ready for Battle**

**SEARCH
TITLE:** **Prepared for Battle**

REFERENCE INFORMATION

Ephesians: One of the four "Prison Epistles" written from Paul's Roman imprisonment. This letter was written approximately 61-63 A.D. and may have been a circular letter sent around to many churches in the province of Asia. It was transmitted to its destination by Tychicus, an Asian Christian and close friend of Paul's. He was with Paul during his first and second imprisonment in Rome.

Defensive Armor: Shield—varying in size and shape and made of skin or metal, worn on left arm. Helmet—sometimes of brass, surrounding the head. Breast-

plate—coat of mail, literally a breastplate of metal scales worn on chest area. Greaves—made of brass, metal, or leather. They were worn to protect the legs from ankle to knee. Another part (a solea) was often attached which covered the sole, and prevented the foot from being wounded by thorns, stones, etc. Girdle—belt from which the sword hung.

Loin: The part of the body on either side of the backbone, between the ribs and the hipbones. To have the loins girded with truth signified strength in attachment to truth.

YOUR OPENER

Prepared for Battle

TEXT: Ephesians 6:10-18

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: Isaiah 59:17; 1 Thessalonians 5:8; Hebrews 4:12

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

The Christian soldier's strength and power is in the Lord. God has provided spiritual armor for us. It is not enough for us to know that it is available. If we are to stand in the day of battle we must put the armor on. The battle is not against foes which we can see, but against principalities and powers, and spiritual wickedness in high places. "The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God" (2 Corinthians 10:4). The armor of God has several parts, and like any system of personal armor, works best when it is complete. As we put on each part and use it effectively we can be more than conquerors.

RESPONSES

1. God's Word is truth and the very essence of truth. By using Scripture, we can defeat the enemy as Jesus did in the Scriptures given. Everything can be determined to be either good or bad, true or false by comparing it with God's Word. Help the students to see that this truth avails when they face the enemy just as it did for Christ in the wilderness.

2. The students will realize that it is not sufficient to have knowledge of Christ or to receive the benefits of a church affiliation, but they must have the evidence of salvation in their own lives, or they are an easy target for the enemy. Discuss the difference between self-righteousness and true righteousness. Use examples of such characteristics as pride and humility; selfishness and altruism.

3. Ask for students' responses to this and emphasize the necessity of having a positive assurance of our relationship with God. Ask your students to explain what they think is meant by the phrase, "whose mind is stayed on thee." How can this be accomplished? What are some of the things that would hinder?

1. In our text, the first mention of the armor is that the loins be girt about with truth. In the context of this verse what does *truth* mean? Using Jesus' experience in the wilderness of temptation, explain the importance of this part of the armor. See Matthew 4:1-11.

2. The second piece of equipment is the breastplate of righteousness. Can you explain the difference between self-righteousness and the righteousness received from God? Use Matthew 3:7-10 and 2 Corinthians 5:17 as references.

3. Another part of the armor is the helmet of salvation. Read how it is described in 1 Thessalonians 5:8. Using Isaiah 26:3, explain the importance of having our minds covered with the helmet of salvation.

4. The Christian soldier's feet are shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace. This allows him to

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION NOTES

be prepared at all times to declare God's peace and goodwill to the world. Using 2 Timothy 4:2 and 1 Peter 3:15, define *preparation* as it relates to our walk with Christ. List ways we can be better prepared for Christian service.

5. "Above all, taking the shield of faith." Why is faith so important in this spiritual warfare? And why, "above all"?

6. We have observed thus far that all of the pieces of armor mentioned have been of a protective nature. However, the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, is designed to be used both offensively and defensively. It is to guard the Christian soldier, and by it he can vanquish all his foes. The Sword can be adapted to every state and circumstance in which we are placed. How can we effectively use the Sword of the Spirit? See Psalm 119:11 and 2 Timothy 2:15.

7. Prayer is essential to the Christian warfare. What did the Apostle Paul mean when he said, "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit"?

8. Ephesians 6:11,13 refers to the "whole armour of God." What a relief to know that we do not have to lean upon our own understanding to provide proper protection. The Christian warfare is a battle of right against wrong. Some have said that the best defense is a good offense. A Christian is not merely holding his own, but is moving forward and defeating the enemy. Where, in your own life, might you use the offensive weapons illustrated by the following verses: Proverbs 15:1; Romans 12:20; 1 Thessalonians 5:15?

4. Be instant (or ready) in season and out of season, always ready to give an answer for the hope that lies within them. Allow time for the students to suggest various ways of being better prepared. They may include such things as Bible reading, prayer, being quick to give a personal testimony, being faithful in church attendance and in fulfilling service opportunities, practicing ministering to the needs of others. Discuss with them specifically how they might improve in these areas.

5. The words, "Above all," let us know the supreme importance of faith. Hebrews 11:1 states that, "faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." It enables the Christian to call upon God and to know that He will be with him at all times. A faith like that can quench any dart of the enemy. "Without faith it is impossible to please God" (Hebrews 11:6).

6. After your students discuss their thoughts concerning the question, they should see the importance of studying and retaining the Word so it can be effectively used in their daily lives. Ask your students to give some Biblical examples or situations from their own knowledge or experience in which the Word was used as a defensive or offensive weapon. Some Scriptures which show the Word used in taking the offense: Acts 5:29-33; Acts 7:54; Hebrews 4:12. Scriptures showing the defensive value of the Word: Psalm 119:5; Romans 15:4; 1 Peter 2:2.

7. Allow time for your students to give their thoughts regarding this verse. Guide the discussion to conclude that a true spirit of prayer is praying according to the will of God. Discuss the importance of keeping a prayerful attitude and spirit of communion with God, and of praying within the framework of God's Word.

8. Have students share some of their responses. These Scriptures will show them that the use of the armor is both practical and something they can use in their daily lives.

YOUR WRAP-UP
