

Lesson 157

TEXT John 8:1-11; Titus 3:3-7

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES Genesis 18:23-33; 19:16

OBJECTIVE The students will be able to relate that mercy implies compassion which forbears punishment even when justice demands it. Mercy is extended by God to those who seek it.

KEY VERSE FOR ANSWER O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever. — Psalm 106:1

KEY VERSE FOR SEARCH It is of the LORD’S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. — Lamentations 3:22

RESOURCE MATERIAL Tract No. 64 — Pardoned!

ANSWER TITLE: **Should I Show Mercy?**
SEARCH TITLE: **Mercy**

REFERENCE INFORMATION

Mercy signifies essential perfection in God, whereby He pities and relieves the miseries of His creatures; gives eternal life and happiness; shows more kindness than justice requires or what can be claimed or expected.

Showing mercy is one of the cardinal virtues of a true Christian and is one of the great blessings God shows to

us. Christian mercy is a part of the “fruit of the Spirit” (Galatians 5:22,23), made up in part of love, longsuffering, gentleness, and goodness. God’s mercy toward sinful man was shown most clearly and fully in His giving of His beloved Son to die in our stead; and our Lord’s mercy enabled Him to willingly make the ultimate sacrifice (Romans 5:8).

YOUR OPENER

Mercy

TEXT: John 8:1-11; Titus 3:3-7

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: Genesis 18:23-33; 19:16

KEY VERSE: It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. — Lamentations 3:22

RESPONSES

1. Divine mercy was clearly shown when Jesus Christ forgave the woman's sin and made the way for her to avoid punishment for breaking God's Law. Divine mercy is in operation today in much the same manner. God does not cut off a sinner without giving him knowledge of his sins and an opportunity to repent. Your students should see that mercy is the provision made by God in which His Son paid the full price for man's violations of His holy laws. Of course, "He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy" (Proverbs 29:1). Ask your students when divine mercy is extended to them. Bring out that mercy is extended to a sinner day by day, but it is given in its fullest when men affirm God's righteous standards and repent of their failure to live by them.

2. It seems that the scribes and Pharisees were not so interested in justice. They brought the woman to Christ to tempt Him, that they might accuse Him. However, their action gave Jesus an opportunity to extend mercy to this woman. Ask your students why Jesus extended mercy to her, even though we have no record of her asking for it. Help them see that Jesus, no doubt, read the desire of her heart, just as He could read the motives in the hearts of the scribes and Pharisees who brought her to Him. They should understand that in approaching Jesus they must be honest.

3. Let the group supply their answers, which should revolve around the fact that these men realized they were sinners. In response to the second question, your students should conclude that conviction of sin gives access to God's mercy. The Spirit of God brings conviction to reprove the sinner of his sin and show him Christ's righteousness. See John 16:8. These men could have received mercy by repentance and faith in Christ, but they did not believe that Jesus was the Christ, the One who could forgive sins, so they left without mercy.

God's love sent Jesus, who fulfilled all the demands of holiness and justice. Jesus in turn poured out a flood of mercy, grace, and forbearance and made it available to everyone. By faith we can receive this mercy and have "peace with God . . ." and ". . . access by faith into this grace wherein we stand" (Romans 5:1,2).

1. The dictionary tells us that the word *mercy* implies "compassion which forbears punishment even when justice demands it." Though the word is not used in the account of the woman taken in adultery, in what ways was divine mercy demonstrated? How is divine mercy extended to each of us today?

2. The woman taken in adultery was clearly guilty of breaking God's Law. If the scribes and Pharisees wanted justice, why did they not take the woman to the judge to be tried? Why did they bring her to Christ?

3. What do you think the Scripture means when it says that these were "convicted by their own conscience"? If they were convicted, how could any of these have received mercy?

3

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION NOTES

4. The Law demanded justice for the woman's sins (Leviticus 20:10). How could Jesus circumvent this demand?

5. What was the significance of Christ's statement, "Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more"? How was it possible for the woman to do this?

6. In Genesis 18:23-33 and 19:16 we find Abraham praying for God to extend mercy. How did God do this?

7. In Titus 3:3-7, contrast the individual described in verse three to the one in verse seven. Then describe the elements which are mentioned in verses four through six that made the difference.

8. One of the greatest benefits of Christ's mercy extended to us is the salvation of our souls. But once we have been saved, His mercy is extended to us in other ways. List some of these.

4. The Law could not be exercised in the absence of at least two witnesses who would substantiate an accusation. Thus, when the scribes and Pharisees stole away, the woman was no longer subject to punishment by the demands of the Law. In a broader scope, Jesus was God in the flesh, and the Lamb of God who was to take away the sin of the world. See John 1:29. He fulfilled all God's demands for justice, and was the only One who could extend divine mercy.

5. The words, "Neither do I condemn thee:" extended mercy. But His continuation—"go, and sin no more"—was His directive as to how she was to live in the future. Christ's extended mercy also provided the needed power for the woman to do as He commanded her. How can we know that Christ's mercy carries with it the same implicit command today? This question could be the springboard to a brief discussion of the necessity of living above sin. Other supporting Scriptures might include Isaiah 1:16, Isaiah 55:7, John 5:14, Romans 6:12, and 2 Corinthians 5:17.

6. Even though Abraham had asked God to spare the city for ten righteous people, that number could not be found. But God, being a merciful God, had the angels take Lot, his wife, and his two daughters by the hands, and lead them out of the city. As your students discuss this, help them see that God is still a merciful God, and is mindful of individuals.

7. Verse three describes the sinner. Verse seven describes the saved person who has received mercy. What made the difference? The kindness and love of God, mercy, washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost. These elements are realized by each person coming to God for mercy. God's love shed abroad in the heart, His mercy giving them peace with God, washing away their sins, witnessing this by the Spirit of God, makes them heirs of God with a hope of eternal life.

8. Use this question as a wrap-up for this lesson, but also as a preview of lessons in the weeks to come. Encourage a personal response from each of your students. Typical answers may include divine protection, healings, physical needs supplied, guidance. Some may be able to cite specific examples from their own experiences.

YOUR WRAP-UP

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

Why is God's mercy so important to us? What does it mean to show mercy to someone? Give an example.

How did Jesus demonstrate mercy in His dealing with the woman that committed adultery?

What is the punishment for the sin that we commit? What does God, in His mercy, provide to enable us to escape that punishment?

Can we earn God's mercy by doing good? Why or why not?

Does our receiving God's mercy depend on what kind of sins we have committed? Explain.

Can you think of other cases where mercy was shown in the Bible?

Do you think Bruce Archer, the man in our ANSWER story, deserved mercy? If you had been the judge would you have responded in the same way? Why or why not?

THINGS TO DO

Bring a first-aid kit (or a white box with a red cross painted on top). Attach a label that has the word MERCY written across it, to each of the things in the kit (a band-aid, a roll of gauze, etc.). Make a parallel between the first-aid kit and the provisions of God. When we have an accident, the kit provides us with what we need at that particular moment—for cuts, burns, or whatever. In the same way, God provides for our every need. Whatever sins we have committed, God provides His mercy to overcome our problem with sin—giving us the power to live sinless lives.

Have the class draw pictures depicting what mercy means to them.

Bring to class, one of your monthly bills and a check written to pay the debt. Compare these to the debt we owe for our sin. The check (promise) was written in the Garden of Eden. For over two thousand years, God held the


check, and when Jesus died—God cashed it! The debt has been paid according to God's mercy. Help the students to understand that salvation is freely given to all those who give their hearts to Jesus.

Divide the class into two groups. Ask them to name instances in the Bible where mercy was extended. Allow them to use their Bibles and keep score on a blackboard or note pad. It might be interesting as a follow-up to suggest that students recount situations they know of first-hand (or in the news), where mercy is being shown in current times.

Answers for ANSWER

It's for Me!

God's mercy is for anyone who seeks it. Titus 3:5 tells one thing His mercy can do for us. Write the verse on the lines provided. Then fill in the grid using all those words. One word, MERCY, and two other letters, H and G, have been provided for you.



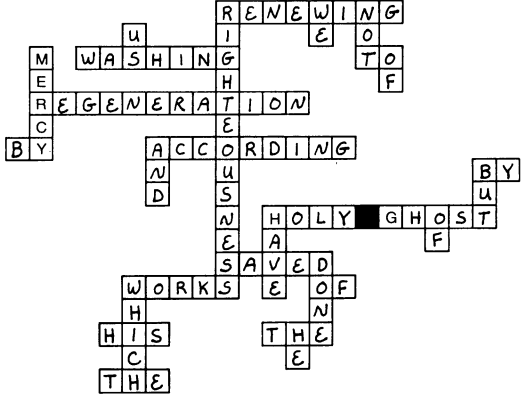
Not by works of righteousness

which we have done, but according

to his mercy he saved us, by the

washing of regeneration, and

renewing of the Holy Ghost



Lesson 158

TEXT Mark 4:35-41; 5:1-20

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES John 16:33; Isaiah 57:20,21

OBJECTIVE The students will be capable of telling that the Lord has power over the universe as well as over men. He can bring peace to elements as well as to the hearts of individuals.

KEY VERSE FOR ANSWER Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you. — John 14:27

KEY VERSE FOR SEARCH Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. — Isaiah 26:3

**ANSWER
TITLE:** **God Heard My Cry**
**SEARCH
TITLE:** **Peace**

REFERENCE INFORMATION

Peace, according to Webster is defined as “a state of tranquility or quiet; freedom from disquieting or oppressive thoughts or emotions; harmony in personal relations; a state or period of mutual concord between governments, or a pact or an agreement to end hostilities between those who have been at war or in a state of enmity.”

When the Lord created this world, He intended that peace should be universal. There were no predatory animals—all ate of the plants and fruit trees. But sin entered into mankind and peace was eroded. At some point, certain animals became carnivorous, some became enemies of man, and most became fearful of man. The beautiful tranquility of nature was gone. Hatred arose in the heart of man and murder was committed in the first family. Very shortly after the confusion of tongues at the

building of the tower of Babel, the various peoples began to war against each other and so it has gone ever since.

The Prophet Isaiah knew where the source of perfect peace was to be found. He foretold of the One who would bring peace to this earth. He also spoke of the time when nature would again be at peace—the wolf and the lamb, the leopard and the kid, the calf and the young lion, all being led by a little child; the cow and the bear feeding together; and the lion eating straw like the ox (Isaiah 11:6-9).

When Jesus was here on earth, He not only was able to calm a troubled sea, but He was able to give peace to a troubled soul. Today Jesus is still seeking to bring peace to the sin-burdened life. And the Christian is looking forward to the day when Jesus will reign in righteousness and there will be perfect peace.

YOUR OPENER

Peace

TEXT: Mark 4:35-41; 5:1-20

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: John 16:33; Isaiah 57:20,21

KEY VERSE: Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. — Isaiah 26:3

Our Lord was a miracle-working Savior on earth, both in the lives of men and in nature. We know He is the same in our day. He gave peace to those who had no peace—He will do the same today. He caused the winds to cease and calmed the raging water—He can do the same today as He puts at rest the storms in the lives of men.

RESPONSES

1. He displayed no fear but exemplified perfect trust in His heavenly Father. Help your class recognize that at times in life they may be surrounded by problems and cares which would ordinarily cause a person to be extremely troubled in spirit. But if their trust is in the heavenly Father, they have a peace and assurance that is unassailable.

2. The Lord was awakened by the disciples. He immediately rebuked the winds and said to the sea, "Peace, be still." Discuss with your class the simple manner in which a great storm was turned into a great calm by just a few words. Perhaps they will never be involved in a physical storm in which it is necessary to cry to the Lord for deliverance. However, ask your class to point out some of the trials which may come to them to cause them to call on the Savior. How can these be stilled by the Lord?

3. Fear is the opposite of faith. Jesus wants His people always to have faith in God. Circumstances may at times cause temporary fear, but "perfect love casteth out fear." The Lord often encouraged those about Him: "Fear not," "Only believe," "If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth," etc. Allow a few moments to talk about the fears by which mankind is often bound. Encourage your class to cite specific examples from their own experience, or the experiences of others. Were there any situations that were beyond the Lord's help?

1. Note the scriptural description of the storm on the Sea of Galilee as given in the text: "There arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full." Have you ever been on a ship at sea during a storm? What significance is shown by Jesus' restfulness during the storm?

2. What caused the Lord to awaken from His sleep? And what was His response?

3. The Lord rebuked His disciples for being afraid. Why? Is there never reason for us to fear? What lesson can we apply to our own lives from this happening?

5

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION NOTES

4. "What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?" the disciples wondered after the calming of the storm. Name several other instances in which Jesus displayed His power over nature. (See Matthew 14:20,25; 17:27; 21:19.) What do these miracles prove, and what should be our response?

5. In what condition did Jesus and the disciples find the demoniac? What was the cause of this condition?

6. What were the results of man's efforts to help the situation?

7. How was the man healed? What was the evidence of his healing?

8. What was the attitude of the citizens of the city and country? What did the man who was delivered want to do? What instructions were given to him by the Lord?

9. For what purpose was the Son of God manifested? See 1 John 3:8.

4. Jesus increased the loaves and fishes to feed five thousand men as well as the women and children. He walked upon the water. He knew that Peter would find tribute money in the mouth of the first fish that he caught. The fig tree withered at Christ's word when He found no fruit. Your students should conclude that all the miracles Jesus did, prove that He is the Son of God, and that He has all power in Heaven and earth. Our response should be a desire to serve Him. He came to give us everlasting life. The unavoidable result of ignoring or refusing to serve Him is eternal punishment.

5. He was bound by the powers of demons as a result of sin. The discussion should bring out that if one sells out to the devil, the same depravity results today. Many are in the same condition as the demoniac. However, in modern times, medical terms are often used to define spiritual problems.

6. Man failed to improve the situation. This answer will show the futility of man-made remedies in dealing with satanic forces. Help your students see that no case is too hard for Jesus. This might be a good opportunity to present to your class the testimonies of some who have experienced deliverance from the powers of the devil. You may choose to distribute a tract such as "Delivered in a Moment of Time" (No. 79), or "Down Skid Road to Despair" (No. 108).

7. Jesus commanded the devils to come out of the man. This answer will show the class that a simple command of Jesus will cause evil spirits to leave. As evidence of the completeness of the demoniac's healing, the people found him sitting, and clothed, and in his right mind. Have your students compare this miracle with the calming of the sea. Lead the discussion to the availability of God's help for them.

8. The citizens prayed that Jesus would depart from their coasts. The man who had been delivered from the demons wanted to go with Jesus. However, Jesus desired that he remain in his own country to tell his friends what great things the Lord had done for him. This should lead to a discussion of the importance Jesus placed upon being a witness to others of His great power to bring peace to troubled hearts and minds.

9. To destroy the works of the devil. The answer will show that a distinct purpose was given to Jesus. Help your class talk about the importance of allowing Jesus to be the Christ of every crisis, that both spiritually and physically they might enjoy perfect peace.

YOUR WRAP-UP

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

Why was Jesus able to sleep during the storm?

How would you have felt if you were on that boat in the storm? What would you have thought when Jesus calmed the waves?

Why didn't the demoniac have peace? What are some of the things which keep people from having peace in their life today?

Before you became a Christian, what were some of the things that caused strife in your life?

Are Christians always at peace? Is there something a Christian must do to have peace?

As a Christian, what are some of the things in your life which might hinder you from having that perfect peace?

What are some of the storms that come up in a person's life? Can you think of some inward storms and outward storms?

What are some of the inner battles that sinners go through? What are some of the inner battles that Christians go through?

Why can a Christian say that he has more peace than a sinner? Is there some kind of peace a Christian will always have, no matter what happens?

Our ANSWER story describes a near tragedy on a lake. Compare that happening to the storm-tossed existence of the sinner. What happened in the story? What can be the end result of the sinner?

THINGS TO DO

Prepare an interview of the demoniac after Jesus had healed him. Sample interview questions:

- I hear you have had a real change in your life. What kind of a life did you used to live?
- You are so different now. How did this change come about?
- Do you have peace in your heart?
- How did Jesus bring this peace into your heart?
- Can anyone have this same peace that you have?

On a large sheet of paper, have students write graffiti statements or draw pictures related to the lesson theme of

peace (Peace is . . .). The students' statements and pictures are then discussed to arrive at a definition of peace.

After reading Mark 4:35-41, have the class summarize the message it portrays. Then allow the students to work in small groups to illustrate the sequence of events in the Scripture passage. Have each group display and explain their work to the class.


Write the word PEACE vertically on a large sheet of paper or chalkboard. Have the students write words or phrases (horizontally) which relate to peace. When the writing is completed, discuss with your class the words or phrases written. Example:

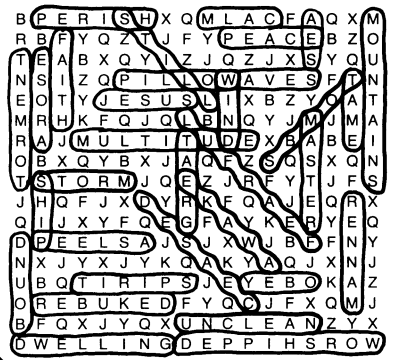
- Passeth all understanding
- Ends frustration
- All men want it
- Christ is the giver of it
- Eternity in Heaven

Answers for ANSWER

All Around You

The peace that God gives encircles you and you know that He is in control. The words listed are from the text and can be found in the word-find. Remember, they read up, down, across and diagonally.





SEA
CALM
OBEY
SHIP
TAME
WIND
AROSE
AWAKE
BOUND
FAITH
GREAT
JESUS
PEACE
STILL
STORM
TOMBS
WAVES
ASLEEP
CEASED
MANNER
MASTER
PERISH
PILLOW
SPIRIT
FEARFUL
REBUKED
TORMENT
UNCLEAN
DWELLING
MOUNTAINS
MULTITUDE
WORSHIPPED

TEXT 1 Kings 19:1-18

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURE Luke 24:13-35

OBJECTIVE The students will be able to explain that God has different ways of communicating with us so that we might know His will. Our responsibility is to be attentive to His Spirit for direction—no matter what way He might choose to reveal His plan for us.

KEY VERSE FOR ANSWER Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not. — Jeremiah 33:3

KEY VERSE FOR SEARCH And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear. — Isaiah 65:24

**ANSWER
TITLE:** **Jeremy’s Exciting Plans**
**SEARCH
TITLE:** **Communication**

REFERENCE INFORMATION

Communication means “giving of and receiving of information, signals, or messages by talk, gestures, or writing.” Our study of communication is primarily concerned with talking to and listening to God. When God created Adam and Eve, He came down in the Garden and talked with them. Sin separated man from God, but there was always a channel of communication left open. God spoke to Noah and commissioned him to build an ark. God spoke to Abraham on various occasions. He spoke to Moses “face to face” (Exodus 33:11), and many times God sent angels with messages to individuals. To many of the prophets He communicated through dreams or visions.

There are those today who have had dreams or seen visions or heard God speak in an audible voice, but for the most part we ascertain the will of God by reading His Word and talking to Him in prayer. Some might question,

“How do you know God hears you?” Every child of God has had prayer answered personally and many are the witnesses to answered prayer among the family of God.

When Elijah challenged the priests of Baal to a contest on Mount Carmel, the Lord sent fire on the altar proving that He, not Baal, was truly God. After that, rain fell and the drought was broken. But Ahab’s queen, Jezebel, was furious. Elijah had not only humiliated her prophets, but had executed them. She vowed to murder him. Afraid, Elijah fled to Mount Horeb to hide. His journey was not an easy one, for Mount Horeb stood over 200 miles south of Mount Carmel, where Elijah had destroyed the priests of Baal. To get to Mount Horeb, the prophet had to cross a wild, barren wilderness. Once there, the Lord spoke to him, not through the wind, earthquake, or fire, but in a still small voice.

YOUR OPENER

Communication

TEXT: 1 Kings 19:1-18

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURE: Luke 24:13-35

KEY VERSE: And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear. — Isaiah 65:24

God does not always work by precedent. Because He has communicated in one way at one time does not mean that He will always communicate in the same way at subsequent times. However, His will is sure to be made known to us. Our responsibility is to be attentive to His Spirit for direction.

RESPONSES

1. Elijah was despondent and fleeing for his life. Students should find that even in times of despondency God is concerned about their needs and can reveal Himself to them. Help your class understand that listening to the wrong voices will bring a snare. The discussion should center around peer pressure, counsel of the ungodly, and negative thoughts.

2. This should be a heart-searching question. Allow time for your students to express their thoughts. The point should be made that communication from God, however it comes, should never be taken lightly. His message may bring about some soul-searching—and this is in accordance with the Word of God. The Bible says to let a man examine himself whether he be in the faith.

3. Elijah seemed to realize that communication with God was more important than just a physical evidence of the forces of nature. He knew that God was a divine Person who could speak, and realized that this Voice was more than a mere sound or an influence, but an assurance of the presence of a Living Personality. Discuss with your students how they note dramatic occurrences in nature and recognize the power of God displayed in these. But how much more vital is the personal contact through prayer or communication with God!

1. Just prior to our lesson text, Elijah had won a great victory on the mountain and undoubtedly was spiritually very much in tune with God. How quickly this changed! What was Elijah's condition after listening to the threats of Queen Jezebel? What lesson can we learn from this?

2. God sent an angel to instruct and encourage Elijah. Then the prophet journeyed on to Mt. Horeb. When Elijah arrived, God's next communication was direct. It was in the form of a question, "What doest thou here, Elijah?" (verse 9). What would your reaction be if God spoke to you with a direct question?

3. When Elijah heard the still, small Voice, he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went and stood in the entrance of the cave. Why hadn't Elijah shown the same respect or reverence after seeing the manifestations of nature?

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION NOTES

4. God communicated with Elijah in an audible voice. Often He chooses other methods of revealing His will to us. What might some of these other ways be?

5. Sometimes we may find ourselves having difficulty determining whether an impression or communication we are receiving is from the Lord. How can we know that it is the Lord who is giving us direction?

6. God may speak to man through the forces of nature by way of judgment. See Exodus 7:24. Why is it possible that miracles alone will not lead men to God?

7. What was the result of Elijah's listening and responding to God's communication?

8. God's responsibility is to answer our prayers, providing us with guidance and direction. What is our responsibility?

4. The Lord may communicate with us through a Scripture, a testimony, a song, a sermon, a strong impression during prayer, or through the counsel of the ministry. Your students may offer these and other possibilities. Encourage them to cite specific examples from their own experiences if they would like to do so.

5. Your students should bring out that in the first place, the Spirit and the Word have to agree. God does not give any instructions or communications that are in opposition to what is revealed in His Word. If you don't know for sure if something is from the Lord it's better to back off until you do know for sure. Another point to bring up could be that confusion or troubled feelings are not from the Lord, for that is not the way the Lord deals with us (1 Corinthians 14:33). Your students should also see the advisability of seeking counsel or advice from those God has placed in spiritual authority over us.

6. Unless there is conviction for sin, and repentance in the hearts of the ungodly, no number of miracles or signs will turn them to God. The answer will reveal that "he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Hebrews 11:6). Spend time in discussing the fact that today men often refuse to profit by the demonstration of God's power, or the love and mercy that are manifested all around them, because they prefer sin instead of sinlessness. But God's communication with the sinner, when He sends conviction to draw that one to Him, is one of the most important times of God's dealing with man.

7. He was able to fulfill God's plan for his life. He was instructed to anoint Elisha as his successor, and anoint a king over Syria, and a king over Israel. The answer will show that God is not the author of confusion, but will lead us in a plain path if we are willing to follow. "The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way" (Psalm 37:23).

8. Your students should conclude that it is our responsibility to make our requests known unto God. Wrap up this lesson by discussing with your students how, if they allow God to communicate with them and then follow His directions, they can be assured that He will work out His plan for their lives and their lives will be pleasing unto Him. "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end" (Jeremiah 29:11).

YOUR WRAP-UP

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

What are the ways God communicated with Elijah in our text today? What are some other ways God communicated that are found in the Bible?

Discuss modern methods of communication, and their shortcomings. Compare this to our communication with God.

How might the Lord communicate with us today concerning His will for us?

How might we prove that it is the Lord giving us direction revealing His will for our lives?

How might we be more prepared and ready to hear God's instructions for our lives?

What are some of the benefits of seeking for, and following the Lord's directives?

Can you name some areas of life—things you have faced or might face in the future—where you might be able to look to the Lord for guidance?

In our ANSWER story, how did God let Jeremy know what he should do? Has God ever spoken to you in this way?

THINGS TO DO

Finger Trust Walk — Set up a small obstacle course on your table or desk top. Divide students into teams, and blindfold one on each team. Blindfolded students must follow directions (which are given by their team-mates) and walk their fingers through the course without touching anything. This should illustrate the importance of listening when God gives us directions.

Divide into groups. Challenge each group to come up with a list of ten or more instances in the Bible when God made Himself known to someone in a dramatic and personal way. 1 Kings 19:12; Isaiah 6:1; Ezekiel 1:15-21; Matthew 3:17; Mark 9:2; Acts 9:1-9; Revelation 1:9-20

Bring a megaphone to class (a rolled up triangular piece of cardboard gives the same effect), a tape recorder with

earphones, a flashlight, and a Bible. Use these to show the different ways in which God communicates with us. The megaphone represents God's speaking to us in an audible voice; the tape recorder with earphones represents God's speaking very softly to our hearts. The flashlight represents God's communicating with us through His angels or visions that we can actually see; and the Bible represents God's speaking to us through His written Word.

Bring a set of ear plugs to class to demonstrate that we must not have any spiritual "ear plugs" that will prevent us from hearing God's words to us. It is important for us to make sure that we remove these ear plugs to hear what the Lord has to say—even if it may hurt us.

Answers for ANSWER

Get That Call!

God has different ways of communicating with us. We must be listening when He speaks. Use the telephone to decode the message below. Find the letter that each number represents. The first number represents the number on the phone button. The second number tells you which of the three letters on the button to use.

CALL UNTO ME, AND I WILL
 23 21 53 53 82 62 81 63 61 32, 21 62 31 43 91 43 53 53

ANSWER THEE AND SHEW
 21 62 73 91 32 72 81 42 32 32, 21 62 31 73 42 32 91

THEE GREAT AND MIGHTY
 81 42 32 32 41 72 32 21 81 21 62 31 61 43 41 42 81 93

THINGS, WHICH THOU KNOWEST
 81 42 43 62 41 73, 91 42 43 23 42 81 42 63 82 52 62 63 91 32 73 81

NOT. JEREMIAH
 62 63 81. 51 32 72 32 61 43 21 42 33:3

Lesson 160

TEXT Genesis 6:5-22; Hebrews 11:7

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURE Psalm 91

OBJECTIVE The students will be able to relate that, as believers, they have the promise of divine protection at all times. What God allows for the believer is always for his good.

KEY VERSE FOR ANSWER The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them. — Psalm 34:7

KEY VERSE FOR SEARCH When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. — Isaiah 43:2

RESOURCE MATERIAL Tract No. 66 — Rescued by God From a Watery Grave

ANSWER TITLE: **Tell Me the Story Again**
SEARCH TITLE: **Protection**

REFERENCE INFORMATION

Noah was the grandson of Methuselah, and great-grandson of Enoch. Like his great-grandfather, he was a just man who walked with God. The Flood began in Noah's 600th year, after God had waited 120 years while the ark was being prepared. The ark was 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. There was one door, one window above, and three stories. It was large enough to accommodate many thousands of species of animals, and food and water enough for all to eat and drink, as well as for the eight souls that were saved.

The flood was sent as divine judgment on the

antediluvians for their wickedness. It rained 40 days and nights, the Flood finally abating after 150 days. The ark rested upon Mount Ararat in the seventh month, but it was over a year after the rains began that Noah went forth out of the ark again.

Since a shelter or protector must be stronger or more powerful than whatever it is protecting from, what does this say about God's supremacy regarding divine protection? We are grateful for the protection afforded us by the military, police, fire department, etc., but how much better is our Divine Protector!

YOUR OPENER

Protection

TEXT: Genesis 6:5-22; Hebrews 11:7

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURE: Psalm 91

KEY VERSE: When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. — Isaiah 43:2

RESOURCE MATERIAL: Tract No. 66 — Rescued by God From a Watery Grave

When God sent the Flood upon the world, He provided protection for those who would accept it, in the form of an ark. Christians today are provided with protection far above that which the world knows. We have the promise of divine protection at all times.

RESPONSES

1. Class discussion should bring out that God's Word is full of warnings concerning the last days. It also warns of the dangers of neglecting salvation, of rejecting the mercy of God, of returning to our evil ways once we have received salvation, of not believing God's promises, etc. Point out that our only spiritual protection is to be under the Blood of Jesus and striving to follow Him in every aspect of our lives.

2. Your students should see that Noah's protection was contingent upon his obedience. What would have happened if he had chosen to build the ark his own way, to his own specifications? The parallel should be made that if we want God's protection, we must follow His commandments and obey Him, even in small details.

3. Encourage students to share personal experiences of how God was their protector in times of difficulty. Were the waters ever too high or the fire too hot? Point out that even though God allows the difficulty, the Christian can know it is part of God's divine plan.

1. Hebrews 11:7 indicates that Noah was warned by God of impending judgment upon the wicked world. Since we read in 2 Peter 2:5 that Noah was a preacher of righteousness, we can assume that Noah's preaching warned of the coming flood, a time when all people would need divine protection. What warnings do people receive today?

2. Why was it necessary for Noah to make the ark exactly to the dimensions that God specified? Parallel this to what we must do if we want God's protection.

3. The schooling of the Lord, though sometimes strange to us, is perfect in His plan for our lives. He makes a straight path for our feet, and then lights the way with His presence. We may at times go through deep waters or fiery trials. What has God promised to us at these times? See Isaiah 43:2.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION NOTES

4. Those in Noah's day needed protection from an oncoming flood. Give a specific example of something you need to be protected from and tell how God meets your need in it. Then give an example where God protected you without your being aware of it until sometime later.

5. What roles do angels play in divine protection? Refer to Psalm 91:11, Daniel 6:22, and Acts 12:7.

6. Divine protection is promised when certain conditions are met. The following verses contain a promise along with a requirement. After each reference, give the required condition.

2 Chronicles 16:9

Psalm 34:7

Psalm 41:1

Matthew 6:33

7. Do you think the unsaved should expect divine protection? Why or why not?

8. As Christians, we sometimes still get hurt or find ourselves with problems and in difficult situations. We may be involved in automobile accidents, face persecutions, etc. Does this mean that God is not protecting us? Why do you think God allows these things to happen?

9. The Great Tribulation is coming! What would you say is God's ultimate protection for us?

4. Allow time for students to contribute their ideas. Point out that they are surrounded by potential dangers, seen and unseen. Stress that God meets their needs with His protecting hand in each case.

5. These Scriptures clearly show that God has the power to dispatch an angel to come to our rescue in the hour of need. They are ministering spirits, sent forth to minister to those who are heirs of salvation (Hebrews 1:14).

6. 2 Chronicles 16:9 — a perfect heart

Psalm 34:7 — fear of God

Psalm 41:1 — consider the poor

Matthew 6:33 — seek God's Kingdom first.

Have your students suggest ways in which these conditions could be met. Emphasize that the promises are guaranteed when we meet the conditions.

7. The students should contribute their thoughts. While even the unsaved may benefit by God's protecting hand, they have no right to expect it since they aren't meeting the conditions required. If this protection is received, it is an extension of God's mercy. Stress that the Christian is promised divine protection though not necessarily immunity from all trouble.

8. Your students should conclude that "All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28). When we are trusting in the omniscience of God, even events that would seem to others to be tragic are for our good. We know that nothing comes into our lives except it passes through the hand of a loving heavenly Father. Becoming a Christian does not guarantee us a life free from distress and trials. On the contrary, trials are given for the express purpose of strengthening us. But as Christians, we have the assurance that these trials can be a blessing, and we are protected from anything that will not be to our good.

9. God's ultimate protection is redemption and the Rapture. Help your students conclude that we are living in the eleventh hour of time, just before the terrible Tribulation engulfs all the inhabitants remaining in the world. We need protection! God has provided that protection through His plan of salvation. Those who believe God's plan and are walking in all the light of God's Word will be raptured out of the world before the full fury of the Tribulation is realized. Emphasize that many in Noah's day neglected to heed God's warning of impending danger and were lost. Today, too, many are not taking advantage of God's mercy in order to be protected at the time of the world's greatest need.

YOUR WRAP-UP

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

Why was it necessary for Noah to make the ark exactly to the dimensions that God specified? Parallel this to what we must do if we want God's protection. Point out similarities between the way God sheltered Noah, and the protection from a lost eternity that is extended to us.

Name some other Bible characters that received God's protection. From what were they protected or sheltered?

Why was Noah protected from the Flood?

From what and whom do we need the Lord to protect us?

Sometimes we still get hurt, we still find ourselves with problems and in difficult situations (automobile accidents, persecutions, etc.). Does it mean that God is not protecting us? Why do you think God allows these things to happen to us?

How can a Christian avoid losing the blessing of divine protection? How does one obtain the blessing of divine protection?

How does the protection of a natural father compare with that of our heavenly Father?

What will be the only sure protection during the Great Tribulation?

In our ANSWER story, Joey's grandpa was protected from death. From what other things might a Christian be protected?

THINGS TO DO

Bring an empty jar to class. Tell how the jar is filled with air containing millions of atoms and molecules we cannot see. This reminds us that although we cannot see God or His angels, they are always there protecting those of us who fear the Lord.

Bring to class some brochures about insurance policies or similar documents. Use these to demonstrate God's protection plan. Explain about the different insurance

plans—how we must pay a certain premium for protection against loss of house due to fire, loss of car due to accident, or even loss of life. Compare these to God's protection plan. We, too, must pay a certain price for God's protection. We must trust and obey the Lord and yield our lives to Him.


Bring an umbrella, rain hat, or raincoat to class. Perhaps wear the hat or coat, showing how we use these things to protect us from the weather. These would be of no avail in a rainstorm if we chose not to use them. God is our protection in our day-to-day lives if we trust Him.

Answers for ANSWER

He Is My Shield

What did David, the Psalmist, write about God's protection? Find out by copying the letters indicated by an X in the shield below. Start at the top of column 1 and, going down, write each letter in that column on the lines provided at the bottom. Then go to column 2, then 3, and so on.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
A											X						
D				X							X						
E		X		X			X	X							X		
F							X						X				
G								X									
H	X		X														
I				X													
L		X															
M					X							X					
N										X							
O		X											X				
R		X			X								X	X			
S				X											X	X	
T	X												X				
U							X										
Y					X							X					



THE LORD HE IS MY REFUGE

and my FORTRESS

Lesson 161

TEXT Genesis 28:10-19; 32:24-30; 33:1-4

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES Isaiah 61:1-3; 2 Corinthians 1:3-7

OBJECTIVE The students will be able to explain that God in His love offers comfort during trying times to those who desire to please Him.

KEY VERSE FOR ANSWER I, even I, am he that comforteth you. — Isaiah 51:12

KEY VERSE FOR SEARCH Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort. — 2 Corinthians 1:3

**ANSWER
TITLE: How Can I Comfort Her?**

**SEARCH
TITLE: Comfort**

REFERENCE INFORMATION

According to Webster’s Dictionary, *comfort* means “to soothe in distress or sorrow; ease the misery or grief of; bring consolation or hope.” One of the many attributes of God is the fact that He extends comfort to all. In the New Testament, Jesus describes the Third Person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit, as the Comforter (John 14:16). In the preceding Scripture, Jesus was talking to His disciples and, indeed, the children of God, who alone can receive the Comforter. However, God extends comfort to all, “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28). Our first record in the Bible of God’s extending comfort to man was to a murderer. Cain knew that he deserved to die and feared that he would be slain. God said that vengeance would

be taken on the one who killed Cain and He put a mark on Cain so that he would be identified and no one could say that they didn’t know it was Cain. This sign of God’s protection certainly must have been a comfort to Cain.

Our study of Jacob, in relation to comfort, is encouraging. We find God was faithful to consider and care for a man whose heart desired to follow God, although his ways and methods were far from perfect. So it was that Isaac, Jacob’s father, blessed Jacob as he departed alone for Haran. And so it was that God confirmed the covenant blessing to Jacob in Genesis 28:13-15, comforting him as he had to leave his father and mother for distant relatives and a land strange to him.

YOUR OPENER

Comfort

TEXT: Genesis 28:10-19; 32:24-30; 33:1-4

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: Isaiah 61:1-3; 2 Corinthians 1:3-7

KEY VERSE: Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort. — 2 Corinthians 1:3

Webster tells us the word *comfort* is derived from the Latin *com* meaning “with” and *fortis* meaning “strength.” Hence the first meaning of the verb is “to give strength and hope; to cheer.” Another meaning is “to ease the grief or trouble of; console.” In 2 Corinthians 1:5, the much persecuted Paul the Apostle says, “For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ.” Our study today is aimed at aiding us in being recipients of God’s assistance, support, solace, and consolation: in one word—comfort.

RESPONSES

1. Discuss with your students the thoughts and fears that might easily be present in such a situation, particularly if, like Jacob, you had spent many years living at home with your parents. Your students should be aware that Haran, where he was journeying to, was a great distance away. He would be alone, and the way could have been perilous. Probably he had never met the relatives he was going to visit. The idea here is to be able to appreciate Jacob’s need for comfort at this time.

2. The students should refer to the lesson text for a description of Jacob’s dream. It should be noted that God revealed Himself personally to Jacob, and that God comforted Jacob with His promise. Ask your students how they know that God’s presence and words to Jacob that night were a real comfort to him. Your students should see that when Jacob awoke, he was a transformed man. From a condition of undoubted loneliness and uncertainty, he arose with the knowledge that God was directing his pathway and would prosper his journey.

3. As your students mention times when they received comfort, stress that “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights” (James 1:17). It is also an opportunity to stress the importance of giving thanks. “In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you” (1 Thessalonians 5:18). Encourage several students to share their experiences.

1. Genesis 27:41-46 and 28:1,2 indicate that Jacob left the home of his parents, Isaac and Rebekah, for two reasons: He was running from the anger of his brother Esau whom he had defrauded, and he was going to find a wife from among his mother’s family. Why do you suppose Jacob was in need of comfort at this time?

2. Jacob went northward to Bethel, traveling about fifty miles the first day. No doubt he was very tired as he gathered stones for his pillows. How did God provide comfort that night as Jacob slept with the earth for his bed and the heavens for his canopy?

3. Recall a time of disappointment and the blessing that God provided which resulted in your comfort. Consider sharing this experience with the class on Sunday.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION NOTES

4. In order to gain an appreciation of Jacob's need for further comfort during the next twenty years of his life, read in Genesis, chapters 29-31, the story of his stay with his uncle. How did God comfort Jacob during his stay with Laban?

5. Are there conditions which we must meet to be assured of God's comfort? Refer to the following Scriptures and list the various conditions which Jacob met.

- Genesis 28:7
- Genesis 28:22
- Genesis 31:13
- Genesis 32:10

6. How long did Jacob wrestle with the angel? What blessing and comfort did he receive as a result of this prevailing?

7. At some time in one's life, it may appear that all is gone: friends, family, job, etc. How can one find comfort during these times? See Job 23:8-12.

8. During Jesus' ministry, He said to a woman who came to Him, "Daughter, be of good comfort" (Matthew 9:22). What attribute was exercised to secure this blessing? He also promised comfort to His disciples when He said, "I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you" (John 14:18). In what ways does Jesus comfort people today?

4. The students should note that God comforted Jacob during his stay with his uncle by giving him a family of his own with many sons—sons who were to be the heads of the future tribes of Israel. God fulfilled His promise of Genesis 28:15 to be with Jacob and bless him. Even his uncle Laban realized this as noted in Genesis 30:27. Everyday blessings are one means of God's comfort.

5. Genesis 28:7 — obedience
Genesis 28:22 — tithing
Genesis 31:13 — hearing God's instructions
Genesis 32:10 — humility
Discuss with your students why all the foregoing are necessary if they wish to be assured of God's comfort.

6. He wrestled until the break of day. Use this prayer of Jacob's to impress upon the students the need for prevailing prayer in order to be assured of God's comfort. Jacob the supplanter, became Israel, a prince of God. Esau and his band of four hundred men came to meet Jacob in peace. Jacob and his family and flocks were preserved. What a blessing! What comfort!

7. Using this Scripture, your students will have an opportunity to reflect upon the trials that came to Job. It seemed he had nothing left in his life that offered him comfort or spiritual support. But where did he find comfort? In his implicit trust in God. He found that God and His Word were enough. Your students will conclude that rarely will we be called to face the extremity of circumstances which came to Job. But in whatever situation or trouble we face, we can profit by following his example.

8. The woman exercised her faith in Jesus to obtain the healing that she desired. Your students should see that faith is the basis for our hope and comfort. Jesus comforts His people today through God's Word, through the ministration of the Holy Spirit, through fellowship of the saints, the encouragement of godly people, the example of those who have won a spiritual battle, etc. As you conclude your lesson, discuss with the students the depths of comfort which God makes possible. Our greatest comfort is summed up in these verses: "Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words" (1 Thessalonians 4:17,18).

YOUR WRAP-UP

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

Is it necessary to deserve comfort, in order for God to give it? Explain your answer.

How can we be assured of God's comfort in time of need?

List a number of ways in which one can (a) receive comfort and (b) give comfort.

What comfort did God offer Jacob after he had left his home, family, and friends?

Did you ever face a move or some other new situation in life where you needed that same type of comfort? Explain. How did God help you?

In our ANSWER story, what was the benefit that Pam received by being saved? Do you think this is an important benefit for a young person? Can you think of some other situations where it might be needed?

THINGS TO DO

Plan a class project to provide comfort for someone. This project could take many forms. Some suggestions follow:

- Have a card shower for a sick friend.
- Write a letter to a prisoner.
- Visit someone in the hospital.
- Set aside several hours each week to cultivate a one-to-one friendship with a Sunday school child or young person who has either no father or no mother at home.
- "Adopt" a homeless child or orphan.
- Write a class letter of encouragement to your pastor.
- Visit an elderly widow or widower.
- Share and help in a Sunday school student's crisis or problem.

Bring a child's blanket or stuffed animal to class. Discuss how many times children look to these things for comfort. In our Christian life we can look to God for our comfort.

Bring a sympathy card, a plate of cookies, and a potted plant to class. Ask your students what these have in common. Bring out that they are all items commonly used to express sympathy or to offer comfort. Point out

that these reflect the limitations of our human abilities to extend comfort, but that God offers a comfort from Above.

- Divide the class into several small groups to plan and act out a skit which would illustrate different situations that could occur at home, school, or in the neighborhood where comfort might be offered or welcomed. The different aspects of comfort should be emphasized:
 - To strengthen — encourage or uplift someone who may be failing
 - To aid — give assistance or help
 - Relieve distress — point out the good or positive
 - Console — listen to and offer sympathy

Answers for ANSWER

It's a Big Help!

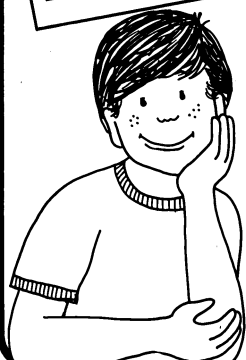
God offers comfort to all who love and obey Him. Below are three verses concerning God and comfort. Cross out all the Q's, X's and Z's and write the verses on the lines provided. Can you memorize them?

IQZWIQXXLZLQNOZXTQLEAXZVEZYQOQXCOM
ZFOORTZLEZSQS;XZIQWQIZLQLCOZMQEZXT
ZOQYQOZU. QXJZDOXHQZNXZ 14:18

I WILL NOT LEAVE YOU
COMFORTLESS; I WILL
COME TO YOU.
John 14:18

IQEVZEXNI,QAZMQHEZTHXAZTXCOZMQFOZ
RXTZEGTZHGYQOZXU.
IXZOSXAZQIZAXQHYZ 51:12

I, EVEN I, AM HE
THAT COMFORTETH
YOU.
Isaiah 51:12



QZWXHQEXRZEFXORZEQCOMZFZOQRTQYOUQR
ZSELXVQESZTOGXETHQZERAAXNZDOEDIZFY
OZNXEQANQZTHZEXR.
I XZTHQXKEZSXSAXQLZOXNIXAZNQZS 5:11

WHEREFORE COMFORT
YOURSELVES TOGETHER,
AND EDIFY ONE
ANOTHER.
I THESSALONIANS 5:11

Lesson 162

TEXT Isaiah 53:1-5; Mark 5:22-42; James 5:13-16

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES Psalm 103:1-5; Matthew 8:16,17

OBJECTIVE The students will understand and be able to relate that divine healing is a miraculous restoration of our physical bodies, inexplicable in terms of ordinary natural forces. It was provided for mankind in the Atonement.

KEY VERSE FOR ANSWER I am the LORD that healeth thee. — Exodus 15:26

KEY VERSE FOR SEARCH Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all. — Psalm 34:19

RESOURCE MATERIAL Tract No. 27 — Diagnosis: Cancer
Tract No. 35 — Miracles of Healing
Tract No. 105 — Words of Comfort

ANSWER TITLE: Does Jesus Still Heal Today?
SEARCH TITLE: Divine Healing

REFERENCE INFORMATION

Jairus was one of three synagogue rulers mentioned in the New Testament. The other two were Crispus (Acts 18:8) and Sosthenes (Acts 18:17). The synagogue ruler was also called president of the synagogue. He was in charge of the service, including the reading of the Torah, the Scriptures, and the people who led the service. He was responsible for the synagogue building, including maintenance, repair, and even the cleaning chores. As an official, he kept order during the service and made sure that people did not become unruly or do anything they should not do in a synagogue.

The synagogue was one of the most important places in town, the center of Jewish religious life in the community. This placed the synagogue ruler in a prominent position, a civic leader as well as a religious leader. As an elder of

the synagogue, he sat in one of the seats reserved for important people at the services.

People living in the time of the Old Testament believed sickness to be a punishment for sin. The Book of Job explores that idea. Jesus never taught that God sent disease on a person to punish him. He knew that His Father's intent was for mankind to be whole in body as well as spirit. Through His miracles, Jesus showed that He loved the ordinary man. As God's Son, He had power to raise the dead, to cause instant healing of leprosy and injury, and to give sight to the blind. Because of one man's sin, death entered into the world, and because we live in this imperfect world, we are subject to encounter illnesses. However, we know that Jesus heals, and we can trust Him to care for His own.

YOUR OPENER

Divine Healing

TEXT: Isaiah 53:1-5; Mark 5:22-42; James 5:13-16

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: Psalm 103:1-5; Matthew 8:16,17

KEY VERSE: Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.
— Psalm 34:19

Many times in the Bible we are given accounts of healing for the physical body. Since we know that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8) we have every right to believe that divine healing for our bodies is available today.

RESPONSES

1. The father and the sick woman both exhibited faith. Explain how it was necessary for them to have faith in God in order to be healed. Ask your students to give other examples in the Bible where Jesus healed a person because of the faith of someone else (Matthew 15:28; Mark 2:5; Luke 7:9). This could lead into a discussion concerning the responsibility of Christians to pray in faith for those in need. For example: those represented by the prayer requests which are brought before the church, and those who are infirm and unable to pray for themselves.

2. Allow time for class members to share their experiences, bringing out that God is still working miracles of healing in our day. A number of our tracts on healing give strong evidence to support this. You may also wish to have on hand an issue of a Higher Way magazine which relates accounts of miracles of healing.

3. Your students should conclude that the statement is not true—the day of miracles is not past. Discuss with the class that the promise was to “them that believe.” The promise was not restricted to any time frame. Thus, believers of any era have the right to claim the promise in verse 18—that “they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.”

1. In our text in Mark 5, we have a beautiful example of Jesus healing a young girl who not only was critically ill, but who actually died while Jesus was on His way to heal her. While He was going to her home, a woman who had been diseased for twelve years (verses 25-34) touched His clothes and was immediately healed. What attribute do we see exhibited by the father of the sick girl and by the sick woman, which resulted in their healing? In what way did they exercise this attribute in order to obtain the results?

2. A miracle is an act of God whereby something occurs which is unexplainable in terms of known scientific laws, such as healing for an incurable disease. Give an example from your own experience or possibly from the experience of someone you know who has received a definite healing.

3. Many will tell us that the day of miracles is past, that healing was provided only during Jesus’ ministry and in the time of the Early Church. Read Mark 16:17,18. In the light of these Scriptures, what conclusion can we reach in regard to the previous statement?

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION NOTES

4. In Mark 6:5,6 and Matthew 13:58, we find that Jesus was sometimes hindered in performing miracles. What reason is given in these Scriptures?

5. On occasion, afflictions may arise which seem especially difficult with regard to healing. One such example is given in Mark 9:25-29. What did Jesus say was necessary in order to receive the answer in this case?

6. Some may say that Christians should never become sick, and if they do it shows a lack of faith or that they are living a life displeasing to God. However, we have examples in the Scriptures that would indicate differently. In the following examples, what might have been the reason for the affliction?

Job 23:10

Psalms 119:71

John 9:3

2 Corinthians 12:7-9

7. What formula does the Bible give us regarding prayer for the healing of our physical bodies?
James 5:14,15

8. If we are in need of divine healing, and are unable to go to an elder or have him come to us, what Biblical example do we find in Acts 19:11,12?

9. Both the Old and New Testaments teach us that one of the provisions of Christ's atonement on Calvary is healing for our body. How do Isaiah 53:5 and 1 Peter 2:24 substantiate the beautiful truth that Jesus' Blood avails for our physical healing?

4. "Because of their unbelief." Explain that sometimes we do not receive healing for our bodies because we do not have faith to believe. Ask your students what should be done if there is a lack of faith, leading them to conclude that they should pray as the man who had the epileptic son in Mark 9:24, "Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief."

5. Jesus said this kind of healing came only by prayer and fasting. Discuss with your class that many times it is necessary to really persevere and wait on the Lord for the answer, but He has promised to give it. Your class should recognize that the answer may not always be yes. At times, God's perfect will for us may be to allow us to be tested through a physical affliction. Possibly the purpose could not be accomplished if the affliction were removed. The key in our persevering prayer is to pray that the Lord's will be done.

6. Your students may come up with varied thoughts on each of these Scriptures. Some possibilities could include:

Job 23:10 — spiritual refining

Psalms 119:71 — to learn God's statutes

John 9:3 — to manifest the works of God

2 Corinthians 12:7-9 — to prove God's grace is sufficient

Your students may also bring out that other reasons why Christians go through sickness could be: to test their faith in God; to be an example before others of how a Christian trusts God for healing; to be able to relate to others that are sick, encouraging and praying for them; or to test their patience in suffering for the Lord.

7. The elders of the church are to anoint us with oil in the Name of the Lord and pray for us. Your students should know, of course, that there is no special virtue in the anointing oil, but that divine healing is received because they have come in obedience to God's Word, believing that Jesus' Blood will avail for their healing. Mark 6:13 can also be read, showing this is the method the twelve Apostles used in healing the sick when Christ sent them forth.

8. Handkerchiefs and aprons were taken to the sick, and the sick were healed. Explain that in addition to anointed handkerchiefs, before our church papers and tracts are distributed, they are prayed over by the ministry and Gospel workers for the healing of the sick. Many miracles of healing have been accomplished by laying an anointed cloth, tract, or church paper on a sick person. However, these are never to be used for a kind of good-luck charm or some similar purpose.

9. The Scripture found in 1 Peter reveals that the prophecy in Isaiah 53:5 was fulfilled in Jesus' death on the tree, "with his stripes we are healed." Some would have us believe that this is just for spiritual healing, but Matthew 8:16,17 plainly teaches that physical healing is the correct meaning of the Scripture. This is one of the benefits available to all. Have you availed yourself of this benefit?

YOUR WRAP-UP

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

When Jairus, the ruler of the synagogue, saw Jesus, he fell at His feet. What does this tell you about him?

Why does the world today reject divine healing, just as the people did who scorned Jesus in Mark 5:40?

Can you name other instances in the Bible where the dead came back to life?

How would you define a miracle?

Have there been healings or other circumstances in your life or in your family that could be called miracles? What about salvation?

The extraordinary events that man calls miracles might not be so labeled by God. Why?

Why is faith so essential if we expect God to heal us or meet other needs in our lives?

In our ANSWER story, what happened to make Kandy believe the lesson they had been studying in Sunday school? Do you believe it? Why?

THINGS TO DO

Bring to class something you made that has a problem which needs fixing: a knitted article with a flaw; a paper folded shape with one or two folds made incorrectly; a drawing with something obviously left out, etc. Ask the students to describe the flaw, and what should be done to remedy it. Inquire who they think can fix it—the obvious answer being the one who made the object in the first place. As you begin to correct the flaw (unravel the knitting, refold the paper, or draw in a detail), explain that God, who created us in the beginning, is the One who is best able to take care of us when something goes wrong.

Take the letters in the words “divine healing” and let your students see how many words they can make using those letters. The words should be related to healing. For example, they could include parts of the body which

might need healing, name of a sickness, name of someone they know who has been healed.

Bring a first-aid kit to class. Include band-aids, gauze, antiseptic, etc. Discuss how these are what man uses to treat an injury. Lead the discussion to the fact that God can do more than sterilize the wound or cover it; He can heal it completely.

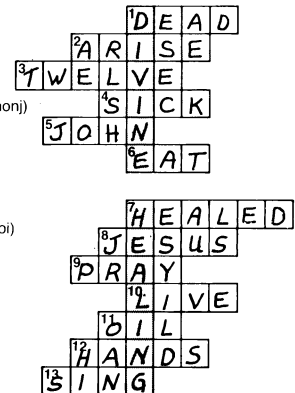
Have someone come to your class and relate a personal experience in which God’s power to heal was evidenced.

Answers for ANSWER

A Special Touch

All the words listed for the acrostic puzzle below are from today’s Bible text. Read each clue. Then unscramble the word beside it, and write the word in the puzzle. The shaded area will tell you a great miracle that only God can do.

1. Opposite of alive (aded)
2. To get up (sirea)
3. How old was the daughter? (velwet)
4. If you’re not well, you’re . . . (kics)
5. One of the men who went with Jesus (honj)
6. Consume food (tea)
7. Made well (leadeh)
8. Son of God (sejsu)
9. Talk to God (yrap)
10. Not die (viel)
11. The elders anointed the sick with . . . (loi)
12. Fingers are on your . . . (dhasn)
13. Say a song with a tune (gins)



TEXT Daniel 1:17-20; 2:1-13,24-30

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES Job 28:12-28; Proverbs 4:5-13; James 3:13-17

OBJECTIVE The students will be able to explain that there is a difference between the wisdom of this world and the wisdom that comes from God. Godly wisdom is pure, peaceable, gentle, easy to be entreated, and is available to those who ask for it.

KEY VERSE FOR ANSWER If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally. — James 1:5

KEY VERSE FOR SEARCH For God giveth to a man that is good in his sight wisdom, and knowledge, and joy. — Ecclesiastes 2:26

ANSWER TITLE: **Is Something the Matter?**
SEARCH TITLE: **Wisdom**

Reference Information

The Book of Daniel reveals that God had given the three Hebrew children knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom. Their wisdom was recognized by King Nebuchadnezzar to be ten times greater than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm. Yet, with all the king’s focus on Daniel and his companions, they took no honor for themselves, but rather gave glory to the God of Heaven.

God’s wisdom is the infinite, perfect understanding of all that is or will be (Romans 11:33-36). The wisdom of man is an exceptionally practical attribute, which includes technical skill (Exodus 28:3). In James 3:17 we read, “But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.” This is the wisdom that all men should strive for.

Wisdom is shown in obtaining desired ends by effective means. Men of the world have often shown themselves to be wiser and more careful in providing for daily life in their generation than have the children of Light in providing for eternal life (Luke 16:8). However, God is as much the source of wisdom as He is the source of power, and His wisdom is given to men through the fear of the Lord (Psalm 111:10; Job 28:28).

Proverbs 8 personifies wisdom in terms which are also related to the concept of Christ as the Word in John 1:1-18. “Wisdom” became one of the names of God the Father and the Son. The Holy Spirit is known as the “Spirit of Wisdom.” Wisdom is linked to doing the will of the Lord (Deuteronomy 4:6). To forsake God’s Word is to forfeit one’s wisdom (Jeremiah 8:8,9).

YOUR OPENER

Wisdom

TEXT: Daniel 1:17-20; 2:1-13,24-30

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: Job 28:12-28; Proverbs 4:5-13; James 3:13-17

KEY VERSE: For God giveth to a man that is good in his sight wisdom, and knowledge, and joy.
— Ecclesiastes 2:26

RESPONSES

1. After your students have responded with their definitions, help them to see that wisdom is the power of judging rightly and following the soundest course of action, based on knowledge, experience, and understanding. Divide your class into two groups. Ask one group to consider worldly wisdom, listing what they feel are its attributes and where it is alike and different from godly wisdom. Have the other group compile a similar list dealing with godly wisdom. Then compare your conclusions.

2. Let your group pick out the answers given in the passage in Job, and conclude that true wisdom is explained in verse 28, "The fear of the Lord, that is wisdom." This wisdom was Daniel's strength and life, and this wisdom is open to all who seek it.

3. Your students should have no trouble coming up with a comprehensive list of attributes. You might wish to have a volunteer read Micah 6:8, which brings out some of the necessary requirements. Another point to focus on should be that a good man is obedient to the commands of God.

4. Ask one student to read the Chaldeans' response to the king's request (Daniel 2:10,11). In contrast, have another student read Daniel's reaction when he heard of the king's decree (Daniel 2:16-18). Your students should conclude that in God's sight, Daniel's source of wisdom was God-given and the magicians' and astrologers' wisdom was of their own understanding or knowledge. Discuss how having confidence in God and the wisdom and guidance He will supply in a time of need can affect their reactions, just as they affected Daniel's response in this situation.

Worldly wisdom and godly wisdom do not come from the same source, and they bring totally different results. Note the key verse and James 3:13-17. Godly wisdom comes when we ask God and then follow the instructions given us, which are always within the guidelines of the Word of God. These are revealed to us by His Spirit. See Isaiah 11:2 and 1 Corinthians 2:10-16.

1. What is wisdom? How do we differentiate between godly wisdom and worldly wisdom? See James 3:13-17.

2. Read Job 28:12-28 and list the different sources from which wisdom was sought and could not be found. Where is wisdom to be found?

3. According to our key verse, the Lord gives wisdom to the man that is "good in his sight." What are some of the attributes of a person who is good in the sight of God?

4. During a Christian's life span, he will encounter a variety of trials and direct attempts of Satan to overthrow his faith in God. In no sphere is wisdom so essential, or folly so disastrous, as in the matter of life's reverses. A clear example of this is found in our text. King Nebuchadnezzar judged that Daniel and his three friends were ten times wiser than the magicians and astrologers in his land. How was this proved by subsequent events?

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ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION NOTES

5. Knowing that wisdom is God-given, how can one obtain and develop this most precious gift? How did Daniel go about receiving this? Daniel 2:17-23

6. What was the prime quality of Daniel's character as revealed in verse 30? Explain how you arrived at this conclusion and why you feel that this quality is an essential factor in obtaining wisdom.

7. Read 1 Kings 3:7 and compare the attitude of Solomon to that of Daniel. The results of this attitude in Solomon's life are brought out in 1 Kings 3:11,12. What were these results?

8. There seems to be an important link between humility and the acquisition of wisdom. Why do you suppose this is so?

9. In James 3:17 we read a number of attributes that are related to the wisdom that is from Above. Beside each attribute, give an example of how it is a part of godly wisdom. For example:

Pure — every decision or motivation will be based on pure thoughts and actions.

Peaceable —

Gentle —

Easily entreated —

Merciful —

Possessor of good fruits —

Without partiality —

Without hypocrisy —

10. We seek after many things in life. The wisest man gave us some advice in Proverbs 4:7. Paraphrase his counsel.

5. The verses given show that the secret was asking God, who is the source of wisdom, and then giving thanks. Show the students that they must continually go to Him. Remind them of how Daniel prayed three times a day.

6. No doubt your students will come up with the thought of humility. This quality, and giving all glory to God, were prime factors in God's trusting Daniel with this kind of wisdom.

7. Your students should see that Solomon and Daniel both displayed a humble attitude when they came to the Lord asking for wisdom. In Solomon's case, the Lord rewarded his petition for wisdom by granting him not only that, but numerous other blessings as well.

8. Your students should see that if a person had both wisdom and pride, he would take all the glory to himself and would not honor God as being the source of that wisdom.

9. In the course of your discussion, you may wish to refer back to question 3, bringing out the fact that these attributes certainly would be characteristic of a man who is good in God's sight. As you focus on each one specifically, explain that these attributes are the yardstick by which we can determine whether or not the wisdom is from Above. In contrast, read James 3:14-16, which shows wisdom from an opposite source.

10. Use this question to summarize the many facets of true, godly wisdom, including complete commitment to Christ, communion with Him, and establishing successful relationships with our fellow man. This will reinforce why it is so important to seek after godly wisdom.

YOUR WRAP-UP

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

Is there a difference between being well educated and having wisdom? Explain.

Do you think Daniel and his friends had education and training comparable to that of the king's wise men and astrologers? What was the difference?

In what ways does education, schooling, and/or job training add to or detract from one's spiritual wisdom?

Other things being equal, why does the Christian still have a better chance than the sinner to obtain wisdom? Job 28:28; James 1:5

Why do you believe/not believe that receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit makes a difference in the wisdom a person manifests?

To whom did Daniel give the credit for his wisdom? Daniel 2:23

Can you tell of decisions or circumstances in your own life where you really asked God for special wisdom or guidance? Did you feel He met that need?

In our ANSWER story, Randy's parents thought they could find some solutions to their problems by looking to astrology. Do you think there is any benefit in this? Why or why not?

THINGS TO DO

Bring to class some clippings from newspapers of actions or decisions by men in high places which resulted in greater problems, wrong doings, or even disaster. Assuming that most of these men have had considerable education, discuss with the class whether education is the source of wisdom. Read Job 28:28 to the class and then ask what might be lacking in the lives of many highly educated people that robs them of true wisdom.

To illustrate that God knows everything: invite someone into your class and allow your students to interview him. Let them prepare questions ahead of time so they will be able to gather a large amount of information about that person in the time allotted. After the person has left, point

out that even though much is now known by the students, God knows everything about that person. How infinite is His wisdom!

Show your students a diploma and explain that it is often a symbol of knowledge attained. Use this as a springboard to discussing the difference between knowledge and wisdom. Other similar items might include a graduation cap and/or tassel, or a photograph of a graduate.

Bring a number of reference books to class: a dictionary, encyclopedia, consumer's guide, etc. Ask your class if they think you would have wisdom if you knew everything in these books. Use this as a springboard into a discussion of the difference between wisdom and knowledge.

Answers for ANSWER

From Above

What is this wisdom that is from God? Finish the verse below and find out. Begin at START and write each letter on the lines below as you follow through the puzzle. When you have finished the puzzle ask your teacher to help you find this verse in your Bible.

The wisdom that is from above is first **PURE**,
then **PEACEABLE, GENTLE** and
EASY TO BE INTREATED,
FULL OF MERCY and **GOOD**
FRUITS. James 3:17

Lesson 164

TEXT Exodus 13:17-22; 14:19-31

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES 2 Samuel 5:18-25; Psalm 29:1-11; Acts 16:6-10

OBJECTIVE The students will be able to explain that God has promised to instruct those who look to Him for guidance. Sometimes this guidance may come as a specific directive, while at other times it may be a step-by-step experience.

KEY VERSE FOR ANSWER I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye. — Psalm 32:8

KEY VERSE FOR SEARCH And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left. — Isaiah 30:21

ANSWER TITLE: **God Taught Me a Lesson**
SEARCH TITLE: **Guidance**

REFERENCE INFORMATION

The Red Sea is about 1200 miles long and nowhere wider than 200 miles. Its average depth is about 2000 feet. It covers about 160,000 square miles, an area a little larger than that of California.

There are two different types of guidance available to the Christian: general guidelines and specific directions.

A Christian receives general guidelines from the Bible. Before entering into any activity, a Christian should ask himself, "Does the thing I am thinking about doing conflict with my values? Does it conflict with the Bible's values?"

These questions will help to eliminate bad choices. A Christian can also find guidance through reading about the lives of people in the Bible. If we observe what kind of decisions led to heartache, we can choose an alternative. If we follow Christ, using Jesus' life as a model, we will find that many decisions will be easier to make.

God also gives specific directions to people. He may ask a person to move (as He did Abraham and Jacob) or He might direct a person to a position of authority (as He did Moses and David). We receive specific guidance from God by praying and seeking the leading of the Holy Spirit.

YOUR OPENER

Guidance

TEXT: Exodus 13:17-22, 14:19-31

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: 2 Samuel 5:18-25; Psalm 29:1-11; Acts 16:6-10

KEY VERSE: And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left. — Isaiah 30:21

RESPONSES

1. God would not direct the Israelites through the land of the Philistines lest when they faced war, they would want to return to Egypt. Have the students rehearse an experience (their own or someone else's) of how God led, in what seemed a roundabout way, to a definite objective. Sum up the question with the thought that God knows the end from the beginning and has good reason for all He does.

2. The pillar of fire went before to show the way by night, and the pillar of cloud was a shadow from the heat during the day. These represented God's guidance and protection, for not only did the fire and cloud guide the Children of Israel, but they stood between them and the enemy when danger was eminent. Some benefits enjoyed by the Children of Israel were; no loss of lives, a safe crossing, and a first-hand knowledge that God cared for them. If we want the benefit of God's guidance, we must walk in the way He shows us.

3. The devil hates to lose his subjects to God's salvation, therefore he will make many attempts to destroy those who are saved from sin. Discuss how the Egyptians sought to overtake the Israelites but this turned out to be the way of death, because they were actually going against God and His way. The Israelites were safe in their way as they were following God's guidance. Psalm 73:24

4. Moses' words were: "Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD." "The LORD shall fight for you." Discuss with your students that God's guidance is not necessarily a guarantee of a trouble-free pathway, but following His guidance is a guarantee of victory! Peter was put into prison and Herod thought to kill him, but as the church continued in earnest prayer, an angel brought about his release. What about Daniel and the three Hebrew children? These are examples of God's allowing troublesome times, which exemplify His power of deliverance. Give your students an opportunity to explain what Romans 8:31 means to them.

God used the pillar of fire by night and the pillar of cloud by day to guide the Children of Israel on their way to the Promised Land. Note that one has to follow God's guidance in order to receive the benefit of it. The pillar of fire was light to Israel, but it was darkness to the Egyptians who were trying to recapture their former slaves. In like manner the Gospel is the savor of life unto life, or of death unto death. The Stone laid in Zion "is a sure foundation," or "a stone of stumbling," depending upon our following or rejecting Him. See Isaiah 28:16 and 1 Peter 2:6-8.

1. God led the Children of Israel through the wilderness of the Red Sea on their way to the Promised Land. Why do you think He did this, even though it was not the most direct route?

2. God used a pillar of cloud and a pillar of fire to guide the Israelites. List some of the benefits of these manifestations.

3. The Egyptians pursued the Israelites, wanting to capture them. What parallel might be drawn between this occurrence and the opposition a newly-delivered Christian faces?

4. The Children of Israel were afraid when they saw the Egyptian army. What did Moses say (Exodus 14:13,14)? What promise does God give His followers today? See Romans 8:31.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION NOTES

5. God divided the Red Sea after Moses stretched out his rod over it. At the point where Bible commentator, Adam Clarke, places the crossing, the water was estimated to have been more than 80 feet deep and approximately 12 miles across. The Bible says that as Moses stretched out his hand, the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong wind, and caused the ground to be dry. The people crossed over this dry ground while the waters stood as walls on either side of them. God is a God of miracles. Describe in detail how God destroyed the Egyptians.

6. In 2 Samuel 5:18-25, David was confronted with two battles which seemed to be similar. After asking God's direction, however, he found that God didn't choose to operate in the same manner both times. To what can we attribute David's success?

7. What happens when people do not walk in the way God has revealed? Give a Biblical example to substantiate your answer.

8. In Acts 16:6-10, what two means did God use to guide His missionaries?

9. What one point have you learned regarding guidance? How would you encourage a person who is seeking God's guidance?

5. The hearts of the Egyptians were hardened, and they followed Israel into the sea with their whole army. God troubled them by taking off their chariots' wheels. Then God directed Moses to stretch out his rod again, causing the sea to return to its place, thus drowning the armies of Egypt. Review with the class that though God promises guidance to those who serve Him, the sinner must find his own way. "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Proverbs 14:12). It seemed right to the Egyptians to follow Israel into the sea, but it proved to be their destruction. The devil makes big promises, but "the way of transgressors is hard" (Proverbs 13:15).

6. Your students should see that though the situations appeared to be similar, David did not rely on his own perception of the matter. He could have assumed that the Israelite army should deal with the enemy the same in both cases. But instead, he looked to God for guidance, and then obeyed the instructions he received. God directed him differently for each battle. Discuss the thought that God is all-wise, knowing the end from the beginning. The method He gives to attain success in one instance may not be the best for every occasion.

7. Your students will probably be able to offer a variety of examples to support the thought that taking our own way brings disastrous results. Some possibilities: the prophet who disobeyed (1 Kings 13:1-24); Jeroboam (1 Kings 13:4); Jonah (Jonah 1:1-3,15).

8. They were forbidden by the Spirit to preach in Asia. Then God gave Paul a vision of the man from Macedonia. This is a good example of being guided step by step. Discuss how the missionaries were eager to reach new territory and people who had never heard the Gospel. God did not explain why He did not allow them into Asia. It is commendable that the disciples did not become discouraged. Being refused once, some people give up, but God is faithful to those who trust Him, and in due time He shows His will.

9. As your students offer their responses to these two questions, you will be provided with an opportunity to sum up their thoughts as a closing for your lesson. Encourage them to keep their communication with the Lord finely tuned.

YOUR WRAP-UP

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

What are some of the major events in life in which guidance would be helpful?

Who can expect the guidance of God?

How do we know if God is guiding us, or if our own desire is guiding us?

People look to various avenues for guidance: marriage counselors, school counselors, career counselors, self-help books, role models, etc. What do you think about these sources of guidance? How can they be helpful? How can they be harmful?

How can we know God is instructing us?

Why is it important to ask God to guide our life?

Give an example of a time God directed a circumstance in your life.

In our ANSWER story, what sequence of events helped the author realize he needed God's guidance? Can you think of a similar situation in your life when circumstances helped you see that?

THINGS TO DO

Have your students make a map with directions on how to get from your town to Heaven. The map should be hand drawn with names of towns and places similar to those in *Pilgrim's Progress*. Direct the students as they detail the map and decide where to go next. Have them put in alternate routes which, though they may bypass obstacles (mountains, etc.), won't lead to Heaven. Bring out the importance of following God's guidance even though it would seem easier to do things another way.

A magnet and nails could be used to show us how God will guide us when we have given Him our lives. When the magnet is near, the nails can be pulled here and there. But if the nails get too far from the magnet, they will no longer respond to the pull of the magnet. Just so, we must stay close to God so He can be our guide.

COAT OF ARMS — Provide each student with a paper on which the outline of a coat of arms has been drawn. Have the students draw items in each section of the coat of arms to represent an area in which God has given, or will give guidance. Let them share their drawings.

Bring to class an object indicative of guidance: a compass, map, directions for assembling something, etc. Compare this to the Bible—our spiritual guide.

On separate slips of paper, have your class match up the following Bible characters with the correct description of how God gave them guidance:

- This person sought God's guidance in waging war.
- This man was to move away from home.
- God told this person to return home.
- This man was to assume leadership.
- The Holy Spirit was this man's travel guide.
- This man sought God's guidance in a marriage.

Abraham (Genesis 12:1)

Servant of Abraham (Genesis 24:12-14)

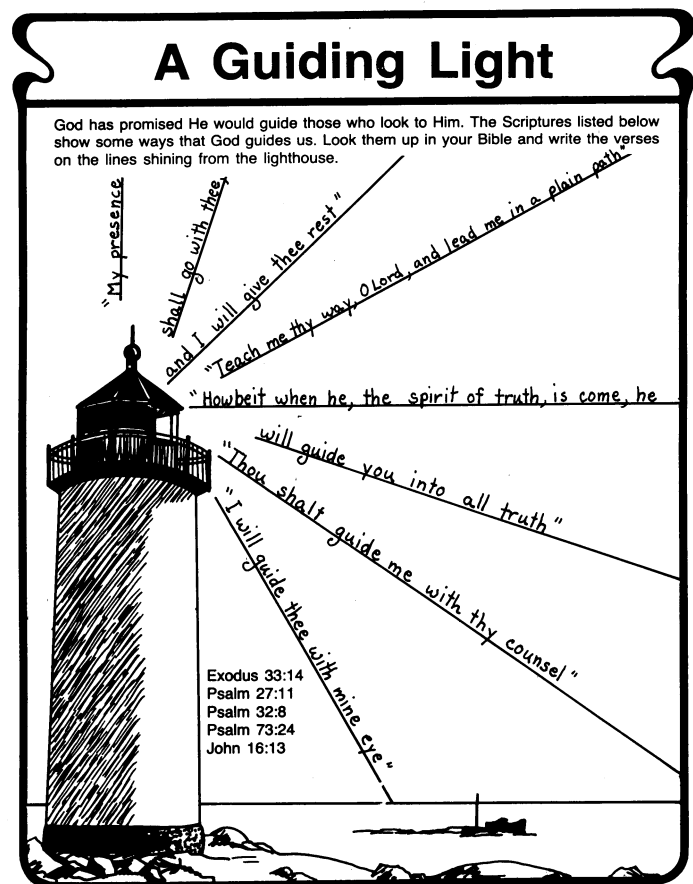
Jacob (Genesis 31:3)

Moses (Exodus 3:10)

David (2 Samuel 5:19)

Paul (Acts 16:6-10)

Answers for ANSWER



TEXT 1 Samuel 17:19-51

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURE 1 Samuel 14:1-16

OBJECTIVE The students will be able to tell of ways in which God wants His people to be courageous, and that He offers them the strength necessary to face difficult situations by the overcoming of fear.

KEY VERSE FOR ANSWER Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law. — Joshua 1:7

KEY VERSE FOR SEARCH Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest. — Joshua 1:9

**ANSWER
TITLE:** **How Can I Face This?**
**SEARCH
TITLE:** **Courage**

REFERENCE INFORMATION

The first reference to giants in the Bible is found in the Book of Genesis. However, this race of giants perished in the Flood. The next reference to giants is found in Deuteronomy 2:20. The Ammonites conquered them and drove them out of the territory God had given to the descendants of Ammon. It is possible that the Anakims, whose great stature struck such fear to the hearts of the ten spies, were offspring of these people. The spies felt as though they were grasshoppers in their sight.

When the Children of Israel were on the march to the land of Canaan, they conquered Og, king of Bashan, who was a giant. The Word says that he had a bedstead of iron that was nine cubits long and four wide! Most of the Anakims were destroyed as Joshua conquered the land of Canaan, but it specifically mentions that there were giants left in Gaza, Gath, and Ashdod. Also Caleb was given the mountain where the Anakims dwelt and he drove out the three remaining giants and occupied Hebron.

The giant Goliath came from the city of Gath. He was the champion of the Philistine army and defied the army of Israel for forty days. It is a sad commentary that neither King Saul nor any of his men would take up the challenge. A young shepherd boy who trusted in the living God came upon the scene, took up the challenge, and slew the giant. Years later in a battle with the Philistines, King David was, himself, beset by a giant and his nephew came to his aid and killed the giant.

It is very unlikely that we will ever have to engage in physical combat with a giant, but we do have a formidable adversary, Satan. The Apostle Peter says that we must “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Peter 5:8). So it is imperative that we walk close to the Lord as there is no way we could defeat the devil in our own strength.

YOUR OPENER

Courage

TEXT: 1 Samuel 17:19-51

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURE: 1 Samuel 14:1-16

KEY VERSE: Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest. — Joshua 1:9

RESPONSES

1. These experiences gave David confidence that the Lord would deliver him from the hand of the Philistine. Note with the students, in verses 37, 46, and 47 of our text, that David was taking no credit for himself. His strength was completely centered in the Lord, and he acted accordingly. He was coming in the Name of the Lord of hosts, whom the Philistines were defying. Discuss with your students how they, too, when faced with trials or troublesome problems, can gain courage and strength by rehearsing past deliverances, by recognizing the power of the Lord, and by standing in the strength of His name.

2. David had great courage because he was wholly obedient to the Lord. Saul was fearful because he had disobeyed the Lord, and he had no confidence that God was with him. When one knows that God is with him, he can be courageous. If there is a feeling of condemnation in one's heart, then there is fear when a test comes.

3. Have the students attempt to place themselves in David's situation. He could not fight with unfamiliar equipment. He was comfortable with his sling and shepherd's bag and stones, and the knowledge that God was with him. If we look to God, He will give us strength to meet the situations we face, trusting in Him and not the unreliable strategies of the world.

4. Discuss with the students the fact that we have the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, and the shield of faith, for protection from the enemy. These and the other parts of the Gospel armor should give us courage to go out and fight for the Lord. You might wish to bring out that Paul was one who used this armor to good effect, and through it gained the victory though he faced beatings, stoning, hunger, thirst, and many other perils. See 2 Corinthians 11:24-28.

The challenge of Goliath stirred a response in David's soul, and his courage mounted as he thought of the One who neither slumbers nor sleeps. A lion, a bear, a giant—what did it matter so long as God was David's Keeper? Up through the chain of command David's words were rehearsed, until Saul sent for him. "Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine." With a prayer, a sling, a shepherd's crook, and five smooth stones from the brook, David ran to meet Goliath. With faith and courage in his God, David prevailed over the giant of Gath.

1. David had slain both the lion and the bear that came to take lambs from his father's flock. In what way did these previous experiences help David?

2. What was the difference between the attitude of David and that of King Saul and the rest of the armies of Israel? What was the reason for the difference?

3. Why did David put off the king's armor and go to meet the giant with a sling and five stones?

4. Goliath came against David with his sword and shield and armor. We do not wear physical armor, but we do have a spiritual sword and shield with which to fight the enemy. What does the Bible tell us these weapons are? See Ephesians 6:16,17.

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ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION NOTES

5. On a previous occasion when King Saul was fearful, Jonathan and his armorbearer offer another example of courage in fighting the enemy against great odds. Where David had to face the enemy single-handedly, Jonathan and his armorbearer had the advantage of fighting together. Name some of the advantages we have as Christians in working together. See Deuteronomy 32:30 and Matthew 18:19,20.

6. Peter was very outspoken in his desire to fight for the Lord, and even used his sword to defend Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. What happened to Peter's courage by the time the young woman accused him? Why? See Luke 22:54-62.

7. An experienced warrior named Paul wrote a letter of instruction to a young man named Timothy. Read 1 Timothy 6:11,12, and enumerate several suggestions Paul made that would increase Timothy's courage in the fight against evil.

8. Our courage is often attacked by the devil through doubts and fears. We are admonished many times in the Bible not to be afraid. What do the following Scriptures say about why we do not have to be fearful?

Joshua 1:9

Proverbs 3:24,26

Isaiah 12:2

Hebrews 13:5,6

9. Share with the class an incident in your life when God gave you courage. It may have come through His Word, a song, or encouragement from someone else, enabling you to face a situation which otherwise might have caused anxiety.

10. Many Biblical accounts give examples of people who exhibited courage when facing an enemy. Most battles in our day, however, do not entail facing actual warfare. Name some trials of a mental, spiritual, or physical nature that will require courage to overcome.

5. Allow time for students to share their thoughts of the advantages of Christians working together. Bring out in discussion how the faith of an individual can be encouraged and strengthened by uniting in spirit with a like-minded person. Point out that Christ sent out His disciples by twos (Luke 10:1).

6. Peter's courage fled. Allow time for your students to discuss why they feel this happened. Guide them to conclude that seemingly, Peter's courage and strength were centered in himself rather than in the Lord, and when the test came, he failed. Contrast this with the change of attitude in Peter after he repented of his failure. Bring out how, at first, he had feared before a young maid, but after receiving the Holy Spirit at Pentecost he immediately had the courage to preach to thousands.

7. The suggestions were to flee the things of the world, follow after righteousness, fight the good fight of faith, and lay hold on eternal life. Discuss with your students what fighting the good fight of faith is and how we lay hold on eternal life. Following the positive directions of the Bible and being aggressive in our Christian service gives us greater courage to fight this fight as a good soldier.

8. Joshua 1:9 — For the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest
Proverbs 3:24,26 — For the LORD shall be thy confidence
Isaiah 12:2 — For the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength
Hebrews 13:5,6 — He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee
Discuss these Scriptures and then follow up by using the Scripture in Romans 8:31: "If God be for us, who can be against us?"

9. Encourage each student to participate. Sharing these experiences will bring a blessing.

10. Some of these may be sickness, accusations of the devil either through the mind or through some person, going through sorrow or bereavement, false friends, unemployment, and uncertain times. Any of these things may defeat us if we do not ask the Lord for strength and courage to overcome. Read Ephesians 6:12 to the class to show the kind of opposition we might face in the times in which we live. Wrap up your lesson by emphasizing once more that God can give courage to face any of these.

YOUR WRAP-UP

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

Define courage. How did David demonstrate courage?

Why was David's courage so important, and what would have happened if his courage had failed?

Is it important for us to have courage? Why?

What kind of battles or "Goliaths" do we face today? Name some of these difficult situations (i.e., persecutions from people around us, trials that test our faith), and give some specific examples.

What happens when fear takes over? What does it feel like to be fearful?

How can you have courage to stand up for what is right?

In our ANSWER story, Paul referred to the "giant" he was facing. Compare his situation to the story told in our Bible text.

THINGS TO DO

Make a poster-sized acrostic puzzle (similar to the ANSWER activity). Using each letter, have your students think of words which signify courage. Example:

C ourageous
her O ism
pl U ck
b R avery
v A lor
darin G
fearl E ssness

Display in large block type on poster-size paper. Have students draw pictures of things portraying courage. These could be drawn on transparencies for overhead projector, and shown to the class.

Ask students to tell of some happening or circumstance in the life of someone, perhaps in our own congregation, that reveals courage in his character. Or tell of someone you know who is facing or has faced great adversity and ask the students to tell how or why this would take courage.

Bring a thin piece of string that can be easily broken, and a medium length of rope. Use these to demonstrate courage and strength. Bring out that when you have an important, heavy job to do such as tying up big boxes for


moving, climbing mountains, or even playing tug-of-war, you must use the rope—a piece of string would not do because it is too weak. The rope, then, represents courage and strength that the Lord gives to those who trust in Him. Pass the rope and the string for the students to pull on.

Divide class into groups of two to four students each. Let them decide among themselves situations in the life of Christians today which require courage. Act these out in a skit. They can draw from their own experiences or a hypothetical situation. For example: It takes courage to be the only one at a lunch table to bow your head and give thanks, to tell school friends why you go to church "all the time," or why you don't participate in some of the activities of the other students. It always takes courage to take a definite stand for Christ and to let your light shine.

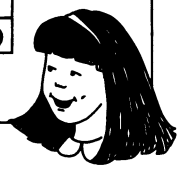
Answers for ANSWER

Have No Fear

God wants His people to be courageous. He will be their strength in difficult times. Fill in the acrostic puzzle with words from this lesson on courage. The answers can be found in the Bible text, 1 Samuel 17:19-51.



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



C - "There came up the _____, the Philistine of Gath." (v. 23)

O - What was the name of the Philistine of Gath? (v. 23)

U - Who sent for David? (v. 31)

R - Who was fighting against the Philistines? (v. 21)

A - Who said, "Thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine"? (v. 32)

G - What did David leave before he ran to meet his brothers? (v. 22)

E - Who fled when their champion died? (v. 51)

Lesson 166

TEXT Joshua 6:1-20

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES Judges 7:1-25; Psalm 3:1-8

OBJECTIVE In facing those who oppose us in the faith, the students will be able to explain that the battle is not ours but the Lord's, and He will give us the victory if our trust is in Him.

KEY VERSE FOR ANSWER The LORD is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me. — Hebrews 13:6

KEY VERSE FOR SEARCH Thus saith the LORD unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not your's, but God's. — 2 Chronicles 20:15

ANSWER TITLE: God Gave the Victory
SEARCH TITLE: Help Against Enemies

REFERENCE INFORMATION

Jericho was taken by the direct help of God to inspire the Israelites with confidence. Led by the ark of the Lord, with priests blowing trumpets, they compassed the city seven days. No doubt, hovering above were the invisible Hosts of the Lord (Joshua 5:14), waiting for the appointed hour. On the seventh day, at the blast of the trumpets, the walls fell flat.

The archaeological supplement of the Thompson Bible

indicates that Jericho had a double wall. The walls were fifteen feet apart, with the outer wall being six feet thick, and the inner wall twelve feet thick. Both were thirty feet high, made of sun-dried bricks that were four inches thick and one to two feet long. They were laid in mud mortar, and linked together by houses built across the top such as Rahab's house on the wall. The outer wall fell outward and down the hillside, dragging the inner wall and houses with it.

YOUR OPENER

Help Against Enemies

TEXT: Joshua 6:1-20

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: Judges 7:1-25; Psalm 3:1-8

KEY VERSE: Thus saith the LORD unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not your's, but God's. — 2 Chronicles 20:15

At the time of the taking of Jericho, the Children of Israel had learned a hard lesson. They had just finished wandering in the wilderness for forty years because they had disobeyed God. He had told them He would fight for them if they obeyed and trusted Him. As they marched around Jericho, they were obedient to God. The method was unorthodox, but God gave the victory! The people shouted with a great shout, and the walls fell down flat.

RESPONSES

1. Rahab said they knew that the God of Israel was God of Heaven and of earth, and that He had given His people the land, and they were all fearful because of His people. This is an appropriate time to bring out that we are serving this same God today and, just as in olden times, when we obey Him, "our God shall fight for us" (Nehemiah 4:20).

2. The students should conclude that if they disobey, God will not fight for them and they will be defeated. They will learn, too, that others are affected by their actions. This principle is as valid now as it was in the time of Jericho.

3. Joshua 10:11 — Hailstones
Joshua 10:12-14 — Sun and moon stand still
Joshua 24:12 — Hornets
1 Samuel 14:15,16 — Earthquake
As your students respond with the answer for each of these verses, you may wish to discuss that even though we may not see God use these specific methods of delivering us from our enemies, He still delivers His own.

1. Why were the inhabitants of Jericho so terrified of the Israelites that they wouldn't come out of their city to fight against them? See Joshua 2:9-11.

2. After the fall of Jericho, Joshua 7 records that the Children of Israel were badly defeated when they fought against the much smaller city of Ai. The Israelites had been told not to take any spoil from Jericho, but Achan disobeyed God's command, and all the people suffered because of it. What principle does this lead us to understand regarding deliverance from our enemies?

3. Several times in the Old Testament, God used the forces of nature to fight against Israel's enemies. Look up the following Scriptures and describe what instrumentality God used in each instance.

Joshua 10:11

Joshua 10:12-14

Joshua 24:12

1 Samuel 14:15,16

21

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION NOTES

4. We likely won't face the literal battles like Joshua and other Biblical characters did. What kind of personal enemy might we face in our day?

5. We don't expect the Lord to slay those who oppose us, but what kind of help and victory can we expect the Lord to provide?

6. What does the Lord expect of us after He has delivered us from our enemies? What benefit will we receive by doing this? See Psalm 107:1,2 and Revelation 12:10,11.

7. One of the keys to receiving victory is praise. Paul and Silas are a notable example of this (Acts 16:25). How can we praise God when we are facing an enemy? Why does this increase our faith to believe for victory over our enemies?

8. Jesus told His disciples that He gave them power over all power of the enemy (Luke 10:19). Yet He told them not to rejoice in this. In what were they to rejoice? See Luke 10:20.

4. Discussion with your class should bring out that our enemies may be those who ridicule us, who condemn us, who reject our beliefs, and who are actively seeking to hinder our serving the Lord.

5. On occasion direct retribution may be evidenced. However, even when this does not occur, we have victory in the knowledge of the inner security that God is with us. Your students may also bring out that we possibly will see a withdrawal of attempts to persecute or dissuade us. You may wish to bring out that sometimes personal antagonism against us may be caused by conviction. If this is the case, we may see even worse behavior, but the end result could be salvation of the one who took a stand against us. That would be real victory!

6. The students should see that it is important for us to give our testimony after we are saved, and that through the Blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony we will overcome. A testimony is not only a blessing to ourselves, but God can also use it as a means of encouragement or blessing to others.

7. Your students should recognize the necessity of praising God even in difficult times. It is a commandment of God: "In every thing give thanks" (1 Thessalonians 5:18). That means we are to praise God even if we cannot see any good in the situation. In responding to the second question, your students should see that our faith is increased when we focus on the all-powerful God, and realize that our circumstances are in His control.

8. They were to rejoice because their names were written in Heaven. Rehearse with your students that the disciples had witnessed glorious victories as the sick were healed and the devils were cast out. But Jesus wanted them to remember that these were not accomplished through their power but through the power given to them from Above. Even though they rejoiced in this, the more important truth was that their names were written in Heaven. Wrap up your lesson by encouraging your class to greatly appreciate having their names in the Lamb's Book of Life. They can then enjoy the promised deliverance from all their enemies.

YOUR WRAP-UP

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

Would the Israelites have gained the victory if they had not followed the Lord's instructions? Explain.

What kind of victories can be ours if we fear God and follow His commandments?

In the Scriptures for this lesson the battles fought were actual physical combats. Is physical combat all a Christian needs to be concerned about? Explain.

What are some of a Christian's enemies?

How might it be possible to get in the way when God is fighting a battle for us?

In our ANSWER story, God helped Paul in an unusual way in facing his enemies. Can you think of some other ways God might have delivered him from this situation? Why do you think God sometimes chooses one way of helping and sometimes another?

What relationship does our obedience have to receiving victory?

God probably won't slay our enemies. What kind of victory will He give us over them?

THINGS TO DO

Cut out a simple shield shape from heavy paper. Bring it to class, and ask your students to write in suggestions as to ways we can find God's help against our enemies. For example: prayer, reading of the Word, quoting Scripture, consulting the ministry.

Take two banners (one red, one white) to class. On the red banner, write the word *Victory* on one side, and *God* on the other side. On the white banner, use the words *Defeat* and *Self*. Hold up the banner that says God. Explain that when we trust in God completely He will fight our battles for us and (turn banner over) we are sure to have Victory. Then show the banner that says Self. Explain when we try to do things our way God can't help us, and we will have to put up the white flag of surrender (turn banner over) which means Defeat. Discuss which

banner is better. Bring out that no one likes to lose, and the fact that we never lose when God fights our battles for us.

Have an adult give a testimony of "victory" to your class.

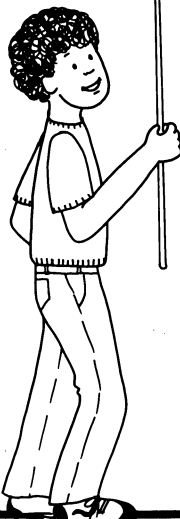
Write out some simple situations appropriate to the age level you are teaching. Let your students describe the victory which can be won in each situation. Some possibilities: A classmate makes fun of you because you refuse to cheat on a test; A bully tries to pick a fight with you in the hall because you go to church; A girl in your class tells a lie about you.

Answers for ANSWER

Victory in Jesus

The Lord is our help against enemies. The coded verse below tells us what God can do for us. Use the grid code to fill in the verse. The first number is the up and down column and the second number is the number that goes across. Example: To find the first letter go down 3 and across 6 and find a W.

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



WHEN A MAN'S
36 42 12 24 11 14 11 24 35

WAYS PLEASE
36 11 17 35 44 43 12 11 35 12

THE LORD, HE
45 42 12 43 34 25 41 42 12

MAKETH EVEN
14 11 33 12 45 42 12 26 12 24

HIS ENEMIES
42 13 35 12 24 12 14 13 12 35

TO BE AT PEACE
45 34 21 12 11 45 44 12 11 31 12

WITH HIM
36 13 45 42 42 13 14

PROVERBS 16:7
44 25 34 26 12 25 21 35

Lesson 167

TEXT Acts 12:1-11; 1 Corinthians 10:13; 2 Peter 2:9

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES Psalm 91; Acts 5:17-23; Romans 8:37-39

OBJECTIVE The students will be able to explain that God offers deliverance from the snares of the enemy of our soul.

KEY VERSE FOR ANSWER The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer. — 2 Samuel 22:2

KEY VERSE FOR SEARCH For thou hast delivered my soul from death, mine eyes from tears, and my feet from falling. — Psalm 116:8

RESOURCE MATERIAL Tract No. A6 — Family Suicide Plans Foiled

**ANSWER
TITLE:** **Conflict!**

**SEARCH
TITLE:** **Deliverance**

REFERENCE INFORMATION

The Herod of today's lesson was known as Herod Agrippa I. He was the grandson of Herod the Great who was ruler of Judea when Jesus was born. The Herodian background was Idumean, but they accepted the Jewish religion. Herod the Great had many splendid edifices built in Jerusalem of which the restoration of the Temple was the most magnificent. Herod Agrippa I was a strict observer of the Law and was in favor of the Jews.

Herod Antipas was ruler in Galilee when Jesus was tried before Pilate. When Pilate learned that Jesus had resided in Galilee, he sent Jesus to Herod for examination. Herod was in Jerusalem for the Passover.

Persecution was the lot of the followers of Jesus from Pentecost on. Jesus had foretold that if they persecuted Him, they would persecute His followers. Shortly after Pentecost when Peter and John healed the lame man through the name of Jesus, they were put into prison

overnight. They were released the next day and commanded not to speak in the Name of Jesus. However, they continued to preach about Jesus and were again thrown into prison. An angel let them out and told them to go back to the Temple and continue to speak about the Lord. They were soon rearrested and brought before the chief priests and elders. They were beaten and ordered not to speak in the Name of Jesus. Shortly after this, Stephen was stoned to death and the Church was greatly persecuted and scattered abroad—except for the Apostles.

At this time King Herod, to please the Jews, had James beheaded and Peter thrown into prison. Undoubtedly, Herod would have had Peter put to death had not the angel intervened and delivered Peter from the prison. While all do not receive the remarkable deliverance that Peter did, all may face persecution with courage and know that God will deliver them in one way or another.

YOUR OPENER

Deliverance

TEXT: Acts 12:1-11; 1 Corinthians 10:13; 2 Peter 2:9

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: Psalm 91; Acts 5:17-23; Romans 8:37-39

KEY VERSE: For thou hast delivered my soul from death, mine eyes from tears, and my feet from falling. — Psalm 116:8

RESOURCE MATERIAL: Tract No. A6 — Family Suicide Plans Foiled

Pentecost empowered the New Testament church to act on their belief and witness for Christ as they faced beatings, scourgings, separation of families, dislocation of homes, and even death itself. God provided miraculous deliverances, some of which are recorded in the first ten chapters of Acts. For example, in Acts 5, we read that the angel of the Lord provided deliverance from prison for two of the Apostles. Most importantly, however, God delivered, protected and preserved His followers from evil contamination by the sin all around them. As we study this lesson, we become acutely aware that God wants to provide the same deliverance from spiritual perils for us today.

RESPONSES

1. Based on 1 Corinthians 10:13, your group should conclude that the Christian has the promise that there will always be a way to escape, that he “may be able to bear it.”

2. Ask for volunteers to explain what they feel is meant by these verses. This should provide the springboard for a discussion regarding the qualifications necessary to receive the deliverance promised by God. The students should see that they cannot be assured of God’s deliverance unless they have been obedient to the Lord and His Word in their daily living.

3. The students should understand that God is merciful, and that He sent His Son to deliver sinners from their sins and the trouble that sin has brought into their lives. But such deliverance must, in most cases, be preceded by repentance. Many times God will spare one who cries to Him in trouble, even though it may not be a prayer of repentance. But that one should not presume on God’s mercy.

1. Webster defines *deliverance* as “the state of being freed; a release or rescue.” However, deliverance to the Christian does not necessarily mean immunity from suffering, persecution, or earthly troubles. Read 1 Corinthians 10:13 and note what you think this word means for Christians.

2. Read Psalm 24:3-5 and summarize the condition of the one who shall “ascend into the hill of the LORD,” or “stand in his holy place.” Does attaining this condition have any bearing on our right to expect deliverance? Explain.

3. On what condition does God “deliver” one who has been disobedient? See Psalm 51.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION NOTES

4. God has promised us spiritual deliverance in every aspect of our Christian lives. Next to each Scripture below write what the deliverance is from.

Psalm 18:48

Psalm 34:4

Psalm 54:7

Matthew 6:13

2 Peter 2:9

5. Referring to our text in Acts, Peter undoubtedly knew that Herod had killed James. When he was seized and imprisoned by the same ruler, one might expect Peter to be afraid for his life and concerned about being imprisoned. If this was so, he demonstrated a great calmness in spite of it, for verse 6 tells us that Peter was asleep. How can you account for this? How might a heartfelt belief in the promise given in Romans 8:28 bring about a parallel attitude in our lives?

6. What important event was continuing uninterrupted while the angel was awakening Peter in the prison and telling him to arise and follow him? What might we learn from this regarding situations where deliverance is needed?

7. Comment on why you feel God sometimes sends an immediate deliverance in answer to a sudden short prayer, and sometimes delays His deliverance until much prevailing prayer has been offered.

8. In reference to our key verse, the Psalmist is giving praise to God for deliverance. He mentions three ways God has given deliverance. Explain these in your own words, giving specific examples of what might be meant by each in our day.

4. Psalm 18:48 — enemies

Psalm 34:4 — fears

Psalm 54:7 — trouble

Matthew 6:13 — evil

2 Peter 2:9 — temptation

As your students give their answers, discuss specific examples of each. Encourage the students to relate times from their own knowledge or experience when God has brought deliverance from these things.

5. Peter's confidence and faith in God must have afforded an assurance that all would be well, regardless of the situation in which he found himself. God honored this confidence by sending him a complete deliverance. Discuss with your students how they, too, can have an unshakable confidence in God which will help them through all manner of trying circumstances, based on the promise that "all things work together for good to them that love God . . ."

6. Acts 12:5 says: ". . . but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him." Your students should see that prevailing prayer is often required before the deliverance comes.

7. Allow time for your students to offer their answers. They will no doubt bring out that the circumstances involved may affect the length of time before the Lord sends the answer. He knows that at times they are like Peter when he was about to perish by sinking beneath the waves of the Sea of Galilee, and He gives immediate deliverance. At other times, He proves them to show that their motives are pure, and tries them as to their continued faith in the face of adversity or trouble. Prevailing prayer requires effort, and when deliverance arrives they know the effort was well worthwhile.

8. Your students' answers should bring out that deliverance is from eternal death, from sorrow, and from the snares and pitfalls of life. Allow time for your students to share their specific examples of each. Conclude your lesson by stressing the fact that we can find the same deliverance today, emphasizing that while God's deliverance is for our daily needs, the crowning deliverance comes when we inherit eternal life.

YOUR WRAP-UP

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

What are some things from which we might need God to deliver us?

Does everyone need to be delivered from the same things? Explain.

Can everyone expect the Lord to deliver him from his trouble? Explain.

What part did Peter's friends have in his deliverance from prison?

Can you recount some instance when prayer was answered in your behalf or your family's?

The Bible says Peter's friends were astonished when they saw him. Should they have been? Do we sometimes react with surprise when we hear or read of some miracle God has performed?

What deliverance has every Christian experienced?

What are some of the deliverances promised to Christians in the ninety-first Psalm?

What other things are Christians delivered from, as indicated in Galatians 5:19-21 and Ephesians 4:25-31?

In our ANSWER story, God delivered Ben from a problem with Big Merv, leader of a gang. That was a physical deliverance. Describe another kind of deliverance that God offers.

THINGS TO DO

Bring some kind of trap—mousetrap, animal trap, bird trap—to class and discuss the various ways in which the animal or bird can be warned and delivered from falling or walking into the trap. Consider Proverbs 1:17, "Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird." Discuss Ephesians 5:15, "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise." Your class should discover that the meaning of the word *circumspectly* is "looking carefully to consider all related circumstances before acting; cautious; careful." Discuss what part a Christian has in God daily delivering him from evil. See also Ephesians 6:10-18.

Take a rope or cord of some kind and tie up a volunteer, demonstrating how we are bound by the devil. Have the

students name some things that we can be bound by. Write the suggestions on paper and tape them to the student that is bound. Then discuss who can deliver us from each thing, bringing out that we must ask the Lord to deliver us.

Bring a rabbit's foot, four-leaf clover, horseshoe or other symbol of good luck. Bring out that many people believe in fate or luck, and even feel that symbols of this sort serve as a protection or deliverance from misfortune. In what is our deliverance as Christians? Hold up a large posterboard on which you have written the words of our key verse.


Come into class with a paper-link chain attached to your arms. Ask your students if they feel you will have any problem breaking the chains. Then bring out that to God, giving us deliverance from the things that bind us is as easy as it is for us to break the paper chains.

Answers for ANSWER

Jesus to the Rescue

God's deliverance is for your soul as well as from dangers that may come your way. Complete the verse below and find out that this is true. Put the correct letter over each code.

⊖	=	A	⊖	=	N
⊙	=	D	⊖	=	O
⊖	=	E	⊖	=	P
⊖	=	F	⊖	=	R
⊖	=	G	⊖	=	S
⊖	=	H	⊖	=	T
⊖	=	I	△	=	U
⊖	=	K	△	=	V
⊖	=	L	△	=	W
⊖	=	M	△	=	Y



THE ⊖⊖⊖	LORD ⊖⊖⊖⊖	KNOWETH ⊖⊖⊖△⊖⊖⊖	
HOW ⊖⊖△	TO ⊖⊖	DELIVER ⊖⊖⊖△⊖⊖	
THE ⊖⊖⊖	GODLY ⊖⊖⊖⊖△	OUT ⊖△⊖	OF ⊖⊖
TEMPTATIONS. ⊖⊖⊖⊖⊖⊖⊖⊖⊖			

TEXT 1 Kings 17:1-16; Matthew 14:15-21

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES Deuteronomy 8:3; Job 23:12; Jeremiah 15:16

OBJECTIVE The students will be able to relate that God has promised to provide in time of need, both physically and spiritually. For this the Christian should always give thanks.

KEY VERSE FOR ANSWER It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD. — Psalm 92:1

KEY VERSE FOR SEARCH Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. — Ephesians 5:20

ANSWER TITLE: **Enough for Everyone!**

SEARCH TITLE: **Food and Water (Thanksgiving)**

REFERENCE INFORMATION

The ANSWER key verse is taken from one of the best loved Psalms. David may have composed this Psalm while he was still a shepherd boy watching his father's sheep on the very same field where a thousand years later the angel choir announced the birth of Jesus.

Ahab was king of Israel, and son and successor of Omri. He began to reign about 874 B.C. He married an idolatress, Jezebel, who was the daughter of the king of Sidon. Through her ungodly influence, Ahab forsook Jehovah and became a Baal worshiper.

Six chapters are given to Ahab's reign, while only a part of one chapter is given to most of the kings. The reason is that it is largely the story of Elijah. Elijah was God's answer to Ahab and Jezebel who had substituted Baal for God. God sent Elijah to eradicate Baalism, a vile and

cruel religion. Elijah's rare, sudden, and brief appearances, undaunted courage and fiery zeal, and the brilliance of his triumphs, the pathos of his despondency, the glory of his departure, the calm beauty of his re-appearance on the Mount of Transfiguration, all make him one of the grandest characters Israel ever produced.

The feeding of the five thousand is the only one of Jesus' miracles told in all four Gospels. It occurred on the northeast shore of the Sea of Galilee, just one year before Jesus' death. There He worked one of His most marvelous miracles for the Passover-bound multitudes. Notice His love of order as He made the people sit down in companies of fifties and one hundreds; also that He was not wasteful—He commanded that the leftovers be gathered up. The people were so impressed that they wanted Him to be king immediately.

YOUR OPENER

Food and Water (Thanksgiving)

TEXT: 1 Kings 17:1-16; Matthew 14:15-21

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: Deuteronomy 8:3; Job 23:12; Jeremiah 15:16

KEY VERSE: Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. — Ephesians 5:20

Thanksgiving Day is a day appointed for the giving of thanks to the One who gives “life, and breath, and all things” (Acts 17:25). Christians recognize that God is the provider of spiritual as well as physical nourishment. This realization results in every day being a day of thankfulness to God.

RESPONSES

1. Allow time for your students to respond to the question. They should recognize that Elijah first obeyed God’s instructions to go hide himself by the brook Cherith, and there he was sustained. The conclusion should be reached that we, too, must be obedient if we expect God to sustain us.

2. At God’s command Elijah went to Zarephath, where God had commanded a widow woman to sustain him. Not only was Elijah taken care of, but so were the widow and her son. Had Elijah ignored following God’s directions, he most likely would have lost his life, and the widow and her son possibly would have perished as well. Point out that we also have a direct effect on others.

3. Jesus blessed and broke it. Your students should see the necessity of giving thanks for the provisions of the Lord. Bring out that because the disciples brought the food to the Lord, every person was fed. If the disciples had taken the food from the lad and distributed it without bringing it to the Lord, it may have fed three or four people but no more. Draw the parallel to any talent or ability we may have—if it is given or consecrated to the Lord, He will bless it. On the other hand, if we attempt to use this talent in our own strength, without seeking the blessing of the Lord, our efforts will be of little spiritual value.

1. During the first part of the famine, ravens brought Elijah food and he drank from the brook Cherith. What did he have to do before receiving this provision and what can we learn from his actions?

2. When circumstances change in our Christian life, we should realize that God won’t lead us down a dead-end street. Analyze and write what Elijah did after the brook dried up. Then write what could have happened had he not followed God’s leading.

3. In considering the first two questions, we can conclude that it is vital to obey the directions of the Lord. In so doing, we can then have genuine praise and thanksgiving for what He has done and know that He will supply our need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19). A good illustration of needs being supplied is in the Matthew portion of our text. When Jesus saw that the multitude was hungry, He commanded His disciples, “Give ye them to eat.” But the disciples were in a dilemma. They did not have enough food to feed 5,000 men plus women and children. There was a lad who had five loaves and two fishes, and this was taken to the Lord. What did Jesus do before giving the food to the disciples to distribute among the people? What lesson can we derive from this?

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION NOTES

4. Referring to our physical needs, Jesus said, "Take therefore no thought for the morrow . . ." (Matthew 6:34). What can we do to keep from being overly concerned about our physical needs? Support your answer with Scripture.

5. Man cannot survive long without eating, yet many are trying to live spiritually without a proper spiritual diet. List some items that you consider an important part of a healthy spiritual diet.

6. Read 1 Timothy 4:4,5. Why is it important to pray over our food before eating?

7. Referring to our key verse, and looking beyond the obvious blessings of food, clothing and shelter, what are some of the things that might be included in the "all things" for which we are to give thanks?

4. Lead the discussion to center around priorities and trust in God. References may include Psalm 37:3, Matthew 6:33, Philippians 4:19 among others. You may wish to broaden this discussion to consider instances in which Christians have suffered from hunger, privation or lack of other physical needs. Your students should see that provision is promised "according to his riches in glory." Ask your students what they feel is included in the word "riches," helping them recognize that God may allow physical discomforts, knowing that in the end it will be to the person's spiritual enrichment if he accepts these circumstances as part of God's refining process.

5. Answers may include: attending church, private devotions, memorizing Scripture, prayer. A suggested approach might be to set up a circle response, going around your class allowing each student an opportunity to offer a thought.

6. We have God's promise that He will sanctify our food if we accept it with a prayer of thankfulness. Knowing that it is God who provides, it is natural that those who love Him would want to return thanks.

7. Your students will come up with a variety of responses. Allow time for them to contribute their suggestions. Focus their attention on the fact that they should not take any of God's bountiful blessings for granted, and that He is pleased when they thank Him for specifics.

YOUR WRAP-UP

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

What are some of your needs? In what ways are these provided? In what ways do you feel deficient?

In what ways can we show our thankfulness to God?

When God says He will provide your needs, what do you think He means? What is the difference between needs and wants?

What would you say is a physical need? What would you say is a spiritual need?

Give an example from your own experience (or that of someone you know) of when God actually met some physical needs.

Name some other Biblical examples of God's supplying food and water for those in need.

What should be our attitude when God does fulfill our needs? Why is this so important?

Have you ever done something or given something to someone, only to have it met with indifference or ingratitude? What were your feelings?

In our Bible text, and also in the ANSWER story, we read about Jesus' feeding the hungry crowd who had gathered to hear Him. Why do you suppose He cared about the physical needs of these people? Does He feel the same about us today? Why or why not?

THINGS TO DO

Bring trick party candles that relight when blown out. Light, and then ask a volunteer to blow them out. They'll have to try to blow them out again and again. Compare this to a spirit of thankfulness. Thanking God is not something we do just once, but we must do it often. The reason is that he does not give just once, but again and again.

Show your students a jar of water and a Japanese dried flower that has seemingly sprung to life. (These can be bought at an Oriental shop.) The water is pure, and brings life, refreshment, fruitfulness and beauty. It cleanses, produces power and changes barren deserts into places of beauty. Some people are as barren deserts, and just as natural water can change a desert place into a garden, so can the Lord change mortal deserts into places of beauty. Jesus is the Living Water.

All that water can do in the natural, the Lord can do in the spiritual—cleanse, refresh, make lives fruitful and beautiful. "If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink" (John 7:37).

Bring a lily bulb and a lily, or a picture of these. Jesus said, "Consider the lilies of the field." Look at the bulb—does it look as though anything beautiful could come out of it? But if you plant it, one day it will produce leaves and then a blossom—a miracle wrought by our heavenly Father. Discuss with the class how much God cares for the lily which has beauty for only a few days. Then, impress upon your students how much more He loves and cares for and will provide for each of them.

Bring pictures which show some ways that God provides for us, and have your students explain the pictures. Then discuss how God not only provides for our physical needs but also our spiritual needs.

Answers for ANSWER

He Will Provide

Read the text, Matthew 14:15-21. Fill in the missing vowels (A,E,I,O,U) and complete this story of how God provided for those with a need. It is not an exact quote.

In the EvEnInG JEsuS' dIscIplEs
Asked JEsuS to sEnd the mUltItude
AWAy so thEy cOuld gEt sOmEthing
to EAt. JEsuS toId thE dIscIplEs
thEy cOuld fEEd thEm. All thERE
wAs to EAt wERE fIvE loAvEs And
two fIshEs. ANEr JEsuS brokE thEm
In pIcclEs And gAVe thEm to thE
dIscIplEs to fEEd thE mUltItude.
EvErYonE wAs fIllEd And thERE
wERE twElvE bAskEtS lEft.

TEXT Luke 16:19-31; John 14:1-3

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES John 17:1-3; Revelation 21:1-7; 22:1-5

OBJECTIVE The students will be able to explain that God not only has provided for our temporal and physical needs, but He offers eternal life with Him in Heaven to those who put their trust in Him.

KEY VERSE FOR ANSWER For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life. — Romans 6:23

KEY VERSE FOR SEARCH My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life. — John 10:27,28

ANSWER TITLE: Looking Ahead!
SEARCH TITLE: Eternal Life

REFERENCE INFORMATION

ETERNAL LIFE: *Zoe* is the usual Greek New Testament word for *life* in a general sense; the opposite of *death*. *Aiónios* is the usual word for *eternal, everlasting*. Literally it means *age-long*. Since an age is the longest time which the human mind can conceive clearly, *aiónios* came to be used for infinity of time, whether conceived as unending duration or as existence in which past and future are always present. Eternal life, therefore, is not merely age-

long, after which it ceases to be. It is endless in duration, having its beginning in the mind of the eternal God and being eternal in quality. Though our eternal life thus has an eternal past in the purposes of God, our experience of it begins with the new birth (John 3; Titus 3:4-7), when we believe in Jesus Christ who truly is our eternal life (John 17:2,3; Galatians 2:20).

YOUR OPENER

Eternal Life

TEXT: Luke 16:19-31; John 14:1-3

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: John 17:1-3; Revelation 21:1-7; 22:1-5

KEY VERSE: My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life. — John 10:27,28

RESPONSES

1. They both died. Stress that all men since Adam (with the exception of Enoch and Elijah) have either died or face the possibility of death. The curse of death came upon all mankind through the fall of man. But of greater consequence is the fact that we must all appear before Christ. Some men have sent their sins on before to judgment, so they will not fear to appear before Christ. Those who have not repented will be judged for the sins they have committed. See 1 Timothy 5:24.

2. Lazarus had put his trust in God and made preparation for eternal life. On the other hand, the rich man neglected or forgot to do anything about his salvation (Psalm 9:17). These answers should lead your class into a discussion of the importance of making preparation for spending eternity in Heaven. You might wish to start their thoughts in this direction by asking for some examples of occasions in their day-to-day life which require advance preparation. Would they consider going to these occasions totally unprepared? How much more important is their preparation for eternity! If they are unprepared, the result is their eternal doom.

3. In verse 25 of the text, he was told to remember the privileges he had during his lifetime. He saw Lazarus (a righteous man) day after day at his gate and perhaps heard his testimony of salvation. God enlightens every man (John 1:9). Let your class know that he had his chances but didn't take time to do anything about it. Emphasize to the class that the best time to take advantage of God's mercy is when one first hears about it.

During this quarter the lessons have brought out how God provides for our needs. Is eternal life one of our needs? If we do not obtain eternal life, what is the alternative? Jesus said if one does not enter the strait gate and walk in this narrow way that leads to life, he goes through the wide gate, walking in the broad way that leads to destruction. In 2 Peter 3:9 we read that God is "not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." Through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ, we have everlasting life. That promise is found in John 3:16.

1. The earthly social standing of Lazarus and the rich man were vastly different, but there was one common ground on which they met. What was that? See Hebrews 9:27.

2. It wasn't Lazarus' poverty that made him worthy to be carried to Abraham's bosom. It wasn't the rich man's riches which caused him to be cast into a place of torment. What was it that determined their eternal destinies?

3. Do you think the rich man did or did not have the opportunity to prepare for eternal life during his natural lifetime? Why?

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION NOTES

4. Explain the rich man's plan for getting his brothers ready for eternal life. Why did Abraham say this plan would not work?

5. According to our text in John, why did Jesus tell His disciples that He must go away?

6. Summarize how much the Christian has to do with the quality of his mansion. See 1 Corinthians 3:11-15.

7. Jesus has promised to return. What will happen when this event occurs?

8. In this past quarter, we have been studying how God meets our needs, including His provision for our eternal life. What must we do now to ensure our obtaining this greatest of all provisions?

4. Verses 27 and 28 tell us that the rich man asked to have Lazarus raised from the dead so that he might testify to his brothers. But Abraham told him that if they heard not Moses and the prophets, neither would they be persuaded "though one rose from the dead" (verse 31). The point of this question is that God has provided the way to have eternal life. "Ye must be born again" (John 3:7). One cannot climb up some other way and expect to gain entrance (John 10:1). Discuss with your class how it takes more than a miracle to bring people to repentance, pointing out that though many miracles were performed by Christ, still most of the people of His day rejected Him as the Son of God. Today God does many mighty works, but still men do not believe.

5. Jesus said that he must go to prepare a place for them. Ask your students if they think this place was only for those to whom Christ was speaking directly on this occasion. Your discussion should bring out that Heaven is for all those who believe on Christ and keep His commandments. Supporting Scriptures may include: 2 Corinthians 5:1; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17; 2 Peter 1:10,11; 3:13; Revelation 22:14.

6. The students will see by reading these verses that the works of Christians are of varying spiritual merit and that the rewards will also be different. Let the students discuss this and then make the point that they don't sit idly by in this life while the Lord prepares a mansion for them. Ask your students for some examples of works which might be considered gold, silver, or precious stones. Then make a similar list of works which could be likened to wood, hay, and stubble. Will all of their deeds fall into one category or another?

7. He is coming to rapture those who have prepared themselves for eternal life. Discuss with your students that the Rapture is the sure way into eternal life for those overcomers who are living when Christ comes again. Ask your students who else will receive eternal life. Answers should include the Old Testament saints and all those who have died with overcoming faith in Christ.

8. In discussing this question with your class, they should conclude that to have eternal life one must repent of his sins, turn his back upon them, and receive Christ's forgiveness. You might wish to bring out that some of the other needs they have been studying, such as mercy, protection, and guidance, are received by many, even those who have not turned to God. But eternal life is available only to those who walk in the light of His Word.

YOUR WRAP-UP

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

Although being rich in itself is not a sin, why might having riches make it more difficult to serve Jesus?

Why do you think the rich man's brothers wouldn't have repented even if Lazarus had risen from the dead? Do you think people today might react in the same way? Why or why not? What evidence do we have for that?

How can we be sure we are ready to spend eternal life in Heaven?

What is eternity—when did it begin and when will it end?

What do you think Heaven is like? What do you think Hell is like?

Explain what Romans 6:23 means.

In our ANSWER story, what made Stephen accept the fact that his grandfather was dying?

THINGS TO DO

Bring pictures of mansions and beautiful homes that people live in today. Talk about the place that Jesus has gone to prepare for us. Show that these earthly homes will pass away, but the home that Jesus prepares for us is not only grander beyond our imagination, but also will last forever.

Distribute sheets of paper to your students and have each one draw a picture of a house he would like to live in. Allow a few minutes for this. When they have finished, discuss what they have drawn, then talk about Heaven where Jesus has gone to prepare a place for those who are ready.


Bring a thick rope or clothesline to class. Before students

enter, stretch it from one window or door across the room and out another, so that neither end can be seen. Use this to explain that eternity is forever—we can see no beginning or end because there is none. This can be the starting point of a discussion regarding the importance of making the right decision as to where we will spend eternity.

Answers for ANSWER

Live Forever

God does provide for all our needs, but the most important thing He has for us is yet to come. To find out what it is, follow the number code and fill in the correct letters to complete the verse.



MY SHEEP HEAR MY
11 21 16 7 4 4 14 7 4 1 15 11 21

VOICE AND I KNOW
19 13 8 2 4 1 12 3 8 9 12 13 20

THEM AND THEY
17 7 4 11 1 12 3 17 7 4 21

FOLLOW ME AND I
5 13 10 10 13 20 11 4 1 12 3 8

GIVE UNTO THEM
6 8 19 4 18 12 17 13 17 7 4 11

ETERNAL LIFE
4 17 4 15 12 1 10 10 8 5 4

1 - A	8 - I	15 - R
2 - C	9 - K	16 - S
3 - D	10 - L	17 - T
4 - E	11 - M	18 - U
5 - F	12 - N	19 - V
6 - G	13 - O	20 - W
7 - H	14 - P	21 - Y