

A whimsical winter scene with children sledding and a dog. The background is a teal sky with falling snow, a dark tree branch with yellow leaves and red berries, and a small butterfly. In the foreground, three children are sledding down a snowy slope. One child wears a cat-eared hat, another a yellow beanie, and the third a green hat with snowflakes. A boy with glasses and a striped hat is pulling the sled. A black and white dog is running in the snow. The text 'Junior Bible Class' is written in a large, elegant font, and 'WINTER' is in a bold, blocky font. Below it, the dates 'December 2018, January, February 2019' are listed. At the bottom left is the UGP logo, and at the bottom right is the text 'For Children Ages 9 Through 11'.

# Junior Bible Class

**WINTER**

December 2018,  
January, February 2019

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# Junior Bible Class

WINTER QUARTER

December 2018, January, February 2019

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## God's Love

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Editor in Chief: Todd Williams

Writer: Todd Williams

Edited and published quarterly by  
THE INCORPORATED TRUSTEES OF THE  
GOSPEL WORKER SOCIETY  
UNION GOSPEL PRESS DIVISION

Rev. W. B. Musselman, Founder

Price: \$2.25 per quarter\*  
\$9.00 per year\*

\*shipping and handling extra

ISBN 978-1-59843-648-8



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# JUST FOR JUNIORS

Winter 2018-19

The Incorporated Trustees of the  
Gospel Worker Society  
Union Gospel Press Division  
Box 6059  
Cleveland, Ohio 44101

*Hi, Juniors,*

This quarter we will be studying love, but not just any type of love—God’s love. It is very fitting that we study God’s love because, after all, God is the source of real love!

We will read the greatest thoughts about love ever written: chapter 13 of the Apostle Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians. The Old Testament prophet Nehemiah will show us that sometimes love does mean having to say you are sorry—to God. Then we will see how God’s love was shown at Christmas. God showed His love to everyone on earth when His Son, Jesus, was born for us. His earthly mother, Mary, rejoiced that God had so graciously sent the Messiah to save His people from their sins.

We will see other ways that God has displayed His love. For example, God showed His love to His people when He called Moses to lead Israel and rescue them from slavery in Egypt. We also will hear from the Lord Jesus’ teaching in the Sermon on the Mount, which teaches that we are to love our enemies. Jesus Himself showed love for His enemy in the Garden of Gethsemane by healing the severed ear of one who was sent to arrest Him. Next we will read the famous story of the Good Samaritan, who helped a man who had been attacked by robbers and left for dead. And we will learn that sometimes God’s love means that He has to discipline us, just as our parents do.

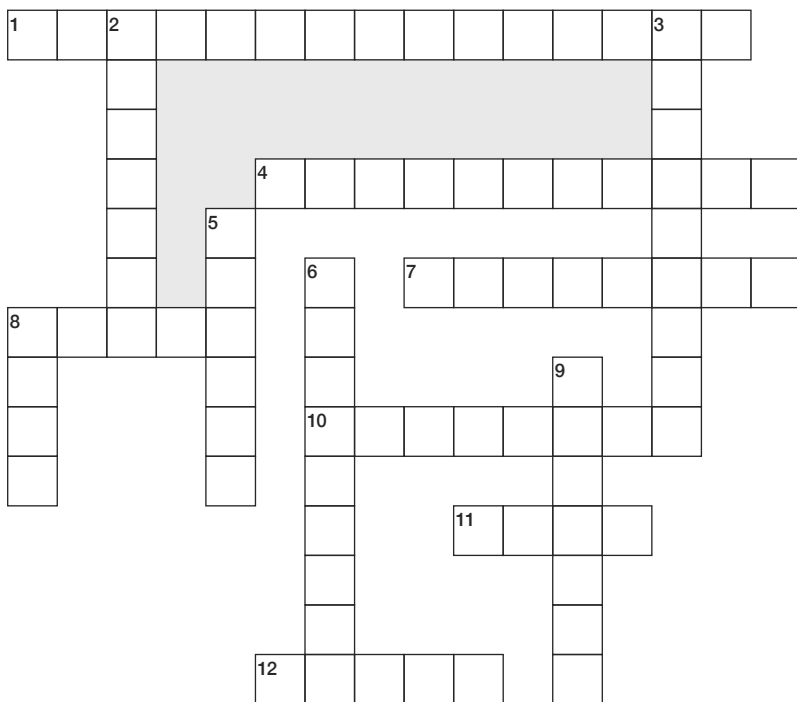
Last, we will see how Jesus showed us that He is God by the loving things that He did. We will read about the time He healed Peter’s mother-in-law and many other people who came to Him from her city. About that same time Jesus healed a man with leprosy, a highly contagious skin disease. Jesus was not afraid to touch the man, although no one else in Jesus’ time would have dared to touch a leper. Our next lesson tells how Jesus was even able to bring a widow’s son back to life from the dead. Finally, we will see how Jesus showed us God’s love by becoming our Great High Priest in heaven. He is the only one who can come to God the Father and intercede for us.

It has been said that love makes the world go round. This is really true because, as you have probably already realized, it is our loving God who created the world. Not only that, but He sent His Son to save us. We should thank Jesus, because He has shown us what God’s love for us is really like.

Your friend,

*Todd Williams*

# God's Love



## ACROSS

1. what Jesus is for us (see Hebrews 4:14—5:9)
4. Jesus raised her son from the dead (see Luke 7:11-22).
7. Old Testament prophet who showed us how to tell God we are sorry (see Nehemiah 9:25-31)
8. the person God chose to lead His people out of Egypt (see Exodus 2:23—3:10)
10. the love chapter in the Bible (see I Corinthians 13)
11. “God is \_\_\_\_\_” (see I John 4:8).
12. the man with a skin disease whom Jesus healed (see Mark 1:40-45)

## DOWN

2. Jesus told us we are to love them (see Luke 6:27-36).
3. the person who helped a man who was beaten by robbers (see Luke 10:25-37)
5. An angel appeared to him in a dream to tell him not to be afraid to take Mary as his wife (see Matthew 1:18-25).
6. Jesus fed this great number of people with seven loaves and a few fish (see Matthew 15:29-39).
8. the earthly mother of Jesus (see Luke 1:39-56)
9. the man whose ear Jesus healed (see Luke 22:47-51)

# Kindness at Christmas

Have you ever had to go outside without shoes?

Maybe in the summertime you have gone barefoot, and it felt really good because the ground was warm and the grass was soft. But what if it were cold and wintry? Your feet would not be happy. They would complain with every step you took!

Not that long ago, war broke out in a country in central Europe. During the war people had little money to buy even the simplest things to meet their needs. A young girl—we will call her Anna—and her brother, both about your age, had to walk to school through the snow each day. Anna's shoes had huge holes in them and were ready to completely fall apart. They did almost nothing to protect her feet. Sadness crept into her heart as day after day she had to walk to school without good shoes in the bitter cold and snow and ice.

One day when Anna and her brother got to school, they discovered that a group of kind Christian people had come to their school with boxes full of Christmas gifts for the kids. All the children were gathered, and the boxes were distributed. Every boy and girl was given a Christmas box.

Happiness shone on each child's face, and shouts of joy were heard all around as the gifts were opened. The boxes had toys, such as balls, stuffed animals, dolls, play cars and trucks, and jump ropes. Besides those things there were pens and pencils, crayons, markers, combs, toothbrushes and toothpaste, flashlights, and other things that needy kids might be happy to have.

Anna felt a thrill of excitement when she was handed a box, and she hurriedly opened the lid. What do you think she found inside? If you guessed shoes, you are right! Although there were other gifts in the box, it was the brand-new pair of girls' white tennis shoes that filled her with delight. Not only were they bright and new, but the shoes were also exactly the right size for Anna! It was as if she had gone to the store herself and picked out exactly what she needed. It was the perfect gift!

If God were not the one who had worked out those wonderful details, it would be hard to imagine how things could have worked out so perfectly for Anna. But He used one of His people to bring joy to Anna.

The Bible tells us in I Corinthians 13:4 that love is kind. Because of a believer's act of kindness, Anna got exactly the right pair of shoes that she needed. Not only that, but she later became a Christian.

Think of a way *you* can show kindness to someone. God may use your act of kindness to make a big difference in that person's life. Never underestimate the effect that an act of kindness, or the sharing of the gospel, may have on another person's life. Even at your young age, God can use you as an important part of His perfect plan to help others.



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Paul wrote to the Corinthian Christians to explain what God's kind of love really is like.

# God's Kind of Love

LESSON TEXT: I Corinthians  
13:1-13

**GOLDEN TEXT**—“And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity” (I Corinthians 13:13).

## Scripture Lesson Text

**1 COR. 13:1** Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

**2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.**

**3** And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

**4 Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,**

**5** Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

**6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;**

**7** Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

**8 Charity never faileth; but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.**

**9** For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.

**10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.**

**11** When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

**12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.**

**13** And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

# Know Your Bible

Your mom is preparing a delicious homemade pizza. She has tomato sauce, pepperoni slices, and lots of yummy cheese.

But she forgot one thing—the crust! What would a pizza be without a crust?



You want to fly your kite. The wind is just right and you know the kite will soar, but then you realize you are missing something—string! Without string, your kite is useless!

## **ALL OR NOTHING— I Corinthians 13:1-3**

The Apostle Paul wanted the Christians in Corinth to understand that no matter how many religious things they did, they would all become meaningless without one thing. God could have given Paul the ability to speak in languages he had never learned—even angel languages! Or God could have given him special understanding so that he could predict the future and understand even the deepest mysteries. Or Paul could have had so much faith that mountains would move when he prayed. Paul declared that they would all add up to a big fat zero if he did not have God's love (or charity) in his heart.

Love for God and others is so important that it is useless trying to please God without it. You cannot have pizza without a crust; you cannot fly a kite without a string; and you cannot truly do God's work without love!

Paul said that it would not matter a bit if he gave everything he owned to feed the poor or even

gave up his life as a sacrifice! If he had no love in his heart, it would all be a waste!

## **WHAT IS LOVE?— I Corinthians 13:4-7**

So if love is so all-fired important, what does real love actually look like? That is what Paul explains next.

Having love, Paul says, means first that we are patient. In other words, a loving person does not get annoyed easily.

A truly loving person is not the kind of person who is envious.

Envy is craving and longing for something that another person is enjoying. Love does just the opposite.

What if you had an old beat-up bike with a torn seat and a bent wheel; then you see the school bully ride up on a brand-spanking new ten-speed? With God's love, you could be happy even for a bully!

Next, our Bibles tell us that a person with God's love is not proud and does not think too highly of himself. What if your dad were an architect and your family got to travel all over the world? If you came back to your little hometown of Podunk surrounded by farm fields, would you look down on the kids there who milk cows and shovel manure? If you have come to truly know God's love, you would be friendly and make the other kids feel important.

Love also causes us to behave properly. When you have love in your heart and care about the people around you, it is not hard to know





what is the right way to behave.

Selfishness is something that we avoid when God's love controls our thinking. When there is only one cookie left and your little brother wants it, do you take it? The more selfish you are, the less room there is in your heart for God's love.

Have you ever heard someone who is often angry described as having "a short fuse"? That phrase makes us think of dynamite. A long time ago, a friend of mine lit the fuse on a half stick of dynamite. Then, far away, we watched. We waited and waited. After what seemed like forever, BOOM! I am very glad the fuse was long. Otherwise my friend might have been seriously hurt—or worse! If you know God's love, show it by not being quickly angered.

Real love keeps a person from plotting ways to get back at people who have hurt him. In fact, loving people do not even want to think about times when others have hurt or offended them. Love causes a person to think of how to do good to others.

Paul says that loving people do not find joy in things that are evil or sinful. Instead, truth and good things make them happy.

A loving person also does not give up when dealing with troubling problems. The Bible says that we should bear one another's burdens (problems).

Not only that, but a person with godly love is trusting. In other words, he or she does not normally doubt others and think they are lying.

Imagine that you missed a day of school because you were sick. What if your teacher said, "I don't think you

were sick. You probably played at the park all day." That would certainly not be loving.

Love also makes a person hopeful. But what does love have to do with hope? They are connected because when you love people, you hope the best for them.

Finally, the love of God can give a person the strength to go through even the most difficult hardships. Sometimes people who say they love one another end up giving up on one another when trouble comes. But when you truly love someone, you will help him and never give up.

All these things we have talked about help to describe both the kind of love God has for us as well as the kind of love we should have for others.

## **LOVE NEVER FAILS— I Corinthians 13:8-13**

Paul tells us how love is not only greater than anything else we can think of, but it also will outlast everything else.

Some Christians are kind of childish, thinking that certain unimportant things are actually very important. But believers who are "grown-up" in their faith know that love is the main thing. The greatest thing a Christian can do is show God's amazing love.

Right now it may not be easy to really understand life. But thankfully, when we get to heaven, we will be able to see why things are the way they are.

And although the most important things right now are faith, hope, and love, one day we will see that only one of these has always been more important than anything—love.





# Growing in Love

If a panda bear has two cubs, the mother usually does something that appears very strange: she chooses to care only for the stronger of the two cubs. Thankfully abandoned cubs in a zoo can be nourished and cared for by the workers.

All three of my children were born early. Their lungs especially were not developed. After each child was born, we spent weeks at the hospital waiting until they were strong enough to come home.

We never seemed to feel we had given our baby enough hugs and loving. We were surprised to find out that volunteers came in to hold and cuddle some of the other babies. The mothers were usually so sick that they could not be with their babies.

It is hard to stay healthy without love! They told us that it is much

harder for babies to get stronger when they are not loved and cuddled.

The same thing is true with animals. Recently I learned about a baby elephant named Jotto, who lost its mother—it was an orphan. When it met an ostrich named Pea, who was also an orphan, the two became BFFs. They spent a lot of time with each other. The animal workers noticed that the lonely elephant became much healthier once he found someone who cared about him.

The Apostle Paul wrote about love in glowing terms—a believer should not do anything without it! Showing true godly love is the best thing we can do for others. Whether it makes them healthier or not, it surely helps them grow in the Lord. Take some time be a loving friend to someone today!

## Love Scramble

What are some things Paul said would be meaningless without love? Unscramble the words and write the correct word in the blanks. Then use the circled letters to fill in the answer at the end of the exercise.



- Doing UGRILIESO deeds \_\_\_\_\_○\_\_\_\_\_
- Speaking unlearned SEALNUGGA ○\_\_\_\_\_○\_\_\_\_\_
- Understanding deep YETISERMS \_\_\_\_\_○\_\_\_\_\_
- HAFTI that moves mountains ○\_\_\_\_\_
- Giving to the ROPO ○\_\_\_\_\_
- GCRIFSCAIIN one's life \_\_\_\_\_○\_\_\_\_\_
- Love makes a person \_\_\_\_\_.



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The Levites prayed to God, confessing the sins of the nation of Israel.

# God's Patient Love

LESSON TEXT: Nehemiah  
9:25-31

**GOLDEN TEXT**—“For thy great mercies’ sake thou didst not utterly consume them, nor forsake them; for thou art a gracious and merciful God” (Nehemiah 9:31).

## Scripture Lesson Text

**NEH. 9:25** And they took strong cities, and a fat land, and possessed houses full of all goods, wells digged, vineyards, and oliveyards, and fruit trees in abundance: so they did eat, and were filled, and became fat, and delighted themselves in thy great goodness.

**26 Nevertheless they were disobedient, and rebelled against thee, and cast thy law behind their backs, and slew thy prophets which testified against them to turn them to thee, and they wrought great provocations.**

27 Therefore thou deliveredst them into the hand of their enemies, who vexed them: and in the time of their trouble, when they cried unto thee, thou heardest them from heaven; and according to thy manifold mercies thou gavest them saviours, who saved them out of the hand of their enemies.

**28 But after they had rest, they did evil again before thee: therefore leftest thou them in the hand of their enemies, so that**

**they had the dominion over them: yet when they returned, and cried unto thee, thou heardest them from heaven; and many times didst thou deliver them according to thy mercies;**

29 And testifiedst against them, that thou mightest bring them again unto thy law: yet they dealt proudly, and hearkened not unto thy commandments, but sinned against thy judgments, (which if a man do, he shall live in them;) and withdrew the shoulder, and hardened their neck, and would not hear.

**30 Yet many years didst thou forbear them, and testifiedst against them by thy spirit in thy prophets: yet would they not give ear: therefore gavest thou them into the hand of the people of the lands.**

31 Nevertheless for thy great mercies’ sake thou didst not utterly consume them, nor forsake them; for thou art a gracious and merciful God.

# Know Your Bible

You have probably heard a number of “rags-to-riches” stories. Many fairy tales are like this: poor and hopeless maidens always somehow end up marrying a handsome prince.

But it is not often that you hear “riches-to-rags” stories—ones that tell of someone who is rich and famous who ends up poor, helpless, and lonely. Our Bible story for today has a happy ending, but to truly understand it, we must first think about a sad riches-to-rags story.

You are probably familiar with the beginning of the story. It opens with God making a promise to Abraham that He would bless his family, generation after generation.

Many years later, Abraham’s family grew into the nation of Israel. And God *did* bless them. At one point, the Egyptians forced them to work as slaves. But because the Egyptians had mistreated Israel, God destroyed Egypt with ten terrible plagues.

God then rescued the people of Israel and led them out of Egypt. He even fed them with manna and gave them water out of a rock. Then, as if that were not enough, God gave Israel His laws and brought them into the land that He had promised.

No other nation had ever been treated with such favors from God. After all that the Israelites were able to enjoy, they should have loved God.

But what actually did happen? Not what you would expect. Today’s Bible story takes place long after all those good things had happened. We will now find out what happened to the people God had blessed so much.



## UNGRATEFUL— Nehemiah 9:25-28

When God brought the people into their Promised Land, He gave them victory over the wicked people who lived there. As a result, the Israelites were able to live in nice homes filled with good things. They had good water and many wonderful things to eat.

But instead of being thankful for God’s blessings, the people of Israel behaved as if they were spoiled little brats. They treated Him as if they hated Him and did many things to make God angry. Although God had given them His laws through Moses, they had no desire to obey. In fact, Israel honored and worshipped idols over the one true and living God.

That may sound completely awful, but the blessed people of Israel did even more to insult God. When God sent the prophets to tell His people that they were wrong, the Israelites killed them.

And as if that were not enough, they said terrible things about God. Even though God had been so good to them, they acted like His enemies!

What do you think God did about this? He could have easily destroyed them. But did He? No. Instead, God tried to get Israel to turn back to Him. The way He did this was by letting Israel’s enemies beat them in battle and even make them slaves. The Israelites hated having their enemies control them. They would complain until one day they would realize that God was the only one who could help them.



Although God could have refused to listen, He again showed them grace and mercy. He sent someone to rescue them.

Do you see God's kindness? He had sympathy for them in their misery, even though they deserved everything they got. This is one of the most wonderful things we can learn about God: even when the people He loves disobey and reject Him, His love keeps going.

It is sometimes easy to think we have sinned against God too much or disobeyed Him too many times. But your sins do not have to separate you from God; you can turn to Him and ask for forgiveness.

But there is still more to learn from the story about sinful Israel. As we said, the people were in the hands of their enemies, and God sent people to rescue them. You probably know who some of those rescuers are. The Bible book of Judges tells of many of them—people such as Gideon, Deborah, and Samson.

Now what do you think the people of Israel did once they finally were free again? You might think that they became so thankful that they chose to obey and please God—but you would be wrong. Against all reason and common sense, Israel went right back to disobeying God and worshipping dumb idols! It happened over and over again. They disobeyed, God put their enemies in control, Israel cried to God for help, He rescued them, and then they went right back to disobeying Him.

### **UNASHAMED—Nehemiah 9:29-30**

God's patience seemed like it could never run out. He sent prophets again and again who warned Israel to turn away from their

sin and idol worship. He made certain that they knew how to avoid going back into slavery to their enemies. But did they listen? Not a bit.

So do you think God's patience

could never ever run out? The truth is

God's patience did run out. He was

not willing to keep letting them enjoy

all His blessings while they stubbornly disobeyed

and scorned Him.

God sent the wicked Babylonians to destroy the nation of Israel. Many thousands of the people were killed; others were carried off to Babylon in chains. God's special people no longer enjoyed the freedom and comforts of the land He had given to them. They were now treated as slaves in a foreign land. This is a very sad riches-to-rags story.

### **UNBOUND—Nehemiah 9:31**

You might remember, though, that I said this story has a happy ending. Here is what I mean. Although God had punished His people severely, our lesson is taken from the book of Nehemiah, which tells about how God amazingly brought some of the people back to live in the land of Israel. In fact, almost everything in this lesson is taken from a prayer that was prayed on the steps of the newly rebuilt temple in Jerusalem. It was a prayer of repentance. The men who were praying admitted all the awful things that they and the rest of Israel had done in the past. They had finally started doing what was right.

More than that, they now were grateful to God for His kindness and patience. Finally they were ready to love God and obey Him.



# Love Wins!



John's father was a rough-and-ready sea captain. His loving mother was a Christian. She taught him to sing hymns and read the Bible. From his earliest days, he was learning about God.

Sadly, just before John turned seven, his mother died. Her love and influence in his life were gone.

It was only a few years later that John's father decided to take him to sea with him just to keep him from giving his stepmother grief.

John now began learning all the bad habits of the sailors. By the time John was a grown man, he was one of the most wicked men on the ship.

To make matters worse, he came

to believe that God did not even exist. He even made fun of other sailors who did believe in God.

All this time, God continued working out His plan for John. God's love was stronger than John's rebellion.

One day John's ship was caught in a terrible storm. The waves were so strong that the ship was breaking apart. As water poured into the ship, John was sure he would soon die. He was such a terrible sinner. He knew he was not ready to meet God. Finally, he cried out to God.

Soon the storm quieted. When the ship stayed afloat, John knew God had spared his life. He was so grateful to God that one day he wrote the song "Amazing Grace"!

No matter how sinful a person becomes, God's mercy is always greater. Always be thankful for His forgiveness.

## Finding the Blessings

God provided many good things for the people in the land that He gave them. Find these things in the word search puzzle below.

VICTORY HOMES WATER FOOD  
MERCY GRACE KINDNESS  
FORGIVENESS JUDGES PROPHETS

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







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Mary visited her relative Elisabeth and praised God for His great goodness.

## Rejoicing in God's Love

LESSON TEXT: Luke 1:39-56

**GOLDEN TEXT**—"Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour" (Luke 1:46-47).

### Scripture Lesson Text

**LUKE 1:39** And Mary arose in those days, and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Juda;

**40** And entered into the house of Zacharias, and saluted Elisabeth.

41 And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost:

**42** And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.

43 And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

**44** For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy.

45 And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord.

**46** And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord,

47 And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

**48** For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

49 For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name.

**50** And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation.

51 He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

**52** He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree.

53 He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away.

**54** He hath holpen his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy;

55 As he spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed for ever.

**56** And Mary abode with her about three months, and returned to her own house.

# Know Your Bible

Do you remember what happened in the last lesson? God's people, the nation of Israel, had sinned and rebelled against God for hundreds of years. God punished them many times, but finally, He let the Babylonians destroy the people of Israel and carry off nearly every survivor in chains. It was not until God brought some of them back to their ruined land seventy years later that the people truly became grateful.

Our Bible story for today happened about four hundred years after that time. Although the number of people in Israel had grown greatly, they still were not free. Powerful empires had ruled over them—the Babylonians, the Persians, the Greeks, and now the Romans.

The ancient prophets of Israel had foretold the coming of a Messiah—one who would rescue God's people and bring great peace and joy. But now, after so many years, many Jews in Israel were wondering why God had not fulfilled that promise.

Although it seemed that God's people were all but forgotten, things changed in a surprising way. This week we will find out how this



happened by learning about a young Jewish woman named Mary.

## **LEAPING BABY— Luke 1:39-45**

Mary was a girl probably still in her teen years. She lived in the small town of Nazareth and was probably much like all the other girls around her. And yet God chose to do something astonishing in her life.

He had not forgotten His people, Israel. God sent an angel to Mary to give her the most unusual and exciting news possible: Mary was going to become the mother of, God's very own Son!

How could anyone know how to react to that news? It might have been less shocking to a queen or princess, but for Mary this must have been beyond amazing. She had a hard time believing; so the angel told her something that would help her. Mary's relative Elisabeth was also going to have a baby! Elisabeth was an old woman (only young women have babies!). God was doing a miracle in her life too!



No one around Mary would understand or accept what was happening to her. God had told her she was going to have a baby—but she was not even married yet! She needed to talk to someone who could understand the miracle God was doing in her life. So she went to visit Elisabeth.

From the moment Mary walked through Elisabeth's door, they had a special friendship. When Mary spoke her greeting, Elisabeth was instantly filled with God's Holy Spirit and loudly exclaimed, "Mary, you are blessed more than all women, and blessed is the child you will bear!" Elisabeth felt greatly honored to be visited by the future mother of God's Messiah.

Elisabeth told Mary a curious thing; at the sound of Mary's voice, the baby inside Elisabeth jumped for joy. Do you know who that baby was? It was John the Baptist, and the Bible tells us



he was filled with the Holy Spirit even before his birth (Luke 1:15).

### **REJOICING MOTHER— Luke 1:46-50**

When one person overflows with joy in the Holy Spirit, often others join in. When Elisabeth was done speaking, Mary too was filled with the Spirit as she praised God, her Saviour. She felt overwhelmed that God would show her such favor. She recognized that she was a humble servant. She was just an average girl.

Think about it: at that time Mary was not much older than you. What would it be like for God to trust you with such an important job? She would have to give birth to God's Son Jesus and raise Him as her own child. That would be hard for a teenager!

Do you think God could give you something to do? The truth is, He loves young people and He often uses them in accomplishing His plans. Samuel was a boy when he began to serve God. A young girl told Naaman that Elisha could heal his leprosy. And who could forget young David fighting the giant Goliath?



Children are never too young or too small to be a part of God's work. Maybe you could pray and ask the Lord to give you a way to serve Him.

Mary went on to talk about the love God had shown her. As strong and mighty as He is, He was willing to bestow a great honor on someone who was weak and lowly. She praised the Lord for blessing her.

### **PRAISING GOD—Luke 1:51-56**

The rest of what Mary said reminds us not only of how great God is but

also how great His love is for those who are humble and needy. Let us think right now about all the things Mary spoke of that show God's great love.

First, God is full of mercy. Mercy is showing kindness and love toward those who do not deserve it. Mary said that God shows mercy to all those who fear Him. She knew that even though the nation of Israel had sinned greatly against God, He protected and cared for the few who feared and obeyed Him.

Mary also remembered the strong and mighty things God had done for those He loved. One event that Mary was probably thinking of was when God humbled the mighty pharaoh of Egypt. God had sent ten terrible plagues upon the land of Egypt, leaving it in ruins. The Lord has power over everything in the world and can bring down even the mightiest kings and rulers—including presidents and leaders of countries today.

On the other hand, God loves to lift up the humble. Who are these humble people? Are they always shy and quiet, afraid to say anything that is different from what others say? No, being humble comes from understanding that God is great and holy and all-powerful. Humble people see others as better than themselves (see Philippians 2:3).

Are you a humble person who honors God and treats others well? Or do you live your life your own way? Remember, God treats the two kinds of people very differently.

Never forget Mary, who was humble before God. She is a wonderful example of what we should be like.



# Magnify God



The largest telescope in the world is called Gran Telescopio Canarias, or GTC for short. It is located on one of the Canary Islands, which are off the coast of Morocco in North Africa.

It is called a reflecting telescope, which means it magnifies objects by the use of mirrors. As a unit, these mirrors measure over thirty-four feet across! The mirror and its framework weigh over seventeen tons (34,000 pounds). And yet, it can all be rotated by the slight pressure of a person's hand!

Why was this piece of equipment built? To see far into space. Because of its magnification ability, it can detect a single candle flame from twenty thousand miles away!

With this humongous "magnifying glass," much can be discovered

about this universe made by our glorious Creator. In 2017 the Gran Telescopio Canarias identified what appears to be the brightest known galaxy. It is ten billion miles from earth!

At that distance, there is not one person on earth who could ever have viewed that galaxy without a very powerful telescope. Jesus' mother, Mary, spoke of her soul magnifying the Lord. What could she have meant? Through the joy in her soul, she was speaking of things that could never have been known about God. She was magnifying our God.

If you are a Christian, other people should come to know more about God through you. Magnify God by your words and actions today!



## Code Mode

In the following paragraph about our lesson, use the number code to fill in the missing words.

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

\_\_\_\_\_ lived in the town of \_\_\_\_\_.  
 10 1 14 18 11 1 19 1 14 5 16 7  
 An \_\_\_\_\_ from God told her amazing \_\_\_\_\_.  
 1 11 6 5 9 11 5 17 15  
 God had \_\_\_\_\_ her to give \_\_\_\_\_ to  
 3 7 12 15 5 11 2 8 14 16 7  
 the \_\_\_\_\_, God's very own \_\_\_\_\_. Mary  
 10 5 15 15 8 1 7 15 12 11  
 \_\_\_\_\_ God for doing this \_\_\_\_\_ -  
 13 14 1 8 15 5 4 10 8 14 1  
 \_\_\_\_\_ in her life.  
 3 9 5



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Mary miraculously gave birth to Jesus, just as the angel had told Joseph in a dream.

# God So Loved the World

(Christmas)

LESSON TEXT: Matthew  
1:18-25; John 3:16-17

**GOLDEN TEXT**—“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

## Scripture Lesson Text

**MATT. 1:18** Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

**19** Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily.

**20** But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

**21** And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

**22** Now all this was done, that it might be

fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,

**23** Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

**24** Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife:

**25** And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.

**JOHN 3:16** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

**17** For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

# Know Your Bible

Imagine it is time for your birthday party. There are balloons and streamers and decorations everywhere. Your mom has baked a big beautiful cake with “Happy Birthday!” written across it.

Finally, cars begin pulling up in the drive and even on the lawn. But as people stream in the door with gifts and hugs, they turn their backs on you and go into another room. Your friends and cousins do not even say hello. As the party gets going, you realize no one is paying any attention to you. In fact, when it is time to open the gifts, the guests tear them open and leave none for you!

What a strange birthday party that would be—to ignore the one who is being celebrated! Be careful this Christmas not to ignore Jesus; it is His birthday we are celebrating.

## **DOUBTS AND A DECISION— Matthew 1:18-19**

As we talked about last week, God performed a miracle in young Mary’s life. An angel told her that she would be the mother of the Messiah, the Saviour for the world. God miraculously caused her to become pregnant.

There is another part to the story, though, that shows how unusual and challenging this was for Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man—named Joseph. He was a good man, one who obeyed God’s law. The problem was that Joseph was not aware of the miracle that God had done in Mary’s life.

When Joseph found out that Mary

was going to have a baby, he understood that he could not be the baby’s father. Joseph did not feel it would be right for him to raise another man’s child. It seemed to him that the only good thing to do was break his engagement with Mary.

Not only does this show that Joseph was a good man, but the way he chose to do it shows that he was also kind and caring. He could have made sure that everyone knew he was breaking their engagement because he thought Mary had done something wrong. But he did not want to hurt Mary’s feelings or make her look bad. So he chose to keep things quiet. That was the kindest thing he felt he could do for Mary.

## **A MESSAGE AND THE MESSIAH—Matthew 1:20-25**

Although Joseph believed he was doing the right thing, it was still a hard decision. He loved Mary and did not really feel like breaking their engagement. But as he wrestled within himself about it, suddenly an angel from God appeared to him.

The message the angel brought could not have been more astonishing. First, the angel called Joseph a son of David. That was a way of saying that he was part of the royal family of King David.

The angel went on to say that it was OK for Joseph to take Mary as his wife. She had done nothing wrong—the baby inside her was there because of a miracle from God.

But there was more good news. The angel explained that the baby Mary





would give birth to was very, very special because He would save people from their sins. The Bible tells us that everyone who has ever been born is a sinner. Sin is anything that we say, think, or do that displeases God. And since God is holy, He must punish every sin—no exceptions!

There is only one way, and that is where Mary's baby comes in. He was no ordinary baby. The prophets long before prophesied His birth. They made it clear that He would be God Himself being born as a human. Mary's baby was God coming to live with people!

That is why He could save His people from their sins—He was God. That is why the angel told Joseph to give the Child the name Jesus, which means “salvation” or “rescue.” Jesus rescued God's people from their sins by taking the punishment Himself on the cross.

As soon as the angel was gone, Joseph did exactly as the angel had said. He took Mary to his home, and she became his wife. It was not long before this most special of all babies was born. The Messiah, the Saviour of the world, God in human flesh, was born in a stable in Bethlehem.



## **THE SON AND SALVATION— John 3:16-17**

Imagine a good king who ruled over a land overflowing with criminals. They cheated their neighbors, lied whenever it pleased them, and even killed people they did not like.

But the king wanted to help the

people understand what was good behavior and what was bad behavior; so he made good and wise laws. He also made certain that they knew they must obey by decreeing that those who broke his laws would be put to death. Then he sent messengers to tell everyone his laws and the penalty for breaking them.

The king dearly hoped that the people would obey him and do what was right, but they became angry instead. They did not want the king telling them what to do. In fact, there was not one person in his whole kingdom who did not break his laws. What could the king do? He declared that every one of his subjects was under the death penalty.

This is just a story, but the truth is, the Bible says in Romans 5:12 that every person is under the death penalty because everyone has sinned against God. Have you ever wondered why everyone has to die? It is because of their sin.

But this is the reason God sent Jesus to earth—to rescue people from their sins. Everyone who trusts Jesus to forgive their sins is rescued from God's punishment of death. You might say, Why do people still die even if they have trusted in Jesus? Jesus Himself gave the answer to that question; He said that those who believe in Him will be brought back to life—resurrected (John 11:25). Even though believers die (perish), God will give them life forever in heaven.

Since the world is full of sinners, it would not have been surprising if God had sent His Son to destroy the whole world. But because of His love, God sent Jesus to save sinners. Jesus was born in that stable long ago for you and me. Praise God for His kindness this Christmas, and trust Jesus today!

# Worth the Wait



I met an elderly couple one time. They were born in Hungary, and as young people they planned to get married. But to avoid capture by the Germans during World War II, the young man had to escape the country. Sadly, his fiancée was not able to come with him.

He tried many times afterward to locate his fiancée but never did. Eventually he moved to America, married, and had a family. Many years later, a widower in his eighties, he received a letter from his long-lost fiancée, who still lived in Hungary.

She too had married and had a family, but since her husband had passed away, she had begun to search again for the one she had lost.

It was not long before the two met again and were married. It seemed the smiles never left their faces.

The best gifts are often the ones that require a long wait. Christmas is a celebration of the best gift ever given—Jesus was truly worth the wait!

## Crossword Craze

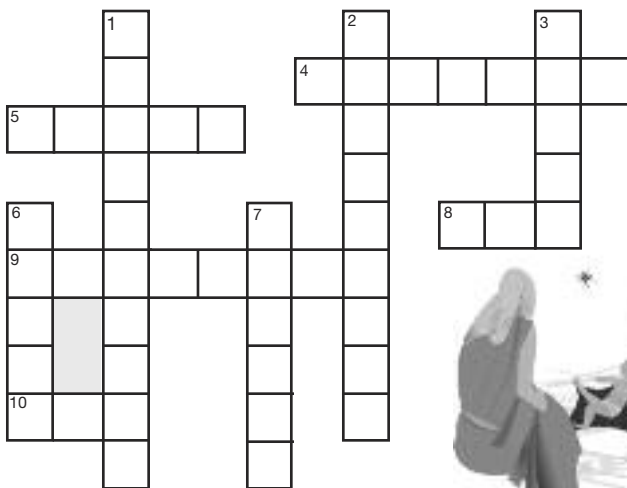
Complete the crossword puzzle using the following clues.

### Across

4. Saviour of the world
5. Told Joseph to marry Mary
8. Must punish sin
9. Born a sinner
10. Anything that displeases God

### Down

1. Almost broken by Joseph
2. Where Jesus was born
3. Ancestor of Joseph
6. Name means salvation
7. A good man





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Jesus showed all people that God is love.

# God Is Love

LESSON TEXT: I John 4:7-19

**GOLDEN TEXT**—“He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love” (I John 4:8).

## Scripture Lesson Text

**I JOHN 4:7** Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

**8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.**

9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

**10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.**

11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

**12 No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.**

13 Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.

**14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.**

15 Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.

**16 And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.**

17 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.

**18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.**

19 We love him, because he first loved us.



# Know Your Bible

When you have two apples and you add two more, you always end up with four apples (unless of course you eat one in the process!). This is just the way it is.



If you hold a bowling ball up high and then let go, it will always go down—every time. It does not rise up into the clouds or float away on the breeze. There is no need for doing scientific tests to know that this will happen. We just know it is true.

The book of I John in the Bible gives us many of the same kind of realities for the spiritual realm. John lays out simple statements that are easy to understand. We can readily see how they can be true.

You will realize as we look at the teaching in I John that sometimes it is not the understanding part that is so hard, it is accepting the simple facts as real for us and those around us.

Our passage for today is focused on love, both love between people and God's love. Get ready to learn some important truths that can help us as believers in Jesus.

## **GOD'S LOVE MADE PLAIN— I John 4:7-10**

The first thing we need to know is that as people who have been blessed by God's love, we should love one another. John makes it clear that love comes from God.

If someone wants an official autograph of his favorite athlete or musician, he has to somehow get it from that person. Having an autograph that is copied by someone else or made on a copy machine just is not the same. It is similar with love. If

someone's love is genuine, you know it came straight from God. In fact, John tells us that a person with real love is a person who knows God.

But the opposite is also true. People who have no love do not know God. Since God is love, it does not make sense for a person to be a child of God and yet be hateful. That would be like adding two and two and getting three!

John moves on to tell us more about how God's love can be seen. The clearest evidence of God's love is what He did with His Son. He sent Jesus from the pure joy and love in heaven to this sinful, hateful world. And He knew all the time that wicked people would kill Jesus on the cross. What do you think caused God to make such a tragic choice? It was certainly not because He hated His Son—that is unthinkable. Many places in the New Testament give us the answer: God sent His Son to die on earth because this would rescue His people from eternal punishment and make them part of His family. In other words, God sending Jesus to earth to die for us proves God's love for us.



Sometimes it is easy for people to say they love another person but then turn their backs when the person needs their help. This is not real love. Love that is genuine does what is best for the other person, even if it is difficult or painful. (Remember our first study from I Corinthians 13 that describes what real love is like? It might be helpful for you to go back and read that chapter again.)

You can usually tell if people's love is real by what they do (but not always



by what they say). Since God sent Jesus to earth to die for sinners, you know His love is real. His action—painful both to Him and His Son—proves His love.



### **GOD'S LOVE SEEN IN US—**

#### **I John 4:11-13**

John draws a direct line from God's loving action to ours. If God loved us in such a powerful way, then we should treat others with the same bighearted kind of love. It is not just words that are needed; our actions should show the love in our hearts.

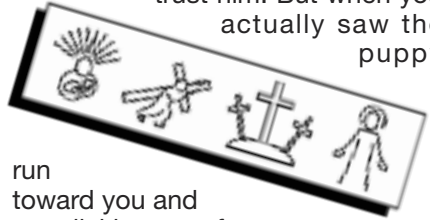
The Bible tells us that no one can see God in all His holiness and live to tell about it. On the other hand, God's love can be seen very clearly in our world. Do you know why that is possible? Because God's love is visible in the words and actions of God's people. People who receive God's love then show His love to others.

That reality can help us make certain whether we truly know God. John plainly states that if we sincerely love our brothers and sisters in Christ, then God's Spirit is truly living inside us. (And if we do not love them, then He certainly is not dwelling in us.) Not only that, but also what God started by showing love to us is not actually complete until we show godly love to other believers.

It is much like parents and children. Most children have a number of physical traits that their parents do. Sometimes you can see the resemblance by looking at their hair or their eyes or the way they walk. People who are children of God also have traits of their Heavenly Father. But the main trait to look for is love—since God is love, all His children are loving.

### **GOD'S LOVE ACCEPTED— I John 4:14-16**

What if your father told you that someday he would get you a puppy for your birthday? You would likely trust him. But when you actually saw the puppy



run toward you and start licking your face, you would have no doubts at all.

In a similar way, we have no doubts that God's love is real because He sent Jesus to this world. We know He loves us. Those who believe that Jesus is God's Son sent to be the Saviour of the world can say that confidently.

### **GOD'S LOVE COMPLETE— I John 4:17-19**

God has shown His amazing love to us, and as a result, we love God. The love goes full circle. Because of that love, we do not fear God's judgment. Since God puts His Spirit in believers, they become like Jesus in their thoughts and actions.

If our love for God is half hearted, fear can creep in and make us afraid that God will judge us. But a heart that is full of love for God is not fearful of punishment. The only ones who are afraid of God's judgment are those whose love for God is weak.

When we think about how we come to love God, it is very clear that it did not start with us. Our sinful hearts made us enemies of God. Thankfully, God's love reached us while we were still rebels against God. Praise God that we came to love Him because He loved us first!

## It's a Fact

Here is a simple exercise that could show how very smart you are.

First, how long did the Hundred Years War last? Second, what kind of hair is used in a camel-hair paintbrush? Third, what animal are the Canary Islands named after?

You might say, "That kind of quiz is too easy!" Let me give you a run-down of the answers.

In the first question, you probably were not fooled by the name of the war, were you? Because the Hundred Years War actually lasted from 1337 to 1453—that is 116 years.

What kind of hair is used in a camel-hair paintbrush? Usually this

kind of brush contains squirrel hairs.

The answer to the third question might surprise you. The Canary Islands are not named after the cute little birds. The word "Canary" in the name actually comes from the Latin word *canaria*, which means "dogs."

You can know something is true only when you know the actual facts. God loves us. How do we know that is true? Because He sent His Son to die on the cross so that we can have eternal life. This is the actual fact. Thank God that you can know His love!



## Prove Your Case

The statements on the right are based on our Scripture text. Choose the ones that relate to each person on the left and draw a line from the name to the statement that describes that person. Some names will connect with more than one statement.

### People Descriptions

1. **Sarah** claims that Jesus is her Saviour, but she is afraid that God will punish her eternally for her sinful habits.
2. **John** is a grumpy guy. No one likes being around him because he always insults and belittles them.
3. **Jane** spends much of her time helping at the church and visiting church members who are shut-ins.
4. **Mike** tells everyone he knows that Jesus can forgive their sins. He is happy, confident, and thanks God often for His grace.
5. **Mindy** wants to stop her habit of gossiping. She is very thankful to Jesus for His patience and grace.

### Bible Facts

- a. People who have no love do not know God.
- b. People who show godly love know God.
- c. People who proclaim that God sent Jesus to save sinners are a part of God's family.
- d. People who truly love God are not fearful of His judgment.
- e. People who are fearful of God's judgment are lacking in love.
- f. People who love God's children have God's Spirit within them.



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God told Moses that He would send him to Pharaoh to lead the Israelites out of Egypt.

# God Truly Cares

LESSON TEXT: Exodus  
2:23—3:10

**GOLDEN TEXT**—“The Lord said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, . . . for I know their sorrows” (Exodus 3:7).

## Scripture Lesson Text

**EXOD. 2:23** And it came to pass in process of time, that the king of Egypt died: and the children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage, and they cried, and their cry came up unto God by reason of the bondage.

**24 And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.**

25 And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God had respect unto them.

**3:1 Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb.**

2 And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed.

**3 And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt.**

4 And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I.

**5 And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.**

6 Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God.

**7 And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows;**

8 And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

**9 Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel is come unto me: and I have also seen the oppression wherewith the Egyptians oppress them.**

10 Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt.

# Know Your Bible

## GOD'S PEOPLE WERE SLAVES— Exodus 2:23-25

When you cry, do you wail at the top of your voice, or do you cry quietly so that no one hears you? The Israelites were slaves, and the Egyptians were their masters. Israel wept bitterly. They did not hide it.

Thankfully for them, the Lord heard their crying. He cared about the tribe of people who came from Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God had promised to bless Abraham's family throughout all ages. This promise is called a covenant. Through it God showed loyal love to Abraham's whole family.



## GOD CALLS MOSES— Exodus 3:4-6

As Moses came closer, God's voice called to him out of the bush: "Moses! Moses!"

"Here I am," said the shaking shepherd.

God warned Moses not to come any closer. God then told him to take off his shoes because he was standing on holy ground (this was a way to show respect as he stood before God). Moses was even more afraid now. He was afraid to look at the bush!



## MOSES THE SHEPHERD— Exodus 3:1-3

God did amazing things because of that covenant with Israel. Today's Bible story tells about one of those things—He set a bush on fire. This bush was on a mountain. Near the bottom of that mountain was a very interesting shepherd named Moses. He was born an Israelite, but he had not always been a shepherd. In fact, an Egyptian princess adopted him when he was a baby; so he had grown up in the royal palaces of the very nation who was hurting his own Israelite people.

Forty years earlier, Moses had been forced to leave Egypt and run for his life. That is when he became a shepherd. As Moses led his sheep in the wilderness, he noticed the bush that God had set on fire. It kept burning but never burned up!



## GOD KNEW—Exodus 3:7-10

God spoke again. He said He knew all about the awful things the slave masters were doing to His people. God cared about their pain. He was ready to rescue them out of Egypt and take them to a wonderful new land where they would be free.

But God surprised Moses by what He said next: "You are going to lead My people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." What a job!

God loved His people. He cared when they suffered and wanted to rescue them from slavery and give them a fantastic new land.

God loves you too and cares when you suffer. He sent Jesus to save you from slavery to sin and give you a home in heaven.



# What Would It Take?

Recently I heard a man talk about a trick he played on nearly a whole city. He was a terrific pilot and had a great plane. One night strong winds were blowing across the city, and the sun had just set. He flew directly into the wind and set the engines so that they basically kept him in one spot, without moving forward or backward. With the lights on the wings and other parts of his plane, it looked like a hovering flying saucer to people on the ground. The local radio talk show was flooded with callers reporting the strange sight. Then, to make the scene even more mysteri-



ous, the pilot turned his plane to fly with the wind and put the engines on full blast. He zipped away at lightning speed. For weeks the city was talking about the UFO (Unidentified Flying Object).

God caught Moses' attention with a strange sight—a burning bush that never burned up. What would it take for God to get your attention? Do you ever think about Him during the day or wonder what He might want you to do? There is no need to wait for God to set something on fire (as cool as that would be!); talk to Him today and ask Him to guide your day and your life.

## Pick a Fix

Fix each of the sentences below by underlining the right word inside the parenthesis.



1. Moses was caring for (sheep, dogs, monkeys) out in the wilderness.
2. The reason Moses turned aside to look is that he saw a burning (lamp, house, bush).
3. When Moses came close, God told him to take off his (mask, shoes, gloves).
4. Moses was (sick, happy, adopted) when he was a baby.
5. Moses grew up in the royal (palaces, gardens, dungeon) of Egypt.
6. The Israelites were (poor, slaves, lumberjacks) in Egypt.
7. God heard the Israelites' (singing, jokes, cries) and felt sorry for them.
8. God chose to have Moses (chase, rescue, drag) the Israelites out of Egypt.



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Jesus taught that we should love our enemies.

## Showing Love to Enemies

LESSON TEXT: Luke 6:27-36;  
22:47-51

**GOLDEN TEXT**—“But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you” (Luke 6:27).

### Scripture Lesson Text

**LUKE 6:27** But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you,

**28 Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you.**

29 And unto him that smiteth thee on the one cheek offer also the other; and him that taketh away thy cloke forbid not to take thy coat also.

**30 Give to every man that asketh of thee; and of him that taketh away thy goods ask them not again.**

31 And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.

**32 For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them.**

33 And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners also do even the same.

**34 And if ye lend to them of whom ye hope to receive, what thank have ye? for**

**sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again.**

35 But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil.

**36 Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.**

**22:47** And while he yet spake, behold a multitude, and he that was called Judas, one of the twelve, went before them, and drew near unto Jesus to kiss him.

**48 But Jesus said unto him, Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss?**

49 When they which were about him saw what would follow, they said unto him, Lord, shall we smite with the sword?

**50 And one of them smote the servant of the high priest, and cut off his right ear.**

51 And Jesus answered and said, Suffer ye thus far. And he touched his ear, and healed him.



# Know Your Bible

It is sometimes easy for Christians to begin thinking that following Jesus is always peaceful and full of joy. The teaching of Jesus we will study today shows us that it can be very hard to obey Him and do what is right.

## **DO GOOD TO BAD PEOPLE— Luke 6:27-30**

Sometimes Jesus' teaching seemed quite strange. When Jesus said, "Love your enemies," it is likely that many people thought this was a crazy idea. Most people hate their enemies; why would anyone love them?

Obviously Jesus is not telling people to do what comes naturally. If a bully calls you names and roughs you up, your first thought is not going to be to ask God to bless him or her. But that is what Jesus said we should do!

Jesus went even beyond that. He said if someone hits you in the face, you should not stop him from doing it again! Do you see what I mean when I say that sometimes Jesus' teaching seems a bit strange?

There is another difficult thing Jesus said we should do. He said if someone asks you for something, you should give it to him. We are not even to lend it to the person. We should just give it away and not ask for it back!

## **WHY YOU SHOULD DO GOOD TO BAD PEOPLE—Luke 6:31-36**

As strange as these teachings sound, they have very logical reasoning behind them. It is important for us

to think through Jesus' explanations.

First, Jesus states that He is simply encouraging us to treat others the way we would want to be treated. Surely we want others to treat *us* well; so we should treat *others* well.

Think about it. If you care only about people who care about you, that is not special at all. Even wicked people do that. And if you are good only to people who are good to you, God will not reward you as if you have done something great.

On the other hand, if you give to people without asking for your stuff back and you show God's love to people who hate you, then you have done something that God notices. And why do you think God notices that? Because that is what He Himself does (read Romans 5:8-10). That is why we should be merciful—because God our Father is merciful.

## **JESUS DID GOOD TO BAD PEOPLE—Luke 22:47-51**

Do you want to hear a story about Jesus doing what He taught? This happened the night the soldiers arrested Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. In the confusion of the moment, the Apostle Peter ended up cutting off one of the soldier's ears. Although this man was there to do Jesus wrong, Jesus did something very kind to him. Our Lord picked up the man's ear, put it back in its place, and immediately healed him!

Following Jesus is not for weak people. It is often very hard to be kind to those who want to hurt us. But we know Jesus did exactly what He taught. Ask God to give you the strength to follow Jesus' example.



Obviously Jesus is not telling people to do what comes naturally. If a bully calls you names and roughs you up, your first thought is not going to be to ask God to bless him or her. But that is what Jesus said we should do!



# A Birthday Surprise



Here is a true story that may seem hard to believe. For many years in the nation of Vietnam, Christians have been persecuted—arrested, put in prison, and often tortured or killed.

One man was especially well known for torturing Christians. One day, a twelve-year-old boy carrying a rose came and spoke to the cruel man. The boy said, “You are the man who put my father and mother in prison. Today is my mother’s birthday, and I always bought her a flower for her birthday.” The man probably thought he knew what the boy would say next, but he was completely surprised.

The boy continued, “Since my

mother taught me to love my enemies and to reward evil with good, I have brought the flower instead for the mother of your children. Please take it home to your wife tonight, and tell her about my love and the love of Christ.”

This is exactly the kind of thing Jesus taught His followers to do. It is not something that we want to do naturally. We can only show sincere love to those who hate us and hurt us when God puts that love in our hearts.

Do you believe what Jesus taught? Then ask God to give you His love for people who are unkind to you.

## Long-Ago Foes

Draw a line from the Bible character on the left to his or her enemy or enemies on the right. Look up the Bible verses if you need help.

- |                                 |                   |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Moses (Exodus 10:28-29)      | a. Ahab           |
| 2. David (I Samuel 19:10)       | b. Philistines    |
| 3. Jesus (Luke 19:47)           | c. Haman          |
| 4. Elijah (I Kings 19:2; 21:20) | d. Saul           |
| 5. Paul (Acts 25:2-3)           | e. Pharaoh        |
| 6. Esther (Esther 7:6)          | f. Jezebel        |
| 7. Samson (Judges 16:23)        | g. Jewish leaders |



Jesus said that His children should show kindness to their enemies. Unscramble the Bible book names below; then look up the Bible verse and write the name of the person who showed kindness to his enemy.

- A. UMSELAI 24:9-11 \_\_\_\_\_
- B. SUEDOX 10:17-18 \_\_\_\_\_
- C. KUEL 22:49-51 \_\_\_\_\_





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Jesus taught that we should love and do good to everyone.

# A Loving Stranger

LESSON TEXT: Luke 10:25-37

**GOLDEN TEXT**—“But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him” (Luke 10:33).

## Scripture Lesson Text

**LUKE 10:25** And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

**26 He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou?**

27 And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.

**28 And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live.**

29 But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour?

**30 And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead.**

31 And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.

**32 And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side.**

33 But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him,

**34 And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him.**

35 And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee.

**36 Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves?**

37 And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.

# Know Your Bible

How do you feel when a new person joins your class? Are you concerned about how you feel or how *that person* feels? Today we will hear a story Jesus told about a kind stranger.



## THE LAW AND LIFE— Luke 10:25-28

On one occasion, a man who was an expert in Moses' Law asked Jesus to explain how a person can be sure he will live forever in heaven. Jesus turned the question back on the man: "What does Moses' Law say about this?"

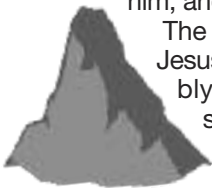
The man answered by quoting the part of the law that commands people to love God with their whole being and to love their neighbors the same as they love themselves. Jesus was happy with that answer. But the man tried to take his question a step further. He said, "And who is my neighbor?" That is when Jesus told this story.

## WHO CARED?—Luke 10:29-35

Jesus said that a Jewish man began a journey from Jerusalem to Jericho. The road he took winds through rugged mountains and was a favorite area for robbers to hide.

As the man made his way along the road, he was attacked by robbers. They stole his valuables, cruelly beat him, and left him for dead.

The people listening to Jesus' story were probably relieved when He said that a priest came walking by. Priests were impor-



tant men who worked in God's temple.

The shocking thing, though, is that the priest not only did not offer help, but he also moved to the other side of the road.

Someone else came along, though. This was a Levite—someone who also helped in the work at the temple. But with a cold heart, he too moved to the opposite side of the road.

Next, there came a Samaritan. The Jews and Samaritans had not liked one another for hundreds of years. But he actually was the one who took pity on the dying man! Not only did he care for the man's wounds, he put the man on his donkey and brought him to an inn as well. When he left the next day, he

gave the innkeeper money and told him to care for the man while he was gone.

When he returned, he would pay for anything else that was needed.

What a surprise! The Samaritan, who had the best excuse for not helping, actually helped far more than anyone would have expected.

## BE ONE WHO CARES— Luke 10:36-37

Jesus asked, "Which of the three men who came by was a neighbor to the injured man?"

The lawyer answered, "The one who cared for the man."

Jesus said to the lawyer, "Go and be like the man who cared."

Jesus showed that caring for others is almost as important as loving God Himself. You cannot truly love God and not love the people around you.



# Bear Care

A grizzly bear is one of the most dangerous animals on earth. And yet there is a touching video someone took of a grizzly bear in a zoo who notices a bird that has fallen into the water and is struggling mightily to get out.

The bear reaches down with his paw to help the bird exit the water. When this does not work, the grizzly leans down and gently grabs the tip of the bird's wing and pulls it out of the water. The larger animal then

turns and goes back to doing his bear things.

The reason this is remarkable is that animals generally do not help other animals. Some people have no interest in helping others, while others help many people.

Followers of Christ normally help others. They do this because of the love God has put in them.



# Muse and Choose

Choose the word or phrase in the parentheses that makes each sentence true; then write it in the blank.

1. An expert in Moses' Law asked Jesus to explain how a person can \_\_\_\_\_ in heaven. (be an angel, live forever, go fishing)
2. The man and Jesus agreed that the most important thing is to love God \_\_\_\_\_. (until things go wrong, as much as candy, with our whole being)
3. Jesus told a story about a man traveling to \_\_\_\_\_. (Jerusalem, Jericho, Pittsburgh)
4. The man was beaten and \_\_\_\_\_. (left for dead, killed, taken to the hospital)
5. A priest and then a Levite came by and \_\_\_\_\_. (made a campfire, offered some money, crossed to the other side of the road)
6. A Samaritan stopped to \_\_\_\_\_. (steal his shoes, care for the man's wounds, share his lunch)
7. The most unlikely person \_\_\_\_\_ the man who was hurt. (avoided, cared about, laughed at)
8. You cannot truly love God without \_\_\_\_\_. (praying every hour, loving people, giving money)



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The Bible teaches that God corrects us like an earthly parent would, in order to make us more like Him.

# God's Loving Correction

LESSON TEXT: Hebrews  
12:1-13

**GOLDEN TEXT**—“If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?” (Hebrews 12:7).

## Scripture Lesson Text

**HEB. 12:1** Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

**2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.**

3 For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

**4 Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.**

5 And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:

**6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.**

7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with

you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

**8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.**

9 Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?

**10 For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.**

11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

**12 Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees;**

13 And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.

# Know Your Bible

Imagine you are going to run a cross-country race through the wilderness. You will not want to take your rock collection or a five-gallon water bottle—you need to stay light.



The same is true in our spiritual race—we should not let things weigh us down. These weights might be bad habits or hidden sins. God helps us shed these things.

## **THOSE WHO RACED BEFORE US—Hebrews 12:1-3**

The author of Hebrews compared a believer's life of faith to a race. He had just finished describing other people of faith who had already finished their race (chapter 11)—people such as Abraham, Moses, and Gideon. He imagined these and many other faithful people crowded around the finish line watching us run the race. And as we run, we are looking at Jesus, the One who both created the race of faith and ran the race Himself.

What an encouragement we can receive from the others whose lives of faith are shining examples of trusting God! But Jesus is our best example. Think about how much He put up with from evil people during His ministry. But even up to the day He was crucified, He kept His focus on the joy that awaited Him with His Father.

## **DISCIPLINE FOR THE RACE—Hebrews 12:4-10**

At times, we might think living the life of faith is hard. But as Hebrews 12:4 says, we have not been beaten

and bloodied as Jesus was—surely we can keep going.

The writer of Hebrews tells us to think of the hard things we have to endure in serving God as the ways He makes us better. It is just like a father who punishes his son when he does wrong. His son hurts as he disciplines him, but not because the father enjoys making him suffer. He punishes his son so that he will learn to do right.

The truth is, a father who never punishes his son when he does wrong is not a loving father. Why? Because a son who is never corrected will end up ruining his life.

God corrects us because He wants us to make good choices. Not only that, but also if God does not discipline someone, it is only because that person is not truly one of His children. That means we should be glad for God's discipline.



## **FOCUSING ON FINISHING—Hebrews 12:11-13**

God knows that we are hurting when He disciplines us. It is certainly not a fun experience. But once we have gone through the pain, we find that we are better able to run the race God has set out for us.

We should not get discouraged then when life is hard. Remember all those who held on to their faith and stayed the course. The best thing we can do is press on through hardships and finish the race of faith.



## Ox Tamer

An ox belonged to a man named Fred. When the ox was in a good mood, it was a hard worker. But sometimes this big ox was not in the mood to pull machinery. It would plop its enormous rump down on the ground and refuse to move.

When the ox sat down, Fred would wrap a chain around its chest and hook it to a strong workhorse. When the horse began to pull, the chain

tightened around the ox, and the huge animal was dragged along the ground. In next to no time he would begin to work again.

Every time the ox sat down, it got the same punishment. Before long, though, it began to understand. When the animal got in a bad mood, all Fred had to do was rattle the chain, and the ox got to work.

People can be just as stubborn. Thankfully God is loving in His discipline, and He does it for our good.

## Heroes of the Race

Many have run the race of faith before us. To win the race below, begin at the starting line and draw a line connecting the name of each Bible character who was victorious in the race of faith.

|                                  |      |               |                   |         |        |         |         |  |
|----------------------------------|------|---------------|-------------------|---------|--------|---------|---------|--|
| <b>S<br/>T<br/>A<br/>R<br/>T</b> | Abel | Gentile kings | Joseph            | Pharaoh | Oreb   | Goliath | Ahab    | <b>F<br/>I<br/>N<br/>I<br/>S<br/>H</b> |
|                                  | Cain | Abraham       | Potiphar's wife   | Moses   | Zeeb   | Absalom | Elijah  |  |
|                                  | Esau | Lot's wife    | Joseph's brothers | Korah   | Gideon | David   | Jezebel |  |

## X or Checks

The love God shows us through His discipline can have many good results. Put a check mark in the box next to each idea below that can be a good result; put an X through each box that describes what happens if we fight against God's discipline.

|  |                                  |                                      |  |                                   |  |
|--|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--|
|  |                                  | We learn nothing from our suffering. |  | We become more like Jesus Christ. |  |
|  | We have to look to God for help. |                                      | It makes us stronger for the next trial. |                                   | We think God does not love us.           |
|  |                                  | We learn to make better choices.     |  | Our love for God can grow.        |  |
|  | It shows us that God loves us.   |                                      | We lose hope.                            |                                   | We try harder to do right the next time. |



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Jesus fed a crowd of four thousand people from only seven loaves of bread and a few fish.

# Caring for the Crowds

LESSON TEXT: Matthew  
15:29-39

**GOLDEN TEXT**—“I have compassion on the multitude, because they continue with me now three days, and have nothing to eat: and I will not send them away fasting” (Matthew 15:32).

## Scripture Lesson Text

**MATT. 15:29** And Jesus departed from thence, and came nigh unto the sea of Galilee; and went up into a mountain, and sat down there.

**30** And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them:

31 Insomuch that the multitude wondered, when they saw the dumb to speak, the maimed to be whole, the lame to walk, and the blind to see: and they glorified the God of Is'ra-el.

**32** Then Jesus called his disciples unto him, and said, I have compassion on the multitude, because they continue with me now three days, and have nothing to eat: and I will not send them away fasting, lest they faint in the way.

33 And his disciples say unto him, Whence should we have so much bread in the wilderness, as to fill so great a multitude?

**34** And Jesus saith unto them, How many loaves have ye? And they said, Seven, and a few little fishes.

35 And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the ground.

**36** And he took the seven loaves and the fishes, and gave thanks, and brake them, and gave to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude.

37 And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the broken meat that was left seven baskets full.

**38** And they that did eat were four thousand men, beside women and children.

39 And he sent away the multitude, and took ship, and came into the coasts of Magdala.



# Know Your Bible



I like to go backpacking. One time I got a late start and hiked a long way without stopping to eat so that I could get to my campsite before dark. Without food to give me energy, I began shaking violently and could barely stand up. Not being able to eat can do funny (as in *bad*) things to your body. In our story today, you will see what Jesus did for people who were desperate for food.

ing able to eat can do funny (as in *bad*) things to your body. In our story today, you will see what Jesus did for people who were desperate for food.

## **HEALING NEEDED— Matthew 15:29-31**

Jesus had walked a long way to a wilderness area near the Sea of Galilee. There were no towns nearby. This is where Jesus chose to carry on His ministry to the many needy people in Israel. He climbed up a high hill, and there many disabled, injured, and crippled people brought to Him.

There was not one health issue presented to Jesus that was too hard for Him to heal. There were those who were blind, others who could not speak, and some who were crippled. After receiving Jesus' healing touch, every one was able to walk away healed—the blind could see, the crippled could walk, and every other health problem was taken away.

Imagine if you had been there—seeing a crippled person stand up and walk for the first time. You would have done the same thing the crowds around Jesus did—they praised God!

## **FOOD NEEDED—Matthew 15:32-33**

The crowds were enthralled with Jesus' healing miracles and did not want to leave. They wanted to see what astonishing thing He would do next. The problem was that they had been camping out in the wilderness for three days but had not prepared to be there that long. Their food had run out.

Jesus knew that the people had not had anything to eat. He also knew that they might very well become overwhelmed by exhaustion if they tried to walk miles to the nearest towns.

He called His disciples together and told them that He was not willing to let the people suffer. But what could they do to help?

## **NOTHING MORE NEEDED— Matthew 15:34-39**

Jesus knew what He was going to do. The disciples told Him that they had only seven pieces of bread and a few fish with them. Jesus told the people to sit down. He took the little bit of food they had, began to break it apart, and gave the pieces to the disciples. Somehow, the more food Jesus broke, the more food miraculously appeared.



They put the broken bread and fish in baskets and took them around to all the people. Four thousand men along with many women and children ate that day. When they could eat no more, there were still seven baskets full of food left over.

Jesus did not want the people to suffer from hunger. As God in human flesh, Jesus shows what God is like through His actions. God cares about your problems.



# Something Familiar

Bud was an American soldier in France during World War II. He had gotten separated from his unit. He waited until after dark to try to search for his comrades.

After a good bit of wondering around, he heard a voice out of the darkness: "Bud! Is that you?" Bud was never happier to hear his sergeant's voice! But the next thing the sergeant said put a scare into Bud: "I had a really tough time keep-

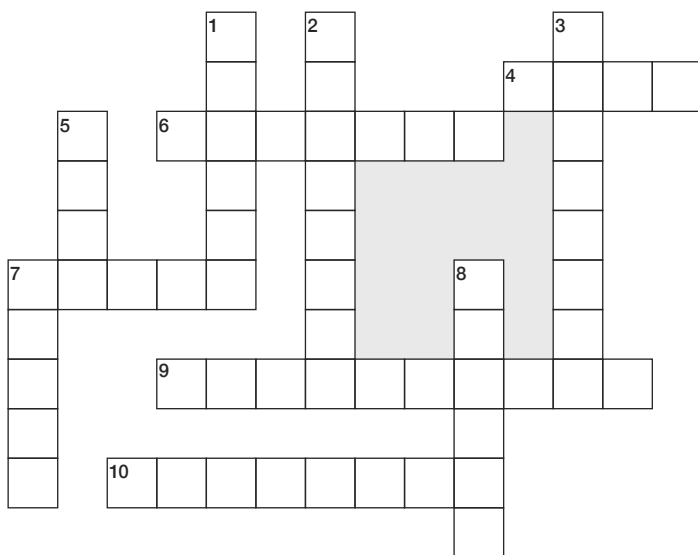
ing our men from shooting you! They could see your silhouette and were sure you were the enemy!"

When Bud asked his sergeant how he knew not to shoot, he replied, "I recognized the way you walk."

The Israelites should have recognized that Jesus was God in human flesh simply by the way Jesus behaved.



## Jesus Cares



### ACROSS

4. an animal with fins
6. where Jesus did this miracle
7. unseeing
9. where no one lives
10. food that is not eaten in one sitting

### DOWN

1. shocked and surprised
2. unable to walk
3. deeds that cannot be done by natural means
5. to make well
7. needed to make a sandwich
8. needing food



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Jesus healed many people and cast demons out of many others.

## Jesus' Care for the Sick

LESSON TEXT: Mark 1:29-34,  
40-45

**GOLDEN TEXT**—“And Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth his hand, and touched him, and saith unto him, I will; be thou clean” (Mark 1:41).

## Scripture Lesson Text

**MARK 1:29** And forthwith, when they were come out of the synagogue, they entered into the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John.

**30** But Simon's wife's mother lay sick of a fever, and anon they tell him of her.

**31** And he came and took her by the hand, and lifted her up; and immediately the fever left her, and she ministered unto them.

**32** And at even, when the sun did set, they brought unto him all that were diseased, and them that were possessed with devils.

**33** And all the city was gathered together at the door.

**34** And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.

**40** And there came a leper to him, beseeching him, and kneeling down to him, and

saying unto him, If thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.

**41** And Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth his hand, and touched him, and saith unto him, I will; be thou clean.

**42** And as soon as he had spoken, immediately the leprosy departed from him, and he was cleansed.

**43** And he straitly charged him, and forthwith sent him away;

**44** And saith unto him, See thou say nothing to any man: but go thy way, shew thyself to the priest, and offer for thy cleansing those things which Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.

**45** But he went out, and began to publish it much, and to blaze abroad the matter, insomuch that Jesus could no more openly enter into the city, but was without in desert places: and they came to him from every quarter.

# Know Your Bible



Not many people knew of Jesus when He began His ministry, but He quickly became famous. When He cast an evil spirit out of a man in Capernaum, people learned of it far and wide.

## JESUS' CARE FOR PETER'S MOTHER-IN-LAW—Mark 1:29-31

After Jesus helped the demon-possessed man, He came to Simon Peter's home in the town of Capernaum. Simon's mother-in-law was sick with a fever, and someone mentioned this to Jesus. Jesus had not done many miracles yet, but it seems clear that some people there were hoping He would work a miracle for the woman.

Jesus came to the woman, took her by the hand, and helped her up. As He did, the fever immediately left her. Jesus' miraculous power gave the woman health and strength.

## JESUS' CARE FOR THE CROWDS—Mark 1:32-34

Jesus' miracle-working power was becoming known throughout the city and far beyond. It is no surprise then that many people who had health problems and disabilities were inspired with hope that Jesus might possibly heal them. And so as the sun was setting, people came from every direction and crowded around the door of Peter's house.

Jesus had already had a long day. He probably

wished He could just go lie down and rest. Instead, He helped the crowd of ailing and hurting people. Not only did He heal those with diseases and disabilities, but He also cast out many demons. Some of these evil spirits wanted to spoil Jesus' reputation, knowing that He was God's only Son. Rather than let demons proclaim who He was, though, He ordered them not to speak.

## JESUS' CARE FOR A LEPER—Mark 1:40-45

Jesus went on to preach and heal in many other places in Galilee. But the book of Mark singles out one noteworthy case.

A man with leprosy approached Jesus. This was unusual because lepers were not allowed to come near healthy people for fear of infection. This man, however, kneeled down and pleaded with Jesus: "If you want to, you can heal me of leprosy."

Jesus felt great compassion for the suffering man and replied, "I will." Then He reached out and touched the man and healed him instantly.

Then Jesus commanded the man to go show himself to a priest, which is exactly what Moses' Law commanded. The man was so excited, though, that he went all over the area telling everyone he met about Jesus' miracle. As a result, so many people came to see Jesus that He was surrounded by crowds wherever He went.

Jesus' compassionate love was big enough to care for anyone who came to Him. Let us also show compassion toward those around us.



## A Loving Leper



Mary Reed was born in 1854 in Ohio and lived like any other young girl. When she turned sixteen, she began to think about the kindness God had shown to her. She believed that the reason God had given her so much was so that she could give to others.

As a young woman, she believed God's call to do missionary work in India. She worked hard, but after eight years, she was physically exhausted. She went home to rest but then went back to serve again. After only one year, she was again physically drained.

That is when Mary found out she had leprosy. Most people would have been horrified by this news; Mary believed it was actually a blessing from God. Earlier she had come across a group of five hundred lepers in India who were cut off from society. Her heart had longed to help them.

She went to live among the lepers and spent the rest of her life showing them the love and compassion of Jesus. Her life showed the same kind of concern Jesus showed for the leper who begged for healing.

How can you show compassion? Ask Jesus to help you show His love to others.

## Hexagon Word Maze

Find your way through the maze by drawing a line to each word of the golden text in order. You will begin at the top left and finish at the bottom right.





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Jesus told the widow of Nain not to weep and raised her son back to life.

# Jesus' Loving Ways

LESSON TEXT: Luke 7:11-22

**GOLDEN TEXT**—“When the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not” (Luke 7:13).

## Scripture Lesson Text

**LUKE 7:11** And it came to pass the day after, that he went into a city called Nain; and many of his disciples went with him, and much people.

**12 Now when he came nigh to the gate of the city, behold, there was a dead man carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow: and much people of the city was with her.**

13 And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not.

**14 And he came and touched the bier: and they that bare him stood still. And he said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise.**

15 And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And he delivered him to his mother.

**16 And there came a fear on all: and they glorified God, saying, That a great prophet is risen up among us; and, That God hath visited his people.**

17 And this rumour of him went forth throughout all Judaea, and throughout all the region round about.

**18 And the disciples of John shewed him of all these things.**

19 And John calling unto him two of his disciples sent them to Jesus, saying, Art thou he that should come? or look we for another?

**20 When the men were come unto him, they said, John Baptist hath sent us unto thee, saying, Art thou he that should come? or look we for another?**

21 And in that same hour he cured many of their infirmities and plagues, and of evil spirits; and unto many that were blind he gave sight.

**22 Then Jesus answering said unto them, Go your way, and tell John what things ye have seen and heard; how that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, to the poor the gospel is preached.**

# Know Your Bible

When I was young, I enjoyed doing tricks—making coins disappear and such. I enjoyed when people's eyes got big and they said, "Whoa! How'd you do that?"



Jesus' miracles, however, were far more amazing. Thankfully, they were not just clever tricks. Jesus did actual miracles, and our story shows how amazing His power is.

## **SORROWFUL MOTHER— Luke 7:11-12**



Jesus and the crowd with Him were coming to the town of Nain. A large crowd was with Him. As they neared the city gate,

a funeral procession was coming out carrying the body of a young man.

Funerals in those days were loud, as people wailed and cried (see Mark 5:38-39). This funeral was especially sad, because not only was the young man who died his mother's only son, but her husband had also died earlier.

## **LOVING LORD—Luke 7:13-18**

When Jesus saw the grieving woman, He was moved by her great sorrow. He comforted her and encouraged her to stop crying.

He touched the pallet that the young man was being carried on, and the funeral procession came to a stop. Everyone watched to see what Jesus would do.

Jesus then spoke to the one lying dead: "Young man, I say to you, get up!" That would have been crazy for someone else to do, but Jesus' words have power!

The dead person sat up and began talking! Jesus then brought the very-alive son to his joyful mother.

The crowd began to glorify God. They knew that Jesus was sent from God.

Word spread like wildfire! It was not long before everyone around heard what Jesus had done.

## **ABSOLUTE PROOF— Luke 7:19-22**

We learned a little about John the Baptist in lesson 3. Now John was a grown man. He had been proclaiming that Jesus was Israel's Messiah. But possibly John was hoping the Messiah would have an army and conquer the world. Since Jesus was not doing that, he sent two messengers to Jesus to ask Him if He truly was the Messiah the prophets had foretold.

Jesus' answer was His deeds. At the very time the messengers came, Jesus was healing, casting out demons, and doing wonderful miracles. In fact, He had just raised someone from the dead!

Jesus told John's messengers, "Tell John everything you have seen Me do here." Then He added, "Blessed is everyone who does not stumble in his faith in Me."

John may have been looking for Jesus to use His power as a weapon to conquer; instead, it was love that guided Jesus' great power.

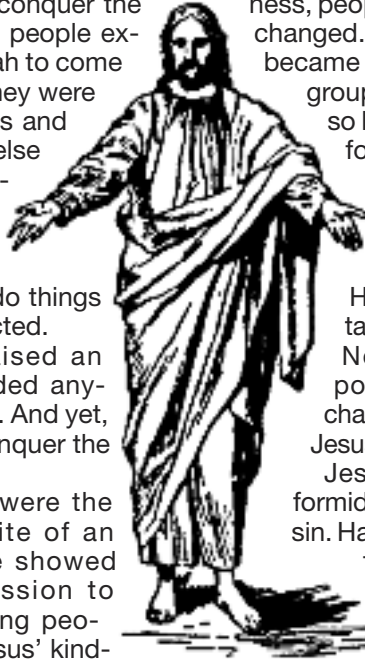


# Conquering the World

How would you conquer the world? The Jewish people expected their Messiah to come and do just that. They were thinking vast armies and great force—how else could anyone conquer the world? But when Jesus their true Messiah came, He did not do things the way they expected.

Jesus never raised an army or commanded anyone to fight for Him. And yet, in a way, He did conquer the world.

Jesus' actions were the complete opposite of an army general; He showed love and compassion to helpless and hurting people. Because of Jesus' kind-



ness, people's hearts and lives were changed. As a result, many people became His loyal followers. That group of followers has grown so large that now they can be found all over the globe.

Jesus accomplished far more than the Jews or anyone would have ever thought possible. In fact, He became the most important person in all of history. No army, no matter how powerful, could ever have changed the world as much as Jesus' love and compassion.

Jesus conquered the most formidable foes of all: death and sin. Have you placed your faith in the One who suffered and died to pay the penalty for your sin so that you could have life eternal?

## Super Scramble

Unscramble the words to complete the sentences about today's lesson.

1. Jesus and the DRWOC \_\_\_\_\_ with Him were coming to the town of INNA \_\_\_\_\_.
2. ULSERFAN \_\_\_\_\_ were loud, as people DIALEW \_\_\_\_\_ and DRIEC \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The young man who had EDDI \_\_\_\_\_ was the only son of his THROEM \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Jesus saw the RORSOW \_\_\_\_\_ of the NOWMA \_\_\_\_\_ and comforted her.
5. Jesus said, "GUYON \_\_\_\_\_ man, I say to you, EGT \_\_\_\_\_ up!"
6. The dead NERPSO \_\_\_\_\_ sat up and began LAKNIGT \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Jesus' answer to NHJO \_\_\_\_\_ was His ESDED \_\_\_\_\_.





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Jesus is our Great High Priest in heaven.

## Our Loving High Priest

LESSON TEXT: Hebrews  
4:14—5:9

**GOLDEN TEXT**—“We have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities” (Hebrews 4:15).

### Scripture Lesson Text

**HEB. 4:14** Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.

**15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.**

16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

**5:1 For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins:**

2 Who can have compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way; for that he himself also is compassed with infirmity.

**3 And by reason hereof he ought, as for the people, so also for himself, to offer for sins.**

4 And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron.

**5 So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee.**

6 As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

**7 Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;**

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

**9 And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him.**

# Know Your Bible



The brilliant scientist Albert Einstein once happily helped a fifth-grade girl named Emmy understand her math homework. Maybe he was just being nice, but it

is possible that her struggles reminded him of his own. He once took a test hoping to enter a famous university. Although he did very well in math and science, he got a failing grade in the other subjects.

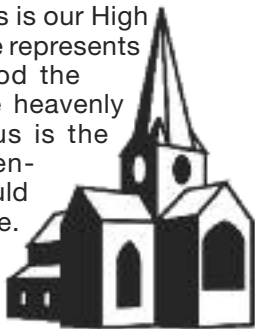
Often a person feels sympathy for a person who is having the same problems he has had. Jesus is no exception.

## **OUR HIGH PRIEST IN HEAVEN— Hebrews 4:14-16**

A high priest in Israel was a man who offered sacrifices to God in the temple on behalf of the people. Jesus is our High Priest, but He represents us before God the Father in the heavenly temple. Jesus is the best representative we could possibly have.

First, He became our sacrifice for sins, but He also cares deeply about what troubles us.

Because Jesus is our High Priest, we can boldly ask the Ruler of the Universe to help us when we are in trouble. What an amazing privilege!



## **HIGH PRIESTS ON EARTH— Hebrews 5:1-4**

Although the high priest God chose for Israel was very important, he was just a man. He struggled with problems just like anyone else. Because of that, when he had to offer sacrifices for people's sins over and over again, he should have been understanding.

He had to admit he was also a sinner. That is why he had to offer sacrifices to cover his own sins before he could offer sacrifices for the sins of others.

## **OUR HIGH PRIEST FOREVER— Hebrews 5:5-9**

Just as earthly high priests were chosen by God, so was our heavenly High Priest. Jesus Christ was chosen by God the Father to represent us before Him. He is our High Priest forever!

Why did Jesus get such an eternal honor? One reason is that He is perfectly qualified. He is both God and man. As a man, He was able to die. When the time came, Jesus was in deep distress; in the Garden of Gethsemane He cried out to His Father to rescue Him from the grip of death. And His prayers were heard.

Although Jesus is the only begotten Son of God, that did not keep Him from suffering on earth. In fact, He had to learn to deny His own fleshly needs in order to obey God—the same thing we have to do! Because He passed every test perfectly, He is perfectly qualified to be our High Priest in heaven. Thank God that Jesus not only represents you before God, but He also knows firsthand what suffering is and cares for you when you suffer.

# The Right Person

Daniel feared he might be sentenced to eighty-eight years in prison, but he was depending on the help of his lawyer to represent him in court.



Sometimes it is very important to have the right person representing you. Daniel soon found out he did not have the right person. His lawyer could not even remember his name. And during the court case, Daniel's lawyer was caught sleeping.

If you are a Christian, then you know you are a sinner. That means you are guilty before God and deserve eternal punishment. Since God is just, He must punish sin. People who have broken God's law can offer no reason why they should not be punished.

How can anyone receive mercy from God? In God's court of justice, there is only one way: to have Jesus represent them. He is the right person to represent sinners. Since Jesus is the only one who paid the punishment for our sins, He is the only one God will listen to.

## Wonderful Word Search

Find the words in the list that are from our lesson. Words can go across, down, and diagonal. When you are done, some of the unused letters in the puzzle will spell out a hidden message. Pick them out left to right, starting with the top line, and then fill in the blanks provided.

high priest    represent    sins    heaven    sacrifice    chosen  
 care    sympathy    suffering    perfect    eternal    Jesus

J E S S U E S I S O T U R S  
 P R H I Y G T H P S R I E U  
 E E S T Q M T E E V Y X P F  
 N C R W Z N P I R W T S R F  
 H W T F E W R A T N N F E E  
 R N N V E P R N T I A T S R  
 X N A J H C F V S H H L E I  
 H E Z G Y J T V M N Y X N N  
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 M Q L F Q U Y R L X K L X G  
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Hidden message: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_.



**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

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