

Walking With God

A photograph of a misty forest path. The ground is covered in fallen autumn leaves. Tall trees line the path, their branches reaching over it. The air is thick with mist, and a small figure of a person is visible in the distance on the left side of the path.

Sunday School Lessons

WALKING With GOD

MAN'S PURPOSE

Introduction - This morning we will begin a new series on a very important subject. Our aim is three-fold. It is to teach our students the importance of walking with God; to instruct them on how to have a walk with God; and to create a desire within them to have a closer more personal relationship with the Lord. God tells us in His Word that we are to walk humbly with our God. If we fail to obey that command, we are disobedient to Him. This morning's lesson will be an introductory lesson as to the purpose for which man was made which is to walk with God.

In Genesis 2:18, the Bible says, "*And the Lord said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.'*" This is an amazing statement. God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone." From that statement, we can understand something about God since we were made in the image of God. God must have had a powerful desire within Himself to have someone with whom to fellowship. Why did God know that man needed a helpmeet? Because God knew that His own loneliness and His own desire to have someone with whom to fellowship was also needed for man. He did not want man to be alone, because He Himself did not want to be alone.

When God created man, He created man for fellowship. All other creations or things that He created were not made for Himself but rather made for man and man was given free use of those things. God did make man alone for Himself because God wanted to have fellowship with man.

When God created man the fellowship between God and man was perfect. What a delight it must have been for both God and man to enjoy their sweet communion together as they walked in the midst of the garden. Man had perfect access to God, but one day man lost the awareness of the presence of God. While he was out of the awareness of that presence, he suddenly lost the truth of God's Word. When he lost the truth of God's Word, he had lost the innocence that he had known. Man sinned and the fellowship was broken. Man turned his back on God and because God could not look upon man in his sin, He could no longer have perfect fellowship with His creation. Suddenly the perfect purpose of man's creation had been perverted and man's fellowship with God was broken.

Man was bound now by the law of sin and death. He could not come back to God for the fellowship that he once knew. God was bound by His mercy for man but also by His justice and His holiness. He could not accept man back to Himself, so He devised a plan. He sent His Son into this world to live among men that He might die the perfect substitute to purchase man back for Himself. This gave God the right to turn back to man and thus man the right to turn back to God to restore the fellowship. After the work of Calvary, God turned back to man but man still had to make a choice of turning back to God. This is what happens when a man receives Christ as his personal Saviour. The Bible says that he is reconciled to God. That reconciliation is being made possible because man looks to Christ and Christ reconciles God to man and man to God. This restores man's access to God for fellowship.

God imparts to man His Holy Spirit to seal man and to indwell him. **Ephesians 1:13-14** "*In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, 14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.*" Now through the Holy Spirit and through the Son of God, access with God has been restored. Man's back is no longer turned to God because God's back is no longer turned to man. This is all because of the work of Calvary.

Now that man has been reconciled to God, his purpose has been restored. What was His purpose? It was to fellowship with God. The most important part of the Christian life becomes man's attempt to restore the perfect fellowship with his God. This would not be made possible if fleshly man did not have the Holy Spirit

dwelling within him and if the Holy Father did not have His Son interceding for Him. Because of the Holy Spirit and Christ, the intercessors, we can come to God and restore the fellowship once again, and as Adam, we too can walk with God. Paul said in Philippians 3:10, "That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto His death."

The loftiest aim of man is that of knowing His God and walking with Him in sweet fellowship. God did not make us in order for us to simply serve Him from a distance, but rather so that we might come close to Him and enjoy the sweetness of His presence in Heavenly fellowship. Sadly, few Christians know the delight of walking with their God. Perhaps this is because our perspectives have been distorted and we fail to realize the importance of this walk of fellowship.

Conclusion: Teacher, emphasize to your students that they were not made for their own purposes, but they were made to bring delight to the heart of God in fellowship. We destroyed that perfect fellowship, but God through His Son, Jesus Christ, has made it possible to once again be restored. Now we have a responsibility like that of Adam to know our God, to walk with Him and to be in perfect communion with Him. Oh, that we might know the thrill, the delight and the ultimate pleasure of the Christian life that only comes by walking with God; for it is not good that our God should be alone.

WALKING WITH GOD

Man's Purpose

Lesson 1

Elementary Idea Sheet

Visual Aid Idea: Make 2 designs out of construction paper using the attached pattern. Cut the edges carefully because they will be lined up together during the lesson. When you write God and man on the pieces, be sure to write them on both sides. Write 2A on the back of 1A, and write 2B on the back of 2A.

The following is a short example to be used along with the adult lesson: The bold statements are taken out of the adult lesson.

***God was alone-** “God knew that His own loneliness and His own desire to have someone with whom to fellowship...” (Put up side 1B.)

***God created man for fellowship-** (Put up side 1A. Do not put it touching 1B.)

***When God created man, the fellowship between God and man was perfect-** (Slide 1A and 1B together. The edges should fit together like a puzzle.) They walked together every day in sweet communion in the garden.

***Man sinned and fellowship was broken-** (Slide the two pieces back apart.)

***God devised a plan-** “God turned back to man, but man still had to make a choice of turning back to God.” (Flip over 1B to 2B. Be sure when you do this that the outside edge is now the inside edge. This makes it so that the two edges no longer fit together.) They do not fit together even though God had made a way to restore the fellowship with man. (Slide 1A and 2B together.) Do you know why? Man still has to make the choice of turning back to God.

***Man receives Christ as his personal Savior-** (Turn over 1A to 2A. Be sure the outside edge is now the inside edge. This will cause the edges to line up again.) Man may ask Jesus to come into his heart. This allows man and God to once again to have sweet fellowship and walk together. (Slide 2A and 2B together so that the edges fit together like a puzzle again.)

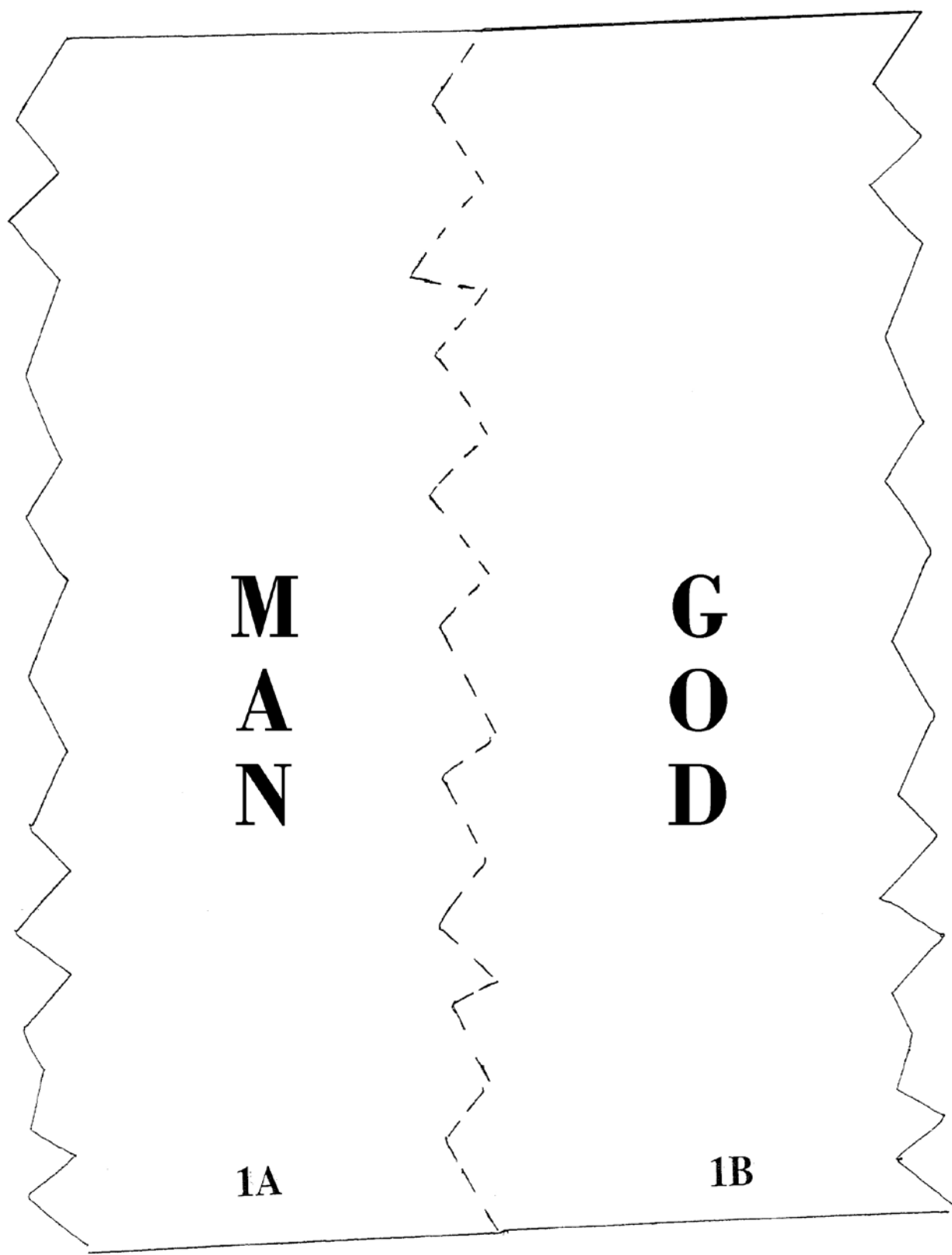
* Be sure to emphasize the restored relationship with God. Man can fulfill his purpose and that is to fellowship with God.

Conclusion: (See adult lesson.)

***Another lesson idea:** For this idea you will need three eggs. Two of the eggs will be fresh and the other egg will be hard boiled. You can paint one of the fresh eggs black and the hard hardboiled egg any color you choose. Crack the white fresh egg and open and show the children that there are two parts: the white and the yellow. The yolk of the egg represents God and the white represents man. For God and man to walk together, it takes both God and man. When man sins, (Hold up the black egg.) And man is pulling away from God, there is no fellowship. (Spin the black egg. The egg will resist spinning. The harder you spin it, the less it will spin. The white part of the egg is pulling away from the yolk.)

When man obeys God, there is sweet fellowship. (Spin the hardboiled egg. The egg will spin very easily. The white and the yolk have become one egg. Spin both eggs again and quickly place your finger on top of the eggs to stop the spinning. The boiled egg will stop, but the fresh egg will start a slow spin by itself. Use this to teach the students that a man that has sinned and broken fellowship with God does what he wants to do and not what God wants him to do.)

Walking With God
Lesson 1
Pattern



Cut out the pattern and cut down the dotted line

SOULWINNING

The WHY Behind the WHAT

Introduction — God is not asking you to go to South America and eat rotted eggs and grubs for the rest of your life. He just wants you to go across the street to tell your neighbor.

Every Christian is a missionary - if only to the supermarket.

It is the Christian's business to populate Heaven and to depopulate Hell.

It is almost the easiest thing in the world to lead a child from five to ten years of age to a definite acceptance of Christ. - R.A. Torrey.

The only generation that can reach this generation is our generation.

Soulwinning is one beggar telling another beggar where to get bread.

A soul winner is one who never gets used to the sound of marching feet on the way to a lost eternity.

Christ's last act before death was winning a soul, His last command was to win souls, and His last prayer was forgiveness for a soul.

They will not seek, they must be sought;
They will not come, they must be brought;
They will not study, they must be taught.

Look on soulwinning as a business, not an incidental matter; as work, not play; as time well spent, not wasted; as a privilege, not a borsome duty.

It is impossible to give the gospel to the wrong person when Jesus told us to preach the gospel to "every creature."

The monument you should want after you're dead is one with two legs going around the world - a saved sinner telling about the salvation of Jesus Christ.

The only alternative to Soulwinning is disobedience to Christ.

We visit a lot of people we never get, but we get a lot of people we never visit; but we would never get a lot of people we never visit if we didn't visit a lot of people we never get.

Christ invites you to come, but commands you to go.

This generation of saints is going to answer to God for this generation of sinners.

If your Christianity is worth having, it should be worth sharing.

I. God Created You For A Purpose - For His Glory

Isaiah 43:7 *"Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him."*

Glory - To abound with God's splendor

To make God glorious
To make God honorable
To promote God

II. God is Glorified When You Bear Fruit - Much Fruit

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

1 Corinthians 10:31 *"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."*

III. The Fruit of a Christian Is a Christian Who Is Going Soul Winning

Proverbs 11:30 *"The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise."*

IV. The Fruit of the Spirit Is the Fruit That the Holy Spirit Bears, Not the Christian

Galatians 5:22-23 – *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, (23) Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”*

V. God Saved You for a Purpose; the Same Purpose for Which Jesus Came to Earth

John 20:21 – *“Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.”*

VI. Jesus Was Sent to Seek and to Save That Which Was Lost, and We Are Sent to Do the Same

Luke 19:10 – *“For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”*

VII. We Are to Be a Peculiar People

A. 1 Peter 2:9 – *“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.”*

The word peculiar deals with a directed people, or channeled.

God gave you a direction when you got saved.

B. 1 Peter 4:3-4 – *“For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries: (4)Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you.”*

What looks peculiar and strange to everybody is the fact that you don't do the things you used to do. You are not going the same direction.

C. You have found the purpose for which God created you.

VIII. God Comes Seeking Fruit on You and Me

Luke 13:6-9 – *“He spake also this parable; A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none.*

7 *Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground?*

8 *And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it:*

9 *And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down.”*

John 15:1-8 *“I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.*

2 *Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.*

3 *Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.*

4 *Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.*

5 *I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*

6 *If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.*

7 *If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.*

8 *Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.”*

IX. God Commands Us to Be Soul Winners

A. Jesus said He is with you when you go.

Matthew 28:19-20 – *“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:”*

20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

B. Jesus said to tell your friends of His salvation to you.

Mark 5:19 - “Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee.”

C. You've been commanded to tell every person.

Mark 16:15 – “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”

D. You're never supposed to wait and put it off.

John 4:35-36 – “Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.

36) And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together.”

E. Jesus saved you and ordained or empowered you to do what He has commanded you to do.

John 15:16 - “Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.”

F. It is a shame to us that more people in our neighborhoods aren't saved.

1 Corinthians 15:34- “Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame.”

G. Paul said he was a debtor because He knew how to go to heaven

Romans 1:14 “I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise.”

H. God says you are supposed to tell others about the gift you received.

1 Peter 4:10 “As EVERY man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”

Isaiah 62:6 “I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of the LORD, keep not silence,”

X. God will hold us responsible for witnessing to every person.

Ezekiel 3:17-19 - “Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me.

18) When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand.

19) Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.”

Ezekiel 33:7-9 - “So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and warn them from me.

8) When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand.

9) Nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it; if he do not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.”

A. A person gets saved when he says “yes” to Christ.

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

XI. Soul winning is you confronting people, one on one. It is not living a good life in front of people.

The Bible speaks much of Confronting people:

1. **John 1:41** – “He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.”
2. **John 1:45** – “Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”
3. **John 4:28-29** – “The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men, (29) Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?”
4. **Matthew 4:19** – “And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

XII. The fact that you are going to be held accountable should drive you to persuade and compel people to be saved.

II Corinthians 5:11 - “Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.”

Persuade - To convince by argument

Romans 6:12-13 “Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.”

13 Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, AS those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.”

Luke 14:23 - “And the lord said unto the servant,

Go out into the highways and hedges, and **compel** them to come in, that my house may be filled.”

Compel - To threaten or force out of necessity.

Salvation is a Person.

1. **John 14:6** – “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

2. **1 John 5:12** – “He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.”

GOD HAS TOLD US WHAT TO SAY AND HOW TO SAY WHAT HE TOLD US TO SAY.

THE BIBLE IS A BOOK OF MESSAGES AND METHODS.

2 Corinthians 5:18-20 – “And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; 19) To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. 20) Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.”

1. How would Jesus compel someone to come in?
2. How would Jesus persuade men?

Matthew 10:40 – “He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.”

1. Consider who you represent - Christ Jesus Himself.
2. Consider how you present Him whom you represent.

Romans 1:16 - *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”*

1. You are God's mouthpiece.

2. He just needs someone to give the Gospel.

The fact that Jesus could actually love someone like you enough to suffer your Hell should be enough to put you on the soul-winning track all the days of your life.

1. 2 Corinthians 5:14 –*“For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:”*

CONSTRAIN, v.t. [L., to strain, to bind. See Strain.] In a general sense, to strain; to press; to urge; to drive; to exert force, physical or moral, either in urging to action or in restraining it. Hence,

1. To compel or force; to urge with irresistible power, or with a power sufficient to produce the effect.

The spirit within me constraineth me. Job 32.

I was constrained to appeal to Caesar. Acts 28.

For the love of Christ constraineth us. 2 Corinthians 5.

2. To tie fast; to bind; to chain; to confine. He binds in chains the drowsy prophet, and his limbs constrains.

3. To necessitate. Did fate or we the adulterous act constrain?

4. To force; to ravish.

5. To produce in opposition to nature; as a constrained voice; constrained notes.

XI. It takes four things for a person to get saved: **(God gives the first three)**

1. The Faith - **Romans 12:3** - *“For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.”*

2. The Grace - **Psalm 84:11** –*“For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.”*

a. **John 1:17** –*“For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.”*

b. **James 4:6** –*“But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.”*

c. **Romans 3:24** – *“Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus”*

d. **Ephesians 4:7** – *“But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ”.*

3. The Blood - **Acts 20:28** –*“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.”*

Leviticus 17:11 *“For the life of the flesh is in the blood:*

and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.”

Romans 5:9 *“Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.”*

Ephesians 1:7 *“In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;”*

Colossians 1:14 *“In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:”*

Hebrews 9:22 *“And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.”*

Revelation 1:5 *“... Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,”*

4. A Soulwinner. The only blank space and the only reason people don't get saved is because there isn't enough soul winning going on.

When a person stands before God, he won't be able to say, “God, you didn't give me enough faith, or grace, or your blood wasn't able to wash away all of my sin.” They will be able to say that we never told them.

1792 - William Carey

I preach for a living and cobble shoes for expenses.

Our big purpose and our big work should be serving God

Our big desire should be to do His Will

Our secular vocation should be only to meet expenses.

Walking With GOD

Enoch walked with God

Text Verses:

Genesis 4:16-17 “And Cain went out from the presence of the LORD, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden. 17 And Cain knew his wife; and she conceived, and bare Enoch: and he builded a city, and called the name of the city, after the name of his son, Enoch.”

Genesis 5:21-24 “And Enoch lived sixty and five years, and begat Methuselah: 22 And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters: 23 And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years: 24 And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.”

Genesis 6:6-9 “And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. 7 And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them. 8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD. 9 These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.”

Introduction – Enoch never tasted death for God took him. Of all the things that Enoch accomplished in his life, we know nothing except that Enoch walked with God and he never died. What greater tribute could be paid to the life of a man than to say that he walked with God? Noah walked with God and was spared death from the flood, along with his entire family. Neither his father or grandfather or any of his immediate family was forced to be killed by the flood waters. God spared them. Why? Because he was a righteous man. But why was he righteous? Because he walked with God.

- I. **No Christian will ever achieve great spiritual growth until they learn to walk with God.** This is actually a part of God’s original purpose for man. God met His appointment with Adam in the Garden of Eden, but because of sin Adam broke that appointment. The loftiest position that a man can know is that position of being in fellowship with his God. Far too often we judge spiritual growth with the wrong yardstick. You cannot grow without knowing God. You can act more like a Christian, but you cannot truly experience growth without that relationship with God.
- II. **The key to Christianity is the right relationship with Christ.** What is spiritual growth? Is it someone who impresses men with his Bible knowledge or his spiritual attitude? No, it is someone who pleases God with his service, his worship and his fellowship with God. There is a need for God’s people to come back to a new realization of the importance of our relationship with God. Psalm 63:12 says, “O God, that art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is; To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary.” Psalm 27:4 says, “One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in his temple.” Jesus, Himself, set the ultimate example while He was on earth because in all things he nurtured His relationship with the Father. In the Garden of Gethsemane He prayed a sweet and earnest prayer that showed the closeness of that relationship. He knew that He was doing the work of the Father, but He knew that in order to do that work He must stay near to the Father.
- III. **Great Christians in the Bible are those who walked with God.** Abraham was called the friend of God. David was called a man after God’s own heart. Enoch walked with God. Job walked with God. Noah walked with God. These are but a few examples of the great heroes of the faith who nurtured their relationship with God as the secret to their faith.

Conclusion: What place does your relationship with God have in your daily life? What provision do you have for fellowshiping with Him? How advanced is your relationship in comparison to the time that you have been saved? Do you know Him as well as you know someone else that you met at the same time that you became His child? Do you feel close to His heart? Is there a tenderness that you feel towards Him in your relationship of fellowship? If you were God, how would you feel about your relationship and dedication to Him? May we as Christians understand that our greatest pursuit in life is to walk with God so that when our life is ended it will be able to be said of us that we walked with God.

WALKING WITH GOD
Enoch Walked With God
Lesson 3
Elementary Idea Sheet

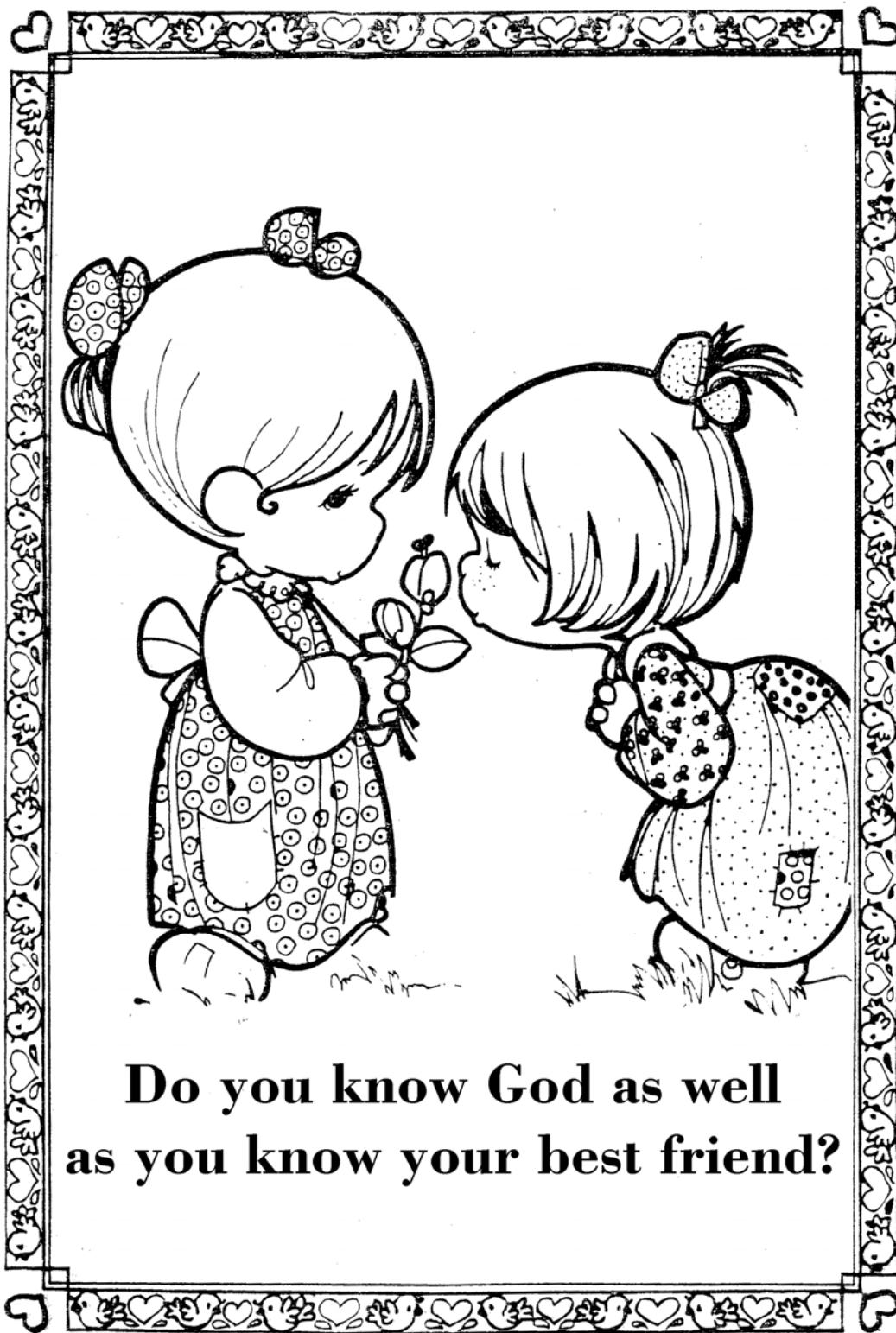
Introduction Idea: Do you have a good friend? That person wasn't your friend when you first met him or her. You didn't know much about that person. What do you know about your friend? Do you know what makes him sad? Do you know what makes him happy? Do you know what his favorite food is? Of course, the more time you spent with him the more your friendship grew and the more you knew about him.

God wants us to have a close relationship with Him. He wants us to walk with Him and fellowship with Him. Do you know what makes God sad? Do you know what makes Him happy? The more time you spend with God, the better you will know him. Last week, we learned that God created man to fellowship with Him. In Genesis 6:9, we read that God was sorry that he had created man. Today we are going to learn about a man that fellowshiped with God. There was a love and friendship. Enoch desired to please God. We also want to please the friends with whom we walk. If we walk with God, our desire would be to please Him.

Facts about Enoch that you can use in your lesson:

- Enoch was the grandson of Adam and Eve. (It is interesting that Adam and Eve walked with God in the Garden of Eden, but they broke the fellowship when they sinned. Enoch walked with God and Enoch never died. God took him to Heaven.)
- Enoch lived 365 years, but he never died.
- Enoch had a good testimony according to Hebrews 11:6. Hebrews 11 is called the faith chapter.
- In Genesis 5, the word walk means, "in habitual fellowship."
- Enoch was busy preaching to the people during the years he walked with God. (Jude 14-15) Enoch knew of the LORD's second coming.
- You could make shoe prints or footprints and hang them up when the different names of the men that walked with God are mentioned in the lesson.
- You could bring in a ruler and measure a few of the children. Read a Bible verse. Tell them you want to measure them again to see if they have grown since the last time. They will probably think this is funny. Food helps their bodies to grow just as food from the Bible helps them grow as a Christian.

Conclusion: Ask the children if they walk with God. Just because they are children does not mean they cannot walk with God. Older children especially can have set times to spend with God. They could turn the television off earlier and read their Bible and pray. They could talk to God through the day when they have a decision to make.



Walking With GOD

Can a Man Walk With God?

Text Verses:

Luke 10:38-42 “Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house. 39 And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word. 40 But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me. 41 And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: 42 But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.”

Introduction: How important is it to our God that we have the right relationship with Him? In this text passage, Christ shows us the importance that He places on fellowship. Christ seemed more concerned about someone being in personal communion with Him than someone serving Him and forgetting His person. This ought to be a very penetrating story to our hearts as we see how tender the heart of our Saviour was. He longed to be close to His own. God wants to be close to His children and He longs for our sweet fellowship. The Lord Jesus reveals that the relationship that Mary had with Him was more needful than the service of Martha, though both were important. We must not think that relationship negates service but rather relationship promotes service, for if we keep our relationship tender we will delight in serving Him. **Psalm 63:1-8** “O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is; 2 To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary. 3 Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee. 4 Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name. 5 My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips: 6 When I remember thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the night watches. 7 Because thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice. 8 My soul followeth hard after thee: thy right hand upholdeth me. Your one main desire ought to be to develop a deep sweet and abiding relationship with God; to know Him intimately. **Colossians 2:6-7** “As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: 7 Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.”

Hebrews 10:19-22 “Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20 By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; 21 And having an high priest over the house of God; 22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.”

Philippians 3:10 “That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;” A Christian is not someone who knows more about the Christian's religion but rather someone who knows more about the Lord. The prophets of old were not men who knew more things about God: they were men who knew more about the God of these things. The reason many Christians get burned out is because they get so busy serving that they fail to recognize that God wants to be close to them. He wants them to first and foremost develop their relationship with Him. How can a man walk with God? We will elaborate on this in this lesson. Let's look briefly at some ways a man can fellowship with His God.

I. In praise:

Psalm 34:1-3 “I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth. 2 My soul shall make her boast in the LORD: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad. 3 O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together.”

Psalm 92:1-2 “It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High: 2 To shew forth thy lovingkindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night,”

Psalm 22:3 “But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel.”

Psalm 149:6-9 “Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a twoedged sword in their hand; 7 To execute vengeance upon the heathen, and punishments upon the people; 8 To bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron; 9 To execute upon them the judgment written: this honour have all his saints. Praise ye the LORD.” When man praises God, God sits still and listens. He loves to hear the praises of His people. He delights when we love Him enough to tell Him. Notice how lovely the Psalms of David are. They are filled with praises to the Lord.

II. In thanksgiving.

Psalm 107:1 “O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.”

Philippians 4:6-7 “Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. 7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” One of the greatest ways to have a personal relationship with the Lord is to remember to come to Him in thanksgiving

showing our gratitude to Him for His wondrous love and blessing. Many ungrateful Christians wonder why they are not closer to God. Gratitude opens our hearts to God allowing us to draw near to Him. Gratitude gives us a heart that yearns for the one who has been good to us.

III. In love and worship.

Psalms 29:2 *“Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.”*

Psalms 95:6 *“O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker.”*

Revelation 22:9 *“Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God”* We as Christians ought to have times of worship for the Lord. Worship is an attitude of adoration, the humbling of ourselves before Him in love. Martha served but Mary worshipped Him. Jesus was more pleased with that of Mary. How vital it is in the relationship with our Lord to worship Him!

IV. In prayer.

Prayer is asking. Prayer is believing. Prayer is receiving.

Luke 21:36 *“Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.”*

1Thessalonians 5:17 *“Pray without ceasing.”*

Luke 18:1 *“And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;”*

Ephesians 6:18 *“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;”*

Romans 12:12 *“Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;”*

Samuel Chadwick once said, “The one concern of the devil is to keep Christians from praying. He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayerless words or prayerless religion. He laughs at our toil, mocks at our wisdom and he trembles when we pray. Prayer is a way that man fellowships with God. The more time we spend in prayer the more time we spend with Him.”

V. In supplication.

Philippians 4:6 *“Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.”*

Supplication is telling God our needs in a humble, pleading manner. It is coming before Him time and time again and asking for those things which we need and the supplying not only of our needs but the needs of others. A person who is pleading with God is humbling himself before God and God draws nigh to those who humble themselves before Him. This is a way that we get closer to Him.

VI. Intercession.

1 Timothy 2:1 *“I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;”*

A wonderful way of developing our relationship with God is carrying the needs of others to Him in prayer; in prayer of intercession to Him. This is also a sign of spiritual maturity. The more time we spend with our God speaking on the behalf of others, the more we are getting to know Him ourselves.

VII. In silence.

Psalms 85:8 *“I will hear what God the LORD will speak: for he will speak peace unto his people, and to his saints: but let them not turn again to folly.”*

Isaiah 30:15 *“For thus saith the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel; In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength: and ye would not.”* Someone once said, “How rare it is to find a soul quiet enough to hear God speak.” Sometimes we need to come before the Lord and just be silent and quietly communicate within our hearts with Him. Christians need to learn to be silent before Him. Psalm 46:10 says, “Be still and know that I am God...”

VIII. In singing.

Psalms 105:2 *“Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him: talk ye of all his wondrous works.”*

Psalms 100:2 *“Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.”*

Ephesians 5:19 *“Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;”* The greatest singing that a man can do and the singing that God enjoys the most is not that which is done in church but that which is done in private. It is the singing of a man whose heart is overwhelmed by the wonders of God and He expresses that from his heart with song. Think of the great songs that have been written that we can sing to our God. In a sense, singing is a serenade to our God with love, adoration, affection, praise and worship.

IX. In meditation.

Psalms 1:1-2 *“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.”*

Psalm 63:5-7 “My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips: 6 When I remember thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the night watches. 7 Because thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice.”

Psalm 77:12 “I will meditate also of all thy work, and talk of thy doings.”

Psalm 104:34 “My meditation of him shall be sweet: I will be glad in the LORD.”

Meditation is when God’s people take the truth of God and simply let it be imbedded in their mind over and over again. It is the process of digesting the truth of God into our hearts. Meditation is like a cow who chews its cud. It is simply chewing upon that which God has given us through His Word until it permeates our being and His person becomes more real to us.

X. In Confession.

I John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

Psalm 32:1-5 “Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. 2 Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile. 3 When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long. 4 For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah.

5 I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.”

Psalm 139:23-24 “Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: 24 And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.” Confession is actually time spent with God getting to know Him. One of the tragedies is that we think God is mad at us. Confession is when we come to Him and understand His heart of mercy and forgiveness. Many Christians do not pray because they do not confess. We know God to be someone based upon a human character rather than based upon His own perfect character of forgiveness.

XI In Fasting.

Matthew 6:16 “Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.”

2 Corinthians 6:5 “In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings;” Fasting is basically a fellowship that is unhindered by fleshly desires. It is when we set aside those things that control our flesh and concentrate totally on Him. How much sweeter the relationship grows in time of fasting and prayer when man’s heart is solely fixed upon his God.

XII. In Communing.

Genesis 18:33 “And the LORD went his way, as soon as he had left communing with Abraham: and Abraham returned unto his place.” The Christian ought to learn to converse with God about everything. Communing simply means we are telling Him what is going on by carrying on a conversation with God in times when we need His wisdom or His help. He ought to be so real to us that in a sense, we are communing with Him all day long in a constant dialogue. When we are dressing we should be asking God what we should wear. When we are driving we should be asking God which way we should we go. Communing is simply including God in all aspects of our lives.

XIII. In listening.

John 15:7 “If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.” Communication is a two-way street. Not only should you speak ~O God, you should also let Him speak to you through His Word. A lot of times when we read the Bible we are not listening. It is not just a matter of reading words, but listening to the fact that God is actually speaking. Do you realize that there is a Holy Spirit at work talking to you while you are reading your Bible? Are you listening to Him? Maybe you do not know that He is there. You certainly cannot hear someone if you are not aware of their presence. You know you could be busy doing something and someone could be speaking to you and you do not hear a word that they say because you are not aware that they are talking. Our problem is not that the Holy Spirit is not speaking but that we are not aware of Him speaking.

XIV. In Sharing.

How beautiful it is when men share with God the innermost feelings of their heart. How sweet to see them humbly pouring out their souls to Him in a time of reflection, sharing their hurts, their needs, their sorrows and their joys It is good for man to feel so close to God in fellowship that he feels he can share any of his thoughts with Him. You can. God wants to know whatever comes to our minds. Even if it is just saying, “God, I had a bad thought, God, I am afraid, God, I am in doubt.” Walking with God means that we share with Him all things.

Conclusion: All of these things will be covered more in this series. This is a beginning of explaining to our people the many aspects of what it means to have a relationship with God. May God help us to realize that God has given us the means in His Word to walk with Him.

WALKING WITH GOD
Can A Man Walk With God?
Lesson 4 & 5
Elementary Idea Sheet

- On the top of a piece of white poster board write, “Can a Man Walk with God?” Using the pattern, lightly pencil the design on the board for easy placement of the pieces as you teach the lesson. Make a copy of the pattern and cut it apart. You can then color the pieces or glue them to the back of construction paper and cut them out again. (Hint: Be sure to glue the words face down on the construction paper or they will not fit the design.) Write the words on the front of each piece. Make the following pieces from one color: Love and worship, Silence, Confession, Intercession, and Sharing. Make the following pieces out of a second color: Prayer, Listening, Meditation and singing. Make the following pieces out of a third color: Praise, Communion, Supplication and Fasting. Make the word Thanksgiving out of white. As you teach each word glue the pieces on the board. When you are finished they will see the word YES.
- Cut 17 strips of paper like you were if you were making a paper chain. On fourteen of the strips write the words from the adult lesson I – XVI. On the three remaining pieces write man, God and salvation. Begin the lesson by having the two strips that have the words God and man glued in a loop, but not connected together.

Introduction: We already learned in a previous lesson that God created man to fellowship with Him. (Hold up the two loops.) God and man walked together in the Garden of Eden and fellowshiped. Sin caused a division, but God made a way for man to come back to Him. Through salvation man turns back to God. (Attach the two loops together using the salvation paper. As you glue the paper together, you can mention that once man is saved, he cannot lose his salvation.) Once man is saved, that man has a link to God. The Bible teaches us that once we are saved we are always saved. We need to link God and man together on the ends with fellowship. God wants man to fellowship with Him and there are many ways in which to do it. Each of these ways can bring man closer to God. (Attach each loop to the man side of the chain as you teach the lesson. Use tape when connecting the remaining loops. When you teach the last word, sharing, connect the entire chain together.)

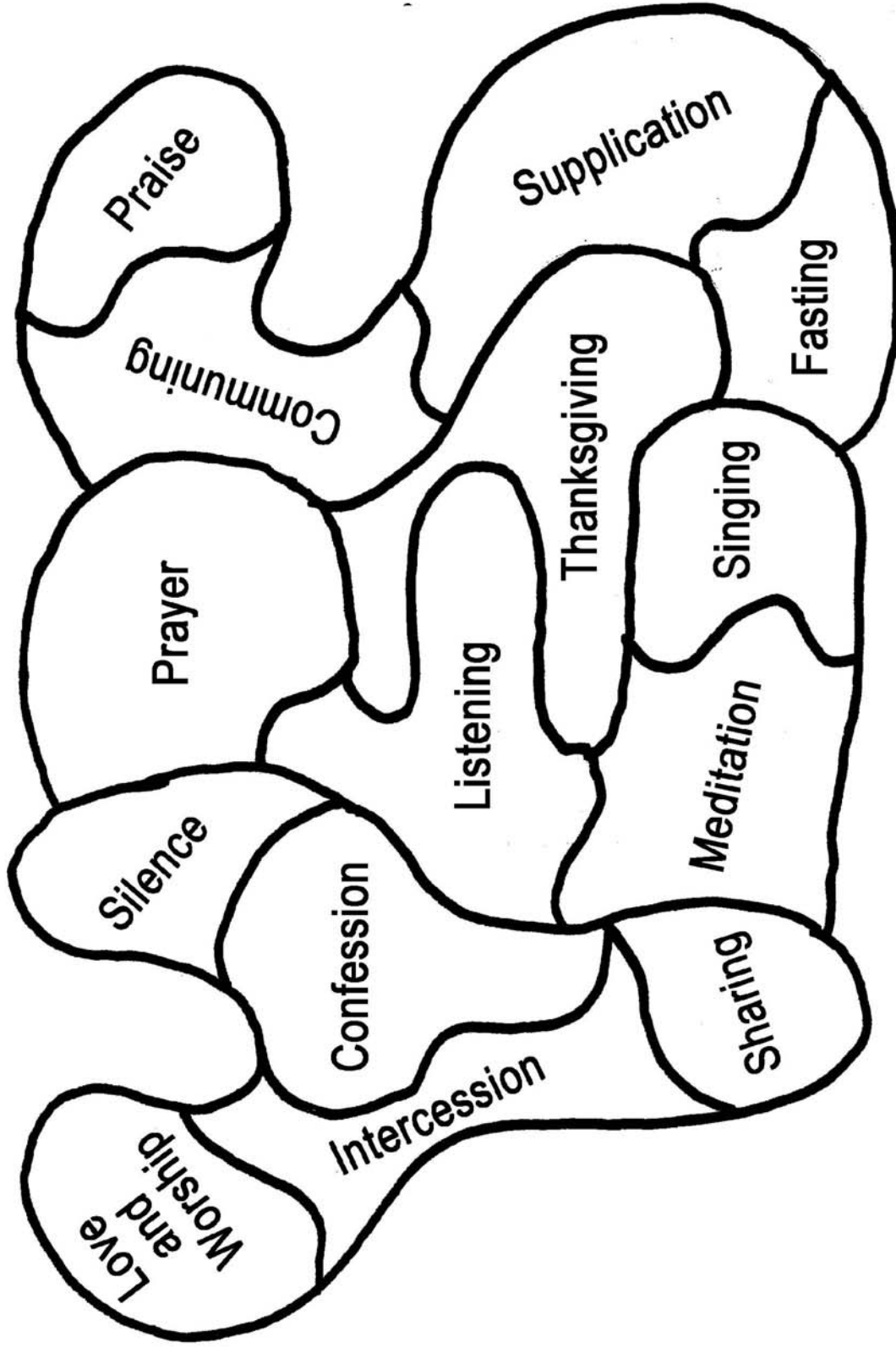
Conclusion: There are many ways that we can fellowship with God. (We can take out one or two of these loops and reconnect the chain) and still have fellowship between man and God, but we can't remove all the loops and still have fellowship between man and God.

If you are teaching smaller children, you can teach them that God is their Heavenly Father. As you teach the words on the lesson, you can make comparisons of God and a parent.

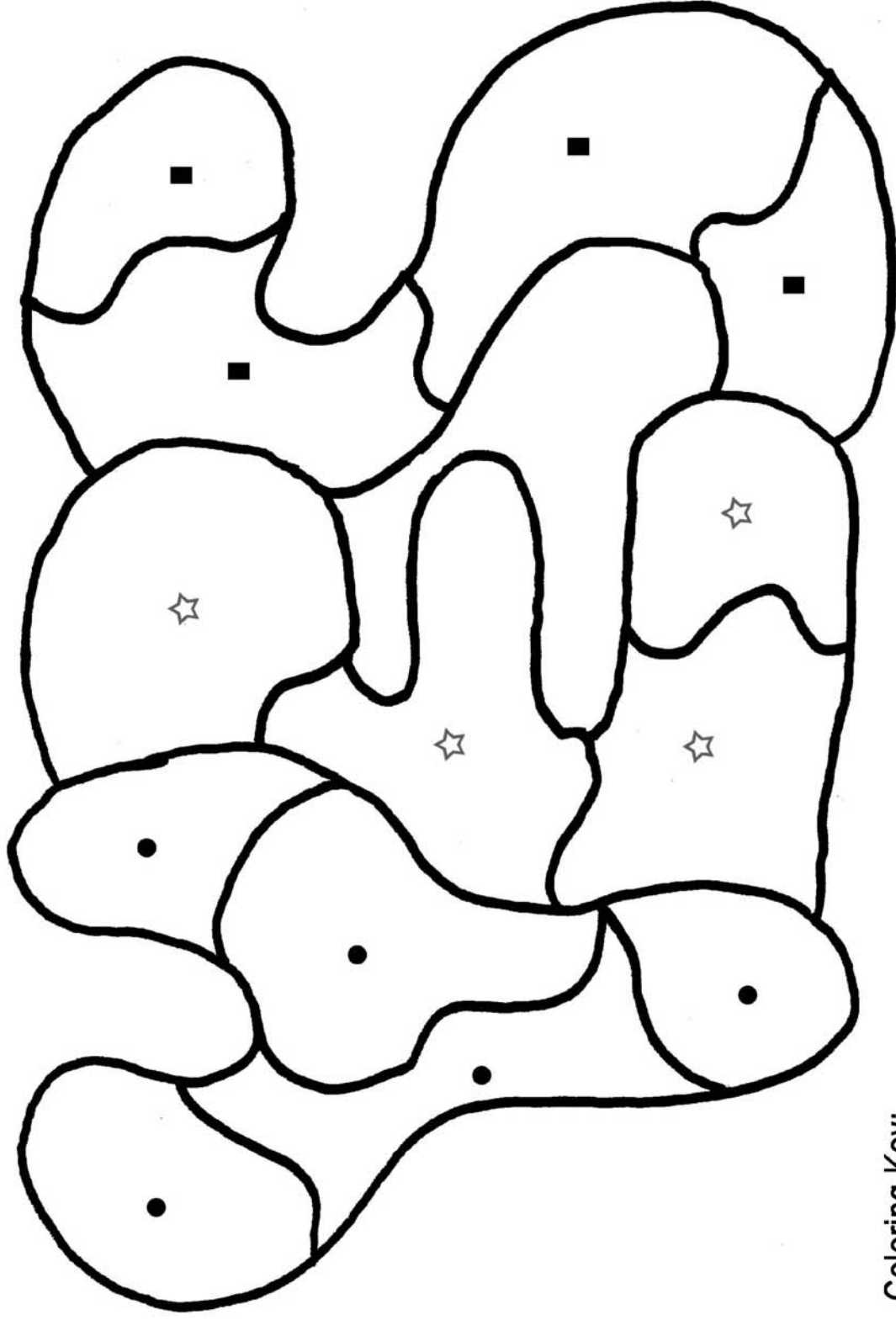
- I. **Praise:** Your mom and dad like you to tell them how good they are. When you say something like, “You are the best mom in the whole world,” they listen. They like you to praise them. God likes His children to praise Him too.
- II. **Thanksgiving:** Your parents like to hear you say “Thank you,” don't they? Thank you, mom, for washing my cloths every week. Thank you, dad, for giving me a place to sleep. When you thank someone for something they have done, they don't mind doing it again. God wants us to be thankful for the things He gives us and does for us.
- III. **Love and Worship:** You can do all your chores at home and obey your parents, but your mom and dad still like to get hugs and kisses. They still like to hear, “I love you.” God likes to hear how much we love Him too.
- IV. **Prayer:** You ask your mom and dad for things, don't you? Of course you do! Even though God knows our needs, He wants us to take the time to come to Him and ask for things we need and want. It doesn't have to be selfish things, but we need to still take time to ask Him.
- V. **Supplication:** Sometimes you have asked your parents for something you really needed or wanted and they said, “No.” What did you do? You kept asking. Sometimes you begged. Sometimes we ask God for something one time and expect it. We need to take the time to ask again and again.
- VI. **Intercession:** have you ever had a friend that needed something and you went and asked your mom and dad if you could buy it for them or give it to them? We need to take time to ask God about the needs and wants of others, too.
- VII. **Silence:** Your parents have a lot to teach you. Sometimes you can just sit and watch them and you can learn so much. Christians should come to God and just sit and be quiet.
- VIII. **Singing:** Have you ever made up a song about your mom and dad and sung it to them? A lot of boys and girls do this and their parents love it. God loves it too! We should always have a song in our heart. Singing always seems to make the dark clouds go away.

- IX. **Meditation:** Have you ever just sat and thought about all the wonderful things your parents do for you? They give you a house to live in, food to eat and a bed to sleep in. They buy you cloths, they buy you shoes and they even wash your cloths. They help you with your problems and when you are hurt. We should stop and think about all the wonderful things God does for us too. He does even more than your parents do. In fact, He gave you your mom and dad.
- X. **Confession:** When you do something wrong, you know you disappointed your parents. When you go and talk to them about it and ask forgiveness, don't you feel better? It is a time you feel close to them even though you are in trouble. It is the same way with God. We don't pray because of sin. We need to go to God and tell Him everything we did wrong. He already knows, but He wants us to tell Him.
- XI. **Fasting:** When you give up something that you really like to do to spend time with your mom or dad, it means a lot to them, doesn't it? Fasting is a time when you give up something to spend special time with God.
- XII. **Communing:** You can talk to your mom and dad about anything. You can talk to them about problems, your friends and even about school. We can talk to God about anything too. He wants us to come to Him about the little things as well as the big things.
- XIII. **Listening:** When you talk to your parents, you want them to listen. God wants us to talk to Him, but He also wants us to listen.
- XIV. **Sharing:** Your parents want you tell them about your problems. They want to know what bothers you. They want you to be honest. God wants you to be honest with Him too.

CAN A MAN WALK WITH GOD?



CAN A MAN WALK WITH GOD?



Coloring Key:
● Color yellow
☆ Color blue
■ Color red

Walking With GOD

Walking in LOVE

Text Verses: Ephesians 5:1-2 “*Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; 2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.*”

Introduction: Why do we do what we do? Why do we go soul winning? Why do we live separated lives? Why do we read our Bibles? Why do we pray? Why do we come to church? Why do we do the work of the ministry? Why have we chosen this particular lifestyle? Is it because we are supposed to, or because we have to, or because everyone else is doing it? Or, is it because we are in love? Love is the greatest motivator ever known, and it will eventually control what you do. We all will eventually live for what we love. I am afraid we have become, basically very mechanical in our approach to the Christian life. It is a head life, but it is not a heart life. It is a life based on programization, organization, and ritualization, rather than a life that's based on the love of our hearts for our Lord Jesus Christ and our Heavenly Father. We desperately need to love the Lord and to come to a place where we really desire to be close to Him. If we are to love Him, we must have a walk of love, lest this Christian life remain empty and void of sweetness and delight.

I. Why is the walk so important?

- A. Love was the motivating factor that caused God to send His Son, Jesus, to die for us on Calvary.** 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.*”
- B. Love was the greatest commandment given by God to man.** Matthew 22:35-40
- C. Love is the greatest reason to obey.** John 14:15 “*If ye love me, keep my commandments. John 14:23 “Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.*”
- D. It is impossible to please God without love: without love, all of our work will be fruitless and to no avail.** 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 “*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.*”
- E. Love is the great proof of sonship.** I John 4:7-8 “*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.*”
- F. Even Christ was motivated by His love.** John 13:1 “*Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.*”

Thus, love is the greatest motivator there ever has been, and without that motivation of love and the walk of love, a Christian will not be in perfect fellowship with his Father.

- II. **How can a man love God?** Obviously, before we are going to love Him and walk in love, we must attain love for our Heavenly Father. Think on these truths, and perhaps you will fall in love.
- A. **Realize how unlovable you are.** Oh that we would humble ourselves and see the sinfulness in our lives and the worthlessness within us of His wondrous grace and mercy! Oh that we might realize the sinfulness of our nature in comparison to His holiness; that we might see the defilement that fills every fiber of our being!
 - B. **Realize His unmeasurable love.**
 - C. **I John 4:7-10** *“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. I John 4:19 “We love him, because he first loved us.”* Oh that God’s people would come to the place in their Christian walk where they realize just how much the Lord loves them and how rich that love really is!
Ephesians 3:17-19 *“That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 “May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; 19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God”.* When we see the fullness and depths of His love, it will overwhelm our heart with a love for Him. By realizing how unlovable we are and realizing that in spite of this, He loved us with a never-ending love, we ought to be able to come to a point where we fall in love with Him.
- III. **What will be the reaction to those that walk in love?** Something wonderfully sweet takes place in the Christian life when we are walking in love, rather than in regimentation.
- A. **We will obey the Lord’s desires.** **John 14:23** *“Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.” I John 5:3 “For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.”* His slightest desire will be our command, and we will constantly seek to attain even more righteousness as we see more truth in Him. The desires of our heart will be to please Him and to obey Him because we are walking in love.
 - B. **God will dwell in us.** **John 14:23.** How sweet to know that God dwells in us because of our love for Him! *“Draw nigh to God and he will draw nigh to you.”* God wants to dwell in us, but He wants us to dwell in Him first. We have a God that wants to be wanted, and when He is wanted He enjoys coming in and dwelling in His children.
 - C. **The world will see the Lord in our lives.** **(I Corinthians 8:3)** Good works don’t show the Lord, but the Lord within us shines His light from within us that men may see His presence in our lives. Notice His wording, *“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in Heaven.”* But first of all, the light must shine. The good works don’t shine the light. The presence of God shines the light upon the good works. Therefore, the world sees the presence of the Lord in our lives and the reality of His being, and it is a testimony of Christ to them.

- D. The joy in and of the Lord will be full.** John 15:9-11; I Peter 1:7, 8. The happiest child is the child with the most loving relationship with his parents. It is that child that is not always in trouble and is not always rebelling against his mom and dad, but rather has a sweet and delightful relationship with them. That's the happy child. When we destroy the relationship, the joy is destroyed; but if we are walking in love, the relationship is one of fullness and delight.
- E. Our prayers will be answered.** John 15:7. When we are walking in love and not fighting our Lord, He can answer us and give us the things He wants us to have, simply because we ask Him.
- F. The relationship will be personal and sweet.** The walk is not to be based on fear. (I John 4:18) Fear is not necessary to love. John loved the Lord, and we find him lying on Jesus' breast. Oh, there was sweetness there, and it was a personal sweetness for him. How delightful it is when God is more than just a "being" in the sky that isn't personal; when He becomes a personal God, One we love and One in which we delight!

Conclusion: We live our Christian lives with such formality. Sometimes it's as though He doesn't exist. We get cold and harsh, and sometimes our hearts are not thrilled, because we are walking outside of that precious love. Oh, that God's people could know the sweetness of that walk in love! I was sitting in my office very late one night after a busy day of "serving." I was discouraged, burned out, and very, very weary. I guess you could say I felt like quitting. As I was sitting there with my heart cold and empty, I reached up to turn on the tape player behind me. I didn't even take note of the tape, but when the tape started playing, the song was "Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so." As I sat there and thought of the wonderful love of my Lord, I wept. I realized that I had been walking as a mechanical robot, and I had fallen out of love. As I sat and listened and thought of those precious words, I had the sweet experience of falling in love with my Lord. Oh, how much more precious the walk became because it was a walk with Him.

WALKING WITH GOD

Walking In Love

Lesson 5

Elementary Idea Sheet

Introduction Idea:

Make some lemons out of construction paper. Make different faces on them. You can get fancy and give them ties or ribbons and hats or bows. If you have children that can read you can make little signs with their names and the ministry they work in on it. See the example.

When you ask the questions that are in the adult lesson introduction, you can use the lemon people that you made. For example: “Why do we go soul winning?” This is Mr. Brown, he goes soul winning because he wants the preacher to like him, or “Why do we do the work of the ministry?” This is Mrs. Rind, she sings in the choir so she can feel important. You can do as many lemons as you like. Be sure you do some questions that fit the age group you teach. “Why do you come to church?” This is Kelly. She comes to church so she can meet her friends here and goof around in church with them.

Teaching Idea: This lesson is already teachable for young children. The following may help you to get the idea across and it goes along with the introduction idea.

Things you will need: A nice lemon , a knife , A Glass with water,
A small amount of sugar, and a spoon

I have a lemon with me today. It is a nice looking piece of fruit. It is very appealing to my eyes and makes me want to eat it, except I know that lemons are deceiving. They look nice on the outside, but on the inside they are sour. They are missing something. They are missing sweetener.

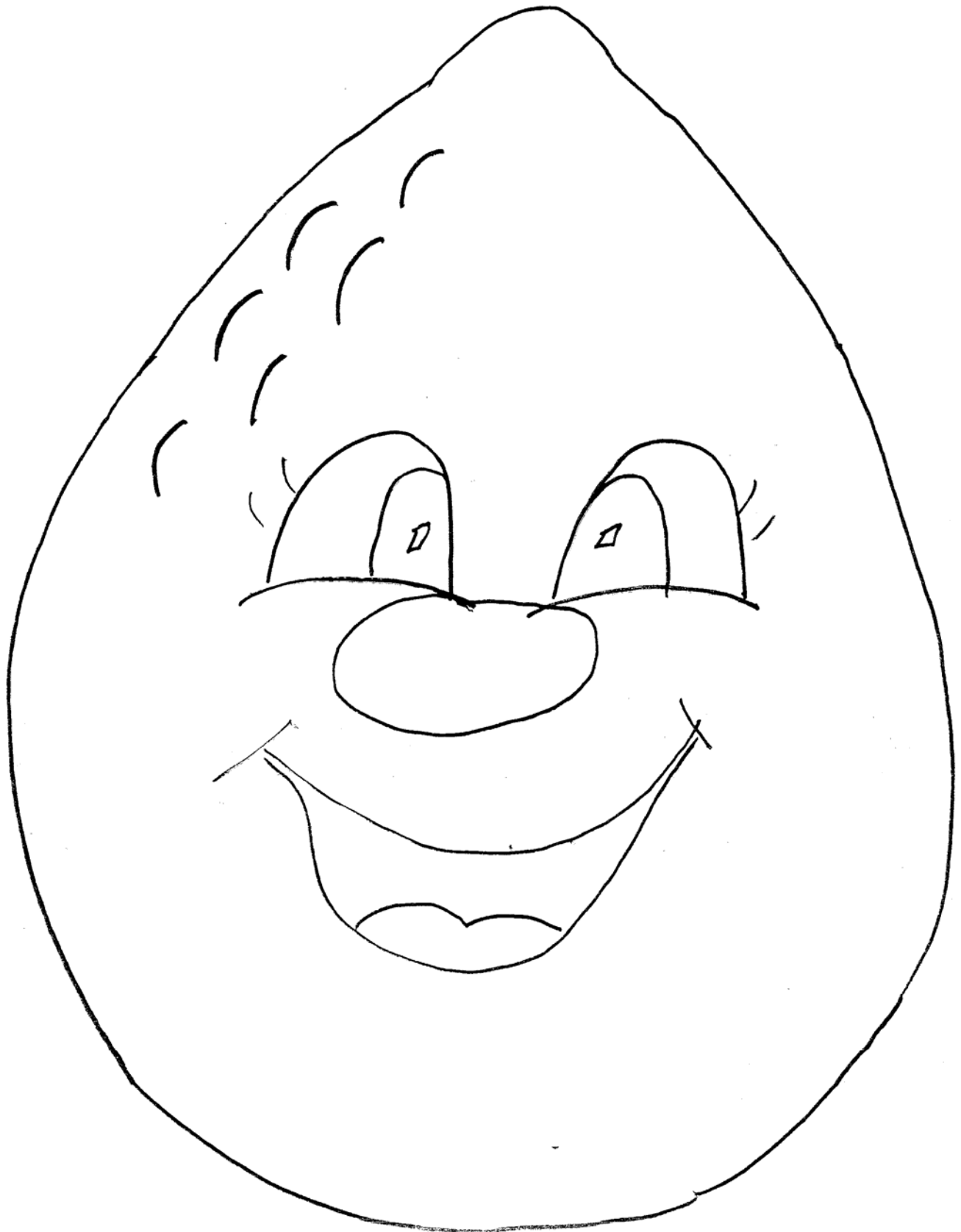
That is a lot like our lemon people that I showed you. They all look nice on the outside, but are they missing something on the inside? They may be missing the right reason to do all the things that they do. The right reason is because they love God.

I am going to take my knife and cut this lemon in half. I brought a glass of water with me today because I would enjoy a little lemonade. (Cut the lemon and squeeze the juice into the glass as you are speaking. Teach points 1&2 of Roman numeral I in the adult lesson.)

(Take a sip of the lemonade. Make a face that shows the children how sour it is. This lemonade needs something. It is like you and me. We sometimes have the ability to work in the ministry and we can get to church, but something is missing.

I have something that will help this lemon make better lemonade. (Show the sugar. If you are using a sugar packet, you could write the word “Love” on the back of it.) I brought some sweetener for the lemonade. (Stir in the sugar and take another sip of the lemonade.) It is sweet now. (Teach the Roman numeral II from the adult lesson. Continue teaching the remainder of the lesson.)

Serve Jesus Because You Love Him



Walking With GOD

Walking With God in Truth

Text Verses: II John 1:1-6; III John 1:1-4.

Introduction: Sometimes people can be very presumptuous. We get the idea that because we are Christians that it means that everything we do will be Christian. We have the concept that automatically as a Christian we will live a Biblically oriented life. Yet, obviously it doesn't work that way. (Colossians 2:6-8; Ephesians 2:10) After salvation comes the process of learning to walk in truth. It is sad to see the obvious gap between our lives and the life presented to us by God's Word. We have allowed ourselves to get far away from the principles of God's Word as the principles by which we live our lives. Two things have happened in our generation that adversely affected God's people. First, the truth has been squelched by the world. Second, the truth has been changed by the world. (Romans 1:25) Because of that, God's people have been influenced and we have unknowingly and unwillingly wandered away from the truths of God's Word. Jesus came to bear witness of the truth. (John 18:37, 38) Pilate asked the question, "*What is truth?*" Jesus gave him the answer. (John 14:6, 7) The answer was, "*I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*" This begins the truth of God in a person's life. We may only come to God through Christ for He is the truth; therefore, we must base everything upon Him. It's a fact that man's philosophies and concepts of life can only be correct if he bases them on truth. He can only do that if he is willing to walk in truth, or in essence, walk after Christ. Many Christians are far off track because they are basing their walk on emotion, opinion or man's preconceived ideas rather than basing them upon Christ. We seem to feel that by adding Christianity to our lives that it will make it truth. It's not to be based on our opinion, our philosophies, our traditions, our emotions, our reasoning, our denomination or our preconceived ideas. In fact, we cannot know the Lord until we have begun to walk within the truth. Children today are an obvious example. They are surrounded by truth, they are compelled by truth, they are controlled by truth; yet, they are not walking in truth. Thus, when they get out from under the influence, they walk away and begin to live outside the principles of God's Word. Why? They personally were never walking within those principles. God desires, yea, even commands for us to know the truth of His Word. (I Timothy 2:1-4) Truth is the essential ingredient of the Christian life. (Ephesians 6:14) You cannot truly have fellowship with God unless you are walking in truth. (I John 1:5, 6) Jesus is the truth. There is only one way; there is only one life; therefore, there is only one truth and that truth is Jesus Christ. Jesus said that if we knew Him, "the truth," we would know the Father. (John 14:8-11) Jesus is the way to God, but what gives us that way? God's Word gives us that way. Jesus is the life eternal, and that which points to that life is the Word of God. Jesus is the truth of God, and what reveals the truth is God's Word. A relationship with God is based on a relationship with Christ, which is based on a relationship with the truth. Walking with God, means walking with Christ, by walking in His Word. Several things need to be kept in mind:

- I. **We are to walk in truth, not be carried in truth.** A Christian will only know the Father by a personal walk with Christ in the truth. That's why man-made programs often hinder spiritual growth. Our own ideas and flesh taint them. People need to be taught to personally walk in the truth themselves. There is a danger in emotionally motivated walks. Truth ought to be that which motivates us, not an emotional experience. Many times we are carried away by winds of doctrine because we are walking in emotion rather than in the truth of God's Word. This leads us to realize that no preacher, alone, can keep his people close to God; he cannot carry them close to the Lord. They must walk within the truth themselves so that they themselves may have a close relationship to God. Too many of us have not encouraged our people to live within the truth of God's Word that they might know Him.

- II. Walking in the truth will produce the strongest and the surest results.** (Malachi 2:4-6) Real Christianity will only come as a result of that walk in the truth. Christianity has been weakened by the lack of Christianity that is based on the truth of God's Word.
- A. Truth remains constant.** In an ever-changing world, truth is something that will never change.
- B. Truth is untainted.** Anything that man has conceived is tainted by his flesh, but that which is conceived in the mind of God is totally untainted by man.
- C. Truth is sure.** No security can be found upon man's ideals, but the security of God's Word is sure because it is based upon the truth.
- III. Walking in truth will give control to the Holy Spirit.** (John 14:16, 17; John 15:26, 27; John 16:13) One of the greatest needs of Christianity is to allow the Holy Spirit to do the work for which He truly came into our lives to do; that is, to shed light upon the truth of God's Word into our lives.

IV. Not walking in the truth always carried disastrous results.

Galatians 2:11-14 *"But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed."*

12 *For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision.*

13 *And the other Jews dissembled likewise with him; insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away with their dissimulation."*

14 *But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Peter before them all, If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews?"*

When Paul wrote his letter to the church at Galatia, he was upset because they had been overcome by the legalism of the Jewish religion. Peter caused great trouble, and Paul had to reprimand him because he had consulted his opinion rather than the truth. Look at the disasters in our lives, our homes, our churches, our schools and even our government. Simply because we have walked in man's ideals, opinions and philosophies rather than walking in the truth of God. A good question every Christian should ask himself is this, "Is it scripturally correct?" If we could answer that question affirmatively in every matter of our life, it would keep us from making tragic mistakes that carry disastrous results. Learn to walk in truth and not to rely on opinion even when opinion seems to make sense. Remember, you are dealing in fleshly sense not in the sense that comes from the perfection of our God.

V. To be in Him, Christ gives us the right as well as the responsibility to walk in Him, Truth.

I John 2:1-6 *"My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:*

2 *And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.*

3 *And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.*

4 *He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.*

5 *But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.*

6 *He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked."*

Christians do not belong in the walk of the law or the flesh. We must be careful that our walk is not based on man's ideals, but totally on the freedom that we have been given in Christ. That freedom means that we are to be led by the truth of God, as taught to us by the Holy Spirit of God. That kind of Christianity cannot work and will ultimately fail to cause real spiritual growth in the lives of people. Essentially, we have a lack of emphasis in Christianity on the walk with Christ in the Spirit.

Galatians 5:26 *"Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another."*

V. To walk in truth is to be set free.

John 8:25-36 *“Then said they unto him, Who art thou? And Jesus saith unto them, Even the same that I said unto you from the beginning.*

26 *I have many things to say and to judge of you: but he that sent me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I have heard of him.*

27 *They understood not that he spake to them of the Father.*

28 *Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things.*

29 *And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him.*

30 *As he spake these words, many believed on him.*

31 *Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;*

32 *And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*

33 *They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?*

34 *Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.*

35 *And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever.*

36 *If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.”*

Through Christ we have been freed from the bondage of sin by truth and God's Spirit.

Galatians 2:20 *“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”*

Galatians 3:3 *“Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?”*

The successful Christian life is that life that walks in that truth and is set free from the bondage of man's leadership and philosophy.

VI. If we walk in truth, we won't have to worry about the lies influencing our lives.

Christianity has become very Catholic in that we seem fearful of people living in God's Word because they might find doctrines or adopt heresies in their lives. This ought not to be our fear, for if we are teaching our people to walk in the Spirit, always looking for the livable truths of God's Word, they will not come up with fallacies.

I John 2:21 *“I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth.”*

We need to do more than just learn God's Word; we need to walk in God's Word. Walking in truth will assure steadfastness, and we must remember that there is no new truth. It is simply the truth that has remained constant throughout eternity.

VII. Continual cleansing will come as a result of walking in the truth.

I John 1:8-10 *“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*

9 *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

10 *If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.”*

The truth of God searches the inward parts of our being, and we are sanctified by that truth as it reveals the things within our lives that ought not to be there. There are several kinds of things it will cleanse. It will cleanse those sins that have remained. It will cleanse the unknown sins of our lives that we do not realize exist. It will cleanse sins that have taken place in our lives since we began our walk. So it will not only continue to cleanse us, but it will keep us clean as we are walking in this world. The Word of God sanctifies or sets apart the child of God.

John 17:17-19 *“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.*

18 *As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.*

19 *And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.”*

VIII. The world cannot find you if you are walking in truth.

One of the sweetest realizations is that while walking in the truth of God, you are walking in a place where Satan cannot walk. Living within the truth of God, as led by the Holy Spirit, will keep the Christian from many evil influences and this will keep him from straying from our Lord.

Conclusion: Teacher, you cannot walk with God by emotion alone, and you cannot walk with God by a program alone. If you are to walk with God, you must walk with Him through His Son. If you are to walk with God through His Son, then you must walk in the truth. "Thy Word is Truth."

(Part Two)

Text verse: II Chronicles 34:1-8.

Introduction: Are you spiritual? Why? On exactly what standards do you rate spirituality? Is every aspect of your life truly and honestly spiritually oriented? Are you sure? What is spirituality? Most people come up with the wrong answer to that basic question. You see, religion has made spirituality to mean "performing a set of do's, abstaining from a set of don'ts, acting spiritual or holy, talking spiritually, carrying your faith into all various activities of life, carrying your Bible everywhere you go, going soul winning, praying before you eat, reading your Bible daily, feeling good about God and being faithful in church. The list goes on and on of what man's ideals of spirituality are. Yet, who is to say what spirituality really is if we are basing it upon a set of man's ideals and standards. Is that really spirituality, and does it really please the Lord? Sadly, 99% of us do not really and truly understand spirituality. It is not man's dogma, ideas, feelings, code of ethics, or reasoning. Spirituality is the living of the truth of God, unaltered by man, as written in God's Holy Word and led by His Holy Spirit. You can do all the things that man considers spiritual and yet still be a totally unspiritual person. God's judgment of spirituality is not based upon ideas, but upon His ideas. Our measure of spirituality is all outside and not inside. It is man-made instead of God-made. It is dogma of doctrine. It is superficial instead of supernatural. Slowly, we have wandered away from walking in the truth to walking a life of opinionated Christianity that scarcely resembles God's Word. Monroe Parker once said, "Truth and error went swimming together down at the swimming hole. They both took their clothes off and agreed that they would swim for a certain period of time. As always error lied and got out of the swimming hole early. Error went and put truth's clothes on and has been walking around with truth's clothes on, masquerading as truth ever since." How true this is in Christianity. We who think we are living in truth oftentimes don't even know the truth.

Josiah was a wonderful young king. He thought he was doing right. He wanted to please the Lord. He had led by his opinion and did all that he knew that he was supposed to do. As you read II Chronicles 34, it is an amazing thing to realize all of the good things that he had done in his land. He had broken down the altars of Baalam and the images; he had cut down the groves, the carved images and the molten images. He had broken them into pieces and made dust of them. He then had them scattered in the graves of all that worshipped them. He burned the bones of the priests upon their altars. He cleansed Judah, Jerusalem, Manasseh, Ephraim, Simeon, Naphtali and all the regions around. On and on the list goes of the things that Josiah did out of his zealotness for God, but remember, as of yet Josiah did not even have in his possession a copy of God's Word or the Law of God. Josiah, though sincere, was only doing as much as he knew to do. No one had ever taught him the truth. He started searching when he was sixteen years of age. When Hilkiah delivered into the hands of Shaphan, the scribe, the Book of the Law, Shaphan read it to Josiah. An amazing thing took place; Josiah fell to his knees, rent his clothes and mourned. Josiah realized exactly how far from the truth the people had been. It is an awesome thought to realize that this young king who did all that he knew to do from the sincerity and purity of his heart, was still so far from doing all that needed to be done. Why? He was not doing it on the basis of the truth. Oh, that God's people would realize that our noblest attempts at spirituality would fail if we were not walking with God in the light of His Word.

I. God's people need to hunger and thirst after the truth.

Matthew 5:6 "*Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.*" I am not sure if we really want to know the truth. Perhaps it would make us change too much or maybe it would make us feel as though we were too radical. But for some strange reason, God's people don't seem to be hungering for the truth of righteousness; they seem to

be hungering for a righteousness that satisfies the opinion of man. How could a person be born of the truth and not hunger for it? We have become too passive and not excited enough to know the real truth of God in order that we might know Him.

II. *We need to seek after the God of truth and truth of God.*

This is what Josiah did. At the age of sixteen, he began to search after the God of truth, and God revealed to him through His word the truth of God.

Colossians 3:1 *"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God."* God's people ought to be bathing their lives with truth as they hunger to know even more of the truth of God. Yet, we act as though we already know it all and don't need to seek any more. How sad!

III. *When you begin to walk in truth, you will begin to understand true Biblical righteousness.*

We are so far away from being like Jesus. When we put the light of God's Word upon our lives, we realize just how far we've missed the mark. The reason we cannot recognize those things untrue and unholy is because we do not recognize those things which are true. You can't understand truth if you're not living and walking in its source which is God's Word.

1 Corinthians 2:9-16 *"But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.*

10 *But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.*

11 *For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? Even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.*

12 *Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.*

13 *Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.*

14 *But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

15 *But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.*

16 *For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ."*

How beautiful the work of the Spirit is that bears witness and sheds light upon the truth of God, and then sheds it upon our lives and makes us see the need of change.

IV. *As you walk in truth, you will be overcome with the distance between your philosophy and lifestyle and the real truth of God.*

1 John 1:5-10 *"This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.*

6 *If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:*

7 *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*

8 *If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*

9 *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

10 *If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us."*

It is remarkable that Josiah's reaction to the truth was to mourn. His heart was broken because he saw how far the lives of the people were from the truth of God. Sure signs are presumptuousness and pride in the life of a Christian of not walking in the truth. Many times I see the failure in my own ministry of teaching just simply the pure truth and lives will probably be lost as a result. The light of the truth reveals that which the darkness has hidden, and we must either confess it or go back and hide again in darkness. That was exactly what Adam and Eve did. The truth in the Garden of Eden was God, Himself. When they were hiding from God, they were hiding from the truth. Why do people not live in God's Word? They are hiding from the truth.

V. *As we walk in the truth, we will begin to search and test out all the things in our lives by the truth.*

Acts 17:10-11 *"And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews.*

11 *These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so."*

John 3:20-21 *"For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.*

20 *But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.*

We do not know our error because we don't prove all things because we don't care."

1 Thessalonians 5:21 *"Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. If we would suddenly take the Bible and hold it next to every aspect of our lives and let the Bible judge what we are doing, our lives would be revolutionized as we find ourselves having to adjust our lifestyles and philosophies to be consistent with the truth."*

VI. *Our lives eventually will become more and more a reflection of truth and less and less a reflection of the error of our humanistic society.*

As Josiah found the truth, the lifestyle of the entire land was transformed by the truth. Revival will come to us when we come to the place where we are revolutionized by God's Word through the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

John 16:13 "... of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come."

John 17:17-19 "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.

And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth."

The Holy Spirit begins to do the work of sanctification or setting apart of God's children as they walk in truth. Thus the gap between Christianity and the world will become wider and wider. (III John 3) Our spirituality would scarcely resemble what it does now if God's people were walking in the truth of God's Word.

VII. *The product of our lives would be real, lasting and totally based on the truth upon which they were founded.*

2 Timothy 3:16 "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:" Herein is the key to training. We find that the Bible does four things to us. It teaches the truth, it convicts us of error, it corrects the mistake and it leads us to the correct way of living. Think how much stronger our products from our homes, schools, Sunday schools, churches and our soul winning would be if we were founding their lives upon the truth of God's Word.

2 Timothy 2:15 "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

2 Timothy 2:19 "Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity."

Truth will produce truth, but a little leaven will leaven the whole lump, and the product resulting will be a worldly and fleshly product. Oh that God's people would teach their converts, their children and their students to live and walk with God in the truth of His Word!

Conclusion: How can we claim to really know the Lord and really be walking with Him if we don't really know the truth as a result of not walking in it? We must remember we can only walk where God reveals Himself, and God only reveals Himself within His truth. God's Word is truth.

WALKING WITH GOD
Walking With God in Truth
Lesson 6 Part I
Elementary Idea Sheet

Introduction Idea: Everybody does things that are wrong, don't they? Do you think that because somebody is a Christian that they won't do anything wrong? Of course they will do wrong! If Christians want to do what is right and please God, then they have to learn from God's Word. Sometimes a Christian will do wrong even though they know that God's Word says not to do it. For example, the Bible says, "Thou shalt not lie," but people still lie, even Christians. Sometimes we allow other things or other people to convince us that something that is wrong is okay. Remember the story about Adam and Eve? They knew what God said, yet Eve allowed the serpent to convince her that it wasn't wrong. You may have something like that happen to you too. You know the Bible says, "Children obey your parents," but someone else may convince you to disobey.

There are lies and there is truth. (You could use an example in your class like, Mary's dress is red. That is a lie. Mary's dress is not red, it is yellow. That is the truth. How do Christians know what is true and what is not? Jesus is truth. (John 14:47.) We know Jesus through the Bible.

Lesson Idea:

(You will need several small jars, a tray, some spoons, food coloring and bleach. Put water in all of the jars except one. You will put the bleach in that jar. On the outside of that jar, write the word, "Truth." You can buy empty bottles at a health food store, if you prefer to use this for the bleach. The following is an example of things you can put on the other jars: Dress, Friends, Parents, Church, and Habits.)

A Christian needs to walk in truth. When you walk in a water puddle, your feet are surrounded by water. When you walk in truth, you have truth all around you. Every day a Christian has to make decisions. They have to make decisions in truth. I have some jars here with water in them. (Place the jars on the tray to protect the surface. Lay the spoons out to stir in the colors and the bleach.) We are going to pretend that these jars are different parts of a Christian's life that they need to make decisions about. (Set the jars on the table. You will be putting a drop or two of food coloring in the corresponding jars while you are talking...) A Christian should want to know how God wants him or her to dress. (Put in a drop of red food coloring.) A Christian should want to know what kind of friends God wants him to have. (Put in a drop of yellow food coloring.) A Christian should want to know what habits we have that God likes and what kind of habits God does not like. (Put in a drop of blue food coloring, and continue to finish the number of jars you choose to do.)

Let's look at our jars again. A Christian thinks they know how God wants them to dress, but maybe someone likes a new style or someone shows them something different. (Add a drop or two of blue to the jar marked dress. It will turn it purple.) It makes the way a Christian should dress look different, doesn't it? (Continue to do this with the rest of the jars.) Practice and play with the colors. It is fun! When you complete this step you can move on to Roman numeral II in the adult lesson.

If a Christian wants to make the right choice in these decisions, he has to walk in truth. Where do we learn truth? We learn it from God's Word. We are going to pretend that this bottle is truth. All these jars look good, but are they what God wants? A Christian starts learning from God's Word the truth. Let's put truth in each of our bottles. (Add a spoon full of bleach or several drops if you are using a dropper.) The water in the jars will turn clear, but it sometimes takes a few second. If that happens, you could say something like, "Sometimes you don't know truth right away. If you stay in God's Word, you will find it. When the Christian goes to God's Word for the answers, things become clear. Now they know what they shouldn't wear and what habits they need to break.

(When you teach A-C under Roman numeral II, add a couple of drops of color to one or two of the jars. The water will remain clear. Emphasize that as long as a Christian walks in truth, they will stay in fellowship with God.)

When you teach Roman numeral IV, you can use a jar and continue to add drops of color. You will not add bleach because there is no truth. The more drops of color you add the uglier the water will become.

The remaining points are a little hard for children to understand. Read over them and see what ideas you may be able to teach the age group you have. You can continue to use the coloring drops in the different jars to teach each point.

WALKING WITH GOD
Walking With God in Truth Part 2
Lesson 6 Parts 2
Elementary Idea Sheet

Psalms 86:11

Introduction: (Pull up an empty chair beside you.) This is my friend, Jean. How are you Jean? Well Jean, I'm having a great day. Thanks for asking. (Carry on a conversation with your imaginary friend. If you are teaching smaller children use the time to mention behavior. For example, "I know I have a good class. They are listening quite well.") Have you ever had an imaginary friend or have you ever seen a younger child with one? It is kind of amusing to watch, isn't it? Have you ever seen someone walking down the street and they are talking? Maybe they are talking to themselves, and maybe they are talking and walking with God. It would be wonderful to be so close to God that it was like He was walking beside us. We can talk to God, but we can't hear Him talk to us. If we did, it would probably scare us! God talks to us through His Word. We can only walk with God in truth if we stay in His Word.

Joshua 7 & 8 (Use this story to help teach the importance of obeying God's Word to walk in truth.)

In our story today, we are going to talk about Joshua and a man named Achan.

Lesson Point Ideas:

The Israelite people had been wandering in the wilderness for forty years. They were camped on the east side of the Jordan River. God told Joshua to lead His people across the river into the land of Canaan. Joshua was commanded to obey the Words of God and God promised to give the Israelites victory over their enemies. Joshua told the people they had three days to prepare to cross the river. During this time, Joshua sent two spies to check out the land.

The priests did just as God had commanded and the waters parted just like they did forty years earlier at the Red Sea.

Joshua knew they had to fight people in the city of Jericho. The city had huge walls and Joshua was wondering how they would be able to defeat this city of people. God sent another messenger. This messenger had instructions for Joshua from God. God also gives us messages through our preacher. God wanted His instructions to be obeyed. As long as the Israel; people obeyed God, He walked with them and took care of them.

(Read in the Scriptures some of the details that God gave Joshua. Do not spend a lot of time on this because you want to get to the part about Achan. Emphasize the instruction that all the gold, silver and treasures in the city of Jericho were to belong to God.)

When the man named Achan decided to no longer walk in the truth and obey God's laws, things changed. Many people suffered because of one man's decision. The following are a few points from the adult lesson that you could emphasize with this story:

1. Walking in truth will produce the strongest and surest results.
2. Not walking in truth always brings disastrous results.
3. To walk in truth is to be set free.
4. If we walk in truth, we won't have to worry about the lies influencing our lives.





Shaphan read the words of the Law to King Josiah.

“Thou shalt have no other gods before me.” Exodus 20

Walking With GOD

A Sweet Awareness of God

Text Verses: Psalm 37:1-7 *“Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity.*

- 2 For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb.*
- 3 Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.*
- 4 Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.*
- 5 Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.*
- 6 And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday.*
- 7. Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.”*

Psalm 37:34 *“Wait on the LORD, and keep his way, and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land: when the wicked are cut off, thou shalt see it”.*

Psalm 45:7-8 *“Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.*

- 8 All thy garments smell of myrrh, and aloes, and cassia, out of the ivory palaces, whereby they have made thee glad.”*

Introduction: In our discussion of walking with God, we have come to this crucial area of discussing the awareness of God, and finding that sin is actually a result of lack of awareness. We have already discussed the four aspects of awareness taught by Solomon in Proverbs 3. As we become more aware of God, that awareness turns from formality to familiarity, from sensible to sweet. There is a sweet awareness of God that He wants us to have. Sad to say, very few Christians are truly able to enjoy God’s reality and presence and therefore fall short of the fullness of God. It is one thing to be formally aware of God, and quite another to enjoy the sweetness of His presence. David, the sweet psalmist of Israel, knew the sweetness of the presence of God and seemed to delight in his knowledge of Him. In the 37th Psalm, he shares his sweet awareness of God and some of the secrets of obtaining it. In reading David’s psalms, we know he certainly had an awareness of the reality of God, which led him to begin with the admonition, “Fret not.” When a person has learned the sweet awareness of God, fretting will no longer be a part of his daily life, but rather there will be a sweet rest that he finds in the relationship he has with his Saviour. Worry is always the result of the insecurity of God’s power, God’s goodness and God’s reality. Let’s look at the sweet awareness that David had of his God and how he obtained it.

I. Trust in the Lord.

Solomon begins his admonition with the same words as David. Awareness must always begin with the key word “trust” or “faith.” “Without faith it is impossible to please God.” But notice the sweet implications that David brings out in the trust of the Christian that the child of God has. “So shalt thou dwell in the land.” The word dwell means to live and be at rest; and so it is with the Christian that puts his trust in the Lord. We will be at rest in God’s goodness. “Verily thou shalt be fed.” Certainly God takes care of those who put their trust in the Lord and enjoy His wonderful reality.

Psalm 73:28 *“But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all thy works.”* **Psalm 84:12** *“O LORD of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee.”*

Certainly God is good and we must learn to trust Him, yet all of our trust hinges on the two words “do good.” The little phrase “do good” is more than a phrase of formalistic action, but rather attitude. It actually means to: be agreeable, and be pleasant, and be desirable, and be beautiful, and be fair, and be prosperous, and be cheerful, and be comfortable, and be virtuous, and be abundant, and be joyful, and be happy, and be honest, and be valuable, and be favorable, and be kind. You could sum it up with the word;

“child-like.” A child’s carefree innocence comes from trusting. What David is saying is to trust in the Lord and live with a child-like goodness where everything is delightful. Picture the carefree, happy-go-lucky attitude of a child due to the trust they have in their parents. They don’t have to worry from whence their food will come. They don’t worry about the problems of society and the economy, for they are trusting in their father. That is the way of the child of God who is aware and trusting in his Father. The sweet result is we’ll be able to rest comfortably in the land. What land? The Promised Land rather than wandering aimlessly in the wilderness, and we shall be fed by the goodness of our heavenly Father. “He maketh me to lie down in green pastures.” David gives more than just the importance of trust. He gives us a sweeter trust; a delightful trust that we should place in the Lord God for His goodness.

II. “Delight thyself in the Lord.” The word delight has a very important meaning to the child of God. It actually could be translated “to be delicate.” Be delicate. Be delicate in the Lord. Picture a little delicate lamb that only delights himself in the strength and the goodness of the shepherd and what he brings to him. Some sheep don’t need him as much and so they don’t get as much of his tender, personal care. The more you can survive without the Lord, the less you will enjoy and the more you will need to fret. This leads to a question. Why do you need God, or do you need God? As we look at our lives, we are so self-sustained that we find ourselves actually not needing anything from God most of the time. Thus, when desperation time comes, we don’t know how to lean on Him. The delicate child of God leans on Him for everything. The delicate child of God learns not to stand on their own two feet but rather learns to stay very close to the Shepherd and be the delicate, favored lamb.

1 Peter 5:7 “*Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.*” **Psalm 104:34** “*My meditation of him shall be sweet: I will be glad in the LORD.*” Are you in a position where you must be aware of Him constantly to even take care of your basic needs of life? The needy child will be the most aware of his God, more than just in acknowledging him as Solomon said, but rather becoming totally dependant on Him as David says.

III. “Commit thy way unto the Lord.” When Solomon wrote, “Fear the Lord and depart from evil,” it is an awareness of God in a direction of our ways. David goes further. He says, “Commit thy way unto the Lord.” The word, commit means “to roll upon.” David says in the sweetest awareness of God we will roll the responsibility and burden of our entire lives on our Lord and let Him take care of everything. **Psalm 55:22** “*Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.*” The word sustain means “nourish and furnish.”

Proverbs 16:3 “*Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established.*” The word established means “prepared.” He shall nourish us and prepare our way if we will but roll all of our life upon Him and give Him total reign and control. We have no need to worry when our ways are committed to Him. David understood this, for his life was a series of simply rolling everything on the Lord and letting Him work out the details, thus that is the great key to the success of his life. Be aware of the Lord, for He will be aware of you and He will establish your goings.

IV. “Rest patiently in the Lord.” **Psalm 62:1** “*Truly my soul waiteth upon God: from him cometh my salvation.*” The word rest means “to be silent.” It is allowing God to be at work in our adversity as we quietly are aware of His presence. It is the awareness that He is working His plan in our lives. It is, constantly knowing that God is at work in the midst of every circumstance of our life if we will just be quiet and let Him do His work. Is persecution coming your way? Be silent, God is working. Are you going through times of pain? Be silent, God is working. Are you being tested? Be silent, God is working. Are you going through times of loneliness? Be silent, God is working. Are you being tempted? Be silent, God is working. James tells us in chapter 1:3-4, “*Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience (silence) have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.*” Far too often we are looking for the answers, and if we’d simply be quiet, God would give them to us. Resting patiently in the Lord is the stillness of our souls as we allow him to do His work in our lives.

V. “Abide in the Lord.” The word used actually is “wait” in the Lord. It means “to delay, to linger, or to remain.” It is the determination to delay or linger in our awareness of Him. There ought to be times in the sweet awareness of our walk with God that we simply linger in our thoughts of Him and allow Him to move our hearts closer to His. In John 15, the loving disciple John shares the truth of the importance of abiding in Him. We are so busy, sometimes so busy that we rush through our daily times of spiritual refreshment rather than taking our time like an afternoon tea; sitting back and sipping slowly, trying to enjoy each moment and each drop to its maximum fullness.

VI. “Wait on the Lord.” This word wait is a word that implies “a line that is directly between the heart of man and the heart of God;” the line representing the intense desire of man’s heart to be in tune with God’s heart. It is man placing all expectations and hopes in God. It is when we hope for nothing, care for nothing, wish for nothing, and aim at nothing but to know and to be in tune with the very heart of our Father. **Isaiah 40:28-31** “*Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.*

29 He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.

30 Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:

31 But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.” Oh, the restfulness and sweetness in the relationship that is aware of the goodness of God and the desire to be in tune with that goodness.

In Matthew 5:5 our Lord taught the disciples, “*Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the land.*” The word meek is almost an impossible word to translate in our language, yet the best possible way is, “the heart of a man is totally connected to the heart of God.” All desire is in Him, all hope is in Him and all sustenance is in Him. It is putting no confidence in our self, but having total confidence in Him. That kind of meekness does not produce fear; it produces a lack of fear. It produces courage. That kind of meekness does not produce weakness; it produces ultimate strength. It does not produce helplessness, but rather hope and power. It is when we become totally desirous of His heart and are constantly aware of being in tune with Him that we will enjoy Him to the maximum. Jesus was an ultimate example of that relationship as He was sweetly aware of His Father. **Isaiah 64:4** “*For since the beginning of the world men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God, beside thee, what he hath prepared for him that waiteth for him*”. The great blessings of God come to those that wait on Him. **Psalms 27:1** “*The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?*” **Psalms 27:14** “*Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD*”.

Conclusion: David was aware of God, but it was not an awareness of fear, harshness, pain, or boredom. Rather it was an awareness of the sweetest and strongest kind of Christianity and relationship possible. God is real, God is good, God is gracious, and God is loving. God is merciful. God is abundant. Oh, that we as His children would know Him and the sweetness of His reality!

WALKING WITH GOD
A Sweet Awareness of God
Lesson 7
Elementary Idea Sheet

David is mentioned many times in the adult lesson. The first point in the lesson is “Trust in the LORD.” David patiently trusted the LORD and waited for the LORD’s timing. The story takes place throughout II Samuel. Some of the specific verses are as follows: II Samuel 2:1-4, 8-10; 3:1, 6-12; 17-39; 4:1, 5-7; 5:1-12; 7:1-13. The following are important facts that may help you:

David knew that God was going to make him king over Israel. Saul had died and David was probably thinking that he would be made king right away. David asked God where he should go, and God told him to go to the city of Hebron. Hebron was in the land of Israel. I imagine David was thinking he was going to be king soon.

Men from the tribe of Judah came and met David. They told him that they were going to make him king. God was not ready for David to be the king yet. There were twelve tribes and Judah was only a little part of them.

There was a general whose name was Abner. He was loyal to Saul’s family and did not like David. He decided that Ish-bosheth, Saul’s only living son, should be the king. He was a weak king. In fact, the Bible says that the house of Saul became weaker and weaker and the house of David grew stronger and stronger.

Abner and Ish-bosheth had a terrible argument. Abner turned against Ish-bosheth and was now on David’s side. Abner then went to see David. David prepared a feast for him. Abner told David he would bring all Israel to him, and then he could reign over all his heart desired. Abner left and he and David were friends.

David’s general was mad that David was a friend of Abner. He told David he was being tricked and spied on by Abner. David’s general, without David’s permission called Abner back and had him killed. Abner’s plans could not be carried out if he was dead. David would still not be king over Israel. God was not ready. David was still trusting God.

The people from the tribes started coming to Hebron and asking for David. They wanted David to be king. David was finally anointed the king over all Israel. David waited patiently seven and one-half years after Saul died before becoming king.

Through the years that David waited and trusted the LORD, he delighted in the LORD, he was committed to the LORD, he abided in the LORD and he certainly without a question was waiting on the LORD. (Points 2-6 in the adult lesson.)

Walking With GOD

More Aware of God

Text Verses:

Proverbs 3:1-10 “My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments:
 2 For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee.
 3 Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart:
 4 So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man.
 5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.
 6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.
 7 Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.
 8 It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones.
 9 Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:
 10 So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.”

Introduction: In the previous lesson, we showed how sin was the result of not being aware of God, or having the wrong kind of relationship with God. Adam sinned because Adam lost his awareness of God. Obviously then, the key to righteousness is awareness of our God of righteousness. It was that which caused Joseph to remain pure in the midst of temptation. What the average Christian today needs are some methods of increasing our awareness of God. The inconsistencies of our Christian lives can basically be traced back to the lack of our awareness, and so that is the area with which we need to deal. Solomon seemed to be aware of his problem, and in his advice to his son in Proverbs 3, he gave him several principles that would help create more awareness of God in his son's life. Let's examine these principles and see if their application could help us become more aware of the reality and the presence of our God.

I. Trust in the Lord. The meaning of this word can be translated several ways; to trust, to confide, to place hope and confidence in, to be secure without fear, or even to hope. This trust is more than a mental passing thought; it is actually the act of confiding or acting out of a trust. It is more than a matter of trusting by word, but rather trusting by action. James spoke of a faith that leads to work, but if we become so confident in God that we trust Him enough to act out of our trust, then we will certainly be more aware of His presence and His reality. **Psalm 62:8** “Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us. Selah”.

Psalm 31:12-15 “I am forgotten as a dead man out of mind: I am like a broken vessel. 13 For I have heard the slander of many: fear was on every side: while they took counsel together against me, they devised to take away my life. 14 But I trusted in thee, O LORD: I said, Thou art my God. 15 My times are in thy hand: deliver me from the hand of mine enemies, and from them that persecute me.”

Psalm 61:1-4 “Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer. 2 From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I. 3 For thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy. 4 I will abide in thy tabernacle for ever: I will trust in the covert of thy wings. Selah.” The psalmist spoke often about trust. Perhaps the greatest reason he trusted in God is because he became more aware of the power of God, the faithfulness of God, the love of God, the grace of God, the mercy of God and the goodness of God. The more often we remind ourselves of the power of God and place total trust in Him, the more of a reality He will be in our lives. Yet the problem is that so many people can't even fully trust Him for their salvation, which leads to constant doubt. We must decide that God is truly faithful.

How can we develop that trust in the Lord? We can develop it by emphasizing more in all aspects of our lives the faithfulness of God. When Hudson Taylor was commended one day for his great faith, he answered by saying, “I am not a great man of faith, but I have a great God of faithfulness.” The faith of Hudson Taylor was only in reaction to his knowledge of the faithfulness of his God. The reason we're not able to trust our God is because we're not aware of how trustworthy He is. The more the attributes of God's greatness and power are lifted up, the more our faith increases. The Christian must respond to his God. The more faithful we know God to be, the more faith we can have in Him, thus the more trust, hope and confidence we will place in His abilities.

II. Acknowledge the Lord. This simply means to take knowledge of Him.

1 Chronicles 28:9 “And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever.”

Colossians 3:17 “And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.”

Colossians 3:23 “And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;” The Lord wants to be acknowledged in every aspect of our lives. The more we acknowledge Him, the more aware we will be of Him in every part of our life. If we do not take knowledge of Him in every activity, then we will not be aware of His presence within that activity. God is with us in everything we do. It would be a wonderful thing if we would acknowledge Him in everything that we do so that He is a part of all of our lives. The Christian ought to acknowledge His ownership, His Lordship, and His leadership in everything that we do. We ought to remember to fellowship with Him in all the activities of our lives. When you get up in the morning, the first thing you ought to do as you’re getting dressed is to acknowledge God. When you’re taking a shower, acknowledge Him. When you’re driving to school or work, acknowledge Him. When you’re picking the groceries out at the store, acknowledge Him. When you’re playing a ball game, acknowledge Him. If we could establish the fact that God is present and acknowledge His presence and His control in every part of our lives, certainly God would become more real to all of us.

III. Fear the Lord. The fear of the Lord is the reverential awareness of God’s omnipotence, omniscience, and omnipresence. It is when we come to know God as the powerful being that He is. It is when we come to know how real and awesome He is and we come to realize how aware He is of us in all things, even to the number of hairs on our heads. Notice all the Bible has to say about the result of the fear of the Lord. (Psalm 19:9; 25:14; 31:19; 34:7; 112:1; 115:13; 128:1; 145:19; 147:11 Proverbs 1:7; 2:5; 3:7; 8:13) In our day, God’s people do not revere God and thus we are very careless with our lives. If we could come to the place where we began to be constantly aware of His awesome power and show reverence to Him, then we would certainly be more in tune with Him and more careful with how we live our lives.

IV. Honor the Lord. The word honor means to be heavy or to heavily regard. We are to come to a place where in everything we do and in every decision we make we give heavy regard to the desires and the thoughts of the Lord. In other words, before doing anything, we consider what God says about it or how God feels about it. The Lord wants the first honor of our lives. He wants to be regarded most and highest in all areas of our life.

Deuteronomy 26:1-2 “And it shall be, when thou art come in unto the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance, and possessest it, and dwellest therein;

2 That thou shalt take of the first of all the fruit of the earth, which thou shalt bring of thy land that the LORD thy God giveth thee, and shalt put it in a basket, and shalt go unto the place which the LORD thy God shall choose to place his name there.” Here’s the Lord’s will that in our possessions and activities He take the role of leadership and be first in our honoring. If we would learn the first thing we ought to try to accomplish is to bring honor to the Lord in all things that we do, certainly we’d become more aware of Him and His reality.

Conclusion: This awareness of God in our life comes in a progression. It begins with trust in the heart. It progresses to acknowledging Him in our lives. It then progresses further to fearing Him with our actions and finally reaches into honoring Him with our possessions. If we will take these principles and actively put them in our lives and realize that in everything we say and everything that we do God wants to be trusted, acknowledged, feared and honored, certainly we would be more aware of the reality of our Lord.

WALKING WITH GOD
More aware of God
Lesson 8
Elementary Idea Sheet

Introduction: Do you know that when you are a Christian, God is always with you? God tells us in the Bible that He will never leave us or forget us. Most Christians know this is true, but they usually forget about it. When they are driving to work in the morning, they forget that God is with them. If they remembered, they may not get so mad at the other drivers. When Christian children go to school, they forget that God is with them. If they remembered, they may not fight with a classmate or cheat on the homework. (Give examples to fit your age group.) Our lesson today is on the importance of being more aware of God. We need to remember that everywhere we go and everything we do, God is there. If Christians would remember this, they would be better Christians.

Lesson: You can use the story of Joseph to help you teach this lesson. The story is found in Genesis 39:1-40. As you read the story you will see that Joseph lived all four points in the adult lesson. Joseph trusted, acknowledged, feared and honored the LORD. I will give you some of the highlights of the story that you could use.

Joseph was a young man that loved God and was aware of God being with him however, his brothers were not. Joseph's brothers sold him as a slave. This means that Joseph was put on a stand and people would bring money and choose someone that they thought would be a good worker and buy that person. A royal officer named Potiphar bought Joseph.

I am sure Joseph was sad. He was probably homesick and missing his father. He probably did not understand why his brothers sold him as a slave, but he remembered that God was with him. Joseph never stopped trying to please God.

The Bible says, "And the LORD was with Joseph." Everything Joseph did turned out great. God made it happen that way because he was pleased with Joseph.

Potiphar was very happy with Joseph. As the days went by, Potiphar gave Joseph more and more things to do. I don't think that Joseph cared as much about pleasing Potiphar as he was concerned about pleasing God. He worked hard and did what was right because God was with him and he did not want to disappoint God.

Potiphar's wife liked Joseph too. In fact, she liked him too much! She thought Joseph was cute. (Use caution as you teach, remembering the age of your class.) She wanted to kiss Joseph. She was trying to get Joseph to sin. Joseph told her, Potiphar, my master, trusts me. He made me in charge of everything in his house and I am to take care of everything. He has given me everything, but not his wife. How can I do this bad thing and sin against God? (Joseph acknowledged God to Potiphar's wife and even here you can teach a fear of God.)

Joseph probably did not want to go inside the house, but he also wanted to do the work that his master left him to do. He knew God was with him and trusted God to take care of him. One day, he went into the house and all the other men were gone. Potiphar's wife grabbed Joseph by his coat. She wanted Joseph to sin. Joseph pulled away from her and slipped right out of his coat. (You could do this with a jacket in your classroom.)

Potiphar's wife yelled out. When help came, she lied and said that Joseph tried to make her sin and when she yelled he ran and left his coat. When Potiphar returned home and he heard his wife's lie and believed it. He had Joseph put in jail.

Do you think Joseph stopped living for God because this happened? No, Joseph trusted God. In the prison, Joseph continued to be aware of God. In fact, even in the prison God blessed all that Joseph did.

WALKING WITH GOD
Sharing With God
Lesson 14
Elementary Idea Sheet

Introduction: (Make a few heart cards. Make the cards open in the middle to reveal writing inside.) How many of you have ever had a secret? You want to tell somebody, but you can't. Boys and girls can share their secrets with their mom and dad right? Some secrets are fun secrets. Maybe someone is having a surprise birthday party and you can't tell them. Sometimes secrets are thoughts that are bothering you in your heart. I have some hearts that have some secrets in them. Let's look inside and see what the secrets are. The following are a few examples that you can use:

1. I borrowed my mother's ring without asking and now I have lost it
2. My father asked if I knew anything about the spot on the rug and I lied.
3. My mother told me to help my sister pick up the toys and I did not.
4. You have a friend that is doing something that will hurt himself, but you don't want to be a tattletale.

There is someone you could talk to about everything. That person is God. Today's lesson is called "Sharing with God." This doesn't mean sharing a cookie, but sharing how you feel.

Lesson: Did you know that God already knows everything? He knows when you are happy. He knows when you are sad and He knows when something is bothering you. Then (Put your name here.) Why do we have to tell Him? God wants us to tell Him. Let's look at a man in the Bible that wasn't sharing with God, but after a while he shared with God.

Jonah: This story is found in the book of Jonah. The following are points that will help you teach the lesson.

1. God told Jonah to go to Nineveh and preach against their sins.
2. Jonah did not want to go. The Bible doesn't say why, but God already knew why.
3. Jonah did not talk to God about his feelings; he just tried to run anyway. He went to Tarshish.
4. Jonah was asleep in the bottom of the boat. Maybe in his heart he felt hidden there.
5. God knew where Jonah was, but God was waiting for Joseph to come back and talk to Him.
6. The storm would not stop raging the seas. Jonah's answer to the man was to throw him overboard. If Jonah would have just talked to God, maybe he wouldn't have had to be thrown in the water.
7. The last verse in chapter one tells about Jonah being in the whale's belly for three days and three nights. (Matthew 12:40 is the verse that says the great fish was a whale.) In the first verse of chapter 2, Jonah finally talked to God. He shared with God his feelings and the whale vomited Jonah out onto dry ground.

Conclusion: Teach the children how important it is to talk to God. God is someone to fear in obedience, but not in sharing with Him and trusting Him.

Walking With GOD

Filling the Void

Text Verses:

Exodus 32:1-10 *“And when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down out of the mount, the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him, Up, make us gods, which shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him. 2 And Aaron said unto them, Break off the golden earrings, which are in the ears of your wives, of your sons, and of your daughters, and bring them unto me. 3 And all the people brake off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them unto Aaron. 4 And he received them at their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, after he had made it a molten calf: and they said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. 5 And when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation, and said, To morrow is a feast to the LORD. 6 And they rose up early on the morrow, and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play. 7 And the LORD said unto Moses, Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves: 8 They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them: they have made them a molten calf, and have worshipped it, and have sacrificed thereunto, and said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which have brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. 9 And the LORD said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiffnecked people: 10 Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them: and I will make of thee a great nation.”*

Introduction: God made man for Himself in order that He might have fellowship with man. In a sense, man was made to fulfill a special need of God's. Therefore, without God, man is not complete. If we are not close to Him and fellowshiping with Him, we cannot be fulfilled. Thus, there is a vacuum or a void in man that is left unfulfilled. A car is produced in order that someone might drive it; but if no one ever drives that car, it is unfulfilled for its purpose. Food that is left uneaten will spoil, for its purpose has been unfulfilled. Whenever we do not accomplish in our lives that which we were made to accomplish, we too, will be left unfulfilled. Salvation made it possible for us once again to be fulfilled by fellowshiping with God. If we are not in fellowship with God, we are empty and there is a void in our lives. So many Christians today lack fulfillment, so there is a void in their lives. They are saved, but they are not walking with God. Salvation alone fills our need, but it does not fulfill us for our purpose. Let's look at some of the ways that the right fellowship with God will fulfill the void and emptiness in our lives.

I. Man needs to worship. In Exodus 32, we see that the people were unfulfilled for their purpose. Moses was gone, and suddenly they felt the tremendous need to worship. With Moses not there to guide them, and with Aaron seemingly afraid to withstand their commands, they created a golden calf that they worshipped and which soon turned to heathen practices. Every man was made to worship. We may worship our body, a religion, a man, hobbies, organizations, education, ideas or pleasure. We need to worship something. If we are not worshipping the Lord, we are fulfilling our need of worship by worshipping something else in our lives.

II. Man needs fellowship. God made man to fellowship and to walk with Him. Therefore, man has a void within him for that very fellowship. Fellowship outside of God will soon turn to flesh and will not fulfill us. Thus, we seek more and more to be fulfilled by relationships with man, but those relationships will not suffice. In Exodus 32, the people, being unfulfilled, gathered together and celebrated eating and drinking and making merriment, but it got worse and worse because they were looking for something they couldn't find outside of their fellowship with God. Their relationship was unfulfilled.

III. Man needs to submit. Adam was made to willfully submit to the Lord. Man is not fulfilled if he is not submitted to something. Thus, he fills this void by submitting his life to other things. Though we don't like to admit it, every man submits to something, whether it is work, friends, special causes, politics, Satan or rebellious ideals. These are simply things we turn to in order to submit ourselves because of our need to be fulfilled. The Bible says, “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” We need something or someone powerful to whom we can submit. One of the great reasons for cults and people who follow powerful religious leaders who doctrinally are not sound is that there is a need to submit to someone, and they have not yet learned the secret of submitting to their God.

IV. Man needs truth. **Colossians 1:9** *“For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;”* What did Adam and Eve discuss when they talked to God? Whatever it was that God said, it was truth, for all of God's words are truth. God enjoyed sharing truth with Adam, so God gave him an inquisitive and a reasoning mind. Adam did not know all things, but Adam wondered about those things that he didn't know and God was able to share them with him. Man was given a hunger for knowledge or for the truth.

Without God and the truth of God in our lives, there is a void and so we turn to intellectualism, education, philosophers, humanism, or theologians to try to fill the void that we have for truth.

V. Man needs comfort. **Philippians 3:10** “*That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;*” We were made in the image of God, and we are to become like Him as we fellowship with Him. In other words, we were made to be creatures of conformity, yet we have failed to be fulfilled by conforming to Him. As a result, we conform to man, who is changing always. **Romans 12:2** “*And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*” The Bible says we are not to be conformed to this world, but the only way to keep from being conformed is to be transformed, and that transformation is a transfiguration where man becomes God-like. Romans 8:29 says that God even predestinated that we who became His children would be conformed to the image of His Son. **Romans 8:29** “*For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.*” We must be careful that we are not trying so hard to conform to man that we fail to realize that we only will be fulfilled when we conform into His image and His likeness.

VI. Man needs righteousness. Man was made to be righteous. Thus, being righteous fulfills us. When Adam sinned, we lost our righteousness. So, man finds a void in his life and he begins to try to fulfill that void himself. He does it by self-righteousness or by living by the righteous codes of man. This is why religion becomes so important in man’s life. It is man seeking to fill the void of righteousness in his life. He tries to earn his own righteousness. However, the void can only be fulfilled by the righteousness of Him.

VII. Man needs love. The relationship that God had with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden was one that was based on God’s love. He loved us from the foundation of the world and only His love can fulfill us. Yet, we look for substitutes because we have not been close enough to Him to be fulfilled by that love which is missing in our lives. These substitutes cannot satisfy, thus, our love changes as we continue to seek that fulfillment. **Ephesians 3:17-19** “*That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; 19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.*” The key is to know the love of God which fulfills all of that need we have for love.

VIII. Man needs to serve. In Exodus 32:8, we see they sacrificed to their new god.

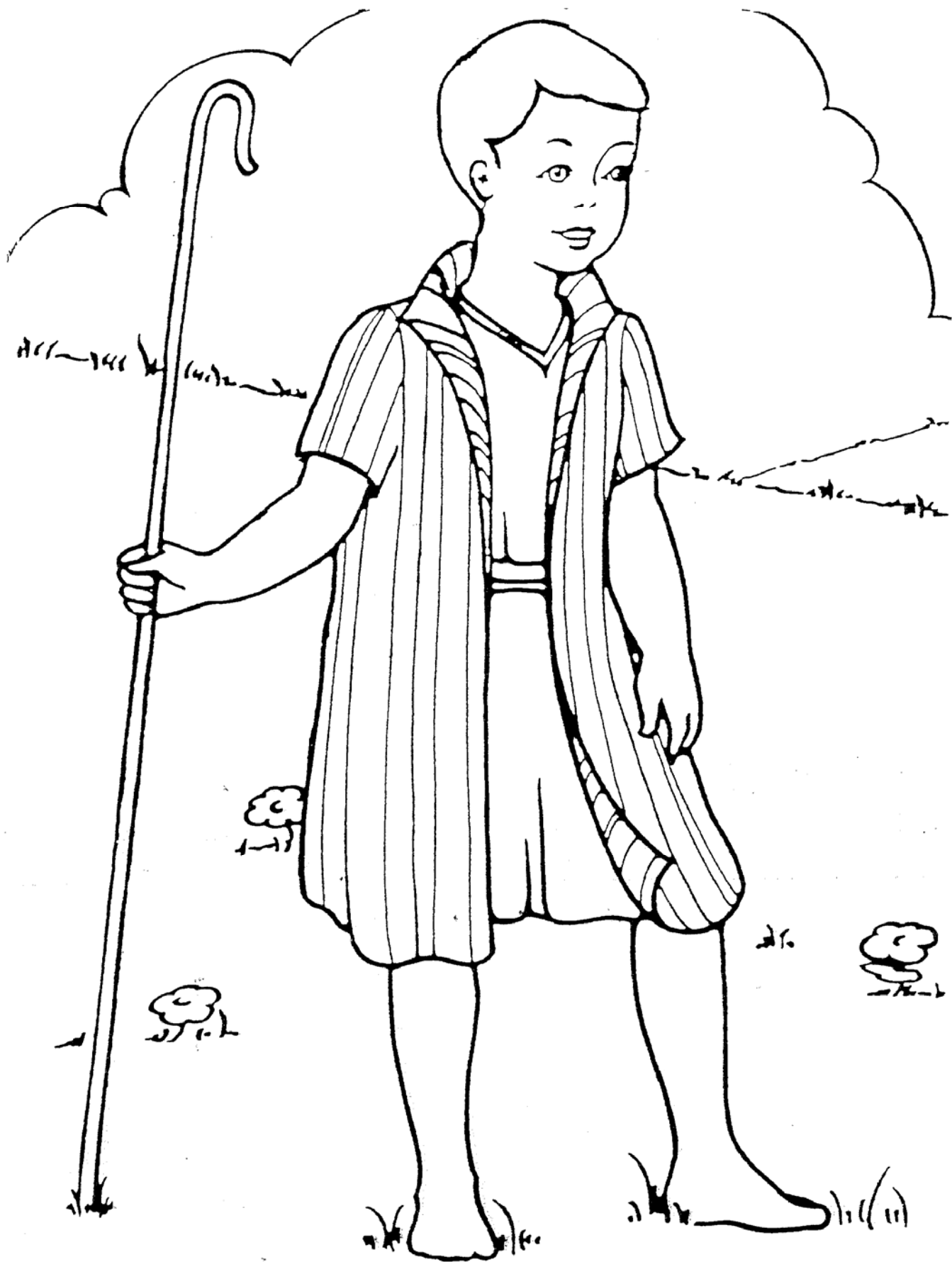
Exodus 32:8 “*They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them: they have made them a molten calf; and have worshipped it, and have sacrificed thereunto, and said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which have brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.*” Man was made to serve God in delight and joy and fellowship. In fact, man has a need to sacrifice and to serve his God; but because we are not close to God and in fellowship with Him, we are unfulfilled. We attempt to fulfill ourselves by finding other causes to which we can serve and to which we can sacrifice. Other masters come into our lives that try to fill that void, That’s why we have so many people serving and sacrificing to causes, yet notice how quickly those causes change. Why? It is because man is unfulfilled unless he is serving and sacrificing to his God.

IX. Man needs friendship. God made man to be His friend. Adam was God’s friend. Abraham was called the friend of God. David was called a man after God’s own heart. Moses spoke to God face to face; and, in truth, God meant for us to be close to Him as friends. Therefore, you and I were made with a need to be a friend of God’s and we can only be fulfilled by a close friendship with Him. Because our relationship is not right, there is a void, and we begin to try to fulfill that void with the friendship of the world. **James 4:4** “*Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.*” We destroy more of the relationship with God and continue to be unfulfilled. The sin increases. The friendship with the world becomes more and more powerful in our life and still we are unfulfilled and can never know the fulfillment of friendship until we have restored that fellowship with our God and the void has been fulfilled.

X. Man needs faith. When God created man, he planned for man to trust Him. Man lost his trust in God when he placed his trust in the serpent’s words. There was a void left in man of needing to trust someone. The reason why man is so trusting towards things that are so untrustworthy is because he is trying to fill the void that has not been fulfilled in his life. When man begins to trust God, that void will be fulfilled. **Matthew 3:5-6** “*Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan, 6 And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins.*” Walking with God and developing a faith and trust in Lord will fulfill the void in man’s life.

XI. Man needs devotion. Man was made to be one hundred percent devoted and committed to God. He was to serve God but also be committed to all the things of God. When man turned his back on God, he created a void in his life and man needed something to fulfill that void of devotion. He then devoted himself to other causes and other things. In Exodus 32, they devoted themselves to a new religion. In our society, there’s a tendency for us to be devoted and committed to everything other than the very fulfillment for which we were made. We try to fill that void by religion, causes, sports or hobbies; but it cannot be fulfilled until we are devoted to the One who created us for Himself.

Conclusion: There's a void in your life and you've wondered what it is. You've gone from church to church, programmed Christianity, philosophy to philosophy and yet have still realized that there is a void. The problem is not salvation, but the fact that you've not seized upon the opportunities afforded to you by salvation, and that is your access to God.



Walking With GOD

Walking in Fullness

Text Verses: Ephesians 3:14-21 “For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, 16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; 17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; 19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. 20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, 21 Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.”

Introduction: Fundamental Christianity has unfortunately lost some of its fullness and delight from living the Christian life. There seems to be an awful lot of Christians who, in their misery and emptiness, have been led back into the world, giving up on Christian life. Many times there is a temptation in God’s people to go back to the world because there seems to be a lack of real delight and fullness in this Christian life. Why? Perhaps because we have emphasized the responsibilities of Christianity and we’ve neglected to promote the privileges. Our young people see our emptiness and want no part of it. Christianity ought to be the fullest of living not the dullest of living. There will be suffering and persecution for those who stand for Christ, yet they should be overwhelmed by the fullness of the walk. No one minds paying a price when the rewards are worth it, and the rewards of walking the Christian life are far greater than any persecution that could come our way if we are living in its fullness. The problem goes back to our living the Christian life as a set of regulations, expectations, rules and programs instead of living it as a walk with our precious, loving and gracious Heavenly Father.

The Lord redeemed us so that we once again could experience His fullness. Now man is given the privilege and opportunity once again of walking in the fullness of God. Oh that God’s people would stop looking at the Christian life as a life of emptiness and sadness and open their eyes to the fullness of this walk!

I. The Fullness of His Creation.

John 3:3 “Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God”. Think of Adam and Eve strolling through the Garden of Eden with God, enjoying all the riches of God’s creations. Our world is beautiful, but the world in the Garden of Eden was more beautiful than anything you and I will ever know. It was paradise. Yet even though we live in the midst of God’s creations, we’re living a life of complaining. We should become more aware of how good His creation really is.

II. The Fullness of His Goodness.

II Thessalonians 1:11 “Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power:” Think of how good God is to us in spite of ourselves. Think of all the good things that come from Him, every breath, every morsel of food we eat, everything that is alive within us consists of Him and yet sometimes we are very unaware of how good He is. We need to say with the Psalmist, “Bless the Lord O my soul and all that is within me bless his holy name. Bless the Lord O my soul and FORGET NOT ALL HIS BENEFITS.” The benefits of God far outweigh the disadvantages, for God’s goodness is abundant, not only to those who love Him but even to the enemies of the cross.

III. The Fullness of His Power.

Ephesians 3:20 “Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,” What a privilege we have to know that we have the power of God available to us through His Holy Spirit, and what a delight to know His power that He possesses as our own Heavenly Father.

Philippians 3:10 “That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;” Paul’s desire was to know Him and to really understand how powerful His resurrection was for our sakes.

Ephesians 1:17-21 “That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: 18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, 19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, 20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, 21. Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:” In verse 19 of this passage, Paul uses the word “power” twice. The first word “Power” comes from the original word where we get our word “dynamite,” and the second one from the word “energy.” Imagine if you would, a very powerful engine that ran on the energy of gasoline. The Holy Spirit’s power is an unlimited engine and He is the energy of the engine. If we are walking in the fullness of Him, we will know the fullness of His

power. Think of the blessing. Think of the security in Him and the unlimited ability we know He has to provide the strength and the confidence we need to defeat Satan's power in our lives.

IV. The Fullness of His Promises.

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

Jeremiah 33:3 "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not."

Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

Psalms 37:4 "Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart."

God's promises are full and they are for His people, but only those who walk in those promises will know the fullness of the life of these and hundreds of others that God has given for us to enjoy. In Joshua 1:8, 9 we find the promise of success and prosperity for those of us who live in His Word. **Joshua 1:8-9** "This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. 9 Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest." James 1:5 gives us a promise for wisdom, and yet with all of these promises Christianity is wallowing in the worlds so called fun and feeling sorry for ourselves because we're Christians. Oh, that we might know what it is to walk in the fullness of His promises! **James 1:5** "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."

V. The Fullness of His Love.

Ephesians 3:17-19 "That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;

19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God."

Nothing is sweeter or more delightful than being loved and being in love. How breathtaking and consuming it is to have that tremendous feeling of love abiding between the hearts of two people! How much more exhilarating to think that the very God of love, the very God who is love, has shared His love and its fullness to you and to me and to know that we can love Him and have a relationship built on love. The love between others is a partial love, but this is a full love and God's people need to comprehend the extent of God's love that we have been given. The Bible says that we ought to be rooted (deeply planted); therein is the life of love. We ought to be grounded (foundation); therein is the sturdiness of love. Oh that this love would be comprehended to its breadth, its length, its depth and its height and that we would know partially that which we cannot even fully understand in order that we might be "filled with all the fullness of God."

VI. The Fullness of His Resurrection and Life. When you are saved, eternal life was born within you. If we are walking in the fullness of God, then we are walking in the fullness of His Word. The Psalmist said, "God's Word quickens me." If life seems dead to you, it is because you are walking with death instead of life. Jesus said, "I am come that ye might have life and that more abundantly." Yet the life that is already within us is only quickened or brought to fresh and we have greater life as we walk in His Word and realize its riches and its fullness. How rich the life is of someone who is walking in the fullness of God!

VII. The Fullness of His Joy.

1 Peter 1:8 "Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory;" **John 15:11** "These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full." What does the world have that God's children do not have? A temporary thrill, a moment of physical ecstasy; yet neither bring joy that lasts. They do not have a joy that's based on the wonderful security of our eternal, never dying hope that lies within us. I see a lot of young people today looking for something that is going to give them a thrill or happiness because they have not learned to walk in the fullness of the joy that God has offered us by walking with Him.

VIII. The Fullness of His Sonship.

Galatians 4:1-7 "Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all; 2 But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father. 3 Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world: 4 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, 5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. 6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. 7 Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ."

Ephesians 1:5 "Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will," **Romans 8:14-17** "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. 15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. 16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: 17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together." It's an amazing thing to realize the privilege we have as Christians of being not just a servant but also a son, an actual child of our Heavenly Father and the fact that we have the rights of being a family member. The prodigal son made an amazing discovery when he was hungering in the pigpen. He stopped to realize how good his father's servants had it. He realized that his father's servants had all they needed plus more and he realized that here he was a son, starving. Perhaps we have ended up in the pigpen of the world because we have never stopped to realize how wonderful it

really is to be in the fullness of the family and to fully understand that we are allowed to be close to our Heavenly Father and know Him, as a son knows his father.

IX. The Fullness of His Truth.

Psalm 19:9-10 *“The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. 10 More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Psalm 119:4 Thou hast commanded us to keep thy precepts diligently.” Psalm 119:24* *“Thy testimonies also are my delight and my counsellors.”*

If you dug in the deepest ocean of the world, it would almost be an endless search for all of the riches that are contained therein, but there is a limit. If you searched the horizons of the universe, it would be an endless search to discover all that there is lying beyond the reaches of man, but there would be an end. Yet there is no end to the fullness that we find in the truth of God. His Word is filled with riches far more beautiful and precious than any gems or rubies the world has ever known and no man could ever offer you anything of more priceless value than God's own Holy Word.

Conclusion: It is time for Christianity to realize that we don't need the world to be happy or to have fun. We shouldn't be living the life of misery, nor will we be if we are truly walking with God in His fullness. This life ought to become to us the greatest life that anyone could possibly enjoy. It's time for God's people to quit moping around and making the world think that we're feeling sorry for ourselves because of the way we have to live. It is our privilege. It is our opportunity. It is our right and it ought to be the attitude of every Christian that this is the life that I would rather live for it is the life of walking with God in His fullness.

Walking With GOD

Walking in Sorrow

Text Verses:

Isaiah 53:1-12 “Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed? 2 For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. 3 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. 4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. 5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. 7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. 8 He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living; for the transgression of my people was he stricken. 9 And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth. 10 Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. 11 He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities. 12 Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.”

You don't get strength for the load; you get strength from the load.
 Sorrow is the machine on which joy is tested to see if it is real
 Success is on the same road as failure; it is just a little farther down the road.
 If you can't see His goodness, you can trust His goodness.
 A tribulation gives you the opportunity to test a truth you have always believed.
 I never had a trial I wanted to have, but I never had a trial I wasn't glad I had.
 To lose something in the Will of God is to find something better.
 If you have fire in peace, you can have peace in the fire.
 If I see discouragement coming, I immediately go encourage someone.
 I don't have to know why; I know Him who knows why.
 Opposition is not to run from, it is to run through.
 All sunshine makes a desert.
 Anybody can stand and face forward.
 There is no such thing as an impossibility to a child of God.
 I'd rather have fallen than never to have climbed.
 God does not give you strength for the journey; He gives you strength for the next step
 It doesn't hurt one bit more to limp forward than to limp backward.
 Whatever is over your head is under Jesus' feet; if you can get to Him, you'll be on top of it.
 When the storm is coming toward us, we'll get through it quicker if we keep marching into it.
 When you spend enough time with the Lord, everyone else's sympathy will be second class.
 Don't look at it and be bitter. Don't look away from it and refuse to see reality. Look through it and see God.
 Only one thing can get my mind off my problems, and that is fellowship with Him.
 There has never been anybody that God worked through until God worked on.
 Effort, weakness, trust, victory, that's my Biography.

Introduction: Turn to Isaiah 53 and read it slowly with much thought and consideration. When you finish reading it, read the rest of this lesson. “A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.” Have you ever thought or wondered how a person could possibly have a relationship with someone that we really don't understand and with whom we cannot relate? The sweetest relationships have been brought about when people that were experiencing similar events in their lives got together. Especially is this true when it's dealing with suffering. When two people can relate in feeling sorrow towards one another, it cements their relationship. A Christian must come to the realization that in order to become really acquainted with the Lord and close to Him, we will have to be acquainted with sorrow and grief and endure suffering as He did. Our relationship with Him is cemented through our suffering. Notice in Matthew 5 those words, “*Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted.*” Later on He says, “*Blessed are ye when men shall revile you and persecute you and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely for my sake.*” How does He tell us to react? “Rejoice and be exceedingly glad.” Why? So that we can be drawn closer to Him. The Lord indicates that if we suffer and endure sorrow that we will

be called near the Lord and be drawn closer to Him. Perhaps none of us will ever know the Lord until we have walked with Him in sorrow. Have you ever noticed that every truly great man of God was acquainted with sorrow somewhere along the line in his life? In **Matthew 26:36-38**, “Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder. 37 And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy. 38 Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me.” We find that Jesus desired to take some of His disciples with Him when He was in sorrow, perhaps so they could see a little bit of what they would need to endure for Him. Yet the disciples were not yet spiritually mature enough to handle it, in fact, it was fear of persecution that prompted Peter’s denial of Christ. Nevertheless, if we are to be close to Him, we must be acquainted with the same sorrow with which He was acquainted. There are several ways we experience sorrow which will draw us closer to the heart of God.

I. We must be hated. John 15:18-25 “If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. 19 If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. 20 Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. 21 But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me. 22 If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin. 23 He that hateth me hateth my Father also. 24 If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father. 25 But this cometh to pass, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, They hated me without a cause.” How can someone who hates the Lord possibly still love you and me if we love the Lord and are close to Him? Most everyone that hates my dad hates me because I’m close to my dad. We will be hated because we are identified with one that the world hates. We must expect it and realize that it will only draw us nearer to Him. Also, we will be hated because we refuse to be a part of the world, thus bringing conviction to them for the sin in their lives. If we are part of the world, we cannot be close to the Lord for friendship when the world is enmity with God. Therefore, we are his friends because we obey Him. **John 15:13-15** “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. 14 Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. 15 Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.” If we’re His friends, we will be the enemies of the world and hated because of it. The truth of the matter is; their hatred comes as a result of our love for our Lord.

II. We must all have trials. 1 Peter 1:7 “That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:”
1 Peter 4:12-14 “Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: 13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. 14 If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.” Trials represent temptations with extreme circumstances. It’s a type of torturous effort in an attempt to make us deny the Lord or to step out of line for Him. A trial is more than something to hurt us; it is something that tests us. Gold is refined of its impurities by fire. Its gold no matter what, but to be purified it must be refined. The fiery trials we go through purify us and prove our love for the Lord. When we go through trials, those trials cement our relationship with the Lord as He sees the truth of our devotion to Him.

III. We must endure tribulations. John 16:33 “These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.”
Acts 14:21-22 “And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch, 22 Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.” Tribulation, or better yet, affliction, is what the world does to us because of our stand for Christ and because of their hatred for Him. Christ was afflicted by the world. The Egyptians afflicted the children of Israel and we will be afflicted by the world. It is the world’s way of bringing trials to us because of our stand. It is the nasty words they call us, the hurt they bring to our physical bodies or the destruction they bring to our property they are afflicting upon us because we are identified with Christ. As we are being afflicted by the world, we are torn more and more away from the world and thus we become more submitted to the One for whom we are suffering. The sorrow may seem heavy, but in the Old Testament we see that tribulation always caused people to turn to the Lord. The Lord comforts us and we are drawn closer to His fellowship as He sees us suffering affliction as He did for us.
2 Corinthians 1:4 “Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.”

IV. We must endure persecution. Matthew 5:10-12 “Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. 12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.”

John 15:20 “Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.” The word persecution comes from the root word “pursue” or being chased or even put to flight. It connotes Christians being cast out by the world or the world aggressively pursuing us in order that they might bring affliction to us. In other words, they will afflict us and then they will cast us out. It’s much the same as that which took place to the children of Israel when they were afflicted by the Egyptians and cast out and then the Egyptians still pursued them in an attempt to afflict them more. The world does not want us here so they will do their best to chase us away. They will pursue our Christian schools in an attempt to close the doors. They pursue our fundamental churches in an attempt to lessen our affect and that pursuit will oftentimes be relentless. But as we are being chased by the world, we are drawn closer to the Lord as we seek shelter in Him. We must suffer reproach. **1 Peter 4:14** “If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified”. The word reproach speaks of shame or insult or even ridicule. The Christian must be willing to suffer the taunts and insults of the world.

Philippians 2:5-7 “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:”

V. We must endure infirmities. These are things in our body that take away our strength or cause us great physical pain. Paul had a thorn in the flesh. Perhaps it was a disease of the eyes that caused him great pain and suffering. Timothy had stomach problems.

1 Timothy 5:23 “Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities.” No doubt many of God’s good people have known what it was to suffer infirmities in order that they may be drawn closer to their relationship with the Lord. (II Corinthians 12:1-10) Paul was acquainted with suffering and he knew the infirmities that God chose for him to endure for His glory. Though he asked for God to remove them, God chose not to and said, “my grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness,” **2 Corinthians 12:9** “And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.” Often times an infirmity simply draws us more into submission to the Lord and makes us stay closer to Him because we know we need Him to give us the strength to overcome those infirmities. Some of the finest Christians I know, with the sweetest walk, are Christians who endure great infirmities for Christ’s sake. Job’s faith grew in the Lord in the time of infirmities in his life, but notice what he said in **Job 13:15**, “Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him.” Thus God allows infirmities to perfect our relationship with Him.

VI. We must accept chastisement. **Hebrews 12:1-11** “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.”

The word “chastise” means to train with pain or sorrow inflicted. We can use the example of a child who is being trained and disobeys and we must inflict punishment upon them in order to teach them the lesson properly. **Isaiah 53:5** “But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.” Jesus was chastised for the sins that He did not even commit, but rather for our sins. **Luke 23:16** “I will therefore chastise him, and release him.”

Luke 23:22 “And he said unto them the third time, Why, what evil hath he done? I have found no cause of death in him: I will therefore chastise him, and let him go.” In the same respect, often times God will chastise us as children in order to train us better to be what we ought to be and to draw us closer to Him. The chastisements of our Heavenly Father are sweet, if they cause us to be closer to Him. Notice verse 7 of Hebrews 12, “If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons.” So we see the chastisement we endure only is used to draw us even closer to the Lord.

Conclusion: God uses the elements of sorrow to perfect us unto Himself. Perhaps no man who has ever been close to God and really known Him in sweet fellowship was able to be in that position of closeness without first of all becoming acquainted with sorrow. All great men of faith who really knew the Lord, like Moses, Elijah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Hosea, Paul and Peter, were well acquainted with sorrow. In Hebrews 11 we see that sorrow was a great part of the successful walk of these great Christians of faith. This will cement the relationship between God and man as we learn to walk in sorrow. Paul said it beautifully as he spoke in **Philippians 3:10**, “That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings.”

Walking With GOD

Walking in Individuality

Text Verses:

Psalm 139:1-16 *“O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known me. 2 Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. 3 Thou compassed my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. 4 For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether. 5 Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me. 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it. 7 Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? 8 If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. 9 If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; 10 Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. 11 If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. 12 Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee. 13 For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. 14 I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. 15 My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. 16 Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being imperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.”*

Introduction: Today in Christianity there seems to be an awful lot of emphasis placed on sameness; that is each of us being alike. We seem bent on all fitting into one particular mold in our relationship with the Lord. In a sense, we have created a boring set of robots who are walking with God in a programmed, uninteresting way. If God had wanted us to all be the same, He would not have made us so different. God seemed to have a desire for each of us to be unique. Psalm 139 is a thrilling passage written by David saying how God knows us each in an individual way and knows every detail about us. Perhaps we have made too much of an effort to characterize what we are supposed to be and thus we have lost our uniqueness in the sight of God. Think of all the ways in which God has made us unique: fingerprints, facial characteristics, hairs on our heads, personalities and backgrounds. God is obviously a God of diversity and it is obvious in all His creations that He was looking for uniqueness. God even created a variety of human relationships in order to make our life more interesting. No two friends are exactly the same. We enjoy variety and diversity; therefore, He must enjoy diversity as well.

I. God created us in order that we would be individually unique in our relationship with Him. Look at the uniqueness of the Bible characters. No two seem to be exactly the same in their personal relationship with the Lord. John seemed sweet and loving towards the Saviour, whereas Peter was a little more bold and brash with Him. Philip seemed to be one that asked questions and was inquisitive. Thomas was somewhat of a doubter. Yet each one was unique to the Lord and very special to Him. Each of us is unique and our relationship should be one of individuality. There are a few ways where our lives are basically affected the same in relationship to the Lord: Think of the individuality that God has given to us in order for us to have a personal relationship with Him, once we have been reconciled to God.

Individuality of Personality. It's an interesting thing to see the uniqueness of each personality. Perhaps God needs fellowship with different types of people and He makes us to be the kind of personality that will be a delight to Him. Therefore, we must not strive to have a personality like each other, but rather to be led of the Spirit of God and to be what He would have us to be.

Individuality of Purpose. God created each of us to do a work that only we are supposed to do. There is a ministry that only we can carry out. There is something for you to do in your life and God created you especially for that purpose. Ah, the perfection of God's creations that prepares us in an individualistic way to fulfill the purpose of our lives.

Individuality of Potential. It's a strange thing to see the various potentials that God gives to us. Some have a great potential as writers. Some have great a potential as thinkers. Some have a great potential as pastors. Yet all of us have a potential that is unique to ourselves, as God made us perfectly for individuality of performance. Even those of us who do the same basic type of a ministry carry out our ministries in a unique way.

Individuality of Position. No two Christians are exactly the same in their closeness to the Lord. A father sometimes has a child that is closer than another child. John seemed closer to Christ than Peter, yet Peter seemed bolder and more willing to test the Lord. I think the Lord enjoyed both of these individuals and their individual positions with Him.

Individuality of Pursuits. Not every preacher is supposed to try to do the same thing as another. No two people are to pursue the same goals in life, for God has given us an individuality to pursue different types of accomplishments. That's what causes God's work to be furthered. One pursues a ministry to one type of person and another to another and God uses us all as we pursue that which perfects His work and perfects our relationship.

Individuality of Preparation. In the education of life, none of us have gone through the exact same experiences, for God prepared us uniquely to fill every situation exactly as He would see fit. God chose for each one of us to experience things that no one else in this world will experience exactly the same way, for God is preparing us for a unique ministry with Him and for Him.

Individuality of Perspectives. It's strange how individualistic our concepts can be. Obviously, the Bible is always the same. But each of us sees things differently than others. Some can see a sunset and be awed by the power of God; some are caused to reflect about life by that same sunset; while others become very emotional when they experience that beautiful sight, because God has made us individual in the perspectives or the way we see things in life.

Individuality of Persecution. Many times we suffer, but no two people suffer exactly the same way. God chooses that which would perfect us to make us to be what He wants us to be in our relationship with Him.

II. God created each of us, is preparing each of us, and is working in each of us in order that we might have a personal, sweet and individualistic relationship with Him. But how can we be that individual that God wants us to be and not be caught up in this sameness of our Christian society? Consider these things:

Don't copy men's personalities. We should allow godly men to influence our lives without becoming a carbon copy of them. Copy their walk with the Lord and their holiness without copying the idiosyncrasies of each man. In fact, we ought to be carbon copies of Christ's personality and not man's.

Learn to accept yourself the way God made you. In II Corinthians 12, Paul shows us the way that he came about to accept what he was and the way that God had allowed him to be. What a delight to see someone contented with what they are and not constantly trying to be like something else!

Allow the Holy Spirit the freedom to work in your life. If the Holy Spirit is leading you and molding you, you can always be assured He will never lead you contrary to Biblical principles. He will lead you to exactly what God wants for you to be in your relationship with Him.

Don't try to simply fit into the mold of men. We have allowed standards and rules to be the bottom line of Christianity. Standards and rules are the bottom line of an organization. Our lives ought to be based on our desire to please God in our searching of the Scriptures for principles of life. The standards of an organization make the organization run well, not our lives. Our lives ought to be ruled by the Lord and not just simply a carbon copy of some man-made standards and rules.

Don't expect programs and promotions to improve your spirituality. A program and a method by man will only program your Christianity, but it will not give you the personal sweetness of a walk with the Lord. You must eventually develop a personal reality or you will crumble.

Learn to deal with others on an individual basis. When someone gets saved, our churches so often try to make them fit into a quick mold that we have created, and then they have this impression that's all Christianity is. How sad, for there is something beyond the mold of man that God wants us to be. He wants us to be an individual. Thus in our schools and churches, let us build a ministry around the individual. "*Train up a child in the way he should go...*" That verse is very individualistic, for it seems to me that God wants us to treat each individual as the unique person that they are, rather than simply trying to fit them into our mold.

Live your life to follow the example of Christ. Perhaps this is the greatest way of all; to be what we should be and yet be the individual that God wants us to be. Christ is our ultimate Example, yet isn't it interesting that most of what we see of Him are attributes of His Spirit and attitude, rather than His personality and His physical demeanor. Perhaps God wants to mold our personality into uniqueness and then for us to possess those wonderful qualities and characteristics He possessed in the individual that we are.

Conclusion: We all need to be excited about our personal relationship with the Lord. However, mine can't be like yours and yours can't be like mine, for we are all unique children. Each of us feels a little different of a relationship with Him. We can all be close and we all can walk with Him, but we will walk with Him best when we do it exactly as He wants us to be as the individual that He created.

Walking With GOD

Sharing with God

Text Verses:

Psalm 51:1-19 *“Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. 3 For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. 4 Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest. 5 Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me. 6 Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom. 7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. 8 Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. 9 Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. 11 Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. 12 Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. 13 Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee. 14 Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness. 15 O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise. 16 For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering. 17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise. 18 Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion: build thou the walls of Jerusalem. 19 Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering: then shall they offer bullocks upon thine altar.”*

Introduction: In Psalm 51, David poured out the innermost thoughts of his heart for inspection before God. All of the sins, the fears and the hurts suddenly sprang forth from his lips as he revealed them to his God. That experience changed his life, and he became an altogether different person. It is after this that he wrote most of his sweetest psalms. The praise from his life dropped from his lips after he released the innermost being of himself for inspection by his Lord. There is something within us that desires to keep things within ourselves a total secret, but yet on the other hand, deeply desires to tell someone who really cares and will totally understand. It is as though we are afraid to really open our hearts to someone's inspection, yet we hunger to really trust someone enough that we could open up our hearts. We desire to have someone who will really listen, someone that really seems like they are interested. We desire to totally share with someone our innermost self. Yet who would really understand us and never think the less of us, someone who wouldn't make us feel foolish, someone so selfless that he would totally concentrate on those things in our lives, even at the expense of himself? It can be said that there are actually two people in all of us: the person within and the person without. Yet we seldom release that person within us and few really know the true being that dwells inside of our hearts.

Sometimes we hold it back as long as we can until we almost explode, and then we find a release with a psychiatrist, psychologist or an analyst. We may even share it with a friend, relative or pastor; yet far too often we feel threatened and foolish and sometimes even turn against those with whom we have shared these things out of our self-preservation. Sometimes we also find we were most at home or accustomed to being hidden and that strangeness of openness, opening totally that which is within us is awkward. We feel insecure, so we run back to the shelter of secrecy. Perhaps opening up that which is in our innermost self scared us when we saw it and realized the fear, turmoil, and confusion that existed. So quickly we close it all up so that we do not have to face the ugliness of it all. It also could be possible that we have hidden the inner man so long that we really don't know how to open ourselves up and find him. Oh, the anguish that results in our lives when this takes place; it often leads to the destruction of relationships, especially our relationship with the Lord. God is there. It is God's desire for us to be able to open up with Him and share everything about us that in reality, He already knows. Yet by sharing it, there is something that happens within us as we release all the pressures and pour them out to Him.

When Jesus spoke to the woman at the well, she was obviously by nature of her circumstances, filled with many inward secrets, hurts, confusions and fears. First of all, she was a Samaritan and the Jews had history of hating the Samaritan people because they were half-breeds. She was a woman, and in those days no man spoke to a woman in public. She was filled with past disappointments, sins and failures. Five marriages had failed, and she was living with a man who was not her husband. Yet when Jesus came into her life, He knew all those things about her and he let her know that He knew them. When she ran back into the town and shared with the people what Christ had done for her, she said, *“Come, see a man which told me all things that ever I did.”* She had found precious release from all of those innermost things being revealed and she released them into the hands of the Lord. The relief was overwhelming.

Jonah had run from God, too. He was filled with anxieties and fears, but there in the belly of the whale he began to recognize all of those things that were within. He prayed, pouring out his heart and releasing all of those innermost anxieties before his God. Jonah then went on to preach the greatest revival that has ever been conducted. Yet it took three days in that whale to bring Jonah to the point of pouring out all that he had to God.

Jacob came to a place in his life where he was forced to open up the innermost things of his heart to God's inspection before he could become a prince with God. (Found in Genesis 32.)

Moses opened up his heart that was full of fears, questions and feelings of inadequacy to God. God turned them into something that He could use and allowed Moses to deliver His people out of Egypt.

Perhaps none of us will ever really draw close to the Lord in a special type of relationship unless we are really willing to share all of the innermost secrets of our life with Him. In a sad sense, we have failed to really enjoy the relief that would come to us if we would do what He has wanted us to do all along. Share everything! There is a tendency for man's pride to prevent him from pouring out all of those things that dwell in his innermost self, even with God. Are we afraid that God won't like us? Are we scared that God will find out something about us that He doesn't already know? Perhaps nothing would enhance our relationship with the Lord like sharing everything within our innermost being.

God doesn't want us to have any secrets from Him. Friends share everything. Have you ever noticed how open God is in His Word to those who are walking in His Spirit? Friends have no secrets. They tell their thoughts, their fears, their anxieties, and their dreams and hopes to one another. God wants to be our friend. You may say, "He knows it all anyway." It always seems imperative to God that His men poured out their hearts to Him in a personal sharing of their innermost beings with Him in order that He may totally bless them. Something seemed to transpire in the lives of people when they opened up and shared it all with God. There seemed, from that point on, to be a much greater closeness with God than had ever been.

God wants us to trust Him enough to tell Him everything without any fear or reservation. *"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart."* We oftentimes do not share our innermost feelings with someone because we do not trust them as we need to before we open totally to them. How sad that we can not even trust our God enough to reveal all those innermost thoughts and know that He will understand! Have you ever wanted a friend to open up to you and share the things that were within his heart that seemed to be troubling him? Yet, he could not muster the trust to reveal it all to you. Oh, if only you could have helped him! If only he could have trusted you enough to give his heart to you totally. There was a hurt within you because that friend would not share those things he needed to release with you. How it must hurt our Lord when we don't trust Him enough to share everything with Him!

God wants the privilege of helping us deal with all of those things that are within us. Sometimes things confuse me. Sometimes doubts assail, and sometimes fear prevails. There are times when we are filled with thoughts that we do not understand, thoughts that seem far-fetched, and we do not know how to deal with them all. Our God is the answer. No one ever came to the Lord, sharing with Him the things that were in his heart, but what God did not carefully try to deal with those things that were poured from the heart. He listened to the disciples on the road to Emmaus, and then He expounded until their eyes were opened. He listened when His prophets spoke to Him, and then He carefully dispelled the doubts and fears that existed. He cares.

God wants to have the right to transmit those things within us to a usefulness in our lives that will bring Him glory. There are times when the things that are within us are to be used to produce great accomplishments for God, if we would simply release those things to His control. He will take them and make them bring glory to His name and will use them to His fullest ability.

God wants to be the one that listens, cares, understands, unselfishly sympathizes, and relieves the pressures of all of those secret, hidden things within us. Tell Him everything; He is listening. Tell Him your hurts; He cares. Tell Him your problems; He understands. Tell Him those things within that hurt; He sympathizes. Tell Him your delights; He thrills. Share with Him the innermost things within you; He loves you and He understands. What a delight to know that we have a God with whom we can share everything that He already knows. But, the sharing releases it from within us. He carefully listens and understands.

Conclusion: Picture Jesus with the apostle Peter. Peter had disappointed Him so much. He denied Him three times. He had forsaken and fled. He had left Him and gone fishing. Christ had found him naked. Christ sat down with Peter and shared with him, delving for innermost thoughts. Peter looked at the Lord, and with perhaps a tear in his eye said, "Lord, you know all things. You know the things that are within me; you know that I have failed you. You know I am weak. You know, dear Lord, the truth of what is really inside of this man," and Peter answers once again, "Lord, I am afraid that I can only say, 'I am fond of you.' I wish I could say that I love you, but you know the real inner being that is within." Did God cast Peter aside then? No. He used him to preach one of the greatest sermons ever preached, and three thousand people came to Christ. Perhaps it was because Peter quit hiding his inner self from his God. Christ can come into our lives and change the outside, but the great key is the walk of sharing. It is when God can get inside to the very depths of our soul. The relationship with Him will be its fullest and sweetest and our lives will be the most filled with the peace of God that passeth all understanding.

WALKING WITH GOD
Sharing With God
Lesson 14
Elementary Idea Sheet

Walking With God
Lesson 13



Walking With GOD

Daily Renewal of the Relationship

Text Verses:

Text: 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 *“For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.*

17 *For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;*

18 *While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.”*

Ephesians 4:22-24 *“ That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;*

23 *And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;*

24 *And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”*

Colossians 3:9-10 *“Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;*

10 *And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:”*

Romans 12:2 *“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”*

Psalms 51:10 *“Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.”*

Isaiah 40:28-31 *“Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.*

29 *He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.*

30 *Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:*

31 *But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”*

Introduction: When the children of Israel were in the wilderness, after having been delivered from Egypt and while they were on their way to the Promised Land, God gave them their daily supply of food. Exodus 16 records God’s instructions concerning His provision for them. Obviously God could have made it non-perishable, yet He chose to do it on a daily basis. Why? The answer can be found in verse 12 of Exodus 16. *“...and ye shall know that I am the Lord your God.”* It was God’s desire to provide them with daily bread, or manna, in order to daily renew their relationship with Him. He wanted them to have something to remind them each morning that He was their God. God delivered them from Egypt, but He did it for a purpose. That purpose was to make them His special people. **Exodus 19:3-6** *“And Moses went up unto God, and the LORD called unto him out of the mountain, saying, Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel; 4 Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles’ wings, and brought you unto myself. 5 Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: 6 And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.”* As His people, He would lead them to their Promised Land; a land that flowed with milk and honey. Yet, God knew that it would not take long for them to forget His marvelous work of redemption, so this was a means of a daily renewal of their relationship with God. Interestingly, it was a two-fold renewal as we see in **verses 6&7 of Exodus 16**. *“ (6 And Moses and Aaron said unto all the children of Israel, At even, then ye shall know that the LORD hath brought you out from the land of Egypt: 7 And in the morning, then ye shall see the glory of the LORD; for that he heareth your murmurings against the LORD: and what are we, that ye murmur against us)?”* Evenings they would eat and “*know that the Lord hath brought you out of the land of Egypt.*” In other words, God brought you out of Egypt, and led you into this place. It was not Moses. God would provide, so be aware of His guidance. How wonderful when we remember that it is God who leads us. Mornings they would gather the manna *“then shall ye see the glory of the Lord.”* In other words, they were to be aware of God’s glory. In the morning He wanted them to be aware of His power, wisdom, superiority, authority, dignity, wealth, splendor, valor, magnificence, greatness, nobility and abundance. This lesson is about the morning bread, as this was the reminder to the people of how wonderful God is. In the wilderness, they needed a daily renewal of their relationship with God, as they headed toward the Promised Land. These were God’s people, and God’s goodness to them was a part of God’s faithfulness to them. Yet, they needed a daily reminder or a way to strengthen their faith. The morning manna was God’s daily plan of renewal. Many Christians never become aware that we too need daily renewal. Likewise, God has given us the early morning as the time we gather our manna to renew our faith and awareness in God’s goodness and His glory.

1. Daily renewing in a morning activity.

Psalm 5:3 *"My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up."*

Isaiah 50:4 *"The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned."*

Psalm 88:13 *"But unto thee have I cried, O LORD; and in the morning shall my prayer prevent thee."*

Psalm 119:147 *"I prevented the dawning of the morning, and cried: I hoped in thy word."*

Psalm 130:6 *"My soul waiteth for the Lord more than they that watch for the morning: I say, more than they that watch for the morning."*

Isaiah 26:9 *"With my soul have I desired thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within me will I seek thee early: for when thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness."*

Mark 1:35 *"And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed."* God wants His people to spend time each morning renewing their relationship with Him in order that they might see His glory. The morning is the time to do it, in order that we might know His glory throughout the day and be aware of Him.

2. Daily renewal begins with a secret place.

Matthew 6:6 *"But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly."*

God's wants us to have a secret hide out, a place where we can meet with Him privately each day to commune with Him. How precious is a relationship of two people who enjoy being together alone!

3. Daily renewal is a hunger for God's manna.

Matthew 5:16 *"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."*

Jeremiah 15:16 *"Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts".* God wants His children to have their daily supply of manna. We too ought to be hungry for the manna of God's Word each morning, that we might begin our day with the strength that we need.

4. Daily renewal is obedience to God's Word.

Luke 11:28 *"But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it."*

1Thessalonians 2:13 *"For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe."* A good Bible study will not help you, but a spirit of desire to obey God's Word will surely help any good Bible study plan. It is that desire to obey the Word of God that makes Bible study worthwhile. It is not the plan; it is the desire.

James 1:22-25 *"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. 23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: 24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. 25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed."*

Happiness comes to the Christian who obeys God's Word. (John 13:17; 14:15-16, 21, 23; 15:7, 10, 14, I John 2:3-5; 3:21-24; 5:3-4) When we spend our time gathering manna in the morning, let us remember it is not how much we gather that makes the difference; rather it is that we take that which we gather and apply it to our lives. The children of Israel were only to gather up as much as they could use for the day; any that was left over would be filled with worms and would stink. Sadly, we often consume a lot of God's Word, but put so little of it to any use, that it becomes infested with worms and begins to stink.

4. Daily renewal is a focused attention.

Notice in Numbers 7:8-9 that it is said, *"...he heard the voice of ONE speaking unto him from off the mercy seat..."* There our focused attention is of One who spoke to Moses. We also ought to focus our attention to the One who is speaking to us.

Sometimes we fail to hear His Words because we fail to focus our attention on Him. The renewal of a relationship is the renewal of our awareness of that One as He gives us His daily manna. **John 15:9** *"As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love."* **Matthew 11:29** *"Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls."* **Psalm 18:32** *"It is God that girdeth me with strength, and maketh my way perfect."*

Conclusion: Let us be careful that we are not forgetful of Him; that we do not get so busy in our daily Bible devotions that we forget the One who is speaking to us. Perhaps that is why so often a person's daily Bible study becomes a ritual, rather than a part of a relationship.

WALKING WITH GOD
Daily Renewal of the Relationship
Lesson 14 Part One
Elementary Idea Sheet

Introduction: (Bring some small crackers with you to class. They could be goldfish or the oyster crackers. You could even use regular crackers and break them into pieces.) I want all of you to lay your head down and close your eyes. We are going to pretend that you are sleeping. I want to show you what God did for His people. (Allow everyone to close his or her eyes. Place some crackers by each child. Have them open their eyes.) Can you imagine going to bed at night and when you wake in the morning finding pieces of bread all on the ground? That happened in a story in the Bible.

Lesson:

God's people, the Israelites, were leaving Egypt. They had been slaves for many years. These people had been told what to do and when to do it every day. They were not going to know what to do in the wilderness. God was sending them to a land that He had promised them. It was going to take a long time to get there and they were going to need help. God gave them Moses to be their leader. God put a cloud in the sky during the day. All the Israelites had to do was follow the cloud. God gave them a pillar of fire at night. God had made it so that their cloths and shoes would not get old. The children did not even grow out of their cloths. (Nehemiah 9:21) God took care of them in every way. They had a cloud for direction by day, a pillar of fire for direction by night and cloths and shoes that always fit, but what about their food? God took care of that too.

We know that God could of just made it so that people did not need food or never got hungry, right? After all, their shoes grew with their feet! God wanted the people to need food. God wanted the people to remember who brought them out of Egypt. It was not Moses; it was God.

The following are some facts that can be used along with the adult lesson:

1. God never forgot to take care of His people in the morning. Sometimes we get too busy to spend time with God in the morning.
2. It was important to get their needs from God each morning. If they tried to take enough for the next day, the left over would get worms in it and stink.
3. God did allow them to get enough on the sixth day for the seventh day to rest and honor God. They were Jews and their Sabbath day was Saturday. Christians today give God the best and the first, so we make the first day of the week, Sunday, the LORD's day.
4. At one point there was sin and rebellion in the camp. God told Moses that He would send an angel along, but He was not going to go with them. This is good to teach the importance of daily renewal to obedience of God's Word. The people repented and God restored the cloud and the pillar of fire and went with them.

Walking With GOD

Daily Renewal of the Relationship Part 2

Text Verses:

Exodus 29:38-46 “Now this is that which thou shalt offer upon the altar; two lambs of the first year day by day continually. 39 The one lamb thou shalt offer in the morning; and the other lamb thou shalt offer at even: 40 And with the one lamb a tenth deal of flour mingled with the fourth part of an hin of beaten oil; and the fourth part of an hin of wine for a drink offering. 41 And the other lamb thou shalt offer at even, and shalt do thereto according to the meat offering of the morning, and according to the drink offering thereof, for a sweet savour, an offering made by fire unto the LORD. 42 This shall be a continual burnt offering throughout your generations at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation before the LORD: where I will meet you, to speak there unto thee. 43 And there I will meet with the children of Israel, and the tabernacle shall be sanctified by my glory. 44 And I will sanctify the tabernacle of the congregation, and the altar: I will sanctify also both Aaron and his sons, to minister to me in the priest's office. 45 And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will be their God. 46 And they shall know that I am the LORD their God, that brought them forth out of the land of Egypt, that I may dwell among them: I am the LORD their God.”

Introduction: When God commanded the children of Israel to offer burnt offerings to Him, He explained His purpose and His plan. Daily sacrifices were to be made to God. The Bible says several things about these sacrifices. A) It was to be a yearling lamb. B) It was to be carried out morning and evening. C) It was to be a continual offering. But what exactly was the purpose of this daily sacrifice? It was to continually renew God's relationship with His people. In everything God asked the people to do, it focused around Him and His relationship with them, His chosen people. Notice the three items that were offered with these sacrificial lambs. **Flour** was one of the staples of their life. It provided the substance of their food. Thus when we think of flour, we think of substance. **Oil** was used to anoint anyone being set apart for a special purpose. Oil was something that sanctified or set apart something to God. So when we think of oil, we think of sanctification or being set apart. **Wine** was sweet. Wine represented the sweet flavor that God brought to people's lives. So when we think of the wine, we think of sweetness. As we compare them to our lives, we become aware that these are three things that we need to gain in our daily renewal. We need to gain substance from God's Word. We need to gain sanctification from God's Spirit, and we need to gain sweetness from the many wonderful things that God does for us. Every morning as we renew our relationship, it ought to be that these are the three things we, too, add in order that we might walk close to Him throughout the day.

6. Daily renewal is a time of cleansing of our minds.

Romans 12:2 “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

Colossians 3:9-10 “Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;

10 And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:”

Ephesians 4:23 “And be renewed in the spirit of your mind:” The passage in Ephesians tells us that we are to be renewed in the spirit of our minds. The tense here is present perfect which means it is continual. We are to continually be renewed in the spirit of our mind. The Christian must have that daily time of renewal in order to readjust our thoughts to God's Word and to His purpose. Throughout our day the world draws away our attention and our thoughts and we must take the time to replace them upon those things which are above. In Numbers 15, the children of Israel had a problem remembering the law of God, and so it was commanded them that they place a fringe of blue on their garments. This was to be their reminder to think of God's Word. We too must take the time to daily remind ourselves to put our mind on the things of God. Blue is the heavenly color. Paul said in Colossians to set your affections on the things above, (or in the heavenlies) not on the things on the earth.

7. Daily renewal is a time of renewed dependence upon God.

In the Lord's instruction to the disciples concerning prayer, He said to pray, “Give us this day our daily bread.” The children of Israel were reminded every morning of their total dependence upon God for their needs. We are much too prone to forget the fact that God is our provider and not we ourselves. The result of this often is materialism, debt, to even dependence on the world to provide instead of God. The faith of the Christian is oftentimes not upon his Lord because he is not daily reminding himself that it is God who provides. Perhaps because we fail to seek God on a daily basis to meet our needs, thus we think we are meeting them ourselves. But every means that we have for providing comes from the glory and the goodness of God.

8. Daily renewal is a time of silent communication with our own heart.

Psalms 4:4 “Stand in awe, and sin not: commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still. Selah. **Psalm 77:6** “I call to remembrance my song in the night: I commune with mine own heart: and my spirit made diligent search.” The kings had an inner chamber that was a place of silent solitude. The king was constantly bothered by people demanding his attention and his time. There was a need to occasionally go into his inner chamber where no one else ever was allowed to be. He would commune upon his bed within his heart upon the things that needed his thought and attention. In a sense it was a chamber of thought. He would actually muse, or speak to himself. God's people also need that daily time of musing, when remembrance my song in the night: I commune with mine own heart: and my spirit made diligent search.”

II Corinthians 4:16-16 “*For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. 17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; 18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things that are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.*”

9. Daily renewal is a time of being strengthened by God’s glory.

Ephesians 3:16 “*That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;*”

Exodus 16:7 “*And in the morning, then ye shall see the glory of the LORD; for that he heareth your murmurings against the LORD: and what are we, that ye murmur against us?*” God’s glory is our strength, or rather should be our strength. We need to take the time each day to realize the abundant glory from our Lord and gain our strength from Him. Many times the world beats us down and we need desperately to find the strength of God, which only can be found in His glory. **Isaiah 40:31** “*But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.*”

10. Daily renewal is getting in step with the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:16 “*This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.*”

Galatians 5:25 “*If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.*” The word walk here is very vital to a proper understanding. It means to walk in the formation or in step, or to walk orderly. In other words, walk in step with the Holy Spirit.

Conclusion: If we could daily take time to turn our hearts towards our Lord, searching the Scriptures to know Him better, and asking the Holy Spirit to take control of our steps that we might be in tune with Him, we would certainly be less prone to fail and to stray from His perfect will. This would allow us to understand better the things of God if we walked in step with the Holy Spirit. **1**

Corinthians 2:9-12 “*But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. 10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. 11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.*” It is only by His Spirit that we can truly know His will for us. Thus, it is important to get in step with the Holy Spirit day by day.

WALKING WITH GOD
Daily Renewal of the Relationship
Lesson 14 Part Two
Elementary Idea Sheet

Introduction: Have you ever heard the saying, “Out of sight, out of mind?” Have you ever had a friend or grandparent move away? When a person moves away, that person is missed very much. You think of that person every day, but the longer they are gone the less you think about them. You might think about that person every other day and then maybe only once a week. When someone you love moves away you make yourself think about that person. It is much easier to think about someone who you see every day. Can you see God? No. It is very easy to get out of bed every morning and start the day and forget about God. In fact, the day is so busy we never think about Him. Is God out of sight, out of mind? He can be if we don’t make ourselves think about Him every day. We need to be aware of God every day because we need Him every day.

(Briefly review lesson 14 and how the manna was a daily renewal of the Israelites’ relationship with God. Today’s lesson is another example of their daily renewal with God.)

Lesson: (You can bring with you a stuffed lamb or a picture of a lamb, flour, oil, and some grape juice. Use these things as visuals while teaching the points in the adult lesson.)

God wanted sweet fellowship with the Israelite people. They were His chosen people and did not want them to forget Him. God didn’t want the Israelite people to have, “Out of sight out of mind attitudes.” He had laws for these people to live by, and some of these laws helped them to remember where they were going, how they got there and who brought them there.

Imagine how hard and how tiring it would have been to live in the wilderness all those years. When they didn’t know which way to go, God gave them a cloud and a pillar of fire to follow. When they were thirsty, they probably wondered if they should have left Egypt. Of course, God gave them water out of rocks. When they were worried about where the food would come from, God gave them manna each morning on the ground. God took care of His people, but that did not keep them from doing wrong. (Review the point from the last lesson about God telling Moses that he was not going to go with them any longer.) Renewing your relationship with God each morning can help you be aware of Him being with you through the day. It is just as important for us to renew our relationship with God each day as it was for the Israelites.

(When teaching the points from the adult lesson, be sure to use things that relate to the age group that you teach.) The following are some examples:

6. **(Cleansing of our minds)** There are many things in the world that dirty our minds. Television shows, words to music, newspapers and other children at school are all things that can make us begin to think wrong things. We need to cleanse our minds daily with the LORD and ask Him to protect us.

7. **(Dependence on God)** each morning ask God to supply your needs. Thank God through the day for the food He has allowed you to have. Thank Him for your parents and your home. God promises to take care of our needs. Sometimes we get our needs and our wants confused and begin thinking that God is not taking care of us.

8. **(Silent communication with our heart)** (This would be good for children that are of school age.) Take time during the day and think about God. Make yourself take time to appreciate all that He does for you and the fact that He is always with you. If you don’t make yourself, it will become “Out of sight, out of mind.”

9. **(Strengthened by God’s glory)** When your mom asks you to do a job and you think it is too hard, pray and ask God for strength. If you have to take a test at school, pray and ask God for strength. (God can’t help with a test in which you never prepared.) Any time you get down or discouraged just remember that God is there. He will be your strength if you let Him.

10. **(In step with the Holy Spirit)** When you ask Jesus in your heart, the Holy Spirit lives within you. He is there to guide you and help you every day and all day. When you renew your relationship with God in the morning, you renew your relationship with the Holy Spirit. When a friend asks you to do something and if you are not sure if it is right or wrong, let the Holy Spirit guide you.

Conclusion: We do not want God to be “out of sight, out of mind” in our lives. Each morning we need to ask Him for His help for the day. All day we need to remind ourselves that He is there and share our day with Him. At night we need to thank Him for His help through the day and ask forgiveness for any wrong that we had done. God is out of sight, but He does not have to be out of mind or out of heart.

WALKING WITH GOD
Walking Where God Walks
Lesson 17
Elementary Idea Sheet

Introduction: “Ready or not here I come.” Who can tell me what game you are playing when you hear those words? The game is Hide-n-seek. In our Sunday school lessons we have been learning how to walk with God. If you want to walk with God, you have to know where God walks. When we say walking with God we mean being close to God; closer than you are to your parents or even a best friend. In order to get close to God and walk with God we are going to play a hide-n-seek game. God is not hiding from us; we just have to seek Him. Let me show you my game board.

(Game board: You will need two pieces of poster board or two pieces of construction paper to make your game board. The size of board you want will determine the type of paper you want to use. On the first sheet of paper, cut about twenty little windows. You only cut on three sides so that it lifts up like a flap. The game board will resemble an advent calendar. Glue the paper with the cut windows on top of the second sheet being careful not to glue the windows shut. On top of the paper write “Where does God walk?” On each of the windows write a number. Lift up ten different windows and write each point from the adult lesson. For example, Roman numeral I would be “Where He is wanted.” Do not write anything under the other windows.

How to play: Allow the children to take turns choosing a window. Lift the window so they can see if there is anything is written about where God walks. If it is not, the child does not get a point. If it is, you give the child a point and teach that point to the class. Continue playing the game until all the points are taught.)

(If you have very small children you can play the game using Cheerios or Fruit Loops. If there is nothing under the window you go to the next child. If there is something under the window, everyone gets two Fruit Loops.)

Lesson: As you teach the points to the children, relate each point to how they would feel in a similar situation. The following are some examples:

- I. **Where He is wanted-** Do you like to be with people that don’t like you? Do you want to play a game with someone that doesn’t want to play with you?
- II. **Where He is Heard-** I can remember when I was little I had some very important things I wanted to tell my mom and dad. Sometimes I would try to tell them when they were very busy. I would talk and talk and talk, but it just didn’t seem like anyone was listening. I would get sad and go somewhere else because no one was listening to me. I didn’t want to keep telling them if they weren’t going to listen. God is like that with us.
- III. **Where He is obeyed-** Moms and dads get upset when you don’t obey them. They want to be where they are heard and obeyed. They don’t want to waste time talking to you if you’re not going to listen. God walks where people obey Him.
- IV. **Among separated people-** Christian boys and girls shouldn’t want to be around boys and girls that do things that are wrong. I like to be around church people because they know what is right and wrong. God wants to walk where the people are that do what the Bible says and live the way the Bible says.
- V. **Where men have stood-** Remember our story about the three men in the fire? God stood with them in the fire. God was walking with these men and He didn’t leave them when they were thrown in the fire.
- VI. **Where faith is in Him-** Have you been afraid? Maybe you were afraid during a storm or when the lights were out in your house. You don’t have to be afraid because God is there with you. If you trust Him and have faith in Him, that is where God walks.
- VII. **Where He is praised-** (Brag on one or two of the children.) Don’t you like to have nice things said about you? God walks where people praise Him too. God deserves praise more than we do, but sometimes we forget to praise Him.
- VIII. **Where men wait on Him-** This point would be hard for small children, you can use things like taking time to talk to Him in prayer or asking God for something and waiting for the answer. Sometimes the answer is no.
- IX. **Where there is light-** If you are in a dark room you don’t know where anything is. When you turn on the light then you can walk around without hurting your toe or something. When you ask Jesus into your heart, you start learning what sin is. God walks where there is no sin.
- X. **Where He has an appointment-** If your mom told you that breakfast was every morning at 8:00 and every time you went to breakfast she wasn’t there, would you keep going? If God waited every morning for you to pray and talk to Him and you were never there, do you think that is where we would find God walking?

THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD

Ephesians 6:10-18 “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

11 *Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.*

12 *For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*

13 *Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.*

14 *Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;*

15 *And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;*

16 *Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.*

17 *And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:*

18 *Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;”*

INTRO - Ephesians 6 deals basically with putting on the armour of the Lord in our battle versus Satan. For this lesson we will not discuss the typical meanings of the different parts of the armour. We will discuss some things about the battle in our fight against Satan, for right and for Christ.

I. WE ARE TO BE STRONG IN THE LORD. **Ephesians 6:10** “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.” In other words, we are to “be made powerful in the Lord,” or to “be strengthened in the Lord and in the strength of His might.” In order to walk worthily of the calling and in order to fight the battle for God, we must be made strong in Him. What it is really saying is, the battle is for God, we must be made strong in Him. What it is really saying is that the battle is His; the strength must come from Him. We cannot win the battle in our own strength; we must depend upon Him and His power daily in the battle against wrong.

II. WE MUST REMEMBER THAT THE DEVIL IS OUR ENEMY. **Ephesians 6:11** “Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.” It is interesting to note that this is the only place in all of the writings of Paul where he definitely mentions Satan. He constantly recognizes the fact of Satan’s existence and over and over again refers to the nature of the world over which Satan reigns; however, this is the only place where he names him. Here we are brought to the recognition of the age-old conflict with which we are involved. It is a conflict between God and Satan, between those on the side of God and those under the mastery of Satan. We should recognize the fact that the Devil is our enemy. We are to fight him. We are not just to ignore him; we are to fight him. We are not just to refuse to accept his temptations; we are to launch an attack against him.

III. WE ARE TO WRESTLE. **Ephesians 6:12** “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” The word “wrestle” here has to do more with the military than the athletic. As a matter of fact, it suggests “hand-to-hand fighting.” In other words, each of us is to fight the Devil for himself in the power of the Holy Spirit. Notice, however, the fighting is not against flesh and blood. This is not the realm of our conflicts. We are to fight against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against the spiritual host of wickedness in heavenly places. We are not to fight each other. We are not to fight individuals. We are to fight wrong. We are to love the sinner and hate the sin. We are to love the wrongdoer and hate the wrong. We are to love the evildoer and hate the evil. We are to love the one filled with error but hate the error.

IV. WE ARE TO PUT ON THE ARMOUR OF GOD AND TAKE UP THE ARMOUR OF GOD.

Ephesians 6:11 “Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

13 *Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”* Here is an interesting play on words. “Putting on the armour of God” is dressing for a parade. “Taking up the armour of God” is preparing to fight. In other words, we are to do both. Verse 11 says we are to “put on the armour of God,” which means we are to let people know on whose side we are. We are to wear the uniform; we are to show the armour. We are to let the world know that we are ready for battle, but then we are also to “take up the armour of God.” We are to fight the battle for God; we are to get in the war. Hence, we are to do both—fight and let people see our uniform and our armour. We should show people whose side we are on, and we should fight for the right on that side.

“We will not go into the armour in detail now: truth for the loins, righteousness for the breastplate, readiness in the Gospel of peace for the feet, faith for the shield, salvation for the helmet, the Word of God for the sword, prayer and supplication which made the armour effective, etc. Whatever it is, we are to take it up and put it on.”

You will notice in the armour that there is nothing for the back. All of the armour is for the front. God does not expect us to retreat but to keep going forward. He does not expect us just to resist the attack of Satan; He expects us to attack Satan!

V. WE ARE TO HAVE PEACE IN THE BATTLE. Ephesians 6:23 *“Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”* He closes this discussion by mentioning we are to have peace. This is very interesting because we are in a war. How can we have peace in a war? It does not mean here that we are to have peace with the Devil. It means we are to have peace when we fight the Devil. Peace describes the possible experience of all who are walking worthily and waging a conflict with the forces of evil. In the midst of this conflict, peace is given to these warriors. This peace is combined with love and grace, as is mentioned in verse 24. This word “grace” means, of course, that all the battle and all of our relationship with Christ is because of God’s grace and the salvation derived there from. (Teacher, spend some time discussing the plan of salvation as is given by the grace of God, by grace through faith. You could go back to Ephesians 2:8-10 for this. **Ephesians 2:8-10** *“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”* In other words, tell about the grace that God gives to those who are unsaved so that they may be saved, the battle which is to be fought by those who are saved, and the peace that God gives in the battle to those who are fighting.)

EIGHTEEN DEVICES SATAN USES AGAINST US

Bible Reading: 2 Corinthians 2:1-7 *“But I determined this with myself, that I would not come again to you in heaviness. 2 For if I make you sorry, who is he then that maketh me glad, but the same which is made sorry by me? 3 And I wrote this same unto you, lest, when I came, I should have sorrow from them of whom I ought to rejoice; having confidence in you all, that my joy is the joy of you all. 4 For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote unto you with many tears; not that ye should be grieved, but that ye might know the love which I have more abundantly unto you. 5 But if any have caused grief, he hath not grieved me, but in part: that I may not overcharge you all. 6 Sufficient to such a man is this punishment, which was inflicted of many. 7 So that contrariwise ye ought rather to forgive him, and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one should be swallowed up with overmuch sorrow.”*

Aim: To know and to reject the main devices that Satan uses against us.

Introduction:

“Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.” II Corinthians 2:11. To grasp victory, we must know the strong points or devices that Satan uses against us. Notice the 17 Deadly Devices of Satan.

1. DISAPPOINTMENT

We have all been disappointed by not getting what we wanted at times. But to the knowledgeable Christian, ALL disappointments are God's appointments and must be viewed as such, lest Satan gain the advantage. To be disappointed is to forget **Romans 8:28** “*And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*”

2. DISCOURAGEMENT

Discouragement is the second stage. Disappointment leads to discouragement. “*Fear not, neither be discouraged.our brethren have discouraged our heart.*” **Deuteronomy 1:21, 28.**

3. DESPAIR

Despair is the third stage of disappointment and discouragement. Unless checked, it can destroy your Christian life. To despair is to forget **II Corinthians 4:8** “*We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed, we are perplexed, but not in despair.*”
To despair is to forget that God is working in our lives.

4. DOUBT

Satan attacked Eve in the Garden of Eden with doubt, by getting her to doubt God's Word. “*He said unto the woman, yea, hath God said, ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?*” **Genesis 3:1.**

To doubt is to forget to PRAY and to forget **I Timothy 2:8** “*I will therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.*”

5. DISBELIEF

Disbelief is the final form of doubt. **Genesis 3:4-5** “*And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: 5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.*”
To disbelieve is to forget **Hebrews 3:12** “*Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.*”

6. DISTRACTION

One can be side-tracked from God's perfect will by family or job. The real enemy of the BEST is not the WORST, but the GOOD. To be distracted is to forget **Matthew 14:30** “*But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid, and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.*”

7. DOUBLE MINDEDNESS

A “double minded” man in Greek means to be “double souled”. To be double minded is to forget **James 1:8** and **4:8** “*A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.*” “*Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.*”
Matthew 6:24 “*No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.*”
Ephesians 4:14 “*That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;*”

I John 2:15-17 “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”

8. DISHONESTY

We can be dishonest by:

- a) lying or cheating,
- b) holding back certain facts, or
- c) being less than we should be as pastors, parents or workers which is to cheat our people and children.

It is estimated that over \$500 million is raised each year by false “faith healers” who cannot do what they claim. To be dishonest is to forget II Corinthians 4:2, “But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the Word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God.” Dishonesty comes by fear or by greed.

9. DECEIT

“With all deceivableness of unrighteousness” **II Thessalonians 2:8-12.**

“For we are not as many, which corrupt the Word of God.” **II Corinthians 2:17.**

“Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; but have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God.” **II Corinthians 4:1, 2.**

“For many deceivers are entered into the world” **II John 1:7.**

To be deceived is to forget **Jeremiah 17:9**, “The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked: who can know it?”

10. DULLNESS

Dullness means sleepiness to the things of God. The readers of Hebrews suffered dullness. They needed sound Bible teachers to bring them to their senses. Because they were dull, they could not be used by God. He states why: “For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. **Hebrews 5:12-14.**

This dullness was also infecting the church of Corinth. Listen to Paul’s stern admonition to them: “And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?” **I Corinthians 3:1-3.**

To suffer dullness is to forget **Hebrews 5:11** “Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing.”

11. DEADNESS

Deadness means unchecked dullness. Don’t be dead like the Sardis Church “I know thy works, that thou has a name that thou livest, and are dead.” **Revelation. 3:1.**

12. DEFAME

How often are Christians guilty of criticizing or belittling other believers? If we have something against a believer, tell him to his face. To defame someone is to forget **Psalms 101:5**, “Whoso privily slandereth his neighbour, him will I cut off: him that hath an high look and a proud heart will not I suffer.”

13. DISCORD

Far more Bible believing churches have been split over discord than doctrine. Some trouble-maker begins his or her deadly gossip in a local church, raising questions and doubts in the minds of people, doubts that otherwise would have never been entertained. How effectively Satan uses this tool; and how painful it will be at the BEMA judgment seat of Christ for the carnal sowers of discord. To sow discord is to forget Proverbs 6:16-19 “These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, an heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, a false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.”

14. DEFILEMENT

Defilement with the things of the world. God insists upon clean vessels. A believer who defiles himself with the things of this world can never be fully used by God, regardless of his education, ability, energy, or experience. To become defiled is to forget **I Corinthians 3:16, 17**, “*Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.*”

15. DISCONTENT

One of Satan's favourite lies is to tell people that things will be better if they go elsewhere: For example, if they:

- a) change marriage partners
- b) change churches

Some people are always complaining. God says:

“Be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”

Hebrews 13:5.

“Having food and raiment let us be therewith content.” **I Timothy 6:8.**

“I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.” **Philippians. 4:1.**

16. DELAY

Delay is used to (a) postpone salvation; (b) postpone service to God.

“I made haste and delayed not to keep thy commandments” **Psalms 119:60.**

17. DISOBEDIENCE

There are two famous men in the Bible named Saul.

- a) Both were from the tribe of Benjamin (I Samuel 9:2; Philippians 3:5).
- b) One was tall and impressive; the other short and unimpressive.
- c) OT Saul began as God's friend and ended up as God's enemy.
NT Saul started as God's enemy but ended up as God's friend.
- d) OT Saul went to the witch of Endor in his hour of death.
NT Saul turned to the Word of God in his hour of death.

What made the difference between these two men?

The Old Testament Saul was disobedient; the New Testament Saul was obedient. *“And Samuel said, Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou has rejected the word of the Lord, he hath also rejected thee from being king.”* **I Samuel 15:22, 23.**

To disobey is to forget **Romans 6:14-18**, *“For sin shall not have dominion over you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.”*

18. DEBT

“The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.” **Proverbs. 22:7.**

“Owe no man anything, but to love one another.” **Romans 13:8.**

When we borrow money, we make ourselves vulnerable to many evils such as:

- a) Losing our job and being unable to pay the interest.
- b) Dishonest or incompetent business partners may steal or waste our money.
- c) The market price falling in what we are investing in so that we can't pay back the bank. As a result, the bank will take your house or other securities.
- d) Local councils or governments changing the laws to make your investment unprofitable, so that you can't sell the product for what you expected.
- e) Dishonest tradesman or builders who can threaten you by stopping a building project unless you pay whatever they ask. You can't get rid of them because no other builder wants to take on responsibility for another builder's mistakes.
- f) You can be tempted to be dishonest with money to bail yourself out.

Hence, great risks are associated with borrowing money. We should avoid debt because the devil can enslave us into working long hours to pay off bank interest and debt, so we have no time or energy left to serve the Lord.

Conclusion: Be sober, be vigilant. Don't be destroyed by Satan's devices.

THE ARMOR OF GOD

Sword of the Spirit

Ephesians 6:10-18 “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

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

14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;”

INTRO -

This week in Vacation Bible School we have been learning about the Armor of God and its importance. We are in a Battle against our Enemy the Devil. The Devil uses the World to appeal to the desires of our flesh and tempts us to live for what we think will make us feel good and what we think is pleasurable instead of living for what makes the Lord feel good and His Pleasure.

We learned that the first piece of Armor we need to put on is to gird or bind our loins with TRUTH. This means we are to get control of our emotions and not live by what feels good and let our bodies tell us what to do but we are to live by the Words and examples of Jesus Christ. We are to let Truth run our lives not our feelings and emotions.

The next piece of Armor we need to put on is the Breastplate of Righteousness. This means when we put this piece of Armor on we are determined we are going to obey and do what God tells us to do in His Word.

The next piece of Armor we are to put on is having our feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace.

This means that realize everyone is going to live somewhere forever. When we put on this piece of armor on our feet we are saying, “I want to be a soulwinner.” “Lord, please lead me across the path of someone today so I may show them how to go to Heaven.” “I don’t want to just go soulwinning, I want to be SOULWINNER.”

The next piece of Armor God tells us about is the Shield of Faith. We learned that God says this is the most important piece of Armor we can take up because God’s Word tells us, “ABOVE ALL.” We must trust the Lord and commit our day to Him or we will fall victim to the doubting and fearful fiery darts of the devil.

The next piece of Armor God tells us to put on is the Helmet of Salvation. This is knowing that you are saved. This is you enjoying the fact that you are on your way to Heaven and you’ll never go to hell.

This morning we are going to look at one of only two weapons God gives us to fight the Devil. So far the pieces of Armor we have covered have been defensive or for our protection but this is the only weapon of two that God gives us to fight back and hurt the Devil and the powers of darkness and sin.

Defensive or protective

Loins girt with truth

Breastplate of Righteousness

Feet shod with the Preparation of the Gospel of peace

The Shield of Faith

Helmet of Salvation

Offensive or ground claiming

The Sword of the Spirit

Praying always

Let's look at our Weapon that is given to us by God.

I. GOD CALLS HIS WORD A SWORD

Hebrews 4:12 *"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any **twoedged sword**, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."*

Psalm 149:5-9 *"Let the saints be joyful in glory: let them sing aloud upon their beds.*

6 *Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a **twoedged sword in their hand**;*

7 *To execute vengeance upon the heathen, and punishments upon the people;*

8 *To bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron;*

9 *To execute upon them the judgment written: this honour have all his saints. Praise ye the LORD."*

Revelation 1:16 *"And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength."*

Revelation 19:15 *"And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God."*

II. WHEN YOU USE BIBLE VERSES TO COMBAT PARTICULAR SINS AND TEMPTATIONS THEN GOD'S WORD IS BEING USED AS A SWORD.

Psalm 119:11 *"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."*

Psalm 19:11-13 *"Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.*

12 *Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults.*

13 *Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression."*

Psalm 17:4 *"Concerning the works of men, by the word of thy lips I have kept me from the paths of the destroyer."*

Jesus taught us by His example to resist the Devil or battle temptation with quoting specific scripture that applies to that specific sin or temptation.

Matt 4:3-11 *"And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.*

4 *But he answered and said, **It is written**, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.*

5 *Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple,*

6 *And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.*

7 *Jesus said unto him, **It is written** again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.*

8 *Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;*

9 *And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.*

10 *Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: **for it is written**, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.*

11 *Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him."*

James 4:7-8 *"Submit yourselves therefore to God. **Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.***

8 *Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded."*

So how do we resist the devil? We wrestle with the Sword of the Spirit or battling specific sins with specific scriptures.

As a Soldier of the Lord, when Satan is throwing temptations at you, the way you fight back is quote scripture. This is why it is very important that you learn the Bible and memorize the Bible.

Most Christians know the TV guide better than they do the Word of God.

Many Christians have never read the Bible through in a year but they read plenty of other magazines and news articles.

Many Christians have more sports information memorized than they do the Word of God.

Do you know the Books of the Bible?

Do you have a favorite verse in the Bible?

Do you have a favorite chapter in the Bible?

Do you have a favorite book of the Bible?

If you were sent into combat and the only thing you were allowed to carry was a sword, how well would you learn to use that sword?

If you realized that you were in a real battle against a real enemy and that your life was at stake, you would get serious about the Christian life and not treat the Bible as just another book but rather your "GUARENTEED SUCCESS INSTRUCTION BOOKLET."

God says His Word is THY LIFE.

Proverbs 4:13 "Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go: keep her; for she is thy life."

Job 23:12 "Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food."

Psalms 119:97 "O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day."

The Sword of the Spirit is the battling use of the Word of God against sin and wrong.

For example

These scriptures could be used against these sins and temptations.

Hanging around the wrong crowd – Proverbs. 13:20

Smoking – I Corinthians. 6:19 and I Corinthians. 3:17

Cussing – Ephesians 4:29

Bitterness and wanting to hurt people - Ephesians 4:32

Lust - Matthew 5:28

Watching bad TV, Movies or Videos - Psalm 101:3

Video Games - Ephesians. 5:16

Not going to Church - Hebrews. 10:25

Disobeying parents - Ephesians. 6:1

Not praying - I Samuel 12:23

Wrong music - Ecclesiastes 7:5 and Ephesians 5:19

Worrying - Matthew 6:25, 33-34

Anger - Ephesians. 4:26-27

Bitterness - Luke 6:27-28

Burn out - Matthew 11:28-30

Complaining - Philippians. 2:14-15

Confusion - Ps. 25:4-5

Critical Spirit - Ephesians. 4:32; Psalm. 1:1-2; Proverbs. 1:22-23; 9:12

Discontentment - Philippians. 4:11-13; I Timothy. 6:7-8; Hebrews. 13:5

Discouragement - Isaiah 41:10; Joshua 1:8-9

Doubt - Mark 9:24; John 20:27

Fear - II Timothy. 1:7; Acts 20:23-24; I John 4:17-19

Gossip - Romans 14:19

Materialism - Matthew. 6:19-20; Luke 12:15; Ps 37:16; Proverbs 15:16: Proverbs 16:16

Guilt or Conviction - I John 1:9; Psalm 86:5

Guilt feelings after you have confessed - Romans 8:1

Impatience - Psalm 31:14-15

Feelings of Inadequacy - II Cor. 12:9; I Tim 1:12

Jealousy - I Corinthians. 13:4; Proverbs. 14:30; Romans 1:29-30; Titus 3:3

Laziness – Colossians 3:23
Loneliness – Isaiah 43:2-4
Lying – Ephesians 4:25
Pride – Matthew 23:12
Rationalizing – Proverbs 3:5
Rebellion – Luke 22:42
Resentment – I Corinthians 13:5
Restlessness – Psalm 46:10
Self-Centeredness – Philippians 2:3
Self-Pity – I Peter 2:21-23
Self-Righteousness – Galatians 2:20
Worry – Psalm 23:1

God's Word is not just to be known but applied. When you apply God's Word to your life you are using the Sword of the Spirit.

TEACHER: A good Bible story to use here is II Samuel 9:23-24.

Notice that Eleazar's hand clave unto the sword.

The Word Cleave means to be so close that if separation happens, damage is done to both.

Here Eleazar clave unto the Sword and at the end of the day they probably had to help him peel his hand away from his Sword, but it was because he held on to it so tightly that God was able to bring a great victory. The victory was also very thorough so that all the people had to do who came behind him was pick what they wanted that was valuable off of the dead bodies.

Eleazar was one of King David's mighty men because Eleazar's hand clave to the Sword.

As a Soldier your hand should cleave to your Sword.

You should carry it with you to school.

Your Bible should go with you every where.

You should use your Bible every where you go. If your Bible is not welcomed then you should not go.

Reasons to Obey God

We live in an age of rebellion where many people care little about God, seeking their own pleasure and ignoring God. Even many Christians are lukewarm. They are glad to be saved and going to heaven, but they don't care much about obeying and serving God. They are too busy having a good time, and living for themselves than to care about living for Christ and rescuing people from hell. In order to be saved we must see ourselves as big sinners who have lived for self, wronged God and have broken the chief commandment of Matthew 22:37,38 of not loving God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, and not loved our neighbour as ourselves. **Matthew 22:37-38** "Jesus said unto him, *Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.* 38 *This is the first and great commandment.*"

When some Christians are asked to come to church they say: "You are always pushing me to come to church". A truly born again child of God with a new nature should find it a joy to come to church to fellowship with believers and to learn more of the Bible. We should not ask: "How little can I do for God?", but we should ask: "How much can I do for God?" We should find it a joy to serve God.

Consider the following reasons for us to obey God and endeavor to do all that we can to please him:

1. GOD CREATED US

He allows us to live in this wonderful world of beauty that He has created for our pleasure and enjoyment. To not obey Him is not to acknowledge His goodness in giving us all these things richly to enjoy. It is to be selfish and extremely ungrateful to take all from God and to give Him nothing or little in return.

2. GOD HAS GOODWILL TOWARDS US

God wants good things for us. If we obey God then He desires to bless us with more good things.

"The goodness of God leads us to repentance". **Romans 2:4.**

3. GOD KNOWS WHAT IS BEST FOR US

God's ways are better than our ways. God is much wiser and smarter than we will ever be. Often our wishes are based on wrong information.

"I am the Lord thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go. O that thou hadst harkened to my commandments! Then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea." **Isaiah 48:17, 18.**

4. IF WE OBEY GOD TODAY, THEN GOD WILL OPEN UP EXCITING NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR US TOMORROW

"He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much." **Luke 16:10.**

Every time we are challenged to obey God, we should view it as a test permitted by God. If we obey God we pass the test and blessing follows. For example, the Abrahamic covenant given after Abraham passed the unselfishness test in Genesis 13:5-18.

5. IF WE DISOBEY GOD IN ANY ISSUE, WE FAIL THE TEST AND LOSS RESULTS

For example, Lot chose the best land for himself near Sodom, but he inherited much trouble when he was captured by Amraphel in a war, and later when he lost everything in the destruction of Sodom.

6. IF WE DISOBEY GOD, OUR CHILDREN WILL FOLLOW OUR EXAMPLE AND DISOBEY GOD ALSO

For example, Lot had lost his reputation and testimony before his two daughters and sons-in-law when he asked them to flee from Sodom.

"But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons-in-law". **Genesis 19:14.**

Also his two daughters so disrespected Lot's lack of standards that they made him drunk and committed incest with him. On the other hand Abraham obeyed God and his son Isaac obeyed God, following his father's good example.

7. IF WE OBEY GOD, OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN WILL BE LIKELY TO OBEY GOD ALSO

This will bring blessing to our following generations. For example, Abraham was greatly respected for his obedience to God by many generations of people to come.

8. IF WE OBEY GOD, WE WILL BE GREATLY RESPECTED BY GOD AND GODLY PEOPLE FOR YEARS TO COME

People will remember us with great respect and they will be encouraged to obey God as well. *"The memory of the just is blessed: but the name of the wicked shall rot."* **Proverbs 10:7.**

9. ONE ACT OF DISOBEDIENCE LEADS TO MORE DISOBEDIENCE

This is how bad habits are formed. The devil says "one sin won't hurt". This is a lie, because it is harder to do right after a sequence of giving in to sin. Many people fall into deep sin and trouble after giving into a lot of small temptations.

10. IF WE OBEY GOD, THEN GOD WILL DELIVER US FROM TROUBLE

"The righteous is delivered out of trouble". **Proverbs 11:8.**

11. IF WE OBEY GOD, WE WILL PROLONG OUR DAYS

We all like to live a long and happy life.

"Ye shall walk in all the ways which the Lord your God hath commanded you, that ye may live, and that it may be well with you, and that ye may prolong your days in the land which ye shall possess." **Deuteronomy 5:33.**

Walking With GOD

Walking With Open Eyes

Text Verse: Luke 24:13-32

Introduction: Two disciples were walking down the road to Emmaus. They were discouraged. They communed and reasoned with one another; which means they were seeking an answer to the things that had transpired concerning the one that they had felt was their Messiah. One disciple was Cleophas. Perhaps the other one was even Luke himself. As they walked, suddenly the Lord appeared to them and drew nearer, but they did not know it was Him. Jesus began to walk with them down the road to Emmaus and asked them what it was that they were discussing and why they looked obviously sad. Cleophas began to answer Him and began to share with Him the things that had happened to Christ and how that they had trusted Him, (but did not know exactly what the answer was). They also shared the fact that the women had gone to the tomb, but the body was missing. These women had seen a vision of angels who had said that He was alive, but when the others went to the sepulcher, though the body was missing, they were bewildered. So confused were they that they were not even able to see that this was Jesus Himself. Could He have been that different looking? Could there have been such a change in His countenance, or was there simply a change in their spirit that made them unable to tell who it was with whom they were walking? Though they were walking with Jesus, they were walking with closed eyes. Have you ever noticed how many people go through the motions of walking with the Lord and yet they do not see Him. They read their Bibles, they pray, they even go soul winning, yet there is not the reality of Christ. Perhaps nothing is any sadder than Christians who are walking with their eyes closed. Let us take a closer look at the problem that kept them from being able to see that this was Jesus with whom they were walking.

- I. **They were not really expecting Him.** Perhaps we can never really see the Lord and know Him in a personal walk until we begin to really anticipate Him and His presence to be real to us. These disciples had been already told that He would appear and that He would come back and yet their lack of faith caused them to be unable to accept it. You would think that they would be looking for Him and anticipating His presence to be with them once again. But they, like us, too often lack the anticipation of His personal presence. A young man, discouraged because he felt as though he were a stranger to the Lord and the Lord a stranger to him, went to his pastor. The pastor recommended to him that each day as he prayed, he take two rocking chairs, place them across from each other; sit in the one, and pray as though the Lord were sitting in the other. When the pastor studied his Bible, doing this same thing, he felt as though God were talking personally to him from that rocking chair, for he said, "The presence of the Lord is that real, if you will allow it to be." The young man began this practice, and for many years continued praying and reading his Bible sitting across from an empty rocking chair. Over the years he drew closer and closer to the Lord, and the Lord became a reality in his life. When he prayed, others could feel the presence of God; for he was in the presence of God as he visualized the Lord sitting in the rocking chair fellowshiping with him. One night, as a very, very old man, he was sitting with his wife and reading God's Word, when she left his fellowship and went on to bed. She awoke in the middle of the night and realized that he had not yet come to bed, so she quickly got up and went into the living room. She herself described the sight that she saw, "He was sitting there with the rocking chair not across from him, but next to him. His hand was reached over to the empty chair and it was cupped as though he were holding someone's hand. There was a look of heaven on his face, and he was dead." This is a beautiful story of a man who learned to anticipate the presence of the Lord and His reality until he really knew that he had seen the Lord in a personal way.
- II. **They were not thinking fully in a Biblical perspective.** Jesus reprimanded them because they failed to remember what God's Word said would happen. They should have been thinking in a Biblical sense and known that His presence would once again be real among them. But they were thinking in a fleshly sense; their experience was based on their feelings rather than the truth of God. How often this destroys our ability to be aware of the presence of God because we are walking in feeling rather than in the principles of God's Word. Had they been thinking in Biblical terms, there would not have been the doubt, the sadness and the confusion; for they would have known the purpose of Christ's going and they would be looking forward to His presence once again.
- III. **They had not yet learned to glory in the cross.** "Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?" These disciples were sad Jesus had died, and they had not as yet fully grasped the glory of it all. "But God forbid that I should glory save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ." Perhaps one of the greatest reasons why we are not able to really be thrilled by His presence and see Him in a real way in our lives is because we do not glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. We have failed to be thrilled by Calvary and to learn to see the goodness of God and His reality as evidence in His crucifixion.

- IV. **They could not see Christ in the Scriptures.** “And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the Scriptures all the things concerning Himself.” Even as Christ revealed the Scriptures thoroughly to them, they still could not see His presence. Their eyes were still closed to Him with whom they were walking. Too often we go through the motions of Scripture reading without seeing Jesus and He is not a reality to us, even though the entire Word of God is built around His person. **John 1:1** “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” **John 1:12** “But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.” Christ is the living Word. Everything within the Word of God is a revelation of His character and His person. Yet so often we are not looking for Him in His Word and we read it as though it were a historical book rather than a biographical book about the person of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- V. **They could not yet recognize Him in the light of their normal everyday living.** “And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and he made as though he would have gone further. But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them.” Here they were, walking down the road to Emmaus. They rested, they traveled, they ate and they slept; yet they were not aware of His presence, even though He was walking with them. There must come a time in the Christian’s life where he is aware of Christ in his everyday living and he sees Christ and knows Him in a personal way. Every portion of his life should be centered on not just the teachings of Christ but also His person.
- VI. **They had not yet really realized that He had personally died for them.** Their eyes were still closed. They walked with Him. He had personally discussed with them the crucifixion and the things that happened in Jerusalem. He had shared the Bible with them and even reprimanded them for their unbelief, yet still they were walking with closed eyes to His reality and person. So they came to a point where they were getting ready to eat. He was going to go no farther, but they pressed Him beyond measure to stay with them. When Jesus took the bread and blessed it, broke it and gave it to them, a marvelous thing transpired; it was as though a light was turned on inside their head. What took place caused the eyes of these disciples to be suddenly opened to His reality. In an earlier passage, Christ had broken bread with them and shared it with them as a representation of what He was soon to go through on the cross of Calvary. They had not yet understood that this was the time that He would be personally dying for them; His body being broken for their transgressions. Suddenly after the event of the cross, as He broke the bread, they became aware that He had personally died for them, and it was at that moment that their eyes were opened. Something about the way He broke the bread, blessed it, and gave it to them caused their eyes to be opened to the reality of His presence.
- VII. **They had yet to really realize that Jesus was alive.** His death suddenly became wonderful to them, and even greater than that is that they realized for the first time that He had conquered death and that He lived. Mary Magdalene had to come to the realization that He was alive. Simon had to discover it. Even each one of the disciples had to personally come to the discovery that Jesus was alive. They had been trained by Him for three years. For three years he had shared with them the innermost secrets of His heart and taught them in the way they ought to carry out their Christian lives. Greater than all, He had exemplified what they were supposed to be. They never saw a sinful act performed by Him. Never was His spirit not right nor did He show an ill attitude toward anyone. Yet they really still did not see Him for all He was. Their eyes were still not opened. They could not quite grasp the meaning of the crucifixion, and when they could not fight for Him they turned and fled and forsook Him. Jesus patiently had gone to Calvary and died and then rose from the grave. When they realized that He was alive, their eyes were opened and their lives were changed.

Conclusion: We cannot know the Lord and walk with Him with open eyes until we have fully grasped and come to the same awareness that the disciples did. We must expect Him in our lives in a personal way. We must begin to think in the Biblical perspectives of God’s Word. We must glory in the truth of the cross. We must be able to see Christ’s reality in the Scriptures. We must be able to see Him in the light of everyday living. We must realize that He personally died for us. We must ultimately begin it all by saying Jesus is alive. Then we who have walked in an emptiness with eyes that were closed to His reality can walk in the living joy that comes from realizing our Saviour lives within us and we can walk with God with open eyes.

WALKING WITH GOD
Walking with open eyes
Lesson 18
Elementary Idea Sheet

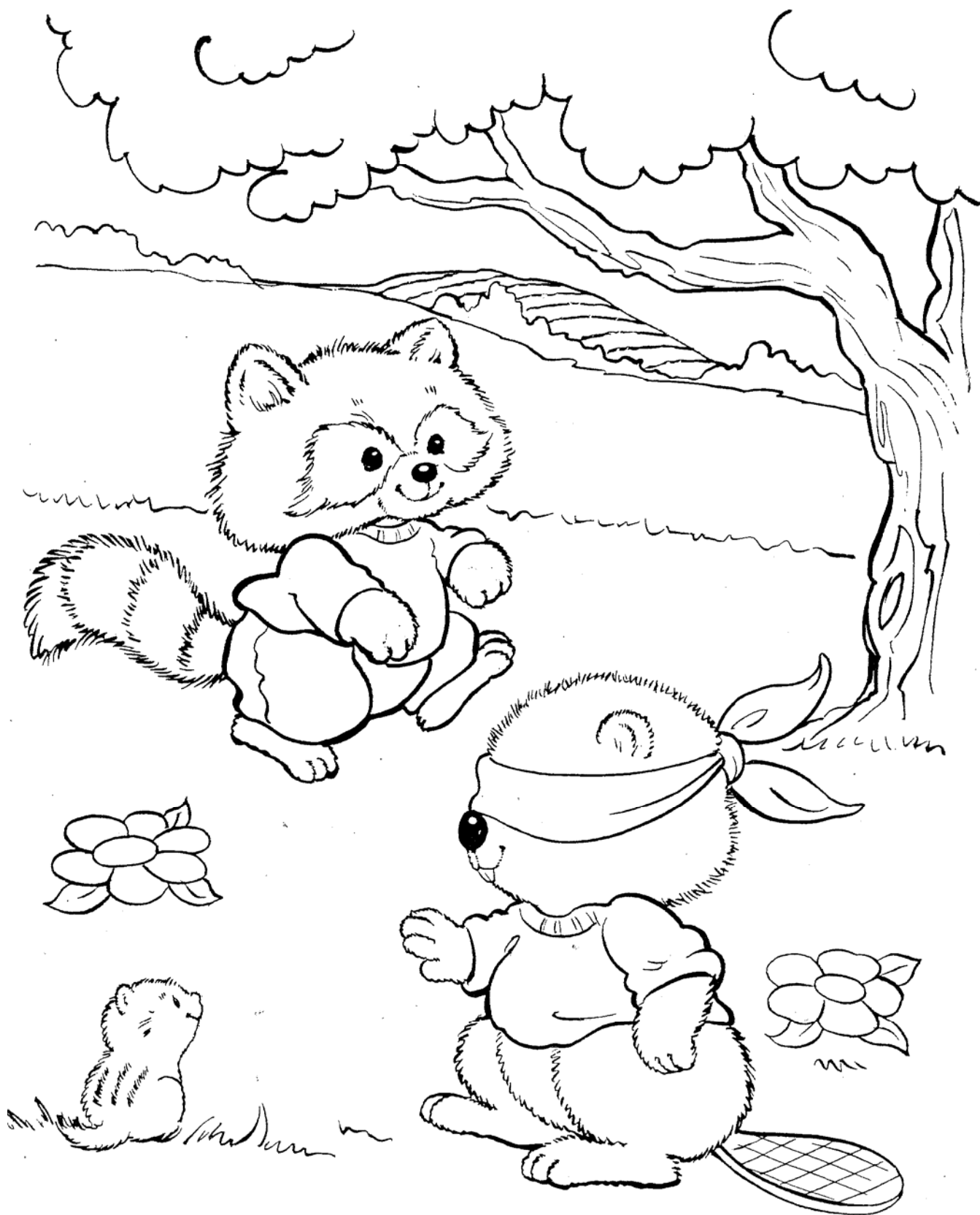
Introduction: (Bring a blindfold with you to class. Pick a student in your class to be blindfolded. It is a good time to emphasize that when you need a helper, you will choose someone that will follow instruction and be a help rather than a class clown.) I am going to blindfold (Bobby) today. I want Bobby to walk around our chairs while wearing his blindfold. I do not want anyone to talk. I want him to do it himself. Do not help him. (Allow the student to walk a short distance, walk with him, but do not talk and then stop him.) That is a little difficult to walk around our chairs when you can't see. I am going to leave the blindfold on him, but this time I am going to help him. (Walk with the student and guiding him with your voice.) It is very hard to walk when you can't see, but it is easier if there is a voice to guide you. (Take off the blindfold and walk with the child around the table with his eyes open. You should still be talking to the child and telling him where to turn.)

Remember we are learning every week how a Christian should walk with God. In our lesson today, we have two men who were walking with Jesus; their eyes were open, but they did not know Him.

Lesson: The majority of the Bible story in this introduction of the adult lesson. You can use the introduction of this lesson to help teach the entire lesson. In the introduction, the child tried to walk around the table three times.

1. The student walked blindfolded and alone. A boy or girl who has not asked Jesus into their heart is blind. The men in the story were not totally blind they knew Jesus before the crucifixion.
2. The student walked blindfolded, but with some help. After a person asks Jesus into their heart, they go to church, read their Bible, pray and go soul winning. They are getting help, but they still have not opened their eyes to the fact that Jesus is walking with them.
3. The student walked without a blindfold and had help. This is the way a Christian should walk with God. It is very important to go to church, read your Bible, pray and go soul winning, but we should do all that with our eyes open and aware that God is guiding us.

Sometimes Christians are like these two men. We get wrapped up in the things around us. These two men were so concerned about all that happened that they failed to realize who was walking beside them. Christians get so busy with everyday things that we fail to realize that God is walking beside us. Our eyes are closed and we no longer see Him. Children also become too busy with play and sports and friends that they fail to realize that God is walking with them too.



Blind man's buff

The Church

God's Protection for the Christian

Colossians 2:8-10 *“Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.*

9 *For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.*

10 *And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:”*

There are some philosophies that if you believe them they will rob you of some of the blessings that are in Christ.

Satan wants to rob you of what you have in Christ.

When only 1% of America is in church on Sunday night - our philosophy on church is wrong.

CHURCH - "Ecclessia" - A called out assembly.

Two systems in the Bible:

-The church

-The world

A church is a called out assembly of people from the world who have been saved and baptized.

SYNAGOGUE-----**Church**-----New Testament Church

I. Let Us Not Forsake the Assembling or "Churching" of Ourselves Together

A. **Hebrews 10:24-25** – *“And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:*

25) *Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”*

B. There is no invisible church.

C. The word "church" means a local assembly of believers.

D. Illus: A man said, "I live in the house of God and that's why I don't go to church."

Acts 2:47 *“Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.”*

Acts 5:11-14 *“And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things.*

12 *And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch.*

13 *And of the rest durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them.*

14 *And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.)”*

Just because some one is saved does not necessarily mean that they are added to the Church. You do not become a member of the Church when you get saved.

Here in these verses people were saved but nobody joined the Church.

You can be added to the Lord without being added to the Church.

Acts 11:21-26 *“And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord.*

22 *Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the church which was in Jerusalem: and they sent forth Barnabas, that he should go as far as Antioch.*

23 *Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord.*

24 *For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord.*

25 *Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Saul:*

26 *And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.”*

II. The Local, Called-Out Assembly of Believers

Acts 2:47 – *“Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.”*

A. One hundred and fourteen times, the reference is to the local, called-out assembly of believers.

Acts 8:3 – *“As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison.”*

Acts 9:31 – *“Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.”*

Acts 11:26 – *“And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.”*

Acts 12:1 – *“Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church.”*

Acts 13:1 – *“Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul”.*

Romans 16:5 – *“Likewise greet the church that is in their house. Salute my wellbeloved Epaphroditus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia unto Christ.”*

Romans 16:16 – *Salute one another with an holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you.”*

Roman s 16:23 – *“Gaius mine host, and of the whole church, saluteth you. Erastus the chamberlain of the city saluteth you, and Quartus a brother.”*

1 Corinthians 16:1 – *“Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye.”*

L. The doctrine of the "Invisible Church" relieves duty and responsibility.

M. The doctrine of the "Invisible Church" salves the conscience of one who listens to the TV and radio on Sunday morning, Sunday night and Wednesday night instead of going to church.

III. Every Local, N.T., Baptist Church Is A Body of Christ

A. **Ephesians 1:23** – *“Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.”*

B. **Colossians 1:18** – *“And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead: that in all things he might have the preeminence.”*

This is the Verse they always use to defend their position.

1 Corinthians 12:12-14 – *“For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.*

13 *For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.*

14 *For the body is not one member, but many.”*

The Book of Corinthians was written to who?

The Church at Corinth.

When you got saved you became God's child and you entered God's Family but you did not become a member of the Church until you walked the Isle made your salvation public and were baptized.

Family or Church.....They are not the same thing. John 1:12, Romans 8:16, Galatians 3:26

IV. A True Church Has to Meet Some Qualifications

A. A soul winning church

1. **Revelation 1:13-16** – *“And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. 14) His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; 15) And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. 16) And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.”*

2. **Revelation 1:20** – *“The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.”*

3. **Revelation 2:1** – *“Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;”*

4. **Revelation 2:5** – “Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.”

5. Jesus said, "You do the first works or I will remove your charter."

a. John **1:40-41** – “One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. 41) He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.”

b. John **1:44-45** – “Now Philip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. 45) Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”

c. The "first works" are getting people saved.

d. It's like having a franchise of KFC. You can cook chicken any way you want to, but if you want bear the name KFC, you will do it their way.

e. If a church isn't interested in getting people out of hell, it isn't a real church

B. A King James Bible church

1. **Psalm 11:3** – “If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?”

2. There has to be a foundation for truth.

1 Timothy 3:15 “But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”

3. **John 1:1** – “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

Isaiah 8:20 – “To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.”

4. **Hebrews 4:12** – “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

5. You can only know the Living Word as you read the Written Word.

C. A Baptist church

1. **Matthew 3:1** – “In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea,”

2. **Matthew 11:11** – “Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

3. John the Baptist was called a Baptist by God because he baptized.

4. John the Baptist was a Baptist preacher.

5. Jesus was baptized by a Baptist preacher.

6. Jesus' disciples were baptized by a Baptist preacher.

D. An autonomous church

1. **Revelation 2:6** – “But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.”

2. **Revelation 2:15** – “So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.”

a. “Nico” - to rule.

b. “Laity” - the people.

c. The word "Nicolaitan" deals with an outside force controlling the church.

d. The church is supposed to be totally self-operating.

- e. Any church tied with a convention is not a New Testament Church - it is only a church.
- f. It amazes me how many Christians who come from Independent Baptist Churches join Southern Baptist Churches when they move.

IV. Why It Is Important To Go To Church

A. **Matthew 16:18** - *“And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”*

1. "Gates" refers to the authorities of a city.
2. God has promised that the "gates" or authorities of Hell would not prevail against the church.
3. When a person says, "I won't go to church", he is refusing God's protection against Satanic destruction.

B. 1 **Timothy 3:15** *“But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, **the pillar and ground of the truth.**”*

1. Every Christian who does not get involved in the Local New Testament Church always ends up in some degree getting mixed up in error. A Christian who does not have a church home is very vulnerable to false teaching.

C. **Haggai 1:1-11** - *“In the second year of Darius the king, in the sixth month, in the first day of the month, came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet unto Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, saying, 2) Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, This people say, The time is not come, the time that the LORD's house should be built. 3) Then came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet, saying, 4) Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your cieled houses, and this house lie waste? 5) Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways. 6) Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes. 7) Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways. 8) Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house; and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the LORD. 9) Ye looked for much, and, lo, it came to little; and when ye brought it home, I did blow upon it. Why? saith the LORD of hosts. Because of mine house that is waste, and ye run every man unto his own house. 10) Therefore the heaven over you is stayed from dew, and the earth is stayed from her fruit. 11) And I called for a drought upon the land, and upon the mountains, and upon the corn, and upon the new wine, and upon the oil, and upon that which the ground bringeth forth, and upon men, and upon cattle, and upon all the labour of the hands.”*

- God says you have no satisfaction because you have not made His house your priority.

D. 2 **Chronicles 27:1-2** - *“Jotham was twenty and five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Jerushah, the daughter of Zadok. 2) And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Uzziah did: howbeit he entered not into the temple of the LORD. And the people did yet corruptly”.*

1. Jotham thought he was strong enough to stay out of church.
2. His decision destroyed those that looked to him for an example.

Ps 73:1-28 *“Truly God is good to Israel, even to such as are of a clean heart.*

- 2 *But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh slipped.*
- 3 *For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.”*
- 4 *For there are no bands in their death: but their strength is firm.*
- 5 *They are not in trouble as other men; neither are they plagued like other men.*
- 6 *Therefore pride compasseth them about as a chain; violence covereth them as a garment.*
- 7 *Their eyes stand out with fatness: they have more than heart could wish.*
- 8 *They are corrupt, and speak wickedly concerning oppression: they speak loftily.*
- 9 *They set their mouth against the heavens, and their tongue walketh through the earth.*
- 10 *Therefore his people return hither: and waters of a full cup are wrung out to them.*
- 11 *And they say, How doth God know? and is there knowledge in the most High?*

12 *Behold, these are the ungodly, who prosper in the world; they increase in riches.*
13 *Verily I have cleansed my heart in vain, and washed my hands in innocence.*
14 *For all the day long have I been plagued, and chastened every morning.*
15 *If I say, I will speak thus; behold, I should offend against the generation of thy children.*
16 *When I thought to know this, it was too painful for me;*
17 ***Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end.***
18 *Surely thou didst set them in slippery places: thou castedst them down into destruction.*
19 *How are they brought into desolation, as in a moment! they are utterly consumed with terrors.*
20 *As a dream when one awaketh; so, O Lord, when thou awakest, thou shalt despise their image.*
21 *Thus my heart was grieved, and I was pricked in my reins.*
22 *So foolish was I, and ignorant: I was as a beast before thee.*
23 *Nevertheless I am continually with thee: thou hast holden me by my right hand.*
24 *Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.*
25 *Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee.*
26 *My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.*
27 *For, lo, they that are far from thee shall perish: thou hast destroyed all them that go a whoring from thee.*
28 *But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all thy works”.*

You will get discouraged if you don't go to church.

WALKING WITH GOD

Walking alone Lesson 18 Elementary Idea Sheet

Introduction: Do you like to be alone? Some people are scared when they are alone. In our Sunday School lessons we have been learning how a Christian can walk with God. The lesson today is called “Walking Alone.” You may be thinking, “Teacher, how can I walk alone and walk with God?” That does seem a little funny. God is with you always. He never leaves you. Walking with Him means to be close to Him, trust Him, talk with Him, share things with Him, and to love Him. We have had a lot of lessons about walking with God. You can be closer to God by sometimes being alone.

Lesson: Being alone does not mean you are the only person in the room. It can mean other things too. Let me show you what I mean.

1. Let’s pretend you are in a room with some other boys and girls. Everyone starts doing something they are not allowed to do. If you do not do what they are doing you are alone. You are the only one doing right. (Illustrate with something that relates to the age group that you teach. Smaller children: Throwing a ball in the house. Middle age children: Talking when a teacher leaves the room. Older age: Smoking at a friend’s party.)

When you do right when everyone else is doing wrong, God knows it is hard and you feel alone. He will come closer to you. This means when you are alone, you are walking with God.

2. When you feel sad because something has happened and you think nobody cares or understands you are alone.
3. If you and your family had to move to a new town, you wouldn’t know anyone when you got there. You would have to make new friends, but until you did, you would feel alone. You wouldn’t be alone because God is with you.

I want everyone to be very quiet and close your eyes. I want you to pretend you are in the room all alone. There is nobody else in here with you. (Pause just a second for quietness.) Okay, open your eyes. Can anyone tell me what it is like in a room where you are alone? (Give time for answers.) It is very calm, quiet and peaceful. It is easy to think when you are alone.

I like Bible stories, don’t you? There are so many stories about people in the Bible. We can learn a lot of things from those people. Some things we learn are about what not to do. There are many stories of men in the Bible that at times were alone and they prayed to God during those times. Many times when Jesus prayed, He prayed with people around him. He also would get alone to pray. The following verses are about Jesus going to pray alone. Read the verses to the class and allow them to tell you where Jesus went to pray.

Mark 1:35: He went to a solitary place. (Emphasize early morning time with God.)

Mark 6:46-47: He went to a mountain. (Emphasize evening prayer.)

Luke 5:15-16: He went in the wilderness.

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Luke 9:18: (The disciples were near to Him.)

Luke 22:41-42: He was in the Garden of Gethsemane, but went off alone to pray.

The following are verses where the prayers are in public:

Matthew 11:25

Luke 3:21

John 11:41

John 17:1

When you teach this lesson emphasize that even a child needs to take time to pray alone.

Walking With GOD

Walking Where God Walks

Text: Psalm 42:1-3 *“As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God.*

2 My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?

3 My tears have been my meat day and night, while they continually say unto me, Where is thy God?”

Introduction: So you want to walk with God. You have begun to desire and hunger to know Him personally and to have that sweet relationship and fellowship with Him. But wait a minute, if you are going to walk with God, you have got to know where God walks. Where exactly does God walk? I say, “Walk with God,” and you say, “Where is that?” If you are going to develop a walk with God, you are going to have to find out where He is and where He walks. Understand, that when we say, “Walk with God,” we refer to our personal relationship with our God because of the access we have in Christ through His Word by His Holy Spirit. That realization that He is a real person and that He personally wants to communicate with us and be a viable part in every walk of our Christian life. So, if we are going to walk with God, let us look and see where it is God walks.

I. God walks where He is wanted. The passage in Psalm 42 is one of the most beautiful passages in God’s Word as we observe the psalmist hungering to really find the closeness of God. Notice that God will never force Himself upon people who do not really want Him. I do not like to be with someone who does not want to be with me, and I will not fellowship with somebody who does not have a desire to fellowship with me. So it is with God. (Psalm 63:1-2 and Psalm 84:1-2) In other words, God wants to be wanted and He walks where He is wanted.

II. God walks where He is heard. God communicates to man through His Word, but if man has no desire to listen to Him, then there is no sense in God speaking to him. A fellowship with God or a walk with God can only be in a place where man is willing to listen. In the story of Samuel, we find that God spoke to Samuel, but He only called him. It was not until Samuel said, “*Speak, for thy servant heareth,*” that God opened up and really spoke to the boy, Samuel. Oftentimes, it is not until we come to God and simply say, “Speak Lord, I want to listen,” that God really is able to communicate with us in the sweetness of fellowship.

III. God walks where He is obeyed. (Leviticus 26:3-12) In verse 3, God states a requirement and in verse 12, God gives the result. He says, “*If ye walk in my statutes and keep my commandments and do them, I will walk among you, and will be your God, and ye shall be my people.*” God walks among those who obey His Word and His commandments. When Jonah fled God’s will, he actually fled God’s presence. It was not until Jonah was willing to obey what God wanted Him to do that his fellowship was once again restored. No one will ever know the sweetest fellowship of all until they are willing to be obedient to the Lord.

IV. God walks among a separated people. (II Corinthians 6:14-16) Many Christians are too worldly to have a close walk with God. God is not at all in friendship with the world, but rather is totally separate from the world. We are a sanctified people, which means we are set apart, and God expects a sanctified people to live up to the privilege. The children of Israel left Egypt as a picture of salvation. They did not change Egypt, but rather were delivered from Egypt to a new land. God is holy; therefore wherever God dwells is holy, and God wants this dwelling place to be a separated, sanctified, and purified dwelling place. (Matthew 5:8)

V. God walks where men have stood for Him. (Daniel 3:25) How beautiful a story this is as we realize God was walking in the midst of the fire with those men that had taken a stand for Him! Men who suffer for Christ will always find God walking with them in their time of suffering. Why did Paul seem to know the Lord so well? because he suffered. (Philippians 3:10) It was not until Stephen was stoned for Christ that he was able to say, “*I see Jesus standing on the right hand of the Father.*”

VI. God walks where faith has been placed in Him. (Hebrews 11:5-6) We do not like to be with people who do not have confidence in us. If someone has absolutely no faith in us whatsoever, we feel totally uncomfortable with them. So it is with God. When He looks down upon His people and realizes that as weak as we are and as rotten as the world is, yet still we have not placed total faith in His perfection and ultimate power, He is no longer comfortable with us, for He dwells with those who have placed their faith totally in Him.

VII. God walks where He is praised. (Psalm 22:3) The Lord desires to be in close harmony and fellowship with those who give their praise to Him. Anytime someone praises me, it perks me up; it makes me want to be around them more. So it is with our God.

VIII. God walks where men wait on Him. (Psalm 59:9-10) The word “wait” means to observe, to watch, to take heed, or to meet. Sadly, too few Christians really have the time to actually give in the waiting on God. Our minds and our lives run one hundred miles per hour and never slow down long enough to simply wait on God in order that we might know Him in a sweeter fellowship. No deep abiding relationship can be developed in a rush-rush situation. Time must be taken to perfect the relationship and to draw the hearts close together. Oh, that we would be still and know the Lord! (Psalm 62:1, 5-8, Psalm 135; 136; 143:8) We seem to have the attitude that we can walk with God for a few minutes whenever we are ready to feel like it and our inconsistency keeps us from knowing the fullness of God’s fellowship. Our impatience often keeps us from really having wonderful fellowship with the Lord. Psalm 37:3, “Rest in the Lord, wait patiently for him.” Luther once stated, “I am so busy that I cannot get on without eight hours a day spent in prayer to my Master.” God’s people will never know the delight of fellowship and will be weak in their walk with God until they come to the place in their lives where they are willing to wait on Him. Occasionally, they need to put aside the duties, responsibilities, work, and activities of the world, simply to be drawn closer to Him.

IX. God walks where there is light. (John 1:3-10) God is light, and in Him there is not any darkness whatsoever. If we want to have fellowship with Him, then the fellowship we are going to have is going to be in the light. As we walk in the light with God, we see the sins that abide in our lives and the sin that we commit on almost a daily basis, and we seek to be cleansed by the confession of that sin. If we come to the place where we admit that we have sinned and that we are sinners, He will then forgive us and He will cleanse us. Many people’s relationship with the Lord is not what it ought to be because they will not admit they have sin in their lives. As we have sin cleansed, more sin becomes evident in our lives as we are walking with Him. Thus, walking with God in the light produces conviction, confession, cleansing and fellowship. Herein we have a wonderful relationship with Him because we are walking in the light of His Word.

X. God walks where He *has* an appointment. (Amos 3:3) Here the word agreed actually means appointment. God wants to meet us at an appointed time for daily fellowship. God does not want our leftover time. He wants to be a priority. How would you feel if all you got from your loved ones was the time they had leftover from all their other various activities? God wants a set prime time where we can give Him our full attention. The appointment that we have with God has several characteristics about it. It ought to be a secret, private appointment. (Matthew 6:5-6, Psalm 91:1, Psalm 3 1:20) Why is this important? Because He is our secret hiding place, a place where we go to be with Him in secret, to shelter ourselves from the world and to gain the strength we need to stand for Him.

Conclusion: There is no excuse for us not seeking Him and walking with Him, because we know where He walks. Where God walks is where the Christian ought want to be in order that he might draw close to Him in a sweet and tender fellowship.

WALKING WITH GOD
Walking Where God Walks
Lesson 20
Elementary Idea Sheet

Introduction: “Ready or not here I come.” Who can tell me what game you are playing when you hear those words? The game is Hide-n-Seek. In our Sunday school lessons we have been learning how to walk with God. If you want to walk with God, you have to know where God walks. When we say walking with God we mean being close to God; closer than you are to your parents or even a best friend. In order to get close to God and walk with God we are going to play a hide-n-seek game. God is not hiding from us, we just have to seek Him. Let me show you my game board.

(Game board:) You will need 2 pieces of poster board or 2 pieces of construction paper to make your game board. The size of board you want will determine the type of paper you want to use. On the first sheet of paper, cut about twenty little windows. You only cut on three sides so that it lifts up like a flap. The game board will resemble an advent calendar. Glue the paper with the cut windows on top of the second sheet being careful not to glue the windows shut. On the top of the paper write “Where does God walk?” on each of the windows write a number. Lift up ten different windows and write each point from the adult lesson. For example, Roman numeral I would be “Where He is wanted.” Do not write anything under the other windows.

How to play - Allow the children take turns-choosing a window. Lift the window so they can see if there is anything written about where God walks. If it is not, the child does not get a point. If it is, you give the child a point and teach that point to the class. Continue playing the game until all the points are taught.)

(If you have very small children you can play the game using Cheerios or Fruit Loops. If there is nothing under the window you go to the next child. If there is something under the window, everyone gets 2 Fruit Loops.)

Lesson: As you teach the points to the children, relate each point to how they would feel in a similar situation. The following are some examples:

- I. Where He is wanted- Do you like to be with people that don’t like you? Do you want to play a game with someone that doesn’t want to play with you?
- II. Where He is Heard- I can remember when I was little I had some very important things I wanted to tell my mom and dad. Sometimes I would try to tell them when they were very busy. I would talk and talk and talk, but it just didn’t seem like anyone was listening. I would get sad and go somewhere else because no one was listening to me. I didn’t want to keep telling them if they weren’t going to listen. God is like that with us.
- III. Where He is obeyed- Moms and dads get upset when you don’t obey them. They want to be where they are heard and obeyed. They don’t want to waste time talking to you if you’re not going to listen. God walks where people obey Him.
- IV. **Among separated people-** Christian boys and girls shouldn’t want to be around boys and girls that do things that are wrong. I like to be around church people because they know what is right and wrong. God wants to walk where the people are that do what the Bible says and live the way the Bible says.
- V. **Where men have stood-** Remember our story about the three men in the fire? God stood with them in the fire. God was walking with these men and He didn’t leave them when they were thrown in the fire.
- VI. **Where faith is in Him-** Have you been afraid? Maybe you were afraid during a storm or when the lights went out in your house. You don’t have to be afraid because God is there with you. If you trust Him and have faith in Him, that is where God walks.
- VII. **Where He is praised-** (Brag on one or two of the children.) Don’t you like to have nice things said about you? God walks where people praise Him too. God deserves praise more than we do, but sometimes we forget to praise Him.
- VIII. **Where men wait on Him-** This point would be hard for small children, you can use things like taking time to talk to Him in prayer or asking God for something and waiting for the answer. Sometimes the answer is no.
- IX. **Where there is light-** If you are in a dark room you don’t know where anything is. When you turn on the light then you can walk around without hurting your toe on something. When you ask Jesus into your heart, you start learning what sin is. God walks where there is no sin. We will always sin, but we can always confess our sins so that we can keep walking with God.
- X. **Where He has an appointment-** If your mom told you that breakfast was every morning at 8:00 and every time you went to breakfast she wasn’t there, would you keep going? If God waited every morning for you to pray and talk to Him and you were never came, do you think that is where we would find God walking?



Walking With GOD

Walking Alone

Text Verse: Matthew 14:23 *“And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.”*

Introduction: We come to a topic that, while not extremely exciting, is extremely important in developing our relationship with God. Fellowship has become an important ministry of the church today, and one could not argue that fellowship is vital in the life of a Christian. While not under estimating the importance of gathering with other believers, we must realize that a great walk in a relationship with God will not come in a crowd, but only alone. Great Christians are often very lonely people and know much about being alone. Unfortunately, we teach our young people far too much of how to be sociable creatures, but not how to walk alone. No wonder we have a shallow brand of Christianity that is based on peer pressure more than on the power of God. The Bible is filled with examples of great men and women who walked alone with God. When God created Adam, He did not want Adam to be alone, yet there was a relationship that God gave to Adam with Himself that was unique. God meant for Adam to walk alone with Him. Let's look at other examples of men who walked alone.

- I. **Enoch. Genesis 5:21-24** *“And Enoch lived sixty and five years, and begat Methuselah: 22 And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters: 23 And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years: 24 And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.”* Certainly there was no man alive that could understand the walk of Enoch. So alone was he that he finally was taken without experiencing death. No one can fully understand the relationship of the man of God who walks alone.
- II. **Noah. Genesis 6:8-9** *“But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD. 9 These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.”* Noah, along with his family, was the only man righteous enough to be spared from the great flood. How lonely he must have been when God gave him a command to do something and he knew that no one else would understand! Yet this great man performed his task and walked with his God alone.
- III. **Abraham. Genesis 12:1-3** *“Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: 2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: 3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.”* He began his walk alone in Genesis 17 when God told him to go to another country and leave everything else behind. Though he took his family, it was Abraham that was basically walking with God and being led of God. God dealt with him alone time and time again in his life until he even interceded for the city of Sodom alone. (Genesis 12:1-5) Perhaps the loneliest walk of Abraham was when he walked with his son to sacrifice him as an offering to God. Yes, Isaac was with him, but there was no one in the world who knew exactly the task that he was to perform, including Isaac, for Abraham alone had been commanded by God.
- IV. **Jacob.** In Genesis 32, Jacob had an experience of wrestling with the angel of God alone. In verse 24 we read, “And Jacob was left alone and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day.” If we want to have an experience of prevailing prayer for power in our lives, we will have to know what it is to walk alone.
- V. **Moses.** It was alone that Moses cared for his sheep. It was alone that he was called by God in the back side of the desert. It was alone that he was led time and time again to the mountain top to pray. It was alone that he interceded between God and the people as they turned against God and worshipped the golden calf. There were others who served with Moses, but Moses had a walk with God that was alone.
Exodus 24:2 *“And Moses alone shall come near the LORD: but they shall not come nigh; neither shall the people go up with him.”*
- VI. **Joshua.** When Moses died, it was a relationship between God and Joshua alone, (only) that transpired in the great passage in Joshua 1:1-9.
Joshua 1:1-9 *“Now after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD it came to pass, that the LORD spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying, 2 Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel. 3 Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses. 4 From the wilderness and this Lebanon*

even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast. 5 There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. 6 Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swore unto their fathers to give them. 7 Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. 8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. 9 Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest". Joshua would have to know now what it is to walk with God alone. But this would not be new to Joshua, for it was back in Exodus 33:11, when Moses had left the door of the tabernacle that the Bible says Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the tabernacle. He was already learning to walk alone.

- VII. David.** This young man spent many lonely hours, no doubt drawing close to God as he watched the sheep alone, as he fought the lion and the bear alone, as he even stood and defended God before the Philistine army and fought Goliath alone, as he fled from Saul alone, and as he led as the king alone. Certainly his loneliness was a great part of his greatness in his relationship with God.
- VIII. Elijah.** This great man of God stood against the prophets of Baal alone. But it was not unusual to him, for there were many times where God cared for him and fed him as he served alone. His relationship affected many, but his walk was one that was alone.
- IX. Job.** Here was a man that had all of the people in his life for whom you could ask, but had he not had the relationship between God and himself alone, he would not have been able to stand faithful when all had forsaken him. His was a lonely relationship, yet it was sweet, for he knew what it was to walk with God alone.
- X. Jesus. Luke 9:18** *"And it came to pass, as he was alone praying, his disciples were with him: and he asked them, saying, Whom say the people that I am?"*
Matthew 14:23 *"And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone."*

The great life of our Lord was one in which He communicated and walked with His God and His Father alone. No man could ever really understand that relationship and in the beautiful prayer of John 17, we see the fullness of the lonely walk that Christ had with His Father.

Conclusion: In the Old Testament worship, a crowd of people did not enter into the presence of God to offer the blood sacrifice, only the High Priest alone; and we must learn to come boldly (alone) before the throne of grace. Someone has said that loneliness is not being alone, but it is being alone in the crowd. There is a loneliness that no one will ever understand, but that we who know the Lord in an intimate way must experience as we walk with Him. Have you ever tried to develop an intimate relationship in a crowd of people? Close relationships are developed by people who spend a great amount of time alone together. There must be times when we go into our room or into our prayer closet and in privacy and secrecy commune with our heavenly Father. If you want the fullness of the relationship with God that is offered to us by our Father, then you must learn to walk alone.

Walking alone
Lesson 18
Elementary Idea Sheet

Introduction: Do you like to be alone? Some people are scared when they are alone. In our Sunday School lessons we have been learning how a Christian can walk with God. The lesson today is called “Walking Alone.” You may be thinking, “Teacher, how can I walk alone and walk with God?” That does seem a little funny. God is with you always. He never leaves you. Walking with Him means to be close to Him, trust Him, talk with Him, share things with Him, and to love Him. We have had a lot of lessons about walking with God. You can be closer to God by sometimes being alone.

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2. When you feel sad because something has happened and you think nobody cares or understands you are alone.
3. If you and your family had to move to a new town, you wouldn’t know anyone when you got there. You would have to make new friends, but until you did, you would feel alone. You wouldn’t be alone because God is with you.

I want everyone to be very quiet and close your eyes. I want you to pretend you are in the room all alone. There is nobody else in here with you. (Pause just a second for quietness.) Okay, open your eyes. Can anyone tell me what it is like in a room where you are alone? (Give time for answers.) It is very calm, quiet and peaceful. It is easy to think when you are alone.

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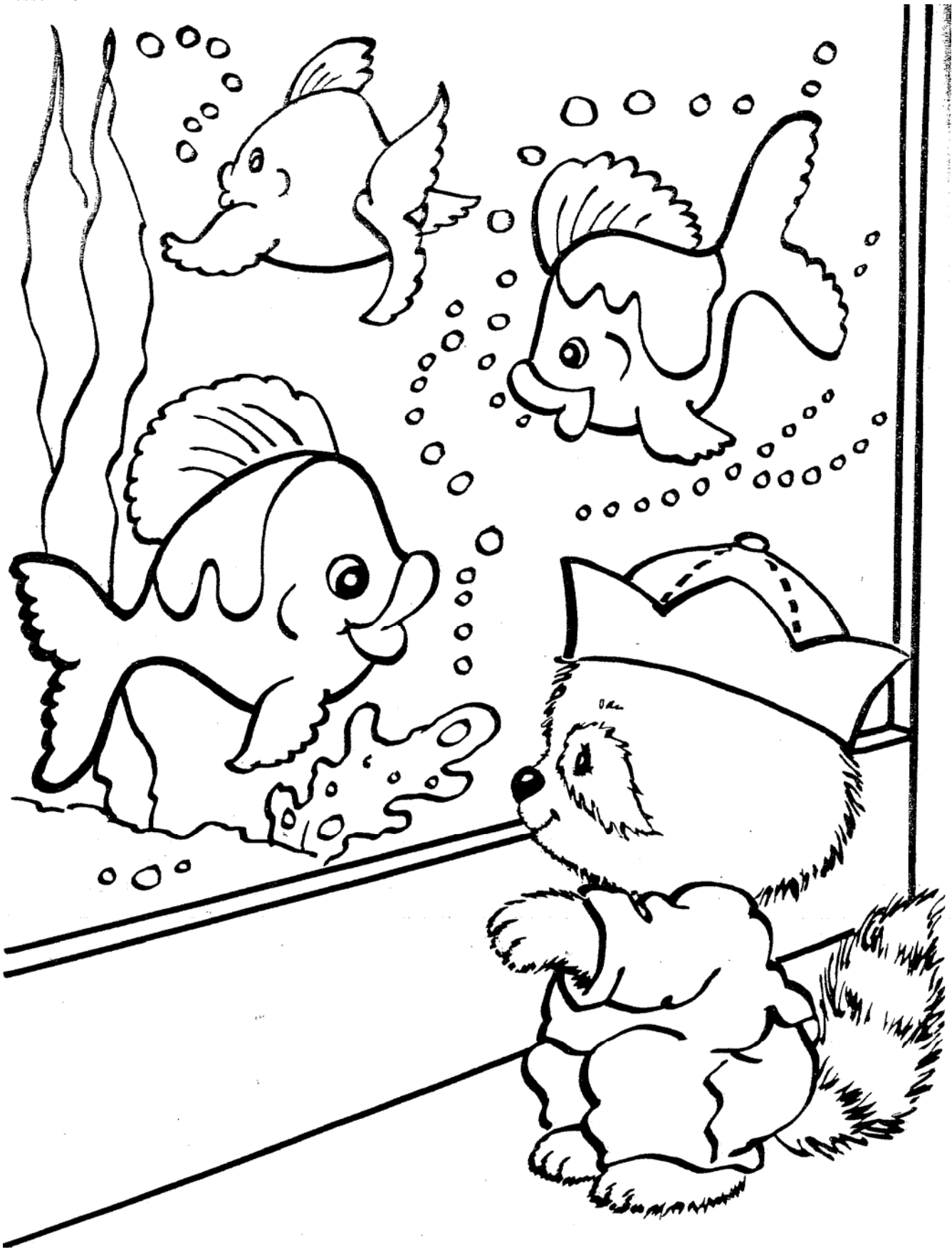
Matthew 11:25

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When you teach this lesson emphasize that even a child needs to take time to pray alone.



IS THERE A BARRIER BETWEEN THE FISH AND THE RACCOON?

THE BIBLE

God's Eternal, Inspired, and Preserved Word – The KJB

One evidence of the value of the Bible is the character of those that oppose it.

It is impossible to mentally or socially enslave a Bible reading people - *Horace Greely*

Men do not reject the Bible because it contradicts itself, but because it contradicts them.

Other books were given for our informationThe Word of God was given for our transformation.

Last night I paused beneath the blacksmith's door,
And heard the anvil ring the vesper chime;
Then looking in, I saw upon the floor,
Old hammers worn with beating years of time.

"How many anvils have you had," said I,
"To wear and batter all these hammers so?"
"Just one," said he, and then with twinkling eye,
"The anvil wears the hammers out, you know."

"And so," I thought, "The Anvil of God's Word
For ages skeptic blows have beat upon,
Yet, though the noise of falling blows was heard,
the Anvil is unharmed, the hammers gone."

I. God's Word is Very Important to God

A. Psalm 138:2 – *"I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name."*

At the name of Jesus:

1. We are saved
2. We are Baptized
3. Demons are cast out
4. The sick are healed
5. Dead are raised
6. Every knee shall bow and every tongue confess

B. It is totally of God - 2 Timothy 3:16 - *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:"*

C. It is the only Source of truth - Isaiah 8:20 – *"To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them."*

D. It has always been. There was never a time when God's Word was not.

1. Psalm 119:89 – *"For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven."*
2. Psalm 119:152 – *"Concerning thy testimonies, I have known of old that thou hast founded them for ever."*

E. The word of God and prayer are your only offensive weapons. All of the other armor is defensive.

1. Ephesians 6:10-18 – *"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. 11) Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12) For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. 13) Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14) Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; 15) And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16) Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. 17) And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: 18) Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;"*

2. Hebrews 4:12 – “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

F. Just give them the Word of God.

1. Jonah. – look at how backslidden he was

Jeremiah 23:22 – “But if they had stood in my counsel, and had caused my people to hear my words, then they should have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their doings.”

G. It is God's Word that has power. (Bro. Roloff made his kids memorize one or more chapters a week.)

Jeremiah 23:29 – “Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?”

H. It is with the Bible that Jesus will smite the nations.

Revelation 19:15 – “And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.”

I. Every word is important.

Matthew 4:4 – “But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”

J. God's Word is very pure.

1. Psalms 119:140 – “Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it.”

2. Proverbs 30:5 – “Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.”

3. Psalms 12:6-7 – “The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. 7) Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation forever.”

It is God's job to perform the preservation of His Word.

Because it was inspired when it was first written and God has preserved His word, it is still just as inspired as it was when it was first written

K. God has promised that His Word shall stand forever.

Isaiah 40:8 – “The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.”

II. Mechanical Dictation - God Spoke the Bible; Man Just Wrote It Down

Exodus 24:12 “And the LORD said unto Moses, Come up to me into the mount, and be there: and I will give thee tables of stone, and a law, and commandments which **I have written**; that thou mayest teach them.”

Hosea 8:12 “**I have written** to him the great things of **my law**, but they were counted as a strange thing.”

2 Peter 1:19-21 – “We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: 20) Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 21) For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were **moved** by the Holy Ghost.”

(Carried or driven)

2 Samuel 23:2 – “The Spirit of the LORD spake by me, and his word was in my tongue.”

Ezekiel 3:4 – “And he said unto me, Son of man, go, get thee unto the house of Israel, and **speak with my words** unto them.”

Ezekiel 3:10-11 – “Moreover he said unto me, Son of man, **all my words that I shall speak** unto thee receive in thine heart, and hear with thine ears. 11) And go, get thee to them of the captivity, unto the children of thy people, and speak unto them, and tell them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear.”

A PERFECT EXAMPLE OF MECHANICAL DICTATION IS 1 Timothy 1:15 – *“This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.”*

1. Paul wasn't testifying here.
2. God was telling Paul he was chief of sinners.

How many times in the Bible does it say,

"The Word of the Lord,"----- 16

"Thus saith the Lord," ----- 135

"Word of God," ----- 51

The critics say, "Only the originals are inspired and true scripture . "

This is false because:

1. They themselves have never seen the originals.
2. Jesus quoted scripture and called scripture from the Old Testament, scripture, after it had been copied for 600 years.

Mark 12:10 *“And have ye not read this **scripture**; The stone which the builders rejected is become the head of the corner:”*

John 13:18 *“I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the **scripture** may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me.”*

Luke 4:17-21 *“And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written,”*

18 *“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,”*

19 *“To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.”*

20 *“And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him.”*

21 *“And he began to say unto them, This day is this **scripture** fulfilled in your ears.”*

3. God has either preserved His Word or He has not.

4. I find it very easy to believe that the God Who made the world and saved me can also very easily preserve His Word

III. Satan has a three-fold plan in Genesis 3.

1. He gets you looking at what you cannot have and cannot do, instead of all the freedoms you do have because you are a Christian.

Genesis 3:1 – *“Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?”*

2. He gets you doubting God's Word.

Genesis 3:4 – *“And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:”*

3. He then promises satisfaction from disobeying the Word of God. The Devil always pays in counterfeit money.

Genesis 3:5 – *“For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil”*

IV. Revival Came Because the Word of God Was Found And It's Authority Was Submitted To

II Kings 22:8 –“*And Hilkiyah the high priest said unto Shaphan the scribe, I have found the book of the law in the house of the LORD. And Hilkiyah gave the book to Shaphan, and he read it.*”

A. Faith comes from hearing the Word of God.

Romans 10:17 –“*So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*”

B. If you don't use the right BIBLE, then Christians won't grow.

1. **1 Peter 1:23** – “*Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever*”.

2. **James 1:18** –“*Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.*”

C. Will the Holy Spirit bless that which He did not inspire?

NO!!

John 3:3-5 –“*Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. 4) Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? 5) Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.*”

D. You are to carry God's Word with you all the time.

Psalm 149:5-6 –“*Let the saints be joyful in glory: let them sing aloud upon their beds.*

6) Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a twoedged sword in their hand;”

V. Facts About the Bible

- A. Sixty-six different books, written by one God.
- B. Penned by forty different men of God over a span of one-thousand, five-hundred (1,500) years and not one contradiction.
- C. Contains one-thousand, one-hundred and eighty-nine (1,189) chapters.
- D. Contains forty-one thousand, one-hundred and seventy-three (41,173) verses.
- E. Contains seven-hundred and seventy-four thousand, and seven-hundred and forty-six (774,746) words.
- F. Contains three-million, five-hundred and sixty-six, and four-hundred and eighty (3,566,480) letters.
- G. Shortest chapter is Psalm 117.
- H. Longest chapter is Psalm 119.
- I. Largest book is Psalms.
- J. Ezra 7:21 contains all the letters of the alphabet except 'J'.
- K. Esther 8:9 is the longest verse in the Bible.
- L. John 11:35 is the shortest verse in the Bible.
- M. The Bible is translated into a fifth grade reading level.

VI. Tracing the Bible

GOOD KJB

-150 AD Lucian - First man to compile N.T. "School o the Scriptures"

-Copies were made by Waldensians

-1500 - Press was invented

-Erasmus wanted to provide a good Greek text

-He put out five copies.

-The translators used Erasmus' copy.

-KJB

-July 22, 1604 - King James announced his choosing of 54 men.

-Three years after being commissioned, the men did nothing but pray.

-In 1611 there were no guidelines for spelling or punctuation. English was at its height.

-Editions - (never changing a word, just correcting spelling and punctuation):

- Edit** - To prepare for publication.
- Revision** - To look over and correct.

-1611
 -1613
 -1617
 -1629
 -1638
 -1743
 -1769 - Final Edition

- There have been six editions to the one.
- 6+1=7 (Psa. 12:7) Purified seven times.

BAD BIBLES

- Pantaeius** - Founded A Catechetical School in 1 A.D. in Alexandria.
 - Taught for twenty years.
 - Taught humanistic philosophy.
 - Collected corrupt manuscripts to teach his students that the Scriptures were not infallible.
 - Clement** - Took over the school.
 - Worked very hard at collecting corrupted manuscripts.
 - Taught his students that the Bible was full errors.
 - Denied the deity of Christ.
 - Laughed at the miracles of Christ.
 - Adamantus Origen** - 230 A.D. - Took over the school.
 - Wrote Greek Hexipla -- ὁρεκ ἑξίπλα
 - Most influential leader of his time.
 - He changed words which did not agree with his doctrine.
 - He said Jesus was a created God.
 - Eusebius** - Followed Origen.
 - Constantine's false prophet
 - Constantine ordered him to write a Bible that the people would love.
 - Jerome** - Used Eusebius' Bible to put together a Catholic Bible.
 - 1546 - Catholic church put the Apocrypha in the Bible.
 - Brook Westcott/Fenton Hort** - Worked on a text for thirty years.
 - Took out 8,000 words from the greek text
 - Used corrupted texts of Alexandria.
 - They were unpatriotic.
 - They were Catholic compromisers.
 - They did not believe in the infallibility of the Scriptures.
 - They consulted and contacted the dead.
- These men were not saved.**

- English Revised Version - 1881
- American standard Version - 1901
- Revised standard Version - 1952
- Living Bible - 1971
- Phillips N.T. - 1972
- New International Bible - 1973
- Good News Bible - 1976
- New American Standard - 1977

Derivative Copyright Law -- Substantial Changes
 There are only 40 words considered "Archaic."

Diminish - lessen or make smaller *Some say* - to make easier to understand.

Deuteronomy 4:2 "Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you."

Deuteronomy 12:32 **“What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.”**

Jeremiah 26:2 **“Thus saith the LORD; Stand in the court of the LORD's house, and speak unto all the cities of Judah, which come to worship in the LORD's house, all the words that I command thee to speak unto them; diminish not a word:”**

The NIV has 64,000 words missing or 1/10. It is not a complete Bible.

This is what they omit

"Lord", is omitted 31 times

omits Hell - 30 times *note* - There is no word like "Hell."

They try to separate, "JESUS" from "CHRIST" - 42 times

John 1:14&18 - One and Only -- God *could be feminine*

Changes they made for an, "easier understanding."

Rose up to play - Indulge in Revelry

Told - Conscripted

Old - Obsolete

Called - Designated

Smell - Savor

House - Habitation

Man - Mortal

Old - Elderly

Straight is the way - Difficult is the way

Reading levels of the New Bibles

NKJV - 6.9 KJV - 5.8 NIV - 8.2

The NKJV claims the same greek text but differs 2,000 times in the N.T. alone.

The NKJV takes out:

Lord - 66 times

God - 51

Heaven - 50

Repent - 44

Blood - 23

Hell - 22 and they change it to HADES which inclines to a 3rd place or PURGATORY.

NKJV eliminates: JEHOVAH, NEW TESTAMENT, DAMNATION, DAMNED, DEVILS

Jehovah's Witness similarities

Acts 3:13 His Son Jesus

His servant Jesus

Acts 3:26 Son

Servant

Acts 4:27 Child

Servant

Mark 2:15

omit "name"

Acts 7:45 Jesus

Joshua

II Thessalonians 3:5

Removes "Patience" and "waiting"

No Comfortor but instead a Helper

Faith is changed to faithfulness

Matt 6:10 = "As above, so below" this comes from cultic practice

The Jesus Seminar - "If you think you have everything in your Bible you are mistaken."

They want to omit Revelation and put in, "The Book of Hermes."

Take the name Give up to the Beast

Take the mark of the Beast Kill those not receiving the mark

The Dead Sea Scrolls are not good

They have an Ascenes background which was a group of people who were not saved.

Teach 2 Messiahs People who do not take the NAME must be imprisoned for 7 years Conviscation of personal property

Los Alamos Laboratories

Positive Identification chip

Digitizing the Dead Sea Scrolls

The New Bibles are Inclusive or they get rid of Christian distinctives therefore have a general, secular, watered down doctrine that can apply to every one.

Martin Woodstra of Evangelicals Concerned said there is nothing censuring the Homosexual in the NKJV

In the NIV God is missing 468 times = Matt 6:33; Rom 15:19; Matt 22:30; Mark 1:14

The NIV shows a Mean Obstinate God
Ephesians 6:4 Discipline
I Corinthians 12:21 Humiliate
Titus Mercy is removed

If you use the New Bibles in anything, books or giving the gospel or preaching, the maximum usable amount without Permission is 200 words

Rupert Murdoch - Owns printing rights to the NIV
Zondervan Harper Collins Fox T.V. 20th Century Fox
Movies T. V. Guide Bart Simpson
Chicago Tribune writer calls Rupert Murdoch, "The Prince of Darkness."

Mark 10:24 *"And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them, Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God!"*

John 6:47 *"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life."*

Matthew 28:20 *"Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen. "Age" - you get a new Christ at the end of every age."*

1 Corinthians 5:7 *"For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:"*

1 Peter 4:1 *"Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm"*

Romans 3:25 *"Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood."*

Romans 1:16 *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth;"*

II John 1:9 *"Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God."*

Galatians 6:15 *"For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature."*

Galatians 4:7 *"Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ."*

1 Timothy 2:7 *"Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, and lie not ;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity."*

VI. Reading Your Bible

A. Read the Bible aloud.

Romans 10:17 – *"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."*

B. Pray first.

Psalm 119:18 – *"Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law."*

Psalm 119:73 – *"Thy hands have made me and fashioned me: give me understanding, that I may learn thy commandments."*

C. God wants to think with you.

Isaiah 1:18 – *"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."*

D. God commands us to read the Bible.

1. **Isaiah 34:16** – *"Seek ye out of the book of the LORD, and read: no one of these shall fail, none shall want her mate: for my mouth it hath commanded, and his spirit it hath gathered them."*

2. **John 5:39** – *"Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me."*

3. **You are to gather bread every day.**

Exodus 16:4 –“ Then said the LORD unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no.”

E. God says He will bless us if we read the Bible.

1. Revelation 1:3 –“Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.”

2. Revelation 22:7 –“Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.”

F. You are told to read the word of God but you are not told how much to read.

However, you are told to meditate in the Word of God DAY and NIGHT.

Joshua 1:8 “This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.”

Psalm 1:2-3 “But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.
3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.”

Psalm 119:97 “O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day.”

MOTIVES BEHIND THE CLEARER TRANSLATIONS

1. Satanic envy of the power and authority of one book. We are not talking about, “the Originals.”
2. The Satanic desire to pose as, “God,” by getting rid of the Christian’s authority, and replacing it with the **opinions** and **preferences** of those who resent it’s power and authority.

THE PROOF THAT THESE ARE THE MOTIVES INVOLVED

1. The failure to compare each new version with the one preceding it. All compare themselves to the one they want to get rid of, The King James Bible, because **it is the standard**.
2. The production of more than 150 versions since 1884, each one claiming it’s purpose was to clear up, “absurdities,” in a book **written before any of the 150 were written**.

To believe these, “Scholars,” would mean you believe the English language became archaic and obscure more than once a year since 1880.

THE FALSE PREMISES BEHIND THE NEW VERSIONS Evolutionary Scholarship

1. The translations will automatically improve until the Best one will be the last one in the church age.
This is based on Darwin and Huxley: two unsaved philosophers, and it contradicts every book in the Bible.
2. Rotten Fruit cannot be connected with the new translations, they just happened to have come along at the same time as abortion, Homosexuality, world wide terrorism, two world wars, women’s liberation, a national debt of 6 trillion, international bankruptcy and a dearth of Biblical knowledge comparable only to the dark ages.

For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple. **Rom 16:18**

If the new Bibles are so understandable why don't people with the new versions know the Bible better than the Christians of the past? Why aren't the Christians of today holier and stronger spiritually because of the new bibles?

Just Stick With The Old King James

N.I.V. Quiz

Using the New International Version Bible, answer the following questions.

Do not rely on your memory. As the Bible is the final authority, you must take the answer from the Bible verse (not from footnotes but from the text).

1. Fill in the missing words in Matthew 5:44. "Love your enemies, _____ them that curse you, _____ to them that hate you, and pray for them that _____ and persecute you."
2. According to Matthew 17:21, what two things are required to cast out this type of demon?
3. According to Matthew 18:11, why did Jesus come to earth?
4. According to Matthew 27:2, what was Pilate's first name?
5. In Matthew 27:35, when the wicked soldiers parted His garments, they were fulfilling the words of the prophet. Copy what the prophet said in Matthew 27:35 from the NIV.
6. In Mark 3:15, Jesus gave the apostles power to cast out demons and to: _____
7. According to Mark 7:16, what does a man need to be able to hear?
8. According to Luke 7:28, what was John? (teacher, prophet, carpenter, etc.). What is his title or last name?
9. In Luke 9:55, what did the disciples not know?
10. In Luke 9:56, what did the Son of man not come to do? According to this verse, what did He come to do?
11. In Luke 22:14, how many apostles were with Jesus?
12. According to Luke 23:38, in what three languages was the superscription written?
13. In Luke 24:42, what did they give Jesus to eat with His fish?
14. John 3:13 is a very important verse, proving the deity of Christ. According to this verse (as Jesus spoke), where is the Son of man?
15. What happened each year as told in John 5:4?
16. In John 7:50, what time of day did Nicodemus come to Jesus?
17. In Acts 8:37, what is the one requirement for baptism?
18. What did Saul ask Jesus in Acts 9:6?
19. Write the name of the man mentioned in Acts 15:34.
20. Study Acts 24:6-8. What would the Jew have done with Paul? What was the chief captain's name? What did the chief captain command?
21. Copy Romans 16:24 word for word from the NIV.

22. First Timothy 3:16 is perhaps the greatest verse in the New Testament concerning the deity of Christ. In this verse, who was manifested in the flesh?

23. In the second part of First Peter 4:14, how do [they] speak of Christ? And, what do we Christians do?

24. Who are the three Persons of the Trinity in First John 5:7?

25. Revelation 1:11 is another very important verse that proves the deity of Christ. In the first part of this verse Jesus said, "I am the A_____ and O_____, the _____ and the _____:"

Conclusion: Little space is provided for your answers, but it's much more than needed. If you followed the instructions above, you not only failed the test, you receive a big goose egg.

(Ed. These are all missing in the NIV.) So now what do you think of your "accurate, easy to understand, up to date Bible"?

If you would like to improve your score, and in fact score 100%, you can take this test using the Authorized (King James) Bible.

Walking With GOD

Barriers In The Walk

Text Verse: Exodus 14

Introduction: In the book of Exodus, we find the amazing story of the children of Israel crossing the Red Sea because of the miraculous work of God. This was God delivering His people from Egypt. It was redemption from bondage. It was a beautiful picture of our redemption made possible by the Lord Jesus Christ. This act showed God's love for His people and His desire to set them apart unto Himself. Once again we see God working hard to develop a relationship with man because of His tremendous love for man. Yet, as always, man was slow to respond to Him. In spite of all that God had done for the children of Israel, in a miraculous way, still they managed to put up barriers. All of these barriers are interacting and relate closely to one another. All of them are causing it to be more difficult for the people of God to have a close and sweet relationship with God. These problems are still relevant to so many of God's people today. Perhaps these are the barriers keeping you from having the right relationship with your God.

- I. **The barriers of ingratitude.** The children of Israel surely were not grateful for their redemption. In spite of God's marvelous care and miraculous deliverance they were filled with ingratitude. For a short time they had gratitude, but their problem was that it was momentary and they could not sustain it. Ingratitude is the first step to destruction. **Romans 1:21** *"Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened."* Our ingratitude turns our hearts away from God's superior power. The prodigal son was not thankful for all that his father had done for him and all of the privileges he had at home, so he left, looking for things that he already possessed. It was his ingratitude that brought about his discontent. You can never improve a relationship without gratitude. Many times young people ruin relationships with their parents because they are not thankful for all the parents have done. The Bible says, "Forget not all his benefits," yet we are so ungrateful. God's Word commands us over and over to show gratitude and give thanks for all that God has done.

- II. **The barrier of discontentment.** When a Christian is not thankful, he soon begins to be discontented with the way things are. That is exactly what happened to the children of Israel. When they lost their gratitude, they lost their contentment. People who are close to God are content with God, but people who are discontented soon will drift away from Him. Christians are losing their minds and going to Christian Psychologists. Why? Simply because they cannot be happy with God's goodness. Because they are discontented. **Philippians 4:11** *"Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content."* Paul even in the worst of times was rejoicing and thankful. There is the key to happiness. Gratitude would bring about that contentment that is missing in so many people's lives. Rather than realizing what God has done for us, we are too busy with what has not been going right for us lately.

- III. **The barrier of doubt.** When a Christian shows ingratitude he begins to lose his contentment. Soon, he does not think God can do what He once could do. God can redeem, but can He provide? The truth is, the Christian forgets the wonderful works of God and begins to doubt God's ability to care for him. This is exactly what happened to the children of Israel, they did not show gratitude towards God. They became discontented with their lot in life and soon began to wonder whether or not God could even care for them and soon their faith was almost shattered because they were developing barriers in their relationship with God. It is very easy to become guilty of not really believing in God's power. So even after we have crossed the Red Sea in our lives, we do not have enough faith yet to cross the Jordan and to believe that God can provide our every need. This certainly offends God, because one of the key words in the Christian life is trust. The older one gets, the easier it becomes to lose it, as we have failed to notice the goodness of God and continue to keep our trust in Him. This often leads adults to backsliding, even in the later years of their lives, because as they have grown up they built this barrier in their relationship with God.

- IV. **The barrier of murmuring.** When one begins to doubt God, then comes the murmuring. We lose our patience, become rebellious, and begin to complain and gripe. Sadly, this is even common among God's people. In fact, it is especially common in god's people. People who murmur show three basic things. **1. They are not grateful for what God has done. 2. They are not contented with what they have. 3. They do not trust God will make things work out for His glory and their good.** Murmuring is a sign that we do not believe that God is in control. Many times Christians are guilty of murmuring because they have not truly remembered the good of God. The Bible tells us in Philippians 2:14, *"Do all things without murmuring."* Murmuring, like cancer, grows ever so quickly within someone's life. In **Exodus**

15:24, the people murmured against Moses, *“And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink?”* but it increased. In Exodus 16:8, they committed the ultimate of offense by murmuring against the Lord. **Exodus 16:8** *“And Moses said, This shall be, when the LORD shall give you in the evening flesh to eat, and in the morning bread to the full; for that the LORD heareth your murmurings which ye murmur against him: and what are we? your murmurings are not against us, but against the LORD.”* One of the greatest examples of murmuring wickedness is Numbers 14; the children of Israel refused to go into the Promised Land and began to murmur against Moses and the Lord. **Numbers 14:26-29** *“And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying, 27 How long shall I bear with this evil congregation, which murmur against me? I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel, which they murmur against me. 28 Say unto them, As truly as I live, saith the LORD, as ye have spoken in mine ears, so will I do to you: 29 Your carcases shall fall in this wilderness; and all that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward, which have murmured against me.”* God was very upset and displeased with His people. First of all, they did not have the gratitude, and then they lost their contentment. Soon they began to doubt God, and finally, it led them to the wicked sin of murmuring.

- V. The barrier of wasted living.** It is sad how many lives were totally wasted in the wilderness; people who had seen and yet forgotten the great wonders of God. God wanted them to conquer, but they wanted to remain safe. Thus, for forty years they wandered, wasting what God had given them to be used for His glory. Christianity today is often in that same mold. We avoid the bad without conquering the good. We are guilty of not leading a productive life because we do not lead a grateful life, contented life, trusting life, and a life praising not murmuring against God. God often places people on His spiritual shelf, simply because they did not please the Lord.

Conclusion: As we see this beautiful progression, we are made to realize that these 5 barriers follow one another and relate very closely. First comes unthankfulness followed by discontentment, then doubting, then murmuring and finally wasting one's life. If we are to have the right relationship with God, this is the way things should be. We are thankful and that leads to contentment. We trust God and that brings us to praise Him and finally to being useful with our lives. Do you have these barriers in your relationship with God? No one can ever know the fruitfulness of knowing God in a personal way until he removes these barriers in his relationship with God.

WALKING WITH GOD
Barriers in the Walk
Lesson 23
Elementary Idea Sheet

Introduction: We have been learning about a Christians walk with God. Today, we are going to learn about barriers in that walk. Barriers, do you know what that means? If you are walking down the street and you see a mean dog that is barking and running towards you, you would be scared, but if you saw a fence that kept the dog from getting too close you would feel better. The fence is a barrier. Barrier sounds like a big word, but it is just something that comes between two things. In our lesson, it is something that comes between you and God. That only means God and you can't walk close together.

Lesson: Make two signs; on one sign write "God" and on the other sign write "man." If you prefer, you could make a silhouette of a man out of construction paper. Make 5 blocks or bricks out of construction paper. Write names on the blocks. (See example.) Place the two signs on the board leaving space between them to stack the blocks as you teach.

- I. Ingratitude- Children are very prone to be ungrateful . Children tend to have a "give me, give me, give me attitude." Remind them of the things in which they can be thankful. (You recently taught a lesson about a journey in the wilderness, but you can review all God did for those people. He gave them a cloud by day to follow and a pillar of fire by night. He gave them manna from Heaven every morning. Their cloths and their shoes never wore out. He met all their needs.
- II. Discontent- Show the children discontent. Act it out for them. Example: "My mom just painted my room and decorated it with (Use something that relates to your class.) You should see it. It is awesome." This is a child that is grateful. A few months later and the child did not keep the room clean. The walls get a little dirty and he or she stops being thankful for what mom did. This causes the child to be discontented. "I hate my room. I never get anything for my room. I would rather have a different room."
- III. Doubt- The people in the wilderness had all their needs met, yet they doubted God. They built a golden calf and danced around it. When Christians don't have as much as another person they blame God and doubt that God is taking care of them. God is taking care of them, but their ungratefulness and discontent caused doubt.
- IV. Murmuring- The people in the wilderness were thirsty. They complained and complained to Moses. After all that God had done for them they still didn't trust Him for their water. Ask the children if they complain or if they are grateful. Pretend you are a child and give examples: I don't have... (Complete the sentence with things that relate to your class.)
- V. Wasted living- (wasting time) Teach small children that they can do more for God because they can start early. They can invite friends to church. They can tell others how to be saved.

Conclusion: Show the children with the blocks how the first block of ungratefulness leads to each of the other blocks. Children can easily understand ungratefulness.

Walking With GOD

Walking With My Shepherd

Text Verse: Psalm 23

Introduction: This psalm was not written for death or suffering as so often it is used, but rather as a step by step example of our relationship with God as the Shepherd of our lives. For some strange reason, we have taken it as becoming a death psalm. Obviously, any portion of the Scripture is pertinent to our lives and to times of grieving and it certainly is not wrong to use it as such. Yet if you study it carefully, you find this is potent material for living in the right relationship with God. If you read carefully the words of this psalm, you find it to be alive with the relationship of the sheep and their shepherd. The psalmist wrote so beautifully these words that from it we ought to learn more about this matter of walking with God as our Shepherd. Let us trace the psalm and see what it teaches concerning our relationship with the Lord.

- I. ***“The Lord is my shepherd.”*** Psalm 23 follows the 22nd Psalm, which is the psalm of the cross. It tells of the agony of Christ on Calvary. It is interesting that it would follow this particular psalm because, in truth, before Christ can become your personal shepherd, you must come to the cross. Jesus said, *“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.”* John 10:11 *“I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.”* There are three kinds of sheep. Which kind are you?
 - A. One that stays close to the shepherd?
 - B. One that stays a distance but in sight because he is afraid to get out of the shepherd’s sight?
 - C. One that keeps a distance and wanders off from him? This is that sheep that is indifferent to his care.
 We must make the Lord our Shepherd before He can make us His sheep. God wants to be the Shepherd of our lives and he wants us to be the kind of sheep that stay close to Him in the fold.
- II. ***“I shall not want.”*** Paul said, *“I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.”* In Psalm 37:4 it says, *“Delight thyself also in the Lord and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart.”* What it actually means is when worldly desires no longer rule me, I want only His perfect will in my life, then I can say, *“The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.”* We must come to a place of Lordship when all our desires are in Him and He is all of our desire.”
- III. ***“He maketh me to lie down in green pastures.”*** This is actually pastures of tender green grass. God leads us in His Word to the portions of nourishment that is tender enough for us to digest. Notice the restfulness of it all. *“Great peace have they which love thy law and nothing shall offend them.”* Our nourishment for our spiritual walk must be found in the Word of God, but we must allow the Lord to lead to the places of His Word to eat and not just programs of man. There is a tenderness about this that indicates that it was not a rushed amount of time or small amount of time. It seems as though it was a calm, careful, lingering type of feeding; thus, the Bible reading in our lives is a daily process of restful strength and growth. We must not be in too big of a hurry to gulp down the Word of God, but rather we must allow the Lord to lead us slowly and calmly into the pastures of His Word for our nourishment. Far too much Christianity is void of the tender nourishment of God’s Word as He, the Shepherd, leads us to restfully lie down and nourish ourselves in it.
- IV. ***“He leadeth me beside the still waters.”*** This could be rephrased, *“He leads me upon the restful waters.”* The Word of God refreshes, cleanses and purifies our lives as God leads us through His Word to the refreshing, cleansing and purifying truths of His Word. Not only will God’s Word give us our nourishment that we need, but it will also be that which purifies us from within as once again, our Shepherd leads us into His Word and leads us to the washing from within by His Word. Notice the fact that the waters are still and restful. It seems to indicate to me that cleansing ought not be a troublesome thing but rather a very peaceful thing and a very calm and serene experience with God as we come to His Word and find a calmness of purifying waters within His truth.
- V. ***“He restoreth my soul.”*** The word restoreth means to turn back, refresh, renew; and it is in the linear sense, which means He is continually restoring my soul. David said, *“Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation.”* When we allow the Lord to be our Shepherd, He leads us to the feeding of His Word. He leads us to the cleansing of His Word, and He leads us to the restoring of our souls through His Word. He keeps our souls refreshed, restored, and turned towards God. How important it is for the sheep to seek their refreshment in God, or in their Shepherd! As we occasionally begin to turn away from God and perhaps begin a little process of wandering, He gently turns us back to Himself and restores the strength and delight of our fellowship.

- VI. ***“He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake.”*** Perhaps no mistake is greater in Christianity than the mistake of trying to be satisfied with the righteousness adopted by man rather than following the paths of righteousness as led by our Shepherd. We are not righteous because we have set down some rules and have followed them, though rules are important. Righteousness comes when we have followed the Shepherd down His paths of righteousness. No man can lead us to the full length of those paths, only the Shepherd can. True virtue is the quality of godly morality or Christ-likeness in the lives of God’s children. It is moral excellence. Notice the words, “He leadeth me.” We must be followers of Christ’s example and His godliness rather than man’s or we will fall short of the path. He leadeth me and where He leads me is in the paths of righteousness; and He not only leads me in the right path, but He does it for the right reason, “For His name’s sake.” “Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”
- VII. ***“Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me.”*** I might rephrase it like this, “Though I go on through a low place of great darkness and death, I will not be afraid; for my Shepherd is walking with me.” The valley of the shadow of death is actually not talking about literal death but rather a place of danger and darkness. In our walk in Christianity, there will be places of danger where we will be walking in the midst of darkness. If we are walking by our own light, we will certainly stumble on the way. But if we are walking with the Lord and being led by the Shepherd, we need not fear for He will lead our way through the dark and dangerous paths. So often Christians are unable to make it through the valley of the shadow of death because they are not aware of God’s presence for they are not walking in close fellowship with Him. We oftentimes make the Christian life look as though it is a garden of roses and that it is a life without problems, but no one who has truly walked in this Christian life as a follower of Christ has ever done so without walking occasionally through that valley of darkness and death. We have not reason to be fearful or depressed as long as we do not stop and dwell there. We must simply follow the Lord and be aware that He is ever present with us as our Shepherd.
- VIII. ***“Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.”*** The shepherd carried with him a rod of correction and a staff that was used for protection. He would drive sheep through dangerous spots with his rod and he would protect from the evil ones with his staff. Picture if you will, the sheep going through a narrow passage and the shepherd using his rod to chasten them in order to keep them walking in such a way as to not fall over the cliffs. Chastening is a process of spiritual growth and God uses His rod of correction on us to help drive us through dangerous spots in our lives that could destroy us. Picture a snake on the side of the road and one of the sheep coming near that snake, but the shepherd uses his staff to protect the sheep from destruction. God also has a staff that He uses as our Shepherd to protect us when there are evil ones trying to destroy our lives. Notice that He uses these for our comfort. The word comfort actually means, “a sigh of relief.” We are able to be protected from the enemy by His staff of protection, and when we are through, we are comforted and a sigh of relief is given because we are safe from the dangers.
- IX. ***“Thou preparedest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies.”*** Reworded it would say, “Thou arranges a table of delights in front of me for me to enjoy even as the enemy stands by and glares.” Picture sheep grazing as the shepherd stands watch protecting them from the wolves and bears that are on the outskirts watching and waiting to attack. Yet the sheep are peaceful, safe and secure as they enjoy the food and presence of the shepherd. There is a peaceful enjoyment in a world that hates us when Christ is our Shepherd and we are walking close to Him. Danger only lurks for those who wander from the watchful care of the shepherd. Thus, we are able to enjoy God’s goodness as long as we stay within the sight of His protection even as the enemy stands waiting to snatch us, but is unable to do so because our Shepherd protects us.
- X. ***“Thou anointest my head with oil.”*** The oil the Shepherd used was a sweet ointment that was used for one of two purposes. The first was to soothe the sores of an animal. The second was to make the animal more fragrant. This is an interesting part of the walk of the Christian life. Usually the shepherd had his favorite sheep. They were sort of his pets. These were sheep that seemed to always want to be closest to him, and he would somewhat adopt them as his own. At times he would groom these sheep and he would anoint their head with sweet smelling ointments that take away the smells of the normal fowl smells of an animal. How sweet to realize that our Shepherd anoints us with sweet smelling spices that take away the evil fragrance of our sinful lives. The shepherd also had ointments with him that he would use to pour over cuts and scratches that the sheep would get walking through a thicket or a thorn briar. The shepherd would personally anoint the head of one of his sheep with an oil of comfort and oil of fragrance. Our Shepherd anoints us with the Holy Spirit that comforts our hearts, for He is called our Comforter, and it also helps us to be able to send up a sweet smelling fragrance. How sweet is the anointing of the oil in our personal relationship with our Lord and Shepherd!
- XI. ***“My cup runneth over.”*** Ah, what delight the sheep would feel when they realized the abundance of care and love from the shepherd! We too must say, “My cup is full and is running over because of the delights that He offers to us as our Shepherd.”

XII. *“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.”* Rephrased this passage would say without a doubt, “Goodness and loving kindness shall pursue me all the days of my life.” It is not just that goodness and loving kindness follow us, but those of us who are His sheep will be pursued by the goodness and loving kindness of our Shepherd. To be in the fold of our Shepherd in sweet fellowship with Him is to be pursued by His goodness and kindness. God loves to do good things for His children as we draw close to Him.

XIII. *“And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”* Rephrased it states, “And I will sit down still in the household or family of the Lord for the length of my days.” Herein is the sweet end of the walk with God as our Shepherd. Occasionally a shepherd would actually take one of his sheep into his own household as his own personal pet and would take him everywhere he went. What a beautiful picture of what happens to those of us who walk close with God! We are drawn safely into God’s family as He brings us close to Him and into His household and we can have the confidence that we will dwell safely in His household for eternity.

Conclusion: But this relationship of the Shepherd and His sheep will only be its fullest and its sweetest if we are the sheep that stay the closest to the fold and decide to be the ones who draw the nearest to Him, never letting Him out of our sight and never letting ourselves out of His sight. That is the safe, secure and satisfied place in the Christian walk with our Shepherd. Notice the interesting and beautiful progression of this walk.

- A. The Lord is my Shepherd.
- B. He feeds me.
- C. He refreshes me.
- D. He leads me down the paths of righteousness.
- E. He leads me through the shadow of the valley of death and darkness.
- F. He allows me to enjoy His goodness forever.

May you know the delight of walking close to the side of your heavenly Shepherd.

WALKING WITH GOD
Walking With My Shepherd
Lesson 24
Elementary Idea Sheet

Lesson: (Using the attached sheet of paper make a shepherd and three sheep. You can color the pieces and use them as flannel graph pieces, or if you teach older children you could make solid colored silhouettes and have them already mounted on a board.)

There are three types of sheep. (See Roman numeral I on the adult lesson. Put the sheep on the board as you tell about each type of sheep. Position them according to the descriptions. One would be close to the Shepherd, one would be a small distance from the shepherd, and the last one would be out of the shepherds view.) If the shepherd is Jesus and we are the sheep, which kind of sheep (Christian) do you want to be?

(Refer to the shepherd and the three sheep as you teach the lesson. You can make comparisons of the three sheep and Christians using the adult lessons. The following Roman numerals are some examples :)

II. The shepherd wants to take care of all these sheep. The sheep closest to the shepherd has no wants. He knows the shepherd is right behind him if he needs anything. If the sheep gets thirsty, the shepherd knows he wants water. If the sheep gets hungry, the shepherd knows the sheep wants food. The shepherd can see the second sheep, but can he tell if he is hungry or thirsty? The shepherd can't even see the third sheep so he would not know what the little sheep wanted or needed.

III. The sheep that stays close to the shepherd knows that the shepherd will take him to the best green grass. The sheep doesn't have to worry, he lets the shepherd take care of it. The second sheep can see the shepherd, he can see the grass where the shepherd is, but he still wants to look for himself. Maybe he is thinking that he could find better grass himself. The third sheep is so set in his ways that he doesn't care if the shepherd can see him or not. This sheep just knows that the grass is always greener on the other side of the fence.

IV. Have you ever gone to the beach and there aren't a lot of waves? The water is so calm it looks like glass and so clear you can see the sand at the bottom. It is so peaceful. The sheep that is close to the shepherd is calm because he has the security that the shepherd is right there. The other two sheep are not close enough to the shepherd to have complete peace. They are like the water with waves in it.

V. When the sheep that is close to the shepherd begins getting a little worried or scared, all he has to do is look to the shepherd to feel the calm security again. The second sheep wanders here and there may have to look for the shepherd and wonder if he is too far for the shepherd to help him. The third sheep can't see the shepherd at all. If he gets a little nervous he can't look to the shepherd for new security because he can't see the shepherd.

VI. A shepherd can lead the sheep that stay close to him in the right paths. He can keep that sheep from going down a hill with loose rocks or near a den of foxes. The second sheep can still see the shepherd, but the path that sheep is on may not be totally safe. He is too far from the shepherd. The third sheep could be going down a very dangerous path. The shepherd can't warn him because the sheep is too far from the shepherd.

VII. A shepherd will bring all the sheep together when it is dark. This way he can protect them. The sheep that are close to him are where the shepherd can see them and they can see the shepherd. They are close in the shadows. The farther away the sheep get from the shepherd, the least likely the shepherd will be able to protect the sheep in darkness.

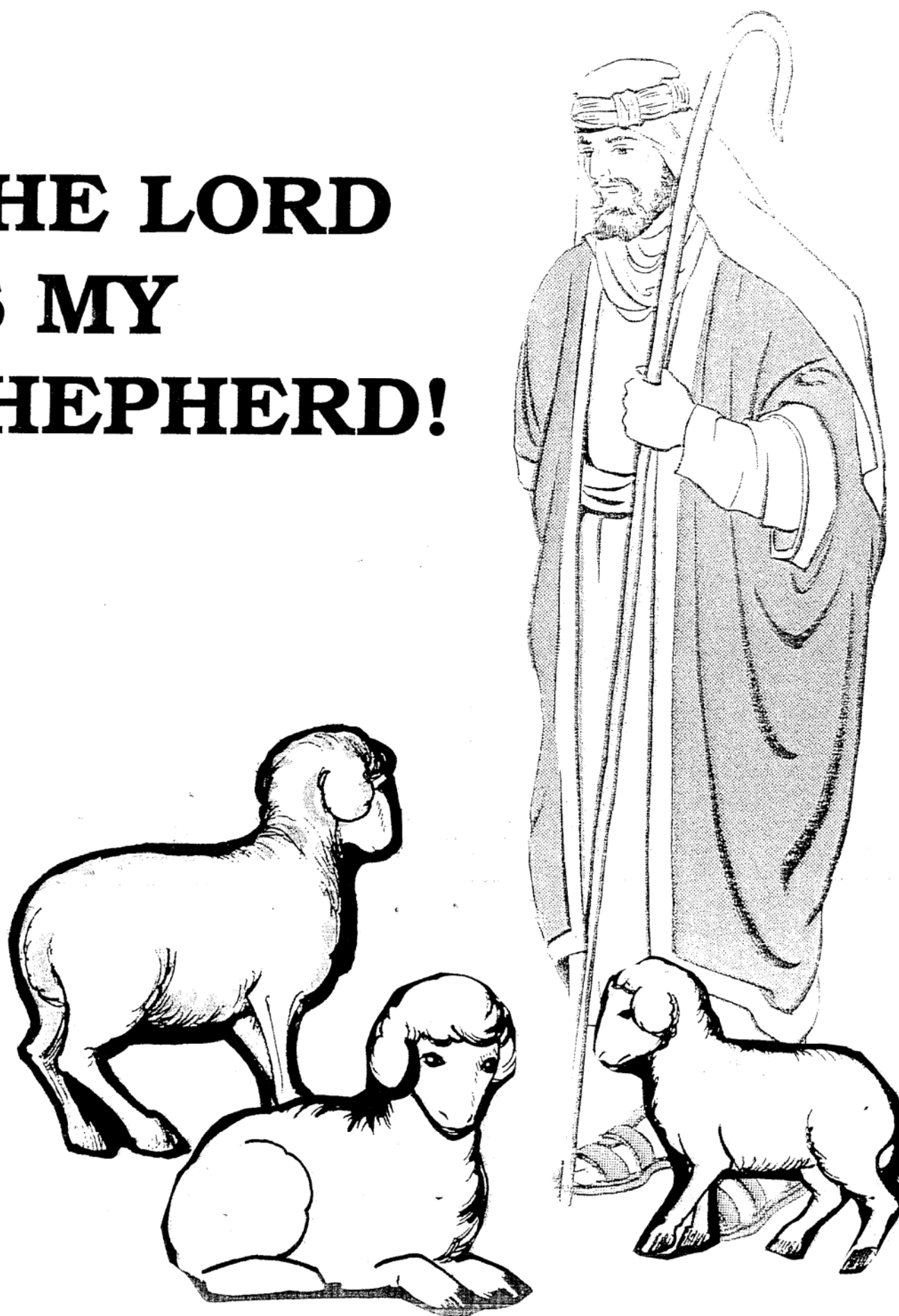
IX. A shepherd does not want his sheep to be hungry. He will be sure they eat. If the sheep stay close to him, he can feed them even as the enemy watches. The shepherd will not take food to the second or third sheep to eat when he couldn't protect them from the enemies. He would want all the sheep to graze close by so he could protect them all.

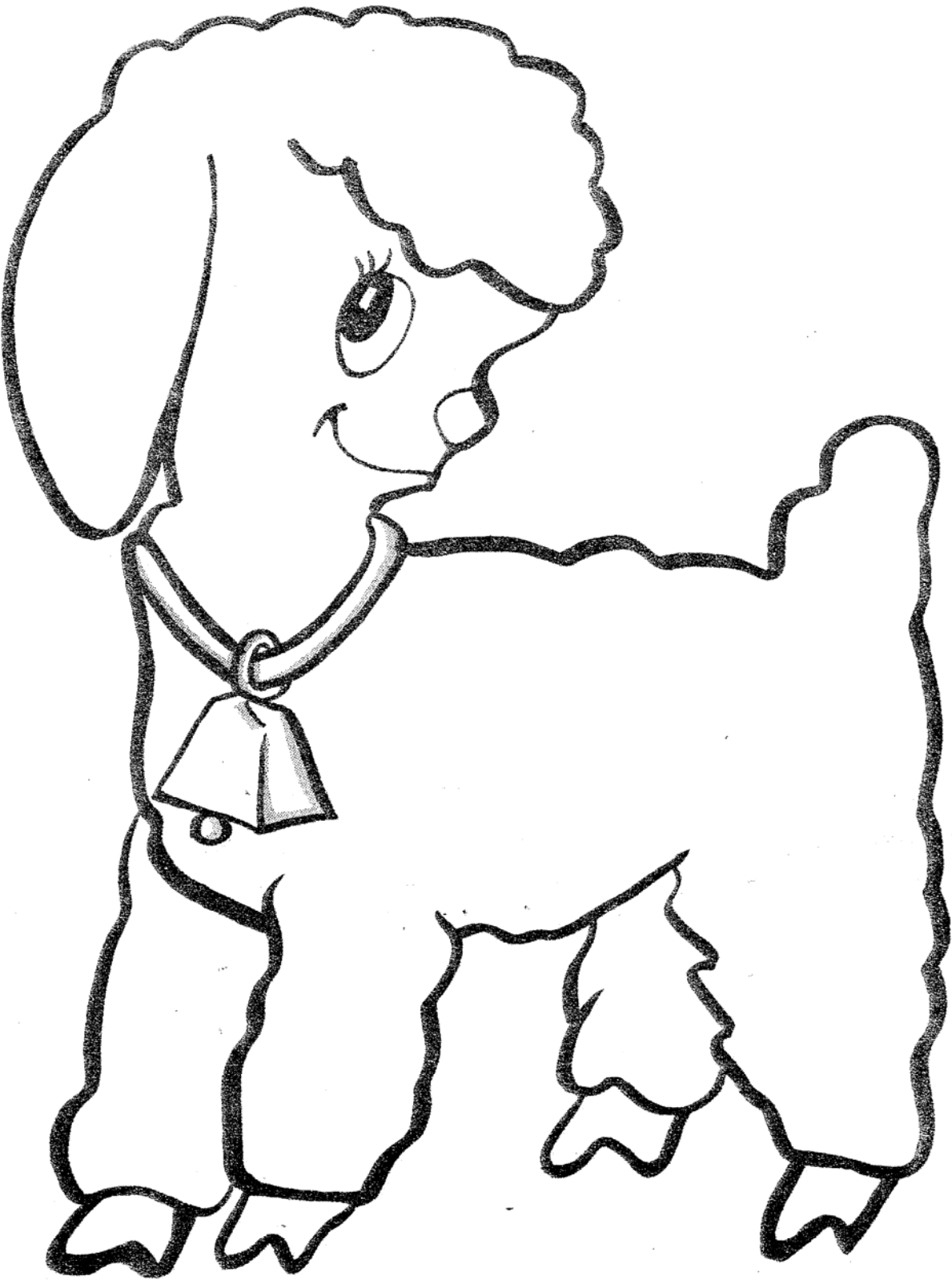
X. If all three of the sheep got hurt, which one would the shepherd know was hurt? Which one would the shepherd be able to help by using the oil? Of course, he would know the one closest was hurt and that is the sheep he could help.

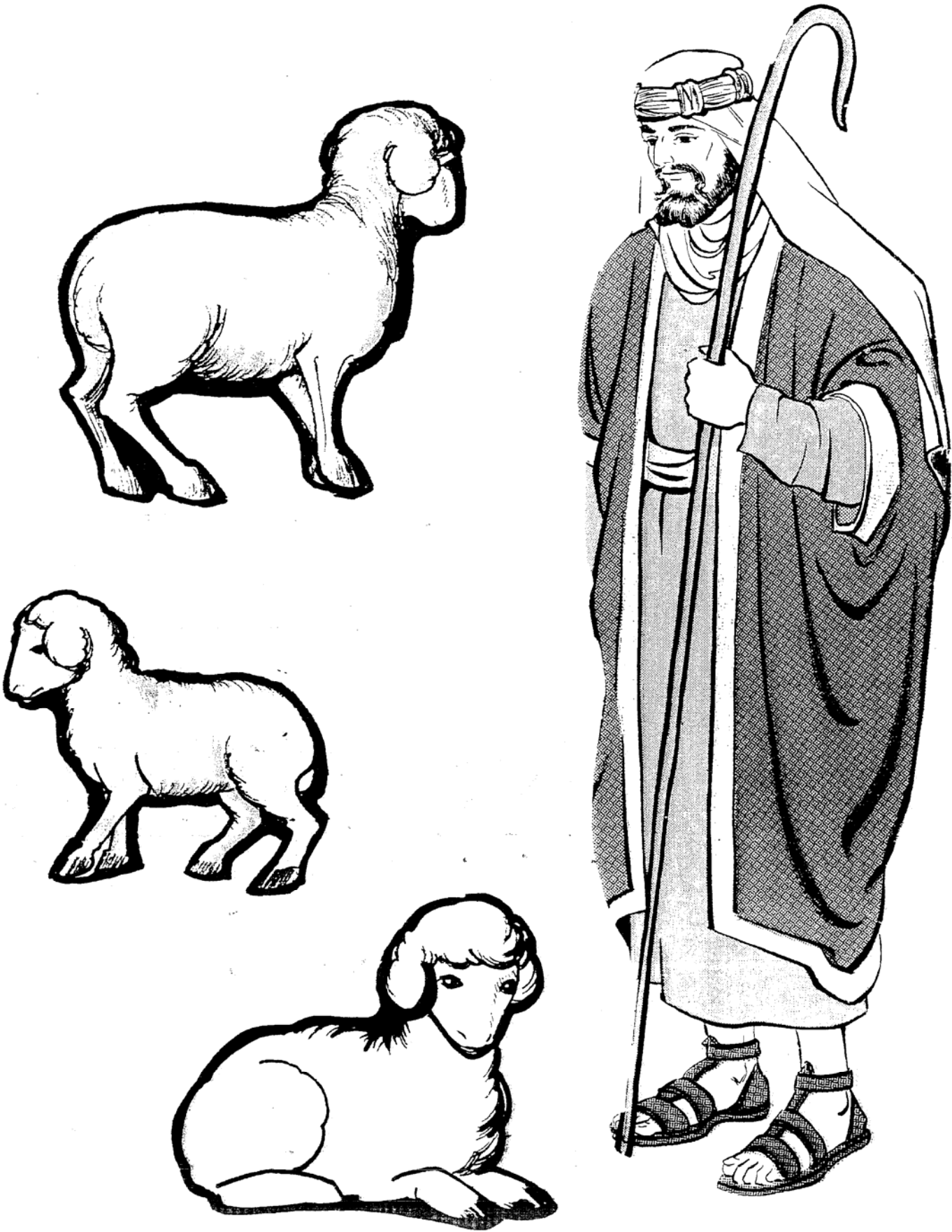
XI. –XIII. The sheep that are close to the shepherd are happy and content. They know and see all that the shepherd does. This sheep is happy to stay there because he is enjoying all the goodness of the shepherd. The second sheep may see some of the goodness of the shepherd, but may also have half of the joy. The sheep that can't see the shepherd may never realize all that the shepherd does. He may not be happy or content. He will never know the joy that the sheep close to the shepherd has.

Conclusion: How sad for the sheep that are not close to the shepherd. They could have so much more joy. How sad for a Christian that keeps straying from the LORD. That Christian could enjoy so much more too.

**THE LORD
IS MY
SHEPHERD!**







TITHING

God's Work done God's Way

I have heard a group of poor people sing, "I'm satisfied with Jesus," but I've never heard a group of millionaires sing, "I'm satisfied with money."

One out of every six verses in the New Testament mentions the right or wrong use of possessions.

The most pathetic people in the world are those who have everything to live with but nothing to live for.

Adversity makes men, and prosperity makes monsters.

You can't take your money with you but you can send it on ahead.

No one is as poor as the one who has nothing but money.

Charity gives itself rich; covetousness hoards itself poor.

He is no fool who gives up that which he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.

People say, "I will go to church as long as I don't have to hear about money."

Yet for this to be so they would have to go to a church with a disobedient Pastor.

1 Timothy 6:17-19 *"Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;*

18 That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;

19 Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life."

2 Corinthians 9:6-8 *"But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. 7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:"*

You can't give cheerfully if your thinking is wrong about money.

How could King David say this about giving?

1 Chronicles 29:11-15 *"Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all.*

12 Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all.

13 Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name.

14 But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee.

15 For we are strangers before thee, and sojourners, as were all our fathers: our days on the earth are as a shadow, and there is none abiding."

I. Tithe - The Tenth Part of Anything

I. Genesis 14:20 *—"And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all."*

II. Genesis 28:22 *—"And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee."*

III. Leviticus 27:32 *—"And concerning the tithe of the herd, or of the flock, even of whatsoever passeth under the rod, the tenth shall be holy unto the LORD."*

How did Abraham or Jacob know to tithe when he didn't have a Bible?

II. Offering - To Present As An Act of Worship

- A. That which is presented in Divine service.
- B. Presented to God as an atonement for sin or as a return of thanks for His favors.

III. God Says To Bring it to the Storehouse

- A. 1 **Corinthians 16:2** - *"Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come."*
God says to bring it to the store or storehouse every first day of the week.

- B. Where is the storehouse?

2 Chronicles 31:10 - *"And Azariah the chief priest of the house of Zadok answered him, and said, Since the people began to bring the offerings into the house of the LORD, we have had enough to eat, and have left plenty: for the LORD hath blessed his people; and that which is left is this great store."*

- C. The STOREHOUSE is the local New Testament Baptist Church.
 - a. Not TV or radio channels.
 - b. Not gas used to come to church.
 - c. Not giving to someone else who has a need.

God uses it to pay His priests.

Numbers 18:21 - *"And, behold, I have given the children of Levi all the tenth in Israel for an inheritance, for their service which they serve, even the service of the tabernacle of the congregation."*

1 Corinthians 9:13-14 *"Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live of the things of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar?"*

14 Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel."

The tithe always went to the house of God.

1. Patriarchal- Before Exodus after Isaac and Jacob

Genesis 28:17 Genesis 28:22

The tithe went to the House of God

2. Wilderness- 40 yrs After Egypt

Exodus 23:19 Exodus 34:26

The tithe went to the House of the Lord

3. Judges – in the Promised land

Deuteronomy 12:10-11 "But when ye go over Jordan, and dwell in the land which the LORD your God giveth you to inherit, and when he giveth you rest from all your enemies round about, so that ye dwell in safety;

*11 Then there shall **be a place** which the LORD your God shall choose to cause his name to dwell there; **thither shall ye bring all that I command you;** your burnt offerings, and your sacrifices, your tithes, and the heave offering of your hand, and all your choice vows which ye vow unto the LORD:"*

God told them there would be a place to bring their tithes.

4. Kings –Saul to captivity

II Kings 12:4 *"And Jehoash said to the priests, All the money of the dedicated things that is brought into the house of the LORD, even the money of every one that passeth the account, the money that every man is set at, and all the money that cometh into any man's heart to bring into the house of the LORD,"*

All the money went to the house of the Lord.

5. Rebuilding –after Babylon

Nehemiah 10:38 Nehemiah 13:10-12

The tithes are brought to the treasuries of the house of God.

6. Past Rebuilding Days – 400 yrs

Malachi 3:8-10

God says to bring the tithes to the storehouse so there would be meat in His house.

7. New Testament age

Matthew 23:23 1 Corinthians 16:1-2 1 Timothy 3:15

The church is the house of God in the New Testament, and God said on the first day of the week we were to lay in store, for the collection of the saints. The words “in store” is talking about the same thing as storehouse.

8. Millennium

Ezekiel 44:30 Ezekiel 48:10 Ezekiel 48:14

IV. People who do not tithe are God-robbers

Malachi 3:8-10 – “*Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. 9) Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. 10) Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.*”

1. Stealing involves taking by sneaking.
2. Robbery is taking by force of gun point.

What would you think about a beggar who had nothing and a Rich King came by and had 10 gold coins on a ring.

Sir, I have nothing.....The King gave a gold coin to the beggar.

Sir, my wife has nothing.....The King gave him another gold coin.

Sir, my children have nothing....The King gave him another gold coin.

Etc.....

The King walked away with 1 coin left on his ring and the beggar ran after him and tackled him and beat him and took the last coin and ran away.

V. Jesus Said Every Person Should Tithe; Even Lost People -

Matthew 23:23 “*Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise*

and

cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith:

THESE OUGHT YE TO HAVE DONE, *and not to leave the other undone.”*

Luke 11:42: “*But woe unto you, Pharisees! for ye tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass over judgment and the love of God: **these ought ye to have done**, and not to leave the other undone.”*

VI. All wealth comes from God-

Deuteronomy 8:16-18 - “*Who fed thee in the wilderness with manna, which thy fathers knew not, that he might humble thee, and that he might prove thee, to do thee good at thy latter end;*

17) And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth.

*18) But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is **he that giveth thee power to get wealth**, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.”*

Proverbs 3:9-12 –“*Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with **the firstfruits of all thine increase**:*

10) So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.

11) My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction:

12) For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.”

There are two types of increase:

1. From nothing to something. - This is what this verse is talking about.
2. From expenses to profit.

All that you have was given to you by God -

Matthew 25:15-28 – “**And** unto one **he gave** five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey. 16) Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents. 17) And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two. 18) But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money. 19) After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and **reckoneth** with them. 20) And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more. 21) His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. 22) He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them. 23) His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. 24) Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed: 25) And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine. 26) His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed: 27) Thou oughtest therefore to have put **my money** to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury. 28) Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents”.

God will one day reckon with you because what you have He gave to you.

The Tithe was a reminder that God gave them everything they had.

Deuteronomy 14:22-23 – “**Thou shalt truly tithe all the increase of thy seed, that the field bringeth forth year by year. 23) And thou shalt eat before the LORD thy God, in the place which he shall choose to place his name there, the tithe of thy corn, of thy wine, and of thine oil, and the firstlings of thy herds and of thy flocks; that thou mayest learn to fear the LORD thy God always.”**

When Jesus was described the virtues of a good man when he told of the Pharisee and publican. Jesus is painting a picture of a good man.

Luke 18:10-13 “Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. 11) The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. 12) I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. 13) And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.”

VII. There are four things that God says are His:

ONE OF THEM IS THE TITHE

A. God always gets what is His.

1. **Leviticus 25:2-7** – “**Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye come into the land which I give you, then shall the land keep a sabbath unto the LORD. 3) Six years thou shalt sow thy field, and six years thou shalt prune thy vineyard, and gather in the fruit thereof; 4) But in the seventh year shall be a sabbath of rest unto the land, a sabbath for the LORD: thou shalt neither sow thy field, nor prune thy vineyard. 5) That which groweth of its own accord of thy harvest thou shalt not reap, neither gather the grapes of thy vine undressed: for it is a year of rest unto the land. 6) And the sabbath of the land shall be meat for you; for thee, and for thy servant, and for thy maid, and for thy hired servant, and for thy stranger that sojourneth with thee, 7) And for thy cattle, and for the beast that are in thy land, shall all the increase thereof be meat.**”

2. **Leviticus 26:32-34** – “**And I will bring the land into desolation: and your enemies which dwell therein shall be astonished at it. 33) And I will scatter you among the heathen, and will draw out a sword after you: and your land shall be desolate, and your cities waste. 34) Then shall the land enjoy her sabbaths, as long as it lieth desolate, and ye be in your enemies' land; even then shall the land rest, and enjoy her sabbaths.**”

Summary

You either give it to God willingly or He will beat it out of you with interest on what you owe.

Most people say, “Well, when God lets me hit the right lottery #, then I'll give.

If God makes me rich first then I will give to God."

It does not work that way.

Jesus said for you to give first

Luke 6:38 "Give, and it shall be given unto you;"

Deuteronomy 15:10 "Thou shalt surely give him, and thine heart shall not be grieved when thou givest unto him: because that for this thing the LORD thy God shall bless thee in all thy works, and in all that thou putteth thine hand unto."

God responds to your obedience to His Word.

You tithe by faith. There is no faith if you wait until you'll be rich.

When I obey I must do it by faith. I do what God tells me to do because He told me to do it.

VIII. You start giving after you have tithed. Until you tithe you can't give.

In the Bible, the smallest amount given was the tithe.

2 Corinthians 3:6 – "Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life."

A. The letter of the law is the tithe.

B. The spirit of the law is the offering. You start living when you give above your offering.

C. Nobody is very happy who is an unprofitable servant. They never do more than they have to.

Luke 17:10 – "So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do."

The tithe is your duty, you start giving when you give above the tithe.

IX. If you give, God says, "I'll give back to you more than you'll know what to do with."

Luke 6:38 "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again."

Malachi 3:8-10 – "Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. 9) Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. 10) Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

It is not an issue then that God wants you to give because He doesn't have anything.

Philippians 4:17 "Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account."

The church doesn't need you to give as badly as you need to give.

Luke 12:34 – "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also".

a. It helps keep your heart where it belongs.

You always reap what you sow; you reap after you sow; and you reap more than you sow.

Mark 10:28-30 "Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee."

29 "And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's,

30 "But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life."

If you give in the right way, God has designed giving to prosper you.

1 Corinthians 13:1-3 – "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."

The person given to does not prosper as much as the giver.

The more offerings that are taken in a church, the more those people have an opportunity to grow.

This is why Jesus said,

Acts 20:35 – "*It is more blessed to give than to receive.*"

This is why God says,

Proverbs 21:14 – "*A gift in secret pacifieth anger: and a reward in the bosom strong wrath.*"

Giving isn't magical or spooky - it's spiritual.

Deuteronomy 15:7-11 – "*If there be among you a poor man of one of thy brethren within any of thy gates in thy land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not harden thine heart, nor shut thine hand from thy poor brother: 8) But thou shalt open thine hand wide unto him, and shalt surely lend him sufficient for his need, in that which he wanteth. 9) Beware that there be not a thought in thy wicked heart, saying, The seventh year, the year of release, is at hand; and thine eye be evil against thy poor brother, and thou givest him nought; and he cry unto the LORD against thee, and it be sin unto thee. 10) Thou shalt surely give him, and thine heart shall not be grieved when thou givest unto him: because that for this thing the LORD thy God shall bless thee in all thy works, and in all that thou putteth thine hand unto. 11) For the poor shall never cease out of the land; therefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open thine hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy, in thy land.*"

a. God said you will always have poor people so you can have an opportunity to give and grow.

b. "He is no fool that gives up that which he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose."

c. Who are you investing in that can't give back.

X. Giving is the Proof of Your Love and Proves the Sincerity of Your Love

A. **2 Corinthians 8:1-9** – "*Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia; 2) How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality. 3) For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves; 4) Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. 5) And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God. 6) Insomuch that we desired Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also finish in you the same grace also. 7) Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also. 8) I speak not by commandment, but by occasion of the forwardness of others, and to prove the sincerity of your love. 9) For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich."*

You can give without loving but you can't love without giving.

B. **2 Corinthians 8:24** – "*Wherefore shew ye to them, and before the churches, the proof of your love, and of our boasting on your behalf.*"

1. God is saying in II Corinthians 8 and II Corinthians 9 that He wants you to give so you can grow and so He can bless you.

2. Always make sure you yield yourself to the Holy Spirit and when He touches your heart to give, and then give.

You have surrendered to receive God's gift of salvation but you have never surrendered to give to God.

Walking With GOD

Walking With God & Giving

Text Verse: II Samuel 7:1-3; I Chronicles 22:1-19; Matthew 6:33

Introduction: The Bible tells us that your heart will be wherever your treasure is located. If this is true, then no relationship is really what it ought to be unless both parties involved share a desire to give to one another. Selfishness will always be destructive to a relationship. Many a marriage and many a friendship have been damaged by selfishness. Yet sadly, too many people are takers and not givers. Giving is one of the greatest ways to solidify a relationship. The same holds true in our relationship with God. A truly good relationship with the Lord is one in which we do not just take and take and take of the goodness of God, but we also give abundantly back to Him. David is a marvelous example of this. Few other Old Testament characters had the quality of relationship with God than of David's. The Psalms are a great illustration of this. They show us the amazing communication David had with his God, and the relationship that was such a balance that it almost seemed at times that God was a human friend of David. David started out as a simple shepherd boy, the youngest of eight, and was totally disregarded by his own father and brothers. But David became one of the all time champions of giving to God that is why the relationship was so powerful. David's son Solomon receives the credit for building the temple, yet it was David's great desire to do so himself. David had a tremendous amount of thoughtfulness for God and wanted to build God a temple for His dwelling place. God's will was not for David to build the Temple, so he sacrificed and gave the materials to make the building of the temple possible. Notice some interesting things about this passage.

Notice all that David gave. **I Chronicles 29:1-5**

Notice all that David's men gave. **I Chronicles 29:6-8**

Notice their attitude toward giving. **I Chronicles 29:9-15**

Notice the way they gave. **I Chronicles 29:16-19**

You and I basically live for one of two purposes. Either the Lord or yourself. David was very much concerned about giving to God, not in order to get anything, but rather because he was totally in love and in awe of his heavenly Father. Solomon was the exact opposite. He took the money that he had after the building the temple, and he placed it in his own home, in his own possessions. It should not be surprising to us that his heart was turned away from God rather than towards God. Abraham was a good example in the Old Testament of a man who desired to give to his God, and in fact, tithed before tithing had ever been given, as far as we know, as a command. But notice some interesting facts of Abraham's giving. We find no promise of a blessing. We find no stewardship campaign. We find no promise of prosperity or financial reward. We simply find a man who desired to show his gratitude to God for all of His abundant blessings. How amazing that we do not have that same gratitude for all that God has done for us! We are supposed to give to the Lord out of a desire to honor Him and to make our relationship with Him complete. Yet if we do not give, we forfeit many of His blessings and even endanger ourselves and our families. God's people need to come to a new day of giving in our relationship with God. We need to ask ourselves some very vital questions concerning our giving.

1. How much are you blessed? 1 Corinthians 16:2 *“Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.”*

Deuteronomy 16:10-11 *“And thou shalt keep the feast of weeks unto the LORD thy God with a tribute of a freewill offering of thine hand, which thou shalt give unto the LORD thy God, according as the LORD thy God hath blessed thee:”*

11 And thou shalt rejoice before the LORD thy God, thou, and thy son, and thy daughter, and thy manservant, and thy maidservant, and the Levite that is within thy gates, and the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, that are among you, in the place which the LORD thy God hath chosen to place his name there.” The word prosper means “to help on one’s way.” The more aware we are of God’s help and God’s blessing, the more we will be wanting to give to Him out of a heart of love. The question is, how thankful are you. Read Deuteronomy 8:11-18 and read how Moses discussed this matter of taking the blessings of God without recognizing the goodness of God. Certainly this is a hindrance for our relationship.

2. How much are you able to give? Deuteronomy 16:17 “*Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD thy God which he hath given thee.*” Everyone was commanded in the Old Testament to give as they were able. That means more than just financially able, but also spiritually able. In other words, how much can you trust God to take care of your needs?

3. How much is needed? When God gave the people the commandment for the building of the tabernacle, He gave the instructions and the description of the tabernacle. Next, He told them what He needed. He finally told them what He expected from them. They responded in giving in respect of what was needed, even to the point of giving beyond what was needed in the building of that magnificent tabernacle. David gave an abundance because he desired the temple be built, and that it be built right. He believed God deserved the best. The closer you get to God, the more you will want Him to be honored.

4. How much do you want left? The story in Mark 12:41-44 shows us a little widow who did not have anything that she wanted more than she wanted to let go and give to her God. **Mark 12:41-44** “*And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much. 42 And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing. 43 And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury: 44 For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living.*” This is a vital question to ask yourself, because it tells a whole lot about your first love. If the answer is I want as much as possible left, then your first love is yourself, and your relationship with God is weak. But if your desire is to let God have as much as possible, it shows a desire to have the right relationship with the Lord and a true love for Him.

5. How much do you want accomplished? It was David’s desire to build a temple for God. He gave because that is what he wanted. Even when he found out he could not build it himself, his desire was not to be the builder, his desire was to see this structure built for the sake of God. God has chosen to accomplish much of His work by the giving of His people. If your relationship with God is good, our goals will be similar to His. The little lad with five loaves and two fishes gave it all so that Jesus could feed everybody. The more we want done for God, the more we will want to give.

6. How happy does giving make you? The Bible says that God loveth a cheerful giver. The word cheerful comes from the word “hilaros.” We get our word hilarious from this. Giving to the Lord will be hilariously fun, if you have the right relationship. When you love someone dearly, there is nothing quite as delightful as giving to them.

7. Where do you want your heart to be? Matthew 6:19-21 “*Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: 20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: 21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*” If you really want your heart to be fixed on the Lord, you will want to give Him more because that treasure determines where your heart will be. We ruin our relationship with Him when our hearts are on things and not on Him. If our heart is to be on Him, we must place it there. **Colossians 3:2** “*Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.*”

8. When is it needed? In Luke 12, we find the parable of the rich fool. Why do we call him a fool? Because he was more concerned with storing up his possessions for future need than he was for the need that was present at the time. Too many people are waiting for a rainy day when in reality it is raining for someone already somewhere. God's people ought to realize that there is always a need to give, rather than waiting for that ideal moment that satisfies us.

9. How much do you love the Lord? 2 Corinthians 8:8-9 *“I speak not by commandment, but by occasion of the forwardness of others, and to prove the sincerity of your love. 9 For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.”* God's love was manifested in His giving; the giving of His Son, the most precious gift that He could possibly give to us. Our love should do the same. If you love someone, you will want to give to them. It is important to remember when you place your offering in the offering plate that you are not giving it to the church, you are not giving it to the preacher, but rather you are giving it to God.

10. How much do you want to reap? 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 *“But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. 7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.”* Eternal rewards ought to matter much more than earthly rewards. A good relationship will cause us to live for eternity. When we live for eternity, we will realize that “Only one life will soon be past, only what is done for Christ will last.” The only worthwhile investment is the investment for eternity.

11. How much does money and material things mean to you? Ecclesiastes 5:13 *“There is a sore evil which I have seen under the sun, namely, riches kept for the owners thereof to their hurt.”* Walking with God will help you to have the proper values in your life. There are many Christians whose relationship is hindered because their values are on material things rather than on the things of the Lord. The Bible says specifically that we are not to love the things of this world.

12. How much do you want to be used as a channel for God? Acts 4:32-35 *“And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common. 33 And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all. 34 Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, 35 And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need.”* What a delight to think that we can be used for our heavenly Father and to help our fellow brother!

13. How much do you want to honor the Lord? Proverbs 3:9 *“Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:”* Do you have a desire to give honor to God by giving to Him of your substance? What an honor when God knows we love Him enough to give to Him!

Conclusion: A little child, when they are first born, only knows how to take. Maturity is the process whereby they begin to give more and more and expect less and less. Their ultimate maturity is when suddenly giving is not the thing that matters, but giving is what life is all about. True spiritual maturity is when we have left that place of spiritual infancy of always taking, and begin to give. Are you actively involved in a beautiful relationship of giving with your God?

WALKING WITH GOD
Walking With God & Giving
Lesson 26- December 31
Elementary Idea Sheet

Introduction: Matthew 6:21 *“For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”* A treasure could be where you use your money and where you spend your time. We have been learning about how to walk with God. When you walk with a person, you become close to that person; you develop a friendship. The friendship will last if both people help each other and give to each other. If one person is selfish, the friendship will end. Have you ever heard this? “It is nice to share.” You share and share and share with a friend, but if that friend doesn’t share with you, you don’t want to share with them anymore, do you? Well, God gives and gives and gives to us, but how much do we give to Him?

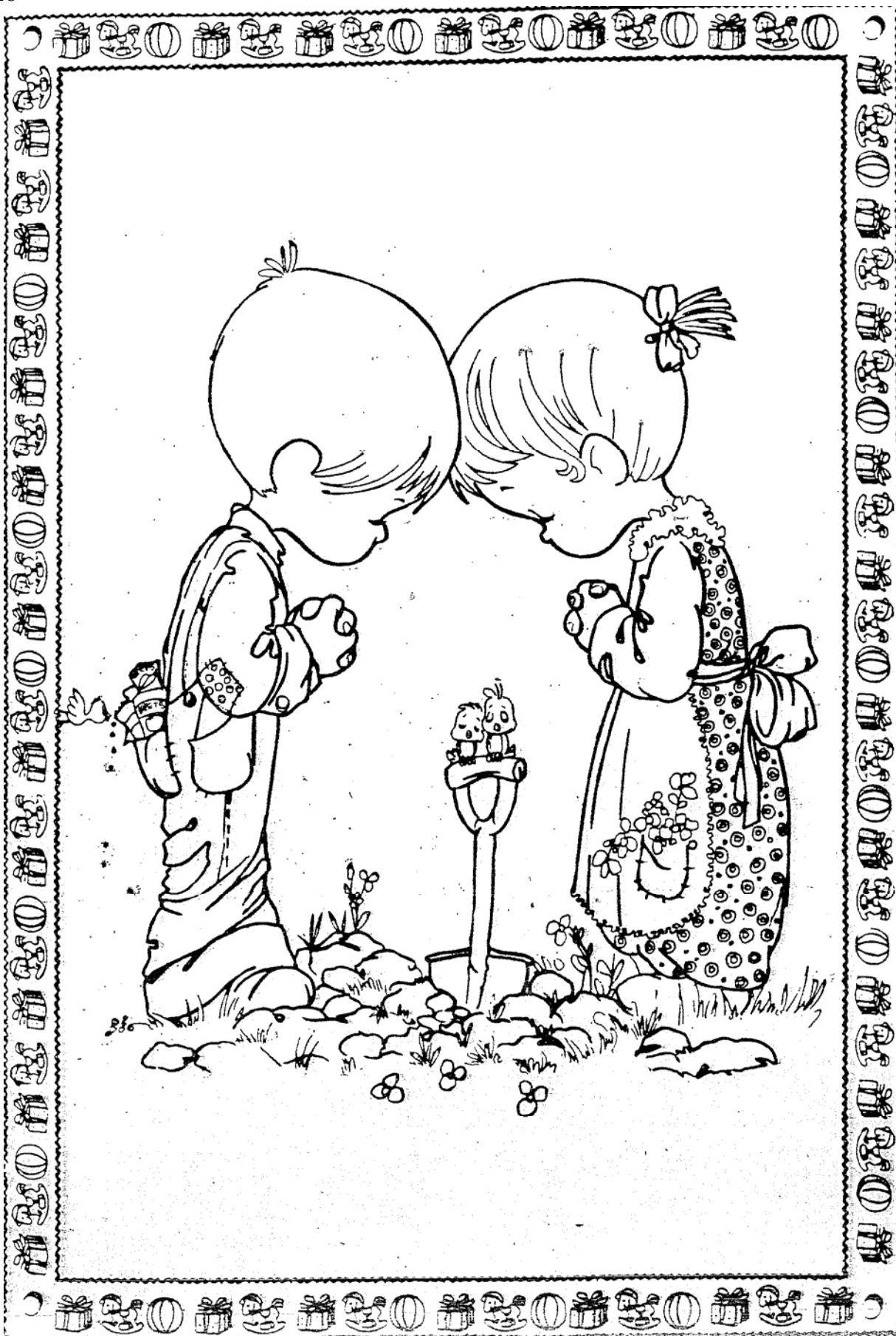
Lesson: (Get 2 boxes close to the same size. Cover the boxes to make them look nice. On one box write the name “You.” On the other box write the name “God.”) “Where your treasure is there will your heart be also.” Jesus does a lot for us and He loves us. (Put a heart on the front of the box labeled “You.” (For older children you can use the words written on paper, for younger children you may want to get pictures from magazines.) Jesus died on the cross because He loved us. (Put the word or picture of a cross in the “God” box. Continue to do the things that God has done for us. Then as you teach the lesson, put words or pictures in the box marked “God.” The idea is to show the children how much God does for them and show them how much they can do for God. Use the adult lesson to give you ideas of both..)

Ideas of words to use while teaching the lesson:

1. Love
2. Trust
3. Tithe
4. Time

When teaching smaller children, use things like:

1. Love
2. Joyful giving
3. Tithe
4. Worship- behavior in church
5. Prayer



Walking With GOD

Walking In Meditation

Text Verse: Psalm 1:1 *“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.”*

Introduction: There is an area of extreme weakness in many of God’s people. It appears to be so vital yet something that very few people really understand. It is the matter of meditating with God. A synonym for the word meditate in dictionaries is ruminate. Several animals are called ruminant animals; such as cattle, sheep, goats, camels, antelope, giraffes, etc. Early in the morning these animals eat rapidly and the grass gathers in the first stomach called the rumen. In the midmorning, the animal sits in the shade to rechew this food carefully. It is this time that causes the juices and nourishment to go into their bloodstream to strengthen them in order that they might get all of the nourishment possible from the grass. God’s Word and our relationship with Him is much the same. Many of God’s people are spiritually struggling because of the breakneck speed of our lives and also because of the brief and few encounters that we have with the Lord. He becomes more of an after thought than the focus of our lives. God is concerned with our meditations. **Psalm 19:14** *“Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.”* One man said, “We do not muse much in these days of ours; we are too busy. We are hurrying here and there doing much and talking much but thinking very little and spending but very little time indeed in the modesty of retirement.” I am always in a hurry. It seems as though everything is rush rush in my life. One day I found myself flat on my back in the hospital without any ability to get out and do anything at all. After being there for a week, I began to realize during that time that God had drawn me closer to Himself. I had lots of time to think about Him; time to really soak in the truths of His Word and I became more aware of the need in my life to continue in the matter of meditation. Meditation is the digestion of truth within the heart which moves the soul to a greater love and devotion to Christ. Without it we will never become the fully nourished Christian that the Lord would want us to be.

- I. MEDITATION IS THE REMOVING OF GOD FROM A TIME CAPSULE.** We have confined God to a time frame of speaking to us and thus we miss out a multitude of blessings that we could have only enjoyed had we given God an open schedule in which He could work. Be careful that God controls your time and that you take the time to get away and truly meditate upon Him and upon His Word. (Psalm 25:4, 5; 37:7-9; 40:1-3, 31; 130:5, 6)
- II. MEDITATION IS TO BE IN GOD’S WORD.** Meditating is allowing God’s truth to infiltrate the depths of our lives and flow through and through. It is allowing each morsel to guide us and fill us in order that we might be all that He wants us to be. (Psalm 119:15, 78, 97, 99, 149; Joshua 1:8)
- III. MEDITATION IS TO BE DWELLING PERSONALLY ON GOD. Psalm 145:5** *“I will speak of the glorious honour of thy majesty, and of thy wondrous works.”* Have you ever been apart from someone you love and began to read a note they wrote to you. Your thoughts are not simply caught up in the words, but they are reflecting upon the person. That is exactly what we are to do with the Lord. We are to meditate upon His person, which causes us to draw closer to Him in our hearts.
- IV. MEDITATION IS TO BE ON GOD’S WORKS. Psalm 77:12** *“I will meditate also of all thy work, and talk of thy doings.”* **Psalm 145:5** *“I will speak of the glorious honour of thy majesty, and of thy wondrous works.”* Meditation is time taken daily to simply think of all that God has done

for you, and certainly He has done far more than most of us ever take time to recognize. The more we become aware of what He has done, the more we will love Him and appreciate Him.

V. MEDITATION IS TO BE BOTH DAY AND NIGHT. Psalm 1:2 *“But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.”* Psalm 63:6 *“When I remember thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the night watches.”* Joshua 1:8-9 *“This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.”* 9 *“Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.”* We often think about the Lord just at certain times of the day, but there ought not be a time during the day or night but what we do not meditate upon our Lord.

VI. MEDITATION IS THE KEY TO A SWEET RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD. Psalm 104:34
My meditation of him shall be sweet: I will be glad in the LORD.

VII. MEDITATION BRINGS GREAT REWARDS. It is an amazing thing what can be accomplished in the life of a Christian through meditation.

- A. Fruitfulness. (Psalm 1:2, 3; John 15:4, 5)
- B. Obedience.
- C. Guidance. (Joshua 1:8, 9; Proverbs 6:20-23)
- D. Safety. (Proverbs 6:20-23)
- E. Companionship. (Proverbs 6:20-23)
- F. Answered prayer. (John 15:7)
- G. God’s goodness. (Lamentations 3:25)

VIII. THE GREAT KEY TO MEDITATION IS STILLNESS. Psalm 4:4 *“Stand in awe, and sin not: commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still. Selah.* Psalm 46:10 *Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.”* A king had a place in his inner chamber where only he was allowed to go. It was a place where he would lie upon a bed. No other person was allowed there and it was there he would go to make important decisions; there where he would go to think the problems through. He would muse or meditate. We as Christians need to be still often in order that we might simply think about the Lord and the things of the Lord. We, too, need to meditate in stillness upon Him and upon His Word.

Conclusion: It is important that each of us as God’s people learn the importance of that time of meditation where daily we let the cycle go slowly and carefully without being rushed in order that God might draw near to us.

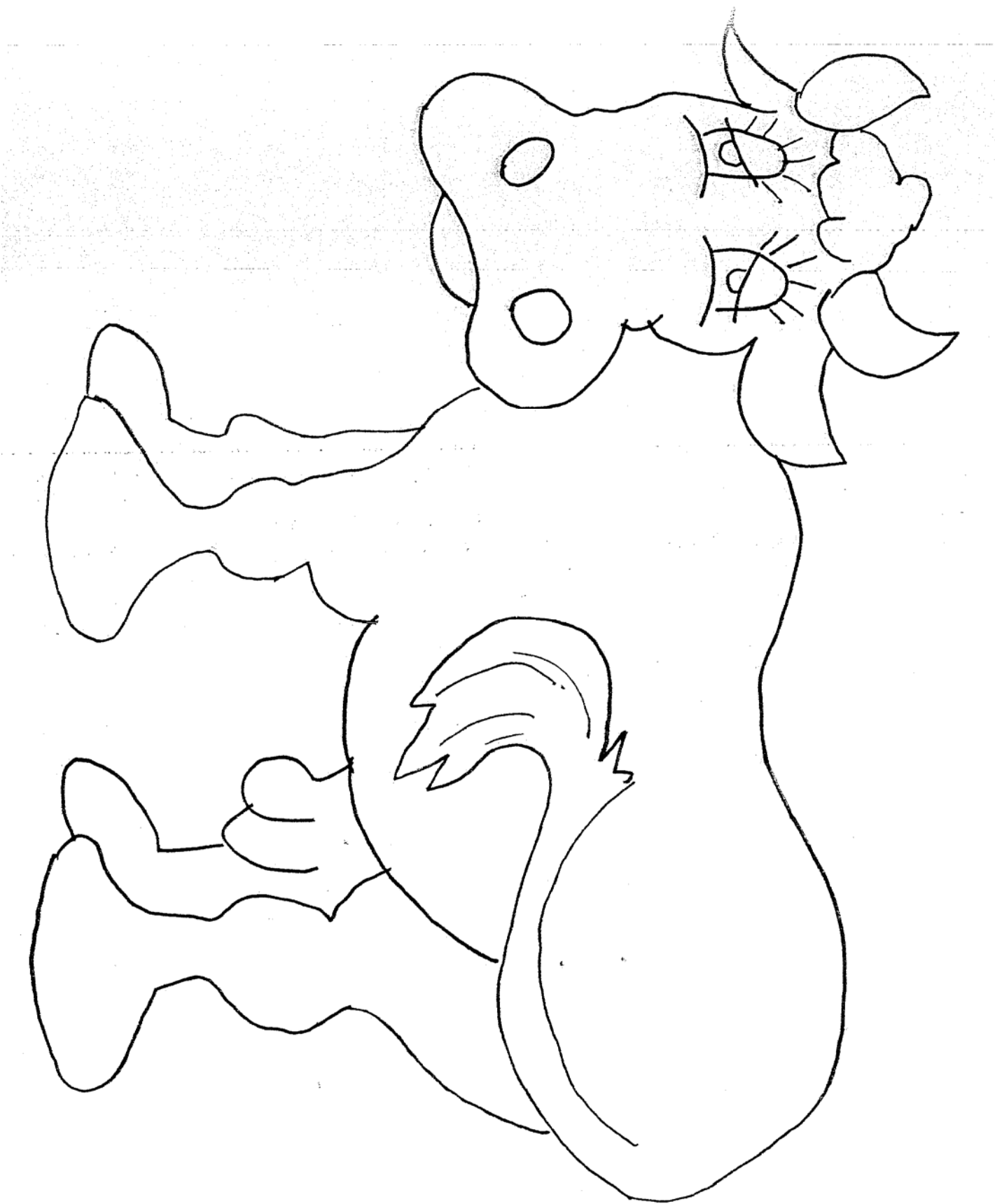
WALKING WITH GOD
Walking In Meditation
Lesson 27- December 3
Elementary Idea Sheet

Introduction: (Get a picture of a cow or one of the other animals mentioned in the lesson. Enlarge the picture so that there is room to draw two stomachs in the cow, or draw a line from the cow's stomach up and divide the line; labeling "Stomach 1" and "Stomach 2.") Cows have two stomachs. That does sound funny, but God made them that way. When a cow eats grass in the morning, it goes into the first stomach. (Write grass or put a picture of grass in the first stomach.) Later in the day when the cow sits down to rest, he will chew what he ate earlier that morning. This time he chews very, very slow so that the food will help his body. Our lesson is about a Christian walking with God in meditation. Meditation is thinking about God.

Lesson: (Have a picture of a person and do the same thing as you did with the cow except use two hearts and the following ideas to match the adult lesson.)

- I. When you talk to God, you pray. Let's say you asked God for something. (Put "Prayer" in the first heart. It's okay to think about this once in a while, but sometimes Christians want to tell God when and how soon they want their prayer answered. They should leave it up to God to decide when to answer their prayer. Then, when He does answer prayer, they can enjoy it more. (Put answered prayer in the second heart.)
- II. "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." Psalms 119:11 (Put "Memorization" in the first heart, and put "reviewing verses" in the second heart.)
- III. We learn to know God personally by studying the Bible and by good preaching. (Put "Bible study" and "Preaching" in the first heart. Put "Thinking about God" in the second heart.)
- IV. VII. When can we benefit from the things in the second heart? Day and night. This meditation causes you to be close to God. This closeness gives you many rewards.

No matter what a person wants to do, there is always a best way to do it. The best way to meditate is to be still.



Walking With GOD

Walking In God's Will

Text Verse: Psalm 37:44

Introduction: In our relationship with God, one of the most confusing areas seems to be that of the will of God. As a teenager, I can remember hearing many sermons that gave the steps of finding the will of God. It seems as though each had several steps and by the time I had graduated from high school I had found 14,000 ways to find God's will. This confusion is a real problem if we are to have a proper relationship with the Lord. There are two wrong schools of thought when we are dealing with God's will.

1. That the will of God is something that we must search for as though God were hiding it. The Bible says in **Ephesians 5:16-17**, *"Redeeming the time, because the days are evil". "Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is."* God's will is not something we have to go out looking for as though God were hiding it. Unfortunately, many times God's people are like mystics when it comes to God's will. They wait for neon lights to flash in the sky.

2. That the idea that God does not have a will for each individual, other than the Bible's teaching. The Bible is the source that leads us to the perfect will of God. God does have a perfect will for each of our lives, but exactly how are we to know this will? Perhaps one of the great keys to the will of God is realizing that you do not have to find the will of God if you never leave the will of God. Many Christians spend a great deal of time looking for God's will as though it were somewhere off in the future rather than realizing that God's will is today. We must be conscious that if we are to be in the will of God tomorrow, the great key is being in the will of God today.

In Detroit, Michigan, there's an interstate highway called I-94 which leads all the way into Chicago. If I were to ask you how I can know that I will be on I-94 when I am in Chicago, your simplest answer would be, "Just stay on I-94 while you are in Detroit and never get off it." That is exactly the way it is with God's will. If we simply will find out the way to stay in God's will, we will never have to go out searching for it. Searching for the will of God also often leads us to excusing ourselves for the moment. It is almost as though today is simply a time of deciding if we are going to do God's will in the future, so we do not have to worry about today. Perhaps that is why the Lord said, *"Redeeming the time, because the days are evil."* *"Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is."* We must realize that the time for God's will is today. God's will is not difficult to find because it is a perfect plan. The will of God begins with God Himself communicating with us through His Word as taught to us by the Holy Spirit. When God was giving instructions to Joshua concerning leading the people across the Jordan River, he told Joshua in verse 8, *"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."* What God was communicating to Joshua was that if he would stay in the Word of God in three ways, his talk, his thought and his walk, then his way would be successful because that would certainly lead him to the will of God. Psalm 37:4 starts us off on a little journey which shows us how we can stay in the will of God. **Psalm 37:4** *"Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart."* This simple plan that is based on our relationship with God will help God's people never to have to stray or struggle to find God's will. Six words are involved.

1. **Delight.** The word delight comes from a word which means to be delicate, or to be effeminate. It is a word of relationship which the believer is to have with his Lord, similar to the relationship a wife has to her husband. If we delight ourselves, or are delicate in our relationship to our God, the Bible says He will give us the desires of our heart. The word give actually means impart. It is not a matter of He will give us everything we want, but rather He will give us the want we ought to have. Many Christians have the idea that it is based on a series of things we do not want to do. On the contrary, the will of God is based very strongly upon the right desires. You cannot have the right desires unless you have the right delight. That in which you delight will produce your desires. If you are delicate and submissive in your relationship with the Lord, delighting in Him and in His Words, then you will have the right desires. On the contrary, if you delight yourself in the things of the world, you will have worldly desires. (Romans 7:22; Psalm 1:1-2; 40:8; 119:116, 24, 77, 92, 143)

2. **Desire.** Could it be true that God's will is found within the desire of our heart? It is definitely true. Rather than some kind of mystical revelation in the sky, God's will is revealed through our hearts and our desires if we delight purely in Him. He that is in the will of God, delighting in the Lord, will be given the desire that is God's delight for him. (Proverbs 10:24; 11:23, 13:12, 19; Mark 11:24) In these passages, we see God working His will through us within the scope of our desires. On the other hand, a wicked man is also led by his desires. **Psalm 112:10** *"The wicked shall see it, and be grieved; he shall gnash with his teeth, and melt away: the desire of the wicked shall perish."* When a person wants or delights in themselves in God's Word, soon the Word of God begins to manifest itself within their desires. Those desires begin to produce a holy direction which leads us to the third word in our journey.

3. **Direction.** **Psalm 119:105** *"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."* **Proverbs 15:19** *"The way of the slothful man is as an hedge of thorns: but the way of the righteous is made plain."* How can we know when we are going in the right direction? If we have the right desire as a result of delighting ourselves in the Lord, our direction can be made very plain and very obvious. **Psalm 37:23** *"The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way."* **Proverbs 16:9** *"A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps."* In reading **Proverbs 4:14-27**, we see tremendous teachings concerning God's will for our lives. Within verse 23 it says, *"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."* The word issues means going forth, or directions. A person that wants to know that God is directing his life must simply keep himself delighting in God and His Word. God will produce those desires which will then show him the proper direction for his life.

4. **Destination.** **Psalm 37:37** *"Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace."* The way that we know that we have been stepping in the right destination for our lives begins by delighting in God's Word. The destination becomes very simple and obvious to the person who has delighted themselves in the Lord. The Bible says, *"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee."* There will be a perfect peace about each step of your life if you keep your delight in the Lord.

5. **Delight.** We come back to the word with which we began, but this time used a little bit differently. **Psalm 37:23** *"The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way."* When a man delights in the Lord and begins to know the sweetness of God's will, he soon begins to find all of his delights within the Lord and the things of the Lord. Slowly but surely the desires of this evil world are put aside and nothing the world has to offer pleases him like the will of God. We are so caught up by so many other things because we have not learned to delight ourselves in the Lord and to find that His perfect destination is sweet and sufficient. That is why Paul could say His grace is sufficient. Our sufficiency oftentimes is not in the Lord. God's will is always a delight. It is always pleasant and pleasing. It may not always be exactly what we want it to be, and when we see it, it may not always appear to be pleasant or desirable, but once we have experienced it, we find that it is sweet to the soul.

6. Dwell. This is our final word. It is found in **Psalm 37:27 & 29,** 27 “*Depart from evil, and do good; and dwell for evermore.*”

29 *The righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell therein for ever.*” The word dwell means to stay under the cloud. God led the children of Israel wandering through the wilderness by using a pillar of fire by night and a pillar of cloud by day. When they stayed under the cloud of God’s will and followed Him perfectly, things went well and God’s provision and protection was enough. When a person follows the will of God and he begins to realize the delight that is therein, he decides to dwell there. This is when we come to a place in our lives where God’s will is so sweet to us we wish to dwell in it throughout our lives. Many a person who begins seeking God’s will never comes to that place where they decide to dwell there. This is because they have somewhere stopped delighting themselves in the Lord. If we delight ourselves in the Lord, He will lead us to a place where we decide to dwell forever more.

Conclusion: This simple little map should be able to lead any child of God to a daily enjoyment of the will of God and cause us never to have to stray from the path that God had in mind for us. It is all based on the proper relationship with our Lord.

Delight-----Desire-----Direction-----Destination-----Delight---Dwell

WALKING WITH GOD
Walking In God's Will
Lesson 28
Elementary Idea Sheet

Introduction: The title of our lesson is “Walking in God’s Will.” It means doing what God wants you to do, going where God wants you to go, and living how God wants you live. It means doing God’s will. Adults think a lot about God’s will; where He wants them to go and what He wants them to do. Sometimes they make it harder than what it is. Boys and girls don’t think much about it because they go where their parents take them. The older you get the more you will think about it. Of course, you can do what God wants you to do. If you do that while you are little it will be easier to find God’s will for you when you are bigger.

Lesson:

Lower Elementary: **Delight:** You can teach a young child that when they are delighting in someone it is making that person happy. A young child can always relate to their parents. If a child is delighting in their parent then that child will want to do what makes the parent happy. A child’s heart is tender. They do not want to make their parents unhappy. Teach them that they would not want to lie because they want to please their mom and dad, and they wouldn’t want to lie because that would not please Jesus. Teach them things that would pertain to the age group you are teaching. **Desire:** Psalms 37:4 “Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.” Teach the children that just because their parents want to give them everything that they want does not mean that they will. A child that is not allowed to have sugar may want sugar, but the parent is not going to let that child have the sugar. The parent knows that it will harm the child. God does not always give a Christian everything he wants either. God knows the future and knows what is best.

Upper Elementary:

1. You can use an example of a river with stones that help you cross from one side to another. The 6 words for living in God’s Will could be on the stepping stones.
2. The words could be done on a board in a continued circle. When you get to VI. Dwell, It will return you to the beginning I. Delight.

Conclusion: A child cannot know God’s Will for their life as an adult, but they prepare for that while they are young. Young people need to learn everything they can so that when they become an adult they will be prepared for God’s Will. They need to do their best in school and be willing to learn other things when the opportunity arises. For example: musical instruments, sewing, mechanics, and carpentry, etc...

Walking With God
Lesson 28



Walking With GOD

Walking In Praise

Text Verse: Psalm 150

Introduction: God delights in the praise of His people, yet it is something we do far too seldom! Praise is an important part of any relationship because it is pleasing. Praise comes from the same origin as the word prize. It is something we value greatly, something we worship, something we glorify or something we honor vocally. Many Christians have never learned praise and it hinders their walk with God. We don't have to look at the Hebrew and Greek because of the perfection of God's Word in the King James Bible but the Hebrew and Greek give us several different words that are translated as praise, which might in this study give us some insight. They have slight variations in meaning and may help us to fully understand how to praise the Lord. Let's examine these different types of praise as mentioned in the Bible.

- I. To Celebrate!** This means to rejoice, or to shout for what we have in Him. We find this illustrated in Acts 3:8, 9 in context with the story of the lame man healed by Peter. This man was celebrating the great thing God had done for him. We too ought to be celebrating the great things God does for us. There are many passages where this word is used. Here are some examples:

Psalms 22:23	Psalms 48:1
Psalms 56:10	Psalms 63:5
Psalms 69:34	Psalms 74:21
Psalms 96:4	Psalms 106:1, 48
Psalms 109:30	Psalms 111:1
Psalms 112:1	Psalms 113:1
Psalms 117:1, 2	

- II. To Honor!** This means to speak of something gloriously. It is often used in regards to singing. It means to lift Him up because of what He is. This is when we speak well of God regardless of our circumstances. Paul and Silas were in prison. (Acts 16:25) There in prison they sang and praised God for His greatness. God sent an earthquake and delivered them from their captivity, but they did not choose to escape. The keeper of the prison, who had heard them praising God in the midst of their horrible circumstances cried out, "What must I do to be saved?" It was their praise in the midst of their circumstances that caused that jailer to get saved, not just the earthquake. Oh, that others could see us praise our God when things are at the worst, not just when they are at their best!

James 5:13	Acts 16:25
Psalms 7:17	Psalms 9:1, 2, 9
Psalms 21:13	Psalms 33:1-3
Psalms 47:1, 6	Psalms 57:7
Psalms 68:32	Psalms 92:1
Psalms 98:4	Psalms 104:33
Psalms 108:1-5	

III. To speak well of or confess! This was often referred to as a sacrifice of praise. It means to brag on someone or to let others know of your admiration or affection for someone. It also was a way of paying a debt to someone to whom it was owed. We certainly owe a debt to God. Praise is one of the ways we can pay that debt. This was seen in the actions of the Christians of the New Testament church in the book of Acts. This kind of praise is often that which gives us opportunity to win others to Christ. (Acts 2:46, 47)

Hebrews 13:15	Psalms 9:1-2, 11
Psalms 28:7	Psalms 42:5
Psalms 44:8	Psalms 45:17
Psalms 52:8, 9	Psalms 54:6
Psalms 56:12	Psalms 67:3
Psalms 71:22	Psalms 86:12
Psalms 99:2, 3	Psalms 107:8, 15, 21, 31
Psalms 118:21, 28	Psalms 138:2

IV. To Worship! This was usually translated bless or adore. It actually means to give favor or to show adoration. This may be the most intimate of the words for praise. It is when we are so in love with Him that we want to bless Him at all times.

Psalms 34:1	Psalms 66:8
Psalms 96:2	Psalms 100:4
Psalms 103:1, 2, 20, 24	Psalms 103:1, 35
Psalms 104:1, 35	Psalms 134:1-2
Psalms 135:19, 20	Psalms 145:1, 2, 21

Conclusion: Teachers this is a great lesson for Thanksgiving Sunday. Basically you could describe praise in these four terms:

1. To shout for what we have in Him!
2. To lift Him up because of what He is.
3. To pay a debt because of what He has done.
4. To merely speak well of Him because of your overwhelming love for Him.

Psalms 149:1-9

1 *"Praise ye the LORD. Sing unto the LORD a new song, and his praise in the congregation of saints.*
2 *Let Israel rejoice in him that made him: let the children of Zion be joyful in their King.*
3 *Let them praise his name in the dance: let them sing praises unto him with the timbrel and harp.*
4 *For the LORD taketh pleasure in his people: he will beautify the meek with salvation.*
5 *Let the saints be joyful in glory: let them sing aloud upon their beds.*
6 *Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a twoedged sword in their hand;*
7 *To execute vengeance upon the heathen, and punishments upon the people;*
8 *To bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron;*
9 *To execute upon them the judgment written: this honour have all his saints. Praise ye the LORD."*

WALKING WITH GOD

Walking In Praise

Lesson 29- November 19

Elementary Idea Sheet

Introduction: It is the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Everywhere you go people are already preparing for Christmas and forgetting about Thanksgiving. Let's take a minute and have each child tell about something for which they are thankful. (Take a couple of minutes to do this; not a long time.) We are thankful and we told each other we are thankful, but how often do we take the time to tell God? Today's lesson is "Walking with God in Praise." Thankfulness and praise go together. You feel good when your mom or dad praise you for your good behavior. When they praise you, that also tells you they are thankful.

Teacher, as you go over different types of praise, be sure to use examples of things to which your children can relate. (You could decorate your classroom like you are having a party.)

- I. Celebrate: Tell God how thankful you are. Praise Him! It's like having a party. You would invite people over to celebrate a birthday, but would you have a party and celebrate what God has done for you? (Home, parents, food, a bed, friends, church, etc.)
- II. Honor: Praising God even when you are having a bad day.
- III. To speak well of: Tell others what God has given you. Tell others what God has done for you. If you do something for someone else, it makes you feel good about yourself, but you feel better when you hear that person bragging on you.
- IV. Worship: Do you love God? If you did, you would tell Him. If someone never said to you, "I love you," you might start thinking that they really didn't love you. God likes to hear you say, "I love you" to Him too.

Conclusion: It is so important to be thankful. It is so important to praise Him. It shouldn't be once a year because it is Thanksgiving. It should be all year.

Walking With God
Lesson 29



TONGUES

The Strange Fire of the Devil's Catalyst

INTRO: Acts 2 & I Corinthians 14 -

In 1900 Charles F. Parham opened the Bethel Bible School in Topeka, Kansas. Under his teaching and ministry, Mrs. Agnes Ozman was influenced to speak in tongues or "ecstatic utterances."

Within a short time, a dozen students had this experience.

There should be 3 warning signals to this:

1. A woman started it in a school, not a church.
- 2.
- 3.

In 1906 the Azuza Street Assembly was founded in Los Angeles, California. Their main emphasis was seeking one's Pentecost. God has never called a woman to preach any where in the Bible.

1 Timothy 2:11-13 *"Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection.*

12 *But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.*

13 *For Adam was first formed, then Eve."*

Usurp - To dominate, To seize and hold in possession by force or without right.

1 Corinthians 11:3 *"But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God."*

1 Corinthians 11:8-9 *"For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man.*

9 *Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man."*

I. When You Are Saved, You Get the Holy Spirit

A. **John 14:17** – *"Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him:"*
but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

Ephesians 1:13 - *"In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,"*

B. You don't get saved and then get the Holy Spirit at a different time.

1. The Spirit is what "borns" you again.

John 3:3-5 – *"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. 4) Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? 5) Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."*

C. You can have the Holy Spirit living in you because you're saved, but to be filled with the Holy Spirit means to be controlled or directed by the Holy Spirit.

1. You get filled with the Holy Spirit by begging God for the fullness of the Holy Spirit.

Luke 11:5-13 “ And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves; 6 For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him?
 7 And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee. 8 I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth. 9 And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. 10 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. 11 If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent?
 12 Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?
 13 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them **that ask him?**”

D. Be in a state of being filled all the time. -

Ephesians 5:18 “And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;”

E. In the book of Acts, Christians are mentioned as being filled with Holy Ghost ten (10) different times.

1. Acts 1:8 - Preaching - Soul winning
2. Acts 2:4 - Speaking in one of the languages present (Acts 2:9-11)
3. Acts 4:8 - Preaching Jesus - Soul winning
4. Acts 4:31 - Soul winning
5. Acts 7:55 - Enduring persecution and preaching
6. Acts 11:24 - Preaching
7. Acts 13:9 - Preaching
8. Acts 13:52, 9 - Direction and witnessing
9. Acts 10:45 - Tongues
10. Acts 19:6 - Tongues

Notice

- I. Out of ten (10) times in the book of Acts, tongues are only mentioned three (3) times.
- II. Every time tongues are spoken, Jews or lost people are present.

F. Tongues are done here for soul winning.

Acts 2:1-11 – “And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

- 2) And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.
- 3) And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.
- 4) And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to

glossa speak with other **TONGUES**, as the Spirit gave them utterance. 5) And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. 6) Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them

dialectos speak in his own **LANGUAGE**. 7) And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans? 8) And how hear we every man in our own (**dialectos**) **TONGUE**, wherein we were born? 9) Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, 10) Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, 11) Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our (**glossa**) **TONGUES** the wonderful works of God

G. Tongues are mentioned by Jesus when He told His disciples to go soul winning.

Mark 16:15-18 *“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16) He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. 17) And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; 18) They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. “*

This is the Mark 16 protection plan for the soul winner.

God says He will give us everything we need to tell folks about Jesus.

H. Tongues are the least of all the gifts but are the most mentioned by Charismatic's.

1 Corinthians 12:4-1 *“Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. 6 And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. 7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.*

8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; 9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; 10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

*11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, **dividing to every man severally as he will.**”*

Everybody won't have the same gifts.

1 Corinthians 12:28-31 -- *“ And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, SECONDARILY prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.*

29 Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles?

30 Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?

31 But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.”

The gift of speaking in tongues was perverted by some immature Christians.

1 Corinthians 3:1-4 *“And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.*

2 I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.

3 For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

4 For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal?”

The church at Corinth was carnal and filled with babes in Christ who were not mature enough to eat spiritual meat and filled with envying, strife and division.

Did they have something other churches did not have?

Carnality, strife, envy,

It doesn't sound like they had some kind of, "Second Blessing." This was a church to be pitied not envied.

I Corinthians Is a Book of Rebuke

- A. Chapter 1 - Rebuke for strife and division
- B. Chapter 2 - Depending on human wisdom
- C. Chapter 3 - For carnality
- D. Chapter 4 - For pride
- E. Chapter 5 - For corruption of morals
- F. Chapter 6 - Going to law against one another
- G. Chapter 7 - Homes being out of order
- H. Chapter 8 - For idolatry
- I. Chapter 9 - For not taking proper care of God's man
- J. Chapter 10 - For lustfulness, murmuring, and compromise with demonic forces.
- K. Chapter 11 - For abusing the Lord's Table
- L. Chapter 12 - For abuse of spiritual gifts
- M. Chapter 13 - For immaturity and lack of love
- N. Chapter 14 - For glorying in tongue speaking
- O. Chapter 15 - For heretical teaching on the resurrection
- P. Chapter 16 - For unfaithfulness and inconsistency in giving tithes and offerings.

1 Corinthians 14:

1 *“Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy.”*

The best spiritual gift is to prophesy which means to walk so closely with the Lord that God can reveal the future to you for yourself and others.

2 *“For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.”*

These people who were speaking in tongues when no unsaved people were present and who were causing confusion in the church were understood only by God and not by man. This is a rebuke and statement.

3 *“But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.”*

Those who were perverting this gift were not edifying. Notice that they could not comfort, exhort or edify God's people with this gift.

4 *“He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.”*

Notice the selfishness of those who spoke needlessly in other languages, and the unselfishness of those who walked with God closely and taught so they could edify the church.

5 *“I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.”*

He wished everyone the opportunity one day to speak to a foreigner in their language to win them to Christ but God says that one that walks closely with Him and teaches the Bible is greater than one that talks in another language.

9 *“So likewise ye, except ye utter by the tongue words easy to be understood, how shall it be known what is spoken? for ye shall speak into the air.”*

Someone who speaks in a foreign language without a lost person being there who can understand that language is wasting his time.

10 *“are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and none of them is without signification.”* *There*

There is no such thing as this stuff that is being spoken that is not a language.

11 *“Therefore if I know not the meaning of the voice, I shall be unto him that speaketh a barbarian, and he that speaketh shall be a barbarian unto me.”*

12 *“Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.”*

If you are wanting spiritual gifts seek the most important one; that is edifying the church, or being understood so you can help people.

13 *“Wherefore let him that speaketh in an unknown tongue pray that he may interpret.”*

14 *“For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful”.*

This is a rebuke to the heresy of praying in tongues. It is a waste of time. God knows English, and the gift was given to get other nationalities saved.

15 *“What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.”*

To be spiritual is to pray or sing so one can be understood. The modern "tongue talkers," want you to think they are extra spiritual because they speak in tongues, but to be extra spiritual is to be understood.

16 *“Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest?”*

It has always been the practice of New Testament, soul winning Baptist churches to say, "Amen" in church. How can one say, "Amen," when he can't understand what is being said?

17 *“For thou verily givest thanks well, but the other is not edified.”*

18 *“I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all:”*

Paul traveled from country to country and God enabled him to preach the gospel in other languages.

19 *“Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue.”*

It is 2000 times better to be understood than not be understood.

20 *“Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men.*

21 *In the law it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord.”*

22 *“Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.”*

Tongues are for soul winning.

23 *“are unlearned, or If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad?”*

24 *“But if all prophesy, and there come in one that believeth not, or one unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is judged of all:”*

25 “And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on his face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth.”

26 “How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.”

It is not supposed to be everybody doing their own thing.

In the church everything should be done to edify.

This totally eliminates the talking in tongues in church unless there are unsaved people there who cannot understand the language being used.

27 “If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret.”

The most that could speak in any one gathering were 3, one at a time.

28

35 “And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church.

36 What? came the word of God out from you? or came it unto you only?

37 If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord. “But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God.

29 Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge.

30 If any thing be revealed to another that sitteth by, let the first hold his peace.

31 For ye may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted.

32 And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.

33 For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.”

34 **Let your women keep silence in the churches:** for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law.”

38 “But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant.

39 Wherefore, brethren, **covet to prophesy**, and forbid not to speak with tongues.

40 Let all things be done decently and in order.”

II. Speaking In "Ecstatic Languages" Has Happened A lot in Occult Practices And God Warns Against It.

A. **Isaiah 8:19-20** – “And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead? 20) To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.”

B. **Isaiah 29:4** – “And thou shalt be brought down, and shalt speak out of the ground, and thy speech shall be low out of the dust, and thy voice shall be, as of one that hath a familiar spirit, out of the ground, and thy speech shall whisper out of the dust”.

C. Tongues given in the Bible are known languages.

D. God is not the author of any ecstatic language.

1. The priestess of the God Delphi, near Corinth.

2. The priests and worshipers of Osiris and Mithra.

3. The Gnostics
4. The worshipers of the Syrian god, Juno.
5. People saved out of witchcraft said it happens in the occult.
6. Homosexuals speak in tongues in some of their churches.

III. Any Tongue Will Be A Distinct Language

A. **I Corinthians 14:10** – *“There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and none of them is without signification.”*

B. Acts **2:11** – *“Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.”*

C. Only unbelievers look for a sign.

Matthew 16:4 – *“A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas. And he left them, and departed”.*

IV. The Holy Spirit Will Always Lead You to Obey the Bible

A. If something is going on that contradicts the Bible, then the Holy Spirit isn't leading them to do it.

B. A spirit may be controlling them, but that spirit isn't holy. 1. **I John 4:1** – *“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.”*

2. **1 Timothy 4:1** – *“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;”*

C. John the Baptist was filled with the Holy Spirit and never spoke in tongues.

1. He just pointed people to Jesus.

2. **Luke 1:15** – *“For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb.”*

3. **Luke 7:28** – *“For I say unto you, Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist: but he that is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”*

D. Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit beyond measure.

1. He never spoke in tongues.

2. **John 3:34** – *“For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him.”*

3. **Hebrews 1:9** – *“Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.”*

V. Evidences of Being Filled With the Holy Spirit

A. Boldness in soul winning

1. **Acts 1:8** – *“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”*

2. **Acts 4:31** –“ *And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.*”

B. Singing

1. **Ephesians 5:18-19** –“*And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; 19) Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;*”
Christ-centered music; not Gospel rock or country Gospel.

C. A Spirit-controlled attitude

Galatians 5:22 –“*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,*”
Tongues aren't mentioned.

D. The Holy Spirit does not like magnifying Himself.

John 16:13 “*Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.*”

John 16:14 “*He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.*”

E. Notice what followed Pentecost:

1. **The central focal point of their life was fellowship, preaching, communion and prayer.**

Acts 2:42 – “*And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.*”

2. They parted their possessions with each other. **Acts 2:44-45** “*And all that believed were together, and had all things common; 45) And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.*”

3. Daily witnessing -

Acts 2:46 – “*And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,*”

F. Tongue speaking churches seldom go soul winning.

VII. Tongues Are A Sign of JUDGMENT

A. Tongues are a sign of judgment

B. Pentecost was 37 AD

C. Titus came through in 70 AD; 33 years later.

D. **Deuteronomy 28:49** – “*The LORD shall bring a nation against thee from far, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flieth; nation whose tongue thou shalt not understand;*”

E. **Isaiah 28:11-12** –“*For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. 12) To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear.*”

F. **Isaiah 33:19** –“Thou shalt not see a fierce people, a people of a deeper speech than thou canst perceive; of a stammering tongue, that thou canst not understand.”

G. **Jeremiah 5:15** –“Lo, I will bring a nation upon you from far, O house of Israel, saith the LORD: it is a mighty nation, it is an ancient nation, a nation whose language thou knowest not, neither understandest what they say.”

Charismatic Confusion

Is speaking in tongues the initial evidence that a person has received the baptism of the Holy Spirit? No! No! No!

There are many groups who go under different names but are Pentecostal in doctrine when it comes to the work of the Holy Spirit. As we have pointed out many times before, the Charismatic Movement is an outgrowth of Pentecostalism. Let's just take an example of one such group who goes under the name “Assemblies of God.” They seem to be basically fundamental in doctrine until it comes to the doctrine of the Holy Spirit. I am not writing this to attack the Assembly of God churches but rather to point out the same error that is consistently wrong in most all splinter Pentecostal groups. Here is what the Assemblies say concerning the evidence of the baptism in the Holy Spirit:

“The baptism of believers in the Holy Ghost is witnessed by the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives them utterance (Acts 2:4). The speaking in tongues in this instance is the same, in essence, as the gift of tongues (1 Corinthians. 12:4-10, 28) but different in purpose and use.”

They say as other charismatics, that the physical sign of speaking in tongues is proof they have received the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Tongues in this experience is the same as the gift of tongues. No matter what they believe about the baptism in the Holy Spirit, whether it is receiving or being filled with the Spirit, they are still in gross error. The real problem is that they believe that Jesus is the Baptizer which performs this spiritual baptism (as do other charismatics). In other words, most all charismatics teach that in this second experience Jesus baptizes the believer into the Holy Spirit. Then, when he has the evidence by speaking in tongues, he has the sign to prove that he has received the baptism.

The first thing wrong with this teaching is that the Bible says that whatsoever is not faith is sin (Romans 14:23). Also the Bible says that we walk by faith and not by sight (2 Corinthians. 5:7). The next thing wrong with this teaching is that the Bible teaches that when the “baptism of the Holy Spirit” is mentioned it always is speaking of the Holy Spirit as being the baptizer and not Jesus. The places in the Word of God that teach the true baptism of the Holy Spirit are found in the following: 1 Corinthians 12:13; Galatians 3:27; Romans 6:3. In each place the Holy Spirit is the baptizer.

To say, then, that speaking in tongues is a sign to the believer, as proof that he has received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, is totally absurd. Tongues were given as sign to the unbeliever (1 Corinthians 14:22). In fact, it was given as a sign to the unbelieving Jew (1 Cor 14:20-22). It was never a sign to the believer. All believers were baptized by the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians. 12:13), but not all ever spoke with tongues (1 Corinthians. 12:30).

Walking With GOD

Walking In Encouragement

Text Verse: 1 Samuel 30:1-6 *“And it came to pass, when David and his men were come to Ziklag on the third day, that the Amalekites had invaded the south, and Ziklag, and smitten Ziklag, and burned it with fire; 2 And had taken the women captives, that were therein: they slew not any, either great or small, but carried them away, and went on their way. 3 So David and his men came to the city, and, behold, it was burned with fire; and their wives, and their sons, and their daughters, were taken captives. 4 Then David and the people that were with him lifted up their voice and wept, until they had no more power to weep. 5 And David's two wives were taken captives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the wife of Nabal the Carmelite. 6 And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.”*

Introduction: We are coming to the subject of depression or discouragement in the lives of many Christians. So many sins and failings come about as a result of this. Discouragement is not nearly as sad as that which we turn to for a solution. You can tell a lot about your relationship with the Lord by what it takes to encourage you. David became discouraged or greatly distressed because of the circumstances in which he found himself. The Amalekites had invaded Ziklag and had taken all the women captive, including David's wives. People were so angry at David they talked about killing him by stoning him. The Bible says, “David encouraged himself in the Lord his God.” The word encouraged here means to bind together and strengthen or to gird together and make firm. God wants His people to encourage themselves in Him, not in the world. The stronger our relationship is, the more we will find our encouragement in the Lord. In a sense, we are to bind ourselves or gird ourselves in Him. Discouragement is not wrong; in fact it is a part of life. Moses was discouraged because of the people's rebellion. Elijah became discouraged as he ran from Jezebel. Jeremiah was discouraged as he saw the wickedness of the people. Paul was discouraged when Demas forsook him. Peter was discouraged and went back and fished instead of serving Christ. Jonah was discouraged even after great revival took place.

Quite frankly, even Jesus was discouraged as he saw the multitudes of people and recognized there were so few laborers to reach them all. So you see it is not a matter of discouragement being sin, but a matter of how we react to a natural, fleshly feeling. What is wrong is not the discouragement, but rather the reaction to it. Let us look at the possible reasons for discouragement to the Christian in order that we might realize that discouragement is quite natural.

- A. Discouragement is the Christian's reaction to being away from home.** We have all heard the little song, “This World Is Not My Home, I am just passing through.” That is quite true to the believer. Though we can enjoy our trip to heaven, we are not home, and there will be times that we must be discouraged in this world.
- B. Discouragement is the flesh reacting to testing.** Testing is never enjoyable. It is always difficult. The Bible said it would be. But it is going to accomplish a purpose. Yet for a time, there will be discouragement from it.
- C. Discouragement is also warning signal that we have become weary and are not aware enough of God.** Sometimes we need to slow down and discouragement is God's way of slowing us down, by making us realize that we need more of Him.
- D. Discouragement is human reaction to our failures.** When we try to do right but fail, it discourages me and I see that I need more strength. Peter was discouraged because he denied the Lord and he went out and wept bitterly. Discouragement makes us become aware of our human frailty.
- E. Discouragement is a questioning of God's power or ability.** When Peter was walking on the water, suddenly the winds discouraged him, and he began to sink. Why did he try? Because he saw that Jesus was doing it. Why did he fail? Because he saw the winds and was discouraged

by what was around him. Real faith cometh by hearing and not seeing. You will never discover how much you can do for God until you discover how much God can do for you. Peter's faith was not founded properly. He was walking by sight, not by faith, and then he fell by sight as well and became discouraged. That often happens when our faith is misdirected and we begin to question God's ability.

- F. Discouragement is the realization of our inadequacies in comparison to the greatness of the task.** There have been many times when men saw tasks that seemed too big, like Moses leading the people out of bondage, or Jeremiah preaching to a wicked and rebellious people. Because of our feeling of inadequacy, we become discouraged.
- G. Discouragement is the build up of inward sins that need cleansed.** We are filled with spiritual impurities that need cleansing, but we do not know they exist. Oftentimes discouragement points out a fact that there is a problem that needs to be solved. When physical impurities overcome us and we are filled with bacteria and germs, our bodies become weak and frail and we must go and receive a shot to help us overcome that time of physical depression. Oftentimes, spiritual depression comes about in the same way; by a build up of sins that cause us to finally lose our spirit.
- H. Discouragement is reacting to the hardness of others' hearts.** Our Lord became discouraged when He saw the hardness of the people's hearts and the lack of their willingness to follow Him. Moses became discouraged when he saw the murmuring and the rebellion of the people. Elijah became discouraged when he saw that there were none others that were standing with him. Oftentimes we become discouraged when we feel that we are standing alone.
- I. Discouragement is a wonderful way to test our relationship with the Lord.** Discouragement reveals that something is not exactly right, that we are not as close to the Lord as we ought to be and that something is missing. It causes us to work harder to be close to Him. It shows us that we are not as intimate with Him as we ought to be.
- J. Discouragement sometimes shows us just how weak we are and how strong God is.** It is not until we have come to that point of total helplessness that we can truly realize how helpless we are; even when we think that we are strong. Gideon thought the battle would be a lot easier fought with great numbers of people, because Gideon had forgotten to realize that the battle was the Lord's. But it was when he came down to the very weakest that he was the most obedient. Discouragement was a way to show him how strong God is.
- K. Discouragement is human reaction to that which we do not understand.** There are many things that God does in our lives that we do not understand why. There are a lot of afflictions that come our way, and we are not sure why God allowed them to happen. We become discouraged because we do not know God's purpose. It is not avoiding discouragement that will help us. We cannot, it is going to be there. It is the reacting with faith to our Lord in a time of discouragement that is important.

II. What should the Christian do about discouragement?

- A. Go to the Lord immediately and quickly. Proverbs 18:10** *“The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.”* The more you walk with God the more likely you will run to Him when you are discouraged. The more real He is, the more you will believe He is the one to turn to when the courage is weak.”
2 Samuel 22:2-3 *“And he said, The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; 3 The God of my rock; in him will I trust: he is my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my saviour; thou savest me from violence.”*
Psalms 18:2 *“The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.”*
Psalms 61:1-4 *“Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer. 2 From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I. 3 For thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy. 4 I will abide in thy tabernacle for ever: I will trust in the covert of thy wings. Selah.”* The first reaction that a

Christian ought to have when he comes to a time of discouragement is to go to the Lord. Discouragement cannot go away unless we go to the source of real strength and courage.

- B. Pour out your heart to God.** Hannah, in I Samuel 1, was discouraged because she could not have a boy. She wanted so badly to have a child, but in her time of discouragement she simply came to the Lord and poured out her heart to Him and told Him how she felt, and the Lord gave her Samuel. **Psalm 18:6** *"In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, even into his ears."*
Psalm 34:4 *"I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears".*
Psalm 40:1 *"I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry."*
Psalm 62:8 *"Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us. Selah."*

It is when we come to Him and pour out our soul to Him and tell Him how we feel, that He can reach down and wrap His arms around us and give us the courage we need in our time of depression.

- C. Wait upon the Lord.** Sometimes we need to just spend some time at the feet of the Lord. Martha was cumbered about serving and got so frustrated. Jesus said to her, "One thing is needful, and Mary has chosen that good part." What Martha needed was a time to just come and wait on the Lord, that He might give her strength. The disciples seemed calm when they sat and Jesus just spoke and they listened. Why? They were waiting upon the Lord and allowing Him to strengthen them. **Isaiah 40:31** *"But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."*
- D. Think about the Lord.** **Isaiah 26:3** *"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee."* **Habakkuk 3:17-19** *"Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: 18 Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation. 19 The LORD God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places. To the chief singer on my stringed instruments."* When our minds are turned upon the Lord, there is a peace that can overcome us in a time when the storm is raging about us. When our minds are upon the prince of peace, how can they be filled with turmoil?
- E. Keep your faith in God's deliverance.** If God is great enough to deliver us for eternity, surely He can deliver me from all else. **Psalm 56:3-4** *"What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee. 4 In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me."* **Psalm 56:11** *"In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me."*
- F. Remember that God is in control.** How difficult it is to suddenly try to believe in a God that is working and in control! We must walk with Him and know Him now in order that when those times come, we will know that He is in control. **2 Samuel 16:11** *"And David said to Abishai, and to all his servants, Behold, my son, which came forth of my bowels, seeketh my life: how much more now may this Benjamite do it? let him alone, and let him curse; for the LORD hath bidden him."* David had that kind of belief when Shimei cursed him. He did not fight. He did not let him destroy him, but rather he said, "Let God do his work, for God is in control." You see, we must have faith enough to believe God knows what is happening.
- G. Do not try too hard to run from it.** **Psalm 4:1** *"Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness: thou hast enlarged me when I was in distress; have mercy upon me, and hear my prayer."* A most beautiful line in the Bible is the little phrase, *"Thou hast enlarged me when I was in distress."* Too often we run, resist, resent or rebel rather than being patient, prayerful, wise, trusting, understanding, true, happy and enduring. The best reaction to depression for any Christian is to simply let Him have His work in our life. Noah built an ark, with great persecution and harassment no doubt, but God was working and enlarging him. It was a difficult time for Abraham waiting for the promise of a son, but God was enlarging him. Joseph was sold into slavery and persecuted greatly as God was enlarging him. David ran from Saul for his life,

but God was enlarging him. We must be careful not to run from God's will, but rather in the times of discouragement, let God's work be done.

H. Be reminded that God is always with us. Perhaps Joshua was discouraged over the death of Moses, but the Lord said to him in Joshua 1:9, "*Be not dismayed, for the Lord thy God is with thee, whithersoever thou goest.*" Joshua had never gone anywhere without Moses before. God is always with us. If someone else is gone, He is still there. If someone else fails us, God is still there. We must realize that God's presence is our courage.

I. Keep looking for the coming of our Lord. 1Thessalonians 4:16-18 "*For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words*". The greatest encourager of all for the child of God is the realization that one of these days we are going to spend eternity with our Savior and our bridegroom and our heavenly Father.

Conclusion: I am encouraged today, not because there are not discouragements; they are there, they must come. It is a part of life, but I am encouraged because of the goodness of my Lord, and knowing that I can walk with Him and find my courage within my relationship with Him. May you today and throughout your life learn that walking with God is the key to being encouraged in the times of depression.

WALKING WITH GOD
Walking In Encouragement
Lesson 31
December 17, 2000

Introduction: At Tommy's school, all tests, quizzes and classroom work papers were sent home with the students on Monday. At Tommy's house, these papers were given to Mom and Dad after dinner that night, and everyone would sit around and look at the grades that were brought home from the previous week. Tommy's three sisters were very smart (they were always telling Tommy so) and they always brought home A's. Tommy was smart too, but he never brought home an A in Spelling. "I can get an A in spelling if I want to," boasted Tommy. If he did, his parents would be so proud of him and his sisters could not tease him anymore, and the other kids in class would not make fun of him. He decided he would. The next week, Tommy studied extra hard. He wrote his words on paper every day after school and he even had his friend quiz him during his recess time! Friday came and with it the Spelling test. Tommy just knew he could get an A. Tommy could hardly wait until he got his Spelling test back on Monday. When the teacher passed out the papers, in his excitement, Tommy looked at that paper first. It was a "B"! How could that have happened?? Some of the kids in the class giggled and made fun of him. "Tommy went home and was discouraged." After dinner that night, Tommy gave his parents his papers with the Spelling test placed on the bottom. But to his surprise, when his parents got the Spelling test, they cheered for Tommy. His sister's were even smiling and glad for him. They were all proud of him because he had worked so hard. From that day on, Tommy knew that no matter what his final grade was, no matter what the kids in class said, or how much his sister's teased him, as long as he did his best, his parents would be proud of him.

It is that way with everything in our life. Tommy was "encouraged" by trusting in his parents love for him as their son just as we can be encouraged trusting in the LORD and His love for us. No matter what discouraging things happen in our lives, we can look to Jesus and He will encourage us to be happy and to keep going forward.

Lesson: Look at some men in the Bible who were sad or discouraged about what things happened to them. They learned that if they would pray and trust God for those things, they would live happily and not be discouraged.

(Adult Lesson)

- I. Jonah, Moses, Jeremiah, Elijah, Gideon, Hannah, Martha, David, Noah, Joshua



WALKING ALONE



Walking With GOD

They Ceased Not!

Text Verse: Acts 5:40-42 *“And to him they agreed: and when they had called the apostles, and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. 41 And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name. 42 And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.”*

Introduction: Sometimes it is frustrating to all of us when we consider our many responsibilities and wonder how we can possibly fulfill them all adequately. We have our family, work, household, personal responsibilities and even church duties that keep each one of us busy and often times overly frenzied twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. It's very easy to begin wondering what our responsibility to the lost really is. Most Christians sincerely desire what God wants but they don't know how. As a result of our busy schedule, many Christians have never won a soul personally to the Lord Jesus Christ. Not because they don't want to, but often it is because there is just so much else going that they don't know how much is their true responsibility. It can be difficult to find that balance between all the roles that God has given us, yet we can't escape the fact of lost souls going to hell and our responsibility to them. We cannot escape those people within our own city, people by tens of thousands who have never heard the gospel presented properly. We cannot escape the fact that fifty percent of the people of the world have never heard the name of Jesus or the fact that twenty-five percent of the world has never heard a clear presentation of the gospel. We can't escape the truth of the millions of souls that will perish in hell without Christ. We can't escape Christ's command and commission to the disciples. (John 20:21; Matthew 28:19, 20; Mark 16:15) We can't escape the fact of hell. We can't escape the Great White Throne Judgment. We can't escape the rich man in hell crying out for mercy. We can't escape the reality of eternity. There's a great need in this country for Christians to truly become soul winners, but what does it mean? How can we do it? What is our responsibility? Who is supposed to be a soul winner? When are we supposed to accomplish those things?

1. **We must become more concerned and responsible for the people we already know.** Eighty percent of the people we know on the average are not saved. These people are our responsibility and the ones we ought to fervently go after to try to reach. There are multitudes of people with an ever dying soul who are on their way to hell. The day will come at the great White Throne Judgment when we will watch those people whom we have failed to take as our personal responsibility cast into a never-ending hell. Then we will realize the importance that we should have realized when we had a chance to do some good for their soul's sake. A bedridden lady began to realize that 57 of her acquaintances were lost. She could not get up and go to them. She had no way to reach them. Within her heart she began to feel the burden and the need to see them saved. She prayed three times a day individually for their salvation, and then wrote each one letters of concern. Over a period of time, before she finally met the Lord, all 57 of those acquaintances had received Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. We too need some concern today for those we know who are lost.
2. **We must become more aware on a consistent basis of those around us who are lost.** We must train ourselves to think of the gospel being presented from even the conversations of those around us. Our minds are worldly. Everything should be sacred to the believer and all things should relate to Christ. This would cause us to be more mindful of the lost. People daily slip through our fingers, nameless ones who will perish eternally because Christ was not on our minds. Our thoughts were centered too much upon ourselves. Think of those multitudes with which we come in contact day after day, lost and on their way to an eternal hell. They are precious souls that Jesus loved and for whom He died. Charles

Finney said that every time he met a man, his first thoughts that came to him were, I wonder how it is with his soul.

3. **We must become more honest about what it means to become a Christian.** Christianity must be our life-style so that others will see the alternative. A new convert must be aware of the total difference of the Christian if they are really going to grow. We've got to present Christianity as more than a religious experience but a decision to choose the life of Christ. Is there enough evidence of Christ in your life to convict you in a court of law of being a Christian? Christianity must become a daily, moment by moment commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord of our lives so that others can see the difference that would give us an opportunity to witness to them.
4. **Daily we must seek the burden of the Lord for the lost until we become thirsty for souls. Matthew 9:35-38** *“And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. 36 But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. 37 Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; 38 Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.”* When we see the passion of our Lord for the lost, it ought to burden our hearts to be consumed with that same passion. Our prayer should be, “Give me a passion for souls, dear Lord.” Christ came to seek and to save those who are lost, yet today's church is more concerned about the things of this world. David Brainerd, the great missionary, once said, “I care not where I live or what hardships I go through so that I can but gain souls for Christ. While I am asleep, I dream of these things. As soon as I awake the first thing I think of is this great work. All my desire is the conversion of sinners and all my hope is in God.”
5. **We must constantly remind ourselves that Christ gave us a new purpose for our lives; to be His ambassadors with the gospel.** R. A. Torrey once was on a journey and he knew that he would have to stop in a certain city for almost a day and wait before the train would take off once again. He took with him over 3,000 tracts in order that he might pass them out in that city because he said, “I may never pass through this city again. It may be my only opportunity to share Jesus with them.” Our attitude should be as Torrey's, burdened constantly for the lost with the responsibility of an ambassador. Jesus said, “As the Father has sent me, so send I you.” How well are you representing your king? All of us need to become true ambassadors for our Lord. There's a sad reality in most churches today, most of God's people are caught up in the social aspect of church and have never been an ambassador. That's why many of our cults that preach a false gospel are more successful in reaching others than we are.
6. **Discipleship must become a life-style for each one of us.** We must in one accord come to a place where we give total concern and interest over every young convert. A family cares for the newborn baby. They celebrate. They show concern and love. They cuddle the child and make certain every need is cared for, yet sadly God's people don't do the same for our new converts who are babes in Christ. A man was attempting to reach shore safely as horrible waves kept driving him away from the shoreline. People on the shore watched his plight and did nothing with an attitude of, “Let's see if he can make it and then we'll help him.” That is the attitude of so many Christians. It is as though they must prove themselves before we'll accept them, but the purpose of the church is to run to the aid of every new convert to build their lives and strengthen them for the glory of God. We must all pitch in to make new disciples all over our city and area; people who are learners and followers of Christ, teaching them all things whatsoever Christ commands us.
7. **We must develop a passion to obey the Lord.** The passion to obey Christ to Whom we are truly committed without fail will lead us to a passion to win souls. Our Lord commanded us and that ought to be all it takes to make us to be soul winners, but maybe that's the problem. All too often perhaps we are not committed to the Lord Jesus Christ; therefore, we do not do the work of our Father.

8. **We must come to the place where we are willing and able to sit down with the lost and teach them from God's Word how to be saved anytime of the day no matter how inconvenient.** A Christian must be on call twenty-four hours a day, willing to take time to teach a lost soul salvation, even late into the night and even if it takes many hours. It must become a delight and a thrill to us each time we are able to bring someone into the body of Christ. God give us that hunger and desire and delight for soul winning, that it would cause us to love the inconvenience that it could cause us for the thrill of seeing a person saved.
9. **We must exhibit the greatest love for our Lord, our brethren and the lost.** The love that we ought to have for our Lord and for our fellow brethren should draw men like a warm fire on a cold wintry night. It ought to draw men like a cool cup of water in an Arab desert or like a home cooked meal to a hungry man. Pour out your love to others and it will quench your own thirst but it will also draw the lost to our Lord. All of our efforts without love are fruitless and worthless in the sight of God. We must come to that place where we possess God's giving love of grace.

Conclusion: It would be a wonderful thing if each Christian individually would make witnessing a delight and not a chore. If each of us would become excited about it and begin to look forward with great zeal and desire, we could hope to see more saved for the glory of God. It is your responsibility. It is my responsibility. We must see it as that and be willing to pay the price to spread the gospel to the entire world.

THEY CEASED NOT

Lesson 32

Elementary Idea Sheet

Introduction: Make a map that looks like a map for hunting treasure. How many of you have ever thought it would be interesting to look for buried treasure? Maybe someday you find a pot of gold. You would be so rich! Tomorrow is New Year's Day. On New Year's Day people make resolutions. That means that they decide what they want to do different next year. I think that we ought to make a resolution too. I think that we all ought to decide that starting tomorrow we are all going to be treasure hunters. Doesn't that sound fun?

Lesson: There are lost treasures out there and Jesus wants us to find them. (Put up a picture of a treasure chest that you made out of paper. Make a slit in the chest and attach an envelope to the back. This way you can insert pieces of paper or pictures in the chest as you teach and the envelope will catch them.) The Bible teaches us that every person is important to God. Every person is a treasure to God. The Bible tells us in the book of Luke that we are more important than the sparrow and God even knows when a sparrow falls. God wants every person to go to Heaven when they die, doesn't He? Until a person asks Jesus into their heart and asks Him to forgive them of their sins, they are lost. Each person is a lost treasure. You are never too young to look for the lost treasures.

(As you teach the lesson you can write words or use pictures for the smaller children of people that they can get saved. Little children are very successful at telling people whom they love that they want them to go to Heaven.)

Use the adult lesson for ideas you can put into the treasure chest.

1. Grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, etc.
It is very easy for a child to say, "Are you going to Heaven when you die?"
2. Teachers, doctors, classmates, neighbors, etc.
3. Teach the children that once they are saved, the other people will look at their lives too. Do they act like a Christian boy or girl or are they just as bad as the next kid?
4. Boys and girls can pray every day for lost people to get saved. They especially should know how important it is to say their name to God. Example: "Dear God, please let Grandma and Grandpa get saved."
5. Even a child can have a burden for someone that is lost.
6. New boys and girls in their class should feel welcomed and loved. They should feel they have friends at Pinellas Park Baptist Temple.
7. Jesus tells children to obey their parents, He also tells them to tell others about Him.
8. (Teach younger children to bring people who want to get saved to their parents, preacher, or Sunday School teacher.)
9. We show God that we love Him when we tell others about Him. How much do you love God? How many people have you told?

Conclusion: Teach the children that they are laying up treasures in Heaven by telling people about Jesus. Imagine how full their treasure will be if they start telling people now.



HIDDEN TREASURE

Walking With GOD

Walking In Grace

Text Verse: 2 Peter 3:18 *“But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen”.*

Introduction: After a person has been reconciled with God, he must learn to walk in the grace of God. It is not faith that saves you, but grace alone that saves a man. Faith simply applies the grace of God to your life. Yet grace goes beyond salvation. What is grace? It is God's unmerited favor towards undeserving men. Is grace only for salvation? No, God's grace is sufficient for every situation in our lives and we must not only be saved by grace through faith but we must live by grace through faith. Thus, continued faith does not determine whether or not we have God's grace for salvation. Continued faith and faith that is increased, only increases the abundance of our life within the grace of God. The more our faith increases, the more delight we find in living within His grace. **2 Corinthians 12: 9** *“And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”* Faith is the result of the helplessness of ourselves and total trust in someone else. **2 Corinthians 3:5** *“Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God;”* Salvation comes from totally losing hope in anything else for our salvation and totally hoping in the Lord. When the children of Israel crossed the Red Sea, some crossed with confidence and some with fear. But the key was not their attitude; the key was accepting what God was offering. Thus they crossed safely and their lives were spared. God's grace is sufficient. Faith is the applicator of God's grace. Yet, the Bible says, "For without faith it is impossible to please God." Why? It is because faith activates God's grace in our lives. In other words, God's grace to and for man can be only worthwhile if man's faith is in God. Limited faith limits God's grace.

Peter walked on the water, not by his strength but by God's grace. However, when he lost his faith, he deactivated God's grace. The woman with an issue of blood was healed by the grace of God but it was her faith that activated God's grace. God made all things for man and only man for Himself. God's grace is eternal and God wants us to grow in His grace, yet what does it mean to grow in grace? It means growing in our ability to live by faith within all the good promises of God through Jesus Christ and to enjoy all His provisions and privileges. It is allowing Him to provide for us instead of us providing for ourselves. His grace is sufficient for every need. His grace is sufficient for every hurt. His grace is sufficient for every victory that needs to be won. Yet it is faith that is the applicator of grace. Victorious Christian living thus comes from losing all confidence in our own knowledge and ideas and placing all our confidence in the Lord. **Proverbs 3:5-6** *“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”* This is why the children of Israel did not enjoy the Promised Land when Moses was leading them. They questioned God's ability rather than going ahead and crossing Jordan by faith and thus activating the grace of God to work in their lives. Notice examples of people that lived in grace by faith and in God's Word.

I. Exodus 3:11-14 *“And Moses said unto God, Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt? 12 And he said, Certainly I will be with thee; and this shall be a token unto thee, that I have sent thee: When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain. 13 And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and*

shall say unto them, *The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them?* 14 *And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.*”

Exodus 4:10-15 “*And Moses said unto the LORD, O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue.* 11 *And the LORD said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the LORD?* 12 *Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say.* 13 *And he said, O my Lord, send, I pray thee, by the hand of him whom thou wilt send.* 14 *And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses, and he said, Is not Aaron the Levite thy brother? I know that he can speak well. And also, behold, he cometh forth to meet thee: and when he seeth thee, he will be glad in his heart.* 15 *And thou shalt speak unto him, and put words in his mouth: and I will be with thy mouth, and with his mouth, and will teach you what ye shall do.*” Moses had no confidence in himself, yet he had confidence or he had to learn to have confidence in the grace of God. Thus Moses' faith came because he trusted the Lord rather than himself and activated the grace of God for his guidance and help.

II. Joshua 1:1-9 “*Now after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD it came to pass, that the LORD spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying,* 2 *Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel.* 3 *Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses.* 4 *From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast.* 5 *There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.* 6 *Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swore unto their fathers to give them.* 7 *Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.* 8 *This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.* 9 *Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.*” When God was ready to lead the children of Israel into the Promised Land, He first built Joshua's confidence in God's power and ability. It was not what Joshua could do, but rather it was the faith of Joshua to activate the great grace of God.

III. Isaiah 43:1-5 “*But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine.* 2 *When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.* 3 *For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour: I gave Egypt for thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for thee.* 4 *Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honourable, and I have loved thee: therefore will I give men for thee, and people for thy life.* 5 *Fear not: for I am with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west;*” Isaiah taught the grace of God that led people to faith in Him.

IV. Jeremiah 1:6-9 “*Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child.* 7 *But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak.* 8 *Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD.* 9 *Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth.*” And the LORD said unto me, *Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth.* The prophet Jeremiah developed a dependence upon God's grace and placed his faith in that grace. It was not the confidence in himself but rather in the Lord.

V. 1 Corinthians 10:12-13 *“Standing for righteousness comes only by faith Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. 13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it”.* Standing for righteousness comes only by faith when we are totally depending upon the Lord for strength. When we think we are standing in our own power, we will fall; but when we do not think we can stand but know that He is faithful, then we apply His grace by faith simply by saying, "Lord, I am depending on you."

VI. 1 Corinthians 15:10 *“But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.”* Paul credited grace, not faith for what he was. He knew that his faith only applied the grace.

VII. Hebrews 4:16 *“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”* Prayer is grace being activated by faith. It is not faith that makes prayers successful; it is God's grace, but it is our faith that puts that grace to action.

VIII. Isaiah 40:31 *“But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”* Strength in the Lord does not come by faith; it comes by grace, but it is applied in our lives by faith.

IX. Daniel 10:15-19 *“And when he had spoken such words unto me, I set my face toward the ground, and I became dumb. 16 And, behold, one like the similitude of the sons of men touched my lips: then I opened my mouth, and spake, and said unto him that stood before me, O my lord, by the vision my sorrows are turned upon me, and I have retained no strength. 17 For how can the servant of this my lord talk with this my lord? for as for me, straightway there remained no strength in me, neither is there breath left in me. 18 Then there came again and touched me one like the appearance of a man, and he strengthened me, 19 And said, O man greatly beloved, fear not: peace be unto thee, be strong, yea, be strong. And when he had spoken unto me, I was strengthened, and said, Let my lord speak; for thou hast strengthened me.”* Daniel lost all faith in himself but came to the realization of the strength of God and then activated that strength by his faith.

X. Hebrews 11 This chapter brags on men of faith, yet these men and women did not see their faith as being great. They saw God's grace as being great. True faith does not exalt itself but rather it exalts the grace of God. Someone came to Hudson Taylor one day and said. "Mr. Taylor, You are a great man of faith." The great missionary replied, "No, I am not a great man of faith but I have a great God of faithfulness." Hudson Taylor understood that it was not faith that accomplished anything for God; it was the grace of God that made all things come to pass in our lives. He realized, however, that he must place his trust in God's grace and greatness in order that it might be activated. How do we develop faith? "Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God." The more we hear of what God can do and what He has done, the more faith we will develop. As we read God's Word, we see God's greatness, His faithfulness and His inability to fail and then our faith is increased. In Deuteronomy, Moses admonishes them to remembering what God had already done for the people. Moses was preparing their faith to cross the Jordan River. He knew that before they could have the faith to do something, God's grace must be magnified.

Conclusion: In our day much emphasis has been placed upon men's faith. You will even hear men brag on the faith that God has given them. Dear Christian friend, no person ever succeeds for Christ because of their faith but because of God's faithfulness and His great power. We must realize that all faith is the hyssop weed that activates or applies the grace of God in our lives. The key to walking in grace is when we come to the place

where we recognize in every aspect of our lives His great faithfulness and our inability, thus putting faith only in Him and activating His great grace into our lives and into our daily walk.

WALKING WITH GOD
Walking In Grace
Lesson 33- December 10
Elementary Idea Sheet

Introduction: “Mary Jane needs my help, but I’m not going to help her. She is never done anything for me!” That was not very nice, was it? The sad thing is that some people actually act like that. They don’t want to do anything for anyone that has never done anything for them. (If you teach older children you could ask a couple of them to do a little skit with someone asking for help and the other person refusing.) Wow, I am glad that God’s not like that! Jesus will come into our heart and save us and we have never done anything for Him. Why? It is because of God’s grace. Today’s lesson is “Walking in Grace.”

Lesson: We can be saved because of God’s grace, but we have to have faith. Let me show you an example and help you understand the two. Let us pretend that there is a house on fire. There is a little boy trapped in the house and he is leaning out the upstairs window yelling for help. A man driving by sees the fire and the little boy. He stops to help. He doesn’t know the little boy. The little boy has never done anything for him, but the man wants to help the little boy anyway. Does he have to save the little boy? No, that is grace. He cares about the boy and he doesn’t even know his name. The man can’t get in the house because of the fire. He yells, “Jump, I’ll catch you!” The boy is scared. The boy is thinking, “What if he misses?” The little boy is helpless and cannot save himself. He has to totally trust the man or he cannot be saved. The little boy has faith. He totally trusts the man and crawls out the window and jumps. When the boy jumped, he activated the man’s grace. The man catches the little boy and is saved. (Teach the children how the man represents God’s grace, His unearned love, and the boy’s faith is like that of a person putting their faith in God.)

As the little boy grows up, he will always have faith in the man. The faith in that man’s grace will not grow because they will probably never see each other again, but a Christian’s faith can grow in God’s grace.

Idea: For younger children, choose one of the examples given in the adult lesson and teach the story. For example: Roman numeral I is the story of Moses found in Exodus chapter 3 and 4. Teach the children how God had chosen Moses to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt. Moses was scared. He didn’t think he could do it. Moses didn’t think he had good speech. Some people think that Moses might have stuttered. Moses argued with God about leading the Israelites out of Egypt. In chapter 4 verse 14, it says that God was angry with Moses. God wanted Moses to trust God’s grace. Moses did lead the Israelite people out of Egypt. When Moses decided to trust, God’s grace started caring for Moses and the Israelites.

Walking With GOD

More Barriers In The Walk

Text Verse: Leviticus 16

Introduction: There is a barrier that often stands between the child of God and the Heavenly Father disturbing a perfect relationship. It is a hindrance to many of God's people. So many people sadly are plagued by it, yet do not know how to deal with it. It is called guilt. First of all, let us understand that Satan is not the author of guilt. Guilt is a reaction from the laws of God, ordained by God for those who have disobeyed His will, or His laws. Dealing with Satan will not conquer guilt. Satan tempts us to sin. Sin leads to guilt. Satan does not bring guilt in the person's life, but rather it is the sin that brings guilt to us. What is guilt? It is the opposite of innocence. Guilt is the fact of having committed an offense against God. He made our minds to be devices of judgment. That's why we have a conscience. Thus, when we disobey Him or commit an offense against Him, we have a guilty conscience. Our conscience judges us. Leviticus 16 teaches us about the Day of Atonement which took place on the tenth day of the seventh month. The children of Israel had to observe the Day of Atonement once a year to be cleared of guilt for their sins. Several steps were included in this process. Aaron, or the high priest, would begin by offering a bullock for himself and his household, sprinkling the blood on the Mercy Seat seven times. Next he would offer the blood of the goat (the sin offering) in the same way to atone for the sins of the people. Finally, he would take the live scapegoat outside the camp to a wilderness that was inhabited and confess all the iniquities, transgressions and sins of the people. He would then drop off his garments, cleanse himself, and come forth and cry out "FINISHED." This simply meant that the sacrifice had been accepted, and the guilt of the people had been lifted. This brought about great jubilation, for all guilt was removed and once again they were innocent before God. Certainly it was one of the great moments of peace, joy and delight to the children of Israel. Guilt had been a barrier and now it was removed. This is exactly what is wrong with many of God's people today. The guilt has not been lifted. A child of God must remember that guilt is not Satan's fault, guilt is not God's fault, it is our own fault. We allow it. Let's look at the Old Testament solution for guilt and apply it to ourselves.

- I. **Their guilt was atoned for by the blood.** Christ knows all our sins and paid for them with His blood, now we must simply put our sins under that blood. As we daily look to Calvary, we are reminded that the blood has made atonement for our sins. The more aware you are of Calvary, the less you will be aware of your guilt. Rather than trying to forget your sin, try delighting in Calvary's blood. In the Mercy Seat located in the Holy of Holies, there were three things placed. These three things, as we have already discussed, pictured man's iniquity, his transgression, and his sin. Man always had those as a token of his guilt against God and a reminder of the acts of sin he committed against God. But when God looked down, he saw the blood that was sprinkled by the high priest rather than the sin, iniquities and transgressions of the people. That is what we must look at, not at that which we know we have committed, but at the blood that covers it even from the eyes of God. It is a tragedy that the child of God who is blood washed should remain filled with guilt. How can you possibly have the right relationship with God if you are not allowing your sin to be covered by the blood? Too many times we try to erase the guilt with man-made ideas and methods when, in truth, only God can do it. When reading the story of Matthew 18:23-35, a king had a servant which owed him 10,000 talents. This was a large sum of money at that time. It was equivalent to \$2,000,000. The servant could not pay the king and begged him for mercy, the Bible says, "Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion and loosed him, and forgave him the debt." The servant then went to someone who owed him \$2.00 and insisted that they pay him. When he could not, the servant cast him into prison. Now there is something that this servant did not understand; the king forgave him of the debt and he did not have to pay it. The reason he took it out on others, with impatience and unforgiveness in his heart, was because he did not totally accept the fact that he had been totally forgiven of his debt. It was not just put off for a time, but put off forever. Perhaps we too could be more forgiving if we would just remember we are forgiven.

- II. **Their sins were confessed upon a scapegoat.** The guilt was not lifted until they confessed their iniquities, transgressions and sins and placed those on that scapegoat. They will not be lifted in our lives until we too place it upon our scapegoat, the Lord Jesus Christ. A lot of people cannot get close to the Lord because they have not confessed their sins for years, which has kept them all of this time away from God. Unconfessed sin is like rotting flesh that becomes more and more corrupt. Over the years, the unconfessed sin decays and becomes more vile than even in the beginning. Decay goes all through the life bringing a stench into every part of the person's life and causes destruction throughout all the individual's being. The end result is a destroyed relationship with God. Take your burden and your sin to the Lord and leave them there.

III. They took the scapegoat out into the wilderness and left it. They had to get it out of the camp and out of their sight before the guilt was lifted. This perhaps is our problem. We allow the sin to stay close enough so that we see it constantly and are reminded of it. That is why we ought to avoid things, places, or even people of the old life that begin to bring guilt back into our minds. Often we confess the sin but entertain the memory, which causes great sin or guilt to befall us. You will clear the guilt when you cleanse the last drags of desire, delight and memory out of your life. Completely put it away. Cast it outside of the camp. In Psalm 51, King David came before the Lord and began to cry out for mercy because of the awful sin he committed with Bathsheba. He placed the burden of the transgression upon the Lord and sought that the barrier might be removed. There is guilt in the lives of many, many Christians that has kept them from ever really being as close to the Lord as they ought to be. It has destroyed what could be a sweet relationship. Remember, your sins and iniquities He will remember no more, why should you?

Conclusion: Have you ever felt as though you could not pray or that you seemed so distant from God, as though there were some kind of barrier? It is the barrier of guilt. Your relationship with God will never be good until you are able to remove all of the guilt within you. Teachers, use personal illustrations to help make your students understand times when you struggled with guilt and it kept you from having the right kind of relationship with God.

WALKING WITH GOD
More Barriers in the Walk
Lesson 34
Elementary Idea Sheet

Introduction: (Use an example of something that would be for the age group that you teach.) One day you were playing with a ball in the house. Your mother never allows balls in the house. Something terrible happened; the ball knocked over the lamp and the lamp broke. You quickly put the lamp on the table. When your mother asked who broke the lamp, you lied and said that you did not know. Days and days later, your mother is not mad about the lamp anymore. She has forgotten all about it, but every time your mom is around you feel like there is a problem. Why? It is because you feel guilty. You have let a barrier or wall (remind them what a barrier is from last week's lesson) come between you and your mom. It was not your mom that put up the barrier, it was you. That is the way Christians are with God. Let me show you what I mean in the lesson.

Lesson:

1. Teach the children about the Day of Atonement in Leviticus 16. (See adult lesson.)
2. The children of Israel went a whole year without a sacrifice. We don't even have to wait a month. We can go to God every day.
3. When the sacrifice was finished there was great joy because the guilt was gone. (Refer back to the introduction story.) When a child goes to their parent and asks forgiveness, even though there may be a punishment, there is relief and joy.
4. Take several blocks of wood and write some sins on them. (Examples: Lying, Cheating, Swearing, and Disobedience.) Also bring a piece of red fabric. You can use these items when teaching about the atonement of Christ's blood. (Put out the blocks of sin.) Jesus died on the cross for our sins and the blood covers our sins. (Place the red cloth over the top of the blocks.) The sins are not a barrier between you and God. The fact is, our guilt makes us think that the sins (put some of the blocks back on top of the cloth) are a barrier. The barrier is our guilt. When we go to God and ask forgiveness and clear the guilt from our minds, (put the sins back under the cloth) we then renew our relationship with God.



Walking With GOD

When God Walked With Man

Text Verse: Luke 2: 1-21

Introduction: For the past several months, we have been teaching on our personal relationship with God. We have taught our students the importance of having a personal walk with God and given many principles on the method of getting closer to God. Today we are going to take it a little different direction as we talk about God walking with man in the form of His Son, Jesus. Basically we will be teaching the Christmas story and its significance to us in our relationship with God. Teachers, in this lesson we will do our best to focus on the great sacrifice made by God in humbling Himself to become man and in living among us in order that He might bring us back to Himself. Our goal is to show our students the extent to which God went to come to us that it might be made possible for us to come to Him.

- I. **Imagine what He left in order to walk with man.** Jesus left the glory of Heaven to walk with man. The magnitude of Christ's birth is not just that He came, but in what He left. He was worshipped and adored in Heaven. Never in eternity had the Father and the Son been separated from one another. Never had He known what it was like not to have the angels to serve His every desire and to worship Him. Imagine leaving a palatial palace or mansion where you have lived all your life and entering into the worst living conditions known to man. That would not even compare to what Christ left in order to come here in order that He might walk with man.
- II. **Imagine what He came to in order to walk with man.** He entered this earth in the most humble fashion. What a fascinating story this was! Jesus was not born in a nice hospital room. He was not born in the presence of doting relatives who could take care of His every need. He was not lavished with the soft clothing and blankets that normally are wrapped around a newborn baby. He was not even born in His own home. He was born while His parents were 70 or so miles away from home where they had gone to pay their taxes as they were legally bound to do. So many people were traveling on the night He was born that when His mother went into labor there were no rooms to be found, so she gave birth to Him in a stable. They had traveled by foot those 70 miles to get there. Perhaps Mary had ridden a donkey in great discomfort, which means the child within her womb was jostled around as she rode. Imagine the way they must have felt after that long journey and how uncomfortable they were when they had no choice but to stop and allow Mary to give birth. No doubt they had wished they could get home first, but it was not God's plan. Imagine the smell in that stable where Jesus drew His first breath. Imagine the discomfort as He was placed in the manger filled with hay rather than on a soft, comfortable, warm bed. Imagine how cold that baby must have been in the frigid night air of the Middle East. He looked nothing like a King as He lay there red and shriveled like a new born baby. Majesty wrapped in the mundane. Royalty robed itself in rags.

- III. Imagine what He faced in order to walk with man.** This is almost hard to comprehend. God took no shortcuts. Jesus came after spending nine months in the womb of Mary. The One larger than the universe had become an embryo. The Creator of all things that were made became a lowly fetus. He who breathed life into man struggled for His first breath in the stench of sheep manure. The Bible says the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. He wasn't even premature. He spent the entire nine months in her womb. He faced thirty-three years on this earth living as a man. He faced every temptation of a man. He faced every pain a man experiences. He faced loneliness, hunger, heartache, fear, sadness and every other emotion just like we do. He faced false accusation. He faced being scorned and hated. He faced being falsely accused and tried as a criminal. He faced incredible persecution. He faced the most painful and humiliating death that any man could experience. He faced being stripped of His holiness and being wrapped with the sins of mankind upon Himself. This is what that baby in that manger looked forward to on that night in Bethlehem.
- IV. Imagine what He felt as He came to walk with man.** Have you ever stopped and considered that Jesus had feelings just as we do? Here was the son of God, Who had never known the pain of rejection, being despised and rejected by man. Here was one who had never known sin, becoming sin that we might be made righteous. How He must have felt as He gave up Heaven to come here and walk with us! In becoming man, He was making it possible for us to see God. Love for man overcame all of His own personal feelings in order that He might do what was necessary to bring us to Him, yet we let our feelings constantly get in our way in getting close to God. He showed us His love with His tears.
- V. Imagine how much He longs for us to want to walk with Him.** How sad that we won't make minor sacrifices to be close to the Lord when He made eternal sacrifices in order to walk with us. Look at the extremes in which He went to make it possible for us to be reconciled with God, yet most of us never get much past being saved to really become close to the Lord. Do you really know Him? Teacher, is He as precious to you as He ought to be in light of what He did to walk with you? Do you take advantage of the opportunity given to you to be close to the Lord or do you neglect Him and take Him for granted?

Conclusion: Teacher, in this lesson we ought to paint a picture of what God did to allow us to come to Him, and try to make it a motivating factor and causing us to do more to walk with our God. If God could go the distance He went to know me, how tragic it is if I am not willing to get out of myself in order to know Him better. The omnipotent God became fragile in order to walk with us. The omni-present became confined by time and space to walk with us. The omniscient became limited by humanity to walk with man. When you really stop to think of the birth of Jesus, it almost seems absurd the extent to which God went to walk with man. Perhaps the only thing more absurd is our lack of excitement to know Him better.

WALKING WITH GOD
When God Walked With Man
Lesson 29- December 24
Elementary Idea Sheet

Introduction: (When you get ready to begin your lesson, put on a crown. If you have access to a cape or a royal looking robe that would also be good.) Hello, my name is King, or Queen, Has-a-lot. I live in a wonderful mansion. I have everything that I could ever want. I look out my windows and see people who are poor. I see people who have everything. I do not have to live like them. I don't even have to talk like them. I have made a decision; today I take off my crown (and robe) and set it aside. I am going to go down and live among these people. I will not have my mansion, my money, or my fine cloths. Do you boys and girls think that a king or queen would be smart to do this? Well, a King even more important than this one did this one-day. His name is Jesus.

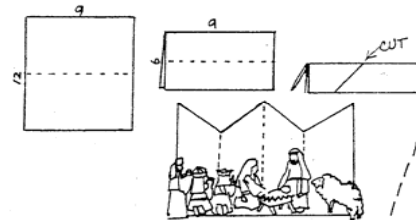
(As you teach the lesson you can use pictures of items to make comparisons. If possible, you could bring a few things to class.)

- I. You could use a picture of a mansion and compare it to a picture of a broken down shack. You can use a piece of silk and compare it to a rag.
- II. Use a picture of a throne and compare it to a picture to a manger. Compare a warm soft baby blanket to a piece of white sheet. Compare a picture of a nice hospital to a picture of a barn or stable.
- III. Use pictures of an empty table spread with a feast. (Pictures from a scrooge story would be good.) Compare a picture of a royal crown to that of a crown of thorns.
- IV. Instead of pictures here, use an illustration. Example: When a king or queen leave the palace and go out among the people, the people line up on the streets and cheer. (Clap and cheer.) Imagine how a king or queen would feel if they left the palace and no one was there to greet them. Imagine how they would feel if they were booed. (Demonstrate for the class.)
- V. When a problem arises between a king and his people, the king makes changes to fix the problem and so do the people. Jesus made a way for us to make things right with Him, but most people aren't willing to make those changes.

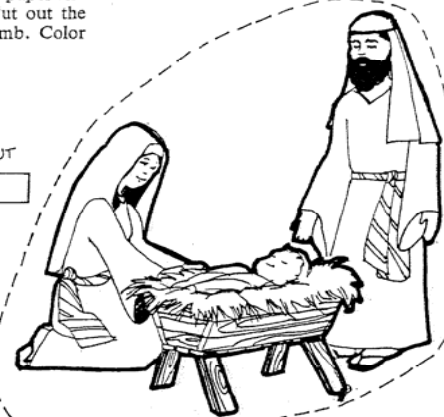
CHRISTMAS CRAFT

MAKE A MANGER

Fold a 9" x 12" piece of paper in half (9" by 6") and then in half again (9" x 3"). From a point $\frac{1}{4}$ of the way down the side with the loose edges, draw a straight line to a spot halfway down on the double fold side. Cut on this line. Open your paper and refold it so the manger doors open. Cut out the Holy Family, the wise men and the lamb. Color them and glue them in the manger.



PATTERN FOR CENTER SECTION



PATTERN FOR LEFT - HAND SECTION



PATTERN FOR RIGHT-HAND SECTION



How to Walk with God

John 4:23-24 - *"But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."*

-To walk with God, we must be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Amos 3:3 *"Can two walk together, except they be agreed?"*

-So we must be Spirit-filled Christians to walk with God.

-The Holy Spirit is the Person who Jesus said is to teach us, help us to pray, comfort and strengthen us.

John 14:26 - *"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."*

Romans 8:26 - *"Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered."*

-You have all of God, but God does not have all of you.

James 4:5 - *"Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?"*

Galatians 5:16-17 - *"This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would."*

Romans 8:7-8 - *"Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God."*

-You have all of God, but God does not have all of you.

-He lives within your body, the temple of God, but He does not have complete access to all of you until you invite Him.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 - *"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."*

-To be filled with the Holy Spirit, you must ask.

Luke 11:9-13 - *"And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?"*

-So all I have to do is ASK? Yes!

-So then why am I not always filled?

-Two reasons found in James 4:2-3

*"Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet **ye have not, because ye ask not.**"*

---#1 Reason

*"**Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss,** that ye may consume it upon your lusts."*

---#2 Reason

Jeremiah 17:9-10 - *"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.*

-So God gives us a recipe to prepare our hearts to be filled by faith in His goodness and in obedience to His Word.

Ephesians 5:18-21

18 *“And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;”*

- This is a command to be filled with the Spirit daily to the same degree as a drunken man who doesn't know or realize what he is doing.

19: *“Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;”*

- We are to speak / read Psalms, hymns and spiritual songs out loud, then sing and make melody to the Lord to prepare our heart to give thanks.

Verse 20 *“Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;”*

- We are to give thanks for everything, whether we think it is good or bad.

-This daily activates our faith in the goodness of God.

-Regardless of circumstances, God is good and will work all things together for good, which in turn will be good for us.

Romans 8:28 - *“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”*

You cannot truly thank God for tragedies unless you first do the step in Ephesians 5:19 which reminds you of God's goodness, regardless of circumstances and tunes or focuses your heart to give Him the thanks, praise and worship He deserves.

1 Thessalonians 5:18-19 - *“In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. Quench not the Spirit.”*

Ephesians 5:21 *“Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.”*

–Finally, to prepare our heart for God to fill us, we must submit ourselves, first to Him; then to those we are to serve as unto our Lord.

Colossians 3:23 - *“And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;”*

-Romans 6:13 & 19 teaches us to submit / yield our body parts to Him. To be filled, we must first be empty.

-Yield your eyes, ears, nose, lips, tongue, mind, hands, feet and heart to do His will, to think His thoughts, see through His eyes and say the words He would say.

-Ask him to make you a good servant, husband or wife, son or daughter, student or employee.

-Ask Him, based on faith in His goodness, to fill you with the Holy Spirit so you can walk with Him as Amos 3:3 says, and glorify Him with your life today.

-You need to be filled first thing in the morning, and then several times a day, seven times a day to be complete in everything.

-For victory over a stubborn will or an overwhelmed will which is the flesh, seven times is best.

-This must be renewed daily Eph.4:23, 2 Cor.4:16.