



LESSONS 14-26

WHO IS JESUS?

THE Answer

www.apostolicfaith.org

A Bible study resource for use at home and church.

The Answer is a Bible study course for fourth grade through junior-high level. Bible references are taken from the King James version of the Bible. A Teacher's Guide accompanies this series and is available online, on our app, and in print.

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WHO IS JESUS?

Four men witnessed a collision between a car and a bus at the corner of 2nd and Main Street. One man stated the car was knocked fifty feet to the right by the impact. Another said the driver of the bus failed to observe the stop sign. The third said the bus was exceeding the speed limit. And the fourth claimed he had to swerve to avoid being hit also.

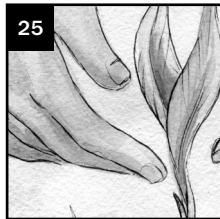
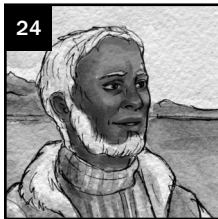
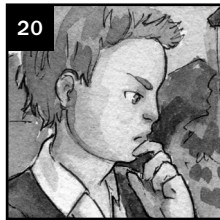
All four witnesses were correct in their analysis, but each one had observed the accident from a different point of view, so they all had a different report to make. Only by combining the reports of all four could an accurate picture of what happened be put together.

This quarter we are going to study the key Figure in our Bible. In order to get a complete picture of His life, His purpose and His teachings, we will look at Him through the eyes of a variety of people: the prophets who told of Him before His birth, the young woman chosen to be His mother, those who waited for His appearing, the men who followed Him, and many others.

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THE Answer

UNIT 2



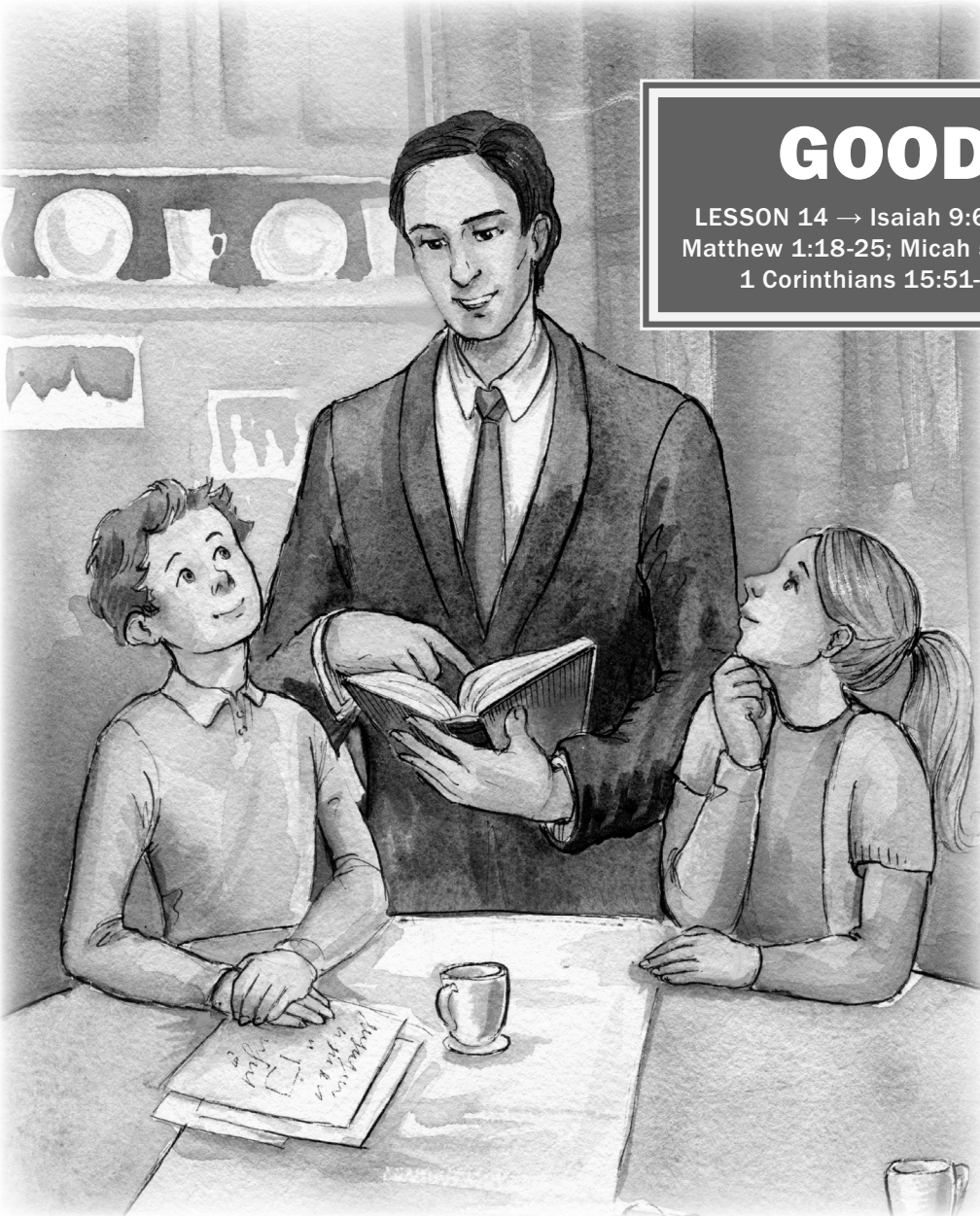
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GOOD NEWS!

LESSON 14 → Isaiah 9:6-7; Matthew 1:16; Isaiah 7:14;
Matthew 1:18-25; Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:1; Acts 1:10-11;
1 Corinthians 15:51-52; Thessalonians 4:16-17



Beckett was in a hurry to tell his mom the Good News!

Her father looked at her thoughtfully. Then he smiled and said, “You know, Lucy, part of the reason for the differences in the things you and Beckett like is that you are nine years old and Beckett is twelve. Each of us is an individual, and our abilities, likes, and dislikes are varied. They should be centered around what God would like us to do with our lives.

“Even in the Bible there were different kinds of writers. Some people wrote about things that had already happened—that’s the history Beckett likes. Others wrote about things that were happening right then—that’s what you like, Lucy. Still others wrote history before it happened.” At this, both Beckett and Lucy raised their heads quickly and said together, “But that’s impossible.”

Their dad looked at them seriously. “You may never have thought of it that way before, but that’s really what they did. The Bible calls it prophecy. Beckett, hand me the Bible, please.”

As Beckett turned to get the Bible, his father continued: “It will be Christmas soon, and some of the most beautiful and interesting prophecies in the Bible are about the birth and

Beckett hurried home from school. Opening the front door he called out, “Good news, Mom! I’ve been chosen to represent my class at the history exhibit in the State Capitol. Isn’t that awesome?”

Beckett’s mother came to the kitchen door, flour dusting her hands, a tiny smudge on one cheek. Quietly she said, “Beckett, that’s wonderful! You’ve worked so hard on that exhibit. I’m glad you were chosen.”

That night at dinner, the table-talk centered around Beckett’s exciting news. His parents were understandably proud of their son’s achievement. Plans were discussed for the whole family to go to the Capitol to see Beckett’s presentation. His sister Lucy wasn’t so impressed.

“What’s so neat about history?” she asked. “All you do is talk about a bunch of people who died a long time ago, and things that happened years ago. I like to know what’s happening now!”



I CAN ALWAYS BELIEVE GOD'S WORD.

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

life of Christ.” Taking the Bible from Beckett, he turned the pages rapidly. “One of the best-known prophecies about the birth of Christ is in Isaiah 7:14, ‘Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.’

“Hundreds of years later, an angel appeared to Mary, who was to become the mother of Jesus, and told her that the child God would give her was to be the Son of God, not of man (Luke 1:31, 35). Soon after that, an angel came to Joseph, who was engaged to Mary. He told Joseph that Mary’s baby was really God’s Son, and was the promised Savior. This helped Joseph realize that Mary was really the wonderful girl he thought her to be, and that he didn’t need to hesitate to marry her.”

At this point, Beckett interrupted. “Dad, isn’t there something about the prophets telling what town Jesus would be born in?”

“Yes, Son. When the Wise Men came looking for the new King, the scribes and chief priests found by looking in the Book of Micah, that Bethlehem was the place to send them.”

At this point Mother brought in the dessert—apple pie! As she placed it on the table she said, “You see, children, prophecy is to God a little like cooking is to me!” In answer to their questioning looks, she continued. “When I cook something, I know

that if I put certain things together in a certain order, I will get certain results. For instance, when I started this pie just before Beckett came home today, I could have told you that we would have apple pie for dinner tonight. When God looks at the world and sees what is going on, He can tell what the outcome will be. Because He is God and knows everything perfectly, He knows just what will happen, and can tell people to be prepared—either for good times or for bad times.” At this, Beckett looked very serious. “It would really be hard to be a prophet. How could you tell whether you were right or not? Lots of people think they know what’s going to happen, but they’re not always right.”

“That’s correct, Beckett,” replied his father. “But if the message is from God it will come true. In Bible times there were lots of people who prophesied things that didn’t happen. There are people who predict things now, but very little of what they say actually takes place. The Bible says if the words of a prophecy don’t prove true, the person that speaks is not a prophet sent by God (Deuteronomy 18:22). Prophecy is a gift from God, and He gives it only to those He chooses.”

Beckett scraped the last crumbs of his piece of pie from his plate, and grinned across the table at his mom. “That was super, Mom! Nobody makes apple pie as good as you do.” Propping

his elbow on the table, he went back to the subject they had been discussing.

“Dad, you know I’ve always been interested in history, but I never really thought before about the fact that prophecy is actually history in advance. That’s kind of neat! I mean, we can read the Bible and find out things that are still ahead for us.”

His dad smiled. “Yes, Beckett, the Bible does tell us much of what we can expect to happen to this world. And it is a very interesting study, as well as a message to all of us that we must be prepared.”

Beckett nodded soberly. “You’re right, Dad. I guess if it is all written down for us we don’t have any excuse not to be ready for it. I think from now on I’m going to be as interested in the ‘history’ ahead of us as I am in the history that has already happened.”



PROMISES TRUE

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

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

,
 70 3< C]>nofv nc<vo jfo
 jjok jjovfcofv rc r> vofom
 oc> vc' r vcl<lc nj^om >cl<lc
 <cl<' r rc >c rfojfo j
 rcljlo ccf <cl<' jcnom ^{14:2}

THE SPECIAL MESSAGE

LESSON 15 → Luke 1:26-38; Matthew 12:50; Romans 6:13

The Christmas program was over now, but Emi and Sierra still felt the thrill of the special message.

“I can’t believe it’s all over!” commented Emi a bit wistfully to her friend Sierra. The two girls shrugged into their coats and looked outside to a clear, beautiful December morning. A few last cars were pulling away from the curb. They had just finished doing the long-practiced Christmas program.

“I thought the program went really well,” Emi went on. “We sure did have a full house. The props Ethan painted looked great with the spotlights on them. And nobody forgot his lines!” Sierra nodded in agreement. “This program gave me a feeling I’ve never had before. Somehow, the Christmas story is so much more real to me now that I’ve played the part of one of the characters.”

As they walked out of the church, Sierra said, “Remember when the parts were assigned for the Christmas play and how excited I was at getting to play the part





GOD WILL TAKE CARE OF ME.

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

of Mary? I could hardly wait to get home and tell my family.”

“I’ll say,” replied Emi. “It was all you talked about for a week!”

“Well, I was just thinking . . . Can you imagine how the real Mary felt when the angel Gabriel came to her and announced that she was going to be the mother of Jesus?”

“Wow,” exclaimed Emi, “I’m sure she was more excited than you ever thought of being! Our teacher said that Mary was engaged to Joseph when the angel Gabriel appeared to her. Gabriel said she was highly favored and blessed among women.”

“I guess she was! Wouldn’t you be shocked if an angel all of a sudden appeared and told you that God had picked you out of all the women on the earth? No wonder Mary was confused and afraid. I would be too!”

“Of course, Gabriel told Mary not to be afraid,” Emi went on. “He said that the Holy Ghost would come over her and she would have a baby who would be the Son of God and His name would be Jesus.”

Sierra looked thoughtful. “Mary must have been an extra special person for God to have chosen her out of all the women on earth to be the mother of His Son. I thought I was lucky just to get to play the part of Mary.”

“Remember what our teacher said?” asked Emi. “She said that even though Mary wasn’t famous or rich she must have lived a life dedicated to God, or the Lord wouldn’t have chosen her. God probably watched Mary all her life. Just think, He’s watching us the same way today.”

“Yeah,” replied Sierra. “But if I were really Mary I don’t know if I would be able to believe it if someone told me I was going to have a baby that was the Son of God.”

“That shows what a special person Mary really was. She knew that nothing was impossible with God. She not only believed the angel, but also committed herself by saying, ‘Behold the hand-maid of the Lord.’ She was willing to be used for God’s purpose.”

Sierra thought for a few moments, then stopped walking and faced Emi. “You mean because Mary was willing to be used by God she was selected to be the mother of Jesus?”

“Yes, that’s one of the reasons. In those days there was a lot of sin in the world, so a person with Mary’s qualities and willingness to be used by God was rare.”

When the girls resumed walking, Sierra said, “If God was watching Mary all the time to see if she was ready to do His will, then He must be watching us too. I want to be sure that I can be used. How can we be really sure, Emi?”

“You know the starting point is when we are sorry for our sins. When we tell Jesus that we don’t ever want to do them again, He’ll save us. Then He will help us to do only the things that please Him. That makes us ready to be used for God’s purpose.”

The girls had been so deep into their discussion they hardly realized they had reached Sierra’s house. They stood in silence for a few minutes. As Sierra turned to go up the walk she looked at Emi and said quietly, “You know, Emi, I think this is going to be the best Christmas I’ve ever had!”

**A SPECIAL
MESSAGE**

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

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

GOD
SON
HAIL
MARY
WOMB

ANGEL
DAVID
JACOB
JESUS
REIGN

FAVOUR
JOSEPH
VIRGIN
BLESSED
GABRIEL

GALILEE
NAZARETH
HOLY GHOST
OVERSHADOW
SALUTATION

THE GREATEST GIFT

LESSON 16 → Luke 2:1-20



“**L**ook at that 10-speed bike.” Aliyah pointed at the illustration in a Christmas catalog she was glancing through. “I told my mom and dad that’s what I want for Christmas.” She grinned up at her friend, Chloe, who was curling her hair in front of the mirror. “Of course, I gave them a list of all the other things I want for Christmas too, but I made sure they knew the bike is at the top of the list. How about you, Chloe? What did you tell your parents you want for Christmas?”

Chloe hesitated for a moment. “Well, not much. We’re probably not going to be able to spend a lot on Christmas this year. Daddy has been out of work for so long. That’s why my mom has been babysitting and cleaning houses, to help pay the bills.”

As the girls considered what they wanted for Christmas, one remembered the Greatest Gift.

“Oh . . .” Aliyah looked back down at the catalog, but she didn’t say anything more about Christmas, and soon the talk drifted to other things.

The conversation started Chloe thinking though, and after Aliyah had gone home for dinner, Chloe sat down on her bed and got out her bank. Not much there . . . and she had to make this last. But Christmas was only a few days away. For a moment, her thoughts went to Aliyah’s joking remark about the list she had given her folks. I wonder what it would be like to give your folks a



I'M SO GLAD JESUS WAS BORN.

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

list, Chloe thought to herself, and especially to expect to get what's on the list! But I'll probably never know.

Suddenly, she felt ashamed of herself. She had so many things to be thankful for. She slid off her bed and knelt down, burying her face in the bedspread. "Dear Lord," Chloe prayed, "thank You for giving me a friend like Aliyah. Thank You for giving me a warm house to come home to and a good mother and father. Now help me, Jesus, to learn the real meaning of Christmas. Help me not to feel bad if I don't get lots of presents. I love You so much, Father, and want to thank You for sending Jesus to this earth."

Quickly the tears trickled down her cheeks. "Oh, thank You, Jesus, for coming to this earth," cried Chloe. "Thank You for saving me! I do love You, I truly do!"

When Chloe got up from praying, she opened her Bible. She read how the angels came and told the shepherds to go and see the Babe in a manger. In the second chapter of Matthew, she read how the Wise Men traveled so far, bringing their gifts to the young Child Jesus. "What a Christmas present!" thought Chloe. "God has given me Jesus—the very best present I could ever have."

As she closed her Bible, her thoughts turned to her family. I would love to give something special to my family for Christmas. I can make a nice Christmas card for Mom and Dad and tell them how much I love them. But what about Amber? She is only five years old and she wouldn't understand if she didn't get any presents. Suddenly her eyes fell on her beautiful princess doll. Oh, Amber would love to have a doll, and Mom and Dad just don't have any money to buy one. Maybe I could give her my princess doll.

She picked up the doll and held it in her arms. Just the idea of giving her beautiful doll to her little sister brought tears to her eyes. How could she do it? Then she remembered what she had just read in the Bible: "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." God gave His very own Son!

How did He feel when Jesus left Heaven? "Thank You, Father," cried Chloe, "for showing me Your love. Help me to always be loving to others."

Quickly the days flew by, and soon it was Christmas. Chloe and Amber crept downstairs, both excited because it was Christmas morning. The family gathered around the little tree in their living room.

Chloe handed her mom and dad the big Christmas card she had made for them. They read it out loud together. "It's the most beautiful Christmas card I've ever had!" said her mother. They gave her a big hug and kiss.

Now it was Amber's turn. Chloe went to the Christmas tree where she had placed the box she had so carefully wrapped for her little sister just the night before. For a moment, there was a big lump in her throat as she thought about what the box contained. Grandpa Williams had given her the princess doll when she had been just six years old. She remembered so well how thrilled she had been on that Christmas so long ago. That doll had been a dream come true! Her beautiful curls, the ruffled layers of pink tulle and lace, her tiny slippers and gloves—she was perfect in every detail.

Now she was giving her doll away. Chloe picked up the box and handed it to her little sister. "This is for you, Amber," she said, "Merry Christmas!"

Quickly Amber tore open the box. As she pulled off the tissue paper, there was the beautiful princess doll. "Oh," cried Amber, "Are you really giving me your favorite doll?"

"It's all yours, Amber," said Chloe. "Just promise me that you will take good care of her."

"Oh, I will, I will!" said Amber. "Thank you, Chloe! You're the best sister in the world!"

Chloe was very happy deep down inside. She felt a warm glow, a feeling she had never had before. She whispered, "Thank You, Jesus. And thank You, God, for sending us Jesus. Merry Christmas to You too!"

GOOD NEWS!

The incomplete story below is about a special birth. Finish it by drawing pictures in the empty spaces and writing words over the blank lines where words are missing.

SHEPHERDS were watching their on the hillside.	AN appeared to them and gave them some good news!	A SPECIAL had been born in a _____.	THE shepherds were so happy, they went to Bethlehem to worship the baby whose name was _____.
--	---	---	---

FOLLOW HIS STAR

LESSON 17 → Matthew 2:1-12

*The Wise Men, in search of a King,
set out to follow His star.*

Let's go back through the centuries to a night nearly 2000 years ago and focus on a caravan—a group of men traveling by camel. It's an uncomfortable way to travel. The country they must pass through is rough, and the sun extremely hot. But this is no great problem because these men travel by night—they are following a star!

They have planned for a long journey, carrying enough food for themselves, their helpers, and the camels. The animals are loaded with clothing and gifts. Toiling over the hills, the men wipe the dust from their faces, for dust is everywhere, even in their eyes and mouths. They wonder how much farther they will have to travel. Yet they are excited! There's not a thought of turning back.

Who are these men and where are they going? They are educated men who have studied the Scriptures as well as the sciences. Judging from the gifts they carry with them, they are wealthy. They come from the East, possibly Mesopotamia. And why are they traveling? They believe the promised Messiah has been born, and they want to worship Him.

As they approach Jerusalem, their anticipation grows. The end of their journey is close at hand.

How excited they must be! Can you picture the Wise Men asking the gatekeepers, "Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him." They expect the gatekeepers to say, "Yes, we have seen Him! Come, and we will show you the way."

Instead, no one knows what they are talking about. King of the Jews? Star? The people of Jerusalem obviously have not been looking for Him. They aren't even interested! So the Wise Men go to the king of Judea with their quest. The Bible tells us that when King Herod heard these things, he was troubled. Can you see him as he calls all his scribes and the chief priests and demands that they tell him where the Christ is to be born?

They tell him, "In Bethlehem!" It had been foretold by the prophet Micah and written in the Book. God had declared many years before exactly where the Savior was to be born and what signs would indicate His birth. Now the star is in the sky for all to see. But only those who are looking for Him take an interest in these things.

The Wise Men lose no time in heading for Bethlehem. Their excitement grows as they



I WANT TO WORSHIP HIM TOO.

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

again follow the star. God has not forgotten them but is still leading. And the star leads them to the very place where Joseph and Mary are with the young Child, Jesus.

What joy fills the hearts of the Wise Men as they present their gifts! They have brought gold, a sign of wealth; frankincense, a perfume or a spice; and myrrh, a type of incense. They are not surprised to see a young

Child, because they know God has led them and they can trust Him. They worship the Child as King of the Jews.

Their journey to find the promised Messiah has come to an end and they are not disappointed. God never disappoints His people when they seek for Him with an honest heart. The

Wise Men leave to return to their homeland, happy and at peace. They have found what



they were searching for and they are satisfied.

What are you searching for? Are you looking for good grades, popularity, friends, a good time— something that will be fun, or make you happy? Some pleasures last for only a short time, but there are also pleasures that will last forever.

One man in our Portland congregation testifies that

when he was considering what it would mean to become a Christian he thought: If I lived to be a hundred years old with never an ache or pain or a care in this world, and had all the things that money could buy, but then missed Heaven, I wouldn't have gained a thing. He made the right choice, and gave his life to the Lord.

Another man tells how he spent much of his life buying

things for his collections. To him, that was happiness. And yet, after sixty-two years, he looked back over his life and said, "I looked for happiness in all the wrong places. All the stuff I have accumulated has not brought me peace." The world offers a lot of things, but one thing it can't give is peace and everlasting happiness. This is only found in Jesus. Find Him for yourself today!

Lesson 17 Activity

GREAT JOY!

When the Wise Men saw the star they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

Do you know what else they did? To find out you must decide if the statements below are true or false. Color over the T's above each sentence if the statement is true or color the F's if the statement is false. Fill in the blank lines at the bottom of the page with the letters you discover.

1.

T F F F T
T F F F T
T F T F T
T T F T T
T F F F T

They saw
His star in
the east.

2.

T T T T T
T F F F T
T F F F T
T F F F T
T T T T T

They found
Him in
Bethlehem.

3.

T T T T F
T F F T F
T T T T F
T F T F F
T F F T F

They saw
the young
Child.

4.

F F F F F
F T T T T
F F F F F
T T T T F
F F F F F

The child
was in a
manger.

5.

T F F F T
T F F F T
T T T T T
T F F F T
T F F F T

The Child
was with
his mother.

6.

F T T T F
F F T F F
F F T F F
F F T F F
F T T T F

They fell
down and
worshipped
Him.

7.

T T T T F
T F F T F
T T T T F
T F F F F
T F F F F

They gave
Him gifts.

8.

T T T T F
T F F T F
T T T T F
T F F F F
T F F F F

They were
warned in a
dream.

9.

F F F F T
F T T T T
F F F T T
F T T T T
F F F F T

They
returned to
the king.

10.

T T T F F
T F F T F
T F F F T
T F F T F
T T T F F

They
departed to
their own
country.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.



THE LOST KEY

LESSON 18 → Luke 2:21-40

Panic gripped Dylan. Ten minutes just had to be enough time to find the lost key.

“**O**h no!” Dylan groaned as he saw his jacket wadded up in a heap under the dining room window. Before he even picked it up, he had an awful feeling of what he was going to discover.

Sure enough. The key was gone.

“Caden Bradley!” he hollered, desperation edging his voice. “Caden . . . come here this second!”

A blond head appeared around the corner of the door to the kitchen. “What you want?” Dylan’s three-year-old brother inquired innocently.

“Caden, did you move my jacket?”

Caden looked at his brother and nodded his head yes, just once.

“What did you do with the key in my pocket?”

“Key?” Caden looked puzzled.

“You know, key!” Dylan said impatiently. “It was in the



GOD ALWAYS KEEPS HIS PROMISES.

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

pocket and now it's gone. Where is it?" Caden stood silently, looking blank.

"Come on, Caden. It's the key to the church and I've got to have it. Can't you remember what you did with it?"

The blond head tipped to one side as Caden considered the problem. Then suddenly he smiled brightly. "Fed it to bear!" he announced triumphantly.

"Caden," Dylan said grimly. "Mrs. Baker is going to pick me up for junior choir practice in exactly ten minutes. Dad gave me the key to open the door, and he told me not to lose it. Now, how is it going to look if the pastor's son can't hang onto the key to the church for one hour?" He squatted down by his little brother. "Where is bear?"

Caden pursed his lips. "Don't know," he finally announced sadly.

Dylan groaned. He stooped down and checked beneath the window, running his fingers through the carpet. He went into his bedroom where he had placed his jacket after putting the key in his pocket. The key wasn't on the bed, or the floor, or in the hall.

A thought flickered through his mind. "Seek and ye shall find . . ." Well, I am seeking, he said to himself. Now I wish I'd find!

All of a sudden, it was just as if a light bulb came on over his head. Do you believe God's promises still work today? The words echoed through his mind. He stopped abruptly in the middle of the living room. "Do I?" he asked himself.

Last week in Sunday school the lesson had been about Simeon and how he saw God's promise fulfilled when he held the infant Jesus in his arms. "Simeon believed God," their teacher had said, "and God kept His promise." Then she had asked that question. "Do you believe God's promises still work today?"

Another promise he had learned flashed into Dylan's mind: "My God shall supply all your need." Well, he needed to find that key, and fast; Mrs. Baker was due any minute.

If he really believed, then he'd better get ready to go even if he didn't know where the key was. Slowly he picked up his jacket and shrugged his arms into the sleeves. Then, quickly, he shut his eyes. "God, You know I need that key. Dad told Mrs. Baker I'd bring it, and all the other kids will be waiting. Please help me find it!"

He went to the hall closet, and pulled out Caden's parka. "C'mon, Caden," he called to his brother, who had settled down in the corner of the living room with a book while Dylan had hunted for the key. "Better get your jacket on. Mrs. Baker is going to drop you off at the babysitter's when we go to the church." Tying his brother's hood under the little chin, he asked once more, "Did you remember where the bear is?"

Caden nodded. "Sleeping."

"Sleeping where?" asked Dylan hopefully.

"In bear's cave."

Cave, thought Dylan. Cave. Where would a cave be? He looked around the living room. Then a thought popped into his mind . . . try the sofa cushions.

He went over to the sofa and lifted a cushion. In a second, Caden was at his side.

"Cave!" he beamed broadly.

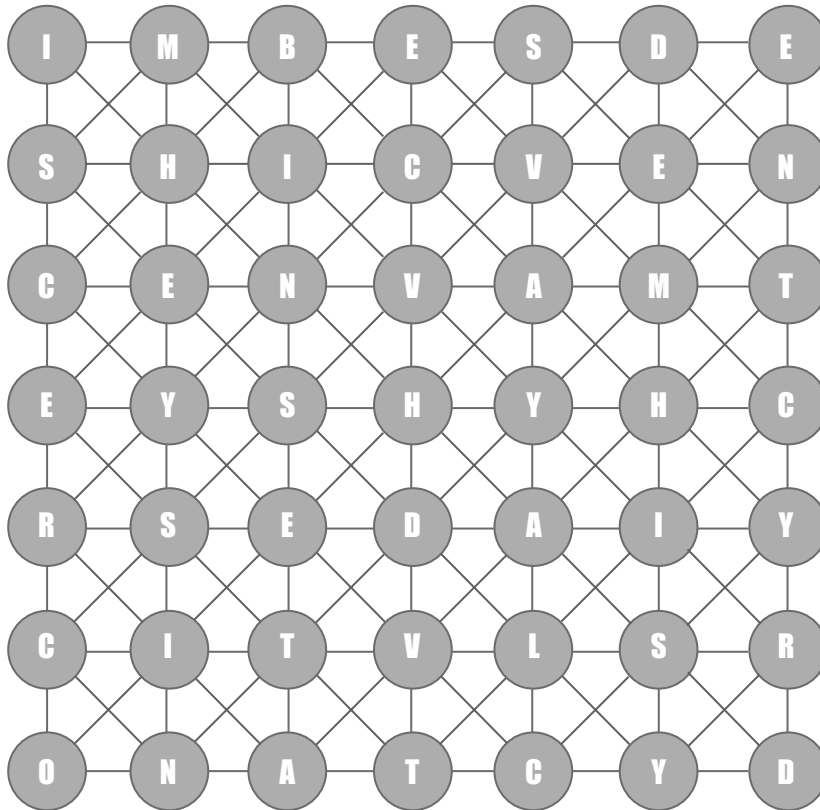
"Is this it . . . ?" the words were hardly out of his mouth when Dylan spotted the bear, flat on his stomach next to the armrest. He grabbed it, and sure enough, under the fat, plush stomach was the key.

"Yeah!" he shouted, holding the key aloft. "We found it!" Just then a horn sounded outside. "Thank You, Lord!"

Lesson 18 Activity

IT PAYS TO WAIT

Start Here ↓



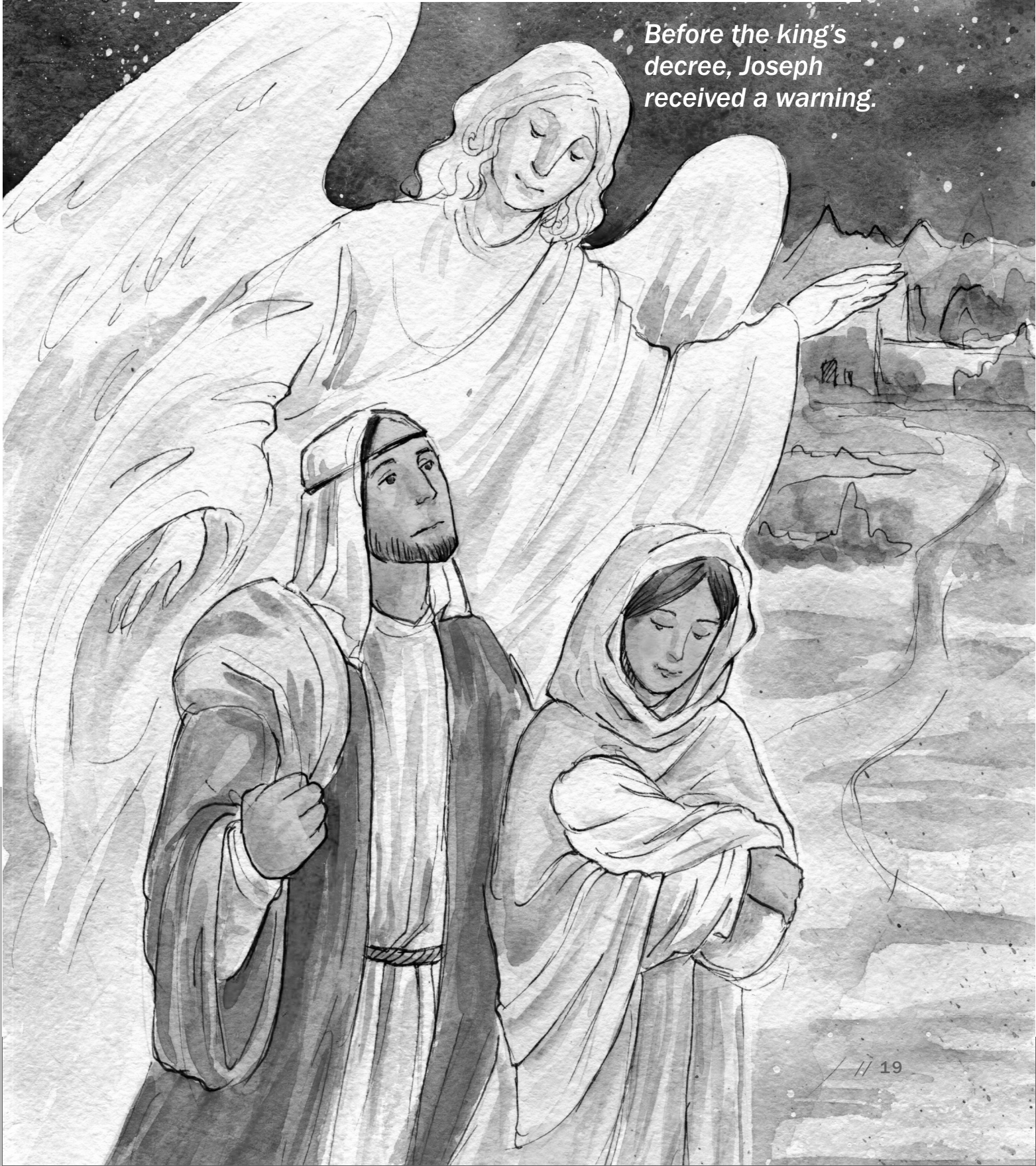
Simeon was told that he would not die until he had seen the Lord's Christ. Luke 2:30 tells us what he said when he finally saw Jesus. Find the verse in the maze of circles. The first letter is M. Move along the lines that connect the circles. Use each letter only once. Write the verse below.

Luke 2:30

A WARNING IN THE NIGHT

LESSON 19 → Matthew 2:13-23; Psalm 91

*Before the king's
decree, Joseph
received a warning.*





GOD WILL TAKE CARE OF ME.

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

Have you ever wondered if God is really watching out for you? Joseph, the man that God chose to raise His Son here on earth, experienced in a dramatic way the providential guidance of God. Let's try to imagine how he felt when an angel came and told him to take Mary and Baby Jesus to Egypt.

I rubbed the sleep out of my eyes. A glow still lingered in the room where Mary and little Jesus were sleeping. The image of an angel standing by me was clear in my mind. The words of his message burned themselves into my memory. There was no time to lose! Hastily I lit the oil lamp and shook Mary from her sleep.

"Mary!" I whispered urgently. "An angel came again with a message from God. We have to leave this place right away. King Herod is going to try to kill Jesus."

Startled, she sat upright. "Joseph, where can we go?" Her eyes were wide with dismay.

"The angel said to go to Egypt," I replied. "We are to stay there until the angel brings us word that it is safe to return."

Mary didn't hesitate another moment. Quickly she began gathering together our few belongings. I went over to the shelf where the gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh had been placed. They had been given by those dignified teachers from the East. A feeling of awe came over me. We would need money for our journey and stay in Egypt. How wonderfully God had provided—even before we knew there would be a need!

I wrapped the gifts carefully and placed them in the bottom of a bag.

Walking to the doorway, I gazed out into the still night. The streets were quiet. No one would see us leave. What would the journey hold for us? I wasn't afraid. God had been so near to us since the night the angel first appeared to me and told

me that little Jesus would be a very special Child. As I stood there, thinking back to that night, Mary came to my side with our sleeping Boy held securely in her arms. We were ready to go.

Time passed by quickly after we reached Egypt. But how well I remember that journey. What an awesome responsibility I felt as I led Mary and Jesus away from the little town of Bethlehem. Yet God's protecting Hand was over us. The soldiers never stopped or questioned us, and we arrived safely in Egypt. How wonderfully God has taken care of our needs. We have wanted for nothing in all of this time.

Now we are traveling once more. The angel came again, just as he said he would, and he brought word that King Herod was dead. Our precious Son is safe from his wrath. I know that God would never direct us back to our homeland if it were not in His plan for us. We can go home at last. How happy our hearts are on this day!

As I look at little Jesus, trudging along here beside me, my heart is full. How good God has been. With the responsibility of raising this Child, how glad I am for the assurance that His heavenly Father is watching out for all of us!

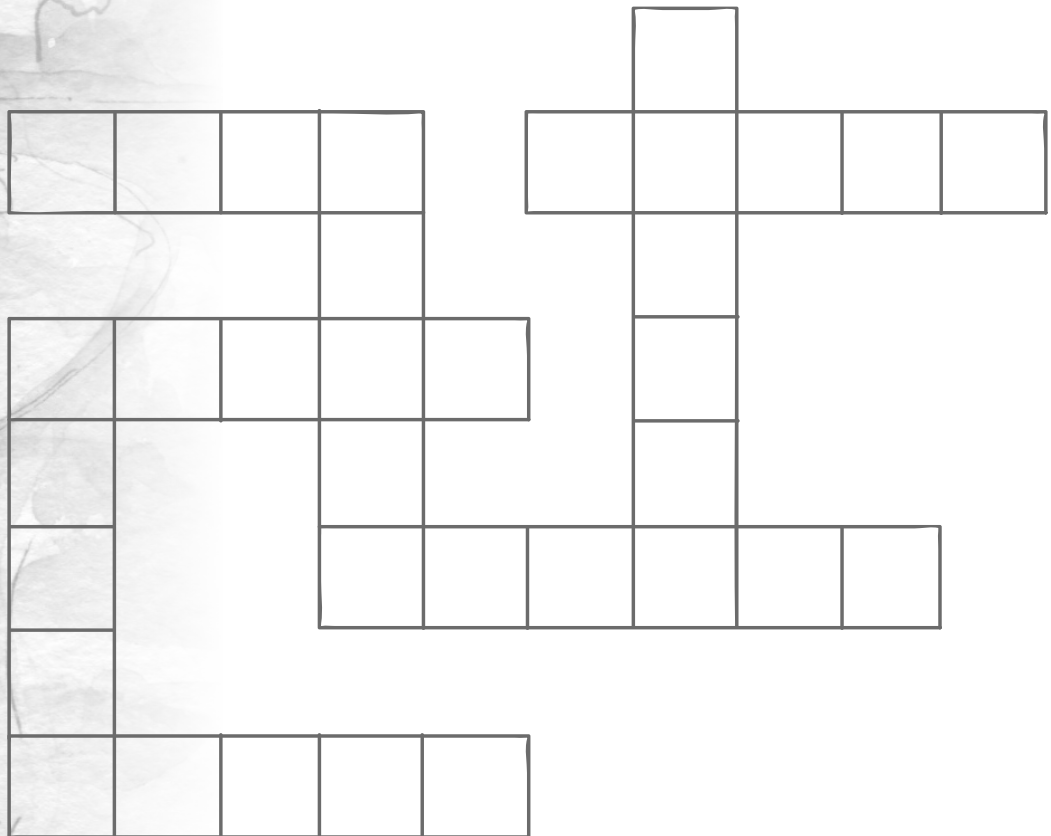
Just as Joseph felt God's care and concern for Mary, Jesus, and himself, we can feel God's love surrounding us. The love of our heavenly Father is even greater than that of our earthly parents. His guidance and protection are promised to us even when we don't know danger is near.

There may be times when we experience the protection of God without knowing it is needed. We have a promise in God's Word that He will command His angels to protect us. Wherever we are, whatever we're doing—riding a scooter down the sidewalk, flying across the country to visit grandparents, or just climbing a tree in the back yard—God will be with us.

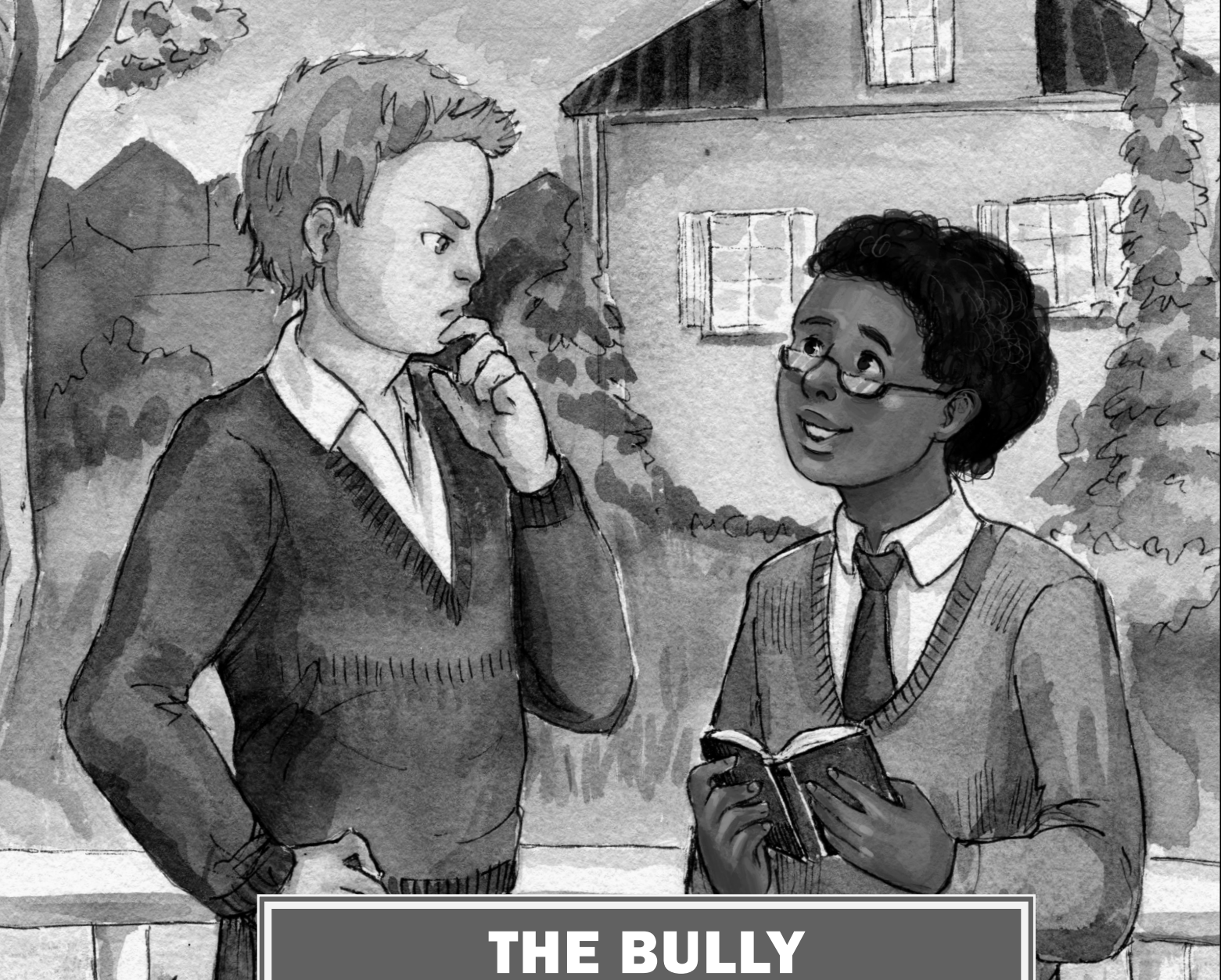
Lesson 19 Activity

**SPECIAL
PROTECTION**

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



The _____ of the _____ appeareth
to _____ in a _____, saying
_____, and take the _____ child and
his _____, and flee into _____.
(Matthew 2:13)



THE BULLY

LESSON 20 → Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; John 1:15-34

Naeem put his Sunday school learning into practice when dealing with the bully.

Oh, brother! Here comes Lucas, the bully, thought Naeem to himself as he stepped out of the Sunday school van in front of his house. If I can just get inside before he says anything to me . . .

“Hey Naeem! How’re the harp lessons comin’?”

Naeem reluctantly turned around to face Lucas and said cautiously. “Lucas, just leave me alone, okay? I’m not doing anything to you.”

Making faces and pretending to play the harp, Lucas followed Naeem up the driveway and then turned around and left, laughing as he went. As Naeem

opened the front door, he thought about how thankful he was nothing had happened this time. Two days before, Lucas had chased him as he was on his way to school, grabbed his lunch and thrown it off the bridge into the river.

“Who was that boy, Naeem, one of your friends?” asked his



I WANT TO TELL EVERYBODY ABOUT MY GOD.

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

mother as he entered the living room.

“Hardly. That’s Lucas Rawlins, the school bully. He’s the one that took my lunch Friday.”

As Naeem headed for his room, he thought about what he had learned in Sunday school that morning. Three in One. Holy Trinity. Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. One God, but they’re all God. His head was spinning as he tried to understand how all this could be. He wished that his parents went to church so that he could ask them to explain things like this. His teacher had told the class that when you’re saved you can understand spiritual things much better. “Maybe it’s time that I get saved,” Naeem said aloud to himself. He sat there for a long time. Finally he buried his head in his pillow. He told God how sorry he was for the bad things he had done and asked to be forgiven. There was so much he needed to understand in the Bible and only God could help him. In a few minutes he knew that something wonderful had happened. He had never felt this way before!

As he walked home from school the next afternoon, Naeem smiled about what had happened the day before, and how it still felt just as good. In a flash, however his smile disappeared.

“Nitwit Naeem. Did you ever find your lunch?”

Trying not to pay any attention to Lucas, Naeem kept walking, but Lucas grabbed his jacket and spun him around.

“Hey, I’m talking to you. Answer me!”

“Let go of me, Lucas. You know my lunch is in the Willapa River where you threw it.”

“Ha! I ought to throw you in so you can find it. Hey, what’s that little book in your pocket?”

“It’s my New Testament,” answered Naeem, surprising himself with his boldness.

“Is that so? God in your pocket? So you’ve got a big Bodyguard now, huh?”

“Yes, Three in One to be exact.”

“What are you talking about?”

“Haven’t you ever heard of the Holy Trinity? The Father, His Son Jesus, and the Holy Ghost? It’s in the Bible, you know.”

“Well, I’ve heard of God, but not one that was three or whatever . . . If you’re so smart, show me where it says that.”

“I don’t remember where it is right now, but it’s when Jesus was being baptized. The Holy Spirit came down to Him while the Father spoke from Heaven. That’s three and they’re all God.”

Lucas pretended he wasn’t interested, but asked offhandedly, “Well, what good is God, anyway?”

“He can save you and change your life and . . . well, make you a Christian.”

Looking down, Lucas said quietly, “I doubt if He could change me.”

Amazed at the difference in Lucas’s attitude, Naeem thought for a moment and said, “Are you interested in what God can do for you, Lucas?”

“Naeem, yesterday my grandma had on a religious program. The guy was saying something about this being the ‘last days’ and that all signs pointed to Jesus coming back. He said that some terrible things would happen, and I couldn’t sleep last night thinking about it.”

“That was the Holy Spirit talking to you, telling you that Jesus is coming back when the Father says it’s time! See, that’s the Trinity! I’m learning about the last days in Sunday school. And I’m ready if the Lord comes, even if it’s right now!”

“Do you really think someone like me could get saved?”

Naeem smiled and said, “Sure, and if you want, I’ll take you to my Sunday school so you can hear more about it!”

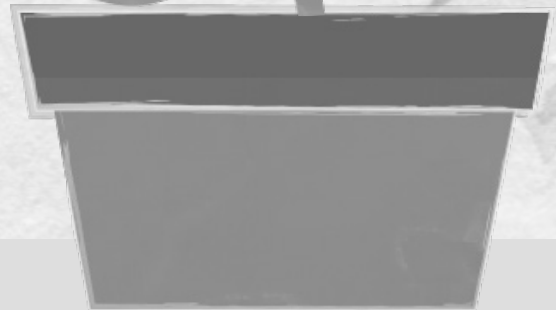
THREE IN ONE

Each leaf of the clover contains the name of a Person of the Trinity in puzzle form. The letters appear in different positions and sizes. On the lines above, write the names you find.

Can you see the word GOD in the example above?



GOD IS



TEMPTATIONS IN LIFE

LESSON 21 → Luke 4:1-15

A black and white illustration of a young girl with dark, wavy hair, wearing a white shirt and dark overalls. She is looking upwards with a thoughtful expression. In the upper right, a hoodie is shown floating in the air, and a diary with pages labeled 'A' and 'F' is also floating. The background is a textured, watercolor-like wash.

*A look at a diary
shows the need
for God's help
to overcome the
temptations in life.*

Monday
Dear Diary,
What a day! I
wonder if I'll ever
be totally accepted by the kids
at school. Oh, they are friendly
but they always try to get me
to be "more like everyone else."
We visit at school and even talk

on the phone sometimes, but
when it comes to joining them
for social activities, I always
seem to have something else
to do. This morning, Molly and
Charlotte were waiting at my
locker when I arrived at school.
Molly began by telling me what
a great party I had missed on
Friday night. I told them that

Friday night was our young
people's meeting, but they
made the party sound like so
much fun I wondered if maybe
I should have gone with them.
Lately, it seems that whenever
I get invited to a party or some
other place where all the kids
go, that's the very day that
I have made other plans for



WE CAN HAVE VICTORY WITH JESUS.

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

doing God's work. I need some help to figure out what to do.

Tuesday

Dear Diary,

Mr. Quan gave a pop quiz in Social Studies class today. Wouldn't you know he'd pick the one and only day that I didn't get to study! After I finished my math last night, Mom said it was just too late for me to do any more homework. I guess moms can say that, but teachers just don't understand. Anyway, Tyler was sitting right next to me. He's the one who's never gotten a B in his whole life! (That translates to straight A's.) Well, he was just writing away furiously and not making any attempt to cover up his answers. Then Mr. Quan left the room for several minutes, and I was really tempted to take a quick glance at what Tyler was writing. There were plenty of other kids sharing answers. I hate to think of what an F will do to my average in Social Studies.

Wednesday

Dear Diary,

When I got into my Home Ec class at school this afternoon, Mia accidentally spilled chocolate syrup all over the sleeve of my new jacket. I almost yelled at her and told her what a sloppy person she is. She is always messy! I wish I didn't

have to be in her cooking group. Oh, well, Mom says the stain should come out all right in the wash.

Thursday

Dear Diary,

I'm so depressed. I was just talking to Sophie on the phone. Her folks bought her new skis, a whole new outfit, and skiing lessons for the rest of the winter. Nothing good like that ever happens to me!

Friday

Dear Diary,

Was it just yesterday I was moping about Sophie's good luck? I can hardly believe what happened today. I passed up a chance for a new ski outfit for myself. After school I stayed to work in the library for an hour. When Mrs. Gilmore said she was going to close up, I remembered I'd left my gym shorts in the locker and I needed to wash them. I went to the locker room and, lo and behold, there was a pair of ski pants and a gorgeous matching jacket lying on the bench. No one was around. I went into the gym, but no one was there. I came back to the locker room and just stared at that ski outfit. I felt like putting it in my gym bag and leaving for home, instead I took it down to the office and turned it in at the Lost and Found. What a week!

Dear Student,

Go through the diary and underline all the temptations that this young girl experienced. List them on the following lines.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Make a check mark by any of the temptations that she gave in to. What did you learn?

Pretend you are her diary and can respond. Write an answer back to her.

Now tell about a time when you were tempted.

Did you give in to the temptation?

What should you do the next time you're tempted to do or say something wrong? Remember that Jesus resisted temptation by quoting Scriptures. Ephesians 6:17 says that the Word of God is like a sword for us. With every temptation, God makes a way of escape so you will be able to stand up under it. You will find this promise in 1 Corinthians 10:13.

With God's help you can make it!

Lesson 21 Activity

DON'T GIVE IN!

WHO IS THE "LAMB"?

✓ ■ ○ ♥ ○ !

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

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□ ✓ ■ ↻

|| ☆ ■ ▲ ∅ ▶ × ■

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CHOSEN

LESSON 22 → John 1:35-51



“**M**ay I have some helpers on this project?” the teacher asks. As she begins to select people, you wonder what it takes to be chosen—a certain look in your eye? a smile on your face? sitting up

I really want to help, he thought. It would feel great to be chosen.

straight in your chair? Your hand is held high as the teacher’s eyes focus right on you. You are thinking, I really want to

be chosen. I want to help with this project. Just then, she calls your name. Ah, you think, it’s great to be chosen.



I WANT TO FOLLOW JESUS.

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

Around 2000 years ago, Jesus chose twelve men to be His helpers. Some of them were fishermen. Simon (Jesus called him Peter) and Andrew, his brother, were by the seashore when Jesus spoke to them. He said, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” They immediately left their work, and followed Him, as if this was what they had been waiting to do all their lives. What caused them to follow Jesus without hesitation? It was their honest, believing hearts! Jesus found two more brothers along the seashore, James and John, who were mending their nets. These men gave us a good example of following Jesus also. When Jesus called them, they immediately left the ship and their father to go with Him.

Jesus also called Philip. Then Philip found his friend Nathanael, and told him, “We have found him, of whom Moses in the Law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” When Nathanael asked him, “Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?” Philip said, “Come and see.”

Philip shared this good news with his friend, but wanted Nathanael to see for himself that Jesus was the Christ. When Nathanael came, Jesus told him that He had seen him sitting under the fig tree before Philip called him. Since

Nathanael had been alone under the fig tree, he immediately realized that only God could have known that. Nathanael said, “Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel.”

Jesus continued looking for the right men to be His disciples until He had chosen twelve in all. The disciples lived very close to Jesus for the next few years. They learned to love and trust Him. This love grew deep in their hearts, making their lives more beautiful. Jesus knew they needed this love and enthusiasm in order to reach the souls of men who didn’t yet know about Him. Jesus had come to earth to die as a sacrifice for man’s sin, then rise from the dead to bring eternal life. But His life, death, and resurrection would be useless to men if they didn’t know of Him. That’s why it was extremely important that the disciples tell the world about Him.

God’s Word tells us that “many are called, but few are chosen.” Why do you suppose this is true? When Jesus was choosing His disciples, why do you think He chose the ones He did? Not because they raised their hands and said, “Me! Choose me!” No, it was because He knew the condition of their hearts. They were men who heard the call and said, “That’s what I want. That’s what I need.” That is

why Jesus chose them. Even today Jesus has a plan for the life of each one He calls.

Several years ago, there was a seafaring man who needed God in his life. He felt that life was no longer worth living. One day, while looking over the railing of a ship, with no thought of God, he watched the ocean churn. Just as he was about to jump into the water, he heard the voice of God. This was his greatest time of need and God did not fail him. God asked him, “If you jump in, what will the end be?” From that time on, the man started looking for the truth. God led him in the right path. The next time he came into a port, someone visited his ship and invited him to a church service. There he heard the truth, prayed, and was saved. If it hadn’t been for God’s call that day on the ocean, that man would be in a lost eternity today. Instead, he has been able to tell many others about God. In this world of turmoil, the call of God is still being heard by people who are seeking for the truth, who want to do what is right but need a strength given only by God. Do you want to receive mercy and forgiveness for your sins? Do you want to be chosen by God? He is calling you. Follow Him now and become a “fisher of men.”

Lesson 22 Activity

**TELL ME
ABOUT IT**

P__T__ _

T__OM__ _

J__ _ A__

When Jesus lived on the earth, He had twelve special helpers who were called His disciples. Below is a list of their names. Read Matthew 10:2-5 and fill in the missing letters. Wouldn't it be fun to talk to one of His disciples? Pretend you lived during Biblical times. Write a letter to a disciple of your choice. What will you ask him? What do you want to know about Jesus?

A__ DR__ _

J__ _ E__

S__ _ _ N

J__ _ N

M__ _ _ H__ _

T__ _ DD__ _ _ _

J__ M__ _ _

P__ I__ _ _ P

B__ _ _ _ OL__ M__ W

Dear _____ ,

Signed _____ ,

HIS FIRST MIRACLE

LESSON 23 → 1 John 2:1-11



At the wedding in Cana we saw His first miracle.

men near Him were listening intently to what He was saying. I wondered who He could be.

I worked my way through the crowd of guests, balancing my serving tray filled with pomegranates and figs, trying to avoid the jostling elbows. Demas, the head servant, came toward me, an anxious scowl creasing his forehead. Almost before he reached my side, his frantic words began tumbling out. “Ahiah, I’ve just come from the storeroom and we are out of wine! I can’t believe it! We checked the supplies and thought we had plenty laid by. What are we going to do?” I gazed at him in consternation. “Are you sure? We have two days of the feast still to go!”

Heads turned in our direction at this whispered exchange. Suddenly I realized

They told me later that His name was Jesus. But I had never seen Him before that day—the day of the wedding in Cana.

I knew there was something different about Him the moment I saw Him. The courtyard was filled with people, but somehow Jesus stood out from all the rest. It

wasn’t His physical appearance—there was nothing remarkable about that. It was His bearing, a certain quiet air of authority about Him. The group of



I WILL OBEY JESUS.

Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it. — John 2:5

that the Man I had been watching was standing nearby. It was obvious He and His friends had noticed Demas' agitation and overheard our conversation.

The woman standing next to Jesus touched His arm lightly and said, "They have no wine."

I wasn't quite sure what He meant when He gently told her that His time had not yet come. But the woman seemed to know. She turned to us and in a quiet voice said, "Do whatever He tells you to do."

Demas heard her words, and bowed politely, if briefly, in her direction. But the dilemma he was facing was uppermost in his mind, and once more his anxious torrent of words poured forth. "What will the bridegroom say when I tell him we are out of wine? This is terrible! What are we going to do?"

A calm voice stopped him. "Fill the waterpots with water." It was Jesus. He gestured to six stone containers lining the edge of the courtyard. Demas looked at Him in amazement. So did I! Fill the waterpots? They were huge! And, besides, we didn't need water, we needed wine!

The woman had turned away, and even Jesus was no longer looking at us, but was engaged in conversation with one of the other guests. But the woman's words seemed to linger in the air. "Do whatever He tells you to do." Slowly, almost as if he wasn't sure why he was doing it, Demas signaled to some of the other servants. As they gathered near him Demas explained what we were to do.

We were all puzzled, but without question we began to obey. Not a word passed between us as we went quickly to the well and began drawing forth the water. We filled every one of those pots, clear to the brim.

When we had finished, I moved to Demas' side and whispered in his ear that the task was done. Jesus had not seemed to be watching us,

but almost immediately He moved toward us. Smiling just a little, He spoke again, and what He said was even more startling than His first command. "Draw some out now, and take it to the governor of the feast."

Water? To the governor? But Demas didn't question the Man. He filled a goblet from one of the water pots and handed it to me. I took it to the governor and watched anxiously as he tasted the water . . . wine? He turned and gave me a strange smile, then called the bridegroom to him and complimented him. "Most people serve the best wine at the beginning of a feast, but you have kept the good wine until now."

The miracle was obvious. The water which had been poured into the pots only moments ago had undergone an amazing transformation. It was wine! Pure and sweet, the delicate aroma of fresh grapes drifted across the courtyard. So, we filled all the pitchers and began to serve the other guests.

That was the day I became a believer. Because of His concern for us and the wonderful miracle He performed, I can never doubt that Jesus is exactly who He says He is—the Son of God. How glad I am that I did what He said to do.

What would have happened if Demas, Ahiah, and the other servants in our story had chosen to ignore Jesus' command? Do you think it is just as important for us to obey God's words today? Obedience is the key to securing what we need from God. Are you using that key?

Lesson 23 Activity

**THE FIRST
OF MANY**

*Number of Lepers
(Luke 17:12)*

10

15

*How many loaves?
(Matthew 14:19)*

5

*Number of Fish
(John 21:11)*

*What day was the
marriage? (John 2:1)*

*How many thanked
Jesus? (Luke 17:15)*

*How many water pots?
(John 2:6)*

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

WHO IS
JESUS?



A VALUABLE LESSON

LESSON 24 → Matthew 5:1-12; Psalm 119:1-6

That day at the beach, Gramps taught Kyan a valuable lesson.

“**H**i, Gramps!” Kyan flashed a quick grin of welcome. He moved over on the big rock where he was seated, looking out over the ocean. His grandfather eased into the small space by Kyan’s side. “I’m right pleased that the weather turned so nice for your first afternoon with us, Kyan. You can really see a long way out today.”

“Hey, look!” Kyan’s eyes were dancing with excitement.

“Wow! That was a really big wave! Look at the spray—it went way over the top of that big rock. This is a neat place, Gramps. You picked a great place to retire.”

For several moments the two sat there together, watching as wave after wave washed over the rocks before them. Finally, Grandpa spoke again. “Your grandmother told me we’d eat dinner at 5:30. It’s 5 o’clock now. How about seeing if we can help her a little?”

“Okay, Gramps. We’ll come back out tomorrow morning. It’s going to be getting dark before long anyway.”



I CAN BE HAPPY WITH JESUS.

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

The next morning Kyan awoke, eager to walk on the beach and watch the waves. But when he looked out the bedroom window he saw, to his dismay, a heavy fog lay over the water, hiding all but the closest rocks, and muffling the sound of the waves. I guess this isn't so perfect after all, he thought as he turned from the window and began to dress for breakfast.

His grandfather saw Kyan's disappointed look when he entered the kitchen. "Kinda messy out there right now," he said. "But it'll probably clear up around noon." Kyan's hopes rose. Maybe this would be a fun weekend anyway!

When breakfast was over, Grandpa reached for the Bible on the table beside him, and read aloud a portion of the Sermon on the Mount. As he finished and shut the Bible, he noticed that Kyan looked a little puzzled. "Something troubling you, Son?" he inquired kindly.

"Not really," Kyan answered with a sigh. "It's just . . . well, I'm having a hard time figuring this out. I've memorized the Beatitudes that you just read, Gramps. I know all the words. It's just that some of them don't mean anything to me. I guess that sounds dumb, doesn't it." Kyan stopped, sud-

denly embarrassed at what he was saying.

Grandpa shook his head slowly, "No, Kyan, it doesn't sound dumb at all. In fact, we learn better when we realize we don't have all the answers. If you're through eating, grab your jacket and come outside. There's something I'd like you to see."

Kyan dashed to his room for his jacket, and then ran outside to join his grandpa, who was standing at the head of the trail to the beach. Together they headed down toward the sand.

After a few moments, Grandpa pointed out ahead of them. "Remember the big rocks we saw last night? And how the waves sometimes splashed over them? Look at them now."

Kyan peered through the fog. The big rocks now stood surrounded only by sand and fog, the ocean rumbling at a distance behind them. As he walked closer, he saw other, smaller rocks he hadn't even seen when the water was higher.

Grandpa continued, "Those rocks stay there year after year. The waves come and go, the storms beat on them, but they never move. Sometimes you see them, sometimes they're hidden—by water or

by fog. But you know they're always there."

Kyan nodded, and looked at his grandfather questioningly.

"Kyan, the principles Jesus taught in the Beatitudes are a little like those rocks. They are always the same, and they are always there. We may not know what they mean, just like sometimes we don't see the whole rock out there. We read the words, and we may get an idea, but we feel there is more than we are seeing. Sometimes we think we know, and then we learn that it means much more than we had thought."

"So don't feel bad because you don't have a grown-up understanding of what the Beatitudes mean. As you grow and you learn more about God, your understanding of the whole Bible will grow. I'll tell you what. Let's go help Grandma with the dishes, then let's sit down and put the Beatitudes into words you can understand. By the time we're through, maybe the fog will have lifted and we can enjoy being outside again."

Kids: Look at the activity page for this lesson to see what Grampa and Kyan came up with.

A HAPPINESS HOW TO

Some people have a hard time understanding the Beatitudes. The word *beatitudes* means “blessings.” Those who are blessed of God enjoy great happiness and joy. In the text below and to the right, there are two examples of how we can say the Beatitudes. One way is to quote the Scripture from the Bible. The other way is to explain what each verse means in our own words. Match up the Scripture verses to the right with the descriptions below. Place the letter of the descriptions below on the line next to the verse it corresponds to on the right.

- | | |
|--|---|
| A. The earth will someday belong to those who are patient and gentle with others. | _____ Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (verse 3) |
| B. God will be seen by those whose hearts are free from all sin. | _____ Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. (verse 4) |
| C. There is a great reward in Heaven for those who are treated badly and have lies told about them just because they love Jesus. | _____ Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. (verse 5) |
| D. Those who want to learn to serve God better and better will receive that wish. | _____ Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. (verse 6) |
| E. Heaven is for those who do not think they are better than others. | _____ Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. (verse 7) |
| F. Those who don't hurt or punish anyone who is in their power will receive mercy themselves. | _____ Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. (verse 8) |
| G. Heaven is for those who are treated badly just because they love Jesus. | _____ Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. (verse 9) |
| H. Those who are sad will be comforted. | _____ Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (verse 10) |
| I. God's children are those who want to make peace. | _____ Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven. (verses 11 and 12) |

WHO IS
JESUS?



GOOD GROUND

LESSON 25 → Mark 4:1-20

Kristen let Maria know that with prayer and God's Word their students' hearts could become good ground.

Sunlight streamed across the table where two Sunday school teachers were just finishing lunch. A discussion was in progress about their classes of junior girls.

"Kristen, you've been teaching for a long time now. I've been wanting to talk to you about my girls. Isn't it something how differently kids respond to the lessons? Ever since I started teaching a few months ago I've felt so good about my class. They're good kids and I love them all, but some of them seem to find it difficult to understand

that Jesus can, and wants to, meet every need of their lives.

"Of my four students," she went on, "one really lights up when we start class. It is easy to see her interest. But the others . . . I don't know. They must like something about Sunday school or they wouldn't come. I wonder, though, if I am getting through to them that Jesus really is the answer to all their problems—a Friend who never fails.

"For instance, Samantha lets the lessons go in one ear and out the other. She can't seem to



JESUS IS MY BEST FRIEND.

Grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

— 2 Peter 3:18

understand that Jesus really did die for her, as well as everyone else.

“Amber was so quickly attracted to the Gospel and received the Lord with such gladness. But in just these past few weeks I’ve seen her change again. She has met with some rejection at school and is now questioning why Christians don’t do some of the things she did in the past. She’s forgotten how the desire for these things was taken away. She had such a happy attitude at first. It hurts to see her change.

“Then there is Annie. What a girl! She is always fretting. I’ve tried to tell her that when she gave her heart to God, He promised to provide those things she truly needs, and for her to take her worries and cares to Him. Yet week after week she recites some new problem. ‘I need a new dress. How will I get it? My folks expect too much of me . . . I need a bigger allowance . . .’ Each week it’s something new!

“Christie is my fourth girl, and a joy to have in class. She seems to get the point of the lessons and to understand what the Gospel is all about. It is easy to see her sincere love for Christ, and she is always ready to lend a hand. I’ve seen her really grow spiritually in just these few short months she has been in my class.”

Kristen smiled. “Maria, your class sure seems to be a good example of the lesson Jesus taught of the sower and the seed. Let’s say that you are the sower of the seed. The seed is, of course, the Word of God.

“Samantha sounds like the ‘wayside’ hearer. Some seed falls on a hard-beaten path where no plow has broken up the ground. As a careless and inattentive listener, she will find that Satan is fast removing anything she may hear.

“Amber’s heart could be compared to the ‘stony ground,’ a thin surface of earth with rock at the bottom. The seed can’t put down any roots deep enough to nourish the plant so it can keep growing. She is affected by the beauty of the Gospel, but when any persecution or hard place comes, she runs. She can’t accept the fact that there is a cross to bear if we would gain a crown.

“Annie would fall into the third category. The earth had been plowed and the seed sown but the weeds weren’t destroyed. These ‘weeds’ are the cares of this life, or the world, that choke out the truth of the Word of God in her life. They are drawing her mind and heart in different ways when both should be focused on Jesus.

“Without a doubt, Christie represents the ‘good ground’

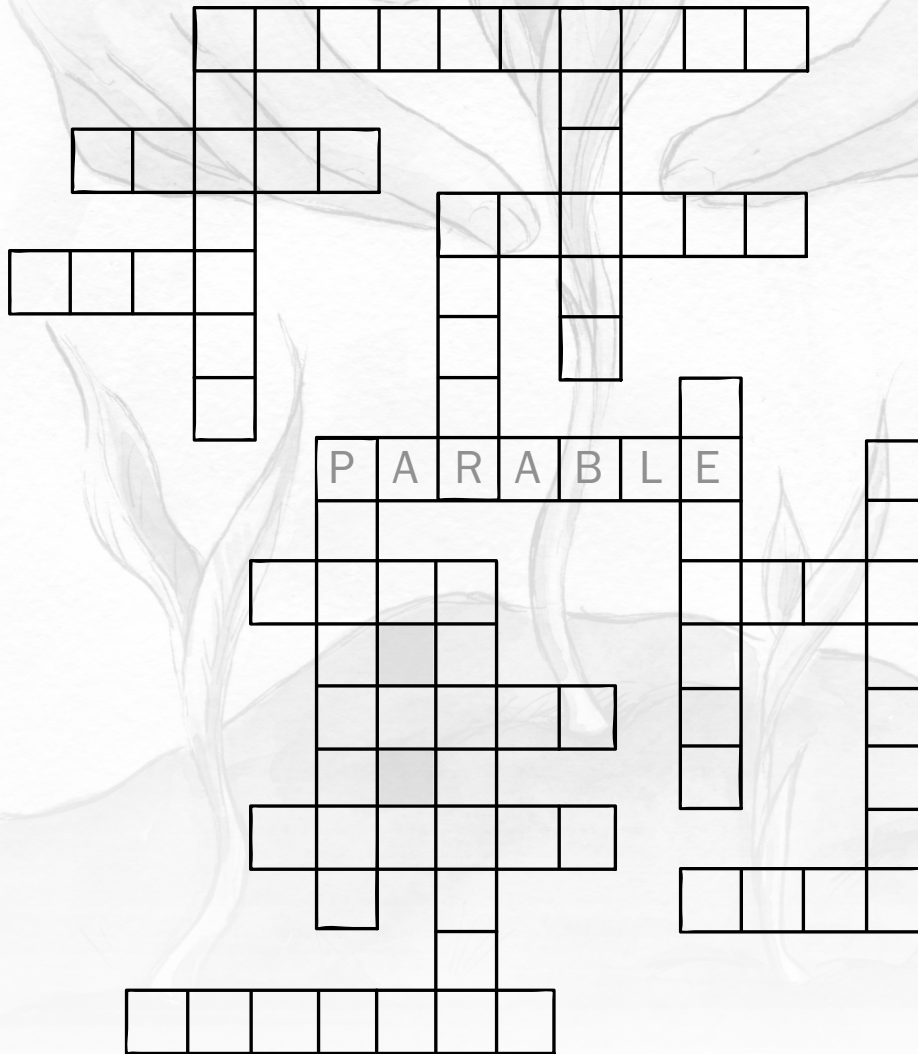
hearer. When the field is well plowed and the weeds all removed, the seed takes root and bears an abundant crop. Christie’s heart is receptive, and that spiritual growth you spoke of would be her fruitfulness.

“Remember, Maria, you are helping to ‘plow the fields’ of these girls’ hearts. You are sowing the seed! If you are faithful in your work, Jesus will help you. You say you love these girls, but remember, Jesus loves them even more. Your faithfulness to these girls is part of the plowing and can’t fail to have its effect. But the rest is up to the girls themselves. They must decide what type of ground they will furnish for the good seed to grow in.”

As the two friends prepared to leave, the sunshine seemed to be reflected again in Maria’s smile. “Thanks, Kristen. I can always depend on you for just the right words. I will go to my class tomorrow with even more determination to keep ‘sowing the seed.’ Just keep praying that all those who hear God’s Word will make the right choice and furnish God with the ‘good ground!’”

GROWING FOR JESUS

The words listed below are from the Bible text about the sower and the seed. Write each word in its correct place on the grid.



WORD
SAVED
SOWER
GOOD
ROOT
SEED
WAYSIDE
DEVoured
HEARKEN
TRODDEN
STONY
GROUND
SPRANG
THORNS
PLEASURE
TEMPTATION
WITHERED



QUARTER REVIEW

LESSON 26 → Review Quarter Texts

Did you ever wish you had lived during Jesus' time on earth? Just imagine . . .

. . . you are a young cousin of Mary's.
What are your thoughts when you see her new baby, Jesus, for the first time?

. . . you follow the Wise Men as they enter Jerusalem. What do you do when they ask where the new King is?

. . . you are a guest at the marriage feast when Jesus turns the water into wine. How will you explain to your friends what happened there?

. . . you are fishing with your friends on the Sea of Galilee the day Jesus comes by and says, "Follow Me!" What do you do?

Jesus Christ is more than just a person who walked the pages of Bible history. He is God, but He was also a Man who was directly and personally involved in the lives of those around Him.

Do you remember the highlights of His life, as we have studied them this past quarter? Check yourself by doing the following activities.

Quarter Review: Focus on JESUS

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

222
PROPHECY
FULFILLED

223
GABRIEL
MARY

224
BETHLEHEM
SHEPHERDS
ANGEL

225
WISE MEN
STAR
GIFT

226
JERUSALEM
SIMEON
TEMPLE

227
DREAM
EGYPT

228
BAPTIZED
JOHN
DOVE

229
WILDERNESS
TEMPTED
SPIRIT

230
DISCIPLES
FOLLOW

231
MARRIAGE
MIRACLE
CANA

232
MOUNTAIN
BLESSED

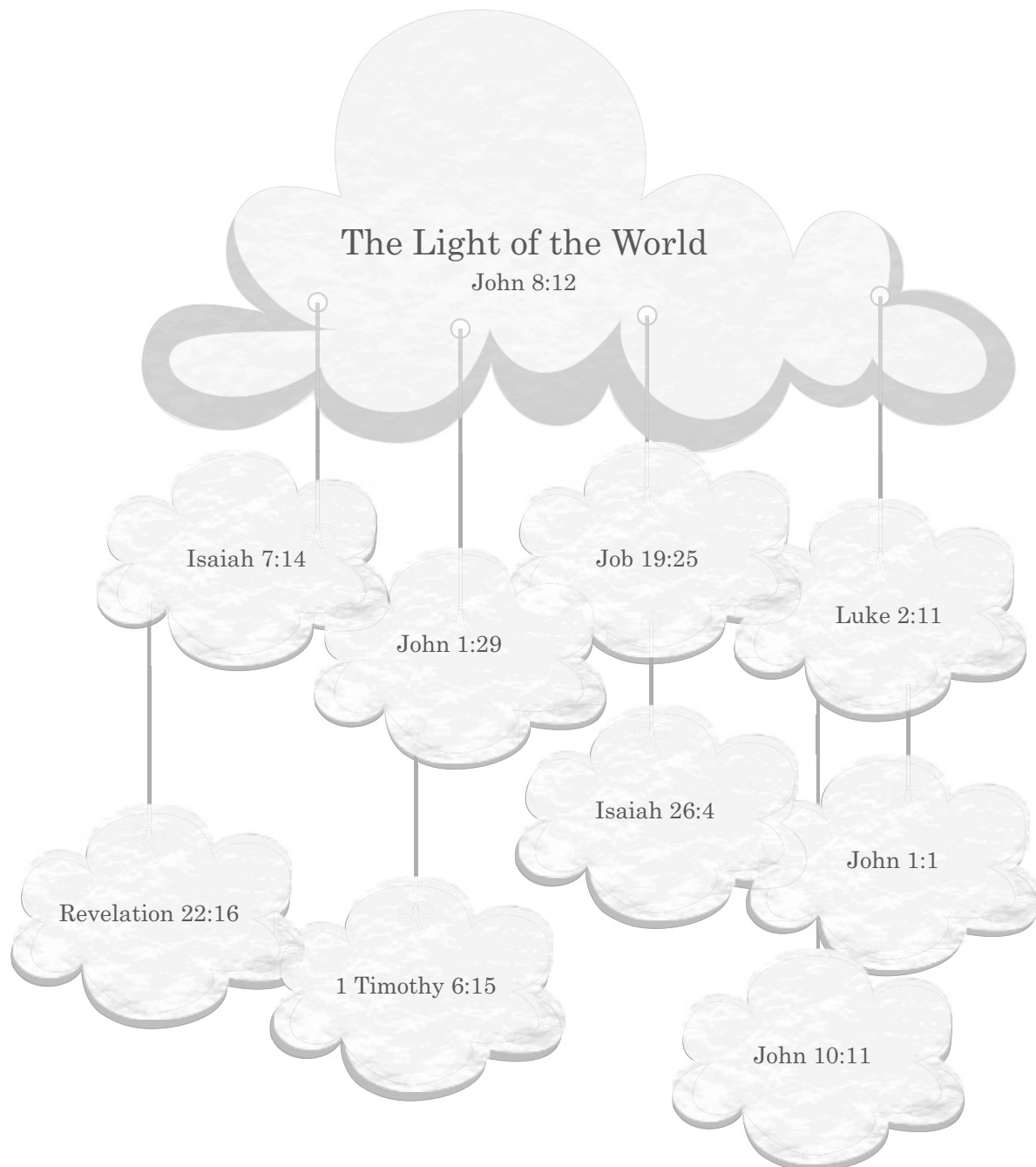
233
SOWER
SEED
PARABLE

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

All of these words point toward
one key figure —
Jesus!

Quarter Review: Name MOBILE

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



Announcing the greatest cure
ever known to man!

It's NOT...
in a bottle,
in a pill,
in a needle...
But it really
works!

What is it?

Find out in *The Answer* next quarter!



APOSTOLIC FAITH CHURCH
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PORTLAND, OREGON 97206

YOUR NAME _____