

LESSONS 40-52

GOD'S PLAN FOR ME

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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GOD'S PLAN FOR ME

In this day of micro-technology, we should have no difficulty in grasping the concept that small things can be significant. We may feel that we are just one among millions on this earth, but in God's eyes we are important; and that is the point we wish to convey throughout this quarter.

God has a plan for each of us! As we begin our Christian walk, and then continue to grow in His grace, we will want to find out what that plan is, and do our best to follow it.

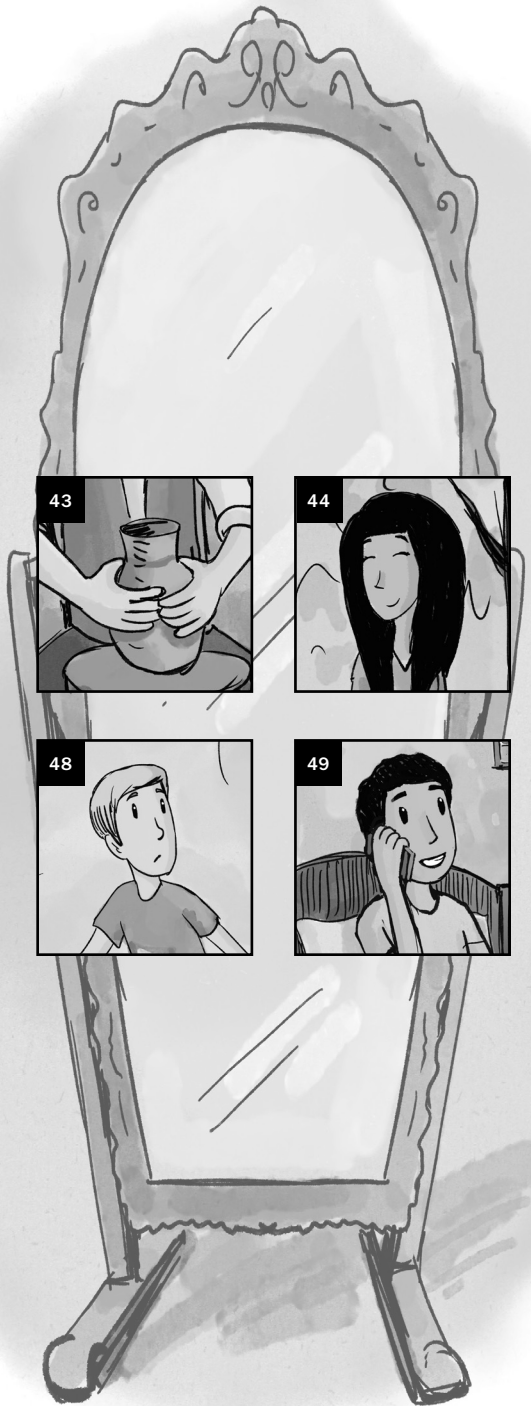
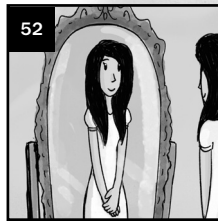
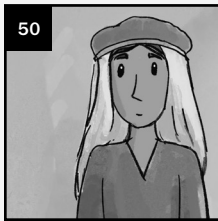
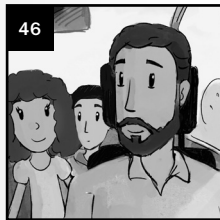
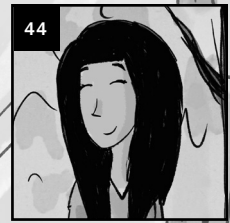
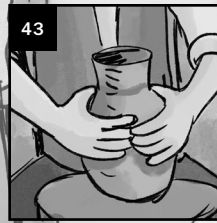
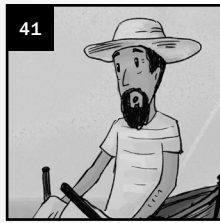
To discover God's plan for us, we need to communicate with Him. With that thought in mind, this quarter opens with two lessons focusing on prayer. The lessons following those deal with recognizing the call of God and fitting ourselves to be usable in His service. We look at the importance of witnessing to others, and the vital necessity of holding on through hard places.

The quarter moves on to a series of lessons on choosing and keeping friends who will not hinder our spiritual growth. The concluding thrust is the importance of staying on the alert, ready at any moment for the Lord's coming.

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AN IMPORTANT LESSON

LESSON 40 → Matthew 6:5-15, 1 John 5:14-15

Adriana scraped the last crumbs of strawberry shortcake off her plate and glanced reflectively at her father. Would this be the right time to ask him for those new shoes she wanted? After that super dinner, now was probably as good a time as any.

Her words tumbled out. “Dad, may I have some new Converse sneakers? They’re the best shoes made. My old ones really look crummy, and Converse shoes last forever. I really need them. Please, Dad?”

Adriana gained a new perspective on the Lord’s Prayer.

Her dad looked up from his desert, but before he could answer, Adriana’s mom spoke from the kitchen, “Adriana, would you please come here for a minute?”

Adriana picked up her plate and joined her mother. “Did you want some help with the dishes, Mom?”

“No, I just wanted to talk to you. Let’s sit down here at the table.

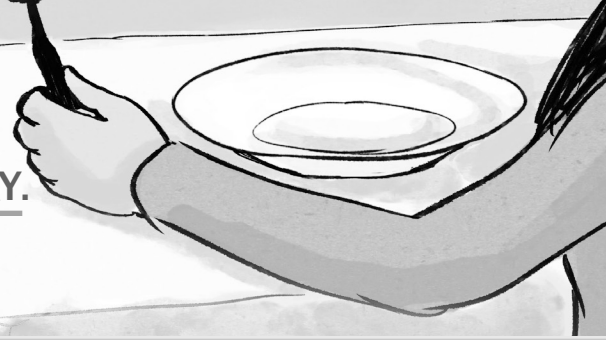
“When I heard you ask your dad for new shoes just now, it reminded me of the Lord’s Prayer.” Noticing Adriana’s puzzled frown, she continued, “That may seem strange, but bear with me and I think you’ll understand.

“When I was young I learned the Lord’s Prayer by heart. That is, I learned the words. It took me a bit longer to learn just



JESUS SHOWS ME HOW TO PRAY.

*If we ask any thing according to his will,
he heareth us. — 1 John 5:14*



what Jesus really was trying to teach us.”

“I learned it too, when I first started going to Sunday school,” Adriana said. “It means we can ask God for anything we need.”

“You’re right about that,” Adriana. The Lord does want us to go to Him when we have needs. He said He would provide them. He will answer all our prayers, though sometimes His answer might be no. But how many words in the Lord’s Prayer ask for material needs?” Adriana’s mother inquired.

“Let’s see . . .” Adriana thought for a few minutes then said, “‘Give us this day our daily bread.’ There are seven.”

“That’s right. Seven out of how many?”

“Just a minute, Mom. I’ll have to get my Bible and count.” She dashed from the kitchen and returned a minute later. There was silence as she turned to Matthew 6 and counted the words. Then she said, “Seven out of sixty-five, Mom.”

“Now let’s look at what the other words say, Adriana. The first word, ‘Our,’ is very important. That means He has to be yours by personal experience. Second, it shows unity with others who can also call Him Father. What do you think ‘Hallowed be thy name’ means?”

Adriana thought for a moment. “Well, I guess that we should

honor Him and keep His name holy.”

“That’s it exactly! Now, ‘Thy kingdom come.’ What kind of heart must we have to really mean that?”

“One that’s right with God. Otherwise we wouldn’t want Him to come, would we? That goes for the next part too, ‘Thy will be done,’” Adriana replied. “We already did ‘Give us this day.’ Next comes, ‘Forgive us our debts.’ That means we should confess when we’ve done wrong.”

“I’ll take the next one,” her mom said. “‘Lead us not into temptation.’ That means we can look to our heavenly Father to be our Guide.”

“For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen,” they said in unison.

“You see, Adriana,” her mother said, closing the Bible, “only a small part of the Lord’s Prayer was asking for material needs. The other words show worship, thankfulness, and praise.

“Now let’s get back to your question for your dad. After all, that’s what got us started on this conversation. In fact, let’s look back over the past few months. How often do you sit down and talk to your dad? What do you talk about?”

“Oh, lots of things, Mom! Yesterday I told him about the

neat new swimming suit I saw on sale. The night before, I was telling Dad about how much I wanted to go to the beach for our vacation this year. And we talked about my getting a long-board for my birthday, and . . .” Adriana’s voice trailed off into silence and a thoughtful look crossed her face. “Mom, it sounds like whenever I talk to Dad, I’m asking for something. Was that what you were trying to say?”

“That’s it, Adriana.”

Adriana was silent for a moment. Then she gave her mother a slow grin. “Well, I still want my Converse shoes. But I see why you made me count how many words in the Lord’s Prayer were asking for something. I know my conversation with my heavenly Father should be a lot more than just asking. I guess my talks with Dad should be too!”

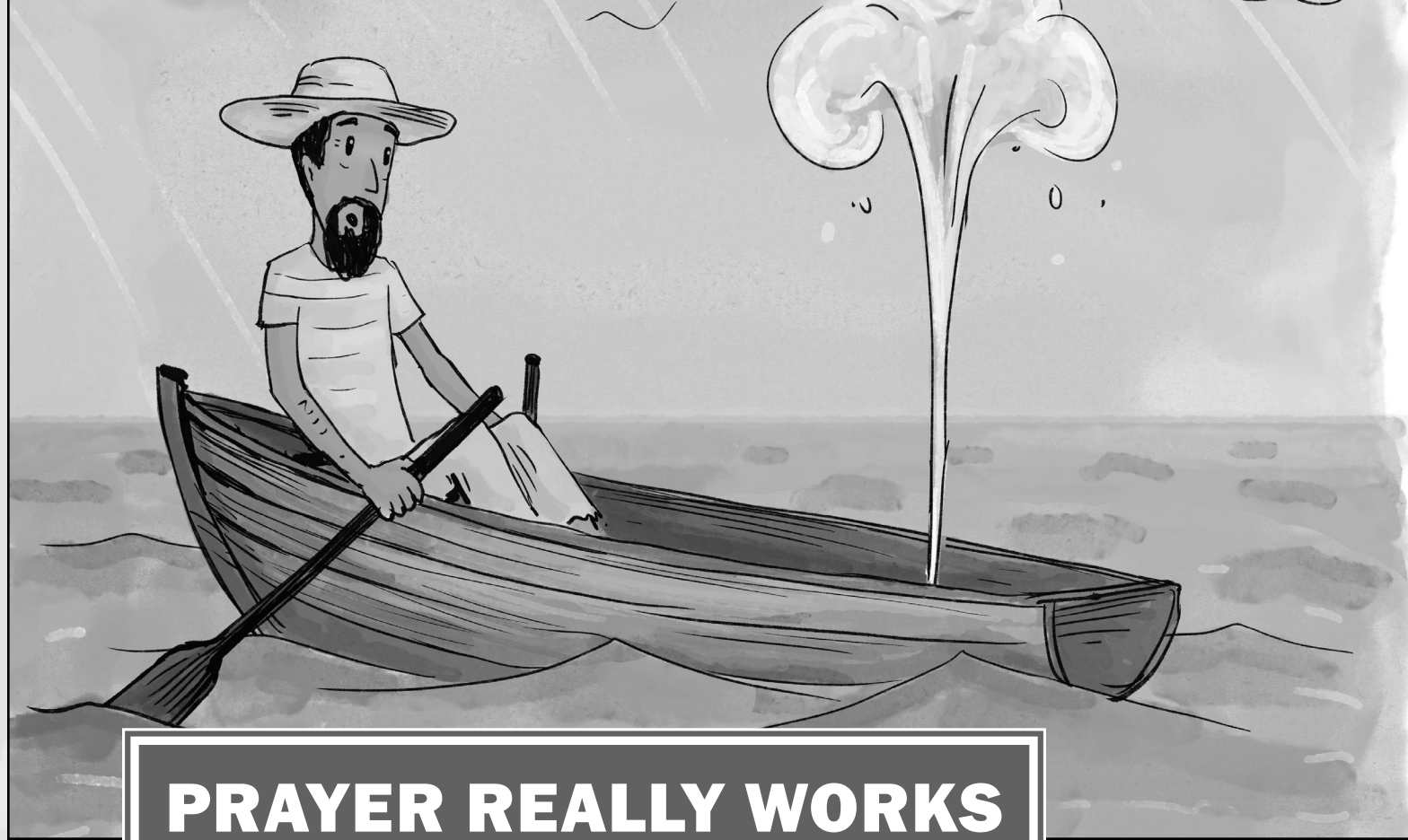
Her mom smiled as she stood up from the table. “Yes, Adriana, the Lord gave us an important lesson in how to pray when He gave us the Lord’s Prayer as an example. But if we study it carefully, we can learn many things about our daily life too!”

THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Our Father which art
in heaven, Hallowed
be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done
in earth, as it is in
heaven. Give us this
day our daily bread.
And forgive us our
debts, as we forgive
our debtors. And lead
us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the
glory, for ever. Amen.*

Jesus showed us how to pray when He taught His disciples in the Sermon on the Mount. Almost everybody knows or has heard the Lord's Prayer. The Prayer is printed above with many of the key words underlined. Find the words in the word-find and circle them.

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



PRAYER REALLY WORKS

LESSON 41 → Luke 18:1-8; 1 Kings 18:41-46

True episodes in the lives of men and women reveal God's power.

It works! Prayer really works!

People in our day are always wanting to look at the end result of things. What is bottom line? What will the outcome be? Following are several examples of answered prayer.

One day an insurance man came to a farmer, trying to sell him a policy to insure his wheat crop. When the farmer's wife heard about it, she said, "Insure against an act of God? How can they do that? Let me pray." No insurance was purchased. Then a hailstorm came. You could hear it coming for miles, and everything in its path was beaten down. The farmer's wife began to pray. The hailstorm came right up to the fence on their property line, and stopped!

On September 2, 1981, a man walking on a sidewalk in Brooklyn, New York, was struck by an out-of-control truck. Conscious but paralyzed, he was rushed to the hospital. The head neurologist examined him and conferred with four other specialists. The injured man was told that they must operate. "No operation," he told his daughter, "just call the ministers at the church and have them pray." Prayer was made, and God answered! Just three mornings later he suddenly felt a tingling in his body. When the doctor made his rounds, the injured man told him he was going to get up. He got out of his bed and walked the length of the hall saying, "Thank You, Jesus!" with each step.

An armed robber and deserter from the U.S. Navy was saved, but he faced many serious resti-



JESUS HEARS MY PRAYERS.

Men ought always to pray, and not to faint.
— Luke 18:1



tutions. After much prayer, he went to the Naval authorities and confessed that he had jumped ship in New York City. “I was saved in the Apostolic Faith Church and I am going over my old life,” he told them. “You can do to me what you want to do.” A few days later he received a letter saying, “According to the laws of the United States you are a wartime deserter, but because of the new life you are living now, we don’t feel like punishing you for your desertion.”

A young man was taking a boat across Puget Sound from the San Juan Islands to Port Townsend. The boat struck a sunken log. The collision caused a hole in the boat which immediately began to fill with water and sink. “When that first wave went over us, it was cold,” the man said later. “But under that wave, Jesus was there with me.” He cried out to God, and the Lord gave him a promise from Isaiah 43:2, “When thou passest through the waters . . . they shall not overflow thee.” Miraculously, God spared his life. After six hours in the water, he finally struggled to shore on Whidbey Island, worn and exhausted, but alive! Again God had answered prayer.

A high school girl who hadn’t felt any need of the Lord in her life was facing death. Her throat was so badly swollen it seemed there was only one breath between her and eternity, and it was an effort for her to get that breath. Her mother stood in a church service and told the assembled congregation, “Pray for Edna, she is dying, and she is not ready to meet the Lord.” God intervened, healed the young girl, and about a month later saved her soul.

One night the Lord showed a young man on his way to a dance that he should go to church instead. Looking up into the sky, he prayed, “If You want me to go to church tonight, let that star fall.” He raised his hand and pointed out









a bright star, and as he brought his hand down, that star fell! “I knew at that moment,” he said, “that God was real and He had heard my prayer.” Just a short time later he turned his heart over to God.

A young man in jail for drunkenness heard a minister tell him something which he couldn’t get away from. “You don’t have to be in church to pray. If you get honest with the Lord, He will hear you.” One night, in a cheap hotel on Market Street in San Francisco, he remembered those words. He got out of bed and prayed. “I felt I was going to die,” he recalls. “I wanted to know if there was a God and if He would hear me.” In the twinkling of an eye, the power of God came down into that hotel room. “I didn’t know what it meant to be born again, but the Spirit of the Lord spoke to my heart, ‘Your disease-wracked body is clean; your sins are forgiven. Go forth and do right.’” What a miracle in answer to prayer!


These wonderful miracles are true stories, and the results of prayer. God has reunited homes torn apart by divorce, provided work in times when jobs were hard to find, put food on the table when a family didn’t know where their next meal would come from, led families to a church where the whole Word of God was taught, and worked in mighty ways for those who looked to Him. But the most miraculous result of prayer is when a person is saved from sin—changed by divine power into a completely new creature.


Do you want to see results like this in your life? Do you want to be saved? God will listen to your prayer. And He will answer when you come to Him with your whole heart!

WHEN YOU PRAY


1. Talk to God, the Father, o hears and sees all things.
2. Ask God to help you ust in His Word.
3. Ask for every ing in the name of Jesus.
4. Call to God en you need to be ave.
5. Go to God with anksgiving.
6. God gives you ace. His son, Jesus, takes away your n.

Use the symbol code below and fill in the missing letters. Read each sentence carefully. What they say can help you when you pray.

TH = 

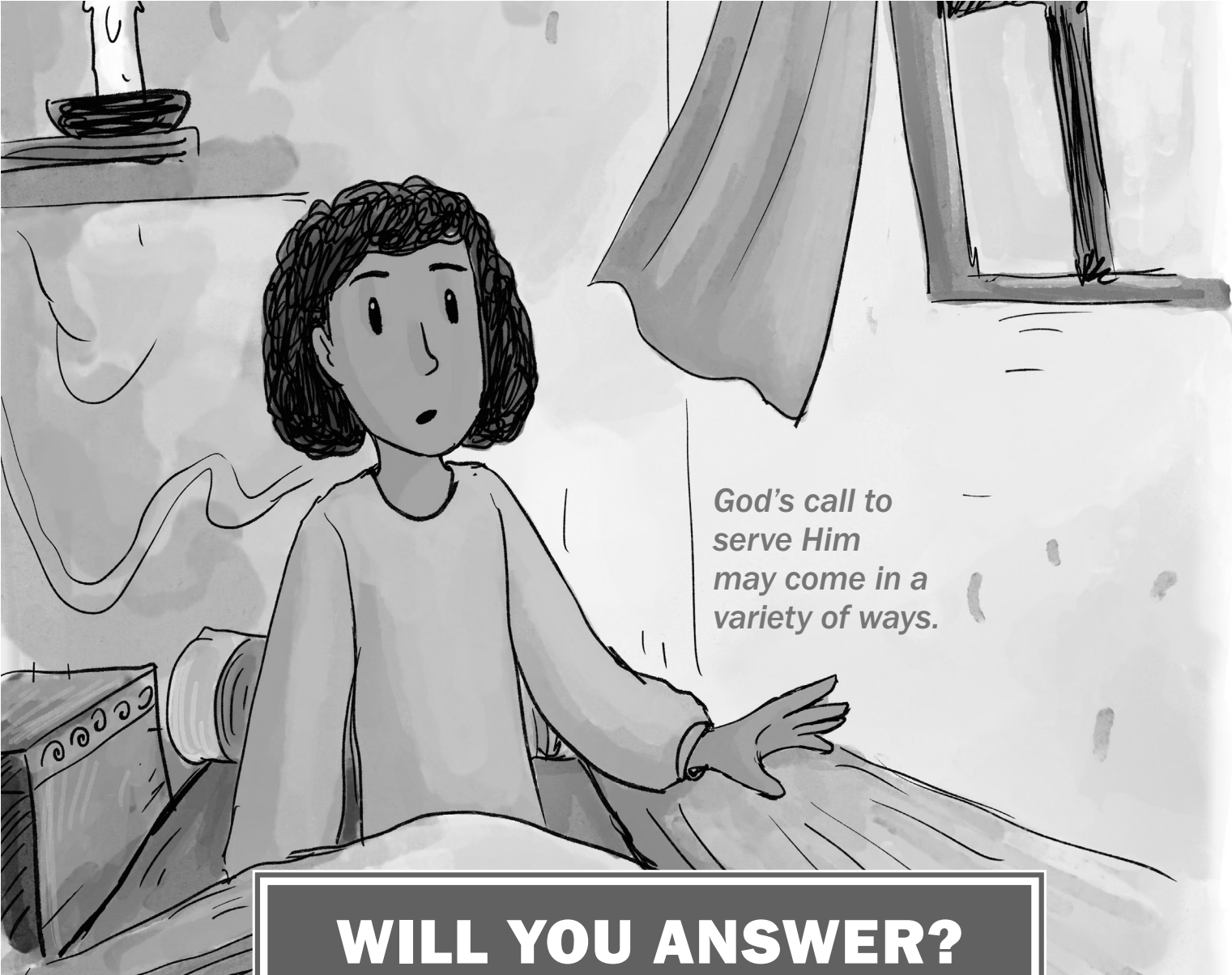
TR = 

BR = 

SI = 

PE = 

WH = 



*God's call to
serve Him
may come in a
variety of ways.*

WILL YOU ANSWER?

LESSON 42 → 1 Samuel 3:1-10; Isaiah 6:1-8

What happens when your phone rings? Do you just sit there and wait for it to stop ringing?

We answer the phone because we are curious about who is calling, and what the person wants. How do you feel when you answer, but are too late? They've hung up! Do you wonder what they wanted and think, Who called me?

Did you know that Someone is calling you? Not on the phone, but with a "still, small voice." That call is from God, and it is one call you surely don't want to miss.

God uses many different ways to call people. His call may come to a person as he sits in a church service, in a phrase from a song, or part of a testimony. The words just seem to come alive, and all of a sudden the one listening realizes that

this message is for him! It is God using the song or testimony to speak to his heart.

God wants everyone to be saved, and He deals with us in whatever way He can to get us to listen. He sends conviction, that uneasy feeling inside that lets us know we aren't doing what pleases Him. When God sends conviction it is His way of calling us to Him.



I WILL ANSWER WHEN GOD CALLS.

Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth. — 1 Samuel 3:9

Sometimes God speaks in a voice that people can hear. The Bible tells us about a boy who heard God call him by name. The boy's mother, a woman named Hannah, had prayed and asked God if He would give her a son. She promised God that if He would answer her prayer she would give the child back to Him when he was old enough to leave her. God heard her prayer and gave her a son. She named him Samuel.

When Samuel got older, Hannah didn't forget her promise. She kept it by taking Samuel to the Temple and letting him live there so he could help the priest, Eli. The Bible tells us that Samuel grew and loved God. Whenever Eli asked Samuel to help, he was willing to work. When Eli called him he came running.

One night after Samuel and Eli had gone to sleep, Samuel heard someone calling his name. He ran to Eli and said, "Here I am." Eli told him, "I didn't call you. Go back to bed." Samuel went back to bed, but after a while he again thought he heard Eli calling him. He got up and ran to him and said, "Here I am, you did call me." Once more Eli told him, "I didn't call you. Go back to bed." Samuel went back to bed, but by now, he was wondering what was happening. He knew that twice he had heard someone calling his name. If it wasn't Eli, who was it?

As he was lying in bed again, he heard his name called a third time. He jumped out of bed and ran to Eli and said, "Here I am; I heard you calling my name." This time Eli knew that someone really was calling Samuel, and he knew it was God. He told Samuel to go lie down, and if he heard his name called again, he should answer, "Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth."

Samuel went to his bed again. The call came just as it had before. Samuel answered as Eli had told him to, and the Lord gave him a message.

Have you answered God's call for your life? Have you been saved from your sins? Have you been sanctified? Do you have the baptism of the Holy Ghost? If you have received these experiences from the Lord you have made a start toward answering His call. Many people live their whole life hearing God's call, but are not willing to answer. They put it off and say, "I'll do it some day, but not now." The best time to answer God's call is when you are young.

After we are saved, God calls us to a closer walk with Him. When we have Him in our hearts, we will be listening to Him when He speaks. God doesn't always speak to us out loud as He did to Samuel, but He can speak to our hearts when we read our Bible and when we pray.

If we are living for God and in close communication with him, He will call us to serve for Him. When Samuel answered the Lord on that night so long ago, God gave him a job to do. God has something for each one of us to do for Him too.

God calls people to do different things. He leads some to consecrate to be preachers, or missionaries, or Sunday school teachers. But those aren't the only jobs He needs workers for. He may call you to be an altar worker, or one who visits the sick and shut-ins. The yard around the church needs tending. A bulletin board in the Sunday school may need to be decorated. Do you sing? Play an instrument? There are many jobs to be done for the Lord.

Answer God's call, first to salvation and the deeper experiences of sanctification and the baptism of the Holy Ghost, and then to a close walk and service to Him. If you do, you will enjoy the blessings He has in store for you throughout your life, and eternal life with Him hereafter.

**GOD'S CALL TO
SAMUEL**

Read the Bible text for this lesson. Then fill in the blanks of each sentence. Each word will begin with the letter given at the beginning of the sentence.

S

. . . When _____ realized God was calling him, he _____, "_____ for thy _____ heareth."

A

. . . Before Samuel knew it was God calling him, he had gone to Eli three times _____ said, "Here _____ I, for you called me."

M

. . . In the _____, Eli _____ Samuel tell him everything God had said. So Samuel told Eli God was going to _____ an end to his house.

U

. . . In the night, after God had talked to Samuel, he lay _____ his bed _____ morning.

E

. . . The priest, _____, was old and his _____ were dim. And before the lamp of God went out, God told Samuel things that would make the _____ of _____ tingle.

L

. . . It pays to _____ to God's voice, so we will know what God wants of us, and we can _____ in His will all day _____.



ACCORDING TO HIS PLAN

LESSON 43 → John 3:3,16; 17:15-17; Acts 1:5-8

Just as the potter shapes the clay into a usable vessel, God wants to mold our lives.

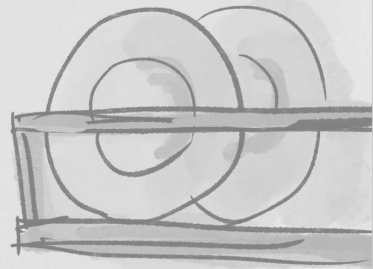
Walking slowly along the river bank, the potter scrutinizes the ground beneath his feet. His attention is caught by a smooth, reddish streak in the mud just to his left. Could this be the type of clay he is looking for?

Bending over, he thrusts his shovel deep into the rust-colored earth. After removing a shovelful he rubs some of the clay between his fingers. Years of experience help him recognize that this smooth, shiny clay is, indeed, the right quality. It will hold together. It can be



I WANT EVERYTHING GOD HAS FOR ME.

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



worked. Carefully he separates a sizable chunk of clay from the muddy ground and puts it into the gunny sack over his shoulder and returns to his workshop.

God is like the potter in this story. He wants to make a vessel He can use. His vessel will be a human life dedicated to Him. Like the potter, He must first find His material. The potter searched for usable clay and found it surrounded by the mud of the riverbank. God looks for people who are willing to submit their lives to Him. When He takes them out of the “mud”—the troubles, guilt, and sin in their lives—we call this “salvation.” It brings about a complete change. The Bible tells us, “Old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

The potter spreads the clay out in the sun to dry. When it has hardened, he gathers the lumps together and pulverizes them. Next comes the vital cleaning process. Sifting the clay through screens of various sizes, the potter painstakingly removes the dirt, twigs, and other foreign particles until the powdered clay is perfectly clean.

After we have received salvation, there comes a second step. We call this “sanctification,” or cleansing. It is an entirely different experience from salvation. Just as the potter cleaned the clay, taking away the impurities, God cleanses our hearts when we experience sanctification. At salvation we are forgiven for all the wrong things we have done, but when we are sanctified God cleans out all the feelings that ever made us want to do wrong.

When the cleansing process is complete, moisture is added to the clay, making it workable. The potter kneads the mass, removing all pockets of air. Then the time has come to shape the lump of clay into a usable vessel. The potter knows exactly what he wants to create. Placing the clay on the wheel, he pushes it to the center, for only when it is positioned exactly can he begin to work.

The wheel starts to revolve, and the potter’s skilled hands begin molding and shaping. A little pressure here, a gentle lifting there, and the clay is fully pliable and nonresistant, accepting the guidance of the potter. At last the vessel is complete.

After we have been sanctified, we want more than ever to be something for God. We want God, like the potter, to “shape” us into something He can use. For this, we need the baptism of the Holy Ghost. Sometimes we call this experience, “power for service.”

The first step in receiving the baptism is to make sure we are “centered.” Just as the clay had to be positioned exactly in the middle of the potter’s wheel, so we must be right in the center of God’s will, eager and ready to do whatever He says. We must be as the clay, pliable and willing to accept His direction. Then, when we pray with all our hearts, God will send His power into our lives, making us able to work effectively for Him.

After a period of drying, glaze is applied and the kiln, or oven, is heated. In this heat, the clay vessel hardens and becomes able to withstand rough handling. The process is complete! The vessel can be used.

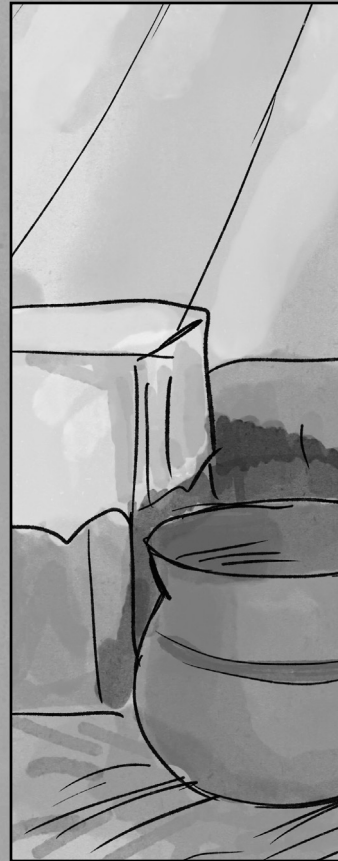
Even though we have received salvation, sanctification, and the baptism of the Holy Ghost, trials will still come into our lives. We might compare this to the “heat” in our story of the potter. And when we come out of the test or trial, we will find we have been strengthened by it, just as the vessel of clay was.

God wants to use you. He has a plan for you. Have you let Him become the “potter” in your life? If not, do so today!

Lesson 43 Activity

**GROW GOD'S
WAY**

Each experience we have from God is important. His Word helps us to understand them. Read each verse given, starting with "The Way," and write your answers on the lines provided.



Who is
"The Way"?
JOHN 14:6

What is another way to
Heaven besides Jesus?
ACTS 4:12

What happens to
our sins?
1 PETER 2:24

Who sanctifies
a Christian?
1 THESSALONIANS 5:23



Does sorrow
last forever?
PSALM 30:5

If Christians are like clay,
who is their potter?
ISAIAH 64:8

In what areas should a
Christian grow?
2 PETER 3:18

THIS IS NOT THE
END — IT'S ONLY
THE BEGINNING!

What things should be
acceptable to God?
PSALM 19:14

Who is the baptism of the
Holy Ghost for?
ACTS 2:38, 29

Min



A SPECIAL PART

LESSON 44 → 1 Corinthians 12:14-27

Though Quinn and Isabella were different in many ways, they were both needed in the Body of Christ.

What a perfect day for a hike, Quinn thought as she woke up and saw sunlight streaming through her curtains. Today was the Sunday school outing to Harrison Falls and she could hardly wait to get started.

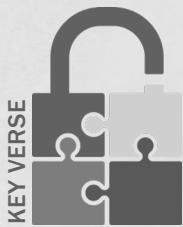
A few hours later, Quinn found herself at the trail's beginning with thirty-four other kids, all anxious to begin the hike.

"Each of you find a buddy!" shouted Luke, the youth leader. "Let's get going to the falls. As we go, you and your buddy talk about ways you are alike and ways you are different. We'll discuss what you come up with later." His voice faded as he turned toward the trail.

Quinn and Isabella chose each other for the hike. "My eyes are blue and yours are green; but we both have light brown hair," said Isabella, looking her friend over. "Your hair is shorter than mine," said Quinn, "and straighter too!"

"You play a flute, and I play a clarinet," said Isabella.

"But you could say we both play wind instruments," added



GOD HAS A PLACE FOR ME.

Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. — 1 Corinthians 12:27



Quinn. “And we go to the same church. We are even in the same Sunday school class!”

“Oh, we could go on and on. I’m sure we have more differences than things in common,” said Isabella. Quinn nodded, as they continued along the trail.

Twenty minutes later, they reached their destination and joined the group gathering around Luke, waiting for the last stragglers. They all were talking about the falls and how hot and tired they were.

“Everyone find a seat on a rock or on the ground and let’s see what you found out,” Luke said, raising his voice to be heard above the roar of the waterfall.

Two boys started by saying they shared the same hobby of collecting insects, and they had the same kind of bicycle. Their first names were even the same. But they looked very different.

“Did you discover that you both have two arms, two legs, and one head?” asked Luke.

Everyone laughed. “Yes,” one of the boys answered, “but we tried to get beyond the basics!”

“What I mean,” Luke said with a smile, as he took a Testament from his pocket, “is that each of you has a body which has many parts. It says in 1 Corinthians 12:14: ‘For the body is not one member, but many.’ The ‘body’ in

this Scripture refers to the Body of Christ, or a group of Christians. It takes a body of Christians to make a church. Our world-wide church has many preachers, teachers, ushers, and Sunday school bus drivers. The Body of Christ needs many parts to operate, just as our physical body needs different parts in order to function.

“In verse 18 it says, ‘But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.’ How would our church operate if it had only preachers?” Luke asked.

“There wouldn’t be anyone to do all the other jobs,” Quinn replied.

“That’s right! For this reason,” Luke continued, “God has a place for each of us in the Body of Christ. We can all fill the job of being faithful Sunday school students. Can you name some others?”

“We can play our instruments for the Lord,” said Mimi, who plays a violin.

Luke nodded. “If God has given you a talent to play an instrument, be faithful to practice, at home and at church.”

“We can encourage a friend who’s feeling down,” Isabella pointed out.

“Sure!” said Luke. “The members of the Body of Christ

care for one another, just as you care for your own body. If you had hurt your foot badly as you were hiking today, you wouldn’t ignore it, would you? You would stop, sit down, and rub it. Your hands would help the hurting foot.

“Verse 21 says, ‘... the eye can- not say unto the hand, I have no need of thee.’ The eye and the hand need each other. We, too, need the help and instruction of one another.

“There are as many parts of the Body of Christ as there are young Christians here. Each one has special God-given talents. God is the Head of the Body of Christ and He will help us to encourage others. Giving our talents to the Lord now, brings the blessing of God throughout our lives.”

Luke closed his Testament and said, “Your part in the Body of Christ may be known only to you and God. We can be sure God knows what our talents are, and will expect us to use them. Let’s ask Him to help us develop them to serve Him better.” Looking at his watch, Luke stood up. “What’s next on the schedule?” His voice was lost among the happy shouts, “Lunch, lunch! Let’s go eat!”

Lesson 44 Activity

**EACH ONE HAD
A PART**

Each of the people in these puzzle pieces had a special part in God's plan. Look up the Scripture for each piece and write in who the person was. Then, on the lines at the bottom of the page, write what they did.



1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____



WIN OTHERS FOR JESUS

LESSON 45 → 2 Kings 5:1-4; John 1:40-49

Winning the Most Friendly Girl award was great, but Gracie had her heart set on winning something else.

Hey, Gracie!” shouted Harper, poking her head through the doorway of the school office. “Did you hear the news? You were just chosen Most Friendly Girl!”

Gracie hung up the phone after completing a call for the school secretary, and glanced at her friend in amazement, “You must be kidding!”

“No, it’s true. You know, Gracie, you really have changed. I’m so glad you’re my friend. Well, I’ve got to run. I have to stop by my locker before class. Talk to you later, okay?”



I WANT TO WIN SOULS FOR JESUS.

He that winneth souls is wise. — Proverbs 11:30



Quickly, Gracie finished her few remaining chores in the school office. She thought about how good God had been to her. Wow! To be chosen Most Friendly Girl was really a turnaround from where she used to be. Not so long ago, she would not even have been thought of, much less chosen, for such an honor. She knew it was only because God had changed her. A few months ago she had knelt and prayed and asked God to take the sin out of her heart and to save her. What a difference that prayer had made in her life! The sullen, suspicious person she had been, disappeared in a moment of time. Gracie hardly had been able to believe the difference in herself!

She thought for a moment about the Sunday school lesson they studied the day she had been saved, . . . about the girl who had been taken captive. The girl had waited on the wife of Naaman who was captain of the host of the king of Syria. Naaman had a disease called leprosy. The girl said to Naaman's wife, "Would God my lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria! for he would recover him of his leprosy."

Gracie had known from hearing the story that this girl really loved God. As Gracie had heard how Naaman went to the muddy Jordan River and was cleansed of his leprosy, she had felt in her heart that she wanted to do just as this

girl had done and lead others to Jesus. That very day she had knelt and prayed. God had come into her heart, and had made such a dramatic change.

As she closed the office door and hurried to class, Gracie's thoughts went back to the news Harper had given her. She couldn't help but feel happy about being chosen. She knew it was because the Lord had given her a special happiness in her heart.

How unhappy she had been before! She had always become angry so easily and yelled at her friends; she just couldn't seem to help it. When the kids had realized she couldn't be teased, they started leaving her out of their activities.

Gracie knew the change that God had made in her heart was real, for the whole picture had changed at school. Now she had so many friends—Christian friends too. When God made that transformation, Gracie found she wanted to tell her friends at school about it. They had quickly seen the difference in her. When they asked questions, that was the perfect opportunity to tell them what God had done for her.

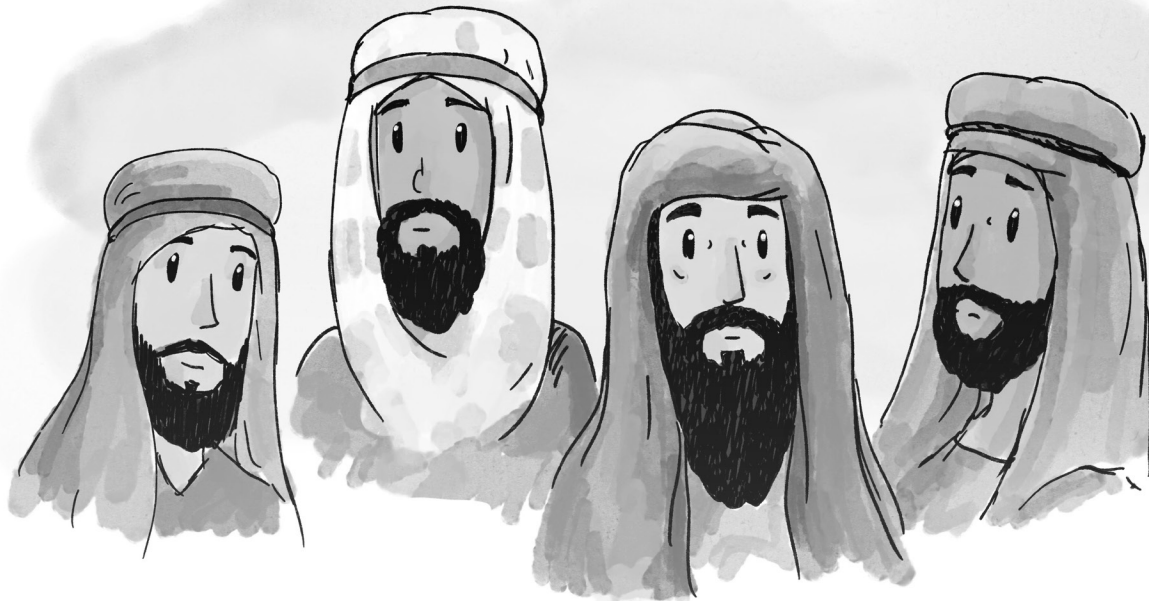
Sliding into her seat in the classroom, Gracie caught Harper's eye and a warm little glow spread over her. Harper was the very first one Gracie had been able to lead to the Lord.

Gracie had known Harper ever since she moved into the neighborhood when they were in the fifth grade, but they had never gotten along very well. Harper had always been a tease, and time after time her teasing had made Gracie so mad! But one day, after Gracie got saved, Harper happened to overhear an incident in the hallway. Another student was teasing Gracie about giving a wrong answer in class that day. Instead of flying off the handle, as she always would have done in times past, Gracie had just chuckled and said, "Oh, well, I can't be brilliant every day." At the time, she had noticed Harper staring at her. She didn't think much about it until Harper came up to her after school and asked about it. Harper had been so impressed with the difference in Gracie that she had come to church the first time Gracie had invited her. Just a few weeks later Harper had given her heart to the Lord too.

Winning the Most Friendly Girl award is great, thought Gracie as she opened her book, but winning my friends for Jesus is even more exciting!

Lesson 45 Activity

TELL OTHERS!



INSTRUCTIONS

The men above were called to tell others about Jesus. To find the answers to these activities, read this week's Bible text, John 1:40-49. How many can you do? How long did it take you?

Circle these statements true or false.

- » Simon Peter told Philip T F
- » Andrew told Simon Peter T F
- » Philip told Nathanael T F
- » Philip told Andrew T F

Who heard the good news first, second, and so on? Number your choices.

- Philip
- Andrew
- Simon Peter
- Nathanael

Match them up!

- Andrew
- Philip
- Nathanael
- Peter
- He was of Bethsaida
- Brother of Peter
- A stone
- An Israelite with no guile

Circle your choice.

- A. Jesus said to
 1. Peter
 2. Philip
 3. Andrew“Follow Me.”
- B.
 1. Peter
 2. Andrew
 3. Philiphad heard John the Baptist speak and had followed him.
- C.
 1. Philip
 2. Nathanael
 3. Peterwas the son of Jona.
- D.
 1. Nathanael
 2. Philip
 3. Petersaid, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?”

GOD'S PLAN FOR ME



KEEP ON GOING

LESSON 46 → Acts 4:13-22

The Mendozas' trip to the lake could be compared to our journey to Heaven.

“**C**ome on, it's time to go!” The Mendoza family piled into their van, buckled into their seat belts, and pulled out of the driveway. Anticipation was obvious on every face as they started down the street. They were just beginning an all-day drive to the lake for a week of camping.

Mr. Mendoza had been to the gas station the day before and had the van checked, and the gas tank filled. The family was feeling great after a good night's sleep. The few clouds they had worried about the night before had disappeared, and the morning sun was warm. Everything was starting out right.

The first few hours of driving seemed to fly by. There was excited chatter and, for a while, the whole family sang together. When their voices gave out they played the alphabet game. It didn't seem long at all before it was time to stop at a roadside park to have lunch.

After a couple more stops, Mr. Mendoza pulled into a station for more gas and checked the GPS to see how far it was to



I AM NEVER ALONE BECAUSE I LOVE JESUS.

His way have I kept, and not declined. — Job 23:11

their exit. By now they were all getting tired of traveling.

A few miles farther on, clouds began to gather and then it started to rain. The atmosphere in the car began to change too. Someone called out from the back seat, “Are we almost there?” Soon another voice asked, “Isn’t there a faster way to get to this lake?” Dad told them that this long ride was necessary in order to have a good time later.

They made one more stop to gas up, and to gulp down a dinner of burgers, cokes, and French fries. “How much farther to the lake, Dad?” the kids asked again, as they left the restaurant. Dad’s response, “Only a few more miles down the road,” was greeted with cheers. The family climbed back into the van with renewed spirits. Looking way ahead, the kids began trying to catch the first glimpse of each mile-age sign, counting down the last few miles. It was getting to be fun again! Then they saw the gates of the campsite just ahead. As they drove through those gates they all shouted, “Hooray!” At last, they were there! The trip was over. Everything they had been looking forward to all day was finally before them, and the length of the trip quickly faded from their minds.

If you have asked Jesus to come into your heart and have become a Christian, you are

traveling too. You are on your way to Heaven! And once you get there you will not have just a week to enjoy yourself; you’ll be there forever!

In the first few days on the road to Heaven, you may think nothing could spoil the wonderful new feeling you have down in your heart. But remember, the devil would love to ruin your journey, and he has all kinds of tricks. He’ll try to delay or discourage you along the way, but as long as you keep your eyes on God, you will be safe.

When Jesus comes in, He gets you started. But it’s up to you to maintain enough “fuel” in your “tank” to keep you going. What is your fuel? Prayer! You need to start each day with a full tank. If you let the devil trick you into thinking you don’t have enough time to read the Bible and pray in the morning, you’ll find out that you run dry before the day is hardly started. Your travels will go even smoother if you refuel several times a day.

How do you know which way to go? Pull out your GPS, the Bible, each morning and God will show you the way to take. At times as you travel through your day, you will come up against things that you’re not sure about. The Bible will always give you direction.

You may ask, “Am I the only one on this road?” Sometimes

it seems that way. When you choose to follow Jesus, you take a different road. Some of your friends will say that you are on the wrong road, but that’s just another sly trick of the devil. Your friends may think they are taking shortcuts or an easier way, but there’s only one way to Heaven. Jesus is the way. If they are on a different road, they are the ones who are lost. If you keep a steady course, they will be able to see by your life that they need the guidance you have. If you let them turn you aside, they will still be lost and you will be too!

Where can you meet others who are on the same road? In church! God’s Word teaches us that we can help each other along the way. When we go to church, we hear about other people’s experiences and learn from them. You can pick up helpful hints from someone who has gone through what you are going through now. When you share what God has done for you, someone else may be encouraged to keep traveling. You will pick up more fuel and direction from being in church, and you’ll be ready for the road again.

On your heavenly trip there will be some areas that are more exciting than others. There will also be all kinds of weather and road conditions, but every day is a good day for traveling with Jesus.

**KEEP ON
GOING!**

Follow through the maze below and look up each Bible verse. Fill in the missing words. These are all parts of God's Word that help you keep on the right way.





JESUS AS A FRIEND

LESSON 47 → John 15:9-17

Maya's problem with her friend helped her realize how good it is to have a Friend she can always count on.

Maya stomped into the house, a stormy look on her face. "It's just not fair!" she cried as the door slammed behind her.

Maya's mother came into the room with a look of concern on her face. "What happened, Maya?"

"I don't ever want to see Kylie again!" Maya said, throwing her books onto the couch and taking off her jacket.

Her mother tried to calm her.

"Maya! You shouldn't say things like that! You don't really mean it. Now tell me what happened to make you so upset."

Maya paced the length of the living room and stormed, "Kylie and I have been best friends all year. Last week we got a new girl in our class. Ever since then, Kylie has done everything with her. She hasn't even talked to me. And today when I asked her to come over she just

JESUS IS OUR BEST FRIEND!

There is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother. — Proverbs 18:24

said she was going to Sienna's house. Sienna was standing right there but they both turned away and left. It was obvious they never thought about including me. Mom, it's just not fair!"

Maya wiped a hand across her eyes impatiently as her mother said, "Sit down, Honey. I want to show you something." She reached for her Bible and sat down on the couch. After a moment Maya joined her. Her mother went on, "I know that what you are going through is very hard to understand. But did you know that you have a Friend who loves you and is a better Friend than Kylie ever could be?"

"You mean Jesus?" said Maya, looking at the Bible.

"That's right. Jesus is a Friend who will never leave you. One of the Proverbs says, 'There is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.' That Friend is Jesus Christ. Do you know how much Jesus loves you?"

"Well, I guess a lot."

"Here. Look up John 15:13 and read it to me."

Maya took the Bible from her mother. She hesitated a moment and then flipped through the pages until she found the Scripture. "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." Maya looked thoughtfully at her mother. "Jesus laid down His life for me, didn't He? I don't know of any other friend who'd do that. He must really love me."

"That's right, Maya. There is no greater love than Jesus' love for you. He truly cares about your problems and the things that matter to you. Sometimes it might seem as though you're just one among many, so how could Jesus really know your needs and your thoughts and care about them? But He does! The Bible tells us

that He even knows the number of hairs on your head!"

Maya grinned. "I'll bet Kylie couldn't even make a guess as to how many hairs I have."

Her mother smiled in return. "No, I'm sure she couldn't. And you and Kylie have been friends for a long time and know a lot about each other. Now, Maya, what is one of the things you enjoy about your friends?"

"I like talking things over with them."

Maya's mother smiled as she said, "Read the last part of the fifteenth verse."

"I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you." Maya paused and thought about that for a moment. "This sounds kind of like Jesus has told us everything—just like a friend would."

"That's just what it means. And Jesus also helps us with our problems like a friend would," her mom added.

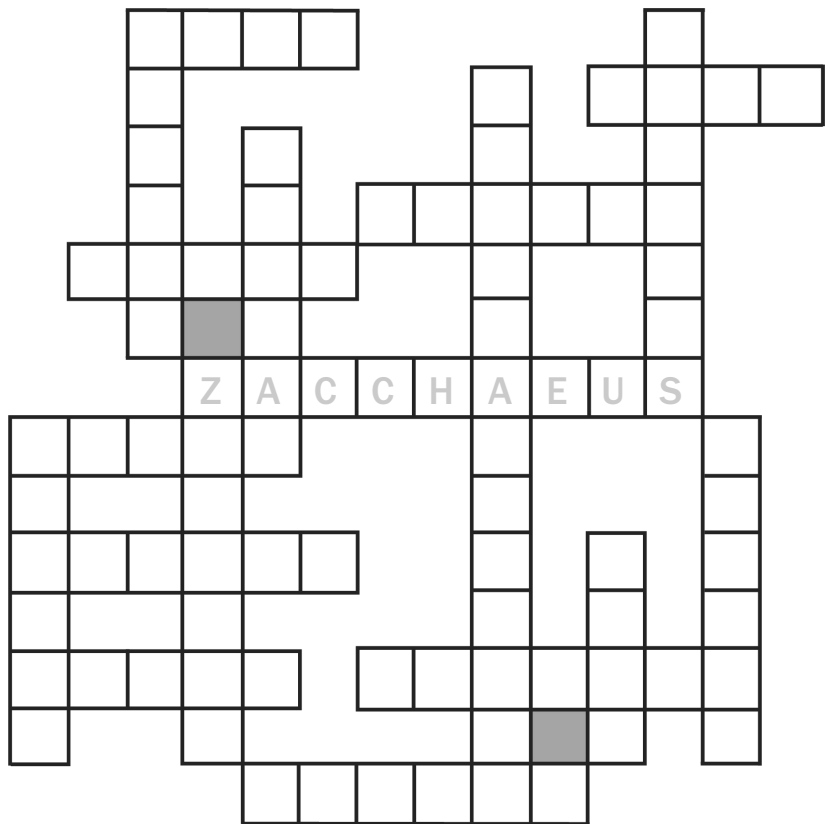
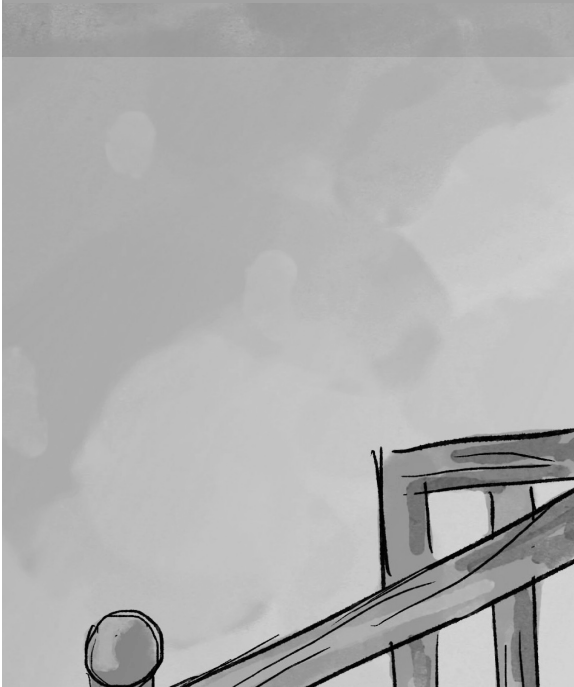
Maya was really interested now. "Do you think Jesus could solve my problem with Kylie?"

"If you have Jesus in your heart and pray, He will answer your prayer. It might not be in the way you expect, but He will answer! He cares about your unhappiness over Kylie and He has a way to work this out."

Maya stretched and got slowly to her feet. "I really am thankful I have a Friend like Jesus. I want to be sure that I am His friend and stick by His side. Thanks, Mom."

Lesson 47 Activity

DO YOU NEED A FRIEND?



Jesus is the best Friend you could ever have. The Bible tells of many who loved Jesus. Below are the names of eighteen of His friends. Fill in the blanks with their names.

John	James	Philip	Zebedee
Mary	Andrew	Simeon	Zacchaeus
Paul	Joanna	Thomas	Mary Magdalene
Peter	Joseph	Lazarus	
Simon	Martha	Stephen	

**GOD'S PLAN
FOR ME**



A VITAL DECISION

LESSON 48 → Ruth 1:6-18

Atticus had to decide whether his new acquaintances would help him or hurt him spiritually.

Want to go fishing with us tomorrow morning, Atticus?" Jackson asked as they started down the stairs. "A bunch of us guys are going to meet out at the creek on the old Anderson place. Why don't you bring your pole and join us?"

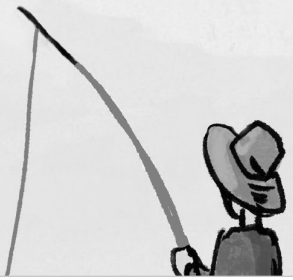
Atticus was a bit surprised. He really didn't know Jackson and the guys he ran around with that well. "I'm not sure," he said. "I had something else planned, but I'll see if I can make it."

Atticus had given his heart to the Lord last year after attending Sunday school for a few months with his neighbor, Austin. Atticus thought to himself, I told Austin I'd go to the Bible study with him in the morning, but this is a chance for me to get in with some popular kids at school. Besides, if I go fishing, I'll only miss this one Bible class. Hmmm, I think I'll give Austin a call.



I WANT MY FRIENDS TO LOVE JESUS.

My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not. — Proverbs 1:10



After hurrying into his house a little later, Atticus went straight to the phone. “Hi, Austin!” he began. “I don’t think I can make it to the Bible study in the morning . . . Oh, it’s just that I have the chance to meet some new people . . . You could come with us.”

“No thanks, Atticus,” Austin told him. “I’ve already planned to go to the Bible study.” When Atticus hung up the phone, he thought, I know it’s important to learn more about the Lord every chance I get. But isn’t it important for me to make some new friends too? Still he felt just a little uneasy about his decision.

The next morning, Atticus made it to the creek before the others. Soon Jackson and his friends joined him to try their luck at fishing. For a short time, things were peaceful as the boys cast their lines into the creek and watched for a nibble. But a few minutes of quiet sitting on the bank was enough. T.J. Phillips slipped up behind Jackson and grabbed his pole. Jackson snatched it back and in the scuffle that followed, T.J. almost landed in the creek.

“Hey, Jackson!” T.J. shouted. “Just for that, I dare you to get one of the chickens from that farm over there and bring it here! Betcha can’t do it!”

“Yeah! You’re just chicken if you don’t!” one of the other boys shouted.

Atticus didn’t want Jackson to do it. He shook his head no at Jackson.

The boys noticed. “Chickennnnnnnnnn!” they all cried.

“Let’s get out of here, Jackson,” Atticus said. But Jackson ignored him.

“Oh, I’ll show them I’m no chicken!” Jackson said, stomping across the bridge.

Now Atticus knew he shouldn’t be there. What would happen when the farmer found out a

chicken was gone? I’m getting out of here, he thought to himself.

The other boys never noticed Atticus leave. Everyone was busy watching Jackson.

Atticus ran home as fast as he could, and headed straight for the phone. He had to catch Austin before it was too late.

“Hello, Austin! You’ve not gone to the Bible study yet?” Atticus asked, breathlessly.

“Atticus, is that you?” Austin was puzzled. “No, we were just about ready to go out the door, though. Can you come?”

“Yeah, I guess I can make it after all,” replied Atticus.

Later, as they were riding home from Bible study, Atticus told Austin about what had happened that morning.

“. . . so, going with Jackson and his friends wasn’t as much fun as I thought it would be. I realized that if I’m going to be what God wants me to be, I’ll need the right kind of friends. Today it was obvious that Jackson’s kind aren’t the ones for me.”

“You made a good decision, Atticus. By coming to the Bible study, you can get acquainted with the kind of people who will help you instead of drag you down.”

Lesson 48 Activity

**CHOOSING MY
FRIENDS**

Use the number code to find the qualities of a good friend!

1—	A	7—	G	13—	M	19—	S	25—	Y
2—	B	8—	H	14—	N	20—	T	26—	Z
3—	C	9—	I	15—	O	21—	U		
4—	D	10—	J	16—	P	22—	V		
5—	E	11—	K	17—	Q	23—	W		
6—	F	12—	L	18—	R	24—	X		

8 15 14 5 19 20 ,

12 15 22 5 19 7 15 4 ,

6 1 9 20 8 6 21 12 ,

11 9 14 4 , 8 1 16 16 25 ,

16 18 1 25 19 , 12 15 22 5 19

What are the qualities you want your friends to have?
Do you have them too? Would you make a good friend?

**GOD'S PLAN
FOR ME**



STAYING FRIENDS

LESSON 49 → 1 Samuel 18:1-4; 19:1-7

Colton's conversation with Hunter helped them both learn something important about friendships.

Colton was fed up. He had been babysitting his younger brother while his mother went shopping, and the past two hours had really dragged by. All he could think about was riding his bike. Now that his mom was back, he could finally leave. He dashed to the phone. "Hi, Hunter! What are you doing? Let's go ride our bikes!"

"Ride bikes?" asked Hunter. "It's so hot! I'm going swimming."

"But Hunter, it's no fun to go riding alone!"

"I know, but all I've thought about for the last hour is going to the park for a swim," said Hunter.

"Well, all I could think about for the past two hours was riding on the new bike trail!"

"Sorry, but I want to practice my diving. Besides, you know how hot it is going to get today," said Hunter as he started to hang up.

"Okay," muttered Colton, as he put down the receiver.

"I guess I'll have to ride my bike alone," he said to himself. "That sure won't be as much fun. I really wish Hunter would come with me."

Colton didn't know it, but at that moment Hunter was having second thoughts. He was sitting on the floor by the phone when his mother came in.



I WANT TO BE A FRIEND TO OTHERS.

Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them. — Matthew 7:12



“Why are you inside on such a nice day? Why don’t you go outside and do something with Colton?” she asked.

“All Colton ever wants to do is ride his bike. And anyway, I want to go swimming right now.”

“Well, Hunter,” said his mother, “if you want to stay good friends with Colton, you can’t always have your own way. You have to take turns. You can’t do only what you want to do or no one will want to be your friend.”

Hunter considered that for a moment, then slowly got to his feet. “Yeah, I guess you’re right, Mom, I shouldn’t have been so stubborn about having my own way. Colton is my friend and I want to keep it that way!” He headed for the door, “I guess I’ll go tell Colton that I’ll go riding with Him.”

Hunter jumped on his bike and started down the street toward Colton’s house. To his surprise, riding toward him was Colton. “Hi, I want to talk to you!” they both called out at the same time.

“I guess we both must have the same thing on our minds. I wanted to tell you that I’m sorry I was so stubborn,” said Colton. “It wouldn’t have been much fun to go bike riding by myself.”

“I’m sorry too,” said Hunter. “It wouldn’t have been much fun to go swimming alone either.

Why don’t we ride on the bike trails now. Then, when it gets too hot for riding, we can go to the park and swim. What do you say?”

“Sounds good to me,” said Colton. “Let’s go!”

They rode off together. They had both learned that there is more to a friendship than just having a friend. It is being a friend too!

There is a story in the Bible about two good friends. Their names were Jonathan and David. Jonathan’s father, Saul, was the King of Israel. Jonathan grew up with wealth and power all around him. David was just a shepherd boy who lived a very simple life. Their backgrounds were so different you might wonder how they ever became friends. One day Saul called for David to come and play the harp for him. Through this, Jonathan and David became very good friends. The Bible says that the soul of Jonathan was “knit” with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved David as his own soul. He gave David his robe, his sword, and his bow. He loved David and would have done anything for him. David loved Jonathan too.

Many times their friendship was tested, but they always stayed friends. Even when trouble came and David’s life was threatened, they stuck together, like good friends do, and helped each other.

If you have a good friend, you talk to him every chance you get. You let him know that you like him a lot, and want him to stay your friend. The more you talk to someone, the better you get to know him. What happens if you stop talking to him and never call him? If you wait too long he might think you don’t like him anymore.

The best way to keep our friends is to treat them the way we would want them to treat us. We show our love and caring for them by being considerate and thoughtful of their wishes. We want them to be happy, and for things to go well for them.

It isn’t hard to treat people this way if we have Jesus in our hearts. When He comes in, He helps us to love everyone. And when you love someone, it isn’t hard to treat him well. That is what you want to do!

Jesus wants you to have friends. He wants you to be a friend. With Him as your best Friend, you can be the right kind of friend to others.

Lesson 49 Activity

AM I A GOOD FRIEND?

We all have our own thoughts about what friendship is, but is your definition a little tight-fitting when you try it on yourself? Maybe you should think about what kind of friend you are. What are your responses to the statements below?

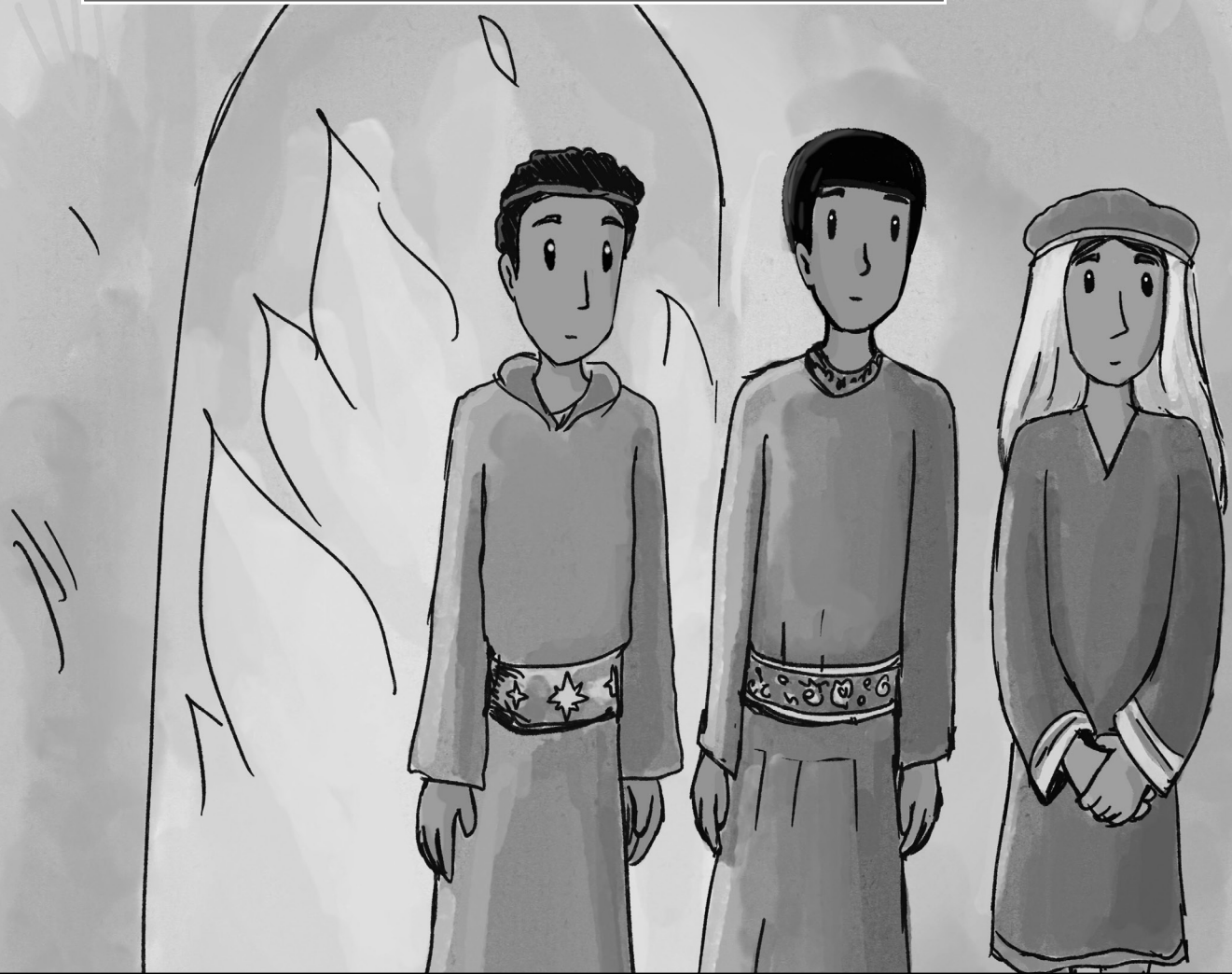
**Ten “YES” answers show that you are a good friend to have.
The “NO” answers show ways in which you might improve.**

1. I am willing for my friend to have other friends.
YES NO
2. I let my friend suggest what we do as often as I do.
YES NO
3. I praise my friend for doing well or receiving honors.
YES NO
4. I can take criticism and suggestions for improvement.
YES NO
5. I can take a joke on myself, and laugh too!
YES NO
6. I keep secrets told me by my friends.
YES NO
7. When I borrow things, I make sure I return them.
YES NO
8. When I know my friend's “sensitive spots,” I keep from “bumping” them.
YES NO
9. I understand my friend may like people, things, and activities that I don't.
YES NO
10. I lend things to my friends as often as I borrow things.
YES NO
11. I listen to my friend's problems as often as I tell mine.
YES NO
12. When I “fall out” with a friend, I am sometimes the first to offer to make up.
YES NO

**GOD'S PLAN
FOR ME**

A TRIAL BY FIRE

LESSON 50 → Daniel 3:1-18



The three Hebrew boys proved they could trust God even in scary situations.

About 2,500 years ago a king named Nebuchadnezzar lived in a place called Babylon. He was a very proud king, and we are told that he was quick to make decisions. His decisions were not always wise, but once he had said he

was going to do something, he went ahead and did it whether it was wise or not.

One day Nebuchadnezzar decided to build a golden image. It was like a statue, but it was really an idol. The image was very tall (about as tall as a



WITH JESUS, I DON'T NEED TO FOLLOW THE CROWD.

Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil. — Exodus 23:2

nine-story building) and very narrow (about nine feet wide). Nebuchadnezzar put it in a place where it could be seen for miles around. He called for a special group of musicians to play. He told the people that when they heard the music start, they had to bow down and worship the image.

Three of the rulers in Babylon—Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—were Jews and knew that there was only one real God. They knew that Nebuchadnezzar's man-made image couldn't do anything for anyone. They also knew that if they obeyed the king and worshiped that image they would be displeasing God. So they would not bow down.

The day the image was dedicated, the king had an announcer tell the people that they should bow down as soon as they heard the music. If they didn't bow down, they would be thrown into a burning fiery furnace.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego listened as the musicians started playing. They saw all of the people fall down and worship the golden statue. But they did not bow down, not even a little bit.

It might have been very easy for them to pretend to bow, and then to say, "We didn't really worship the statue. We know that the Lord is the only true

and living God. We simply don't want to cause any trouble." But they just stood there, not bowing at all.

Right away a group of men went to the king. "King Nebuchadnezzar," they said, "there are three men in this government who aren't obeying your orders. They heard the music play and they didn't bow down to your statue."

Nebuchadnezzar became very angry. "Bring those men here right away," he stormed. When Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came before him he questioned them carefully. "Didn't you bow down to my image? If you'll obey my orders the next time you hear the music play, I won't punish you. But if you continue to disobey me, you'll be thrown into a burning fiery furnace!"

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego didn't even ask for time to think it over. "We won't worship your god or your golden image. If you throw us into the burning furnace, our God can bring us out unhurt. But even if He doesn't choose to rescue us, we will not worship your golden image." And they didn't!

Sometimes when we read stories about things that happened a long time ago we wonder what they have to do with us. If this were a fairy tale about three men who dis-

obeyed a king, it wouldn't matter to us at all. But we know that everything we read in the Bible is true and has a special meaning. We can learn from it if we will.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did what they knew was right, even though all those around them were doing something different. That was not easy, but they did it. They were thrown into the furnace, but they were not alone, because God had sent His Son to be with them. God honored them for doing what was right.

You may be asked to do things that you know are not right. Friends may pressure you to skip school, tell a lie, or cheat on a test. You may be tempted to take drugs or to listen to music which has words that honor the devil. It may seem that everyone around you is doing those things! But it's important to say no to temptations, just as it was for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to resist the pressure to worship the golden image. God is the same as He was in Bible times. If we trust Him, as Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did, He will help us just as He helped them.

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Don't give in to anyone who tries to get you to do something you know is wrong. Do the things that will help you grow for Jesus. Read each story below and mark an X by the lines which you feel would be a good way to end the story.

Your classmates tease a boy for being overweight and having freckles. He moves and sits next to you. You . . .

- ☐ talk to him about today's lesson.
- ☐ refuse to say "Hi" to him.
- ☐ invite him to your house.
- ☐ pretend you didn't notice.
- ☐ roll your eyes at your classmates.

Three boys in your math class ask you to cut class with them. You . . .

- ☐ tell the teacher what they said.
- ☐ let them know they're creeps.
- ☐ say you don't want to get behind on your math lesson.
- ☐ go with them just this once.
- ☐ pretend you didn't hear them.

Your friends invite you to the beach Saturday. But you had promised to mow the lawn for old Mrs. Jones. You . . .

- ☐ conveniently "forget" the lawn job.
- ☐ call her up and say you have a cold.
- ☐ pay your little brother to do it.
- ☐ call her and ask if you could do it Monday.

The kids in your afternoon science class pass some test answers around during an exam. You . . .

- ☐ pass it on without looking.
- ☐ hand it back to the person who gave it to you and say "I can't cheat."
- ☐ take it straight to the teacher.
- ☐ tear it up and stomp on it.

The firemen realized people were counting on them to be ready.



Clang! Clang! Clang! the fire bell rang! It was 1:42 a.m.! Jeff rubbed his eyes as he rolled from his bunk in the firehouse. He knew that every minute counted when that alarm sounded. The firemen began their race with the clock. But . . . something was wrong.

“Where are my boots?” yelled one of the men.

“Your boots? Where are my boots? I’m sure they were at the foot of my bed. Now they’re gone.”

Time was flying. Someone’s life might be in danger right now,

but these firemen were still looking for their boots!

Suddenly someone shouted, “Hey, you guys, your boots are down here in the garage by the rigs. Now let’s get going.”

The men slid down the fire pole and grabbed their boots.

“Oh, no,” shouted one of the drivers. “The pump truck’s hoses are all over the garage. Didn’t anyone check the trucks since our last run? What are we going to do?”

“Someone call the other station and ask for help,” Jeff yelled.

ON THE ALERT

LESSON 51 → Matthew 25:1-13



JESUS IS COMING AND I'LL BE READY!

He that endureth to the end shall be saved.—Matthew 10:22

“I already did and it’s no use. They’re out on another call. This is an emergency—people are counting on us for help and we aren’t ready!”

Aren’t you glad this is just a make-believe situation? This wouldn’t really happen, because firemen always make sure they are ready for any emergency. They have to be prepared at all times—day and night. It’s too late to get ready after the call comes.

Being ready on time is very important. In the Bible we can read a parable that Jesus told about being ready when He comes again.

He said there were ten virgins who wanted to meet the bridegroom. They had known there was going to be a wedding, so all of them had started to make preparations. They all had lamps that were burning, but there was one big difference among them. Five had made sure that not only were their lamps burning, but they also had extra oil in their vessels. They wanted to make sure their lamps never stopped burning. The other five had neglected to provide enough oil, and soon their lamps had gone out.

After a time, the call came, “Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.” The five virgins who had an extra measure of oil were ready and went in to the marriage. But Jesus’ story had a sad ending for the other five virgins. The Bible says that while they went to buy more oil for their lamps, “the door was shut.” When they returned and asked to be let in, the Lord said, “I know you not.”

There is a warning here for everyone. The ten virgins represent people who have given their hearts to Jesus. The division comes when a person is not careful in his Christian walk. The oil, which the foolish virgins did not value, represents the Spirit of God. It is so necessary to the Christian’s walk with Christ. It is the possession of this oil which made the wise virgins

ready. When Jesus comes it will be “like a thief in the night.” It will happen as quickly as lightning flashes from the east to the west. There will be no time then to get ready.

If you have given your heart to Jesus, you have received from Him a most valuable possession—salvation. As with anything of value, you must guard it carefully. Do all you can to follow Jesus. Your prayers keep you in touch with God. Through prayer you can be filled with holiness and the wonderful Spirit of the Holy Ghost. This communion with God will keep your faith alive. A love of the truth will remain in your heart, and there will be excitement inside of you as you watch for Jesus’ soon return.

As the fireman must always be prepared, so must the Christian be ready. Through Jesus’ parable we learned that only the five virgins who were prepared—had extra oil in their vessels—went in to the marriage. Just so, only those who have valued their salvation and have made all the necessary preparations, will be ready for the coming of Jesus. Those who are not ready when Jesus comes again will be left behind. That could be any day now! Are you prepared?

**READY
OR NOT?**



You can't always tell just by looking at people if they are ready for Heaven. The two figures appear similar but one is ready and the other is not. Below each figure, list five things that show why one may be ready and the other not ready.

READY FOR HEAVEN

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

NOT READY FOR HEAVEN

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

**GOD'S PLAN
FOR ME**

QUARTER REVIEW

LESSON 52 → Review Quarter Texts



The view from an airplane flying thousands of feet up in the sky can be breathtaking. God's earth is a magnificent creation. On clear days, as you fly over tall mountain ranges, the snow seems to sparkle. Perhaps you will see miniature farms with patchwork layouts that appear to go on and on. Their colors are brilliant. As the plane gets closer to its destination, other things become distinguishable, yet they still look to be so small: miniature houses, and pocket-sized cars driving along little treelined streets. There are even tiny people going here and there.

From our point of view, these people are far away, insignificant in God's eyes. He has a plan for every single one of those people, just as He has a plan for you.

This quarter we have been studying about God's plan for our lives. From the beginning of our Christian walk, until Jesus comes again, God wants to fill our lives with His love. As we pray, grow in His grace, and witness to others, He wants us to remember we are important to Him. Review the lessons by doing these activities.

The Results

Praying, choosing the right friends, serving Jesus—they're all a part of God's plan for us. The words listed below are from the lessons studied this quarter. Can you find them in the word-find?

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

SIN
PEER
PLAN
JESUS
FRIEND
PRAYER
ANSWERS
BAPTISM
GROWING
OBEYING
RESULTS
SERVICE
WINNING
PRESSURE
SALVATION
CONSECRATE
FORGIVENESS
SANCTIFICATION

During this quarter we have studied some of the aspects of God's plan for our lives. How well do you remember what you have learned? Check yourself out by doing the following activity. Read each statement then circle the T if it is true or F if it is false.

- Peter taught us how to pray the Lord's Prayer. T F
- If you are persistent your prayer will be answered. T F
- God calls only a few people to serve Him. T F
- We must be faithful to just a few of the things God gives us to do. T F
- Telling other people about Christ is very important. T F
- Jesus is the best Friend you could ever have. T F
- Choose friends who will help you to serve Jesus. T F
- To keep friends, you must do anything they ask you to do. T F

A Good Rule

Use the code below to find God's answer on how to treat others.

A E I O U B C D F G H J
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

K L M N P Q R S T V W Y
13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24

21 11 2 19 2 9 4 19 2 1 14 14

21 11 3 16 10 20 23 11 1 21 20 4 2 22 2 19

24 2 23 4 5 14 8 21 11 1 21

15 2 16 20 11 4 5 14 8 8 4

21 4 24 4 5 8 4 24 2

2 22 2 16 20 4 24 2 21 11 2 15

15 1 21 21 11 2 23 7:12

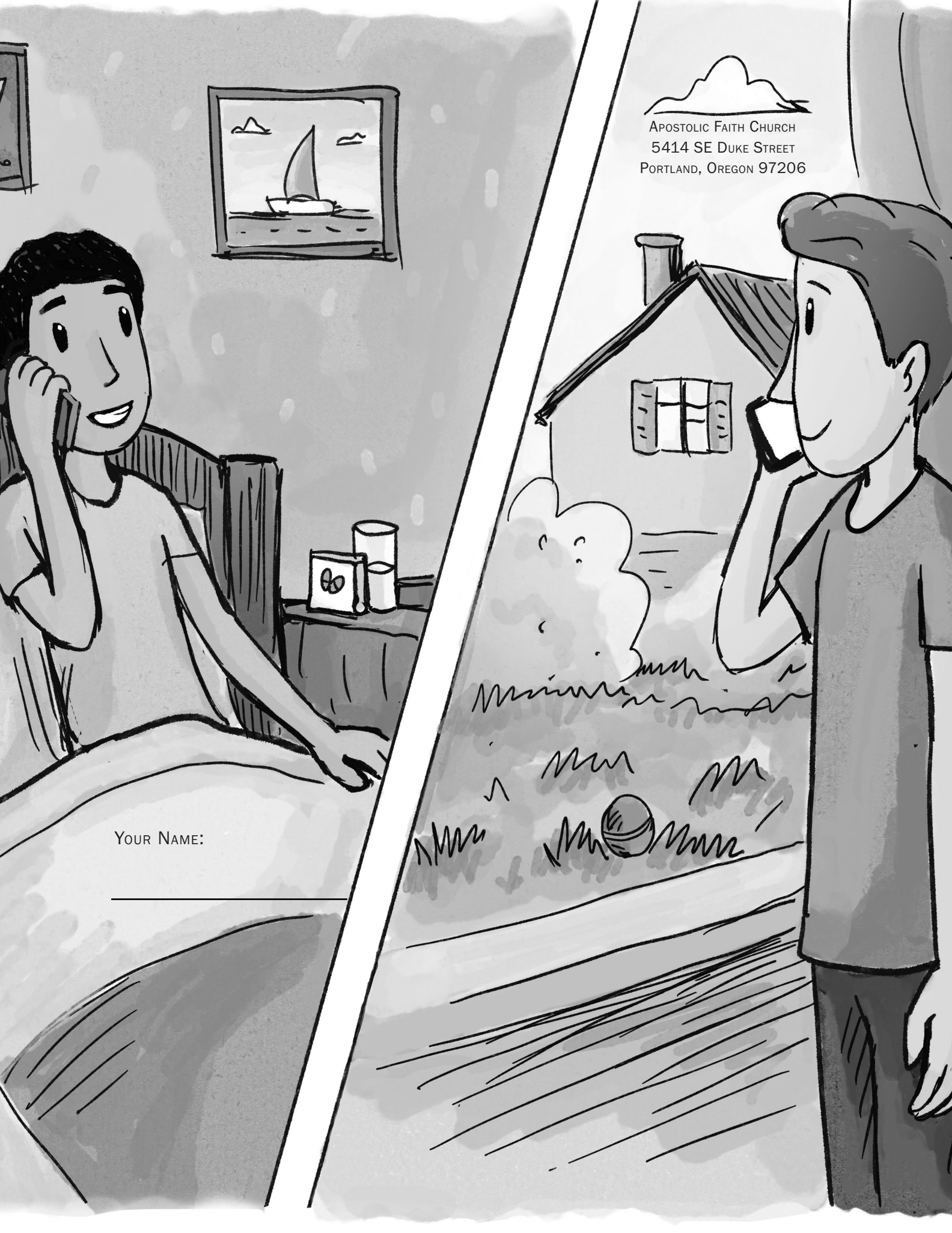
Complete the names of the friends by filling in the empty spaces with the missing vowels.

- David was his best friend.
J _ N _ TH _ N
- His brother's name was Peter.
_ NDR _ W
- She followed her mother-in-law to Bethlehem.
R _ TH
- His two friends were Shadrach and Abednego.
M _ SH _ CH
- He asked, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"
N _ TH _ N _ _ L

CHRISTIAN ARITHMETIC



Join us for a course in Christian arithmetic next quarter!



APOSTOLIC FAITH CHURCH
5414 SE DUKE STREET
PORTLAND, OREGON 97206

YOUR NAME: _____