

LESSONS 53-65

CHRISTIAN MATURITY

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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CHRISTIAN MATURITY

The Apostle Peter, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, has given us a formula. We read: “And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.” It is promised that “if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 1:5-8). With a promise such as this, we would do well to dig deep into the full meanings of these qualities. We, as Christians, must add them to our spiritual character so we can fulfill Christ’s charge to us to bring forth fruit.

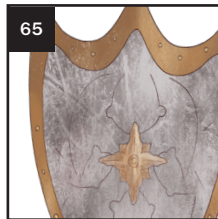
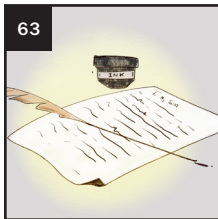
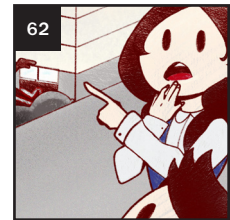
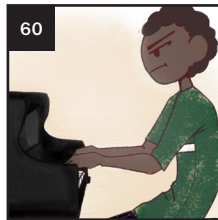
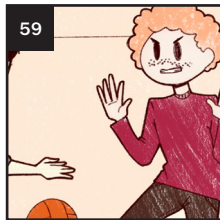
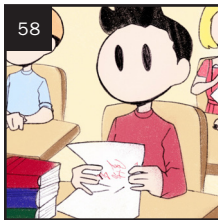
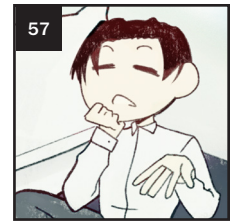
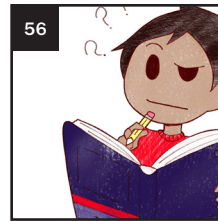
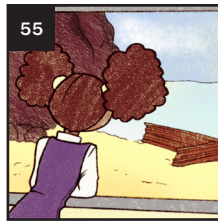
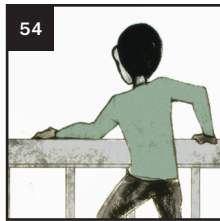
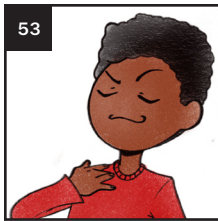
It is possible that Peter presented these attributes in an intended progression. Taking these attributes as a basis for our quarter, we have included several others which are important to the development of Christian character.

As you study each of these lessons, be aware of how these attributes overlap and build on each other.

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THE Answer

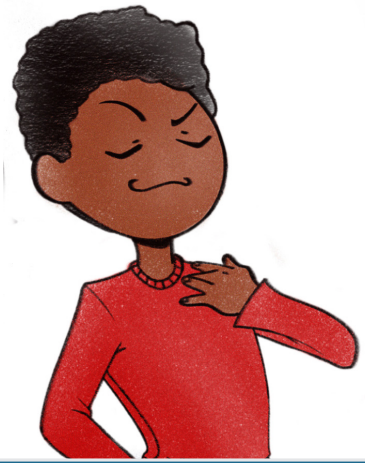
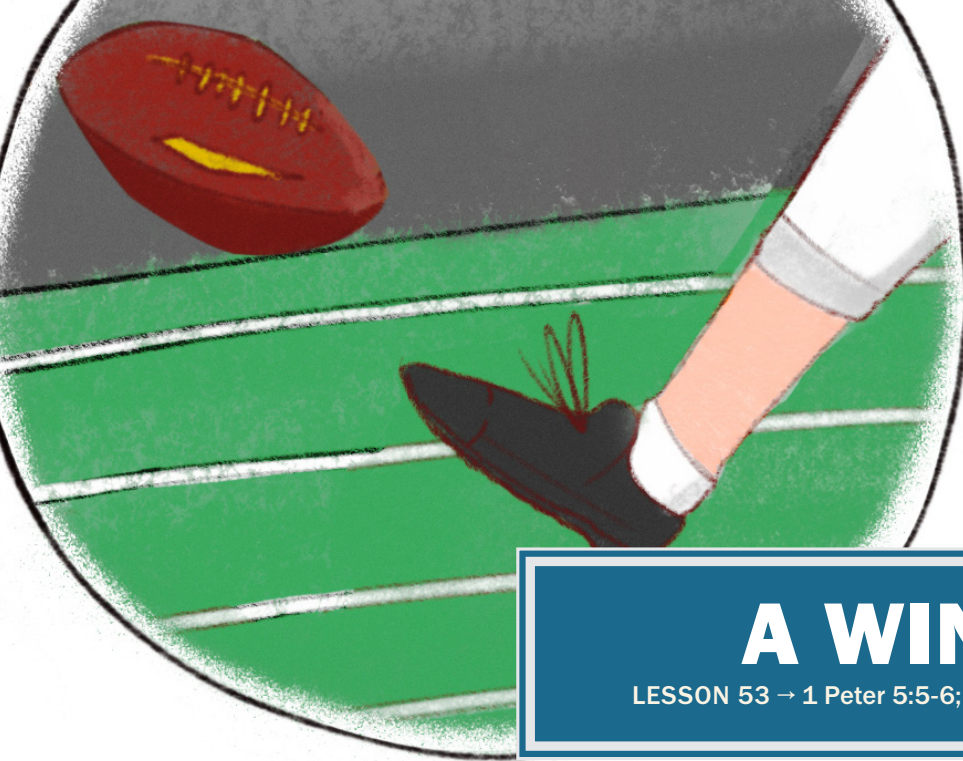
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A WINNER!

LESSON 53 → 1 Peter 5:5-6; Luke 14:7-11; Proverbs 29:23

How far would Tylonn's confidence in his own abilities take him?

Tylonn Wood had one fault. He thought he was a little better than anyone else. His skill in sports made him a natural leader, but he was always bragging about what he could do. Tylonn knew from Sunday school that the Bible says in James 4:6, "God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble." But he always did so well it was hard for him not to feel like he was a little better than the rest.

One day some of his friends got together and talked this over. "Tylonn thinks he's so good," said Brayden. "I think it's time we taught him a few things. What do you say?"

"Yeah!" they all shouted.

"He needs a good dunk in the river," cried TJ.

"Aw, c'mon you guys, get serious," Brayden interrupted. "I've got a better idea! Why don't we try to beat him in the Big Mac football contest? I'm going to start working every night on my punting. TJ, you've got a good arm—you can pass a mile. Why don't we all do some extra practicing. Wesley, you get busy on your place kicks. I'm sure you could win. Last time you kicked only three yards less than he did. That will show him he isn't so great. What do you think?"

"Sounds good to me," said TJ. The others agreed.

During the days that followed the boys spent as much time as they could, practicing on their own events. Finally the day of the Big Mac contest arrived. All the boys were excited. They knew that each winner got

a Big Mac trophy, plus a free hamburger and milkshake.

Early that morning, Tylonn called Brayden and told him he would stop by about 9:00. "The contest starts at 10:00," he said, "and we don't want to be late!"

"Okay, I'll see you at 9:00." After Tylonn hung up the phone, he ran to his room and started to look for his cleats and his kicking tee.

These contests are going to be easy, he thought. I don't think I even need to bother warming up. His mind traveled over the events that were to take place that day. He imagined himself passing and kicking the ball farther than everyone else. He visualized himself on the winner's platform. How proud he was going to be!



JESUS, HELP ME TO WALK HUMBLY.

Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.
— James 4:10

He slid down the bannister and ran through the kitchen. Grabbing a banana, he called to his mom, “Don’t need a lunch today. I’ll probably have two or three hamburgers after the contest. See ye later.” As the boys got to the park they split up to enter their names for the different events. Soon they were all back together again. “Did you sign up yet, Tylonn?” asked Brayden.

“Yeah, I’m gonna try for all three.”

“Good luck!” said Brayden, as he winked at the others. Just then they heard the whistle. “Time for the place-kicking event to begin!” the voice blared over the loudspeaker. “Tylonn Wood will kick first.” There sure are a lot of guys here today, Tylonn thought to himself, as he moved out to the thirty-yard line to place the ball carefully on the kicking tee. But that doesn’t bother me, I’m sure I won’t have any trouble winning.

Tylonn had not counted on what happened next.

As he was approaching the ball to make his first place-kick attempt he missed seeing a narrow but deep hole in the turf. His foot caught, twisting his ankle, and down he went. Pain shot through his ankle. “Oh, my ankle!” cried Tylonn. “I think I sprained my ankle. Maybe I broke it.” Quickly,



some of the officials came and carried him to a bench on the sidelines where they examined his ankle. “Someone call his folks,” said one of the men. “I’ll stay here with Tylonn. Tell the next contestant to go ahead and kick.”

Tylonn was sick. His ankle hurt terribly, and was starting to swell already. Now he wasn’t going to be able to compete at all! Why did this have to happen now?

Before long, Tylonn’s folks came and got him. Later that day, Brayden, TJ, and Wesley stopped by Tylonn’s house to see how he was. “How’s your ankle? Did you break it?” asked TJ.

“No,” said Tylonn, “it’s just a bad sprain. How were the contests?”

“Well,” Brayden began, “TJ got first place in the passing event and Wesley won in the place-kicking.”

“You’re kidding!” said Tylonn. “How far did you kick?”

“Forty-two yards,” said Wesley, “eight more than anyone else. Isn’t that even more than you’ve ever done, Tylonn?”

“Boy, I’ll say,” said Tylonn. “Well, how about you Brayden? Did you win the punting contest?”

“No, but I came in second.”

“Wow, that’s really good, you guys. Know what? Since I’ve been lying here today, I’ve been doing some thinking. I believe God let this happen to teach me a lesson. Maybe I’m not as good as I’d like to think. God has been showing me that He hasn’t been very happy with all the pride I’ve had.”

“You know something Tylonn, we were going to teach you a lesson today. We’ve been practicing the last few Saturdays so we could beat you. Maybe God wasn’t happy with our attitude either! I think this has taught us all a lesson,” said Brayden.

“Well, I’m going to ask the Lord to help me be better from now on,” said Tylonn. “You guys let me know if my head starts getting too big for my hat.”

“Okay Tylonn, we sure will. Maybe we can all help each other.”

“Thanks,” said Tylonn. “I’m sure glad you guys came over.”

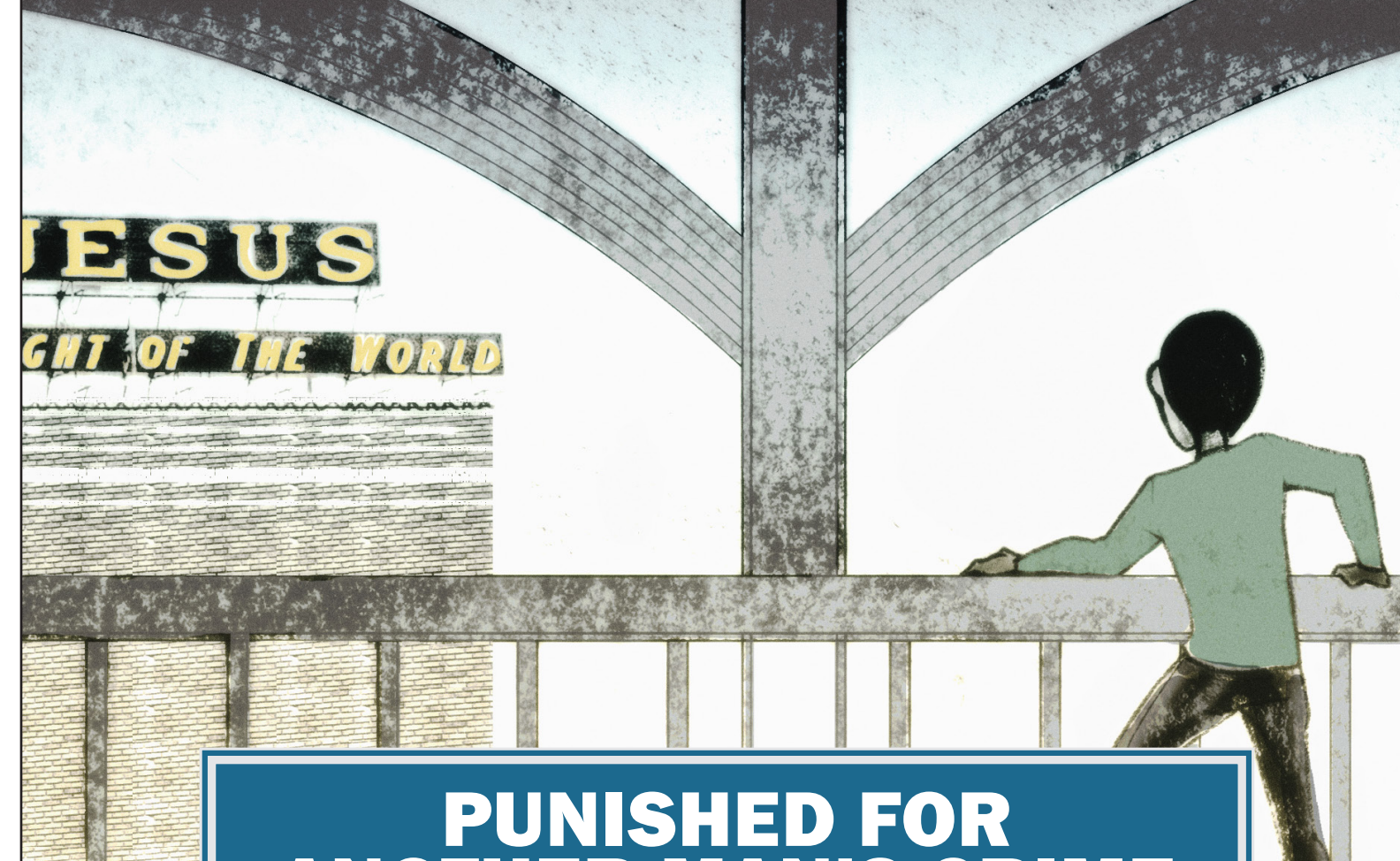
Lesson 53 Activity

**MESSAGE
GO—ROUND**

The eight missing words in this message are hidden in the wheel's spokes. To find the words, begin with the letter "R" on the right of the word "BEGIN" on the frame. Write every other letter on the lines provided above the wheel. You will need to go around the wheel twice. When you have found all the words, place them in the correct spaces in the verse below. If you need help, read Micah 6:8.



And what doth the _____ of _____,
but to do _____ and to _____, and to walk _____ with thy _____?



PUNISHED FOR ANOTHER MAN'S CRIME

LESSON 54 → Genesis 45:1-15; Matthew 6:14-15

With God's help, he was able to feel true forgiveness.

I *magine yourself with a ball and chain attached to your leg, your back sore and aching from thirty lashes of a whip, and knowing you will be spending year after year in a cold, dark dungeon. Such terrible punishment, and you hadn't even committed the crime!*

Could you forgive the person responsible for getting you into that place?

A sixteen-year-old boy heard the words, "Twenty-five years at hard labor." He had arrived in Tacoma, Washington, just as a murder had been committed. He had been accused and convicted even though someone else had done the crime.

For the next eighteen years he was treated as a criminal. One time, because he talked in line, he was placed in a dungeon twenty feet underground, his hands tied to the prison door. The third day as he was hanging there, chained by the wrists, he cried out in desperation to God. God heard him! That very night he was moved from the dungeon to work in the prison hospital. He worked there for the next three years, and then he was discharged. But by that time his mind and body were nearly wrecked and he had no home or friends.

When he was released he was given a ticket to Portland, Oregon. After four days of searching for work with no food or place to sleep, despair overtook him. What could he do? Where could he



HELP ME TO BE FORGIVING.

Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. — Ephesians 4:32

turn? There seemed to be no answer. He started for the Burnside Bridge to throw himself into the river. Just as he was climbing over the railing the bridge keeper saw him, and pulling him down, said, "You can't do that!" As the ex-convict stumbled across the bridge, he looked up and saw the sign "JESUS, the Light of the World" above the Apostolic Faith Mission. Something made him turn in there, and he found himself in a church meeting. By the time he sat through the service, he wanted to pray! But he was too weak from lack of food to make it to the altar. Someone helped him and there he cried out to God for forgiveness. Peace flooded his troubled heart.

In the months that followed he went to the meetings at the mission and often told what God had done for him. One night while he was telling his story, a man in the audience got up and ran down the stairs and out of the building. Later someone told the ex-convict, "That man knows something about you!" Investigating, he later located the man in the county hospital in San Francisco, California, dying of tuberculosis.

After getting acquainted, one night the sick man asked the ex-convict to read the story of the Prodigal Son to him. Then he asked an unusual question, "Can you forgive me for the wrong I have done you?"

Startled, the ex-convict replied, "You have done me no wrong!"

The next words he heard seemed almost unbelievable. "Yes, I have. I am the man who committed the crime you were sent to prison for!"

The thoughts of the ex-convict flew back to those long years in prison—the steel bands around his leg, the dank walls, the handcuffs, the hard work day after day. His life had been ruined! How could he ever truly forgive? He couldn't answer the man.

Leaving the sick man, he went into a little room alone and locked the door. Kneeling down on the concrete floor, he prayed. For nearly three hours he forgot everything else as he pled with God to give him a real spirit of forgiveness.

At last a Voice said, "Forgive him for My sake."

He went back and took the dying man in his arms. "I forgive you," he said, "but you will have to ask God's forgiveness too." The man prayed, and God had mercy and saved him. Three days later he died in the arms of the man who had suffered for his crime.

* * * * *

There is a story in the Bible which gives another example of forgiveness—that of Joseph, a young man sold into slavery by his own brothers. How would you react to that? Joseph was able to look beyond the wrong done him and forgive his brothers.

Without a doubt, though, the greatest example we have of forgiveness was when Jesus spoke from the Cross, saying, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." He showed us in His death the true meaning of forgiveness. He tells us in Matthew 6:14, "If ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you."

A snub, an insult, a malicious rumor, an unprovoked assault . . . you will probably experience one of these at some point in your life. How will you respond? It is not easy to forgive someone who has done something against you. But your own forgiveness by God depends on it!

Lesson 54 Activity

WHY FORGIVE?

Read Genesis 45:1-15. Using the Bible story and the clues listed below, fill in the numbers one through seven in the

crossword. Then use the word in the shaded area to complete the sentence to the right of the clues.

Jacob was Joseph's
_____.
(verses 25-26)

"... for God did send
me before you to
_____ life."
(verse 5)

Joseph fell on this
brother's neck and
wept. (verse 14)

_____ gave us the greatest example
of true forgiveness. He sacrificed
His life for our sins.

_____ forgave his brothers'
wrongdoings.

_____ is the land where
Joseph asked his
father and family to
live. (verse 10)

"And God sent me
before you to
preserve you
a posterity in the
earth, and to save
your lives by a great
_____." (verse 7)

For if ye

men their trespasses,

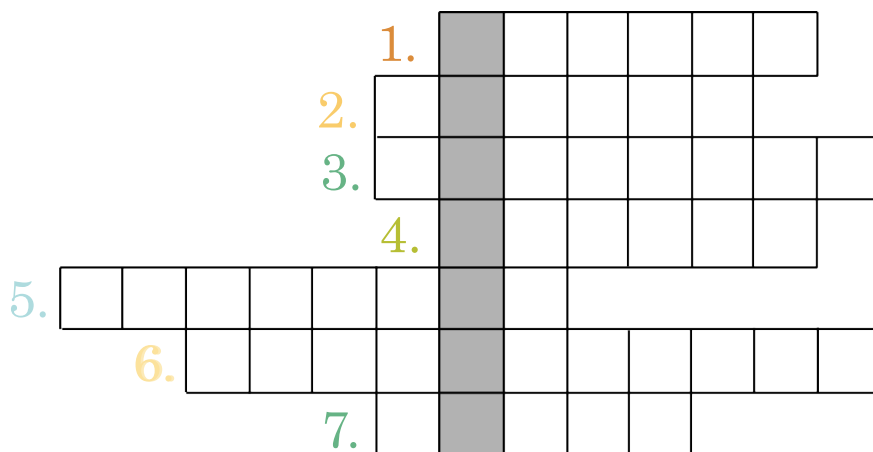
your heavenly Father

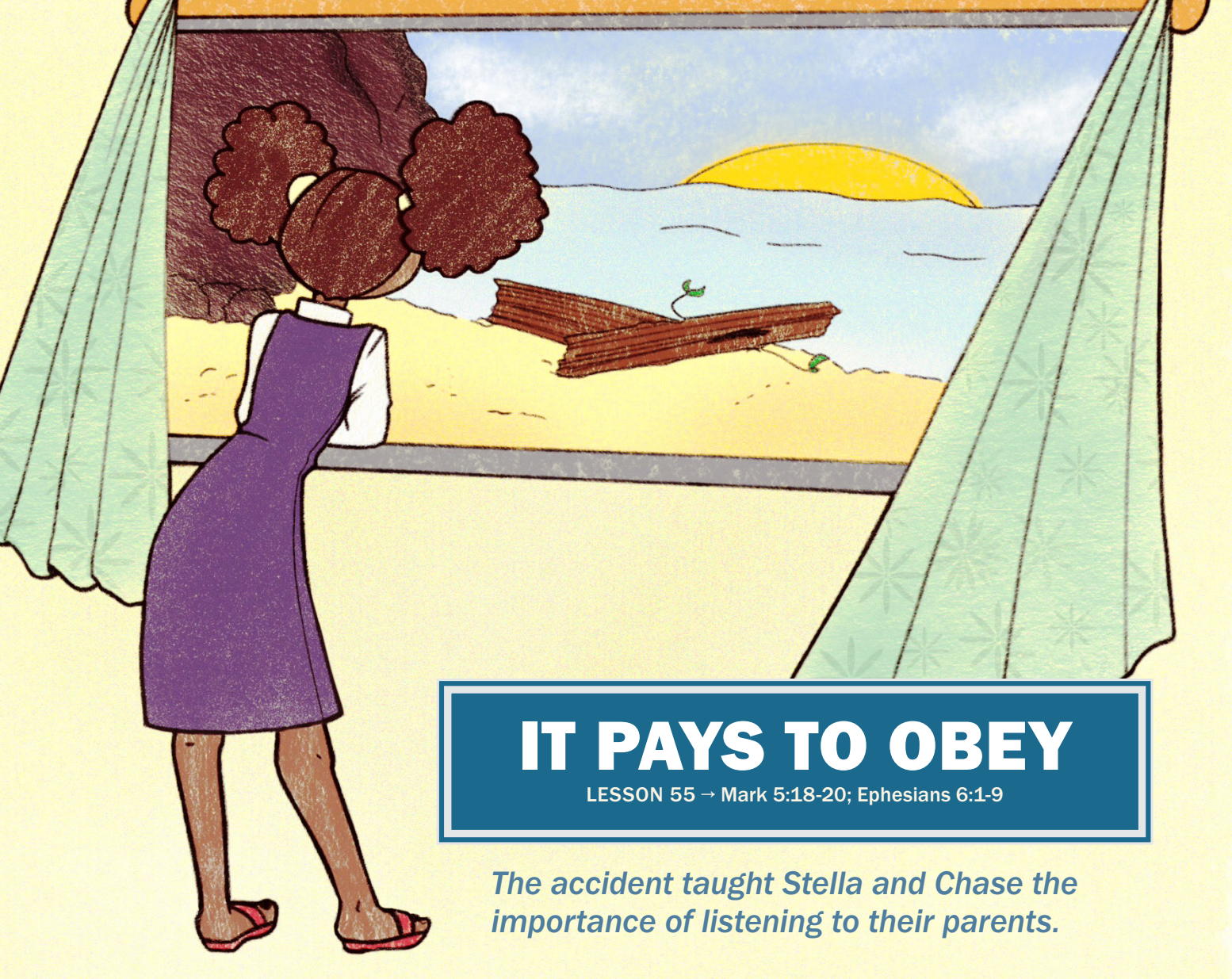
will also

you.

~ Matthew 6:14

*Then Joseph
could not refrain
himself before
all them that
stood by him;
and he cried,
Cause every
man to go out
from me. And
there stood no
man with him,
while Joseph
made himself
known unto his
brethren.*





IT PAYS TO OBEY

LESSON 55 → Mark 5:18-20; Ephesians 6:1-9

The accident taught Stella and Chase the importance of listening to their parents.

Stella looked out the window with only one thought on her mind. Those logs. They were just a bunch of old snags, tossed up on the beach. Twisted roots poked up in all directions. The logs looked like a perfect jungle gym. Why had Mom told her that she couldn't climb on them?

Ever since Stella, her younger brother Chase, and their

parents had arrived at the little resort by the lake, Stella had been eyeing that huge stack of wood. But they had hardly been settled in the cabin where they would be staying when her mom had told her she was not to climb there.

She turned away from the window. What could be so wrong in climbing on a bunch of old logs? She'd hang on tight and be careful. A thought flickered

through her mind, and she mulled it over. Then she told her folks she was going for a walk.

"Chase, I've got an idea!" she whispered in his ear. "C'mon outside and I'll tell you!"

A short time later the two of them ran along the sand until they came to the pile of logs. Climbing them was just as much fun as she thought



IT REALLY PAYS TO OBEY.

Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people.
—Jeremiah 7:23

it would be. In just a few minutes Stella gave Chase a final boost, and the two of them stood teetering high atop the logs. It was so quiet and peaceful, and what a view! Why, Mother should just try coming up here herself and see how easy it is, and how much fun. What could possibly be wrong with climbing up here?

Stella sat there enjoying her “victory” of reaching the top, and half wishing someone could see her now. “Well,” she said at last, “I suppose we’d better start down before someone misses us.”

Then it happened! Stella slipped, and a moment later she was lying in the middle of all those old snags, with blood spurting out of a nasty gash on her leg. She began to cry. “Chase, go get Mom and Dad,” she sobbed. It wasn’t long until her parents were slowly carrying her back to the cabin. The wound was too deep for them to bandage properly, so out to the car and down to the mountain lodge for some first aid they went. “It’ll be a long time before that will heal up,” the attendant in the first-aid office warned, “and it will probably leave a scar. In the meantime, you’re going to have to stay off your leg for several days to give it time to heal.”

The next morning after breakfast, Stella’s dad turned to Ephesians 6:1 in his Bible, “Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right,” he read. “What does it mean to obey? Well, you might not always get to do things just the way you want to. But it’s important to follow the instructions of those in authority. Lots of times it is hard to do what you are told, isn’t it?” her dad asked. Stella looked down and gave a short nod.

“That’s not unusual,” her dad told her. “It’s part of human nature. From the day in the Garden of Eden when Eve disobeyed God, that has been true. Something inside rises up and wants to have its own way, but God can take that out of a person’s heart.

“Look at some examples in the Bible where people obeyed and were blessed. Remember Naaman? When he obeyed and dipped in the muddy Jordan River seven times, he was healed. Abraham was blessed to be the father of a nation. He purposed to obey God even if it meant his son’s life. Moses obeyed and, through him, God worked many miracles.

“In the New Testament, do you remember the man who was healed of the evil spirits that possessed him? Afterward he wanted to follow Jesus wherever He went. However, Jesus told him to stay at home and tell his friends the great things the Lord had done for him, and he obeyed!

“You see, it’s not just children who must learn to obey. Even as adults it is necessary. We obey God by following all the instructions He gives us in the Bible, and by doing anything He reveals to us or leads us to do. We obey our ministers and follow the guidelines of our church because God has provided the ministry to watch for our souls. We also obey and follow the rules of our country.

“As your dad, I need to help you learn to be obedient. Each day when I wake up I ask God to guide me through the day and show me what things He wants me to do. I pray for you too, Stella and Chase, that God will guide you. I want to be a faithful father to you, and to lead and instruct you in the right way. It is God’s plan that children obey their parents and their parents obey God. Think of the obedience God required of His own Son—Jesus let Himself to be nailed to the Cross to die.

Tears trickled down Stella’s face. “Mom and Dad, forgive me,” she said. Then, as she bowed her head and poured her heart out to God, God’s peace and forgiveness flooded her heart and her tears turned to rejoicing. She knew that from now on God would help her obey her parents.

Lesson 55 Activity

FIND THE PROMISES

The Bible tells of the wonderful promises God has made to those who obey Him. To find out what some of these promises are, check the code and fill in the letters above each number.

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

10	15	25																							

12	9	22	5																						

5	1	20																							

19	9	20																							

5	20	5	18	14	1	12																			

3	18	15	23	14																					

16	5	1	3	5																					



*Dad's story
helped
Dakota
understand
what
faith is.*

GETTING INTO THE WHEELBARROW

LESSON 56 → Mark 2:1-12; Hebrews 11:6

Dakota read the key verse for his Sunday school lesson the third time, and shook his head. This verse was really difficult to understand. He glanced up at his father who was sitting in an armchair across the room. “Dad, what is faith?” Dakota’s father put down his newspaper and looked up as Dakota continued, “My key verse is, ‘Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.’ It doesn’t make sense to me.”

“Well, Dakota, faith is believing in something so much that you don’t have any doubts about it. For example, when you were younger and would break one of your toys, you always brought it to me and said, ‘Fix it, Dad!’ You had faith that I could fix anything!”

“Sure, Dad, and you always did it!”

Dad chuckled, “Well . . . not every time, Dakota. But faith in God always works. It’s very important to our Christian lives that we have faith in the power of God. Paul, in writing to the Ephesians, said, ‘For by grace are ye saved through faith.’ So without faith we cannot be saved.



FAITH COMES FROM GOD.

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. —Hebrews 11:1

“The story is told of a stunt performer who attracted large crowds as he walked a tightrope stretched over the brink of Niagara Falls. The audience cheered him enthusiastically as he did remarkable feats on the taut wire.

“One day he called to the spectators, ‘Do you believe I am able to walk across this tightrope pushing a wheelbarrow?’ The crowd roared, ‘Yes, we believe you can!’ ‘Do you believe I could push the wheelbarrow across the falls with a man in it?’ he continued. ‘Yes,’ rang out the cry again. ‘Then,’ he asked, ‘who is willing to get into the wheelbarrow?’ Suddenly a breathless hush fell over those standing on the bank—not one person in that ‘believing’ crowd volunteered. Their faith went only so far. They believed the man could do the feat, but they couldn’t believe to the extent they would climb into that wheelbarrow.

“You see, Dakota, faith in God is more than a mere mental assent to the fact of His existence. It is putting your life into God’s hands and letting Him take control. It is asking God to guide you over the tightropes of life. Faith is getting into the wheelbarrow.”

“Oh, that really makes it important! So how do we get faith, Dad?”

“Faith comes by learning more about what God has done. Let me tell you a story from the Bible, Dakota. One day while Jesus was in a town called Capernaum, many people came to the house where He was staying. They crowded in until there was no room left. As Jesus was preaching to them, four men carrying a man sick with the palsy approached the house. They couldn’t get near Jesus because of the crowd, so they climbed onto the roof. After removing the roof tiles, the men tied ropes to the sick man’s bed and lowered him into the room where Jesus was. When Jesus saw the faith of the men, He said to the sick one, ‘Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.’

“In the crowd there were some hypocritical teachers of the Law. They thought this was blasphemy, because only God can forgive sins.

“Jesus knew what they were thinking. He challenged them by asking which would be easier: to forgive sins or to heal the man? Do you know what He did, Dakota? To show the people that He had the power to forgive sins, He told the sick man to arise, take his bed, and go to his house. Immediately the man got up! The people were amazed and glorified God.

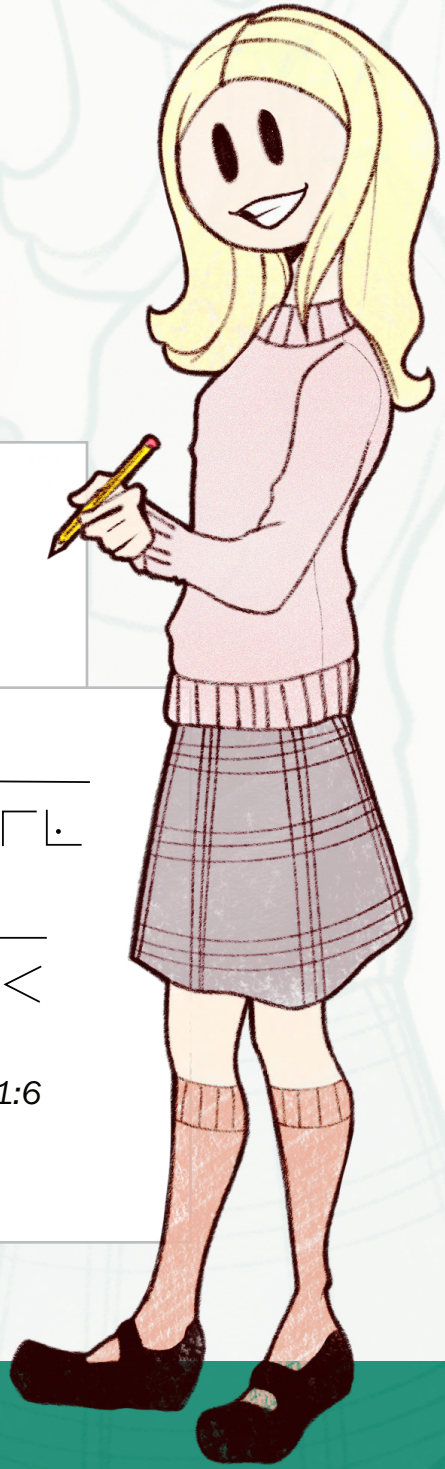
“The men who brought their friend demonstrated their faith in the healing power of Jesus. Their faith was rewarded. When Jesus healed the sick man, more faith was put into the hearts of those who saw and heard. When we see or experience God’s power, it instills more faith in us. Faith, then, comes directly from God.”

Dakota smiled, “Thanks, Dad, you can explain anything too!”

Lesson 56 Activity

HAVE FAITH

Paul wrote to the Hebrews and told them why God wanted them to have faith. Decode the verse below and see why it is important for us, also, to have faith in God.

[illegible]

$\overline{\Gamma \cdot}$ $\overline{\Gamma > \wedge < \cdot \cdot \Gamma \perp \vee \sqcap}$ $\overline{\cdot <}$

$\overline{\wedge \vee \sqsubset \sqsubset \cdot \sqsubset} \quad \overline{\neg \neg \succ} . \quad \text{Hebrews 11:6}$

Hebrews 11:6



THE IMPORTANCE OF SAYING NO

LESSON 57 → Daniel 6:1-28

Wyatt didn't know how to respond when someone offered him drugs at school.

Wyatt stared at the ceiling, a troubled frown on his face. Crossing his arms behind his head, he didn't even notice when his older brother Max stopped in the doorway to his room.

"Things must be looking heavy, Kid. What's the matter, did Mom put your bike on blocks again?"

Glancing up, Wyatt sighed, "Nah . . . I just have a lot on my mind."

Max's teasing grin disappeared. He glanced closer at Wyatt, then stepped inside the room and shut the door. "Want to talk about it?"

"Yeah . . . I guess you'd probably understand."
He swung his sneakered feet over the side of



NOTHING CAN STOP ME IF GOD IS ON MY SIDE.

Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.
— 2 Timothy 2:1

the bed and sat up, propping his chin in his hand. “It’s something that happened at school today.”

Max hitched up a chair and straddled it. “O.K., go on,” he encouraged.

“A bunch of us guys were out goofing around behind the school during lunch. We were talking about the party that’s being planned for the championship football game. Gabe—you know him; that’s the big guy who lives across the street—said it’s going to be the most awesome party ever. Then . . .” Wyatt hesitated. “Then he pulled a joint out of his pocket.”

For a moment there was silence in the room. “Hmmm,” said Max, thoughtfully. “Well, I’m glad you told me! Let’s talk about this a little more.”

“I’ve seen the kids smoking them at school lots of times, but I never had anyone offer me one before. I really didn’t know what to say! I didn’t want the guys to laugh at me. Besides, I’ve heard it really doesn’t hurt you . . .” Wyatt’s voice trailed off.

“Well, that’s not true!” Max stated emphatically. “More and more scientists are finding out that marijuana does have a harmful effect on the body such as a decline in memory and thinking ability.” He pulled his

chair a bit closer to Wyatt. “I remember one time a health teacher of mine told us boys, ‘Anything that is not natural is not right.’ It’s a sure thing that the effects marijuana produces in your system are not natural.”

“Well, I knew it wasn’t right,” Wyatt confessed. He paused for a moment, then added, “But it takes a lot of courage to take a stand when the pressure is on, I know that. I just didn’t know how to say no. After all, there isn’t any place in the Bible that says we can’t smoke marijuana, is there?”

Max reached over and picked up Wyatt’s Testament from the nightstand. “Not exactly,” he said as he flipped through the pages. “But there’s a verse in here that makes it pretty clear about . . . yes, here it is. In 1 Corinthians 3:16 and 17, it says, ‘Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.’ I think smoking marijuana would come under the classification of ‘defiling,’ don’t you? Like I said, it has been proved damaging to our bodies.”

Wyatt looked up. “Well, that would go for smoking cigarettes then too, wouldn’t it? There’s even a warning printed on every package of cigarettes. It lets us know that ciga-

rette-smoking is dangerous to your health.”

“Sure thing! Can you think of anything else that might be considered defiling?”

“How about drinking?” Wyatt replied. “That sure can ruin your insides!”

Max nodded. “You’re right. Anything that is unnatural or harmful to our bodies is displeasing to God. This may be the first time you’ve been approached to try something that could harm you physically, but for sure it won’t be the last! You might be tempted to say yes because of pressure from your friends, but don’t give in, Wyatt. It takes real courage to take a stand for what you know is right. And if you do take your stand, you will be a stronger Christian because of it.”

After thinking quietly for a moment, Wyatt jumped to his feet and gave Max a poke in the arm. “Thanks, Buddy! I think I’m O.K. now.” Noticing Max’s quizzical look, he added with a grin, “And just to set the record straight . . . No, I didn’t take the joint! I was saved by the bell! Now I think I know how to take care of this situation the next time it comes up.”

Lesson 57 Activity

A CHALLENGE FOR YOU



Paul wrote Timothy some good advice which applies to us also. To find out the advice, decode the message. Write the first L on the first blank line below and continue to write the letters in the order given. When you come to any numbers remember that they represent vowels (1 -A, 2 - E, 3 - I, 4 - O, 5 - U). Change them back to the correct letters so you can read the entire verse.

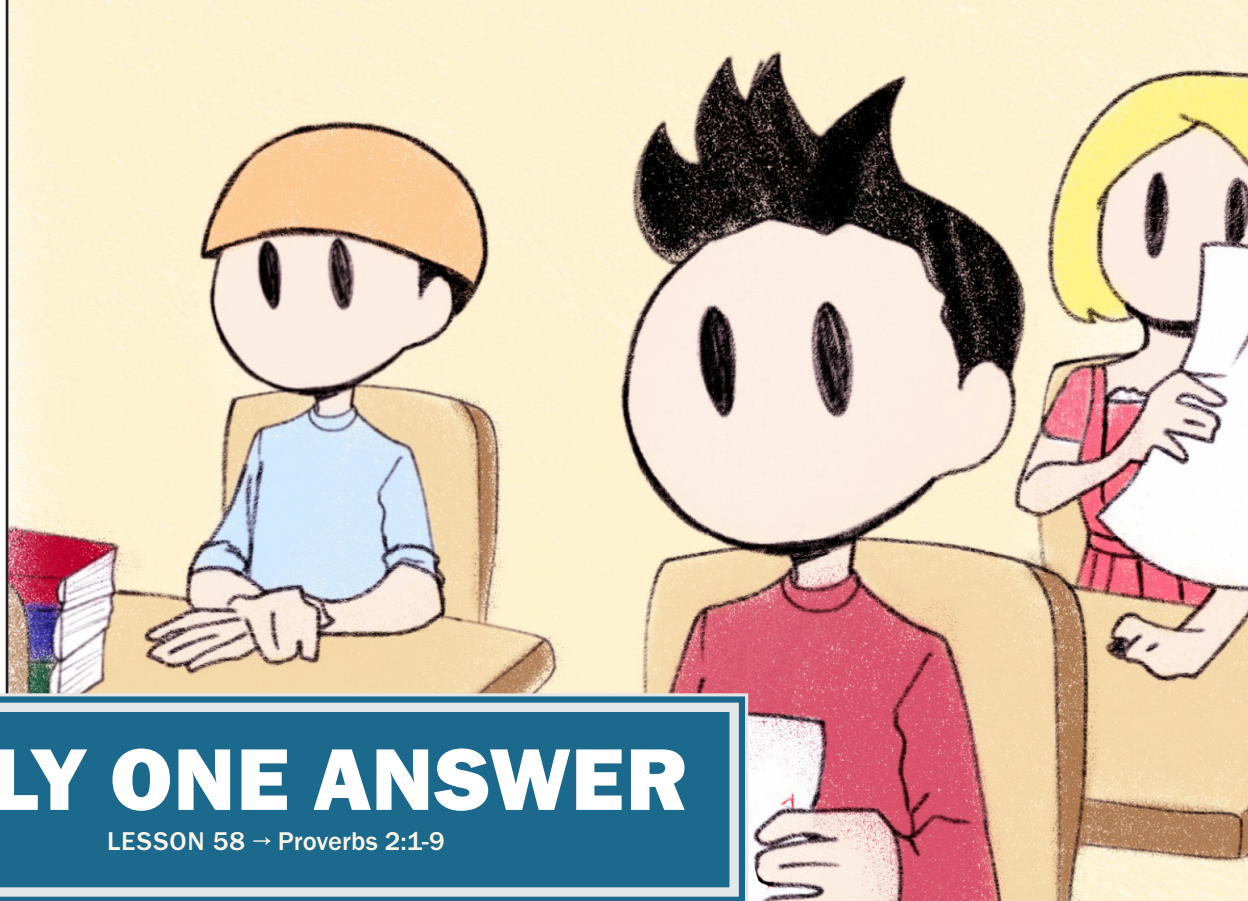
L	2	T	N	4	M	1	N	D	2	S	P
3	S	2	T	H	Y	Y	4	5	T	H	B
5	T	B	2	T	H	4	5	1	N	2	X
1	M	P	L	2	4	F	T	H	2	B	2
L	3	2	V	2	R	S	3	N	W	4	R
D	3	N	C	4	N	V	2	R	S	1	T
3	4	N	3	N	C	H	1	R	3	T	Y
3	N	S	P	3	R	3	T	3	N	F	1
3	T	H	3	N	P	5	R	3	T	Y	

“ _____

 _____; _____

 _____,
 _____,
 _____,
 _____,
 _____,
 _____.”

1 Timothy 4:12



ONLY ONE ANSWER

LESSON 58 → Proverbs 2:1-9

Diego knew that his essay on the search for knowledge would be different from all the others.

I'm going to hand back the essays you wrote last week to begin our unit on 'What Spells Success?'" Mrs. Adams stood up from her desk with a stack of papers in her hand. "As you remember, we were to consider the men who have made significant contributions in any intellectual field, and then answer the question 'Where should I begin my search for knowledge?'"

Diego took a deep breath and stared fixedly at the pile of books on the desk in front of him. This grade was so important! He really needed an "A" in this class to stay on the honor roll. He had known his paper would be different from anyone else's in the class, but even though he really wanted an "A" there was only one answer that he could write.

"Some of these papers took a very unusual approach," Mrs. Adams commented as she neared his seat. Diego groaned inwardly. She had to be talking about his. For sure it was unusual! If only she hadn't given him a bad grade because of it.

As his paper was placed on his desk, he reached for it reluctantly and turned to the back page where he knew the grade would be. His heart gave a lurch as he saw Mrs. Adams' red notations. He read her comment quickly, then turned back to the beginning of his theme to look through the whole paper.

"Books? Philosophies? Experience?" He read through the words he had worked on so hard last week. "Many famous men have found what they think is knowledge by



GOD HAS ALL THE ANSWERS.

The heart of him that hath understanding seeketh knowledge.
— Proverbs 15:14

searching in these areas. In a sense, my search has combined all three of these.

My search started with a Book—the Bible. It is the best-known Book ever written. I almost learned to read out of it. My parents told its stories to me from the time I was little. But though the characters and the events related there were vividly pictured in my mind, they were little more than fairy tales.

From the time I was old enough to think about it, my philosophy of a good way to live centered around the teachings of Jesus Christ. I accepted His principles of right and wrong and tried to live by them, though I was not always successful in this. Sometimes I found myself doing things I knew were not right, and I felt bad about that.

But at last there came a point in my life where I had an experience which opened my eyes to true knowledge. I admitted that I was not succeeding in my own strength at being the kind of person I wanted to be. Asking forgiveness for the wrongs I had done, I asked God to take control of my life. He made an instantaneous change. In place of the questions, the searching, and the struggle I had felt inside, I now felt peace and assurance.



The words of the Bible became a reality. What had been merely philosophic principles became a natural way of living. The experience of salvation, or new birth, gave me a whole new approach to life. I no longer did things which went against what I knew was right. At last I had strength to live the way I wanted to.

And so, my personal search for knowledge revolves around the words written in Proverbs 2:3-5, 'Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.'"

Once again Diego read the words Mrs. Adams had written across the bottom of his paper, and a pent-up sigh of relief escaped his lips.

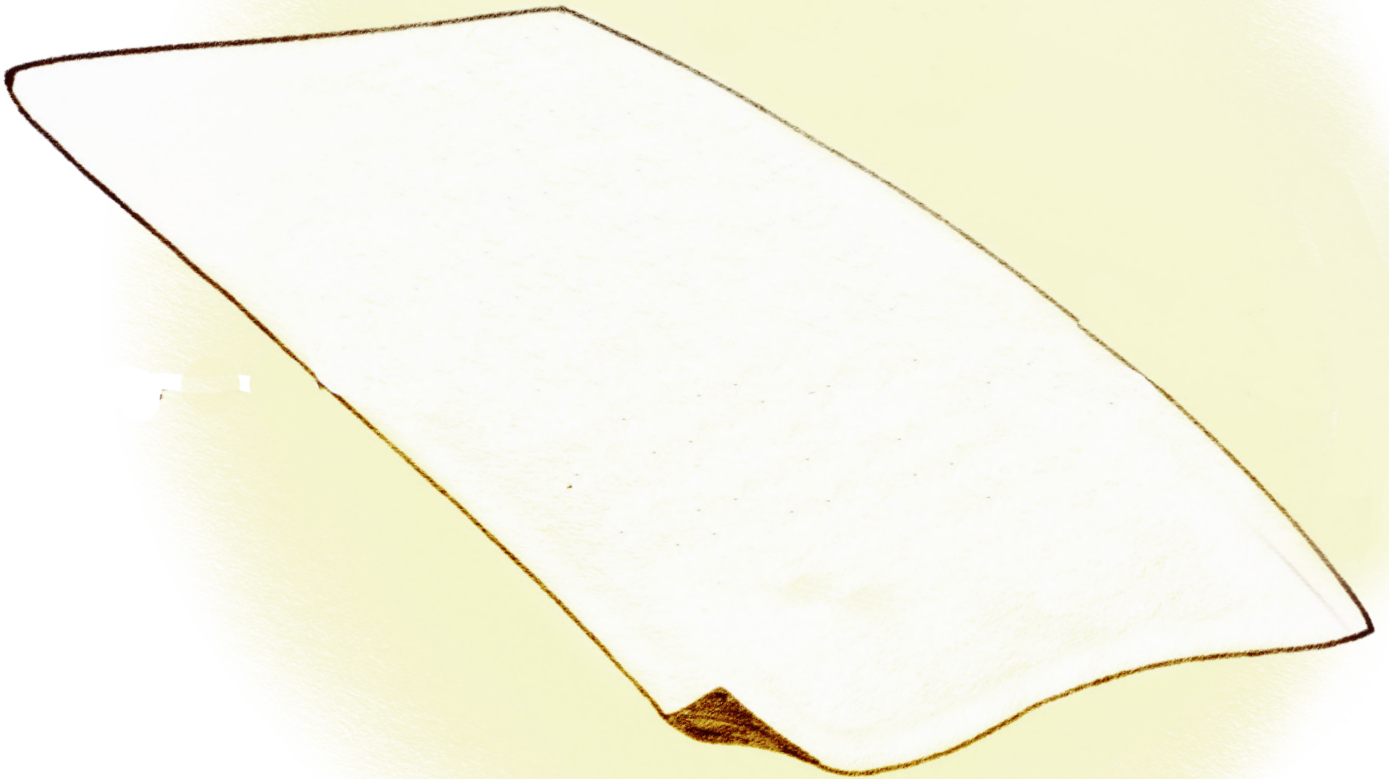
"Grade: A. Good job, Diego. Stick to your beliefs!"

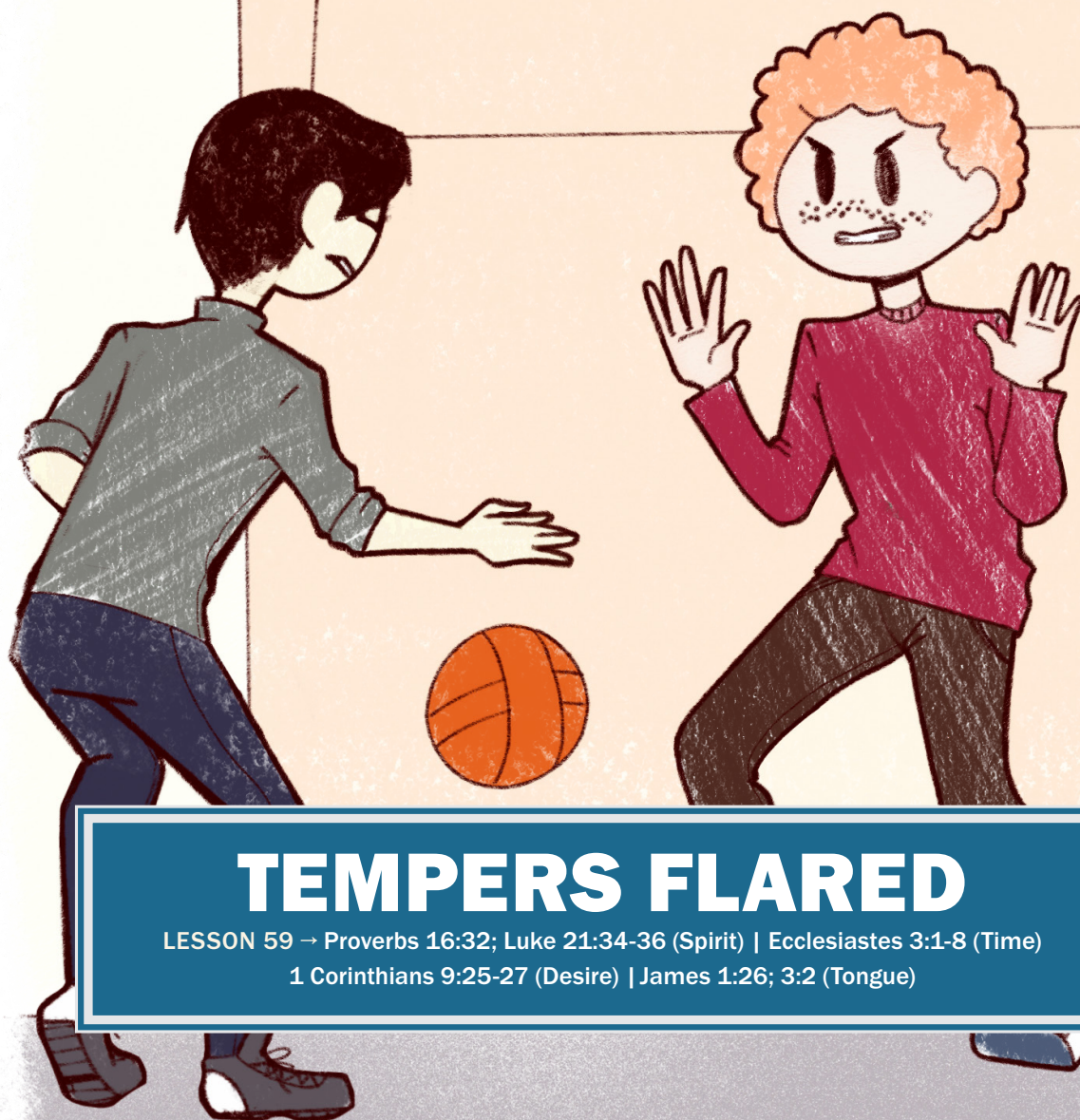


**WHAT DO YOU
KNOW?**

To acquire knowledge of anything, you must study. Knowledge of God's Word comes from the Bible. What are some things you have learned from studying God's Word? Write them on the paper below.

KNOWLEDGE OF GOD'S WORD CAN BE A POWERFUL TOOL.





TEMPERS FLARED

LESSON 59 → Proverbs 16:32; Luke 21:34-36 (Spirit) | Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 (Time)
1 Corinthians 9:25-27 (Desire) | James 1:26; 3:2 (Tongue)

Levi and Parker learned a lesson in temperance.

“**S**tomp! Stomp! Stomp!” “You stop talking, Ruby!” shouted Mrs. Bradley. The class grew quiet as Ruby blushed and quickly turned around in her chair.

Levi and Parker glanced at each other and tried not to

laugh. Levi wondered if Parker was thinking the same thing he was thinking. The last few days they had decided that Mrs. Bradley was certainly not their favorite teacher. She had an awful temper.

On the way home from school, Levi looked at Parker and

rolled his eyes. “Listen, Parker, don’t ever make me laugh when Mrs. Bradley is mad. She’d probably throw me out into the hall.”

“I guess there’s really nothing funny about it,” Parker replied. “But she gets mad so often that it’s almost a joke. She can



I WANT TO GLORIFY GOD.

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

stomp her foot louder than anyone I've heard."

"She's had a lot of practice!"
Levi said, grinning.

The boys neared Levi's house where his mom was outside getting a bag of groceries from the car. "Come on over and shoot some baskets after dinner," Levi said to Parker. "And remember, we'd better practice not laughing!"

"Okay, see you later!"
Parker replied.

"What was that about?" Levi's mom asked. "Not laughing? You mean you two are finally getting serious?"

"Oh, we're afraid we'll get into trouble for laughing when Mrs. Bradley gets mad," Levi explained. "She always stomps her foot and yells at whoever is talking, and she pounds her fist on the desk at least fifty times a day to get the class to listen to her. It almost makes us laugh!"

"WOW!" said his mom, as Levi finished the story. "It's too bad your teacher gets so upset she can't control herself. Now grab the bag of groceries for me will you, please?"

An hour later the thump-swish-thump of a basketball alternated with the shouts of the two boys.

"C'mon, slow poke! Get the ball! Get the ball! You haven't made one basket and I've made lots!" Levi hollered at Parker.

Parker stopped mid-court and whirled on his friend. "If I played like you . . ." Parker's temper flared.

"You'll never play like me, you're not good enough," interrupted Levi.

"If I played like you, I'd win! . . ." You know very well you've been breaking all the rules. All that shoving and putting your hand in my face! No ref would let you get away with it!" Parker shouted. He jumped in front of Levi and wrenched the ball away. Then he headed for the other end of the garage with the stolen ball.

"Just give me the ball and get out of here if you're going to play like that!" Levi screamed. He darted after the ball, snatched it away from Parker and gave it a heave over his shoulder.

CRA-A-S-S-H-H! Shatter, tinkle! "Oh, no!" groaned Levi. "Mom's jars of peaches are ruined!"

Hearing the terrible commotion, Levi's mom ran to the garage. The angry shouts she'd been hearing still rang in her ears as she surveyed the scene.

"Well, 'Mrs. Bradley!'" she remarked with a wry look at the two boys. "What are you doing in my garage?"

The boys glanced about, startled. Mrs. Bradley? They looked at each other. Slowly, the light dawned. Their tempers had flared just like Mrs. Bradley's.

"Okay, Mom, I see what you mean," Levi said sheepishly. He looked at Parker. "I'm sorry. My mouth got me into trouble again."

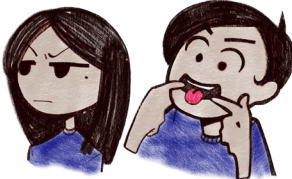
Controlling our tongue is an important part of temperance. We read in James 1:26, "If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain."

God wants us to show self-restraint. Don't go overboard in anything—eating, drinking, working, playing—at home, school, or on the job. Paul, in his letter to the Philippians, gives us good advice: "Let your moderation be known unto all men" (Philippians 4:5).

Lesson 59 Activity

HOW WILL YOU REACT?

Temperance is self-control. Each of the pictures below presents a situation where your self-control will be on trial. In the rows provided write a reaction which shows a lack of control and below that one which shows self-control.

		
Early curfew by parents	Caught jaywalking by police	Ignored by a friend
		
Bad grade at school	Annoyed by a brother	Stormy weather on picnic day



STICKING WITH IT

Lesson 60 → Psalm 37:1-11

Hayden found out what it takes to acquire patience.

“Practice, practice! All I ever do is practice!” said Hayden, slamming down the lid of the piano. “I’m getting sick and tired of practicing!”

“Now, Hayden, it’s not always fun, but you need to have patience. Your recital is coming up in three weeks, and that isn’t very long to learn your piece. Mrs. Lewis said to set the timer for one hour, and you’ve been practicing only half that time!”

“Mom, I just can’t sit here anymore. Jordan wants me to go over to his house.”

“Go ahead, Hayden,” said his mother reluctantly. “But you know what Mrs. Lewis will say at your lesson on Friday. She can always tell if you haven’t practiced enough.”

“I know,” said Hayden, “but this is only Tuesday. I’ll make up for it tomorrow after school. I promise!” However, the next day when he came home he told his mother that Ryder had asked him to go over to his house for dinner. “I’ll practice as soon as I get home,” he promised.

That night Hayden draped himself over the piano bench and set the timer for one hour.

Methodically playing “Waltz of the Butterflies” over and over . . . he made the same mistakes time after time. He looked at the timer. Time was going so slowly. I just can’t sit here any longer! he thought. I just don’t feel like practicing anymore. So he got up.

Day after day the same scene was repeated. There was always some reason not to practice. Then, before he knew it, it was the day of the recital.

Hayden swallowed nervously when it was his turn. Sitting down at the piano, he wished that miraculously the piece would sound right, but he



PATIENCE IS A GOOD THING.

But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. — James 1:4

made the same mistakes he always made at home. Boy, was he embarrassed! Now everyone will know I didn't practice enough, he thought as he got up from the piano.

Next it was Lucy's turn. She played the same piece he had just played—she didn't make one mistake! That's not fair, thought Hayden. We started taking lessons at the same time. Why is she so good?

That night as Hayden and his parents were driving home the air was heavy with silence. Finally Hayden blurted out, "I don't get it! Lucy started taking lessons the same week I did. I made the same old mistakes I always make and she didn't make any. It's just not fair!"

His parents exchanged knowing looks, but did not reply. Hayden slumped back in his seat, despondent for the rest of the way home.

Once inside the house, Hayden headed straight for his room.

"Hayden," his mother called to him, "Will you come into the living room and sit down for a minute?"

He trudged slowly into the room.

"Hayden," said his mother gently, "What happened today was an important learning experience. I want you to look back on the last few weeks, and think about your practicing. Do you remember all the times you had something else to do? You know that you didn't practice for an hour every day. And you didn't have your mind on your music when you were practicing. Did you ever wonder why I let you get away with it? I decided you would learn more if I let you do it your way this time."

"Oh, Mom, I get so tired of practicing! It gets so boring and all I can think about is getting done. I just don't have the patience," said Hayden.

"Anyway, I'll never be as good as Lucy, so I might as well not even try."

This time his father spoke up from the other side of the room. "Do you know why Lucy played the same piece you played, without any mistakes? Because she had patience and stuck with her practicing. I'm sure she has had times when she didn't feel like practicing, but she must have done it anyway. There must have been times when there were things she would rather have done, but she stuck with it. She proved that today. Now she can feel that all of her practicing and patience paid off because she played her piece so well."

"Hayden," his mother put in, "did you know there are different types of patience? Sometimes we have to do things we don't want to do, like practicing every day for an hour. Patience can mean working hard without complaining. Sometimes that's difficult to do!"

"Then there's another aspect of patience. After you have practiced or worked hard without complaining, and you see little results, that's where enduring or waiting comes in. If you keep practicing, someday you will be very glad you did. You will get better and it will become easier to play. But that won't be next week or even next month. It will be in the future."

Hayden's dad nodded in agreement. "We read in the Bible, 'But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.' All through our lives we will face things that will demand hard work. We must try not to complain. Patience doesn't come naturally to any of us, but if we work at it and ask the Lord to help us, He will give us patience."

Hayden sat silently for a few moments. Then he smiled at his parents. "I guess I'd better not stop practicing now. I want to be a good piano player someday. I'm going to ask the Lord to help me have patience."

Lesson 60 Activity

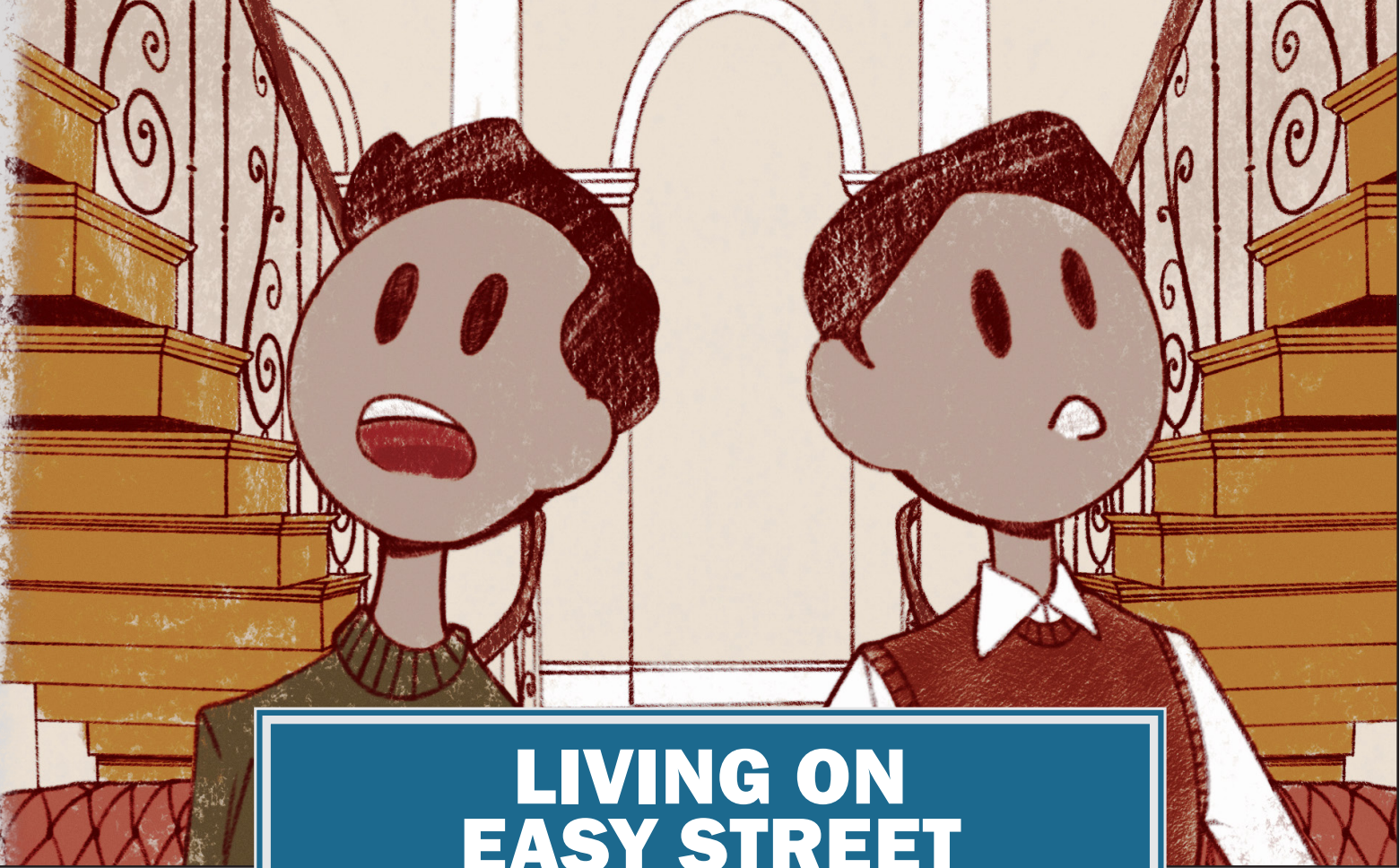
HAVE PATIENCE

2 x 7	=		=	A
11 - 8	=		=	B
9 + 8	=		=	C
99 - 88	=		=	D
21 ÷ 3	=		=	E
14 ÷ 7	=		=	F
30 - 29	=		=	G
4 x 3	=		=	H
3 x 5	=		=	I
16 ÷ 2	=		=	L
4 x 4	=		=	M
9 x 2	=		=	N
16 ÷ 4	=		=	O
14 - 9	=		=	P
18 ÷ 3	=		=	R
29 - 19	=		=	S
13 + 6	=		=	T
22 - 9	=		=	V
14 + 6	=		=	W
5 + 4	=		=	Y

Patience is an important part of a Christian's life. Paul sent a message to the Hebrews about patience and its reward. Complete the math problems (have patience!) and then use the answers to decode the verse below.

2	4	6	9	7	12	14	13	7	18	7	7	11	
4	2	5	14	19	15	7	18	17	7	19	12	14	19
14	2	19	7	6	9	7	12	14	13	7			
11	4	18	7	19	12	7	20	15	8	8	4	2	
1	4	11	9	7	16	15	1	12	19				
6	7	17	7	15	13	7	19	12	7				
5	6	4	16	15	10	7							
12	7	3	6	7	20	10	10:36						

CHRISTIAN MATURITY



LIVING ON EASY STREET

LESSON 61 → Titus 2:1-13

Circumstances surrounding his friend's good fortune taught Leo what it really means to be rich.

“I am going to be rich!” said Aaron triumphantly to his friend who was riding on the front of his bike.

“What are you talkin’ about? When? Maybe when you’re fifty, huh?” responded Leo over his shoulder.

Wheeling his bike into Leo’s driveway, Aaron stopped to let his passenger hop off. “Nope, not when I’m old. Soon, real soon. I’m gonna get the nicest bike you ever saw, and I’m gonna get my own stereo for my room, and a . . .”

“Are you dreaming?” Leo interrupted. “Where are you going to get that kind of money?”

“My Dad’s uncle died and left him a huge pile of money. He owned half the town where he lived. I’m tellin’ ya, we’re going to be on easy street!”

By this time Leo’s eyes were wide with amazement. As they walked into the house, Leo spoke slowly, “If I didn’t know you so well I’d think you were just pulling my leg. Are you still going to be my best friend, I mean after you’re rich and all?”

“Sure,” Aaron smiled, “I might even buy you a bike!”

Leo brightened up somewhat at that statement and the two busied themselves with a Lego kit while talking animatedly about Aaron’s good fortune. Later on, after Aaron had left, Leo sat down in the living room where his parents were both reading.

“Dad, do you think we’ll ever be rich?” His father laid down his paper and responded quizzically, “What’s on your mind, Leo?”



I WANT GOD TO BE FIRST IN MY LIFE.

Godliness with contentment is great gain. — 1 Timothy 6:6

“Well, do you or Mom have any rich old relatives? Because my friend Aaron is gonna be swimming in money from his rich uncle pretty soon, and it just doesn’t seem fair.”

“Oh, that’s right. I just read the other day that old Andrew Thomas down in Lincoln died. He would be Aaron’s great uncle. Why, he was known as Mr. Franklin County since he owned the better part of that area.”

“Yeah, and I guess he left it all to Aaron’s dad,” said Leo glumly.

With a serious look, Leo’s father put his hand on Leo’s shoulder. “Son, I know it’s easy to desire the situation that your friend has found himself in. But tell me, do we have something better than all the money in the world here in this house or not?”

“You mean God? I guess so. But sometimes I think you could have a lot of money and still be just as happy as we are.”

His mother asked, “Do you really think so, Son?”

“I don’t know why not. I mean, as long as you’re happy, you’re happy, right?” With that he left the room to answer the phone in the kitchen. Soon he ran excitedly back to the living room.

“Mom, Dad, may I go to Lincoln with Aaron? His dad said it would be all right. We’d leave Friday afternoon and be home the next night.”

Late Friday afternoon, in Lincoln, a kind-looking elderly lady answered the biggest door in the biggest house Leo ever remembered seeing. Aaron whispered that she was the maid who had been there for over forty years. She showed them their rooms, and after Aaron’s parents had left to take care of some business, the two boys went down into the huge dining room to eat dinner. The maid, Miss Brown, noticed Leo’s awestruck look.

“Quite a place, isn’t it, young man?”

“Yah! I’d give anything to live in a place like this!”

“Not if you knew what I know, you wouldn’t,” Miss Brown responded with a mysterious look.

“Mr. Thomas must have been a very happy man, huh, Miss Brown?”

She sat down on the couch near them and spoke in a very quiet voice. “Boys, a lot of people wished they could have been Andrew Thomas. But I worked for him for forty-three years, and I never once wished that.” Aaron and Leo

looked on with amazement as she continued.

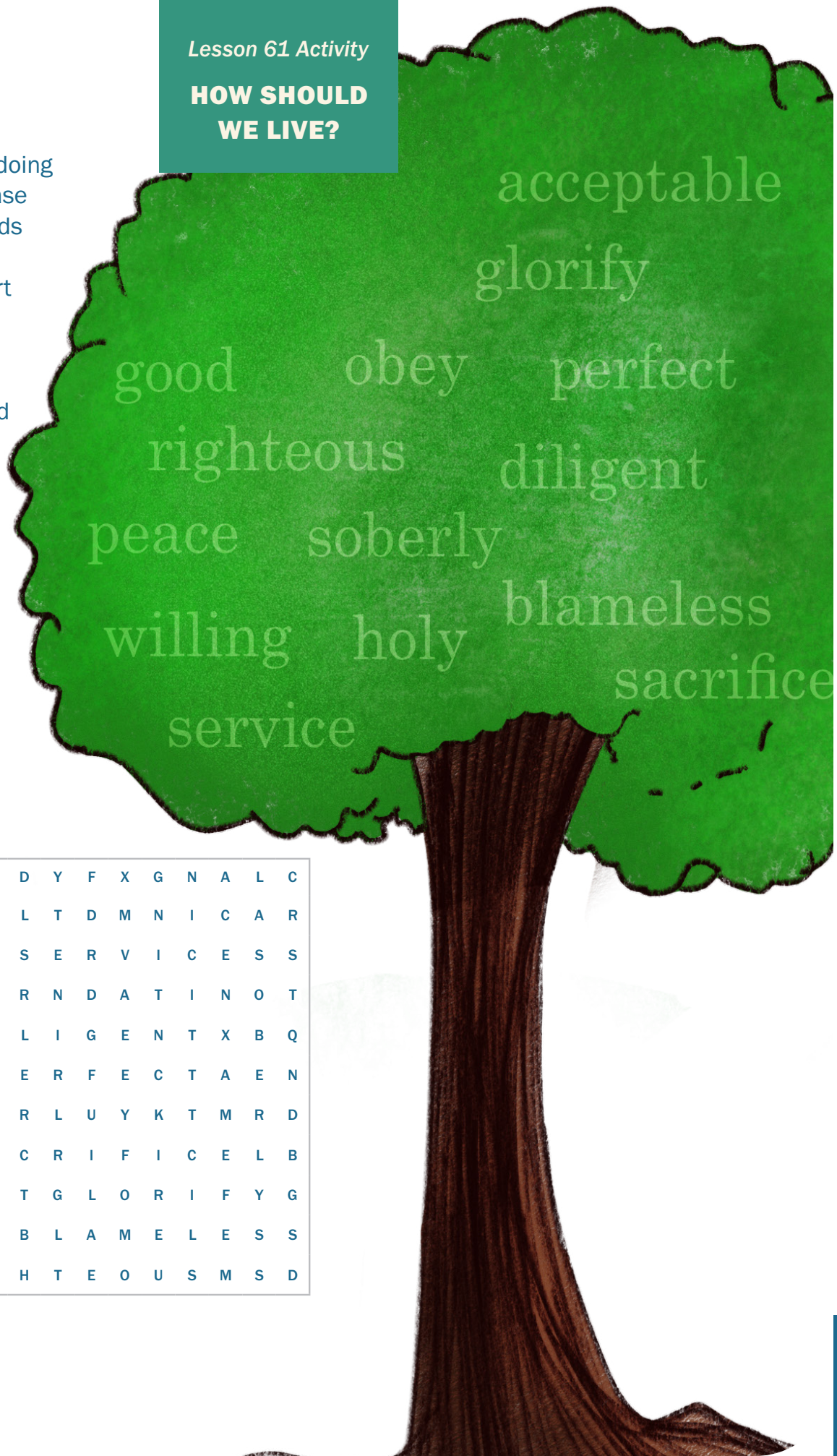
“Mr. Thomas had what most people only spend their lives dreaming about having. But he didn’t have the only thing in life worth possessing—the satisfaction of knowing that the Lord Jesus Christ is in your heart. Oh, he could put on a show in front of everybody all right, but I’m probably one of the very few who ever knew the truth. That man longed after the satisfaction of riches, but found only riches without satisfaction. I have longed after God, and He has blessed me beyond measure. I was the only one there when Mr. Thomas died. You know what he said right before he died? He said, ‘I would gladly crawl on my hands and knees around this whole world and give everything I own to have the peace that you have.’ Then he was gone. I may not have much in this world, but I have joy in my heart. Even though I have to leave this house now, I know that I have a mansion waiting for me in Heaven that will make this one seem like just so many sticks and stones.”

Leo wasn’t sure what Aaron was thinking, but as Miss Brown walked out of the room he knew he would never forget the rich lady who lived in the poor man’s house.

Lesson 61 Activity

**HOW SHOULD
WE LIVE?**

Godliness is doing things to please God. The words given in the tree are a part of godliness. Search the word-find for the words and circle them.



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

A CHANGE OF MIND

Lesson 62 → 2 Kings 4:8-17

Miles and Sadie received an unexpected reward when they showed brotherly kindness.

“You kids get away from this house!” a gruff voice called out. Sadie and Miles gave a startled glance at the man in the yard they were standing by, and quickly ran to the other side of the street.

“Wow, Mr. Johnson seems to get grouchier every day!” Miles muttered. “First he wouldn’t let Ian play with us; now he won’t even let

us near their house. I wonder why he hates us so much?”

“I don’t know, but I sure feel sorry for Ian! He can’t come to Sunday school anymore either.”

“That’s too bad,” replied Miles, “and it doesn’t look like Mr. Johnson is going to change his mind.”

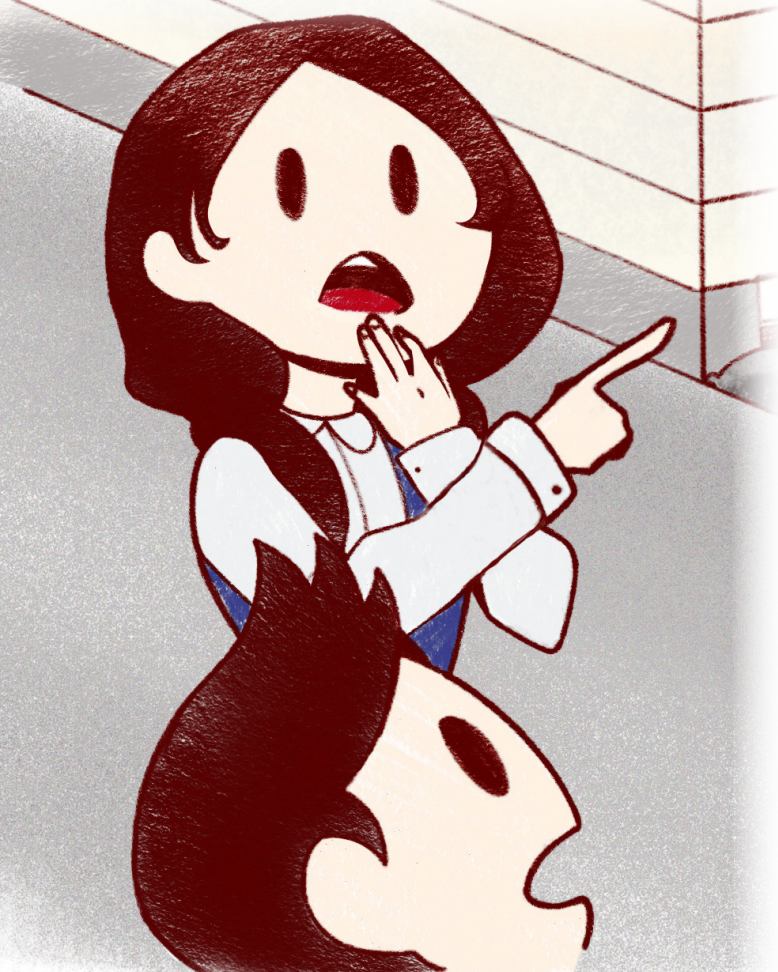
The next day at school, Miles talked to Ian during recess. “Why won’t your dad let us come to your house?”

“When I told Dad about Sunday school, and that I had gotten saved, he just laughed at me. But when I told him he was a sinner too, and needed to be saved, he got really mad and said I wasn’t to go anywhere near you or any other Christians anymore.”

“I’ll pray that something will change his mind, Ian. At least we’ll see each other at school.”

The next Saturday evening Sadie and Miles were riding their bikes past Ian’s house. Sadie suddenly stopped. “Miles,” she whispered, “look over there at the side of the Johnson’s house! It looks like someone is trying to get in through that basement window. We’d better call the police! I think Ian and his dad are out of town.”

“Why should we help Mr. Johnson? He won’t let Ian come to Sunday school anymore, so why should we do anything for him?”





HELP ME TO SHOW KINDNESS.

Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another. — Romans 12:10

“Miles,” Sadie scolded, “the Bible says that we are to love our enemies. Besides, Ian is a Christian. The Bible tells us that if we show kindness to our brothers and sisters in Christ, then other people will know we love Jesus. It certainly wouldn’t be kind to let Ian’s house be broken into if we can do anything to stop it.”

“Okay, I’ll stand watch while you go call the police!”

Within a few minutes, the police arrived—in time to catch the burglar. Sadie and Miles were questioned before they went home.

On Monday, Miles and Sadie were walking past the Johnson’s on their way home from school when they heard someone call, “Hey, you kids!”

“Oh, no, it’s Mr. Johnson,” Sadie grimaced. “We’d better get going!”

“No, wait, I want to talk to you,” Mr. Johnson called to them again. They stopped, amazed. Mr. Johnson approached them. “The police told me how you called them when you saw someone trying to get into the house and, well . . . I’m grateful. Most kids wouldn’t have bothered to do anything about it, especially after the way I’ve treated you. Why did you do it?”

Sadie spoke up. “Well, Mr. Johnson, the Bible says that we’re supposed to love our neighbors, and besides, Ian is a Christian now. That means we are in the same family—God’s family. Brothers and sisters help each other. We sure would like to see him come to Sunday school with us again.”

“You two have made me feel ashamed of myself. I want to apologize. I should be proud that my boy has friends like you.”

“Does that mean you’ll let Ian come to Sunday school with us?”

Mr. Johnson smiled, “I’ll do better than that. I’ll bring him myself!”

Sadie was thrilled! “Mr. Johnson, that’s great news! Everyone will be so glad to see Ian again, and they’ll be especially happy to welcome you.”

In the Bible there is a story of God’s prophet, Elisha. As he passed through the city of Shunem, one day, a woman saw him and invited him to eat a meal at her home. After that day, whenever Elisha passed through Shunem, he was invited to eat at her home. One day, the woman asked her husband to build a room on the rooftop of their house. The room would be for Elisha to rest in during his visits. Her

husband liked the idea, so he built the room. The next time Elisha visited the city, he was surprised and pleased to see a room built just for him! He wanted to repay their kindness, so he told his servant, Gehazi, to say to the woman, “You have been very kind. What can I do for you?” But the couple wanted nothing in return. The woman said they were happy to live just as they were.

Then, Elisha asked his servant what should be done for the woman. Gehazi told him that the couple had no child. Elisha called the woman to him. As she stood in the doorway of his room, Elisha promised her that she would have a son, and within a year a baby boy was born to the woman and her husband.

The woman and her husband gave to Elisha, never expecting to be repaid, but they received a wonderful reward.

In these stories, Sadie and Miles, and the woman of Shunem did what God’s Word tells us to do—show brotherly kindness. They gave without expecting a reward, and God blessed them in a great way.

**LOVE YOUR
BROTHER**

Brotherly kindness is preferring others and choosing to do good for others. It is showing real love. Complete the sentences and answer the question below.

I think “love” means _____

To show kindness to some I _____

An example of an unkind action is _____

I know I am loved when _____

Why should I love my enemy? _____

THE GREATEST OF THESE

Lesson 63 → 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Without love, all of the other Christian attributes are nothing.



Dear Son,
Tonight as we spoke together, you asked, “Father, what do I need? What’s important?” They were questions not lightly asked.

I have seen you grow spiritually. In many ways we have grown closer in the past weeks than ever before. A real bond was established between us that night when you repented and placed your life into the hands of your Maker.

Of course, I loved you long before then. You were special even before you were born. How well I remember the glow on your mother’s face when they placed you in her arms for the first time. As I looked down on you, a tiny bundle of humanity, what potential was there! Even then, I looked ahead to this day, my son, and saw you standing on the brink of adulthood.

You have taken many steps since then. Oh yes, I saw the first physical steps. How your eyes sparkled when you first tottered into Daddy’s open arms! But far more important have been the spiritual steps forward, the developing of

those attributes which have helped you grow strong as a Christian.

Humility was one of the first. Without humility you could never have been saved because repentance only comes when you see how undeserving you are of forgiveness.

Forgiveness itself was another step. Just as you looked to Calvary for forgiveness, you had to learn to offer that same release to others. That has been difficult on occasions, hasn’t it? Remember the time you spent on your knees when your classmates began teasing you about Sunday school? You took it! How happy I was as I saw you come through that trial.

Learning unquestioning obedience was another move forward. Your mother started working on that when you were about six months old. But the desire to have your own way was not easily overcome. When you were finally saved, you wanted to obey.

We talked about faith and some of the items on your



LOVE IS THE GREATEST.

And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity. — 1 Corinthians 13:13

“faith shelf,” like when your grandmother, at the point of death, was healed through prayer. The time when you prayed, and your dog Rocky came home after having been gone for two weeks. The night your cousin Danny was saved. You learned from experience that faith is essential.

Through some of the hard places along the road you’ve found courage to stand when your friends didn’t understand you, when you haven’t understood what to do yourself. Through virtue you have kept yourself unspotted from the world.

We agreed knowledge was important, the right kind of knowledge! Not straight A’s on your report card, necessarily, but wisdom from Above—spiritual discernment.

Self-control, was hard for you to master. To exercise moderation in all things is not easy. There were months when you struggled with mood swings. A period of time when it seemed hard not to talk more than you should. That inward struggle you had over balancing school activities and church responsibilities. These were not easy, but through them temperance emerged.

Hand-in-hand with temperance came patience. To keep on keeping on plays an

important part in the development of Christian character.

Godliness, we agreed, is a continuing step that rejects anything that detracts from your spiritual testimony. You strengthened that testimony when you refused to cheat on the history exam last week, though the answers were circulated around the class. You strengthened it when you kept your promise to mow Mrs. Kilpatrick’s lawn though your friends went off to shoot hoops.

That thought led us on to consider brotherly kindness. It takes in a multitude of actions, large and small. From little common courtesies to the more obvious good deeds. It was showing brotherly kindness the day you and two friends chopped and hauled wood for Ron Barnett when he hurt his leg and couldn’t do it himself. Then one day I saw you pick up Mrs. Olson’s paper from the grass and take it to her door so it wouldn’t get wet; that was showing brotherly kindness too.

So we talked of many things. But now I must answer your questions: “Father, what do I need? What’s most important?”

The answers are simple. Turn in your Bible to 1 Corinthians 13. Read it carefully. Many great virtues and gifts are mentioned there. But look

especially at the last verse of that chapter: “And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.”

Charity, Son. Love. Oh, it is simple when you see that love encompasses them all. Without love, all these virtues and gifts are nothing. But with love, they add up to everything. A full and blessed life, and an eternal home in Heaven!

Son, I speak to you of a love that many years ago led to a Cross! I love you more than you can ever know or comprehend.

I say with Paul of old, “Follow after charity.” Seek it, strive for it with all your heart.

Someday, My child, with your hand in Mine, we will walk together through the portals of Glory.

Your Loving Heavenly Father

WHAT IS LOVE?

THE GREATEST THING IN A CHRISTIAN'S LIFE IS REAL LOVE.

Read 1 Corinthians 13, and match the words below with the definitions given. Place a star next to the ones that show love.

	Your talk is a hollow sound with no sincerity, just noise.	a. The greatest
	Give your goods to the poor so you can have a tax write-off.	b. Long-suffering
	Be a Know-It-All with a high IQ but no love.	c. Selfish giving
	Be willing to die for the cause of Jesus.	d. Patience
	Endure troubles for a long time.	e. Tinkling cymbal
	Tolerate the faults of others.	f. A martyr
	Think and act as a child.	g. Forbearance
	Have charity.	h. Childishness
	Be able to wait without complaining.	i. Vanity of knowledge



LET US GIVE THANKS

LESSON 64 → 1 Chronicles 16:7-36

In everything that comes our way, there is always a reason to thank God.

Mmm-mmm-m!! A steaming platter of turkey, bowls of potatoes, gravy, vegetables, cranberry sauce, fruit salad, baskets of hot rolls, and pumpkin pie with lots of whipped cream. What does all that make you think of? Thanksgiving dinner!

Those of us in the United States think of the Pilgrims, the Indians, and the historic feast they shared so many years ago in celebration of God's

goodness. The Pilgrims set a good example by showing their appreciation to God, and we still honor that occasion. But the spirit of “thanksgiving” to God goes back a lot farther than that!

If you start reading in your Bible at 1 Chronicles 16:7, you will find that King David encouraged the Children of Israel to give thanks to God. David's heart was filled to overflowing with gratitude to Him. God used David to tell



THANK YOU, GOD, FOR EVERYTHING.

In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. — 1 Thessalonians 5:18

the people how they could give Him thanks. The Children of Israel needed that advice, and we need it too!

How does a person go about saying “thanks” to God? By praying and simply saying, “Thank You” just as you would to anyone else. And it doesn’t have to be just when you’re on your knees either. (You might forget if you wait until then!) Suppose you had a near accident. Right then would be the time to breathe a prayer of thanks to God for His protection.

King David told the people they should always be thankful for what they had and for what was happening in their lives. That sounds easy doesn’t it? It is easy to be thankful when everything’s going well. But what about when a problem comes up or you’re sick?

One of our Sunday school teachers tells of a time when she became sick and she wasn’t feeling the least bit thankful. She began to pray that the Lord would make her feel better, but nothing happened. After a while, the thought came to her that she usually felt great, because God had blessed her with good health. Other things came to her mind—things God had done for her. Her sickness made her realize she had been taking a lot of things for granted. Immediately, she started thanking God for all the things she had forgotten to thank Him for earlier—and He healed her!

Have you ever done someone a favor and received no thanks? You weren’t in a hurry to do that person any more favors, were you? Do you think God feels the same way? No one would want to think he was guilty of always asking God for things but never saying thanks. It’s an easy habit to fall into. Being thankful and expressing it is something you have to work at.

If you have asked God to guide your life, He is constantly working things out for you.

Sometimes He does things you’re not even aware of. For example, there may have been times when God protected you and you didn’t even know you were in danger. God deserves a lot of thanks! As you remember to thank God for the things you know He has done and anything you may not know about, He will continue to pour out blessing after blessing on your life. He will do more than you would think to ask for.

King David also encouraged the Children of Israel to share their experiences with others. God had taken them through some exciting times, and done many wonderful things. They had a lot to be thankful for, didn’t they? So do you, and when you tell a friend how God has helped you in a special way, don’t be surprised when he feels like thanking God with you. God will be able to see that through your sharing, you really do appreciate what He does for you!

When you stand up in church and give your testimony, that is a very special way of saying, “Thank You.” God hears it, and He will bless you and help you to overcome the trials you may face. Others will be blessed by your testimony too! It might help to remind them of how many things God has done for them too.

God blessed people who gave thanks back in King David’s time. He blessed the Pilgrims, and today, He’s still blessing people who take the time to say, “Thanks.”

**A MESSAGE
FOR YOU**

The Bible says, "All things work together for good to them that love God." Should we thank Him even for the disappointments that come our way? Someone typed the answer below but didn't leave any spaces so you could read the words. To find out what they wanted to say, read through the letters and cross out any letters which do not help make a word.

G I V I N G X E T H A N K S O
R S A L W A Y S X O S T F O R
T X O S A L L R Q T H I N G S
P R T U N T O L X P G O D L T
E P H E S I A N S L O 5 : 2 0



QUARTER REVIEW

LESSON 65 → 2 Peter 1:4-11

Have you ever noticed how little children like to build things? Give them a pile of blocks and before long they are stacking them one on top of another—making an airport, a house, a zoo, or whatever their imagination settles on.

By the time those little ones grow up to be your age, they are far more skillful when they build. Do you like to

make models? Set up an elaborate space station out of Lego blocks? Build an ice fort when it snows? Your construction projects are a lot more intricate than the pile of blocks a toddler puts together.

Did you know that God has planned a building project for every Christian? This is a building project that will take a great deal of effort, but the results will be worth it! You

won't be using blocks or bricks. Your building materials are the subjects we have been studying this quarter, and your project is to build your Christian character

How well can you remember what we've been learning? Let's review our lessons for the past quarter.

LESSON THEME WORD LIST

HUMILITY

FORGIVENESS

OBEDIENCE

FAITH

VIRTUE

KNOWLEDGE

TEMPERANCE

PATIENCE

GODLINESS

KINDNESS

LOVE

THANKSGIVING

The words from the word list are hidden in the puzzle below. Find and circle each word.

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

**Answer the questions below with a True or False.
If the answer is false, write the correct answer on the line by each question.**

T/F	Humility is necessary in order to gain God's favor.
T/F	Forgive others and God will forgive you.
T/F	Only some of the people who obey God will enter Heaven.
T/F	Without faith it is possible to please God.
T/F	Courage and steadfastness are virtues.
T/F	Knowledge and wisdom are the same.
T/F	Self-control is true temperance.
T/F	A person who has patience is always nervous.
T/F	Godliness is almost like worldliness.
T/F	Brotherly kindness is showing love.
T/F	Love is the second greatest gift.
T/F	We must thank God for all things.

Write the words from the lesson theme word list on page 40. They are qualities that help us to be Christlike.

—B—
—E
—C—
—H
—R—
—I—
—S—
—T—
—L—
—I—
—K—
—E—

Match each word in the first column with its meaning in the second column.

Humility	Pardon
Forgiveness	Believing
Obedience	Showing God is in us
Faith	Self-control
Virtue	Not proud
Knowledge	Gratitude
Temperance	Doing what you are told
Patience	Good treatment
Godliness	Deep affection
Kindness	Learning
Love	Long-suffering
Thanksgiving	Standing for what is right

THINK ABOUT IT

COLOR IN THE WORDS THAT MAKE YOU THINK OF GODLINESS.

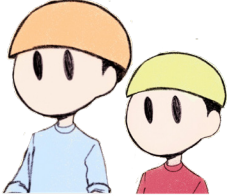
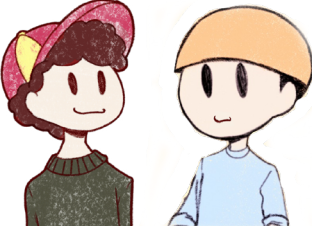
LOVE MEEKNESS
SIN JOY PEACE
HATE GREED

MY PRAYER

Choose one of these beginnings, and write a short prayer of thankfulness to God.

Your love for me makes me feel
Dear God, I . . .
I'm so thankful . . .
It's so great . . .
I praise . . .

MATCH UP

BROTHERS		Draw a line between each pair of names and the picture which identifies their relationship to each other. In some cases you may need to draw more than one line.	
		CAIN AND ABEL	GENESIS 4:8
ENEMIES		JOSEPH AND BENJAMIN	GENESIS 43:16, 29
		MOSES AND AARON	EXODUS 4:14
		KING SAUL AND DAVID	1 SAMUEL 18:10-11
		JACOB AND ESAU	GENESIS 25:25-26
		DAVID AND JONATHAN	1 SAMUEL 18:1-3
FRIENDS		ELIJAH AND ELISHA	2 KINGS 19:19
		PETER AND ANDREW	MATTHEW 4:18
		PAUL AND SILAS	ACTS 15:40
		JAMES AND JOHN	MATTHEW 4:21

HOW CAN I BE ONE OF GOD'S HEROES?

Read **The Answer** next quarter.

YOUR NAME:

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