



LESSONS 79-91

“IT’S ALL YOURS, LORD”

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.

CONTENTS



“IT’S ALL YOURS, LORD”

Give. Give. Give. Did you ever hear anyone say that they often felt pressured to do just that? Somebody's wedding is coming, a farewell party at work, a birthday, or maybe a constant stream of mail asking for donations. A person must draw the line somewhere—but where? Does this sound familiar?

It's not that they don't want to give, but who should they give to? What are the needs? How often? What would you think if someone asked you to give everything you had to him? It wouldn't be hard at all to turn down that request, would it? Unless . . .

In this quarter you will be studying why you need to do that very thing. You will see that God wants all of you! You start by giving Him your heart. Then you will learn what that includes—your hands, feet, ears, eyes, mind, and will. This gift is always appropriate, and makes both the giver and the Receiver happy!

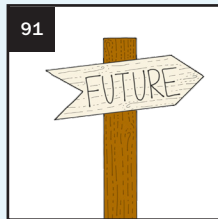
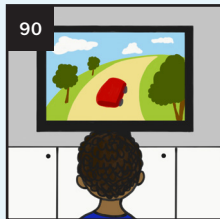
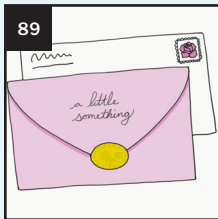
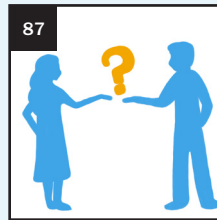
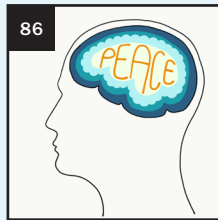
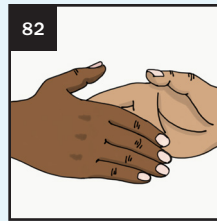
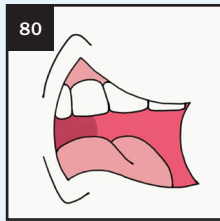
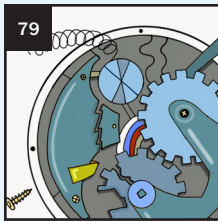
So you see, there is one Friend we must be willing to give everything to. When we do, we're promised happiness in this life, but more importantly, someday we'll get to live in Heaven with Jesus.

*When we give our hearts, lives, and time to Him, that is called consecration. Is consecration important? Study this quarter and find *The Answer*.*

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THE Answer

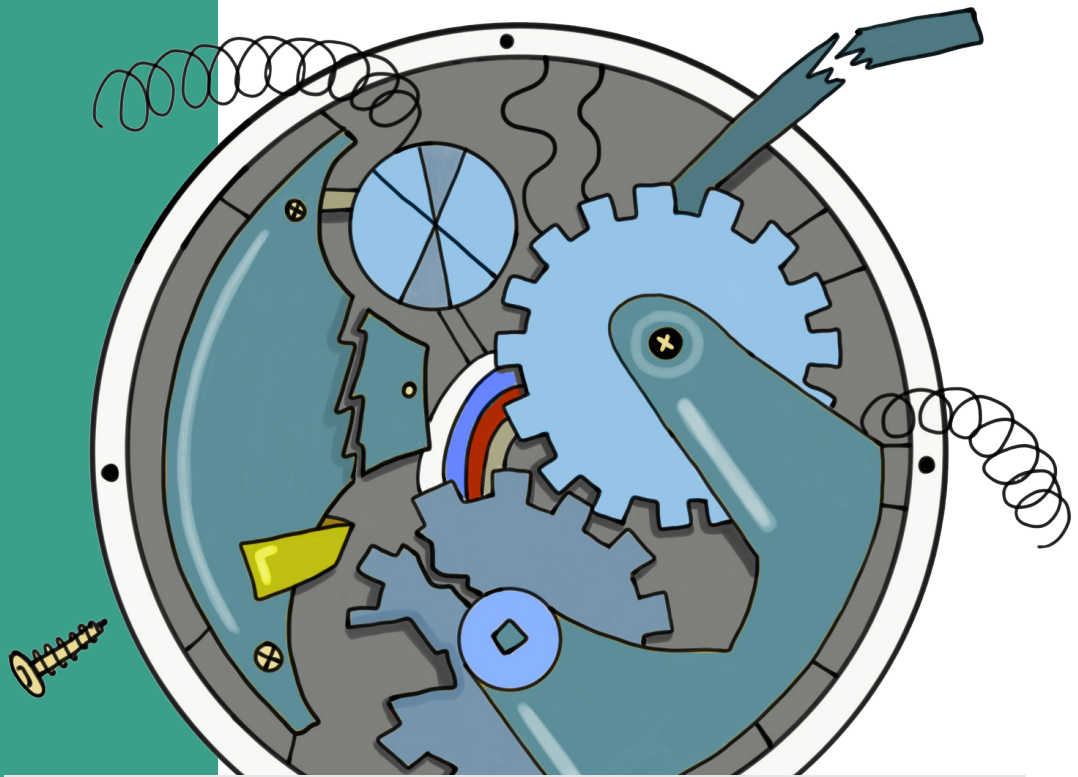
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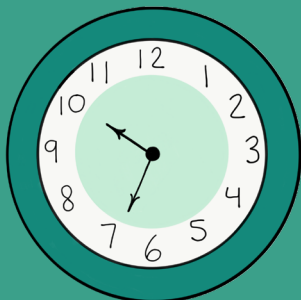
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FIX THE INSIDE!

LESSON 79 → Mark 7:14-23; Luke 6:45

The clock looked fine on the outside, but Gavin knew something was wrong on the inside.



The Frisbee zoomed across the living room, just a bit too high to hit the back of the chair Gavin was aiming at. Crash! Onto the mantel it went, and something fell to the floor. Gavin dashed across the room to see what had fallen.

“Oh, no! Now I’m really in trouble,” he said as he looked down on the floor. The Frisbee had hit his mother’s favorite clock. He picked it up, shook it. The case seemed to be all right. But . . . “Uh, oh.” There was a noise inside. “I hope it still works.” He placed the clock back on



KEY VERSE

I GAVE MY HEART TO JESUS.

*Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.
— Proverbs 3:5*



the mantel and checked the time: 10:34. He grabbed up his Frisbee and stuck it in the hall closet, and then went to his room. Half an hour later, he came back into the living room and looked anxiously at the clock. The hands hadn't moved a bit. He felt sick. Mom really liked that clock. He'd better take it to the repair shop on the corner. Stuffing the clock into a sack, he hopped onto his bike and pedaled as fast as he could to the repairman.

"Do you think you can help me?"

Gavin asked, placing the sack on the counter. "I accidentally hit Mom's favorite clock with my Frisbee and now the hands aren't moving. Will you please fix them so that they will tell time again?"

The repairman laughed as he said, "The hands will be all right, Gavin. Nothing wrong with them. But if you want me to fix the clock, I will have to repair the inside."

Have you ever tried to be good and do the right thing but you just acted badly anyway? Perhaps you hit someone even though you really didn't want to. Maybe you called someone a bad name and wondered afterward, Why did I say that? Maybe your mom told you not to do something but you did it anyway. Trying to do good without God's help is like try-

ing to make the hands on the clock work without the insides working right.

The repairman had to fix the inside of the clock to make the hands work again. God has to change your heart so that you can do good. The Bible says all have sinned and God is the only One who can take sin out of your heart. You can try and try to act good but you will fail unless you allow God to fix what is wrong inside. He takes the sin out and gives you a new heart.

There is only one way to get a new heart. You tell Jesus how sorry you are for all the wrong things you have done and said. He will know when you really mean it, and He will come in and make you feel happy and clean inside. You won't have to wonder if He came in. You will know, because you will be able to feel His presence. Not only that, you will be able to see the difference in yourself. Those around you will see the change too.

Then you will find it easy to do good. It won't be hard to talk right and treat your friends well. You will be obedient to your Mom. When your heart is full of good things, it will show in your everyday life.

When you give Jesus your whole life, He comes into your

heart. You are telling Him, "Here is my life, I'm giving it all to You. Do what You want with it."

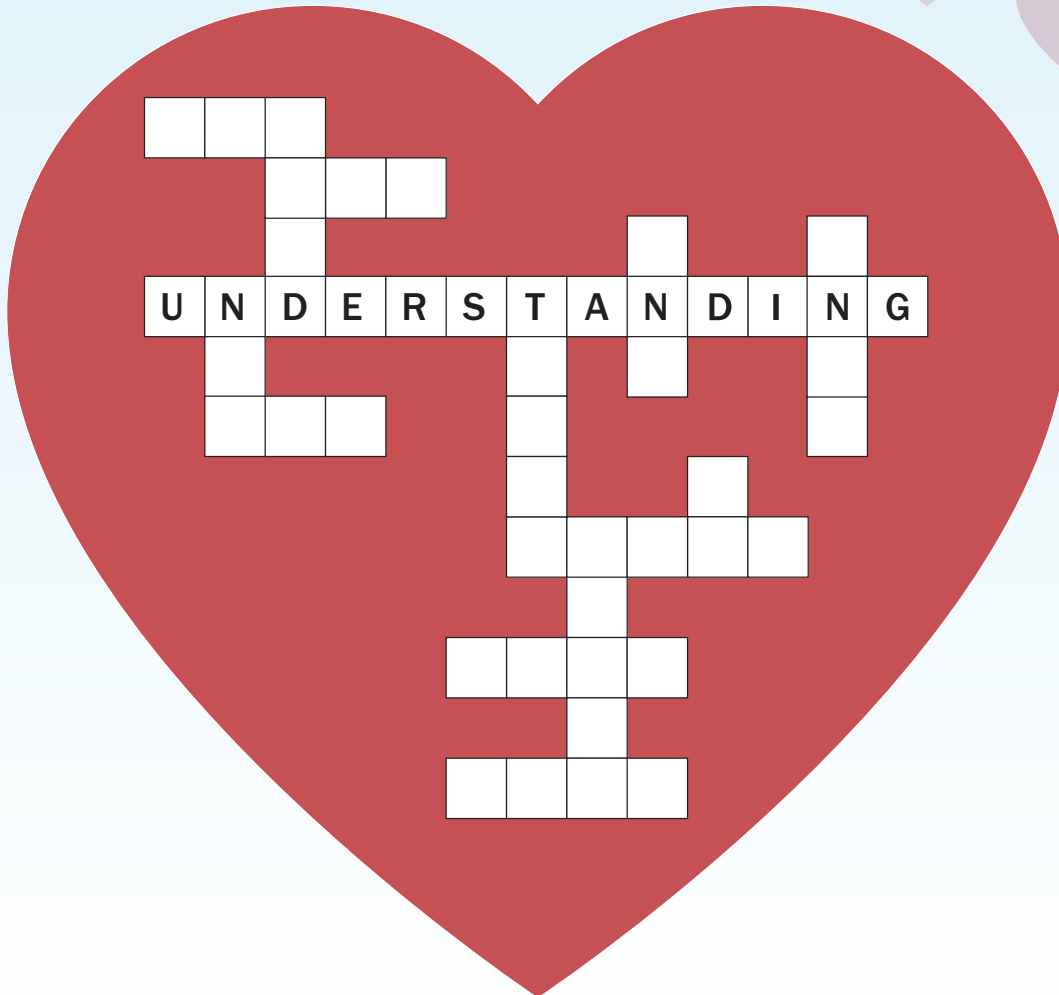
In the story, Gavin realized that he hadn't said exactly what he meant. Of course the hands on the clock couldn't move right if the insides had not been repaired.

As he went back home with the clock, he was glad he had taken it to the repairman so it could be fixed. He felt so much better now! Even if it had cost him most of his savings, he could hear the clock ticking and see the hands moving again.

The repairman at the corner shop knew all about the clock and just how to fix it. God knows all about you. He knows just what you need in your life. He knows you better than you know yourself, because He made you.

Give your heart and life to Jesus. He will give you a new heart and direct your life according to His will.

A decorative graphic in the bottom right corner of the page. It features three light pink hearts of varying sizes scattered across a light blue background. A large, solid red curved shape, resembling a quarter-circle, is positioned in the bottom left corner of this graphic area.



“IT’S ALL YOURS, LORD”

Mateo learned that the tongue can't be controlled without a change of heart.



THE TROUBLEMAKER

LESSON 80 → James 3:1-18

Paul Williams, the owner of the bike shop, glanced up as the bell at the door signaled someone was entering. “Hi, Mateo,” he said to the young man who strode in. “Hi, Paul,” was the reply. “Is my bike ready?”

“No, I had to order the part, and it won’t be in until Monday afternoon. Should have it ready for you by Tuesday morning, though.”

Mateo’s eyes flashed in anger. “What do you mean, it’s not ready! I have to have it for the race this Saturday!”

Paul looked dismayed. “Oh, Mateo, I’m really sorry. You should have told me you had a race coming up. I could have put a rush on the part.”

Mateo swore angrily. “It’s all your fault, and now I’m not going to be able to win that race. Give me my bike. You can bet I’ll never bring it into this lousy shop again!” Dragging the bike, he stormed out.

Late that afternoon, Paul locked the door to the shop and headed across the park. He sighed as he started down the trail that was a shortcut to his home a few blocks away. That incident with Mateo really troubled him. Mateo had grown up in the neighborhood, and Paul had always liked him. But Mateo did have a temper and a real problem with his tongue whenever he got mad. Paul wondered if there was any chance of smoothing the matter over or if Mateo really would avoid dropping in at the shop now.



JESUS, HELP ME TO CONTROL MY TONGUE.

For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. — Matthew 12:34

Even as these thoughts were going through his mind, Paul noticed a familiar figure on the path ahead of him. Mateo! Jogging to catch up, he put a hand on Mateo's shoulder and said, "Mateo, I'm really sorry about this business with the bike. It sure is too bad you had to miss the race. Tell you what . . . I'll call around tomorrow and see if I can't locate that part somewhere else."

Mateo looked sheepish. "Oh, that's okay, Paul. I'm sorry I blew up at you this morning. I was disappointed. I'm surprised you'd even speak to me after the things I said. When I get mad, things just come out that I never meant to say."

"Well," said Paul "lots of other people have had that problem too. The tongue has caused trouble for man since the beginning of time. The Bible talks about it. It even devotes a whole chapter in the Book of James to the problem of the tongue, comparing it to a big blaze that is kindled by a small spark."

"I didn't know that," Mateo said. "I can see how the tongue could be like a fire out of control, but what can I do about it?"

Paul replied, "You need a change of heart. In the Bible it says, 'Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.'"

"What does that mean?" Mateo asked.

"Well, Mateo, think about it. What can you take out of a full cupboard?"

Mateo looked puzzled. "Whatever is in it, I guess."

"Right," said Paul. "You can't take out what is not there. What you keep in the cupboard is what comes out of the cupboard. And what you keep in your heart is what will come out of your heart. Nothing gets changed unless you decide you want it changed."

"Now look at this park. It's a beautiful place, with velvety lawns and tall, majestic trees. It didn't just happen. The people who planted it had a plan. They cleared out rubbish, then planted, weeded, and took care of it. Now we enjoy its beauty."

"Your heart is like this park. You have to plant good things for good to come out. You can't do it on your own. Now if your heart is filled with wrong thoughts, like weeds, they will choke out all the good thoughts you try to grow. So first you have to pull up the 'weeds.' But there are so many, you can't do it alone. You need God's help."

"When you ask Him to come into your heart, He forgives you and plants seeds of love and peace. Then when you talk, good things will come out. Just like the cupboard I talked about earlier, you can't take out anything that wasn't put in." This made Mateo think.

A few days later, while jogging in the park, Mateo nearly ran headfirst into Paul. Mateo lost his footing and stumbled. Normally, a string of curses would have been heard a block away. But something had happened to Mateo! He had taken Paul's advice, and a change of heart had taken place.

"Wow! I guess I'm a bit clumsy today." Mateo said, brushing the dirt from his knees. "How are you anyway, Paul?"

Paul looked at him in surprise. "That's not the response we'd usually hear from you after landing in the dirt, Mateo."

Mateo grinned. "Paul, I have something to tell you. The old 'cupboard' has been cleaned out since I last saw you."

Paul beamed. "That's great, Mateo! You couldn't have told me any better news!"

WHAT DID HE SAY?

It is impossible to speak English without vowels. Add the missing vowels to the words in this verse and read what Solomon, the author of Proverbs, had to say about good words.



P l _ _ s _ n t w _ r d s _ r _ _ s _ n
 h _ n _ y c _ m b , s w _ _ t t _ t h _
 s _ _ l , _ n d h _ _ l t h t _ t h _
 b _ n _ s . - P r _ v _ r b s 1 6 : 2 4

"IT'S ALL YOURS, LORD"



Keeshana and Jordyn found ways to carry the Gospel to others without going to a foreign country.

HOMETOWN MISSIONARIES

LESSON 81 → Matthew 25:31-40; James 2:15-18

Keeshana looked at her friend Jordyn who was sitting cross-legged on the bedroom floor. “I don’t know, Jordyn. I really meant it when I said that I want my feet to take me wherever God wants me to go. But I just don’t see how we can possibly be missionaries right here in our own little town. I meant I wanted to go to a foreign land to work for God.”

A slide program on the missionary work in Peru had been the evening feature at the girls’ church, and the memory of those eager faces had made a deep impression on both of them. Now they sat in

Keeshana’s bedroom, discussing what they had seen and heard.

“Keeshana, you don’t have to go to Peru. You don’t have to go far away at all. Your feet can take you all over our town. There are all kinds of things we can do for the Lord here.” Keeshana still looked dubious. “But Jesus said in the Bible that we should go into all the world and spread the Gospel. Our town couldn’t be what He meant.”

“Why not? Someone has to tell the people here about Jesus. Look at Mrs. Wilson across the



KEY VERSE

I'LL USE MY FEET FOR JESUS.

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings. — Isaiah 52:7

street. She never goes to church. I wonder if she knows anything about God at all. And then there's Mr. Talbot, our Social Studies teacher. He said right out that he had big question marks about the effectiveness of a religious experience. Doesn't it say somewhere in the Book of James that our faith will show through our works? We should do our best to spread the Good News wherever we are!"

The following week at school, Keeshana dashed up to Jordyn as she opened her locker to get her lunch. "Save me a place in the cafeteria. I've got something to tell you!" A few minutes later, between bites of a Nutella sandwich, Keeshana bubbled out her news. "You were absolutely right, Jordyn. Our feet don't have to take us to faraway places before we can work for God. I decided to watch for opportunities right close to home, and I have two to tell you about.

"The very next day after we talked, I decided to walk over and see Ariel Johnson—you know her, she came to Sunday school once or twice. But I haven't seen her there in a couple of months. We just chatted for a while and she seemed really glad to see me. After a bit I casually mentioned that we had missed her at Sunday school, and you know what I found out? Her mom got a part-time job on the weekends, so Ariel has to watch her little sister on Sunday mornings. She had walked to church the times she came, but it's too far for her sister. I told her if that was the problem we'd be glad to give them a ride. We drive, and it's right on our way. So she is coming next Sunday!"

Jordyn smiled. "Can this be the Keeshana who thought she was going to have to go to India or China? Ariel is only a few blocks away, so you didn't have to travel far at all, did you?"

Keeshana grinned back. "That's not all, either. Brother Erik called last night after dinner and invited me to go with a group of young people to

the Wygate Nursing Home on 42nd Street. We're going to sing to the folks there next Sunday afternoon. He asked me to see you at school and ask if you'd like to go too. I guess he called your house, but no one answered."

Jordyn's eyes lit up. "Oh, I'd really like to. I've never gone before."

"I did once, and it was really cool. The people there enjoy the singing and visiting with us."

Jordyn swallowed her last bite of cookie and put her napkin on the tray. "What time do we go? Who's taking us?"

Keeshana chuckled. "Here's a chance for us to use our feet. We leave from the church at two and we walk. It's only sixteen blocks from there to the home."

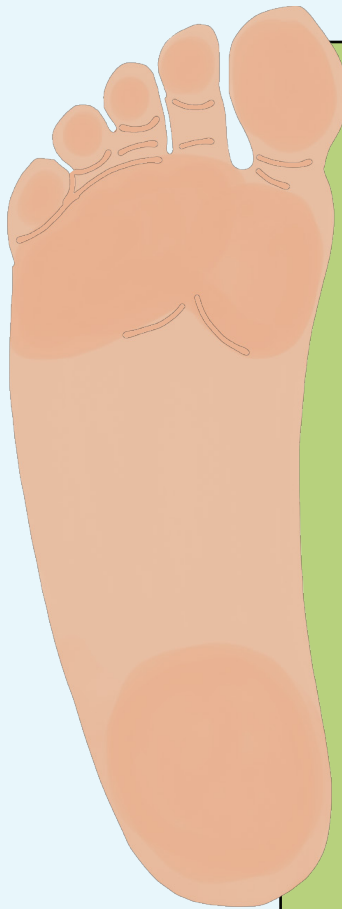
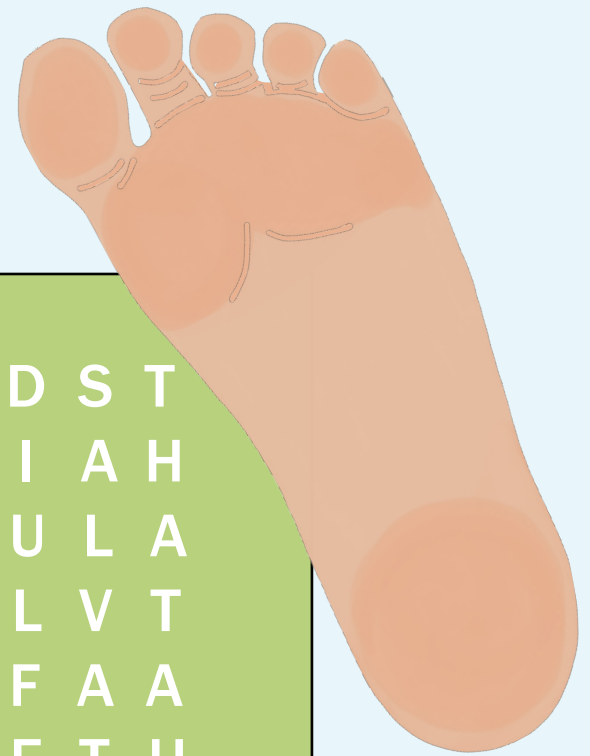
"But that's so far! Why don't they get someone to drive a van?"

"Oh, Jordyn, the walk will do us good! C'mon . . . you were preaching to me about using our feet for the Lord."

"I'll go," Jordyn said as she stood up. "But right now I think our feet had better carry us to our typing class, or Mrs. Bertram will be marking us tardy!"

**FOOTPRINT
FIND**

Find all the words from this week's key verse hidden in the wordfind below.



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

- 01.** Tidings
- 02.** Good
- 03.** Bringeth
- 04.** God
- 05.** Of
- 06.** Upon
- 07.** Feet
- 08.** That

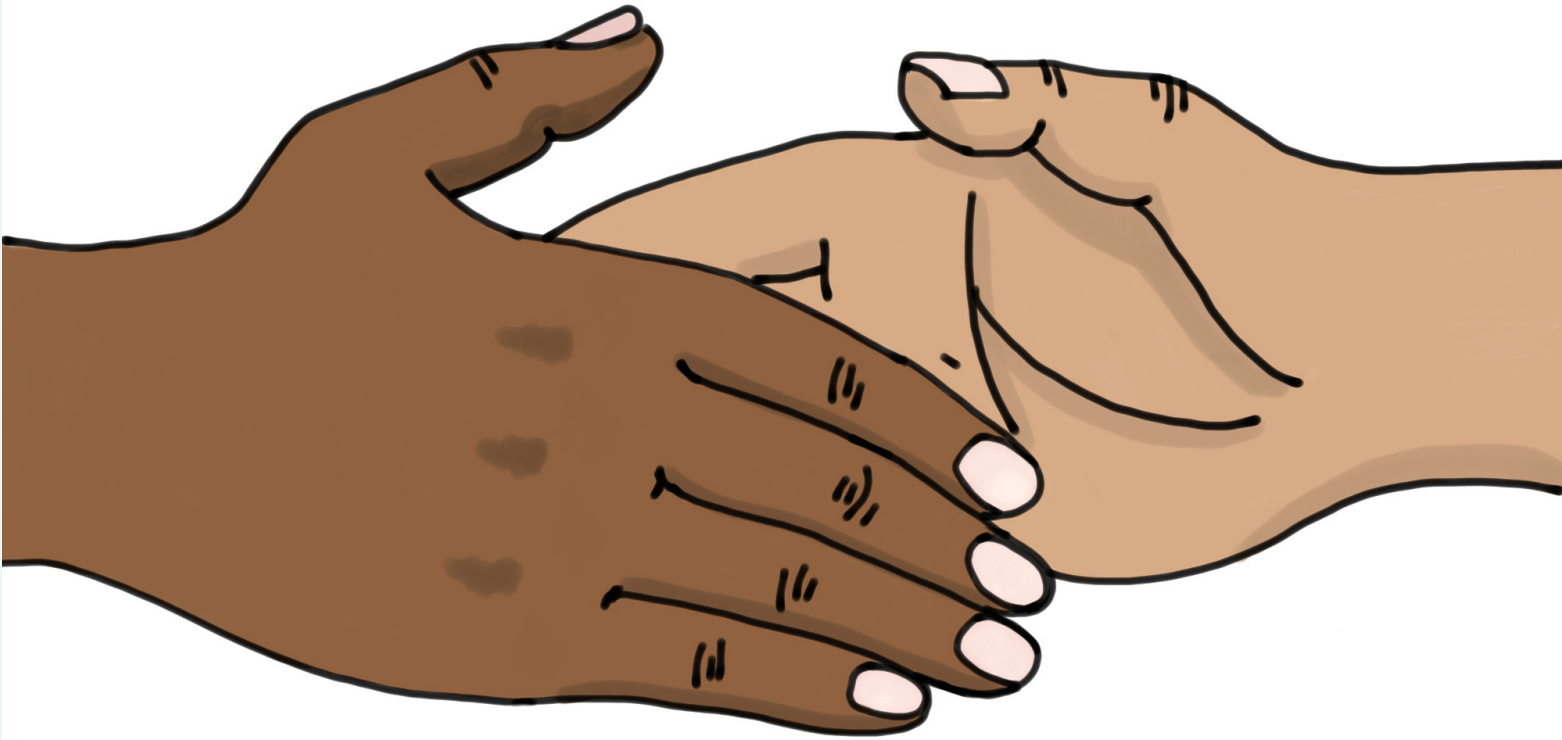
- 09.** Beautiful
- 10.** Unto
- 11.** Him
- 12.** Thy
- 13.** Peace
- 14.** Reigneth
- 15.** Saith
- 16.** Mountains

- 17.** How
- 18.** Zion
- 19.** Are
- 20.** Salvation
- 21.** The
- 22.** Publisheth

"IT'S ALL YOURS, LORD"

HELPING HANDS

LESSON 82 → Exodus 17:8-14; 1 Samuel 30:18-25; Matthew 10:41-42



***Eric discovered
he had an
important job to
do for the Lord.***

Church was over, and Mr. and Mrs. King were ready to leave. “Where’s Eric?” asked Mrs. King. She went back into the sanctuary to look for him. Eric was sitting in the back row looking glum. “What’s wrong, Eric? Aren’t you feeling well?”

“No, it’s not that, Mom.”

“Well, what’s the matter then?”

“Oh, I’m just feeling kind of down,” he replied. His mother looked concerned. “Want to talk about it?”

Eric scuffed his foot across the carpet. “Well, it just seems like I’m not important to anyone.”

“What do you mean? You know you’re one of the most important people on earth to Dad and me!”

“Oh, I know, Mom. I mean here at church. Everyone has something to do except me. You’re in the choir and Dad is an usher, even Jane is in the junior orchestra. All I do is pick up hymn books after children’s meeting.”



KEY VERSE

MY HANDS WILL WORK FOR JESUS.

Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might. — Ecclesiastes 9:10



“That’s important, Eric. Someone has to do it.”
Eric got up with a sigh. “You just don’t understand, Mom.”

The next Sunday, Eric brought his best friend to Sunday school. Eric had asked Jaron several times and he had finally said yes. After the singing was finished the children were all surprised to see the pastor walk up to the front.

“I would like to tell you about a very special person here today,” the pastor began. All the children looked around, wondering who the special person might be. “In our midst is a young man who invited several children to Sunday school. Eric King, will you please come forward?”

Eric was amazed. Could the pastor possibly be talking about him? He went to the front and stood by the pastor.

“Eric, by any chance did you bring someone with you today?”

“Yes, sir, my friend Jaron came with me.”

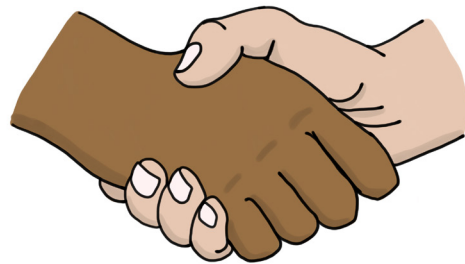
“Do you know how many of your friends you have brought with you to Sunday school in the past year?”

“I guess I’ve never counted.”

“We checked the other day. You have brought fifteen visitors, and many of them now come regularly. Do you realize that what you have been doing is very important? You are one of the reasons why this church and Sunday school are growing. I can’t get your friends to come to Sunday school. I don’t know them. But you do. That’s why only you can bring them.”

“Our lesson today is about using our hands for Jesus. In fact, our key verse says, ‘Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might’ (Ecclesiastes 9:10). This means more than just

the physical use of our hands. It means whatever we do for God. What you are doing is a good example of working for Jesus, so you see, even though most people will never know it, your efforts are just as important in this church as my work, Eric. God sees what you have been doing for Him.” Eric beamed as he shook the pastor’s hand. Never again would he feel useless to God!

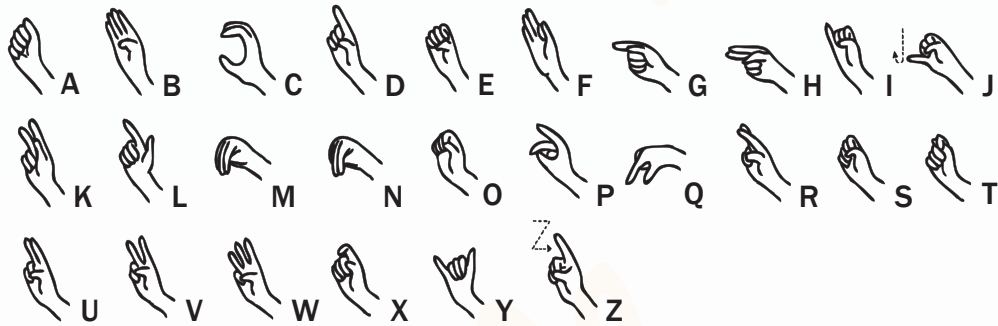


Everyone who loves the Lord is important in God’s work. Even if we don’t sing, play an instrument, or preach, we can still invite people to church and we can pray. In Exodus we find the story of the battle between the Children of Israel and the Amalekites. Moses stood on a hill watching the battle, with the rod of God in his hand. As long as he held up his hand the Israelites won, but if he let it down the Amalekites would prevail. After a time his arms grew weary and he could no longer hold up his hands. Aaron and Hur had gone up the hill with Moses and they fixed a place for him to sit down. They stood on either side of him and held up his hands all day, and the Amalekites were defeated. In this battle the support of Aaron and Hur was needed for victory. If God’s church is to be victorious today it needs the support of people like Eric who may seem unimportant, but who are busy doing what they can for the Lord.

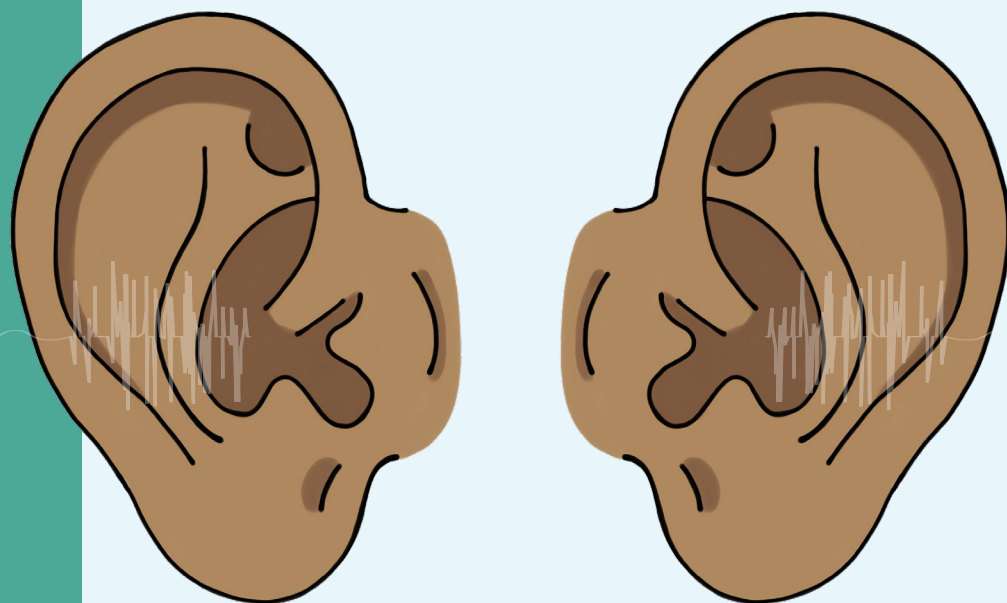
Lesson 82 Activity

SAY IT WITH HANDS!

Did you know that hands can “talk”? When they do, it is called sign language. Using the sign language chart, fill in the correct letter for each hand sign given in the verse below. Want an extra challenge? Try using sign language to say another of your favorite Bible verses.



“IT’S ALL YOURS, LORD”



TUNED IN

LESSON 83 → Proverbs 17:4; Matthew 7:24-27; Luke 8:11-15; 2 Timothy 4:3-4

*What we listen to
can affect us in
many ways.*

E*verywhere I go my ears* tune in to something. At the busy shopping center, so many people are passing by. Kids are shouting. People laughing. Babies crying. Two friends have their heads together, but I hear their words . . . “Well, the one on

sale at Nordstrom’s is really pretty.” Some things I hear make me happy—a father’s telling his child, “You’re a good boy!” Other things make me sad—a couple exchanging unpleasant words.



MY EARS WILL LISTEN TO JESUS.

The ear of the wise seeketh knowledge. — Proverbs 18:15

My school is such a crowded place from the minute the first bell rings in the morning. Students shout greetings as they hurry from class to class, bumping one another in the halls. I hear swear words from some, apologies from others. Everywhere I go I hear good language and bad. But I can tune out what I don't want to hear.

I don't always remember everything I hear. Sometimes Mom or Dad tells me to do something and I forget all about it. Or someone tells me a joke and I can remember all of it except the punch line. Even in class my teacher likes us to take notes so we can review what he says. I think what we hear is very important. Sometimes I pray, "Help me, God, to hear and remember the things that You would have me keep in my mind and heart."

Sometimes people say things that aren't true. In class the other day, Bentlee told me that Weston stole the clothes he is wearing. I've been told unkind things about my friends before. I'm glad I don't have to believe everything I hear.

Walking home from school, I can hear someone's loud stereo. That rock music really pounds into my head. And what are the words to that music? When I listen to them, I don't like them. They are trying to make

a lot of things sound good that I know God doesn't like—drugs and alcohol and immoral behavior. The things we hear can pollute our minds to the point we can hardly think any clean thought. But the words from good songs will linger in our minds too. And as we learn them, the meaning gets into our hearts.

There is so much I hear all week at school and around town that I don't like, but there is a place I can go to hear good things—my church. Sometimes, though, I only listen with my ears so I really don't understand what I'm hearing. I need God to help me really listen so that I will remember it. Then, when I need help with the problems that come into my life, the answer will be in my heart, ready to use.

Every time I go to church I hear more about how to live as a Christian. Some of the things I hear make me squirm in my seat because the words get to me—like the Easter theme we've been studying this month. For me to hear that Jesus died on the Cross because He loved me so much makes me feel that I should be doing more for Him. I guess that feeling in my heart is the way Jesus lets me know what He wants me to do. I realize I need to read my Bible and pray more often. That helps me stay strong as a Christian, and to be more aware of the kinds

of things I should and shouldn't listen to.

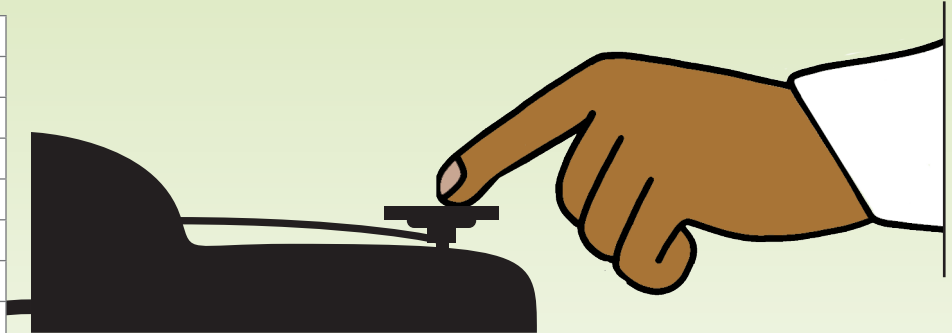
I read in the Bible that if I hear the words of God and do them, I am like a wise man who built his house on a rock. When the storms came and the winds blew, his house didn't fall, because it was built on a solid foundation. If I listen and do what God tells me, I have a strong foundation for my spiritual building. If I don't listen and obey, I am like the foolish man. He built his house on the sand and when the storm came, his house fell.

"Lord, help my ears to always be open to your words so I can be my very best for You."

BREAK THE CODE

Do you want to find out what your ears should be tuned to? Use the Morse code on the left to decipher this message. Write the words on the empty lines. There is a slash between the letters and two bold vertical lines between the words.

A	• —
B	— • • •
C	— • — •
D	— • •
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“IT’S ALL YOURS, LORD”

WHITE WATER

LESSON 84 → Psalm 121:1-2; Matthew 14:22-33; Luke 11:34-36

Letting his eyes wander in the wrong direction brought disaster.



Down . . . down . . . down . . . The bow of our raft nosed deeper into the foaming water. A moment's lapse on my part had brought Tucker and me to the brink of disaster. Why had I allowed my attention to wander even for a second? The sight of a rare golden eagle gliding down the canyon had held me spellbound. I had never seen one in the

wild before. His wing span was incredible, and I could hardly tear my eyes away. Unfortunately, my concentration had been distracted just at the crucial moment when the river plunged into the narrowing gorge. What a drastic mistake!

Now the current raged around us with the roar of an angry lion. The sound in my ears



I'LL KEEP MY EYES ON JESUS.

*Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity;
and quicken thou me in thy way. — Psalm 119:37*



heightened to a terrific intensity. The raft's slamming into the trough of a wave caused a wall of spray to cascade over us.

The next few seconds seemed to last forever. I struggled to keep the bow heading into the waves, fighting for control. But the onward thrust of water rushed us unrelentingly toward certain disaster. The moment I saw that cresting wave loom ahead of us, I wondered why I had ever started out on this rafting trip. I knew just what the rafting manual said—a wave of this type should be hit head-on with strong forward speed. Well, I had the strong forward speed all right, but my raft hadn't read the manual and it headed into the wave broadside. Try as I would, I could not persuade it to do otherwise!

We flipped! I had the fleeting impression of Tucker, arms and legs askew, sailing into the turbulent water. His hoarse shout was the last thing I heard as I clutched madly for the oars and went under.

I guess we only spent a few minutes in the water. When I came up, I spotted Tucker grabbing at the raft, trying to guide it over to the bank. I grabbed an oar as it sailed past me, and I found the gear bag. Tucker and I were cold and wet by the time we finally pulled our raft in, righted it, and located all our loose gear.

I knew I'd have to answer to Tucker. Sure enough, as soon as things started to settle down a little, the question came. "What on earth got into you, Danny?" he sputtered as he wrung the water out of his cowboy hat. "When I saw that white water ahead of us, I glanced back and there you were, staring up at the sky like a moonstruck clown. What in the world were you looking at?"

"An eagle," I admitted sheepishly. "I saw a golden eagle glide over the edge of the canyon and for a second I forgot to keep my eyes on those waves."

"Well, some of you guys have to learn the hard way," said Tucker with a wry look. He fished in his duffle bag for a dry sweatshirt. "But why did I have to pick an amateur like you for a partner?"

* * * * *

Danny learned a lesson that day. He should have kept his eyes on the river! When his attention was diverted by the eagle for a few seconds, his ride through the rapids almost became a disaster.

We can learn a lesson from this too. We might compare our lives as Christians with a ride on white water. If we pay attention, the river of life can be navigated successfully. But we have to keep our eyes on the course. If we shift our eyes for a second, we could have a disaster.

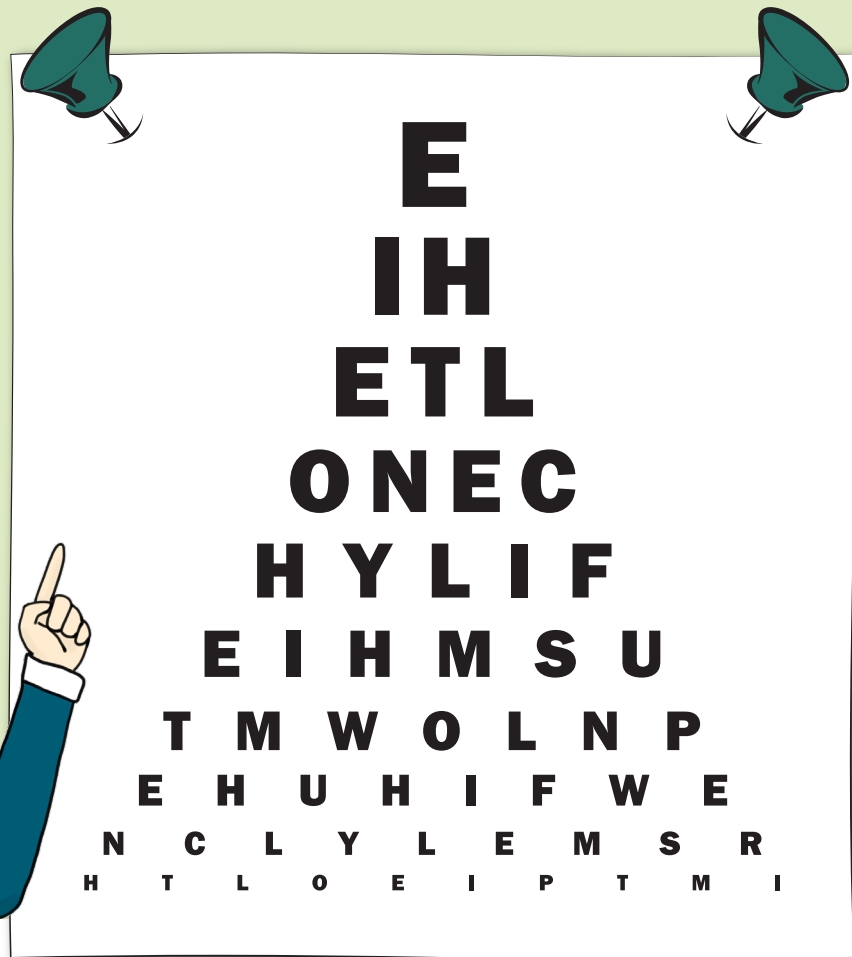
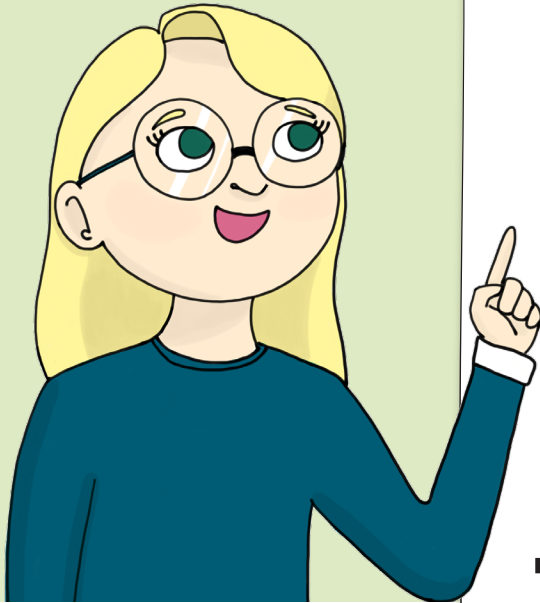
Our Bible text for this week tells how Peter let his attention wander from the Lord as he walked on the water toward Him. Just a moment's glance down at the waves and he found himself sinking. His attention was diverted by the things around him.

In Psalm 119:37 we read, "Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity." That means we shouldn't look at things which might draw us away from God. We can be sure the devil will try to distract us. He will attempt to show us things which—like the eagle in our story—may not be bad or sinful in themselves, but if they take our attention away from God, they could be the very things which would spell disaster for our Christian experience. If we really want to be all-out for God, we must be willing to ignore those things which might sidetrack our concentration from a successful Christian life.

You'll see some "rapids" and "white water" in life, but you can make it through!

Lesson 84 Activity

LOOKING THE RIGHT WAY



To find out where we should look for help, use the eye chart and fill in the blanks below. The numbers under each blank space are coordinates for the letters on the chart. For example, the first blank says 8-5, which means 8 lines down and 5 letters from the left.

8-5 7-3 2-1 3-3 10-3 5-3 6-2 8-6 10-8 6-6 7-7 9-7 5-4 9-1 6-1

1-1 9-4 3-1 9-8 8-3 7-6 7-1 10-4 3-2 8-4 4-3 2-2 10-6 9-3 7-5 6-5 ,

5-5 9-9 7-4 7-2 8-7 6-3 8-1 4-2 9-2 9-6 4-4 4-1 6-4 10-5 10-2 8-2

10-9 5-2 5-1 8-8 9-5 10-7 . - Psalm 121:1

"IT'S ALL YOURS, LORD"

GOD'S WILL

Jesus set the example.

NOT MY WILL

LESSON 85 → Matthew 26:36-42; Philippians 2:5-11

It was very still, with just the first faint glimmers of light showing in the sky. The soldiers stood talking quietly, glad that the long night was almost over. Suddenly the ground beneath them began to tremble. Was it an earthquake? The stone in front of the cave they were guarding shook loose. An angel came and rolled the stone back and sat on it. The soldiers were terrified, and fell to the ground as though they were dead. Jesus had risen!

This happened on the first Easter morning, but what happened before that? Do you know?

* * * * *

The Bible says, "When the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son" (Galatians 4:4). That means that when the time was right for Jesus to come to this earth, God sent Him. We don't know just what was said when Jesus left



I'LL DO WHAT JESUS SAYS.

Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God. — Psalm 143:10



Heaven, but He knew who He was and why He came to earth.

Perhaps God the Father turned to Jesus and said, “It is time now, My Son. According to Our plan, this is when You must leave Heaven and go to live on earth. You will start out as a baby and grow up like any other human being. You will not be the son of a prince. You will not be the son of a rich man. Your parents will be poor. You will be poor all Your life. Some of the people on earth will love You, and listen to Your words. But some will reject You, and then, at the right time, in the chosen place, You will die as a human. When You die, You will take all the sins of the world onto Yourself, and suffer more than any person who will ever live on earth.” Jesus answered, “Yes, Father, I will obey You.” Then God the Son came to earth to live as a human being.

When that tiny Person was born, the angels sang and said there would be peace on earth. When that little Boy grew up He helped people, and loved them, and told them about God. He even told them He was the Son of God—because He was.

Some people believed Him, but others became angry and said He would have to die because He said He was the Son of God.

One night Jesus, the Son of God, went to a garden where He

loved to go. But this night He was very sad. He knew the time had come. This was when He would have to take all the sins of everybody on Himself. The burden got heavier and heavier. What agony He went through as He prayed there alone. The Bible tells us that He sweat as it were great drops of blood. He prayed to God, “Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done” (Luke 22:42).



Soon the chief priests and officers of the Jews came and took Jesus to the governor, whose name was Pilate. He said that Jesus would have to die.

The same day, Jesus was taken outside the city and nailed to a wooden cross. All this time the weight of everyone’s sins was on Him. Finally He cried, “My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?” Jesus had the power to come down from the Cross.

He didn’t have to endure that. He could have revealed Himself as God at the crucial moment, and His enemies would have fled in terror. He had known all along that this day would come, but He did not run away. He submitted Himself to the divine plan. He never complained or said, “I won’t die on the Cross.”

After Jesus died, some friends put His body into a tomb. The enemies of Jesus asked for soldiers to guard the tomb. They wanted to make sure no one came to steal His body. But on the third day, Jesus came back to life. The angel rolled the stone away and declared, “He is risen!”

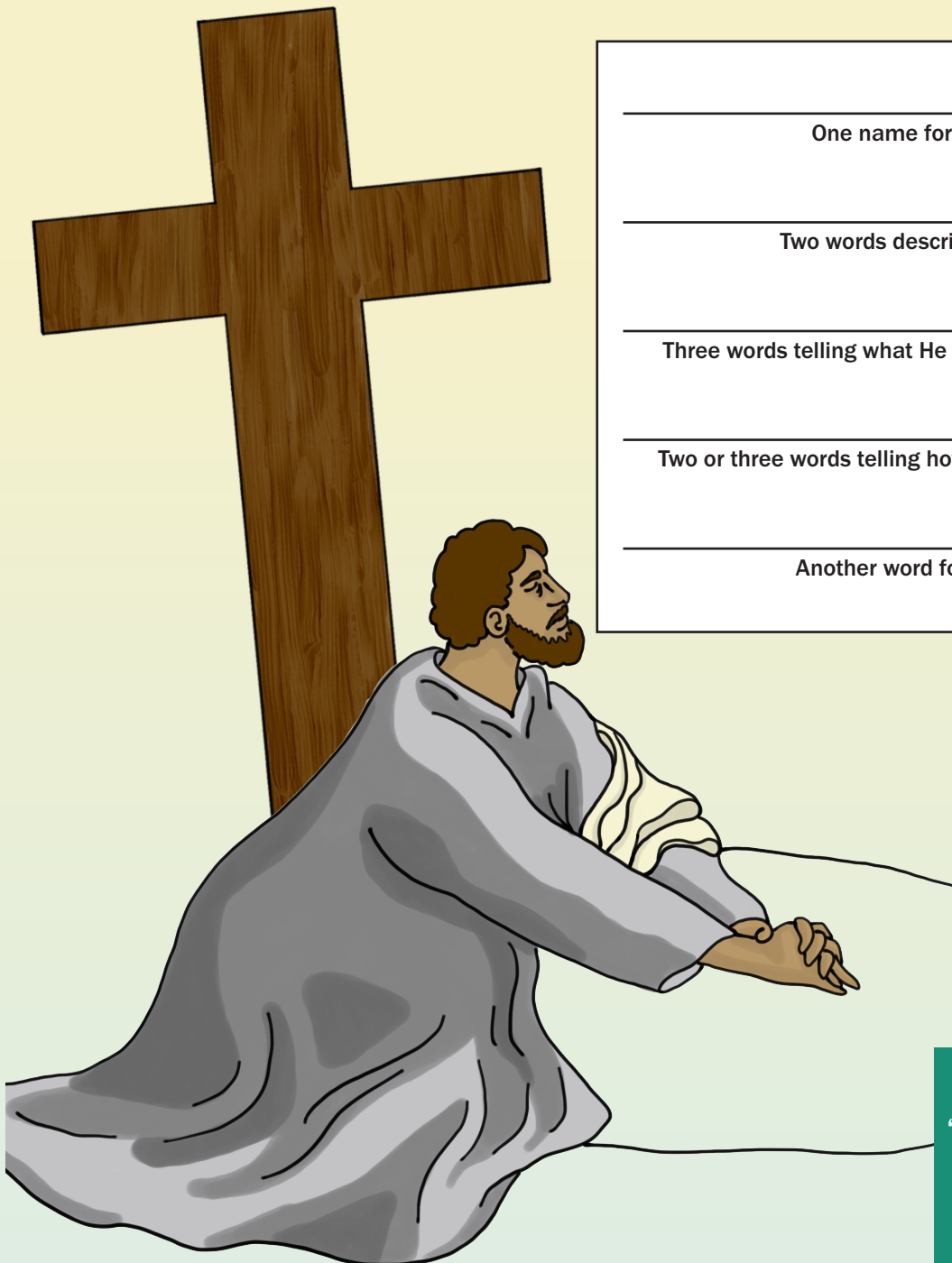
Jesus obeyed, even when it was extremely difficult. If He had decided that He wouldn’t die for us after all, there would be no Easter morning. There would be no salvation from sin. We would have no hope of eternal life.

God had a plan for the earthly life of His Son, Jesus. He has a plan for our lives too.

Jesus found out what His Father wanted Him to do, and He did it. So should we!

**NOT MY WILL,
BUT THINE**

Jesus submitted His will when He died on the Cross for us. Write a Cinquain poem about Him on the lines below. Follow the instructions under each line. It does not have to rhyme.



One name for Jesus

Two words describing Him

Three words telling what He did, ending with "ing"

Two or three words telling how you feel about Him

Another word for Jesus

"IT'S ALL YOURS, LORD"



A GREAT CHANGE

LESSON 86 → Romans 8:5-9; Philippians 2:3; 4:4-9

Terrence's vacation resulted in peace of mind.

Terrence leaned his head back, shut his eyes, and tried to relax. The plane had been in the air only a few minutes, but already he was missing the friends and family he had just said goodbye to. It had been a wonderful

vacation, and now he was headed home.

Everyone at home would be expecting him to be as wild and crazy as he had ever been, but they were in for a surprise. And his mom and dad—they would be thrilled! This

vacation at his grandparent's had really been different—Terrence had given his heart and life to Jesus.

At the beginning of his vacation he certainly hadn't anticipated this change in his life. He had just been glad for the



GOD IS FIRST IN MY MIND.

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee. — Isaiah 26:3



spring break from school. He was going to have fun with the cousins he hadn't seen for a couple of years. But their church's four-day youth retreat had been a turning point for him as well as for several other young people.

Terrence opened his eyes and ran his hand over the cover of the new Bible that he held on his lap. It was a gift from all his new friends who had prayed with him when he became a Christian. He opened it and began to leaf through the pages. So many pages, so many words. Where do I start? thought Terrence. He stopped turning pages when he saw the name Isaiah. That was the Book of the Bible his grandma had mentioned when they had read the Bible together this morning. He scanned through a few verses and stopped when he came to the words, "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee." Perfect peace—wow! Was such a thing possible? It must be if it's written in the Bible, thought Terrence.

As he continued to read, Terrence noticed that the man sitting next to him kept glancing at the Bible. Terrence's first thought was that the man might like to hear about what Jesus had done for him. But then he thought he had better be careful, because he didn't want anyone to think he was a religious fanatic.

Wait a minute! What was that his grandpa had said to him just before he got on the plane? "Terrence, Jesus has given you something very precious. Don't let the devil rob you of it. He will try to make you doubt what Jesus has given you. He will tell you that you are going to have a hard time as a Christian, and that other people won't like you. But just remember, the devil is a liar. He only wants to see you in Hell. If you will pray and read God's Word, Jesus will always be there to help you." His grandma had then handed him a piece of paper. On it were written

several Scripture references. Terrence decided to look up some of the verses now.

The first verse was in Philippians. He looked at the index to see where to find that Book. When he found it, he looked for chapter 4, verses 8 and 9. He read the verses, and again he found a reference to peace—the God of peace. It seemed that this peace which was promised was conditional on his thoughts being turned to the things of God. Verse eight said to think on things that are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, of a good report—things that are right.

As he thought about these verses, Terrence saw that the man in the next seat was still glancing at his open Bible. He decided that this was a good chance to give his testimony to someone. The devil was just trying to stop him. Well, Grandpa said that the devil is a liar, thought Terrence, so I will just say what I've heard other Christians say, "Get thee behind me, Satan!" The devil's not going to get a hold on my mind, thought Terrence. I'm going to bring honor to God whenever I have the chance.

He turned to the man and said,



"You seem to be interested in my new Bible. Would you like to hear how I got it? Well, I met a wonderful new Friend who changed my heart and mind . . ."

**IT'S THE
THOUGHT THAT
COUNTS!**

Our thoughts come from our hearts. What do you
suppose these people are thinking?



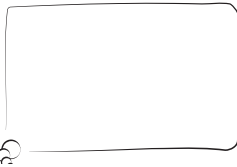
Jane
Jealousy



"Hey! Look at Audra's
new coat. It's probably
REAL leather!"



Kiera
Kindness



Mike
Malice



"Hey guys! Look at
Sawyer's new car. It's the
BEST they sell!"



Keyron
Christian



"IT'S ALL YOURS, LORD"



DEAR DIARY

LESSON 87 → 1 Corinthians 3:15-20; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; Ephesians 5:3-5

Leah and Nariko each write about a developing relationship.

Dear Diary,
May 2 — The most exciting thing happened today! I met Nariko Kim! I still can't believe my luck. Fumi, his sister, is in my algebra class. She's been out for a week with the flu. Mr. Adams asked me to drop by with her assignments, since I live the closest to her of anyone in the class. Just as I was leaving her place, I walked Nariko. He's even

dreamier close up than from a distance.

May 2 — Met a cute girl today! Pretty good looking for one of my sister's friends! Fumi says her name is Leah. I'll have to see about getting better acquainted with this one!

May 5 — Am I ever walking on air tonight! Today, on my way home from school, I heard a horn honk—it was Nariko! He asked if I wanted a ride. Of

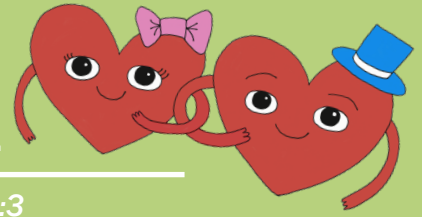
course, I said yes! I wasn't at all nervous talking to him, even if he is student body president at Oak Ridge High. When we got to the house, we sat out in his car and talked. Time just flew. I couldn't believe it when I saw it was four o'clock. I really had to rush to get my homework done before Bible study.

May 5 — Spotted Fumi's little friend Leah when I was coming home from school. Gave her



RIGHT RELATIONSHIPS ARE IMPORTANT.

Can two walk together, except they be agreed? — Amos 3:3



a lift home. For a junior high student, she's a pretty sharp girl! I was really impressed. Quite easy to talk to, and we seem to have a lot in common.

May 11 — Fumi invited me over today after school. I haven't known her all that well, but we get along great. Nariko came in while I was there! We talked about a lot of different things. I did notice that he got a funny look when I mentioned going to Bible class on Thursday night. He asked, "Every Thursday night?" in a kind of disbelieving voice. I wonder if he goes to church?

May 11 — I talked Fumi into inviting Leah over today, and then I "just happened" to come in about that time! While we were talking, she mentioned Bible class. Sounds like she goes all the time. I wonder what church it is? Maybe that's what makes her seem like such a nice girl.

May 14 — Today I invited Fumi and Nariko to Youth Fellowship Night. Fumi would have come, but she had already promised to babysit for Mrs. Kirkman down the street. Nariko's excuse sounded so fake; he mumbled about some homework and a practice, and then said he had a cold too. It was so obvious he didn't want to come. I'm getting a strong feeling he isn't much interested in anything to do with church. But maybe I can make him change his mind.

May 14 — Leah called up today and invited Fumi and me to a youth get-together at her church. Fumi couldn't go. I would have liked to, but I guess I was chicken. I've only been in a church a couple of times. My parents don't go. I wouldn't even know how to act or what to do. I guess my excuses sounded kind of lame, but I hope Leah didn't notice.

May 21 — What a fabulous time I've had! The Kim's invited me to go on a picnic with them, and did we ever have a blast! Their folks treated me so nice. We roasted hot dogs, took a long bike ride, and ate again on the way home.

May 21 — We took Leah with us on a picnic today. I can't get over how different she is than most girls I know. Even Mom and Dad commented on what a sweet girl she seems to be. I wonder what it is that makes her that way?

May 22 — Oh, dear, how can I feel so mixed up today when I felt so great yesterday? In Sunday school class this morning, our teacher discussed the dangers of establishing close relationships with people who are not Christians. We read, "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" I couldn't help but think about Nariko. I've been trying to put it out of my mind, but I know he is not a Christian. I've tried to convince myself that I could

help him become one, but today I had to face up to it—I just can't count on its working out that way. I'm afraid I just can't let this relationship with Nariko develop any further.

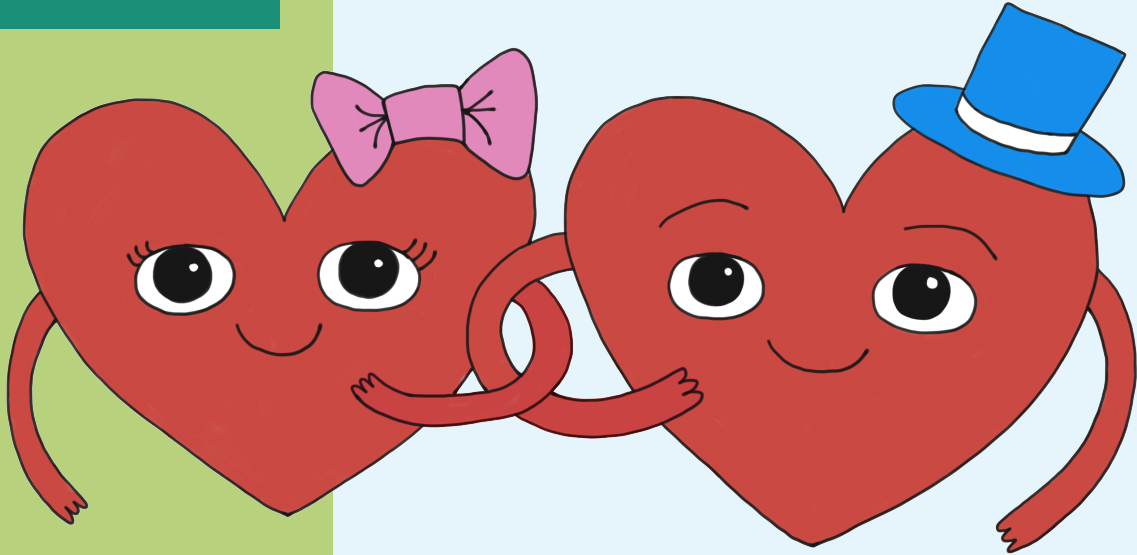
May 22 — Spent the day over at Milo's doing homework and watching TV. We talked some about the band concert coming up next week. I wonder if Leah will go with me.

May 25 — Nariko asked me to go to a band concert in the park tomorrow. I knew it would be hard to refuse but I said, "No, I can't Nariko. I'm a Christian and we are on different paths." The Lord helped me. It was very hard, but I knew I was doing the right thing. We had a good talk after that, but I suppose that is the last I will hear from him.

May 25 — I called Leah this morning and asked her if she could go to the concert tomorrow. She told me she couldn't—that she's a Christian! I really have to respect her for taking a stand like that. There must be something to this business of being a Christian. I wonder what she'd think if I asked to go to church with her next Sunday?

**RIGHT
RELATIONSHIPS**

Unscramble the words to find God's answer to Daphne's question. Try to complete the verse before you look it up in the Bible.



EB EY TON
YLAULQEUN DOKEY
ROTTEGHE WHIT
SUNBELIEVER:
ROF HATW LLSIHOFEP
HAHT NETHISESSOURG
TIWH NETHUISESNSOURG?

- II Corinthians 6:14

Asher asked me for a date. He's a really nice guy but he's not a Christian. What would Jesus say?



"IT'S ALL YOURS, LORD"

THAT SPECIAL MOM

LESSON 88 → Proverbs 31:10-31

Today and every day, we should honor those who take care of us.



How much do you think a good mother is worth? If your mother worked for wages, how much would you have to pay her? Of course, these are silly questions! You could never put a price on the worth of someone's love, but consider this. Once someone did actually calculate the cost of hiring someone to do a mother's work. And guess what—you couldn't afford to have a mother! God's Word tells us that the price of a virtuous woman is far above rubies.

Many mothers clean the house thoroughly once a week, and straighten up things every day. They shop for groceries, plan menus for the family, and prepare meals. They bake, pack

lunches, and change the sheets on the beds. They do the washing, ironing, folding, mending, and purchase the clothing. They drive their children to places they want to go, to music lessons, and school activities. They also help with homework, and care for someone in the family who is ill.

If you hired someone to do their jobs you'd need a butcher, a baker, a teacher, a nurse, a maid, and a chauffeur. But you still wouldn't have a mother's love. You can't buy that.

Most children get so used to having a mother around that they don't think much about her. They just expect her to do all these things because she is MOM and it is her JOB!

Remember, your mother is really just a person like you. She started as a little girl, and learned as she grew. Now, as your mother, she has a very

important responsibility within the framework of the family. Yet she probably learned about what makes a good mother, and how she could prepare herself to be one, while she was growing up.

Perhaps there isn't a mother in your home. Or maybe your mom works and isn't able to be home and do all of those things for her family. The way each home operates and who does what, is different from others. But the parents or those in charge of the home have a great responsibility.

Did you ever stop to think that you have a responsibility in your family too? Being a parent is an important assignment from God. But your place is also important. God gives many instructions to children in His Word. He expects them to obey their parents, to honor their elders, and to respect authority. They are promised the blessing of God if they



THANK YOU, JESUS, FOR MY MOTHER.

Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord. — Colossians 3:20



do. And having God's blessing on our lives is important if we want to be happy.

When you try to do your best as a part of the family circle, you are learning in the same way most mothers learned. You are preparing to accept the additional responsibilities that may be yours someday. You're not a parent now, but someday you might be! If you have learned to fulfill your part in the family as you grow up, it will help you to assume the new responsibilities of adulthood.

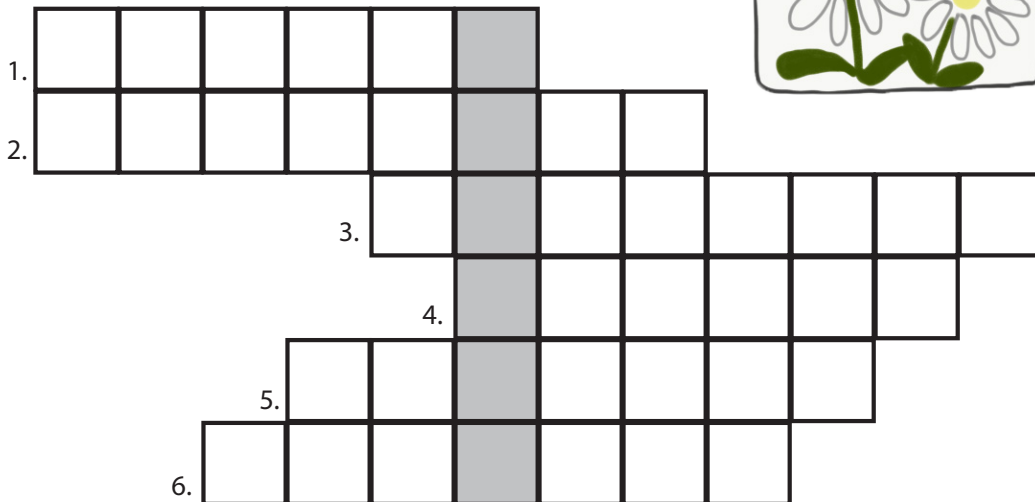
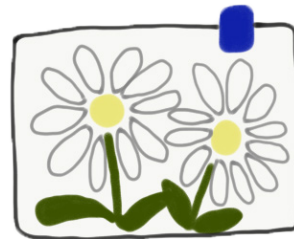
Compare your family to a car. The engine won't run without a battery. The car won't move without wheels. It can't be turned or directed without some sort of steering system. All cars are not alike, just as all families are not alike. But in both cases, each part needs to be in place and functioning for the car to run smoothly.

So it is with the family. When each of the members does his part, the home is a happier place for all who live there.

**IT'S YOUR DAY,
MOM!**

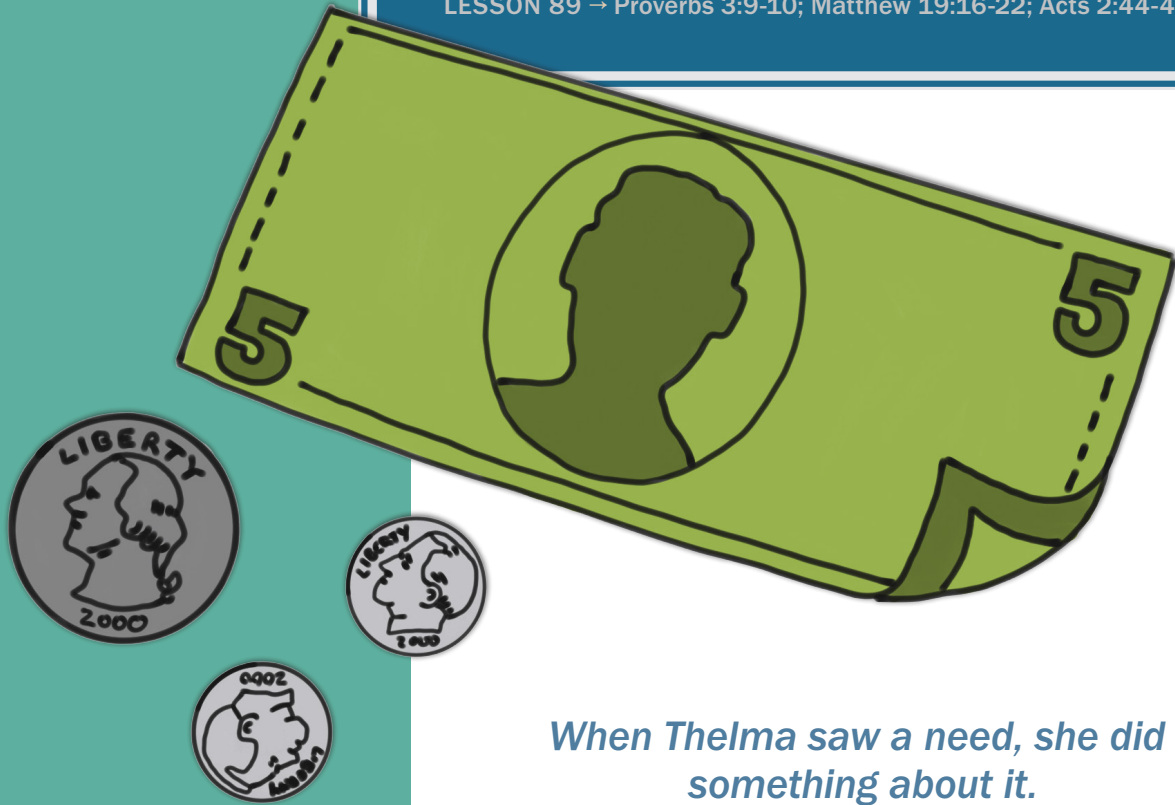
Read Proverbs 31:10-31 and fill in the blanks in the following verses. Then copy the words in their proper places in the puzzle below.

1. She openeth her mouth with _____. (verse 26)
2. Who can find a _____ woman? (verse 10)
3. She girdeth her loins with _____. (verse 17)
4. Strength and _____ are her clothing. (verse 25)
5. Her children arise up, and call her _____. (verse 28)
6. A woman that _____ the LORD, she shall be praised. (verse 30)



A WILLING GIVER

LESSON 89 → Proverbs 3:9-10; Matthew 19:16-22; Acts 2:44-47



When Thelma saw a need, she did something about it.

When you look at Thelma's stooped shoulders, the head that shakes a little, the lines and worn hands, you probably don't realize that she is a great example. But she is.

You might get a hint of it if you stopped long enough to take that hand, with its papery soft skin, into your own. The warmth of her grip might surprise you.

You would surely suspect it if you took time to look deep into her eyes. There is a glow in them that you can't miss—a glow reflected in her smile.

Thelma is happy. She is blessed by God. She is an example.

Don't tell me that Thelma is just another one of the elderly, the best of her life over, simply waiting out her last few years. I know better.



I WILL BE A WILLING GIVER.

Give, and it shall be given unto you. — Luke 6:38

*give
receive*

Thelma has the joy of living in her heart. Though if you looked at her home, you might ask, “Why?” for it is nothing pretentious—just a simple little two-story house where she lives with her sister. A little run-down here and there. If you looked at her dress you might ask, “Why?” for her clothes are certainly not the latest in fashion.

If you looked for her family, you might again ask, “Why?” for she never married and has only her sister.

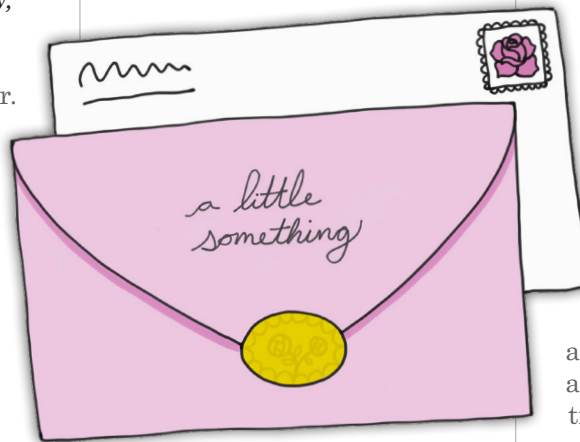
Thelma would be the last to tell you her secret. For that matter, I don’t suppose she’s ever given it a thought. She would just say, “God has been good to me.” But I think I can tell you why Thelma has such a peace and happiness about her, why I say she is an example.

Thelma has learned that there is a great blessing for those who willingly give to God and to God’s children. When Thelma knows about a need, she doesn’t just shake her head and say, “My, there certainly is a need.” She does something.

It may not be much: five or ten dollars tucked into an envelope and pressed into a hand. A card to missionaries far

from home, enclosing a “little something” for a need there. A quarter tucked into the hand of a five-year-old. A monthly donation to the missionary project.

I’ve seen her slip into a rest room and take off her stockings to give to a woman off the street whose legs were bare and cold. I’ve seen her laboriously trimming old greeting cards



and religious pictures to be sent to India.

She spends of her own limited funds for Bibles to be sent to foreign lands. She provides food for a needy young woman whose husband left her and their young children. She gives a little something toward the entertaining of the seafaring men who visit the church. Thelma does something when she sees a need!

I’d like to follow her example.

It’s easy for me to think, I’ve got to be careful and save when I can. I don’t have very much myself, and it seems like I need so many things. I have to think twice before I spend or give money to others. I know it’s a worthy cause, I can see there is a need, but . . .

If you could really get to know

Thelma, you would find that she has learned the truth recorded in 2 Corinthians 9:6, “He which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.” “Bountifully?” you ask. I already said her home, her clothes, and her life are simple. Certainly not luxurious.

But Thelma glows with an inner light. She has found a blessing greater than any treasure money could buy.

We read: “God loveth a cheerful giver.”

I know God loves Thelma.

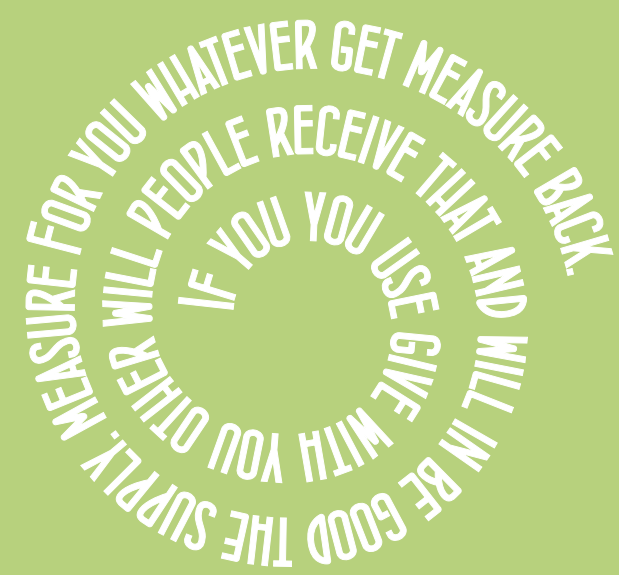
Thelma was one of the sisters in our Portland church until she was called home to be with Jesus after this story was written. Maybe you know someone like her. Look around you! Remember, you can follow her example.

Lesson 89 Activity

**HOW MUCH
WILL I GET?**

To find another way to say Luke 6:38, read every other word in the spiral starting at the word “if.” Go around the spiral twice. The second time around, start with the word “you.” Write your answer on the lines below.

A cartoon illustration of a young boy with short, bright orange hair. He has a friendly expression with large, dark brown eyes and a wide, open-mouthed smile showing his teeth. He is wearing a solid blue short-sleeved t-shirt and dark grey or black trousers. His hands are on his hips, and he is standing with his feet slightly apart. The background is a solid, light green color. The style is simple and clean, with bold black outlines for the character's features and clothing.



“IT’S ALL YOURS, LORD”

"IT'S ALL YOURS, LORD"



WHAT IS REALLY IMPORTANT?

LESSON 90 → Luke 12:16-21; 14:16-24; James 4:13-15

Jamar needed to consider how he spent his time.

Jamar threw open the bedroom door and tossed his backpack on the bed. Hurriedly he pulled it open. Out came his social studies textbook. His math book. A binder. Ah! Here it is! He grabbed the video game Keith had loaned him, and took out the disc, dropping the open case on the bed.

A minute later his mother put her head around the door of his room. “Hi, Jamar. I thought I heard you come in.”

Jamar glanced up at his mom while rummaging through a bin for his controller, and gave her a brief smile. “Yeah, I just got here.”

“What are you so frantically looking for?” She asked. Then she noticed the open game case on

the bed. A little frown creased her brow. “Jamar, be sure you leave enough time to get your homework done before supper. You know we are supposed to go over to Grandma’s this evening, so you won’t have time to do it afterward.”

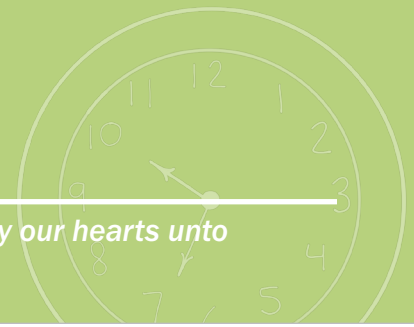
“Sure, Mom . . .” Jamar’s voice trailed off as he turned on the game console and inserted the disc. His mother watched him for a moment, then sighed a little, and walked slowly back to the kitchen.

“Jamar!” her voice rang up the stairs an hour or so later. “Your dad is home and it’s about time to wash up for dinner.” Jamar looked up, startled, and frowned at the clock on his bookshelf. It couldn’t be five o’clock already! It seemed like he’d just been playing a few minutes. Oh, boy, he hadn’t even started his math assignment, and



I'LL MAKE EACH MINUTE COUNT.

So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. — Psalm 90:12



besides that, he had a Social Studies test tomorrow to study for. Well, he'd better head downstairs now for dinner. Maybe he could eat fast and get some homework done before time to go to Grandma's.

"I think I'd better pass on seconds tonight," his dad said a little later as the three of them finished their dinner. "Grandma is sure to have some sort of desert prepared for us." He looked at his watch. "Besides, we're going to have to get on the move. I need to stop and pick up a part for the car before the shop closes at 6:00."

Jamar gulped. There went his homework time! His mom glanced at him. "Did you get your homework done, Jamar?"

He glanced down at the empty plate in front of him. "Uh, not exactly, Mom . . ."

She looked at him sternly.

"Jamar! Did you even start it? Or did you just spend that whole hour before dinner playing video games?"

Jamar hung his head. "I didn't mean to, Mom. I couldn't believe it when you called me for dinner. The time just went by so fast!"

"How much homework do you have to do, Jamar?" his father asked.

"Just a chapter of math, and a Social Studies quiz to study for."

His father sighed. "I'm afraid we'll just have to leave you home tonight to study. It's important that I get that car part, so we must leave right away. And your Grandmother is expecting us by 6:30."

Jamar's face reflected his disappointment. "Ah, Dad, couldn't I do it when I get home?"

"No, Son. You'd better stay home and get it done."

Late that evening Jamar's parents arrived home, and his dad came up to his room. "Sorry you couldn't go with us," he said. "Your grandma really missed you. Now before you hop into bed, I'd like to talk to you for a few minutes."

He sat down on the edge of Jamar's bed and reached for the Bible. "There's a couple of verses here I'd like you to read." He pointed to Ephesians 5:15 and 16.

Jamar took the Bible and looked where his dad was pointing. "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil." "What does 'redeeming the time' mean to you, Jamar?" his dad questioned.

"Well . . ." Jamar stumbled for words. "Doesn't it mean not frittering away our time but making each minute count?"

"Yes, that's it," his dad agreed.

"To redeem something is to get possession by paying for it. So to redeem time, we must pay a price. To do this may mean considering the way we spend our time."

Jamar looked a little guilty. "I guess you mean not spending so much time playing video games when there are more important things to do."

His father smiled. "You catch on quickly, Jamar. I was thinking of video games, but not only that. There are many ways that people can waste time. It's necessary that we carefully consider our activities, and how much time we spend doing them. I'm not saying that you should never enjoy a moment's recreation, but I do want you to remember that each moment of working for God or using your talents for Him, or studying His Word is a preparation for eternity. That's pretty important! So weigh how much time you spend on each of these against the amount of time you spend doing things with no eternal gain."

He patted his son on the shoulder. "Now, if you've got your homework done, Grandma sent a big piece of chocolate cake to her favorite grandson."

Lesson 90 Activity

DO YOU HAVE TIME?

In Bible story, three men made excuses why they couldn't attend the great supper. Write their excuses in the boxes.

"I can not come!"

Excuse #1

"I can not come!"

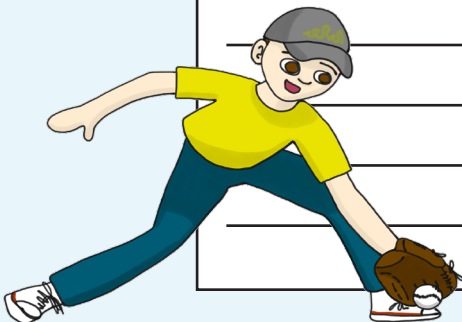
Excuse #2

"I can not come!"

Excuse #3

Today, many people still make excuses for not having time to serve Jesus. Look at the two people below and write what you think might be used for an excuse in each of these situations.

Excuse



Excuse



"IT'S ALL YOURS, LORD"

A SECURE FUTURE

LESSON 91 → Philippians 3:7-15

God assured Mrs. Albertson that He would take care of her.



“Mama, tell me again what it was like when Daddy was here with us.” Six-year old Selah laid her hand on her mother’s arm. Mrs. Albertson hung up the dish towel and they both went into the front room where Liam and Cooper were doing homework.

“What part do you want to hear, Selah?”

“Tell me about a night like tonight, when dinner was over, but I wasn’t in bed yet.”

Looking out the window at the summer evening, Mrs. Albertson said quietly, “You were small, not quite two years old. That was your special time with Daddy. He would take you for a walk or play with you while the boys and I did the chores. When the dishes were done, he’d bring you to me and then he’d help the boys with their homework while I put you to bed.”

“Did Cooper have homework?” Selah asked, looking at her ten-year-old brother.

“Yes, Cooper was in the first grade and he was learning to read, just like you are now. Daddy was so proud of him because he learned very quickly.”



GOD WILL DIRECT MY FUTURE.

In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. — Proverbs 3:6



“How old was Liam then, Mama?”

Mrs. Albertson thought for a minute. “He was ten years old, just like Cooper is now. He had lots of homework Daddy could help with—especially math.” She smiled at Liam as he looked up from his work.

“I still remember the day Dad’s boss came and told us about the plane crash,” Liam said. “I remember how white you got, and how you cried. But then you said, ‘Thank You, God, for making me ready for this.’ Tell Selah and Cooper why you said that, Mom. I think they should know.”

Taking Selah’s hand in hers, Mrs. Albertson was quiet for a few moments. Then she began: “When Daddy and I were first married we asked God to give us a happy home. We promised to serve Him with all of our hearts and to teach our children to love Him too. When each one of you was born we asked God to help you grow up to live for Him. We had no idea what was going to happen in the future, but we prayed together and asked God to care for us each day, and to help us live for Him.

“The day before Daddy was to come home from his business trip, I talked to Jesus about some extra money we needed to pay certain bills. All of a sudden, in my heart I could hear the words, ‘I’ll take care of you, Martha.’ That was all—but I knew God had said it. I could hardly wait for Daddy to come home so I could tell him. I thought the words meant that the money problem would be solved. But the next day was the day Daddy died in the plane crash. Then I knew that God had told me He’d take care of us when Daddy was gone.”

“Why didn’t God take care of Daddy?” Selah asked.

“He did,” her mother replied softly. “He had a plan for Daddy, and Daddy had submitted his

life to God’s will. He knew that whatever happened to him was God’s best.

“And the Lord has taken care of us too. We have everything we need, even though we don’t always get all we want. I’m sure each of you can think of a special time when Jesus was right there to help.”

“Well,” Liam spoke up, “I know that math isn’t getting any easier, but when a difficult problem puzzles me, I just ask Jesus to help me understand—and He does.”

“Mama, sometimes when you tuck me in bed and turn out the light, I lie there alone in the dark and it seems so scary,” said Selah. “Then I say the part of the ‘Now I lay me’ again, where it says, ‘Guard me safely through the night, and keep me till the morning light,’ and Jesus helps me to go to sleep.”

“I sure haven’t forgotten the time on the river,” Cooper added, “when the boat tipped and I fell overboard—and I didn’t know how to swim! Just when I thought I wouldn’t make it, there was that log for me to grab.”

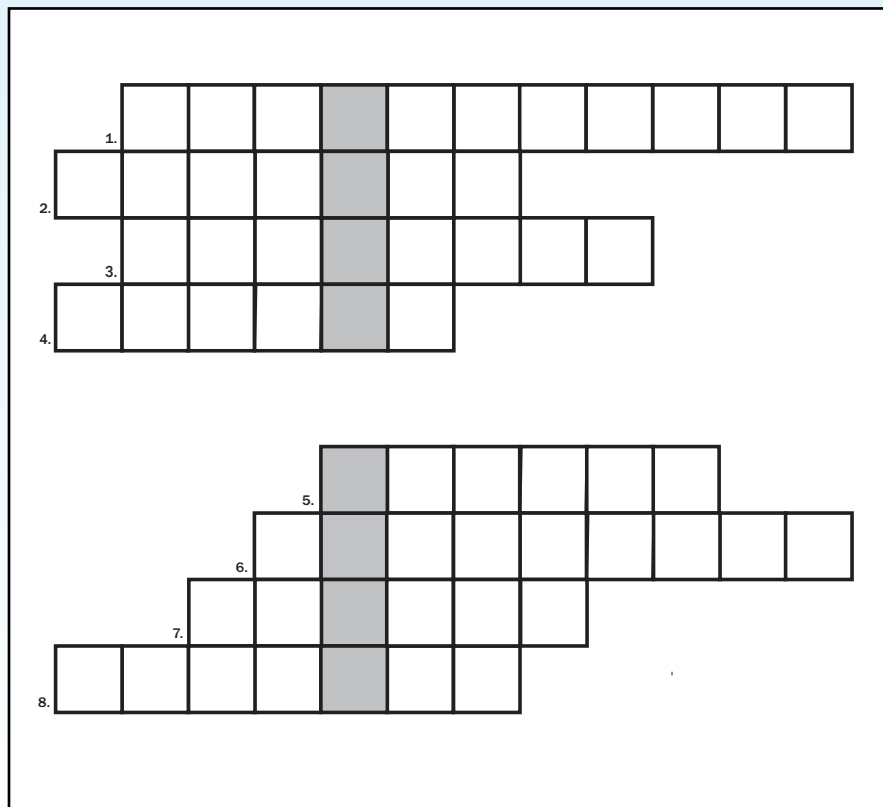
Mrs. Albertson looked at her children with a smile, even though tears were in her eyes. “I’m so glad Daddy and I asked the Lord to take care of us. It’s so much easier to trust God in hard times if you’ve already given Him your heart and asked Him to take care of the future.”

* * * * *

Mrs. Albertson and her children had learned a valuable lesson—how important it is for us to place our entire selves at God’s disposal. The Apostle Paul said to present our bodies “a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God” (Romans 12:1). If we do, we can be assured He will direct our future.

WHAT NEXT?

Probably everyone has plans for the future. Find out what plan you should follow. Unscramble each word in the question mark. (These are words that could be in your future.) Write them in the boxes below. The plan will be in the shaded boxes.



1. GORFIVESSEN

2. RICTOVY

4. RAISPE

3. NESSKIDN

5. ERYARP

6. SSELBSGNI

7. VENHEA

8. ENDSFRI

“IT’S ALL YOURS, LORD”

**What
does it mean
to be
pardoned?**

*Read **The Answer** next quarter to find out!*

YOUR NAME:

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