



LESSONS 92-104

PARDONED, PREPARED, AND POWERFUL

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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PARDONED, PREPARED, AND POWERFUL

Looking out the airplane doorway, you see the desert floor 4000 feet below you—a bright orange tarp marking your landing spot. You ready yourself, adjusting the parachute straps more snugly across your shoulders. The pilot cuts the engine. Now is the time! Out you go, face down! You are falling . . .

The inevitable end is in sight, the ground contact. You realize that without that parachute on your back, the end would be sudden death. Because of that parachute, you can float down, land safely, and walk away, but only if you activate the parachute. You have the knowledge you need—just reach up and pull the rip cord. The decision to do so is strictly yours.

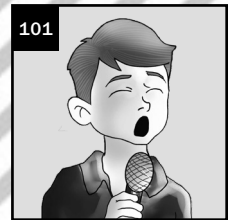
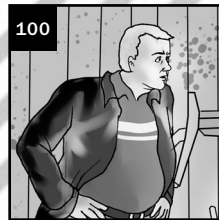
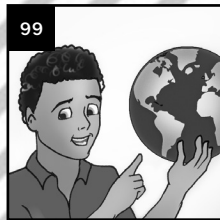
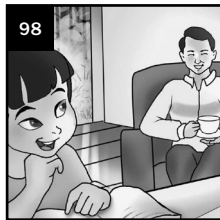
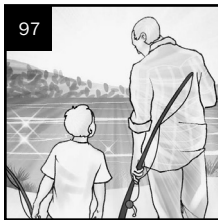
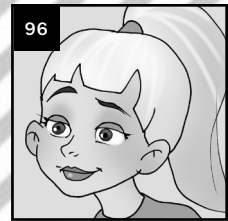
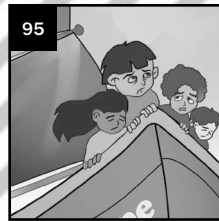
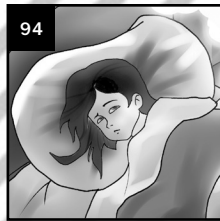
Spiritually speaking, we are all facing an eventual destination. From the moment of birth, that end is inevitable. However, God has provided a way by which we can arrive at that destination safely. Without it, the end is eternal death. With it, we are prepared for a safe landing. Yet, here again, your decision will make the difference.

Do you want to learn how to be prepared for a safe spiritual landing? Let's study *The Answer* together this quarter.

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THE Answer

UNIT 8



(USPS 591-390)

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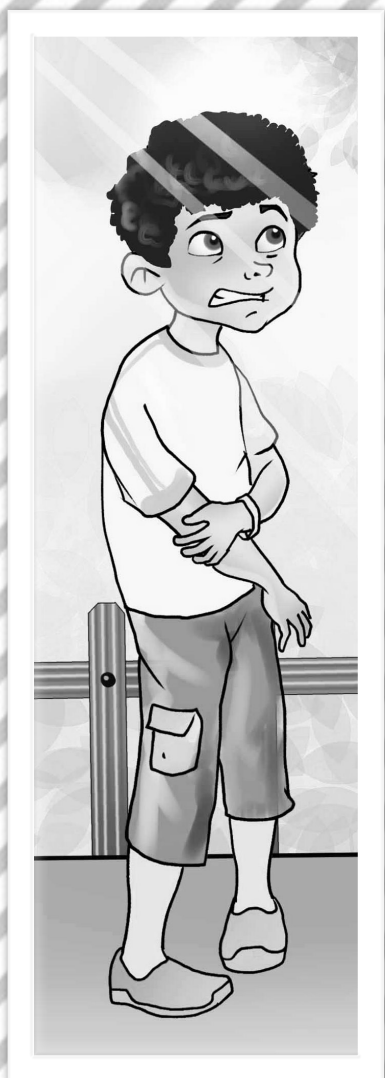
APOSTOLIC FAITH CHURCH
5414 SE Duke Street
Portland, Oregon 97206
United States

THE Answer

is an official publication of the Apostolic Faith Church, and is published quarterly. Periodicals postage paid at Portland, Oregon.

THE PROBLEM

LESSON 92 → Genesis 3:1-10; Romans 5:12-14



Troubled thoughts churned through Braxton's mind.

Braxton sighed and slumped a little further into his seat at the back of the Biology classroom. Usually this was one of his favorite classes but today he stared unseeingly at his teacher, Mr. Harvey, who was also a close friend of the family. Besides making the subject interesting, Mr. Harvey seemed to care about the kids, even outside of the Biology classroom. But today, Braxton just couldn't keep his mind on what was happening.

He felt sick. Troubled thoughts churned and tumbled in his head. Why had he done it? He hadn't needed that gel pen any more than all the other things he had taken over the past few months. But he had seen it there on the counter. No one was looking, and in a flash that pen was in his pocket.

Of course it wasn't right—something down inside told him that. And then he hadn't known what to do with the pen once he had it at home, so he had just left it in his jacket pocket. And that's what had triggered the blowup this morning.



I KNOW MY HEART MUST BE CHANGED.

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God. — Romans 3:23

When Mom found the pen, she knew immediately that he would not have had money to buy it. The memory of her angry face was still imprinted on his mind. The furious words she had hurled at him as he rushed out of the house, still haunted him: “Do you want to end up serving time too? You’re just like your father!”

Suddenly, from the front of the classroom, Mr. Harvey’s words jolted him back to attention. Like an echo of his thoughts, the teacher was asking his class, “In what ways are you like your dad? What characteristics have you inherited from him?”

Hands shot up around the room. “I’ve got my dad’s cleft chin,” one said. “They tell me I’m built just like my father,” someone else offered. “I like to fish just like my dad does!” volunteered another, amidst a burst of laughter.

“Class time is almost over,” said Mr. Harvey with a grin, “but there’s still time to make an assignment! I want you to read the next chapter in your book, which deals with the subject of genetics. Then make a list of five characteristics you feel you may have inherited from your parents.”

Three o’clock. The bell sounded, and his classmates grabbed their books and headed for the

door. Braxton sat for a moment, sighed again, and then reached slowly for his books. He wasn’t anxious to go home and face Mom. And now he had a new thought troubling him. Could he have really inherited a desire to steal?

“Braxton,” Mr. Harvey’s voice interrupted his thoughts. He glanced up to find his teacher standing beside his desk. “You seemed a little out of it today. Did you have a question about our discussion or the assignment?” Braxton hesitated uncertainly, glancing down at his books. “Well-l-l, not exactly...” his voice trailed off.

Mr. Harvey waited and then continued, “Is there some other problem—anything I can help you with?”

Suddenly the desire to unload on someone overwhelmed Braxton. “Mr. Harvey,” he said with a tremor in his voice, “you know my dad is in jail for stealing. Could I have inherited the desire to steal?”

Mr. Harvey hesitated, then put his hand on Braxton’s shoulder. “Braxton, you’ve asked a hard question. How about my giving you a lift home, and we’ll talk it over?”

Driving down Fir Street, Mr. Harvey opened the conversation. “Braxton, I think I can help you with your question,

but I may not tell you what you expect. To give you an honest answer, I have to put it in the framework of the Bible.

“We read in God’s Word that every person is born with an inclination to do wrong. Adam, the first man, was created by God in God’s own likeness—perfect. But Adam disobeyed. And when he did, sin entered into man. A curse was pronounced upon all generations to follow. Every person who comes into the world is born with sin in his heart

“That means you, Braxton. And me too. So, yes, you have inherited this tendency to do wrong, but not directly from your natural father.”

Mr. Harvey swung his car into Braxton’s driveway. Braxton sat for a moment, thinking about what he had just heard. If everyone was born with sin in his heart, was there any hope for him? What could be done? At last he reached for the door handle, and said slowly, “Thanks, Mr. Harvey. I’d like to talk it over with you some more, but Mom told me to come straight home tonight.”

“I understand, Braxton. But let’s get together again tomorrow after class. God has a solution to this problem!”

(To be continued in the following lesson.)

THERE IS A CURE

The key verse says, "For all have **SINNED**, and come **SHORT** of the glory of God." The sentences in the Cure Barrel offer the cure for the Adamic-nature problem. In the puzzle below, circle the words printed in **BOLD CAPPED** type in the key verse above and in the Cure Barrel below. Look forward, backward, up and down, and diagonally.

Cure Barrel

Sin entered your **HEART** when you were **BORN**.

DEATH is the penalty of sin.

JESUS CHRIST came and **PAID** your penalty.

Jesus has a **FREE GIFT** to give you.

You need to **CONFESS** your sins and **BELIEVE** in your heart that Jesus will take **AWAY** all your sins and give you a **NEW** heart.

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

PARDONED,
PREPARED, AND
POWERFUL



Mr. Harvey helped Braxton understand that his behavior could change.

THE SOLUTION

LESSON 93 → Romans 5:15-21; 1 Peter 1:17-25

Braxton closed his *Biology textbook* with a thud and tossed it beside his notebook on the bed. At least his assignment was done, even if he wasn't any closer to resolving the problem he had discussed with Mr. Harvey this afternoon. Their conversation echoed through his mind once more: "You have inherited this tendency to do wrong, but not directly from your natural father."

What did Mr. Harvey mean? He had said something about a solution. But it was clear after reading this chapter in his Biology book that he couldn't change the physical traits he'd inherited from his parents. Mr. Harvey had said that because of Adam's sin, everyone was born with a sinful heart. Then, could that be changed?



JESUS IS MY REDEEMER!

For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.
— 1 Corinthians 15:22

Braxton's eyes fell on the stolen pen that triggered the questions in his mind. Again that feeling of helplessness washed over him. He would be so glad if he could get rid of whatever it was that made him want to steal!

A few minutes after three o'clock the next afternoon, Mr. Harvey pulled a chair over to Braxton's desk and sat down. "Now . . . where were we, Braxton?"

Braxton fiddled with a pencil for a moment, then answered, "Well, we talked about whether I could have inherited a desire to steal. You told me that because of Adam's sin, everyone was born with sin in his heart. You said there was a solution, but I don't see how there can be. I can't change the color of my eyes, or the size of my ears. So how can I change what's in my heart?"

"You can't, Braxton," Mr. Harvey replied quietly.

Braxton glanced up at him quickly. "But you said here was a solution!"

"You can't change your heart, but God can. He provided a remedy for sin. I mentioned Adam to you. Through one man sin came into the world, and through one Man, sin can be taken away."

"What do you mean?" Braxton questioned with a troubled frown.

Mr. Harvey pulled a Testament from his pocket. "It says here in 1 Corinthians 15:22, 'For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.' The Bible teaches that the penalty for sin is death. So each one of us is deserving of death.

"But God sent His own Son, Jesus, to this earth in the form of a human being. Since He was God's Son, He was born without sin. Jesus was the only One who could take the penalty for another's sin, because His own heart was free of any wrong. He died on a Cross one day, paying sin's penalty for you and for me, Braxton. In

John 3:16 we read, 'For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.'"

Braxton still looked puzzled. "You mean just believing in God will take the sin out of my heart?"

"You have to be sorry for the wrongs you've done, Braxton. You have to be willing to turn your back on them and make them right." Braxton looked down at the floor. He thought about the pen . . . and all the other things he had taken in the past months. How glad he would be if he could be free of whatever it was that made him want to steal.

Mr. Harvey went on, "You must give the rest of your life over to Jesus. When you ask Him to forgive you, He will take the sin out of your heart. Then you'll want to go back and straighten out all the things you've done wrong."

Braxton sat quietly for a few minutes. Then he looked back at his teacher. "It's a little hard for me to understand just why God would send His Son, Jesus, for me. I mean, I'm just a kid with a dad in jail and a bunch of problems. Why should He send His Son to get me out of this mess?"

Mr. Harvey answered without hesitation.

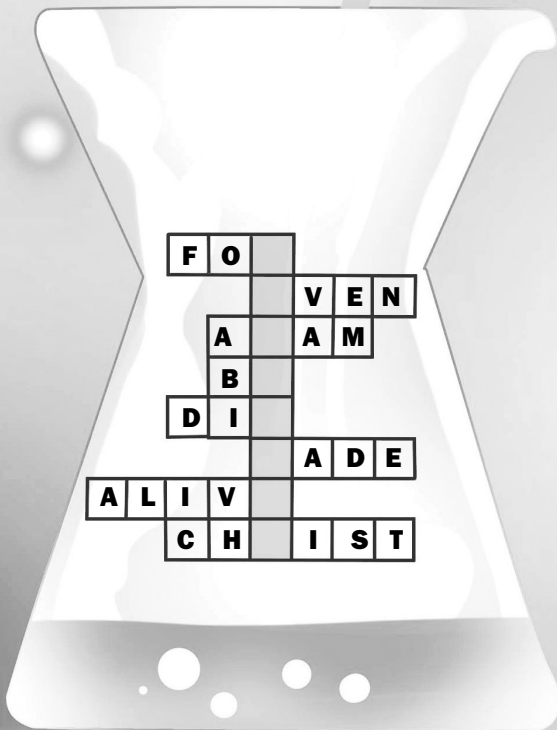
"Because He loves you, Braxton. He wants you to have your sins forgiven and to have real peace inside."

At last Braxton nodded, "I think I'm starting to understand, Mr. Harvey. Thanks a lot for taking the time to talk to me." Getting to his feet, he gathered up his books and slung his jacket over his shoulder. "You've really given me something to think about, Mr. Harvey. I won't forget what you've said. I think you know that I am sorry for the things I've done wrong, or I wouldn't have talked with you about them. Now I know I need to talk to Someone else."

THE RIGHT FORMULA

Read 1 Corinthians 15:22, and fill in the missing words of the verse. Next, complete the Stack-a-word with the words you filled in. The name in the shaded area is what Jesus came to be for us.

_____ as in _____
all _____, _____ so in
_____ shall all _____
_____.



PARDONED,
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CONVINCED OF SIN

LESSON 94 → Psalm 38:1-18; Acts 24:24-27



ARE YOU

GOING

TO SEE

HEAVEN?

God was helping Macy see the condition of her heart.



THANK YOU, GOD, FOR CALLING ME.

No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him. — John 6:44

Macy tossed restlessly on her bed, pulling the covers up under her chin and shoving her pillow into a different position. Sleep seemed a million miles away. I'm not going to think any more about it, she told herself determinedly. I am going to go to sleep and forget the whole thing.

But sleep still wouldn't come.

Against her will, the whole scene replayed itself in her memory. She'd gone to church with Paige, her friend who lived next door. It wasn't the first time she'd been to church but this time when the preacher gave his sermon, it really got through to her. At the end it seemed his eyes had fastened right on her. And his question, though spoken softly, seemed to be shouted directly at her: "Are you going to see Heaven?"

She had tried to brave it out. As a matter of fact, she had probably fooled Paige entirely with her casual dismissal of the whole meeting as they left the church afterwards. When Paige had asked her if she enjoyed it, she had just said, "Oh, it was okay. The singing was really nice." She had let it go at that. But deep down in her heart she had not been able to toss it off that easily.

Tonight, when she crawled into bed, the thoughts she had been suppressing all afternoon crowded into her mind. "Are you going to see Heaven?" the preacher's words echoed through her thoughts. I am not all that bad, she thought, I haven't killed anyone or stolen anything. I try to be good. But, am I going to see Heaven? Deep inside she knew she wasn't right with God, and that meant she wasn't going to see Heaven.

All afternoon, she'd felt miserable, not a bit like laughing or having fun. She was so mixed up. What was wrong with her anyway? Why should just a few words from that preacher this morning make her feel so upset?

It was a long night, and when morning finally came, Macy felt as if her eyes had hardly been shut. She sat up in bed and sighed. That heavy, disturbed feeling was still with her. What could she do? She had to talk to someone about it.

Macy hardly knew where she found the courage, but desperation gave her boldness. Late that afternoon, she found herself sitting in the study of Paige's pastor. Once she started to explain her feelings, it was just like a dam broke, and all the anguish and troubled feelings she had been having rushed to the surface.

"When you asked if we would see Heaven, I just felt sick," Macy told him. "And I couldn't sleep all night. I don't understand what is happening to me, but I had to talk to someone."

"Macy, what you are feeling is called conviction. Conviction means being convinced of one's sins. God's Spirit is letting you know that you have sins in your life, and no sin will be in Heaven. It may not feel good to hear that, but conviction is actually a good thing because it can lead you to repentance—feeling sorry for what you have done wrong, asking for God's forgiveness, and turning your back on those wrong things. That is the only way to get sin out of your life and be ready for Heaven.

"Do you mean this bad feeling is because I have done something wrong and I need to ask God for forgiveness?"

"Yes," the preacher nodded. "God doesn't want you to be lost forever. Sometimes the only way He can make people realize that what they are doing is wrong is to allow them to feel bad. This is your opportunity, Macy. Don't let it slide by. God is calling you right now."

Macy sat in silence for a long moment. Then she said quietly, "I believe God is calling me. Will you pray with me?"

Lesson 94 Activity

CHECK THE PRINTOUT

Our computer has some answers for you about conviction. All you have to do is use the code to find them.



CODE:

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
😬	😞	😡	😎	😊	😞	😎	🙄	😊	😞	😱	😊	🙄

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WHICH DIRECTION?

LESSON 95 → Ezekiel 18:20-32; 2 Corinthians 7:9-10

Our eternal destination is determined by the way we choose to go.

The past two weeks on a tropical island had been a great vacation—but now it was over. On board ship, Patrick decided to do some exploring, beginning with the cabin that would be his home for the next ten days. He stretched out on the bunk for a moment . . . not too bad! He unpacked some of his things into the small wardrobe, stuffed his suitcase under the bunk, then headed for the deck.

The motion of the ship was gentle, and the throb of the engines provided a low accompaniment to the

bustle of activity on the ship as passengers settled in. The weather was perfect—just a little breeze, enough to keep the heat of the sun from being uncomfortable. The island had disappeared, but a few fluffy white clouds skittered across the horizon.

After lunch in the ship's dining room, Patrick wandered out on the deck once more. As he gazed out over the ocean, he suddenly had the strangest feeling that something was wrong. He thought his sense of direction was good, but it seemed they were heading south instead



JESUS IS THE RIGHT WAY.

*Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts. —
Isaiah 55:7*

of north. Of course, in the middle of the sea the sense of direction is often confused, but . . . the afternoon sun was on the starboard bow. Oh, no, surely it was impossible. The captain would know which way they were going. All those navigational instruments, the charts, the maps—they couldn't be wrong. The only way he could be going the wrong direction was if he were on the wrong ship. And that couldn't have happened. Or could it?

That terrible thought paralyzed Patrick for an instant. Then he left the deck at a run, heading for his stateroom. Where was that ticket? Yanking his suitcase from under the bunk, he hurriedly opened it. There it was! In the back pocket. He pulled it out—looked at the name. Moments later he was running to the captain's cabin with ticket in hand. And just what he feared was true. He was on a ship heading south instead of north! Why, oh why, hadn't he checked the ship's name before he boarded? Why had he relied on the steward who had allowed him to board the wrong ship?

* * * * *

Obviously, this story isn't true. The possibility of getting on a wrong ship under these circumstances would be slight. But let's do some considering.

Patrick is in a predicament. But he has made the first step toward a solution—he has realized he is in trouble. If he had never become aware of the fact that he was heading in the wrong direction, in time he would have arrived at a totally different destination from where he thought he was heading. What a disaster!

Let's compare Patrick's situation to our spiritual lives. The sea in our story could represent the sea of life. The wrong ship, going to the wrong place, is sin, and its eventual destination is an

eternal Hell. We want to get to Heaven, but the ship of sin is not going to get us there. It is going the opposite way!

The ship of sin might feel pretty comfortable. It might not have even occurred to you that there is anything wrong with traveling on it. The Bible tells us, "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Proverbs 14:12).

The best thing, of course, would be to start out on the right ship in the first place. But the Bible says we all have sinned. Each of us started on the ship of sin.

But God provided a way out of this dilemma. We can get off the ship of sin and onto the right ship, called salvation, and head in the right direction. However, we have to buy the right ticket. The only way we can get on the ship of salvation is with a ticket marked "repentance." To repent means to be honestly sorry for the sins in our lives. Along with that comes a willingness, and a determination to turn away from all those things that we know are wrong, and never do them again.


Have you used that ticket marked repentance, and boarded the ship of salvation? Or are you still headed in the wrong direction?

ARE YOU ON THE RIGHT SHIP?

The sea of life is a big place. Is your ship headed in the right direction? The H.M.S. Victory is headed for Glory. How can you be on that ship? The answer is in the letters below. Starting with the letter R, write down every other letter. Go through the list twice. Start with J on the second time. All the letters will be used. Use the lines below to write on.

RJEEPSEUNSTTAONFDOTRUGRINV
FERYOOMUYTOUURRNWFARYOSM
AWNROGNOGDBWEILLILESVAEV
BEEYSOAUVAESDK

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*Old things pass
away and
all things
become
new.*

I
used to know a
girl who had black hair, but
she thought blonde was bet-
ter, so she bleached it. The
trouble was, as her hair

CHANGED

LESSON 96 → Ephesians 2:1-8; 1 John 1:9



JESUS FORGAVE ME.

*For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men.
— Titus 2:11*

kept on growing, most of it was blond but the roots were black. She could make some people think she was a blond, but not for long, because she really wasn't.

Sometimes people do try to change things they don't like about themselves. Do you know anyone who has stopped smoking? Maybe they realized that it was a harmful, dirty habit and quit. Maybe they went to a class to learn how to stop. Once, my brother saw a picture of what a smoker's lungs looked like, and that was enough for him! He never touched another cigarette.

Now, suppose sinners made a list of everything they were doing that was sinful: smoking, drinking, lying, cheating, stealing, swearing, and anything else they could name. Then suppose that they could stop doing all of them. Right away. Without any help.

They might tell themselves that now they are all right—as good as any Christian, and they might fool some people for a while. They changed the outside. But just as my friend who bleached her hair, they haven't changed anything on the inside.

The devil still has control of their hearts. Even though on the surface their lives might be different, the evil desires and

thoughts are still on the inside. And just like my friend's black hair, they will show up again.

A change on the inside? What does that mean?

We call it salvation. It is an act of God's grace by which we receive forgiveness for our sins. Sometimes we call it receiving a new heart. We read in 1 Samuel 10:9 that God gave a young man, named Saul, "another heart."

Today doctors can actually take out a person's heart and exchange it for the healthy heart of someone who died in an accident. But the Bible was talking about something more than the pump in your chest which circulates blood through your veins.

When God changes the heart, the person is completely different. The Bible tells us that old things pass away and all things become new. The sinful things in your life will be gone.

One man tells that when he was a little boy, he would say bad things about people he didn't like. When his mother would find out, she would make him go to that person and say he was sorry. He would do it, because he had to. But all the punishment in the world couldn't make him like the person he hated, even if he wanted

to. He could say over and over again, "I like that person, I like that person," but he still hated him.

But God took that hate out, and put love there instead. That was a real change, and change is what salvation is all about.

Is salvation hard to get? Is it expensive? No! The Bible tells us it is the gift of God. God has given the gift of salvation to men who had barely a cent to their names—people living on the streets. He has given salvation to children who had nothing but a few pennies in a piggybank. He has also given salvation to moral people. God doesn't look at what a man has or doesn't have. He looks at the heart.

How do we get salvation? We ask. We confess our sins to God, and promise to turn away from sin. When He sees that we are truly sorry and determined never to have any part with evil again, He will change us—take away the old heart full of sin and give us a new one full of righteousness.

In 1 John 1:9 we read, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Try it. It really works.

A NEW BEGINNING

Salvation is a new beginning — the most important beginning of all. Below are some sentences with a word hidden in each. All of the hidden words are listed

for you. They are things we gain and things we are rid of when we are born again. We've found the first one for you. Have fun finding the others.

FAITH

1. All of the activity is in school and not at home.

HATE

2. That horse loves grain but alfalfa it hates.

LOVE

3. We all agree Diane is beautiful.

ANGER

4. She was told that everyone had gone home.

PEACE

5. A real oven will get hot but not a toy one.

SINS

6. Why did Mom tape a cereal coupon to her purse?

JOY

7. Bring your stuff early or you'll be left behind.

FEAR

8. That frog would hop everywhere if we let it.

GREED

9. There is nothing more yucky than germs.

HOPE

10. The clerk told us that if we went down aisle J, oysters would be on the left.

Next, divide the words and write them in the appropriate space below.

GAIN

RID

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PREPARED, AND
POWERFUL

THE SECOND STEP

LESSON 97 → John 17:9-23; Hebrews 13:12



A hhhh, another beautiful day, thought Cole, glancing out the window as he laced up his boots. And today is extra special—Dad’s day off. He promised to take me down to the lake to learn how to fly-fish!

“Good morning, Dad,” smiled Cole as he entered the kitchen.

**Cole learns why
it is necessary
to have the
nature of sin
removed.**

“Good morning, Cole. It looks as if you are all ready for a day down at the lake. I’ve got our fishing gear together, and Mom has breakfast on the table. Dig in.”

Shortly after a hurried breakfast, Cole and his dad were on their way down the path toward the lake. As they hiked, Cole couldn’t help thinking how glad he was his family had moved out here. Then his dad interrupted his thoughts when he asked, “Well, Cole, how has your new life as a Christian been this week?”



IT'S IN GOD'S PLAN FOR ME.

For this is the will of God, even your sanctification. — 1 Thessalonians 4:3

"Dad, it has been just great! Everything seems so different. The sun seems brighter, the grass seems greener, and my friends seem to be easier to get along with. I've been wondering ever since I was saved last Sunday if it will always stay like this. But Dad, I have a question."

"What's that, son?"

"It's about sanctification. I've heard the word at church, but I guess I don't really know what it is or why it's important. If a person is saved, why does he need to be sanctified? That's what I don't understand. I feel so much better now that I'm saved, I just don't see why I need to be sanctified."

"That's a normal feeling, Cole," replied his dad. "But I think if you can understand the importance of sanctification in a Christian's life, you will feel your need for this experience. Do you remember that oak tree you and I cut down here in the woods last fall?"

"Sure. There's the stump right over there," Cole answered, pointing toward a clearing off the path. "Remember how the sunlight streamed through the forest after the tree was down?" Cole's dad asked.

"I sure do! What a change around here. The birds had to find a new place to build their nests. The squirrels had to get their acorns somewhere else. And we cut a lot of wood for our wood stove. But what does that have to do with sanctification?"

"When you got saved last Sunday it was like cutting down that tree. There was a big change. The light of God's love flooded your life. Everything has been brighter for you since then. Those sins that were in your life were removed. But Cole, there is more. Look closely at this stump. What do you see?"

"The tree is starting to grow again. There are little green shoots on the stump," answered Cole.

"Well, Cole, that growth started because we didn't remove the roots. This stump is still alive. We were born with the nature of sin in our lives, because Adam, the first man, sinned. We have a natural tendency to sin and do the things that are displeasing to God.

"When we are saved, like you were Sunday, God forgives all the sins we have committed in the past. Then He gives us power not to sin again, but the nature of sin is still there.

"Do you remember, Cole, how we dug up that old stump at our other house in the city?"

"Yeah, it was sure a lot of work to get all those roots out."

"Well, we did that so the stump wouldn't start to grow again. God doesn't want that root of sin to start growing in a Christian's life, either. It is His plan for us to be sanctified after we are saved. We read in Hebrews 13:12, 'Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.' In other words, Jesus died on the Cross not only that we might be saved, but also that we might be sanctified.

"Cole, Jesus even prayed for you. In John, chapter 17, He prayed for those who were already saved. After we are sanctified, the temptation to sin won't come from within our hearts, because the nature of sin has been removed, just like the stump. Do you see how important being sanctified is, Cole?"

"I sure do, Dad. I want Jesus to sanctify me, and I'm going to pray that He will."

IT'S IN GOD'S PLAN

Sanctification is a very important part of God's plan for all of us. Decode the verse below and find out how important it is that we should be sanctified.

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

“
 J. J. > N O A O F < T E J E E
 T O J L O V J O L > T E < < E <
 V N E L L <”

1 > N O V V J L E O F J O V 5:23

PARDONED,
 PREPARED, AND
 POWERFUL



PROVIDED WITH POWER

LESSON 98 → Acts 1:8; 2:1-13; 3:1-7

Chloe's dad gave her a visual illustration to help her understand.



Chloe sighed and looked puzzled as she glanced up from the Sunday school lesson she was studying. “I don’t get it. . . .” she mused aloud. Her father looked up from his newspaper. “What’s the matter,



IT'S EVEN FOR ME!

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you. — Acts 1:8

Chloe? Having a problem with your homework?”

“No, I’m not doing homework right now, Dad. I finished that math assignment a little while ago, and now I’m working on my Sunday school lesson for next Sunday,” Chloe replied.

“And what is it about your Sunday school lesson that brings such a big sigh? Can I help?”

“Well, I really don’t quite understand this, Dad. Our lesson this week is on the baptism of the Holy Ghost. It says here that when we are saved and sanctified, we need the baptism. You know I got saved three months ago. I learned about sanctification and how I needed to have my heart cleansed and the root of sin taken out of my heart. I could see that was something that would really help me, so I prayed and the Lord sanctified me. It feels so good! I really don’t see why I need anything more.” She stopped as her brother Jasper hurried into the room.

“Dad, can I borrow your laptop? I’m working on a project for school, and I started it on the computer in the study, but now I need to finish it with a couple of my friends. We’re meeting at Joe’s Donuts to finish it tonight.”

“Sure,” his dad said, “but be very careful with it. I think it’s in the bottom desk drawer in the study, Jasper. Check there.”

Jasper dashed from the room, and returned a minute later with the laptop in his hand. “I found it,” he said happily. “Thanks a lot, Dad. I’ll be back by 8:30 tonight.” Jasper grabbed his jacket from the chair and headed out of the room.

After Jasper left, Dad turned to Chloe. “I think your brother provided us with an object lesson concerning your question about the Sunday school lesson, Chloe.”

“What do you mean, Dad?”

Smiling at her puzzled look, he continued. “You might say, Chloe, that we are a little like a computer. Did Jasper say anything was wrong with our computer in the study?”

“No,” Chloe replied. “He said he needed the laptop instead in order to finish his project at Joe’s Donuts.”

“Exactly,” said her father. “Our computer is in perfect working order, but you can only use it for projects at home, where it can be plugged in. You might compare that to the Christian who is saved and sanctified.

“If you wanted to do your work in more than one place, you

need a laptop that runs on a battery. Since it has a power source within itself, you can move to different locations and it will still work.”

Chloe looked thoughtful. “I think I see what you are getting at, Dad. Do you mean the baptism of the Holy Ghost is kind of like a battery?”

“That’s right, Chloe. Jesus said in John 14:17 that the Holy Spirit is with us when we are saved, but would be in us when we are baptized with the Holy Spirit—which we also called the Holy Ghost.

“When He is with us He walks beside us and helps us from the outside—like a computer that is plugged into the wall outlet. But when He is in us, that means He actually stays in our hearts, like a laptop that has its own battery. Then the help comes from the inside—it is a part of us.”

“I thought of something else, Dad. Our lesson says we receive the Holy Spirit and He helps us witness. A computer can’t go very far when it’s plugged in to the wall. But a laptop can be used anywhere!” She looked down at her lesson again. “I can see that there is still something I need. I’m glad we’re studying this lesson this week!”

DO I NEED IT?



PARDONED,
PREPARED, AND
POWERFUL

Do you know what the baptism of the Holy Spirit is? Let's find out. Read Acts 2:1-4 and fill in the missing words in the sentences below. Next put the numbered letters in their proper blanks to the left. Don't you agree that it is important?

And when the day of

_____ was

fully come, they were all with

one accord in one place. And

suddenly there came a sound

from _____ as of

a _____ mighty

_____, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

And there appeared unto them

_____ tongues like

as of _____, and it sat

upon each of them. And they

were all filled with the Holy

Ghost, and began to speak with

_____, as the

_____ gave them

_____.



REACHING OUT TO OTHERS

Lesson 99 → Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:14-20

A youth group discusses the importance of spreading the Good News.

Look at it this way,” Pastor Chris said, holding up an inflated, plastic globe. “If the only thing Christians were supposed to do on this earth is worship, why would God keep us here? Couldn’t we worship Him better if we were with Him now in Heaven? Maybe so, but worship is not the only reason we are here.”

He looked at the young people sitting in a circle around him. “According to Jesus, worship is not the only purpose we have here on earth. We are to reach out to others with the Good News that Jesus lives, and that all who believe on Him will be saved. At the end of Jesus’ ministry on earth, He gave a very important commission

to His disciples: ‘Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature.’ That Great Commission still applies to Christians today.”

There was a moment of silence. Then Ava spoke up, “Pastor Chris, we all know that verse, but are you sure it applies to me? There’s no way I can go into all the world at this point in my life. I’d better concentrate on finishing eighth grade first!”

Ryder swallowed a bite of donut, and then chimed in, “I’ve only got enough money to get me about twenty miles from here . . . one way! That’s not far enough to make much of an impact on ‘all the world.’ I guess I’ll have to



IT'S OUR JOB TO TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS.

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

stay uninvolved, at least until I get a boost in my allowance!”

Pastor Chris chuckled. “Sorry, Ryder, that excuse won’t do. The New Testament just doesn’t support the idea of a Christian who doesn’t want to be involved in outreach.” He looked around at the group once more. “My goal for each one of you is that you will be actively involved in the lives of unbelievers—not in the sense of being influenced by them, but by having a positive impact on their lives. Here’s my challenge for you this week. I want all of you to come back next Wednesday evening with at least three ideas for outreach. They should be ideas that can be put into action by young people of your age.”

The following Wednesday, the young people settled into their places once again. “This wasn’t exactly an easy assignment,” Ava said, “I really had to think hard to come up with anything.”

Simon offered his input. “There are lots of things older people can do to spread the Gospel. But we don’t have cars or money. I’m like Ava. It was hard work thinking of things kids could do.”

“You’re right. Not having cars or money does limit you in some ways. But you do have enthusiasm!” Pastor Chris responded. “Lots of energy and time too. Let’s hear what you came up with. Why don’t we start at this side of the room, and each of you tell one idea that you thought of. Sheila, could you jot down notes? We don’t want to forget anything.”

An hour later, everyone’s ideas had been discussed, and Sheila had quite a list written down on her tablet. Here are a few of the suggestions they came up with:

- *Write out your testimony for a creative writing assignment at school.*

- *Put on a Bible drama. Advertise it on social media, and invite people in your community to attend. Some of your group could design flyers or posters advertising the event.*
- *Offer to tutor younger students who are having a hard time keeping up in school, and let that student know you are praying for him or her.*
- *Enlist your family in a “money for Bibles” campaign. Have everyone promise to put one quarter in a jar for every chapter they read in the Bible. See how long it takes you to earn enough to send a Bible to some foreign country.*
- *Set up a “free coffee drive-through” in front of your church for commuters. Distribute portions of Scripture along with the coffee.*
- *Organize a trip for your youth group or Sunday school class to a neighborhood nursing home. Sing church songs, distribute large-print portions of Scripture, and visit with the residents. (Some of the more artistic members of your group might like to hand-letter and decorate the verses.)*
- *Ask your Sunday school teacher or group leader if your youth group may compose its own personal handwritten letter welcoming visitors. Make sure that someone gets the name and address of each newcomer, and sends them the welcoming letter, inviting them to return.*

* * * * *

It’s easy to think that because you’re young, there isn’t much you can do about spreading the Gospel into all the world. Yet, the list above shows there are many things young people can do. What would you come up with if your teacher or youth pastor challenged you for more ideas?

Lesson 99 Activity

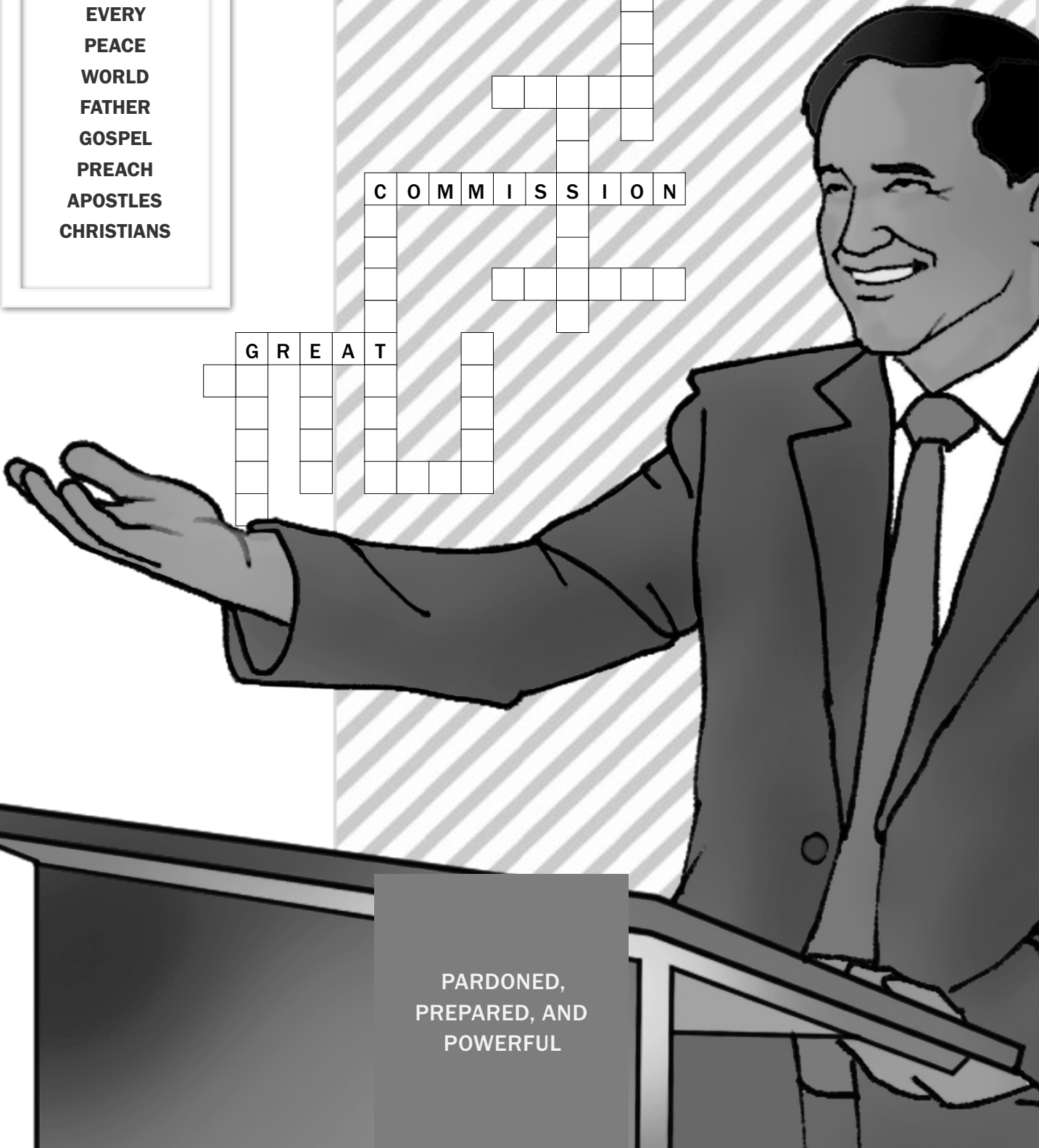
**THE GREAT
COMMISSION**

The words listed on the left are from our lesson. Write each of them into the correct spaces on the grid.

GO
SEND
EVERY
PEACE
WORLD
FATHER
GOSPEL
PREACH
APOSTLES
CHRISTIANS



PARDONED,
PREPARED, AND
POWERFUL



AN INDIVIDUAL CALL

LESSON 100 → Acts 10:1-48; Romans 10:12-13



The true stories of two men who responded to God.

Me? A Christian? Hah!” Walt shook his fist. “Don’t talk to me about God. I’m an atheist, and proud of it!” With that, he walked away, cursing. No one would talk to him about God—he made sure of that!

He was his own boss and no one dared tell him what he should do. Sometimes he worked and sometimes he didn’t. When he needed some money, he worked in a sawmill. His job was to trim lumber at the finish saw. He liked working

with the loud machinery and rough men, and he was as rough as any of them.

One day as he worked he planned what he was going to do that evening with a paycheck in hand—the first one in weeks. He was going to “have some fun at the tavern.” He thought that was the way to have a good time—the way to be happy. But that day, as he was working at his machine, a Voice spoke to him. The Voice said, “The only true happiness is in the Lord.” Walt turned to see who would dare say such a thing to him.



JESUS WILL GO WITH ME.

Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons. — Acts 10:34

To his amazement, there was no one there! The other men were all around the building, working at other saws and machines. The saws were screaming so loudly that he could have heard no one unless they had yelled right into his ear. Then Walt realized that he had heard the Voice of God. He turned off his saw and walked to where one of his friends was working. “Bill,” he shouted, “I’ve just had a visit from the Lord.” His friend looked at him, amazed that Walt would say anything about God.

After work that night, Walt went home instead of going out to get drunk. When he told his parents about his visit from God, his mother thought he had lost his mind. But his father said, “Something must have happened—it’s payday, and Walt’s sober.” Something had happened!

The next Sunday Walt went to church. He hadn’t cried since he was a young boy, but that day tears ran down his cheeks as he heard people say that Jesus loves everyone—even people who are mean and make trouble for others. He was sorry for his sins, and asked God to forgive him. God did forgive him and changed his life. He didn’t want to drink and fight anymore. He began to work at a steady job. He even gave back things that he had taken from others.

Walt remained a Christian the rest of his life. He spent a lot of time telling people what God had done for him. He was very thankful that God’s call was for everyone—even someone who didn’t believe that God was real.

* * * * *

What a noisy place! The parts rolled off the production line at a terrific rate. Chick was the foreman, and he saw to it that the line kept moving. The more they produced, the more he was paid. His helpers were not always as fast as he wanted them to be, and when things slowed down he yelled, and cursed, and threw things around.

His co-workers were afraid of him or mad at him most of the time. All except a young man named Ben. No matter how much Chick yelled at him, no matter what he did, Ben was always the same. If he didn’t smile, at least he was quiet, and he didn’t yell back like the others. What was there about Ben that was different?

Chick had grown up learning to fight. He had injured one man’s face so badly that he was scarred for life. Chick couldn’t understand anyone who wouldn’t fight back. He’d been told that Christians were like that, but he’d never before met anyone who really could stick to it. He began to watch Ben closely. One day he stopped work. Turning to the young man, he said, “What church do you belong to, anyway?”

Ben was plainly surprised, but he said, “I don’t belong to any church. I’m just a Christian.” Chick didn’t know what to think of an answer like that. For days after that he asked many questions. He discovered that Ben knew many people who, just as he had done, had given their hearts to Christ Jesus. They were able to live without sin in their lives through the power that Jesus gave them.

Soon after that, Chick went to church with Ben. He learned that Jesus had died on the Cross so that all sinners could be saved. That included Chick! Then he knew that the reason people didn’t “join” that church was because the only way you could get to be a part of it was to be born again as the Bible says. The very first time he was in church he prayed and asked God to forgive him. He was completely changed. After that he never lost his temper or used bad language. He even went to the man whose face he had scarred and asked forgiveness. For the rest of his life, wherever he went, he told people how Jesus had changed him.

WILL YOU SERVE JESUS?



People of the Early Church shared in the work of of the Lord. Certain men were chosen for special jobs. Read the story of Acts 6:1-6 and unscramble the words below. Remember the Gospel call was not just for the Early Church. It is for everyone today, too.

Two groups of people: SWERBHE _____ | CNAISREG _____

Another name for Jesus' followers:

SELPICSID _____

What the Apostles did to set men apart for service:

DYEARP _____

DAIL SNDAH NO METH _____

What the Apostles would continue:

REYPAR _____

YISMINRT FO ETH DRWO

Kind of men chosen for special work:

FO STOHN ROPTER

LUFL FO ETH YLOH TOGHS DNA MODSWI

The seven men chosen to serve:

EPTNHES _____

CARNON _____

NITOM _____

LIHIPP _____

SANMERAP _____

SALINOC _____

RUSOHCOR _____

USED OF GOD

Lesson 101 → Acts 6:1-6; 8:5-8, 26-40

Would you like to be another George?

Let me tell you about my friend, George.

L*George's boyhood days were spent in a little* coal-mining town. He used much of his time roaming the great outdoors, but his Christian mother and grandparents taught him about God. Every morning and night the Bible was opened in their home, and they would all get down on their knees and pray. George learned that he should pray for God to save him.

One day George's family told him that they were going on a 300-mile trip to Portland, Oregon. They were heading for an Apostolic Faith camp meeting. How excited George was!

When they arrived at the campground, the thing that he noticed particularly was how happy everyone was. He wanted what they had! He prayed that God would save him too, and God answered that prayer.

He sought the Lord and was sanctified and then baptized with the Holy Ghost and fire. At the church, he noticed that someone was needed to help pick up the hymn books after the church services. Not a very fancy job, but he did it.

George had been taught that he must read his Bible and pray every day. Both were needed to help him grow as a Christian. His mother gave him a Bible and some Bible-story books, and every evening he would read some chapters or pages in each.

God kept George true to Him, even though he had no Christian friends at school. Sometimes his classmates teased him. One of the teachers made fun of him, letting everyone know that she thought it was foolish to be a Christian, but Jesus was a true Friend to George. He didn't let it upset him.





JESUS LOVES EVERYBODY!

Thou shalt be his witness unto all men of what thou hast seen and heard.
— Acts 22:15

George learned to play a musical instrument.

Not just enough to barely get by, but to play very well. That meant giving up some fun things in order to practice. Of course, you know what happened—he was asked to play in the church orchestra. His voice developed into one of those “way down deep” bass voices. Soon he was singing in the choir and then in a male quartet.

He did things to help others too. That’s how I

learned to know George—he gave me music lessons. He found out that doing things for others and helping in God’s work made him feel good inside. And he helped others—kids like me—to understand that too.

Now, don’t think that bigger jobs came fast and easy for George. They didn’t. But after years of playing in the orchestra, he was finally asked to direct it. That was quite an honor, but it also meant more work, more responsibility, and less free time for himself. But George did it!

Not only that, he also took time to pray and study the Bible until everyone knew he was a person they could go to with their questions. Even people he didn’t know very well figured that out. One time, when he was in the army, a soldier came to his tent after everybody else was asleep. He woke George up and said he couldn’t sleep; he was feeling guilty and sad because of his sins. That worried soldier knew George was a Christian, and he wanted to be one too. George prayed with him, and the soldier was saved.

George became a preacher. Soon after that, he was in a terrible accident and was almost burned to death! Some people would have quit, but George kept on going, even with terrible scars on his neck and hands. Later he moved to another city to help in the church there.

Did he become a pastor then? No, he never did. God had something else for him to do. He sent

him to be a missionary in Africa. He lived among the African people, teaching them the Gospel. That meant living without the comforts and conveniences of home—things like running water, refrigerators, or electric lights. But many people are saved in Africa today because of the faithful dedication of my friend, George.

One day, flying in an airplane over the continent of Africa that he loved so much, George had a heart attack. George gave all he had—his life. The African people buried him in their country. He was as special to them as he was to us at home.

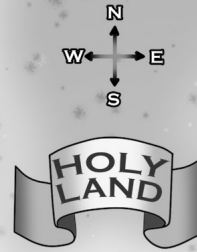
Would you like to be another George?

What is stopping you?



Lesson 101 Activity

**PREACH THE
GOSPEL**



Jesus told His disciples to go into all the world and preach the Gospel. On the flag on the opposite page are the names of some Bible lands where they went. How many can you find in the Word-Find?



MEDITERRANEAN SEA

• **JOPPA**

• **JERUSALEM**

• **BETHLEHEM**

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

**PARDONED,
PREPARED, AND
POWERFUL**



Judah's project helped him think about the pieces of a Christian's armor.

READY FOR BATTLE

Lesson 102 → Ephesians 6:10-18

Judah angled the blade of his knife and carefully etched a pattern around the base of the small, foil-covered shield on the table in front of him. There! That little shield added the perfect touch to the suit of armor which now transformed his action figure into a Knight of the Round Table.

When his Social Studies teacher, Mr. Barnett, had made this assignment as a part of their study of Medieval England, he had thought it

sounded kind of dumb. But the project had actually proved to be fun. Those knights really had to wear a lot of equipment to be prepared for battle—he'd found that out as he researched each piece and tried to construct it out of cardboard and foil. He picked up the tiny sword and hooked the handle over the figure's hand, adjusting the position of the arm so the sword stood out aggressively.

"Say, that turned out pretty good." his dad's pleased voice

broke into his thoughts. "You've really got a fine looking suit of armor there." Judah handed the figure to his dad for closer inspection.

"Yeah, this turned out to be kind of a fun project after all. Better than writing a paper, anyway. Making all these little pieces of armor almost makes me wish I could have been a knight back in those days. It must have been exciting."

Judah's dad grinned. "I'm sure it had its moments. But,



I WANT ALL OF GOD'S ARMOR.

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

Judah you do have a chance to put on armor even today, you know. God has commanded us as Christians to do that.”

“C’mon, Dad,” Judah chuckled. “Don’t tell me you have armor in your closet, hanging next to your suit!”

“Well, not exactly. But we do have a daily battle against Satan and sin, and we are told to put on the whole armor of God, so that we will be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. How important is each piece of this armor you made, Judah?”

“No knight would have wanted to go into battle missing even one piece.”

“I’m sure you’re right. And in our Christian warfare, having the full armor on is just as important. Why don’t you read Ephesians 6, verses 10 through 18, Judah? You might find it interesting to compare the pieces of armor mentioned there to the ones you’ve just made.”

Judah was intrigued. Later that night he picked up the Bible on his night stand. Where had Dad said that part about armor was found? Somewhere in Ephesians . . . ah, here it is.

Let’s see, the first piece of armor mentioned is in verse

14, “having your loins girt about with truth.” Well, it’s sure that a knight wouldn’t go out without having his body protected. What about truth? If he went without God’s truth in his heart, where would he be? Obviously, he couldn’t even start to be a Christian.

Next came the “breastplate of righteousness.” Judah picked up the figure and examined the breastplate he had made. This covers the chest, he thought. It goes right over the heart, the most vital part of the body. So, righteousness must be a protection against Satan’s getting into our hearts. That’s sure important!

Judah picked up his Bible again. “Feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace.” It would have been pretty hard for the knight to run out to battle on bare feet! He probably would have just decided to stay home. I guess we, as Christians, should be prepared to share God’s peace with everyone.

Next came the shield.

Certainly no knight would have gone out without that protection. With it he could fight off whatever the enemy shot at him. The Bible, in comparing the shield with faith, tells us we need it “above all.” Without it he wouldn’t be able to fight off anything Satan might send his way.

Could he, without faith, work for God? No, that shield was very important.

“The helmet of salvation.” A knight would never have gone into battle with his head uncovered. Just think how necessary salvation is if it’s compared to the helmet!

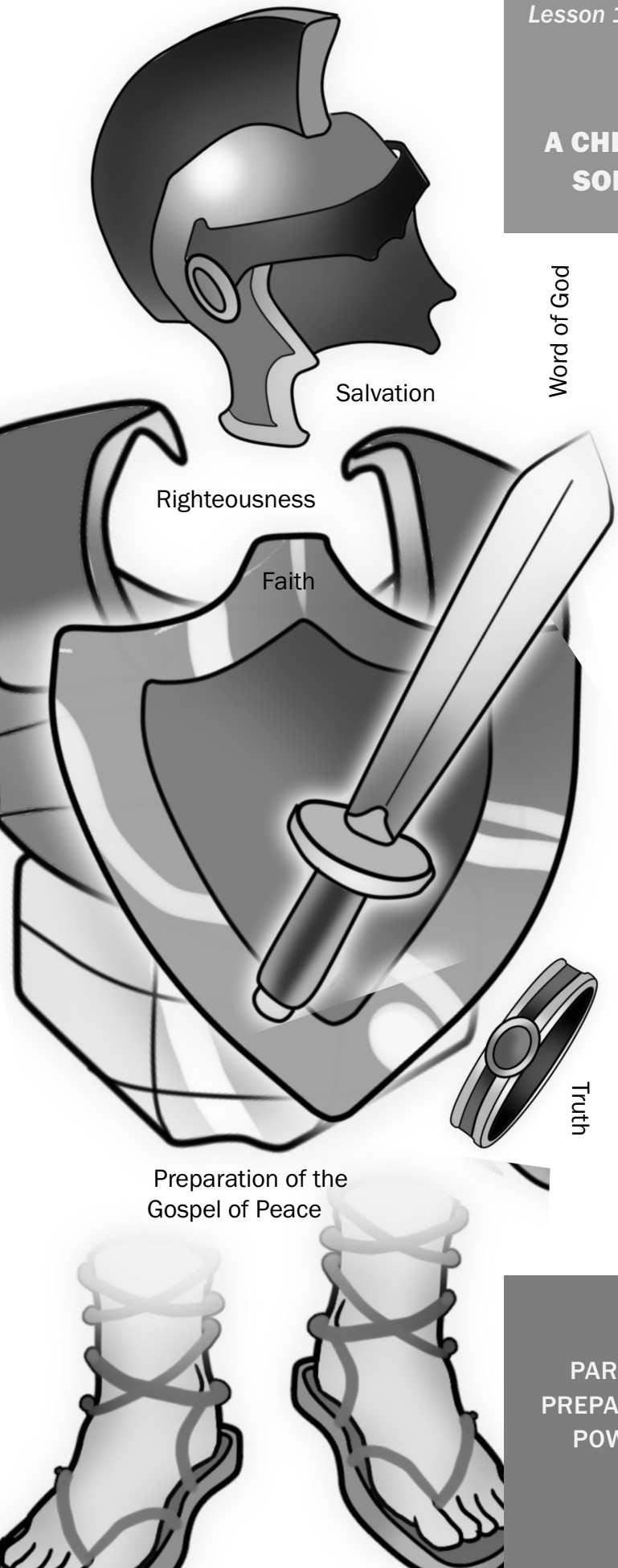
How about the sword—surely the Bible mentions that weapon? Yes, there it is, in verse 17. “The sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” So the Word of God is what he should use to fight the enemy.

Judah closed his Bible. He was glad his dad had suggested that he read these verses. He had read this passage of Scripture in Ephesians before, but he’d never really thought about what each piece of armor meant or how important it was. Now that he compared them with the armor he had made, he had a little better picture of how vital each piece is.

This has been quite an object lesson, he thought. I learned, by making these little pieces of armor from foil, that they were necessary to the knights of old, and at the same time, I think I have a better idea of how important the Christian armor is.

**A CHRISTIAN
SOLDIER**

We read in Ephesians 6:10-18 about the armor that a Christian must have for protection. Twenty words from the text are in our Word-Find. All of the words are on the word list. Circle each word as you find it.



GOD
FEET
GIRT
SHOD
FAITH
LOINS
PEACE
SWORD
TRUTH
WHOLE

ARMOUR
GOSPEL
HELMET
SHIELD
SPIRIT
PRAYING
SALVATION
BREASTPLATE
PREPARATION
RIGHTEOUSNESS

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

**PARDONED,
PREPARED, AND
POWERFUL**



REACHING THE GOAL

LESSON 103 → 2 Timothy 4:1-8; Revelation 3:11

***There is one race
in which everyone
can be a winner!***

Searing pain wracked through every muscle. Evan ignored it. He could see the tape stretched across the finish line just a few hundred yards ahead.

Every fiber of his body strained forward. Sweat drenched him. Dimly he sensed someone closing in on him. But how could anyone? He'd been well ahead through the whole race.



WE WANT TO FINISH GOD'S RACE.

He that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. — Mark 13:13

Numbly each foot pounded ahead of the other. He willed his body to more speed. If he could just tap that final reserve of energy. But it didn't seem to be there today.

The other runner was closing in fast. Determination welled up inside Evan. He just wasn't going to give in now. He would not let another person get ahead of him.

He willed himself to push harder. A flush of adrenaline surged through him just as the other runner drew closer. Side by side they ran now. Only thirty yards to go.

Defeat just couldn't be his! Evan had worked toward this moment of victory all year long. He had trained in the sweltering heat and in the icy slush. He'd put in miles and miles every day. This marathon had been his goal since last summer.

As he gave his last ounce of strength, the other runner broke the tape just ahead of him. The last moment made the difference. The taste of defeat was bitter in Evan's mouth as hands lifted the winner and carried him over the heads of the cheering crowd. Evan collapsed on the grass to the side. His breath, coming in tearing gasps, wrenched from him. But even as he wiped his face and raked the hair from his forehead, a question was forming in his mind. Who was that runner—the winner of the marathon? He spotted the guy in a big group over by the time clock.

Evan wedged his way into the group, and touched the other runner's shoulder. In spite of the disappointment that was still heavy on him, he stuck out his hand. "Hi, I'm Evan Jacobs, and I just want to tell you that was a great race."

His hand was grasped readily. "Say, you're the guy that came in just about a second behind

me, aren't you? I'm Jake Nelson. Let me tell you, I had to give it everything to get a step ahead of you! You were out in front nearly the whole race."

As the crowd milled around them, Evan and Jake stood for a few minutes discussing their training and some other races they had run. "It is really disappointing to put everything you have into a race and then not win," Jake said. "I've had that happen often enough too."

Evan grimaced in agreement, "It's just too bad there isn't some kind of race in which everyone who really did his best could win, isn't it?

* * * * *

The Bible tells us that every real Christian is in a spiritual race. But it is different from races we run here on this earth. In this race, everybody that finishes is a winner!

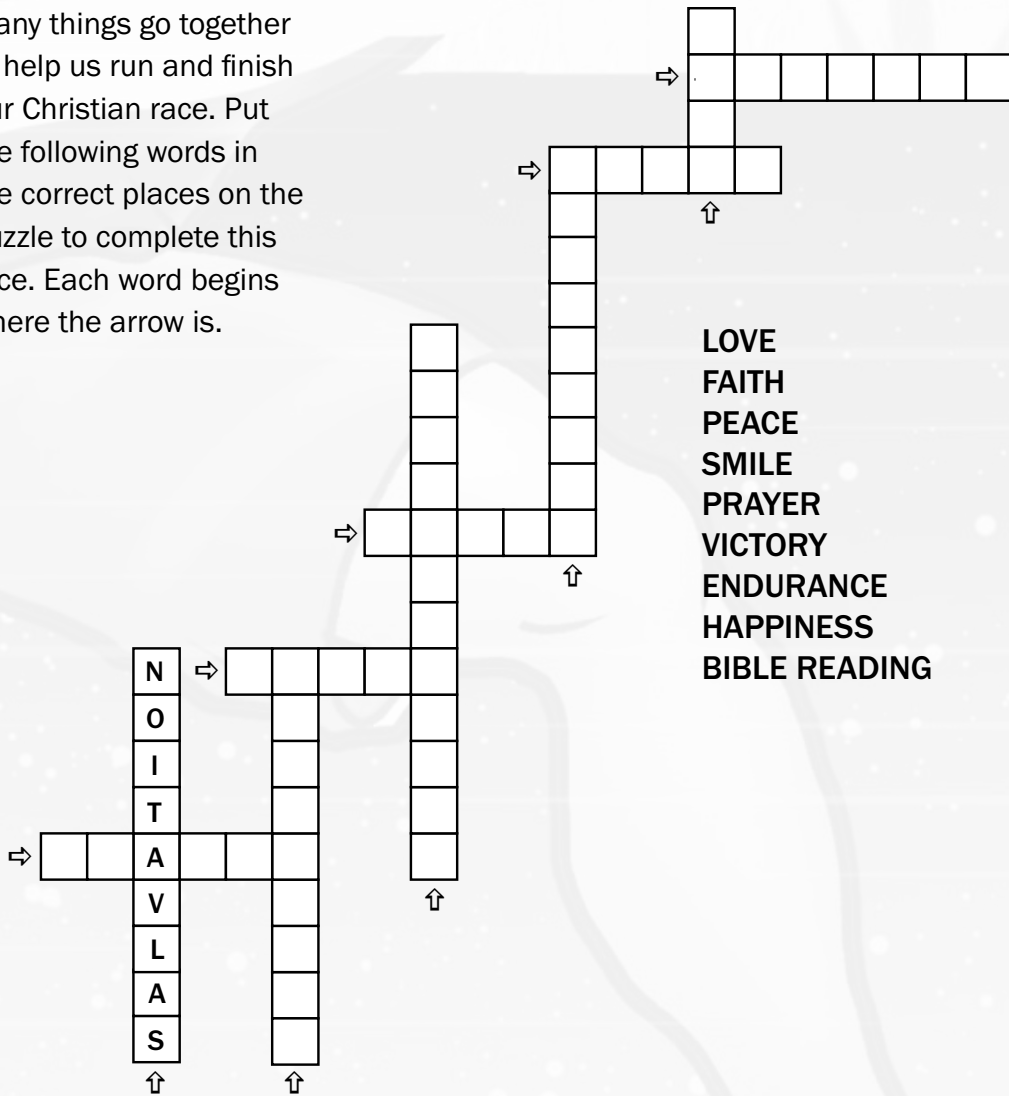
Evan had trained hard to be a winner in the marathon he ran. And it is going to take some effort to "win" in the spiritual race too. You won't be running long miles to get in shape for this, but you will have to spend time reading your Bible, praying, staying close to God, and trying every day to live in a way that is pleasing to Him.

We read in God's word that we must "lay aside every weight" in order to run the race that is set before us. That means we must be willing to give up things that would slow us down spiritually. Are you ready to do that so you can win the race?

The key to winning is endurance. Whatever might come our way, be it bad or good, we do not let that deter us from pressing on. The end is what counts in any race, but everyone who crosses the finish line into Heaven is a winner.

RUN THE RACE

Many things go together to help us run and finish our Christian race. Put the following words in the correct places on the puzzle to complete this race. Each word begins where the arrow is.



LOVE
FAITH
PEACE
SMILE
PRAYER
VICTORY
ENDURANCE
HAPPINESS
BIBLE READING

PARDONED,
PREPARED, AND
POWERFUL

QUARTER REVIEW

LESSON 104 → Review Quarter Texts

As you walk with Christ you will find that you are on the most exciting adventure of your life. During this quarter we have learned that the Christian's walk begins when he repents and is forgiven of all his sin. At that time he will feel an amazing sense of inner peace, even though the world around him has not changed at all. In preparing himself for the rest of the journey, the Christian finds that there are wonderful gifts which Jesus has promised His children. One of those gifts includes the power that comes into the life of a Christian when he is filled with the Holy Spirit. This amazing power enables the Christian to work for Christ, to be a help to those in need, and to tell others that Jesus loves them.

How well do you remember what you've studied during this past quarter? Check yourself by doing the following activities.

Starting at the small arrow, trace your way through the letters to spell the theme words of this quarter: Pardoned, Prepared, Powerful.

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

Unscramble these three words and write them on the lines.

READPOND _____

DAPPERER _____

FLOWPURE _____

QUARTER REVIEW

God's wonderful power of the Holy Spirit is promised to all who love Him. There is a verse in God's Word that tells us that very thing. To find out what that verse is, write the letter of the alphabet that comes after each letter found in the following sentence. (After you solve the puzzle, check your answer with the verse in Acts 2:39.)

**Enq sgd oqnlhrd hr tmsn xnt, zmc sn
xntq bghkcqdm, zmc sn zkk sgzs zqd
zezq nee, dudm zr lzmz zr sgd Knqc
ntq Fnc rgzkk bzkk.**

The following key verses give a short overview of the theme for this quarter's lessons. Fill in the blanks with the following words to complete each verse.

ALL | POWER | WITNESS
SALVATION | SANCTIFICATION

"For _____ have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."
— ROMANS 3:23

"For the grace of God that bringeth _____ hath appeared to all men." — TITUS 2:11

"For this is the will of God, even your _____."
— 1 THESSALONIANS 4:3

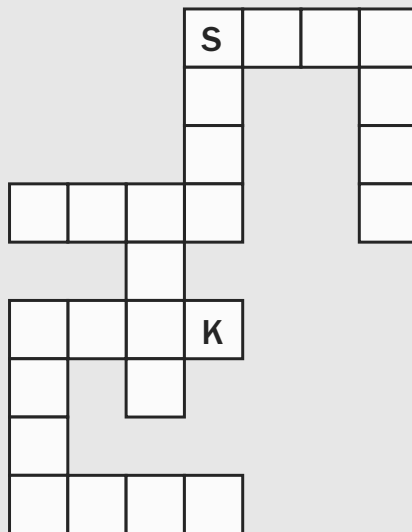
"But ye shall receive _____, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you." — ACTS 1:8

"Thou shalt be his _____ unto all men of what thou hast seen and heard." — ACTS 22:15

PARDONED,
PREPARED, AND
POWERFUL

QUARTER REVIEW

Fill in the crossword below with the bold type words from the following statement. Jesus **died** on the cross to **save** us from sin. His **love** fills the heart of a repentant **soul** and makes it **pure**. If we obey God's **Word**, and **work** for Him, we have the wonderful **hope** of meeting Him in Heaven.



PARDONED,
PREPARED, AND
POWERFUL

QUARTER REVIEW

Hidden in this word-find are several words that were used during this quarter. The words are listed below. Can you find and circle each of them?

ARMOR
BAPTISM
CHANGED
CHRISTIAN
CONVICTION
ENDURANCE

HOLY
PARDONED
PREPARED
POWERFUL
REDEEMER
REPENT

SALVATION
SANCTIFICATION
SIN
SPIRIT
VICTORY
WITNESS

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

PARDONED,
PREPARED, AND
POWERFUL

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YOUR NAME:
