



LESSONS 118-130

GETTING ALONG WITH OTHERS

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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GETTING ALONG WITH OTHERS

Take part a ballpoint pen and lay the case aside. Now try and write with what's left. Difficult, isn't it? The spring falls off, the cartridge bends in your fingers. It's not hard to figure out what's wrong—the part that holds the whole thing together is missing!

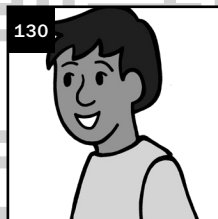
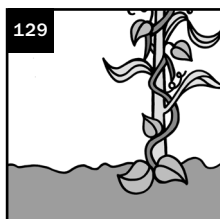
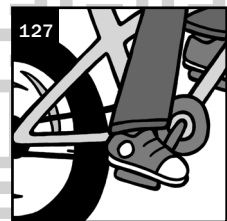
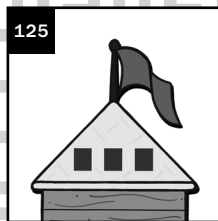
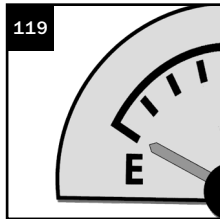
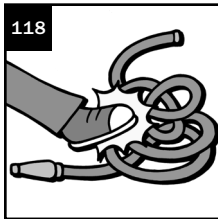
Jesus is the One who holds our lives together. Without Him, getting along with others might be like trying to write with the inside of that pen—everything seems to come apart. Yet, when we establish a real and personal relationship with Jesus, it makes a change so basic and far-reaching that the Bible calls it a “new-birth.” It gives us a new direction, a new goal, a new set of values. It will also give us a whole new attitude toward other people!

How does God want us to get along with others? Let's look for *The Answer* together this quarter.

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THE Answer

UNIT 10



(USPS 591-390)
Postmaster: Send address change to
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.



A LOOK AT THE PROBLEM

LESSON 118 → Matthew 4:18-22; 11:28-30; 16:24-27

All of Nasir's troubles seemed to revolve around one thing.

Nasir slammed the door of the garage behind him. The angry words he had just shouted at his brother were ringing in his ears. He kicked at the garden hose lying beside his tool bench. What could go wrong next?

It had been a terrible day. He had been at odds with everyone ever since he got up this morning.

First of all, his kid brother Kingston had left the house early, wearing the shirt Nasir had planned to wear. When he had complained bitterly to Mom, she hadn't done a thing about it.

Then at school, he had tried to get Emmett, a guy from his first-period class, to give him answers for the math test he'd missed last week. Nasir knew that wasn't right, but when Emmett



KEY VERSE

JESUS LIGHTS UP MY LIFE.

He that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.
— John 8:12

refused, they'd had a big argument. I don't see why he couldn't have given me some help, Nasir thought angrily. That test was pretty important, and what difference would it make to Emmett, anyway?

Things had gone from bad to worse. In P.E., the coach had told him he was fouling too much. When Nasir tried to tell him that it was the other guy, the coach had accused him of mouthing off.

To top it all, when he came home, Kingston had confessed he'd ripped the sleeve of Nasir's shirt. That was the last straw. Nasir had exploded! Then he had stormed out to the garage. Maybe he'd just stay out here by himself and work on his car until dinnertime.

What's wrong with me? he thought to himself. I just can't seem to get along with anybody. He stared gloomily down at the transmission he had taken out of his car last Saturday. This thing wasn't working right either. It was about as messed up as everything else seemed to be. Nasir picked up the wrench lying beside the transmission case. The top was almost ready to come free—just two more bolts to go. He loosened them carefully and worked it off.

Would you look at that! The first gear in the transmission was broken, and several of the teeth were missing. He frowned

and turned the gear a bit. Obviously, it was never going to work this way. He wiped his hands on a rag as the door into the garage opened and his dad came in.

"Hi, Son, how's it going?" he inquired. "Have you found the trouble with that transmission yet?"

"Yeah, I'm afraid so," Nasir replied with a discouraged sigh. "And I don't think I can fix it."

"Here, let me take a look. It's been awhile since I've taken a transmission apart, but maybe between the two of us we can figure it out." Taking off his jacket, he came over to where Nasir was standing by the workbench. Together they inspected the part.

"Well, it looks like your main gear is broken," he said after a moment. "If it can be fixed, all the rest of them will work too."

Later that night, Nasir lay in bed thinking over the problems of the day. Suddenly a picture of that transmission flashed back into his mind. His dad's words echoed in his thoughts, "If this gear can be fixed, all the rest of them will work too."

Could it be that all of these problems he'd been having with everyone around him were his fault? Almost against his will, his mind began to draw a parallel. He was out of step with everyone around him, just like that first gear had not

been meshing with the gears around it. The transmission gear couldn't help itself, and it seemed Nasir couldn't help himself either. But he knew Who could.

Suddenly, he wanted that help. He buried his head in his arms and prayed, "Jesus, please help me. Nothing seems to be going right, and I know it's because I need You." All the pent-up frustrations and troubles of the past months seemed to pour out of him. If his heart was right with Jesus, these other problems would be straightened out too!

Nasir's prayer was heard that night, and his life was totally turned around. The way he'd been treating his younger brother, the pressures he'd put on some of his friends, his antagonistic attitude toward those in authority—all this changed! Nasir felt differently about these people, and his new attitude showed it.

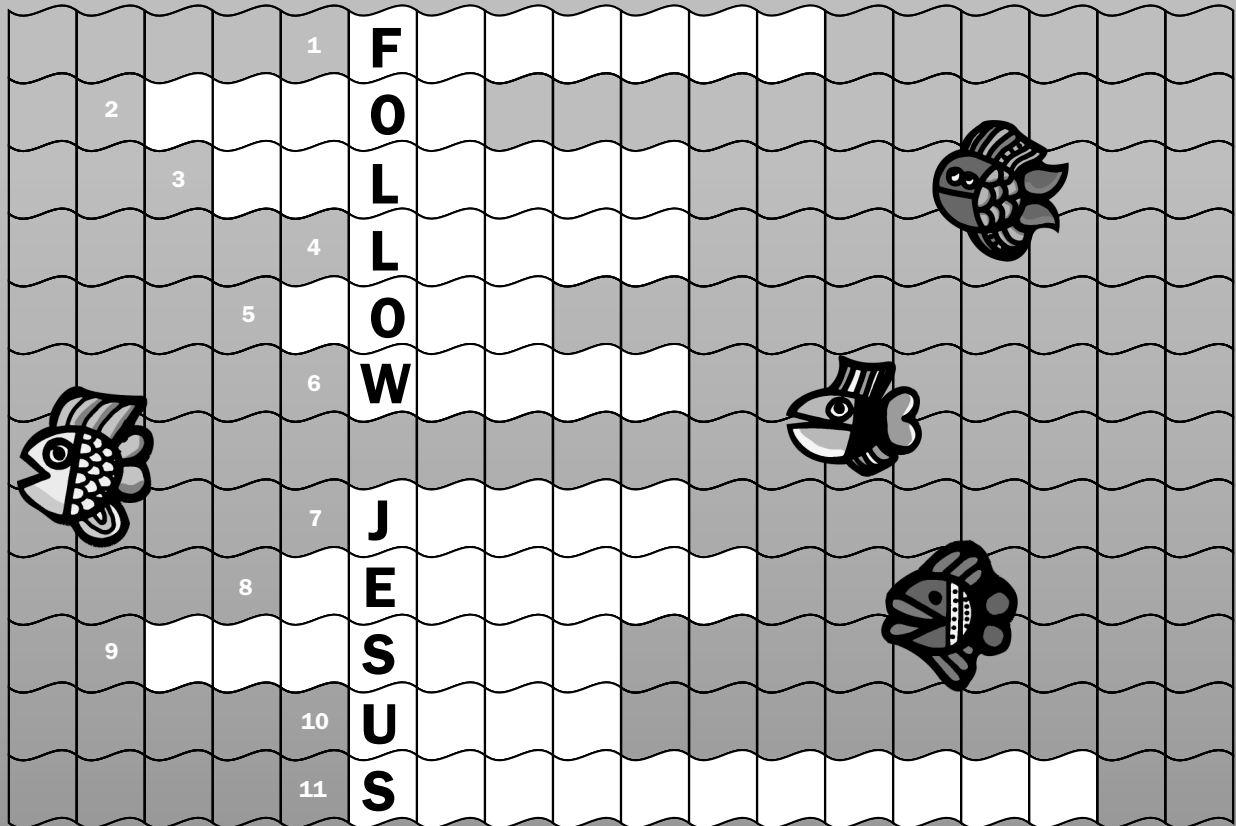
Nasir determined that Jesus was going to be first in his life, and that he would always try to treat people the way he would if Jesus were standing right beside him.

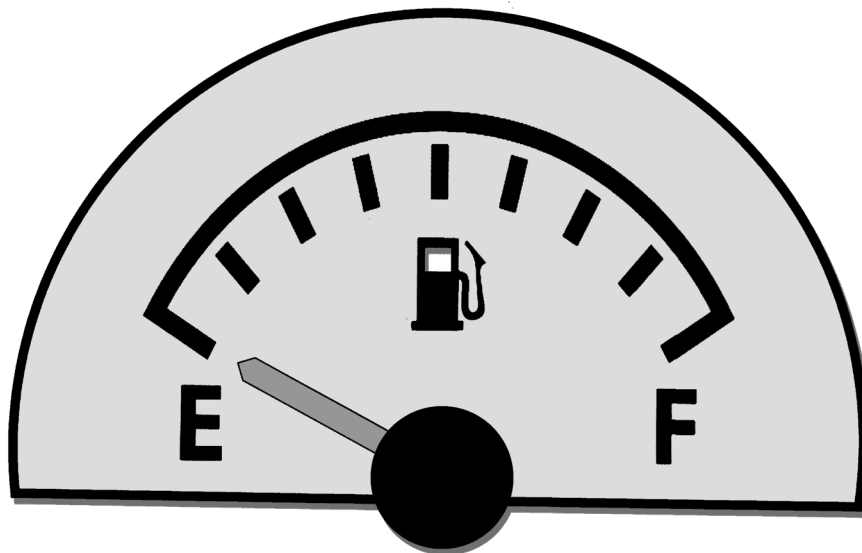
Jesus made a dramatic difference in Nasir's life. He can in yours too!

FISHERS OF MEN

Answer the questions and find the missing words. The answers can be found in the Scripture following each question or statement. Then fill in the blank spaces of the fish net with your answers.

1. Jesus said, "Follow me, and I will make you _____ of men." Matthew 4:19
2. What was Peter's other name? Matthew 4:18 _____
3. What sea was Jesus walking by when He saw Andrew? Matthew 4:18 _____
4. "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy _____." Matthew 11:28
5. If you follow Jesus you will find rest for your _____. Matthew 11:29
6. What will it profit a man if he gains the whole _____ and loses his soul? Matthew 16:26
7. I am one of Zebedee's sons. Matthew 4:21 _____
8. What were Zebedee's sons doing to their nets when Jesus called them? Matthew 4:21 _____
9. Jesus said, "If any man will come after me, let him deny _____." Matthew 16:24
10. "Take my yoke _____ you, and learn of me," Jesus said. Matthew 11:29
11. When Jesus called Peter and Andrew they _____ left their nets. Matthew 4:20





WARNING SIGNS

LESSON 119 → Ezekiel 33:1-11; Jeremiah 3:15

It pays to heed the warning signs.

Signs . . . who needs them? I sure don't! Who can pay attention to signs while driving a car? I'm pretty sure I'm headed in the right direction. I can find the way without the signs, or for that matter, without a maps app. I always lose my data

connection once I get a few miles outside of the city anyways. Hey, this road is really getting mountainous! I don't remember hearing there were mountains in this direction. Maybe I should



I'LL RECEIVE GOD'S BLESSING IF I OBEY.

Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls. — Hebrews 13:17

turn on this road here...or perhaps that one...or there's another one a little way ahead...

Sounds crazy, doesn't it? Who would start off on a strange road and completely ignore the directions? The signs were placed at the instruction of the highway engineers, the men who laid out the road. Each sign was placed for a purpose—to point out the safest and quickest way to get to a destination.

On our spiritual road to Heaven, God has given us ministers to point us in the right direction. God chose our ministers and appointed them to the positions they fill. Just as the road signs point us in the right direction, it is the ministers' responsibility to point us toward Heaven.

Wonder how many miles I've come? It can't be too much farther. I've been traveling along here for quite a while. Here comes a mileage sign . . . but I never pay any attention to them anyway. I'll just guess at how much farther I have to go.

Have you ever noticed that the closer you get to your destination, the more frequently you see signs along the highway giving the remaining distance? One of the vital responsibilities of the ministry is to warn us that we are very near to the return of Christ to this earth. It would be foolish to ignore these warnings and think we can guess when Christ will come back. What if our guess were wrong?

A speed sign—now there is one I really shouldn't have looked at! It said I should slow down to 30 M.P.H. on this curve. Ridiculous! It'll be a lot more exciting to take it at 50!

Speed signs along the highway are posted for our protection. It might be possible to negotiate the curves at a higher speed than the one posted, but it wouldn't be as safe. Our ministers also give us advice as to the safest way to proceed. If we try to do things our own way we might end up "missing the curve."

Wow—look at those skid marks! Someone must have missed the warning sign. There have been a lot of warning signs along this road: Soft Shoulder, Ice, Sharp Curve Ahead. One after another! But I'm a good driver. I don't need to worry about them. They must think nobody knows how to drive a car. Actually, I don't see anything so very dangerous about this road. A little expertise in handling a car is really all you need.

Sometimes people think the ministers warn us unnecessarily, telling us over and over that something might be spiritually harmful. Yet the Bible tells us that our ministers "watch for our souls." Their warnings are for our good. They have a responsibility before God to give those warnings because God has appointed them to their position. Just as we may see the same warning signs on a highway more than once, our ministers may tell us some things more than once. We need to be reminded! Or perhaps someone has just come onto the "road" and needs to be made aware of the dangers.

Gas Ahead. Let's see, what does the gauge show? Well, the needle is on empty, but I know this car. It can run a long time on empty. I'm sure there must be at least a quarter of a tank left. Plenty to get me there.

Our ministers are well aware that all of us need to take on spiritual "fuel" in order to make our heavenly goal. Just as a "Gas Ahead" sign reminds us to check our fuel indicator, we need to follow the encouragement of our ministers, and take on the spiritual fuel we need.

Another sign coming up. This one says STOP! Well, I'm already running late, so I'm going to have to ignore this sign. No time to slow down . . .

Do you think he made it?

I WILL OBEY

Our ministers want us to receive God's blessings. This message tells why we should obey our ministers. Begin at START and trace the words of Hebrews 13:17 through the maze. The first word of the verse is traced for you.

SOMETIMES IT'S EASIER TO OBEY WHEN WE KNOW WHY WE SHOULD LISTEN.

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



A LETTER FROM DAD

LESSON 120 → Matthew 1:21; 2:1-15; John 16:27

Charlotte and Emmet received a reminder of the best Christmas ever.

My Dear Children,
As you read this letter on Christmas Day, it will be the first time we have been apart at this special season. I will be having Christmas dinner with the family of one of my business associates, Mr. Michaels. They are fine people, and I understand we will be having turkey and dressing just like Mom always fixes at home for the Christmas dinner.

Still, I'm really going to miss each one of you. I wish this special assignment with my company didn't mean having to be away from home. I'm thinking back today of the many wonderful Christmases of years past and of God's love for all of us.

Charlotte, you were our first baby, and I remember the Christmas when you were nine months old. You wrinkled up your nose and stared at that funny old gentleman dressed in red with



GOD REALLY LOVES US!

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. — John 3:16

the furry white beard. He sure didn't look like your daddy or anyone else you knew and loved, but he had a jolly laugh—and you finally gave a tentative giggle back. When he gave you a cookie as you sat on his knee, you were completely won over.

Then, a couple of Christmases later, your baby brother, Emmett, sat under the Christmas tree with you. Emmett, how we laughed as you tried to pull all the bows and ribbons off the packages. Of course Charlotte was more intent on peeking inside; by then she knew the real prize lay beyond the brightly colored wrapping. How eager she was to find out what was in each box!

Then Charlotte, when you were five, I thought my heart would burst with pride. On Christmas night you played the part of Mary in the Sunday school Christmas program. We thought you might get stage fright when you saw all those people sitting out in the auditorium, because it was a full house. But you didn't even look in their direction, just marched right up there like a veteran performer. You looked so sweet in the scene where the angel spoke to you to tell you that you'd be the mother of God's Son—Jesus.

The next Christmas, Emmett, you were a shepherd boy. I'll never forget how serious you looked in your brown robe and little orange hood tied around your face. You had a stuffed white lamb to carry, but you ended up dragging him across the platform by one ear. You stole the hearts of the audience when you stepped out to the mc and sang, "I wish I could have been a shepherd, watching my flocks by night . . ."

Yet, all the memories of those Christmases fade by comparison to the joy that flooded your mother's and my hearts the Christmas when you both knelt and gave your hearts to Jesus. I remember the tears that flowed down your cheeks, Charlotte, as you prayed at the altar after the Christmas message. I was there, and so was your mother, to pray with you. We saw the flood

of joy cross your face as you reached out to Jesus and He came into your heart.

Emmett, when Charlotte told you how happy she was and how Jesus wanted to come into your heart too, you were so open, so receptive. You knelt by your bed and felt that instantaneous change as God saved you too. Your mom and I will never forget the joy we felt when we realized that both of you had given your hearts to God. Christmas was so meaningful that year—God's gift of love seemed especially real and precious to each of us.

Now, I don't want you to be sad because I'm not with you this Christmas. The same God who put the wonder in all our great Christmases together in the past is with you this year too. And He's also with me. Even though half a world separates your daddy from you at this special holiday season, God's love goes around the whole wide world, and that brings us together in Him.

Stop to think, Emmett and Charlotte, God loves His Son, just like I love you. Yet on that first Christmas, He sent His Son to be born as a little baby here on earth. I don't like being away from you, and I'm sure God up in Heaven didn't like to be separated from His only Son either. He did it because He loves you and me so much.

Treasure His love within your hearts, my children. Keep Him with you always. Like the Christmas presents you unwrap today—the glittering paper is only tossed away; it's what is on the inside that counts. God's love counts for eternity—forever and ever and ever.

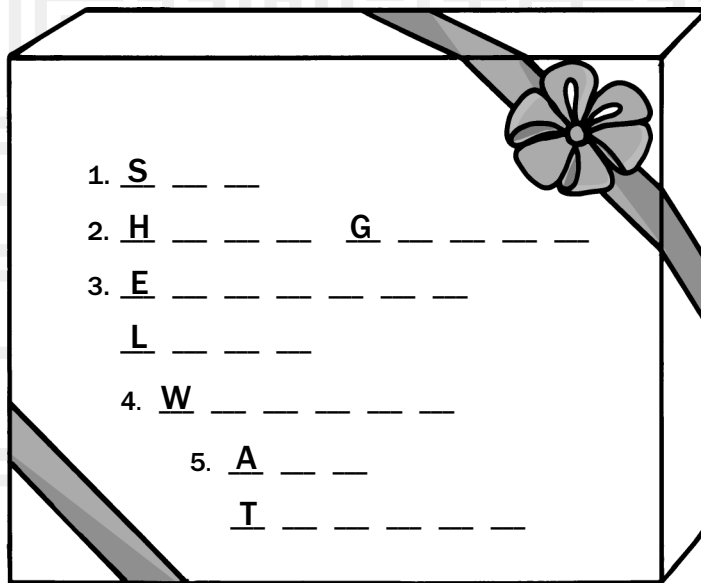
Someday that love within your hearts will respond to the heavenly call and our family will all be together with Him.

Until we meet again,

Your loving dad

GIFTS FREELY GIVEN

A gift is not something you can earn; it is always free.
Look up the verses next to the gift boxes and fill in the blanks.



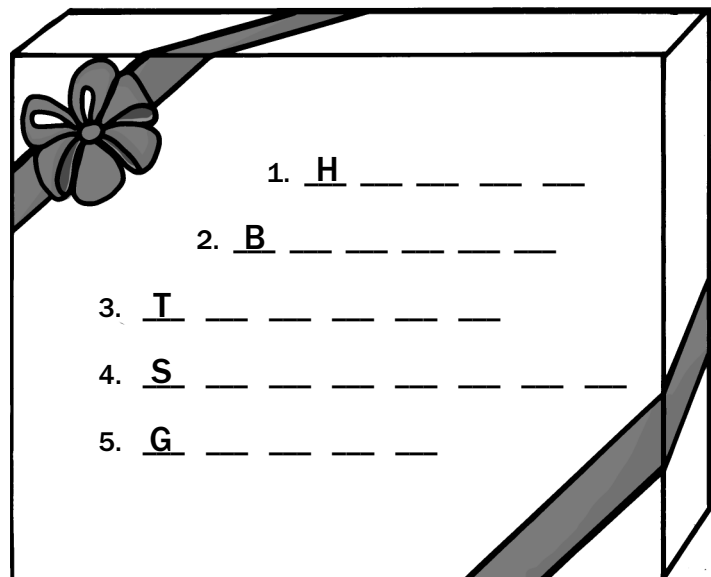
GOD'S GIFTS TO YOU

1. John 3:16
2. Romans 5:5
3. Romans 6:23
4. James 1:5
5. 1 Timothy 6:17

WHAT CAN YOU GIVE GOD?

Remember, gifts must be freely given!

1. Proverbs 23:26
2. Romans 12:1
3. Psalm 105:1
4. Psalm 96:7
5. Psalm 96:7





STICKING TOGETHER

LESSON 121 → Ephesians 4:1-16; Philippians 2:1-4

**Tobias
wanted
to go his
own way.**

Tobias fumbled restlessly with his backpack. It was hard to sit still while Mr. Kilpatrick finished his talk.

“... and we must all stick together. Your parents have given me the responsibility for this hike, and it’s very important that each of you stay with the group and follow my directions,” Mr. Kilpatrick went on.

Tobias sighed. He had stayed up late last night studying the map, so he already knew this trail well. In fact, he thought, I’m sure I wouldn’t have a bit of trouble getting to the falls by myself. This business about always sticking together sort of bothered him. He was sure he didn’t

need to hear it, although some of the younger kids probably did.

Suddenly he realized that all of the kids were hustling to get their gear on and some were already on their way down the trail. Tobias scrambled to his feet. Boy, that’s what I get for daydreaming, he chided himself. Now I’m stuck at the back of the pack.

Tobias soon forgot his annoyance. A gray squirrel scurried by, causing a ripple of laughter among the happy group, as the early morning sun filtered through the trees. Every breath of the clean, pine-scented air made him glad he had been included.



UNITY GIVES US A GOOD FEELING.

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!
— Psalm 133:1

Then, just to the right of the trail, something caught his eye. Could this be a bear track? What other animal would leave a print that big? He put his pack down, and bent over to examine it more closely. Yes, he was sure it was a bear track. And there was another one!

Wow . . . this was a real discovery! I'm going to look around here and see if I can find some more, he thought to himself. I can catch up with the others. They'll never miss me.

He poked around in the brush for quite awhile. Then, suddenly, he realized the rest of the group had been out of sight for a long time. Since he hadn't found more tracks, he decided he'd better hurry and join the others. Then an idea came into his head. He would take a shortcut across the valley and catch up with the group on the other side! In just a few minutes he was out of sight of the trail, but he was sure he could find his way, so on he went.

Absorbed in his thoughts, Tobias never saw the half-buried tree root that caused his fall. One moment he was peering ahead intently, trying to get his bearings, and the next thing he knew he was sprawling on the ground.

"Oh, no!" he groaned, grabbing his ankle. "Oh, it hurts!" He rubbed it gently for a few moments, then cautiously got to his feet and tried to put his weight on it. A wave of pain shot through him, and he sank back to the ground. "I'll never be able to walk on it," he moaned. "It must be broken." He looked around him, then managed to crawl a few feet to a heavy stick. "Maybe I can use this for a crutch."

The next couple of hours blurred into one long agony. Each step was torture. It didn't help Tobias, that Mr. Kilpatrick's words kept re-echoing in his mind, ". . . we must all stick together . . . all stick together . . ." If only he had paid attention. All that advice this morning had been meant for him, but he had ignored it. Surely the group had missed him by now, and they were probably all worried.

"O God, please help me get back to them," he whispered. Then, just when Tobias felt so exhausted he could hardly take another step, he heard a shout. "Tobias, Tobias, can you hear us? Tobias, where are you?"

It was Mr. Kilpatrick.

With a groan of relief, Tobias sank to the ground. "I'm here. Right over here," he cried, and in a few moments the group gathered around him.

"Tobias, what happened?" Mr. Kilpatrick's voice was filled with concern. "Are you all right? How did you get separated from the group?"

Supporting Tobias, the group slowly made its way through the woods. At last they came to the spot on the trail where Tobias had seen the bear track, and the group had found his pack. By that time, Mr. Kilpatrick had the whole story. As the group assembled on the trail, he looked at them and said sadly, "Well, kids, I'm really sorry that our trip has to end this way, but we're going to have to go home now. I know it is disappointing to all of you. We've spent several hours back-tracking and looking for Tobias, so we wouldn't be able to make it to the falls before late afternoon even if we did go on. Tobias is in need of attention, so we'll just have to head back in."

"Sorry, guys," Tobias said, feeling miserable as he glanced around at the concerned faces. "Just because I decided I could go my own way, I ruined the fun for all of you."

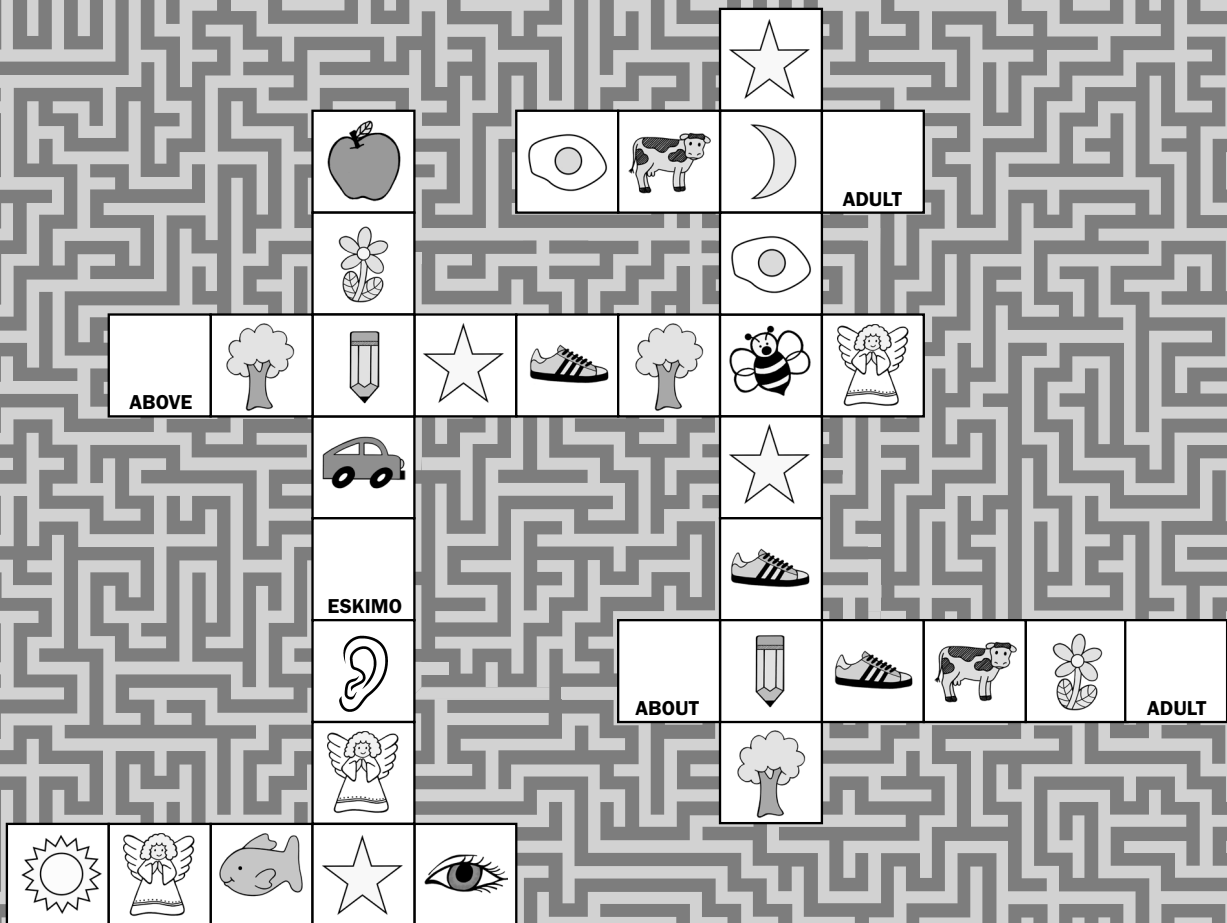
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Tobias learned a hard lesson that day. When one person decides to do whatever he wants and go his own way, without regard for how it will affect others, it causes problems. As Christians, we must stand together if we want to insure good success in our work for God. The Bible calls this, "unity." Never forget that unity among Christian believers is vital!

Lesson 121 Activity

LET'S WORK TOGETHER

Unity means all agreeing on the same thing. This week the key verse tells what it is like when we all work together to accomplish God's purpose. On the grid below write the second letter of the word or picture in that square. Then write each word in the correct order in the key verse below. No fair peeking at the text!



“ _____, how _____ and how _____
it is for _____ to dwell _____ in
_____!”

Psalm 133:1



TELLING A FRIEND

LESSON 122 → Acts 16:13-34; Mark 16:15; Luke 15:1; 24:47

**Mia was
glad
Jesus
helped
her to
share the
Gospel.**

Buzz! Buzz! The final sound of the bell rang through the school corridors. Doors flew open and there was a mad scramble as kids hurried to be first in the cafeteria line.

Mia walked slowly, keeping close to the wall and trying to stay out of the crush. This was the first day of school—a new school at that—and she was scared! She finally got into the cafeteria and found an empty place at one of the tables. She opened her sack lunch, unwrapped her sandwich, and bowed her head. When she looked up, she found several pairs of eyes staring at her. One of the girls asked, “What are you doing? Has your lunch got a bug on it or something?”

“I was just praying,” Mia replied nervously.

“Praying? What are you praying for?” she wanted to know.

“I was thanking God for my lunch,” Mia answered.

That started a string of questions that Mia tried to answer while she ate her sandwich. The girls, especially one named Kim, wanted to know everything about



LET'S TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS.

The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.
— Proverbs 11:30

praying. This had never happened to her before and Mia found it difficult to answer them. Kim wanted to know why she prayed, how she prayed, what she prayed for, and why she should thank God for anything. Did He answer her prayers?

Mia told Kim and the other girls that she prayed because she knew God heard her and that He did answer her prayers.

"Give us an example," Kim said.

"Well, for one thing, He saved me," Mia replied, hoping that would end the conversation. Instead it just opened up a whole new set of questions from Kim. "Saved? Saved from what?" Kim wanted to know.

"Saved means that God took sin out of my life. We can't get to Heaven without being saved," Mia replied.

"Sin? You're only my age, how did you sin?" Kim questioned.

Well, I used to lie to my folks and disobey them, and I was mean to my little sister. When I told God I was sorry for those things He forgave me and saved me."

"Can anyone be saved?" Kim asked Mia as they left the cafeteria.

"Yes, anyone can be saved. All you have to do is tell God you're sorry. Then He comes in and the devil goes out." The other girls had drifted off, but Kim seemed to be really interested and continued with questions until it was time for classes again.

That night, at the dinner table, Mia told her family about the new school and about all of Kim's questions. "Boy, was I scared," she finished.

"Well, I'm glad you told her," Grandpa said. "You know, when God saved you he gave you a job to do. He wants everyone who loves Him to work for Him. Do you remember that it tells us in the Bible that God gave the Apostles a commandment to go and preach the Gospel?"

"Sure, I remember, but that was for the Apostles. Besides, I don't want to preach," Mia laughed.

"Well," Grandpa continued, "you did preach when you told your friend about Jesus. That's all a preacher does. Everyone who is a Christian has a job to do, and that is to tell others about Jesus. How else will they ever know? You did the right thing today, Mia. Kim sounds as if she is interested. Why not ask her to come to Sunday school?"

"OK, I'll ask her tomorrow."

Two days later, Mia came rushing home, clearly upset. "Grandpa, you'll never guess what happened! You remember that girl Kim I was telling you about? Well yesterday after school she was crossing the street near her home and a car hit her. The driver didn't see her till too late." The color drained from Mia's face as she hesitated, and then continued, "She died last night in the hospital. Her mom called and told our teacher, and our teacher told us."

Grandpa put his arm around Mia's shoulder. "Oh, Honey, I'm so sorry," he said quietly. "Aren't you glad that you told her about praying? You never know. She might have prayed and asked God to save her. Not everyone you tell the Good News to will die so suddenly, but it is good to know that you told her."

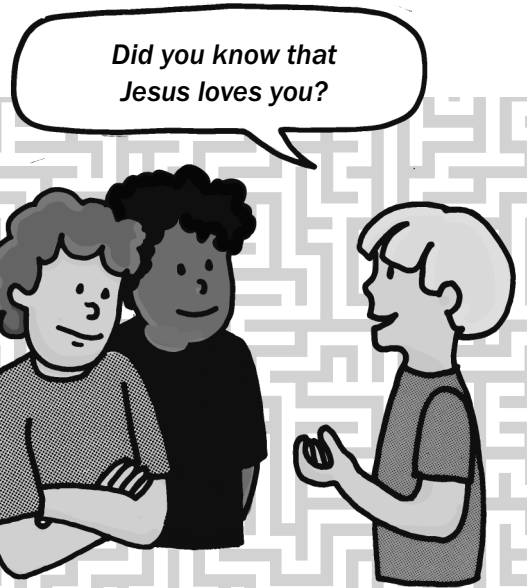
"Grandpa, when I asked her yesterday if she could come to Sunday school she said she'd try. She was really friendly. I was scared when she asked me all those questions, but I'm glad God helped me to answer them."

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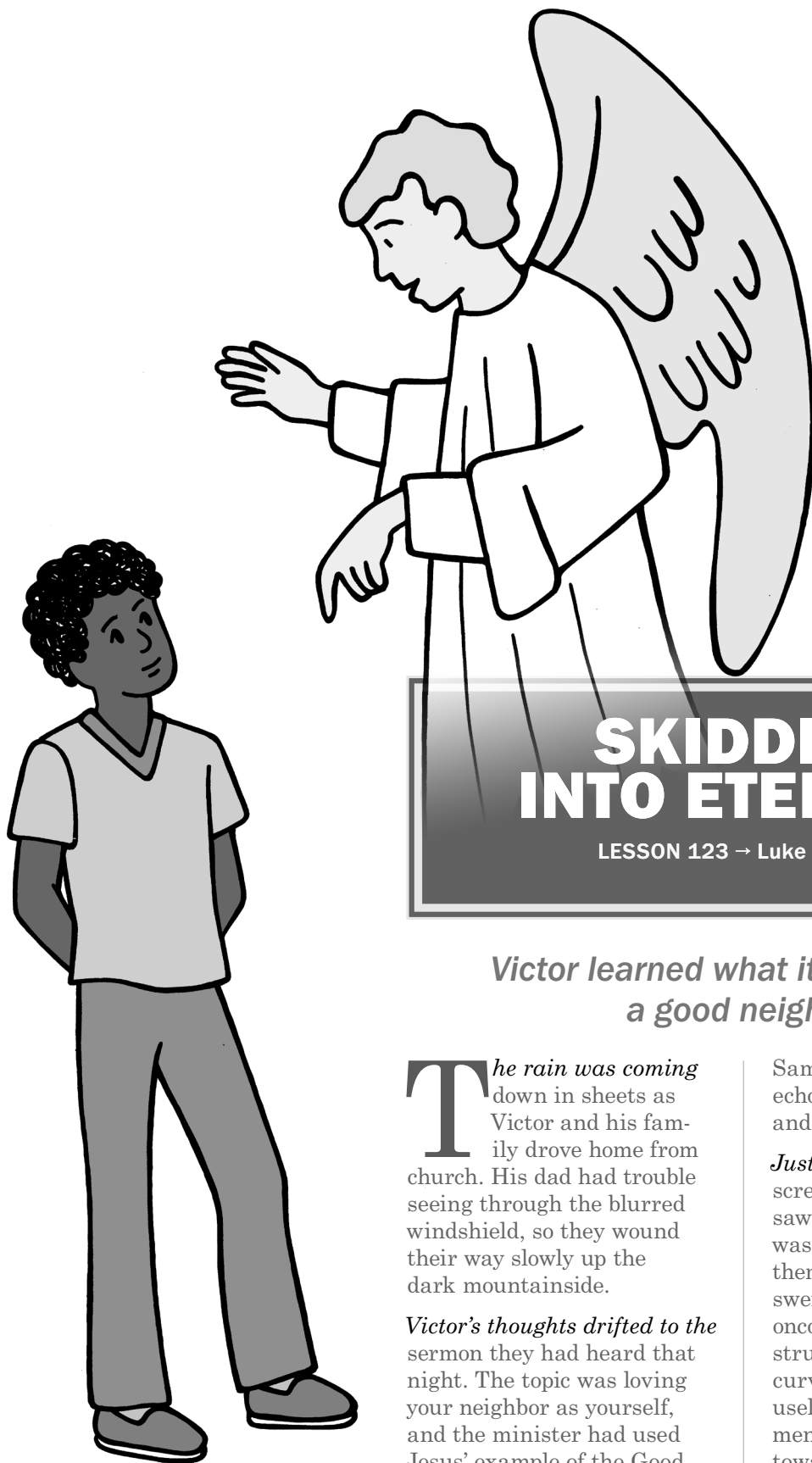
This is a true story. Kim really did die on the second day of her fourth-grade year. But someone had cared enough to tell her about Jesus. Have you told someone lately what God has done for you?

JESUS LOVES YOU!

Christians are told to tell other people about Jesus. Several countries are listed below but each one has a letter missing. When you fill in the letters you will find a name used for someone who witnesses for Jesus. Our pictures show different ways and times when you can be a witness for Jesus.



AMER	EXICO
RU	CA
	SIA
	WITZERLAND
CH	NA
N	RWAY
I	DIA
FR	NCE
NIGE	IA
EG	PT



SKIDDING INTO ETERNITY

LESSON 123 → Luke 10:25-37

Victor learned what it means to be a good neighbor.

The rain was coming down in sheets as Victor and his family drove home from church. His dad had trouble seeing through the blurred windshield, so they wound their way slowly up the dark mountainside.

Victor's thoughts drifted to the sermon they had heard that night. The topic was loving your neighbor as yourself, and the minister had used Jesus' example of the Good

Samaritan. The words of Jesus echoed in Victor's mind, "Go, and do thou likewise."

Just then, Victor's sister screamed. He looked up and saw the headlights of a car that was careening wildly toward them. Their father quickly swerved to avoid hitting the oncoming vehicle and then struggled to get back on the curving road. The tires skidded uselessly on the rain-slick pavement and the van slid sideways toward the embankment. The



JESUS HELPS ME TO LOVE EVERYONE.

Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. — Mark 12:31

last thing Victor remembered was his parents' praying as they all went over the edge into the darkness.

Victor opened his eyes on an amazing sight. He saw thousands of people standing before a Throne, and upon the Throne sat a Person too marvelous to describe. As Victor watched, he noticed the people were being separated one by one into two groups.

I'm dead, he thought, and this is the Judgment!

A hand touched him on the shoulder and Victor spun around to see the shining figure of an angel with a loving face.

"Victor, thirteen years of age," the angel began, "and how have you spent your short life?"

Victor stood speechless.

The angel continued, "Your time has come to stand before the Throne. Can you answer that you have loved the Lord with all your heart, mind, body, soul, and strength?"

Victor knew that he had prayed and was really saved long before the accident happened so he relaxed a little and answered, "Yes."

The angel bent a little closer and looked straight into Victor's eyes. His voice was serious as he asked one more question. "And have you loved your neighbor as yourself?"

Questions began to rise in Victor's mind as they had when he heard the sermon that night. He began to think about his family and his friends at church and at school. He knew he had treated them like he wanted to be treated.

"I think I have."

The angel looked at Victor for a long moment, then said, "What about the Sunday school boy that walks to the night meetings and always sits over to the side of the room? He looks so lonely, and never speaks up in class. Nobody talks to him except some of the adults. Is he your neighbor, Victor?"

Victor looked startled. "Well, I guess he is, in a way."

"How about the boy that lives in the old house on the corner whose father is disabled?" the angel continued. "Remember him? He's the one that always gets left out because he doesn't have a bicycle like the other kids. Just last week, Andy said not to include him because he couldn't keep up with the rest of you. How did you respond, Victor? Is he your neighbor?"

Victor nodded soberly. "Yes."

"What about the elderly lady who lives across the street? She needs someone to talk to her to fill the lonely hours, but no one has the time. You've noticed on sunny days how she stands by her gate and watches everyone who walks by. Is she your neighbor, Victor?"

Again Victor nodded. "Yes, she is. And you don't have to go on. I realize now I have neglected those that Jesus wanted me to love. Oh, how I wish I had thought to reach out to them before."

When he heard his name called, Victor turned to face the Throne.

"Victor! Victor! Can you hear us?" His parents' voices seemed to come from a long distance away. Feeling as if he were struggling through a mist, Victor slowly opened his eyes.

"Dad! Mom! What happened? Where am I? Am I alive?"

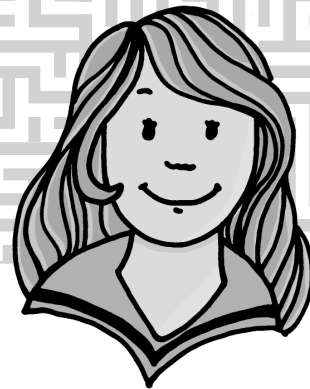
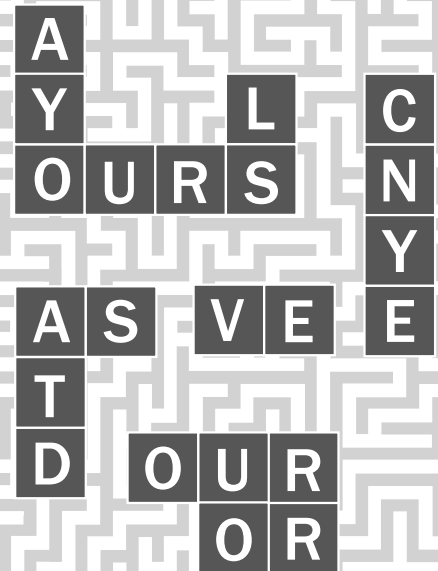
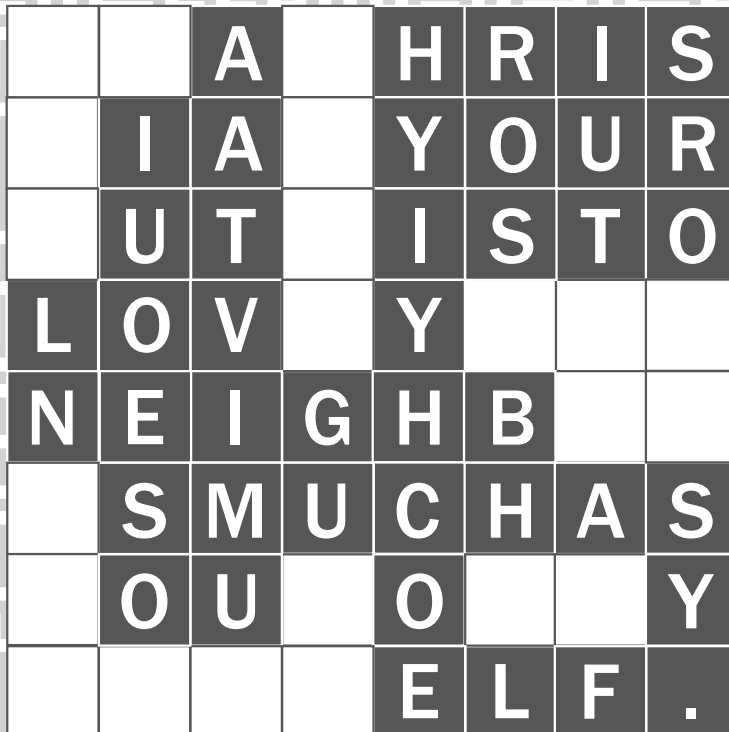
His dad's face came into focus. "Yes, thank God you're alive. It's a miracle. Two trees stopped us from plunging down into the canyon. You must have hit your head because you've been unconscious for a little while."

Then I really wasn't at the Judgment, Victor thought. It must have been a dream. But I am glad I had it! I've learned an important lesson. I now know what it means to love my neighbor as myself.

Lesson 123 Activity

WHO IS YOUR NEIGHBOR?

Your neighbor is anyone you come in contact with. How should you feel about that person? To find the answer, solve the puzzle below. Decide where each shape fits and write in the missing letters. Then write the letters in the order given on the lines below.



The important thought in this lesson is...



SOMEONE TO CARE

LESSON 124 → Isaiah 35:3-4; John 13:34-35; 15:12-17

Madeline needed the support of a Christian friend.

“**N**o, Madeline! Don't leave! Please don't leave!” Jacob cried out. From his seat, he tried to reach out to her, but he felt paralyzed. He could see Madeline walking right out of the church doors, but he couldn't do a thing about it. There was a sea of faces around him, but they showed no interest in the fact that they were about to lose Madeline.

Not one of them spoke a word. Didn't anyone care?

Suddenly, Jacob felt someone shaking him. A voice said, “Jacob. Wake up, Jacob. You're dreaming.” The scene in the church faded, and Jacob opened his eyes. His father was leaning over him with a worried expression on his face. “You must have been having a bad dream, Son.”



I WILL HELP THOSE WHO NEED ME.

We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak. — Romans 15:1

Jacob rubbed his eyes as the memory of the dream swept over him. “Oh, Dad, it was awful,” he said as he sat up. “I dreamed that Madeline, a girl in my Sunday school class, didn’t want to be a Christian anymore. No one else seemed to care. So I was trying to stop her from leaving. She wouldn’t listen to me. Dad, I was too late!”

His dad sat down on the edge of the bed. “I wonder what made you dream a thing like that,” he said. “Is something going on with Madeline? Has anything different happened in her life recently?”

“Yeah,” Jacob responded slowly, as his thoughts cleared. “A few weeks ago, Annika, one of her school friends, came to Sunday school with her. She seemed to enjoy herself, but . . .”

“What’s the problem? It sounds like Madeline is being a good missionary,” said Jacob’s dad. “You should be very pleased.”

“You might think so, especially since Annika comes every Sunday now. Yet, ever since that first Sunday, Madeline has changed. She and Annika sit and whisper all during class time, and they make silly remarks about the lessons,” replied Jacob. “Madeline used to be interested in learning God’s Word. When she became a Christian about four months ago, her parents gave her permission to stay for the Sunday morning church services. She said she wanted to know everything she could so she could tell others about Jesus.”

Jacob’s dad nodded. “That’s great, but I’m not sure I see the connection between Madeline’s actions and your dream.”

“Well, she told Annika about Jesus, and brought her to Sunday school, but now Madeline seems interested only in what Annika has to say. Dad, instead of winning a friend for Jesus, her friend seems to be pulling her away from Jesus. The other kids in the class like Madeline, but since Annika started coming, most of them just ignore Madeline. Something about this makes me

afraid for her. I don’t want her to stop coming to Sunday school. I would like Annika to know that Jesus really loves her too, but so far, I don’t think she has listened to any of the lessons. Is there something I can do about it, Dad?”

“Yes, there is something you can do to help,”

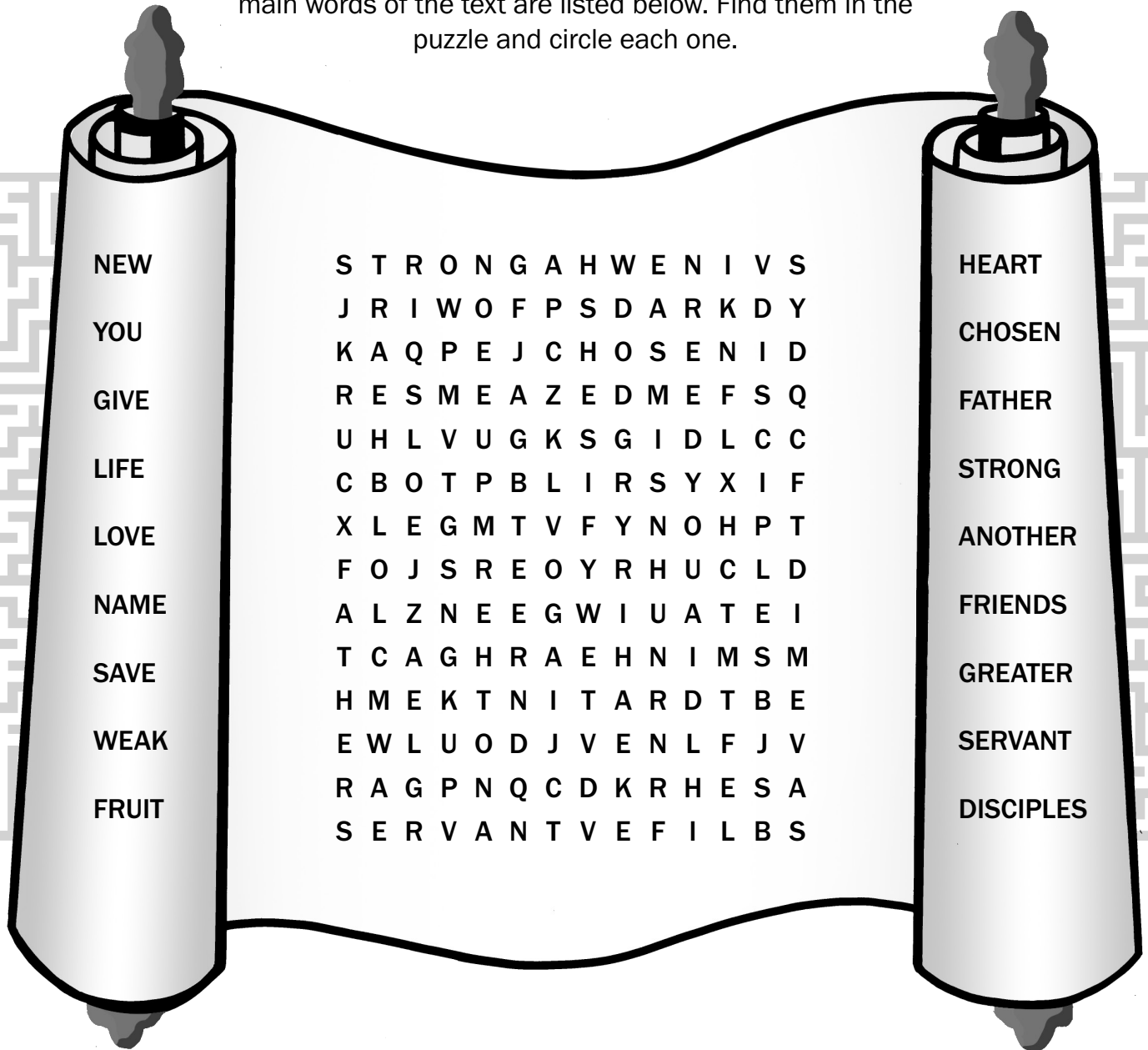
Jacob’s dad answered. “You said that Madeline has only been a Christian for about four months. We who have known Jesus longer and have felt the love and care He gives every day, must help those who are just beginning their Christian lives.

“Your concern for both Madeline and Annika is good. This is a good time for you to step out and practice what you have been taught. If you become the Christian friend that Madeline needs, the other students in your class may follow your example. God’s Word tells us to bear ‘one another’s burdens.’ It seems to me that Madeline has a burden, and she needs some help. Rather than just watching her and Annika whisper and make silly remarks, why don’t you sit by them in class? It’s possible that Madeline’s actions are her way of asking for help in winning Annika to Jesus. At least they are still coming to Sunday school. That must mean they want the fellowship. Make it a point to talk to them before and after class. If everyone ignores them or makes them feel unwelcome, Madeline just might stop attending Sunday school.”

There was silence as Jacob thought about his dad’s words. Then he said slowly, “Well, this talk has helped me to see one thing—I want to do whatever I can to help Madeline, and I need to do it now. I am going to try to be the Christian friend that she needs. This may be what Annika needs too. Dad, pray that God will give me the right words to say to help strengthen Madeline’s faith in Him. I sure don’t want this awful dream to come true!”

A HELPING HAND

The Bible text for this lesson tells us that we should try and help our friends if they are weak spiritually. There are many ways we can help build them up. Some of the main words of the text are listed below. Find them in the puzzle and circle each one.





Andrew Jefferson learned three important secrets about withstanding the enemy.

Andrew Jefferson stared intently into the early morning shadows at the edge of the clearing a few hundred yards from the garrison. Was that a movement over there? No, just a bush swaying slightly in the breeze which had sprung up since dawn.

He pulled his coat closer about him and rubbed his hand wearily over his rough chin. It seemed days since he'd had any sleep. Oh, he had spent a few hours tossing on the narrow cot in his quarters behind the storehouse. Captain Rogers had handed over the command of the garrison to him six days ago, and had left to take up

responsibilities at Fort Mason, one hundred and fifty miles to the west. Ever since then, the weight of the duties that were now his had been pressing on him. This early morning watch was not his job, but he was using this time to think.

Behind him stood the garrison which was now under his control. Sixty-two men, a few women and children. Outside the fort was the clearing. And beyond that—enemy territory.

Almost mechanically his eyes swept over the clearing once more. Things had been quiet at the post for several weeks. There had been no sign



GOD WILL HELP ME RESIST SATAN.

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
– James 4:7

of the enemy since Corporal Dixon had narrowly missed being seen by a scouting party over a fort-night ago. But a constant state of watchfulness was essential.

His mind jumped back to the morning when Captain Rogers had left. As they had done so often before, they had taken breakfast together in Captain Rogers' quarters. His duffel bags were packed and stood beside the door. The room was stripped bare, even the blankets from the bed had been rolled and placed by the bags. It was then that the enormous duty Andrew Jefferson was taking on had really hit home. One lonely little garrison, just a handful of people, and around them the wilderness. Some of the impact of that realization must have shown on his face, for Captain Rogers had offered him some advice.

"There are three keys to resisting an enemy attack, Jefferson. First of all, you must be alert. Make sure your sentries are always watchful. Never let up for a moment. Don't think that just because you haven't seen the enemy for a while that he isn't there. He is only waiting to catch you unprepared.

"Second, make sure of your defenses. Check them continually to see that they are strong, that nothing is out of repair or weakened in any way.

"And last, Jefferson, fight with every weapon available. Put forth your best effort to hold off the attack.

"Remember, it may mean the difference between life and death!"

He could do it. He would do it! A fresh surge of confidence and determination swept over him as he watched the morning sun climb above the foothills to the east. He thought of Captain Rogers' final words before he rode out of the garrison, "God keep you, my son."

With God's help, the little garrison would stand.

* * * * *

Andrew Jefferson faced a challenge—to withstand the enemy and protect the little garrison under his command.

Did you know that you, as a Christian, face a challenge just as exciting and a whole lot more important? The enemy you face is Satan. The effort you make to resist him will mean life or death for you—spiritual life or spiritual death.

The three keys that Captain Rogers outlined for Andrew Jefferson can also be applied to our fight against Satan.

First, be alert. Satan has a lot of tricks. If one doesn't work, he'll try another. He may leave you alone for a while, but don't quit being on the look-out. He will be waiting to catch you unprepared.

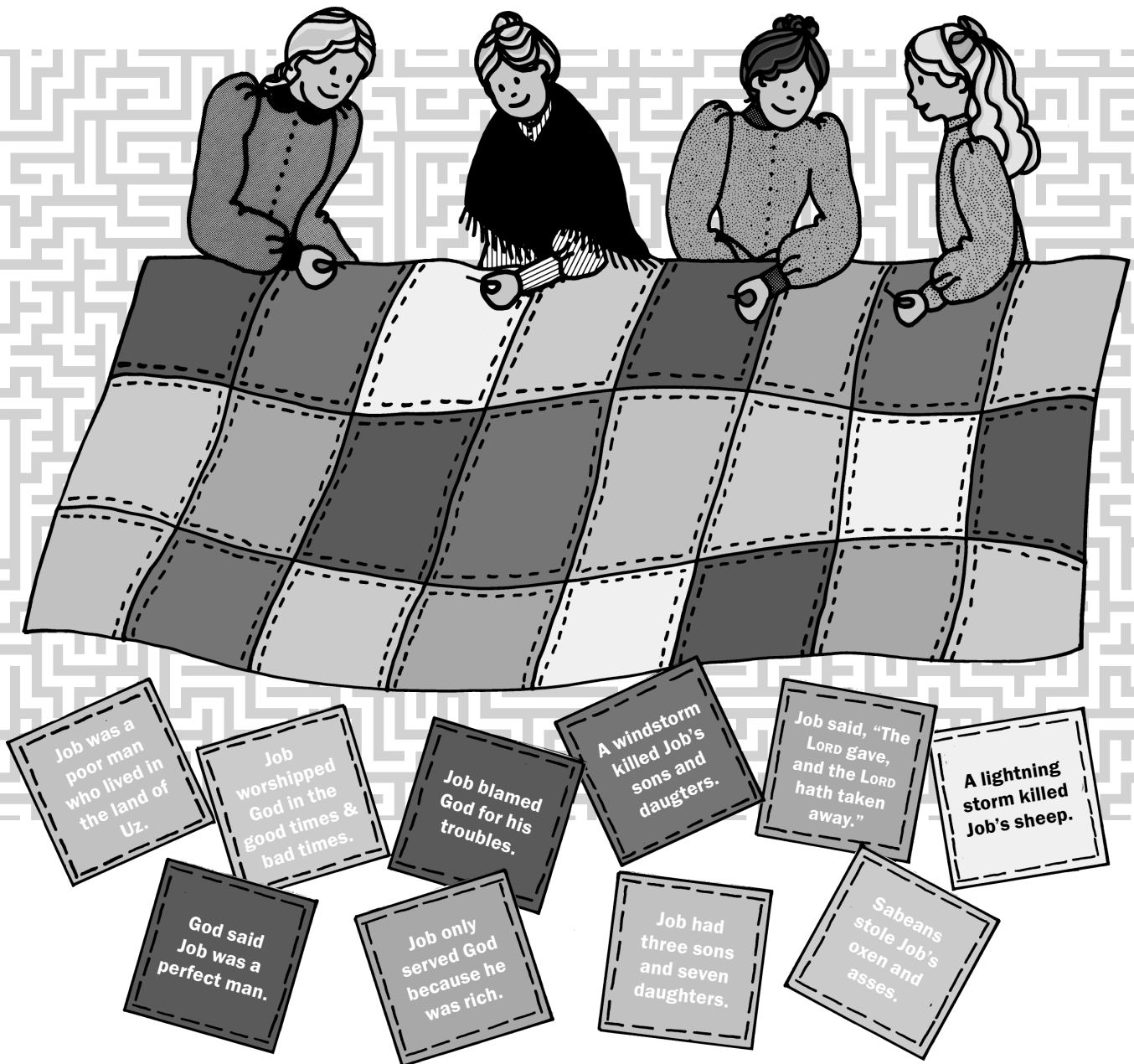
Second, have some strong defenses. What are they? Read your Bible. Ask God to give you strength. When Satan does come to tempt you, use what you have learned in the Bible and the strength you have gained through prayer to stand against him and do what you know is right.

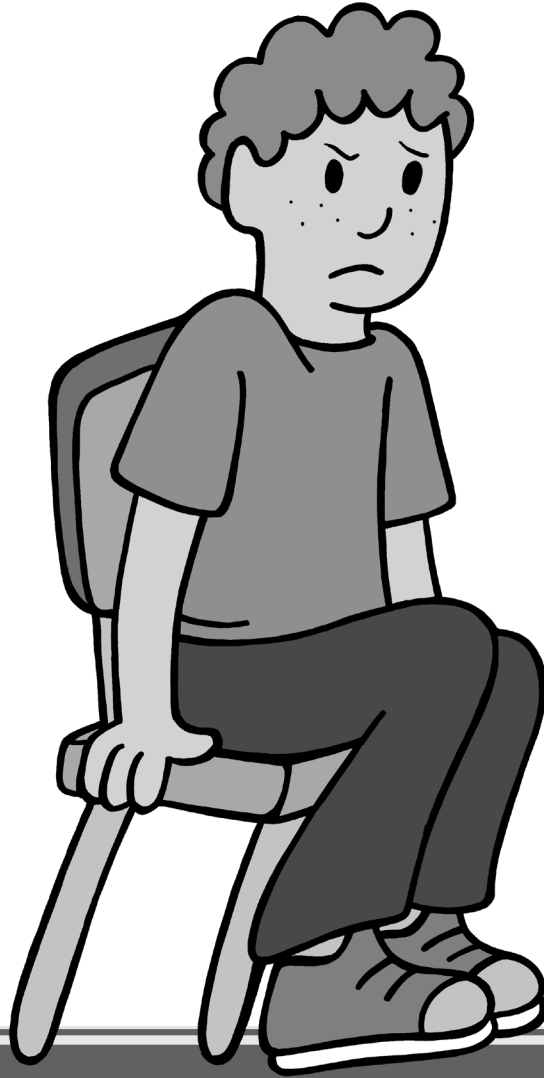
Third, fight back with every weapon you have. If Satan puts a wrong thought in your mind, try putting a Bible verse in its place. Sing a church song. Talk to a Christian friend. Concentrate on the things God would have you think about. Pray!

Our key verse tells us that if we resist the devil, he will flee from us. Stand fast! With God's help, you can win the victory.

PICK A PATCH

The ladies are busy making a patchwork quilt. There are still several patches to sew on but they'll need your advice about which ones will fit. The patches tell different details from the text but only the true statements should be used on this quilt. Read the Bible text for this lesson and then put an X through the patches that have false statements.





FACING UP TO IT

LESSON 126 → Matthew 5:38-48; Romans 12:17-21

Ivan got himself into trouble, and it wasn't much fun facing up to it.

Ivan sat in the office gripping his chair, waiting for Mr. Marquez, the principal, to return. The second hand of the large clock on the wall clicked ahead methodically. Almost one o'clock. Ivan sighed unhappily and stared at the scuffed toes of his tennis shoes.

How had he gotten himself into this mess anyway? It just didn't seem fair. Harrison had started it all, and where was he? Down at the gym like everybody else in the P.E. class. Ivan had been the one who got caught.



I WILL LOVE EVEN MY ENEMIES.

Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you.
— Matthew 5:44

Ivan and Harrison had never really been friends. In fact, ever since the beginning of middle school the reverse had been true. It seemed they were always in a position of being against each other. They were the two best basketball players in their P.E. class, so were always competing on opposite teams. They had been rivals in the school spelling bee the year before. And for the past three years they had been in most of the same classes contending for the best grades, the most friends, and the teachers' attention. Now this!

Ivan thought back to how it had started. The day before, after the bell rang for lunch, all the students were talking and laughing as they went into the cafeteria. Ivan and Harrison had both been in the line to get a hamburger. Though they hadn't said anything to each other, Ivan had caught Harrison looking at him with a sort of speculative gleam in his eye.

The duty teacher, Mr. Paulsen, was late arriving so there was more noise and roughhousing in the cafeteria than usual. Just as Ivan was about to sit down, Harrison had pulled Ivan's chair back. Ivan dropped to the floor with a thud! The cafeteria erupted with laughter as Ivan sat there, red faced, with his hamburger upside down on the floor beside him and chocolate milkshake splattered all over his jeans. He didn't need to turn around to know who had done it. Harrison! He clenched his teeth. Slowly getting to his feet, he looked around. Harrison had disappeared into the crowd, and Mr. Paulsen was arriving on the scene, wanting to know what was going on. Ivan seethed inside, but there was nothing he could do at the moment. He spent the rest of the day thinking of ways he could get back at Harrison.

Today, Ivan had implemented his plan. He made sure he was in homeroom early, and hid around the corner. As Harrison started for his seat, Ivan stuck out his foot and Harrison went sprawling! His books went in all directions, but

this time there was no laughter. In the doorway stood Mr. Taylor, the homeroom teacher, glaring at Ivan.

So, here Ivan sat, waiting for the principal—the first time since he had started school.

The door opened a little wider and Mr. Marquez came in. As he sat down at his desk he looked over at Ivan.

"Well, Ivan, what's the problem between you and Harrison?" Ivan's sullen look and lack of response prompted him to continue. "I'm willing to listen when you're ready to talk."

Ivan kicked at an imaginary speck on the floor and stirred uneasily in his seat. Mr. Marquez was waiting for some answer from him, but . . . what to say?

"It doesn't seem like you have anything to say, Ivan," Mr. Marquez began, "but I do. From what Mr. Taylor tells me you tried to excuse your actions by blaming Harrison. But there is no excuse for deliberate actions that may result in injury to someone. Of course, we aren't excusing Harrison either.

"Because this is your first offense, we are not sending a report to your parents or taking other disciplinary actions. But we are going to ask that you apologize to Harrison. Will you do that, Ivan?"

Ivan nodded his head, relieved that his parents wouldn't find out what he had done. And he was really glad inside that his anger hadn't caused Harrison to break an arm or receive some other serious injury.

* * * * *

If Ivan had been a Christian, how might he have handled this situation with Harrison? How would you handle a similar situation?

RIGHT FROM ROMANS

Match the beginnings and endings of the verses from Romans 12. Write the correct numbers on the lines given. When matched correctly, there will be twelve things you can do to live pleasing to God.

- Be kindly affectioned
- Not slothful
- Given to
- Bless them
- Rejoice with them
- Provide things honest
- Live peaceably
- Weep with them
- Avenge not
- Overcome evil
- Continuing instant
- Recompense to no man evil



1. one to another (vs. 10)
2. for evil (vs. 17)
3. yourselves (vs. 19)
4. in the sight of all men (vs. 17)
5. with all men (vs. 18)
6. with good (vs. 21)
7. that weep (vs. 15)
8. in prayer (vs. 12)
9. which persecute you (vs. 14)
10. in business (vs. 11)
11. hospitality (vs. 13)
12. that do rejoice (vs. 15)



WHICH COMES FIRST?

LESSON 127 → Ephesians 6:5-9; 1 Timothy 6:1-2

Silas had made a commitment and now he faced a decision.

Silas was so excited! This was his very first job. He was starting an after-school paper route. It would mean he'd have to do all his homework after dinner, and there wouldn't be any time left to spend with the guys after school was out. But it was worth it! Now he would have money to save up for the blue mountain bike he had seen in the window of the bicycle shop.

He attacked his route with determination. He met the delivery truck every day and had his papers delivered in record time. It wasn't long before he'd established quite a reputation as a reliable paper carrier. The neighbors praised him for his promptness and courtesy, and he was proud of doing such a good job.

Silas didn't realize, however, that it would take such a long time to save up enough money for the bicycle, especially when he dipped into his savings now and then for other things. After a few months the newness of his job wore off and it just

wasn't as much fun. Summer was almost here, and everyone else seemed to have lots of time to do other things besides work. As he rode past the park every day he would see his friends out playing. I sure do wish I could be playing





WE MUST ALWAYS BE FAIR WITH EACH OTHER.

Whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men.
— Colossians 3:23

instead of doing this paper route, Silas thought to himself.

A few weeks later, as Silas rode by the park he heard someone call, “Hey, Silas!” He stopped and turned to see who called. It was his friend, Carson.

“Why don’t you come join us? We need a good pitcher. You can finish that later.” Silas hesitated. He knew he had a responsibility and that his route should come first, but the baseball game would be fun. It had been ages since he’d had time for a good game of ball.

“Come on Silas, we need you.”

“I’ll be right there,” he called back. He thought to himself that a few minutes wouldn’t hurt anything. After propping his bike up beside a tree, he ran toward the group of boys.

An hour later Silas noticed that the sun was setting, and he was late. He quickly got on his bike and rode off to finish his route.

When he finally got home his mother was at the door to meet him. “Silas, can you explain why I got phone calls from some of your customers asking where their papers were?”

Silas looked down at the floor, “I was late, but I did deliver them.”

“Why were you late?” his mom asked.

“Well, I stopped to play baseball with the guys and forgot about the time.”

“Let me ask you something. How do you feel when the supplier brings your newspapers late?”

“I get frustrated.”

“And what do you expect when you go to collect from your customers?”

“Well, I expect them to pay me.”

“Are you happy when they don’t?”

“No, I guess not.”

“Silas, you may think it’s really not such a big deal that you were late delivering your papers just this once. But if we fail to do our job the very best we can, we are not pleasing God. Sit down, I want to show you something.” His mom got the family Bible off the bookshelf and opened to Ephesians 6:5. “Read here, Silas.”

“Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ.” Silas looked at his mom. “You mean that I’m a servant?”

“In a way you are. In fact you have quite a few masters to serve. When you took this job, you made a commitment to your route manager as well as to all your customers to deliver their papers faithfully.”

“But, I’m getting tired of doing my route. I don’t get to have any fun.”

“Your route hasn’t changed, Silas. Only your attitude has changed. If we do our job as unto the Lord, as the Bible says, He’ll bless us for it.”

Silas looked down at his shoes and thought about his mom’s words for a minute. Then he said, “You mean, pretend like I’m doing it for Jesus?”





“Yes,” his mother answered, “and thank Him for it. After all, you were anxious to get a job so you could earn money, and the Lord provided this. Now it’s your responsibility to do your best.”






The next day after his papers arrived, Silas breathed a prayer. “Dear Lord, please help me to do this for You. Thank You for trusting me with the job even though I didn’t do my best yesterday. Please be with me today. Amen.”




The rest of the day was great. The route seemed easier and even the dogs seemed friendlier. And it was just a month later, at a dinner given by the newspaper for the carriers and their parents, that Silas was honored with the Outstanding Carrier of the Month award!






DOING OUR BEST

Anybody who is employed knows there is a “boss” to please. A Christian should have no problem wanting to do this. The week’s key verse tells us how we can do our best for others even when we think it will be too hard. Without peeking at the verse, look at the pictures below and add or subtract the letters as shown (you may need some scratch paper). Write the resulting words on the lines below.

 - H W +  +  - A P + EVER Y +  - BLL
 □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

 - NUT D +  - TP  - KE  +  - GRL + Y
 □ □ , □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ ,

 - BKET 2 - W  - RMOS  - BALON + RD
 □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ ,

 - H  - K  - S +  - OTH M +  - H
 □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ .



WE FIND NO FAULT

LESSON 128 → Daniel 6:1-5;
Romans 13:1-8; 1 Peter 2:13-17

Even Daniel's enemies agreed that he led an exemplary life.

I have reached my conclusion. We can find no fault with Daniel.

On this scroll I will record the attempts which Mishalazzer, second of the presidents under Darius the Mede, and I have made to find some fault in Daniel. Since I was appointed to this elevated position some months past, we have spared nothing in our efforts to find some error concerning his administration of



I WILL OBEY THE LAWS OF THE LAND.

Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. — Romans 13:1

the kingdom. My concern has been great that Daniel may be appointed above me, yet we have found no error.

A watch was made near the gate of his house.

Though we carefully investigated each person who entered there, we found that he took no counsel of any man save those men whom the King regarded with honor.

One man highly skilled in monetary matters

was secretly hired to examine the accounts over which Daniel had control. It is well-known there are many ways one in authority can arrange figures to provide an extra source of income for his own household. But the expert could find no place where this was done. On the contrary, all of the monetary affairs were handled with such skill and precision as to bring much financial gain to the kingdom.

An attempt was made to involve Daniel in a

land survey of the kingdom. All the princes were aware that this survey could be of no practical value, but it was to be a lavish affair which would bring great honor to those invited. Daniel rejected the offer, stating firmly that he felt such a survey would be non-productive and an unwarranted waste of time. In addition, he reported the complete details of the trip to King Darius in such a clear fashion that an end was put to the whole plan.

Some among the princes were persuaded to go

before the king with reports that Daniel was speaking ill of the king and was seeking to take his authority. It was immediately apparent that the king had much confidence in Daniel, for he rejected the report without giving it any consideration. He did, in fact, sharply rebuke the princes who brought the report, saying that in the years he had known Daniel he had always found him to be totally loyal, obedient, and respectful in all ways.

In a final attempt, one of the chief aides in the palace sought to gain Daniel's confidence by

conferring with him often and asking his advice about many matters. He sought to find an opening to discuss Daniel's feelings toward King Darius, hoping he could trap him into saying something which would incriminate him. It is a well-known fact that Daniel was taken from his homeland as a captive, and it was our belief that he must be hiding some grudge or inner hatred because of this circumstance of his youth.

The occasion did at last present itself. Daniel

was questioned as to whether he felt strict obedience and honor should be accorded our king and why. His reply, when reported to us, led us to the conclusion I have stated—that we can find no fault with Daniel. These were his words:

“Be it known to you, my friend, that I feel no ill will in my heart toward King Darius. He, and all those in command or position of authority in our kingdom or any other, have received their position through divine allowance. Disrespect or lack of honor to them would thus be disrespect or lack of honor to my God. He has granted them authority, and so I give them obedience and respect.”

We will make no further attempt to discredit

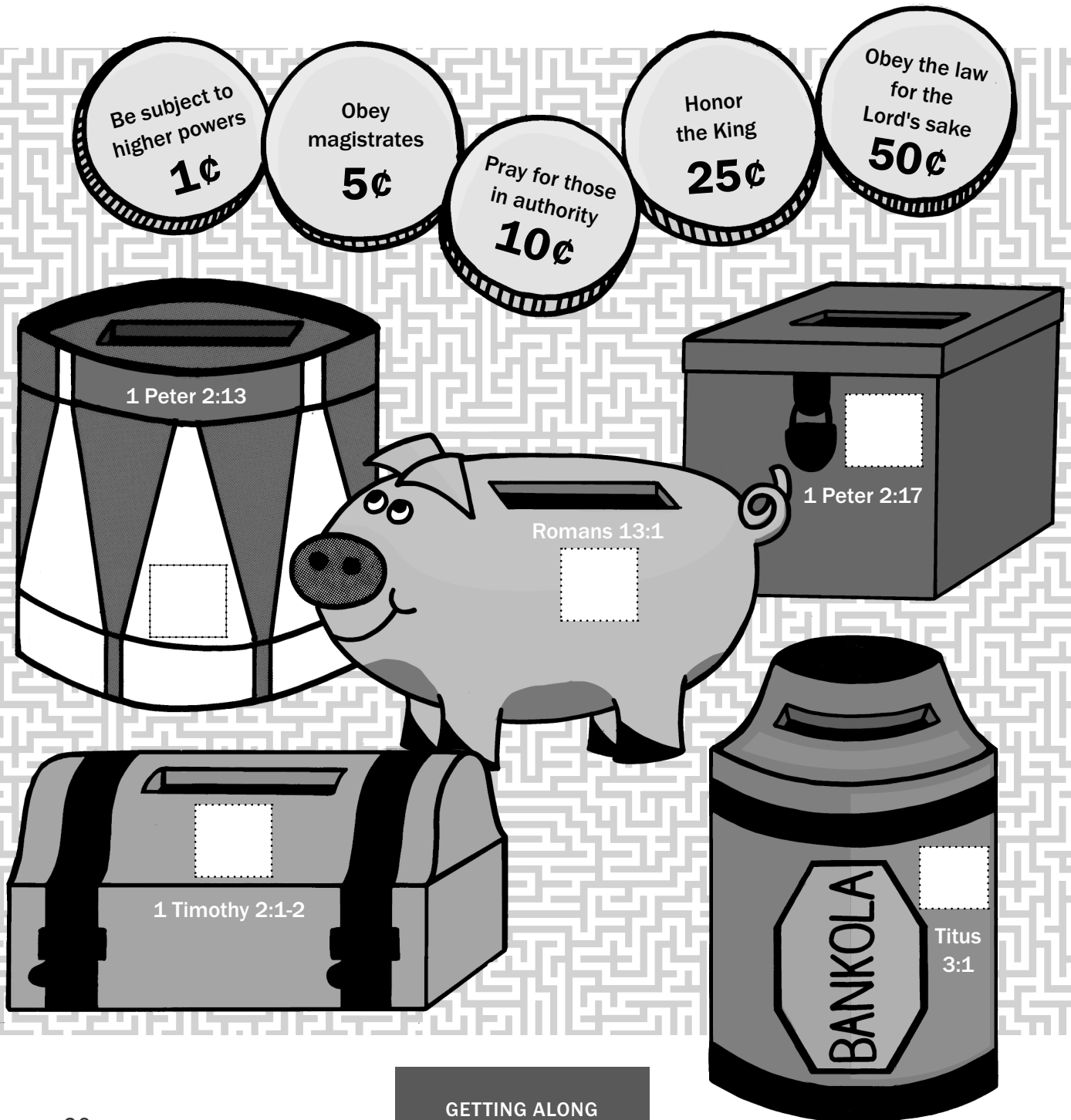
Daniel concerning the affairs of this kingdom. The only way now open to us is to seek to bring charges against him in connection with the God he serves. Upon this course of action Mishalazzer, myself, and some number of the princes of this realm are resolved.

* * * * *

If you open your Bible and read all of chapter six in the Book of Daniel, you will find the details of the plot against Daniel and what happened to the men who tried so hard to discredit him. Daniel stood true to his king and to his God. Will we follow his example?

WHERE IS IT FOUND?

Read the sentences on the coins below and match them up with the Scriptures giving advice about respecting the law and those in authority. A box is provided by each text for you to write in the amount of the coin that matches.



WHEN TWO ARE ONE

LESSON 129 → Ephesians 5:22-32; Matthew 19:3-6

Grandpa Olson told the children a story with a special meaning.

The big house was bustling with excitement. Every window glowed with light, and the people who were entering laughed and talked happily. Tonight Grandpa and Grandma Olson were celebrating their fiftieth wedding anniversary!

The whole neighborhood was taking part. It seemed as though everyone had done something to help, and now they were all coming to celebrate.

Grandpa and Grandma Olson had lived in that house for most of their married life, and everyone nearby knew and loved them. Grandpa had won the hearts of the children because he always had an interesting story to tell. Two generations of neighborhood children, besides his own children and grandchildren, had grown up listening to his stories and riddles.

It was only natural then, after the celebration ceremony was over, that the children should begin to say, "Grandpa Olson, tell us a story." "No, give us a riddle." "A story." "A riddle." Finally, the grown-ups, too, began looking interested. So Grandpa spoke from his seat of honor and said, "If you will all be very quiet so I don't have to talk too loudly, I will tell you a special story in honor of our special day."





MARRIAGE BRINGS SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES.

What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. — Mark 10:9

Even the smallest child grew quiet as Grandpa continued. “When our Lord Jesus was here on earth, He used to tell the people stories quite often. The stories He told are called parables, and they each had a special meaning. This is a story like that. Listen very closely now, and see if you can tell me what it means.

“One day, a wise gardener took two seeds and planted them close together in the ground. The corn he planted first, so that it might have a head start and gain strength. The bean he planted second because it was designed to twine around a support.

“As the new corn sprang into the sunlight it reached for the sky and began to develop a strong stalk. Soon the bean sprouted from the soil and grew beautiful green leaves. The two had been planted far enough apart that they did not crowd each other, yet they were close enough that the bean could reach out and gently wrap her tendrils around the cornstalk. The bean rejoiced in the strength of the straight, tall stalk, and found ample shelter for her delicate vine among its leaves.

“Neither of them realized how much the one depended upon the other, yet in growing together their roots had become so completely entwined that if one had been uprooted the other would have been seriously damaged also. That was how the wise gardener had planned it. He knew that the corn would provide support, and the bean would put strength into the soil which the corn would absorb. Neither of them chose carrots or parsley to confide in, for they whispered their secrets to each other when the breeze was passing by. The bean did not give the grapes a second glance, and the corn had no interest in the apple tree by the fence.

“While both of them were pleasant to all of the other plants in the garden, they realized that the companion chosen for them by the wise gardener was the best that they could have.

“Contentedly they grew side by side, both giving what they could and both taking what they needed until, with the coming of harvest, they grew old together. So their fruit was gathered and the frost came. Their dry leaves rustled out the plea, ‘Let us both be lifted from the earth and laid to rest,’ and it was so.”

There was silence in the room as Grandpa Olson finished speaking. The grown-ups smiled at each other and nodded knowingly. Then Avery, one of the granddaughters, offered the first comment.

“I think I know what your story was about, Grandpa. It was about you and Grandma!”

Grandpa Olson pretended to look puzzled. “Why Avery, what do you mean? I’m sure I told a story about a cornstalk and a beanstalk. Didn’t I, children?” With a twinkle in his eye, he looked at the other children gathered around him.

“Oh, Grandpa!” Avery giggled.

“It was about a cornstalk, and that was you, Grandpa Olson!” said Derek, one of the neighborhood children. “And the beanstalk was Grandma Olson.”

“Well, is he right?” the old storyteller asked.

“Yes!” chorused all the children.

“And what does the story mean?” he continued. “It means that God knew what He was doing when he put you and Grandma together,” said Bella. “God is like the wise gardener.”

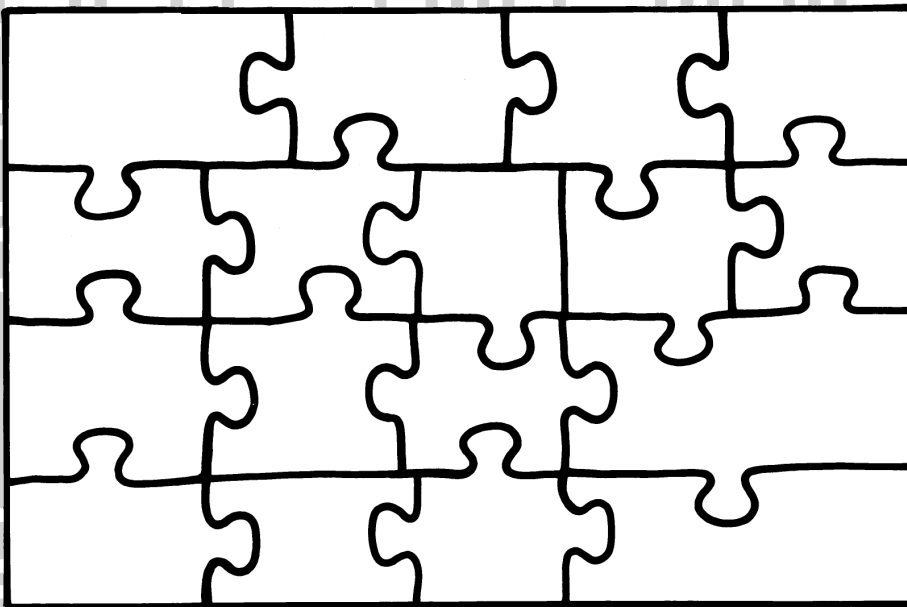
“Yeah. He knew you would help each other, just like the cornstalk and beanstalk did,” added Kevin.

Grandpa Olson smiled gently at the little group. “You listened very well, my children. I pray that this lesson will be learned well, and when it is your turn to enter into marriage you will let God choose the best person for you. Then someday you will be able to tell your children, ‘The Parable for a Golden Wedding Anniversary.’”

**GET IT ALL
TOGETHER**

When two people marry, they both take on some new responsibilities. The Bible tells us what the responsibilities are. Write the words from the loose puzzle pieces into the completed puzzle and you can read what God wants husbands and wives to do.

Ephesians 5:22, 25



church,

himself for it.

even as

as unto

wives,

own

Christ also

loved the

husbands,

and gave

the

yourselves

Wives, submit

love your

Lord.

unto your

Husbands,



SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

LESSON 130 → Parental Duties: Deuteronomy 6:7; Proverbs 22:6; 2 Corinthians 12:14; Ephesians 6:4; 1 Timothy 3:4; Titus 2:4-5

Instructions For Children: Deuteronomy 27:16; Proverbs 20:11; 23:22; Ephesians 6:1-3

My conversation with Vincent showed me I needed to thank my mom and dad.

It's no use asking Scarlett to go. Her mother wouldn't let her!"

The whole group started to laugh.

"Her mother won't let her do anything," one of them sneered.

"Well, maybe I don't want to go," I shot back at them. I turned my back and walked away, but I was crying as I

went. I was still upset when my friend, Vincent, found me beside my hall locker.

"Hey, why the tears, Scarlett?" he asked. "Been peeling onions in cooking class?"

I grinned in spite of myself. Vincent always knew how to make me smile. I explained to him how the girls in my third-period class were skipping school the next day to see a movie at the the-



I WILL LOVE AND OBEY MY PARENTS.

My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother.
— Proverbs 1:8

ater downtown, and they were making fun of my mother because I wouldn't go.

"Big deal," Vincent said. That was his favorite expression.

"It sounds like those girls have a problem. What are parents for anyway?" Vincent went on. "Just to cook your meals and wash your clothes and wake you up for school in the morning?"

"Well, no," I said. "More than that. They're supposed to look out for us and give us a place to live."

"What else?" Vincent had a little grin on his face. "Do they teach you anything?"

"I guess they teach us right from wrong," I answered.

"That's right, as far as it goes, but there's so much more than that."

"What do you mean?" I asked.

"Does your mother even know about this skipping school to go to a movie?"

"No, of course not. I just don't want to go because I know it's not right."

"That's what I'm getting at," Vincent went on. "How many of those mothers do you think actually know their daughters are planning to skip school tomorrow?"

"Probably none of them," I answered.

"Exactly," Vincent said. "You see, no mother or father, aunt or uncle, grandmother or grandfather can be looking over your shoulder all the time, telling you what to do and what not to do. Parents have to do more than just teach their children right from wrong. They have to bring them up so they'll decide for themselves not to do wrong. Maybe those other girls' mothers didn't do that."

When I got home, I went into the house and threw my books on the couch. Mom came in, and

seeing her reminded me of the conversation I'd had with Vincent. Some of it must have shown on my face because she gave me a second look and then asked, "How was your day, Scarlett?"

"Well . . ." I hesitated.

"Well, what?" my mother asked.

"Vincent gave me something to think about today. I've got a lot to thank you for, Mom."

"Thank me for?" She looked puzzled, but by now she was smiling a little. "Why? Because I'm a good cook? Or because I gave you a new sweater for your birthday? Or maybe because I pray for you every day?"

I hadn't realized Dad was standing in the doorway listening to what we were saying. "You've used up your guesses," he said as he wedged his way into our conversation. "I suspect those are all a little part of it. Young lady, what brought all this on?"

Then the whole story came out. I ended by saying, "So that's why I'm thanking both of you—because you loved me enough to teach me to do what I know is right, even when you aren't around."

"Well, that's part of the job God gave us when He gave us you. Besides, we want you to live to be a hundred years old," he said with a chuckle.

"What?" I questioned.

"The Bible says in Ephesians, 'Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.'"

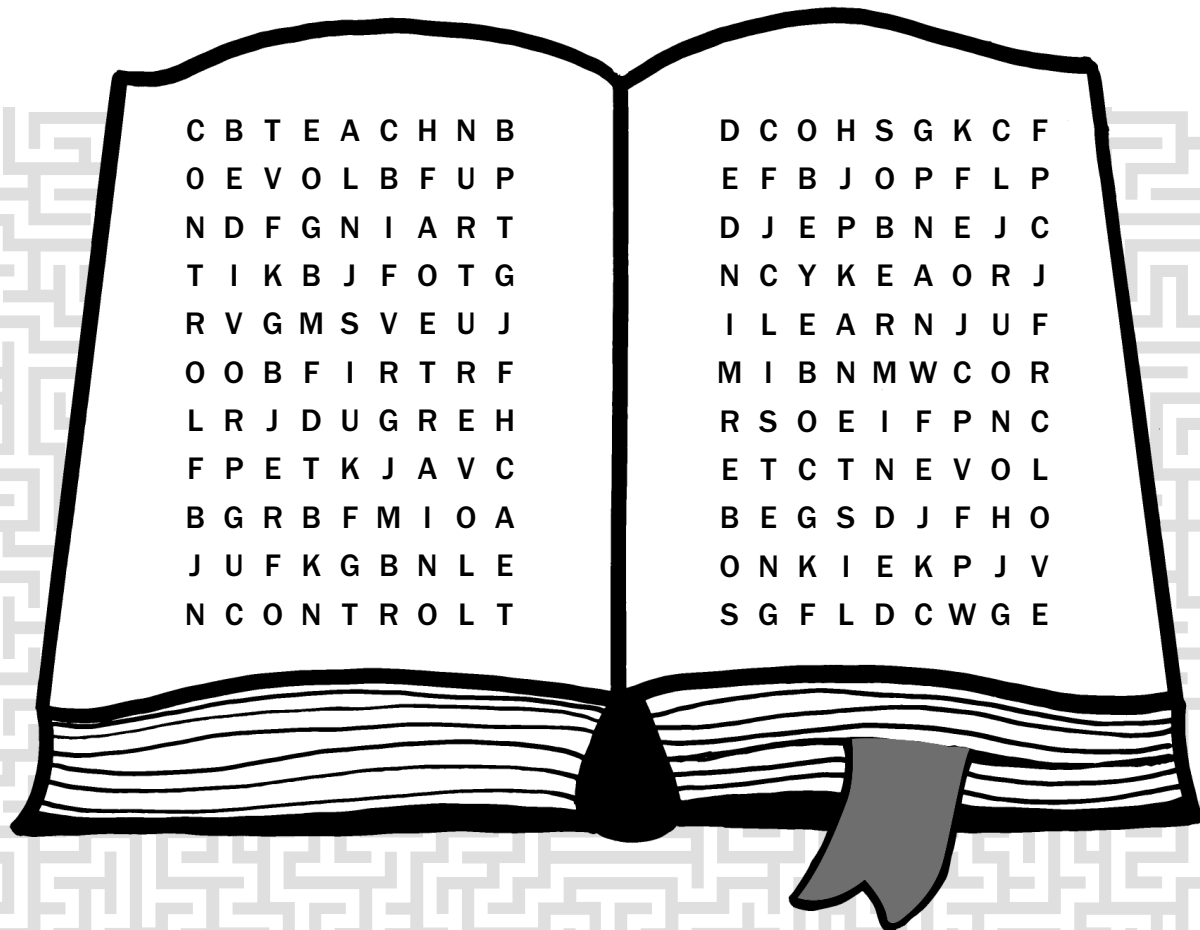
Mom spoke up again, "The Bible has instructions, together with promises, for both parents and children. If we keep His commandments we can't go wrong."

Suddenly, I realized how fortunate I really was, and I began to feel sorry for those girls who were going to skip school.

IT'S IN THE BOOK!

God's Word tells of the duties of parents and children to one another. Two lists of duties are given below. The parents' duties can be found on the left side of the book and the children's duties on the right. Each word can be found TWICE in the puzzle.

Find the words, then ask yourself, "Am I doing my part?"



Parents' Duties

LOVE	CONTROL
TEACH	NURTURE
TRAIN	PROVIDE

Children's Duties

LOVE	HONOUR
OBEY	LISTEN
LEARN	SOBERMINDED

MAKE IT A POINT!

TO LEARN ABOUT SHOWING
RESPECT FOR THINGS HOLY.



READ *THE ANSWER* NEXT QUARTER!

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SOLVE ^{THE} PUZZLE



YOUR NAME:
