



LESSONS 131-143

RESPECT FOR THINGS HOLY

THE
Answer

www.apostolicfaith.org

A Bible study resource for use at home and church.

The Answer is a Bible study course for fourth grade through junior-high level. Bible references are taken from the King James version of the Bible. A Teacher's Guide accompanies this series and is available online, on our app, and in print.

CONTENTS



RESPECT FOR THINGS HOLY

How do you treat your Bible? Is it just another book that is, perhaps, lost under a couple of magazines on your night stand?

How do you act in church? Is it a place that you honor, or do you consider it merely another building?

How do you use the Lord's name? Is it thrown lightly into your conversation, and used as just another word to express your feelings?

Is prayer a vital part of your life? Or do you resort to prayer only when you want something from God, or when you have a problem you can't handle by yourself?

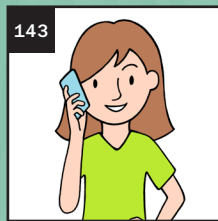
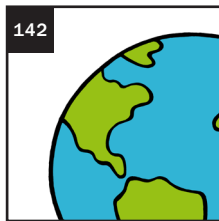
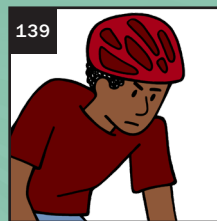
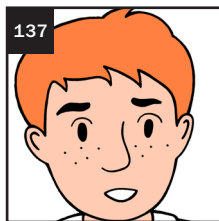
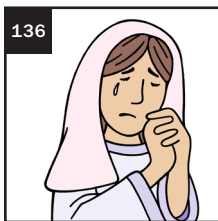
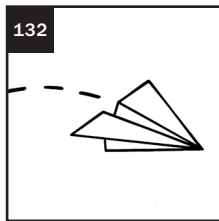
Your answers to these questions can help you to zero in on the theme for this quarter—Respect for Things Holy.

*Just what is the definition of the word "respect"? Webster informs us that it means, "to feel or show honor or esteem for something." Respect for the things of God and the principles outlined in His Word are of vital importance to the Christian. Why? you might ask. Let's look for *The Answer* to that question as we study these lessons together.*

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THE Answer

UNIT 11



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NOT JUST ANY BOOK

LESSON 131 → Psalm 119:1-16; 2 Timothy 3:16; Revelation 22:19

Tino tried to tell Justin why he couldn't use the Bible as a prop.



Justin frowned as he tried to adjust the Bunsen burner underneath the beaker of chemicals in the chemistry lab. “Tino, the burner just isn’t high enough. We’ll never get these chemicals hot enough. Let me use one of your books to prop it up and get it closer to the burner. That one is just about the

right size.” Justin grabbed for Tino’s Bible which was sitting on top of his stack of textbooks.

Tino’s eyes widened in astonishment. He grabbed the Bible out of Justin’s grasp just as he was about to place it under the burner. “You can’t use the Bible for that!” As he pulled



THE BIBLE IS MY FAVORITE BOOK.

Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. — Matthew 4:4

his arm back his elbow hit the beaker. CRASH! Hot glass and chemicals splattered everywhere!

“Look what you’ve done,” Justin lashed out. “Boy are we going to get it now!”

“I’m sorry. It was an accident. But you can’t use the Bible as a prop.”

“I don’t see why not. What difference does it make?”

“Shhh, I’ll tell you later. Here comes Mr. Budgett.”

That afternoon Justin boarded the bus and scanned the seats for Tino. Spotting Tino three rows from the back, he plopped down in the seat Tino had saved for him.

“Now will you tell me what all that was about in Chemistry this morning? I just wanted to use one of your books to prop up the burner and the next thing I knew you had knocked the entire experiment on the floor. Now we’ve got extra cleanup duty every night after school for a week.”

“Hey, I’m really sorry, Justin, but that was the Bible! Don’t you realize that you don’t use God’s Holy Word that way?”

“The Bible is just a book, so what’s all the fuss?” Justin replied.

“The Bible isn’t ‘just a book,’ it’s the most important Book in

the world! It’s not like any other,” said Tino.

“Well, what makes it so special?” Justin questioned.

“The many writers of the Bible were directed to write it by God himself. The Bible says that ‘All scripture is given by inspiration of God.’ That’s how God has given us the instructions for living the way He wants us to in this world, and how to get ready for Heaven.”

Justin looked doubtful. “My dad says that parts of the Bible contradict other parts. So how can you believe it?”

“Justin, have you ever read the Bible for yourself?”

“Well, no.”

“You should, and it would change your opinion. In fact the Bible is perfect. The four Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—give four different views of the life of Christ. Each point of view complements the other and gives an accurate picture of the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.”

Justin shook his head. “I don’t think I could believe the Bible the way you do. My dad says it’s just Jewish history.”

“Do you believe in the Christmas story—the birth of Jesus in the stable?”

“Of course. It’s just all that other stuff I don’t believe.”

Tino picked up his chemistry book. “Justin, when you read the chapters that Mr. Budgett assigns, do you go through each chapter and say, ‘I am going to believe what it says on this page but not the next?’”

“That’s silly. You know I don’t.”

“Then how can anyone just pick out parts of the Bible to believe? You have to believe all of it or you may as well believe none of it.”

“Okay, you have a point, but I have one more question for you. If the Bible is the great Book you say it is, how come I hear about so many different versions of it?”

Tino replied, “That’s man’s doing, not God’s. God says if any man takes away part of the Bible, God will take his name out of the Book of Life.” Justin sat with a thoughtful expression.

At the boys’ bus stop, they got off and silently walked toward their homes. When they reached Justin’s driveway, Tino stopped and looked at him. “Justin, why don’t you come to Sunday school with me next Sunday? We’ll give you a Bible. Then when you read it, you’ll see that it’s not just any book.”

A SPECIAL BOOK

GENESIS
 EXODUS
 LEVITICUS
 DEUTERONOMY
 SAMUEL
 CHRONICLES
 JOB
 PSALMS
 PROVERBS
 ECCLESIASTES
 ISAIAH
 EZEKIEL
 DANIEL
 MATTHEW
 MARK
 LUKE
 JOHN
 ACTS
 ROMANS
 CORINTHIANS
 EPHESIANS
 THESSALONIANS
 TIMOTHY
 HEBREWS
 PETER
 REVELATION

The word "Bible" comes from the Greek word *Biblia* which means "books." There are sixty-six books in our Bible. Below is a list of twenty-six books from the Bible that are used for lessons in this quarter. Find each one in the Word-Find.

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



GET IT STRAIGHT, GRAHAM!

LESSON 132 → 2 Chronicles 5:11-14; Matthew 21:12-16

The rest of the class knew God expected them to respect His house.

The paper airplane shot through the air, then nose-dived, narrowly missing the side of Miss Mason's face. She hesitated briefly in her reading aloud of the Answer story, and several of the students gave Graham, who had made the airplane, disapproving looks. Then Miss Mason resumed reading.

"Josias could hear the golden bells tinkling from the other side of the giant curtain. He knew that Zophara, the high priest, was still alive."

The class sat spellbound, except for Graham who never could manage to keep still for very long.

"Behind the curtain was the Holy of Holies. Even though he was a priest, Josias couldn't go in there. In fact, the high priest was the only person ever allowed into the room. And he could go in only once a year—on the Day of Atonement. He was in there now, sprinkling blood from the sin offering. Josias listened intently for the bells. Was Zophara still moving around? If he defied



CHURCH IS GOD'S HOUSE.

Ye shall keep my Sabbaths, and reverence my sanctuary: I am the LORD.
— Leviticus 19:30

God by disobeying the clear instructions God had given, he would be struck dead!”

“Wow,” Graham said as he propped his feet up on the chair in front of him. “That must have been scary, to worry about God’s killing you off if you don’t follow the rules in church. I’m sure glad it isn’t like that now.”

“What do you think has changed since then, Graham?”

“Oh, lots of things,” explained Graham. “Under the Law before Jesus came there were a whole lot of dos and don’ts. Jesus changed all that.”

“You’re partly right, Graham,” Miss Mason said.

“Through the Law of Moses, God

revealed

special instructions to the Jewish people that would allow them to know Him better than any other nation. It was a great privilege for them to have the Law, and not something to treat casually. God wanted them to be an example for others, so He required that they follow the Law strictly. Why, back under the Law if you didn’t do what your father and mother told you, you could be put to death.”

“You’re kidding!” came a response from the other side of the room.

None of the class liked that idea very well. The teacher went on. “But Jesus is very concerned about how people act in God’s house. The only time the Bible tells us of Jesus’ doing anything violent was when people weren’t treating the Temple as they should. He went into the Temple and saw people buying and selling animals for sacrifices and exchanging money. What do you suppose He did?”

“Told them to leave?” Brianna questioned.

“More than that,” replied Miss Mason. “He turned over their tables and chased them out.”

“I didn’t think Jesus would do anything like that,” Miranda broke in.

“He didn’t do anything like that for any other reason,” Miss Mason explained. “That shows how important Jesus thought it was to respect God’s house.”

Graham wasn’t going to quiet down easily. “But that was in a big, fancy Temple,” he said. “All we have is a little, tiny church.”

“God doesn’t care how fancy a church we may have,” Miss Mason explained. She opened her briefcase and pulled out a picture of Solomon’s Temple. “This was the fanciest and most expensive Temple ever built. All of the stones were cut to shape before they were brought to the building site. When the men finished putting these stones together, they covered them with gold. It took Solomon’s men seven years to build the Temple. Still, when it was finished, he told God he knew that it wasn’t good enough for Him, but asked God to please answer the prayers they prayed there. God doesn’t really care how plain or fancy our church may be. But He does care how we act in it.”

Graham wasn’t through yet. “But this is just a Sunday school room, not upstairs where we hold services. We should be able to do anything we want here.”

“It’s all part of God’s house,” the teacher responded quietly.

“Yeah,” answered Graham, “but Jesus is up in Heaven. He isn’t around checking up on us.”

The rest of the class knew better than that and they set Graham straight. “Jesus said that if just two or three people were gathered together in His name, He would be there with them,” Josie said, and the others agreed.

Graham was silent.

“So . . .” said Josie, “you’d better shape up, Graham!”

T-SHIRTS TELL US . . .

Lots of people buy T-shirts online. The T-shirts below have special things written underneath them about God's House. Use the code given to fill in the answers.

Apostolic Faith
Activities
T-Shirt Shop

<http://www.t-shirtshop.com/answer-lesson-activity-132>

W _ R S H _ P

S _ N G

_ _ M
 G L _ D

_ H _ S _
 _ F P R _ Y _ R

_ = A
 _ = E
 _ = I
 _ = O
 _ = U

P R _ _ S _



Drew opened the screen door and stepped into the coolness of the house. Whew! It felt so good inside. A game of tennis on a warm day was great, but now all he wanted was something cold to drink.

He set his racquet down in the hall and went into the kitchen, wiping his forehead. His

Mom and Webster help Drew see how important it is to check out that slang.

mother was standing at the sink. “Hi Mom,” he said, as he headed for the refrigerator. “Is there still some coke in here?”

His mother smiled, “You certainly look like you could use a cold drink all right. Sit down and I’ll get you something,” she

said as she reached into the refrigerator. “I hope an RC will do. That was what was on sale at the store today.”

“Mom, a coke’s a coke. RC is just another name for it, and I don’t care what it’s called, as long as it’s cold!”



REMEMBER, GOD'S NAME IS SPECIAL!

Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain. — Exodus 20:7

His mother grinned at him and said, “That must be why, when I sent you to the store for some Kleenex, you brought home that generic tissue—same thing, just another name, right?”

“Yeah . . . and when I get ‘Scotch tape’ it isn’t always real Scotch tape. Sometimes it’s another brand name.”

Their conversation was interrupted by a knocking at the door. Drew went to see who was there, and soon was back in the kitchen with his friend Jarrod.

“Hi, Mrs. Bradley,” Jarrod greeted her.

“Hello, Jarrod,” she answered. “Would you like a coke?”

“Gee, Mrs. Bradley, that sounds great!” he responded. “It’s frightfully hot today!”

Drew caught his mother’s eye, but she made no comment as she reached into the refrigerator for another can of RC and handed it to Jarrod. “Here you are, Jarrod. This should help.”

A few minutes later, after Jarrod had left, carrying a music CD he had come to borrow, Drew wandered back into the kitchen.

“I saw you look at me when Jarrod said ‘gee,’ Mom. He probably doesn’t know we shouldn’t use that word.”

“I’m sure he doesn’t, Drew. A lot of people who would never think of using God’s name in vain just don’t realize that words like ‘gee’ and ‘gosh’ are actually substitute forms of the names ‘Jesus’ and ‘God.’ As a matter of fact, I was thinking as you boys left the kitchen how that ties in with the conversation we were having earlier—about RC’s being another name for coke, and Kleenex another name for tissue. That kind of word substitution is okay. But we should know the basic meanings behind slang expressions. Otherwise we might use words that stand for something God wants us to respect and honor.”

Drew got a curious expression on his face. “I wonder if gee and gosh are in the dictionary . . . what does it say about them?” He left the kitchen again, and returned carrying a Webster’s Dictionary. “Let’s see . . . gecko, geddes. Yeah, here it is! Gee: a ‘contraction of Jesus.’ Sure enough, Mom!”

“Why don’t you look up the word gosh, Drew, as long as you have the dictionary?” his mother suggested.

“It’s here too,” Drew said a minute later. “It says almost the same thing: ‘an exclamation of surprise: a euphemism for God.’”

“For an opposite example,” his mother said, “there are a couple of other words that I hear used a lot—darn and heck. These words aren’t short forms of God’s name. They are short forms of swear words—damn and Hell. I know people who wouldn’t think of saying damn or Hell, but they say darn and heck right along.”

Drew did some more thumbing through the dictionary. “Right again, Mom. Webster agrees with you.” He shut the dictionary with a thud. “Well, that’s interesting . . . but now I’d better get upstairs and clean up before dinner.” Passing the sink, he set his empty pop can on the drain board. “Here’s my empty coke can, Mom . . . or should I say RC?” he added with a wink.

“Doesn’t matter,” she responded chuckling. “Remember, same thing, just another name!”

A SPECIAL NAME

In past lessons, many different names for the Lord have been used. All of these names are holy and should not be used carelessly. The two verses below will give you an idea of how special God's name is. For verse #1 write the letter of the alphabet that comes BEFORE the letter given. For verse #2 write the letter of the alphabet that comes AFTER the letter given. Write the verses on the lines provided.

1. UIPV TIBMU OPU UBLF UIF OBNF
PG UIF MPSE UIZ HPE JO WBJO

2. AKDRRDC AD SGD MZLD NE FNC
ENQ DUDQ ZMC DUDQ

#1

#2

Christian wondered about keeping the vow he had made.



IS IT REALLY NECESSARY?

LESSON 134 → Deuteronomy 23:21-23; 1 Samuel 1:9-18, 24-28; Ecclesiastes 5:2, 4-5

“**Y**our mother is very, very sick. If the Lord doesn’t undertake soon, I am afraid she won’t be with us long.”

Christian’s eyes filled with tears again as his father’s words echoed in his mind. Looking out his bedroom window into the dark sky, he wondered why this illness had to happen to his mother. As he

thought about her, he remembered a little saying she often used. “Whatever the need you have today, God will take heed if you’ll only pray.”

Kneeling beside his bed, Christian prayed. “O God, You know how I hurt inside. I know You can heal my mother . . . Lord, if You’ll heal her I promise that I . . . I won’t eat lunch for a year!” He continued

praying, and after a time a calmness came into his heart and he went to sleep.

During the next few days his mother grew only worse. But Christian kept on praying, and often repeated his promise to God.

One morning he awoke to the sound of crying coming from his parents’ room.



KEEP YOUR PROMISES TO GOD.

Pay thy vows unto the most High. — Psalm 50:14

Fear gripped his heart as he ran down the hall and through the open door. “Mom! Dad! What’s wrong?”

“Nothing is wrong, Christian, nothing at all,” his father responded with a beaming face. “Your mother and I were just rejoicing about something wonderful. You tell him, Dear.”

“The Lord touched me early this morning, and I know He has healed me completely!”

Christian marveled at his mother’s strong, clear voice and the bright expression on her face. And she was sitting up in a chair—something she hadn’t done for weeks.

“Oh, Mother, I’ve been praying for a miracle and God has answered,” cried Christian as he ran over to her.

The joy of the miracle was all Christian could think of that morning. But as he sat down in the cafeteria at lunchtime, another thought suddenly entered his mind. I can’t eat this! God has healed Mom and I made a promise to Him! As he sat there watching the others eat he wondered if he could really keep his promise.

When Christian arrived at home, he was delighted to find his mom up and even working in the kitchen.

“Hi, Mom!”

“Christian, I can’t tell you how good it is to be up and around again! Here, let me clean out your thermos. Say, it feels like it’s still full!”

Christian sat down and explained to his mother about his promise.

“Well, Son, that’s quite a vow you’ve made on my behalf. I’m sure the Lord will honor you for keeping it.”

The next few days weren’t too bad for Christian during the lunch hour since he could usually concentrate on how wonderful it was that his mother was alive. After a while, however, he

began to question whether continuing to go without lunch was that necessary.

“Dad, how important are vows?”

Laying down the paper and motioning for Christian to get the Bible, his father gave him a serious look.

“That’s a good question, Son. Your mother told me about your vow and I had a hunch you’d be wanting to know a little more about it soon. In Ecclesiastes we read: ‘When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed. Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay.’ Christian, you may not have had to promise exactly what you did. But since you did, as a Christian you are bound to perform it. The Lord knows you did it out of love for your mother, and I believe you can count on Him to help you to keep it.”

Christian sat silently for a few moments, thinking. At last he said, “Thanks, Dad. You know, I think I’ve learned an important lesson about vows. If we decide on our own to make a promise to God, we should make sure it’s something that we are really willing and able to do.”

Christian’s lunchless year did finally come to an end. As he headed out the door with a lunch sack in hand, he turned and smiled at his parents.

“Oh, yeah! I almost forgot to tell you . . . I made a vow to God this morning!”

His startled parents both spoke at once, “You did what?”

“I told the Lord I would serve Him with all my heart for the rest of my life. I figured that if He could help me keep a vow like the last one, then He could surely help me keep this one!”

As they watched Christian head down the sidewalk, his dad smiled and said, “A lot of wisdom in that fourteen-year-old son of ours . . . a whole lot of wisdom.”

VERSE-A-ROUND



A vow is a special promise to God. It is a promise that must be kept. The Scripture in the puzzle below is what King David said about his vows to God. Write each letter according to its kind and color from left to right on the spaces below. The first letter for each kind is already given.

I _ _ _ _ _

V _ _ _ _ _

L _ _ _ _ _

p _ _ _ _ _

H _ _ _ _ _



A SPECIAL TIME OF FELLOWSHIP

LESSON 135 → Mark 14:12-16, 22-25; John 13:2, 4-17; 1 Corinthians 11:27-30

Their lunch table conversation helped Weston understand the purpose of ordinance services.

Damarco loaded three slices of pizza, a chocolate milkshake, and a huge cinnamon roll onto his tray. Then he made his way over to where his friends were seated in the school lunchroom.

Lexi, Hadley, and Weston paused in their discussion as Damarco bowed his head over his lunch.

“You’re just in time, Damarco,” said Hadley. “We were talking about ordinance services that different churches have—you know, when everybody takes the Lord’s Supper, and then they do Foot Washing.”

“Not everybody,” said Lexi as she took a bite of her sandwich. “The Lord’s Supper is only for those who are saved.”

Hadley was surprised. “Really? I thought it was for everyone.”

“Nope, Lexi’s right, Hadley.” Damarco stopped eating for a moment and continued, “It’s special. You have to know for sure that you’ve been born again. It says so in the Bible.”

Weston had been listening to the others and looked up. “I don’t know exactly what you’re



THESE ORDINANCES HAVE A SPECIAL MEANING.

If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them. — John 13:17

talking about. What is an ordinance service anyway? Is it what my church calls ‘taking communion’?”

“Communion, or taking of the bread and juice that represent the Body and Blood of Jesus, is part of the ordinance service,” said Lexi. “When our minister passes around the tray of broken bread and grape juice, he repeats some words that Jesus said during the Last Supper with His disciples, ‘. . . this do in remembrance of me.’ After that same supper, Jesus washed His disciples’ feet and told them that this was an example they should follow. So at our ordinance services we do both.”

Weston looked interested. “How often do you do this?”

“We do it every few months,” said Damarco.

“Do you?” said Hadley with surprise. “Our church has communion every Sunday.”

“The Bible doesn’t tell us how often we should do it,” Damarco replied. “But like the verse says that Lexi just quoted, when we do it, we must remember we are doing it in memory of Jesus. It is a very special time, and we must not let it become commonplace to the point that it loses its meaning for us.”

“The important thing is that Jesus wants us to do both of these things,” Lexi added. “He knows that we get a special blessing from obeying Him. It’s great! All of God’s people gather to remember how He suffered and died to save us, and the example He set for us.”

“Well, thanks for the input,” said Weston as he wadded up his lunch sack. “It’s time to get to class. This has really been an interesting discussion. I’d like to talk some more about it sometime.”

Damarco smiled. “I think the discussion has been good for all of us. Now the Lord’s Supper and Foot Washing will mean even more to us.”

A few weeks later as Damarco took the Lord’s Supper, he thought back to what they had talked about that day at lunch. He tried to imagine how it was in the Upper Room during the Last Supper. He thought about Jesus holding out the bread and the cup—His Body broken and His Blood shed—knowing that He was giving up His life for sinful men. He thought about how Christ showed such love and humility as He washed His disciples’ feet. Then he remembered how Jesus rose from the dead in victory and that He would be coming back soon! It made Damarco feel good inside. He felt really close to the Lord at that moment.

* * * * *

How about you? Do you understand the meaning of the Lord’s Supper? Do you think of it as something very special and sacred? Paul says in 1 Corinthians 10:16 that the cup of blessing is the communion of the Blood of Christ, and the bread which we break is the communion of the Body of Christ. Communion means fellowship or friendship. When you take the Lord’s Supper you are having a special time of friendship with Jesus. Those who have not been born again are not included. Only those who love Jesus and know Him as their Lord and Savior have the right to this time with Him.

Let’s look forward to the times when we take the Lord’s Supper and are blessed by Jesus!

**FOLLOW HIS
EXAMPLE**

To participate in the Lord's Supper you must be worthy—there must be nothing between you and God or your fellowman. The Foot Washing is an added blessing, and Jesus promised that you would be happy if you did these things. Below are some sentences with hidden word in each one. The hidden words are words from the Bible text and are also listed to the right. The one in the first sentence has been found for you.

BREAD

FEET

CUP

SHARED

SUPPER

TOWEL

WASH

WATER

You must pay a fee to get a driver's license.

She was happy when her work was finally done.

Everyone on the job read at least one book a week.

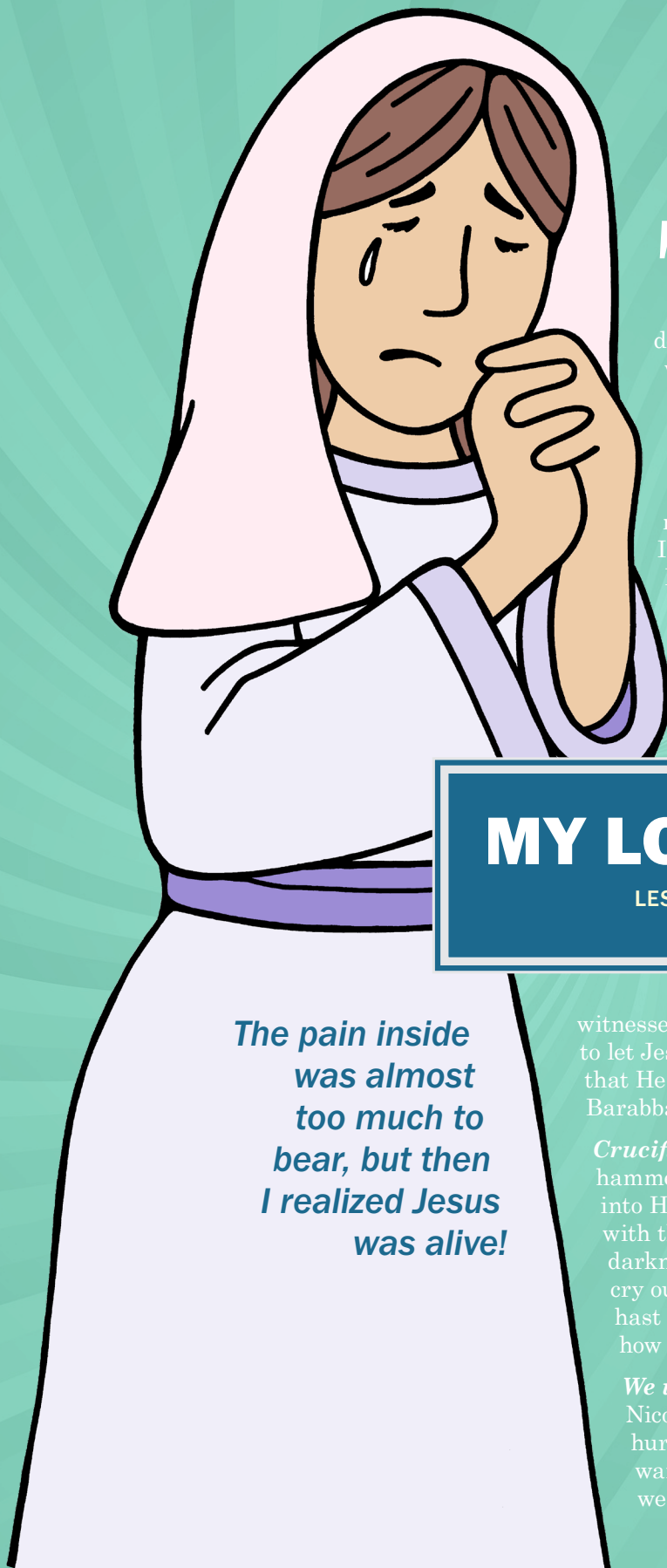
He did not owe lots of money to anyone.

It is messy to smash a red tomato.

She was told not to bring the topic up until after dinner.

If he shows up personally he will get the job.

I would love to know how to grow a terrace garden.



The ache inside feels as if it will never go away, a pain as raw as an open wound. Jesus—the One who delivered me from the demons. Jesus—the One who taught us such wonderful things, Jesus—the One who healed the sick and blessed the children, Jesus is gone. Dead!

Oh, the agony of these last few days! He was praying in the Garden when a group of men and officers came and took Him away. I was not there, but some who witnessed His trial before Caiaphas the High Priest and Pilate, said it was nothing but a mockery. How can anyone be tried for being good? What had my blessed Jesus ever done to deserve such treatment? Eventually they did find two false

MY LORD IS RISEN

LESSON 136 → John 20:1-18

The pain inside was almost too much to bear, but then I realized Jesus was alive!

witnesses. And the chief priests persuaded Pilate to let Jesus be crucified. Even the people cried out that He should be put to death, and the murderer Barabbas released!

Crucified! I can still hear the ringing of the hammer as the Centurion pounded those spikes into His hands and feet. Those precious hands with the gentlest touch! I can still feel the darkness which covered the city. We heard Him cry out to His Father, “My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?” We saw Him die. Oh, how can it be? Our very own Jesus, dead!

We watched as Joseph of Arimathaea and Nicodemus put Him into the grave. We women hurried out to buy the necessary spices. We wanted at least to anoint His poor body and we couldn’t do this on the Sabbath. So this



JESUS IS RISEN!

He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.
— Matthew 28:6



morning we arose while it was still dark, and hurried here to the tomb just as the first streaks of dawn were in the sky. On our way we asked each other how we were going to move the

huge stone that closed the tomb. To our surprise we found the stone had already been moved—it was resting beside the entrance. The tomb was empty! Who could have done this?

I ran quickly to tell Peter and John. They also came and saw that the stone had been moved and the tomb was empty.

Everyone has gone now, but I cannot leave this place. I weep to think of the last hours. Now even His precious body is gone! Someone has stolen our Lord so we cannot even anoint Him. My tears feel as though they could flow forever.

As I weep, I stoop down and look once again into the sepulcher. What is this? Inside are two glorious beings bathed in a white glow. One is sitting at the head and the other at the feet, where His body had been. In the most compassionate tones they ask me, “Woman, why weepest thou?”

Though my heart is pounding in fear, I reply, “Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him.”

They say no more, so I turn again to stand outside the tomb. And then I see a man. He must be the gardener. He says to me, “Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou?”

Maybe this is the man who moved the body. So I tell him, “Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away.”

He does not answer my question. Instead, he says to me, “Mary.”

Ah, can it be? No one else says my name that way: “Mary.” A thrill shoots through me. It is my Lord. He is alive! My tears turn to joy that I cannot contain. I fall at His feet and say, “Master.”

As I reach out to touch Him, He says, “Touch me not . . . but go to my brethren.”

My feet cannot seem to run quickly enough. Oh, the pure joy—He is risen! He is risen! The glory of it!

As the days go by, I relive again and again that moment when He spoke my name. I shall never forget it. To think that He let me be the first to see Him. My thanksgiving will never end.

Now I understand that He had to die to atone for my sins. Then He arose to gain the victory over death. Because His Blood has covered my sins, I shall live eternally. Even though someday my body will die, I will rise again with a glorified body just as Jesus did.

In those dark hours of Calvary, we did not understand that this was all part of God’s plan to save us. We loved Jesus when we had walked and talked with Him. He had changed us. But now as we look back, we see the magnitude of the plan. And we appreciate how much Jesus suffered, for He took the sins of every generation on Himself that day.

Each day as I awake, in my heart I hear again, “Mary.” And my soul anticipates the day when I shall again see Him, and hear Him say my name.

THE EASTER STORY

Isn't it wonderful to know that Jesus arose from the grave for us? Below is an illustrated story of Easter morning. The speech balloons are empty so you will have to write in the words you think belong with each picture.





A REASON TO LIVE

LESSON 137 → Genesis 1:26-27; Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20;
2 Corinthians 6:14-18; Ephesians 2:19-22

The bad news started Brycen wondering if his life was worth living.

“What? Levi Peterson? Are you sure?”
W*hyn* Brycen stared unbelievably at his friend, Jackson, who had just come skateboarding furiously to his house.

“I couldn’t believe it either, but my grandmother lives right next door to his family and she saw the ambulance and everything.”

“But he was so popular, even class president . . . he seemed to have it all together.”

After discussing the news for a time, Jackson took off again on his skateboard, and Brycen walked slowly into the house. His father stopped him on his way through the living room.

“Hey, why so glum? Lose your best friend?”

“No, I hardly knew him.”

“What are you talking about?”

“A real popular kid at school committed suicide today. It’s hard to understand.”

Brycen’s father started to reply, but the phone rang. He answered it and started talking about construction business with somebody. Brycen sighed and headed up to his room. He picked up his pen and the journal where he wrote his thoughts:

“Yesterday I’d have given anything to have been Levi Peterson. Today he killed himself. If he didn’t have anything to live for, what about me? Sometimes I wonder if it’s worth going on. My



I'M SPECIAL TO JESUS.

Glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's. — 1 Corinthians 6:20

dad doesn't have time for me. My stepmother never has liked me. I haven't seen my mom in three years. I'm not popular. My grades aren't that great. I never have any money, and don't even have a skateboard. What's the use?"

He paused and choked back a sob that came from deep down inside before writing again:

"Samuel told me just yesterday that God is real and that He loves everyone. Who is he kidding? If God loves me, why is my life so worthless? I think Mr. McNeil was probably right. When he showed us that big evolution chart, he laughed and said something about how crazy it was to think that man just appeared on the earth like it says in the Bible. When I'm gone that'll be the end of another meaningless life."

Brycen threw his pen at the wall in frustration. The next morning he arrived at school late. Then he discovered he'd forgotten his history paper and his lunch. As he sat on the lawn outside the cafeteria, Samuel came by.

"What are you doing out here, Brycen?"

"What's it to you? I forgot my lunch and I'm just having a bad day."

Samuel offered to loan Brycen some money for lunch. So the two went in and stood in line at the hot lunch counter.

"Hey, something's really bothering you, Brycen. Is it the suicide?"

"Well, that is what started it. But it's more than that. All last night I was thinking about doing the same thing."

"Don't even talk like that, Brycen! Trust me, that's the most stupid move you could make!"

"Look, I'm just a nobody going nowhere fast. Why suffer?"

"Because Somebody has a plan for your life, that's why."

"Spare me the preaching, Okay? Do you really, I mean really, believe that stuff?"

"You know I do, and you know I have good reason to."

The two sat down at a table by themselves as Samuel continued.

"My life was headed downhill fast before Jesus saved me. You remember the trouble I was in. Now look at me. Do you think I did this myself? Don't kid yourself, there's no way! Let me tell you what the minister said in the meeting last night after we all heard about Levi. He was at the house after it happened. He read the note. It said, 'I have everything I want, but I have nothing.' He preached about how the Christian can have nothing in this world and still be rich because of what God has done for him."

"God has done nothin' for me, Samuel! Nothing!"

"You haven't given Him a chance! You think you're a piece of junk. But God created you in His image, Brycen. That means a lot! He wants you and me to be happy here, and then be with Him forever. You can say what you want, but I know that's real! I have a purpose for living now. I am happy, I mean a special kind of happy. God said He would come and live in my heart and He has! I'm not making this all up. But you have to get saved to experience it. Why don't you just give it a try, Brycen?"

Brycen paused a long time before answering. "Well I . . . I guess I've got nothing to lose. And if it's as real as you say, then I guess I'd be a fool for not trying."

Samuel grinned and said, "Do it! You'll be amazed just like I was! You'll find out how important to God you really are!"

IN GOD'S IMAGE

God made man in His image. The key verse for this lesson tells us that we are to use our body and spirit to glory God. Complete the puzzle below by filing in the words from the key verse. The first word is already done for you.



PLAYING BY THE RULES

LESSON 138 → 1 Corinthians 10:23-24, 31-33; 1 Timothy 4:13-16;
2 Timothy 3:16-17; 4:1-5; 1 John 2:15-17

Doctrines and guidelines will help us reach Heaven!

WHACK! Diana hit the softball straight over second base. The ball bounced and rolled in the outfield as the team shouted, “Run, Diana! You can make it to third base! Run!” Diana sped away from home plate in the direction of first base. But halfway there she turned. Straight toward second base she charged. Her teammates gasped. What was Diana doing? Quickly she touched second base, sped on to third, then raced toward home plate. The other team shouted, “Throw the ball to first base.” As the first baseman caught the ball, the gym teacher yelled, “OUT!”

Diana’s angry teammates gathered around her. “Why did you skip first base?” they demanded. Dianna looked at them defesively. “I wanted to make a home run. I couldn’t do it if I went all the way to first base, so I skipped it. I think that’s a silly rule, anyway. I’m going to tell the gym teacher so.”

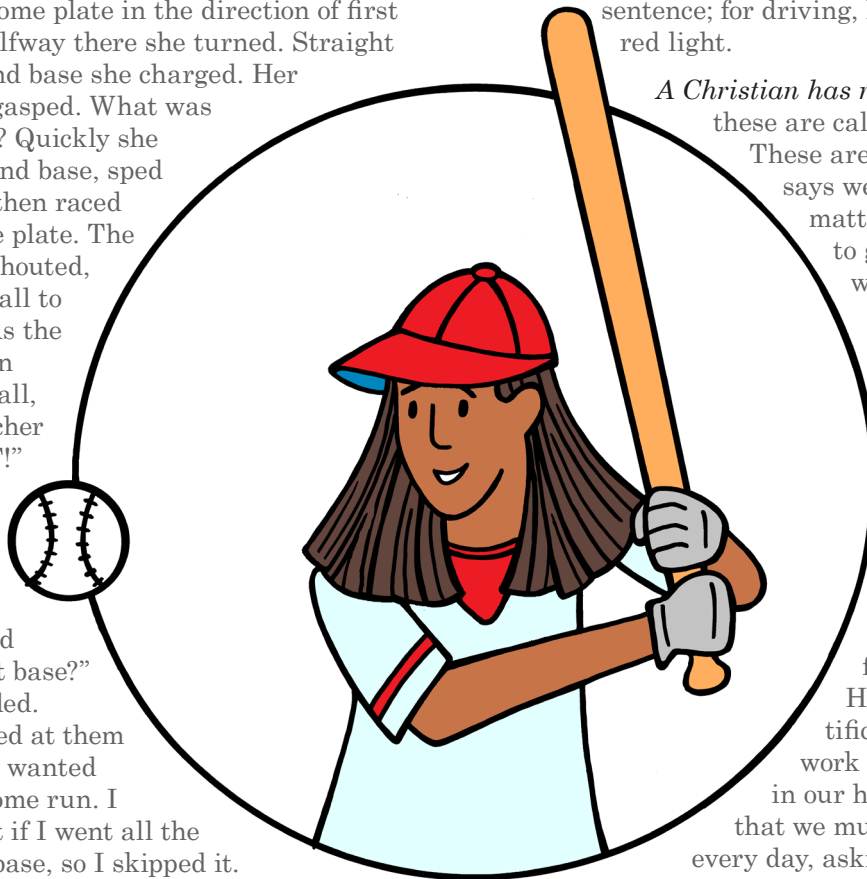
Should Diana’s home run have counted even though she broke the rules? Of course not.

We learn rules in every part of our lives. There are rules for games, like touching first base in baseball; for crossing streets, like looking in both directions before you step off the curb; for writing, like putting a period at the end of a sentence; for driving, like stopping at a red light.

A Christian has rules too. Some of these are called doctrines.

These are the things God says we must do, no matter what. In order to go to Heaven, we must repent and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. After we are saved we must continue to love and serve Him. He also tells us that there are more wonderful experiences for us to receive. Holiness, or sanctification, is a second work that God will do in our hearts. He says that we must follow Him every day, asking Him for help to grow spiritually. Jesus also told

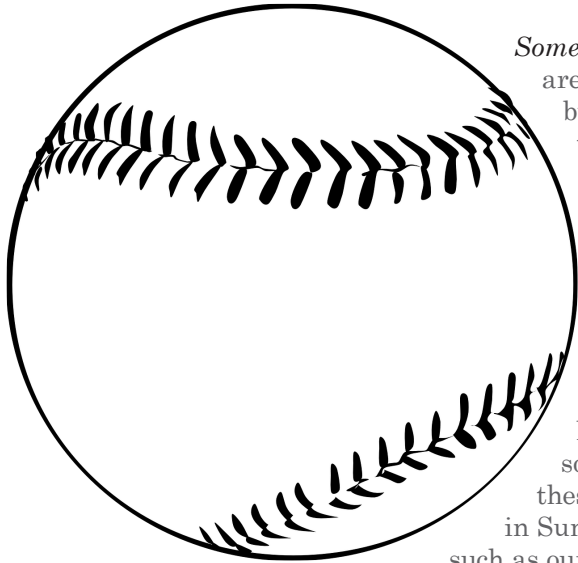
us in the Bible that He wants us to have the special gift of the Holy Spirit—that the Holy Spirit can fill our hearts and give us power to serve Him better.





DOCTRINES ARE THE TEACHINGS OF GOD'S WORD.

If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself. — John 7:17



Some doctrines are not rules but, rather, tell us about God and about the things that the Bible says will happen in the future. We have learned some of these things in Sunday school, such as our belief that there is a Heaven.

Christians have other kinds of rules besides doctrines. These might be called guidelines. They are the policies that church leaders make to try to help Christians walk more closely to Jesus and be an example to others. Sometimes we forget that these rules are meant for our good. We may say, "Why do I have to do this? Where does it say I can't do that? I don't find any rules like that in the Bible."

The guidelines may not be spelled out word-for-word in the Bible, but they are based on Scripture. Our ministers are given the authority by God to make these rules.

For instance, the Bible says that a Christian should not only be careful of what he does to the inside of his body, but also of how he looks on the outside. We should look and act like a person who loves and serves God. We are told to dress modestly and act in a meek, well-behaved way. Men should have shorter hair and not try to look like women. Women should have longer hair and not try to look like men.

It is true that the Bible does not give a specific style of clothes or say how long is long (hair

length) or how short is short (dress length). In order to help people understand what the Bible says about these things, the leaders make rules so that everyone in the church will know what is expected of him. These rules are the guidelines of the church and are established so there will be unity among those who worship together.

Businesses have rules for their employees. The Army, Navy, and Marines have rules for those who are in their service. We, as Christians, have an even more important service to give. The Lord has said that as we serve Him we should obey or have respect for those who rule over us in the church. When God puts us into a certain church to worship, it is because He knows that church will help us to learn more about Him and teach us how to serve Him better. If we are going to be a part of that church, we need to obey the guidelines and not find fault with the leaders.

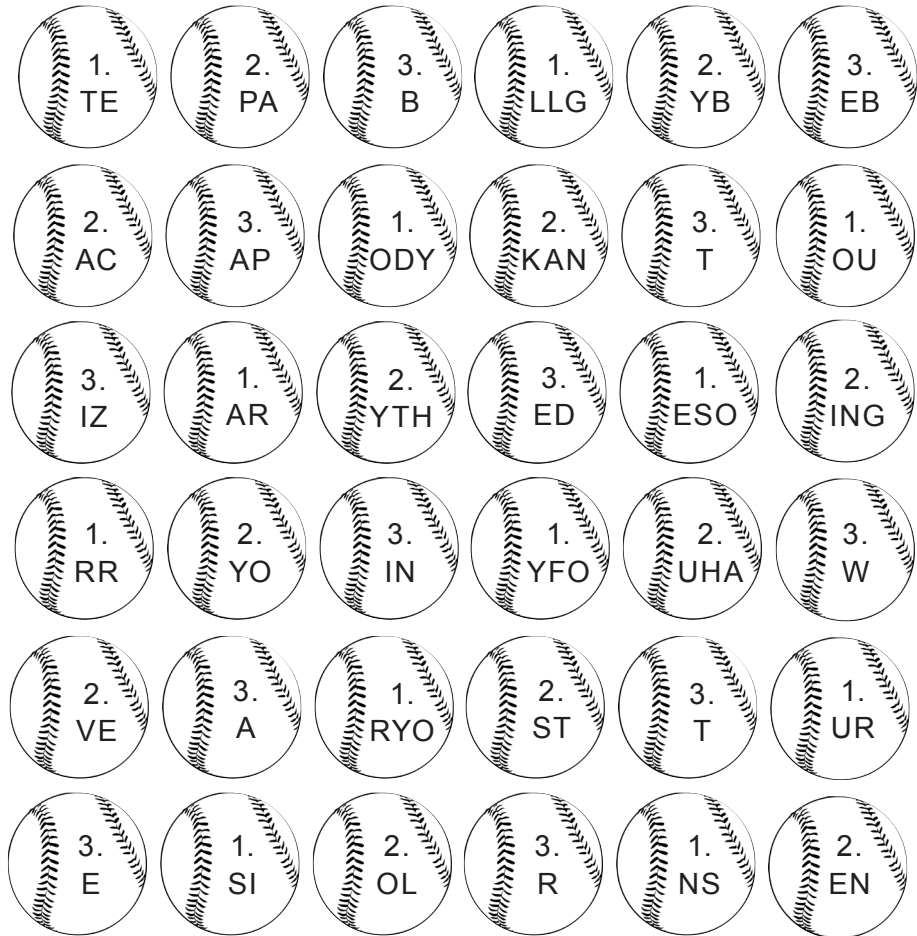
It is our privilege and responsibility to pray for our leaders that they will have wisdom to know what the guidelines of the church should be. Then we can ask God to help us understand and obey the way we should.

* * * * *

Diana's run couldn't be counted because she didn't obey the rules in the softball game. How much more important it is for us to obey the rules that are designed to help us reach Heaven!

BE A WINNER!

Our *Answer* story shows that it is important to obey rules if you want to be a winner. This puzzle gives three things you should do to be a winner in life. To find out what they are, start with the softballs on the top row and write down the letters from the #1 softballs in the blank spaces by the #1 below. Repeat these steps for the #2 and #3 softballs. God wants you to be a winner! Talk to your teacher to learn more ways to win in life.



1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT SUNDAY?

LESSON 139 → Isaiah 58:13-14;
Matthew 12:1-13



Dominic rode away angrily when his dad vetoed the fishing trip.

“**W**ell, Dominic, should I tell my dad that you’ll be coming?”
“Boy, I sure want to go, but my parents probably won’t let me since you’re going on Sunday.”

“What’s the difference? Sunday’s just another day, isn’t it?”

“Not to my parents, Jack. I’ll ask them and call you. Maybe if I’m lucky they’ll let me go.”

When Dominic arrived at home, his father was mowing the front lawn.

“Dad, I want to ask a favor.”

“Sure, Son, ask away!”

“Would you let me go fishing with Jack and his dad?”

“Well, I suppose so. When are they going?”

“About six o’clock tomorrow morning.”

His dad took his gloves off and leaned against the bumper of their car. Looking at Dominic he said, “On Sunday? I think you’d be disappointed in me, Son, if I let you go on the Lord’s Day. Wouldn’t you?”

Upset at receiving the expected answer, Dominic grabbed his bike and sped down the street. Faster and faster he raced, passing another bicyclist. As he came



THE LORD'S DAY IS A SPECIAL DAY.

I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day. — Revelation 1:10

to a bend in the street he hit a patch of sand. Losing control, he went down hard. Another rider stopped beside him.

"Dominic! You all right?"

"I guess I am, except I scraped my arm. Where'd you come from, Austin? I didn't see you."

"I've been following you for a couple of blocks. You were riding like a madman! And you were almost hit by a car! What's the matter with you anyway?"

"Oh, I'm just fed up with my dad and mom!"

"You're kidding! With your parents?"

"Yeah. It's just rules, rules, rules. What do you know about my parents, anyway?"

"I know them from church. Here, let me help you straighten your handlebars."

As they worked on the bike, Dominic told Austin the situation and how sometimes he wished his parents weren't Christians.

Austin looked at Dominic with an expression so pained that it startled him.

"What's wrong, Austin?" Dominic asked.

"I want to show you something that I don't usually let any of my friends see. My house is the blue one over there. Let's go and take care of your arm."

As they neared the house Dominic noticed the yard was overgrown and littered. The front door was wide open and a pile of clothes lay just inside. Dominic couldn't believe his eyes as they entered the living room. The house was a mess, a child was crying somewhere, and the stale smell of cigarette smoke was everywhere. A haggard looking woman shuffled into the room, mumbled something, and left.

"That's my mom," said Austin as he led Dominic to the bathroom where they washed and bandaged his arm. Then they made their way

down the hall to Austin's room. Picking up his Bible from the nightstand, he looked Dominic straight in the eye. "I brought you here, even though it hurts me. I wanted you to see just how much you really have. You met my mother, but I hope you don't meet my dad. We kids try to be in bed when he gets home. He drinks a lot. You know, I've been going to Sunday school at your church for about a year now. Five months ago I prayed and the Lord saved me. Your parents prayed with me and they have been right there to encourage me all along the way. I've always wondered why you never were praying with them. Now I guess I see why . . . but I don't understand."

Dominic was sitting quietly now, with his head down.

"But Dominic, I do understand why they keep Sunday holy as the Lord's Day. When the Lord came into my heart I felt there was hope after all. Sunday will always be a special day to me. It was on that day that Jesus rose from the grave after dying on the Cross for my sin, and for yours too, Dominic. I want to honor Him by giving that day especially to Him. I think your parents feel the same way . . . and I'd give anything if my home was like yours. At least you know your parents care for you."

SUNDAY SUGGESTIONS

1. ORWHIPS
2. POSRTS
3. EEPLS
4. ORONH
5. ARTPY
6. RAISEP
7. NTEREAINT
8. LORIFGY

Sunday is a day that Christians have set apart to honor God. It is a special day. Fill in your Sunday appointments in the right way. Unscramble the words on the left and on the lines below write the four you should do on Sunday to please God.

SUN

MON

TUE

1

8



Would Leila honor her commitment?

“To the beach? Oh, I’d love to go! I haven’t been to the beach for ages.” Leila’s face lit up with eager anticipation. “Who’s going?”

Sydney turned to Fisher, “Is it just you and Autumn besides your dad, or is your mom going too?”

Fisher kicked a pebble and sent it spinning as he replied, “No, Mom already had her Saturday planned. But Dad says it’s okay if four or five others go. He just said we kids will have to fix the lunch. He promises to treat on the way home.”

“Can we ask Shyla and Kyle Witham to go?” Leila looked questioningly at her friends. “They’re those new kids in Sunday school, and it would help them get acquainted.”

The three friends walked along, rapidly filling in the details of the planned outing—who else might go, and who would bring what for lunch.

They paused at Leila’s house and called out greetings to her mother who was working in the flower beds. She smiled back at the happy trio. “What are you all so excited about? I could hear you coming a block away!”

“Oh, Mom . . . Fisher’s dad is going to take some of us kids to the beach Saturday. Isn’t that awesome? We’re making all the plans.” Leila’s eyes danced. “Sydney, I’ll text you sometime tonight with that cookie recipe. See ya!” She waved goodbye and walked into the house with her mother.

A little furrow creased Mrs. Wallace’s brow. “Leila, aren’t you forgetting something? Isn’t



I'M HAPPY TO DO WHAT GOD ASKS.

I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart. — Psalm 40:8

Saturday the first workday your Sunday school class planned?”

“Oh, Mom,” wailed Leila. “I completely forgot! Of course it is. But the beach trip will be so much fun . . . and I really want to go! What shall I do?”

“That is really something you’re going to have to decide for yourself.”

Leila sighed. “Well, it isn’t as though there won’t be other workdays, but I don’t know when I’ll get another chance to go to the beach. Anyway, Mom, we are going to ask a couple of new kids to go. Giving them a chance to get acquainted with some of the Sunday school kids is a good idea, don’t you think?”

Still Leila wasn’t quite satisfied. Upstairs in her room after dinner, she struggled to make up her mind. She considered one reason after another why she should go, but each time, into her mind would come the decision the class had already made. The kids themselves had suggested how they could help some of the older people in the church with their housecleaning and yard work. The class had been discussing Christian service and how important it was to put the needs of others before themselves. How excited they had been when someone suggested the class workdays, something they could do together. No . . . she couldn’t back out on the very first workday! I’d better call Sydney, she thought, and went downstairs to get her phone.

“Hello, Sydney.” Without any preliminaries Leila came right to the point. “You know this afternoon when we were making plans for the beach trip, I forgot something.”

“What?” Sydney questioned.

“Saturday is the first workday for our Sunday school class. Remember, I told you we wanted to help some older people who can’t get around very well? We’re all going over to the Pierson’s in the

morning and the Judd’s in the afternoon to help them with the house and yard work.”

“Oh, but Leila,” cried Sydney, “you can’t miss this beach trip! Hey . . . I’ve got a good idea. Why don’t you ask your brother to take your place this time since you’ve helped him with his homework and cleaning his room a lot of times? Then you could go.”

“I thought of that too, but when we were making plans for the class workdays our teacher told us it would be a good lesson in commitment. Remember when we had the lesson on that? She warned us that three or four workdays would take a lot of planning and work. It would also cut into time we might want for other things. But the whole class agreed we would do it.

After a little pause, Leila continued. “Mom left the decision up to me, and I’ve thought a lot about it; I just can’t go to the beach this time. Anyway, I’ll still give you the cookie recipe. Okay?”

Sydney sighed. “Well, okay. And I really do understand, but it won’t be as much fun if you don’t go.”

Later, just before going to bed, Leila opened her Bible to Sunday’s lesson, 2 Samuel 24. As she read the concluding verses and turned to the text in Romans 12:1 and 2, a little smile curved her lips. Her mind went to the decision she had made that evening and she felt so good. Like King David in the lesson, she too had given God something that was a personal sacrifice. Sometimes it is harder to give up our time or things we want to do than to give our money.

Leila knew down deep in her heart that she was going to follow through on the class workdays—each one. She would be there! It was with a feeling of satisfaction and contentment that Leila drifted off to sleep.

A NEW PICTURE

Put God's will and His work first and you'll have a whole new picture of your life. The words listed below are from the text. Find them in the puzzle and circle them. Choose one or two of the words from the list and use them to write about what consecration means to you. Use the lines provided below.

TRANSFORMED
SERVICE
EAKUXJUKDERE
FCLGROWTHX
RRWILLXAPGLOUKI
EIJLKLJCKXJLOVE
PFPRUIUCTLQYKLS
JIKAXFJEPLIVING
UCLTJEKPKJUKJEN
KEJLULTTGLXLLVI
LREASONABLEATI
JEKDPKXBLPJWRGE
DWORLDJLUKULAKN
OOLXKUTEJLXKEUE
GPRESNTSOCLHJR

GOD
LAW
COST
GOOD
HOLY
LIFE
LOVE
MIND
WILL
ALTAR
GIVEN
HEART
POWER

WORLD
BODIES
LIVING
GROWTH
PERFECT
PRESENT
SERVICE
OFFERED
RENEWING
SACRIFICE
ACCEPTABLE
REASONABLE
TRANSFORMED

RESPECT FOR THINGS
HOLY



*Though Kai had withdrawn from his family,
they continued to pray for him.*

I “don’t want to and I don’t have to!” shouted Kai as he slammed the door and headed off for school. His parents looked at each other and shook their heads in a helpless manner. Without a word they walked into the living room where their two younger children waited. “What’s wrong with Kai, Mom?” asked Mila with a concerned look on her face. “He’s really changed.”

“Yes, I’m afraid he has, Dear. There was a time when he enjoyed family devotions each morning. Now . . .”

“Now we’re going to pray for him, aren’t we?” interrupted their father. “As soon as we read something from the Bible.”

After family worship, the other children left for school and the house quieted down. Gazing out the window, Mr. Ruiz sighed and said, “Honey, I think he’s at that stage when children



LET'S PRAY TOGETHER WITH OUR FAMILY.

Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the LORD.
— Psalm 34:11

question whether their parents' religion is really what they want. He knows that this house is a house of prayer. God has blessed each of us, including him, for that reason. We'll just have to keep praying that the Lord will open his eyes soon. He seems to be getting bitter."

During the next few weeks, Kai drew back from his family more and more. He tried to get out of going to Sunday school, and refused to participate when he did go. The Ruiz household continued to pray for him. Their morning devotions brought them closer yet as they shared a common desire for God to undertake in this situation. On the rare occasions when Kai joined his family, he would sit back with his arms folded and pretend not to listen—even when his younger brother and sister would earnestly pray each day for their unspoken "special need."

One sunny day Mrs. Ruiz sat on the porch reading the mail. As she read a letter from her sister something struck her. "Why," she said to herself, "this may be the answer!"

That evening, she showed the letter to her husband. When he finished reading it, a smile crossed his face and then a serious look. After making two phone calls he turned to his wife and said, "Tell Kai we're going on a little trip Saturday."

After driving for several hours, Mr. Ruiz turned off the expressway and headed down a country lane that crossed a barren landscape. They had not told Kai where they were going so his curiosity was aroused. As they drove up to a massive gate, his father spoke to a uniformed guard. Then they headed toward a dreary-looking group of buildings and through another gate in a high wall. Finally, Kai leaned over the front seat and with an agitated voice asked his father, "What are we doing here? This is the State Prison!"

"We brought you here so you can visit your cousin. Jack committed a felony last year and is now doing time. We've kept it quiet until now for several reasons."

Kai was skeptical and hardly spoke a word as they were led through many doors and gates. He cringed as each one slammed behind them, locking them in.

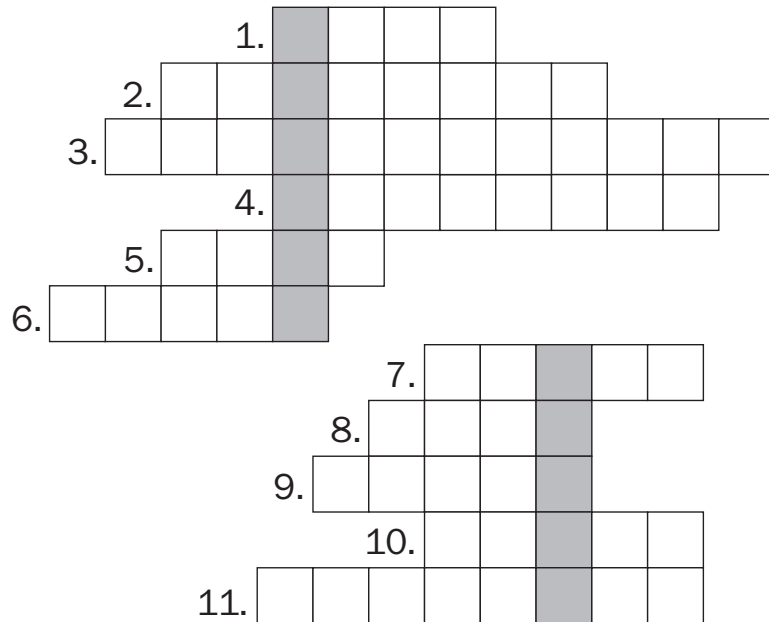
Through the thick glass in the visitation room, Kai and Jack engaged in light conversation for a while. Then Jack suddenly grew serious.

"Kai, I'm allowed only a short visit so listen closely. I've heard what's been happening to you, so I asked my mother to arrange for you to come and visit me. I know where you're headed because I was right there myself about seven years ago. I thought I had a better way . . . I wanted to be free. You know what I mean? My parents raised me just like yours are raising you. The Bible says that parents should teach their children the Word of God and pray with them and for them. But it's up to the kids to listen. If only I had listened, if only I had appreciated the privileges I had in that home, I wouldn't be in this place today. The Lord did have mercy on me and three months ago, right in my cell, I told Him I was sorry. He saved me! My soul is free, but I can't leave this place for at least five long years. I hope my message is clear. I've got to go now. I'll be praying for you."

Kai didn't move a muscle for several minutes after Jack was led away. When he turned to face his parents his eyes were filled with tears. The look on his face made his parents hope that very soon the whole family would once again be worshipping the Lord together.

WHAT IS NEEDED?

When families pray together they are blessed by God. Read Deuteronomy 6:1-15 and fill in the blanks in the sentences below. Then copy the words in the proper spaces on the puzzle. The words in the shaded area of the puzzle will tell you what is needed in a Christian home.



That thou mightest (1) _____ the LORD thy God, to keep all his (2) _____ and his (3) _____, which I command thee, thou, and thy son . . . (verse 2)

Here, therefore, O Isreal, and observe to do it; that it may be well with thee, and that ye may (4) _____ mightily, as the LORD God of thy fathers hath promised thee, in the land that floweth with (5) _____ and (6) _____. (verse 3)

And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine (7) _____, and with all thy (8) _____, and with all thy (9) _____. (verse 5)

And thou shalt (10) _____ them diligently unto thy (11) _____ . . . (verse 7)

IMAGINATION MANUAL

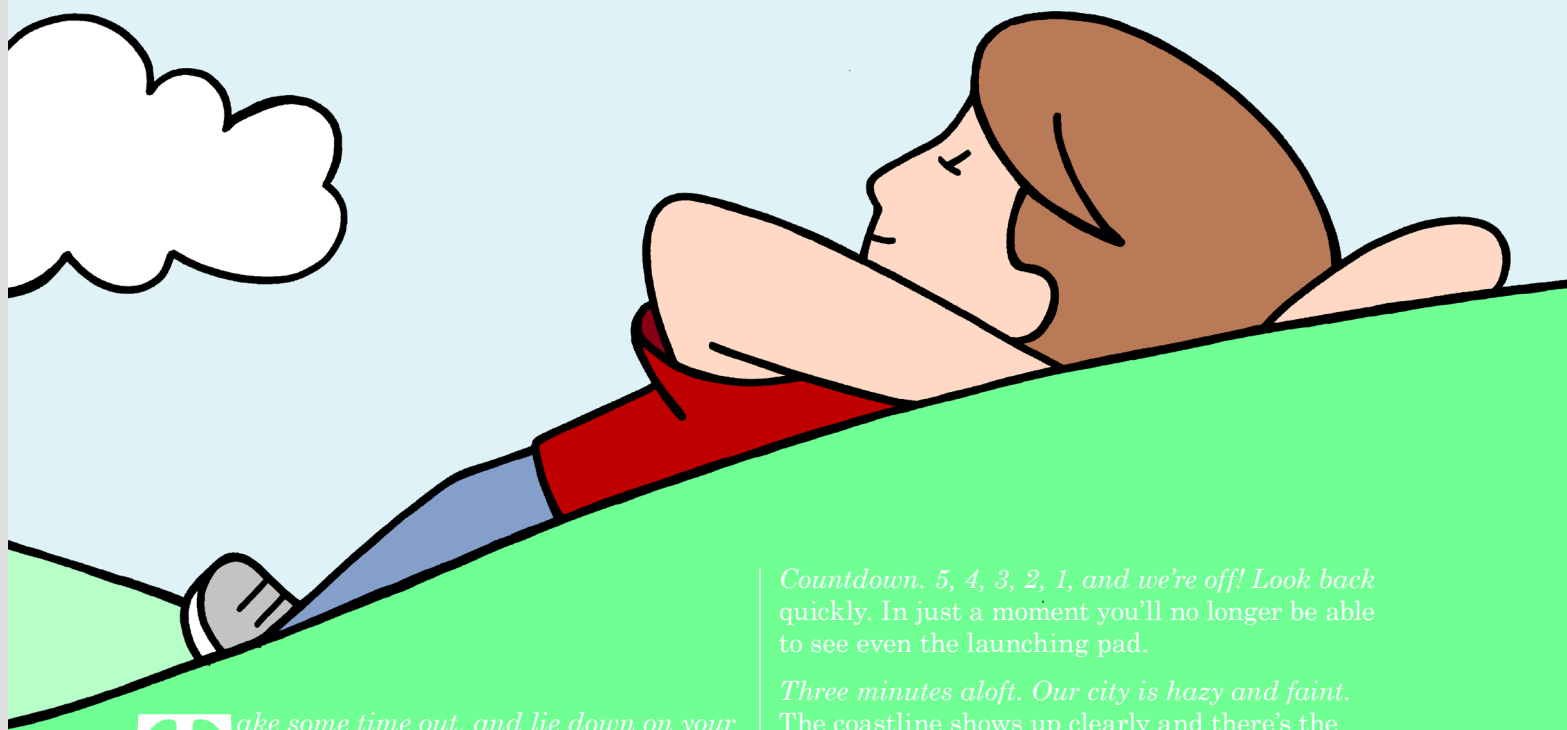
LESSON → 142

Psalm 139:1-14 — Omnipresence

Psalm 135:5-6; Mark 4:35-41 — Omnipotence

Hebrews 4:13; 1 John 3:20 — Omniscience

*Our world seems
insignificant compared
with God's greatness.*



Take some time out, and lie down on your bed, or on a nice grassy slope. Close your eyes and imagine that you and I are stepping into our own private spacecraft. With your spacesuit on, climb into the copilot's seat. Study the computerized panel in front of you. Don't worry! Almost everything is preset for us.

Countdown. 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, and we're off! Look back quickly. In just a moment you'll no longer be able to see even the launching pad.

Three minutes aloft. Our city is hazy and faint. The coastline shows up clearly and there's the Atlantic Ocean, how blue it looks!

Five minutes. No cities can be seen now. "But what's that faint blue line on the horizon?" you ask. Could it be the Pacific Ocean? We can see the whole United States stretched out "from sea to shining sea."



GOD KNOWS EVERYTHING.

The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.
— Proverbs 15:3

Just wait! Only a couple more minutes and you'll see all of North and South America. Yes, even now we're looking at Canada and Mexico.

Look quickly, because soon the whole earth will be only the size of a basketball, then a softball, and then . . .

"Which star is Earth?" you ask. You lost it. Well, it doesn't really matter now. They're all hazy. Sort of like the Milky Way.

Don't feel lonely though. We're not all alone. God is here. No, you can't see Him with your eyes, but look around.

Remember the Scripture where the Psalmist said: "When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him?" (Psalm 8:3-4).

Look at all these stars around us. Never ending. Galaxy after galaxy. Yet, God sees you. He knows your every thought. He saw you even before you were born, while you waited in that warm darkness until the moment of your birth.

God cares for you, even to the point that He knows exactly how many hairs are on your head. He sees and knows everything about you—your wishes, desires, thoughts, plans. He knows what is behind your actions.

And not only you. He knows intimately every person on the entire earth, and everyone that ever lived. God is everywhere. He can see everything. There is no place man can hide from God.

Well, it's time we turn this spaceship toward home. Copilot, which way? You don't know? Was it in that general direction? I don't like the idea of spending the rest of my life floating around in outer space.

That's right! The computer. It will know. It's already heading us toward home.

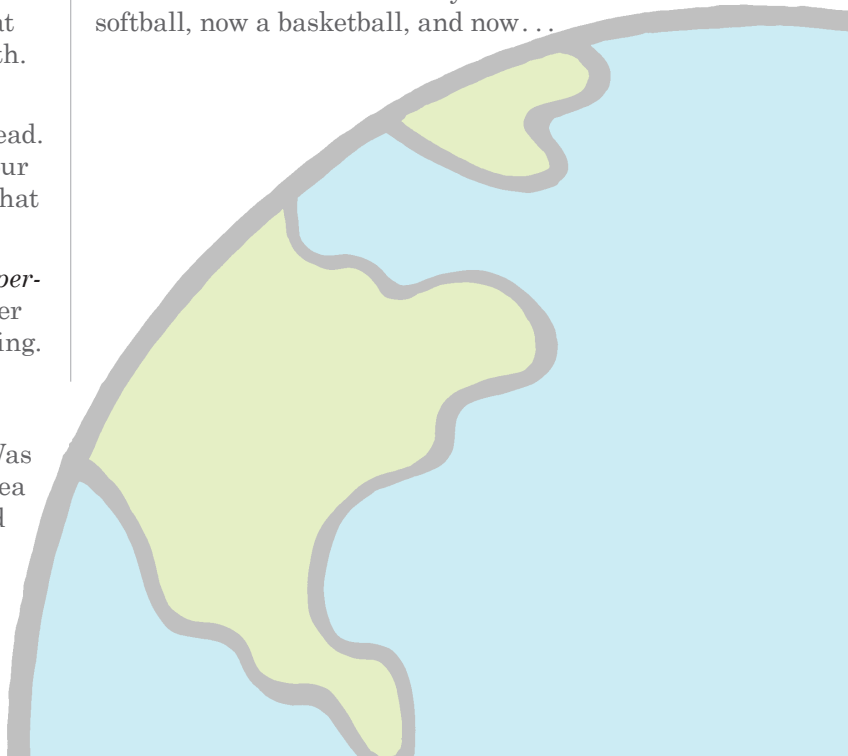
That reminds me. Inside each of us is something that's trying to head us toward our

eternal home. The only problem is, most people try to ignore that signal. They know they should turn to Jesus, serve Him, and follow His commands, but they listen to too many other signals.

God has the power, though, to take man from the earth to a heavenly home, and power to help him live a victorious life until then. As a matter of fact, the power of our little computer here doesn't compare to a fraction of God's power. He has power to save from sin, to heal, to restore life. Infinite power! He created all the stars in the universe, our Earth with its hills, mountains, rivers, oceans, trees, animals, right down to the tiniest flowers or blades of grass, and even the atom! Best of all, He created you!

Yes, I know your mother gave birth to you, but think, where did the first man, Adam, come from? That's right, he was created by God.

What's that? You say our planet has come into view? Yes! There it is. It's only the size of a softball, now a basketball, and now . . .



HOW BIG IS GOD?

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

God is omnipresent (everywhere), omnipotent (all powerful), and omniscient (knows all things). These are big words describing a big God! The key verse should help you to understand how big God really is. Write the key verse for this week on the blank lines below and then find each word in the Word-Find.

Proverbs 15:3

DOING SOMETHING FOR HIM

LESSON 143 → Matthew 25:14-30; 1 Peter 4:10-11

God's service came first for Ella.



Ella's sober face reflected her concentration as she sat on the edge of her bed and gazed unseeingly across the room. Really, the decision had already been made. But now she had to figure out how to explain it to Harmony and Mr. Quan.

Suddenly her thoughts were jarred by the ringing phone. A bubbling voice greeted her. "Hi, Ella, it's me, Harmony. What have you decided about Mr. Quan's Illustrative Art class? Are you going to join me in the chase for the elusive butterfly of fame and fortune?"

Ella took a deep breath. "Harmony, I've been praying about this whole thing, and I've decided not to get involved. It conflicts with too many other more important things."

"What do you mean? Mr. Quan said we'd be meeting only on Tuesday evenings plus after school a couple of times a week. I know we have church on Tuesday nights but

this would only be for a couple of months."

"Well, I don't want to miss church. But even the time after school . . . I feel this is time I should be giving to God in service. I made some consecrations to God after He saved me. One of those consecrations was that I would always put Him first. I've started taking voice lessons, and I really need to practice every day. Also, I have been doing some art work for the junior Sunday school lessons. If I'm going to keep up with those things, as well as my homework, I just don't have time to take on anything else right now."

Harmony was silent for a minute. Then she responded softly, "Okay, Ella, I see what you mean. And I really respect you for making that decision, but as for me . . . well, I can't carry a tune in a bucket. I don't have any great talents to use in the Lord's work. Nobody would miss me if I weren't there on Tuesday nights."

"Harmony, I can't agree with you. You've got some great talents you could use for the Lord! Your way with words is fantastic."

"Words?" questioned Harmony, somewhat taken aback. "Anyone can talk. How can that be a talent to use for God? I'm not going to be a preacher!"



I'LL USE MY TALENT FOR GOD'S WORK.

With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men. — Ephesians 6:7

"Harmony, you've been captain of the debating team for two years now, and you get straight A's in English Comp. What about writing for the church newsletter, or joining the group that makes visitations on Sunday afternoons? The Sunday school teachers are always looking for help with clever sayings for bulletin boards, ideas for programs, and things like that. Just being in church and doing your best to encourage and pray for others is a talent, isn't it?" Ella paused for breath.

"I guess so," Harmony responded after a moment. "But, Ella, I've always felt that if you couldn't sing or play an instrument you just didn't have any talent the Lord could use."

"No, that isn't so, Harmony." Ella thought for a moment, then chuckled as she continued. "This is kind of a weird illustration, but I think it's sort of like a carpenter's tool box. The hammer doesn't say, 'Just because I don't slide out of a case and measure things, I can't be used.' The pliers don't say, 'I can't pound a nail or tighten a screw, so I can't do anything.' All the tools are different, but they all have a job to do. They all are needed."

Harmony laughed. "Well, I see your point there, Ella. But I'm still not sure how the Lord can use any skills or talents I may have."

"Look, Harmony. The Lord is going to give you a job that matches up with the talents He has already given you. He's not going to call you to be a vocal soloist if He didn't give you any singing ability. He'll never ask you to be a cello player if your fingers are too short. But He does have something you can do with the talents He has given you—I'm sure of that!"

"How can I find out what that job is, though, Ella? I'd be willing if I knew."

"First, Harmony, you've got to start by talking to the Lord and letting Him know you are serious about wanting to do something in His service. He'll see and know when you really make that consecration with your whole heart. Then, be sure you are always in your place in church. If an occasion comes up when volunteers are asked to do something you could help with, be there and do your best. Let it be known that you are willing and available. Don't worry, God will open the doors for you if your whole purpose is to do your part in His work!"

Ella could hear the joy in Harmony's voice as she answered. "You've really given me something to think about. Thanks a lot for your advice, Ella!"



DOING OUR PART

Everyone has a talent to use in God's service. It could be singing, praying, preaching, writing, visiting, or many other things. If you give your talent willingly, you will be richly blessed. On the bottom right are some Bible texts. On the right are parts of the verses that have a word missing. Look up the Bible text, find the matching verse, and then fill in the missing word. The first one is done for you.

Let your light so SHINE before men

Willing to _____

Zealous of _____ works

Ye _____ me meat

Ye _____ me

_____ in the Lord

_____ ye your enemies

He that _____ souls is wise

Be _____ of all

_____ ye one another's burdens

Let us do good unto _____ men

Thou hast been _____

1. Mark 10:44
2. Matthew 25:23
3. Luke 6:35
4. Psalm 37:3
5. Galatians 6:10
6. Proverbs 11:30
7. Matthew 25:35
8. Galatians 6:2
9. Titus 2:14
10. ~~Matthew 5:16~~
11. 1 Timothy 6:18
12. Matthew 25:36



For a message that is right on target...

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