



LESSONS 144-156

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

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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THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

The story is told of a conversation between a preacher and a soap manufacturer.

“Preacher,” the man said as he shook the preacher’s hand, following the Sunday service, “There’s one thing I don’t understand. With all the preaching you and others of your kind do, how come there is still so much sin and evil in this world?”

“My friend,” the preacher replied, “I think our preaching is a little like your product. You make lots of soap, but if it isn’t applied, it won’t do any good, and neither will our ‘product.’”

That’s something to think about, isn’t it?

We have a lot of good “preaching” in the Bible. But if we don’t apply what we read there, it won’t do us one bit of good.

This quarter we are going to study one of the most familiar sermons ever given—one preached by Jesus himself when He was here on earth. We call it the Sermon on the Mount because Jesus preached it on a hillside near the Sea of Galilee.

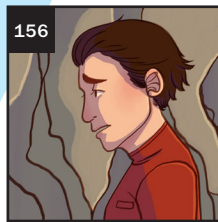
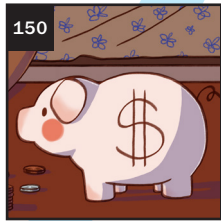
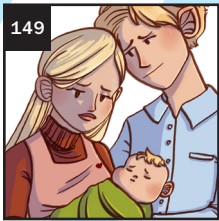
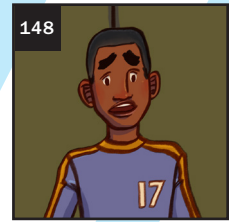
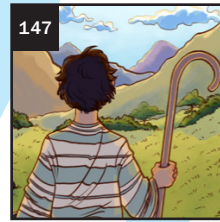
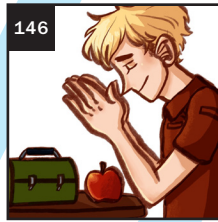
Jesus preached this sermon to help the people understand how to please God and someday make Heaven their home.

*We want to please God and make Heaven our home too, don’t we? Let’s make up our minds to apply what we learn in *The Answer* this quarter.*

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THE Answer

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Knowing who had really built the project, Lincoln was faced with a challenging question.

WHOSE COMPUTER IS IT?

LESSON 144 → Matthew 5:1-5; 8:5-10; Isaiah 29:19; 57:15

Damian and Lincoln bent over the table, straining to see the fine wires, chips, and numerous other parts littering the bench in front of them.

“Lincoln, we need to put a jumper here, and then we’ll . . .” Damian’s voice was muffled as he bent over to look more closely.

“But Damian, I thought you said that other modification should do it,” Lincoln moaned.

“Nope, we need to get another part. Got some money on you?” Damian asked.

“Yeah. Let’s go,” Lincoln answered.

They grabbed their bikes and headed for the computer shop. On the worktable, they left a nearly completed, built-from-scratch computer—Damian’s “brain child.” He had persuaded Lincoln to try out his idea and enter it in the Science Fair.



JESUS, HELP ME BE HUMBLE.

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

Damian and Lincoln came from two very different economic backgrounds. While Lincoln had everything he needed or wanted, Damian struggled to help his family make ends meet. He had a morning paper route and spent a couple of hours after school working at the computer shop. He had learned a lot there and was eager to apply some of his knowledge. So when Lincoln had idly commented one day that it would be fun to try to build a computer, he'd been excited about helping with a project he could never have afforded to begin on his own.

The boys had been back from the computer shop just a short while when Damian said, "There, that should do it. With this wire in place the connection should . . ." The computer hummed to life. Both boys let out a whoop of delight. "It works!"

The next several days were spent in working out the bugs and programming. Friday afternoon Lincoln got his dad to take it to the school in the van and help set it up, just a couple of hours before the judging was to begin. They plugged it in . . . but when Lincoln pressed the switch, nothing happened!

Lincoln's hands felt clammy. His stomach churned. He squinted at this connection and that. Tapped here and there. Stared in at the mass of wires. What should he do? The only thing he could do was get Damian—but Damian didn't get off work until 6:00. And the fair started at 7:00!

Lincoln's dad stood by with a perplexed expression on his face. At last he spoke. "Lincoln . . . you built this computer. Surely you can fix it!"

There was a moment of silence. Then Lincoln looked at his dad. "I didn't really build it, Dad. Damian did. I bought the parts and did whatever little I could, but Damian told me what to do." He stopped, and then added softly, "It's really not my computer. Damian is the

brains behind it. His name should be on this entry application."

"Do you think Damian could spot the problem?" his dad inquired.

"Oh yeah, probably wouldn't take him a minute." Lincoln stood looking down at the application form lying beside the computer on the table. Slowly he took a pen from his pocket and made a change on a single line. "Entrant's name: Damian Lopez," the first line now read.

His dad smiled and put his hand on Lincoln's shoulder. "I'm proud of you, Son. Now I think you and I had better head over to the computer shop and see if we can bring Damian over here to have a look at this."

A little while later, Lincoln watched Damian's nimble fingers expertly fix the loose connection. What a great guy, he thought. He's spent so many hours working on this entry, and he doesn't expect any credit for it. He has considered it my project all along. But the whole project is really his! I'm glad I realized it in time.

6:55: The computer was humming away like a breeze.

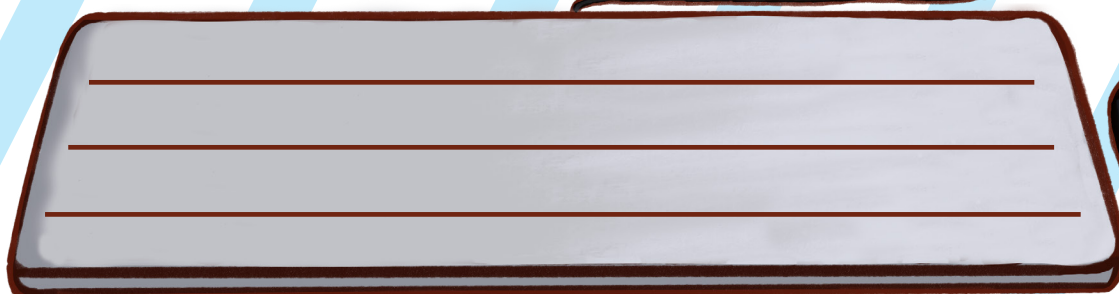
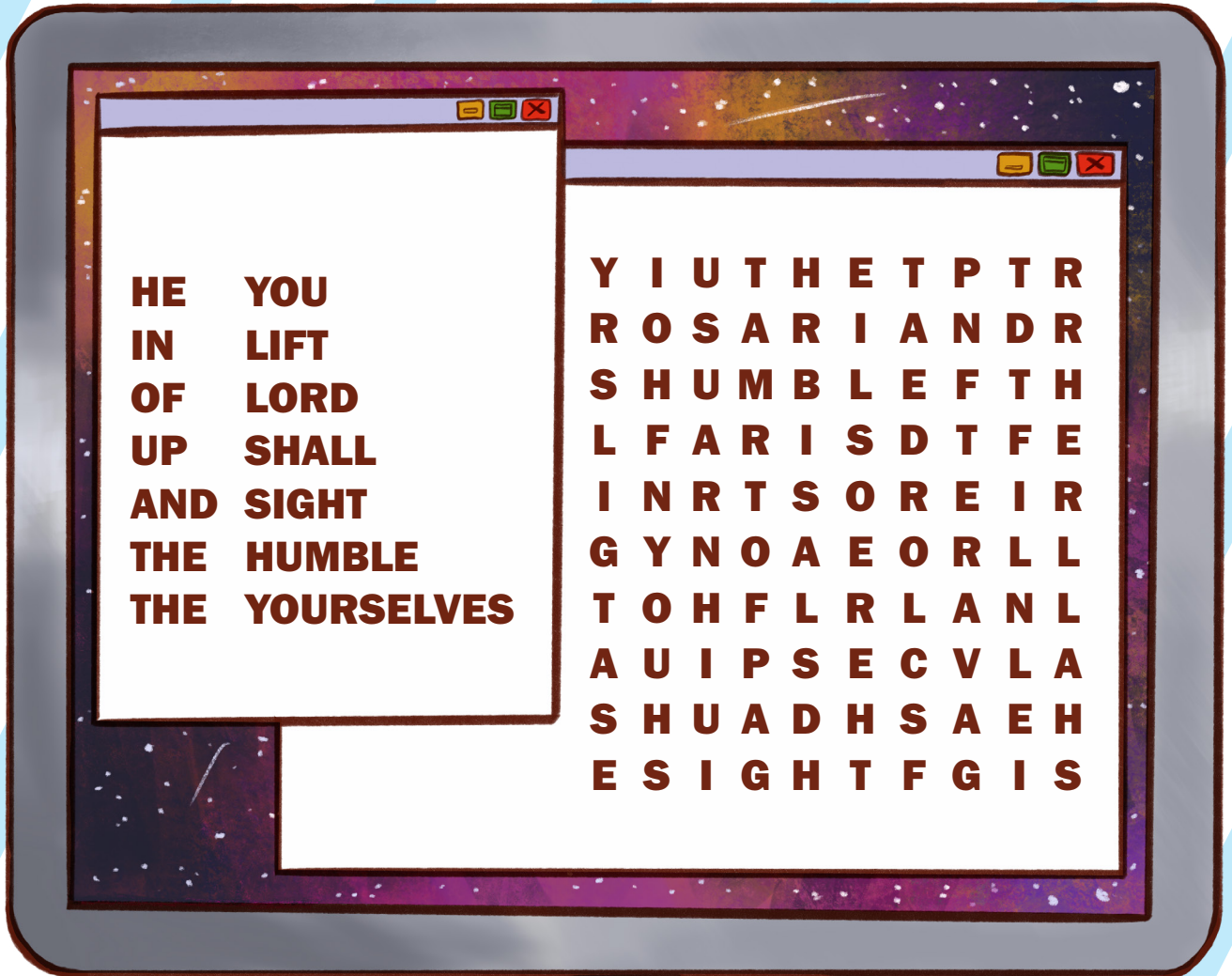
9:15: The judges were announcing, "First place goes to Damian Lopez for his computer."

9:17: Damian stood on the platform with the judges, the surprise of hearing his name announced still clearly written on his face. "I want to thank you for selecting this entry," his first words were, "but the project really belongs to Lincoln Brooks. He . . ."

The crowd's thunderous applause drowned out the rest.

ARE YOU HUMBLE?

Humility is having a modest and submissive spirit. The key verse tells what God will do for you if you are humble. The words listed make up the key verse. Find them in the word-find below and circle them. They read up, down, across, and diagonally. When you are done, see if you can write out the key verse on the lines below without looking it up.



AN UNEXPECTED REACTION

LESSON 145 → Matthew 5:6-9, 38-48; 18:23-35

When Hunter broke the game, Beckham's response amazed everyone on the bus.

“**H**ey, look what Beckham has with him today!” a taunting voice rang through the school bus. “I wish I had a new Nintendo 3DS.”

Beckham barely had time to turn and see who was speaking before a hand reached over his shoulder and snatched the game from him. “Here, Micah, catch!” The game shot through the air toward the back of the bus.

“What are you doing?” The words were hardly out of Beckham's mouth when the bus gave a lurch. Micah missed the catch, and the game crashed against a seat frame and slid down the aisle.

A sick look crossed Beckham's face. His brand new 3DS! There was silence in the bus as he slowly got up from his seat and retrieved the shattered case and broken pieces. Hunter Gibson, the guy who had thrown the game, slumped into the seat across the aisle and looked warily at Beckham as he worked his way back to his seat.

“Sorry about that,” Hunter finally said offhandedly. Then added, “But you shouldn't have had something like that on the school bus anyway.” Every eye was on the two boys, waiting for the fight to start.

But it didn't. Beckham stuffed the pieces inside his backpack, then he looked across the aisle at Hunter. “It's okay. I know you didn't mean for it to get broken.”

A flicker of disbelief crossed Hunter's face. For a moment it seemed he might say something more, but then the school bus pulled up in front of Lincoln Junior High and everyone began the scramble to get out.

Several weeks went by and Beckham had almost forgotten the incident on the bus. Besides, he had



a new airsoft gun, so he was spending a lot of time target practicing.

Someone had told him about a big field on East 47th Street. It seemed like a good place to practice because there was a thick hedge at one end



WE SHOULD HAVE MERCY ON OTHER PEOPLE.

Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful. — Luke 6:36

that should stop any stray pellets. He set up a couple of tin cans he had brought along with him and loaded his gun.

His first couple of shots missed. He thought that maybe he needed to steady his gun a little better, so he flopped down on his stomach and used a large rock for a support. Now he would have to fire upward to hit the target, but at least the gun was steady. He took aim and fired. Missed again. He tried once more. This time the can fell.

Beckham jumped to his feet and walked over to put his target back in place. Just then an angry figure stormed around the side of the hedge.

“Hey, young man! Come here!”

Beckham looked around. Was the man talking to him? “Do you mean me, Sir?”

“Yes, I mean you! Are you the one who is firing a gun out here? You just shot through my kitchen window!”

“Oh, no!” said Beckham, horrified. He set his gun down beside the target and looked helplessly at the man. “I didn’t know there was a house close by. Anyway, I thought the hedge would stop the pellets.”

“Well, it didn’t,” the man said angrily. “I suggest the next time you check a little better before you start shooting. And now, who is going to pay for my window?”

“I will,” Beckham said. “I’m really sorry it happened. How much do you think it will cost?”

“A window that size will cost over one hundred dollars.”

Beckham knew he would have to ask his parents for the money. “I’ll have to go home to get the money. May I leave my name and address with you and come back in an hour or so? I’ll leave my airsoft gun.”

“I suppose so,” the man replied with a disgruntled air. “Come on over to the house and write it down for me.”

Beckham picked up his airsoft gun and went with the man. At the house, he waited on the porch until paper and pen were brought out to him. Then he jotted down his name and address and handed it to the man. He was turning to leave when the man said, “Say, just a minute! Beckham Tinney . . . You go to Lincoln Junior High, don’t you?” At Beckham’s nod, the man went on. “So does my son, Hunter. Hunter Gibson. I think you know him.”

The scene on the bus flashed through Beckham’s mind.

“Let me guess what you’re thinking.” The man was smiling now. “You’re remembering a day on the bus before school closed when my son broke your Nintendo game.”

Beckham looked at him in amazement. “You mean Hunter told you about that?”

“Not right away, but when he did, he told me how surprised he was that you didn’t get mad at him. As a matter of fact, he still can’t quite figure it out.” He paused for a moment. “You know, Hunter was really impressed that you didn’t demand that he pay for the game he broke. That was kind of you. So why don’t we just forget about this window business. I’ll pick up a piece of glass somewhere and Hunter will help me put it in.”

Hunter’s father dropped the matter of the broken window because he appreciated the fact that Beckham hadn’t demanded payment from his son for the Nintendo 3DS. Our Bible text for this lesson gives an opposite example—a servant who had been forgiven a debt, but then demanded payment from someone who owed him money. What happened to that servant? Unless we extend mercy, should we expect to receive it?

Lesson 145 Activity
BE LIKE JESUS

As Christians we are to be like Jesus and show mercy to others. What were the results when Jesus' mercy was added to the situations listed below? Look up the texts and write your thoughts on the lines provided.



+

Jesus' Mercy
(Luke 23:39-43)

=



+

Jesus' Mercy
(Matthew 20:29-34)

=



+

Jesus' Mercy
(Luke 8:49-56)

=



+

Jesus' Mercy
(Luke 19:1-10)

=



A SHINING LIGHT

LESSON 146 → Matthew 5:14-16; Daniel 6:1-28

The responsibility of living a Christian life on the job weighed heavily on Elijah.

There were no two ways about it, Elijah was very nervous when he thought about starting his new job at the grocery store on Saturday.

It wasn't the work—he was sure he could handle that. It wasn't the people he would be working with. Elijah liked people and usually didn't find it difficult to get acquainted. The problem came when he thought about having to bow his head and thank the Lord for his lunch in front of all those guys he would be working with.

Elijah sat on the side of his bed and argued with himself. Why should I be fretting about a thing like that? Maybe they won't even notice, and they probably wouldn't say anything if they did. Or would they?

He sighed. This kind of thinking wasn't helping a bit. Maybe he should try praying about it! He knelt beside his bed and began to talk to God.

“Lord, You know all the things I've been thinking the last few minutes. It's





I'LL LET MY LIGHT SHINE.

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. — Matthew 5:16



probably a crazy thing to trouble You about, but I just can't get it out of my mind." He paused for a moment, and then said, "I'm so thankful for the day You saved me. I want to show others that it's great to be a Christian. But it's hard when people make fun of me, and I'm afraid they might tomorrow. Won't You please help me do the right thing?"

On Saturday, the morning seemed to pass by quickly as Elijah adjusted to the routine of his new job. A few minutes before their lunch break, Colin, one of the other boys, passed Elijah with a hand truck stacked with boxes of apples. "Soon as I unload these over at the produce counter, I'm heading for the break room. Did you bring a lunch?" At Elijah's nod he said, "I'll meet you there, then."

Elijah's heart beat a little faster. Here it comes! "Thank you, and have a nice day," he said automatically to the woman whose groceries he had just finished loading. He nodded to Jack, the guy who would fill in as box boy while he took his break, and went to get his lunch.

A few minutes later he slid into the place Colin had saved for him at the employees' lunch table in the back room. Slowly he opened his lunch sack. He took out his sandwich and set it down

on the paper napkin in front of him. He took out an apple and placed it next to the sandwich. He took out a bag of chips and opened it. Then, he bowed his head and prayed.

It probably wasn't the best or most eloquent prayer he had ever prayed, and Elijah would be the first to confess it wasn't very fervent, but he was determined to start out right.

Even before he raised his head he could sense the silence around him and feel eyes on him. But when he looked up, Colin and the two guys across the table looked quickly away and fidgeted with their lunch sacks. Then two of them started talking at once and in a moment the strain passed. The lunch break went by quickly—and Elijah went back to work with a feeling of inner satisfaction. He had made it over the first hurdle.

A few weeks later, Colin was walking out of the grocery store with Elijah at quitting time. "Boy, it's really been a day, hasn't it? Sometimes it is hard to keep your cool when people sound off or yell at you to hurry up with their groceries." He hesitated for a moment, then continued. "I notice that you take all this hassle right in stride, Elijah. I've never once seen you get mad."

Elijah looked at Colin. "I'm a Christian, Colin, and the Lord helps me . . ."

He didn't get any further. "I thought so!" Colin exclaimed. "I figured that out the first day you prayed over your lunch! And watching you these past few weeks made me sure of it."

Elijah glowed inside. He might never be a great missionary to India or Peru, but there were people all around him who needed to know they could have a happy life in Jesus. Suddenly a bit of Scripture came to his mind: "Ye are the light of the world." It was his responsibility to let people know that he belonged to Jesus—and he had done it!

Lesson 146 Activity

**THIS LITTLE
LIGHT OF MINE**

Figure the answer for each math problem on some scratch paper. Then find the letter that matches your answer on the flashlight and write the letter on the line above the math problem. The first word has been done for you.
By solving this puzzle you will find out what you are when you are following Jesus.

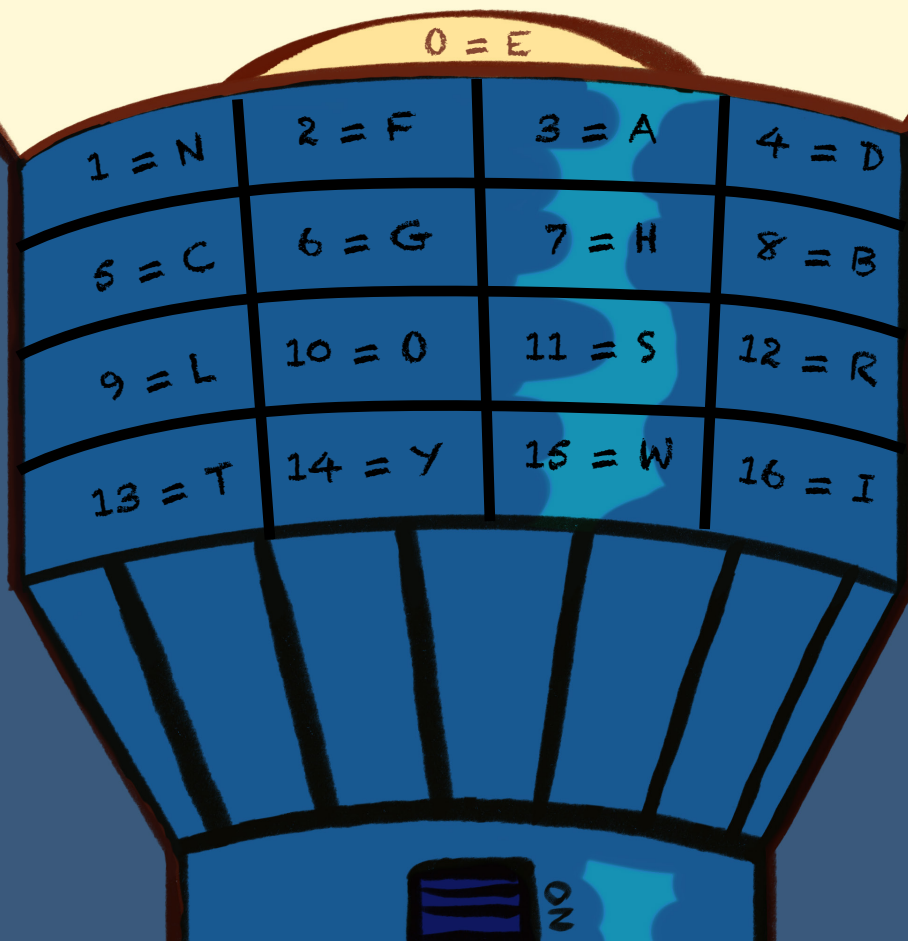
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$\frac{8}{8+5}$ $\frac{9}{9-2}$ $\frac{5}{5-2}$ $\frac{14}{14-1}$ $\frac{8}{8+8}$ $\frac{15}{15-4}$ $\frac{6}{6+5}$ $\frac{3}{3-3}$ $\frac{10}{10+3}$ $\frac{6}{6+4}$ $\frac{10}{10-9}$

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$\frac{6}{6+2}$ $\frac{8}{8-8}$ $\frac{3}{3+4}$ $\frac{10}{10+6}$ $\frac{3}{3+1}$



MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS

LESSON 147 → Matthew 5:17-20; Romans 8:3-4; Galatians 3:19-29

This was the first time Joshah had been faced with bringing the offering for his own sins.

God told Moses how He wanted His people to live, and Moses recorded God's commandments. These laws taught the Children of Israel what God demanded of man. Even though a person could not please God on his own, God had provided a way by which a person could worship Him acceptably. A sacrifice of animals, combined with faith, could atone for sin. This sacrifice pointed ahead to the time when Jesus would die as the perfect Sacrifice and make atonement for the sins of all mankind. Let's look back over three thousand years into history and see how someone such as Joshah would have made atonement for his sin.

Joshah nervously shifted the strap on his basket from one hand to the other as he walked along the dusty path. Inside the basket, two pigeons cooed and flapped their wings in agitation. He was almost to the Temple. In his mind he rehearsed the ritual words he would say. I have sinned against the commandments of the Most High God. Wilt thou, as the anointed one of His priesthood, make a sin offering in my name that my fault may be purged?

Joshah swallowed, the taste of dust burning in his throat. Though he had seen many others stop at the Temple, he had



never been there before. Only a fortnight ago he had come of age, and was now considered a man among his people. As a child, his sins had been atoned for by his parents. Now, the full weight of his misdeeds and the

responsibility to make atonement rested upon him.

Hesitating for a moment at the edge of the narrow courtyard which bounded the Temple, he thought once again of the



THE LAW POINTED TO JESUS.

For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. — John 1:17

decision, which required this trip to the priest. Three days ago, he had been driving his father's flock of sheep toward their grazing place. On the way, he had noticed that the ox which belonged to their neighbor, Gehaziel, was straying. Gehaziel was an unjust man, and from his youth Joshah had never thought kindly of him. He knew full well that the Law required him to return the ox to its master, yet he had driven his flock on without pausing.

What a weight of guilt had immediately descended upon him! He had sinned! And he could no longer look to his parents to make atonement for him. The guilt was his, and his alone.

For the first time in all his thirteen years, Joshah had felt unclean, sinful.

That night, Joshah had been unable to eat. Even the hot bread, fresh from the stone oven, did nothing to tempt his appetite.

Later that night, as he had lain on his mat, he had found he could think of nothing but the sin he had committed. He had tossed and turned so restlessly that at last his elder brother Jamlech had told him to either lie still or go out and sleep under the trees. Knowing that any further sign of his turmoil would draw the attention of his parents or brothers, he had forced himself to remain motionless, but sleep had not come.

The next two days had been miserable. Consumed with the thought of his own unrighteousness, Joshah had found it impossible to concentrate on anything else. Finally he could bear the burden no longer. Last night he had sought out his father just after the evening meal.

"Father, I have sinned," he had confessed in a low voice, unable to raise his eyes to his father's face. At his father's gentle questioning, the whole story had come out.

"You know, my son, that as you are now of age it is your responsibility to go before the priest and ask him to make atonement for your sin." At

Joshah's silent nod he continued. "Attend well to my words, Son. The Lord God has made provision for forgiveness of sins, but you must obey the commandments concerning sacrifice that your offering may be acceptable in His sight." With sorrow on his face, Amaziah had carefully explained each of the steps that Joshah must take. When he finished, he had placed an arm about his young son's shoulders.

"I can see, my son, that tomorrow you will go to Gershon, the priest, with a proper spirit of grief for your sin. May God go with you and show respect unto your sacrifice."

Now the moment had come. Before his courage could fail, Joshah moved quickly forward through the courtyard and stood at the entrance to the Temple. "Is my lord the priest within?" he called.

Almost immediately, Gershon himself stood before him. "I have sinned," Joshah began. The words he had so carefully learned from his father came from his lips, and then the confession of his misdeed. Joshah's heart reached out for forgiveness and relief from this burden of guilt. "Will my lord the priest accept these two pigeons and make a sacrifice unto the Lord God in my name?"

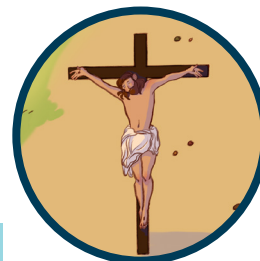
The priest took the two pigeons from the basket that Joshah held out, and examined them carefully to be sure they were without blemish. "Yes, God will accept these birds as your offering," Gershon said at last. "Place your hands upon the heads of these birds, and as you do, let the burden of your guilt be placed upon them."

As Joshah placed his hands upon the heads of the birds, a strange feeling of ease came into his heart. He had done what he could—he had brought his offering to the priest in faith. Now Gershon would fulfill his obligation before the Lord, and in the sacrificing of the pigeons Joshah would find atonement for his sin.

Lesson 147 Activity

**THE LAW
AND JESUS**

The main purpose of the Mosaic Law was to point to Jesus Christ, who would fulfill that Law and lead people to Himself. The words on the list below pertain to the Law and Christ. Find them in the puzzle and circle them. Remember, they may read up, down, forward, backward, and diagonally.



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

- GOD
- LAW
- EARTH
- GRACE
- JESUS
- MOSES
- TEACH
- TRUTH
- HEAVEN
- SINFUL
- SPIRIT
- SCRIBES
- PROPHETS
- FULFILLED
- PHARISEES
- COMMANDMENTS

**THE SERMON ON
THE MOUNT**

A DIFFICULT DECISION

LESSON 148 → Matthew 6:1-4; 2 Corinthians 8:1-15

Should Harrison practice with Charles or go skiing this weekend?

Harrison dribbled the ball. Thump, thump, thump. The noise resounded through the empty gym. A couple more steps and he was on the free-throw line. Then, the shot. He made it!

He turned to pass the ball to Charles. His aim was careful, but the ball sailed on past Charles' outstretched hand.

"You've got to move your chair faster, Charles. You need to almost overshoot the path of the ball. Then you won't lose your balance when you reach for it. Let's try that pass again."

Harrison retrieved the ball from midcourt and passed it again. Undaunted by the encumbrance of his wheelchair, Charles thrust it forward with great energy this time. Too much! The ball bounced off his chest before his hands were up to catch it.

Charles laughed with Harrison. They had good times together, these two—Harrison bounding around with all the pent-up energy of a





YOU'LL FEEL HAPPY IF YOU SHARE.

Freely ye have received, freely give. — Matthew 10:8

healthy fourteen-year-old and Charles eager to soar beyond the bounds of his wheelchair.

Charles had been only seven years old when a car accident left him paralyzed from the waist down. The frustration he had known in these past seven years had been somewhat forgotten in the joy of dribbling and shooting baskets. These last six months had been great.

This past fall he had left the school for handicapped children and entered his neighborhood junior high school. Mainstreaming had been a challenge. No more special treatment. The kids were straightforward. A few were thoughtless or cruel, but most of them were really nice. Harrison was one of the nice ones.

Harrison was student body president, and well liked around the school. He was a Christian. Charles knew that just from his actions. Harrison had taken a real interest in Charles from the very beginning of the year, and his friendship had really smoothed the way for Charles.

They both loved basketball, and today they were working hard on perfecting Charles' ability to catch passes. It was an important practice session for them. Charles had only one more week until he was going to enter the Special Olympics. So at each workout he was really pushing himself.

That night after Harrison got home he received a text from Parker asking him to call right away.

Harrison set the basketball down on the kitchen counter and dialed Parker's number. "What's up, Parker?" he asked when he heard his friend's voice.

"Harrison, you won't believe our good luck. My uncle rented us guys a cabin up on Mount Hood. We can go up there Friday afternoon and ski all weekend. Tell your mom my uncle's coming too, so he'll watch out for us. Harrison, you can come, can't you?"

"Well, I think so," Harrison hedged. But a sick feeling was sweeping over him. "Parker, I'll call you back later and let you know for sure."

Harrison set his phone down and buried his head in his hands. What was he going to do? No problem with his folks' letting him go—they'd love for him to have the chance, and they trusted Parker's uncle, one of the church youth leaders.

So what was the problem? The problem was that Harrison had already made a commitment to Charles to practice, practice, practice this Saturday. It was the last chance before the Special Olympics. How could he tell Charles he was going away?

His mother came into the kitchen and noticed Harrison's troubled look. "What's the matter?" she asked, concerned. Sighing, he explained the situation.

"Harrison," his mother began, "would it really matter that much to Charles? I'm sure he would understand."

"Yeah, that's just it! I know he would. In fact, if I tell him about it he will insist I go!"

"Then what's the problem?"

"Mom, I made a promise. Charles doesn't have anyone to practice with him except me, and this is awfully important to him. I just don't know what to do . . ." His voice trailed away.

The hum of the refrigerator motor was the only sound in the kitchen.

What do you think Harrison should do? Make up your own ending for this story.

**WHAT CAN I
GIVE?**

The giving of alms means doing kind deeds. It is done without expecting a reward. Think of at least one thing you can give to someone using the things mentioned below. Write your ideas on the lines in the boxes.

MOUTH

HANDS

HEART

TIME

FEET

“I WILL FAST AND PRAY”

LESSON 149 → Matthew 6:5-8, 16-18; 17:14-21

His parents had prayed for his healing since his birth, but now he felt the need to earnestly seek the Lord on his own.

Not too many years ago, on the island of Newfoundland, a young man and woman eagerly awaited the birth of their third child. The day came at last, and a baby boy was added to the family. However, rejoicing at the gift of a healthy child was not to be heard in that home. The baby had been born with a painful, disfiguring skin disease. But, oh, how they loved him.

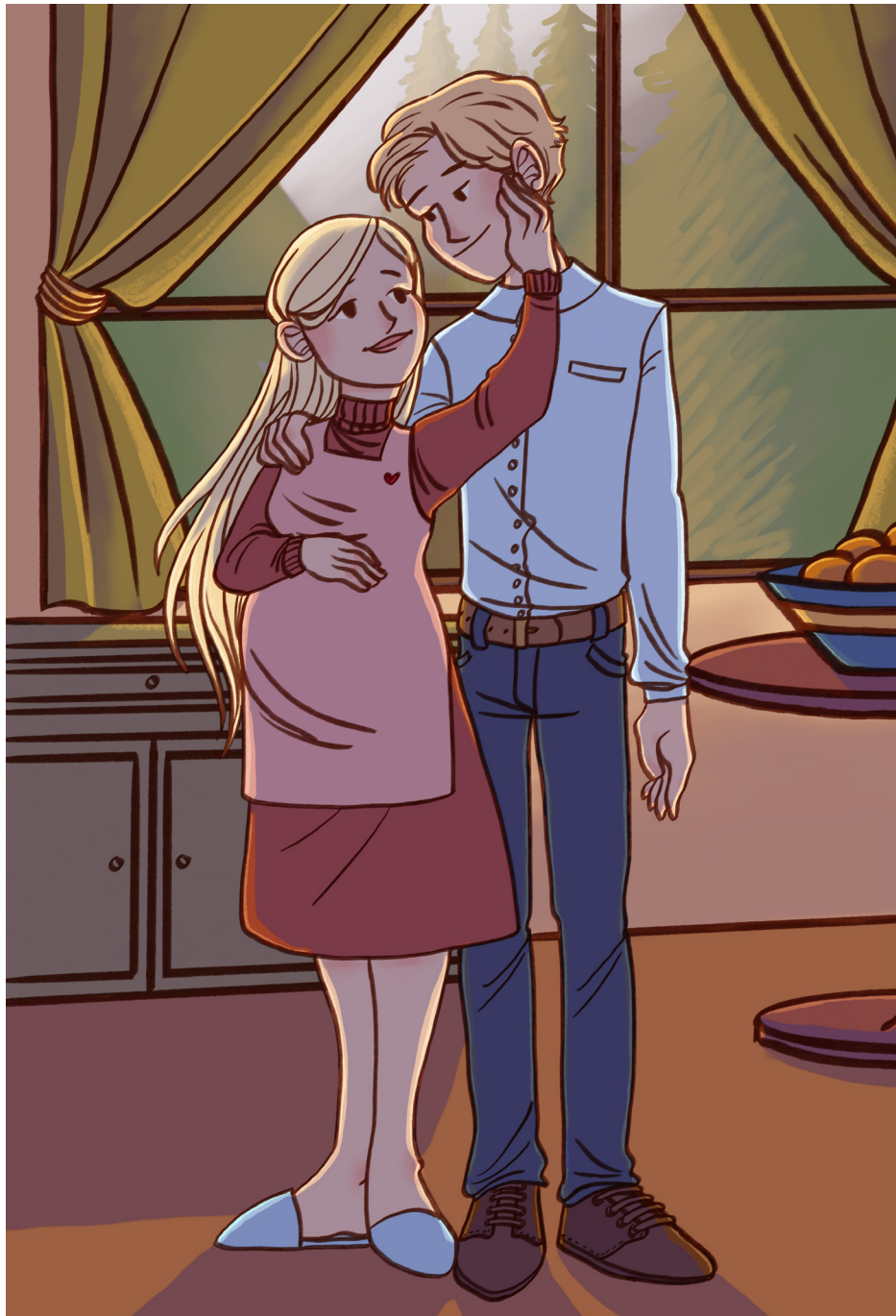
The parents hoped their son would get better in time. Instead, he grew worse. Nothing they did for him brought any improvement in his condition.

His eyes, his hands, and his feet would bleed. As his parents looked at his red and broken skin, they hurt for him, knowing they were helpless to aid him. The doctors said he would have to live with the disease for the rest of his life.

The time came for him to enter school, and as can well be imagined, it was a very difficult experience. The pain and discomfort he was in made the school day hard for him, and for his teacher also. His classmates shied away from him.

In the midst of all this trouble, there was one ray of hope—his mother was a Christian. She loved God and believed He would heal her afflicted son. Many joined with her in prayer for the boy, knowing that God was his only hope, but no healing came.

The father, though not a Christian, was so disturbed by his son’s





KEY VERSE

FASTING WITH PRAYER IS A POWERFUL TOOL.

Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting. — Matthew 17:21

terrible condition that one night he prayed, “God, if You will heal him, I will give You my life.” A short time later, during the Easter season, the father was wonderfully saved. His son, however, still suffered from the disease.

Not long after, the boy grew even worse. At a time like this, many people either give up hope for the answer they want, or they turn their backs on God, blaming Him for their problem. But those who read their Bibles will find that for every true need we have, God has provided a way for that need to be met.

One Sunday morning in May, the father called his son to breakfast. But this morning was different. When the son came in, he told his dad, “I don’t want any breakfast. I’m going to fast and pray for Jesus to heal me.”

The son had been thinking, Everyone has been praying for my healing, but I still have this disease. Perhaps it is part of God’s plan for my life. If so, then it is something I must bear cheerfully as a Christian. But first I will try something. I will fast and pray, asking God to either help me accept this or to heal me, if it be His will.

When a Christian has a need, he may

choose to fast, which means he decides not to eat so that he might give himself more fully to prayer. In doing this he shows that he is very serious and determined to see God’s will done in answer to his request. In our times, little is said about fasting, and yet we read in the Bible that it was encouraged by Christ himself. In giving us guidelines concerning fasting, Jesus said, “When ye fast,” not, “If ye fast.” He obviously expected Christians to follow His example and use fasting as a means of prevailing in prayer.

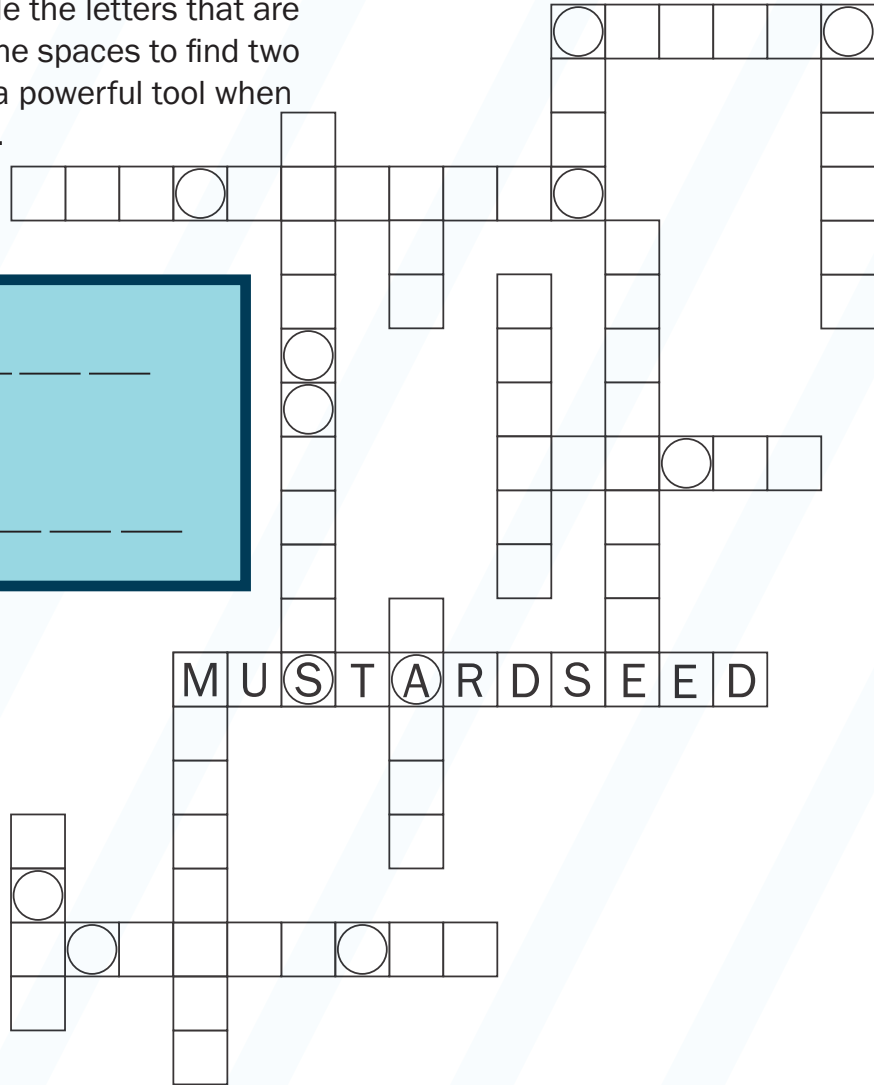
We do not fast just so we can tell those around us that we are doing so. It is something private, just between an individual and God. The Bible tells us that when we fast and pray with the right spirit before God, we can expect Him to reward us openly.

What happened to this young boy from Newfoundland? Just two days after he fasted and prayed, he was completely healed! How thankful he was for Jesus’ wonderful example of prayer and fasting. And you can be sure he is praising God today that he is now able to live a normal life without the pain and suffering he once knew.



**POWERFUL
TOOLS**

The words listed below are from our lesson. Place them where they fit in the puzzle. Unscramble the letters that are circled and fill in the spaces to find two things that make a powerful tool when seeking God's will.



_____ A _____
 AND
 _____ S _____

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>ASK
 FACE
 WASH
 FAITH
 CLOSET</p> | <p>FATHER
 REWARD
 SECRET
 MOUNTAIN
 HYPOCRITE</p> | <p>SYNAGOGUE
 COUNTENANCE
 MUSTARDSEED
 REPETITIONS</p> |
|--|---|---|

WHAT IS REALLY IMPORTANT

LESSON 150 → Matthew 6:19-21; Luke 12:13-21

Ellie was excited that she had finally saved enough money for a new bike, but events that followed made her reconsider.



“**O**ne hundred forty-eight, forty-nine, and fifty!” Triumphantly, Ellie laid the last dollar bill on the stack in front of her. “I’ve finally got enough, Dad!”

Her dad smiled. “You’ve worked hard to save for that bike, Ellie. Tomorrow, right after school, I’ll pick you up and we’ll head over to the bike shop.”

During the next few weeks, Ellie spent every spare minute on her new cruiser bike. All those months of saving her allowance, taking every babysitting job that came her way, and doing odd jobs for the neighbors had finally paid off. She had her bike and she loved it!

But just two months to the day after she bought the bike all her delight came to an end.

The bike disappeared.

During the night, someone had cut through the chain that fastened the bike to the porch rail, and when Ellie came out in the morning, the bike was gone. She could hardly believe it! They notified the police, and then Ellie and her dad spent the afternoon driving up and down the streets looking for it—but to no avail.

“We’ll drive around some more on Monday, Hon,” Ellie’s dad finally told her. “Maybe whoever has it will have had their fun by then and will leave it somewhere.”



MY TREASURES ARE IN HEAVEN.

But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven. — Matthew 6:20

At first it seemed as though their search on Monday was going to be fruitless too. But then, driving south of the area they had covered on Saturday, Ellie spotted something.

“Could that be . . . yeah, I think it is, Dad!” Ellie pointed to the backyard of an old brick building. Her dad headed the pickup into the lot. A minute later Ellie stood looking down at her once shiny cruiser bike, now lying in a ruined heap of twisted fenders, bent handlebars, and flattened tires. Even the seat was slashed.

Anguish welled up inside her. Who in the world would have wrecked her beautiful bike like this? And after all she had gone through to get it!

A short time later, Ellie’s dad carried the mangled bike down to his basement workshop.

“It really is a shame, Ellie,” he said as he began working on the twisted frame. “You worked long and hard to save up enough for your bike.”

“Yeah, and after only two months, this happens!” Ellie agreed, frustration edging her voice. She turned away abruptly to hide the tears that threatened to spill over.

Upstairs, Ellie noticed the family computer on the desk, still open to the article about Mr. Jones’ death. Years before, Ellie’s dad had worked for this man who left behind a fortune in art treasures and other investments. She remembered her dad’s words at the breakfast table this morning.

“Gerald Jones worked hard for the things of this life—fine homes, the best automobiles, fabulous art collections. More than once I heard his friends tell him to slow down, that he couldn’t take it with him. Now he’s gone, and all his treasures are left behind. I

wonder how important those things seem out in eternity?”

Mom and Dad had gone on to talk about priorities—how important it is, even when young, to take time for church and the things of God. Then we can be sure our most valuable treasures will be in Heaven.

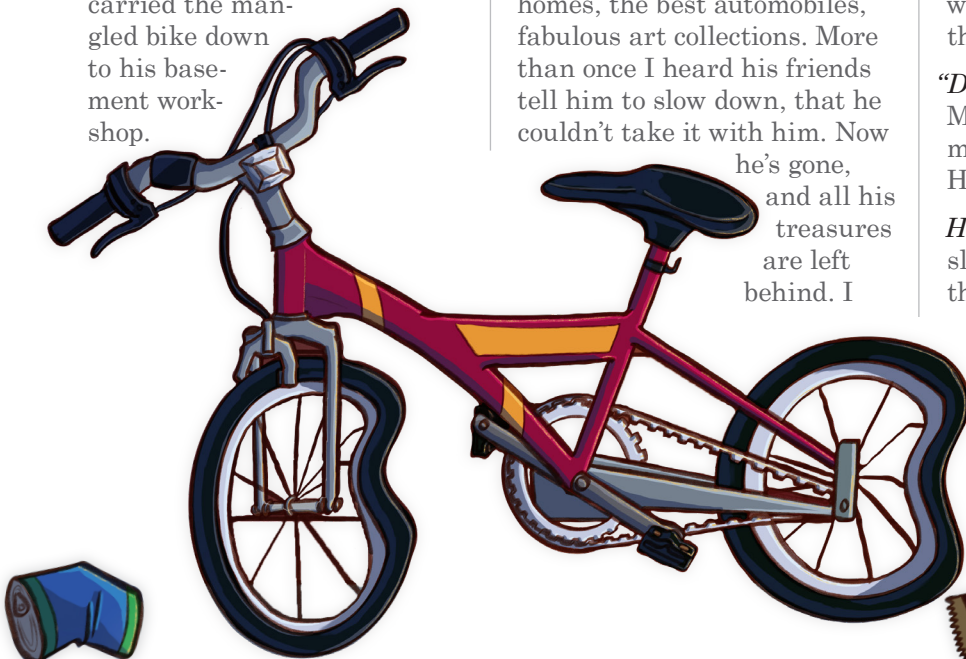
Slumped on the couch, Ellie listened to the muffled sounds coming from the workshop below. Could her cruiser bike ever again look like the treasure it had been when she bought it? Her eyes strayed back to the computer and the article. Treasure . . . had a bicycle meant that much to her?

Ellie sat there for a long time, deep in thought. At last she went slowly back down to the basement.

“Dad, I’ve been thinking about Mr. Jones, and my bike, and my priorities, and treasures in Heaven . . .”

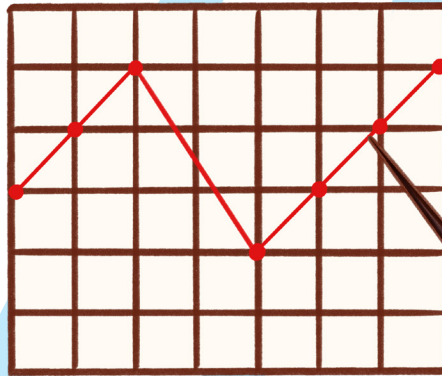
Her dad looked up with a slight smile. “That’s a lot to think about, Honey.”

“I still feel bad about my cruiser bike, Dad,” Ellie smiled back. “But after all, I can’t take it with me!”



HOW DO YOU RATE?

Have you ever seen those charts that show if the stock market has gone up or down? See the example on the right. Let's see how you rate in heavenly investments. Use the large graph below and answer each question. Draw a short line between each answer (up or down) to show where you stand.



	<i>Do you . . .</i>	<i>Believe in God?</i>	<i>Love Jesus?</i>	<i>Read your Bible?</i>	<i>Believe the Bible?</i>	<i>Pray?</i>	<i>Witness?</i>	<i>Love your enemies?</i>	<i>Forgive?</i>	<i>Have patience?</i>	<i>Respect others?</i>	<i>Attend Sunday school?</i>
<i>Always</i>												
<i>Sometimes</i>												
<i>Seldom</i>												
<i>Never</i>												



GOD WILL ALWAYS PROVIDE

LESSON 151 → Matthew 6:25-34; 2 Kings 4:1-7

After a year of many trials, Amelia had learned an important fact.

Amelia waved goodbye from the living room window as her dad got into the truck to go to work. It had been over a year since she had last seen her father leave for work—a hard year with times of uncertainty and tears. Not just tears of sorrow, though, but also tears of joy.

Her mind went back to the last day of school a year ago. Amelia and her three brothers had raced home, eager to begin preparations for their family’s annual two-week vacation. She had bolted through the doorway and stopped short, surprised to see her dad there. “How come you’re home so early, Dad? You aren’t sick, are you?”



JESUS WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU IF YOU TRUST HIM.

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. — Philipians 4:19

Her father looked up. “No, I’m not sick, Honey. But I do have some news to tell you and your brothers.” He paused for a moment, and then went on. “Due to cutbacks at work, I’ve been laid off. So our vacation is going to have to be postponed. We just can’t afford one now.”

“Oh, no, Daddy!” Amelia and her brothers had wailed. “We’ve been looking forward to this for so long!”

“I’m sorry. I know you’re disappointed, but your mother and I feel that God has His hand in this. He knows all our needs and He’ll provide for us. We just have to keep trusting and serving Him. The Bible says that He even takes care of the birds, so we can be sure that He’ll keep His hand over us.”

Amelia had run to her room with tears of disappointment in her eyes. If God loved them, how could He let their vacation be ruined?

She hadn’t understood at the time, but that summer had proved to be one she would never forget. There was no money for the usual summer activities like swimming at the city pool or playing soccer at the YMCA, but soon Amelia realized that those things didn’t matter that much anyway. Her mom and dad were happy even without a lot of money. Mom had to sell her car to help pay expenses, and there were very few dinners out, but it had been great having Dad around.

God had remained the center of their lives. There was never any bitterness about the way things were going. They had family worship every day, and her father never failed to thank God for His bountiful blessings, even when times were the hardest.

Amelia soon realized that God rewarded her parents’ faith. Time after time God pulled the family through hard places. Once, when they were short of cash for food, Amelia’s youngest brother found a twenty-dollar bill at the park. Another time, money was sent to them from an unknown

source. But the incident that really stood out in Amelia’s memory was when God got them to church and back with no gasoline in the car!

The gas gauge had read empty. It was time to leave for church, but Amelia had a question. “Dad, how are we going to get to church? The car doesn’t have any gas.”

“We’re going to trust the Lord,” had been her father’s reply. “I don’t have any money for gas and I know the gauge says empty, but it is His will for us to be in the service this morning. He can take us the twenty miles to church and back again.”

Amelia got silently into the car. Would it even start? It did . . . and the trip began. Every few minutes Amelia peeked over her father’s shoulder. That gas needle was solidly on empty, but the car moved on without a sputter.

They made it to church. When it was time to leave, Amelia asked, “Shouldn’t we see if someone could take us home, Dad? We’ll never get back. We’re sure to get stuck halfway!”

Her dad just smiled and said, “God will get us home, Amelia.”

Sure enough, God did. As they turned into their driveway, the car engine sputtered and died. It was then that the tears came to Amelia’s eyes. God worked a miracle today, she thought. He does care about us!

Yes, it had been a year Amelia would never forget. Their family had faced many trials, but God had taken them through every one. Today Dad was starting his new job, and just as he had said, God had provided all their needs.

Lesson 151 Activity

DO YOU BELIEVE HIM?

The things that God has promised to His people are missing from the wall below. Find the right block and place the word in the correct place.

these things

clothe

need

Kingdom



If God	so clothe the	grass	of	the field shall	he not	
much more	_____	you?	It is your	Father's	good	
pleasure	to give you	the	_____.	But seek	ye first	
the	Kingdom of God	and his	righteousness	all	_____	
shall be	added unto	you.	My God	shall	supply	all your
_____	according	to his riches in	glory by	Christ Jesus		

AN ERROR IN JUDGMENT

LESSON 152 → Matthew 7:1-5, 15-23; Romans 2:1-3



That afternoon, Jaiwon learned that jumping to conclusions could lead to big mistakes.

Jaiwon spun the wheels of his miniature model racer as he thought about how many days he had spent getting it ready for this race. The hardest part had been getting the weight right. There were no motors in the racers, they just coasted down a long sloping track. The heavier the car, the faster it went. But if a car was too heavy it would be disqualified. Jaiwon had carefully weighed his car and trimmed the lead weight until his racer was just at the maximum—eight ounces.

Carter came up behind Jaiwon and stared over his shoulder. “Wow, Jaiwon,” he said with grudging admiration, “that’s a great looking car. I don’t think the wheels on my racer will . . .”

The boys were interrupted by another voice. “Yeah, your car is pretty nice, Jaiwon, but it will never beat mine!” Jaiwon looked up to see Elias standing nearby with a sneer on his face.

Jaiwon just smiled at Elias. “Yours might win,” he replied. “You’ll get your chance.”

Just then, one of the men who was putting up the race track



WE MUST NOT JUDGE EACH OTHER.

Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. — Matthew 7:20

called to the boys, “Hey, could you guys give us a hand for a minute?” Jaiwon went over and steadied the support that the man had indicated.

“Thanks for helping,” the man said when the track was in place. Jaiwon went over and picked up his car. Now he had to hurry. It was almost time for the race to start and he still hadn’t had his car cleared by the judges. He hurried over to the table. A minute later, one of the judges was placing his racer on the scale.

“Let’s see here. You know that the racers cannot weigh over eight ounces.”

The scale dial spun—six, seven, eight, eight and one-quarter ounces!

“I’m sorry,” the judge said with a frown, “I’m afraid I’ll have to disqualify your car. It is over the weight limit.” He turned the racer over. “Here’s your problem, Son. You don’t need this second lead weight on the bottom of your car.”

“But I didn’t . . . ,” Jaiwon blurted out. “How . . . ? How . . . ?”

Suddenly he knew the answer. Someone had fastened that extra weight onto his racer while he had been helping with the race track!

Elias. It had to be Elias. Jaiwon remembered his sneering look as he said, “Yours will never beat mine!” He had tried to make sure it wouldn’t.

In a daze, Jaiwon watched the race go on without his car. Two at a time they sped down the track. At last only two cars were left—Carter’s and Elias’s!

A brief timeout was called to steady the race track. No one but Jaiwon seemed to notice Carter slip over by Elias’s car and quickly bend an axle ever so slightly, but one of the judges spotted his action.

“I knew my car could beat anybody’s except Jaiwon’s and Elias’s,” Carter admitted brokenly to the group which quickly gathered around him. “I really wanted to win. Jaiwon’s car was

easy—I just pushed the extra weight onto it and he wasn’t even in the race.”

Jaiwon heard no more. He had been so sure that Elias had done it, but Carter was the guilty one!

Elias was storming. “Why you little punk!” he shouted at Carter. “What do you mean by wrecking my car?”

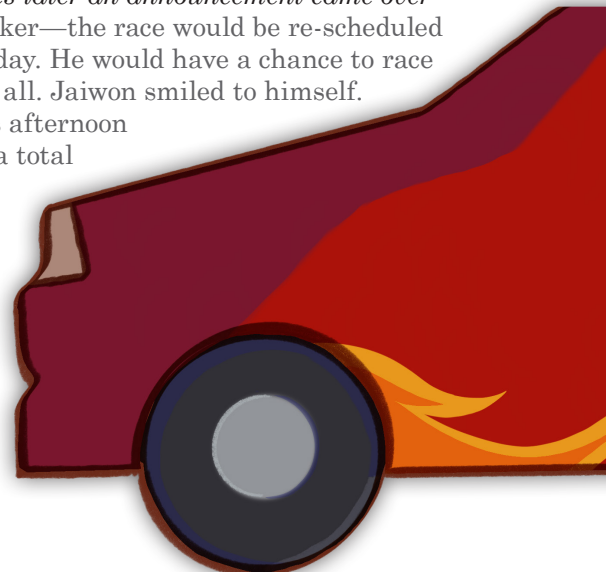
Jaiwon wasn’t happy about what had happened either, but his attitude was different. “Why didn’t you tell me it meant so much to you, Carter? Maybe we could have built a racer together.”

His quiet remark made Elias turn to him in amazement. “You’re not mad? He ruined your chances for the race too!”

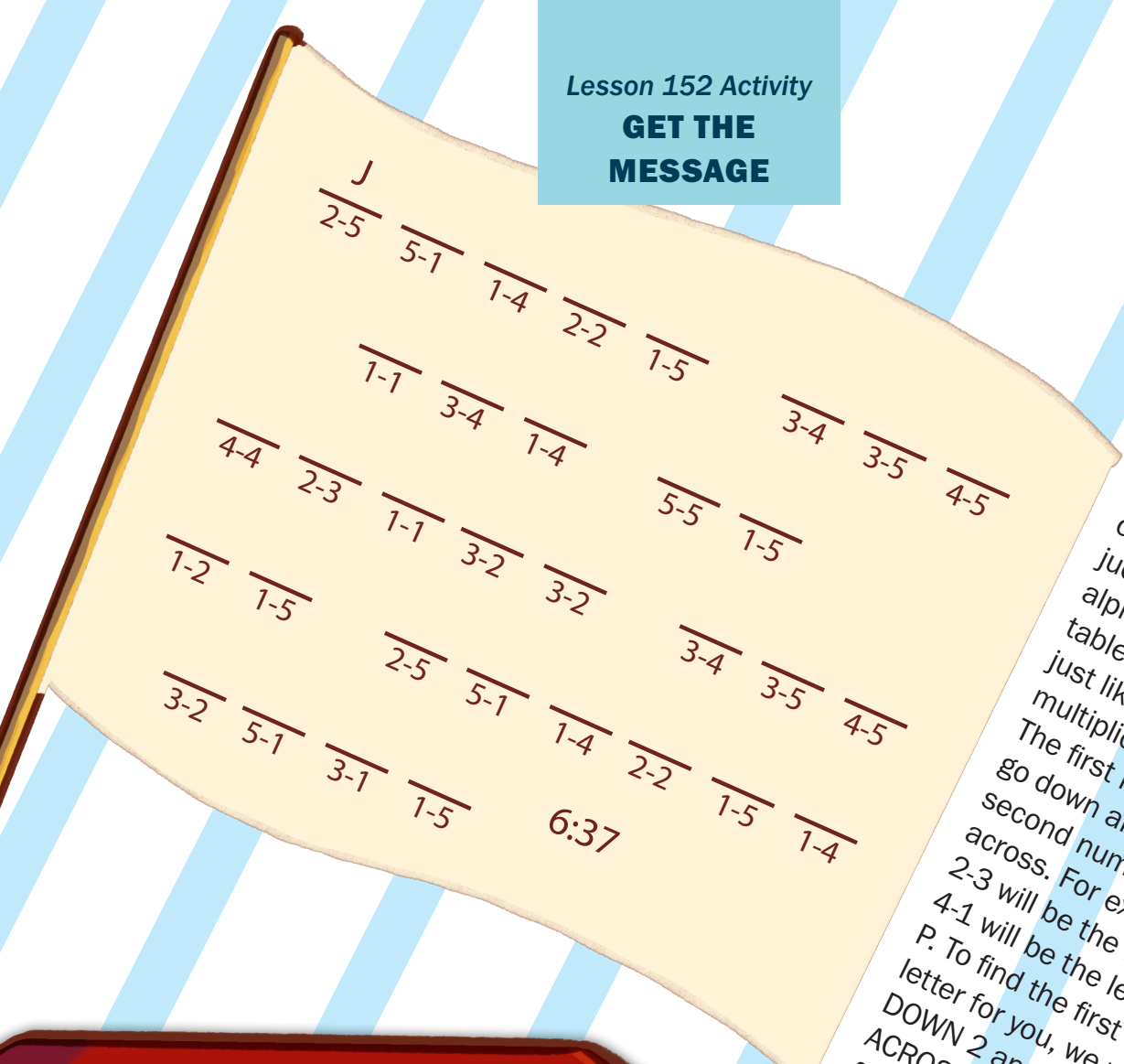
“No, I’m not mad, Elias. Sure, I’m disappointed. But there will be other races. And by the way, I owe you an apology. All through the race I kept thinking it was probably you who put the weight on my racer.”

Elias looked even more astonished. “Can’t say I blame you. I did sound off at you before the race.” He turned back to Carter and shrugged his shoulders, for the moment speechless.

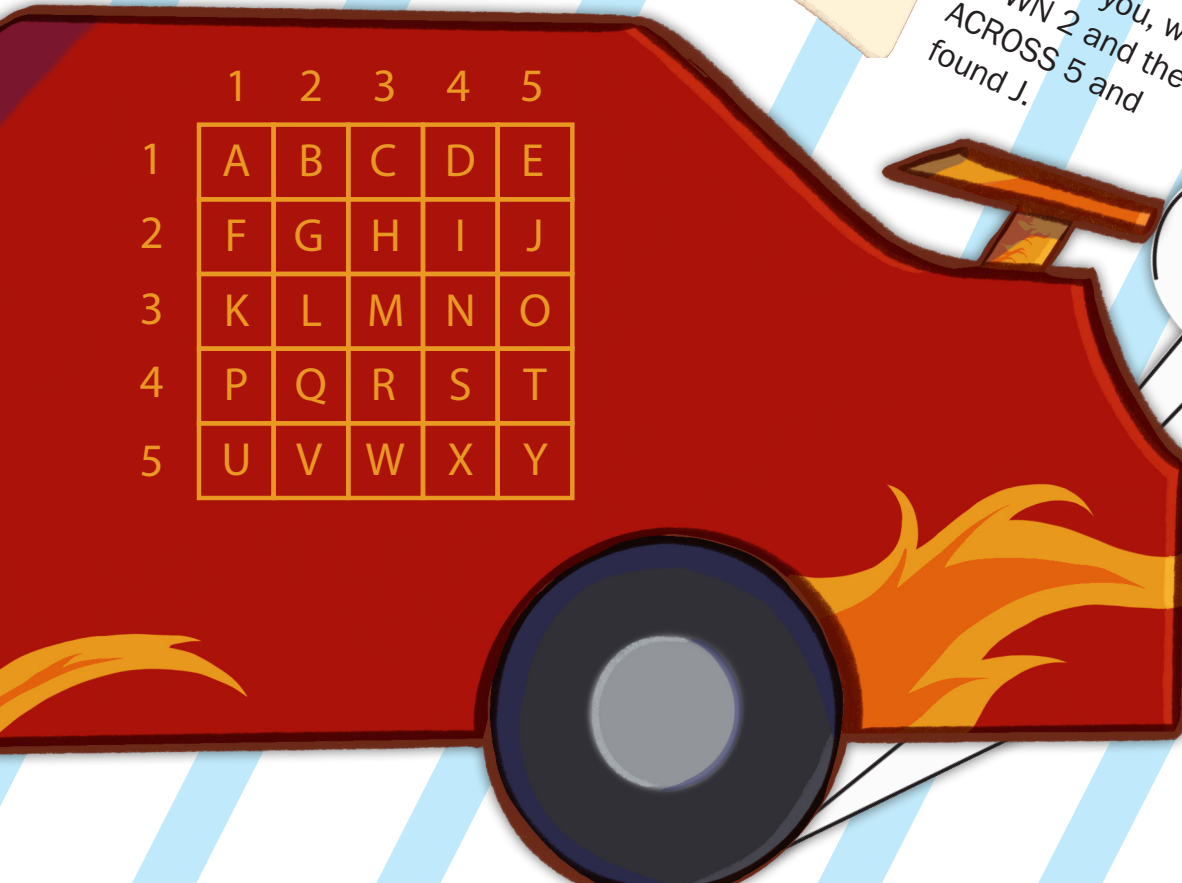
A few minutes later an announcement came over the loudspeaker—the race would be re-scheduled for the next day. He would have a chance to race his car after all. Jaiwon smiled to himself. Oh well, this afternoon hadn’t been a total loss. He had learned an important lesson about judging others.



GET THE MESSAGE



To find the message on the left about judging, use the alphabet multiplication table below. It works just like the regular multiplication table. The first number will go down and the second number will go across. For example, 2-3 will be the H, and 4-1 will be the letter P. To find the first letter for you, we went DOWN 2 and then ACROSS 5 and found J.



	1	2	3	4	5
1	A	B	C	D	E
2	F	G	H	I	J
3	K	L	M	N	O
4	P	Q	R	S	T
5	U	V	W	X	Y

ONE IMPORTANT REQUIREMENT

LESSON 153 → Matthew 7:7-11; 9:27-30; 1 John 5:14-15

The ad seemed too good to be true.

“**H**ey, Dad!” Toby King looked up from the computer with a look of disbelief after seeing an ad for a free bike. “Listen to this! ‘Man’s bicycle free to eligible person, 438 Juniper Lane.’ That’s all it says. Boy! I sure would like to have a bike.”

Mr. King carefully guided his wheelchair into the living room, smiling at his son’s exuberance. “I would like you to have a bike too, Son. Wish I could buy one for you.”

Toby hardly heard his father’s reply. He was thinking, I wonder what the catch is. It’s probably just an old bike they want to get rid of. Even so, it would sure be neat to have a bike when I start junior high this fall. Looking at the address in the ad again, he said to his father, “I think I’ll go over there—it’s not too far to walk. Someone may already have gotten it, but at least I’ll have satisfied my curiosity.”

With a motion of his hand, Toby’s father gave his permission, and Toby dashed out the door. He started briskly in the direction of Juniper Lane. As he got closer to the address he began to slow down. I don’t know why I came, he thought. I’m sure the bike isn’t any good. And if it is, someone else probably already has it. Even if it’s still there they might not give it to me. After all, I’m just a kid.

Toby approached a group of people standing on the sidewalk talking. His heart sank when he saw that they were standing in front of the house where the bike was supposed to be. Someone else must have gotten the bike already, he thought. There’s no use going further. Just as he was turning to go back home one young man called to him.





HAVE FAITH WHEN YOU PRAY.

And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.
— Matthew 21:22

“Hey, Kid. Are you coming to ask about the bike?”

Toby nodded slightly, not trusting himself to speak. “Well, maybe you can get some results from that guy. He won’t give the bike to me because I have a job and could pay for one. He won’t give it to that guy over there because he already has a bike. His is old, but it works. That kid doesn’t qualify because his folks could afford to buy him one. Gavin here thought he had him talked into it. But then the guy asked if he really thought he’d give the bike to him. All Gavin said was, ‘Seeing is believing,’ and he comes back with, ‘That’s not the answer I’m looking for. I’m afraid you don’t qualify.’” The young man paused shaking his head, “Why don’t you give it a try?”

At that moment Toby felt like running away, but he thought, I’ve come this far, I might as well give it a try. Slowly he walked up to the front door and rang the doorbell. A man about his father’s age answered the door. “Can I help you, Son?” he asked pleasantly.

Toby swallowed hard. “I’ve come to ask about the bike you advertised.”

“How old are you?”

“Twelve, Sir. I start junior high this fall.”

Toby thought the man suddenly looked sad.

But the look disappeared as he asked, “Do you have a bike already?”

“No, Sir.”

“Why don’t you have one?”

It was Toby’s turn to look sad. “My dad’s too sick to work. He hasn’t been able to work for three years. Mom works, and I do yard work, but there’s not enough money to buy a bike.”

The man looked at him for a moment. “What’s your name, Son?”

“Toby King.”

“Well, Toby, would you believe me if I said I would give you that bike?”

Toby smiled broadly. “Yes, Sir! If you say so.”

The man opened the door and came out to the porch. “My name is Tim Larsen, Toby. Come with me. I’ll show you the bike.” Together they walked to the garage and entered the side door. There was the bike, an awesome BMX bike! Mr. Larson stood for a moment as if lost in thought. Then he said, “Toby, this was my son’s bike. He rode it only a few times. Then he became very sick, and a year ago he died. My wife and I decided we would give the bike to a boy about Tommy’s age. But that boy had to be someone who couldn’t afford to buy a bike for himself. He also had to be a boy who would believe I really would give the bike to him. Toby, you now have a new bike. Take it, and God bless you.”

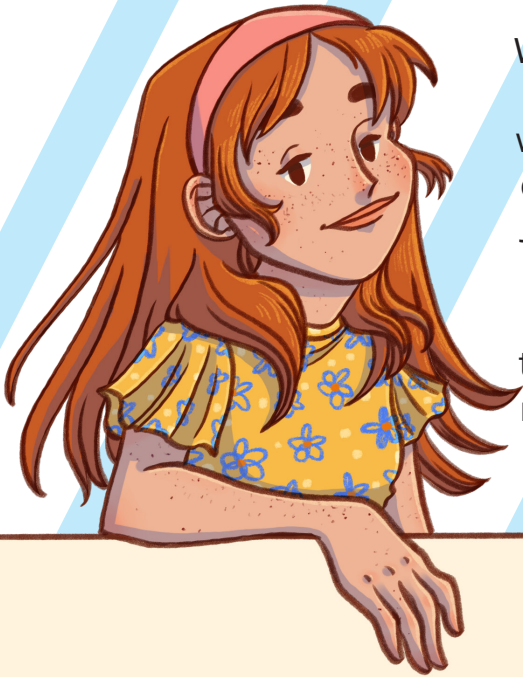
Even in his excitement Toby remembered to say, “Thanks a whole lot, Mr. Larsen. I really appreciate it!” Then he hopped on the bike, and waving to the astonished group on the sidewalk, rode rapidly toward home. Hooray! he thought. I can’t wait to show Mom and Dad!

Carefully parking the bike near the front window, Toby raced into the living room where his father still sat in his wheelchair, now looking admiringly at the new bike. “Isn’t it a beauty, Dad? And it really was free!” Quickly Toby told his father what had happened. “One thing I don’t understand, though, Dad. Why was it so important for me to believe he would give it to me?”

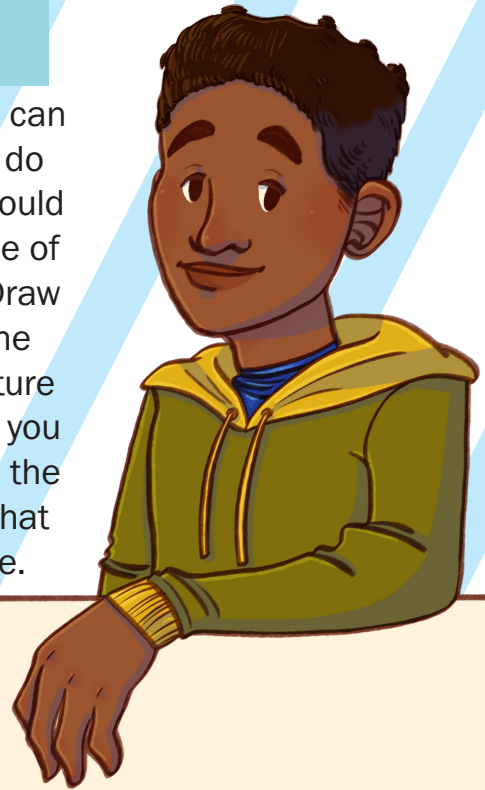
Mr. King replied thoughtfully. “Perhaps he wanted you to know how important faith is, Toby. In this case you believed Mr. Larsen’s word. But if you apply that same rule to your spiritual life, you’ll remember to have faith in what God says. When you ask Him for something, and truly believe that He will give it, you will receive an answer.”

Toby listened to his dad intently, then nodded his head. “I’m not sure that was what Mr. Larsen had in mind, but it’s a sure thing I’ll think about that when I ride my new bike!”

FAITH IS BELIEVING



When you pray you can believe Jesus will do what He said He would do. Below are some of Jesus' promises. Draw a line between the two parts of Scripture that go together. If you need help, look up the Bible references that follow each verse.



1. The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him,
2. Continue in prayer,
3. Ask, and it shall be given you;
4. If he ask a fish,
5. Men ought always to pray,
6. What man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread,
7. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man
8. Then touched he their eyes, saying,
9. Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire,
10. If we ask anything according to his will,

- seek, and ye shall find. (Matthew 7:7)
- will he give him a stone? (Matthew 7:9)
- According to your faith be it unto you. (Matthew 9:29)
- will he give him a serpent? (Matthew 7:10)
- he heareth us. (1 John 5:14)
- to all that call upon him in truth. (Psalm 145:18)
- when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them. (Mark 11:24)
- and not to faint. (Luke 18:1)
- and watch in the same with thanksgiving. (Colossians 4:2)
- availeth much. (James 5:16)

THE GOLDEN RULE

LESSON 154 → Matthew 7:12; Luke 6:31; Numbers 12:1-13

Josh retaliated with kindness.



“Strolling down the hall, Riley saw Josh reaching into his locker with a load of books. A grin spread over his face as he approached Josh and abruptly leaned against him.

“Do you know Eileen?” he asked in a loud voice. “Get it? I lean!” Josh staggered and then fell onto the hall floor surrounded by his scattered books. A shout of laughter rang out from Riley and a number of other kids who saw the incident. Josh scrambled to his feet, stuffed his books into the locker, and walked off with just a wry grin.

Later in the day, Riley saw another chance to tease Josh. He walked next to him down the hall, quietly talking until they came near Mrs. Aselton,

who was notorious for giving out lots of detention slips.

Then in a louder than normal voice Riley said, “Thanks, Josh, but you know we aren’t supposed to chew gum in school.” Mrs. Aselton heard him, as Riley had hoped she would, and stopped Josh. Riley dashed into the door-

way of his next class.

He was constantly thinking up mischief to try to irritate Josh, determined to get him mad. He thought he had succeeded the time he “accidentally” bumped into Josh just as Josh picked up his loaded lunch tray. The tray landed on the floor and laughter erupted in the cafeteria. Josh turned red, picked up the mess



TREAT OTHERS AS YOU WANT TO BE TREATED.

And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise. — Luke 6:31

and, after throwing it away, stood in line for his lunch for the second time.

Riley's problem was that Josh would not get mad, no matter what Riley did to him. Somehow, his failure to get a rise out of Josh made Riley more determined than ever. He wanted to see Josh get mad just like other kids did. Why did Josh act so happy and pleasant all the time?

Riley kept telling himself that Josh was just not all there or he would get mad. But somehow that explanation didn't really satisfy him. There was something different about Josh, all right. But he wasn't stupid. Josh was a good student. He just didn't react like the other kids around school.

One day Riley decided to try a new scheme. For sure this one would make Josh mad! Climbing a tree near the school, he settled himself on a limb with several well-filled water balloons. Josh always came by this way when he headed for the bus after school.

But things didn't work out as planned. While trying to steady the balloons and hold on to the tree branch at the same time, Riley lost his balance. Seconds later, he was lying on the ground, crying out in pain. Josh was one of the first to reach him. He saw that Riley's leg was bent at an unnatural angle, so he ran to the school for help.

The next day at school, Josh heard that Riley's leg was badly broken and he would have to be in traction for several weeks. He headed for the hospital right after school. As Josh entered the room, Riley looked up and scowled. "What are you doing here? I suppose you're going to say it serves me right. Well, I don't want to hear it. Just get out!"

Josh just stood there. "I'm sorry, Riley. I wasn't going to say anything like that. I just wondered how you were doing today. I brought you a Rubix cube and assignments from school. But I know you're not feeling much like talking, so I'll leave. Bye! Hope you're feeling better soon!" With that, he left. And Riley was left alone, more miserable than ever.

After school the next day, Josh dropped by again. Riley didn't say much this time, but at least he didn't sound off at Josh. After that, Josh came almost every day, bringing school work, sunflower seeds, beef jerky, and even a couple of books from the library.

Riley tried to act like he didn't care whether Josh came or not, but the fact was he did care. He was lonely. Josh was the only one from school who visited him. He was always smiling and cheerful. Before long, Riley found himself smiling in response, but deep inside, Riley was still frustrated. Finally, he couldn't stand it any longer: he had to find out what made Josh tick. When Josh showed up the next afternoon, Riley started in with no preliminaries.

"Why don't you get mad, Josh? Why don't you hate me after all the things I did to you? Why are you always so nice?"

Josh looked surprised at this abrupt greeting.

Tossing his jacket on the foot of the bed, he straddled the chair beside Riley without replying. At last he said, "Well, I guess it's because I'd like you to be my friend."

"But why, Josh? Why are you the way you are?"

Josh looked soberly at Riley. "I'm a Christian, Riley. Jesus took all the mad out of me when He saved me a couple of years ago. And He has told us we should live by the Golden Rule. I try to do that."

"You mean to treat others the way you want them to treat you?" Riley thought for a moment. "That must be it, then. I know I've been mean to you, but you always treated me nice no matter what I did. I'm sorry for the way I've acted."

Josh smiled. "It's okay, Riley. I'm glad we've got everything worked out between us." It works, he thought! It really works! Even if it takes some time. When you treat others the way you want to be treated, eventually they'll come around!

Lesson 154 Activity

**PERSON TO
PERSON**

The Golden Rule tells us how to get along with others. To find out how to do that, use the ruler code and write the correct letter for each measurement given below.

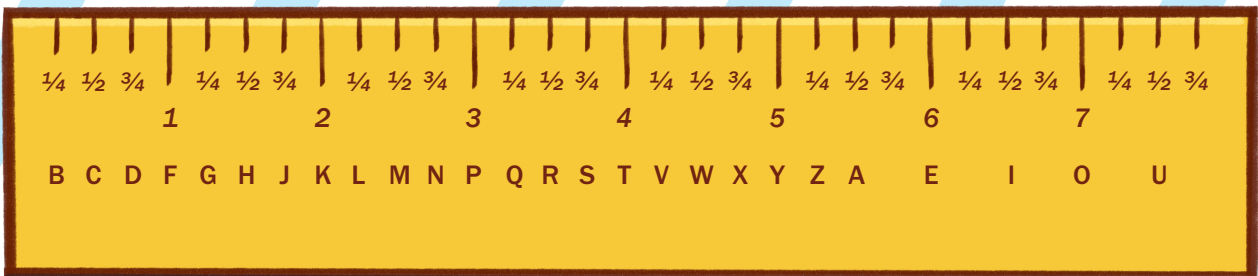
$5\frac{1}{2}$ $2\frac{1}{4}$ $4\frac{1}{2}$ $5\frac{1}{2}$ 5 $3\frac{3}{4}$ 4 $3\frac{1}{2}$ 6 $5\frac{1}{2}$ 4

7 4 $1\frac{1}{2}$ 6 $3\frac{1}{2}$ $3\frac{3}{4}$ $5\frac{1}{2}$ $3\frac{3}{4}$ 5 7 $7\frac{1}{2}$

$4\frac{1}{2}$ 7 $7\frac{1}{2}$ $2\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $2\frac{1}{4}$ $6\frac{1}{2}$ 2 6

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5 7 $7\frac{1}{2}$



THE WRONG WAY

LESSON 155 → Matthew 7:13-14; Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 1:1-6

The boys didn't get to the party in time, because they didn't take the right road.





KEY VERSE

I'M ON THE ROAD TO HEAVEN.

Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able. — Luke 13:24



Everybody seems to be having a great time, Mrs. Wood thought. But hadn't she invited nine kids to the party? She was sure she had. She got out her list and checked it again. Sure enough, she had invited nine and all of them had said they would be here. But two boys were missing!

"Gabe, do you know where Jude and Isaiah are? I have them on my list but they aren't here. Don't they live near you?"

"Yes, Mrs. Wood. Jonah and I started out with them to the party. But then they got a crazy idea to try to get here another way—they thought they knew a shortcut. We told them it was a dumb thing to do because it was almost time for the party to start. But they figured they could beat us by cutting through a field and going down Shorey Road."

"I wonder if they got lost? It's too bad that they are missing out on all the fun. I have places set for them at the table and there are special favors for all of you."

"Well, I kept telling them that Shorey Road wouldn't get them to your house. It starts out going the right direction, but it turns after a couple of blocks and finally winds up at an old dump. They just laughed at Jonah and me, but I guess they'll find out the hard way if they keep on that road and end up missing the party."

Did you know that some people are going to miss Heaven? Not because they planned to miss it, but because they didn't choose the right road—the narrow road that leads to Heaven. Maybe, like the kids in our story, they think they can

get there an easier way or by taking shortcuts. But the Bible clearly states that there is only one way to Heaven. That is through repentance of all our sins and having faith in Jesus Christ as the Savior of our souls. That is what is meant by being born again.

Our Bible text tells us that "strait [or confining] is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life . . ." Do you think that a person trying to enter through the gate could squeeze in with even one little sin? No way! They would eventually have to give up and go to the broad way where there's lots of room for all types of sin.

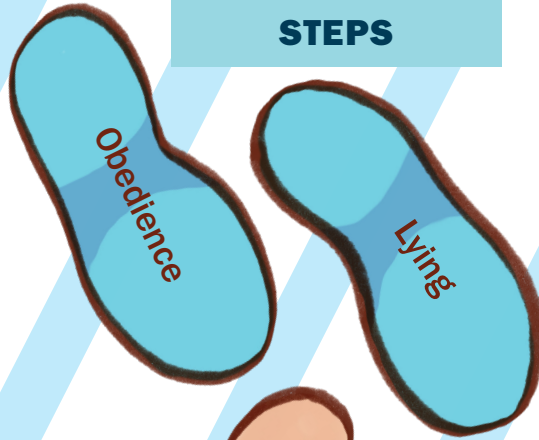
We cannot enter Heaven if we hold on to any of our sins. Many religious people today believe that we constantly sin, that a person cannot live without sin. That doesn't sound like the narrow way Jesus was teaching about, does it? Jesus came to save us from our sins.

Why do you think God made the way to Heaven narrow? Did He want us to miss out on some good times? No, it was because He could see this was the best way for us to live. In the beginning He created us to be pure and holy. He knew that sin would bring sorrow and pain.

It's not hard to walk in the narrow way if you are willing to come to Jesus on His terms. That means you must, first of all, confess that you are a sinner and be truly sorry for your sins. Then, when you ask Jesus' forgiveness and truly believe that He saves you from your sins, you will feel a peace and knowledge in your heart that you have been born again. That starts you on the narrow way which leads to life everlasting. And God is able to keep you from straying onto some other way that would cause you to miss Heaven.

Check to see which road you are on—God's Spirit will be faithful to enlighten you. The responsibility, then, rests on you. Which way are you going?

TAKE THE RIGHT STEPS



Cross out the footprints you will NOT find on the pathway that leads to Heaven. Choose one of the things that you WILL find on the pathway to Heaven and write, on the lines below, an example of what it is.

BUILD ON THE ROCK

LESSON 156 → Matthew 7:24-29; 1 Corinthians 3:9-15



Though both brothers heard their father's advice, one failed to heed it.

Long ago there lived a rich man with two sons—Jonathan and Joseph. One day, calling them to him, he said, “My sons, you are now old enough to leave here and build homes of your own. I possess a beautiful piece of land by the sea—I give it now to you. Build your homes, start your families, live and be prosperous. Remember to honor God as I have taught you and He will bless your lives. But take heed to these words: See that you build upon the

great rock that overlooks the cove. There your homes will be safe from floods and storms. Go now, and may the God of Abraham be with you.” The two brothers stood on the beautiful strip of beach just beneath the rock and looked out at the great sea before them. The younger son, Joseph, cast his eyes upon the smooth glistening sands. As the waves gently lapped upon the shore he thought for a moment, then turned to his brother. “I will go no farther with you, Jonathan, for I



I'M GOING TO DO WHAT JESUS SAID.

Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock. — Matthew 7:24

choose to build here on these golden sands.”

“Brother,” gently replied the elder, “do you not remember our father’s words? We are to build on the great rock.” He pointed to the grassy cliff high above them.

“I will build where I choose,” responded Joseph.

“But the sands are unstable. You must have a foundation that will stand!” pleaded Jonathan. “Come with me and we will build together.”

“You will not rule me!” Joseph walked away in anger. Jonathan slowly turned to the trail and headed alone for the great rock.

Time passed and the houses were built. Joseph erected a mighty mansion on the beach. It had in-door pools, great halls, and marble floors. Jonathan constructed a fine house with a barn and stables high upon the rock.

Joseph held great feasts and parties, and often entertained his friends, but Jonathan was known for his good deeds in helping the poor and building a place of worship for the villagers. The two saw very little of each other.

Years went by, and then one afternoon, Jonathan looked out of his window to see dark clouds gathering on the horizon, clouds such as he had

never seen before. He peered anxiously down at Joseph’s mansion below.

Meanwhile, Joseph also was glancing at the black rolling clouds. As they came nearer, a strange thought passed through his mind. It was as if he heard his father’s words of so long ago: “Take heed! See that you build upon the great rock! There your homes will be safe from floods and storms.”

But I will be safe here in the cove, he thought to himself as he tried to push the concern from his mind.

The storm hit in the middle of the night, and a huge wave crashing against the window awoke Joseph. He listened in terror as the pillars in the halls groaned and shifted, and the savage winds screamed outside. His heart beating wildly, he raced to the door to escape the doomed mansion. Yet even as he ran, the floors started sinking for there was no foundation under them. The sea which he had once thought so calm and beautiful was pouring in from all sides. Forcing his way through the back door, he was seized by a mighty wave and tossed into the churning waters. He caught a glimpse of the great rock with Jonathan’s house safely anchored high above the floods. With an earsplitting crash his own house crumbled and fell. He tried to cry out,

but was choked as the waters closed over his head.

Joseph awoke to the sounds of the sea which seemed to come from far away. Jonathan was seated next to him as he lay on the bed. “Thank the Lord for saving you from the storm, Joseph! We thought you had drowned, but we all gathered around you and prayed. The Lord has answered our prayers and you are with us.”

“Brother,” whispered Joseph weakly, “how foolish I have been. I should have listened. I heard the warning, but I didn’t obey. Now I have lost my home and everything that I own . . . I have nothing.”

“But God has spared your life, Joseph. All is not lost. We will build you a house here on the rock where you belong.”

Jonathan’s gentle words brought hope to Joseph’s heart. Yes, he thought, this time I shall build on the rock.

Like the wise man who built upon the rock, we need to build upon our Rock—Christ Jesus. We can rest safely and securely in Him. And though the storms of sin and the floods of trouble may beat down upon us, with Jesus as our Foundation we shall stand firm.

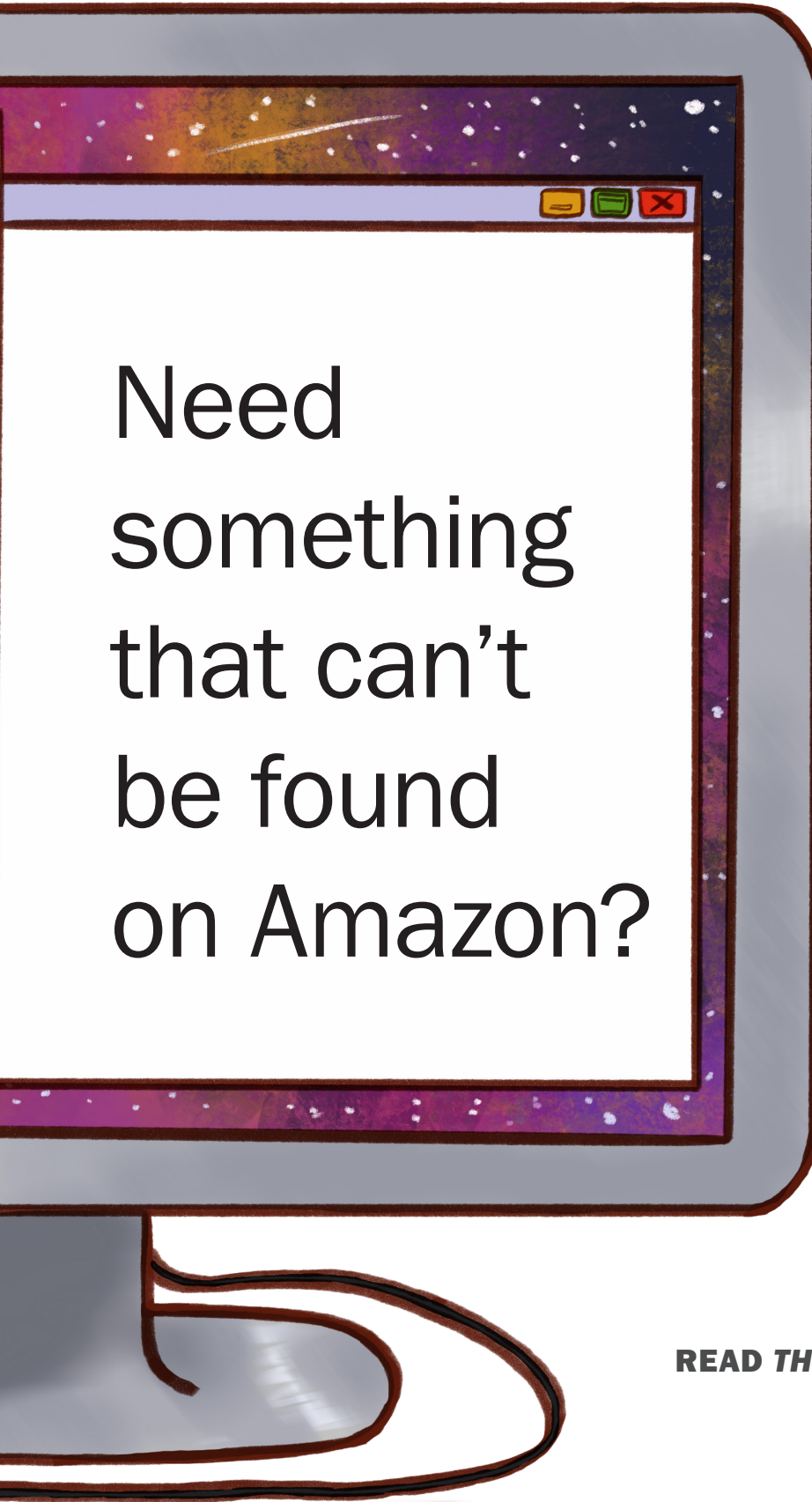
WHAT AM I DOING?

We have all heard what God wants us to do but it is important that we do what He says. The words listed below are from the key verse and will fit into the puzzle. Where is your house built?

HEARETH

DOETH

OF
HIM
HIS
MAN
MINE
ROCK
THEM
UNTO
UPON
WILL
WISE
BUILT
HOUSE
LIKEN
THESE
WHICH
SAYINGS
THEREFORE
WHOSOEVER



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