

AT21t

The Story of God and
His People
(Part 3)

Teacher

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR ADULTS

Year 2. Quarter 1

THE STORY OF GOD AND HIS PEOPLE (PART 3)
(Rewritten)

Teacher's Lessons

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	<u>Table of Contents</u>	<u>Page</u>
Lesson 1	God's Beloved Son	1
Lesson 2	Jesus Overcame Temptation	7
Lesson 3	Jesus Announces the Kingdom of God	13
Lesson 4	Jesus Interprets God's Law	19
Lesson 5	Jesus Teaches God's Judgement	25
Lesson 6	Jesus Offers God's Forgiveness	31
Lesson 7	Jesus Shows God's Power	37
Lesson 8	Jesus as the Christ	43
Lesson 9	The New People of God	49
Lesson 10	The Cost of Following Jesus	55
Lesson 11	Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit	61
Lesson 12	God Gave His Son	67
Lesson 13	God Conquers Sin and Death Through Christ	73

HOW THE TEACHER SHOULD PREPARE TO TEACH EACH LESSON

1. Read all the Background Scriptures. These will help you to know all the events related to today's lesson.
2. Read again the Scriptures Used in Today's Lesson. These are the verses you will discuss as you teach.
3. Read your Teaching Aim. Think about your students and how this aim applies to them. Think about the aim as you prepare to teach. This is what you want to accomplish through your teaching of this lesson.
4. Read the Central Truth of the lesson. This is the basic truth that this lesson will teach your pupils. Think about it and apply it to your own life. Then think about your students and how it is important for them to know this truth.
5. Memorize the memory verse for the day. This will encourage your students to memorize it, too.
6. Read and study all the material in the section called Getting Ready to Teach. You will not read this material to your pupils. It is background material for you, the teacher. It will help you understand the meaning of the verses. It will give you the background knowledge necessary for teaching the lesson.
7. If possible, read the lesson from the student's book as well. This will help you know what he will know as he comes to class. His divisions are like yours, although the information he is given is not usually just the same.
8. Study the Teaching Plan in your lesson. If you follow this plan, it will tell you just how to lead your class. It will make your job much easier. The students will be sure to learn the central truth of the lesson.

9. Look at the items listed under Helps for the teacher. Try to use these. They will be mentioned in the teaching plan. They will add variety and interest to the lesson. NOTE: When you are told to use a chalk board, you can use paper and a marker or pen instead.

10. Let students read Bible passage whenever possible. If your students cannot read, you will need to read the verses to them

11. On Sunday morning follow this plan:

1. Welcome members and visitors.
2. Pray for the sick and troubled and for the class. (Use 2-3 minutes)
3. Teach the lesson (Use 40-45 minutes)
4. Hear and answer questions from pupils (Use 5-10 minutes)
5. Close in prayer.

Lesson 1- God's Beloved Son

Teacher's Lesson

Background Scripture: Matthew 3; John 1:1-36.

Scriptures for Today's Lesson: John 1:19-20,22-23,29-34.

Memory verse: And lo, a voice from heaven saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." Matthew 3:17.

Central Truth: Christians must be faithful in proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ, bringing glory to Jesus and not to themselves.

Teaching Aim: To help students realize that they are messengers who should point others to Jesus.

Helps for the teacher: A piece of paper and a pencil for each student.

Getting ready to teach:

Who are you? Read John 1:19-20, 22-23a.

An official group was sent from the "head office" in Jerusalem. Many people were saying that John the Baptist was the promised Messiah. His fame offended the religious leaders. In addition, he had not given them proper respect. He had not contacted the high priest in his office.

When they came to him, he called them a brood of vipers (snakes!). He used them as an example of what attitudes to preach against. He told them to change their ways. (See Matthew 3:7-10.) They could not depend upon their ancestor Abraham to save them.

Undoubtedly they were very offended. However, they had to stay until they got an answer to take back to the high priest. "Who are you?" they asked.

John immediately said, "I am not the Christ." He wanted that to be clear. He did not answer the question. He did not tell them who he was. He told them who he was not.

In verses 22-23a, the delegation pressed him for an answer. He replied that he was merely a voice. He was preparing the way for the important person yet to be known.

Important Message. Read John 1: 23b.

John had such an important message to deliver that he did not want people looking at him as a special person. He did not want anything to lessen the importance of his message.

He preached, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." (Matthew 3:2.) He was preparing the way for the Saviour. His whole message was "repent and get ready." He never preached anything else. This is a very important message. For a person to accept Jesus as his Saviour he must repent. He must be looking for the Saviour.

A Witness to Jesus. Read John 1: 29-34.

When John saw Jesus, he knew immediately that he was the Lamb of God. He was the perfect sacrifice for man's sin. John was amazed to think that Jesus was God in the form of a man. Even more amazing was that he would humble himself and sacrifice his life for man. John realized this was the most important thing to ever happen.

John's work was to reveal Jesus as the Lamb of God to Israel. Although John had not known that Jesus was the Messiah before this, his Heavenly Father assured him with a promised sign. God's Holy Spirit became visible for a moment to reassure John. He could give witness. "I have seen and I bear witness that this is the Son of God."

Teaching Plan:

Tell this story: "Army General Akama was sent to the city of Puddi to announce the coming of the Commander-in-Chief. Wearing his uniform with all his decorations, he went to the city officials. They were impressed with

him. After many evenings of entertainment, the entire city knew that a man of great courage and respect was among them. His listeners were amazed by his tales of adventure and triumph. Young boys pretended they were Gen. Akama as they fought off masses of the enemy. Three newborn babies received the name Akama. The General was given many gifts. The night before his departure, a great feast was given in his honor. Once again they asked him to tell of the courageous things he had done for their country. He received much praise and admiration. The next morning before he left, he again went to the city officials. He said, "The Commander-in-Chief is coming to your city today. You should have tea for him to show your respect." He left.

Ask: "Were the people of the city excited about the Commander-in-Chief's coming?" (No. Most people did not know.) "Were they ready?" (No.) "Who was the hero in their eyes?" (Gen. Akama) "Why?" (Because Gen. Akama drew attention to himself.)

Say: "Close your eyes. Think about the things you did and said on Friday. Did any of these things draw people to Jesus? Or did they point to you?" Pause for a minute. Ask "What about on Saturday? To whom did your actions and words point?" Give them time to think.

Say: "Today we are studying about a messenger - John the Baptist. John was a well-known man. People respected him and many went to hear him preach. Even the religious leaders thought he was someone special."

Have someone read John 1:19-20.

Ask: "What did the religious leaders ask John?" (Who are you?) "Did he answer their question?" (No)

Say: "He realized that people were thinking that he might be the Messiah. He took this opportunity to stop all such thinking. He told them who he was not. What were his words?" (I am not the Christ.)

Have someone read vs. 22-23. Say: "The question was, "What do you say about yourself?"

Ask: "How did John describe himself?" (As a voice) "What was his purpose or his work?" (To speak the message, "Get ready for God.")

Ask: "What do you say about yourself?" (Do not wait for answers.)
Give each pupil a piece of paper and a pencil.

Say: "Write the answer to these questions. Who are you in relation to God? What is your purpose (or work) in relation to him?" (Possible answers: Who: His child, his servant, his witness, etc.; Purpose: Worship him, tell others about him, etc.) Give them time to write their answers. When they are finished, ask some to share their answers. You share yours too.

Have someone read vs. 29-31. Ask: "When John saw Jesus what did he do?" (He announced that he was the one they were waiting for. He gave him honour.) "What did John say his own purpose was?" (To reveal Jesus to Israel.)

Ask: "As soon as you recognized who Jesus was, did you tell those around you? If you confessed Him as your Saviour, you did."

Say: "John said he came to reveal Jesus to Israel. Israel was his nation. Each of us has the same responsibility to our country and neighbourhood. Now let us each say our name and our neighborhood in this sentence. "I, (name), came to reveal Jesus to (neighborhood)." Let each student say the sentence. You begin.

Say: "This is our purpose."

Have someone read vs. 32-34. Say: "In verse 34, John says that he tells about what he has seen. That is what a witness does. He tells what he has seen. Think for a few moments. What have you seen God do in your life or in the life of another? (Pause) Can you tell about it in a way that gives honour to Jesus? Can you point to him as the source of power? (Pause) Who would like to share with us something which God has done?" (If no one speaks, you tell of something which God has done in your life or in the life of someone you know.)

Conclusion:

Say: "Think about the story of Gen. Akama. He was a very bad messenger. What should he have done differently?" (He should have delivered the message immediately, told of the great thing the Commander-in-Chief had done, created excitement about the Commander's coming, kept quiet about his own deeds.)

Say: "We see that John was a perfect messenger. Why? (He never drew attention to himself. He prepared the way for Jesus. He pointed to Jesus and gave him honour.)

Say: "If we have Jesus in our hearts, we are to be His messengers and witnesses. We have studied what John, a good messenger and witness did. We have seen an example of a bad messenger, too. Let us be good messengers and witnesses to those around us this week."

Close in prayer.

Things to Think About and Do:

1. Tomorrow night think about the day which has passed. To whom did your actions and words give glory?
2. Every night think about what you said and did during the day. Are your actions & words pointing people to Jesus?

3. Tell a friend about something God has done in your life. It may be how He saved you. It may be some help, blessing, or understanding which He has given you. Tell it in a way which gives God all the glory.

Daily Bible Readings:

Sunday: Psalm 51:1-12.

Monday: Matthew 3:1-6

Tuesday: Matthew 3: 7-12

Wednesday: Matthew 3:13-17

Thursday: John 1:19-28

Friday: John 1:29-36

Saturday: Read your Bible study lesson for next week.

Lesson 2-Jesus Overcame TemptationTeacher's Lesson

Background Scriptures: Matthew 4:1-11, Hebrews 2:14-18; 4:14-16.

Scriptures for Today's Lesson: Matthew 4:8-10, Hebrews 2:17-18, ; 4:15-16.

Memory Verse: "For because he himself has suffered and been tempted, he is able to help those who are tempted." Hebrews 2:18.

Central Truth: Satan still tempts Christians today, just as he did Jesus. We can overcome these temptations with Jesus' help.

Teaching Aim: For pupils to know that Jesus understands our temptations. We must go to him for help.

Getting Ready to Teach:

In English "tempt" means to try to make someone do wrong. Satan likes to do that.

The word "tempt" in Greek means to "test". God must allow a man to be tested before he can use him for great things.

Temptation to Worldliness: Read Matthew 4:8-9.

Satan tempted Jesus with what the world had to offer. He knew that Jesus was fully man. Man wants pleasure, beauty, wealth, honour and power. Jesus deserved all these things. He had created them!. Satan now saw the Creator in the weak form of man. Now he could be tempted because he wanted the same things as other men.

Some people fall to the temptation to satisfy only themselves NOW. They turn their backs on God. Other people compromise in temptation. They want salvation but also pleasures of this world. They serve God part-time. What does this mean to us Christians?

Satan Beaten by TRUTH. Read Matthew 4:10.

Jesus' reply was to quote Scripture. Scripture is TRUTH. It is the Word of God. Satan cannot stand against God's Word. There is no compromise in Jesus' answer. "I shall worship and serve God ONLY."

Jesus' answer was a battle cry. It put Jesus and Satan on two different sides that will always be at war. Satan is always opposed to God. God is always opposed to Satan.

Christ Understands and Helps. Read Hebrews 2:17-18; 4:15-16

Christ suffered like we do in order to become a merciful and faithful high priest. He asks the Father to forgive us and help us. He intercedes for us. Our suffering and temptations help us become merciful to others. It shows us why we need to be faithful in bringing others to God. It helps us grow in our faith and obedience.

Understanding comes through experience. Christ's power to help us comes from his own experience with temptation. He understands how strong temptation is. He walked this earth as a man. He knows our needs and sorrows. He has faced our temptations. He knows exactly what help we need. He, as God, can give it to us.

Jesus was tempted in every way. When we are tempted, we cannot say that he does not understand. He knows. We can come boldly to Jesus to ask for help. We can tell him the whole story of our short-comings. He is merciful and will always help us.

Teaching Plan:

Ask: "What does the word 'tempt' mean in our language?" (Receive answers.) Say: "In English it means to try to make someone do wrong. That is what Satan does."

Ask: "When God allows Satan to tempt us, does God want us to do wrong?" (No.)

Say: "The New Testament was written in the Greek language. The word 'tempt' in Greek means to 'test.' Metal must be tested for strength before using it to build a tower. A man also must be tested before God can use him for his purposes."

Ask: "What does Satan want for us when he tempts us?" (Harm)
 "How does God use that same temptation?" (To test our strength.) "If we fail the test, what does it show us?" (A weakness that must be strengthened.) "If we pass the test what happens?" (Our faith increases. We see Satan's weakness and God's strength.) Say: "Passing the test makes us realize more and more that Satan is a loser and we are the winners through Jesus Christ. Today, we will look at ourselves. We come to church and say we serve God. But do we really? All the time?" (Don't receive answers.)

Tell this story: "Paul, a member of the local Baptist church, makes his living by selling liquor. He says, 'I am a Christian. I don't drink alcohol. It is not my fault if other people want to buy liquor. If they did not buy mine, they would buy someone else's.' This man says that he is a Christian. Yet he sells liquor because he makes a lot of money doing it."

Say: "Think about this man. He thought that he was serving God because he went to church and he did not drink alcohol. Who was he serving? (Satan) "Why was he serving Satan?" (He was helping other people sin. He brought shame to the name of Jesus. He was acting like an unbeliever. He loved money, etc.)

Have someone read Matt. 4:8-9. Ask: "What did Satan say he would

give Jesus? (Kingdoms, wealth, everything of the world) "Why could this have tempted Jesus?" (He was a man. Man desires these things.)

Say: "To seek after the pleasures of this world is a great temptation. Maybe none of us act like the man in the story. But what are we seeking after? Our actions will tell us."

Say: "Think about these things. Do you say things about others to make them look worse than you? (Pause) "Do you have many nice clothes while a brother or sister in your church has only old and torn clothing?" (Pause) "Do you keep God's tithe to use yourself?" (Pause) "Do you take bribes?" (Pause). Do you deceive others in buying and selling?"

Say: "Let us discuss some ways that Christians may seek to please themselves instead of God." (Discuss these things thoroughly because they are very important to our lives. Discuss the results of each action. If they cannot think of anything, offer these possibilities. Quarreling with mate, taking the best for one's self, not correcting one's children, not paying debts, telling lies, not doing job well, etc.) Ask: "When we act like this whom are we serving?" (Satan)

Have someone read Heb. 4:15. Ask: "How does this verse say Jesus was tempted?" (In every way as we are.)

Say: "The Bible tells us that Satan tempted Jesus again and again. It was very important to Satan to make Jesus sin. He must have used his full power against him."

Say: "Here are some questions to think about. Answer them silently. When you are tempted, do you realize that Jesus was tempted in the same way?" (Pause) "Do you think he understands when you are tempted?" (Pause) Read Heb. 4:15 again.

Have someone read Heb. 2:17. Ask: "How was Jesus like us?" (In every way) "Was Jesus tempted in every way we are?" (Yes) Because of his suffering and temptation what kind of high priest is Jesus?" (Merciful and faithful).

Have someone read Heb. 2:18. Ask: "When a young woman is ready to deliver her first child, to whom does she go for advice? Does she go to another woman who has had many babies or to a man who drives a truck? (Woman) "Why?" (Because she has had a baby) "When a person wants to learn to drive to whom does he go? To the woman who sells bananas or to an instructor?" (Instructor) "Why?" (Because he knows how to drive.) Say: "The best helper is the person with experience." Ask: "Has Jesus ever been tempted?" (Yes) "Was Jesus ever hungry?" (Yes) "Did Jesus get tired?" (Yes) "Did Jesus ever suffer extreme pain?" (Yes) "Did Jesus ever lose a friend?" (Yes). Say: "He experienced life as we do. He can help us."

Say the memory verse together with your class.

Ask: "Why can Jesus help us?" (He experienced life. He knows exactly what help we need. He is God and he can give it to us.)

Conclusion

Have someone read Heb. 4:16. Ask: "Where does this verse tell us we can go?" (To God, with boldness.) "What will we receive?" (Mercy and help).

Say: "Jesus conquered Satan by never sinning and by paying for our sin on the cross. We can put our trust in him. He is the winner and Satan is the loser."

Have someone read Matt. 4:10. Say: "This is Jesus' battle cry. We, like Jesus, are at war with Satan. There is only one way to win. That is to

put ourselves on the battle line against Satan. We must depend upon Jesus' strength to help us."

Read the verse again. Say: "Let's make this our battle cry too!"

Close with prayer, asking God to strengthen each pupil.

Things to Think About and Do:

1. Sometimes do you think that living a Christian life is too difficult? This week when you are tempted by Satan, write down the temptation. Think about it. Remember that you are to serve God ONLY. Go immediately to Jesus for help. Write down the result. Discuss it with a Christian friend or tell about it in the next S.S. Class.
2. If Satan keeps tempting you about the same thing, remember that Jesus' power is greater than Satans'. If you are a Christian, you can use Jesus' name. Say, "In the name of Jesus, go away from me, Satan. I'm God's child." Ask a friend to join you as you pray.
3. Jesus is able to help us because he was tempted and suffered. You have been tempted and may have suffered. Because you have experienced this, you know that you can go to Jesus for help. Tell someone else about Jesus.

Daily Bible Readings:

Sunday: Psalm 91.

Monday: Genesis 3:1-13.

Tuesday: Romans 7:1-12.

Wednesday: Romans 7:13-25.

Thursday: Hebrews 2:14-18.

Friday: Matthew 7:21-29.

Saturday: Read the Bible Study lesson for this week.

Lesson 3-Jesus Announces the Kingdom of GodTeacher's Lesson

Background Scriptures: Luke 4:17-21, Matthew 4:12-25; 9:35-38.

Scriptures for Today's Lesson: Luke 4:17-21, Matthew 4:16,17,19; 9:35-38.

Memory Verse: "From that time Jesus began to preach, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.'" Matthew 4:17.

Central Truth: Christians should prepare to serve God. Then they should work to spread the Gospel and the kingdom of God.

Teaching Aim: To help pupils realize the need to prepare to serve God. Help pupils make a plan to share the Gospel with lost people whom they know.

Helps for the Teacher: Chalkboard and chalk or a large sheet of paper and a pen or marker. Paper and pencil for each pupil.

Getting Ready to Teach:

The Kingdom of God is a central theme in Jesus' teachings. What and where is the kingdom of God? The present kingdom is God's rule in Heaven and in men's hearts on earth now. The Bible also speaks of a future kingdom when evil will be destroyed. There will be a "new heaven and earth."

Jesus Announces the Kingdom of God: Read Luke 4:17-21.

When Jesus read from scripture in the synagogue, he selected a passage from Isaiah. It told of God's compassion for people.

Jesus showed men that God's kingdom is on earth. It helps us conquer Satan's rule in our lives. Jesus healed the physically blind. But he wanted even more to free men from the spiritual blindness caused by Satan.

Without Jesus, men are captives in Satan's kingdom. Many do not know that they are captives because Satan puts confusion into their minds. Jesus came to set these captives free.

Jesus came to release the oppressed. Many people who love the Lord are suffering from oppression from Satan. Jesus has authority over Satan.

We can conquer Satan too, if Jesus lives in our lives. This is the good news which Jesus announced.

Requirement for Entrance into the Kingdom: Read Matthew 4:16-17.

Satan rules by lies. He blinds people spiritually. Jesus brought the light of truth and spiritual understanding.

Jesus showed man the Kingdom of God on earth. He made it possible for man to become a part of God's Kingdom. He paid for our sins by his death and bought us back from Satan. But to receive this gift, man must REPENT- turn away from his old way of life. Man must turn to God and do all that he requires. God demands total loyalty. When we turn from our old life and turn to God in faith, we become a part of God's Kingdom.

Fishers of Men: Read Matthew 4:19.

Jesus told two fishermen, Peter and Andrew, to follow him. They would not fish for fish anymore. They would fish for men! He wanted them to bring men into God's Kingdom. He wants us to do the same today. Jesus' main interest is to bring all men into God's kingdom.

Jesus called average working men who obeyed immediately. Obedience was the quality Jesus looked for. Their responsibility was to FOLLOW. Jesus would make them fishers of men. We, too, must follow and learn from Jesus.

The Harvest is Ripe: Read Matthew 9:35-38.

Jesus compares the people of the world to fields ready to harvest. The message is urgent. They are ready. If they are not harvested now, they will be lost forever. God sends the harvesters, and gives them his power and authority. Are you ready to work for him?

Teaching Plan:

Say: "Last week we studied about temptation and how to overcome it. Does anyone want to share how Jesus helped you overcome temptation this week?" Give ample time for sharing.

Say: "What is the Kingdom of God?" Listen to the descriptions. (Some will say it is Heaven or after Jesus comes again.) Say: "We like to think about our future. We have wonderful things to look forward to. But what about God's kingdom on earth?" (Do not receive answers.)

Say: "The kingdom of God is different than many people think. We accept the idea of being saved from punishment. We like the idea of all the good that God will bring into our lives. But in addition, we are to be ruled by Jesus. He has work for us to do. Let's talk about the kingdom of God on earth. Every kingdom has three things:" Write on the chalkboard or paper this list:

King with authority -

Subjects to be ruled -

Territory -

Ask: "Let's identify these things in God's kingdom on earth." (King - Jesus; subjects - Christians; territory - men's lives) Ask: "Who are we?" (subjects to be ruled.)

Have someone read Luke 4:17-21. Say: "These verses describe the arrival of the kingdom of God." Ask: "Has this scripture been fulfilled?" (See vs. 21.) "Let us look at the purpose of God's Kingdom more closely."

Say: "1. Preach the good news. What good news? (Salvation has come.) 2. Proclaim release to captives. Whose captives? (Satan's) How are they released? (Through faith in Jesus) 3. Sight to the blind. What do you think this means? (Physical healings, spiritual understanding.) 4. Freedom for oppressed. Who do you think it is talking about? (Wait for answers then

say: "A person can love the Lord but be discouraged or angry. Satan oppresses Christians as much as we allow him to. Jesus can free us from him.") 5. To proclaim God's time. What would happen? (Jesus would reveal God's Kingdom on earth.)

Have someone read Matthew 4:16-17. Say: "Both these prophecies were fulfilled by Jesus. Jesus had compassion on the spiritually blinded people. He brought the Light of God's truth." Ask: "When you go into a dark room with a lantern, what happens to the darkness?" (It is chased away) "Light is more powerful than darkness. What is the light and darkness in this verse?" (Light is the truth of God's kingdom; Darkness is the deceit of Satan and his control of us.)

Have someone read Matthew 9:35-38. Ask: "What was Jesus preaching? (Good news of the kingdom.) What other things did Jesus do? (Healed) What was Jesus' attitude toward people? (Compassion) Of what did they remind Jesus? (Sheep without a shepherd) Why? (They were harassed and helpless) God never harasses people. Who was harassing them? (Satan, evil men) God is love. What do you think he feels when he looks at us today? (Compassion, amazement at lack of faith, sadness, joy with those who trust and follow, etc.) How does Jesus describe people who are ready to hear the gospel? (Fields ready for harvest.) What happens to crops that are not harvested? (They go to waste) "Why would the crops not be harvested?" (Not enough labourers) We do not want to be responsible for someone not being saved. So we must work to bring in the harvest of men for God's Kingdom."

Say: "Prayer is powerful. What does Jesus say we should pray about?" (Pray for God to send more labourers.) The labourers are people. Do you think God wants people to stay in darkness? (No) Why do so few

labour? (People do not obey God's call to labour) What can we do about it?"
(Obey his call and pray for others to obey.)

Say: "Jesus chose workers to help him and learn from him. They were his disciples. They were not special people, not educated or wealthy. But they were ready to follow and obey Jesus. He gave them authority over Satan. He gives us that authority too."

Have someone read Matthew 4:19. "We say we are Jesus' followers. What does it mean to follow Jesus? (Do as he did) We must be very attentive to Jesus. How can we best follow our king, Jesus?" (Study his life and his teachings. Talk to him. Listen to him as he speaks to us in our hearts and in his Word, the Bible) Our responsibility is to follow and obey the King."

Conclusion

Say: "Jesus' responsibility is to make us fishers of men. He is the master teacher and he will teach us well. If we study God's Word, he can speak to us. If we do as he did, he can teach us."

Ask: "What is our place in God's kingdom on earth?" (Subjects to be ruled) "Who is our ruler?" (Jesus) "What does he tell us to do?" (Follow him, learn from him, reap the harvest.)

Pass out paper and pencil to each person. Say: "Make a list of unsaved people whom you know and can contact. This week tell one of them what Jesus has done for you. You may feel like you cannot explain the gospel well. Just tell them how Jesus saved you and changed your life. That is what a witness does- tells what he saw and heard. Use Bible verses which helped you when you accepted Jesus. Pray before you talk to him. Do this every week until you have explained the gospel to every one on your list.

You will find that the more times you explain the gospel, the easier it will be." (Give them about 5 min. to make their lists.)

Close with prayer for strength for each to witness to his friends.

Things to Think About and Do:

1. The best way to learn a skill is as an apprentice. We learn by doing. Read Luke 9:23 and I John 2:6. What do these verses say we should do?

Walk as Jesus walked.

2. Match the Scriptures with the descriptions:

Kingdom of Salvation	<u>d</u>	a. Exodus 19:3-6
Kingdom of Priests	<u>a</u>	b. Psalm 22:25-31
Kingdom of all people	<u>b</u>	c. Matthew 28:18-20
A witnessing Kingdom	<u>c</u>	d. John 3:1-8, 15-17

Daily Bible Readings:

Sunday: Psalm 27.

Monday: Matthew 4:12-25.

Tuesday: Isaiah 61:1-4, Matthew 9:35-10:1.

Wednesday: Matthew 10:5-15.

Thursday: Matthew 10:26-39.

Friday: Acts 2:22-36.

Saturday: Read lesson for this week.

Lesson 4-Jesus Interprets God's LawTeacher's Lesson

Background Scriptures: Matthew 5-7, Exodus 20:3-17, Mark 12:29-31, John 14:8-11.

Scriptures for Today's Lesson: Matthew 5:17-18, 21-22, 27-28, Mark 12:29-31, Exodus 20:3-17.

Memory Verse: Think not that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets: I have come not to abolish them but to fulfil them. Matthew 5:17.

Central Truth: God's law will never change. Jesus helped us understand his law.

Teaching Aim: To help pupils understand the true meaning of God's law.

Helps for the Teacher: Chalk and chalkboard or several large sheets of paper and pen or marker.

Getting Ready to Teach:

Many people think that God is a harsh and unfriendly policeman who takes the joy out of life. He makes rules and says, "Do not do this" and "Do not do that!" Yet the Bible says that God is love. What kind of God is he?

Today we will learn how God gave us the law because he loves us. We will see how God's law can help us. He wants what is best for us and knows we need laws to live safely and happily.

The law is a tool which brings us to God. God's greatest desire for man is that he live in perfect unity with him. This shows that God is Love.

The Greatest Commandment: Read Exodus 20:3-11 and Mark 12:29-30.

The first four Commandments have to do with our relationship to God. Jesus summarizes them into one. "Love God with your whole being." These laws and Jesus' summary show that God wants every part of a man to be committed to him. God loves man with all his love and he demands that same kind of love in return.

The Second Greatest Commandment: Read Exodus 20:12-17 and Mark 12:31.

The remaining six Commandments have to do with our relationships to other people. Jesus sums them up into one: "Love your fellowman." If you love, you will not do the evil actions listed in Exodus. Love considers the well-being of others. It wants only good for others.

Jesus Honors and Fulfills God's Law: Read Matthew 5:17-18.

Man's laws may change with circumstances and attitudes. But God's law will never change. Jesus came to obey the law perfectly. Because he did this he could die in our place as a perfect sacrifice. His death paid the penalty for our sin.

Judgment Of the Inner Man: Read Matthew 5:21-22, 27-28.

If a person's actions are good no court of law would accuse him. Even so, he can still be guilty before God. God judges the thoughts and desires of man. In God's court a man is guilty if he thinks evil thoughts. He is condemned if his heart is filled with anger.

Teaching Plan:

Ask: "Do any of you want to tell us about sharing the Gospel with someone this week?" Let students share their experiences.

Say: "God is the Law-giver. God is Love. Do you believe he can be both? Some people think of God as being the Big Policeman saying, 'Do not do this' and 'Do not do that!' 'If you do, I will get you!'"

Say: "Can you think of three reasons why God's law is good for man?" (1. It shows us the character of God - He is holy. 2. We can see by the law that we are sinful creatures and need to be saved. 3. Man needs law for protection against other men.)

Say: "If God did not care for us, he would not have given us the law. He gave it for our protection and well-being. He knew that without it, we would not live safely and happily."

Have the pupils try to recall the Ten Commandments. (Keep Bibles closed!) They do not need to be in order. After you have written as many as they remember on the board or paper, have someone read Exodus 20:3-11. Add those which were left off. Refer to the first 4 Commandments.

Ask: "Do you see how these first four commandments are alike?" (They are about our relationship to God). Say: "Jesus summed up these four in one commandment. Does anyone know it?" (Let them answer) Have someone read Mark 12:29-30.

Ask: "How shall we love the Lord our God?" (Write as they answer: Heart, Soul, Mind, Strength) Explain: "Heart is our emotions; Soul is our spirit; Mind is our intelligence; Strength is our body."

Say: "Think for a moment which is the most difficult for you and why?" (Give them time to think and answer. If no one answers, you share. Then perhaps others will want to share.)

Say: "We cannot love God completely if we do not trust him. Do you believe that God cares about you? Do you believe that he wants what is best for you?" Jesus said, "He who has seen me has seen the Father." Jesus showed us what God is like. All ideas about God must be compared to Jesus' life and words. If our ideas do not agree with what Jesus showed God to be, then they are false. Can you trust God if he is like Jesus? (Let them answer) "God is trustworthy. He loves us and wants what is best for us. He deserves our total love and commitment. His first law tells us to love him. He knows that we will be happiest if we love and obey him."

Say: "Now let us look at the rest of the Commandments." Have a pupil read Exodus 20:12-17. Ask: "How are these last six Commandments alike?" (They are about our relationship to other people.) "Jesus summed up these six Commandments into one."

Have someone read Mark 12:31. Say: "Jesus used the word 'neighbour' to mean fellowman. How should we love our fellowman?" (As ourselves) Say: "The word 'love' in the first language of the New Testament does not mean a personal liking. It means goodwill. It means seeking the best for someone."

Say: "God commands us to seek the best for our fellowman. He knows that if we only think about ourselves, we will not be happy. Let us talk about how we can love those in our homes." Discuss how these people would like to be treated: mate, children, parents, etc. After the discussion, ask someone to pray for our homes.

Say: "Now let us talk about seeking the best for people in our church." (Possibilities: supporting the pastor, encouraging people, helping those in need because of illness, age, or death, etc.) Have someone pray for your church.

Say: "What can you do in your community to help?" (Possibilities: help the poor, teach about health, use soil and trees wisely and carefully, plan activities for the youth, witness, etc) Have someone pray for your community.

Say: "What about our nation? Can we do anything about the problems of its people?" (Helping orphans or the homeless, spreading the gospel in other areas, pay taxes, attend meetings, be involved in government as much as possible, etc.) Have someone pray for your nation.

Say: "What about other nations?" (Help foreigners, or refugees, send missionaries, send aid, etc.)

Say: "We have looked at people's needs in our homes, church, community, and nation. There should be several things which are possible for you to do. Jesus wants us to love others enough to help them. He wants us to love others as much as we love ourselves. He does not want us to think only of our own well-being. Will you do something to help others in need this week?"

Say: "Jesus told us that God does not look at our actions only. He also looks at our thoughts. What would you think if a policeman came to you and said, 'I saw you looking at that Mercedes Benz. I know you want it very much. It belongs to someone else, therefore I am arresting you.'" Ask: "In a country where people are arrested for their thoughts and desires who would be in jail?" (Everyone)

Have someone read Matthew 5:21-22, 27-28. Ask: "What did Jesus teach us in these verses about sin?" (It is thoughts and actions)

Say: "We can see that we are all guilty of sin. Each of us has been angry or jealous. Even our thoughts can condemn us."

Conclusion

Have someone read Matthew 5:17-18. Ask: "Will God's law ever change?" (No) Say: "Man changes his idea of what is right or wrong. There is nothing stable in man. But God's law will never change."

Say: "God's love for us will not change either." Ask: "For whose well-being did God the Father send Jesus to earth?" (Ours) "What did Jesus say that he came to do?" (Fulfil the law) Say: "Jesus loved God's law. He saw that it is good. He obeyed it perfectly. He was the only one to ever do that." Ask: "Because Jesus never sinned, what could he do for us?" (He could die in

our place) Say: "Remember that God is love. He gave us laws to protect us. When we disobeyed them and deserved the death penalty, he sent Jesus so we could go free. God is good. God is love. He is worthy of our trust and total commitment."

Lead in closing prayer that God will help us see ways to show his love.

Things to Think About and Do:

1. Loving God. Do you really trust God? This week study the life and words of Jesus in Matthew. What are your ideas about God the Father? How do these thoughts compare to the life and words of Jesus? Jesus is the true revelation of the Father. He shows us what God is like. If we have ideas about God which are different from what Jesus showed us, we are wrong. If you do not trust God your life cannot be as blessed as God wants it to be.

Are you serving God or yourself with your time and energy? When you are serving others you are also serving God.

2. Loving Your Fellowmen. Look at the people in your home. Put yourself in each of their places. If you were they, how would you like to be treated?

Do the same for people in your church, community and nation. By the end of the week God may lead you to do something for someone else. You may be ready to tell about this next week.

Daily Bible Readings:

Sunday: Deuteronomy 5:6-21.

Monday: Matthew 5:17-26.

Tuesday: Matthew 5:38-48.

Wednesday: Matthew 7:21-28.

Thursday: John 15:12-17.

Friday: I John 1:1,2, 9-10.

Saturday: Read next week's Lesson.

Lesson 5- Jesus Teaches God's JudgementTeacher's Lesson

Background Scripture: Genesis 1:27,28,31; 3:1-8; Romans 8:1,2; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43; 2 Peter 3:9.

Scriptures for Today's Lesson: Genesis 1:27,28,31; 3:4,5,8; Romans 8:1,2; Matthew 13:24-30; 37-43; 2 Peter 3:9.

Memory Verse: "And just as it is appointed for men to die once, and after that comes judgement." Hebrews 9:27.

Central Truth: Jesus taught that God's judgement is sure to come. It is delayed to give time for repentance.

Teaching Aim: For pupils to realize that judgement is coming and they must bring the lost to Jesus.

Helps for the Teacher: Chalk and chalkboard, or large sheet of paper and marker or pen.

Getting Ready to Teach:

God's Beautiful Creation Corrupted: Read Genesis 1:27,28,31 ; 3:4,5,8.

We are God's highest creation. He created us to have fellowship with him. He wanted to help us rule over the earth perfectly.

When Satan rebelled against God, he tried to destroy everything God loved. He destroyed our perfect fellowship with God. Man chose to believe a lie about God and to disobey him. When man rebelled, his sin broke his fellowship with God. He then had a rebellious sinful nature. Because of sin in men, Satan could harm the rest of earth. Man, as sinful ruler, would destroy it.

There Are Eternal Laws: Read Romans 8:1,2.

Why must there be punishment? Why cannot God just forgive us?

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There Are Eternal Laws: Read Romans 8:1,2.

Why must there be punishment? Why cannot God just forgive us?

1. The Law of Sin and Death. The Bible says the wages of sin is death. This death is separation from all that is good. It is separation from God. When a man chooses to do evil, he becomes Satan's disciple.

2. The Law of the Spirit of Life. Only a sinless man could die in the place of sinners. For man to be saved, Jesus had to come and live a perfect life. Then he could pay for our sins by his death. He renewed our fellowship with God. He gave us life.

3. The Law of Repentance. The Bible says that if we do not repent and leave our sin, we will die. Man himself must choose life or death.

Sons of God and Sons of Satan: Read Matthew 13: 24-30, 37-43.

Jesus taught his disciples about these truths by using parables. He showed how Satan does his work and tries to destroy man. He showed how the "weeds" will be destroyed and the "wheat" saved.

Jesus explained his story. The children of God are surrounded by evil and those who rebel against God. Those who belong to Satan grow in hardness of heart against God. Those who belong to God grow spiritually in goodness and grace.

A time will come when evil and all who rebel against God will be punished. God will separate them from the ones saved by the righteousness of Jesus. It will be a terrible time for them.

We who trust in Jesus are counted as righteous. He says we will "shine." We do not know the details of our future life. We only know that it will be more wonderful than anything we can imagine.

God Delays Judgment: Read 2 Peter 3:9.

Many people are slow to come to God. Many have not yet heard about Jesus. In his mercy and love for man, God delays the day of judgement. Judgement will be a day of great sorrow for him.

Teaching Plan:

Ask: "Did God lead any of you to do something to show your love to someone this week?" Give students a few minutes to share.

Say: "God loves us. Judgment is coming. How can both be true?" Ask someone quote John 3:16. Ask: "Does God want people to perish?" (No) "How do you know?" (He gave his beloved Son to suffer and die for us) Say: "God loves us!"

Have someone read Gen. 1:27,28,31. Ask: "Was God pleased with his creation?" (Yes) "What was man supposed to do?" (Multiply and rule the earth) Have someone read Genesis 3:4,5,8. Say: "The serpent is Satan. He hates God so he tried to destroy the things God loves." In verse 4 what did Satan tell Eve?" (You will not die) "He put doubt into Eve's mind about God's word and intentions. What good thing did Satan say that God wanted to keep from her?" (Being like God) "Whom did she choose to believe?" (Satan) "She decided that she knew better than God what was good for her. When people believe they can rule their lives better than God, they are listening to Satan's lie."

Ask: "What happened to the fellowship between God and Adam and Eve?" (It was broken) "Instead of wanting to be with God, how did they feel?" (Fearful; hid from him.)

Say: "Satan lied about God. Eve believed the lie. She doubted God's word and intentions. Satan does the same today. Can you name any of the lies Satan tell us? (There is no hell. If I trust Jesus, I will not have any fun. God will weigh my good deeds against my bad deeds. God does not love me. God will not forgive me. I won't like the life God has for me. etc.)

Say: "It is sin or rebellion against God to believe Satan's lies instead of God's word. People will be judged for their rebellion against God."

Ask: "Why must sin be punished? Why cannot God just forgive us?"

(Let students answer.)

Say: "Sin is rebellion against God. It is failing to live up to God's standard. There are laws about sin in the Bible."

Ask: "According to the Bible, what are the wages of sin?" (Death)

Write on paper or board: "1. Law of Sin and Death." Say: "God told Adam and Eve the truth. Sin brings spiritual death - separation from God. All men have sinned; all sinners deserve death."

Ask someone to read Romans 8:1,2. Say: "The first law is the Law of Sin and Death. What law do we find here?" (The Law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus.) Write: "2. Law of the Spirit of Life." Say: "Remember the law says when a man sins, the payment for that sin is death. What did God do for us? (He sent his beloved son to die in our place) "What did we learn last week about Jesus' obeying the law?" (He never sinned. Therefore he could pay our debt.) Say: "Jesus can give us the Spirit of Life. He can destroy the law of sin and death."

Point to #1 and #2. Say: "First is the Law of Sin and Death. Then the Law of the Spirit of life in Jesus Christ." Write: "3. Law of Repentance." Say: "Luke 13:5 says, 'Unless you repent you will all perish.' What does repent mean?" (Be sorry for our sins and give our lives to Jesus to rule.) "We can repent of our sinful living and accept the Spirit of life which Jesus offers. Then the law of sin and death has no power over us." Point to #1. Say: "Satan brought sin and death to men." Point to #2. Say: "God brings life to men." Point to #3. Say: "Man decides which law will work in his life. He chooses (Point to #1.) death or (Point to #2) Life."

Say: "Jesus showed this truth in a story he told. Have someone read Matthew 13:24-30. Say: "Satan has worked hard to destroy God's creation - especially man whom God loved best."

Say: "Jesus explained this story in verses 37-43." Have someone read Matthew 13:37-39. Say: "Remember we studied about God's kingdom. Here we see sons of that Kingdom called "good seed." Who are the weeds?" (Sons of the evil one - Satan's sons). "Jesus is showing believers and ungodly people side by side. The ungodly were placed there by Satan to destroy those following God."

Have someone read Matthew 13:40-42. Say: "Jesus warned us of the horrible future for those belonging to Satan. Do you think God delights in what will happen to those people?" (No) "He wants all men to repent and escape judgement. He paid the price so we could escape. He has commanded Christians to tell others so all can escape. But God is just. Those who disobey will be punished. Those who obey will be rewarded."

Conclusion

Have someone read Matthew 13:43. Ask: "Is anyone without sin?" (The Bible says that every man has sinned except Jesus) "How can anyone be called righteous?" (Whoever repents is saved by Jesus' righteousness) "By our faith in Jesus we are counted righteous. Our sins have been washed away by Jesus' blood. We are clean."

Ask: "What does this verse say the righteous will do?" (Shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father) "We are told that we cannot imagine the wonderful life God has prepared for those who love him."

Say: "Read 2 Peter 3:9." Ask: "Why is God delaying his judgement?" (He wants all men to come to repentance) "God loves all men."

Say: "Before Jesus ascended to heaven he told each of us to tell all men of every nation about his gift of salvation. This is his plan for saving man. Judgement is coming. Man's time for choosing life or death is in his lifetime. After death he will not have another chance to decide. Share the Good News with everyone you know."

Say the memory verse together. Then lead in closing prayer.

Things to Think About and Do:

When you look at non-Christians around you, do you realize that Judgement Day is coming for them?

1. Pray for them to believe God sent Jesus for their sakes.
2. Live a life which shows God's love to draw them to him.
3. Speak the message of salvation clearly and boldly.

Daily Bible Readings:

Sunday: Amos 3:1-8.

Monday: Amos. 9:7-15.

Tuesday: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23.

Wednesday: Matthew 13:10-17.

Thursday: Revelation 19:1-10.

Friday: Revelation 19:11-16.

Saturday: Read your lesson for this week.

Lesson 6- Jesus Offers God's ForgivenessTeacher's Lesson

Background Scripture: Matthew 18:23-35; Luke 7:36-50.

Scripture for Today's Lesson: Luke 7:36-40, 44-50.

Memory Verse: "Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow." Isaiah 1:18.

Central Truth: Only Jesus can forgive sins. Without forgiveness, man will perish. With forgiveness comes the desire to love and serve Jesus.

Teaching Aim: For pupils to realize that their love for Jesus should make them want to serve him.

Helps for the teacher: None.

Getting Ready to Teach:

An alcoholic needs help. Not all alcoholics will admit that they have a problem. An alcoholic who refuses to believe he has a problem cannot be helped. The first thing he must do is to admit that he has a problem.

Today's lesson is about two people who needed Jesus' forgiveness. One did not admit it. The other did.

Two Kinds of Sinners: Read Luke 7: 36-40.

A private dinner in Palestine often looked like public entertainment. Uninvited people would come in to watch and listen. The "sinner" who served Jesus in this account was probably a prostitute.

Simon had invited Jesus because he thought he might be a prophet. He changed his mind when Jesus did not seem to know the character of this woman. But Jesus knew Simon's thoughts. He loved Simon and wanted him to learn.

Love Leads to Service: Read vs. 44-47.

Simon invited Jesus to his house as a special guest. Yet he failed to show Jesus the usual courtesy given to a special guest. Servants washed a

guest's dusty feet in wealthy households like Simon's. They poured fragrant oil on their heads as a sign of honour. Hosts greeted the honoured guest with a kiss on the cheek. Simon did none of this for Jesus. He treated Jesus very rudely. In contrast the woman showed her love and respect for him.

Jesus said the woman's sins were forgiven because she "loved much." Her love showed she knew who Jesus was. She knew he had the power to save her - and so she loved him. She humbled herself before him.

No One But God Can Forgive Sin: Read vs. 48-50.

Jesus forgave the woman's sins. Only God could forgive sin! People were puzzled when Jesus put himself on the level of God. Some were upset and offended. Others felt hopeful when they heard his words.

The woman believed Jesus had the power to forgive her. She knew he loved her and wanted to help her. This simple faith saved her and made her new.

Teaching Plan:

Ask: "Does an alcoholic need help?" (Yes) "Will all alcoholics admit they have a problem?" (No) "Can an alcoholic be helped if he refuses to believe he has a problem?" (No) "What is the first thing he must do?" (Admit that he has a problem.)

Say: "Today's lesson is about two people who both needed Jesus' forgiveness. One admitted it and one did not.

"To understand today's lesson it will be helpful to know a bit about the Pharisees. The Pharisees were a group of religious leaders. They thought they had a special relationship to God which others did not have. They thought they were his special chosen people-above others.

"They thought that common people were not acceptable to God. They were 'unclean'. The Pharisees did not want anyone common to touch them

or their belongings. They went through rituals to purify their things and themselves.

"They followed all the traditions handed down by their ancestors. They honoured these traditions as much as the Scriptures. Some of them wrote books to interpret the meaning of scripture.

"Now as you listen to the scripture, think about Simon the Pharisee. What did he think?" Have someone read Luke 7:36-46 rather slowly. Encourage members think as they read along silently.

Ask: "What do you think Simon felt and thought?" (Some possible answers: He was not sure who Jesus was. He thought he was very spiritual and could judge other people. He was proud. He thought that he understood more than Jesus. He was disgusted that Jesus let this woman touch him. He suspected Jesus to be 'common'. He did not give much honour nor respect to Jesus because he did not welcome him well. He did not like the unclean woman being in his house. He was embarrassed by what she was doing. He might have been thinking of what his fellow Pharisees would say about his having a false prophet and a harlot in his house, etc.)

Say: "Now let us think about the woman. The word 'sinner' here probably means prostitute. She is a woman who offers her body to men for pay. Laws concerning this sort of woman in Israel were harsh. If she were a priest's daughter, she would be burned to death. If she were an ordinary Israelite girl found guilty, she would be stoned to death. No one of respect would be seen with such a woman."

Say: "Listen to the verses again and think about the woman and how she felt and thought." Have someone read verses 36-46 slowly.

Ask: "What do you think she might have been feeling and thinking?" (Some possible answers: She was sorry for her wasted life of sin. She knew

she needed forgiveness. She was humble. She was not pleased with herself. She knew that she was despised. She knew that she might be thrown out of Simon's house but she sought forgiveness at all costs. She loved Jesus and wanted to express it. She wanted to give her best, etc.)

Have someone read vs. 47-50. "Jesus showed that he had the authority to forgive sins. This was the same as saying that he was God." Ask: "Do you think that Simon needed forgiveness?" (Yes) "Why?" (All men are sinners.) Ask them to name some of the sins they can see in Simon. "Why did Simon not receive forgiveness?" (He did not seek it because he did not think he needed to be forgiven. He did not believe that Jesus was God.)

Ask: "Why was the woman forgiven?" ("For she loved much" and she believed Jesus could forgive her.)

Say: "We have many reasons to love Jesus. Do you know what your sins have cost Jesus? What are some of the things he did in order to give us forgiveness?" (Some possible answers: He gave up the joys and pleasures of Heaven to come to earth as man. He was rejected by men. He was ridiculed. He was cruelly beaten with a whip having metal pieces in it. He was beaten with fists. He was spat upon. Nails were hammered through his hands and feet. He was hung in the hot sun to die. People stood around to watch him suffer and die. He was completely separated from God the Father. He carried the burden of all our sin, etc.)

Say: "Jesus, God in man's form, came to live, suffer and die that we might have forgiveness. "Why did Jesus have to come as a man?" (To live a sinless life in order to pay for our debt of sin, by his death) "In John 14:6, Jesus said, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life.' What does the rest of the verse say?" (No one comes to the Father, but by me.) In last week's lesson about Judgement what did we learn would happen to men who did not come

to Jesus?" (They would be judged and sent to Hell) "Without Jesus there is no hope."

Say: "God loves us so much that he planned for Jesus to pay our debt. We would have had to die if he had not died in our place. We owe him our lives and all our love."

Conclusion

Ask: "What is the greatest commandment which we learned in Lesson 4?" (Love the Lord your God with all your soul, heart, mind and strength.)

Say: "The woman loved Jesus and had faith in him. How did she show it?" (By serving him) "Words would not have been enough. If we love God as we should, words are never enough. Jesus no longer lives on earth, so we cannot do as this woman did. What can we do?" (Jesus said if we love him we will keep his commandments. We can serve and help others.)

Say: "In Lesson 4 we looked at ways in which we might do this. We talked about serving God through helping others-our families, our church, our community, our nation and the world. Have you actually done any of these things?" (Give time for testimonies.)

If most pupils have not done anything, go back to Lesson 4 and review the possibilities. Help students choose one thing to do this week.

Close in prayer.

Things to Think About and Do:

1. Are you like Simon? Do you do only the smallest amount for God?
2. Or are you more like the woman. Do you give him your best? Do you have a time set aside to be with him alone?
3. Look again at Lesson 4. Think about how you can put the two greatest commandments into action.

Daily Bible Readings:

Sunday: Psalm 62:1-7

Monday: Deuteronomy 4:26-31.

Tuesday: Nehemiah 1:5-11.

Wednesday: 2 Chronicles 7:11-18.

Thursday: Hosea 14:1-9.

Friday: Matthew 18:21-34.

Saturday: Read your next lesson.

Lesson 7-Jesus Shows God's PowerTeacher's Lesson

Background Scripture: Matthew 8:1-3, 14-17; 9:35-38, Matthew 10:1-20, Luke 10:1-9, 16-20,

Scriptures for Today's Lesson: Matthew 8:14-17; 9:35-36; 10:1, 7-8, 16-20, Luke 10:17,20

Memory Verse: "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; ... he went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him." Acts 10:38.

Central Truth: Jesus had power to heal and free men from Satan's power.

When he asks us to serve him, he equips us with the power to do his will.

Teaching Aim: For pupils to realize that God gives us the power to carry out his will.

Helps for the Teacher: Chalkboard and chalk or a large sheet of paper and marker; questions for the three groups written on paper. (See Teaching Plan.)

Getting Ready to Teach:

You would not tell your son to chop down the tree in your field without giving him an axe to use. That would be ridiculous! You could not expect him to do it. Nor does God send us out to do his work without giving us what we need. Today we will see this truth in our lesson.

Jesus Showed God's Power and Had Compassion: Read Matthew 8:14-17; 9:35-36.

Jesus had power to heal the sick. He healed lepers, the blind and the lame. He freed those who were ruled by evil spirits. Everywhere he preached the sick came to him and were healed. (See Matthew 9:35) All were amazed at his great power and love.

As Jesus looked at the people, he had compassion for them. He realized he was only one man and could only be in one place at a time. He needed more workers, so that more people could experience God's grace. He asked God to send more workers so more could hear the good news of salvation and forgiveness.

Jesus Called His Disciples Into Service: Matthew 10:1,7-8.

Jesus called his disciples to him. He told them they had been chosen for a special task. Then he gave them his authority to preach and heal. They were to give freely, as they had received.

Jesus also commands us, "Go." He calls us to do his work on earth. To people wanting to hear, we can say that the kingdom of God has come. We can tell them of the finished work of Jesus. We, like the disciples, have the authority to use Jesus' name to perform acts of mercy. All that we do should give honour and glory to his name.

Jesus Promised to Help: Matthew 10:16-20.

Jesus called the disciples to be his representatives under God's authority. He warned them that the task would not be easy. Some would hate them for what they did. They would be like lambs among wolves.

But we read about their return in Luke's gospel. (Read Luke 10:17.) Although they went as lambs among wolves, they returned with joy. They had seen God using them as channels for his power to reach out to people. Even the demons obeyed them because of Jesus.

Jesus gave a precious promise in verses 19-20. He promised to be present in spirit with his disciples when they were brought into court for his sake. He would tell them what to say. They were his representatives. He would help them do the work he gave them. He would speak through them.

and protect them as they obeyed him. The work they did would show men Jesus is the Saviour.

Rejoice in God's Power: Matthew 10:17, 20.

When the disciples returned they were happy. "Even demons obeyed us," they said. But Jesus warned his disciples to remember what is important. The miracle of salvation is more important than any other. Not only can God heal the sick and cast out demons, he can take away sin! The realization of salvation by grace leads to humility before God. Without him, we are nothing.

Teaching Plan:

Ask: "Do you remember the three things that make the kingdom of God on earth? (King with authority-Jesus; Subjects to be ruled- Christians; Territory-men's hearts and lives) Write these on the chalkboard or paper.

Ask: "Does Jesus have the right to tell us what to do?" (Yes) "Why?" [He made us; He bought us with his own blood; We gave ourselves to him (became his subjects) in order to be saved.]

Say: Today we shall see how Jesus' power is ours as we work for him." Ask a student to read Matthew 8:14-17. Say: "Jesus began his ministry by preaching repentance. He announced the Kingdom of God. Then he began to show the people God's power. He healed many who had incurable diseases. He cast out evil spirits. He fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah." Read verse 17 again.

Divide the class into three groups. Write the instructions and questions given below on pieces of paper for each group. (Do not include the answers. They are for the teacher only.) Give each group their questions. Allow them ten minutes to decide on answers.

Group One: Read Matthew 9:36-38. Why did Jesus feel compassion? (He saw the weak and helpless people. He loved them and wanted to help them.) What is the harvest? (People who will accept Jesus if they hear.) Who are the labourers? (Christians). What are the labourers to do with the harvest? (They are to bring the harvest safe into the store-house.) What does this mean to us? (We are to bring people into the safety of God's kingdom by telling them about Jesus.)

Group Two: Read Matthew 10:1. What did Jesus do here? (He sent out people into every town into which he was soon to go.) Read Matthew 10:7-8. What were they to do? (Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons, announce the kingdom of God.)

Group Three: Read Matthew 10:16-18. What did Jesus do to his disciples? (Sent them out) Does it sound easy and pleasant? (No) Why do you think he described Christians as lambs? (Possibilities: Christians should be innocent of evil, gentle, peaceful) Who are the wolves? (Those who refuse to listen and are opposed to the news about Jesus.) What did Jesus warn the disciples about? (Men who would beat them and take them before rulers for Jesus' sake.)

Have someone in Group One read their verses, questions and answers.

Say: "The disciples were to prepare the way for Jesus. We are to do that also. But we can now say that the kingdom of God has come. We can tell people that Jesus has paid the debt for our sins by dying in our place. Now all can be free from Satan's rule if we repent of our sins and make Jesus ruler of our lives. We can be a part of God's kingdom. He gives us power and authority over Satan by Jesus name."

Have someone in Group Two read their verses, questions and the group's answers. Explain further if necessary to make sure all understand.

Have someone in Group Three read their verses, questions, and the group's answers. Say: "Jesus, our king, sends us out among people who may or may not like our message. We are to tell the Good News. Some are ready to hear and believe."

Ask a student to read Matthew 10:19-20.

Ask: "Why did the disciples not need to be afraid in times of trouble? (Because they had his authority, they spoke for him.) How would they know what to say?" (God would tell them.) "Who would be speaking?" (God.) "What does this mean to us?" (We must be careful to listen to God before we speak. We must never forget that all we do and say should bring glory to God, not to ourselves.)

Read Luke 10:17. Ask: "How did the disciples return?" (Victorious, full of joy.) "Why?" (Even demons obeyed them in Jesus' name.) "Why were they so happy about that?" (Demons are more powerful than humans and give some people terrible troubles.) "How did the disciples cast out demons?" (By using the power and authority of Jesus' name.)

Say: "The disciples were to heal the sick and tell people about the kingdom of God. When they came back they were rejoicing that even demons obeyed them. Jesus was happy that they realized their place in the kingdom of God. They had authority in his name."

Conclusion

Have someone read verse 20. Ask: "What is the most important thing to rejoice in?" (Salvation.) Say: "When a Christian uses the authority which Jesus gives him, miraculous things happen. People accept Jesus as Lord, others are healed, etc. But what is the danger to that Christian?" (Pride; and being overly interested in miracles.) "What must he remember about himself?" (He is a forgiven sinner. He is in the kingdom of God because

Jesus died for him. The power comes from Jesus.) "What should he remember about miracles?" (They are not as important as eternal salvation).

Say: "We are subjects in the kingdom of God. As subjects, God gives us work to do. He gives us the ability to do all that he asks. We should rejoice in our salvation and the opportunity we have to share the good news with others."

Close with prayer.

Things to Think About and Do:

1. As a soldier in God's kingdom, what should you do?
 2 Timothy 2:3,4. a. share suffering. b. please your commander.
 2 Corinthians 6:3-7. a. harm no person. b. endure much.
 Ephesians 6:11-13. a. do not fight Satan in own strength. b. put on the armour of God.
2. Who gives authority? Read Luke 9:1,2; Matthew 28:18-20. Jesus
 What are the orders?
preach, teach, baptize, heal, cast out demons, whatever he tells us to do.
3. What should our attitude be? Read Luke 22:27. servicing, humble.
4. What is the most important thing to a man? Read Mark 8:36-37, Luke 10:20. Saving his soul.
5. How did Jesus feel about his followers using his power? Read Luke 10:21-23. He rejoiced.

Bible Readings:

Sunday: Psalm 95:1-7.

Monday: Deuteronomy 26:1-11.

Tuesday: Psalm 105:1-11.

Wednesday: Psalm 106:1-12.

Thursday: Matthew 8:5-17.

Friday: Luke 8:26-39.

Saturday: Luke 9:1-11. Read your next lesson.

Lesson 8- Jesus As the ChristTeacher's Lesson

Background Scripture: Matthew 16:13-23. Isaiah 42:1-4.

Scriptures for Today's Lesson: Matthew 16:13-23.

Memory Verse: Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the son of the living God." Matthew 16:16.

Central Truth: Christ, the Messiah, was promised in the Old Testament. We must recognize Jesus as Christ and Lord of our lives to have eternal life.

Teaching Aim: For pupils to recognize Jesus as the promised Messiah; to realize that they are responsible for making Jesus known to others.

Helps for the Teacher: Chalk and chalkboard or three sheets of paper and marker or pen. Write "Every shop is selling sugar at half-price today." on a small piece of paper folded to hide the message. Write Bible references on slips of paper. (See Teaching Plan.)

Getting Ready to Teach:

An important Question: Read Matthew 16:13-16.

For over two years Jesus revealed himself daily to his closest disciples. Did they understand who he was? He asked them openly. Peter was the first to speak and he gave the correct answer. It was important for the disciples to know who Jesus was. God's purpose in Jesus could only be fulfilled when Jesus was recognized as the promised Messiah. Then men could be saved by his death.

New Community: Read vs. 17-18.

By man's logic, God's plan of redemption is foolishness. But God gives spiritual understanding to men and he revealed the truth to Peter. Jesus praised him for being a man of faith. Jesus depended on that kind of faith to build his church. The faithful church stands strong and overcomes Satan's forces. The kingdom of darkness and death cannot win against it.

The Roman Catholic Church uses verse 18 to support their system of popes. They believe Jesus chose Peter as his single authority on earth. Jesus did not put Peter in such a position. He praised Peter's faith. Peter was a great apostle, but Jesus did not choose him as his representative on earth. All Christians are equal before God. None has authority over another.

The New Community Holds the Keys to the Kingdom: Read vs. 19-20.

Jesus showed the church who he is. He gave us the mission of making him known to the world. We hold the keys to Heaven. If we tell someone about Jesus, we have opened the door to Heaven and invited him in. He can decide to enter or not. If we do not tell him about Jesus, he does not have a choice. He stays outside. We have locked him out. If we do not tell, the message of Jesus will not spread.

Jesus did not want his identity known publicly yet. (v.20) He knew it would bring about his death. He was not ready to end his ministry yet.

Who is the Messiah?: Read vs. 21-23.

The Jews expected the Messiah to be a King who would conquer their enemies. Jesus taught his disciples that the Messiah was the suffering servant described by Isaiah. He would suffer and die for mankind.

The disciples, including Peter, did not yet understand this. Peter "rebuked" Jesus for suggesting that he would die! Satan was still trying to convince Jesus he need not die for man. Jesus knew Satan was using Peter to tempt him again. God's plan to save man meant Jesus must die. The disciples did not really know what Jesus meant when he said he was the Messiah. He needed more time in private to teach them. So he warned them not to reveal that he was Messiah yet.

Teaching Plan:

Say: "Sam was told to meet a new teacher at the bus stand. He was given a description of the teacher, but not the date of his arrival. What would he do? He would have to go to the station every day until he saw a person who looked like this teacher!"

"The Israelites had been told by the prophets that a Messiah—a God-anointed King—was coming. They had been expecting him for hundreds of years. They did not know when he would come, but the prophets had given them many descriptions of him. Let us look at some of these."

On the chalkboard or on two separate pieces of paper write these headings: ACCEPTABLE Messiah and SUFFERING Messiah. Pass out 8 slips of paper with these verses written on them: (1) Son of God: Psalm 2:7. Fulfilled: Matthew 3:17. (2) From lineage of David: Jeremiah 23:5; Fulfilled: Matthew 1:17. (3) Born at Bethlehem: Micah 5:2. Fulfilled: Matthew 2:1. (4) Would perform miracles: Isaiah 35:5,6a. Fulfilled: Matthew 9:35. (5) Sold for 30 pieces of silver: Zechariah 11:12. Fulfilled: Matthew 26:15. (6) Hated without cause: Psalm 69:4. Fulfilled: John 15:23-25. (7) Hands and feet pierced: Psalm 22:16. Fulfilled: Luke 23:33. (8) Crucified with outlaws: Isaiah 53:12. Fulfilled: Matthew 27:38.

Ask the student to read prophecy (1). Then say: "This verse tells of an acceptable Messiah." Write the reference under Acceptable Messiah. Say: "Read how this was fulfilled by Jesus in Matthew 3:17." (Wait for reading) Follow the same procedure for references 1-4. Say: "These prophecies told of an acceptable Messiah. Now let us look at some which tell about the suffering Messiah." Ask student to read (5). Write this reference under the heading Suffering Messiah. "Read the fulfillment in Matthew 26:15." Do this for the rest of the scriptures.

Say: "Over three hundred Old Testament prophecies were fulfilled in Jesus. The religious leaders should have known who Jesus was." Point to the lists. Say: "The religious leaders looked only for certain signs. They did not like to think about a Suffering Messiah." Throw the "Suffering" list away or erase it from the board. Say: "They judged the Scripture according to their ideas. They accepted only the parts they liked. Jesus said if they had known his Father, they would have known him. They had never been submissive to God, therefore they didn't recognize Jesus."

Say: "Their blindness can be a lesson for us. Do we recognize Jesus as he really is? Who is Jesus to us?" List their responses on the board or paper. Say: "Jesus asked his disciples this same question." Have someone read Matthew 16:13-16. Ask: "How did Peter respond?" (see v. 16.)

Ask 6-8 pupils to come to the front and stand in a row. Say: "The person on the right end will quickly whisper a message - only once - to the person standing beside him. The second person whispers the message to the third person. This goes on to the last person in line." Now give the written message about sugar to the person at the right end. You stand in the middle of the line. When the message comes to you, change it to "Go, buy soap and wash my clothes." When the message has travelled the length of the line, ask the person at the end: "What message did you receive?" After he tells the message, ask the person who began it: "What message did you send?"

Thank them and let them be seated. Say: "This should help you understand the importance of Jesus' question: 'Who do you say that I am?'" Why was it important that they understood who he was?" (Because they were to pass the message on.)

Say: "Three things are needed for someone to understand about Jesus. First he must hear the message. Then he must want to understand. Let us

read Matthew 16:17 to find the third " (God gives him understanding) Say:
"We must do our part and deliver the message. Then God will do his part
and help them understand."

Have someone read vs. 18-19. Say: "Jesus will build his church on
men of faith like Peter. It is men of faith who will tell others who Jesus is
Conclusion

Tell this story: "Dr. Zembuchi was skilled at diagnosing illness. He
knew the proper treatment, but he kept his knowledge to himself. He never
told his patients. He just let them suffer and die. He could have helped
them. He held the keys to health but didn't share them. What would you
think of such a man?"

Say: "We Christians know that Jesus died so men could live. Do we
keep that knowledge to ourselves? What would happen if no one told the
next generation? (No one thereafter would be saved) Say: "We hold the
keys to Heaven. We have the knowledge of eternal life. Without that
knowledge no one can enter Heaven. We can decide to keep it to ourselves
or to tell others and give them the chance to enter."

Read Matthew 16:21-23. Say: "Jesus knew his disciples did not yet
understand who he was. He tried to help them understand but even Peter
did not. He tried to persuade Jesus he would not have to die for man's sins.
Jesus recognized Satan was using Peter to tempt him. Jesus knew that dying
for man was the only way man could be saved."

Say: "We Christians recognize who Jesus is. Jesus has given us the
mission of making him known to all the peoples of the world. Will you do
your part?" Close with prayer.

Things to Think About and Do:

1. Do you recognize Jesus as Saviour and Master of your life? Do you seek every day to know him better? Are you an active member of your church?
2. What do you and your church do to show you hold the keys to Heaven?
3. Read the prophecies. Match them to the fulfillment.

<u>Prophecy</u>	<u>Fulfillment</u>
a. Psalm 78:2 <u>2</u>	1. Matthew 27:12
b. Isaiah 40:3 <u>4</u>	2. Matthew 13:34
c. Isaiah 53:7 <u>1</u>	3. John 19:23,24
d. Psalm 22:18 <u>3</u>	4. Matthew 3:3

Bible Readings:

Sunday: John 1:1-17.

Monday: Isaiah 42:1-12.

Tuesday: Romans 10:1-12.

Wednesday: Joshua 1:1-10.

Thursday: Isaiah 6:1-8.

Friday: Psalm 18:16-24.

Saturday: Read your next lesson.

Lesson 9- The New People of GodTeacher's Lesson

Background Scripture: Matthew 18:1-20; John 17.

Scriptures for Today's Lesson: Matthew 18:10-20.

Memory Verse: For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them. Matthew 18:20.

Central Truth: The church is vital in God's loving purpose for the world. Its members must live in peace so it can be strong.

Teaching Aim: For the pupils to understand that the church must be kept pure within to function as God purposed.

Helps for the Teacher: None.

Getting Ready to Teach:

Sara brought home a liter of milk to use in tea. Her young daughter found a lemon. She carefully squeezed the juice into the milk. "This will be good," she thought. "Lemon flavoured milk!" Sara was horrified when she saw the milk! It had all gone sour. She could no longer use it as she had planned.

God has a purpose for his church. They are to be his witnesses and messengers of love. Its purpose can be ruined by sin within.

Regard for Each Person: Read Matthew 18: 10-14.

Jesus taught us to care for all people whatever their age, intelligence or social standing. Even the weak and young are important to our Father. He knows how we treat others. He wants us to show love for all.

Jesus told this parable to show that God is like the good shepherd. He goes after the one who has strayed. He cares and takes action. When the lost sheep is found there is great rejoicing. Jesus wants us to be like God. We should care about others. We should try to help the lost.

Maintaining Fellowship: Read vs. 15-18.

As we read this passage, we should remember God's great concern for each person.

In verse 15, two key words are 'sin' and 'alone'. Sin enters a relationship when one has actually been harmed by another. It is more than a difference of opinion. If someone sins against you, you should talk to the offender alone. No one else is to know the problem. If he listens to you and the matter is settled and forgiven, you have gained a friend.

If this fails, take one or two others to listen, counsel and help settle the problem. (v.16) The witnesses can have a great effect on the behaviour of both persons. Their wisdom can help solve the conflict.

If the relationship is still broken, the church body should hear about it. (v.17) If the offender refuses to listen to the body, then he is to be put out of the fellowship. All must be done with the purpose of restoration. When fellowship is restored there is to be rejoicing.

God wants us to take action when we have problems. We should not let a problem go on and on. Christians should meet together, deliberate and examine it with Jesus' honour in mind. When they agree on a solution, God will honour it. This way peace will be maintained within the church.

Power in Agreement: Read vs. 19-20.

God honours the individual's prayers, but wants us to join together to agree and pray. Even a small group can decide on a matter and God will honour that decision. Believers should pray in unity. We should agree on the action to be taken. Then God can bless us and help us. His Spirit can unite us. If we gather "In Jesus' name", we will seek his will without selfish ambition.

Teaching Plan:

Say: "Last week we saw how Jesus' followers become a new community - the church. Today we will study what Jesus taught about conflict in the church. What should be our attitude toward conflict? What should we do about it?"

Have someone read Matthew 18:10. Ask: "Who do you think the 'little ones' are?" Wait for answers. Say: "Jesus had been talking about children and child-like believers. 'Little ones' may be any new or weak believer." Ask: "Why does Jesus say not to despise them?" (Because they are precious to God.) Say: "We must be careful how we treat everyone."

Read vs. 12-14. Read vs. 14 again loudly and slowly. Say: "We are to be like our Father in heaven. Let us say together 'It is not my will that any of these little ones should perish.'" Say it together once or twice.

Say: "The shepherd went after the lost sheep. When he found it, he rejoiced. We are to go after our straying brother in an attitude of concern for his well-being. God does not want anyone to die in sin. Neither does he want Christians to live with sin. Sin hurts and kills people. Sometimes a Christian sins against a fellow Christian. This causes conflict in the church."

Ask: "If there are conflicts within the church we should deal with them immediately. Broken relationships with one another breaks our relationship with God. Conflict within the church turns people away from Jesus. It destroys joy and witness. It weakens the church. It gives honour to Satan and disgrace to Jesus."

Ask: "If one church member sins against another, what might the victim do?" (Suffer quietly, retaliate, complain to others, leave the church) "Jesus said there is only one thing to do: try to restore fellowship."

Say: "Jesus taught us how to do this." Have someone read vs. 15. "Why should this be the first step?" (It would keep the matter private. It would save your brother public shame. It would not disturb the rest of the church.) "Your purpose in going to your brother is to restore fellowship. What should your attitude be when you talk to him?" (Humility, concern) "Hopefully, the matter will end there. If it does not, what usually happens?" (We stop the effort. Gossip. Members of the church take sides.) "What does Jesus tell us to do?" Have someone read vs. 16. "Why take others with you when you try again?" (Opinions of someone outside the situation can bring understanding. Some people are gifted in peacemaking. Witnesses are present.) Say: "Hopefully the matter will end at this point. Even if it does not, most people would not want to carry it any further. But Jesus says we must. He says perfect fellowship must be maintained. We may hate the idea of the matter being known. But Jesus says that it must be settled."

Have someone read vs. 17. "To whom is the problem brought to next?" (The church) "Who is the church?" (Baptized believers of that location) "Are visitors welcome at this meeting?" (No) "What should the attitude of the church be?" (Restoration of fellowship; the well-being of each.) "If he repents, what should the church's attitude be?" (Rejoice) "If the fellowship is not restored, what should the church do?" (Consider the unrepentant person no longer a member of their fellowship.)

Say: "This is very very serious. The church must take this action with prayer, concern and love. What should the church do if later he repents and asks the church to take him back?" (Rejoice and take him back)

Have someone read vs. 18-20. Say: "This passage gives us an important reason to maintain fellowship within the church. The church is a power unit. God wants to change the world through it." Read vs. 18 again.

Say: "The decision is made on earth by us - the church. We are not to have the attitude of 'What will be will be.' That is not Christian. Christians have God's power. God is in control. He has given us his power. What should we do with this power? (Use it for his glory and purpose. Seek his will. Agree to do his work together.)

Say: "Jesus emphasized agreement." Have someone read vs. 19. "Jesus said if this group agrees on anything, it will be done for them. What sorts of things does the church ask for?" Wait for answers. Say: "All must be for his glory and purpose or they will not be granted."

Say: "In vs. 20 Jesus emphasized meeting together in his name. That means for His sake. There should be no other reason. Have someone read vs. 20 again. Ask: "Who is with us as we meet here? (Jesus) How does that make you feel?" Wait for comments. Say: "Let's remember that wonderful truth each time we meet."

Conclusion

Say: "Let us review today's lesson. What should our attitude be toward a brother who sins against another?" (Seek restoration in fellowship) "Can it come about if he does not repent?" (No) "What are the steps toward restoration?" (Look at Matthew 18:15-17) "Why must we keep the church fellowship intact?" (Jesus tells us to. The church cannot fulfill its purpose if it is weakened by quarrels within.) "What is the church's purpose?" (To strengthen and encourage Christians, to praise God, to send out the good news of Jesus, etc.) "Let's pray that God will strengthen our fellowship so we can fulfill our purpose." Lead in prayer.

Teacher: Be sure to choose three students for the drama next week. Tell them what they will do and say. Prepare scripts this week.

Things to Think About and Do:

1. This week try to restore your broken relationships within your church.
2. Help others understand the Biblical way of reconciliation.

Bible Readings:

Sunday: Romans 15:1-6.

Monday: Romans 12:1-3, 9-13.

Tuesday: Matthew 18:1-14.

Wednesday: Matthew 18:15-20.

Thursday: John 17:1-10.

Friday: John 17:11-26.

Saturday: Read your next lesson.

Lesson 10- The Cost of Following JesusTeacher's Lesson

Background Scriptures: Mark 8:34-38; Luke 14:25-33; Matthew 10:16-39.

Scripture for Today's Lesson: Mark 8:34-36; Luke 14:27-30,33.

Memory Verse: Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me, cannot be my disciple. Luke 14:27.

Central Truth: Salvation is a free gift from God. We can do nothing to earn it. But following Jesus and his teachings means we give him our lives.

Teaching Aim: For pupils to consider the seriousness of making a commitment to Jesus.

Helps for the Teacher: Blackboard and chalk or large sheets of paper and pen. Ask people to be *Non-christian, Mr. (Mrs.) Do Not, Mr. (Mrs.) Yes-Indeed* and the *devil*. Explain what they are to do. Write out the words for *Mr. Do Not* and *Mr. Yes-Indeed*. *Non-Christian* can use your book. (See teaching plan)

Getting Ready to Teach:

"No" to Self - "Yes" to Jesus. Read Mark 8:34-36.

Jesus taught that a person who followed him must "deny himself." He must put Jesus and his cause first. If there is conflict between self interest and God's purpose, self is to be denied. God is to always be first.

A follower must also "take up his cross." This does not mean that he pays for his sins. Jesus is the only one who could do that. Taking up our cross means that we obey God and grow in faith and service. Jesus obeyed his Father by dying for us. He lived only to serve God. He is our example.

Finally a disciple must "follow." This sums up Jesus' teaching. We go where he asks and do what he requires. We try to be like him for the rest of our lives. He leads-we follow.

He who lives now for his own pleasure loses his soul for all eternity. He pays for his selfish living. The person who gives his life to Jesus now will have peace now and eternity in Heaven with God. Which is the better life? Count the Cost: Read Luke 14:27-30,33.

Salvation is free, but we give up our freedom in order to follow Jesus. Consider what that means. We no longer control our lives - Jesus does. We ask him to lead us. We become followers. That is the price of discipleship. Without paying that price one cannot be his disciple.

Jesus wants us to consider his demands before we decide to follow him. If we consider the difficulties and benefits before deciding, we will be faithful when difficulties come. Jesus wants us to realize the cost before we accept him as Lord.

Teaching Plan:

Mr. Non-Christian should sit in a chair facing the class. Say: "I would like you to meet *Mr. Non-Christian*. He will be visiting us today."

Mr. Non-Christian (N.C.) takes out paper rolled to look like a cigarette and starts to light it. *Mr. Do-Not* walks up to *Mr. N.C.* and says, "Do not smoke. It is bad for your health. It is also expensive. And I saw you down at the bar. Do not drink. It is bad for you and your family. Do not spend your money so foolishly. Do not waste your time. Do not hang around such foolish people. Do not cheat on your wife. Do not steal. You are going to Hell. You had better confess your sins and live right!"

Mr. N.C. : "No thanks!"

Mr. D.N. : "You'll be sorry!" (He walks away.)

Mr. N.C. : "I hope I never see Mr. Do-Not again!"

(*Mr. Yes-Indeed* walks over to N.C.)

Mr. Y.I. : "I am so glad to see you, Mr. Non-Christian. How is your family?"

Mr. N.C. : "They are well. How is yours, Mr. Yes-Indeed?"

Mr. Y.I. : "They are well. I am going to help Old Woman repair her roof. Come go with me."

Mr. N.C. : "Sure. But first I want to ask you some questions. Are you a Christian?"

Mr. Y.I. : "Yes Indeed."

Mr. N.C. : "Then why are you so happy?"

Mr. Y.I. : "I do not understand what you mean."

Mr. N.C. : " Mr. Do-Not says he is a Christian. But he is the most unhappy man I know. He says, "Do not do this and do not do that." All I ever hear from him is "Do not!"

Mr. Y.I. : "Well, he is right about the things he says you should not do "

Mr. N.C. : "Yes. I suppose so. But I do not want to be as unhappy as he is."

Mr. Y.I. : "Being a Christian does not mean that you lead an unhappy life. I enjoy life so much that I really do not want to do bad things anymore. In fact, I do not think much about the things I should not do. I am busy doing what I should.

Mr. N.C. : "You mean you do not want to do all the "fun" things of life?"

Mr. Y.I. : "Yes, indeed. That is what I mean. Since Jesus came into my heart, those things are not fun anymore.

Mr. N.C. : "That is not for me! I do not want to stop having a good time."

Mr. Y.I. : "I have a good time! I am much happier now as a Christian. When I gave up trying to be happy my own way God gave me real happiness."

Mr. N.C. : "What do you mean by real happiness?"

Mr. Y.I. : "When I tried to please myself, the pleasure only lasted a short time. I was always having to do something else to make me happy again."

Mr. N.C. : I understand.

Mr. Y.I. : Now I do not try to make myself happy. I forget about me. I want to please Jesus. He gives me the peace and happiness I was looking for.

Mr. N.C. : This all sounds very strange. You are happy and you do not do all those pleasurable things?

Mr. Y.I. : Yes. I think about and do other things now that are more fun.

Mr. N.C. : Like what?

Mr. Y.I. : I really like to help people in need. Also I love learning more about God, talking to him and obeying him.

Mr. N.C. : Talking to God! Do you think God listens to you?!

Mr. Y.I. : Yes, indeed.

Mr. N.C. : You are out of your mind!

Have someone read Mark 8:34. Say: "Jesus says that a person must do three things to be his disciple. What is the first?" (deny himself) "What does this mean?" (Not live by selfish desires) "Was *Mr. Do-Not* right about what he said?" (Yes) "Did *Mr. Yes-Indeed* also deny himself?" (Yes) "What was the difference between *Mr. Do-Not* and *Mr. Yes-Indeed*?" (*Mr. Do-Not* only thought about not sinning. He was not thinking about Jesus but about himself and what he was not doing. He was not following Jesus. He was unhappy. *Mr. Yes-Indeed* spent his time thinking about Jesus and doing what Jesus would want him to do. He denied self by putting Jesus first. He had invited Jesus into his life to rule.)

Ask: "Do you think that *Mr. Yes-Indeed* is ever tempted or troubled?" (Yes) "What about *Mr. Do-Not*?" (Yes) "Which one is most likely to not fall to temptation?" (Mr. Yes Indeed) "Why?" (His life is filled with Jesus. Mr. Do Not is filled with "do nots.")

Say: "The first thing we must do to follow Jesus is to deny ourselves. What is the second?" (Take up our cross.) "The cross is the symbol of death

to self and obedience even to death. What is the third thing?" (Follow me.)
 Jesus says this same thing in Luke 9:23. There he says we must do these things daily - everyday for the rest of our lives.

Mr. Non-Christian remains seated facing the class. The *devil* stands behind him. Have someone read Mark 8: 35-36. Say: "Now is our chance. We will try to convince *Mr. Non-Christian* that it is better for him to give his life to Jesus. Who would like to be first? If no one volunteers, choose someone. Have several try. The *devil* tells him lies as you talk. He tries to convince him to live for himself.

Conclusion.

You will need at least ten minutes for the next section.

Have someone read Luke 14:28-30,33

On board or paper write: KEEP LIFE NOW. Under it write three headings: PROFIT LOSS PAY WHEN? Ask: "What are the profits of living for self now?" (Pleasure now, perhaps money, better house, car, nice clothes, prestige, freedom, etc.) Ask: "What are the losses of living for yourself now?" (No inner peace, no eternal life, eternal torment in Hell, etc.) "When do you pay for keeping your life now?" (Later - Judgement Day and forever; Now - natural results of sinful life.)

Write on the board or paper : GIVE LIFE TO JESUS. Under it write : PROFIT LOSS PAY WHEN? Ask: "What are the profits of giving your life to Jesus?" (Sins are forgiven, eternity in Heaven, peace, good character, joy, love, health, etc.) "What are the losses of giving your life to Jesus?" (Deny self, follow and obey Christ, be misunderstood, mocked, etc.) "When do you pay for eternal life?" (Jesus paid. We obey, follow him, deny self out of love for him.) Commitments made after considering the cost are firm.

We must realize that committing our lives to Jesus means total commitment. He becomes our Lord and Master. Are you ready to make that kind of commitment?"

Say the memory verse together. Close with prayer of commitment.

Things to Think About and Do:

1. Consider your thoughts and words. Are they mostly negative? ____ If so, change them. You are not giving that part of your life to Jesus.
2. Are you prepared to suffer to follow Jesus? _____
3. Do you know him well enough to follow him? _____
4. Consider the offer of eternal life. How do your troubles on earth compare with what is promised? Is the cost worth it? _____ If it is, follow whole heartedly.

Bible Readings:

Sunday: Psalm 91.

Monday: Mark 8:34-38.

Tuesday: Luke 14:25-32.

Wednesday: Luke 10:1-11.

Thursday: John 15:16-27.

Friday: Jeremiah 20:7-12.

Saturday: Read your next lesson.

Lesson 11-Jesus Promises the SpiritTeacher's Lesson

Background Scriptures: John 14-16. Luke 24:44-49.

Scripture for Today's Lesson: John 14:15-21, 23, 26, 27.

Memory Verse: And I will pray the Father, and he will give you another Counselor, to be with you forever. John 14:16.

Central Truth: God satisfied man's deepest need through Jesus Christ. When we accept Jesus into our lives, God's Holy Spirit comes to live within us. The Spirit enables men to know God fully and to live fulfilled lives.

Teaching Aim: For pupils to realize that the Holy Spirit is living within them. For them to understand how he works in them.

Helps for the Teacher: 3 pieces of paper and 3 pencils, a blackboard and chalk or large paper and marker.

Getting Ready to Teach:

Who Is the Holy Spirit? Read John 14: 15-18.

Jesus taught that love and obedience cannot be separated. Obedience is a result of love. Jesus promised that people who love Jesus would receive a Counsellor. A counsellor stands by a person as teacher and encourager. Jesus counselled and taught his disciples while he was on earth. Now he spoke of a counselor who would be with them (and us) forever.

The Counsellor is called the 'Spirit of Truth.' He is God's Holy Spirit. Our love and obedience makes it possible to know and recognize the Spirit.

God is known to us in three ways. God is the Father, the Creator and Controller of all things. God is the Son, who lived on earth and died for man's sins. God is the Holy Spirit who lives with believers and helps them. He is three, yet he is One. This is called the 'trinity.'

As Spirit, God will be in us, giving a new relationship with him. Jesus' death for man made this new relationship possible. Now God can live in us.

Who Receives the Holy Spirit? Read vs. 19-21, 23.

The world does not "see" Jesus. It cannot understand his spiritual truth. We, as his children, do see him and share his eternal life. Because of his resurrection we will live the abundant life - now and forever.

Jesus explained the new relationship we can have with God. If we give the Spirit full control we can be one with God, as Jesus is. Further, if we love God, we will prove it by obedience. We will let his Spirit guide us in all things. Through his Spirit, we will know Jesus and will learn to be like him.

He and God the father will "make their home" with us through his Spirit. Jesus emphasized the oneness of God and himself. God in his fulness - as the trinity - lives within us!

What does the Holy Spirit Mean to the Believer? Read vs. 26-27.

The Holy Spirit is the Great Teacher. Since he lives in us, he can teach, comfort and encourage us in every circumstance. He will help us remember what we need to fight Satan.

Peace with God comes from the Holy Spirit - God's presence in our lives. We are assured of our eternity. We are assured of God's love. We are assured of his being with us and in us. Troubles cannot disturb this peace.

Teaching Plan:

Say: "Remember the events of Jesus' crucifixion. When trouble came, Peter denied knowing Jesus. The other disciples ran away and hid. They were afraid of being arrested or killed. Yet, throughout the book of Acts we read of the same men. They preached boldly about Jesus. They were arrested. They were beaten. Yet, they continued to proclaim his name. What had changed these men from cowards to brave men? We will find out today."

Say: "Most older Christians have a favourite chapter in the New Testament. It is John 14." Ask: "Do you know why?" (It is a chapter of promise and comfort.) Say: "Let's look at this chapter together. These words of Jesus were spoken in the upper room before Jesus was arrested. Just before this, Jesus had entered Jerusalem in triumph. He and his disciples had celebrated the Passover together. He had washed their feet. Judas had left to betray him. Jesus had told Peter that he would deny him. Now Jesus comforted his disciples for the time to come. They did not understand why, but Jesus knew he would not be with them much longer. Let's look at his words of comfort for his disciples - because they are also for us!"

Write on the board: 1. Who is the Holy Spirit? 2. Who receives the Holy Spirit? 3. What does the Holy Spirit do for the believer?

Divide the class into three teams. Give each paper and pencil. Assign one question to each team. Say: "Listen for your answers as the verses are read. Write them down on your paper." Have someone read loudly and clearly John 14:15-21, 23, 26, 27. Read it again if necessary. After the reading give each group 3 minutes to write their answers. *

Say: "Team one, who is the Holy Spirit?" (Counsellor, Comforter, the gift of God, the abiding presence of Jesus, God's presence in the world) Say: "God is one. Yet He is also three." Read vs. 16. Say: "Here you can see three. The Son asks the Father to send the Holy Spirit. The Father is always the greatest. Jesus was obedient to the Father. The Holy Spirit is obedient to the Father. Yet they are One. This is difficult to understand. Can anyone completely understand God?" (No) "Do you understand electricity?" (No, we just know it works) "Do you refuse to use it because you do not understand it?" Teacher, walk around. Ask: "Why do I not float around in the air?" (Gravity keeps me down.) We know the force is here to keep us down. Do

we refuse to walk because we do not totally understand the force? (No) We accept that fire burns paper but not water. We do not know why. But we know it always works that way.

There are many things we do not understand but we accept them as being true. If we cannot understand things God created, how can we expect to understand him? God has told us some things about himself that we cannot understand. We must accept them in faith. God is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Three-in-One."

Say: Group two, who receives the Holy Spirit? (The Holy Spirit comes to live in those who invite Jesus into his heart to rule his life- those who love God and keep his commandments.)

Does this mean that if you sin, the Holy Spirit leaves you? (No. Once he comes, he comes to stay) "When you sin, what does he do?" (He is sad, but he stays with you. He tells you that you have done wrong. He tells you to repent and make things right.) Say: "The Holy Spirit comes to the person who repents and gives his life to Jesus. He will never leave that person. Can he control that person without permission?" (No) We must let the Holy Spirit help us. We need to ask him for help every day.

Say: Group Three, what does the Holy Spirit do for the believer? (He gives strength and comfort. He reminds us of Jesus' words. He teaches us.)

In other verses we read that the Holy Spirit gives us spiritual character and spiritual gifts so we can serve God." (Gal 5:22-23 and 1 Cor 12:7-11.)

Conclusion

Have someone read vs. 16 and 18. Say: "The presence of the Holy Spirit means that Christians are not alone. Would someone like to tell us about a time when you felt his comfort and presence?" (If not, tell your own

experience. Tell about Pamela, a little girl who was afraid of the dark. She gave her heart to Jesus. She was no longer afraid because she was not alone.)

Have someone read vs. 17. Say: "The Holy Spirit opens a Christian's spiritual eyes. He helps us understand spiritual truths. Can anyone tell us about when the Spirit opened his eyes?" (If not, give a personal testimony. Tell about Linda, a young woman who did not understand who Jesus was nor why he was important. One day she earnestly asked God to give her understanding. Suddenly she "saw" everything clearly. She accepted Jesus.)

Have someone read vs. 26. Say: "The Holy Spirit is a teacher who will remind us of what Jesus said. Have Jesus' words ever come to you? Can you tell us about it?" (If not, give a testimony. Tell about this: Some children's lives were threatened because their father was winning people to Jesus. One day a truck tried to run them down. They were afraid. One night the words, "Lo, I am with you always" came very clearly into their minds. They knew it was a reminder of Jesus' promise. They were comforted.)

Have someone read vs. 27. "The Christian need not be afraid. Does anyone want to tell about when God calmed your fears?" (If not, give a testimony.)

Have someone read vs. 19. "Christians will live. We can believe this with certainty. It makes our lives abundant and full. We can rejoice that all we do for God is for eternity. We can live victorious lives if we daily ask the Holy Spirit to fill us with his presence.

Close in prayer.

Things to Think About and Do:

1. Have you invited Jesus into your heart to rule? If you have, then God's Holy Spirit is living in you.
2. Realize his presence. You do not need to feel him. Believe God's word. He is with you. Use his power.
3. Observe your life this week. Write down the ways you have noticed the Holy Spirit within you.

Bible Readings:

Sunday: Ephesians 4:4-7, 11-16.

Monday: John 14:1-14.

Tuesday: John 14:15-27.

Wednesday: John 14:28-15:11.

Thursday: John 16:1-15,31.

Friday: Galatians 5:13-26.

Saturday: Read your next lesson.

Lesson 12-God Gave His Son

Teacher's Lesson

Background Scriptures: Isaiah 53, Matthew 27.Scripture for Today's Lesson: Matthew 27:35-51.Memory Verse: For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16.Central Truth: Jesus had to die for our sins so we could be born of the spirit. By faith in him, we can become God's children.Teaching Aim: For pupils to realize the price Jesus paid and the privilege we have to become his children.Helps for the Teacher: None.Getting Ready to Teach:The Crucifiers - The Crucified: Read Matthew 27:35-39

The soldiers had crucified many people and they thought Jesus was like the others. They got the job done and then saw what they could get from this poor "criminal." They gambled for his clothing. After deciding who got his garment, they watched his suffering. Their job was to keep friends from rescuing him. But they enjoyed watching this man suffer.

The sign placed over Jesus' head was a warning to anyone who would rebel against the Roman government. With this sign, Pilate mocked the religious leaders who expected a king to come and save them.

Jesus loved the sinful people among whom he had lived. Now he was dying with two of them. He was condemned as they were. He was hung by a busy road. Many people were passing because it was the time of the seven day Passover feast. As they passed they watched him die. They shook their heads at the shame of the criminals.

The Mockery: Read vs. 40-44.

Some who passed cruelly mocked Jesus. They had their own ideas about the Messiah. "If you were he, you would save yourself. You would never die this way," they said.

The religious leaders had their ideas, too. "If you are God's son, then come down!" Jesus had to fit their mould for them to believe him. They were enjoying their victory over this "Messiah."

The Climax: Read vs. 45-51.

As Jesus died, the physical world was affected. The world turned dark to show what a great and terrible event was taking place.

In verse 46, Jesus quoted scripture, as he often did. This quote is from Psalm 22. Jesus bore the guilt of the sin of the world. God cannot look upon sin so Jesus was separated from God the Father.

As he spoke, his hearers misunderstood him. During that age many Jews thought Elijah rescued righteous people. His cry would be a test of righteousness. Would Jesus pass their test?

Finally, Jesus gave a loud shout. John's gospel records his words, "It is finished." He had completed his assignment. It was a shout of victory. He had won. Satan had lost.

The moment he died a wonderful thing happened. The curtain that separated the Holy of Holies from the rest of the temple was torn in two. Only the High Priest could go behind the curtain to the Holy of Holies. There he asked God to forgive the sins of the people. The torn curtain meant an end to that. Now each person could go to God through Jesus. He had paid the price for this new relationship.

Teaching Plan:

Say: Today we will learn about the terrible death of Jesus, our Saviour. We will see how he suffered so that we can have life." Ask a good reader to read Matthew 27:35-51 slowly and clearly. Say: "Let us look at the people in these verses and see what each did. What did the soldiers do?" (They nailed Jesus to the cross and gambled for his clothes.) "Did they feel sorry about his suffering?" (No. They thought about what they could get from him.) "Do we ever react to Jesus like this?" Wait for answers. Say: "Sometimes we are more concerned about things than about Jesus. We show we do not care about his suffering for us."

Say: "Let's look next at the thieves. They were suffering but they were guilty of crimes. Why would they mock Jesus?" (They wanted him to save them all from this horrible death. If he was God, he would have done.) "Are we ever like this?" (We blame God for our problems even if we have caused them. If he does not provide a quick solution we turn from him.)

"The crucifixion took place during the Passover celebration. What were they celebrating?" (Their salvation during the last plague in Egypt. The Angel of Death passed over their homes because they had put the blood of a perfect lamb over their doors.) "Crowds of people mocked Jesus as they passed the cross. What kind of people were they?" (They were religious people who were fulfilling what they thought God required of them.) Say: "They were celebrating God's salvation of their ancestors by the blood of the passover lamb. They mocked the Lamb of God who died to give them eternal life. Are we ever so busy about our "religion" that we fail to see and recognize God?"

Say: "The next group is the chief priests, scribes and the elders. Why did they not accept Jesus?" (Pride. They would not admit their sins. Jesus

offended their customs.) "They were respected for their devotion to God's laws and their religious customs. If anyone was able to recognize the Messiah, it was they, so they thought. Jesus offended them. He didn't recognize their greatness. He couldn't be the Messiah! What did Jesus do to them?" (He accused them of missing God's will. He tried to teach them.) "What did they do about him?" (They tried to trick him. They killed him). "Some people argue with God's truth. They think they are too intelligent to accept him. They want to just ignore him. But none of us can claim to be sinless. That is why we all need Jesus and his salvation."

"We have looked at those who crucified Jesus. Now let us look at the one who was crucified. What do we know about Jesus before he came to earth?" (He was with the Father from time of the creation. He had great glory, and was worshipped by heavenly beings.) "Think of the person you love the most - a parent, spouse, child or sweetheart. Would you let him die for your enemy so that the enemy could live? (pause) To do that would not be showing love! We think that because our love is human. It is limited. God's love is perfect. God, the Father, loved Jesus more than we could ever love another person." Have someone say John 3:16. "What is the difference between man's love and God's love?" (He loves all the world enough to die for it.) "Jesus, being God, has that same love. He obeyed his Father out of love for him and for us."

Ask: "What did Jesus do while on earth?" (Healed, taught, showed God's love, performed miracles) "What did he do to deserve death?" (Nothing) "Did he ever sin?" (No) "Why did he need to die?" (To pay for our sins so we could be saved) Say: "He is the only one who could die for us because he was the only sinless man-the perfect Lamb."

"The mockers used a lot of 'if's.' The mockers said they would believe Jesus if ... Let us think about our own 'if's.' 'I would follow Jesus if...' 'What conditions are you making?' Have a moment of silence. 'Do you tell him, Yes, I will give my life to you if my husband does, if my father does, if my family approves, if I can keep it secret?' Wait a moment.

Say: "How about Christians? Do we say, Yes, Jesus, I will give my tithe if I have enough money for myself, Yes, Jesus, I will tell my neighbor about you if she asks me?" Can you tell me some more if's we use with God? Give them time to think and answer. "When we give excuses for not doing as Jesus wants, we are mocking him."

Conclusion

Have someone read vs. 51. Say: "A priest made sacrifices for the sins of the people in the Holy of Holies. The curtain to this place was torn in two when Jesus died because he was the perfect sacrifice. Never again would God accept an animal sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins. The job of the priests was finished. This was the beginning of a new relationship between God and man. Man can now confess his sins to God himself. He does not need a priest to represent him. God comes and dwells in the believer. We can pray directly to our Father. Jesus paid for this privilege with his life."

Say the memory verse with your class. Say: "If we believe in Jesus, the Holy Spirit lives within us. We are born again and become God's children. Has each of you been born again? Are you helping others to receive this great gift?"

Pray about these matters as you close.

Things To Think About And Do:

1. Do you understand that Jesus died for your sin?
2. Many people have the idea that God the Father is harsh but Jesus is loving. Read John 3:16 for understanding in this matter.
3. Do you make excuses to Jesus?
4. Do you think some sin is not so bad? Sin is sin to God, no matter how "small." Get every sin out into the open. Confess it. Ask for forgiveness. Have someone pray with you to conquer a sin which continues.

Bible Readings:

Sunday: Psalm 2

Monday: Matthew 27:1-13.

Tuesday: Matthew 27:27-44.

Wednesday: John 3:13-21.

Thursday: Matthew 27:45-54.

Friday: Hebrews 2:1-13.

Saturday: Read your next lesson.

Lesson 13- God Conquers Sin and Death through Christ Teacher's Lesson

Background Scripture: Matthew 28.

Scripture for Today's Lesson: Matthew 28:1-10, 16-20.

Memory Verse: But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. I Corinthians 15:20.

Central Truth: Because Jesus lives, we also shall live. We should proclaim this good news to everyone.

Teaching Aim: For the pupils to realize that their life should be affected by the fact that Jesus has risen from the dead.

Helps for the Teacher: Have the questions for four groups written on paper. (Do not copy the answers.) Provide pens and extra paper.

Getting Ready to Teach:

At the Tomb. Read Matthew 28:1-7.

Jesus did not need the stone rolled away in order to come out. The Bible tells us he was not stopped by locked doors after his resurrection. (See John 21) The tomb was opened so people could look inside and see Jesus was not there. The angel told the women to enter and see for themselves.

The angel told the women Jesus had risen as he said he would. Jesus' word is true. We may not understand it but that does not make it untrue. Jesus' followers had not understood what he meant when he told them he would die and rise again on the third day. Because Jesus said it, they should have believed him.

On the Way. Read vs. 8-10.

The women were afraid, yet filled with joy. They rejoiced because Jesus was alive. Even so, they did not yet realize all that it meant for them.

As they went their way, the women were still fearful. Jesus met them and told them again not to be afraid. They did not understand all that was happening. But they knew beyond doubt that Jesus was worthy of worship.

Jesus called his followers "brothers". He had paid the price for this relationship. He had said we could all be the children of God through faith in him. He had explained that he was "in the Father", and we could be, too. Man could now be born of the spirit and enter the kingdom as God's children. Man had no reason to be afraid any longer.

Jesus' Great Commission. Read vs. 16-20.

We read that the eleven disciples were with Jesus at the time of his ascension. Others may have been, as well. I Corinthians records that a group of five hundred saw Jesus. It may have been at this occasion.

Jesus has been given all authority. Therefore, as his brothers, we have assurance. He has given us the authority to use his name- that name which is above all names. We are to bring people into God's kingdom and make disciples of the whole world. A disciple must undergo training to develop character, efficiency, and submission to Jesus' authority.

We have a big assignment. We are surprised when we realize that Jesus seriously considers us capable of this task. We must reconsider who we are. We are Jesus' brothers. Jesus said that to see him was to see his Father. The Father was in him and he was in the Father. Jesus wants to live through us. There is nothing keeping us from doing what he asked except our small thinking and lack of faith.

The Holy Spirit's goal is to make us like Jesus. We must submit to his remaking. Then in Jesus' power we are able to fulfill the Great Commission. He gives us a wonderful promise - to be with us always. Who could ask for more?

Teaching Plan:

At the conclusion of this situation, let each one choose what he would do. Say: "Imagine this. You are going to live in a foreign country for a year. Then you will return to your homeland. The law allows you to send your salary to your bank in your homeland each month. However, you will not be able to transport possessions at the end of the year because of cost and laws which forbid it. How should you spend your salary? (a) Buy only necessities in the foreign country and send the rest of your salary to the bank at home. (b) Buy expensive things to enjoy right now for your comfort and pleasure." Let each one choose his conclusion.

Say: "How you spend your money depends on how important your present living conditions are to you. It is affected by the knowledge that your present circumstances are temporary. You may want to invest in the longer and more permanent future. Just so, our lives now should be affected by knowing they are temporary. Our eternity will not be spent here. Jesus is making a wonderful place for us right now in heaven."

Have someone read Matthew 28: 1-10. Divide the class into three groups and distribute questions. Give the groups 15 minutes to discuss and answer these questions. Suggested answers are given for the teacher only.

Group One: Jesus is alive. How does knowing this affect how we look at present problems? List some problems you or your country has right now. Some areas to consider: physical needs, political, educational, church, or relationship problems, etc. Considering that Jesus is alive, how will you deal with each problem?

Group Two: Jesus is alive. How does this fact affect your thoughts about death? What does death mean to the Christian who dies? (Jesus accepts him into heaven. His troubles are over. He has joy.) What does a faithful

disciple have waiting for him? (Rewards and a crown) Is it right to feel sorrow at a Christian's funeral? (Yes, Sorrow for the ones left behind who will miss him, but not for the one who died.) What should the remaining family and friends think about? (The deceased is having a wonderful time. About Jesus' love.) What songs do you want sung at your funeral? Name them. What do you want to be preached at your funeral?

Group Three: Jesus is alive. Does knowing this affect your purpose in life? How does it affect your family? Your church? Your community? Your work? What you read? What you say? What you do?

After fifteen minutes, call the groups together. Call for a reporter from Group One. Say: "Read one question and give a summary of what the group decided." If there is time, other pupils may want to comment. Have him read the next question using the same method. Continue this way through all the groups.

Have someone read verses 16-20. Ask: "What has been given to Jesus? (All authority in heaven and on earth)" "If you have made Jesus Lord of your life, to whom do you belong?" (Jesus) "He bought your life back from Satan. You no longer belong to the 'loser.'"

Say: "As humans, we are weaker than spiritual beings. By ourselves we are weaker than our enemy Satan. But we know that God is on our side. He is greater than Satan. If we surrender ourselves to God, he enters into us. The Bible says that 'he who is in us is greater than he who is in the world. We can use Jesus' authority to rebuke Satan. He is the defeated enemy. But he is still trying to harm us, so we must be alert and not deceived.'"

Conclusion

Say: "There is more to being a Christian than being saved from Satan. What does Jesus tell us to do?" (Go, make disciples, baptize and teach) "To

whom must we go?" (To those not saved) "Then what are we to do?" (Make disciples) "What does it mean to be a disciple?" (To adopt a certain way of living because of a belief) "We can understand the word disciple better if we look at the meaning of discipline. Discipline is training that develops character, efficiency and submission.

Say: "Where did Jesus' disciples spend their time after they were called? (With Jesus night and day) "Why? (To learn from him) "What does this say to us? (We should learn from Jesus in every situation. Seek his will in every matter) "Do you have some ideas of how you can be Jesus' disciple? (Study and obey God's word, pray, witness, etc.) "How would you make someone a disciple to Jesus?" (Help him find salvation; then help him learn how to grow in his faith.)

Say: "Knowing that Jesus is alive gives us the courage to follow his command to make disciples. It changes our outlook. It effects everything about our lives. We have great possibilities for joy and fulfillment in this life walking with Jesus. We have a great future in heaven."

Close with a prayer of thanksgiving and dedication.

Things to Think About and Do:

1. Knowing Jesus is alive should affect your life. Write down your thoughts. Make a plan to change in the areas which need changing
2. Read these scriptures and think about them. I Peter 1:18,19; II Peter 1:3,4; II Corinthians 2:14-17; II Corinthians 10:4,5; John 14:3; Revelation 21:1-4.
3. Find someone to disciple. Make a plan to meet with him and help him grow in his faith. Ask your pastor or teacher for help if needed.

Bible Readings:

Sunday: Psalm 4

Monday: Matthew 28:1-10, 16-20.

Tuesday: Isaiah 9:2-7.

Wednesday: I Corinthians 15:1-8, 12-20.

Thursday: I Corinthians 15:21-28, 51-58

Friday: I Corinthians 15:35-50

Saturday: Read your lesson.