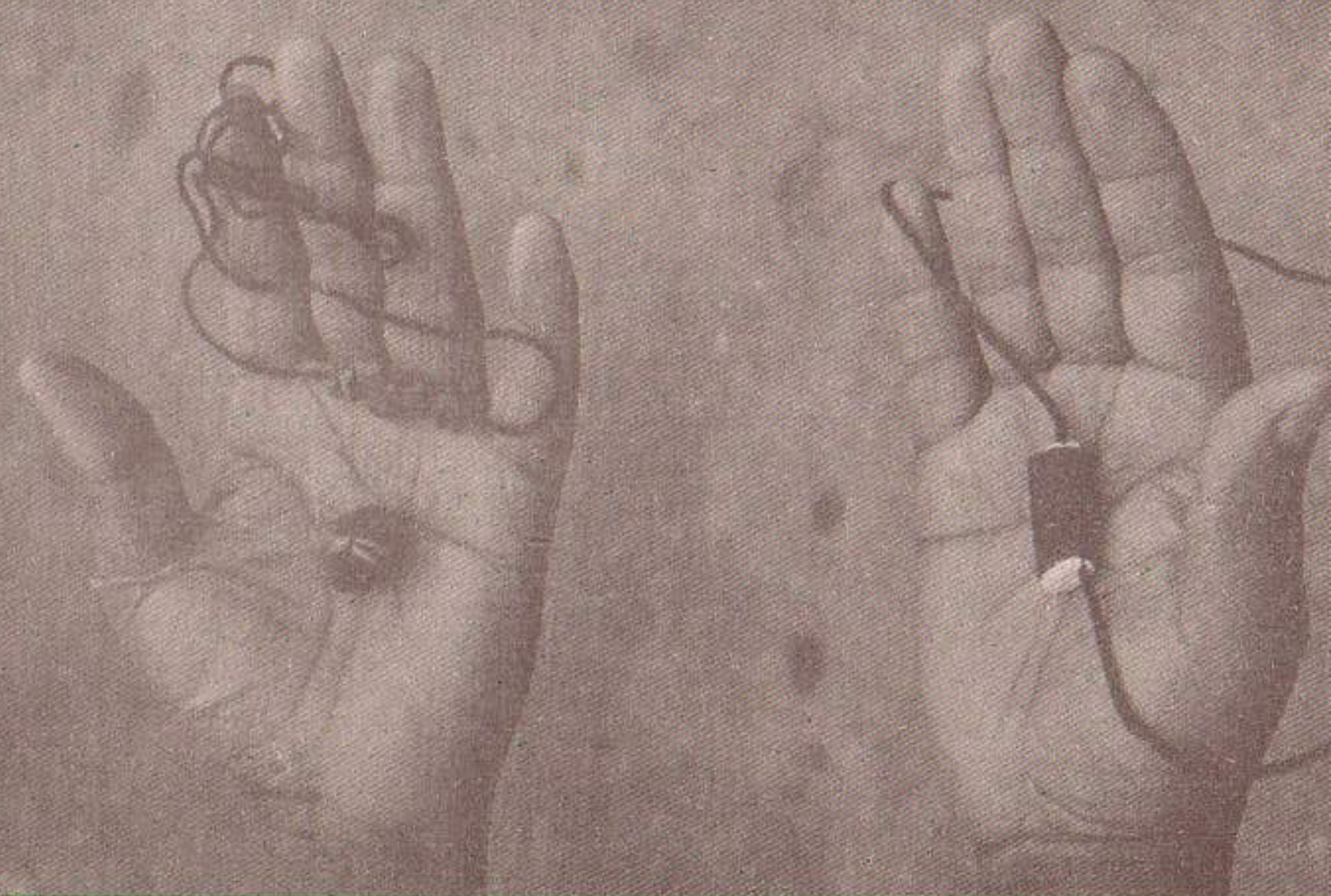


**THE CHRISTIAN IN A
SPIRIT-FILLED WORLD
(TEACHER)**



BIBLE STUDIES FOR AFRICAN YOUTH

THE CHRISTIAN IN A SPIRIT-FILLED WORLD

(TEACHER)

Written by Paul Kyalimpa Amooti, Josphat M. M. Gikiri and
Andrew Mwenge

BIBLE STUDIES FOR AFRICAN YOUTH

Africa Coordinated Curriculum
for Bible Study

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ABOUT THE AUTHORS

This book was written by Paul Kyalimpa Amooti, Josphat M. M. Gikiri and Andrew Mwenge. They used the previous International Publications Services book by the same name for resource and fitted the new material to our new format.

Amooti is a Ugandan evangelist. He has served as coordinator of Bible Way in his country and is a member of Kampala Baptist Church.

Gikiri, a Kenyan, is a teacher in Maragua, Kenya. He is a member of Kaimiri Baptist Church.

Mwenge is a Ugandan youth pastor of Kampala Baptist Church where he is also a member.

CHAPTER ONE

SATAN, HIS ORIGIN AND FALL

PREPARING TO TEACH

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURES: Genesis 3; Ezekiel 28:12-18; Isaiah 14:12-14

VERSES IN TODAY'S LESSON: Ezekiel 28:12-18; Isaiah 14:12-14

MEMORY VERSE: "Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good" (Romans 12:21).

LESSON AIM: I will teach my students about the origin and fall of Satan and what he can do to them.

TEACHING AIDS: Write the words, "The Origin and Fall of Satan," on a chalk board or on a large paper.

BACKGROUND STUDY

Ezekiel compared the beginning of Satan with the king of Tyre. Ezekiel 28:12-18 tells us about the character, place and position of Lucifer (Satan) before his fall. Let us look first at his origin or beginning.

Verse 12 shows the relationship which existed between the king of Tyre (Satan) and God. This relationship was perfect. The king was full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

Where was Satan? "You were in Eden, the garden of God..." (verse 13). Eden, the garden of God, had everything Lucifer (Satan) would need. These things existed even before Lucifer was created. It was a beautiful place, a perfect place.

Verse 14 says God anointed another angel to guard Satan. This shows us that Lucifer used to be the chief angel of God. He controlled other angels. This was his work.

Verses 15-16 show the beginning of trouble. In the midst of Satan's activities, he became proud. The verse says, "...you were filled with violence, and you sinned..." All the wisdom, will and mind of Lucifer were perverted. He lost his beauty, and his punishment was severe. Instead of being humble he became proud. This was sin.

What was his punishment? Verses 17-18 say, "...I cast you to the ground; I exposed you before kings, to feast their eyes on you. By the multitude of your iniquities, in the unrighteousness of your trade, you profaned your sanctuaries; so I have brought fire from the midst of you; it consumed you..." These verses show us the consequences of sin. He was consumed by fire to ashes.

Isaiah compared the fall of Satan with the king of Babylon. In Isaiah 14:12-14, the prophet told us five desires which led to Lucifer's fall. These desires can lead your students to fall in their Christian lives also, and so it is important that you warn them.

We find in verse 12 the name, Day Star, son of Dawn. This name is for Lucifer. He is the one to whom Jesus referred when he said, "...I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven" (Luke 10:18).

Verses 13-14 tell us the five desires of Lucifer which caused his fall.

1. He desired to ascend to a highest heaven. 2. He desired to raise his throne above the stars of God. 3. He desired to sit on the mount of the assembly, possibly like God. 4. He desired to ascend above the heights of the clouds thus being above

God's creation. 5. He desired to make himself like the Most High.

The origin and fall of Satan are very interesting to teach. You can use many examples from everyday life as you teach your students.

TEACHING THE LESSON

INTRODUCTION

Ask: "What does the origin and fall of Satan teach us today?" Point to the words which you wrote on a chalk board or on a large paper. You may get answers like: People start well but fail before they finish. Satan tempts us to follow his bad example today, and many others. Write down what they say. Do not agree or disagree with any of the ideas.

Read the two passages, Ezekiel 28:12-18 and Isaiah 14:12-14. Ask: "What do these two passages teach us about the origin and fall of Satan?" Wait for discussion. Ask: "Have you ever seen an important person who has lost his job? What went wrong? Give them time to respond. Let them add to the list you have started.

Ask: "What will happen to you if you are given responsibility but become proud and take advantage of those under you?" Wait for them to respond.

EXAMINATION

Say: "The Scriptures we have read in Ezekiel and Isaiah tell us about Satan. Ezekiel talked about the king of Tyre. Isaiah spoke of the king of Babylon, but both were referring to Satan. They tell us how Satan began and fell. Perhaps you have heard other names for Satan. Lucifer is one you may see sometimes.

"Ezekiel told us about the origin of Satan. He told us what the life of Satan was like before his fall. Satan was perfect, wise and beautiful. He dwelt in Eden, the garden of God. He was the leader of all the angels in heaven. He even had a guardian angel of his own. But what happened? He was perverted by his sin, wisdom, beauty, perfection and position. He became proud instead of being humble before God. He was punished because of this sin. He was burned to ashes. He lost all he had and was.

"The passage in Isaiah tells us about the five desires which led to the downfall of Lucifer." (Write these on the chalk board or large paper.) "He desired: 1. to be great, 2. to be above all, 3. to be the highest leader, 4. to be above creation, and 5. to be a god."

Say: "Satan always tempts us to follow his example. He convinces us to desire things that will lead us into sin. We should resist the devil by not yielding to his temptations. Christ will give us the power and strength to resist the devil."

APPLICATION

Say: "Satan fell from his glory because of pride. He used his place of responsibility in heaven to desire great things. He tried to make himself equal to God. In fact he wanted to be like God. God stopped Satan with his evil thoughts. Proverbs 16:18 says, 'Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.'

"Satan tempted Eve in the Garden of Eden. In Genesis 3:5 he told Eve she would be like God if she ate the forbidden fruit. Eve sinned because she listened to Satan.

"Satan still tempts us even today. His desire is to win us to himself. He uses many ways to make us believe him. He uses our education, our job, wealth and friends to make us doubt

our faith in Christ Jesus. He uses our responsibilities in church and society to tempt us. He makes us use bad language, listen to bad music or like gossiping. But those who believe Satan always fall.

"Romans 12:21 says, 'Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good.' It is easy for us to give in to evil, but we can overcome evil by hiding in Christ Jesus. Jesus is our perfect example. He wants us to do good and not just talk about doing good. He wants us to be kind to everyone, even our enemies. He wants us to be perfect before our Lord God. He wants us to seek God's wisdom rather than relying on our own. We will only defeat Satan if we have Christ living in us."

PRAYER SUGGESTIONS

1. Pray for your pupils to understand the origin and fall of Satan. Pray that they will see the danger he is in their own lives.
2. Pray for your pupils to resist Satan and his temptations.
3. Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you in teaching this lesson to your students.

CHAPTER TWO

SATAN, HIS WORK TODAY

PREPARING TO TEACH

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURES: Zechariah 3:1; Genesis 3:1-7; Job 1:9; 2:4; Matthew 13:19; 4:3; Luke 11:14-26

VERSES IN TODAY'S LESSON: Zechariah 3:1; Genesis 3:1-7; Job 1:9; 2:4; Matthew 13:19; 4:3; Luke 11:14-26

MEMORY VERSE: "Be sober, be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking some one to devour" (1 Peter 5:8).

LESSON AIM: I will teach my students about Satan's work today.

TEACHING AIDS: Write the words, Satan's Work Today, on a chalk board or on a large paper.

BACKGROUND STUDY

Satan is working with great enthusiasm these days because he knows his reign is about to end. His time is very short. He fears God because of his great power and knowledge.

Satan is still working even today. He has never given up, although he was bound by Christ. He is still doing the same work he was doing at the time of his fall. The tricks he used to tempt Eve, Job and Jesus are the same even today.

In Zechariah 3 and Job 1:9; 2:4, Satan used the trick of accusing. Why did Satan accuse the nation of Israel (Joshua) and Job before God? First, Satan was filled with jealousy, bitterness and hate about the nation of Israel and Job. He hated them because God loved them. This is the same reason Satan accuses the saved, our brethren, today. (Revelation 12:10)

Genesis 3:1-7 tells us Satan is a deceiver. We are told that he deceived Eve and made her to doubt God's word. Today Satan deceives the whole world. (Revelation 12:9)

In Matthew 4:3, we are told that Satan is a tempter. His aim is to make people fall. Satan tempted Jesus, and he will still tempt us. (1 Corinthians 10:13) It is not sin to be tempted, but it becomes sin when one yields to temptation. Read Hebrews 4:15. Jesus was tempted but did not sin. Once we

fall, we should not hold on to our sins. We should confess it to God. (1 John 1:9)

Matthew 13:19 tells us that Satan seems to corrupt everything. He is called the evil one. His aim is to make all things become evil. He tries to see that all men enjoy evil, for example, war, lies, stealing, overcharging and cheating. Jesus prayed for us to be kept from all the power of the evil one (John 17:15) which covers the whole world today. (1 John 5:19)

Luke 11:14-26 calls Satan Beelzebul. This name characterizes Satan as a ruler. He wants to rule in the lives of people. He commands people to follow his bad examples and do evil. Many people obey Satan without knowing what they are doing. They need to be helped.

TEACHING THE LESSON

INTRODUCTION

Ask: "What is Satan's work today?" Show them the words you have written on the chalk board or on a large paper. Say: "Let us look in the Bible to get answers to that question." Have the students read all the background Scriptures. Tell them to raise their hands when they see something that Satan is doing today. Write these on the chalk board or paper. Tell one student to read the Introduction in the pupil's book. Ask: "Does a chained dog bark at people? Do people fear it? Does it stop barking because it is chained?" Wait for the students to answer each question and then ask: "Why?" Relate this illustration to Satan's work today. Help the students see that the results of the work of Satan were destroyed by Christ. We Christians have been set free. We are no longer slaves of Satan. (Hebrews 2:14-15)

EXAMINATION

Say: "All the passages we have read speak about Satan's work. He tricks us through his work. We should note that the devil worked among the people of old. He still works among us even today. We should be able to resist him by studying and knowing the ways he uses to convince Christians."

Say: "In Zechariah 3:1 the angel showed Joshua to Zechariah. Joshua was clothed in filthy garments. Joshua represented Jerusalem or the chosen people. (verse 2) Joshua, or the chosen people, were standing before God in their filthy garments (sin). Satan was also standing at the right hand of Joshua accusing him. We are told that God rebuked Satan. Satan was silenced. Why did God silence Satan? God chose Joshua although he was a sinner. It was God's work to save him from sin. Satan had no right to accuse him.

"We read in Genesis 3:1-7 that Satan deceived Eve. The serpent was a wild creature and wise. Read Matthew 10:16. The serpent was a tool, an agent which Satan used to deceive Eve. The temptation begins with the serpent deceiving Eve to doubt God's Word.

"Verses 1-3 say : 'Did God say....' The serpent made Eve suspect God's motive. Verses 4-5 say, '...You will not die...your eyes will be opened...' Eve ate the fruit, and her eyes were opened to see the misery of sin. She started to know good and evil. She and Adam realized they were naked. Then they became worried about their broken relationship with God. (verses 8-13) They now realized that God was holy and they were sinful. Satan also deceives us today.

"Matthew 4:3 tells us Satan is a tempter. Satan wanted to entice Jesus to doubt that he was God's Son! 'If you are the Son of God,...' he said. Satan wanted Jesus to fall, but Jesus

resisted by using God's word. Jesus answered each time by saying, 'It is written'"

Say: "In Matthew 13:19, we read of Satan as being corrupt and wicked. Jesus called Satan the evil one. Satan's work here, as told by Jesus, is to take or snatch God's Word out of people. When people do not have God's Word they just become evil. Satan works hard these days to see that God's Word is not in people's hearts. The devil knows man will be corrupt if he does not have God's Word in his heart.

"In Luke 11:14-26 we read of Satan as a ruler. This is what the name Beelzebul means. Satan is a ruler. He rules those under his control. Satan rules in the mind, heart and body of each unsaved person today. He makes people think evil against others, slander and do evil to each other."

APPLICATION

Ask: "Does Satan work today? Satan is very busy today. He is working at all times trying to tempt and deceive people. His strongest efforts are against Christians. He does not worry about those who are not Christians. They are already his.

"How can we guard against the flaming darts of the evil one? (Ephesians 6:16) We must look to the Lord who is our strength. If we seek him and his way, he will give us the grace and ability to stand against the evil one."

Ask: "How can you resist Satan?" After discussion have them read 1 Peter 5:8. "Be sober, be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking some one to devour."

Say: "This verse reminds us that Satan will play his tricks on us. We are told to be watchful so when Satan comes we will not fall to him.

"We are also to resist him by using God's Word. He will leave us when we have God's Word in our hearts. How many verses have you memorized to use to resist Satan?"

"We should not love the world or the things in the world. Satan uses the things that please us to trap us. He makes us desire things that do not last. He puts in us the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes.

"Satan's work is to destroy our relationship with God. Christians should rejoice in the Lord because Christ has won the battle for us. Read 1 John 4:4 and say it when you are tempted by Satan."

PRAYER SUGGESTIONS

1. Pray for your students to be able to see and recognize Satan's tricks in their daily activities.
2. Pray that they will be able to stand firm and used God's Word to resist Satan.
3. Pray that the students will develop a habit of Bible study so they will know God's Word and promises so they can use them when necessary.
4. Ask God to fill you and your students with the Holy Spirit. Ask him to control your lives.

CHAPTER THREE

SATAN AND JUDGEMENT

PREPARING TO TEACH

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURES: Revelation 19:11-21; 20:1-9; Job 1:6-12; Matthew 25:41

VERSES IN TODAY'S LESSON: Revelation 20:1-9

MEMORY VERSE: "...The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil" (1 John 3:8).

TEACHING AIM: I will teach my students that they should not fear Satan's tests because his work and power will be overthrown at the time of judgement.

TEACHING AIDS: A large paper or a chalk board and chalk. Write this question: Who is Satan?

BACKGROUND STUDY

This lesson comes from the book of Revelation. As you study you will be able to tell why God allows Satan to continue working against people and the church. You will learn too that God will completely destroy Satan.

The book of Revelation is a prophetic book. The writer is John the apostle. It was probably written in A.D. 96. The teaching of this book is the spiritual conflict of the ages. It was addressed to the persecuted Christians of the first century. They were ready to doubt that Christianity would ever win the victory over the forces of evil. Revelation 19:11 gives us a picture of the terrible coming day. The king of the faithful and true judges in righteousness and makes war. The Son of God will not sympathize with the non-believers. When a person becomes a Christian, he becomes a follower of Jesus. That person will receive eternal life.

Verse 12: There is a supreme power who will fight the last battle with Satan. That day, the cunning method of the devil will be put to an end. We need to keep God promises always. Our faith in Jesus should be unshakable, immovable at all times.

Verse 13: Jesus' blood cleansed our sins. We should notice that the blood of Jesus means much to Christians.

Verses 15-21: We see the King of kings and the Lord of lords who fought the devil's work and cursed unbelief. In a loud voice he calls all birds to come and enjoy the supper of God. They would eat the flesh of fallen men, mighty and lowly. We should note that God's promises never fail, so judgement is coming.

In the book of Job, we see that God allowed Satan to test Job, but his faith remained strong. Satan was defeated in the battle. God is not afraid of Satan. (John 16:1)

We need to make a good choice to avoid that lake of fire. Matthew 25:41 says, "Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'"

TEACHING THE LESSON

INTRODUCTION

Ask: "Who is Satan?" Show these words which you have written on the chalk board. As answers are given out, write them on the chalk board. You may get answers like: he is the evil spirit, he is the one who tempts people or he is an enemy of Christians. The students could look back at chapters one and two for help in answering this question. When the students have finished, read Revelation 19:11- 21.

Say: "In the light of these verse we shall see how his work will be thrown into the lake of fire."

Ask students to tell the work of Satan today. Again they can get help from lessons they have already studied in this book. Say: "Satan was cast down to the earth from heaven. He is living with us. He is trying to find someone to devour today by prowling around like a roaring lion." Read Zechariah 3:1 and 1 Peter 5:8.

Now read Revelations 20:10. Say: "The devil will be cast into hell. Hell was not prepared for man. It was prepared for the devil. Man will only go to hell because he obeys Satan instead of believing and trusting in Jesus Christ."

EXAMINATION

Say: "The book of Revelation was written in A.D. 96 by John the apostle. The book was addressed to the persecuted Christians of the first century. They were ready to despair of Christianity's ever winning the victory over the forces of the Satan.

"The book tells that the victory is already won, and that they share in it. Their persecution was to make them be loyal and obedient to God.

"God tells of the Messianic judgement of Armageddon. Christ is the King of kings and the Lord of lords. We find that Christ carries power over all creation. We have to know that he is the sole possessor of power. The armies of heaven certainly tell of the angelic companies in heaven and the saints.

"The writer has shown the destiny of the devil. We see that the beast and false prophet will be tormented day and night forever and ever. (Revelation 20:10)

God has given us the choice of whom we will follow, Christ or Satan."

APPLICATION

Ask: "Who created Satan?" Give opportunities for those who wish to answer.

Ask: "Why does God allow Satan to continue working against him and his people." Let the students discuss this question for several minutes.

Say: "When Satan was cast out of heaven, he was not yet in complete control of his forces. He needed time to put all his cunning methods into action. Satan thinks he can overthrow God. God has given Satan a chance to prepare his armies to fight the last battle. Satan believes he is the conquerer, but Revelation tells us God will triumph and Satan will be completely overthrown."

Ask: "Does God test his people?" (No! God does not tempt anyone, but he allows Satan to test people.)

Ask: "How can a carpenter check whether the chair he has made will last for long?" Expect answers like, he would sit on it or he would shake it.

Say: "God wants to test the obedience and faithfulness of man. He allows Satan to tempt and test man, but Satan cannot tempt us beyond our abilities. God will help us resist the devil if we are loyal to him.

"We read in Job about a faithful servant of God who was tested. Job was a blameless and upright man. He feared God. Satan thought Job obeyed God because of his wealth. He thought Job would turn away from God if his possessions were taken away. God allowed Job to be tested, but his faith remained strong. He lost everything, but he did not denounce his faith in God. We must be strong in our faith too.

"Many people today live as if they do not believe in Christ. Others do not believe the devil exist. They are all wrong. Many times we like to be in a neutral position. The Bible tells us God will spit us out if we are lukewarm. Read Revelation 3:15-16. We should be completely for Christ. If a person does

not believe in Christ, that disbelief puts him on the side of the devil. The lake of fire awaits the devil and his followers in hell.

"Hell was not prepared for man. It was prepared for the devil and his angels. Man will only go to hell if he obeys and follows Satan instead of believing and trusting in Jesus Christ.

"You have a choice to make. No one can choose for you. Whom will you follow today?"

Have the students repeat the Memory Verse with you until they can say it without your help. Call attention to the "Things to Do" section of the book and encourage them to do that work.

PRAYER SUGGESTIONS

1. Pray that the faith of each student will grow stronger as you study these lessons.
2. Pray for those people who have not accepted Christ as their Saviour to be saved during this study.
3. Pray that each student will choose the right path to follow.
4. Pray that each student will understand what Revelation 19 and 20 mean to them as they study this lesson.
5. Pray that each student will attend class regularly to hear every lesson in this book.

CHAPTER FOUR

WITCHCRAFT AND THE WORK OF SATAN

PREPARING TO TEACH

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURE: 2 Chronicles 33:1-6; Exodus 22:18; Acts 16:16-18; 2 Corinthians 11:13-15

VERSES IN TODAY'S LESSON: 2 Chronicles 33:1-6; Exodus 22:18; Acts 16:16-18; 2 Corinthians 11:13-15

MEMORY VERSE: "...But Paul was annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, 'I charge you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.' And it came out that very hour" (Acts 16:18).

LESSON AIM: I will teach my pupils how Satan uses witchcraft in doing his work.

TEACHING AIDS: Find someone in your church who was at one time involved in witchcraft to give a 3-minute testimony.

BACKGROUND STUDY

In this lesson you will study about witchcraft and the work of Satan. As you study you will learn how to respond to witchcraft in your society.

Many people today turn to witchcraft when they have problems. The problem may be an incurable disease, a family crisis or just a sense of insecurity in family relationships. Other people turn to witchcraft in an attempt to shape a desired future.

People often do not know that witchcraft is the work of Satan. Satan uses witchcraft to accomplish his purpose. The writer of John tells us Satan comes to steal, kill and destroy. (John 10:10)

Those who get involved in witchcraft even a little bit will slowly be attracted to it. They are dead spiritually. Their lives are separated from God. The Bible calls this separation from God and union with Satan death. These people will be destroyed with Satan. They will not inherit the kingdom of God. (Galatians 5:20-21)

Read 2 Chronicles 33:1-6. The writer tells us about Manasseh, the king of Jerusalem. Manasseh did evil before the sight of God. In verse 6 we are told that he burned his son as an offering to please his gods. He practised soothsaying, augury and sorcery. He also dealt with mediums and wizards. Manasseh believed in the power of witchcraft instead of God.

Exodus 22:18 tells us we should not permit those people who practise witchcraft or sorcery to live among us. They can ruin our lives with their way of life.

Read Acts 16:16-18. Paul talked about a slave girl who had a spirit of divination. This slave girl was owned by people who gained from her soothsaying. The spirit in her recognized that Paul and the others who were with him were servants of God. She followed them shouting at people who came to hear Paul preach. Paul got annoyed and rebuked the evil spirit to come out that very hour. The power of God proved to be much stronger than Satan's.

Read 2 Corinthians 11:13-15. The Bible tells us how Satan changes himself to be an angel of light. He boasts of his work, power and responsibility. Those who worship him change themselves and claim to be apostles of Jesus Christ. Satan uses his power to do signs and miracles to make people believe him. Those who are weak in faith are convinced very easily. People need to know that God has provided in Jesus Christ the things they look for in witchcraft. God can be trusted for all the problems of human life. He promises a future for his

children. His purpose is that everyone of his children will have abundant life.

We know that God is concerned about us. He desires the best for us. Therefore we have no reason to trust in or to fear witchcraft.

TEACHING THE LESSON

INTRODUCTION

Let the person you invited to class give a 3-minute testimony. Ask him to share about his involvement in witchcraft and why he left witchcraft. Write down his main ideas.

Refer to Rachel's story in the Introduction in the students' books . Ask: "How should Rachel respond to her problem? And why?"

Let the class discuss various responses to the question.

Say: "Witchcraft is real in our society. We need to know what the Bible says about it."

EXAMINATION

Have a student read 2 Chronicle 33:1-6. Say: "In this passage witchcraft is seen as trusting and honouring things or people instead of God. Soothsaying (fortune-telling), sorcery, charms, mediums and wizards are all part of witchcraft.

"When a person trusts in these, he is trusting in Satan's works. This is why the Bible forbids all kinds of witchcraft."

Have different people read these passages: Exodus 22:18, Micah 5:12, Galatians 5:20-21.

Now have another student read Acts 16:16-18 Say: "The slave girl was soothsaying or telling fortunes by the influence

of the evil spirit within her. Paul, in the name of Jesus, commanded the spirit to come out of her."

Ask: "What do you learn from this story?" Wait for their answers. Say: "The passage shouts to us that believers have power over the work of Satan."

Ask: "What does it mean by '... in the name of Jesus...?'" Wait for responses. Refer the students to their own books for the answer.

Ask someone who has not contributed much to the discussion to read 2 Corinthians 11:13-15. Say: "In this passage, we read that Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. This tells us something about the spectacular things in witchcraft. They happen to attract people. Witchcraft is intended to accomplish Satan's purpose in people's lives."

APPLICATION

Say: "Satan is still working even today. He uses witchcraft, mediums, soothsaying, wizards, sorcery, false prophets, deception and lies to accomplish his purpose. Satan's main purpose is to destroy people's lives.

"Satan uses people who are interested in his work, friends, neighbours and sometimes even our families, to lead us to death. He deceives us to believe them and their evil ways. Satan makes sure that he leads people away from God to perish in their sins. He does not want people to trust Jesus Christ and be saved.

"Satan keeps us away from God by lying to us. We see how he lied to Eve in the garden of Eden. He used something attractive, the fruit, to make Eve doubt God. He said, '...You will not die. For God knows when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil'"

(Genesis 3:4-5). Adam and Eve knew what was good and evil when they ate the fruit, but they died spiritually."

Say: "Some people have superstitions and omens which they obey and fear today. They have trusted in them so much that they cannot see the power of Jesus Christ. Even some Christians have become double minded. They follow and worship Christ when they enjoy life, but they turn to witchcraft when misfortune and trouble come their way. They do now seem to know that Jesus Christ can help them through any trouble they may face.

"People should know they have been freed from all these practices. Christ set us free by dying on the cross. He washed us with his blood. He is just waiting for us to confess our sins and ask for forgiveness.

"God forbade witchcraft. Death is the penalty for those who reject God. There is no problem so big that God cannot solve it. He has greater power than Satan. Christians have God's victory, because he has overcome the world. We can trust God with all our problems. We should remember that God desires the best for us."

Ask: "Will you trust God and take your burdens to him today?"

Say: "Try God's way, and he will make a difference in your life.

Today we have learned that Satan uses witchcraft to accomplish his purpose. Satan's purpose is to destroy people's lives. We have also learned that God forbids witchcraft. We can trust God for all our problems. God desires the best for us."

PRAYER SUGGESTIONS

1. Write down ten things God has done for you. Thank him for giving you these things.
2. Ask God to forgive you if you have ever been involved in witchcraft.
3. Burn any "lucky charms" or other objects used for witchcraft if you have any. Ask God to help you lead your students to do this also.

CHAPTER FIVE

HOW TO IDENTIFY WITCHCRAFT

PREPARING TO TEACH

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 27:5-9; Daniel 2:27-28; Isaiah 2:5-6; 1 John 4:1- 6

VERSE IN TODAY'S LESSON: Jeremiah 27:5-9; Daniel 2:27-28; Isaiah 2:5-6; 1 John 4:1- 6

MEMORY VERSE: "Now the works of the flesh are plain:...impurity,...sorcery,... those who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God" (Galatians 5:19- 21).

LESSON AIM: I will teach my pupils how to identify witchcraft.

TEACHING AIDS: Find objects that are used in witchcraft in your area and bring them to class. Bring also local herbs that are used in your community.

BACKGROUND STUDY

You can identify witchcraft by what it does. It leads people to trust in objects and idols. It causes hostility toward God and brings hatred between people.

God has revealed himself through Jesus Christ. Anyone who refuses to recognize Jesus as the Son of God and rejects his authority is of the evil one.

It is important to realize that all Satan does through witchcraft is to accomplish his purpose. Satan seeks to steal, kill and destroy people's lives. He uses deception, impurity, sorcery and even miracles to achieve his purpose.

Witchcraft claims supernatural power. It claims to solve life's problems. Witchdoctors promise to give whatever people desire.

In this lesson we shall consider the Scriptures that relate to the works and the purpose of Satan to help us identify witchcraft.

In Jeremiah 27:5-9, God ordered Israel to submit to Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon. God chose Nebuchadnezzar to be his servant. God gave him authority, and all the nations had to serve him until God would make Nebuchadnezzar to be their slave.

God went on to warn the people not to listen to their prophets, diviners, dreamers, soothsayers or sorcerers. These men were telling the Israelites not to serve the king of Babylon. It was God's plan to give Nebuchadnezzar authority. God had the power to say, do or change anything. He wanted Israel to obey him rather than man.

In Daniel 2:27-28, we read of how King Nebuchadnezzar had dreams. He was troubled in his sleep. He called in the

wise men, magicians and sorcerers of Babylon to interpret the dreams, but they could not. He became angry and wanted to destroy them. But Daniel, a man of God, was able to interpret the meaning of the dream to the king.

God revealed to Daniel the mysteries of the king's dream. The king trusted in the wise men, magicians, sorcerers and astrologers, but they failed him. God had the power to reveal the truth to the king.

Read Isaiah 2:5-6. We see how God rejected the people of the house of Jacob because they had fellowship with diviners and soothsayers in their land. Israel had turned from God and trusted supernatural powers, the spirits. Isaiah called them to come and "...walk in the light of the Lord" (Isaiah 2:5). God was ready to forgive and accept them if they were willing to obey and trust him. God wanted Israel to make a choice. They had to obey him and live or reject him and die by the sword.

TEACHING THE LESSON

INTRODUCTION

Have a student read the story about Simon from his book. Ask: "What would you do if you were in Simon's situation?" Give everybody who wants to respond an opportunity. Summarize the thoughts that are given in the answers.

Ask: "How would you distinguish witchcraft from local or traditional medicine?"

Ask: "What are the claims of witchcraft?" Let several people respond. List their answers on the chalk board or a piece of paper. Then ask: "Does witchcraft actually fulfil these claims?"

Say: "We have said that witchcraft is the work of Satan. Satan does everything to achieve his purpose."

Ask: "How does Satan use the claims you have mentioned to achieve his purpose?"

Say: "As you let people see what witchcraft does, they will be able to identify it. Jesus said you can know false teachers by their fruits. The same is true of witchdoctors and witchcraft. You can know witchcraft by its fruits."

Ask three people to share how they would identify witchcraft from local medicinemen.

EXAMINATION

Say: "We cannot understand witchcraft without knowing the people who practise it. Let us talk about witchdoctors, witches and mediums. We shall also discuss herbalists. Witchdoctors and witches claim to have power to heal and bewitch people. Those who deal with mediums claim to have powers to speak to the spirits. Herbalists, however, claim to treat any kind of diseases using roots, herbs, stems and leaves of plants.

"Witchdoctors often cover themselves with long pieces of cloth. They wear strings around their neck fitted with beads, bones and horns. Sometimes, however, they just dress as ordinary people.

"Witchdoctors claim they can treat any kind of disease. They use roots, shells, herbs and wild plants as their medicine. They claim to have power over everything. They also believe in spirits. They tell people that their miseries are caused by the spirits that surround them.

"Sometimes witches carry out their missions during the night. They visit and perform their duties on whoever consults them.

"Mediums may wear black pieces of cloth and black beads around their necks or they may wear modern clothes. They say they are possessed by spirits whom they consult when problems strike a person, a family or a village. Mediums claim to have the power to appease the spirits.

"Herbalists are more like pharmacists. They prepare different roots, herbs, stems and leaves of plants to get medicine to treat their patients. They do not cast spells or claim to know the cause of life's miseries. Most of them are free from the spirits. They mostly give medicine to people who visit them."

APPLICATION

Say: "Witchcraft is the work of Satan. He uses witchcraft to trick people to believe him. Witchcraft involves sorcery, divination, soothsaying and magic. These are practised by people who have chosen to work for Satan. This does not have to be a conscious decision to follow Satan. It can be that the person has not made a decision to follow Jesus, and so he drifts into Satan's clutches.

"Witchcraft causes misunderstandings, disbelief and hatred between people. It makes people trust idols and gods instead of God, the Father. People who practise witchcraft claim to have powers to heal, bewitch and solve life's miseries. This is not true!

"Satan is using witchcraft to trick Christians not to have faith in God. Satan is fighting a battle that God has already won. No power is greater than God's power."

Ask: "Does God approve of witchcraft today?" Give time for responses.

Say: "God forbids any kind of witchcraft. He warned Israel not to listen to such people. He is warning us even today. He wants us to trust him alone. God is calling us to "...walk in the light of the Lord" (Isaiah 2:5) and serve him. It is only when we are in God that we can understand him and his works in our lives.

"Witchcraft, sorcery and mediums can fail us because they are working under the influence of evil spirits. God cannot fail us when we trust him.

"Jesus is our perfect example of how to live. He obeyed the Father who sent him. We too must obey Jesus and rebuke the deceit and tricks of Satan. Jesus came that those who believe in him may have life in its fullness. Satan desires to destroy people's lives. God wants to deliver you from the power of witchcraft."

Tell each pupil to think of someone they know is involved in witchcraft. Lead them to begin to pray that God will deliver them. Encourage them to ask God for an opportunity to warn that person about the dangers of witchcraft.

PRAYER SUGGESTIONS

1. Pray for God's help in teaching this lesson.
2. Pray that your students will understand the seriousness of witchcraft.

CHAPTER SIX

WITCHCRAFT AND THE CHRISTIAN

PREPARING TO TEACH

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURES: Deuteronomy 18:10-12; Amos 3:3; Micah 5:12; Mark 5:1-13; Acts 8:20-24; 13:6-11; 16:16-18; Ephesians 6:10-11, 14-18

VERSES IN TODAY'S LESSON: Deuteronomy 18:10-12; Amos 3:3; Micah 5:12; Mark 5:1-13; Acts 8:20-24; 13:6-11; 16:16-18; Ephesians 6:10-11, 14-18

MEMORY VERSE: "Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil" (Ephesians 6:11).

LESSON AIM: I will teach my students how Christians should separate themselves from witchcraft.

TEACHING AIDS: A chalk board or a large piece of paper. Write the topic, "Witchcraft and the Christian."

BACKGROUND STUDY

The writer of Deuteronomy is thought to be Moses. The people of Israel, God's chosen people, are confronted with the demands of God's commandments.

Deuteronomy 18:10-12: This section has strong warnings against any use of sorcery. God commanded his people to be separated from witchcraft.

Verse 10: There is warning to anyone found offering his son or daughter as a burnt sacrifice or to anyone who practises witchcraft. These things are an abomination to the Lord. When a person has become a new Christian he should refrain from witchcraft practices. Jesus will care for him.

Mark 5:6-13: Jesus met demons, Satan's angels, during his ministry. When they came face to face with Jesus they cried out in great fear. Jesus commanded the evil spirits, and they left the man immediately.

In Acts 8 Peter rebuked the minister of Satan who was preaching the power of Jesus. Peter urged him to repent and ask for forgiveness. He told him to submit himself to Christ and his power. As a Christian, witchcraft should not shake you at all. One should not have wavering hope.

In Acts 13:6-11, Paul opposed Satan's messenger at Paphos. Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, rebuked the man and made him become blind.

In Acts 16:16-18, Paul was at Philippi. A slave girl who had a spirit of divination tried to disturb the preaching of God's Word. Paul rebuked her and the evil spirit left her. Christ Jesus is the only powerful one. The Holy Spirit works in those who are Jesus' true followers.

In Amos 3:3, we are told that God and Israel are bound together by a covenant, a deliberate conditional arrangement. If Israel forsakes God, can they continue together?

In this lesson each one needs to see that when a person is in Christ he has a strong defence against the work of the devil. When we pray in the Spirit, we can overcome the power of the devil. (Ephesians 6:18) We are more than conquerors through God. (Romans 8:37) The Holy Spirit will help us fight Satan and live for Christ.

TEACHING THE LESSON

INTRODUCTION

Ask: "Who is a Christian." As the answers are given, write them on the chalk board. You may get answers like: believers in Christ or those saved by Christ.

Ask: "Who are witchdoctors?" Answers may be: people who practice witchcraft. When the pupils have finished, read Deuteronomy 18:10-12.

Say: "In this verse, God commanded his people to be separated completely from witchcraft. Whoever disagrees with the commands of God faces problems. God commanded his people to be holy. When we live a holy life, there are special responsibilities which we are given by God.

"Let us see what we should do as Christians regarding this serious matter."

EXAMINATION

Say: "In Deuteronomy 1:5 Moses was said to have explained the law. The book was so important that it was placed beside the Ark of the Covenant and delivered to the Levites for safe keeping.

"Moses spoke to the Israelites when they were in the plains of Moab in the closing months of his life. God commanded his people through Moses to be separated from witchcraft. The book gives a stern warning on witchcraft practices. Many people tried to do these things. God had to tell them that he needed people who lived a holy life.

"In Jesus ministry, he encountered Satan's angels known as demons. Jesus commanded and rebuked evil spirits, and they obeyed him.

"We read in Mark 5:1-13 that, when he recognized Jesus, the man with a demon cried out with a loud voice. The man had lived to himself in misery. He knew neither rest nor sleep but only ceaseless outcry. Jesus rebuked that evil spirit, and it left the man immediately."

"In the book of Acts, Peter and Paul rebuked evil spirits in the name of Jesus. The devil was cast out because of their strong belief in Christ." Teacher, use your Background Study for further information.

Ask: "Do you think these evil spirits were powerful in these people?" After a short discussion, say: "We must agree that the spirits were powerful. They troubled people very much, but we have good news. Jesus is more powerful than the evil spirits. The spirits obeyed him and feared him greatly. If we are walking with Jesus, we have nothing to fear."

"Jesus has given us a wonderful way to defend ourselves from all evil. Turn to Ephesians 6:14-18. Let us look at the armour which Jesus has provided for his people to protect them."

"First they are to gird themselves with truth. There is no place in the Christian's life for lies."

"His breastplate is righteousness. A soldier's breastplate protected his heart and lungs. It protected the necessary organs for that person to live. The breastplate of the Christian is righteousness."

Ask: "What does the Christian wear on his feet?" (Allow the students to answer.) "The gospel of peace should be our equipment wherever we go."

"Then we should take up our shield, which is faith. In times of battle, soldiers often met darts of fire which the enemy

threw at them. The shield of faith would protect them from this evil. But one part of the body has not yet been covered. It is important to protect the head. The helmet of salvation is the protection for the brain, another necessary part of the body.

"These things protect the soldier who is going out to battle, but he also needs something with which to fight. He has no weapon yet."

Ask: "What is the weapon of the Christian?" (Wait for answers.) "The sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, is our weapon. This sword, the Bible, will enable us to fight the enemy of witchcraft or any other evil."

APPLICATION

Ask: "Do you know anyone who practises witchcraft in your area?" Give time for those who want to share experiences. Ask: "How can a Christian fight the devil?" Again allow time for discussion.

Lead your students to the truth that they must obey God's commands by living a holy life. Ask if there are any questions about the armour of the Christian.

Say: "We read in the Bible about people who believed in Christ, his disciples, Peter and Paul, who were given power to cast out demons because of their strong faith in God. Christians should not fear the devil. When a person is in Christ he becomes strong. The Bible says, '...for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world' (1 John 4:4). This verse is very important for Christians."

Have the students repeat the Memory Verse with you until they can say it without help. Remind the students that, although Satan is powerful, God is more powerful than Satan.

The Holy Spirit helps Christians fight evil spirits. We must live for Christ.

PRAYER SUGGESTIONS

1. Pray that your Christian students will stand firm without fear of witchcraft.
2. Pray that each student will grow stronger as you study this lesson.
3. Pray that witchdoctors in your area will leave their practices and turn to Jesus.
4. Pray that each student will attend the class regularly to study each lesson. Ask God to help them separate themselves from witchcraft activities.

CHAPTER SEVEN

THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE TRINITY

PREPARING TO TEACH

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURES: Matthew 3:13-17

VERSES IN TODAY'S LESSON: Matthew 3:13-17

MEMORY VERSE: "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth..." (John 16:13).

LESSON AIM: I will help my students understand that the Holy Spirit is one person of the Trinity.

TEACHING AIDS: None

BACKGROUND STUDY

It is not possible to include all the verses about the Holy Spirit in this lesson, but we will study some that give a

balanced picture of the Holy Spirit and the other persons of the Trinity.

God has revealed himself in the Scriptures as God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the third person in the Trinity, but all three are one.

The Bible teaches about the Trinity. This teaching is difficult to understand, but we should not think it is not right because we do not understand it well.

We learn in the Bible that there is one God and only one. "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord" (Deuteronomy 6:4). But the Bible clearly reveals the one true God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Let us examine some of the Scriptures that teach this:

1. Jesus and the Father are one. Jesus said, "I and the Father are one" (John 10:30). In John 14:9 we read, "...He who has seen me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?" Jesus and the Father are one person.

2. Jesus and the Holy Spirit are one. When Jesus promised the coming of the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, he made the presence of the Holy Spirit equal to his own. "And I will pray the Father, and he will give you another Counselor, to be with you for ever, even the Spirit of truth..." (John 14:16). The word, another, stands for one like Jesus having the same kind of power.

3. God and the Holy Spirit are One. In Acts 5:3-4, Peter taught that a lie to the Holy Spirit was a lie to God. He said this when Ananias sold his land, but decided to keep part of what he was paid without telling the apostles. He forgot that God is all-knowing.

In 1 Corinthians 3:16 we read, "Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?" This Spirit is God himself.

The Bible teaches us that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are one. God is one, but he has revealed himself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We see then that the Holy Spirit is the invisible, holy, all-powerful, present and spiritual manifestation of God himself. It is through the Holy Spirit that God dwells within the Christian. The Bible teaches us that man can sin against, lie to and grieve the Holy Spirit. Read Matthew 12:31 and Acts 5:3.

The Old Testament shows that the Holy Spirit was active in the lives of men before the coming of Jesus Christ. God put his Spirit upon Gideon, Samson and David to empower them for service. Again, as we study the life of Jesus, we see that the Spirit of God descended like a dove upon him during his baptism. (John 1:32) Jesus also taught that the great works which he did were done through the power of the Spirit of God. Read Matthew 12:28.

TEACHING THE LESSON

INTRODUCTION

Ask: "How can God be three in one?" Use this illustration to help your students understand how the three can be one.

Say: "Think of your mother. When you speak to her you think of her as your mother. You call her your mother.

"What does your father call her? He calls her his wife. He does not think of her as his mother, because she is his wife.

"What does your grandmother call your mother? Does she think of her as you do or as your father does? No, she is your grandmother's daughter.

"Therefore, one woman is three different persons to different members of her family. She is only one woman, but she is known in three different ways.

"God also is known in three different ways. We will study them today."

EXAMINATION

Ask: "What does the Trinity mean?" Someone should say it is the full Christian experience of God as Father, Son in Jesus Christ and Holy Spirit.

Ask: "Who then is the Spirit?" Wait for discussion. Expect someone to say he is the third person of the Trinity, he comes to live in us when we accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour, he controls and guides our lives.

Say: "The Trinity of God can be understood by studying how God has revealed himself to us. He has revealed himself as God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Each one has a distinct work, but they are all part of one God. Jesus said he was the exact image of the Father. He was both human and God. Jesus, when going to heaven, promised to send the Holy Spirit, another Counselor to be with us forever.

"God the Father is in control of everything. God shows his grace, love and forgiveness as a Heavenly Father. It is easy to understand God in this role. Fathers are people who care for, provide for, guide, correct and take all responsibility for their children. Jesus looked to God for everything. He never did anything before praying to his Father. God exercises a fatherly role to those who come to him and become his children."

Say: "The Son, Jesus Christ, is God's personal and highest revelation of himself to mankind. Jesus was man and God in the flesh. He was both divine and human. Jesus Christ made it possible for men to meet God and become his sons."

Tell a student to read Colossians 1:19-20. Say: "People can now relate to God through Jesus Christ. God sent Jesus to the world so he could meet man in a personal way. He wanted man to have direct fellowship with him."

Say: "The Holy Spirit is eternal and existed from the very beginning. We read in Genesis 1 that he was present in creation. Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit when he ascended to heaven. He came on the day of Pentecost in a special way to continue God's work in the world. The Holy Spirit helps us accept and understand God's Word. He convicts us of our sins. He makes it possible for us to believe in Christ as our Saviour. It is the Holy Spirit who brings fellowship in the church. The Spirit produces the change of life in us from sin to faith."

Have the students turn in their books to chapter seven. Let them name the six ways the Spirit works as they are listed there.

Say: "In John 16:14 we read the words of Jesus as he told what the work of the spirit would be. 'He shall glorify me.' This Scripture may be used as a test for those things many people claim to do by the power of the Holy Spirit. If Jesus is not glorified in it, then it has not been done by the power of the Spirit of God."

APPLICATION

Say: "The Bible teaches us that the Holy Spirit dwells within the heart of every true Christian. The Spirit of God enters the heart of a person when he is born again. A person is not a

Christian if he does not have the Holy Spirit in his heart. Romans 8:9 says, '...Any one who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.'

"There is a difference between the Holy Spirit dwelling within a person and the Holy Spirit filling a person. God wants each of us to surrender his heart to him so he can fill us with his Spirit. It is then that he can use us in his service. Christians will be able to speak the Word of God with boldness after being filled with the Holy Spirit." Have a student read Acts 4:31.

Say: "God is ready and anxious to fill our hearts with his Spirit. But before he will do this, we must empty our hearts from those things that displease him. We must be ready to obey the leadership of the Holy Spirit in all things. We shall then be able to experience his fullness in our lives in a wonderful way."

PRAYER SUGGESTIONS

1. Pray that you and your students will understand that the Trinity is God's revelation of himself in three persons.
2. Pray that your students will let the Holy Spirit take control of their lives.
3. Ask God to help those students who have not yet committed their lives to Christ to do so now.

CHAPTER EIGHT

THE HOLY SPIRIT AND INSPIRATION

PREPARING TO TEACH

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURES: 2 Timothy 3:14-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21

VERSES IN TODAY'S LESSON: 2 Timothy 3:14-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21

MEMORY VERSE: "...no prophecy ever came by the impulse of man, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God" (2 Peter 1:21).

LESSON AIM: I will show my students the authority and importance of Scripture in their lives.

TEACHING AIDS: Bring to class: two or three secular books, your Scripture memory pack or any tool you use for Scripture memory and your Bible study plan if you have one.

BACKGROUND STUDY

The Bible is the authority for our lives. It is inspired by God, and the Holy Spirit was the agent of that inspiration. The Greek word translated "inspiration" in 2 Timothy 3:16 simply means God-breathed. God, the Holy Spirit directed human authors. They used their individual personalities and recorded God's Word to man without error. The Bible was written over a period of 1500 years. The time of writing differs from book to book.

The Bible speaks about a single subject. It is consistent in its content and presentation. The central theme of the Bible is God's redeeming love for man. It can be traced from Genesis to Revelation. In Genesis we see the fall of man. Man

disobeyed God in the garden of Eden. The result is broken fellowship between God and man. God did not give up on man when he sinned. Instead God chose to demonstrate his love to all nations using Israel as his chosen people. We see this love at its best in the person of Jesus Christ who came to die for the sins of the whole world.

2 Timothy 3:14-17: The passage shows that the Scriptures instruct man on how to find God's redeeming love. The God-breathed words are an authority and are profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction and training in righteousness. There is no limit to what God's Word can do in a person's life. Paul affirmed this. He told us that when God's Word is allowed to have full effect on a person, he is complete. He is equipped for every kind of good work. As a teacher of the Bible you are equipped when you study God's Word and allow it to affect your life.

2 Peter 19:21: Peter made two important points in this passage. First, the Scriptures are more than human words. Men did not act on impulse and come up with words. They were moved by the Holy Spirit to speak and to write. Second, the Scriptures can not be explained apart from their author or from the Holy Spirit who inspired their writing.

TEACHING THE LESSON

INTRODUCTION

Take the different books you brought with you in one hand and take the Bible in the other. Ask your class, "What is the difference between these books?" Try to find out by asking questions what your students understand about the uniqueness and authority of the Bible.

Let one of your students read 2 Timothy 3:14-17. Ask: "Is there anything in this passage that shows the Bible is different

from other books?" Let them tell you what they think. Spend some time explaining "inspiration" and its relationship to the uniqueness of the Bible. Use your Background Study. Ask someone to read 2 Peter 1:19-21 to help you explain more.

Say: "The Bible is God's Word. It has authority over our lives. We are to obey what it says. If we refuse to obey, we miss out on God's blessing for our lives. We also earn punishment for ourselves for disobedience."

EXAMINATION

Ask: "What are the ways in which the Scripture is profitable?" Wait for students to respond.

Say: "God's Word gives us truth and guidance for our daily lives. We search the Scriptures to know our Lord better and to fellowship with him. The Scriptures are adequate for teaching, correcting, reproof and for training us in righteousness. It equips us for every kind of good work. It helps us to see our sins, confess and to turn to God.

"The Scriptures inspire people to worship God and discover the truth about him. God uses his Word to lead us. He gives us the Holy Spirit who helps us to understand him. He speaks to us through his Word, the Bible.

"God inspired the writing of the Bible. He planned, chose, guided and inspired men to write it. The Bible is God's Word for us.

"No one can discover God or his truth accidentally. God reveals himself to us through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit inspires us to know and understand God. He helps us to accept Christ in our lives and walk with him daily."

APPLICATION

Ask: "Is there any authority over our lives and actions? What and why?" Make sure the students understand that the Scripture is an authority for our lives because it is God's inspired Word.

Ask: "How can we best understand the Scripture?" Allow time for questions and discussion.

Say: "God's Word has practical lessons for our life. We therefore need to put it into our hearts by reading, studying, memorizing and meditating on it."

Teacher, take time to share how you accomplish this in your life. You can use things like quiet time or Scripture memory. Show any helps you brought along to aid in Bible Study. Tell about any regular Bible study groups you attend.

Say: "The Bible is a very important book for a Christian. There is no other book in the world like the Bible. It is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path. (Psalms 119:105) It is the inspired Word of God.

"We can be inspired to serve God through reading the Bible. The Holy Spirit is continually at work in us and in the world. He helps us understand the Bible and God's will for our life.

"We need to study and meditate on the Scriptures. It is only then that it can become active in our lives. We should let the Holy Spirit lead us in discovering the truths of the Scriptures. But we must have Christ as our Saviour before the Holy Spirit can take control of our lives. He will help us know and understand God. God will lead you as you plant his Word in your heart."

PRAYER SUGGESTIONS

1. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide you every time you read the Scriptures.
2. Pray that your students will understand the importance of reading the Bible every day.

CHAPTER NINE

THE COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

PREPARING TO TEACH

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURES: John 16:7-13; Acts 2:14-21

VERSES IN TODAY'S LESSON: John 16:7-13; Acts 2:14-21

MEMORY VERSE: "And it shall be that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Acts 2:21).

LESSON AIM: I will teach my students what the coming of the Spirit means to their lives.

TEACHING AIDS: Write the words "Why did the Holy Spirit Come?" on the chalk board or on a large paper.

BACKGROUND STUDY

In writing this Gospel, John included the teaching of Jesus to his disciples. Jesus taught his disciples what was going to happen to him. He told them he was going to die, and therefore he would leave them and go to the Father. But he would not leave them alone. He promised to send the Holy Spirit to be with them. The disciples were sorrowful to hear that message. They asked Jesus where he was going. Then Jesus answered them, "...It is to your advantage that I go away,...I will send him (the Holy Spirit) to you" (John 16:7).

The disciples had thought the death of Jesus would mean the end of his ministry. Jesus assured them of the three-fold advantage of his departure. First, his departure meant his death on the cross and ascension to the Father. Second, the Holy Spirit would come to abide in and work through them. Thirdly, the Father and the Son would be present with them through the Holy Spirit.

John 16:8 says, "...And when he comes, he will convince the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgement." The Holy Spirit would work to help the disciples witness for Christ and preach the gospel of the kingdom. The Spirit would also help unbelievers understand the gospel and believe it.

John 16:13 says, "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth;...he will declare to you the things that are to come." Another work of the Spirit would be to enable the disciples to understand the meaning of Christ's suffering, death and resurrection. They would also understand other truths related to salvation.

Acts 2:17-18 says, "...in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,...and they shall prophesy." Peter believed that the last days started at Pentecost. On that day God poured out the Holy Spirit. The last days did not mean the end of the world, It referred to the last period in which God is to relate to people in a special way. It was a period marked by the presence of the Holy Spirit. It was a period of blessings for those who repent and a period of judgement for those who rebel against God. It is also a time when Satan's kingdom will be destroyed by the kingdom of God. The major weapons used to destroy Satan's kingdom are love, the cross and the resurrection of Christ.

TEACHING THE LESSON

INTRODUCTION

Ask: "Why did the Holy Spirit come?" Show these words which you have written on the chalk board or on a large paper. You may get answers like to convince men of sin, to guide believers in all truth, to be present with the believers and to mark a new way for God to relate to man. Write down all the ideas. Read John 16:7-13 and Acts 2:14-21. Let the students tell the purpose of the Spirit from each passage. Add to the list on the chalk board if reasons for his coming not already listed are found.

Ask: "What are the uses or purposes of electricity?" Encourage the students to name many uses of electricity. Emphasize the importance of electricity.

Say: "Most people do not know how electricity comes to their homes, but all can see how it works. It is used to do many kinds of work. People who do not have electricity may not know many of its uses. They just hear about it. So it is with people who are without the Holy Spirit. They cannot understand how the Holy Spirit works.

"A person receives the Holy Spirit the moment he accepts Christ as Saviour. The Spirit begins to live within him. It is costly to install electricity in our homes, but we can have it connected if we are ready to pay the price for it. It is then that it will work for us. Likewise, the Spirit comes to dwell in us when we accept Christ as Lord. He is the power of God, but we must choose whether we will let him work in our lives."

EXAMINATION

Say: "John 16:7-13 tells us Jesus promised to leave the Comforter with disciples. He promised to send the Holy Spirit

to be with them. The Spirit had been present from the beginning, but he was only within special people whom God chose. At this time he would be present within each person who believes.

"We read in these verse what the Holy Spirit would do. He would give power to the disciples to do their work. He would help them witness for Christ and preach the good news of the kingdom of God. He would help them understand God better. He would help them respond to God in faith. He would also convict non-believers of their sin. He would show the people God's righteousness and judgement. He would help them understand the meaning of Christ's suffering, death and resurrection. He would lead people into knowing all the truth concerning salvation."

Say: "Joel 2:28-32 tells us the Spirit would be given out upon all flesh. This would happen at a special time. It would be a special happening. The Spirit would be available to live in God's people."

"Acts 2:14-21 tells us about the fulfilment of the prophecy in Joel 2:28-32. This happened on the day of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit came in a mighty way. He was available to all believers at that time. He came to live within each man."

"On that day, the Spirit gave power to the disciples. They spoke in tongues. Peter preached boldly and explained the gospel to everyone. Each person who was present heard the good news in his own language. God's love was shown to all men of every nation."

Ask: "Why does the Holy Spirit come?" Wait for the students to respond then have one read Acts 2:21.

Say: "The first work of the Holy Spirit in a person is to convict him of his sin, and then he redeems each person who

receives him. Later, the Holy Spirit works in that new believer to enable him to serve the Lord. The Spirit blesses others through the saved person. He convicts others of their unrighteousness, sin and judgement.

"The purpose of the Holy Spirit is to glorify God through the Son, Jesus. God the Father and the Holy Spirit are trying to convince everyone to honour the Son, Jesus. The Holy Spirit enables us to let Christ control our lives."

APPLICATION

Ask: "How can you know that someone has received the Holy Spirit?" Wait for answers. Then ask a student to read Acts 2:4 and another Acts 2:17-18.

Say: "These verses tell some things the Spirit does to people. He gives them power to speak God's Word boldly. He also gives them power to do good works. He helps us witness for Christ and preach the good news of the kingdom of God. The Holy Spirit helps us understand the good news and respond in faith to God.

"The Holy Spirit comes to dwell in us when we repent of our sin and receive Jesus as our Saviour. He is available to all who seek him. He convicts and redeems each person who receives him. He comforts, guides and teaches each believer. He then works in us to help us serve the Lord Jesus. He blesses other people through us.

Ask: "Do you understand the coming of the Holy Spirit?" Let students respond and ask questions.

Say: "The Holy Spirit has come to you. He lives within you once you accept Jesus as your Saviour. His desire is to glorify Christ in your life. You will have joy, peace and happiness if you allow him to do this. The Spirit will reveal more to you as

you yield your life to him each day. You must accept his presence by faith. It is then that Christ can really dwell in you as your only Master and Lord."

PRAYER SUGGESTIONS

1. Pray that your students will understand the purpose of the Holy Spirit in their lives.
2. Pray for your students to obey the Holy Spirit in their lives.
3. Pray that every student will be involved in Christ's ministry.

CHAPTER TEN

THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

PREPARING TO TEACH

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURES: Luke 1:35; Matthew 3:13-17; John 14:16-20; Romans 8:6-14

VERSES IN TODAY'S LESSON: Luke 1:35; Matthew 3:13-17; John 14:16-20; Romans 8:6-14.

MEMORY VERSE: "And I am sure that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:6).

LESSON AIM: I will teach my students the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of men.

TEACHING AIDS: Paper and a pencil for each student

BACKGROUND STUDY

We will study in this lesson how the Holy Spirit works in the lives of men. Do you remember from other chapters of this book which you have already studied who he is and when he

began his work in the world? You will also study today about what he requires of believers in order to work through them, and what will prevent his working.

In order to learn about the Holy Spirit, we must go back to Genesis. We read that he was present when the world and its people were created. The Bible teaches that the Spirit was moving all over creation bringing God's will into being. The Spirit is an equal part of the trinity.

The Holy Spirit foretold Jesus' birth. (Luke 1:35) He was also present at his baptism. (Matthew 3:13-17) He arranged the beginning of Jesus' ministry and enabled him to perform many miracles. He inspired him to preach and teach, and he ministered to him during his wilderness temptation. Finally, the Spirit raised Jesus from the dead.

Jesus words and works were inspired by the Spirit. People marvelled at how Jesus performed his miracles. They accused him of using the power of Satan. But Jesus claimed that the miracles he did were through the power of the Spirit of God. (Matthew 12:28)

A person cannot be a Christian without the presence of the Holy Spirit. Men are spiritually dead until they are regenerated by the Holy Spirit. We should not forget that God the Son and God the Spirit are one. Both work together. The Spirit convicts men of their sins. It is the Spirit that helps a person to accept Jesus as Lord. The Holy Spirit lives in each Christian. It does not matter that he is weak or imperfect. The Holy Spirit brings fellowship between the believer and God.

When Jesus was about to go to heaven, he prayed to God the Father to send the disciples and believers a comforter, one who would stay with them forever. He was the Holy Spirit. (John 14:16-20) The Holy Spirit seals the believer with God.

His presence in a believer shows God's ownership. This sealing of the Spirit gives the believer assurance that he has been saved.

The Spirit is revealed to us as a companion who is always present. One who convicts us of sin, comforts us and draws us close to God. He reveals to us unrighteousness and has the power to renew us. There can be no new birth without the Holy Spirit. We cannot have power in life nor please God without the Spirit. The Spirit does not force you to do his will. He gives you time to choose. You must decide whether he will dwell in you.

TEACHING THIS LESSON

INTRODUCTION

Say: "Please take your pencil and write on the paper the answers to these questions.

Ask: "Who is the Holy Spirit?" "When did the Holy Spirit begin his work?" "What is the work of the Holy Spirit?" Give the students time to write the answers. Collect the pieces of paper and give them out again so no one knows whose paper he has. Have several students read the answers they have been given to these questions. Have four students read the Scriptures for this lesson. Luke 1:35; Matthew 3:13-17; John 14:16-20; Romans 8:6-14.

Ask: "What do we learn in these verses about the Holy Spirit?" (We learn that Mary's child was of the Holy Spirit. He worked in Jesus' life and ministry. He helps Christians fellowship with God. He inspires believers to do God's will.)

EXAMINATION

Say: "The Holy Spirit has been present since before the world was created. He had an active part in the creation. All

the events in the Old Testament were inspired by the Holy Spirit.

"The Holy Spirit led people of the Old Testament. They were inspired by him. He led them to discover God's calling for them. The Spirit set people apart for God's service. He empowered them as they followed his guidance. The Holy Spirit helped people like Abraham, Moses, Gideon, Elijah, David, and others to be courageous. They did mighty works because they depended on the Holy Spirit."

Ask: "What is the work of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament?" Allow time for discussion.

Say: "The most important part of his work began when he foretold the birth of Jesus Christ. It was the Holy Spirit who accomplished the birth of God the Son, through Mary. The Holy Spirit signified the beginning of Jesus' ministry at his baptism. (Matthew 3:13-17) He assisted in the many miracles Jesus performed. He enabled him to carry out his ministry. He ministered to him during his temptation in the wilderness. The Holy Spirit raised Jesus from the dead.

"All the words and works of Jesus were inspired by the Spirit. No one can doubt the presence and power of the Spirit in the life of Jesus. We should remember that God the Son and God the Spirit are one."

Ask: "What is the work of the Spirit in every believer?" Allow discussion.

Say: "The Holy Spirit draws men to Jesus Christ by convicting them of their sins. He convinces them of unrighteousness and assists at their new birth into the family of God. Then the Spirit lives in the believer and walks alongside him as a helper, comforter and companion.

"We can be victorious and courageous as long as we follow the Spirit's guidance, but we will fail if we claim to control our own lives. Every believer, however weak and imperfect, has the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit seals the believer with God. His presence shows God's ownership. We belong to God because we are bought by the blood of Jesus.

"The Spirit sets us apart from the world and for service. He empowers us to serve God. He inspires us to do God's will."

APPLICATION

Say: "The Holy Spirit has power over all the world. He is equal with God the Father and Jesus the Son. He allows us, however, to decide how little or how much he will control us. He will never force us to accept salvation or his leadership. The choice is ours to make."

Say: "The Spirit-filled life is a Christ-controlled life. We set our feet on the path that leads to death when we depend on self and live a worldly life. We must do the will of God. One example of a person who was led by the Spirit is Enoch. Enoch walked so closely with God that God took him directly to heaven without dying when his work on earth was finished.

"The Spirit lives in you if you are a believer in Christ. He comes to stay forever at the time you accept Christ as your Saviour. He directs your decision and helps you understand God's will in your life.

"The Spirit gives life and peace, but the world will try to keep you from following the Spirit's leadership. Do not let the world press you into its mold. (Romans 12:2) Accept the power of Jesus to help you have victory over the world. As a Christian, a believer, walk like Christ. He is our perfect example in doing our Father's will. Let us walk closely to God as the Spirit leads us."

Ask: "Will you let him work in you and through you today? Are you determined to let the Spirit control your life? Do you see how we must walk with the Spirit?"

Say: "The Holy Spirit accomplishes all that God desires. He is God's promise of life to come with the Lord Jesus. If you say Yes to the Lord Jesus, he will fill you with his Spirit. He will dwell and work in your life for ever."

PRAYER SUGGESTIONS

1. Pray that your students will understand the work of the Holy Spirit today.
2. Pray that they will ask him to take complete control of their lives.
3. Pray for any unsaved people who come to your Bible study class.

CHAPTER ELEVEN

FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

PREPARING TO TEACH

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURES: John 7:37-39; Galatians 5:22-23

VERSES IN TODAY'S LESSON: John 7:37-39; Galatians 5:22-23

MEMORY VERSE: "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you" (Matthew 7:7).

LESSON AIM: I will teach my students what it means to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

TEACHING AIDS: Write the words "Filled with the Holy Spirit" on a chalk board or on a large paper.

BACKGROUND STUDY

What does it mean to be filled with the Spirit? How and when can it happen? What is the evidence of a Spirit-filled person? Paul tells us, "And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit" (Ephesians 5:18). What did he mean?

Paul meant that a Christian should be controlled and directed by the Holy Spirit. A life controlled by the Holy Spirit produces love, peace, joy, kindness, patience and goodness. He should not be controlled and directed by the flesh or the devil. One who is controlled by the flesh or the devil is filled with anger, stealing, evil talk, bitterness or fornication.

How can a Christian be filled with the Spirit? Read John 7:37-39. In this passage we find four conditions to be met in order for a Christian to be filled with the Spirit. The first is to thirst. This means a Christian has to continue longing to be satisfied. Jesus was talking about spiritual thirst. When one is thirsty physically, he drinks water to satisfy him. But nothing physical can take away spiritual thirst. When one has a spiritual thirst he needs rivers of living water to flow into him. That is the Holy Spirit.

The second condition is to come to Jesus. When one has a physical thirst, he goes to the tap or jar to get water. Likewise, when one has a spiritual thirst, he must come to Jesus to get spiritual water. What does it mean to come to Jesus? It means you talk to him, commit yourself to him and depend on him. Jesus is our Saviour. A Christian should come to Jesus with a humble heart and mind and tell him all his needs and

problems. Asking Jesus to fill him with the Holy Spirit is one of his needs. Jesus will give him what he needs.

The third condition is to drink. When a thirsty man gets water, he begins to drink. When a spiritually thirsty one comes to Jesus in prayer, he begins to drink spiritually. He reads the Word of God, studies and meditates on it. He joins other people in worship and Bible study. As he drinks, he will be satisfied.

The fourth condition is to believe. When a person knows he is thirsty he prays to God and begins to drink God's Word. He needs to believe he is in God's presence. He must believe he is being filled by the Holy Spirit. He must have faith because faith pleases God. He will be filled with the Spirit through his faith in God.

There are three evidences to help a Christian know he or she is filled with the Spirit.

The first evidence is the fruit of the Spirit. "...The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness self-control..." (Galatians 5:22-23).

The second one is boldness in claiming the gospel of Christ. Read 2 Timothy 1:7 and Acts 9:27-29. God will give us boldness.

The third evidence is correct use of spiritual gifts. Read Acts 2:4, 1 Corinthians 12:30-31. Gifts are given by the Holy Spirit to all Christians to be used in Christian ministry. Their purposes are to help others grow spiritually and to glorify God. They are not given to be used selfishly or for self glorification.

We can conclude that the fullness of the Spirit is a continuous experience. A Christian is continually filled with the Holy Spirit.

TEACHING THE LESSON

INTRODUCTION

Ask: "What do you understand by being filled with the Holy Spirit?" Show the words written on a chalk board or on a large paper. You may get answers like: when the fruit of the Spirit is seen in ones life, when one prays boldly and with power or when one uses the gifts of the spirit correctly. Write down all ideas, but do not agree or disagree with any of them.

Have a student read one Background Scripture and another student read the other Background Scripture. Let the students determine the teaching from each passage. Then let them point out the correct answers on the list. Add to the list to include all the ideas they now have.

EXAMINATION

Say: "The passage we have read in John's Gospel and Galatians teach us about the fullness of the Holy Spirit. The passage in John's Gospel teaches us about the conditions of how one can be filled." Teacher, explain those conditions to the students using your Background Study notes.

"The passage in Galatians teaches us about one of the evidences of a Spirit-filled Christian. This is the fruit of the Spirit." Also explain the other evidences as well, using your Background Study.

Say: "Let us also look at Ephesians 4:25-32. This passage shows us what a person should be like when he/she is filled with the Holy Spirit. Read Ephesians 5:18 also."

APPLICATION

Ask: "Do you know someone who is filled with the Spirit? How did it happen? Are you filled with the Holy Spirit?" Continue without waiting for responses. **Ask:** "How can you know you or someone you know has been filled with the Holy Spirit?" Let the students discuss this for several minutes. After the discussion, have them read Matthew 7:7. This is the Memory Verse for today, so say it together until they know it. Explain to the students that to ask means dependence on God. Seek means they must take the responsibility, for example, to pray, study their Bible and have faith in God. To knock means they continue depending on God and doing the things he leads them to do. Assure the students that every Christian has the Holy Spirit. They could not have been saved without him. They should enjoy frequent fillings so they can be good witnesses for Jesus.

Ask: "Why is it important for a Christian to be filled with the Spirit?" Have them read Galatians 5:22-23 to help them answer that question.

PRAYER SUGGESTIONS

- 1.** Pray that your students will understand what it means to be filled with the Spirit. Pray that any wrong ideas they may have will be corrected.
- 2.** Pray for the students to be filled with the Spirit even as you teach.
- 3.** Pray that they may see the evidence of the fullness of the Spirit in their lives.
- 4.** Pray that the spirit will use you as you teach them.

CHAPTER TWELVE

THE SPIRIT BECAME FLESH

PREPARING TO TEACH

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURE: Luke 2; John 1:1-14; Philippians 2:5-11

VERSES IN TODAY'S LESSON: Luke 2; John 1:1-14, Philippians 2:5-11

MEMORY VERSE: "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory..."(John 1:14).

LESSON AIM: I will teach my students that Jesus Christ is completely God, but he came to earth as man.

TEACHING AIDS: Write the words, "Jesus Christ, God and man", on the chalk board or large paper.

BACKGROUND STUDY

Jesus had two different and inseparable natures, the nature of God and the nature of man. How did he get these two natures? Luke 1:34-35 says, "And Mary said to the angel, 'How shall this be, since I have no husband?' And the angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.'" The Holy Spirit was involved in Jesus Christ's becoming flesh.

John 1:14 tells us the Word existed before the creation of the world. When the world had its beginning the Word was already there. The Word, John tells us in verse 14, is Jesus Christ, the Son of God. All things were created through him. He is the source of life and light.

Secondly, John says, "...the Word was with God..." (verse 1). John is telling us about the close relationship between the Word and God. This relationship can be explained with his own words. They existed "in the beginning" together. Thirdly, John says, "...the Word was God." He is not saying the Word is like God. The Word is God. Jesus Christ is that Word. When we see Jesus we see God in mind, in heart, in being and in likeness.

Read also Luke 1 and 2 about how and when the Word became flesh. Notice also the involvement of the Holy Spirit in that act.

Now read Philippians 2:5-11. Paul recorded for us a model of how to become humble. Jesus Christ is our best example of humility. First, Paul reminded us that Jesus was in the form of God. The Greek word for form used here means that which never alters or changes. So when Jesus became man he never changed his nature as God. He remained God even when he was in the form of man. God the Father and Jesus Christ were of the same nature and form, and they had equal positions.

Secondly, he tells us in verses 7 and 8 that Jesus emptied himself of that equal position with the Father. He remained of the same nature or form as the Father, but he gave up all the privileges which were his. When Jesus became flesh, he left that higher Godly position and humbled himself to accept the position of a servant. He even became the sacrificial lamb on the cross. He became a person, but he also remained God in nature.

Finally, Paul tells us in verses 9-11 that God exalted Jesus Christ. First, God bestowed on him a name which is above every name. Secondly, his name will be recognised by every person wherever he is. Jesus said, "For every one who exalts

himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted" (Luke 14:11).

TEACHING THE LESSON

INTRODUCTION

You can help your students understand the two natures of Jesus, when you hold up a coin. You will notice that a coin has two sides which cannot be separated. These two sides are also different from each other. Ask whether you can use the coin for two coins since the sides are different.

Similar to a coin in this way, Jesus has two natures. He is God, but he came to earth as a man.

Have all students turn to John 1:1-14 and follow while one reads.

EXAMINATION

Teacher, use your Background Study to help you discuss these verses. Refer the students also to Luke 1:26-2, but you will not have time to read all of it in class. These verses show the work of the Holy Spirit in the birth of Jesus.

Say: "John 1:1 shows us that Jesus was with God the Father in the beginning. He was present at the time of creation. In Genesis 1:26 God said, '...Let us make man in our image, after our likeness....'"

Ask: "To whom do you think he was speaking?" Give time for responses. "God was talking to Jesus and the Holy Spirit. They were all present and active in creation. Someone please read John 1:3."

Continue: "John 1:1 also shows us Jesus' position before he came to earth. He was with God, and he was God. He had all the rights and privileges of God, but he was willing to leave

them and come to earth as a man. His purpose for coming was to die for the sins of men so they could have life everlasting with the Father.

"Verse 10 explains that many people in the world did not know Jesus. They did not want Light in the world, because they preferred to stay in darkness so their evil deeds would not be seen as clearly. Even his own people, the Jews, did not receive him. Read verse 11.

"Verses 12-14 show the great blessings that were for all those who would believe. They received power to become children of God.

"Philippians 2:5-8 tells us more about how Jesus humbled himself and left the Godly position he enjoyed to take on servanthood and even dying on the cross. Jesus emptied himself of all his glory to save sinful men." (See the Background Study.)

APPLICATION

Say: "We have a perfect example in Jesus of how we should live humbly. He gave no thought to what he deserved. He gave his life for sinful men. No price was too large for him to pay for us. He did not count the cost.

"Jesus knew there was no other way men could be saved, and he loved us enough to die for us. Our responsibility is to accept his death and resurrection for our own sins. Every person must do this for himself.

"What can we learn about humility from Jesus? He said 'For every one who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted' (Luke 14:11)."

Ask: "How can a person humble himself?" Give them time to discuss. Say: "He can have a modest opinion of himself.

He can consider other people and their needs as more important than his own."

Ask: Of what can a person empty himself?" Perhaps students will respond. Allow time if they want to share.

Say: "You can empty yourselves of selfishness and greed. You can empty yourself of sinful actions such as bad company, drinking alcoholic drinks, smoking, adultery and laziness. Instead of these things you can fill your life with praying, studying the Bible and witnessing.

"The Holy Spirit is available to give you power to change from any bad habit. You can also be empowered by the same Spirit to live a holy and pure life before God.

"Jesus calls us to humble ourselves leaving our sinful nature to become like him, holy and pure. He helps us do this if we ask him. The Holy Spirit helps us change. He helps us follow Jesus' example instead of following Satan."

PRAYER SUGGESTIONS

- 1. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide you as you teach.**
- 2. Ask him to help you and your students to be humble.**
- 3. Pray that the Holy Spirit will help you and your students change from any bad habits you might have now.**

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

BEING LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

PREPARING TO TEACH

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURE: John 14:16-31

VERSES IN TODAY'S LESSON: John 14:16-31

MEMORY VERSE: "If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you" (John 15:7).

LESSON AIM: I will teach my students how to be led by the Holy Spirit.

TEACHING AIDS: Bring a jar of water, a small piece of metal (ex. a nail), and a small piece of wood on which the metal can be placed. Write on the chalk board or large paper: "I am led by the Holy Spirit."

BACKGROUND STUDY

In John 14:16-31 we see some of the areas where the Holy Spirit leads us. Before you teach on these areas it is important to understand the meaning of the Greek word used for the Holy Spirit. This word, counsellor (comforter or helper in other translations), means one who is called in to help in time of need.

Verses 18-20 show us two areas where the Spirit leads us. He leads us first in eternal life. This is an everlasting life or life without end which every believer receives on the day he receives Jesus. John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." This life also means the kind or quality of life the believer lives in this world. It is a kind of

life that pleases God. The Holy Spirit helps every believer in Christ to live this kind of life.

Secondly, the Spirit leads every believer in a new unity with God. When one is saved, he becomes a child of God. "But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God" (John 1:12). That is the new relationship the believer enters. The work of the Holy Spirit is to lead the believer in this relationship. The Spirit shows the believer this unity that exists between himself and God.

In verses 21-24 we see that the Spirit leads us to obey Jesus. God gives the believer a gift of the Holy Spirit on the day of salvation. "In him you also, who have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and have believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit" (Ephesians 1:13). This gift is a mark that he belongs to God. The Spirit becomes a helper who leads him to obey Christ's teachings. Read verses 25-27.

The Spirit helps the believer understand the Word of God. The Holy Spirit is a teacher to a believer. He also reminds Christians of the teachings of Jesus.

Also, the Spirit gives Christians the peace of Jesus. This is not peace which the world can understand. The believer never gets peace by avoiding suffering. Instead he faces suffering with hope and with his helper, the Holy Spirit. "We know that in everything God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28). God has a wonderful plan for every believer. Read verses 28-31.

The Spirit leads Christians in the life of victory. Satan will come to tempt and try to cause him to fall into sin, but the Spirit is always there to help the believer who asks for help. It is important for a Christian to pray so he will not fall into sin.

Many times the Spirit will lead him through such temptations. The Christian must obey the Holy Spirit as he leads.

TEACHING THE LESSON

INTRODUCTION

Begin by having a student read the Introduction from his book. Show how this works with the items you brought to class.

Say: "We can compare a believer to the example of the law of floating objects and its power over the law of gravity. No matter how much the law of sin and death pulls him to sin, he can resist. Why? This is because he is led by the Holy Spirit. But sometimes the Christian does sin. The weakness is in himself, not in the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit has power over sin. This power is available to every Christian. Let us study God's Word to learn about this power."

EXAMINATION

Read John 14:16-31.

Say: "We have already learned that the Holy Spirit was present in creation. We learned that he was present 'in the beginning.' But when Jesus lived on earth and before that in Old Testament times, the Spirit came to help special people at special times.

"In these verses Jesus was trying to prepare his disciples for the time he would die and leave them to go back to heaven. He promised to send the Holy Spirit to live in them constantly and to help them. It was very hard for them to understand what Jesus was saying. Jesus even told them the world would not understand. Only those who had accepted Jesus would have the Holy Spirit as their helper."

Ask: "What, then, does it mean to Christians to be led by the Holy Spirit?"

Teacher, use your Background Study to teach about the ways the Spirit helps mentioned in verses 18-20. They are eternal life and unity with God and with other believers. Go on to explain the other ways he helps (verses 21-24), obeying Jesus, understanding God's Word and having peace in every situation. He even helps us do battle with the devil when he comes to tempt us.

"This is why it is so important to have Jesus as our Saviour. There is no other way to have eternal life. There is no other way to be united with God, to be able to obey him, to understand his Word and to have his peace.

APPLICATION

Ask: "In what ways are you led by the Holy Spirit?" Write the answers on the chalk board or large paper. Answers should include: eternal life, our unity with God, understanding God's Word, having Jesus' peace, obedience and facing and overcoming temptation.

Ask: "What happens when you put a piece of metal in water?" Let students answer. Say: "It sinks because of the law of gravity. If that metal is attached to a piece of wood, it floats. Why?" Let one explain briefly.

Ask: "What is the law of sin?" Have everyone turn to Romans 6:23.

Say: "Sin deserves death, but God's power is far greater than our sin. God is willing to forgive our sin and make us righteous when we receive Jesus as Saviour."

Ask: "How can you know that you are led by the Holy Spirit?" Give the students time to discuss this question.

Say: "The first work of the Holy Spirit in a life is to help that one to be saved. He gives us faith and understanding to enable us to believe that Jesus died for our sin. After that, he helps us live for Jesus every day. He leads us in all the ways we have mentioned in this lesson. He helps us know of our unity with God. He helps us understand his Word, obey him and know his peace.

Have everyone turn to John 15:7 and read together. **Say:** "Every Christian has the privilege of praying to God. He has promised to hear and answer our prayers. One who abides in Christ lives by the Word of God. He studies, meditates and memorizes it. The Word of God changes his life. That Christian is led by the Spirit."

PRAYER SUGGESTIONS

- 1. Pray for any of your students who have not yet accepted Jesus as Saviour.**
- 2. Pray that the Spirit will use you as you teach and that your students will be led by the Spirit.**
- 3. Pray that they will abide in Christ.**