

The Royal Majesty Of the Kingdom



PRIMARY NOTES — 5 to 8 Years

STAGE FOUR OF FIVE STAGES

CHRISTADELPHIAN SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 20, MODBURY NORTH, 5092, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

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FOREWORD

During the last three years, we have listened to stories from the Old Testament, many of them telling us about the work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

This year we will read the stories that Jesus used to teach the people of Israel about the Kingdom of God. We will read about the things he did and the poor people who were healed of their sickness and diseases. We will read of how Jesus told the wicked Pharisees that God was not pleased with them and the way they treated the people who wanted to worship God.

At the end of the year we will learn about the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ and how he went up to Heaven.

We can be very happy, knowing that God has been very kind in giving us His Word, the Bible and we must be careful to use our time wisely so that we will be ready when the Lord Jesus Christ returns to the earth again.

The Committee

Note: The use of the symbol ‘ • ’ in front of a question number at the end of a lesson indicates that the question may be used in the long answer (ie “Tell all you know”) section of the annual examination paper.

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FISHERMEN EARLY IN THE MORNING ON THE LAKE OF GALILEE

1. JESUS IS BAPTISED

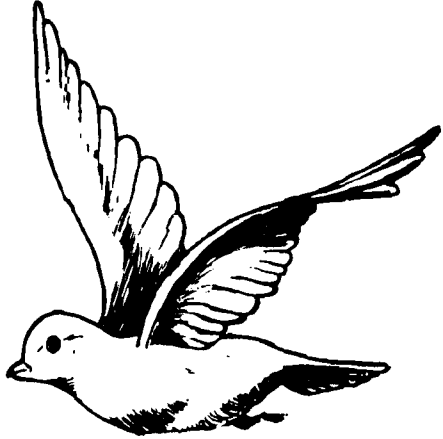
“This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased”

Aim

To show the importance of baptism.

Synopsis

Jesus was baptised by John in the River Jordan. God was pleased and sent His Holy Spirit.



Matthew 3:13 – 17

JESUS COMES TO JOHN THE BAPTIST

Jesus grew to be a man. The time had come for him to begin his special work for God, his Father. John the Baptist had prepared the people. He had taught them that the Messiah was coming, although he did not know who the Messiah was. Now Jesus was thirty years old. He left Nazareth and came to John the Baptist at the River Jordan. There he asked John to baptise him. John was puzzled. Why should Jesus, who had done nothing wrong, want to be baptised? He knew that Jesus was a much better man than he was himself. Jesus had always done as God wanted him to do. So John knew that Jesus did not need to change his ways. John said, “I need to be baptised by you. Do you come to me?” But Jesus said he must be baptised, “for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness”. Jesus knew that he had to obey God in all things and by being baptised he would

show the people that his life was given to God. In this way he set an example for all those who want to change their ways.

JOHN BAPTISES JESUS

Together John the Baptist and Jesus went down and stood right in the River Jordan. John then baptised Jesus. He put him completely under the water. It was like a burial and the Bible talks about baptism in this way.

GOD SHOWS HE IS PLEASED WITH HIS SON

When Jesus came up out of the water a wonderful thing happened. The heavens opened, the Spirit of God came down like a dove and rested on him. A voice came from heaven saying, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased". It was God's voice. God had now shown His son, their Messiah, to John and to the people.

God's Holy Spirit is His special power. God had given it then to Jesus to help in all things God wanted him to do. Jesus was able to work wonderful miracles by God's power. He could heal sick people, make blind people see, and provide food for thousands of hungry people.

LESSON FOR US

Jesus was baptised because he knew that it was what God wanted. Everyone who believes the truth must be baptised. We must learn from God's word now. When you are old enough to be a follower of Jesus, you will want to be baptised too. Learn Mark 16:16.

Remember these points:-

- * Jesus was 30 years old when he came to John the Baptist to be baptised in the River Jordan.
- * John completely buried Jesus under the water. When

Jesus came up out of the water the heavens opened and the Spirit of God came down like a dove and rested on him.

- * God's voice said, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased".
- * God gave Jesus His special power, called the Holy Spirit to help him in his work.

Questions 5 to 8 years

1. ✓ *What did Jesus want to do when he was 30 years old?*
2. ✓ *Where was Jesus baptised?*
3. *Who baptised Jesus?*
4. ✓ *(a) What happened as Jesus came up out of the water?*
✓ *(b) What did the voice from heaven say?*
5. ✓ *What did Jesus use God's Holy Spirit for?*

Additional Questions 7 to 8 years

6. ✓ *What is the important thing that everyone who believes the truth must do?*
7. *One day Jesus came to John to be baptised. Can you tell all that happened?*

Mark 16:16

Matt 3:17 Revision - end of lessons.

2. JESUS CALLS HIS DISCIPLES

*“Follow me and I will make
you fishers of men”*

Aim

*To show how friends of Jesus
left their work to become
disciples or followers of Jesus.*

Synopsis

*Four friends were chosen to
gather people for Jesus instead
of fish for themselves.*

Matthew 10:2-4; Luke 5:1-11

DISCIPLES

Jesus had many friends who went with him through the land of Israel. He wanted everyone in Israel to hear God's Word. So he travelled from town to town preaching and healing. His friends followed him. Jesus was their teacher and their leader. He loved them dearly. These friends were called disciples, because they wanted to learn all they could from Jesus. They were his followers. Jesus had many disciples, but from among them he chose twelve special followers. Sometimes these twelve men are called apostles, because they were later sent out by Jesus to teach the people. They were good and faithful men – except for one, named Judas Iscariot. He later wickedly betrayed Jesus to the rulers of the Jews and showed their soldiers where to find him. God promised the others honoured places in His kingdom. They will have important work to do then too.



Here are the names of the 12 specially chosen disciples.

| | |
|------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Simon Peter | } Brothers |
| • Andrew | |
| • James | } Brothers, the sons of Zebedee |
| • John | |
| • Philip | |
| • Thomas | |
| • Matthew | A tax collector |
| • James | Son of Alphaeus |
| • Thaddaeus | Also called Lebbaeus or Judas |
| • Simon | |
| • Judas Iscariot | |
| • Bartholomew | Also called Nathanael |

JESUS TEACHES FROM THE BOAT

One day, Jesus was preaching on the shore of the lake of Galilee. Many people crowded around to hear him speak about the kingdom of God. Jesus noticed two boats drawn up on the beach. The fishermen were not in them. They were busy washing their nets. Jesus got into one of the boats. He knew the fisherman who owned it. It was Simon Peter. So Jesus called to him to push the boat out a little from the land. Then Jesus sat down in the boat and taught the people who had gathered on the shore.

THE DISCIPLES GO FISHING

When he had finished speaking, Jesus said to Peter, "Take your boat out into deeper water and let down your nets to catch some fish". Peter answered, "Master, we have been working hard all night and have caught nothing. But at thy

word I will let down the net”.

They did not really expect to catch a thing, but they did as Jesus said. What a surprise though. As soon as they let down the net it was filled with hundreds of fish. The net was so full that it began to break. Peter called to James and John to come and help. They all pulled on the nets and hauled in the catch. There were enough fish to fill both the boats, so that they almost sank.

The disciples were astonished. This was no ordinary catch of fish. Peter suddenly realised that Jesus must have been the cause of this. He was right. Jesus had used God’s power to teach the disciples a lesson. They had been disappointed and tired after working all night and not catching any fish. They had been busily cleaning their nets while other men were crowding around to hear Jesus’ words. They had been more worried about catching fish than about the word of God. How ashamed Peter felt now. He fell down at Jesus’ knees and said, “Leave my boat, Lord, for I am a sinful man”. He did not feel worthy to have such a wonderful friend. James and John felt the same way.

Jesus understood how they felt and he comforted them. “Don’t be afraid”, he said, “From now on thou shalt catch men”. They did not need to worry about their fishing. God would provide all the food they needed day by day. But their job now was to help Jesus to teach the people about God’s kingdom.

So they brought the boats into the shore of the lake. The disciples left their boats and nets there and went and followed Jesus.

LESSON FOR US

We are often told in the Bible not to worry about food and clothes and what we want to buy or where we want to go. Such things are not of any use to God. He will give us all we

need, just as He was able to provide plenty of fish for Peter. But listening to God's word and serving Him comes first – listening and obeying. Then Jesus will love us as he loved those disciples.

Remember these points:-

- * Jesus chose 12 men to be his special disciples.
- * He asked Simon Peter to push his boat out into the lake and from there he spoke about the Kingdom of God to the large crowd of people.
- * After he had finished speaking he told Peter to row the boat out into the lake and let down their nets.
- * By a miracle they caught so many fish that their net broke.
- * The disciples followed Jesus and became “fishers of men”.

Questions 5 to 8 years

- ✓1. *How many special disciples did Jesus have and what were their names?*
2. *Why were the people crowding around Jesus on the shore of the Lake of Galilee?*
3. *What did Jesus do as he sat in Peter's boat near the shore of the lake?*
4. *When Jesus had finished speaking to the people what did he ask Peter to do then?*
- 5. ✓ *What happened when Peter put his net down as Jesus had said?*
6. ✓ *What did those fishermen do when they got back to the shore?*

Additional Questions 7 to 8 years

- ✓7. *Tell the story of the wonderful miracle which Jesus worked after teaching the people from Peter's boat.*
8. *What did Jesus mean when he said they would be “fishers of men”?*

3. JESUS TURNS WATER INTO WINE

“His disciples believed on him”

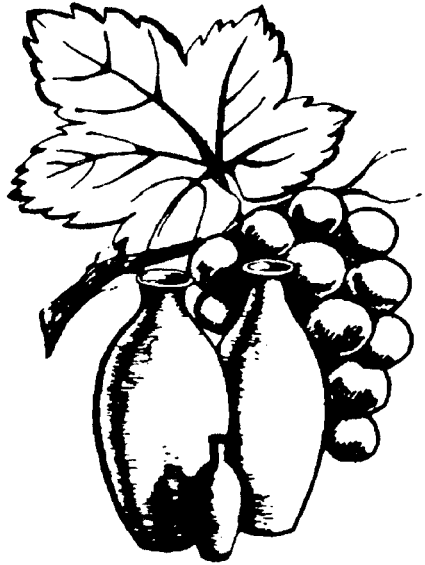
Aim

To show the wonderful power God had given His son Jesus.

Synopsis

Jesus went to a wedding feast where he turned water into wine. The wine he made was better than the wine they had before.

John 2:1-12



THE WEDDING

There was going to be a wedding. Jesus and his disciples were invited. Jesus' mother, Mary, was there too. The wedding was at a town called Cana of Galilee. The bridegroom was holding a wedding feast for his friends. A wedding was a very happy time and sometimes lasted for several days.

THE WINE RUNS OUT

While everyone was enjoying the wedding feast Mary came to Jesus and said, “They have no wine”. In those days it was usual to have wine to drink, especially at such a happy time as a wedding. If the wine ran out before the end of the feast, it would have been very embarrassing for everyone there. Jesus did not say straight away that he would help. God's Holy Spirit was given to help him do God's work and only Jesus knew exactly the right times to use that power.

However, Mary seemed to know that Jesus would help. So she said to the servants, "Whatever he tells you to do, do it".

WATER INTO WINE

Now there were six large stone water pots standing outside the house. The Jews used to wash their hands with this water, before they went into the feast. Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water". So they filled them up to the brim. Then Jesus said, "Now pour some out and take it to the ruler of the feast". Imagine their surprise when, instead of water, there came out bright red wine. And what beautiful wine it was too. The ruler of the feast tasted the wine. He called the bridegroom and said, "Everyone else serves the good wine first. Then when everyone has had plenty to drink, they bring out wine which is not so good. But you have kept the best wine until now".

He did not know that Jesus had made this new wine, but the servants who poured it out did.

What a wonderful miracle. It takes many years to make real wine, and yet by God's power Jesus could suddenly turn water into rich red wine. This was the very first miracle which Jesus performed. It showed people that he had God's power. When his disciples saw what he did, they believed that he really was the Son of God.

LESSON FOR US

The wine Jesus gave was better than what they could get themselves. The things he teaches us in the Bible are far better than anything else we can learn. The wine is like the word of God. If we obey God's word and learn about Jesus then we will find happiness and joy like those at the wedding in Cana.

Remember these points:-

- * Jesus, his disciples and his mother Mary, went to a wedding at Cana.
- * The wine ran out before the wedding feast was over.
- * Jesus told the servants to fill six stone water pots with water.
- * The water became wine.
- * By God's power Jesus was able to bring joy and happiness and to show that he truly was God's son.

Questions 5 to 8 years

1. *There was to be a wedding feast at Cana. Who were some of the people there?*
- ✓ 2. (a) *What happened while everyone was still enjoying the feast?*
(b) *What did Jesus tell the servants to do?*
(c) *What happened to the water in the waterpots?*
(d) *What did the ruler of the feast say when he tasted the wine?*
- ✓ 3. *How was Jesus able to do this wonderful miracle?*

Additional Questions 7 to 8 years

- ✓ 4. *What happened when Jesus and his disciples went to a wedding at Cana? Tell the whole story.*
5. *What did the disciples think when they saw the miracle?*

John 2:1-10

4. THE BUILDERS

"It was founded upon a rock"

Aim

To show that if we would be wise builders we must obey God's Word and build our lives on our rock, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Synopsis

Jesus told this parable about a wise man and a foolish man.

Luke 6:46-49; Matthew 7:24-28



JESUS TEACHES

One day Jesus was teaching the people many lessons about how they could please their Heavenly Father. Crowds of people had eagerly followed him to hear about God and His kingdom. But Jesus knew that of all the people who listened some would obey and some would disobey. He knew that some people would listen to what he said and then go away and wisely do what he told them. Others would listen to what he said, but foolishly would not do as he told them. So to finish his teachings he told them a parable about two builders. (A parable is a little story that teaches us an important lesson).

THE HOUSE ON THE ROCK

Jesus said that the people who heard his words and obeyed were like a wise man who wanted to build a good

strong house. He wanted the house to be so strong that he built it on a rock. He had to dig down deep until he reached the hard rock, so that he would have a strong foundation to start building his house upon. It was hard work but when it was finished it was a very strong house. It was built on a rock.

THE HOUSE ON THE SAND

The other people Jesus spoke about heard his words but did not do as he said. They were disobedient. They were like a man who also wanted to build a house – but this foolish man built it on sand. He did not think it was necessary to find a firm rock to build on. He did not realise that to build a strong house you must first have a firm foundation. But he built his house just on sand, with no foundation, because it was easier. When it was finished it looked nice and strong, but was it really?

Which house would prove to be strong? The one built on rock or the one built on sand?

THE STORM

One day a storm came. This was the day of testing to see which house was the strong one. The winds blew, the rain fell and the floodwaters rose up. The house built on the rock, with its strong foundations deep in that rock, was not moved. Nothing could shake it. It was really strong.

That same storm blew against the house built on sand. But when the rain came down and beat against it, immediately the house fell and was swept away. “And the ruin of that house was great.”

LESSON FOR US

We are like builders. We should be building lives

pleasing to God. There was only one wise way to build a house – on a strong rock. So there is only one wise way to build our lives – by listening to Jesus' words in the Bible and obeying them. Then we will never be shaken or moved from the Truth.

Remember these points:-

- * A parable is a story with an important lesson.
- * The wise man listened to the Word of God and built his house on a rock.
- * The foolish man listened to the Word of God but instead of searching for a strong foundation, built his house on sand.
- * When the storm came, the house on the rock stood firm, but the house on the sand fell.

QUESTIONS 5 to 8 years

1. *What did the wise man build his house on?*
2. *What did the foolish man build his house on?*
3. ✓ *What happened to the house built on the rock when the storm came?*
4. ✓ *What happened to the house built on the sand when the storm came?*

Additional Questions 7 to 8 years

- ✓ 5. *What lesson do we learn from the wise man who built his house on the rock?*
- ✓ 6. *Tell the parable of the two builders.*

Matt 7:24

Rev. 4-6
Instructor
No. 68.

Rev. quote - Matt 3:17.
Lessons 1 to 4.

5. THE FIVE FRIENDS

“Rise, take up thy bed and walk”

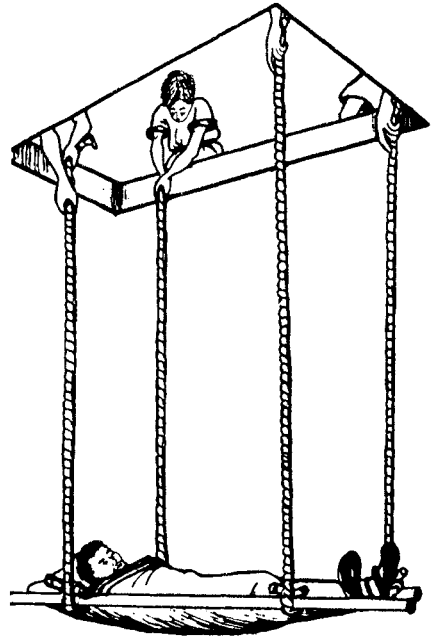
Aim

To show the faith the five friends had in the power Jesus had to forgive and to heal.

Synopsis

The house was crowded, but that did not stop the four friends from getting a poor sick man to Jesus to be healed.

Mark 2:1-13 Luke 5: 18-26



THE FRIENDS

Capernaum is a town on the shores of the Lake of Galilee. At Capernaum there were five friends. Four of them were well and healthy, but the fifth man was paralysed. This means that his legs and arms could not move. He had to be carried on a bed everywhere he wanted to go.

EVERYONE HEARD ABOUT JESUS

Jesus was in Capernaum. He had been there before and so by now everyone in the town had heard about Jesus. They heard of his gracious teaching of God’s kingdom. They heard that he had healed many people of their diseases. Everyone wanted to see and hear Jesus. They crowded to the house where Jesus was staying. People filled the house and crowded around the door to hear his words.

GETTING THE SICK MAN TO JESUS

The four men wanted to bring their friend to Jesus, but they could not even get near him, because of the crowd. They were certain that Jesus would heal him and they were determined to get him into the house. There was only one thing left to do. They carried their friend on his bed to the roof of the house. Then they removed the roof tiles above where Jesus was standing. When they made an opening, they carefully lowered their friend, bed and all, right down into the middle of the crowd to Jesus.

JESUS FORGIVES AND HEALS THE SICK MAN

When Jesus saw what was happening, he knew straight away that whoever had brought this sick man must have great faith. He could tell that they really believed God had given him the power to heal sick people. He knew too, that the sick man was aware that Jesus was righteous and he himself was sinful. Jesus said to the paralysed man, "Son, thy sins be forgiven thee."

THE PHARISEES WERE ANGRY

The Pharisees who were listening were angry when they heard this. They were men who did not love Jesus. Their hearts were hard. They really loved only themselves and made a show of loving God. "Only God can forgive sins" they thought to themselves. They did not like to think that Jesus was the son of God. They did not believe that God had given Jesus the right to forgive sins. But, of course, God had. Jesus even knew what they were thinking and he could prove God was with him. For although men can't see if sins are forgiven, they can see a paralysed man suddenly start walking.

Jesus said to them, "Which is easier to say, thy sins be

forgiven thee; or to say, arise, and take up thy bed and walk. Now I will show you that I can forgive sins". He said to the sick man, "Arise, and take up thy bed and go home". The man immediately stood up and took his bed and went out praising and glorifying God. Everyone was amazed. God was obviously with Jesus as he worked – forgiving people's sins and healing their sicknesses too. The Pharisees could see with their eyes but they did not believe in their hearts.

The people who were in the house said, "We have never seen anything like this". They praised God because he had given Jesus the power to do such wonderful miracles and to forgive sins.

LESSON FOR US

The four kind friends did not let anything stop them from getting their sick friend to Jesus. They really believed that Jesus could heal their friend. That is how we must believe the truth – with all our heart. Then nothing will stop us from following him. We will certainly see him, too, when he comes as king over all the earth. It will be a wonderful time then. Jesus will again use God's power to heal the sick.

Remember these points:-

- * The four men were determined to get their sick friend to Jesus.
- * They had faith and believed that Jesus could make him well again.
- * The Pharisees were angry when Jesus said, "Son, thy sins be forgiven thee".
- * The sick man believed and obeyed Jesus when he said, "Arise, and take up thy bed and go home".

Questions 5 to 8 years

1. *The four friends carried the paralysed man to the house where Jesus was. Why could they not get inside?*
- 2. ✓ (a) *How did the four friends get the sick man into the house?*
(b) *Who was angry when Jesus said to the man, "Thy sins be forgiven thee"?*
3. *What did the man do when Jesus said, "Arise, and take up thy bed and go home"?*
4. *What did the people in the house say when they saw the miracle?*
- ✓ 5. *In this story, who were the ones who had great faith?*

Additional Questions 7 to 8 years

- ✓ 6. *How did the four kind friends show their faith? Tell the whole story.*
7. *Jesus did two things for the sick man. What were they?*

mark 2:5

6. JESUS HEALS THE MAN AT THE POOL OF BETHESDA

“The same day was the sabbath”

Aim

To show that Jesus was able to heal sick people by God’s power so that all would believe that he was the Son of God.

Synopsis

For 38 years a man had suffered but Jesus showed kindness and made him walk again.

John 5:1-18



THE POOL OF BETHESDA

Jesus had come to Jerusalem. Now there was in Jerusalem a pool, called Bethesda. The name “Bethesda” means “house of mercy”, or kindness. Around the pool were five porches, or verandahs. In these porches lay all kinds of sick people. Some were crippled, some were blind, some were paralysed. They believed that the first person who got into the pool after the water rippled would be cured of whatever sickness he had.

A MAN CRIPPLED FOR 38 YEARS

Jesus came to the pool of Bethesda. He saw a man there who had been ill for 38 years. Jesus said to him, “Do you

want to be healed?”

The sick man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is rippled, and while I am trying to get there by myself someone else steps down before me”.

JESUS HEALS THE CRIPPLED MAN

But Jesus did not have to wait for the water to move. He had the Holy Spirit power which God had given him to call upon whenever he needed it. He said to the man, “Rise, take up thy bed and walk”. And at once the man was healed. He rolled up his mattress and walked away. It was the first time he had walked for 38 long years. By God’s power Jesus had performed a wonderful miracle. You would think that everyone would be happy to see this poor man healthy and strong at last. But some were not, for that is not the end of the story.

THE JEWS COMPLAIN

Now the day Jesus healed the crippled man was a sabbath day. According to the Law of Moses the sabbath was the day on which God’s people were to stop doing their own work, so that they could praise God. Some of the Jews said to the man who had been crippled, “It is the sabbath day. It is against the Law for you to work by carrying that bed.” What a silly thing to say. The poor man had been lying on his bed for 38 years. Carrying his bed on that day did not feel like work to him – it was a pleasure. It was the first day he had felt free for 38 years. The Law of Moses said that people had to stop doing their own work on the Sabbath. But he was doing what Jesus had told him to do and could not understand why they questioned him.

“The man that healed me told me to carry my bed” he

said to them. If a man could use God's power to heal a disease, he would not tell him to do something against God's laws.

Then they asked him, "Who is the man that said to thee, take up thy bed and walk?" But the man who had been healed did not know who it was. There had been a crowd of people at the pool of Bethesda and Jesus had not stayed with him.

Afterwards Jesus went to the Temple. He found the man there and encouraged him to obey God. "Sin no more," Jesus told him, "lest a worse thing come unto thee". When he found out it was Jesus who had healed him he went and told the Jews.

THE JEWS WANT TO KILL JESUS

When the Jews found out that it was Jesus who had healed the man, they were angry. "It is the Sabbath day", they kept saying. But Jesus' work was the work of God and God did not stop His work on the Sabbath. Jesus answered them, "My Father is still working and I am working". God's work never stops. But the Jews hated him more for calling God his Father. They wanted to kill Jesus from then on – because he healed on the sabbath and because they said he made himself equal with God.

LESSON FOR US

The man at the Pool of Bethesda obeyed the command of Jesus and was cured. It is important to learn obedience. As children, we must obey our parents. In that way we will learn to obey the commandments of Jesus Christ. When he had been healed the man went to the Temple to praise God. We should praise God for making us strong and healthy and use our strength to do the things God wants us to do.

Remember these points:-

- * On the Sabbath day Jesus came to Jerusalem to the Pool of Bethesda. Here many sick people lay waiting for the movement of the water.
- * He came to a man who had been crippled 38 years, and asked if he wanted to be healed.
- * Jesus told him, "Rise, take up thy bed and walk".
- * Straight away the man obeyed. He was well and strong again.
- * The Jews were angry because it was the Sabbath day.
- * God's work never stops. So Jesus, too, continued to work.

Questions 5 to 8 years

1. ✓ *Bethesda was the name of a pool at Jerusalem. What sort of people waited in the porches at the pool?*
2. ✓ *Why did the people wait there?*
- 3. ✓ (a) *Jesus spoke to a crippled man at the pool. How long had the man been ill?*
(b) *What did Jesus tell the crippled man to do?*
4. ✓ *Why were some of the Jews angry about the miracle?*

Additional Questions 7 to 8 years

- 5. *Tell what happened when Jesus came to the Pool of Bethesda and saw a man who had been lying there for 38 years.*
6. ✓ *Was the man doing wrong by carrying his bed on the sabbath day? Why?*
7. ✓ *The Jews hated Jesus for two reasons. What were they?*

7. THE CENTURION'S SERVANT

*"I am not worthy to have you
come under my roof"*

Aim

*To show how Jesus helped a
Roman Centurion who had
great faith in him.*

Synopsis

*An important Gentile man was
humble enough to realise that
Jesus had power from God and
was therefore greater than he
was.*

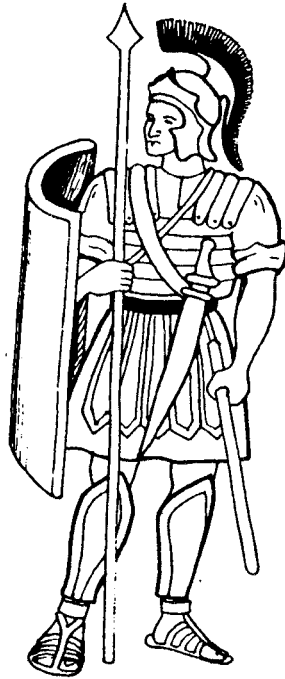
Luke 7:1-10

THE CENTURION

Once again Jesus came into Capernaum. As usual everyone in Capernaum was happy to know that Jesus was back there again and they were all talking about him. In Capernaum there lived a Centurion – a Gentile. A Centurion was an important Roman soldier, who was in charge of 100 soldiers. When this Centurion heard that Jesus had come back to Capernaum he was very glad, because one of his servants, whom he loved, was very sick and ready to die. He believed that Jesus had the power from God to be able to heal his servant.

A MESSAGE FOR JESUS

The Centurion sent the elders of the Jews to Jesus to



plead with him to come to his house and heal his servant. When they came to Jesus they earnestly asked Jesus to come quickly to heal the sick servant. They told Jesus that the Centurion was a good man; he had done much to help the Jewish people and had even had a Synagogue built for them, to help them worship their God. Most of the Romans hated the Jews and treated them badly, but this Centurion believed in the power of God, and loved and helped God's people, the Jews. He deserved Jesus' help.

THE CENTURION'S FAITH

Jesus left straight away to go to the Centurion's house. When Jesus was almost to the house, the Centurion sent out some friends to meet Jesus, with a message saying, "Lord, do not trouble to come yourself. I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof. Only speak the word and my servant shall be healed". He felt that Jesus was so much better and greater than he was. He did not even feel worthy to come out to meet Jesus himself; so that is why he had sent friends to speak to Jesus for him. They explained to Jesus how the Centurion felt. He was an important Roman who gave orders to his 100 soldiers and they always obeyed him. If he told one soldier to go – then he would go; or if he told another one to come, then he would come; or if he told his servant to do something he would do it. In these words he showed that he understood that Jesus could work for God and just speak the word and the sickness would go. The Centurion had authority from the Roman emperor, and when he spoke his servants had to obey. He could see that Jesus had authority from God and when he spoke, his words would be obeyed.

REWARD FOR FAITH

When Jesus heard these things, his heart was warmed

by the faith and the understanding of this Gentile soldier. He turned to the Jewish people who were following him and said, "I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel". here was a great man prepared to humble himself before the Son of God. This Roman soldier had shown more trust in God than the Jews who had been brought up to know God's will. The Centurion's friends went back home after this and, when they got there, they found that the servant was healed. Jesus' power from God was certainly wonderful. Even though he had not been in the Centurion's house, and had not actually touched the sick servant, yet he was made well at that very moment.

LESSON FOR US

How happy we would be if we had faith in God like the Centurion. We would not be afraid of anything. God is in heaven, and Jesus is with Him. We cannot see Him, but we can read God's Word and talk to Him in prayer and He will hear us. We must believe that He cares for us and helps us just the same today as He helped the Centurion. So we must learn to put our faith and trust in God.

Remember these points:-

- * In Capernaum a Roman Centurion sent elders of the Jews to Jesus.
- * His servant was sick.
- * The Centurion showed great faith and trust in Jesus.
- * Jesus, by God's power, healed the servant.

Questions 5 to 8 years

1. *What was the matter with the Centurion's servant?*
2. *What did the Centurion ask the elders of the*

- 3. *Jews to do when his servant fell ill?*
 - (a) *What message did the Centurion send when Jesus was near his house?*
 - (b) *When Jesus saw that the Centurion had great faith in him, what did he say to the Jews about him?*
- 4. *When the friends of the Centurion returned home, what did they find had happened?*

Additional Questions 7 to 8 years

- Rev 5. ✓ *Why did the Centurion ask Jesus not to come to his house?*
- Rev 6. ✓ *Why did Jesus heal the Centurion's servant?*
- 7. *The Centurion believed that Jesus could help him without even coming to his house. What can we learn from the Centurion?*



8. JESUS HELPS A MOTHER

*“Young man, I say unto thee,
Arise”*

Aim

*To show by this wonderful
miracle how Jesus was able to
bring happiness.*

Synopsis

*Jesus has power to raise the
dead and turn sadness into
joy.*

Luke 7:11-17



AT THE GATE OF NAIN

Jesus went to many cities all over the land of Israel, preaching the Gospel and showing God's power by the miracles he did. One day he came to a city called Nain. He had many of his disciples with him and a crowd of people followed him. As he came near the gate of the city, he saw a dead man being carried out to be buried outside the city. Some men were carrying the dead man in an open coffin, called a bier. His mother was walking alongside the coffin, and many of the people of Nain were with her, trying to comfort her. She was weeping and very sad, because she was a widow and this was her only son. Since her husband had died, her son had been all the family she had. Now even he was dead and she was all alone. The two crowds of people met at the gate of Nain, one group sadly following a dead man, the other following "the Lord of Life".

JESUS IS ABLE TO MAKE THE WIDOW HAPPY

When Jesus saw the unhappy woman, he felt sorry for her. He knew straight away just how sad she felt in her heart. He went over and said to her, "Weep not". Then he touched the coffin and the men carrying it stood still. He said, "Young man, I say unto thee, Arise". Straight away, the young man who had been dead, sat up and began to speak. Jesus took him to his mother, who was overjoyed to see him alive again.

THE PEOPLE ARE AMAZED

When all the people saw what Jesus was able to do, in bringing to life a man who was dead, they were amazed and glorified God. Some said, "A great prophet is risen up amongst us". Other said, "God has visited His people". They could tell that Jesus must have power from God, who is the giver of life and all things. No ordinary person can raise people from the dead. The news of what Jesus had done spread throughout all the land, and the people of Nain who had been sad could now go back home rejoicing.

LESSON FOR US

Jesus had feelings like you and I. He could tell just how people felt and what they needed most. When he returns to the earth he will raise all his dead ones to life again. Many will rise to live forever, and Jesus will wipe away the tears from their eyes, for the time of God's righteous Kingdom on this earth will be a time of joy and happiness. Those who love and obey God now will share the happiness of that coming Kingdom.

God always cares for widows and those who have no fathers. Jesus cared for them too, and he wants us to do the same.

Remember these points:-

- * At the gate of the city of Nain Jesus saw a dead man being carried out to be buried.
- * The dead man's mother followed weeping, for this was her only son.
- * She was a widow.
- * Jesus told her not to weep.
- * He spoke to the dead man.
- * Immediately he sat up alive and well.

Questions 5 to 8 years

- Rev 1. ✓ *What did Jesus see at the gate of the city of Nain?*
2. *Why did Jesus feel sorry for the widow of Nain?*
3. *What did Jesus say to the dead man at Nain?*
- Rev 4. ✓ *What did the people in the crowds say after Jesus had raised the dead?*
5. *What will happen to the dead people who have loved and obeyed God when Jesus comes back to earth to set up God's kingdom?*

Additional Questions 7 to 8 years

- 6. *Tell the story of how Jesus was able to bring happiness to the widow of Nain*

9. JESUS STILLS THE STORM

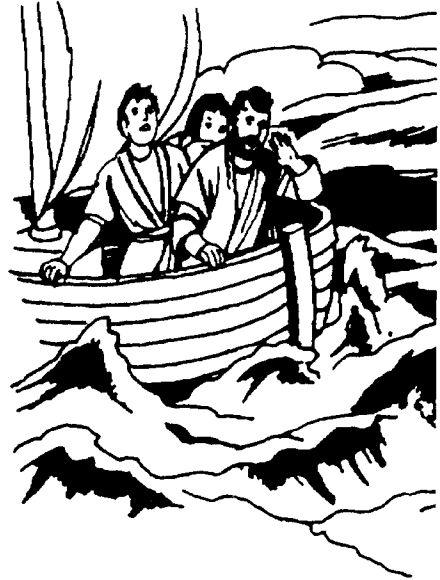
*“Even the wind and the sea
obey him”*

Aim

*To show that Jesus can help all
those who put their faith and
trust in him.*

Synopsis

*Jesus is able to control even the
strongest storm by the power
given to him by God his Father.*



Mark 4:35-41

TEACHING THE PEOPLE

All day long Jesus had been speaking to the people, teaching them about God and His kingdom. He often spoke to them in parables, so that they would have to think really hard about what he was saying because a parable is a story with a hidden meaning. Afterwards, when they were alone, Jesus would explain to his disciples what the parable really meant.

IN THE BOAT

On this particular day, Jesus had been sitting in a boat on the Sea of Galilee talking in parables to many people gathered on the shore. As he saw the evening coming on, he said to his disciples, “Let us pass over to the other side of the lake”. The disciples asked the listening people to go home because it was getting dark. When all the people were gone, the disciples started to row the boat across the water. Theirs

was not the only boat on the water; there were other little ships with them. Jesus had had such a long, busy day of teaching that he was very tired. So he lay down in the back part of the ship, and went to sleep on a pillow.

THE STORM

Suddenly there arose a great storm with a very strong wind. The waves grew bigger and bigger. The wind blew stronger and stronger. The boat was tossed about and began to fill with water. The disciples were greatly afraid, because they felt sure the boat would sink and they would all be drowned. But Jesus slept peacefully.

JESUS STILLS THE STORM

The storm was so fierce that the disciples were afraid and woke Jesus and said, "Master, carest thou not that we perish?" They did not understand that as long as they had Jesus with them in the boat all would be well, but they were frightened. Even though he was so tired, when Jesus could see how upset they were and how strong the storm was, he stood up. He then turned to the wind and the sea and said, "Peace, be still". Straight away, the wind and waves obeyed him. The wind stopped blowing and the sea became calm.

JESUS TELLS THEM TO HAVE FAITH

The storm was over and there was a great calm over the sea. Jesus turned to his disciples and said, "Why are you so frightened. Have you no faith?" The disciples felt ashamed of themselves when he said this. They said to each other, "What kind of a man is this, that even the wind and waves obey him?" How could a man have such great power? He only had to speak and the wind and the sea obeyed his words. His power came from God, who made all things.

LESSON FOR US

God created all things, and He controls even the

strongest storm, so that we should not be afraid. There are other problems and troubles to face sometimes in our lives that can seem just as frightening as real storms. If we remember this lesson, then we will remember to trust in God. If we believe in Him He will protect us and help us in all our troubles. For He has said, "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee".

Remember these points:-

- * Jesus had been teaching the people from a boat. When it was getting dark he asked the disciples to row to the other side.
- * Jesus slept in the boat.
- * A great storm arose.
- * The disciples were afraid. They awoke Jesus.
- * He spoke to the wind and the waves and straight away all was calm.

Questions 5 to 8 years

- *Rev 1* ✓ *What happened when the little boat that carried Jesus and the disciples moved out across the Sea of Galilee?*
- 2. ✓ *What did the disciples do when the storm came up?*
- 3. ✓ *What did Jesus say to the wind and the waves when the disciples awoke him?*
- 4. *What happened when Jesus spoke to the wind and the waves?*
- Rev.* 5. ✓ *What did the disciples think of Jesus when he stilled the storm?*

Additional Questions 7 to 8 years

- 6. *Tell all that happened when Jesus and his disciples went to sail across the lake.*
- 7. ✓ *What lesson does the story "Jesus stills the Storm" teach us?*

Mark 4:41

*Rev. quote
Luke 7:9.*

10. THE SOWER

“The seed is the word of God”

Aim

To show that we must let the Word of God grow in our hearts and bring forth fruit to Him.

Synopsis

Jesus told the parable of the Sower sowing seed. All the seed was good, like God’s Word, but it needed good soil to grow in.

Matthew 13:1-23



THE PEOPLE CROWD TO HEAR JESUS

One day, as Jesus sat by the seaside, such a great crowd of people came to hear him talk, that he found the best thing to do was to sit in a boat and speak to the people across the water. He spoke many things to the people in parables. A parable is a story with a hidden meaning. Jesus told parables to the people to teach them about God and His kingdom. The parables were not always easy to understand. Jesus wanted the people to think hard and study God’s word to find out the meaning.

A MAN SOWS SEED

One of the parables which Jesus taught the people was about a farmer who went out to sow seed. He was called a “Sower”. He would have had a bag over his shoulder full of seed. He threw handfuls of seed to the left and to the right

as he walked through his field. The seed fell on to different kinds of ground.

- *On the pathway*

Some of the seed fell by the wayside or hard pathway. The birds quickly swooped down and ate this all up.

- *On stony ground*

Some of the seed fell on stony ground. There was not much soil amongst the stones and the seed sprang up quickly. But when the hot sun shone the young plants withered away, because they had no deep soil in which to grow their roots.

- *On thorny ground*

Some of the seed fell among thorns. The seed started to grow, but the thorns grew up more quickly and choked the seed, so that it died.

- *On good ground*

Some of the seed fell into good ground. It was good, rich soil; so the seed could grow into strong healthy plants, and bring forth grain for harvesting some yielding 30, some 60 and some 100 times as much.

Good ground has to be first prepared to receive the seed. It must be ploughed and the stones have to be taken out and the thorns burned. then it will be soft, workable soil, ready for the sower. With the sunshine and the rain sent by God, the seed would grow into healthy plants and bring forth fruit.

THE MEANING OF THE PARABLE

Later when Jesus was alone with his disciples they asked him for the meaning of the parable. Jesus said that:

The seed ...

is the word of God. (Luke 8:11)

The different kinds of ground ...

are the different kinds of people who hear the Word of God.

The pathway where the seed fell ...

is like those who hear God's word but do not understand it. Then they forget about it and let themselves become interested in other things.

The stony ground ...

is like those who hear God's word and obey it with joy for a while, but when troubles come upon them their interest dies away just like a withering plant.

The thorny ground ...

is like those who hear God's word and begin to understand it, but their minds are so full of everyday life with its worries and its pleasures that God's word has no room to grow in their thoughts. It gets choked.

Good ground ...

is like those who are properly prepared for the seed. They hear the word of God, they understand it, and let it grow in their hearts and minds. These are people who are always busy doing God's work and teaching other people the truth too.

LESSON FOR US

We want our minds to be like the good ground
—not hard like the pathway

- not shallow like the stony ground
- not full of worry about everyday things like the thorny ground
- open and ready to receive God’s word, like the good ground.

We must be ready to receive God’s word and think about it, letting it grow in our hearts and minds. It must grow in us a little every day as we learn to love God and obey Him. As seed is planted in the ground and grows, so God’s word is planted in our hearts and minds and grows and brings forth the fruit of good works that gives Him pleasure.

Remember these points:-

- * Jesus spoke in parables to teach important lessons.
- * A sower sowed good seed (the Word of God).
- * Some fell on the pathway, on the stony ground, among thorns and on good ground. The different kinds of ground are different kinds of people who hear the word of God.
- * We must be ready to hear God’s word and let it grow in our hearts and minds.

Questions 5 to 8 years

- Rev 1. ✓ *What happened to the seed that the Sower scattered on the pathway?*
2. ✓ *What happened to the seed that the Sower scattered on the stony ground?*
3. *When the Sower sowed some seed among thorns, what happened?*
4. *What happened to the seed that the Sower sowed on good ground?*
5. *When Jesus explained the parable what did he say the seed was?*

6. *Why should we try to be like the good ground?*

Additional Questions 7 to 8 years

7. *How is the word of God like seed?*
- 8. *Jesus in the parable spoke of four different kinds of ground. The different kinds of ground were like the people who hear the word of God. Tell about the different people:*
 - (a) *the pathway*
 - (b) *the stony ground*
 - (c) *the thorny ground*
 - (d) *the good ground*



11. JAIRUS' DAUGHTER

"Be not afraid, only believe"

Aim

To show that Jesus had the power to raise the dead.

Synopsis

Jesus, with God's help, was able to help those who came to him in faith.

²²
Mark 5:21-24, 35-43



BACK IN CAPERNAUM

Jesus spent the day after the storm teaching and healing the people on the other side of the Sea of Galilee, but now he had returned and had come again to Capernaum. The people of Capernaum were always very glad to see Jesus when he came to them. There was a great crowd to meet him and they all tried to get as close to him as possible.

JAIRUS COMES TO JESUS

One man specially wanted to see Jesus, a man named Jairus. He was a ruler in the Synagogue, a very important man among the Jews. Now Jairus had only one daughter, who was twelve years of age, and she was so sick that she was dying. Jairus fell down at Jesus' feet and begged him to come to his house and lay his hands on his daughter, "that she may be healed, and she shall live". What great faith Jairus had. He really believed that God had given Jesus the power to perform miracles. So he humbled himself to ask Jesus for

help. Straight away Jesus started to go to Jairus' house, but he could only move slowly, because of the crowd of people around him.

TOO LATE

While they were on their way, messengers came to Jairus with bad news. "Your daughter is dead", they said "don't trouble the Master any more". But when Jesus heard what they said he turned to Jairus and said, "Be not afraid, only believe".

JESUS RAISES THE CHILD TO LIFE

When they came to Jairus' house, they found a crowd of people weeping and wailing because the little girl had died. Jesus took with him three of his disciples – Peter, James and John — and went inside. Jesus said to the mourners, "Why, are you all crying and making so much noise? The child is not dead, but is sleeping". Jesus meant by this that he had the power from God to raise the dead girl to life again. Even though she was really dead, when Jesus raised her it would seem as if she had only had a long sleep. The mourners would not believe him. They just laughed at him scornfully. So he put them right outside the house, He let only the girl's father and mother and Peter, James and John, into the room where the little girl lay on her bed. Then Jesus went over to the dead child, took her by the hand and said, "Maid, arise". Immediately she got up and walked about. She was alive again. She had definitely been dead, but there was no doubt that she was alive and well again. Jesus told her parents to give her something to eat. Jairus and his wife were astonished at the wonderful power which Jesus had from God to do this miracle.

LESSON FOR US

Jesus had power from God to do wonderful miracles. He used that power to help those who came in faith to him, believing him. Soon Jesus will return to the earth to use that power again. Those who believe in him will be raised from the dead and if found worthy will be given eternal life, never to die any more.

Remember these points:-

- * At Capernaum, Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue, came to Jesus.
- * His only daughter who was 12 years old was dying.
- * Because there were so many people they could only go slowly to Jairus house.
- * A messenger came to tell Jairus his daughter was dead. Jesus said, "Be not afraid, only believe". At the house Jesus told the people that the child was not dead but sleeping.
- * In the girl's room he took her hand and said, "Maid, arise". Immediately she sat up alive and well.

Questions 5 to 8 years

1. *Why was Jairus sad when he came to Jesus?*
2. *What did Jairus ask Jesus to do?*
- Rev. 3. ✓ *What happened before Jesus got to Jairus' house?*
4. *What did Jesus tell the weeping people about Jairus' daughter?*
5. *The people did not believe Jesus. What did they do?*
- Rev. 6. ✓ *What did Jesus do and say to Jairus' daughter?*

Additional Questions 7 to 8 years

- 7. ✓ *Tell the story of how Jesus raised Jairus' daughter to life.*
- 8. *When will Jesus again use his wonderful power to raise the dead?*

12. FEEDING THE PEOPLE

"They were like sheep without a shepherd"

Aim

To show how Jesus cared for his people.

Synopsis

With God's help Jesus was able to feed a great crowd of people.

Mark 6:30-44



JESUS TRIES TO REST

Jesus and his disciples had been working very hard, teaching the people and doing miracles. Sometimes they hardly had time to stop and eat their meals. They wanted to go away quietly to pray. They needed to think and rest for a while. So they went by boat to a quiet lonely place on the other side of the Sea of Galilee. They needed to be by themselves.

THE PEOPLE FOLLOW JESUS

However, some of the people who loved to listen to Jesus saw what he was doing. They told others that Jesus was crossing the lake and they all ran around to the other side of Galilee. It was a long way — about 13 kilometres. They got there first, before Jesus and the disciples, who were still crossing the water in their boat. When Jesus got out of the boat he saw all the people waiting for him. Now even though he was in great need of rest, he felt sorry for them and did

not send them away. He felt sorry for them, because they seemed to be like sheep, who had no shepherd to look after them. So Jesus began to teach them many things which would help them to be faithful to God.

THE PEOPLE ARE FED

Jesus spoke to the people all day. Then, as the evening came on, the disciples came to Jesus and said, "Send the people away to buy themselves some food, because they have nothing to eat". Jesus said to the disciples, "You give them something to eat". The disciples said, "Two hundred pence would not buy enough bread for them to eat". They thought it was impossible to be able to give food to all these people, even if they had a lot of money. "How many loaves have you?" asked Jesus, "Go and see". A young lad there had five barley loaves and two fishes. That was all they could find amongst all those people. But Jesus knew what he was going to do – he wanted to teach them a lesson. Jesus told them all to sit down on the green grass, in groups of 50 and 100. He took the five loaves and two fishes and looking up to heaven, he thanked God and then broke the food into pieces. The disciples took the pieces of bread and fish around to all the people. There was plenty for everyone.

FOOD LEFT OVER

When everyone had had enough the twelve disciples went around with a basket each to gather up the left-over food. They gathered twelve baskets full. This was indeed a wonderful miracle. Jesus had fed a crowd of about 5,000 people with just five loaves and two fishes.

By God's power, Jesus provided the bread right there before their eyes.

How was bread usually made?

- * first the farmer ploughs the field
- * then he sows the seed
- * God sends the rain and the sunshine
- * when the seed is ripe the reaper gathers the grain into his barn
- * it would then be ground to make flour
- * and then the flour would be used to bake the bread

— but in an instant, Jesus provided the bread on this day, and the fish as well for all those people.

LESSON FOR US

Jesus is called the “Bread of Life”. He was able by God’s power to feed a crowd of hungry people, who had come a long way to hear his words. But his words were food to them in a special way — spiritual food. We need our daily food to keep us alive. Reading or feeding from the Word of God every day keeps us healthy and strong in faith. If we feed on God’s word we will one day live forever in His kingdom. Just as we need to share and help others, as did the disciples, so we must help each other to love and obey God’s word.

Remember these points:-

- * The people followed Jesus when he wanted to be alone.
- * They wanted to listen to him speak.
- * They stayed all day.
- * The disciples wanted to send them away, but Jesus said that they must feed them.
- * A young lad had five barley loaves and two small fishes.
- * Jesus took those and prayed to God. Then he broke the food in pieces.
- * The disciples took it to the people. There were twelve

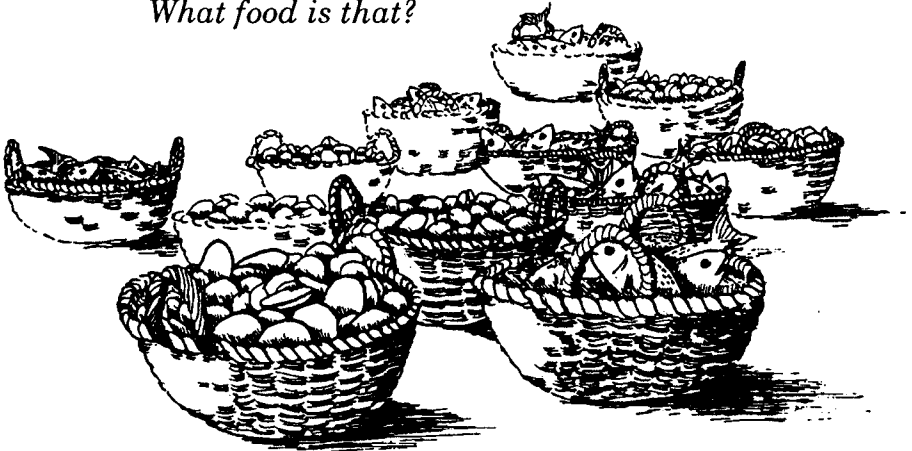
baskets full left over and 5,000 people were fed.

Questions 5 to 8 years

1. What did the people do when Jesus tried to rest awhile in a quiet place?
2. What did Jesus do the whole day?
- Rev. ✓ 3. ✓ Among that great crowd of people, only a young lad had some food. What did he have?
4. ✓ What did the disciples do after Jesus prayed to God and blessed the food?
5. ✓ Was there enough food for everyone?
6. ✓ How many baskets of food were left over?

Additional Questions 7 to 8 years

- Rev. ✓ 7. How did Jesus feel when he saw that crowds of people had run around to the other side of the Lake to be with him?
- 8. Tell about Jesus feeding the people. Start at the beginning when Jesus and his disciples wanted to go to a quiet place to rest.
9. ✓ Jesus has given us special "food" to eat every day. What food is that?



13. JESUS WALKS ON THE WATER

*“Jesus went unto them,
walking on the sea”*

Aim

*To show that we must put our
trust in God in times of trouble.*

Synopsis

*Jesus needed time for quiet
prayer to his Father. His
disciples learnt that they could
trust in his loving care even
when he was not with them.*

Matthew 14:22-33



QUIET TIME TO PRAY

You will remember that Jesus had wanted some quiet time away from the crowds. But all the people had followed him. Now they had been taught and by a miracle, they had all been fed. Then Jesus made the disciples get into their boat and leave the shore. He would follow them to the other side, after he had sent the crowds away.

At last Jesus was alone. As it began to grow dark he went up into the quiet hills by himself to pray. Yes, Jesus needed his Father's strength and guidance all the time. He needed this quiet time alone to meditate and pray.

OUT ON THE LAKE

Meanwhile, the disciples were out on the lake in the boat. It was dark and this time there was no Saviour asleep in the boat – Jesus was not with them. The boat began to be

beaten by the waves and the wind blew hard against them as they rowed. It was very late at night and they had been rowing hard in the strong wind. But as they looked out across the lake, they saw someone walking on the water towards them. They were terrified. They could not believe that someone really was there, walking on the water.

JESUS COMES TO THEM

It was Jesus. He had seen them out on the lake and was coming to them across the water. As soon as Jesus heard them cry out in fear, he called to them, "Be of good cheer; it is I, be not afraid".

Peter called back, "If it is really you, Lord, tell me to come to you on the water".

Jesus called to him, "Come". Without hesitating, Peter got out of the boat and began to walk towards Jesus on the water. He really walked on the water! But as he saw the rough seas and the wild winds all around him he became afraid. His faith left him. He began to sink into the water.

"Lord save me", he cried out. Straight away Jesus reached out his hand and caught hold of him. Jesus said "What a little faith you have. Why did you doubt?"

And when they came into the boat the wind stopped blowing and the lake was once more calm. The disciples gladly received him and were amazed. They worshipped Jesus, saying, "Of a truth thou art the Son of God".

LESSON FOR US

God will help us even in the midst of troubles if we put our trust in Him. Jesus is not with us now, but he sees and knows our troubles. By the same wonderful power he used to walk on the water, he will soon return to the earth. Just as he made the sea become calm, so Jesus will then calm the troubles of the world and fill the earth with peace. It will be a happy

time then for all of us, if we follow him now as the disciples did.

Remember these points:-

- * Jesus wanted to be alone so that he could pray to his Father.
- * The disciples were in their boat on the lake.
- * A strong wind arose and the boat was tossed about on the water. They were very frightened.
- * Then a well-known voice told them not to be afraid. It was Jesus, and Peter asked if he could come to Jesus on the water.
- * But when he was some distance from the boat his faith failed and he began to sink.
- * He called to Jesus to save him.
- * Together they came into the boat and the wind stopped blowing and the sea became calm.

Questions 5 to 8 years

1. *Why did Jesus send away his disciples and the crowds and go alone into the hills?*
2. *Where were the disciples while Jesus was praying?*
- ✓3. *What did the disciples see as they looked across the water towards the shore?*
- ✓4. (a) *What happened when Peter tried to walk on the water to Jesus?*
(b) *Why did Peter begin to sink into the water?*

Additional Questions 7 to 8 years

- ✓5. *Tell the story of when the disciples were alone on the lake and Jesus had gone into the hills to pray.*
6. *What will Jesus do for the world when he returns?*

14. THE POOL OF SILOAM

*“Go, wash in the Pool of
Siloam”*

Aim

To show how the cure of natural blindness is wonderful, but the cure of spiritual blindness is more important.

Synopsis

A blind man was healed and he came to know and believed that Jesus was the Son of God.

John 9:1-38



THE BLIND MAN

One Sabbath day, as Jesus came out of the temple with his disciples, he saw a blind man sitting by the roadside begging. This man had been born blind. He had never been able to see anything. Everything was as dark as night to him and he had never known what it was to see daylight. The disciples asked Jesus why this man had been born blind. They wondered whether it was because he had sinned or perhaps his parents had sinned. Jesus said that the man was born blind, not as a punishment for anyone's sin, but so that Jesus could show the power of God to the people by healing him. He told them that he was "the Light of the World".

THE MIRACLE

When Jesus had spoken these words, he spat on the

ground and made some clay, which he put on the eyes of the blind man. Then he said to the blind man, "Go, wash in the Pool of Siloam". This would not have been easy for him to do. He would have stumbled on his way down to the pool which was outside the city walls. But he did as Jesus told him and when he had washed the clay from his eyes, suddenly he could see.

THE NEIGHBOURS

When his neighbours found that he could see, they said, "Is not this the man who sat and begged?" Others said, "He is like him". But the man said, "I am the man". Everyone wanted to know how he could suddenly see. He had been blind all his life, so he had told them. "The man that is called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and told me to wash in the Pool of Siloam. I did this and received my sight." They asked him where Jesus had gone, but he did not know.

THE PHARISEES

The neighbours took the man to the Pharisees (the Pharisees hated Jesus). When the man who had been blind told them how he had been healed by Jesus, the Pharisees became angry. It was the Sabbath day when Jesus did this miracle and they said he had broken God's law by working on the Sabbath. But what wonderful work this was to make a blind man see! Jesus had done this miracle on the Sabbath day. They should have been pleased to know that Jesus had the power from God to do miracles like this. Others of them said Jesus must be sent by God or else he would not be able to do miracles at all. They asked the man what he thought of Jesus and he said, "He is a prophet". The people could not make up their minds what to think. So they called for the man's mother and father.

THE PARENTS

The Pharisees asked the mother and father if this really was their son who had been born blind. If so, how was it that he could now see? They answered that they knew it was their son, but they had no idea how he had been healed. They said, "He is of age, ask him. He shall speak for himself". His parents spoke like this because they were afraid of the Pharisees. They knew that anyone who said Jesus was the Messiah sent by God would not be allowed to worship in the Synagogue any more.

Once more the Pharisees asked the man who had been blind how he had been healed, but this time he would not tell them. He had already told them all he knew. They should have listened more carefully. "If this man were not from God he could do nothing," he said. All these things made the Pharisees very angry. They cast the man out of the Synagogue. He was not allowed to worship there again.

FINDING JESUS AGAIN

When Jesus heard how the Pharisees had treated the man he came to him and said, "Do you believe on the Son of God?" The man who had been blind said, "Who is he, Lord, that I may believe on him?" Jesus said, "Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee". The man said, "Lord, I believe". Now he could see that it was Jesus, the Son of God, who had cured his blindness.

LESSON FOR US

The blind man was cured of his blindness. He could see. But Jesus also made him see the Truth. He could see that Jesus was the Son of God. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world". If we learn all we can about Jesus from the Bible, we will have our hearts and minds filled with his light. We will then be able to please God day by day. If we do not fill our minds

with the light of the Truth, our minds will be blind, and in darkness. We will not see the way to walk to the kingdom.

Remember these points:-

- * When Jesus saw a blind man begging by the roadside he spat on the ground and made clay and put it on his eyes. He told him to wash in the Pool of Siloam.
- * After he washed in the Pool of Siloam he could see.
- * The Pharisees were angry as it was the Sabbath day.
- * They asked the blind man's parents if he was really their blind son and how could he now see.
- * The blind man believed that Jesus was the Son of God.

Questions 5 to 8 years

- 1. (a) *What did Jesus do to the blind man to heal his eyes?*
(b) *Where did he send the blind man?*
(c) *Why were the Pharisees angry?*
- 2. ✓ *What did his parents say to the Pharisees, when they asked what had happened to their son?*
- 3. *What did the Pharisees do to the blind man?*
- 4. ✓ *Finish these words of Jesus, "I am the light....."*

Additional Questions 7 to 8 years

- 5. ✓ *Tell the story of Jesus healing the blind man, and of what happened afterwards.*
- 6. *Why was the man in this story born blind?*
- 7. *What did Jesus say to the man when the Pharisees would not let him worship in their synagogue again?*

15. THE GOOD SHEPHERD

*"I am the Good Shepherd and
know my sheep"*

Aim

*To show the love of Jesus, the
Good Shepherd, for his flock.*

Synopsis

*Jesus told the people a parable
about a shepherd and his
sheep. Not many of them
understood what the parable
meant, but we will be able to
see just how he cares for us.*

John 10:1-18



JESUS TEACHES

As Jesus went about teaching the people he talked to them in parables about things they already knew. The people knew all about the work of a shepherd. They knew the things a good shepherd would do, they knew that a bad shepherd is no use at all. This lesson is what Jesus taught about the Good Shepherd. He teaches us too, so many years later. The thing to remember about this parable is that Jesus is the Good Shepherd.

THE SHEPHERD

Sheep are cared for in Israel in a way which is nothing like the way sheep are kept in Australia. The sheep had a shepherd – a man who kept them safe from harm and made

sure they had everything they needed. He knew them all by name and he led them and his sheep followed him. The shepherd faced hardship and danger continually. Remember David, who killed a lion and a bear whilst looking after his father's sheep? Every night the sheep were led into a sheepfold. It had stone fences all round to keep them safe from wolves and other wild animals. In the day the sheep were led out again. The shepherd would find them fresh water and green grass.

The shepherd knew all his sheep – he knew each one by name. The sheep knew their shepherd too. They knew his voice and would follow when he called. The shepherd loved his sheep. If any of the flock strayed, he would search carefully to find it, and return it to safety with gladness. He would very gently lead the mother sheep with their little lambs.

THE THIEF AND THE HIRELING

There was only one entrance to the sheepfold. Jesus said to the people, "If anyone does not enter by the door but tries to climb in some other way, he is a thief and a robber. The true shepherd enters by the door. The sheep hear the voice of the Good Shepherd. He calls them by name and leads them out. The sheep follow him for they know him.

They will not follow a stranger; they will run away, for they do not know the voice of strangers.

The thief only comes to kill and steal the sheep. But the Good Shepherd gives them life. And the Good Shepherd will give his own life for his sheep.

If a man is just hired to keep the sheep, he does not love them. If a wolf comes, the hired man leaves the sheep and runs away. The wolf snatches them up and scatters them. The hired man does not really care about the sheep."

JESUS THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Every parable has two parts – the story and the meaning, and they both match. Jesus gave the meaning of the parable. He is the Good Shepherd. “I am the Good Shepherd”, continued Jesus, “and know my sheep.” Those who truly want to follow Jesus are his sheep. He knows them and they know him. (But you might say, how can we know Jesus, for he is in heaven? — We can get to know him by reading the Bible and learning what he did and what he will do in the future).

The Truth is like the sheepfold, which was a safe home for the sheep; it had a wall around it. So when we are in the Truth we are kept safe from the world, because God watches over us. There was only one door to the fold and there is only one way to get into the Truth. We cannot have salvation any other way.

The Pharisees had been bad shepherds for Israel. They were not really interested in looking after God’s people. They did not really love them. Hadn’t they cast out the blind man because he had been healed – the one we learnt about in the last lesson? But Jesus, who is the Good Shepherd, had found him.

Jesus, the Good Shepherd, has even given his own life for his sheep. Jesus was willing to die, and because he died for us, we, his sheep, can be saved from dying forever.

LESSON FOR US

We must keep learning all we can about Jesus. That is how we get to know him. We can then become his sheep, and go through the door of baptism into the safe enclosing walls of life in the Truth. Then, when Jesus returns to the earth, we will know him and he will be glad to have us in his kingdom.

Remember these points:-

- * Jesus spoke in parables to teach important lessons.
- * A shepherd knows his sheep. He keeps them from harm. He leads them and knows each one by name. He loves his sheep.
- * At night the sheep were put in a fold.
- * In the morning he leads them to green pastures and fresh water.
- * A thief comes to kill and steal.
- * A man hired to look after the sheep runs away when there is danger.
- * The Good Shepherd will give his life for his sheep.
- * Jesus is the Good Shepherd.

Questions 5 to 8 years

1. ✓ *What is a shepherd?*
2. *Where did shepherds take their sheep at night?*
3. ✓ *What does a shepherd do for his sheep in the day?*
4. ✓ *What did Jesus say the hired man would do?*
5. ✓ *Who is the Good Shepherd?*

Additional Questions 7 to 8 years

- 6. *Tell all you know about the parable Jesus told of the Good Shepherd and how he cares for his sheep.*
- 7. *In the meaning of the parable, what is the sheepfold like?*
- 8. ✓ *How can we become the sheep of the Good Shepherd?*

16. THE PARABLE OF THE SON WHO SINNED - BUT WAS SORRY

"This my son was lost and is found"

Aim

To show the love and forgiveness of God and His mercy to those who truly change their ways.

Synopsis

Jesus wants us to learn that God is a loving Father, who cares for all His children

Luke 15:11-32



THE SCRIBES AND PHARISEES COMPLAIN

The Scribes and Pharisees did not like to see people listening to Jesus. They tried to stop him teaching by grumbling about him all the time. They said he should not eat with sinners and tax collectors. When Jesus heard the scribes and the Pharisees complaining, he told them parables to teach them that they should be glad when sinners return to God. This is one of the parables he told.

JESUS TELLS THE STORY

There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, "Father, give me the share of the money that is mine". So the father divided the money which he had set aside, and gave each son his share. A few days later that

younger son gathered all his things together and set off to travel to a far country. There he wasted his money, buying everything he wanted and having a “good time”. When he had spent all his money, a famine came in that country. The young man had no money and now no food. So he went to a man of that land who gave him some work to do – feeding pigs. And he was so hungry that he wished he could eat the pigs’ food himself. And still no one gave him anything.

THE SON RETURNS

Then he thought about how foolish he had been. He said to himself. “My father’s servants have more than enough to eat, but I am dying with hunger. I will go to my father and say to him, “Father, I have sinned against God and before thee, and am not worthy to be called thy son. Make me as one of thy servants.”

So the young man went home. But when he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming and was so pleased to see him returning home. He ran to meet his son and threw his arms about his neck and hugged and kissed him. And the son said, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and in thy sight. I am not worthy to be called thy son”.

THE FATHER’S JOY

But the father said to the servants, “Bring quickly the best robe and put on him, and put a ring on his hand and shoes on his feet. Prepare the fatted calf that we may eat and make merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again, he was lost and is found.” So the father and his servants began to enjoy a happy feast with the son who had come home again.

THE ELDEST SON IS ANGRY

A little while later, the eldest son came in from the field. As he came near the house he heard happy music. He was angry when he learnt why the feast was being held. Not even his father could persuade him to come into the feast.

“I have worked for you all these years,” he said to his father. “And I have never broken any of your commandments; but you have never given me so much as a little lamb to have a feast with my friends. But as soon as your son comes back, who has wasted all the money you gave him, you have killed the best calf to give him a feast.”

THE FATHER EXPLAINS

Then the father gently explained to his eldest son, “Son,” he said, “You are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It is right for us to be merry and glad because your brother who we thought was dead, is alive. He was lost and is found.”

THE MEANING OF THE PARABLE

Jesus did not explain what he meant by the parable. He just went on and told another. But when we read about why he told the story, we can see the meaning of it. The Pharisees were complaining about Jesus eating with tax collectors and sinners. They were like that angry older brother, who would not join in the feast. But they should have been rejoicing with Jesus, because all those sinners had changed their ways and come back to hear God’s word again.

LESSON FOR US

God is our heavenly Father. He loves us just as the father in the story loved his son. Sometimes we do silly things like that younger son, but if we are truly sorry and change

our ways, God will be pleased with us.

Remember these points:-

- * Jesus spoke in parables to teach important lessons.
- * A father had two sons with whom he divided his money.
- * The younger son wasted his money.
- * When the famine came, the younger son realised how foolish he had been.
- * He returned home.
- * His father rejoiced and made a great feast.
- * The eldest son was very angry.
- * God, our heavenly Father, will be pleased if we are sorry and change our ways after we have done something foolish.

QUESTIONS 5 to 8 years

- ✓ 1. *In the parable, what did the younger son do with the money his father had given him?*
- 2. *What did he decide to do when he was feeding the pigs?*
- 3. *What did the father do when he saw his son coming home?*
- ✓ 4. *What did the elder son say when he came in from the field and heard the music and feasting for his brother?*
- ✓ 5. *Is God (and His angels) pleased when sinners change their ways?*

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS 7 to 8 years

- 6. *Tell the story about the son who sinned and was sorry.*
- ✓ 7. *What does Jesus want us to learn about God in this parable?*

17. THE KIND SAMARITAN

“Which of these three do you think was neighbour?”

Aim

To show that we must always be ready to help people, no matter who they are.

Synopsis

The Jews hated the Samaritans, but this parable is about a Samaritan who was much kinder than the Jews.



Luke 10:25-37

THE LAWYER TALKS TO JESUS

One day a lawyer came to Jesus. He wanted to test Jesus. He wanted to find out if Jesus knew as much about God's Law as he did himself. After all, it was his job to study the Law every day and he thought that he was very clever. So he said to Jesus, "Master, what shall I do to be given eternal life?"

Jesus said to him, "What is written in God's Law? What do you think it teaches?" The lawyer answered, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul and with all thy strength and with all thy mind. And thy neighbour as thyself."

Jesus said to him, "You have answered right. Do this and you shall live."

But the man still wanted Jesus to take notice of him

and said, "Who is my neighbour?"

JESUS TELLS THE STORY

Jesus answered the lawyer's question by telling a parable. A man was going from Jerusalem to Jericho when a terrible thing happened to him. Some robbers, who were hiding near the roadside, jumped out at him. They stole his clothes and all that he had. Then they beat him and raced off leaving the man half dead. The poor man lay there wounded by the edge of the road.

Not long after, a priest came along the same road. When he saw the man lying there in need of help he just crossed to the other side and went on his way. Later, a Levite came along the road. He saw the man lying there and went over to have a look at him. But then he did the same as the priest—he just crossed to the other side of the road and went on his way.

After that another man came along the road, a Samaritan. People from Samaria had always been despised and hated by the Jews. But when this Samaritan came to where the poor man lay, so sick and still, he felt very sorry for him. He went to him and carefully bandaged his wounds. Then he gently lifted him and laid him on his donkey. This kind Samaritan brought him to an inn and took him in and cared for him.

Before he left the next day he took out two coins and gave them to the innkeeper; saying, "Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back."

WHICH WAS THE KIND NEIGHBOUR?

When Jesus finished the parable he asked the lawyer, "Which of these three (the priest, the Levite or the Samaritan) do you think was a kind neighbour to the man?"

The lawyer knew it was the Samaritan. But he was a Jew and he hated the Samaritans. He would not even mention the name. So he said, "The one who showed kindness."

And Jesus said, "Go and do thou likewise."

The priest and the Levite in the story (and the Jewish lawyer talking to Jesus too) all thought that they were important men in Israel. The priests and Levites were the ones who were supposed to teach the people about God. Yet they would not help when they saw that help was needed. It was the Samaritan, a hated man, who was the only one to show kindness.

LESSON FOR US

There are many times when we can be helpful, aren't there? God is very pleased with willing helpers. Never turn your back on someone who needs help. Try to be a willing helper at home and wherever you are. It is easy to help people who love us, but this parable teaches us to help anybody who needs help.

Remember these points:-

- * A Parable is a story with an important lesson.
- * A man going down from Jerusalem to Jericho was robbed and left wounded.
- * A priest and a Levite saw the wounded man but passed by.
- * A Samaritan came along and gently bound up the wounds, took him to an inn, and cared for him.
- * The neighbour was the man who showed kindness and was helpful to the man in need.

QUESTIONS — 5 to 8 years

- ✓ 1. *What happened to the man who was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho?*
- ✓ 2. *What did the priest and the Levite do when they came along the road?*
- ✓ 3. *What did the Samaritan do for the poor man?*
- 4. *Which of the three men was a kind neighbour to the man?*
- ✓ 5. *How can we be like the kind Samaritan?*

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS — 7 to 8 years

- ✓ 6. *Jesus told the parable of the kind Samaritan to answer the lawyer's question. What was the lawyer's question?*
- 7. *Tell the story Jesus told of the man who was travelling from Jerusalem to Jericho?*
- 8. *Did the Jews usually love the Samaritans?*



18. RAISING LAZARUS

“Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection and the life”

Aim

To show how God gave Jesus the power even to raise the dead.

Synopsis

Jesus raised his friend Lazarus from the dead. Some people believed because of this, but the chief priests and Pharisees wanted to kill him.



John 11:1-46

MARY AND MARTHA SEND A MESSAGE

Mary and Martha lived at Bethany, just a little way from Jerusalem with their brother Lazarus. These three were dearly loved by Jesus. He knew them well and had often been to their home. Then one day Lazarus became ill. The sisters sent a message to Jesus, saying, “Lord, he whom you love is ill”. They knew Jesus would be able to help.

JESUS DELAYS

But Jesus did not go straight away to Bethany. He stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Somehow Jesus knew it was the best thing to do. He knew this was going to be an opportunity to give glory to God. Jesus said to his disciples, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep. But I go to

awake him from sleep.” The disciples could not understand what Jesus meant. They said, “Lord, if he is sleeping, surely he will soon get better?” But Jesus meant that Lazarus had died. He told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead, and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe.”

THEY COME TO BETHANY

And then Jesus and his disciples went on to Bethany. He found that Lazarus had already been buried for four days.

Many people had come to the home to comfort Mary and Martha. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went straight out to meet him. Mary stayed in the house.

Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here my brother would not have died. And even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.”

Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”

Martha said, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. Do you believe this?”

She said, “Yes Lord; I believe thou art the Christ, the Son of God.” But Martha did not understand that Jesus was going to raise her brother that very day. He did not have to wait until ‘the last day’ she had spoken of, for he was the very one who would make people alive again.

Martha returned to the house and called her sister, saying quietly, “The Master is here and is calling for you.” Mary got up quickly and hurried to Jesus.

When she came to Jesus she fell at his feet, saying, “Lord if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” When Jesus saw her there weeping and all her friends weeping too he felt very sad himself. He said, “Where have you laid him?”

Then Jesus, who had feelings just like you and I, wept too.

AT THE TOMB

They took him to the tomb where Lazarus had been buried. It was like a cave and a large stone had been placed over the opening.

Jesus said, "Take away the stone."

Everyone was surprised that Jesus should want to open the tomb. They knew that Lazarus' dead body would smell awful after four days. But Jesus said, "If you believe, you will see the glory of God," and so they did as Jesus asked.

Then, as they watched, Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. And I know that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it so that they may believe that thou hast sent me." He did this to plainly show to the Jews, that the power he was going to use was not his, but God's. And then he called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth."

And Lazarus who had been dead, came forth. He was all wrapped up with the bandages that he had been buried in. "Undo them," Jesus said, "And let him go." And there amongst all his friends who loved him, stood Lazarus, alive and well. He had been resurrected, or raised to life again, from the grave.

AFTER THE MIRACLE

Many of the people who saw what happened believed that Jesus was the Son of God. But some went and told the Pharisees and from that day on, they planned to kill Jesus.

LESSON FOR US

Mary and Martha learnt that nothing was too hard for God. Jesus is able to raise people from the dead. When he

comes back to earth he will raise from the dead all those who have learned and know of God. This is called the resurrection. Their dead bodies will have rotted away and turned into dust, but Jesus, by the power God has given him, is able to raise them from the dead and make them living people again. Those who have been pleasing to God will receive everlasting life.

Remember these points:-

- * Mary and Martha sent for Jesus to come to Bethany and heal Lazarus.
- * Lazarus died.
- * Jesus tells Martha, “I am the resurrection and the life...”
- * Jesus wept and was sad.
- * At the grave he commanded the stone to be removed.
- * He prayed to God.
- * Then in a loud voice Jesus called, “Come forth.”
- * Lazarus came forth bound in his grave clothes.
- * The power and glory of God was revealed to them through Jesus and many Jews believed that he was the Son of God.
- * The Pharisees planned to kill Jesus.

QUESTIONS — 5 to 8 years

- ✓ 1. What was the message that was brought to Jesus from Mary and Martha?
2. How long did Jesus wait before he went to Bethany?
3. What did Martha say to Jesus when she met him?
4. What did Jesus reply?
- ✓ 5. What did Jesus do when he saw Mary and her friends weeping?
6. What did Jesus do after the stone was removed from the entrance to the tomb?

7. What happened when Jesus called out, "Lazarus, come forth?"
- ✓8. What did the Pharisees decide to do after they heard that Jesus had made Lazarus alive again?
- ✓9. What will Jesus do for dead people who believe in him when he returns to the earth?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS — 7 to 8 years

- 10. Tell the story of what happened after Lazarus became ill.
- ✓11. What does the word 'resurrection' mean?



19. ZACCHAEUS

“He received Jesus joyfully”

Aim

To show how Zacchaeus changed his ways because he loved God.

Synopsis

Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus very much. Jesus spent the day at his house.

Luke 19:1-10



GOING TO JERUSALEM

Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. He had told his disciples, “We are going up to Jerusalem and everything that the prophets wrote about me will happen to me there.”

On the way, they passed through a town called Jericho. Crowds of people stood on either side of the road to have a look at Jesus. They had heard so many stories of his wonderful miracles and of the way he taught the people. Everyone wanted to see what he looked like. Perhaps he would perform a miracle right there in Jericho.

ZACCHAEUS

One man was particularly keen to see Jesus. His name was Zacchaeus and he was the chief tax collector. His job was to collect the taxes that the people had to pay to the rulers of the land. They did not like paying taxes to the Roman rulers. So they did not like the tax collectors, especially the

chief tax collector. What made things even worse was that Zacchaeus was rich. The people thought he made himself rich by collecting too much money from them. As you can imagine, they thought Zacchaeus was a wicked man and they did not like him.

ZACCHAEUS WANTS SEE JESUS

But Zacchaeus was not as bad as they thought. He was very anxious to see Jesus as he passed by. He wondered just what was he like. But Zacchaeus was only a little man. He was too short to see over the heads of the crowds in front of him. So he ran on ahead to a sycamore tree and climbed up into it and waited for Jesus to come by that way. What a good view he would have from there.

Zacchaeus watched as Jesus came up the road towards the sycamore tree, where he was perched above the heads of the people. Then, when Jesus reached the very spot, he stopped and looked up. He had caught sight of Zacchaeus in the tree. "Hurry and come down, Zacchaeus," Jesus said, "I must spend the day at your house."

Zacchaeus was very happy and excited. Not only had he been able to see Jesus, but Jesus wanted to see him and even knew his name. Quickly he climbed down and welcomed Jesus.

JESUS GOES TO ZACCHAEUS' HOUSE

Now when all the people who stood about saw what was happening they were very surprised.

"He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner," they muttered to each other.

But Jesus knew what was in Zacchaeus' heart. Zacchaeus stood in front of Jesus and told him what he really intended to do with his money. He said, "Behold Lord, the

half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken anything from any man falsely, I will restore to him four times as much.” This showed Jesus that Zacchaeus really wanted to do what was right.

Jesus was always interested to find out what was in a man’s heart. God is just the same with us. He knows what is in our hearts— whether it is good or bad — and we cannot hide it from Him.

JESUS IS PLEASED WITH ZACCHAEUS

Jesus was pleased with Zacchaeus. “This day is salvation come to this house,” he said, “because he too is a son of Abraham.”

The people thought that they were all ‘sons of Abraham’ just because they were Jews. Why, they could name their fathers and grandfathers right back to Abraham. But Jesus meant something more than that. A ‘son of Abraham’ meant anyone who behaved in the way Abraham would have behaved — anyone who loved God and loved His Son; (we know that Abraham would have loved to have seen Jesus — one day he will); anyone who also showed faith and kindness and honesty as Abraham did. So Jesus was pleased with Zacchaeus for trying to be like that.

JESUS SHOWS THE WAY

Jesus said he had come “to seek and to save that which was lost.” He was looking for people who were lost — they had forgotten the right way to please God. Jesus came to show them the way. If they listened carefully to his words and followed his ways, then they would be saved. They could find a place in God’s kingdom on earth.

LESSON FOR US

The story of Zaccheus is one of many stories in the Bible that show us the way to please God. We can learn from Zaccheus to change our ways, to be honest and generous and to behave like true 'sons of Abraham'. If we are doing that, then of course we will be looking forward to seeing Jesus when he comes — just like Zaccheus. When he comes we will not be ashamed, but we will be happy to welcome him.

Remember these points:-

- * Zacchaeus was a little man and he was a tax collector.
- * He climbed a sycamore tree to see Jesus.
- * Jesus told him to get down because he wanted to visit his house.
- * The people murmured against Jesus and Zacchaeus.
- * Zacchaeus gave half of his riches to the poor and if he had cheated anyone he gave back four times as much as he had taken.
- * Jesus said, "This day is salvation come to this house because he also is a son of Abraham."

QUESTIONS — 5 to 8 years

- ✓ 1. *Who was Zacchaeus?*
- ✓ 2. *Did the people like Zacchaeus?Why?*
3. *What did Zacchaeus do when he wanted to see Jesus?*
4. *What did Jesus say to Zacchaeus when he saw him up in the tree?*
- ✓ 5. *What did Zacchaeus promise Jesus he would do?*
- 6. *Tell the story of what happened as Jesus passed through the town of Jericho where Zaccheus lived.*

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS — 7 to 8 years

- 7. *Jesus was pleased with Zacchaeus and called him a 'son of Abraham'. What did Jesus mean?*
- ✓ 8. *The story of Zacchaeus teaches us some of the ways in which we can please God. Can you tell some of them?*



20. JESUS RIDES INTO JERUSALEM

*“Hosanna to the Son of
David”*

Aim

*To show how the people of
Jerusalem welcomed Jesus
when they thought he would
become their king.*

Synopsis

*Jesus had to go to Jerusalem.
He knew from the Old
Testament Scriptures what was
going to happen there.*

Matthew 21:1-16



TIME TO GO TO JERUSALEM

It was now close to the time of Passover, when Jesus had to be in Jerusalem. He and his disciples were making their way from town to town to reach Jerusalem in time. Many other families were on their way to keep the feast there too.

JESUS RIDES ON AN ASS LIKE A KING

When they were not far off, Jesus sent two of his disciples to a village nearby to fetch an ass for him to ride on. “You will find an ass tied and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me,” said Jesus. “If anyone asks you what you are doing, say, the Lord has need of them, and he will let you have them straight away.” So the disciples did as Jesus said

and laid their clothes on the backs of the ass and her colt.

Hundreds of years before, one of God's prophets had said that God's Son would ride triumphantly on an ass into Jerusalem. Now God's word was coming to pass — as it always does.

The kings of Israel used to ride on an ass before their people. Now Jesus was lifted up on to this specially chosen colt to ride the rest of the way into Jerusalem. The crowds of people who travelled along the road spread their coats on the ground for Jesus to ride over — like a real king. Some cut down branches from trees and laid them in the way. Soon a great, excited procession was on its way into Jerusalem, "the city of the Great King."

The people that went before him and those who followed behind sang out aloud for joy. The words they sang came from one of the Psalms: "Hosanna to the Son of David: blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord: Hosanna in the highest." Once again the words of God came true.

JESUS NOT A KING YET

Jesus really was the king of the Jews. By riding into Jerusalem in this way, he was showing the people that he was their king. But it was not yet time for him to put on his crown and sit on his throne. Terrible things would happen to him first. Right now everyone was cheering and singing his praises. They would gladly have him to rule over them instead of the hated Roman rulers. But very soon the hearts of the people would be turned away by the wicked leaders of the Jews. Soon he would be put to death.

For the moment the crowds were happy. Everyone in the city who watched the procession enter asked, "Who is this?" The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet of Nazareth."

JESUS IS ANGRY

On the next day Jesus went into the Temple. What he saw made him very angry. It was supposed to be a quiet place where everyone could go to worship God. Instead, it was as noisy and dirty as a market place. There were greedy moneychangers. There was the noise and smell of animals and birds, which were to be sold as sacrifices. People were busily buying and selling and arguing. The priests should never have allowed this to happen. But the priests were wicked men. They were only interested in making life easy for themselves. They had no thought of pleasing God.

Jesus was so angry at what he saw that he drove out the people who were buying and selling. He overturned the tables of the moneychangers. Their money scattered everywhere. He tipped up the seats of those who sold doves. Then he cried out, "It is written, 'My house shall be called the house of prayer;' but ye have made it a den of thieves."

SOME LOVED JESUS: SOME HATED HIM

While he was still there in the Temple, blind people and crippled people came to him and he healed them. You would have thought that everyone would be happy about this. But the chief priests were angry. They could tell that the people would love to have Jesus as their king. Then they heard even the children calling out, "Hosanna to the Son of David." This made them angrier still. "Do you hear what they are saying?" they said to Jesus. "Yes," he replied, "Haven't you ever read what it says in the Bible? It says, 'Out of the mouths of little children, God has brought forth praise.'" Of course, the priests were supposed to be teachers. They did not like Jesus teaching them.

So you can see what an uproar was caused in Jerusalem after Jesus rode into the city. Everyone noticed him. Some

loved him. Others hated him. Some wanted to make him their king. Others wanted to kill him. God was watching over it all. He knew what was going to happen to His Son.

LESSON FOR US

God's word is true; it always come to pass. Whenever we read the Bible, let us remember that.

The people were glad when Jesus came into Jerusalem. But they soon changed their minds about wanting him for their king. We can feel happy that Jesus is going to come to Jerusalem again soon. He will be King then and if we love and obey him now, he will be glad to have us in his kingdom and God's House will then indeed be a house of prayer.

Remember these points:-

- * It was almost Passover time and Jesus wanted to be in Jerusalem.
- * He rode on a colt into Jerusalem.
- * The people sang, "Hosanna to the Son of David..."
- * Jesus was angry when he saw the Temple looking like a market place.
- * He drove out those buying and selling and overturned the money changers' tables.
- * "It is written," said Jesus, "My house shall be called the house of prayer but ye have made it a den of thieves."
- * The Lord Jesus Christ will soon return to the earth again to set up God's kingdom. He will then be king.
- * God's house will then be a House of Prayer.

QUESTIONS — 5 to 8 years

- ✓ 1. *Jesus wanted to be in Jerusalem in time for the feast. Which feast was it?*

2. *What did Jesus ride on when he entered Jerusalem?*
- ✓ 3. *What did the people cry out as Jesus rode into Jerusalem?*
- ✓ 4. *Jesus was angry when he went into the Temple. What did he do?*
5. *What did Jesus say when he went into the Temple and found it looking like a market place?*

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS — 7 to 8 years

6. *Jesus sent two of his disciples into a village near Jerusalem. What did he tell them to do?*
- ✓ 7. *Jesus will come to Jerusalem again soon. Why should this make us happy?*



21. THE TEN VIRGINS

*“Behold, the Bridegroom
cometh”*

Aim

*To show that we must be ready
and watching for Jesus to
return.*

Synopsis

*Jesus told many parables about
the kingdom of God. This
parable is about wise and
foolish virgins.*



Matthew 25: 1-13

THE PARABLE

This parable teaches us what we must do while we are waiting for Jesus to return to the earth. He told us to **WATCH** for him and to **BE READY**. We do not know exactly when he will come. But he will come soon. We can be sure of that. So we must make sure that we are always doing the things that are pleasing to God.

This is the parable:

Ten virgins had been chosen to take part in a wedding procession. It was night and each maiden carried a lamp. They were to wait for the Bridegroom and then accompany him into the wedding feast. It would be a very happy and exciting occasion.

It was late at night and the Bridegroom had not yet arrived. He was away longer than they had expected. While

they waited, they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

Then suddenly at midnight someone cried out, "Behold, the Bridegroom cometh. Go ye out to meet him." The ten virgins stood up and began to trim their lamps. Now five of those virgins were wise. They had brought extra oil in a jar, just in case they had to wait a long time. But the other five were foolish. They had not seen the need to prepare themselves for a long wait. They had felt sure that they would have enough oil in their lamps to last out the night.

You can imagine how they panicked now. "Give us some of your oil," they said to the wise virgins, "Our lamps are going out." But those five wise virgins replied, "There is not enough for us and you. Go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves." It was important to provide light for the Bridegroom. So the wise virgins could not give away any of their oil just when the Bridegroom was approaching. So the foolish virgins hurried off to try and buy oil somewhere else. No sooner had they left than the Bridegroom arrived. Then those five wise virgins, who were ready, joined the Bridegroom in the procession to the marriage feast. They went inside and the door was shut. When at last the five foolish virgins returned they found the door shut. They pleaded with the Bridegroom to let them in. "Lord, Lord, open to us," they cried. But it was too late. They had been careless and he was not pleased. They had not bothered to be properly prepared for him. So he did not even count them as his friends. "Truly, I tell you, I do not know you," he told them.

How ashamed they must have felt. What a disgrace to be shut out. They had been specially invited to join in the feast. But because they could not be bothered to be well prepared and ready, they missed out.

When Jesus had finished telling this parable, he warned his disciples who were listening — "Watch therefore, for ye

know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of Man cometh.”

EXPLAINING THE PARABLE

The kingdom of God is like this, Jesus said. We have been invited by God to join the Lord Jesus Christ in his kingdom. We are waiting for him to come. But while we are waiting, we must get ourselves ready. The ten virgins should all have made sure that they had enough oil to last out the dark night. The dark night is like the world in which we live. God’s word is the only thing that will help us see the way to His kingdom. His word is like oil to us. We must store it up every day. Jesus will come suddenly and he expects us to be ready . What must we do to be ready?

LESSON FOR US

God has given us His word to read. If we read it often we will learn how to behave in a way that is pleasing to God. We will learn to behave as Jesus would have done. So we grow to be like Jesus — and that will please God. Even children can try hard to please God in this way. Everyone must be preparing now to meet the Lord Jesus Christ when He comes in his kingdom.

Remember these points:-

- * Jesus spoke this parable to teach an important lesson.
- * Ten virgins were awaiting the Bridegroom.
- * They all fell asleep.
- * At midnight the Bridegroom came.
- * Five virgins were wise. They took extra oil for their lamps.
- * Five were foolish. They had no more oil — they went to buy more.

- * The Bridegroom arrived and took the five wise virgins into the marriage feast and shut the door.
- * The foolish virgins returned too late.
- * Jesus told his disciples: "Watch, for ye know neither the day nor the hour when the Son of Man comes."

QUESTIONS — 5 to 8 years

1. *How many virgins were wise and how many were foolish?*
- ✓ 2. *What were the virgins waiting for?*
3. *Why were some of the virgins worried when they were awakened at midnight?*
- ✓ 4. *At midnight the Bridegroom came. What did the wise virgins do then?*
- ✓ 5. *What happened when the foolish virgins returned and found the door shut?*
- 6. *Jesus told a parable of the virgins waiting for the Bridegroom to come. Tell the story.*

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS — 7 to 8 years

7. *When Jesus had finished telling this parable, what did he say to his disciples?*
- ✓ 8. *What must we do to be like those wise virgins when Jesus comes?*



22. THE PARABLE OF THE TALENTS

*“The Lord of those servants
cometh”*

Aim

To show that we must use the talents God has given us wisely in His service.

Synopsis

Jesus spoke this parable about people working while they are waiting for God’s kingdom.

Matthew 25: 14-30



THE MASTER GIVES OUT THE TALENTS

There was a man who was going on a journey. He called his servants and told them that he wanted them to take care of his money while he was away. The money was divided into separate amounts which Jesus called ‘talents’. The man knew that some of his servants were better able to manage than others. So he gave them just what he knew they would be able to look after. He gave to one servant five talents. To another he gave two talents and to another one. Then he went away.

HOW THE SERVANTS USED THE TALENTS

The man who was given five talents went at once and traded with the money and gained five more talents. He did what his master would want him to do. The man who had been given two talents did the same. He gained another two

talents. But the one who had only one talent foolishly went out and dug a hole in the ground and buried his master's money.

THE MASTER RETURNS

After a long time the man returned. He came to his servants to see what they had done with the money he had entrusted to them. The one who had received five talents came forward with five more. He said, "Lord, you gave me five talents. Here, I have made five talents more". His master replied, "Well done, good and faithful servant, you have been faithful over a few things, I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord." And also the man who had been given two talents came forward, saying, "You gave me two talents, here I have gained two talents more."

Then his master said, "Well done, good and faithful servant, you have been faithful over a few things, I will set you over many things; enter into the joy of your Lord."

Next, the man who had received one talent came forward, saying, "Master, I knew you to be a hard man, and I was afraid. I hid your talent in the ground. Here, take what is yours."

THE WICKED, LAZY SERVANT

But his master was angry. He answered, "You wicked, lazy servant. If that is what you thought of me you should have at least put the money into the bank, so that at my coming I would have received it with interest. Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has ten talents. Cast out that worthless servant into the darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth". (They will weep and be sorry because they have been turned away from the kingdom).

WHAT THE PARABLE MEANS

Remember, that this story is a parable and Jesus told it in order to teach us something important. The master in the parable was very pleased with the two faithful men who used their talents to gain more for him. He rewarded them and asked them to join with him in his joy. But he was disappointed and angry with the lazy servant who wrongly thought his master was a hard man. Instead of receiving joy and reward his talent was taken away and all he had in the end was darkness and weeping.

Jesus is like the master in the parable. He knows exactly what we are capable of doing. He does not expect more than we can manage. Jesus wants us to use our minds, our hands, our feet and strength, our ears and voices to work for him while he is away. Soon he will return and he will ask the faithful people to enter with joy into his kingdom. But those who have not used their talents to work for him will be cast out like that wicked, lazy servant.

LESSON FOR US

Let us do our best to be like those two faithful men and use what God has given us – hearts and minds, health and strength to learn His word, and obey Him so that we can work for Him now and in His kingdom.

Remember these points:-

- * Again this is a parable Jesus told to teach an important lesson.
- * A man was going on a long journey.
- * To one servant he gave five talents, to another two talents and to another one talent.
- * The man with five talents worked hard and made five more talents.

- * The man with the two talents also worked hard and made two more talents.
- * But the man with one talent was lazy. He buried his money.
- * When the master returned he rewarded the two faithful servants.
- * But the wicked, lazy servant was punished and his talent was taken away.

Questions 5 to 8 years

1. *In the parable Jesus told about the talents, what did the master do with his money before he left on his journey?*
2. *What did the servant who had five talents and the one who had two talents do with their master's money?*
3. *What did the man who had been given one talent do with it?*
4. *What did the master say to the two faithful servants?*
5. *What did the master say to the lazy servant?*

Additional Questions 7 to 8 years

- 6. (a) *Tell the story of the parable Jesus told about the man who went on a journey and left his money in the care of servants.*
(b) *How can we be like the two faithful servants?*

23. JESUS LOVES HIS DISCIPLES – BUT ONE BETRAYS HIM

*“Woe to that man by whom
the Son of Man is betrayed”*

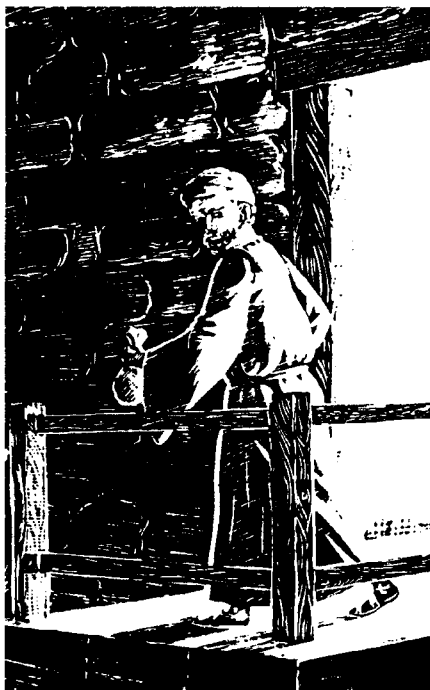
Aim

*To show that we must love the
Lord Jesus Christ and serve
him faithfully and well.*

Synopsis

*Jesus knew that he had to die.
He spent as much time as he
could encouraging his
disciples. Then he asked God
to strengthen him for the trial
ahead of him.*

Mark 14:12-50



JESUS IS GOING TO DIE

Do you remember how Jesus rode into Jerusalem with his disciples to be ready to keep the Passover Feast? He knew that the time had come for him to die. He knew that one of his own chosen friends was going to betray him. He had learned these things by reading the Old Testament Scriptures carefully. They taught about the Messiah – that is, the Christ. All this made him very sad indeed. But he wanted to have one last supper with his disciples. He still had some lessons to teach them, so that they would always be reminded of him after he left them.

THE SUPPER IS PREPARED

Jesus sent two of his disciples ahead into Jerusalem to prepare the supper. "Go into the city," he said, "and a man carrying a pitcher of water shall meet you. Follow him to the house where he goes and say to the man in charge of the house, 'The master saith, where is the guest-room where I shall eat the Passover with my disciples?' He will show you a large upstairs room furnished and prepared: make ready for us there."

The two disciples did as they were told. Everything happened just as Jesus had said. At evening time Jesus came to the room with his other disciples.

JESUS SPEAKS OF A TRAITOR

As they were eating, Jesus said, "One of you who are eating with me shall betray me." The disciples were amazed and very sad at the thought of someone betraying their beloved master. One after another they asked Jesus, "Is it I?" Jesus answered, "It is one of the twelve that dippeth with me in the dish!"

JESUS GIVES HIS DISCIPLES BREAD AND WINE

Before they finished, Jesus took some of the bread and gave thanks for it. Then he broke the bread and passed it to his disciples. "Take and eat this bread", said Jesus, "It is my body".

Then he took the cup of wine and gave thanks for it. "This is my blood", said Jesus, "which is poured out for many." Jesus was teaching his disciples that he was going to die. He was going to be put to death and his blood was going to be poured out.

Later his disciples would be able to remember what happened to him, when they ate bread and drank wine together each week. It is called the Memorial Feast.

JESUS LEAVES THE CITY

When they had finished the breaking-of-bread, they all sang a psalm together. Then Jesus left the house with his disciples. They began to walk towards the Mount of Olives. It was night time.

“All of you will leave me tonight”, said Jesus. Peter was shocked. “Even if everyone else left you, I wouldn’t leave you”, he said. All the disciples said the same. As they walked on together in the darkness, Jesus told them how much he loved them. He called them his friends, and said they must love one another. He wanted to encourage them because he knew what was going to happen and how frightened they would be.

They came to the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus stopped and prayed to his Father in heaven, but his disciples were tired and fell asleep. Jesus kept praying to God to help him in the time of trouble that was close at hand. He needed strength from God too. He knew that he was going to be killed by wicked men. But he knew that he must obey God’s will for he said, “Not my will but Thine be done.” Jesus had to die, but God would raise him later and he would never die again. When he had finished praying, he woke his weary disciples. “Rise, let us be going”, he said, “Look, the one who is going to betray me is coming”.

THE TRAITOR

One of the twelve disciples had been missing – Judas Iscariot. He had left earlier, while the others were in the upper room. He was the traitor. The wicked Jews had promised him thirty pieces of silver if he would betray Jesus. He had brought a band of soldiers with him to take Jesus prisoner. He had said to the soldiers, “The one I kiss is the right one. Take him prisoner.” So Judas came straight up to

Jesus now and said, “Master, Master”, and kissed him. Then the soldiers took hold of Jesus. But the disciples ran away, just as Jesus had said they would.

LESSON FOR US

Jesus had taught his disciples to love the Truth and to obey it. They had listened to his teachings every day and had seen many wonderful miracles. They had grown to love him. But now one betrayed him to wicked men and all the others ran away and left him. This was wrong.

We must always be glad to show people how much we love the Lord Jesus Christ. The things we learn from the Bible will give us the strength and courage to speak up for what is right and do what is pleasing to God. He knows that we sometimes find it hard, but He will help us if we keep on trying.

Remember these points:-

- * Jesus learned from the Old Testament Scriptures all that was to happen to him.
- * It was Passover time.
- * An upstairs room was prepared for Jesus and his disciples.
- * Jesus told them that one of them would betray him.
- * He broke bread and said it represented his body and drank wine which represented his blood.
- * After singing a psalm they went to the Garden of Gethsemane.
- * Jesus prayed to his Father but the disciples fell asleep.
- * Judas Iscariot came with soldiers to take Jesus. All the disciples fled.

Questions 5 to 8 years

- ✓ 1. *Jesus sent two of his disciples to get the last supper ready. How did they find out the right house to go to?*
2. *What did Jesus give his disciples to eat and drink so that they would remember him?*
3. *Who did Jesus say would betray him?*
- ✓ 4. *What did the disciples do while Jesus was praying in the Garden of Gethsemane?*
5. *What did the chief priests give Judas for betraying Jesus?*
6. *How did Judas show the soldiers in the Garden which man was Jesus?*
- ✓ 7. *What did the disciples do when Jesus was taken prisoner?*

Additional Questions 7 to 8 years

- ✓ 8. *How did Jesus know that he was going to die?*
- 9. *Tell what happened in the Garden of Gethsemane.*

24. JESUS IS CRUCIFIED

“This is Jesus the King of the Jews”

Aim

To show how Jesus was a willing sacrifice. He obeyed God and put his faith and trust in Him.

Synopsis

Jesus was taken out and crucified. He had done nothing wrong. But he obeyed God completely, even when he suffered so much.

Matthew 27:3-5, 27-61



JUDAS HANGS HIMSELF

Judas Iscariot was frightened when he saw Jesus being taken to Pilate, the Roman governor. He had betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver, but now he felt sorry for what he had done. He went to the priests and said, “I have sinned in that I have betrayed Jesus who has done no wrong”.

“What is that to us?” said the priests, “See to that yourself”. This was a terrible thing for the priests to say. But these priests had got what they wanted. They wanted Jesus put to death.

But Judas hated the money now. He threw it down on the floor of the Temple and went out and hanged himself.

JESUS IS TAKEN TO GOLGOTHA

Pilate told his soldiers to take Jesus away and crucify him. Jesus had already spent a terrible night being questioned and spat on and tormented by the Jews. Now the Roman soldiers gathered around Jesus and laughed at him. They took his own clothes off him and put on a scarlet robe. They pretended to worship him. "Hail, King of the Jews", they laughed, and they pushed a crown of thorns onto Jesus' head. Then they hit him across the face with a cane. They whipped him with a lash. They spat on his face. Then they put his own clothes on him again and led him out of the city to a place called Golgotha. They brought a huge wooden stake and made him carry it on his sore bleeding back. A man named Simon was forced to help Jesus carry the stake.

JESUS IS CRUCIFIED

When they arrived at Golgotha they crucified Jesus. They hammered nails through his hands and his feet, nailing him to the stake. Then they stood the stake up in a hole in the ground and left Jesus hanging there to die.

Two other men were crucified at the same time. They were thieves, but Jesus had done nothing wrong.

Only a few people cared that Jesus was suffering so much. The soldiers did not care. They shared Jesus' clothes amongst themselves. One of them noticed what a beautiful coat he had worn. "We won't rip it into four", they said. "We will cast lots for it to see who shall have it". This is just what God's word had prophesied that they would do.

CRUEL PEOPLE MAKE FUN OF JESUS

Some of Jesus' disciples watched. Mary, his mother was there too. They could do nothing to help. But the people who gathered around the stake made fun of Jesus. "If you are the

Son of God, come down from the stake,” they said. Even the chief priests spoke loudly to each other so that Jesus could hear: “He saved other people, but he can’t save himself. If he is the king of Israel, let him come down from the cross and we will believe him.”

JESUS IS KINDER THAN THE PRIESTS

Jesus did not complain. He knew that God wanted him to die like this. Then everyone would know that he did trust in God to deliver him. He looked at the mocking people around the cross and said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do”.

JESUS DIES

Then about midday the sun suddenly disappeared and it grew very dark until 3 o’clock. At this time Jesus cried with a loud voice and died. An earthquake shook the land. The soldiers came to see if he was dead yet and one of them pushed a spear into his side. At the time for the sun to set, a rich man, named Joseph, of Arimathea, and another man named Nicodemus, came to Golgotha. They had asked Pilate if they might take down Jesus’ body and bury it. They carried away the body of Jesus. Joseph wrapped it in linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb. They rolled a great stone across the door. Slowly and sadly they walked away. Then night time came and darkness covered the land.

LESSON FOR US

What an amazing story! What dreadful things happened on that day! God’s own Son was put to death by wicked men even though he had done nothing wrong.

The men who crucified Jesus did not know that God was watching from heaven. He knew what they were going

to do and His prophets had written it all down in the Scriptures.

God allowed those wicked men to continue because it was part of His wonderful plan to save people from dying forever. Everyone who has ever been born will die one day. But God is not happy about that. He wants people to love and obey Him and live forever.

When Jesus died, it was part of God's wonderful plan to save us and to give us eternal life.

If we believe all that God says in the Bible and try hard to obey Him, as Jesus did, then we can share in God's wonderful plan to give us eternal life when Jesus comes.

Remember these points:-

- * Judas was sorry he betrayed Jesus – he hanged himself.
- * The Roman soldiers mocked and laughed at Jesus. Then they led him to Golgotha to crucify him.
- * Many people mocked him as he hung on the stake.
- * Jesus prayed, "Father forgive them ..."
- * There was darkness over all the land from midday until 3 o'clock. At this time Jesus died and then there was an earthquake which shook the land.
- * At evening time Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus took down the body of Jesus and buried it in a tomb. A great stone was rolled across the door.

Questions 5 to 8 years

- ✓ 1. *What did Judas do after he was sorry that he had betrayed Jesus?*
2. *What did Pilate tell the soldiers to do to Jesus?*
- ✓ 3. *Some people who saw Jesus die loved him. Who were they?*

- ✓ 4. *Some people who stood around the cross laughed at Jesus. What did they say?*
- ✓ 5. *What did Jesus ask God to do for the people who stood around the cross mocking him?*
6. *At the end of the day what did Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus do?*

Additional Questions 7 to 8 years

- 7. *Tell the story of all that happened when the soldiers took Jesus away to crucify him.*
- ✓ 8. *There is one thing that Jesus always did which we can try to copy. What is that?*



25. GOD RAISES JESUS FROM THE DEAD

"He is not here, but is risen"

Aim

To show that Jesus rose from the dead just as God had planned.

Synopsis

God raised Jesus from the dead. The disciples could not believe it at first, but when Jesus appeared to them they did.

Luke 24:1-49



SOME OF THE WOMEN GO TO THE TOMB

The disciples were as sad as they could be that Jesus had died. They loved him so much and now he was dead.

On the third day after Jesus died, some of the women who loved Jesus were walking to his tomb. They had brought sweet smelling spices to put around his body. "Who will roll the stone away for us?" they said. It was too big for three women to move.

When they arrived at the tomb they found the great stone rolled away already. The women entered the tomb and found to their amazement that the body of Jesus was gone. What could have happened? Where was Jesus' body? Suddenly, two men in shining clothes stood by the women.

JESUS IS RISEN

The women were afraid and bowed their faces to the ground. The two men before them were angels, and they spoke to the women: "Why seek ye the living among the dead?" said the angels. "He is not here; he is risen. Remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, saying the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again."

Overjoyed, the women ran back and told the other disciples that Jesus had risen from the dead. But the whole story seemed to them like an idle tale. They could not believe them.

JESUS WALKS TO EMMAUS WITH TWO DISCIPLES

Later on that day, two of the disciples were walking along the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus. Another man came up and spoke to them. It was really Jesus, but they did not know that yet. (Remember, they were sure that he was dead).

"What are you talking about to one another as you walk along so sadly?" he asked. One of them answered, "Are you only a stranger in Jerusalem and have not known the things which have happened there in these last few days?" And Jesus said to them, "What things?" And the disciples said, "About Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet, mighty in deed and word before God and all the people; and how the chief priests and our rulers had him sentenced to death and have crucified him. But we had hoped that he would have been the one to save Israel. And this is the third day since these things happened. What is more, some women who meet with us have amazed us; they went early to the tomb and could not find his body; and they said they had seen some angels who told them that Jesus was alive."

JESUS TEACHES THEM FROM THE BIBLE

“How slow you are to believe all that the prophets have spoken”, said Jesus. Then he went on to speak to them from the Old Testament Scriptures about himself. He told them that Christ had to suffer like that before he would enter into his glory. But the disciples still did not realise that it was Jesus himself who was walking beside them and teaching them.

THE DISCIPLES RECOGNISE JESUS

When the three reached Emmaus, the disciples said to the man walking with them, “Stay with us tonight, for it is late”. As they were eating their meal, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it and gave it to them. Suddenly the disciples knew who this ‘stranger’ was. It was Jesus. But immediately he disappeared from their sight. That same hour they hurried back to Jerusalem to tell the other disciples what had happened.

JESUS APPEARS TO THE APOSTLES

While the disciples were telling the others that they had seen Jesus, Jesus himself appeared in the midst of them all, and said, “Peace be unto you” and they were all afraid. They thought Jesus was not real. So he showed them his hands and his feet where the nail marks were. Now the disciples were sure that God had raised Jesus from the dead. As he ate with them he again explained to them that he had to first suffer and die and then rise again. Then he told them what he wanted them to do. “Go into all the world and preach the Gospel (that is, the good news of God’s kingdom) to everyone; whoever believes and is baptised shall be saved.”

LESSON FOR US

God promised that He would raise Jesus from the dead after three days, and He did. God always keeps His promises. He has promised that He will send Jesus back to the earth again, and He will raise all those who believe on Jesus, from the dead. If found worthy they will be given eternal life and a place in God's kingdom forever.

Remember these points:-

- * It was early in the morning on the third day after Jesus died that some women came to his tomb.
- * Two men in shining clothes spoke to them and told them Jesus had risen.
- * Two disciples were walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus.
- * Jesus came and joined them but they did not recognise him.
- * At Emmaus the disciples asked him to stay with them.
- * When Jesus took bread and gave thanks and brake it they recognised him. Then he disappeared.
- * They hurried back to Jerusalem to tell the disciples.
- * Jesus appeared in their midst and showed them his hands and feet.
- * He helped them to understand the things that had happened to him.
- * He told them what they must do. "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature; he that believeth and is baptised shall be saved".

Questions 5 to 8 years

- ✓ 1. *What did the women find when they went to Jesus' tomb?*
2. (a) *What did the angels tell the women?*
(b) *Did the disciples believe the women?*

3. *Who walked to Emmaus with the disciples?*
4. *When did the two disciples recognise who Jesus was?*
- ✓ 5. *Why did Jesus show his disciples his hands and his feet?*

Additional Questions 7 to 8 years

6. *What did Jesus tell the two disciples on the road to Emmaus?*
- ✓ 7. *Who else has God promised to raise from the dead?*
8. *As Jesus ate with the disciples, what did he tell them he wanted them to do?*

