

BIBLE TALKS

FOR
CHILDREN

BOOK
TWO

**Short simple lessons to
help you show children
the way to God.**

SAM DOHERTY



Short and Simple

BIBLE TALKS

FOR CHILDREN

VOLUME 2



Dr SAM DOHERTY, BA, EdD.

136 outlines of short simple lessons and children's talks for pastors, teachers, parents and children's workers to use in the church, the home, the school or the open-air – especially when it is not possible to use the usual kind of visual aids

Publications from the CEF Specialized Book Ministry are designed to help and encourage children's workers around the world. A full listing of publications in English can be found on the back pages. Books are available in many languages.

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INTRODUCTION

Previously I wrote, or assembled, almost 200 “*Bible Talks for Children*” and they were published in a book with that title. That book has proved to be very popular and seems to have met a real need.

Consequently I decided to assemble and produce a second volume of such talks and this book is the result. A number of the talks in this book were “left over” from the first book which was already full. I have also added a number of new talks – culled from different sources here and there and adapted for your use. I also asked many of those who received the first book if they could let me have an outline of one or more talks which they had used effectively in their ministry; and I am glad to report that some of them sent me such outlines. A number of them have been edited and are included in this book. I have not given the names of those who sent them but I do want to acknowledge the great help they have been – and thank them for their contribution.

I believe that this book and its predecessor, the first volume, will be a real help to a number of key people:

- It will help pastors who give a short talk to the children in their church each Sunday morning. I trust many pastors will get some helpful ideas from this book. One of our local CEF committees ordered 150 copies of my last book so that they could give a copy to every minister and pastor in their area.

I also enclose, after this introduction, the outline from Pastor David McFarland which I included in my first book. It will, I believe, help other pastors to see the importance of ministering to the children in church each Sunday morning.

- It will help children’s workers – whether Child Evangelism Fellowship workers or other children’s workers – in their ministry, whenever it is not possible or practical to use more elaborate visual aids or whenever the time at their disposal is limited.

These talks could be of help in their ministry in schools, or when speaking in church to the children, or when they are involved in an open-air ministry. One of the most effective speakers to children whom I have ever heard was Mr Hudson Pope who was an evangelist many years ago with the Children’s Special Service Mission. Much of his work was in the open-air and he generally used simple talks and object lessons like those contained in this book.

2 Introduction

- Parents are often looking for ways to make their family devotional time more interesting and more practical; and I feel that this book will help them in their ministry to their own children.
- And then there are many children's workers in a number of the world's countries who have very limited finance with which to purchase visual aids. And I believe that the talks in this book, which require simple and obtainable visuals at almost no cost, will be a help to them.
- Many of the talks can be visualized by use of 'PowerPoint' and clip art sources can be used along with word strips.

This book, like the first one is divided, into three sections:

- Talks for all children. Each has a basic truth which you will teach as you give the talk and then you will apply it to both saved and unsaved children.
- Talks for unsaved children. These are primarily evangelistic and their purpose is to lead children to Jesus Christ. Each of them also have a central truth. Some, on the other hand, outline several points or truths.

While these talks are primarily for unsaved children they will also help those children who are saved to better understand the message of salvation and be more able to pass it on to others.

- Talks for Christian children to help them grow in their Christian lives. Each of these talks has a central truth which you will teach and apply to the Christian children.

But it will also help the unsaved children to hear these talks because they will explain to them what is involved in the Christian life.

One of the people who received my first book of "*Bible Talks*" wrote and suggested that we should give in the opening Table of Contents, not just the title of each talk but the truth taught by it. She felt that this would make it easier for readers to select the talks which their children needed. I felt that this was a good suggestion and have acted upon it!

So we send out this book to you and many others around the world with the prayer that it will help you in your ministry to the children – and that these talks will be a means of salvation and blessing to many boys and girls.

GUIDELINES FOR SPEAKING TO CHILDREN

I trust the lesson outlines contained in this book will be a help to your ministry, but on their own they are not enough. The effectiveness of your presentation depends to a considerable extent on YOU yourself and how you teach the contents of each lesson.

What promises to be a good meal is often spoiled by the way it is served. The coffee is cold, the toast is burned, and the egg too hard – when with a little more care, thought, preparation and imagination there could have been an excellent meal. The same is true of many lesson presentations. Therefore I would like to give you ten simple rules or principles which will help in your effective presentations of these lessons:

1. It is important to remember that your responsibility is to teach, not just talk, or tell a story. Your aim in each lesson is to TEACH truth and then apply that truth to the children in their lives.
2. You must teach your lesson attractively. You need to make it interesting and relevant to the children. If they don't listen to you (or if they don't understand what you are saying) you are wasting your time.
3. Thorough preparation is essential. You need to take a lot of time to get ready for your presentation:
 - I. Prepare what you will say thoroughly. You will find it helpful to write down your main points, and then refer to them as you speak.
 - II. Prepare your visuals. If you need to do any work on them, make sure the result is neat and tidy. Also be sure that the words and pictures are large enough to be clearly visible to the children.
 - III. Also if you are, for example, using scissors to cut paper and produce a "surprise result", or are planning to use an object lesson, it is essential that you practise what you will do well beforehand – so that it will go smoothly.
 - IV. It is good to practise your lesson and teach it as if the children were listening. You can do this before a large mirror.

4 *Guidelines for speaking to Children*

4. You need to be sure that the words you use and the concepts you teach are simple enough for the children to understand. Many of today's children have absolutely no understanding of the basic truths of the Bible – so you cannot be simple enough!
5. “Live” your lesson. Do not teach in a matter-of-fact, detached way:
 - ✓ Use your voice effectively. Your voice should be easy to hear (but not too loud); it should be pleasant (not harsh); it should be natural (not a preaching voice); it should be relaxed (not high-pitched or shouting). Your voice should not be monotonous. It should have variety – with variations in speed and in volume according to the theme of the lesson.
 - ✓ Use your face effectively. Don't be afraid to smile, or even laugh, or look sad, or look excited – provided it is in keeping with what you are saying. Above all, do not have a “frozen face”.
 - ✓ Use the other parts of your body whenever possible. There are times when the movement of your hands, your feet, your eyes, your eyebrows, or your head can help you get across your point – if used in a natural (but not exaggerated) way.
 - ✓ Keep your lesson moving. Children like action.
 - ✓ Stop when you get to the end of your lesson. If you go on too long you will lose their attention.
6. Be personal

It is important that you have a good rapport with the children, and don't speak to them in a detached, remote way:

 - ✓ Look at the children as you speak to them.
 - ✓ Don't keep looking at and talking to your visual aids.
 - ✓ Use the word “we” to include yourself in most of your teaching and application. But also use the word “you” from time to time in direct application.
7. Be careful about your personal appearance and actions:
 - ✓ Look carefully in the mirror before you go to speak to the children to ensure that nothing is out of place.
 - ✓ Dress in a way which will honour Christ.
 - ✓ Stand up as you teach and don't slouch.
 - ✓ Don't stand stiffly to attention as if on a parade ground.

- ✓ Avoid repetitive mannerisms like fiddling with your glasses, swaying your body from side to side, brushing back your hair or toying with something in your pocket.
- ✓ Remember to smile from time to time.

8. Be yourself

- ✓ Do not try to copy other people (although you can learn from them). Be normal, not artificial. God has given you your own personality.
- ✓ Allow the Holy Spirit to control you and to speak through you – using **your** personality.
- ✓ Relax and enjoy teaching your lesson – even if you do make mistakes or leave something out.
- ✓ Do your best and leave the results in God's Hands.

9. Apply what you are teaching to the children's own lives.

It is not enough just to tell a story or teach a truth. You need to show the children what the story or the truth means for them personally and what they need to do in response to it.

Remember you are speaking to two kinds of children:

- ✓ There are boys and girls who have trusted Jesus Christ as their Saviour and need help in their Christian lives.
- ✓ There are boys and girls who are not saved – and need to be evangelized.

You need to decide therefore how you are going to apply your lesson.

- ✓ It may be a lesson which is only applicable to Christian children – and you should make this clear in your application.
- ✓ It may be an evangelistic lesson and you should apply it clearly to the unsaved children showing them their need of salvation and the way of salvation.
- ✓ Many of the lessons can be applied to both saved and unsaved children and you should be sure to do this.

It is good to weave your application into the lesson, and then come back to it briefly at the end. If you leave all the application to the end you risk losing the attention of the children.

10. Depend upon God

Even when you have prepared well and taught well you should always remember that only God can give spiritual enlightenment;

6 *Guidelines for speaking to Children*

only He can convict and regenerate. So “bathe” your lesson in prayer and trust the Holy Spirit to minister to the children through your teaching of God’s Word.

CHILDREN IN THE CHURCH SERVICE

I include here some excerpts from an outline specifically written for pastors and church leaders by Pastor David McFarland. David was a full-time worker with Child Evangelism Fellowship in Ireland; and he has been a pastor of a Baptist church for a number of years. You can get the full outline from David's ministry on the Internet – <http://bible2hearts.co.uk>

1. KEEP THE CHILD IN CHURCH

In the Bible children were among the congregation (Deuteronomy 31 v11, 12; Joshua 8 v34, 35) even to hear the blessings and cursings. Parts of Paul's epistles were directed specifically to children (Ephesians 6 v1; Colossians 3 v20). About the only service at which families can worship together is the Sunday morning service. It seems a shame if they have to be divided in that service.

A separate crèche may be useful for the very young but we should control the age group attending. I suggest that only those who have not started Primary school should be in crèche.

If a Children's church or Sunday school is held during the service it affects the teachers. For alternate weeks or months they have to miss the preaching of God's Word. It also affects the children. Also this alternating of teachers from week to week is not ideal for teacher/child relationships. But most of all, children who should be listening to preaching are deprived of that discipline and that blessing.

(Another possibility is to have all the children in church during the first half of the morning service, during which time the pastor can give a special 10- minute talk to them. They could then leave for a short children's service just before the pastor preaches the sermon – Sam Doherty).

2. KEEP THE CHILD IN MIND – when preaching to your congregation

Explanations: Do we try to explain the truth in such a way that children can grasp at least some of what we are saying? Do we as preachers explain the truth so that **our whole congregation** can understand?

Martin Luther wrote: *“A preacher should have the skill to teach the unlearned simply, soundly and plainly ... When I preach, I regard neither doctors nor magistrates, of whom I have above forty in the congregation. I have all my eyes on the servant maids and the children. And if the learned men are not well pleased with what they hear, well the door is open.”*

Applications: Most sermon applications are directed to adults. What about the young people and children? Apply the truth to all age groups in the congregation. We give the impression that the sermon is only for adults. We rarely address the child in our applications. It is no wonder that they do not listen.

Illustrations: Illustration is an essential part of teaching and preaching. Look for some illustrations that will attract the attention of children. Allow your illustrations to be contemporary, dealing with things with which the children in your congregation can identify.

Presentation: If you shout at the top of your voice, you are less likely to have children paying attention. They may be intimidated by your presentation. Does your eye contact include children?

A children’s talk: But I do believe there is still a need for a special time for children in the service and to set aside 10 minutes just for them. It presents some difficulties. Maybe few children attend. A children’s talk may break into the theme of the service and interrupt the flow of worship. But does it have to? It is extremely helpful if the children’s talk and the sermon have the same theme. The children’s talk may help the child to grasp what is later said in the sermon – it might even help the adults!

The pastor might not feel gifted to speak to children. Finding suitable messages every week is demanding. But all of these difficulties can be overcome.

Difficulties to Overcome

➤ **Is a special children's talk really necessary?**

Yes, it is.

- ✓ Many children today do not receive the teaching that children of a bygone generation received. More and more church children are not regularly attending Sunday school.
- ✓ Children are no longer disciplined to sit still and listen for long periods and there is less reading done today.
- ✓ The children's talk on Sunday morning is the only opportunity some children will have to hear the Word of God taught specifically to them.

And perhaps we ought to think about a talk for the children at the Sunday evening service also.

➤ **I'm not gifted with children**

- ✓ If you can talk to children with an obvious love for them; with obvious concern for their souls and for their spiritual health; with a message and application pitched at their level, then you do not have to look at others who are apparently better gifted and feel, "I can't do this."
- ✓ If you feel that you cannot possibly do this then there may be some in the church who could. But choose your speakers wisely. Your children are your church's greatest asset for the future; ensure they are carefully handled and instructed.

➤ **There are very few children present**

It is difficult to speak to the children in a congregation if there are very few present but it is important to do so, even if there are only two there. They need to hear the message.

Also, by addressing them, you are indicating to them that they are important. If you have only a few children ensure that they are included in the services, and you will probably find other families coming too.

Rules to Observe

➤ **Be sure your message is right**

The truth to the child is exactly the same as the truth to the adult. Presentation may change, application may change, even

explanation may change by being more simplified, but the truth never changes. Children are perishing; children must repent and believe; children must count the cost; children must seek to live Godly lives.

➤ **Be sure you speak to the children**

- ✓ It is absolutely essential that you ignore the parents and speak to the children only when you give a children's talk. If you have a well prepared beginning, they will listen without you saying this message is for them. Do not begin with something like "Our Gospel word for today is regeneration so sit up and listen." Start with what they know.
- ✓ Do not try to entertain the adults with jokes and comments which the child will not understand.
- ✓ Never use the children's talk as a tool to preach to adults.

➤ **Be sure to involve the children**

- ✓ You can ask some children to come up to help you hold, or demonstrate, something.
- ✓ You can ask a child to read a verse out for you. It is better if this is arranged before the service.
- ✓ In some churches children are happy to answer questions.

I have found that by far the most effective method with very young children is to invite them all to come to the front for the children's talk. They could, for example, sit in the front pews and you could come down from the pulpit and stand before them.

I appreciate that not everyone can do this and that it is not appropriate in every situation, but you should look for ways to ensure the children see you care deeply for them and that this part of the service is for them.

One of the advantages of being close to the children is that you will be forced to focus on them and ignore the adults.

Principles to Follow

➤ **Definite Intention**

Aim to teach one thing. You have only 5 to 10 minutes to speak so you cannot possibly preach the whole Gospel message every

week. You might concentrate on an aspect of your subject each week and then, week by week, you should build on what you have taught.

➤ **Good Communication**

Remember the age and ability of the children to whom you speak. Use language they can understand. Avoid evangelical clichés.

➤ **Wise Variation in content**

Do not always preach your favourite themes to children. There is the whole counsel of God to be taught.

1. **Variation between the saved and unsaved.** Do not neglect either. Some messages apply to both; some to only one.
2. **Variation between age groups.** Do not always address the toddlers and leave out the primaries or those almost in their teens. But be sure to adapt your methods, visuals and presentation for particular age groups.
3. **Variation between the boys and girls.** Some of us relate more to boys than girls or vice versa. Be sure to have balance.
4. **Variation within the order of service.** It may be necessary to have the children's talk at a certain point because of Children's church etc. but if you can change it from time to time, it may be helpful.

➤ **Specific Application**

Do not just tell stories or teach truth. Apply the message to the child's life. Be relevant, personal and challenging.

➤ **Clear Presentation**

It is not just what we teach but how we teach it that is important. If it seems like entertainment, the children will not take it seriously. If it is dull and lifeless, the children will not be attracted to pay attention to it. If you have not prepared for it or prayed over it, you will be unlikely to see much accomplished through it.

The children's talk is not an optional extra but a vital part of your ministry. Take as much care over it as you would for the sermon.

The lessons in this book are presentations of Bible truth lasting about 10 minutes which could be used by pastors for a children's talk in their Sunday morning service, or by children's workers when their time to speak to the children is limited or when it is not possible to use their regular visual aids:

- **The first series of lessons is aimed at all children – both saved and unsaved.**
- **The second series are evangelistic and are aimed at unsaved children.**
- **The third series are aimed at Christian children – to help them grow.**

FIRST SERIES

LESSONS FOR ALL CHILDREN

Most of these lessons are based upon one truth which can be taught, through the lesson, to all the children, and you should try to apply it separately to the saved children and the unsaved children.

Several lessons, however, consist of two or more points or pictures and are not based upon one truth. But they can still be applied to both the saved and unsaved children.

All Children
STICK TO THE RECIPE

TRUTH: God's Word shows us the way of salvation. Be sure to follow and obey it.

VISUALS:

A cook book, recipe cards (if you have them). Something you have made using a recipe in the book – preferably something which children really like.

A Bible. Four cards with the words TURN, ASK, ASK, READ. Use one colour (white) for first two cards and another colour (green) for second two cards.

Put cards inside Bible and produce them at the right time.

LESSON:

Do you boys and girls like (*Show the dish you have made*)? I made it myself, but I needed to follow exactly a recipe in this book (*Show book*). Or sometimes I use recipe cards like these. Listen to all the things I put in it (*Give your list*). That sounds good, doesn't it? Would you like to have some? Perhaps you can do so afterwards.

But it was important for me to follow the instructions in the recipe book exactly. What would have happened if I had left out the sugar? Or if I had put vinegar in instead of milk! The result would have been a mess. If I want the result to be good I must follow the recipe – exactly.

Did you know that God has given us a recipe book? It's not a book with recipes for food. It's a book with the recipe for salvation – and recipes for how we can live for the Lord Jesus. Here it is (*Hold up Bible*). And we had better stick to those recipes or the result will be a mess for us – not just in this life, but forever.

Do you know what God's recipe is for salvation – to become a Christian? It is very simple and has two ingredients. You can see them on these two recipe cards (*Show them*):

1. TURN from your sin.

2. ASK Jesus Christ to save you.

Do you know what God's recipe is for your life as a Christian? It is very simple and also has two ingredients. You can see them on these two recipe cards.

1. ASK Jesus Christ to help you live for Him.

2. READ your Bible and do what it says.

Don't forget to read God's recipe book and follow His instructions – and the result will always be good.

The Bible says, "*Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him!*" (Psalm 34 v8).

All Children **HOW DO YOU KNOW?**

TRUTH: God loves each of us very, very much.

VISUALS:

Produce a series of five cards each with two words as follows:

HE SAYS	HE LISTENS
HE GIVES	HE HELPS
HE KEEPS	

LESSON:

Boys and girls like to ask questions. Don't you? I know you do. What do you think is the question boys and girls ask most often (*Give opportunity to respond*). The one I have heard most often is "How do you know?" When I say something to a boy or girl that is often their response "How do you know?"

Well here is a simple statement which I would like you to hear and believe. Are you listening? "God loves you very very much." And immediately someone asks "How do you know?" And I can answer that question for you very easily and very simply:

- You know a person loves you when they say nice things to you. Isn't that true?

Well in His Word, the Bible, God says (*Show first card*) many nice things to you. He says, “*I have loved you with an everlasting love*” (Jeremiah 31 v3). Isn’t that nice? You can see that He really loves you.

- You know a person loves you when they listen to you.
And you can be absolutely sure that God listens (*Show card*) to you when you talk to Him. He says in the Bible, “*Call to Me and I will answer you*” (Jeremiah 31 v3). No matter where you are; no matter what your problem is; no matter what you want to say – God listens carefully to you. And that shows you that He loves you.
- You know a person loves you when they give you things you need or you like. Their gifts are a proof of their love.
And we know from the Bible and from our own lives that our God is a giving God (*Show card*). The Bible says that He gives us “*everything for our enjoyment*” (1 Timothy 6 v17). And, above all, He gave us His Son, Jesus Christ, to come to this earth and die for us and our sin on the Cross. Have you thanked Him and trusted Him as your Saviour?
- You know a person loves you when you need help and receive it from them.
And God is ready to help you (*Show card*) whenever you have a special need. He says in His Word, “*Call upon Me in the day of trouble, I will deliver and help you*” (Psalm 50 v15). Have you a special need or problem in your Christian life? Ask Him to help you and He will. Why? Because He loves you.
- You know a person loves you when they keep their promises to you.
And God always keeps (*Show card*) His promises. The Bible says He is faithful to all His promises (2 Timothy 2 v13; Hebrews 10 v23; 11 v11). If you are not saved and you trust Jesus Christ as your Saviour He promises to save you – and He will. If you are saved God promises never to leave you (Hebrews 13 v5).

Those are five reasons you can know that God loves you – and that He loves you very much (*Show them again*). Make sure you put Him first in your life.

All Children
NO POWER – NO LIFE

TRUTH: Boys and girls are dead and useless without Jesus Christ.

VISUALS:

An electric fan, an electric fan heater, an electric fitting with a bulb in it. If possible connect each of them with an electricity power point when the time comes.

LESSON:

I have three things with me this morning which are absolutely useless on their own.

- Here is an electric bulb (*Show it*) Its job is to give light. But it's not doing so. I wonder why.
- Here is an electric heater (*Show it*). Its job is to give heat and to warm you up and your room. But it's not doing so. I wonder why?
- And here is an electric fan (*Show it*). Its job is to cool down the room on a hot summer day. But it can't do so today. I wonder why?

All three things are cold, hard and lifeless – and not doing their job. Do you know why? (*Give an opportunity to respond*).

But boys and girls who have not trusted the Lord Jesus as their Saviour are much the same as these three. The Bible says they are dead inside because the Lord Jesus is not living there (Ephesians 2 v1). They are not what God wants them to be and they are not doing what God wants them to do. I wonder why.

Let's look again at our light bulb. No life and no light. It's not shining the way it should be. I am going to do something (*Plug it into the power point*). Now it is doing its job. It is giving light. Why? Because it is joined to the power – and it's the power which gives this light.

And the only way that boys and girls can be what God wants them to be – to have light in their lives instead of darkness – is to be connected to the Lord Jesus and His power – by trusting Him as their Saviour (Ephesians 5 v8).

Here is our lifeless heater, but when I plug it in (*Do so*) it starts to give out heat to those nearby. And when boys and girls trust the Lord Jesus and are connected to Him they will help and warm up many other people who are so cold and unhappy.

And what about our fan? Watch (*Connect it*). It's now doing its job – and it gives pleasant cool air to those close by. Many people are so upset and angry – but boys and girls who are connected to the Lord Jesus can bring cool, refreshing air into their lives.

Which are you? Are you lifeless and not doing the job God wants you to do? Or are you connected to the Lord Jesus by trusting Him – and are you bringing light, warmth and refreshment to people who need them?

All Children **LOOK IN THE MIRROR**

TRUTH: We see what people are like on the outside but God sees and knows what we are like on the inside.

VISUALS:

A Bible and a mirror.

LESSON:

I've brought two mirrors with me this morning.

Hands up if you've looked in a mirror today.

One of these mirrors shows what I am like on the outside and the other shows what I am like on the inside!

Both these mirrors can speak.

Both always tell the truth!

Let's look at the first mirror - this GLASS/MIRROR

- If I look at it in the bedroom I can see that I am getting older.
- If I look at it in the bathroom I can see that my hair is untidy and my face is not clean.
- If I look at it in the hallway I can be sure I am tidy and clean before I leave the room.
- If I look at it in my car it tells me to watch out and be careful.

This mirror acts like a guide for me every day in many ways.

Let's look at the second mirrorThis **BIBLE /MIRROR** –

- This mirror tells me I am getting older. Life is really very short. In Psalm 90 v12 Moses asked God to teach him to number his days and not spend them unwisely.
- This mirror tells me that I am dirty and not clean!
 - that sin/separates me from God (Rom. 3 v23)
 - that I can't clean myself (Is 64 v6)
- This mirror tells me that I can be clean:
 - that there is Someone who can clean me (1 Tim 1 v15)
 "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners".
 - that I should ask Him today to save me.
 - that when I do so I am clean in God's sight (Acts 3 v19)
 "Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out."
- This mirror tells me that when I am saved everything is OK for my life's journey but that I need to be careful and watch out!
It warns me that my enemy the devil seeks to destroy me. He creeps up behind me and lays a net. I need to be careful.

CONCLUSION:

So remember the next time you look in the glass/mirror – you are only seeing the outside. God's mirror, the Bible, shows you the inside!
Here are two mirrors – both of them speak. Both of them speak the truth. Listen to what they say.

(This children's talk was given by a man using a lesson given on page 27 of the first volume of "Bible Talks". He adapted it well and made some changes and additions. So I felt I should include it in this second volume).

All Children MOVING HOUSE

TRUTH: Jesus Christ is preparing special places in Heaven for those who trust and love Him.

VISUALS:

A model or a picture of a house. A real doll's house would be ideal.

LESSON:

If you were to ask your mother and father to tell you the most difficult thing they have ever done, I wonder what their answer would be (*Give an opportunity to respond*). Perhaps you could ask them after the meeting is over.

I think one of the most difficult things I have ever done was to move house. What do I mean? In Canada and the United States people sometimes actually move their house a bit further back from the road so they can have a bigger front garden, or sometimes they move it to another part of the town. But I don't mean that when I say I moved my house. Do you know what I mean? I lived in a house like this one (*Show model or picture*). I moved from the house I was in to another house. But that was very difficult too.

Have you ever moved house? Tell me about it (*Give an opportunity to respond*).

I learned several things about moving house:

- Firstly it was difficult. It took days and days to pack everything and get ready to move – and especially to be sure that nothing would be broken. And it was also difficult to unpack and get everything moved into our new home. And it was difficult to leave the house we had lived in for so long – and the friends we had made in that area.
- It was also a little frightening to move into a new house and a new area, to make new friends, and to start all over again. Although later it became quite exciting to have made that new start.
- We needed a lot of time to prepare and get ready for the move. There was so much to be done in our old house – and then we had to start again and take even more time to get everything moved into their right places in our new house.
- We were glad that we could be helped in our move. It was good to have a big furniture van come and collect everything and the men from the van helped to carry the furniture and boxes out of our old house and into our new house. We could never have done it ourselves.

I suppose everyone moves house at least once or twice during their life time. But the Bible, God's Word, tells us that we will all move house one day. When your life is over you will "move house" from this earth to the place where you will live forever. I wonder where that will be?

The Lord Jesus told His disciples that He was going to Heaven to “*prepare a place*” for them (John 14 v2 and 3). And He said that there would be many mansions or dwelling places, or new houses waiting for them when they died and moved house from this earth to Heaven.

And there is a dwelling place there for you if you have trusted the Lord Jesus as your Saviour; and when you die you will just move to your new house where you will live forever. This move will happen very quickly but you don’t need to be frightened. However you do need to prepare for this move now by asking Jesus Christ to forgive your sin and be your Saviour. That’s all you need to do. Once you have done that, you can leave everything in the hands of the Lord Jesus, the great House Preparer and the good House Mover. He is not only preparing your new house – He will take you there. You do not need to be afraid of anything. But if you haven’t trusted the Lord Jesus as your Saviour you won’t be going to one of these special dwelling places. Instead you will move house when you die to a place where you will be separated from God forever.

Trust the Lord Jesus today – and be sure of your new home.

All Children **CUPS WHICH SPEAK**

TRUTH: God blesses and uses boys and girls who are saved and clean.

VISUALS:

Six cups as follows:

- A cup with a crack or hole in it.
- A cup with no handle.
- A dirty cup.
- A clean cup with a handle and no cracks.
- A cup filled with water.
- A prize cup.

LESSON:

Our lesson this morning is about something you use every day – at least twice any day. You have a number of them in your kitchen and it would be very difficult to have your meal without them. What am I talking about? (*Give an opportunity to respond*).

Our lesson is about cups – and I have brought six of them with me this morning to help us to see the kind of boy or girl God wants you to be, and the boy or girl whom God blesses:

- My first cup is, I am afraid, no good (*Show cup with hole or crack*). Why? It has a hole (or a crack) in it – and when you put water or tea into it, it leaks all over the place (*You could demonstrate this if you wish*). Nothing stays inside it.

It reminds me of the boy or girl who comes to church or Sunday school, hears all that is said, but everything leaks out. He pays no attention to what he has heard, remembers nothing, and does nothing. I hope you are not like this cup.

- And then there are some cups which are so broken that they cannot be used (*Show cup with no handle*). Look, it has no handle. You couldn't even start to drink tea out of it. There is no way you could hold it without burning your fingers. Something is missing – and because of that it is useless.

And if you have not trusted the Lord Jesus as your Saviour, something very important is missing – and God cannot bless you or use you.

- How would you like to drink out of a cup like this? (*Show dirty cup*). I wouldn't. This cup needs to be washed and cleaned before it can be used. And that's what the Bible says about us. We have all sinned (Romans 3 v23). We are all dirty – and we need to be cleaned before God will use us. And the only One Who can clean us in the Lord Jesus.

- Look at this cup (*Show good cup*). It has no cracks or holes, it has a handle and, above all, it is clean. This cup is useful; it can be used by us to drink.

And God will use boys and girls who have trusted the Lord Jesus, who have no holes or cracks – and who are clean in His sight (2 Timothy 2 v20, 21). Are you one of these boys and girls?

- But if the cup is going to be useful it needs to have something inside it like this cup (*Show cup with water in it*). Look I can now drink from this cup (*Do so*). It has done its job. An empty cup doesn't help very much.

Did you know that when you trust the Lord Jesus as your Saviour Someone comes to live in you? His name is the Holy Spirit – and He will help you to be a blessing to other boys and girls who haven't trusted the Lord Jesus. You will be like this cup and you will take the water of life to those boys and girls (John 7 v38, 39).

- And one day you will receive a special prize or reward from the Lord Jesus for serving Him so well (*Show prize cup*). It will not be a prize cup like this one – but it will be a special reward from your Saviour – and He will say, “*Well done*” (Matthew 25 v21).

All Children **THE LIGHT SHINES**

TRUTH: The Bible is a light to guide us and help us.

VISUALS:

It would be ideal if you could have and show an example of each of the lights outlined below – or pictures of them.

LESSON:

When I was young one of my most treasured possessions was a TORCH (flashlight) like this one (*Show one*). I really loved to use it in the evenings and also in my bedroom at night. Do you have one? What do you use it for? (*Give an opportunity to respond*).

Torches are valuable because they give light and show us things in the darkness which we could never see without them. Did you know that the Bible, this book here (*Show it*) calls itself a light or a lamp or a torch?

“*Your Word is a lamp to guide me and a light for my path*” (Psalm 119 v105).

Just like a torch it shines in darkness and shows us things we could not otherwise see.

There are many kinds of lights and torches:

- Have you ever seen a little PEN TORCH? Doctors use it to look down your throat to see if there is anything wrong. This little torch helps them to see problems which they could not otherwise see. And the Bible is like one of those little pen torches. It looks right down into the dark places of our lives and shows us problems which are there.
- But most of us have and use LARGE TORCHES like this one (*Show it*). If it's dark and we need to find something it helps us to do so. If we are walking in the dark it shows us where to put our feet – and gives us help and direction. And that's exactly what the Bible does. It is a lamp to guide us and a light for our path. It helps us to see in the dark and it shows us the best way to go in our lives. Are you reading it? Are you obeying it?
- During the last world war aeroplanes were used to bomb cities. This was very frightening and very dangerous for the people who lived in the cities. How could they protect themselves? One way was to use great big gigantic torches or SEARCH LIGHTS as they were called. These were shone up into the sky to try and find the planes which were dropping bombs and then when they were seen the gunners could shoot at them and try to hit them. These search lights showed up those who were causing harm and death – so that they could be stopped from doing so. And one of the purposes of the Bible is to show us, like a searchlight, those things which are trying to harm us and destroy us. Then when we see our enemies more clearly we are in a better position to deal with them and win over them.
- And there is one more type of torch or light. Have you ever visited or seen a famous building like Buckingham Palace, or Windsor Castle, or the White House? During the day you can see it clearly but you cannot see it at night – in the darkness. So a number of SPOTLIGHTS are put around the building to shine on it and show it to the public. These are called FLOOD LIGHTS and they really highlight whatever they are focused on.

Did you know that the Bible is like a set of floodlights? Why? How? Because the Bible focuses on the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God. The Bible wants us to see Him, to trust Him as our Saviour, to live for Him, and even to become like Him. And so it always points to Him and shines on Him.

Has the Bible helped you to trust Him? I hope it has – or, if not, that it will. Has the Bible helped you to live for Him? It will – if you read it and obey it.

All Children **MADUGU**

TRUTH: Jesus Christ wants to save you, and use you to lead others to Christ.

VISUALS:

A fairly large Wordless Book (a book with four pages coloured black, red, white and gold – with a green cover). A pair of scissors.

(This lesson is a little longer than usual).

LESSON:

Madugu lived in Nigeria. As he limped along, leaning on a stick, the pain in his sore leg made him bite his lip.

“I wonder could those people help me”, he asked himself.

Near his village lived two missionaries, but Madugu had never met them.

He was a little frightened of them. He had seen them once in his village.

The man had a talking book with a gold page in it. Perhaps if he went to visit them he could see this book again – and even hold it. And perhaps they could even help heal his leg.

So he decided to go and visit them.

The missionary lady was very friendly. She washed Madugu’s sore leg and put some nice ointment on it.

And then Madugu asked shyly, “Could I see the talking book?”

The missionary looked puzzled and then she smiled, “Oh, you mean the Wordless Book – the book without words. Of course you can see it.

Tonight my husband will be showing it to the children at Bible hour, and you are welcome to stay and see it for yourself.”

And Madugu stayed.

That evening the missionary showed the Wordless Book to all the children including Madugu (*Demonstrate it as you speak*). He showed the gold page and spoke about Heaven where God lives and where He wants us all to go to when we die. He showed the dark page and spoke about the sin in our lives which keeps us out of Heaven. And then he showed the red page and explained how Jesus Christ died on the Cross and took the punishment for our sin. Then lastly he showed the white page and told the children that this was how God would see them if they trusted Jesus Christ as their Saviour.

Madugu slept at the missionary’s house that night – and for several nights afterwards as his leg started to heal. He listened to the story of the Wordless Book over and over again.

And then one evening before he got into bed he knelt down, closed his eyes and asked the Lord Jesus to come into his life, forgive his sin and make him clean. And the Lord Jesus did. He always does so when you ask Him. Have you asked Him into your life?

Several days later it was time for Madugu to go home. His leg was completely healed.

“I don’t want to go home,” he said to the missionary, “I want to stay and listen to the story of the Wordless Book.”

“Well, listen”, said the missionary, “I will give you a wordless book of your own. And you can tell the story in your village when you go home.” And that’s what Madugu did – all over the village. But he especially told the story to his three brothers, and when they heard the story all three of them asked the Lord Jesus to be their Saviour. Madugu had not only trusted the Lord Jesus; he had helped others to do so. And if you are a Christian the Lord Jesus wants you to tell others about Him.

But then Madugu’s three brothers said, “We would like to have a book without words so we could tell others about the Lord Jesus.”

“I am sorry”, said Madugu, “I have only got one book – this one.”

“Could you not cut it into four pieces so we could all have one?” said one of his brothers.

“No, I can’t do that”, said Madugu, “It’s mine – all mine.” And he ran away and hid his book under his bed.

But he couldn't sleep that night. And early the next morning he got up, took a sharp knife and cut his precious book into four pieces like this (*Do so with your Wordless book and scissors*). He called his three brothers over – and gave each of them a little Wordless book of their own.

“Mother will fasten the pages together”, he said.

And all his brothers began to laugh and jump with joy. And so did Madugu. All four of them now had Wordless books of their own – and could tell other boys and girls about the Lord Jesus.

Are you doing that?

You can trust Him to do what is best. And the impossible can become possible.

But it is really only boys and girls who have trusted the Lord Jesus Who can pray like this. If you haven't trusted Him do so today – and you will have a Heavenly Father you can talk to and pray to.

All Children FINISHED!

TRUTH: Jesus Christ finished His work and we must finish ours.

VISUALS:

Have a number of things or projects which have not been finished – a picture which is half coloured in, a jumper which is partly knitted, an unfinished “thank you” letter and a plate with some food on it.

LESSON:

I have four objects with me this morning – and they are all similar. I wonder if you could tell me why they are like each other? (*Show them and give an opportunity to respond*).

- Look at this picture. Someone started to colour it but stopped half way through.
- And someone started to knit this jumper – and then gave up.
- And here is a letter. Well, it's only half a letter. The person who started to write it didn't finish it.

- And how about this plate with some food on it? There used to be more food on it – but the person who was eating the meal stopped eating it – and this is what was left.

Do you see how all those things are like each other? None of them was finished. Someone started to do something but then stopped – and didn't finish what he started. I am sure you can think of many other things in your house which have not been finished – a model or a jig-saw puzzle or some “do it yourself” job which your dad started! Perhaps there is something you started which you did not finish.

I am glad that the Lord Jesus finished the work His Father had given Him to do (John 17 v4). He came to this world to live a perfect life – and He did so, He finished His work of living. And He came to this world to die for our sins on the cross – and He finished His work of dying. Do you remember how He cried out from the cross “*It is finished*”? He did not leave His work of salvation half done. He finished it completely. He did everything that was necessary to save us and forgive our sins. All we have to do is to ask Him to be our Saviour. Have you done that?

And when you ask Him to save you, God will give you a work to do – to tell others about the Lord Jesus, to live for Him, perhaps to be a missionary one day. And it is so important that you finish the work God gives you to do and that you do not give up.

We read about a man called Paul in the Bible. God called him to be a missionary and a preacher – and he obeyed. And when he came to almost the end of his life he said, “*I have finished the race – I have finished what you asked me to do*” (2 Timothy 4 v7).

I trust that you and I will be able to say the same – and not be like one of these four things (*Point*) – not finished.

All Children **LISTEN TO THE SKY**

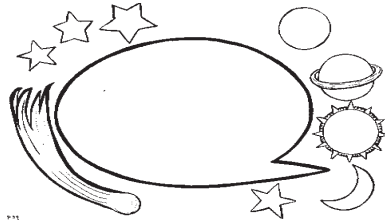
TRUTH: Creation and nature tell us there is a God – and show us what He is like.

VISUALS:

On four large pieces of cardboard draw “speech bubbles” as in the pattern and print on them the four headings in capitals given below and then add on each one the stars etc.

LESSON:

Do you like to learn things? How do you learn? Most of us learn by listening to people who know more than we do. We listen to our parents, to our teachers and to our minister – and we learn things we never knew before.



But have you ever listened to the sky? Have you ever looked up, cupped your hand behind your ear and listened to the sky speaking very loudly and clearly?

Did you not know that the sky or the heavens can speak? The Bible tells us that it can and does speak (Psalm 19 v1-4) – not with words we can hear but with words we can’t hear. The Bible says that it speaks during the day and during the night – and that it speaks all over the earth. The Heavens declare or speak out the glory of God. And God wants us to learn from what they say.

What do the sky, the sun, the moon and the stars up there in the heavens say?

- **“GOD IS POWERFUL”** (*Show first speech bubble*). That’s the first thing they say. They tell us that the universe is so great that the one who made it must have been very, very powerful – and that’s what the sky tells us if we will listen. And did you know that He made it all just by speaking?
- **“GOD IS GLORIOUS”** (*Show*) But isn’t the sky beautiful? Isn’t it wonderful to look up at night and see all these twinkling stars? And

what about the beautiful sunrise and sunset – the blue sky and all the clouds scudding along? All of these tell us that God is glorious and wonderful.

- **“GOD IS WISE”** (*Show*) Do you know what that means? God knows what He is doing. Everything we see tells us that He has a purpose in everything. We get just the right amount of sunshine and the right amount of darkness. The seasons come at the right time each year. God gives us exactly what we need. Nature tells us He is wise.
- **“GOD IS IN CONTROL”** (*Show*) We can see that everything in the sky works. It is like a great big well organized machine. God controls it all. All the planets are going round the sun but they never bump into each other. God is the Mastermind behind everything. That’s why we don’t need to worry. He’s got the whole world, the whole universe in His Hands.

Are you listening to the sky? Are you learning what God is like from what it says – every day and every night – and all over the world? (*Revise four bubbles*)

Above all are you obeying God and doing what He says? The sky obeys Him. So should you.

All Children

THE WAY TO HEAVEN

TRUTH: The Bible shows us the way to Heaven and the way to live.

VISUALS:

A road map and a Bible. Six cards with the words “Read”, “Talk”, “Help”, “Forgive”, “Tell”, “Meet”. Put these cards inside your Bible.

LESSON:

Can anyone tell me what this is? (*Show map*). That’s right. It is a map. This map is a road map and it shows all the roads in this area. If I want to find my way to someone’s house I look at the map and it tells me how to get there (*Give examples*).

If I have this road map with me in my car I will never get lost in this city. It will give me directions to wherever I want to go. A map like this is also necessary when I go on a long journey to somewhere I have never before visited. It will show me the way.

God has given each of us a very important road map. It does not show the way to go to school or church, or to find someone's address. But it does show us the way to Heaven. And it does more than that. It also shows us how we should live on our journey to Heaven:

- What is the way to Heaven? (*Hold up Bible*). The Bible tells us, “Jesus Christ is the way, the truth and the life” (John 14 v6). “Trust the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved” (Acts 16 v31), and “Whosoever believes on Him shall not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3 v16). Those are the directions for your journey to Heaven. Have you trusted Him? Have you started on your journey to Heaven?
- How should boys and girls who are Christians live on their way to Heaven? What are God's directions? Here they are! The Bible tells us (*Produce the cards from the Bible – one at a time*):
 - ✓ **Read** your Bible and do what it says. God speaks to you through the Bible. Are you reading your Bible every day?
 - ✓ **Talk** to God – often and about everything. Do you talk to Him often?
 - ✓ Ask God to **help** you live for Jesus Christ and be like Him – and He will do so. But you must ask Him.
 - ✓ If you sin, ask Him to **forgive** you and help you not to do it again. And you can be sure He will.
 - ✓ **Tell** others you are a Christian. Then you will be serving the Lord Jesus.
 - ✓ **Meet** together with other Christians – in a good church, and in your Good News Club. They will help you to grow.

Study God's map – and follow its directions at all times.

All Children
A LESSON FROM FLAGS

TRUTH: Jesus Christ loves boys and girls and wants to save them.

VISUAL:

You should make five flags from heavy paper or cardboard and colour them black, red, white, green and gold (*Or use coloured paper*). Attach to the side of each card a little stick. On the flags print the words “Christ sees us (black)”, “Christ seeks us (red)”, “Christ saves us (white)”, “Christ sanctifies us (green)”, “Christ secures us (gold)”. Or if the flags are small just use the words “Sees”, “Seeks”, “Saves”, “Sanctifies” and “Secures”.

(This lesson is a little longer than usual. You could make it into two or more lessons).

LESSON:

Flags can often be used for signals and, years ago, they were sometimes used to pass messages from one person to another. That was before there were telephones or radio. For example the captains of ships often used them to give information or commands to the captains of other ships.

I have five flags with me today – and each has a message for you:

➤ **CHRIST SEES US**

The BLACK or dark background is a picture of how the Lord Jesus sees us if we are not saved. He knows everything about us. He knows all about our sin. He sees us when we sleep and when we wake, in school and at play and He knows all the wrong things we do. A boy went to steal a pear off a tree in the garden next door. He slipped out of the back door at night when everyone was asleep, took a ladder, climbed the fence and climbed up the tree. Just as his hand was upon the fruit, a voice seemed to whisper in his heart “*You Oh, God, see me.*” He trembled all over, and slipping back into his house again, got back into bed as quickly as he could. He felt Christ had

seen him and of course He did. And He sees into all our hearts and He sees the many wrong things we have done.

➤ **CHRIST SEEKS US**

The red flag is a picture of the love which brought the Lord Jesus from Heaven to seek or look for those who were lost. He took the punishment for our sin on the Cross when He poured out His precious blood for us. Now He is the Shepherd and He is looking for the lost sheep and He is looking for you (Matthew 18 v12, 13). He says to you, "I died to save you, will you trust Me?" A little girl in the north of Scotland, was some distance from home, when a snowstorm suddenly came on. Her father got anxious about her, and started out with his dog to look for her. Suddenly the dog began sniffing and scratching at the snow, and there lay the little girl fast asleep. Her father loved her and looked for her until he found her. And in the same way the Lord Jesus is looking for boys and girls.

➤ **CHRIST SAVES US**

This white flag is a picture of salvation. We could not save ourselves. But Jesus Christ died for our sin. He will save you just now and forgive all your sin if you ask Him and God will then see you pure and clean like this flag (Acts 13 v38, 39). A child named Tracy heard the Gospel and saw that she was a sinner, so she prayed, "Lord, save me!" and He did. Then she cried with joy to her grandmother, "I am saved. Jesus has saved me, I am going to Heaven." Have you asked Him to save you?

➤ **CHRIST SANCTIFIES US**

This big word means that after we have trusted Christ, He wants us to grow and become more and more like Him (1 Peter 2 v2). That is why this flag is green. Think of the trees, the grass, the flowers. They are all growing. Green is the colour of growth. He wants us to talk to Him, to read His Word and to obey what it says, to tell others about Him and to meet with others to worship Him. As we do those things we will grow, and become more and more like Him.

➤ **CHRIST SECURES US**

That's another big word. It means that we are safe forever. This gold flag reminds us of God Who is holy and Who lives in Heaven where the street is paved with gold. And because we have trusted Jesus Christ we are going to be there one day. We are completely safe and secure. We cannot lose our salvation (John 10 v28). The God Who saved us will keep us safe and secure and we can be sure that He will take us to Heaven when we die.

If you have asked Him to save you, thank Him that your sins are forgiven and that you have eternal life.

All Children

GOD'S GIFTS – AND OUR GIFTS

TRUTH: God's good gifts enable us to give our lives to Him

VISUAL:

Two gift boxes with a number of cards inside each. On these cards put the words in capitals below. These cards will be taken out, shown and read at the appropriate times.

(This is a longer lesson – and could be divided into two lessons. The outline is given here – and you would need to expand the main points).

LESSON:

Our subject for today is – gifts. Do you like to receive gifts? I am sure you do. Do you like to give gifts to others? I hope you do. What is the best gift you have ever received? *(Give an opportunity to respond).*

Did you know that God has a number of gifts for each of us, and we will see them as we open the first box:

- **LIFE** and **HEALTH** (Acts 17 v25). Our life and our health come from God. Did you know that?
- **FOOD** (Psalm 136 v25). God gives us our daily bread. Are you thankful for all you receive?

- **SLEEP** (Psalm 127 v2). God helps us to sleep. It would be terrible if we could not sleep.
- **ETERNAL LIFE** (1 John 5 v11) when we trust the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour. That is the most important gift of all. Have you trusted Him? Have you received this gift?
- He gives us **PEACE** (John 14 v27) in the middle of all difficulties when we trust Him.

Do you like to give gifts to other people? Have you given a gift to someone recently? (*Give an opportunity to respond*).

Would you like to give a gift to God?

We who are Christians should be thankful to God for all the gifts He has given us or wants to give us. But there are a number of gifts we can give Him in return:

- We can give Him our **HEARTS** – to love Him and serve Him (Proverbs 23 v26).
This is our main gift and all the others are the result of it.
- We can give Him our **LIPS** – to tell Him how much we love Him and also to tell others about Him. And we can show that we belong to Him by singing cheerfully around the house and by talking kindly to others.
- We can give Him our **EYES** – to see the needs of others and help them.
- We can give Him our **HANDS** – to help those He wants us to help. This could mean washing the dishes, looking after our younger brother or sister – or even using a vacuum cleaner.
- We can give Him our **FEET** – to attend church and Sunday school and to run errands for Him. This could mean visiting someone who is lonely, or shopping for an older person or just doing what our parents ask.
- We can give Him our **TIME** – to use it for Him and serve Him. You can take time to pray and read His Word, and you can also take time to help your mother and to look after the baby.
- We can give Him our **POSSESSIONS**. We may not have much but they all really belong to Him. But you can actually give some of your money (at least one tenth) to Him. How? By giving your tenth to the church or to missionaries or to someone in need. And you

should also be willing to share your toys, books, games, and DVDs with others.

He gives us so much. Should we not give Him what we can in return?

All Children

FIVE BIBLE GIRLS

TRUTH: God loves girls (and boys) and has a plan for them.

VISUALS:

This lesson is based on an acrostic using the word “GIRLS”. The simplest way to visualize it would be to print each of these five letters on five cards and show each card as you speak about the girl concerned.

Another way would be to use a large piece of cardboard, print the word GIRLS vertically on the left hand half and then cut the right hand half into strips – with the remainder of each of the five words. Then fold over each strip as you speak about each girl.

(This is a longer lesson and will need at least 15 minutes – or you could divide it into two or more lessons).

LESSON:

This is a lesson especially about girls – and it should be interesting for you girls who are here. But I think that boys are sometimes interested in girls – so I hope you would also like to hear about five girls who appear in the Bible.

- Our first girl is the one who was **GUILTY** (Acts 16 v16, 17) (*Show first card*)

Our first girl is the one who followed after Paul and Silas when they preached the Gospel in Philippi and shouted at them. She was under the control of the devil – and she was against God’s messengers and God’s message and she was sinful and guilty (*Point to letter “G”*).

But we have no right to criticize her because we are all born sinful and we are all guilty because we have disobeyed God and many of

us have turned our backs on God's message and what He wants to do for us.

- And then we have a girl who was **INTERESTED** (2 Kings 5 v2-4) (*Show second card*)

We do not know the name of our second girl, but we know that she was interested (*Point to letter "I"*) in God and in His Word because she had learned so much about Him in her home. We could also believe that she had come to trust God and serve Him. But she was especially interested in her master Naaman and his problem. He had a terrible disease called leprosy and this girl told him (through his wife) that God could solve his problem. And God did just that. Naaman was healed because of a girl who was interested in him.

Are you interested (*Point to letter "I"*) in God? Have you trusted the Lord Jesus? Are you interested in other people's needs and willing to tell them how God can meet their needs?

- The Bible also tells us about a girl who was **RAISED** from the dead (Mark 5 v21-43) (*Show third card*)

Our third girl was the daughter of an important man called Jairus. But Jairus' daughter was very sick and later died. Her father went to the Lord Jesus and told Him about her need. The Lord Jesus came to the house, took her by the hand and raised her from the dead (*Point to letter "R"*). He was able to give her life.

If there is a girl (or boy) here who has not trusted the Lord Jesus as Saviour, the Bible says that you are spiritually dead, but if you trust the Lord Jesus He will give you life – everlasting life.

- And then there was a girl who was **LISTENING** (Acts 12 v13, 14) (*Show card*)

Our next girl was called Rhoda. She was one of those who were praying for Peter and his release from prison. When Jesus Christ saves us He wants us to pray for others and their needs. It was Rhoda who heard the knock on the door of the house, who heard Peter's voice, and believed that God had answered their prayers. She not only prayed but she looked and listened (*Point to letter "L"*) for God's answer to her prayers. The others in the house did not at first

believe that Peter was released from prison. It seemed impossible. But Rhoda listened and believed.

As you pray, you need to look and listen (*Point to letter “L”*) for God’s answer. And really believe that He can do the impossible.

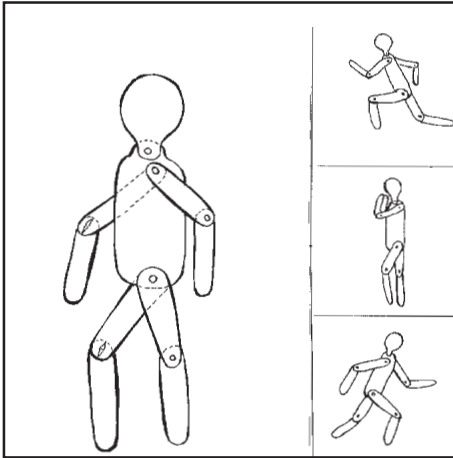
- Lastly we have a girl who was **STEADFAST** (Exodus 2 v3, 4) (*Show card*)

Do you know what the word “steadfast” means? It means faithful and dependable. A person who is steadfast is one who can be trusted to do something – a person who will stand firm.

Our last girl, Miriam, the sister of Moses, was asked by her mother to guard and watch over the baby Moses when he lay as a helpless babe in the ark, the little floating basket beside the river Nile. And she obeyed her mother. She did her work well despite the risks involved. She was steadfast (*Point to letter “S”*). She watched over her little brother and when he was discovered by the princess it was Miriam who wisely suggested that she call someone to be the baby’s nurse – and that someone was the baby’s mother.

Miriam was faithful and steadfast (*Point to letter “S”*) and as a result Moses grew up to become the leader and deliverer of his people.

Are you Christian boys and girls faithful and dependable and steadfast like Miriam? Are you willing to do what God wants you to do – and obey Him?

*All Children***ONESIMUS THE SLAVE**

TRUTH: Jesus wants to save boys and girls and change their lives.

VISUALS:

You should make a puppet from cardboard as shown in the diagram. The head and limbs must be fixed with brass brads so that you can move the joints to the desired position.

Then on four separate cards print the words **ONESIMUS**, **RUNAWAY**, **RESCUED** and **RESTORED**.

LESSON:

(Introduce the children to Onesimus the slave and his story as contained in the book of Philemon):

Have you ever heard of a man called Onesimus? (*Show card*). That's a strange name isn't it? Can you pronounce it? Let's try – O – n – e – s – i – m – u – s. Good. You have got it. Who was he? The Bible tells us that he was a slave. Do you know what a slave is? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). He has been bought by someone, is owned by him and completely controlled by him.

RUNAWAY (*Show card*)

The name Onesimus means "helpful" but he was certainly not living up to that word (Philemon 11). He had stolen from his master Philemon and had run away over 1,000 miles to Rome (*Show the first figure as in*

the diagram). He was now a runaway slave. Although his master Philemon was a Christian he still had the power to punish his dishonest runaway slave. So Onesimus tried to hide himself among the crowds and pleasures of Rome.

But listen, do you know that according to the Bible we are all born slaves – because we are controlled by sin and our sinful nature? And many of us are running away from God – and we are therefore also runaway slaves.

RESCUED (*Show card*)

When Onesimus had spent his stolen money and found himself in difficulty he met Paul the great apostle who may have helped him in some way. But, above all, we know that he told Onesimus about the Lord Jesus Christ and how He had died for him on the cross to forgive him and change him, and we know that the slave Onesimus trusted the Lord Jesus (*adjust the figure to the second position*) (Philemon 10). Jesus Christ had now saved and rescued him from sin and God's punishment for sin. He was now a rescued slave.

And the wonderful news is that Jesus Christ died for you and your sin – and if you trust Him He will rescue you from sin and its punishment.

But Onesimus was still Philemon's slave and Paul told him he needed to return to his master and ask for forgiveness and to get back to his former responsibilities (Philemon 12).

RESTORED (*Show card*)

Onesimus must have been very fearful because his master could have put him to death if he returned. But Paul knew this and so he wrote the letter to Philemon which we can find in our Bible. In it he pleaded with Philemon to forgive his slave who was now a Christian and restore him to his household (Philemon 15-17). And he told Philemon that he himself would pay or return anything the slave had stolen (Philemon 18, 19). And so Onesimus returned to his master with Paul's letter (*Adjust the figure to the third position*). The letter was well received by Philemon and he forgave his slave and restored him into his house. He was now a

restored slave. Not just as a slave but as a brother (Philemon 16). Onesimus could now start to move in a new direction.

This reminds us that when we trust the Lord Jesus and start our new life, we are going in a new direction. We are restored. But there may be things from our past life which we need to make right. Perhaps we need to go to someone we hurt and say we are sorry; or perhaps we need to tell our parents that we are going to be better at home in the future.

But this story is not just about Onesimus. We have already seen that it is about you and me. What do I mean?

We are runaways (*Show first figure*). We have sinned and turned our backs upon God.

Jesus Christ wants to rescue us (*Show second figure*) and if we trust Him as our Saviour we will be forgiven and changed (*Show third figure*) and we will start moving in a new direction. And don't forget that Paul promised to pay Philemon for the money Onesimus had stolen. And this reminds us that the Lord Jesus paid for our sins on the cross – so that we can be restored to God.

All Children

JESUS HEALS THE PALSIED MAN

TRUTH: Jesus Christ can forgive all your sins.

VISUAL AIDS:

You will need four long (about 30 cm) narrow pieces of cardboard for this lesson – attached by brads. Then you manipulate the pieces of cardboard to make the patterns shown on the left side of each paragraph as you tell the story. You would need to practise the handling of the four pieces thoroughly beforehand. This is a longer lesson and will need at least 15 minutes or you may want to divide it into two separate lessons.

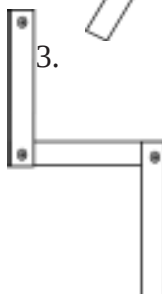
LESSON:



This is a story about **FOUR** (1) men who lived a long time ago in the land of Israel. The Bible tells us about them (Luke 5 v18-26).

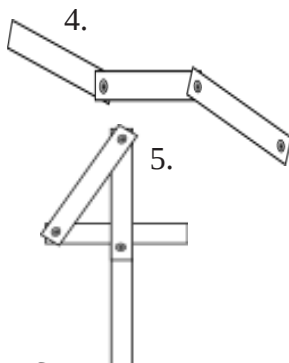
These four men had a special friend. He was not like other people because he **COULD NOT WALK** (*move the two legs to resemble walking*). (2)

This friend could **NOT EVEN SIT**. (3)



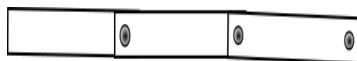
This man had a terrible disease called paralysis and had **TO LIE** all day long (4) and all night long on his bed.

He had been paralyzed like this for a long, long time. The Bible teaches us that you and I have been born with a terrible disease called sin.



But these **FOUR** friends (5) wanted to see him healed. They had perhaps tried other remedies, but nothing had made him better. And then they had heard about Someone Who was there in their land and who was doing wonderful things. It was the Lord Jesus – and He had come to their town Capernaum.

And so they decided to bring their friend to the Lord Jesus, they believed that He could heal him.

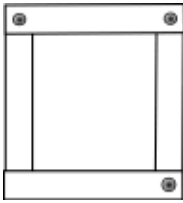


They put their friend on his **MATTRESS** (6) and with one at each corner they lifted him and carried him through the streets of the city to bring him to the Lord Jesus. It must have been

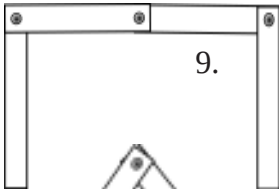


7. a strange sight, but they were bringing their friend to the only One Who could cure him.

If you are a Christian and have put your trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, you should be bringing your friends to Jesus. Or maybe you are not a Christian, and your friend has brought you here today to hear about the Lord Jesus.

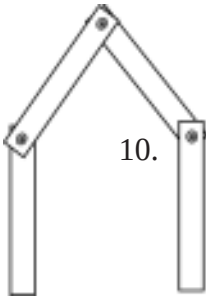


8. Finally, the four men arrived at the house where the Lord Jesus was teaching the people. They wanted to go into the house through the **DOOR**, (7) but they could not get in at the door.



9.

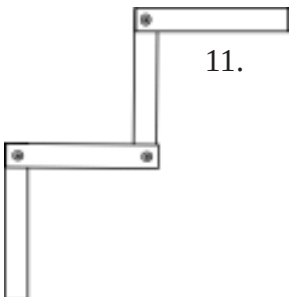
Perhaps one of them went and looked in through the **WINDOW**. (8) Do you know what he saw? He saw a house full of people. There were people everywhere. They wondered how they could bring their friend through that great crowd to the Lord Jesus.



10.

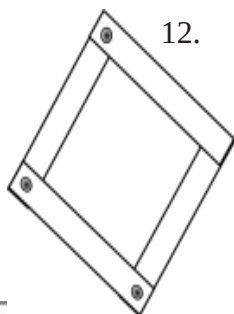
And then they had an idea. They said, “If we cannot bring out friend to the Lord Jesus through the door or even through the window, we will get in through the **ROOF**.” (9)

The houses in Israel do not have **SLANTED ROOFS**, (10) like the roofs on your houses. Their houses have flat roofs.



11.

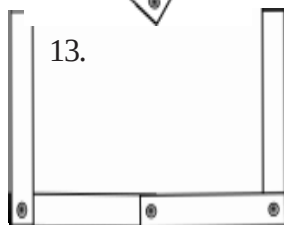
Their houses have something else which is different; they have **STEPS** (11) up the outside of the houses up to the roof. And so the four men carried their friend on his mattress around



12.

to these steps and they began to carry him up the steps to the roof of the house.

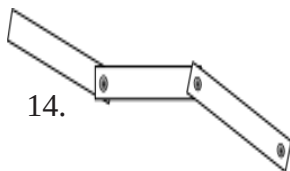
The roof of the house was made of wood, covered by reeds and earth, and so the four men began to make a **HOLE** (12) in the roof.



13.

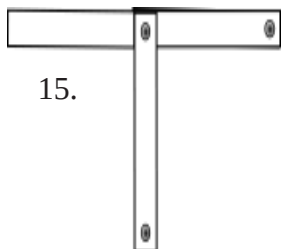
The four men tied ropes onto the four corners of the mattress and began to let their friend **DOWN** (13) into the house. They let him down gently, right to the feet of the Lord Jesus.

There the man **LAY** (14) on his mattress in front of the Lord Jesus. When the Lord Jesus saw him, He loved him just as He loves you and me. In fact He loves you and me so much that He took the punishment for our sins on the cross.



14.

The Lord Jesus said to the man lying in front of Him "*Your sins are forgiven you.*" He was saying that He forgave this man all the wrong things he had ever done or said or thought. Have you ever asked the Lord Jesus to forgive your sins.



15.

The Lord Jesus knew that He could forgive this man his sins because He was the Saviour Who would soon die on the **CROSS** (15) for this man's sin (and also for ours).

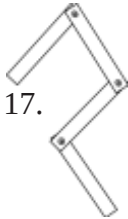
But the enemies of the Lord Jesus were in that house that day – the Scribes and Pharisees. When they heard the Lord Jesus say these words to the paralyzed man, they began to murmur

16.



and say wrong things about the Lord Jesus. They did not speak out aloud, but among themselves and in their hearts they were saying wrong things about the Lord Jesus.

17.



Can you imagine those enemies of the Lord Jesus saying these wrong things?

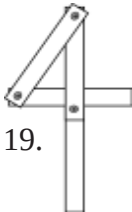
The first one, enemy number **ONE**, (16) may have said something like this about the Lord Jesus, “Who is this saying he can forgive sins?”

18.



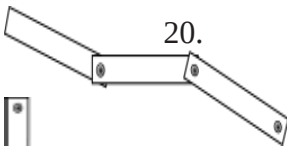
Nearby, another Pharisee or Scribe, enemy number **TWO**, (17) was maybe also saying something wrong about the Lord Jesus, “It is only God Who is able to forgive sins.”

19.



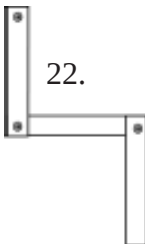
Nearby, another enemy of the Lord Jesus, number **THREE**, (18) could have been saying something like this, “Jesus is saying that He is God, that He is able to forgive sins.”

20.



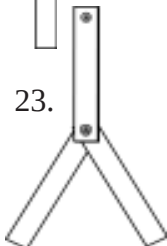
Another Pharisee or Scribe, enemy number **FOUR**, (19) may have been saying something like this, “I don’t believe that Jesus is God, He is not able to forgive sins.”

22.

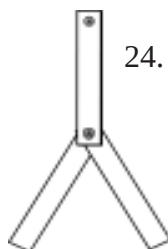


The Lord Jesus knew what His enemies were saying about Him, so in order that they might know that He had power on earth to forgive sins, He turned to the **PARALYZED MAN** (20) and said to him, “Arise take up your bed and go into your house.”

23.



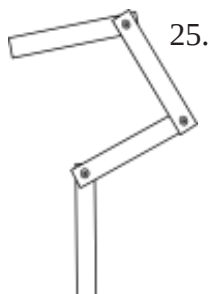
And at the words of the Lord Jesus, a wonderful thing happened that day – a miracle took place:



that paralyzed man **SAT UP** (22) on his mattress.

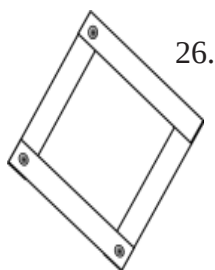
He **STOOD UP** (23) and took his mattress on his back.

And he **WALKED** (24) right out of that house completely healed (*Move the two legs to resemble walking*).



Everyone was amazed. They were amazed that the Lord Jesus had been able to heal him of his disease, but they were also amazed that the Lord Jesus had been able to forgive him his sin.

Did you ever come to the end of a sentence and put this on the end? It is a **QUESTION MARK**. (25.) I have a question for you. Has the Lord Jesus forgiven your sins? Have you asked Him to? He can do so because He is the Son of God.



If you will ask Him to come into your **HEART** (26) and life He will do so – and He will then say to you, “All your sins are forgiven.”

Why not ask Him today?

If you have asked Him, thank Him that your sins are forgiven and that you have eternal life and perhaps there is something you can do to bring one of your friends to the Lord Jesus – as these four men did.

All Children
THE MESSAGE OF STREETS

TRUTH: Make sure you are walking towards Heaven

VISUALS:

A number of cards with street names in your city on them.

LESSON:

You can put together a good and interesting presentation of the Gospel and the Christian life by using the street names of the city in which you live.

Here are two such possible outlines – one from the city of Glasgow and one from the city of Belfast. You would of course need to fill in the gaps.

A journey through Glasgow:

- Many boys and girls are on the **BROADWAY** – the street which leads downwards to complete and eternal separation from God.
- Some of them live on **HOPE STREET**. They hope that they will go to Heaven one day because they are trying to be good.
- But they are really on **RISK STREET** because good works never bring salvation – and they are putting their souls and their eternity at great risk.
- Some are walking on **HALF WAY**. They have heard the Gospel and are interested but have not taken the great step of trusting the Lord Jesus.
- They must take this step of trusting the Lord Jesus soon, otherwise they are in danger of being forever in **PITT STREET** – in the place of the lost forever.
- But there is good news for all such boys and girls and it starts on **GRACE STREET**. God loves you and in His grace has sent His Son to die for you.
- If you trust Him as your Saviour you can move into **HART STREET** – He will cleanse you and come to live in your heart.
- You will then live in **UNION STREET** in fellowship with the Lord Jesus.

- And one day you will enter into **CROWN STREET** – receiving from Him that crown and glory which will never pass away.

A journey through Belfast:

- We were all born on **FALLS ROAD**. The first man and woman fell when they sinned and, because of that, we were born in sin. We are all fallen people – far short of what God wants us to be.
- And we now travel to **HART STREET**. Our hearts and lives are dark with sin in the sight of God.
- Because of our sin and our fallen nature we now live on **BROADWAY** – the street which leads downward and away from God.
- But I am so glad that we can now find our way to **HILL STREET**. It was on the hill of Calvary that the Lord Jesus Christ died for us on the cross and took the punishment for our sins.
- This street leads directly to **BRIDGE STREET** because by dying on the cross for us Jesus Christ made a bridge between us and God – and a way back to God.
- And right beside Bridge Street is **FOUNTAIN STREET** which reminds us that when we trust the Lord Jesus all our sins are washed away by His precious blood. The Bible tells us that there is a fountain open to cleanse sin and uncleanness (Zechariah 13 v1) – and that fountain is the precious Blood of the Lord Jesus.
- And now we can be on **HARTWELL STREET**. We are saved; everything is alright; and the problem of our hearts and our sin has been solved.
- Now we walk on **KING STREET**. Jesus Christ is our Lord, our Master, and our King and we serve Him.
- King Street leads directly onto **HIGH STREET** because that's the street which takes us right up into Heaven when we die.
- And then we will live on **ROYAL AVENUE** for all eternity.

All Children
MESSAGE OF THE STARS
(A Christmas Lesson)

TRUTH: Boys and girls should trust Jesus Christ and shine for Him.

VISUALS:

Make five large stars, print the word STARS, one letter on each star. You can hold them in your hand and show them one at a time as you teach the lesson, or you could use a clothes line and attach each of them to that line with a clothes' peg, at the appropriate time; or you could ask a child to hold each star after you have spoken about it. Then at the end rearrange the children (and letters) to form the word "STARS".

If you find it difficult to make a five-pointed star it is easy to make a six-pointed one by drawing two triangles and reversing one on top of the other.

LESSON

When you think of the very first Christmas – the day when the Lord Jesus was born on this earth what comes first to your mind? Is it the shepherds, or the wise men or the manger itself? Or could it be that star which shone so brightly and guided the wise men to the Lord Jesus?

We are going to speak about stars today – this special Christmas star and other stars.

We will spell the word STARS – but we will start with the letter 'A'.



“A” stands for **Angels** (*Hold up star*)

The Bible says that stars rejoiced at creation (Job 38 v7) – when God created the world. These stars were really the angels who serve Him – and they were so happy to see how God had created the heavens and the earth.



“S” stands for **Satan** (*Hold up star*)

It might seem strange to include Satan here but did you know that he was the brightest angel of all and that he was called Lucifer (Isaiah 14 v12), the son of the morning? But he became proud and thought he should be worshipped instead of God. Because of this he was thrown out of Heaven, taking many angels with him, and the new name given to him was Satan, the devil.



“T” stands for a big word - **Transgression**

Satan was so angry that when God created the first man and woman, Adam and Eve, he tempted them and caused them to sin. That is what the big word transgression means. When we transgress we cross over the lines God has set. But God promised Adam and Eve that He would send a Saviour from sin. And later a prophet in the Bible foretold that there would come Someone whom He called a Star (Numbers 24 v17) Who would be a King and would be a Saviour from sin and transgressions. And that Someone was the Lord Jesus.



This “R” stands for **Redeemer**

And so on the first Christmas 2000 years ago the Redeemer came, and the angels rejoiced again (Luke 2 v13). The name “Redeemer” means “the One Who paid the price to save us from sin”. The wise men saw His star (Matthew 2 v2). They knew the Redeemer had come and they came and worshipped Him. Another name for the Redeemer is the Bright and Morning Star (Revelation 22 v16). He is the Star which announces the arrival of the day, the coming of the Light of the world and the going away of the darkness of night.



“S” stands for **Salvation and Shining**

And the result is that we can be saved through Him. ‘S’ stands for salvation. Just as the stars have always been so helpful to navigators and sailors who wanted to find the way, the Lord Jesus shows us the way to salvation and Heaven. Indeed He is the way (John 14 v6).

Trust Him and you will be saved; and then you will be able to shine (and ‘S’ also stands for “shining”) like a star in this world – and forever (Daniel 12 v3).

All Children

QUESTIONS ABOUT CHRISTMAS

TRUTH: Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.

VISUALS:

Cut out four large manilla or cardboard question marks and on each print one word – **WHERE, WHY, HOW, WHAT** and show each one as you speak.

LESSON:

I have four important questions which I want to ask today – and they are all about Christmas and the birth of the Lord Jesus.

WHERE was the Lord Jesus before He was born in Bethlehem?

(Give an opportunity to respond). He was in Heaven.

Heaven is His home. Before the earth was created the Lord Jesus was there. He had no beginning. He always was and always will be (see John 1 v1-3). Have you ever thought about what Heaven is like? *(Have children respond).* What does the Bible say about Heaven? *(Have the children turn to these verses if you wish).*



It is a holy place where no sin is allowed (Psalm 20 v6). It is a beautiful place with a street of gold (Revelation 21 v21; 22 v1-2). It is a joyful

place. There are no tears, sickness or sadness (Revelation 21 v4). Not one of us can imagine what Heaven is really like. Why then, since Heaven is so wonderful, did the Lord Jesus leave it and come to earth? That is our second question.

WHY did Jesus come to earth? (*Give an opportunity to respond*).



The Bible answers this question in several more verses – so that we could have everlasting life. (John 3 v16) – because God the Father sent Him (John 3 v16) to save the world from sin. (John 14 v6) – to show us God’s love. (1 John 4 v19) – to be the Saviour of the world (1 John 4 v14).

Have you ever moved to a new town? Was it exciting? (1 John 4 v14). Or were you sad to leave an old friend, school and home? Have you ever thought what it meant for the Lord Jesus to leave Heaven and come to earth? Did He bring His glory with Him. No. He lived in a body like ours, but He was still God. Remember, He did great miracles which proved He was God and He never sinned. But He humbled Himself and became a servant. The One Who created all things came to earth, to walk, sleep, eat and weep like we do.

We cannot imagine how wonderful Heaven is; neither can we know what it meant for the Lord Jesus to leave His home in Heaven. We do know from the Bible that He was hated, persecuted, spat upon and put to death on the cross. He allowed these things to happen because He loved us. He knew that only through His death for our sins would it be possible for us to go to Heaven.

But here is our third question – How?

HOW could the Lord Jesus be our Saviour yet no one else could? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). Because He was different from any other person who ever lived on earth.

HOW was the Lord Jesus different from any other baby born into the world? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). How was He different from you and me? You and I have both an earthly father and mother. The Lord Jesus had a Heavenly Father



and an earthly mother (Isaiah 9 v6a). When the angel told Mary she was to have a Son, He also told her that God the Father was sending His Son to earth to be born in a human body. Mary was chosen to be His mother. How could this be? It was a miracle! God the Holy Spirit caused this miracle to happen in Mary's body (Luke 1 v35).

When Jesus took on a body like ours He was perfect God and perfect man at the same time. Because the Lord Jesus Christ was both God and man (1 Timothy 2 v5), He alone could be our Saviour.



WHAT makes the birth of the Lord Jesus so important to us? (*To help the children, suggest the following*). Here are three answers. Suppose the Lord Jesus had not come to earth. Would we have a Saviour? Would we have the hope of going to Heaven? Would we know how much God loves us? Because Jesus came we do have a Saviour (Luke 19 v10); we do have the hope of going to Heaven (John 14 v2), and we know how much He loves us (John 3 v16).

Let's review the four questions:

1. **WHERE** was Jesus? (*In Heaven*).
2. **WHY** did He come? (*To die for our sin*).
3. **HOW** was He different ? (*He was perfect God and perfect man*).
4. **WHAT** makes His birth so important? (*Because He came we have a Saviour*).

Have you trusted Him as your Saviour? Have you thanked Him for coming to save us?

All Children

THE SHEPHERDS TELL THEIR STORY

(A Christmas Lesson) Luke 2 v8-18

TRUTH: God sent His Son to this world to be our Saviour.

VISUALS:

Make nine cards and on each one print one of the letters in the word **SHEPHERDS**.

Use these cards to tell the story – showing each card at the appropriate time. Or ask a number of children to hold each card you are speaking about – and remain standing with the cards until the word **SHEPHERDS** is completed.

LESSON:

I know that all of you really like Christmas. Well, I want you to use your imagination and hear about something that happened back at the first Christmas.

I and my friends played a very important part in that very first Christmas over 2,000 years ago – and I thought you would like me to tell you what happened.

I and my friends were **SHEPHERDS** (*Show “S”*). Our job was to look after sheep out on the hills near the city of Bethlehem.

It was night time, we were keeping an eye on our sheep, and chatting together when something really frightened us.

Suddenly we **SAW** (*Show second “S”*) an angel standing before us and all around him and around us we saw this bright, bright light. We had never seen anything like this before so we were scared. And that was not all, because soon after that we saw (*Show “S” again*) a great number of angels all over the sky.

Our knees were knocking and we were getting more and more nervous. Then we **HEARD** something (*Show “H”*). The angel who had appeared to us first of all spoke to us, telling us not to be afraid. The message he brought was almost unbelievable. He told us that the Messiah which we all in our nation were waiting for had come – and had been born as a baby in a stable. This wonderful good news was for all the people in the world. How exciting it was to **HEAR** all of this (*Show “H” again*), and then to **HEAR** all the angels all over the sky praising God in Heaven for sending this special baby to bring peace and goodwill to men and women, boys and girls.

What would you have done if you had been in our place? I think you would have done what we did. We left our flocks and we hastened or **HURRIED** (*Show second “H”*) to Bethlehem to look for this stable and to find this special baby.

We found the stable and **ENTERED** right into it (*Show “E”*) and there we **DISCOVERED** (*Show “D”*) a woman called Mary, with her husband Joseph – and we **DISCOVERED** that little new born baby Who was the Son of God, the Messiah, the One Whom His Father had sent into the world to save us and many many people from their sin. Do you know that He came here to save you from your sins? Have you trusted Him as your Lord and Saviour?

But after we had seen Him we couldn’t keep quiet about it. We went out immediately and started to **EVANGELIZE** (*Show “E”*). Do you know what the word “evangelize” means? It means to tell the good news and that’s what we did. We told everybody we met that the Messiah, the Saviour had been born.

I hope that you boys and girls who are Christians are telling other boys and girls the good news about Jesus Christ. They need to hear that He came to this earth to die for them and save them from their sin.

Well, that was all so exciting. But we had to **RETURN** (*Show “R”*) to our flocks – because we still had our work to do. We needed to look after our sheep. But we never forgot what happened that night and we kept talking about it. All those angels had **PRAISED** God (*Show “P”*) for what He had done – and the people we told about what had happened **PRAISED** God also (*Show “P”*). And so did we. I hope you will also. Yes, we were the shepherds who first heard the good news and you know now what we saw (*Show letters one by one*), what we heard, how we hastened, what we discovered, how we evangelized and how we returned and how we all praised (*Rearrange letters to make the word **SHEPHERDS** as you do so*). I hope that you have now heard this wonderful story, that you will believe it and that you will trust and serve the One Who was born there in Bethlehem.

All Children
TEN COMMANDS ON YOUR HANDS!
PART I

TRUTH: God has given us ten commands to guide us and help us.

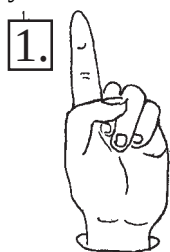
VISUALS:

Use your hands as shown.

Here's a different way to teach the Ten Commandments from Exodus 20.

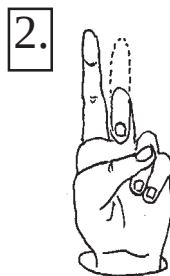
LESSON:

We are going to learn five important rules today from God's book, the Bible, in a way that will help you remember them and carry them with you wherever you go!



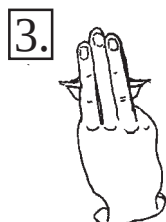
(Hold up index finger) **YOU SHALL HAVE NO OTHER GODS BUT THE ONE TRUE GOD** (Exodus 20 v3).

God lives in Heaven (*you are pointing up*). He made the universe and rules over it. There is only one God and He lives up there in Heaven. Some people try to make their own gods but there is only one true and living God.



(Hold up index finger and middle finger) **YOU SHALL NOT MAKE AN IDOL OR WORSHIP ONE** (Exodus 20 v4).

What is an idol? An idol is anything that is more important to you than the one true God. It is something or someone you put above God in your life (*Bend middle finger so it is lower than the index finger*). Something you bow down to like this finger is doing. Nothing or no one is more important than the true God Who made us and loves us.



Hold up three middle fingers against lips) **YOU SHALL NOT MISUSE THE NAME OF THE LORD GOD** (Exodus 20 v7).

God is so great that we must only say His name with great respect. Some people use His Name very carelessly – and some even use it as a swear word. We should not use His name to swear or use it without thinking about Him or talking to Him.

4.



(Hold up four fingers and bend thumb across palm) **DO ALL YOUR WORK IN SIX DAYS AND KEEP ONE DAY FOR THE LORD** (Exodus 20 v8-11).

This is God's fourth commandment (*Hold up four fingers*). Pretend these four fingers are really six. They are standing up high and are busy. But look at the thumb (*bend it across your palm*). It is resting and that reminds us that God has given us one day to worship Him and rest from our work. He knows we need a day of rest – for our bodies and our souls.

5.



(Place open hand above head) **HONOUR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER** (Exodus 20:12)

God has placed your father and mother over you just like this hand. He has appointed them to care for you and He wants you to honour them with your love and respect. That's why He gave us this fifth commandment (*Hold up five fingers*). This commandment has a special promise with it. If you honour your parents, things will go well for you and you will have a long life. You can say each word of this commandment on the fingers of your hand (*Let children do so*).

All Children
TEN COMMANDS ON YOUR HANDS!
PART II

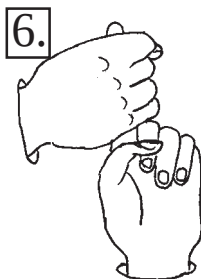
TRUTH: God has given us ten commands to help us and guide us.

VISUALS:

Use your hands as shown.

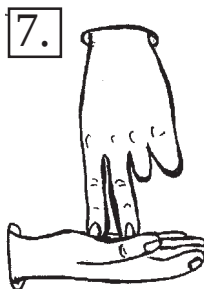
LESSON:

(Revise the first five commandments on the fingers of one hand and then continue).



(Hold up one finger of your other hand)

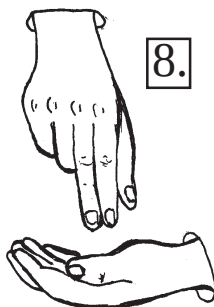
God made each one of us. He gave each of us power *(Grab finger with other hand)*. Sometimes a person is tempted to hurt someone else, maybe even kill him *(Release finger, holding up six fingers)*. God says in His sixth commandment, **YOU SHALL NOT MURDER** (Exodus 20 v13). This means do not kill someone on purpose. But it also means that we should not hurt or even hate someone.



(Hold out hand with palm up, stand first two fingers of other hand on palm).

Here are five fingers plus two. That makes seven and this is God's seventh commandment (Exodus 20 v14).

God has a wonderful plan for a husband and wife represented by these two fingers. They are to belong to each other and no one else. If a man treats more than one woman like a wife or a woman treats more than one man like a husband, God calls that adultery. God says, **YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY.**



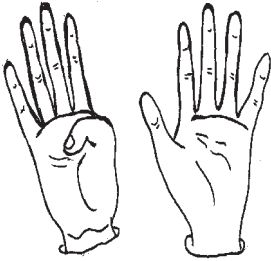
(Cup one hand and with thumb and first two fingers of other hand pretend to snatch something out of it)

Do you see what these three fingers are trying to do? They are trying to steal from these five fingers. $5 + 3 = 8$; and this is our eighth commandment (Exodus 20 v15).

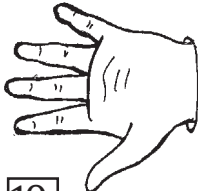
God sees everything we do. He knows if we take something that does not belong to us. What do we call that? *(Stealing)*. The eighth commandment is, **YOU SHALL NOT STEAL.**

(Hold up nine fingers)

9.

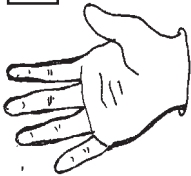


YOU SHALL NOT GIVE A FALSE TESTIMONY (Exodus 20 v16). Do you know what that means? *(Close hands)*. Suppose you were having a treat at school and the teacher said, "Each of you may take four pieces of chocolate." *(Hold up four fingers on one hand)* But someone wants to get Jeff into trouble and he yells, "Jeff took five pieces" even though he didn't. *(Hold up five fingers on other hand)*. God calls that "giving a false testimony." Another way to say this commandment is, **YOU SHALL NOT LIE**. Lying hurts us and others but most of all it hurts God.



(Open and shut both hands as if you are grabbing something)

10.



Some people like to grab everything for themselves. "Coveting" is wanting things that belong to others *(Hold up ten fingers)*. God says, **YOU SHALL NOT WANT WHAT BELONGS TO SOMEONE ELSE** (Exodus 20 v17). God will provide all that you need. Don't be greedy.

All Children
STONES AND ROCKS

TRUTH: Jesus Christ is the rock on which we should build our lives.

VISUALS:

A small stone and a large rock.

This lesson is more advanced and better for older children or teenagers.

LESSON:

Did you know that back in Bible times, children were often given names which had a meaning? Hannah called her baby boy Samuel because that word means “Heard by God”. She had prayed for this child and God had heard her. Do you know why Thomas who was one of the apostles got his name? Because it means “twin” and he was one of the twins. And I am sure that you know why the angel told Joseph to call the baby Who would be born to Mary, Jesus. Because the word “Jesus” means “Saviour”. He came to this world to be our Saviour.

One of the leading disciples of the Lord Jesus was called “Peter”. Do you know what that name means? Can you guess why his parents called him by that name? The Greek word “Peter” means “a stone or small rock” (*Hold up the small stone*). Perhaps his parents hoped he would become a big and strong fisherman, like many other boys in the town. Perhaps they wanted him to become a good solid kind of person.

I am afraid that when he grew up and started to follow the Lord Jesus he was not always very solid or dependable. He was not like a stone. He made many mistakes. But the Lord Jesus saw there was something good and solid underneath. And He was especially pleased when, one day, He asked the disciples the question, “*Who do you say that I am?*” (Matthew 16 v15). Immediately Peter spoke up and answered, “*You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.*”

What a wonderful answer and the Lord Jesus praised Peter for this great statement which many people did not understand or believe – but Peter did because God had helped him to understand that the Lord Jesus was the Son of God (Matthew 16 v17). And then the Lord Jesus said to Peter, “*You are Peter: you are really a stone or small rock (Show it); and*

upon this rock (Hold rock up) I will build my Church” (Matthew 16 v18).

What did the Lord Jesus mean? Would He build His Church on Peter, the stone? No, He would build His Church on what Peter had said. Peter was only a stone; what he said was “the rock” (or ledge of rock). This is a different word. “The rock” is this great solid truth that the Lord Jesus is the Son of God on which your life must be built; the great solid truth through which people are saved and the church starts to grow.

“Jesus Christ is the Son of the living God” – that’s the rock. That’s the rock (*Hold it up*) which you cannot change into another shape (*Try to do so*). That’s the rock which is the same today as it was 2,000 years ago. Have you built your life on this rock, the truth that Jesus Christ is the Son of the living God? Have you trusted Him as your Saviour? Are you serving Him as your Lord?

If you have, your life and your future is built upon a good and sound foundation (1 Corinthians 3 v11; 1Peter 2 v7; Matthew 7 v24).

All Children **A LESSON FROM IRELAND**

TRUTH: When God forgives us He wants us to forgive others.

VISUALS:

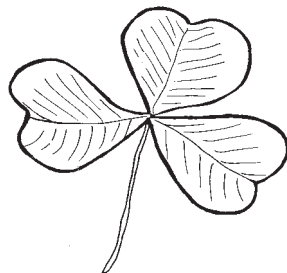
A picture of a green shamrock (*as shown*).

LESSON:

Do you know where Ireland is?

(*Give an opportunity to respond*).

It’s an island off the coast of Western Europe.



Have you ever heard of St Patrick’s Day? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). It is the national day of Ireland when many people wear something green (*Show it*) which is the national colour of Ireland, and many have little clusters of a plant called shamrock which looks like this (*Show it*) pinned to their coats. Do you know why they do this?

Do you know who St Patrick was? Do you think he was Irish? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). No, he was not Irish. He was probably born in a country called Wales or another country called France. How was he connected to Ireland?

- When he was a teenager he was taken captive by some Irish and taken to Ireland around the year 400 and he spent six long years as a slave working for his master. He was sad and frightened and often cried out to God in his prayers.

At last he escaped and went home. And when he was at home he trusted Jesus Christ as his Saviour and became a Christian. All his sins were now forgiven because of what the Lord Jesus Christ had done for him on the cross. Have you trusted the Lord Jesus so that all your sins will be forgiven?

- But then God spoke to his heart and gave him a desire to go back to Ireland, as the very first Christian missionary to that land and to preach the Gospel to them. Could he do so? Could he go back to the people who had made him a slave for years? Could he forgive them? Yes! God had forgiven him and so he forgave them (Colossians 3 v13). He went back to Ireland. He spent the rest of his life there telling the Irish about the Lord Jesus Christ and how He had died to forgive their sins.

On one famous occasion he was speaking to the King of Ireland and was trying to explain that God was a Trinity – which means that there is one God but there are three Persons in God.

The king did not understand. So Patrick picked up a shamrock like this (*Show picture*) which was growing at his feet and said, “Look, one shamrock and three leaves; one God and three Persons.”

And so God blessed Patrick in Ireland. And many believed.

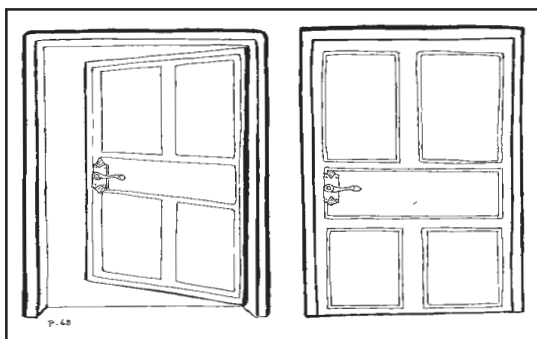
If God has forgiven your sins He wants you to tell others about what He can do for them as Patrick did – even if they have hurt you.

All children
OPEN AND SHUT DOORS

TRUTH: Jesus Christ wants each boy and girl to enter the door of salvation.

VISUALS:

Produce four doors on cardboard using the two patterns given. Print the word **OPEN** on the two open ones and the word **CLOSED** on the two closed ones.



This is a more advanced lesson for older children or teenagers. Or you could make it into four lessons for younger children with each lesson focussing on one door.

LESSON

Can you guess what our lesson is about today? It's about something we all go through each day – many times each day. If it wasn't there we couldn't be here, and if it wasn't there we couldn't get out. What do you think it is? It's something we knock or we push. Of course we are talking about doors.

The Bible tells us about four kinds of doors:

- First of all, **AN OPEN DOOR WHICH NO ONE CAN SHUT** (*Show card*). The Lord Jesus has opened a very special door and He wants everyone to go through it. It is the door of salvation (John 10 v9). You don't need to open it; it is already open – and anyone who wishes can go through it and enter into salvation by just trusting the Lord Jesus as their Saviour. And this verse in the Bible (Revelation 3 v8) tells us that when the Lord Jesus opens a door like this nobody can close it or shut it. It is open today. Be sure to go in. Don't wait outside.
- Then there is **A CLOSED DOOR WHICH EVERYONE CAN OPEN** (*Show card*)

How can you go through the door of salvation? How can you be saved? Just imagine that you are like a house or dwelling, and the Lord Jesus wants to come into your life and to save you. But some boys and girls have closed the door of their lives (*Show card*) to the

Lord Jesus. And He says to you today, *“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me”* (Revelation 3 v20). If your door is closed to the Lord Jesus, the wonderful news is that you can open it – anyone can – and you can receive the Lord Jesus into your life.

If you do so, you will be saved, you will receive eternal life and you will become a child of God:

The Bible says, *“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name”* (John 1 v12).

So when you open the door of your life to the Lord Jesus you will go through the open door of salvation.

➤ Then there is **A CLOSED DOOR WHICH NO ONE CAN OPEN**

Do you remember the story the Lord Jesus told in Matthew 25 v1-12?

Ten young ladies went out to welcome the bridegroom – but when he didn’t come they all fell asleep. However they all woke up when they heard that at last he was coming and they wanted to go into the wedding with the bridegroom. But only five of them were ready; only five of them had oil in their lamps – and only those five were able to go into the wedding. The other five were not ready; they had no oil in their lamps, and the Bible says that they found that the door to the wedding was closed – and no one could open it. They were left outside.

And the same thing will happen to you if you are not ready for the Lord Jesus when He comes back again. The door will be shut and neither you nor anyone else will be able to open it. Trust the Lord Jesus today and you will be ready and you will not be shut out.

➤ **AN OPEN DOOR WHICH EVERYONE CAN SHUT**

The Lord Jesus wants us to control what we say and be sure not to tell lies or be unkind or hurt anyone with our words – and this is especially true for you boys and girls who are Christians.

One man in the Bible prayed, *“Set a watch Lord over my mouth; keep (or guard) the door of my lips”* (Psalm 141 v3). He was asking the Lord to help him control what he said – and to be able to keep the door of his mouth shut when he was tempted to say something

angry or dirty or unkind. And we need to learn how to keep this door closed when it is necessary to do so.

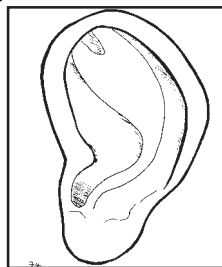
So boys and girls make sure you enter the door of salvation by opening the door of your life to the Lord Jesus. You will then not be left outside that closed door in the future. And in the meantime do keep the door of your lips under control – and, if necessary, completely closed.

All Children **EARS ARE FOR HEARING**

TRUTH: God wants us to listen to Him and obey Him.

VISUALS:

Make three large ears from cardboard using this pattern - and put on them the words CLOSED, OPEN and PIERCED.



LESSON:

We would look strange if we didn't have any ears, wouldn't we? We couldn't hear – and we couldn't wear glasses. And our talk this morning is about ears. There are many kinds of ears – short ears, long ears, ears that stick out, and ears that lie flat against the head. But it doesn't really matter what they look like so long as they can hear – for ears are for hearing.

The Bible describes three kinds of ears – and I wonder if you have one of these kinds:

- First of all there are **CLOSED EARS** (*Show word*)

The Lord Jesus, one day, met a man who could not hear. He was deaf; his ears were closed. But the Lord Jesus just said one word to him which meant “*Be opened*” and he could hear perfectly (Mark 7 v34).

But there were other people whom the Lord Jesus met and their ears were completely closed. They could hear people speak, but they themselves had closed their ears so that they could not hear or understand what the Lord Jesus was saying to them. They chose not to hear and so they had closed ears (Matthew 13 v15).

I hope you don't have closed ears like that. Ask the Lord Jesus to open your ears and help you to understand what He says in the Bible – and trust Him as your Saviour if you have never done so.

- The Bible tells us of a young boy who had **OPEN EARS** (*Show word*)

His name was Samuel (1 Samuel 3 v10). One night when he was in bed God spoke to him. Yes, he heard the voice of God. His ear was open to God's voice.

Do you have ears like that? I don't mean that you can actually hear God's voice. God doesn't speak to us today the way He spoke to Samuel. He speaks to us through His written words which are in the Bible – and when you read the Bible God speaks to you.

Are your ears open to what He wants to say to you?

- You will find the third kind of ears hard to understand. Before I tell you what they are, let me tell you about something which happened many years ago – away back in the early part of the Bible (Exodus 21 v1-6).

In those days there were slaves who were owned by their master. But the law was that every seventh year they should be given their freedom and leave their master and go wherever they wanted to go. But there were sometimes slaves who loved their master so much they didn't want to leave him but wanted to keep on serving him. When this happened, and to show that he wanted to stay, the slave placed his ear against the door of the house and his master pierced a hole in it. And so he had a **PIERCED EAR** (*Show words*) and that showed that he wanted to serve his master forever. So a pierced ear stood for service.

Some of you boys and girls are Christians. You used to have **CLOSED EARS**, and then they became **OPEN EARS** when you trusted the Lord Jesus. I hope that you want to love and serve your Master forever. You don't need to get your **EAR PIERCED** but you need to tell the Lord Jesus that you love Him and that you want to be His and serve Him with all your heart.

All Children
WHAT GIFT IS BEST?

TRUTH: The Lord Jesus wants our love – more than anything else.

VISUALS:

Prepare three gift boxes with wrapping and bows. In the first put the words “A new home”, in the second the words “A rickshaw” and in the third the words “My love”.

LESSON:

Are you thinking about gifts – gifts you are going to give at Christmas? Or perhaps gifts you hope to receive? Do you know what is the very best gift you can give or receive?

On a little farm in China a farmer lived with three sons. The first son grew up and left the farm. He moved to a big city and became a rich businessman.

The second son grew up and also left the farm. He took a job with the government and became an important official.

But when the third son was born he decided to be a farmer. He bought a little farm some miles away from his father's home.

The farmer missed his sons. He grew old and lonely. Because his sons were busy and far away they did not come to see him. Maybe you are a little bit like these sons. You are so busy with so many things you have no time to think about God.

When the farmer was seventy-five years old, kind friends planned a birthday party for him. The three sons and many friends were invited. It was to be a happy celebration. The father was excited. Soon he would see his sons!

On his birthday the farmer sat watching and waiting for his sons to come. At last he saw a rickshaw coming up the road. “Ah, my first son”, he said to himself. But when the rickshaw came near he was disappointed. In it was only his son's wife.

“Isn't my son coming?” asked the old farmer.

“He is too busy, dear father”, said his daughter-in-law. “But he has a beautiful gift for you (*Open first box*). He has bought you a little home in the village. It will be much nicer than this farmhouse.”

The old man smiled sadly, “That is a fine gift”, he said.

Just then he saw another rickshaw coming up the road. There that must be my second son, he thought. But in the rickshaw was only his second daughter-in-law.

“Your second son is sorry he could not come”, she said. “He is sending you a gift you will enjoy using (*Open second box*). It is a pretty rickshaw and he is sending a man to pull it for you.”

“That is kind of him”, nodded the old man slowly. But he looked sad. He kept watching the road and waiting for his youngest son. Finally, he saw a group of people walking up the road. It was the third son, and behind him came his family. The old father beamed. He hurried to meet his son and to greet his wife and family.

The third son bowed his head politely. “Father, I am sorry we are late”, he said, “and I am sorry we could not bring you a gift. My farm is small and the crops were poor this year. All we could do is come to see you and tell you we love you” (*Open third box*).

The old farmer wiped away happy tears and said, “My son, you have brought me the best gift of all. You came yourself to tell me you loved me!” We may try to please God by doing all kinds of good things, but what He really wants is our heart. He wants us to turn from our sin and trust the Lord Jesus as our Saviour.

Christmas is the birthday of our Saviour Who was born on earth to make a way for us to live in Heaven – because He loves you so much. What will you give Him on His birthday? Most of all He wants you to trust Him as your Saviour and to give Him your love. Will He be disappointed? He says to each of you “*My son give me your heart*” (Proverbs 23 v26).

All Children
A LETTER WHICH COULDN'T BE MAILED

TRUTH: God wants you to love Him – and tell Him that you love Him.

VISUALS:

Prepare a large envelope. Put the word “God” on the front of it and then write on a piece of paper the little letter in the outlined box below. Put it inside the envelope – and read it out when you come to it in the lesson.

LESSON:

Jim sat at his desk and stared at the zig-zag crack in the wall. But he didn't really see the crack. He was thinking. His teacher, Mr Weaver, had said, "Today, let's write a letter of thanks to someone. We will each write to a friend or a relative to thank them for something they have given us or done for us. I'll give each one of you a sheet of writing paper and an envelope to put it in. Then you can mail the letter if you like."

Jim was trying to decide to whom he would write his letter of thanks. Suddenly he sat up straight. He had an idea. He smiled to himself at his good idea. I know what I'll do, he thought. I'll write to the Person Who loves me most of all and has done the most for me.

He picked up his pencil and began to write. He wrote carefully in big, round letters. He tried to stay on the lines. It didn't take him long. He knew just what he wanted to say. Soon he was finished. He signed his name plainly below his letter and folded it to fit into the envelope.

At last all the other children were finished writing their letters. Then Mr Weaver said, "Before you put your letters into the envelope you may read them to the class."

One after the other the boys and girls stood and read their letters. There were letters to uncles, grandmothers, dads, mothers, cousins, brothers and sisters. There were long letters, short letters, funny letters, and happy letters. Finally it was Jim's turn to read what he had written. He stood and read.

Dear God,

I'm writing this letter to thank You for the best gift in the world. I thank You for giving the Lord Jesus to be my Saviour. I know You love me very much. You gave the Lord Jesus to die on the cross for me. Thank You for forgiving my sins because I believe in Him.

Please be with me. Keep me from doing wrong.

With love,

Jim.

It was very quiet in the room when Jim sat down. The children looked at each other in surprise. Not one of them had ever thought of writing a letter to God.

Mr. Weaver was pleased with all the letters but especially with Jim's. He said, "We were remembering to thank others for their gifts and kindness to us. But Jim's letter reminds us not to forget to say "thank you" to God, too. The Bible says, '*It is good thing to give thanks unto the Lord*' " (Psalm 92 v1).

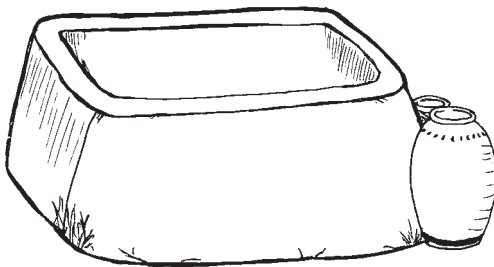
Why did Jim decide to write his letter to God? Do you believe God loves you and sent the Lord Jesus to die for your sins too? Have you trusted the Lord Jesus as your Saviour? If you have trusted Him, have you thanked Him for all He has done for you?

All Children
THE SOURCE OF TRUE HAPPINESS

TRUTH: God wants His children to be truly happy.

VISUALS:

Make six wells from light cardboard using this pattern enlarged, five wells with the following words printed on them and one well with the words LORD JESUS: This lesson is more suited for junior teens.



MONEY
SPORT
FRIENDS
TV and COMPUTER
GAMES
DRUGS and ALCOHOL

LESSON:

God wants us to be happy – and He is ready to give us that happiness. I mean true happiness – not a happiness which comes and goes but one which is deep and which lasts forever.

Away back in Bible times, the land where people lived and worked was very dry. They got most of their water from wells which looked like this

(*Show one well*). And then the water from these wells was stored in a tank or cistern. That water was very important for them because they needed the water for many things. So if the well ran dry or if the cistern was broken they had no water, they suffered and they were not happy. But there is another kind of water which is much more important – and we all need it. It is the water of life, living water. This is the water which makes us happy today – and quenches the thirst we have inside. Where can we get this water? Where is the well which provides this water for you and me?

Today people are looking for happiness and are building wells or cisterns for themselves with water in them which they think will make them happy. The Bible speaks about people like this (Jeremiah 2 v13) – people who had turned their backs on God. They wanted to be happy and so they made themselves wells and cisterns – only to find they could hold no water. They do for a time – but, before long, the wells or cisterns are broken and the water of happiness is gone (*Show each card as you speak about it*).

- Some people think that money and riches are the answer and that they will bring happiness (*Show first card*). For a time, yes! But before long the water is gone. The Bible tells us of a man whose whole aim in life was to be rich (Luke 12 v16-21). He built new houses; he had more and more money. But then he died – and the riches were no help to him – and God called him a fool.
- Some people think that sport is the answer (*Show second card*). Sport is good – and can give much pleasure to those who play and those who watch. But it is not the answer for complete, lasting joy and happiness – especially if your team is losing!
- It is good to have friends (*third card*) and they can give us much joy. But friendship doesn't always last – and friends can let us down. They are not the answer.
- Many of us think that entertainment is the answer (*fourth card*). We watch TV and play with computer games – and they are all good fun if they don't get a grip on us. But eventually they wear off and we are looking for something new. Have you heard the story of the man who went to the doctor and told him he was deeply depressed and unhappy, and asked for help. The doctor suggested that he should go to the circus which was in town at that time. "You will really enjoy the clown", he said, "He will make you happy."

The man replied, "I am that clown."

- Some people look for happiness by using drugs and alcohol (*Fifth card*). I hope you don't and that you never will. These help them to forget their problems for a time – but these problems all come back again afterwards. And in the meantime their health has suffered.
- There is only one way to true happiness and joy – and that is God's way (*Sixth card*).

The Lord Jesus said, "*Whoever drinks of the water which I shall give shall never thirst, but the water which I shall give shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life*" (John 4 v14). Here is the answer. The Lord Jesus is the well which never runs dry. He is the One Who gives the real water, the living water and the only One Who can satisfy you, take away your thirst and make you truly happy – forever.

Trust the Lord Jesus as your Lord and Saviour and He will give you all that you need. If you are saved ask Him to keep filling your heart and life with His joy and real happiness.

All Children **LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE**

TRUTH: Jesus Christ saves boys and girls so that they can shine for Him.

VISUALS:

One big candle and seven small candles and a box of matches.

LESSON:

Christmas is a very special time, isn't it? I love to see all the lights at this time of this year – on the trees, through the windows of the houses and even on the houses themselves.

The world was a very dark place before that very first Christmas – the darkness of sin was everywhere, and there was no hope of salvation or forgiveness or real joy for anyone.

And then the Lord Jesus was born. He came into our world to be the light of the world (John 9 v5), and to defeat and do away with the darkness of sin. This big candle stands for the Lord Jesus (*light it with a match*),

and it stands for the light He brought into our dark world when He was born at the very first Christmas.

But the reason He came was that we boys and girls would be saved from the darkness of sin, and that we would become lights in our dark world – lights which other people could see.

And so if you turn from the darkness of the sin in your life and if you trust the Lord Jesus as your Saviour you will become a little light of the world (Matthew 5 v14). He will give you eternal life (*light first small candle from the big one*), and He will forgive all your sin (*light second small candle*). You will have His joy in your heart (*light third candle*); and you will have real peace within (*light fourth candle*). He will give you hope for the future (*light fifth candle*) and He will give you strength to live a good life now in the present (*light sixth candle*). And you will have love in your heart for Him and for other people (*light seventh candle*).

And all of these wonderful blessings will help you to shine and be a light in the part of the world where you live – at home, in school, on the football pitch and wherever you go.

Turn from the darkness of sin and trust the Lord Jesus, the Light of the World as your Saviour – and then you will become little lights in the world (Matthew 5 v14).

All Children **GOD SPEAKS TO YOU**

TRUTH: God speaks to you through the Bible

VISUALS:

Two pieces of flat stone, a scroll made out of long piece of wall paper glued at each end to round sticks, two Bible verses on two pieces of cardboard (with one word missing on one of them), and a Bible.

LESSON:

Have you ever wondered how we got our Bible? (*Hold it up*). You know that the Bible is the Word of God. In it God speaks to you and me. But how was it written? Did God write it? How? When?

- First of all God gave the Ten Commandments to Moses – by writing them Himself on both sides of two flat pieces of stone like these (*Show them*). (Exodus 31 v18). Can you remember any of these Ten Commandments? (*Give an opportunity to respond*).

That was the only part of the Bible which God actually wrote Himself. When Moses came down the mountain after receiving these commandments written by God on stone he saw that his people had started to worship idols. So he broke these two pieces of stone (Exodus 32 v19). But God later wrote them out again on two more pieces of stone like this.

The children of Israel kept these two special pieces of stone for many years in the place where they worshipped God. But no one knows if they still exist or where they are today. God expects us to obey His special rules. They are written for us in Exodus 20. We can only do that with the help of the Lord Jesus. Why? - because He kept God's special rules perfectly.

- The rest of the Bible was written by men on scrolls like this (*Show it*). But it was God who showed them what to write. These scrolls were made of a special paper called papyrus made from reeds which were crushed into a pulp and then rolled out and dried. They were read like this (*Demonstrate*).

The first man to write down the words of God was Moses – and what he wrote can be found in the first five books of our Bible.

- None of these scrolls in which the words of God were written now exist or can be found today. But copies were made by men called scribes onto other scrolls, and then later on to manuscripts and then copies were made of these – and so on down through the years. But the men who made the copies were very, very careful about how they did so in order that there would be no mistakes. They counted every letter of every word they were going to copy, and then they counted every letter and every word of what they copied – and if the numbers did not agree they destroyed the copy and started over again. Oh do you see what a wonderful Bible we have? God expects us to read it and obey it.

For example if I was a scribe and I wanted to copy this Bible verse I would count all the letters and all the words first of all (*Do so with first verse*). Then I would make a copy of it and count again (*Do so*

with second verse). “Oh dear, there is something wrong! So I will destroy this copy (*Do so*) and start over again.

- As a result of all these copies we now have one modern Bible (*Show one*). The Word of God is not any more on stones or scrolls. After the printing press was discovered the Word of God could be printed on paper and it is now printed and bound into this one book.

I do trust you will read it. It is the result of many men’s work – but it is especially important because it is God’s Word and He speaks to you through it.

All Children

LISTEN AND LEARN

1)	ḥaltāt
2)	ᾠμαρτία
3)	peccatum
4)	SIN
5)	सिंह

Pronunciation

1. cata
2. hamartia
3. peckatum
5. pab

TRUTH: God wants you to understand His Word.

VISUALS:

Prepare five flashcards. On the first one print the Hebrew word for sin (*See diagram*), on the second the Greek word for sin, on the third the Latin word for sin, on the fourth the English word “sin”, and on the fifth the Hindi word for sin. Print the pronunciation of the word on the back of the card.

LESSON:

Last week we spoke about how the Bible came to us – on pieces of stone, written on papyrus scrolls. Many copies of manuscripts were then made and finally all were bound together in one book - the Bible (*Hold up Bible*).

However there was a problem. When the Bible was written it had to be written in some language – whichever language God would choose. We know that there are many languages in the world. The Bible tells us that there used to be just one language (Genesis 11 v1); but because men and women became so proud God decided to scatter them all over the earth and give them different languages. And you can see the problem which that caused and still causes:

- God's people, the Jews, spoke Hebrew. So when God wrote the Ten Commandments on stone and when He guided all those who wrote the different parts of the Old Testament, the result was that this first part of God's Word (with 39 separate books) was written in Hebrew. This is the word "sin" in Hebrew (*Show it*).
- But when the Lord Jesus was here on earth many people spoke Greek. So God guided the men who wrote the 27 books of the New Testament to write them in Greek. This is the word "sin" in Greek (*Show it*).

But do you see the problem? Many people did not understand Hebrew or Greek – and God wants everybody to read and understand His Word.

Therefore it was necessary for God's Word to be translated into the languages which people understood and spoke. No matter what language the Bible is written in, it is still God's Word and He still gets His message across that "All have sinned ... (Romans 3:23)

- The Gospel spread throughout the Roman Empire soon after the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus. The Romans spoke Latin, so the Bible was translated into Latin and then Bibles in Latin were used for hundreds of years (*This is the word "sin" in Latin*). In England every church had a Latin Bible in the pulpit – and it was often chained to the pulpit so no one could steal it.

But in a country like England very few people could understand Latin. They had a real desire to read God's Word and to find out what God was saying. We too should have a real desire to read God's Word.

- So God gave a man called William Tyndale a desire to give ordinary English people the Bible in their own tongue. So he translated the

Bible into English (*Show card with English word "sin"*). He spent years on this, working day and night – and in the end he was killed by his enemies. But, about this time, the printing press was invented and the English Bibles could be printed and distributed all over the country. So the Bible could now be read in English – by everybody, including you and me. In God's Word we discover how much we have sinned, how we deserve punishment for our sin, and how much God loves us. (John 3:16)

- And then, later on, missionaries who went out from England and America and other countries translated the Bible into the language of the people they had come to help. For example, William Carey was a cobbler in England and God called him to be a missionary in India. He spent six years translating the Bible into Hindi (*This is the word "sin" in Hindi*). It was not easy to do this – especially because his first translation was burned in a fire – and he had to start over again. But he succeeded in doing so and he also translated the Bible into other Indian languages. You see the good news of salvation is for everyone, including you. Have you listened to God speaking to you through His word?

I hope you appreciate your Bible and that you read it. It is the result of much hard work – and, above all, it is the Word of God.

All Children **TREASURE**

TRUTH: The Bible is precious. Appreciate it, love it and read it.

VISUALS:

A Bible. Flashcards with the name and map of each country.

LESSON:

Did anyone ever give you something very, very special? Something you really treasure? What did you do with it? Did you keep it in a special place?

God has given you something very special – a real treasure and He wants you to love it and appreciate it. Do you know what I am talking

about? We have been speaking about it for the last two weeks. God has given us His Word, the Bible (*Hold it up*). Here is the most wonderful treasure you could ever have. Many people worked hard, some went to prison and some were even killed so that you could have it. When Queen Elizabeth was being crowned queen of England, the Archbishop of Canterbury handed her a Bible saying “I give you the most precious thing in the world”. How precious is your Bible to you.

Did you know that there have been times in the past when wicked rulers have tried to destroy the Bible, or have tried to keep people from reading it; and there are some countries where this is still happening. But no matter what these people did, or tried to do, Christians loved and treasured their Bibles, no matter how much it cost them – and continued to read them. God’s Word can never be destroyed, Psalm 119:89 says “Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven.”

- In France many years ago Christian ladies used to hide their Bibles rolled up in their hair, and fastened them with hair pins in the middle of their chignons because they were not allowed to carry them openly to the secret meeting places where they met to read and study their Bibles and worship God. They really treasured their Bibles. Would you protect your Bible like that?
- One woman, in Austria, heard that the soldiers were coming to look for and destroy Bibles. So she hid her Bible in a cloth which she placed on the bread dough. Then she put the loaf in the oven to bake and was able to preserve her Bible. She really treasured her Bible.
- When Corrie Ten Boom, a famous Dutch person was a prisoner in a concentration camp during the Second World War she was thankful that there were so many fleas in their cells! Her Bible was safe because the guards were afraid of the fleas and did not make searches there. She really treasured her Bible.
- In Russia when the Communists ruled the country it was not possible to buy a Bible. But in some places there was only one Bible – and they tore out the pages and gave one page to each person so they could read it – and better still, learn it and keep it in their hearts. They really treasured their Bibles.

The longest chapter in the Bible is Psalm 119 and it is all about the Bible. The man who wrote it said, “*The law of your mouth is better to me than thousands of shekels of gold and silver.*”

Do you love treasure and do you love and appreciate the treasure God has given you in the Bible like all these people did? Do you read it, do you listen to what God says in it – and do you obey it?

All Children
THE POTTER AND THE CLAY

TRUTH: God made us – and He controls all that happens to us.

VISUAL:

A ceramic pot, and a picture of a potters house and wheel.

LESSON:

Have you any idea how this beautiful pot was made? (*Show it*). First of all it didn't just happen. Someone who was an expert made it – and made it very well.

Things don't just happen. And you did not just happen.

Someone made you. His name is God and He is a real expert. He used your father and mother – but the end result is what He wanted. And you are much more valuable and precious than this pot (Jeremiah 18 v1-6). The man who made this pot is called a potter – and he made the pot from clay. Sometimes he pours the clay into a mould where it hardens; other times he puts the clay on a wheel and as the wheel turns he shapes it as he wants it to be.

Do you know that you are like that clay and that God has shaped you as He wants? He is your Potter. He gave you your personality; He decided your height and even the colour of your eyes. So you should be happy the way you are. That is how God made you.

But after the clay has hardened the potter has to smooth it and take away any lines and creases. He uses a knife, a sponge and some water – until he is satisfied with it.

And that is what God does with us. He smooths us and takes away the lines and creases. This can sometimes be difficult for us but it is necessary. And then comes the big moment. The pot is now put into a kiln, into a fierce fire, and that is where it is glazed and becomes a thing of real beauty.

And there are times when God allows, or even sends, real difficulties into our lives – because it is through these difficulties that we become what God wants us to be, and we become things of real beauty to Him. And the wonderful truth is that God wants to fill us who are His pots – not with water but with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5 v18) – so that He can then use us to be a help and blessing to others.

All Children
THE WORLD'S NUMBER ONE BOOK

TRUTH: The Bible is the Word of God.

VISUAL:

Produce a large card with the word BIBLE on it. Ask a child to hold it and raise it in the air each time a question is answered. You may want to explain some of the answers.

LESSON:

This morning I am going to ask a number of questions. Every question has the same answer. But I am not going to give you the answer. I have a special assistant here and he (she) will answer each question without saying a word:

- Which book is the world's best seller (*The Bible*).
- Which book has thirty million copies printed and distributed each year? (The Bible).
- Which book has been translated into more than 2,000 languages?
- Which book was written by over 40 writers – all agreeing with each other?
- Which book took over 1,600 years to finish?
- Which book has hundreds of prophecies which came to pass? Many of them tell us about the Lord Jesus.
- Which book tells us what God is like?
- Which book tells us how to live?
- Which book tells us how we can have our sins forgiven and go to Heaven? The Bible says in Acts 4:12 “*There is no other name ...*”
- Which book helps us to grow in our Christian lives? We read in Psalm 119:105 “*Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.*”

- Which book can you read over and over again and keep finding something new?
 - Which book should you read a part of each day?
- Are you doing so?

All Children **GOD'S DRESS CODE**

TRUTH: God shows you in the Bible what you should be and what you should do.

VISUAL:

A policeman's hat, a fireman's hat, a soldier's hat and a school blazer.

LESSON:

Do you have a dress code at your school? Do you know what I mean? In many schools the boys and girls have to wear a school uniform which includes a blazer like this (*Show it*). So when you see someone wearing this blazer you know what school they attend.

Many people have uniforms which make them different from other people – and help people to recognize them.

Can you think of some? (*Give opportunity to respond*).

I have some uniforms – or parts of uniforms with me. I couldn't bring the whole uniform; so I just brought a hat. Could you tell me who wears a hat or a uniform like this? (*Show, in turn, the policeman's hat, the fireman's hat and the soldier's hat*).

You can recognize a policeman from this hat (and, of course, from his complete uniform); you can recognize a fireman from this hat and a soldier from this one. All of these people have dress codes; they must wear a uniform which shows they are different from other people.

Did you know that God has a dress code; that God has a uniform for you to wear which makes you different?

Actually God has two uniforms for you:

- The first uniform is one which only He can see. The moment you trust the Lord Jesus as your Saviour, God sees you as being clothed with the beautiful white garment of Jesus Christ's purity. The Lord Jesus took your sin on Himself when He died on the cross and He puts His purity, like clothes, on you when you trust Him as your

Saviour. But only God can see these special clothes – this uniform. But if you are not wearing them you will never be able to go to Heaven when you die.

- But when you trust the Lord Jesus, God has special clothes for you to wear – which other people can see – a special uniform. The Bible tells us that these special clothes are the good things that you do. The Bible calls them good works (Ephesians 2 v10). And it tells us to put them on like clothes or a uniform. When you help your mother wash the dishes, or you look after your baby sister, or you help a blind person cross the road, or if you do the shopping for someone who is sick you are being dressed in clothes which people can see. These clothes, this uniform, make you different from boys and girls who are not Christians – and, above all, they please God and bring honour to Him.

How are you dressed?

Are you obeying God's dress codes?

If you haven't trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour and are trusting in your own goodness to be pleasing to God, the Bible tells us that you are dressed in filthy rags. Ask God to take these away and give you the lovely white garment He has ready for you when you trust the Lord Jesus. Then live to please Him by doing the things He tells you to do in His Word – so that others can see the clothes which please God.

All Children

THE CHICKEN AND THE EAGLE

TRUTH: God wants the very best for you.

VISUAL:

An egg.

LESSON:

My story this morning is all about an egg – just like this one (*Show it*). This is a hen's egg but I want you to imagine that it is an eagle's egg. The eagle's egg in our story was in an eagle's nest but someone stole it and put it into a henhouse along with all the eggs which had been laid by a hen. The hen didn't know it was an eagle's egg and she sat on it along

with the rest of her eggs. And after the egg was hatched she brought the eagle up along with her other chicks.

The eagle thought he was a chicken like the others. The wise old owl who lived near the farm told him he was an eagle and that he could fly high in the sky like the great eagles. But he didn't believe it. One of the great eagles swooped down one day and saw him with the chickens. He squawked at him to tell him that he shouldn't be with the chickens and that he should be flying up in the air with him and the other eagles. But he paid no attention and didn't listen. That's like many boys and girls. They don't listen when they are told that they need to turn from their sin and trust the Lord Jesus as their Saviour.

He lived like a chicken his whole life – and later died as a chicken. He never used his wings to fly because he didn't know that he could.

How sad! He could have soared in the sky with other eagles but instead he scratched in the sand with chickens. There was so much he could have done – but his mind was made up; he wanted to be a chicken. Think of all he lost; of all that he could have been; of the wonderful places he could have gone.

You say, "What a silly eagle." Yes, he was silly. But I know boys and girls who are just like him. God wants the very best for you; He wants you to trust the Lord Jesus and receive eternal life; He wants to make you happy; He wants to take you to Heaven when you die. But some boys and girls are content to scratch in the sand – instead of soaring up like eagles and enjoying the most wonderful life of all.

First of all you need to trust the Lord Jesus as your Saviour. He will then change you and make you a new person. But when He does, He wants you as it were to soar like an eagle and not scratch in the sand as a chick. And the Bible says that those "*who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles*" (Isaiah 40 v31). And that includes you.

All Children **WHAT ROAD ARE YOU ON?**

TRUTH: The Christian life is like a journey by road.

VISUAL:

A toy car – or a picture of a car.

LESSON:

Do you like to go on a journey? Or would you like to go on one – in a car like this (*Show car*). Where would you like to go? (*Give an opportunity to respond*).

Todd was so excited. He had been looking forward for months to his trip with his Dad to the big fun park where there were so many exciting rides. And now the big day had arrived for the start of their journey. He was looking forward to the journey itself, and all the places he would see on the way. But he was especially looking forward to all that he would do when he arrived.

But, wait a minute, did you know that we are all on a journey? Life is a journey. We are not traveling in a car – but we are traveling. Every journey is like Todd's journey. It has a start, and a finish – with the journey itself in between.

- You and I have already started our life's journey. Our journey started the moment we were born and the Bible tells us that we all started our life's journey on a road which was very, very broad (Matthew 7 v13 and 14). It was broad because there were so many of us on it.

On this road you can do what you like – and this makes many people happy for a time. But the happiness does not last. The problem is that this road is going downwards all the time, and it is not the road God wants you to travel. If you are on this road you are on the wrong road.

- As we are traveling along the broad road we come to a cross. It is the cross of the Lord Jesus Who died for our sin, and Who died to change us. And just there at the cross another road branches off from the broad road. It looks very narrow, there don't seem to be many people on it – but it is going upwards. This is the road God wants us to travel on; and if you trust the Lord Jesus as your Saviour you will start to walk on this narrow road – and you will continue on it for the rest of your life.

Yes, the road is narrow, but you have a special Friend Who will walk on it with you, Who will help you and guide you – and give

you real joy and happiness; and you will have many good friends. And the best thing about this road is where it takes you to – and what you can look forward to when the journey ends.

Are you on this narrow road? Trust Jesus Christ and you will be on it today.

- But every journey has a finish. And because there are two roads there are two possible finishes. The broad road leads to separation from God and unhappiness forever. The narrow road leads to Heaven, eternal life and eternal happiness.

You are on a journey. Make sure you are on the right road.

All Children
YOU'RE IN THE ARMY NOW I

TRUTH: Everyone who has trusted Jesus Christ as their Saviour is in God's army.

VISUAL:

A large photograph or drawing of a soldier – or, better still, if possible arrange for someone who is a soldier to be with you, in full uniform, while you are speaking.



LESSON:

Many boys would like to be a soldier. Would you? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). I am afraid you are too young to join the army like our friend here (*Point*). But this book, the Bible, tells you that you can be a soldier today (2 Timothy 2 v3, 4) – not in your country's army – but in God's army. Every boy or girl, man or woman, who has trusted Jesus

Christ as their Saviour is a soldier – one of God's soldiers in God's army.

I have four questions I would like to ask:

- Firstly how can you and I become a soldier in God's army?

Our friend here became a soldier in our country's army when he signed up to be one. He made a decision, "I want to be a soldier" and so he went to the recruiting officer and signed up to be one.

And you will become a soldier in God's army when you sign up. You don't need to go to an office or write your signature on a piece of paper. You need to go to the Lord Jesus and tell Him that you want to be a Christian, that you know you are a sinner and want to be saved – and you will be enrolled immediately in God's army.

- My second question is how do you know our friend is a soldier?

That's an easy one to answer, isn't it? He is wearing a uniform – and everyone who sees him in his uniform knows he is a soldier.

And everyone in God's army has a uniform to wear – or one they should be wearing – and the Bible tells us what that uniform is. Christians are told to put on – or dress themselves – with kindness, patience, gentleness, love and a forgiving spirit (Colossians 3 v12-14). This is the uniform which other people will see – and will know, by what you do, that you are a Christian – a soldier in God's army.

- And now our third question. And I could ask our friend for the answer. Is it easy to be a soldier?

I know what his answer would be. "No, it's not. It is often dangerous and I have to obey orders and I am not free to do whatever I want to do."

And the Bible says the same thing. One verse says, "*Endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ*" (2 Timothy 2 v3). It is not always easy to be a Christian soldier. You are not always free to do what you want to do, you have to obey orders – and other boys and girls might laugh at you

- And my last question is – are you on your own as a soldier – or is there anyone to help you?

And my friend could reply that he is only one of a battalion of men – all of whom work and fight together and who help each other – and he would also tell us that he has a commander who helps him, guides him, supplies all his needs and tells him what to do.

And we who are God's soldiers have a Commanding Officer called Jesus Christ. The Bible calls us "*good soldiers of Jesus Christ*" (2 Timothy 2 v3). He tells us what to do in His Word, the Bible, when we need His instructions – and He looks after us, guides us and supplies all our need. And don't forget that you have other soldiers who are also in God's army and who are with you and ready to help you.

So if you are a soldier in God's army you don't need to worry. You have a Commander Who loves you and will look after you at all times.

All Children
YOU'RE IN THE ARMY NOW II

TRUTH: Everyone who has trusted Jesus Christ as their Saviour is in God's army.

VISUAL:

A large photograph or drawing of a soldier – or, better still, if possible arrange for someone who is a soldier to be with you, in full uniform, while you are speaking.

LESSON:

Do you remember our lesson from last week? The Bible tells us that every boy or girl who has trusted Jesus Christ as their Saviour is a soldier in God's army. Do you remember the four questions we asked?

Have you signed up? Have you trusted Jesus Christ?

If you have are you wearing your uniform? Do you remember what that is? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). Are you finding it difficult at times to be a Christian soldier? Always remember that you have a Commanding Officer, Jesus Christ, Who will help you – and also your fellow soldiers will help you.

But I have four more questions about being a soldier in God's army:

- Can a soldier live the same kind of life as those who are not soldiers?

Of course not. Our friend here is often away from his home and family and he could even be told to go to another country to fight in a war there.

And it is the same with soldiers in God's army. We are not the same as those who are not Christians. The Bible tells us that Christian soldiers should not get involved in many things in this life like those who are not Christians (2 Timothy 2 v4). Their first job is to please their Commander Jesus Christ – and not themselves.

- My second question is – who do we Christian soldiers fight?

You certainly should not fight your brother or sister – or any other person. You are in a war and you have two enemies to fight and beat:

- ✓ First of all you have an enemy outside of you. He is the devil and he will do all he can to get you to sin, and also to start you thinking that you are not a Christian – and you need to win your battles with him.
- ✓ And you have also an enemy inside you. Although you are saved your old nature is still there and it will always be tempting you to sin. And you need to control it.

- But the third question is – how can you defeat your two enemies? Every soldier has weapons. Our friend here has a rifle which he uses to shoot with. We don't have any guns and we don't want any.

But we do have two wonderful weapons which will help us defeat our two enemies:

- ✓ God has given us His Word, the Bible, as our first weapon (*Show it*). The Bible calls itself a sword (Ephesians 6 v17). As you read it and memorize it you can use it to defeat your enemies. If the devil whispers you are not saved use Acts 16 v31 to tell him you are. If your old nature tempts you to tell a lie repeat Exodus 20 v16 and this will help you to control it and defeat it.
- ✓ But God has given you another weapon. The Holy Spirit now lives inside you and He is ready to help you deal with defeat

All Children **LOST**

TRUTH: The Christian life is like a maze.

VISUAL:

A card with the word LOST and a card with the word CALL.

LESSON:

Near London there is an interesting place you can visit called Hampton Court. This is a big house which is very full of history but round the house are magnificent gardens. The most famous part of the gardens is the Maze. It is made of rows and rows of bushes and shrubs, all taller than your head and going in different directions with many turns to the right and to the left. People get LOST (*Show card*) for hours in the passages of the maze and just cannot find their way back to the exit. In the centre of the maze there is a pair of high steps. So if you are lost and find these steps you can go up the steps and see the right way to go out but once you come down and try to get out you still lose your bearings and get lost again.

However, if you are lost and cannot even find the steps, there is a man in the maze whose duty it is to help all the lost people. If you CALL (*Show card*), "I'm lost! Can you help me?" The man will climb the steps and shout directions to you until you eventually find the way out.

This maze is very like our lives because people are often confused and lose their way in life. They go up and down and round and round wasting their time. It's a terrible thing to feel lost, isn't it? And it's even worse to be LOST in sin (*Show card*).

It's awful not to be able to get to where you ought to be. It is terrible to feel you are getting nowhere, that you are taking the same wrong turns all the time, and doing the same sinful things.

This is when we need to shout or CALL for help (*Show card*), just as the people in the maze shout to the man at the top of the step ladder. We need to cry to the Lord Jesus, "Dear Lord, I'm lost in sin. Please forgive me for going astray from You. Show me the way now. I've been going my own way and it's getting me nowhere."

If you do this the Lord Jesus will save you from sin. He sees where you are and He shows you what you need to do to be saved. And also if you are a Christian and have a problem you can ask Him for help. He sees the way you should go in the future. CALL to Him today and He will lead you through the maze of life!

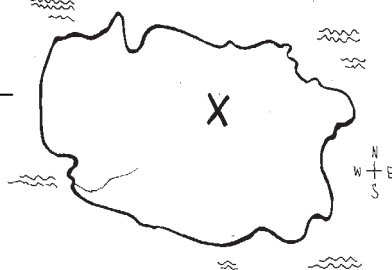
All Children **X MARKS THE SPOT**

TRUTH: Life is like a voyage in search of treasure.

VISUAL:

Make a large map of Treasure Island –
and put an X on it.

On a large card draw another X.



LESSON:

When I was young I loved to read stories about pirates, and buried treasure. My favourite book was "Treasure Island". In that book a boy called Jim Hawkins, with several of his friends, found a map like this (*Show it*) which showed where treasure could be found (*Point to the X*)

on an island many miles away. And so they got a ship, and a crew of sailors and sailed for Treasure Island. The only problem was that most of their crew were pirates led by a man with one leg called Long John Silver and they wanted the treasure also. It was all very exciting but at the last it was Jim and his friends who found the treasure.

Everyone in this world is looking for treasure of some kind. And their goal in life is to find that treasure. For some people the treasure is money; they want to be rich. For others it is to become famous. Some boys want to become well paid footballers. Many just want to find happiness and so they look and look and look for buried treasure. Many times they cannot find it. Sometimes they think they have found it – and then it disappears.

But the best treasure of all, and the treasure we should all be looking for, is to know that we are going to live forever – and that we do not need to be afraid to die.

Have you found this treasure yet? God has given us a map to show us where it is (*Hold up your Bible*). The directions are all in here. In this map I showed you earlier X marked the spot where the treasure could be found. In God's map, the Bible, X (*Show it*), a cross, marks the spot where you will find the most valuable treasure of all.

Jesus Christ died on the Cross to forgive your sins and to give you eternal life – life that goes on forever. The moment you trust Him you will receive this treasure – and it will never disappear. It will be yours forever.

But don't forget that there are "pirates" who want to prevent you from finding the treasure of salvation:

- One of them is called "Delay" and he says, "Don't do it now; wait until tomorrow" (2 Corinthians 6:2b).
- Another one is called "Doubt" and he says, "Don't believe it; it's not true; there is no such treasure" (Acts 16 v31).
- A third is called "Dread" and he says, "Your friends will laugh at you. Don't do it" (Hebrews 13 v6).

Don't listen to these pirates who are your enemies.

Trust Him today. And if you have trusted Him rejoice because you have eternal life – the most valuable treasure of all.

All Children
OPPOSITES FOR EASTER

TRUTH: Jesus Christ is alive, and able to save unsaved children and help saved children.

VISUAL:

Make two series of cards with the following words on them:

Series one – Hot, Day, Yes, Rich

Hosanna, Perfect, Dead, The End

Series two – Cold, Night, No, Poor

Crucify, Sin, Alive, The Beginning

LESSON:

Do you know what opposites are? Opposites are things that are different from each other in every way. Today we are going to play a game of opposites. This boy here has a number of cards in his hands with words on them. When I ask him he will show a word. Then see if you can tell me the opposite. This girl has the opposite in her hands and she will show you afterwards if you are right.

First word (*Show it*) is Hot. What is the opposite (*Give an opportunity to respond*). Yes – Cold (*Show it*).

Second word (*Show it*) is Day. And the opposite is? Night. (*Show it*).

Third word (*Show it*) is Yes. And the opposite is? No. (*Show it*).

The fourth word (*Show it*) is Rich. And the opposite is? Poor (*Show it*). Very good.

As you know we are getting very close to Easter, the time when we especially remember the death of Jesus Christ, which took place on that first Good Friday, and the resurrection of Jesus Christ which took place on that first Easter Sunday.

But did you know that during that very first Easter there were a number of opposites? I am going to show you four key words which described what happened – and then I will show you each time that the opposites also happened:

- Several days before the Lord Jesus died on the cross He entered the city of Jerusalem – and many of the people praised Him, and they shouted this word – HOSANNA (*Show it*). They were praising the One they believed to be the Saviour.

But just a few days later the opposite happened. Early on that Good Friday many people in Jerusalem, including those, I am sure, who had shouted “Hosanna” now shouted another word “CRUCIFY” (*Show it*). Crucify Him! What a change. What an opposite. They wanted Him to be killed.

- The leaders tried to find a fault in Him, something they could accuse Him of – but they couldn’t. Why? Because He was “PERFECT” (*Show it*). He was without sin. And many of them did see this. But they still crucified Him.

And then something special happened. The Bible says (2 Corinthians 5 v21) that the Lord Jesus Who was perfect became “SIN” (*Show it*) when He hung on that Cross. That word is the opposite of perfect, isn’t it? Why did He become sin? Because He wanted to take the punishment for our sin – and the only way He could do that was by becoming sin for us.

- Several hours later He was “DEAD” (*Show it*) and they took His dead body and buried it in a tomb. His disciples were so sad.

But I think you know the opposite this time. Three days later He was “ALIVE” again (*Show it*). The disciples saw Him and spoke with Him. And He is alive today. He is able to save you if you are not saved; and if you are saved He will help you live for Him.

- When He died on the cross all His disciples (and also His enemies) thought it was the “END” (*Show it*). It seemed that way. All their hopes were gone – and their Master was no longer with them.

But it was not the end, it was the opposite, it was the “BEGINNING” (*Show it*) of new lives for them and for all who would trust Him. And it will be a new beginning for you also if you ask Him to save you.

All Children
HEAVEN AND HOW TO GET THERE I

TRUTH: God wants every boy and girl to go to Heaven.

VISUAL:

A box of tissues, some bandages, a piece of black cloth or an item of black clothes, a night light or electric bulb, a black heart.

LESSON:

Rod and his family were going to Florida for their holidays. They had never been there, and Rod was looking forward to it very much. Rod's dad wanted to know what Florida would be like before they went there. So he went into the local book store and bought a guidebook which had all the information about Florida he wanted to know. So he and Rod and the rest of the family got together each evening to read it – and they became more and more excited as they began to understand all they were going to enjoy when they got to Florida.

But there is another place which is much much nicer than Florida – and many people are planning to go there – not for a holiday, but to live there for ever and ever. The name of that place is Heaven. Are you hoping to go there when you die or, better still, are you planning to go there – because you can plan to do so?

Just as Rod's dad got a guidebook to tell them what Florida would be like, we have a guidebook to tell us what Heaven will be like. That guidebook is the Bible – especially the last book in the Bible which is called Revelation. And when we read it we can discover a number of things which are not in Heaven and we can discover a number of things which are in Heaven.

First of all, this week, we look at some of the things you will never find in Heaven:

- There are no tears in Heaven (*Show box of tissues*) (Revelation 21 v4). So you won't need anything like these to wipe away your tears. There are times here on earth when we are very sad and we cry; or we get hurt and we cry; or a good friend leaves us and we cry. But we will never cry in Heaven because we will never be sad, we will never get hurt and we will never be separated from friends who love the Lord Jesus.

- And there is no sickness in Heaven (*Show bandages*). There are some boys and girls who are very sick here on the earth; there are some who are blind or who are crippled or who have very serious diseases or problems from which they will never recover. But there will be none of those in Heaven. Nobody will ever be sick there. There will be no pain of any kind. Isn't that wonderful news?
- And there will be no death in Heaven (Revelation 21 v4). There will be no funerals where everyone wears black clothes (*Show piece of black cloth or black clothes*); there will be no cemeteries. No one will ever die; no one will need to be afraid of death – and everyone there will live forever.
- Are you afraid of the dark? If you are, you will be glad to know that there is no night in Heaven and no darkness (Revelation 22 v5). Some children are so afraid of the dark at night-time they need to have a night light like this (*Show electric bulb*) in their room. But there will be no need for anything like that in Heaven because the Bible tells us that the Lord Jesus will be the light of Heaven (Revelation 21 v23).
- But there is one more thing which is not in Heaven – or which cannot be in Heaven. The Bible says that there is no sin in Heaven (*Show black heart*) and it says that it is not possible for a sinner to enter Heaven (Revelation 21 v27). But can you see the problem? All of us, you and I included, are sinners. The Bible says so (Romans 3 v23) and we know this is true from our own experience. Does that mean that none of us can go to Heaven? The answer is Yes (we cannot go) and No (we can). What do I mean? I mean that we cannot go to Heaven by ourselves or on our own, or by trying to do good things. We would still be sinners and we would be closed out because of that sin. But the Lord Jesus died for us on the cross and He took the punishment for our sins. So if we trust Him as our Saviour we will go to Heaven – not because of what we have done or can do – but because of what He has done.

Have you trusted Him? Do so today and you will be sure of going to Heaven when you die. If you have trusted Him you can look forward to that wonderful place where you will be one day.

All Children
HEAVEN AND HOW TO GET THERE II

TRUTH: God wants all boys and girls to go to Heaven.

VISUAL:

Produce a series of cards with the following words on them:

LORD JESUS	ANGELS
GOLDEN STREET	TREE OF LIFE
SAVED PEOPLE	MANSIONS
BOOK OF LIFE	

And the visuals from the previous lesson.

LESSON:

Last week we were looking at what the Bible tells us about Heaven. The Bible is God's guide book and, as we read it, we can discover, first of all, a number of things which are not in Heaven. Do you remember what they were? (*Go through them from the previous lessons, using the visuals*).

But this week we want to see what, or who, is in Heaven:

- Well, first of all, the most important person in Heaven is the LORD JESUS (*Show card*) (Revelation 22 v4). He always lived in Heaven; and then He came to our earth and lived for 33 years, died on the cross, rose again and went back up to Heaven. And when we are in Heaven we will see Him and worship Him.
- And also we will see many millions of ANGELS (*Show card*) (Revelation 5 v11). It will be interesting to see what they look like. Will they have wings? Will they play musical instruments? One thing we can be sure of is that they will be worshipping the Lord Jesus.
- The Bible speaks about the wonderful city of Heaven which has a street of pure gold – a GOLDEN STREET (*Show card*) (Revelation 21 v21). This city has 12 gates – 3 on each side and the walls are built of all kinds of precious stones. It is hard for us to imagine what

this will look like – but we know from our guidebook that it will be there – and we will walk on that golden street.

- And running through that city is a special river – the river of life – and growing beside it will be a tree like no other tree. It is called the TREE OF LIFE (*Show card*) – and it produces a different kind of fruit each month (Revelation 22 v2).
- And there will be many, many millions of SAVED PEOPLE (*Show card*) (Revelation 7 v9 and 21 v24), people like you and me who have trusted the Lord Jesus as our Saviour. If you have done this you will be one of those many millions – and you will be there with the greatest of joy and happiness for ever and ever.
- And you will have special dwelling places or MANSIONS (*Show card*) which the Lord Jesus said He has prepared for those who trust Him and love Him (John 14 v2). We don't know what these will look like – but I am sure they will be very special and much much better than the places we live in here in this world.
- But, listen, did you know that there is a special book in Heaven? The Bible calls it the Lamb's BOOK OF LIFE (*Show card*) (Revelation 21 v27) – and in it are written all the names of boys and girls, men and women, who have trusted the Lord Jesus as their Saviour.

Is your name written there? If it is you will be there in Heaven one day. If it is not you will never be in Heaven. Trust the Lord Jesus as your Saviour today – and the moment you do that your name will be written in that very special book.

All Children **GOD'S SCRAPBOOK**

TRUTH: God wants you to know, and remember, what He has done.

VISUAL:

A scrapbook. 12 small pieces of rock which you can pile on top of each other.

LESSON:

Have you ever seen a scrapbook? Do you know what it is? Do you have one, or is there one in your home? (*Give an opportunity to respond*).

A scrapbook is a book in which we put photographs, pictures and tickets which remind us of things which happened in the past. Here is one (*Show it*). And every so often we can sit down and open it and look back at all the things which remind us of what happened years ago.

Many years ago God wanted His people (and especially the boys and girls) to know and to remember what He had done for them – especially the time when they were faced with a problem they could not solve.

God had brought His people out of Egypt and had led them to the land which He had promised them. And now the land lay right there in front of them – just a short distance away. But they had a problem. Between them and the Promised Land flowed the river Jordan and it was impossible for them to cross over. They had forgotten one important fact - that God can do impossible things.

God did a wonderful miracle. He opened the waters of the river Jordan and made a dry path through them over into the Promised Land. And all the people were able to cross over.

After everyone had crossed, and before the water started flowing normally again, God asked the leader of his people to send twelve men (one from each tribe) back into the river bed which was still dry. Each of them was to take a rock from the river bed, and bring the twelve rocks they had picked up over to the bank of the river (Joshua 4 v8) and pile them up into a monument something like this (*Pile the rocks on top of each other*). Of course the rocks they carried out of the river were much bigger. And then the river started to flow again and the path they all had followed was submerged.

But the great monument was still standing and it stood there for many years.

Why did God ask them to do this? Because He wanted them to remember what He had done. He told them that future children would ask the question, “What is this monument for?” and then they should tell them about God’s power in making a path through the water – and that these rocks came from that path where the priests’ feet had stood while the people crossed over (Joshua 4 v21-24). It is good to remember the things God has done for us and to thank Him.

It was a little bit like a scrapbook. It was God's way of recording what had happened – so that they would always look at it and remember it. And God wants you to remember something He did for you. He did not open a path through a river for you; but He sent His Son to this earth to be your Saviour. Have you trusted Him? Do so today and you will be saved.

And God wants you boys and girls who are saved always to remember what Jesus Christ did for you on the cross – and thank Him and live for Him.

All Children **WHAT GOES ROUND COMES ROUND**

TRUTH: God wants to be at the centre of our lives – not on the circumference and not outside.

VISUAL:

A globe to represent the earth – or a round light blue balloon. A round yellow balloon to represent the sun. Two pieces of paper with the words “God” and “me”.

LESSON:

Did you know that many years ago everyone believed that the earth stood still at the centre of the whole universe and that the sun moved round the earth?

Let me show you what I mean.

This globe (*or blue balloon*) represents the earth. Would someone like to hold it for me? This yellow balloon represents the sun although it should be many times bigger than the earth. Would someone like to hold it for me?

Now this is what people believed in those days. Okay, sun, I want you to circle round the earth which is standing still (*Direct him to do so*). Good.

But there was one man who did not believe this. He lived in Poland and his name was Copernicus. Can you say that? Co—pern-i-cus. He was an expert scientist and astronomer. That means he studied the stars. He

came to the conclusion that the earth did not sit still, that it turned round once every day, that it was not the centre of the universe – but that it circled round the sun.

Let me show you what he believed. Here is the sun in the centre (*Put the child with the yellow balloon there*), and here is the earth going round the sun (*get child with globe or blue balloon to move around the other child*) and turning at the same time – and he was right. That is what everybody knows and believes today.

But many people did not believe Copernicus – and really made life very difficult for him.

But let me tell you another story.

In each of us there is a big “Me”. (*Label the globe or blue balloon with the word “me”*). This globe represents “Me”. “Me” thinks it is very important and that everything and everyone should turn round it. We will let this yellow balloon represent God (*Put the word ‘God’ on the yellow balloon*). The sun, as we know, is in the centre and the planets turn around it. So “Me” should turn round God but it does not want to. Instead it would like God to turn round it, making it happy and serving it, solving all its problems when necessary like this (*child with the ‘God’ balloon revolving round the child with “Me” balloon*). But it is just the opposite that should happen! “Me” should turn round God – love and worship Him, serve and obey Him – like this (*child with “Me” balloon revolves round child with ‘God’ balloon*). God should always be in the center of your life.

What about you? Have you told God you’re sorry for being so proud and selfish? Have you asked the Lord Jesus to forgive you and help you to love and obey God and to make Him the centre of your life? If you have never done this do so today.

And always be careful because, even in the lives of boys and girls who have asked the Lord Jesus to save them from their selfishness and sin, “Me” still tries to get into the centre again and take God’s place. Make sure that God is in the centre of your life today and that you love, serve and obey Him with all your heart.

All Children
LOVE CONQUERS ALL

TRUTH: God loves us and we should love Him.

VISUAL:

A large dictionary, a Bible.

Four cards with the letters L-O-V-E printed on them one letter on each card. Ask four children to hold these cards.

LESSON:

I am going to ask you two questions this morning – and the clue is that the answer to both questions is the same!

- Question number 1. Our language is made up of many thousands of words – and they are all in this book here which is called a dictionary. Now here is the question. What is the most important word in the dictionary?

What word would you choose out of all those thousands and say, “If that word was not in the dictionary and if it did not exist we would be in great trouble”?

What do you think that word is? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). Those are good answers. But I believe that the most important word is the one spelt out by these four children holding these cards. Do you see what it is? It is L - O - V - E. It’s only one word in the dictionary, it only has four letters, but think of what the world would be like, what your life would be like, what your home would be like – if there was no LOVE.

And wouldn’t it be terrible if God had no love for us – if this word was missing for Him? But God does love us; and Jesus Christ loved us so much that He died for us; and He wants us to love Him.

The word “love” only appears once in this book (*Show dictionary*); but it appears over 600 times in this book (*Show the Bible*). That’s why you know it is so important. Someone has said, “Love makes the world go round.”

- But now my second question – and you know the answer already. What is the greatest power and force in the world? Is it guns, bombs,

nuclear weapons, aeroplanes, battleships? They are all powerful. But all they can do is kill people. They certainly don't change people. The greatest power in the world is what you can see on these four cards – L-O-V-E – God's love.

- ✓ God's love does not kill people; it gives them life.
- ✓ God's love does not harm people; it changes them.

God's love can do more for you than anything else if you trust the Lord Jesus. And when you do trust Him your love can win other people and help to change them. You won't change them by hitting them or hating them; but you will see changes if you love them.

L-O-V-E is the most important word in the world and the greatest power in the world. Do you believe that?

All Children **GOD IS GREAT**

TRUTH: God wants us to be humble and not proud.

VISUAL:

Three cards with the words "WE ARE GREAT" "GOD IS GREAT" and "I AM GREAT".

Some building blocks.

LESSON:

There is a very interesting story away back near the start of the Bible (Genesis 11 v1-9). A large group of people had a big idea. They decided to build a great city with a great tower that would reach up into the sky. They wanted to show how great and important they were. So they built and built (*Put building blocks on top of each other*) until the tower got bigger and bigger.

And then they could say, "Look at what we have done. Look at this magnificent tower we have built. Don't you see that "WE ARE GREAT" (*Show card with these words*).

But God doesn't want people to be proud like this. He doesn't want people to think they can do everything themselves; and He certainly

doesn't want people to think that they can save themselves nor does He want them to see themselves as little gods.

So God decided to teach them a lesson. He stopped them from building the tower and He scattered them all over the earth. He even made them speak different languages from then on – for, before, they had all spoken the same language. The tower was called Babel but it was never finished and it eventually crumbled and fell down (*Knock down the building bricks*). You see, God must punish sin, including pride.

In this way God was showing these people, and also showing us, that “HE IS GREAT” (*Show the second card*). Not them, not us, but God and only God is great.

But perhaps there is someone here who is like those people who built the tower of Babel. Perhaps there is someone who is thinking, “I AM GREAT” (*Show the third card*). You may think that you can do just about anything. You may even think that you can save yourself and work your own way to Heaven. You need to know that only “GOD IS GREAT” (*Show card*) – and that He is the only One Who can take you to Heaven when you die. That's why you need to trust Jesus Christ as your Saviour. He can do what you cannot do. If you want your life to be a real success you must turn from your pride and trust the Lord Jesus. “*Except the Lord build the house they labour in vain who build it*” (Psalm 127 v1).

And if you have trusted the Lord Jesus, He wants you also to know that He is great and that He will help you to live for Him. And He also wants you to tell others the wonderful news – “GOD IS GREAT” (*Show card*). And your life will then be a real success and what you do will last for ever and bring praise to God.

All Children
A FAMOUS GRASSHOPPER

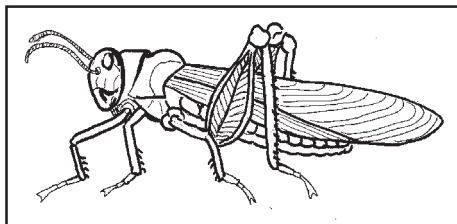
TRUTH: God uses little things to

do big things.

VISUAL:

A picture of a grasshopper

(Show when appropriate).



LESSON:

Some boys and girls think that they are not important and can do nothing for God. They feel that they have to be grown up before God will use them.

Did you know that there is a verse in the Bible which says, “*A little child shall lead them*”? (Isaiah 11 v6). Did you know that many years ago when God wanted to speak to His people He decided to use a child called - Samuel (1 Samuel 3 v1-10) – and none of the grown ups.

Let me tell you the story of a grasshopper and a little boy - a story which happened almost 500 years ago.

In the countryside there are often many grasshoppers jumping about in the grass in the summertime. A grasshopper is a large insect with long legs which jumps large distances and makes a rasping sound. One kind of grasshopper makes this sound by rubbing its hind legs quickly against the hard veins of its front wings. Another kind makes the sound by rubbing together the bases of the front wings. Isn't God a wonderful creator.

Many years ago a little boy was going home from school and he saw a grasshopper (*Show picture of grasshopper*). The grasshopper jumped a little, the lad was fascinated and followed it. The more the boy hurried after the grasshopper, the faster it jumped and then it jumped through a fence.

The little boy climbed over the fence and there to his utter amazement, in the grass by the fence lying in a heap of clothes, was a tiny baby boy. No one was around so he picked up the baby and took him home. Surely God was looking after this little baby.

His mother took the baby in and brought him up. Nobody claimed him. Nobody knew where he came from. He grew up, was very clever, did well and became very wealthy and then he served his country so well that he was knighted by the king of England. He was given the name Sir Thomas Gresham.

In the city of London, there is a famous building called 'The Royal Exchange.' This building was built in honour of Thomas Gresham. If you look up to the top of the building you will not see a weather vane, a cross, a rooster or anything like that. Instead you will see a statue of a grasshopper. It reminds people of the wonderful way in which God led a little boy with the aid of a grasshopper to a lost baby.

(Show picture of a grasshopper).

And this story reminds us that God uses little things like a grasshopper and little people like the boy to be a help and blessing for others. The Bible tells us that tiny things like ants and spiders and locusts can teach us many things. It also tells us that God uses little people, like the little boy who gave his lunch to the Lord Jesus, and the Bible shows how He can use you even though you are small or young.

And you can be a help and blessing to others if you trust the Lord Jesus as your Saviour and live for Him.

All Children

THE GOLDEN EAGLE AND THE WEASEL

TRUTH: Sin can destroy you.

VISUAL:

Picture of an eagle.

LESSON:

Did you know that there is someone who wants you to do wrong things? He is called the devil or Satan. And he tries to get you to do what is wrong by telling you it won't harm you. "Go ahead," that little voice says. "Do it. You will enjoy it and it won't hurt you." But don't listen to him and his temptations because many of those things will harm you. Some years ago a man was visiting the Isle of Skye, which is part of Scotland. One day he watched a magnificent golden eagle soaring up into the heavens with outspread wings. *(Show picture of eagle).*

And then he noticed after a time that its strength seemed to fail. It wavered and moved unsteadily on its flight and a short time afterwards it fell headlong to the ground, a hundred yards from where he was standing. He couldn't understand it. No one had caused its fall. No one had raised a weapon or a gun to bring it down. There it lay dying, utterly unable to move. He hurried over to where it lay and it was not long before he discovered the secret. He went near to examine the eagle, turned it over and what did he find?

Before the eagle had flown up from the earth it had caught a little weasel in its claws planning to eat it; and as it rose in the air the bird drew its claws and the little weasel closer to its body. At that moment the weasel wormed itself out of the eagle's grip, clung to its breast and sucked its blood.

The weasel became the conqueror. The eagle intended to make a tasty meal of the weasel to satisfy its hunger but the weasel actually killed it. (*Show picture of eagle again*).

Boys and girls, the eagle thought the weasel would make a tasty meal, but in the end, instead of him eating the little animal, he was killed by it. There are things which boys and girls, and sad to say, even adults, THINK are enjoyable but these are the very things which will destroy not only their bodies, but often their souls.

God is very sad indeed when you take something into your life which SEEMS nice and pleasant but which He knows will destroy you. The Bible tells us, "*Do not be deceived*" (Galatians 6 v7). Read your Bible and ask God to show you what is right and what is wrong – what you should do and what you should not do.

All Children
WHICH EGG ARE YOU LIKE?

TRUTH: The Lord Jesus wants to use boys and girls in His service.

VISUALS:

Three clear plastic or glass bowls.

Three identical eggs—one hard boiled, one raw (*Put a tiny mark on this one to be able to distinguish it. If you break it early the lesson will be ruined*), one with the inside removed (*Poke a hole in both ends of the third egg. Blow through one hole, forcing the inside out of the other end*).

LESSON:

When the Lord Jesus was here on earth He often told stories to those who followed Him; and He used these stories to teach them. One story He told was about a man who owned a big vineyard where he grew grapes. This man had two sons (Matthew 21 v28-30). One day he asked them to go and work in his vineyard. He wanted them to serve him. And the Lord Jesus was using this story to teach His followers that He wanted them to work for Him—especially by telling others about Him. And He says the same to you and me. “Go and work for Me,” He says. “I want you to tell others about Me.”

What did the two sons do? One obeyed his father and started to work for him. The other son disobeyed him.

But when God says, “Go and work for Me!” what is your answer to His command?

There are three possible answers—from three kinds of children.

I want you to pretend that I am going to bake a cake. So I have brought three eggs with me—and I want to use these eggs to make my cake. I want these three eggs to serve me.

- Here is the first egg (*the empty one*). Would someone come and break the egg into the basin for me so I could use it (*Let a child do this*). Oh dear! There's nothing in it. The egg is empty. That's no good. I cannot use it.

And some boys and girls are like this egg. Their lives are empty because the Lord Jesus is not living in them. So He cannot use them. They cannot serve Him. Are you like this egg? Ask the Lord Jesus to come into your life and save you—and then He will be able to use you.

- Let's try our second egg (*the hard boiled egg*). Would someone like to break this egg for me and pour it into the bowl (*Let a child do this*). Oh dear! It doesn't work. There is something inside the egg but it is hard and I couldn't possibly use it to make a cake. So that's no good.

And there are some boys and girls like this hard boiled egg. They are not empty. They have asked the Lord Jesus to come into their lives – but they don't love Him as much as they should and they don't serve Him the way they should. Their hearts have become a little hard – just like this egg.

- Oh dear what am I going to do? I just have one egg left (*Show egg*). Would someone like to come and break this for me (*Have a child do this*). Oh wonderful! This is an egg I can use to help make my cake. It is ready to go!

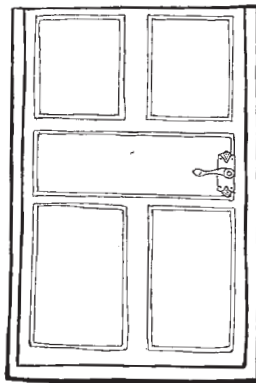
I hope we are all like this egg – ready to go, ready to serve Him. I trust we will all be like that second son – who obeyed his father and started to serve him and work in his vineyard.

All Children
ONLY ONE DOOR

TRUTH: There is only one way of salvation – for everyone.

VISUALS:

Using the pattern given make two cardboard doors – one big and one small.



LESSON:

I have a special talk for you this morning, boys and girls – because it is not only for you, it is also for all the grownups here.

People who want to see a circus or an exhibition or a sports event have to go to the entrance door to get in. It is the same for those who want to live in Heaven forever – they need to find the way in, the way to be forgiven and saved.

When the Lord Jesus was speaking about salvation He used the word “door”. He said, *“I am the door; if any man enters by Me he shall be*

saved” (John 10 v9). And this morning we are going to speak about this door – the door of salvation – and who can enter it.

- Some people think that there are two doors of salvation. They think that there is a big door like this one (*Show it*) for adults and grownup people; and a small door like this one (*Show it*) for children. They think that grownups need to turn from their sin and trust Christ to be saved (which is correct); but children don’t need to do that. They just need to be good, and go to school and obey their parents – and they will be saved (and that is not correct).

The Lord Jesus made it clear that there is only one door of salvation – only one way by which anyone can be saved. He said, “*I am THE door*” – not a door. But the only door. And He said that, “*if anyone enters in he shall be saved*” – and that means anyone. So these people who think there are two doors of salvation are wrong.

- Then there are some people who think that the door of salvation is just an adult-sized door (*Show big door*). The door, they think, is only for adults. They think that children don’t need to be saved – and they are not old enough to be saved. They think that children cannot turn from their sin and that they are not old enough to trust Jesus Christ.

But the Lord Jesus says, “*If anyone enters by Me he shall be saved*” – and that means anyone.

So these people are also wrong. The door of salvation is for everyone.

- Well, what is the answer? If there is only one door of salvation and it is not an adult-sized door – what is it like? What size is it?

The Bible tells us that the door of salvation is a child-sized door (*Show small door*).

The Lord Jesus said to a group of adults, “*Unless you be converted and become as little children you will by no means enter the kingdom of Heaven*” (Matthew 18 v3).

And He said again at another time, “*Whosoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it*” (Mark 10 v15).

Is it possible for a grownup to enter this child-sized door? Yes – but the Lord Jesus says that he must become like a child. He must bend (*Demonstrate*), he must become humble and dependent like a child – and he must leave aside his pride and independence. And if there is any grownup here this morning and you are not saved you can be

saved right now but you must become like a child – and trust the Lord Jesus and enter the child-sized door. Isn't that wonderful news? But the other piece of wonderful news is that boys and girls can also enter this door. It is for you also. And it is just your size. You don't have to bend as much as grownups do. It is more difficult for them. You are already humble and simple and you just need to tell the Lord Jesus that you are sorry for your sin, and that you trust Him to save you – and you are then through the door.

This child-sized door is especially for you boys and girls. That's why most people are saved when they are young.

Have you entered this door? Do so today! It's just for you.

And you boys and girls who are Christians need to thank the Lord Jesus that He is the door of salvation and that He has helped you enter that door.

All Children **GOD'S GUARANTEES**

TRUTH: God always keeps His promises.

VISUAL:

A piece of electrical equipment with its guarantees. A 20 pound (or dollar) bank note. Four cards with the words – GUARANTEES, FORGIVENESS, ETERNAL LIFE and STRENGTH.

LESSON:

Do you like long words? Do you always understand them? Well here is a long word for you (*Show card with word "Guarantees"*). Do you know what that means? (*Give opportunity to respond*).

Let me explain it like this. Some time ago I went into an electrical shop and I bought this piece of equipment (*Show it*). You know what this is, don't you? When I brought it home I found this inside the box (*Show its guarantee*) – and it said, "This is a guarantee that if this breaks down inside the next year we will repair it or replace it or give you your money back." I was glad to see this. This guarantee was a promise by the people who made this machine that they would replace it if it broke down inside the year.

And here is something else. It is a twenty pound bank note. Do you have many of these? And on it I can read these words, "We promise to pay the bearer twenty pounds." That is a guarantee. That is a promise.

So when we receive guarantees we know that we don't need to worry. Those guarantees are promises.

But I know Someone else who gives guarantees or promises:

- Did you know that God gives a guarantee to everyone who believes on the Lord Jesus? He says in the Bible (Acts 13 v39) that, "everyone who believes is justified from all things" (*Show card with FORGIVENESS*).

That is a guarantee.

If you believe in the Lord Jesus God promises that He will forgive all your sins – past, present and future.

- And then God gives an even more remarkable guarantee. He guarantees in the Bible that if you trust or believe in the Lord Jesus as your Saviour you will receive eternal life (*Show card*) – life that goes on for ever and ever.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3 v16).

That's a guarantee – that's God's promise.

- And for you, boys and girls, who have trusted the Lord Jesus as your Saviour God has another guarantee. Aren't there times when you feel very weak and times when you give way to temptation? God promises, He guarantees, that He will give you strength if you ask Him and wait on Him. He says in the Bible, *"Those who wait upon (or put their hope in) the Lord shall renew their strength"* (Isaiah 40 v31).

That is a guarantee – that's God's promise.

And remember that God's guarantees cannot ever fail. They are completely secure. The electrical firm that produced this piece of equipment (*Show it*) and gave me this guarantee might fail and go bust and cannot keep its guarantees. Even a bank (*Show bank note*) might fail.

But God and His guarantees will never fail or go bust. Trust Him!

All Children
BOOKS AND THEIR COVERS

TRUTH: God is more interested in our inner life than our outer appearance.

VISUAL:

Several books with brightly coloured covers.

LESSON:

I like books, do you? Have you any favourite books? (*Give opportunity to respond*). I have some books with me today (*Show these covers one at a time*).

Don't they look very nice and colourful and bright? But you can only see the covers. However these books also have an inside – with many plain simple black and white pages. I am afraid that the pages inside are not nearly as nice as their covers. There is a saying which you might have heard, “You cannot judge a book by its cover”. That means you cannot tell what is inside just by looking at the cover which is often very nice and very colourful. But often what is inside is very different from what is on the outside.

And people are like that also. Sometimes the outside of a boy or girl can be very nice and attractive (like the covers of these books) – but the inside may be not at all nice. It can even be quite ugly. You cannot judge people by their covers.

When God looks at us He sees and is interested in what is inside – and not in our outside appearance. The Bible says, “*man looks on the outward appearance but the Lord looks on the heart*” (1 Samuel 16 v7).

Do you remember the story in the Bible when Samuel came to the house of a man called Jesse? God had sent him to choose one of Jesse's sons to be the next king of Israel. The first son was big, strong, and attractive and when Samuel saw him he was sure that he was the one. But God said, “No”. Why? Because He saw the inside of this young man while Samuel only saw the outside. Samuel was judging the book by its cover. And the same happened with all of the other six sons. Samuel thought each one would be suitable for the great privilege of being the king – but God said, “No” every time.

“Do you have any more sons?” asked Samuel.

“Yes, one”, said Jesse, “but he’s only a shepherd boy.”

When David was told to leave his sheep and come into the house, Samuel looked at him and saw a young simple shepherd boy who certainly did not look like a possible king. He was judging the book by its cover. But God looked inside, saw his heart and said, “This is the man.”

What does God see when He looks inside you? It doesn’t matter what is on the outside. What is on the inside?

- Have you trusted the Lord Jesus as your Saviour? Then God sees you, inside, as pure and clean as the Lord Jesus.
- If you have trusted the Lord Jesus are you open and true in your life? Don’t put on a show. Be sure that the inside is as good as the outside. Don’t pretend to be what you are not. Be honest. God knows your thoughts. You cannot fool Him.

All Children **PACKING YOUR SUITCASE**

TRUTH: God has given us His Word, the Bible, to help us in every part of our lives.

VISUAL:

A small suitcase almost filled with clothes etc. A sheet of manila with the eight names emphasized below – or separate cards with each name on them.

LESSON:

Have you been on a holiday this year? Where did you go? (*Give opportunity to respond*). When you go on holiday you need to take a suitcase with you like this one (*Show it*) with your clothes and all the other things you need in it. Let’s pretend that I am going on holiday and here is my suitcase. I will open it and see if I have everything in it which I need (*Do so and explain what is in the suitcase, showing them if possible*).

But I don't have enough here. I see a number of things which I still need. Let's make a list of them – I need A MIRROR, A LAMP, A MAP, A GUIDEBOOK, some BOOKS to read, some LETTERS from someone special, some FOOD – and something to PROTECT me if I am attacked! (*Show cards, or names as you name them*).

Oh dear! Do you think it is possible to get all of these packed into this suitcase? It's almost full (*Give opportunity to respond*). You all say "No". I say, "Yes". And I am going to do it now. Watch carefully. Do you see this book (*Show Bible*). It is the Bible, the Word of God. And I should not travel or go on holiday without it. So I am going to put it into my suitcase – and there is room for it. Now I can close it. Why? Because when I put the Bible into my suitcase I have put in all that list (*Show cards or names*) of things I needed to take with me:

- The Bible is a MIRROR which shows me what I am really like when I read it.
- The Bible is a LAMP or light to show me the right ways to go and the right path to walk on – especially in the dark, for the world is a place where the darkness of sin is all around me.
- The Bible is a MAP which shows me how to go to Heaven when I die.
- And the Bible is a GUIDEBOOK to tell me what to do and where to go on my journey to Heaven.
- And in the Bible I can find all kinds of BOOKS or stories to read - adventure stories, love stories, spy stories and war stories.
- And there are many LETTERS in the Bible which God has asked men like Paul to write to you and me – to help us when we read them.
- And perhaps most important of all the Bible contains FOOD to help us grow and keep us from getting hungry – and I really need that.
- On an actual holiday I won't need something to PROTECT me – and I wouldn't be allowed, anyway, by the police to carry it in my suitcase. But in the journey of life I do need protection against my enemy the devil. I need a sword. And the Bible is a sword and if I use it correctly it will protect me.

We are all on the journey of life – and we must be sure to have this wonderful book, the Bible, in our suitcase. But we must not just pack it. We must take it out and use it to do the many things we have looked at.

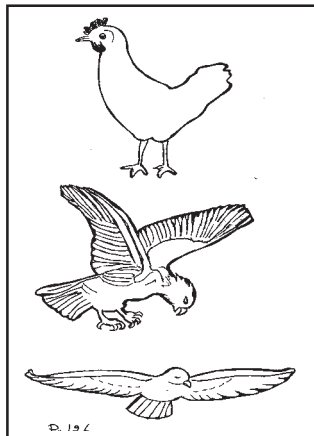
All Children **BIRDS**

TRUTH:

Our God is a God of love.

VISUAL:

If you can show pictures
of the birds referred to – do so.



LESSON:

Do you like birds? Which is your favourite bird? (*Give opportunity to respond*). I have some pictures of birds here (*Show them*). They are nice, aren't they?

It is difficult for us to know exactly what God is like. However He wants us to know what He is like. So there are times in the Bible when God actually compares Himself to birds – when He says, “I am a little bit like this bird.” And we can learn something about God from these pictures.

We all know that there is only one God – but that there are three Persons in our one God – God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. That's difficult to understand, isn't it? But it is true because the Bible tells us it is:

- God the Father compared Himself to an **EAGLE** (Deuteronomy 32 v11 and 12). And the Bible says that He looks after His children like an eagle looks after its little ones. When the eagle wants his little ones to fly, he takes them out on his wings and then topples them off – catching them again, if necessary, and he keeps doing this until they can fly. And in this way God, the Father, helps us to walk and live for Him – and He is always ready to catch us when we fall.
- God the Son compared Himself to a **HEN** (Matthew 23 v37) that lifts up her wings and calls her chickens to come in under them for

protection and safety. And so He calls us to come to Him for salvation – and, as we do so, we are like little chicks, and we are safe and secure under His wings.

But the tragedy was that the people the Lord Jesus was speaking to in this verse wouldn't come to Him and the result was that they were sad and lost.

Don't be like one of these chickens who wouldn't come under the hen's wings. If you have not come to the Lord Jesus and trusted Him as your Saviour – do so today.

- God the Holy Spirit is pictured in the Bible as **A DOVE** (Matthew 3 v16). When the Lord Jesus was baptized the Holy Spirit came down on Him like a dove. The Holy Spirit is not a dove of course – but this was a picture of Him because He is gentle, quiet and peaceful like a dove. He also wants us to be gentle, quiet and peaceful and He lives in all Christians to help us to become like Him.

But, listen, the Bible also compared **US** to birds. The Lord Jesus said to His disciples (Matthew 6 v26) “*Do not worry about anything.*” He tells us to look at the birds. Your Heavenly Father looks after the birds and feeds them even though they don't grow anything. But He loves you more than the birds. Therefore He will look after you. So do not worry!

All Children **MOSQUITOES AND SIN**

TRUTH: The Bible protects us from sin.

VISUAL:

A can of insect repellent.

LESSON:

Have you ever been bitten by a mosquito? They come to feast on our flesh and our blood. Their bites can be very nasty. And the problem is that usually they have bitten you before you know they are there. You may kill them but the harm has already been done.

Is there an answer to this problem? You need to do something before the mosquito bites you.

So you can use a can of insect repellent like this (*Show it*). It contains a liquid that mosquitoes don't like. Put it on your body and it will keep them away.

But there is something worse than mosquito bites. And that is sin. Sin is disobeying God. Sin harms us much more than mosquito bites. Sin takes us away from God. But there is a way you and I can be protected from sin. A verse in the book of Psalms reads, "*Your Word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against you*" (Psalm 119 v11). It is very important for us to memorize God's word, so we can use it when Satan comes to tempt us.

The Bible is God's sin repellent. The more we read it, study it, hear it taught, and live it the more we keep sin out of our life. Just as this insect repellent keeps mosquitoes away, so the Bible keeps sin away. And it is better to keep sin away from us, to protect us from it – and not have to deal with it afterwards.

But remember that the insect repellent put on a week ago won't keep mosquitoes away today. It has to be applied again and again. The Bible also has to be put in our heart day by day and week by week. It can't be left on a shelf and not used.

So read the Bible. Hear it. Study it. Learn from it. Live what it says. In that way you will protect your life from sin and you will make God very happy. "*Your word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against You.*" Can you say that with me? (*Repeat it together*)

All Children **WHAT'S YOUR NAME?**

TRUTH: God wants boys and girls to live lives which are pleasing to Him.

VISUAL:

Six cards with the words in capitals below on them.

LESSON:

Did you know that the Indians in North America only gave their babies temporary names when they were born. They waited until their boys and girls grew older and had earned some kind of name—a name which

described them or what they did. A good girl might have been named when she was older, Bluebird, or Snowflower, or Bright Eyes, or Sunshine, which showed how people felt about her. Some boys when they grew old enough to join in the hunt may have been named Brown Bear, or Running Wolf, or Black Eagle, or Brave Heart.

Let's pretend that this was to happen to us. Let's pretend that we would be without a name until we were six or seven or eleven or twelve years old. What would you like to be called? What name would you earn? How would people see you?

Which of these three names describe you boys?

➤ **DON'T CARE**

Here is a boy whose parents are Christians – and who have told him many times that he needs to trust the Lord Jesus as his Saviour. But he just laughs. He is not interested. He doesn't care. That's his name. Is it yours?

➤ **GLAD I'M THERE**

This boy has trusted the Lord Jesus – and he is so glad and happy that he has done so. All his sin is forgiven and he knows that when he dies he will go to Heaven. He still has problems of course – and he still sins. But He has Someone living inside of him who helps him at these times. I hope this is your name.

➤ **WANT TO SHARE**

This boy is also a Christian and has been for several months. But he doesn't want to keep it to himself. He wants his school friends to become Christians – and he wants his brothers and sisters to trust Jesus Christ. So whenever he gets the chance he tells them about the Lord Jesus, he invites them to come to meetings – and he shows them he is a Christian by the life he lives. I hope this is your name.

What is your name?

All Children
WHO IS WISE?

TRUTH: God wants boys and girls to be wise – and always do what is right.

VISUAL:

Scales (to weigh with), a tape measure, a measuring jug. Bible cards with words in capitals below on them. This lesson is more suited for older children.

LESSON:

I have four things in my basket today which are very important and very necessary. They are all used to measure things:

- First of all I have a set of scales (*Show them*). If someone comes to you and says, “How heavy are you?” “How much do you weigh?” You would use these, wouldn’t you? Let’s try them. Would someone like to come and be weighed? (*Weigh a child - not one who is very thin or who is very heavy in case of embarrassment*).
- But if someone asked you, “How tall are you?” these scales would be no good. You would need something else like this tape measure (*Show it*). Would someone like to come so I could measure your height? (*Do so*).
- But if you were cooking and you wanted to measure a certain amount of milk or flour according to your recipe you would not use those scales or this tape measure. You would use this (*Show measuring jug*).

All of these are used to measure something. But if someone was to ask you “How wise are you?” how could you measure wisdom? What does it mean to be wise?

(*Give opportunity to respond*). It means to make the right decision about something and to do the right thing. Are you wise? How can you find out? How can you measure how wise you are? Would any of these three things (*Show them*) measure how wise you are? Of course not.

But God has given us a way to measure our wisdom – and that is the Bible (*Show it*). The Bible tells us that if we do certain things we are wise (James 3 v17, 18). We are then making the right decisions and we are doing what God wants us to do.

But the Bible also tells us that there is a wrong kind of wisdom – which it calls the devil’s wisdom or the world’s wisdom (James 3 v14 and 15). I have a number of words here from these four verses in the Bible. Some of them describe the wisdom God gives us – and some describe the devil’s wisdom.

Could you tell me which is which? (*Show cards as you speak and give opportunity to respond each time*).

KINDNESS

Yes, that is what God wants us to be. If we are kind we are wise. We are doing the right thing when we are gentle and kind to other people.

JEALOUSY

No, that is not what God wants us to be. If we are jealous of others we are not wise. We are not right.

PURITY

Yes, God wants us to live lives which are pure and clean – and if we are like that we are wise.

EVIL WORKS

The devil wants us to be the opposite – to do wrong things and cause problems wherever we go. That is not the wisdom God wants us to have. It is the devil's wisdom or the world's wisdom.

PEACE

God wants us to live peacefully with others and not cause fights or rows. God's wisdom is peaceful.

FIGHTING

The devil wants us to fight other people, to cause trouble and problems. That's his wisdom but it is certainly not wise, it's not God's wisdom.

Christian boys and girls how wise are you? How does the Bible measure your wisdom? Are you kind, pure, and peaceful? Do you keep away from jealousy, wrong things and fighting? Ask God to help you be wise – and to have His wisdom.

But if you have not trusted the Lord Jesus as your Saviour remember that the first step to have the right kind of wisdom, the first step you need to take to be wise is to trust Jesus Christ as your Saviour and receive His salvation. The Bible says that, "*the fear of the Lord is the beginning (or start) of wisdom*" (Psalm 111 v10). That is where you must start. And it is the Bible, the Holy Scriptures, this wonderful measuring rod which is "*able to make you wise unto salvation*" (2 Timothy 3 v15).

All Children
HIDDEN TREASURE

TRUTH: The Bible is the most valuable treasure in the world.

VISUAL:

A Bible. Four small pieces of coal.

LESSON:

What do you think is the most valuable thing in the world? What would people pay most money for? (*Give opportunity to respond*).

I think there are two answers:

- First of all – happiness. That is the greatest wish of most people. “I want to be happy” – and they would give just about everything to have it.
- Secondly – to live forever. Nobody wants to die. Everyone will do what they can to live longer and longer.

These two things together make up the greatest treasure in the world for many people if only it could be found. Many people are looking for them – but usually in the wrong places. These are really hidden treasures. They can be found – but only by looking in the right place.

Some years ago there was a man who lived in India who was very poor. He lived in a small old house and the only money he had was a few dollars which his son in America sent him each month.

But in his little house he had four things like these (*Show the four pieces of coal*). What I have shown you is coal – but the four things he had were not coal, although they looked like coal. Three of them were large rubies and the other a sapphire. They were very precious stones but they had become so dirty and black that no one knew what they were.

One day this man had an idea. He took the four stones and started to clean them. It was hard work. He used hot water and an old toothbrush – but slowly the grime disappeared – and he saw these four sparkling magnificent precious stones which he discovered were worth 400 million pounds. And they had been sitting hidden in this house for years – while he had so little money to live on. They were certainly hidden treasure. But the treasure we spoke about earlier – happiness and everlasting life are much more valuable than those four precious stones were. But like

the precious stones these two treasures are hidden from many people. Many people do not know they exist and can be found.

Where can these specially valuable hidden treasures be found? I have the answer here (*Hold up your Bible*). The directions are here. This book is the Word of God and in it He tells us two things:

- You will live forever if you ask the Lord Jesus Christ to be your Saviour and forgive all your sin. The Bible says: “*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*” Your body will die – but the real you will live forever in Heaven.
Isn’t that treasure? Have you found it?
- You will be really happy if you have trusted the Lord Jesus and if you obey Him. The Lord Jesus says, “*These things have I spoken to you ... that your joy might be full*” (John 15 v11) – that you might be happy. You will have problems of course but, even in the middle of them, He will help you to be happy.
Isn’t that treasure? Have you found it?

This treasure is here in this book. It is not hidden. It can be found. Don’t be like the man in India who had hidden treasure – 400 million pounds in his house but didn’t know it and had so little money to spend. Here in this book is your hidden treasure. Don’t live without it. Find it and enjoy it.

All Children
STOP!

TRUTH: Jesus will never stop loving us, but He does want us to stop doing what is wrong.

VISUAL:

If you have a small group of children give each one the “stop” sign. If the group is large select two children to come to the front and hold the “stop” sign.

LESSON:

Good morning, everyone! Today I am going to need your help telling the story of Zacchaeus found in the book of Luke in the Bible (Luke 19

v1-10). Will you help me? Great! I am going to pass out these stop signs, one for each of you (*If the group is small make sure every child receives one*). In our story today, every time you hear the words stop or stopped or stopping, I want you to hold up your stop sign (*If the group is large ask two volunteers to come to the front and do this*). You must listen very closely. Here we go!

Once there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a tax collector. It was his job to collect some money from everyone in town to pay for things that everyone needed, like roads and water. But Zacchaeus kept some of the money for himself. He loved money and the things that money could buy. He just couldn't seem to **stop** taking it from other people. Over time, Zacchaeus became very rich, but he did not have many friends. The people in town knew that Zacchaeus was stealing their money. They **stopped** wanting to be around him.

One day, Zacchaeus heard that the Lord Jesus was **stopping** by his town. Zacchaeus had heard that the Lord Jesus was God's Son and that He was like no other person who had ever lived. He had heard that the Lord Jesus had healed people and worked many miracles. He really wanted to see the Lord Jesus for himself. And so did everyone else in town. There was a huge crowd all along the city street. Zacchaeus couldn't see anything. He was very short. So he decided to climb up into a tree to get a better look at the Lord Jesus. Before long, the Lord Jesus came right to the bottom of the tree and **stopped**. He looked up into the tree and said ... well (*to the children*) do you know what the Lord Jesus said? (*Let them give the answer ... or say it yourself*). He said, "Zacchaeus, come down from that tree. I am going to your house today!"

The people in the crowd couldn't **stop** staring at the Lord Jesus and Zacchaeus. Didn't the Lord Jesus know that Zacchaeus stole money? Why would the Lord Jesus hang out with the worst guy in town?

Zacchaeus couldn't **stop** smiling. He was so excited that the Lord Jesus wanted to spend time with him. He scrambled down that tree and led Him straight to his house. After Zacchaeus visited with the Lord Jesus, he was saved and became His disciple. Zacchaeus **stopped** doing what was wrong and started to follow the Lord Jesus' rules for his life.

I want you to remember two important things from the story of Zacchaeus. First, the Lord Jesus never **stopped** loving Zacchaeus. Even when Zacchaeus was stealing money the Lord Jesus loved him. The Lord Jesus loves you too. He loves you when you are doing right and

when you are doing wrong. The Lord Jesus will never **stop** loving you. And if you have not trusted Him as your Saviour, He wants you to do so today.

Second, when Zacchaeus got to know and trust the Lord Jesus, he **stopped** doing what was wrong. Zacchaeus became different on the inside and on the outside. Instead of taking money Zacchaeus gave it to others. If you are a Christian, like Zacchaeus, is there anything you are doing wrong that you need to **stop**? Are you disobeying your parents, or saying things that are not true, or being unkind to someone? Or perhaps like Zacchaeus you have stolen something. The Bible says, "*Let him who stole steal no more*" (Ephesians 4 v28).

The Lord Jesus wants you to **stop** doing what is wrong.

All Children
ONE – TWO – THREE – FOUR - FIVE!

TRUTH: God will use you and all you have.

VISUAL:

A stone, a scone (or very small loaf) and an oil lamp. A card with 5 on it.

LESSON:

One of the first things you learned to do at school was to count. It's so long ago you don't remember it; but away back then you were learning to say One-two-three-four-five. Let's say it together (*Do so*).

And that's what we are going to do today. We are going to count from one to five – over and over again:

- The Lord Jesus told His disciples about five young ladies (*Hold up 5*) who made a very bad and a very serious mistake (Matthew 25 v3). Count with me. One – two – three – four – five. They were to be bridesmaids at a wedding. Each of them had a lamp like this one (*Hold it up*) but there was no oil in any of them. They had not bought oil – and they were not ready. One – two – three - four – five lamps (*Everyone repeats numbers*) but no light. All was dark.

The Lord Jesus wants you to be ready for Him when He comes back to the earth again – shining and with oil in your lamp. But first of all you need to trust Him as your Saviour. Have you done so?

- But also in that story the Lord Jesus spoke about five other young ladies (*Hold up 5*) - one – two – three- four – five (*Repeat*). And they had oil in their lamps (*Hold lamp up*) – and were ready when the bridegroom came.
Are you ready? Is your light shining for Jesus?
- When you trust the Lord Jesus and become a Christian, God wants to use you and everything you have to be a help and blessing to others. You may not have much; but God can still use you.
There was a boy in the Bible who didn't have very much. He had five small loaves (*Hold up 5*) like this one (*Hold up scone*) – and two small fish (John 6 v9). Five loaves; one – two – three- four – five (*Repeat*). It wasn't much but he gave them all to the Lord Jesus. And the Lord Jesus made those five loaves into enough bread for thousands of people. And God can use you also – if you give what you have to the Lord Jesus.
- But it is not always easy to be a Christian and you will be attacked by the devil, and also by temptation from inside yourself. What should you do when you are attacked?
Remember what David did when he was faced by the great giant Goliath. First of all he chose five stones (*Hold up 5*) (1 Samuel 17 v40). Like this one (*Hold up stone*) one – two – three- four – five (*Repeat*) and he went out against the giant carrying those five stones and his sling. You know what happened. He only needed one stone. He slung it at the giant and killed him. But the secret of his victory was not the stone or the sling; it was that God was with him and helped him to defeat his enemy. And He will help you defeat your enemies too if you ask Him and trust Him.

All Children
STRANGE WORDS

TRUTH: There are many things we don't understand; but God helps us to understand those things which are important.

VISUAL:

Prepare cards and on each of them print one of the words used in the lesson – KANGAROO, MANNA, HOSANNA.

LESSON:

How many words are there in the English language? That's a difficult question isn't it? Does anyone know? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). We don't know exactly because new words are often added to it, and older ones are no longer used.

Some words in the English language are strange and some of them are difficult to understand:

- Here is our first word (*Show "kangaroo"*). I would like you to do something for me. I am going to ask you some questions. If you don't know the answer please reply with the word "kangaroo":
 - ✓ How many languages are there in the world? (*kangaroo*).
 - ✓ How high is the tallest mountain in Africa? (*kangaroo*).
 - ✓ How many stars are there in the sky? (*kangaroo*).

Thank you very much. Did you know that you have just been speaking the language of the Aborigines in Australia? Captain Cook and his expedition were the first Europeans to set foot in Australia. They made contact with the Aborigines who lived there. Captain Cook saw some funny jumping animals and he asked what they were called. The Aborigines replied, "I don't know". That word in their language is pronounced "kangaroo". So there are millions of "I don't knows" hopping about Australia – and you have learned one word in the Aborigine language.

This word reminds us that THERE ARE MANY THINGS WE DON'T KNOW – and we can often say "kangaroo" – "I don't know".

- Do you remember the story in the Bible about the children of Israel leaving Egypt and setting off on their journey to the Promised Land? They had no food in the desert and their leader Moses prayed to God and in the morning (and also the mornings which followed) the ground was covered with small round white things that looked like frost on the ground and tasted like honey (Exodus 16 v14). They all looked at it and said, "What is it?" (Exodus 16 v15). Moses told them to eat it and they had it as their main food every day for the years which followed. If you had been an Israelite child your mother may have given you a jar and told you to fill it with "What is it?" Because that's what they called it. The word for this food in their language was "Manna" – which means "What is it?" (*Show second word*). But God used the manna to feed His people, so although the

word speaks of something unknown it reminds us that THERE IS ONE THING WE CAN KNOW – God is faithful, and looks after those who trust Him. If you are His boy or girl He will care for you and provide all that you need. (Phil 4:19)

- Our third difficult word is one which children used in the Bible – even though it was a very big word (Matthew 21 v15). The Lord Jesus was coming into Jerusalem several days before He would die on the Cross for our sins. And when He came to the temple the children saw Him and started to shout “Hosanna” (*Show word*). “*Hosanna to the Son of David.*” What did they mean? What does the word Hosanna mean? It is really a call for help – and could mean “Save now”. The children knew that the Lord Jesus was the Son of David – the Messiah whom God had sent to save His people – and so they cried, “Hosanna”. “Help us, save us – and we know you can.”

These children knew something about the Lord Jesus which many others didn't. How did they know it? The Lord Jesus taught us that God helps children to know things like these (Matthew 11 v25). Do you know them? This word also reminds you that THERE IS SOMETHING ELSE YOU CAN KNOW. You can know that Jesus Christ is God the Son and that He died for you – and this word reminds you that you can trust Him and praise Him. You can turn from your sin today and trust the Lord Jesus as your Saviour.

All Children **MY HERO**

TRUTH: The Lord Jesus Christ is the greatest Person and Hero ever.

VISUAL:

Print the words in capitals below on separate cards and also the names of the Bible Characters:

LESSON:

Have you a special hero? Someone who could be described in one of the following words (*Show them*):

BRAVE	STRONG
CLEVER	GOOD
MIRACLE WORKER	

The Bible is full of heroes:

- SAMSON – he was incredibly STRONG (but not always very wise).
- SOLOMON – he was incredibly CLEVER and wise (but did not always do the right things). This spoiled him as a hero.
- DAVID – he was incredibly BRAVE and fought a giant and won (but when he was not walking close to God there were times when he told lies and on one occasion even got a man killed to get himself out of trouble). This spoiled David as a hero.
- ABRAHAM was a very good man – but there were times when he told lies.
- Of course the greatest hero in the Bible is the **LORD JESUS**:
 - ✓ He was BRAVE
 - ✓ He was STRONG
 - ✓ He was WISE and CLEVER
 - ✓ He **was never** weak and sinful. He **always** did what was right and GOOD
 - ✓ He could do miracles – wonderful things no one else can do. He walked on water, healed people, raised people from the dead, and calmed the wind.

Timothy did not like doing essays and he was always scared that his teacher would ask him to read out what he had written. This week he was supposed to write about heroes and he hadn't a notion what to write. He asked his mum what hero he should write about.

"Well, didn't you ask the Lord Jesus to save you just the other day?" said his mum. "Could you not write about Him?"

Timothy's eyes lit up. Of course he thought. He is my Hero!

And he started to write and write and write. Usually half a page was enough, more than enough for Timothy, but today he had lots to put down on the paper.

The teacher collected all the essays next day, then a couple of days later she told the class "Timothy's essay was the very best one this time."

Next she said, much to Timothy's horror, "Timothy, would you please come to the front and read it out?"

Timothy's face was red with embarrassment but as he read it he calmed down. All the children listened as Timothy proudly told about his Hero. Boys and girls, there is no better Hero to have than the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the Son of God and the Captain of our salvation. He is the King of kings. Ask Him to save you from sin and help you to live for Him. Never be ashamed of the Lord Jesus.

All Children **TAKE CARE OF YOUR LIFE**

TRUTH: Your life is precious; don't waste it.

VISUAL:

A silver cup.

(A children's worker in Ghana sent me this Bible talk).

LESSON:

A man won a race in his country, Ghana. He was selected to represent Ghana at an African meeting, and there too he came in first. He represented Africa in the world championship. Here too he was the winner.

He was all along expecting to receive a large sum of money for his performances. But instead he was only given a silver cup like this (*Show it*). He asked the officials who presented the silver cup to him what he was to do with the cup. He was told that was all he would receive.

On his journey back to his country by ship, he often walked on the deck. During one of these walks he carried his cup. He did not value it at all. He said to himself, "I could have gained more money if I had worked on my farm." And then the cup slipped through his hands into the sea. He sheepishly looked on as the cup sank into the sea, and thinking it is worthless, he let it go! The most precious thing you have, apart from the Bible, is your life. You need to really take care of it and allow the Lord Jesus to have control.

On his arrival in Ghana at the harbour, he saw several Ghana national flags flying. He also saw many school children with miniature flags. He also saw several security men – soldiers, the police, and the navy. The head of State and several ministers were also present to welcome him because of the glory and fame he has brought to the country. The head of State came forward to welcome him. He embraced him and asked to see the silver cup which was the symbol of his country's victory. He told him that it had fallen into the sea.

The head of State spoke angrily to him and told him that because of him the day had been declared a holiday. Several buildings had been built for him in the capital and in his village. A brand new and expensive car had also been bought for him. A fat bank account had been opened for him. He had therefore cost the nation a great deal.

But now he called out to the soldiers to cast him out of the country. When this order was being carried out the runner realized that if he had known all this he would have taken great care of the cup.

The cup is a picture of our lives here on earth. God wants us to take care of our lives and use them for His glory. We should not waste our lives or throw them away. If we do we will regret it one day. If you are a Christian boy or girl, unlike the Ghanaian runner, you know what is waiting for you when you reach Heaven. Oh live your life to please the Lord Jesus, and when you reach Heaven you will hear the Lord Jesus say "Well Done!".

All Children
IDEAS
FOR MANY SHORT LESSONS

Have you ever seen outside a newsagent's shop, or in some public place, an advertisement for a newspaper – where some startling headline is printed in large letters to catch the public's attention and encourage them to buy the newspaper?

You could write headlines for a number of separate 10 minute children's talks or you could combine several of these headlines into one lesson. You would need a large piece of heavy paper – and on it you would print the headline which would lead into your story. This headline would

capture the children's attention and create interest in what you are going to say. You could ask the children to imagine that there were newspapers in Bible times and suggest that if there had been newspapers this could have been one of the possible headlines.

Here are several such headlines:

- Man and woman found guilty at Eden and receive a death sentence (Genesis 3).
- Man banished from home after murder of young brother (Genesis 4).
- Miracle baby surprises mother (Genesis 21 v5-7).
- A dead man comes to life. Sisters overjoyed (John 11 v1-46).
- Abandoned baby found floating in basket (Exodus 2 v10).
- Strong man kills thousands (Judges 16).
- Shepherd boy soothes mad king with music (1 Samuel 16 v23).
- Giant defeated by shepherd boy (1 Samuel 17).
- A big fish swallows a man – alive (Jonah 1).
- A boy's lunch feeds 5,000 people (John 6 v1-13).
- A prisoner becomes Prime Minister (Genesis 41).
- Man struck blind by heavenly light (Acts 9 v8).

SECOND SERIES

EVANGELISTIC LESSONS

These are purely evangelistic lessons sharing the Gospel message or some part of it with the children who are not saved.

Aspects of these four basic truths are taught in many of these lessons:

- You have sinned.
- Jesus Christ died for you.
- Trust Him.
- You will be saved.

Where there is one truth which is especially taught in a lesson it is given at the beginning of the lesson. Otherwise no one truth is given at the beginning of each lesson.

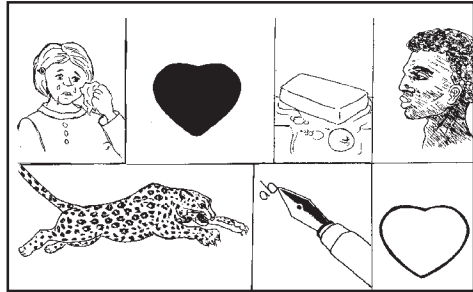
While these lessons are directed at the children who have not trusted Jesus Christ, they will also help the children who have trusted Him. They will remind them of the Gospel message and of the salvation which they already possess and help them to know how they can present the Gospel to other children. When giving these evangelistic lessons you could encourage the children who are saved to say "Thank You" to the Lord Jesus for their salvation.

Evangelistic Lesson
WHY JEREMIAH WEPT

TRUTH: Only the Lord Jesus can change you.

VISUALS:

Use pictures of the following:
A face with tears, a black heart, a bar of soap, a black man, a leopard, a pen, a white heart.



LESSON:

Do you know how many books there are in the Bible? (*Give opportunity to respond*). Yes, there are 66. Do you know how many different men wrote these 66 books? (*Give opportunity to respond*). There were 40 different men involved.

One of those forty was called Jeremiah and he wrote two books. One is called Jeremiah and the other is called Lamentations. He has been given a nickname. Do you know what a nickname is? Does anyone here have a nickname? (*Give opportunity to respond*). He has been nicknamed "The weeping prophet" Why? Because he was so sad and often wept (*Show face with tears*). That's why his second book is called Lamentations – which means "things which are sad". Why was he so sad?

- He was sad because he knew how sinful all his people were (Jeremiah 17 v9) (*Show black heart*). He wrote that the heart – our hearts – are dark and bad just like this picture.
- He was sad because these sins were all written on people's hearts with a pen like this (*Show pen*) but much stronger (Jeremiah 17 v1) – and he knew they could not be rubbed out or taken away.
- He was sad because, while he knew that soap could take away dirt on the outside (*Show soap*) he knew it could not wash away sin on the inside (Jeremiah 2 v22).
- He was sad because he knew that people could not change themselves.

And he used two pictures when he wrote to show what he meant. He wrote that no man could change the colour (*Show picture of black man*) of his skin (Jeremiah 13 v23) no matter how hard he tried, and that a leopard could not change (*Show picture of leopard*) his spots (Jeremiah 13 v23) no matter how hard he tried.

Everything looked so dark and impossible. And so Jeremiah was very sad (*Show picture*).

But in some places in his two books the sun shines through the darkness and he writes that “*the Lord is good to those who wait for Him*” (Lamentations 3 v25) and that people should “*quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord*” (Lamentations 3 v26).

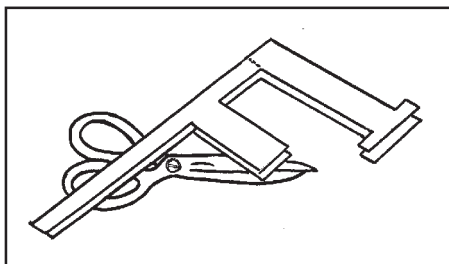
And when we come to the books in the New Testament we get the full answer:

The Lord Jesus died on the Cross to forgive all our sin (Acts 13 v39) (*Show white heart*) and to make us new people (2 Corinthians 5 v17). He can do what we cannot do – but we need to ask Him to do it.

Have you asked Him to do this for you? Do so today – and He will forgive you and change you.

Evangelistic Lesson

A FIGHTER AND A FAILURE



TRUTH: Jesus Christ will save you and change you when you trust Him.

VISUALS:

A large capital “F”, and a pair of scissors. The “F” should be made from a piece of stiff paper, 20x24 inches. Fold, making the size 10x24. Along a line one inch from the folded side, cut upward for 15 inches to make the upright. The small crossbar should be 15 inches from the bottom, 4 inches in its horizontal measurement, and 2 inches deep. The top bar

should be 2 inches deep and should extend 9 inches horizontally. There should be a one-inch hook extending up as well as down from the end of the top bar, making a perfect “I” when the top bar is cut off. Colour the “F” black, front and back. The inside of the top bar should be white. All below the top bar should be red, making a red cross when separated from the top bar.

LESSON:

What do you think this large “F” stands for? It is black, and black reminds us of sin – because sin is dark.

Does sin make us a success or a failure?

It makes us a failure (*Point to “F”*).

The Bible says we have all sinned. We have all come short of the Glory of God. So we are all failures. And because of our sin we will not get into Heaven – we would be failures there too.

Yes, we will let this “F” remind us of failure. When we first read about a man called Paul in the Bible, he was a FAILURE (Acts 8 v1). He refused to believe in Jesus Christ. He continued in his sin. And Paul was also a FIGHTER (Acts 9 v1) (*Show letter “F” again*). He persecuted the Christians, putting some in prison and agreeing to the death of Stephen. But the good news is that he did not remain a failure, because he met Jesus Christ on the Damascus road and his whole life was changed. He did not fight and kill people anymore. He was no longer a failure and he was no longer a fighter.

This pair of scissors will help us to understand what happened to Paul (*Cut the top bar off, horizontally, where it joins the upright. Unfold it, and you will have a black capital “I”*). Paul was a failure because he was a sinner. Here we have a big black “I” reminding us of his sin – and of our sins. Paul, you and I can all say “Yes, I am a sinner; I am a failure.”

When a person knows he has sinned God wants him to know about Christ, and especially that He can save him from his sin (*Open the remaining part of the “F”, and it will be a cross*). When a sinful boy or girl comes to the One Who died on the cross like Paul did, Christ receives him and cleanses him from sin. It is wonderful to know that all our sins

were on His cross (*Put the black "I" on the cross*). He took the punishment for all our sin. We will now reverse the "I", showing how sin looks in the sight of God after we have trusted Jesus Christ as our Saviour. We can now say, "I am saved; God sees me as clean as Jesus Christ." "*Wash me and I shall be whiter than snow*" (Psalm 51 v7).

Because of the cross of Jesus Christ, Paul was no longer a failure. He was saved from his sin and he didn't want to fight any more. What about you? Are you a failure and a fighter? Trust Jesus Christ and He will save you.

Evangelistic Lesson **THE RED HEADED TWINS**

TRUTH: Jesus Christ is coming back again for those who are saved.

VISUALS:

Four large matches with red tips. Push a fine needle up the centre of two of the matches or tape a needle to the back of the match. A strong magnet. A small jewel box or metal box.

LESSON:

Are there any twins here this morning? No? But I have brought two sets of twins with me this morning.

Here is one set of twins (*Show match with needle inside and one without*). They are called Tim and Tom Match. They are identical twins. They are exactly the same. They both even have red hair. They look just alike – but there is one way they are not alike.

Did you know that the Bible tells us that one day the Lord Jesus is coming back again? You remember that He came as a baby over 2,000 years ago, He lived for over 30 years and then He died on the cross for our sins. He rose again from the dead three days later and went back to Heaven. But before He did so he told His disciples that one day He would come back again to this earth – not as a baby, but as the King of kings. And this could happen at any time. It could even happen today or tomorrow.

What will happen when He returns?

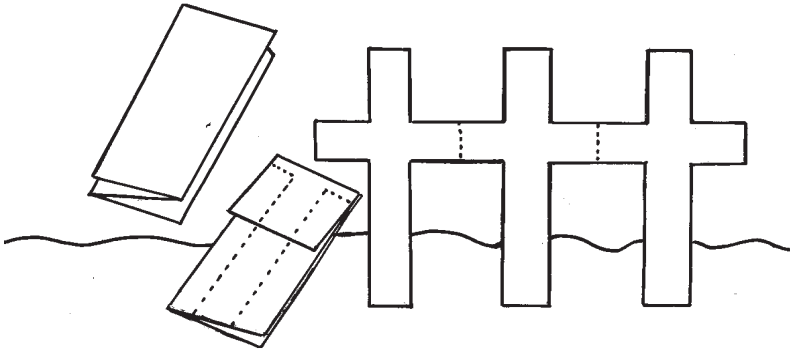
Let's come back to our two twins – Tim and Tom Match. Here they are in front of me and you need to pretend that they are alive. We will let this magnet represent the Lord Jesus. As He comes down onto the earth (*Move magnet down towards the two matches*) one of the two matches rises to meet the magnet. And that's what will really happen when the Lord Jesus returns. A number of people who are alive will, the Bible tells us, rise to meet the Lord Jesus in the air (1 Thessalonians 4 v17). But why this match and not that one? Because there is something inside this match that loves the magnet. Why does everybody not rise to meet the Lord Jesus in the air? It's only those people who have the Lord Jesus in their lives who will rise to meet Him in the air. The others will be like this second match. They will be left behind.

But what about these people who have died before Jesus Christ returns and are buried? Here are two other matches, two other twins – Matt and Mike Match. I am going to light them (*Do so*) and let the flame burn a little. These now represent two people who have died. Let's put these two dead matches in this box to show they are buried.

When Jesus Christ returns not only will those Christians who are alive rise to meet Him in the air; but those Christians who are dead will do so also. In fact the Bible tells us that they will be the first ones to rise to meet Him. Watch! (*Bring the magnet down to the two dead matches*). One of them rises up and meets the Lord Jesus in the air. And that is what will happen to Christians who have died before the Lord Jesus returns – and they will be with Him in Heaven forever and ever (1 Thessalonians 4 v16).

But those who died without trusting the Lord Jesus will be like the other match. They will not rise to meet Him in the air; they will not be in Heaven; they will be separated from God forever.

Trust the Lord Jesus today if you have never done so before, and you will be ready for the Lord Jesus when He returns – no matter if you are alive or dead at that time.

*Evangelistic Lesson***LOOKING AT "T"**

TRUTH: The Lord Jesus died for you. Trust Him and you will be saved.

VISUALS:

A capital T. Make the T by using a piece of A4 white paper 21 X 30 cm. Fold in thirds, making the size 21X10 cm. Fold down 7 cm from the top, making the size 14 X 10 cm. With this last fold on the top, cut out a capital T with top bar 1.5cm. deep and upright 3cm. wide. When open, this will make three crosses, joined at the ends of the crossarms. Colour the middle cross red on both sides. Colour in black the crosses on each side of the red cross. On the reverse side colour one cross black and leave the other white. Fold the all black cross behind the red cross and fold the other over the red cross. The white cross is now on top.

LESSON:

This morning we are going to look at this letter – the letter “T” (*Show it*).

There are many words which start with this letter. Do you know any? (*Give an opportunity to respond*) – but we will look at four words starting with “T”:

- First of all I open this T and turn it around. It makes a red cross – and that’s our first “T”. It stands for TRUTH. This is the greatest TRUTH you will ever hear. Jesus Christ died on the cross and took

the punishment for all your sins – and that is TRUE. It was you and me who have sinned. We deserve punishment for our sin. Jesus Christ never sinned. But He was willing to take our punishment and He did so on the cross.

- As I unfold the cross I find there are two crosses – one on each side of the central cross. So our second T – stands for these TWO crosses. These TWO were thieves who were crucified at the same time as the Lord Jesus. But these TWO crosses are black because they were dying for their own sin.
- But the good news is that one of these thieves put his TRUST in Jesus Christ. That's our third T - TRUST. We fold one black cross over the red cross to show how his sins were placed on the Lord Jesus, Who took God's punishment for those sins, and the result was that his sins were all forgiven. That's why this cross is now white. And all your sins will be forgiven if you TRUST the Lord Jesus. But the other thief did not trust and was not forgiven. Are you like the thief on this cross (*Point to white cross*)? Or like the thief on this cross (*Point to black cross*)? (*Then fold the black cross behind*).
- What about you? Have you trusted the Lord Jesus? Do so TODAY. Don't wait. That's the fourth "T" - TODAY. Trust Him TODAY – and then one day when you die you may hear words like those heard by this thief who was forgiven "*TODAY you will be with Me in paradise*" (Luke 23 v43).

The thief did not wait until tomorrow. He trusted the Lord Jesus today and He was saved TODAY.

Evangelistic Lesson
OPEN THE DOOR

TRUTH: The Lord Jesus wants to come into the life of every boy and girl and save them.

VISUALS

A light bulb, a spanner, a letter, a loaf of bread, a picture of a heart.

LESSON:

Knock, knock! (*Use your hand to do so*). Oh, there must be someone at the door.

It's always interesting to hear someone knock at our front door. Isn't it? I wonder who it could be? There are a number of people who come and knock at our doors:

- First of all there is the electrician (*Show light bulb*). He comes because we have a problem with our lights and his job is to mend the fuses which are broken and to give us light. We can then see what we are doing. And he also gives us power so that we can have heat and can cook our meals.
- And then there is the plumber (*Show spanner*). He comes to fix our taps and our water supply. They haven't been working very well and water is leaking all over the house. Isn't it good to have someone who can fix what is broken?
- And we love to hear the postman's knock (*Show letter*). He has letters for us – or a parcel which someone has sent us; and we rush to the door because we want to read what he brings.
- And what about the men who deliver groceries (*Show loaf of bread*). In some parts of the world the baker, or butcher, or fish merchant still come to our doors to sell and deliver their products. In other countries we can telephone, or e-mail, the supermarket and they will deliver what we ask for.
- But we especially like to hear the knocks at the door of special friends who have come to visit us because they like us and even love us (*Show heart*) and just want to enjoy our company and friendship.

Yes, it's very interesting to hear our door being knocked – and to discover who is knocking at it.

But did you know that there is a very special Person Who is knocking at a special door?

The Bible tells us about this very special Person. His name is the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God. And the Bible tells us He is knocking at a special door – the door of your heart and life. He says, "*Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me*" (Revelation 3 v20).

It's not a real door of course. It is a picture word to help us understand that the Lord Jesus wants to come into our hearts and lives to live there, to save us and to help us. And all you need to do is to talk to Him and invite Him to come into your life. And if you do so, He will, because He promises to do so.

And what does He do when He comes in?

- He will give you light (*Show light bulb*) and help you to see and understand things about God and about yourself you never could before.
- He will change you and fix you up inside (*Show spanner*). He will make you a new person.
- He will show you in His Word, the Bible (*Show letter*) how you should live and what you should do.
- He will make you strong and help you to live for Him (*Show loaf of bread*). As you read His Word you will become stronger and stronger.
- He will be your Friend (*Show heart*). He will love you and help you, and you can talk to Him about anything.

Have you invited Him into your life? He is knocking. Ask Him to come in today and He will.

Evangelistic Lesson

TWO WAYS

TRUTH: God wants you to make the right decision and go the right way.

2	GATES
	WAYS
	TREES
	HOUSES
	RESULTS

VISUALS:

Make a large card. Fold in half. On the left half print the number 2. Cut the right half into five strips and put the words given on them.

Fold them all back behind the left hand poster and bring forward one at a time as you speak.

(This is a longer talk – or you can divide it into two or more talks).

LESSON:

When the Lord Jesus was here on this earth He wanted people to make the right and best decisions for their lives. And He told them above all that they had to make a decision which would lead to one of TWO results (*Show the number 2*) – and their answer would decide, firstly, the life they would live here on the earth and, secondly, where they would go when they died.

And He still speaks to you and me through His Word, the Bible – and He uses this number 2 (*Show it*) to help us in our lives and in our future.

- He tells us, first of all (Matthew 7 v13) that there are two gates (*Show word*). A gate is a way to enter or go in to somewhere. This is where it all begins. There is, first of all, a narrow gate, and we know from other parts of the Bible that the narrow gate is Jesus Christ Himself. He is the door or gate (John 10 v7) and when we put our trust in Him as our Saviour we are saved (John 10 v9). But there is another door or gate. It is, the Lord Jesus Christ tells us, a broad or wide gate – and many people choose that broad gate. It is easy. They don't need to do anything. They just drift along and follow their own desires instead of trusting Jesus Christ.
- These two gates lead (Matthew 7 v13) to two ways (*Show word*). The narrow gate leads to a narrow way, and there are not too many people on it. The wide gate leads to a broad way with many people on it. The difference is that the narrow way leads upwards to eternal life. The broad way leads downwards to separation from God forever. Which way are you on? Have you trusted Jesus Christ; have you come through that narrow gate and are you on the narrow way? It may be difficult at times – but it is well worthwhile.
- The Lord Jesus then goes on (Matthew 7 v15-20) to speak about two trees (*Show word*). These two trees might look the same – but they give different kinds of fruit. The good tree produces good fruit – and it is a picture of the boy or girl who has entered the narrow gate and is on the narrow way. He or she produces fruit which pleases the Lord Jesus – the fruit of love, joy and peace. But those on the

broad way don't produce such fruit. Instead their fruit is bad and displeases the Lord Jesus.

- And then the Lord Jesus speaks about two houses (*Show word*) (Matthew 7 v24-27). The first house is built by a wise man because it is built upon a rock – and when the storm comes it stands firm. The second house is built on sand by a foolish man – and when the storm comes it collapses. This is a picture of our life. The wise boy or girl is the one who builds his life upon the Rock, the Lord Jesus – and it will last forever. The foolish boy or girl builds his life or house on the sands of good works, or money, or pleasure – and it will not last; it will surely collapse.

- And all of this means that there are two results (*Show word*). The boy or girl who enters the narrow gate through Jesus Christ, who walks upwards on the narrow way, who produces good fruit and builds his life upon the Lord Jesus will live forever in Heaven (Matthew 7 v14).

The boy or girl who drifts through the broad gate, lives and wanders downwards on the broad way, does not produce good fruit, and builds his life on things which don't last will be forever separated from God (Matthew 7 v13).

What is your decision? The decision is yours.

Which way will you go? Which of the two results will you choose?

Evangelistic Lesson

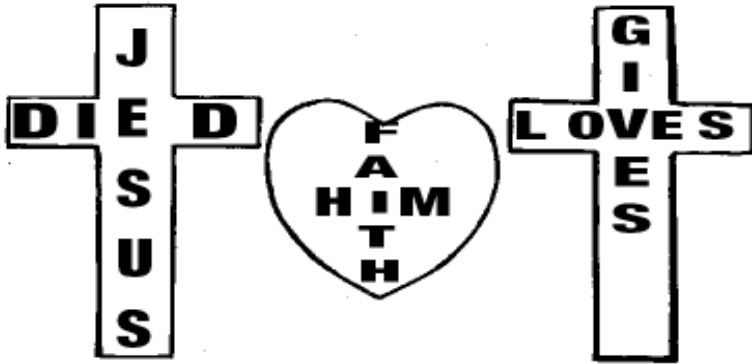
THREE ACROSTICS

TRUTH: You can be saved today if you put your faith in Jesus Christ.

VISUALS:

Make two large crosses as in the pattern and print the letters given on them. Fold back the two arms of each cross. Make a large heart and print the letters given on it.

(You could make this into three separate talks – one with each visual).



LESSON:

Are you good at spelling? Could you spell words like ambidextrous, oxygen or vacuum? What about justification or pre-millennialism? Too difficult?

Well this morning we will look at three simple five-letter words which you will have no problem spelling and we will see what we can learn from them.

The first word is Jesus. Would someone spell that for me please? (*Give an opportunity*). Thank you. J-E-S-U-S. Here it is (*Hold up first visual making sure the two arms of the cross are folded back*) The Lord Jesus is the Son of God and He came down from Heaven to our world to do something very special. What was it? (*Give an opportunity to answer*). Yes, He came to die for our sins and He took the punishment we deserved for our sins so that He could save us.

Now look at His name again – taking each letter separately. J stands for Jesus. E is right in the middle of the word “died” which shows what He did – He died (*Unfold the two arms of the cross to show this word*). Why did He die? He died to save boys and girls. The S stands for “save”. Who does He save? The U stands for us. He saves us when we put our trust in Him. And we really need to be saved because the last letter S reminds us that we are sinners.

There is our first word. Jesus died to save us sinners (*Point to the letters in turn*). But you need to do something to be saved, and you can see what that is on this heart (*Show it*). And this is something you do in your

heart. What should you do? Put your FAITH in the Lord Jesus (*Point to the word*). But what does faith mean? Look at this word faith. I know you can spell it without any problem. The middle letter is I. That stands for you and me. I (you) must do something. I must do two things. The first two letters are F and A, and they stand for forsaking all. Do you know what the word forsake means? It means to turn your back on, to turn away from, and to leave. So if we are going to be saved we need to turn our backs on things which are wrong; we need to want to be different. Do you want to be different? Do you want to turn your back on wrong things? Then you need to do what the last two letters TH say. T stands for trust and H stands for Him. You need to trust Him. Trust Whom? The Lord Jesus. What does it mean to trust Him? Do you see this chair (*Show one*). I believe it is a good chair; I believe it could carry my weight if I sat on it. But I only trust it when I actually sit on it (*Do so*). Now I have put my trust in it. That's where the letter I comes in. And that is what you need to do with the Lord Jesus. Put your trust in Him (*Point to the word "Him"*). Tell Him that you believe He can save you – and then ask Him to do so.

What does faith mean? That is our second word. **Forsaking** (*or leaving*)

All I Trust Him (*Point to the letters*). Do that and you will be saved.

Look at this third word. It is very easy. Spell it with me. G-I-V-E-S. When you trust the Lord Jesus, God will do something very special. The letter G stands for God. What does He do? He gives. Do you see this word here (*Open flaps*). God LOVES (*Point to word*) you and He loves to give. He is a giving God. What does He give you when you trust Jesus Christ? He gives you salvation. That is what the S stands for. He saved you from the punishment for your sin. And you cannot lose this salvation because it is eternal. That is what the E stands for. That means it will go on for ever and ever. G (God) gives E (eternal) S (salvation) to the boy or girl (*Point to each letter*) who puts their trust in Jesus Christ – because of His victory over sin on the cross (*Point to the letter "V" and the Cross*). But when does this happen? What letter did I leave out? The "I" and that stands for "immediately". The very moment you put your faith or trust in Jesus Christ God gives you eternal salvation. Trust Him today and receive this wonderful gift.

Evangelistic Lesson

THE ONLY WAY OF SALVATION

TRUTH: Salvation is a gift which God wants to give to you.

VISUALS:

Use the following visuals at the appropriate time:

- An envelope with an imitation cheque in it.
- A trophy-cup or a medal.
- A shopping basket with some groceries in it.
- A model or a piece of needlework.
- A Bible with a cut-out cross inside it.

(This is a longer lesson which will need at least 15 minutes. Or you could divide it into two shorter lessons).

LESSON:

If you want something – really want something – how can you get it?
(Give an opportunity to respond).

I want to answer that question – but I especially want to show you how you can receive something very important – called salvation. Salvation is the most important thing in the world – salvation from sin and the promise of Heaven when we die. How can you get it?

Did you know there are five ways in which we can get the things we need or want, and these objects which I have here show us what these ways are?

- **A WAGE PACKET** (containing an imitation cheque for £200). Here is the wage packet of a man who did forty hours' work for £5 per hour. In this envelope, then, is the money which rightly belongs to him in exchange for his work. So we see that one way of getting what we need is to work for it, to earn it. It becomes ours by **right** because we worked for it.

People can work for many things in this life – for food, for rent, to get an education, but the Bible tells us that we cannot work for our salvation (Ephesians 2 v8).

➤ **A PRIZE**

Here we have a cup (or medal) which comes as a reward. It has an inscription on it: “Presented to John Smith for winning the hundred meters race in the annual school sports” (*or similar words from cup*). So we see that John has won this cup by keen competition, by skill, by careful training, self-denial and discipline before the race. He has won the race, and the cup has become his by **victory**. It is his reward.

People can win races, competitions and games but no matter how hard we try we cannot win salvation.

➤ **A SHOPPING BASKET**

Here is a basket of groceries (*display the goods*) bought at the store. On each article there was a price (*name prices*). That amount was paid to the grocer, and in exchange I received these goods which are now mine. These are mine by **purchase**. I paid for them myself.

There are many things which people can buy – computers, chocolates, clothes, toys. But it is impossible to buy our salvation (1 Peter 1 v18).

➤ **A MODEL** (or needlework for girls)

This model belongs to someone because he had carefully saved his money to buy the tools and material needed to make it. He had secured a plan, and by patient work and following the plan he has been able to make the model. It is his. He is proud of his possession because he has made it. He feels that it is almost a part of himself. This is his by **skill**. He made it.

People who are clever can do many things. They can be experts at DIY (*Do it yourself*) but the Bible makes it clear that we cannot make our salvation – or do it ourselves.

And so there are four ways by which we can get what we want. We can get things by working for them, or winning them, or buying them, or making them. But we cannot get salvation in any of these ways.

But there is a fifth way of getting what we need – and that is by receiving it as a **gift**.

Have you ever received a gift, a special gift? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). You didn't work for it, you didn't win it, you didn't buy it and you didn't make it. You just received it. That's what you do with a gift – you take it and you say, "Thank you". And that's how we receive salvation. It is a gift.

➤ THE BIBLE

This book is the Bible, God's Word and it tells me about Jesus Christ, the Son of God – and how He died to save me (*Take cut-out cross from the Bible*). This cross represents the greatest gift the world has ever known: the gift of God's salvation to each one of us. Jesus Christ died on the Cross to take the punishment for our sin – and to save us. And the Bible tells us that this salvation is a gift which we receive when we trust Jesus Christ (Romans 6 v23). We can only receive salvation as a gift. There is no other way.

- ✓ We cannot earn or work for salvation! (*Show the cheque*) Good works, service and ability are not enough.
- ✓ We cannot win salvation! (*Show the cup or medal*). Victory over sin is impossible – no matter how much we try.
- ✓ We cannot purchase or buy salvation! (*Show the shopping basket*). Money is of no value here.
- ✓ We cannot make salvation! (*Show the model*). No amount of skill or sacrifice can give us forgiveness or eternal life.

Salvation is a gift (*Hold up your Bible and show the Cross*). It becomes ours by **grace** – and we can only receive it. Forgiveness and salvation is a gift offered to you by God, and the only way to secure it is to accept it, and you do so by trusting Jesus Christ as your Saviour. "*The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord*" (Romans 6 v23).

Evangelistic Lesson

A LESSON ABOUT NOTHING

TRUTH: Trust the Lord Jesus who can do everything

VISUALS:

Make five cards. On each make a large O, and then put the following words in the centre of each O – BE, FEEL, SEE, PAY, DO.

This is a longer lesson which would need at least 15 minutes. Or you could make it into two shorter lessons.

LESSON:

Our lesson today is about five men in the Bible and – **NOTHING**.

- First of all there was the man who could **BE** nothing (*Show first card*)

He was one of the thieves who hung on a cross next to the Lord Jesus. He had lived a very sinful life. He could be **nothing** but what he was – a lost sinner just going to die. He could not be a member of any church.

Yet he confessed his sin and he asked Jesus Christ for mercy and forgiveness (Luke 23 v42). And the Lord Jesus said, “*Today you shall be with Me in Paradise*” (Luke 23 v43). And the man who was nothing received everything.

And if you trust the Lord Jesus the same thing will happen to you.

- And then there was a man who could **FEEL** nothing (*Show second card*)

Lazarus was dead (John 11 v14). He was past feeling. He was completely helpless. But the Lord Jesus came to that grave and He spoke, “*Lazarus come forth.*” And Lazarus became alive. Now that he had life he could feel and enjoy freedom and joy and fellowship. And the Lord Jesus still gives life to dead boys and girls – spiritual life, eternal life. You see, boys and girls who have not trusted the Lord Jesus are dead. Their body is not dead like Lazarus was. But they are dead inside. Their spirit is dead. And the Lord Jesus will bring life to your spirit if you ask Him to be your Saviour. And after He gives that life you will have both joy and freedom.

- This next man could **SEE** nothing (*Show third card*)

He was blind from birth (John 9 v1). He had never been able to see anything. How awful it must be to be blind! But many boys and girls are blind. They can see with their eyes but they are blind inside and they cannot see or really understand about Jesus Christ and the way of salvation.

The Lord Jesus came to this man and gave him his sight. Now he could see. He said, “*I was blind now I see.*”

And if you trust the Lord Jesus He will help you to see the things which really matter, and He will help you to understand the Bible.

- Then we see a man who could **PAY** nothing (*Show fourth card*) We read about this man in a story the Lord Jesus told (Luke 7 v41). There were actually two men and they both owed money – one a large sum and the other a small sum. But neither could pay. And the Lord Jesus in the story said that the man to whom they owed the money forgave them both – and neither had to pay their debt.

You and I have sinned and our sin is like a debt which we owe to God – a debt that should be paid, but like these two men we cannot pay our debt. We have nothing to pay off that which we owe. But the good news is that when we come to the Lord Jesus and trust Him as our Saviour He forgives all our debts. Why? Because He paid for them on the Cross. Have you trusted Him?

- And lastly there was a man who could **DO** nothing (*Show fifth card*) He had been helpless for 38 years (John 5). He could not move. No one could help him. But the Lord Jesus came to him and said, “*Rise, take up your bed and walk*” (verse 8) – and he did so. And so Jesus Christ did everything for the man who could do nothing. He raised him up and helped him to walk.

You can do nothing to save yourself. But the Lord Jesus can save you – if you trust Him. He can do everything for you also – no matter how helpless you are – and He will help you to walk and live in the right way.

These five **NOTHING** men show you and me that Jesus Christ can do **EVERYTHING** for those who are **NOTHING**, feel **NOTHING**, see **NOTHING**, can pay **NOTHING**, and can do **NOTHING**. Trust Him today if you haven't already done so.

Evangelistic Lesson

THE THREE CROSSES

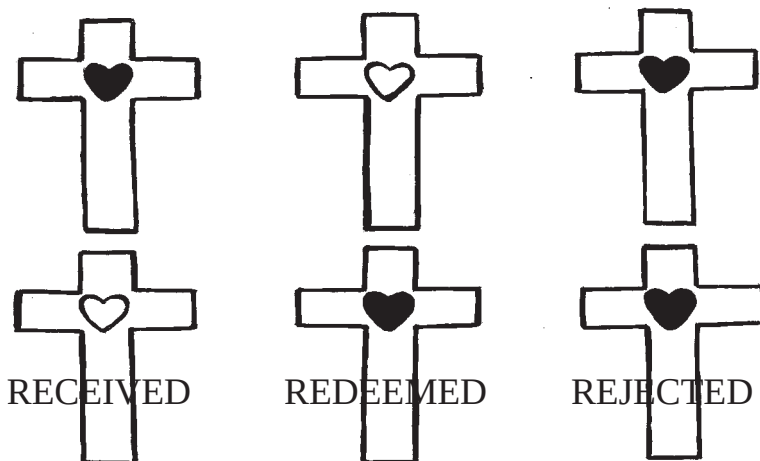
TRUTH: The person who trusts Jesus Christ is saved – forever.

VISUALS:

1. Make three crosses with white hearts and dark hearts as in the diagram.

Add the three words on the reverse sides. Hold up the crosses at the appropriate times.

2. (Or) Use on the flannelgraph board Stick flannel hearts on crosses. It is easier on flannel because the children can see the three hearts at once. (It would be hard to hold 3 crosses).



LESSON:

One day long ago three prisoners were led out of the city of Jerusalem and taken to a place called Calvary where they were to be put to death. The three men were nailed to rough wooden crosses and left to hang on these crosses until they died.

It was a very terrible way to die.

TWO OF THE MEN deserved to be punished for they had lived very wicked lives, but they would have to face another worse punishment after they died on their crosses (*Hold up two crosses with black hearts on them*) for soon they would have to meet God with all their sins (*Point to black heart*) and they would be separated forever from God because God cannot allow sin into Heaven. The two men were probably shouting and yelling and cursing the soldiers who were putting them to death.

THE THIRD MAN hung between the two wicked thieves (*Hold up cross with white heart on it*) between the other two crosses. He was Jesus Christ the Son of God. He was suffering much, much more than the other two men but he did not deserve to die. He had never once done anything wrong (or said or thought anything wrong) (*Point to white heart*). And He was dying there to redeem us and save us from sin.

I am sure that the two wicked men had heard of the Lord Jesus and the wonderful things He had done – how He had helped and healed people, and how His followers believed He was the Messiah, the One God had promised to send, the Son of God. So they mocked Him because they thought He was now helpless and they said, “Why don’t you save Yourself and come down from the Cross if You are the Christ? And then You can save us too”.

But the Lord Jesus had to stay on the Cross to redeem us. That means He died to save us and forgive our sins. He could have come down from the cross. But if He had come down He could not have redeemed us (*Turn cross over to show word “redeemed”*). So on that cross He took all our sin upon Him and bore God’s punishment for it. That’s why this heart on the back of this cross is black. This was not His sin. It was ours. Then ONE OF THE THIEVES stopped mocking. He had heard the Lord Jesus asking His Father to forgive the ones who were killing Him. He had seen the Lord Jesus staying calm and brave. He could see the writing above the cross, “*This is Jesus the King of the Jews*” (Matthew 27 v37). And the thief began to believe in the Lord Jesus. He called out to Him, “*Lord, remember me when You come into your kingdom.*” And the Lord Jesus looked over at him and said, “*Assuredly I say to you, today you will be with Me in paradise*” (Luke 23 v43). Although he had been so wicked he was now saved and cleansed because he had received Jesus Christ and His salvation. That’s why this heart is now white. (*Turn left hand side cross over to show word “received” with white heart*).

This thief soon died but he went to Heaven because the Lord Jesus had taken his sin upon Himself and paid the price for it.

THE OTHER THIEF cursed and yelled and mocked until he did not have any strength left but he did not call on the Lord Jesus, he did not believe in Him. He rejected the Lord Jesus.

(*Turn third cross over to show word “rejected” with black heart*). He died as he had lived – in sin and rejecting (*Point to word*) Jesus Christ – and took the punishment for his sin from God.

What about you? Are you going to receive the Lord Jesus or are you going to reject Him? Which of these two crosses stands for you? Do you believe He paid the price for your sin by dying on the Cross? Have you thanked Him for all He suffered there for you and asked Him to be your Saviour?

Evangelistic Lesson
LETTERS FROM THE LORD

TRUTH: Listen to what God is saying to you.

VISUALS:

Make five large envelopes with the following names and addresses on them:

- Miss Sleepy Head, Snooze Street, Drowsitown.
- Mr. Guilty Conscience, Dark Alley, Secretville.
- Mrs. Empty Pockets, Debtors Drive, Troublatown.
- Mr. Down in the Dumps, Sad Street, Gloomy Village.
- Mr Slow Coach, Snails Path, Manana City.

In each envelope put a card with the following words:

- Wake up (first letter)
- Own up (second letter)
- Pay up (third letter) – Print the word “PAID” on the back.
- Cheer up (fourth letter)
- Hurry up (fifth letter)

(This is a longer talk).

LESSON:

I have a new job this morning. I am going to be a postman.

Here are five very interesting letters, boys and girls, and we'll just open them one by one, or perhaps some of you would like to do that. We all like to get letters, don't we? So here they are. I wonder if any of these letters are addressed to you.

Here is the first one. It's addressed to Miss Sleepy-Head! Do you see where she lives? Who will volunteer to open this one? Now we'll see what is inside. Just read the message clearly. Listen, every one, as she reads:

“WAKE UP”. Well, well! I wouldn't like to get that message sent to me. What does it mean? Shall I tell you? Miss Sleepy-Head comes to church, and Sunday school. She hears what is said but inside she is sleeping. She pays no attention.

God is calling her to waken up because sin has sent her into a sleep so that she can't see and hear and feel the danger of her position. Just picture your house on fire and a fireman shouting about that danger to you!

Wouldn't you jump at once and get away from the flames? Don't wait! Wake up now. The Bible says, "*Awake you who are sleeping and Christ will give you light*" (Ephesians 5 v14).

Who will open the next letter? This letter is for boys and girls who have wakened perhaps just a little and who really know they are sinners. Read the name of the person aloud. "Mr. Guilty Conscience." Where does he live? Look at his address. Here is the message to him (*Open envelope*).

"OWN UP". The Lord Jesus is asking these boys and girls to tell Him they have sinned, and confess it to Him. Tell God about your sin and how sorry you are. What does He promise to do? 1 John 1 v9 says He will forgive:

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Do as the message says – own up. But that is not enough. Your sins need to be paid for – and that brings us to the third letter.

Its addressed to "Mrs. Empty Pockets." Where does she live? Look at her address. There are many who could receive this letter, couldn't they? Well, let us see what the postman has brought for her. Why, it's like an old bill which has never been paid, and only two words in the message:

"PAY UP". Nobody likes these messages, I'm sure. We have sinned many times against God – and the Bible says that these sins are debts which need to be paid. You cannot, of course, pay up, as far as your sin is concerned. You cannot pay your debts but the good news is that Jesus Christ has "paid up" for your sin by dying on the cross (*Turn card and show the word "Paid"*). It is finished. Jesus Christ made an end to your debt by paying for it on the Cross. Every single sin was paid for. He has paid your debts and if you trust Him as your Saviour all your sins will be forgiven and all your debts paid.

And here is a much better message for someone called "Mr. Down in the Dumps". Do you see where he lives? Just listen while the message in the envelope is read:

"CHEER UP!" One day the Lord Jesus saw a poor helpless paralytic man lying on a bed. Immediately He said: "*Son be of good cheer, your sins are forgiven you*" (Matthew 9 v2). "Cheer up" was His message. And it is His message to you if your sins are forgiven. Are your sins forgiven? If not He wants to forgive them now. And if they are forgiven He wants you to be happy. Don't be down in the dumps.

Now for the last letter. I wonder who can guess its contents? It is for "Mr. Slow Coach." And look at his address. Is there a boy or girl who has heard all of this before. You know you need to wake up and own up; you know that your sins are paid for and you know that becoming a Christian will make you happy. But you haven't done anything about it. The message for you is "**HURRY UP!**". When you are sent on an errand, aren't you told to "Hurry up!" If you have to catch a bus or train, don't you "hurry up"? If your chum was drowning, wouldn't you "hurry up" and get help? Of course you would. But this is far more important than any of these. You are in danger of being separated from God forever because of your unbelief and delay, so God tells you not to wait. Trust Jesus Christ today.

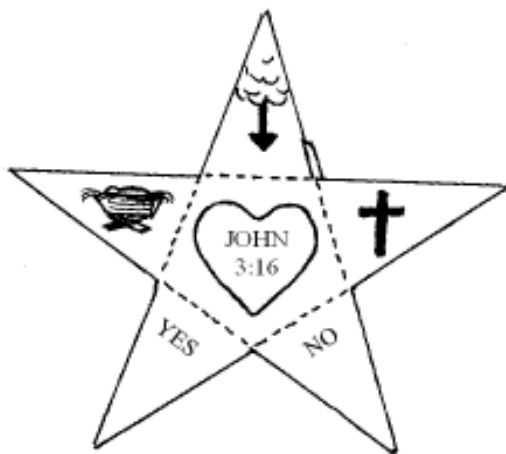
Girls and boys, hurry up and trust the Saviour. "*Today if you hear His voice harden not your heart*" (Hebrews 3 v15). "*Now is the day of salvation*" (2 Corinthians 6 v2).

Evangelistic Lesson
THE CHRISTMAS STAR

TRUTH: God shows us how we can be saved.

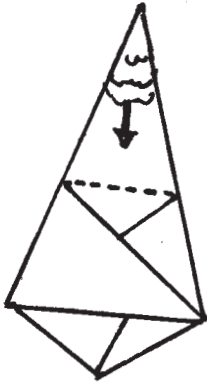
VISUAL:

Make a big star from yellow construction paper as per diagram.



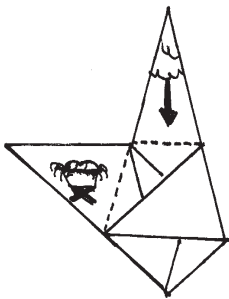
Add simple drawings as shown and fold points in on dotted lines so the points will be in the correct order as you give the Gospel message below.

LESSON:



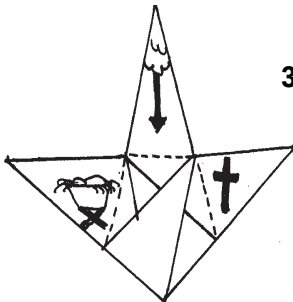
- 1) **Arrow** – Christmas is the time we celebrate God's Son coming to earth. Do you know why the Lord Jesus left His beautiful home in Heaven to come to earth? God tells us in the Bible. He said that all of us have sinned. That means we have broken His laws. Sin will keep us from living with God someday in Heaven.

Instead we deserve to go to a place of separation from Him. But God loves us (Read first part of John 3 v16). He loves us so much He sent His own perfect Son down from Heaven to save us from our sins. That's why this arrow is pointing downwards.

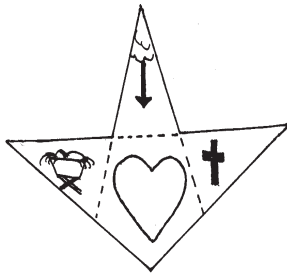


- 2) **Manger** – Jesus was born as a baby in a stable. Christmas is the celebration of His birthday on earth. He did not come to rule as a King but to take the punishment for our sins.

Although He was the Son of God He was not born in a palace or a wealthy home. He became poor so that we would become rich – and His bed was among the animals in that stable.

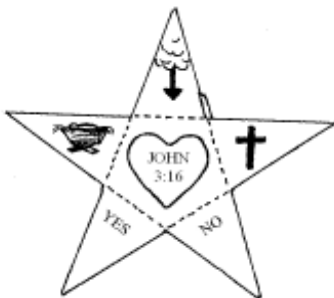


- 3) **Cross** – When the Lord Jesus grew to be a man He let wicked men nail Him to a wooden cross. There He died to pay for your sins and the sins of the whole world. It is we who have sinned and who deserve God's punishment for our sin. But Jesus Christ took God's punishment for our sin Himself – when He hung on the Cross



(*Point to it*). How do I know this? God's Word says so.

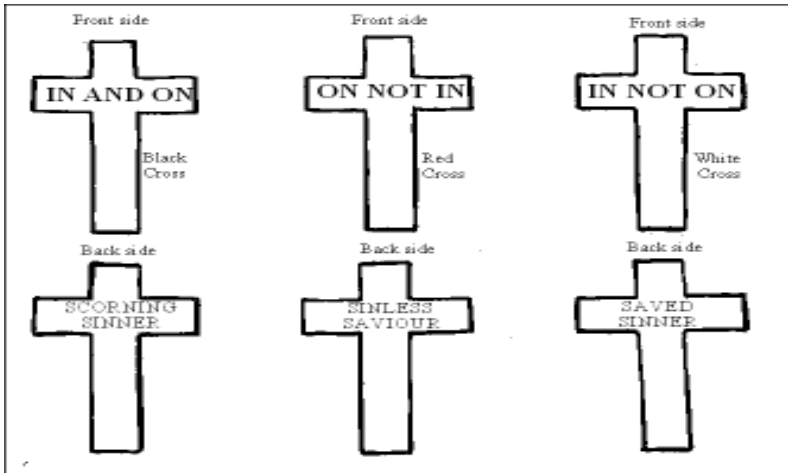
- 4) **John 3 v16** – (Bend “yes” and “no” points behind to reveal only John 3 v16. Read entire verse from the Bible). God tells us here why He gave His own Son to die for us. It was because He loved us so much. But the Lord Jesus did not stay dead. God raised Him up from the dead three days later and He returned to Heaven. God says in the Bible if you believe that the Lord Jesus took the punishment for your sin and trust Him as your Saviour you will not have to take the punishment for your own sin. You will have everlasting life. But you must make your own decision.



- 5) **YES and NO** – What will your decision be? Will you say, “Yes, I know I’m a sinner. I believe the Lord Jesus is the Son of God Who died for my sin. I want Him and I trust Him to be my Saviour.” He will forgive your sin and give you the wonderful gift of eternal life. He will be with you forever and help you obey God. If you say, “No, I will not believe on the Lord Jesus as my Saviour”, you will go to a place of separation from God someday instead of God’s beautiful Heaven.

- 6) **STAR** (*Reverse star*) – God placed a special star in the sky to announce the birth of His Son a long time ago. But He has given you the Bible (*Hold it up*) to tell you about the Lord Jesus and to announce to you His special plan for your life. Will you say “Yes” to the Lord Jesus today?

Evangelistic Lesson **THREE CROSSES**



TRUTH: Jesus Christ took the punishment for your sin on the cross.

VISUALS:

Three crosses with words on them as shown.
This lesson is more suitable for older children.

LESSON:

On a hill outside Jerusalem, almost 2,000 years ago, stood three crosses; and a man was crucified on each of these crosses:

- On the central cross – represented by this red cross – hung the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God. He was not crucified for some crime or sin He had committed. He was pure, holy, spotless – and without sin. He was the SINLESS SAVIOUR (*Show back side of red cross*). He had never done anything wrong.

On the cross He died for our sins. He poured out His Precious Blood (*Point to red colour*) and took our punishment so that we might be saved.

There was no sin IN HIM (*Point to words "not in"*). He never did anything wrong. He was perfect. But our sin was placed ON HIM (*Point to word "on"*) – and He was punished for our sin – in our place. The Bible says that God “*made Him to be sin for us Who knew no sin*” (2 Corinthians 5 v21).

- On this cross (*Point to black cross*) hung a thief and murderer who was being executed for his sin. Unlike the Lord Jesus he was a sinner and had sin IN HIM (*Point to the word "in"*). He could have had his sins forgiven by the Lord Jesus if he had asked. But he didn't. He mocked the Lord Jesus and scorned Him and His salvation. He was a SCORNING SINNER (*Show back side*). He died without salvation. He was lost and separated from God forever. He was punished by God for his sin because not only was his sin IN HIM, it was also ON HIM (*Point to word "on"*) and he had to be punished for it.

- On this white cross (*Point to white cross*) was another thief and murderer. He also had sin IN HIM (*Point to word "in"*) – but he was different from the other thief. He was sorry for his sin and asked the Lord Jesus to remember and forgive him – “*Lord remember me when You come into Your Kingdom*” (Luke 23 v42) and the Lord Jesus did because He said to him “*Today you shall be with Me in Paradise*” (Luke 23 v43).

He was a SAVED SINNER

Sin was IN HIM (*Point to word "in"*) but when he asked for forgiveness sin was not ON HIM (*Point to words "not on"*) any more. The Lord Jesus took his sin ON HIM (*Show red cross*) and took his punishment. So he was saved for ever.

Which of these two thieves is a picture of you?

- Can you say that while sin is IN you and will be until you die it is not ON you – because you have trusted the Lord Jesus and your sin was placed ON HIM.
- Or is sin both IN you and ON you because you have not trusted the Lord Jesus and God will need to punish you for your sin.

The choice is yours.

Evangelistic Lesson
THE BEST PRESENT OF ALL

TRUTH: God gives the gift of eternal life to those who trust Jesus Christ as their Saviour.

VISUALS:

You will need a large whiteboard (covered with a sheet of clear transparent vinyl), a marker you can erase, a marker you cannot erase and an eraser.

LESSON:

We all like to receive gifts, don't we? And the people who usually give us the gifts are our parents. There are two special times when they do so. What are they? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). Yes, on our birthday and at Christmas. Let's write the word PARENTS at the top of our board. And then I will make a column to the left and write the word BIRTHDAY above it. What gifts did you receive for your last birthday? Let's write them down under the word "birthday" (*Do so as the children respond with a marker you can erase*).

That's wonderful isn't it? Parents are so generous.

I know you are looking forward to Christmas. So I will make another column in the centre of our board with the word CHRISTMAS at the top. What gifts would you like to receive at Christmas time? (*Write them down with a marker you can erase as the children respond*). That's quite a list, isn't it?

But I am going to make a third column and on the right hand side of our board I will write the word GOD at the top. Did you know that God has a very special gift for everyone here? (Romans 6 v23). So let's write God's great gift in the third column - "ETERNAL LIFE". (*write the words "God" and "Eternal Life" with a marker you cannot erase*). If you have received this gift you will live for ever and ever in Heaven. How can you receive it? The verse tells us "*through Jesus Christ our Lord*". This means that at the moment you trust the Lord Jesus you will receive this wonderful gift.

This gift from God is better and more wonderful than your birthday gifts and your Christmas gifts. I know that you enjoy them – but they don't last. Some of them break down; you get tired of some of them; or you lose some of them. They will all disappear and be of no value (*Erase all those gifts with your eraser*).

But this gift from God is eternal (*Try to remove it*). It will never disappear, break down or be lost. This gift is not just life – it is life for ever and ever.

Have you received this gift?

Evangelistic Lesson
LEARNING YOUR A, B, C's

TRUTH: The Gospel message is simple and easy to understand.

VISUALS:

Three large pieces of cardboard with the letters A, B and C.

LESSON:

We are back at school again today. Do you remember the time when we were saying the numbers we learned to count at school – one-two-three-four-five. Today we remember when we learned the alphabet.

Do you remember your first days at school when you repeated and repeated the letters of the alphabet until you really knew them? Who would like to repeat the 26 letters of the alphabet (*Give an opportunity*). Today we are just thinking of the first three letters – A, B and C. And these three letters are very important for you – because they give us three important Bible verses – and teach us three important lessons.

➤ **A** (*Show it*) is our first letter and it stands for “**ALL**”.

What does “all” mean? It means everybody:

- ✓ A stands for the adults
- ✓ L stands for the lads or boys
- ✓ L stands for the lassies or girls

And that's everybody. And what does the Bible say about all of us – about everybody? “*ALL have sinned and come short of the glory of God*” (Romans 3 v23). That's our first verse. Everybody has sinned and disobeyed God – and because of our sin we cannot go to Heaven when we die, because there is no sin in Heaven.

➤ **B** (*Show it*). Our second verse starts with the letter **B**. And it starts with a big word which we don't use very often today – “**BEHOLD**”. It means “Look”. John the Baptist saw the Lord Jesus coming towards him and he said to some of his friends “*BEHOLD (look at) the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world*” (John 1 v29). He was

looking at and speaking about the Lord Jesus. He had come to our world to die for our sin (John 1 v29).

That's why John called him "*the Lamb of God*" because all the people knew that in their country lambs were killed to make it possible for people to have their sins forgiven.

And Jesus Christ had come not to make it possible for one or two to be forgiven but our verse tells us that it would be possible for anyone in "*the world*", that is you and me. He came to die for us and forgive all our sins.

What then must we do?

- Our letter **C** (*Show it*) stands for the word "**COME**".
The Lord Jesus Himself says to us, "**COME to Me – and I will give you rest**" (Matthew 11 v28). He invites us to come to Him, have our sins forgiven, and find the rest and peace which only He can give.
Who can come? Anybody can come.
 - ✓ C stands for children; they can come.
 - ✓ O stands for old people, they can come.
 - ✓ M stands for middle aged people; they can come.
 - ✓ E stands for everybody; you can come.
- Have you come?
- Remember your Bible A, B, C's
- "*All have sinned.*"
- "*Behold the Lamb of God.*"
- "*Come to Me.*"

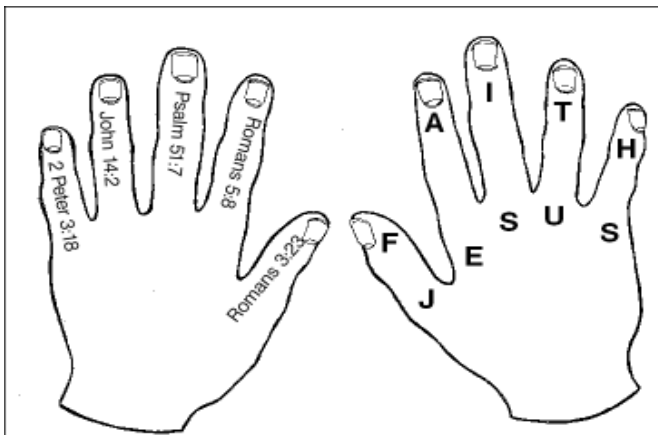
Evangelistic Lesson

A MESSAGE FROM OUR HANDS

TRUTH: The boy or girl who trusts Jesus Christ is saved.

VISUALS:

You can make two really large hands and stick each onto a piece of heavy paper or cardboard. The simplest way to draw a hand is to trace your own and enlarge the outline of your hand.



The first hand shows God's way of salvation using five Bible verses. You could colour each finger in different colours and add the reference for a Bible verse on each finger if you wish:

First finger (thumb) – black
 Second finger – red
 Third finger – white
 Fourth finger – gold
 Fifth finger – green

The second hand explains in more detail what the child must do to be saved – by explaining faith in the Lord Jesus. On each finger print one of the five letters which make up the word FAITH and also one of the five letters which make up the word JESUS.

LESSON:

I have a special hand here (*Show first hand*) – with five special fingers – and they all have a different colour:

- This thumb is dark in colour. Do you know why? It reminds us that we are sinners.

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3 v23).

Do you see how the thumb is separated from the rest of the hand? That reminds us that sin separates us from God. Because of our sin we can never be with Him in Heaven.

- But look at this next finger. It is red. Why?
Because it speaks about the Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. He knew we were sinners and that we were separated from God. But He loves us so much that He left Heaven and came to this earth to die on the cross and take the punishment for our sin.
"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5 v8).
- The next finger tells you what happens when you trust the Lord Jesus.
"Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow" (Psalm 51 v7).
When you trust Him all your sin is forgiven and God sees you as clean, as white and as pure as the Lord Jesus.
Is this a picture of you? Have you trusted the Lord Jesus?
- And our fourth finger is gold. Why? Because it tells us that every boy or girl who has trusted the Lord Jesus will go when they die to Heaven where the street is paved with gold, where God lives and where we will have mansions especially prepared for us by the Lord Jesus.
"In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you" (John 14 v2).
- But wait a minute. There is another finger and even though it is small it is very important. It is green and it reminds us of grass and trees and flowerstems which are also green – and they are all growing. And when you trust the Lord Jesus as your Saviour He wants you to grow – by reading the Bible and by obeying it.
"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen" (2 Peter 3 v18).

Have you trusted the Lord Jesus? Have you put your FAITH in Him? Do you see these two words on the second hand. F-A-I-T-H in J-E-S-U-S. That's how you can be saved. Put your faith in Him. What does it mean to put your faith in Jesus.

Think of the word FAITH and spell it like this Forsaking All (*other means of salvation*) I Trust Him.

No one else can save you. He can save you and He will save you if you trust Him.

Evangelistic lesson
WHAT TIME IS IT?

TRUTH: God wants boys and girls to wake up and trust Jesus Christ.

VISUAL:

An alarm clock.

LESSON:

Look at this clock. It is a special type of clock. Why? Because it does two things:

- It tells us the time (*Point to hands*).
- It rings at a certain time to wake us from sleep – and if we don't stop it, it will keep ringing (*Let alarm ring*).

And so this clock helps us to know the time – by looking at it – and by listening to it.

The Bible is like an alarm clock – and we read about time – God's time – in it- over and over again:

- The Bible tells us that, "*When the fullness of time was come, God sent forth His son*" (Galatians 4 v4). That simply means that God had set a time – just as you set a time for the alarm clock to go off – and at that time Jesus Christ came to this earth (*Let alarm clock ring*).
- In the Bible, God's alarm clock rang again and gave the message. "*In due time (or at the right time) Christ died for the ungodly*" (Romans 5 v6). That means that God had decided the time when His Son would die for our sin. So this ring (*alarm rings*) repeats the message about Jesus Christ coming – but also tell us why He came – to die for us and for our sin.
- And the alarm rings again (*alarm rings*) to tell us that "*Now is the accepted time*" (2 Corinthians 6 v2). The day of salvation is NOW – today. God wants you to be saved today. This is good news. You don't have to wait. Don't put it off. Trust Jesus Christ today and you will be saved forever – and there will be no judgment for you. Have you heard God's alarm clock? Trust Jesus Christ NOW.
- But perhaps you have fallen asleep. And so God's alarm clock rings again (*alarm rings*) – but this time with another message – a message this time of judgment. "*The time is come for judgment to begin*" (1 Peter 4 v17). God judges us for our sin when we are alive and here

on this earth by allowing suffering, sinfulness and problems to come. But that is only the beginning. Those who are not saved will be judged by God and separated from Him for all eternity. So He rings this bell to warn us.

Have you heard this message – that there will be judgment? Wake up!

- But there is one more ring. So often we just let the alarm clock ring and pay no attention to it. We just put off getting up out of bed and go back to sleep. So the last ring is a warning ring – and it rings twice:

- ✓ “*It is high time to awaken out of sleep*” (Romans 13 v11) (*alarm rings*).

- ✓ “*Awake you who sleep*” (Ephesians 5 v14) (*alarm rings*).

This may be your last chance. This might be the last ring you will hear. If you don’t pay attention to it you may soon cease to hear it – and you will be separated from God forever.

Have you heard God’s alarm clock? Are you awake? Trust Jesus Christ – and you will be saved forever.

Evangelistic Lesson **THE ONLY DOOR**

TRUTH: Jesus Christ is the only Saviour.

VISUAL:

Make four cards with letters O, N, L and Y.

LESSON:

Everybody knows what a door is (*Point to one*). What is a door for? It is to let you go into a house or into a room. A door is the way in.

Every boy and girl wants to go to Heaven when they die. But what is the door into Heaven? How can I go in? How can I enter?

The Lord Jesus said in John 10 v7 “*I am the door*”. He meant by this that He, and He only, is the door, the way, the only way to God and to Heaven (John 14 v6).

There are four kinds of doors which will help us to understand what the Lord Jesus meant when He said, “*I am the door*.”

➤ **THE OPEN DOOR** (*Show letter O*)

The Lord Jesus is the OPEN door. This door is wide open. People can walk right through it. They don't need a key nor a secret password. It is always open – for everyone. The Lord Jesus is always willing to let people come to Him. He will always receive us and will never turn anyone away (John 6 v37).

➤ **THE NARROW DOOR** (*Show letter N*)

Perhaps you have seen NARROW doors which will only allow one person to go through at one time, for example a turnstyle entering a football ground (Matthew 7 v14). Jesus Christ and the way of salvation are a narrow door. You must go through it alone and leave your sin behind. You cannot depend upon your parents, your minister – or anyone else. No one can go through it for you – or even with you. This is a decision you must take yourself – and get going – and go through it.

➤ **THE LOW DOOR** (*Show letter L*)

Can you enter a LOW door? Of course you can. But you would have to bow your head and body, you would have to bend.

To enter this open door, this narrow door of salvation, you need to bow down so that you can go through this low door. You need to admit you are wrong and sinful, and you need to be willing to repent or turn from your sin (Luke 15 v7). If you try to get through a low door without lowering your head you will bump it.

Only those boys and girls who are willing to bow are able to enter this door.

➤ **YOUR DOOR** (*Show letter Y*)

This door is for YOU. You can enter this door today. It is easy to reach and easy to enter. You can come just as you are to the Lord Jesus who says, "*I am the door*" and tell Him you want to enter, that you want to be saved – and He will save you immediately. He will not turn you away (John 6 v37b). You will have entered the door.

There is no other door, no other way of salvation (*Show the four letters together to make the word ONLY*). Jesus Christ is the only door, the only Saviour of boys and girls.

Evangelistic Lesson

USE YOUR EYES

TRUTH: The person who looks to Jesus Christ and trusts Him will be saved.

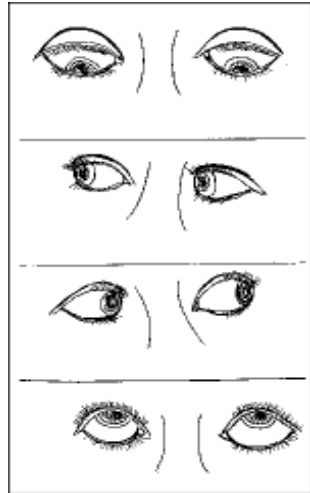
VISUALS:

Make four cards similar to those shown.

LESSON:

Aren't you glad that you have two eyes? God has given you those eyes to see with, and to be able to look at things. But did you know that you also have eyes inside? You don't see with these eyes.

You understand with them. You look at things with these inside eyes – not to see something – but to learn and understand something.



Let me explain by showing four kinds of inside eyes:

- First of all there are eyes that look down (*Show card*) into your own heart and life. What do they see, what do they learn, what do they understand? They see the sin which is in your heart and life. That's the way you were born. You have a sinful nature – and you had better see this and understand it. The reason you do wrong things is because you are wrong inside. You might say, "You don't know me. How can you say I'm sinful?"

I know because God's Word says that there isn't even one person who hasn't done wrong.

The Bible says, "*All have sinned and come short of the glory of God*" (Romans 3 v23).

- And because of the sinful nature which is inside you, you have done sinful things. As you look back (*Show card*) you can see or understand the many times when you have disobeyed God and done wrong things. As you look back do you remember those lies you told, those times when you disobeyed your parents or those times

you lost your temper or copied someone else's homework? Are you really sorry about these? (Luke 18 v13).

- And then you look forward (*Show card*) and think of the future. You know that one day God is going to punish you for the sins in your life. You will stand before Him one day. He will be your Judge – and He knows all the wrong things you have done (Acts 17 v31). And perhaps you feel a little afraid. So what should you do?
- Look up (*Show card*). That's the answer. Think of the Lord Jesus and what He has done for you. He died for you. He took the punishment for your sin. Do you see that? Do you understand? Trust Him and you will be saved and all your sin will be forgiven.

The Lord Jesus says, “*Look to Me and be saved all you ends of the earth! For I am God and there is no other*” (Isaiah 45 v22).

Evangelistic Lesson **PROBLEMS SOLVED**

TRUTH: Jesus Christ died to meet your every need.

VISUALS:

A bottle of water, a loaf of bread, a piece of clothing, a piece of paper with the word “PARDON”.

LESSON:

I want you to imagine four people. Each of them has a problem – and I want you to tell me what they need:

- Picture a man on the middle of a vast desert. He is dying of thirst. What does he need? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). Yes he needs water like this (*Show bottle of water*). And he needs someone to give it to him.
- Now picture a woman in a place where there is a famine, and she is very hungry. What does she need? Yes she needs food, bread like this (*Show it*) and she hopes that someone will give her some.
- Picture a child in the middle of winter. Snow is on the ground and she is dressed in some light and tattered clothes. She is very cold. What does she need? Yes, she needs some warm clothes like this (*Show them*).

- And then there is a man in prison. He has been condemned to death and will die the next day. What does he need? That's a harder question, isn't it? He needs pardon from the governor – like this (*Show the piece of paper with the word "Pardon"*).

I don't believe you have ever been in any of these situations – but this is your situation if you do not know the Lord Jesus Christ:

- You have sinned (Romans 3 v23), and the Bible says that the wages of sin is death (Romans 6 v23). So you are separated from God for ever and ever. But Jesus Christ died for you on the cross, and He offers you a pardon (*Show it*) if you trust Him as your Saviour. That's your main problem solved.
- And, although you may not know it, you need new clothes. I don't mean the clothes you wear. I mean the clothes God sees. Your old clothes of sin are tattered and dirty in God's sight. But when you trust Jesus Christ He will give you new clothes – not like this (*Show it*). You will be dressed before God in the pure clean clothes of the Lord Jesus Christ. You will have new clothes (Zechariah 3 v4).
- And then you will need food to help you to grow and be strong. Not food like this (*Show the bread*) which builds up your body and makes you healthy but food from God's Word which will build up your Christian life and help you to grow inside (*Show Bible*) (1 Peter 2 v2).
- And the Lord Jesus will quench that thirst which is there deep down in your heart – which makes you sad. He doesn't use water like this (*Show it*). But He Himself is the water of life and He will take away your thirst and make you happy (John 4 v14).

How can you have all these wonderful things? A pardon, new clothes, food to help you be strong and real happiness? They are all gifts – given to you by the Lord Jesus when you trust Him as your Saviour. Have you done so?

Evangelistic Lesson **PRICELESS THINGS**

TRUTH: Salvation and eternal life is a gift – and cannot be earned.

VISUALS:

Two envelopes – each containing money.

Show objects or pictures such as chocolate, books, computer, games, CDs; and then a picture of a car and a house where indicated in the text – and show 5 cards with the words LIFE, HEALTH, APPETITE, LOVE, SALVATION in capitals at the appropriate time.

LESSON:

I have two envelopes here. I am going to open the first one. There is money inside it. And now the second one. Oh! There's money inside it also.

But there is a great difference between these two envelopes and the money inside them. The money came from two different places.

This first envelope contains money I have earned. This money is the wages I receive for the work I do – or part of those wages. I worked for it. But the money in this second envelope is a gift. I didn't work for it, I didn't earn it. I was given it and I was very pleased to take it. So there are two ways to receive money.

And many things in this life can be divided into these two same groups:

- There are many things which you and I can buy or earn. These are things we pay for, we work for and which we receive as a result of what we do – like the money in this envelope.

What kind of things fall into this group? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). You can buy chocolate, books, computer games and CDs (*Show these or pictures of them*). When you pay the money you receive them and when you get older you can buy a car or a house (*Show pictures*). These all cost money and the richer you are the more you can buy.

- But there are also many things which you cannot buy or work for in this life. These are things you receive free of charge. Can you think of some? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). We cannot buy LIFE. Millionaires would like to have longer lives but all the money in the world cannot buy them one extra hour. HEALTH is a gift from God. Many rich people would like to buy better health – but money won't buy health. A good APPETITE is something we appreciate – but money won't give us an appetite. And LOVE cannot be bought with money. Many rich people are not sure if people love them – or if they only love their money. Life and health and appetite and love are all gifts. And we cannot get them or make them bigger by working for them.

But, most important of all, salvation (*Show word*) and the forgiveness of sins cannot be bought or earned.

Some people think that if they try to be good, go to church, read their Bibles and pray they can earn or buy their salvation. People try to work for it and earn it. They think that salvation is like the first envelope – wages or something to be earned. But no one can pay the price for salvation. Only Jesus Christ could pay the price. The Bible tells us that He did pay the price when He died for our sin on the Cross and that salvation and forgiveness is a gift we receive when we trust the Lord Jesus as our Saviour. It's like the things in this second envelope. You cannot buy it. Our Bible verse puts it very clearly: "*The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord*" (Romans 6 v23). Have you trusted Him? Have you received this great and wonderful gift?

Evangelistic Lesson

AN EXCITING TREASURE HUNT

TRUTH: God wants every boy and girl to come to the Lord Jesus Christ and find salvation.

VISUALS:

Four large envelopes with a card inside each one. Put on the cards the words in bold print below.

LESSON:

Have you ever been on a treasure hunt? Do you know what I mean? (*Give an opportunity to respond*).

You start off with one envelope or card like this (*Hold one envelope up*). It gives you a clue as to where to go. And when you get there, you receive another envelope (*Show it*) which gives you another clue – and you continue in this way until you find the treasure whatever it is. It can be very exciting.

I want to tell you about a very special and exciting treasure hunt which took place 2,000 years ago and which we read about in the Bible (Matthew 2 v1-12).

There was a small group of men who took part in this treasure hunt. The Bible calls them "wise men". They were also known as the Magi. They were religious men who studied the stars and they came from away over

to the east of the land of Israel, perhaps from somewhere like Babylon many miles away. There were probably three of them but we don't know their names.

They had left their homes in the east for this treasure hunt. They were looking for a special treasure, for the King of the Jews, the Messiah who was to be born. And on their treasure hunt they followed the clues they were given one by one:

➤ **LOOK FOR THE KING OF THE JEWS** (*Open first envelope and show words*)

This was what started them off. They didn't know where they were going or what they would do. They only knew that they were to find Him, Who was the special treasure.

The Bible doesn't tell us where this first clue and command came from. Perhaps God spoke directly to them, or perhaps they had read something in the Word of God (e.g. Number 24 v17), or perhaps it was something Daniel had said or written when he had lived in Babylon many years before. What should they do? Where should they go?

➤ **FOLLOW THE STAR** (*Open second envelope*)

And then came the next clue. A new star had appeared in the sky and started to move so they left everything and started out on their treasure hunt, following the star. The star led them to the city of Jerusalem and stopped there. What next? What was the next clue?

➤ **READ GOD'S WORD** (*Open third envelope*)

They started to ask people where the King of the Jews had been born. They thought everyone would know. But nobody did. When King Herod heard about their questions he asked the religious leaders where the King of the Jews would be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem." They had found this answer in the Bible and when Herod passed this information on to the wise men they had their next clue.

➤ **FOLLOW THE STAR** (*Use second envelope again*)

And so they went to Bethlehem. But where would they find Him in that city? Where was the treasure? The star helped them again and it guided them to the very house where Jesus was.

They found him and they worshipped Him. Their search was complete and finished and they returned home. They had found the treasure they had been looking for.

Have you found Him? Have you found this special treasure—the Son of God, the King of the Jews Who saves you and forgives all your sin?

➤ **TRUST JESUS CHRIST** (*Open fourth envelope*)

Here is the only clue you need. This clue is for you. The Bible says, “*So they said, ‘Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household’*” (Acts 16 v31). It is not complicated. Just bow your head and ask Him to be your Saviour and you will find and receive the wonderful treasure of salvation.

Evangelistic Lesson
FAITH AND A CHAIR

TRUTH: Salvation comes through faith in Jesus Christ.

VISUALS:

A chair.

LESSON:

After a long, tiring day, I like to go home and sit down on a chair like this so that I can rest on it (*Display but do not sit down*). Chairs are for resting. But how do you know if you can trust a chair to hold you up? How can I be sure that this chair will not fall apart when I sit down on it?

- Well, first, I can look it over (*Do so*). It seems to be a good chair. It looks sturdy. I think it will hold me up. But I don’t know for sure, do I?
- Another way is to find out who made the chair. If it has been put together by a good company, I can trust it to hold up me. This chair was made by a good company (*Display brand*). Since they make good chairs, I can trust this one to hold me up. Yet, I still am not positive this chair is sturdy.
- When do I really know if I can trust this chair? (*Pause*) That’s right, when I sit down on it (*Sit down*). That’s when I really believe in the chair. When I trust myself to it. When I have faith in it. Having faith in the Lord Jesus is like trusting in this chair.
- I might look at Jesus Christ in the Bible and say, “I think He is worth trusting. He looks good and sturdy. I think He could save me” But I don’t know for sure, do I? Not just by looking, that’s not enough. That’s not faith.
- I may even say, “I have confidence, I believe that God sent the Lord Jesus into the world, and I know He is reliable.” But just believing

that the One Who sent the Lord Jesus is reliable is not enough either. Faith is more than saying God is reliable.

- What then is real faith? What is complete trust in the Lord Jesus? It's when I put myself into His hands. Just as trusting in this chair requires me to sit on it (*Demonstrate*), so trusting in the Lord Jesus requires putting myself and my life in His hands. To believe in the Lord Jesus is like sitting in a chair; it is trusting the Lord Jesus completely with my life. Have you ever done that? I hope you will – today! (Acts 16:31)

Evangelistic Lesson

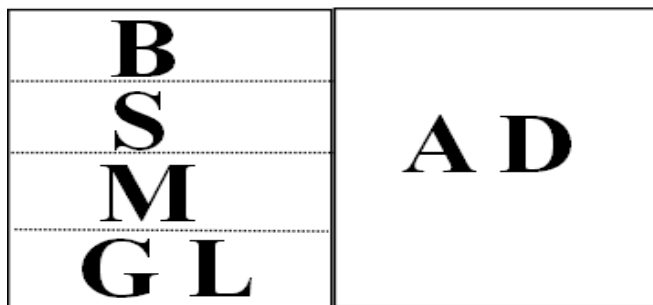
BAD – SAD – MAD – OR GLAD?

TRUTH:

The Lord Jesus gives boys and girls real joy when they trust Him.

VISUALS:

Make a card with the letters A D on the right hand half. Cut the left hand side into four strips with the letters B, S, M and GL. Fold these strips all behind the right hand half and bring them forward one at a time to complete the words.



LESSON:

There are four men we read about in the Bible who can be described by words using these two letters A and D.

- The first one was a BAD man (*Flip over the letter B*) (Matthew 26 v14, 15). His name was Judas. He was only interested in money,

and he betrayed the Lord Jesus for thirty pieces of silver. He was a truly bad and evil man who rejected Jesus Christ.

There are men and women, and boys and girls in the world who also reject Jesus Christ today. They are, like Judas, more interested in money. I hope you are not one of them.

- The second man was a SAD man (*Flip over the letter S*) (Mark 10 v17-24). He came to the Lord Jesus looking for eternal life. But when the Lord Jesus showed him he really loved his wealth and money, and when he decided that money was more important to him than the Lord Jesus, the Bible tells us that he went away SAD. There are also boys and girls who put other things before the Lord Jesus and won't receive Him. The result is that they are SAD – or will be one day.
- The third man was a MAD man (*Flip over the letter M*) (2 Kings 5 v12). I mean “mad” like angry – really angry. Naaman had leprosy. A little girl told him that the prophet in Israel could help him, and Naaman went there for healing. But when Elisha told him to dip himself seven times in the river of Jordan he was MAD (or angry) and at first refused to do so. But he changed his mind and went into the river and when he dipped himself seven times he was completely healed.

I hope you are not angry or mad when you hear from the Bible that you are a sinner, that you need to be saved and that only the Lord Jesus can save you.

- The fourth man was a GLAD man (*Flip over the letters GL*) (Luke 19 v6). Zacchaeus had been a BAD man because he was a tax collector, and he stole money from people, and he was a SAD man because he knew that he was living wrongly. And perhaps he got MAD at the people who did not like him because he stole from them. But when the Lord Jesus came to Jericho the Bible tells us he received Him joyfully. The Lord Jesus saved him – and he was GLAD. If you are saying ‘No’ to the Lord Jesus you are BAD in God's sight. Without Him you cannot really be happy – you are SAD or you will be one day. Maybe you feel cross or MAD and you haven't realized until today that it is because the Lord Jesus is not living in your heart. Be like Zacchaeus and invite Him in today. Then you'll be GLAD!

Evangelistic Lesson
THE WALKING UMBRELLA

TRUTH: God wants us to tell others the Gospel

VISUAL:

This lesson is a variation on the Wordless Book. It is based on the same colours and presents the same message. But instead of using a Wordless Book you will use a large “golf umbrella” which has the five colours on it like the one shown.

If you cannot find one of these you could draw one on a large piece of paper.

1. Draw a semi circle.
2. Make spokes
3. Add stick or handle
4. Add 5 colours.



LESSON:

Would you like to hear about the walking umbrella? This really, truly happened. If you had visited Wilmington, Delaware, USA you could have seen it with your own eyes.

A big, big umbrella was moving quickly along the street. It seemed to be walking by itself, low to the ground. It was a beautiful, bright, many coloured umbrella. Man-sized, it bobbed, bobbed, bobbed along.

Everyone was curious about the strange umbrella. So, boys and girls, and grownups followed it. Soon they discovered that the small feet which carried it belonged to a nice black boy. He walked quietly and quickly. The others followed.

Finally he came to a shady spot under a huge tree. He put the big umbrella on the ground.

“Who wants to hear the story about my umbrella?” he asked. The children crowded close to him. “Sit down then and listen”, he ordered. Everyone obeyed, even though some of his listeners were older than he was.

He pointed to the part of his umbrella that was coloured black. "See this dark colour? He began. "This dark colour makes us think of sin and of darkness. Every single one of us has done something wrong at some time or other. Usually we do wrong things when no one is around. Or we do them in the dark when no one can see us. The wrong things that we do are sin." Everyone listened closely.

"Now see this gold colour? That makes us think of Heaven, where the street is made of gold. No sin can ever get inside Heaven. If it did it would spoil Heaven. There is no sin there. So none of us can go to Heaven because all of us have sin in our hearts." The listeners were sad. "But see this red colour?" he continued. "This tells us that the Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross and shed His precious blood to forgive our sins. The Lord Jesus is the Son of God. He took the punishment that we deserve. When we believe that He is God's Son and receive Him as our Saviour, He forgives our sin and makes our hearts clean and pure, like this white colour in my umbrella. But we have to believe Him. We have to trust Him. We have to ask Him to forgive our sins. When we do, He comes into our hearts and becomes our Saviour. He sees to it that we can get inside Heaven someday, when we die."

"Now how many of you know that you are sinners but you want to go to Heaven some day?" "All right then, tell God you are a sinner." "Now tell Him you believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for you and ask Him to save you right now, for Jesus' sake." Softly some children prayed. The boy then took a small Bible (a New Testament) out of his pocket. He opened to the third chapter of John, verse sixteen. "Now I am going to read a verse from God's Holy Word. When I come to the words '**the world**', you must put your name there instead. Then when I come to the word 'whosoever' you must put your name there instead. Do you understand? '*For God so loved the world (that means anybody) that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever (anyone who) believes in Him, should not perish but have everlasting life*' ". Each one read the verse and substituted his own name. "This means that if you have believed that God loves you, if you really, truly believe that He sent His Son to die for you, and if you have honestly believed in the Lord Jesus Christ and received Him into your heart, you are born into God's family. And all who are in God's family, have everlasting life. This is God's Word and it is absolutely true." He paused a moment.

"But I have another colour in this umbrella. What colour did I leave out?"

His listeners chorused, "Green!"

"That's right, I did not tell you about the green. Well, it's like this. After we receive the Lord Jesus and are made ready for Heaven by His precious blood, he expects us to grow to be better and better Christians every day. The green makes us think of growing things. You won't grow into strong Christians unless you read your Bible and pray every day, and go to Sunday school. Now don't forget that."

He folded up his umbrella. "Now I want you all to run off and tell somebody else the things that I have told you. I'll come back here tomorrow and see how many of you can tell me what I have told you about the colours. Everybody that can tell me what they mean, and how to get saved, will get a little book with these colours in it, so you can tell it to someone else."

The children did run off in every direction. At once, they told others what they had done. And the black boy started down the street, his umbrella open again, to gather yet another group to whom he could tell the Gospel story.

Evangelistic Lesson

THE MESSAGE OF TWO STICKS

TRUTH: The boy or girl who trusts Jesus Christ is saved.

VISUALS:

Two flat sticks – about 24" long by 3" – and use them with the text as indicated in the diagram.

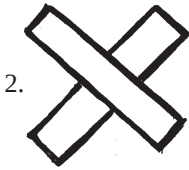
LESSON:

Today we are going to have a lesson about sticks – or rather with sticks – two sticks.

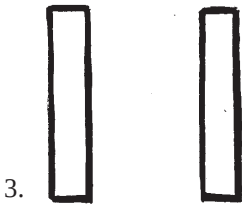
When God made Adam, He wanted him to stay close to Him (like these two sticks 1.) and he did so. There was nothing between them to spoil their close friendship.



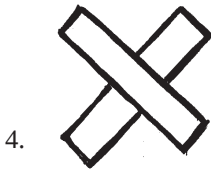
In school this sign (2) sometimes means multiply $2 \times 2 = 4$. But sometimes it means you got your sum **wrong**. In our story with two



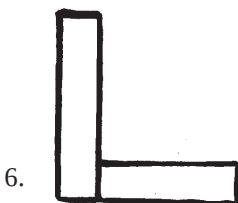
sticks it means **wrong**. Something was now wrong between Adam and God. Adam and his wife Eve had disobeyed God and eaten the fruit they were told not to eat – that was wrong, that was sin.



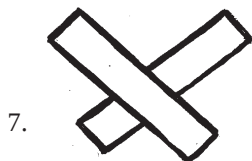
The result was that no longer was Adam close to God. Their friendship was spoilt by sin. They were now separated like these two sticks (3). The penalty was death and it started immediately – sickness, pain, old age and death in the end for Adam. And not just for Adam but all of us, because what he did was multiplied (*Show X sign 4.*) and we are all born with the same sinful nature as Adam (Romans 3 v23).



But God promised Adam that He would send a Saviour to take the punishment of sin and bring us close to God once more like these two sticks (5).



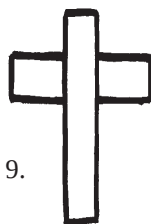
Before Adam had even disobeyed God had planned to send a Saviour because He loved us. This L (*Show sticks 6*) stands for His love.



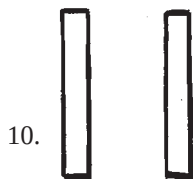
When the right time came God sent His only Son to be the Saviour from sin. He was born as a little boy and placed in a manger on the hay (*Point to the top of the manger 7*)



The Lord Jesus lived all His life close to His Father just like these two sticks (8). Nothing ever separated them. He was perfectly good, and never did one thing wrong.



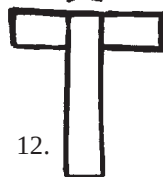
The Lord Jesus became sin for us and died on the cross (*Show it 9*). He suffered for our sin and took God's punishment for it (2 Corinthians 5 v21).



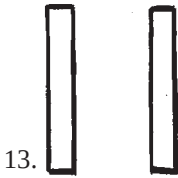
When He was on the cross the Lord Jesus was separated from His Father like these sticks (10) are separate because He was punished for our sin (Isaiah 53 v5).



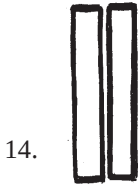
Three days later He rose from the dead victorious over death and sin (*Show V 11.*). "V" stands for victory. He had paid for all our sin. He can save us. How? What must we do to be saved?



Turn from sin. The letter T (12) stands for turn and it also stands for trust (Acts 3 v19).



Trust Him and what He did on the cross (Acts 16 v31).



Then we will no longer be separated like these sticks(13). We will be close to Him forever like these two (14).

Evangelistic Lesson

THE ARTIST AND THE TRAMP

TRUTH: Jesus Christ wants us to come to Him for salvation – just as we are.

LESSON:

John Briggs was an artist, and he was busy in his studio, working away at his latest painting.

There was a knock at the door. It was his friend Fred.

“It’s good to see you, Fred,” said John. “How are things with you?”

“Oh, fine, John. I’m a new man, you know.”

The artist smiled.

“Yes, I can see you are. Ever since you became religious you’ve seemed different.”

“It’s not quite that,” explained Fred. “You see, John, I am different, Jesus Christ has turned my life around. I’m converted.”

“Converted!” laughed the other. “You didn’t need to be converted. You’ve always lived a decent life, like I have. I’m as good as a lot of other people, and I’m trying to make myself better still”

“Oh, John! That’s not the way we receive God’s salvation. We need to come to the Lord Jesus Christ just as we are, in all our sin, and He cleanses us and makes us ready for Heaven. We can never make ourselves

good enough for God. We must turn from our sin and follow Christ and He'll change us. It's no use just trying by ourselves to get better"

But John would not listen further.

"You've got it all wrong," he insisted. "If we just do our best and try to be good, we shall be all right in the end."

"I say, Fred", said John presently. "Can you help me? I want a model for my picture."

"What sort of a model?"

"I need a tramp. Just the most dirty and ragged tramp I can find."

"Come with me. I know a rough street where such men meet. I'll find one for you."

Full of enthusiasm, John set out with his friend.

At length the artist found just the man he wanted. The man was wearing what once had been a suit but it was in rags; his bare toes were protruding from his boots; his face and hands were covered with grime, while he had, obviously, not had a shave for many a long day.

The man was suspicious at first when he was asked to be a model. When he was made to realize, however, that all he would have to do would be to stand still for a while, while the artist painted his portrait, he became interested, and, after some coins had been slipped into his hands, he agreed to do as he was asked.

They did not have long to wait. The next morning there was a knock at the door.

"Come in."

The door opened and in walked a smartly dressed man. John stared at him in surprise; he had expected to see the tramp.

"Good morning", John said politely. "Were you wanting me?"

The visitor frowned.

"I think it is you who are wanting me," he said. "You asked me to come."

There was a strained silence for a moment, while John and his friend carefully examined the visitor. Could it be? Was this the man with whom they had made the arrangement for the portrait?

"Who ... who are you?" stammered John. "You're surely not the fellow we spoke to last evening in the street?"

"Yes, I am. Of course, I've tidied myself up a bit since then. I thought you wouldn't want me as I was then, so I've improved myself a bit ..."

"Improved yourself?" shouted the artist. "Why, you've ruined everything. You're no good like that. I wanted you just as you were"

After he had left Fred said to John, "There is a lesson there for us to learn.

Some people think they have to improve themselves before they come to the Lord Jesus Christ, and try to make themselves fit for Him – but they don't need to. They should come as they are."

"Do you mean, then, that the Lord wants me just as I am, like I wanted the tramp?" asked John.

"Exactly. That is just what I do mean," replied Fred.

Evangelistic Lesson

EXCUSES

TRUTH: God wants boys and girls to trust Jesus Christ today – and not make any excuses.

VISUALS:

A card with the word "EXCUSES".

LESSON:

Tina was late for school. That morning when she came into class her teacher said, "Why are you late? What is your excuse?"

Have you ever been asked that question "What is your excuse"? Do you know what the word "excuse" means? (*Show card*) (*Give an opportunity to respond*).

- An excuse is something we say to get out of doing something we don't want to do:
 - "I can't wash the dishes for you today because there is a special programme on TV which I want to see."
 - "I cannot go to bed yet because I need to finish this chapter in my book."
- Or an excuse is something we say to try to explain why we didn't do something or why we did something we should not have done, so that we won't get into trouble for not doing it, or doing it. For example:
 - "I forgot."
 - "The clock wasn't working."
 - "I missed the bus."
 - "I did my homework but the dog ate it."

Eve made an excuse away back in the Garden of Eden when she tried to explain why she had disobeyed God. She said it was because the serpent tempted her.

Did you know that the Lord Jesus told a story (Luke 14:15-24) about people who made excuses? (*Show card*)

He spoke about a man who organized a great feast and then sent out invitations to people to come to the feast. But three men all said they could not come and they gave excuses. They were like the boy who said he could not go to bed because he needed to finish the chapter he was reading in his book:

- One said he had bought a piece of ground and wanted to look at it.
- One said he had bought some animals and wanted to test them.
- One said he had just got married.

These were all silly excuses. The first two could have come to the feast and then looked at the ground or tested the animals after the feast (and really it was stupid to buy a piece of ground without having looked at it, or to buy animals before testing them). These were not urgent needs. The third could have brought his wife with him. So their excuses were not very good.

And so none of them came to the feast. Others came – but the excuse makers were left out.

But the Lord Jesus told this story to show us that we should not make excuses when He asks us to come to Him and trust Him.

Don't make excuses like:

- "I can't come to the Lord Jesus because other boys will laugh at me."
- "I can't come to the Lord Jesus because I would have to stop doing things I like to do."
- "I can't come to the Lord Jesus now – I want to wait until I grow up."

These are not good reasons or excuses (they are just as silly as the excuses in the story the Lord Jesus told). Don't make any excuse. Come to the Lord Jesus today and trust Him as your Saviour.

There is nothing more important or urgent.

Evangelistic Lesson
IN THE GARDEN

TRUTH: God has provided a way of salvation for every boy and girl.

VISUALS:

Prepare three large cards from green cardboard.

On one side print these words:

1. Garden of Eden
2. Garden of Gethsemane
3. Garden of the Empty Tomb

On the back side print these words:

1. Disobedience Sin
2. Obedience Suffering
3. Victory Salvation

You could decorate the first side of each card with pictures of flowers etc.

LESSON:

Do you like gardens? Do you have a garden at your house? What do you do in your garden? What are your favourite flowers? Do you grow vegetables? Which ones? (*Give an opportunity to respond*).

Did you know that there are three gardens in the Bible?

- The first garden is the Garden of Eden (*Show it*). This was a garden which God Himself made when He first created the world. And He put the first man and woman into that garden (Genesis 3). It was a beautiful garden, the most beautiful ever, because there was nothing bad or sinful in the world at that time. God told them they could eat the fruit of every tree in the garden – except one. Do you know what happened? They disobeyed God (*Turn card and point to “disobedience”*) and for the first time sin (*Point to “sin”*) came into their lives, into the world and into that beautiful garden. It was as if Adam and Eve said to God, “It’s not what You want that matters, it’s what we want.” And that’s sin. But you and I have said the same thing over and over again. We do what we want to do – and not what God wants us to do – and that’s sin.
- Many years passed by. The Lord Jesus Christ, God’s Son, came into our world to die for us on the cross and save us from sin. He lived

for 33 years. He never did anything wrong and the time drew near for Him to take the punishment for our sin on the cross.

The evening before He died He was in a garden – the Garden of Gethsemane (*Show card*). And as He thought about what was going to happen the next day – and the great suffering (*Turn card and point to the word*) He would go through – the Bible tells us that He actually sweat great drops of blood. But as He thought of us and our need of salvation He said to His Father, “*Not My will, but Yours be done*” (Matthew 26 v36-39). He was completely obedient (*Point to word*). He was the opposite to Adam and Eve.

✓ Adam and Eve said, “Not what You want – but what we want.”
That’s disobedience.

✓ The Lord Jesus said, “Not what I want – but what You want.”
That’s obedience.

And the Lord Jesus, the next day, died on the cross. He took the punishment for our sin – and suffered (*Point to word*) for us.

But the story does not finish there.

- The body of the Lord Jesus was buried in a garden just outside Jerusalem. And three days later when several women came to visit the grave or tomb it was open, the stone was rolled away, and the body of the Lord Jesus was not there (John 19 v41-20 v2). That’s why this third garden is called the Garden of the Empty Tomb (*Show card*). Jesus Christ had risen from the dead. He had won the victory (*Turn card and point to word*) over sin and over death. He was alive and alive forever.

So He is able to save you (*Point to word “salvation”*) today. He is alive and if you speak to Him just now and say, “Dear Lord Jesus, please save me and forgive all my sin” He will – and you will go to Heaven when you die.

Evangelistic Lesson

BIBLICAL MATHEMATICS

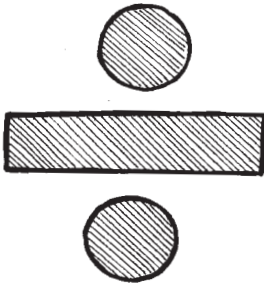
TRUTH: Trusting Jesus Christ as Saviour adds a lot to your life.

VISUALS:

Make each of the mathematical signs on a piece of cardboard and show at the appropriate times during your lesson.

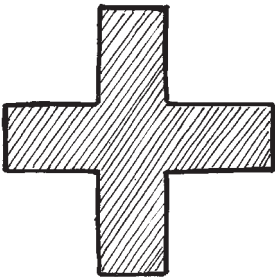
LESSON:

Who likes to do sums etc. There are lots of signs to tell us what to do. This is the division sign. What does division mean? Older boys and girls know that when you divide ten by five you get two. When you divide out your sweets, each person gets the same number (and the sweets get separated from each other). Look at the sign: the two dots are separated from each other by the line in between. This is really what division means.



The Bible says, "*But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear*" (Isaiah 59 v2). This dot (*Point*) represents God and this other dot (*Point*) represents you. And this line (*Point*) is the barrier of sin separating you and dividing you from God.

God made you but you and God are separated by sin. Sin is like a wall between. You and God can never be close until this wall is taken away. What can remove this wall?



This cross sign is the **addition** sign or **plus** (*Point*) sign. $2 + 2 = 4$. Two plus two equals four.

Jesus died on the cross. Our sin was **added** (*Point*) to Him and He died for it.

We need to have the Lord Jesus living in our hearts. So when you receive Him it will be the Lord Jesus + (plus) you (*Point*).

"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5 v8).

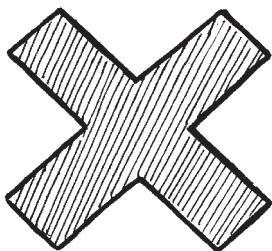


This is the subtraction sign (*Point*).
This means **taking away**. $3 - 2 = 1$.
Two taken away from three leaves one.
The Lord Jesus died on the cross to take away your sin (*Point to last picture*).

But you cannot ask the Lord Jesus to come into your heart and be the same as you were before.

You have to turn away from sin and then let the Lord Jesus **take away** (*Point to subtraction sign*) sin from your life.

The Bible says, "*Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out*" (Acts 3 v19a).



This is the multiplication sign 2 multiplied by 3 equals 6 (*Point*).
If your cat has kittens she multiplies herself (*Point*). Jesus once multiplied the lunch of a little boy to feed a large crowd (*Point*).
So your life can be better and bigger and more useful if you give it to the Lord Jesus and let Him use it.
He will help you win others for Him.
He will multiply you (*Point*).

The Bible says, "*I have come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly*" (John 10 v10).

So this is the equal sign (*Point*). What does that mean?

Lets think of some figures:

$2 + 1 + 3 = ?$ (Answer 6)

$6 + 9 + 15 = ?$ (Answer 30)

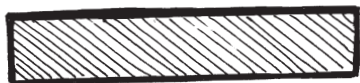
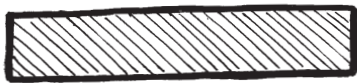
$14 - 4 = ?$ (Answer 10)

$24 \div 6 = ?$ (Answer 4)

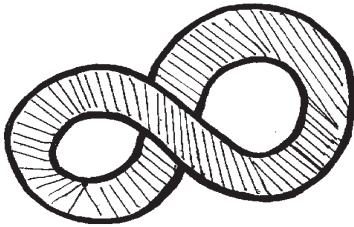
Now here's another one:

The Lord Jesus and your faith + ? Yes, it equals your salvation (*Point*).

Have you put your faith in Him?



The Bible says, “*He that believes on Me has everlasting life*” (John 6 v47).



Lastly, this is the infinity sign (*Point*). Infinity just means that there is no end.

But our life on earth will come to an end one day. What happens then? If you have trusted Jesus Christ as your Saviour you will go to Heaven when you die and you will live with Him. How long shall this last? Forever (*Point*). No end.

If you have not trusted the Lord Jesus – you cannot live in Heaven forever. You will be separated for ever from Him. Forever (*Point*). No end.

Trust Him today.

“*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life*” (John 3 v16).

Let’s go over it again. Can you say these words?

÷ I was divided from God by sin.

⊕ All my sin was put on Jesus Christ.

▬ I turned from my sin and trusted Jesus Christ.

= I was saved.

✱ Jesus started to make me a blessing to others, multiplied my life and usefulness and gave me more and more joy.



I will live with Him forever.

THIRD SERIES

LESSONS FOR CHRISTIAN CHILDREN

Each lesson is based upon one truth which can be easily applied to the children who have trusted Jesus Christ.

If unsaved children are present it won't do them any harm to hear these lessons which are directed to Christian children. It will help them to understand better what it means to be a Christian and how a Christian should live.

But you could in each case also say something like this, "If you have not trusted the Lord Jesus as your Saviour this lesson is not really for you. But you can trust Him today and be saved and then what I have said today will help you in your Christian life."

Christian Children
DON'T FORGET

TRUTH: God wants us to use our heads to remember.

VISUAL:

A large stone. A silver cup. A loaf of bread.

LESSON:

Some people say that elephants never forget and that they have wonderful memories. I am not sure if this is correct or not. But I know that my memory is not very good and that I often forget things – and the older I am, the more I forget.

Some people tie a piece of string around one of their fingers to help them remember something. The only problem is that sometimes they cannot remember why they tied the string on their finger and what it was to remind them about! Others tie a knot in their handkerchief or tie the two socks together they will wear in the morning – or even put a spoon in their shoe.

But it is very important that we use our minds to remind us about God and what He has done. We might forget other things but we should not forget these.

And God wants people to remember what He has done. But He knows how hard it is to do and so He gives some help:

- Away back in the Old Testament the children of Israel left Egypt and forty years later they arrived at their Promised Land. But they needed to cross the river Jordan. God did a miracle and opened a path through the river so they could cross. And then He told them to take 12 stones like this one only much bigger (*Show it*) from the place they had walked through the river and build them into a pile at the side of the river.

Why? So they could remember what He had done and especially so that their children could learn from this pile of stones about the greatness of God (Joshua 4 v7 and 8 and 21-24).

And you and I need to remember all that God has done for us. We don't need a pile of stones to remind us. We have the Bible and we can read there about God and how great He is and how much He loves us.

- And then the Lord Jesus just before He died on the Cross did something to help Christian boys and girls remember His death and what He has done for us.

He met with His disciples the evening before He died and, while they were talking together, the Lord Jesus took some bread something like this (*Show it*) and asked His disciples to eat it. Then He said, "This bread is a picture of My body which is going to be broken for you" (1 Corinthians 15 v24). And then He took a cup something like this one (*Show it*) with wine in it and asked them to drink it. Then He said that this was a picture of His Blood (the Blood He would pour out for your sin on the Cross) (1 Corinthians 11 v25).

But then He said, "I want you to keep doing this *"in remembrance of Me"* (1 Corinthians 14 v25). He wanted His disciples (and that includes us) to remember His death for our sin – and He asked them to do this to help them remember.

And that's why in our churches today we have special services where we remember the Lord's death in this way.

How good is your memory? I trust that you will always remember all that God has done for you – and how Jesus Christ died for your sin on the Cross.

Christian Children

DO YOU HAVE YOUR BOOTS ON?

TRUTH: God wants us to be ready to live for Him.

VISUAL:

A big heavy boot, a trainer (running shoe) and a rubber boot (Wellington boot).

LESSON:

Has anyone ever asked you what you are going to be when you grow up? What was your answer? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). Will you be an aeroplane pilot, or a plumber, or a secretary, or a policeman?

I know you have heard of the Apostle Paul, a very famous Christian and missionary who lived almost 2,000 years ago. He had a special young friend called Timothy and he wrote two letters to him, both of which are in the Bible. And in these letters Paul did not tell Timothy what he would be when he grew up. Timothy was already grown up. But Paul told him what he was now:

- First of all Paul said to Timothy “You are A SOLDIER” (2 Timothy 2 v3). This big heavy boot (*Show it*) reminds us of soldiers. These are the kind of boots worn by soldiers.

And Paul told Timothy that because he was a soldier he had to be ready to suffer if needed, and that he had to be disciplined and always be sure to obey his commanding officer the Lord Jesus Christ. That’s what soldiers do.

If you have trusted the Lord Jesus you are also a soldier. Put on your boots, be ready to fight and win over sin, and evil, and always obey your Commanding Officer, the Lord Jesus.

- Athletes wear shoes like this (*Show it*). Paul also told Timothy, “You are not only a soldier (*Show heavy boot*), you are also an ATHLETE, and a RUNNER (2 Timothy 2 v5). And because you are an athlete you need to train and keep yourself fit. You want to win your race. So you need to be careful what you eat and what you wear – and you need to keep your eyes on the finishing line ahead of you. And don’t forget that you must keep to the rules contained in God’s rule book, the Bible – or you will be disqualified.”

Boys and girls who are Christians are also athletes. You have a race to run and a race to win. So don’t let anything hold you back. Keep your eyes on the finishing line and the Lord Jesus – and run well.

So Timothy was to be a soldier (*Show boot*) and an athlete (*Show trainer*).

- But Paul told him he was also a farmer (2 Timothy 2 v6) (*Show Wellington boot*). These are the boots A FARMER uses when he

goes out into the fields to work. What does a farmer do? He works hard, he sows seed and he reaps the harvest. And Timothy was to sow the seed of God's Word in people's hearts; he was to be patient; and he was to be happy when he saw the results in his harvest.

I trust that you Christian boys and girls are also good farmers and that you have your farmers' boots on. You should be ready to tell other boys and girls about the Lord Jesus, to sow the seed of God's Word in their hearts – and to look for, and wait for the results.

Remember that no matter what you want to be when you grow up, you are now a soldier, an athlete and a farmer. Be sure to do your job well!

Christian Children
THE COMPLETED PICTURE

TRUTH: Christian boys and girls need to trust God when they don't understand what is happening.

VISUAL:

A jigsaw puzzle in a box and a piece of embroidery.

LESSON:

Brent was so sad. He couldn't believe it. He had worked so hard and yet he had failed his examination.

Janet was brokenhearted. She had looked forward so much to the birth of her little brother; and she had just heard that he had a serious problem which would really affect his life – and could mean that he would die when he was young.

Brent and Janet were both Christians and they couldn't understand why these things had happened. And they kept wondering to themselves, "Why did God allow this to happen?"

Did you know, boys and girls, that the Christian life is like a jigsaw puzzle? Do you know what that is? In this box (*Show it*) there are many many small pieces of cardboard, and on each one of them there is a little

part of a picture. You can only see the whole picture when all the pieces are fitted together. One piece on its own means nothing and shows nothing.

Your life is like a gigantic jigsaw puzzle and it is God Who is putting it all together. He knows where every piece fits and He knows that one day the picture will be complete.

We sometimes look at one piece of the puzzle – as Brent and Janet did – and we cannot see the whole picture. We cannot see the picture that God is making of our life. But He knows what He is doing, and He fits all the pieces together for our good. The Bible says that “*all things work together for our good*” (Romans 8 v28). So when something happens which you don’t understand, trust Him and ask Him to give you peace.

Remember at all times that God loves you – no matter what difficulties or problems you face.

I have brought this nice piece of embroidery with me today to show you. Isn’t it nice? (*Show under side of embroidery*). Oh, it’s a real mess, isn’t it? And sometimes we feel that our life is like that when things happen to us like what happened to Brent and Janet. But we are only seeing part of the picture – the bottom side of it. Just wait until you see the other side – the top side (*Turn it over*). And here is the real picture. We were just looking at it the wrong way.

If you keep your eyes on God and trust Him, even when things are difficult, you can rest assured that the final picture – in the jigsaw puzzle or the embroidery will be a good one and the right one.

Christian Children
GROW FOR GOD

TRUTH: God’s children will only grow if they follow God’s guidelines.

VISUALS:

A plate, a packet of seeds, a flower pot with soil in it. A can with some water.

LESSON:

I really like flowers. Do you? What is your favourite flower? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). My favourite flower is (*Fill this in*). And I would like to grow some. What should I do?

I start off with some seed (*Show packet*). In here are many little seeds which will grow into my favourite flowers. So I will just empty these seeds out onto this plate (*Do so*) – and one day I will have my flowers. Is that right? Do you think the flowers will appear? Of course not. It's not just as simple as that.

Did you know that God wants those boys and girls who have trusted the Lord Jesus to grow. I don't mean that we will become flowers! No, He wants us to grow more and more like the Lord Jesus. But we ourselves are like these seeds on the plate. If we just sit here and do nothing we will never grow.

What should we do with these seeds so they will grow? First of all we need to put them in some soil (*Do so*). That's where they will grow. But that's still not enough. They will never grow on their own. We need to water them from time to time (*Do so*). And we need to be sure that they get plenty of sunshine. Anything else? Yes, we need to watch out for weeds which would crush them as they grow. And one day in this pot we will have flowers (*You could show some if you have them*).

So you can see it is not so simple to get flowers to grow. You need to work at it. And it's the same in our Christian lives. We have trusted the Lord Jesus. The Bible says, "*Grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ*" (2 Peter 3 v18). But you have things to do if you want to grow and become more and more like the Lord Jesus:

- You need to read your Bible. It is the seed which will grow in our hearts and help us grow.
- You need to talk often to God, and ask Him to help you grow. The Holy Spirit is the water which will help the seed to grow.
- You need to enjoy the sunshine of the Lord Jesus being with you all the time and His love. That will be a real help to your growth.
- You need to be sure that no weeds will grow in your life which will keep you from growing. Weeds like lies, disobedience, bad temper and bad habits. If there are any – get rid of them.

And then one day – the flowers will blossom. Flowers like love, joy, kindness and goodness.

Christian Children
THREE FIVES

I have outlined below three separate lessons for boys and girls who have trusted the Lord Jesus. These are just outlines. You would need to enlarge on them.

VISUALS:

Each lesson should consist of six cards. On the first card of each lesson draw a circle to represent the eternity of God with a triangle inside it to represent the Trinity. Then on the next five cards put pictures as indicated to illustrate the words:

LESSON ONE

Five things God has done for you (*Show first card*):

1. God has blotted out your sins (*Put a picture of a cloud with Isaiah 44 v22 on it*).
2. The Holy Spirit has come to live in your heart (*A picture of a dove*).
3. God has made you His child (*A picture of a baby*).
4. God has written your name in the Lamb's book of life (*An open book*).
5. God has given you a guardian angel to protect you (*A picture of an angel*).

LESSON TWO

Five things God will do for you (*Show first card*):

1. He will help you grow and become a better Christian (*A picture of a child*).
2. He will care for you (*A picture of an open and giving hand*).
3. He will guide you (*A picture of a pointing finger*).
4. He will give you a home in Heaven (*A picture of a cloud*).
5. He will give you rewards for faithfulness (*A picture of a crown*).

LESSON THREE

Five things God wants you to do (*Show first card*):

1. Speak to God in prayer (*A picture of praying hands*).
2. Let Him speak to you from His Word (*A picture of a Bible*).

3. Go to church and Sunday school every Sunday (*A picture of a church*).
4. Speak to others about Him (*A picture of lips*).
5. Trust Him and obey Him (*A picture of a child*).

Christian Children **SOAP IS NO GOOD**

TRUTH: Only the Lord Jesus can cleanse us from sin.

VISUALS:

A bar of soap, a pan of water, a cloth towel and a piece of charcoal.

LESSON:

(*Make several smudges from charcoal on your face before you begin*)
What would you think if I told you I have an appointment to visit the President or ruler of your country today? Do you think I am ready to go? No! Why not? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). I'd better use this soap real quick (*Wash off the smudges*).

Do we have to make an appointment to visit God? No. He is with us all the time. I'm sure He doesn't like to see us walking around with dirty faces. But there is something much worse than that. God does not want His children to keep on sinning. But if we do sin what does God want us to do?

Let's say that I had a fight with a friend today and called her some really bad things. Am I ever glad for this bar of soap. I'll just wash away those bad words (*Wash lips with cloth, water and a little soap*). Oh yes, and I took a pen from someone and decided not to return it. I better wash the hand that took it (*Wash hand*). And I thought something very unkind about the girl who won a prize in school yesterday because I wanted to win it. I had better wash away that bad thought (*Wash forehead*).

Can I really wash away those bad words and actions and thoughts? No I cannot (Jeremiah 2 v22). But what can I do? I know the Lord Jesus forgave my sin when I received Him as my Saviour. But what about those sins I've done since then?

Did you know that God never asks us to do something without showing us how to do it? He wants to forgive all those sins we have committed and make us clean – and He will do so when we do what He tells us to

do. Here are His instructions: *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”* (1 John 1 v9).

As you take a bath or shower this week think about the clean life that God wants you to live. As you wash your ears, think if you have listened to any dirty stories. As you wash your face – did you look at anything that wouldn’t please God? As you clean your teeth – did you say any mean or wrong words? As you wash your hands – did you do anything that God has commanded you not to? As you wash your feet – did you go anywhere you were not supposed to go? As you comb your hair – did you think any bad thoughts? You can tell (confess) any sins to God right there. As you rinse off the soap, thank Him for His wonderful promise to forgive you and make you clean!

If you tell the Lord you have sinned and you are sorry for that sin, He is only too glad to forgive you. He does not want your sin to hurt your friendship with Him. He will also give you strength not to do it again.

Christian Children
PROTECT YOUR EYES

TRUTH: God wants us to be careful what we look at and enjoy.

VISUALS:

An eye mask, a pair of sunglasses, a pair of safety goggles or goggles for swimming to keep chlorine out of your eyes.

LESSON:

Do you know how important your eyes are? When God made the first man Adam He gave him a mouth so that he could eat and build up his body. And we must be very careful what we eat. If we eat the wrong things, if we eat things which are poisoned we will harm our bodies. And God also gave the first man two eyes so he could see. And we must be very careful what we see because what we look at can affect what we think, what we say and what we do. We must be as careful about the things we see as we are about the things we eat. Even more careful. If the things we look at are good and healthy they will help us to be good and healthy; but if they are bad and unhealthy we will become like that.

And so we need to protect our eyes and be sure they look only at things which will help us.

There are many ways for people to protect their eyes:

- Have you ever seen someone put on an eye mask like this? (*Fit it on*). If someone is traveling in an aeroplane and they wish to sleep, and they want to hide the bright lights which are shining, they put something like this on.
- I know that you recognize these (*Show sunglasses*). When the sun is shining brightly and you can hardly see, you put these on (*Do so*). They will protect your eyes from the sun's rays which could damage your eyes if you look straight at the sun. So these will protect your eyes.
- Do you know what these are? (*Show safety goggles*). When grown ups are working with power tools or with welding irons they need to put these on (*Do so*) in case a splinter of wood or a piece of metal flies toward them and hits their eye. So these goggles protect your eyes.

(*Show swimming goggles*). These are for wearing when you swim in the swimming baths where the water contains chlorine which can hurt your eyes. So these will protect your eyes.

But did you know that boys and girls – and especially Christian boys and girls – need to protect their eyes. Why? Because there are many harmful things which can get in through our eyes and reach our hearts – and do us a lot of harm.

There can be harmful things on TV, or in the cinema, or on DVDs which, if we sit and look at them, will harm us and change us. And we need to protect our eyes from these harmful things when they appear. How can we do so? Sun glasses or safety goggles won't help. An eye mask would help – but it would look very strange if you put one of these on. The best protection for our eyes is to turn the TV off or leave the room or get away quickly from those things which will harm us – and find something better to look at.

Be sure to protect your eyes. The Bible tells us to “*turn away our eyes from things which have no value*” (Psalm 119 v37) – and if you do God will bless you.

David in the Bible made a promise to God: “*I will set no evil thing before my eyes*” (Psalm 101 v3). Will you also make Him this promise?

Christian Children
A LITTLE IS A LOT FOR GOD

TRUTH: God uses little people

VISUALS:

A large card divided into three sections as in the diagram. Print the word ALL in the middle section. Cut both the other sections into three strips – and print on them the words shown in the diagram. Fold all six strips behind the central third and bring them forward and show them as you refer to them in your lesson.

SHE TOLD	A L L	SHE KNEW
HE GAVE		HE HAD
HE LEARNED		HE COULD

LESSON:

Have you ever said to yourself, “I am too young or too small to be of any use to the Lord Jesus” or “God only uses big people; He could never use me”?

There are three stories about children in the Bible which shows that both of these statements are wrong:

- First of all we read about Naaman’s young servant girl (2 Kings 5). Her master Naaman was a very important general in the Syrian army – but he had leprosy. This little girl had been taken captive in Israel and was now a slave. She knew about the God of Israel and His power; and she knew that Elisha was God’s prophet and able to help people. So she told her mistress, Naaman’s wife, that if Naaman went to Israel and to Elisha that God could heal him of his leprosy.

SHE TOLD ALL SHE KNEW (*Show the first two strips*).

You may not know a great deal about the Lord Jesus and salvation. You may not be a scholar or know all about God. God does not expect too much from you. He just wants you **to tell those in need all you know**. Perhaps you could give your friends a Gospel leaflet.

Through the little girl's witness Naaman was healed and came to believe in the true God. God can use your witness also.

- Then there is the story of the boy with the five loaves and two fishes (John 6). Over 5,000 people needed food – and the only one who was found to have any food was this boy. So he gave his five loaves and two fishes to the Lord Jesus and He used them to feed the whole multitude. The boy didn't have very much but:

HE GAVE ALL HE HAD (*Show second two strips*) and God used it.

You may not have many gifts and abilities. There are many things you cannot do. But **if you give what you have to the Lord Jesus and do what you can**, He will bless you and use you in the lives of others as He did this boy. Perhaps you could give some pocket money to help others.

- We also read in the Bible about a boy called Timothy who from he was very young was taught the Word of God by his mother and grandmother (2 Timothy 3 v15).

He listened carefully to them and **HE LEARNED ALL HE COULD** (*Show the third two strips*).

As he grew up he trusted Jesus Christ as his Saviour and became a missionary and preacher. But the foundation was laid when he was a child and he started to know the Word of God.

Even though you are young you are able to learn God's Word. You may not understand everything but you can understand something.

God just wants you to learn all you can. You may not learn everything – but you can learn something. And all you learn will be a basis and foundation for the rest of your life. It is good to learn Bible verses.

These are our three children from the Bible – and we learn from them these three important facts:

- ✓ She told all she knew.
- ✓ He gave all he had.
- ✓ He learned all he could.

Do these sentences describe you? If they do, God will bless you and use you – even though, or because, you are young.

Christian Children
GET RID OF THE WEEDS

TRUTH: God wants you to get rid of the wrong things in your life.

VISUALS:

A dandelion, any other weed or piece of moss from your garden. A shovel. A packet of weed destroyer.

LESSON:

Do you like gardens? Do you have a garden at your house? What grows in it? (*Give opportunity to respond*).

I like gardens – and I especially like a lawn. Do you know what that is? It is a part of the garden which is covered with lovely green grass. It is so nice to walk over the grass, or sit on it, or even play games like cricket on it.

But some lawns have a problem – because there are other things which are trying to take over the garden from the nice green grass. These things are enemies of the grass – and they can be very powerful. I have seen lawns which used to be beautiful taken over and destroyed by these enemies.

- Here is one enemy. It is a weed (*Show it*). You don't sow them or plant them. They just come. This weed just grows and grows and grows – and they don't look very nice.
- And then there is moss like this. It is a very clever enemy and once it gets established it can spread and spread – and takes over from the grass.
- But there are also enemies which look nice like this dandelion. It looks so pretty. But it is a real tough weed – and before long it will cover and ruin your whole lawn.

Your life, boys and girls, if you are a Christian, is like a lawn – with nice green grass wanting to grow on it. But you have enemies. The devil doesn't want to see a nice lawn – and so he plants weeds. Perhaps the weed of bad thoughts. Some of them are not nice, like our first weed or the moss (could it be the moss of disobedience) and we know they are not nice – but they still come. Others look nice like this dandelion and we think they will not harm our lawn – but they will. Just think that

Satan could plant in your life the dandelion of stealing. And God tells you in the Bible that you should get rid of these wrong things (James 1 v21).

But how can you get rid of these weeds?

What does the gardener do with weeds?

Let's pretend that your Dad gave you a little garden of your own – one that is a lawn with nice green grass on it. You enjoy your little lawn so much – and then you see weeds starting to grow in it, moss is starting to spread – and a few dandelions are springing up. What are you going to do? You don't know! You take a pair of scissors and cut them off – but they grow up again. So you go to your father who is a good gardener and you ask him if he could deal with them. And so he does. With a shovel like this he digs out the dandelions and the moss. And then he takes a box of weed remover and sprinkles it over the weeds. And everything is now alright.

So when you see weeds growing up in your life Christian boys and girls, you want to get rid of them – but when you find that you cannot do it – ask the Lord Jesus, the Head Gardener, to deal with them. He is able to dig them out – or to help you do it.

Christian Children

A PONY WITH A GOOD HABIT

TRUTH: God wants us to build up good habits in our lives.

VISUAL:

A picture of a pet or pets.

The words printed on three cards - PRAYING, READING THE BIBLE.
GOING TO CHURCH.

LESSON:

Hands up all the boys and girls who have a pet like this one (*Show it*).
Hands up those who have a dog, a cat, a pony.

Even if you don't have a pet I expect all of you love animals and like to hear stories about them.

Many years ago there was a man in England who was a butcher. He had a butcher's round, which meant that he went around the houses selling

meat, in a village some miles from his shop. In those days people were only just beginning to use cars, so a pony and cart were used to deliver his meat and he did this every day. Unfortunately one day the butcher was ill and unable to do his journeys with the pony and cart and he didn't know what to do.

However, a friend offered to let him have the use of a young man who worked for him. "I can spare him for a few days", he said. "His name is Vincent."

The butcher was delighted when Vincent came along to deliver his meat. But Vincent was not so pleased because he didn't know any of the people in that particular village. "How shall I know where to find all your customers?" he asked when given a list of their names. There was something else that Vincent didn't know - the butcher had taught the pony some good habits. Do you have good habits?

But the butcher said, "Look Vincent, I will pack all the parcels in the cart in the right order and you just leave the rest to the pony. You deliver the meat to the nearest house at which the pony stops and you should not make any mistakes."

Some hours later Vincent returned to the butcher's shop and his face was shining with pleasure. He said, "The pony didn't make one mistake. He knew where everyone lived and he stopped at the very house he always visits every week." You see the pony had not forgotten the good habits the butcher had taught him.

You see, it's helpful to have a good habit. The pony's habit of stopping at the right place was a great help to Vincent and the customers, wasn't it? And I'm sure that the pony often got a lump of sugar or an apple from those people.

What about you, Christian boys and girls? Have you formed many good habits which will be a great help to you as you grow up? (*Show cards*). Do you read your Bible every day – at the same time? Do you do what it tells you to do? Do you talk to God and give thanks before you eat every meal? Do you go to church and Sunday school each week?

Ask God to help you to form good habits in your life.

Christian Children
IT'S SORE

TRUTH: God wants His children to confess their sins to Him.



VISUALS:

A map, a pair of walking boots (one with a stone in it), a rucksack, a lunch box and a walking stick.

A large cardboard boot (as in diagram) with an envelope stuck to the back of it. Inside the envelope put 4 cards shaped like stones with these words – bad temper, lies, disobedience and jealousy.

LESSON:

Do you have a hobby? What is it (*Give an opportunity to respond*). My favourite hobby is walking. I love to go for a long walk. Actually I think I will go for one now.

So I must get ready. What will I need? Here is my map (*Show it*). So I will know where I am going. It's going to be a long walk so I have my lunch in the lunch box (*Show it*). I will put it into my rucksack (*Show it*) and put it on my back (*Do it*). Now, what else do I need? I will be walking in the hills. So I will need a walking stick – and here it is (*Show it*).

I am almost ready. But I must wear good strong walking boots; and I have a pair here which I am going to put on (*Do so*). I am ready to go and I am looking forward to my walk. So I will start now (*Do so*). Goodbye! Oh dear, there's something wrong! I can't go. My foot is so sore. I could not walk with a foot like this. I wonder what's wrong. It's this foot here. Have you any idea? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). I will take this boot off and see what the problem is (*Do so, shake the boot and a stone falls out*). There's the problem. I had a stone in my boot and that was stopping me from walking.

I won't go on this walk today. But I have been on another walk for many years. You see, the Bible compares the Christian life to a walk – and I

have been on that walk ever since I trusted the Lord Jesus as my Saviour. But sometimes I have problems in my walk as a Christian (*Hold up cardboard boot*). Sometimes I have a stone in my boot which hurts me and keeps me from walking properly. What kind of a stone? These stones are sins like bad temper, telling lies, disobedience and jealousy (*Bring cards out of the envelope as you speak*). What should I do when I have stones like these in my Christian boots? The same as I did with that real stone. Sit down and get rid of it. How can I do that? The Bible says that if I confess my sins to God, if I tell Him what I have done wrong, and if I want to get rid of it, He will forgive me, and I will be able to walk again without difficulty.

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1 v9).

Do you have stones in your boots? Get rid of them today (*Throw cards away – one at a time*).and work hard at keeping them out of your christian walking boots by asking your heavenly Father for help.

Christian Children **GO FOR GOD**

TRUTH: God has a number of commands which He wants His children to obey.

VISUALS:

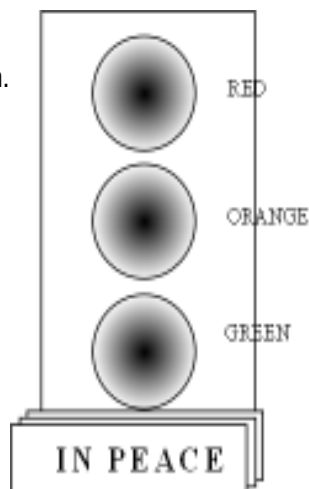
Construct visual of black cardboard as shown. Stick on three coloured circles. Shade first two in to show lights are dimmed. Make five white flaps at the bottom. Print on these flaps the words:

IN PEACE
AND WASH
AND HELP
AND TELL
AND WORK

Drop each one at the appropriate time.

Print word "Go" on green circle.

This is a longer lesson and could be made into two or more shorter lessons.



LESSON:

If you were driving a car and you came to traffic lights what would you do? Well it depends on the light, doesn't it? If the red light is shining you will stop; if the amber is showing you would slow down, be careful and be ready to stop; if the light is green you will go ahead (*Point to each light*).

And in the Bible the Lord Jesus gives a number of green lights to people and tells them to GO. And I believe that if you, boys and girls who are Christians, understand and obey these green lights you will really grow (as well as go). I can think of five people who got a green light from the Lord Jesus:

➤ **GO IN PEACE** (Luke 7 v50) (*Show first flap*).

When the Lord Jesus was in the house of a man called Simon a woman who was known by everyone as a sinner came and washed His feet and the Lord Jesus was very happy for what she did. So He told the woman that because of her faith and her love all her sins were forgiven. Then He said, "*Go in peace.*" He wanted her to have peace and quietness in her heart. He had saved her and forgiven her; so he did not want her to worry.

And if you have trusted the Lord Jesus as your Saviour He says, "*Go in peace.*" All your sins are forgiven. Do not worry about your sins any more.

➤ **GO AND WASH** (John 9 v7) (*Show second flap*).

But we who are Christians still sin. None of us are perfect. What should we do when we sin?

The Lord Jesus met a blind man one day - a man who had never been able to see. He put some clay on his eyes and then He said, "*Go and wash in the pool of Siloam.*" And when the blind man did that he was able to see.

You and I are not blind. We don't have that problem. We can see everything around us and we can see with our spiritual eyes too because we have asked the Lord Jesus to save us. But we have another problem; although we have trusted the Lord Jesus we still do wrong things and we feel dirty. And the Lord Jesus says, "*Go and wash.*" But where should we go? A pool and its water will not clean us. The Bible says, "*If we confess our sins (tell them to God), He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us (or wash us) from all unrighteousness*" (1 John 1 v9) – and we will be clean.

➤ **GO AND HELP** (Luke 10 v37) (*Show third flap*).

The Lord Jesus, one day, told a story about a man who had a problem and a great need. He had been attacked and beaten up by thieves and left at the side of the road. Two men, one a priest and the other also a religious man, saw him, saw his need and walked by without helping him. But a third man came, a Samaritan, a kind man and when he saw the man's problem and need he went over and washed and tended his wounds. He then put him on his donkey and took him to the nearest inn or hotel and gave the innkeeper the money to look after him. He really helped this man.

At the end of the story the Lord Jesus told the man he was talking to "Go and do the same" or "Now you go and help people in need."

And the Lord Jesus says the same to you and me. Watch and see if there is some boy or girl (or even a grown up) who has a problem and a need. Don't walk past. Go and help them. For example helping an old lady to cross the road.

➤ **GO AND TELL** (Mark 5 v19) (*Show fourth flap*).

But there is something else which the Lord Jesus wants us to do.

What would you do if you had a great problem (and you knew that other people had the same problem) and someone came and solved your problem? Wouldn't you want to "go and tell" those other people that this person could solve their problem?

And that was what happened to a man who had a very great problem. Inside him were many evil spirits. But the Lord Jesus spoke to them and told them to leave him – and they did and he was completely healed.

This man wanted to stay with the Lord Jesus but He told him to "Go home and tell them what great things I have done." And so he did. And the Lord Jesus wants those of us whom He has saved and forgiven to go and tell others about what He can do. Perhaps you could give a Gospel booklet to your friends.

➤ **GO AND WORK** (Matthew 21 v28) (*Show fifth flap*).

Do you know why the Lord Jesus has saved you? Yes, so that you may go to Heaven. But it is more than that. He has saved you so that you will work for Him here on earth and before you go to Heaven. That's why the Lord Jesus told a story about two boys. Their father told them to "go and work" in his vineyard. One of them said, "Yes", but didn't go. The other one said, "No", but then he obeyed and he went and started to work – and the Lord Jesus said that this one, the

one who obeyed and who started to work, was doing His Father's will.

Are you ready to do your Heavenly Father's will and go and work for Him, and do what He wants you to do? Perhaps like the first son you have been saying "No". Start to say, "Yes" and go and work. You could be a helper in a Good News Club.

Christian Children **IT'S ALL FOR YOU I**

TRUTH: The Holy Spirit lives in children who have trusted the Lord Jesus and helps them to live for Him.

VISUALS:

A shopping basket, a mechanical toy (or appliance) and a battery, a piece of fruit (e.g. an apple or orange) and an oil lamp.

LESSON:

It is not easy to live the Christian life. But it can be done. How? By ourselves? No! But the Bible tells us that when we trust the Lord Jesus as our Saviour Someone very special comes to live in us – and He helps us to live as Christians.

Have you trusted the Lord Jesus? Then the Holy Spirit is living inside you – and He is ready to help you to be the boy or girl the Lord Jesus wants you to be.

What does He want to do for you?

I have a shopping basket here (*Show it*) and inside it are some things which will help you to see what the Holy Spirit can do for you.

- First of all here is a toy (or appliance) which really works (*Take out the toy and the battery*). Let's switch it on! Oh, it doesn't work. Why? Let's look. I see what is wrong. There is no battery in it. So there is no power. Let's put this battery in and see what happens (*Do so*). It works. The battery has given it life.

And the first thing the Holy Spirit does for you when you trust the Lord Jesus is to give you life. Before you trusted Him you were dead – that is dead inside – but the Holy Spirit has come to live in you and He has given you life – real life – eternal life. How? By His Spirit. "*God made you alive*" (Ephesians 2 v1).

- Let's look again. Here is (*Show the fruit*) an apple (*or whatever fruit you use*). The Lord Jesus said, "*I chose you that you should bear fruit*" (John 15 v16). And the Bible tells us that the first thing the Holy Spirit wants to produce in our lives is fruit. What kind of fruit? Certainly not apples and oranges. We are not apple trees. But the fruit He wants to grow on our trees is love – love for the Lord Jesus and love for other people. We read in the Bible that love is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit. And He will help that fruit to grow. And as it grows something special is going to happen.
- Here is a lamp in the shopping basket (*Show it*). But it is a very special lamp. It is an oil lamp. Years ago people used these lamps to light up their homes. Let's see if it works (*Light it*) It does. Why? Because there is oil in the lamp, and it is the oil on the wick which burns.

The Lord Jesus wants Christian boys and girls to shine for Him, just like the wick in this lamp is burning and shining. Just as the wick needs oil to shine brightly, boys and girls need the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit has been living in them and He is like the oil in the lamp to help them shine. He helps Christians to shine for God. Without Him they could never shine. With Him they can live good and clean lives and so shine in this dark world which is full of sin.

Thank your heavenly Father for the Holy Spirit Who helps you shine.

Christian Children **IT'S ALL FOR YOU II**

TRUTH: The Holy Spirit lives in children who have trusted the Lord Jesus and helps them to live for Him.

VISUALS:

A shopping basket with the three visuals from last week. And, in addition, a mobile phone, a map and a sword.

LESSON:

Did you know that God the Holy Spirit lives inside every boy and girl who has trusted the Lord Jesus as their Saviour? We spoke about that

last week and in our shopping basket we found three things that remind us of what the Holy Spirit does when He comes into our lives (*Revise the three truths from last week showing the three objects one by one*). But that is not all He does:

- Do you know what this is? Of course you do. It's a mobile phone. Telephones are wonderful inventions. You can speak to someone thousands of miles away. Until a few years ago telephones were only found at fixed points in our streets or in our homes. They could not be moved. But now you can carry one with you anywhere and speak to just about anyone at any time.

But we don't need a mobile phone to speak to God. We can speak to Him anywhere, at any time and about anything – and we know that He will hear us. We can call for help; we can ask Him to forgive us; we can ask Him to give us something; we can tell Him that we love Him.

But it's not always easy to know what we should pray for or what we should say; and the Bible tells us that the Holy Spirit helps us to pray and guides us as to what to say (Romans 8 v26). When you have a real desire to pray to God about someone or something it's because the Holy Spirit is leading you – and you should obey Him.

- But what could this be? (*Take out map*). It's made of paper. Let's open it. Do you see what it is? It's a map. What do you use a map for? It's to show you how to get somewhere; it's to guide you.

And do you know that the Lord Jesus told His disciples that He would send the Holy Spirit to live in them – to guide them and to show them the right way to go?

And He still does that for the boys and girls He lives inside (John 16 v13). And He usually guides us through the Bible, the Word of God. That's why it is important to read it every day.

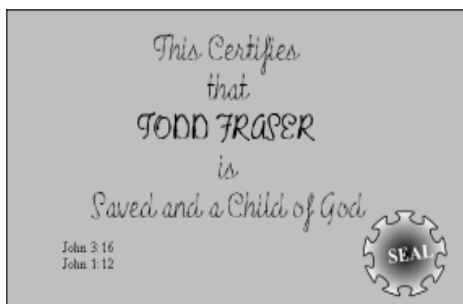
- But the Holy Spirit Who lives in us not only uses the Bible to guide us; He uses it to defend us from the attacks from the devil and from sin. That's why the Bible (Ephesians 5 v17) is called the sword of the Spirit (*Take out the sword*). How does He do that? Well, if you are tempted to tell a lie the Holy Spirit reminds you of a verse you read in the Bible, "*You shall not bear false witness (or tell a lie)*" (Exodus 20 v16) – and this helps you not to do it. When the devil tempts you and tells you that you are not saved the Holy Spirit helps you to remember, or read a verse like Acts 16 v31 "*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household*"

which tells that you are saved – and as you use the sword of the Spirit the devil will be defeated.

Isn't it wonderful to have the Holy Spirit living in you?

Christian Children
IT'S ALL FOR YOU III

TRUTH: The Holy Spirit lives in children who have trusted the Lord Jesus Christ and helps them to live for Him.



VISUALS:

A shopping basket with the six visuals used in the two previous lessons plus a bottle of spring water, a gift box and a certificate like the one shown.

LESSON:

Did you know that God the Holy Spirit lives in all boys and girls who have trusted the Lord Jesus as their Saviour? And do you remember the six wonderful things He has done for us? (*Go back over these six briefly – showing objects*).

But I have in my shopping basket pictures of three more things which He does for us:

- This is pure spring water (*Show bottle*). You know how gardens can get dry and dusty, the flowers droop and the grass loses its colour. What do they need? Lots of water – and then everything grows again.

But we can get dry and dusty also – and we can be very thirsty inside. We look for something to quench our thirst. But don't be like the thirsty pigeon which saw a bottle of water painted on a

signboard. It flew towards it with a loud whirr – and dashed itself against the signboard.

And some boys and girls are like the pigeon. They look for happiness and water to quench their inside thirst in the wrong place.

But the Bible tells us that the Holy Spirit gives us living water inside (John 7 v38) and that He will take away our thirst and give us real happiness if we ask Him.

- Can you see what this is? (*Take out gift box*). What do you receive in a box like this? Yes you receive a gift. Did you know that the Bible says that the Holy Spirit Who lives in all boys and girls who are saved gives special gifts to each one of us. But we don't all receive the same gift. To some He gives the gift of being able to speak well and explain the Gospel to others (Ephesians 4 v11); to some He gives the gift of being able to give money to help others (Romans 12 v8) and to some He gives the gift of just helping and encouraging those who need it (1 Corinthians 12 v28). And there are other gifts also.

And He has a special gift for you to use which will help others. If you speak to your Sunday School teacher or your minister, they might be able to help you discover what gift God has given you.

- I have just one thing left (*Take it out*). It's a piece of paper. No, it's more than that. It's a certificate – a very special certificate (*Read it*). Do you know what a certificate is? It certifies something. It makes it sure. We all have birth certificates which certify or make sure that we were born on a certain day in a certain place. This one certifies that the person concerned is saved and a child of God. It's a kind of birth certificate – and it certifies and makes sure that if we have received the Lord Jesus (Read John 1 v12) and have trusted Him as our Saviour (Read John 3 v16) we are saved and we are children of God. I could never give you a certificate like this to tell you that you are a Christian. This is just a picture. I don't need to. If you have trusted the Lord Jesus, He Himself has given you His Word, the whole Bible, as a certificate. God's Word, the Bible, says we are saved and it is the Holy Spirit Who lives in us, Who takes away our doubts and helps us to be sure.

Isn't it wonderful to have the Holy Spirit living inside of us?

Christian Children
GEESE AREN'T SILLY

TRUTH: God wants Christian boys and girls to help each other.

VISUALS:

A picture of a goose or of a number of geese.

LESSON:

Did you ever hear anyone called “a silly goose”? Well I want you to know that geese are not silly – and that they can teach many things to boys and girls who are Christians.

Have you ever seen a film of geese flying in a V formation – with one leading at the point of the V and the others in formation behind him? There are reasons why they do this – and these reasons can be of great help to us:

- As each bird flaps its wings the air currents help the bird behind it. So every bird except the one right up in front uses less effort and can fly further. If one goose on its own could fly 100 miles, geese in a V formation can fly 191 miles! Cyclists or runners racing together as a team get the same result.
So we boys and girls who are Christians can learn from the geese that it is good to work together as a team – and not be on our own all the time.
- What about the goose up in front? As he gets tired he drops back and another goose takes his place. By taking it in turn to lead the geese share the work and no one has to drop out.
And Christian boys and girls should help others in their lives and in what they do. Sharing the load helps everyone. God’s Word tells us to bear one another’s burdens (Galatians 6 v2).
- If a goose has to drop out of formation because it is sick or wounded by someone, two other geese leave the formation and follow it down to help and protect it. They stay with the hurt goose until it can fly again.
And we should watch out for boys and girls (or even grown ups) who are hurt so that we can help them and encourage them. God said in His Word, “*Comfort my people*” (Isaiah 40 v1).
- If you see geese flying in formation you will hear them honk as they fly. But did you know that it is the geese at the back who honk.

They do so to let the leaders know they are following and keeping up with them.

Have you remembered to honk and let your leaders know you are there and that you appreciate them and their leadership? But your honk should be a good one and a kind one. When was the last time you thanked your pastor or your Sunday school teacher for the way they have helped you? When was the last time you thanked your mother and father and told them that you loved them? God's Word teaches us to be thankful and loving (1 Thessalonians 5 v18).

Don't forget to honk today!

Are there lessons you need to learn and practice from these clever geese?

Christian Children **A BEETLE STATUE**

TRUTH: God can use the difficult things in your life to be a help to you.

VISUALS:

A packet of peanuts and some peanuts in their shells.

LESSON:

Did you know that there is a town in America which has a statue of a beetle right in the middle of the town. The town is called Enterprise and it is in the state of Alabama. Why is that statue there? What is the story behind it?

Did you know that peanuts like these (*Show the packet of peanuts*) are some of the best things you could eat – with lots of protein, minerals and vitamins in them? A packet of peanuts like this (*Show it*) would make a nice snack for you.

Do you know how peanuts are grown? The small peanut bush has roots where the nuts form. To harvest them you pull the whole plant out of the ground – and they are left to dry in the sun and this is the result (*Show peanuts in shells*). But let's get back to our story and our statue.

The area around Enterprise in Alabama and many other parts of the country used to grow cotton – the white fluffy parts of it were made into cotton thread and then into clothes. But in 1915 most of the cotton around Enterprise was eaten and destroyed by beetles called boll weevils. The

cotton farmers looked quickly for something to grow instead of cotton and they started to grow peanuts like these (*Show them*). They grew more peanuts than any other part of the country and made lots and lots of money. They were so grateful to the beetles who had forced them to grow peanuts (and make so much money) that they erected a monument in the town to the beetles. And on the monument they put the words:

"In profound appreciation of the boll weevil."

In 1915 the farmers hated the boll weevils and were so angry against them, but four years later they saw what a help and blessing they had been for them.

And there are times in our lives as Christians when we face difficulties and problems and we sometimes get angry. But God is in control. The Bible says, "*All things work together for good to those who love God*" (Romans 8 v28) Not just the good things but also the bad things. And one day we will be like those cotton farmers and be able to look back and see that those difficulties and problems we had turned out to be a help and blessing.

Many years ago the Apostle Paul was put in prison and chained to Roman guards twenty-four hours a day. That was difficult. But as different soldiers were chained to him, Paul told them about the Lord Jesus; and they had to listen; they couldn't get away because of the chains. And so Paul's difficulty turned into a blessing for himself and many others – and through it many soldiers heard the Gospel who would never have otherwise heard it (Philippians 1 v12-13).

Are you facing a difficulty today? Ask God to give you peace and trust Him to bring blessing out of it.

Christian Children **THE WORRY SACK**

TRUTH: Christian boys and girls should hand over all their worries to the Lord Jesus.

VISUALS:

A ball, a paper sack. Four circular cards with the word "Worry" on them. Or you could use four balls with the word "worry" on each. Or write out each worry on a piece of paper, then crumple it into a ball and throw it into the sack.

LESSON:

When Tim came down to breakfast one morning, he saw that his Dad was sitting at the table not eating, and his face was very sad.

"What's wrong?" Tim's mother asked, "Why are you so sad?"

"I am worrying about an interview I will have this afternoon to see if I can get a better job. I couldn't sleep all night because I was worrying about it."

Do you know what worry is? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). Yes, it's when we let some thing or some fear or someone get the hold of us so that we think of nothing else – and it makes us very sad and even sick. Do you have any worries? (*Give an opportunity to respond*).

Yes, boys and girls have worries – and not just adults; and we will see some of these worries you have later.

The Bible tells Christian boys and girls what to do with their worries.

Do you see this ball (*Show it*). What can you do with it? You can throw it (*Throw it to the pastor*). Well caught! He has it now – not me. I used to have it – but I threw it to him and it is now his.

And that's what the Bible tells us to do with our worries:

"Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you" (1 Peter 5 v7).

We are to cast, that means to throw our worries onto the Lord Jesus.

He wants them because He cares for us; He will deal with them; and so we throw them one by one over to Him – just as I threw this ball to the pastor. If He wants to take them and carry them why should I do so?

Have you heard the story of the farmer who was walking along the road carrying a bag of potatoes. Another farmer was passing him with a tractor and trailer. He stopped and asked the first farmer if he would like to get into the trailer and ride instead of walking. He was glad to do so. But he sat in the trailer still carrying the bag of potatoes on his back.

"Why don't you put that bag of potatoes on the floor of the trailer?" asked his friend.

"Oh, I can't do that," he replied. "I need to carry them. The tractor has enough to pull without me giving it this extra weight!"

We might laugh at this story. But many of us are doing the same thing. We are in the trailer and we are carrying all our worries – when we should throw them onto the One Who is in charge of the trailer and ready to carry them for us.

I remember reading a story about a man who had a lot of worries – and this story might help you.

In his bedroom he had a brown paper sack like this one. He called it his worry sack. Every night before he went to bed he asked himself if he had any worries. If he had, he wrote each worry out on a piece of paper, crumpled the paper into a ball and threw it into the paper sack. And then he said, "I am throwing them to You, Lord Jesus" – and got into bed and fell asleep.

Here are some worry "balls":

Worry Number 1 – "I am really worried about what is going to happen tomorrow." (*Throw a circular card or ball into the sack, or read out the worry, crumple it and throw it into the sack*).

Worry Number 2 – "I worry that I might get fail my exam." (*Throw it into the sack*).

Worry Number 3 – "I worry about all the terrible things that are happening in the world." (*Throw it into the sack*).

Worry Number 4 – "I worry so much about my friend who is sick." (*Throw it into the sack*).

If this would help you as it helped him – try it. So long as you remember that it's not the bag which can take and handle your worries. It is the Lord Jesus Who wants you to throw your worries all onto Him. (Phil 4:6-7)

Christian Children
CHANGE YOUR CLOTHES

TRUTH: God wants His children to live holy lives.

VISUALS:

Cut out a number of patterns of clothes from black and white cloth or cardboard. Print names on them as shown in the text.

Obtain two fairly large boxes.

On one, print a label

"**OLD CLOTHES**" and on the

other a label "**NEW CLOTHES**".



LESSON:

Many years ago there was excitement in the royal palace. The Queen had given birth to a baby boy – a boy who would now be a prince and one day rule as king. Soon after that there was a rebellion in the country and the king and queen both left the castle but in the confusion their little son went missing. Actually a poor family found him and he grew up in their home. He was very poor and wore very old and tattered clothes. But one day the people decided that they wanted the king and queen back again and they were restored to the throne. Everyone started to look for the missing prince and at last they found him and brought him back to his parents and the palace. But, first of all, he had to change his clothes. The old tattered and dirty clothes were not fit clothes for the son of a king. He had to take them off and put on new clean and royal clothes – the only kind suitable for a person like him.

I know that a number of you boys and girls have trusted the Lord Jesus as your Saviour. You are now children of God – you are the sons and daughters of a king – the great King of kings. And God wants you to look like and be dressed like the child of a King. Here are two boxes. On one are the words “**OLD CLOTHES**” and on the other “**NEW CLOTHES**”.

I have here a number of types of clothes and I want you to tell me which box each will go into. The “**OLD CLOTHES**” are things you don’t want to wear. The “**NEW CLOTHES**” are the ones God wants you to wear (The Bible gives us clear instructions in Colossians 3 v8-14 about what clothes to wear):

- **KINDNESS** (verse 12)
What does that mean? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). Yes, it means to be nice to each other. What box does it go into?
- **NASTINESS** (verse 8)
I think you know what that means. We are nasty when we say nasty things about other people, when we call them names, criticize them or make fun of them. Does God wants us to be nasty? Which box?
- **PATIENCE** (verse 12)
It is so difficult to keep ourselves from getting angry with our little brother or sister when they say or do something we don’t like. And we have to learn to be quiet, to hold our tongues and be patient – just as God is patient with us when we do something wrong. Which box?

- **BAD TEMPER** (verse 8)
I suppose this is the opposite to patience. We “fly off the handle”, we get really angry and say things we never should say. Does God want us to be like that? Which box?
 - **FORGIVENESS** (verse 13)
And when someone hurts us or says something nasty to us what should we do? What does God want us to do? He wants us to forgive those who hurt us – just as He has forgiven us? Which box?
 - **LIES** (verse 9) I think you know what these are – and which box they should go into. Which? God wants us to be honest and truthful at all times.
 - **BAD LANGUAGE** (verse 8)
So many people today use bad and dirty words – and even use the name of God – in a bad way. Do you think God likes this? Of course not. There is no doubt which box this goes into.
 - **LOVE** (verse 14).
This is the most important piece of clothes of all. We know it goes into this box (*do it*). Because if we are wearing this garment we will be kind and patient and loving; and we will not be nasty or bad tempered and we will not tell lies and use bad words.
- What clothes are you wearing? Let’s get rid of the “**OLD CLOTHES**” (*Push that box away*) and be sure to wear these clothes and God will help you to do so – if you ask Him (*Lift that box and walk off*).

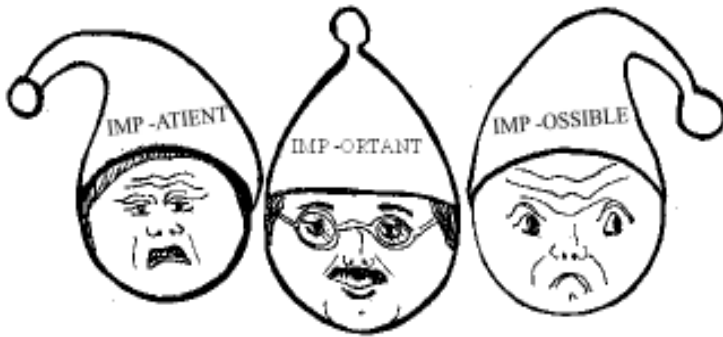
Christian Children
THE FIVE IMPS

TRUTH:

Things which should never be found in a Christian’s life.

VISUALS:

1. Purchase five small balls (tennis).
2. Cut a hole in the bottom of each to fit on finger.
3. Draw one face on each ball according to the illustration given.
4. Attach hats of material or suede paper on which to write the names of the above.

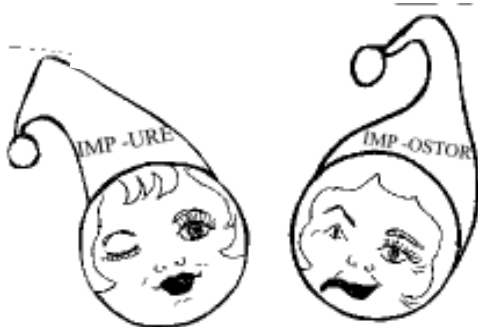


LESSON:

We are going to speak of five “imps” or things which should never be found in a Christian’s life. If we find them in our lives, we should ask the Lord to forgive us and to give us victory over them.

1. The first “Imp” is something you don’t want to have in your life and that is to be - “Imp-atient” (*Place ball on finger*). Do you know what that means? This imp is very clever, he is always in a rush, sometimes he is not careful, he does not think of others, and he wants immediate attention. He is a “me-first” person.
Patience is something that God wants us to have. He wants us to be quiet, calm and not wanting everything to happen yesterday. It is important to wait and let God work (James 1 v4).
2. The next “Imp” is “Imp-ortant” (*Place ball on second finger according to illustration*). Some folks allow this “imp” to get into their lives. This imp is selfish. He wants to be first. He wants the biggest and best of everything. He feels better than everyone else. God calls it pride. God says in the Bible, “*Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty (or proud) spirit before a fall*” (Proverbs 16 v18).
I hope that you are not a person like that.
3. The third “Imp” is “Imp-ossible”. He is the one who never does anything right. He is disobedient, grumpy, mean and sarcastic. Nobody wants him. Everybody finds him completely impossible to live with or to be with.
But God wants each of us to be easy to live with, to be kind and gentle (Ephesians 4 v32).

4. The fourth “Imp” is “Imp-oster”. Do you know what that means? An imposter is the one who pretends to be one person but is really another. When I cover the left half of an imposter’s face you will find the imposter on his way to church. He appears to be a happy Christian.



Now when I cover the right side of the face you will see he is the opposite. He goes to church but still lives in sin. He praises the Lord in Bible Club, but copies his friends outside at other times. God wants us to be faithful at all times and not to keep changing. Mr. Imp-oster doesn’t fool anyone, and even robs himself of joy and happiness. Mr Imp-oster is not a true Christian. The Lord Jesus told us that we must worship God in spirit and in truth (John 4 v24).

5. The last “Imp” is “Imp-ure”. Our bodies are God’s temple – (1 Corinthians 6 v19 and 20). Satan will do all kinds of things to get us to be dirty so that God cannot use us for His glory. He will make us choose wrong friends, say bad words, think bad thoughts, have filthy habits and choose to go places that God would not want us to go.

But God wants you to be clean and pure.

God will give you the strength and help you to get rid of these “imps” – if you really want to and if you ask Him.

Christian Children **BUILDING BLOCKS**

TRUTH: The church of Jesus Christ worldwide is like a building.

VISUALS:

A selection of building blocks. Print a child’s name on one block.

LESSON:

When you were very small you probably played with blocks, building tall towers and knocking them down again (*Demonstrate*). Perhaps you still play with Lego making interesting constructions. Some of you boys would maybe like to become builders when you grow up.

Have you ever watched a building going up? (*Place the building blocks on top of each other*) First an important part of the construction is made – the foundations which have to be very strong especially if the building is to be a high one. Next the walls and different stories of the building go up, brick by brick. Then the roof is put on, doors and windows go in, and the plasterers and electricians, painters and decorators all arrive one after the other until the building is finished. What an exciting day that is!

The Bible says that a building is a picture of the Church. It is important to understand that the real Church is not the building of bricks and mortar that we meet in, but the people who meet in the building. **They** are the church, a sort of **living** building built on the **living** foundation of the Lord Jesus Christ. As soon as a person realizes his sin and trusts in Jesus Christ to save him he becomes a **living** brick of the Church, built in by the Holy Spirit (*Show block with name on it*). The living bricks do not just sit there as bricks sit in a wall but they tell others about the Saviour and these in turn trust the Lord Jesus to forgive and save them and they also become living bricks in the growing Church. And the living bricks stay close together, not cemented together as ordinary bricks are, with cement, but held together by the love we have in our hearts for one another.

And you are one of those bricks if you have trusted the Lord Jesus as your Saviour.

Christian Children
HERE COMES THE BRIDE

TRUTH: The church of Jesus Christ worldwide is like a bride.

VISUALS:

A picture of a bride and bridegroom.

LESSON:

Nearly every girl looks forward to becoming a bride (*Show picture and point to bride*), to the special day when she shall be married to someone wonderful (*Point to bridegroom*), who, out of all the girls he might have chosen, has picked her out as the very nicest one, the one he wants to be his bride.

In fairy stories poor young men marry beautiful princesses and poor young girls end up marrying handsome princes – but it very seldom happens in real life. Even in fairy tales the young man or young woman has to be handsome or beautiful, or they would never win the heart of the prince or princess. Wouldn't it be unusual if the handsome prince chose one of the ugly sisters as his bride instead of Cinderella?

Well, in the Bible, which is real and true, and not a made-up story, that is exactly what happens! The Prince of Heaven, the Lord Jesus Christ, loved us bad people. He came down to rescue us and free us from Satan and sin and to do it He sacrificed His life. The Bible says that, "*Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it*" (Ephesians 5 v25). Three days after His death He rose from the dead and this showed that He had won the fight against Satan. He forgives the sin of all those who come and trust Him and He then changes us, taking away the filth of our sin and giving us His own beauty and all His riches.

But the Bible also tells us that all of us who trust Him are all part of His Church – and He loves us, His Church, so much that He sees us as His bride. When a man loves a woman and marries her she becomes his bride. So the Lord Jesus loves all of us – and we are His bride.

He makes us like Him on the inside little by little and one day when we shall see Him in Heaven we shall be just like Him – on the inside and the outside and perfectly beautiful in every way. Then there shall be a great celebration when He shall proudly present us, His bride, to His Father. What a wonderful wedding party that shall be!

And you will be there if you have trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour.

Christian Children
YOU CAN'T TAKE IT BACK

TRUTH: God wants us to be careful about what we say to others or about others.

VISUALS:

A large tube of toothpaste, a bowl and a towel.

A dandelion which is going to seed (the flower has been replaced by fluffy little seeds).

LESSON:

Ron's young brother wasn't allowed to play with Ron's gadgets and toys – but he loved to do so whenever he had the chance. One day Ron found his brother playing with his Playstation and messing it up and he really lost his temper. He shouted at his brother and told him how bad and wicked he was and he said that he wished that his young brother had never been born. His brother started to cry, and Ron realized how awful and cruel he had been. He wished he hadn't said what he said. He wanted to take his words back again. Could he do that?

I would like to ask two of you to do something for me (*Ask for two volunteers*). I give one of you a tube of toothpaste and a bowl (*Do so*). Are you ready? I would like you to squeeze some of the toothpaste into the bowl. Good! Thank you very much.

Now here is what I want you, (the other child) to do. Your job is to stuff the toothpaste back into the tube. Would you like to try? You'd better hold this towel as you do so. It's impossible, isn't it? Once that toothpaste is out there is no way you can get it back in. If you want to have the toothpaste in the tube there is only one way to do it – don't squeeze it out.

If you are a Christian and like Ron, you say something nasty and horrid to someone else you can't bring it back. It's easy to say it. It's impossible to take it back just as you can't bring the toothpaste back into the tube. It's out – for good. The answer is – don't say it! Don't squeeze the tube and you won't have to try to bring it back. That's why the Bible tells us only to use good words and kind words when we are speaking to each other. (James 3:6)

And if you are a Christian you need to be careful too with what you say about other people. Sometimes we say something nasty about someone and do you know what happens?

This is a dandelion (*Hold it up*). At least it was a dandelion. But the flower is gone and only those seeds are left. When I blow it (*Do so*) the seeds all drift in different directions like tiny fluffy parachutes. Can I gather them back again? Certainly not. They are all scattered here and there and you can never bring them back. And when you say something

nasty about a person, like these seeds, it goes here and there, and what you have said spreads and spreads. This is called gossip and it really hurts the person who is spoken about. Be careful what you say about others. Remember the dandelion seeds. You can't bring them back again. Did you know that a man in the Bible called David prayed and asked God to guard his lips and to help him not to say anything which would hurt anyone he was speaking to, or speaking about? (Psalm 141 v3). And we need to do the same.

Christian Children
LEARNING FROM A KING

TRUTH: God can help you control different parts of your body

VISUALS:

Four cards with a drawing or picture on each – as follows.

A HEAD, EYES, MOUTH, FEET.

Or, instead of cards, you could just point to each of your body parts as you refer to them.

LESSON:

Have you ever heard of a man in the Bible who was called David? He was a very famous man because for many years he was the king of Israel and he was the one who killed the giant Goliath. He was also a man who trusted God. He had done so since he was young.

David wanted to live for his Lord. But, like you and me who are Christians, he had problems from time to time:

- He had problems with his head – his thoughts. He knew that he had bad thoughts from time to time and he said to God, “*Try me and know my thoughts*” (Psalm 139 v23). He wanted God to show him when his thoughts were not right – and help him think the right way. You should also pray this prayer – so that God will help you with your thoughts.
- He sometimes had problems with his eyes (*Show card*). There had been times when he had been tempted to look at things which were wrong. And so he prayed and made a promise to God, “*I will set no evil thing in front of my eyes*” (Psalm 101 v3).

Would you like to make this promise too? You need, for example, to be careful what you watch on TV.

- And then there were problems David had with his lips (*Show card*). Do you have these problems also? David knew he had said some wrong things. Perhaps he had told a lie or said something unkind about someone. Whatever it was he prayed and asked God to put a guard on his mouth, and help him to control his words.

"Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; Keep watch over the door of my lips" (Psalm 141 v3).

What about your lips, your mouth? Do you need to ask God to control what you say?

- But when David saw all these three problems could he find a solution for them? It took him a while to realize how badly he had messed up his life at times. But when he did realize it, he was really sorry and he confessed his sin to God – and this is what he prayed *"Cleanse me from my sin"* (Psalm 51 v2b) – and God forgave him and helped him to make a new start. Perhaps you need to ask God to clean you and forgive you, and help you to make a new start (1 John 1 v9).
- Above all David wanted to keep walking for his Lord (*Show card*), and I know you do also – and he knew that only God could *"Keep his feet from falling"* (Psalm 56 v13). And He will help you to walk for Him – and not fall.

Christian Children **LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS**

TRUTH: God gives us the light we need through His Word, the Bible.

VISUALS:

A piece of coal;
a picture
of a coal miner's lamp.



LESSON:

Where would you say is the darkest place in the whole world – so dark it is absolutely impossible to see anything at any time (*Give an*

opportunity to respond). I will give you the answer later – but I want to talk about the second darkest place in the world. And I want to talk about people who work in that very dark place – perhaps the most difficult job in the world; at least it was very difficult years ago before changes were made.

This dark dark place is a coal mine. It is hundreds of feet below the ground and there is absolutely no light at all. And the very difficult job is that of a coal miner who has to go down in a cage lift into the mine to dig and produce coal (*Show it*) so that we can have heat and light.

How would you like to be a coal miner – especially years ago when conditions were more difficult? Just imagine going down in that cage and then having to walk or perhaps crawl along a corridor which had been cut out from the earth to get to the coal face where you dig coal out with a pick. And it was so very dark. You had two problems. You could not see to walk and you could not see to work. What is the answer?

Many years ago a special lamp was invented. It was called a Davy Jones' lamp like this (*Show it*). The coal miner wore a helmet to protect his head from falling rock and the light was attached to the front of that helmet:

- Now he could see to walk. The light from the helmet showed him where to put his feet. But he needed to keep his head down. The light showed him each step one at a time.
- Now he could see to work. Because the light was attached to his helmet his hands were free to use his pick.

What a help that light was in the second darkest place in the whole world.

But where is the darkest place? It is the world itself – the world we all live on, right up here on the surface. But this is a different kind of darkness – it is the darkness of sin – but it is very real – and we are living in it. How can you and I who are Christians walk in a world which is so dark? How can we know the right way to go and the right thing to do? God has given us a light to show us where to walk and where to put our feet. That light is the Bible, the Word of God. A writer in the Bible says, “*Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path*” (Psalm 119 v105). It shines down on my path one step at a time and shows me where and how to walk – what to do and where to go.

And God's Word, the Bible, also helps me to work for God in the world of darkness. God's work is for me to tell those who are living in darkness that Jesus Christ is the light of the world and that He will give them

light. This is difficult to do – but when I use the Word of God to tell them this, God promises that I will be able to bring others into His light. The Bible is like a sword. It is the sword of the Spirit (Ephesians 6 v17) – and you can use it, as the coal miner uses his pick and have good results.

God's Word helps you in your walk and your work in this world of darkness. Are you reading it? Are you obeying it?

All Children
PASS IT ON

TRUTH: It is the responsibility of Christian boys and girls to tell other boys and girls about the Lord Jesus.

VISUALS:

A piece of rounded wood to represent an athlete's baton. The Bible.

LESSON:

Do you like to run in races? Have you ever won one? (*Give opportunity to respond*). Do you like to watch others running races? Have you ever watched the races in the Olympic Games on your television?

I like to watch these races – and I especially like to watch the relay race. Do you know what I mean? (*Give opportunity to respond*). There are four persons in the relay so it is a team race. I think that's why I enjoy it so much. The first runner has a baton like this (*Show it*). When the race starts he runs with this baton in his hand, for 100 meters or 200 meters or 400 meters. The second member of the team is waiting at the end of his run – and he passes the baton on to him. This runner then runs his distance and passes the baton to the third runner who does the same and passes it lastly to the fourth team member who then completes the race. It is important for each runner to carry the baton when it is his time to do so; and it is also important that he passes it on to the next runner as efficiently as possible so it is not dropped.

But I want to tell you about the longest relay race in the history of the world. There are more than four runners in it; and it didn't just last one minute or five minutes or ten minutes. There are millions and millions

of runners in this relay race – and it has been going on for almost 2,000 years! And by the way, if you have trusted the Lord Jesus as your Saviour, you are in it – you are one of the runners.

This special relay race started away back, as I have said, almost 2,000 years ago – and the Bible tells us about it. After the Lord Jesus died on the Cross for our sin, and after He rose again from the dead and after He went back to Heaven, He spoke to a man like Paul who had just become a Christian and He told Paul that he had a job for him to do – a race for him to run. The Lord Jesus gave Paul something – not a baton like this – but he showed him what the Gospel was (Acts 26 v16) – the Gospel which is in this book, the Bible (*Show it*), and He told him to pass it on (1 Corinthians 15 v1). The Lord Jesus wanted others to hear and have the Gospel – and they could only do so if men like Paul told them the Gospel and passed it on to them.

And that was the start of the biggest relay race in the world's history. Paul did what he was told. He told the church at Corinth (1 Corinthians 15 v1) and many other people and he passed the baton onto a man called Timothy and he told Timothy that he was to pass it on (*Hold up Bible*) to others (2 Timothy 2 v2) who would pass it on to others, on to others, on to others and then one day it was passed on to you. Have you received this Gospel message? Have you trusted the Lord Jesus as your Saviour? I hope you have. If you haven't, trust Him today and then the baton (*Hold up Bible*) will be in your hands and it will also be in the hands of every boy and girl who has trusted the Lord Jesus.

Make sure you don't drop it. It's everyone's job to pass it on to someone else in this great relay race and tell them about the Lord Jesus and what He has done for them.

Don't keep it to yourself; don't be selfish; be sure to pass it on.

Christian Children

THE WORDLESS BOOK FOR SAVED BOYS AND GIRLS

TRUTH: God wants His children to live for Him.

VISUALS:

Make a big Wordless Book (if you don't have one). You will need 5 coloured pages - black, red, white, gold and green.

The green page will be the cover of your book. Fold the other four pages in two. Stick one half of the black page to the first half of the green page. Then stick one half of the red page to the other half of the black page – and continue until you stick the second half of the gold page to the second half of the green page.

Fold over – so the green page is the cover.

Print these words on the pages:

Gold page – light

Black page – strength

Red page – love

White page – assurance

Green page – growth

The Wordless Book has been used to give the Gospel to children for over a century. Initial growth steps for a new convert are given when using the green page but you can use all the colours of the book in succeeding days and weeks to give more teaching for Christian living. This is a longer lesson which you could spread over several weeks. Share with the child in one sitting only as much as he is able to absorb.

LESSON:

Have you heard the story of the Wordless Book Number 2? Here it is! It tells about the new life you have in the Lord Jesus and it shows you how to live for Him. Where do you think we will begin the story? Yes! At the back, because that's the best part of this book, too.

GOLD PAGE – God's way is the way of light. Can you guess what this page reminds me of? (*If response is "Heaven", say, "That's part of it."*). It reminds me of God's kingdom of light. Who do you think belongs to God's kingdom of light? All those who have received the Lord Jesus as their Saviour. Does that mean you? If you have trusted the Lord Jesus God's Word says He has rescued you from the ruler of darkness and brought you into the kingdom of His Son (Colossians 1 v13). He has brought you into light. And you will be there forever. God has promised that your new life is eternal – without end. No one can take it away from you.

Now that you are part of God's kingdom and living in the light you are no longer the boss of your life. Who is the boss? The Lord Jesus Christ (Philippians 2 v10, 11). He is the King – your King. He made you, died for you and rose from the dead. He is God the Son. So He has the right to be the ruler of your life! He is a wonderful ruler. He will guide you and take care of you. But, He also expects you to obey Him in everything you think and say and do (John 14 v15).

Does belonging to God's kingdom and living in the light mean you are no longer tempted to sin? No, as long as you live on earth the kingdom of darkness is still here even though you are not in it.

DARK PAGE – (*Turn to dark page*) God's way is the way of strength. This page reminds me of the kingdom of darkness, or sin. Satan is the ruler of this kingdom. He is God's enemy and he is your enemy. But I have good news for you! You no longer have to obey Satan. You are not in His kingdom anymore. But he still attacks you and tempts you. However, God the Holy Spirit lives in you and He is far more powerful than Satan (1 John 4 v4) and He will make you strong.

God, Who loves you so much and wants your life to honour Him, tells you what to do when Satan tempts you to sin. Listen to these important instructions: "*Submit yourself ... to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you*" (James 4 v7). This means that if you let God take over – if you trust Him for strength to say "no" to Satan – Satan will run!

What if you forget to call on God for help? What if you do choose to sin? Will God leave you? No, He promised never to leave you (Hebrews 13 v5). But what do you need to do? Right away, tell God what you have done and ask His forgiveness (1 John 1 v9). Ask Him to help you not to do it again. Is there any sin God will not forgive if you are truly sorry and tell Him so? No, because He died for all your sin and He loves you very much.

RED PAGE – God's way is the way of love (*Turn to red page*).

This red page reminds us of God's love. Remember God loved the world so much He gave His only Son to die for us. Now God wants you and me to show His love to others (John 15 v12). He is our example to imitate and our model to follow. People may be unkind to you. They may say and do things that hurt you, or forget to keep their promises. How could you show God's love to them? (*By forgiving them*). Or, maybe you know people who are not very nice, or not very smart or good looking. How could you show God's love to them? (*By helping them or*

by being a friend to them). God loves each person He has made. He wants you to love even your enemies and to forgive others as He has forgiven you. Do you think you can love everyone—even your enemies? You can with God's help!

When you trusted Jesus Christ as your Saviour He sent the Holy Spirit to live in you and He will give you strength to say "No" to sin (*Show dark page*) and to love others (*Show red page*).

WHITE PAGE – God's way is also the way of assurance (*Turn to white page*).

When you trusted Jesus Christ as your Saviour all your sin was forgiven – past, present and future – and God now sees you like this white page. He sees you as pure and as holy as His Son Jesus Christ is. You know that you are not pure and holy – but that is how God sees you because of Jesus Christ. This means that you will never be condemned or separated from God. If you have truly trusted Jesus Christ you will always be saved; you will always be like this white page. You can be sure that you are saved forever.

But God wants you to grow and to become more and more pure and holy in your everyday life.

GREEN PAGE – God's way is the way of growth (*Turn to green page*). Green reminds us of things that are what? Growing! What does your body need to be able to grow? (*Food and exercise*). For your new life to grow you also need food and exercise.

God's Word, the Bible, is the FOOD that helps you grow to be like the Lord Jesus.

What kind of food do you find in the Bible? You will find commands so that you will know the good things God wants you to do and the bad things he doesn't want you to do. You will find promises to help you obey God's commands. Best of all, you will find out what God is like so you can learn to love and trust Him more. God says you cannot live by regular food alone, you must have His words to feed your new life inside (*Matthew 4 v4*).

When you do what God's Word says it is also like EXERCISE for your new life. Instead of only reading or memorizing verses from the Bible you must use God's promises, do the good things He asks you to do and pay attention to His commands not to sin. Then, when hard things come into your life you will be strong in the Lord (*Matthew 7 v24*).

Not only do you need food and exercise, you need FRIENDSHIP! God loves you more than anyone else can. He wants to be your best friend. He wants you to TALK WITH HIM about everything in your life (Philippians 4 v6). Talking to God is called what? (*Prayer*).

You can choose a special time every day to talk to God (*Discuss a possible time*). And you can pray about anything – day or night! What kinds of things could you talk to God about? (*Let children give their ideas and add to them if needed – thank Him for what He has done for you, ask Him for what you need, ask Him to help others who need Him*). You can talk to God about anything!

God is your best friend but you also need the FRIENDSHIP of other Christians, too. Be sure to find some friends who love God, study the Bible and pray. You can help each other grow in God's family!

Christian Children **A-TISHOO**

TRUTH: God wants Christian boys and girls to say a loud, “No!” to wrong things.

VISUAL:

A clean handkerchief.

LESSON:

(*Start with a good loud sneeze holding your handkerchief over your mouth*)

A-Tishoo! Excuse me, boys and girls. Do you ever sneeze like that? When we do, we force air explosively from our lungs. The rushing air carries a spray of around 19,000 droplets as far as one meter. That's why we need to use our handkerchief when we sneeze (*Demonstrate*) – so that other people will not be touched by, or affected by, what we sneeze out. There is an old saying which goes like this, “Coughs and sneezes spread diseases; catch your germs in your handkerchiefses.”

Do you know why we sneeze? It is to protect us. That tickle in your throat or nose might be a harmful foreign body which could be breathed

or washed down into your lungs. The sneeze blasts it back out again – and in this way helps to protect our system.

But there is something else which needs to be protected and that is our friendship with God. There are also many things which can get into your mind through your eyes and ears – and can cause your mind harm and make you love God less. As a Christian you have repented of sin and turned away from it, but all around us there are things which can make you fall into sin. You must realize they are dangerous and refuse them, reject them immediately, as your body rejects by sneezing the germs you breathe in. The Bible says “*Let not sin reign (or rule) in you*” (Romans 6 v12a).

Say “Yes” to the Lord Jesus and a big loud “No” to all that is wrong. “No! No! Out you go!”

- There are things on television which can harm you, and things in books and magazines. And if they get in, or try to get into your mind, you should blow them out as if you were sneezing – say a big loud “No” to sin.
- And there are words which you hear which can poison your mind. People take God’s name in vain, or use bad words, or try to gossip and tell you bad things about other people. Have a good sneeze and get rid of them – say a big loud “No!” to sin.

But it’s even better not to allow all these bad things to enter your mind – so you don’t need to sneeze them out. Be careful what you watch on television. Don’t be afraid to switch it off. Be careful what you read. And be careful what you listen to. There are some things you cannot avoid – and you need to sneeze them out. But there are things you can avoid – and you should be sure to do so.

Christian Children
TOM GOBBLE

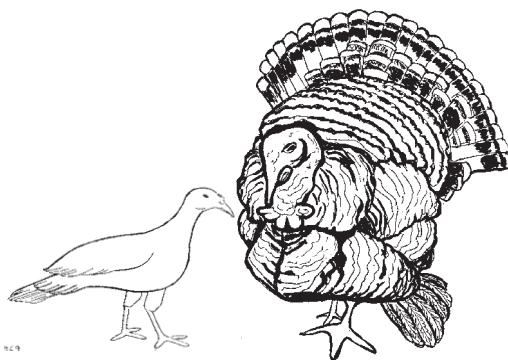
TRUTH: God does not want His children to be greedy.

VISUALS:

A picture of a small turkey and a big turkey.

LESSON:

Tom was the smallest turkey in Farmer Jones' barnyard (*Put his picture up*), but Tom was a very greedy little turkey. At night he was always the first one in the barn so that he could get the best bed. In the morning he was always the first one out the door so that he could be the first to clean himself in the bath.



And at mealtime he was always the first to gobble up the food. Tom Gobble was a sight to see when it was time to eat. He would spread his feathers and run through the barnyard, screaming, "Gobble, gobble, gobble, you better get out of my way!" As days turned into months and Tom continued his greedy ways, he grew bigger and bigger and bigger, until one day he was the biggest turkey in the barnyard (*change pictures*). Because Christmas Day was coming, Farmer Jones was sizing up his turkeys to see which one would make the best Thanksgiving dinner. Well, you can guess what happened. When Tom Gobble saw Farmer Jones coming after him, he wished he hadn't been so greedy – but his wishing had come too late. Farmer Jones' wife fixed him for Thanksgiving dinner.

Of course the story of Tom Gobble is not just a story about a turkey. It's a story about us, too, because we can also be pretty greedy at times. We don't say "Gobble, gobble, gobble" but we do say, "Gimme, gimme, gimme." It seems that we always want to be first in line, to have the best seat or the biggest piece of cake; and at the dinner table our hands are a blur as we grab for the chicken or the dessert. We end up being just a selfish unpleasant person that nobody likes. And of course God is not pleased when His children are greedy. We need to be sorry and ask the Lord Jesus to cleanse us from this sin and make us different and more like the Lord Jesus Who was never greedy but thought of others and put them first. Anyway we don't need to grab and be greedy – because God gives us every thing we need. Let's be thankful for what we have instead. Philippians 4 v11, "*I have learned to be content.*"

The opposite of being grabby or greedy is being thankful. In the Bible we read: "*O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures for ever!*" (Psalm 136 v1).

Christian Children
FINGERS THAT SEE

TRUTH: When God asks you to do something – make sure you don't give up.

VISUALS:

An awl or ice pick, an unfinished model airplane, embroidery work, painting, or any other articles that have been started and not finished, and an example of Braille.

LESSON:

Boys, did you ever start to build a model airplane – and then quit? (*Hold up an unfinished plane*), Girls, did you ever start to embroider a towel or paint a picture – and never finished it? (*Display these*). My, how interested you were the first half hour, perhaps the first day or so! But something happened. The newness wore off, the glue didn't stick right, the thread knotted, or the paint didn't look right – so you got tired of the project and gave it up. Today it is just as unfinished as it was when you stopped working on it.

These things remind us of certain Christians. After they have believed in the Lord Jesus as their Saviour from sin – and that is the only way one can become a Christian – they sort of give up as far as living for the Lord Jesus is concerned – or serving Him. But the Lord Jesus doesn't want us to be quitters; He urges us to be "*steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord*" (1 Corinthians 15 v58).

Has any one of you ever seen an awl, which looks somewhat like an ice pick? (*Show whichever you have and comment on its sharp point*). Awls were used a great deal in days past to punch holes in leather while making harnesses for horses.

In the year 1812 a little boy in France had a horrible accident with an awl like this. As a result, he lost his sight completely. He was only three years old at the time.

But Louis, the little boy who lost his eyesight, didn't spend time feeling sorry for himself. As he grew older, he determined that he would go on and finish the work that he thought God wanted him to do – to help blind people like himself. He went to school with children who could see, for there were no special primary schools and high schools for the blind, as there are today. Yet he studied very hard, became a fine organist, then went to Paris Institute for the Blind. At the age of 19, he became a teacher in that school. No matter what handicaps we might have God can still use us in all kinds of ways.

One day, in a restaurant, a friend told Louis of an army captain who was sending most unusual messages at night to his men who were stationed where no light was permitted. The captain had been punching holes in pieces of paper and the men would read his messages by feeling the holes with their fingers. Suddenly Louis jumped to his feet and began to shout. Then, remembering where he was, he sat down saying, "Now I can open the windows so the blind can see!"

Louis started working as hard as he could, as you did when you started making something (*Point to unfinished articles*). But he didn't give up. Days, weeks, months went by. Working out a simple alphabet of holes was a slow job. Five years went by. Finally Louis appeared before the Institute for the Blind with a whole book printed with raised dots like this (*Show example of Braille*). He read part of it to the teachers. But instead of clapping for him and being grateful for his work, they claimed that he had memorized the portion he read. They rejected Louis' work – after five years of sacrifice, time and effort! Often, when we try to serve the Lord Jesus, people will discourage us. But the Lord Jesus has promised to help us and to encourage us.

But Louis didn't give up. He didn't stop, though he had reason to. Blind people came to his home secretly. With an awl (*Show this again*) the tool that had made him blind – he punched holes in paper – and taught these blind friends to read.

While Louis was dying, at the early age of 43, someone brought him word that his system had been accepted and that blind people would be able to read. Eagerly Louis exclaimed, "My life has not been in vain!" If Louis Braille had only started and then given up he could never have had the joy of knowing that his life counted for something. Neither can you, if you get into the habit of quitting what you start. Keep going on going on! The Bible tells us to "... *run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus.*" (Hebrews 12:1&2) Keep going, don't give up.

Paul the great Apostle said as his life was coming to a close “*I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith*” (2 Timothy 4 v2).

He never gave up. Neither must you.

Christian Children **TUG-OF-WAR**

TRUTH: The Lord Jesus is ready to help Christian boys who have problems.

VISUALS:

A rope, three volunteers chosen beforehand – a small child, one big child and an adult man.

LESSON:

I have something with me today which can be used for one of the oldest sports in our country (*Hold up the rope*). For many years people have used a rope like this for a sport called “Tug-of-war”. I think you know how it is played. One team holds on to one end of the rope and the other team holds on to the other end; and then both teams pull as hard as they can – to see who is the stronger.

I thought it would be interesting for us to have a tug-of-war here this morning. I have organized a contest. And I will ask the two opponents to come forward, for one of them to take one end of this rope and the other the other end (*Have the two children do so*). When I say “go” they will both pull hard. Have you any idea who might win? (Say “go” and the children pull).

Oh dear! It looks as if he (*Point*) is the stronger. I don’t think he (*Point to the smaller child*) has much chance against him.

And that is very true in the lives of each of you, boys and girls, who have trusted the Lord Jesus as your Saviour. You are like this child (*Point to the smaller child*). You want to be good; you want to live for the Lord Jesus; but the one at the other end of the rope is stronger than you and pulling you in his direction. Do you know what his name is? He is called “Satan” and he is very strong.

What can you do?

What can this child do if he is to win the tug-of-war? I believe there is an answer. *(The child shouts “help” and the chosen adult steps forth and takes hold of the rope along with the small child).*

Let’s see what happens now! Pull! Can you see the result? The smaller boy is winning – not because he is stronger but because he has someone who is really strong helping him.

And if your opponent and enemy “Satan” is pulling you in his direction and over to himself, and you have no more strength, call out “help” to the Lord Jesus and He will take hold of the rope along with you and help you defeat your opponent. (1 John 4:4)

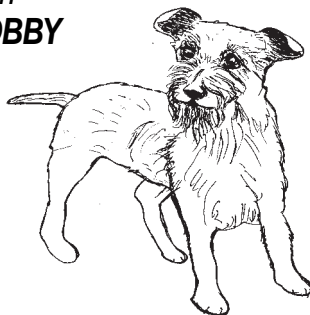
He says in the Bible, *“Call upon Me in the day of trouble. I will deliver you”* (Psalm 50 v15).

Christian Children
GREY FRIAR’S BOBBY

TRUTH: The Lord Jesus wants you to love Him.

VISUALS:

A picture or model of a small dog.



LESSON:

If you ever get the chance to visit Edinburgh, the capital of Scotland, be sure to go to Grey Friar’s Bridge. Why? Because at the end of the bridge there is a small statue of a dog – a little Scottish terrier called Bobby *(Show picture of dog).*

Bobby belonged to his master who was affectionately known as ‘old Jock.’ The dog thought a lot of his master. The master loved his little dog. They were great friends, inseparable. Jock and Bobby were always together in the market where Jock worked. Each day they went to a café at one o’clock to have lunch or dinner. Jock had a meal and Bobby had a bun and a bone.

But one day old Jock died and he was buried in Grey Friar’s churchyard, but the next day Bobby went to the café when the clock struck one and he was given his bun and his bone. He did this each day. After a while the owner wondered where Bobby spent the rest of his time because old

Jock had gone and he wouldn't be in the market. So one day he followed the dog. Where do you think Bobby went? (*Show picture of dog*).

Well it doesn't need much guessing really, because Bobby went into the churchyard and lay on his master's grave. Old Jock and Bobby were inseparable as they both thought a lot of each other. Now Bobby just wanted to be where his dear old master was. It was said that for fourteen years the little dog lived in the churchyard and slept on his master's grave. Such was his love for his master. The little dog's love for his master lasted about sixteen years which is a very long time for a dog. He really loved his master.

If you have trusted Jesus Christ as your Saviour, He is your Master. He died for you. Do you love Him? Would you do anything for Him? Remember Grey Friar's Bobby and his love for his master – and try to be like that little dog. If you love your Master the Lord Jesus you'll want to be where He is. Not in a graveyard but in church and at Good News Club and anywhere you can get to know Him better. Most of all you'll want to read His Word and pray.

Also you'll want to obey Him as a dog obeys his master's commands. The Lord Jesus said, "*If you love Me, keep My commandments*" (John 14 v15).

Christian Children **A MISSIONARY DOG**

TRUTH: God can use every Christian boy and girl in His work.

VISUALS:

A picture or model of a small dog.

LESSON:

This is a true story about a little dog who lived in China many years ago. He never knew that one day he would become a kind of missionary to some Chinese soldiers.

These men lived in a large military barracks. Just opposite it was a mission church, where people could go to hear about the Lord Jesus Christ, and how He loved them so much that He died on the cross to suffer the punishment for their sins.

These missionaries from the mission church thought a great deal about the soldiers who never came into the church to hear how they could have their sins forgiven. They tried hard to get into the barracks to preach and pray and give out little booklets about the Lord Jesus Christ but each time they were driven out.

Of course they prayed that somehow a way would be found for them to talk to the soldiers and God answered their prayers in a wonderful way. He didn't use a man, or even a child. He used a little dog. This is how it happened.

One of the missionaries was cleaning out a cupboard when he found some sheets of paper. 'These are no use to anyone,' he thought. 'I'll throw them out.' He never noticed that among the loose sheets of paper were some pages from an old Chinese Bible.

A little dog like this one (*Show it*) was romping in the street outside and when he saw the loose pages being blown away he seized hold of them. The missionary looked on in surprise, as some Chinese children chased the little dog which ran straight into the barracks, the loose pages from the Bible still in its mouth.

No more was thought about the little dog until, at the close of the Sunday Gospel service, a Chinese officer accompanied by two other soldiers in uniform came into the church. He said to the missionary in charge, "I have some torn pages here which a little dog brought into the barracks the other day. We have read them and they seem to be a very interesting story about a military campaign. We would like to read the rest of the story. We think it might have come from a book in your mission. If it has, we would like a copy so that we can read the whole story."

The missionary looked at the loose pages and saw to his surprise that they came from the book of Joshua, one of the books in the Bible. What a pleasure it was for him to give the officer and two soldiers a copy of the whole Bible in Chinese. The soldiers were so grateful that they and the missionaries became great friends. Many of the soldiers heard about the Lord Jesus Christ and became Christians.

Some years later one of these missionaries was visiting Manchuria, a part of China. As he got off the train a tall Chinese man greeted him and asked, "Do you not remember me?"

"No, I'm afraid I don't," replied the missionary.

"I am one of the soldiers who became a Christian when I was living in the barracks opposite your church. I have now given up the army and am preaching the good news about the Lord Jesus Christ."

You can imagine how delighted the missionary was to hear that not only had a soldier become a Christian but he was giving his life to telling others the way to Heaven.

All these wonderful things happened because God caused a little dog like this (*Show it*) to run into the barracks with pages from the Bible. Boys and girls, if God can use even a little dog to do His work, how much more can He use boys and girls like you – if you have trusted the Lord Jesus?

If you are a Christian you are not too young to be a missionary. If you really care for people who do not know the Lord Jesus, and really pray hard as those missionaries prayed, then God can use you, even though you are very young. (*Offer tracts for them to give to friends*)

Christian Children **WHAT TIME IS IT?**

TRUTH: God wants His children to talk to Him at any time.

VISUALS:

A large clock with hands you can easily move. This could be a real clock – or one you make for the purpose.

LESSON:

I have brought a big clock with me this morning. I am going to ask you some questions and I'll put your answers on the face of this clock (*Hold up the clock. As each child gives his response move the hands of the clock to the appropriate time*):

- What time do you get up?
- What time do you go to school?
- What time do you eat lunch?
- What time do you do your homework?
- What time do you eat dinner?
- What time do you go to bed?

Thank you very much for these answers. Now I have a question especially for those boys and girls who have trusted the Lord Jesus as their Saviour:

- What time do you pray?

Yes, some of you pray in the morning; some of you before you go to bed; some of you do both; and some of you pray before you eat your meals. That's good.

But the Bible gives us another time when we should pray. It says, "*Pray continually*" (1 Thessalonians 5 v17). (*Move the hands of the clock completely round*). What does that mean? It doesn't mean that you should walk around all day with your hands folded and your eyes closed. That will cause problems. It means that you can talk to God at any time. You can say quick prayers to God at any time.

"Thank You God for this beautiful day."

"Help me, Heavenly Father, to do well in this examination."

"I'm sorry, Lord, I should not have said that."

"I don't know what to do, Lord. Please show me."

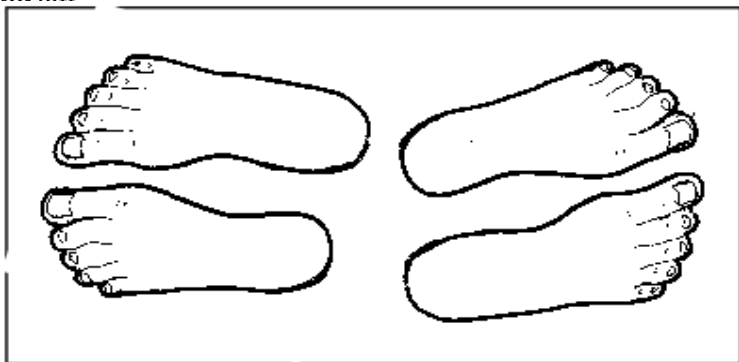
God is always ready to listen to you – at any time. And then you can have a special time in the morning or evening when you can sit down and spend a longer time talking to your Heavenly Father.

Christian Children
LEARNING FROM LEPERS

TRUTH: God wants His children to be thankful.

VISUALS:

Use cardboard to make one pair of feet facing right and one pair facing left.



LESSON:

One day when the Lord Jesus was coming into a village ten men came towards Him (Luke 17 v11-19). They did not come too close because they had a terrible disease called leprosy, and they did not want to come close to other people because they thought the disease was infectious.

So they stood some distance away and shouted to the Lord Jesus and asked Him to have mercy on them and heal them. They must have heard about the miracles the Lord Jesus had done to many other people and they too wanted to be healed.

The Lord Jesus spoke to them and just said, "*Go and show the priests that you are healed.*" All ten believed that He would heal them and when they turned to go to where the priests were, all ten of them were immediately and wonderfully healed. What a miracle!

What did they do next? Nine of them continued to go away from the Lord Jesus (*Show feet facing left*). They did not stop. They did not say anything. What would you have done if you had been one of them? What would you have said? (*Give opportunity to respond*). Well they didn't stop and they didn't say thanks. I wonder why? Have you any idea why they hurried away without saying something?

Let's use our imagination and try to think of some reasons they moved away without saying "thanks" (*Show feet facing left with each reason*):

- "I must go and tell my family."
- "I must return to my business."
- "I'm hungry and I must go and get food."
- "I must look up my old friends."
- "I must get new clothes."
- "I must get washed and become tidy."
- "I must go and visit the places I couldn't visit before."
- "I must let my children see their new dad."
- "I want to get back into my old home again."

There is nothing wrong with any of these reasons. They are all good and normal. But they should have done something first of all. They should have said, "Thank You" to the Lord Jesus for what He had done.

But I am glad to say that one of the ten did come back immediately and say "Thank You" to the Lord Jesus (*Show feet facing right*). And he was not a Jew like the other nine. They should have known better because they were part of God's special people. But the one who said, "Thanks" was a Samaritan. He didn't know as much as the other nine – but he knew one thing. He knew to say "Thanks" – and he did so.

The Lord Jesus was surprised that the other nine did not come back, but He was so pleased with this one who did. And do you know what happened? Not only was he healed from his leprosy but the Lord Jesus told him that because he really believed in Him his sins were forgiven – he was made whole and clean on the inside as well as the outside.

Have you trusted the Lord Jesus? Then He has saved you. But be sure to be like this man (*Show feet*) and not like those nine (*Show feet*). Say “Thank You” to the Lord Jesus.

Christian Children
THE BLIND SINGER

TRUTH: God can use you in His service – no matter who you are.

VISUALS:

A hymnbook.

LESSON:

Did you ever feel that you are too young for God to use you and make you a blessing to others; or did you ever feel that you were not able to serve Him?

There was a girl called Fanny Crosby who lived in America many years ago, and she had a real problem. She couldn't see. She was blind. However early in life she trusted the Lord Jesus as her Saviour and she wanted to serve Him. But how could she when she was not able to see? Fanny's grandmother taught her how to “see” without eyes. She showed her how she could “see” things by touching them. Gently Fanny touched the soft petals of flowers in the garden and stooped to smell their sweet fragrance. In the woods she looked at the trees with her hands, learning the size and shape of their leaves. Her grandmother told her their names and she learned them by heart. Even though she couldn't see God's wonderful world with her eyes, she knew it was there. Do you appreciate God's wonderful world?

God's world was a wonderful place for her and she loved to wander in the woods and fields with her grandmother. And she liked to listen to the stories her grandmother told her – especially the stories about her Saviour - the Lord Jesus.

But how could she serve Him? What could she do?

The Lord Jesus gave her a wonderful work to do. He helped her to write poems and hymns. And she started doing this when she was only eight years old. Her heart was so full of love for the Lord Jesus that during her life time she wrote more than 800 poems and hymns. And many of her beautiful hymns are in this hymn book (*Hold it up*). Millions of people have been singing her hymns ever since and God has blessed many through the words she wrote. Never think that you cannot serve the Lord Jesus. God has given each of His children special gifts and He wants you to use your gifts to tell others the wonderful Good News about the Lord Jesus.

I wonder if you know any of the wonderful hymns she wrote? Hymns like:

"Tell me the story of Jesus"

"Blessed assurance"

"To God be the glory"

"Pass me not, O gentle Saviour"

"Just as I am"

And many more. He can help you overcome whatever difficulties you are facing and use you in spite of them all.

Do you see how God blessed and used this blind girl? And He can bless and use you also. Ask Him to show you what He wants you to do.

Christian Children **A TRUE STORY**

TRUTH: God wants His children to serve Him.

LESSON:

Alan was a little boy who did not grow very much – all except for his head which did grow at the normal rate. Yes, he was a dwarf, and to make matters worse, he could neither see nor walk, but had to sit in a wheelchair all the time.

But he did hear about the Lord Jesus, Who loved him and had died on the Cross to save him from sin, and he wasted no time in putting his trust in Him and receiving the wonderful gift of

salvation. What a change this made in his life. Has the Lord Jesus made a change in your life?

From that day on Alan was much happier. Now he knew that when his life was over he would be going to live with the Lord Jesus, Who would give him a new body, a big strong one, with eyes that could see and legs that could walk.

He was a clever lad and soon learned to read, using the Braille method of raised letters that he could feel. He was also able to use a special computer and this gave him hours of happiness. Christian friends often came and took him to church to worship with God's people and he loved to go there and sing using the beautiful voice God had given him. If you are a Christian boys or girls do you know someone like Alan whom you could help?

Then people began to notice that he looked very unhappy and were very sorry that all his brightness and joyfulness had disappeared. One day a Christian visitor asked him why this was and Alan told him he was sad because, not being able to see nor walk he felt he could never serve God.

"Why Alan", said the man, "the most useful thing anyone can do for God is to pray for others. What's to stop you from serving God this way?"

Alan's face lit up suddenly. Why of course! That was what he could do to serve God. Yes, he thought, that's what I'll do.

And that is what he has done ever since! Maybe you think that there is not much you can do for the Lord Jesus - just remember you too can pray for others.

There are many bad days for him when his head hurts and even sometimes he has to go to the hospital for treatment, but when he is able, he prays. He also likes to watch football on TV, especially Manchester United matches. He has a Manchester United scarf and a Manchester United bed spread in his house. But his very favourite occupation is talking to friends and cracking jokes. How he loves to talk!

In fact the hardest thing for Alan to do is to be quiet and not talk when people are around, which is why many friends of his agreed to sponsor him in a 48-hour silence he planned to keep. They said, "You'll never manage it!" But he proved them all mistaken and was able to raise £2,000 which he sent off to missionaries to help in their work for God.

So what is stopping you from serving God? Follow Alan's good example and do what you can for the Lord Jesus.

Christian Children
THE BRAVE GIRL

TRUTH: God wants boys and girls who are Christians to tell others about the Lord Jesus – even if it is difficult to do so.

VISUALS:

A piece of rope with a weight on the end of it.

LESSON:

It was evening in Dundee, Scotland. A slim girl hurried along a narrow, dark street in the slums. Suddenly a group of young hoodlums jumped out at her. Grinning, they formed a circle and fenced her in. "We'll take care of you if you don't leave us alone," they warned.

The girl was afraid. But she did not show it. She looked at the boys with quiet eyes and breathed a prayer for God's help.

"You can do what you like", she answered in a soft voice. "I will not give up."

"All right," shouted the big boy who was the leader.

"Here goes."

From his pocket the boy pulled a cord, to which a heavy lump of lead was tied like this here (*Show it*). Round and round he began to whirl the lead. Nearer and nearer to the girl's head he brought it.

The girl stood straight and calm. Amazed at her courage the other hoodlums watched breathlessly. The heavy lead swished by the girl's forehead. She did not even flinch. She waited coolly for the lead to strike her and knock her down. Suddenly the big boy jerked the cord. The weight crashed to the street.

"She's game, boys," he exclaimed in wonder and admiration.

The brave girl had won. But the rough boys were good losers. Like lambs they followed her into the nearby mission building and sat down in her Bible class. They listened and to their surprise they liked what they heard. Never again did the boys wish to

trouble Mary Slessor, the “game” girl with the soft voice. As we stand strong for the Lord Jesus like Mary, others who are not Christians may realise that He is someone worth knowing. You just never know who we can influence for the Lord Jesus.

Why had they tried to frighten Mary? Because she was the Sunday school teacher at the new mission in the slums where they lived. They wanted her to leave them alone. They did not want her to bother them about going to Sunday school or church. When Mary first came, they had made loud noises to annoy her. Then they had thrown stones and mud at her. When that did not stop her, they had tried to scare her away. But instead they became her faithful friends. Best of all, the leader of the gang and the worst boys in it became Christians.

Not long after this Mary was in still greater danger. She became a missionary in the jungles of Africa. She tramped through dark forests where elephants, rhinoceroses, and leopards prowled. She canoed up and down rivers filled with crocodiles, snakes, and hippopotamuses.

Mary made her home in mud-thatched huts among murderers and thieves. Often she was in danger. Always she trusted the Lord to help her. Her loving ways, her soft voice, and her bravery surprised the wild forest people. Soon they, too, listened to what she had come to tell them – the good news about the Lord Jesus. Many of them believed in Him as their Saviour and became Christians.

Mary Slessor, the brave little missionary to Calabar, died and was buried in Africa.

God may not call you to go to another country as a missionary as He called Mary; you may not face the same difficulties as she did; but God does want you to tell others about the Lord Jesus and what He has done for them.

Christian Children
WHAT IS MY NAME?

TRUTH: God wants His children to serve Him and tell others about the Lord Jesus.

VISUALS:

A large envelope with a postage stamp on it.

LESSON:

I wonder if you could guess who I am? If you guess put up your hand but do not speak.

I do errands for you and for others. I never get tired or grumpy. When you give me a job to do I don't complain. Not once do I ask, "Why doesn't someone else do it?" That exactly what a real Christian should be like. Are you like that?

I seldom lose what you trust to me. I will go wherever you want me to go – on short trips or long ones. I won't cost you much money – not more than a chocolate bar or two.

If you wish I'll travel to India for you. Or I'll go to Africa, Alaska, or Australia. I'll deliver what you give me to places near or far. To serve you I may sail the ocean in a big ship. Or speed through the sky in a silver plane. Sometimes I may go by bicycle, truck or train. I may even plod along on a donkey's back. Or I may sway on a camel's bumps, or be carried by a man. My this sounds like a missionary! Would you be willing to travel to places far away to tell boys and girls and grown ups the good news of the Lord Jesus?

I'm not very large and there are many of me. You will find me and my friends busy in every country. We work together to serve you. We follow certain rules and each one of us does his part. We always try to stick to our job until it's done. Can you guess who I am? Not yet?

When I'm given an errand to do I'm put in a box. The box is red in this country. In some other countries it is a different colour. Then I'm taken out of the box and put into a sack. I ride in a truck to a certain building. There I get set for my trip, near or far.

Do you know who I am now? Shall I tell you what I look like? Sometimes I wear the Queen's face or a president's face like Abraham Lincoln or Thomas Jefferson. But other times I wear the face of a famous woman or a famous man. I usually have a picture on me, a building or a plane, or a flower. My name is Postage Stamp (*show the envelope with the stamp on it*).

In some ways I am like you boys and girls who have trusted the Lord Jesus and are Christians. Do you know that missionaries come in all shapes and sizes so never think you could not serve the Lord Jesus. There's a task for everyone to do and that includes you. Just as the postage stamp serves us so well, so you Christian boys and girls can serve the Lord Jesus with all of your heart

"Whatever you do, do it with all your hearts for the Lord You are serving Christ, the Master." Colossians 3 v23a, 24a.

Christian Children
IN JAIL FOR THE LORD JESUS

TRUTH: God knows what is best for you.

VISUALS:

A Bible and a copy of the book *"Pilgrim's Progress"*

LESSON:

It was a shivery November day in 1660. Preacher John Bunyan was going to do what he had been warned not to do. He was going to preach. Some men had cautioned him, "If you preach again you will be arrested." But Preacher Bunyan was not afraid. He paid no attention to the warning. Off he hurried to a little meeting house a few miles away. Gathered there were many Christians who had invited him to preach for them. Just as John stood up in the meeting and began to pray, something happened. In walked the police constable and his men. They had come to arrest him and take him to jail.

John Bunyan was marched away to Bedford prison. Why was he jailed for preaching? In those days in England there was to be no preaching in any town or area except in the one big church. But John and many other people didn't agree. They believed Christians should be allowed to meet where they pleased and hear the minister they chose.

So the big churches decided that ministers like John Bunyan should be jailed. That, they thought, would stop such preaching. But it did not stop John Bunyan. If he couldn't preach outside of prison, he would preach inside. Gladly the other prisoners listened as he taught them God's Word. And soon he had a little church group in Bedford jail. You see, no matter where we are we can share the good news of the Lord Jesus. One day some officers visited Bunyan in prison. "You may go free," they said, "if you will only promise not to preach anymore."

"No", replied John, "I will make no such promise. For if you let me out of jail today, I will preach again tomorrow. That is what God wants me to do. I will obey Him, not you."

The officers became very angry. They scolded John and made fun of him. "We will throw you out of England," they threatened, "or we will stretch your neck." That meant they might even hang him. But nothing they said or did could change John's mind. He would not promise not to preach again. Oh you see how much John loved the Lord Jesus. He loved Him so much that he was willing to stay in jail rather than disobey Him. How much do you love the Lord Jesus?

John was imprisoned for twelve years to keep him from preaching. Yet he could still find a way to preach to people outside of Bedford jail. Can you think how?

Over and over John had been reading his Bible (*Show it*) until his head and heart were filled with its words. Then he began to write books and tracts. These were printed by his friends. People in many towns bought and read them. The last book John wrote in jail was called *Pilgrim's Progress* (*Show it*). All over England people read this book and liked it. Soon men, women, and children in France, Holland, Germany, and America were reading it too. *Pilgrim's Progress* became one of the world's best known books and explained the Gospel in such an interesting and attractive way that many people became Christians through reading it. If you are a Christian boy or girl you too should take time to read good Christian books.

It is several hundred years since John Bunyan wrote this famous book. But boys and girls and men and women are still reading it.

So the men who tried to keep John Bunyan from preaching to a few really helped him preach to millions through the books he wrote in prison. God turned all the wrong they planned against him to good. God knew what was best. For He has promised in the Bible that, "*all things work together for good to them that love God*" (Romans 8 v28). God knew what was best for John Bunyan – and He wanted to use him to be a blessing to millions of people. So if you are a Christian and are going through difficulties or are having problems keep your trust in the Lord Jesus, and He will make you a blessing despite your difficulties.

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