

*Intermediate*Sabbath School
Curriculum

Spring Quarter



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Sabbath School Curriculum

Christ's Entry into Jerusalem

Lesson Aim: We will learn that Jesus deserves our worship and praise because He is the Son of God who came to bring us salvation from our sins.

Memory Verse: "Hosanna to the Son of David! 'Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord!' Hosanna in the highest!" (Matthew 21:9b).

Scripture References: Zechariah 9:9; Matthew 21: 2, 3, 7, 9b, 15, 16; Mark 11:2; Psalm 71:8

Learn new words: The meanings for these words are provided in the lesson: foal, colt, Passover, and Hosanna. Learn to use them.

Lesson Introduction:

Have you ever gone to a place where a famous person was going to perform, perhaps to a concert or a ball game? What did you do when the person finally arrived?

Bible Story:

More than 500 years before it actually happened, the prophet Zechariah had prophesied that one day Israel's King would enter the city of Jerusalem riding on a **foal** or **colt**, and He would be surrounded by multitudes of people rejoicing in His greatness. (*A foal is a young donkey or mule. A colt is a male foal.*) (Read Zechariah 9:9.) That Scripture was about to be fulfilled.

Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. It was the time of the year when the Jewish people went to Jerusalem to celebrate the **Passover** feast. (*The Passover is a feast held once a year by the Israelites to commemorate their exodus from Egypt.*) As Jesus was getting near to Jerusalem, He came to Bethphage and Bethany first. He stopped at the Mount of Olives and sent two of His disciples into

the village with specific instructions. (• *Read Matthew 21:2, 3.*) The disciples went to the village and found the colt and donkey tied, just as Jesus had said. Mark wrote that no one had ever sat on this colt. (• *Read Mark 11:2.*) As they were untying the donkey and the colt, the owners came and asked why they were untying the animals. When the disciples said the Lord needed them, the owners let them have the animals. The disciples led the colt to where Jesus was waiting at the Mount of Olives.

When they presented the colt to Jesus, • what did the disciples do that had never been done to this colt before? (• *Read Matthew 21:7.*) Most colts that have never had weight on their backs will naturally shy away from anything that is put on them, but this colt just stood there! Jesus sat on the colt's back, just as the prophet had written.

With Jesus on its back, the colt and the disciples started walking to Jerusalem. Many people along the way spread their garments on the road for the colt to walk on. The people were rejoicing and praising God with loud voices for the miracles and wonders they had seen Jesus do. Some people cut down tree branches and spread them on the road. All around Jesus, people were shouting,



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(• Repeat memory verse.) “**Hosanna** to the Son of David! ‘Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord!’ Hosanna in the highest!” (Matthew 21:9b). (The word *Hosanna* means “Save us now.” It is an exclamation or shout of praise to God.)

Even the children were shouting praises to Jesus. The religious leaders (Pharisees) were offended and demanded that Jesus quiet the children, but He would not. • What did Jesus say to them? (Read Matthew 21:15, 16.)

Though Jesus was the Son of God, He was very humble. Kings usually rode on big horses, but Jesus rode on a lowly donkey.

Many of the people thought that Jesus was coming to claim His throne and save them from the oppression of the Roman government. They knew about the miracles Jesus had done. They expected Him to become their king and save them by freeing them from Rome. He could do miracles to provide food for them and He could heal their sick. They praised Him for what He could do for them.

Application:

While it is good to praise the Lord Jesus for all He does for us, we should praise Him for who He is – the Lord of all. We should praise Him as we see His glory in the world around us.

• What are some characteristics of the Lord Jesus that deserve our praise? He is unchanging: He is always the same – pure and good, faithful, loving.

He is sovereign: He rules over all things in heaven and earth, including our lives. There is no power or authority greater than His.

He is all-wise: He made and understands all things.

He is gracious and compassionate: Jesus came to free us from sin and offers us everlasting life.

That calls for shouts of praise. The Lord deserves all your praise. (Read Psalm 71:8.) Begin each day with a few moments of praise to Him. You can say “thank You” prayers to Him or sing a song to Him.

How Well Do You Remember?

1. What did Jesus say His disciples would find in the village? _____

2. How did the disciples prepare the colt for Jesus?

3. What is the name of the prophet who wrote about Jesus riding on a colt? _____

4. How many years before Jesus rode on the colt did the prophet write this? _____

5. What did the crowd spread on the road before Jesus? _____

6. What did the people shout? _____

Why did they do this? _____

7. What do you think is the reason Jesus rode on a donkey? _____

8. If you were in the crowd, how would you have shown your joy when you saw Jesus? _____

Memory Verse for Next Week: “And when I see the blood, I will pass over you” (Exodus 12:13b).

Activities for this week:

Again read the Bible story in this Handout, along with the contemporary story. Share them with your parents and others. The Daily Activity Worksheets for the week contain the daily Bible readings, puzzles, and other activities. Make it part of your daily schedule to read the Bible. Plan on taking time to do the activities. Maybe someone else can join you in doing some of them. Bring these papers to class next week so you can share your thoughts and insights about some of these things. Remember to memorize next week’s verse.

This Week's Story:

No Beauty

"Here comes 'Four Eyes!'"

"Four Eyes, Four Eyes!"

"Looks like a wise old owl!"

The laughs and jeers poured over Lauri like a flood, and she drew back in terror. Oh, this school was no different than all the others she had attended. Tears welled behind the thick, horn-rimmed glasses. If only the ground would open and swallow her! Her steps lagged.

"Come on, Lauri!" demanded her twin. Linda made a face and pulled on Lauri's sleeve. "Hurry now, or we'll be late."

"I wish there wasn't such a thing as school!" exclaimed Lauri, small rivers of tears running down her small, plain face. "I hate it! I hate it!" If only she were beautiful like Linda.

"Come on," Linda repeated. "We have to go to the principal's office and register. Mom phoned and told him we were coming. I hope Dad keeps his job in this town longer than the last. I just know I'll like it here. Did you see that cute boy smile at me?" She flounced her blond curly locks back over her shoulder. "Oh, there's the bell. Let's run."

Lauri felt more miserable than ever. The principal separated the girls into two different grade five classrooms. Now she was all alone. The teacher looked up from her desk and smiled. Such a beautiful smile. It reached out and enfolded the lonely little figure halfway down the third row. Lauri felt strangely warmed and somehow, without meaning to, she smiled back, timidly.

Recess was terrible. Linda appeared with several new friends in tow.

"Say, girls, this is my sister, Lauri. Would you believe that we're twins?" Laughter. "No one ever thinks we are."

"I wouldn't tell anybody if I were you," giggled one little girl. More laughter.

Linda and her new friends linked arms and walked away.

Lauri stumbled her way back to the classroom, half-blinded by the tears. She felt one big ache inside. Throwing herself into her seat, head down on folded arms, Lauri gave vent to all the pent-up



feelings which possessed her.

Comforting arms half lifted her and Lauri looked up into teacher's kind face . . . so kind she felt like crying all over again. "I think I know what's the matter, Lauri," said Miss Biggs softly. "Maybe I can help you."

"How can anyone help me? Linda is so beautiful and everyone likes her best. I'm ugly and all the kids call me

names and . . ."

"You can be beautiful, too," interrupted Miss Biggs.

"Me!" exclaimed Lauri, forgetting to cry. "How can I ever be beautiful?"

"Well, you start by being beautiful on the inside."

Lauri thought that was the funniest thing she had ever heard and started to giggle. "How can I?"

"It's true," assured Miss Biggs. "By doing kind deeds and saying kind words and thinking kind thoughts, you create beauty within you."

"What good will that do?" Lauri wanted to know. "No one will see it."

"What we are inside has a way of shining through to the outside," Miss Biggs told the little girl. "Jesus said that man looks on the outward appearance but God looks on the heart. It is more important to God that you be beautiful inside."

"Was Jesus handsome?" Somehow the question seemed very important to Lauri.

"The prophet Isaiah tells us that 'He hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him.' Rather, it was His magnetic personality and the things He stood for and taught that drew people to Him. He could easily become lost in a crowd. As far as looks are concerned, He must have been just a plain, ordinary sort of a person," said Miss Biggs.

Somehow Lauri felt comforted. Here was someone with whom she could identify. "Tell me some more about Jesus and being beautiful inside," she pleaded.

The days swiftly melted into weeks and months. Lauri had been trying Miss Biggs' recipe. Gradually, as she forgot herself, her plain looks, and her fears, she took a good look around and found other youngsters who felt lonely and out

of place. A smile. A friendly word. Help with a difficult homework problem. Before long, Lauri discovered a tight little circle of friends around her that grew into an ever-widening sphere.

"Guess what, Lauri," Linda was excited. "The Governor is going to visit our school and ONE of the girls gets to present a bouquet of roses to his wife. I just know it's going to be me!" She hugged herself and twirled around. "Let's see now. Mom simply has to get me a new dress. You won't mind going without your new pair of shoes for a while longer, will you?" Linda smiled. "After all, I will have to represent the whole school!" she added importantly.

"No, I don't mind," said Lauri. "It would be . . ."

"Then it's all settled," Linda rushed on. "I'll tell Mother as soon as we get home."

"How will they decide who gives the flowers?" asked practical Mother when Linda presented her demands for new clothes. "Are you sure it will be you?"

"Oh, teacher said something about the kids electing one of us. I'm always most popular at school. I'll just tell my friends I want them to vote for me." Linda began brushing her hair and smiling into the mirror. "I'm as good as elected right now."

A slight frown darkened Mother's face, but she refrained from speaking. Turning with a sigh, she retraced her steps to the kitchen to finish supper.

Lauri followed her through the swinging door. "Let me help, Mother. Daddy will be home soon and he doesn't like to be kept waiting. He must be hungry after working so hard all day."

Mother smiled. "All right, Lauri. You may start by setting the table."

Halls, bubbling with excited chatter and echoing to the sound of many shuffling feet, became strangely silent as all the grade school students filed into the assembly hall and the door shut. The big day had finally arrived. Mr. Garry, the principal, was to announce the name of the girl who would meet the Governor's wife. An air of expectancy filled the room. All the boys and girls became hushed as the principal rose to address them.

"When you were ready to vote for your choice of a person to represent the school, I asked that you pick someone who has personality, is thoughtful and courteous . . . the kind of person we would all like to be . . . one who would bring honor to the school by her actions. . . ."

"AND beautiful!" whispered Linda. "Oh, I can hardly wait for him to say my name." And she half rose out of her seat.

". . . and so it is my privilege to announce to you the name of . . ." and here the principal paused and smiled in the direction of the fifth graders.

Linda smiled back and stood up.

". . . Lauri Beckett. Come up here, Lauri!"

Linda, red-faced, confused, sank back into her seat, crouching way down, wishing she could disappear.

Lauri, excitement flushing her cheeks pink, bent over Linda. "I'm sorry, Linda. But you can still have a new dress. I'll wear my church shoes. They're still good. Some polish will fix them up fine." Linda, surprised, took a good look at her twin. Why, when she smiled like that, Lauri was almost pretty.

"We want Lauri! We want Lauri!" chanted several hundred young voices. Lauri got to her feet and marched slowly down the aisle, smiling at her friends along the way.

Lauri Beckett! No beauty! But with such a radiant smile and loving spirit, who cares!

– Dorothy Nimchuk in *Footprints**

**Footprints* is a discontinued children's magazine published by Bible Advocate Press.
Photo: Pixabay

Sabbath School Curriculum

Preparing for the Passover

Lesson Aim: We will learn the meaning of the Passover festival, how it started, and how it pointed forward to Jesus Christ.

Memory Verse: "And when I see the blood, I will pass over you" (Exodus 12:13b).

Scripture References: Exodus 11:1-8; 12:1-14; Matthew 26:17; Mark 14:15; Luke 22:7-13; John 1:29; 1 Corinthians 5:7b

Learn new words: The meanings for these words are provided in the lesson: plague, unleavened bread, and slavery. Learn to use them.

Introduction:

Several years ago, all the television stations were announcing that hurricane Katrina was approaching New Orleans and the Gulf Coast. The newsmen and women said it would be a terrible hurricane that would destroy anything that came in its way. People were told to follow certain instructions that would help protect them. Some wise people followed the instructions and escaped the destruction. Those who did not, suffered.

The Bible tells us that when the children of Israel were in Egypt they faced a very terrible night, far worse than any storm.

Bible Story:

The Israelites were suffering as slaves under the cruel Pharaoh of Egypt. God had spoken to Moses, telling him to go back to Egypt to help free the Israelites – a vast multitude of about two million people – from Pharaoh's bondage. To convince Pharaoh that he was dealing with the one and only true God, God sent ten **plagues** on Egypt. (*A plague is something that afflicts or*

troubles; a divine punishment.) Pharaoh's heart was hardened and he did not obey God. He did not let the people go.

• Do you remember what the first nine plagues were?

To deliver the Israelites from bondage, God announced through Moses that there would be a tenth and last plague – all the firstborn of both men and animals would die. (• *Read Exodus 11:1-8.*) God gave Moses and Aaron instructions for the Israelites to follow so that they would be safe from the coming plague. • What were those instructions? (*Read Exodus 12:1-13.*)

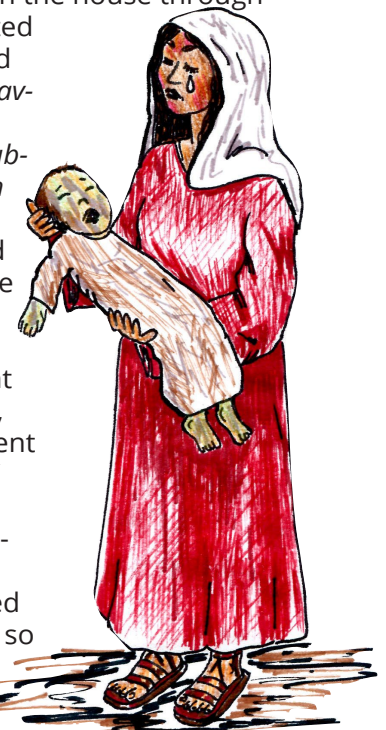
Each family was instructed to choose a perfect lamb (without spot or blemish).

They were to kill the lamb at sunset on the fourteenth day of Abib, and place the blood on the doorposts and across the top frame.

The family was to stay in the house through the night, eating the roasted lamb with bitter herbs and **unleavened bread**. (*Unleavened bread is bread made without yeast or another substance to make it expand in size.*)

The whole family would eat the roasted meat while waiting for the Lord's call to leave Egypt and go to their freedom. At midnight on the fourteenth of Abib, the death angel of God went throughout all the land of Egypt and killed the firstborn of both men and animals.

The Israelites had placed blood on their doorposts, so the angel "passed over" their houses and their firstborn were protect-



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ed. When He saw the blood on the doorframes of the Israelites "He passed over them." (• *Read Exodus 12:12, 13.*) Not only did the blood of the lamb protect them from death that night, but it resulted in their freedom from **slavery**. (*Slavery is bondage; the condition of a slave.*) Pharaoh urged them to leave Egypt immediately. From that time on, the Israelites were to celebrate the Passover as a solemn feast to commemorate their deliverance (Exodus 12:14a).

About the year 1445 B.C. the Israelites observed the first Passover in Egypt. Jesus observed the last Passover of the old covenant with His disciples in Jerusalem just before He suffered and died on the cross. He was our Passover Lamb, the One who died for our sins. Jesus had taught His disciples and ministered to the people in Palestine for three and a half years before this event took place.

After Jesus and His disciples came to Jerusalem, the disciples asked Jesus where He would have them prepare for Him to eat the Passover with them. (• *Read Matthew 26:17.*) He sent Peter and John with instructions for finding the place. (• *Read Luke 22:7-13.*)

Just as He knew where to find the colt when He entered Jerusalem, He also knew the exact place where they should observe the Passover. A man who carried a pitcher of water would lead the disciples to this place. The master of the house showed real love to the Lord Jesus by having a large upper room furnished and prepared for Him (Mark 14:15). In the upper room the Lord and the twelve disciples took their respective places at the table and celebrated the Passover.

The many thousands of Passover lambs that had been sacrificed for more than fourteen centuries were a type of the sacrifice Jesus Christ made to pay for our sins. Jesus became the Passover Lamb who died in our behalf. (• *Read 1 Corinthians 5:7b.*)

Application:

The Passover was an event that celebrated the blood-marked door and Israel's departure from Egypt. It was a declaration of their freedom from the suffering in Egypt. Jesus and His disciples celebrated this event in obedience to the law of Moses. Just as God provided freedom for the Israelites, so He has provided Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, to free us from sin.

To celebrate the Passover was to recognize that the blood of the lamb freed the Israelites from death that night. It also resulted in their freedom from slavery. God loves you and me, too. He wants us to live with Him in His kingdom one day.

There can be no sin in God's eternal kingdom. That is why He has made a way for you and me to be free from the bondage of sin. The Passover lamb was a figure of Jesus Christ, God's Son, who came to set all of us free from the slavery of sin. The Lord Jesus Christ is "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29). Jesus took upon Himself the punishment for our sins.

How Well Do You Remember?

1. Whom did God send to free the Israelites from Pharaoh's bondage? _____
2. What was the tenth and last plague?

3. What effect would the last plague have on Egypt? _____

4. How were the Israelites protected? _____

5. Whom did the Passover lamb symbolize?

6. How often were they to celebrate this event? ____

7. Why is Jesus called our Passover Lamb? _____

Memory Verse for Next Week: "And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, 'This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me'" (Luke 22:19).

Activities for this week:

Again read the Bible story in this Handout, along with the contemporary story. Share them with your parents and others. The Daily Activity Worksheets for the week contain the daily Bible readings, puzzles, and other activities. Make it part of your daily schedule to read the Bible. Plan on taking time to do the activities. Maybe



someone else can join you in doing some of them. Bring these papers to class next week so you can share your thoughts and insights about some of these things. Remember to memorize next week's verse.

This Week's Story:

Colored Eggs

"Mom, why do people color eggs for Easter?" Tracy, Jenny, and Robert were watching a children's program on TV. The children on TV had been coloring eggs.

"Most children do not know why they are coloring eggs. They just do it for fun," Mother replied. "They do not know it started as a religious rite for pagans, or people who worship idols. One of the stories handed down by them was about a big, big egg from which came a goddess they called Astarte."

"Why do people go to the top of a hill to see the sun coming up on Easter morning?" Robert asked. "My friend, Bill, said that he was going this year, and asked me to go with him."

The children were, as usual, full of questions this morning.

"Let's get a book that tells about Easter and see what we can learn from it." Mrs. Steele went to the bookcase and took down a red book.

"Does it tell about Easter eggs? Does it?" Jenny quizzed.

The children gathered around their mother as she sat down and opened the book. "Right here," she pointed, "it says, 'An egg of wondrous size is said to have fallen from heaven into the river Euphrates . . . out came Venus, who afterwards was called the Syrian goddess . . . that is, Astarte.'"

"The word *Easter* comes from the name Astarte. This fable was believed by the pagan people because their priests taught them that it was the truth. They did not have books like we do today. The ordinary people could not read."

"But why do people still do it now?" Robert wanted to know.

"Mostly because they haven't taken the time to study how this holiday started," Mom continued. "A long time ago, it was decided by some priests and leaders to accept some of the beliefs of the pagans and pretend they were Christian.

"They began to teach the people that Christ arose on Sunday morning, the first day of the week, even though the Bible says He was already risen before the end of the Sabbath.

"That is the reason we see people today going out to watch the sunrise, just as the pagans went out to worship the sun as a god. The pagans would not join the church unless they could bring in some of their beliefs. The leaders wanted to bring more people into the church so they would have more money.

"All the beliefs and customs connected with Easter are from the pagans, even the custom of dressing in new clothes. This was part of the worship of the goddess Astarte, or Easter.

Mom continued, "One of the reasons God drove the Israelites from their homeland of Palestine the last time, was because they began to worship the gods and goddesses of the pagans."

"Mom, I thought Easter eggs were pretty with all the different colors and designs, but now I would never want to color one," Jenny said. "Now when one of my friends asks me why I'm not coloring eggs or dressing up, I can tell them."

Tracy turned off the TV and the boys got their ball, bat and gloves and went outdoors, whistling. The children were glad that they had a Savior and a God who were alive, not just myths.

– Alma Ward in *Footprints*

Photo: Pixabay

Sabbath School Curriculum

Jesus Institutes the Lord's Supper

Lesson Aim: We will learn why we observe the Lord's Supper and understand the significance of the emblems.

Memory Verse: "And He took bread, and gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, 'This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me'" (Luke 22:19).

Scripture References: Matthew 26:26-28; Luke 22:1, 2, 7-13, 19; John 13:3-5; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

Learn new words: The meanings for these words are provided in the lesson: humble and symbol. Learn to use them.

Bible Story:

There was an air of excitement in Jerusalem. It was time for the Passover and many people were coming to Jerusalem to celebrate the feast. (*• Read Luke 22:1, 2.*) The Jewish leaders planned to arrest Jesus, but many people thought that Jesus should be declared king. Despite all this, Jesus went quietly on His way, knowing that His hour was near to give His life as the Passover Lamb.

The Bible tells us that when Jesus lived on this earth He served people by performing miracles such as healing the sick, casting out demons, and physically feeding many people. He obeyed the Jewish law and kept the Passover feast. Jesus and His disciples had no home in Jerusalem, but when devout Jews met in Jerusalem for the feast, a place was always provided for them to observe the Passover.

Jesus sent Peter and John to prepare the Passover with instructions for finding the place. They would meet a man carrying a pitcher of water, follow him to the house where he entered, and tell the master of the house that the Teacher needed a place to eat the Passover. They found the place

just as Jesus had told them and they prepared for the Passover. (*• Read Luke 22:7-13.*)

The Lord Jesus ate the Passover meal with His twelve disciples on the evening before He was crucified. While they were eating the Passover meal, Jesus rose from the dinner table and did something amazing. • What did He do? (*Read John 13:3-5.*) People in ancient times did not have cars. Almost everyone wore sandals and walked wherever he/she needed to go on unpaved dirt roads. Washing the dusty feet of a guest before he/she entered someone's house was the job of the lowest-ranking house servant. During His last Passover on earth, Jesus **humbled** Himself to perform the duty of a lowly house servant when He washed His disciples' feet. (*Humble means not proud or haughty; meek; modest.*)

While they were eating, Judas was pointed out as the one who would betray Jesus. Judas then left the room.

At the end of the Passover celebration, Jesus gave His disciples new **symbols** that were to be used from that time forward in place of the lamb.



(A symbol is something that stands for or represents another thing.) He used the elements of the Passover feast. The first new symbol was unleavened bread. He took the bread, blessed it and broke it, and gave it to the disciples saying, "Take, eat; this is [represents] my body." (• Read Matthew 26:26.)

Jesus explained that the bread represented His body that would be cruelly beaten and killed so that God's people could be healed from their sickness of sin.

The second symbol was the fruit of the vine. He took the cup and said, "Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins" (verses 27, 28).

The Lord's Supper reminds us of Jesus' death on our behalf. When we eat a portion of unleavened bread at the Lord's Supper, we remember that our sins caused His body to be broken. In the same way, as we drink the fruit of the vine (grape juice) we recognize the value of Jesus' blood for the remission of sins. Blood represents life.

• The Lord Jesus commanded that the celebration of the Supper be repeated "in remembrance of" whom? (• Read Luke 22:19.) The Apostle Paul wrote that Jesus told him how believers should remember His death. (• Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-25.) It is a memorial to show or proclaim the Lord's death until He comes back. Those who celebrate the Lord's Supper have gratitude in their hearts and an appreciation for what the Lord Jesus did to save them.

Members of the Church of God (Seventh Day) observe this celebration once every year at the beginning of the fourteenth of the Hebrew month Abib. (Abib is also known as Nisan.)

Application:

Some things in life are very important. We have objects that help us remember the things that are important. For example, we have watches to remind us of the time so that we can meet our commitments. We have books and newspapers to remind us of important events. Likewise, the Lord's Supper, with its emblems, reminds us of Christ's sacrifice for us. Unleavened bread and the fruit of the vine are appropriate symbols representing His body and His shed blood. As we remember the Lord Jesus, we honor, praise, adore, and worship Him in gratitude for His love and sacrifice for us.

How Well Do You Remember?

1. Where did people go to observe the Passover?

2. Whom did Jesus send to prepare a place to observe the Passover? _____

3. What very humble thing did Jesus do during the Passover? _____

4. (True or False) The bread and fruit of the vine are symbols. _____

5. What do the bread and the fruit of the vine represent? _____

6. What is a memorial? _____

7. Why do we need a memorial of Christ's death? _____

8. If God provided a Passover room for Jesus, what will He provide for us as we do His will? _____

Memory Verse for Next Week: "He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him" (Isaiah 53:3).

Activities for this week:

Again read the Bible story in this Handout, along with the contemporary story. Share them with your parents and others. The Daily Activity Worksheets for the week contain the daily Bible readings, puzzles, and other activities. Make it part of your daily schedule to read the Bible. Plan on taking time to do the activities. Maybe someone else can join you in doing some of them. Bring these papers to class next week so you can share your thoughts and insights about some of these things. Remember to memorize next week's verse.



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This Week's Story:

Why He Carried the Turkey

In Richmond, Virginia, one morning, an old man went into the market to buy something. He was dressed plainly, his coat was worn, and his hat was dingy. On his arm he carried a small basket.

"I wish to get a fowl for tomorrow's dinner," he said.

The market man showed him a fat turkey, plump and white and ready for roasting.

"Ah! That is just what I want," said the old man. "My wife will be delighted with it."

He asked the price and paid for it. The market man wrapped a paper round it and put it in the basket.

Just then a young man stepped up. "I will take one of those turkeys," he said. He was dressed in fine style and carried a small cane.

"Shall I wrap it up for you?" asked the market man.

"Yes, here is your money," answered the young gentleman; "and send it to my house at once."

"I cannot do that," said the market man. "My errand boy is sick today, and there is no one else to send. Besides, it is not our custom to deliver goods."

"Then how am I to get it home?" asked the young gentleman.

"I suppose you will have to carry it yourself," said the market man. "It is not heavy."

"Carry it myself! Who do you think I am? Fancy me carrying a turkey along the street!" said the young gentleman; and he began to grow very angry. The old man who had bought the first turkey was standing quite near. He had heard all that was said.

"Excuse me, sir," he said; "but may I ask where you live?"

"I live at Number 39, Blank Street," answered the young gentleman; "and my name is Johnson."

"Well, that is lucky," said the old man, smiling. "I happen to be going that way, and I will carry your turkey, if you will allow me."

"Oh, certainly!" said Mr. Johnson. "Here it is. You may follow me."

When they reached Mr. Johnson's house, the old man politely handed him the turkey and turned to go.

"Here, my friend, what shall I pay you?" said the young gentleman.

"Oh, nothing, sir, nothing," answered the old man. "It was no trouble to me, and you are welcome."

He bowed and went on. Young Mr. Johnson looked after him and wondered. Then he turned and walked briskly back to the market.

"Who is that polite old gentleman who carried my turkey for me?" he asked of the market man.

"That is John Marshall, Chief Justice of the United States. He is one of the greatest men in our country," was the answer.

The young gentleman was surprised and ashamed. "Why did he offer to carry my turkey?" he asked.

"He wished to teach you a lesson," answered the market man.

"What sort of lesson?"

"He wished to teach you that no man should feel himself too fine to carry his own packages."

"Oh, no!" said another man who had seen and heard it all. "Judge Marshall carried the turkey simply because he wished to be kind and obliging. That is his way."

— James Baldwin in *Fifty Famous People*

Sabbath School Curriculum

Betrayed by a Friend

Lesson Aim: We will learn the importance of being loyal to Jesus and to others, and understand that deception is always wrong.

Memory Verse: “He is **despised** and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him” (Isaiah 53:3).

The prophet Isaiah wrote this verse about seven hundred years before Jesus was born, telling how the people would not accept Jesus as the Savior. How was Jesus **despised** and rejected by His own people, the Jews? (*Despise means to feel contempt for, dislike; look down on.*) Are we sometimes guilty of doing the same thing?

Scripture References: Zechariah 11:12, 13; Matthew 26:14, 15, 45-49; 27:3-10; Mark 14:44; Luke 22:48, 50, 51; John 13:21, 26-28; 18:4, 5, 8-11

Learn new words: The meanings for these words are provided in the lesson: despise, betray, and traitor. Learn to use them.

Introduction:

Have you ever had an experience of thinking someone was your friend, only to discover that he or she was never truly your friend? How did this make you feel? What did you do?

Bible Story:

Let’s review a few details that will provide a background to what took place before Jesus was betrayed.

One day Mary took a jar of expensive perfume and anointed Jesus’ feet with it. Judas complained that it could have been sold and the money given to the poor. He was deceptive and pretended that he cared for other people. He didn’t care about the poor; he just wanted to keep the money for himself. In fact, Judas was in charge of the money that was collected to take care of Jesus and His disciples.

A few days before the Passover, Judas had gone to the chief priests and offered to give Jesus to them in exchange for money. (*• Read Matthew 26:14, 15.*) They gave Judas thirty pieces of silver, the price of a slave. After he made his deal with the chief priests, Judas looked for an opportunity to **betray** Jesus. (*Betray means to deceive; lead astray; to help the enemy.*)

When Jesus was talking at the Passover supper, He became very sorrowful, saying that one of them would betray Him. (*• Read John 13:21.*) All the disciples looked around at each other, wondering



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whom it was Jesus meant. Each of them asked, "Lord, is it I?"

Peter told John to ask Jesus who would betray Him. Jesus identified the person by saying, "It is he to whom I shall give a piece of bread when I have dipped it" (John 13:26).

Then Jesus dipped a piece of bread into the dish and gave it to Judas Iscariot. (• *Read John 13:26-28.*) Having been pointed out as the betrayer, Judas left the room. He realized that his plan was known and it must be carried out immediately.

Judas figured that after the supper Jesus would go back to Bethany, so he went to the rulers and told them where they might watch for Jesus. Judas finalized arrangements with the chief priests and elders, and they provided him with a multitude of men equipped with clubs and swords.

After the supper, Jesus and the disciples went to the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus prayed and agonized. After He had prayed a third time, He was ready for what was about to happen. He went to the three sleeping disciples and asked them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going. See, My betrayer is at hand" (Matthew 26:45, 46).

The disciples awoke. They heard the noise of a crowd, and saw the flashing of torches, gleaming swords and spears. They saw Judas leading the crowd. They knew then that he was the **traitor** of whom Jesus had spoken earlier that night. (*A traitor is one who betrays his country or his friend.*)

Judas rushed to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him on the cheek as though he were glad to see Jesus. This was the signal that he had given to the men, for they did not know Jesus. (• *Read Matthew 26:48, 49.*) He had told them, "Whomever I kiss, He is the One; seize Him and lead Him away safely" (Mark 14:44).

Jesus said to Judas, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?" (Luke 22:48). Then He turned to the crowd and said, "Whom are you seeking?" They answered, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said, "I am He" (John 18:4, 5).

When He had said this, His enemies fell to the ground. As they went to seize Jesus, Peter, attempting to defend Jesus, cut off the ear of Malchus, the high priest's servant. • How did Jesus respond to this? (*Read John 18:10, 11; Luke 22:50, 51.*) The soldiers bound Jesus and took Him to the place where the chief priests and elders were waiting.

Later, when Judas realized that they were going to kill Jesus, he went to the temple and said to the chief priests, "I have sinned by betraying innocent

blood." Judas tried to give back the money they had paid him but the men wouldn't take it back. So Judas threw the money on the floor of the temple, ran out and hung himself. (• *Read Matthew 27:3-5.*)

The chief priests said, "It is not lawful to put them [the pieces of silver] into the treasury, because they are the price of blood" (verse 6). They used the money to purchase a plot of land for burying strangers, and the field was called the Field of Blood. (• *Read Matthew 27:7-10.*) The prophet Zechariah prophesied this hundreds of years earlier (Zechariah 11:12, 13).

Application:

Jesus showed His faithfulness by fulfilling His mission. He willingly turned Himself over to His enemies to fulfill God's plan of salvation. He did not hide Himself. Judas, on the other hand, delivered up Jesus because of greed and corruption.

Judas could have asked Jesus to forgive him before it was too late. Jesus never stopped loving Judas and would have forgiven him had he asked. Judas' love of money caused him to sin.

Judas' sin was made even worse by his use of a kiss, the sign of love and friendship, to betray Jesus. Jesus called him "Friend." This shows the Lord's grace and His friendship toward Judas.

We learn from this that we must be faithful to Jesus, as well as to our friends.

How Well Do You Remember?

The answers to several questions are true or false.

1. Judas was concerned about poor people.
_____ (T/F)
2. How did Jesus identify His betrayer? _____

3. What did Jesus' disciples do while He prayed?

4. Jesus was overpowered by the armed soldiers.
_____ (T/F)
5. Peter killed one of the soldiers. _____ (T/F)
6. Judas pretended to be a friend of Jesus. ____ (T/F)
7. What was the name of the soldier Peter attacked? _____

8. What has the phrase “Judas’ kiss” come to mean? _____

Memory Verse for Next Week: “O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will” (Matthew 26:39b).

Activities for this week:

Again read the Bible story in this Handout, along with the contemporary story. Share them with your parents and others. The Daily Activity Worksheets for the week contain the daily Bible readings, puzzles, and other activities. Make it part of your daily schedule to read the Bible. Plan on taking time to do the activities. Maybe someone else can join you in doing some of them. Bring these papers to class next week so you can share your thoughts and insights about some of these things. Remember to memorize next week’s verse.

This Week’s Story:

Heroes and Enemies

Twelve-year-old Clem dumped his basket of corn on the pile already on the shed floor. His younger brother, Franklin, followed with his basket of corn.

“It looks like we’ll have plenty for the winter,” Clem spoke.

“If raiding soldiers don’t take too much,” Franklin said.

“Pa says we have enough to share,” Clem answered. “How about resting a few minutes?”

Just then small Polly appeared at the shed door. “Ma says to tell you she wants a bushel of the corn to make hominy,” Polly said. “She’s going to make it tomorrow.”

“I guess we’ll be shelling corn tonight,” Franklin grumbled.

So it was that Franklin and Clem sat shelling corn after supper. Clem could hear dishes rattling inside the house as Polly helped Ma in the kitchen. Pa had gone to the shed to check the corn the boys had stored that day.

Ever since America had declared independence, war talk had been uppermost in all homes. Even before independence, battles were fought. For more than five years now the battles had raged all the way from Canada and down into Georgia.

Clem wondered when it would all end. He wondered about the failures and victories of Ameri-



General Washington by Charles Willson

cans and British. His thoughts were interrupted by Franklin’s voice.

“Clem, is Benjamin Franklin a hero?”

Clem rubbed two yellow ears of corn together. “I suppose you might say he is,” Clem teased. “After all, you share the same name.”

“That’s not what I mean,” Franklin countered. “I mean all his work in the government. I heard that Ben Franklin had much to do with getting France to help the Americans against the British.”

“Yes, he did,” Clem said. “Germans were helping Britain, so it’s a good thing Franklin was such a good statesman for America. He’s sailed to England and to France, always doing what he can to bring about peace. I think that might make him a hero.”

Polly came from the kitchen with a low stool in her hand. She placed it on the ground beside the low porch where the boys worked. Sitting down, Polly reached for an ear of corn.

“I think General Washington is the greatest hero,” Polly stated.

“He’s great,” Clem agreed.

Franklin nodded in agreement.

“I heard Pa tell about Washington camping at Valley Forge. Pa talked to some men who were there. Washington could have gone to a farmhouse and stayed where it was warm and cozy. Instead, he lived in a tent just like his soldiers did. Enough cabins were built so all the men could live inside during the winter. Then Washington moved to the farmhouse out of the snow and cold.” Polly paused.

"I like a man who has a heart for others," Franklin said.

"I feel sorry that Nathan Hale got hanged by the British," Clem said. "He lived up in Connecticut and was a schoolmaster there before the war."

Polly pushed a pigtail back over her shoulder. A sadness came into her gray eyes. "He was only twenty-one when he died," she said.

"What a brave man, though!" Franklin exclaimed. "Just think – Washington's army had been beaten in a battle at New York. He needed someone to go behind British lines to find out what was going on."

"And Captain Hale volunteered to go," Clem interrupted, eager to add his part. "He dressed as a Dutch schoolmaster. He went at night and got the information Washington needed."

"Only he got caught on his way back to the American army. Too bad," Franklin sighed.

"Why didn't the British just take him as a prisoner?" Polly wanted to know.

"Because hanging was the British punishment for spies," Clem answered soberly.

Franklin's face lit up with a sudden smile. "What Captain Hale said is worth remembering – 'I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country.' What a man!"

"Too bad Benedict Arnold didn't live by those words," Clem said.



Benedict Arnold by Thomas Hart

"How did he live?" Polly asked.

"For his own greedy self," Franklin spat out.

"Didn't he start out good?" Polly asked. "He was helping America to begin with."

"Sure. He was even a general. He got wounded twice and was quite a hero. Congress and a lot of other people didn't trust him. General Washington trusted him, though." Franklin's words sounded bitter.

"Trusted him enough to appoint him commander at West Point," Clem added.

"He'd been a military commander in Philadelphia before that," Franklin said. "He got so used to high living there – had a carriage and horses and servants. I think his Tory wife and fancy living went to his head."

"I guess so," Clem agreed. "At West Point he had access to lots of American military information. He and his wife started selling some of the information to the British Army. That gave the Arnolds more money for elegant living."

"He sent news to the British about plans and movements of American troops. He even told the British general where he could capture General Washington. Only Washington didn't get captured." Franklin whacked two ears of corn together in glee.

"Goody!" Polly exclaimed.

"Washington visited West Point and found out about the dirty double-crossing," Franklin said. "Only Arnold had escaped to the British when he thought he was going to get caught."

"Too bad," Polly said.

"Arnold didn't care about the lives of fellow Americans. He was greedy – just looking for gain for himself." Clem felt disgusted at the evil of the man.

"I suppose the British were glad to get him," Polly said.

"Not really," Clem said. "I hear they have little respect for him."

"No one can respect a man who can't be trusted," Franklin observed.

"Will the Americans and the British ever be friends?" Polly's question surprised Clem.

"Why – why – I guess maybe they might," Clem stammered.

"Then the war should stop," Polly declared. "The Bible says to love our enemies. I don't want any enemies."

"None of us want enemies," Franklin said.

Clem agreed. War was evil. He looked forward to peace and liberty for America. That was what Pa prayed for every day. Clem thought all Americans, and also the British, were praying for peace.

– Thelma Severance in *Footprints*

Sabbath School Curriculum

Agony in the Garden

Lesson Aim: We will learn that Jesus felt severe agony because of the suffering and death He would experience, but that He endured this willingly.

Memory Verse: “O My father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will” (Matthew 26:39b).

Scripture References: Matthew 26:36-46;
Luke 22:43, 44; John 18:1

Learn new words: The meanings for these words are provided in the lesson: Gethsemane, cup, and agony. Learn to use them.

Introduction:

How would you act around your closest friend if he/she was very, very, sick? What would you say to him or her? Could you stay up all night long to be there to help that friend?

Bible Story:

Immediately after the Lord’s Supper, Jesus and eleven of His best friends (disciples) headed over to the Garden of **Gethsemane**, also known as the Garden of Olives. (*The name Gethsemane means “oil-press.”*) This orchard of olive trees was at the foot of the Mount of Olives, which is a hill a short walk from Jerusalem, across the Kidron Valley. (*Read John 18:1 and Matthew 26:36.*)

Jesus left eight of the disciples at a certain point in the garden and said to them, “Sit here while I

go and pray over there.” He took with Him Peter, James, and John, and went a little farther into the garden and asked them to watch with Him.

Jesus knew that the very next day He would die a horrible death. The thought of what He was to suffer came upon Him and filled His soul with grief. • What did Jesus say to Peter, James, and John? (*Read Matthew 26:37, 38.*)

This was the toughest night of Jesus’ life. The thought of dying a very painful death was overwhelming. Jesus’ crucifixion would not be an ordinary death by crucifixion. Many others have been put to death that way as punishment for their crimes. However, Jesus had lived a perfect life, He was innocent of doing any wrong. He accepted the responsibility of bearing all the sins of the world upon His shoulders and dying in the place of all people so they would have the opportunity to accept His sacrifice on their behalf and receive the gift of eternal life. Carrying that tremendous burden caused great pain and sorrow. Jesus needed the encouragement and comfort of His friends, the disciples.

Jesus went a little farther among the trees and fell face-down on the ground, and prayed, “O, my Father, if it is possible, let this **cup** pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will” (Verse 39). (*The cup is a symbol of suffering.*)



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His suffering was so great that there came out on His face great drops of sweat like blood falling on the ground. After praying for a time, He rose up from the earth and went to His three disciples. • What were His friends doing? Yes, He found them asleep. He awakened them and asked Peter, "What! Could you not watch with Me one hour? Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." (• Read Matthew 26:40, 41.)

He left them again and went a second time and prayed. This time He said, "O, My father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done" (Verse 42). Jesus submitted to the will of His Father. He knew that His sacrifice was necessary to provide salvation for all the people who had lived before that time and for everyone who would live after that.

He went back again to the three disciples and found them sleeping again (Verse 43). This time He did not awaken them. He went back and prayed a third time, using the same words. An angel from heaven appeared and gave Him strength because He was in such **agony** of spirit. (*Agony is anguish, great mental or physical pain, distress.* • Read Luke 22:43, 44.)

When He returned the third time He asked the disciples, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going. See, My betrayer is at hand" (Matthew 26:45, 46). The disciples had lost a great opportunity to watch with their Lord and Master while He was enduring such great agony.

Application:

The "cup" Jesus referred to in His prayer was the great suffering and death He would encounter. In the Bible, "cup" is often the symbol of divine wrath against sin. The next day Jesus would bear the sins of humanity as He died on the cross. He would feel separated from His Father and left alone – forsaken. He knew that He would be beaten, stripped, and left to die. Jesus prayed to His Father to receive strength for such an agonizing time.

Jesus also asked for His friends to pray for Him. It is very important to share our feelings with God. It is okay to be angry or fearful. Those feelings should be shared with God. However, we must always be willing to accept God's answers. He will help us through our hard times.

Jesus asked His friends for help, but they failed Him by falling asleep. Jesus accepted God's answer to His prayers. He submitted to the will of His Father, which shows real obedience. Our Lord Jesus was obedient "even unto death." Because Je-

sus was obedient to His Heavenly Father, we can have eternal life with Him if we accept Him as our Lord and Savior and become obedient to God.

How Well Do You Remember?

1. What and where is Gethsemane? _____

2. Whom did Jesus take with Him when He went to pray? _____
3. What did Jesus ask God to do? _____

4. What were the disciples doing while Jesus was praying? _____
5. How many times did Jesus find them asleep? _____
6. Why was Jesus extremely sorrowful? _____

7. Why did Jesus have to die? _____

8. What must we do to accept Jesus' punishment for our sins? _____

Memory Verse for Next Week: "So Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowd, 'I find no fault in this Man'" (Luke 23:4).

Activities for this week:

Again read the Bible story in this Handout, along with the contemporary story. Share them with your parents and others. The Daily Activity Worksheets for the week contain the daily Bible readings, puzzles, and other activities. Make it part of your daily schedule to read the Bible. Plan on taking time to do the activities. Maybe someone else can join you in doing some of them. Bring these papers to class next week so you can share your thoughts and insights about some of these things. Remember to memorize next week's verse.



Clipart: Pixabay

This Week's Story:

Lost . . . Two Pails of Paint

Warren was going home from his after school job. He had two pails of paint to deliver on his way home to supper.

"Hi, Warren," called a friend who was watching a ball game. "C'mon, you're missing it!" So Warren set down his paint and watched awhile.

But when he turned to go, the pails were nowhere in sight! No, his friend had not seen them. Together they searched all around, but the paint could not be found.

"What a dumb trick!" he muttered. "Why didn't I watch it? Now I'll have to go and tell the customer the paint was stolen."

In low spirits he hunted up the customer's address. He knocked on the door, but there was no answer.

An idea struck him. "I could say that I left the paint on the doorstep, since nobody was home," he thought. But that would be telling a lie.

Warren's mother saw that something was troubling him, and asked what was wrong.

"Oh, nothing much," he replied. He did not want her to know.

"Well, this is meeting night," she said. "After we've been to church you'll feel better."

Warren always went to church with his mother. Tonight he didn't feel much like going, but he went anyway and when the people knelt to pray at the close of the services, he knelt, too.

Mr. Stevens noticed how discouraged Warren acted, so he knelt down beside him. "What's the matter, Son?" he asked.

Warren liked Mr. Stevens. He had prayed with

him the night he gave his heart to Jesus, and Mr. Stevens had always seemed so kind. So he decided to tell him.

"I'm in trouble," he said, and he told how the paint had been stolen. "If I tell my boss what happened, he'll hold back my pay until the paint is paid for, and then I won't have enough money to go to Boys' Camp."

"Never mind, you just do the right thing, and the Lord will work it out," said Mr. Stevens.

"But I don't see why it happened. Maybe I was a bit careless, but the Lord could have kept the paint from being stolen.

"The Lord let it happen in order to prove you, Warren. It's easy to love Him and do right when everything goes smoothly, but He wants us to be true in the storms, too."

Warren's eyes filled with tears. "Oh, I thought I loved Jesus, but I guess I didn't. Why, I even felt like telling a lie. I felt like saying I left the paint at the customer's door, so they would think it had been stolen from there. Oh, I've been such a sinner."

"No, I don't think you have sinned."

With a little coaching from his friend, Warren began to talk to the Lord. He told Him how he was tempted, and asked for courage to tell his employer the truth. The hot tears flowed, and when Warren arose he had won the victory.

The next afternoon when he went to the hardware store, he told just what had happened, and offered to pay for the missing paint.

To his surprise, the boss did not get angry. Instead, he admired Warren's honesty, and he said he would stand half the loss if Warren would pay for the rest.

Then he sent Warren back to the same address with two more pails of paint. Who should answer the door but Mr. Stevens!

"Good afternoon, Warren!" he said, smiling. "You didn't know I was the one who ordered that paint did you? Well, I'm glad to know you told the truth, and I'm going to pay for the paint that was stolen."

"Oh, no, the boss and I are going to pay for it together," said Warren.

"Then I'll pay your share," said Mr. Stevens, "for I want you to go to Boys' Camp."

"Oh, I'll go, all right. I'll do some extra jobs and earn the money somehow."

"Then I'll find enough jobs for you to do around my house," said Mr. Stevens. "And I'll pay you in advance, so you won't go in debt at camp."

Was Warren happy! He had learned two valuable lessons: first, that it never pays to be careless; and second, that it always pays to do right.

– R. C. C. in *Footprints*

Sabbath School Curriculum

The Trial of Jesus

Lesson Aim: We will learn of the humiliation and suffering Jesus endured at the hands of the Jewish leaders and Roman soldiers. He endured all this so that we could have eternal life with Him.

Memory Verse: "So Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowd, 'I find no fault in this Man'" (Luke 23:4).

Scripture References: Isaiah 53:7; Matthew 26:59-67; 27:1, 2, 11-14, 19, 24, 25; Luke 23:4, 8-11, 13-16; John 2:19-21

Learn new words: The meanings for these words are provided in the lesson: innocent and fault. Learn to use them.

Introduction:

Do you remember a time when you were accused of doing something you did not do? Because you were **innocent**, how did you feel? (*Innocent means free from wrongdoing; without knowledge of.*) What would you do if someone blamed you for something you didn't know anything about? The Bible tells us of One who was innocent of any wrongdoing. He was falsely accused and brought to trial, yet He did not defend Himself.

Bible Story:

After the long, sad night when Jesus was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane, the soldiers led Him bound from the garden to the house of Annas, the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest. Not much time passed before Annas sent Jesus still bound to Caiaphas for questioning and trial. The trial was carried out in a manner contrary to Jewish law.

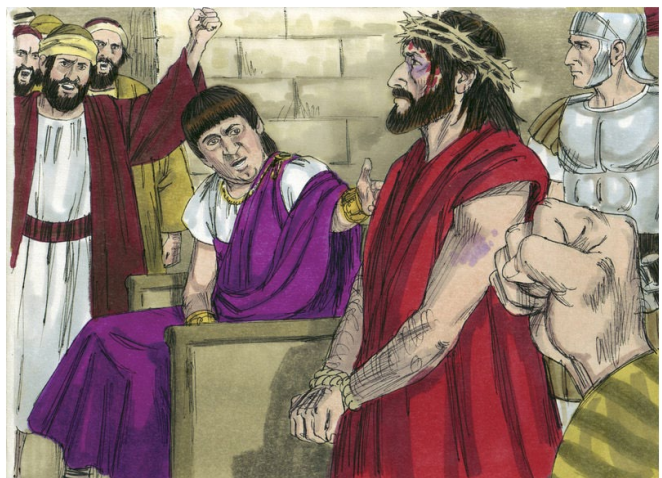
Many accusations were made, none of which

were true. Finally two witnesses accused Jesus of something He had said – that He would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days. (• *Read Matthew 26:59-61.*)

In the statement these men misquoted, Jesus was not speaking of a building. The temple that He was speaking of was His body. Jesus said that should they destroy this temple, He would raise it up in three days. He was telling the people that He was going to die and rise again. (• *Read John 2:19-21.*)

The Lord Jesus said not a word in His own defense. (• *Read Matthew 26:62, 63a and Isaiah 53:7.*) The high priest put Jesus under oath and questioned Him regarding His claim that He was the Son of God. Jesus answered that He was and then was accused of blasphemy. Caiaphas denounced Jesus' claim to being God's Son and allowed the members of the court to blindfold, beat, and spit on Him (Verses 63b-67).

When morning came, the chief priests, elders, and council met to condemn the Lord to death. They bound Him and took Him before the Roman governor, because the Jews were not permitted to carry out a death sentence against their prisoners. Pontius Pilate was the Roman governor for that area (Matthew 27:1, 2).



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Pilate knew nothing about Jesus, so he took Him to his judgment hall and asked Him questions. The Jews who were present accused Jesus of being a rebel, a threat to the Roman Emperor, and one who made Himself a king. The Jewish leaders enjoyed the authority they had over their people even though they were under Roman rule. They did not want to upset the Roman authorities, for fear that they might lose their own authority.

Under Pilate's questioning, Jesus replied that He was a king, but that His kingdom was not of this world; it was spiritual. With all the accusations against Him, and in spite of His total innocence, Jesus did not defend Himself. Pilate was amazed that Jesus said not a word to defend Himself.

(• *Read Matthew 27:11-14.*) So Pilate declared that he found no **fault** at all with Jesus. (*A fault is an error or mistake; cause for blame. Read Luke 23:4.*)

When Pilate heard that Jesus was from Galilee, he realized that Jesus belonged to the part of the country that Herod ruled. Instead of setting Jesus free, Pilate sent Him to Herod, for Herod was in Jerusalem at that time. This Herod was the son of the wicked king who tried to kill Jesus when He was a baby.

Herod began asking Jesus questions, but Jesus did not answer Him. He still did not speak one word to defend Himself. Finally, Herod became impatient with the silent prisoner, and he and the soldiers made fun of Jesus by dressing Him in a gorgeous robe. They pretended to honor Him as a king. Then Herod sent Jesus back to Pilate. (• *Read Luke 23:8-11.*)

Pilate's wife was so upset about a dream she had about Jesus that she sent a message to her husband, urging him to "have nothing to do with that just Man" (Matthew 27:19). Pilate tried several times to persuade the Jews to release Jesus. He told the accusers that neither he nor Herod had found Him guilty of death. (• *Read Luke 23:13-16.*)

Pilate made another attempt to free Jesus, using the custom of freeing one prisoner at the annual feast. Pilate asked whether he should release Barabbas, a criminal, or Jesus, the innocent man. With loud cries the people answered, "Set Barabbas free." Then Pilate asked, "What shall I do with Jesus?" They answered, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!"

Pilate took a basin of water and washed his hands before the Jews, saying, "I am innocent of the blood of this innocent Person. You see to it" (Matthew 27:24). The Jews shouted out, "His blood be on us and our children" (Verse 25). The trial ended and Pilate told the Roman soldiers to lead Jesus away to be crucified.

Jesus knew ahead of time what would happen

on this day, because He had come to be sacrificed as the Passover Lamb. He willingly submitted to the cruel treatment by the Jewish leaders and the Roman soldiers.

Application:

The people did not realize that the One they were condemning to death was the Son of God. He had no sin. Everything He did pleased His Father. He was perfect; that is why He qualified to die for our sins. He suffered and paid the penalty for our sins so that we would not have to.

Jesus, being God's perfect Son, had no hatred for the crowd as they cried out for His death. He was rejected then, and even now Jesus continues to be rejected by people who will not accept Him as their Savior.

How Well Do You Remember?

1. Where was Jesus arrested? _____

2. What did the two witnesses accuse Jesus of saying? _____

3. How did Jesus respond to the questions Pilate and Herod asked Him? _____

4. How did Herod dress Jesus? _____

5. Who had a dream about Jesus?

6. What did she tell Pilate? _____

7. What was the name of the prisoner the people wanted released? _____
8. What did Pilate do to show that he was not guilty of shedding Jesus' blood? _____

Memory Verse for Next Week: "But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5).

Activities for this week:

Again read the Bible story in this Handout, along with the contemporary story. Share them with your parents and others. The Daily Activity Worksheets for the week contain the daily Bible readings, puzzles, and other activities. Make it part of your daily schedule to read the Bible. Plan on taking time to do the activities. Maybe someone else can join you in doing some of them. Bring these papers to class next week so you can share your thoughts and insights about some of these things. Remember to memorize next week's verse.

This Week's Story:

Linda's Forgiveness

Linda and her family moved to town so that Linda would be closer to school. Her family was very poor and her clothes were faded and worn. But Linda was sweet and kind, and everyone loved her.

One evening Ray met Linda on the street. She was carrying a large pail of yellow pears. The next morning on the way to school, Ray told Joe that he heard someone had stolen some pears from the fruit stand under the big oak tree, and that he had seen Linda carrying a bucket of pears.

Joe remembered that he, too, had seen Linda carrying some pears. At recess he told Tommy, "Someone stole a pail of pears from the fruit stand under the big oak tree, and Ray and I saw Linda carrying a pail of pears that looked just like the missing one. Do you suppose she stole them? Her family is poor. Maybe they didn't have money to buy them."

Tommy whispered the story to Paul, and Paul told it to Jack. On the way home from school each of the boys told it to the children who walked along with him.

The following noon, shortly before the bell rang for school to take up again, Linda came into the schoolyard. She was carrying a bag of pears and wearing a smile on her face. She gave a pear to the teacher, who thanked her kindly.

"Linda, where did you get such delicious pears?" he asked as he took a big bite out of it.

"I earned them," Linda answered. "I babysat after school for Mrs. Hogan, and she gave me



Photo: Pixabay

a whole pailful. It was almost more than I could carry. Mother said I could bring some of them to school."

Linda offered a pear to Jack. He refused to take it and turned away. Some of the other children turned away without speaking.

With a surprised expression on her face, Linda looked at them and wondered what was wrong. "What's the matter?" she asked.

"Well," said Jack, "I don't want any of your stolen pears. You may keep them!"

"Stolen?" Linda looked at Jack and then at the other children. "What do you mean?" she asked.

"You know what he means," said Paul. "You stole that pail of pears from the fruit stand under the big oak tree, didn't you? Ray saw you!"

Linda turned to look at Ray. His face grew red, and he looked at the ground.

"Ray, did you see Linda steal the pears?" asked the teacher, who had not heard the tale. Ray did not answer. "Let's all go into the schoolroom and get this straightened out," he suggested.

"Now," he said, when all were seated, "what did you see, Ray?"

"I saw Linda carrying a big pail of pears that looked like the ones that were stolen. I didn't say she stole them. I told Joe that someone had stolen a pail of pears, and that I saw Linda carrying a pail of pears that looked a lot like them," Ray answered.

"And what did you tell, Joe?" asked the teacher.

"I told Tommy that Ray and I saw Linda carrying some pears, and that she might have stolen them," Joe answered.

One child, and then another, repeated what he had told. They were all quiet. Their faces showed that they were ashamed of what they had said and done.

Linda sat and listened. The surprised look on her face turned to anger. "So this is what they think of me," she thought. She was almost sorry that she had come to this school.

When everyone finished telling his part, the teacher looked at Ray. Ray sat speechless and swallowed hard for a while. Then he turned to Linda and said, "Linda, I am sorry for what I told. I didn't think about its scattering this way. Will you please forgive us all?" he asked.

Linda was silent until the look of anger was gone from her face. Then she smiled and nodded her head Yes.

"Children," said the teacher kindly, "this is a good example of what happens when people tell tales and criticize others. Linda has forgiven you, but always keep this in your mind and be very careful of what you tell from now on. Now, Linda, what about those delicious pears that you honestly earned by babysitting for Mrs. Hogan?" asked the teacher.

As friendly as ever, and with a big smile on her face, Linda gave a pear to each one of her schoolmates, and everyone was happy.

- Unknown author in *Footprints*, Sep/Oct 1978

Sabbath School Curriculum

The Crucifixion of Christ

Lesson Aim: We will learn that Jesus died as an atonement for our sins. To save us, He denied Himself.

Memory Verse: “But He was wounded for our **transgressions**, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed” (Isaiah 53:5).
(*Transgression is sin; violation of a rule or law.*)

Scripture References: Matthew 26:65-67; 27:46, 51; Mark 15:20, 21; Luke 23:33, 34, 42, 43, 46; John 19:17, 19, 22, 26-30

Learn new words: The meanings for these words are provided in the lesson: transgression, blasphemy, crucify, sacrifice, atonement, and reconcile. Learn to use them.

Introduction:

What happens when you say something that other people don't like. What do you do when someone says something you don't like? Jesus said that He was the Son of God and for this the Jewish leaders decided He was speaking **blasphemy**. (*Blasphemy is mocking God; showing contempt for God. Read Matthew 26:65-67.*)

Bible Story:

After the trial ended, Pilate had Jesus severely beaten (scourged). The Roman soldiers put a purple robe on Him and a crown of thorns upon His head. Then they put a reed in His hand, bowed before Him and mockingly called Him the king of the Jews. They also blindfolded His eyes, spat upon Him, and struck Him with their hands and said, “Tell us, prophet, who is it who struck You.” Jesus bore all these shameful things in silence.

Finally the soldiers took off the purple robe and dressed Jesus in His own clothes. Then they led Him from Pilate's residence “to a place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha,” outside the city of Jerusalem (John 19:17). This place is also called Calvary. (• *Read Luke 23:33*) There He and two thieves would be **crucified**. (*Crucify means to torment; torture; to put to death by nailing on a cross, as Jesus was.*)

A crowd of curious people followed. Jesus was given the task of carrying the cross beam on which He would die. But the cross was so heavy that Jesus stumbled under its weight. The soldiers ordered Simon of Cyrene (a stranger) to carry the cross the rest of the way because Jesus was too weak to carry it any further. (• *Read Mark 15:20, 21.*)

When Jesus and the crowd arrived at the place of crucifixion, the soldiers stripped Jesus and the two prisoners of their clothing and fastened their hands and feet to the crosses. Instead of tying Him onto the cross with ropes, the Roman soldiers drove spikes (large nails) through His hands and feet.

Next, they placed the sign Pilate had written at the top of the cross. The sign, written in Aramaic, Latin, and Greek read, “JESUS OF NAZARETH, KING OF THE JEWS” (John 19:19). This was the accusation against Jesus. Then the crosses were raised high in the air and planted securely in the ground, and the prisoners were left to die. Jesus' cross stood between the two crosses on which the thieves were hung. When the Jews read the sign they were not pleased. They asked Pilate to change it. • *What did Pilate say? (• Read John 19:22.)*

Jesus prayed while on the cross, saying, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do” (Luke 23:34). One of the thieves mocked Him, but the other thief said to Jesus, “‘Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.’ And Jesus said to him, ‘Assuredly, I say to you today, you will

be with Me in Paradise” (Verses 42, 43). (*Paradise will exist on this earth when Jesus returns to set up His kingdom.*)

Jesus did not speak much while hanging on the cross. However, He cared enough about His mother to speak to someone about her welfare. Looking down from the cross, Jesus told His disciple John to take care of His mother. From midday until three o’clock in the afternoon there was darkness over the whole place. Jesus cried out, “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?” that is, ‘My God, my God, why have You forsaken Me?’” (Matthew 27:46). He suffered in the darkness alone.

Then He said, “I thirst,” and the soldiers put vinegar on a sponge and gave it to Him on a stalk of hyssop. After He received the vinegar, He said, “It is finished” (John 19:28-30). When He knew that He was about to die, He said, “Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit” (Luke 23:46), and He died.

Suddenly there was an earthquake. (• *Read Matthew 27:51.*)

Before the sun set, the soldiers went to break the legs of the men on the cross to hasten their death. They were surprised to find that Jesus was already dead so they pierced His side with a spear. The blood and water that flowed out showed that He was definitely dead.

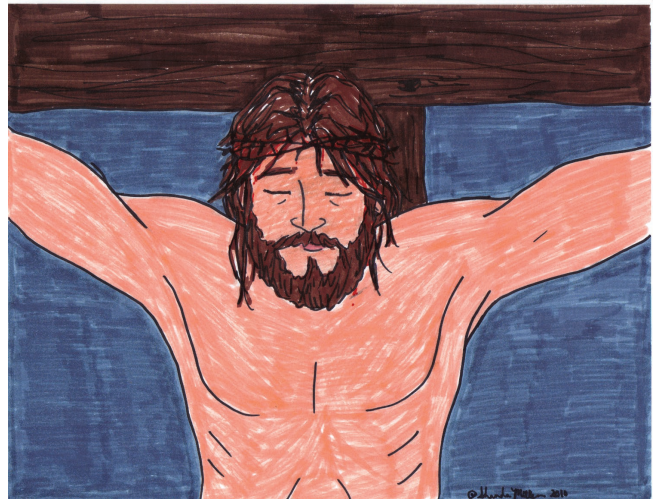
The next day was a special Sabbath. Jesus’ body had to be removed from the cross and buried before that day. Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for permission to take the body for burial. Joseph had a new tomb that was intended to be his when he died. Nicodemus, a very rich man, helped Joseph wrap Jesus’ body in a long linen cloth, and together they laid Him in the tomb. They closed the entrance of the tomb by rolling a huge stone across it.

Application:

Imagine the different feelings experienced by the following people. For example:

- (a) the sorrowing women
- (b) the thieves who knew they had only a short time to live
- (c) the soldiers
- (d) Simon of Cyrene whom the Romans compelled to carry the cross.

Jesus demonstrated that His purpose was to save us even though it cost Him His life. His death was voluntary. The soldiers nailed Jesus to the cross and mocked and ridiculed Him as the blood flowed from His head, hands, feet, and side. Jesus



still loved them, had compassion on them and asked God to forgive them. He was dying for their sins and for ours as well.

In Colossians 1:14 we read that “we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.” The thief who was truly repentant would spend eternity with Christ when He returned to set up His kingdom. But the other thief did not accept Christ as his Savior and would not have eternal life.

We are not saved by what we do, such as going to church, or living a good life. We are saved only through accepting Christ as our Savior and through the death of Christ, the One who took our place. God laid our sins on the Lord Jesus. He alone died as a **sacrifice** for our sins. (*A sacrifice is an animal or person offered to God for forgiveness of sins.*) He made **atonement** for our sins. (*Atonement is an act that pays for or erases wrongdoing; the effect of Jesus’ suffering and death to reconcile people to God. To reconcile is to settle a disagreement; to make friendly; to bring into harmony.*)

How Well Do You Remember?

1. How was Jesus treated after the trial? _____

2. Who helped Jesus carry His cross? _____

3. What was another name for “the Place of the Skull”? _____
4. What was given to Jesus when He said, “I thirst”? _____



This Week's Story:

The Whisperers

"Boys, what did I tell you?"

The schoolmaster spoke angrily. He was in trouble because his scholars would not study. Whenever his back was turned, they were sure to begin whispering to one another.

"Girls, stop your whispering, I say."

But still they would whisper, and he could not prevent it. The afternoon was half gone, and the trouble was growing. Then the master thought of a plan.

"Children," he said, "we are going to play a new game. The next one that whispers must come out and stand in the middle of the floor. He must stand there until he sees someone else whisper. Then he will tell me, and the one whom he names must come and take his place. He, in turn, will watch and report the first one that he sees whisper. And so we will keep the game going till it is time for school to be dismissed. The boy or girl who is standing at that time will be punished for all of you."

"What will the punishment be, Mr. Johnson?" asked a bold, bad boy. "A good thrashing," answered the master. He was tired, he was vexed, and he hardly knew what he said.

The children thought the new game was very funny. First, Tommy Jones whispered to Billy Brown and was at once called out to stand on the floor. Within less than two minutes, Billy saw Mary Green whispering, and she had to take his place. Mary looked around and saw Samuel Miller asking his neighbor for a pencil, and Samuel was called. And so the fun went on until the clock showed that it lacked only ten minutes till school would be dismissed.

Then all became very good and very careful, for no one wished to be standing at the time of dismissal. They knew that the master would be as good as his word. The clock ticked loudly, and Tommy Jones, who was standing up for the fourth time, began to feel very uneasy. He stood on one leg and then on the other, and watched very closely; but nobody whispered. Could it be possible that he would receive that thrashing? Suddenly, to his great joy he saw little Lucy Martin lean over her desk and whisper to the girl in front of her. Now Lucy was the pet of the school. Everybody loved her, and this was the first time she had whispered that day. But Tommy didn't care for that. He wished to escape the punishment, and so he called out, "Lucy Martin!" and went proudly to his seat.

5. Who gave Jesus an honorable burial? _____

6. Why was Jesus put to death? _____

Memory Verse for Next Week: "He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay" (Matthew 28:6).

Activities for this week:

Again read the Bible story in this Handout, along with the contemporary story. Share them with your parents and others. The Daily Activity Worksheets for the week contain the daily Bible readings, puzzles, and other activities. Make it part of your daily schedule to read the Bible. Plan on taking time to do the activities. Maybe someone else can join you in doing some of them. Bring these papers to class next week so you can share your thoughts and insights about some of these things. Remember to memorize next week's verse.

Little Lucy had not meant to whisper. There was something which she wished very much to know before going home, and so, without thinking, she had leaned over and whispered just three little words. With tears in her eyes she went out and stood in the whisperer's place.

She was very much ashamed and hurt, for it was the first time that she had ever been in disgrace at school. The other girls felt sorry that she should suffer for so small a fault. The boys looked at her and wondered if the master would really be as good as his word.

The clock kept on ticking. It lacked only one minute till the bell would strike the time for dismissal. What a shame that dear, gentle Lucy should be punished for all those unruly boys and girls!

Then, suddenly, an awkward, half-grown boy who sat right in front of the master's desk turned squarely around and whispered to Tommy Jones, three desks away.

Everybody saw him. Little Lucy Martin saw him through her tears, but said nothing. Everybody was astonished, for that boy was the best scholar in the school, and he had never been known to break a rule.

It lacked only half a minute now. The awkward boy turned again and whispered so loudly that even the master could not help hearing: "Tommy, you deserve a thrashing!"

"Elihu Burritt, take your place on the floor," said the master sternly. The awkward boy stepped out quickly, and little Lucy Martin returned to her seat sobbing. At the same moment the bell struck and school was dismissed.

After all the others had gone home, the master took down his long birch rod and said: "Elihu, I suppose I must be as good as my word. But tell me why you so deliberately broke the rule against whispering."

"I did it to save little Lucy," said the awkward boy, standing up very straight and brave. "I could not bear to see her punished."

"Elihu, you may go home," said the master.

All this happened many years ago in New Britain, Connecticut. Elihu Burritt was a poor boy who was determined to learn. He worked many years as a blacksmith and studied books whenever he had a spare moment. He learned many languages and became known all over the world as "The Learned Blacksmith."

– James Baldwin in *Fifty Famous People*

Sabbath School Curriculum

Jesus' Resurrection

Lesson Aim: We will learn that Jesus' resurrection is a proven fact; that the risen Lord Jesus was seen by many; and that Jesus died and rose again so that we "will live also" (John 14:19).

Memory Verse: "He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay" (Matthew 28:6).

Scripture References: Matthew 12:40; 27:62-66; 28:1-6, 11-15; Mark 16:1-8; John 19:40-42; 20:3-8, 13

Learn new words: The meanings for these words are provided in the lesson: resurrect and Messiah. Learn to use them.

Lesson Introduction:

When someone you love has gone away for some time, how do you feel? Sad, of course. Or, if a family member or a friend you know becomes sick and passes away, you become very, very sad because you won't see that person again.

Jesus' mother and His friends were very sad when Jesus died. They missed Him because they thought they would never see Him again. Our lesson today is about Jesus coming back to life again, which is called "the **resurrection** of Jesus." (*Resurrect means to raise from the dead; bring back to life again.*)

Bible Story:

After Jesus was buried, the chief priests and the Pharisees reminded Pilate that Jesus had said that after three days He would rise again. They were concerned that the disciples would steal Jesus' body and claim that He had risen from the dead after the third day. Pilate sealed the tomb and placed Roman soldiers to guard it. (*• Read Mat-*

thew 27:62-66.) But no one came to visit the place where Jesus was buried.

As the Sabbath day ended, suddenly there was an earthquake and the frightened soldiers saw an angel come from the sky. The angel rolled the stone away from the door of the tomb and sat on it. The face of the angel had the appearance of lightning, and his clothes were as white as snow. At the sight of the angel, the soldiers fell to the ground, trembling and helpless, and laid there as though they were dead (Matthew 28:1-4).

All this happened because Jesus had come back to life. He had risen from the dead. He was no longer in the tomb.

Jesus gave the only sign that He was the **Messiah** when He said He would be in the heart of the earth three days and three nights. (*Messiah means anointed; the promised and expected deliverer of the Jews; Jesus Christ. • Read Matthew 12:40.*) That is exactly what happened. At the end of the Sabbath, the angel came to show that the tomb where Jesus had been buried was empty. Jesus was gone!

Using the chart introduced during the greeting, start from the end of the daylight part of Sabbath and count back three days and three nights. We come to the end of the daylight part of Wednesday. This is the period of time that Jesus was in the tomb. We learn from this that Jesus was crucified on Wednesday and He was buried before sundown on that day. This agrees exactly with what Jesus had said earlier in Matthew 12:40.

The day after Jesus was buried (Thursday) was a special "high-day" Sabbath, the annual Pass-over Sabbath. No work was done on this special day, which is why Joseph and Nicodemus hurried to bury Jesus before sundown on Wednesday. (*• Read John 19:40-42.*)

When the weekly Sabbath was past, very early the following morning, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, Salome, and other women, took sweet spices to anoint the body of Jesus. While on their way, they were wondering who was going



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to roll away the great stone from the door of the tomb. As soon as they arrived at the garden, they were alarmed to find that the stone had already been rolled away. (*• Read Mark 16:1-8.*)

Mary Magdalene ran quickly to tell Peter and John that someone had stolen Jesus' body and hidden it, but no one knew where. After she left, the other women looked in the empty tomb and saw an angel. They were afraid and bowed themselves to the ground. The angel told them not to be afraid because he knew they were looking for Jesus.

"He is not here: for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay" (Matthew 28:6). He also told them to go quickly and tell His disciples that Jesus was alive. The women, filled with joy over the good news, hurried to tell the sorrowful disciples and others that Jesus was alive!

The disciples refused to believe the exciting message. Peter and John ran to see the empty tomb for themselves. When they arrived they found no one. The soldiers who had been watching the tomb had gone into the city to report to the Jewish leaders about their strange experience. (*• Read Matthew 28:11-15.*)

John outran Peter. Coming to the tomb first, he looked in and saw that the tomb was empty, but he did not go in until after Peter had entered and seen the grave clothes that had been wrapped

around Jesus' body. The material which had wrapped His head had been folded and separated from the other garments. Then John believed that Jesus was alive once more. (*• Read John 20:3-8.*)

Mary Magdalene returned to the garden and stood weeping by the empty tomb. She looked in the tomb and saw two angels sitting, one at the head, and the other at the foot of where Jesus' body had lain. They asked her why she was weeping. She replied, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him" (John 20:13). Her eyes blinded with tears, she saw a man she assumed was the gardener. The man asked why she was crying. She told him she wanted to find the body of Jesus.

He said, "Mary!" and she realized that this was Jesus. She fell at His feet and said, "Rabboni!" (This means "Teacher.") Then Jesus told her to go at once and tell His sorrowing friends that she had seen Him. Mary was no longer sad, but joyful, knowing that the Lord Jesus had risen from the dead just as He had said He would.

Application:

The news of Jesus' resurrection was of such importance that it had to be made known immediately. It is the reason for people to believe in Jesus as Lord. If you believe that Jesus died and rose again for you, you can live forever with Him.

Because of His resurrection, we believe that when Christ returns all believers will be resurrected to live with Him forever. It is the reason for you to believe in Jesus and accept Him as your Savior and Lord. The Bible says that all of us have sinned and that sin is any action or thought that does not please God. You may have been selfish with your toys, cheated on a test, or were cruel to animals. Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, He is the only One who can forgive you and help you live a Christian life.

How Well Do You Remember?

1. What did Pilate do to make sure no one would steal Jesus' body? _____

2. How many days after Jesus was buried did He rise from the dead? _____

3. Who rolled the big stone away from the opening of the tomb? _____

4. Who was the first person to see Jesus after He rose from the dead? _____

5. Who ran to the tomb after Mary Magdalene told the disciples that Jesus' body was not there? _____
6. Why is it important to believe that God raised Jesus from the dead? _____

Memory Verse for Next Week: "Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have" (Luke 24:39).

Activities for this week:

Again read the Bible story in this Handout, along with the contemporary story. Share them with your parents and others. The Daily Activity Worksheets for the week contain the daily Bible readings, puzzles, and other activities. Make it part of your daily schedule to read the Bible. Plan on taking time to do the activities. Maybe someone else can join you in doing some of them. Bring these papers to class next week so you can share your thoughts and insights about some of these things. Remember to memorize next week's verse.

This Week's Story:

Why Are You Here?

Mark looked around the room. Boy, was he bored! Somewhere the teacher's voice hummed on and on, but Mark didn't hear what she said. Bible School was sure a drag. He yawned carelessly and began tapping his foot aimlessly against the chair next to him. Carl looked at him annoyed and whispered, "Shh . . ." but Mark didn't stop.

"Who does Carl think he is – the preacher?" Mark thought. "What gives anyone here that right? Why does my Mom have to make me come?"

By now Mark's foot was more than tapping and the next thing the boys knew Carl's chair had slipped and he lay sprawled on the floor. But that was yesterday and this was now and Mark had the feeling he wished he were not here in the pastor's office waiting for Brother Gleason to finish on the phone. Mark knew he'd want to talk about the writing on the rest room wall and maybe the

broken window – but no one could prove Mark had done that. He wondered if old Gleason had told Mom yet. Maybe they'd ask her to quit making him come to church.

Brother Gleason hung up the phone and Mark sunk a little lower in the chair.

"Mark. I guess you don't know me very well. Most of these kids call me Dan – I'd like to be your friend."

"I'll bet you would," thought Mark to himself, but out loud he only grunted.

"I have a note here I was asked to give you and it is very important so I wanted to deliver it in person." He held out his hand, and in it Mark saw a folded piece of paper. "Go ahead, Mark, and read it out loud, please."

Mark took the paper. "'Dear Mark,'" he read, "'I hope someday you will understand that I love you and I died for you.' and it's signed 'Jesus.' What's this supposed to be?" Mark shouted.

"I didn't mean to fool you – but I'm not joking either, for that message is really sent to you." Dan said softly.

"Sure! Jesus has been dead for hundreds of years," Mark said angrily. "He never even heard of me!"

"Oh, yes He died, but He's not dead now and Jesus does love you very much. But, I wonder, do you really love yourself very much right now?"

"You mean the broken win . . ." Almost before he realized it Mark had admitted breaking the window.

Dan smiled. "That's not why I called you here, but I think it's part of what I'm talking about. You don't like Bible school very much, do you?"

Mark, without answering, thought, "That's for sure!"

"A long time ago – right after Jesus died and after God resurrected Him to life again and took Him to Heaven – I told you He wasn't dead – there was a man who was so much against Jesus he went around killing every Christian he saw. Would you ever be like that?"

"Of course not!" Mark was surprised to hear that.

"But, Mark, the Bible tells us that if you aren't for Jesus Christ, you are against Him and are His enemy just like the man named Saul in the story. You are trying in your own way to destroy the message of Jesus by hurting this church or disturbing your class. Isn't that true?"

"I . . ." Mark started to say something but his voice sounded strange and he didn't know what to say, so he just looked down.

"Would you like to know what happened to Saul?" Dan didn't wait for an answer. "One day a voice from Heaven spoke to him out of a blinding



light. It was Jesus, and Saul believed in Him right away.

"Mark, Jesus is speaking to you even though you aren't listening."

"You mean . . ." Mark looked at the note.

"Oh, no," laughed Dan. "Not that – that was just to get you to listen to me. But Jesus really did leave a message for you – lots of them – in the Bible." Dan picked up the Bible from his desk and started to read, "For I have loved you with a . . ."

"May I go now, Sir?"

"Sure, but don't forget your message. Jesus loves you – and so do I."

Mark left the office without a word. The other kids had gone home so the long walk alone gave him a good chance to think about what Brother Gleason had said.

And that was all Brother Gleason did say to Mark, but that was all it took to make Mark do a funny thing. At first he didn't want to even think about Jesus – he didn't even want to act like he was thinking about Jesus. In fact, Mark did about everything he could to keep from thinking about Jesus and that meant he did a lot more things to show off and cause as much trouble at VBS as he could.

The last day of Bible school was the big baseball game and Mark thought he would finally enjoy something about this whole week. The game went smoothly until the fifth inning when Larry hit a high fly right toward Mark. Eye on the ball, Mark began backing up fast. Everyone was yelling his name wildly, but he didn't realize why they were yelling until it was too late and his head hit hard on the low branch of the tree behind him.

The next thing Mark knew he was waking up on the couch in Brother Gleason's office. Somewhere far away he could hear voices – his mother; she was crying, and Brother Gleason; he was praying.

"God, we know your Holy Spirit has been working strongly with Mark all week. We come to you now, knowing that you can heal his physical body, but more importantly, You can save his soul from eternal death through Your gift of Jesus Christ. Thank you for sending Mark to VBS, and we pray that somehow Mark might see your love for him."

Mark opened his eyes – Everyone in the room was praying. Mark felt strange. He didn't feel like fighting; he felt like crying. He knew now that he didn't want to go on struggling against the feeling he'd known all week – the feeling that something was telling him to stop doing the things he did that were wrong. But he'd been so bad!

"Brother Gleason," Mark sobbed. "I've been so bad – can God ever make me feel clean? I want to do better, but how?"

Everyone was surprised to hear Mark speak, but imagine how surprised they were to hear his words.

Mark repeated his question, "Can God forgive me?"

"Yes, Mark," Dan answered softly. "Right now He's listening to you and He knows what's in your heart. And you know something else – that's why you're here. The Holy Spirit, God's messenger, has brought you here to show you that you need God in your life."

So, right there in that study, as he lay on that couch, Mark accepted God's call and gave into the feeling he had been fighting. No, Mark wasn't always good after that, and sometimes he did misbehave, but now he knew that God was on his side. How about you? Why are you here?

– Lorraine Carr in *Footprints*

Photo: Pixabay

Sabbath School Curriculum

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

Lesson Aim: We will learn that Jesus appeared to several people after He was raised from the dead. By **faith** in God's Word, we believe Jesus is alive even though we have not seen Him. *(Faith is believing in what you have not seen, such as believing in God.)*

Memory Verse: "Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have" (Luke 24:39).

Scripture References: Mark 16:9-11; Luke 24:10-27, 30-39

Learn new words: The meanings for these words are provided in the lesson: faith, disciples, and Redeemer. Learn to use them.

Lesson Introduction:

Let's say that the President of the United States (or any famous person) came to your church one day. He was dressed like the rest of us. There were no security persons around, and no one was taking pictures.

You might see that person and think, *He looks just like the President. However, if that were really him, everyone around him would be taking pictures.* You wouldn't believe it was actually him, because in your mind you saw nothing to prove that it really was him.

For the people who loved Jesus, this was the situation after He was resurrected from the tomb. They knew that He was crucified, and that He was dead and buried. In their minds there was no way He could be standing with them after three days. The **disciples** could not believe that Jesus was actually alive. *(Disciples are followers of Jesus Christ, and refer especially to those Jesus chose.)*

Bible Story:

Jesus arose victoriously from the grave. When He appeared to Mary Magdalene, she did not recognize Him at first, but when she did, she ran to tell the disciples. They did not believe her because they had not seen Him with their own eyes. (*• Read Mark 16:9-11 and Luke 24:10-12.*)

On the same day, two men who were friends of Jesus, were walking along the road that led from the city of Jerusalem to the village of Emmaus. As these men walked, they talked about what had happened: the trial, the crucifixion, and the women's message early that morning.

Suddenly, a stranger joined them and asked what they were talking about and why they were so sad. Cleopas, one of the men, asked Him, "Can it be possible that you have not heard about the things that have been happening during these past few days?" (*• Read Luke 24:13-18.*)

The stranger asked, "What things?"

They told Him about Jesus of Nazareth whom they had hoped would deliver their nation from the rule of the Romans and set up a new kingdom. They said the chief priests and rulers had become jealous of Jesus. Because He was such a mighty prophet, who taught people contrary to their man-made rules, they crucified Him.

They said Jesus died on the cross, and loving friends buried His body in a new tomb. This was the third day since these things happened. They also told Him that some women had gone to the tomb early that morning and had seen angels at the empty tomb who said that Jesus had risen from the dead. (*• Read Verses 19-24.*)

The stranger listened patiently, and when they had finished, He asked them why it was that they found it hard to believe what the prophets long ago had told would happen. The stranger told them many truths from the writings of the prophets. He quoted from the first book of the Bible to the end of the Scriptures. He told them about the



Man, Jesus, the Promised **Redeemer** of Israel. (A redeemer is one who buys back; who delivers from sin and its penalties; Jesus Christ. • Read verses 25-27.)

He showed them from the Word of God that Jesus, the prophet of Galilee, should suffer these things and rise again the third day, verifying that He really was the Redeemer for whom they were longing. The men listened silently, wondering who this stranger could be. As they came near to the village, the men invited the stranger to stay with them until the morning, and He accepted their invitation.

When they sat to eat the evening meal, He blessed the bread and gave it to them. Immediately, they recognized that He was Jesus, the risen Lord; then He disappeared from their sight. Their hearts were filled with joy and gladness because now they also believed in the risen Lord. Although it was late, they went back to Jerusalem and told the disciples what they had experienced. (• Read verses 30-35.)

The disciples, except Thomas, had locked themselves in a room to hide from the Pharisees and Jewish leaders who had demanded that Jesus be killed. The Roman guards had lied, saying that the disciples had stolen Jesus' body; therefore, the disciples had reason to be afraid.

While they talked together, Jesus appeared

in their midst. (• Read Luke 24:36, 37.) They were frightened because the doors were locked and had not opened to admit Him. They thought He was a ghost. Jesus said to them, "Peace to you! Why are you troubled? Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have" (Luke 24:36-39). He convinced them that He really was Jesus by showing them His hands and feet. Then He asked for something to eat, and they gave Him a piece of broiled fish and some honey, which He ate in front of them. They were very joyful, seeing Him with them once more after He had been so cruelly tortured and killed. It was hard to believe, but Jesus was alive just as He had promised!

Application:

Has anyone you know actually seen Jesus in His body? No, we have not seen Him because He is in heaven with His Father. Jesus' appearances to His disciples taught them that He was near them, whether they could see Him or not. We too are very joyful that He is with us through the presence of the Holy Spirit, even though we cannot see Him.

How Well Do You Remember:

1. Who was the first person to see Jesus after He rose from the dead? (Mark 16:9; John 20:10-18)

2. Where were the two men going when Jesus joined them on the road there? (Luke 24:13)

3. At what point did Cleopas and his friend recognize Jesus? (Luke 24:30, 31) _____

4. How did Jesus convince the disciples that He was really Jesus? (Luke 24:39.) _____

5. What did the disciples give Jesus to eat so He could show that He was not a spirit? (Luke 24:42) _____



roads were crooked and muddy and rough.

If a man was obliged to go from one city to another, he often rode on horseback. Instead of a trunk for his clothing, he carried a pair of saddlebags. Instead of sitting at his ease in a parlor car, he went jolting along through mud and mire, exposed to wind and weather.

One day some men were sitting by the door of a hotel in Baltimore. As they looked down the street they saw a horseman coming. He was riding very slowly, and both he and his horse were bespattered with mud.

6. Why did Jesus appear to His disciples and others after His resurrection? _____

"There comes old Farmer Mossback," said one of the men, laughing. "He's just in from the backwoods."

"He seems to have had a hard time of it," said another; "I wonder where he'll put up for the night."

"Oh, any kind of a place will suit him," answered the landlord. "He's one of those country fellows who can sleep in the haymow and eat with the horses."

The traveler was soon at the door. He was dressed plainly, and, with his reddish-brown hair and mud-bespattered face, looked like a hard-working countryman just in from the backwoods.

"Have you a room here for me?" he asked the landlord.

Now the landlord prided himself upon keeping a first-class hotel, and he feared that his guests would not like the rough-looking traveler. So he answered: "No, sir. Every room is full. The only place I could put you would be in the barn."

"Well, then," answered the stranger, "I will see what they can do for me at the Planters' Tavern, round the corner;" and he rode away.

About an hour later, a well-dressed gentleman came into the hotel and said, "I wish to see Mr. Jefferson."

"Mr. Jefferson!" said the landlord.

"Yes, sir. Thomas Jefferson, the vice president of the United States."

"He isn't here."

"Oh, but he must be. I met him as he rode into town, and he said that he intended to stop at this hotel. He has been here about an hour."

"No, he hasn't. The only man that has been

Memory Verse for Next Week: "Jesus said to him, 'Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed'" (John 20:29).

Activities for this week:

Again read the Bible story in this Handout, along with the contemporary story. Share them with your parents and others. The Daily Activity Worksheets for the week contain the daily Bible readings, puzzles, and other activities. Make it part of your daily schedule to read the Bible. Plan on taking time to do the activities. Maybe someone else can join you in doing some of them. Bring these papers to class next week so you can share your thoughts and insights about some of these things. Remember to memorize next week's verse.

This Week's Story:

The Landlord's Mistake

When John Adams was president and Thomas Jefferson was vice president of the United States, there was not a railroad in all the world.

People did not travel very much. There were no broad, smooth highways as there are now. The

here for lodging today was an old clodhopper who was so spattered with mud that you couldn't see the color of his coat. I sent him round to the Planters'."

"Did he have reddish-brown hair, and did he ride a gray horse?"

"Yes, and he was quite tall."

"That was Mr. Jefferson," said the gentleman.

"Mr. Jefferson!" cried the landlord. "Was that the vice president? Here, Dick! Build a fire in the best room. Put everything in tiptop order, Sally. What a dunce I was to turn Mr. Jefferson away! He shall have all the rooms in the house, and the ladies' parlor, too. I'll go right round to the Planters' and fetch him back."

So he went to the other hotel, where he found the vice president sitting with some friends in the parlor.

"Mr. Jefferson," he said, "I have come to ask your pardon. You were so bespattered with mud that I thought you were some old farmer. If you'll come back to my house, you shall have the best room in it – yes, all the rooms if you wish. Won't you come?"

"No," answered Mr. Jefferson. "A farmer is as good as any other man; and where there's no room for a farmer, there can be no room for me."

– James Baldwin in *Fifty Famous People*

Sabbath School Curriculum

Doubting Thomas

Lesson Aim: We will learn that by faith in God and His Word we can believe that Jesus rose from the grave to be our Lord and Savior, though we have not seen Him personally.

Memory Verse: "Jesus said to him, 'Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen, and yet have believed'" (John 20:29).

Scripture References: John 1:12; 3:16; 20:25-29, 31; Acts 2:38; 4:12; Hebrews 11:1

Learn new words: The meanings for these words are provided in the lesson: doubt and unbelieving. Learn to use them.

Bible Story:

Jesus was killed by being nailed to a cross, and then He was buried late on Wednesday. After Jesus had been in the tomb for three days and three nights, the disciples heard from Mary Magdalene (and others) early on Sunday morning that Jesus was alive again.

As the disciples were hiding in a room behind closed doors on Sunday evening, the Lord Jesus suddenly appeared before them. They were overjoyed to see Jesus, but one disciple, named Thomas, also called Didymus, was not with them at that time. Later, the others told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

Thomas did not believe his friends. Let's read what Thomas said. (• *Read John 20:25.*) Thomas said he had to see Jesus with his own eyes, and feel the scars with his own hands, to believe Jesus was alive.

Thomas had **doubts** about what he had been told. (*To doubt is to be uncertain or undecided; not*

sure of a fact or a decision.) He came to be known as "Doubting Thomas" because he wanted proof before he would believe that Jesus was alive. Even today, if a person doubts something, he might be called a "Doubting Thomas."

A week later, the disciples were together in the house and Thomas was there also. The doors of the room were locked, but Jesus came and stood among them and greeted them, "Peace to you" (John 20:26). Then Jesus spoke directly to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be **unbelieving**, but believing." (*Unbelieving means not believing; skeptical.* • *Read verse 27.*) When Thomas realized that it really was Jesus, instead of saying, "Now I believe you are alive," he said, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28).

Seeing Jesus alive proved to him that Jesus was who He claimed to be – "Lord" and "God." Then Jesus said to him, (• *Repeat Memory Verse*) "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed" (Verse 29). It was good for Thomas to believe that Jesus was alive after he saw Him,



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but it is even better for us to believe even though we have not seen Him.

It is very important to believe. Jesus said, "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 3:16). This is a very important verse for everyone to memorize. God loves all people so much that He was willing to give His only Son, Jesus, to die to pay the penalty of our sins. And Jesus loved us so much that He was willing to die in our place so we can live eternally with Him.

When we believe in Jesus and accept Him as our Savior, we become children of God. (*• Read John 1:12.*) Everyone who has ever lived – except Jesus, being perfect – has done things that did not please God. In other words, everyone has sinned. When Peter preached a sermon, people asked what they must do. He replied, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins" (Act 2:38).

There is no other way to be saved and have eternal life than to believe in Jesus. (*• Read Acts 4:12.*) We can believe in Jesus and confess our sins to God anytime and anywhere. God is always ready to hear our prayers.

Application:

The game we played in the Introduction showed that no matter what story someone tells, there will always be someone who needs to see the evidence for himself, like Thomas, before he will believe.

Sometimes we can believe something because we trust the person who is telling the story to us. We've heard the saying, "Seeing is believing." However, there is a word for believing in what you have not seen. (*• Read Hebrews 11:1.*) That word is *faith*. Yes, it takes faith to believe something we have never seen.

Without seeing it happen, we believe that Jesus died and rose from the dead to get rid of our sins. Some believe this because it is written in the Bible. We read the words of the people who did see Him and God gives us the faith we need to believe.

John 20:31 says, "But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name." Jesus wants us to believe in Him without a doubt.

How Well Do You Remember?

1. What did Thomas want to do before he would believe that Jesus rose from the dead? _____

2. When Thomas discovered that Jesus really was alive, what did he say? _____

3. What did Jesus say about those who believed that He rose from the dead without seeing Him? _____
4. Fill in the blanks: "Because you have _____ Me, you have _____. Blessed are those who have _____ and yet _____."
5. Why did God give His only Son to die for us?

6. What is the word for believing in what you have not seen? _____

Memory Verse for Next Week: "And He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature'" (Mark 16:15).

Activities for this week:

Again read the Bible story in this Handout, along with the contemporary story. Share them with your parents and others. The Daily Activity Worksheets for the week contain the daily Bible readings, puzzles, and other activities. Make it part of your daily schedule to read the Bible. Plan on taking time to do the activities. Maybe someone else can join you in doing some of them. Bring these papers to class next week so you can share your thoughts and insights about some of these things. Remember to memorize next week's verse.

This Week's Story:

Some Trust in Chariots

"Sure is great to be out hiking again," sighed Jeremy. "This is the first time this year."

"Yeah," agreed Butch, adjusting his pack straps. "I must be getting out of condition. I'm puffing already."

"I feel sorry for Janice," stated Jeremy. "She wanted to come along in the worst way."

"That baby?" exploded Butch. "Now what would we do with your little sister out in these woods?"

"I know," Jeremy agreed, pausing to examine a nodding "jack-in-the-pulpit." Throwing off his pack, he brought out pencil and sketch pad and soon transferred the delicate bloom onto the page. His quick, sure strokes captured the likeness remarkably well.

Butch watched entranced. "Sure wish I could draw like you, Jeremy!" he exclaimed.

Jeremy returned his equipment to the pack and shouldered it once more. "Janice is only five," he mused, "but she loves going places with me. Dad says I must be a good example to her so she will grow up to love Jesus just like I do."

"You know, Jeremy," answered Butch, "sometimes I just can't figure you out. Always talking about this Jesus character who you can't even see."

"Someday I hope you meet Him, Butch," smiled Jeremy, "and then you'll know what I mean. He is real. I know."

The twelve-year-olds took to the trail again. The going had become single file and so they lapsed into silence. Jeremy found his thoughts going back to his sister. "Dear God," he prayed silently, "please help her to have a good day and not feel bad she couldn't come."

Young Janice had her own ideas on how the day should be spent. When the boys left, she was playing with her doll out under the shady elm at the foot of the garden. Mother was busy dusting and straightening the living room. Janice slipped down the back alley, clutching her favorite rag doll close, and followed the boys at a distance.

"I'll wait till they are too far to send me back," she thought, "and then catch up with them. They'll have to take me along."

As the boys disappeared around a bend in the trail, Janice paused in the little clearing where Jeremy had sketched the flower. Her steps lagged, becoming slower and slower. Her tired little legs could barely carry her, step by faltering step. Stopping to rest a while, Janice curled up into a little ball and was soon fast asleep.

She awoke with a start some time later, and hurried on after her brother and his friend. Soon she came to a fork in the path, pausing to decide which way to go. Taking the left turn, Janice trudged on. The way soon began to climb and the going was difficult for tiny feet. Still she kept on, determined to meet up with the boys. Hunger knocked at her stomach and thirst gripped her throat. Janice stopped often to rest but still kept on.

A trickling stream joined the path and the little girl stooped to satisfy her thirst. "I feel better now," she said to herself. "Now I would like to pick some berries. That's what Jeremy always does . . . picks berries in the woods if he is hungry." So saying, she left the path and went in search of food.

Full of berries, Janice began to retrace her steps to the path. This was much more difficult than she had thought. Soon she was hopelessly lost in a thick tangle of underbrush.

Janice began to cry. Then she stopped. "Jeremy says we must always trust God to help us. Jeremy says God is always near and can see us. I shall ask Jeremy's God to help right now."

Blond curly head bent, the child dropped to her knees. When she arose, Janice could see a little opening in the brush and pushed through it. "Oh, what a big hole in the rock," exclaimed Janice. "Jeremy says it's a cave. And what cute little kittens," she crooned, dropping down and calling, "Here, kitty, kitty, kitty."

Two cubs paused in their play, looking at her curiously, and then slowly approached to investigate this strange visitor to their home. Soon they were playing like old friends.

When the sun was high overhead, the young mountain lions retreated into the den to rest and Janice followed suit. Sleep touched each in turn and all was still. The sun beat down outside and a hawk circled lazily in the sky.

Janice woke with a start. Standing in the opening to the cave was the biggest, fiercest looking cat she had ever seen. The cubs ran clumsily to their mother, then back to Janice, wanting her to play once more. Fear tried to catch hold of the child.

"Jeremy could call that big of a cat a lion. He told me all about Daniel. God knows how to shut the lion's mouth. I shall ask Him to," she said to herself. "Dear God, please make this mother lion like me," Janice prayed.

"Hello, mother lion," said Janice politely. "I've been playing with your babies. I won't hurt them. I'm lost and can't find my way home."

The cubs kept running back and forth between the two as they eyed each other. Slowly the tawny body approached the girl, craning her neck. The



lioness sniffed at this strange sight, then by way of acceptance turned and crossed to the other side, heaving herself onto the floor of the cave, and was soon fast asleep.

"Thank you, God," said Janice. One cub stuck his cold nose into her hand, and then raced to the opening. "Oh, you want to play again," she said, laughing. "All right. I'm coming."

Butch and Jeremy finished their lunch. The boys had camped beside a tumbling creek. "Ah," sighed

Butch. "That was good. Your mother packs the best lunches in the country. It was sure nice of her to pack enough for me, too."

"How is your mother?" Jeremy inquired. "Will she be coming home from the hospital soon?"

"Yeah, she's all right," Butch said. "Sure will seem funny to have a baby in the house. And a girl at that! I suppose I'll have to babysit and all that," he sighed. Turning over on the soft carpet of moss, Butch closed his eyes. "Think I'll just rest a bit," he murmured.

Jeremy reached for the ever-present sketch pad. A chipmunk posed momentarily, and then raced away.

The quiet was broken by many voices. Shouts echoed through the woods. Jeremy jumped to his feet and Butch rolled over, rubbing his eyes, as two men hurried into view.

"Dad!" exclaimed Jeremy. "What are you doing here? Is something wrong?" he added, noting his father's expression.

"Hi, Son," said Dad. Butch's father nodded in greeting. "Have you seen Janice since you left home this morning?" Dad asked. "Mother thought she must have followed you. We have searched everywhere in the town with no success."

"Janice! Gone?" Jeremy felt a tug at his heart. "Oh, Butch, we must help look for her. But first we must pray."

Butch, looking embarrassed by the whole procedure, rose awkwardly to his knees and shut his eyes as Jeremy prayed for God to help them find Janice.

After a quick consultation with the men, the boys parted company from their fathers, each group taking a different direction. Their way led to higher ground.

Butch was speaking, "Sure hope we find her. You know, she's not such a bad kid after all, even if she is always tagging along," he added. "What if we never find her?"

"We will," said Jeremy confidently. "You see, God knows where she is and is able to lead us right to her."

"How can you be so sure of yourself?" Butch wanted to know.

"I'm sure of God," answered Jeremy. "Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the Lord our God," quoted Jeremy. "King Sennacherib of Assyria trusted in his might, or in his chariots, but the angel of the Lord killed a whole lot of his soldiers in the night, and the king gave up the battle and ran back home. King Hezekiah and the Israelites were saved."

The day was far spent when the boys broke through thick brush into a clearing. Jeremy was in

the lead. He stopped, frozen in his tracks. Butch bumped into him.

"Shhh!" whispered Jeremy. "Look!"

There, in the middle of the clearing, was Janice. She was petting one lion cub and the other was playfully tugging at her dress. Mother lioness lay nearby, half asleep, occasionally glancing up to see that all was well.

"Well, I never—" began Butch.

"Quiet," commanded Jeremy. "Wait! She doesn't see us. They are moving this way. Wait till she gets closer."

One of the cubs dashed off in the boys' direction and Janice laughingly gave chase. "Janice," hissed Jeremy.

"Jeremy!" shouted Janice, running to him. "I'm so glad you've come. I told God to bring you."

At her shout, the cubs scampered back to their mother. She opened her eyes, nuzzled her babies to be sure they were safe, and then lay back once again.

"Come on," urged Butch, "let's get out of here before that spell you put on the lion goes away and she comes looking for us!"

"Oh, Butch," giggled Janice, "you're funny. I didn't put any spell on that old mommie lion. God just shut her mouth, just like He did for Daniel."

"Enough talking for now," said Jeremy, hugging his sister tightly. "Let's go. Dad's looking for you and Mom is waiting at home. I should spank you for running off like you did," he said. "Come on, let's go!"

The three youngsters beat a hasty retreat back the way they had come. Once free of the area and once again on a solid path heading toward home, Butch stopped. He wiped his forehead with a grimy handkerchief. "Whew! I'd never have believed it if I hadn't seen it with my own eyes. Maybe there is some truth to all this bit about Jesus you've been telling me, Jeremy."

"Course there is," stated Janice, emphatically. "Jeremy told me, and he knows!" Then she said, pleadingly, "Carry me, Jeremy, it's so far to home."

"Let me," interrupted Butch.

"Come on, I'll take you piggyback." He handed his pack to Jeremy and stopped so Janice could climb onto his back. "After all," Butch grinned, "I've got a little sister now, and I'm going to have to learn to take care of her."

"You're nice, Butch," said Janice. "Can I help you take care of your baby sister?"

"Sure," he replied, "and when she gets old enough, we'll all go hiking together."

"Right now," said Janice, "I want to go home."

"Here comes Dad," shouted Jeremy. "Now we can all go home together."

– Dorothy Nimchuk in *Footprints*

Photo: Pixabay

Sabbath School Curriculum

Jesus Gives a Command

Lesson Aim: We will learn that God loves all the people of the world and He wants the followers of Jesus to tell others about His Son.

Memory Verse: "And He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature'" (Mark 16:15).

Scripture References: Matthew 28:18-20; John 14:25, 26; 15:26, 27

Learn new words: The meanings for these words are provided in the lesson: missionary, commission, authority, and gospel. Learn to use them.

Lesson Introduction:

• Have you ever been on a trip? Where did you go? Look at a map and think about places you would like to go. Find a small country. • Do you think they know about Jesus? How would they have heard about Him? (*from people going to tell them – missionaries*). (*A missionary is a person sent on a mission; specifically a person sent by a church to preach and teach in another country.*) Today's lesson is about Jesus' final instructions to His disciples. It is called "The Great **Commission**," found in Matthew 28:18-20 and Mark 16:15. (*A commission is the **authorization** to take on certain duties or tasks. Authority is the power or right to take action or make final decisions.* • Read Matthew 28:18-20.)

Bible Story:

After Jesus' death and burial, He was resurrected on the third day. Before He ascended into heaven He appeared to His disciples in Galilee and gave them specific instructions. He told them to go into all the world and preach the **gospel** to everyone, teaching the people, baptizing them, and making them followers of Jesus. (*The gospel*

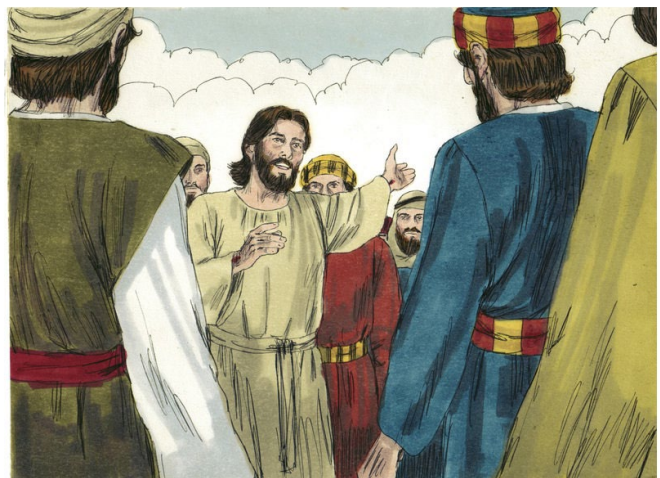
is the good news of salvation; the teachings of Jesus and the apostles.) The disciples were to teach the people to observe all the things that Jesus had taught them. All men and women, boys and girls, needed to learn how to be saved from their sins.

The disciples would not have the strength and courage to do this important work on their own. Jesus promised to give them the power and knowledge they would need to follow this great command. • What gift would He send to help them? (*Read John 14:25, 26; 15:26, 27.*)

Jesus gave these commands to His disciples whom He had taught for three and a half years. They still had much to learn. They were not special men. They were regular people, who at times were weak, at times lacked faith, and at times thought only of themselves. But Jesus had chosen them and taught them, and He was giving them the Holy Spirit to provide the power they needed for this task.

Jesus calls all of us as His followers, to share the Good News of salvation throughout the world. He said, "Go." Does He mean we are to stay home and play video games?

People respond to this call to "go" and travel on missionary trips all over the world, spreading the gospel (Good News) of Jesus Christ. Many Chris-



Distant Shores Media/Sweet Publishing

tians have made sacrifices and traveled to very remote regions of the world, into jungles and deserts, away from the big beautiful cities.

Mission fields can also be very close to home. Your mission field could be your own neighborhood. What better mission could be found than to minister to a neighbor or a friend who has not heard the Good News? Your mission field could be a poor neighborhood just down the road where people cannot afford Bibles.

In the twenty-first century, people have used the Internet as a means to reach out and share Christ's love. People who need to hear about Jesus Christ are everywhere. So it does not mean that you have to go to a foreign country to tell people about Jesus. There are people all around us who need to learn about Him.

In Matthew 28:20 Jesus provides specific instructions for His followers. Let's read that verse, "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Christians are instructed to teach others about Jesus Christ and the entirety of His truth. People need to learn that Jesus died, was buried, and rose again the third day to pay for the penalty of their sins – so that they could be forgiven for the sins they have committed.

After we accept Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord, we can tell others about Him and what He has done for us. Verse 20 says that as we talk to others about Jesus, we can be confident that Jesus will support us by the power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in us. Through the Holy Spirit living inside of believers, Jesus' presence will always be with us wherever we go. Jesus calls every Christian to step out in faith and spread the Good News – the gospel of salvation.

Application:

The instructions Jesus gave His disciples before He returned to heaven are also for His followers today. If you and I are believers, we need to be sharing with others the Good News about Jesus.

We need to be obedient to what God's Word teaches us so we can share that with others. We have the Holy Spirit living in us, giving us the power to do as Jesus instructs us until He returns. Are you being obedient to Jesus' instructions? If not, will you ask Him to forgive you and ask Him to help you be obedient to share Him with others? It could mean telling the good news to a neighbor, a friend, or a less fortunate child down the street.

Wherever we go, every faithful believer is compelled through obedience to share the gospel. Who has God put on your heart to share Jesus with? What small or large steps can you take?

How Well Do You Remember?

1. Who was present when Jesus gave His final command? _____
2. What did Jesus command those who were present to do? _____

3. How far were they to go? _____

4. What help did Jesus promise the disciples? _____
5. How long were Jesus' followers to do this work? _____

6. What responsibility do you think believers have for fulfilling this command today? _____

Memory Verse for Next Week: "This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11b).

Activities for this week:

Again read the Bible story in this Handout, along with the contemporary story. Share them with your parents and others. The Daily Activity Worksheets for the week contain the daily Bible readings, puzzles, and other activities. Make it part of your daily schedule to read the Bible. Plan on taking time to do the activities. Maybe someone else can join you in doing some of them. Bring these papers to class next week so you can share your thoughts and insights about some of these things. Remember to memorize next week's verse.

This Week's Story:

Debby's Prize

"This is the award for the one who brings the most new members to vacation Bible school!" "Uncle Bob" smiled broadly as he held up a beautiful Bible before the children.

Debby, sitting beside her friend Martha with the fifth grade class, caught her breath sharply. It was the loveliest Bible she'd ever seen, a deep purple-red, the shade of autumn oak leaves, and a zippered cover with a tiny gold cross hanging from the clasp. Debby thought she wanted that Bible more than anything in the world. She was completely carried away with an imaginary scene: it was the last day of vacation Bible school and "Uncle Bob" was presenting her the Bible.

A nudge from Martha brought her sharply back to reality. "I'm going to bring eight tomorrow," Martha whispered, her straight red hair shining in the June sunlight that streamed in the church windows. Debby's heart sank.

"Eight! Why, even if Debby asked the Simmons children at Four Corners near her house, that would only be four, because half of the Simmons were under five years old and they didn't count!

"I called the Simmonses this morning. They're coming tomorrow," Martha continued as though reading Debby's mind.

All got on their feet for a closing song and Debby felt a stab of envy. "That's unfair of Martha. She should have left the Simmonses for me! She has lots of cousins to invite and I don't have any around here!

"Martha has attended this Bible school for years. She knew there would be a contest for members and she got the Simmonses before the first day had even started! That was mean of her." Dark thoughts rushed and tumbled over each other to gain mastery of Debby's love for her best friend.

By the time they had reached the chorus of the song, however, the words had taken hold of Debby, and as she sang with the others she stole a grateful glance at her red-haired, snub-nosed chum. If it hadn't been for Martha inviting her to Bible school last summer when she had first moved to the country, she might not be loving the Lord Jesus as she did now! In her high, clear treble Debby sang with the others:

"Bring them in, bring them in,
Bring them in from the fields of sin;
Bring them in, bring them in,
Bring the wand'ring ones to Jesus."

The big, yellow church bus rattled over the graveled roads, delivering the children to their homes. Debby and Martha sat in their favorite seat in the back, Debby's dark curls next to Martha's bright hair, the latter naming a list of cousins who might come to Bible school. Wistfully, Debby



listened, recalling the deep purple-red Bible with the tiny gold cross. Her cousins lived in such far-away places!

Imagine her delight when she got inside the kitchen door and mother told her that cousin Ricky was coming to stay with them while his parents took a trip! He would be here Sunday, in time for the second week of Bible school.

"If only Ricky were twins, or triplets, or quadruplets, mother!" said Debby, almost too excited to eat her sandwich. The prospects of a thirteen-year-old boy playmate for a month was thrilling. An honest-to-goodness cousin! "What is he like, Mother?" Debby and Ricky hadn't seen each other since they were babies.

Mother looked thoughtful, her soup spoon poised in midair. "Do you remember the story of Jesus leaving the ninety-nine sheep in the fold and going out in the mountains to find the one lost lamb?" She smiled affectionately at her daughter. "I'm sure it's important for Ricky to be invited to Bible school!"

Debby nodded. She knew her mother meant that Ricky didn't know Jesus. Mother had such a nice story-way of telling you things.

She had good ideas, too. In the afternoon after Debby had telephoned several children she knew, only to find they had been invited to Bible school by someone else, mother drove her over to Silver Lake, three miles distant, with her bike in the trunk. It was a scraggly, unkempt area of cheap trailers and poor shacks, populated by transients, people who moved from place to place to work as vegetable and fruit pickers. Mother parked at the corner while Debby rode her bike up the narrow road. Shy, poorly dressed children stared at her

as she went up to the doors to issue invitations to vacation Bible school.

"I'll call 'Uncle Bob,'" she told her mother excitedly, climbing back in the car. "I'm sure at least nine will come if he'll take the bus out here. Mother, maybe I have a chance at that Bible after all!"

"Could be," mother smiled; "but even if you don't win it, you've opened a door to Bible school for some of those poor youngsters, and that's more important."

Debby knew that was true, and the next morning she felt warm inside, seeing the Silver Lake children dotted among the various classes, hearing about the care of a Heavenly Father. Most of them she was sure had never heard about the love of Jesus before. When "Uncle Bob" tallied scores, and Martha and Debby were found to be tied and ahead of the rest, each having brought fifteen new members, Debby remembered the Bible, the beautiful Bible with the tiny gold cross.

Her eyes danced. She'd never dreamed yesterday morning that she'd have a chance against Martha. If Ricky came, and Martha couldn't find any more relatives, Debby would win! But on the way home she didn't let Martha know how dearly she wanted the prize. She felt sorry that Martha's lips quivered when she said she didn't know another person to ask.

With a sense of discomfort Debby remembered that her friend's mother probably had too many chores to do on their dairy farm to take Martha to Silver Lake; impulsively she squeezed Martha's hand. She wondered if she should give the Bible to Martha – if Ricky came and she won it. All week long the girls remained tied. Debby noticed Martha's look of disappointment; her eyes lowered to her lap when "Uncle Bob" showed the beautiful Bible again Friday morning. Martha wanted that Bible as much as she did!

But Ricky refused to go to Bible school. Debby left him slouched in an armchair reading a comic book and climbed in the bus on the Monday morning that began the second and last week of vacation Bible school. Dejectedly she found her way to the back of the bus, where her friend was sitting. Martha had a little boy on each side of her. Her married sister had come over the weekend and brought her six-year-old twins.

"Aren't they cute?" said Debby absent-mindedly, taking a seat in front of Martha as she glanced at the little, bright-eyed boys. "Ricky wouldn't come."

"Will you be very sorry not to win the Bible?" asked Martha hesitantly, her sea-blue eyes troubled.

Debby shook her head. "I'm glad you're ahead. Besides, it wouldn't matter about Ricky." She grinned at her friend. "You have the twins!"

Martha looked so relieved and happy that it made Debby glad – until she remembered Ricky again. It did matter about his coming to Bible school. Ricky was an unhappy boy and Bible school might change him. All he had done since they had met him at the airport yesterday was look sullen, complain about the lack of a color television set in their home, and read comic books. His pouty face ruined his good looks.

Out of boredom he assented to go with Debby on Wednesday, however. But on the way home Debby winced at his scornful remarks and sneering looks. To her surprise, he went back on Thursday and Friday. When Bible school was dismissed, Debby followed Martha and a group of girls outside to admire Martha's prize, the deep purple-red Bible with the tiny gold cross dangling from it. But she did not miss Ricky walking up to "Uncle Bob." He and Ricky didn't come out for a long time, and the children played in the churchyard. When they did appear on the church steps, "Uncle Bob's" arm was around the boy's shoulders.

"'Uncle Bob' wants to see you, Debby," called out someone near the steps.

Debby ran to them and Ricky gave her a funny little smile, shook hands with "Uncle Bob," and ran to the bus.

"This is for you, Debby," said "Uncle Bob," inside the church again, reaching into his brief case. It was a picture of a shepherd, with a lamb across his shoulder. Dark clouds glowered behind in a stormy sky but you knew the lamb was safe in the arms of the shepherd. It was so beautiful that Debby wanted to cry.

"Thank you, 'Uncle Bob,'" was all she could trust herself to say. Ricky was safe, like the lamb, and she was going to hang the picture in her bedroom.

– Mary Virginia Powell in *Footprints*

Photo: Pixnio

Sabbath School Curriculum

Jesus Returns to Heaven

Lesson Aim: We will learn that after Jesus gave instructions to His disciples, He returned to His Father in heaven.

Memory Verse: “This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven” (Acts 1:11b).

Scripture References: Matthew 28:16-20; Luke 24:49-52; John 7:33; 14:1-3; Acts 1:8, 11; 1 Corinthians 15:5-8

Learn new words: The meanings for these words are provided in the lesson: Great Commission and ascend. Learn to use them.

Lesson Introduction:

Have you gone to the airport to see a friend or relative leave for another place? Did you watch as the airplane took off, just standing there gazing at it until you couldn't see it any more? • What thoughts went through your mind? Did you think that you might not see that person again? How did that make you feel?

Sad, of course. You miss that person and wish that he or she would return quickly. Our story today is about the time when Jesus left this earth and went back to heaven.

Bible Story:

During the forty days after Jesus rose from the dead, He appeared several times to His disciples. He even appeared to as many as 500 brethren at one time. (• Read 1 Corinthians 15:5-8.) Jesus proved to many that He really was alive.

Soon after the resurrection, the disciples met Jesus on a mountain in Galilee. (• Read Matthew 28:16, 17.) Most of Jesus' followers lived in the Galilee area, so either at this time, or at another time, many others besides the eleven disciples met with Jesus and worshiped Him.

Jesus spoke to His disciples about the kingdom of God. He commanded the disciples to go to all nations and teach the people all the things that He had taught them, showing them how to become followers of Jesus. This teaching would include telling the world that Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty for the sins of all who would believe in Him; and that He was buried, and was raised from the dead to return to the Father in heaven. (• Read Matthew 28:18-20.) We call this the **Great Commission**. (The Great Commission is Jesus' command to tell everyone how they can become His followers.)

Forty days after His resurrection, Jesus knew that His time to return to His heavenly Father had come. He led the disciples out to the Mount of Olives. As the disciples were looking at their Savior and listening attentively, He lifted up His hands and blessed them. While He blessed them, an amazing thing happened – Jesus was taken up to heaven! He **ascended** higher and higher up into the sky until He disappeared into a cloud and was out of sight. (Ascend means to rise; to go up. • Read Luke 24:50-52.)



Distant Shores Media/Sweet Publishing

The disciples stood gazing up into the sky, looking to see where Jesus had gone. Imagine the looks on the disciples' faces. As they looked up, their mouths may have dropped open. They shielded their eyes so they could watch as Jesus disappeared out of their sight.

• How do you think you would have felt if you had been one of the disciples watching Jesus disappear? (*Confused, wished you could go with Him, sad? Have children respond.*) As the disciples stood there amazed, two men appeared to them. Let's read what they said to the disciples, "*Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven*" (Acts 1:11).

The men, who were actually angels, gave the disciples a promise that one day Jesus would return to earth just as He had left. The disciples went back to Jerusalem, full of joy over the promise that Jesus is coming back again. They went straight to the temple and sang praises to God. They remembered that He had said He would go back to His Father and return to them again. (*• Read John 14:2 and John 7:33.*)

Jesus knew that the disciples could not follow His instructions in their own strength. So before He left, He told them to stay in Jerusalem and wait for the gift He would send them. That gift would be the Holy Spirit. (*• Read Luke 24:49 and Acts 1:8.*) The Spirit would live in them, guide them, and be a Comforter to them.

The disciples began to spread the Good News that Jesus was alive and would be coming back again!

Application:

Can you imagine how amazed the disciples were when Jesus disappeared into the sky? He was no longer with them. He was gone. Even though He had told them He was going, they were not ready to see Him leave. They may have forgotten that He had promised to come back again. Yes, Jesus is coming back from heaven in a cloud. No one but God knows when this will take place, but Jesus is coming again. Without warning, He will be here. If you have accepted Jesus and become a child of God, you will live with Him forever. (*• Read John 14:1-3.*)

How Well Do You Remember?

1. How many days did Jesus stay on earth before going back to heaven? _____

2. Where did Jesus tell His disciples to meet Him soon after the resurrection? _____

3. What instructions did Jesus give the disciples? _____

4. Where did Jesus lead His disciples 40 days after His resurrection? _____

5. After Jesus blessed His disciples, where did He go? _____

6. Who told the disciples that Jesus would return in the same way that He left the earth? _____

7. Who do you plan to tell the 'good news' to this week? _____

Memory Verse for Next Week: "Behold, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us. This is the Lord; we have waited for Him; we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation" (Isaiah 25:9b).

Activities for this week:

Again read the Bible story in this Handout, along with the contemporary story. Share them with your parents and others. The Daily Activity Worksheets for the week contain the daily Bible readings, puzzles, and other activities. Make it part of your daily schedule to read the Bible. Plan on taking time to do the activities. Maybe someone else can join you in doing some of them. Bring these papers to class next week so you can share your thoughts and insights about some of these things. Remember to memorize next week's verse.

This Week's Story:

Uncle Dave Tells a Story

Tina and her brother, Terry, had a nice little playhouse. They had some little chairs and a little table. There was a box in which to keep their toys,

and a shelf for all their children's books. Tina liked to read some of the stories to her brother.

Now there was something else in this little playhouse. It was a big chair. This was a very special chair. It was for a special person, their Uncle Dave. When he came to visit them he sat in the big chair and told them a Bible story.

One day Terry said to Tina, "I wonder when Uncle Dave is coming to visit us again. He hasn't been here for almost a month. I wish he'd come today, don't you?"

"I sure do," replied Tina. "I'm going to ask mother if she knows when Uncle Dave is coming again."

Running into the kitchen she asked, "Mother, do you know when Uncle Dave is coming again? I wish he'd come right now."

Mother smiled and said, "Here is a letter from Uncle Dave. You may read it, for your question is answered in black and white."

Hurriedly, Tina began to read the letter. All at once she looked up and exclaimed excitedly, "Mother, is today the tenth day of the month?"

"Yes it is," came the reply. "Why do you ask?"

"Mother, haven't you read this letter? Uncle Dave says here that he is coming today to see us. Hurrah! Hurrah! I'm going to tell Terry right away."

Away she ran, leaving the letter on the table. She found Terry, her brother, standing by the gate, looking down the street. "Look, Tina! Here comes Uncle Dave on his bicycle!" the happy boy cried.

The two children waited almost impatiently, but in a short time their uncle wheeled up to the gate which was held wide open for him.

"Hello! Hello!" they greeted him together. "We are glad to see you. Come and see how daddy painted our playhouse since you were here."

Uncle Dave hugged the two children and went to see the new paint job. Then he went inside. "I see my chair is still here."

"Sit down and rest," invited Terry.

"Please do," added Tina. "You know this is your storytelling chair. Mother won't have supper ready for a while, I guess."

Uncle Dave sat down, crossed his legs and said, "I might as well tell my story now. You'll demand it sooner or later, so . . .

"Long, long ago, there lived a man named Abraham. He lived in a tent. Maybe he lived in a tent because it was easy to move, and he traveled a lot. His wife's name was Sarah. They lived alone because they had no children – not even one little boy or one little girl.

"One day soon after dinner, Abraham was sitting in the door of his tent when he saw three men coming down the road. You see the Lord

wanted to tell Abraham something, so He appeared to him in the form of three men. Abraham ran to meet them. The Bible doesn't tell if Abraham knew they were angels or not. Now Abraham was a man of God, and he wanted to be friendly to these three men. He ran and bowed himself and said something like this:

"If I have found favor in your sight, stop and rest a while under this tree. I will go and get some water so you can wash your feet. I'll bring you something to eat. Comfort your hearts. Then you can go on your way."

"And they said, 'So do as you have said.'

"Abraham ran into the tent and told his wife Sarah to take some meal and quickly make some cakes in the hearth. Then he hurried out to the cattle lot, or wherever he kept his cattle, and selected a choice calf. Abraham told one of his servants to hasten and get it ready to cook and eat. The three men sat under the tree and waited. They had quite a long rest, so we suppose, for it takes time to dress and cook or roast some beef.

"When the food was all ready, Abraham served it with butter and milk to the three men. He stood by them as they ate. We are sure they enjoyed this generous hospitality.

"Finally they said to Abraham, 'Where is Sarah your wife?'



Photo: Pixnio

"He replied, 'See, in the tent.'"

"Maybe," said Tina, "they wanted to thank her for helping prepare such a good meal."

Uncle Dave continued, "They had something more important than that. Likely they had already thanked Abraham. They said, 'Sarah, your wife, is going to have a son before the year goes by.' That was a big and wonderful promise. Sarah heard this promise, and she laughed. It was hard for her to believe.

"The Lord said to Abraham, 'Why did Sarah laugh? Is anything too hard for the Lord?'"

Tina quickly spoke up. "I think God can do anything. If He could make this whole world and all the stars, I guess He could do anything – anything He wanted to – and nobody could stop Him. Don't you think so, Uncle Dave?"

"I sure do think so," came the assuring reply. "The visitors repeated the promise, 'Sarah shall have a son.'

"Soon the three got up and headed down the road. Abraham went with them for a way, and we suppose he wanted to talk with them some more."

There was a knock on the playhouse door. A voice was heard. "Supper is almost ready."

As the door came quickly open, Mother said, "Hello, Uncle Dave. I thought you were here."

"I'm glad to see you," he replied. "I brought you a bag of pecans. They are here in my bicycle bas-

ket." He reached for them and handed them to the children's mother.

"Thank you very much. Before you leave I'll make a pecan pie."

Soon they were all seated at the supper table. Daddy had come home from work, and he joined in the lively conversation. Before eating they bowed their heads for prayer, to thank the Lord for all the blessings He had given them.

As they were eating, Terry asked, "Mother, do you think Abraham's wife Sarah had a son, like those men or angels promised?"

Mother had just taken a bite of bread so before she could reply, Tina said, "Now Terry, you should never think that the Lord or angels ever forget their promise – not ever. Of course Sarah had a son, and Abraham and Sarah loved him very much."

"That's exactly right," agreed Mother. "Tina, do you know what his name was? I'm sure Uncle Dave does."

"Yes, Mother, I think I remember. It was Samson. No, that's wrong. It was Isaac. Yes, it was Isaac."

"You are right," came Uncle Dave's reply.

– L. L'Roy in *Footprints*

Sabbath School Curriculum

Jesus Will Return

Lesson Aim: We will learn that we can trust in Jesus' promise that He will return. We don't know when He will return, so we must be ready at all times.

Memory Verse: "Behold, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us. This is the Lord; we have waited for Him; we will rejoice in His salvation" (Isaiah 25:9b).

Scripture References: Proverbs 2:21, 22; 10:30; Zechariah 14:4; Matthew 16:27; 24:36; John 14:2, 3; Acts 1:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:16b, 17; 5:2; 2 Peter 3:10; Revelation 1:7

Learn new words: The meanings for these words are provided in the lesson: inevitable, visible, and millennium. Learn to use them.

Lesson Introduction:

Have you ever waited and waited for a special surprise or maybe for your birthday to come? It seemed like it took forever to arrive. In today's lesson Jesus promises us something. We hope for and look forward to His promise because He always keeps His promises.

Bible Story:

Forty days after Jesus was resurrected, He and His disciples met on a hill called the Mount of Olives. The time had come for Jesus to return to heaven. He had done all the things His Father had sent Him to do. His disciples watched as Jesus was taken up into heaven. While the disciples were watching, two angels came and told them that Jesus would come back to earth in the same manner that they saw Him go up into heaven.

From that time until now, those who have believed in Jesus have looked forward to His return.

His return is **inevitable**. (*Inevitable means cannot be avoided or evaded; certain to happen.*) It is one thing that definitely is going to happen.

Can we be sure that Jesus is coming back? Yes. Jesus left us this promise. (*• Read John 14:2b, 3.*) "I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also." This promise is given to the faithful ones. If we are true to Him, He will receive us into His kingdom when He comes back.

Since we know that Jesus will return, can we know the exact day, the hour, or the minute? The truth is that no one except God the Father Himself knows when Christ will return. (*• Read Matthew*



24:36.) Jesus said, "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only." Jesus will return, but no one knows when. If Jesus said that God the Father is the only one who knows, it is silly for anyone to predict when Jesus will return.

(• *Read what Paul said in 1 Thessalonians 5:2b.*) "The day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night." The Apostle Peter also said in 2 Peter 3:10 that "the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night."

Do you know when a thief will come to rob you? Absolutely not! If you knew, you would be sitting there watching for him so you could protect yourself and your house. A thief comes when no one knows about it and when it is least expected.

The same is true regarding Jesus' return. Nobody knows when He is coming back. However, just as God gave the prophets clues about when Jesus would come to earth as a baby, He has given us clues throughout the Old and New Testaments about events that have to happen before Jesus returns.

Jesus' return will be a powerful event. Matthew 16:27a states, "For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels." First Thessalonians 4:16 reads, "For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trump of God." His coming will be with great power and authority. When Jesus returns it will be personal; that is, it will have an effect on each one of us individually. Remember, before He left He said that He was going to prepare a place for us. He will also "reward each according to his works" (Matthew 16:27b).

Additionally, 1 Thessalonians 4:16b, 17 says, "The dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord." The prophet Zechariah wrote that the Lord will return to the Mount of Olives (Zechariah 14:4), from where He ascended into heaven while the disciples watched.

Notice that even the believers who have died and are in the grave will come forth. This will be an event that we not only hear, but also see – it will be something that is **visible**. (*Visible means can be seen; perceptible to the eye.*) We will see the return of Jesus. According to Acts 1:11, "This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven." (• *Also read Revelation 1:7.*)

When Jesus returns, He will restore the earth to a perfect condition, as it was before humans sinned in the Garden of Eden. The righteous who

are alive – and the righteous dead who will be raised – will all be changed at Jesus' return. They will be given immortal bodies that will never die.

The righteous people will live forever in God's kingdom on the earth made new. (• *Read Proverbs 2:21, 22 and 10:30.*)

Many people will be unprepared for this event because they have not given their hearts to Jesus. Those who have chosen to follow Jesus will be overjoyed to see Him come. They will say: (• *Recite the memory verse.*)

We do not know when Jesus will return. It could be at any time. We need to get ready now by believing in Jesus, accepting Him as our Savior and living faithfully for Him. Those who are ready and faithful will one day live with Jesus forever.

Application:

The best way for us to prepare for Jesus' return is to love Him as our Savior. If we love Him we will want to obey His commandments and instructions every day. Being ready when Jesus returns means we will not be afraid. We will be happy and want to be with Him. The people who love God will live on the earth with Jesus when He returns. The righteous people who have died will rise from their graves and meet Him in the air and be transported with Him to Jerusalem. The wicked dead will not rise from their graves until after a period of 1,000 years. After that time they will be judged and destroyed. This period of 1,000 years is known as the **Millennium**. (*Millennium means one thousand years.*) When Jesus returns, everyone will know that He is Jesus Christ, the Son of God – the Savior of the world.

How Well Do You Remember?

Circle the correct answer.

1. Who will come with Jesus when He returns?
 - A) The anointed cherub
 - B) All the holy angels
 - C) God the Father
 - D) All of the above
2. What sound will accompany the return of Jesus?
 - A) Children singing
 - B) People screaming for fear
 - C) A great sound of a trumpet
 - D) The thundering of horses' hooves

3. When Jesus ascended into heaven, the disciples were told that He would come again in like manner as they had seen Him go. Who spoke to them?
 - A) A voice from heaven
 - B) The archangel Gabriel
 - C) The serpent
 - D) Two men dressed in white

4. Revelation 1:7 says, "Behold, He is coming with clouds, and _____ will see Him."
 - A) every eye
 - B) His disciples
 - C) Those who longed to see Him
 - D) His mother

Memory Verse for Next Week: "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

Activities for this week:

Again read the Bible story in this Handout, along with the contemporary story. Share them with your parents and others. The Daily Activity Worksheets for the week contain the daily Bible readings, puzzles, and other activities. Make it part of your daily schedule to read the Bible. Plan on taking time to do the activities. Maybe someone else can join you in doing some of them. Bring these papers to class next week so you can share your thoughts and insights about some of these things. Remember to memorize next week's verse.

This Week's Story:

The Midnight Ride

*"Listen, my children, and you shall hear
Of the midnight ride of Paul Revere."
Longfellow*

The midnight ride of Paul Revere happened a long time ago when this country was ruled by the king of England.

There were thousands of English soldiers in Boston. The king had sent them there to make the people obey his unjust laws. These soldiers guarded the streets of the town; they would not let anyone go out or come in without their leave.

The people did not like this. They said, "We have a right to be free men, but the king treats us as slaves. He makes us pay taxes and gives us



nothing in return. He sends soldiers among us to take away our liberty."

The whole country was stirred up. Brave men left their homes and hurried toward Boston.

They said, "We do not wish to fight against the king, but we are free men, and he must not send soldiers to oppress us. If the people of Boston must fight for their liberty, we will help them." These men were not afraid of the king's soldiers. Some of them camped in Charlestown, a village near Boston. From the hills of Charlestown they could watch and see what the king's soldiers were doing.

They wished to be ready to defend themselves if the soldiers should try to do them harm. For this reason they had bought some powder and stored it at Concord, nearly twenty miles away.

When the king's soldiers heard about this powder, they made up their minds to go out and get it for themselves.

Among the watchers at Charlestown was a brave young man named Paul Revere. He was ready to serve his country in any way that he could.

One day a friend of his who lived in Boston came to see him. He came very quietly and secretly, to escape the soldiers.

"I have something to tell you," he said. "Some of the king's soldiers are going to Concord to get the powder that is there. They are getting ready to start this very night."

"Indeed!" said Paul Revere. "They shall get no powder, if I can help it. I will stir up all the farmers

between here and Concord, and those fellows will have a hot time of it. But you must help me."

"I will do all that I can," said his friend.

"Well, then," said Paul Revere, "you must go back to Boston and watch. Watch, and as soon as the soldiers are ready to start, hang a lantern in the tower of the old North Church. If they are to cross the river, hang two. I will be here, ready. As soon as I see the light, I will mount my horse and ride out to give the alarm."

And so it was done.

When night came, Paul Revere was at the river-side with his horse. He looked over toward Boston. He knew where the old North Church stood, but he could not see much in the darkness.

Hour after hour he stood and watched. The town seemed very still; but now and then he could hear the beating of a drum or the shouting of some soldier.

The moon rose, and by its light he could see the dim form of the church tower, far away. He heard the clock strike ten. He waited and watched.

The clock struck eleven. He was beginning to feel tired. Perhaps the soldiers had given up their plan.

He walked up and down the river bank, leading his horse behind him; but he kept his eyes turned always toward the dim, dark spot which he knew was the old North Church.

All at once a light flashed out from the tower. "Ah! There it is!" he cried. The soldiers had started.

He spoke to his horse. He put his foot in the stirrup. He was ready to mount.

Then another light flashed clear and bright by the side of the first one. The soldiers would cross the river.

Paul Revere sprang into the saddle. Like a bird let loose, his horse leaped forward. Away they went.

Away they went through the village street and out upon the country road. "Up! Up!" shouted Paul Revere. "The soldiers are coming! Up! Up! And defend yourselves!"

The cry awoke the farmers; they sprang from their beds and looked out. They could not see the speeding horse, but they heard the clatter of its hoofs far down the road, and they understood the cry, "Up! Up! And defend yourselves!"

"It is the alarm! The redcoats are coming," they said to each other. Then they took their guns, their axes, anything they could find, and hurried out.

So, through the night, Paul Revere rode toward Concord. At every farmhouse and every village he repeated his call.

The alarm quickly spread. Guns were fired. Bells were rung. The people for miles around were roused as though a fire were raging.

The king's soldiers were surprised to find everybody awake along the road. They were angry because their plans had been discovered.

When they reached Concord, they burned the courthouse there.

At Lexington, not far from Concord, there was a sharp fight in which several men were killed. This, in history, is called the Battle of Lexington. It was the beginning of the war called the Revolutionary War. But the king's soldiers did not find the gunpowder. They were glad enough to march back without it. All along the road the farmers were waiting for them. It seemed as if every man in the country was after them. And they did not feel themselves safe until they were once more in Boston.

– James Baldwin in *Fifty Famous People*

Paul Revere's Ride: By Office of War Information
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