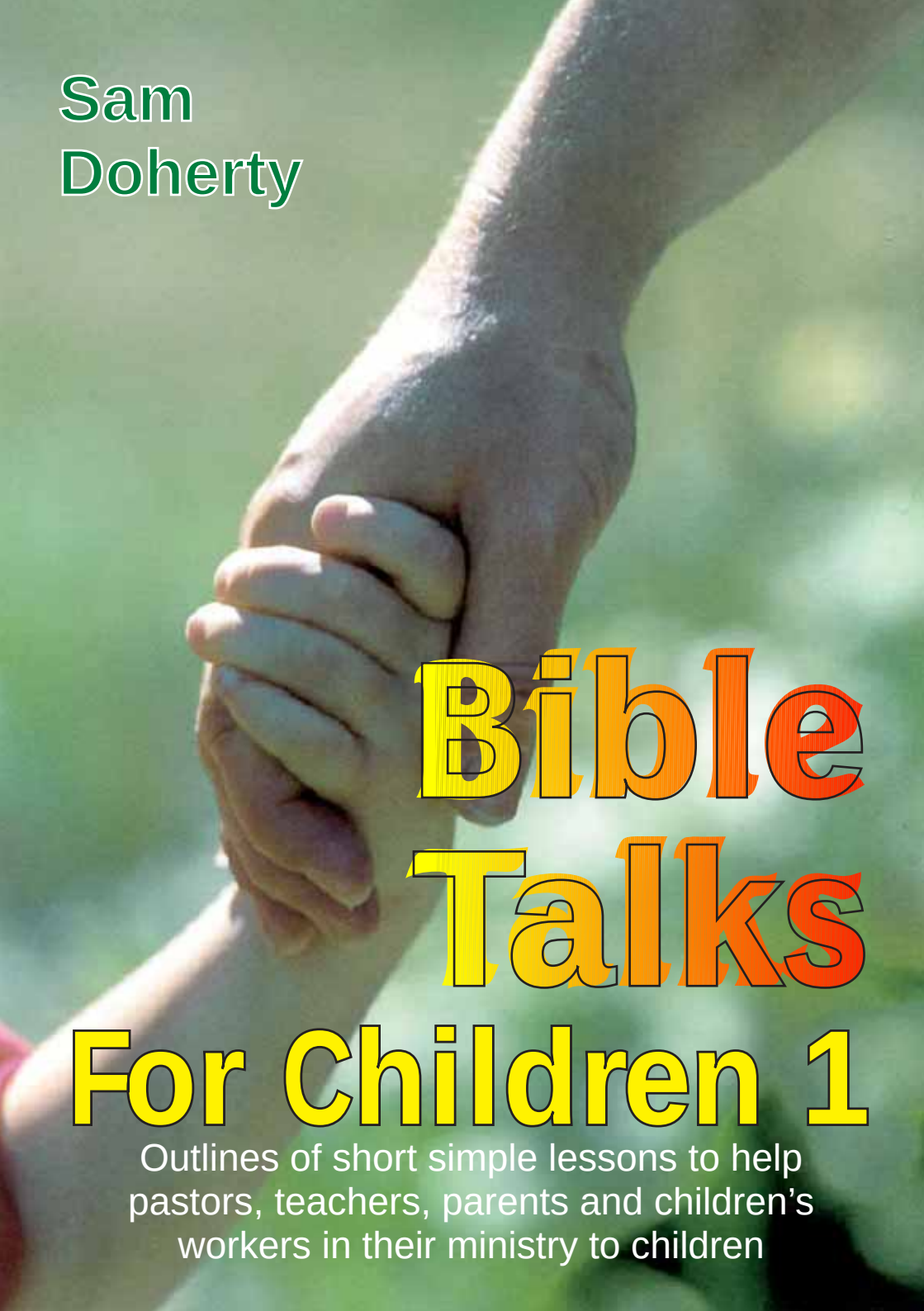




Sam
Doherty

Bible Talks For Children 1

Outlines of short simple lessons to help
pastors, teachers, parents and children's
workers in their ministry to children

SHORT AND SIMPLE

BIBLE TALKS FOR CHILDREN



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

SAM DOHERTY

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FOREWORD

I will always be thankful to the Lord for the way He used two of His servants to greatly influence me regarding the study of Bible doctrine / truth and the teaching of Bible doctrine / truth. One was the late Minister of Westminster Chapel, London, Dr. D. Martyn Lloyd Jones. Sunday afternoons in the early years of my full-time ministry with Child Evangelism Fellowship of Ireland were spent listening to and making notes from audio recordings of Dr. Lloyd Jones' 1950's Friday night lectures on Bible doctrine. The other man, whose influence preceded that of *the Dr.*, was the author of this book, Sam Doherty.

In the Summer of 1990, while attending the CEF Leadership Training Institute in Switzerland with my wife Esther, Sam taught a course entitled *Teaching Bible Doctrine to Children*. This course ignited in me a hunger not only to study Bible Doctrine but to teach Biblical truths to others. I, therefore, consider it a great honour and privilege to write the foreword to Sam's book on teaching Bible truths to children.

If there is one thing that Christian children, young people and adults lack today it is a grasp of solid Biblical Truth. If there is one thing that the unregenerate child, young person, adult needs today it is to be confronted with solid Biblical truth. Sam Doherty provides material to do both in this book of Bible talks. Here is material for addressing saved children and unsaved children. Here is material that can be handled by Ministers / Pastors, School Teachers, Full / Part-time Children's and Young People's workers, parents / guardians, grandparents. I feel it will be particularly helpful for those in the ordained Ministry. Colleagues have shared with me that often the hardest part of their preparation for the Lord's Day services is the Children's Sermon. Many will, however, readily admit that the one thing they do not give sufficient time to in preparation is the Children's Sermon – herein lies at least one contributory factor to their problem! This present volume is not an excuse for anyone to skimp on preparation. It does, however, provide meaty truth in digestible chunks for anyone who has the responsibility to teach children at a child's level.

Dr Thomas Guthrie, the 19th century Scottish minister who, in his day, resisted great pressure to renounce his evangelical principles, often spoke of Dogmatic

(Systematic) Theology in contradistinction to Biblical Theology. The former is the study of Bible truth by classification: Doctrine of God, Doctrine of Man, Doctrine of Christ, Doctrine of Salvation, Doctrine of the Church, Doctrine of the Last Things. The latter, however, is the study of Bible truths in the order we find them in the Bible. Guthrie illustrated his classification by comparing Systematic Theology to a Botanical Garden where plants were grouped according to type, and Biblical Theology to the countryside where the different types of plant are found just where they are found. Sam's earlier volume (volume 3 in his series), *How to Teach Bible Doctrines to Children*, could be re-titled – though perhaps not advisedly! – *Dogmatics for Children*. This present volume is a type of *Short and Simple Biblical Theology for Children*.

I commend this book with much enthusiasm. My prayer is that the material, in the hands of godly men, women, young people, and even children, will be used by the Lord in the salvation of the lost and in the growth in grace of disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Rev. W J M Parker

*Minister of Castlewellan and Leitrim Presbyterian Churches, County Down,
Northern Ireland*

INTRODUCTION

For some time I have seen the need for a book containing short, simple, but interesting visualized outlines which could be used by those who speak to children.

There are several qualities which should characterize these outlines:

- They should be firmly based upon the Word of God.
- They should have as their goal the spiritual welfare of the children:
 - ✓ By evangelizing the children who are not saved.
 - ✓ By helping the children who are saved to grow.
- They should be simple so that the speaker can present them clearly, and the children understand them readily.
- They should be attractive and interesting so that the children will listen well; and the best way to do this is to visualize them in some way.

I have tried to ensure that the outlines in this book fulfil all these conditions. And, in addition, I have tried to keep the method of visualization as simple as possible. There are other books and series of lessons available for teachers but they are often expensive to buy and require much hard work in preparation. The visuals suggested in this book are readily available and require little or no finance.

Also there are many situations and circumstances when there is an opportunity to give a 10 minute talk to children but it is not possible to use more elaborate visual aids such as flannelgraph or flashcards; and the lessons in this book have been written to help in those situations:

- Pastors have the opportunity to give a 10-minute talk to the children as part of the Sunday morning service. I would strongly recommend to all pastors the importance of such talks. I believe they are an essential part of every Sunday service and, as well as helping the children, they can also be a blessing to the adults who appreciate such simple presentations of Bible truth.

On pages 11-18 is an outline concerning children in a church service written by two pastors from their own experience and showing the responsibility they feel for the children in their churches.

One pastor told me that the Sunday morning service was becoming too long. So he spoke with his elders and suggested that he cut out his 10-minute children's talk. They immediately objected saying, "You can't do that, that's the part of the service we enjoy most!"

The pastor said he was not sure if this was a compliment or not but he continued to give a children's talk each Sunday morning.

However it is essential that these children's talks should have good and helpful Bible content for the children; and I trust that this book will provide such outlines for pastors.

- Children's workers often have the opportunity to give a short talk to children in circumstances where visual aids are not generally used. This can be in a church service, or in a school assembly, or in the open air. And there are also times when they are asked to speak to children without the possibility of extensive preparation, or when the use of visual aids is not practical.
- I believe that parents (and grandparents) will also find these short lessons a help in their personal ministry to their own children.

I am very glad that Rev. Bill Parker has written the foreword to this book – because he has experience in all three situations outlined above:

- *He and his wife worked with us in Child Evangelism Fellowship as full-time workers for a number of years, and he has had a lot of experience in a school's ministry.*
- *He is now a minister in a Presbyterian church and gives regular talks to the children in the Sunday morning church services.*
- *He is the father of three young children.*

I thank Bill for this foreword and appreciate all that he has written to commend this book – and I trust that many in any or all of these same three situations will find it a help and blessing.

There are also many opportunities for teachers and children's workers to give a longer 20-minute talk to children when, for some reason, it is not possible

to use the visual aids and outlines which they ordinarily use. This may occur in a school ministry when the speaker goes from class to class with no time to assemble visual aids, or in a church or assembly where the usual type of visual aids would be too small and difficult to see. Or there may be times when children's workers want to do something different from their usual teaching programme. There are also many situations where, for financial reasons, the children's worker is not able to buy elaborate visual aids.

In such situations you could combine two or more of the lessons in this book which have a related theme. For example you could combine two of the short talks about the Bible on pages 27-50, or the two lessons on "Running the Race" on pages 59-60, or two of the lessons on "Road Signs" on pages 145-151. There are many more such possibilities.

Another possibility is that you could just "flesh out" one of the lessons in the book with extra material. You could, for example, spend more time explaining the Bible verse(s) included in the text.

The book is divided into three parts or series. The first series consists of lesson outlines which are suitable for all children (both saved and unsaved) – and have applications for both groups. The second series contains evangelistic lessons which are directed towards unsaved children. And the third series gives lesson outlines for saved children to help them in their spiritual growth.

You will find that there are several lessons which resemble other lessons in the book. You can choose the one more suited to your situation and presentation. You can then use the other one at a later date.

Some lessons are more suited to the English language; but I trust that those who translate them into another language will be able to make them equally effective.

I should point out that most of these lessons are not original. I have found them here and there and, in most cases, have adapted them for your use. There is no way that I could trace the source of all these lessons so that I could acknowledge where they came from. But I am sure that those who wrote them originally would have no problem concerning the reproduction of their lessons in an adapted form. Many of the lessons have come from books which have been out of print for many years and are no longer available to children's workers.

I trust these lessons will be a blessing to those who use them and especially to the children who listen to them, and that many will trust the Lord Jesus as their Saviour, and then grow in Him.

GUIDELINES FOR SPEAKING TO CHILDREN

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

What promises to be a good meal is often spoiled by the way it is served. The coffee is cold, the toast is burned, and the egg too hard – when with a little more care, thought, preparation and imagination there could have been an excellent meal. The same is true of many lesson presentations.

Therefore I would like to give you ten simple rules or principles which will help in your effective presentation of these lessons:

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

IV. It is good to practise your lesson and teach it as if the children were listening. You can do this before a large mirror.

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

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

 - ✓ Look at the children as you speak to them.
 - ✓ Don't keep looking at and talking to your visual aids.
 - ✓ Use the word “we” to include yourself in most of your teaching and application. But also use the word “you” from time to time in direct application.
7. Be careful about your personal appearance and actions:

- ✓ Look carefully in the mirror before you go to speak to the children to ensure that nothing is out of place.
- ✓ Dress in a way which will honour Christ.
- ✓ Stand up as you teach and don't slouch.
- ✓ Don't stand stiffly to attention as if on a parade ground.
- ✓ Avoid repetitive mannerisms like fiddling with your glasses, swaying your body from side to side, brushing back your hair or toying with something in your pocket.
- ✓ Remember to smile from time to time.

8. Be yourself

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

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

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

Remember you are speaking to two kinds of children:

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

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

- ✓ It may be a lesson which is only applicable to Christian children – and you should make this clear in your application.

- ✓ It may be an evangelistic lesson and you should apply it clearly to the unsaved children showing them their need of salvation and the way of salvation.
- ✓ Many of the lessons can be applied to both saved and unsaved children and you should be sure to do this.

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

10. Depend upon God

Even when you have prepared well and taught well you should always remember that only God can give spiritual enlightenment; only He can convict and regenerate. So “bathe” your lesson in prayer and trust the Holy Spirit to minister to the children through your teaching of God’s Word.

CHILDREN IN THE CHURCH SERVICE

PART I

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

1. KEEP THE CHILD IN CHURCH

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3. DIFFICULTIES TO OVERCOME

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

Yes, it is.

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

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

➤ **I'm not gifted with children**

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

➤ **There are very few children present**

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

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

4. RULES TO OBSERVE

➤ **Be sure your message is right**

The truth to the child is exactly the same as the truth to the adult. Presentation may change, application may change, even explanation may change by being more simplified, but the truth never changes. Children are perishing; children must repent and believe; children must count the cost; children must seek to live Godly lives.

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

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

➤ **Be sure to involve the children**

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

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

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

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

5. PRINCIPLES TO FOLLOW

➤ **Definite Intention**

Aim to teach one thing. You have only 5 to 10 minutes to speak so you cannot possibly preach the whole Gospel message every week. You might concentrate on an aspect of your subject each week and then, week by week, you should build on what you have taught.

➤ **Good Communication**

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

➤ **Wise Variation in content**

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

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

➤ **Specific Application**

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

➤ **Clear Presentation**

It is not just what we teach but how we teach it that is important. If it seems like entertainment, the children will not take it seriously. If it is dull and lifeless, the children will not be attracted to pay attention

to it. If you have not prepared for it or prayed over it, you will be unlikely to see much accomplished through it.

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

CHILDREN IN THE CHURCH SERVICE

PART II

I include here some further reflections on the importance of pastors giving a short talk to the children in the Sunday morning service by Pastor Geoff Thomas a well known Welsh pastor and conference speaker. He is the pastor of Alfred Place Baptist Church, Dyfed, Wales.

The arguments against a children's talk in the Sunday morning service are thoughtful, but not decisive. The fact that some of the greatest preachers never gave a regular short message may be an indication of their own limited gifts. Dr. Ernest Kevan, theologian and the first principal of London Bible College, could speak to the young in a fascinating way. There should be more like him.

What are the reasons adduced for not addressing children in the service itself?

1. **Addressing the young serves to segregate children from congregational worship.** Such talks need not result in that. They can have the very opposite effect of assuring children that the pastor is concerned for them, and is at work to make the Christian faith interesting and relevant to their own lives. He always has something fresh and caring to say to them.
2. **A five-minute talk does not lend itself to teaching.** Why not? One vivid one-minute illustration in a sermon is frequently what most of the congregation can remember by the Sunday afternoon. It is possible to teach truth to a child in five minutes or less and to do this week by week.
3. **Such talks are psychologically unsound. Children react adversely to being corrected, admonished and told what to do in the presence of parents and grown ups.** True. So there can be no place for scolding

children on Sunday mornings because there is no place for scolding anyone on such occasions. Rebuke and correction are part of most sermons and this is to be done meekly, knowing one's own weaknesses. Applied correction of particular matters should be a private matter. But if children enjoy a message and sense their parents' pleasure too the occasion is psychologically positive.

4. **Children's addresses are a temptation to triviality for preachers.** True. What unsuitable, confusing messages have been given to poor children in the midst of a long suffering congregation!!
5. **To keep the children's attention and be interesting becomes the supreme motive.** True. But there should be no artificial tension between keeping people interested and honouring almighty God. What a need there is for sermons that grip a congregation's attention, and yet are faithful to the whole counsel of God.
6. **Children's talks diminish the importance of the sermon.** Strip cartoons turn people's attention from the serious news. That need not happen. The climactic aspect of the whole structure of a biblical service of worship is when the preacher opens the book and finds the place, and in the name of the God Who commissioned him he speaks to the gathered congregation. If pew and pulpit are agreed on that then prayers and hymns and children's talk serve the same end as the sermon.

So over thirty years as the pastor of one congregation the children's address has become a part of my morning service that cannot be omitted, linked to giving the children a verse to memorise during the following week and to repeat the next Sunday.

It also provides another shot at the whole congregation, and it catches some unprepared. The pastor needs to work on his preparation of the children's talk, avoiding speaking down to the children, not using the occasion to display his wit, nor saying funny things that make the adults laugh, which the children cannot understand. The children must be assured that the preacher cares for them. They should see him as kind but also kindly.

There are many other occasions than in the morning service when children are to be spoken to, both formally and informally. There are Sunday schools, Good News Clubs, week night meetings for children, summer camps and barbecues. Speaking to children is largely a matter of commitment and learning. Let a person apply himself to the challenge. He has an audience

and a message for them. Let him learn how to address children with clarity and affection; it will be inevitably a person who has himself learned with effort, trial and error how to speak to children.

Let him also obtain material from the Child Evangelism Fellowship and see what a range of materials they have to help him in this high calling. In our churches and families children are growing up without Christ because no one speaks to them about the Saviour who receives children. Are we not letting the souls of the young perish, if we do not rouse ourselves to take part in this personal delightful mode of bringing God's own Word to the young?

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

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

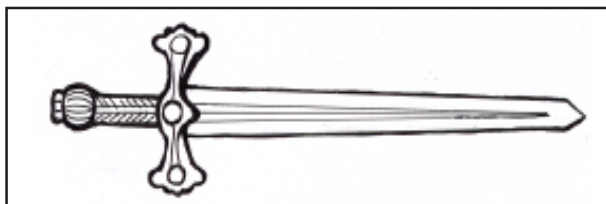
FIRST SERIES

LESSONS FOR ALL CHILDREN

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

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

All children
TWO SWORDS



TRUTH:

You have a choice to make; you can be fooled or filled.

VISUALS:

Make two swords from cardboard using an enlargement of the pattern given. Colour one sword silver and one black. Colour the tip of one side of the black sword bright red and paint a small red cross on one side of the silver sword. Also prepare two cards – one with the word FOOLED and the other with the word FILLED.

LESSON:

Do you have the same name as someone else? (*Give the opportunity to respond*).

There were two men in the Bible who had the same name. They were both called Saul. They had the same name – but they lived at different times and they were completely different from each other. Each of them had a sword – but their swords were also completely different from each other.

The first Saul

The first Saul was a king. He was the first king of Israel. When he first became king he served God – or at least he seemed to. But that all changed. He turned his back on God and he became a man who hurt and killed people (*Show black sword*). He tried as hard as possible to kill David, who was to be the next king, and as he did so he killed many more innocent people (*Show red tip of other side of black sword*). This was a sword of death. At last he killed himself with this sword of death. Towards the end of his life he cried out, “*I have played the fool*” (1 Samuel 26 v21). How sad! Here was a man who was FOOLED (*Show card*) – and went the wrong way. I trust that you are not like this Saul.

The second Saul

The second Saul became a Christian and he also became a preacher and a missionary. Before that he had been a wicked man and had even helped in the killing of Christians. He too had a black sword with blood on it (*Show black sword*). This was also a sword of death. He had hurt and put in prison people who followed the Lord Jesus, and he had taken part in the murder of Stephen. But one day the Lord Jesus spoke to him and showed him his sin – and Saul turned from his sin and evil ways and trusted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Saviour. He put away his black sword (*Put it away*) but he started to use another sword (*Show silver sword*). This was not a sword of death like the other one. It was a sword of life. This sword was the Word of God. The Bible calls itself the sword of the Spirit (Ephesians 6 v17). And it was this Word which Saul (or Paul as he later became) started to preach. Then as people heard the Word of God which spoke about the death of Jesus Christ on the Cross for their sin (*Show red cross on sword*) many trusted Jesus Christ and received eternal life. This sword brought life or light to many.

From the day Saul or Paul trusted Jesus Christ he was FILLED with the Holy Spirit (*Show card*) and with the Word of God – and God greatly used him. I trust that you are like this Saul.

What about you?

Let me ask you two questions:

- Are you fooled like the first Saul and going your own way, or are you filled with the Holy Spirit and the Word of God like the second Saul and going God's way?
- Which sword are you using? A sword of death which harms and hurts people or a sword of life which tells people how they can be saved and receive eternal life by trusting the Lord Jesus?

All Children

THREE HOURS WHICH CHANGED THE WORLD

TRUTH:

Jesus Christ died on the cross to save us.

VISUALS: A large clock (or an imitation clock face with moveable hands). Or make three cardboard clock faces with each showing one of the three times indicated below.

LESSON:

Did you know that the three greatest and most wonderful hours in all the history of this world were nine o'clock, twelve o'clock and three o'clock. Would you like to know why?

- At nine o'clock (*Show this time*) on a day almost 2000 years ago the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God was nailed to a cross and died on a hill outside Jerusalem.

"And it was the third hour (nine o'clock) and they crucified Him" (Mark 15 v25).

If He was the Son of God why did He allow this to happen to Him? Because He wanted to forgive our sins and to bring us to Heaven when we die – and He died on the Cross so that He could do that.

For three hours He suffered the awful pain of nails through His hands and feet, the pain of being laughed at and made fun of by so many people, and the pain of listening to the nasty things people said about Him. But that was nothing compared to what happened at 12 o'clock.

- At twelve o'clock (*Show this time*) something very strange happened. Even though it was the middle of the day there came a deep darkness and it lasted for the three hours which followed.

"And when the sixth hour (twelve o'clock) was come there was darkness over all the earth with the ninth hour" (Mark 15 v33).

During those next three hours the Lord Jesus suffered much much more than the three hours before, because during these three hours God the Father punished His Son for our sins. He took the punishment for our sin so that we would not need to take it. And God the Father covered the whole land with darkness so that no one would see the awful suffering of His Son.

- But at three o'clock (*Show this time*) in the afternoon two great cries were heard from the Lord Jesus. First of all He cried out *"My God, my God why have You forsaken me?"* (Mark 15 v34). It was a cry of suffering because of the awful previous three hours. But this was followed by a cry of triumph and victory *"It is finished"* (John 19 v30). He had finished the work He had come to do. He had paid the price for our sins. Salvation was now possible for those who would trust Him as Lord and Saviour. Have you trusted Him? Why not do so today?

If you have trusted Him, thank Him for all that He did during those six hours on the cross, to make it possible for you to be saved.

All Children **LOVE GIVES ALL**

TRUTH:

We should be thankful to the Lord Jesus for all He has done for us.

VISUALS:

Use two large pieces of cardboard or heavy paper.

On one piece write the emphasized words and figures outlined in the first list below (using your own currency). On the other piece write the emphasized words and figures in the second list.

LESSON

Norman was a good boy. He helped with the washing up and looked after his baby sister. He was a bright boy, too, and he noticed that when other people did things around the house for his mother, they sent bills and got paid. For example, after the plumber fixed the pipes he sent a bill for his work and his mother wrote a cheque to pay him.

Norman began to think, Why shouldn't I get paid too? So one morning Norman laid a paper like this (*Show the first page*) at his mother's plate at breakfast time (*Point to the words "Mother owes Norman"*). He tried to make it look as much like the other bills he had seen. So he printed words like these (*Point to the words you have written and complete the sentences by saying the other words and also point to the amounts shown on your visual*).

Mother owes Norman

1. For washing the dishes 5 times	\$1.00
2. For looking after baby sister	\$1.00
3. For going to the shop	\$1.50
4. For being a good boy	\$2.50
Total	\$6.00

Norman's mother sat down at the table and read what Norman had written, but she didn't even smile. She just laid it aside and ate her breakfast. When Norman came in for supper that night there was a bill on his plate! It read:

Norman owes mother (*Point to these words*)

(*Point to the words you have written and complete the sentences. Then point to the word "nothing"*)

1. For 10 years of happy home	nothing
2. For food and clothes for 10 years	nothing
3. For nursing through chicken pox, flu. and measles	nothing
4. For being good to him all his life	nothing
Total	nothing

When Norman read it he felt bad! Big tears ran down his cheeks, his lips quivered and he ran to his mother's arms and cried, "Mum, I love you and I'll do all I can just because I love you. I don't want any pay."

If you are saved you should serve Jesus Christ because He has done so much for you and because you love Him. You are not looking for money or rewards. If you haven't received Him and are not saved, then I want you to stop right now and think of how much He has done for you. As your mother has loved you and cared for you so the Lord Jesus has given you food, clothing, a home, a mother and father, health and life, and most of all, HE GAVE HIMSELF ON CALVARY'S CROSS. (Galations 2 v20)

He gave Himself so that you could be forgiven and have the wonderful gift of eternal life. How much do we have to pay Him for all this? Nothing. You could never pay for what the Lord Jesus did.

Norman's mum did not want payment. Neither does your mum. Neither does the Lord Jesus.

But He wants you to invite Him to come into your heart and life.

If I came to your door and knocked, and you opened the door and saw me standing there, what would you say? You would say, "Come in." Then what would I do? That's right, I would come in.

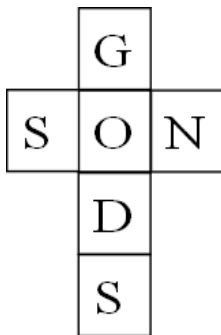
The Lord Jesus is standing at the door of your heart and life right now. He says, "*Behold, I stand at the door, and knock.*" Will you say to Him, "Come in, Lord Jesus?" His promise is: "*If any man (boy or girl) will open the door, I will come in.*"

And then, when the Lord Jesus comes in, just as Norman was grateful to his mum for all she did for him, so you should thank the Lord Jesus and love and serve Him because of all He has done for you. He gave His all for you. And you should give your all to Him.

All Children
GOD'S GREAT GIFT

TRUTH:

The child who trusts Jesus Christ receives the gift of eternal life.

**VISUALS:**

Cut six ten-inch squares from sturdy cardboard or construction (manilla) paper. Tape the squares together and print the letters **G-O-D-S S-O-N** as shown. If you use dark cardboard, cover one side with light coloured paper. This will make the letters more legible and the box more attractive. Line the inside of the cross with gold paper. Attach a piece of bright coloured yarn to the top and bottom of the cross. The yarn should be long enough to wrap around the box. Fold the cross into a box with the letters on the outside and tie.

LESSON:

Do you like to receive presents? What is the most wonderful present you have ever received? (*Give an opportunity to respond*).

I want to tell you today about a very special present you can receive today. It is far better than any present you have ever received. What is it? This gift box will help you to find the answer.

You can see that there is a letter on each side of the box which will give us clues as to what the gift is (*For every letter mentioned, turn the box so children can see the letter*).

This side of the box has a "G" on it (*Show that side of box*). I wonder if this gift could start with the letter "G"? Could it be something made of gold – a gold watch or a gold necklace, or a gold ring? Or could it be a Game boy? But

here is an “S”. What could that stand for? Could it be silver or socks or soap? What do you suppose “D” stands for? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). It might mean a doll, or a diamond, or a dollar. Let’s see. There are more letters here. What could “N” stand for? A necklace, a newspaper, a Nintendo, or some nuts? What about “O”? It could be an oil painting or just something old or odd. But there is only one way to find out what is in our box – and that is to open it (*Untie yarn and unfold the box to reveal the side of the cross with no letters*). Do you know that the greatest gift anyone can receive is the gift of eternal life? And the Lord Jesus Christ, God’s Son, died on the cross to give us this gift (*Reverse the cross and point to the letters that spell GOD’S SON*). He took the punishment for our sin which we deserved and when we trust Him as our Saviour we receive the gift of God which is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord (Romans 6 v23). And that is the best gift of all – to know that you will live forever in that wonderful place called Heaven. If you have already received this gift be sure to thank the Lord Jesus Christ for it.

**The following sixteen lessons are all about the Bible –
and could be used as a series or several series of
consecutive lessons on that subject.**

All Children
THE MIRROR TELLS THE TRUTH!

TRUTH:

The Bible shows you what you are really like!

VISUALS: A good size mirror, a Bible and a piece of charcoal or dark coloured chalk.

LESSON:

(Hold up the mirror and the Bible). I have a question for you today. How many mirrors do I have in my hands? One? No! I have two mirrors. This first mirror *(Hold up mirror)* shows me what I am like on the outside. *(Have a child look into it with his back to the other children – so that they can also see his face).* Can you see John's face?

Yes! And so can he – because this mirror shows him what he is really like *(Add a black streak to your face with the charcoal or chalk and crumple your hair).*

And this mirror shows me when my face is dirty or when my hair needs combing. So I am glad to have it. It tells me to wash my face and comb my hair before I go out.

A mirror like this is so important and shows me what I am like on the outside. But here is another mirror *(Hold up Bible)*. As I read it I discover what I am like on the inside. This is God's book, and one of the reasons He gave it to us is to show us what we are really like. So I open it and read – and what do I find? *(Open your Bible and look at it):*

- I am a sinner and my sin separates me from God.
- I cannot clean myself.

What I see is not very encouraging. But I look again in the Bible and I discover something else:

- There is Someone who can clean me. The Bible tells me that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners (1 Timothy 1 v15).
- And the Bible tells me that if I ask Him to save me and clean me He will.
- And then when I look in the mirror again I am CLEAN in God's sight – because the Bible says that when I repent of all my sins they are blotted out forever (Acts 3 v19).

Have you seen these truths in God's mirror, the Bible? Have you done something about it? Trust Jesus Christ today. If you have trusted Him keep

looking in this mirror (*Hold up Bible*) because it will continue to show you if there is anything in your life which is dirty and which needs to be cleaned up. It will also show you how close you are to becoming like the Lord Jesus – which is God's will for you.

All Children **OUT OF PLUMB**

TRUTH:

God has given us His Word to guide us.

VISUALS:

A piece of white string with a weight hanging on the end, thus making a home-made plumb line. And a Bible.

LESSON:

Can you think of something which can be found in every home, in almost every shop and in the pockets of many boys. It comes in different colours, different thicknesses and different lengths (*Give children the opportunity to answer*). You can play with it when flying a kite, or it can be very useful when tying up parcels. You know now what it is – a piece of string (*Show your string but not the weight*).

Did you know that string like this was often used by builders years ago – although it is not used so much today. What do you think builders could use it for? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). If you attach a weight to a piece of string it becomes a plumb line (*Show your plumb line and let it hang down*). And builders used this to check whether the wall, or whatever they were building, was straight (*Demonstrate against some vertical object or piece of wood*).

If the builder just kept building the wall and didn't use his plumb line the wall would not be straight – and when someone came to check it and used a plumb line, and discovered it was not straight it would have to be pulled down. The crookedness of the walls would be proved by this vertical string which would hang straight down and measure it.

Did you know that the Bible speaks about the Lord using a plumb line? In this story (Amos 7 v7-9) the Lord is standing on a wall with a plumb line in His hand to check the lives of His people Israel, and He found that they were not living right before Him.

God still has a plumb line which He uses today to check our lives. What is that plumb line? It is the Bible (*Show Bible*). The Bible tells us what our lives should be like. It shows us what God expects from us and He wants us to stand beside the true perfect line of His Word and measure ourselves. For example, God's Word says we should be truthful. If we tell lies we are crooked and not straight. Also God's Word says we must obey our parents. If we disobey, we are "out of plumb" We discover that we are not what God expects us to be. If a building or wall is "out of plumb" the building inspector says, "Tear it down and build a new wall". The Lord Jesus is our building inspector – the One with the plumb line and when He sees that our lives are out of plumb He says, "You are out of plumb, make a new start". And when we trust Him as our Saviour He gives us that new start and builds us up again to what we should be.

Then as we continue on in our Christian lives we keep looking at God's plumb line, the Bible, asking Him to help us to be as close to that plumb line as possible.

All Children **THE BEST NEWS IN THE WORLD**

TRUTH:

God has got good news for every boy and girl.

VISUALS:

A newspaper, a radio, and a Bible.

LESSON:

Have you every seen a weather vane? Do you know what it is? You can sometimes see it on the top of high buildings like a church steeple or a tower. Often it has four letters on it - **N** for North, **E** for East, **S** for South, and **W** for West. And on top of the letters there is usually an arrow with some object like the figure of a man or a bird like a rooster on it. As the wind blows the arrow and figure rotate and show you the direction of the wind.

But these four letters also make up a short but very interesting word if you rearrange the letters. Can you think of what that word is? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). **N E W S**. News. We often use this word.

"Do you have any news?"

“What’s the news?”

“I’m listening to the news.”

The news tells us what is happening in the world, or in our own city or area. The news tells us what is important – and the things which we need to hear. How do we hear the news?

- Sometimes in Africa they pass on the news by beating drums.
- Years ago the Indians in North America passed on the news by using smoke signals.
- Today we can read the news in the newspaper (*Show one*).
- We can listen to the news on the radio (*Show one*) or read it in letters.
- We can see the news on television or the Internet.

And there are many other ways to read or hear the news.

But the greatest, the best, and the most important, news of all is contained in this book which I am holding. It is called the Bible. God chose a number of men whom He guided to write down for us the news that Jesus Christ died for our sins, that He rose again and that He will save and forgive the sins of every boy or girl who puts their trust in Him. That is good news for everyone.

One morning a missionary in Africa saw someone walking towards his house. It was a man dressed in skins and leading some kind of animal by a rope. As he got nearer the missionary saw that the animal was a goat. When he got closer to the missionary he asked him, “Have you got the book?”

“What book?” asked the missionary.

The stranger replied, “The book that gives the good news.”

The missionary went into his house and brought out a Bible written in an African language.

The man dressed in skins said, “Where does it give the news about God’s love.”

The missionary turned to John 3 v16 and read, “*God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son.*”

“That’s it”, he said, “Give me the book and I’ll give you the goat.”

And away he went on his journey home with joy on his face. He had got the good news!

Have you got the good news? Have you read the good news? Have you trusted the Saviour Whom God sent into the world to die for your sin? If you have trusted Him, are you passing on the good news to others?

All children
FOLLOW THE COMPASS

TRUTH:

God gave us the Bible to guide us.

VISUALS:

A compass (or a picture of a compass) and a Bible.

LESSON:

Some years ago a ship was lost in a storm in the Indian Ocean but before it sank the sailors got into the ship's lifeboat. They knew where they were when the ship went down and they also knew that the nearest land was a small island 3,000 kilometers away – and they knew the direction they should follow. But how could they find such a small island so far away?

They traveled for weeks through good and bad weather living on small amounts of food and water. Then one day they arrived at this little island. It seemed a chance in a million that they could go directly to it covering a journey of 3,000 kilometers. How did they do it? (*Give an opportunity to respond*).

They had a compass (*Show picture of compass*). You all know what a compass is. It shows you where “north” is – and from that you can work out exactly the direction you want to go in. This compass gave the sailors the right direction and they just followed it. Without that compass they would have been confused and lost and could never have reached that little island.

Do you know that God has given us a compass to direct our life and bring us to Heaven? Life can be very confusing at times and we don't know what to do and where to go. And we don't know the way to Heaven – the place we all want to reach.

So here is God's compass (*Show Bible*). You will get all the directions you need in this book: (Psalm 119 v105)

- The first main direction is to trust Jesus Christ as your Saviour. Have you done this? That is where your journey starts.
- And then you should follow Him in your Christian life. How? By reading the Bible, God's compass – and by doing what it says.
If you follow God's compass you will move in the right direction and you will arrive at the right destination - Heaven.

All Children **OUR GUIDING LIGHT**

TRUTH:

God gave us the Bible to guide us.

VISUALS:

A Bible, a flashlight and a picture of a lighthouse (if possible).

LESSON:

Do you like the dark? Are you afraid of it? I hope not. One of the problems, especially when it is very dark, is that we can't see where we are going and we find it difficult to find the right way.

During the last world war many cities in a number of countries were bombed, especially at night time. Enemy aeroplanes flew over in the dark, dropping their bombs, and it was forbidden to show any lights in case they would help the enemy. This was called "a black out". All windows were covered, there were no street lights and everything was completely dark. When people went out they were allowed to carry a little flashlight like this one (*Show it*) – provided they only shone it downwards. And its purpose was to show the person where he should walk. This was a great help.

But did you know that God has given us a special flashlight to show us how we should live, where we should go and what we should do? That special light is the Bible. A writer in the Bible says that God's "*Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path*" (Psalm 119 v105). It shows you where to put your feet, and also the direction you should walk in. The very first step the Bible tells you to take is "*Believe on the Lord Jesus and you will be saved*" (Acts 16 v31). Have you taken that step? If not take it today.

And then the Bible tells you what you should do as a Christian – "*present your bodiesunto God*" (Romans 12 v1). Give Him every part of yourself so that He can use you.

And so a light like this one (*Show flashlight*) shows you where to go.

The Bible is a light to show you what you should do and where you should go. But there are lights which do something else. Have you ever seen a lighthouse like this one (*Show the picture*)? It is not easy to build a lighthouse like this out in the sea. Why is it there? How can they build it in the water? (*Give an opportunity to respond*) Yes, there are rocks there. The lighthouse is built on the rocks. Why? It is there to tell the captains of ships to keep away – not to

come near or they will hit the rocks and sink. When it is dark, the big light is switched on and the captains of the ships can see it from a distance and keep away.

And do you know, boys and girls, that the Bible is also a light like that. It is not only like a flashlight to show us where to go and what to do. It is like a lighthouse to show us where we should not go and what we should not do. And so the Bible gives us many warnings and tells us what will happen if we don't pay attention to them.

- It warns boys and girls who are not Christians that they cannot hide their sins and that these sins will find them out (Numbers 32 v23). There is no escape for them from God and His judgment. That's why you need to trust the Lord Jesus today.
- And it warns Christian boys and girls not to love the things in the world (1 John 2 v15) but to give God first place in their lives.

Every boy and girl should read the Bible. Let it give you the light you need for your life every day.

All Children ***POWER TO FIGHT, POWER TO GROW***

TRUTH:

You can use the Bible to defend yourself and to help others.

VISUALS:

A Bible, a toy sword and a pack of seed.

LESSON:

The Bible (*hold it up*) is like no other book in the world. We call it the Word of God. It has power and strength to help you and me and everyone who reads it.

First of all, the Bible is a sword (*Hold up the sword*). Does that sound strange? But that's what the Bible says about itself. The Bible says that the Word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword (Hebrews 4 v12). This means that when you read or hear the Word of God it cuts into your thoughts and feelings. It tells you that you are a sinner and that hurts! But this is good because it leads you on to trust the Lord Jesus, and ask Him to forgive your sin. Has this happened to you? Have you trusted the Lord Jesus?

When you trust the Lord Jesus, the devil will do all He can to tempt you to do wrong things, and also make you doubt that you are saved. What should you do? Well the Bible is a sword to help and defend you as a Christian. It calls itself, “*the sword of the Spirit*” (Ephesians 6 v17) and it is an important part of the armour of every Christian soldier. Do you remember what the Lord Jesus did when He was tempted by the devil? (Matthew 4 v1-11). Every time He was tempted He used a verse from the Bible to answer the devil – and after three attempts the devil left Him.

So when the devil tries to get you to doubt your salvation use a verse from the Bible as your sword. Repeat to yourself the words found in Acts 16 v31, “*Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.*” God says it in the Bible. So it must be true. Using a verse like this will drive away your doubts. It will be like a sword which you are using to defend yourself.

But God doesn’t want you just to think about yourself – and how to defend yourself. God wants you to be a help and blessing to others. How can you do this? Well the Bible tells us (Matthew 13 v19) that the Word of God is like seed (*Hold up a pack of seed*). The Lord Jesus told a story (Matthew 13 v3-24) to show us that we should sow this seed – the seed of God’s Word – in the hearts of other people. You have friends, perhaps family members, who are not saved. When you speak the words of a Bible verse to them or tell them about some truth from the Bible you are sowing a seed in their hearts.

What happens to this seed? The Lord Jesus tells us in His story that some seed grows and then withers, but some continues growing and bears fruit. And the Bible is like seed which grows in people’s hearts and changes them. But we must sow it for you and I are called to be sowers.

And so we have seen that the Bible is not just a wonderful book; it’s a powerful book. It can convict us of our sin, like a sword, it can defeat the devil, like a sword; and, like seed, it can grow in people’s lives and change them.

Make sure you read it – and use it.

All Children **THE BEST BALANCED DIET**

TRUTH:

The Bible gives you the food you need to grow.

VISUALS:

A Bible, a bottle of milk, a piece of meat (or a picture of meat) and a jar of honey.

LESSON:

What is your favourite food? What is the meal you enjoy most? (*Give the opportunity to respond*). We all like our food, don't we? And we need it to make us grow strong.

And the same is true for boys and girls who have trusted the Lord Jesus as their Saviour. You need food if you are going to grow in your Christian life. There are two main kinds of food you need – and the Bible gives you both of these.

Babies need milk (*Show the bottle of milk*). This is the only food they can take because it is easy for them to digest. And also it contains all the vitamins they need to make them grow strong and healthy.

And the Bible commands Christian boys and girls to “*desire the sincere milk of the Word that you may grow thereby*” (1 Peter 2 v2). The Bible contains milk for you to take and help you grow. There are some parts of the Bible which are easier to understand and these provide the milk you need – especially if you have not been a Christian for very long. You will find these easy to digest.

But as you continue in your Christian life you will soon find that you need a second kind of food – something stronger than milk, like meat (*Show it*) to get your teeth into. And the Bible contains this meat. The Bible speaks about “*strong meat which belongs to those who are olderwho use their senses*” (Hebrews 5 v13, 14). As we grow in our Christian life we need to use our senses – to think, decide and choose; and this means that we need to choose the right and refuse the wrong. Studying and trying to understand the harder parts of the Bible is like chewing and digesting tough meat. Our study will help us in our choices and decisions.

But listen, boys and girls, you cannot take milk and meat to help you grow if you are not alive. You need to be born first of all. I know we have all been born into the world – but you need to be born again, born for the second time, if you are going to enter God's new world. And the way to be born again is to trust the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour. You will then have new eternal life (John 3 v16) and be able to start growing.

The Bible is then your milk (*Show it*) and your meat (*Show it*). But it is also something else. King David wrote in the Bible, “*Your words aresweeter than honey to my mouth*” (Psalm 119 v103). What did he mean? He wrote that the Bible, the Word of God, is like honey (*Show jar of honey*).

Do you like honey? I do. As we read the Bible and think about it, it becomes very sweet and precious to us. If we read it properly, it is not a dull or boring book. It contains many exciting and wonderful stories and passages which help us very much and are also enjoyable – like honey.

But there is something else which honey does – at least for the bees who love it so much. When one bee finds honey in some flowers it fetches more bees, and they all descend on the flowers and enjoy the honey which is there. Honey is not only nice to taste, it attracts others. And the more you feed on the Word of God and the honey which is there (and obey it), the more you will attract others to the Lord Jesus Christ, the One Who gives you the honey.

Be sure, boys and girls, to read this wonderful Word of God (*Hold up Bible*) and obey it – and you will be really blessed and really happy.

All Children **THE GREATEST BOOK IN THE WORLD**

TRUTH:

The Bible is the best and most wonderful book in the world.

VISUALS:

An encyclopedia, a story book and a Bible.

LESSON:

Do you like to read? What kind of books do you like best to read? (*Give the opportunity to respond*). I have two books with me today – books which are different from each other – and yet many people, many boys and girls, read them.

First of all I have with me an encyclopedia. Do you know what this is? Look at the size of it. And the reason it is so big is because its full of many, many facts. It tells us a little bit about everything. If you want to find out what a cygnet is, or where Timbuktu is, or who discovered penicillin you just look up the first letter of the word in the encyclopedia and get the answer.

This second book is different. It is a story book. You sit down and start to read at the beginning and read through to the end – and really enjoy the excitement of the story. You don't sit down and read an encyclopedia from start to finish – you just pick out words and facts.

But it is good to have both books to read – one for facts and the other for fun.

But I have a third book here – and the wonderful thing about it is that it is both an encyclopedia and a story book. Here it is (*Hold up the Bible*). Did you know that it was both?

First of all it is an encyclopedia full of important facts. The Bible tells us how the world was made, the name of the first man and woman, why people are sick, who angels are, what happens when we die, and the difference between right and wrong. The Bible gives the answers to many of the questions which even the greatest men couldn't answer, and the solution to the greatest problems which no one could solve.

It's a wonderful encyclopedia full of many wonderful facts.

But the Bible is also a story book containing some of the most interesting and exciting stories which have ever been written. And you and I can sit down and read it with great interest. There are all kinds of stories:

- There are spy stories like Moses and his exploration of the Promised Land.
- There are adventure stories like David and his years as a fugitive.
- There are war stories like Joshua and his conquest of Jericho.
- There are travel stories like the children of Israel in the desert.
- There are love stories like the story of Ruth.

But the greatest fact in the Bible encyclopedia and the most wonderful love story in the Bible story book is that Jesus Christ loved us and died on the Cross for our sin. (John 3 v16)

Have you trusted Him? Are you reading the book He has given us?



*"Your word is a lamp to my feet
And a light to my path."
Psalm 119:105*

All children
A COBWEB ON YOUR BIBLE

TRUTH:

Boys and girls should read the Bible.

VISUALS:

Four cards with these words:

- 1600 years
- 40 people
- Highest sales
- Can never be destroyed



Four spider's webs on card using this pattern and with these words on three of them – on the space to the left.

- Too lazy
- Too busy
- Not interested

LESSON

I have a question for you this morning. What took 1600 years and forty people to put it together, has the highest sales in the world and can never be destroyed? (*Use flashcards for each piece of information*).

The Bible is the greatest book in the whole world. It's God's book. God speaks to you as you read His book. But did you know that some people have a cobweb over their Bibles. Are you one of them? (*Show a Bible with the cobweb on the card with no word covering it, attached to it with sellotape*). Oh you might say, "Nonsense, my mum is always dusting and cleaning. A spider would never get a chance to do anything in our house, never mind spin a web around my Bible!"

But there could be a web around the corner of your Bible, spun there by a spider called Laziness (*Show a card with a spider's web and the words "Too lazy" printed on it*). If you are a Christian boy or a Christian girl you know how very, very important it is to read your Bible every day and yet this Spider Laziness could be spinning a web around the corner of your Bible. Mum calls

you to get up in the morning for school, and in a sleepy voice you call back, "Okay, Mum." You turn over and off you go to sleep again. Ten minutes later Mum calls again and this time in a sleepy shout you call out, "Right, right!" and you turn over on your other side and off you go to sleep again. Five minutes later Mum charges into your room, speaking loudly, "It's time you were up." Quickly you wash your face, put your clothes on, gobble down your breakfast and head out for school. But your Bible sits, unopened because you have been too lazy and Spider Laziness is working very hard and spinning a tight web around it.

But maybe it's not Spider Laziness who is spinning a web around the corner of your Bible, perhaps it's Spider Too Busy (*Show a card with a spider's web and the words "Too busy" printed on it*). I know you live such a busy life. You must go to school, you must do your homework, you must play on your computer, you must watch your favourite TV programmes, you must play with your friends. You must do so many things, and your Bible sits on your bedroom table closed. You know as a Christian boy or girl it's so important for you to read your Bible if you are going to grow into a strong Christian. But there is just so much to do that this spider called Too Busy has a wonderful time spinning a tight web around the corner of your Bible.

Maybe it's not Spider Laziness or Spider Too Busy who is spinning a web around the corner of your Bible. Maybe it's Spider Not Interested (*Show card with spider's web and the words "Not interested"*). It may be that you are not a Christian boy, or a Christian girl. You have never turned from your sin and trusted the Lord Jesus as your Saviour. Therefore you have no interest in the greatest book in the whole world, God's book, the Bible. Day after day your Bible sits closed. You are not interested in what God has to say and this Spider Not Interested is spinning his web tighter and tighter around your Bible.

Let's chase all these spiders away (*Show them one by one*) and open God's book, the greatest book in the world and read something very special from it (*Read John 3 v16 or a similar well known verse*).

Have you a spider's web on the corner of your Bible?

All Children **GOD'S PHOTO ALBUM**

TRUTH:

The Bible shows us as we really are.

VISUALS:

A photo album with photographs in it, several loose photographs, a picture of a baby and a Bible.

You could also, if you wish, prepare a series of cards with the references of the Bible verses used – and show them as you mention them – as “photographs”.

LESSON:

Do you like having your photograph taken? Some boys and girls really like standing before a camera; others hate it.

What do you do with your photographs after they are developed? Most people keep them in a photo album like this one (*Show it*). And every so often you can sit down and look through it and see all the photographs collected in it. What is in my photo album?

- There are photographs of me the way I used to look (*Show a photograph*) and sometimes these photographs can be quite embarrassing.
- There are photographs of me showing the way I look now (*Show one*).
- There are photographs of other members of the family (*Show several*). Some of them are dead but I am so pleased to have their photographs.
- And there are photographs of groups with me in them (*Show one*).

But I have another photo album here. I am in it, and so are you and you and you. Would you like to see it? Here it is (*Hold up the Bible*). The Bible is a photo album.

What photos are in it?

- Here is a verse in the Bible which gives a picture of me even before I was born (Psalm 139 v16) (*Show picture of baby*). Yes, right at the beginning of my life God in His sovereignty and power formed me and knew all about me at that time – each little detail of my body, my name, the family I would be born into. What a great God we have Who is our Creator!
- There are many verses in the Bible which give a photo or picture of me years ago before I became a Christian (Romans 3 v23). It is not a very nice photo. It is a photo, not a painting. But it is honest. It shows me as I really was – a sinner whose many sins had not been forgiven and I was dirty in God's sight.

- But I can look again and I see verses which give a photo of myself as I am now (2 Corinthians 5 v17). The Bible tells me that I am still a sinner but because I have trusted Jesus Christ as my Saviour God sees me as perfectly clean as the Lord Jesus.

Tell me, boys and girls, which of these photos does the Bible have of you? Have you trusted the Lord Jesus?

- But there are also verses and chapters in the Bible photo album which show me photos of other people – wonderful photos of great men and women like Abraham and Moses and Daniel and Peter and Paul. I can see their photographs here – although they are all dead. And I can learn so many lessons from them.
- And over and over again – almost on every page – I see a very special photograph of Someone Who is still alive. He is my Saviour, the Lord Jesus – and His photo is in here.
- And the Bible also includes a number of group photos. Here is one near the back of the photo album which has so many people on it (including me) that you couldn't count them (Revelation 7 v9). It is a photo in the future of Christians in Heaven. The wonderful thing about this photo album is that it also has photos of things which haven't happened yet. And here are a number of group photographs of people who meet together every week to worship God in churches (Ephesians 1 v1). And you and I should be among them.

Remember, boys and girls, photo albums are to be looked at – not kept on a shelf somewhere. Are you looking at this special Bible photo album? What picture is there in it of you? What does God want you to do?

All Children **THE WORLD'S NUMBER ONE BOOK**

TRUTH:

God wants boys and girls to read His Word, the Bible.

VISUALS:

This is an acrostic on the Bible. So you should print the word **BIBLE** vertically on a large piece of cardboard – and then fill in the remainder of each word as you deal with it. Or you could print the word Bible vertically on a piece of

cardboard and then the remainder of each word (Best, Interesting, Big, Lasting, Everybody's) on strips of cardboard attached to the side of the cardboard, and make them into flaps which you would fold back behind the word Bible and show when appropriate.

Or you could use the overhead projector or power point.

LESSON:

Do you like reading books, boys and girls? What is your favourite book? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). I hope you also read the Bible - it is important that you read the Bible every day. It will help those of you who don't know Jesus Christ to trust Him, and it will help those of you who do to grow in your faith.

Why should you read the Bible?

B stands for the **B**est book

You should read it because it is the best book in the world. Why is it the best? Because God wrote it and because it has the answers to all your problems.

I stands for **I**nteresting book

The Bible is not a dull, uninteresting book. It is full of exciting stories – war stories, spy stories, love stories and adventure stories. Read it for yourself and find out.

But it is also interesting because of what it teaches you – about God, about yourself, about sin and about salvation.

The second **B** stands for **B**ig book

The Bible is a big book. It contains 66 books written by 40 different authors. But it was God Who showed these authors what to write. It also deals with big and important subjects. It tells us how to live and it prepares us for the time we will die. That's why you should read it.

And it is big in its influence. Many peoples' lives have been changed by the Bible, many homes have been changed; and even countries have been helped. And it is big because there are more copies of the Bible in the world than any other book.

L stands for **L**asting
book

Some books are popular for a time and then they are forgotten. But the Bible is a book which lasts. It has been in existence for almost 2,000 years; the first part of it even longer. Yet it is still the world's best seller. People have tried to destroy it and criticize it (and still do today) but it is still there as strong and as powerful as ever. Are you reading it?

E stands for
Everybody's book

The Bible is for people of every country, colour, religion, class and age. It has been translated into more than 1,000 languages. It is the book also for you boys and girls. There are parts you will not understand, but most of it you will be able to read, understand and obey.

Make it your habit to read the Bible every day, and then obey it in your life every day.

All Children
GOD'S HISTORY BOOK

TRUTH:

Jesus died and rose again for the sins of all the world.

VISUALS:

A history book and the Bible.

LESSON:

How do we know that George Washington (*or name some well known person in the history of your country*) was a real man who lived many, many years ago? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). Yes, people have written about him in

books (*Read a few statements from the history book*). What do we call things that happened long ago? (*history*). You will have many history books like this one to read as you study in school.

(*Show a Bible*). Did you know that the Bible is God's history book which goes right back to the beginning of the world.

It is history because the things we read in it really happened. But the Bible is much more than that. It is God's own words to us. It's His way of talking to you and me, telling us what we need to know about the past, the present and the future.

- Where do you think you can learn how our world came into existence? Only in God's book – God's history book. God was the only One there when the world began and He tells us in this book how it happened.
- Where do you think you could learn about the history of the Lord Jesus, God's Son – in the history book about your country or in God's history book, the Bible? The Lord Jesus lived a long time before George Washington – but the Bible tells us many things about Him.
 - ✓ It tells us that He came to earth to die for our sins. This is the most important thing that ever happened in history. Did you know that history, and all our dates, are timed from when He came to our earth? For example this year is 2005 AD. That means it is 2005 years since the ANNO DOMINO – which means, in Latin, the year of our Lord – the year when He came to this earth.
 - ✓ But it also tells us that He rose again from the dead. The Bible goes on to tell us that over 500 people saw Jesus after He rose from the dead (1 Corinthians 15 v6). We can know for sure that He not only died for our sins but that He conquered death!

These are facts of history, and they are in God's history book.

The difference between these facts and those about George Washington is that these facts from God's history book will change your life if you believe them and ask Jesus Christ, Who is alive, to save you and change you. He is not dead like George Washington and other great men in your history book. He is alive and He is here today! He will save those who ask Him and He will help Christian boys and girls to live for Him.

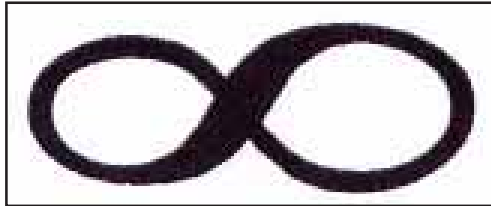
All Children **AN EVERLASTING TREASURE**

TRUTH:

God's word lasts forever.

VISUALS:

A faded flower, some dry grass and a Bible.
A flashcard as shown.

**LESSON:**

Do you know what this sign means? (*Show card*). Experts on mathematics use this sign to show infinity. But what does that mean? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). It means in mathematics a number which is greater than any other number. How do you write a million? How many noughts after the 1? A billion? A trillion? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). Well infinity, shown by this sign is much greater than any of these – so great you can't write down the number.

Infinity then is something which goes on and on and on. It cannot be measured and it never stops. The Bible uses another word a little like infinity to describe those things which go on for ever. Do you know what that big word is? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). It is the word "eternity"; and those things which go on forever are called eternal things.

Are there any things or people who go on forever and never finish?

- Look at this flower. What has happened to it? It's faded, isn't it? It certainly won't go on forever.
- Look at this grass. It's lifeless. It won't go on forever.

The same is true of many other things. Everything around us is getting old and will pass away. Can you name any growing thing which will not die? Of course not.

But there are two things which will live forever:

- You and I will live forever. Our bodies will die but our souls – the real "you" inside – will not die. If you have trusted Jesus Christ you will live forever in Heaven. If you have not you will be lost forever.
- But do you know there is one other thing that lives forever and never passes away, nor will it ever wear out? Listen to these verses from the

Bible: “*The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand forever*” (Isaiah 40 v8). People spend hours and hours growing flowers like this one (*Show it*) but they soon fade. They spend a great deal of time trying to grow beautiful grass like this (*Show it*). Yet how much time do they – do you – spend reading and studying God’s Word, which never passes away? It will tell you how you can be saved so that you will live in Heaven forever, and it will also tell you how to live the right way.

All Children **A LETTER JUST FOR YOU**

TRUTH:

God wants you to read the Bible and obey what He says in it.

VISUALS:

A letter in a fairly large envelope addressed to yourself and a Bible.

LESSON:

I really love to receive letters like this one (*Show the letter*). It is always exciting to hear the postman’s footsteps and the noise of the letter as it drops through the letter box. Oh, it is addressed to me, so I am going to read the message inside the envelope. That is the best part. I love to do this (*Open the envelope and take out the letter*). Letters like this keep me in touch with friends I don’t see often.

Who is the letter for? It is for me. It starts “Dear –” (*Add your name*).

Who is it from? I look at the end and find it is from Clive. What does he write? He tells me what he is doing, he asks me some questions and he writes that he is looking forward to seeing me. I read a letter like this over and over again – and I really enjoy receiving letters.

How many of you would like to get a letter like this – addressed to you (*Allow responses*).

How many got a letter this week? (*Allow a response*).

Well I have a surprise for you. Each of you has a very important personal letter waiting right here for you. It’s meant just for you and it was written by someone who knows you very well and loves you very much. Here is your personal letter! It’s the Bible – and it’s God’s letter and message for you and you and you. (*Open your Bible*) He has asked a number of men to write this

long letter – and He told them what to write. And it is for you. Be sure you read it:

- He tells you in His letter that He made you and that you should do what He says.
- He tells you that He loves you and that Jesus Christ came into this world to die on the cross to save you.
- He tells you that if you trust Jesus Christ as your Saviour you will live forever.
- He tells you that if you are a Christian He will never leave you. In the Bible, God's letter, if you are a Christian you can read verses like this which are just for you:

"Dear Terry,
Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you"
(Hebrews 13 v5).
With love from God.

You can do this with many Bible verses. Put your name in at the start, "Dear whatever it is." Read the verse and when you finish sign it off with, "With love from God." This will help you to remember that this book, the Bible, is God's personal letter to you.

Read it, believe it – and do what it says.

All Children
HARD HEARTS AND SOFT HEARTS

TRUTH:
God wants you to listen to His Word.

VISUALS:
A sponge, a rock, a glass of water, and a basin.

LESSON:

I have two very different objects in my hand today – a sponge and a rock (*Show them*). The sponge is nice and soft, isn't it? (*Squeeze the sponge a few times to show how soft it is*). The rock is hard (*Try to squeeze it*).

I also have some water here (*Show the glass of water*). I am going to pour some of this water onto these two objects. What do you think the result will be? Let's try.

First of all I pour some water onto the sponge (*Pour some, with the basin below the sponge to catch the water*). What does it do? It soaks it all up. Where is most of the water now? It is in the sponge.

Now we will do the same with the rock (*Pour some – with the basin below*). What happens? All the water runs off the rock into the basin – and there is none in the rock. You just cannot soak up water with a rock.

Now pretend that this water (*Show glass with some water still in it*) is God's Word. Pretend that all God's promises and all God's commands are right here in this glass. The sponge and the rock represent two kinds of children. Both hear God's Word; but there is a difference. Some children are like sponges (*Pour water on the sponge*) and God's Word enters their hearts. They listen carefully to it. They believe God's promises and they obey His commands. Other children are like this rock (*Pour water on the rock*). Their hearts are hard. They don't really listen to God's Word; it bounces off them; it does not enter in; they don't believe God's promises or obey His commands.

The Bible wants each of us to say, "*I have hidden your Word in my heart so that I might not sin against You*" (Psalm 119 v11). He wants us to be like this sponge – and not like this rock.

What are you? A sponge or a rock?

All Children
THE WORLD'S MOST VALUABLE BOOK

TRUTH:

The Bible is your greatest possession.

VISUALS:

Four cards - on one of these the words:

LLANFIHANGEL – Y – PENNANT

and on the others BALA and WALES and MARY JONES.

A Bible.

LESSON:

Do you know where the country Wales is? (*Show card*). It is just beside England and many people there speak their own language which is called Welsh.

This morning we are going to Wales, back to over 200 years ago and we are going to visit a small village in that land called Llanfihangel-y-Pennant (*Show card – without pronouncing the name*). That is some name, isn't it? It's in Welsh and I just couldn't pronounce it.

In that village lived a man and his wife called Jacob and Mary Jones. That's easier to say, isn't it? And they had a daughter also called Mary Jones (*Show card*). Our story is about her.

They were very poor, and they could not read or write. And then Mary's father died when she was five years old. So it was a real struggle for her and her mother to live.

Both of Mary's parents were Christians and they took her to meetings where she heard the Gospel and listened to men explaining the Bible, the Word of God.

When Mary was ten years old she started to attend Sunday school and also started to attend day school where she learned to read and write. In those days Bibles were very scarce and very expensive. Few people had one – and there was none in Mary's home. I hope you appreciate your Bible (*Hold it up*). This is your greatest possession and I trust that you read it.

There was a Bible in a house two miles away. So Mary walked over to that house once every week just to read that Bible and to learn parts of it by heart. But Mary's dearest wish was to have a Bible of her own, and she started to save money so she could buy one. Bibles were very expensive and Mary did not have much money. But she sold eggs from her hens and saved every penny she could. It was long years before she had enough. But where could she buy one? There was none to be bought anywhere close to where she lived. But then she heard that there were Bibles for sale in a town called Bala (*Show card*). I can pronounce that name alright. But it was twenty five miles (forty kilometers) away. There were no buses or trains. There weren't even any good roads – only a rough track.

So early one morning in the year 1800 Mary set out on her long journey to Bala. She was now 16 years old. She carried some food and also her shoes or clogs. They were too precious to wear – so she walked barefoot. She was so excited that she ran most of the way.

At last she arrived in Bala – but there were no Bibles. They had not arrived. Mary burst into tears – but she decided to stay in Bala to see if the Bibles (which were in the Welsh language) would arrive – and they did, two days later. And when they came she was given three instead of one! No one in the world was happier than Mary – and she ran back home carrying her three Bibles and her clogs.

Do you love and appreciate your Bible the way Mary did? Do you read it?

Mary's story did not end there. When the man who gave the Bibles to Mary in Bala saw how much she wanted a Bible, and when he realized that there were many people in Wales and in other countries who did not have a Bible, he started a society to produce Bibles cheaply and give to people who didn't have one. That society is called the British and Foreign Bible Society and it has given many millions of Bibles to people all over the world.

And it all started with one young girl called Mary Jones.



"How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word." Psalm 119:9

All Children **$5 + 2 = 5000$**

TRUTH:

The Lord Jesus is able to meet all your needs.

VISUALS:

Five cards with the following on them:

$$5 + 2 = 5000$$

LESSON:

What would your Mum do if some unexpected visitors arrived for tea? (*Give the opportunity to respond*).

Away back in Bible times the Lord Jesus was faced with the same kind of problem. (John 6 v1-14) He had spent a whole day speaking to people and healing them. His disciples came to Him and said, "It's getting very late, let's send the people away so that they can buy themselves some food."

Do you know what the Lord Jesus said to them?

"You feed them."

Can you imagine how surprised they were. Some of them said to Him, "Master, even if we had nearly a year's wages we could never feed this crowd of people." There were at least 5000 (*Show card*) people to be fed. But the disciples had forgotten something very important. The Lord Jesus has power to do anything. "What do you have?" asked the Lord Jesus.

"Well", one of the disciples said, "There's a boy here with 5 loaves (*Show "5"*) and 2 fish (*Show "2"*), but that would never feed this crowd."

What does $5 + 2$ equal? (*Show these three cards*) (*Give the opportunity to respond*).

The Lord Jesus wanted to make it equal something else. He wanted to make $5 + 2 = 5000$ (*Add "=" and "5000"*). There were 5000 people to be fed! How could the Lord Jesus do that? Well remember, the Lord Jesus has the power to do anything. The Lord Jesus is no ordinary man. He is God, God the Son. That's why He has power to meet your needs.

The Lord Jesus took the loaves and the fish and asked His Father to bless them. He then gave them out to His disciples and they began to feed the people.

Do you think everyone was fed? (*Give the opportunity to respond*).

Do you think everyone got enough? (*Give the opportunity to respond*).

And if you have trusted Him as your very own Saviour, He is able to meet your need. There may be someone bullying you at school. Tell the Lord Jesus about it. If you are not very good at maths, tell the Lord Jesus about it. Remember the Lord Jesus has the power to do anything. He can help you. And if you are not a Christian Jesus Christ has the power to save you if you ask Him.

All Children **BLOTTED OUT**

TRUTH:

A Christian's sins are gone forever.

VISUALS:

A small chalk board, a piece of chalk and an eraser.

LESSON:

You all know that this is a chalkboard, don't you? And this is a piece of chalk. Look what I can do with the chalk. I can draw lines and I can write words on the board (*Write words like anger, lies, stealing, cheating, disobedience*). Do you understand what these words mean? They are all sins. God in His Word, the Bible, tells us that we all sin (Romans 3 v23); we all commit sins like these. He has told us that we should not do these things. But we do them. We all do them – and we disobey God. And the Bible tells us that because of these sins we will not be able to go to Heaven when we die – because there is no sin there.

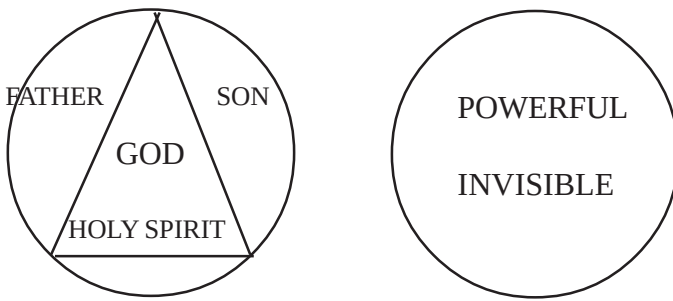
What can we do? We cannot do anything to solve this problem no matter how hard we try. But God can do something. The Bible tells us that if we turn from these sins and put our trust in Jesus Christ (Acts 4 v4) all our sins will be blotted out (Acts 3 v19). Those are the words the Bible uses – blotted out!

Do you know what that means (*Use the eraser to remove all the words and lines*). Where are all those sins now? They are gone. When God forgives our sins He removes them, He takes them away – and He will never bring them back. In His sight they are gone – just like the words which were on the board.

Have you trusted the Lord Jesus? Are all your sins gone? Trust Him today and God will blot them all out. He will completely erase them.

If you have trusted Him you can be sure that you will go to Heaven when you die – because all your sin is forgiven.

All Children
LIKE A MIGHTY WIND



TRUTH:

The Holy Spirit is powerful and changes lives.

VISUALS:

A large circle of cardboard. Complete the two sides of that circle as in the diagram. A feather or a small piece of paper.

LESSON:

This circle reminds me of God (*Show first side*).

A circle has no beginning or end (*Point to it*). This reminds me that God has no beginning or ending. He has always lived; He is eternal.

This one circle also reminds me that there is only one God (*Point to the word God*), but the triangle inside the circle (*Point to it*) reminds me that there are three Persons in our one God. These three Persons are called God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit but they are one God (*Point to the three names*). There are not three Gods. There is only one God but there are three Persons in one God. Sometimes we call our God the Trinity. That is a big word which means Three in One. We cannot explain our great and mighty three-in-one God. But we can believe that what I have said is true because this is what God tells us about Himself in the Bible.

Today we are speaking about God the Holy Spirit (*Point to the words on the triangle*).

The Lord Jesus, in the Bible, compares the Holy Spirit to wind (*Turn your circle*) (John 3 v8). Why?

- He is powerful – like the wind – but much more powerful. The wind can blow down trees and even overturn cars. But the Holy Spirit can change people completely no matter how bad they are and no matter what they have done. When a person trusts the Lord Jesus as his Saviour the Holy Spirit comes to live in him and begins to change him. He helps us to live for Jesus Christ and He helps us to understand the Bible.
- He is invisible like the wind. He does not have a body. That is why He is called the Holy Spirit. A Spirit does not have a body. You can feel the wind, you can see what it does, but you cannot see it. You cannot see the Holy Spirit, but you can see what He does – and you can feel what He does in your life when you trust the Lord Jesus.

There is no wind here in church. But let us make a small wind (*Hold up your hand with feather or small piece of paper on it and blow*). Did you see what happened? My little wind blows the feather away. Did you see this little wind? No! But you could feel it and you can see what it does. And this is true of all the bigger winds outside. So you can see what the Holy Spirit does and you can feel Him at work – but like the wind you cannot see Him (John 3 v8). He is the One Who shows you that you are a sinner; and He is the One Who helps you to trust the Lord Jesus and then helps you to grow.

He cannot be seen but He is certainly much more powerful than any wind. Has He worked in your heart? Have you trusted the Lord Jesus? If you have then I hope that the Holy Spirit is helping you live for Him. He will give you the help you need – if you ask for it.

All (Older) Children **LESSONS FROM LATIN**

TRUTH:

Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

VISUAL: Enlarge the picture on the next page on to a piece of card-board or heavy paper so that all the children can see it.

LESSON:

“VENI, VIDI, VICI”. Do you know what those words mean? Do you know what language it is?

(Give an opportunity to respond)

It is a language which was used many years ago but is not spoken today. The language is called Latin and the sentence means, “I came, I saw, I conquered.”

Latin was the language spoken in the Roman Empire 2,000 years ago.

Some boys and girls study it in school in English speaking countries (and other lands also) because so many of the words we use today in English come from Latin. Our English word “video” comes from the Latin word I have just used - “VIDI” – I saw, and the word “victory” comes from the Latin word “VICI” – I conquered. Many French, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese words also come from Latin.

I am sure most of you have never visited the country of France. But there is a church in a city in France called Caen which is called the church of St. Etienne or St. Stephen. It was built almost 1,000 years ago by a king called William the Conqueror. Have you ever heard of him? Carved in stone over the door of the church is an outline of a cross *(Show visual)*. But it is a very interesting cross because it has four three letter words on it in Latin and all these words end with the letter X. These four words all describe something about the Lord Jesus, the Son of God, Who died on the cross *(Point to each word as you speak about it)*.

REX is the Latin word for king. The Lord Jesus is the King of Kings. He is King of this earth and the King of Heaven. He is stronger and more powerful than any of the world's kings or presidents.

LEX is the Latin word for law. Do you know what that means? Our country gives us laws which we must obey. Jesus Christ our King has also given us laws to obey. He is the Law giver. Have you heard of the Ten Commandments? Do you remember any of them? *(Give the children the chance to respond)* These are part of God's laws.

PAX is the Latin word for peace. We know that we have not kept or obeyed God's law, the Ten Commandments, and that our sin has separated us from God. Jesus Christ came into this world to die for our sins, and to make it possible for us, when we trust Him as our Saviour, to be at peace with God.



Have you trusted Him? Do you have peace with God? You can – today – if you trust Him.

LUX is the Latin word for light. When we trust Jesus Christ as our Saviour He becomes not only our Lord but also our light – and He guides us in this world of darkness and shows us clearly what we should do and where we should go. If you are a Christian ask Him to guide you – at all times.

All Children **WHAT HAVE YOU DONE FOR ME?**

TRUTH:

The Lord Jesus wants to live in the hearts of boys and girls.

VISUALS – An envelope with a letter inside it. Write Lord Jesus on the front of the envelope and on the letter inside the words given in the two lines at the end of the second paragraph (*Dear Jesus forever*). A picture of a cross.

LESSON:

A very young count or nobleman who was very rich owned many houses and much land in Germany three hundred years ago. His name was Count Von Zinzendorf. He lived in a great castle. His father died when he was only six weeks old, but he had already dedicated his son to the Lord and prayed that he would grow up to love and serve Him. His grandmother and also his mother taught him from the Bible about the Lord Jesus.

One day as the little four-year-old count sat alone in his great castle he thought about the Lord Jesus. He decided to write a letter to Him (*Show envelope*). When Count Zinzendorf had finished his letter he tossed it out of the window and the wind carried it away. What do you suppose the count wrote? (*Take letter out of envelope and read it*). His letter said something like this:

“Dear Jesus, come into my heart and wash my sins away; be my own Saviour, Shepherd, Friend. And I’ll be Yours for ever.”

The count knew that the wind would finally carry the letter to the ground, but he knew, too, that the Lord Jesus had come into his heart and life to be his Saviour because he had asked Him to do this. Have you asked Him to come into your heart and life? You could do so today.

When Count Zinzendorf grew older he attended a university. At the age of nineteen, having become a wealthy man, he started on a journey which would take him to all the great cities of the world. One day at an art gallery in a

certain city where many paintings were on show something very special happened. In one of the rooms there hung a painting of Christ on the cross with the crown of thorns around His head (*Show picture of cross*). Underneath it were these words, just as though the Lord had spoken them:

*“All this I have done for you,
What have you done for Me?”*

For long hours Count Zinzendorf stood before the picture. The Lord Jesus had been rich, but He had become poor for Count Zinzendorf who was rich in worldly things. But he knew that those were not true riches. The tears ran down his cheeks as he thanked the Lord over and over for dying for him. Although he had received Jesus as his Saviour when he was a young boy, he felt that he had done nothing for Jesus. He now gave his life fully to the Lord. He told Him he wanted to serve Him and that he would do anything for Him. Many Christians were being punished and harmed because they loved the Lord Jesus at this time, and Count Zinzendorf invited many of them into his great castle. There they prayed and studied God’s Word together. Later some of these same people felt that God was calling them to go to other lands to tell others about the Lord Jesus. Count Zinzendorf used his money to send these missionaries to many countries of the world. They were some of the first missionaries in more modern times to go into other lands.

And this all started when he wrote a letter to the Lord Jesus (*Read it*).

You could write a letter like this to the Lord Jesus also – if you have never trusted Him as your Saviour. Or you could just say these words to Him – and if you mean them He will come to live in your heart and life. You will then start to live a life of service to the One Who loved you so much.

All Children **OUR UNCHANGING GOD**

TRUTH:
God and His Word never change.

VISUALS:
A photograph of yourself when young. Pictures of different seasons of the year, and pictures of different types of weather. A card with the two prices of the same object – one old and one new (and anything else you could use to

illustrate “change”). A Bible. Some fresh grass and some withered grass. A fresh flower and a withered flower.

LESSON:

Everything seems to change.

Seasons change! Here is a picture of summertime with the sun shining and the trees and flowers in bloom. This picture shows winter with snow and rain – and all the flowers are gone. In spring the leaves are green, in autumn they are gold (*Show pictures*).

The weather changes from day to day. Sometimes it is hot; sometimes cold. Sometimes it is wet; sometimes dry (*Show pictures*).

Prices change. Here is the price of an object years ago and just look at its price today (*Show card*).

People change! This is what I looked like years ago (*Show photograph*). But I have changed, haven't I?

But GOD never changes. He is always the same; and God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, is “*the same, yesterday today and forever*” (Hebrews 13 v8). He is always the same, He never lets us down.

And HIS PROMISES never change. When He promises to do something He always does it. If you ask Him to save you He will, because He promised in the Bible to do so (Acts 16 v31). If you are a Christian and ask Him to help you with some problem He will, because He promised in the Bible He would do so (2 Thessalonians 3 v3).

And GOD'S WORD the Bible never changes (*Show Bible*). It is as true today as it ever was – and it will never pass away. The Bible says that “*the Word of the Lord endures forever*” (1 Peter 1 v25). The Lord Jesus said that “*heaven and earth shall pass away; but My words shall not pass away*” (Luke 21 v33). The Bible says that grass will wither (*Show fresh grass and withered grass*) and flowers will wither and fall away, (*Show fresh flower and withered one*) but not the Bible. It will not wither or fall away. It will last forever (1 Peter 1 v24, 25).

You live in a world which is always changing. But you can be thankful that the Lord Jesus, His promises and His Word will never change.

Put your trust in the Lord Jesus – and be at peace in this changing world.

All Children ***RUNNING THE RACE I***

TRUTH:

Your life is like a race and you are the runner.

VISUALS:

Make three cards with the following words:

START TODAY

EAT CAREFULLY

TRAIN OFTEN

LESSON:

What sport do you like to play? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). What sport do you like to watch on television? (*Give another opportunity*).

I think my favourite sport is athletics – especially when the Olympic Games are on. I especially like to watch races like the 800 meters and the 1500 meters – and, of course, the marathon.

Did you know that the Bible often speaks about athletics and running races and did you know that in the Bible Christians are often compared to athletes (1 Corinthians 9 v24-27; Galatians 2 v2, 5 v7; Philippians 2 v16, 3 v14; 2 Timothy 2 v5, 4 v7; Hebrews 12 v1)? When Paul wrote his letters in the Bible he especially had in his mind the picture of an athlete running a race as he thought about men and women, boys and girls who had trusted Jesus Christ. So if you are a Christian you are an athlete, you are running a race. What does an athlete have to do if he is going to win his race? (*Give an opportunity to respond*).

Here are three answers to that question:

- First of all he has to make a start (*Show first card*). If he does not start the race, he cannot run it and he will never finish it.
So the Christian life must have a beginning. You have to make a start. How do you do that? You start this important race when you trust Jesus Christ as your Saviour. The Bible says that as soon as you do that your sins are all forgiven (Acts 13 v38, 39). You are a new person (2 Corinthians 5 v17) – you are ready to go. Ready! Get set! Go!
- But if you are going to run a good race the first thing you must do is watch what you eat (*Show second card*). An athlete needs to watch his diet and eat the right foods – especially just before a race. If he eats junk

food he won't have a chance. What do you think he should eat? What should he not eat? (*Give an opportunity to respond*).

And a Christian needs to watch his diet and be careful concerning what he eats. His main food must be the Word of God (1 Peter 2 v1-2) and he should feed on it every day. This means that he needs to taste it first by reading it, and then he needs to chew it by thinking about it and then he needs to swallow it and digest it by obeying it. And as he does so he will run a good race. He should avoid the different kinds of junk food or worldly attractions which look good but would hinder him in his Christian life.

- At the same time as watching what he eats the athlete needs to be sure to train often (*Show third card*). He must be fit; and this fitness and his ability to run will only come through much exercise, training and weight lifting.

And we Christians need to exercise also or we will become slow and flabby. That's what Paul wrote, "*exercise yourself with godliness*" (1 Timothy 4 v7) or "*train yourself to be godly*". Our training is to practise and keep doing the things God wants us to do – so that we will become more and more godly and more and more like Him. It's not easy – but training and exercise are never easy; but the more we train, the better we will run.

Have you started the race? Are you eating properly? Are you training well? I trust we all are.

All Children ***RUNNING THE RACE II***

TRUTH:

Your life is like a race and you are the runner.

VISUALS:

Make four cards with the following words:

DISCIPLINE YOURSELF

KEEP TO THE RULES

OBEY YOUR COACH

HAVE A GOAL

LESSON:

Ready! Steady! Get set! Go.

That's what we talked about last week. Christians are like athletes or runners. We need to make a start, eat carefully and train faithfully (*Show cards from last week*).

- We also need to discipline ourselves (*Show card*). An athlete needs to say “no” to things which would harm him and keep well away from them. Can you think of things which would harm an athlete and keep him from being his best? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). Things like smoking and alcohol certainly would not help him – and he needs to say “no” to them.

And we Christian runners need to discipline ourselves and say “no” to anything which would keep us back in our race. This is not always easy but the Bible tells us to “*throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles or ties us up*” (Hebrews 12 v1 NIV). There are even some things which are good in themselves but don't help us in our race. It is good to have a large pair of boots for working and walking – but they would not help the athlete in his race.

- And it is necessary to keep to the rules (*Show card*). No matter how fast an athlete runs he will be disqualified if he breaks the rules. How sad it is when an athlete runs a race and then because he has taken drugs he is disqualified and perhaps not even allowed to run again.

And we Christian runners have rules to obey. The Bible gives us those rules and if we try our best and do well but don't keep to the rules we will be failures in our race (2 Timothy 2 v5). We will still be saved but we will not get the prize which is waiting for us.

- But I have really good news for you. Every athlete needs someone to coach him (*Show card*) – someone with experience and ability who will help him in his training and show him how he can win.

And we Christians have the best coach of all. The Lord Jesus is our Coach and He can give us all the help and guidance we need for our race. That is why when we are training or running we are told in the Bible to keep our eyes on Him (Hebrews 12 v2). Listen to what He says to us in His Word and obey Him. He will really help us every day. Isn't that good news? We are not on our own.

- And, lastly, just as an athlete has a goal and wants to win his race, so we have a goal (*Show card*). We want to win our race and be victorious. We are aiming for a prize (1 Corinthians 9 v24). Our prize and our goal is to please our Master and our Coach and to hear from Him when we come to

the finishing line – “Well done”. In the races which take place in the Olympics only one person can win. But the Bible makes it clear that it is possible for us all to win our race. We are not competing against each other; we are competing against ourselves.

And I trust we are all looking forward to and aiming at that great prize and our Master’s “Well done”.

All Children

WHAT DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

TRUTH:

Everything we do – good or bad – has consequences.

VISUALS:

A bag.

Three black cards shaped like seeds

(See *pattern*).

On each write:

LIES

DISOBEDIENCE

STEALING

Three white cards shaped like seeds.

On each write:

LOVE

JOY

GOODNESS



LESSON:

How many of you boys and girls have a garden at home? What grows in it? What would grow if you sowed sunflower seeds? What would grow if you sowed lettuce seed? (*Give children the opportunity to answer these questions*). So we get what we sow. Isn't that right?

And that's what the Bible says. Listen to this verse "*Whatever a man sows, that he will also reap*" (Galatians 6 v7).

I wonder what kind of seeds you have been sowing? If you are not a Christian boy or girl you have been sowing the wrong kind of seed. "What do you mean?" you might ask. Ever since our first parents, Adam and Eve, sowed the first wrong seed in the garden of Eden by disobeying God, all boys and girls born into the world, apart from the Lord Jesus Christ, have been born with sinful hearts and lives and therefore have been sowing wrong seeds.

Lets pretend this bag is the ground (*Hold up bag*). Now let's sow some seed (*Drop each card in as you speak*).

(*Drop first seed into bag*). If you sow lies, what will grow? More lies!

(*Drop second seed into bag*). If you sow disobedience, what will grow? More disobedience.

(*Drop third seed into bag*). If you sow stealing, what will grow? More stealing.

I am afraid that things like these are not good. Would you really want these things growing in your heart and life? Just as your Mum and Dad have to deal with the bad old weeds in your garden so God has to deal with the bad old seeds in your heart and life. In fact this is so serious, says God in the Bible, that He can't allow anyone with them into Heaven.

But I have good news for you about those bad old seeds and this too comes from the Bible. The good news is this. God loves you in spite of those bad old seeds in your heart and life. In fact He loved you so much that He sent the Lord Jesus to take the punishment for your sin. And do you know what He has promised? He has promised that if you turn away from your sin and trust the Lord Jesus as your Saviour, He will take those bad old seeds of sin away and make you a new boy, a new girl and you will start sowing seeds like love, joy and goodness (*Drop these seeds one by one into the bag*). And what will grow? What will be the results?

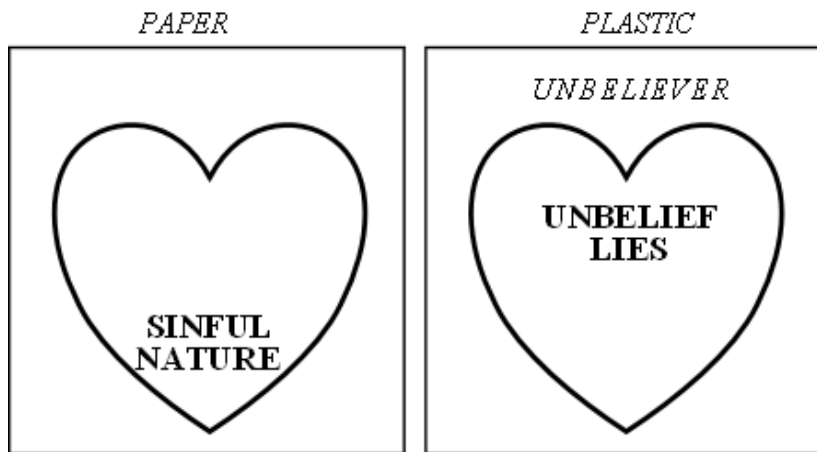
If you sow love – more love.

If you sow joy – more joy.

If you sow goodness – more goodness.

What kind of seeds are you sowing today?

All Children
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE TRUST CHRIST?



TRUTH:

Jesus Christ cleanses us from sin when we trust Him.

VISUALS:

A face cloth, a toothbrush, a hairbrush or a comb, a fingernail file, a shoe brush.

Draw a large heart on paper. Print SINFUL NATURE near the point of this heart. Prepare a sheet of transparent plastic or a sheet of heavy vinyl and place it on top of the sheet of paper. Have a water based marker to write on the vinyl sheet as you speak.

LESSON:

I'm sure all of you know what this is. Yes, it's a facecloth, and of course you use it to wash your face – and also your ears when mother is watching! How many of you washed your face this morning? Now what is this? Yes, a toothbrush. How many of you brushed your teeth this morning? Here's a comb. I wonder how many of you used one of these today (*Additional items used for cleansing purposes – such as fingernail file or shoe brush – may be added*). I know that all of you used one or more of these articles this very day, and I suppose most of you spent quite a little time cleaning up before you came

here. But let me ask you a serious question. You have cleaned up your outside, but what about your inside? The Bible says that inside all of us there is a sinful nature (*Point to these words on the heart*). The Bible says, “*Man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart*” (1 Samuel 16 v7). And from this sinful nature or heart that God sees come all the wrong things we do. Don’t you think, then, that it’s much more important to be clean inside? It is more important that you are clean from your sin.

Do you know what the very worst sin is? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). There is something which is worse than stealing, telling lies or even murder. It is the sin of not trusting the Lord Jesus and not receiving Him into your heart and life. If you have not believed on the Lord Jesus you are an unbeliever (*Print this word on the vinyl sheet*) and in your heart and life is the sin of unbelief (*Print this word on the vinyl sheet*). And then along with it are other sins like lies and bad words. (*On vinyl, within heart outline, print several sins – including typical sins of your students*).

All these sins need to be forgiven. Do you want to turn from these sins and be different? Then first of all today put your trust in Jesus Christ, believing He died for you. Ask Him to forgive your sin of unbelief and make you His child. When you do this, God forgives your sin and cleanses your heart (*With a damp cloth wipe off unbelief*).

If you have trusted the Lord Jesus as your Saviour all your sin is forgiven in God’s sight and taken away (*Wipe off other sins*). (Acts 13 v39) You are no longer an unbeliever (*Wipe off this word*). But your sin nature is still there (*Try to rub it out*). You can’t remove it. It will be there until you die. You are a different person, a new person, and the Lord Jesus lives in your heart. But there will still be the temptation to sin because you are not yet perfect.

But Jesus Christ will help you to say “no” to sin and your sinful nature – if you ask Him.

All Children **THE JOURNEY OF LIFE**

TRUTH:
God wants to guide you.

VISUALS: A road map, a Bible, and a passport.

LESSON:

I want you to imagine that you and your parents are going to another country for a holiday and that you are going by car. What must you be sure to take with you? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). You will, of course, want to take with you clothes, food, money – things which people need when on holiday. But there are two things you need to be sure to have or you will never get there.

First of all you will need a road map (*Show one*). And your parents will need to keep looking at that map throughout your journey to make sure you are on the right road. If you don't have a map, or if you have one and don't use it, you will be lost and never arrive at your destination.

Life is just like a journey and we all want our journey to finish in Heaven when we die. But we need to have a map which will give us clear directions on how to get there. That map has been given to us by God and it is the Bible (*Show the Bible*).

But if you don't have a Bible, or if you have one and don't read it, you will never know the way to Heaven. The Bible tells us that Jesus Christ is the way, the truth and the life. (John 14 v6) He is the One Who saves us, guides us, and helps us. The Bible says that you need to trust Him as your Saviour and Guide or you will be lost forever.

Also, after you trust Jesus Christ as your Saviour, God will continue to guide you and show you how to live for Him. That is why you need to read your Bible every day and get your directions for the day.

But there is something else you need.

A family traveling by car stopped at the border of their country. They wanted to cross the border into the next country where they would spend their holiday. The border guard asked to see their passports. They looked at him in surprise and shock, "We didn't know that we needed passports", they said.

"I'm sorry", said the border guard, "You cannot enter our country unless you have a passport."

Most people want to go to Heaven, and God wants us to go there. But to enter Heaven we need a passport. This passport is called salvation – and you receive it when you trust Jesus as your Saviour. Trust Him to save you. You will receive your passport immediately and you will be sure of Heaven when you die.

All Children
ONE THING LEADS TO ANOTHER

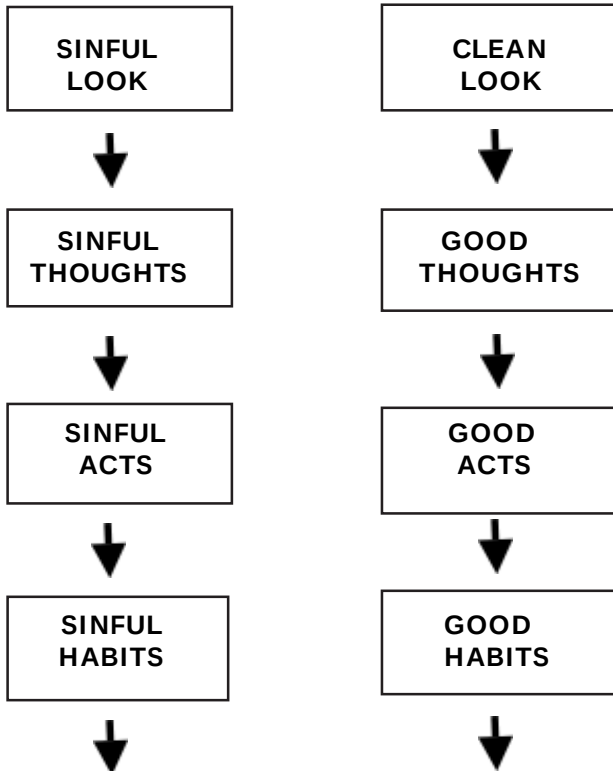
TRUTH:

Sin (and goodness) always have their results.

VISUALS: The words outlined below can be printed on two large sheets of cardboard which you can then fold “accordion style”. You will then unfold the sheet and show each word progressively, one at a time.

Or you can put the words on separate pieces of cardboard and attach them to each other with wool or string through holes punched in the card. Then you would show each card by dropping them one at a time.

Also show several dominoes if possible.



**SINFUL
CHARACTER**

**GOOD
CHARACTER**

LESSON:

This is a lesson to show children the logical procession of either good or evil in their lives. Explain to the children how each step leads to the next one – firstly in a bad sense and then in a good sense.

Do you know what dominoes are? (*Hold several up*) They are used to play a very interesting game. But some people have also had fun with dominoes by placing a line of them upright beside each other (*Demonstrate*) and then when one of them falls, another falls – until the whole line has fallen (*Demonstrate if possible*). The experts call this “the Domino Principle” – and they mean that when one thing happens it always leads onto something else and then something else!

This is also true of you and me. Let me show you what I mean.

If you look at something which is wrong and sinful (*Show words “sinful look”*) something you shouldn't look at like an X-rated video it will lead to something else. When you look at something wrong (and like it) it will lead to sinful thoughts (*Show words*). You will begin to think bad thoughts – and the problem is that these thoughts in your mind will often lead to sinful acts (*Show words*). What is in your mind will come out in what you do. It may be just one act at first but it can happen again and again and can then become a sinful habit (*Show words*) which will more and more control your life. And it is these habits which give us our character – what and who we are. These sinful habits will lead to a sinful character (*Show words*).

Jenny saw a pretty ring on her friend's finger. At once she was jealous and envious. She said to herself, “Why shouldn't I have that?” The friend was playing with the ring and dropped it. Jenny pretended to help her look for it but she had seen it first and pocketed it. This was the start. Jenny stole often from then on. After a while her face had a dishonest look about it. She became a thief (*You can also use the cards as you tell the story*).

But the opposite is also true. When you look at something or someone in a pure or clean way (*Show words*) the first result will be that you will have good and pure thoughts (*Show words*) about that person or thing. And these good thoughts are sure to result in good acts (*Show words*). And when we do these good acts over and over again we will have good habits (*Show words*) in our lives - and it is these habits which will decide our character – the person we

really are (*Show words*). Good habits will cause us to be good people with good characters.

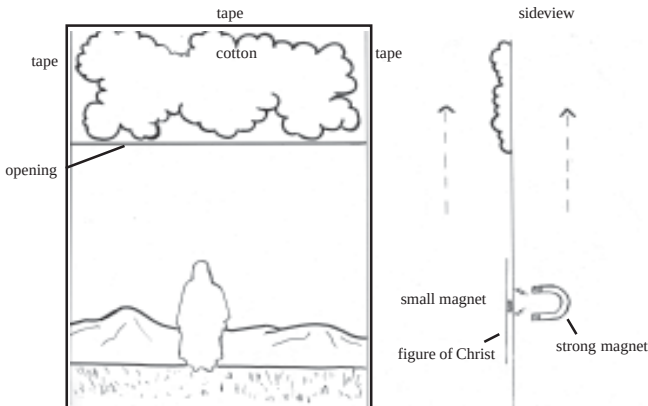
John was a Christian whose little brother was very sick with an illness that would not get better. John saw him get weaker as time went by. He thought, "I love him so much. I'll do what I can to help Mum look after him." He said, "Mum, you go and have a rest." He looked up books to learn about the disease. He worked hard in school. He became a doctor (*Use the cards as you tell the story*).

But all of this is only possible if you trust the Lord Jesus as your Saviour and if you then ask Him to help you to be the kind of person He wants you to be – in your looks, your thoughts, your actions, your habits and your character.

All Children **A LOOK INTO THE FUTURE**

TRUTH:

Jesus Christ is coming back again.



VISUALS:

A metal board, a strong magnet, a small magnet, a figure of Christ, some paper, cotton, paste, and tape.

Cover the metal board with paper. Illustrate the grass and the mountains on lower edge. Cut a piece of paper the width of the board and the depth of the figure of Christ. Glue on it some cotton to resemble clouds (*see sketch*). Tape this piece of paper to the top of the board on three sides, leaving the lower

edge open. Paste the small magnet to the back of the figure of Christ. Attach to the magnetic board. Practise moving figure up into the clouds by raising the stronger magnet from behind the board.

LESSON:

One day the Lord Jesus said to His disciples, “*You are to be witnesses to Me*” (Acts 1 v8). Do you know what a witness is? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). A witness is someone who tells others what he sees and knows. The disciples were to tell others what they had seen Jesus do and what they had heard Him say.

After giving this command Jesus started to go up into the air, right before their eyes. Up, up He went, higher and higher into the sky (*Move figure slowly*) until He disappeared in the clouds. Jesus, God the Son, was back in Heaven with God the Father. What a wonderful day that must have been up there! Back on the earth the disciples obeyed the Lord Jesus and did what He had told them to do. They told many people about His death and resurrection and many people trusted Jesus Christ and were saved. While the disciples witnessed on earth, the Lord Jesus in Heaven prayed for them.

Who should now tell others about the Lord Jesus? You and I and all Christians. The command the Lord Jesus gave to His first disciples is also for us. We are to tell others about the Lord Jesus and what He has done for us. And remember the Lord Jesus is praying for us as we witness and tell others (*Hebrews 7 v25*). Some day Christ Jesus is coming back from Heaven to the earth. He will bring up to meet Him in the clouds all those who have trusted Him (*Move figure half way down board. Then raise back under clouds*). Some believers will still be alive at that time and all the others He will raise up from the dead. He is coming to take all of us to Heaven. What a wonderful day that will be! But how sad we shall be if we are not saved and we are left behind. And how sad we Christians would be if we have not witnessed for Him before He comes back to this earth!

Will you witness for the Lord Jesus this week?

And if you are not saved trust the Lord Jesus so that when He comes He will take you home to be with Himself.

All Children **SPECIAL GIFTS FOR YOU**

TRUTH:

Boys and girls who trust Jesus Christ receive two wonderful gifts.

VISUALS:

Make up four gift packages, and in each put a card with the following words
HIS SON

THE SCRIPTURES

HIS SALVATION (with the words “ETERNAL LIFE” on the back)

THE HOLY SPIRIT (with the word “HELPS” on the back)

LESSON:

Do you like to receive gifts? Do you look forward to your birthday or to Christmas because you know you will receive gifts?

I would like to speak to you about gifts – God’s gifts or presents to this world. Two of these gifts He has already given to everyone here – and there are two more He wants to give to each of you this morning.

- Let us open our first gift parcel. Inside we find the words HIS SON.

God has given to everyone in the world the greatest gift of all. *“For God so loved the world, that He GAVE his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life”* (John 3 v16). He was God’s greatest gift to this world; and He came to die for the sins of the whole world on the cross. There was no other way for you and me to be saved. Are you thankful for this great and wonderful gift?

- And in our second gift parcel we find God’s second gift for everybody. He has given to you and me His Word, the Bible – THE SCRIPTURES.

“All scripture is GIVEN by inspiration of God” (2 Timothy 3 v16).

God wanted us to know what He is like and He also wanted us to know how we could be saved and how we could live for Him. So He gave us this wonderful book. Do you read it? Do you appreciate the gift?

These are two gifts which God has given to the world, to everybody. But there are two more gifts which are only for those who put their trust in the Lord Jesus Christ.

- We find the first of them in our third gift parcel. A man in the Bible asked the question, *“What must I do to be saved?”* and the answer was *“Believe on*

(trust) *Jesus Christ and you will be saved*" (Acts 16 v31). When you trust Christ you will receive the gift of SALVATION.

What does "salvation" mean? (*Turn over the card*). It means that you will have ETERNAL LIFE and that you will go to Heaven when you die. "*The GIFT OF GOD is eternal life*" (Romans 6 v23).

"*My sheep hear My voice follow Me: And I GIVE unto them eternal life*" (John 10 v27, 28). Have you trusted the Lord Jesus? Have you received this special gift? It is much better than any other gift you can receive for your birthday or for Christmas.

- But there is another gift God has for you this morning and you will receive it the moment you trust the Lord Jesus and at the same time as you receive the gift of eternal life (*Open fourth parcel*). It is the gift of THE HOLY SPIRIT. The Bible says, "*Repent and you will receive the GIFT of the Holy Spirit*" (Acts 2 v38). The Holy Spirit is also God and He comes to live in those who trust the Lord Jesus and then HELPS them in their Christian lives (*Turn over card*).

The gift of salvation and eternal life prepares us for the future. The gift of the Holy Spirit helps us today, in the present, to live for God.

Have you received these two gifts? You can do so today by trusting the Lord Jesus as your Saviour. If you have received them thank the Lord Jesus for them.

All Children **ALL FOR THE LORD JESUS**

TRUTH:

The Lord Jesus wants to use each part of boys and girls in His service.



VISUALS:

Make a large card. Fold in half. On the left hand side print the letter H. Then divide the right hand side into four and print – EAD, ANDS, -EART and –OME. Cut the strips as far as the fold. Fold them all behind H and unfold one at a time as you speak.

Or you could prepare these visuals for use on the overhead projector or power point.

LESSON:

Do you realize the many things God has given you – and He wants you to use them all in the right way, and in a wise way.

Almost 2,000 years ago in the country now called Greece there was a lady called Lydia. We read about her in the Bible (Acts 16 v13 and 14). She was a wealthy woman who met with other women to pray. But she knew nothing about Jesus Christ and the Gospel until the apostle Paul came and shared this wonderful message with her and the other women. She became the first person in the whole continent of Europe to become a Christian.

The Bible tells us four things about her:

- Firstly she was intelligent (*Show word “head”*). She used her head. She was a business woman who was very skilful at buying and selling – and had become quite rich. She bought and sold beautiful purple cloth which was very popular in those days. She was not yet a Christian but her ability to think, plan and organize had been given her by God.

Are you using the abilities and gifts which God has given to you in the right and best way?

- Secondly she was good with her hands (*Show word “hands”*). With her head she thought; with her hands she worked. She handled the bales of cloth, she measured, weighed, carried and delivered. In those days few women engaged in business and commerce. She was different.

We should use our hands not only to work but to serve the Lord Jesus. And Lydia also did that after she became a Christian.

- But most important of all is what happened in Lydia's heart (*Show the word “heart”*). The Bible says that as she listened to Paul preaching and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ – “*The Lord opened her heart that she attended to the things which were spoken by Paul.*”

That was the moment her whole life changed. The message of the Gospel reached into her heart; the Lord Jesus came to live in her heart and life and she was a changed person.

Has God opened your heart? Have you listened carefully to the Gospel message? Have you asked Jesus Christ to come into your heart and life? If not, you can do so today.

- And as a result Lydia became a different person. She now wanted to serve the Lord Jesus and she showed her love for Him by opening her home (*Show the word “home”*) to Paul and his little group of missionaries. An opened heart led to an opened home. And that was probably where the first little Christian church in Europe met each week – in her home. We read also that the rest of her family and household became Christians.

And as you open your heart and life to Jesus Christ you will have opportunities to show that you are different, and opportunities to serve Him. And through you, as with Lydia, others will become Christians.

All Children **LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE**

TRUTH:

Jesus Christ wants boys and girls to shine for Him.

VISUALS:

Three candles – one big one, one small one and one in between. A box of matches.

LESSON:

Have you ever noticed how small children just love to light candles? They find them fascinating and, if they get a chance they will get hold of a box of matches like this one (*Show it*) and start striking them.

I also brought three candles with me this morning. Here they are (*Show them*). One big one, one little one and one in between. These candles have a real message for you and me today.

- Look at them first of all. They are so helpless and so useless. There they are – completely dead and without light. They are supposed to burn and give light and they are not doing it. And no matter how hard they try they still can't do it. What do they need? They need someone like me to light them. And that's what I am going to do (*Strike a match and light one of the candles*). Now that candle's doing its job – but only because I did something and lit it.

And we boys and girls are just the same. God wants us to shine for Him, (Matthew 5 v16) but we cannot do it no matter how hard we try. We need someone to do something, to work in our hearts, light us and change us. And that Someone is the Lord Jesus, and when we trust Him He will make us shine.

- But do you notice how the light increases when I light these other two candles (*Do so*). Together they give so much more light. And the same is true of us. When we trust the Lord Jesus and He enables us to start shining, it is good for us to meet with other boys and girls who are Christians, at Sunday school or in Good News Club, so that together the light gets stronger and brighter.

- It's wonderful to be a Christian and to shine for the Lord Jesus – just as it's wonderful for a candle to give light. But it's not always easy. For the candle to shine it must burn and lose some of its wax. A candle cannot shine if it doesn't burn. And sometimes it is not easy to live as Christians. We run into problems as we burn and shine. Other boys and girls may criticize us and make fun of us, but we just have to ask the Lord Jesus to give us strength to keep going.

Here we have our three candles and the three lessons we have learned from them – we need the Lord Jesus to light us and change us but it is not always easy to shine. And the more we meet with other Christians the brighter we shine.

- Then there is one last lesson to learn.
Look at these three candles. They all give light – and they all give the same light, but they are different from each other in size. One of them is a picture of a child who is a Christian and is shining for the Lord Jesus. Which one is it? The big one, the middle sized one or the small one? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). Someone says, “The small one”. You are wrong. It's the big one. Why? Because it has longer to burn. The small one stands for a grown up who doesn't have so much time left to shine and the middle sized one stands for people in between. That's why it is so wonderful to be a boy or girl. You have your whole life to shine for the Lord Jesus. Make sure that you do.

All Children ***TWICE MINE***

TRUTH:
God loves the world and everyone in it.

VISUALS:
A geography book, a Bible and a map of the world (or a globe) and a model yacht or boat (if possible).

LESSON:
Do you study geography at school? What is geography? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). Yes, it is a study of the world we live in – a study of what you can see here (*Show map or globe*).

When we study geography we learn about different countries, different peoples, how they live, what they do and the languages they speak.

Could anyone tell me how many people there are in the world today? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). There are around 5,000 million people in the world – that is a 5 with 9 zeros after it. That’s a lot of people!

Here is a geography book which is studied at school (*Hold it up*) and it tells us a lot about the world.

But I have here another geography book which is even more important (*Hold up the Bible*). Yes, this book which was given to us by God also tells us a lot about the world we live in.

- It tells us firstly that the world was made by God, and that it belongs to Him. Your other geography books don’t tell you this—but God’s geography book does.
- And it tells us that the world which God made has turned away from Him. Sin came into the perfect world which God made, and many men and women, boys and girls who live in this world have no time for God, are not interested in Him, and go their own sinful ways.
- But God’s book tells us that God loved the world which He made (John 3 v16) – and everyone in it – all 5,000,000,000 of them and not only did He love them but He sent His Son to die for all of them. On the Cross He paid the price for the sin of the whole world. Those among these 5,000 million who trust Him as their Saviour receive eternal life and will go to Heaven when they die.

Some years ago a boy made a model yacht like this one (*Show it*) – and he was so proud of it. He loved to take it down to the lake, or to a nearby river and sail it. He would say to the other boys, “Do you see that yacht? It’s mine. I made it myself.”

But one day his boat floated far from him down the river and he lost it. He was so sad. He had lost the beautiful boat which he had made. But then a strange thing happened. One day he was walking past a shop in the town where he lived and he saw his boat in a shop window. He knew it was his, so he went into the shop and told the shopkeeper that the boat in the window was his. “I know it’s mine”, he said, “because I made it.” The shopkeeper shook his head from side to side. “No”, he said, “It’s mine, I got it from a man two days ago. He had found it on the river bank. And if you want it you will have to pay for it.”

The boy went home and started to save all the money he could. At last he had enough money and he ran back to the shop and bought his boat.

As he walked home he clutched his boat tightly to his chest and said, "You're twice mine. You're mine because I made you and you're mine because I bought you."

And when any boy or girl anywhere in the world trusts the Lord Jesus as their Saviour they belong to Him twice over. If you have trusted Him He looks at you and says, "You're twice Mine. You're Mine because I made you and you're Mine because I bought you."

Trust Him today!

All Children **ARE YOU SIX O'CLOCK?**

TRUTH:

God wants you to be honest and upright.

VISUALS:

A large clock with the hour hand pointing to 6, and the minute hand to 12. Or make two large clock-faces from paper. Put in the numerals and draw the two hands pointing to 6 and 12 on one, and the two hands pointing to between 8 and 9, and 6 on the other.

LESSON:

Boys and girls I have a question to ask you. What time does this clock show? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). Answer – six o'clock.

Now this may seem a strange question but may I ask you, "Are you six o'clock?" What do I mean? Well the long hand points straight up and the short hand points straight down. They make a straight line. They are upright and downright.

Are you six o'clock? Are you straight up and down? Are you straight and honest in all you do?

By nature none of us is six o'clock? We have all sinned (Romans 3 v23). We are all crooked and bent by nature. We are more like 8.45 or 3 o'clock (*Change the hands on your clock or show your second paper clock*). We are not straight. But the good news is that Jesus Christ can straighten us and make us six o'clock. If you will trust Him as your Saviour He will make you a new person

(2 Corinthians 5 v17) and then help you, step by step, to become six o'clock. You will be born again in one moment when you trust Christ, but it will take time for you, by God's help, and little by little, to become as upright and straight as God wants you to be.

"There was a crooked boy who prayed to God in Heaven.

He trusted the Lord Jesus. And now he is forgiven.

He tries no crooked deeds to do, no crooked things to say.

With Jesus' help he's growing straighter every day."

If you have trusted Jesus Christ as your Saviour be sure that you are six o'clock at all times.

All Children

THE ALPHA AND OMEGA

(A Lesson to use at the start of a New Year)

TRUTH:

God wants you to start and end your day, your year and your life with Jesus Christ.

VISUALS:

Two cards: On one card print the Greek letter Alpha (**Α**) and on the other the Greek letter Omega (**Ω**).

LESSON:

I am sure you all know your alphabet and could easily quote all the letters in their correct order. Who would like to do it? (*Give an opportunity*). And, of course, you all know the first and last letters of our alphabet which are A and Z. But I am sure you do not know the Greek alphabet. It is different from ours, and the way the letters are written is also different. The New Testament part of our Bible was written in Greek, and in Revelation chapter 22 verse 13 the Lord Jesus said about Himself, "I am the Alpha and Omega." What did He mean? Well Alpha is the first letter of the Greek alphabet (*Show card*) and Omega is the last letter (*Show card*). And the Lord Jesus went on to explain that He is the beginning and the ending (Revelation 1 v8, 11). He is the start and the finish. He is the "A" and "Z".

Jesus Christ is the **Alpha** or the beginning (*Show card*):

- He wants to be in at the beginning of each day. Every morning when you get up you should take time to read His Word and talk to Him.
- He wants to be in at the beginning of this New Year. You do not know what lies ahead but He will help you with every problem as you walk with Him.
- He wants you to trust Him in the early days of your life while you are still young. The best time to trust Christ is when you are young. Have you done so? If you have not already done so why not trust Him today?

Jesus Christ is the **Omega** or ending (*Show card*):

- It is not only good to start your day with Jesus Christ but you should also end your day thanking Him for all He has done during the day and asking Him to bless you during the night.
- As you come to the end of a year it is good to look back and think about the past year. Have we lived for Him as we should?
- It is good to know that when you come one day to the end of this life you do not need to fear death if Jesus Christ is our Saviour. He will be with you at the end if you have trusted Him.

Why not do so today?

All Children **WHAT IS YOUR NAME?**

TRUTH:

Boys and girls who trust Jesus Christ have a new name.

VISUALS:

Make three cards with the following words – JESUS, SINNERS and CHRISTIANS.

LESSON:

Some people have funny names. In one village in England there was a family called Pig – Mr. Pig, Mrs. Pig and several little Pigs. In the same village there lived a couple called Mr. and Mrs. Gotobed.

And then some people have funny nicknames – Jumbo, or Tubby, or Grumpy or Smiler. Do you have a nickname? (*Give an opportunity to respond*).

I want to think today about three names:

- When there is a new baby there is often a discussion as to the name or names he (or she) is to be given. But the Lord Jesus was given His name before He was born into the world. An angel told His mother, “*You shall*

call His name Jesus for He shall save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1 v21) (*Show card*). Do you know why He was called Jesus? Because the word means "God is Saviour". His name tells us why He came to this earth. He came to die on the cross and save us from our sins. Have you trusted Him as your Saviour?

- Do you know what God calls you and me? Do you know what name we have? The name God gives everyone in the Bible is not an attractive one. God calls us "sinners" (Romans 5 v8; 1 Timothy 1 v15) (*Show card*). It's not a very nice name – but it is true and it describes us exactly. We know that we have done wrong things and if we are honest we will say that we deserve this name.
- But there is another name which God wants us to have. Many years ago the people who lived in a city in Turkey called Antioch were very clever at giving nicknames. They even called their emperor, "The Goat" because of the little beard he had. It was these people who started to call the disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ by the name "Christians" (*Show card*). That name means "belonging to Christ" (*Cover last four letters of word*). It was a nickname – and they meant it as a joke. But the name stuck and today those who trust and follow Christ are honoured and proud to be called Christians (*Show card again*).

Are you a Christian? Would you like to have your name changed from "sinner" (*Show card*) to "Christian"? (*Show card*). It will be changed today if you trust Jesus Christ (*Show card*) and you will then have a new name. You will be a Christian!

If you have trusted Christ don't forget that you have a new name, and that new name shows that you belong to Jesus Christ. So be sure not to do anything which would bring disgrace to that name.

All Children **TREES TALK**

TRUTH:

Jesus Christ died on the cross to save sinners.

**VISUALS:**

Make four trees from paper or cardboard by enlarging this pattern and also make a cross. Print one of these four words on each tree and show at the appropriate time – AMONG, ON, UP, and UNDER.

LESSON:

I love trees. Do you? Do you know the names of some trees? What is your favourite? (*Give opportunity to respond*). We are going to speak about some trees which we read about in the Bible.

(This lesson focuses only on the first three trees. You can add the fourth if you have time – or make it into a separate lesson):

➤ **AMONG THE TREES** (Genesis 3 v8) (*Show first tree*)

God had placed the first man and woman, Adam and Eve, in the wonderful garden of Eden among many beautiful trees and He told them they could eat the fruit of all the trees except one – the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. They were very happy there and enjoyed very much their fellowship with God. But one day Adam and Eve sinned. They disobeyed God. They ate the fruit He had told them not to eat. They knew they had sinned and their fellowship with God was broken. They tried to hide themselves **AMONG THE TREES** of the garden (*Show first tree*). But of course they couldn't. No one can hide from God.

This tree reminds us that sin always separates us from God – and no matter how hard we try we cannot hide from God, or avoid the punishment for our sin.

➤ **ON A TREE** (Galatians 3 v13) (*Show second tree*)

But God has given an answer for our sin, and for our separation from God. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came to this earth to be our Saviour; and the only way He could do this was by dying for our sins and taking the punishment for them. Where did He die? He died on a cross and the Bible calls it a tree because it was made of wood. He died **ON A TREE** (*Show cross*). The Bible says that He became a curse for us because "*cursed is every one that hangs on a tree*" (Galatians 3 v13). So He hung on that tree and died on that tree to take the curse, or punishment, which you and I deserved for our sin. So this tree tells us that it is possible for us to be saved – because of what the Lord Jesus did.

➤ UP A TREE (Luke 19 v4) (*Show third tree*)

But there is something you need to do if you want to be saved, and if you want to have all your sin forgiven.

We read in the Bible about a man called Zacchaeus. He knew he was a sinner and he wanted to see the Lord Jesus because he felt, in his heart, that He could help him. But Zacchaeus was so short in height he could not see the Lord Jesus, so he climbed UP A TREE and saw Him. And the Lord Jesus also saw Zacchaeus and spoke to him, told him to come down for He wanted to go to his house. Zacchaeus came down and received the Saviour joyfully. He trusted Him and all his sins were forgiven and he became a new person.

He is calling you today to come to Him. This tree tells you to come down and receive Him. Have you received Him? Have you trusted Him? You can do so today.

(If you have more time available you can also include the fourth tree – or you can come back to it in a second lesson along with revision of the first three trees).

➤ UNDER A TREE (John 1 v47, 48) (*Show fourth tree*)

And when a person trusts the Lord Jesus he starts to grow – and one way he grows is by learning more and more about the Lord Jesus from His Word, the Bible. We read in the Bible that a man called Nathaniel was sitting UNDER A TREE when he was found by a disciple of the Lord Jesus. This man who was called Philip told him that the Lord Jesus was the Messiah, the One the writers of the Old Testament had said would come. Nathaniel wanted to know and learn more about the Lord Jesus. So he came to the Lord Jesus and when he saw Him and heard Him he was convinced that He was the Son of God and the King of Israel. And the Lord Jesus told him he would see and learn more and more things in the future. This tree reminds us of how important it is to listen, read and learn more about the Lord Jesus.

The Christian life involves learning and growing. It starts when you trust Jesus Christ as your Saviour. Then you go on to learn more and more about Him – and the result is that you grow.

All Children **WHAT THE CLOCK SAYS**

TRUTH:

Do what God wants you to do – NOW.

VISUALS:

Use an actual clock to illustrate your lesson – and you should also make four clock faces from cardboard and put these key words – MADE, BOUGHT, USED and LIFELESS - on them.

LESSON:

I have brought something with me this morning which all of you have in your house. No house would be without one. It is something you look at many times each day – and it controls much of what you do. Do you know what I mean? (*Give an opportunity to respond*).

Yes, it's a clock (*Show clock*). We all need one of these in our home. But did you know that you are like a clock? How?

- Somebody made this clock (*Show real clock*) – somebody who knew what he was doing – a real expert. It has many small parts which all work perfectly together.

And Somebody made you (*Show clock with word "MADE"*). That Somebody is God (Psalm 139 v14). He used your mother and father to make you – but He was in control. And you have many small parts which work even more perfectly than the clock. You are the result of an expert's work and skill.

- Do you know how I got this clock (*Show real clock*)? I bought it. I went to a shop and I paid a certain amount of money for it – and as a result it became mine.

And you and I have also been bought (*Show clock with word "BOUGHT"*). The Lord Jesus saw that we were sinners and knew that we would have to be punished for our sin. So He came to this earth to die on the Cross and take the punishment for our sin. And the price He paid was His precious blood; He gave His life for us (Ephesians 5 v25; 1 Corinthians 6 v20). And He wants us to trust Him. He paid the price for us – and when we trust Him we are saved and start to live for Him.

- This clock has a job to do (*Show real clock*). It has a definite purpose in life. What is it? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). Yes, its job and purpose

is to tell the time – and it has two hands for that purpose (*Demonstrate*). And we use it to tell us what time it is.

And when we trust the Lord Jesus He wants to use us (*Show clock with word “USED”*). He has a purpose for us, a job for us to do.

What is that job? He wants us to tell others about what He has done for them and how they can be saved (Mark 16 v15). And we especially need to tell people that the best TIME to trust the Lord Jesus is TODAY. Sometimes He even wants us to be like alarm clocks – and help people to waken up and see they need to be saved (1 Corinthians 15 v34; Ephesians 5 v14).

- This clock couldn't work without life – something to make it go (*Show real clock*). Some clocks need to be wound up; some have batteries. But that's how they get their life and their power and without that life they couldn't do their job.

And before we can be what God wants us to be we need to have life and power. Without that life we are dead and lifeless (*Show clock with word “LIFELESS”*). Before we can help other people, we need to be born again (John 3 v5; 2 Corinthians 5 v17). We need to trust Jesus Christ. We will then have life and power; we will start a new life; and we can start to be what God wants us to be.

Have you trusted Jesus Christ? Today is the time to do this. Don't wait.

*“Tick, tock”, says the clock.
As it hangs there on the wall.
“Tick, tock”, says the clock.
“Don't waste your time at all.
Just trust in Jesus Christ today.
Turn from your sin, do not delay.”
“Tick, tock”, says the clock.
As it hangs there on the wall.
“Tick, tock”, says the clock.
“Don't waste your time at all.
If you will live for Christ today.
He'll use your life in a special way.”
“Tick, tock”, says the clock.
As it hangs there on the wall.
“Tick, tock”, says the clock.
“Don't waste your time at all.”*

All Children **A BATTLE WITH GIANTS I**

TRUTH:

God will give boys and girls the strength to deal with all their problems.

VISUALS:

Put the words FEAR and DOUBT on two outlines of a giant (as shown).

LESSON:

Who is the tallest person you have ever seen? How tall was he? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). Have you ever seen a basket ball player? They are very, very tall, but they are not giants. A giant is someone who is especially tall and big – taller and bigger than you could imagine. We read about giants in children's fairy tales. But there have been real giants. One of them was called Goliath and we read about him in the Bible. He was about three metres tall. Can you imagine that? (*Indicate how tall this is by pointing to something of equal height e.g. a wall or ceiling*).

You will never see or meet a giant like that although David had to meet one and fight him. But I can tell you that there are giants whom you are going to meet and face at some time. You may have met some of them already; you may have fought with them; you may have been beaten by them – or you might even have won the fight with them:

- The first giant you will face and fight is GIANT FEAR (*Show card*) Giant Fear is as real and alive as the giant Goliath was – and just as young David had to face and fight Goliath, you will, from time to time, need to fight and beat Giant Fear.

Giant Fear tells boys and girls who are not saved that they should not trust the Lord Jesus. He tries to frighten them by telling them that other boys and girls will laugh at them and make fun of them if they become Christians. He tries to frighten them by telling them they could never live the way God wants them to live.

Don't allow him to frighten you. Trust Jesus Christ. God will give you the strength you need to live for Him and you will be able to smile when others make fun of you.

- The second giant you will face and fight is GIANT DOUBT
This is a very powerful giant who is always at work – and he especially attacks boys and girls who have trusted the Lord Jesus.
He says to Christian boys and girls, “The Bible is not true, it has many mistakes. How can you believe an old fashioned book like that?”
But don't listen to him. The Bible is God's Word and completely true.
He says to them, “You are not saved. How can you know you are saved? It is only your imagination.”
But if you have trusted the Lord Jesus the Bible says you are saved (Acts 16 v31). Giant Doubt says one thing, God says the opposite. Who are you going to believe?

These giants are real. They are trying to defeat and destroy you – just as Goliath tried to defeat and destroy David. What did David do? He said, “*The Lord ...will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine*” (1 Samuel 17 v37). He trusted God to give him the victory and He did. As a result the giant was killed. And as you trust God and keep your eyes on Him He will help you to conquer these two giants in your life.

All Children **A BATTLE WITH GIANTS II**

TRUTH:

God will give boys and girls the strength to deal with all their problems.

VISUALS:

Two outlines of a giant with the words GIANT TEMPTATION and GIANT DELAY on each of them (plus the two cards from the previous lesson).

LESSON:

Have you met or fought any giants since last week? Do you remember the two giants we spoke about (*Give an opportunity to respond*). They were Giant Fear and Giant Doubt – and God will help you to fight and beat both of them if you trust Him (*Show cards from last week*).

But there are other giants whom you are going to face and whom you will have to fight:

- The first of these is one of the biggest you will ever face – whether you have trusted Jesus Christ or not. His name is Giant Temptation. He attacks all boys and girls but he especially attacks Christian boys and girls and tries to get them to do wrong things – things which God does not want them to do:
 - ✓ He tempts you to disobey your parents. When they ask you to do something he tempts you to say “No”; when they ask you not to do something he tempts you to do it.
 - ✓ He tempts you to tell lies, to copy homeworks from someone else and pretend they are yours, and to be dishonest and cheat.
 - ✓ He tempts you to think only of yourself, to put yourself first and to be selfish.

Have you met this giant? Has he defeated you? Do you want to beat him and overcome him? Look at what David did and learn from him. The only way to do so is to ask Jesus Christ to help you and give you the strength you need – and He will.

And this giant also attacks boys and girls who are not Christians and he tries to get you involved in all kinds of sin to keep you back from trusting Jesus Christ. He does all he can to get you into drugs and alcohol and smoking and other things which will harm you and keep you back from Jesus Christ. But Jesus Christ can save you and give you the strength you need to overcome these temptations.

- And then there is GIANT DELAY (*Show card*)
Perhaps you don't recognize him. He is the giant who especially attacks boys and girls who have not trusted Jesus Christ. He is a very clever giant. He looks more pleasant than the others and he tries to be nice. He does not tell you not to trust the Lord Jesus. All he does is tell you to wait until tomorrow. “Wait until you are older”, he says, “Enjoy yourself. You can become a Christian later on.”

I hope you don't listen to this giant, boys and girls. If you have not trusted the Lord Jesus the Bible says that “*Today is the day of salvation*” – not tomorrow. Today is your opportunity to be saved. Don't wait.

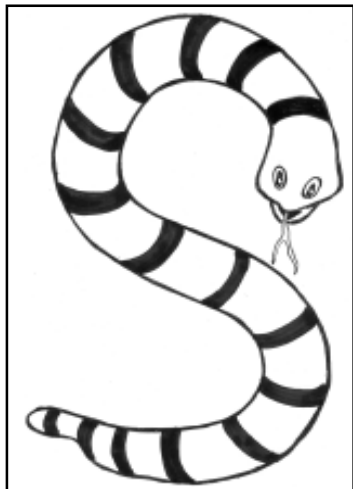
Have you met any of these four giants – Fear, Doubt, Temptation and Delay?
Are you facing one of them today?

If you have trusted the Lord Jesus remember the story of David and Goliath. When David trusted God He gave him the power to win the battle and defeat the giant. He had to be willing to fight, to use what he had – the sling and stones to defeat the giant. But it was God Who helped him to win. David fired the stone with his sling – but God guided it and used it to kill the giant. The battle was the Lord's and He gave the giant into David's hands (1 Samuel 17 v47).

And God will give you the power and help you need if you ask Him and if, at the same time, you do all you can to defeat your giants.

God plus David = VICTORY
God plus you = VICTORY

All children **WHAT THE SNAKE SAID**



TRUTH:

**Jesus Christ died on the cross to heal us
and save us from sin and its results.**

VISUALS:

Prepare three cards and on each one put one word – SIN, SALVATION, SERVICE. If you can make the first letter **S** in each word look like a snake as in the pattern, do so.

LESSON:

(You should use the first two snakes in the lesson. But if you have time you could also include the third snake. If you don't have time to do this, use the third snake as a separate lesson along with revision of the first two).

Do you like snakes? Most people don't. I certainly don't like them. But there are two snakes in the Bible we can learn so much from, and they can be a real help to us:

- The first snake is **UNDER A TREE**.

This snake reminds us of **SIN** (*Show card*), because it is a picture of the devil and what he is like. When God put the first man and woman in the garden of Eden He told them they could eat the fruit of any tree in the garden – except one! But then the snake appeared. It was actually the devil who came in the form of a snake. He probably came to Eve, the first woman, right under that tree and tempted her to disobey God and eat the fruit. Both she and Adam ate the fruit and sin entered their lives and the world. And as a result we are all sinners.

And the devil still tempts us to disobey God and we all do sin. Not only is he called a serpent (that is, a snake) in the first book of the Bible, he is also called a serpent or snake in the last book in the Bible (Revelation 12 v9; 20 v2) – “*that old serpent ... the devil*”.

This first snake reminds us of the devil and also reminds us that we are sinners (*Show card*), and that, like Adam and Eve, we have disobeyed God.

But God has an answer to our sin.

- The second snake is **ON A TREE**.

This snake reminds us of **SALVATION** (Numbers 21 v8; John 3 v15) (*Show card*). This might sound strange but let me explain. The Bible tells us that when the children of Israel were traveling through the desert they began to speak against God and to complain against Him. As a result God sent many snakes into their camp and many people died from snake bites. Moses prayed and asked God to take away the snakes and heal His people. God told Moses to make a snake of brass and put it up on a pole or piece of wood and He said that if anyone had been bitten by a snake they should look at the brass snake and they would be cured.

The Lord Jesus later on explained the meaning of this incident for us. The problem in the world today is not snake bites – but sin. We have all sinned and because of this we will die and be separated from God forever. What is God's answer for sin? How can we be saved? The Lord Jesus said that as the serpent was lifted up on a pole, He would be lifted up on a

cross. He became sin for us. The snake which was the problem for the children of Israel was put on a pole; sin which is our problem was put on the Lord Jesus on the cross. And just as the children of Israel were healed by looking at the brass serpent the Lord Jesus said that we would be saved by looking at, and trusting in Him. Have you put your trust in Him?

This snake reminds us of salvation (*Show card*) and tells us to trust the Lord Jesus. You can do so today.

(If you have time you could include this third section. If not, you could come back to the subject the following week and teach it along with the revision of this week's lesson)

- The third snake is BESIDE A BUSH.

This snake reminds us of **SERVICE** (*Show card*).

The Bible tells us that God spoke to Moses from the middle of a burning bush out in the desert – and the strange thing was that the bush just kept burning (Exodus 3). God had a job for Moses. He asked him to go to Egypt and lead His people out of that land. Moses was afraid to do so and started to make many excuses. (*You could outline these if you are teaching this as a separate lesson*). He did not want to serve God in the way God wanted him to. So God showed how powerful He was by turning Moses' rod into a snake right there beside the bush; then when Moses took it by the tail He turned it back into a rod again. This helped Moses to see how powerful God was and encouraged him to serve Him by going to Egypt. If you are saved God wants you to serve Him and He has a job for you to do. Do not hesitate. Do what God wants you to do. Learn from Moses' rod which God turned into a snake that God is able to help you and use you, no matter how weak and helpless you feel.

This snake (*Show card*) reminds us that God will help us when we serve Him.

All Children **TWO KINDS OF BABIES I**

TRUTH:

Boys and girls who trust the Lord Jesus are born again and start a new life.

VISUALS:

A picture of a baby and a picture of a 10/11 year old child.

LESSON:

How many birthdays do you have? I have two. Why? Because I was born twice! My first birthday celebrates when I was born into this world and it took place many years ago. But I have a second birthday celebrating the day I trusted Jesus Christ as my Saviour and I was born again – born for the second time.

How is a person born again? You are born again when you put your trust in Jesus Christ and ask Him to save you. At that moment all your sins are forgiven, and you also receive a new nature. You become a new person – that's why it is called a new birth. (John 3 v3)

Have you trusted the Lord Jesus? If you have, then you have been born for a second time. Even though you are 10 or 11 years old you are a spiritual baby and you need to grow.

So there are two kinds of babies. One kind have been born into this world through a physical birth. The other kind have been born for the second time through a spiritual birth. There are many ways in which these two kinds of babies are like each other and we will see three of these today:

- This baby (*Show picture of baby*) has life. He received that life when he was born into this world – but this life will only last 60, 70, or 80 years – for his body will die one day and if he is not saved he will be lost and separated from God forever.

This baby (*Show picture of boy*) has eternal life (John 3 v16). His body will also die one day but the real boy, the new boy, will live forever in Heaven.

- This baby (*Show baby*) was washed with soap and water the moment he was born – and so is clean and looks so nice to his parents.

This baby (*Show boy*) has also been washed but not with soap and water. He has been washed with the precious Blood of the Lord Jesus which He poured out for us on the Cross. We may not feel clean – but God sees us as clean because of what the Lord Jesus has done for us.

- This baby (*Show baby*) has been clothed with little blue and white clothes which his mother bought or made for him – and she is so proud to see her baby in these lovely clothes.

This baby (*Show boy*) has been clothed with the most wonderful, most special clothes. What do I mean? When you trust the Lord Jesus, the Bible tells us that the Lord Jesus puts on you the special robe or cloak of

His purity (Isaiah 61 v10) and when God looks at you He doesn't see your sin (much of which is still there) – but He sees these beautiful pure clothes with which the Lord Jesus has dressed you.

Have you trusted the Lord Jesus? If so you have eternal life, you are clean in God's sight and God sees you as clothed with the perfect purity of the Lord Jesus. If you haven't – trust Him today. If you have, be thankful for all He has done for you – as a newborn baby.

All Children **TWO KINDS OF BABIES II**

TRUTH:

Boys and girls who trust the Lord Jesus are born again and start a new life.

VISUALS:

A picture of a baby and a picture of a 10 / 11 year old child.

LESSON:

Do you remember the two kinds of babies we looked at last week? There are those who are born the first time into this world (*Show baby*) and there are those who trust the Lord Jesus and are born again – for the second time (*Show boy*). This baby (*Show boy*) has eternal life, is clean before God, and God sees him dressed in the purity of the Lord Jesus.

Have you been born again? Do you know what happens when you are born for the second time?

➤ This baby (*Show baby*) when he was born into this world – for the first time – was given a name soon after he was born. Often he is called after someone else – perhaps his father or his uncle.

This baby (*Show boy*) has also been given a name – the very moment he trusted Jesus Christ and was born again. Do you know what his name is? He is called after his Saviour – the Lord Jesus Christ. His name is Christian – which means belonging to Christ. What a wonderful name to have. Is this your name?

➤ This baby (*Show baby*) has a father whose job it is look after him and be sure he has a home and gets his food each day.

This baby (*Show boy*) has a Heavenly Father (John 1 v12) Who really cares for him at all times, Who makes sure he is well looked after, Who helps him with all his problems – and who never lets him down. Your Heavenly Father is very, very strong and powerful. He can do anything. You can trust Him at all times.

- This baby (*Show baby*) is born into a home where I hope he will be happy and well looked after.

This baby (*Show boy*) has a very special home which is being prepared for him. That home will be in Heaven; it will be a perfect home; and he will live there forever in complete joy and happiness.

- This baby (*Show baby*) needs to grow. He has been born but he will not stay like this. He will get bigger; he will learn to talk and to walk, and one day he will be grown up. But to grow he must take food – milk when he is younger, and more solid food later.

This baby (*Show boy*) needs to grow. He has been born again but God doesn't want him to stay like a newborn baby. God wants him to grow. God wants him to read His Word. That is the milk (1 Peter 2 v2) which helps him in his early days, and also the meat as he gets bigger. And as he takes his food he will grow inside and become more and more like the Lord Jesus.

How many birthdays have you? Have you been born again? Do you have a new name, a new father and a new home? Are you growing? You can be born again today – if you trust the Lord Jesus.

If you have two birthdays thank the Lord Jesus Who has made it all possible and Who has given you so many wonderful things.

All Children

WHAT WOULD YOU CHOOSE?

TRUTH:

God wants us to be wise. Ask Him for wisdom.

VISUALS:

A large cardboard box with a number of cards inside with the words given in capitals below or a number of pictures to represent the various objects outlined in the text, or you could show and use the actual objects given in the brackets.

LESSON:

If someone were to tell you that you could have whatever you want – what would your reply be? Let us imagine that you can choose anything in this whole wide world. Well – what would you choose? (*Give an opportunity to respond*).

Let's have a look in this box to see what some people would choose:

- Some might choose MONEY – lots of it (*Bring word or money out of box*).
- Some might choose nice NEW CLOTHES (*Bring words or an article of clothing out*).
- Some older people might choose a NEW CAR (*Bring out the words or a model car – or a picture of one*).
- Some boys might choose to be world famous FOOTBALLERS (*Bring out the word football – or an actual football*).
- Some girls might have BEAUTY as their choice (*Bring out the word or a mirror*).

But that is only imagination. This is never going to happen. You are never going to be given a choice like this. But do you know that it did happen – once – many years ago. The Bible tells us about it. There was a king of the land of Israel called Solomon. He was a very powerful king. One night God spoke to him and told him, “You can have whatever you want. Just ask and I will give it to you” (2 Chronicles 1 v7).

What do you think Solomon asked for? Was it one of these things we have looked at. No, none of them. He asked God to give him WISDOM (*Bring word out of box*). Does that seem a strange answer? It was, however, a very good answer or request – and God gave it to Solomon; and Solomon became one of the wisest men who ever lived. Do you know what wisdom is? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). It means always being able to make the right decision and do the right thing.

And it was wisdom which helped Solomon to make right and good decisions and to become even more wealthy and powerful. Indeed the Bible tells us that God was so pleased with Solomon's request that He told him that He would also give him riches and honour and wealth - in addition to wisdom.

You should also ask God to help you to be wise. The Bible says that you and I should ask God for wisdom (James 1 v5) – so that we can make all the right decisions which affect our lives.

- If you are wise the first decision you will make is to ask Jesus Christ to be your Saviour. If you are not wise you won't do this.

- If you are a wise Christian you will want to please the Lord Jesus in all you do – and you will make the right decisions which will help you in your Christian life.

Are you wise? Do you want to be wise? Ask God to give you wisdom.

All Children **NO ENTRY**

TRUTH:

There is only one way into Heaven – through Jesus Christ.

VISUAL:

A visa or a passport with a visa in it.

LESSON:

Many people arrived at the airport in a certain country in a Jumbo Jet. They left the plane and entered the airport buildings. They all formed a long line and one by one they were allowed by the officials to enter the country. All except one man. Why was he not allowed to enter when all the others could? Was he the wrong colour? Did he speak the wrong language? Was he too short or tall? Of course not. Then why? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). It was because this country required every foreigner to have a visa and show it before they were allowed to enter the country. A visa is a document or stamp from a country to show that a person has permission to enter that country. This man had no visa (*Show it*). All the others had a visa and when the officials looked at their visas they said, “Yes, you can come into our country.” But this man was told, “No, you cannot come in. You have no visa. You are not allowed to enter our country.”

Why had he no visa?

- Perhaps he hadn’t known he needed one.
- Perhaps he had forgotten to get one.
- Perhaps he had not taken the instruction to get a visa seriously.

But, whatever the reason, he could not enter the country.

Most people want to go to Heaven – and God wants all of us to go there when we die. But we need a visa. It does not cost anything and it is easy to ask for. But it is needed. Without that visa there is no entry.

This visa is called salvation. If we ask Jesus Christ to be our Saviour He saves us; He forgives us; and we are then qualified to enter Heaven when we die. If we try to put something else in place of this visa – like good works, or going to church, or saying our prayers – we will be like the man in the airport. We will be told “NO ENTRY”: (Acts 4 v12)

- Don't be like him. Be sure you know that you need a visa.
- Don't be like him. Don't forget to get your visa.
- Don't be like him. Be serious about getting and having a visa – and do so today.

Trust Jesus Christ today and you will be ready for Heaven when you die. If you have trusted Him you do not need to worry about your future. You **will** enter Heaven because of Jesus Christ and what He has done for you. You have your visa, and you will never lose it.

All Children **SHINING FOR THE SAVIOUR**

TRUTH:

God wants boys and girls to shine for Him in this dark world.

VISUALS:

3 torches of different sizes and 3 batteries.

1 small torch with a piece of black cloth between the battery and the bulb.

LESSON:

Do you own a torch like this? (*Show largest torch*). What do you use it for? (*Give opportunity to respond*). I remember when I was young how much fun I had with my torch (*Give an example*).

Oh dear! This torch is not working (*Operate the switch*). It's no good if it doesn't work. It doesn't give any light. I wonder what is wrong? Would someone look at it and find out the problem? (*Let a child do so*). Of course, it has no battery in it (*Put in the battery in*). Ah now it's working!

Boys and girls who are not Christians are like empty torches. God wants boys and girls to shine for Him (Matthew 5v16) – but if we are not saved we cannot do so. When we trust the Lord Jesus as our Saviour, the Holy Spirit comes into our lives just as this battery comes into the torch, and helps us to shine.

Some torches are big like this one and some are smaller like this one. Some are very small like this one. But if there is a battery in them (*Put battery in the other two torches*) they all give light (*Switch all three on*). Notice that the small one gives light too. You don't have to be a big torch to shine. Little torches can shine if there is a battery inside. A little torch with a battery is much more effective and much more useful than a big torch without one (*Demonstrate*). So you boys and girls who have trusted Jesus Christ can really shine for Him. But adults who are not saved cannot shine for Him.

But sometimes Christian boys and girls do not shine their light the way God wants them to—even though the Holy Spirit is living inside of them. Look at this small torch. I switch it on. No light! I examine it! What is wrong? There is a battery inside so what is the problem? Oh, I have found it. There is something between the battery and the bulb which is keeping the power which gives the light from getting through. Look, it is a piece of black cloth. This is a picture of sin in your life. And if you are a Christian boy or girl, and you allow and enjoy sin in your life, that will keep your light from shining. Get rid of it—now—and you will shine!

All Children **WHAT TIME IS IT?**

TRUTH:

God wants boys and girls to obey Him today – not tomorrow.

VISUALS:

A calendar, a wrist watch, a clock, an alarm clock, an egg timer and a Bible.

LESSON:

What question do you think is asked more than any other? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). Is it – “How are you?” or “Where are you going?” or “What’s for dinner?” Any other possibilities?

I think one of the most common questions is – “What time is it?” We hear that one so often and we should always be able to give a quick answer because there are so many ways we can measure time.

- This calendar (*Show it*) tells us what year it is, what month it is and what day of the month it is.
- This wrist watch (*Show it*) tells the year, month and day by pressing this button. But it also tells us the exact time in hours and minutes.
- This clock (*Show it*) also tells us the time whenever we want to know it – breakfast time, time to go to school, time to go to bed.
- This alarm clock (*Show it*) wakens us in the morning. At least I hope it does.
- And even this egg timer tells us when an egg is boiled (*Demonstrate its use*).

But the most important object of all to tell us about time is this book, the Bible (*Show it and open it*).

- First of all the Bible tells us that there is a time which has been appointed or decided already by God when each of us will die (Hebrews 9 v27). God knows that time. But the problem is that we don't know it. It could happen today – or in 10 years or 20 years time.
- Secondly the Bible tells us it is time to wake up to what it says (Romans 13 v11) and understand that we are going to die sooner or later, and we need to be ready.
- Thirdly the Bible tells us the time to be saved – it says that today is the day of salvation (2 Corinthians 6 v2). You can be saved today if you trust Jesus Christ as your Saviour – and then you will be ready when the time comes for you to die. The time to die is in the future; the time to be saved is today (not tomorrow).
- But I know that a number of you boys and girls have already trusted Jesus Christ as your Saviour; and the Bible has a special word for you about time. It tells you to make good use of your time. God has given you time, and He wants you to spend it in the right way and not waste any of it (Ephesians 5 v16). You are living in a sinful world and God wants to use you to help other people to know what time it is.

Listen boys and girls to this alarm clock (*Let it ring*). Wake up and do right now what God wants you to do.

All Children
THE SIGN OF THE FISH

TRUTH:

Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

VISUALS:

Make five cards and on each put the following words with letters **in bold** as shown – or else circle them as you are speaking:

ICHTHYS

JESUS =
I ESOU S

Add the fish to the first card as you are speaking.

CHRIST =
CHRI STOS

GOD'S SON =
THEOU
HYIOUS

SAVIOUR =
S OTER

LESSON:

How many languages can you speak? What are they? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). Most of us can only speak one, but this morning we are going to look at some words in a language called Greek. It was the language spoken by many people in the days of the Lord Jesus – and the New Testament part of the Bible is written in Greek.

The Christian church had many enemies in its early years and suffered much persecution. As a result many Christians were killed for their faith and, because they would not worship the Roman Emperor, they were thrown to the lions or burned alive. But early Christians chose a secret sign which they used to let others know they were Christians and to link up with each other. Do you know what that sign was? It was a fish!

Sometimes when one Christian met a stranger and wanted to know if he was also a Christian, he would use a stick or his foot to draw a curved line in the

sand or dust – like this bottom line (*Draw or show bottom line on first picture*). If the other person was a Christian he would complete the drawing by making another curved line (*Draw or show the top line on the first picture*). The two curved lines made the outline of a fish! Then each knew that he or she was talking with another Christian. So the sign of a fish was a kind of password or secret sign.

But why a fish? The Greek word for fish is ICHTHYS as you can see on this first card, and is made up of the first letters of five other Greek words – all of which say something about Jesus Christ. Let me show you.

The Greek word for Jesus is IESOUS (*Show card*). So take the first letter – I (*Point to it on the first card*). Before He was born an angel told His mother that He should be called Jesus (Matthew 1 v21) He came to be our Saviour. The Greek word for Christ is CHRISTOS (*Show card*). The word “Christ” means “Messiah” – the One specially sent by God to this earth. So add the first two letters – CH – to the I (*Show first card – and point to the first three letters*). Do you understand?

The Greek words for God’s Son are THEOU HYIOUS (*Show card*). Jesus Christ is the Son – the only Son of God. So add the first two letters of each word – TH and (H)Y to what we have here (*Show first card again*) – just using one of the “Hs”.

The Greek word for Saviour is SOTER. He came to die for our sins and save us. So add the first letter – S – to the rest of the word (*Show first card*). Do you see what is happening?

You now have the key word, the password – ICHTHYS – a word which means “fish”. And this was the way the early Christians said to each other, “Jesus Christ (*Point to first three letters on first card*) is God’s Son (*Point to second three letters*) and our Saviour” (*Point to last letter*). Do you believe that Jesus Christ is God’s Son? Good. Have you trusted Him as your Saviour. I hope so. If not, why not do so today. If you have trusted Him worship Him because He is God – and serve Him.

All Children **BIBLE ARITHMETIC**

TRUTH:

Jesus Christ can use boys and girls to be a blessing to many.

VISUALS:

Produce four cards, each with one of the following signs $+$ $-$ $\times$ $\div$ plus an extra card with the number 12.

LESSON:

Did you know that you can find mathematics, or arithmetic in the Bible? Do you like arithmetic? Do you like to do additions, subtractions, multiplication and division? All four of these types of arithmetic can be found in a story in the Bible (John 6 v1-13).

1. **ADDITION ($+$)** (*Show first card*)

Are you good at Maths? Could you add 26 and 49? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). 5,000 people (plus women and children) had been listening to the Lord Jesus all day. They were hungry and had no food.

One of the disciples named Andrew found a boy in that crowd who had some food with him, and when he **ADDED** it all up (*Show card*) he discovered that he had **FIVE** small loaves and **TWO** small fishes $5 + 2$. It was not very much, but it was something.

2. **SUBTRACTION ($-$)** (*Show second card*)

The word subtraction and this sign means to “take away”. You learned that in school. Subtract 19 from 28 and the result is? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). Andrew brought the boy with the five loaves and two fishes to the Lord Jesus. The boy was asked if he would give them to the Lord Jesus and he did gladly. So they were **SUBTRACTED** or taken from him by the Lord Jesus (*Show card*).

Would you be willing to give yourself and what you have to the Lord Jesus and allow Him to subtract what He wants from you?

3. **MULTIPLICATION ($\times$)** (*Show third card*)

What did the Lord Jesus do with them? He **MULTIPLIED** them. He did a miracle. He turned that little amount of food into enough food for 5,000 men plus women and children. That is real multiplication (*Show card*). That was a miracle.

Do you know that when you bring to the Lord Jesus yourself and all you have He will multiply you and make you a blessing to many.

4. **DIVISION ($\div$)** (*Show fourth card*)

This is the sign for “division”. If you divide 10 by 2 you get? (*Give an opportunity to respond*) The Lord Jesus then **DIVIDED** (*Show card*) and

distributed the loaves and fishes to all these people – so that no one (including the boy) was hungry. Indeed they were all filled.

1. A REMAINDER (12) (*Show fifth card*)

Very often when you divide one number into another you have a REMAINDER. If you divide 39 by 6 what is your remainder? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). And there was a remainder here also. When everyone had eaten and was satisfied the disciples gathered up 12 (*Show card*) baskets of fragments of bread and fish which had not been used.

Wasn't this a wonderful miracle? Doesn't it show us that the Lord Jesus is truly the Son of God? And doesn't it also remind us that He can take us, and the things we can do, and use us to be a blessing to many others. But remember that before He can use you you need to trust Him as your Lord and Saviour.

All Children
SET FREE

TRUTH:

Jesus Christ frees sinners from the slavery of sin.

VISUALS:

Three cards with the words A SLAVE, A SON, A SERVANT.

LESSON:

Have you ever heard of a man called Onesimus? That's a strange name, isn't it? Say it slowly O-NES-I-MUS. That's good. We read about him in a little book of the Bible written by Paul to a man called Philemon.

A SLAVE (*Show card*). We learn, first of all, that Onesimus was a slave, and that he belonged to Philemon. In those days slavery was very common. It was a great evil, for those slaves like Onesimus actually belonged to their owner. They had to do exactly what they were told and they had no freedom. It must have been a hard life for Onesimus. And so one day he escaped and ran away from Philemon's home which was in the country we now call Turkey. He eventually found his way to Rome – many miles away. He probably thought that, in such a big city, he could hide and conceal the fact that he was a slave. Being a slave must have been every sad for him. But wait a moment! We are all slaves. We are all born into slavery. Just as Onesimus was under the control

of Philemon, so we are born and live under the control of sin if we have never turned from our sin and trusted the Lord Jesus as our Saviour. We are not free! We too are slaves.

A SON (*Show card*). Something special happened to Onesimus in Rome. Somehow he came into touch with the Apostle Paul who was in prison there because he was a follower of Jesus Christ. And Paul preached the Gospel to him and Onesimus became a Christian. Paul could now call him his son (Philemon verse 10) not because he was his real father, but because he was his spiritual father – in other words a brand new life had come to Timothy through Paul, so it was as though he were Paul's son. More importantly, Onesimus became a son of God because everyone who trusts Jesus Christ as Saviour become sons of God. Are you a slave of sin or are you a son of God? You and I are born slaves, but when we trust the Lord Jesus we become sons instead of slaves. He brings us out of the slave market and sets us free.

A SERVANT (*Show card*). Paul was so happy that Onesimus had trusted Christ. It was obvious there had been a change in Onesimus's life because he had started to help him there in prison and to be of service to him (Philemon verse 13). He was doing this, not because he had to, but because he loved Paul – and more than that he loved the Lord Jesus. He had become a servant of Jesus Christ and he wanted to obey his new Master.

Paul would have liked to keep him with him in Rome, but he knew that the right thing would be for him to return again to Philemon. So he wrote this little letter to Philemon which we find here in the Bible (*Show it*) encouraging him to take Onesimus back again not as a slave (verse 16) but as a son of God and as a servant of Jesus Christ. And I am sure that this was what happened – that Onesimus returned home, was received by Philemon with joy, and a new friendship started.

So when you and I who were slaves of sin trust Jesus Christ as Saviour and become sons of God, we show our love by becoming the servants of Jesus Christ – ready to do whatever He wants us to do, because we love Him:

Step 1. We were slaves of sin.

Step 2. We became sons of God by trusting the Lord Jesus.

Step 3. We are now servants of Jesus Christ.

Have you followed these three steps – 1, 2, 3? If not, why not do so today.

All Children
IT IS FINISHED

TRUTH:

God wants boys and girls to know what He has done – and what they need to do.

VISUAL: Prepare three cards. Write on them the following words:
SIN – FINISHED; SALVATION – FINISHED. SERVICE - FINISHED

Or you can use one card as shown in the diagram with the word FINISHED at the bottom. Fold this word under. Then fold the remaining card in two vertically. On left hand side print a large S. On right hand



side divide into three and cut to the fold. Print – IN, -ALVATION and -ERVICE on each strip. Fold these behind. You will then unfold each flap as you speak.

LESSON:

What does the word “finish” mean? (*Give an opportunity to respond*).

When you watch a race on television the runners are all aiming for the finish, the end of the race. So to finish something means to end it and to complete it. The Bible tells us of three things which have been finished (or which need to be finished):

- SIN when it is FINISHED results in death (James 1 v15) (*Show card*).
The final result of sin in our lives, when we have finished our time on earth, will be death and separation from God (if we are not saved). Sin might seem small or simple to some boys and girls – but the result is not. The wages of sin is death (Romans 6 v23).
Several boys were discussing and arguing about the worst way to die. One said, “to be eaten by a crocodile”; another said, “to be run over by a steam roller”; and another one suggested “to be boiled in oil.”

They decided to ask their pastor. He looked at them kindly and said, "Yes these are all terrible ways to die; but the worst way to die is to die without Jesus Christ, and without being saved."

- SALVATION has been FINISHED by the Lord Jesus Christ (*Show card*). He came to this world and He took the punishment for our sin on the cross. After He had done so He cried out, "*It is finished*" (John 19 v30). Salvation was complete. It was finished. You cannot save yourself. Only Jesus Christ can save you because He finished the work of salvation. There is nothing you can add to that. You only need to trust Him as your Saviour and you will be saved (Acts 16 v31). Have you trusted Him?
- SERVICE needs to be FINISHED (*Show card*). When Jesus Christ saves us He wants us to serve Him and He will show us what He wants us to do. God saved Paul and called him to be an apostle, and for many years He served his Saviour and told many people how they could become Christians. When he came to the end of his life he could say, "*I have FINISHED my course*" (2 Timothy 4 v7). He had completed or finished his service—the work God had given him to do. I trust that you and I who are Christians will also be able to say when we stand before Jesus Christ, "I did my work. I finished what You asked me to do."

All Children **NO PLAY ACTING**

TRUTH:

What we are on the inside is more important than what we are on the outside.

VISUAL:

A cup which is clean on the outside but dirty on the inside. A plastic or artificial face mask.

LESSON:

Look at this cup. Would you like to take a nice cool drink from it? It's a nice cup isn't it? And it really looks clean. But wait a moment. Look at the inside of it. The inside is dirty. Now would you like to drink from it? Of course not. This cup is a hypocrite. Do you know what a hypocrite is? That's a big word, isn't it?

The word hypocrite comes from the Greek language, and it was used many years ago to describe a person who was an actor in a play and who put a mask on his face to pretend he was someone else (*Put the mask over your face*). I look different, don't I? But this is not the real me you see. It is a mask. The real me is underneath it.

A hypocrite is someone who pretends to be what he is not. Do you understand? So this cup is a hypocrite. It pretends to be clean – but it is not. It is clean on the outside but dirty on the inside – and it is no good to anyone.

Have you heard the story of the crow who wanted to become a dove? It spent hours learning how to fly like a dove, sound like a dove and eat like a dove. And then it covered itself with white flour so that it would look like a dove. But it still wasn't a dove.

It was a hypocrite. And do you know what happened when the rain came on? When the Lord Jesus was here on earth He spoke to a number of religious men and told them they were like this cup (Matthew 23 v25, 26). He told them that they were religious and good on the outside, that they put on a show and pretended to be clean; but inside they were dirty. And He told them to become clean on the inside first of all – and then they could be really clean on the outside. They were hypocrites.

But what about you? Are you clean on the inside? Only the Lord Jesus can make you clean. Ask Him to be your Saviour. He will forgive your sin and make you clean on the inside in God's sight – and then He will help you to be clean on the outside. Don't be a hypocrite. Don't think that by trying to be good on the outside God will be pleased with you. You need to be cleansed on the inside by the Lord Jesus first of all. Trust Him today – and you will be clean, really clean.

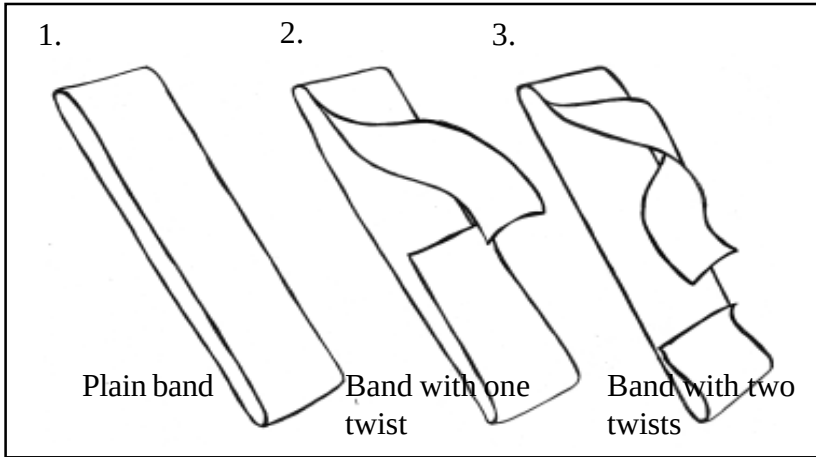
And don't forget that if you are a Christian it is still possible for you to try to deceive other people and put on a mask. Be honest at all times – don't be a hypocrite. You want to be sure that you are also clean on the outside.



*"Train up a child in the way
he should go, And when he is old
he will not depart from it."*

Proverbs 22:6

All Children
THE THREE CIRCLES

**TRUTH:**

The Lord Jesus wants to save sinners and help them walk with Him.

VISUALS:

Three pieces of paper approximately three feet in length and two inches in width. A pair of scissors.

The three pieces of paper must be prepared as shown in the diagram. One band is glued together to make a circle. The second circle is made by making a half turn in the paper before gluing. The third circle is prepared by making a complete turn in the paper before gluing. The first circle when cut along the centre will form two separate circles. But when the second circle is cut in half it will form one large complete circle. When the third circle is cut it will form two separate circles linked together.

LESSON:

1. *Take the first circle in your hand (making sure it is the correct one!). You should mark the first circle with a 1 at the join and start to cut it with your scissors along the middle. As you do so speak about sin and its results emphasizing that sin separates us from God.*

Do you remember how God created the world in six days – and it was a perfect world? On the sixth day He created the first man and woman - Adam and Eve; and they were also perfect. They lived in a beautiful garden and there was only one thing which God told them not to do. They were not to eat the fruit of one tree in the garden. That was all! Do you know what happened? They disobeyed God and they ate the fruit. That was a sin! Sin is when we disobey God. Do you know what sin does? It separates us from God. Adam and Eve were put out of the garden. They were separated from God – and so are we if we have not trusted the Lord Jesus.

By this time you should have completed your cutting of the first circle and the result is two circles. Drape one over one arm and the second over the other arm; and by holding your two arms up and apart you can visualize how sin separates us (one circle) from God (the other circle). Now take the second circle (which you have previously marked 2 at the join) in your hand and start to cut it along the middle. As you do so speak about Jesus Christ and what He did to save us from sin and bring us back into fellowship with God.

God loves boys and girls and He has provided an answer for your sin and your separation from Him. He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to take the punishment for your sin, and He did so on the cross. He died there for everyone of you and made it possible for each of you to have your sins forgiven and to be friends with God. If you put your trust in Jesus Christ you will not be separated any more from God. You will be saved. You will become members of God's family – and live with Him forever more. Jesus Christ will live in you and you will be in Him. You will be joined to Him forever. (Romans 8 v35-39)

By this time you should have completed the cutting of the second circle and the result is – one large circle. Drape it over your neck and shoulders –to illustrate how Jesus Christ brings the two circles of man and God together and makes them one.

Now take the third circle in your hand marked 3 at the join and start cutting along the middle as before.

When Jesus Christ saves you from sin (*Hold up your two arms*) and unites you with Himself (*Show circle draped over your neck and shoulders*) He wants you to grow and become more and more like Him.

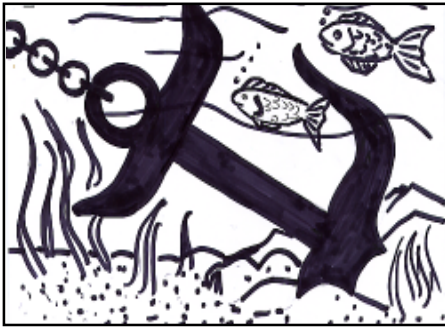
How can you do this? The answer is to spend time with Him, talking to Him and reading His Word. He wants you to walk with Him and stay close to Him every day; and, as you do so, He will help you to grow.

When you finish talking about growth and walking with Him and you finish cutting the third circle you should have two interlocking circles. Hold these two circles in your two hands, pull them gently and show how they relate to each other. These represent the saved children and Jesus Christ – linked together and walking together.

Revise all three circles and explain briefly:

- The two over your arms represent sin and separation.
- The one draped around your neck and shoulders represents salvation and our union with Jesus Christ.
- The two interlocking circles represent our sanctification and our walk with Jesus Christ.

All Children **SURE AND STEADFAST**



TRUTH:

Jesus Christ keeps boys and girls safe and secure.

VISUAL:

A picture of an anchor. You can enlarge and copy the picture here. Or it would be even better if you could show a real anchor.

LESSON:

Do you know what this is (*Show it and allow opportunity to respond*)? Yes, it is an anchor. It is not very pretty – but for some people it is very important and they couldn't do without it. Who do you think these people are? (*Give opportunity to respond*). Yes, you are right. Sailors use anchors like this one. Every boat or ship has at least one of them. What do they use them for? (*Give opportunity to respond*).

- Imagine a small ship just off the coast. The winds get stronger and the waves get higher, and the ship is blown along and out of its course by these fierce gales. What can the sailors do? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). They can throw out their anchor like this one (*Show it*). It is

heavy and when it gets to the seabed it digs in and grips the seabed firmly. That's why it is this shape. And the anchor will hold the ship firm and prevent it from being blown onto the rocks where it could be destroyed. You and I often have difficulties and problems in our lives – and they can drive us away off our course. They are like storms and they can blow us into the rocks and destroy us. What do we need? We need an anchor which will hold us firm, safe and sure so we will not be ship-wrecked. God has given us an anchor which will hold firm no matter how strong the storm is. That anchor is the Lord Jesus (Hebrews 6 v19 and 20) and when we put our trust and hope in Him we are safe and secure from ship-wreck.

- But here is another small boat which is coming into the harbour. There is a place in the harbour for the boat to stay when the sailor comes ashore. But how can he keep it in that place? As soon as he leaves the boat it will start to drift and maybe crash into other boats, or even drift out to sea. What should he do? *(Give an opportunity to respond)*. Yes, he should drop his anchor, and that anchor will grip the seabed and keep the boat in that one place so it does not drift. And our anchor, your anchor, the Lord Jesus will keep you from drifting. He will keep you safe and secure. You can trust Him because He is strong and able to hold you firm and secure.

Is Jesus Christ your anchor? An anchor is no help to a sailor unless he lowers it down into the sea bed. Looking at the Lord Jesus, or thinking about Him, does not make us safe and secure. We need to do something. We need to put our faith, our trust and our hope in Him – and when we do so He becomes our anchor and we are safe and secure forever.

All Children **BEHOLD THE KING**

TRUTH:

Jesus Christ is the great King.

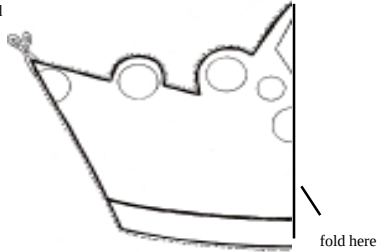
VISUALS:

Make four cardboard crowns using the pattern given. It is easier to fold the cardboard used along the middle, and then to copy half of the crown on one

half of the cardboard. When you then cut it out, and unfold it you will have a good symmetrical crown. On each print one word:

GREAT
GOOD
GENTLE
GRACIOUS

cut along outline and
then add jewels to
right-hand side



LESSON:

Who is the ruler of your country? Some countries have a president to rule them; and others have a king or a queen. But there is a very special King who rules over all kings, queens and presidents.

The Lord Jesus is that King. The Bible calls Him the King of Kings. What kind of King is He?

- A GREAT KING (Ephesians 1 v20-22) (*Show first card*).
He is the greatest of all kings:
 - ✓ He is a **powerful** King. He rules over all earthly kings. He is in control of everyone and He can do whatever He wants.
 - ✓ He is a **universal** King. Do you know what that means? He is Ruler over the whole earth. Indeed over the whole universe.
 - ✓ He is an **everlasting** King. His rule will never finish. He will be King for ever and ever.

There is no other King like Him. He is truly a great King.
- A GOOD KING (Acts 10 v38).
There have been many bad kings and rulers in history, and also many good kings (*You could give examples of both in your country*). But no king has been as good as the Lord Jesus. Although He is so great and can do anything, He is also good and always does good things. He is the only One Who is completely good and perfect in every way. He always makes the right decision and always does the right thing.
- A GENTLE KING (2 Corinthians 10 v1).
The Lord Jesus is strong and all-powerful; but He rules by love and not by force. He is not a cruel dictator like Hitler or Stalin (*Explain*). His subjects love Him. He is so kind to us and so gentle with us. He draws us gently into His kingdom and He deals with us gently even when we let Him down.

➤ A GRACIOUS KING (John 1 v14).

Do you know what that means? Grace means that we receive what we don't deserve. The Lord Jesus could punish us for our sins – and He will if we haven't trusted Him as our Saviour. But when we do trust Him He forgives us completely. He graciously gives us a salvation we don't deserve. Is Jesus Christ your King? Trust Him as your Saviour today and He will become your King forever.

If He is your King you need to obey Him at all times.

All Children
FLAGS FOR YOU

TRUTH:

Jesus Christ is the Saviour of boys and girls.

VISUAL:

You will need three flags for this lesson – a black flag, a red flag and a red cross flag (a white flag with a red cross on it). If you cannot buy or borrow these you can make them – preferably with cloth, but as a last resort with paper.

LESSON:

Do you like to see flags flying? When do you see them? (*Give opportunity to respond*).

I love to see flags flying in the breeze – and the more flags the better.

It is always exciting to see a parade with bands, many marchers and, above all, bright and colourful flags. And I know that we all like those special days in our country when the flags are brought out and fly proudly in the breeze.

I have brought three flags with me this morning – and each of these flags has a message for you.

- First of all I have a black flag (*Wave it*). Can you think of any time when this flag is flown (*Give an opportunity to respond*). I can think of at least two times when a black flag is used.

- ✓ In USA when a person is being executed for having murdered someone, a black flag is flown over the prison. This flag speaks of death.

- ✓ Have you ever watched a car race on television? Perhaps you have seen one of the great Grand Prix races when the cars race round the track at tremendous speeds. Sometimes one of the drivers does something wrong; perhaps he deliberately hits an opponent or he cheats in some way. If that happens a black flag is waved (*Wave it*) by the official in charge to tell that driver he is disqualified; he is out of the race.

So this black flag speaks of death and disqualification.

And do you know that the Bible, God's Word, also waves a black flag at us? (*Wave it*) It tells us that because we have sinned we are going to die and will be separated from God forever – and it also tells us that we will be disqualified from ever entering Heaven. (Romans 6 v23)

- But here is another flag (*Wave it*). It is red. Have you ever seen this flag used? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). It is often used to warn people. If a lorry has a long load there will be a red flag at the back to warn people not to come too close. If there are road works ahead a workman will wave a red flag (*Wave it*) to get drivers to stop – or at least slow down. This red flag gives you a warning about what will happen if you are not careful. Slow down! Stop!

And the Bible also waves red flags (*Wave it*). It tells us that if we don't trust the Lord Jesus we will be lost forever. It tells us to slow down, to stop and think carefully about ourselves and our need to be saved.

- But I'm glad that I brought a third flag. Do you recognize this flag? It is a red cross flag (*Wave it*). Do you know who flies this flag (*Give an opportunity to respond*). It is used on the battlefield by those who are trying to help the wounded and dying. And it is used by those who are feeding the hungry. This flag speaks of help being given to those who need it.

And that is why Jesus Christ came into this world. He came to save us and help us. The black flag (*Wave it*) speaks of death and disqualification; the red flag (*Wave it*) warns us to stop and think; but this flag (*Wave it*) speaks of salvation. The Bible says that Jesus Christ died on a cross like this (*Point to it*) so that if we trust Him as our Saviour we will be saved and go to Heaven. (Acts 16 v31)

Have you trusted Him? Do so today. If you have trusted Him make sure that you share what you have learned with others who need the message these flags bring.

All Children
MORE FLAGS FOR YOU

TRUTH:

The Lord Jesus will save you and help you if you obey Him.

VISUAL:

Use the three flags from your previous lesson – the black flag, the red flag and a red cross flag. In addition obtain or make a white flag and a green flag.

LESSON:

Last week we looked at three flags. Could you tell me what each one stands for? (*Wave each one and give an opportunity to respond*). Yes, this black one reminds us of what happens to those who are not saved, this red one warns us to do something about it, and this red cross flag reminds us that Jesus Christ died for us and is able to save us.

This week I have two more flags.

- The first one is a white flag (*Wave it*). Do you know when this flag is used and who uses it (*Give an opportunity to respond*). You may have seen it being used on television. Two groups of soldiers are fighting each other. One group knows that the other is stronger and is going to win, so they hold up a white flag which means “We surrender”. “We give up, you have won the battle.”

And that is what God wants you to do if you are not a Christian. Give up trying to save yourself. You cannot do it. The only way to become a Christian is to raise your white flag (*Wave it*) before the Lord Jesus and say, “I surrender. You have won. I cannot save myself. I ask You to save me now.” And He will if you ask Him. Have you done so?

- But there is one more flag. It is a green flag and I like it very much (*Wave it*). Have you ever seen one of these used? What is it used for? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). When there is a collision on the race track all the cars have to slow down until the danger is dealt with. But when it is all clear the man in charge waves a green flag. “The problem is over; the danger is gone” the flag says.

And when you trust the Lord Jesus the danger is gone. You will never be judged or condemned for your sin because it is forgiven forever. You are safe and when you die you will go to Heaven.

Have you ever been in a car when you come to a road works? A red flag (*Wave it*) or a red light tells you to stop. And so you do. And then the work man waves a green flag (*Wave it*). It's a sign to go – to move forward.

And when you become a Christian you must not stand still. The Bible waves a green flag (*Wave it*). In the Bible God says, "Get going. There are many things I want you to do and many places I want you to go. Full speed ahead. I want you to obey Me." (Philippians 3 v14)

That's why being a Christian is so exciting. It's just one green flag after another.

Have you surrendered? (*Wave white flag*).

Are you moving forward and obeying the Lord Jesus? (*Wave green flag*)

I trust you are.

All Children **A SERMON IN SHOES**

TRUTH:

The Christian life is like a journey.

VISUAL:

A pair of babies' shoes, a pair of walking boots, and a pair of running shoes.

LESSON:

Did you ever go on a long journey – by car, or train, or ship, or even on an aeroplane (*Give an opportunity to respond*). Well, we are all on a journey and I call it the journey of life. For many of us it will be a long journey. For some it could be a short journey. It started when you were born and it will last until you die. You don't know how long your journey will be but there are three pairs of shoes which God wants you to wear on your journey.

- The first pair are these (*Show babies' shoes*). That's strange isn't it? Why does God want you to wear shoes like these? It is of course not possible. These shoes which you see are too small for your feet. They are babies' shoes. But they are a picture of the most important thing which can happen in your life. The Bible says that if you receive the Lord Jesus into your life you will become a child of God and enter His family (John 1 v12). You will be born again. You will start a new life. That means you will be

a spiritual baby if you know what I mean. That's what these baby shoes stand for – the beginning of a new life for you. Indeed the real journey of your life has begun.

Have you trusted the Lord Jesus? Have you been born again and started a new life? If not, trust Him right now.

- Here are the shoes or boots you now need to wear (*Hold up walking boots*). These are walking boots. These help you to walk when the ground is rough and there are hills to climb. And the Bible tells you and me that after we trust the Lord Jesus He wants us to walk. (Ephesians 5 v2) What does that word mean? It just means He wants us to live for Him. Walking is living.

How can we walk the right way? How can we live for God? Sometimes our pathway as Christians is very rough so we need walking boots to help us.

There are two walking boots here.

- ✓ The first one (*Hold it up*) stands for reading your Bible and listening to what God says to you. Do you do that every day?
- ✓ The second boot stands for prayer and talking to God. You should set aside a time every day to read and pray and this will help you to walk and live during the rest of your journey.

These two boots, "Read" and "Pray" are how we get along in the Christian life (*Demonstrate*). Read – pray – read – pray.

- Here is another pair of shoes. They are special shoes (*Show them*). Do you know what they are (*Give an opportunity to respond*)? They are running shoes. These are the shoes athletes wear when they are in a race. And several times in the Bible God tells us that we are in a race – that our life is not just a walk with shoes like these (*Show walking boots*); it is a race (*Show racing shoes*). That's what makes it so exciting. God wants us to run hard and run well – and one day we will reach the finishing line, and the end of our journey. Keep your eyes on Him and He will help you to run a good race.

All Children ***GOD'S DRESS CODE***

TRUTH:

God accepts us if we trust Jesus Christ.

VISUALS:

Make three cards with the words **FILTHY CLOTHES**, **PATCHED CLOTHES** and **NEW CLOTHES**. Or make one card with the word **CLOTHES** at the right hand side. Then make and attach on the left hand side three flaps with the other three words – which can be folded over when required. Another alternative would be to actually have an example (or a picture) of each of the three kinds of clothes.

LESSON:

Are you interested in clothes? I am sure you are. Do you like nice clothes? I am sure you do. Do you know that the Bible tells us about the clothes we wear and the clothes we should wear?

➤ **FILTHY CLOTHES** (*Show card*)

The Bible tells us about a man who was dressed in filthy clothes (Zechariah 3 v3). His name was Joshua. But did you know that everyone born into this world is dressed in the filthy clothes of sin? The Bible says that when God looks down at us, He sees that everyone has gone astray, everyone is filthy and no one is good (Psalm 14 v2 and 3). And the Bible tells us that even when we try to be good our good works are like filthy rags in God's sight (Isaiah 64 v6).

How sad! Are these the kind of clothes you have? What does God see in your life?

➤ **PATCHED CLOTHES** (*Show card*)

We can try to clean our clothes – but without success. We can even try to patch them. But the Bible says (Matthew 9 v16) that when we try to patch our old filthy garments the patch always gives way and the holes become bigger than ever. Patched clothes are no use in God's sight. Trying to be good and to do good things are not enough. They are just patches. Are you trying to patch your clothes? You can't do it.

➤ **NEW CLOTHES** (*Show card*)

Do you like to buy or to have new clothes? I am sure all the girls like to go to the fashion shop with their mother and look at new dresses and shoes. But I feel the boys also like to buy new clothes – perhaps a new football shirt or new trainers.

The Bible says that we can have new clothes. It tells us to put on or to be clothed with the Lord Jesus Christ (Colossians 3 v10; Ephesians 4 v24). He, Himself, is the garment or clothes we should put on.

But what does that mean? It means that when you trust Jesus Christ as your Saviour God will see you as clothed in the cleanness of Jesus Christ.

His cleanness is like a garment or robe which is put on us, at that special time – and when God looks at us He does not see our sin and uncleanness – but instead He sees the beautiful clothes of Jesus Christ's cleanness (2 Corinthians 5 v21).

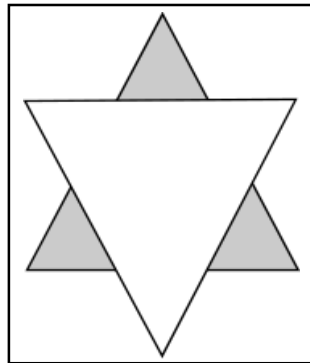
You can only go to Heaven if you have these new clothes – and they can be yours today if you trust Jesus Christ as your Saviour.

If you have already trusted the Lord Jesus, then make it your number one goal to live a life which is as clean as possible and which is getting more and more like your new clothes.

All Children **TOO MANY TO COUNT**

TRUTH:
God is the all powerful Creator.

VISUALS:
A container full of sand; a picture of a star (like this pattern).
To do this make two triangles and set one on top of the other as shown.



LESSON:
I have two things I would like to show you this morning:

- Firstly here is some sand. And you know, of course, that even in this small container there are many, many thousands – even millions – of grains of sand.
- Secondly here is a picture of a star. Just one – but there are of course many of them in the sky.

Sand and stars are quite different from each other. Could you tell me how they are different? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). First of all they look different. The stars are so nice and bright. Sand is dull and gritty. Secondly, you look up to see stars; you look down to see sand. And thirdly each star is much much bigger than each grain of sand. Indeed most stars are bigger than all the grains of sand in the world put together.

But sand and stars are the same in two ways. Could you tell me how? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). That's more difficult, isn't it?

- First of all there are many, many stars in the sky (*Give some details*), and there are many, many grains of sand on the earth. You could not count either of them. You could not even count the grains of sand in this container never mind all the sand on a beach or in the whole world – and even with the biggest telescope in the world you couldn't count all the stars.

Did you know that when God spoke to Abraham many years ago He gave him two promises?

- ✓ He promised that his descendants – his children, grandchildren and so on – would be like the dust or sand of the earth (Genesis 13 v16). They would be so many they could not be counted.
- ✓ He also promised that his descendants would be like the stars of the sky (Genesis 15 v5). They would be so many that they could not be counted.

At that time it was only God who knew that there were as many stars in the sky as there were grains of sand on the earth. Scientists in those days knew that there were countless millions of grains of sand in the earth, but they had no idea that there were countless millions of stars in the universe. But God knew and we now know that this is so. And in the Bible God says several times that Abraham's descendants would be like the stars and the sand – neither could be counted (Hebrews 11 v12). So that is the first way sand and stars are alike. They cannot be counted.

- Then secondly sand and stars are alike because both show the power of God.

God must be very powerful to make and put in place so many stars, and at the same time to make so many little grains of sand all over the world.

- ✓ The stars, in their size and beauty display the glory of God: The Bible says that, "*The heavens declare the glory of God*" (Psalm 19 v1).
- ✓ And we can also see the power and glory of God in the countless millions of grains of sand all over the world.

So when you are at the seaside and play in the sand, or if at night you look up and see so many stars – then think of the God Who made both of them in their countless millions – and praise and worship the One Who made them all. But the first and most important thing which this great God wants you to do is to trust Jesus Christ as your Saviour. Have you done that?

All Children
HE'S GOT YOU IN HIS HANDS

TRUTH:

Christians are doubly safe.

VISUAL:

Your two hands.

LESSON:

Are you ever afraid? Do you worry about tomorrow or next year? If you are a Christian, do you ever have doubts about whether you are saved or if you will go to Heaven when you die?

If you have trusted the Lord Jesus as your Saviour you are completely safe and you don't need to worry about anything.

The Lord Jesus talks about people who have trusted Him as their Saviour in John 10 v27-28 (*Read verses*). Did you hear that? The Lord Jesus said that His sheep, that is those people who have trusted Him, are completely safe, "*They shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand*" (*Hold up your left hand, palm facing away from you. Have children do motions with you*). Let's pretend your thumb is you. Pretend the rest of your hand is the hand of the Lord Jesus. (*Bend your thumb down into your palm and gently close your fingers around it, making a fist*). Jesus holds you in His hand and you are safe forever if you have trusted Him as your Saviour. He says that no man (no boy or girl or man or woman) can pluck (take) you out of His hand. You are completely safe and secure when you belong to the Lord Jesus.

Now look what the Lord Jesus says (Read John 10 v29-30). "*My Father, (that's God) ... is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of My Father's hand.*" Is there anyone more powerful than God the Father? (*Now cover your left fist with your right hand*). You are still the thumb. Pretend the hand with you inside is Jesus' hand; the other one is God the Father's! Look at your two hands. Wiggle that thumb inside. See how safe you are! Your two hands remind you that you are doubly-safe. When you know Jesus as your Saviour no one can take you away from Him – not even Satan. You are in the Hand of the Lord Jesus and you are in the hand of God the Father.

Do you know the words of the Negro spiritual "*He's got the whole world in His hands*"? One of the verses says, "*He's got you and me, brother, in His hands.*" And that is true if you are a Christian.

If you are a Christian when you get into bed tonight put your hands together as they are now. Wiggle your thumb and thank God for keeping you doubly-safe!

If you are not a Christian you can be saved and you can become completely safe and sure by trusting Jesus Christ as your Saviour.

All Children
THE MIRACLE ON THE MOUNTAIN

TRUTH:

The Lord Jesus Christ is God the Son.

VISUALS:

A small dinner roll and a sardine on a paper plate.

LESSON:

The Bible tells us that one day the people whom the Lord Jesus was teaching became very hungry. Because He loved them and wanted them to know who He really was, He decided to feed them in a special way. (John 6 v1-14)

There were over 5,000 men plus women and children in the crowd and they were hungry! None of them had any food – except for one little boy and that little boy willingly gave his lunch of five rolls and two fish to Jesus.

I have one roll here today. If the boy had five rolls and there was well over 5,000 people, how many people would one roll have to feed? Right – well over 1,000! (plus women and children).

Well, let's see, do you think I can break this roll into over 1,000 pieces? (*Slowly tear apart the roll into small pieces*). I doubt if I could get 1,000 crumbs if I worked for hours! But wait! Let's see what the Bible says, "*When they were filled*" – the people didn't receive only a crumb. Their stomachs were filled. And more than that. There were 12 baskets of leftovers! What a miracle that was!

But someone might say, "But there were also two fish in the boy's lunch." Now they would have needed to be really huge fish to feed all those people! Besides that, the Bible says that they were two small fish. Fish like this little sardine (*Show it*). Now I wonder if we could break two little fish up into enough fish to feed well over 5,000 people and have so many basketsful left over. Of course not.

But this is what the Lord Jesus did. He took five little rolls like this (*Hold it up*) and two little fish like this (*Show it*) and fed well over 5,000 people, and they all ate until they were full and satisfied. And then they gathered up twelve baskets full of bread and fish which had not been eaten. Who did this? It was the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, Who did this – and He could do this because He is God and can do anything.

- He can save you if you are not saved.
- If you are saved He can help you with any problem you have.

All Children **GET OFF TO A GOOD START**

TRUTH:

Be sure you start your life (and each day) at the right place.

VISUALS:

Wear a sweater or coat that fastens with a number of buttons.

LESSON:

I am wearing a cardigan. If I want to close it I will need to fasten these buttons. Just watch me and I will show you how to do it (*Fasten the buttons of your sweater – but put the first button in a button hole which is one space too high. Continue speaking until you get to the last button*).

Oh, look what has happened? It's not even. What do you think is wrong? (*Allow responses*). So I will just unbutton it and start over again (*Unbutton and try again. This time make the other side come out too long*). There! I did it again. Is it right now? (*Allow responses*). Oh, I must have made a mistake. Can you see what my mistake was? (*Allow responses*). I started at the wrong place. Let's try again (*Unbutton and then start at the right place and put all the buttons in*). There you are! Everything is fine. Why? Because I started at the right place.

If you don't start at the right place you will have problems.

- If you are not a Christian be sure you start at the right place or you will be lost and separated from God forever. If you think being good is the right place to start, or going to church, or being baptized or saying your prayers,

you will be wrong. They are good things but they are not the place to start, nor the place to be saved.

Begin your new life by trusting the Lord Jesus as your Saviour. That is the right place to begin the Christian life. If you start here you will go to Heaven where God lives when you come to the end of your life.

- If you are a Christian start at the right place every day by spending time reading your Bible and talking to God. If you don't do this you will have problems. If you do you will have a good day.
- The Bible tells us that, "*the fear of the Lord is the beginning (or start) of wisdom*" (Psalm 111 v10). Boys and girls who love and respect God and give Him first place in their lives are truly wise – because that's where wisdom starts.

Always remember this, if you start at the right place you will end at the right place.

All Children **FIRE IF YOU DARE**

(A lesson especially for those who live in the United Kingdom)

TRUTH:

If you are a Christian you are safe and secure forever.

VISUAL:

A British flag (the Union Jack).



LESSON:

Many years ago in Mexico a British man was falsely accused of a serious crime and he was sentenced to death by firing squad.

The day for the execution arrived and in the morning the innocent man was led out to be shot. But just as the fatal shot was about to be fired, the ambassador, who represented the British government, rushed out carrying a British flag like this one (*Show it*). He went quickly to the side of the condemned man, wrapped the flag around him like this (*Wrap the flag around yourself*), and cried out to the executioners, "Fire if you dare."

The soldiers were not afraid to fire at the man, but they were afraid to fire on such a covering and so the life of the condemned man was spared.

That's an interesting story isn't it? But how does it affect us?

We are all sinners and we deserve to be punished by God. We are not innocent like this man was. We are guilty. The Bible says that, "*The wages of sin is death*" (Romans 6 v23). We deserve to die forever. But the Lord Jesus has died for us and if we trust Him as our Saviour His salvation covers us and protects us (as this flag did for that man) and we are safe forever. The Bible says that no one can condemn the person who has trusted Christ (Romans 8 v33, 34) because He took the punishment for sin instead of us. That means that no man, not even the devil himself, can sentence us to punishment or death. Jesus Christ has taken our punishment and our death so we go free. And like the man in Mexico we can say to the devil or to any one else, "Fire if you dare!"

All Children **MORE THAN FORGIVENESS**

TRUTH:

If you are a Christian your sin is forgiven and you are a child of God.

VISUAL:

A photograph of your Queen (or President) and a Bible.

LESSON:

Do you have a good imagination? You do? Good.

Here is a photograph of our Queen (or President). I want you to imagine that on a special occasion she decides to give all the convicted criminals in our country an amnesty. Do you know what that means? It means they would all be freed from prison – and wouldn't have to finish their sentences. How happy they would all be.

Of course this would never happen. That's why I asked you to use your imagination. But I want to tell you something even more wonderful and you don't need to use your imagination this time.

In the Bible (*Hold it up*) we read that God gives a full and complete amnesty and forgiveness to all sinners, to all those who have broken His laws. If they put their trust in the Lord Jesus they are all free and will never be punished for their sins. Have you trusted Jesus Christ? If you have, you are free, you are forgiven and you will never be punished for your sins (Acts 13 v39). If you haven't trusted Him, do so today.

But now I want you to use your imagination again. Imagine that our Queen (*Show photograph*) not only gives an amnesty to every law breaker and sets them completely free, but she does something more wonderful. She stands at the gates of each jail and welcomes the forgiven criminals as they come to freedom. Then she invites them to come and live in the palace with her and become part of her family.

That needs a lot of imagination, doesn't it? Indeed it seems impossible. Yet that is what happens to us when we trust the Lord Jesus – indeed it is even better.

You and I might not see ourselves as criminals. But we have sinned against God and we are guilty just like those convicted criminals. But the Bible (*Hold it up*) tells us that when we trust Jesus Christ as our Saviour, God not only forgives all our sins and set us free, but He also brings us into His family (John 1 v12, 13). We become His children and one day we will live in a mansion prepared for us in Heaven.

And that's not imagination. That is true – because God says so.

That's why you should trust Jesus Christ as your Saviour – today!

And if you have trusted Him you should thank Him for forgiving you and for bringing you into His family (John 1 v12, 13).

All Children

A PROMISE WRITTEN IN THE SKY

TRUTH:

God always keeps His promises.

VISUALS:

A picture of a rainbow.

LESSON:

I brought a rainbow with me today! It's not a real rainbow. I couldn't bring a real rainbow in here. This is just a picture of one to remind us what a rainbow looks like.

Rainbows are beautiful, aren't they? They are so bright and colourful. How many colours are there in the rainbow? Do you know what they are? (*Allow*

the children to respond). They are red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet.

I am always happy when I see a rainbow because I remember that God always keeps His promises.

The Bible tells us that long ago there was a great flood that covered the whole earth. The only people still alive were a man called Noah, his wife, his three sons and their wives – because they truly loved God and obeyed Him. Everyone else drowned.

After it was all over God promised Noah that He would never again send a flood to destroy the earth. God then put a rainbow in the sky and told Noah that the rainbow was a special reminder of that promise. So every time we see a rainbow we can remember God's promise not to destroy the world again with a flood. God always keeps His promises.

Let us think of some other promises God has made:

- He promised that He would give eternal life to everyone who trusted the Lord Jesus (John 3 v16) and if you have you trusted Him then you have eternal life as God promised.
- He promised that He would always care for His children (1 Peter 5 v7). Why then should you worry?
- He promised that He would always be with His children – to help them and strengthen them (Matthew 28 v20). If you are a Christian ask Him to help you and He will.

The next time you see a rainbow remember that God put it there to remind you that He always keeps His promises – and thank Him for that.

All Children ***BUBBLES DON'T LAST***

TRUTH;

Those things which last are the most important.

VISUALS:

A jar of bubble liquid (soapy water) and a ring for blowing bubbles.

LESSON:

Look what I have brought this week (*Show the jar and the ring*). Do you know what these are for? They are to blow bubbles. It's been a long time since I

blew bubbles. I used to love blowing them. Let's try (*blow a few bubbles*). They are beautiful, aren't they?

The only problem is that they don't last very long. They hit something and pop – or they just fall apart (*Demonstrate*). Look at that. They have all disappeared already. Bubbles just don't last very long.

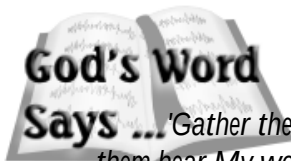
There are many things in this world which are just like these bubbles. They are fine; they are enjoyable; but they don't last:

- Toys and games are fine and enjoyable; but the joy and excitement soon wears off; they don't last (*Blow a bubble and pop it*).
- You enjoy your new dress or shoes or jeans. They are very nice. But they wear out or become too small (*Blow a bubble and pop it*).
- Your favourite book is soon read (*Blow a bubble and pop it*).

But we didn't come here to talk about bubbles and things which don't last. Let's talk about things which do last forever:

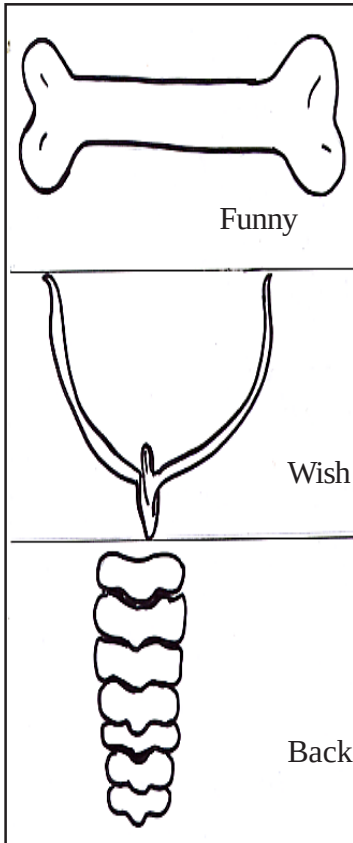
- God will always be there. He never started and He will never finish.
- God's Word will last forever – and all God's promises will never wear out or disappear.
- The real "you", the "you" inside your body will last forever – in Heaven if you are a Christian, but separated from God if you are not.

The Lord Jesus told us to think about the things which last forever (Matthew 6 v19, 20) and focus on them. They are the most important things. Other things are fun but they are like bubbles. They don't last. Keep thinking about God, His Word and His promises and focus on them. They will never disappear like these bubbles (*Blow some*).



'Gather the people to Me, and I will let them hear My words, that they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children.' Deut 4:10

All Children
DEM BONES, DEM BONES

**TRUTH:**

God wants boys and girls to be strong Christians.

VISUALS:

Make three paper or cardboard bones enlarging and using the patterns on the left or make three rectangular cards and put a picture of a bone on each. On each one print a word – funny, wish and back.

LESSON:

Have you ever heard the song or Negro spiritual about bones which starts “Your head bone’s connected to your neck bone. Your neck bone’s connected to your shoulder bone” – and so on right down to your foot bone? And the chorus repeats the words, “Dem bones, Dem bones, Dem dry bones”.

This morning we will think about three bones. Each of these bones reminds me of some boys and girls.

- The first bone is the funny bone and it is really much smaller than this one which I have here. It is in your elbow. It is called a funny bone because its proper name is the humerus (which is like the word humorous which means ‘funny’), and also because when you knock your elbow you get a funny, tingling feeling. This bone reminds me of boys and girls and young people who live their life as though it were only some sort of joking matter. They just go in for amusements and pleasures. That is all they are interested in.

God wants us to enjoy life. He is not a spoil sport. But enjoyment is not the only purpose of our life. The true purpose of life is to love God and

enjoy Him forever. And then He helps us to enjoy many other things. What a waste of our lives if we just live for pleasure.

- Our second bone is a bone out of a chicken. It is called a wishbone and it is a different shape from the first one. It is shaped like an arrow head. Do you pull the wishbone in your family when you have chicken for dinner? This is how you do it. Two people make a wish. Each holds a branch of the wishbone, then they pull until the bone snaps. Whoever is left with the larger bit of bone has won and his wish will come true – so it is said. This is just a story of course and not true.

So this wishbone represents boys and girls and young people with fancy desires and dreams. They go through life hoping and dreaming and wishing for things they want to have – to get rich, to become famous, and so on.

Now it is good to have a dream, or a desire, but it is possible to wish your life away, wanting things which may not be in God's Will for you.

- But we have a third bone. It is a backbone – and this is a very good thing to have. You all have one and it is much bigger than this picture. It runs down the middle of your back and it keeps you straight and strong. There are creatures called jellyfish who do not possess a backbone. All they can do is float on the sea. But other fish who have a backbone can move themselves along because their backbone makes it possible.

So this backbone stands for boys and girls who are strong, straight, courageous and hardworking. They see what they want to do and then put all their strength into doing it.

What would God's message be to these three kinds of people?

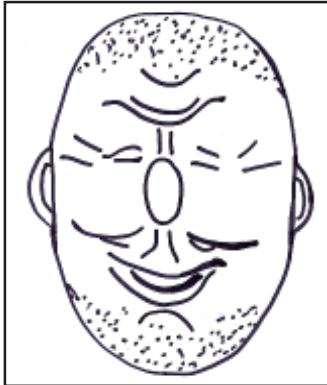
- First of all the funny bone (*Hold it up*). Are you a funny bone type of person? Funny people are never serious. But if you come to know God by asking the Lord Jesus Christ to be your Saviour, you will stop being a funny bone type, living just for a good time, and the amazing thing is that you will begin to enjoy life far better than ever you did before. In God's Word we read "*At Your right hand there are pleasures forevermore*" (Psalm 16 v11b).
- Then there is the wishbone (*Hold it up*). Are you a wishbone type of person? Wishbone people are never satisfied. God wants you to know that His plans for you are better than your dreams. Your own wishes and dreams may not come true but God's plans for you are sure to come true if you walk every day with Him. He has promised, "*Delight yourself also in the LORD; and He shall give you the desires of your heart*" (Psalm 37 v4).
- And lastly we have the backbone (*Hold it up*). Are you a backbone type of person? Backbone people are always straight. This is the kind of person every Christian should be – strong, straight and brave – and if you have trusted Jesus Christ as your Saviour He will help you to be strong, straight

and brave and have real backbone. He has promised, “*The people that know their God shall be strong, and do exploits*” (Daniel 11 v32b).

All Children **HOW TO FIND HAPPINESS**

TRUTH:

God wants His children to be happy.



VISUALS:

Using this pattern produce a large cardboard face which is happy when held in one way and unhappy when reversed.

LESSON:

How would you describe this? (*Hold up happy face*). Yes, it's a happy face. And it simply says to you and me “Be happy”. Are you happy? Would you like to be happy?

How can you be happy?

Some boys and girls try to be happy through sport of different kinds. Some are happy by watching TV and working with a computer. Some find happiness with video games. All these are fine but the happiness does not last for long.

Then there are older people who try to find happiness through drugs or alcohol. That is wrong and that happiness certainly does not last because they must go back for more.

What you need, indeed what everyone needs, is real happiness which lasts forever.

Where can you find this happiness?

- You will be happy if you really know that God loves you very much.
- You will be happy if you believe that Jesus Christ died for your sin.
- You will be especially happy if you trust Him as your Saviour and know your sins are forgiven and that you will live forever. You will then be a Christian – and Christians should be the happiest people in the world.

Have you trusted the Lord Jesus as your Saviour? Trust Him today and start to live a life which will bring you real happiness. (John 16 v11)

Have you ever heard this rhyme?

"There was an old man and his name was Kline.

And he was unhappy all of the time (Show sad face).

He trusted Christ as his Saviour and turned right round (Reverse and show happy face).

And now he's just the happiest person that ever could be found."

Which is your face? (Show both faces).

- Have you trusted Jesus Christ as your Saviour? You will never be truly happy until you do.
- And if you are a Christian you will be happy to know that Jesus Christ has promised never to leave you and that He will help you in all your troubles and problems. Does that not make you happy?
 - ✓ If you are a Christian you should not be like this person (Reverse face so it is now sad).
 - ✓ If you are a sad Christian it is because you are letting sin win. Tell the Lord you are sorry and ask Him to help you obey Him. Then you will be happy again. (Reverse face) You will have every reason to be really happy.

All Children

WHAT IS GROWING ON YOUR TREE?

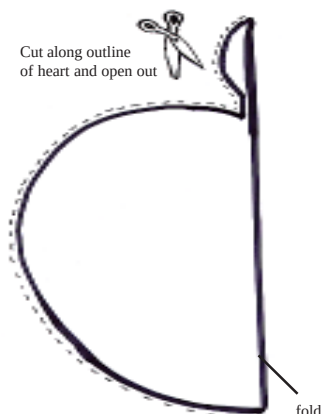
TRUTH:

God is looking for good fruit in your life.

VISUALS:

An apple, an orange and a pear (or whatever fruit is available).

On three patterns, each with a fruit outline put the words LOVE, JOY and PEACE. Use the pattern shown. Fold your paper in half, draw the picture of a "half fruit"; cut out and unfold.



LESSON:

What kind of fruit is this? (*Hold up an apple*). It is an apple. What kind of tree does it grow on? An apple tree of course.

What kind of fruit is this? (*Hold up an orange*). It is an orange. Does it grow on an apple tree? No! It grows on an orange tree.

And what about this pear (*Hold it up*). It grows on a pear tree.

You know the kind of trees by the fruits which they produce.

The Lord Jesus said the same thing about people. He said you will know people by the fruit they produce (Matthew 7 v16).

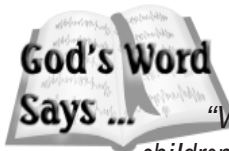
What did He mean? He didn't mean that people produce apples or oranges. By "fruit" He meant what people do. You can know what a person is like by watching what he does.

The Lord Jesus also said that good trees grow good fruit and bad trees grow bad fruit (Matthew 7 v17). Again He was talking about people. What did He mean? He meant that bad people do bad things and good people do good things. You know that a person is good if that person does good things. The fruit you produce is the sign of the kind of person you are.

Did you ever think of yourself as a tree? But you are – in the way the Lord Jesus was explaining; and if you are a Christian He wants you to produce fruit on your tree every day. What kind of fruit? The Bible calls it the fruit of the Spirit. There are nine of them altogether (Galatians 5 v22-23) – but let me just mention three – the first three – LOVE, JOY and PEACE (or quietness in your heart) (*Show words as you speak*).

The Lord Jesus will produce this fruit in your life if you really want Him to. Ask Him and He will help you to do so.

But if you are not a Christian you cannot produce the fruit God wants to see. Trust Jesus Christ as your Saviour. He will save you and change you and as a result fruit which pleases God will grow on your tree.



"We will not hide them from their children, Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, And His strength and His wonderful works that He has done." Psalm 78:4

All Children **YOU HAVE A HEART PROBLEM**

TRUTH:

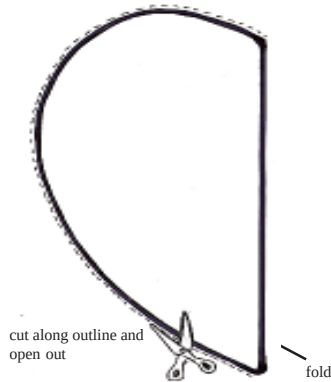
You can have a clean heart today.

VISUALS:

Make four large hearts using the pattern given from coloured manilla paper and hold them one underneath the other with the flesh coloured heart on top.

- A flesh-coloured heart
- A black heart to represent sin.
Make slits to insert strips with these words on each – lying, stealing, cheating, disobedience, and bad temper. You will pull these out as you speak.
- A red heart to represent the love of God and the death of Jesus Christ.
- A white heart to represent salvation. Make slits to insert strips with these words on each - love, peace, joy, kindness, obedience.

Put hearts on top of each other in the order shown.

**LESSON:**

Do you see this heart? (*Show flesh-coloured heart*). The Bible often speaks about our hearts, but it does not mean the organ in our body which pumps blood. The heart is the real you and the real me – the very centre of everything which controls our lives.

Our hearts and lives are full of sin and wickedness – the Bible says they are “*desperately wicked*”, (Jeremiah 17 v9). Our hearts may look like this on the outside (*Show flesh-coloured heart*) but there is a verse in the Bible which says, “*Man looks on the outward appearance, but God looks on the heart*” (1 Samuel 16 v6 v7). He sees our hearts as dark and sinful. And this is true of all of us because the Bible says that “*all have sinned and come short of the glory of God*” (Romans 3 v23).

Let us look inside this heart and see what we will find. (*Lift off the first heart, revealing black heart full of sin*). In our hearts and lives are sins like these – lying, stealing, cheating, disobedience and bad temper (*Pull out the strips one at a time*). These are things which we often do and we do them because they come from inside us.

The Lord Jesus died so that all these sins could be forgiven and He wants to come and live in our hearts and lives. (*Take off black heart, showing red one*). He died for us and shed His precious Blood so that we might be saved. He took the punishment for our sins so that we do not have to take it. If we trust Him as our Saviour He cleanses us and God sees us as clean and as pure as He is, just like this white heart (*Lift off red heart, showing white one*). He also changes us and comes to live in our hearts and lives bringing love (*Pull out strips from heart*), peace, joy kindness, and obedience. These are the results of the new life inside us.

Have you trusted Him? If not – do so today.

If you have, can God (and other people) see the change in your life?

All Children **LESSONS FROM A FOUNTAIN PEN**

TRUTH:

Jesus Christ wants to use you in His service.

VISUALS: A fountain pen.

LESSON:

(*Hold up the fountain pen*).

Have you ever seen a pen like this? It is called a fountain pen. There is a little rubber sack inside it which you fill with ink. This was the kind of pen which many people used years ago – and some people still use them; although most people today use other kinds of pens like biro – or ball point pens (*If you don't have a fountain pen you could adapt this lesson to use with a ball point pen*).

But I thought you would be interested to see this pen and learn some lessons from it.

We will let the pen talk and tell its own story.

- Once I was only some metal, plastic and rubber until someone found me and took me into a factory. And I was then made into a fine pen as you now see me to be.

Do you know that you were made by God? He used your father and mother of course to do this, but He gave you life and He decided what you would look like (Psalm 139 v16). He is your Maker.

- One day some time after I was made I was taken into a shop and put on display. And it was a very exciting day when someone came into the shop and paid money for me and bought me. And I was not cheap.
Do you know that the Lord Jesus died on the cross to buy you (1 Peter 1 v18 and 19) and the price He paid was very high? It cost Him His life. He wants you to thank Him for that and trust Him as your Saviour.
 - My new master now owns me. He is very proud of me and takes good care of me.
If you have trusted the Lord Jesus as your Saviour He is now your Lord and Master (Colossians 1 v13). He owns you and you belong to Him.
 - My master fills me with ink so that he can use me to write letters. He holds me in his hand and guides me over the paper, for I myself do not know where to go. I am very happy to write many letters for him.
And your Master the Lord Jesus wants to fill you each day with the Holy Spirit. That means you will be under His control, and He can use you and guide you every day (1 Corinthians 6 v19).
 - When my master is not using me he puts me away in a pocket close to his heart and keeps me safe and secure because he does not want to lose me. He loves me and takes good care of me.
And your Master the Lord Jesus loves you and keeps you safe and secure close to His heart at all times (Jude 24). He will never lose you.
- That is the story of my life boys and girls. And I hope it is the story of your life also because you are so like me.

All Children

WHAT SHALL I GIVE HIM?

TRUTH:

God wants you and me to love Him and to serve Him.

VISUALS:

Prepare four cards. Stick some money on the first card, a picture of a church on the second, and a picture of a clock on the third. Then on the fourth print the word "ME".

LESSON:

Have you ever asked yourself this important question? What does God want from me?

- I will give Him some of my money (*Point to money*). Is that what He wants? No!

- I will give Him some of my time (*Point to clock*). Is that what He wants? No!
- I will go to church and Sunday school every Sunday (*Point to church*). Is that what He wants? No!

Well, He does, of course, want these things. But only after we have given Him something else. What?

Let me tell you a story.

A missionary in northwest Canada was speaking to the Indians about the love of God and about Jesus Christ. As he taught them about His love, His courage, His life of sacrifice, the old chief arose, came forward with his blanket, and kneeling, laid it at the feet of the missionary saying, "Indian chief give his blanket to Jesus Christ."

But the missionary continued to talk about the Lord Jesus and all the good things He did when He was here on the earth, and again the old man came and knelt before the missionary with his tomahawk saying, "Indian chief give his tomahawk to Jesus Christ."

The missionary went on speaking about how people said nasty things about the Lord Jesus and spoke nasty words to Him when He was helping and healing people. Once more the old chief was moved. He went out and returned leading his pony up to the front and said, "Indian chief give his pony to Jesus Christ." Then at the end the missionary told how the Lord Jesus died on the cross and took the punishment for our sin – because He loved us so much. The old man rose once again, went up to where the missionary was standing, and the tears streamed down his face as he fell on his knees crying, "Indian chief give himself to Jesus Christ."

And this is what God wants from you and me (*Show card with the word "ME"*). He wants us! (Proverbs 23 v26)

All Children **JUMBLED PRICE TAGS**

TRUTH:

Make sure that the important things in life are important for you.

VISUALS:

An electric plug, a screwdriver, some paper labels, a book, a video tape and a football. A Bible.

LESSON:

A person who worked in an electricity shop decided to play a joke on the owner of the shop. It was not a very nice thing to do – and it led to a number of problems. One evening he stayed late at the shop and after everyone had left he went into the shop window and changed around the prices of the goods which were on display.

Some of the results were as follows:

- A 28" television set was priced at £1, a digital camera at £2.50 and a Hi-fi system at 50 pence. That's sounds good doesn't it?
- And, at the same time, an electric plug (*Show one*) was priced at £350, a screwdriver (*Show one*) at £400 and a package of paper labels (*Show one*) at £150. That doesn't sound so good.

You can imagine what happened the next morning. As people looked into the shop window and saw the prices of items like television sets and cameras they rushed in to buy them. The result was chaos – and the manager of the store had to explain what must have happened. The shoppers were not happy with the explanation – and the man who did it lost his job.

I am sure you think that such a thing would be impossible – and could never happen. But it happens every day to you and me. We jumble our own price tags. We put a high value on things which are not valuable and we put low values on important things which last forever.

Just imagine our own personal shop window with its jumbled price tags:

- Prayer is priced at 50 pence, Bible reading (*Show a Bible*) at 25 pence, witnessing for Jesus Christ at £1 and going to church at 75 pence.
- But we have priced or valued watching a video (*Show a video tape*) at £200, reading novels (*Show one*) at £250, shouting at a football match (*Show a football*) at £350 and lying in bed at £400.

This does really happen and we get all our price tags and values mixed up. We need to see what is really important and valuable – and give more time to those important things. (Colossians 3 v2)

Some of you have never trusted the Lord Jesus. Your life is centred upon yourself, your hobbies and games, your sports, and you just want to enjoy yourself and do what makes you happy. But do you know that there is Someone Who loves you, Who wants to save you, and give you eternal life? Salvation and eternal life are much more important and valuable than all these other things which only last for a few minutes or a few hours. The things which last are the most important. I am not saying these other things are wrong – but they become wrong if you set so much value on them that they stop you from trusting the Lord Jesus.

And also you boys and girls who are Christians need to be sure to see the things which are really important. Don't waste all your time and strength doing things which are not important.

All Children
WHAT'S IN A NAME?

TRUTH:

God has new names for those who trust Jesus Christ.

VISUALS:

Six cards with the different words outlined below in capitals on each of them.

LESSON:

We all have names don't we? When we were born our mothers and fathers called us John or Mary or Simon or Kim.

But God has names which He wants to give us – new names; and when we trust Jesus Christ as our Saviour He calls us by these new names.

The Bible tells us that Jesus Christ died for us (Romans 5 v8). Each of us can say, "He died for me". Why did He die? So that our sins could be forgiven and we could become new people by trusting in Him.

What happens when we trust Jesus Christ? The Bible uses different words and gives us new names or descriptions.

SAVED: (*Show it*) When we trust the Lord Jesus we are saved from the punishment we deserve for our sin (Acts 16 v31). Jesus Christ took that punishment so we don't have to take it – and we have that new name.

BORN AGAIN: (*Show it*) When we trust Him as our Saviour we become new people. Actually we are born again, we become the children of God and we start new lives (John 1 v12: 3 v5). We were born the first time when we were little babies; we are born the second time when we trust Jesus Christ – and we have a second new name.

REDEEMED: (*Show it*) Do you know what that means? If I redeem something I pay for it. Jesus Christ died on the cross to pay for our sins. He died to redeem us – to buy us back. So when we trust Him we are paid for, we are redeemed – and have a third name.

CHRISTIANS: (*Show it*) This is our family name. It means followers of Christ. That's why the first part of the word is "Christ" (*Point to it*). We belong now to Christ.

BELIEVERS: (*Show it*) Because we have trusted Christ and put our faith in Him, the Bible calls us "believers" – we are those who have believed. This is a wonderful name. We believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God Who died for us and rose again and we believe He has saved us.

SAINTS: (*Show it*) I am sure you never thought of that as a name for all saved boys and girls. But it is. The Bible calls all believers saints – those who have

been saved and set apart by God. This name is not just for a few very holy people. It is for everyone who has trusted the Lord Jesus.

If you have trusted Christ this is how the Bible describes you. These are your names. You are saved, born again and redeemed; you are a Christian, a believer and a saint.

Isn't it wonderful to have trusted Christ? Have you? Isn't it great to have these names?

If you have trusted Him, are you living in a way which agrees with your new names?

All Children **GO FOR GOD**

TRUTH:

God wants boys and girls to be like the shepherds – to know, believe and tell others the Good News.

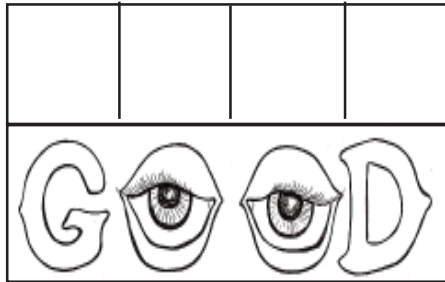
VISUALS:

Select a large piece of cardboard or poster board for this lesson.

Fold this piece of cardboard horizontally – half way down. On the bottom half print the word G O O D.

Make the two o's into eyes.

Cut the top half into four strips which will fold down separately over the four parts of the bottom half - so that each of the letters in the word GOOD can be covered individually or revealed as you give your lesson.



LESSON:

What is your favourite time of the year? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). Mine is Christmas. I love Christmas. I enjoy the special food I eat at Christmas and all the nice gifts I receive. But I especially like and enjoy Christmas because of the Christmas story. The Lord Jesus came to this earth on the very first Christmas and so Christmas reminds us about Him and what He did for us.

You can read the full Christmas story in the Bible (Luke 2 v1-20).

Who were the first people to know the Lord Jesus had been born in Bethlehem? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). Yes, they were simple, poor shepherds who were looking after their sheep when an angel appeared to them and said, “*I bring you GOOD news*” (*Show word GOOD*). They saw (*Point to the eyes*) and heard the good news the angels brought. The good news was that a Saviour had been born in Bethlehem (verse 11). What does the word Saviour mean? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). It means Someone Who would save sinners from the punishment they deserved for their sins, and who would forgive them and change them. Isn't that good news? (*Show word GOOD*). Good news for them and also for us. He came to save you. Have you trusted Him as your Saviour?

Who was this baby in Bethlehem? The Bible tells us that He was not just a baby; He was God (Matthew 1 v23) (*Cover one O and show GOD*). His name was Jesus, His mother was Mary but His Father was God. He was the Son of God. God the Son had come to the earth to save us.

When the shepherds heard this good news they said to each other, “*Let us GO to Bethlehem*”. (*Cover one O and D and show word GO*). When they heard the good news they decided to do something. They didn't just sit and talk about it – they went to Bethlehem, they went to find and see the Saviour. And you and I need to do the same. You have heard the good news. Have you done something about it? Have you gone to the Saviour and asked Him to save you? When the shepherds found and saw the baby Lord Jesus (*Point to the two eyes*) they praised and thanked God. (*Show word GOD*).

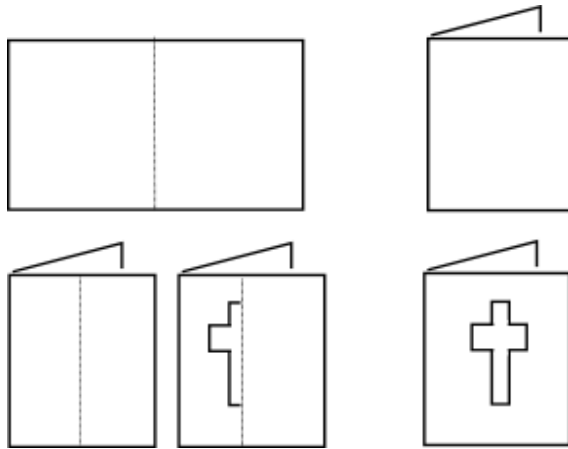
The shepherds got this message – the good news (*Show word GOOD*) from angels. We have got the good news from the Bible – that Jesus Christ has come to this earth to be our Saviour. If you have trusted Him as your Saviour, God (*Show word GOD*) has a work for you to do. He wants you to go (*Show word GO*) and tell the good news (*Show the word GOOD*) to those who need to hear it (Mark 16 v15). Have you told others about the Lord Jesus? Have you helped them to see (*Point to the eyes*) that He came to save them?

God (*Show the word GOD*) wants you to hear and believe the good news (*Show the word GOOD*) and then you need to go (*Show the word GO*) and tell it to others.

All Children ***GONE, GONE, GONE!***

TRUTH:

The Lord Jesus blots out all our sins when we trust Him.

**VISUALS:**

Prepare a large sheet of fairly heavy paper.

Fold the sheet in half, narrow edges meeting. The left half should be folded in half again (See *diagram*). Cut out the cross from this fold-over.

Paste red cellophane underneath cross cut-out. On the bottom sheet, within the cross outline, print with red pencil (*not too heavily*) a list of sins – any which the children wish to name (*For example cheating, jealousy, pride, lies*).

LESSON:

I have a problem. I know I have. But you have it too – the very same problem. What is it?

When you and I were born we were born with a sinful nature – that means we found it easy to do wrong things. That's the way we were born and that's the way we are. And the Bible tells us that we are all like that – God says that all have sinned (Romans 3 v23). What are the sinful things we do? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). Yes – lies, cheating, bad temper, stealing. I will write these down on this sheet of paper (*Write them down on the bottom sheet within the cross outline*). But the main problem is that God must punish our sins. He is fair - and cannot close His eyes to our sins. I know I am guilty of sins like these – and I don't want to be punished by God. Do you?

But the Bible tells you that God loves you and He does not want to punish you. So what has He done? He sent His Son the Lord Jesus Christ to this earth to take the punishment for your sin – so that you would not need to be punished (John 3 v16). And the Lord Jesus loved you so much that He died on the Cross (*Show the red cross*), where He took the punishment for all your sin (Isaiah 53 v4-6; 1 Peter 1 v18, 19).

Now He wants you to trust Him as your Saviour? Have you done so? When you trust Him a wonderful thing happens (*Turn the red cross over the sins outlined on bottom sheet*). Do you see the result? They are all gone. God forgives all your sin when you trust Jesus Christ and He will not punish you for your sin – because it is all gone, gone, gone.

Trust Him today and all your sin will be forgiven.

And if you have trusted Him you do not need to worry about the future, or what will happen to you when you die. God will never punish you for your sins. Jesus Christ has taken that punishment. Thank Him for doing so.

All Children **FAITH PLUS NOTHING**

TRUTH:

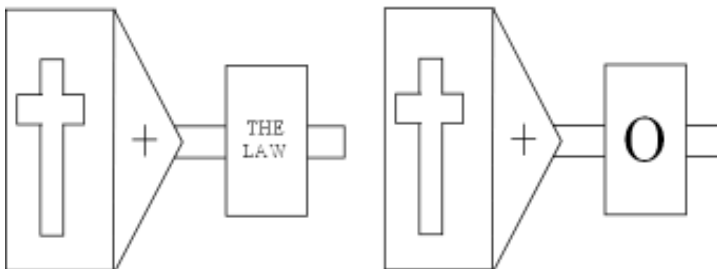
We are saved by faith - plus nothing!

VISUALS:

On a large card print the word FINISHED.

On the front of a large white envelope (approximately 9-1/2" x 4") draw a cross. Open the flap and draw a plus (+) sign on it. Tape one end of a piece of ribbon (8" long x 1/2" wide) to the back of the flap. Tape a 3" x 5" card to the ribbon as shown. The card should read "The LAW".

Do the same on a second envelope, but replace "The LAW" with an "O" to represent zero.



LESSON:

It was three o'clock in the afternoon of the very first Good Friday almost 2000 years ago. The Lord Jesus, the Son of God, had been hanging on a cross for six hours. For the last three of those hours He took the punishment for our sins. His pain and suffering was terrible. But now at 3 o'clock it was over. He had taken all the punishment you and I deserved – and He cried out with a loud voice one word – one special word. Do you know what the word was? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). Here it is (*Hold up word*) “Finished!”. He had finished what He had come to do – He had taken our punishment, making salvation possible for every one of us. It was finished, all done – and we don't need to add anything to what He did.

Soon after the Lord Jesus had finished the work He came to do, some people made a serious mistake by telling others that His death on the cross (*Show first envelope with the word on it*) was not enough to save them. They were saying that His work of salvation was not finished and that people needed to do something, they needed to add to the work of the Lord Jesus if they wanted to be saved.

They also said that they must keep the law (*Pull “law” out of the envelope*) and then they would be saved. What does this mean? It meant that they would have to obey all God's commands and also do all the things which the Jews had done for many years – things like sacrificing animals and eating certain foods. And only by doing these things could they be saved.

But this was wrong for two reasons. And the Apostle Paul wrote to them to tell them why they were wrong. Firstly it was impossible to obey God's commands, for only one who was perfect could do this. But, secondly, they were wrong because the Lord Jesus had finished completely the work of salvation on the cross (*Show cross on second envelope*) and nothing needed to be added (*Pull out “O”*). (Galatians 2 v16)

The moment you trust Jesus Christ as your Saviour you are saved forever. You cannot add anything to what He has done. It is finished.

All Children
ON LIFE'S HIGHWAY I

TRUTH:

Jesus Christ is the only One Who can guide boys and girls along the road of life.

VISUALS:

Copy the two road signs given on large pieces of cardboard and use them as you speak about them (Make sure that they are the signs used in your own country). A copy of the Highway Code (or a picture of it).

LESSON:

(You could make each of these four lessons "On Life's Highway" into a number of short separate lessons if you wished).

One day you may be the owner and driver of a motor car. I am sure you would really like that, wouldn't you? What kind of car would you like to own? *(Give an opportunity to respond)*. But when you get to the age when you can start driving there is something you need to do first of all. You cannot just go out and drive a car. What must you do? *(Give an opportunity to respond)*. Yes, you must pass a test or examination.



➤ And before you do that test you need to study a book called the Highway Code. Here it is *(Show picture, or a copy, of the manual)*. In it are all the rules and regulations you must know – and you will have to pass a written examination on it before you can do anything else. It is most important for you to know the Highway Code if you are going to be a good and safe driver.

Did you know that God has given us a Highway Code? He has given us directions in the Bible – not how to drive a car – but how to live and move along the Highway of Life. I hope you read these directions and obey them – or you will be in real trouble. Also in the Highway Code there are a number of diagrams which show you what signs you will see along the road – and what you should do when you see them.

➤ One of these signs is this one *(Show crossroads)*. Do you recognize it? That's an easy one isn't it – even without any words on it. And as you drive up to the crossroads you must be careful which of the roads you should follow. How many do you need to choose from? Yes, you are right. There are three different possibilities and you need to choose which of the roads you will follow.

And life is like that. You often come to a crossroads when you have to make a decision which way you shall go. There are some simple choices like which book to read or which game to play. There are more important choices like which school you should go to (and your parents can help you with that decision). But there is one very important crossroads for you – one upon which your whole life and all your future depends.

You have heard the Gospel; you know that Jesus Christ died for your sin on the cross; you know that you need to trust Him as your Saviour if you want to have your sins forgiven, and start on the road to Heaven. But each boy and girl needs to make a choice; you need to make a decision. Many of you are at this crossroads just now. I hope you will make the right choice by trusting and following the Lord Jesus.



➤ I have one more traffic sign with me today. Here it is (*Show second sign*). That's a rather strange sign isn't it? What is it saying? "Be careful. The road is not straight. There are bends ahead. Don't drive too fast or you will crash."

And this sign reminds us that after we have come to the crossroads and after we have made the right choice to trust the Lord Jesus we need to be careful how we live. Everything ahead is not straight and easy. There will be bends in the road and we must be sure not to crash. But if you ask the Lord Jesus to help you He will bring you safely around all those bends.

All Children **ON LIFE'S HIGHWAY II**

TRUTH:

Jesus Christ is the only One Who can guide boys and girls along the road of life.

VISUALS:

Copy the three road signs given on large pieces of cardboard and use them as you speak about them (Make sure that they are the signs used in your own country).

LESSON:

Do you remember that last week we were all learning to drive? We looked at the Highway Code, and we also thought about two road signs – for a crossroads and for a bend in the road. Do you remember what we learned from those three pictures? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). This morning we have three more signs – and these are three of the most important signs. If you are a driver and you don't know what these signs say you will be in great trouble – and you will either crash your car or finish up at the police station – or both.



➤ Here is a very important sign (*Show stop sign*). What should a driver do when he sees this sign? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). He should STOP! If he doesn't stop he might crash into a car on the other road. These stop signs are placed where your road meets a main road, and that is why you must stop, look left and right and then drive slowly onto the main road.

And this happens in the lives of boys and girls also. You don't need to drive a car to come to a stop sign. God has given stop signs in His Word the Bible. He tells us to stop going away from Him, to turn to Him and trust the Lord Jesus – and if you do that you will be able to get onto the right road which leads to Heaven. Also the Bible gives a number of stop signs to boys and girls who are Christians: stop telling lies, stop disobeying your parents and stop copying homeworks and pretending they are yours.



➤ But when you have trusted Jesus Christ and you are on the right road you need to be careful. There are speed limits on God's road just as there are on the roads of your city (*Show speed sign*). Drivers need to drive carefully when there is a speed limit and be sure that they don't hit someone or cause damage. And Christian boys and girls also need to be wise and careful in what they do. There are people around you – at home, at school, at play and you must be careful not to hurt any of them by hitting them with unkind words. Watch your

speed. Be careful where you go and what you do.



➤ But there are times when you can move ahead in your Christian life. Do you recognize this sign (*Show third sign*). This means there is now no speed limit. There is no need to go slowly now provided you are going in the right direction. There are times when you should stop, there are times when you should go slowly, but there are also times when you need to move. God wants you to move ahead, to grow in your faith, to become more and more like the Lord Jesus. He certainly doesn't want you to go back; He wants to see progress and movement in your life.

Keep your eyes on the Lord Jesus – and move ahead.

All Children **ON LIFE'S HIGHWAY III**

TRUTH:

God tells us what we should not do during our life's journey.

VISUALS:

Copy the three road signs given and use them as you speak about them (Make sure they are the signs used in your country).

LESSON:

Many of the signs you see at the side of the road are warning signs. They tell drivers what they should not do. Don't do this! Don't do that! We will look at three of them this morning. These warning signs are given to help us, and make sure that we don't have any accidents. And God's Word the Bible also gives us a number of warnings. The reason God warns us and tells us not to do things is to help us – not to harm us. Those who heed His warnings are kept safe on the road of life.



➤ Here is our first warning road sign (*Show No Entry sign*). Do you know what this means? You are right. It means “No entry. You cannot come in here.” It is important for drivers always to obey this sign. It may be a one-way street with the traffic coming the other way; and if you enter you will crash into that traffic; or the road might be closed.

And God gives us a number of road signs like this in the Bible – all of which say NO ENTRY. Do not go in! Stay out! Can you think of any of them? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). Do you remember the Ten Commandments which God gave away back near the beginning of the Bible? A number of them are warnings – no entry signs! (Exodus 20 v1-17).

Here are some of them:

- ✓ Do not worship other gods
- ✓ Do not take God’s name in vain
- ✓ Do not murder
- ✓ Do not steal
- ✓ Do not tell lies
- ✓ Do not be jealous of others

These are NO-NOS – warnings to keep out. No entry! But they are given for our good – and, if we keep out, we will be blessed and happy.



➤ But what does this second sign mean? What does it tell drivers not to do? (*Show No U-turn sign*). Yes, it means that you are not allowed to do a U-turn. A driver is forbidden to turn round and go in the opposite direction because it would be dangerous for him and for others if he was to do so. Keep going, this sign says, and don’t turn back.

And that is what God wants boys and girls who are Christians to do. He wants us to keep going on our Christian journey, and not give up and turn back. Do you

remember the little chorus we sometimes sing?

*I have decided to follow Jesus
I have decided to follow Jesus
I have decided to follow Jesus
No turning back, no turning back.*



➤ Here is our third warning sign (*Show it*). I wonder if you could tell me what this means? It is more difficult than the other two (*Give an opportunity to respond*). It means that there is a bridge ahead and that if your lorry or truck is more than 4.4 metres or 14 feet six inches high it can't get through. This sign says, Stop if you are too big or too tall, or you will crash at the bridge.

And God tells us in the Bible that if we think we are big and important, and if we believe that we are big enough and good enough to save ourselves, we will find out that we are wrong – and we will crash. If people want to be saved and start on their journey to Heaven they need to be humble; they need to become small (Matthew 18 v3); they need to realize they cannot save themselves. Only the Lord Jesus can save them if they will bow their knees to Him and ask Him (Luke 18 v13).

Have you done this? If not, bow before Him today and ask Him to save you. And if you have trusted the Lord Jesus He wants you to be humble – not proud and “stuck up” – with your head in the air.

All Children **ON LIFE'S HIGHWAY IV**

TRUTH:

God tells us what we should do during our life's journey.

VISUALS:

Copy the three road signs and use them as you speak about them (Make sure they are the signs used in your country).

LESSON:

These will be our last three road signs this morning. Last week we saw three warning signs – three things we should not do. Do you remember what they were? (*Give opportunity to respond*). But today we will see three things God wants us to do if we are to please Him – and they are all on triangles.



➤ Do you know what this sign means? (*Show "Give Way" sign*). It is a very common sign. You are driving down a road and you are approaching another more important road or a roundabout. So this sign says, "Give Way" which means you must slow down and let the other car have the right of way. And if you don't do that you will be in trouble.

And how often you and I need to "give way". Who do we give way to? To the Lord Jesus of course because He should always have the priority. He must have first place in our lives. He is not only our Saviour; He is also our Lord.

➤ But we need to learn to give way to other people also. Do you recognize this sign (*Show it*). What does it mean? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). It means that there is a pedestrian crossing ahead – and you must slow down and be sure that you don't hit someone who is crossing. The person crossing has the priority. And the Bible tells us that we who are Christians need to be careful that we don't hurt other people. We need to slow down, we need to give way; we need to watch our words and our actions so that we don't offend them and spoil our Christian witness. The Bible tells us to be slow to speak and slow to become angry (James 1 v19). So be careful and give way to others when necessary.



➤ And one day our journey is going to end (*Show third sign*). This sign shows that the road you are on is coming to an end and that there is a T-junction ahead. When you get to it you will go in one of two directions – either to the left or to the right.

And the Bible tells us that all of us, one day, will come to the end of our road – the road of



life. We will all die – sooner or later – according to God's appointment (Hebrews 9 v27). We will come to a T junction. If we have trusted Jesus Christ as our Saviour we will "turn right" and enter Heaven. If we have not trusted Him we will have to "turn left" and be separated from God forever.

What about you? Have you followed God's road signs and His Highway Code? Are you on the right road? Are you sure about your future? Trust Jesus Christ today – and all will be well.

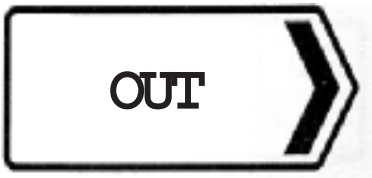
All Children **THE ONLY WAY**

TRUTH:

There is only one way to Heaven.

VISUALS:

Make four flashcards shaped like a signpost and print on them the following words:



OUT
IN
THROUGH
HOME

LESSON:

A missionary in Africa was being led along a new track by a native guide. Being doubtful of the direction he asked the guide if he was sure about where they were going.

"You want to know the way?", replied the guide, "I am the way!" and he pointed proudly to himself.

When The Lord Jesus was here on earth He spoke to His disciples and said to them, “*I am the way*” (John 14 v6). What did He mean?

➤ THE WAY OUT

Do you know what that means? The way out is the exit. If there is a fire or if there is any other reason for leaving a large building you look for the exit and go that way.

The Lord Jesus is the way out. He is the One Who will take you out from everything which would harm you. He takes you out from sin, doubts, sadness, loneliness and slavery – when you trust Him. And if you trust Him He takes you out from the punishment for your sin because He has taken that punishment for you.

➤ THE WAY IN

When you go to a football match or any event you need to find the entrance, the way in, and you go in there. There is no other way to get in.

The Lord Jesus is the way in – to salvation, forgiveness of sins, joy, freedom, fellowship and eternal life. He is the only way in. There is no other entrance. Have you asked Him to be your Saviour?

➤ THE WAY THROUGH

Have you ever been lost? What do you do? You look for directions, for signposts – or you ask someone to show you the way.

Can you imagine yourself in a dense forest? What do you look for? You want to find the way through the forest so that you can get to your home. Can you imagine yourself in a maze? What do you look for? You want to find the way through that maze.

The Lord Jesus is the way through the problems and difficulties of life. He is the way when you are lost and need direction. He is the way through times of difficulty, temptation and trouble. Ask Him to help you, guide you and strengthen you – and He will.

➤ THE WAY HOME

One of the greatest joys for those who have been on a journey is to come home, and to receive the warm welcome from their family there.

The Lord Jesus has gone to prepare a home for us in Heaven, and He is showing us the way to get there. He is the way home. If you want to go to Heaven when you die you need to trust the Lord Jesus as your Saviour. If you do He will not only show you the way to Heaven – He will take you there. And if you are a Christian you can look forward to that great day.

All Children **ASTRONAUTS**

TRUTH:

Jesus Christ can do whatever He wants.

VISUALS:

A picture of an astronaut (if you can find one).
Or copy the picture given.



LESSON:

Are you interested in space? Many young people are. Where is space? What are we talking about? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). Yes, it is all that space up there above us which stretches for many millions of miles. And up there in space is the moon which is not too far away. Then there are the planets and the sun and they are further away. And then all the stars which are a long distance away.

Is it possible for people to go up into space? Well you do go a little bit into space when you fly in an aeroplane, but it doesn't go very far up.

But a number of years ago the first men went right up through space onto the moon. They were called "astronauts" (*Show photograph*) So far no man has gone to any of the planets although they have landed rockets and instruments there. Perhaps one day they will be able to go further.

But I know Someone Who has gone much further.

The Bible tells us that the Lord Jesus came down from Heaven, which is away up yonder beyond space, to be born as a baby in Bethlehem. He lived for 33 years on this earth and then died on the cross for our sins. Three days later He became alive again, and then 40 days after that He led His disciples out onto the top of a mountain. And there before their very eyes He started to rise up into the air – and He went up, up, up right through the clouds, right up through space into Heaven (Acts 1 v9).

But do you know what will happen next? The Bible tells us that when the Lord Jesus comes back down again through space all those who are living on the earth and who are believers in the Lord Jesus will rise from the earth and

meet Him in the sky (1 Thessalonians 4 v17). They will really be astronauts! And not only that, the bodies of all those believers who have died will be raised from the dead, become alive again – and they also will rise up from the earth to meet the Lord Jesus. And that could happen at any time.

And so the Bible tells us that He will come back down through space one day, back to the earth. He will come back not as a baby but as the King of Kings in power and glory (John 14 v3).

It all seems impossible. But the Bible tells us that all of this will happen in and through space – although we don't know when. Nothing is impossible to the Lord Jesus. He can do anything – and He will cause all these things to happen.

The important question is this. If He came back today would you rise to meet Him? Trust Jesus Christ and you will be ready.

And if you are a believer you won't want to be doing something when He returns of which you would be ashamed.

All Children
HE IS NOT HERE
(An Easter Lesson)

TRUTH:

The Lord Jesus is alive.

VISUALS:

An egg, remains of a chocolate Easter egg, a picture of a butterfly, some wool from a lamb, some nails and an empty carton.

LESSON:

I love Easter. I hope you do also. What comes into your mind when you think about Easter? (*Give an opportunity to respond*).

In one Sunday school a teacher gave each child in her class an empty carton like this one here (*Show it*). And she said to them, "I want you next Sunday to bring me something in your carton which reminds you of Easter and comes into your mind when you think about it."

The next Sunday all the children appeared with their cartons and, one by one, they showed them to the teacher.

- Carol had an egg in her carton (*Show egg*). “Why an egg?”, asked the teacher. “Because we always roll eggs down a hill at Easter” was her reply. But I don’t think that gives a good picture of Easter, do you?
- Rick opened his carton and inside it was the remains of a chocolate Easter egg (*Show them*). “I love Easter eggs,” he said, “And I look forward to Easter to enjoy all that nice chocolate.” Do you think that is the best way to think of Easter? I don’t.
- Geri was really quite clever. In her carton she had a picture of a butterfly (*Show it*). “Why a butterfly?”, asked the teacher.
“Because it was a caterpillar and then it got a new body and changed into a butterfly – and the Lord Jesus rose from the dead, with a new body at the first Easter.”
“That is very good”, said the teacher.
- Tad brought some wool from a lamb (*Show it*) in his carton and said that this reminded him of Jesus Christ Who was the Lamb of God – and died on Good Friday.
“Good”, said the teacher.
- Naomi had some nails in her carton (*Show them*). “These remind me of the cross on which the Lord Jesus Christ died just before Easter – when He died for our sin.”
“Very good”, said the teacher.
- Evan was the last child to bring his carton. He said he was sorry. He just couldn’t think of anything. He had just brought the empty carton (*Show an empty carton*).
“Do you know”, the teacher said, “that may be the best object of them all. The carton is empty; and this reminds me, and all of us, that on that first Easter morning the grave where the Lord Jesus had been buried was empty – just like this carton.”
“He is not here”, said the angel, “He is risen.” (Matthew 28 v6)

Easter reminds us that the Lord Jesus is alive forever. If you are not a Christian, He is able to save you and if you are a Christian He is able to help you with your problems.

All Children **LITTLE WORDS WITH A BIG MEANING**

TRUTH:

God has a simple plan for every boy and girl – and it has six steps!

VISUALS:

This lesson is based on a series of five two-letter words which have the letter 'O' as the second letter (and one one-letter word).

There are two ways to visualize it. You could print the six words on six pieces of card and show each one when it appears in the lesson.

Or you could proceed as follows:

1. Take four rectangular pieces of manila.
2. On first one draw a large O on right half.
3. Cut the other three sheets of manila into halves.
4. Print S, H, N, G, L and H on each.
5. Hold each in turn beside O as you speak:

Or you could use an overhead projector or power point.

LESSON:

Our lesson this morning is about the letter 'O' - this letter which you can see here on this card.

- The word **OH** is often the result of a very strong feeling.

A man in the Bible cried out, "*OH wretched man that I am*" (Romans 7 v24) (*Emphasize the "OH"*) This is a cry from his heart. So this 'OH' reminds us of our sin, and we could also cry out, "*What can I do to be saved?*" (Acts 16 v30). But an **O** is also a zero and it tells us that we are nothing and that we can do nothing – zero – to save ourselves.

- **SO**

But I have good news for you. The Bible tells us that, "*God SO loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son*" (John 3 v16) (*Emphasize the "So"*). How much does He love us? God loves you SO much and He wants you to be saved and SO He sent His Son to die for you.

- **HO**

We read a verse in the Bible which says, "*HO! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price*" (Isaiah 55 v1) (*Emphasize the "Ho"*). Do you know what the word "Ho" means? It is an old fashioned word. It means "Hello" or "Hi". "This is for you." This is God's invitation to you. Hi (*Emphasize the word "Hi"*), you boys and girls who are not saved He wants you to come – to the Lord Jesus Christ, the One Who gives us the water of life, and trust Him. If you do you will be saved.

- **NO**

And if you do come to the Lord Jesus and trust Him you will be saved for ever. The Bible says that there is **NO** condemnation or punishment for those who are in Christ Jesus – for those who have trusted Him (*Emphasize*

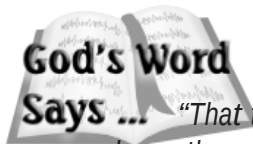
the “No”). *“There is therefore now NO condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”* (Romans 8 v1). You won’t need to worry about the future, about death – or about anything.

➤ **GO**

But God has a work for you to do after you trust the Lord Jesus. He wants you to *“GO into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature”* (Mark 16 v15) (*Emphasize the word “Go”*). He wants others to hear the good news and they will only hear it if Christian men, women, boys and girls like you GO and tell them about it.

➤ **LO**

This is another old fashioned word. It means “listen”. Perhaps you feel nervous about telling others about the Lord Jesus. Or perhaps you feel nervous, or very weak and helpless about how you can live for Jesus Christ. Well He says to you *“LO, I am with you always – even unto the end of the world”* (Matthew 28 v20) (*Emphasize the word “Lo”*). **Listen** to Me I will help you, I will strengthen you – and I will never leave you.” (*Emphasize the word “Listen”*).



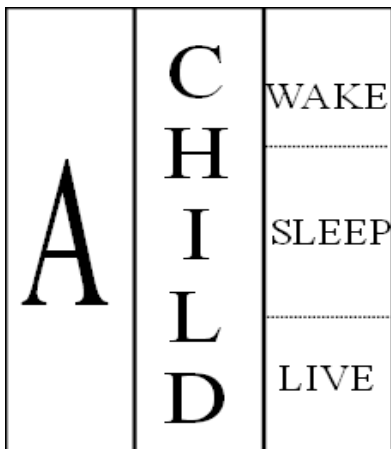
“That the generation to come might know them, The children who would be born, That they may arise and declare them to their children, That they may set their hope in God, And not forget the works of God, But keep His commandments;”

Psalms 78:6,7

All Children **A SPECIAL CHILD**

TRUTH:

Jesus Christ gives life to those who are dead.



VISUALS:

Fold a large piece of heavy manila paper or cardboard into three parts as shown. On the first part print a large A and on the second part the word 'child'. Then cut the third part into three strips and write the letters "wake", "sleep" and "live" on the back of them as shown. Fold them back and then fold them over as you speak.

LESSON:

Just imagine a headline in the newspaper "12-Year Old Girl comes back from the Dead" or another headline like "Alive – sick – dead – alive".

Our story today is about **A Child** (*Show main card*). This child was a girl who was 12 years old and she lived away back almost 2,000 years ago when the Lord Jesus was here on earth. We read about her in the Bible (*Mark chapter 5*) and know three things about her each starting with the letter A:

- We know, first of all, that she lived in a very happy home. Her father was a very important man in the town and was one of the leaders in the synagogue or church. He really loved his daughter. You can be sure that she was a lively girl just like you and always very active. Like all children she loved to play, to read, and to eat. We could say that she was really **AWAKE** (*Bend over first strip of paper to form the word "awake"*). The only time when she was not active was during the night! But then one day her mother found that she was not well. And during the day she got worse and worse. It looked as if she was going to die. Her father, who loved her very much decided to go to the Lord Jesus and ask Him if He would make her better. When the Lord Jesus heard about the girl being so ill He went with the father to his house.

- And what did they find? Do you know what had happened since the father had left? His daughter had died – and as the Lord Jesus and the father were getting close to his house some people came out and told them it was no use going any further because she was dead. And so she was. But then the Lord Jesus said a strange thing. He said, “She is **ASLEEP**” (*Move second strip over*). What did He mean? How could she be asleep when she was dead? The Lord Jesus knew that He was going to bring her back to life; that He was going to waken her; that her death was just for a short time. And so He called it “sleep”.
But did you know that when a person who has trusted the Lord Jesus as their Saviour dies the Bible also calls that “sleep”. Why? Because although our body is dead it is just like it is asleep. But if you are a Christian the real you which was inside your body will be in Heaven – alive for ever more.
- What did the Lord Jesus do? He went into the man’s house with three of His disciples, took the little dead girl by the hand and said, “Little girl, get up” – and she did. That is our third word. She became **ALIVE** (*Move over third strip*). Can you imagine the excitement of her parents? Can you see their tears of joy and hear their laughter?
Why was this possible? Because Jesus Christ is the Son of God and He can do anything.
 - ✓ If you have never trusted the Lord Jesus as your Saviour trust Him now. He will give you eternal life and you will be really **ALIVE**.
 - ✓ If you have trusted Him He is able to help you with any problem you have because He is the Son of God.

All Children

LOVE CAME DOWN AT CHRISTMAS

TRUTH:

Jesus Christ came to this earth to save sinners.

VISUALS:

Make a series of six cards with the six words – Who? When? Where? What? Why? You? Or write these words on six cards shaped like a question mark (*See diagram*).

LESSON:

Do you like birthdays? Isn't it a pity they only come once each year?
Do you like Christmas also?
I'm sure you do. Why do we have Christmas? What does it celebrate?
(*Give an opportunity to respond*). I am sure you know that Christmas is the special birthday of Someone very special celebrated by many millions of people all over the world.



WHO? (*Show card*)

Who is so important that so many people celebrate His birthday? The answer is – the Lord Jesus, the Son of God. Of course He was alive before He was born! What do I mean? Well He lived in Heaven with His Father before the world ever existed, but He did not have a body. He was God, not man. But on the first Christmas day He, the Son of God, became human. He was born. He now had a body!

WHEN? (*Show card*)

This happened about 2000 years ago. And it was such an important birthday that we date our time from His birthday. This year is 2005 AD (*or whatever the year is*) and that means it is 2005 years after He was born. The letters A and D mean Anno Domini, the year of our Lord. The years before He was born are called BC or Before Christ. So you can see how important He is and how important His birthday was.

WHERE? (*Show card*)

He was born in a little town called Bethlehem in the country we now call Israel. One of the writers of the first part of the Bible (700 years before His birth) had prophesied that He would be born there (Micah 5 v2) – and it happened exactly as he had written.

Was He, the Son of God, born in a palace, in a special cot for royal babies? No! He was born in a stable or cattle shed - and was laid in a simple little box or feeding trough made of rough wood.

WHAT? (*Show card*)

What happened?

- His mother Mary gave birth to Him just as any mother gives birth to her baby.
- Angels told the shepherds what had happened and they rushed to see Him.

➤ Later on wise men were guided by a star to come and worship Him.

WHY? (*Show card*)

But why did this happen? Why did the Son of God become a baby and why was He born in such humble conditions?

He came to die for us and to take the punishment for our sins. Thirty-three years later He died on the Cross for us. He came, lived and died to save us. That is why He was called Jesus. His name means Saviour. He wants to be your Saviour. Have you trusted Him? (*Show card with the word “you”*). Why not do so today? If you are saved thank Him for coming and dying for you.

All children **A LESSON FROM COAL**

TRUTH:

Jesus Christ wants to cleanse boys and girls – and use them.

VISUALS:

A piece of coal, a light bulb, and some saccharin or sweetener.

LESSON:

(You might want to expand some of the following points and make them into more than one lesson).

Do you know what this is? (*Show piece of coal*). Yes, it is of course a piece of coal and it can teach us many lessons.

➤ **It is black** – it is very dark in colour and when it comes out of the ground it is very dirty and dusty.

This is a good picture of what we are like by nature, and how God sees us. We are born with a sinful nature and we grow up in the darkness of sin. Our sin makes us dirty and unclean in God's sight.

➤ **Coal is very useful and very precious**

For many years men have valued it, have wanted it and have used it in many ways. Even though it looks and feels so dirty it is very valuable. We are precious to God. He values us very much and wants to use us for His Glory. He loves each one of us, and really cares for us – no matter how sinful or how dirty we are or feel.

➤ **Coal is sought and mined** –

It is buried deep in the ground. It is not easy to get it. Men need to dig down to find it and mine it – and this is often a very dangerous occupation.

Jesus Christ, God's Son, left Heaven and came down into the sinful world to seek us and to save us – and the cost to Him was His death on the cross. It certainly was not easy for Him. It cost Him everything He had.

➤ **Coal is washed**

When it is mined the first process is to wash it. Did you know that? It couldn't be used the way it comes out of the ground.

When Jesus Christ seeks us and finds us, and we trust Him as our Saviour, He washes us, and forgives all our sin – forever. Each one of us needs to be washed and cleansed by Him – and He is ready to do it now – if you ask Him.

➤ **Coal is useful**

It is one of the most useful products in the world today. It is useful in many ways:

✓ Coal gives light (*show a light bulb*). Many power stations which produce our electricity receive their power from coal.

Jesus Christ wants us to give light – as Christians. This is our main responsibility.

✓ Coal gives heat. Many homes are heated by the burning of coal. How pleasant it is to sit in front of a blazing fire in the winter time! Jesus Christ wants us to warm other people, to be loving and warm hearted and enthusiastic with them; and in this way to be attractive to them. The more attractive we are, the more we will attract them to Jesus Christ.

✓ Coal is used to make sweetener called Saccharin (*Show some*). Did you know that? This piece of black coal, if refined, can make things sweet.

And we as Christians should also be sweet. Jesus Christ refines us and works in our heart so that we will be gentle and sweet at home, at school and even when we play.

Each of us is born like this piece of coal. We need to be mined, washed and then used by the One Who found us and saved us. Has He mined and washed you? Is He using you?

(There are other products from coal which you could include and show and refer to if you wish in another lesson – and the applications are obvious:

- *Moth balls – to keep moths from ruining garments.*
- *Gospel records which used to be very popular to pass on a message to others.*
- *Perfumes - to give fragrance to others.*
- *Medicine – to help people get well.*
- *Bleach and drugs – to take away stains.*
- *Nylon – to provide clothes)*

All Children
LESSONS FROM A DONKEY

TRUTH:

The Lord Jesus wants you to come to Him so He can use you.

VISUAL:

A picture of a donkey.

LESSON:

(You might want to enlarge on some of the following points and make this into more than one lesson).

What would you think if I said that you and I are just like donkeys? I am sure you would not be too pleased. Well let me change that a little. You and I are like one special donkey which we read about in the Bible (Mark 11 v1-11).

Let me explain what I mean:

- This donkey was needed by the Lord Jesus (Mark 11 v3). “*The Lord has need of it.*” Just imagine the Lord Jesus wanting and needing a donkey! He wanted to use the donkey in a special way – to do a special job for Him.

The Lord Jesus wants you to trust, love and follow Him – and He needs you to be a witness and a help to other boys and girls. He wants to use you in a special way also. Just imagine the Lord Jesus wanting and needing us!

- The Lord Jesus sent two of His disciples to lead the donkey to Him (Mark 11 v2). It was their job to get the donkey and bring him to the Lord Jesus.

The Lord Jesus sends your pastor, your Sunday school teacher or your Good News Club teacher to tell you about Him, and to lead you to Him – and they are ready to do so.

- This donkey was tied and needed to be loosed (Mark 11 v2). You and I are by nature tied by the cords or chains of sin, and only the Lord Jesus (through His messengers) can break these cords or chains and untie us and unloose us. And He will do so today – if you ask Him.
- No one had ever sat on this donkey (Mark 11 v2). He needed to be tamed and controlled. Have you ever seen a donkey or horse which has never been sat on? They are really hard to control.

But we too need to be tamed and controlled. We have never had a Master like this before. We have always done what we wanted – and no one has controlled us. But our new Master will do so.

- This donkey was at a crossroads – a place where two ways met (Mark 11 v4).
Are you at a crossroads today? Do you know what a crossroad is? You have to decide which way to go. Be sure to choose the right road – the road that leads to the Lord Jesus.

*'I met Jesus at the crossroads where the two ways meet.
Satan too was standing there and he said, 'Come this way.
Lots and lots of pleasures I can give to you today.'
But I said 'No! There's Jesus here. Just see what He offers
me!
Down here my sins forgiven, up there a home in Heaven.
Praise God, that's the way for me.'*

- The donkey was brought to the Lord Jesus (Mark 11 v7).
The Lord Jesus wants you to come to Him for salvation and He has sent people like me to show you how to get there. Do you want to come to Him today?
 - The Lord Jesus used the donkey (Mark 11 v7). He sat on him and entered Jerusalem riding on him. The donkey lifted up the Lord Jesus – and everybody saw Him – not the donkey – and everybody praised Him (Mark 11 v9 and 10).
If you are a Christian the Lord Jesus wants to use you. Your job is to raise Him up, to show Him in your life – so that people will see Him and not you – and praise Him.
- The Lord Jesus is looking for donkeys. Will you be one for Him?

All Children **THE KINDNESS OF THE KING**

TRUTH:

The Lord Jesus receives, forgives and blesses all who come to Him.

VISUALS:

Four cards with the words – MEPHIBOSHETH, FALLEN, FRIGHTENED and FAVOURED.

LESSON:

What is the longest and most difficult name you have ever heard? (*Give an opportunity to respond*).

There are some really difficult names in the Bible, and a number of them even sound funny to us – Jehoshaphat, Theophilus, Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. Would you like a name like these?

But one of the most difficult is this one – Mephibosheth (*Show card*). Can you pronounce it alright? Who was he? He was the son of Jonathan, who was the son of King Saul – the first king of Israel. Saul and Jonathan had both been killed – and the new king of Israel was David. Mephibosheth was the only member of Saul's family who was still alive.

The Bible tells us three things about Mephibosheth:

- He had **FALLEN** (*show card*). When he was five years old and news had come about the death of his father and grandfather, his nurse had lifted him up to run away, but had dropped him, and as a result he was lame in both his feet (2 Samuel 4 v4). He hobbled and could not walk properly for the rest of his life.

You and I resemble Mephibosheth. We were born with a sinful nature – and because of that we are not able to walk for God. We are like the ball which is used when playing bowls. It is heavy on one side – and cannot go straight. We are the same by nature. Our sin always pulls us in the wrong direction.

- He was **FRIGHTENED**. Years passed by. Then David asked if anyone from the family of Saul and Jonathan was still alive, and he was told about Mephibosheth (2 Samuel 9). The king asked for him to be brought to his palace and when Mephibosheth came he was very frightened. He thought that King David would kill him because he might think he had some right to David's throne because of his father and grandfather (who had been king before David).

There are times too when you and I can be frightened – especially when we think of the future and about death. We can be afraid to face God – and we should be if we are not saved.

- He was **FAVOURED** (2 Samuel 9 v7). That's a big word isn't it? It means he was specially well looked after. What happened? David told Mephibosheth not to be afraid. "I am not going to hurt you", he said, "But I want to be kind to you – for the sake of your father. I am going to give you back all his land; my servants will look after the land for you; and I want you to be my personal guest here at my table from now on." And so Mephibosheth was favoured and looked after by the king – and he received so much that he did not deserve. That is called **GRACE**.

And when we trust Jesus Christ as our Saviour we do not need to be afraid of the future or of death. The Lord Jesus shows us grace and favour – even though we don't deserve it. He looks after us. Our sins are forgiven,

we are brought into the family of God, we are sure of Heaven – and He promises to look after us for the rest of our lives – and indeed forever. TRUST HIM TODAY – and you will be really favoured and well looked after.

All Children **THE GOOD SHEPHERD I**

TRUTH:

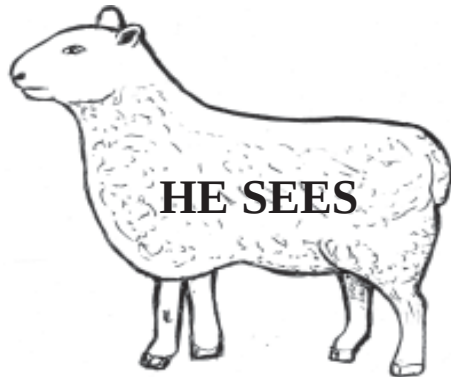
The Lord Jesus is the Shepherd of those who trust Him.

VISUALS:

Make three cards in the shape of a sheep, enlarging the pattern given here.

Then put these words on the sheep:

HE SEES
HE LOOKS
HE FINDS



LESSON:

What job would you like to have when you grow up? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). I wonder if anyone here would like to be a shepherd? Have you ever seen or met a shepherd? What does he do? He looks after sheep. That is his full-time job. We don't have many shepherds in our country. But in other countries there are many of them – especially in the Middle East.

And when the Lord Jesus was here on earth there were many shepherds where He lived. So when He called Himself a Shepherd – the Good Shepherd – people knew what He meant.

Well what did He mean? He did not have any real sheep. He was not a Shepherd like that. We are the sheep – you and I; and He wants to be our Shepherd:

- First of all a shepherd **SEES** and understands the sheep and their needs (*Show first card*). He has studied them and is an expert on them. He sees them as they really are.

And the Lord Jesus, the Good Shepherd, sees us, understands us and knows exactly what we are like. He describes us as lost and astray (Matthew

18 v11-14). He says that we have “*all gone astray, we have turned everyone to his own way.*” He has a true picture of us because He knows that we are all sinners. We think wrong things, we say wrong things and we do wrong things. All of these come from the sinful nature inside us – and our Shepherd knows all of this very well. So what does He do? What does a shepherd do when the sheep have strayed?

- He **LOOKS** for us (*Show card*)

What does a shepherd do when one of the sheep has got into problems and is lost? He goes to look for it.

Our Shepherd knows that we cannot find the way ourselves. He says in the Bible that He leaves everything and everyone and goes out onto the mountains (where we are) and looks and goes on looking for us (Matthew 18 v12, 13). He really cares for every sheep so much – no matter how far they have gone astray. And He cared so much that He died for each of them on the Cross so that they might be saved.

- He **FINDS** us (*Show card*)

A shepherd will never be content until he finds his lost sheep.

And the Lord Jesus, the good Shepherd, not only looks for you – but He wants to find you. I hope you are not purposely trying to hide yourself so that He will not find you.

Trust Him today; ask Him to be your Saviour – and the moment you do that you will be found – and you will become one of His special sheep.

All Children **THE GOOD SHEPHERD II**

TRUTH:

The Lord Jesus is the Shepherd of those who trust Him.

VISUALS:

Make three cards cut in the shape of the pattern of a sheep on page 168. Then put on each sheep the following words:

HE CARES

HE OWNS

HE KNOWS

LESSON:

Do you remember what we learned about the Lord Jesus, the Good Shepherd last week? We are the sheep; He is the Shepherd; and we learned that there are three things He does for us – He sees us as we really are and knows our needs, He looks for us, and He finds those who trust Him. What does a shepherd do for the sheep he finds? What do you think? (*Give an opportunity to respond*).

➤ He **CARES** for us (*Show card*)

He gently picks the lost sheep up in his arms, he carries it home, he cleans it and heals any bruises or cuts he has. He loves that sheep and does all he can to make it well.

And that's exactly what our Shepherd, the Lord Jesus, does when He finds us. He is our Good Shepherd. He takes us up in His arms, folds us against His loving breast and looks after us. He cares for us, He cleans us and forgives all our sins. He heals our wounded lives, He solves our problems.

What a wonderful Shepherd He is! I feel sorry for boys and girls who have not been found by Him, who are still lost and have no one to care for them.

➤ He **OWNS** us (*Show card*).

When the Lord Jesus lived on this earth many shepherds did not own the sheep they looked after. They were owned by someone else who paid the shepherd to care for the sheep.

But this is not so with our Shepherd, the Lord Jesus. He owns (*Show card again*) every boy or girl who has trusted Him. He is not only our Saviour, He is also our Master, our Lord and our Owner. He bought us with His precious blood and we belong to Him.

That means that we should always obey Him when He tells us to do something, or go somewhere.

➤ He **KNOWS** us (*Show card*)

When the Lord Jesus was here on earth He often saw how close the shepherds were to the sheep. They spent the whole day with them and sometimes all night. And a special bond grew up between the sheep and the shepherd.

And the Lord Jesus tells us that this is also true of Him and us. There is a special bond between us. He tells us (John 10 v14) that He knows each boy or girl who has trusted Him personally and He calls us by name (John 10 v3). Even though He has many millions of sheep He knows each of us personally – your name, your sadness, your joy, and your need. But that is only if you are one of His sheep. Have you trusted Him? Do so today and you will have a Shepherd Who cares for you, owns you and knows you.

All Children **THE GOOD SHEPHERD III**

TRUTH:

The Lord Jesus is the Shepherd of those who trust Him.

VISUALS:

Make three cards cut in the shape of a sheep, enlarging the pattern on page 167. Then put on each sheep the following words:

HE FEEDS

HE LEADS

HE PROTECTS

LESSON:

Do you know much about sheep? They are really helpless when they are on their own and need someone to look after them. Yes, they need a shepherd. The Bible tells us that we too are just like sheep and we need a Shepherd. We are helpless and lost (Isaiah 53 v6; Matthew 9 v36). The Lord Jesus wants to be your Shepherd. The moment you trust Him as your Saviour He becomes your Shepherd – forever – and He will look after you and solve all your problems.

There are three things He will do for every one of His sheep:

➤ He **FEEDS** us (*Show card*)

In the land where the Lord Jesus lived the shepherds always fed their flocks and looked after all their needs. They knew where the best pasture land was and where there was a little brook where the sheep could quench their thirst. The sheep could never find these themselves.

And our Shepherd, the Lord Jesus, does the same for us. We need food to help us grow inside and be more like the Lord Jesus; and He knows where that food is. Where is it? In the Bible, the Word of God, and our Shepherd helps us to read His Word, and find food and strength from it to grow the way He wants us to. He also looks after the daily needs of our bodies, giving us food to eat, health to enjoy life – and strength to face our problems.

It is wonderful to have a Shepherd Who feeds us.

➤ He **LEADS** us (*Show card*)

Sheep wander all over the place. When one goes the wrong way the others follow it – and they are all in a mess.

And in the days of the Lord Jesus the shepherds always led their sheep. They did not drive them. They walked in front of them, called them by name and the sheep followed them.

And so the Lord Jesus, our Shepherd, goes in front of us each day. He guides us, He leads us and we follow Him (John 10 v3). We follow and

try to imitate the example of His life which we read about in the Bible, and we follow Him as He guides us into the future – and He does so through His Word.

How confused we would be if we didn't have the Lord Jesus to lead us and guide us.

➤ He **PROTECTS** us (*Show card*)

The sheep in the Middle East had many enemies – especially wild animals which were always ready to attack them or robbers who wanted to steal them and one of the shepherd's main jobs was to protect his sheep from them. We who are Christians have a Shepherd Who guards us and protects us from all that would harm us. We do not need to be afraid of anyone or anything. He will look after us and protect us all our lives if we belong to Him.

Is the Lord Jesus your Shepherd and Saviour? If not, trust Him today, ask Him to become your Saviour and Shepherd and you will become one of His sheep forever.

All Children **GOD'S SHOPPING BASKET**

TRUTH:

God can, and will, give you all you need.

VISUALS:

A shopping bag containing the following: a bag of soap, a bottle of medicine, a loaf of bread, a gift parcel and a ticket for a concert.

LESSON:

(This is a longer lesson than usual – and does not easily divide into two separate lessons. You could, however, enlarge each point and make it into a series of five short lessons).

Do you like to go shopping with your mother?

I have been doing some shopping and I have in this basket five objects which will help you in your life every day:

➤ **A bottle of medicine – to cure us**

All of us, at some time, are ill and need to go to the doctor. He then gives us medicine like this – and as we take it we feel better.

But you and I are both ill with a sickness or disease that no doctor or no medicine can cure. Our sickness is called sin – and it results in death – even eternal death. But there is a cure. There is a Heavenly Doctor Who

can heal us. His Name is the Lord Jesus and if you trust Him you will live forever (*See pages 223-224 for an enlargement of this point*).

➤ **A bar of soap – to cleanse us**

Just imagine a world without soap. It would be a very dirty and smelly place. So the first thing we do every morning is wash our hands and face with soap, or take a shower or a bath and use soap like this all over our body.

But we need another type of cleansing too. Sin makes us dirty and also separates us from a holy God. We cannot cleanse ourselves or wash away our sins. But when we trust Jesus Christ as our Saviour He makes us clean for ever in the sight of God; and also as God's children He helps us to live clean lives every day (*See pages 199-200 for an enlargement of this point*).

➤ **A loaf of bread - to feed us**

Every day you and I need food like this to help us grow and be strong. When we are cured and cleansed from sin we need to be fed so that we can grow. Jesus Christ is the Bread of Life and He feeds us as we read His Word every day.

➤ **A gift – to make us happy**

We all like to receive gifts don't we? And it is always exciting to unwrap our gift and see what is inside. When we receive a gift we are always happy.

Did you know that when you trust the Lord Jesus as your Saviour you receive not one, but two gifts:

- ✓ Firstly you receive the gift of eternal life (Romans 6 v23).
- ✓ Secondly you receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2 v38) Who comes to live in you.

These two gifts should make you really happy.

➤ **A ticket – to let us in**

But here is something special in our basket. Boys and girls like to attend concerts or football matches; and there is a ticket here booking your seat. It is even more wonderful to know that when we trust the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour we are absolutely sure of a place in Heaven when we die. Our seat is booked and no one or nothing can stop us from going there.

Are you sure of Heaven? Have you got your ticket?

Trust the Lord Jesus and you will be cured, you will be cleansed, you will be fed, you will receive two wonderful gifts – and you will be sure of your place in Heaven when you die.

All Children
LITTLE BUT WISE I

TRUTH:

God wants boys and girls to be wise.

VISUALS:

Prepare two cards with the words: ANT, CONEY.

If you have pictures of these that would be even better.

LESSON:

Have you ever heard anyone say, “Wise up” or “You’re not wise”? What did they mean? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). What does it mean to be wise? God wants you to use your head to think, to understand and to know. To know what? He wants you to know how to live and how to spend your time. He wants you to know what you should do and what you shouldn’t do. He wants you to make the right decisions and choices. He wants you to be wise.

Some boys and girls might think that you have to be big before you can be wise. You might say “How can I be wise? How can I know these things? I am so young and little.”

But the Bible teaches that little ones can be wise.

The Bible tells us about four things which are weak and little but are very wise. They are examples for us and we can learn to be wise by doing what they do. We will look at two of them today and the other two next week:

- First of all there is the ANT (*Show card*). I am sure you have seen many of them scurrying about around your feet. The Bible says they are little – and they are also weak. You can trample many of them under your feet. But there is something they do which shows that they are very wise. Do you know what that is? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). The Bible says that during the summer they prepare and gather their food for the winter (Proverbs 30 v25). They prepare for the future months so that they will not starve when winter comes.

God wants us to be like these ants. Even though we are little and weak we can prepare for the future – and the best way we can do that is by trusting the Lord Jesus as our Saviour. Are you preparing for your future?

A boy who was at school was asked what he would do next and he said he planned to go to university. “And what next”, he was asked.

“I will get a good job.”

“And then?”

“I will get married and have children.”

“And then?”

"I will have grandchildren and later I will retire."

"And then?"

"I will die."

"And then?"

"I don't know!"

He had prepared for everything except the most important step of all. He did not know where he would be when he died – and he had made no preparation for it. Trust Jesus Christ and you will be prepared and ready when that time comes.

- Then the Bible tells us about a small animal called the CONEY (*Show card*). This is an animal like a small rabbit which lives in rocky areas in the Middle East. The Bible says they are little, very weak, feeble and helpless – and they are not able to defend themselves from their many enemies. But they are wise. How? They make their homes in the rocks. (Prov. 30v26) They get into holes in the rocks where no animal can reach them and they are completely safe there.

We are weak and feeble like these coneys and we also have enemies. Temptation and sin are always trying to defeat and destroy us. So we need to be wise like the coneys and find a place of safety. Where can we be safe? The Bible calls the Lord Jesus a Rock (1 Corinthians 10 v4; 1 Peter 2 v7, 8) – and we can find salvation and safety in Him. When we trust Him as our Saviour we are safe and secure; and when as Christians we are tempted we can find help and grace in Him to be strong (Hebrews 4 v16).

Are you wise? Are you safe and secure in the Rock?

(If you have time you could use the illustration of the minister who was caught up in a severe storm, and to escape it he sheltered inside a large crack or crevasse in a nearby rock. As a result of this experience he wrote the hymn, "Rock of Ages, cleft for me; let me hide myself in Thee". Yes, when we trust in the Lord Jesus Christ we are safe and secure for all eternity).

All Children **LITTLE BUT WISE II**

TRUTH:

God wants boys and girls to be wise.

VISUALS:

Prepare two cards with the words: LOCUST, SPIDER.
If you have pictures of these this would be better.

LESSON:

Do you enjoy school? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). I thought you would say, “No”. Most boys and girls would say “No”. But school is necessary. That is where you learn the things which will help you in later life; and your teachers do their best to teach you and help you.

Last week I introduced you to two special teachers who want to help you. One was a little insect and the other a little animal. The Bible tells us that we should learn from them how to be wise. The ant teaches us to prepare for the future (*Show card*); the coney or rabbit teaches us to find safety and security in a rock (*Show card*). And I hope that we have all learned the lessons they teach – that we have prepared for the future and found safety by trusting the Lord Jesus as our Saviour.

This week we have two more teachers. They are little insects who are wise; and they show and teach us how to be wise:

- First of all let me introduce you to our next teacher – the LOCUST (*Show card*). Do you know what a locust is? It is a type of large grasshopper which lives in hot countries and eats up the crops grown by the farmers. The Bible tells us that they are little but they can do a lot of harm.

What do they teach us? What can we learn from them? In what way are they, as the Bible says, very wise?

The Bible says they have no king, no ruler to tell them what to do. They are not like bees who have queens to rule and organize them. But the Bible says (Prov. 30v27) that they fly and move forward in unity, and this unity is an example of their wisdom. Many thousands of them fly together, but even though they don't have a leader they fly in order. They are strictly disciplined like an army and everyone of them keeps exactly to their place and the reason they join together in bands with other locusts is because they know they are weak and that there is strength in numbers. And you boys and girls who are Christians need to learn from them how important it is to be joined and united with other Christian boys and girls, to find your place in God's army and keep to it. You need to get into a good church along with other Christians and play your part in it. On your own you are weak but along with others you will be strong.

In this way you will show the same kind of wisdom as the locusts.

- And lastly I want you to meet this teacher – the SPIDER (*Show card*). He is very little and very weak, but the Bible tells us he is wise in two ways (Proverbs 30 v28):

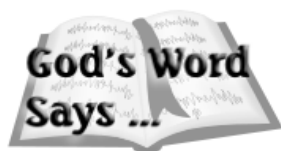
- ✓ He is wise because he knows how to hold on firmly to things which are stronger than he is. He attaches his web to bushes and fences and when the wind blows it is not broken.
- ✓ And He is wise because being so small he can choose where to go and where to spin his web – even in the king's palace.

And the spider teaches boys and girls, especially Christian boys and girls, that you, like the spider, are small and weak. But, if you attach yourself to the One Who is strong – the Lord Jesus Christ – you will be able to face all the winds of sin and temptation. I trust you will make the same wise choice as the spider and be sure you get into the palace of the King of kings to live with Him there forever. The only way to do that is to ask Him to be your Saviour and King.

Are you a wise boy or girl? You can be – even though you are young and “little”. Be sure to learn the lessons of the four “little” teachers and examples – the ant, the coney, the locust and the spider.

(Some translations substitute the word “lizard” for “spider”. If you use the word “lizard” you could illustrate its wisdom by explaining that because it is small and has special kind of feet it is able to climb stone walls easily and get into the king's palace. Other creatures which are bigger and cannot climb walls, like the lizard, would find this impossible).

Some adults are very clever and educated but they are not wise because they are too proud to trust in the Lord Jesus. But boys and girls, even though you may be small and not very strong, you can be wise by trusting the Lord Jesus as your Saviour. Then, not only will you enjoy His salvation now, but one day you will enter the palace of the King.



"Even so it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish." Matthew 18:14

SECOND SERIES

EVANGELISTIC LESSONS

These are purely evangelistic lessons sharing the Gospel message or some part of it with the children who are not saved.

Aspects of these four basic truths are taught in many of these lessons:

- You have sinned. (Romans 3 v23)
- Jesus Christ died for you. (Romans 5 v8)
- Trust Him. (John 3 v16)
- You will be saved. (Acts 16 v31)

Where there is one truth which is especially taught in a lesson it is given at the beginning of the lesson. Otherwise no one truth is given at the beginning of each lesson.

While these lessons are directed at the children who have not trusted Jesus Christ, they will also help the children who have trusted Him. They will remind them of the Gospel message and of the salvation which they already possess and help them to know how they can present the Gospel to other children. When giving these evangelistic lessons you could encourage the children who are saved to say "Thank You" to the Lord Jesus for their salvation.

Evangelistic Lesson

COVER UP

TRUTH:

The Lord Jesus can make us perfectly clean in God's sight.

VISUALS:

A card with the letters ATC.

A bottle of Tippex.

A felt pen.

A dark coloured heart shape.

A red cross.

LESSON:

I want you to think really hard. Could anyone tell me what a mistake is? *(Give the children an opportunity to tell you).*

Who is good at spelling? Can you spell CAT for me? *(Ask children to spell CAT).*

Well, I think I have made a mistake. Look how I have spelt CAT *(Hold up a flashcard with ATC printed on it).* What is my mistake? *(Give the children an opportunity to respond).*

What can I do to make ATC into CAT? *(Let the children suggest).*

"Move the letters around?". "That's impossible."

"Write over them with felt tips" "But that would make things very messy."

"Use Tippex."

Yes, that's a good answer *(Hold up Tippex bottle).* If I take Tippex and cover up my mistake then I can print CAT over my mistake *(Cover letters with Tippex and then print CAT).* And so I have corrected my mistake.

But the Bible teaches us that we have done something much more serious than make a mistake like this one. The Bible teaches us that we have, "All sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3 v23). *(Hold up a dark*

coloured heart shape). You have been born with a sinful heart and life. That's why you tell lies. God is not pleased. In fact the Bible says that God must punish sin. These sins are not just mistakes. They are much more serious. So something must be done about your sin. Tippex is no good for that. Tippex only covers up. You need something to take your sin away. But I have good news for you. The Bible tells us in 1 John 1 v7 ".... *the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin*" (*Hold up red cross*). Not from one sin, or some sin, but all sin. Do you remember when cruel, wicked men took the Lord Jesus and nailed Him to the cross and His precious blood was poured out? (*Hold up cross*). When you turn from your sin, and trust the Lord Jesus as your Saviour His precious blood will cleanse you from all of your sin in a very special and wonderful way. Your sin will all be taken away, you will be clean in God's sight and you will be ready for Heaven. Trust Him today and be completely clean in God's sight.

Evangelistic Lesson **THE WORDLESS BOOK**

VISUALS:

The *Wordless Book* is a book without words. It has a green cover and inside there are four pages, or double pages. These pages are coloured gold, black, red and white. To make a *Wordless Book* you will need five pieces of coloured paper – green, gold, black, red and white. Each piece should be approximately 15 cm x 6cm. Fold all five pieces in two. The green paper is the cover. Stick one half of the gold page to the first inside half of the green cover, and then the second half of the gold page to the first half of the black page – and so on, finishing by sticking the second half of the white page to the inside of the second half of the green cover.

One of the best, simplest and clearest ways to present the Gospel is to use the *Wordless Book*. And the presentation outlined here could take up to 15 or 20 minutes.

Each colour represents a group of gospel truths, and should be shown to the children as you speak about the truths, or any truth, from that group.

This little book has proved to be a very effective way to help preach and teach the gospel message:

- *The gold page speaks about God and His holiness.*
- *The black, or dark, page speaks about sin and its consequences.*

- *The red page speaks about Jesus Christ, and His death for sin.*
- *The white page speaks about salvation – especially about justification.*
- *The green cover speaks about spiritual growth after salvation.*

LESSON:

Gold Page

Do you believe there is a God? Of course you do. When you look around and see all the wonders and beauties of nature you know that they did not just happen. Someone made them, and that Someone is God.

Do you know what God is like? The Bible is God's Word and it tells us what God is like. The most important truth about God is that He is holy. What does that mean? He is completely pure and completely without sin. When I look at this gold page I think of the metal gold. Gold is not just a very precious metal; it is also very pure. It has been heated and heated, until all that is not pure has been removed from it. So, in a little way, this gold page reminds us of God Who is pure, holy and without sin. The Bible says, *'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Hosts'* (Isaiah 6 v3). The gold page also reminds us of Heaven where God lives, and where there is no sin. The Bible says that the heavenly city, and the street of that city, are *'pure gold as it were transparent glass.'*

But God is also just. This means that He is fair and that He must punish sin. He cannot close His eyes to it nor turn His back on it.

Dark Page

This second page is a picture, not of God, but of ourselves. We were all born with dark sinful hearts, and because of that we find it so easy to do things which are wrong. The Bible says that *'all have sinned and come short of the glory of God'* (Romans 3 v23). God in His Word has given us a number of commands such as 'honour and obey your father and mother'; 'do not steal'; 'do not tell lies'; 'do not worship anyone else or anything else except God.' But as we read these commands we know that we have broken some of them. That means we have sinned. God is holy. There is no sin in His Presence. Therefore we cannot go to heaven to be with Him when we die unless our sin is forgiven.

God is also just and fair. This means that He must punish our sin – unless someone else takes our place and bears our punishment instead of us.

Red Page

This red page reminds me of Someone Who did take our place, and Who did take the punishment for our sin. That Someone is the Lord Jesus Christ. He is God the Son. God the Father loved us so much that He sent His Son to this earth, almost 2,000 years ago, to live for 33 years and then to die on the Cross

for us and for our sin. That is why this page is red. On the Cross the Lord Jesus Christ was punished by God the Father – not for His sin (because He never sinned) but for our sin – so that we would not be punished for it. He poured out His Precious Blood for us. The Bible says that, *'While we were yet sinners Christ died for us'* (Romans 5 v8). Oh how much He must have loved us!

But He did not stay dead. After three days He rose from the dead, and He is alive for evermore. Forty days later He went back to Heaven, and today He is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. And He wants to be your Saviour and your Lord.

White Page

Isn't that a nice page? It is very different from the dark page, isn't it?

The Lord Jesus died for you and He wants to save you so that you won't be punished for your sins, and so that you will be changed and begin a new life. But there is something you need to do to be saved.

Do you know right down in your heart that you have sinned? Do you really want to be saved? Do you want to be different? The Bible says *"Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved"* (Romans 10 v13).

Let me tell you a story. Tim was on holiday. He loved the beach, he loved the ocean and he loved to swim. While his daddy sat and nodded sleepily on the beach, Tim went in for a swim. But he went out too far. The water got deeper and deeper. His feet could not touch the bottom. He became afraid and he felt he was going to drown.

What do you think he did? What would you have done? He called to his father, "Daddy, save me!" And his father rushed in and saved his son from drowning.

The Bible says that a child who knows he is a sinner and wants to be saved should call to the Lord Jesus and ask Him to save him. If you call Him and ask Him to save you He will do so - not from drowning - but from sin, so that you will not be separated from God. And if you call today, in your heart, to the Lord Jesus and ask Him to save you, the Bible promises that He will do so - immediately!

If you would like to be saved, but you are still not sure how to be, I would be glad to talk with you afterwards and show you more clearly what you need to do. When the meeting is over just remain seated and I will come over and speak with you.

Do you really want to be saved? Do you want to have your sins forgiven? Do you want to be changed and start living a life which pleases God? If so, why not speak to the Lord Jesus in your heart, even as you sit there? You do not

need to speak out loud. Just call to Him and ask Him to save you and He will. He has promised that *“whosoever shall call upon the Name of the Lord shall be saved”* (Romans 10 v13) and He always keeps His promises!

If you do that God will see you as clean and as pure as the Lord Jesus Himself. You will be like this white page in God’s sight. All your sin will be forgiven for ever, you will start a new life, and you will be sure of going to Heaven when you die. Don’t wait - do it today.

Green Page

This page can be used later to show the saved child how he can grow and how he can become more and more like the Lord Jesus.

“As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby” (1 Peter 2 v2).

- *He will grow by reading and obeying his Bible.*
- *He will grow by talking to God on a regular basis.*
- *He will grow by telling others that he has trusted the Lord Jesus.*
- *He will grow by confessing his sin to God, if he has done something wrong. He does not need to be saved again.*
- *He will grow by meeting regularly with other Christians, and by attending a good church.*

Evangelistic Lesson

THE LORD JESUS LOVES CHILDREN

TRUTH:

Children are important to the Lord Jesus.

VISUALS:

Make five cards with a letter on each to make the word : **C-H-I-L-D**.

LESSON:

Todd felt that nobody listened to him or thought that he was important. He often wished that he was grown up so that he could feel that everyone appreciated him and listened to what he said.

Some people think that children are not important. Many years ago people looked down on children – and this is still so in some countries – including our own.

But I have a question. What does the Lord Jesus think about children? What does He think about you boys and girls who are here this morning? Well, He believes you are important. Do you know what He said about you when He was here on this earth? He said, "I don't want any child to be lost or separated from Me" (Matthew 18 v14). And He told His disciples to welcome children (Matthew 18 v5) and to be sure that they did not look down upon them or cause them to trip and fall (Matthew 18 v6).

Don't you see how important you are to Him?

- First of all HE DIED for you. This letter 'D' stands for death (*Show it*). He took your punishment for sin so that you would not need to be punished for it. That shows you how important you are to Him.
- Why did He do this? Because HE LOVES you (*Show the letter L*). He loves all boys and girls very very much.
- And HE INVITES all children to come to Him and trust Him as their Saviour. This letter 'I' stands for invites. It is a personal invitation to every boy or girl. Each of you can say "I" (Yes, *that's the letter again*) - I am invited to come to Him.
- What should you do then? How can you come to Him? You can come to Him when you close your eyes and talk to Him and ask Him to save you. And you can be sure that He will hear you when you ask Him – that is what the 'H' stands for (*Show it*). HE HEARS every boy or girl who speaks or calls to Him and asks for forgiveness and salvation (Romans 10 v13).
- But He not only hears you and forgives all your sin, HE CHANGES you when you ask Him and trust Him. That is our letter 'C' (*Show it*). He makes you a new person and gives you a new start in life.

Do you see how important children are to the Lord Jesus? (*Ask five children to hold up the five letters*). He died for you (*Point to D*), He loves you (*Point to L*), He invites you (*Point to I*), He hears you (*Point to H*), He changes you (*Point to C*).

But look! Let us change the order of these letters (*Move the children so that the five letters are reversed*). Do you see what they spell? The word CHILD. This word stands for you – each of you. Remember the Lord Jesus loves you and died for you, listen to His invitation, ask Him to save you – and He will hear you, forgive your sins and change you.

Evangelistic Lesson
GOD'S GIFT TO A SINFUL WORLD

TRUTH:

God has a special gift for every boy and girl.

VISUALS:

A chair.

Make four cards and print the following words on each:

GOD LOVES
 GOD GAVE
 I TRUST
 I HAVE

If you wish you can include pictures on each card along with the words – a red heart (representing God's love), a cross (representing the death of the Lord Jesus), praying hands (representing faith) and a white heart (representing salvation).

LESSON:

What do you think is the best known verse in the whole Bible? (*Give the opportunity to respond*). Most people everywhere agree that the best known verse in the Bible is John 3 v16 "*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believe in (trusts) Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*"

We learn four things from this verse:

➤ **GOD LOVES** (*Show card*)

This verse tells us what God is like.

This is the first thing we learn. God is love and He loves each one of us.

Love is what God is like. And He just keeps on loving us.

Who does God love? He loves the world and everybody in it – no matter how bad or how sinful they are. This verse says, "*For God so loved the world.*" That means He loves you and me.

How much does God love you?

➤ **GOD GAVE** (*Show card*)

Love can be measured by what is given by the one who loves. God loves you and me so much that He gave His best and His greatest gift to the world. Our verse says, "*For God so loved the world that He gave His*

only begotten Son." He gave His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ Who came to this earth and died on the cross, and took the punishment for our sin, so you and I could be saved. But we need to do something about it.

➤ **I TRUST** (*Show card*)

You need to put your trust in Jesus Christ. Our verse says, "*that whoever believes in Him.*" To believe in Him means to trust Him, to put your confidence in Him, to ask Him to save you. What does it mean to trust Him? Do you see this chair? It is a good strong chair. I think it would hold me if I sat on it. But it is not enough for me just to look at it or think about it. Am I willing to trust it? How do I trust it? I sit on it (*Do so*). Now I trust it.

It is not enough to think about Jesus Christ or talk about Him. You need to do something. You need to put your trust and confidence in Him as I did with this chair. And if you trust Jesus Christ God promises first of all in our verse that you will never perish or be lost. He says that you "*should not perish*". But He promises more than that.

➤ **I HAVE** (*Show card*)

This Bible verse tells you that if you trust Jesus Christ you will have everlasting life. And so our verse says, "*have everlasting life*". The moment you trust Jesus Christ all your sin will be forgiven and you will receive the gift of eternal or everlasting life – and when you die you will go to Heaven to be there forever more.

Have you received this great gift? Trust Jesus Christ now, today, and you can be sure that you will be saved and that you will live forever.

Evangelistic Lesson

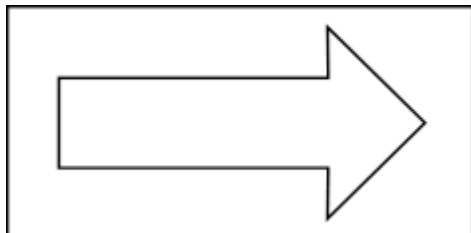
HEAVEN AND HOW TO GET THERE

TRUTH:

God wants every boy and girl to go to Heaven.

VISUALS:

Two large pieces of cardboard. Make a large arrow like the one shown on each of them. On one



arrow print the word SHOP and on the other the word HEAVEN. On the back of the first one put the word DIRECTIONS and on the back of the other one the word BIBLE.

LESSON:

Do you like to travel? We all need to do some travelling – we need to travel to school, or to a nearby shop or to the football pitch. Some of us may travel long distances – perhaps on holiday. What is the longest journey you have ever traveled? (*Give opportunity to respond*).

But if you travel – whether it's a short journey or long journey – you need to know two things:

- You need to know where you are going. Your mother might ask you to get something for her in the shop (*Show first arrow*) – and so, first of all, she tells you what shop to go to.
- You need to know how to get there. Your mother needs to give you directions – which bus or train to get on, and where to get off; or which street the shop is on – and how to get there (*Show back of first arrow*). You need the directions or you will never get there. If you don't know the directions or if you forget them you will be lost.

But there is a much more important journey which all of us are making. We are all on the journey of life. It started when we were born and will continue until we die (and after death). We are all going somewhere and there are two things we need to know:

- We need to know where we are going? And what is our final destination? I trust that you have decided you want to go to Heaven when you die (*Show first side of second arrow*) and that this is your final destination. God wants you to go there – but are you going? You need to make up your mind.
- We need to know how to get there. How can we get there? We need directions – and the only One Who can direct us is God Himself. He does so in the Bible (*Show back side of second card*). He tells us that the only way to Heaven is by trusting Jesus Christ. He Himself said in John 14 v6, “*I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*” Have you trusted Him? Have you followed His directions? Then you will arrive at your destination safely.

Evangelistic Lesson **INNOCENT OR GUILTY?**

TRUTH:

The Lord Jesus will forgive all your sin – if you trust Him.

VISUALS:

1 rucksack. Some small boxes covered in paper. A marker pen to write “sins” on them during the talk.

LESSON:

I need a helper. Here is a backpack (*Put rucksack on volunteer’s back*). Let’s put in it some things which we have done that we don’t want God to know about or which we don’t want to have to explain to God. Can you think of any? (*Put ‘packages’ with different sins written on them with your marker pen into back pack*). All of us are collecting a load in our backpacks as we live our lives. One day each of us will die – and each of us is then going to stand before God. There will be a day of judgment when God will examine your life. You will come face to face with God and He will say, “Empty out your back pack.” You have to do it. Then He says, “Why did you do these things?” And you, of course, have no excuse and no explanation. Like a judge in court, God will have to judge us. So will God find you innocent or guilty? Guilty of course! We all have so many bad things in our back pack. So to be fair and just and holy, He will have to punish you.

I expect that some of you here like football. If one of the players is hurt what can the manager do? He brings that injured player off and brings a new player on. What do we call the new player? He is a substitute – that is a man who comes in instead of or in the place of another. The Bible tells me that when Jesus died on the Cross, He was our Substitute, He was there in the place of someone else – in my place, in your place. On the day that the Lord Jesus died on the Cross, the most important thing that happened was between God in Heaven and the Lord Jesus, His Son. The Bible tells us that while Jesus was on the Cross, God punished Him for sin. Had the Lord Jesus sinned or done anything to deserve that? No – but He was judged and punished as if He had. The Lord Jesus Christ was judged and punished for our sin and in our place – for all these sins in our backpack. Who really deserves to be judged and punished by God in that way? We all do. But the Bible says, “*Christ died for sins once and for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God*” (1 Peter 3 v18a).

If you believe that the Lord Jesus died as your Substitute and if you ask Him to forgive you, He will empty your backpack right now (*Tip the packages out*). Now we'll fast forward to the day we meet God. Innocent or guilty? The backpack is empty! Nothing there! What will God say to you? He will say, "Come and live with Me and enjoy all that is good in My Heaven forever." Is your backpack full or empty?

Evangelistic Lesson **GET NOW – PAY LATER**

TRUTH:

All our sins must be judged and paid for.

VISUALS:

A credit card.

A bill outlining money to be paid.

LESSON:

Do you like mysteries - things which happen and cannot be explained? Let me tell you about three mysteries. Can you explain these?

- A man stopped his car at a garage, and filled the tank of his car with petrol; then he drove away without paying any money!
- A woman was doing her grocery shopping, but when she came to the check-out she had no money – and yet she was able to buy all the food she had chosen!
- A family went into a restaurant and had a wonderful meal. None of them had any money with them – but they enjoyed the meal and the owner of the restaurant told them they would always be welcome!

What was happening in all these three stories? How can you get petrol, groceries and a meal without paying for them – or at least without seeming to pay for them? Can you solve these mysteries? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). The secret is in this little piece of plastic (*Show credit card*). It is called a credit card. The man at the garage, the woman in the supermarket and the family in the restaurant all had a card like this, which they gave to the person at the cash desk. That was all they gave.

But in several weeks time they received a paper like this (*Show the bill*) and then they had to pay the money they owed.

They did not pay for what they received at the time of purchase – but they still had to pay their bill later on; there was no way they could get out of their payment – and eventually they were faced with it and had to pay up.

This credit card is a warning to you and me. There are other things, sinful things, you do not need to pay for immediately. And we may do wrong things and get away with them because no one finds out. But we will pay for them one day.

The bill may not arrive until after we have died. But one day we will stand before God and He will present us with the bill, and there is no way we can avoid payment. (Hebrews 9 v27) We shall be in awful trouble. The person with the credit card may be able to pay what he owes when the time comes but you and I cannot pay up to God for the wrong and sinful things we have done. If you could list all the wrong things you have done it would be a long one, wouldn't it? Things like lies, mean actions, hurtful words, jealousy and taking God's name in vain. You have got away with them. You have used your credit card. But the bill will come. But I have good news for you. There is Someone Who is ready and willing to pay our bills for us. And if you ask the Lord Jesus to be your Saviour He will write "PAID" across the bill (*Write "PAID" on your bill*). He has paid for your sins and if you trust Him you will never have to pay for them.

Why not trust Him today?

Evangelistic Lesson **BACK TO SCHOOL**

TRUTH:

God forgives our sins and then helps us to live for Him.

VISUALS:

A rubber (eraser), a ruler, a dictionary and a calculator.

LESSON:

(This is a lesson which you could give around the time when children are starting a new school year).

Well it's that time again! What time? The time you all really like. The holidays are finished and it's time to go back to school again. Do you like school? (*Give an opportunity to respond*).

There are some things which you need to be sure to have when you start school again and I have brought some of them with me this morning.

First of all you need to have a ruler with you (*Show one*). What will you need a ruler for? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). Yes, you will use it to draw straight lines and to measure them.

Did you know that God has a ruler and He uses it to measure – not distances, but us? That ruler is the Bible and when we read it we find that we all fall far short of what God wants us to be. The Bible says we have all sinned. We have all broken God's laws. None of us is straight – and God's ruler shows us that. You should also have a good rubber or eraser (*Show one*). You will make mistakes and you will need to have something with which to remove them or rub them out. Perhaps you have spelt a word wrong, or added up your numbers wrongly – then your rubber will be needed.

And isn't it wonderful that even though you have not been straight God is ready and willing to forgive and rub out all your sins? The Lord Jesus died on the cross and took the punishment for your sins. Now if you trust Him He will remove them all in the sight of God, He will rub them out – and God will see you as clean and pure as Jesus Christ is. (Acts 3 v19)

There are a number of things which will really help you to get your work done when you go back to school and I have brought two of them with me. You will find that a dictionary like this one (*Show it*) will help you to spell your words correctly. How do you spell "chaos"? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). Well this dictionary tells us how to do it (*Open it at the word*).

Then if you are not very good with figures and sums this calculator will be very useful, (*Show it*) and if I want to add 364 and 932 together I can do it easily with this little machine (*Make the calculation*).

Some boys and girls have not trusted Jesus Christ as their Saviour because they feel that as Christians they could never live up to God's standard. But, listen, you need to know that just as dictionaries and calculators help you with your school work after you start school, God will help you to live for Him after you trust the Lord Jesus. You cannot do it yourself – but when you trust the Lord Jesus the Holy Spirit comes to live in you – and He will give you the help and strength you need.

So don't wait, don't hesitate. Trust the Lord Jesus today and all your sin will be forgiven – and you will start a new and better life.

Evangelistic Lesson
X MARKS THE SPOT

TRUTH:

God loves us in spite of our sin and wants to save us.

VISUALS:

A large card with X on it and a Bible.

LESSON:

Do you see what I have brought with me this morning (*Hold it up*)? It is a large X. What a strange subject! How can anyone speak about an X! What could we possibly learn from that?

- Are you good at Mathematics? Do you like examinations? What happens if you are asked in an examination to multiply 303 by 6 – and you write down as your answer 1908? Is that correct? Think! (*Give an opportunity to respond*). Of course it's not correct. It's wrong. The correct answer is 1818. So what does your teacher put at your wrong answer? He writes an X. So an X reminds us of things which are wrong. It tells us that we have failed – we have missed the pass mark.

But you and I have failed in other ways. We have not kept God's commands. We have told lies, we have disobeyed our parents; we have thought wrong thoughts. And God has put an X at our lives – He sees us as failures and sinners.

- But I have good news for you. Did you ever receive a letter or a card from someone who likes you or loves you? Sometimes this person will add something at the end of the letter to show their love. It's a special sign which stands for a kiss. Do you know what it is? Yes it is an X (*Hold it up*). And some of you have received – or will receive – letters or cards with several Xs at the end to tell you that the person who has written it loves you.

But even if you haven't received such a letter, I have a letter here from God (*Hold up Bible*) – and in it He tells you over and over again that He loves you. XXX I love you, I love you, I love you (John 3 v16) and He loves you so much that His Son the Lord Jesus came to this earth and died on the cross to take the punishment for your sins to save you.

- When I was a boy I loved reading about buried treasure. Do you? My favourite book was Treasure Island where a boy called Jim Hawkins had

a map of an island, showing the place where the treasure was buried. It was marked with an X and X marked the spot where treasure could be found.

But did you know that there is a story in the Bible about treasure (Matthew 13 v44)? The man knows it is there in a certain field and he wants to find it and X marks the spot! So he sells all he has so that he can buy the field and find the treasure.

But you don't need to sell or buy anything to find the treasure of salvation. Nor do you have to dig in a field. It can be yours today. It is free. Do you want it? You must want it with all your heart like the man in the story. Is it as important for you as the man in the story? If you will call on the Lord Jesus and ask Him to save you (Romans 10 v13) that treasure will be yours – right now!

Evangelistic Lesson **A LITTLE BECOMES A LOT**

TRUTH:

You can be sure to go to Heaven if you trust the Lord Jesus Christ.

VISUALS:

A large card with X on it (from last week). Also three cards with the signs + - ÷

LESSON:

Do you remember what we spoke about last week? This was our subject (*Hold up card*). We spoke about an X. Do you remember what this X reminds us of? We receive an X when we fail to give the right answer (and we have all received an X from God). We read an X in a letter to tell us that someone loves us (and God gives us many Xs like this) and X marks the spot where treasure can be found (and the treasure of salvation is ours when we trust Jesus Christ).

But that is not the end!

- In our schools, and in some of the meetings we attend, a book is kept with everyone's name in it. At the beginning the roll is called and as each name is read out the person concerned responds with a "Yes" or a "Present" and an X is put down at the name of those there. The X says that the person is present.

Did you know that there is a very special book in Heaven? It is called the Lamb's book of life. The Lamb is another name for the Lord Jesus. You see, this book belongs to Him and in it are written all the names of those men, women, boys and girls who have trusted Him as their Saviour. Have you trusted Him? Then your name is written there. When you die this X shows that you will be in Heaven; you will be there when your name is called and you will be able to say "Present".

But if you have not trusted the Lord Jesus you will not be there. Trust Him today!

- But there is one more X—and it is a very important one. And we are back to Mathematics and Arithmetic again. When you are doing sums you need to understand four signs. Could you tell me what each of these means? (*Show +, -, and ÷ one after the other and ask for a response*). Yes you're right. But there's one more. Could you tell me what it is? Of course. It's our old friend – X. And what does it mean? (*Show it*). It means to multiply. 1 multiplied by 10 = 10, 6 multiplied by 4 = 24. This X results in a little becoming a lot. God wants to multiply you and make you a blessing to many others.

Do you remember the story in the Bible about the boy who had a little lunch of 5 scones and 2 small fish? (John 6 v1-14) He gave them to the Lord Jesus and what did He do? He multiplied them (*Show X*) and with that little boy's lunch He fed 5,000 men plus women and children. And He can use you too—and multiply you to help many others—if you trust the Lord Jesus and give Him whatever you have.

But if you are not saved do trust the Lord Jesus today. He died for you on the cross (*Turn X sideways to show a cross*) and took the punishment for your sins. So when you trust Him all your sin will be forgiven (Acts 16 v31).

Evangelistic Lesson

FOUR IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

TRUTH:

The Lord Jesus Christ wants you to come to Him to be healed of the disease of sin.

VISUALS:

Produce four cards—each with one of our four key words—Who? Why? How? When? You could put the words on a question mark (see page 162).

LESSON:

This morning I am going first of all to tell you a story in the Bible about a man who had a real problem (Matthew 8 v2-4; Mark 1 v40-42; Luke 5 v12, 13). I want you to listen carefully because afterwards I am going to ask you four questions about this man – and if you don't listen you won't know the answers.

The Lord Jesus had been speaking to many many people on a mountain side for hours and hours. He came down from that mountain side and the crowds followed him. But there was one man who worked his way through the crowds and got close to the Lord Jesus. This man was a leper and this disease had rotted parts of the body and he would eventually die. People were afraid to catch the disease so they kept away from him allowing him to get through to the Lord Jesus.

But, listen, did you know that you and I have a disease which is even worse than leprosy? It is called sin and it will cause us to be separated from God forever.

This poor leper had heard about the Lord Jesus and how He was able to heal people who had diseases. So he came to Him and said, "I know you can make me clean." The Lord Jesus reached out His Hand and touched him. He was not afraid to do so because He loved this man and wanted to heal him. Then He spoke these words, "Yes, I want to heal you; be clean." And immediately this man with leprosy was immediately healed and completely clean.

The Lord Jesus is the Son of God and He was able to heal this man from the disease of leprosy; He is also able to heal us from the disease of sin – if we ask Him.

You have been listening well. So here are my four questions:

Who did this man come to for healing? (*Hold up "Who"*)

(*Give an opportunity to respond*). Yes, He came to the Lord Jesus. Good. And now the second question – and there are two answers to it.

Why did he come to the Lord Jesus? (*Hold up "Why"*)

(*Give an opportunity to respond*). He came firstly because he had this terrible disease and because he wanted to be healed; and he came secondly because he believed the Lord Jesus could heal him.

Have you come to the Lord Jesus and asked Him to heal you – to save you from your sin? Do you see that you need to come? Do you believe He can heal you and save you? Come to Him today.

How did he come? (*Hold up "How"*) That is a more difficult question.

(*Give an opportunity to respond*). He came just as he was. He did not have to make an appointment; he did not have to fill in any forms; he did not have to pay any money.

And that is how you come to the Lord Jesus—just as you are. You don't need to go through any steps or regulations. Just come as you are, as a sinner, and ask Him to save you.

When did he come? (*Hold up "When"*)

(*Give an opportunity to respond*). He came as soon as he had the chance. He did not wait until the next day because it might have been too late. The Lord Jesus might not have been there.

The Lord Jesus wants you to come to Him and trust Him today. Don't wait until tomorrow or next week. It might be too late.

Evangelistic Lesson **A ROYAL LETTER**

TRUTH:

God has a special message for every boy and girl.

VISUALS:

Prepare a large envelope with the following name and address on it:

A SINNER
BROAD ROAD
NEAR DESTRUCTION

Add the following:

- In top right hand corner a post mark with the words HEAVEN and PAID.
- Along the top of the envelope the words ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE.
- In the bottom left hand corner the word URGENT.
- Inside the envelope put a card with the words "TRUST JESUS CHRIST – SAVED."

LESSON:

Do you like to receive letters with your name on the envelope—and addressed especially to you? I am sure you do. When did you last receive a letter? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). I know that you enjoyed reading it.

Well I have a letter for some of you this morning. Let's look at the envelope and see who it is for. Here is the name A SINNER (*Point to these words*). Well this letter would seem to be for all of us. We are all sinners, aren't we? The Bible tells us we are (Romans 3 v23). We all do things which God has told us not to do.

Where does this person live? What is his or her address?

BROAD ROAD, NEAR DESTRUCTION. Oh dear! That's a terrible address isn't it? You see the Bible tells us there are two roads – a narrow road which leads to Heaven, and a broad road which goes downwards and leads to separation from God forever (Matthew 7 v13, 14). You are on the narrow road if you have trusted the Lord Jesus as your Saviour; you are on the broad road if you haven't trusted Him. So this letter is addressed only to those who haven't trusted Him. Is this letter for you?

Look at the postmarks in the top corner. These tell us firstly where the letter comes from. It is from HEAVEN (*Point to the word*). God is speaking and writing from Heaven to you, boys and girls, who are not saved. But they also tell us how much it cost to send this special letter. The letter inside it and what it says is paid for (*Point to word "PAID"*). The reason God sends you this letter is because Jesus Christ, His Son, died on the cross for your sin; and He paid the price to take you from the broad road and place you on the narrow road which leads to Heaven.

And this letter is important for two reasons. It comes from God. That is why it is marked ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE. It comes from the King of Kings. When you get a letter like this be sure you read it and do what it says. And, secondly, you can see the word URGENT (*Point to it*) is stamped on it. Don't leave reading it until tomorrow; don't put it to one side. Read it now. Well what does the letter inside the envelope say? What is God's message to a sinner on the broad road? Let's look (*Take out the letter and read it*). First of all there is a command, TRUST JESUS CHRIST. That is God's command to every boy or girl who is a sinner and is not saved. And then there is a promise – SAVED. That is God's promise to the boy or girl who trusts Jesus Christ (Acts 16 v31).

This letter and this message is for some of you. Trust Jesus Christ today and you will be saved forever. What will your answer be?

Evangelistic Lesson **ARE YOU CLEAN?**

TRUTH:

The Lord Jesus can make you clean – on the inside.

VISUALS:

A number of cleaning materials such as soap, toothpaste, shoe polish, soap powder, brush, and toothbrush (Show as indicated in the text).

LESSON

I know your mother likes to keep the house clean. And she uses brushes, floor cloths, soap and lots of water.

We all like to be clean, don't we? And so each day we use soap to wash our hands and face and toothpaste to clean our teeth.

And we like to wear clean clothes, don't we? So our mother uses soap powder and water to clean them, and we use shoe polish to clean our shoes.

But I know a place which is really dirty where none of these things we have spoken about can reach or clean. Inside all of us is a heart, or a nature, which does wrong things and causes us to say wrong things. In God's sight our hearts and lives are dirty.

- If we eat some soap will our hearts and lives become clean? Of course not.
- Is there any brush which can reach down and clean our insides? No. The problem is inside – not outside.

Have you ever heard the story of Mrs O'Leary's pig? Mrs O'Leary was very proud of her pig and wanted it to be different from other pigs. She was determined to teach him to be clean. So she took warm water, some soap suds and a brush and gave him a good scrubbing. She scrubbed and scrubbed until the pig was shining. And then she bought a pretty blue ribbon and tied a bow around his neck. What a lovely pig he was!

Then she put a rope around his neck to take him to town to show him off to her friends. But on the way something happened. Suddenly the pig saw a big muddy puddle. It pulled the rope out of her hand and rushed over to the puddle where it splashed and wallowed until it was dirty all over again. Although he had been clean on the outside he still had the heart of a pig on the inside, and all pigs love to be dirty. And our problem is on the inside too. It's the inside which needs to be cleaned and changed – not the outside.

But I know Someone Who can clean us on the inside, making us perfectly pure in God's sight. That Someone is the Lord Jesus; and if you ask Him to come into your heart and life (John 1 v12; Revelation 3 v20) He will come in and make you completely clean in God's sight – because God will now see you as clean and as pure as Jesus Christ is.

And then He will help you to live a cleaner life than you did before.

Ask Him to come in today – and He will.

Evangelistic Lesson **LIGHTS OUT!**

TRUTH:

The Lord Jesus wants children to shine for him.

VISUALS:

Four flashlights.

Remove the batteries and insert the following:

- In the first one a piece of dirty black cloth
- In the second one some money
- In the third one some pieces of paper with pictures of a church, a Bible and someone praying.
- Leave the fourth one empty.

LESSON:

Today I have with me four flashlights. They all look new – but there is one big problem. None of them work (*Try them*). None of them give light. They were made to give light – but they don't do so.

God made boys and girls so that we might live for Him – and shine for Him. (Matthew 5 v16) But many don't. They are like these four flashlights. Let's try to find out why they don't work:

- The first flashlight looks alright on the outside. So the problem must be on the inside (*Unscrew*). I can see the problem (*Pull out the black cloth*). There are two reasons. Firstly it is filled with a dirty black cloth – and secondly there is no battery in it. As a result there is no life, no power and no light.

Some boys and girls cannot live for God and shine for Him because firstly there is so much sin in their lives – sins like jealousy, lies, disobedience and unbelief – and secondly because there is no life there.

- The second flashlight also looks well, but it gives no light. When we open it (*Do so*) we discover why it does not give any light. It is full of coins, or money, and as a result there is no battery, no power and no life. And there are many adults – and even boys and girls – who love money so much that the Lord Jesus has no place in their lives. They have lots of money – but no light, no power, no life and no light.
- What about the third flashlight? It looks so nice. I wonder why it does not give light. Let's open it (*Do so*).
There is no battery in it. Instead there are some pieces of paper. Let's look at them. There is a picture of a church on this piece; a picture of a Bible on this piece; and a picture of someone praying on this piece. These all look very nice and clean and religious – but they don't give light. This flashlight needs a battery and only the battery will give life and light. And there are boys and girls who think that, if they go to Sunday school, read their Bible and say their prayers, they are Christians and that they are shining for the Lord Jesus. It is good for you to do these things and they will help you, but on their own they do not give light and life.
- But what about the fourth flashlight. Let's shake it. I don't hear anything. Let's open it (*Do so*). What is inside it? Nothing. It is empty.
And some boys and girls are just like that. Their lives are empty. They just don't care about anything and they certainly will not shine.

What do all these four flashlights need? They need a battery (*Put a battery in each one – and switch them on one at a time*). Do you see? Now they have power and life inside them – and it is that power and life which helps them to shine.

Who is the only One Who can give life and power to boys and girls? The Lord Jesus Christ. You don't need a battery, you need the Lord Jesus in your heart and life. Ask Him to come in and He will deal with your sin (*Show black cloth*); He will take away your love of money (*Show money*); He will do what religion and good works cannot do (*Show papers*). He will fill your life. Above all He will help you shine.

*“Jesus bids us shine
With a clear, pure light,
Like a little candle
Burning in the night;
In this world of darkness
We must shine; You in your small corner,
And I in mine.”*

Evangelistic Lesson
HE DIED FOR ME

TRUTH:

The Lord Jesus took the punishment for your sin.

VISUAL:

An empty lunch box.

LESSON:

(This story is one of the best illustrations I know of the atoning death of Jesus Christ on the Cross. It is something which I believe happened in a rural community many years ago. The story is so interesting it can be told without visuals).

The new school teacher had just arrived in the little country school house.

"Well, boys", he said, "I want our class to be a good one – with no problems. So I am going to write here on the blackboard a number of rules which I will expect to be kept and not broken. If anyone does break a rule he will receive six strokes with my cane."

He wrote a number of rules on the blackboard (*If you have a blackboard write down the rules and the punishment*):

- No cursing or swearing
- No telling lies
- No stealing

Did you know that God has given us a number of rules in the Bible and do you understand that if we break these rules He will need to punish us for our sins? Two days later one of the boys – a big boy called Frank – came to the teacher and told him that his lunch had disappeared (*Show the empty lunch box*); and that he thought someone had stolen it.

The teacher spoke to the class and told them what had happened.

"Did anyone steal Frank's lunch?", he asked.

Slowly and hesitantly Bobby put his hand up.

"I did it, sir", he said, "I was hungry and had no lunch with me."

The teacher was sad. Bobby was one of the smallest boys in the class and he came from a very poor home.

But the rule had been made and it had now been broken; and the teacher felt he had to ask Bobby to come to the front of the classroom for his punishment. Frank spoke up, "Please don't punish him, sir; I forgive him."

"I'm sorry", said the teacher, "I must keep my word. He must be punished."

God too must keep His Word. He is fair and He must punish sin. So He must punish us because we are sinners.

"But, sir", said Frank, "Would it be alright if I took his punishment? Would you punish me and let him off?"

"Yes", said the teacher, "If you want to take his place, that's alright."

And so Frank took the punishment which Bobby deserved.

Afterwards Bobby thanked Frank for what he had done and told him he would never do it again.

The Lord Jesus took our place and our punishment so that we do not need to be punished. (2Cor 5 v21) But we must ask Him to forgive us and trust Him to do so.

In the same way, when we trust the Lord Jesus and understand all He has done for us we will thank Him and not want to do anything wrong or anything which would displease Him.

Evangelistic Lesson

FIVE SIMPLE STEPS TO SALVATION

1. God Loves Me		(Gold)
2. I Have Sinned		(Black)
3. He Died For Me		(Red)
4. I Trust Him		(White)
5. I Have Everlasting Life		(Green)

VISUAL:

Either use a large sheet of heavy construction paper folded accordion style to reveal only one of each of the five strips at a time; or make five strips of construction paper joined with string threaded through two holes in each strip.

Print the words shown on each strip – and add a heart of the colour indicated.

Show each strip as you teach the lesson.

If you are speaking to a large group of children who would not be able to read these words, you could leave them out and only include the hearts.

Or make five large hearts of the different colours and print the words on each of them.

LESSON:

1-2-3-4-5 (*Show your fingers as you count*).

That's how simple it is!

If you are not a Christian and you would like to be one there are five simple steps for you to take. 1-2-3-4-5 (*Show your fingers again*).

Let me show you. You can say these words as I show them – but say them inside yourself – not out loud.

Step one - God loves me (*Show these words*) Do you know that? Can you say it. The Bible says He does (John 3 v16). This heart is gold to show that God is pure – just as gold is a pure metal, and this gold heart tells us that God lives in Heaven where the street is made of gold. But it especially tells us that God loves you and me very much and He wants us to come and live with Him in Heaven when we die.

Step two – are you ready for the next step? Look at these words (*Show them*) **I have sinned.**

The Bible says that everybody has sinned (Romans 3 v23) – and that includes both you and me. That's why this heart is dark in colour, because the things we do wrong are dark and without light. Can you say these words? I am sure you can – if you are really honest.

Step three. And here is the next and the most wonderful step. Can you say and really mean these words? (*Show them*). **He died for me** (Romans 5 v8). Who is the He? It is the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God. He came to this earth to die for us on the cross and pour out His precious Blood. That is why this heart is red. He took the punishment for our sins on the cross – so that God will not punish us. He is ready to forgive your sins. But there is something you must do.

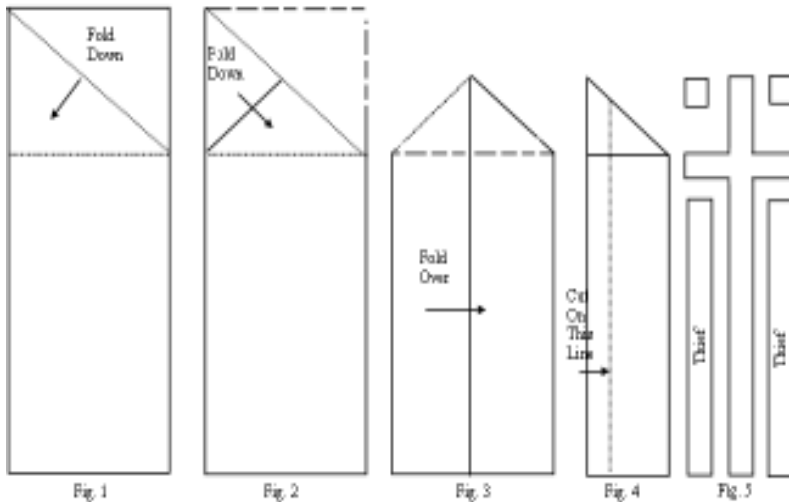
Step four – This fourth step is when you can say and really mean these words **I trust Him.** That simply means that you need to ask Him to save you and forgive your sins – and trust Him to do so. The Bible says, “*Trust the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved*” (Acts 16 v31). That is a promise from God. All your sin will be forgiven. That's why this heart is white – that's how God will see you when you trust the Lord Jesus. Have you done so? If you have, you are saved and you can say these words in our fifth step.

Step five – I have everlasting life (John 3 v16). I will be in Heaven forever – where the streets are paved with gold. That's why this last heart is gold. Do you understand these five simple sentences? Can you honestly say them in your heart?

God loves me
I am a sinner
He died for me
I trust Him
I have everlasting life.

I hope you can – and really mean them.

Evangelistic Lesson
WHAT DOES HIS DEATH MEAN TO YOU?



TRUTH:
Jesus Christ died on the Cross for your sins.

VISUALS:

Cut a piece of paper in half lengthwise. Follow the directions above for folding and cutting. Let the children see you cut it before you start speaking. When you unfold your paper you will have a cross and several smaller pieces of paper.

- The two strips of paper represent the two thieves.
- The two squares represent the dice the soldiers used when gambling for Jesus' clothes.

If you wish you could stick these five pieces one by one (as you refer to them) onto a board using adhesive of some kind. Otherwise just show them one by one as you refer to them.

LESSON:

This morning we are going back 2,000 years ago to see what happened on a hill outside the city of Jerusalem. On that hill there were three crosses and someone was nailed to each of these crosses. This cross (*Show it*) was in the center and it reminds us of what Jesus Christ did to save you and me. He died on that cross to forgive our sins and to make us new people. Think of the awful price which He paid. He took the punishment for our sins so that we might not be punished for them.

What does His death mean to you?

There are three possible answers – and each of these answers can be seen that day beside His cross.

- The first answer was one of indifference. Do you know what that means? The soldiers who crucified the Lord Jesus just DIDN'T CARE. They threw dice (*Show the two squares*) to decide who would get His clothes, and then they just sat down and watched Him die (Matthew 27 v35 and 36).

Some boys and girls are like these soldiers. Jesus Christ died for them on the cross – and they just don't care. It makes no difference to them or their lives. How sad!

- There were two thieves crucified on either side of the Lord Jesus and one of them shouted at the Lord Jesus (*Show one of the remaining pieces*) and even mocked Him (Luke 23 v39). He REJECTED the Lord Jesus completely.

And some boys and girls have heard the Gospel and been taught that Jesus Christ died for them – yet they reject Him and want nothing to do with Him. How sad!

- But the other thief (*Show last piece*) was different. He ASKED the Lord Jesus to REMEMBER HIM – to save him (Luke 23 v42) and the Lord Jesus said “*Today you will be with me in Paradise*” (which is another name for Heaven) (Luke 23 v43).

Will you be like him? Will you ask Jesus Christ to remember you and to save you? If you do He will.

What is your answer to what happened to the Lord Jesus on the cross?

- I don't care.
- I don't want you.

- Please save me.
I hope it is the third answer.

Evangelistic Lesson

HELP!

TRUTH:

The Lord Jesus is able to save you from sin and its results.

VISUALS:

Four cards each with one letter **H E L P.**

Pictures if possible of a helicopter, a fire engine, a life boat and a policeman – and stick each on the back of the appropriate letter.

LESSON:

Have you ever been in trouble? Have you ever needed to be rescued from some terrible danger? Probably not! But sometimes there are people who need to be rescued – and they all cry “Help!”

- One person went mountaineering. He climbed up steep slopes and just before he reached the top he fell. But he landed on a little shelf. He could not get up or down. However, he had his mobile ‘phone with him and he called “Help.”

Soon a helicopter arrived, a rope was lowered and he was rescued. **Helicopters** give help and this H stands for helicopters (*Show the H and the picture*).

- A house went on fire and the family were upstairs and could not get out. Someone called for the fire engine. It arrived quickly and the family called “Help”. The firemen climbed their ladders and rescued the family before putting the fire out.

Fire engines give help and this E stands for those engines (*Show the E and the picture*).

- Two boys went out rowing in the ocean. But the waves became too high, the boat overturned and the two boys hung onto the upturned boat and cried loudly “Help! Help!” Someone saw what had happened – and soon the life boat came out and they were rescued.

Life boats give help and this L stands for lifeboats (*Show the L and the picture*).

- A man was walking along a street late at night when suddenly a burly man sprang out of the darkness and asked him for his money. But just at that moment a policeman came round the corner, the man shouted “Help” and the policeman arrested the criminal and rescued the man.

Policemen give help and this P stands for policemen (*Show the P and the picture*).

I am sure you have never been in any of these situations and you have never needed to be rescued or helped by a helicopter, a fire engine, a life boat or a policeman.

But you do need to be rescued. You do need to be helped. What do I mean?

- God tells us in His Word the Bible that we are lost like the mountaineer. We are lost in sin and a helicopter (*Show the H*) can’t help us).
- God tells us in His Word that we are in danger like the family in the burning house. We are not in danger of fire but of being separated from God for ever, and a fire engine (*Show the E*) will not help us.
- God tells us in His Word that we are helpless to save ourselves like the two boys in the boat. No lifeboat (*Show the L*) can help us.
- God tells us in His Word that someone is trying to rob us. This person is the devil and he wants to take away all we have. No policeman (*Show the P*) can help us.

And so we cry “Help” (*Show all 4 letters together or get four children to hold them*).

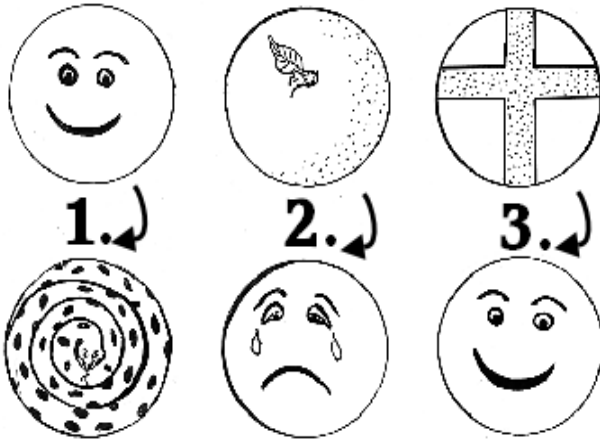
But there is Someone Who can rescue us, Who can help us, and Who can save us. Who is that?

His name is the Lord Jesus. He is the Son of God! And because He died for you on the cross He can do what the helicopter cannot do and rescue you from sin; He can do what the fire engine cannot do and save you from danger; He can do what the lifeboat cannot do and keep you from sinking; He can do what the policeman cannot do and prevent you from being robbed by the devil. The Bible says that He came to seek and to save that which was lost (Luke 19 v10) – and that includes you.

Why not call HELP and ask Him to rescue you – today?

Evangelistic Lesson

HAPPY FOREVER

**TRUTH:**

The Lord Jesus will make you really happy.

VISUALS:

Three plain paper plates. Two crayons or markers (red and black).

LESSON:

Are you happy? Really happy? Everyone wants to be happy and I am going to tell you today how you can be really happy.

Away back when the world was made by God there were two people who lived in a beautiful garden. They were the first man and woman and their names were Adam and Eve. They were very happy (*On the first paper plate draw a simple happy face with black crayon*). God had made them perfect. They never did anything wrong; they were never sick; and they were never afraid of anything. They were perfectly happy.

God told them they could eat of the fruit from all the trees in the garden – except one (*Take second paper plate and sketch with black crayon as illustrated. Shade in lightly with red crayon so it resembles fruit*). This tree was called the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. For some time Adam and Eve obeyed God and continued to be very happy (*Show first plate again*). But one day the devil came into the garden in the form of a serpent (*Turn first plate over and draw a snake-like shape as in pattern*).

He didn't want Adam and Eve to be happy (*Reverse plate*) or to obey God. So he tempted Eve first of all and talked her into eating the forbidden fruit; and then she talked Adam into eating it.

Because they had disobeyed God and had sinned God sent them out of the garden. They became afraid and unhappy (*Turn second plate over and draw a sad face using black crayon*).

From that day on everyone born into the world was a sinner – and sin makes us sad (*Show sad face again*). But God loves us and He sent His Son to die for our sin on the cross (*Draw a cross on the third plate with your red marker*). He took our punishment – and then three days later He rose from the dead. He wants to come into your life and save you. If you ask Him to do so, He will come in and forgive all your sin and give you eternal life. When you die you will go to Heaven. If you ask the Lord Jesus to come into your life you will be happy (*Turn third plate and draw a happy face with red marker*) – and you will be happy forever. (1 Peter 1 v8) Ask Him today!

Evangelistic Lesson **ARE YOU REAL OR A FAKE?**

TRUTH:

God wants you to be a real living Christian.

VISUAL:

An artificial plant and a real plant.

LESSON:

Look at this first plant (*Show artificial plant*). It's beautiful, isn't it? The leaves are so green and shiny and there isn't a dead leaf anywhere. But is it really a plant? Look at it closely:

- The leaves look real, but if you feel them you will find they are not real.
- The stalk is made of plastic.
- If you water this plant it will not, nor cannot, grow.
- It will never have any flowers.
- It will never give any fruit.

All this plant can do is to sit and try to look like a real plant.

It looks nice but it is a fake.

Some boys and girls are like this plant. They look like Christians, they talk like Christians, and they even act like Christians. But if their hearts have not been changed, if they have not trusted Jesus Christ as their Saviour – they are really fakes. They will not grow; they will not have any fruit in their lives. They are really dead.

But look at this second plant (*Show it*). It is different from the first one because it is alive and it is growing. God doesn't want you to be a fake. He wants to give you life.

God wants you to be a real living Christian – and the only way this is possible is if you ask Jesus Christ to come into your heart and life, to forgive your sins – and to give you His new and eternal life. (Romans 6 v23) Then you will start to grow and bear fruit.

Evangelistic Lesson **SEAS WHICH HELP YOU SEE**

VISUALS:

You can use a large world globe if you have one, and point out the four seas as you speak about them. Or you could use a large map of the world.

LESSON:

I want to invite all boys and girls everywhere to accompany me for a long journey on board a ship called "Imagination." In our good ship "Imagination" we will cruise over some of the real seas of the world, and try to learn some lessons from their names and colours. One good thing about this cruise is that we need not be afraid either of sea-sickness or shipwreck, for the good ship "Imagination" does not move. Now, then, all aboard!

First Stopping Place – Drop the anchor! Dear me, what a dreadful place! No trees, and no flowers! What is the name of this place?

THE DEAD SEA

Now, who knows where the Dead Sea is situated? It is in Israel; it is inland but our ship is a very special ship which can get right into this sea. This sea is called the Dead Sea because fish cannot live in its waters and plants cannot grow around it. The river Jordan flows into this sea, but nothing flows out of it, and so the sea not only remains dead itself but also puts to death every living thing near it.

The Dead Sea is a picture of sin, because the Bible tells us that, "*the wages of sin is death*" (Romans 6 v23). This sea is dead and so are we if we have not trusted the Lord Jesus as our Saviour. Sin always results in death - and the person who lives in sin will be separated from God forever and ever.

Second Stopping Place – Ah! Yes, this looks nicer. Let me see: What is its name?

THE BLACK SEA

Where can we find this sea? It is found between Russia and Turkey. It is called black because sometimes its waters are very dark. This is a very deep sea. At its center it is over 1000 meters deep.

I know that seas cannot speak but let us use our imagination and listen to this sea speak, “I am black or dark and so are you. I am a picture of sin – the darkness of sin.”

Yes! Sinners are not only dead, but are also dark. Sin not only kills, it also dirties.

Here is our third Stopping Place. It's hotter at this sea! What is the name of this sea? It is:

THE RED SEA

This is a very good name to give it because it is so hot here. It might even be called the Red-hot Sea. Who knows where this sea is to be found? It lies midway between Africa and Arabia. The children of Israel passed through this sea when they were travelling from Egypt to Canaan. The colour red reminds us of the death of Jesus Christ on the cross and the Blood He poured out as He died for our sin. He took the punishment for our sin so that we can be saved. So the Red Sea reminds us of what Jesus Christ did to save us from our deadness and darkness.

And now our fourth Stopping Place. After a long, dreary sail we reach:

THE WHITE SEA

It lies away north between Lapland and Russia. It probably owes its whiteness and its name to its being often covered with snow. The Bible tells us about a special prayer, “*Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow*” (Psalm 51 v7). Would you like to pray that prayer today? If you ask the Lord Jesus to save you He will make you perfectly clean and white in the sight of God.

What do these four seas teach us? They teach us that we are dead in sin, and black or dark through sin. But if we come to the Lord Jesus, Who poured out His blood for our sin and trust Him, our death will become life, and our darkness will become the whiteness and purity of Jesus Christ.

Evangelistic Lesson
FIVE THINGS GOD WANTS YOU TO KNOW

VISUAL:

If you are teaching a small group make a large hand of cardboard or stiff paper – and print the words emphasized in the outline below on each finger. Point to each finger as you give the outline below.

Or if you are teaching a larger group you could give this presentation just using your own hand and point to each finger as you speak.

LESSON:

(This lesson is quite similar to the one on pages 203 and 205, but the method of presenting it is different).

I have five fingers on my hand (*Hold it up*) – and so do you. My hand reminds me of five things which God wants me to know, and your hand does the same. Let's take each finger separately and learn these five things. If you wish you can repeat them with me.

First of all **GOD LOVES ME** (*Point to first finger*). Would you like to say this with me. Did you know God loves you very, very much. He loves you more than anybody, even your parents. The Bible tells us that God loved the world (John 3 v16) and that means you and me. His love for us will never end. The Bible tells us God has an everlasting love for us (Jeremiah 31 v3).

Secondly **I HAVE SINNED** (*Point to second finger*). Can you honestly say this with me? I'm sure you know that you have sinned and done wrong things – things like telling lies, cheating, bad temper and disobedience. Do you know the Bible tells us that everybody has sinned (Romans 3 v23). You and I can't enter Heaven as sinners and we need to be cleansed. But the Bible also says God loved us so much that He made a way for us to get rid of that sin forever.

Thirdly **CHRIST DIED FOR ME** (*Point to third finger*). Would you say this along with me?

Jesus Christ took your place and mine on the cross and He took the punishment for our sins. We should have been punished for our sin but He loved us and died in our place so that we could have eternal life. The Bible says in John 3 v16 that whoever believes in Him (or trusts Him) will not perish but have everlasting life. God has this wonderful free gift of salvation for all who will trust His Son. And this gift is for you.

The fourth thing we can say is **I TRUST HIM** – and if you want to say it softly in your heart you can do so at any time.

What does it mean to trust Him? It means that you believe that He died for you, that He is able to save you and forgive your sin and that you ask Him to do so. And if you do you will have everlasting life.

Tim was climbing in a tree and got stuck. He was afraid to move in case he fell. His father saw what had happened and he rushed over and stood underneath the branch which Tim was gripping with all his strength.

“Let go”, said his father, “And I will catch you.”

What did Tim do? He let go and fell into his father’s arms. Why did he let go? Because he trusted his father. And Jesus Christ wants you to trust Him in exactly the same way.

If you have honestly said and meant the first four things you can now say **I HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE**

John 3 v36a says that “*He who believes in the Son has everlasting life.*” Have you believed? Have you trusted Him? Then you have everlasting life.

But don’t forget that the rest of the verse says, “*He who does not believe the Son shall not see life*” (John 3 v36b). This means that there are two kinds of people, those who believe and those who don’t believe. Those who trust Jesus Christ and those who don’t trust Him. Those who have everlasting life and those who don’t. Which kind are you? It all depends upon whether you can honestly say these five sentences and really mean them.

Evangelistic lesson **HELP, I’M BLIND**

TRUTH:

Jesus Christ gives sight to the blind.

VISUALS:

A white blindfold, a black blindfold, a red cross, a Bible.

LESSON:

Perhaps, boys and girls, you would be quite surprised if I were to tell you that all of us were born blind. I will try to explain to you what I mean (*Call up a little boy and place the black blindfold over his eyes*).

This blindfold prevents this boy from seeing what I have in my hand (*Hold up the Bible, and the cross*). Can you see what I have in my hand? “No”.

This black cloth represents sin, which blinds the eyes of boys and girls and older people and keeps them from reading and understanding God’s Word (*Hold up Bible*) and from finding the way of salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ (*Hold up cross*). They cannot understand the Bible and they cannot understand (or don’t want to understand) that Jesus Christ died for them. How sad it is to be physically blind! Think of the many things a person cannot see if he is blind! But, boys and girls, to be spiritually blind (to be blind inside), when we don’t know the Lord Jesus Christ as our personal Saviour, is much worse. This blindness shuts people out of Heaven, and if a person goes on in his blindness and dies without knowing the Lord he will be lost forever. We will put the white cloth over the black one. It does look better, doesn’t it? But it doesn’t help him to see any better, does it, boys and girls? Can you see what I have now in my hand? No!

Some people think that if they do good deeds and live as best they can, they will be saved because of their good deeds. But God says, “*All our righteousnesses are as filthy rags*” (Isaiah 64 v6).

So you see, boys and girls, both the white blindfold which represents good deeds, and the black blind fold which represents sin, must be removed before he can see. And so it is with you and me who were born blind on the inside and not able to see and understand about God. That is why the Lord Jesus Christ died on the Cross. He took the punishment for our sin and blindness and when we trust Him He helps us to see.

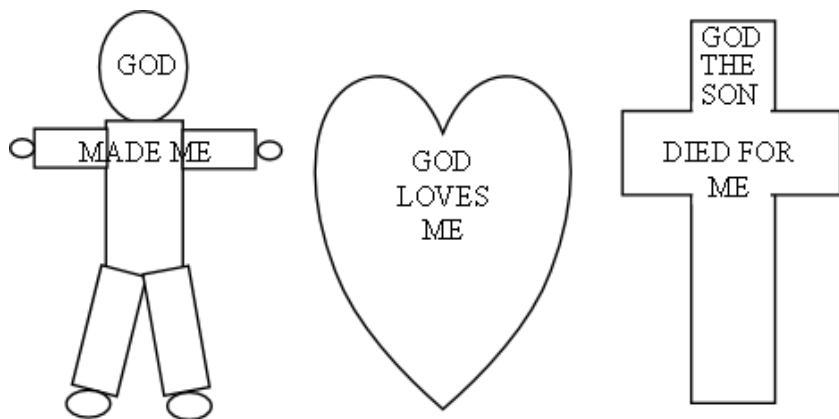
When you trust the Lord Jesus as your Saviour and follow Him, your blindness is removed and you can see clearly (*Take off blindfolds*). Can you see what I have now in my hand? Yes!

Jesus said in John 8 v12, “*I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.*” Trust Him today!



God's Word Says ... *Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God.” Mark 10:14*

Evangelistic Lesson **YOU ARE A V.I.P.**

**TRUTH:**

You are important to God.

VISUALS:

Enlarge these three visuals, and print the words on them as indicated.

LESSON:

Who is the most important person in your country? (*Give an opportunity to respond*) Why is he the most important? (*Ask for response*).

Now here is another question. Are you important? Most of you may say, "No, I am young, I am not important as far as other people are concerned. No one pays much attention to me."

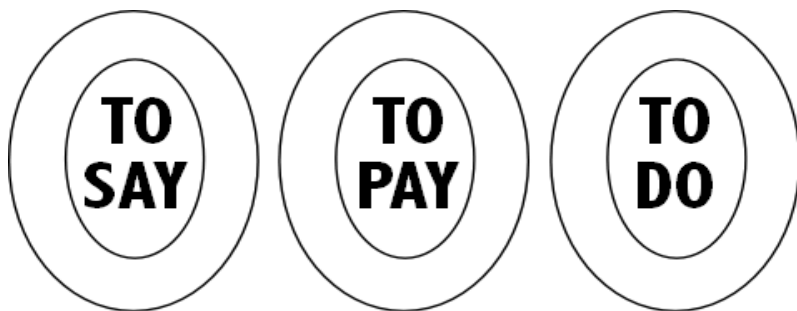
Well I have good news for you today. You are important. You are a VIP – a very important person. You may not feel important and other people may tell you or give you the impression you are not important. But the Bible says that you are important to God – and that is what matters.

- You are important because God made you (*Show first visual*). You can say to God as David said in the Bible "You created my inmost being I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139 v13 and 14). God made you personally. He used your parents to do so.

But He made you as He wanted to. He gave you your personality; He decided your height, the shape of your face and the colour of your hair. So do not complain about anything. God knew what He was doing; and He wants to use you and all that He has given you.

- You are important secondly because God loves you (*Show second visual*). Yes, He loves you personally and He loves you as you are. He does not love your sin – but He loves you very much. He sent His Son to die for you and He wants you to trust Him and then to love and serve Him. *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life”* (John 3 v16). This verse tells us that He will give you life that will never end if you trust Jesus Christ!
- You are important thirdly because Jesus Christ, God the Son, died for you (*Show third visual*). He died for you personally. The Bible says that *“while we were yet sinners Christ died for us”* (Romans 5 v8) – and you can be like the apostle Paul and say, *“The Son of God loved me and gave Himself for me”* (Galatians 2 v20). Why don't you say that just now in your heart? *“He loved me and gave Himself for me.”* That's why you should trust Him as your Saviour and start to live for Him. Do this today! Do it now!

Evangelistic Lesson **A TALK ABOUT “NOTHING”**



VISUALS:

Make three cards using three “zeros” as shown and add the words: TO SAY; TO PAY; and TO DO

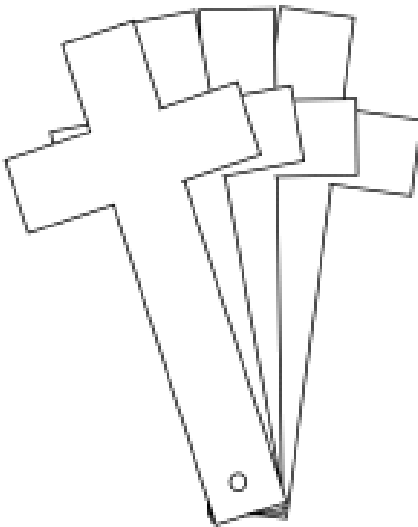
LESSON:

Have you ever heard anyone speak about “nothing”? Well, that’s what I would like to speak about today – NOTHING.

1. **NOTHING TO SAY** (*Show first card*). In the Bible we read the story of two men who were going up to the temple to pray (Luke 18 v10-14). One was called a Pharisee and the other a publican. Do you know what those names mean? The Pharisee was a very religious man. We would call him a priest, or a minister, or a pastor. He had a lot to say to God about himself and how good he was. He did not feel that he needed to be saved. The other man was a publican. That means he was a tax collector. He was different from the Pharisee because he had “Nothing to say” (*Hold up card*) about himself. At least he had nothing good to say about himself. He knew he was a sinner. He just bowed his head and said, “*God be merciful to me a sinner,*” and the Bible tells us that he was justified, which means that all his sin was forgiven. Do you know that you have nothing good to say to God about yourself? Have you owned up to your sin like this publican? Have you asked God to forgive you? (Psalm 32 v5).
2. **NOTHING TO PAY** (*Show second card*). Jesus Christ’s invitation is for you to come to Him if you want to be saved. The Bible says you don’t need to pay anything for your salvation (Isaiah 55 v1). It is ‘*without money and without price*’ because salvation is a gift and we could never pay for it anyway. How silly it is for anyone to try to pay their way into Heaven by “good works”.
There is nothing we can pay (*Hold up card*). But the good news is that Jesus Christ has paid for it all! Not with silver or gold but by pouring out His precious blood, by dying in our place. He will forgive your sin when you come to Him and trust Him.
3. **NOTHING TO DO** (*Show third card*). A man in the Bible asked the question: “*What must I do to be saved?*” (Acts 16 v30). Here is the answer on this card. There is nothing you can do to save yourself. Why? Because all has been done for you by the Lord Jesus Christ. The work of salvation was finished by Him and we can add nothing to it. When He died on the Cross He said: “*It is finished*”, and God showed He was pleased with what His Son had done by raising Him from the dead. “What must I do to be saved”, asked the man in the Bible. The answer was “There is nothing you can do to save yourself but if you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ you will be saved.” All you need to do is to trust Him

(Acts 16 v31). Have you trusted the Saviour? If not, do it now – and you will be saved.

Evangelistic Lesson **THREE CROSSES**



TRUTH:
Jesus Christ died for your sin.

VISUALS: make four crosses – any size convenient to your use. These crosses should be red, black, white and yellow (or gold). Place these in that order one on top of the other and fasten with a paper fastener at the bottom. This will allow them to be spread open as you tell the story.

LESSON:

Do you know what this red cross stands for? (*Show it and give the opportunity to respond*). It reminds us of that day almost 2,000 years ago when the Lord Jesus died for our sins on a cross just like that (Luke 23 v33-46). He was the Son of God and He came to this earth because He loved you and me and He wanted to forgive our sins. But the only way He could do that was by His taking on Himself the punishment for our sins which we deserved. And that's what happened on this cross. God punished His Son for our sins. He poured out His precious blood and died so that you and I might never die. That's why this cross is red.

But there were two other people crucified at the same time as the Lord Jesus – one on either side of Him. They were both thieves and murderers who deserved to die. This dark cross (*Show it*) stands for one of these thieves because of the darkness or sinfulness of his heart. He made fun of the Lord

Jesus Who called Himself the Son of God (Matthew 27 v44). But this thief did not believe He was the Son of God and he mocked Him. And, even when he heard what the Lord Jesus said to the other thief, he still did not believe. He did not want to trust the Lord Jesus and so he died in his sin and in darkness. That is why this cross is dark or black. And this is a picture of everyone who says “No” to Jesus Christ and does not want to trust Him. They will die in their sin and be separated from God for ever.

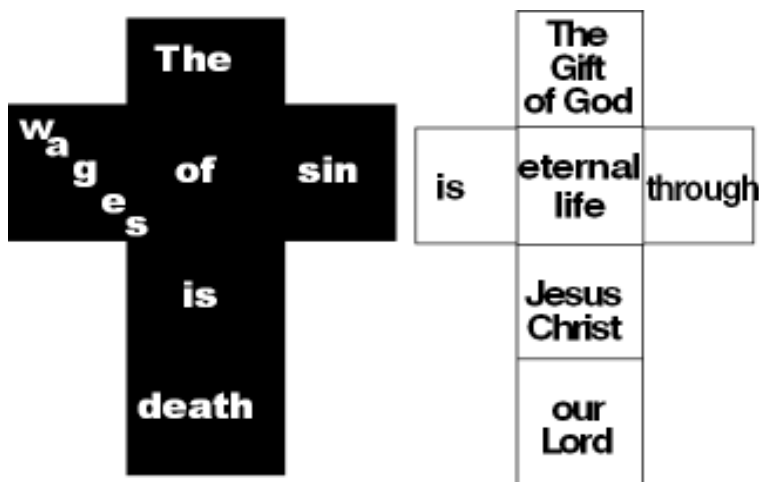
But the other thief was different. At first, he too made fun of the Lord Jesus, but then he stopped. He saw and believed that He was the Son of God and asked Him to remember him when He came into His kingdom. And the Lord Jesus told him he would be with Him that very day in paradise or Heaven (*Show white cross*). White stands for forgiveness. All this thief's sins were forgiven when he put his trust in Jesus Christ. That's why this cross is white. And this white cross will be a picture of you if you trust the Lord Jesus. God will see you as clean and as pure as the Lord Jesus. Be sure to trust Him today if you haven't already done so.

There were two kinds of thieves (*Show the three crosses with the red cross in the center, the dark cross on one side and the white one on the other side*). One was saved and one wasn't. One trusted the Lord Jesus and the other didn't. And there are two kinds of children – those who are saved and those who are not; those who have trusted the Lord Jesus and those who haven't. Which are you?

The saved thief went to Heaven and all boys and girls who are saved will go to Heaven (where the streets are paved with gold) when they die (*Show the yellow cross to the left of the other three to represent Heaven*). Will you go there?

And don't forget that Jesus Christ died not just for you but for all the children of the world – red, black, white and yellow (*Point to each cross as you do so*).

Evangelistic Lesson
BAD WAGES OR A GOOD GIFT?

**TRUTH:**

Salvation is a gift from God.

VISUALS:

Draw a cross on white lightweight cardboard (24" x 18") and print: THE GIFT OF GOD IS ETERNAL LIFE THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD as shown in the diagram. Crease cross at 6" intervals and fold to form a box. Unfold.

On 6-6" squares of black construction paper print in white THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH (*As indicated in the diagram*).

Stick black squares to reverse side of white cross.

Fasten red ribbon at each end of box (*to tie it shut – later*).

LESSON:

Most of you are too young to have a job and earn money. Do any of you have a job? (*Give the opportunity to respond*). I hope you enjoy the money you earn. There is a name for the money you earn through working. Do you know what it is? (*Give the opportunity to respond*). This money is called your wages or pay. Your father works all week to earn and receive his wages – and he

deserves these wages because he has worked for them. Did you know that the Bible tells us that all of us receive wages – and we deserve them. How do I receive wages – what are they? And what are they for?

These are good questions. You and I are sinners. We all do wrong things like disobeying our parents, or telling lies, or thinking bad thoughts or, worst of all, saying, “No” to the Lord Jesus. These are the things we do. This is our work and there will be results which we will earn or deserve because of it. These results will be our wages or pay for sinning.

What are these wages? What are these results?

(Show dark cross).

Do you see these words? They are from the Bible. God says that the results of our sin, the wages we receive because of our sin, is death. What does that mean? It means that sin makes us dead inside – with no love for God and no desire to serve Him; and it means that our bodies will die because of our sin. But it especially means that we will be separated from God forever.

Isn't it bad news to receive a wage packet like that?

But I have good news for you – two special pieces of good news. Firstly, Jesus Christ died for your sin. That's why these words are written on a cross (*Point to it*) and that's also why the cross is black. Jesus Christ took the punishment for your sin on a cross like this. He received the wages which you earned and deserved.

And the second piece of good news is that God has a gift for you (*Fold the cross into a box and tie it with ribbon and hold the box up*). A gift is something you receive. It's not wages. You cannot earn it. It is given to you. What is God's gift? Let us open this box again (*Open it and display the white side of the cross*). God's gift to you today is eternal life. “*The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord*” (Romans 6 v23). He doesn't want you to die forever. Your body will die but He wants the “real you”, which is inside you, to live forever with Him in Heaven. And it will, if you trust the Lord Jesus.

God will give you this special gift today if you trust the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour. These words (*Point to the words “Jesus Christ”*) tell you that you can only receive this gift through Jesus Christ. He died to make it possible and He lives today to give it to you if you trust Him.

Trust Him now and you will receive the wonderful gift of eternal life.

Evangelistic Lesson

GOOD NEWS ON MY HAND

VISUAL:

Your only visual aid is your hand.

LESSON:

- 1) *(Hold up hand with thumb sticking out)*

Do you notice how my thumb is separated from my other fingers? My thumb reminds me therefore that something separates us from God. It is called sin. Sin is the wrong things you and I do, say or think. Sin is disobeying God's rules in the Bible. Sometimes boys and girls sin by thinking bad thoughts, by taking things that don't belong to them or by disobeying their parents. God's Word says, "...all have sinned ..." (Romans 3 v23). God has a rule that sin separates us from Him and must always be punished.

- 2) *(Hold up pointer finger)*

Which way am I pointing? Up! Who do you think I am pointing to? You guessed right: God! God is the One Who created the whole world and everything in it. He even made you! And because God made you He loves you. The Bible says, "*God so loved the world ...*" (John 3 v16). That means you! God wants you to live with Him forever in His Heaven after you die. But there's one problem. Do you remember what separates you from God? Sin does. The good news is that God loves you so much He made a way for you to be saved from your sin. He sent His own perfect Son, the Lord Jesus, to earth to take your punishment for sin.

- 3) *(Hold up pointer, middle and ring finger together as though showing the number three)*

You may have heard that the Lord Jesus died on a cross. These three fingers remind us that there were three crosses The Lord Jesus was nailed to the middle cross by wicked men who did not believe He was God's Son. Since the Lord Jesus was the only One Who ever lived Who was completely perfect, He could die on the cross and take your punishment and mine. The Bible says, "...without the shedding of blood is no remission (forgiveness)" (Hebrews 9 v22) *(Hold up three fingers again, holding them upwards to represent the three crosses)*. There were three crosses on the hill that day. The others who hung there were two robbers who had also done many bad things. One thief believed that the Lord Jesus

was God's Son Who was dying for our sins. The Lord Jesus said that because that thief believed he would be with Him in Heaven. And that was what happened. The other one did not believe or trust the Lord Jesus and he was separated from God forever! (*Show thumb again*).

4) (*Hold up little finger*)

This finger reminds me of you. It is the smallest and weakest finger and quite helpless on its own. You cannot be saved from your sin by yourself. None of us can. But God can save you – and He can do so today. The Bible says, "*Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved*" (Romans 10 v13).

That's God's promise to you! If you know you've done wrong things and believe that the Lord Jesus died on the cross for you, you can call to Him right now like one of the thieves did and ask Him to save you from your sins and He will.

Evangelistic Lesson

THE ALL-POWERFUL DOCTOR

TRUTH:

Jesus Christ is the cure for sin.

VISUAL:

A large bottle of medicine and a Bible.

LESSON:

Not long ago I was sick so I went to the doctor to see if he could do something to help me. After looking me over he told me to take the medicine he ordered and I would get well. I have faith in my doctor and I believed him. So I took the medicine and I recovered (*If you cannot speak from personal experience give this paragraph as something which could happen – or as the true experience of someone else*).

Boys and girls, everyone born into this world has a disease or sickness called sin. And this disease is worse than any illness you can have. It is not a sickness of the body; it is a sickness of the heart – inside us – which causes us to do all kinds of wrong things. This disease causes us to be dead inside – dead to God with no desire to love Him or worship Him. And it will result in us being

separated from God for ever if it is not cured. God cannot allow anyone into Heaven who has this disease. But the Bible (*Hold it up*) tells us that there's a Doctor who can cure this disease of sin. He's the Great Physician called the Lord Jesus Christ and God tells us that if you believe on Him and trust Him as your very own Saviour you will be saved from this terrible disease of sin and its results. "*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved*" (Acts 16 v31). Your sin will be forgiven and you will be able to enter Heaven when you die.

So if you believe what God says and take and trust, not the medicine which I have here (*Show it*), but a Person, Jesus Christ, as your Saviour, God will forgive all your sins and you will live forever. That's simple, isn't it?

- What would you think if after I visited my doctor and he told me to get this medicine, I didn't bother because I was so busy with other things. Wouldn't that be very foolish? And yet there may be someone here today who is doing just that concerning the disease of sin. You know what you need to do to be cured but you just haven't bothered to do anything about it. You have just put your decision and your healing and salvation to one side.
- Or suppose I bought this medicine knowing that it could cure me but, for some reason, I refused to take it. That would be foolish too, wouldn't it? And yet some of you here today are refusing to take Jesus Christ as your Saviour, even though you know He is the only cure for sin and even though you know He has paid for your salvation by dying for your sins. Why refuse Him any longer? Why not trust Him today? Bow your head now and tell the Saviour that you believe that He died for you and that you want Him to save you from your sin – and He will.

Evangelistic Lesson

THE ROMAN ROAD FOR KIDS

VISUALS:

A Bible.

Four cards with the following Bible references on each:

Romans 3 v23; Romans 6 v23; Romans 5 v8; Romans 10 v13.

On the backs of these four cards print the four words – SINNER, DEAD, LOVED, SAVED. You should attach the cards horizontally to each other to

make “a road”, but only show one card at a time. At the end, show all four together, asking someone else to hold “the other end” of “the road”.

LESSON:

(This is a Gospel presentation based upon Paul’s letter to the Romans to show children the way to Heaven).

Do you know why the Bible, God’s Word, is the most important book in the world? *(Hold up the Bible)*. It’s because it shows us the way to Heaven – the place where God lives and wants us to live some day!

There are many places in the Bible that tell us the way to Heaven. But we will go to one book in the Bible called Romans which was written to Christians in the city of Rome and follow a special road in that book which we will call the “Roman Road”. Did you know that 2000 years ago much of the continent of Europe was controlled by people called the Romans? Many of them lived in the city of Rome which is now in Italy. And the Romans built really good roads all over Western and Eastern Europe called Roman roads. They helped people get from one part of Europe to another. But, as you follow this special Roman road from the Bible with me, you can easily find the way to Heaven.

- In Romans 3 v23 *(Show first card)* we discover that all of us are at the same starting place on this road. This is where the road starts for each of us. As you follow this road with me what does God say to us? He says, “*All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.*” Sin is disobeying God. Each one of us has broken His rules.

Do you know some of God’s rules? God tells us to obey our fathers and mothers. He commands us “do not lie, do not steal, love God with all your hearts.” God knows everything we say, think and do and He knows we have not kept His commands. He knows that I have sinned. He knows that you have sinned and so this verse teaches us that we are all sinners *(Turn first card)*.

- God is holy and He is fair and He must punish those who sin and don’t keep His commands. Let’s see what that punishment is.

What does the first part of Romans 6 v23 say? *(Show second card)*

“*The wages for sin is death.*” Disobeying God is so terrible that we deserve death for our sin. This death means to be separated from God forever in a place of punishment. If you have not trusted Jesus Christ you are dead inside and you will be separated from God – forever *(Turn second card)*.

- However if we travel a little farther down the Roman Road we will find some good news.

Listen to what God says in Romans 5 v8 *(Show third card)*, “*But God shows his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died*

for us.” God Who made you loves you, even though you are a sinner (*Turn third card*). He showed how much He loves you by sending His own Son, the Lord Jesus down from Heaven to take your punishment for sin. The Lord Jesus died on the cross and His blood paid for all the wrong things you have done. Three days later our all-powerful God raised the Lord Jesus from the dead. He is alive in Heaven today and He is making a place for all those who have trusted Him. Someday, if you have trusted the Lord Jesus, when you leave earth you will live in Heaven forever and never die because you have eternal life. How do you get that kind of life? The last part of Romans 6 v23 tells us it is a gift! How do you receive this gift? To have the gift of eternal life you must ask Jesus Christ to save you. Do you believe the Lord Jesus died for your sins and rose again? Then ask Him to save you today.

- Here is God’s promise in Romans 10 v13 (*Show fourth card*).

“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Right now you can tell Jesus, “I am a sinner. I believe You died for my sins and rose again. Save me from my sins and give me Your gift of eternal life” and you will be saved – forever (*Turn fourth card*).

(Now show all the cards attached together to form a road. Show the verse references first and then reverse to show the four key words – Sinner, Dead, Loved, Saved).

Here is the road to Heaven, have you traveled along it? If you have trusted Jesus Christ as your Saviour you can honestly say all these words you can see here – “I am a sinner, I was dead, I am loved, and I am saved.”

Evangelistic Lesson

I LEARN FROM MY HAND

VISUAL:

Use your own hand as a visual.

Perhaps the simplest lesson of all is based upon a hand which outlines the Gospel in five simple statements, and you should make each statement as you point to one finger:

LESSON:

(This is another version of a lesson based upon a hand and is similar to the lessons on pages 213 and 214 But the presentation is somewhat different).

My hand has a very special message for you this morning (*Hold up your hand*). And your hand can have the same message.

My hand has four fingers and a thumb and each of them reminds me of something very special. Here are the messages and as I give them to you I trust you will be able to say them also for yourself.

➤ **I AM A SINNER** (*Hold up your thumb*)

This is my thumb and it is so strong. Pretend that it stands for the first man, Adam, who was strong and without sin. But he sinned and because he did so the second man, and the third and the fourth and everyone since then has also sinned (*Raise the other fingers – one at a time*).

You and I need to see that we are all sinners (Romans 3 v23) (*Hold up hand*) and that each of us needs to be saved (*Close your fist with the thumb pointing to yourself*).

➤ **GOD LOVES ME** (*Hold up pointing finger*)

This finger points up to Heaven (*Do so*) and reminds me that God loves me so much that He sent His Son to be my Saviour (John 3 v16).

➤ **CHRIST DIED FOR ME** (*Hold up your tall finger*)

This is the centre and tallest finger (*Show it*) and when I cross it with this finger from my other hand (*Do so*) it tells me that “*Christ died for the ungodly*” (Romans 5 v6). He took the punishment for our sin on the cross.

➤ **I TRUST HIM** (*Hold up fourth finger*)

But I need to put my trust in Jesus Christ. He has died for me but He expects me to do something if I want to be saved. He demands a response – and that response is to talk to Him in prayer (*Bend your fourth finger*), asking Him to save me and to trust Him with all my heart (Acts 16 v31).

➤ **I AM SAVED** (*Hold up little finger*)

The moment I trust the Lord Jesus the Bible tells me I am saved (Acts 16 v31). All my sin will be forgiven and I will be a new person. And this little finger reminds you that you can do this even if you are young and small. This is God's promise and He always keeps His promises.

Trust Jesus Christ today – and you will be saved.

Evangelistic Lesson

FIRST THINGS FIRST

TRUTH:

Things which last forever are the most important.

VISUALS:

Select a variety of pictures of things which will not last forever such as money, toys, bicycle, football, jewelry, church building, world map, etc. Also include pictures of a Bible and people. Put all these pictures on pieces of cardboard. Or you could use a number of actual objects like money, toys, radios, football etc and a Bible.

LESSON:

What things will last forever? Have you ever thought about that? (*Allow time for responses*). Let's look at these pictures (or objects) and decide which of them will last forever – and never disappear or wear out.

We all like money don't we? (*Hold it up*). Do you think it will last forever? Of course not.

What about toys and games like this one (*Hold it up*). Certainly not. They won't even last for a few years – and before long we will not use them any more.

Here is a picture of a bicycle (*Show it*). Will it last forever? No – in a few years it will probably not be used any more.

All boys love football (*Hold it up*). How long could this football last? And the girls like jewelry (*Hold it up*). In a few years it will be lost or broken.

But what about our church? (*Show picture*). Will it always be there? No! It might stand for many years – but one day it will be gone.

And even our world (*Show map or globe*) one day will no longer be here.

But God says in His Word that there are two things which will last forever. Do you know what they are? (*Give the opportunity to respond*).

The Lord Jesus said that His Word would last forever (Matthew 24 v35) (*Show the Bible*). The Bible is God's Word and will always be there no matter what happens. So the Bible is very important and you need to build your life and future on it and what it says.

The Lord Jesus also said that you and I would last forever (John 3 v16) (*Show the picture of people*). Even when you die it will only be your body which dies. The real you which lives inside your body, which the Bible calls your soul, will continue to live for ever. You will live forever in Heaven if you have

trusted Jesus Christ as your Saviour, or you will live forever completely separated from God if you die without trusting the Lord Jesus.

Boys and girls, don't focus your life on things which will pass away. Think of those things which last forever – especially the Word of God and yourself. And make sure that you trust the Lord Jesus so that you will be in Heaven for ever.

Evangelistic Lesson **THE DARKNESS OF SIN**

TRUTH:

Jesus Christ will help you to see and understand.

VISUALS:

A box with a lid, a black cloth, a Bible, a dark paper heart, a red cross and a white heart.

LESSON:

(This lesson takes the “darkness” of sin as its theme. It has two parts:

1. The fact of darkness.

2. The result of darkness.)

1. There is something in this box which I want you to think about today. (*Ask a child to look in the box when you open the lid*). What is in the box? You say nothing (*Close the lid*). But there is something in the box now (*Open lid*). It's gone; it's not there, I wonder what it could be. Every time I open the lid it goes away (*Give an opportunity to respond*).

The answer is darkness. When I open the lid the darkness is gone because the light has entered. When the lid is closed, inside is darkness. Where there is no light there is darkness.

Did you know that the Bible tells us that we are all born in the darkness of sin (Ephesians 5 v8), that we have a sinful nature (Matthew 15 v19) and that we do sinful things (Romans 3 v23)? But Jesus Christ said that He is the Light of the World (John 8 v12), and when we trust Him we will have “the light of life”, and that light takes away the darkness. Where there is light there is no darkness. God forgives all our sin and darkness when we trust the Lord Jesus as our Saviour.

2. Let me show you what this darkness does (*Ask a child to volunteer, and then tie the black cloth securely over his eyes. Then tell him you have several things in your hand*).

(*Hold up a Bible*). Here is item one. This is so wonderful. I am glad I have this. (*Hold up a dark paper heart*). But I don't like this. It's terrible.

(*Hold up a red cross*). This is what I needed to know. This is good news.

(*Hold up a white heart*). And this is the greatest present anyone can have.

(*Put away the four objects and ask the child to remove the black cloth*).

"What did you think about the four objects I showed you?"

"I don't know – I couldn't see them."

"Why?"

"Because I was in the dark."

"Yes, you are right."

Of course, when boys and girls are in the darkness of sin they cannot understand the Bible (*Hold it up*). It is all a mystery to them (1 Corinthians 2 v14) and they don't like to read it. They cannot really understand that they are sinners (*Hold up dark heart*), and that God will punish their sin. They cannot understand what Jesus Christ did for them when He died on the cross (*Hold up cross*), nor can they understand that they can be saved and have all their sins forgiven (*Hold up white heart*) if they trust Jesus Christ as their Saviour. But if you are one of those boys and girls you can ask Jesus Christ to be your Saviour today. He will take away this darkness and you will see and understand all these great truths – about the Bible, about sin, about the cross, and about salvation. You will have the light of the world in your life and you will live – forever.

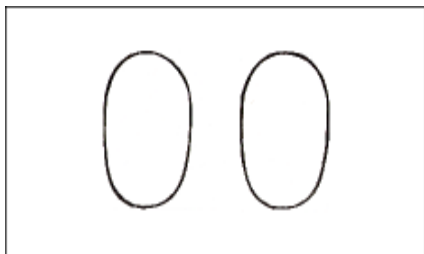
Evangelistic Lesson **WISE UP!**

TRUTH:

It is foolish not to believe in God.

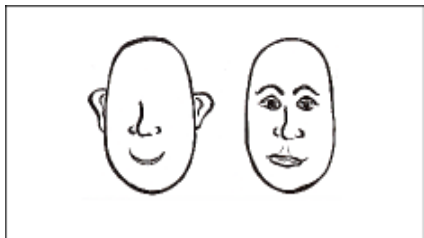
VISUAL: – Make a large card with two ovals on it as in first card on the left.

Then add to this card as you speak – as shown in the next two pictures.

LESSON:

(*Show card*). You may wonder what I am going to speak about this morning. Someone might say, "It looks as if you are going to speak about nothing – twice." No, I have something important to tell you this morning about God.

It was God Who made the world – the complete universe. It was God Who gave us the Bible to tell us about Himself. He wants us to know that He is God and He wants us to love and obey Him.

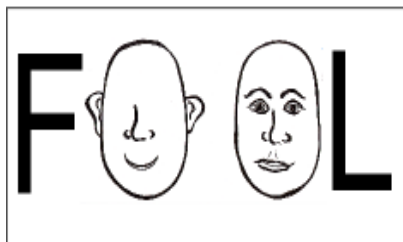


Did you know that there are some people (even boys and girls) who don't really believe there is a God. Look at this first circle or oval (*Add a nose, a mouth and two ears*). Can you see anything wrong? Yes, he has no eyes. The Bible tells us that God made the world, and that we can see what He has done (Romans 1 v20).

We can see the beauty of nature, the size of the universe, the power of the wind, and the sea; and we can see how wonderful our own bodies are. But this person, boys and girls, does not see what God has done, and does not believe that there is a God. He is blind! How sad. Are you like that?

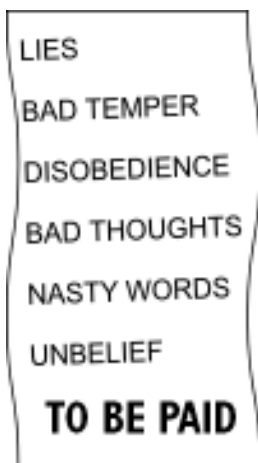
Look at the second person (*Add a nose, a mouth and two eyes*). What is wrong with him? He has no ears. God has spoken to us in His Word, the Bible, but this person does not believe the Bible, he does not read the Bible, he does not hear God's voice. He is deaf! How sad.

Both these people do not really believe in God. They do not see what He has done; they do not hear what He has said. Do you know how the Bible describes them?



*"The fool hath said in his heart,
There is no God"* (Psalm 14 v1; 53
v1). The Bible calls people like
this fools (Add an F and an L). I
hope you are not like one of these
two people. You must see what
God has done; you need to listen
to Him as He speaks in His Word

– and you need to do what He tells you to do – and trust Jesus Christ as
your Saviour.



Evangelistic Lesson **PAY UP**

TRUTH:

**All our sin (or debts) must be paid for – by
us or by the Lord Jesus.**

VISUAL: On a large card make the kind of
invoice or bill you would receive if you were
being asked to pay for a meal or a list of
products which were being bought but using
words which describe different kinds of sin.
Add at the bottom the words "TO BE PAID".
Have a red felt tip pen to use at the end.

LESSON:

Did you know that in the Bible God sometimes uses the word "debts" to describe our sins. Did you ever hear or pray the prayer which is called the Lord's Prayer which the Lord Jesus told us to pray? It starts off *"Our Father Who is in Heaven."* In that prayer the Lord Jesus tells us to ask our Heavenly Father to forgive our debts (Matthew 6 v12).

Do you know what a debt is? If you ask your father to lend you £20 so that you can buy a computer game, and he does so, you are responsible to pay him back that £20. You owe him £20. That is a debt.

A debt is what we owe to someone else. It is something we need to pay. And the Lord Jesus tells us we have debts which we need to pay to God. What does that mean?

God is holy and He wants us to be holy. When we sin we disobey God and we must pay for that disobedience. Every sin we commit is a debt we need to pay for.

Here are some of those sins which we have been guilty of and for which we must pay (*Point to each as you refer to them*):

- We have told lies.
- We have lost our temper.
- We have disobeyed our parents.
- We have thought bad thoughts.
- We have said nasty words.

What do you think is the worst sin of all – the greatest debt we have to pay?

- We have not trusted the Lord Jesus. We have not believed on Him. We have turned our backs on Him. Unbelief is the worst sin of all.

All these sins have to be paid for (*Point to the words at the bottom*). We ought to pay for all our sins. We ought to be punished and the punishment is separation from God.

But the Lord Jesus came into the world and died on the cross to forgive our sins and take the punishment for them. He paid for our debts (1 Peter 1 v18, 19) and when you trust Him as your Saviour God writes the word PAID across your bill (*With a red pen write the word PAID diagonally across the list*). Trust Him today – all your debts will be paid and you will be saved forever.

Evangelistic Lesson **PASSPORTS PLEASE!**

TRUTH:

Jesus Christ is the only way to Heaven.

VISUALS:

A passport, a driving license, a bank card, a telephone card and a Bible.

LESSON:

Who enjoys going on holidays? (*Give opportunity for response*). If you were going to another country for your holidays what kind of things would you need to bring with you? (*Give opportunity for response*).

You will certainly need a passport.

A passport is given to you or your parents by the Government of your own country (*Show it*). It says to the people in charge of your holiday country, "These people are alright. Let them into your country."

When you get off the plane in your holiday country you will come to a little glass office. Sitting there will be a man or woman in uniform, who will reach out their hand and say, "Passports please."

What would happen if your Dad handed in

- His driver's licence (*Show it*) – Would that get him into the country? (*Give opportunity for response*)
- His bank card (*Show it*) – Would that get him into the country? (*Give opportunity for response*)
- His telephone card (*Show it*) – Would that get him into the country? (*Give opportunity for response*)

No! Only his passport will do.

There is one special country which I really want to go to, and I think you would too. That is Heaven! But there is a problem, you need a passport!

What is the passport to Heaven?

- Is it the Bible? It's good to read your Bible, but that's not your passport to Heaven.
- Is it prayers? It's good to pray, but that's not your passport to Heaven.
- Is it being very good? It's fine to be good and kind, but that's not your passport to Heaven.

You have a problem, and that problem is sin (Romans 3 v23). At airports the officials look out for bad individuals whom they do not want to get into their countries. These are called *persona non grata*. These people are not allowed in.

All of us are like these people – we have done and said things that make us unwelcome in Heaven. We need to be forgiven. We need the record against us to be wiped out. God has said that no sin will ever get into Heaven. Therefore you need a passport which will deal with this problem and allow you to enter Heaven.

And there is a passport which you can have. The Bible tells you that there is a way you can get into Heaven (*Hold up Bible*). The Lord Jesus is the way to Heaven (John 14 v6). Trust Him as your Saviour and you will be sure to go

there. All your sins will be forgiven and the record against you will be wiped out.

Evangelistic Lesson **A SPELLING TEST**

TRUTH:

The Lord Jesus is the only One who can forgive sin.

VISUALS:

Five cards with the letters **J-E-S-U-S**.

Three cards with the words:

HERO

PRAYERS

RULES

LESSON:

Are you ready? We are going to have a spelling test. When I tell you the word I want you to put your hand up. If I ask you to spell the word and you do it correctly, then you can come up and hold up a letter which will help us to spell a whole new word. We will start first with two easy ones, and the next three will be more difficult.

Who can spell POST? (*Give the child who spells correctly the letter*)..... J

Who can spell PRAY? (*Give the child who spells correctly the letter*)E

Who can spell PEOPLE? (*Give the child who spells correctly the letter*)...S

Who can spell PROGRESS? (*Give the child who spells correctly the letter*)U

Who can spell POSSIBILITY? (*Give the child who spells correctly the letter*) ..S

What is our new word? (*Give opportunity for response*)

A way back in Bible times there lived a man called Peter. When the Lord Jesus was alive on earth Peter was one of His very close friends. One day Peter was speaking to some very important religious people. He was telling them about the Lord Jesus, and he said:

"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4 v12). This is His name here (Point to it).

These very important, and very religious people could hardly believe what they were hearing. They felt that the good things they were doing were enough to save them and forgive their sin. But Peter was saying that doing those good things would never forgive their sin. He was telling them that they must turn from their sin and trust the Lord Jesus as their Saviour.

I wonder are you like those important religious people that Peter spoke to? You know you have sinned, and you know you need to be forgiven if you are ever to go to Heaven, but?

- You may look up to some great HERO in your life (*Show card*). Everything seems to be going alright for him, so if you do what he does you feel that everything will be alright for you.
- You may have a little book of special PRAYERS (*Show card*) and you think that if you say one of those little prayers each day you will be saved and all your sins will be forgiven.
- You may have some RULES (*Show card*) you try to obey and you think that if you keep these rules God will be pleased, He will forgive your sins, you will be saved, and you will go to Heaven when you die.

But the Bible says “No!” There is no one who can save you but the Lord Jesus. He took the punishment for your sin when He died on the cross. You must turn from your sins now and trust Him as your Saviour because He is the only One Who can save you.

You may not be a good speller – but can you spell the way to Heaven? Yes, it’s J-E-S-U-S.

Evangelistic Lesson **YOU NEED NEW CLOTHES**

TRUTH:

God only accepts those who trust Jesus Christ.

VISUAL:

Some old clothes.

LESSON:

How would you like to have an invitation to go and see the Queen (or President)? I am sure you would say yes! But then you would start to think, “What can I wear? These old clothes (*Show them*) are not good enough for the Queen’s presence.”

And so you go out with your parents and buy nice clothes which will be suitable for the presence of her majesty.

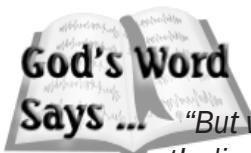
But one day you are going to stand before Someone more powerful and more majestic than the Queen.

One day when you die you will stand before God, and this will not be an invitation that you can decide to accept or reject. You will have no choice. You will have to meet God after you die, and the Bible says that when you stand before God He will judge and examine you (Hebrews 9 v27).

So you will need to be properly dressed for God's Presence. Dirty clothes will not do. But because you are a sinner it will just be as if you are dressed in old dirty clothes like these – the clothes of sin. Some boys and girls try really hard to change and be good. And the Bible says that even your good works are like filthy rags before God (Isaiah 64 v6). So if you are dressed in your old clothes (*Show them*) and even if you are trying to be good, God will not accept you; He will judge you.

But you can have new clothes which will please God. If you trust Jesus Christ as your Saviour He will take away your old clothes of sin and He will give you beautiful new clothes (Isaiah 61 v10). When Jesus Christ was here on earth He lived a perfect life – without sin. His life was like a beautiful pure cloak – and when you trust Him as your Saviour He puts this cloak onto you. These are your new clothes. When God looks at you He will not see your sin or your old clothes. He will see the new clothes which Jesus Christ will give you – and they will show that all your sin has been forgiven. When you die you will then have the right kind of clothes. God will welcome you and you will be in Heaven for ever.

Trust Jesus Christ today – and receive your new clothes.



"But when Jesus saw it, He was greatly displeased and said to them, 'Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God..' " Mark 10:14

Evangelistic Lesson
ARE YOU MAD, SAD OR GLAD?

VISUALS:

Make three large hearts using the patterns below and put the word given below on the back of each one:

**LESSON:**

I want to tell you about three boys who all went to Good News Club and what happened to them. I wonder if one of them is you!

None of these boys had trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour. But all of them listened carefully to the teacher as he told a Bible story and as he explained how they could be saved:

- He told them the Bible said they were all sinners.
- He told them that Jesus Christ had died for their sins.
- He told them that He had risen from the dead.
- He told them that He was ready and willing to forgive their sins and change them.
- He told them that they needed to ask Him to do so and trust Him.

What did the three boys do? They all reacted in different ways:

- The first boy (*Show first heart*) was **MAD** or angry at what he heard. He did not like being told that he was a sinner and needed to be saved, so he went home mad or angry. Wasn't he foolish to do so? But, listen, are you like that? Do you get angry when you hear that you need to be saved?
- The second boy (*Show second heart*) was **SAD** when he heard the Gospel. He was sad because he knew he had done many wrong things; he was even sad to hear that the Lord Jesus had died for his sins. But he did nothing about it. He did not trust the Lord Jesus and he left the Good News Club sad. Does what you hear today make you sad? It's good if it

does – but it's bad if that's all it does. When you are sad like this boy you need to trust the One Who will take that sadness away.

- The third boy (*Show third heart*) listened carefully to the lesson. His first reaction was to be a little **MAD** to hear that he was a sinner; but then as he thought about it he became **SAD** – because he now knew he was a sinner. But he went one step further. He talked to the Lord Jesus and asked Him to forgive his sins and change him – and the Lord Jesus did so. And when he left the meeting he was so **GLAD** to know that he now had eternal life.

Which of these three are you – a mad lad, a sad lad or a glad lad?

- a mad girl, a sad girl or a glad girl?

Trust the Lord Jesus as your Saviour and you will be **GLAD** forever.

Evangelistic Lesson

DON'T PRETEND TO BE WHAT YOU AREN'T

TRUTH:

We should not try to deceive others – or ourselves.

VISUALS:

Several paper face masks.

Or use paper plates to make masks, cutting holes for eyes, nose and mouth.

LESSON:

Have you ever heard of a fancy dress party? Those who come are expected to dress up to look completely different. Some dress as a pirate, or a clown, or a cowboy – and some put on face masks so that no one will know them – face masks like these (*Show them*).

They are pretending to be someone else. They are trying to deceive other people. They're just doing this in fun. But there are people who for some bad reason really try to deceive or trick other people.

Can you think of people like that in the Bible?

- Jacob was a deceiver. He deceived his father when he told him he was Esau.
- Joseph's brothers were deceivers when they told their father that Joseph had been killed by an animal – and he hadn't.

- The Gibeonites were deceivers. They came to the Israelites with old sacks and wine bottles, worn out shoes, clothes and mouldy bread pretending they had traveled many miles – when they just lived next door.

These were all deceivers – who deceived others.

But you and I often deceive other people – and we also deceive ourselves.

- Some people deceive themselves by saying, “I am not a bad person. I am not a sinner.” But the Bible says, “*If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves*” (1 John 1 v8).
- Some people deceive themselves by saying, “God is a God of love. He would never punish me or judge me for my sin.”
But the Bible says, “*Be not deceived. God is not mocked. Whatsoever a man sows that shall he also reap*” (Galatians 6 v7).
- Some people deceive themselves by saying, “There is no hurry. I will have a good time and think about God and Heaven later.”
But in the Bible we read that God said to a man who deceived himself and thought like that “*Fool! This night your soul will be required of you*” (Luke 12 v20).
- Some people put on a show and pretend to be Christians when they are not. They go to church and try to be good, but they have never trusted Jesus Christ as their Saviour. They have never been born again. They are deceiving themselves.

The Lord Jesus said to Nicodemus “*You must be born again*” (John 3 v7).

Have you heard the story of the goat who wanted to become a lion?

- He learned to walk as lions walk – slowly and majestically.
- He learned to eat as lions eat – meat and bones instead of grass.
- He learned to roar as lions roar – at least he did his best.

And so he walked out into the jungle. He met the hyena and told him he was a lion. And the hyena started to laugh.

- So the goat got a piece of wood on which he wrote the words, “I am a lion” and strung it around his neck.

Then he went to the valley where the lions met together. He walked like one of them, he gnawed some bones as they did, and when he got there he roared (or tried to roar) just like them. He even carried a sign which said he was a lion. What was the result? The lions had a special meal that day because that goat became their dinner.

It was silly for the goat to imitate a lion and think he could, by himself, become a lion. He was deceiving himself and trying to deceive other people. Don’t deceive yourself or put on a show for others. The only way you can become a Christian is by trusting Jesus Christ as your Saviour. There is no

other way, no matter how hard you try! Jesus Christ is the One Who can save deceivers – and He can save you!

Evangelistic Lesson
UNDER HIS WINGS

TRUTH:

Jesus Christ died for us and for our sin.

VISUALS:

This is one of the best evangelistic lessons I have ever used. You can give it without visuals, but if you wish to visualize it you could use a series of six cards with the words written in capitals on each of them. Or you could use three cards with the words (which are opposites) on each side.

LESSON:

FIRE (*Show card*)

The bush was on fire. The sky was dark with smoke. And the fire was getting closer all the time. Everyone was preparing for its arrival and getting ready if possible to extinguish it.

Little Red Hen saw the fire coming also, and she somehow knew what was going to happen to her and her ten chicks.

You and I need to know that one day there will be a judgment. We will stand before God and, if we are not saved, we will be separated for ever from Him – because of our sin.

LOVE (*Show card*)

The little red hen loved her ten chicks and was willing to do anything to save them from the approaching fire.

And the Lord Jesus loves you and me in a very special way. He does not want us to be punished for our sin and He has done all He can to save us from that punishment.

And so when she saw the fire getting closer Little Red Hen called her chickens to come and shelter under her wings. She knew that it was the only place of safety from the fire. She was willing to be burned by the fire so that her chickens could be safe.

The Lord Jesus has taken the punishment for our sin on the cross. He loved us so much that He was willing to take our place and die for us. And now He calls each of us to come to Him, to trust Him and to be safe and secure in Him.

INSIDE (*Show card*)

Nine of the ten chicks immediately dashed to the place of safety and came in under their mother's wings. They were sensible. They knew that it was the only place where they could be completely safe.

Have you come to the Lord Jesus for salvation and security? There is no other place where you can be safe. I hope you have come. If not, come to Him today.

OUTSIDE (*Show card*)

But the tenth chick did not come. He stayed outside. Perhaps he felt he was too big to do so, perhaps he wanted to enjoy himself; perhaps he did not see, or want to see, the danger.

When the Lord Jesus was on this earth He looked at His beloved city of Jerusalem and said, "*O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, but you were not willing!*" (Luke 13 v34). He wanted them to come to Him for salvation – but they wouldn't. And today there are boys and girls just like this little chick. They won't come to the Lord Jesus for salvation. They want to stay outside.

ALIVE (*Show card*)

The fire had passed by and caused much damage. The farmer inspected the results. He saw a black charred mass and touched it with his foot. It turned over and out ran nine chicks. The little red hen had died, but the chicks were saved because they were protected by her.

If you have come to the Lord Jesus and trusted Him you are safe and secure. He has taken the punishment and you are free.

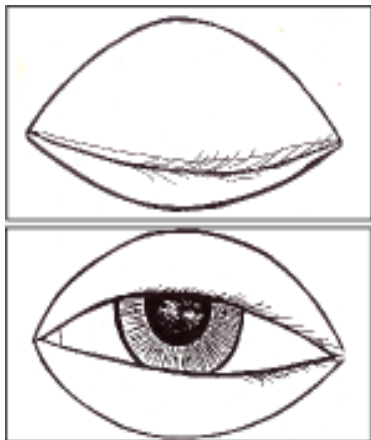
DEAD (*Show card*)

But then the farmer saw another black charred mass – much smaller than the first one. It was the remains of the little chick who had decided to stay outside and had not come to Little Red Hen for safety and security. How silly he was! And if you don't trust the One Who took the punishment for your sins you will receive that punishment yourself one day.

Trust Him today and you will be safe and secure.

Evangelistic Lesson

BLIND EYES MADE TO SEE

**TRUTH:**

The Lord Jesus gives sight to those who are blind.

VISUALS:

Prepare four cards shaped like an eye (see *pattern*). The first three eyes are closed and the fourth open. Print two words on each – as outlined in the headings below.

LESSON:

I want everybody to close their eyes. Have you done so? What can you see? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). How would you like to be like that all your life?

Bartimaeus (Luke 18 v35-43) had been like that since he was born.

➤ **HIS NEED** (*Show closed eyes with these two words*)

Bartimaeus had a problem. He was blind:

- ✓ Bartimaeus was sightless. He could not see.
- ✓ And he was penniless. Because he couldn't work – all he could do was beg for money. So he was a beggar.
- ✓ He was probably homeless. He spent most of his time begging by the side of the road outside Jericho.

How would you like to live a life like that?

But don't forget that you by nature are like Bartimaeus. If you are not a Christian you find it difficult to see and understand the truths in the Bible. You are blind as far as these things are concerned.

➤ **HIS CRY** (*Show closed eyes with these two words written on closed eyelid*)

Bartimaeus heard that the Lord Jesus was passing by – and so he cried out at the top of his voice, over and over again. “*Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me.*” He must have heard about the miracles the Lord Jesus had done and He wanted Him to do a miracle with his eyes and help

him see. And so he asked Him. "Please help me". He knew that the Lord Jesus was the ONLY answer.

Have you learned that? The Lord Jesus can help you to see and understand Bible truth; He can save you and give you a new start. And He is the only One Who can do this.

But you must ask Him to do so. Will you ask Him today?

➤ **HIS SAVIOUR** (*Show closed eyes with these two words*)

The Lord Jesus loved Bartimaeus; and so He stopped and asked Bartimaeus what he wanted. And he replied simply, "*Lord, that I may receive my sight.*" And the Lord Jesus said two things to him:

✓ "*Receive your sight*" – and Bartimaeus could see!

✓ "*Your faith has saved you*" – and Bartimaeus was saved, and he became a follower of the Lord Jesus. The Lord Jesus worked inside him as well as outside. He healed his heart as well as his eyes.

And when you ask the Lord Jesus to help you see you can be sure He will. He will help you to see and He will also save you if you ask Him.

➤ **HIS CHANGE** (*Show open eyes*)

Bartimaeus was a new man. The Lord Jesus always changes those who trust Him. The Bible tells us that there were three results in this man's life:

✓ He could see.

✓ He glorified God. He knew that his healing had come from God and he thanked Him for it.

✓ He started to follow the Lord Jesus. He became one of His disciples.

And when you ask the Lord Jesus to save you, He will do so and there will be a change in your life. You will be able to see, you will thank God, you will follow the Lord Jesus – you will be a new person. Ask Him today!

Evangelistic Lesson
THE CHOICE IS YOURS

2	GATES
	WAYS
	TREES
	HOUSES
	RESULTS

VISUALS:

Fold a rectangular piece of manila in two. Fold back the right part. Print a large 2 on the left part. Unfold. Divide right hand part into 5 equally and cut just to the fold. Print five words. Fold behind the large figure 2 and unfold one word at a time as you speak.

LESSON:

(This is a longer lesson so you could divide it into two separate lessons).

Do you find it difficult to make decisions? Some people do. And it is sometimes very difficult to make the right decision.

When the Lord Jesus was on this earth He wanted people to make the right decisions for their lives. He told them that they had to make a decision which would lead to one of TWO results (*Show the number 2*) – and their answer would decide the life they would live here on the earth and where they would go when they died.

And He still speaks to you and me through His Word, the Bible and uses this number 2 (*Show it*) to help us in our lives and in our future.

- He tells us first of all (Matthew 7 v13, 14) that there are two GATES in front of us (*Show word*). A gate is a way to enter somewhere and this is where it all begins. There is first of all a narrow gate, and we know from other parts of the Bible that the narrow gate is Jesus Christ Himself. He is the door or gate (John 10 v7) and when we put our trust in Him as our Saviour we enter that gate and are saved (John 10 v9). But there is another gate and the Lord Jesus tells us it is a broad or wide gate – and many people choose that broad gate. It is easy and they don't need to do anything.

They just drift along and follow their own desires instead of trusting Jesus Christ.

- These two gates lead (Matthew 7 v13, 14) to two WAYS (*Show word*). The narrow gate leads to a narrow way, and there are not too many on it. The wide gate leads to a broad way with many on it. The difference is that the narrow way leads upwards to eternal life. The broad way leads downwards, to eternal separation from God.
Which way are you on? Have you trusted Jesus Christ? Have you come through that narrow gate and are you on the narrow way? It may be difficult at times – but it is well worthwhile.
- The Lord Jesus then goes on (Matthew 7 v15-20) to speak about two TREES (*Show word*). These two trees might look the same but they give different kinds of fruit. The good tree produces good fruit – and it is a picture of the boy or girl who has entered the narrow gate and is on the narrow way. They produce fruit which pleases the Lord Jesus – such as love, joy and peace. But those on the broad way produce bad fruit which displeases the Lord Jesus.
- And then the Lord Jesus speaks about two HOUSES (*Show word*) (Matthew 7 v24-27). The first house is built by a wise man because it is built upon a rock – and when the storm comes it stands firm. The second house is built on sand by a foolish man – and when the storm comes it collapses. The wise boy or girl is the one who builds his life upon the Rock, the Lord Jesus – and it will last for ever. The foolish boy or girl builds his house on the sands of good works, or money, or pleasure – and it will surely collapse.
- And all of this means that there are two RESULTS (*Show word*). The boy or girl who enters the narrow gate through Jesus Christ, who walks upwards on the narrow way, who produces good fruit and builds his life upon the Lord Jesus will live for ever in Heaven (Matthew 7 v14).
The boys or girls who drift through the broad gate and live on the broad way, produce bad fruit and build their lives on things which don't last.
How sad that they will be separated from God forever! (Matthew 7 v13).

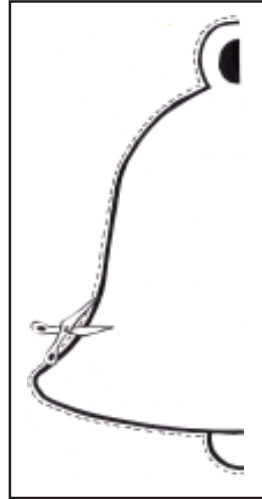
What is your decision?

Which way will you go? Which of the two results will you choose?

Evangelistic Lesson **THE BELLS RING OUT I**

VISUALS:

A real bell and three bells made from different coloured manila or cardboard. To make the latter – first make a bell out of newspaper, using the pattern given here. Then cut it out, open it out and trace round it on the three pieces of card. Cut out the bells. Print on the bells the following words: WAKE UP, COME, WELCOME



LESSON:

Bells have tongues. Did you know that? Here is one (*Show the real bell*) – and here is its tongue (*Point to it*).

So let us imagine that bells can speak and use their tongues. Bells often tell us things. Usually they tell us the time. A dinner bell says, “Dinner is ready.” A bell in school says, “It’s the end of the lesson” or “It’s break time” or “School is finished for today.”

But I have three other bells with me today and each has a message for you and me:

- First of all here is the wake-up bell (*Show it*)
This is the bell in our alarm clock which says, “It’s time to get up and get ready for school.” It’s not a bell which we like to hear in the morning – but it is one we need to hear, and we need to do something in response to it.
Do you know that the Bible tells us to “wake up”. We are already awake in many ways – we eat our meals, we go to school, we play football; but as far as God is concerned, and the need we have for our sins to be forgiven, many of us are sound asleep. We never think of these things and so God says, “*Wake up you who are sleeping and Jesus Christ will give you life*” (Ephesians 5 v14). Are you asleep or awake?

- Here is our second bell. It is a bell which invites you to come (*Show it*)
Bells are often rung to tell us we should come. Can you think of any bells which do this? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). In many cities the church bells ring on Sunday mornings to invite us to come to church, "Come to church, come to church," they say, "Don't delay; don't wait."
Some of our schools ring a bell to tell us to come to class. "Time to start. Come immediately."
And the Bible tells us over and over again to come to Jesus Christ. This bell invites you to come to Jesus Christ, and He promises that He will receive everyone who comes to Him (John 6 v37). He will not turn anyone away. So if you are awake come to Him and be saved.
- And our third bell tells us what will happen when we come (*Show it*)
"Welcome," says this bell.
When someone important comes to a city the bells are often rung. They say, "We're glad you have come. Welcome to our city." What a nice way to say welcome.
And when you come to the Lord Jesus the Bible bell rings out the same message. Welcome! I am glad you have come.
Do you remember the story the Lord Jesus told about the young man who took all his money, left home and went far away? When he had no money left he decided to return home. And what happened? He received a wonderful welcome. "I am so glad you have come home", his father said. It was just like a welcome bell.
And you will receive that same welcome today if in your heart you will come to the Lord Jesus and ask Him to save you.

Evangelistic Lesson **THE BELLS RING OUT II**

TRUTH:

God's Word warns us of danger and urges us to trust Jesus Christ to escape from it.

VISUALS:

A real bell.

Make three bells from different coloured manila or cardboard –

using the picture given on page 248 as a pattern, and print on them the following words:

LOOK OUT

JOYFUL

SAD

LESSON:

Last week we listened to the message of the bells. Bells like this one (*Show it*) –have a tongue and have something to tell us. Do you remember what their message was last week? (*Give opportunity to respond*).

This week we have three more bells:

- First of all we have a warning bell (*Show it*). It says, “Look out. Be careful. You are in danger.”

Bells are often used in this way. Can you think of times when bells are used to warn us? (*Give opportunity to respond*). When there is a fire our smoke alarm bell goes off and tells us to get out. When the fire engine is called it rings its bell loudly telling us to keep out of the way. In some countries during the last world war the people were told that if the enemy invaded them all the bells would ring out to give a warning.

And the Bible bells also ring out and warn us that if we don't wake up from sleep, (Ephesians 5 v14), and come to the Lord Jesus and trust Him as our Saviour, we will be lost and separated from God forever (John 3 v36). I trust that this will not happen to you. “Look out. Be warned”, this bell says “Come to Jesus Christ today.”

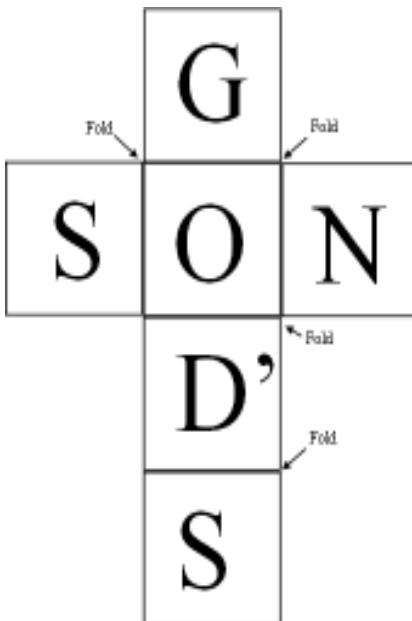
- When you come to the Lord Jesus you will have joy in your heart (*Show bell*). Bells are often used to show joy. In many of our cities and countries bells are rung to celebrate some special event to express joy or happiness. In some countries bells were rung when the war came to an end. In England the bells were rung when the Queen started her reign. There is something very happy and joyful about the chiming of bells and the Bible bells ring out joyfully to tell us that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has come into the world and has died for our sins. That's good news isn't it? And when you trust Him as your Saviour all your sin will be forgiven and you will go to Heaven when you die. That will give you real joy.
- But sometimes bells can be sad (*Show bell*)
When someone dies a bell is often rung. It tolls with only one note. How sad.

And the message of this bell in the Bible is that if you don't trust the Lord Jesus you will be separated from God forever. This bell tolls solemnly. It is time to trust Jesus Christ today – and, if you don't, you will have to stand before God and be judged by Him. (Hebrews 9 v27) How sad that would be. Trust Jesus Christ today and receive His salvation and His joy (*Show 'joyful' bell*).

Evangelistic Lesson **THE COSTLIEST GIFT**

TRUTH:

God has a special gift for those who trust the Lord Jesus.



VISUALS:

1. Make a cross, four squares down and three squares across to be made into a box. Each square should be 9 inches.
2. Cut out cross and print words "God's Son".
3. Fold cross neatly on lines marked.
4. Fold to make a box with letters on the outside and use sellotape to keep it in position.
5. Wrap.

LESSON:

I love to receive presents. And I'm sure you do. One of the reasons I love Christmas is because of the presents I receive – and I love my birthday too for the same reason.

But I have here (*Show box*) something which shows us the greatest present anyone could ever receive – better than any Christmas present you have received and better than that bicycle or Play Station you may want to receive

for your birthday. And this present can be yours this morning if you haven't already received it.

So let us take off the wrapping to see what is inside. It is a box and on it are written several letters. Lets see what they say G-O-D-S - S-O-N. Who is God's Son? (*Give the opportunity to respond*). Yes, it is the Lord Jesus. And the reason His Name is on this box is because He is the great gift which God His Father gave to the world, and to you and me.

Do you remember that verse in the Bible which says, "*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son*". Jesus Christ is God's love gift to each of us.

But you need to know that God is holy and clean and pure (*Show letters G-O-D by turning the box*). You and I have sinned and God must punish our sin. But God loves us and wants to save us from that punishment. That's why He sent His Son (*Show letters S-O-N by turning the box*) to die for us and take the punishment for our sin.

Where did He do that? Where did He die for us? He died for us on the cross (*Open box out into the shape of a cross*). That was the price He paid so that we might have everlasting life. And that life is a gift for you this morning. The Bible says, "*The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord*" (Romans 6 v23).

This box tells us that God gave His Son to die for us and if we trust Him we will receive the gift of eternal life.

Trust Him today and receive this most wonderful gift of all.

Evangelistic Lesson

THREE MEN

VISUALS:

Three cards with the words - CROOKED MAN, FOOLISH MAN, WISE MAN

LESSON:

I would like to introduce you today to three men. Each of you is like one of these men and you need to ask yourself the question – Which am I?

First of all here is **THE CROOKED MAN**

Do you know what the word “crooked” means? It means twisted, bent, not straight. And a person who is crooked is not straight. He is not honest. This is why criminals are often called ‘crooks’. Do you know the nursery rhyme?

*There was a crooked man
And he walked a crooked mile
He found a crooked sixpence
Beside a crooked stile.
He bought a crooked cat
Which caught a crooked mouse
And they all lived together
In a little crooked house.*

He was crooked and because of that everything about him was crooked. But we are by nature very much like him. Our hearts are crooked; and we often like crooked things and our path is also crooked (Proverbs 2 v15). The crooked man could not walk straight because he himself was not straight, and we are the same. We need to be straightened and the only one who can do that is God. Do you know what it is to be crooked or bent? I am not speaking about crooked bodies—but lives and characters which have become crooked, bent and twisted through sin.

If you trust Jesus Christ as your Saviour, He will not only forgive all your sins, He will straighten you (Luke 3 v5).

And then we have **THE FOOLISH MAN**

There are boys and girls who know they are crooked but because they don't know how to become straight they try to solve the problem themselves.

They remind me of a man who took the hands off his clock and carried them to a jeweler. “Fix these hands”, he said, “They won't run!” The watchmaker said, “You will have to bring me the whole clock. The problem is in the clock not the hands.” “Oh no”, said the man, “You just want to charge me for fixing the whole clock. It's just the hands I want fixed.” And the jeweler tried to explain that the problem wasn't with the hands but with the clock and the hands would not run, because the clock was dirty or broken.

How foolish this man was. But there are boys and girls who are also foolish. They do not understand that the problem they have is not with their hands, feet, tongues or mind. The problem is with their hearts, the “real you” which is inside. And if they could get their hearts fixed the other members of their bodies will be alright.

And lastly here is **THE WISE MAN**

What is a wise man? What is a wise boy or girl? He is one who knows he is crooked – from what he sees in his own life and because God’s Word says he is crooked. He is one who knows he is foolish in trying to solve the problem himself; and he is one who asks Jesus Christ to save him and make him straight. That’s the wise and sensible thing to do. (Matthew 7 v24)

Which of these are you – crooked, foolish or wise?

Evangelistic Lesson **WAGES AND GIFTS**

TRUTH:

Salvation is a gift which needs to be received.

VISUALS:

A grey or black envelope with the words YOUR WAGES on the outside and a card inside on which the word DEATH is written.

A bright yellow envelope with the words GOD’S GIFT on the outside and a card inside on which the words ETERNAL LIFE are written.

LESSON:

When you get older you will get a job. What would you like to be? What would you like to work at? (*Give the opportunity to respond*).

One of the good things about having a job is that you get a salary, a wage. Every week or every month you will receive an envelope with the money you have earned inside it.

The Bible also speaks about WAGES which everyone receives and calls them the wages of sin. What does that mean? We are all sinners; we all do wrong things; and we earn or receive something as a result of our sinning. Your father works and he receives money as his wages. We sin and we receive – what? We receive wages (*Show envelope with the word “WAGES”*). Here is our wage envelope. Let us open it and see what our wages are. The Bible says, “*The wages of sin is DEATH*” (Romans 6 v23) (*Show card with the word “DEATH”*). The result of sin is that we are already dead inside. We have no spiritual life; we have no real life, we are dead to God. And then when our body dies we will be separated from God forever.

How sad!

But there is good news. Envelopes like this first one bring bad news. But there are also envelopes which bring good news. Have you ever received an envelope with money in it, or with the good result of an examination. This second envelope does not contain salary or wages; it contains a gift – a gift from God (*Show envelope with the word “GIFT”*). This is something you just receive; you cannot work for it. It is a gift. Let us open the envelope. Here is the gift, ETERNAL LIFE (*Point to the words “ETERNAL LIFE”*), which means we will live forever with God in Heaven. The Bible says, “*The wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life (how?) through Jesus Christ our Lord*” (Romans 6 v23). But we will only receive that gift if we trust Jesus Christ as our Saviour. It comes to us, our Bible verse says, through Jesus Christ. What do you want? Your wages or God’s gift? Have you received this gift from God? You can receive it today. How? Through Jesus Christ. Trust Him as your Saviour and the gift will be yours forever.

Evangelistic Lesson **A LESSON FROM BALLS**

TRUTH:

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

VISUALS:

A world globe, a golf ball and a bowl (used in lawn bowling with a weighted side) or a picture of one.

LESSON:

You will never guess what I have with me this morning. There are three of them! No matter what way we look at them they are round. Look at them from above, from below or from the side and they are round but they are all different sizes and different colours and they are used for different things. Can you guess what I have? (*Give the opportunity to respond*). Yes, you are right. I have three balls with me – they are all round, but they are different in size, in colour and what they are used for.

- First of all here is the big one (*Show world globe*). You know what this is. It is a picture of our world. We all live on a big ball called the world. And

you can find where our country is (*Point to it*). This big ball or globe reminds us of something very special. The Bible says that “*God so loved the world*” (John 3 v16). If this ball could speak it might say, “Boys and girls, God loves everyone who lives on me.” It doesn’t matter how old you are, how young you are, or how bad you are – God loves you and sent His Son Jesus Christ to die for the sin of everyone who lives in this world.

- Here is our second ball (*Hold up the bowl or the picture of one*). It is smaller and it is black. It is called a bowl and is used in a game which is called bowls and is played on a very smooth surface. At the other end is a little white ball and the bowler trundles it like this (*Demonstrate*) and tries to get his bowl as close to that little ball as possible. The only problem is that one side of this bowl is heavier than the other. So it doesn’t go straight. It can’t go straight. It swings over to the side which is heavier. And the bowler has to be very skilful in getting it to swerve and curve so that it finishes in the right place.

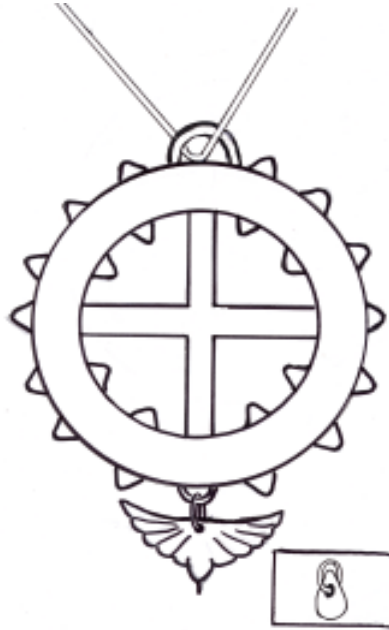
And if this bowl could speak it would say, “Boys and girls you are just like me. You cannot go in a straight line; you cannot live the right way. There is a weight called sin inside of you which pulls you in the wrong direction and away from God.” Yes, the Bible tells us that we are all sinners; we have a sinful nature which we cannot control and keeps us from being the people God wants us to be. (Romans 3 v23)

- But this next ball which is even smaller tells us something even worse. Do you recognize this ball? (*Hold up the golf ball*). Yes, it is a golf ball. And there is something which happens to millions of golf balls every year – far more than to any other kind of ball. Do you know what that is? (*Give the opportunity to respond*). Yes, they are lost. As golfers go from one hole to another they hit these little fellows – and many times they never see them again. They fly off into the trees, or into long grass, or into the river.

If this little golf ball could speak he might say, “My problem is that I am often lost and no one can find me.” But do you know that you are lost? The Bible says so. We are all lost (*Hold up golf ball*) and far away from God and the home He has for us up in Heaven – and we are lost because of our sins (*Hold up bowl*).

But do you remember our first ball? (*Hold up world globe*). God loves us even though we have sinned and even though we are lost. And Jesus Christ, God’s Son, not only came to die for our sin but to seek and to save that which was lost (Luke 19 v10). Many golf balls are lost and cannot be found. But Jesus Christ always finds the lost boy or girl He is looking for. Has He found you and saved you? He will if you ask Him.

Evangelistic Lesson
THE HUGUENOT CROSS I



TRUTH:

The Lord Jesus loves boys and girls and wants them to trust Him as Saviour.

VISUALS:

Draw the enclosed figure on paper and use as directed.

LESSON:

This is a Huguenot Cross (*Show picture*). Some people in France still wear it today. Long ago in France the people called Huguenots suffered for their faith in God. Some were put in prison, some were sentenced to row in galley ships and some were killed by the sword. They had to meet in secret to worship God and hear His Word proclaimed. The ladies carried their Bibles to the meeting places well hidden in their hair on the top of their heads.

God was very important to these French people. He meant more to them than their very lives. That is why they met even though it put their lives in danger.

This Huguenot Cross which they wore speaks to us first of all about God. Look at the circle part of the cross (*Point to it*). This circle represents God. As you can see a circle has no beginning and no ending, just like God Who is eternal. Eternal just means forever and ever and ever. And God will always be the same. He loves us now and He will always love us as He promises in His Word. “*I have loved you with an everlasting love*” (Jeremiah 31 v3).

There is only one God but there are three Persons in God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God the Father loved us so much that He gave us His only Son to be our Saviour from sin.

The cross part of the Huguenot cross speaks about God the Son (*Point to it*), the second Person in God. God the Son always was God and lived with His Father in Heaven, but He knew that we were in great danger because of our sin. So God the Son was willing to become a man and then go to the cross to be punished in our place so that our sin could be taken away. All that sinners need to do is turn from their sin and trust the Son of God to save them. Have you realized how sinful you are and that you need to turn from your sin and ask the Lord Jesus to save you? You can do so today.

Perhaps you are thinking, “I would like to become a Christian but I could never live the way I should as a Christian. I would keep falling into sin.”

There is no need to worry about that because the Lord Jesus has made a way to help us. When He went back to Heaven He sent us the third Person of God, God the Holy Spirit, to live in the hearts of those who believe in Him. The figure at the bottom of the Huguenot cross represents a dove (*Point to it*) – which is a picture in the Bible of God the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit comes to live in us when we trust the Lord Jesus. He is our Helper Who gives us strength to do what is right and leads us in the right way.

So in our wonderful God we have everything we need. God the Father planned our salvation (*Point to the circle*). Jesus the Son of God made it possible by taking the punishment for our sin (*Point to the cross*) and the Holy Spirit helps us to be different from what we were (*Point to the dove*).

So perhaps you could tell me the meaning of this Huguenot Cross? What does the circle represent? (*Hands up*). What does the cross represent? (*hands up*). What does the dove represent? (*Hands up*).

You will be saved and you will receive the Holy Spirit if you trust Jesus Christ as your Saviour. Trust Him today; and then I know that God will become as precious to you as He was to the Huguenots!

THIRD SERIES

LESSONS FOR CHRISTIAN CHILDREN

Each lesson is based upon one truth which can be easily applied to the children who have trusted Jesus Christ. If unsaved children are present it won't do them any harm to hear these lessons which are directed to Christian children. It will help them to understand better what it means to be a Christian and how a Christian should live. But you could in each case also say something like this, "If you have not trusted the Lord Jesus as your Saviour this lesson is not really for you. But you can trust Him today and be saved and then what I have said today will help you in your Christian life."

Christian Children
THE HUGUENOT CROSS – II

TRUTH:

The Lord Jesus loves children and wants them to be faithful to Him.

VISUALS:

Use the visual from the previous lesson (Page 257). Attach the figure of a “drop” to the dove.

LESSON:

(You should teach this lesson the week after the first one on the Huguenot cross).

This is a Huguenot cross. Do you remember what we learned from it last week? *(Give an opportunity to respond)*. The circle on this cross stands for God *(Point to it)* Who has no beginning or ending. The cross *(Point to it)* reminds us of the death of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, for our sin, and the dove *(Point to it)* is a picture of the Holy Spirit Who lives inside every Christian. This cross is still worn today in France. Long ago in that country people called Huguenots suffered for their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ – some were put in prison, some were sentenced to row in galley ships and some were killed by the sword. They had to meet in secret and the ladies carried their little Bibles concealed in their hair.

All the people had to do to be freed from the galleys and prisons was to say, “I give up my faith in Jesus Christ.” But they would not do this because they remembered that the Lord Jesus had suffered to be their Saviour from sin, and they were willing to suffer for Him and would not deny Him.

They remembered how He had been willing to wear a crown of thorns upon His brow. We can see it here on this round part of the cross – *(Point to it)*. These little triangles represent thorns. They remembered that He was willing to hang upon the cross and receive the punishment for their sins. They remembered how He had shed His precious blood. Here we see the cross and here we see a drop of blood at the bottom *(Point to it)*.

Perhaps you are finding it hard to be a Christian just now. People at school who used to be your friends no longer want to play with you, avoid you and make fun of you and call you names.

Perhaps it's difficult at home too because your parents, brothers and sisters do not yet know the Lord Jesus as their Saviour.

At times like these it gets a bit lonely and you feel like going back and forgetting the whole thing and giving up.

That's when it's good to remember how much the Lord Jesus loves you. He loved you right to the end and never gave up. He finished the work He had to do for you on the cross. So don't give up! Stay faithful to your Lord. (2 Timothy 4 v7)

Remember the Huguenot cross and the Huguenots who never gave up and stayed faithful even when they shed tears like this one (*Point to "the drop"*) or had to die for their faith.

Christian Children **KEEP YOUR LIGHT BRIGHT**

TRUTH:

Our sin prevents us from shining for the Lord Jesus.

VISUALS:

Pane of glass (*from a picture frame*), candle in holder, matches, mud, water in a container large enough to dip the glass, towel and Bible

LESSON:

I know that some of you have asked the Lord Jesus to take away your sin and give you a new life. Good!

So, if we've got a new clean life in the sight of God we'll never sin again as long as we live. Is that right? (*Let the children react*). What? You mean we will sin again? What should I do when I sin again? Should I take a hot shower with lots of soap? No? Should I go to the car wash and use that big spray gun and blast the sin away. No?

I want my life to stay clean but I know that no matter how hard I try I still do things I shouldn't do. What am I going to do?

(*Whisper*) Did you know the answer to this question is in the Bible, God's Word (*Hold it up*)? In 1 John 1 v9, God says, "*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness*".

That means if I admit to God that I did something wrong – “Lord, I lost my temper at breakfast” or “Lord, I’m sorry I watched that television show” – and ask Him to forgive me, then He is faithful to forgive me. Isn’t that good news? We don’t have to live lives stained with sin.

Let me show you how this works (*Light the candle*). In John 8 v12, Jesus said, “*I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.*” When we ask the Lord Jesus to be our Saviour and take away our sin, He brings His light into our life. Let’s say this candle stands for Jesus living in us. We are now the light of the world (Matthew 5 v14).

When we’re reading God’s Word and doing what it says – showing kindness; saying good, wholesome words; obeying our parents – other people can see Jesus’ light shining through us, can’t they? (*Hold glass in front of candle, making sure candlelight can be seen clearly through the glass*). Now let’s say this glass stands for us. Do you see how Jesus’ light can shine right through us?

But what happens when we sin? What is sin? (*Give opportunity to respond*). Give me one example of sin. (*As you call on children to answer, dip your fingers into the mud and dab it onto the glass in front of the candle for each sin named. Eventually the mud will coat the glass, blocking out the light of the candle*).

What has happened? Has the light gone from our heart? Has the Lord Jesus left us because we sinned? (*Move the glass so that children can see the candle shining just as brightly as before*). No, He’s still there. But all that sin has blocked out the light. No one can see the light of Jesus shining through us now, can they? They will not be able to see that we are Christians.

What do we need to do about that sin? (1 John 1 v9). (*Dip glass into water. Rub until all mud is washed away and glass is clean*). If we confess that we’ve sinned and ask God to forgive us, He cleanses us from our sin. (*Hold in front of candle again*). Ah, that’s better. It’s clean again!

But if we don’t ask God to forgive us, our sin builds up until pretty soon no one even knows Jesus lives in us. His light is blocked out by our sin. So we need to confess our sin to Him every day.

Christian Children
A LESSON FROM FOUR BALLS

TRUTH:

God wants His children to live for Him.

VISUALS:

A table tennis (ping pong) ball, a plastic beach ball, a white snooker ball and a football.

LESSON:

(You can divide this lesson into separate lessons if you wish).

Do you remember the talk you heard about balls and the lessons we can learn from them? *(See page 255)* We looked at and learned from a world globe ball, a bowl and a golf ball. Do you remember what we learned *(Give an opportunity to respond)*.

Well, this week I have four more balls with me – and again they are all different sizes and different colours and they are used for different purposes. And our four balls this week have lessons to teach boys and girls who have trusted the Lord Jesus as their Saviour. The first three balls tell you what you should not be or should not do, and the last one tells you what you should do.

- Here is our first ball *(Hold up table tennis ball)*. Do you know what this is? *(Give the opportunity to respond)*. Yes, it is a table tennis ball or sometimes it is called a ping-pong ball – because it is hit backwards and forwards across the table – ping-pong, ping-pong, ping-pong. This ball moves a lot, and you can hear the clicks as the bat hits it. But it has a problem. It is not very strong and it breaks or collapses so easily *(Stand on top of it)*. Do you see what I mean? It is no good any more.

God wants you Christian boys and girls to be strong – not just busy or noisy – but able to stand up against temptation so that He can continue to use you. You do not want to be easily broken and mashed like this ping-pong ball. And the only way you can be strong is by asking the Lord Jesus to make you strong. And He will.

- This second ball *(Hold up beach ball)* is really big. Where would you see a ball like this? What would you do with it? *(Give the opportunity to respond)*. Yes, this is called a beach ball and you play with it on the beach. But this ball has a problem – especially on certain days. Do you

know what the problem is? (*Give the opportunity to respond*). Yes, it is so light that it blows away even if there is just a little wind. So it is easily taken away, or blown away, from where it should be.

And some Christians are like that – both grown-ups and boys and girls. When they hear something new they move in that direction; when they hear something else they move in another direction. Did you know that the Bible speaks about people like this? It speaks about those Christians who are blown forwards and backwards by different winds (Ephesians 4 v14). These people are not sure about what they believe and are easily influenced and led astray. I hope you are not like that. Be clear about what you believe and stand firm. Don't be blown away like this big ball.

- Here is our third ball (*Hold up snooker ball*). Do you know what it is? (*Give the opportunity to respond*). Yes, it is a snooker ball. Do you know what this white ball is used for in snooker? It is the one which is used to hit the other balls. Its job is to hit others. I hope you are not like that. Christian boys and girls should not hit or hurt other people. God wants us to be kind and gentle to everyone.
- But I have one last ball and I know the boys especially will know what this is (*Hold up the football*). Yes, of course, it is a football. When I look at a football I think first of all of what it is used for. It is used to score goals. It has a purpose; it has something to aim at. And Christian boys and girls need to be like that. Your purpose is to obey God and you should always make it your goal to be like the Lord Jesus Christ. And, even if you have difficulties and hard knocks, keep your purpose and goal in mind. (Philippians 3 v14) Kicking the football doesn't stop it from scoring a goal but it helps it on the way! And God often uses our difficulties to help us win as Christians.



“but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.”

2 Peter 3:18

Christian Children **KEEPING CLOSE TO GOD**

TRUTH:

When Christians sin they may lose their fellowship with God – but not their salvation.



VISUALS:

It would be best to use a flannel board for this lesson.

Make a large white felt circle to represent salvation, and a smaller felt green circle to represent fellowship.

Make a long red arrow with the word “faith” on it, and two short black arrows with words to represent “sins” on one side and the word “confession” on the other side of both arrows.

You could also use a blackboard and draw the circles and print the words as you speak with different coloured chalks (same colours where possible as the felt). Make three short yellow strips in felt and write on one side the words “peace, love, joy”. These arrows and strips should also be of felt.

LESSON:

Jesus Christ has died for boys and girls and has made salvation possible for them (*Put on large felt circle with word “salvation”*).

How can you be saved?

When you put your trust in Jesus Christ (*Put on arrow with word “faith”*) you are saved. You come into the “salvation circle” (*Show it*). At the same time you can also start to have fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ (*Put on “fellowship” circle*). That brings you into the “fellowship circle”. The result for you each day will be peace, love and joy (*Add these words on inside circle*). You will be happy knowing that God is your Friend and you will enjoy being His friend. That’s what fellowship means.

If we who are Christians sin, and continue in that sin and enjoy it, we lose our fellowship with Jesus Christ and become very unhappy. We move out of the “fellowship circle” and we lose our love, joy and peace (*Remove these words*). We will not lose our salvation, but we will lose our fellowship.

- If, for example, we tell lies and keep doing so we will not enjoy fellowship with Him any more (*Add arrow with “lies” on it going out from inside circle*).
- If we deliberately take something which doesn’t belong to us we will not enjoy fellowship with God (*Add arrow with “stealing” on it going out from inside circle*).

What can you do when you sin like this and lose your fellowship and joy? The answer is to go back into the inside circle the way you came out. You need to confess your sin to God and ask Him to help you not do it again (*Reverse the two small arrows now pointing inwards*). When you do this God promises to forgive you and bring you back into fellowship with Him (1 John 1 v9). (*Put the three word strips “peace”, “love” and “joy” back in inner circle*). If you have sinned you can confess it today and come back into fellowship with the Lord Jesus.

Christian Children **OUR PRAYER HAND**

TRUTH:

God wants His children to talk to Him.

VISUAL:

You can give Christian children some guidelines for prayer by using your hand in the following way. You should encourage the children to do the same with their hands.

LESSON:

Do you like to talk? Some boys and girls are great talkers. Who do you talk to (*Give opportunity to respond*). Your chum! Your parents! Your teacher! Your brothers and sisters! But if you are a Christian there is Someone special you should talk to very often.

If you have trusted the Lord Jesus as your Saviour, God your Heavenly Father wants you to talk to Him – He wants you to pray. So you should set aside a little part of each day to do this. Have you ever found it difficult to talk to someone important because you don't know what to talk about?

Perhaps you don't know what to talk about with God. So I want to help you. I will use my hand to show you how you should pray – and you can follow me by doing the same with your hand:

- My palm (*Point to it*) is the biggest part of my hand. And that reminds me that God is big and great and holds the whole universe in the palm of His hand. So I should start by praising Him for Who He is, and thank Him for all He has done for me. That is where I must start. That is what God wants to hear most of all.

"I will praise You, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works" (Psalm 9 v1).

- My fist (*Close it*) can often cause problems – especially if I lose my temper. It reminds me of the sinful things I do, so the next step is to tell God I am sorry for those wrong things. He wants me to confess them to Him and He will forgive me (1 John 1 v9). I also need to ask Him to help me not to do it again.

- And then I can use my 5 fingers to pray for others:

- ✓ (*Point thumb at yourself*). My thumb reminds me to pray for myself. I can say "Help me", "Forgive me", "Guide me", "Give me". And I should pray for those who are closest to me – especially my family and friends. They all need my prayers. I should especially pray for those who are not Christians.

- ✓ (*Show pointer finger*). Then I pray for those who point us to the Lord Jesus – people like my Pastor and Sunday school teacher.

- ✓ (*Show tallest finger*). Now I pray for those who are big like this finger – those who are in authority over me – my teacher, the police, my government. In the Bible God tells me to pray for these important people.

- ✓ (*Show the fourth finger which is weak when it tries to stand up with my fist clenched*). Then I pray for those who are weak and ill, and especially for those who are not saved.

- ✓ (*Show your little finger*) I pray for those who are small like this little finger. I pray for my friends at school – and for other boys and girls around the world; and for missionaries who have gone to tell them about the Lord Jesus.

Christian Children **LESSONS FROM A BANK NOTE**

TRUTH:

A Christian boy or girl will always be valuable to God.

VISUAL:

A bank note from your country.

LESSON:

(This is a longer lesson than usual but you could make it into short lessons – adding more detail to each point).

I have brought a piece of paper with me this morning and if I were to ask if anyone wanted this piece of paper what would you say? *(Give opportunity to respond)*. You may think that is only a piece of paper of no value, but you would be wrong. Look *(Show it)*. It's a bank note and it reminds me of those of us who have trusted the Lord Jesus as our Saviour. I can think of 5 ways that you and I are like this bank note:

- This bank note is very valuable and useful to the person who owns it. It's mine and I am glad to have it and I am going to use it. And every boy and girl who has trusted the Lord Jesus is very valuable to Him. You are much more precious than any money. (Isaiah 43 v4) He died for you and He loves you very much. And He wants to use you in a special way.
- This bank note is only a piece of paper which has no value on its own. Why is it worth 20 dollars? Because it is backed up and guaranteed by the promise of the government. Your government promises that it is worth 20 dollars. We human beings have no real value on our own, but we are backed up and guaranteed by Someone even greater than our government. The Lord Jesus says, "He is mine. I back him up. I guarantee him and his future." And His promises are always true.
- Did you know that this bank note has a tiny thread running through it which you cannot see – but which shows that it is a true, genuine note and not a forgery? And every boy or girl who has trusted the Lord Jesus has the Holy Spirit living inside them. No one can see Him but He is there – and His presence in us shows that we are true Christians and that we are not forgeries.

- No matter how worn, dirty or wrinkled this bank note becomes, its value stays the same. Even when it is torn the bank will exchange it for a new one.
And it is wonderful to know that as we get older, or become dirty and have problems – our value to God remains the same. He still loves us even when our lives become torn and messed up, and He is ready to forgive us when we confess it to Him and give us a new start.
- One day this bank note will have served its purpose and the government will withdraw it from use and circulation. Its work will be finished.
And when we have finished the work God has given us to do He will call us in and bring us to the home He has been preparing for us (John 14 v1-3).

Christian Children **CHRISTIANS ARE LIKE PENCILS**

TRUTH:

God wants to use each of His children.

VISUALS:

Red, brown, yellow, black and white pencils; a small pencil; a long pencil and a pencil sharpener.

LESSON:

(This is a longer lesson than usual. You could, if you wish, divide it into shorter lessons giving more detail in each one).

Did you know that boys and girls who have trusted the Lord Jesus are like pencils (*Hold up one*)? I can think of six ways in which you are similar to pencils:

1. **Pencils are made, not grown.** Did you ever see a pencil tree? So Christians are not grown but MADE by God. He makes us Christians when we trust Jesus Christ.
How are pencils made?
 - a) A tree is cut down from its place and shaped by the maker of the pencil.
We must be “cut down” – our pride must be taken away by His Word. We must see ourselves as we really are (Romans 3 v23).

- b) A new heart is put into the pencil (a heart of graphite or lead).

Those who trust Jesus Christ become new people (2 Corinthians 5 v17).

I know that some of you have done this. You have trusted Jesus Christ and you are new boys and girls.

2. **Pencils are made for a purpose.** Their purpose is to write.
God saved you for a purpose – not just that you will go to Heaven, but He saved you so that you might serve Him.
3. **A pencil can do nothing by itself.** A pencil writes nothing – it is the hand which holds it which writes it.
Christian boys or girls can do nothing by themselves. The Lord Jesus said, “*Without Me you can do nothing*” (John 15 v5). He will use you in His service.
4. **The outside colour doesn’t matter.** Whether red, brown, yellow, black or white, all pencils write alike. (*Demonstrate with different coloured pencils writing on some paper*)
So all Christians, whatever their colour or race can serve God and do what He wants them to do.
5. **Size doesn’t matter.** This small pencil and this long pencil write the same message (*Show them*).
The small pencil may represent a Christian child, and the long pencil a pastor or teacher. Both can be used of God. But perhaps the longer pencil is the child – not the adult. Why? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). He has longer to serve his master than the short pencil.
6. **To be useful, a pencil must be prepared – it must be sharpened.**
The pencils must be sharpened (*Sharpen one*). Sometimes we have a handful of pencils in the house but none works!
So Christians, to be used, must be prepared. They must be sharpened by Bible study (*The Bible is a sharp two-edged sword*) by prayer and by meeting together with other Christians. The Bible says that Christian friends can sharpen us as we serve God (Proverbs 27 v19). So, if a Christian wishes to be used, he must be well prepared and at his best.

Christian Children
MORE LESSONS FROM PENCILS

TRUTH:

God wants His children to meet together with other Christians.

VISUALS:

A dozen or more pencils in a variety of colours, sizes and shapes, a rubber band.

A steel rod or knitting needle.

LESSON:

I brought a pencil with me this morning (*Show one*) – but its friends, which I also brought, (*Show the other pencils*) have a very important lesson to teach every boy and girl who has trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour.

Do you see how all these pencils are different? Some of them are a different colour from the others (*Show two with different colours*). Some are big, and some small (*Demonstrate*). But even though they are different there is one way in which they are all the same. Do you know what that is? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). Yes, they all contain lead in the centre.

All of you boys and girls who have trusted the Lord Jesus as your Saviour and received Him into your life look different on the outside like these pencils. Some are tall and some short; some are fat and some thin; some are older and some younger; there are differences in the colour of your eyes, of your hair and even perhaps of your skin. But you are all the same in one way because the Lord Jesus is living inside you. And He wants to help you live the right way.

But there is someone who wants you to do wrong. His name is Satan. He wants you to disobey God and he tempts you to sin. He wants you to do wrong things so that he can break you and defeat you like this pencil (*Break pencil*). How can we be strong enough to stop him doing this? First of all we need to stay close to the Lord Jesus by taking time to read His Word and talk to Him. Do you see this steel rod? (*Show it*). When I put the pencil and the rod together (*Do this*) the pencil cannot be broken. This rod stands for the Lord Jesus Who is pure and strong. This pencil stands for you who are sinful and weak. So when you stay close to the Lord Jesus you will be strong and the devil will not be able to break you. “*We are more than conquerors through Him Who loved us*” (Romans 8 v39).

But it's also important for Christian boys and girls to stay close to each other, to meet with each other in Good News Club, in Sunday school and in church, and to pray together. When we meet and have friendship with other Christians it is more difficult for Satan to break us and make us sin. Look! Each of these pencils stands for a Christian (*Wrap the rubber band around all the pencils*). Do you think you could break one of these pencils now? (*Let a child try*). No it cannot be done.

That's why it is so important for you boys and girls to attend church every week, to go to Sunday school and Good News club. You can then help each other to be strong. The Bible says that you should make sure you meet with other Christians (Hebrews 10 v25) and if you don't do so you will have problems.

Christian Children **RING THE BELLS**

TRUTH:

God wants His children to tell others about the Lord Jesus.

VISUALS:

Use pattern on page 248 to make bells.

1. One large.
2. One small.
3. One medium minus the tongue.
4. One medium plus a long tongue.
5. One medium with a long crack added.

LESSON:

This is a lesson about bells for Christian children encouraging them to sound out the good news of Jesus Christ – and they need to know what kind of bells they should, or shouldn't, be.

Ding dong! Ding dong! (*Ring a bell if you have one*). I love to hear bells. Do you? Would you like to be a bell?

If you have trusted the Lord Jesus as your Saviour God wants you to tell others about Him and the way of salvation. Bells are often used to tell people about some wonderful event which has happened – the Queen's wedding, or a

victory in war or a visit from an important person. So you are like a bell and God wants you to ring out the good news to others. (Mark 16 v15)

BIG BELL (*Show large bell*). Here is a big bell. If you were to ring it, it gives out a loud and clear sound. And so big and important people like our minister or pastor should ring out the good news about the Lord Jesus.

SMALL BELL (*Show small bell*). But small bells are also important. They give such a clear ring. It may not be as loud as the big bell but it can still be heard clearly – and some people prefer to listen to small bells rather than big ones.

You are a bell just like this one – and you need to let your friends know about the Lord Jesus.

TONGUELESS BELL (*Show large bell without the tongue at the bottom*). This bell looks good at first glance but actually it is useless. Why? It has no tongue. It cannot make any noise whatsoever. Indeed it is useless.

You may be like this bell. You are a Christian but you never tell anyone you are, and you never tell others about Jesus Christ and salvation. You are not doing what God wants you to do. You are useless! Ask the Lord Jesus to give you a tongue which you can use to share the good news.

LONG TONGUED BELL (*Show the large bell with long tongue added*). This bell has a tongue, but it is also useless. Why? Because its tongue is too long – and no matter how much you shake it the bell does not ring.

There are some Christian boys and girls who talk too much – about everything except the One they should talk about. And there are even some who say things they shouldn't say, who talk about others behind their back, saying nasty and spiteful things, and even using words that they shouldn't. Such bells are no use. They do more harm than good.

CRACKED BELL (*Show large bell with crack*). This used to be a good bell – but no more. A crack has developed and the sound of the bell is spoiled. You only hear a dead dull clank.

And some Christian boys and girls have allowed sinful things to come into their lives which have cracked their bell and made it difficult for them to serve the Lord Jesus.

Which of these bells are you? I hope it is the second one. If you are one of the other three ask God to change you and help you be the bell He wants you to be.

Christian Children
THE FIRST MARTYR

TRUTH:

God wants Christian boys and girls to live for Him – as Stephen did.

VISUALS:

Make three cards with the following three words on them – HELPFUL, HOLY and HAPPY. Or use a rectangular piece of manila. Fold it vertically into three equal parts. On the first part print “H”. Leave the second part blank. Cut the third part into three horizontal strips just to the fold and print these three words on the back of them. Then fold each one in as you speak about it.

LESSON:

Do you know what a martyr is? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). It means a person who suffers or dies for what he believes. There have been many men and women – and boys and girls – who have been martyrs for their Christian faith. They have been willing to die for Jesus Christ – and not give up their faith in Him. (*Give examples if you wish*). This is happening in our world today.

Do you know who the very first Christian martyr was? Who was the first person to die because of his Christian faith (*Give an opportunity to respond*). Yes, his name was Stephen. He died for Jesus Christ – but he also lived for Jesus Christ and you boys and girls who are Christians can learn many things from this special man:

- **He was helpful** (*Show word*). The Bible tells us that he loved to help people. The leaders of the church chose him and several others to take care of people in the church who had needs – especially for food (Acts 6 v2-5). And Stephen was glad to do this. He loved to help people by feeding them. But he also liked to help people by preaching to them and telling them about the Lord Jesus (Acts 6 v8-10).

And God wants you to help others. It may be in some simple way like being friendly to them in school or lending someone your toys or games. Or it may be that God wants you to help others by telling them about the Lord Jesus. And God will bless and help you when you help others – as He blessed Stephen.

- **He was holy** (*Show word*). Do you know what that word means? The Holy Spirit Who lived in him helped him to be more and more like the Lord Jesus. The religious leaders did not like him preaching about the Lord Jesus, so they tried to find some way to get rid of him – or even to kill him. But they could find nothing wrong in his life. They could only get people to tell lies about him (Acts 6 v13) so that they could accuse him. And even when they did that the Bible tells us that Stephen's face shone like the face of an angel (Acts 6 v15). And God wants us to live holy lives also. The Holy Spirit Who lived in Stephen also lives in us and wants to make us more like the Lord Jesus.
- **He was happy** (*Show word*). The religious leaders succeeded in their awful plan. They, and their followers, not only accused Stephen falsely but they attacked him with great stones. But how can we say that Stephen was happy? Because even in the middle of his suffering he looked up into Heaven and saw the Lord Jesus (Acts 7 v55). He knew that he was going to be with Him and he asked the Lord Jesus to forgive the men who were stoning him just as the Lord Jesus asked His Father to forgive those who had crucified Him. Even as he suffered he was happy and at peace – and that is real happiness.
- When we have problems and when we are hurt God wants us to have peace, to be happy and contented – and He will help us to be so – if we ask Him.

Christian Children **STEPS IN GROWTH**

TRUTH:
God wants His children to grow.

VISUALS:
You could draw a large hand on a piece of cardboard or heavy paper and print the five key words – BIBLE, PRAYER, WITNESS, CONFESSION, FELLOWSHIP on each finger. Point to each finger as you refer to it in your outline.
Or you could just use your own hand and point to each finger as you speak.

LESSON:

If you have trusted the Lord Jesus as your Saviour He wants you to grow and become a better Christian every day.

How can you do this?

There are five simple steps to follow and I will show you each of these on the fingers of this hand:

- The strongest finger is my thumb (*Hold it up*). And if you want to be strong as a Christian you should read God's Word every day, think about it and do what it says. If you do this, you will become stronger and cleaner (Psalm 119 v9; 1 Peter 2 v2).
- This finger is my pointing finger – and it points upwards. It reminds you that you should take time each day to talk to God, your Heavenly Father. You can do this at any time. And as you pray and tell Him about all your needs and worries, He will help you with them and also help you to grow (John 15 v7).
- This big finger reminds you that you should stand up tall and not be afraid to be a witness for Jesus Christ – it reminds you that you should tell others about Him and what He has done for you (Matthew 5 v16).
- This fourth finger finds it difficult to stand up by itself when the rest of my fish is clenched. (*Demonstrate*). It reminds you of your weakness and the sinful nature you still have – and it tells you that you need to confess your sin each day to your Heavenly Father knowing that He will forgive you (1 John 1 v9). That just means to “own up” to Him.
- The little finger is weak on its own (*Hold it up*) but along with the others (*Bring the fingers together*) it is strong and can do a lot (*Demonstrate*); and it tells you how important it is to meet together with other believers in fellowship – in church and in Good News Club (Matthew 18 v20). Do you know what “fellowship” means? Someone has said it means “a number of fellows in the same ship”. That's a good answer. Fellowship is getting together with others who have the same purpose in life – with other Christian boys and girls.

As you follow these five simple steps (*Repeat them*) you will grow spiritually and become more like the Lord Jesus.

Christian Children
LOOK OUT, IT'S SPILLING

TRUTH:

God wants His children to keep their eyes on the Lord Jesus.

VISUALS:

A glass of water, a large picture, some money and a piece of cardboard with the words, "Look out, it's spilling."

LESSON:

(This is a very effective lesson which I have used a number of times to help saved children to see that the way to live the Christian life and overcome temptation is to keep focused on the Lord Jesus Christ).

Would some boy or girl like to volunteer to carry a glass of water from the back of the room to where I am standing. But you must do it without spilling a single drop of water *(Give an opportunity to respond)*.

(Make sure that the glass is absolutely full of water. Tell the child that if he can carry it to you without spilling one drop he will receive a prize.

As the child starts to walk towards you, arrange for different people to hold up a number of objects to the side of his path. These include a large picture of something, some money, and a piece of cardboard with words "Look out, it's spilling." You could add other objects if you wish.

The child will move slowly and deliberately with his eyes fastened on the glass of water (to ensure it does not spill) – and as a consequence he should not see any of the objects.

When he arrives at the front, and has not spilled any water, you can ask him some questions):

"What did you see on the picture?" "What picture?" he will reply.

"How much money did Tracy hold up?" "I don't know. I didn't see any money", he will reply.

"Did you see a warning sign?" "No", he will say.

Could you other boys and girls tell me why he did not see these objects? *(Give an opportunity to respond)*. "Because he had his eyes fixed on the glass of water."

"Yes, that's the right answer. And if you boys and girls who are Christians keep your eyes on the Lord Jesus, (Hebrews 12 v2) you will not fall into sin, you will not be led astray by things that look attractive *(Hold up the picture)*,

or by money (*Hold up the money*), or by scary warnings" (*Hold up the warning sign*).

(*If something goes wrong and the child sees some of the objects it should result in some water being spilled if the glass is completely filled. You can then reverse the application*).

Why did the water spill? Why did you see these objects? Because you took your eyes off the glass. And when you take your eyes off the Lord Jesus anything can happen.

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus
Look full in His wonderful face
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of His glory and grace.*

Christian Children **A MAN WITH A BAG ON HIS BACK**

TRUTH:

God wants His children to serve Him and He will bless them and use them when they do so.

VISUALS:

Put five shoes into a bag about the size of a pillow case (or you could actually use a pillow case). On the soles of five shoes print with chalk each of the five letters **C A R E Y**. Or trace round the soles onto cardboard. Cut out these paper soles, print the five letters and stick them on the soles of the shoes.

LESSON:

If you had lived in a certain village in the centre of England about 200 years ago you might have seen, or met, a man with a bag like this on his back with bumps on it like these.

"What is inside that man's bag?" you might have asked. Let's look (*Take out a shoe – and put it back in again*). This bag is full of shoes – and we will use

each shoe to tell us something about this man. He was a Christian – and he was a very busy and active man, as these shoes all show you.

This man's name is William, and the first thing (*Bring one shoe out and show the letter "C"*) we learn about him is that he was a cobbler. This "C" stands for cobbler. Do you know what that means? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). That means he made and repaired shoes. And once every two weeks he would walk to the nearby town with his finished work in his bag and then he would walk back home with a load of leather to make and repair more shoes. That was how he made his living.

But William was also the village school teacher and every day the children of his village would come to be taught by him. He started off by teaching them their ABCs (*Show second shoe with letter "A"*) So the A stands for William as a school teacher.

William loved to read and study and that is the third thing we know about him and what he did (*Show third shoe*). He studied other languages like Latin and Greek and he read many books. He was a great reader (*Show sole with "R"*). That's what this R stands for.

He was a very busy man because not only was he a cobbler, a teacher and a student, but he was also the pastor (*Show fourth shoe*) in the little village church and he preached there every Sunday. First of all he **evangelized** the people in the village (*Show sole of fourth shoe with letter "E"*). That means he told them the good news about Jesus Christ and then, because he was their pastor, he **explained** to his people (*Point to letter E again*) what the Bible taught. So the letter E stands for William as a pastor.

But there was something about William which became the most important part of his life. In his cobbler's shop he had a map of the world and he often looked at it and thought about the millions of people who had never heard the Gospel – and he prayed for them. He prayed that someone would go and tell them about the Lord Jesus and what He had done for them. He prayed especially for the millions of people in India.

And then God spoke to his heart and told him that he himself should go to India as a missionary. That's our fifth shoe (*Show it*). And so he did. He said "Yes" to God and he went. This letter "Y" (*Show the letter "Y"*) stands for the "yes" in his life – as a missionary. He was a missionary for 40 years and translated the Bible into several Indian languages. He preached the Gospel and saw people saved and became the first modern missionary. Many others followed his example.

William was a very special person whom God used. What was his second name (*Show all the letters on the soles of the shoes – in order*). His full name was William Carey.

But you are also a special person – and God wants to use Christian boys and girls like you as He did William Carey. Ask God to show you what He wants you to do – and then do it. God wants you to use your feet (*Show two shoes*) to tell others about Jesus Christ and to be busy and active for Him (*Walk the shoes with your hands*).

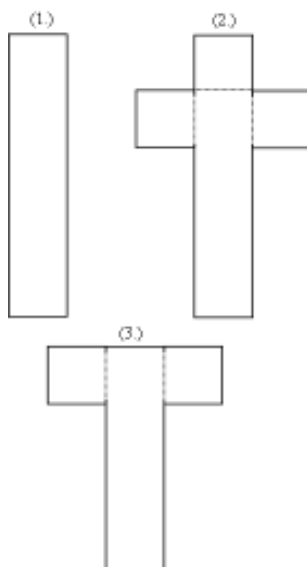
Have you ever heard the little chorus?

*“Do you know, O Christian,
You’re a sermon in shoes?
Jesus counts upon you
To spread the Gospel news,
So walk it, and talk it,
A sermon in shoes.”*

And that’s exactly what you and I are – sermons in shoes. I trust that God will speak through us to others.

Christian Children

THE STORY OF THE CROSS



TRUTH:

A Christian lives for God – not for himself

VISUAL:

Cut a 9" x 12" cross from heavy paper. Fold top section behind, then fold left and right sections behind.

LESSON:

1. Before you trusted Jesus Christ as your Saviour you were in charge of your own life (*Hold up folded cross to represent "I"*). You did what you wanted to do. You were your own Master. Your whole life centred around yourself – this big "I".
2. And then you trusted Jesus Christ as your Saviour (*Unfold to show cross*). Jesus Christ died on the cross for you. Your sin was placed on Him and He took God's punishment for your sin. He paid the price to set you free from sin. You are not your own any more, "*You are not your own; you were bought with a price*" (1 Corinthians 6 v19-20). You now have a new Master Who tells you what you should do.
3. One of the things the Lord Jesus wants you to do is to reach out to others and help them (*Fold back top section and bend the two arms forward to show "figure with outstretched arms"*):

How can you do this?

- You can show and teach them (*Point to letter "T"*) God's love by helping them with a problem or a need which they have.
- You can tell (*Point to letter "T"*) them about Jesus Christ and how He can save and help them.
- You can invite (*Point to letter "I"*) another boy or girl to come to Sunday School or Good News Club.

Ask Jesus Christ to show you how you can help others and He will.

Christian Children
THE THREE WISE MONKEYS

TRUTH:

God wants Christian boys and girls to be careful what they hear, see and say.

VISUALS:

A toy monkey or three toy monkeys if possible.
 Or photocopy and enlarge the pictures given here.

LESSON:

Have you ever seen the famous picture of the three wise monkeys? I am sorry I don't have a copy of this picture with me. I have only one monkey (*Show it*) but I will use this one to describe the three monkeys I am talking about (Or I don't have the original picture but I have pictures of three monkeys).

The three monkeys in this famous picture all look alike – but each is doing something different from the other and it is what they are doing which gives them the description – “wise”:



➤ The first monkey has his hands clasped over his ears (*Do this with your monkey or show the first picture*) and underneath the monkey in the picture are the words, “Hear no evil.” We need to be careful about what we hear. What are the kind of things we should not listen to? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). The wise monkey, the wise boy or girl, does not listen to dirty jokes, or bad stories about other people. He wants to hear only things which are good and helpful. “*I will hear what God the Lord will speak*” (Psalm 85 v8).

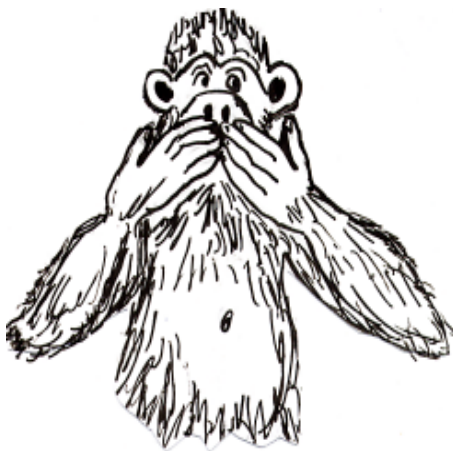
Are you, boys and girls, who are Christians, like this monkey? Then you too are wise.

➤ The second monkey is covering his eyes (*Do this with your monkey or show the second picture*) and underneath in the picture are the words “See no evil.” The



wise monkey does not want to look at things which are evil or dirty. What are the things we should not look at? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). You need to be especially careful about what you watch on television or video. The wise monkey, the wise boy or girl, wants to look at nice things and good things and enjoy them. "I will set no wicked things before my eyes" (Psalm 101 v3).

Are you, boys and girls, who are Christians, like this monkey? Are you careful about what you watch on television? Then you too are wise.



➤ The third monkey has his hands clasped over his mouth (*Do this with your monkey or show the third picture*) and underneath are the words, "Speak no evil." We should not say wrong or bad things. What are the things we should not say? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). The wise monkey, the wise boy or girl, watches what he says. He does not want to swear or tell lies but use words which are good and healthy. "I will take heed to my ways that I sin not with my mouth" (Psalm 39 v1).

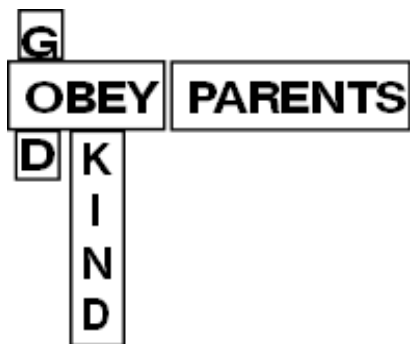
Are you, boys and girls, who are Christians, like this monkey? Then you too are wise.

The wise boy or girl is the one who is careful about what he or she listens to, watches and says to others. We want everything to be pleasing to the Lord Jesus. We want to hear no evil, see no evil, and speak no evil.

Christian Children **LEARNING FROM LETTERS**

TRUTH:

God wants His children to be obedient.



VISUAL:

On a large piece of cardboard print the word OBEY. Join a flap with the letters PARENTS to it and fold behind the word OBEY. Make and join two flaps with the letters G and D and fold behind the letter O. Make another card with the four letters K, I, N and D. Stick it to the main piece of cardboard and fold behind the letters B E. It may need two or three folds so that it is hidden.

Alternately, if you can use a flannelgraph board, you can put all these words and letters on the board as you give your lesson.

LESSON:

God wants you to be obedient. Did you know that? What does it mean to be obedient? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). Yes, it means to do what you are told. It means to OBEY (*Show word*).

Who should we obey? (*Give an opportunity to respond*).

- First of all the Bible tells us that we should obey GOD (*Show word*). God tells us in His Word what we should do and what we should not do – and

He wants us to obey Him. That is why we should read our Bible every day.

- We should also obey our PARENTS (*Show word*). When they tell us to do something we should do it immediately, provided it is not against what God tells us to do in His Word. We read in the Bible “*Children obey your parents*” (Ephesians 6 v1). That is God’s command to you – and it needs to be obeyed.

But to obey is not only to DO what we are told to DO; it is also to BE what we are told to BE (*Point to the two middle letters of OBEY*).

What does God want us to BE?

He wants every boy or girl who has trusted Jesus Christ to be KIND (*Show word*) to others. That means to be nice to them and to speak gently to them.

“*And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you*” (Ephesians 4 v32).

He wants us to be kind, to have a tender heart, to forgive others when they hurt us – just like the Lord Jesus did when wicked men hurt and even, later, killed Him.

Can you think of someone you could be kind to today?

Is there a boy or girl in your class at school who is laughed at or bullied by others? Be his friend, help him and be kind to him. What about your young brother or sister? Don’t be nasty to them when they upset you. Be kind to them.

And so if you are a Christian our two key words for today are OBEY (*Point to word*) and BE (*Point to word*).

OBEY God and your parents, and BE kind.

Christian Children **LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE**

TRUTH:

Christian children should confess their sins to God so that they can shine for the Lord Jesus.

VISUALS:

Several small pieces of smudged paper on which you have written sins (lies, bad words, disobedience, bad habits, stealing, etc).

A flashlight

A battery

Place smudged papers into flashlight between battery and light bulb.

Reassemble flashlight.

LESSON:

How many of you own a flashlight or torch? (*Ask for hands*). What do you use it for? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). It certainly is a good thing to have – especially at night.

I have brought my flashlight with me. It is a really good one and I find it very helpful (*Switch it on*). Oh dear, it is not working. I will try again. It still doesn't work. I wonder what could be wrong? What do you think? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). Some of you think there is no battery in it. Let's look. The battery is there alright, so that's not the problem. What else could be the problem? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). Needs a new battery? Let's see. Here's another battery. No, it still isn't working.

We must look more carefully to see if there is another problem. But before we do so we, who have trusted the Lord Jesus and are Christians, need to remember that He wants us to let our lights shine for Him (Matthew 5 v16). That means that our lives should shine and show other boys and girls the right way to live. The Holy Spirit is like the battery inside this flashlight and gives us the strength to shine by winning over sin and by showing our love to everyone. But what is wrong if the battery is there and our light is not shining the way it should be?

Let's look again at our flashlight. The battery is there but I have found the problem. There are some pieces of dirty paper which have got between the battery and the light bulb, breaking the contact between them. I will pull these out (*Do so*). There are words written on them – lies, disobedience, bad habits, bad words, stealing. These pieces of paper have caused the problems in the flashlight and they remind us that these sins cause the problem in our lives and keep our light from shining. They get between us and the power of the Holy Spirit.

We need to tell God we are sorry for these sins and ask Him to help us get rid of them. He will forgive us immediately and help us win over them (1 John 1 v9) and then what will happen? (*Put battery back in and switch on flashlight*). Look, the light is now shining; and our light will shine the way the Lord Jesus wants if we deal with the sins in our lives.

Christian Children
A LITTLE MEANS A LOT

TRUTH:

God also wants to use little people in His service.

VISUALS:

Five scones and two sardines. A pair of shoes. A nail.

LESSON:

Sometimes people say “It’s only a little thing, it does not matter.” Or even some adults say, “He’s only a child, he’s not important.” But I want you to know that a little can be, and often is, important.

You may be young and small, but the wonderful truth is that God can use little things and little people.

Do you remember the story in the Bible of the boy who had five small loaves like these (*Show them*) and two small fish like these (*Show them*). (John 6 v1-14) He was only a boy. He was little and he hadn’t very much – but he gave it all to the Lord Jesus Who multiplied it and used it to feed 5,000 men plus women and children. If you boys and girls who are Christians will give what you have to the Lord Jesus, and do what you can do for Him, God can use you and make you a blessing to others – even though you are little and don’t have very much.

This is a true story about a little girl who helped with the housework in a large house in Scotland. One day the cook noticed her polishing a pair of shoes like these (*Show the shoes*) – and she polished and polished and polished – until they really shone. The cook asked her why she was working so hard. She told the cook that she was a Christian and she should work as hard and as well as she could, and she used the words of a little hymn “Jesus bids us shine!”

The cook started to think. She was a Christian also and she decided to work much harder and cook better meals. Her mistress noticed the better meals and asked the cook for the reason. And when she told her about the little girl, her mistress, who was a Sunday school teacher, decided to become a better Sunday school teacher. Her minister saw the improvement in her Sunday school class and when he asked for the reason he heard about the little girl and he decided to become a better minister, to prepare his sermons better, and to pray and to visit more – and, as a result, many people in that area became Christians.

And it all started with a little girl who did her little work so well for her Lord. God uses little people.

But the opposite is also true. If you and I who are Christians don't live for the Lord in the little things of life, and don't serve Him the way we should, He will not use us – and people will not be blessed and helped by us.

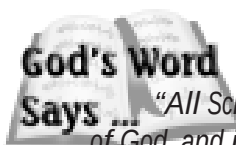
Do you see this nail? It is something very small and very unimportant. But listen to this little poem:

*For want of a nail a shoe was lost
For want of a shoe a horse was lost
For want of a horse a rider was lost
For want of a rider a general was lost
For want of a general a battle was lost
For want of a battle a kingdom was lost
And all for the want of a horseshoe nail*

Which one is a picture of you – the little Scottish girl whose life helped so many people or the nail which was lost – and had terrible results?

You might be small or little – but you can trust the Lord Jesus. You do not have to be big to be saved.

And when you trust Him your service for Jesus Christ might seem small. But God can take your little bit and use it to do a big work for Him.



"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness," 2 Timothy 3:16

Christian Children
THE WORD WE FORGET TO SAY

TRUTH:

God wants His children to be thankful.

**VISUALS:**

Enlarge the pattern on the left to any size desired. Three pieces of cardboard are all you need.

It is best to use the flannelgraph for this lesson. Back the three parts with flannel and interchange parts of the letter as shown in diagram.

But you could also just display the pieces and put them together by hand – if you could recruit the help of another person.

**LESSON:**

What would you do if I came down to you right now and handed you one pound? I am not going to do this, but I just wondered what you would do if I did (*Give an opportunity to respond*). Yes, of course you would take it and then you would say thanks. You would BE thankful for what you have received (*Show letter “B”*), and that is what this letter stands for. I hope you are thankful to your father and mother for all they do for you. Do you ever say “Thanks” to them? But I hope you are thankful and say “Thanks” to God for all He has done for you – especially if you have trusted the Lord Jesus as your Saviour. When did you last thank Him for dying for you? He wants you to BE thankful. The Bible tells us about ten men (*Show “10”*) who had a real problem (Luke 17 v11-19). They all had a terrible disease called leprosy, which causes the skin

and bones to rot and parts of the body to fall off. It was a horrible disease and these 10 men were not even allowed to live with other people in their village. Everywhere they went they had to shout the word “unclean”.

And then they heard that the Lord Jesus was coming to visit their village. So they met Him outside the village and asked Him if He would heal them. He told them to go and show themselves to the priests, and as they went they were completely healed. What do you think they did next?

Nine of them (*Show “9”*) went on home. They never stopped or returned to say “Thanks” to the One Who had healed them. How sad! I wonder why they didn’t thank the Lord Jesus. Can you think of any reason they might have given for not doing so? (*Give an opportunity to respond*):

- Perhaps they wanted to tell their friends.
- Perhaps they wanted new clothes.
- Perhaps they wanted to get back to their job and earn money.
- Or perhaps they just didn’t think of doing so.

We don’t know the answer – but anyway they didn’t say “Thank You”.

And the Lord Jesus saw that they did not say “Thanks” and He said, “Where are the nine?” I hope you and I are not like them. We need to be thankful to the Lord Jesus for all He has done for us.

But there was one (*Show “1”*) who did come back and was really thankful. And the Lord Jesus was so pleased when he came and fell before Him and said “Thank You.” And the one who came back was not a Jew like the other nine. They should have known better because they were Jews like the Lord Jesus, and should have known what the Bible teaches about thankfulness. But the one who was thankful was a stranger; a Samaritan. And the Lord Jesus was really impressed with his gratitude and his faith. The Bible says that





not only did He heal him, He also saved him. He was now clean on the outside and clean on the inside. But what about YOU (*Show “U”*). Have you trusted the Lord Jesus? Have you thanked Him? He will be very pleased to hear your “THANK YOU.”

Christian Children **TAKING OUT THE WRINKLES**

TRUTH:

God uses difficulties and problems in the lives of Christians to make them more like the Lord Jesus.

VISUALS:

Two handkerchiefs (one wrinkled and the other ironed). A smoothing iron.

LESSON:

Today I have two handkerchiefs with me (*Hold them up*). Can you tell me what is different about the way they look (*Allow responses*)? Right! This one is all wrinkled and this one is nice and smooth. I put them in the washing machine together. Both are washed; both are clean. Why are they so different now? (*Allow responses*).

Yes, one has been ironed and the other one has not been ironed.

Here is an iron (*Hold it up*). When you have a handkerchief which is wrinkled you press this iron, when it is hot, down on it – and smooth it until the wrinkles disappear. If you were a handkerchief would you like to be ironed (*Allow response*)? I wouldn't because the iron is very hot and very heavy. But it's the only way to get rid of the wrinkles.

When you and I trust the Lord Jesus as our Saviour we are perfectly clean in the sight of God. But there are still lots of wrinkles and sins in our lives. Our old nature remains and we continue to do wrong things. We sometimes tell a lie, or use bad words or lose our temper, even though we know we shouldn't. So God uses things which happen to us from day to day to do the work of an iron and smooth out the wrinkles. Sometimes He sends, or allows, difficulties and problems to come into our lives; sometimes we are sick; sometimes people hurt and harm us. But these are all for our good – to take away the wrinkles

and help us to become more and more like Jesus Christ. The Bible says that these things, although painful, will help us to be the boys and girls He wants us to be (Hebrews 12 v11).

God corrects and disciplines us for our good. Sometimes this is the only way to get rid of the wrinkles and make us what He wants us to be. So when bad things happen to you you should ask yourself the question, "What is God trying to teach me now?" and then thank Him for loving you.

Christian Children

GOD'S WONDERFUL RECIPE

TRUTH:

God uses everything in the lives of saved boys and girls for their good.

VISUALS:

A box of cake mix (or some flour) and some cocoa (or chocolate powder). A picture of a cake, an egg and some cooking oil.

LESSON:

Do you like chocolate cake? (*Show picture of cake*). I am sure you do. Have you ever watched your mother make one? She may use cake mix (or flour) like this (*Show the box*). Would you like to eat this cake mixture as it is? Of course not. She will use several raw eggs like this (*Show it*). Would you like to eat one of them? Of course not. What about some of this oil (*Show it*)? Certainly not. Even this chocolate powder or cocoa is not nice on its own (*Show it*).

None of these taste good by themselves. But when your mother mixes them with other things, and cooks them in the oven, you will be able to enjoy a delicious chocolate cake.

You already know that God loves and watches over each of His children. Sometimes we are happy; sometimes we are sad. Sometimes we feel really good; sometimes we are sick. But everything which happens to us is for our good "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose" (Romans 8 v28). If you are a Christian God is your Heavenly Father and He loves you very much. He wants the very best for you, and will only allow those things to happen to you which will help you.

Difficulties and problems are not very good on their own. They are like the oil, or flour, or the egg used in our chocolate cake. You would not want to have them separately. But when they are mixed and baked with all the other ingredients they turn out for our good. All things, we read in the Bible, work TOGETHER for our good.

If we look at just one time of sickness or sorrow we might ask, “How is this good for me?” But God knows best. He mixes all the ingredients together (*Hold up ingredients*) – all the bad things and good things – to make a plan for our lives (*Hold up picture of cake*). We may not understand why these things are happening – but God does and we can trust Him.

Christian Children **LESSONS FROM CABBAGE LEAVES**

TRUTH:

God wants His children to be clean and good on the outside and the inside.

VISUALS:

A cabbage.

LESSON:

Do you like cabbage? I hope you do – because it is a vegetable and it is good for you.

I brought a head of cabbage with me today because I believe it can teach every boy and girl who has trusted the Lord Jesus a very important lesson.

(Show them the cabbage. Keep it up where they can see it as you talk about it).

Here’s the whole cabbage just as I bought it. It looks good doesn’t it? All these outer leaves look healthy, there are no bruises or little holes in them. It is fine to pull off these leaves and cook them if I want to have cabbage for dinner *(Pull off a few outer leaves).*

When I pull off these outer leaves we find the same thing inside – more leaves. I can pull these off *(Do so)* and what do we find – more leaves. If I pull these off what do I find? *(Allow response)*. Yes – the same thing. I always find the same thing underneath. The leaves on the inside are just like the ones on the outside – they are the same the whole way through. What you see is what you get.

This is the way God wants Christian boys and girls to be – the same the whole way through. People see you on the outside – and I hope that what they see is good; and I hope they see that you are kind, helpful, generous and good. But what about the inside which no one can see? What about your thoughts? (Philippians 4 v8) God wants you and me to be like the cabbage – good on the inside as well as the outside. He knows all about us. He can see the parts which no one else can see – and He wants to make all of them good.

And He will help us to be good on both the outside and inside.

But we need first of all to want to be like that. If we don't want to be good the whole way through, we will never be. And then we need to ask Him to help us to be like this cabbage – the same outside and inside. We cannot do this ourselves – but He can make it possible. Ask Him!

Christian Children **LOOK OUT FOR THE HOOK**

TRUTH:

Satan uses clever tricks to get Christian children to sin.

VISUALS:

A fish hook and an artificial worm.

LESSON:

How many of you have ever gone fishing? Did you catch anything? (*Pause for response*). Even if you haven't, I am sure you know what this is (*Show the hook*). That's right. It is a fish hook. It's quite a nasty little thing and can hurt you if you don't handle it properly.

When a person goes fishing he throws a line with this hook on it into the water and hopes that a fish bites on it. It will then get caught in the fish's mouth and the fish can be pulled in.

But fish won't bite on a nasty little fish hook like this. They know that it is not food and so when they see it they will simply swim away from it and look for food somewhere else.

So, to fool the fish, the hook needs to be covered up so that the fish can't see it; and it needs to be covered with something which is attractive to the fish and looks like food. (*Take out the artificial worm and put it on the hook*). There! Now the fish can't see the hook, but it sees a worm and thinks, "That

will make a good meal for me.” So it bites the worm, and when it does so it swallows the hook. Now it is caught and cannot escape. It will die.

The devil knows that it is the same way with us. He wants to catch us (*Show hook*). He wants us to sin. But he knows that if we see his hook and know what it will do to us we might keep away from it. So he doesn’t use a hook on its own. He tries to make sin look tempting and puts a worm on the hook (*Do so*).

He uses words like these to act like worms:

- “Just this once.”
- “Everybody’s doing it.”
- “Try it; you’ll like it.”
- “God won’t care.”

These are all worms on a hook.

They are just excuses to cover up a sin – to cover the hook and get us to bite and when we bite we are caught and hurt by the hook.

So be careful! Don’t get hooked. When you are tempted to do something wrong, don’t let all those excuses fool you. (James 4 v7) Think of this worm (*Show the hook with the worm underneath*). There’s a nasty little hook beneath it. Be careful!

Christian Children **BETTER THAN A MOBILE**

TRUTH:

God wants His children to talk to Him at all times.

VISUAL:

A toy telephone or a mobile ‘phone.

LESSON:

Do you have a mobile phone? When I was young they were completely unknown. But now almost everyone has one including boys and girls.

They are certainly a great help.

If you want to talk to someone who lives a long way from you what do you do? You telephone him. You can use the telephone at home or a mobile like this

one. You ring a number just like this (*Do so*) and the person you want to contact hears you and speaks to you.

But sometimes you run into problems and you get no answer. Can you think of any reasons for not getting an answer? (*Give the opportunity to respond*):

- Perhaps he is not there when you call and so he cannot answer you.
- Perhaps the line is busy and you can't get through.
- Perhaps there is noise or interference on the line and you can't make out what he is saying.
- There are many people who don't have telephones, so they cannot contact the other person.

However, if you want to talk to God you do not need a telephone.

Do you know the chorus?

*God is still on the throne
And He will remember His own
His promise is true; He will not forget you.
God is still on the throne.*

One child when she was singing it made a mistake and she sang:

*God is still on the 'phone!
And He will remember His own.*

There is some truth in what she sang. God can be "called"; He is "on the 'phone". Prayer is like a very special phone and through prayer we can get into immediate contact with God no matter where we are or what we are doing. (Philippians 4 v6)

But speaking to God is much better than making a telephone call:

- He is always there when we call and He always answers.
- The line is never busy
- There is never any noise or interference on the line.
- And you don't need to have a telephone.

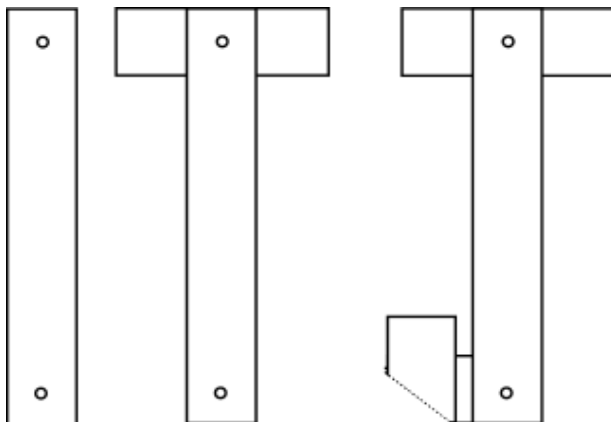
Every Christian boy or girl can talk to Him and He hears you immediately. He can listen to the voice of millions who speak to Him – all at the same time. And He is ready and willing and able to answer every prayer.

Why not talk to Him today? You don't need a telephone like this one. You don't even need to speak out loud. You can speak to Him at any time – about anything.

Christian Children
THE PROBLEM SOLVER

TRUTH:

God wants His children to trust Jesus Christ at all times.

**VISUALS:**

Heavy paper, two paper fasteners.

Cut pieces of heavy paper into the following sizes: 1 strip – 12" x 2", 2 strips – 6" x 2", 1 strip – 7" x 2".

With a large paper fastener attach the two short pieces at the top of the longest piece to form the letter "T". Attach remaining piece at bottom of long piece. End of piece will need to be folded up to form the letter "J". Swing all the pieces behind the long strip to leave the letter "I".

LESSON:

Did you know that every boy and girl who has trusted Jesus Christ as their Saviour has problems at some time, of one kind or another? We all face difficulties and problems.

I know that I do. (*Hold up letter "I"*). This letter stands for me and it stands for you and you and you.

What are the problems boys and girls face?

- Some say, "I am so afraid" (*Hold up letter "I"*). What things are you afraid of? (*Give the opportunity to respond*).

- Some say, “I am sad” (*Hold up letter “I”*). What makes boys and girls sad? (*Give the opportunity to respond*).
- Some say, “I cannot do it” (*Hold up letter “I”*). What are the things you cannot do? (*Give the opportunity to respond*).

The Bible tells us that there is Someone Who can help us with all these problems. His name starts with “J” (*Open up the “I” to make a “J”*). And you know Who it is (*Give the opportunity to respond*). Yes, it is the Lord Jesus Who is the Son of God.

- He is able to take away your fear. Do you remember how He said to the man whose daughter was dead “*Don’t be afraid*” (Mark 5 v36).
- He is able to take away your sadness. Do you remember how He said to the man who was very sad, “*Cheer up your sins are forgiven*” (Matthew 9 v2).
- He is able to help you do what you cannot do. Do you remember how the Lord Jesus often said to His disciples, “*With men this is impossible but with God all things are possible*” (Matthew 19 v26).

So the Lord Jesus can solve your problem or He can help you to solve it. What do you need to do? Trust Him. This letter “T” stands for trust (*Adjust letter “J” to show “T”*). What does it mean to trust Him? It means two things:

- First of all ask Him to help you with whatever problems you have.
- And then believe that He will help you. That’s what trust means. If your Dad says, “I will give you £1” you trust him, and you believe that he will do this. And when you ask the Lord Jesus to help you, you trust Him, which means that you believe He will help you—because He has promised to do so.

Listen to these words in the Bible, “*I am your God, I will strengthen you. I will help you*” (Isaiah 41 v10). That is His promise. Trust Him and then you can say, “*The Lord is my Helper. I will not be afraid*” (Hebrews 13 v6).



“The LORD is your keeper; The LORD is your shade at your right hand.” Psalm 121:5

Christian Children
DO YOU LIKE EXAMINATIONS?

TRUTH:

God tests His children.

VISUALS:

'L' plates, school examination paper, eye test letters and / or spectacles.

LESSON:

Do you like examinations? No? I thought not.

Why do we have examinations? (*Give the opportunity to respond*). Because somebody wants to find out how bright we are and how well we have studied. Examinations are to test us.

- These 'L' plates (*Show them*) remind us that we must have an examination or test before we can start driving a car – and then we can only do so with these plates on it. If we didn't pass the test we couldn't drive.
- Sometimes you have to go to the opticians to have your eyes tested or examined and he asks you to read these lines of letters (*Show them*). Then he knows whether you need glasses like these (*Show them*) or not – and what kind you should have.
- This is the examination or test you know best (*Show examination paper*). It is an examination paper from school which you must complete to show the teacher how much you have learned and if you are ready to go into your next class or onto your next level. None of us like examinations like this – but they are really necessary.

Did you know that God sets examinations or tests. Many years ago we read in the Bible that He told Abraham to sacrifice his only son on the altar. He did not, of course, want Abraham to kill his son. He was just testing Abraham to see if he would obey Him – no matter what he was asked to do. And Abraham passed the examination. He obeyed God and was willing to kill his son – but God of course stopped him from doing that. Abraham became the father of a great family and the founder of the Jewish nation because he had passed God's test.

If you are a Christian God will sometimes test you or set you an examination to see if you will obey Him and His Word – no matter what He asks you to do. For example, you read in the Bible that it is wrong to tell a lie. Perhaps the

next day your teacher asks you if you were the one talking in class (and you were!). What will you do? Will you tell a lie and say “No”; or will you tell the truth and pass the examination?

This kind of examination is more important than the ones you sit in school! Make sure you pass them. And if they are difficult ask God to help you pass them and He will!

One man wrote in the Bible, “*When He has tested me I shall come forth as gold*” (Job 23 v10).

I trust it will be the same for us.

Christian Children **A LESSON FROM A PEANUT**

TRUTH:

Christian children should always believe what God says in His Word.

VISUAL:

A peanut.

LESSON:

Today, boys and girls, I have something in my hand which no one has ever seen. I haven't seen it myself. Yes, it is something which is real; it is hard and brownish in colour – and yet it has never been seen by anyone (including me). And if you or I get the chance to see it it will never be seen again.

How many of you believe what I've told you about this object which I have in my hand? It sounds hard to believe, doesn't it? Are you willing to believe it even though you cannot understand how it can be true, but just because I have told you that it IS true? How many believe me? (*Give an opportunity to respond*).

Could any of you guess what it could be? No one has ever seen it, I have never seen it, but I have it in my hand. It is hard and it is brown, and in a few moments no one will ever see it again. What is it? (*Give the opportunity to respond*). Well here it is (*Show the peanut. Crack the shell, open and display the kernel*). See this kernel of the peanut! Didn't I tell you the truth about it? It is hard, isn't it, and brownish in colour? And has any man every seen it before? No! And will anyone ever see it again? (*Put in mouth and eat*). No!

Some of you believed all that I said about this peanut, though you did not know what it was, and though you had not seen it. This was an example of FAITH. You had faith in me. You believed me and what I said. Thank you for believing me. But it is much more important to have faith in God and to believe what He says. God's Word says that faith is believing what you hear – but you cannot see (Hebrews 11 v1). When you believe God's Word, even though you cannot understand it, nor see it, nor feel it, but you believe it because God says so, you are showing faith. Belief in what is said depends upon who said it. God wrote the Bible, it is His Word, so you can show your faith by believing every word of it.

God wants us to hear His Word, believe it and then obey it.

And you can love and obey the Lord Jesus Whom you have never seen (1 Peter 1 v8).

Christian Children **UNITED WE STAND**

TRUTH:

God wants Christian children to meet regularly with other Christians.

VISUAL:

One page of paper and a large thick book like a telephone book.

LESSON:

In the early days of the United States of America many people who lived in the east of the country wanted to go westwards where there was plenty of land which they could farm. But it was too dangerous to go alone. What do you think they did? (*Give opportunity to respond*). They formed themselves together into what were called wagon trains – and they traveled the long distances together.

In this way they could be safer than if they were alone. They knew that there was safety and strength in numbers.

I know that a number of you boys and girls are Christians. You already have trusted the Lord Jesus as your Saviour from sin, and you know for sure that He has come into your life. That's the most wonderful thing in the world, and you can be sure that some day the Lord will take you to be with Him in

Heaven. But, in the meantime, God wants you to live for Him – and He wants you to live a life that pleases Him.

One thing that will help you in this life after you are saved is to join yourself with other Christians by going to a Good News Club, by attending Sunday school and by joining a good church. In a good church you will find help for your lives from other Christians. A church is not a building; it is a group of people who have trusted Christ as their Saviour and who have joined together to carry on His work and to help each other. And God has not just suggested we meet together with other Christians, He has told us to do this: “*Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together*” (Hebrews 10 v25). So we must obey. There are good reasons to obey God in doing this. A group of people joined together in this way can carry on the work better than if each tried to do it himself – and they can help each other in their lives. It’s like a football game. You can play better when you are part of a team – and not playing on your own. The members of the team play together and help each other.

Look at this piece of paper. Is there anybody in the room today who couldn’t tear it in half? Of course not. That’s very easy to do. Would someone like to tear it (*Give the opportunity*). Now look at this telephone book. Is there anyone here who can tear this in half? (*Give the opportunity*). I thought not. Look how difficult it is to tear (*Try it*). I couldn’t possibly do it. Do you know the reason? It’s simple, isn’t it? When you put together a number of sheets of paper each of which is easy to tear on their own, you cannot tear them when they are bound or tied together. And that’s what I’ve been talking about today. Alone, you can do a lot for the Lord, and it certainly is important that you do all you can do for Him every day, but together we can do more. Also, when we’re together, it’s more difficult for Satan to attack us and tear us apart. You should meet and fellowship with other Christian boys and girls and belong to a good church and attend it. And this will help you to be strong.

Christian Children
EVERYONE IS WRITING A BOOK

TRUTH:

God wants His children to live for Him every day and in every way.

VISUAL:

A book.

LESSON:

Do you have a hobby? Is there something special which you would like to make or do?

Some people paint pictures as a hobby and others make model aeroplanes and some build or put together computers; others write books.

There was a man who, when he was a boy, had a great desire to write a book like this one (*Show your book*). That would have been his hobby if it had been possible. He was a Christian and he wanted to write a book which would help people. But writing a book is a big job which takes a long time.

- When he was young he had no time to write his book because his father and mother had died and he had to look after his younger brothers and sisters.
- When they got older he thought he could start to write his book. But then one of his brothers was injured and became a cripple; and he felt he should take care of him.
- Then his brothers and sisters grew up and he felt "Now is the time to start my book." But his sister's husband died and he took her and her four children into his home and helped care for them.
- But then, at last, all the children were able to take care of themselves. But he was now old and grey. However, he still wanted to write his book and he planned to start it. But the next day he saw a child in danger of being run down by a motor car. He jumped into the road, snatched the child from danger – but was injured so badly he could never recover.

As he lay in hospital he thought of his life's desire to write a book and was so sorry he had never done so and he could not now write one.

Then one night he had a dream and in his dream a man came to his bedside with a book in his hand. On the cover of the book was the title, "*The Story of a Wonderful Christian Life*". He took the book, opened it and glanced at its pages. And to his astonishment he discovered it was the story of his own life! He wakened from his dream and said to himself, "Well I have written my book after all!" He had written a book to help people – not with written words but with the wonderful things he had done and said all through his life. And many people had read it.

What kind of a book are you writing, Christian boys and girls?

Do you know that people are reading your book?

There are people who don't read the Bible – but they read you, they watch you, they read your book. The Bible says that we Christians are like letters or books which are "*known and read by all men*" (2 Corinthians 3 v2). Will what they read in our books help and encourage them to become Christians or will it turn them off?

Christian Children
A LESSON FROM SHOES

TRUTH:

God wants His children to grow in their Christian lives.

VISUALS:

A small pair of baby's shoes, a pair of children's shoes, a pair of ladies' shoes, a pair of men's shoes

LESSON:

Here's a riddle (*This is possible only in English*). What has eyes but cannot see; a tongue but cannot talk and a sole but cannot go to Heaven? Yes—shoes (*Show a shoe and point to each of these three parts*).

Why do you wear shoes? You wear them to protect your feet as you walk. Without shoes your feet would become very sore—especially in cold weather or on stony surfaces.

When we trust Jesus Christ as our Saviour and become Christians, God wants us to live for Him, and the Bible often uses the word “walk” instead of “live”. God wants us to walk with Him and live for Him. The Bible says we should “walk as He (the Lord Jesus) walked” (1 John 2 v6).

So shoes remind us that we should walk “worthy of the Lord” (Colossians 1 v10) which means that we should live a life which is pleasing to God and be a good witness to others—because they are watching our walk.

When we trust Jesus Christ as our Saviour we are born again. We are spiritual babies and need to learn how to walk. This is where our Christian lives begin (*Hold up baby's shoes*). It is not always easy. Have you ever watched a baby learning to walk for the first time? What happens? (*Give opportunity to respond*). Yes, it keeps falling. And as baby Christians we are the same. We make many mistakes and we fall often. But having made a start as we continue we will not fall so many times.

But we don't want to continue as babies. God wants us to grow spiritually—to grow inside. God wants us to have bigger shoes (*Hold up child's shoes*). It would be sad to go through life wearing baby's shoes, wouldn't it? How can we grow inside? (*Give opportunity to respond*). Yes, as we read the Bible, talk to God, and live for Him we will grow and need bigger shoes.

And as we continue to grow we will need shoes like these (*Show the two pairs of adults' shoes*). God wants us to be grown up Christians who live for the Lord and serve Him—and you will if you obey Him and live for Him.

God wants you to grow – and this takes time. Be patient. Don't try to wear shoes that are too big for you, or you will be in trouble. God wants you to grow slowly but surely – and your shoes will grow at the same time.

Christian Children **A LESSON FROM GLOVES**

TRUTH:

Jesus Christ strengthens and uses Christian children

VISUAL:

Two gloves. A pencil, a coin and a marble (or other spherical object). A piece of crumpled paper with the word “fear”, and a piece of black cloth (or paper). Put each of these last four objects in each of the four fingers of one of the gloves.

LESSON:

Did you know that God tells us many things in the Bible that He wants us to do after we are saved? What do you think they are? (*Give opportunity to respond*).

- He wants us to tell others what the Lord Jesus did for us by dying on the cross for our sins.
- He wants us to be kind to all people.
- He wants us to think and act as He would in all situations. These commands often seem difficult or impossible – but God has promised to give us the strength to do them.

Look at this glove which I have placed on the table. I want it to pick up this pencil and write a letter. So I speak to it, “Glove, pick up this pencil and write.” What happens? Nothing! Why? Because the glove has no power on its own.

Let's try something else. I put my hand into the glove – now I say, “Glove, pick up the pencil and write” – and it does so. Why? Because the power of my hand is inside it using it and giving it the ability and strength to do what I ask it to do.

You and I who are Christians cannot do God's work, or obey God's commands in our own strength. We are like this first glove. But when we ask God to give us the strength to do so – through the Holy Spirit Who lives in us – He will do

so just as my hand makes it possible for the glove to do things. (Ephesians 3 v16)

But look at this other glove. I am trying to put my hand in it, I want to use it but it is not possible. There are things blocking the four fingers so I can't use the glove to write with the pencil. And sometimes God cannot use us Christians the way He wants to because there are things blocking the way which need to be removed.

Look at what's here (*Take them out of each of the fingers of the second glove – one at a time*):

A coin: Sometimes our love of money keeps us from being useful. We spend so much time getting and spending money that we have less time to serve God.

A marble: Sometimes our love of the world and the things of the world hinder us. It is not wrong to enjoy ourselves, or to like sport and entertainment. But it is wrong when these become more important than God and take His place.

A piece of paper. What is written on it? Fear. Sometimes fear keeps us from telling others that we are Christians, and this holds us back from serving God.

A piece of black cloth. Sin is perhaps the greatest problem and the greatest obstacle. If we keep disobeying God's commands; if we keep telling lies or disobeying our parents; God will not use us.

But when we remove all of these (and we need God's help to do so) then God can use us and strengthen us to do His Will (*Put your hand into the second glove and pick up the pencil*) – and He will help us to do what He wants us to do.

Christian Children **CHANNELS OF BLESSING**

TRUTH:

God wants to use Christian boys and girls to be a blessing to others.

VISUALS:

A plant, a jug of water, four pieces of hose and a basin.

Four pieces of paper stuffed into the four hoses. On each one write a word – “disobedience”, “lies”, “stealing” and “bad temper”.

LESSON:

Do you have any plants like this at home? (*Show plant*). What do they need if they are going to grow and not die? (*Give opportunity to respond*). Yes, they need water (*Hold up the jug of water*).

Very often when we want to water plants we use hoses like these I have here, (*Show them*) only much longer. We don't use them inside the house but in the garden. So we will pretend we are in the garden, that we have long hoses and we want to give the plants some water.

Did you know that every Christian boy and girl is like a hose? How is this so? The world is a dry, dusty and dirty place and when God looks at it He sees much that displeases Him – because there is so much sin.

The people in our world need water to take away their thirst and give them life and growth. And the Bible tells us that the Lord Jesus is the only One Who can give this water. The Bible calls it living water (John 4 v10; 7 v37). But the Bible also says that you and I are the ones who tell people about this living water and bring it to them (John 7 v38) – just as a hose brings the water to the plant. We are not the water – we are only the hoses.

Now let's look at these four hoses.

We will try them one at a time (*Pour the water into each of them and little or none gets through. Make sure the basin is below the hose*). Oh dear! The water is not coming through any of these four hoses very well. What is the problem? Oh I see what's wrong! There are wads of paper blocking each hose and keeping the water from getting through.

And sometimes God cannot use us as Christians because there are things blocking our hoses and keeping the water from flowing through. Let's see what they are (*Take the wads of paper out of the four hoses one at a time and read the word on them*).

- The first paper has the word “disobedience” on it. The Bible tells us to obey our parents – and when we don't do that we are bad witnesses for the Lord Jesus.
- The second paper reads “lies”. It is difficult for a boy or girl who is dishonest to tell others they need to be saved and that the Lord Jesus can save them. How can they believe you?
- And then there is “stealing”. A boy may not steal money but if he copies the school work someone else has done he is stealing; and when others know that he does this, they have a bad picture of what a Christian is.
- And lastly bad temper. If I lose my temper easily how can I tell someone that Jesus Christ will save them and change them?

But when we remove these from our lives (and we need God's help to do so) then God can use us and the water will flow to those who really need it (*Pour water through each of the four hoses. Be sure the basin is there to collect the water*).

Christian Children **THE TOOLS QUARREL**

TRUTH:

God has a work for each of His children to do.

VISUALS:

One of each of the tools you refer to in your lesson (if possible). Show them as you do so.

LESSON:

Do you know that sometimes Christians fall out with each other? They don't agree and so they quarrel. And there are times when some Christians are jealous of other Christians because they do things differently from them – or because they have gifts and abilities they don't have.

I hope you are not like any of these people. Let me tell you a story to illustrate what I mean. This never really happened but it will help you to work for Jesus Christ and not be jealous of others who do so.

The carpenter's tools had a conference to find out which of them was the most important tool.

- Brother Hammer wanted to be the leader, and everyone told him that he must leave, because he was too noisy and kept knocking people. But he said, "If I am to leave this carpenter's shop, Brother Gimlet must go too because he is not important. He makes very little impression and is very boring." (Do you know what a gimlet is? It is a little tool which bores holes).
- Little Brother Gimlet arose and said, "All right, but Brother Screw must go also. You have to turn him around and around again and again to get him anywhere."
- Brother Screw said, "If you want, I will go but Brother Plane must also leave, for all his work is on the surface and there is no depth to it."

- To this Brother Plane replied, “Well if I go Brother Ruler will also have to go for he is always measuring folks as though he were the only one who is right.”
- Brother Ruler then complained about Brother Sandpaper and said, “He is rougher than he ought to be and is always rubbing people the wrong way.”

In the midst of these discussions and disagreements the Carpenter walked in. He had come to perform his day’s work. He put on his apron and went to the bench to make a pulpit. He used the screw, the gimlet, the sandpaper, the saw, the hammer, the plane, and all the other tools.

After the day’s work was over and the pulpit was finished, Brother Saw arose and said, “Brothers, I see that we must all work together in unity, we are all needed and we are all important.”

How many of us are just like those tools? The tools were all different but each had his part to do, and none of them should have complained against the others.

The carpenter used every one of the tools, and God will use each one of us, as we “*Yield ourselves unto God as instruments unto God*” (Romans 6 v13).

Christian Children **A MESSAGE FROM MATCHES**

TRUTH:

If Christian boys and girls stay close to Jesus Christ and close to other believers they will be strong.

VISUALS:

(This lesson is quite similar to the one on page 271 – but uses matches instead of pencils).

Three matches and a large bright nail.

About 25 matches bound together with a rubber band.

LESSON:

Do you boys and girls who have trusted Jesus Christ want to be strong Christians? If so, I have two important pieces of advice to give you and they will really help you be strong:

Firstly you should keep close to Jesus Christ

Look! Here is a match. Is there anyone here who is strong enough to break it? (*Let a child break it*). It is easily broken. Any of you could have done it.

You and I who are Christians are just like this match. We would like to be strong – but we are not; and when temptation comes or problems arise we are easily broken just as this match was.

But look. Here is a bright strong nail. Would someone break this for me please? (*Let a child try*) No? You can't. Why? Because it is so strong.

This strong nail reminds me of Jesus Christ. When He was here on earth He was attacked and tempted. The devil tried to get Him to sin, but the Lord Jesus was strong. He never broke; He never sinned; He was absolutely perfect. Now I put this match together with the nail. Would someone like to break it now? (*Let a child try*). Try it! You cannot do it. Because the nail gives it strength and stops it from being broken. And when Christian boys and girls stay close to Jesus Christ He will make them strong and they will not break. How can you stay close to Him? By reading your Bible and listening to what He says; and by talking to Him in prayer.

Secondly you should meet with other believers

Look again at this third match and see also how easily it can be broken (*Demonstrate*). But I have here in my hand a bundle of matches. Try to break them. You can't. (*Let a child try*).

When Christian boys and girls are alone it is harder to stand firm. But when you meet with other Christians in church or a Good News Club you will find that being with them gives you strength. Don't be a lone wolf Christian. Meet and pray with others and it will also help you be strong (Hebrews 10 v25).

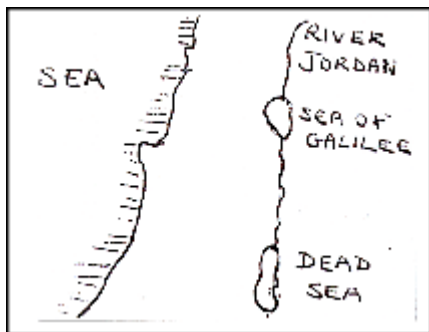


"Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith..."
Hebs 10:22

Christian Children
FULL AND RUNNING OVER

TRUTH:

God wants His children to give and give and give.

**VISUALS:**

A map of Israel – or draw one of your own as in the diagram.

LESSON:

You probably all know, girls and boys, that there are two seas or big lakes in the land of Israel.

- In the north is the Sea of Galilee (*Point to it*). Jesus spent His childhood and much of the time of His ministry in that area. Trees and flowers bloom around the Sea of Galilee. Birds build their nests in the trees. Children play along its sandy shores, and fishermen catch many fish in its pure, sweet water.

Why is this sea so lovely? There are two reasons. First, it receives its clear, cool water from melting snow on Mount Lebanon to the north. Second, all the water this sea receives goes on down the River Jordan to the south (*Point to it*). No water stands idle in the Sea of Galilee to become muddy and stagnant. This sea gives as much water as it receives.

- The other sea in Israel is the Dead Sea (*Point to it*). It is well named. No trees ever shade its rock banks; no children play here; no one fishes in the Dead Sea. Only a few snakes and scorpions can live near its salty, stagnant water.

Why is the Dead Sea so different from its lovely neighbor to the north? The Dead Sea receives the same clean, pure water which the Jordan brings down from the Sea of Galilee. But the Dead Sea doesn't give its water out again because it has no outlet. All it gets it keeps.

Christian girls and boys are like one of the two seas in this picture. Some are like the Sea of Galilee (*Point to it*). They give out as much as they take in. They have friends because they are friendly. They enjoy life because they

make others happy. They tell others about the Lord Jesus. What they get they share.

But there are Christians who are like the Dead Sea (*Point to it*) and keep whatever they get. They get without giving. They are so selfish, greedy, unfriendly, and unkind, no one wants to be near them. They don't tell others about the Lord Jesus.

Dead Sea Christians pay no attention to the Master's promise, "*It is more blessed to give than to receive*" (Acts 20 v35). They forget that Paul said, "*God loves a cheerful giver*" (2 Corinthians 9 v7) and they become dry and dusty. When you are tempted to be selfish or greedy, remember the two seas in Palestine. Be like the Sea of Galilee!

Christian Children **THERE IS VICTORY FOR ME**

TRUTH:

Jesus Christ will help Christian boys and girls to resist temptation and sin.

VISUALS:

Two triangles with each side about 25 cm long – one cut from metal and one from silver coloured paper.

LESSON:

This metal triangle reminds us of certain things about the Lord Jesus Christ. We read in the Bible that He was "*in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin*" (Hebrews 4 v15). Just as the triangle has three points so the Lord Jesus was tempted in three ways. The Bible calls these ways – "*the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life*" (1 John 2 v16).

The Bible tells us that Satan, the devil, came to the Lord Jesus and tempted Him three times and tried to get Him to sin.

- Satan tempted Him to satisfy His hunger (Matthew 4 v3) (*Point to first point of triangle*). So this first temptation was aimed at His body or His flesh. But He said no.

- Satan showed Him the kingdoms of the world and tempted Him to have a desire for them. So this second temptation was aimed at our Lord's eyes (*Point to second point*). But He said no. (Matthew 4 v8).
- Satan tempted Him to be proud and do a miracle to show He was the Son of God (Matthew 4 v5). This temptation was aimed at His feelings (*Point to third point*). He said no.

It would not be possible for us to tear off one of the points of this triangle (*Try to do so*). They are too strong. Neither was it possible for Satan to cause the Lord Jesus to sin.

But here is another triangle (*Show paper triangle*). It represents you and me. It looks bright but with little effort any one of its corners could be torn off (*Tear slightly one corner, but do not pull off*). Even though we are Christians we still sin.

The Bible tells us what sin is (1 John 2 v16):

- Sometimes we sin when our bodies or FLESH wants something which is not right (*Point to first point of paper triangle*).
- Sometimes we sin when our eyes SEE something which is wrong and keep looking at it (*Point to second point*).
- Sometimes we sin when we FEEL proud and independent and we feel we don't need the Lord to help us (*Point to third point*).

These are all temptations like those the Lord Jesus faced.

How can we handle these temptations and these sins? By keeping close to Jesus Christ. He overcame them and He will help us to overcome them. When I put the paper triangle close to and on top of the metal triangle it cannot be torn (*Place one on top of the other and try to tear*). We read in the Bible that, "Because He Himself suffered when He was tempted, He is able to help those who are being tempted" (Hebrews 2 v18).

So when you are tempted to sin, stay close to Him and He will help you overcome it.

(*Shift the position of the triangles to make 6 pointed star*).

And as you live close to the Lord Jesus you will be like the star we read about in the story of the first Christmas – a star which guided others to the Saviour. You will be a help to those who would like to know the Saviour as you do, and would like to receive the strength from Him to overcome temptation – as you have.

Christian Children **BAD HABITS**

TRUTH:

God wants His children to overcome sin in their lives.

VISUALS:

A reel of thread.

Five pieces of card with a letter on each – H-A-B-I-T. Join them together with tape. Or write the word HABIT with the letters well spaced out on a long piece of cardboard and then cut off each letter as you teach. A pair of scissors.

LESSON:

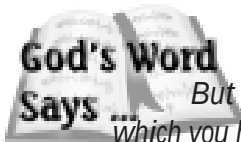
If you have trusted Jesus Christ as your Saviour He wants you to live for Him. You have probably already found out that this is not easy. One of the problems you and I face are the bad habits which are still there from before we became Christians, because our old nature is still there. These are habits like telling lies, or fighting, or stealing, or disobeying parents, or bad temper.

Look at this word HABIT. Let it stand for one of these bad habits. You try hard to overcome it (*fold back or cut off the letter H*) but no matter how hard you try there is still A BIT there. You try again (*fold back or cut off A*) and it still hasn't gone; a BIT is still there. Another try (*fold back or cut off B*) and IT is still there. But when you make another effort (*fold back or cut off the T*) you discover that the problem is really yourself – the “I” which wants deep down in your heart to continue with this habit.

What can you do?

- First of all you need to see clearly that you have a problem with this habit, whatever it is.
- Secondly, you need to see that all habits get worse and bigger if you don't deal with them. At first it was not such a problem (*Ask a child to come to the front and sit on a chair – then tie him to the chair with one piece of thread. Ask him if can he break loose – and of course he can and does*). Later it becomes more of a problem (*Tie the child with 9 or 10 strands of thread, and ask him to free himself. He will but with some difficulty*). But then the habit really gets control of you (*Tie the child with many strands so that he cannot free himself*). And it will get worse.
- Thirdly, you need to really want to be free of this problem. (*Ask the child does he want to be free from all the threads and he will say “Yes”*).

- Fourthly, you need to ask Jesus Christ to set you free. He is the only One Who can do this (*Use a pair of scissors to cut the threads*). You can be free from the habits which cause you to sin – if you ask Him. He promises in the Bible “*Sin shall not have dominion (or control) over you*” (Romans 6 v9). But you need to be patient because it will take time. It will not happen just as quickly as cutting threads with scissors. But it will happen with the help of the Lord Jesus.
- For He said, “*If the Son shall make you free you shall be free indeed*” (John 8 v36).



But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:14-17

