

THE PEEP OF DAY

Preface

FROM very early on in her child's life, a godly mother will try to teach her child about our Creator and the Lord Jesus Christ, who came to be the Redeemer. And in due time she will make that instruction more systematic. This little work aims to convey systematic instruction to the child as soon as the child's mind is capable of receiving it. It may be at three years of age — it may not be till five — that the child is prepared to listen to these little lessons. But, sooner or later, he will give evidence of his immortality by willingly listening to teaching concerning the invisible, the eternal, the infinite.

The simplicity of the language may seem unworthy of the sublimity of the subject discussed in these pages and some may smile at the contrast, but the little one will not smile, for little children are capable of tasting higher pleasures than toys can afford. Happy is the community where the parents lead their little ones to the house of God, and lead them home again to read with them their little books and, verse by verse, the Book of Books!

It will be found that children can understand religious truths at a very early age; although the exact period is of course very different in different individuals. The child easily perceives that there must be a God, and acknowledges His power to be great; the only objections he raises to any

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LESSON 1

The Body

CHILDREN, you have seen the sun in the sky. Who put the sun in the sky?

God.

Can you reach up so high?

No.

Who holds up the sun so that it does not fall?¹

It is God.

God lives in heaven; heaven is much higher than the sun.²

Can you see God?

No.

Yet He can see you, for God sees everything.³

God made every thing at first, and God takes care of every-thing.⁴

God made you, my little child, and God takes care of you always.⁵

You have a little body. From your head down to your feet is what I call your body.

¹ 'Upholding all things by the word of His power.' Heb. 1:3.

² 'He ascended up far above all heavens.' Eph. 4:10.

³ 'The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.' Prov. 15:3.

⁴ 'O Lord, Thou preservest man and beast.' Ps. 36:6.

⁵ 'In Him we live, and move, and have our being.' Acts 17:28.

out. If a great box were to fall on your head, your head would be crushed. If you were to fall out of the window, your neck would be broken. If you were not to eat some food for a few days, your little body would be very sick, your breath would stop, and you would grow cold, and you would soon be dead.

You see that you have a very weak little body.¹⁰

Can you keep your body from being sick, and from getting hurt?

You should try not to hurt yourself, but only God can keep your body from all harm — from fire and water, from wounds and bruises, and all kinds of sickness.¹¹ Kneel down and pray to God, 'Keep my poor little body from getting hurt.' God will hear you, and go on taking care of you.

My little body's made by God
Of soft warm flesh and crimson blood;
The slender bones are placed within,
And over all is laid the skin.

My little body's very weak;
A fall or blow my bones might break:
The water soon might stop my breath;
The fire might close my eyes in death.

But God can keep me by His care;
To Him I'll say this little prayer:
'O God, from harm my body keep,
Both when I wake and when I sleep.'

¹⁰'(They) that dwell in houses of clay . . . which are crushed before the moth.' Job 4:19.

¹¹'The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil.' Ps 121:7.

Do you love your mother?

Yes.

I know you do. But who gave you a mother?

It was God who gave you a kind mother.

A little while ago there was no such little creature as you.¹ Then God made your little body. And he gave you to your mother, who loved you as soon as she saw you. It was God who made your mother love you so much,² and made her so kind to you.

Your kind mother dressed your poor little body in neat clothes and laid you down in a cradle.

When you cried she gave you food and hushed you to sleep in her arms. She showed you pretty things to make you smile. She held you up and showed you how to move your feet. She taught you to speak, and she often kissed you and called you sweet names.

Is your mother still kind to you?

Yes, she is, though she is sometimes angry.

But she wishes to make you good; that is why she is sometimes a little angry. I know she will be kind to you as long as she lives.

But remember who gave you this mother. God sent you to a dear mother instead of putting you in the fields, where no one would have seen you or taken care of you.

Can your mother keep you alive?

No.

She can feed you, but she cannot make your breath go on.

God thinks of you every moment.³ If He were to forget you, your breath would stop.

Do you ever thank your mother for her kindness?

¹ 'We are but of yesterday.' Job 8:9.

² 'God had brought Daniel into favour and tender love with the prince.' Dan. 1:9.

³ 'Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God? But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered.' Luke 12:6, 7.

Who taught my infant lips to pray,
And love God's holy Book and day,
And walk in wisdom's pleasant way?
My Mother.

And can I ever cease to be
Affectionate and kind to her,
Who was so very kind to me?
My Mother.

Ah no, the thought I cannot bear,
And if God please my life to spare,
I hope I shall reward your care,
My Mother.

When you are feeble, old, and grey,
My healthy arm shall be your stay,
And I will soothe your pains away,
My Mother.

And when I see you hang your head,
'Twill be my turn to watch your bed,
And tears of sweet affection shed,
My Mother.

For God, who lives above the skies,
Would look with vengeance in His eyes,
If ever I should dare despise
My Mother.

Questions

- What was it your mother did for you when you were a baby?
- Does your mother make you breathe and keep you alive?
- Why did God give you a mother?
- What should you say to God for giving you a mother?

If your father were to die, what would you do, for you would then be a fatherless child?

Could your father die?

Oh yes, some little children have no father. I have heard of a little child whose father fell down from a high ladder and was killed. Another child's father was kicked by a horse and died. Some children's fathers fall sick and die.

Perhaps your father may die, but God can keep him alive. You can pray to God to keep him alive. In the morning you can say, 'O God, let Father come home safely this evening.'

But if God were to let your father die, you would still have one Father left. Who do I mean? What do you say to God in your prayer?

'Our Father, which art in heaven.'

Yes, if you are one of God's children you have a Father in heaven, besides the father you have at home, for God is your Father.*

Can your heavenly Father die?

No, never.

Does He love you?

Yes. He loves you even more than your other father does.¹ He is always thinking of you. He is always looking at you. He gives you many good things. He will take you to live with Him in heaven some day.²

Let us think of the things which God has given you. Let us count them:

* God is our Father in Creation; man has lost this great favour through sin, but it is restored in the gospel: Have we not all one father? hath not one God created us? Mal. 2:10. 'Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father, ye will do.' John 8:44, and '... but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.' Rom. 8:15.

¹ 'When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take me up.' Ps. 27:10.

² 'God our Saviour, who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.' 1 Tim. 2:3, 4.

How many legs have you?
Two.
How many legs has the dog?
Four.
Have you got arms?
Yes, two.
Has the dog got arms?
No; it has no arms or hands. But the dog has legs instead.
Your skin is smooth, but the dog is covered with hair.
Is the cat's body like yours?
No; it is covered with fur.
Is a chicken's body like yours? How many legs has the chicken?
Two.
And so have you. But are its legs like yours?
No; the chicken has very thin legs, and has claws instead of feet.
Have you feathers on your skin? Have you wings? Is your mouth like a chicken's beak? Has the chicken any teeth?
No; the chicken's body is not at all like yours. Yet the chicken has a body, for it has flesh and bones and blood and skin.
Has a fly got a body?
Yes, it has a black body, and six black legs, and two wings like glass. Its body is not at all like yours.
Who gave bodies to dogs, horses, chickens and flies? Who keeps them alive?
God thinks of all these creatures every moment.¹
Can a dog thank God?
No, dogs and horses, sheep and cows, cannot thank God.
Why can they not thank God? Is it because they cannot talk?
That is not the only reason.
The real reason is, they cannot think of God. They have never heard about God. They cannot understand about God.²

¹ 'Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God?' Luke 12:6.

² 'Be ye not as the horse or the mule, which have no understanding.' Ps. 32:9.

One day as I was walking in the streets, I saw a man carrying a box. Some people were walking behind and crying. There was a dead baby in the box. Was the soul of the baby in the box?

No, its soul had gone up to God.⁹

Will you not thank God for giving you a spirit? Will you not ask Him to take your spirit to live with Him when your body dies?¹⁰ Say to God, 'Take my spirit to live with Thee when my body dies and turns into dust.'

What is that part which can't decay?

It is your soul.

Your body will decay; it will turn into dust. But your soul will live for ever; it will never decay.

Questions

- What other things have bodies, as well as you?
- Are their bodies like yours?
- What have you besides a body?
- Why cannot dogs and horses think of God?
- Is your soul better than your body?
- Why?
- What is your body made of?
- What is your soul made of?
- Where will your body be put when you die?
- Where do you hope that your soul will go?

What happens to us when we die?

A verse from the Bible for you to learn

Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it. Eccles. 12:7.

⁹'I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.' 2 Sam. 12:23.

¹⁰'We are . . . willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.' 2 Cor. 5:8.

If the angels were bad, they would be unhappy. To do wrong always makes people unhappy.

The angels are completely good.¹¹ They love God very much, and listen to all that He says.¹²

They have wings,¹³ and can fly very quickly.¹⁴ God sends them down here to take care of His children.¹⁵ As soon as God tells an angel to go, he begins to fly.¹⁶ They are very strong, and can keep us from harm.¹⁷

Do you want the angels to be near you at night? Do you know this nice verse?

I lay my body down to sleep,
Let angels guard my head,
And through the hours of darkness keep
Their watch around my bed.

You must ask God to send the angels, for they never go, except when God sends them.¹⁸

God is their Father.¹⁹ He is their only Father. The angels are the children of God, and live in God's house in heaven. If you do what God tells you, you are like the angels who obey God.

¹¹ God 'spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell.' 2 Pet. 2:4.

¹² 'Bless ye the Lord, all ye His hosts, ye ministers of His, that do His pleasure.' Ps. 103:21.

¹³ 'Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings.' Isa. 6:2.

¹⁴ 'The man Gabriel . . . being caused to fly swiftly.' Dan. 9:21.

¹⁵ 'Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?' Heb. 1:14.

¹⁶ '(They) do His commandments, hearkening unto the voice of His word.' Ps. 103:20.

¹⁷ '(Angels) shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.' Ps. 91:12.

¹⁸ 'Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?' Matt. 26:53.

¹⁹ 'Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?' Job 38:4, 7.

Questions

- Who live with God in heaven?
- What are the angels always doing?
- Why are they always happy?
- Why do angels come down here?
- What do the angels do for children who love God, when they die?
- Can you make yourself good?

God tells His angels to take care of His children

A verse from the Bible for you to learn

He shall give His angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. Ps. 91:11.

LESSON 6

The Wicked Angels

WHEN did God begin to live in heaven?

God always lived in heaven.¹

Once there was no such little child as you, but there always was God. Once there was no sun, but there always was God. Once there were no angels,² but there always was God.

¹ 'From everlasting to everlasting Thou art God.' Ps. 90:2.

² 'By Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible.' Col. 1:16.

best to see them wicked, because then he thinks that they will come and live with him in his dark place. He hopes there will be very many people in hell, so he tries to make us do wicked things and to keep us from praying to God.¹²

I cannot tell you how very bad Satan is. He is very cruel, for he likes to give pain.¹³ He is a liar, and teaches people to tell lies.¹⁴ He is proud,¹⁵ and wishes people to think more of him than of God. He is jealous, and cannot bear to see people happy for ever.¹⁶

The devil hopes very much that you will come and live with him when you die. He knows that, if you are bad like him, you will live with him in hell. So he tries to make you like himself. When you are angry, you are like the devil. When you say, 'I don't care,' you are like the devil. When you think yourself good, you are proud like the devil.

Can God keep you from listening to the devil?

Yes, he can; for God is a great deal stronger than Satan.¹⁷
*Besides this, God is always near you, for God is everywhere. Now Satan cannot be everywhere at the same time. It is true that Satan has a great many angels who go where he tells them; and that Satan and his angels come near you very often. But God is always with you; He is in front of you and behind you and on every side of you; He is about your bed when you

¹² 'Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat.' Luke 22:31. 'But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: in whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not.' 2 Cor. 4:3, 4.

¹³ Satan is called 'a roaring lion.' 1 Pet. 5:8. His 'fiery darts' are spoken of in Eph. 6:16.

¹⁴ 'He is a liar, and the father of it.' John 8:44.

¹⁵ 'All these things will I give Thee, if Thou wilt fall down and worship me.' Matt. 4:9.

¹⁶ This is proved by Satan having ruined man, and by his continuing to tempt him.

¹⁷ 'O Lord God of hosts, who is a strong Lord like unto Thee?' Ps. 89:8.

* To Teachers. A very young child would not understand the rest of this chapter, except the last sentence. Therefore, it would be better to miss out this passage when the pupil is very young.

And hopes that I with him shall lie
In fire and chains and dreadful pains.
All liars dwell with him in hell,
And many more who cursed and swore,
And all who did what God forbid.
And I have not done what I ought;
I am not fit with God to sit,
And angels bright all clothed in white.
I will confess my wickedness,
And will entreat for mercy sweet.
O Lord, forgive and let me live.
My body must be turned to dust.
Then let me fly beyond the sky,
And see Thy face in that sweet place.

Questions

- Did the angels always live in heaven?
- Who has lived always?
- Why did God cast some of the angels out of heaven'?
- What is the name of the prince of the bad angels?
- Why does Satan walk about here?
- Can you keep yourselves from Satan?

God punished the wicked angels

A verse from the Bible for you to learn

*God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them
down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness.*

2 Pet. 2:4.

Then God made the air. You cannot see the air, but you can feel it. The air is everywhere. You can sometimes hear the noise it makes, for you hear the wind blow, and the wind is air.

Next God put some water up very high. The clouds are full of water; and sometimes the water comes down, and we call it rain.

God made a large, deep place and filled it with water. God spoke to the water, and it rushed into the deep place. God called this water the sea.⁷

The sea is very large, and it is always moving up and down, and tossing itself about. But it cannot get out of the large, deep place in which God has put it; for God said, 'Stay there.'⁸ When the wind blows hard, the sea makes a loud noise, and roars.

God made some dry land for us to walk upon. We call it ground. We could not walk on the sea or build houses on the sea; but the ground is hard and firm and dry.

Now I have told you of five things that God made:

1. The light.
2. The air.
3. The clouds.
4. The sea.
5. The dry land.

Let us praise God for making such a large and beautiful world.

'Twas God who made this world so fair,
The shining sun, the sky, the air;
'Twas God who made the sea, the ground,
And all the things I see around.

⁷'The waters stood above the mountains. At Thy rebuke they fled . . . they go down by the valleys, unto the place which Thou hast founded for them.' Ps. 104:6-8.

⁸'And (I) brake up for it My decreed place, and set bars and doors, and said, Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further: and here shall thy proud waves be stayed.' Job 38:10, 11.

LESSON 8

The World

PART 2 — GENESIS 1:11-19

WHEN God made the dry land, there was nothing on it. It was bare.

So God spoke, and things grew out of the ground. Trees came out of it; they were covered with green leaves of different shapes. Some were called oak trees, and some were called elm trees, and some were called beech trees. Some trees bore nice fruit, such as plum trees, apple trees, orange trees and fig trees.

Vegetables grew out of the earth. Potatoes and beans, cabbages and lettuces, are called vegetables.

Corn came out of the earth. Some corn is called wheat, and some corn is called barley, and some is called oats. The ears of corn bend down when they are ripe; then they look yellow like gold.

God made the soft green grass to spring up, and flowers to grow among the grass — flowers of all colours, and of the sweetest smell. The yellow buttercup, the white lily, the blue violet — and the rose, the most beautiful of all flowers.

I have told you of five sorts of things that grow out of the earth:

1. Trees.
2. Vegetables.
3. Corn.
4. Grass.
5. Flowers.

The world looked very beautiful when it was covered with grass and trees. But only God and the angels saw its beauty.

Afterwards God placed the sun in the sky. He made it shine all day long and go from one end of the world to the other.¹

¹ God demands of Job, 'Hast thou commanded the morning since thy days; and caused the dayspring to know his place?' Job 38:12.

LESSON 9

The World

PART 3 — GENESIS 1:20-25

GOD had made many things; but none of these things was alive. At last He made some living things. He spoke, and the water was filled with fish, more than could be counted.

Some were very small, and some were very large.¹ Have you heard about the huge whales? It is a fish as long as a church. Fish are cold; they have no feet; and they cannot sing or speak. God made some creatures more beautiful than fish. They fly about in the air. The birds perched on the trees and sang among the branches.²

Birds have wings, and are covered with feathers of all colours. The robin has a red breast, the goldfinch has some yellow feathers, and the jay some blue ones. But the peacock is the most beautiful of birds;³ it has a little tuft on its head and a long train that sweeps behind; sometimes it spreads out its feathers, and they look like a large fan. The thrush, the black-bird and the linnnet can sing sweetly, but there is one bird that can sing more sweetly still. It is the nightingale. At night, when all the other birds have left off singing, the nightingale may be heard in the woods.

Some birds swim on the water, such as geese and ducks and the beautiful swans with their long necks and feathers white like the snow. Some birds are very tall. The ostrich is as tall as a man. It cannot fly like other birds, but it can run very fast indeed.

¹ 'This great and wide sea, wherein are things creeping innumerable, both small and great beasts.' Ps. 104:25.

² 'The fowls of the heaven, which sing among the branches.' Ps. 104:12.

³ 'Gavest thou the goodly wings unto the peacocks?' Job 39:13.

1. Fishes.
2. Birds.
3. Insects.
4. Animals.

All these creatures have bodies, but they do not have souls like you. They can move and breathe. God feeds them every day, and keeps them alive.⁷ The Lord is good to them all.

When God first clothed the earth with green,
And sprinkled it with flowers,
There was no living creature seen
Within its pleasant bowers.

Soon by His word God filled the earth,
And waters underneath,
With things above the plants in worth,
That feel and move and breathe.

The fishes, covered o'er with scales,
In ocean swiftly glide;
With their vast tails the wondrous whales
Scatter the waters wide.

The birds among the branches sing,
And chief the nightingale;
The peacock shines with painted wing,
The dove does softly wail.

Insects with humming fill the air,
And sparkle in the sun;
The butterfly by colours fair
Surpasses every one.

⁷'These wait all upon Thee; that thou mayest give them their meat in due season.' Ps. 104:27.

LESSON 10

Adam and Eve

GENESIS 1:26-2:25

Now I shall tell you of the last thing God made. God took some of the dust of the ground, and made the body of a man. Then He breathed on it and gave it a soul, so that the man could understand about God. This first man whom God made was called Adam. Adam was good; he did nothing bad.¹ Adam loved God very much.

God put him in a very pretty garden, full of trees covered with fruit. This garden was called the garden of Eden. God showed Adam all the beasts and birds, and let Adam give them whatever names he wanted. He said to Adam, 'I give you all the fishes and insects and birds and beasts. You are their master.' So Adam was king over all things on the earth.

God said to Adam, 'You may eat of the fruit that grows on the trees in the garden.' Still God did not let him be idle, but told him to take care of the garden. You see how very kind God was to Adam.

But Adam had no friend to be with him; for the beasts and birds could not talk to Adam. Then God said He would make a woman to be a friend to Adam. So God made Adam fall fast asleep. God took a piece of bone and flesh out of his side, and made it into a woman. When Adam woke, he saw her. He knew that she was made of his flesh and bones, and he loved her very much. Her name was 'woman,' and afterwards her name was Eve.

You have heard of all the things God made. They were all beautiful, and all the living things were happy. There was no pain and no crying and no sin in all the world.

¹'God hath made man upright.' Eccles. 7:29.

How beautiful the world was at first

A verse from the Bible for you to learn

And God saw everything that He had made, and, behold, it was very good. Gen. 1:31.

LESSON 11

The First Sin

GENESIS 3

ADAM and Eve were very happy in the garden of Eden. They talked to each other and walked together. They never quarrelled, but they praised God for all His kindness to them. God used to talk with them sometimes. They were pleased to hear His voice, for they were not afraid of Him.

There was one thing that God had told them not to do. There was a tree in the middle of the garden. Some beautiful fruit grew on it; but God said to Adam and Eve, 'You must not eat of the fruit of that tree. If you eat of it, you shall die.'

Adam and Eve liked to obey God, and they did not wish to eat of this fruit.

You know that the wicked angel, Satan, hates God, and he hated Adam and Eve.¹ He wished to make them bad, so that they might go to hell and be burned in his fire. He thought he would ask them to eat of that fruit. He went into the garden and spoke through a serpent.²

¹ 'Love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.' 1 John 4:7.

² 'That old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world.' Rev. 12:9.

Two holy creatures spent their days
Within that garden fair:
In love they dwelt; they sang God's praise,
And humbly knelt in prayer.

In that sweet land one tree was placed,
Their faithful love to try.
'That fruit,' God said, 'you shall not taste;
Who eats shall surely die.'

O why did Eve to Satan's lies
So readily attend?
Upon the fruit why fix her eyes,
Then pluck it with her hand?

No more shall Eve or Adam stay
Within that garden fair;
An angel stands to guard the way,
That none may enter there.

Questions

- What did God tell Adam and Eve not to do?
- Who asked Eve to eat the fruit?
- Why did he ask her?
- What lie did the serpent tell to Eve?
- Were Adam and Eve good after they had eaten the fruit?
- Why did they hide under the trees?
- What did God say should be done to Adam and Eve, to punish them?
- Who drove them out of the garden?

How sin came into the world

A verse from the Bible for you to learn

By one man sin entered into the world. Rom. 5:12.

God had said to His Son, a long, long while before then, 'Adam and Eve and all their children must go to hell for their wickedness, unless Thou wilt die.'³ My beloved Son, I will send Thee. Thou shalt have a body. Thou shalt go and live in the world and Thou shalt obey Me. And Thou shalt take the place of very many men and women and children and die instead of them.'⁴

The Son said to His Father, 'I will come.' He would do all that the Father wanted Him to do. He said, 'It is My delight to obey Thee.'⁵ So the Son promised to come into this world to die.

How kind it was of the Father to send His dear Son, whom He loved so very much!⁶ How kind it was of the Son to come from His throne of light and His bright angels, and to take a body and to die!⁷

You know that we are some of Adam's children's children. It was for such people that Jesus came to die. We are wicked, and we should go to hell, if Jesus had not promised to die for such people.⁸ We ought to love the Father and the Son, because They had pity on sinners.

Let us praise God with the angels,⁹ and say,

'We thank Thee, O Father, for Thy tender love in giving Thine only Son.

'We thank Thee, O Son, for Thy tender love in coming down to bleed and die.'

³ 'Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.' 1 John 4:10. 'Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world.' 1 Pet. 1:20.

⁴ 'I have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in His love.' John 15:10.

⁵ 'Then said I, Lo, I come . . . I delight to do Thy will, O My God: yea, Thy law is within My heart.' Ps. 40:7, 8.

⁶ 'Thou lovedst Me before the foundation of the world.' John 17:24.

⁷ 'The glory which I had with Thee before the world was.' John 17:5.

⁸ 'As in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.' 1 Cor. 15:22.

⁹ 'I heard the voice of many angels . . . saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain. . . . And every creature . . . heard I saying Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.' Rev. 5:11-13.

Questions

- Were Adam and Eve happy after they had eaten the fruit?
- Why not?
- Who took pity on them?
- What did God wish His Son to do for Adam?
- What did God's Son say to His Father, when He told Him to be a man so that He could die?
- Are we some of Adam's children?
- If Jesus did not die, where would Adam and Eve and all their children go when they died?
- Did Jesus come down into the world as soon as Adam became wicked?
- Did He wait a long while, or a little while?

God sent a Saviour

A verse from the Bible for you to learn

The Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.

1 John 4:14.

LESSON 13

The Virgin Mary

LUKE 1:26-55

GOD told Adam and Eve that He would send His Son down some day to die for them. But Adam and Eve did not love God, for they were now wicked.

Could God make them good?

Questions

- Did Adam and Eve know that God would send His Son to die for them?
- Could God make Adam and Eve good again?
- How could they be made good?
- What must you ask for, if you wish to be good?
- When did God send His Son down into the world?
- Whose little baby did God's Son choose to be?
- Who told her she would have a little baby?
- What name did the angel say she was to give her baby?
- What did Mary do when the angel went back to heaven?

Why Christ came

A verse from the Bible for you to learn

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. 1 Tim 1:15.

LESSON 14

The Birth of Jesus

LUKE 2:1-7

MARY'S husband was called called Joseph. He was a good man, and very kind to Mary.

Now, before Mary's baby was born, a great king said that everybody must have their names written down.¹ So Mary and

¹ The word translated 'taxed' signifies 'enrolled'. A general census of the Roman empire was made at this time.

Questions

- What was the name of Mary's husband?
- Why did Mary and Joseph take a long journey?
- What town did they come to?
- Did they sleep in the inn at night?
- Why not?
- Where did they sleep?
- What baby was born while Mary was in the stable?
- Did Mary know it was the Son of God?
- Where did she lay her baby?
- What did she wrap Him in?
- Did Jesus look like other babies?
- Was His heart like other babies' hearts?

About Mary and the Lord Jesus

A verse from the Bible for you to learn

And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger. Luke 2:7.

LESSON 15

The Shepherds

LUKE 2:8-20

THERE were fields near Bethlehem. On the night when Jesus was born, some shepherds were sitting by their sheep in those fields. Why did they sit up at night? To keep their sheep from the wolves and lions which walk about at night. There are no wolves and lions where we live, but near Bethlehem there were some.

Questions

- Who were in the fields near Bethlehem the night Jesus was born?
- Why did the shepherds sit up at night?
- What did they see in the sky?
- What did the angels tell them?
- Who sang the songs in the sky?
- When the angels went away, where did the shepherds go?
- Did the shepherds tell people what they had seen?

What the shepherds did

A verse from the Bible for you to learn

And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. Luke 2:16.

LESSON 16

The Wise Men

MATTHEW 2

THERE were some wise and rich men who lived a long way from Bethlehem. They knew that God had sent His Son to be a babe, but they did not know where to find Him. So God put a beautiful star in the sky, and God made it move towards the place where Jesus was.

So the wise men left their houses, and set out on a long journey, but first they said, 'Let us bring some presents for the Son of God, for He is a king.'

Their Lord full well the strangers know,
And humbly worship at His feet,
Joyful their golden treasures show,
And burn their precious spices sweet.

O happy they who knelt that day
Before the lovely infant's face,
And who believed, though born a child,
That He was Lord of every place!

And shall not I be happy too,
If, though His face I never saw,
I feel for Him affection true,
And still obey His holy law?

No gold nor spices need I give,
To show my Lord how much I love;
But I may serve Him while I live,
And thus my warm affection prove.

Questions

- Who came from far away to see Jesus?
- Who told them that God had sent His Son to be a baby?
- How did they find the way to Bethlehem?
- What did they bring with them?
- Where did the star stop?
- What did the wise men do when they saw Jesus?

The Great King

A verse from the Bible for you to learn

God is the King of all the earth: sing ye praises. Ps:47:7.

Was Jesus killed?

No: He was now far away. His Father, God, had sent Him away. Herod could not kill Him, for God would not let Him die so soon.

At last king Herod died. Then God sent an angel to speak to Joseph when he was asleep. The angel said, 'Joseph, go back to your own country. Herod is dead.'

So Joseph took the ass, and Mary, and the sweet child, Jesus, and they all came back to their own country.

Joseph was a carpenter. Jesus lived with Joseph and Mary and obeyed them. He was a wise child, and loved to think of God. God His Father loved Him, and everybody loved Him, because He was so meek and kind.

Questions

- Who wanted to kill Jesus when He was a baby?
- Were there many babies in Bethlehem?
- Did King Herod know which baby was the Son of God?
- Who did Herod want to kill?
- Did he kill Jesus?
- Why not?
- Who told Joseph to take Jesus far away?
- Did Herod know that Jesus had gone away?
- Did Herod think he had killed Jesus?
- Who did Herod send to kill the babies in Bethlehem?
- Did Jesus ever come back to His own country?
- Who told Joseph to take Jesus back to His country?
- Why was it safe for Jesus to come back to His own country?
- What was Joseph's work?
- Did the people love Jesus when He was a child?
- Why did they love Him?

Not a man, not a bright angel, not God; it was Satan. I do not know what he looked like. He came to tempt Jesus to do wicked things. He came to tempt Jesus not to obey God His Father.

Satan knew that Jesus was hungry. He said to Jesus, 'Turn these stones into bread!' But Jesus would not do that, for God had promised to feed Him Himself.

After that, Satan took Jesus to the top of a great building, that was much higher than a church. It is frightening to be at the top of a very high place; it makes one tremble to look down from the top.

Satan said to Jesus, 'Throw Thyself down from this place; Thy Father will send His angels to keep Thee from being hurt, for He has promised to take care of Thee.'

Would Jesus have done right, if He had thrown Himself down? No. Jesus knew that His Father would be displeased if He threw Himself down; and Jesus always did the things that pleased His Father.

Then Satan took Jesus to the top of a very high hill. He showed Him the most beautiful things in the world: trees and gardens, houses and ships, and fine clothes and feasts. He said, 'Look at these fine things.' Satan promised to give them all to Jesus. He would give Jesus the whole world. All Jesus had to do was to kneel down and worship Satan. But Jesus said, 'I will pray to My Father, and not to you.'

Jesus loved His Father better than all the things in the world. Adam and Eve listened to Satan and disobeyed God, but Jesus did everything His Father told Him. Adam was disobedient; Jesus was obedient.

Then Satan went away; and angels came from heaven and fed Jesus.

Satan goes about, trying to make children do bad things. A lion could only eat your body, but Satan wants to have your soul and body in hell. Satan hates you. He is your enemy. But God is stronger than Satan.³ Say to God, 'Keep me from doing what Satan tells me to do,' and God will keep you.

³'Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world.' 1 John 4:4.

And His weak life sustain.
And, lo, ashamed the tempter flies,
And angels feed Him from the skies.

Full oft does Satan try
To draw my steps aside;
Now bids me tell a lie,
My faults from all to hide;
And tempts me soon to sin again,
That I new pleasure may obtain.

Whenever I consent
To walk in Satan's ways
It is as though I bent
My knee before his face.
And what reward will Satan give?
In his own hell with him to live.

How shall my feeble heart
Be kept from Satan's power?
O Lord, Thy strength impart
In every tempted hour,
That I may sinful joys refuse,
And Thy sweet service ever choose.

Questions

- When Jesus grew to be a man, where did He go by Himself?
- Were there animals in the wilderness?
- How many days was Jesus there?
- What did He eat?
- Who came to Him at last?
- Why did Satan come?
- What did Satan ask Jesus to do first?
- Why would Jesus not turn the stones into bread?

Jesus did not always live in the same place. He used to walk about from one place to another.

Did Jesus walk about alone?

No. He had twelve friends with Him. He called them His twelve disciples.

How many are twelve?

Let us count the little children in this room. Here are twelve. Jesus had just as many disciples. One was called Peter, and another was called John, and another James, and another Thomas. But I will not tell you the names of them all; you would not remember them all.

Peter was a fisherman. He had a little ship, and he used to catch fish, sometimes even at night. James and John had another little ship, and they used to catch fish too.

One day Jesus passed by their ships. He saw Peter and his brother Andrew throwing a net into the sea to catch fish. Jesus said to them, 'Come with Me.' And Peter and Andrew left their nets and their ships and went with Jesus.

Jesus went a little farther, and He saw James and John sitting in their ship, mending their nets because they were torn. Jesus said to them, 'Come with Me'. They left their nets and went with Jesus. Jesus called whatever people He wanted to come with Him.

Shall I tell you why Jesus chose to have twelve friends always with Him? What do you think was the reason?

Jesus wished to teach them about God His Father,¹ so that they might teach other people about Him.² They liked being with Jesus, and listening to His words.³ Would you have liked to be always with Jesus?

¹ Christ said in prayer to His Father, 'I have manifested Thy name unto the men which Thou gavest Me out of the world.' John 17:6.

²'And He ordained twelve, that they should be with Him and that He might send them forth to preach.' Mark 3:14.

³'Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? Then Simon Peter answered Him, Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life.' John 6:67, 68.

How happy they who shared the bread
Of Jesus here below!
From place to place He travelled,
And they with Him did go.

They heard Him preach from hills and ships
Of things to men unknown;
But sweeter words dropped from His lips
When they were all alone.

For then He would the things explain
They could not understand,
That heavenly wisdom they might gain,
And teach it through the land.

Questions

- Where did Jesus preach?
- How many disciples did Jesus have?
- Did they ever quarrel?
- Can you tell me the names of some of them?
- What was Peter doing when Jesus told him to come with Him?
- What were James and John doing when Jesus called them?
- Why did Jesus choose to have some friends with Him?
- What did they call Jesus?
- What did He call them?
- Did they love Jesus?
- Why did they like being with Him?
- Did Jesus give them money or fine things?
- Why were the disciples good?

Why did Jesus do miracles?

To show people that He was the Son of God. The disciples now felt quite sure that Jesus was the Son of God.

Questions

- When Jesus was at the feast, what was finished very soon?
- How did Jesus make more wine?
- What was the first miracle Jesus did?

What the Father gave to the Son

A verse from the Bible for you to learn

The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into His hand. John 3:35.

LESSON 21

Several Miracles

LUKE 6:11-16

AFTER Jesus had turned the water into wine, he did many other wonders. He made blind people see and deaf people hear. He made dumb people speak and lame people walk.

When Jesus came to a place, all the sick people crowded round Him. Jesus did not send them away because they disturbed Him, but He cured them all. Yes, every one of them.¹

¹ 'He laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them.' Luke 4:40.

Questions

- Why did sick and blind people come to Jesus?
- How did He cure one blind man?
- How did He cure a deaf and dumb man?
- What did He say to a man who was ill in bed?
- What did He say to the woman whose back was bent?
- What could Jesus do that was more wonderful than making sick people well?
- When Jesus was walking in the road, what did He see being carried by some men?
- Who was crying very much because the man was dead?
- What did Jesus say to the dead man?
- What did the man do?
- What did the people say when they saw the dead man come to life?

The wonders that Jesus did

A verse from the Bible for you to learn

He maketh both the deaf to hear, and the dumb to speak.

Mark 7:37.

LESSON 22

The Sinner and Simon

LUKE 7:36-50

WHY did Jesus come into the world?

To save people from hell.

But why did God say that people must go to hell?

Because everybody was bad.

proud people.² Though you are only a little child, you have done many wrong things; and you do not deserve to go to heaven. Oh, I hope Jesus will forgive you! I hope the Holy Spirit will come into your heart and make you feel very sorry for your sins. Then you will love Him, as this poor woman did.

O tell me who is standing there
With weeping eyes and flowing hair,
And box of ointment sweet.
Now on the ground she's bending low;
Her tears yet fast and faster flow;
They fall on Jesus' feet.

To her dear Lord such love she bears,
His feet she washes with her tears,
And wipes them with her hair;
And then, with pious tenderness,
Fond kisses ceases not to press,
And pours the ointment rare.

Ah she, whose love is now so strong,
Has wandered far, has wandered long,
And from her God has gone!
But now with willing feet returns,
And now with deepest sorrow mourns
The deeds that she has done.

And will the Lord in pity look,
And blot her crimes out from His book,
And words of comfort say?
Ah yes; even now He pardon gives,
Even now the weeping sinner lives,
And wipes her tears away.

² See the parable of the Pharisee and publican. Luke 18.

LESSON 23

The Storm at Sea

LUKE 8:22-25

JESUS often went into a ship with His disciples. Peter had a ship of his own, and John had another ship, and they liked to lend their ships to Jesus.

Once they were all in a ship, when the wind blew very hard and the water moved up and down, and came over the ship. The disciples were afraid that they would be drowned. Jesus had fallen asleep, and was lying on a pillow. The noise of the wind and of the water had not wakened Him.

His disciples went to Him and cried, 'O Master, dost Thou not care for us?' The disciples were afraid He would let them drown.

Then Jesus got up and said to the wind, 'Wind, be still!' And He said to the water, 'Be still!'

The wind stopped blowing, and the water was smooth and quiet. Then Jesus said to His disciples, 'Why were you afraid? Why did you not believe that I would take care of you?'

Jesus knew that they were tossed about, and He would have kept them safe though He was asleep.

The disciples said one to another, 'Jesus is the Son of God. Even the wind and the sea obey Him.'

The disciples, with Jesus their Lord,
At sea in a vessel were tossed;
The winds loudly blew, the waves too did roar;
They feared that they all should be lost.

The waters rushed into the ship;
For Jesus all eagerly look:
He lies on a pillow asleep.
Had He His disciples forsook?

Jesus went with the rich man. When they were near the house, some servants came out and said, 'The little girl has just died; no one can make her well now.'

But Jesus said, 'Do not be afraid; I can make her well.'

He said to the father and mother of the little girl, 'Come with Me into the house. Peter, James, and John, you may come in, but no one else.'

So they went up into the room where the little girl was lying in bed. There were many people in the room playing sad music, singing sad songs, and crying, because the child was dead. But Jesus said, 'Stop crying. The girl is only sleeping; she is not dead.' Jesus said she was asleep, because He meant to make her alive again so soon. But the people laughed at Jesus. They said, 'She is dead.' They would not believe that He could make her alive again.

Jesus said, 'These people must be put out of the room.' So He sent them out and shut the door; but He let the father and mother, and Peter and James and John, stay in the room.

He took the little girl's hand and said, 'Arise!' First she sat up, and then she got out of bed and walked about the room. She was twelve years old. Jesus then said, 'Bring her something to eat.' The father and mother were very surprised at what had happened.

Hark! It is a father crying,
And this is what he says:
'My little daughter's lying
Just at the point of death.'

The Saviour soon consented
To come and heal the maid;
Nor was He ev'n prevented
By hearing she was dead.

He found the people weeping
Because her breath was gone,
And when He said, 'She's sleeping,'
They laughed him all to scorn.

LESSON 25

The Loaves and Fishes

MATTHEW 14:13-22

ONCE Jesus went into the wilderness with His disciples, and many people came after Him. Then Jesus preached to the people, and told them about His Father, and how He Himself had come down from heaven to save people from Satan. They listened to Him from morning till night.

When it was getting late, the disciples came to Jesus. They asked Him if He was going to send the people home. But Jesus knew that the people had nothing to eat all day, and He did not like to send them home tired and hungry. So He said to His disciples, 'Can you not feed them?'

'No,' they said, 'we have only five loaves and two small fishes, and see how many people there are!'

But Jesus said, 'Make them sit down on the grass, and bring the loaves and fishes to Me.' So the disciples made them all sit down.

There was a huge crowd of people. There were five thousand men, besides women and little children. How tired the little children must have been! It was time for them to have their supper and go to bed.

We shall hear how Jesus fed all these people.

They sat down on the green grass. Jesus took the loaves and fishes. First He lifted up His eyes to His Father, and thanked Him for the food.

He took a piece of bread and gave it to Peter. He said, 'Feed all those people sitting there'. He gave another piece to John and said, 'Feed those people'. He gave a piece of bread and fish to each of the disciples and told each to feed some people.

One little piece of bread would not be enough for all the children in this room. But Jesus made the bread to be enough for all the people. Every one had enough, and they threw on the grass a great many little pieces. But Jesus said to His

We ought to thank God for the food we eat. Before we eat breakfast, or dinner, or supper, we should say, 'I thank Thee, O Lord, for this nice food.'

In listening they had spent the day;
Their homes far distant lie;
They would have fainted by the way
Without this kind supply.

Jesus, whose words they came to hear,
Has pity on their need;
He loves the weary heart to cheer,
The hungry poor to feed.

He gives them of His little store
By His disciples' hands.
Though little, He can make it more,
For all things He commands.

The Lord provides the beasts with food,
To Him the ravens cry;
He watches over us for good
And does our need supply.

Lord, save me from a selfish heart,
That nothing good can spare
To others may I give a part,
And all my comforts share.

Questions

- Did many people come to hear Jesus preach?
- Why did Jesus not like to send them home at night?
- How many loaves and fish did Jesus feed them with?
- Who gave the people the bread and fish?
- Did the people leave any of the bread?

Another time the disciples were unkind to some little children. Some poor women brought the children to Jesus, but the disciples were standing around, and they would not let the women come near. 'Go away,' they said; 'you must not bring the babies here to trouble us.'

But Jesus heard them speak, and He was very angry with the disciples. Jesus would not let the children go away. He said to the disciples, 'Suffer little children to come unto Me; do not send them away.'

Then He took the children in His arms, and put His hands on them, and prayed to His Father, and blessed them. O happy little children, to be taken into Jesus' arms!

Jesus loves children, and when the Holy Spirit makes them good and meek and gentle, they are Jesus' lambs. Jesus is their Shepherd, and He will take them to heaven when they die.¹

Young children once to Jesus came,
His blessing to entreat;
And I may humbly do the same,
Before His mercy-seat.

For when their feeble hands were spread,
And bent each humble knee,
'Forbid them not,' the Saviour said;
And so He says to me.

Then, while His favour to implore,
My little hands are spread,
Do Thou Thy sacred blessing pour,
Dear Jesus, on my head.

¹ 'Ye my flock, the flock of my pasture, are men, and I am your God.' Ezek. 34:31. 'He shall feed His flock like a shepherd: He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom.' Isa. 40:11.

One night Jesus prayed all night alone on the top of a high hill.² Sometimes Jesus prayed to His Father while His disciples stood near and listened.

Once when Jesus had been praying with them they said, 'Lord, teach us to pray.' Then Jesus taught them a little prayer. It was this: 'Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.'

I know that many little children say this prayer night and morning. Perhaps your mothers have taught you to say it. But did you know who said it first? It was Jesus, the Lord. So it is called 'the Lord's prayer.'

It is a very beautiful prayer, for Jesus said it; but it is hard for children to understand it. What is the meaning of 'Hallowed be Thy name'?

Let God's name be praised.

What are 'debts'?

Debts are what we owe to God because we have sinned.

Ask God to forgive your sins, or your debts.

Do you ever pray to God when you are alone?

You may pray to Him in any place — in the house or in the garden or anywhere else.

You may pray to Him at any time — in the night or in the middle of the day.

You may ask Him for anything you want, just as you ask your father or mother.³

What will you ask Him for? Will you ask Him to give you food and clothes and a house to live in?

²'He went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.' Luke 6:12.

³'How much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?' Luke 11:13.

LESSON 28

Jesus Foretells His Death

MATTHEW 16:21-28.

JESUS knew everything that would happen,¹ and He knew that He must soon die. He used to tell His secrets to His disciples. So He took them to a place by themselves and said, 'I shall soon leave you. Wicked people will take Me and bind Me with ropes and beat Me and laugh at Me and nail Me to a cross, but I shall soon be alive again.'

The disciples could not bear to hear Jesus talk of dying, for they loved Him very much. They all looked very sad, and Peter said, 'Thou shalt not die'. But Jesus said, 'I must die to save sinners, and to please My Father.' The Father had desired Jesus to die, and He would not disobey His Father.²

Most of the people who wished to kill Jesus, lived in a city called Jerusalem. Jesus used to go to Jerusalem very often, and He used to preach there.

Why did some people hate Jesus?

Because He told them of their wickedness.³ He used to say to them, 'You do not love God, who is My Father, but you are proud and vain.⁴ You wish to kill Me. You tell lies. You are unkind to poor people. You pretend to love God, but while you are saying your prayers, you are thinking how good you

¹'Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon Him.' John 18:4.

²'I have power to lay it (my life) down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of My Father.' John 10:18.

³'The world cannot hate you; but Me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil.' John 7:7.

⁴'I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you. . . . How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another?' John 5:42, 44.

- How did the wicked people try to kill Jesus?
- Did Jesus let them kill Him?
- Why did He hide in a place far away?

Where Jesus came from, and where He went

A verse from the Bible for you to learn

I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world: again, I leave the world, and go to the Father. John 16:28.

LESSON 29

Lazarus

JOHN 11:1-17

JESUS stayed with His disciples in a place by Himself. The wicked people who wanted to kill Him could not find Him, but Jesus' friends knew where He was.

Jesus had others friends besides His disciples. One of His friends was called Lazarus. Lazarus had two sisters; their names were Martha and Mary. These three all lived together. They all loved Jesus, and Jesus loved them. Jesus used often to come to see them. He used to sit in their house and talk to them. Martha liked to make a fine dinner when Jesus came, but Mary liked to sit and listen to His sweet words.¹

¹ Luke 10:38-42.

Martha and Mary and their friends said, 'Come and see.' Then they showed Him the way to the grave. As Jesus walked along, the tears rolled down His cheeks.

At last they came to the grave. It was a hole, and a very large stone was in front of the hole. Then Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.'

Martha thought that Jesus was going to look at Lazarus lying dead. So she said, 'Do not go in; his flesh has a bad smell by this time. He has been dead for four days.' But Jesus told her to believe that He could make Lazarus alive.

They then rolled away the stone. Jesus lifted up His eyes to His Father in heaven, and thanked Him for helping Him to do wonderful things.

Many people were standing by, looking at Jesus, and wondering what He would do. Poor Martha and Mary were longing to see Lazarus alive again. Then Jesus spoke loudly and said, 'Lazarus, come forth.'

Lazarus heard, though he was dead; for the dead hear the voice of Jesus. Lazarus got up and walked to the opening of the hole. His hands were tied with cloths, and his feet wrapped round with cloths, and a cloth was over his face. But Jesus said, 'Undo the cloths.'

How pleased Martha and Mary must have been to see his face again! How they must have thanked the Lord Jesus for His kindness!

The people who saw all this were surprised, and they said, 'Jesus must be the Son of God.'

Questions

- Had Lazarus any sisters?
- What were their names?
- Did Jesus ever come to their house?
- When Lazarus was sick, was Jesus with him, or far away?
- Was Lazarus dead before Jesus came?
- Did Martha think that Jesus could make Lazarus alive again?

No, He came down to this world to die for sinners. He only waited till the time came for Him to die. Then He said to His disciples, 'We must go up to Jerusalem, and I shall be mocked and beaten and killed, but I shall come out of My grave after three days.'

The disciples did not like to hear this, but they chose to go with Jesus wherever He went. Jesus walked along the road and at last He came near Jerusalem. Then He stopped and said to His disciples, 'I shall ride into Jerusalem on an ass.' Jesus had no ass of His own; He always walked from place to place. But Jesus could put it into a man's heart to lend Him one.

He said to two of His disciples, 'Go along the road a little way, and you will see an ass and a young ass tied, and a man standing near. Bring the ass and the young one to Me, for I know that the man will let them come.'

So the two disciples went. When they had gone a little way they saw an ass tied up, and a young one with it. They began to untie the ass, but a man standing near them said, 'Why do you untie the ass?'

They said, 'The Lord has need of them.' Then the man let them go. I suppose that man loved the Lord Jesus and liked to lend Him his things.

The two disciples brought the asses to Jesus. They took off some of their clothes and put them on the young ass, and Jesus sat on it.

Many people came out of Jerusalem to see Jesus, for they heard that He had made Lazarus alive again. The people began to praise Jesus and to call Him King. They took off some of their clothes and laid them down on the road for the ass to walk on. And they pulled branches off the trees that grew near and laid them on the road too.

So Jesus came to the great town of Jerusalem. All the people came into the streets to look at Him. Even the little children began to praise Him, and to call Him King.

The proud men that hated Jesus were very angry at hearing all these praises. They did not like to hear Jesus praised. They came to Him and said, 'Why dost Thou let these children call Thee King?'

disciples. Poor, blind, and lame people came to Him there. Jesus cured them all, and talked to them about His Father.

The little children sang His praises in the Temple. All day long Jesus taught the people about God, and they listened to what He said. They liked to hear Him.

The wicked and proud men came to the Temple to laugh at Jesus. They spoke rudely to Him, but He bore it all as meekly as a lamb.

At night He left the Temple and went out of the town to a high hill, where He prayed to God alone in the dark.

The wicked men longed to catch Jesus to kill Him. They said to each other, 'How can we get Him? The people will not let us take hold of Him if they see us, or we would go to the temple to catch Him. If we could find Him alone in the dark, then we would put ropes on Him and take Him to the judge.' This is what the wicked people said to each other as they sat together.

Questions

- Where was the Temple?
- What did people do in it?
- Did Jesus go there often?
- Who came there to laugh at Jesus?
- Where did Jesus go at night?
- Why did the wicked men not take Jesus when He was in the Temple?
- Did the wicked men know where Jesus went at night?

Wicked people are cruel

A verse from the Bible for you to learn

The wicked watcheth the righteous, and seeketh to slay him.

Ps. 37:32.

Then Judas said, 'Some night I will bring you to Jesus when He is alone.'

The wicked people were very glad to hear this.

'Now,' they thought, 'we shall soon catch Him and kill Him.'

Judas went back to Jesus, but he did not tell the disciples what he had done. But Jesus knew what he had done. Jesus could see all his thoughts. He knew all that Judas did, both by day and by night. Yet Jesus did not tell Judas that He knew his wicked plans.

When Jesus on the earth abode,
Some friends He had, though few;
Their love, alas, too faintly flowed,
Yet was sincere and true.

But there was one whose heart was cold,
Who did not love his Lord,
But sought of silver and of gold
To make a plenteous hoard.

His wicked thoughts he hid from all,
And piously would speak;
The Saviour 'Lord and Master' call,
And even kiss His cheek.

In vain he thus his love declared,
And fond attention paid;
In vain in toil and danger shared,
In vain he preached and prayed.

Full well the blessed Saviour knew
He was by sin enchained,
And from the bag in secret drew
The money it contained.

He saw him in the depth of night,
To gain a base reward,
Promise the Jews to please their spite,
And to betray his Lord.

LESSON 33

The Last Supper

PART 1 — LUKE 22:7-14. JOHN 13:1-17

JESUS said to His disciples, 'I am soon going to be killed, but before I die I shall eat a supper with you in Jerusalem.'

Then Jesus said to Peter and John, 'Go and get the supper ready'. But they said, 'Where shall we get it ready?' Jesus had no house in Jerusalem, but He knew how to find a room.

So Jesus said to Peter and John, 'Go into Jerusalem, and you will meet a man carrying a jug. Go after him; he will go into a house. The master of the house will lend Me a room. Tell him that I am going to die, and that I want to eat a supper with My disciples.'

Then Peter and John went into Jerusalem. Who did they meet?

A man carrying a jug.

They followed him. He went into a house. Peter and John went in after him, and they said to him, 'Jesus wants a room to eat a supper in with His disciples, before His death.'

Then the master took them upstairs, and showed them a large room. There was a table in it and seats all round the table. There was a jug, and a basin to wash their feet in, and a cup and dishes.

Peter and John got some bread and wine and other things, and made the supper ready. Then they went back and told Jesus (who was in the country, not far away) that supper was ready. So Jesus and all His disciples came to the house in the evening. They went upstairs, and they all sat down. Jesus loved John better than all the rest, and John sat next to Jesus.

After they had been a little while at supper, Jesus got up and took a towel and tied it round His waist. He took a jug and poured water into a basin, and He began to wash His disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel round His waist. But when He came to Peter, Peter said, 'Thou shalt never wash my feet.'

Questions

- Did Jesus have a house in Jerusalem?
- How did He get a room to eat a supper in with His disciples before He died?
- Who did He send to find the room?
- How did Peter and John find out which house they were to go to?
- What things were in the room?
- Who sat next to Jesus at supper?
- How many people were at the supper?
- Why did Jesus pour water into a basin?
- Why did Peter not like Jesus to wash his feet?
- Had Jesus made His disciples' hearts clean?
- Was Judas' heart clean?
- Why did Jesus wash His disciples' feet?
- What commandment did Jesus give to His disciples?

Christ's last command

A verse from the Bible for you to learn

This is My commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. John 15:12.

- Who asked Jesus to tell him which it was?
- Who dipped his hand in the dish with Jesus?
- Why did Judas go out of the room?
- What did the disciples think he was going to do?

Only God knows us completely

A verse from the Bible for you to learn

Thou, even Thou only, knowest the hearts of all the children of men. 1 Kings 8:39.

LESSON 35

The Last Supper

PART 3 — MATTHEW 26:26-36. JOHN 14:14; 18:1-3

AFTER supper Jesus took some bread and broke it in little bits. He gave a piece to each of the disciples and said, 'This is My body. I am going to die; eat this, and think of Me.'

Then Jesus poured some wine into a cup and told them all to drink out of it. He said, 'This is My blood; I shall soon bleed and die. Drink this, and think of Me.'

Jesus said, 'I shall not eat a supper with you again before I die. I am going to My Father. I must leave you, but I shall come back again.' Then they all sang together.

Afterwards Jesus got up from the table and went downstairs into the street, and the disciples followed Him. It was dark, but Jesus talked to them as they went along. He said, 'I am going to die tonight, and you will all leave Me.'

But Peter said, 'I will not leave Thee. I will go to prison with Thee. I will die with Thee, but I will never leave Thee.'

- What was the wine like?
- Where did Jesus go after supper?
- What did He tell His disciples as He walked along the road?
- What did Peter say he would do, if Jesus was killed or taken prisoner?
- What did Jesus tell Peter that he would say?
- Where would Jesus go after He was killed?
- Would Jesus forget His disciples when He was in heaven?
- What did Jesus say He would send into their hearts?
- Where did Jesus take His disciples?

What Jesus said He would do for His disciples in heaven

*A verse from the Bible for you to learn
I go to prepare a place for you. John 14:2.*

LESSON 36

The Garden

MATTHEW 26:30-57. JOHN 18:12

WHEN Jesus came to the garden, He told all His disciples to stay where they were till He came back. But He took three of them with Him.

Who were they?

Peter, James and John. He took them further on in the garden. Then He said to them, 'I feel very sad indeed. I am going to pray. Do you stay here. Do not go to sleep, but pray while I am praying.'

The wicked people soon got up. God let them get up; but Jesus said to them, 'If you want to have Me, you must let My disciples go away.'

It was kind of Jesus to think of them, and they were frightened and glad to get away. They did not wish to stay to die with Jesus.

But Peter took a sword and cut off one of the wicked men's ears. Peter wished to fight; but Jesus said, 'Put up your sword. If I were to pray now to My Father, He would send thousands of angels to help Me.'² Then Jesus touched the man's ear, and made it all right again.

Why did not Jesus pray to God to send the angels?

Because He chose to die to save people from their sins. If the angels had come and taken Jesus back to heaven, then we should all have gone to hell.

Peter and all the rest of the disciples ran away and left Jesus all alone with the wicked men. They took ropes and tied His hands and feet, and they led Him away into Jerusalem. Jesus went along as meekly as a lamb.

'What, could ye not watch with Me one hour?'

Matt. 26:40

Could they not watch one little hour
With Him they soon should see no more
Upon this earth beneath?
Not watch with Him in His distress,
Who was all love and tenderness,
And still did pity breathe?

But hear the Saviour gently speak;
He says, though willing they are weak,
And bids them rise and pray.

²'The cup which My Father hath given Me, shall I not drink it?' John 18:11

- Did they get up again soon?
- Did the disciples run away?
- What did Peter cut off with his sword?
- Did Jesus wish Peter to fight for Him?
- What did Jesus do to the man's ear?
- Where did the wicked people take Jesus?
- What was Jesus like, when He went so meekly with them?

The meekness of Jesus when He died

A verse from the Bible for you to learn

*He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep
before her shearers is dumb, so He openeth not His mouth.
Isa. 53:7.*

LESSON 37

Peter's Denial

MATTHEW 26:57-75

THE wicked, proud men who hated Jesus sat up all night. They sent their servants with some soldiers to fetch Jesus. They were in a fine house, seated on seats round the room, talking together and longing for Jesus to be brought.

They said one to another, 'We will have Him killed when He comes. We will take Him to the judge.'

At last Jesus came in with the wicked servants. The proud men were glad to see Him. They made Him stand up in the middle of the large room. Then they spoke roughly to Him. 'Art Thou the Son of God?' they said.

say, 'Is this Peter, My friend, who said he would die with Me? Is this his love for Me? Is he saying that he does not know Me?'

Peter felt very sorry; he felt as if his heart would break. He went out of the house and began to cry very much indeed. Peter really did love Jesus; only Satan had tempted him to be so wicked as to say that he did not know Jesus.

If Peter had prayed in the garden instead of going to sleep, he would have behaved better. But Christ had often prayed for Peter, so that Satan might not get his soul at last.¹

Questions

- Did the proud men go into the garden themselves, or did they send their servants?
- What had they been doing all night?
- When Jesus came to Jerusalem, where did He stand?
- Did they ask Him if He was the Son of God?
- Did He say that He was?
- What did the wicked men say must be done to Jesus?
- Where was Peter all this time?
- Could Peter see Jesus?
- Did Peter wish people to know that he was one of Jesus' disciples?
- Why not?
- Did any one ask Peter who he was?
- What did Peter say?
- How many times did people ask Peter who he was?
- What did Peter hear that made him feel how bad he had been?
- What did Peter do after Jesus looked at him?

¹'Satan hath desired to have you . . . but I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not.' Luke 22:31,32.

So they went out of their fine house and took Jesus with them.

The judge sat upon a high seat in the street. His name was Pontius Pilate. The judge did not know Jesus. The judge said, 'What has He done?'

The wicked people said, 'He calls himself a king.'

Then Pilate said to Jesus, 'Art Thou a king?'

Jesus said, 'Yes, I am.' But Pilate was sure that Jesus had done nothing wrong, so he did not want to punish Him.

Then the wicked men made a great noise and said, 'You must crucify Him!'

'No,' said Pilate, 'I will beat Him, and that will be enough.' So Pilate gave Jesus to some soldiers. They took Him into a house and beat Him with knotted ropes (this way of beating is called scourging) and the blood ran all down His back. Then the cruel soldiers laughed at Him because He said He was a king. They took off His own clothes, and put some fine clothes on Him, such as kings wear, purple and red.

Then they said, 'We must put a crown on His head.' So they took prickly thorns, sharp like pins, and twisted them together to make a crown. They put it on His head.

They said, 'He must have a sceptre' (for kings hold in their hands a rod called a sceptre). So they put a reed in His hand for a sceptre. Then they took it from Him and beat Him on the head. And they knelt down to Him laughing; they said, 'O king! O king!'

Pilate saw the soldiers tormenting Jesus, and he brought Him into the street, where the wicked people were. He showed Jesus to them and said, 'Behold, look at your King!'

Pilate hoped they would be sorry for Him, because blood was on His forehead from the thorns, His back had been scourged, and He was dressed in fine clothes to mock Him. But the wicked people were cruel like tigers.

'No,' they said, 'crucify Him, crucify Him!' All the people cried out, 'Crucify Him!' though Jesus had always been so kind to them.

'Will you crucify your king?' asked Pilate.

- What was the judge's name?
- Did the judge wish to hurt Jesus?
- What did the wicked people say that Jesus had called Himself?
- Was Jesus a king?
- What is scourging?
- Why did the soldiers laugh at Him?
- What clothes did they put on Him?
- What did they put on His head?
- What did they put in His hand?
- What is a sceptre?
- Why did Pilate tell the wicked people to look at Jesus?
- Did the people make a great noise?
- What did Pilate at last say should be done to Jesus?
- Why did Pilate allow Jesus to be crucified?

How Jesus was treated before He died

A verse from the Bible for you to learn

I hid not My face from shame and spitting. Isa. 50:6.

LESSON 39

Death of Judas

MATTHEW 27:3-5

WHERE was Judas all this time? The wicked people had given him the money, thirty pieces of silver. But Judas could not be happy.

'Ah!' thought he, 'I have killed my good Master! What a wicked thing I have done!'

Judas felt that he could not like the money. He could not bear to keep it, because he had done such a wicked thing to get

LESSON 40

The Cross

PART 1 — LUKE 23:26-34

THE wicked people were very glad when Pilate said that Jesus was to be crucified. They made a cross of two great pieces of wood and made Jesus carry it. They took him out of Jerusalem into the country. The wicked people came with Him.

Jesus was so weak that He could hardly walk, and the cross was so heavy that He could not carry it. He would have dropped down on the way if a man had not helped Him to carry the cross.

There were a few people who were sorry for the Lord Jesus. Some women, who loved Him very much, came crying after Him. Jesus heard them crying, and He turned round and spoke very kindly to them.

He said, 'Do not cry for Me; cry for yourselves and for your children.' Why did Jesus tell them to cry for themselves?

Jesus knew how God would one day punish the people in Jerusalem for their wickedness.

At last Jesus came to the top of a hill. Then the soldiers made Jesus lie on His cross, and they put nails in His hands and nails in His feet. So they nailed Him to the cross. Then the soldiers made a hole in the ground and stuck the cross in it.

They had taken off Jesus' clothes. And when He was on the cross, four soldiers tore the clothes in four pieces. They each took a piece. But when they looked at His coat they said, 'We will not tear it, because there is no seam in it'. Then one of the soldiers took it for his own. So the wicked people took everything away from Jesus.

Was Jesus very angry with them?

No, He was as meek as a lamb. He prayed to His Father while He was on the cross. He could not lift up His hands, but He could speak to God. He prayed for these wicked people. He said, 'Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.'

LESSON 41

The Cross

PART 2 — LUKE 23:35-43

PONTIUS Pilate wrote these words on the top of Jesus' cross: 'This is the King of the Jews.' But who were the Jews?

The people who lived in Jerusalem were called Jews.

All the wicked people laughed when they read these words. They shook their heads and pouted their lips at Jesus, and said, 'If Thou art the Son of God, come down from the cross.'

Could Jesus have come down?

He could do everything, but He chose to stay to die for His people.

The wicked people said, 'If God loved Him, He would not leave Him to die on the cross.' But His Father let Him die to save people who have sinned.

There was a cross on each side of Jesus, and a thief was nailed to each cross. One of these thieves laughed at Jesus. He said, 'Why dost Thou not save us if Thou art the Son of God?'

The other thief laughed at Jesus too. Then God forgave him for all his sins and made him sorry for them. Then he loved Jesus.

The thief who was sorry said to the other thief, 'We have been wicked; we deserve to be crucified; but Jesus is completely good.' Then he spoke to Jesus and said, 'Remember me when Thou comest into Thy Kingdom.'

And Jesus said, 'You shall be with Me in heaven today.' So Christ heard the poor thief's prayer, for Jesus died so that He might save all who believe that He is the Son of God.

If you go to heaven, you will see that thief.

Upon the hill where Jesus died
A thief was placed on either side,
Each nailed upon a tree.

- Why did Jesus not come down from the cross?
- How many people were crucified with Jesus?
- Did both the thieves go to heaven?
- What did one of the thieves ask Jesus to do?
- Did he ask Jesus to save him from dying on the cross?

We must confess our sins to God

A verse from the Bible for you to learn

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins. 1 John 1:9.

LESSON 42

The Cross

PART 3 — JOHN 19:25-30. MATTHEW 27:45-54

JESUS' mother, Mary, stood near the cross. She came to see her Son die. She was very sorry. She felt her heart full of pain at the sight.¹

She loved her dear, good Son, who had been kind to her ever since He was a baby. He had never done one thing wrong, and she knew He was the Son of God. Jesus was sorry to see His mother's grief.

John had come to the cross, and he was standing near Mary. Jesus wished John to take care of His mother, now that He was going to leave her. So He said to His mother, 'Behold your son!' And He said to John, 'Behold your mother!'

¹'A sword shall pierce through thy own soul also.' Luke 2:35.

Questions

- Where was Jesus' mother, Mary, when He was on the cross?
- Who stood near Mary?
- Who took care of her after Jesus was crucified?
- What did the soldiers give Jesus to drink?
- What did Jesus say just before He died?
- What frightened the people just before He died?

**How they treated Christ when He was thirsty
on the cross**

A verse from the Bible for you to learn

In My thirst they gave Me vinegar to drink. Ps. 69:21.

LESSON 43

The Soldiers

JOHN 19:32-37

AT last the soldiers came to see if Jesus and the two thieves were dead, so that they might bury them before it was dark. The soldiers looked at one thief, and they saw he was not dead. So they broke his legs, and that killed him. Then they looked at the other thief, and they saw he was not dead. So they broke his legs too.

Then they looked at Jesus. They saw He was dead, so they did not break His legs. But one of the soldiers took a long stick with a sharp point at the end, called a spear, and put it in His side. And out of Jesus' side blood and water came flowing

And does it flow for me?
And can I washed be?
For oft my soul has been
Spotted and stained with sin.
Mercy I ask, because the Saviour died;
And thus, as by a stream, be purified.

Questions

- How did the soldiers kill the thieves?
- Why did they kill them so soon?
- Why did the soldiers not break Jesus' legs?
- What did they put into Jesus' side?
- What is a spear?
- What came out of His side?
- What had Jesus poured out once at supper, when He said, 'This is My blood'?
- Why did Jesus shed His blood on the cross?

What takes away sin?

A verse from the Bible for you to learn

*The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.
1 John 1:7.*

They had been looking at Him on the cross. How they must have cried when they saw Him bleed, and when they heard Him cry out to God!

The women had seen Joseph and Nicodemus take down the body from the cross. They had followed the men into the garden. They had seen it put so carefully into the grave.

They said to each other, 'Let us get more spices, and make sweet ointment to put on the Lord Jesus.' Joseph had put some spices on Jesus' body, but they wanted to put more spices on it. So they went home and made nice ointment.

Questions

- Who put Jesus into his own grave?
- Where was the grave?
- Who did Joseph ask when he wanted Jesus' body?
- What did Joseph wrap it in?
- What did he put round Jesus' head and waist?
- What was put in front of the grave?
- Did anyone see where Jesus was laid?
- What did the women make when they went home?

What happened to Jesus' body after He was crucified?

A verse from the Bible for you to learn

And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and laid it in his own new tomb.

Matt. 27:59, 60.

He was not weak and faint as when He carried His cross. He could never die again.²

How pleased the women were to see Him! They knelt down on the ground and held His feet, so that He might not go away. They called Him their Lord and their God. Still they felt a little afraid, but Jesus told them not to be afraid.

Jesus said, 'Go, tell My brothers that I shall soon see them again.'

Whom did Jesus call His brothers?

His disciples. He had forgiven them for having run away when the wicked men took Him.

The women ran, as Jesus had told them, to the disciples. They said, 'We have seen angels! We have seen the Lord Jesus! He is walking about, and you will see Him soon.' But the disciples would not believe the women.

Behold, how swift those women fly!
Both fear and joy are in their eye.
Ah, sure they've seen some glorious thing,
Or haste some glorious news to bring.

An angel's voice they have just heard;
To them the Lord has just appeared;
With fear their hearts are beating fast;
With joy the news to tell they haste.

They once wept with their dying Lord;
Now to their eyes He is restored.
He for their sakes has shed His blood,
And now is proved the Son of God.

I wonder not their joy is great,
For what could greater joy create?
Have they not found that matchless Friend,
On whom their hopes for heaven depend?

²'Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more.' Rom. 6:9.

Peter and John that Jesus was not in His grave. 'I am afraid,' said Mary Magdalene, 'that some wicked people have taken Him away, and that we shall not be able to find Him.'

So Peter and John began to run as fast as they could, but John ran the faster and he came first to the grave. He stooped down and peeped in, and he saw the clothes lying in the grave. Soon afterwards Peter came and went down into the grave. He saw the clothes neatly folded, and the cloth that was round Jesus' head lying in a place by itself. Then John went in too, and he remembered what Jesus had said about being alive again.

'It is all true,' thought John, 'He is alive and has left His grave.'

Then Peter and John came out of the grave and went to their own house. But they saw no angels, nor did they see Jesus.

Where was Mary Magdalene all this time?

She was standing crying near the grave. She was alone, because Peter and John had gone home.

At last she stooped down and looked into the grave, and she saw a beautiful sight: two angels. One of them was sitting where Jesus' head had been, and the other where His feet had been!

The angels said to Mary, 'Why are you crying?' But still she went on crying; she said, 'Some people have taken away the Lord Jesus, and I cannot find Him.'

When she had said this, she heard a man behind her saying, 'Why are you crying?'

She did not know who it was that spoke to her. She thought it might be the gardener. She thought this man might have taken away the body of Jesus. She wanted to know where the man had put the body so that she could take it away.

The man said 'Mary!' She knew that voice and, turning round, she looked and saw that it was Jesus. How glad she was to see her Lord and Master, whom she loved!

But Jesus could not stay with her. He told her to go and tell His dear disciples that He was alive. 'I am soon going up to My Father in heaven, but I shall see My disciples first.'

Questions

- How many Marys have I told you about?
- Who came very early to the grave of Jesus?
- Which two disciples ran to the grave of Jesus?
- Who came there first?
- Which of them went into the grave first?
- What did Peter and John see in the grave?
- Did John believe that Jesus was alive again?
- Did Peter and John see Jesus in the grave?
- Who did they see in the grave?
- Who stood alone, crying, near the grave?
- What did she see when she looked in?
- Why did Mary Magdalene cry?
- Who was the man who spoke to her kindly?
- Was He the gardener?
- Did Jesus stay with Mary?
- Who was the first person that saw Jesus after He was alive again?

The happiness of the righteous

A verse from the Bible for you to learn

Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, ye righteous. Ps. 32:11.

The men went into a room, and there they had supper. They all three sat down together round the table. The stranger took some bread and broke it and began to pray to God. Then the two men found out who the stranger was.

'It is the Lord!' they cried. And so it was. They looked towards Him, but they could see Him no more. He did not open the door, but yet He had gone.

Then the men thought of all that Jesus had said. 'How sweetly He talked to us!' they said. 'Did we not feel our hearts quite warm while He was speaking to us about the Bible, and telling us its meaning?'

Do you think these men went to bed that night?

O no! They could not sleep. 'Let us go,' they said, 'and tell the disciples that we have seen Jesus.' So they left their supper and set out in the night to walk back to Jerusalem. They walked quickly and soon came to the city.

The disciples were all shut up together in a room. They had locked the doors to prevent the wicked people getting in, but they let these good men come in. The disciples were at supper.

'We have seen Jesus,' said these good men, 'He walked with us and talked with us, but we did not know Him till He sat down with us at supper and broke some bread and gave thanks to His Father.' The disciples said, 'Some women have seen Him, and Peter has seen Him.'

But, while they were eating their supper and talking about Jesus, they looked and saw Jesus standing in the middle of the room. Though the door was locked, He had come in. How do you think the disciples felt?

They were frightened: they could not believe that it was indeed Jesus Himself.

Jesus spoke kindly to them. 'Why are you afraid?' He asked. Then He said, 'Look at My hands and feet. It is I Myself.' Then Jesus showed His disciples the marks that the nails had made in His hands and feet, and the hole that the spear had made in His side.

Then the disciples saw that it was their own dear Master. They were glad, very glad to see Him. They had been crying

Questions

- On what day did Jesus come out of His grave?
- What were two good men doing that evening?
- What were they talking about?
- Who came and walked with them?
- Did they know that Jesus was with them?
- What did Jesus talk to them about?
- Did Jesus come into the house of the two good men?
- When did they find out who He was?
- Did Jesus stay in the room?
- Did the good men stay in their own house that night?
- Where did they go?
- Who came into the room although the door was locked?
- What did Jesus show to all His disciples?
- Were the disciples sure that Jesus was the same Jesus?
- What did Jesus eat?

How Jesus made His disciples know Him again after He rose again

A verse from the Bible for you to learn

*He showed unto them His hands and His side. Then were
the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord. John 20:20.*

Then Jesus said to Thomas, 'Now, because you have seen, you believe. Blessed are they who have not seen, and yet have believed.' Jesus forgave Thomas for what he had said. Thomas really loved Jesus.

Questions

- Which of the disciples would not believe that Jesus was alive again?
- What did Thomas say he must do before he would believe?
- When did Thomas see Jesus again?
- What did Jesus say to him when He saw him?
- Did Thomas then believe that Jesus was alive?

How God always hears us speak

A verse from the Bible for you to learn

There is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O Lord, Thou knowest it altogether. Ps. 139:4.

LESSON 49

The Dinner

JOHN 20:1-19

JESUS told His disciples to go far away into the country, and He said, 'I will come and see you again.'

So the disciples went away from Jerusalem, and they went into the country. They came to the place where they had once

Peter said, 'Yes, Lord; Thou knowest that I love Thee.'

Then Jesus said, 'Feed My lambs,' (that is, 'Teach other people more about Me').

Peter did love Jesus, and Jesus knew he did. Yet Jesus said again, 'Do you love Me?'

Peter said again, 'Lord, Thou knowest that I love Thee.'

Then Jesus said, 'Feed My sheep.'

Jesus asked Peter the same thing once more: 'Do you love Me?'

Peter was afraid Jesus did not believe him, and this made him sorry. He said, 'Lord, Thou knowest everything. Thou knowest that I love Thee.'

Jesus said again, 'Feed My sheep.'

If Peter loved Jesus he would do what Jesus told him, and go and teach people.

Do you love Jesus, children? What would you answer if Jesus said to you, 'Do you love Me?' Could you say to Jesus, 'Look into My heart, and Thou wilt see that I love Thee?' If you do really love Him, you will hate lies and a bad temper, and you will try to be kind and gentle, and to please Jesus all the day.

Why did Jesus ask Peter so often whether he loved Him? Why did He ask him three times over?

Peter had said three times over that he did not know Jesus. So Jesus wanted to hear him say he loved Him three times over.

Then Jesus told Peter what would happen to him when he was old. Jesus said to Peter, 'When you were young, you walked about where you liked; but when you are old, some men will take you, and stretch out your hands and carry you where you do not want to go.'

Jesus meant that Peter would be crucified. Men would stretch out his hands on a cross, and nail him, as they had done to Jesus. Wicked people would crucify Peter because he loved Jesus, but Peter would never say again that he did not know Jesus.

Peter was not proud now, as he used to be. And Peter would pray to God to keep him from sin.

Questions

- Did the disciples stay in Jerusalem, or did they go into the country?
- Why did they go out in boats one night?
- Could they catch any fish?
- Who spoke to them in the morning?
- What did He tell them to do?
- Which of the disciples knew first that it was Jesus speaking to them?
- Which of them jumped into the water and swam to Jesus?
- What did the disciples find ready for them when they were come to Jesus?
- Had they caught any fish in the net?
- What question did Jesus ask Peter three times?
- What did Jesus want Peter to do, if he really loved Him?
- How can children show that they really love Jesus?
- What did Jesus tell Peter that wicked men would do to him one day?

Who loves Christ, and who does not

A verse from the Bible for you to learn

If a man love Me, he will keep My words. . . . He that loveth Me not keepeth not My sayings. John 14:23, 24.

Questions

- Can you tell me a verse about loving Jesus?
- Did Jesus live always with His disciples after He was alive again, or did He only come to see them sometimes?
- What did Jesus tell His disciples to do when He went back to His Father?
- Did He tell them when He would come back?
- What was Jesus doing just before He went away in the cloud?
- Who spoke to the disciples as they were looking at the cloud?
- Were the disciples unhappy when Jesus was gone?
- Why were they not unhappy?

**How Jesus left His disciples, after He had risen
from the dead**

A verse from the Bible for you to learn

*And it came to pass, while He blessed them, He was parted
from them, and carried up into heaven. Luke 24:51.*

LESSON 51

Peter in Prison

ACTS 2:12:1-23

WHO had Jesus promised to send when He went to His Father?
The Holy Spirit.

And He did send the Holy Spirit, as He promised. Then the
disciples began to speak of Jesus to all the wicked people. They

But the men at the doors did not see Peter go out, because God made them sleep.

Peter was quite surprised; he thought he was dreaming and that he did not see a real angel.

At last Peter came to a big iron gate. It was locked, but the angel did not need a key to open it. It opened itself, and Peter and the angel could go through it.

Now they were in the street. Still the angel went on, and Peter came after him. But they did not speak a word.

All the people were asleep, and did not know that a bright angel was walking in the street. The angel only walked down one street. Then he went back to heaven and left Peter standing alone in the street, in the dark.

Peter stood some time thinking to himself, 'What a wonderful thing has happened! I was shut up in prison, but God has sent His angel to let me out. The king meant to kill me tomorrow, but now I shall not be killed.' I know that Peter thanked God for His kindness.

Peter did not stay all night in the street. He went to the house of a good woman he knew, and he knocked at the door. Were the people in the house asleep?

No, they were all awake, though it was night.

Why were they not in bed?

This good woman had heard how the king was going to kill Peter the next day. So she and her friends were praying for Peter. While they were praying they heard a knock. It was a strange thing to hear a knock in the night, but they never guessed who it was.

A maid named Rhoda went to the door. But she did not open it. She heard Peter speak, and how happy she was! She knew his voice. She did not say, 'Are you Peter?' She was sure it was Peter. She was so much surprised that she forgot to open the door; but ran back to the good woman and the rest of the disciples. She told them, 'Peter is standing at the gate!'

But they said, 'No, it cannot be Peter. He is shut up in prison.'

The maid said, 'It is Peter. I am sure it is.'

'Awake!' the angel cries; and from the hands
Of wondering Peter fall the iron bands;
The gates fly open of their own accord,
And Peter is to liberty restored.

His guide he follows through the gloom of night
(Where angels are, there needs no other light)
The angel's gone, and Peter, left alone,
Sees and admires the love His God has shown.

At yonder gate he knocks, whence prayer ascends.
On this sad night from Peter's sorrowing friends;
With glad surprise the maiden hears his voice.
All round him flock, and with one heart rejoice.

Questions

- What did the disciples tell the wicked people in Jerusalem?
- Were any of the wicked people who had killed Jesus sorry for their wickedness?
- What happened to James at last?
- Where was Peter shut up?
- What were Peter's friends doing for him when he was in prison?
- Who came to Peter one night?
- How did Peter get out from his chains?
- How did he get through the big doors?
- Where did the angel leave Peter standing alone?
- Where did Peter go then?
- What were the people in the house doing when Peter knocked?
- How did Rhoda know it was Peter knocking?
- Why did she not open the door?

It was the Lord's Day, and John was thinking about God. John heard a voice behind him like the noise of a trumpet, very loud indeed.

He turned round to see who it was. Who do you think he saw?

It was the Lord Jesus come down from the heaven, all glorious and shining! When John saw Him he could not speak or stand. John was afraid, and he fell down on the ground as if he was dead. But Jesus touched him with His hand and said, 'Fear not; I am He that liveth and was dead, and behold, I am alive for evermore.' Then Jesus took John up into heaven, and an angel showed him most beautiful things.

John saw a throne on which God sat. There was a rainbow round the throne. There were many, many seats there. Men were sitting on them, all clothed in white, with crowns of gold on their heads. The men took off their crowns and threw them down before the throne and praised Jesus, the Lamb of God.

John saw many angels, more than he could count, standing round the throne, singing praises to the Lamb. But of all the things John saw in heaven, there was nothing so glorious as God himself.

In heaven there is no sun or moon or candle or lamp. Yet it is always bright, because God shines more brightly than the sun. The music of harps and sweet singing is always to be heard, for all the angels can sing the praises of God.

John wondered at the things he saw and heard, and he fell down at the feet of the angel who had shown them to him. But the angel said, 'You must not worship me; I am only a servant of God. You must worship God.'

Then the angel went on speaking and said, 'Jesus will soon come down from heaven to judge the world. He will open the gates of heaven to let those people in who love God's Word. But those who tell lies, and do wicked things, shall be shut out.' All the people who love Jesus will see Him come again in the clouds.

Do you wish to see Jesus, my little children?

Charmed with the sight, John bent his knee
Before that angel fair,
Who said, 'You must not worship me.
To God address your prayer.'

It's God who rules the angel host
In the fair world of light;
It's God who shuts the spirits lost
In realms of endless night.

O let me then this God implore
To pardon all my sin,
And open to me the heavenly door,
And bid me enter in.

Questions

- Where was John shut up alone?
- Who came to see John when he was alone?
- What did Jesus show him?
- Who did he see sitting round God's throne?
- How many angels did he see?
- What makes heaven always light?
- When John fell down at the angel's feet, what did the angel say?
- What will Jesus do when He comes again?
- Who wrote down in a book about heaven and the angels?

Christ shall come again

A verse from the Bible for you to learn

*Behold, He cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see Him,
and they also which pierced Him. Rev. 1:7.*

Who will He forgive?

He will forgive those who love Jesus with all their hearts.⁴ He has written down their names in another book, called 'The Book of Life.' He forgives their sins, He will wipe away their tears and He will let them live with Him for ever.

Do you hope that Jesus has written down your name in His book?

So you must ask Him to give you His Holy Spirit. Then you will love Jesus, and you will hate to do what is wrong.⁵

But what will God do to those who do not love Him? God will bind them in chains, and put them in a lake of fire. There they will gnash their teeth and weep and wail for ever.⁶

God will put Satan in the same place, and all the devils.⁷ Satan is the father of the wicked, and he and his children shall be tormented for ever. They shall not have one drop of water to cool their burning tongues.

Many people in hell will say, 'How I wish I had listened to what I learned from the Bible! But I would not think about them. Now it is too late. I never can come out of this dreadful place. How foolish I have been! There was a time when God would have heard my prayers, but now I weep and wail in vain.'⁸

I hope, my dear children, that none of you will ever speak such sad words. Remember that Satan goes about as a cunning serpent, trying to make you disobey God. But Christ will keep you from wickedness if you pray to Him.

⁴'The kingdom which he hath promised to them that love Him.' James 2:5.

⁵'If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha' (or accursed). 1 Cor. 16:22.

⁶'Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' Matt. 22:13.

⁷'Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.' Matt. 25:41.

⁸'And thou mourn at the last, when thy flesh and thy body are consumed, and say, How have I hated instruction, and my heart despised reproof; and have not obeyed the voice of my teachers!' Prov. 5:11-13.

O yes, I shall be there;
The graves shall opened be;
All shall the trumpet hear,
The Judge's face shall see.
In vain shall some upon the mountains call
To hide their heads from Him who judges all.

The books shall then be read,
In which our God has wrote
All that we ever said,
Or ever did or thought.
And many cheeks with burning shame shall glow,
And many souls be plunged in deepest woe.

And how shall I escape
From endless misery?
My sins, a mighty heap,
Show I deserve to die.
And yet to think upon that burning lake
Makes my flesh tremble, and my bones to shake.

Lord, by the blood He shed
Who hung upon the tree,
Before the books are read,
May my sins pardoned be!
And then my tears shall all be wiped away
And I shall dwell in everlasting day.

Questions

- When will the last day come?
- What great noise will there be at the last day?
- What will Jesus say to all the dead people?
- What will be done to the bodies of people who love Jesus?