

doctrine are such, in general, as have never been solved by man, while the child finds no difficulty in believing that God's understanding is infinitely superior to his own.

And will it be deemed undesirable to instruct the child in religion when it is remembered that impressions made on the mind in early life are the most vivid and the most durable, that the readiest access is obtained to the young and tender heart, that wrong notions will be conceived by the ever-busy intellect, if left uninstructed, and that, life being uncertain, the eternal happiness of a child already knowing good from evil may be endangered by delay?

As it is clear that the greatest accuracy is essential in the foundation of a building, the writer has attempted to prove every statement either by the footnotes or by the references at the beginning of each chapter, both of which are intended solely for the use of the teacher. The poetry is also not designed to be learned by heart.

A verse applicable to each Scripture Lesson has been selected so that the child may memorise it after each lesson. Very young children will not be able to learn these verses till the second time of going through the lessons. Children should not be required to name the part of Scripture from which the words are taken.

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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

In preparing this edition for the press, the publishers have taken the opportunity of revising it for two main reasons. Firstly in the interests of more careful expression at a number of points, and secondly to make its language rather simpler and more suitable for a time over a hundred years after it was first published. The above preface is an abridgement of the somewhat lengthy introductory material which the author supplied for the early editions of the book.

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Put your hand in front of your mouth. What do you feel coming out of your mouth?

It is your breath. You breathe every moment. When you are asleep, you breathe. You cannot help breathing. But who gives you breath?⁶

God does every thing. God gave you this little body, and He makes it live, and move, and breathe.

There are bones in your body. God has made them strong and hard.⁷ God made some bones for your arms and some bones for your legs. He made a bone for your back and more bones for your sides.

God has covered your bones with flesh. Your flesh is soft and warm. In your flesh there is blood. God has put skin outside,⁸ and it covers your flesh and blood like a coat.

Now all these things, the bones and flesh and blood and skin are called your body. How kind it was of God to give you a body!⁹ I hope that your body will not get hurt.

Will your bones break?

Yes, they would, if you were to fall down from high up, or if a car were to go over them.

If you were to be very sick your flesh would waste away, and you would scarcely have anything left but skin and bones.

Did you ever see a child who had been sick a very long time?

I have seen a sick baby. It did not have round cheeks like yours, and a fat arm like this. The baby's flesh was almost gone, and its little bones were only covered with skin.

God has kept you strong and well.

How easy it would be to hurt your poor little body! If it were to fall into the fire, it would be burned up. If hot water were spilt on it, it would be scalded. If it were to fall into deep water, and it was not taken out very soon, it would be drowned. If a great knife were run through your body, the blood would come

⁶ 'He that giveth breath unto the people upon it (the earth).' Isa. 42:5.

⁷ 'Thou hast fenced me with bones.' Job 10:11.

⁸ 'Thou hast clothed me with skin and flesh.' Job 10:11.

⁹ 'I will praise Thee, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.' Ps. 139:14.

Questions

- Why does the sun not fall from the sky?
- What does God give you every moment?
- What are the four things that are called your body?
- How might your body be hurt?
- Who can keep it from being hurt?

Everything comes from God

A verse from the Bible for you to learn

God giveth to all life, and breath, and all things. Acts 17:25.

LESSON 2

A Mother's Care

I HAVE told you about your little body. Was your body always as big as it is now?

No. At one time it was very small indeed.

What were you called when your body was very small?

A baby.

Now you can take a little care of yourself, but then you could do nothing for yourself at all.

Can babies walk, or talk, or feed themselves, or dress themselves?

No.

But God gave you to someone who took great care of you when you were a baby. Who was it?

Your mother. She took care of you then. She nursed you in her arms and fed you. She took you out into the fresh air; she washed you and dressed you.

Yes. You often say, 'Thank you,' and sometimes you put your arms round her neck and say, 'I do love you so much, dear mother!' Will you not thank God who gave you a mother, and who keeps you alive? You should kneel down when you speak to God; then you should say, 'O God, how good Thou hast been to me! I want to thank Thee.'

Would God hear your little thanks?

Yes, God would hear, and be pleased.⁴

Who fed me from her gentle breast,
And hushed me in her arms to rest,
And on my cheeks sweet kisses pressed?
My Mother.

When sleep forsook my open eye,
Who was it sang sweet hush-a-by;
And rocked me that I should not cry?
My Mother.

Who sat and watched my infant head,
When sleeping on my cradle bed,
And tears of sweet affection shed?
My Mother.

When pain and sickness made me cry,
Who gazed upon my heavy eye,
And wept for fear that I should die?
My Mother.

Who ran to help me when I fell,
And would some pretty story tell,
Or kiss the place to make it well?
My Mother.

⁴ 'I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving. This also shall please the Lord better than an ox, or bullock, that hath horns and hoofs.' Ps. 69:30, 31.

We should thank God

*A verse from the Bible for you to learn
O give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good. Ps. 136:1.*

LESSON 3

A Father's Care

WHO dresses you and feeds you?

Your dear mother.

But how does your mother get money to buy your clothes and your food?

Father brings it home.

How does your father get money?

He works all day long, and he gets money and brings it home to mother. He says to your mother, 'Buy some food with this money, and use some of it for the children.' Will your father give his money to buy food for you?

Yes, and it is very kind of him. Do you love your father?

Of course you do.

Why does your father go out to his work?

So that you may have plenty of food. While he is working, he often thinks of you, and he hopes that he will find you a good child when he comes home. You are glad to see him, I know. Sometimes you run to meet him, and when he sits down you climb on his knee.

Who made your father love you at first?

It was God.

Your father loves you very much, so he gives you all you need. He pays some of his money for a house so that you can live in it with him.

1. Father, to work for you.
2. Mother, to take care of you.
3. A house to live in.
4. A bed to sleep in.
5. Fire to warm you.
6. Clothes to wear.
7. Food to eat.
8. Breath every moment.

Questions

- What is it your father does to get money?
- Why does he buy things for you with his money?
- What sad things have happened to some children's fathers?
- Is there a Father that cannot die?

God is full of pity

A verse from the Bible for you to learn

Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him. Ps. 103:13.

LESSON 4

The Soul

HAS God been kind to dogs? Has He given them bodies?

Yes.

Have they bones and flesh and blood and skin?

Yes.

The dog has a body as well as you. Is the dog's body like yours?

No.

Why not?

Because they have no souls like yours.

Have you got a soul?

Yes, in your body there is a soul which will never die. Your soul can think about God. When God made your body, He put your soul inside. Are you glad of that? When God made the dogs, He put no soul like yours inside their bodies, and they cannot think of God.

Can I see your soul?

No, I cannot see it. No one can see it but God.³ He knows what you are thinking about just now.

Which is better, your soul or your body?

Your soul is much better.

Why is your soul better than your body?

Your body can die, but your soul cannot die.⁴

Shall I tell you what your body is made of?

Dust. God made the dust into flesh and blood.

How was your soul made?

Your soul is made of the breath of God.⁵

That little dog will die some day. Its body will be thrown away.⁶ The dog will be quite gone when its body is dead. But when your body dies, your soul will be alive for ever.⁷

Where would you be put if you were dead?

Your body would be put in a hole in the ground, but your soul would not be in the hole.⁸

Even a baby has a soul, or a spirit.

³'Thou, even Thou only, knowest the hearts of all the children of men.' 1 Kings 8:39.

⁴'What shall a man give in exchange for his soul?' Matt. 16:26.

⁵'And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.' Gen. 2:7.

⁶'The beasts that perish.' Ps. 49:20.

⁷'Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth?' Eccles. 3:21.

⁸'Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.' Eccles. 12:7.

LESSON 5

The Good Angels

YOU know that God lives in heaven. He has no body, for He is a spirit.¹ Does He live in heaven alone?

No; angels stand all around His throne.²

What are angels?

Angels are spirits.³ They are bright like the sun,⁴ but they are not so bright as God, for He is brighter than the sun.⁵ The angels are always looking at God,⁶ and it is God that makes them shine so brightly.

They sing sweet songs about God.⁷ They say, 'How good God is! How wise! How great!' There is no night in heaven.⁸ The angels are never tired of singing, and they never need to sleep.⁹

They are never sick, and they will never die. They never weep; there are no tears on their cheeks, but sweet smiles, for angels are always happy.¹⁰

¹ 'God is a Spirit.' John 4:24.

² 'All the angels stood round about the throne.' Rev. 7:11.

³ 'Who maketh His angels spirits.' Ps. 104:4.

⁴ 'His countenance was like lightning.' Matt. 28:3.

⁵ 'I saw in the way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun.' Acts 26:13.

⁶ 'Their angels do always behold the face of My Father which is in heaven.' Matt. 18:10.

⁷ 'I heard the voice of many angels saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb . . . And every creature which is in heaven . . . 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, 12, 13.

⁸ 'There shall be no night there.' Rev. 22:5.

⁹ It is said of the four beasts (which certainly represent saints), 'That they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty.' Rev. 4:8. Angels 'excel in strength.' Ps. 103:20.

¹⁰ It is said of the saints, 'God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain.' Rev. 21:4. And the saints will then be 'equal unto the angels.' Luke 20:35, 36.

The angels wish us to grow good and to come to live with them in heaven.²⁰ When a child is sorry for its naughtiness, and prays to God to forgive it, the angels are very pleased.²¹

When a little child who loves God falls sick, and is going to die, God says to the angels, 'Go and bring that little child's soul up to heaven.'²² Then the angels fly down, the little darling shuts its eyes, it lays its head on its mother's bosom, its breath stops, the child is dead. Where is its soul? The angels are carrying it up to heaven.

How happy the child is now! Its pain is over; it is grown completely good;²³ it is bright like an angel.²⁴ It holds a harp in its hand, and begins to sing a sweet song of praise to God.²⁵ Its little body is put into a grave, and turns into dust. But one day God will make its body alive again.

Dear children, will you pray to God to send His angels to fetch your souls when you die?

Around God's glorious throne above
The happy angels stand,
And ever praise the God they love,
And fly at His command.

Their faces, like the sun, are bright,
And sweetest smiles they wear;
They never sleep; there is no night,
Nor need of candle there.

²⁰ 'Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of My Father which is in heaven.' Matt. 18:10.

²¹ 'There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth. Luke 15:10.

²² 'And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom.' Luke 16:22.

²³ 'The spirits of just men made perfect.' Heb. 12:23.

²⁴ 'Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father.' Matt. 13:43.

²⁵ 'I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps. These were redeemed from among men.' Rev. 14:2, 4.

No one made God; God was before all things, and God made every thing. A very long time ago God made the angels. How many angels did he make?

No one can tell how many. There were more than could be counted.³ They were all good and happy.

But some of the angels grew bad. They stopped loving God, and grew proud and disobedient.

Would God let them stay in heaven after they were bad?

No; He cast them out, and put them in chains and darkness.⁴

One of these bad angels was called Satan. He is the chief, or prince, of the bad angels. He is also called the Devil.⁵ The Devil is very wicked,⁶ and hates God. He can never go back to heaven again,⁷ but he comes here where we live,⁸ and he brings the other devils with him.⁹

We cannot see Satan, because he is a spirit, but he is always walking about, and trying to make people bad.¹⁰ Satan loves doing harm to people; he does not wish to be good. It pleases Satan to see people in pain and in tears;¹¹ but it pleases him

³'An innumerable company of angels.' Heb. 12:22.

⁴'The angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, He hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.' Jude 6.

⁵'The old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.' Rev.12:9. 'The prince of the power of the air.' Eph. 2:2.

⁶'The devil sinneth from the beginning.' 1 John 3:8.

⁷'And the angels which kept not their first estate . . . he hath reserved in everlasting chains.' Jude 6.

⁸'Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.' Job 1:7

⁹Satan 'was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.' Rev. 12:9.

¹⁰'The spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience.' Eph. 2:2.

¹¹'In mine adversity they rejoiced.' Ps. 35:15. 'Thou lovest evil more than good.' Ps. 52:3. 'He loved cursing.' Ps. 109:17. All that is said of the wicked applies in a higher degree to Satan as the author of sin, for Christ said to the wicked. 'Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do.' John 8:44.

sleep, and about your path when you walk.¹⁸ Therefore you do not need to be afraid of Satan; only ask God to help you, and He will do so.

Satan is much stronger than you are;¹⁹ but God is stronger than everyone. If anybody were to come to hurt you when you were alone, you would be frightened; but if you saw your father coming, you would run to him and you would not be frightened any more. Now God is stronger than your father; He can keep Satan from hurting you. Pray to Him, and say, 'O Lord, keep me from being wicked like the devil, and from going to hell.'²⁰

God lives on high beyond the sky,
And angels bright all clothed in white,
The praises sing of heaven's King.
This God can see both you and me;
Can see at night as in the light;
And all we do remembers too.
'Tis He bestows my food and clothes,
And my soft bed to rest my head,
And home so neat and mother sweet.
And should not I—or ever try
To do what He has ordered me,
And dearly love this Friend above?
I always should be very good:
At home should mind my parents kind;
At school obey what teachers say.
Now if I fight and scratch, and bite,
In passions fall and bad names call,
Full well I know where I shall go.
Satan is glad when I am bad,

¹⁸'Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. . . . Thou hast beset me behind and before.' Ps. 139:3, 5.

¹⁹'For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers.' Eph. 6:12.

²⁰'Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.' James 4:7.

LESSON 7

The World

PART 1 — GENESIS 1:1-10

THIS large place we live in is called the world. It is very beautiful. If we look up we see the blue sky; if we look down we see the green grass. The sky is like a curtain spread over our heads, the grass like a carpet under our feet, and the bright sun is like a very bright light. It was very kind of God to make such a beautiful world, and to let us live in it.

God was in heaven, and all His bright angels around Him, when He began to make the world.¹ God's Son was with Him, for God always had a Son,² just like Himself.³

His Son's name is Jesus Christ. He is as good and great as God His Father. The Father and the Son are God. They always lived together, and They love each other perfectly.⁴ The Father and the Son are one God, and They made the world.⁵ How did God make the world?

By speaking. First of all, God made the light. God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light. No one but God can make things by speaking. God made things out of nothing. He only spoke, and the light came.⁶

¹ 'Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth . . . and all the sons of God shouted for joy?' Job 38:4, 7.

² 'I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was. . . . When He appointed the foundations of the earth, then I was by Him.' Prov. 8:23, 29, 30.

³ 'The express image of His person.' Heb. 1:3.

⁴ 'I was daily His delight.' Prov. 8:30. 'But that the world may know that I love the Father.' John 14:31.

⁵ 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. . . . All things were made by Him.' John 1:1, 3.

⁶ 'Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.' Heb. 11:3.

When He began the world to make,
These were the mighty words He spake;
'Let there be light.' His voice was heard:
And the obedient light appeared.

The angels saw the light arise,
And with their praises filled the skies.
'How great our God, how wise, how strong!'
Such is their never-ending song.

Questions

- What is this place that we live in called?
- Who was always in heaven with God?
- Is Jesus Christ the same as God?
- How did God make this world?
- What was the first thing that God made?
- What can you feel but cannot see?
- What is the water in the sky called?
- What is the name of the large deep place full of water?
- What do we walk on?
- What are the first five things that God made?

How light was made

A verse from the Bible for you to learn

And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

Gen. 1:3.

God made the moon to shine at night, and He covered the sky with stars.

You never saw anything as bright as the sun. It is very large indeed, only it looks small, because it is a very long way off. It cannot fall, for God holds it up.² God makes it move across the sky. The moon does not shine as brightly as the sun, for God lets it be dark at night, so that we may rest, and sleep soundly.³

Who can count the stars?

No one but God.⁴ He knows their names and their number, too.⁵ When we look at the moon and stars, let us think how great God is! Yet He cares for the little birds, and loves little children.⁶

Questions

- How many different sorts of things grow out of the ground?
- Tell me the names of some trees.
- Tell me the names of some vegetables.
- Tell me the names of some flowers.
- What bright things did God put in the sky?
- How many stars are there?

God is wise

A verse from the Bible for you to learn

He telleth the number of the stars; He calleth them all by their names. Ps. 147:4.

² 'Upholding all things by the word of His power.' Heb. 1:3.

³ 'He appointed the moon for seasons: the sun knoweth his going down. Thou makest darkness, and it is night. . . . Man goeth forth unto his work, and to his labour until the evening.' Ps. 104:19, 20, 23.

⁴ 'As the host of heaven cannot be numbered.' Jer. 33:22.

⁵ 'Behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: He calleth them all by names, by the greatness of His might.' Isa. 40:26.

⁶ 'When I consider Thy heavens, the work of Thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which Thou hast ordained; what is man, that Thou art mindful of him?' Ps. 8:3, 4.

The eagle builds its nest in a very high place.⁴ Its wings are very strong, and it can fly as high as the clouds.⁵ The gentlest of the birds is the dove. It cannot sing, but it sits alone and moans softly, as if it was sad.⁶ I cannot tell you the names of all the birds, but you can think of the names of some other kinds.

There is another sort of living creature, called insects. God made them come out of the earth, not out of the water like fishes. Insects such as ants are small, and creep on the earth. Some insects, such as bees and butterflies, can also fly. The bee sucks the juice of flowers, and makes wax and honey. How beautiful are the wings of a butterfly! They are covered with little feathers, too small to be seen. All the insects were good and pretty when God made them.

At last God made the animals. They were made from the earth when God spoke. Animals walk on the earth; most of them have four legs. You know the names of many sorts of animals. Sheep and cows, dogs and cats, are animals. But there are many other sorts: the squirrel that jumps from branch to branch, the rabbit that lives in a hole under the ground, and the goat that climbs the high hills; the stag with his beautiful horns, the lion with his yellow hair, and the tiger whose skin is marked with stripes. The elephant is the largest of the beasts, the lion is the strongest, the dog is the most sensible, the stag is the most beautiful, but the lamb is the gentlest. The dove is the gentlest of the birds, and the lamb is the gentlest of the animals.

Now God had filled the world with living creatures, and they were all good: even lions and tigers were good and harmless. I have told you of four sorts of living creatures:

⁴'Doth the eagle mount up at thy command, and make her nest on high?' Job 39:27.

⁵'They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles.' Isa. 40:31.

⁶'They that escape of them shall escape, and shall be on the mountains like doves of the valleys, all of them mourning every one for his iniquity.' Ezek. 7:16.

The beasts tread firmly on the ground;
The goat has nimble feet;
The stag's with branching antlers crowned;
The lamb's most soft and sweet.

Pleasure the whole creation fills;
They leap, they swim, they fly;
They skim the plains, they climb the hills,
Or in the valleys lie.

In all the woods no sound of strife,
Or piteous moans arise;
None takes away his fellow's life,
And none expiring lies.

These happy days, alas! are past,
And death has entered here;
Why did they not for ever last?
And when did death appear?

Questions

- How many sorts of living things did God make?
- Tell me the names of some kinds of fish.
- Tell me the names of some birds.
- Tell me the names of some insects.
- Tell me the names of some animals.

God is kind to birds and beasts

A verse from the Bible for you to learn

*He giveth to the beast his food, and to the young ravens
which cry. Ps. 147:9.*

God had been six days in making the world. And when He had finished it, He rested on the seventh day. He made no more things.

The angels saw the world that God had made. They were pleased; they sang a sweet song of praise to God.² Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was pleased, for He loved Adam and Eve.³

How do I know about the world being made? Because it is written in the Bible, which is God's own book.

Let us count over all the things that God made.

1. Light.
2. Air.
3. Clouds.
4. Sea.
5. Dry land.
6. Things that grow out of the earth.
7. Sun, moon and stars.
8. Living creatures.

Questions

- What was the last thing that God made?
- How did God make Adam?
- Where did God put Adam?
- What did God give him?
- Why did God make Eve?
- How did He make her?
- How many days did God take to make the world?
- Tell me the names of all the things God made.

²'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.

³'Rejoicing in the habitable part of His earth; and My delights were with the sons of men.' Prov. 8:31.

He saw Eve alone near the tree. He said to her, 'Why do you not eat of this fruit?'

Eve answered, 'No, I will not; we must not eat of that fruit. If we do, God has said we shall die.'

Then the serpent said, 'You shall not die; the fruit will make you wise.'

Eve looked at the fruit, and thought it was nice and pretty. She picked some and ate it. Then she gave some to Adam, and he ate it. It was very wicked of them to eat this fruit. Now they were wicked, and did not love God.³

Soon they heard God speaking in the garden. They were frightened, and they went to hide among the trees. But God saw them, for He can see everywhere.

So God said, 'Adam, where art thou?' Then Adam and Eve came from under the trees.

God said to Adam, 'Have you eaten the fruit that I told you not to eat?'

And Adam said, 'It was this woman who asked me to eat some.'

And God said to Eve, 'What is this that thou hast done?'

And Eve said, 'The serpent asked me to eat.'

God was very angry with the serpent, and said he should be punished for ever and ever.⁴

God said to Adam and Eve, 'You shall die. I made your bodies of dust, and they will turn to dust again.'

God would not let them stay in the nice garden. He made them go out. He would not let them come back. He told one of His bright angels to stand before the gate with a sword of fire, and to keep Adam and Eve out of the garden.

Near Eden's land, in days gone by,
A lovely garden stood;
The trees were pleasant to the eye;
The fruit was good for food.

³'By one man's disobedience many were made sinners.' Rom. 5:19.

⁴'It shall bruise thy head.' Gen. 3:15.

LESSON 12

The Son of God

GENESIS 3:14-24

I AM sure you are very sorry to hear that Adam and Eve were turned out of the garden? It was not so pleasant outside the garden. Many, many weeds and thistles now grew outside; but in the garden there were only pretty flowers and sweet fruits.

Adam was forced to dig the ground till he was hot and tired, for he could not always find fruit on the trees. Now Adam felt pain in his body sometimes. His hair became grey, and at last he was quite old. Eve was very often sick and weak, and tears ran down her cheeks.

Poor Adam and Eve! If they had obeyed God they would have been happy for ever.

Adam and Eve knew that they must die at last. God gave them some little children, and Adam and Eve knew that their children must die too. God had told them that their bodies were made of dust, and that they must turn to dust again.

But there was something more sad still. They were now wicked. They did not love to praise God, as they once had done, but they liked doing many bad things.¹ They were now like Satan. So Satan hoped that, when their bodies would be put into the ground, their spirits would be with him, for Satan knew that wicked people cannot live with God in heaven.²

And they would have gone to hell, and all their children too, if God had not taken pity on them. God, who is very kind, had found a way to save them.

¹'The carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.' Rom. 8:7.

²'And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you.' Luke 22:31. The constant efforts of Satan to tempt man to commit sin show that he is aware of the destructive nature of sin, as it is undeniable that he desires to destroy man.

The Father waited a long while before He sent His Son down to be a man. All the time the Son waited in heaven, He thought of what He promised to do.¹⁰ But He would not go and be a man till His Father was pleased to send Him.¹¹

Adam has sinned, and on the ground
Shall thorns and thistles grow.
His body lie in dust; his soul,
Ah, whither shall it go?

Shall one who dared to disobey,
With God for ever dwell?
When angels sinned God did not spare,
But cast them down to hell.

Yet long before the world was made
Our God contrived a plan,
By which his sinful soul to save,
And pardon guilty man.

The Father said His Son should die,
The Son replied, 'I will.
A feeble body I will take;
This body men shall kill.'

Father, how great Thy love to man,
To send Thy Son from high!
How great Thy love, O glorious Son,
To come, and bleed, and die!

¹⁰ Visits of the Son of God to man, in anticipation of his sacrifice, are recorded often in the Old Testament. His visit to Abraham, in Gen. 18; to Jacob, Gen. 32; to Moses in the bush, Exod. 3; to Joshua, Josh. 5; to Isaiah, Isa. 6 compared with John 12:41. The Son of God is evidently referred to in the following passage: 'He bare them, and carried them all the days of old.' Isa. 63:9.

¹¹ 'When the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son.' Gal. 4:4.

Yes, He could, for in heaven there is the Holy Spirit. And the Holy Spirit could come into them and make them good.

You know, my little children, we are wicked, and God can make us good by His Holy Spirit. If God puts His Holy Spirit in us, we shall not go to hell and live with Satan.¹

I hope you will ask God to give you His Holy Spirit. Say to God, 'O give me Thy Holy Spirit to make me good!'

Adam had a great many children and grandchildren, and they had more children. At last the world was full of people — more people than you could count.

After Adam and Eve had been dead a long while, and when the world was full of people, God said to His Son, 'Now, My beloved Son, go down into the world.' But God chose that His Son should be a little baby at first. Everybody is a little baby at first.

God sent His Son to be the baby of a poor woman. This woman's name was Mary. Mary had no little children. She was a good woman and loved God. God's Holy Spirit was in her and made her meek and gentle.

One day an angel came to her. When Mary saw the bright angel she was frightened; but the angel said, 'Fear not, Mary; God loves you. He will send you a baby. That baby will be the Son of God. You shall call His name Jesus. He will come to save people from Satan.'

Mary was very surprised at what the angel said. She thought she was not good enough to have such a baby as the Lord Jesus.

When the angel went back to heaven, Mary sang a sweet song of praise to God for His goodness. Mary said, 'My soul praises God, and my spirit is glad because of my Saviour.' Mary called her baby her Saviour, for she knew that He would save her from hell.

¹'God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth.' 2 Thess. 2:13.

Joseph left their house and went on a long journey. At last they came to a town called Bethlehem.

But where could they sleep?

They went to an inn, and said, 'Do let us in. We have come from somewhere far away.'

But the man who kept the inn said, 'I have no room in my inn for you.'

What could poor Mary do? Must she sleep in the street?

No, the man let her sleep in the stable. So Mary and Joseph went into the stable. There were cows and asses in the stable.

While Mary was in the stable, God sent her the little baby He had promised her. She knew He was the Son of God, though He looked like other little babies.

She wrapped Him in some long clothes, called swaddling clothes. But she had no cradle for Him to sleep in, and she could not lay Him on the ground because the animals might stand on Him. So she put Him in the manger, and she sat by Him to take care of Him. How dearly Mary loved this sweet babe!

This baby did not have a bad heart as other babies have.² Jesus had no sin, but was meek and lowly. Yet other babies have cradles and soft pillows, while Jesus lay in a manger.

I will tell you a verse to say to your little baby brother or sister when you rock the cradle.

Soft and easy is your cradle;
Coarse and hard the Saviour lay,
When His birth-place was a stable,
And His softest bed was hay.

²'That holy thing, which shall be born of thee.' Luke 1:35. 'Was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.' Heb 4:15.

These shepherds saw a great light. A beautiful angel came from heaven. The poor shepherds were afraid; but the angel said, 'Fear not, I have good news to tell you. God has sent His own Son from heaven to save you from hell. He is a baby now, lying in a manger. Go to Bethlehem, and you will find Him.'

When the angel finished speaking, hundreds and hundreds of bright angels filled the sky, and began singing and praising God for having sent His Son to save many people.

At last the angels went back to heaven, and the shepherds were left alone.

Did they stay with their sheep?

No. They said, 'Let us go and see the Son of God.'

They ran to Bethlehem and went to the stable at the inn. There was a babe lying in the manger. Mary and Joseph were sitting beside it. The shepherds said, 'This is the Son of God. Angels have spoken to us tonight. They told us where to find Him.'

All the people in Bethlehem were very surprised when the shepherds told them about the angels and the Son of God.

Blessed Babe! What glorious features,
Spotless fair, divinely bright!
Must He dwell with brutish creatures?
How could angels bear the sight?

Was there nothing but a manger
Wretched sinners could afford,
To receive the heavenly stranger?
Did they thus affront the Lord?

See the kinder shepherds round Him,
Telling wonders from the sky.
Where they sought Him, there they found Him,
With His virgin mother by.

They took some gold, and some sweet-smelling stuff (to burn). They looked at the star as they went. At last it stopped over a house in Bethlehem. The wise men were very glad indeed. They longed to see the Son of God.

They went in, and there they saw Mary and her child Jesus. They fell down and began to praise Him, and to call Him the Son of God and the King. They took out their presents, and gave them to Him. Mary was poor, but now she had some money to buy things for her little baby.

Lo, travellers enter Bethlehem's gate,
Arrived from some far-distant land;
They seem to be of high estate
And hold rich presents in their hand.

They swiftly pass from street to street,
Nor need they fear to go astray,
Nor need they ask the men they meet
To guide them in their unknown way.

For see where shines a beauteous star;
On it they fix their joyful eyes:
That heavenly guide has led them far,
And now it lightens Bethlehem's skies.

But, lo, it stops, its course is done;
On Mary's roof it sheds a light.
Enter, there dwells God's blessed Son.
Enter, enjoy the glorious sight.

But where is He, the Lord of all,
Who made the heavens and earth and seas?
Behold Him there, an infant small,
Lying upon His mother's knees!

LESSON 17

King Herod

MATTHEW 2, LUKE 2:51, 52

THERE was a very wicked king called Herod. He lived not very far from Bethlehem. He heard that a babe was born in Bethlehem, and that some people said that the babe was a king.

Now Herod did not like to think that there might be any other king besides himself. Herod did not even like to think that the Son of God should be king. So Herod said, 'I will kill this babe that is called a king.'

Herod knew that this babe was in Bethlehem; but there were many babes in Bethlehem, and Herod did not know which was the babe that was called a king.

Some people knew which it was, but they loved Jesus and they would not tell Herod. A very wicked thought came into Herod's mind. He said to himself, 'I will kill all the babes in Bethlehem.' Do you think God would let Herod kill His Son?

No. God knew what Herod meant to do. God sent one of His bright angels to speak to Joseph when he was asleep.

The angel said, 'A wicked king wants to kill the baby. Get up, Joseph; take Mary and the baby far away.'

So Joseph got up quickly. He took his ass. He put Mary on it, and she held the baby. Perhaps it was dark when they set off; nobody saw them go.

The next morning some men came with swords. Herod had sent them. They came to kill all the babies. They opened every door and asked, 'Is there a baby here?' Then they snatched it from its mother and killed it, and the poor mother cried bitterly.

If you walked down the streets, you would have heard nothing but women weeping and crying out, 'My lovely babe is dead. I shall never see it more!'

God can help us always

*A verse from the Bible for you to learn
My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and
earth. Ps. 121:2.*

LESSON 18

The Temptation

MATTHEW 4:1-11

AT last Jesus grew up to be a man. He knew that He must go from place to place and teach people about God.

But first He went alone, led by the Spirit, into a place called a wilderness. He had no house to sleep in there, no friend to speak to and no food to eat. In the night it was cold, in the day very hot.

There were no men, but there were lions, wolves, and bears.¹ At night they roared and howled, but Jesus trusted in His Father.

He ate nothing for forty days and forty nights. God kept Him alive. When Jesus was alone, He spoke in His heart to His dear Father.²

At last some one came and spoke to Him.
Who was it?

¹ 'And (He) was with the wild beasts.' Mark 1:13.

² 'Yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me.' John 16:32.

Upon that mountain's height
Two mighty princes stand:
Jesus the prince of light,
Satan at His right hand.
Below them lies the prospect fair
Of all this earth holds rich or rare.

Tables are seen around,
Spread with delicious meats;
Gardens where fruits abound,
And thousand tempting sweets;
Silver and gold and precious stones,
Chariots and palaces and thrones.

Satan did once prevail
On Eve to disobey;
And now why should he fail
To tempt the Lord astray?
For Eve abundant food possessed,
While Christ with hunger is distressed.

In vain the tempter tries
The Saviour to deceive,
For Jesus came from heaven
Our miseries to relieve:
His Father dear He sought to please,
Nor wished for earthly joy and ease.

He had seen brighter things,
And sweeter joys had known,
Where angels touch the strings
Around His Father's throne;
And shall He from that throne descend,
Before the evil one to bend?

No, He will hunger bear,
And suffer sharpest pain,
Till God shall hear His prayer,

- What did Satan ask Jesus to do when he had taken Him to the top of a high building?
- Why would Jesus not throw Himself down?
- What did Satan show Jesus from the top of a hill?
- What did Satan say Jesus must do, if He would have all these fine things?
- Would Jesus do this?
- Who fed Jesus after Satan went away?
- What harm does Satan want to do to children and to everyone?

The devil is cruel

A verse from the Bible for you to learn

The devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour. 1 Pet. 5:8.

LESSON 19

The Twelve Disciples

MARK 1:16-20

WHEN Jesus was a man, He began to teach people about His Father. Jesus used to preach.

Where did He preach?

Sometimes He preached to people in a place like a church. Sometimes He preached in the fields. Sometimes He sat on the top of a hill and preached. And sometimes He sat in a ship, and the people stood by the edge of the water to hear Him.

When Jesus was alone with His disciples, He used to tell them secrets about God⁴ and heaven. They loved Him very much indeed;⁵ they called Him Master and Lord.⁶ Jesus loved them still more than they loved Him,⁷ and He called them His friends.⁸

Jesus used to give them part of His things. But Jesus had no house to live in,⁹ and He had very little money.¹⁰ Sometimes Jesus and His friends were very tired after walking for a long time,¹¹ and sometimes they were very hungry and thirsty.¹² But kind people often asked them to come into their houses, and gave them food.¹³ Other people laughed at Jesus, and called Him names.¹⁴

Were the disciples good?

They were bad, like us; but Jesus put His Spirit into them, and made them better.¹⁵ The disciples were not completely good, like Jesus; they sometimes quarrelled with each other,¹⁶ and sometimes they were unkind to poor people.¹⁷

⁴ 'When they were alone, He expounded all things to His disciples.' Mark 4:34.

⁵ 'The Father Himself loveth you, because ye have loved Me.' John 16:27.

⁶ 'Ye call Me Master, and Lord.' John 13:13.

⁷ 'As the Father hath loved Me, so have I loved you.' John 15:9.

⁸ 'I have called you friends.' John 15:15.

⁹ 'The Son of Man hath not where to lay His head.' Luke 9:58.

¹⁰ Jesus having recourse to a miracle to obtain money to pay tribute, testifies to His poverty; and His sharing it with Peter ('Give unto them for Me and thee') shows that He shared His supplies with His disciples. Matt. 17:24-27.

¹¹ 'Jesus, therefore, being wearied with His journey, sat thus on the well.' John 4:6.

¹² 'His disciples were an hungered, and began to pluck the ears of corn.' Matt. 12:1.

¹³ 'A certain woman named Martha received Him into her house.' Luke 10:38. 'There they made Him a supper.' John 12:2.

¹⁴ 'Say we are not well that Thou art a Samaritan, and hast a devil?' John 8:48.

¹⁵ 'Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.' John 15:3.

¹⁶ 'And there was also a strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest.' Luke 22:24.

¹⁷ Witness their conduct to the woman of Canaan. Matt. 15:23.

Christ was very poor

A verse from the Bible for you to learn

Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay His head. Luke 9:58.

LESSON 20

The First Miracle

JOHN 2:1-11

I TOLD you that some people used to ask Jesus to come into their houses. I shall now tell you about such a man. This man gave a feast, and Jesus came to the feast. Mary, Jesus' mother, came, and the disciples came. There were many other people at the feast.

There was some wine for the people to drink, but there was so little that very soon it was all finished. Jesus knew that the wine was finished. Could Jesus not give the people more wine?

Yes. He made the world and all things in it.

There were some large stone jars in the house. Jesus said to the servants, 'Fill the jars with water,' and they filled them to the very top.

Then Jesus said, 'Take some, and give it to the man in charge of the feast.' The servants did so; but Jesus had turned the water into wine.

When the man had tasted it, he said, 'What nice wine this is! Where did it come from?'

The servants told him how Jesus had said to them to fill the jars with water. Then all the people at the feast knew that Jesus had turned the water into wine. This was the first wonder that Jesus did; it was called a miracle.

This was the way in which Jesus cured one blind man. He said, 'See!' And the man could see at that moment.²

This was the way in which He cured a man who was deaf and dumb. Jesus put His fingers into his ears and touched his tongue. He looked up to His Father in heaven and said 'Be opened!' And immediately the string of his tongue was loosed, and he could speak plainly.³

Once Jesus saw a poor sick man lying on a bed. Jesus said to him, 'Would you like to be made well?' The poor man said he wished very much to be made well. Then Jesus said, 'Get up; carry your bed and walk.' When the man tried to get up, he found that he could; for Jesus gave him strength.⁴

One day Jesus was in a place like a church. When He was preaching, He saw a poor woman whose back was so bent that she could not lift up her head. Jesus said, 'Woman, I have made you well.' Then Jesus touched her with His hands, and her back grew straight, and she began to praise God.⁵

Sometimes Jesus made dead people alive again. That was even more wonderful than making sick people well.

Once Jesus was walking on the road. Many people were walking after Him, for people liked to see Him do wonders and to hear Him talk. They met some men carrying a dead man to put him in the ground.

A poor woman came after them, crying very much. She was the mother of the dead man. He was her only son. Jesus was very sorry to see her crying. He came up to her and said: 'Do not cry.' Then He touched the coffin. There was no top to it and the dead man was lying in it.

Jesus said, 'Get up, young man!' He sat up and began to speak. Then Jesus said to his mother, 'Here is your son.'

All the people were surprised, and said, 'This must be the Son of God. He can make dead people live again.'

² Luke 18:42.

³ Mark 7:32-35.

⁴ John 5:5-9.

⁵ Luke 13:11-13.

Jesus can forgive people their badness, and make them good. But those whom Jesus forgives, He also makes them sorry for their sins. I will tell you about a proud man who was not sorry, and of a poor woman who was sorry.

A rich proud man asked Jesus to come and dine with him. Why did he ask Jesus? He did not love Him; he only asked Him so that he might hear Him talk. Yet Jesus said He would come.

The proud man did not treat Jesus very kindly. He gave Him no water to wash His feet, He put no nice-smelling ointment on them, he gave Jesus no kiss.

A poor woman, who had been very wicked, saw Jesus go into the rich man's house. She came up behind Jesus and began to cry for all her sins. She knew Jesus could forgive her, and she loved Jesus.

She had brought a box of ointment with her. She stooped down and her tears fell upon Jesus' feet, and with her tears she washed them. She wiped them with her long hair. Then she poured the nice ointment on them and kissed them.

The rich man looked at the woman very angrily; he knew she had been very wicked, and he was angry at seeing Jesus so kind to her.

But Jesus said to the proud man, 'This woman has been very wicked, but I have forgiven her, and she loves Me very much. She loves Me a great deal more than you do. You gave Me no water for My feet, but she has washed My feet with her tears. You gave Me no kiss, but she has kissed My feet ever since I came in. You gave Me no ointment, but she has poured very sweet ointment upon My feet.'

Then Jesus spoke kindly to the woman, and said to her, 'Your sins are forgiven. Your faith has saved you.' So Jesus comforted this poor woman, but the proud man and his friends grew still more angry.

Jesus will forgive your sins if you if you ask Him;¹ but if you think yourself good, He will not forgive you. Jesus cannot bear

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

And would the Lord thus deal with me,
If I should humbly bow my knee,
And all my sins confess?
For though I'm young I've wandered far,
My sins, I know, most hateful are
Unto God's holiness.

But if the Lord one mourner heard,
And sweetly spake the pardoning word,
Why should He not hear me?
He once was kind; (I well know this),
And what He was, He always is,
And evermore will be.

Questions

- How did the rich man behave to Jesus, after he asked Him to dine with him?
- What did the wicked woman do to Jesus?
- Why did she love Jesus so very much?
- Why did Jesus forgive her all her sin?
- Can Jesus forgive your sin?

God is merciful

A verse from the Bible for you to learn

Thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon Thee. Ps. 86:5.

He rises His work to perform:
The wind and the waters obey:
Soon hushed is the terrible storm,
The hurricane passes away.

How ready is Jesus to save!
How strong is His arm to protect!
His mercy we ever will crave;
And deliverance ever expect.

Questions

- What made the disciples afraid when they were in a ship?
- Was it wrong of them to be afraid?
- What did Jesus say to the wind and to the water?
- What did the disciples say when they saw the wind and the water obey Jesus?

What the disciples said of Jesus after the storm

A verse from the Bible for you to learn

*He commandeth even the winds and water, and they obey
Him. Luke 8:25.*

LESSON 24

Jairus' Daughter

LUKE 8:41-56

A RICH man came to Jesus, and fell down at his feet and said, 'I have one little girl, and she is very sick; pray come and make her well.'

The Lord no sinful mocker
Would suffer to remain;
Then by the hand He took her,
And made her rise again.

Ah, see the maid arising
According to His word!
Does not the deed surprising
Show Jesus to be Lord?

See, in their fond embraces
The parents clasp the maid:
Ashamed are now the faces
That mocked at what He said.

Questions

- Did Jesus ever make a dead child alive again?
- Who were sitting round her bed when Jesus came?
- Why did Jesus say that the girl was asleep?
- What did Jesus do to the people who laughed at Him?
- Who did Jesus allow to stay in the room?
- How old was the girl?

God does everything

A verse from the Bible for you to learn

The Lord killeth, and maketh alive: He bringeth down to the grave, and bringeth up. 1 Sam. 2:6.

disciples, 'Take some baskets and pick up the crumbs'. And they filled twelve baskets full of little bits of bread. Then Jesus told the people to go home.

How wonderful was the work Jesus had done! Yet you know that He feeds you, my little children, and all the people in the world.

How does He feed you?

He gives you bread.

What is bread made from?

From flour.

What is flour made from?

From wheat.

Who makes wheat?

God makes it grow in the fields.

Jesus is God; He makes the wheat grow;¹ so you see that Jesus feeds you. If He did not make wheat and the other food grow in the fields we would die.

But He will not forget us. He even remembers the little birds. They are not clever enough to plough, or to sow corn, or to reap, or to put corn into barns, yet God does not let them starve.² The birds cry to God, and He hears them, and lets them find food.³ Now God loves us much better than He loves the little birds, because we have souls. So He will certainly hear us when we pray to Him.

If your mother had no bread in her house, and if she could not get money to buy some, yet God would hear her if she loved Him. He would not let her starve.⁴ Will you not ask God for bread every day, and say, 'Give me this day my daily bread?'

¹'By Him all things consist.' Col. 1:17.

²'Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap . . . yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?' Matt. 6:26.

³'Who provideth for the raven his food? when his young ones cry unto God' Job 38:41.

⁴'The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth.' Ps. 34:17. 'Which giveth food to the hungry.' Ps. 146:7.

- Where were the little pieces of bread put?
- What does God make grow in the fields?
- Could your mother give you bread if God did not make the corn grow?
- Does God feed any other creatures besides men, women, and children?
- Why does God take more care of you than of the birds?

How God feeds people and animals

A verse from the Bible for you to learn

He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man: that He may bring forth food out of the earth. Ps. 104:14.

LESSON 26

The Kindness of Jesus

MATTHEW 15:21-28. MARK 10:13-16.

I TOLD you that the disciples were sometimes unkind, but Jesus was always kind.

Once a poor woman came crying after Jesus, saying, 'O Lord, I have a daughter who is very sick.' Jesus did not answer her at first. The disciples were unkind. They wished Jesus to send her away. She cried so loud that they said to Jesus, 'Send her away.'

The woman fell down at Jesus' feet, and said, 'Lord, help me!' And Jesus had pity on the woman. He said, 'I will do what you wish.'

The woman was glad to hear this, and she went home and found that her daughter was no longer sick.

Questions

- Were the disciples as kind as Jesus?
- How did they behave to a woman who wanted Jesus to help her?
- What did they say to the women who brought their children to Jesus?
- What did Jesus say to the disciples when they were sending the children away?
- What did Jesus do to the children when they came to Him?
- Are there any children in heaven?

What Jesus said to His disciples when He called the children to Him

A verse from the Bible for you to learn

But Jesus called them unto Him, and said, Suffer little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. Luke 18:16.

LESSON 27

The Lord's Prayer

MATTHEW 6:9-13, LUKE 11:1-13

WHEN Jesus was in the world, He loved to think of His Father in heaven. He liked to be alone, so that He might pray to His Father. Sometimes the tears ran down His cheeks while He prayed.¹

¹'Who in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears.' Heb 5:7.

Yes, ask Him for all these things, but most of all ask Him for His Holy Spirit.

It is better to have the Holy Spirit than to have all the toys, all the money, all the flowers, all the birds, and all the beautiful things in the world.

Why is it better?

Because the Holy Spirit will make you love God, as the angels do, and will make you live for ever and ever.

Will you say this little prayer to God? 'O Lord, give me Thy Holy Spirit, for Christ's sake.'

Questions

- Why did Jesus choose to be alone sometimes?
- Did Jesus ever pray to His Father when His disciples were with Him?
- What did they ask Jesus to teach them?
- What prayer did Jesus teach them?
- What is the meaning of 'Hallowed be Thy name'?
- What must you ask God for, to make you good?
- Will God give you the Spirit if you ask Him?

When we should pray

A verse from the Bible for you to learn

Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and He shall hear my voice. Ps. 55:17.

are. Your hearts are full of wickedness. You are the children of the devil.’⁵

Jesus wished them to turn from their wickedness. He was sorry to see that they hated His Father, and that they would not turn from their wicked ways.⁶

The wicked people were angry with Jesus. They said that God was not His Father.⁷ But Jesus said, ‘He is My Father, and I came down from heaven, where He lives,⁸ and I shall go back to Him some day.’⁹

At last the people took up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus did not choose to die yet, so He easily got away and went to a place where they could not find Him. He stayed there with His disciples for some time.¹⁰

Questions

- Did Jesus know that the wicked people would soon kill Him?
- Who did Jesus tell that He would die?
- Were they sorry?
- Why did many people hate Jesus?
- Who is the father of liars?

⁵ ‘Which devour widows’ houses, and for a show make long prayers.’ Luke 20:47. ‘Their heart is far from Me.’ Matt. 15:8. ‘Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.’ Matt. 23:28. ‘But now ye seek to kill Me. . . . Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning . . . he is a liar.’ John 8:40, 44.

⁶ ‘Being grieved for the hardness of their hearts.’ Mark 3:3. ‘And ye will not come to Me, that ye might have life. John 5:40.

⁷ ‘The Jews sought the more to kill Him, because He . . . said also that God was His Father.’ John 5:18.

⁸ ‘I proceeded forth and came from God.’ ‘I am from above.’ John 8:42, 23.

⁹ ‘What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where He was before?’ John 6:62.

¹⁰ ‘Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him. . . . He escaped out of their hand, and went away again beyond Jordan.’ John 10:31, 39, 40.

One day Lazarus fell very sick. Martha and Mary loved their brother Lazarus very much indeed. They knew that Jesus could make Lazarus well; so they sent a man to tell Jesus that Lazarus was sick. The man went far away to look for Jesus.

Lazarus grew worse and worse. At last he died. His friends wrapped white cloths round his face and his arms and his legs. They put him in a big hole and rolled a stone up to it to close the hole.

Martha and Mary waited and longed for Jesus to come. Four days passed, and at last Jesus came. Martha and Mary did not think that Jesus would now make Lazarus alive again, because their brother had been dead for so long. So they sat on the ground and cried.

When Martha heard that Jesus was on the road a little way off, she came to Jesus and said, 'If Thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.' She knew that even then God would do anything that Jesus asked Him.

Then Jesus said, 'Your brother shall rise again.'

'Yes,' said Martha, 'I know he will rise again at the last day, when all the dead people will rise.' Martha was afraid that Jesus would not choose to make Lazarus alive soon, but she knew that He was able to do it.

Martha went back to the house and found Mary still sitting on the ground, and many friends around her. Martha whispered in her ear, and told her that Jesus wanted to speak to her. So Martha and Mary went together and found Jesus waiting for them on the road.

Mary's friends went with her, and they cried, and Mary cried very much indeed. When she saw Jesus she fell down at His feet and said, 'Lord, if Thou hadst been here my brother had not died.'

Jesus was very sorry to see her so unhappy and to see so many people crying. He felt very sad indeed, and He sighed very deeply. Jesus does not like to see any one in trouble; He is so kind.

Then Jesus said, 'Where have you put Lazarus?'

- Why did Jesus sigh and weep?
- Where was dead Lazarus put?
- What did Jesus say to Lazarus?
- What clothes did Lazarus wear in the grave?
- What did the people think of Jesus when they saw Him make Lazarus alive again?

God's care of the righteous

A verse from the Bible for you to learn

The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles. Ps. 34:17.

LESSON 30

Jesus Enters Jerusalem

MATTHEW 21:1-11, 14-17

WHICH was one of the greatest miracles that Jesus ever did?

It was making Lazarus alive again; because he had been dead for four days.

Many of the wicked people who hated Jesus heard of it, but then they hated Him more than ever. They said, 'We must kill Him soon, or every one will believe that He is the Son of God.' Jesus knew that they wanted to kill Him, so He went and hid Himself in a place they did not know about. They looked for Him, but they could not find Him.

But could Jesus always stay in that quiet place, where He was living with His disciples?

But Jesus liked to hear the children sing His praise. So He would not tell them to be silent. Jesus loved little children, and these little children loved Jesus.

Questions

- What did some of the people in Jerusalem wish to do to Jesus?
- Did Jesus walk or ride into Jerusalem?
- Where did the disciples find an ass?
- Why did so many of the people come to see Jesus when He was riding on the ass?
- What did the people lay upon the road?
- How did the little children make the proud men angry?

The people who should praise God

A verse from the Bible for you to learn

Both young men, and maidens; old men, and children: let them praise the name of the Lord. Ps. 148:12,13.

LESSON 31

The Temple

LUKE 19:47, 48; 20:19, 20; 21:37, 38

THERE was a large place in Jerusalem, like a large church, called the Temple. It was white outside, and very beautiful. The doors were open all day, and people used to go there to pray to God. It was God's house. Jesus used often to be there with His

LESSON 32

Judas

JOHN 12:6, MATTHEW 26:3, 4, 14-16

JESUS had twelve disciples. Did they all love Him?

Peter loved Jesus, and John loved Him, and all the rest loved Him¹ except one. His name was Judas. He did not love Jesus, but only pretended to love Him. He was like the devil.²

Did Jesus know how wicked Judas was?

Yes, He saw into his heart. But the disciples thought Judas was good,³ for Judas used to kiss the Lord Jesus. He used to speak kindly to Him and talk about God like the rest.

But Judas loved something; he loved money. He wanted to get a lot of money. He was covetous, and he was a thief. The disciples had a bag, and when they had money they put it in the bag. All the disciples put their money in the same bag. But there was very little money in the bag, for they were very poor. Judas used to take care of the bag. He used to steal some of the money out of it and keep it for himself. But no one found him out or thought he was a thief, except Jesus, and He knew it well.

Judas was always thinking, 'How shall I get money?' One day, when the proud men were sitting together, Judas came in. Judas said to them, 'You want to find Jesus when He is alone. Will you give me some money, and I will show you where He goes at night?'

The proud people said, 'Yes, we will.'

Judas said, 'How much money will you give me?'

They said, 'Thirty pieces of silver.'

¹'The Father Himself loveth you, because ye have loved Me.' John 16:27.

²'Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?' John 6:70.

³This is evident, from the disciples trusting Judas with the bag, and from their failing to suspect him of treachery to their Lord, when one of their number was accused.

Thus Judas gold and silver chose,
Instead of joys above,
And plunged his soul in endless woes,
And lost his Master's love.

And such will be my wretched end
(Whatever I appear),
If God I care not to offend,
And man alone I fear.

If I, like Judas, talk and pray,
And yet in secret steal,
I shall be punished in that day
When God shall all reveal.

Questions

- Did all Jesus' disciples love Him?
- Did the other disciples know that Judas did not love Jesus?
- Did Jesus know it?
- Was Judas a thief?
- What did Judas love better than anything else?
- What did Judas promise He would do for the wicked people if they would give him money?
- How much money did they promise to give Him?
- Did Jesus know that Judas meant to show the wicked people where He was at night?

God can see all things

A verse from the Bible for you to learn

The darkness hideth not from Thee: but the night shineth as the day. Ps. 139:12.

Peter thought it was too kind of Jesus to wash his feet, as if He was a servant. Jesus was not proud, but He loved to be kind to His disciples. Then Jesus said to Peter, 'If I wash you not, you cannot be Mine. But I have made you clean already.' Jesus had made Peter's heart clean. Now Peter was glad that Jesus should wash his feet.

All the disciples had clean hearts, except Judas. His heart was full of wickedness; Satan was in it. Yet Jesus washed Judas' feet. He was kind even to wicked Judas, who hated Him.

When Jesus had washed all the disciples' feet, He sat down again and began to talk to them. He said, 'Do you know what I have done to you? I have washed your feet, though I am your Lord and Master. I wish to teach you to be as kind to each other as I have been to you.'

When the sad hour was almost come
That Jesus must depart,
He gathered in an upper room
Those dearest to His heart.

Ah, great was their astonishment,
When, rising from His seat,
Upon the floor He lowly bent
To wash His servants' feet.

Beside the board again He sat,
And thus expressed His mind:
'If I, your Lord, upon you wait,
O, should not you be kind?

'O, let the love that I have shown
By you remembered be;
And by your love let it be known
That you belong to Me.'

LESSON 34

The Last Supper

PART 2 — JOHN 13:21-30

YOU know the wicked thing that Judas meant to do. Jesus knew that he would bring the wicked people to take Him and kill Him. Jesus had been very kind to Judas, and Jesus was sorry that he was so wicked.

Jesus was sitting at supper, and all the twelve disciples were round the table. He said, 'One of you will give Me to the wicked men to be killed! One of you, My disciples.'

All the disciples were very sorry, and Peter said, 'Is it I?' And John said, 'Is it I?' And each of them said, 'Is it I?' But Jesus did not tell them.

Now John was leaning his head on Jesus' bosom, and Peter whispered to John, 'Do ask the Lord which it is that will show the wicked people where He is.'

So John whispered, 'Which is it?'

Then Jesus said, 'The one that dips some bread in the dish with Me.' For there was a dish of sauce on the table, and Jesus dipped His bread in it. As He dipped it, one of the disciples put his hand in the dish too. Which was it?

It was Judas; he dipped his bread in the dish with Jesus. So John knew which of the disciples was so wicked.

Then Jesus said to Judas, 'Go, and do what you mean to do.' Judas got up and went out of the room.

Where did he go?

He went to the wicked people, to bring them to Jesus in the dark. But the disciples thought he was going to buy something at a shop, or to give money to the poor.

Questions

- At supper what did Jesus say that one of His disciples would do?

Jesus said to him, 'Yes, you will, Peter. You will say that you do not know Me. You will say that you are not My friend. This night, Peter, you will say so before the cock crows.' (Cocks crow in the morning, when daylight comes.)

Jesus talked kindly to His disciples. He said, 'Do not be sorry because I am going away. I shall go back to My Father, and I shall soon come back to you. When I am in heaven, I shall get ready a place in heaven for you. I command you to love one another, and I will send the Holy Spirit to comfort you.'

At last Jesus came to a garden. He had often been to that garden with His disciples, and wicked Judas knew the place. Where was Judas now?

He was with the proud, wicked men.

You will soon hear how he came to the garden, and how he brought the servants of the wicked men with him. Those wicked men meant to send their servants to catch Jesus.

'This is My flesh,' the sorrowing Saviour said,
And as He spoke, He gave the broken bread.
'This is My blood,' and then He made all drink,
And of their dying Master ever think.

'This night I die; this night My body's bruised;
This night by wicked men My name's abused;
And even you, My dearest friends, shall fly,
And leave your Master all alone to die.'

His friends in sorrow heard; then promised
With Him they fondly loved their blood to shed;
And Peter loudest said, 'With Thee I'll die,'
And little thought he should his Lord deny.

Questions

- What did Jesus break into pieces and give to His disciples?
- What did He give them to drink?
- What was the bread like?

Then Jesus went a little way off by Himself, and fell upon the ground and began to pray to His Father to help Him. He ended His prayer by saying, 'O Father, not as I will, but as Thou wilt.'¹ He prayed very earnestly, and He felt so unhappy that the blood came out of His skin and fell onto the ground. Then He got up and went back to Peter and James and John, but He found them asleep. He woke them and told them to pray.

Then He went back and prayed again to His Father. He asked His Father to help Him in His great sorrow. When He came back to His disciples, they had fallen asleep again.

Then Jesus prayed again, and His Father sent an angel from heaven to comfort Him. I do not know what the angel said, but I know the angel loved Him. The angel could speak sweet words to Him and tell Him how His Father loved Him. The angel did not stay long; he soon went back to God.

Then Jesus came again to His disciples and found them asleep again. But Jesus woke them and told them to get up. 'Judas,' He said, 'is near.'

While Jesus was saying this, many people came walking into the garden. These were the servants of the wicked men in Jerusalem. They had swords and sticks and lights in their hands. And Judas went in front of them to show them where Jesus was. But Judas came up to Jesus in a very sly way. He gave Him a kiss, pretending to love Him.

Jesus knew what Judas was doing, and He said, 'Friend, why do you come here? And why do you kiss Me?'

Jesus did not run away, but He went up to the wicked men and said, 'Who are you looking for?'

They said, 'For Jesus.'

He said, 'I am He.'

When He said that, God made all the wicked people fall on the ground on their backs. Then Jesus could have run away. But He chose to stay, so that He might die for His people.

¹ 'Who in the days of His flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto Him that was able to save Him from death.' Heb. 5:7.

Oh, now the hour of prayer is past,
The enemy is come at last
To take the Lord away.

Oh, how I love the patience rare,
With which I see the Saviour bear
His friends' unkind neglect!
Though He to them such love has shown,
He might when suffering thus alone
Their tenderest care expect.

And when my angry passions rise
I'll set the Lord before my eyes,
His gentle voice I'll hear;
And the same patience try to show,
If left alone in pain or woe
By my companions dear.

Questions

- How many disciples did Jesus take with Him to another part of the garden?
- What did Jesus tell them to do while He was praying?
- What did Jesus pray to His Father about?
- Did Peter and James and John pray while Jesus was praying?
- How many times did Jesus come back to Peter and James and John?
- Who came from heaven to comfort Him?
- Who came into the garden at last?
- Why did Judas kiss Jesus?
- Did Jesus know why Judas kissed Him?
- What did Jesus call Judas?
- Did Jesus run away from the wicked men?
- Who made the wicked people fall down on the ground?

'Yes,' said Jesus, 'I am; and one day you will see Me coming in the clouds with the angels.'

Then the wicked men were angry. 'Do you hear what He says?' they cried out. 'He calls Himself the Son of God. He must be taken to the judge to be killed.'

Jesus stood meekly all this time and hardly spoke a word. But what happened to the disciples?

They ran away.

Did Peter run away? Peter said he would die with Jesus. But he ran away too. At last Peter thought, 'I will go and look for Jesus. I should like to see what the wicked men are doing to Him.'

So Peter came to Jerusalem and into the fine house. He came into the hall first. The wicked servants were sitting round a fire in the hall. A door was open, and through the door Peter could see Jesus. There He was, standing before the wicked men. Peter hoped that nobody would know that he was one of Jesus' disciples. He was afraid that he too would be killed. But, as Peter was sitting by the fire warming himself, a maid said to him, 'You are one of Jesus' disciples.'

Peter was frightened and said, 'No, I am not. I do not know the man you speak of.'

Then Peter got up and went outside the door, but another maid said to him, 'I am sure you are one of the disciples of Jesus.'

'No,' said Peter, 'I am not.' So Peter went back again to the fire and began talking with the servants.

But some of them remembered having seen Peter in the garden, and they came to Peter and said, 'We are certain that you are one of the disciples.' And one of them said to him, 'I saw you in the garden.'

Then Peter began to swear, and to say that he was not one of the disciples. But while Peter was speaking so wickedly he heard a cock crow.

Peter remembered what Jesus had said, and he looked at Jesus. Then Jesus turned round His face and looked at Peter. It was such a look! Jesus did not speak, but His look seemed to

- Did Peter really love Jesus?
- Who had often prayed for Peter?
- Did Satan get Peter's soul at last?

How Peter repented of his sin

A verse from the Bible for you to learn

And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter went out, and wept bitterly. Luke 22:61, 62.

LESSON 38

Pontius Pilate

JOHN 18:22-40. MATTHEW 26:67, 68. JOHN 19:1-16

ALL night long, Jesus stood in the great room. He heard all Peter said, and that must have made Him sad. The wicked people were like lions and tigers, but Jesus was like a lamb. They looked at Him as if they hated Him.¹ Once when He spoke, a servant slapped His face, but Jesus bore this meekly.

The judge was not up yet, because it was night. So the wicked people were forced to wait till the morning. That night the servants came round Jesus and beat Him and pushed Him and laughed at Him. They even spat in His face.

When the morning came, the wicked people said, 'Now we will bring Him to the judge.'

¹'They gaped upon Me with their mouths, as a ravening and a roaring lion.' Ps. 22:13. 'They gnashed upon Me with their teeth.' Ps. 35:16.

'He is not our king!' the people said.

There was a very great noise in the street, from the people all speaking at once. Then Pilate thought he would please the wicked people, so he said, 'Take Him and crucify Him.' Then the people were glad. But first the soldiers took the fine clothes off Jesus and put His own clothes on Him again.

How wicked it was of Pilate to let Him be crucified! Pilate thought Jesus was good, yet he let Him be killed to please the people.

What! is there none to take His part
Who silent, trembling bleeding, stands?
Not one to cheer His broken heart,
Or snatch Him from those cruel hands?

A thousand voices lifted high
Now fill with horrid shouts the air:
'Away with Him and crucify!'
Nor does one friend for Him appear.

Behold how men His love reward!
His tender flesh the scourge has torn,
His gentle hands are bound with cord,
His head is crowned with prickly thorn.

And when I hear one, smiling, tell
Of sinful things that men have done,
I will not smile, but sorrow feel,
Because sin bruised God's only Son.

Questions

- Did Jesus stand a long time before the wicked people?
- How did one of the servants behave to Him?
- When did the wicked men take Him to the judge?
- What did the servants put over His face?
- Where was the judge sitting?

it. So Judas went to look for the wicked men. They had been sitting up all night talking against Jesus, but now they were in God's house — the Temple.

Judas brought the thirty pieces of silver in his hands and threw them down on the floor near the wicked men. Judas said, 'I have done a very wicked thing.'

But the men did not care for that. All they wanted was to get Jesus killed. They picked up the pieces of silver from the floor. Then they went to buy a field with the money.

And where did Judas go?

He went out to the field to kill himself. He did not go and ask Jesus to forgive him, but he went and hanged himself.¹ O what a horrible sight it must have been! But it was more horrible to think where Judas' soul had gone.

It had gone to hell — to Satan.

It was very wicked of Judas to hang himself, instead of praying to God to forgive him.

Judas is in the wicked place now;² and Jesus will judge him at the last day and say, 'Depart, you cursed one!'

Questions

- Was Judas happy when he got the thirty pieces of silver?
- What did he do with them?
- How did Judas kill himself?
- Where is Judas now?

The misery of the wicked

A verse from the Bible for you to learn

There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked. Isa. 57:21.

¹ 'And falling headlong, he burst asunder in the midst, and all his bowels gushed out.' Acts 1:18.

² 'This ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.' Acts 1:25.

'Father, forgive,' the sufferer cries,
'Because they know not what they do.'
To heaven He lifts His dying eyes:
Was such a prayer e'er heard below?

Tell me for whom the Saviour prays?
For those who bear Him deadly hate,
Who spat upon His lovely face,
And pierced His blessed hands and feet.

And does the Saviour pray for these?
Ah, then I see that I should pray
For all who hurt me, vex, or tease,
By spiteful things they do or say.

Questions

- Who carried Jesus' cross?
- Could Jesus carry it by Himself?
- Who came after Jesus crying, because He was going to die?
- What did Jesus say to these kind women?
- What did the wicked men do to Jesus when He came to the top of the hill?
- Who took Jesus' clothes?
- Did they tear them all?
- Who did Jesus ask His Father to forgive?
- Should we forgive people who are unkind to us?

Jesus' prayer for those who crucified Him

A verse from the Bible for you to learn
Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.
Luke 23:34.

The one reviled Christ's name in death,
The other cried, with dying breath,
'O Lord, remember me.'

The Saviour heard the poor thief's prayer
And promised He would take him where
Our God and angels dwell.
Alas, his life was spent in sin.
What joy a heaven at last to win
And to escape from hell!

And O, for him what glad surprise,
When heavenly glories met his eyes,
And Christ arrayed in light!
He had just seen the dying pains
That had released his soul from chains
And everlasting night.

Ah, sure, of all the hosts that sing
The praises of their heavenly King,
His voice will loudest sound;
For when just trembling on the brink,
And just about in hell to sink,
Pardon and grace he found.

I would not wish my life to spend,
Like him, a stranger to the Friend
Who died upon the tree;
But yet, like him, whene'er I die,
Let this be my expiring cry,
O Lord, remember me.'

Questions

- What did Pontius Pilate write on the cross?
- Did the wicked people come to see Jesus on the cross?
- What did they say to Jesus?

John knew what Jesus meant, and he took Mary to be his mother. So after that Mary always lived with him. Jesus loved His mother, and thought of her even when He was dying.

Jesus was full of pain, and it was very hot. He said, 'I thirst!' The soldiers took a sponge and dipped it in vinegar. Then they put it on a reed and gave it to Jesus.

Jesus just tasted the vinegar and said, 'It is finished!' Then He died. His spirit went to His Father, but His body was still hanging on the cross.

It was three o'clock in the afternoon when Jesus died. He had been nailed to the cross all day. Before Jesus died God had made it very dark, to show He was angry with the wicked people. And God made the earth shake. The people were frightened; and when Jesus was dead, some of them said, 'This must have been the Son of God.'

Mary beholds One dying there,
Whom in her arms she once did bear
And to her bosom press.
On her He casts His pitying eye,
For who should now His place supply,
And cheer her loneliness?

The loving John shall be her son,
And cherish her till life is done,
Within his humble home:
And oft together they shall speak
Of Him who, once despised and weak,
At last in clouds shall come.

O gentle Lord, how great the love,
Which made Thy tender pity move,
Ev'n in the hour of death.
O let me show my parents dear
The same kind love and thoughtful care,
Until their final breath.

out onto the ground. John was standing nearby, and he saw the blood.

Do you remember how Jesus, at supper the night before, had poured wine into a cup and said to the disciples, 'This is My blood, which is shed for many'?

Now His blood was poured out. The spear made a hole in Jesus' side. There was a hole in His side, and a hole in each hand, and a hole in each foot, and His forehead was pricked with thorns, and His eyes had shed many tears, and blood had come from His skin. All this He suffered for people who have sinned, just like we have, so that God might forgive them their sins.¹

'Yes, He is surely dead,'
The cruel soldier said,
Then pierced the Saviour's side.
Behold, a mingled tide
Of blood and water, flowing from the wound,
Covers with crimson stains Golgotha's ground!

The loving John was near;
He saw the soldier's spear
Bring forth that wondrous flood
Of water and of blood;
And well remembered how his Master said,
He came for sinful man His blood to shed.

The blood that flowed that day
Long since has passed away;
But still there flows a stream,
Though by all eyes unseen,
For those that trust the blood on Calvary spilt;
And in that stream their souls are washed from guilt.

¹ 'In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace' Eph. 1:7

LESSON 44

The Grave

JOHN 19:38-42. LUKE 23:55, 56. MATTHEW 27:60

THERE was one rich man who loved Jesus; his name was Joseph (not Mary's husband; this was another Joseph). Joseph had a garden, and in the garden he had a grave. Perhaps he meant to be buried there himself when he died.

But now Joseph thought, 'I should like to put the Lord Jesus in my grave.' It was a very nice grave, and no one had ever been put there yet.

So Joseph went to Pontius Pilate and said, 'I want the dead body of Jesus. May I take it down from the cross, and keep it myself?'

And Pilate said, 'Yes, you may have it.'

Then Joseph was glad. He brought some nice, white, clean linen.

What do you think that was for?

To wrap Jesus in. And he brought some spices (sweet-smelling things from plants). Nicodemus came with him, and they took the nails out of Jesus' hands and feet, and took his body down from the cross. Then Joseph wrapped a cloth round His head, and another cloth round His waist, and he put sweet spices on Him. Then some men carried Jesus along to Joseph's garden.

In the garden there was a large rock, and a hole in the rock, like a hole in the wall. They walked into this large dark hole, and they laid Jesus down alone. Now He was at rest; He felt no pain or sorrow. The wicked people were not near; and there lay the Lord in His quiet grave. The men took a very large stone and stopped up the hole, so that nobody could come in. No beast or bird could touch the Lord Jesus. There were trees and flowers near Him in this nice garden. There were angels there watching over Him, though no one could see them.

Where were the women who loved Jesus?

The Resurrection

MARK 16:1-6. LUKE 24:3-10. MATTHEW 28:9, 10

ONE morning very early, when Jesus had been dead only two days, the women came into the garden. It was not yet quite light, for the sun was just rising.

As the women walked along with their ointment they said to each other, 'How shall we get into the grave? The men put a large stone in front of it, and the stone is so big that we cannot roll it away.' The women did not know what to do.

At last, when they came to the grave, they found that the stone was rolled away already. The women were quite surprised. Then they were afraid that some wicked people had rolled it away and stolen the body of Jesus. This made them very sad. They looked into the grave, and saw that Jesus was not there.

But soon they saw two beautiful angels standing by them. Their faces were bright like the sun, their clothes whiter than snow.

The women trembled when they saw the angels; but the angels spoke sweetly and kindly to them, saying, 'Do not be afraid; we know that you are looking for Jesus. He is not here now; He is alive. Do you not remember how He said that He would come to life again after He had been crucified?'

'Come,' said the angels, 'and look at the place where Jesus lay. Run quickly, and tell His disciples that Jesus is alive, and that they shall see Him very soon.'

The women were very glad indeed. They ran as quickly as they could to tell the disciples. But as they were running, who do you think they saw?

It was Jesus Himself! He did not look as He once had looked. There were no tears on His cheeks; they were all wiped away.¹

¹ 'Thou hast made Him exceeding glad with Thy countenance.' Ps. 21:6.

Questions

- When did the women come to the grave?
- Why did they come?
- Who rolled away the large stone?
- How did the angels look?
- Were the women pleased when they saw them?
- What did the angels tell the women?
- Who did the women run to tell what they had seen?
- Who did the women see as they went along?
- What did the women do when they saw Jesus?
- Did Jesus forgive His disciples for having left Him alone?
- Did the disciples believe that the women had seen Jesus?

Christ's words after He rose from the dead

A verse from the Bible for you to learn

I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore. Rev. 1:18.

LESSON 46

Mary Magdalene

JOHN 20:1-19

I HAVE told you of two Marys: Mary, the mother of Jesus, and another Mary, the sister of Lazarus. But there was still another, called Mary Magdalene. She came very early to the grave of Jesus, before the other women came. She looked into the grave, but saw no angels. So she came running back and told

Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples. They were all crying, but they would not believe what Mary said.

Mary was glad that she had gone to look for Jesus. She was the first of all the people who saw Jesus after He was alive again.¹

And why is Mary full of fears?
Her eye, why so bedimmed with tears
While gazing on that grave?
She cannot find the body there
Of One who lives, who's standing near,
Whose arm from death can save.

'Why weepst thou?' the Saviour cries.
'I've lost my Lord,' she quick replies,
And thinks not it is He.
He speaks again. His voice she knows;
And now her heart with joy o'erflows
Her dearest Lord to see.

His body dead she once had sought
Within the tomb, and little thought
Of this supreme delight.
Oh, vain were all her anxious fears,
And vain were all her bitter tears,
That flowed both day and night.

And is not He for ever near,
Although His voice we cannot hear,
Or see His glorious face?
Yes, over us His wings are spread,
And blessings still are gently shed,
For He fills every place.

¹ 'He appeared first to Mary Magdalene.' Mark 16:9.

LESSON 47

The Two Friends

LUKE 24:13-48

IT was early in the morning when the women went to look for Jesus. In the evening two good men were walking together into the country. As they walked, they talked about Jesus. They had not seen Him since He was alive again. They did not even know that He was alive. They talked about Him dying on the cross. It made them very sad to speak about it.

At last a man came and spoke to them. They thought He was a stranger; yet He seemed to be a kind man.

He said, 'Why do you cry? I see you are talking about something very sad.'

'Yes,' said these good men, 'we are talking of something sad. Did you never hear of Jesus? Did you never hear what wonderful things He did: how He cured blind and dumb and sick people, and how He taught people about God?' And all the people loved Him; but at last He was crucified. We thought He was the Son of God, but now we are afraid He was not, because He is dead. And we are afraid that we shall never see Him again.'

The kind stranger was sorry to see these good men cry. He began to talk to them, and to tell them that Jesus was the Son of God, and that He had been crucified to save people from their sins. So He must rise again and go back to His Father.

This kind stranger said a great deal more. He knew all the verses in the Bible, and told these men many things they did not know. They liked listening to the stranger; they did not feel so sad while He was talking.

At last these men came to their own house. It was in the country. The stranger seemed as if He was going on farther; but the two good men said to Him, 'Stay at our house; it is getting dark. Come and eat with us, and sleep here. Do come in.'

Then the stranger said that He would come in.

ever since they had lost Him. They saw that He had forgiven them for having run away. He said nothing to them about it. He had even forgiven Peter. He knew that Peter loved Him, and that he was very sorry.

The disciples were so surprised to see Jesus that they could hardly believe He was alive. Jesus knew that they did not quite believe, so He said, 'Have you anything to eat?' Then the disciples gave Him a piece of fish and some honey from their supper. Jesus took the food and began to eat, so that the disciples might see that He really was alive.

Then afterwards He talked to them and told them why He had died, and that He was going back to His father to pray for them.

That was a pleasant night for the poor disciples. It was not like that sad night when Jesus was so sorrowful in the garden. His sorrows were over, and He would never feel pain again any more.

There are but three around that table met.
It's their last meal, for now the sun has set.
One breaks the bread. I know that lovely face,
That voice, but lo, He's vanished from the place!

'Was it an angel? No, it was the Lord;
He lives again. He is to us restored.'
What joy now fills these hearts that once were filled
With fears! Ah, now for ever, ever stilled!

'Well might our hearts burn in us by the way
While Jesus spake,' the fond disciples say;
'How sweet was His discourse! We little thought
That it was He. How strange we knew Him not.

But stranger far that we did not believe
That He would rise again! Could He deceive?
O no; He is the faithful and the true,
And what He says He evermore will do.'

LESSON 48

Thomas

JOHN 20:24-31

YOU have heard how the disciples saw Jesus in the evening. But one of the disciples was not there when Jesus came. His name was Thomas. I do not know why he was not there.

When the disciples saw Thomas next, they said to him, 'We have seen Jesus. On the Lord's Day night we saw Him. He came into the room as we were sitting together, and He spoke to us. We are sure it was Jesus Himself, because He showed us the marks of the nails in His hands and feet, and the hole in His side where the spear went in.'

But Thomas would not believe the disciples. He said, 'I do not think you saw Jesus Himself. He died on the cross. I never will believe unless I put my fingers into the marks of the nails, and put my hand into the hole in His side.'

It was very wrong of Thomas to speak in this way. He should have remembered that Jesus had promised to come alive again.

Jesus heard Thomas speak, though Thomas could not see Him. But Jesus was always with the disciples, and heard all they said because He is God.

Next Lord's Day evening the disciples were in a room together. Thomas was there too. The doors were locked to keep the wicked people out, but the disciples knew that Jesus could come in. And He did come. They saw Him standing in the middle of the room. He spoke kindly to them and said, 'Peace be unto you!'

Then He spoke to Thomas. 'Come,' He said to Thomas, 'here are My hands. Put your finger into the marks. And here is the hole in My side; put your hand into it.'

Now Thomas knew that Jesus had heard him speak so sinfully, and he felt ashamed and sorry.

He saw that it was Jesus Himself, and he cried out, 'My Lord and my God!'

lived beside the sea. They had some ships on the water. They used them when they were fishing.

One night Peter said to the disciples, 'I shall go and fish'. The other disciples said, 'We will go with you.' So they got into a ship, and all night long they tried to catch fish, but they could not catch any. So in the morning they were tired and hungry.

They looked up and saw a man standing on the shore. They did not know who the man was. The man called out to them and said, 'Children, have you anything to eat?'

The poor disciples said, 'No.' They had caught no fish all night.

The man said, 'Let down your net on the right side of the ship and you shall find some fish.'

They did as the man told them, and they caught so many fish in the net that they could hardly lift it out of the water.

Now John found out who the man was. He said to Peter, 'It is the Lord.' Peter was very glad, and he jumped into the water, and swam first to Jesus. The other disciples came soon afterwards in their little ship, with their nets and their fish.

Jesus knew that they were tired and hungry. By the shore there was a fire, and some fish on the fire and some bread. How kind it was of Jesus to give food to His poor hungry disciples!

Jesus said to them, 'Bring some of the fishes that you have caught.' So Peter went and took up the net and found it full of big fish - one hundred and fifty three. This was one of Jesus' great miracles.

Then said Jesus to the disciples, 'Come and dine.' So they all sat down to dine together. Then Jesus took the bread, and gave some to each of them. He took the fish and gave some of it to them too.

Now the disciples were quite sure that it was Jesus who was feeding them. This was the way they used to dine together before Jesus had died. Now He was alive again, and they dined together once more. But they knew He was not going to stay long with them.

When they had all finished eating, Jesus said to Peter, 'Do you love Me?'

Death has not changed the Saviour's heart.
Behold those pierced hands give out
The food they have prepared;
While seven disciples sit around,
Joying that they the Friend have found
For whom they fondly cared,

Found Him as ready to forgive
As when with them He used to live
Before His cruel death;
For they had fled when He was tried,
And Peter had His Lord denied
With most unfaithful breath.

The Lord well knew that love inspired
His bosom, yet three times inquired,
'Simon, dost thou love Me?'
And Peter said, 'O Thou alone,
To whom all things are fully known,
Thou knowest that I love Thee.'

And by what sign his faithful love
Shall Peter to his Saviour prove?
'O feed My lambs and sheep!'
And gladly this will Peter do,
That others may be pardoned too,
And taught from sin to keep.

O happy they who truly can
Entreat the Lord their heart to scan
And see their faithful love!
And happy they who still obey
His sweet commands, and what they say
By faithful actions prove.

LESSON 50

The Ascension

MATTHEW 28:16-20, LUKE 24:46-53, ACTS 1:4-14

JESUS used to come and see His disciples after He was made alive again. But He did not stay with them for long.

He told them He was soon going up to His Father. 'When I am gone, you must tell people about Me. You must tell the people who crucified Me that I will forgive them if they will believe on Me. The Holy Spirit will come down from heaven, for My Father has promised to send Him down soon. Wait at Jerusalem till He comes. I will always be with you, though you do not see Me. Some day I shall come back again.'

The disciples asked Jesus when He would come back, but Jesus would not tell them.

One day Jesus and His disciples walked together to the top of a hill. Jesus began to pray with His disciples and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. While He was doing this, He was taken up to heaven, and a cloud hid Him at last from the eyes of His disciples.

They still looked up and saw the cloud go higher and higher till they could see it no more. But still they went on looking. Then they heard some persons speaking to them. When they looked to see who it was, they saw two angels standing beside them.

The angels were dressed in white shining clothes. They said, 'Why do you look so long at the sky? Jesus will come again some day.' The disciples then went back to Jerusalem to wait for the Holy Spirit.

Perhaps you think they were very unhappy, now that Jesus was gone? No, they were not. They knew He had gone to get a place in heaven ready for them, and that they would live with Him there for ever. This made them glad.

said to them, 'You have crucified the Son of God. He is alive, and has gone up to sit on His Father's throne. If you believe on Him, He will forgive you and give you the Holy Spirit.'

Some of the wicked people were sorry for what they had done to Jesus, and begged God to forgive them. But some of the wicked people were not sorry, and they tried to kill the disciples.

A wicked king caught James and cut off his head with a sword. Then he shut up Peter in prison. He was going to kill him too.

Have you ever seen a prison? It is a dark place, with great doors and bars, and walls all round it.

Some soldiers took Peter and put chains on his hands and chains on his feet. Then they locked the door of the prison. Some soldiers sat at the door so that no one could get in.

Peter's friends were very unhappy because he was in prison, but they could not take him out. Yet there was one thing they could do; they could pray to God to save Peter, and so they did. Peter's friends sat up at night and prayed to God.

The wicked king said, 'Tomorrow I shall have Peter killed.' But God would not let Peter be killed. So God told one of His beautiful angels to go and let Peter out of the prison. The angel could go into the prison without opening the doors.

It was night when the angel came. Peter was asleep. On each side of him there was a soldier, and Peter was chained to them both. You would not like to sleep in a prison with soldiers near you, and chains on your hands. But Peter knew that God loved him, and that he was safe.

So the angel came. It was dark in the prison.

Could Peter see the angel?

Yes; for the angel was bright like the sun, and made the prison light.

The angel touched Peter on the side and lifted him up. At once the chains fell off Peter's hands and feet. He told Peter to put on his clothes, and Peter did so.

Then the angel said, 'Follow me.' So the angel walked out first, and Peter followed him. They went through the prison.

While they were talking, Peter was standing outside. And he went on knocking, because nobody opened the door. Soon his friends ran and opened the door, and when they saw Peter they were very surprised.

'How did you get out of prison?' they asked him.

Then Peter made a sign with his hand so that they would all be quiet. Then he told them how he got out of prison.

'God sent an angel,' said Peter, 'who brought me out of the prison. Go and tell all my friends what has happened, for I must go away.' So Peter went and hid himself in a place where the wicked king could not find him.

What do you think the soldiers said when they could not find Peter in the morning?

They were very frightened. They saw his chains, but they did not see Peter. They found the gates locked. They could not think how Peter got out of prison.

So the king sent for Peter. This was the day when Peter was to be killed. All the wicked people in Jerusalem were expecting to see him. The king's servants asked, 'Where is Peter? Bring him out.'

The soldiers answered. 'We cannot tell where Peter is. He is not here.'

The servants went and told the king that Peter was not in the prison. The king was very angry. He said, 'Bring the soldiers to me. They must have fallen asleep.'

When the soldiers came, they could not tell the king how Peter got away. But you know why. God made them sleep when the angel came for Peter. The king was in a great rage and said, 'The soldiers must be killed.'

What a wicked king this was! He loved to do wickedness. He was very proud. He hated God and God's people. He only cared to please himself. At last God sent an angel to kill him, and worms ate up his flesh until he died.

God sends angels to punish the wicked, and to help people like Peter, who love Him.

- What did Peter tell all the friends when he had made them quiet?
- Where did Peter go then?
- Why were the soldiers frightened in the morning?
- Why did the wicked king send for Peter?
- What did the king want to do to the soldiers?
- How did God punish this wicked king at last?

How the righteous are saved from danger

A verse from the Bible for you to learn

The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear Him, and delivereth them. Ps. 34:7.

LESSON 52

John

REVELATION 1:9-19; 4:1-5; 22

ALMOST all the twelve disciples were killed by wicked men. When Peter was old, some wicked men crucified him because he loved Jesus. Now he is in heaven with Jesus, clothed in a white robe, and all his tears wiped away. His dear Lord Jesus is always near him, and this makes Peter happy.

John lived till he was very, very old indeed. A wicked king caught him, and put him on an island far away from his friends. There was water all around, so he could not get away.

Was John unhappy there?

No. God was with him, and John loved to think of the Father and of His Son Jesus.

Then you may answer, 'Even so, come Lord Jesus.' And I hope that when you die your spirit will go to Jesus, and that when Jesus comes again He will bring you with Him.

John wrote down in a book the things he saw in heaven. All that John wrote is in the Bible.

At last John died, and his soul went to God. He is with Jesus now in heaven. He is now playing on a golden harp and singing with the angels. But, when Jesus comes again in the clouds, John will come with Him.¹

When John was by the angel led
To the bright world on high,
He saw what joys await the dead
When up to heaven they fly.

He saw them round the Father's throne,
Gazing upon His face,
Singing with harps of sweetest tone
The praises of His grace.

He saw them clothed in robes of white,
Such as the angels wear,
Shining like stars of morning, bright,
And like the angels fair.

He saw the city where they dwelt,
Whose praises can't be told.
The walls of precious stones were built,
The streets were purest gold.

He saw the Lamb whose blood was spilt
To give His people rest;
With His bright beams the place was filled,
And every heart was blest.

¹ 'Them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him.' 1 Thess. 4:14.

The Judgement Day

1 THESSALONIANS 4:15-17, REVELATION 20:11-15

YOU know that Jesus will come again in the clouds? Children, do you know when He will come? Shall I tell you when Jesus will come?

You would like to know, but I cannot tell you when He will come because I do not know. The angels do not know what day it will be. No one knows but God.¹ There will be many wicked people in the world then, and some good people.² An angel will blow a great trumpet, and Jesus will say to the people who are dead, 'Come out of your graves!'

The bodies of all the dead people will come out of their graves.³ Those who love Christ will be like the angels and will fly up into the air. Those who love God and are alive when Jesus comes, He will take up into the air to meet Him. As soon as they see Jesus, they will be like Him, all shining and glorious.

Jesus will sit upon a white throne, and everybody will stand round His throne. He will open some books, in which He has written down all the things that everybody has done. God has seen all the bad things you have done. He can see in the dark as well as in the light, and He knows all your sinful thoughts.

He will read out of His books all the bad things that those people have done who do not love God, and the angels too will be standing round the throne to hear. Yet God will forgive many people because Christ died on the cross.

¹ 'But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but My Father only.' Matt. 24:36.

² 'Nevertheless, when the Son of man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth?' Luke 18:8. 'So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just.' Matt. 13:49

³ 'The hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice, and shall come forth.' John 5:28, 29.

One day God will burn up this world we live in. It is dreadful to see a house on fire. Did you ever see one? But how dreadful it will be to see this great world and all the houses and trees burning! The noise will be terrible. The heat will be very great.⁹ The wicked will not be able to get away. They will be cast into the lake of fire.¹⁰

If you are God's child, you will not be frightened when the world is burning. You will be safe with Jesus, praising Him for having loved you and saved you.¹¹

How oft behind yon hill
The sun has hid his face!
How oft returned to fill
With joyful light the place!
And shall the sun for ever thus return?
Shall morn succeed to eve, and eve to morn?

O no, the day shall come,
(And who can tell how soon!)
When dark shall be that sun,
And red the silver moon;
When sun or moon shall never more return,
But God on clouds shall come the world to burn.

O, say, shall I be there,
To see the dreadful glare,
The dreadful sound to hear,
The dreadful heat to bear,
Of falling crags and rocks, of roaring seas,
Of smoking hills, and flaming earth and skies?

⁹'The heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.' 2 Pet. 3:10.

¹⁰'The heavens and the earth, which are now . . . are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.' 2 Pet. 3:7.

¹¹ 2 Thess. 1:6-10.

- Where will Jesus sit?
- What has Jesus written down in His books?
- Whose sins will Jesus forgive?
- Where has He written down their names?
- Where will God put the wicked?
- Who will torment them for ever?

The happiness of heaven

A verse from the Bible for you to learn

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain. Rev. 21:4.