

AT42t

The Church,
Its Nature and Mission

Teacher

THE CHURCH, ITS NATURE AND MISSION

Sunday School Lessons for Adults

Year 4, Quarter 2

A4-2T

Teacher's Lessons

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How to use this book and teach each lesson:

1. You may read or summarize the lesson as it is printed in the teacher's book. Be sure to read the verses when you are told to do so in the lesson.

2. All instructions to the teacher are in parentheses. (Like this.)

3. All answers to questions you will ask are in brackets. [Like this.]

4. Any preparation you need to make before teaching the lesson is written in "Helps for the Teacher."

Lesson 1: Christ, the Giver of Life

Background Scripture: Colossians 1-2

Verses in Today's Lesson: Colossians 1:15-20; 2:8-10

Memory Verse: "...and you have come to fullness of life in him, who is the head of all rule and authority" (Colossians 2:10).

Central Truth: Christ is fully God. He gives life to believers.

Teaching Aim: For the pupil to be assured that Jesus is all we need to be sure of eternal life.

Help for the Teacher: Chalk and chalk board or paper and pen, mirror.

Teaching the lesson:

(Call two people to the front, preferably a short person and a taller person. Draw simple figures of them on the board or piece of paper. Draw figures like this:)

(two stick figures, one short, one tall)

(Tell the students you have drawn pictures of these two students. Point to the taller drawing.)

(Ask:) "Who is this?" (Let the students respond. Then point to the shorter drawing and ask who it is. Let students respond.)

(Say:) "By these simple drawings you can tell which person is which. But the drawing does not look much like either one of them, does it?"

(Ask one of the people drawn:) "Look in this mirror. Is this image more like you than the drawing?" [Yes!]

(Say:) "It is exactly how you look." (Ask students to sit down.)

(Write on the board or paper: "Jesus Christ is....")

(Say:) "Let us read Colossians 1:15 and 2:9."

(Ask:) "What do these verses say about Jesus?" (Let students respond.)

(Say:) "These verses tell us that Jesus was wholly God."

(Write on board: "God.")

(Say:) "God is spirit." (Read John 4:24.)

(Ask:) "What dwelt in Jesus' body?" (The fullness of God, his Spirit.)

(Say:) "Therefore when we examine Jesus' spirit or heart, we see God exactly. We do not need to know what his face was like. We do not need to know how tall he was. But if we want to know God we need to know what his spirit is like. Jesus is the exact picture of God's spirit because he is God. He is God in the flesh."

(Say:) "God puts all who trust in Jesus into his kingdom. What an amazing thing! God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, the three-in-one, made it possible for us to be saved from destruction. God actually became man in order to save us. We can examine this man Jesus Christ to see what God is like. It is

through him that we begin to understand God's great love for man."

(Say:) "Our minds are small. We are not able to understand how big God is. We have difficulty in understanding how God can be three yet one. One example is the tree. It has roots, trunk and leaves. Each part has its own work and characteristics. Yet they are all one tree. Obviously this example is not adequate to explain God. He is much greater than this. When we look at Jesus, we see just what God is like. So we see there is no perfect way to understand God's greatness. But we know from Scripture that God is one. We know that he has revealed himself to us as a man, Jesus Christ. We know that he has left us his Spirit to live within us and help us. God is one, but he has shown himself to us in three different ways."

(Say:) "The Gospel of John tells us a lot about Jesus and God being one. If you read the first chapter, you will see this plainly. You will want to read these verses this week."

(Write on board: "creator and ruler.")

(Say:) "Some people think Jesus did not exist before his birth at Bethlehem. What does this verse tell us?" [He was present at creation. All things were made through him.]

(Say:) "Let us read Colossians 1:17." (Ask one to read.)

(Ask:) "Who keeps everything working?" [Jesus.]

(Say:) "The Bible tells that Jesus has been with God from the beginning. If they are one person, it would have to be that way. He created the world and all authorities. Everything was created through him and for him. He keeps everything that was created functioning in order. Without his power, this creation would fall apart. He rules."

(Ask a student to read Colossians 1:18.)

(Ask:) "What is the most important part of the body?" [The head.] "Why?" (Listen for answers.) [It thinks, it leads the body,

it decides, etc.]

(Ask:) "What head and body is this verse talking about?" [Jesus and his church.]

(Say:) "So we can see that in God's plan Jesus is the head of the church." (Write on board: "head of the church.")

(Ask:) "Do you know God's most important creation? It is the church. The church is the most important of all creations because it was created at a great price. The blood of Jesus brought the church into being. All those who trust him as Saviour become part of his church. The church is a group of baptized believers who worship and serve the Lord. They are his body. It is through them that Jesus helps people."

(Say:) "The church was created to be set apart. It is God's plan for bringing the world to himself. It is the job of Christ's church to share the good news of Jesus with the people of the world."

(Say:) "Jesus is the head of this body. A body without a head is dead and can do nothing. So the church without submission to Jesus is dead. The church which responds to its head is alive. It does the things Jesus did when he walked the earth. You might say that he walks this earth through his body, the church."

(Say:) "Let us read Colossians 1:19-20." (Ask a student to read. Write on board: "the giver of life.")

(Say:) "All people who have given their lives to Jesus have died to the world and have been given new life in Jesus."

(Say:) "The Creator entered into his creation with the purpose of saving man. His highest creation, mankind, was doomed for destruction. But God had a plan to save men. A perfect man without sin had to die in the place of the sinners. Only God is perfect. Only if he himself became a man and died could mankind have a

chance. Then they could choose between life or death. It is by his blood that we can be saved."

(Ask:) "Can anyone of you quote John 3:16 or another verse which tells us this great truth?" (Give students time to respond. If none does, read John 3:16 or 3:36.)

(Ask:) "Is there anything else we need to be saved other than Jesus?" [No.] (Write on the board, "all we need.")

(Ask a student to read Colossians 2:8-10.)

(Ask:) "Why is Jesus all we need? Let us look at what we have written on the board." (Read each phrase under the heading, "Jesus Christ is....")

(Then say:) "Life comes from Jesus. He made all and he controls all. Everything we need comes from him. He is God's plan for our salvation. He brings us into a right relationship with God the Father."

(Say:) "He tells us to seek after his kingdom first. We should not worry about our physical needs. He provides for those who put him first."

(Say:) "If we abide in him, he cleanses us and makes us a new creation. With the help of his Holy Spirit, we become like he is. We have love, joy, self-control. We have the power and will to live as Jesus lived while he was here on earth. Jesus gives us new life and eternal life."

(Say:) "Truly, everything we need is in Jesus, our Creator, Saviour and Ruler. Do not let any person lead you astray with any other teaching. All truth about Jesus is in the Bible. Any other teaching is false. Jesus is all we need. Acts 4:12 says, 'And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.' This is God's plan. Jesus is the giver of life." (Close in prayer, thanking God for sending Jesus to save us.)

Things to Think About and Do

The verses which follow describe Jesus' life and work. What do we learn about God from Jesus' words or action?

Matthew 9:9-13 God loved sinners and came to save them.

Mark 4:35-41 God has all power.

Mark 10:32-34 God willingly suffered and gave his life to save us.

Luke 12:22-31 God is ready to take care of his children.

Luke 16:3-7 God loves us and seeks us.

John 6:35-40 God expects obedience. He will reward those who obey him.

John 11:22-27 God wants us to have life in him.

John 11:40-44 God has power over death.

Verses to Read This Week:

Sunday: John 1:1-8

Thursday: John 10:7-8

Monday: John 1:9-13

Friday: John 14:1-7

Tuesday: John 1:14-18

Saturday: Read your Bible study

Wednesday: John 10:1-6

lesson for this week.

Lesson 2: Christ, Our Model and Power

Background Scripture: Philippians 3-4

Verses in Today's Lesson: Philippians 3:4-17; 4:1, 4-8

Memory Verse: "That I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death" (Philippians 3:10).

Central Truth: Christ is our guide and power as we gain spiritual maturity.

Teaching Aim: For pupils to make a goal to be like Jesus.

Helps for the Teacher: Large paper and pen or chalk and chalk board. Write at the top: Paul's Goals.

Teaching the Lesson:

(Say:) "Have you ever worked hard to please someone you highly respected? In spite of all you have done, have you failed to please him? This is what happened to Paul. He worked hard to win God's favour, but everything he did was of no use."

(Say:) "Paul had two goals in life. He had to reach the first before he could go on to the second. If we accept these goals as ours, we also must reach the first before trying to reach the second. Paul's first goal was to be counted as righteous in the eyes of God."

(Write on board: "1. Right with God.")

(Say:) "Let us read Philippians 3:4-6 to see how Paul tried to do this." (Ask one to read these verses.) [By his works, religion, keeping the law.]

(Say:) "Paul wanted to be right with God. He learned his religion from his father. He did as his father had done. He was very religious. He tried to obey all the laws and rules he learned from priests. He followed Judaism as he believed he should. He criticized other faiths because he believed they were false. Christianity was one of those 'false religions' which he criticized. He was sure that if he put an end to this new faith in Jesus, he would please God, but Paul did not find peace with God that way."

(Ask:) "How did Paul find righteousness in the eyes of God? Let us read Philippians 3:7-11 to find out." [by faith in Jesus Christ] (Write "Faith" on board after "Right with God.")

(Say:) "Paul went to Damascus to imprison believers. Jesus appeared to him. Meeting Jesus completely changed Paul's life. He no longer depended upon what he himself could do. He said that all his education, religious activity and fame were as dung to him. Paul now depended upon Jesus' blood to make him right with God. He

wanted to know Jesus and the power of his resurrection. He wanted to become like Jesus."

(Say:) "Paul reached the first goal of his life. He became right with God through faith in Jesus Christ. Then he realized that now he had another goal. We find this goal in Philippians 3:13-14. I want half of you to read these verses to yourselves. The other half, please read 2 Corinthians 3:18." (Give students time to read. Then ask for them to state the goal: To become like Jesus.)

(Write on board: "2. To Be Like Jesus.")

(Say:) "This should be the goal of every person who has trusted Jesus as Saviour. No one on earth will ever become completely like Jesus, but that should be our goal. We call ourselves 'Christians.' This word means 'like Christ.' If we claim his name, we must be like him. Paul tells us what he was doing to reach the goal of becoming like Jesus. Let us read Philippians 3:12-16." (Let one read.)

(Say:) "All Paul's efforts were now aimed at becoming like Jesus. He would no longer be proud of his accomplishments. Nor would he worry about the harm he had done to Christians. He had been forgiven. He was set free from the past. He would move forward. Paul knew that we can expect God to show us where we are failing. He will show us if we want to know."

(Say:) "Verse 13 tells us three things Paul did. Someone read it while the rest of us listen carefully for them." [1. Realized that he had not reach his goal, 2. Forgot the past, 3. Pressed on to what lay ahead.]

(Say:) "Let us look at these three things. First, Paul realized that all his efforts had not helped him to reach his goal. This is important for us, too. We may feel proud that we are more mature

than someone else. No one should be proud. We are all far from being like Jesus. It is only God's mercy that saves us from our sin. It is his Holy Spirit who helps us grow."

(Say:) "Secondly, we must not let guilt about the past keep us from growing. Satan wants us to feel guilty because guilt takes away joy. Jesus' blood is enough to cover your sins. God sees us as righteous now. We need to accept his gift of grace and move on."

(Say:) "Finally, our eyes should be on Jesus. We should look toward a bright future with him. We should be ready to receive whatever is coming. It might be new understanding or growth in various ways. It might be new challenges or problems. Whatever it is, we can depend upon him to help us through it. We should see all our life situations as opportunities for growth. God wants us to develop as fully as we can."

(Say:) "Let us read verse 14 again." (Let one read.)

(Ask:) "What does Paul say he does?" [He presses on.]

(Say:) "Let us read verse 15 again." (Let one read.)

(Ask:) "What are we to do?" [Expect and want God to show us when we have stopped trying to be like Jesus.]

(Say:) "A humble person who wants to hear God will hear him. A proud person who does not want to be corrected might not hear him."

(Say:) "Let us read verse 16 again." (Ask one to read.)

(Ask:) "What does he say to do?" [hold true to what we have attained]

(Say:) "What does this mean? Let me use an example. You discover that God has given you the grace to be kind to an enemy. Later another enemy harms you. We should not forget what we learned earlier. God will be faithful to help us in this situation too."

(Say:) "Let us read verse 17."

(Ask:) "What did Paul do here?" [agreed to be an example]

(Say:) "Paul has already said he was not perfect. He realized that every Christian is being watched to see if Jesus makes a difference in his or her life. Although Paul was not perfect, he tried with all his might to be like Jesus. We should try as he did. We should not be ashamed for people to watch us. We should always be seeking to be like Jesus. Then we will be a good example to others as Paul was."

(Ask:) "Where does the power to become like Jesus come from?"
[God's Spirit who dwells in us]

(Say:) "This is the wonderful thing about Christianity. God gives us the power to do all that he asks. If we act in faith he will give us what we need to serve him."

(Say:) "Paul lists some ways in which God's power is released in our lives." (Ask a student to read Philippians 4:1, 4-8.)

(Say:) "I will read these verses again. Listen for the instructions." (Read them again. Have the pupils tell what they heard in the verses. Write them on the board under "2. To Be Like Jesus.") [A. Stand firm in the Lord, B. Rejoice in the Lord, C. Be patient, D. Remember the Lord is with us, E. Do not worry, pray, F. Control your thoughts.]

(Say:) "A person who is unsure about his future cannot rejoice. He worries. Our future is secure. No matter what happens to us, God is with us. By rejoicing we show confidence in our Father. By rejoicing we show that we are mature in our faith."

(Say:) "Instead of worrying, go to God about everything. God wants the best of us. When we present our requests to him, we can do so with thanksgiving. He will keep our hearts and minds in Jesus. We know we can depend on God. He is all we need."

(Say:) "There is both evil and good in this world. We often find ourselves thinking about the evil. Our hearts become heavy. We cannot praise God when dwelling upon evil. When we think about good, we can praise God very easily. Our faith becomes stronger. We feel happy and encourage others. We need to have our minds on Christ. We are to think about godly things."

(Say:) "Look at the goal, 'To Become like Jesus.' This is the goal for every Christian. I will read the plan Paul used. You decide what you need to work on." (Read the list slowly.)

(Say:) "We who have given our lives to Jesus stand before God as righteous. God's Spirit entered into our hearts to do special work. That work is to make us like Jesus. If we want to be like Jesus, we must let the Spirit work within us."

(Say:) "If we follow Paul's advice, we can experience God's power in our lives. He can help us overcome the past. He can help us live as he commands. He can help us move forward boldly."

(Say:) "Perhaps you have a problem of forgetting the past. You have asked God to forgive you, but you still feel guilty. Look at the list here and decided what will help you to forget the past. You might choose, 'Rejoice in the Lord,' and 'Control your thoughts.' If you can do those two things, God will help you forget your past sins. He will give the victory."

(Say:) "Jesus is our model. He gives us the power to be like him. We need to realize that we cannot save ourselves. We cannot be obedient by ourselves. We need to forget the past and set our minds on the future. We need to use the power of God's Holy Spirit to be like Jesus. He is ready to help us. We need only to decide to trust him." (Close in prayer for faith to act as God want us to.)

Things to Think about and Do

Read Philippians 2:3-11. Answer these questions:

1. How are we told to relate to others? In humility, putting them first.
2. Whose mind are we to have? The mind of Christ Jesus.
3. Which verses show us his mind and attitude? Verses 6-8.
4. How will God reward Jesus for his obedience? He will exalt him.

We can see here one secret to having God's blessing. We must humble ourselves before him in obedience. This is very hard for us because we are proud. But it is necessary in order to reach Paul's two goals. If we want to be "right with God" and to "be like Jesus," we must be humble before God and humankind.

Verses to Read This Week:

Sunday: Philippians 1:3-11	Thursday: Philippians 2:12-18
Monday: Philippians 1:27-30	Friday: Philippians 3:17-21
Tuesday: Philippians 2:1-5	Saturday: Read your Bible Study
Wednesday: Philippians 2:6-11	lesson for this week.

Lesson 3: The Body of Christ is Formed

Background Scripture: Ephesians 1-2

Verses Used in Today's Lesson: Ephesians 2

Memory Verse: "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not of your own doing, it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8).

Central Truth: The body of Christ is made up of believers who serve God in the unity of peace.

Teaching Aim: For pupils to understand that we become a part of Christ's body by the grace of God.

Help for the Teacher: Ask three students to help with the drama. As props you will need a notebook and a piece of paper for Mister B which says: "I have paid for this person's sins with my

blood. - Jesus Christ, Son of God." Give this to him before the play begins. Later you will need a six inch cross made of stiff paper with a small hole at the centre, three pieces of string, 9 pieces of paper one inch square with a hole in the middle of each. Write a word on each square: sin (write on three squares), status, education, money, physical beauty, illiteracy, poverty. String three squares on each string as if stringing beads. Include one paper which says "sin" on each string. (Save the cross, papers and string to use again in Lesson 13.)

Teaching the Lesson:

(Say:) "Today we are going to have a play called 'Judgement Day.' The characters are: the Judge, Mr. Z. and Mr. B. Let the play begin." (Judge enters as is customary in your area.)

Judge: "This is Judgement Day. All your deeds and thoughts are recorded in this book. You, Mr. Z, come forward. It says here that you have done many good things. You gave money to the poor. You taught the Bible." (He moves his finger down the page and stops.) "Too bad! You were jealous of your neighbour. I pronounce you guilty. You must pay with your life. Go over there to the left. That is where people going to hell stand." (Mr. Z wails and stands in the place of sinners.)

Judgement: "Mr. B, come here. Here it says that you helped your parents. You worked hard. You sang in the church choir." (He stops with his finger on a place.) "You are guilty. Go stand over there with that other sinner." (Mister B waves the pardon paper in front of judge)

Mr. B: "Look, Judge, look! My sins are paid for!" (Judge examines paper and reads it aloud.)

Judge: "Yes. It is true. Your sins are paid for. Go over there to the right. You go to heaven." (Mr. B rejoices.)

(Let students sit down.)

(Teacher say:) "Let us open our Bibles and read Ephesians 2:1-3."

(After reading, say:) "From these verses, we can see that humankind was without hope. We could do nothing to be right with God. We chose to follow the "prince of the power of the air" who is Satan. We had broken our relationship with God."

(Say:) "Let us read verses 4-9." (Ask one to read.)

(Say:) "While we were dead in our sin, God himself made a way for us to live. In verses 6 and 7 we see that he did more than make us free from the penalty of sin. What do these verses tell us that God has done for us?" (Read verses again.) [We have been raised up with Jesus. We will sit with him in heaven. He will reward us as he has rewarded Jesus.]

(Ask:) "How does a person receive these wonderful gifts?" [Repent from his sin. Accept them in faith.]

(Ask:) "What does repent mean?" [Be sorry for sins, turn away from evil and go the opposite direction.]

(Say:) "When we really repent, we leave our sin. We invite Jesus into our hearts. He lives there. He rules in our lives. In this way, we can stop doing the evil that we did before. Perhaps you have accepted Jesus as your Saviour but still have trouble with sin. This is because you are not letting Jesus rule in your life. When he rules, he keeps us from sin."

(Say:) "God has saved us. We can be sure of that. We are no longer dead in our sin. We are alive just as Jesus was alive after his crucifixion. We have the power to resist Satan. We can overcome evil with good. God's power lives within us. The power which raised Jesus from the dead is ours!"

(Say:) "Let us read verses 8 and 9 again. These are precious to every believer." (Ask one to read.)

(Say:) "This is truly good news! We deserved to die. Yet God chose to give us life. It is a gift. We can do nothing to save ourselves. None of our good works is good enough. Even so, God had a plan to save us. We are saved through his grace. Grace means 'undeserved love.' If we trust in his grace, we will be saved from our sin. It is a free gift for all who will take it. It is sad that many choose not to take it."

(Say:) "Let us read verse 10. Let us try to discover who we are and why we were created." (Ask one to read.) [We are God's workmanship, created for good works.]

(Say:) "We are not saved by works, but after we are saved, God has work for us to do. We are made new in Jesus for a purpose. He has planned that work just for us because each of us is very special to him. We are to be doing good works that God has prepared for us to do. Do you know what work God wants you to do?" (Give students time to respond.)

(Say:) "Let us read verses 11-12." (Ask one to read.)

(Say:) "God had chosen the Jews to be a blessing to all people of the earth. God gave them the law and the prophets. He wanted them to teach all people how to have peace with God. God's plan was to bless the whole world through his chosen people, the Jews."

(Say:) "They knew that a Saviour was coming. They were to share that knowledge with other people. Instead the Jews decided that God loved them and hated other people. They kept God to themselves."

(Say:) "The Jews were circumcised. This was a sign that they belonged to God. It made them different from others. They considered all other people to be unclean. They called them Gentiles and reminded them that they were uncircumcised. They hated anyone not of their nationality. This was not God's plan. It moved Gentiles farther away from God. It meant that they had no

hope. God wanted all people to come to him. He wanted all people to have the joy of salvation."

(Say:) "Let us read of God's wonderful plan for the Gentiles."
(Read verse 13.)

(Say:) "Now I want to show you what these verses mean to us."
(Hold up the cardboard cross.) "Here is a cross. This is a symbol of Jesus. The only way to come to the Father is through the cross. Jesus shed his blood there for us." (Hold up a string.) "This string represents a person. When we accept Jesus, we pass through the cross. The three papers will fall to the ground." (Hold up empty string.)

(Say:) "We can see that this 'person' left something behind as he passed through. Let us read the things this person left behind." (Pick up the papers and read them. Pass the other two strings through the cross. Read the papers left behind.)

(Say:) "God's grace is enough for all to pass through. Let us read verses 14-18." (Let one read.)

(Say:) "All walls that divided the Jews and the Gentiles were broken down by the blood of Jesus. The laws and commandments would no longer save either the Jew or the Gentile. They no longer had any power. Only through Jesus, through the cross, could people have peace with God."

(Place the strings together and hold them up. Say:) "We are one in Jesus. We are the 'new man.' We have each heard the gospel of peace. Through Jesus, we can all come to the Father." (Read verses 17-18 again.)

(Ask:) "When we meet another Christian, we often ask his denomination. If he is a Baptist, we are very happy. If he is Lutheran or from some other denomination, we may feel differently. We wonder if he is saved."

(Say:) "The Bible says that all saved people are 'one new man.'" (Read verse 15 again.)

(Hold up empty strings in one bunch. Say:) "Walls which separated us are broken down. Instead of asking about a person's denomination, we should ask a person if he has been saved. If he says that he has not been saved yet, we should explain salvation to him. We should try to break down the walls. If he says he has been saved, we should ask what is God doing in his life. We should rejoice with him. We are of the same body. We are 'the new man.' This is God's plan for his saved people."

(Ask:) "Are all Baptists saved?" [No.]

(Ask:) "Are all Lutherans saved?" [No.]

(Ask:) "Who is saved?" [He who has repented and lets Jesus rule in him.]

(Ask:) "So who is 'one new man' with you?" [Those of any denomination who are saved.]

(Say:) "I am a Baptist because I believe as a Baptist. I believe what Baptists teach about God's Word, the Bible. I believe what Baptists do to follow its teachings. But others besides Baptists are saved. Each believer has chosen his denomination for a reason. It is not up to us to judge them. We can worship together and serve God in the unity of peace. Do you agree?" (Let students discuss this. Help them if they have any questions.)

(Say:) "Let us read verses 19-22." (Ask one to read.)

(Ask:) "Paul pictures the church as a holy temple which is alive and growing. It is described as a united 'household.' All believers are living pieces in the structure. The whole structure depends upon Jesus. It is built upon him. He is the 'cornerstone.' It is in him that we have unity. It is in him that the building grows into a suitable place for God to dwell. The church is the 'new man.' The head is Jesus, and we are the body. Let us thank

God for our salvation. Let us thank him for our unity in him."

(Pray.)

Things to Think about and Do:

Think about these questions. Answer them as a prayer to God.

Have you repented of your sins? Do you have God's Spirit living in you? Do you let him rule? Are you doing the things which God has planned for you to do in his body? Is our church a suitable dwelling place for God's Spirit? Are we united? Do we have peace with one another? Do you rejoice with saved people of other denominations? Do you try to live in unity with them?

Verses to Read This Week:

Sunday: Ephesians 1:1-10

Thursday: 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Monday: Ephesians 1:11-15

Friday: 1 Corinthians 13:8-13

Tuesday: Ephesians 1:15-23

Saturday: Read your Bible Study

Wednesday: 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

lesson for this week.

Lesson 4: The Growing Church

Background Scripture: Ephesians 4:1-16

Verses in Today's Lesson: Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-16

Memory Verse: "...Speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ" (Ephesians 4:15).

Central Truth: The church grows as its members use their gifts to promote unity, truth and love.

Teaching Aim: For pupils to use their gifts to unite and build up the body of Christ.

Help for the Teacher: Chalk and chalk board

Teaching this Lesson:

(Write on board: 1. Jesus is all we need for life. 2. Goal: To be like Jesus. 3. The church is created. Review these three things

that we learned in the previous lessons.)

(Say:) "Today we will study the church, the body of Christ. The church is very important in our becoming like Jesus. We can change quickly as we work and fellowship in the church."

(Say:) "Let us read Ephesians 4:1-3."

(Say:) "No two people are alike. Each of us looks at things from our own point of view. In a church we need to maintain unity in the Spirit. In this way, we will please God and be the church he wants us to be. Let us look in verses 2 and 3 to see how to maintain unity." [by practising lowliness, meekness, patience, forbearance, love and by being eager to maintain unity]

(Ask:) "What is our calling? We are to grow and become like Jesus. We are to imitate his lowliness, meekness and patience. We are to live in unity with others in love and peace."

(Say:) "Jesus is our excellent example. He humbled himself. He was meek. That means that he was completely obedient to his Father. He did his Father's will with boldness. He was patient. People did not have to change before he loved them. He accepted them as they were."

(Say:) "We all come to the Father empty-handed. We have nothing to recommend us. Our tribe, race or social class mean nothing to God. All such divisions are worldly. They have no place in the body of Christ. All are one in Christ. We can only be proud of Jesus, nothing else. He has brought each of us peace with God."

(Say:) "In the church, people of many different backgrounds come together. In Christ's church, we are bound together in peace. Jesus broke down the walls of hostility. We all come to our Father through his blood. There is no room for pride in our background or past. Remember this."

(Ask:) "Who is responsible to maintain unity in the body?"

[members]

(Say:) "There are many differences. But the things that bind us together are stronger than the differences." (Write on board: "United in.")

(Say:) "Read verses 4-6 and tell me in what we are united."

(Write on the board: "body, Spirit, hope, Lord, faith, baptism, God and Father.")

(Say:) "Let us read verse 7." (Ask one to read.)

(Ask:) "Who gave gifts to men?" [Christ]

(Erase the board. Write on it: "Gifts of the Spirit.")

(Ask:) "Let us read verse 11. What gifts are listed here?"

(Write on board: apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers.)

(Say:) "These gifts come from God. To use each of these gifts, the person must study God's Word. As he studies, God gives understanding. He gives these gifted people the ability to share it with others. This is a great responsibility and privilege."

(Say:) "There are more gifts listed in 1 Corinthians, Romans, Ephesians and 1 Peter. In 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 Paul says that there are varieties of gifts. All are inspired by the Holy Spirit."

(Say:) "The following gifts are listed in 1 Corinthians 12 and Romans 12: wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, working miracles, prophecy, ability to distinguish between spirits, ability to speak in various kinds of tongues, ability to interpret the tongues, leadership, service, exhortation, giving, helping, mercy and hospitality. Paul listed these as examples. The Spirit may give other gifts, too. God has at least one gift for every Christian. We are to earnestly seek them." (List these gifts on the board.)

(Say:) "It is important that we understand why these gifts are given. Let us read verses 12 and 13. There are two purposes for

the gifts." (Ask one to read these verses.)

(Ask:) "What is the first purpose mentioned?" [to equip the saints for the work of ministry]

(Say:) "The first purpose of the gifts is to equip believers for the work of ministry in the church. God wants us to use our gifts to minister to others. This is the purpose of the church. Whatever gift he has given us, it should be used for others."

(Ask:) "What is the second purpose?" [to build the body to maturity in Christ]

(Say:) "The church is Christ's body in the world. Our goal is to become like Jesus. As we use our gifts, we reach this goal. We all grow when each person uses his gift. We become more united as we become more like Jesus. Maturity produces unity and unity is a sign of maturity."

(Say:) "Why should we want this unity? Let us read verses 14-16 to find out."

(Say:) "The first reason is so we can stand firm in our faith. Christians can be led astray. We can be led to believe false doctrines. Unity does not mean that we tolerate false doctrine. That does not bring unity. It does not honour Jesus. It leads people astray. The body should protect its members. If one goes astray, other Christians need to tell him the truth in a spirit of love. This can keep him from falling."

(Say:) "The second reason is that with unity we can help each other fulfil our calling to become like Jesus. God himself gives the ability to reach maturity through our spiritual gifts. When each of us is doing his part, the whole body grows and builds itself up in love. It is very important for each person to use his gift for the benefit of the body."

(Say:) "Let us look again at verse 16." (Read this verse

again.)

(Ask:) "What does Jesus do?" [gives the power to join us together] "What are we to be doing?" [working properly]

(Say:) "We are saved by grace, but our becoming like Jesus requires the work of both God and us. God wants us to be active in a church. This is part of his plan to help us grow. We become like Jesus more quickly in a church where each person is using his gifts."

(Point to the list of gifts. Say:) "The gifts are meant to help us help each other become more like Jesus. Let us look at them. Let us think about the gifts of the members of our class. What has someone in our class done to help you to be more like Jesus? How has he used his gift to build your faith?" (Let students think and respond. If none does, you mention something someone has done to help you.)

(Say:) "Sometimes others can see our spiritual gifts better than we can ourselves. Others who know us can help us know our gifts. Perhaps someone has helped you already to know your gift. Does anyone know his gift already?" (Let students respond. You can share your gift if you know it.)

(Ask:) "Who would like to know what their gift is?" (Encourage students to respond.)

(When one has responded, say:) "(So and so...) wants to know his gift. We need to help him. Look at the list. What do you think his gifts are?" (Wait for answers. Help students to help each other. If some are not well known or not saved, you need to explain that we cannot help them yet. Only believers are given spiritual gifts. You can use 10 minutes for this activity.)

(Say:) "If you do not know your gift, ask several people their opinion. You may need to show them this list. There are other gifts not listed. Anything that helps the body of Christ to grow

is a gift."

(Say:) "If you cannot identify your gift yet, you need to try to do all the things listed. Do not give up. They are all good things to do. If you continue to do each one, it will become evident which gift God has given you. Then you can use it happily and confidently in your church. Remember that the gifts are to be used in love to help others. They are to keep us unified. They are to help us become like Jesus." (Close in prayer.)

Things to Think About and Do

Read Romans 12:1-8. Answer these questions.

1. How are our bodies to be presented to God? (verse 1) as a living sacrifice
2. What words describe this sacrifice? (verse 1) holy and acceptable to God
3. Rather than being conformed to this world, what are we to be? (verse 2) transformed by the renewal of our mind
4. How are we to look at ourselves? (verse 3) not too highly, but soberly
5. Why is this important? (verses 4-5) because we are all part of the same body in Christ. There is no place for pride.
6. What gifts have been given to us? (verses 6-8) prophecy, service, teaching, exhortation, contribution, help, mercy.

Verses to Read This Week:

Sunday: Romans 12:3-8

Thursday: 1 Peter 4:1-6

Monday: 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

Friday: 1 Peter 4:7-11

Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 12:12-26

Saturday: Read your Bible

Wednesday: 1 Corinthians 12:27-31 study lesson for this week.

Lesson 5: The Living Church

Background Scripture: Ephesians 4:17-5:20

Verses in Today's Lesson: Ephesians 4:17-5:2

Memory Verse: "Put on the new nature, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness" (Ephesians 4:24).

Central Truth: As Christians live in a sinful world, they should live righteously as Jesus lived.

Teaching Aim: For pupils to decide to live a holy and virtuous life.

Help for the Teacher: For the drama you will need three people to help you. One will play God. Make a sign for him to wear which says "God." For the other two make small signs to put on them which say: "falsehood," "stealing," "evil talk," "bitterness," "anger," "slander." Make these signs dirty by rubbing them in the dirt. Attach these signs to these two with cellotape or pins. Make one clean set of signs which say, "truth," "work," "blessings," "tenderheartedness," "forgiveness," "kindness." Give these signs to "God." One student, "New Nature," will exchange his dirty signs for the clean ones. The other, "Old Nature," will stay as he is.

Teaching the Lesson:

(Write on board: "Christians are to be light in the darkness.")

(Say:) "In Matthew 22 we are told about a wedding feast. The king became very angry with one of the guests. He threw him out. He had not bothered to put on wedding clothing. This was very disrespectful to the bridegroom. It was a disgrace for the host."

(Say:) "One day, God will give a wedding feast for his son Jesus and his bride, the church. Will you be dressed properly?"

(Say:) "In Ephesians 4:12-24, Paul described life in his society. In our society, things are not much different. This is because time does not change man's sinful nature. Let us read

Ephesians 4:17-20. Let us try to see what we must not do any longer." (Ask one to read.) [We must not live as we used to do.]

(Say:) "Before we knew Christ, we lived in darkness. Paul says we cannot have Christ and live as the world lives. In Christ, we must be different from the world, just as Jesus himself was different."

(Ask a student to read verses 22-24.)

(Ask:) "What are we to do in verses 22, 23 and 24?" [verse 22 - Put off the old nature; verse 23 - Be renewed in the spirit of the mind; verse 24 - Put on the new nature.]

(Say:) "Jeremiah 29:13 tells us that the man who seeks God with all his heart will find him. If someone lives without God, it is because they have hardened their hearts. They have chosen darkness. Truth and spiritual things make no sense to them. Those who have opened their hearts and accepted Jesus find God. They can escape from the old nature. It is still with us, but God enables us to take it off. God shows us what we need to change in our lives. If we want to remove it, he helps us. We are 'reborn' with a new nature. Our new nature is created after the likeness of God. We begin to become like him. We are new people, a new creation with God's Spirit within us."

(Invite the two actors who are wearing the dirty signs to stand in front of the class. Ask "God" to stand to the side.)

(Say:) "Before us we see two people wearing things of the old nature. We have just read that we need to take off the old nature and put on the new. One of these is ready to take off the old nature. Look in verse 25. Tell New Nature one thing that he needs to take off." [falsehood]

(New Nature takes off the paper which says "falsehood." He hands it to God and says:) "Here, God, take this falsehood from

me. I do not want it." (God takes it.)

(Ask:) "What does verse 25 say that he should put on?" [truth]

(The student says:) "God, please give me the ability to speak the truth." (God hands New Nature the sign which says "truth" to replace the one removed.)

(Continue in this way helping New Nature through the remaining verses: take off "stealing," put on "work", take off "evil talk," put on "blessings", take off "bitterness," put on "tenderheartedness", take off "anger," put on "forgiveness", take off slander," put on kindness.")

(Say:) "New nature was saved, but he was still wearing things that belong to the world. How did he identify those things?" [by reading the Bible, by fellow Christians telling him in love]

(Say:) "The Bible is like a mirror. We look into it to see our condition. When we see that we are still wearing something that belongs to the world, we need to take it off immediately."

(Ask:) "What did New Nature do with the dirty things?" [He asked God to replace the old with the new.]

(Ask:) "Do you see that the things of the world are opposite the things of God's kingdom? New Nature can choose to put the dirty things back on, but they do make him ugly."

(Point to the two students and say:) "These two people started off looking the same, but now the difference is obvious. As a believer becomes more like Jesus, people see the difference."

(Old Nature asks New Nature:) "Why are you so different?"

(New Nature answers:) "I am no different than you except now God lives in me. It is his goodness that you see. He wants to live in you too. Do you want him too?"

(Old Nature answers:) "Yes! How?" (Actors sit down)

(Say:) "When we live as Jesus lived, we become light in a dark world. People will come to God because of us."

(Say:) "Being new people means renewing our minds. Our deeds will be different. Faith is meaningless if it does not change what we do. We are new people created in Christ Jesus for good works. We are in God's kingdom. We need to put aside the old. We need to choose to wear the new."

(Ask someone to read Ephesians 5:1-2. Say:) "We are to imitate God. We see him most clearly in Jesus. We must study our Bible to know him better. We must change our thinking to agree with God. We need to change what we do. We need to live as Jesus did. We need to be ready to walk in sacrificial love as he did. We need to be ready to give up ourselves and our desires for the sake of others. To do this we must keep our eyes on him. We must see him as he is. We must want to be like him. As we take off the old nature and put on the new, we become more like him. Let us be dressed in our beautiful new nature. We want to be ready for our wedding feast."

(Ask:) "Are the things listed in verses 25-32 the only evil things we need to take off?" [No. They are examples.]

(Ask:) "What must we do to take off the old and put on the new?" [Ask God to take it and to give us the power to do the opposite.]

(Say:) "Let us look at an example of how this happens."

(Write this on the chalk board:)

1. Stealing
2. "I will not steal"
3. working in order
to give to needy

(Read verse 28 again. Say:) "Look at the board. The thief started out in position #1. What does the verse say he should do?"
{Work in order to give to those in need.}

(Say:) "He must go all the way from position #1 to #3. If he stops at #2 he is in danger. In this position, he still loves

things. He has decided to work for them rather than steal them, but he has not really changed his mind or heart. He still loves things most of all. Satan has not been defeated. He will wait and then tempt him. He will probably fall because things are still the most important thing to him."

(Say:) "Look at the man at #3. What is he doing with his money and things?" [He is giving them away to those in need.]

(Say:) "He has really changed. He no longer steals. He does not work in order to buy things for himself. He works so he can help others. That is the reason for his working. He, of course, must have what he needs, but he is more interested in giving to needy people than getting nice things for himself."

(Say:) "In position #3 Satan has been defeated. It will be difficult for him to make this man steal again. When a person repents of something, it means more than to be sorry for his sin. It means to do the opposite. It means to make doing the opposite a habit in our lives."

(Say:) "We are the church. Jesus wants us to use the church to bring all people to him. They will come when they truly see Jesus in our lives. They will come when they see his power to change us. We must decide to take off the old. We must receive the new from God and wear it. In this way, we will build the body of Christ on earth. In this way, we will draw people to Jesus. We will be his body 'walking in love' on this earth."

(Close in prayer asking for God's help to do what we learned today.)

Things to Think About and Do:

What of your old nature do you need to take off? What should you put on in its place? List these:

Take off

Put on

Remember that you can not change yourself. You must go to God. Give him the old and ask for the power to do good. Then go ahead and do it!

Verses to Read This Week:

Sunday: Galatians 5:16-21

Thursday: Colossians 3:5-11

Monday: Galatians 5:22-26

Friday: Colossians 3:12-17

Tuesday: Romans 7:15-20

Saturday: Read your Bible

study

Wednesday: Romans 8:1-4, 37-39

lesson for this

week.

Lesson 6: The Church Divided

Background Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1-4

Scripture Used in Today's Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:10-13; 3:1-

21a

Memory Verse: "For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 3:11).

Central Truth: The united church is built on Jesus Christ. Members work together to serve him.

Teaching Aim: Pupils should realize that for unity in the church, all must focus on Jesus Christ.

Help for the Teacher: Chalk board and chalk or paper and pen. Before class write this chart on the large piece of paper or chalk board:

Take Off

Put On

adoration of men

adoration of Jesus

evil words

words that strengthen

strife

unity and peace

jealousy

desire well-being of others

Teaching the Lesson:

(Review the Central Truths of lessons 1-5.)

(Say:) "Some churches are alive. You can feel the presence of God in them. Others are cold and dead. What makes the difference?"

(Ask student to read 1 Corinthians 1:10-13.)

(Ask:) "What was the problem in this church?" [They were divided by their loyalty to various leaders.]

(Say:) "They had taken their eyes off Jesus. Instead, they were looking to men. Some were loyal to one man; some another. The body of Christ was divided by mixed loyalty. Paul wanted them to be united and have the same spiritual purpose. Their loyalty should have been to Jesus. Only Jesus is worthy of worship and praise. Only Jesus died for our sins."

(Say:) "Unity in the church is created by keeping our minds on the cross. Remember the illustration of passing through the cross in lesson 3. We enter God's kingdom with nothing except our spirit which has been redeemed by Jesus. Nothing else matters or helps."

(Read 1 Corinthians 3:1-4.)

(Say:) "Paul taught the believers at Corinth the basic lessons of their new faith. What do you think Paul taught them first? What is the first thing a person needs to know?" [how to be saved: repent of sins and accept Jesus as Saviour and Lord] (Write on board: 1. Repent, 2. Invite Jesus in as Saviour and Lord.)

(Say:) "When Paul first taught them, they were spiritual babies. They could only be taught the basic lessons of the

kingdom, but time had passed. They should have grown. They should have been able to understand more difficult truths. Look at verse 3. What are they doing?" [Arguing with each other and showing jealousy.]

(Say:) "They still have not learned to live their salvation."

(Point to #1. on board. Say:) "They have not changed their ways. They are still selfish and worldly. True repentance means a complete change of direction." (Point #2. Say:) "They are not letting Jesus rule in their lives or in their church. Their arguing shows that he is not really Lord."

(Say:) "The Corinthian Christians had not learned to live the basics. They could not learn more until they decided to truly repent and make Jesus Lord. Until then, their actions would be no different from actions of the people of the world."

(Say:) "Remember the illustration in our last lesson. The Christian took off the old nature and put on the new. Bit by bit, he changed the evil for the good. He became more and more like Jesus. The Corinthians were still living according to their old nature. How do we know that?" [They had strife and jealousy in their church.]

(Say:) "In Lesson 2 we discussed Paul's goal in life. What was his goal?" [to be like Jesus]

(Ask:) "Were the Corinthians working toward this goal?" [No, they were arguing and fighting among each other.]

(Ask:) "What were they striving for?" [to make their favourite leader the greatest in the church, to be on the "best team"]

(Ask:) "What old nature do they need to take off? What do they need to put on? Let us look at this chart to see." (Show the class the chart mentioned in "Helps for the Teacher" which you have prepared. Read it together.)

(Say:) "The Corinthians still had to learn to live the basic

truths of their salvation. They had to learn that a Christian has to stop certain behaviours. They have to begin to live as Jesus taught. They needed to begin to live their faith. They could not be taught more until they did."

(Ask a student to read 1 Corinthians 3:5-9.)

(Ask:) "In verse 9, what does Paul say the church is?" [God's field, God's building]

(Ask:) "What does Paul say he is?" [a fellow worker]

(Say:) "In verses 6-7 we see how we are like a field. The seed is God's Word planted within our hearts. Teachers help us understand it. They are the ones who water. What is planted should grow and produce fruit."

(Say:) "God has given us different gifts to help us grow. Paul's main gifts were evangelism and teaching the basics of the Christian faith. He planted the seeds. What did Apollos do? Look at verse 6." [He gave further teaching and guidance. He watered the plants.]

(Say:) "The Church is like a field - God's field. God has field-workers. Some plant and some water. Neither one's work can be complete without the other. Paul points out in verse 7 that really neither of these is important. It is God who causes the miracle of growth. Even so, verse 8 tells us that God will pay all his workers according to how well they do their jobs. God values the work we do for him."

(Say:) "Each of us has spiritual gifts to use in the church. All spiritual gifts are given to build up the body of Christ. Some are teachers, others are pastors, others give service. We learned in lesson four that all believers are given gifts to build the body of Christ on earth. We are stewards of these gifts. We are to use them in love. They are for helping others to become like

Jesus. We are all fellow-workers in God's field. None of us is more important than another. Our work is assigned to us by God. We are working together to reach our goal, to become like Jesus. If all are obediently using the gifts they have been given, all are of equal value."

(Say:) "Verse 9 also says that the church is God's building. In the power of God, Paul laid a solid foundation. What is that foundation?" [Jesus]

(Say:) "In Lesson 3, we learned that Paul described the church as a living temple. Jesus was the cornerstone - the most important part. The foundation was the teaching of the apostles and prophets. They proclaimed the Word of God, on which the foundation was laid. Jesus is the Word of God come to dwell among men. Without Jesus the building cannot stand. Without Jesus, the church does not exist. God has entrusted men to build his church. He has given them spiritual gifts in order to build it."

(Ask a student to read 1 Corinthians 3:10-15.)

(Read verses 12 and 13 again. Say:) "What does it mean to build with silver, gold and precious stones?" (Let students respond.) [Building with things that are eternal and of God.]

(Ask:) "What would cause a man to build with things that burn up in Judgement Day?" (Listen to answers.) [not knowing God's Word, selfish ambition, pride, jealousy]

(Ask:) "Can such a person enter heaven? Look at verse 15." [Yes, but he will receive no reward. He will barely pass through the fire.]

(Say:) "Perhaps he will still smell like smoke! At any rate, his work will be known. Each believer's work will be tested on Judgement Day, but it will also be tested now. Satan is trying to destroy the church. He does this by causing divisions and arguments. He does this by tempting people to follow him instead

of Jesus. We can save the church by building it with God's Word and pure hearts. We can build it by using our spiritual gifts."

(Say:) "The church is also God's temple." (Read verses 16-17.)

(Say:) "God's church is holy. His Spirit lives in it. What is God's warning to the person who destroys it?" [God will destroy him.]

(Read verses 18-21a. Ask:) "How does a person destroy the church?" [by using the wisdom of this world in the church]

(Read 1 Corinthians 1:10 again. Say:) "What does Paul want the church to do?" [Agree. Have the same mind and judgement.]

(Say:) "God's church is holy. His Spirit lives in us. When we are functioning together in his Spirit, his presence becomes very evident. Unbelievers can then see that Jesus is real."

(Say:) "God loves his church. He gave himself for it. He wants it to work as his body in the world. He wants it set apart as his holy temple. A church which is divided cannot function as God's holy temple. We must keep our unity by being loyal only to Jesus. For a church to be able to do this, each member must have the same goal."

(Point to #1 and #2 on the board. Say:) "Each member must have truly repented and be living his salvation. If we all have this same goal, we will speak truth in love. We will give Jesus and his kingdom first place. We will build up the body of Jesus. We will judge all things according to Jesus."

Things to Think About and Do:

Read 2 Corinthians 4:2 and James 1:13-18. Read the words below and put a "W" by those which come from worldly wisdom. Put a "G" by those which come from godly wisdom.

craftiness

pure

peaceable
cheating
open to reason
boastful
doubt God's Word
selfish ambition
gentle
false
jealousy
full of mercy
good fruits
sincere

Check yourself. Do you act in worldly or godly wisdom? Consider your church. Are you building your church, or are you destroying it? Is something dividing it? What can you do to help bring unity?

Verses to Read This Week:

Sunday: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 Thursday: 1 Corinthians 4:1-13
Monday: 1 Corinthians 1:10-17 Friday: 1 Corinthians 4:14-21
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 1:17-31 Saturday: Read your Bible study
Wednesday: 1 Corinthians 2:1-16 lesson for this week.

Lesson 7: Sin Weakens the Church

Background Scripture: 1 Corinthians 5-6

Verses in Today's Lesson: 1 Corinthians 5:1-2, 9-13; 6:13-20

Memory Verse: "...You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your Body" (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

Central Truth: Sin weakens the church. We should glorify God with our bodies.

Teaching Aim: For pupils to realize the seriousness of immorality.

Help for the Teacher: Thorns, chalk board and chalk or paper and pen

Teaching the Lesson:

(Give a thorn to each person. Discuss Jesus' suffering for our sakes. Mention that he was beaten with a whip, slapped in the face and spat upon, hurt by thorns which were pushed into his head, hurt by the nails in his hands and feet, etc.)

(Say:) "Press the thorn into your palm until it hurts. This shows us only a tiny amount of the pain which Jesus suffered for us. Jesus paid for our sins with his life. What would have happened to us if Jesus had not done this?" [eternal separation from God, suffering in hell]

(Say:) "His sacrifice brings us salvation if we accept it. The choice is ours. We accept Jesus or continue to follow Satan. If we accept Jesus we must agree that he has bought us. We have no right to rule ourselves. We come to an agreement with God. This agreement is called 'new testament' or 'covenant.'

(Ask a student to read 1 Corinthians 5:1-2. Say:) "In the last lesson we saw that the church at Corinth was busy boasting about their leaders. While they were boasting, they were accepting immorality in their church. People knew about it and had talked about it. They had admitted to each other that it was an evil thing. They thought that was enough. They did not approve of it, but they had done nothing about it. They did not want to deal with it."

(Say:) "Paul told them that they were completely wrong. They were boasting without reason. They thought they were very spiritual people. They were proud of themselves. They should have been mourning about the evil within their church. They should not have tolerated a person like that in their fellowship. They had

nothing to be proud about."

(Ask a student to read 1 Corinthians 6:13-20. Read verses 13, 15a, 17, and 19 a second time.)

(Ask:) "Why are our bodies important to Jesus?" [His Spirit lives in them.] "What does he want to do with our bodies?" [We are to do God's good deeds with our bodies.]

(Say:) "When Jesus was on earth, he was in one body. Jesus could be in only one place at a time."

(Draw a figure on the board)

(Ask:) "Since Jesus sent us the Holy Spirit, God lives in believers. Now God has many bodies doing his work on earth."

(Draw many figures on the board to represent many believers)

(Say:) "See what an amazing plan God has. His truth and love can be all over the earth. These bodies are to be doing God's work. We are part of this group." (Read Ephesians 2:10.)

(Say:) "Imagine that you were fighting in a war. One night you sneaked outside of your camp and threw a bomb into your own camp. Many men were killed and injured. Who did you help?" [the enemy]

(Write on board:

Jesus' Kingdom

Satan's kingdom

Draw a line separating them.)

(Say:) "These two kingdoms are at war. When a Christian sins, it is like he has thrown a bomb into his own camp."

(Draw an explosion in Jesus' kingdom.)

(See art sheet)

(Say:) "Other people get hurt."

(Say:) "The sinful man in the Corinthian church did just that by his sin. What effect do you think that it had on the church and its members?" [Weak Christians would think that this man's behaviour was fine for a Christian. They would not learn that Christians must be different.]

(Ask:) "What effect do you think it had on the community?" [People would scorn the church. They would say that Jesus has no power to change lives.]

(Ask:) "Is morality in the church important? Is it important to the growth of God's kingdom on earth?" (Point to board.)

(Ask:) "What were the people in the Corinthian church doing about the sin in their church?" [Nothing. They just talked about it quietly.]

(Say:) "In the last lesson we learned that they were concerned about who was the greatest of their leaders. They were boastful and proud. They thought that they were a good church. What should they have been doing?" [mourning]

(Read 1 Corinthians 5:9-13.)

(Say:) "Everyday we associate with immoral people of the world. There is no way to live without doing so. We could never bring anyone to Jesus if we isolated ourselves. We live in the world. We are to be different as we live there. In this way, we show others the love and power of God."

(Say:) "The situation in this passage of Scripture is different. Paul said that we are not to associate with a person who claims to love Jesus and yet is immoral. Paul's list of those we should avoid includes: the immoral, the greedy, those who worship idols, the reviler, drunkard or robber. This is a list of examples. There are other kinds of sin which all Christians should avoid. Why? He disgraces the name of Jesus when he commits them."

He grieves the Holy Spirit. He keeps others from coming into God's kingdom and being saved from hell."

(Say:) "We are to help those within the church to see and understand their sin. Paul says we should 'judge' them. If they do not repent, then they should be removed. To allow them to stay in the church brings shame to the name of Jesus and to the church. Each member must understand that to be a part of Christ's body, each must be obedient to Christ. Those who wilfully disobey and refuse to repent, cannot be a part of his body."

(Ask:) "Who are we to help recognize their sin?" [We are to help those who call themselves Christians and are a part of the Body of Christ.]

(Say:) "Whenever we have to do this, we are to do it like our Father does. He is love. He comes to man in love. He has proven it by sending Jesus for our sakes. So we should go to our brother in love. Our purpose is to help him. We want him to repent. This is our first intention."

(Ask:) "How do you think we should approach a church member who we know is sinning?" (Let students share their ideas.)

(Say:) "You must be willing to do what you can to help him to resist temptation. This might take time on your part. He might need to move house. You will need to help him. He will need someone to pray and read the Bible with him often. You should be ready to do whatever is needed."

(Say:) "But we must remember. If our brother refuses to repent and change his ways, we will have to ask him to leave the church. God is holy. He cannot accept sin. This is not easy, but what does the Bible say we must do?" (Read verse 13 again.) [Drive him from the church.]

(Ask:) "Why do you think this should be done?" [Because the

Bible says it should. Christ's body must be holy.]

(Ask:) "Why is it important to not even sit down to eat with him?" [People outside the church need to see that you have broken fellowship with him.]

(Ask:) "What will happen to a church if we do not confront the immoral people who are members?" [People will say Jesus makes no difference in one's life. Christians within the church who are being tempted will be discouraged. Christians will be ashamed of their church. The Holy Spirit cannot do great work there. God will not bless the church.]

(Ask a student to read again 1 Corinthians 6:13-20. Say:) "Our bodies are meant for the Lord. His Holy Spirit lives within us. We are to be doing God's Work with our bodies. We have been bought with the price of Jesus' blood. We have no right to give our bodies to sin. When we do that, we take them away from Jesus and give them to Satan to use. We belong to Jesus. He has the right to rule us. We are to use our bodies to do his work. If we choose to give our bodies to Satan, we cannot be a part of the Body of Christ. If our brothers or sisters in the church choose to do this we should help them. If they are ready to repent, we should be as ready as God is to receive them. But if they will not agree that they are sinning and turn from it, they must be asked to leave the church."

(Say:) "Let us look at our church. Do we know of immorality within it? If so, what are we doing about it? Are we acting like the people of Corinth did or as the Bible demands?" (Let students discuss these questions. If there is a problem in your church help students decide what they should do about it.)

(Say:) "This is a very serious matter. Sin is a problem in many churches. Let us remember that we cannot please God or receive his blessing if we live in sin. Let us pray for our church. Let us

pray that God will show us our sin and make us clean. That way, we can bring glory to his name and he can bless us."

Things to Think About and Do:

Read Matthew 18:15-17.

What are we to do if a brother or sins against us? Go to him and tell him his fault.

If he does not listen to us what should we do? Take one or two others with you when you go to speak with him a second time.

Why should we do that? So that every word may be confirmed by witnesses.

If he still does not listen what must we do? Tell the situation to the whole church.

If he still does not listen what must we do? Consider him as a lost person. Try to bring him to faith in Christ.

Verses to Read This Week:

Sunday: 1 Corinthians 5:1-5	Thursday: 1 Corinthians 6:12-19
Monday: 1 Corinthians 5:6-8	Friday: Matthew 18:15-20
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 6:1-6	Saturday: Read your Bible study
Wednesday: 1 Corinthians 6:9-11	lesson for this week.

Lesson 8: The Church and the World

Background Scripture: 1 Corinthians 8:1-11:1

Verses Used in Today's Lesson: 1 Corinthians 10:6-14, 23-24, 31- 33; 11:1

Memory Verse: "So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31).

Central Truth: Christians should obey God and not the customs of the world.

Teaching Aim: The students should learn to judge whether their customs are godly or worldly.

Help for the Teacher: On a chalk board or paper, draw a road that divides into a fork. Make a signpost with the word CHRIST and an arrow pointing one way. Below it, write the word CULTURE with an arrow pointing the other way. Under the drawing write:

(See art sheet)

"Sometimes a Christian must choose!"

Teaching the Lesson:

(Say:) "The rains were late. The village elders decided to call in rainmakers. All members of the village were required to participate. Abraham was a Christian who lived in this village. What should he do?"

(Say:) "Sometimes the customs of our culture put us in a difficult situation. We must decide which customs we can follow and those we cannot." (Show the class the illustration of the forked road.)

(Say:) "This lesson should help us learn how to make wise choices."

(Say:) "In 1 Corinthians 10, Paul used the Israelites in the wilderness as an example and warning to the Corinthian church. God had blessed them by delivering them from slavery, but they displeased God by their rebellion and immorality while in the wilderness."

(Read 1 Corinthians 10:6-10. Ask:) "What are the sins Paul warned the Christians not to commit?" (As they name them, write them on the board:) [desire evil things, idolatry immorality,

putting the Lord to the test, grumbling]

(Say:) "Paul was concerned with idolatry. Most of the time we think of idols as objects which are worshipped. A person prays to an idol because he believes that it has power to give him what he wants. But in Ephesians 5:5, Paul says that a covetous person is an idolater. To covet means to want what we do not have. Anything that a person wants very much may become an idol to him. It has his devotion. It becomes the most important thing in his life. It is easy for us to make an idol of something that we want. What are some things we can worship today?" (Let students respond.) [power, money, education, children, job, etc.]

(Say:) "Paul was also concerned about immorality. Corinth was a centre for Greek worship. The Greeks worshipped idols. When they worshipped it was customary to over-eat, drink until they became drunk, and fornicate freely. Paul warned them against this behaviour."

(Say:) "Paul reminded the Corinthians that the Israelites were punished for putting '...the Lord to the test...' (verse 9). This means they doubted God's power and love. They accused him of leading them to the wilderness to die. They accused him of not loving them when they met with trouble. It is possible that the Corinthians were guilty of doing this, too. Christians in those times had to live with persecution. Perhaps the Corinthians felt God did not love them because they had problems. This is a very immature way to look at life. God allows hardship to come into our lives. They usually do one of two things. They can make us fall. This is not God's purpose. He wants us to trust him. Then hardships can make us strong as our faith grows. God wants to purify us by testing our faith in hard times."

(Say:) "Finally Paul told the Corinthians, 'Do not complain!'

The Israelites complained about everything. For generations they had prayed for God to save them. When he did, they complained about the discomfort of crossing the wilderness. Because of their complaints, most of them never got out of the wilderness and into the Promised Land."

(Ask:) "Paul warned them about idolatry, immorality, doubt and complaining. Do we face situations today which would cause a Christian to be tempted to commit these same sins?" (Name each and wait for answers for each sin.)

(Say:) "We are tempted to do these sins, are we not? But Paul had good news for the Corinthians and good news for us today!"

(Read verses 11-13.)

(Say:) "Paul used the Israelites to remind us of how God works in the lives of his people. He always warns us and tries to bring us back. This is what he did to them. He recorded their history for us so we can read it and pay attention. He does not want us to suffer as they did."

(Say:) "Some of the people in Corinth had not committed those four sins. Paul warned them not to be proud. Pride is the worst of sins. It makes people feel that they have no need to repent. We, too, may feel proud because we do not have trouble with these sins. What does Paul warn in verse 12?" [If we trust ourselves and are proud, we will fall.]

(Say:) "We need to realize that our strength to do right comes from Jesus. Without his help, we would all fall into sin."

(Ask:) "What has God guaranteed when we are tempted?" [He will not allow us to be tempted more than we can bear. He will give us a way out.]

(Say:) "Everyone faces temptation, but no one is ever tempted beyond what he can resist. God enables the Christian to withstand the pressure of temptation. Often he provides an escape from it."

We need to thank God for the way of escape and take it. We need to hate sin as much as God does."

(Ask:) "In verse 14, what advice does Paul give us about idolatry?" [Shun it.]

(Say:) "This is good advice about all temptations. We need to turn away from sin. We need to agree with God about what is right and wrong. We need to understand that God is holy and demands that we be holy, too."

(Say:) "Let us read 1 Corinthians 10:23-24." (Ask one to read.)

(Say:) "Paul says here, 'All things are lawful.' He was not talking about sin here. He was talking about what we can eat and drink. In Paul's day, people gave offerings of food to their gods. There was nothing wrong with the food. A person could eat it safely. But some Christians felt the food was defiled. They believed it had been made unclean because it had been offered to an idol. Paul did not agree, but he thought people were more important than any food. If a Christian was told that a certain food had been offered to a god, he should not eat it. To this person, he would be participating in worship of an idol if he ate the food. Therefore, although the food is still clean, he should not eat it. The person who told him about it is more important than the food. No Christian wants another to stumble because of his actions. We should all use our freedom with love."

(Read 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1. Say:) "Freedom is a wonderful thing. Yet one can use his freedom in a way which harms others. As we have seen, some customs are against God. Those we must reject. We must not participate in them. Yet there are others that are not harmful. They might even be good. Each of us is a part of a group or tribe. We should try to be a good member of the group. This means that we will observe the customs which we can. No good comes

from rebelling against customs which are harmless. To do so hurts and offends people. No offended person will listen to your message about Jesus."

(Say:) "So how do we know which customs are acceptable to God and which are not? The way to know about customs is to answer two questions about them: First, does this glorify God? If so, do it! The purpose of the Christian is to glorify God. The most important commandment is to love God with all one's heart, soul, and strength."

(Ask:) "What is the second greatest commandment?" [Love your neighbour as yourself.]

(Say:) "So the second thing to ask is: If I do this, could it cause someone to stumble? If so, do not do it! We should obey the commandment to love our neighbour. We must help him to stand. We want to build him up, not cause him to fall."

(Say:) "Eating meat is not a sin to me, yet it would be a sin for some people to eat meat. How do you think that can be?" (Wait for an answer. If there is none, explain.)

(Say:) "If a person thinks something is a sin, then it is a sin for him to do it. Even if a person is not sure about something, it is a sin for him to do it. If he does it, he is doing something that he thinks might be a sin. Therefore, he is willing to sin against God. This makes it sin."

(Ask:) "This relates to our second question to test our behaviour. We might encourage a person to do something that he thinks is a sin. Perhaps we know it is not sin, but for him it is sin. Therefore, by insisting that he do it, we might cause him to stumble. It is a sin for me to cause someone else to sin." (Read 1 Corinthians 11:1 again.)

(Say:) "People watch us. They want to see if we do what we claim to do. They want to see if Jesus has power in our lives. We

are good examples only if we are following Jesus. If we remember to do only what brings glory to God and what is helpful to others, we will be obedient."

(Say:) "Think of two people who may be watching you and using you as a guide. Be specific. Think of names of children, grandchildren, students or friends. Think about what kind of example you have been this last week. Think of ways to be a better example." (Let any student who wants to share his thoughts. You may share yours, too.)

(Close in prayer asking God to help you be a good witness. Ask him to help you remember the way to choose right from wrong.)

Things to Think about and Do:

Use the two questions about customs and actions to decide what should be done in the following situations.

1. Sarah is a Christian. Because of family troubles at the time of her birth, her father's family put a curse on her to die at the age of 22 years. They now want to remove the curse. They have told her to come to their home for the ceremony. What should she do?

2. You attend a wedding. Alcoholic drinks are served. What should you do?

Verses to Read This Week:

Sunday: 1 Corinthians 10:1-5

Thursday: Romans 6:5-14

Monday: 1 Corinthians 10:14-22

Friday: Romans 6:12-23

Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 10:23-30

Saturday: Read your Bible

Wednesday: Romans 6:1-4

study lesson for this week.

Lesson 9: Leaders in the Church

Background Scripture: 2 Corinthians 3; 4; 11; Titus 1:5-9

Verses Used in Today's Lesson: 2 Corinthians 3:4-6; 4:1-12;

Titus 1:6-9

Memory Verse: "For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus sake" (2 Corinthians 4:5).

Central Truth: Leaders are humble servants who seek to point people to Christ.

Teaching Aim: Pupils should understand the biblical qualifications of a church leader.

Teaching Aids: Before class begins, write the list of spiritual gifts from Lesson 4 on paper large enough for all to see and read; bring a teacup and tea, write the words: "A true church leader is:" on the board or large paper.

(Say:) "Can you tell me what qualities you think are necessary to make a true church leader?" (Wait for answers.)

(Say:) "Today we will study what the Bible teaches about good church leaders." (Ask a student to read 2 Corinthians 3:4-6.)

(Ask:) "Who gives the necessary abilities to those chosen to be ministers?" [God gave them spiritual gifts.]

(Ask:) "How did God make them competent to be ministers?" [God gives the competence by his Spirit.]

(Say:) "In Lesson 4, we studied the gifts of the Spirit. Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers are usually considered to be the leaders in our churches. Those serving in these roles have been given the gifts to do so. These gifts are given to equip others, to build up the body of Christ. God chooses whom he wants to be the pastor. He chooses whom he wants to be teachers. He chooses them by the gifts that he gives them."

(Say:) "God has already prepared good works for each believer to do. He has everything ready - the plan and the power." (Show students the list of gifts which you have written on paper.)

(Say:) "God empowers his people with gifts to minister to others. What gifts are important for leaders of a church?" (Let

them look at the list for answers.)

(Say:) "So God chooses the leader by what gifts he gives to believers. God-chosen leaders are necessary to avoid problems in the church."

(Say:) "Let us look in 2 Corinthians 4. It tells us the characteristics of a true church leader." (Ask one to read verse 1).

(Say:) "It says 'We do not lose heart.' In other words, it says 'We are ready to work.'" (Write under A true church leader is: "Ready to work.")

(Ask:) "Why is a true leader always ready?" [Because it is God's work, God provides what is needed. For this reason he rejoices even when the work seems difficult.]

(Read verse 2. Ask:) "What is the characteristic named here?" [He proclaims God's Words openly, honestly and correctly. (Write on board: "Proclaims God's Word correctly.")

(Ask:) "Why is this important?" [So people will see that it is honourable. They will believe it.] (Ask one to read verses 3-6.)

(Ask:) "What is the characteristic named here?" [He preaches Jesus Christ as Lord and himself as his servant.] (Write on board: "He preaches Jesus Christ." "Recognizes his own work as a servant.")

(Say:) "Spiritual leaders are servants. They are working for the sake of Jesus Christ. They have denied themselves. They understand that Jesus is man's only hope. It is only in and through Jesus that we have wisdom. True leaders preach Jesus. They do not preach about themselves."

(Say:) "The servant-leader works for the benefit of other people. Jesus is our example in this. He humbled himself to save us. He was a servant for our benefit. He died to save us. We

cannot be greater than he."

(Ask one to read verses 7-12.)

(Ask:) "What is the characteristic named here?" [He is willing to endure hardship to carry out the work he is called to do.]

(Write on board: "Willingly endures hardship.")

(Say:) "In our weakness, God's power is strong."

(Read verse 13. Then ask:) "What is the characteristic mentioned here?" [He must speak about what he believes.] (Write on board: "Must speak about his faith." Review the whole list on board.)

(Say:) "At this time, Paul himself was close to death. He had given up his 'safe' life so others could gain real life. Jesus taught that real life means we must die to this life. Paul had died to self and gained eternal life. He was God's servant. God called him to suffer much so others could gain life."

(Say:) "Consider us human beings. We live a short time. Our health declines. Physical death is working within us. Our bodies are not eternal. They belong to this earth and this time. Our weak bodies emphasize the power of the Spirit of God within us. God's power is eternal. It is not like our earthly power. When we have Jesus in our lives we carry the treasure of the Holy Spirit in our weak bodies."

(Say:) "Because only the things of the Spirit are eternal we should concern ourselves with spiritual things. We should work for the eternal. We should be ready to suffer for others to gain eternal life."

(Say:) "Let us look at verse 7 again." (Read it. Show the students a teacup.)

(Ask:) "Why is this cup important to us?" [It holds tea for us.]

(Say:) "This cup is important because it holds tea. The tea in

it makes it important. If there is no tea, the cup is of no use. How are we like the teacup? We are important when we serve as a cup which gives the drink of living water to others."

(Ask a student to read verses 8, 9 and 10 again.)

(Say:) "Paul and the other leaders were persecuted. Persevering in persecution proves that the power within us is not of this earth. When we are cursed, we bless because he blesses. We do not give up because he never gives up. We always love because he always loves."

(Show the cup again and say:) "We are like this cup. As long as we are in this body we are to be giving the living water of God to thirsty people. The power is God's, not ours. We should never expect the power to come from us. It comes from God."

(Point to the list of gifts. Say:) "God gives gifts to men for service. We choose leaders according to their gifts. But there is something more important than the gifts." (Ask a student to read Titus 1:6-9.)

(Ask:) "What is more important than the gifts which a leader may have?" [the man's character]

(Say:) "The most important question is, 'Does he live his faith in Jesus?' What are the characteristics listed which a spiritual leader should have?" [blameless, husband of one wife, father of obedient children who are believers, humble, not quick-tempered, not a drunkard, not violent, not greedy, hospitable, lover of goodness, master of himself, upright, holy and self-controlled, have firm faith, able to teach and refute falsehoods]

(Ask:) "What is the only spiritual gift from our list which is mentioned here?" [ability to teach sound doctrine]

(Say:) "It is possible that a person might have the gift of being a pastor and yet should not be chosen as pastor. He may have

the gift of teaching and yet not be fit to be chosen as an elder or teacher. The most important thing about a person is his character. He might have been given a gift, but he might not be honouring God with his character. If he is not of sound character, he should not be chosen as a leader."

(Say:) "A believer's commitment is more important than his gift. His teaching is judged by his life. People will listen to a man who is living for Jesus. No one will heed the words of a man who does not live as he teaches."

(Say:) "Whatever the leader's gift is, he must know sound doctrine. He must be able to teach it and to refute false teaching. In this way, he protects the faith. He ensures that only the truth about God and Jesus are taught."

(Say:) "God wants a person with leadership gifts to live a servant's life. He must be faithful to Jesus in his personal life. He must always put Jesus and his glory first. He must live a life which is a good witness of Jesus' power in his life. His life should show that God can change our character. If he is not faithful, he should not be a leader in the church."

(Say:) "We each have God's Spirit in us equipping us to serve other people. We each need to live a pure life so we will glorify God as we serve, otherwise our service cannot build the Body of Christ. It will not draw others to Jesus. Let us commit ourselves and our gifts to Jesus now. Let us ask him for strength to be strong and pure." (Close in prayer.)

To Think About and Do:

Read 2 Corinthians 11:24-33 and 12:10. List the hardships that Paul endured for the sake of Christ. beatings, stonings, shipwrecks, adrift on the sea, danger from journeys, danger from robbers, danger from the Jews, Gentiles, danger in cities, in the wilderness, at sea, from false brethren, gone without sleep, been

hungry, cold and exposed to bad weather, anxiety from his responsibility for the churches.

How did Paul endure all of this? Paul said that his strength to endure these things did not come from himself. It came from God.

God gave Paul gifts to use for him. As he used them, people hated him. They tried to stop him. Paul continued to work and serve. He was treated cruelly by others, yet he was faithful. What have you endured for the sake of Christ? Are you a worthy servant like Paul was? Do you identify with Christ in his suffering? Are you willing to? God is willing and able to help you if you are. Dare to be bold for Christ's sake this week.

Verses to Read This Week:

Sunday: 1 Timothy 3:1-7

Thursday: Titus 2:1-10

Monday: 1 Timothy 3:8-13

Friday: Titus 2:11-15

Tuesday: 1 Timothy 4:1-10

Saturday: Read your Bible study

Wednesday: 1 Timothy 4:11-16

lesson for this week.

Lesson 10: Problems with False Teachings

Background Scripture: 1 Timothy 1; 4; Titus 2:1-9; Hebrews 2:1

Verses Used in Today's Lesson: 1 Timothy 4; Hebrews 2:11; Titus 2:1, 9

Memory Verse: "Take heed to yourself and to your teaching; hold to that, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers" (1 Timothy 4:16).

Central Truth: Teaching, commanding and practising the teachings of the Bible will effectively fight false teaching.

Teaching Aim: For pupils to understand that they must review sound doctrine again and again. They need to live according to their faith.

Teaching Aids: Box with 20 items in it. Chalk and chalk board

or pencil and paper.

Teaching the Lesson:

(Show your pupils the closed box containing the 20 items. Say:) "There are twenty things in this box. What do you think they are?" (Ask them to guess. Write their guesses on the board.)

(Say:) "Without knowing, you cannot judge which answers are correct and which are incorrect." (Empty the items out of the box. Check the list on the board. Point out the correct guesses. Discuss the number which were right and wrong. Put the things back into the box and close it.)

(Say:) "Today we will talk about false teachings. We need to know the truth before we can know what is false." (Point to board.)

(Say:) "You could not tell me which of these answers was correct until you knew the truth. Look at how many were wrong because we were only guessing!" (Erase the board.)

(Ask a student to read 1 Timothy 4:1-5. Read verse 1 again.)

(Say:) "Paul clearly says some believers will be deceived. They will think they have understood a truth from God. Satan takes what is true and changes it just a bit. It may seem right because it is partly true, but it will also be partly wrong. This is how we can be led astray into false teaching. A person must be well-grounded in the truth to be able to recognize the false part."

(Say:) "Following a false teaching leads a person down a dangerous path. Some people say, 'All paths lead to God.' It is true that God is everywhere and seeks all people. Is it true that we can believe as we like and find God?" [No. God is the one who has made the plan for our salvation. We must follow his plan to be saved.]

(Say:) "Some faiths teach that going to church is the most important thing we do. Others teach that you are not saved unless

you are baptized. It is important to go to church. Baptism is important, but neither of these acts will save us. Without knowing what the Bible teaches, we will be deceived by others. We might believe false teaching without knowing it is false."

(Say:) "In these verses, Paul gave examples of those who taught not to marry and not to eat certain foods. Paul wanted these Christians to know the truth about these teachings. What is the truth as we read it in verse 4-5?" (Ask a student to read these verses.)

(Say:) "The truth is that God created everything for our pleasure. It is all good if it is received with thanksgiving and used for God's glory."

(Ask a student to read 1 Timothy 4:6-10.)

(Say:) "Pastors and teachers should expose false teachings. All believers deserve to hear the truth. They need to hear what the Bible says about matters which claim people's attention. They need to hear what the whole Bible says about these matters and not be led astray by a few verses."

(Say:) "The Bible does not explain everything. We do not need to know everything. Some people spend a lot of time on the subject of angels. Others try to figure out exactly how the end of the world will come. We should not spend our time on things that the Bible does not explain fully. God has told us everything we need to know. We do not need to spend our time guessing the rest."

(Say:) "The most important thing we can do is to live the truth which we do know. Our hope is in a living God. If we concentrate on knowing him and being like him, that will be enough. We will be busy serving him. We will not spend our time trying to figure out things that God does not intend for us to know. If we know the truth, we can point out false teachings."

(Ask a student to read 1 Timothy 4:11-16.)

(Say:) "Teaching sound doctrine is very important in the church. The church should offer Bible study for every age. The pastor should preach sound Bible truths. Teaching sound doctrine over and over again in the church is the best way to stop false teachings from starting."

(Say:) "But Paul goes further than to say we need to teach the truth. He says we must 'command the truth.' We must demand obedience to the truth from our pastor and from each other. As church members, we must insist that the truth be taught in our church. As church members, we should be ready to read our Bibles so we know whether or not what the pastor is teaching is truth. We need to think and pray about our faith. It is very important that we know what the Bible teaches."

(Say:) "Paul was writing to Timothy, a young man. He encouraged Timothy to teach and command the truth boldly even though he was young. Paul said the truth is what matters, not the age of the teacher. A young person who is firmly grounded in the Bible is qualified to teach even those older than himself, but whoever claims to know the truth needs to live it. As we come to know the truth, it should change and strengthen our character. It should be a good example for others to see and copy."

(Say:) "False teachings will arise from time to time, however careful we may be. Satan is the Deceiver. He will make a slight change in the truth to make it false. For example, we know God's goal for us is that we become like Jesus. Can someone tell me how we become more and more like Jesus?" (Let students respond.)

(Say:) "To become like Jesus we must submit to God. We decide with his help what we need to stop and what we need to begin doing. God gives us the power to do this. He takes away the bad as we give it to him. We ask him for what we need in its place. He

provides the power to do what is right. This is true, but Satan will change this truth a little bit. How do you think he might change it?" [We can improve ourselves by ourselves. We should not bother God.]

(Ask:) "What are some of the results of this lie?" [We take our eyes off of God and become very self-conscious. Either we are disappointed in ourselves or we are proud. Self becomes very important.]

(Say:) "Baptists are fond of saying 'Once saved; always saved!' This means that we are secure in our salvation. If we accept Jesus as Saviour and Lord, he will not desert us. He will give us salvation. What false belief can come out of this truth?" [A person can live anyway he likes after being saved. His salvation is sure regardless of what he does afterward.]

(Say:) "The truth is that once we are saved we want to live like Jesus lived. We want to repent of our sin, give ourselves to Jesus and live for him. This is what being 'saved' means. It is not possible for a person to be saved and continue to live in sin."

(Ask:) "Are there any other things which you have heard said about which you do not know the truth?" (Let students respond. They might mention that some say they must speak in tongues to be sure of their salvation. They might believe that without giving an offering they cannot come to church. Try to answer their questions from what you know the Bible teaches. If you do not have an answer, promise them that you will find out from the pastor or another teacher and tell them next week.)

(Say:) "God wants to give you answers to your questions. He wants you to know the truth. If you do not know the truth, you cannot judge correctly. The Bible is our source of truth." (Read

Hebrews 2:1.)

(Ask:) "What does this verse tell us to do?" [Pay closer attention to what we have heard.]

(Be sure the board is erased. Hold up the box again. Ask:) "What is in this box?" (Write their answers on the board. Give them no more than five minutes to answer.)

(Ask:) "Did any one person remember all that is in the box? Most of you could not remember them all. You saw them only one time." (Empty the box in front of them again.)

(Say:) "You did better this time because you had seen what was inside. But you did not remember them all." (Put them back in the box. Erase board. Read Hebrews 2:1 again.)

(Say:) "We must pay closer attention. We need to review the truths again and again. Why?" [so we will remember them. Otherwise we will forget.]

(Ask:) "What do you think is the best way to prevent false teaching being accepted in the church?" [to hear the truth again and again and again]

(Say:) "Remember in the lesson about the leaders in the church. An important qualification is that they be able to teach sound doctrine." (Read Titus 2:1.) "He must be able to refute those who contradict it." (Read Titus 1:9.)

(Say:) "It is important to expose false teaching. If we know the Bible and what it means, we can do this. If we are not sure about a teaching, we should ask the elders and teachers of the church to examine the issue. We have seen that reviewing things again and again will help us to remember them."

(Say:) "Let me give you an illustration. Mr. Good wants to learn to fly an aeroplane. What is the best way for him to learn? (Let them discuss it.) [Studying and practising under the guidance of an experienced flyer is the best way.]

(Ask:) "Would you agree to fly with Mr. Good if he had only read the instruction book?" [No!]

(Say:) "The best way to teach is by words and actions. He needs to hear from an expert and see him doing it. This expert lets the pupil try it while he oversees him. The student practises and practises until he can do it well. He spends literally hundreds of hours practising before he is allowed to be called a 'pilot.'"

(Ask:) "Can you see how this applies to biblical truth? We need to spend hours and hours reading and studying our Bibles. We cannot hope to stand firm in our faith without doing the work that is necessary. When we know our faith and stand firm in it, we can help others." (Read 1 Timothy 4:12 again.)

(Say:) "Today we learned of one way in which Satan deceives Christians. What is it?" [by changing the truth a little bit]

(Ask:) "What did the illustration of the box teach us?" [We cannot know what is true or false until we see and hear about it. To remember the truth, we must review it again and again.]

(Say:) "We learned that to remember a thing, we need to review it over and over, but what is the best way to really know it?" [by doing it]

(Say:) "Even if we know the truth in our minds, it does us no good until we live by it. When we live by it, we have really learned it. It has become ours. Let us pray that God will teach us daily as we read the Bible. Let us pray that we will be faithful to seek his truth everyday." (Close in prayer.)

Things to Think About and Do:

What do Baptists believe about:

1. Baptism: Is it necessary for salvation? (Read Romans 5:1) [No, we are saved by faith.] Why is it important? (Read Matthew 3:13- 17.) [We are baptized to show Jesus' death, burial and

resurrection. It is our testimony to the world that we belong to him.] What happens to unbaptized children when they die? (Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-19.) [If they have trusted Jesus, they go to be with him. We are saved the moment we accept Jesus. Baptism is not required to go to heaven. If they are too young to understand about sin and salvation, he takes them to himself.]

2. The Lord's Supper: Are we drinking Jesus' blood and eating his flesh? Why do we observe it? (Read Luke 22:19-20, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26) [These elements are only symbols of Jesus' blood and flesh. We observe it to remember him and because he told us to do it.]

3. The church: What is it? What is its purpose? (Read 1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4:11-16.) [The church is a body of baptized believers in Jesus Christ. It is to glorify him and share his message with the world.]

Verses to Read This Week:

Sunday: 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Thursday: Ephesians 2:8-10

Monday: Matthew 16:15-18

Friday: John 5:19-24

Tuesday: Colossians 3:5-11

Saturday: Read your Bible study

Wednesday: Matthew 28:19-20

lesson for this week.

Lesson 11: Contentment in Christ

Background Scripture: 1 Timothy 6:6-21; Matthew 6:19-21

Verses Used in Today's Lesson: 1 Timothy 6:6-12, 17-19; Matthew 6:19-21

Memory Verse: "But as for you, man of God, shun all this; aim at righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness" (1 Timothy 6:11).

Central Truth: Christians should be content with the eternal wealth they gain through faith in Jesus and not worry about

material wealth.

Teaching Aim: To help students measure what is important to them and to decide to put God first.

Helps for the Teacher: 24 coins or notes of the same value.

Write the chart below on board or paper.

TREASURES

Earthly

Work hard to get things on earth

Buy things for pleasure now

Things get old, break, or are stolen

Rely upon things for security

Become proud

Become afraid of losing things

Is of no value when you die

Of no value on Judgment Day

Heavenly

Work hard for God now

Work for things that will last forever

Will never get old, break or be stolen

Rely on God for security now and later

Depend on God for all things

Have peace, joy, sound mind

Brings great gain in eternity

Salvation in Jesus is sure

Teaching the Lesson:

(Hold the 24 coins or notes. Choose an average person in your class to help you.)

(Say:) "I have asked (name) to help me with this illustration because he is like most of us here."

(Ask student:) "Think about Friday. How many hours did you sleep that night?" (On a table or chair, stack a coin for each

hour spent sleeping.)

(Ask:) "How many hours did you spend working for necessities like food, clothing, shelter?" (Put that many coins in another stack.)

(Ask:) "How many hours did you spend eating, bathing, and grooming?" (Put that many coins in another stack.)

(Ask:) "How many hours did you spend to clean or repair things you own?" (Put that many coins in another stack.)

(Ask:) "How many hours did you spend visiting and on other pleasures?" (Put that many coins in a stack.)

(Ask:) "How many hours did you spend praying, reading you Bible, witnessing and helping others?" (Put that many coins in a stack separate from the rest.)

(Say:) "Remember that I am using (name) because he is like most of us here. This illustration shows us that we are not investing a great deal in eternal things. Jesus tells us that where our treasure is, that is where our heart will be." (Thank your helper and ask someone to read Matthew 6:19-21.)

(Say:) "Today we are studying about our treasures. There are two kinds of treasures we can work for: earthly treasure and spiritual treasure. Most people spend most of their time trying to gain earthly treasure. We must remember that our lifetime is our only opportunity to lay up treasures in heaven. What we do now determines if we are wealthy or poor forever." (Show students the chart which you have written on the board or paper. Read the chart with your class.)

(Ask:) "Which kind of treasure would you rather have? Can you be content with living for Jesus now? Riches of this world will not last. They can be gone in a moment. We certainly cannot take them with us when we die. We can lay up treasures in heaven which will last forever. Rich and poor alike can lay up treasures there.

We all can do good deeds. We all can be kind and helpful to others. We all can be rich for eternity. Of course we know we are not saved by good deeds. We are saved by our commitment to Jesus, but when saved people do good deeds, they lay up treasures for themselves." (Read 1 Timothy 6:6-11.)

(Ask:) "Do these verses tell us that money is evil?" [No.]

(Ask:) "How can money be evil?" [It is evil if we love it too much.]

(Say:) "A poor person who wants to be rich has a problem. He wants what he does not have. He wants what others have. This can lead to sin and destruction. When gaining material wealth becomes our goal, we lose sight of what is really important. Verse 10 says clearly that money itself is not the root of all evil. The LOVE of money is the root of all evil. There are three reasons why loving money is evil.

1. The love of money is the opposite of Christian love. It is taking, not giving.

2. In the pursuit of money, one may commit all sorts of evil.

3. The resulting life-style often dishonours Christ."

(Ask:) "What are we told to do about loving money in 1 Timothy 6:11a?" [Shun it and all that goes with it.]

(Ask:) "What advice does Paul give in verse 11?" (We are to aim at righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness and gentleness instead of gaining earthly riches.)

(Say:) "Paul urged Timothy to shun ungodly greed. He should have nothing to do with it. He should turn his back on it, get away from it. Instead, he should '...aim at righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness and gentleness' (verse 11). Paul knew that desires of the heart take root, like a plant. He wanted Timothy and his church to have healthy and eternal

`plants.'"

(Show the illustration of the plants to the class:)

(See art sheet)

worry, greed, pride, taking peace, good works, love,
giving

Love of money

Love for Jesus

(Say:) "Christians should not love money. Since we need money to live in this world, it is often easier to say this than to do it. Paul knew that Christians needed money to live. He did not suggest that we avoid money. He suggested that we not love it or what it can buy more than we love God."

(Say:) "How can a Christian keep from loving money and wanting many nice things? We live in a physical world. We need food to eat. We like to have good food. We see new things to buy everyday. Everyone enjoys something new from time to time. How can a person find contentment in Jesus?" (Let students respond.) [Possible answers: do not live just for today, be led by the Holy Spirit, follow Jesus' example, serve others, etc.]

(Read verses 11-12 again.)

(Ask:) "What is the fight we have to fight?" [to put faith and spiritual things first, to remember that only spiritual things last]

(Say:) "This is not easy to do. We will struggle with this all our lives. How can we succeed?" (Listen to their ideas.)

(Say:) "Often people value themselves according to how many possessions they have. Their security is in money or things. It is a false security. A disaster can take it all away and leave these people with nothing. God provides for the person who trusts in him. He is our security for now and the future."

(Read verses 17-19. Then say:) "Godliness is having the virtues of God. The characteristics listed in verse 11 are those at which we should aim. If we achieve them, we will be godly -- like God. If we spend our time trying to be like God, we will not spend our time gaining earthly treasures. We will see things as God sees them. We will see how important spiritual things are. We will begin to understand the value of eternal treasure."

(Say:) "In all these verses we see that Christ enriches a person's life. He gives us true treasure. Any other gain is really no gain because it is not lasting. The person who places his confidence in Jesus is content. Thus he can overcome any circumstance. The only permanent gain is godliness. Our character is what lasts. We are challenged to be content with having our basic needs met."

(Say:) "We must continue to fight the good fight of faith. We must think about our eternal life. We must not let anything turn us away from the hope which we have in Jesus. Satan will try to tempt you with physical things, but you must remember that nothing Satan has to offer will last. He is only the prince of this world. This world and all in it will pass away. We should not waste our time building up treasure here."

(Say:) "When you accepted Jesus as Saviour and Lord, you became a citizen of the eternal kingdom of God. Your purpose in life now

is to live a life of faith in God. Put your hope in God. Trust him for your needs. Believe what he has told us about our glorious future in heaven."

(Lead your class in prayer. Ask God for the faith to live by faith. Let each student say a sentence prayer asking his help in one area of their life.)

Things to Think About and Do:

In Matthew 6:20, Jesus told us to store up treasure in heaven, not on earth. What kinds of treasure did he promise to us in his Word? Read the verses and write the promise we have from him.

John 14:2 A house with many rooms

1 Corinthians 9:25 an eternal crown

2 Corinthians 5:1 an eternal house

Hebrews 11:10 a city designed and built by God

James 1:12 a crown of life

Revelation 7:9 a white robe

Revelation 22:14 a tree of life and entrance into the city

Verses to Read This Week:

Sunday: Matthew 6:19-21

Thursday: Revelation 21:1-4

Monday: Matthew 6:22-27

Friday: Revelation 22:12-17

Tuesday: Matthew 6:28-34

Saturday: Read your Bible study

Wednesday: John 14:1-14

lesson for this week.

Lesson 12: Remembering is Important

Background Scripture: 2 Timothy

Verses Used in Today's Lesson: 2 Timothy 1:5-7; 2:8-10, 14-15; 3:14-17

Memory Verse: "Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descended from David, as preached in my gospel" (2 Timothy 2:8).

Central Truth: Christians can be strengthened when they

remember their salvation.

Teaching Aim: For students to understand that it is important to remember their salvation and their Saviour

Helps for the teacher: Chalk and chalk board or pen and paper

Teaching the Lesson:

(Share with the class a time when your faith was particularly important in your life, family or church. Encourage one other person to tell briefly of an experience of faith.)

(Say:) "Remembering is important. It encourages us to trust in God. In the Old Testament, God told the Israelites to remember what he had done for them. He told them to tell their children and grandchildren. He knew if they did this, their faith would be alive. We have just now been remembering some things which God has done. We have remembered when our faith was important. It encouraged me to tell it and to hear it. It increases my faith to remember the wonderful things God has done for us."

(Say:) "Today we are going to look at some verses in 2 Timothy. Timothy was a young pastor. Paul had been his teacher and example. Paul was in prison and thought that he would soon be killed by the Romans. He wrote a letter of final advice. He wanted Timothy to get into the habit of remembering. He knew this would strengthen his faith. Remembering would make him a better servant of God."

(Read 2 Timothy 1:5 and say:) "Paul knew Timothy's family. He had been in his home many times. He saw how Timothy and his family lived. He remembered the faith of Timothy's grandmother and mother. We do not know about his father. Paul does not mention him. Perhaps he was not a believer or perhaps he was dead. In any case, Paul reminded Timothy of the faith of his grandmother and mother. He encouraged Timothy to remember what they had taught him. He wanted him to remember how God had helped his family. It

is good for us, too, to remember what God has done in our families. It encourages us. It helps us see God's power and love."

(Say:) "In the other verses we shall look at today, Paul reminded Timothy to remember other things. We will now read all the verses to find out what Paul wanted Timothy to remember. We will write these words on the board. Then we will divide into groups and discuss each word, like we have done with the word 'faith' already. We will decide why it is important to remember this thing and try to think of an example of when it was important to remember."

(Read aloud all the Scriptures used in today's lesson. Find what Paul wanted Timothy to remember in each passage: 2 Timothy 1:6-7: his spiritual gifts; 2 Timothy 2:8-10: the gospel of salvation; 2 Timothy 2:14-16: the work each Christian is called to; 2 Timothy 3:14-17: Scripture, God's Word - the Bible. Write "REMEMBER" on the chalk board. Write this list under it: "gift, gospel, work, Scripture" Divide the class into four groups. Each group will take one item on the list. Using the verses, they will discuss why it is important to remember this thing. They should give an example. Each group will report to the class. Allow ten minutes for the group time.)

(After the group considering "gift" reports, read 2 Timothy 1:6-7 again. Ask:) "Why has God given us spiritual gifts?" [to build up the body of Christ, to minister to others]

(Ask:) "What are some of the gifts?" (See lesson #4 if necessary.) "Should a person be afraid to use his gift?" [No.] "If he is afraid, from where does the fear come?" (See verse 7.) [Not from God, so it must be from Satan.]

(Ask:) "How does God expect us to use our gift?" (See verse 7.) [with power, love and self-control]

(Say:) "Paul urged Timothy to rekindle the gift of God that was

within him. We do not know what Timothy's gift was, but Paul wanted him to remember it. He wanted him to remember where it came from. Remember to use your gift. God gave it to you to use. He wants to help others through your gift."

(After the group which discussed "gospel" reports, read 2 Timothy 2:8-10 again. Say:) "Paul told Timothy to remember the gospel. Can someone tell me what the gospel is?" [Jesus came and died for my sins, and he rose again that I may have life eternally.]

(Say:) "Think about what Jesus left in heaven to come to earth and die for us. Think about his terrible suffering. Think about what you are saved from. Think about what salvation gives you. It makes me happy to think about my salvation." (Read verse 9 again.)

(Say:) "Paul had suffered greatly for the sake of the gospel."

(Read verse 10 again. Ask:) "Why was Paul suffering?" [He was suffering for preaching and teaching the gospel. He was suffering so others can be saved.]

(Say:) "Paul understood that the gospel is worth suffering for. Jesus told us to be happy when we are persecuted. Do you remember why?" [Each time we are persecuted, God sets aside a wonderful reward in heaven for us. (Matthew 5:11, 12)]

(After the group reporting on "work" has spoken, read 2 Timothy 2:14-15. Say:) "When we remember the high price of our salvation, we are humbled. We are filled with thankfulness to our great and loving God. We also understand that no one has hope outside of Jesus. We must tell others about God's wonderful plan. The gospel is so important that we must be ready to endure hardships in order to share it."

(Say:) "Timothy was working for God. He was a pastor/teacher. He had a difficult group of people to take care of. Many men in

his church liked to argue about words. Many disagreed with Timothy. Paul encouraged him. He reminded him that God had assigned Timothy's work. He should work diligently and honestly with God's Word. If he had God's approval he did not need man's approval. What can we learn from this?" [We need to work for God's approval, not man's. We need to be careful about criticizing the work of fellow believers.]

(Say:) "We each have work which God has assigned to us. Often we are chosen for a work according to the spiritual gift God has given us. Some people might not appreciate our work. Some might criticize us. As long as we are obeying God and working for him, we do not need to worry about them. We need to remember who we are working for. We need to remember who gives us the power and ability to work. We need to use our gifts for God. He will take care of the rest." (Read verse 15 again.)

(After the group discussing "Scripture" has reported, read 2 Timothy 3:14-17. Say:) "The most important thing to remember about the Bible is that it is inspired by God. It is holy and true. What does verse 15 tell us about the Scriptures?" [The Bible is able to instruct us in salvation.]

(Ask:) "What does verse 16 tell us about the Bible?" [It is inspired, profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.]

(Say:) "What two purposes for studying and living according to the teachings of the Bible are given in verse 17?" [We are to be complete - like Jesus. We are to be equipped for good work.]

(Say:) "The Bible is our authority for living. It tells us all we need to know about God and his plan for our salvation. It tells us everything we need to know about life. If we study it and live according to its teachings we will be 'complete.' We will be like Jesus. We will be 'equipped for every good work.' We will be able

to do the things which God has planned for us to do. The Bible tells us everything we need to know."

(Say:) "To be like Jesus and to do good work is the goal God has for us. It should be the goal of every believer. We can do both of these through the power of God and his Word. He has proven that he can do all things. He has even conquered death! Do we doubt that he can change us and help us?"

(Say:) "Today we have spent time remembering our faith, our gift, the Gospel, our work, and the Word. I hope this has helped you. I hope it has strengthened your faith. I hope it will help you be more faithful to God. As you remember what God has done for you, I hope it will help you decide to give yourself totally to him. I hope you will be willing to work and serve in his name, for his sake. This is the purpose of the Christian. Now that you have remembered, are you ready to give yourself anew to God? Are you ready to let him work in you to change you? Are you ready to study his Word, so you will be complete? Are you ready to use your gifts for God and others?" (Close in a prayer of commitment. Allow students to pray silently as you read the questions above. Then lead in a closing prayer for the group.)

Things to Think About and Do:

1. Set aside special days to remember what God has done for your family. Celebrate it!

2. What work has God given you to do? Are you doing it according to his Word?

3. Knowing the Memory Verses of the lessons will help you remember the lessons. Write them on pieces of paper. Put them in your pocket to look at during the day.

Verses to Read This Week:

Sunday: Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Thursday: Hebrews 11:29-40

Monday: Hebrews 11:1-7

Friday: Hebrews 12:1-11

Tuesday: Hebrews 11:8-16

Saturday: Read your Bible study

Wednesday: Hebrews 11:17-28

lesson for this week.

Lesson 13: One in Christ

Background Scripture: Galatians 3:23-29; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Philemon

Verses Used in Today's Lesson: 1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Galatians 3:28; Philemon 15-17

Memory Verse: "For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body -- Jews or Greeks, slaves or free -- and all made to drink of one Spirit" (1 Corinthians 12:13).

Central Truth: Faith in Jesus unites believers in fellowship and love.

Teaching Aim: For pupils to realize that we are all united in one Spirit and one body so we can be like Jesus Christ.

Help for the Teacher: Prepare again the cross illustration from Lesson #3. Write each question on a small piece of paper. 1. What is God's ultimate plan for us? (Lesson 2) 2. What should spiritual gifts promote in the church? (Lesson 4) 3. What happens when leaders in the church seek power? (Lesson 9) 4. What should be done about immorality in the church? (Lesson 7) 5. What two questions should we ask when we are unsure about doing something? (Lesson 8) 6. How do we fight false teaching in the church? (Lesson 10) 7. How can you become wealthy for eternity? (Lesson 11).

Teaching the Lesson:

(Show the students the cross illustration from lesson #3 again.)

(Say:) "We all must pass through the cross to come to God our Father. We leave behind all that we were and had before we

accepted Jesus. All things that were valuable before are worthless now. We are completely new through the power of the cross." (Pass the strings through the cross.) "At the cross, Jesus destroyed the things that kept us far from God." (Read the pieces of paper that fell off the strings as they passed through the cross.)

(Hold up the empty strings. Say:) "When we accept Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, we all come to him in the same condition. We are free from sin and born again as new creatures in Jesus Christ. Each of us is the same before God. We are all part of a new whole - the Body of Christ."

(Read 1 Corinthians 12:12 Say:) "Our body has many parts. If we separate a leg from the body, it cannot function or move. If it is left separate from the rest of the body it will rot. Each part is useful only if it stays attached to the rest of the body. Each part has a job which no other part can do. The work of each part benefits the entire body."

(Say:) "These same facts are true of the church. It is the body of Christ. If a member separates from the church, he weakens it and himself. If one member fails to do his part, it hurts the church and the member. If one member disobeys God, it brings shame to the member and the whole group. Each member needs to do his part for the benefit of the entire body."

(Ask:) "If you step on a nail, what do you do? Do you go about your business without taking notice? No! You yell with pain. You hold your foot in your hands trying to soothe it. You examine the damage. You wash it and put medicine on it. You may go to the hospital for an injection. You do the best you can for your foot. If you do not, you may get an infection that will cause your whole body to become ill. You take care of your foot to protect your whole body. What happens to one part of the body affects the whole

body. It is the same with the body of Christ, the church. When one member rejoices, we should all rejoice. When one member weeps, we should all weep with him. When one needs help, we should give help. Let us remember that each of us is a part of Christ's Body."

(Read 1 Corinthians 12:13 and Galatians 3:28. Say:) "When we accepted Jesus as Saviour and Master, a spiritual event took place. God's Spirit received us and put us into one body with other believers. It is the body of Christ, the church. In it, we are all equal. We are his precious children. It makes no difference if a person is male, female, black, brown, white, old or young. God accepts us all. God made no exceptions. Neither should we." (Read 1 Corinthians 12:13 again.)

(Ask:) "When the government takes a census, who do they count?"
[all the people in the country]

(Ask:) "Do they count the people who have died?" [No.]

(Say:) "They count only the people who are living. They count bodies with spirits in them. The spirit is what gives life to the body. When we invite Jesus into our hearts, his Spirit entered us. We were all baptized with his Spirit. To be baptized with the Spirit is to be completely immersed in him. Another picture in verse 13 is that we all 'drank' the one Spirit. When we drink we are filled and satisfied. Both baptism and drinking are a picture of being filled with the Spirit. But we are not filled by ourselves, alone. Both are acts that one person does, but both acts unite us with other believers in the same Spirit."

(Say:) "This verse says we were all baptized into one body. All believers are in this body." (Hold up the cross and the empty strings which are now together as one rope. Say:) "All divisions have been broken down by the blood of Jesus Christ. We are one in Christ Jesus."

(Say:) "Now let us look at the short book of Philemon. This

book is a letter to a man named Philemon. Philemon was a member of the church in Colossae. Paul wrote the letter to Philemon on behalf of Onesimus. Onesimus was Philemon's runaway slave."

(Say:) "It is difficult for us to understand the thinking of the time. We do not understand why Christians would have slaves. It is difficult to understand why Paul did not question the system of slavery that was practised at the time. Instead, he told both slave and owner to treat each other as brothers in Christ. He reminded them that they had the same Saviour and same Spirit. This request was very surprising to the people of that day. Slaves were not normally treated as brothers!" (Read Philemon 15-17.)

(Say:) "We see an amazing thing here. Paul tells Philemon that it was God's plan for Onesimus to run away. Why do you think he thought this?" [While Onesimus was separated from his master, he was saved.]

(Say:) "Onesimus thought it was right for him to go back to his position as a slave in Philemon's household. He knew that Philemon had a right to his services, according to the laws of those days. Although this is strange and wrong to us today, it was common in those days. But as Onesimus prepared to return to Philemon, he knew things would be different. What was the difference?" [Onesimus was now a Christian. He respected Philemon. He recognized his value. Philemon was now his brother in the Spirit. They had one Father.]

(Say:) "There are divisions in the world today. A female is a female. A male is a male. Nothing can change that fact. In many societies the male has more privileges and rights than females. This does not follow the teaching in Galatians 3:28, but it is the way many cultures function. There are supervisors and labourers. Sometimes supervisors mistreat their labourers. This does not

please God, but this will not likely change in the near future. But we Christians are different. We do not live according to the systems of this world. We are citizens of heaven, so let us act like we are the children of God. We are in Jesus' body, the church. Each member is of equal value. We are brothers and sisters through Jesus Christ. When we pass through the cross all things that divide us are removed. We all are born again as babies in God's kingdom. We are brothers and sisters. We are equal members of the same family. We should support and protect one another. We should not be guilty of using the corrupt systems of this world. These systems say that some people are better than others. The Bible teaches that this is not true in God's family." (Read Galatians 3:28 again.)

(Say:) "This whole unit has been about the church, the body of Christ. Jesus is the Head of the body. Believers are the members. We receive life through him. He is all we need. Let us review other things we have learned in this unit." (Give each student a piece of paper with a question on it. Ask them to find the answers in the lessons indicated. After 5 minutes, ask for answers.)

(Ask:) "Question 1. What is God's plan for us?" [that we become like Jesus]

(Ask:) "Question 2. What should the Spiritual gifts promote in the church?" [unity, truth, and love, a working and serving body]

(Ask:) "Question 3. What happens when leaders in the church seek power?" [division, fighting, corruption, missed blessing for the whole church]

(Ask:) "Question 4. What should be done about immorality in the church?" [The sinner should be confronted. If he repents, he is welcome. If he does not repent, he is to be removed from the church.]

(Ask:) "Question 5. What two questions should we ask, when we

are unsure about doing something?" [Does it bring glory to God? Will doing it cause harm to someone else?]

(Ask:) "Question 6. What is the best way to fight false teachings?" [by teaching the truth and living it]

(Ask:) "Question 7. How can you become wealthy for eternity?" [Live for God and give to those in need.]

(Say:) "We learned that remembering our faith, our gifts, the gospel, our work and the Scripture strengthens us."

(Ask:) "To summarize the teaching of this unit, what goal should a Christian have?" [to become like Jesus]

(Say:) "This is God's goal for us. Let us agree with God and make this our plan too. The power to do this comes from him. As we submit to him, his Holy Spirit can lead us in the right paths. Let us strive to be like Jesus. Let us submit to his Holy Spirit. Then he will bless us and his church. We will be light in a dark world. We will bring others to faith in Jesus."

Things To Think About and Do:

Read Philippians 2:1-8. On a piece of paper write 10 things you can do this week to be more like Jesus in attitude and action. Bring this list as a gift before God. Promise him that with his help you will do these things and make these changes this week.

Verses to Read This Week:

Sunday: Galatians 3:23-29

Thursday: Psalms 63:1-8

Monday: Philemon

Friday: Acts 10:1-8

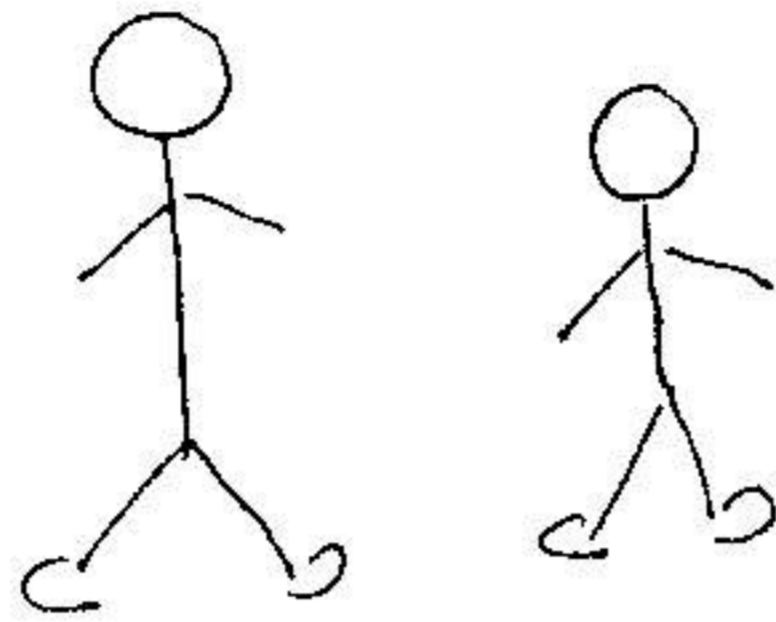
Tuesday: 1 Peter 2:1-10

Saturday: Read your Bible study

Wednesday: 1 Peter 5:1-11

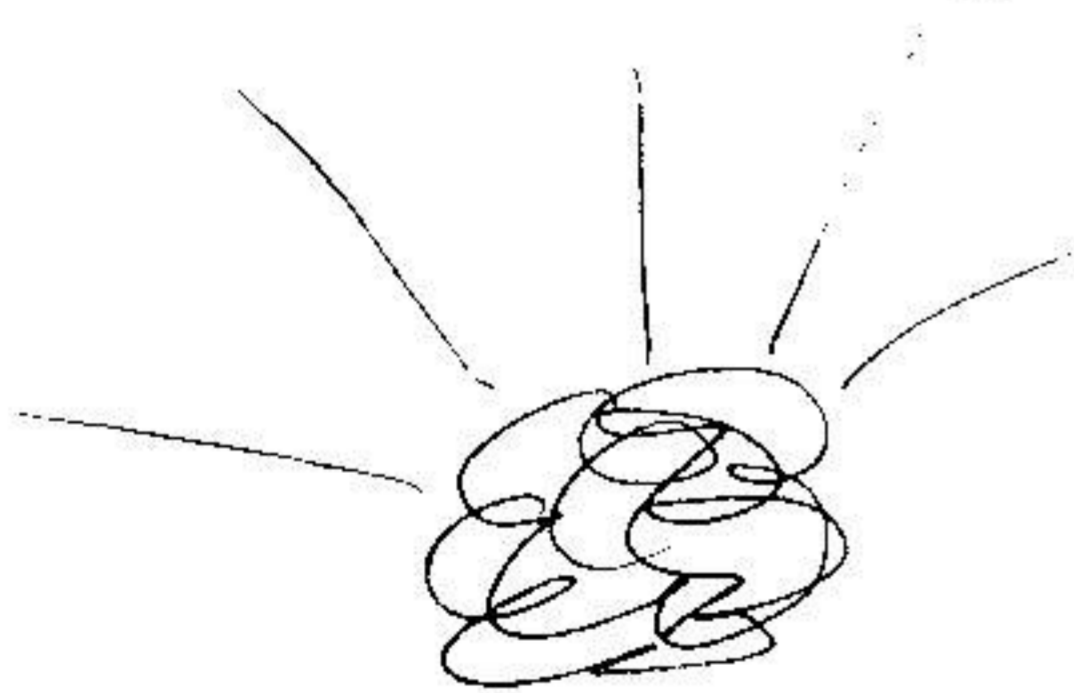
lesson for this week.

Lesson 1



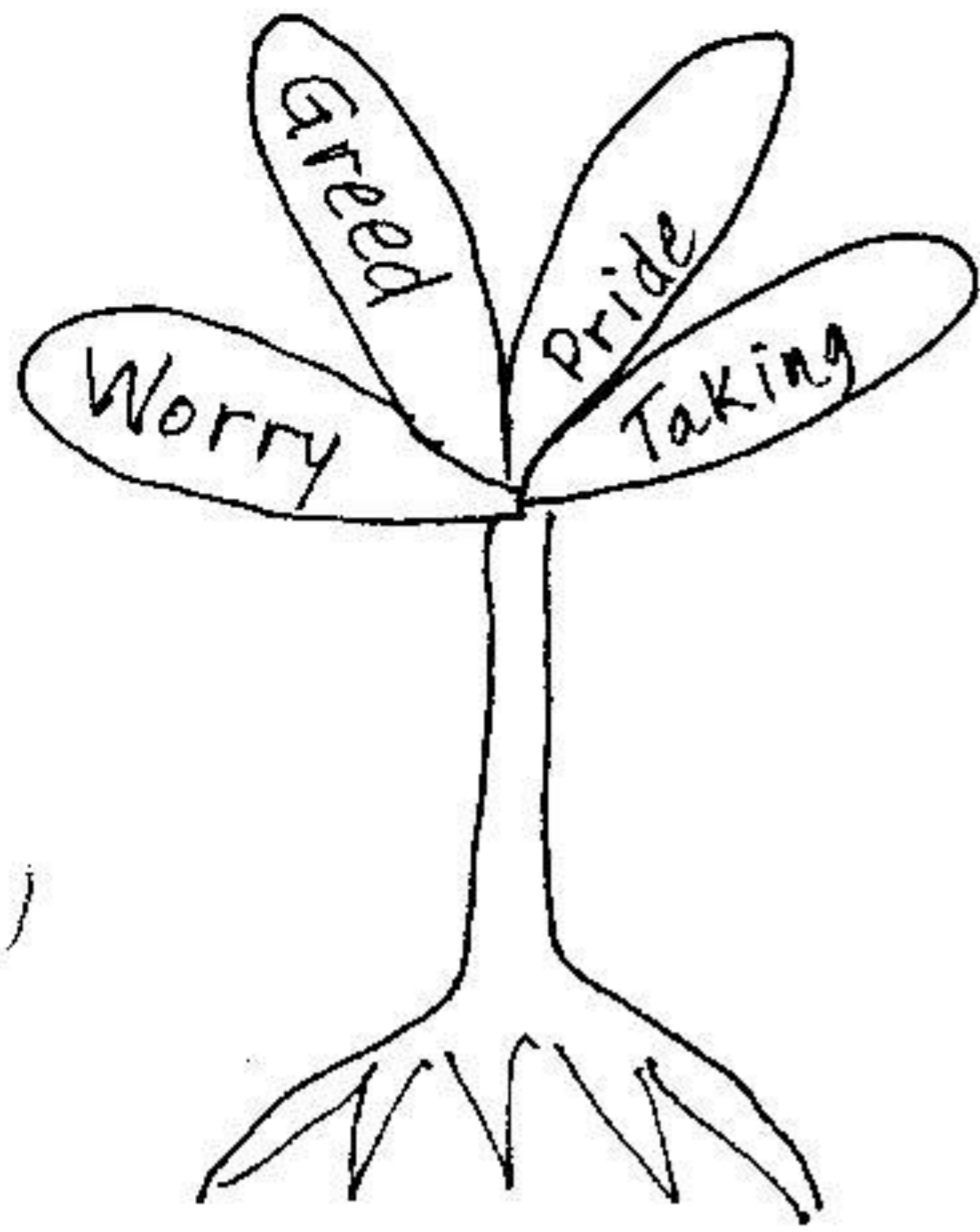
Lesson 7

Jesus' Kingdom

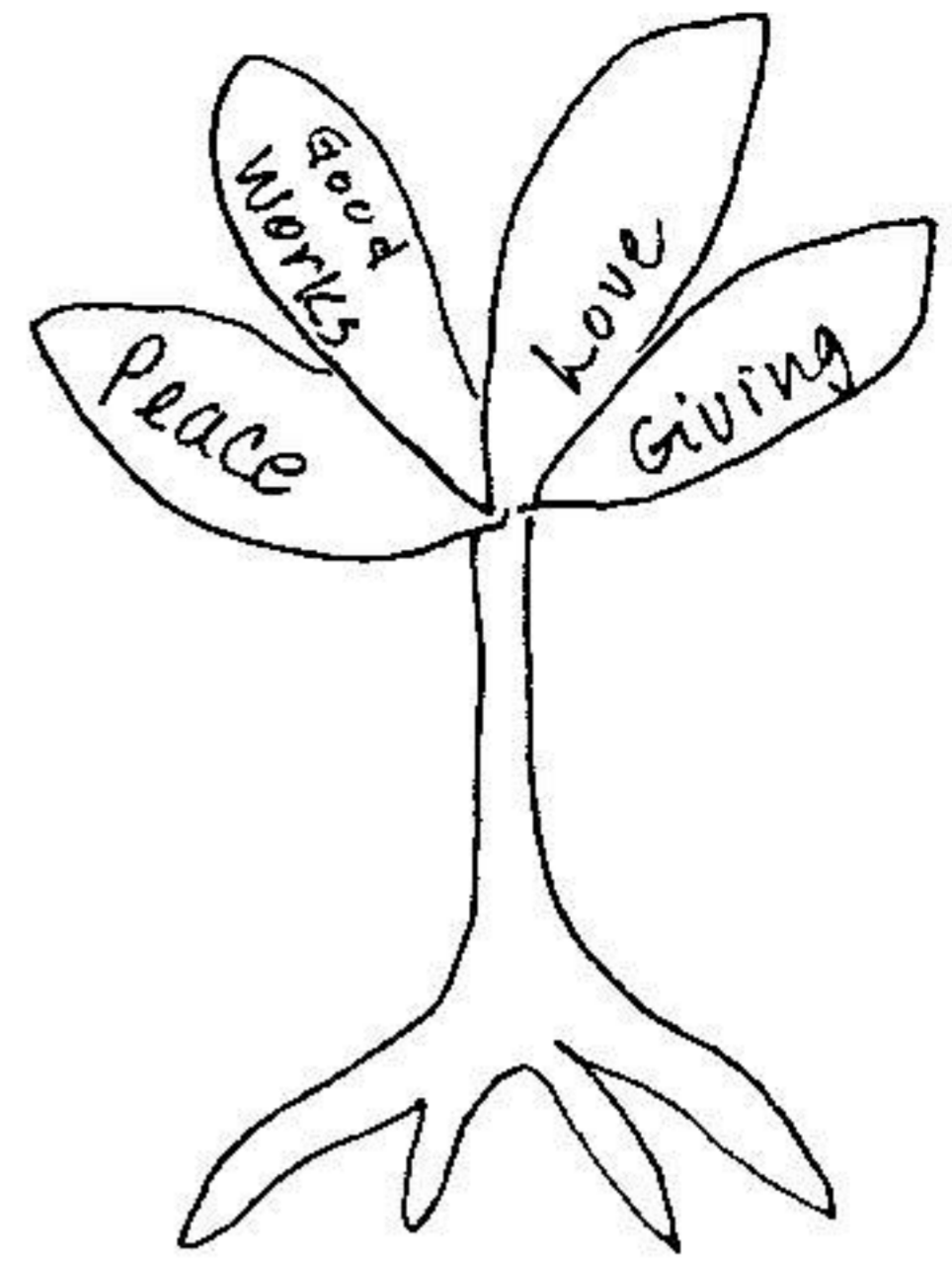


Satan's Kingdom

Lesson 11



Love of Money



Love for Jesus

Lesson 8

