"I thank God." 2 Timothy 1:3

TEN LEPERS

Step, step, Jesus walked down the road. He was going to the city of Jerusalem.

He was able to see the city nearby. Then Jesus saw some men near the road. He saw one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten men coming toward him. He heard the men calling to him.

"Jesus, help us," they called.

These men had a disease called leprosy. They could not live in the villages; they ould not come near other people. But they believed that Jesus could make them well.

"Go and let the preachers examine you," Jesus told them.

As the men started into the town, they looked at their hands. They looked at their feet. They saw that they were well. They all began to run to the town. They wanted to see their families and friends. One, two, three...eight and nine men ran, but one man turned back. He came to Jesus. He knelt at Jesus' feet. "Thank you," said the man. "Thank you for making me well."

Jesus smiled at the man. He said, "Go home now. You are well because you believed that I could make you well."

Luke 17:11-19



"I will praise God with a song." Psalm 69:30

A BLIND MAN SEES

There was a blind man whose name was Bartimaeus. He had been blind for many, many years. He often sat beside the road begging from the people who passed.

One day Bartimaeus heard that Jesus was walking on that road. He called to Jesus, "Jesus, have mercy on me."

People told him to be quiet, but he called in a loud voice, "Jesus, help me."

Jesus heard him and said, "Bring the man to me."

When the blind man came to him, Jesus said, "What do you want me to do for you?"

Bartimaeus replied, "Lord, let me be able to see."

Jesus wanted to heal the blind man. He said to him, "Go your way. Your faith has made you well."

Bartimaeus could see! He was very happy. He told everyone what Jesus had done for him.

All the people, when they saw it, praised God.

Jesus loved Bartimaeus and made him able to see. Jesus loves each of you and does many things to make you happy. We should always remember to thank and praise Jesus.

Mark 10:46-52



"It is good to give thanks to the Lord." Psalm 92:1

A DEAF MAN HEARS

One day Jesus was near the Sea of Galilee. Some people came to him with a man who could not hear. Neither could the man talk.

His friends came to Jesus and said, "This man cannot hear. He cannot talk. Would you make him well?"

Jesus loved the man. He wanted to help him. Jesus took the man away from the crowd. He touched the man's ears and his tongue. He looked up to heaven and said, "Be opened."

The man could hear people talking! He could talk! People could understand what he was saying. He was very happy. He thanked Jesus. He praised God for his healing.

The people who saw the man also praised God!

Mark 7:31-35,37



"We always thank God." Colossians 1:3

MARY'S PERFUME

Lazarus and his sisters were very happy. They were getting ready for guests. Jesus was coming to their home in Bethany.

Tap! Tap! Someone was knocking on the door. They opened the door. It was Jesus. He had come at last. They were glad to see their friend. Jesus always visited with them when he came to Bethany.

Jesus sat down with his friends. Martha had prepared supper for Jesus. When the food was ready, she served it. They enjoyed their supper.

Mary liked to listen to the words of Jesus. She loved Jesus very much. He had raised her brother from the dead.

Mary wanted to do something for Jesus. She wondered what she could do. She thought and thought. She remembered something special that she had. It was perfume. It had a sweet smell like flowers. It had cost much money.

Mary went to her room. She got the perfume. She hurried back to the room where Jesus was seated. She sat at his feet. She opened the sweet smelling perfume.

Mary poured the sweet smelling perfume on Jesus' feet. The room was filled with the sweet smell. Then she dried his feet with her long hair.

Jesus was very pleased with Mary. She had shared her perfume with him. Jesus was her best friend.

John 12:1-8



"Thy word is a light to my path." Psalm 119:105

TIMOTHY LEARNS ABOUT GOD

Timothy sat on the floor near his grandmother. He said, "Please, Grandmother, tell me a Bible story."

His grandmother was pleased to tell him stories. She often told him about David or Moses or maybe about Daniel.

Timothy liked all of the Bible stories. He also liked for grandmother to take down the Bible scroll and teach him verses. He had learned many verses already.

One day the preacher, Paul, came to the town where Timothy lived. Timothy and his mother went to hear Paul preach.

"Jesus made people well; he made blind people to see. Jesus loves you. He loves everyone," Paul said.

Timothy wanted to be a preacher like Paul. When he was older, Paul invited Timothy to go with him on one of his preaching trips. This was a very happy time for Timothy.

One time Paul was away in another town. He wrote Timothy a letter. The letter said, "Dear Timothy, When I pray each day, I thank God for you. I ask God to help you."

Timothy was happy as he thought about Paul's letter. Perhaps he prayed, "Thank you God for my mother and grandmother. Thank you for the Bible. Thank you for Jesus."

2 Timothy 1:1-5; 3:14-15



"Let us rejoice." Revelation 19:7

EZRA READS THE BIBLE

Tap-tap went the hammers. Buzz-buzz went the saws. The men were building a tall platform.

"Preacher Ezra can stand on this platform," one man said. "He can read the Bible scroll and all the people will be able to see him. They can hear him read God's Word."

Soon people began to arrive. Mothers and fathers came. Boys and girls came, too. Little children came with their mamas.

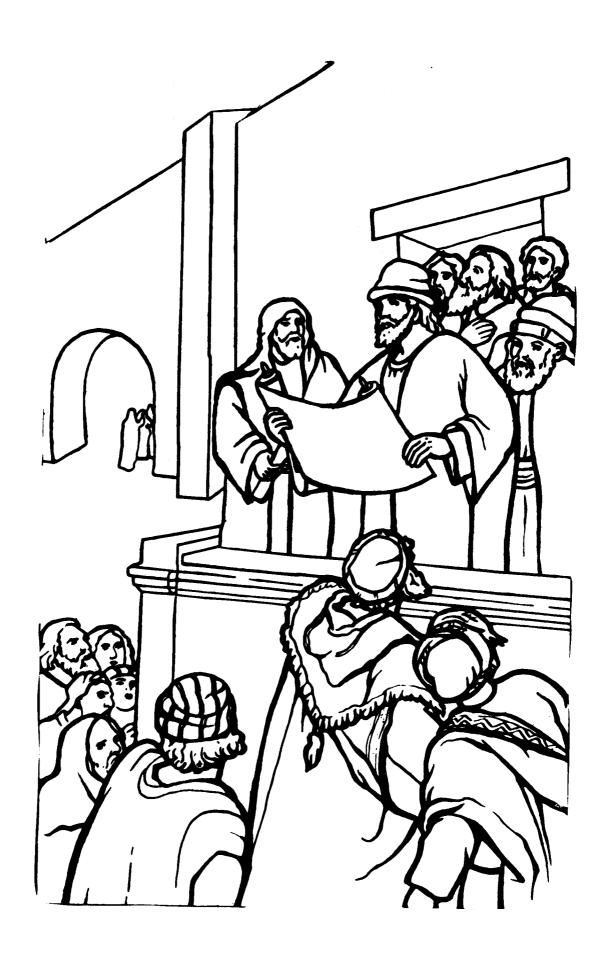
When the platform was finished, Preacher Ezra went up the steps. He carried the Bible scroll.

Everyone was very quiet. The mamas and fathers did not talk. The boys and girls were not playing. Even the small children were quiet.

Preacher Ezra unrolled the scroll. He began to read. The people listened very carefully. The words they heard made them very happy. The Bible told them that God loved them and wanted to bless them.

When Preacher Ezra had finished reading, the people started for home. "We have had a happy time," one said. "We will come again tomorrow so that we can hear Preacher Ezra read the Bible scroll. We can thank God and praise him for his blessings."

Nehemiah 8



"Love one another." 1 John 4:7

ABRAHAM SHARES

Abraham and Lot were moving. They travelled for many days. Finally they arrived in Bethel.

"This will be our new home," Abraham said to Lot. "This is where God wants us to live."

There was much work for the helpers to do. Some of them found good places to set up the tents. Some of them took the animals to find grass and water. "We will be happy here," Abraham said. "This is a good place to live."

One day Abraham heard men talking in angry voices. "Take your animals away! This is grass for our animals."

"No, this is for our animals," another said. "This is our water. You cannot give your animals any of this water."

Abraham heard the loud, angry voices. His helpers and Lot's helpers were saying unkind things to one another.

Abraham was sad; he did not want men to argue. He thought of a plan. "We must not quarrel," he said to Lot. "We must not let our workers fight. There is enough water and grass for all."

"What can we do?" Lot asked.

"Look at all the land," Abraham said. "You may choose the part you want. Your helpers will take your animals to that part. I will keep the part that is remaining."

Lot looked to the east. He saw green fields and a large river. "I will take the land to the east," Lot said.

"Then I will take the land to the west," said Abraham. God was pleased with Abraham when he made this decision.

Genesis 13



. . .

"I will be glad...I will sing praise." Psalm 9:2

A HAPPY DAY

Jesus wanted to teach his disciples how to be happy. One day they went upon a hillside and Jesus taught them. He told them how to be happy. He said:

"How happy is the man who realizes he needs God and who trusts God.

How happy is a man who controls his anger for he will be a part of God's kingdom.

How happy is the man who wants to do the right thing as much as he wants food and water, for he will be a righteous man.

How happy are the people who really care about other people, for they will have others to care about them.

Happy is the man whose heart is pure, for he will be able to see God.

Happy are those who make peace between men, for they are doing as Jesus wants them to do.

Happy are those who are treated in a bad way, for they will someday live with Jesus is heaven."

In this sermon, Jesus taught his disciples how to treat their friends and enemies. He talked about the right way to pray. He taught them about God's love and care.

When Jesus finished speaking, people were happy. They understood that Jesus was teaching them a way to live which would help them to be happy.

Matthew 5:1-10



"You ought to please God." 1 Thessalonians 4:1

THE BOOK THAT WAS FOUND

King Josiah walked up the big steps into the church. He looked at the dirty floor; he saw the broken chairs. He saw that even some of the walls were broken.

King Josiah called his helpers. "I want you to clean the church," he said. I want you to repair the walls and chairs. Find some men to help you. I want the church to be clean and in good condition."

In a few days, the helper ran to meet the king. He said, "Look, the workmen have found this book when they were cleaning the church. It is the Bible scroll which has been lost. It tells us what God wants us to do."

"Tell all the people to come to the church. I will read the scroll to them," King Josiah said.

The people came to the church; King Josiah stood in front of them. He unrolled the scroll and began to read. The people listened quietly.

When he finished reading, he prayed. "Thank you, God, for helping us find the lost Bible. Help us to do what is right. We will try to follow your rules."

The people were happy. They promised to keep God's rules. They were thankful that they had come to church.

2 Kings 22:1 to 23:8



"God loved us and sent his son." 1 John 4:10

TWELVE HELPERS

Jesus was ready to start his special work. He had begun to preach and teach in the towns. He had already helped many people who were sick. He knew that he had much work to do.

One night Jesus went out alone on the mountain. He prayed all night. He talked to God about the special work to be done. He asked God to help him decide the best way to do this work.

The next morning Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee. He saw many people there. Some of them were mending their fishing nets. Others were cleaning the fishing boats. Some were selling the fish they had caught.

He saw two brothers who were working on their father's boat. "Peter, Andrew, come and be my helpers," Jesus said.

The two men gladly followed Jesus. He also called James and John who were friends of Peter and Andrew. Jesus continued to call men to be his helpers. He decided that 12 men would be able to help him in his special work.

The helpers watched Jesus and learned how he worked. They listened to his teachings. He trained them and taught them how to help people.

Then they were sent out to tell people about Jesus' love for everyone. These 12 men were Jesus' special helpers while he was living on this earth.

Luke 6:12-16; Mark 6:7-13,30-31



"Be ye kind to one another." Ephesians 4:32

HOW PETER AND JOHN HELPED

Tramp, tramp, tramp. People were walking along the road on their way to church. Peter and John were going to church, too.

One man was not walking. He was already sitting at the gate of the church. He could see the people coming. He could hear them talking. But he could not get up and walk. He was crippled.

This man had sat at the gate of the church many years. This was the place where he sat and begged. "Will you give me some money?" he asked.

Some people passed without looking at the man. Some stopped and gave him a few coins.

Peter and John came near the man. They looked at him. They were sorry for him.

"Will you give me some money?" the beggar asked.

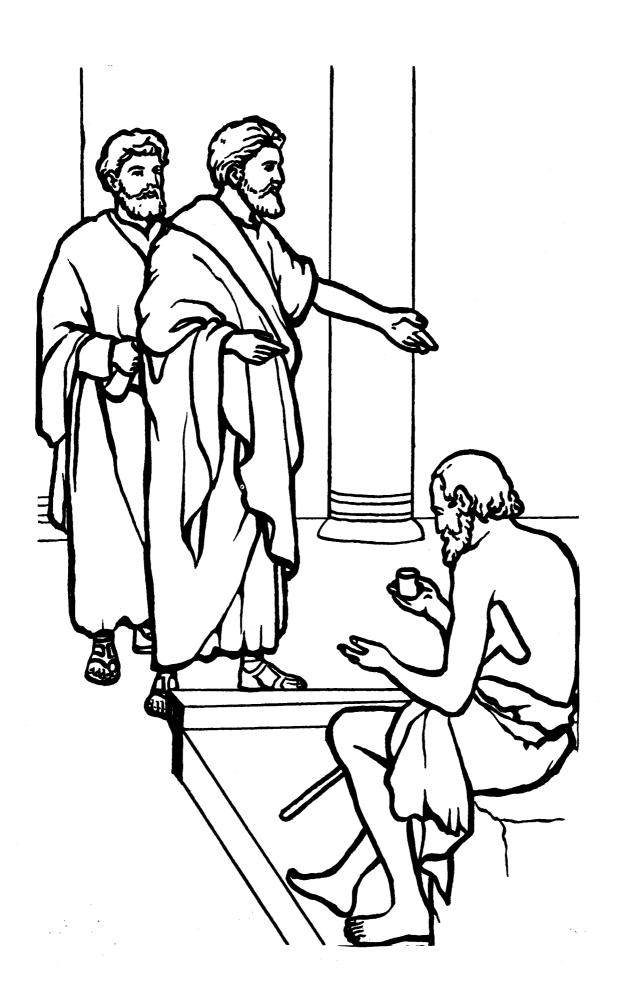
Peter and John came near to the man. They looked at him carefully. They said, "Look at us."

The man looked. He knew these were kind men. Then, he heard Peter say, "We will give you something better than money. We will ask God to help you walk."

Peter stretched out his hand. He helped the man stand up. He could walk! He was so happy, he jumped in the air.

Then he went with Peter and John into the church to thank God.

Acts 3:1-11



"The Lord is good." Psalm 34:8

ANDREW AND PETER

Andrew was a fisherman. He liked to fish with his brother Simon.

One day he went to hear a friend preach. Simon did not go with him, but there were many people who came to hear this man preach.

The preacher saw a man walking toward him. He stopped his sermon and said, "That man coming is Jesus, God's son. I have been telling you about him. Now he is coming."

Andrew knew that God was sending his Son. He believed that this man was Jesus. He followed Jesus down the road.

Jesus noticed that Andrew was walking behind him. "What do you want?" Jesus asked.

"I want to know where you live," said Andrew.

Jesus answered, "Come and see."

Andrew was happy to go with Jesus. He talked with Jesus the rest of the day.

As soon as Andrew left Jesus, he went to find his brother, Simon. "I have found Jesus, God's son," Andrew said. "I want you to come with me and meet Jesus."

The next day the two men went to see Jesus. Jesus talked to Simon. Simon believed that Jesus was the Son of God.

Jesus said, "I will change your name. From this time, your name will be Peter." Jesus and Peter became good friends. Andrew was happy that he had brought his brother to meet Jesus.

John 1:35-42



"The Lord is my helper." Hebrews 13:6

TWO MISSIONARIES

Paul and Barnabas were teachers in the church at Antioch. They felt that God wanted them to go to other places to tell people about Jesus. They talked to the people in the church.

The members said they would help them with the things they needed. They said they would pray for them as they went to other places.

Paul and Barnabas were happy to go to other cities to preach. They were not afraid. They knew God would be their helper.

Paul and Barnabas travelled on a boat. Then they walked many miles. They stopped and preached to people about Jesus. They went to the churches to tell people about Jesus. They were very happy when a government leader believed in Jesus. Other people believed in Jesus also.

The people in the church at Antioch continued to pray for Paul and Barnabas. This is the way that many people learned about Jesus.

Acts 13:1-12

