

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

VOLUME 58-61

**FOR
SENIOR CHILDREN
MIDDLE SCHOOL**

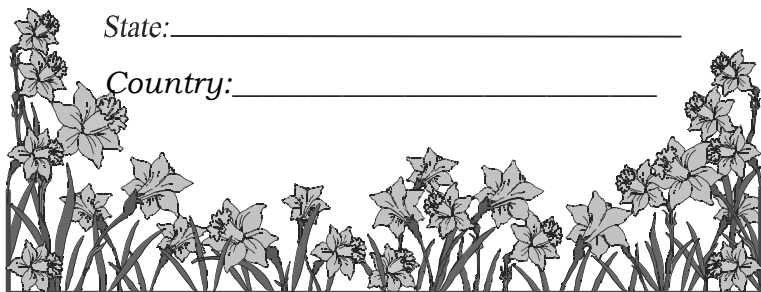
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Country: _____



A publication of Life Press Ltd.
Deeper Christian Life Ministry, Lagos, Nigeria

Reprinted by Deeper Christian Life Ministry
Northern European Headquarters
P.O. Box 737, 2501 CS The Hague, The Netherlands
Email: dclm@deeperlife.nl
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PASTOR W.F. KUMUYI

**Founder & General Superintendent
Deeper Life Bible Church Worldwide**

ABOUT PASTOR W.F. KUMUYI

Pastor (Dr.) William Folorunso Kumuyi, previously a professor of mathematics at the University of Lagos, is the founding pastor of the Deeper Life Bible Church and General Superintendent of Deeper Christian Life Ministry, Worldwide. The Church with its headquarters in Lagos officially began on November 7, 1982 with a simple message: "Jesus transforms lives - bringing not only healing but a complete and fully formed Christian character." By 1988, the Conference of Pentecostal and Evangelical Churches worldwide recognized Deeper Life Bible Church as the single largest church in Africa, and the third largest single congregation in the world.

The phenomenal growth of the church tends to overshadow its small beginning. With 15 adult members in 1973, Kumuyi began an interdenominational weekly Bible study in Lagos. By 1975, this fledgling group quickly grew to 1500 people who assembled faithfully every Monday to hear the systematic, expository and rich teaching of the scriptures with practical application that is immediately helpful and relevant to listeners. Less than a decade later, the Bible Study group became what is now the Deeper Life Bible Church and grew to 350,000 members at the Lagos headquarters church with mission work in 42 countries of the world. The church has since sustained an unprecedented growth trajectory leading to worldwide membership strength in the millions.

Pastor Kumuyi, from the beginning of his ministry, has been blessed with divine success because of his commitment to teaching sound doctrine, a stellar and pristine character, unparalleled commitment to leadership development and divine giftedness.

A humble and outstanding teacher and preacher, Pastor Kumuyi exemplifies servant leadership. He commits himself tirelessly and selflessly to achieve divinely ordained goals. He has a colossal grasp of the scriptures coupled with uncanny ability to dissect scriptural truths. Preaching between two worlds, bridging the context and the content of the biblical text to meet the realities and the needs of

present day led many listeners to conclude that he “teaches the Bible as if he was there when it was written”.

The Bible serves as the proof text for his teaching and preaching. With a thematic approach, he gives a wide range of Bible passages supporting, clarifying and expanding his main point. A typical Kumuyi teaching is a beauty to behold. He brightens and deepens delivery with laborious scholarship and stylistic deployment of a vast range of figurative, alliterative devices. . Kumuyi’s message is music to the ears and balm to the spirit. It comes across with crystal clarity free from the din and distractions of fleeting hysterics and unnecessary drama. It is not uncommon to see on a typical Sunday service, princes, paupers, professors and priests sit side by side reaching for the cross and surrendering to the Lord in response to a heart-rending sermon. This emphasis on the primacy of preaching and the exaltation of the Word is one of Kumuyi’s great legacies to the body of Christ.

Much of the church’s cohesion and shared sense of community have been driven by the inspiring and exemplary leadership of Pastor Kumuyi. His infectious passion for evangelism is undiminished. He is passionate about leadership training and equipping pastors, teachers, evangelists and Christian workers. As his congregation blossomed throughout Africa, the Deeper Christian Life Ministry has also extended its missionary exploits to Western Europe, Russia, Asia, India and North America. Kumuyi credits God for the success recorded so far by the church: “The bottom line is that God in His own wisdom and power raised up the church and has given us divine support. The only reason Deeper Life has grown is because God Himself has given the growth.”

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LESSON 690

BOAZ MARRIES RUTH

Ruth 4:1-22.

God honoured Ruth's faith because she was humble, obedient, righteous and hard-working. She forsook her pagan homeland in order to remain loyal to her mother-in-law and the God of Israel. She, a poverty-stricken stranger, became by God's grace a mother of kings and an ancestor of Christ our Messiah.

“He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth are the Lord's, and he hath set the world upon them” (1 Samuel 2:8). This Bible passage was confirmed in the life of Ruth. God is concerned about every aspect of our lives. Therefore, we must surrender all to Him so as to have a secured future and a place in heaven where we shall live forever with Jesus Christ the bridegroom of the Church.

1. RUTH BELIEVES IN GOD:

Ruth 1:8-22.

Ruth left her native land and her people for Israel, without minding what will befall her there. She confessed thus, **“... thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God:”** (Ruth 1:16). Ruth's journey to the land of Israel is prompted by her belief in the God of Israel. Faith in the living God is the only reason why she followed a helpless and lonely woman to a land and

to a people she did not know. Ruth places her faith in the Holy, Righteous one of Israel and is blessed for it.

All things that happened to her in the land of Israel supports the saying “Faith honours God and God honours faith”. Your faith and fear of God will provide you with the strength to reject sinful suggestion or pleasure (Genesis 39:8,9). This brings you into favour before God and men

(I Samuel 2:26) and give you a special place in God’s kingdom (Genesis 22:16-18). Your faith journey starts when you believe in Jesus, turn away from sin and accept Him as Saviour and Lord.

Ruth decided to trust and serve the God of Israel. She was blessed.



Boaz and Ruth got married according to God’s guidance. Allow God to guide your life so that He can bless you.



2. **BOAZ MARRIES RUTH:**

Ruth 4:1-22;

I Corinthians 7:39.

Marriage is a God-approved relationship between a man and a woman. According to the scriptures, the marriage union ends only when one of the partner dies. Ruth’s husband died, therefore she was now free to marry another man in the will of God

(I Corinthians 7:39). Boaz was a hardworking, righteous and faithful man. He does things in an acceptable way. God warns His people not to marry from ungodly nations (Deuteronomy 7:3). Why then did Boaz take a woman from the idol-worshipping Moab to be his wife? It was because Ruth's faith in the God of Israel had made her to be counted among God's people. Boaz's marriage to Ruth was a divine "arrangement". Do you know that there is a Divine hand that wants to direct all the events in your life? Your life will be beautiful if you allow God who is all-knowing to be in control.

3. BLESSINGS FROM BOAZ' MARRIAGE TO RUTH:

Ruth 4:13-22.

The ways of God are past finding out (Romans 11:33). Where the will of God is done, the blessing of God multiplies. Boaz' marriage to Ruth became a blessing to the whole world. When God blesses you, His desire is that you should share such good things with others. Boaz' marriage to Ruth produced a king, deliverer and saviour for Israel. This also provided the lineage through which Our Saviour, Jesus Christ was born to the world (Matthew 1:5,16). The blessings of salvation, deliverance and the hope of everlasting life with God in heaven are made possible through Boaz' marriage to Ruth. You can share in the blessings of this marriage by turning away



from all your sinful practices; ask Jesus to forgive you, accept Him as your Saviour and Lord.

QUESTIONS:

1. Who did Ruth follow to Israel? _____

2. What gave Ruth the courage to choose to live with people whom she had not known before? _____

3. What is marriage, according to our study? _____

4. (a) Mention three good qualities you should emulate from Boaz. _____

(b) What qualified Ruth to be married to him? _____

5. What are the blessings that Boaz's marriage to Ruth brought to the nation of Israel and the world in general? _____

MEMORY VERSE: “Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.” (Hebrews 13:4).

LESSON: Boaz' marriage to Ruth was a divine arrangement.

THOUGHT: I will stand firm with Jesus so that His purpose will be achieved in my life.

ACTIVITY: Read Matthew 1:1-16. Draw a genealogy table in your church notebook. Fix in the table the names of all the ancestors of Jesus Christ.

HOMEWORK: State in your homework book, the names of the families in the following passages and one blessing that each of the families brought to others. (i) Genesis 29:28; (ii) Exodus 6:20; (iii) Acts 18:2; Romans 16:3.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG GHS: 29 – I KNOW WHO HOLDS TOMORROW

CHORUSES: (1) Glory be to God in the highest ... (2) Immortal God, invisible God (3) The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	GENESIS	2:20-22
TUESDAY	GENESIS	2:23-25
WEDNESDAY	GENESIS	24:1-4
THURSDAY	MATTHEW	1:15-17
FRIDAY	MATTHEW	1:18-20
SATURDAY	I CORINTHIANS	7:38-40
SUNDAY	ROMANS	11:33-36

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Heathen 2. Genealogy 3. Qualities 4. Practice 5. Emulate.

HANNAH'S PRAYER AND VOW

I Samuel 1:1-18.

The story of Hannah reveals some important truth and lessons about the nature of God and His relationship with His children. Some of the lessons are:

- (a) God is awesome and has the power to do all things.
- (b) He fulfills all His promises.
- (c) He is loving, compassionate and concerned about us.
- (d) He answers prayers and desire to listen to His children when they pray.
- (e) Prayer can change an impossible situation and make it possible.
- (f) God always intervenes and saves His children from difficult situations.
- (g) He works out all things to fulfill His plan and purpose for our lives.

What is your challenge? Take it to the Lord in prayer, He will answer and give you joy as He did for Hannah. The study is in three parts:

1. HANNAH'S PRAYER AND VOW:

I Samuel 1:1-18.

Hannah was a woman with a sorrowful heart. This was because she had been married for many years without any child. She was also constantly ridiculed by her mate. She did not fight with her mate or husband. She knew

Hannah cried unto God in prayer because she has no child.



just the right person to turn to. She cried unto God and received help from Him (Psalm 121:1,2).

There are important elements in the prayer and attitude of Hannah that are lessons for believers who are in need. (i) She showed reverence (respect) and honour to God. (ii) She believed that God can do all things. (iii) She manifested an uncommon humility even when she was mis-understood and falsely accused by Prophet Eli. (iv) Her prayers was backed up with a vow. (v) She believed that God has answered her prayer and her countenance was no more sad (I Samuel 1:18).

Whatever may be your problem, follow the example of Hannah and cry unto God.

2. GREAT POSSIBILITIES THROUGH PRAYER:

Jeremiah 33:3, 29:11-13; Matthew 21:18-22.

There is nothing that prayers cannot do; God answers prayers. Some of such examples are:

- (a) **Abraham** – He was childless for more than twenty years. He had faith in God. God honoured his faith by giving him Isaac (Genesis 15:1-6).
- (b) **Abraham's servant** – He believed the God of his master. He prayed for divine direction in finding a wife for Isaac. He received instant answer to his prayer (Genesis 24:10-26).

- (c) **Jacob** – He prayed and wrestled with an angel saying: “I will not let thee go until you bless me”. His name and destiny was changed for the best (Genesis 32:24-30).
- (d) **Jabez** – He prayed to God and his sorrows were rolled away (I Chronicles 4:9-10).
- (e) **Elijah** - prayed and experienced something that had never occurred in history. Fire fell and licked up water and revival broke out in Israel (I Kings 18:36-38).
- (f) **Elisha** - prayed and the dead came back to life (II Kings 4:32-36).
- (g) **Zaccharias** - an angel confirmed to him that his prayers are answered (Luke 1:5-13).



What more shall we say about the Apostles who did great exploits through prayers? The list is endless.

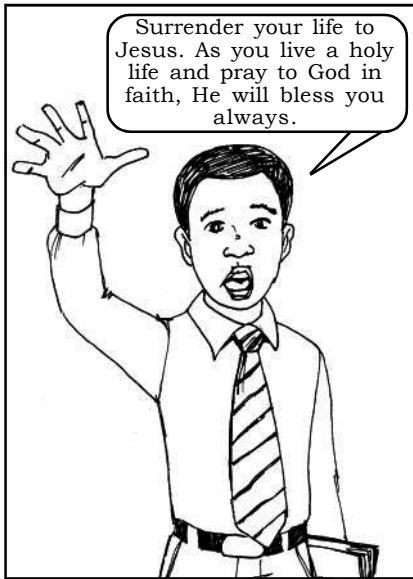
We can accomplish great things in our lives, families, church, nation and the world as a whole through

consistent and sincere prayers. What are the challenges in your life, are you the only child and your mummy is still waiting to have more? Are you having difficulties in your subjects at school, is it sickness, lack or being lukewarm in spiritual things? Take it to the Lord in prayers.

3. PRAYING TO RECEIVE:

Matthew 7:7-11.

You must pray regularly. Many children do not pray. “We have not, because we ask not”. Ask and ye shall receive. To receive power to pray, you must be completely free from sin. Pray to God with a holy and clean heart.



Hannah did not nurse any grudge against her mate or prophet Eli. Go to God with a clear conscience. Fill your heart with God's promises, believe and stand on those promises. God honours His word, He never fails. Pray in faith and in the Name of Jesus. Make

prayers and the study of God's word your daily food. Be obedient to God's counsel.

Give your life to the Lord Jesus Christ and serve Him all the days of your life. These steps will open the door of God's mercy unto you and all your prayers will be

answered. Remember, God says: **“Call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.”** (Psalm 50:15).

QUESTIONS:

1. List five important lessons about the nature of God from the story of Hannah. _____
2. Why was Hannah sorrowful? _____
3. Whom did Hannah cry unto? _____
4. State four lessons you learnt from Hannah’s prayer.

5. Mention three other people that got solution to their challenge through prayer. _____
6. There are great possibilities through prayer. Yes/No?

MEMORY VERSE: **“And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the Lord, and wept sore.”** (I Samuel 1:10).

LESSON: God answers prayers.

THOUGHT: I will pray to receive answer to my prayers.

ACTIVITY: Children should submit prayer request for specific needs in their lives and families. They should take time to pray on these needs and come and share their testimonies.

HOMEWORK: Pray throughout the week for the church, Christian families and the nation.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG GHS: 196 – DOES JESUS CARE?

THE BIRTH OF SAMUEL

I Samuel 1:19-28.

Hannah was married to Elkanah for many years but did not have a child. She was very sorrowful, she prayed to God and backed up her prayer with a vow. God answered her prayers and gave her a son whom she named Samuel. The birth of Samuel marks the end of the reign of judges in the establishment of the kingdom of Israel. You must also learn how to pray and stand on the promises in the Bible and expect answers from God.

The message is in three parts:

1. THE BIRTH OF SAMUEL:

I Samuel 1:17-20.

The birth of Samuel was as a result of the prayer of his mother, Hannah. Elkanah and Hannah, (Samuel's parents) had been married, for many years without children. People made jest of Hannah, including Elkanah's second wife. Her husband loved and cared for her so much, but in this situation there was nothing he could do. Hannah was not happy so she prayed to God and fasted.

Did God answer her prayer? Yes He did. Hannah became



pregnant immediately and gave birth to Samuel. His birth was the divine response of God to the need of His own children. This shows us that God answers prayers and there is nothing too hard for Him to do. Do not suffer in silence, whatever may be your need; healing, deliverance from demonic affliction and strange occurrences in the family, success/excellent result, provision of good things of life etc. Pray in faith, God who answered Hannah and gave her Samuel will answer you also.

The birth of Samuel brought joy to the family and also to Israel. You were born to bring joy to your family, the church of God and the nation. As you give your life to the Saviour and surrender your life to serve Him, He will help you to fulfil the purpose of your birth.

2. SAMUEL DEDICATED TO THE LORD:

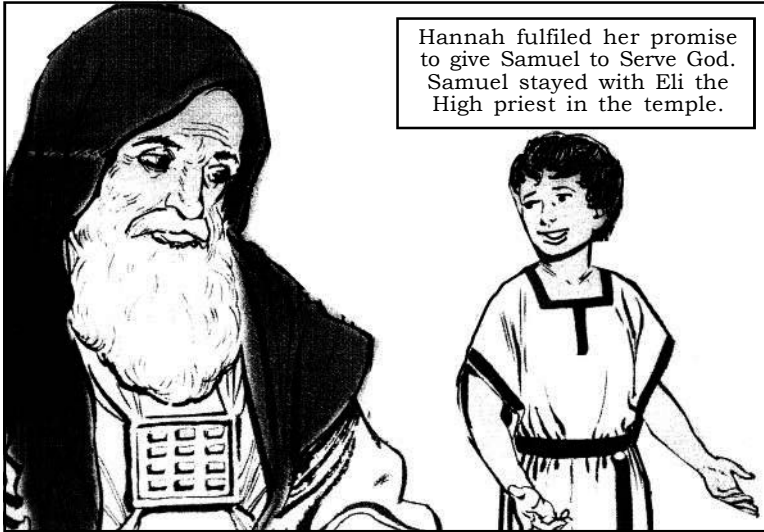
I Samuel 1:21-28.

In fulfilment of her vow, Hannah took Samuel to the house of God at Shiloh. She showed her gratitude, love and devotion to the Lord by her willingness to dedicate her son to the work of the Lord. Hannah is an example of a praying and godly mother. She regarded her son as a gracious gift from God, therefore, she prayerfully and faithfully gave him back unto God.

Samuel on the other hand was obedient. He did not cry or run back to his mother. He stayed with the priest in the temple and served the Lord. From his early age, Samuel was trained by the high priest Eli for his sacred duties. He eventually succeeded Eli as the high priest. He also served as a prophet and judge. He was faithful to God throughout his life.

The life of Samuel is a good example that shows us that children can serve God from a very early age. God

is calling boys and girls into His sacred service. You must surrender to His call by repenting of your sins and



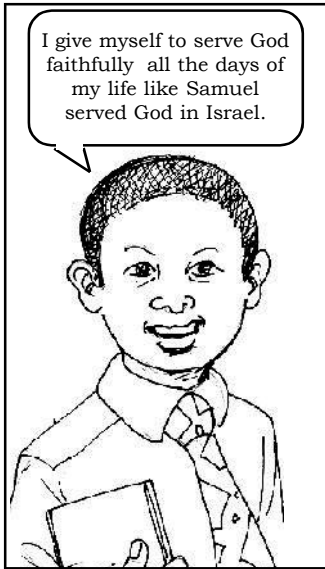
accepting Jesus as your personal Lord and Saviour. Serve him all the days of your life by obeying His word and remain faithful.

3. BORN TO SERVE:

Jeremiah 1:4-10.

Samuel fulfilled God's purpose for his life. He stood in the gap during the unstable period of the judges and the establishment of the kingdom of Israel. Just as God had a plan for Samuel, so does He for every child born into this world. God's purpose is for you to live according to His will and fulfil His plan for your life.

The only person that can hinder God's plan for your life is yourself. When you allow self and sin to control



your life, then you cannot fulfil God's purpose. Therefore, you must repent of all your sins. Ask for forgiveness and cleansing in the blood of Jesus. Live holy, be separate from worldly influences, surrender your time, talents, treasures, and all that you have to God. Serve Him faithfully, preach the love of Jesus to sinners and be focused. God will make your life beautiful. You will also be a blessing to your generation like Samuel.

QUESTIONS:

1. Samuel's parents were _____ and _____
2. Hannah prayed for a child and God gave her. True/False?
3. (a) Does God still answer prayers today? _____.
(b) What is the meaning of Samuel? _____
4. In fulfilment of her vow, Hannah ____ to the Lord.
5. You are born to serve God Yes/No. (b) In what area can you serve the lord _____.

MEMORY VERSE: "Wherefore it came to pass, when the time was come about after Hannah had conceived, that she bare a son, and called his name Samuel, saying, Because I have asked him of the Lord." (1 Samuel 1:20).

LESSON: God has a specific plan for every child.

THOUGHT: I will be faithful in serving God so that His plan will be fulfilled in my life.

ACTIVITY: Search the scriptures and write in your notebook, three children that were born as a result of divine intervention.

HOMEWORK: Write in your homework book, the service you will render in God's house.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG GHS: 168 – I NEED THEE EVERY HOUR

CHORUSES: (1) Have faith in God, all things are possible. (2) Make me a good child like Samuel. (3) I will be what the Lord says I will be.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	GENESIS	18:9-12
TUESDAY	GENESIS	18:13,14
WEDNESDAY	GENESIS	21:1-3
THURSDAY	GENESIS	21:4-8
FRIDAY	LUKE	1:11-13
SATURDAY	LUKE	1:14-17
SUNDAY	MATTHEW	1:18-21

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Sacred 2. Faith 3. Dedicate
4. Gracious 5. Devotion.

HANNAH'S SONG OF PRAISE

I Samuel 2:1-11.

Hannah went back to the temple at Shiloh to pay her vow and show appreciation to God for giving her Samuel as the answer to her prayer. She offered songs of praise to God for His mighty acts and blessings in her life.

This is what is expected of every true friend of Jesus. God is good to us, we ought to sing praises and thank Him continually for His goodness and mercies in our lives.

The message is in three parts:

1. CONTENT OF HANNAH'S SONG OF PRAISE:

I Samuel 2:1-11.

The song of praise that Hannah rendered unto God shows that (i) God alone is worthy to be praised. (ii) God is holy and there is none beside Him. (iii) God is awesome and has power to do all things. (iv) He is the defender of the weak and rewarder of those who seek Him in faith. (v) God rules over all the earth and determines what He wants to do in the lives of His people. (vi) God is faithful to His promises and He cannot fail.

For our praises to be acceptable to God, we must focus on Him alone and not man or self. Our praises must come from a sincere and pure heart. We must also show respect and honour to our Almighty God. Praising God is an important aspect of worship. Therefore you must praise God at all times.

2. COMMAND TO PRAISE GOD:

Psalm 148:1-12; 150:1-6.

The Bible encourages God's people to praise the Lord. Praising God is one of the major assignment of angels and is the privilege given to God's people, both children



and adults. (a) God calls all nations to praise Him (Psalm 67:3-5; 117:1; Romans 15:11). (b) The Bible commands that everything that has breath should praise the Lord (Psalm 150:6). (c) Even non-living things such as the sun, moon, stars, lightning, hail, snow, wind, mountain, hills, seas etc. are also commanded to praise God.

Many Old and New Testament saints enjoyed great victories because they praised God continually. Moses, David, the Apostles and our Lord and Saviour showed us examples of how to praise God.

We praise God because He is God and He alone is worthy of our praises. Other reasons for praising God are for: (a) His glory, beauty and His power. (b) He is the creator of the heavens and the earth. (c) The experience of His mighty acts in saving us from sin. (d) His unfailing

mercy, grace and love. (e) His specific acts of deliverance from sicknesses, Satan and death. (f) His continual care and provision for us day by day.



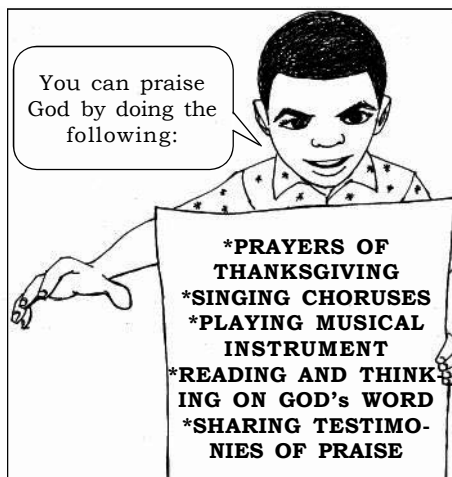
There are uncountable reasons for which we must praise God continually. Be a part of the people of God who praise Him daily out of a pure heart.

3. HOW TO PRAISE GOD:

Psalm 96:1-4; 147:1; Ephesians 5:19,20.

Praising God can take place in a variety of ways such as: (i) prayers of thanksgiving (ii) singing of choruses, hymns and songs. (iii) through the use of musical instruments like, organ, violin, flute, trumpet etc. (iv) reading and meditating on God's word and His great works. (v) paying of tithes, vows and giving offerings. (vi) Sharing testimonies of God's wonderful deeds so as to encourage others to have faith in God. (vii) writing poems of praise to encourage others to honour God. (viii) preaching the gospel of salvation to sinners is also a way of appreciating what He has done for mankind.

Our lives should glorify God. Jesus says that, if we let our light shine, people will see our good deeds and give glory and praise God. Also a life filled with the fruit of righteousness glorifies God (Philippians 1:11).



You must cultivate the attitude of praising God at all times. If oceans, trees, mountains and other things that cannot talk are praising God, you can do better than them.

When Hannah praised God, she received much more blessings than she asked for. Instead of

having only Samuel, God blessed her with three more sons and two daughters. There are uncountable blessings for those who praise God. However, if you are still a sinner, you must first repent of your sins, and make Jesus your friend.

QUESTIONS:

1. Why did Hannah sing praises unto God? _____
2. Mention two important things in Hannah's song of praise. _____
3. State three reasons why we must praise God. _____
4. Mention five ways to praise God. _____
5. What is God's command to us in Psalm 150:6? _____

MEMORY VERSE: “There is none holy as the Lord: for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God.” (1 Samuel 2:2).

LESSON: The only thing that we can give God is praises that comes from a holy heart.

THOUGHT: I will praise the Lord all the days of my life.

ACTIVITY: Children are to sing songs of praise and rejoice in the presence of the Lord.

HOMEWORK: Search the scriptures and write in your homework book, two instances where people sang praises to God and received deliverance from their enemies.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG GHS: 15 – O WORSHIP THE KING

CHORUSES: (1) There is none holy as the Lord. (2) We give glory to the Lord, He reigns. (3) Oh that men will praise the Lord.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	PSALM	66:1-3
TUESDAY	PSALM	66:4-7
WEDNESDAY	PSALM	66:8-10
THURSDAY	EXODUS	15:1-3
FRIDAY	PSALM	100:1-5
SATURDAY	PSALM	99:1-3
SUNDAY	PSALM	150:1-6

THE SINS OF ELI'S SONS

I Samuel 2:12-26.

Eli was a priest and a judge before the kings began to rule in Israel. Samuel was brought to Eli the priest by his parents (Elkanah and Hannah). Although Eli trained Samuel in the way of the Lord, but he had no grip over his two sons Hophni and Phinehas.

In today's lesson, we will learn about the disobedience of Eli's sons and the consequences of their rebellious ways. God is concerned about our character and conduct as we serve Him and His people. We must serve God with a heart of obedience to His commandments.

The study is in three parts:

1. THE CORRUPT WAYS OF ELI'S SONS:

I Samuel 2:12-17; Romans 1:28-32; II Peter 2:12-14.

Eli's sons were called "sons of Belial" meaning worthless men. They were wicked, corrupt ministers in God's house who used their position as an opportunity for greedy gain and engaging in immorality. Hophni and Phinehas had no regard for God's glory nor His word. They were disobedient and careless.

Their actions made the people to disrespect God's word, Name and house. They were not only corrupt, but they corrupted God's house and the sacrifices that the worshippers brought. Their sins were so grievous before God!

Many children today are following in the footsteps of Eli's sons. They have made the church/worship centre to become playgrounds. They run about the altar, bring their toys to church and play without showing respect for God's house. Some make noise with their friends to distract other children who are interested in God's word. They never take part in important worship activities, like prayer, singing and Bible reading. All they want to do is to play and disturb the church.

Hophni and Phinehas were sons of Eli the High priest. They were corrupt and disobedient to God's word.



Eli told his sons that if anyone sin against God, no one can plead or deliver such from God's judgment. If you are involved in polluting God's house and disturbing during worship services, you have to repent now, to avoid the judgment of God.

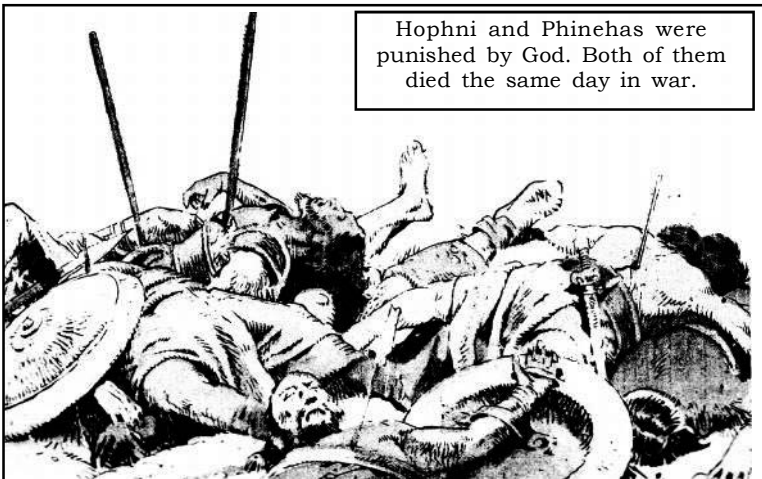
2. THE CONSEQUENCE OF THE SINS OF ELI'S SONS:

I Samuel 2:22-25; Hebrews 10:26-31.

There are grave consequences for disobedience. Eli's sons continued in their rebellious attitude without caring about the result of their actions. When their father spoke to them, they refused to listen. Their wicked actions led to (a) disrespect for the office of the priest

(b) the general spiritual decline of God's people. (c) departure of the glory and presence of God from Israel. (d) decay in moral value among the people of God. (e) disregard for God's word and His righteous ways.

Eli's sons hardened their hearts. They did bad things openly without shame. Their father's instructions had no effect on them. They were like the two sons of Aaron who offered strange sacrifices before the Lord. They eventually paid dearly for their wicked ways because



the wicked shall not go unpunished. They with their father died the same day.

If you are one of those who are disobedient and do wicked things even in God's house, you have to repent because you will not be able to bear the consequences of your evil ways.

3. CALL TO REPENT:

Ezekiel 18:30-32; II Peter 3:9.

God is not interested in the death of any sinner no matter how bad he may be. His desire is for all sinners to repent and be saved. This was why God sent a prophet and even young Samuel to warn Eli about the ways of his sons. If Eli had been faithful to remove his sons from the priest's office, he would have saved the family from God's judgment. Probably, the sons might have realized their sinful ways and repented. They refused to repent until they were all destroyed. Samuel lived in the midst of this corruption but chose to be different. You must be like Samuel (I Samuel 2:18-21).

Do not wait till God's judgment comes. Ask for pardon and cleansing in the blood of Jesus. Invite Jesus into your heart to be your Lord and Saviour. As you become a new creature, rejoice and be ready to serve Him with your whole heart. Be a good example to others. Do not use your offering and tithes to buy sweets, biscuit, ice cream or such things. Do not fight with visitors that come to the church. Have respect for God's house and be attentive in the time of worship. Live holy always and you will enjoy God's blessings.



QUESTIONS:

1. Eli was a _____ and _____ in Israel.
2. The two sons of Eli were _____ and _____.

3. Mention the sins committed by the sons of Eli _____

4. _____ was pure and served God faithfully even in the midst of corruption.
5. Mention three consequences of the sins of Eli _____

6. What should a sinner do to escape God's judgment? _____

MEMORY VERSE: "Wherefore the sin of the young men was very great before the Lord: for men abhorred the offering of the Lord." (1 Samuel 2:17).

LESSON: There are serious consequences for disobedience.

THOUGHT: I will not disobey God's word so as to be free from judgment.

ACTIVITY: The teachers and the children are to spend time to pray on these points (a) against the spirit of rebellion, disobedience and weak faith. (b) God's grace to be obedient to His word. (c) strength to serve God faithfully for the rest of their lives.

HOMEWORK: Pray daily for grace to live a holy life all the days of your life.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG GHS: 40 – WASH ME, O LAMB OF GOD

CHORUSES: (1) I will never let the devil win the battle. (2) I wandered far away. (3) God must be honoured.

PAUL REHEARSES HIS CALLING

Galatians 1:11-24.

Children receive calls every day from different sources and for different purposes. It could be from mummy, daddy, school mates or teachers. In our Bible passage, Paul the Apostle explains how God called him; first to save him from sin and then to preach the gospel. He responded promptly. His prompt response to God's call gave him success in his life and ministry. He became one of the greatest apostles that ever lived. What is your response to God's call? Today, God is still calling boys and girls to be saved and serve Him. Will you answer His call today? Give a response that you will retell with joy, both here on earth and throughout eternity.

1. THE CONVERSION OF PAUL:

Acts 9:1-16.

Paul, formally known as Saul was a very wicked and injurious person. He persecuted and sought to destroy the church of God. In the cause of carrying out his wicked activities against the church, he heard the voice of Christ on his way to Damascus. A great light from heaven shone around him and he was arrested. Paul had an unforgettable encounter with Jesus and his life turned around completely.

He accepted Jesus as his Lord and Saviour and surrendered all unto Him. A murderer and wicked

Paul surrendered his life to Christ; God wants all bad children to come to Him.



person had now become a loving minister of the gospel. This great experience gave Paul the confidence to always testify of God's saving power at every given opportunity.

There is no one that is too wicked to be saved. Jesus will save the worst offender if only he repents. Do not delay your opportunity to be saved. Jesus is standing at the

door of your heart and knocking. If you will open, He will come in to be your Saviour, Lord and Friend.

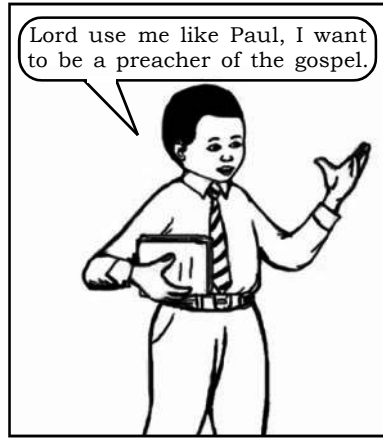
2. PAUL'S RESPONSE TO CHRIST'S CALL:

Galatians 1:11-24.

After Paul had an encounter with Jesus and accepted Him as Saviour and Lord, he developed a spiritual hunger and longing to know more about Jesus and do His will. He did not seek anybody's opinion before answering the call of the Master. He went immediately to do what the Lord called him to do; "a minister and a witness" for Christ among the Gentiles.

From the point of his conversion, Paul went everywhere preaching the gospel. He had lots of converts, went on three missionary journeys, established churches, wrote many of the books of the New Testament, suffered a lot of hardship and persecution and finally died for the gospel.

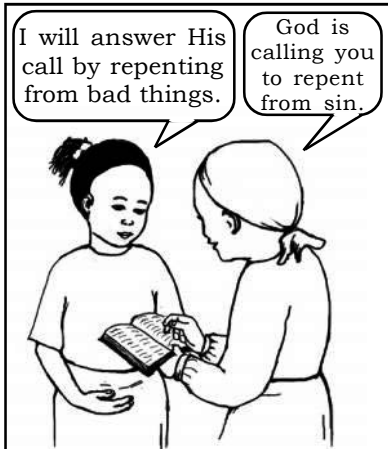
Paul was one of the greatest Apostles that ever lived. He forsook everything, counted all as dung to gain Christ and took the gospel to many cities, towns and villages. Anyone who has this kind of experience will be proud to recall and testify of it every time. Paul is now in heaven enjoying his reward. Christ is calling saved children to serve Him.



The preaching of the gospel must reach the whole world. Join in the end time harvest for souls and preach the gospel like Paul did.

3. GOD'S CALL TO EVERY CHILD:

Matthew 11:28; II Timothy 4:1-5.



Today Jesus is calling all sinful boys and girls unto salvation. Answer His call by taking the following steps:

- (i) realize that you are a sinner and cannot save yourself.
- (ii) repent of all your evil ways and confess them to God (I John 1:9).
- (iii) ask God for forgiveness and cleansing in the blood of Jesus (Ephesians 1:7).
- (iv) invite Jesus to come

into your heart and be your Saviour, Lord and Friend.
(v) thank God for answering your prayers (Romans 10:13).

By taking these steps you have answered God's call to salvation. God is still calling you and all others who have been saved from sin to have a pure heart and serve Him with their whole life. You will join the Saviour in the great work of seeking and saving those who are lost in sin like Paul did. The most important thing is to bring sinners to Christ. Answer God's call today.

QUESTIONS:

1. Saul was _____ before he was converted.
2. After his conversion what was Paul called to do? _____
3. How did Paul respond to God's call? _____

4. How can a sinner answer God's call to salvation? _____

MEMORY VERSE: "But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace," (Galatians 1:15).

LESSON: God is calling every child to salvation, purity of heart and service.

THOUGHT: I will respond to God's call by surrendering all to Him.

ACTIVITY: Read the following passages and answer these questions, Luke 18:22,23; 9:59-62. (i) What is Jesus calling the people to do? (ii) What made them not to answer Jesus' call? (iii) Mention some similar things which make children not to answer God's call.

HOMEWORK: Write down the names of three people in the Old Testament and three people in the New Testament who answered God's call without delay and write out the Bible passages.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG GHS: 85 – GIVE OF YOUR BEST TO THE MASTER

CHORUSES: (1) When He calls me I will answer. (2) I will make you fishers of men. (3) Follow, follow, I will follow Jesus.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	ACTS	26:1-5
TUESDAY	ACTS	26:9-11
WEDNESDAY	ACTS	26:12-15
THURSDAY	ACTS	26:16-18
FRIDAY	ACTS	26:19-22
SATURDAY	MATTHEW	4:18-22
SUNDAY	LUKE	9:61,62

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Response 2. Rehearse 3. Opinion

4. Prompt 5. Enlist.

THE UNIVERSAL GOSPEL

Galatians 2:1-10.

Universal means worldwide. The universal gospel is the good news of God's love to all humanity. That is, everyone on earth without exception. When Jesus died on the cross, He obtained eternal redemption (salvation) for all men (including boys and girls). Christ died that the whole world might know and enjoy the benefits of His death. Today, all that believe in the sacrifice of Christ and call upon the Lord shall be saved from sin and be born again (Romans 10:12,13).

God through the sacrifice of His Son Jesus on the cross, redeemed us from sin and its consequences. He suffered on the cross on our behalf. He became our sin bearer, our substitute and Saviour. He bore our guilt, shame and sorrow so that we can come before God and receive forgiveness, peace and salvation. We are reconciled with God through the blood of Jesus. This is the universal gospel message for everyone

The topic is divided into three points:

1. THE COMMAND TO SPREAD THE UNIVERSAL GOSPEL:

Galatians 2:1-5; Mark 16:15; Matthew 24:14;
Romans 10:14,15; Acts 1:8.

Evangelism is the major purpose of our salvation and the duty of every friend of Jesus. Christ commanded His disciples to go into the world and preach the gospel to every creature. The church was born and strengthened

to evangelize. Jesus, the Head of the church left His disciples on earth so as to evangelize, witness and save the lost. We too are to be His witnesses. The people around us are our 'world'. Every believer who is truly born again is called and assigned to witness to sinners. As friends of Jesus, you are expected to tell your friends, neighbours and relations how you become saved by repenting and believing on the Lord Jesus. Your righteous life, love, obedience, praying and reading the word of God daily should also preach the gospel to them.

Paul preached the gospel. God commands us to preach the gospel everywhere.



2. THE URGENCY OF THE UNIVERSAL GOSPEL MESSAGE:

Galatians 1:5-10; John 9:4; I Peter 4:7a.

The time here on earth is short while eternity is endless. Sinners are dying daily and going to hell. The activities of the power of darkness are on the increase. The end of all things is near (I Peter 4:7a). Friends of Jesus should make this great assignment of preaching the gospel a priority. We should work while the opportunity lasts for **“the night cometh, when no man can work.”** (John 9:4).

Paul pronounced woe on himself in I Corinthians 9:16 if he failed to preach the gospel. We should declare like the four lepers (II Kings 7:9) that ‘we do not well’ if



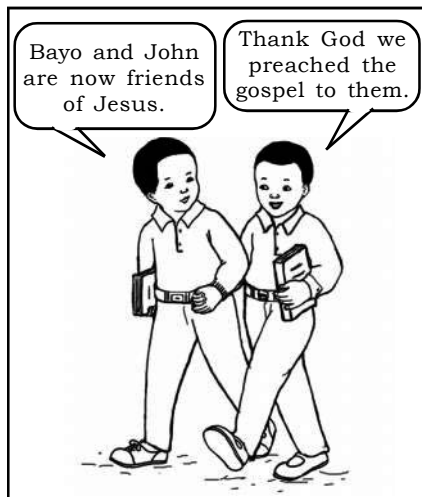
we hold our peace while multitudes are perishing around us.

The task of soul winning is urgent because sinners who fail to repent will not escape the judgment of eternal punishment in hell fire. We must therefore not fail to preach the gospel to our friends and neighbours so that we will not regret eternally (Proverbs 24:11,12).

3. BENEFITS OF THE UNIVERSAL GOSPEL:

John 15:16; Daniel 12:3.

There are great rewards for those who will faithfully obey the Lord's command to preach the gospel. Some of the benefits of evangelism are: (a) many souls will be saved and added to the church. (b) there will be answers to prayer. (c) crime and other wicked activities will decrease and there will be peace. (d) there will be joy in heaven



and God will be happy with soul-winners. (e) living with Jesus in heaven and receiving crowns with stars.

If you are not yet a friend of Jesus, you have no good news to share with sinners. You are still in darkness, spiritually blind and cannot lead other blind people to Christ. You must therefore (a) acknowledge your sins (b) repent of your sins (c) ask for forgiveness and cleansing in the blood of Jesus

(d) accept Jesus as your personal Saviour, Lord and Friend. You can then obey the command to go into all the world and spread the universal gospel to every creature.

QUESTIONS:

1. Universal means _____

2. The universal gospel message is that God is offering pardon and salvation freely to all sinners in the world. Yes/No?
3. Give three reasons why world-wide evangelism is very important _____

4. Mention four important conditions that can qualify someone to partake in spreading the universal gospel. _____

5. Mention four benefits of the universal gospel. _____

6. How can a sinful child be involved in evangelism?

MEMORY VERSE: “And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.” (Matthew 24:14).

LESSON: The universal gospel must reach all men on earth.

THOUGHT: I will get involved in preaching the universal gospel message.

ACTIVITY: Sword Drill: Psalm 136:24; Romans 1:1; Matthew 24:14; Acts 1:8; II Timothy 4:2.

HOMEWORK: The teacher should lead the children in carrying out evangelism in the neighbourhood during the week.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG GHS: 107 – GO AND TELL THEM

CHORUSES: (1) Go and tell them. (2) Go tell it on the mountain. (3) Jesus loves me, He died for me ...

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	JOHN	3:1-3
TUESDAY	JOHN	3:4-6
WEDNESDAY	JOHN	3:7-9
THURSDAY	JOHN	3:14-17
FRIDAY	ACTS	4:9-12
SATURDAY	MARK	16:14-16
SUNDAY	ROMANS	8:1-4

JUSTIFICATION AND RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FATH

Galatians 2:11-21.

Once upon a time, a servant owed his master so much money that he could not pay. The master insisted on collecting his money or send him to jail. One rich man who heard about the problem decided to help this poor servant though he did not know the poor man before. The rich man paid all the debt. He also built a new house for the poor servant and provided all that he would need for the rest of his life. The servant was set free and he began to live a new life. The poor servant in our story represents all sinful boys and girls. The master who was owed the great debt is God and the rich man represents our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ who paid the debt for our sins by dying on the cross for us.

When Adam sinned against God, he brought all human beings into sin and death. Every boy and girl became a sinner and were condemned to go to hell. Then Jesus came and suffered for the sins of man and paid the debt for sin through His blood which He shed for all humanity on the cross.

We shall consider our message under the following sub-topics:

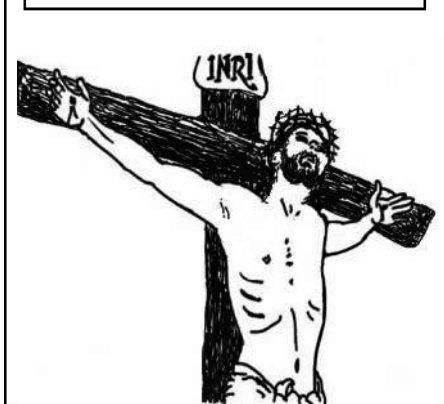
1. JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH:

Galatians 2:11-19; Romans 5:1; Psalm 32:1,2;
Acts 13:38,39; Isaiah 1:18.

To be justified means to be set free from blame or guilt. Every boy and girl born into this world is born with the guilt of sin because we are born in sin. **“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”** (Romans 3:23). Anyone who dies with the guilt or blame of sin will go to hell and suffer forever. This is why every boy and girl should seek to be justified or made free from the blame and guilt of sin by seeking for forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

What then is justification by faith? Justification by

Accept Jesus Christ and you will be justified through His death on the Cross.



faith is an act of God's grace through which one receives forgiveness and removal of sins by faith in the blood of Jesus Christ. The forgiven sinner is then counted righteous by God and is given the grace to live a new life of righteousness. Many children try to justify themselves by doing some good

works while still living in sin: (i) attending church regularly (ii) sweeping the church and cleaning the seats (iii) behaving well only before their parents, neighbours and teachers (iv) reading the Bible and doing the daily Bible reading regularly (v) dressing well like true Christians (vi) fasting and praying (vii) attending

retreats and church programmes (viii) singing in the choir (ix) preaching the gospel and inviting others to church etc. All these are good and religious works which cannot justify or set a child free from sin.

For a sinful child to be justified, he must as a matter of urgency, take the following steps: (i) realize that he is a sinner (ii) repent of all sins and confess them to God (iii) sincerely ask for forgiveness and cleansing in the precious blood of Christ. (iv) turn away from doing bad things (v) ask Jesus to come into his heart to be his personal Lord and Saviour.

Jesus is standing at the door of your heart, do not reject Him. Allow Him in so that you will be cleansed from all your bad ways. This is what will make you to be justified before God. You will become as one that has never sin.

2. RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH:

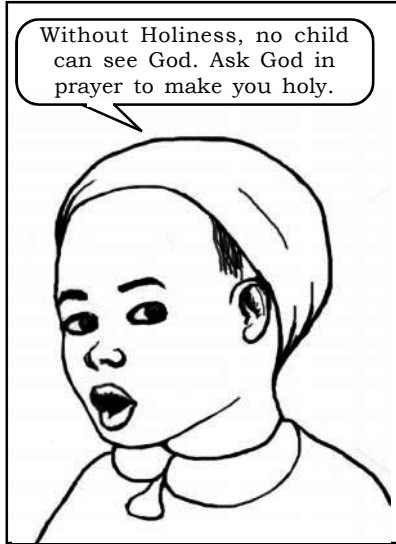
Galatians 2:20,21; Romans 8:1-4; 6:17,18,22.

To be righteous means to be free from sin and doing what is right by obeying the word of God always. God has shown us the only way to become righteous. Anyone who does not follow God's way to become righteous but choose his own way will be damned. The children of Israel at the time of Jesus Christ rejected God's laid down way to become righteous and were rejected. **“For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth.”** (Romans 10:3,4).

The sacrifice of Christ is not only to save us from sin but also to make us holy and righteous. Without holiness, no child can see God. This is why it is important for a

child to be saved and also have a strong desire to be righteous. Holiness is a must for heaven-bound believers. Believe in the word of God that commands us to be holy because our God is holy (I Peter 1:16).

After salvation, a child must press forward to receive the sanctification experience by following these steps: (a) believe that it is the will of God for you to be holy. (b) have thirst (strong desire) for the holiness experience, (c) pray in faith that God should make you holy, (d) receive the experience by trusting God, (e) thank God for making you holy. (f) live out the experience by showing forth the fruits of a holy life.



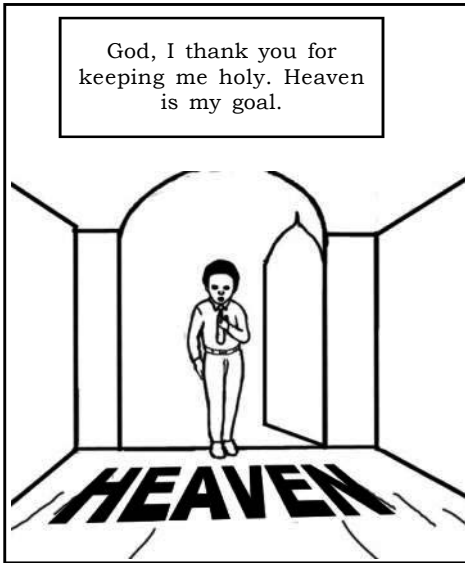
Always remember that you are saved and made righteous by faith in Jesus Christ, not because of what you do by your power. Obey the word of God all the time.

3. HEAVEN – THE HOME OF THE JUSTIFIED AND THE RIGHTEOUS:

John 14:1-3; Revelation 21:1-4; 21:27.

Only those who are justified (forgiven) and made righteous by faith shall be qualified to live with God in heaven forever. Those who justify themselves and trust in the works of their hands to save them shall be disappointed at the end (Revelation 22:15).

Heaven is a holy place prepared by God for holy people. These are friends of Jesus who have been made righteous by faith.



They live a holy life through faith in Jesus Christ and by the grace of God. Are you one of them? If not, you need to surrender your life to Jesus now. Do not delay. **“For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time;**

behold, now is the day of salvation.” (2 Corinthians 6:2).

QUESTIONS:

1. Who does the servant and the rich man represent in our story? _____
2. What debt does every child born into the world owe?

3. Mention four wrong ways whereby many children try to justify themselves. _____

4. What are the steps a sinner must take to be justified by faith? _____

5. How can a friend of Jesus be made righteous? _____

MEMORY VERSE: “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.” (Galatians 2:20).

LESSON: Any child not justified and made righteous by faith cannot enter heaven.

THOUGHT: I surrender my life to Christ. I believe that the sacrifice of Jesus can set me free from sin and make me righteous.

ACTIVITY: Prayers.

HOMEWORK: Find and write out the passages in the following books of the Bible where the people listed below made excuses and justified themselves or their actions but were not accepted by God.

S/N	Personality	Book of the Bible	Chapter and verse
1.	Adam	Genesis	
2.	King Saul	I Samuel	
3.	The Lawyer	Luke	

CONGREGATIONAL SONG GHS: 23 – NO OTHER PLEA

CHORUSES: (1) It is no longer I that liveth ... (2) Is not by works of righteousness but by His grace alone we are complete in Him. (3) I live for Jesus day after day.

REBUKE FOR GOING BACK TO OLD TESTAMENT LAW

Galatians 3:1-29.

Law is a set of rules that everyone in a country or society must obey. In our schools for example, we have some rules and regulations which all good boys and girls are expected to obey. Many boys and girls obey their school rules and regulations without being born again because most of these laws do not require the grace of God to obey them.

The law helps us to know what we are expected to do and what we must not do, but cannot give us the power to do what is required or to avoid doing what the law forbids (Romans 5:20,21). It is the preaching or teaching or the gospel of grace that exposes the sins of the sinner and gives him the faith to pray and receive salvation.

The study is in three parts:

1. DANGER OF GOING BACK TO OLD TESTAMENT LAW:

Galatians 3:1-12; 1:6-9; Ephesians 2:8,9.

Apostle Paul preached the gospel in the city of Galatia and many of them became friends of Jesus and they continued following the Lord. They believed the teaching of Paul the Apostle which stated that the sacrifice of Jesus is complete and sufficient for our salvation and they became saved by grace.

Not long after Paul had left them to go and preach in other cities, some false teachers came and deceived them with another gospel. They were told that their salvation was not complete except they go back to the keeping of

Galatians were deceived by false teachers and returned to keeping of the Law.



the law. This made many of them to turn away from their faith in the sacrifice of Jesus and put their confidence only in keeping of the law.

“But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.” (Galatians 3:11). That means no sinner can be saved by just keeping the laws. Faith in the sacrifice of Christ death on the cross and the blood He shed to cleanse us from sin is what is required for our salvation. Jesus has provided that grace for all who are willing to believe and be saved. Are you saved? Then, remain in the whole truth of being justified by faith. If you are not yet saved, know that your mere living by the works of the law and traditions of your denomination cannot save

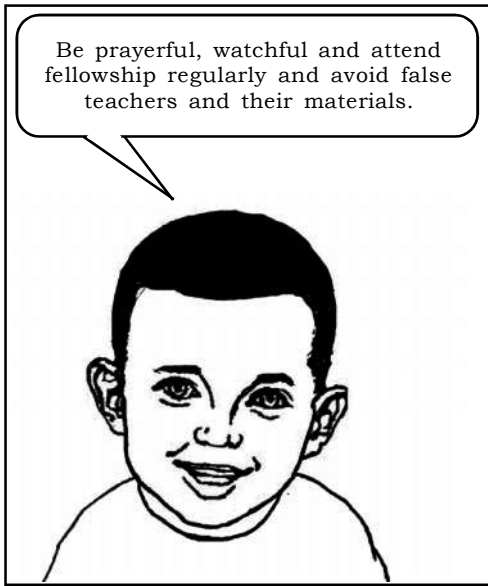
you. Repent now and accept Jesus as your personal Lord and Saviour.

2. SUFFICIENCY IN CHRIST:

Galatians 3:13-18; Hebrews 3:1-6; 2:10; 13:8.

“I need no other argument, I need not other plea, it is enough that Jesus died and that He died for me”. This song summarizes the essence of our faith in Christ. It shows that there is no other law or sacrifice that can save a sinner from God’s judgment outside what Christ has done.

This fact should make every believer to rejoice and not be moved by the teaching of false prophets. Just like



in the days of Apostle Paul, many false teachers are in the world today. They teach people to observe human rules and regulations that have no power to save from sin.

There are many people who are mere religious church goers, they lack the grace that brings salvation. The Bible warns that we should

avoid false teachers and their doctrines. Jesus is the perfect sacrifice for sin. He died on the cross, shed His

blood to cleanse us from sin and deliver us from eternal punishment. He is the only way to receive true salvation. There is no other name through which we can be saved (Acts 4:12).

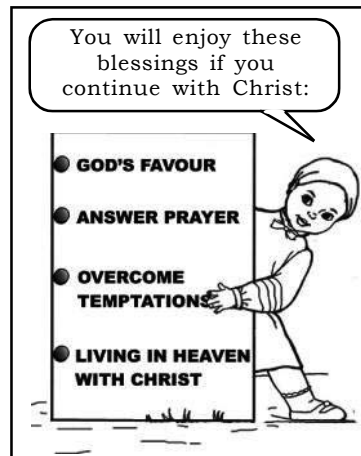
All that a sinner needs to do is to sincerely repent and confess all his sins to God. Ask for forgiveness and cleansing in the blood of Jesus. Invite Jesus to be His Saviour and Lord. Turn from sin and live in obedience to God's word. After being saved, you must always be in fellowship with true friends of Jesus. Be prayerful and watchful. Constantly read your Bible, meditate, obey and live daily by it.

Be observant and never listen to false teachers or collect their materials. As you follow Christ, He will keep you from falling and help you to stand till He comes to take us home.

3. BLESSINGS OF CONTINUING WITH CHRIST:

Galatians 3:25-29; Revelation 22:7, 12-14.

The Bible says we should seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all other things shall be added unto us. As you believe and continue in the commandment of Christ, there are many benefits that you will enjoy: (i) you will be a true friend of Jesus and God will be happy with you. (ii) God will help you to always overcome temptation and endure persecutions. (iii) your prayers will be



answered. (iv) you will take part in the rapture and live in heaven with Jesus forever.

If you are still doing bad things, you cannot enjoy these blessings except you repent of your sins, confess and forsake them, ask God to forgive you and wash your sins away with the blood of Jesus. Then invite and accept Jesus into your life as your Lord and personal Saviour and believe that God has saved you.

QUESTIONS:

1. What is the meaning of 'law'? _____
2. What are the dangers of going back to the Old Testament law? _____
3. What are the benefits of continuing with Christ? _____

4. Mention five things a believer must do to be free from having faith in a set of law. _____

5. (a) Who is sufficient to save us from sin? _____
(b) How can a sinful child receive salvation? _____

MEMORY VERSE: “Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.” (Galatians 3:24).

LESSON: We can only be saved by grace through faith in the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ.

THOUGHT: I must continue in the gospel of grace to enjoy the blessings of the Lord.

ACTIVITY: The children should memorize and recite the following verses: (i) Galatians 2:16; 3:11; Ephesians 2:8,9.

HOMEWORK: Go and witness to people around you who have not received the gospel of salvation and also invite them to the fellowship next Sunday.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG GHS: 202 – WONDERFUL STORY OF LOVE

CHORUSES: (1) The word of God is sufficient unto me. (2) Jesus the way, the truth and the light. (3) Thy word is life, thy word is Spirit; write thy word oh Lord on the table of my heart.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	GALATIANS	1:6-8
TUESDAY	GALATIANS	1:9-12
WEDNESDAY	GALATIANS	2:4-6
THURSDAY	GALATIANS	2:7-9
FRIDAY	GALATIANS	2:16-18
SATURDAY	GALATIANS	2:19-21
SUNDAY	TITUS	2:11-15

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Sufficiency 2. Reverse 3. Rebuke
4. Law 5. Modern.

ADOPTION AND SONSHIP THROUGH CHRIST

Galatians 4:1-11.

A boy named Akin accepted Jesus Christ as His Lord and Saviour. Then he began to pray and fast almost every day until he became so ill. His parents then asked him why he had fasted so much. He told them that he was trying to pay Jesus back for dying for him on the cross. His parents explained to him that he cannot and he did not have to pay back anything for his forgiveness, Jesus had paid it all!

The people Paul addressed in the book of Galatians had almost the same problem as Akin. They had received salvation from sin and peace from God through faith in Christ who died for the sins of everyone on earth. But they soon got confused by some people who told them that faith in Christ was not enough to set someone free from the bondage of sin. They told them that in addition to their faith in Christ sacrifice and death on the cross, they must keep rules and regulations, fast, observe feast and keep holy days to be free from sin. Because of this, the Galatian believers forsook their faith in Christ and began to seek salvation through works of the laws, circumcision and religious ceremonies (Galatians 1:6,7). Therefore, Paul sought to restore them back to their faith in Christ and stated the fact that salvation from the power of sin comes through Jesus Christ alone (Galatians 1:3-5).

1. ONLY JESUS CAN SAVE:

Matthew 1:21; Galatians 2:16; 3:11-14; 5:6; Ephesians 2:8.

The Bible makes it clear that salvation from sin cannot be obtained through: (i) **circumcision** – Titus was a Greek, saved through faith in Christ. He remained saved without circumcision (Galatians 5:6; 2:3). (ii) **Works of the law** – Also on this the Bible says: “**Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the**

Jesus suffered to save us from sin, so you must repent from all bad things.



works of the law shall no flesh be justified.” (Galatians 2:16).

Like the Galatians, some people today still think that their salvation depend on personal good works, water baptism, holy communion, special prayers, fasting, church membership, wearing of special clothes, eating special foods, observing religious ceremonies, regular attendance to

church programme and such other things. But just as Abraham was justified by God to be righteous through faith, every man is justified before God only through faith (James 2:23). The law cannot save, it is too harsh. With every disobedience to the law comes a curse upon the offender. Moreover, there is no cure for curses in the

laws, or anywhere else. Christ came to cure us from the curse of the law (Galatians 3:13,14).

The role of the law was to check, curtail or moderate possible sin or excesses from man. Its original purpose was not and is not for redemption or justification. It was not designed to take away sin. It was meant to guide the people until the One who has the power to completely deliver from the bondage of sin would come (Galatians 3:19-25). That Person is Jesus Christ (Matthew 1:21).

2. ADOPTION THROUGH CHRIST:

Galatians 4:1-5; I John 3:1; John 1:12.

Children need care. But there are children whose parents are not available to care for them. The reason may be because the parents are dead, too poor, too sick or unwilling to care for them. Such children may become children of other persons through the process of adoption. The dictionary defines adoption as the “act of voluntary acceptance of a child from other parents to be same as one’s

All friends of Jesus are adopted children of God.

Lord forgive me all my sins and make one of your children.



own child”. A child so adopted becomes a real child of the new parent. That child can have right to inherit the riches and properties of the new parent. He becomes a true family member and joint heir with the other child or children that are in the new family.

Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God (John 3:16). In Galatians 3:16, we are told of the promise which God made to Abraham and his ‘seed’ which is Christ. This promise guarantees that people from all over the world can become children of God, if they believe in Jesus Christ the Son of God. We then become adopted children of God and joint heirs with Christ. **“For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.”** (Galatians 3:26).

This promise of adoption through faith was made to Abraham a long time ago. It became possible when Jesus was given to be our Saviour and Lord. **“But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.”** (Galatians 4:4,5).

Just as a child becomes adopted by a new parent, though weak, poor and helpless, God, because of His love has chosen to make us His own children though sinful, wretched and weak, if we believe in Jesus Christ. He has made it very simple for everyone to become His son or daughter. As many as receive Him will be set free from sin (John 1:12; 3:16).

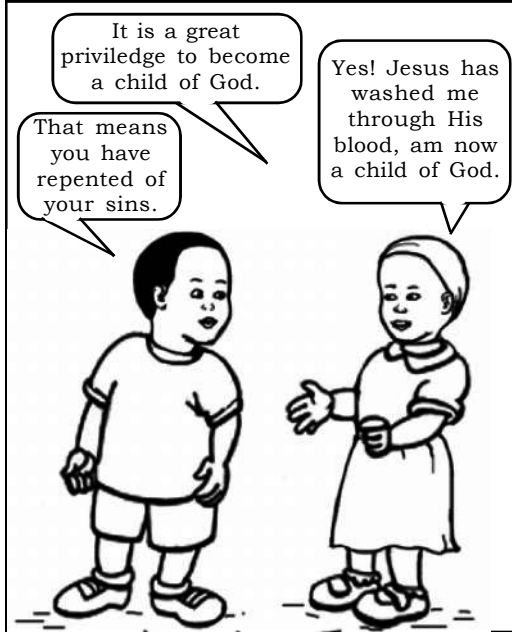
3. BENEFITS OF SONSHIP THROUGH CHRIST:

Galatians 4:6-11; Romans 8:1,2,14,15.

The Spirit of God takes over our lives and guide us to do what is right when we become children of God. **“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of**

bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit

of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.”
(Romans 8:14,15).



God's law is now written in our hearts and the Holy Spirit also fills our heart as God's children (Galatians 4:6). This is the secret behind the new, clean and holy conduct of a child immediately he or she receives Jesus as Lord and

Saviour (II Corinthians 5:17). With His help, we now readily surrender our will to deal righteously and justly in all things, not compelled by the law as before, but by the Spirit and love of God shed abroad in our hearts.

Salvation is the gift of God to those who receive Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8,9). It is a great privilege to become a child of God. However, it is not automatic. There is a part that you must play. If a rich man offers to take a helpless child as his own, and the child refuses to accept the rich man, he cannot be forced to do so. God will not force any child to accept Christ as Lord and Saviour. The decision is your hands. You can partake in this great privilege of becoming a child of God; realise that you are a sinner and do not yet belong to God's family. There

is nothing you can do to wash away your sins. Believe that only Jesus can take away your sins. Be sorry for your sins and turn away from them. Confess your sins to God and ask for His forgiveness. Invite Jesus into your heart to be your Saviour and Lord and you will become adopted into the family of God. Rise up and pray.

QUESTIONS:

1. Why did Akin fast? _____
2. What problems did the Galatian believers have? _____

3. Mention some things some people wrongly depend on for their salvation _____

4. Who is the only Saviour of the world? _____
5. How can sinful and helpless children become God's sons and daughters? _____

MEMORY VERSE: “**But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:**” (John 1:12).

LESSON: Faith in Christ will make a sinner to become a child of God.

THOUGHT: Jesus is enough for me.

ACTIVITY: It is a great privilege to be a child of God. If you are not yet one, pray now for God to save you. If you are, tell God to give you grace to bring others to Christ.

HOMEWORK: Go out this week and explain to other children how they can become children of God through

faith in Jesus Christ. Write their names in your homework book.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG GHS: 131 - IN TENDERNESS HE SOUGHT ME

CHORUSES: (1) Only Jesus can save. (2) He's enough for me ... the man of Calvary is enough for me. (3) I am a child of God (2x). My sins are washed in the blood of Jesus.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	ROMANS	8:14-16
TUESDAY	ROMANS	8:17-19
WEDNESDAY	ROMANS	3:20-23
THURSDAY	JOHN	3:16-18
FRIDAY	ROMANS	8:1-3
SATURDAY	JOHN	1:10-13
SUNDAY	I JOHN	3:1-3

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Justified 2. Redemption 3. Adoption
4. Sonship 5. Voluntary.

ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

Matthew 1:21; Romans 10:8-13; Ephesians
2:8,9.

Two important words stand out clearly in our topic. These are: assurance and salvation. Assurance is the absence of doubt and the strong belief we have about the certainty and reality of something.

On the other hand, salvation is freedom from danger or freedom from a situation which makes our life insecure and unsafe. It is also being set free from sin. For better understanding, we shall divide the study into four parts:

1. WHAT IS ASSURANCE OF SALVATION?

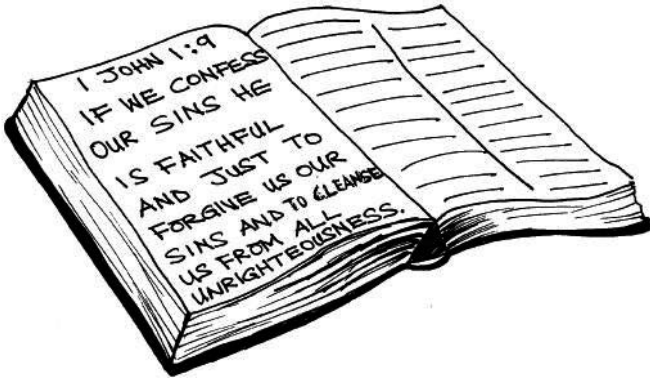
Isaiah 43:11,25; Acts 4:12.

The Bible makes us to know that only God has the power to forgive us our sins through our Lord Jesus. Assurance of salvation is therefore, the confidence and faith which someone who has just given his life to Jesus exercises towards God believing that God has forgiven all his sins and he is now saved according to the promises of God (Proverbs 28:13; Romans 10:13).

God is very faithful. He has promised to forgive every sinner who truly confesses and repents of all their sins and believe on the Lord Jesus. God does not fail to fulfil His promises because there is nothing too hard for Him to do (Jeremiah 32:17,27). This is why every sinful child

needs to believe God for salvation after praying according to the word of God.

God has promised to forgive all who accept Jesus as their Saviour.



2. WHO CAN HAVE ASSURANCE OF SALVATION?

Romans 10:9,10,13.

God does not want any sinful child to continue and die in sin (Ezekiel 18:31,32). It is the will of God for sinners to repent of their sins and receive salvation from sin and the punishment for sin. Only children who have genuinely given their lives to Christ can have assurance of salvation. Unfortunately, many children come to church yet, they are not saved because they: (i) do not give attention to the word of God they are hearing. (ii) are full of doubts and unbelief. (iii) are selfish and disobedient and do not want to give up their sinful habits. (iv) love the things of this world more than Jesus, our Lord and Saviour (I John 2:15-17). (v) are always in a hurry to rush out of the church after hearing the word of God without giving time to pray on what they have been

taught. They are not willing to spend sufficient time to pray after listening to the message.

Today, God is calling sinners to repent and believe on the Lord Jesus so that they can be saved (John 3:3; Revelation 3:20).

For you to have salvation, there are some urgent steps you must take right now: (i) Realize that you have sinned and that God loves you, but He hates your sins (ii) Confess all your sins to God and ask for forgiveness and cleansing through the blood of Jesus (Proverbs 28:13). (iii) Invite Jesus into your heart and receive Him as your Lord and personal Saviour. (iv) Forsake all your sins and believe in your heart that God has forgiven you. Then praise and thank Him for saving you. If you sincerely follow these steps, God will surely save you and the Spirit of God will bear witness in your heart that God has forgiven all your sins. You have no reason to doubt God's promise to save

When you give your life to Jesus you will have assurance of salvation.

O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me and wash me in Jesus' blood.



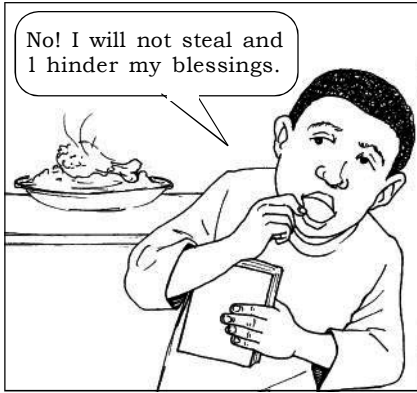
because God is faithful. **“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”** (Romans 8:1).

3. HOW TO KEEP YOUR SALVATION

II Corinthians 6:14-18; Ephesians 4:21-24;
Psalm 119:11.

Salvation is our passport to heaven. Jesus told Nicodemus that without salvation, no sinner can see

the kingdom of God (John 3:3). It is therefore very



important for you to know how to keep your salvation. (i) Daily read and think on the word of God all the time and obey its commandments (Psalm 119:11; Joshua 1:8). (ii) Live a holy life all the time, be sober and watchful (I Peter 5:8). (iii) Do not be a close friend of people who do

not love Jesus and are not obedient to the word of God. (iv) Think more about heaven than on the things of this world (Colossians 3:1-3). (v) Preach the gospel all the time and be an example of a true believer by the life you live. (vi) Pray regularly (I Timothy 2:8). (vii) Have faith in God and His words (Hebrews 11:6). (viii) Have nothing to do with false teachers. (ix) Seek for counselling from godly teachers in the church when you are confused. (x) Always pray and look up to Jesus in every situation.

Read and obey the Bible. Keep away from bad doings. These will help you to continue following Jesus.



4. BLESSINGS OF SALVATION:

When you answer Jesus' call to salvation, you will: (i) take part in the inheritance of the saints (Colossians 1:12).

(ii) be free from God's punishment. (iii) get to heaven, Jesus will wipe away all your tears, take away your sorrows and give you a beautiful mansion at the end. (iv) receive answers to prayers. (v) have dominion over Satan and his messengers.

As a sinful child, you cannot fully enjoy these blessings except you totally repent from all your sins and receive Jesus as your Lord and Saviour. Let us pray.

QUESTIONS:

1. Explain the meaning of the two important words in our study for today. _____
2. According to the study of today, assurance of salvation is _____
3. Give four reasons why some children come to church and yet are not saved. _____

4. How can a sinful child be saved? _____
5. Mention five things a believer must do in order to keep his salvation. _____

6. What are the blessings for having assurance of salvation? _____

MEMORY VERSE: "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." (Romans 10:9).

LESSON: Saved boys and girls must be assured of their salvation in Christ.

THOUGHT: I must believe the word of God for my salvation.

ACTIVITY: Children should search the scriptures and find out people who were genuinely saved in the Bible. The boys are to mention the names of three men while the girls should mention the names of three women.

HOMEWORK: Children are to write in their homework books three reasons while they must keep their salvation.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 18 - BLESSED ASSURANCE

CHORUSES: (1) Are you in the number saved by grace?
(2) I'm a new creation, I'm a brand new child. (3) We are heirs of the Father.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	ACTS	2:38-41
TUESDAY	ACTS	8:5-8
WEDNESDAY	ACTS	8:26-28
THURSDAY	ACTS	8:29-31
FRIDAY	ACTS	8:32-35
SATURDAY	ACTS	8:36-38
SUNDAY	ACTS	9:17-19

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Assurance 2. Salvation
3. Sober 4. Passport 5. Kingdom.

THE SERVICE OF CONSECRATED SAINTS

Romans 12:3-8.

Many years ago, a woman called Mary Slessor came from Britain to Akwa Ibom State in Nigeria for missionary work. Despite the mosquito bites and harsh treatment by the natives at that time, this woman did not run back to her home country or give up the work of spreading the light of the gospel among the natives of the land. She worked hard to make the people stop the killing of twin babies, ill-treating and chasing their mothers away. Many of the twins were saved from death and delivered from idolatry. She gave her entire life to the work of God and died in Nigeria. Mary Slessor was a consecrated servant of God.

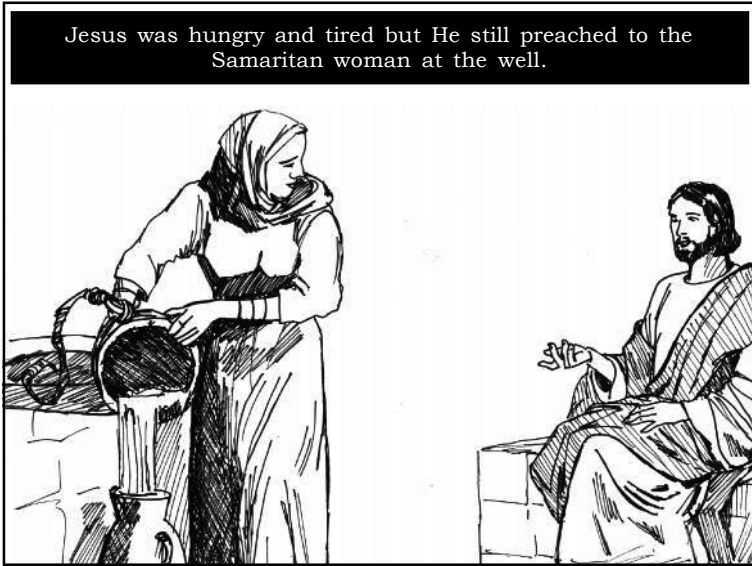
The study is in three parts.

1. CONSECRATED SAINTS:

Galatians 1:15,16; Philippians 1:20.

Consecration is when someone offers himself or herself totally to please God in everything. A saint is a person who has turned away from doing bad things and have become a friend of Jesus. He now lives to please and serve God. He is holy in his thoughts and lifestyle. Paul the Apostle and other disciples were true saints of Jesus. A true saint is humble and loyal to his Master. He defends his Master at all times. A consecrated saint will be willing to suffer for the sake of the gospel. God wants all the boys and girls who are born again to be

consecrated to Him. A consecrated friend of Jesus will stand on the teachings of God's word and be faithful to obey His commandments. He will also read his Bible daily, observe his quiet time, live a life of righteousness.



Sinful boys and girls must repent of their sins so that they can become saints in Christ.

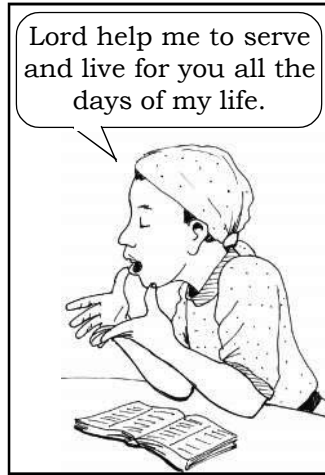
2. CONSECRATED SERVICE:

John 4:34; Romans 12:6-8.

You cannot serve or please God except you are a friend of Jesus. Consecrated work can only be done by those who have accepted Jesus Christ as their Master. Being born again or attending church services is not consecration. The decision to obey Jesus without any form of fear is consecration. Jesus expects His friends to work for Him with their whole hearts and mind. Their

main service to God is to preach the love of Jesus to sinful boys and girls. Other things they can do are:

- (a) Encouraging those that are weak in faith.
- (b) Teaching new converts to understand the Bible.
- (c) Giving to the needy, visiting the sick and praying for them.
- (d) Showing mercy to the helpless.



3. AN ACCEPTABLE SERVICE:

1 Chronicles 29:5b.

Not every work or service is acceptable to God. He will not accept any work that is done in order to please

other people. Neither will He accept murmuring or complaining while a person is doing His work. God expects you to serve Him in humility and faithfulness. The work of God must not be done by force but from a willing heart.



However, the most important

thing is that God's work must be done by only those who are friends of Jesus. An acceptable service to God must come from His saints. Every work done by pretenders, hypocrites and sinners are not acceptable to God. Rewards and blessings awaits every good service. God is still looking for those who will offer an acceptable service. Will you be among them? Rise up and let us pray.

QUESTIONS:

1. Who was the missionary that consecrated her service to the work of God in our story? _____
2. Who are the children that can consecrate their service to God? _____

3. Mention three things a consecrated saint can do for the Lord _____
_____.
4. Give example of an apostle that consecrated his service in the Bible _____.
5. Sinful boys and girls cannot render an acceptable service to God. True/false.

MEMORY VERSE: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." (Romans 12:1).

LESSON: God demands a consecrated life from every saved child.

THOUGHT: I will consecrate my service to God all the days of my life.

ACTIVITY: Children should search through the Bible and write down six names of consecrated Christian disciples in the New Testament. Write one important thing that they did for the Lord.

HOMEWORK: Children should do a service acceptable in the sight of God during the week, they should write such a service or work in their homework book.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 87 - TAKE MY LIFE

CHORUSES: (1) I live for Jesus. (2) Jesus, I adore You. (3) I will dig a little deeper.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	I CORINTHIANS	3:5-7
TUESDAY	I CORINTHIANS	3:8-10
WEDNESDAY	GALATIANS	2:18-20
THURSDAY	PHILIPPIANS	3:7-10
FRIDAY	COLOSSIANS	3:12-14
SATURDAY	COLOSSIANS	3:15-17
SUNDAY	COLOSSIANS	3:22-25

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary. 1. Consecration 2. Observe
3. Hypocrites 4. Murmuring 5. Pretender.

LESSON 702

THE RAPTURE

I Corinthians 15:51-58; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; 5:4-9.

The dictionary defines rapture as the act of transporting a person from one sphere of existence to another. This definition is in agreement with the Bible teaching on the rapture. The word rapture means “caught away or caught up”! This refers to the catching up of the saints from the earth to meet the Lord in the air. Only faithful believers will take part in the rapture.

After His death and resurrection, Jesus was taken up to heaven in the presence of His friends. Before then, He promised them that He would come back one day to take them to be with Him in His Father’s house. The angels that were present when He was been taken up also confirmed that Jesus will come back the same way He was taken up to heaven (Acts 1:9-11).

This shows us that, as surely as Christ went to heaven, so He will return from His Father’s presence and take His friends to be with Him in heaven. This was the hope of New Testament Christians and is the hope of all true believers today. Be part of the people that possess this hope. Jesus is coming soon!!!

The study is divided into three parts:

1. THE PROGRAMME OF THE RAPTURE:

I Thessalonians 4:16,17; I Corinthians 15:51-55.

God has a defined programme for the end-time events. The first of these great events is the rapture. It is going to be a sudden and unexpected event, no one knows the time. The Bible shows that the rapture will

involve the following events: (i) The Lord Jesus Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout. He will not come to the earth but He will stay in the clouds. (ii) His appearance will be accompanied with a shout, with the voice of the archangel (the commander of the angels) and with the trumpet sound. The sound will be loud and clear. (iii) The dead in Christ will rise first. This means that

The trumpet shall sound. All friends of Jesus will meet Him in the sky.



friends of Jesus who had died in every part of the world will hear the sound of the trumpet and will rise up in a moment. (iv) At the same time, believers who are alive will be changed and caught up together with the risen dead to meet with Christ in the air. (v) They will all be united with Jesus and taken to heaven. (vi) All these events will happen in a very short time “in the twinkling of an eye” (I Corinthians 15:52).

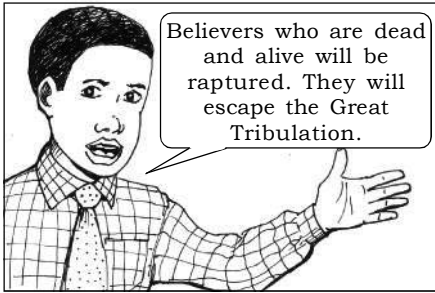
Jesus will come when we least expect Him. Therefore, sinners, backsliders, church goers, careless Christians will not hear the trumpet sound neither will they see Jesus in the sky. It is the sudden disappearance of the saints that will make the world to know that the rapture has taken place. Do not be taken unawares!

2. THE PURPOSE OF THE RAPTURE:

I Corinthians 15:50-57; Revelation 10:1-9.

God will not do anything without a purpose. He is great and mighty and His ways are perfect. It is the plan of God to bring His own people unto Himself. He

promised the children of Israel to take them from slavery to Canaan and fulfilled that promise. Heaven is our



“Canaan land”. Jesus is coming to take us there. (i) The main purpose of the rapture is that believers would be taken to be with Jesus forever (John 14:3). (ii) Bring to life the saints that are dead and change the

bodies of the living saints. (iii) Christ’s coming for His faithful children will enable them to escape the great tribulation that will come upon the world. They will be removed from all distress, persecution, oppression and from the entire realm of sin and death. (iv) The rapture is to gather all the saints together to partake in the marriage Supper of the Lamb.

The hope that our Saviour and Friend will soon return to take us out of the world is a blessed hope and a source of comfort for all true friends of Jesus. Friends of Jesus today must be hopeful and eagerly wait for Christ’s return to take them to heaven.

3. PREPARATION FOR THE RAPTURE:

Matthew 24:36-44.

Immediately after the rapture, the seven year period of the great tribulation will start. It is going to be a time of suffering that is beyond human imagination. Therefore, boys and girls must be wise and prepare to go in the rapture so that you would escape the “wrath to come”. Your preparation starts with genuine repentance and total freedom from sin. Sinners must repent now and ask for forgiveness and cleansing in the blood of

Jesus. Make Jesus your personal Saviour and Friend. As believers, we must be ready at all times for the coming of the Lord.

Our preparation and readiness involves: (i) reading, thinking on and obeying God's word. (ii) being watchful like the wise virgins. (iii) consistent prayer life. (iv) soberness (v) total separation from the world and its attractions. (vi) preaching the gospel of peace. (vii) abstaining from

every appearance of evil, persevering in faith and living daily in expectation of Christ's coming.

Jesus, in His prophetic message warns His friends not to be so pre-occupied with the pleasure and cares of the world that they fail to be prepared for His coming. Since the time of His coming is unknown, believers must always be ready. Do not be careless with your life. The trumpet will soon sound and the King of kings will appear in His glory.



QUESTIONS:

1. What does the rapture mean? _____
2. Mention two significant events that will occur at the rapture. _____
3. Outline three reasons for the rapture _____
4. What should (a) the sinner (b) backslider and (c) friends of Jesus do to prepare and be ready for _____

the rapture? _____

MEMORY VERSE: “In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.” (1 Corinthians 15:52).

LESSON: The rapture is certain and will occur at an unexpected time.

THOUGHT: I must be ready at all times in order to go with Jesus at the rapture.

ACTIVITY: Ready for rapture!! Put on this garment with it’s characteristics. Circle those characteristics in the puzzle below. HOLINESS: HUMILITY. OBEDIENCE, LOVE, INTEGRITY, NEW-LIFE, ENDURANCE, SELF-DENIAL, SOBERNESS.

X	Y	O	W	A	B	C	H	J	I	K	I	Y	T	Y
S	R	Q	H	N	H	U	M	I	L	I	T	Y	X	Y
V	B	C	I	K	O	B	E	D	I	E	N	C	E	O
O	M	S	L	V	L	O	V	E	A	Z	Q	R	S	T
Q	E	S	S	I	I	N	T	E	G	R	I	T	Y	X
J	U	S	V	Y	N	E	W	L	I	F	E	E	S	S
J	U	S	T	I	E	N	D	U	R	A	N	C	E	X
G	O	O	D	N	S	E	L	F	D	E	N	I	A	L
M	E	R	C	H	S	O	B	E	R	N	E	S	S	X
G	O	D	I	S	H	A	S	S	G	O	A	D	S	S
W	X	Y	H	J	E	A	S	W	H	Y	Z	Q	I	S
L	E	S	S	U	T	Q	I	A	C	B	E	G	F	H

HOMEWORK: Write the word RAPTURE in capital letter 50 times in your homework book. Pray that you will not miss it.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG GHS: 172 – WHEN THE ROLL IS CALLED UP YONDER

CHORUSES: (1) Will you be ready when the Lord shall come. (2) I'm thinking when my Lord shall come again. (3) When you come to collect your people.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	TITUS	3:11-13
TUESDAY	II PETER	3:8-10
WEDNESDAY	II PETER	3:11-13
THURSDAY	II PETER	3:14-18
FRIDAY	I TIMOTHY	6:13-15
SATURDAY	MATTHEW	24:4-6
SUNDAY	MATTHEW	24:42-44

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Soberness 2. Consistent
3. Persevere 4. Archangel 5. Sphere.

LESSON 703

DIVINE JUDGMENT ON ELI'S FAMILY

I Samuel 2: 27-36

In our earlier study of this chapter (I Samuel 2) we learnt about the sins of Eli's sons and how it is very important to avoid their evil ways. We shall learn from this study the consequences of their wicked actions and the judgment of God upon sinners. The children of Eli the priest had sown corruption and done a lot of terrible things. It was now time for them to reap divine judgment for all their wrong doings.

Judgment upon a person, family or nation is said to be divine when it is from God. God is righteous. In His righteousness, He blesses those who obey Him and punishes those who do wrong. The choice to be blessed or punished by God is yours to make. In our lesson today, we will learn about how Eli, the priest of God and his children neglected God's warning and caused God to pronounce His judgment on them and their unborn children.

Be warned! turn away from all ungodly acts. You cannot do wrong and get away with it. God's judgment will definitely come.

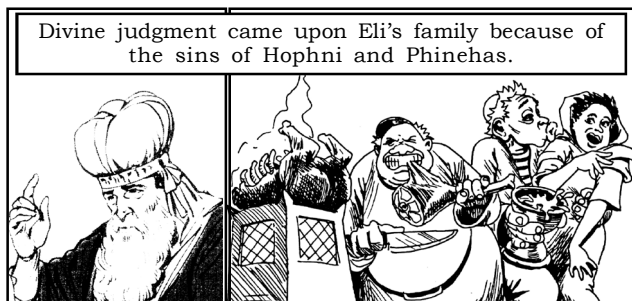
Our lesson will be considered under three sub-topics:

1. THE REASON FOR DIVINE JUDGMENT:

I Samuel 2:12-17,23-25,27-29; Proverbs 11:21a; 16:5.

Eli was the priest of God. He was a descendant of Aaron, the first high Priest in Israel. God gave the duty

of offering sacrifices brought by the people to God to



Aaron and his children. This was a very special privilege. Eli had two sons:

Hophni and Phinehas. His sons neither loved nor respected God. They were called children of Belial (Satan) (I Samuel 12:12). They stole from the sacrifice meant for God and forcefully committed immorality with the women who came to the temple to pray. These were grievous sins before God. Eli, their father, was weak. He couldn't control his children. God was very unhappy with Eli and his children. He condemned their attitude and sent His servant to pronounce judgment on Eli and his family.

Consequently, Hophni and Phinehas died the same day. The sudden news of this also led to the death of Eli. Eli's family also lost the special privilege of being priests and making offering to God forever. Pastors and our godly teachers are the priests of God in this present time. You may be the son or daughter of any of these leaders. But if you refuse to obey the call of God to repentance, God will not consider your father or mother's position and spare you from the punishment for your wickedness (Romans 2:11). However, if you fear God and obey His word, He will bless you and other members of your family.

2. JUDGMENT OF GOD IS NEAR:

I Samuel 2:30-36; Hebrews 10:26-31.

The world is full of evil. A lot of people, even children, kill, steal, cheat, lie, hate, get involved in immoral relationships and commit other ungodly acts as if they would not be judged. However, God has set aside a day when He will judge this world through Jesus Christ our Lord (Romans 2:16). The day of God's judgment is very



All sinners who refuse to repent will end up in hell fire.

near. He will not spare the sinners. The Holy Bible warns, "**It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living**

God." (Hebrews 10:31). The Bible also reveals that "**The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.**" (Psalm 9:17). Great men, Presidents of nations, murderers and criminals, sinners both adults and children, will soon stand before an angry God to be judged (Revelation 20:11, 12). But God in His mercy, has provided a way of escape through Jesus Christ.

3. FORGIVENESS FOR ALL WHO REPENT:

I John 1:7-9; Acts 3:19.

"But the times of this ignorance God winked at; (overlooked) but now commandeth all men (boys and girls) every where to repent:" (Acts 17:30). You cannot

hide your bad behaviours from God. Neither do you have the power of your own to set yourself free from doing bad things. Only Jesus has the power to save from sin. Pray now and tell Jesus all your evil doings, turn away from your sins, ask Jesus to wash you clean from sin and give you the power to go and sin no more. The Lord will have mercy on you and forgive all your sins. Then you will be free from God's judgment. Rise up and pray.

Turn away from your sin and make Jesus your friend today. Then you will escape God's judgment.



QUESTIONS:

1. What is the meaning of divine judgment? _____
2. Whose family was judged in our lesson and why? _____
3. When will God's judgment come on all sinners? _____
4. Mention the steps a sinful child must take to escape God's judgment. _____

MEMORY VERSE: "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27).

LESSON: The judgment of God will surely come on all sinners.

THOUGHT: I must turn away from every bad behaviour to escape the judgment of God.

ACTIVITY: Children should stand up with their heads bowed in the attitude of prayer. They should try to recollect all the ungodly actions they have done and sincerely pray for God's forgiveness and mercy.

HOMEWORK: Children should write in their church notebooks, two countries and three persons in the Bible who sinned against God and the punishment that came on them.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG GHS: 207 – THERE'S A GREAT DAY COMING

CHORUSES: (1) If you do good there is kingdom
(2) You cannot hide it from God. (3) I wandered far away.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	I SAMUEL	2:29-31
TUESDAY	ROMANS	2:5-8
WEDNESDAY	PSALM	9:15-17
THURSDAY	HEBREWS	10:30,31
FRIDAY	REVELATION	20:11-13
SATURDAY	ACTS	17:30,31
SUNDAY	PROVERBS	28:13,14

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Judgment 2. Privilege 3. Descendants
4. Immoral 5. Ignorance.

GOD REVEALS HIMSELF TO SAMUEL

I Samuel 3:1-21

To reveal means to show or open up what was kept secret or hidden. Samuel was born in answer to the prayer of his mother, Hannah. Hannah was married to Elkanah for many years, but had no child. She became worried. She then fasted, prayed and asked God to give her a baby boy. She also promised to give him back to serve in the house of God all the days of his life. Our God who answers prayers, the faithful God that cannot fail granted her request and gave her a bouncing baby boy. She called his name Samuel, which means “Asked of God”.

Hannah fulfilled her promise by taking Samuel to the temple at Shiloh. Samuel then stayed with Eli the priest to serve the Lord. You are born for a purpose. God has great plans for your life. Surrender to Him so that His purpose will be fulfilled in your life.

The study is in three parts:

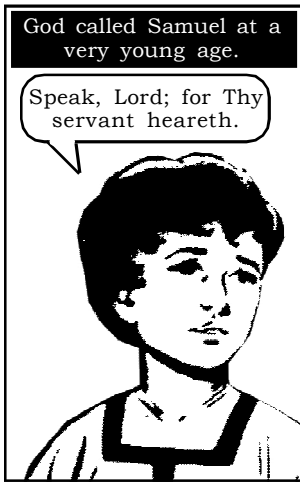
1. THE CALL OF SAMUEL:

I Samuel 3:1-21.

Samuel’s mother promised God that if He would give her a son, then, she would give the son to serve God. As a small boy, Samuel was brought to the tabernacle to help Eli. Each year his mother would visit and bring him a new little coat. Samuel was always in the temple

serving God. He learned the duties of being a priest from Eli. One day, Samuel heard the voice of the Lord. It was a special call.

In the days of Abraham, God sometimes spoke directly to His people. However, at the time Samuel was born, the children of Israel had forsaken God to serve



idols. This made the word of the Lord to be scarce. The book of judges describes the situation as “everybody doing that which was right in his eye”.

There was no open vision, no prophecy and teaching of the word of God. In the midst of this confusion and “spiritual dryness”, God found Samuel. He spoke directly to him, and called him by his name. Do you know that God knows your name? That is why He stands at the door of your heart, knocking

and saying, son/daughter give me your heart. Samuel’s response to God was prompt. This shows obedience. As you receive the call of God again through His word, you must behave like Samuel and answer His call.

2. SAMUEL – A FAITHFUL PROPHET:

I Samuel 3:19-21; 2:18.

From an early age, Samuel was trained by the high priest Eli for his sacred (holy) duties. He served as a priest, judge and prophet. He eventually succeeded Eli as the high priest. Because of the spiritual decline of God’s people, God called Samuel to proclaim His word, provide

an example of faithfulness to doing God's will, call the children of Israel to repentance and renewal and to stand in the gap as mediator for the people.

Samuel did not disappoint God. He served Him right from the time he was called as a child till his old age. In serving God, Samuel showed the following characteristics. He was:

(a) An upright judge – I Samuel 12:1-3. He judged the people of God in truth and righteousness. When they demanded for a king, he was bold to tell them to testify if he had done any bad thing to them.

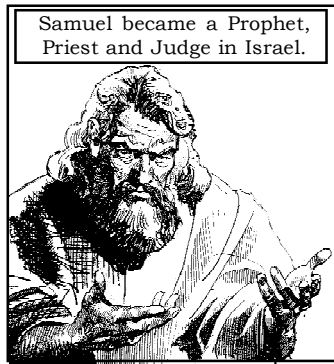
(b) Consecrated to God and His work – I Samuel 1:24-28. He never looked back from the time that his mother brought him to the temple. He remained with the Lord.

(c) Holy and righteous – I Samuel 2:17,18. Despite the corruption of Hophni and Phinehas, Samuel remained unspotted. He separated himself from bad influences.

(d) Diligent in service – I Samuel 3:1-3. He was always in the temple attending to the needs of Eli the high priest. He also took care of the Holy place and did the work assigned to him. This was why he heard the voice of God.

(e) Courageous – I Samuel 13:13. He feared God more than the king. He was not afraid to declare the word of God at any time.

(f) A man of prayer – I Samuel 7:5-8; 8:6. He prayed often for the people. This led to revival and renewal in Israel. A prayerful child is a powerful child.

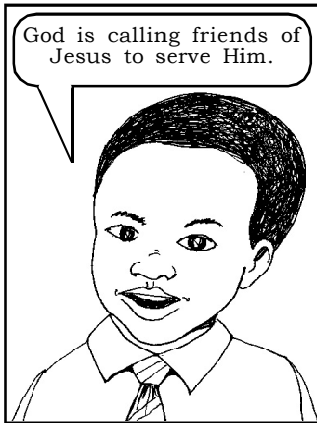


Samuel's characteristics brought him into favour with God and man (I Samuel 2:26). You can be a Samuel for your generation. The nation needs someone who will bring revival. Surrender your life to God and let Him use you for His glory.

3. CALL TO SERVE GOD:

I Samuel 3:4; Isaiah 6:2-8.

The exemplary life of Samuel has proved that children can start to serve God even from their childhood. God honoured Samuel so much that whatever he said came



to pass. If you want to be honoured by God, you must surrender to Him.

First, if you are a sinner, repent and ask for forgiveness and cleansing in the blood of Jesus. Pray and ask God to make you holy and righteous. By so doing, you will be prepared for God's service. Service to God involves (a) preaching the gospel to sinners everywhere. Preach with concern and the urgency that it demands. (b) serving God in the fellowship as a chorister, usher etc. (c) following-up new converts and teaching them the word of God. (d) living an exemplary life.

Let your light shine before all men just like Samuel. Be separate from all bad influences around you. Live for Christ both day and night. Be faithful, brave and true. The Bible is God's revelation to every boy and girl. Love it, read it every day, think on its words, store it in your

heart, obey it all the time, live by it and share it with others.

QUESTIONS:

1. At the time Samuel was born, what made the word of God to be scarce? _____
2. How did Samuel receive God's call? _____

3. Mention five qualities in Samuel which qualified him for God's service _____

4. (a) What is God calling sinners to do? _____
(b) How can a sinful child respond to God's call? _____

5. In what ways can a Christian child faithfully serve God? _____

MEMORY VERSE: "And the Lord appeared again in Shiloh: for the Lord revealed himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the Lord" (1 Samuel 3:21).

LESSON: God is no respecter of persons.

THOUGHT: I will keep myself away from all evil so that God can reveal Himself to me.

ACTIVITY: Sword drill: Matthew 4:19; Isaiah 6:8; Acts 9:4; Exodus 3:4; Luke 1:28.

HOMEWORK: Write in your homework book the things you must do before God can reveal Himself to you.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG GHS: 47 – JUST OBEY

LESSON 705

GOD'S GLORY DEPARTS FROM ISRAEL

I Samuel 4:1-22

In our study today, God allowed the Philistines to defeat the Israelites and the Ark of the Covenant was taken from them. This was to teach them a lesson for living sinful and rebellious lifestyles. Rebellion is refusal to obey the word of God, rules and regulations of our parents, teachers and church leaders.

Instead of serving God, the Israelites worshipped idols and disobeyed God's rules. They refused to be governed by God. As a child of God, you must walk closely with God, obey and love Him with all your heart, spirit and soul.

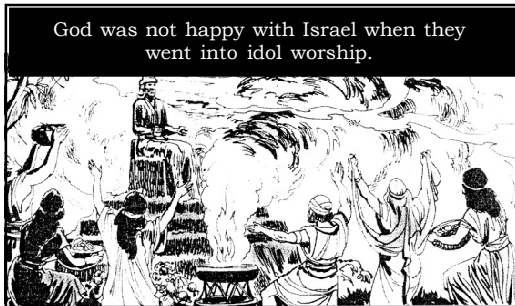
This study is in three parts:

1. ISRAEL'S SIN:

I Samuel 2:1,27-29; 3:11-14; Isaiah 1:2-15; Romans 3:23.

In the beginning, God created Adam and Eve. He made them the crown of His creation. He also gave them dominion over all that He made. All that they needed to be comfortable was provided freely for them. The only duty that God required of them was obedience to His command. This looks so simple yet man disobeyed and reaped the consequences. It is very sad (unfortunate) to note that despite repeated warnings and judgments, people have not learned to obey God.

Israel were God's chosen people. God gave them a land flowing with milk and honey for their inheritance. They had the law, prophets and everything to guide them to walk in the way of the Lord. Unfortunately, they always went back to their evil ways. Despite constant warnings, suffering and punishment, Israel had not learnt



anything. They forsook God, His law, covenant and served idols. God was angry with them and allowed their enemies to conquer them (Proverbs 29:1).

God is angry with sinners every day. However, there is abundant grace for those who will take the step of faith and repent. The judgment of God is coming and eternity is near. Do not remain in your rebellion and disobedience.

2. ICHABOD – THE GLORY DEPARTS:

I Samuel 2:30-34; 4:1-22; Proverbs 29:1; Romans 6:23a.

The consequence of Israel's corruption and disobedience was more than they could imagine. War broke out between the Philistines (enemy nation) and Israel. The fight was so serious that Israel went into the temple to carry the ark of God. The ark is a special wooden box containing sacred objects (holy things) set in the temple. It symbolizes God's presence and His covenant with Israel.

The children of Israel thought the ark would protect them in battle. They failed to understand that a symbol

of worship does not guarantee God's presence. God will remain with His people only if they maintain their holy relationship with Him through obedience to His word.

God is more concerned about our personal relationship with Christ than the use of symbols like anointing oil, prayer books, 'holy water', religious wrist bands, crucifix etc. Despite the presence of the ark, Israel suffered a humiliating (disgraceful) defeat. Thirty-four thousand people were killed. Hophni, Phinehas, Eli and



Phinehas's wife died the same day. The child that was prematurely delivered by Phinehas' wife was named Ichabod. The ark of God was also captured. This means the presence and glory of God had departed from Israel.

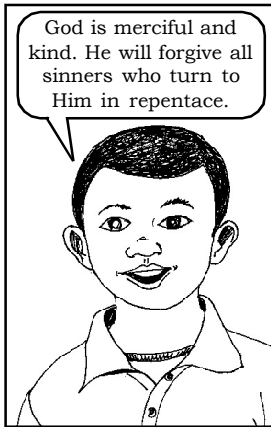
Anyone who disregard God's word is open to enemy attack, failure, defeat, sickness, demonic affliction, death and eternal suffering in hell fire. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God (Hebrews 10:31). Are you still a sinner or a backslider? This is the

time to repent so as to escape from God's righteous judgment.

3. CALL TO RETURN TO GOD:

Isaiah 1:16-19; Romans 6:23b.

God is merciful and kind. He is patiently waiting for sinners, backsliders and lukewarm Christians to come to Him in repentance. God called young Samuel and



gave him a message to warn Eli about his wicked children. These children hardened their hearts and refused to repent. Their rebellion brought death, destruction and sorrow to the entire family and Israel as a nation.

God's presence departed from Israel and their enemies oppressed them. There is still hope for sinners who will repent now. Accept that you are a sinner. Repent and confess your sins to

God. Ask Him to forgive you and wash your heart with the blood of Jesus. Forsake all your sins. Ask Jesus to be your Lord, Saviour, Master, Friend and Companion. Determine to serve God all the days of your life.

QUESTIONS:

1. Despite God's repeated warnings, Israel forsook God _____
2. Ichabod means _____
3. Why did the glory of God depart from Israel? _____
4. State three things that happened to Israel as a result of their sin. _____

5. What must a sinful child do to escape the punishment of God? _____

MEMORY VERSE: “And she said, The glory is departed from Israel: for the ark of God is taken” (1 Samuel 4:22).

LESSON: Rebellion and a sinful lifestyle will bring God’s judgment.

THOUGHT: I will love, honour and obey God’s word in order to enjoy His blessings.

ACTIVITY: With the help of the teacher, children should draw a line from column A to match the correct answer in column B.

COLUMN A	COLUMN B
Eli’s sons	Glory of God departs.
First battle, the Philistines killed	98 years old.
Ichabod means	Idol worship, disrespect for the ark and rebellion.
How old was Eli?	30,000 men.
Israel’s sin	Hophni and Phinehas.
Second battle, the Philistines killed	4,000 men.

HOMEWORK: Read the following Bible passages and write out the blessings for the obedient and the punishment for the disobedient in your homework book. (a) Deuteronomy 28:11-13 (b) Isaiah 1:19 (c) Judges 6:1-6.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG GHS: 89 – O JESUS, I HAVE PROMISED

LESSON 706

GOD CHASTISES THE PHILISTINES FOR THEIR UNGODLY ACTION

I Samuel 5:1-12

One day, Grace returned from school with many assignments given to her by her class teacher. But Grace did not do any of the assignments. She spent her time playing, watching cartoons and doing other things. When Grace's mother reminded her of the homework, she told her mother that she was tired. When she got to school the following day, other pupils submitted their assignments but Grace could not submit hers. Her teacher chastised (punished) her by beating her with cane and did not allow her to play with her friends during the break period. Grace learnt her lesson and never left her assignments undone from that day henceforth.

To chastise means to punish an erring child for doing what is wrong or bad. The Philistines did something very ungodly which can be termed as sacrilege. They took the Ark of God away from Israel. Sacrilege means to misuse, destroy or show disrespect for holy things which are set apart for the worship of God. Therefore, misusing, destroying or not showing respect for the house of God, the Bible, the altar and any other thing set apart for the worship and service of God is

sacrilege. It is an ungodly and sinful action. God frowns at such and punishes whosoever does it.

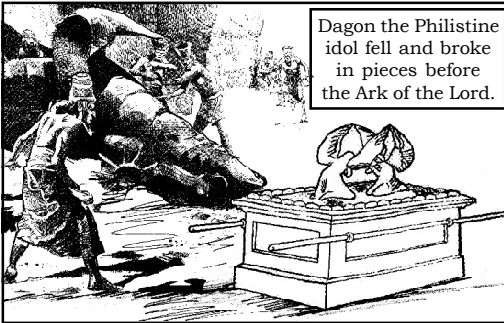
We shall divide the study into the following sub-topics:

1. ISRAEL'S DEFEAT AND PHILISTINES

CHASTISEMENT:

I Samuel 5:1-9; Leviticus 26:28; Psalm 119:67.

God is full of love and mercy but He hates disobedience and disrespect for His Person and His word. Remember that God created everybody in the world, including the Philistines. Everyone in the world, tribes, nations are to worship and respect God as their creator.



There was war between the children of Israel and the Philistines. Israel was defeated by the Philistines because they sinned against

the Lord and He refused to help them to fight against their enemy. Many of the children of Israel died in the war, and the ark of God was taken by the Philistines.

The Philistines carried the Ark of God into the house of their idol called dagon and set the ark by dagon. This was a very ungodly action (sacrilege). They misused and disrespected the ark of God which served as the symbol of God's presence to Israel at that time. God's chastisement of the Philistines for their disrespect started with dagon, their idol which was broken into pieces. Then God smote the people of Ashdod with a

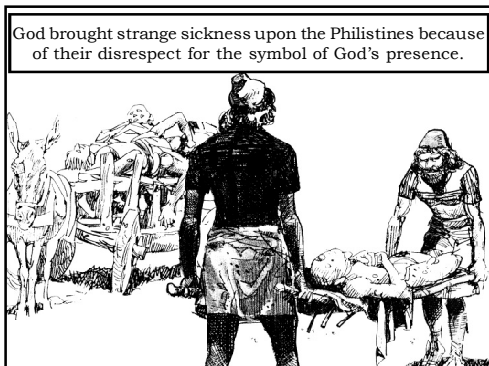
disease called emerods. The Philistines then carried the Ark of God to another city of theirs called Gath. God punished the people of Gath with a great destruction and smote their men with emerods. Wherefore, they sent the Ark of God to another place called Ekron. Immediately, the people of Ekron cried out that the Ark of God should be sent back to Israel. Our God is mightier than any other god.

The major reasons for God's chastisement are: (i) sin (Leviticus 26:28). (ii) disrespect for God, His word and His house (Luke 19:45,46). (iii) idol worship and backsliding (Leviticus 26:21; Deuteronomy 4:3). If you take part in disrespecting the things of God, you better repent now so as not to come under God's chastisement.

2. PURPOSE OF GOD'S CHASTISEMENT:

I Samuel 5:11; Hebrews 12:5-11; Job 34:31.

Chastisement, discipline or correction is necessary in life. The purpose of chastisement is to correct our wrong actions and bring us back to the right way. Without correction, a child will continue in the wrong way and that will lead to self-destruction and death. Though God created man in His own image and loves him very dearly, He still corrects us when we go astray. God gave us our parents at home, teachers in the school and pastors in the church, to teach and correct us when we go astray.



God chastised the Philistines when they took the Holy Ark of God into the house of their idol called 'dagon'. There are many examples of people in the Bible who were chastised by God for their wrong actions. Some of them repented and turned back to God, while some refused to repent and they perished.

Example of people who were chastised by God include: (i) Abimelech. He was chastised by God for taking Abraham's wife. He repented, returned Abraham's wife and God forgave him (Genesis 20:1-17). (ii) Saul, the first king of Israel was chastised for disobeying the instructions that God gave him. Instead of repenting, he made excuses, continued in sin and eventually perished (I Samuel 15:20-23). (iii) David was chastised by God for taking Uriah's wife and killing her husband. He repented and offered sacrifice to God. He never did such evil again (II Samuel 11:1-17). (iv) The two sons of Zebedee in Mark 10:35-40 came to Jesus to demand for high position not meant for them. Jesus chastised and corrected them. They accepted the correction and repented. Now, they are enjoying in heaven. Today God is warning every child who is living in sin and those who have turned back from following Jesus to return to God and be saved (II Corinthians 6:2; Psalm 95:8).

3. ESCAPE FROM ETERNAL CHASTISEMENT:

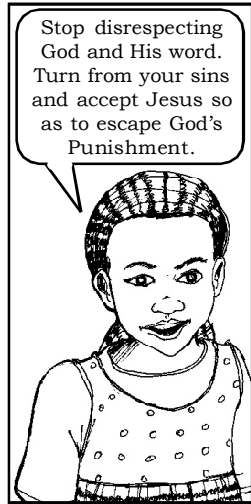
Acts 17:30,31; Mark 16:16; Revelation 20:12-15;
Matthew 25:31-41.

God's final chastisement is coming very soon to every boy and girl who refuse to answer the call of God to salvation and live holy. **"Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed,**

into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:" (Matthew 25:41).

Whether you believe it or not, the word of God shall come to pass. God is calling you today to repent of all wrong doings including fighting, telling lies, stubbornness, disobedience, witchcraft, boy friend/girl friend relationships, cursing, using abusive language, worldliness in dressing, disregard for God's house and many other ungodly acts.

To avoid the final chastisement, surrender your heart to Jesus today as you take these steps: acknowledge that you are a sinner, confess your sins, ask Jesus to wash you in His blood and invite Him to be your Lord and Saviour. Pray and read your Bible every day and attend fellowship with other children of God regularly (Joshua 1:8; Hebrews 10:25).



QUESTIONS:

1. What do you understand by chastisement? _____
2. Why did God chastise the Philistines? _____
3. Mention three people in the Bible that God chastised and how they reacted _____
4. What will happen to a child that (i) does not accept correction (ii) a child that accepts correction? _____
5. How can a sinner escape eternal chastisement from God? _____

MEMORY VERSE: "And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord,

nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth” (Hebrews 12:5,6).

LESSON: Chastisement and correction help us to become better children.

THOUGHT: I will not refuse God’s chastisement and corrections in my life.

ACTIVITY: Mention each of the things God did to the Philistines to chastise them in I Samuel 5:1-12.

HOMEWORK: Read I Samuel 2:12-18 and 3:10-18. Write out the sins of the sons of Eli. Why did God punish them?

CONGREGATIONAL SONG GHS: 40 – WASH ME, O LAMB OF GOD

CHORUSES: (1) I am ready to obey Thy word. (2) Follow, follow, I will follow Jesus. (3) I wandered far away, lost in the wilderness.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	PROVERBS	3:11,12
TUESDAY	PROVERBS	22:13-15
WEDNESDAY	PROVERBS	23:12-14
THURSDAY	2 TIMOTHY	3:15-17
FRIDAY	HEBREWS	12:5-7
SATURDAY	HEBREWS	12:8-10
SUNDAY	HEBREWS	12:11-14

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Sacrilege 2. Chastise 3. Backsliding
4. Eternal 5. Exhortation.

THE ARK RETURNED TO ISRAEL

I Samuel 6:1-21

The children of Israel did evil in the sight of God and were delivered into the hands of their enemies. The Philistines who were long-time enemies of Israel went to war against them. Hophni and Phinehas, the wicked sons of Eli took the Ark from the temple to the war front. They thought that the presence of the Ark would give them victory. Alas! they were not only destroyed, the Ark was also captured by the enemy.

The Ark which represents the presence of God was taken and kept in the shrine of the idol called 'dagon'. God's anger came not only on dagon but on the Philistines who disregarded God. This brought fear in the heart of the Philistines. In haste, they got the Ark ready, and sent it back to its proper place.

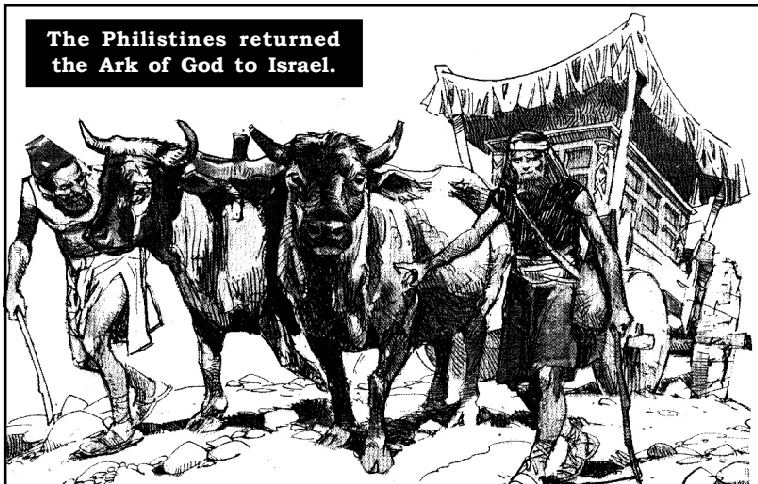
Children must show honour, love and respect for God, His word and place of worship. Anyone who dishonour God's presence will be judged. God's presence and power is with all those who serve Him in truth and holiness.

1. THE ARK OF COVENANT:

Exodus 25:10-22.

The Ark was a special and sacred object in Israel. When Israel went to battle with the Philistines, the Ark was captured, Israel was defeated and many of their soldiers were killed.

The Philistines rejoiced greatly that they defeated the Israelites. Little did they know that they were taking fire into their bosom when they took away with them the Ark of God. The presence of the Ark brought untold evil and calamities to the Philistines. The Ark as symbol of God's throne was placed in the most holy place of the



tabernacle. The high priest stood before it once a year to make sacrifices for the sins of the people.

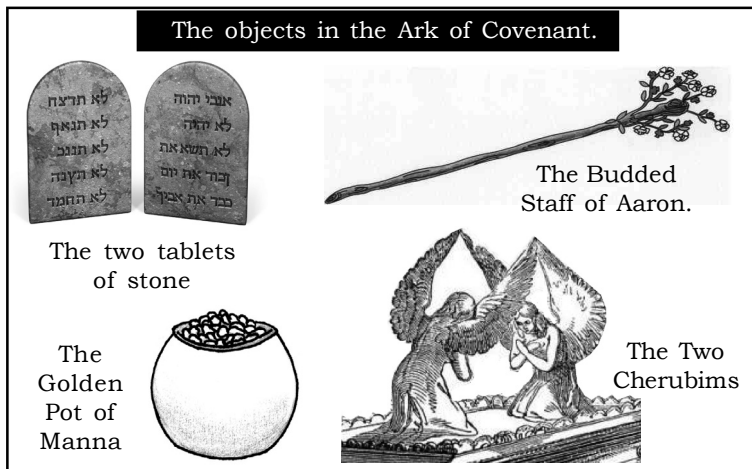
However, Israel forgot that the Ark was not to be used as a 'charm'. The misuse of the Ark led to the defeat of Israel and destruction of the Philistines. Many people today believe in symbols rather than the Saviour. When the Saviour comes into your life, the symbols of sin, wickedness and religion without grace must disappear. Are you of those who think the Bible is a charm? Repent now and believe the truth of the Bible "**For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that**

whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16).

2. SYMBOLS AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ARK:

Hebrews 9:4-12.

The Ark symbolizes the presence of God. As long as it was in the camp of Israel it was believed that the Lord God of Israel was in the midst of their camp. The contents



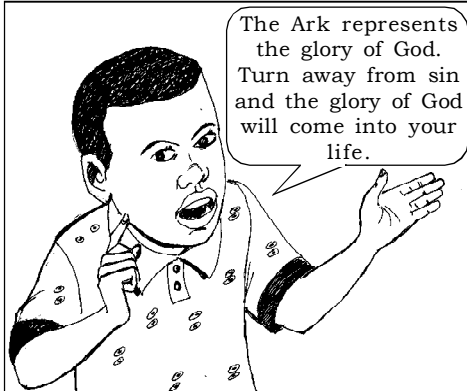
of the Ark were: (i) Two tablets of stone on which were written the Ten Commandments. This is to remind the Israelites of the laws of God. (ii) Aaron's rod that budded (Numbers 17:10). This symbolizes God's choice of Aaron (from the tribe of Levi) to the priesthood in Israel. It also signifies God's divine protection and support for chosen and anointed ones. (iii) The golden pot of manna – to testify to generations after them how God fed their fathers in the wilderness (Exodus 16:32,33). (iv) Two cherubims signifying the glory of God (Hebrews 9:5).

The significance of all these, shows that God is a covenant-keeping God. He is also holy and will not tolerate sin and iniquity. He allowed the children of Israel to be defeated in battle because they sinned against Him. No sinner will go unpunished. He also punished the Philistines (Psalm 7:11). However, if a sinner repents and forsakes his sinful ways, God will forgive him.

3. THE RETURN OF THE ARK:

I Samuel 6:1-13.

The Ark had been with the Philistines for seven months and the Israelites went about their daily activities as if nothing was wrong. Suddenly, the Ark appeared in Bethshemesh unguided by any man. The Philistines had suffered greatly from the wrath of the God



of Israel so they decided to let the Ark return to where it belonged. The return of the Ark brought joy and rejoicing to the land of Israel. As the Ark returned to Israel, you can also return to God if you have gone astray.

To avoid eternal punishment, if you are not yet a friend of Jesus, you can become one now. (i) Realize that you are a sinner. (ii) Confess your sins and repent of them. (iii) Ask for cleansing through the blood of Jesus. (iv) Invite Jesus into your heart and life as Saviour and

Lord. (v) Believe you are saved and continue to live for Him daily.

QUESTIONS:

1. Who were the Israelites? _____
2. The children of Israel were defeated in battle by _____
3. The Ark was guided by the Philistine lords back to Israel. Yes/No?
4. _____ was the place the Ark first stopped after leaving the land of the Philistines.
5. (a) What must a sinner do to be saved? _____

- (b) What should a backslider do to return to the Lord?

MEMORY VERSE: “**And they of Bethshemesh were reaping their wheat harvest in the valley: and they lifted up their eyes, and saw the ark, and rejoiced to see it**” (I Samuel 6:13).

LESSON: Sin brings defeat and sorrow.

THOUGHT: I must live a holy life daily so that I will be victorious always.

ACTIVITY: Sword drill: I John 1:8,9; Isaiah 1:18,19; Psalm 126:1,2.

HOMEWORK: Pray for restoration and revival in the children church.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG GHS: 123 – NO ONE LIKE MY SAVIOUR

SYMBOLS OF LAW AND GRACE

Galatians 4:12-31

Christians are people who have repented of their sins and received Christ as their Saviour. The Christians in Galatia were being troubled by religious people who told them that they still needed to be circumcised according to the old covenant. A symbol is an object or a person or an event that represents or stands for another thing. For example, white is often used as a symbol of purity or peace. Paul the Apostle had to use some symbols to help them understand that nobody can please God or enter heaven by keeping the law. It is only by God's grace, that is, God's unmerited favour, **"... a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ,"** (Galatians 2:16). As a friend of Jesus it is only by the grace of God that you can continue to steadfastly follow Jesus to the end. Children who are still living in sin are despising the grace of God and must repent before it is too late for them.

The message is divided into three parts:

1. PAUL'S CONCERN FOR THE BRETHREN:

Galatians 4:12-20.

Tola has been trained from childhood not to eat food given to him by strangers. One day, his parents went out to work. Tola seized the opportunity to go to their neighbour's house. He stayed there till it was time for

lunch. The neighbour cooked a palatable meal and asked Tola to join them at the table. Tola forgot all that his parents had taught him. He joined them and ate till he was very satisfied.

Just then, his parents returned to find Tola eating in their neighbour's house. They were very sad that Tola had soon forgotten all that they had taught him. He was strongly rebuked and warned never to do that again. This was like the case of Christians in Galatia.

Paul uses symbols to explain some important truths to the brethren.



The Galatian brethren received the word of God and accepted Christ as their Saviour and Lord. Soon after, some false teachers came to deceive them. Instead of standing firm on the truth that they had received through Apostle Paul, they accepted another gospel that was based on the law, culture and tradition of men.

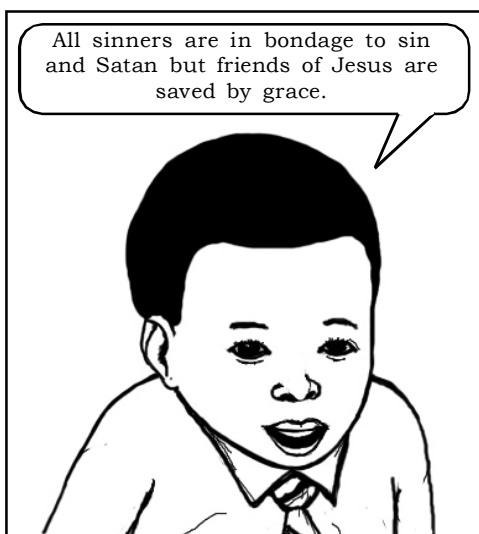
When Paul heard about the spiritual condition of these brethren, he was very unhappy. He was concerned that they had rejected the true gospel and gone back to keeping laws that cannot save. In his counsel to these Christians, he used symbols to illustrate the superiority of Grace over the Law.

Friends of Jesus are saved by grace. They must remain in this grace and must not allow anything to take their mind away from following the Lord.

2. SYMBOLS OF LAW AND GRACE:

Galatians 4:21-31; Genesis 16:15,16; 21:1-5,9-14.

Apostle Paul made use of Abraham's family to illustrate the difference between the Old Testament law



and the New Testament grace. When Abraham was 86years old, a son was born to him named Ishmael. He was born by an Egyptian slave called Hagar. Ishmael and Hagar were sent away from Abraham's house when Isaac was born. Paul the Apostle told the Christians in

Galatia that Hagar and Ishmael were symbols representing the Law of Moses, which is also called the old covenant.

Hagar represents Mount Sinai where Moses went to receive the law. She also represents Jerusalem the capital of the Jewish nation. Isaac was born when Abraham was 100years old according to God's promise. Sarah Abraham's wife and Isaac her son are symbols representing the new covenant or New Testament.

The new covenant gives freedom from bondage and brings men to God. Sinners are in bondage to sin and Satan, this means they are slaves and servants of sin. **“Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.”** (John 8:34b). **“to whom ye yield yourselves servants**

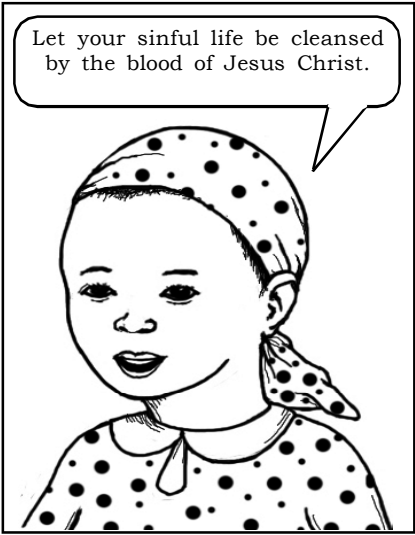
to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness” (Romans 6:16). In the new covenant, men became children of God through the new birth, which is known as salvation or being born again. Are you free from sin and saved by grace through faith in Christ Jesus? If not why not now?

3. LAW REPLACED BY GRACE:

Galatians 4:28,31; John 8:34-36; Ephesians 2:8-13.

Just as Ishmael and Hagar were cast out, the old covenant has also been replaced by the new covenant. The new covenant was established by Christ when He shed His blood on the cross. Before His death, He said in Matthew 26:28 **“For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins”**.

Salvation is by grace through faith in Christ Jesus. Faith in Christ means, accepting that God has forgiven all your sins because Jesus suffered and died on the cross for you. When you turn away from your sins and ask God to forgive you, you receive salvation which is pardon and freedom from sin and its punishment. Salvation gives freedom from sin and all evil works such as: lying, stealing, hatred, witchcraft among many others.



Let your sinful life be cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ.

Sacrificing animals, bathing in rivers, fasting for many days, penance (that is, punishing oneself for a while) and other rituals are useless practices. They cannot set anybody free from the bondage of sin. Trusting Christ as Saviour settles everything. John 8:36 **“If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed”**.

This will make you to become friends of Jesus and children of promise saved through the new covenant. As friends of Jesus, you are saved by grace, don't depend on what you can do but on God's grace to help you to the end. Receive this grace of God from day to day by: (i) having your quiet time every day. (ii) being prayerful (iii) believing the promises of God. (iv) living in obedience to God's word. (v) being regular in fellowship with other friends of Jesus.

If you are still a sinner, don't allow this offer of free salvation pass you by. Repent of your sins today, confess them to God and receive Christ as your Saviour now.

QUESTIONS:

1. How did some false teachers confuse the Galatian Christians? _____
2. Hagar and Ishmael are symbols of _____ while Sarah and Isaac are symbols of _____
3. How was the new covenant established? _____
4. (a) Salvation gives freedom from _____.
(b) What are some wrong things people do to be free from sin? _____
5. How can a sinner be free from the bondage of sin? _____

MEMORY VERSE: “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God” (Ephesians 2:8).

LESSON: It is only by grace through faith in Christ that a child can be saved from sin and eternal suffering.

THOUGHT: I am saved by grace, I will not go back to sin.

ACTIVITY: Write down the symbols used during the Lord's Supper and what they represent.

HOMEWORK: Share the love of Jesus with a sinful child in your neighbourhood. Show him how to receive the grace that brings salvation.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG GHS: 129 – GRACE GREATER THAN OUR SIN

CHORUSES: (1) The word of God is sufficient unto me. (2) What is the hope you have? (3) Give me grace to follow.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	ROMANS	3:9-12
TUESDAY	ROMANS	3:20-22
WEDNESDAY	ROMANS	3:23-25
THURSDAY	ROMANS	3:28-30
FRIDAY	ROMANS	4:1-3
SATURDAY	ROMANS	4:4-8
SUNDAY	ROMANS	4:14-16

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1 Despise 2. Law 3. Covenant 4. Justify 5. Bondage.

MAINTAINING SPIRITUAL LIBERTY

Galatians 5:1-21

The sin of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden brought separation between God and man. They disobeyed God and became completely evil like Satan who deceived them. It is unfortunate that this spiritual fall of man has continued till today. Man tend to love sin and the things of the world more than his Creator. This has made us to become the enemy of God (James 4:4).

The enmity and separation between God and man continued for a very long time. This brought sorrow, sickness, failure and other satanic afflictions. God in His mercy decided to reconcile mankind to Himself. He did so by sending Jesus, His sinless Son to suffer the punishment and die for our sins so that all the sufferings and afflictions inherited by humanity through Adam would be cancelled. Spiritual liberty (freedom) came to humanity through the suffering, death and resurrection of Christ Jesus. Are you free from sin?

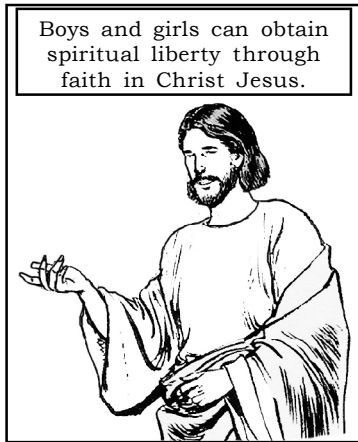
The topic is divided into three parts:

1. HOW TO OBTAIN SPIRITUAL LIBERTY:

Ephesians 2:8,9.

The gospel message is about how sinful humanity regained spiritual liberty (freedom) from satanic bondage. The message simply states that salvation and justification (freedom from condemnation) is obtained by faith in the

suffering, death and resurrection of Christ. We are saved by grace and not through our good works. Salvation and justification is available to every child today no matter how terrible their sinful state (Isaiah 1:18).



Unfortunately, many souls still perish daily without accepting this free offer of salvation. They are being deceived, spiritually blinded and sent to hell by Satan. To obtain freedom from sin and eternal punishment in hell, sinful boys and girls must realize their sinful state. They must repent and forsake their sinful ways of life, ask for forgiveness and cleansing in the blood of Jesus, invite Jesus to be their Lord and personal Saviour. Don't postpone your salvation till tomorrow. Confess your sins and accept Jesus Christ as your personal Lord, Saviour and Friend now.

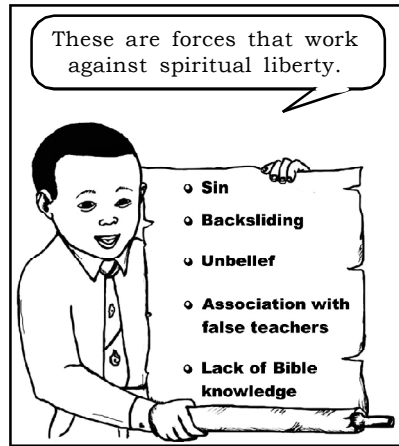
2. FORCES THAT WORK AGAINST SPIRITUAL LIBERTY:

Galatians 5:19-21; Matthew 15:12-14.

Salvation by grace in the new covenant as preached by the early church implies that the death of Christ has abolished the Law of Moses which was based on animal sacrifices and circumcision. The religious authorities of that time could not and did not believe the simplicity of the gospel message. They therefore persecuted the friends of Jesus in order to stamp-out Christianity. When this did not succeed, they cunningly devised new

methods of killing the gospel through false doctrines which was a mixture of Judaism and the true gospel of Christ.

Apostle Paul therefore wrote to encourage the church at Galatia to stand fast in their spiritual liberty. They were not to allow false teachers and their false doctrines to make them deviate from the truth which they already believed. They were not to go back again into bondage. (Galatians 5:1).



Jesus Christ Himself is the one who sets free from the law of the flesh (Romans 10:4; Ephesians 2:14,15). However, our liberty is not to be abused or used as opportunity to sin and go back to fleshly lust as stated in Galatians 5:19-21.

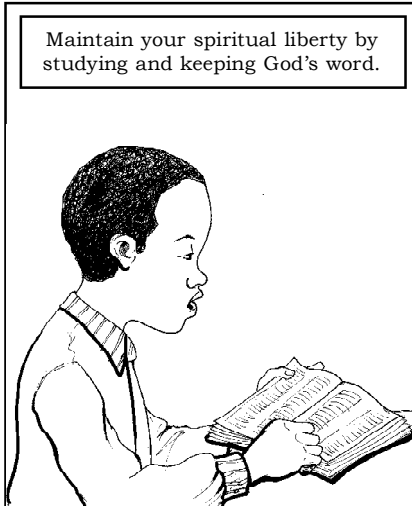
Today, forces that hinder spiritual liberty include: sin, backsliding, unbelief, association with false teachers, lack of the knowledge of God's word and other strategies from Satan. Friends of Jesus are warned to run away from anything that could bring them back into bondage.

3. HOW TO MAINTAIN SPIRITUAL LIBERTY:

Galatians 5:1-10.

Friends of Jesus can continue to enjoy their freedom in Jesus without being enticed into bondage like the Galatian Christians. To do this, they must: (a) Have perfect love for God and His word. When you read, think

on and obey the word of God. It will be difficult for any false teaching to settle in your heart. (b) Have perfect hatred for sin (Ephesians 5:11) and all the works of Satan listed in Galatians 5:19-21. (c) Pray without ceasing. Jesus our perfect example who is the Son of God prayed regularly when He was here on earth (Luke 6:12;



Mark 1:35). (d) Seek to be holy and be baptized in Holy Ghost. The Holy Spirit will direct you to always walk in the spirit and you will no longer desire the fashion, customs and entertainment of the world, but will love to do the will of God at all times (Ephesians 5:11). (e) Serve one another in love. Grace makes you more caring and compassionate. It makes

you slow to speak and less likely to react in anger when things don't go your way. The more we serve others in love, the more we will influence them for Christ. (f) Abstain from all appearances of evil (I Thessalonians 5:22). Don't allow your good intentions to be evil spoken of.

QUESTIONS:

1. The sin of Adam and Eve brought spiritual bondage to humanity. Yes/No?
2. The gospel message is about how man regained freedom. Yes/No?

3. Mention three ways in which religious leaders and false prophets tried to destroy Christianity in the early church and today _____

4. Mention four ways of maintaining spiritual liberty.

5. What can a sinner do to have spiritual liberty? _____

MEMORY VERSE: “Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage” (Galatians 5:1).

LESSON: Jesus paid for the freedom of all boys and girls with His precious blood.

THOUGHT: I am free from all satanic bondage.

ACTIVITY: Sword drill: Isaiah 61:1; Romans 8:21; 2 Corinthians 3:17; James 1:25; I Peter 2:16; John 8:32.

HOMEWORK: While having your quiet time, mention the areas where you are still having problem with sin. Pray that God should set you free.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG GHS: 133 – OUT OF MY BONDAGE

CHORUSES: (1) Jesus sets me free, I shall not be bound. (2) I am for Jesus, Jesus alone. (3) I am delivered, praise the Lord.

LESSON 710

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Galatians 5:22-26

Generally, fruits are part of a plant that consists of flesh and one or more seeds. They can be eaten as food and usually taste sweet. Fruit is good for your body, because it produces vitamins and minerals that help the body to fight against diseases. But the fruit of the Spirit is given by the Holy Spirit to make friends of Jesus to live peaceably with all men and to live a life that pleases God.

In Galatians 5:19-21, sin is called the works of the flesh because it is the flesh that moves people to commit sin. The fruit of the Spirit is produced by the Holy Spirit as the fruit comes from the tree. You also know the tree by its fruit.

There are three points to consider:

1. THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT:

Galatians 5:22-26.

There are nine parts to the fruit of the Spirit but they are regarded as one.

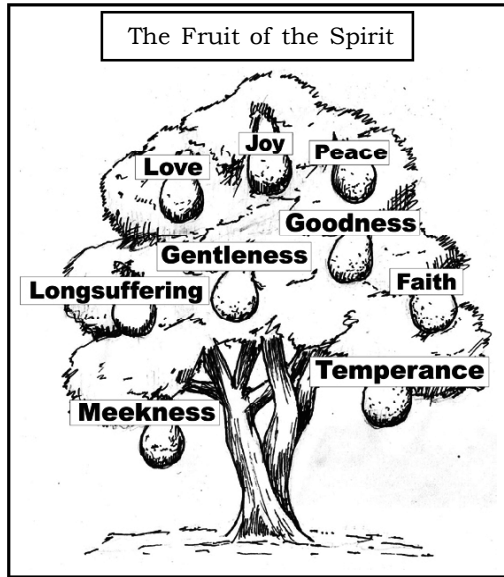
(a) **LOVE** – John 3:16; Luke 10:25-37.

Love means caring for and doing good to another person without expecting anything in return. God is love. In His love for mankind, He gave His only begotten Son as sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. If God so loved us, friends of Jesus ought to love one another also.

(b) **JOY** – Romans 14:17.

Joy is a feeling of great happiness, cheerfulness and a constant delight in God. When you are passing through problems and difficulties and you remember God's love and His word, your heart will be filled with joy that victory is yours.

(c) **PEACE** – Hebrews 12:14; Colossians 3:15.



Peace is a deep assurance in the heart that all is well because we belong to a loving Father. When we commit our lives to God and trust Him completely, He gives us perfect peace. When we have peace in our heart, it will enable us to live with others without arguing, murmuring or quarrelling.

(d) **LONGSUFFERING** – Ephesians 4:2; I Corinthians 13:4.

This is the ability to endure during difficult times. You will not pay back evil for evil when somebody offends you. Be satisfied with what you have. Don't struggle for food or any other material thing; wait patiently for your turn.

(e) **GENTLENESS** – Colossians 3:12.

Showing kindness to others. Not wanting to hurt anyone or cause them pain. To be quiet and meek.

(f) **GOODNESS** –

Being kind and ready to do good to others as the opportunity arises. Always happy to share the GOODNEWS of Christ's love with sinners.

(g) **FAITH** – Hebrews 11:1,6.

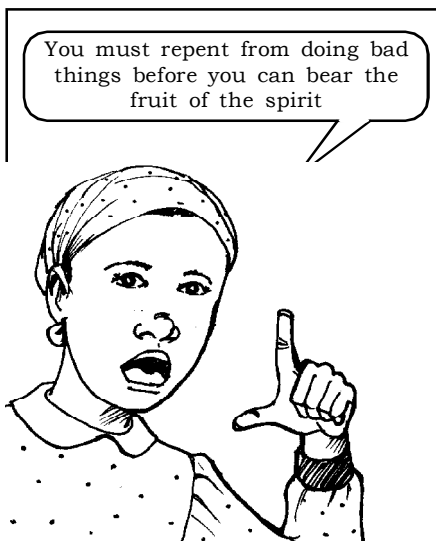
Faith means having absolute trust in God. It is believing that God will do what He has promised although we have not seen or received it. We must take God at His word.

(h) **MEEKNESS** – Numbers 12:3.

To be meek is to be humble and gentle. Not being boastful of our parents riches or our academic success. Giving glory to God for all that we have.

(i) **TEMPERANCE** – Titus 1:8; I Corinthians 9:25,27.

Temperance means self-control. Friends of Jesus must be moderate in all things. Dress moderately, eat moderately, talk moderately and play moderately.



2. STEPS TO **BEARING THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT:**

Matthew 7:16-20;

John 3:1-8.

A child who commits sin cannot bear the fruit of the Spirit. For a child to produce the fruit of the Spirit he must take the following steps:

i. Acknowledge his sinful state.

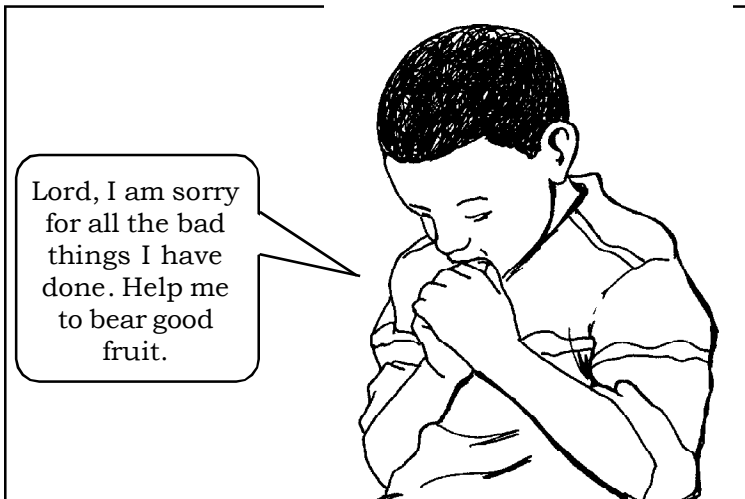
- ii. Confess all his sins to God.
- iii. Be sorrowful for his sins; ask for forgiveness and cleansing in the blood of Jesus.
- iv. Invite Jesus into his heart as his personal Lord and Saviour.
- v. Believe and thank God for saving him and remain faithful.

Then the child must press on to ask for total cleansing and removal of the adamic nature in him. After this, he should desire and pray for the Holy Spirit Baptism. These experiences will build up the life of the child like a tree that is planted by the rivers of water. And you will bear the fruit of the Spirit.

3. BLESSINGS OF POSSESSING THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT:

Psalm 1:1-3.

There are many blessings for friends of Jesus who bear the fruit of the Spirit. They are: spiritual growth,



victory over temptations, sweet fellowship with other Christians, grace to endure persecution and win in the battle of life, abundant provision, protection from God and divine favour in every area of our lives.

Rise up and pray for grace to possess the fruit of the Spirit.

QUESTIONS:

1. What do natural fruits do in our body? _____
2. How many are the fruit of the Spirit? _____
3. Name all the fruit of the Spirit _____

4. Mention three of the blessings of the fruit of the Spirit.

5. How can a sinner possess the fruit of the Spirit? _____

MEMORY VERSE: “**But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law**” (Galatians 5:22,23).

LESSON: A christian child is known by the fruit he bears.

THOUGHT: My life will bear the fruit of the Spirit.

ACTIVITY: Draw a tree showing the nine fruit of the Spirit.

HOMEWORK: Search the Bible and write out five names of people whose lives show the fruit of the Spirit and what they did.

LESSON 711

BELIEVER'S DUTY TO THE SPIRITUALLY WEAK

Galatians 6:1-5

In the family, members are not usually the same in terms of character, age, stature, intelligence, wisdom and strength. There are those who are elderly and mature in age and experience like daddy and mummy. We have our senior brothers and sisters who have grown up in stature but not as matured and experienced like daddy and mummy.

We also have children and babies as members of the family. They are still very young, tender and weak. Each of us perform various duties towards one another to keep the family happy, strong and progressive.

As it is in the natural family, so it is in the family of God which is made up of friends of Jesus. In the church, we have some matured elders like our pastors and teachers who are knowledgeable in the word of God and strong in faith. We also have new converts who are weak in faith and are not knowledgeable in the word of God. Furthermore, there are also those who are not new in the faith but are weakened by the problems and difficulties they face in life.

Those who are matured and strong in faith have a duty to help, strengthen and encourage friends of Jesus who are weak or discouraged.

We shall consider three points in this lesson:

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE WEAK:

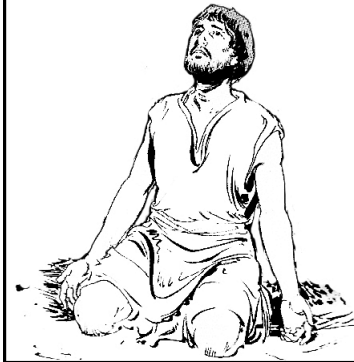
Galatians 6:1-5.

There are different levels of spiritual maturity among friends of Jesus in the church. There are the strong and weak believers. God has permitted it to be thus, so that we can be our brother's keeper (Galatians 6:2).

The question then is who are the weak? The weak can be described as: (a) children who are still rising and falling in their christian life. They repent and go back to their sins and come back every fellowship day to confess their sins. (b) Boys and girls who are weak in prayer,

weak in faith and who do not take the word of God seriously. (c) Those who are not mature and are interested in the things of the world. (d) Those who are unstable and are easily deceived by false teachers and fall at every little temptation. If you fit into any of these descriptions, you need to repent and give your heart to Jesus so that He can save and help you to grow in His knowledge and grace.

God wants all who are weak
to be strong in faith



2. OUR DUTIES TO THE SPIRITUALLY WEAK:

Galatians 6:1-2; Romans 15:1-7; Hebrews 13:1;
I John 3:16-18.

Jesus Christ suffered, sacrificed His life and shed His blood because of His love for us. He wants us to show the same love to weak believers who may be facing some difficulties in their Christian lives. We have a duty to

help them. There are several ways of helping the weak among us:

- (a) Visit them regularly and share your testimonies to encourage them.
- (b) Regularly pray for them that God will help them to overcome the things that make them to be spiritually weak. Also encourage them to be prayerful.
- (c) Teach and preach the word of God to them and invite them to fellowship to hear more of the word of God.
- (d) Involve them in evangelism and other area of work in the church so that they can learn to serve the Lord.
- (e) Encourage them to trust God and His word. Help them to develop their faith so as to enjoy the promises of God.
- (f) As a strong friend of Jesus trying to help the weak



believers to be strong in the Lord, let your light so shine before all men. Be a good example to them, live the life of faith based on the knowledge of the Bible so that they can become strong in faith through your example.

Remember that it is only true friends of Jesus that can encourage and help other believers to be

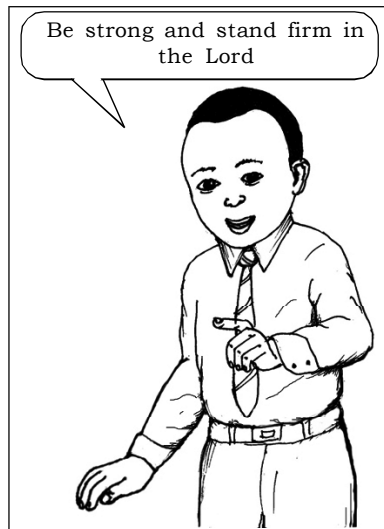
strong in faith. As a sinner you need to repent and turn away from your sins, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.

3. BE STRONG!

Galatians 6:4,5; I Corinthians 16:13; Ephesians 6:10,11.

A believer is a child who has truly repented of his sins and accepted Jesus as Lord and Saviour. For such a Christian to grow and remain strong in faith, he must do the following: (i) study the Bible every day to grow in the knowledge of God and have regular quiet time. (ii) daily obey the word of God and separate from worldly influences. (iii) fully determine to follow the Lord till the end not minding the challenges that may come (Daniel 1:8). (iv) be fervent in prayers, evangelism and God's work (v) be in unity with other friends of Jesus. (vi) show love and care in the fellowship. (vii) constantly examine himself and be watchful; living in constant expectation of Christ's coming.

The world is evil and filled with many negative things that can influence believers. As Christians, we must remain strong for Christ. Very soon the Lord will come and take His friends to heaven. If you stand strong and firm till the end, you will be able to go with Him and enjoy your rewards.



QUESTIONS:

1. Mention four characteristics of weak believers _____
2. Complete this statement: God permits weak and strong believers to be in the church so that we can be _____
3. How can we help weak believers to become strong? _____
4. What must a sinner do before he can become a believer? _____
5. How can believers remain strong? _____

MEMORY VERSE: “Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted” (Galatians 6:1).

LESSON: We are to help and encourage one another to be strong in faith.

THOUGHT: I will be an encouragement to other believers.

ACTIVITY: Group discussion: children should be shared into groups (ten in each group). They should discuss and write down practical ways to help one another to remain strong believers.

HOMEWORK: Pray for weak friends of Jesus in your church that God will help them to grow in grace and become strong in faith.

THE LAW OF SOWING AND REAPING

Galatians 6:6-18

The law of sowing and reaping is a universal one. It applies to everybody everywhere in spite of religion, race or age. Whatever you sow, you shall definitely reap. It is the kind of fruit you sow that you shall reap. If you sow to the flesh, you shall reap corruption. On the other hand, if you sow for the things of God, you will reap blessings and eternal life.

Once upon a time, there was a king who gave out a call to his subjects to help carry out the work of clearing and cultivating his farm. Many of the people in his kingdom responded and came with effective work tools but some others came with useless tools. When they finished the work, the king decided to reward everyone. He opened his treasury and told everyone to take rewards using the tools with which they had worked. Some went home with great rewards, while others went home with little. They reaped what they sowed.

We shall consider this topic under three points:

1. SOWING TO THE FLESH:

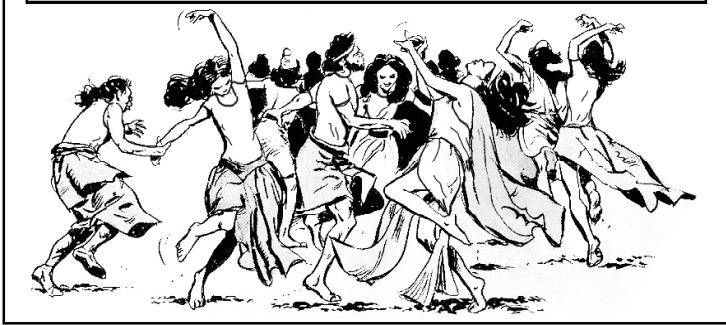
Galatians 6:6-8a, 11-15; 5:19-21.

Many children in the world today are busy sowing seeds unto the flesh. How does a child sow to the flesh? By telling lies, fighting, stealing, cheating, being deceitful, turning people away from Christ and the way

of God. Also by getting involved in the things of the world like, worldly music, dressing and labouring for things that will perish with the world. All these will eventually lead to destruction.

Moreover, when emphasis is laid on religious activities without righteousness, it also amounts to sowing to the flesh. Some lay much emphasis on a

Worldly music, dancing, dressing and pleasure will make you sow to the flesh; do not have interest in them.



particular way of dressing and also teach false doctrines that no one can be saved except such a one is circumcised or pray in the name of a saint or an angel. Such teachings cause problems among the people of God (Proverbs 16:28).

The Galatian Christians were being deceived by false prophets. These false teachers taught that salvation cannot be complete without human efforts. What happened to the Galatians is still common today. Do not be deceived. Jesus has perfected the work of our salvation through His sacrifice on the cross.

What is required is to repent, forsake all sins and accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour. Open your heart for total cleansing and baptism in the Holy Ghost. Then you can start sowing to the Spirit.

2. SOWING TO THE SPIRIT:

Galatians 6:8b-10,16; 5:22,23; Psalm 126:5,6.

The Lord is expecting every child of God to sow to



the spirit by engaging in the work of preaching the gospel to sinful children in their neighbourhoods and everywhere. The word of God is the seed. Spread it everywhere (Psalm 126:5; Matthew 28:19).

You are also encouraged to sow the seed of faith in the life of others by sharing

testimonies of the goodness of God. Other ways of sowing to the spirit are by sowing seeds of kindness, gentleness, meekness and temperance. Do good to others and show love to them. You also will reap the good that you have done.

3. SOWER'S REWARDS:

Galatians 6:7-9, 16-18.

The Lord has promised to give to every man according to the work he has done. This means there are rewards for



those who sow to the flesh and those who sow to the Spirit. God is not partial, it is exactly what you sow that He will give you in return. Anyone who sows to the flesh shall be rewarded with disappointment and sorrow (Isaiah 17:11). Such a child will reap failure, poverty and oppression. If he refuses to repent he will be destroyed in hell fire. On the other hand, those who sow to the Spirit shall reap joy, peace, prosperity, promotion, success, abundance, mansions in heaven and eternal life.

Remember, you will reap exactly what you sow and there is nothing that can change this law.

QUESTIONS:

1. What can change the law of sowing and reaping? _____

2. How can a child sow to the flesh? _____

3. Mention ways you can sow to the Spirit _____

4. Mention the rewards for those who (a) sow to the flesh.
(b) sow to the Spirit. _____

5. How can a sinful child sow to the Spirit? _____

MEMORY VERSE: “**Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap**” (Galatians 6:7).

LESSON: Everyone will reap whatever he/she sows.

THOUGHT: I will sow to the Spirit, so that I can reap eternal life.

ACTIVITY: Identify and write out in the boxes the type of fruits that are sown according to the passages.

(i) Proverbs 6:14

(ii) Hosea 10:12

(iii) Hosea 8:7

(iv) Psalm 126:5.

HOMEWORK: Children should plant a seed of corn in a container and bring it to the church next week.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG GHS: 85 – GIVE OF YOUR BEST TO THE MASTER

CHORUSES: (1) Whatever you sow, you go reap. (2) Give and it shall be given unto you. (3) I will dig a little deeper.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	2 CORINTHIANS	9:6-8
TUESDAY	2 CORINTHIANS	9:9-11
WEDNESDAY	2 CORINTHIANS	9:12-15
THURSDAY	LUKE	6:35-38
FRIDAY	PHILIPPIANS	4:14-17
SATURDAY	PHILIPPIANS	4:18-20
SUNDAY	PSALM	126:5,6

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Treasury 2. Cultivation 3. Corruption

4. Temperance 5. Destruction.

LESSON 713

CHRISTIAN ATTITUDE DURING PERSECUTION

I Peter 4:12-19

Persecution means suffering in the hand of wicked people for the sake of Jesus. It can come in various forms like: unprovoked attack, abuse and jesting from sinful boys and girls. It could also be in form of withdrawal of things you are entitled to like food, clothes or even school fees, undeserved beating and punishment, ridicule, threat to life and even death. There is a big difference between suffering for Christ and suffering for doing bad things. When you do bad things, you will definitely suffer for it. All you have to do is to repent.

On the other hand, persecution is what a Christian goes through at the hands of sinful people because of his love for Jesus. God expects us to stand and endure because there are great rewards awaiting us.

The study is divided into three parts:

1. REASONS FOR PERSECUTION:

2 Timothy 3:12; Matthew 10:11-19

The Bible clearly states that friends of Jesus who live righteously must suffer persecution. The reasons are:

- i) The world in which we are is full of evil, wickedness and bad things. The sinful people live in darkness and hate light.
- ii) Satan our enemy is always at war with friends of Jesus. He does not want us to get to heaven.
- iii) Persecution can be a test or trial to show whether we truly love Jesus our Saviour.

- iv) Persecution helps to refine and strengthen our faith.
- v) Enduring persecution is one of the marks of a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

The Christian life is not all bread and butter, it is a



life lived through persecution, trials, temptations and endurance. If you want to follow Jesus and receive your crown, you must endure to the end.

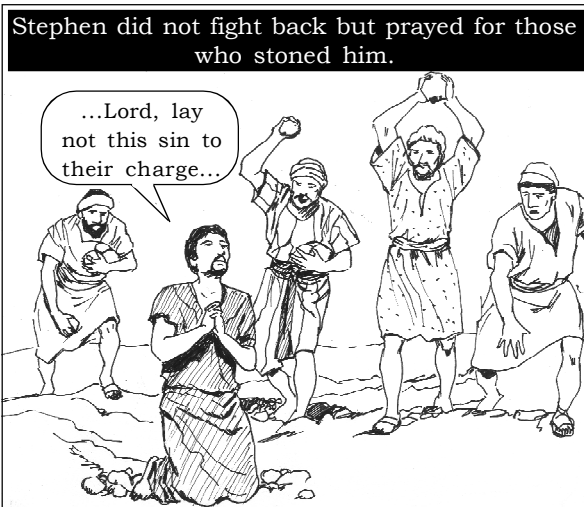
2. BIBLE EXAMPLES:
 Matthew 5:12;
 I Peter 2:21-23

From the beginning, evil men have always persecuted the righteous. Cain persecuted his own brother Abel and killed him. Joseph was made to suffer without doing evil because he stood for righteousness. In the days of the early church, there was terrible persecution of the followers of Jesus. (a) Stephen was the first to be stoned to death. (b) James the brother of John was beheaded. (c) Peter, Paul, Silas and others were beaten, stoned and imprisoned. (d) Jesus Christ our Saviour went through untold sufferings in the hands of wicked people. He endured all the sufferings and triumphed. He has also promised to be with us and help us to be victorious. Your own part is to endure as a Christian should and stay with Jesus.

3. CHRISTIAN ATTITUDE DURING PERSECUTION:

I Peter 2:19-23; 4:12-14; Matthew 5:10-12.

Every Christian boy/girl will definitely suffer persecution. You must put on a godly attitude that will enable you to endure. Endurance means ability, determination and grace to go through suffering without going back from following Jesus. Children who suffer for their love for Jesus are blessed because they are partakers of the suffering of Jesus Christ.



In their suffering, they must:

- i) Believe that God cares and rejoice no matter what they are going through.
- ii) Turn to God in serious prayer and seek His face, do not return evil for evil.
- iii) Believe that we are more than conquerors because Jesus loves us.
- iv) Read the word of God and meditate on it.
- v) Always remember that persecution is not a strange experience but a confirmation of God's word.

Remember also that very soon God will wipe away all the tears from our eyes (Revelation 21:4).

Children who suffer because of their bad behaviours are not suffering for the sake of Jesus. Such children must repent and seek for the forgiveness and cleansing of their sins. When you put on a godly attitude even in time of persecution, you will be blessed and at the end receive a conqueror's crown.

Friends of Jesus are to trust in God and obey Him even in times of persecution.



QUESTIONS:

1. Define persecution

2. State three reasons why believers go through persecution

3. Give five examples of people who were persecuted in the Bible. _____

4. Mention three things a Christian must do to have victory during persecution. _____

5. Are you suffering for your sins or for the love of Christ? _____

MEMORY VERSE: “And ye shall be hated of all men for my name’s sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved” (Mark 13:13).

LESSON: Jesus suffered to show us a good example.

THOUGHT: I must endure suffering for Jesus' sake.

ACTIVITY: Search the following Bible references and write out the type of persecution or suffering that the people went through, and the end result of their godly attitude.

- | BIBLE PASSAGE | NAME(S) | PERSECUTION | RESULT |
|----------------------|----------------|--------------------|---------------|
| 1. Genesis 30:20,21 | | | |
| 2. I Kings 22:14-28 | | | |
| 3. Jeremiah 37:12-17 | | | |
| 4. Acts 5:17-20 | | | |
| 5. Acts 16:16-34 | | | |
| 6. I Peter 3:18 | | | |

HOMEWORK: Pray for Christians that are going through persecution in many parts of the world.

VICTORY OVER TEMPTATION

Luke 4:1-12; Jeremiah 35:1-10

The children of Jonadab, also referred to as the Rechabites were tempted to disobey their father's instruction. They stood by the word of their father and overcame the temptation. Jesus our Lord and Saviour was also tempted by Satan. Jesus did not fall when He was tempted by Satan. He overcame through the word of God. He has given us an example so that we also can have victory. We shall study under the following points:

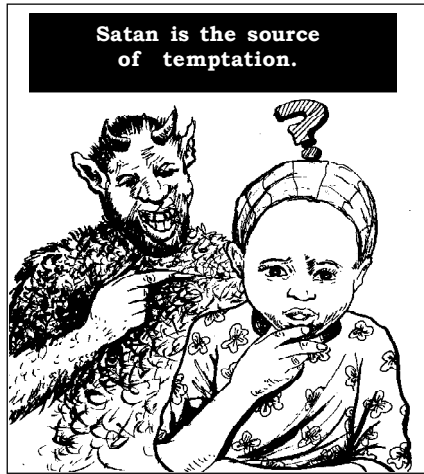
1. SOURCES OF TEMPTATION:

Luke 4:3,6,9,10; James 1:13.

What is temptation? Temptation is the suggestion from the devil to a child to disobey the word of God, that is, to commit sin. You need to understand that temptation is not sin, but yielding to it is sin. Satan is the source of many temptations. He also uses other agents like demons and sinners to tempt friends of Jesus. In one of our Bible passages, Jesus was tempted to disobey God three times, yet He overcame all the temptations. This shows that you can overcome temptation whenever you are tempted.

On the other hand, sinners do not need to be tempted by Satan as they are already his children (John 8:44). Temptation comes to friends of Jesus. In what areas can

you be tempted as a friend of Jesus? (a) To stop loving Jesus and His people. For example, if you just gave your life to Jesus, the devil may come to you and say, “did you think that God has forgiven all those bad things you have done?” Satan wants to discourage you and make you continue to obey him in doing bad things (b) To take what does not belong to you. For example, as you are going on the way to school or Church, you may see money on the ground. The devil will quickly tell you to pick it. (c) To abuse your friends when they provoke you. (d) To copy the children of the world in the way they



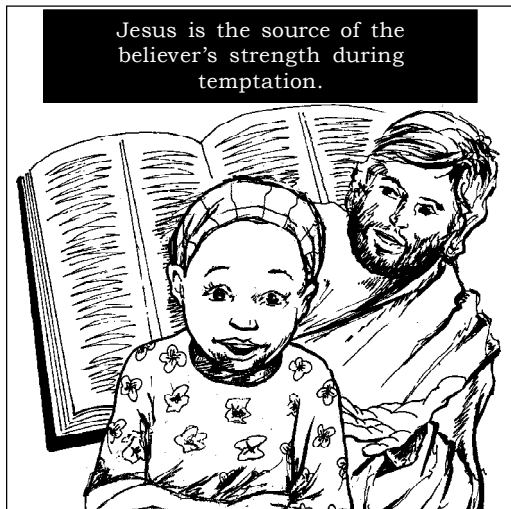
do their things, like birthday parties, dressing, cheating in examinations and many other ways. In all the suggestions of the devil, you must not listen or agree with him. Instead, you must choose to obey the word of God and command the devil to get away.

2. STRENGTH DURING TEMPTATION:

Luke 4:4,8,12; Jeremiah 35:6-10.

Obedience to the word of God is the source of our strength during temptation. The children of Jonadab said, “**Thus have we obeyed the voice of Jonadab...**” (Jeremiah 35:8). So, it is your obedience to the word of God that gives you strength. But how can you obey if you do not know God and His word? (Hosea 4:6). This is

why you are encouraged to give your life to Jesus and always attend Bible study and other fellowship meetings.



Jesus had to depend on the written word of God to overcome His temptations. Many times He said, “**It is written.**” In the same way, you also can have strength to overcome the

devil as you: (i) Study and think on God’s word. (ii) Memorise some passages of the Bible. (iii) Obey the word of God and stand on it. (iv) Avoid any thing that can lead you to sin e.g. bad pictures, worldly music and friendship. (v) Ask God for guidance and pray always.

3. ENCOURAGEMENT TO OVERCOME TEMPTATION:

I Corinthians 10:13.

Temptation is common to all friends of Jesus. Jesus Himself was tempted, therefore, all those who follow Him will also be tempted. However, God has promised all those who are tempted that there will be a way out. God will not leave you alone in times of temptation. Jesus said, “**Lo, I am with you alway.**” Besides, there are rewards for those who overcome temptations. You will inherit all things (Revelation 21:7) and have a crown of life (Revelation 2:10). With all these promises, children

of God can endure temptations and at the end you shall wear a crown and live forever with Jesus in heaven. But there is no crown for those that surrender to Satan and his temptations. Are you still doing bad things? Repent today and give your life to Jesus. Ask God for forgiveness and cleansing in Jesus' blood. Ask Jesus to be your Lord and Saviour. Then, He will always give you the courage and strength to overcome temptation.

Every victory you have over temptation makes Jesus to be happy with you.

"Lo, I am with you always."



QUESTIONS:

1. What is temptation? _____
2. At what point does a child commit sin? Is it when tempted or when he surrenders to temptation? _____

3. Mention some areas where you can be tempted.

4. How can you overcome temptation? _____

5. What gives you the assurance that you can overcome temptation? _____

6. What will a sinful child do to wear the crown of life?

MEMORY VERSE: “Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him” (James 1:12).

LESSON: Children of God can overcome temptation by obeying the word of God at all times.

THOUGHT: I will stand on the word of God so as to overcome temptation.

ACTIVITY: Children are to search the following Bible passages and mention the people that yielded to temptation and those that were victorious. (1) Genesis 3:1-6; (2) Genesis 22:1-3,15-18; (3) Genesis 39:7-9; (4) I Kings 13:9,14-19.

HOME WORK: At home, carefully observe how many times you were tempted in a day and how you reacted. Share your experience with your teacher next week.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 6 - YIELD NOT TO TEMPTATION

CHORUSES: (1) I live for Jesus day after day. (2) If you follow Jesus, there is kingdom. (3) I will never let the devil win the battle.

LESSON 715

THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD

John 5:28,29; I Corinthians 15:3-57;
I Thessalonians 4:13-16

Resurrection means receiving life again after one has died. Jesus resurrected on the third day after His death and burial. His resurrection has made it possible for anyone who believes and trust in His Name to have life after death. But all those who refuse to trust or believe in Him will resurrect to eternal damnation and suffering in hell fire. This is why it is important and urgent to spread the gospel message.

Resurrection is certain for every soul that has ever lived in this world. Right from Adam (the first human being down to the last person to leave the earth – all will finally resurrect) either to eternal life in heaven or everlasting suffering in hell. Choose life so that you will be qualified to rise and meet the Saviour at the end.

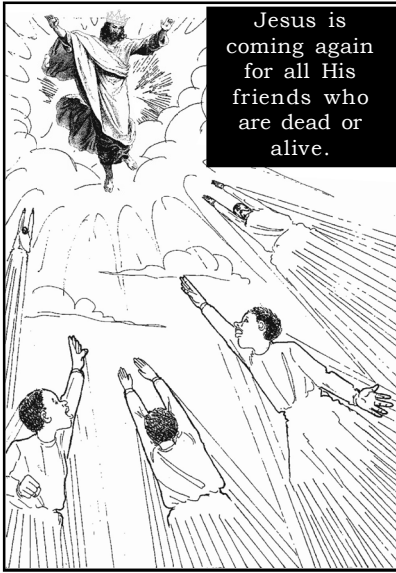
The study is divided into three parts:

1. THE CERTAINTY OF THE RESURRECTION:

Hebrews 11:17,18; Job 19:25-27; Psalm 49:15;
John 11:23-25; Acts 24:15; Daniel 12:2.

The Bible confirms that the resurrection of the dead is very sure and certain. There are lots of proofs to show that every soul that had ever lived will one day rise from the dead. This shows that death is not the end of human existence.

When a sinner dies, his soul goes immediately to hell as in the case of the rich man (Luke 16:19-31). He



Jesus is coming again for all His friends who are dead or alive.

is conscious because he can see, he can feel and he can hear. When a true Christian dies, his soul goes immediately to heaven like righteous Lazarus and the repentant thief on the cross (Luke 16:19-31; 23:43).

The resurrection will occur in two different ways. (a) Resurrection to life. This concerns friends of Jesus who made the rapture, the tribulation and Old Testament saints. (b) The second one is resurrection to damnation which will involve sinners and wicked children. They will stand before the judgment seat of Christ. Then they will be cast into hell fire where they will suffer forever.

It is very important that every Christian should strive to partake of the first resurrection. Sinners also must repent and accept Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour. to escape the resurrection to damnation.

2. THE ORDER OF THE RESURRECTION:

I Corinthians 15:23-28.

The Bible presents a picture of the sequence or order of the resurrection programme in this form:-

(a) Jesus Christ, the first fruit. Christ was the first to rise triumphantly from the dead and he never went back to

the grave. He is the captain of our salvation, the conqueror of death, and deliverer from sin. He has opened the door to life for everyone who believes.

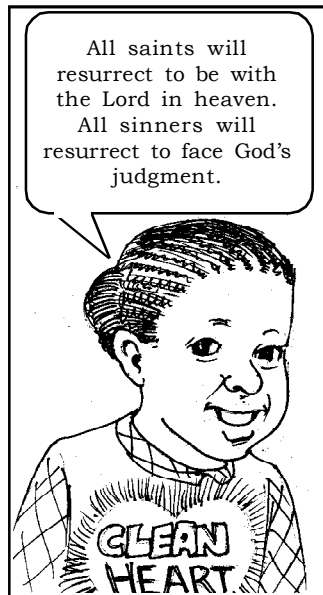
(b) The resurrection of church-age saints at the rapture. Friends of Jesus that are dead and alive will fly to meet Christ in the air. They will partake in the Marriage Supper of the Lamb and reign with Him for a thousand years before the final judgment.

(c) The resurrection of tribulation period saints. Believers that will remain and endure the great tribulation will also rise at the end of the seven year tribulation.

(d) The resurrection of Old Testament saints. This will occur at the second coming of Christ. All these four categories refer to the first resurrection. They will rise to live with Jesus in heaven.

(e) The resurrection of sinners. This is the second resurrection which will come after the millennial age. This part is described as the resurrection to damnation (John 5:20). They will suffer everlasting punishment and torment in the lake of fire.

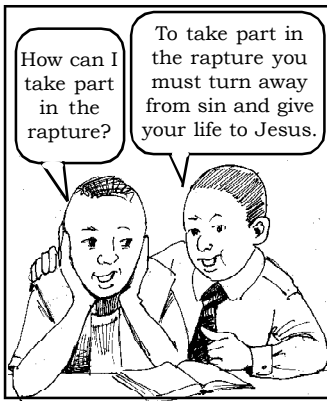
Hell fire is prepared for Satan and his demons. It is only those who choose to serve Satan and refuse to repent that will partake of his punishment. This is why you must turn away from sin and accept Christ today. This will qualify you to take part in the resurrection of life.



3. PREPARATION TO MEET THE LORD:

2 Peter 3:8-14; Jude 20,21.

The Bible clearly states that there are two ways which leads to two destinations. The first is the broad way of the sinners and the end is hell fire. On the other hand, there is the narrow way of the righteous which leads to heaven the place of everlasting joy. It is better to prepare to go with Christ at the rapture than to wait for the great tribulation.



Sinful boys and girls must not wait till it is too late. Repent now and turn away from your wicked ways. Ask for forgiveness and cleansing in the blood of Jesus, pray that your heart should be sanctified and made holy. Live always in obedience to God's word and consistently expect the coming of the Lord.

QUESTIONS:

1. What is resurrection? _____
2. Who is referred to as the first fruit of resurrection? _____
3. The resurrection of the dead is divided into how many parts? _____
4. Mention them. _____
5. What should a sinful child do to partake of the resurrection to life? _____

6. How should a friend of Jesus prepare to meet the Lord? _____

MEMORY VERSE: “Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation” (John 5:28,29).

LESSON: It is certain that the dead will rise again.

THOUGHT: I must be holy every day so as to partake in the resurrection to life.

ACTIVITY: Unscramble the following words to discover the things that a Christian must do daily to prepare for the coming of the Lord.

- (a) SSENLUFHCTAW -
- (b) GINIVLYLHO -
- (c) DROWS'DOG OT ECNEIDEBO -
- (d) RAEPYRUFLESNS -
- (e) SBEOR -
- (f) ELYTSEFILSSELTOPS -

HOMEWORK: Pray daily for grace to prepare for the coming of the Lord.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG GHS: 172 - WHEN THE ROLL IS CALLED UP YONDER

LESSON 716

ISRAEL'S VICTORY OVER THE PHILISTINES

I Samuel 7:1-17

The Philistines had remained a long time enemy of God's people. Their plan was to deprive Israel of the peace and prosperity God has promised them in the good land. The children of Israel lived in constant fear of the Philistines for twenty years. Yet God in His mercies gave Israel victory over this strong enemy. You can learn from our lesson today that no matter how powerful your enemies claim to be, God will always give you victory over them if you love God and do what He commands.

Our study is in three parts:

1. CONDITION FOR VICTORY:

I Samuel 7:1-6; Isaiah 1:16-19; 55:6,7

The children of Israel finally realized that victory over their enemy can only come from God. They have been in bondage because they have forsaken the living God and served idols. Even the ark of the Lord, the symbol of God's presence had been carried away by the Philistines. Israel cried and longed for freedom, peace and the abiding presence of God. Samuel the priest of God had to explain to them the conditions for victory over their enemy thus: (i) Return unto the Lord with all your heart. (ii) Put away strange gods. (iii) Give your heart unto the Lord. (iv) Serve the Lord only.

Israel repented of their sin and God gave them victory over their enemy.



You too cannot enjoy God's peace and His abiding presence except you fulfil these conditions. Return to the Lord in repentance from your sins, love the Lord with all your heart and serve Him in righteousness and in truth.

2. ISRAEL'S VICTORY OVER THE PHILISTINES:

I Samuel 7:10

Israel, being a nation under the rule of the Philistines, had no weapons of war and they were not permitted to organize any kind of assembly. That was why when Israel gathered in Mizpeh for repentance, fasting and prayer (I Samuel 7:6), the Philistines immediately gathered to fight against Israel. The children of Israel were afraid. In your time of trouble don't be afraid. Trust in the Lord, do right and pray to the Lord. He will surely deliver you. He will also fight for you and deliver you without any delay.

The children of Israel called on Prophet Samuel to pray to God on their behalf. They realized the importance of prayer. They also recognized the fact that God alone can give them victory. God fought for Israel in an unusual way. The Lord sent a great



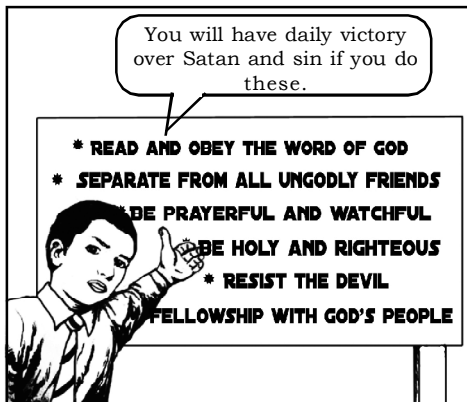
thunder upon the Philistines and they were destroyed.

There is nothing prayers cannot do. God answers prayers. Prayer brings God into every aspect of our lives. Our plans, future, family, problems and successes should be committed into the hands of the Lord in prayers.

3. OUR DAILY VICTORY OVER SATAN AND SIN:

I Corinthians 15:57; Romans 8:1-11

The Philistines represent Satan and his messengers. The plan of Satan is to make you hate and disobey Jesus,



cease to be his friend and as a result forfeit God's mercies and favour. You must determine to overcome him by doing the following: (i) Resist him by rejecting all evil suggestions and enticements (James 4:7).

- (ii) Separate from all ungodly and immoral friends, worldly ceremonies, fashion, games, play etc. (Ephesians 5:6-11; I Corinthians 15:33).
- (iii) Read, study, think on and obey the word of God at all times (2 Timothy 2:15).
- (iv) Be very prayerful and watchful (I Thessalonians 5:17; Matthew 26:41).
- (v) Regularly fellowship with God's people (Hebrews 10:24,25).
- (vi) Be holy and righteous (I Thessalonians 5:22,23; II Peter 3:14).

This is the pathway to victory over the enemy of your soul and eventually rest in heaven with Jesus. Remember that sinners cannot have victory over sin or Satan without repentance. Therefore, sinful boys and girls must as a matter of urgency take these steps: realize their sinful state, repent, confess and forsake all sins (lies, stealing, fighting, witchcraft etc.). Ask for forgiveness and cleansing in the blood of Jesus. Ask Jesus to come into your heart and be your Saviour and Lord. As you sincerely pray through these steps, Jesus will save you. As you continue to follow Him, you are sure of continuous victory over sin, self and Satan.

QUESTIONS:

1. _____ made themselves enemy of God's people.
2. State three of the conditions Israel was to fulfil before God could give them victory over the Philistines _____
3. What lesson do you learn from Israel's victory over their enemies? _____
4. What must all friends of Jesus do to remain victorious over Satan and his messengers? _____
5. What should a sinner do to have victory over sin and Satan? _____

MEMORY VERSE: "but the Lord thundered with a great thunder on that day upon the Philistines, and discomfited them; and they were smitten before Israel."
(1 Samuel 7:10b).

LESSON: God will always fight for you if you fear and trust Him.

THOUGHT: I will fear and trust the Lord so as to have total victory.

ACTIVITY: Sword drill: Psalm 98:1; I Corinthians 15:57; I John 5:4; I Samuel 7:9,10

HOMEWORK: Write in your homework book three instances, besides the one in our lesson today, that God fought for His people in the Bible.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG GHS: 233 – STAND UP, STAND UP FOR JESUS

CHORUSES: (1) In the Name of Jesus we have the victory. (2) I am a winner in the Lord Jesus. (3) The Name of Jesus, the Name that conquers Satan.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	PSALM	98:1-3
TUESDAY	I CORINTHIANS	15:55-57
WEDNESDAY	I JOHN	5:4-6
THURSDAY	I JOHN	5:17-20
FRIDAY	I JOHN	3:5-8
SATURDAY	EPHESIANS	6:10-13
SUNDAY	EPHESIANS	6:14-18

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Deprive 2. Ace 3. Bondage
4. Determine 5. Righteous.

ISRAEL ASKS FOR A KING

I Samuel 8:1-22

Samuel judged Israel right from his childhood. He went from year to year to Bethel, Gilgal and Mizpeh, judging Israel. Samuel became old and he made his sons judges over Israel. Unfortunately his sons were bad and did not walk in the way of their father. Because of this, the elders of Israel gathered themselves together and went to Samuel asking for a king.

They did not think to pray or ask God for direction. They have already made up their minds. Whenever you want to make important decision concerning your future, always pray and seek God's counsel.

The message is divided into three parts:

1. THE REQUEST FOR A KING:

I Samuel 8:1-5; Deuteronomy 17:14,15

Israel's request for a king was based on the following reasons: (a) That Samuel was too old to lead them. (b) His sons Joel and Abiah were bad and could not be their leaders. (c) They want a king that will lead them in battles against their enemies. (d) They desire to be like other nations around them.

They mistakenly believed the reason for their troubles and defeats was lack of good government. They do not realized that the cause of their trouble was their sins. They had conformed to the ways of the idol-worshipping nations around them rather than trusting in God.

Israel asks for a king instead of repenting from their sins.



Many times as children, you leave the important issue and cry after things that have no value. Some children want to be like their peers in dressing, outlook, association and even behavior instead of seeking to be like Jesus. While others are never satisfied with whatever their parents can afford to give them.

Children that desired a secured future must always seek the face of God in prayers for divine direction. No matter how insignificant a decision is, pray about it. God is interested and wants to rule and reign in every areas of your life. Do not reject Him like the children of Israel did.

2. GOD'S RESPONSE TO ISRAEL'S REQUEST:

I Samuel 8:6-22; Hosea 13:9-11

God Himself ruled Israel as their King right from the time they left Egypt till they settled in Canaan. He ruled through (i) Direct guidance (ii) Special revelation and the written laws (iii) chosen and anointed leaders. He gave them victory over their enemies. Therefore when



Israel demanded for a king, they did not just reject Samuel but God.

In spite of the warnings about what the king would do to them, they insisted that they want a king. God heard their demand and directed Samuel to choose a king for them according to their wish. God permitted the appointment of a king for Israel to teach His people that no type of government on earth will solve their problems or bring peace and safety as long as they remain in their sinful state.

Jesus will soon come to take His friends to His everlasting kingdom. There is no King beside Him. He is the King of kings and “of his kingdom there shall be no end (Luke 1:31-33). Surrender your life to Jesus to be a part of this kingdom.

3. ASKING ACCORDING TO GOD’S WILL:

Genesis 17:6; I John 5:14,15; Philippians 4:6

Things will work better if you make your request according to the will of God. Our heavenly father knows everything about us. He has good plans for our lives. If you ask God for anything according to His will, He will do it for you. The will of God is that you will be successful in everything you do. In your choice of friends, school, career or course of study and even dress you put on should be what will make God to be happy with you.

For you to make your request according to the will

of God you must first become a child of God by:

(i) Realizing yourself as a sinner. (ii) Confessing and turning away from all

your sins. (iii) Asking God to forgive you and give you the power to go and sin no more. (iv) Then invite Jesus into your heart to be your Lord and Saviour. Thank Him for saving you. Then check up those desires in your heart whether they are according to the word of God. Let His word be your guide in everything. Ask in faith and never doubt. God will always answer your prayers and you will have joy.



QUESTIONS:

1. What is a demand? _____
2. State three reasons why Israel demanded for a king?

-
3. What was God's response? _____
 4. How can a Christian make his demand known unto God? _____
 5. How can sinful boys and girls follow God's will _____
-

MEMORY VERSE: "But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, Give us a king to judge us. And Samuel prayed unto the Lord" (1 Samuel 8:6).

LESSON: Walking according to God's perfect plan will lead to a bright future.

THOUGHT: I will stay with Jesus and do His perfect will for my life.

ACTIVITY: The teacher should lead the children to pray against worldly life style, covetousness and inordinate affection.

HOMEWORK: Search the scriptures and write down in you homework book the names of people that made their demand against God's will. What were the consequences?

CONGREGATIONAL SONG GHS: 43 – TRUST AND OBEY

CHORUSES: (1) I live for Jesus day after day. (2) Give me grace to follow. (3) God must be honoured in my life.

DAILY BIBLE READING

SAUL SEEKS THE LOST ASSES

I Samuel 9:1-27

Saul was the son of Kish from the tribe of Benjamin which was one of the smallest tribe among the tribes of Israel. God called him and chose him to be king over the children of Israel, the people of God, while he was busy looking for his father's lost asses.

Saul's obedience to his father's instruction to go and search for his lost asses led to his being called and appointed as a king over the nation of Israel. There is blessings in obedience. As you go through this study, pray that the Lord will make you an obedient child. This will lead you to enjoy the blessings of God.

There are three parts to the study:

1. THE LOST ASSES:

I Samuel 9:1-3; Luke 19:10

An ass also known as donkey is an animal commonly used in the Bible times for various purposes such as: (i) Transportation as in the case with Balaam's ass – Numbers 22:21-23. Jesus also

Paul seeks for the lost asses. Friend of Jesus should seek for the lost virtues in their life.



rode on an ass in His triumphal entry into Jerusalem; (ii) Economic use as in threshing grains, pulling the plow in farm cultivation and moving farm produce and other goods to the market. The ass was also considered as a very important economic asset. A person's wealth was measured by the number of asses which he possessed.

Kish the father of Saul probably had many of them. He was so concerned that his asses were lost, that he sent Saul and one of his servants to go and search for them. The importance of the asses and their own concern made them to travel a long distance from home. They searched for about three days. The search for the lost asses led Saul to Prophet Samuel to seek for divine counsel. However, God was working through this situation to fulfill His plan and purpose for Saul and for the whole of Israel as a people.

There are some things in the life of a friend of Jesus today that symbolizes lost asses. These include lost virtues like love, obedience, patience, grace, humility, prayerfulness, love for God's word and fellowship, concern for lost souls, evangelism and practical holiness. If these virtues are missing in your life, you need to seek to repossess them now in order to prepare for the Saviour.

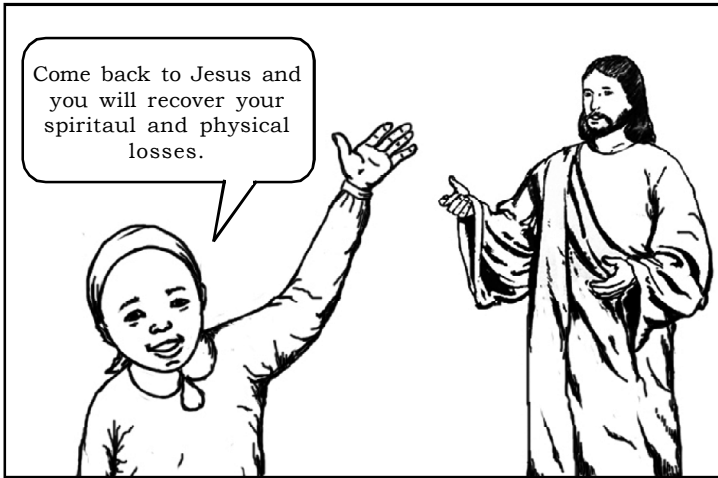
On the other hand, sinners are lost except they repent. Jesus is seeking to recover lost souls. You must not remain in your lost state. You must repent of your sins and surrender your life to Jesus.

2. RECOVERING YOUR LOSSES:

1 Samuel 9:4-14,20; Revelation 2:4-7; Joel 2:32;
Zephaniah 2:3

There are many boys and girls who were true friends of Jesus before, but because they have gone back into doing naughty things, the grace of God that made them

true friends of Jesus has leaked out of their lives. They have lost fellowship with God, lost their power in prayer, lost their life of holiness, lost their desire for a place in



heaven and have become spiritually dull. If your life is like that, you need to seek the Lord with all your heart and pray through to recover your salvation and fellowship with God.

There are promises of restoration for all boys and girls who are willing to seek Christ. If you are not saved or was saved before but you have lost your salvation and other Christian experiences, the Lord is calling you to repent and turn from doing bad things. Come back to Jesus today and you will recover all your spiritual and physical losses.

All you have to do is to see yourself as a sinner or backslider, confess your sins, forsake them, ask God to forgive you and wash away your sins with the blood of Jesus. Believe that God has saved you and thank Him

for your salvation. Then watch and pray everyday. Read God's word, meditate on it and obey it every day.

3. REWARD FOR OBEDIENCE?

I Samuel 9:15-27; Isaiah 1:19

Saul is described as a very handsome, good looking young man. Infact he is said to be the goodlier person among all the children of Israel. His family was rich also



because they had asses and servants. When Kish the father of Saul discovered that some asses were lost, he sent Saul and a servant to go and search for the lost asses. Saul obeyed without any question or complaint when he was sent to go and look for the lost asses.

This simple obedience to parental instruction led Saul into great honour. God divinely directed him to a place where he was anointed as the future king of Israel.

Obedience to God brings blessings; it brings life, promotion, favour and honour.

Children who often disobey the instructions of their godly parents are cheating themselves out of the blessings of God. There are great blessings prepared for children who would obey their parents and the word of God. These include: success, honour, long life, uncommon favour, promotion and bright future. If you

have not being obedient to your parents before, repent and ask for their forgiveness and also make restitution where necessary. Then the door of blessings will be opened unto you.

QUESTIONS:

1. Who was Saul? _____
2. What did Saul's father send him to go and search for? _____
3. What lessons did you learn from the obedience of Saul? _____
4. What are some of the spiritual losses you can notice in your life? _____
5. How can you recover all you physical and spiritual losses? _____

MEMORY VERSE: “**And the asses of Kish Saul's father were lost. And Kish said to Saul his son, Take now one of the servants with thee, and arise, go seek the asses**” (1 Samuel 9:3).

LESSON: There are promises of recovering all losses for those who pray in faith.

THOUGHT: I will pray in faith to recover all spiritual and physical losses.

ACTIVITY: Children to share testimony of how God saved them from sins.

SAMUEL ANOINTS SAUL KING

I Samuel 10:1-27

Samuel was now old and his sons, who were judges over Israel did not walk in his ways. They do not have the fear of God, they took bribes and collected money from worshippers. This made Israel to demand for a king.

Though God was not happy with this request, but when they persisted, God asked Samuel to choose and anoint Saul as king over the people. He was from the tribe of Benjamin. No one becomes king or ruler over the people without the knowledge of God. All men are under the control of God. He rules according to His purpose.

The study is in three parts:

1. SAMUEL ANOINTS SAUL KING:

I Samuel 10:1,17-26

The process through which Saul was anointed as the first king in Israel was in two phases: (a) **The first anointing:** This was between Samuel and Saul alone through the direct revelation from God. Samuel took a vial of oil, poured it upon Saul's head signifying that he has been anointed as king of Israel. These three experiences also confirm that Saul has indeed been chosen by God to be king. (i) The report of the found donkey. (ii) The encounter of the three men going to Bethel. (iii) The encounter with the prophets.

Samuel anoints Saul: Friend of Jesus are to be set apart for God's service.



When the spirit of God came upon Saul, he turned into another man, he even prophesied. Without being born-again, children, you cannot work or have fellowship with God (II Corinthians 5:17). (b) **The public presentation:** Samuel told the people to present themselves by tribes and families. By this process, the king that the Lord wanted would be chosen.

When all the tribes had passed by, the choice was the tribe of Benjamin, from this tribe, the family of Kish was taken and them Saul was chosen. When Saul came out, it was clear that God had chosen him. He stood head above all others. The people readily accepted their new king and shouted "God save the king".

Every friend of Jesus is a priest unto God. As God commanded that the priests should be set apart for His service unto Him, so also our Lord Jesus Christ has set His friends apart to do His service (I Peter 2:9).

2. THE SPIRIT OF GOD COMES UPON SAUL:

I Samuel 10:9-13; Acts 1:8

The words that Samuel spoke to Saul were fulfilled. When God speaks, it comes to pass. Saul prophesied just as Samuel had told him. After Saul had preached his

sermon, he went away. Saul only started preaching when he had a new heart and receive the spirit of God.

For you to work for God effectively, you must be saved, sanctified and baptized in the Holy Spirit. God has given you different gifts for you to work in His kingdom. Seek always to use your talent to serve God and do His will.

Our services to the Lord as friends of Jesus include:

(a) Holy living (I Peter 1:15,16). (b) Preaching the gospel everywhere and teaching the new converts (Mark 16:15,16). (c) Presenting yourself as a living sacrifice (Romans 12:1). (d) Sharing and showing the love of Jesus to others (e) Helping the needy and living as shining example for others to copy. (f) Total obedience to all His commands.

3. JESUS THE KING OF KINGS:

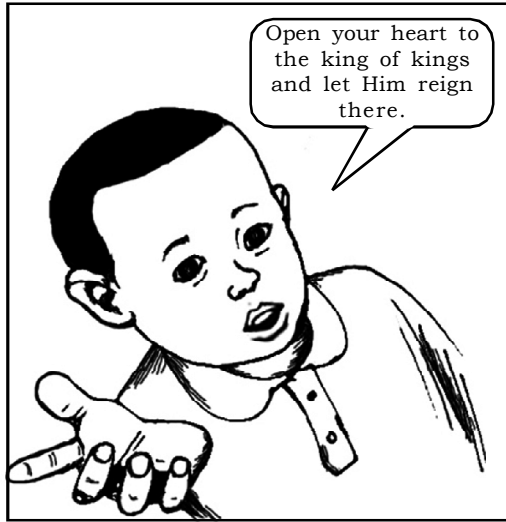
Revelation 19:11-16

The purpose of Saul's anointing was: (i) To dedicate him to God for the special task to which he was called. (ii) To impart to him enabling grace and gift for his God-appointed task. However, because of disobedience, pride of position and power, Saul soon failed to remain faithful to God and His word. He was therefore rejected and his



kingdom could not continue. Countless number of kings have reigned since the time of Saul. There is no king in this world that will reign forever. God's ultimate anointed king is Jesus Christ, the Messiah. The king of this earth will reign just for a short time. Jesus the Messiah who is the King of kings reigns forever. His kingdom will never come to an end.

He want to reign in the life of all boys and girls. Open your heart to



Jesus today, He will enter in, cleanse you with His blood and reign in your life. You will never remain the same again, and, you will also reign with Him in His kingdom at the end of this life (Revelation 3:20).

QUESTIONS:

1. Who anointed Saul as king? _____
2. What made Saul to become another man? _____

3. Mention three signs that confirms that Saul was indeed anointed by God _____

4. Who is the King of kings? _____
5. How can a sinner become a priest and king in the kingdom of God? _____

6. As priest of God mention three things you can do in God's service. _____

MEMORY VERSE: "Then Samuel took a vial of oil, and poured it upon his head, and kissed him, and said, Is it not because the Lord hath anointed thee to be captain over his inheritance?" (1 Samuel 10:1).

LESSON: God loves children who are consecrated and committed to Him.

THOUGHT: I will yield myself totally to God's service.

ACTIVITY: Children should mention different kinds of work they can do in the house of God. Teacher to lead them in prayer to pray for grace to become useful in God's service.

HOMEWORK: Saved children should go out during the week and preach to sinners.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG GHS: 109 – TO THE WORK

CHORUSES: (1) Jesus shall reign forevermore. (2) Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning. (3) He is the King of kings...

LESSON 720

VICTORY OF JABESH OVER AMMON

I Samuel 11;1-15

Jabesh, also known as Jabesh-gilead is one of the land inherited by the children of Israel. Ammon on the other hand, is an idol-worshipping nation very close to Jabesh-gilead.

The king of Ammon known as Nahash was a very proud and wicked person. He was a bitter enemy of Israel. This king prepared to make war with Jabesh, boasted that the only condition for which he would make peace with Jabesh was to remove all their right eyes. He threatened to bring shame to all Israel. God hates pride, He raised up deliverance for Jabesh and Nahash and his people were defeated and put to shame.

Satan is our arch enemy. He is wicked and always trouble boys and girls who love Jesus. The good news is that God is on our side. He has promised to give us victory.

Our message is divided into three parts:

1. THE THREE FOLD MISSION OF THE ENEMY:

I Samuel 11:1,2; John 10:10

“The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy” (John 10:10). The devil is never tired of wickedness. His agents are never at rest. Only a very wicked king can plan the removal of the right eyes of a whole tribe that was at peace with his kingdom. The purpose is to destroy their usefulness as effective soldiers for the rest of their lives. The right eye was used in

looking at the enemy over the shield. Israel would have been easily conquered had such an injury come to their soldiers and the enemy would have brought shame on them and make slaves of them forever.

The Bible caution believers to be sober and vigilant so that the devil will not capture them. The devil is described as the strongman. He never opens the door of his prison for the prisoners to escape. He is more wicked than the Egyptian task master (Exodus 1:11-14).

The purpose of the devil is to destroy the faith of Christians and render them ineffective and unable to benefit from the promises of God (eternal life etc.). We are not fighting physical enemies (flesh and blood) but the devil and his agents who are spiritual enemies.

Have you ever watched an insect caught in a spider web? It struggles hopelessly and becomes weak and get more entangled until the spider comes to finally kill and eat it up. That is how bad it is to be caught in the devil's snare. He entices sinners with drugs, alcohol, smoking, lust of the flesh and of the eyes etc. Once caught, unless delivered by Jesus, everlasting suffering

Devil is the thief that came to steal to kill and to destroy; do not allow him in your life.



in hell fire is the end of such sinners if they fail to repent.

Are you already in the cage of the devil? Are you being oppressed with sickness, failure, poverty, bedwetting etc. Jesus is calling you and willing to deliver you today. Do not delay any longer. Repent and confess your sins and give your life to Jesus now!

2. HOLY LIVING AS CONDITION FOR PERMANENT VICTORY:

I Samuel 11:12-15; Ephesians 6:10-18

For various reasons, people who have once been empowered by the Spirit of God in achieving victory have backslided. Gideon because of idolatry, Saul – disobedience, lying and fear of men, Samson – lust, Demas – worldliness. Judas Iscariot – covetousness. It



is therefore clear that Holy Ghost baptism without holy living cannot guarantee permanent victory over the devil. Holiness of life is necessary. Paul describes the Christian journey which

starts at salvation as a serious race that you run to win the prize. To have victory and get to heaven at last you must: (i) Read and meditate on the word of God and obey it. (ii) Pray daily in faith and believe that God will keep

you till the end. (iii) Resist any temptation to go back to sin. (iv) Attend fellowship regularly and listen to the word of God. (v) Preach the love of Christ to sinful children around you and watch for the coming of the Lord.

Joseph, Samuel, Daniel and the other three Hebrew boys, Timothy, Esther, Deborah, Ruth and Paul did not back slide, you will also not go back from following, in Jesus' Name.

3. VICTORY THROUGH THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:

I Samuel 11:3-12; Judges 6:34; 11:29; Luke 10:10; Acts 1:4-8

“...for by strength shall no man prevail” (1 Samuel 2:9). Throughout the period of the Judges, God always put His Spirit upon chosen individuals to lead His people to victory over their enemies. God is the same yesterday, today and forever and still delivers through the power of His Spirit.

In the early church, the Lord manifested His Holy Spirit power in the lives of the apostles and many believers by giving them power



to evangelize and convert the world of their time. The twelve (12) Apostles, Paul, Stephen, Philip and many other disciples preached the gospel with boldness,

healed the sick, raised the dead and cast out devils in the Name of Jesus. The promise of Holy Spirit baptism is for all friends of Jesus. We need the Holy Spirit power today more than ever to have victory over the devil and his agents.

The Holy Ghost baptism is a very important experience a friend of Jesus receives after sanctification. It is an experience whereby God fills a saved child with power to serve Him more effectively (Luke 10:19). To have this experience, you must have a thirst for God's power just as you desire water when you are very thirsty. Pray very well and wait to be baptized. Rise up and pray for grace to be holy, be baptized in the Holy Spirit and live a victorious life.

QUESTIONS:

1. The wicked king that threatened to pluck the eyes of the people of Jabesh is _____
2. Why did he want to pluck out the right eyes of the Israelites? _____
3. What is the importance of Holy Spirit baptism to friends of Jesus? _____
4. Mention five steps to holy living. _____
5. What must a sinner do to escape the devils snare? _____

MEMORY VERSE: “**For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.**” (1 John 5:4).

LESSON: There is assurance of victory for every child that is holy and filled with the power of the Holy Spirit.

THOUGHT: I will live holy and serve God in the power of the Spirit so as to be victorious.

ACTIVITY: Read Ephesians 6:10-18, write out in your church notebook, the weapons necessary to win in the battle against Satan.

HOMEWORK: Identify two things in your life that can hinder you from having total victory. Write them in your homework book.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG GHS: 99 – THERE IS VICTORY WITHIN MY SOUL

CHORUSES: (1) Keep me true, Lord Jesus keep me true. (2) Following Jesus every day by day. (3) I will never let the devil win the battle.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	I SAMUEL	12:9-12
TUESDAY	JOHN	10:9-11
WEDNESDAY	COLOSSIANS	2:12-15
THURSDAY	I JOHN	4:4-6
FRIDAY	ROMANS	8:37-39
SATURDAY	EPHESIANS	6:10-13
SUNDAY	2 CORINTHIANS	10:3-6

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Victory 2. Backsliding 3. Faith 4. Entice 5. Weaken

BELIEVERS' ENRICHMENT THROUGH CHRIST

Ephesians 1:1-14

To be enriched means to get more in addition to what someone already has or to be made better by giving him/her something more. Believers are those who have become friends of Jesus. They have repented and turned from their sins, (stealing, fighting, cheating in examinations, watching bad movies etc.). All friends of Jesus are rich through Christ's sacrificial death on the cross of Calvary. He paid all the price for their sins and for all the good things they need. They do not look to the world for riches or honour anymore. Jesus is enough for them. He dwells (lives) in them (I John 4:4b) and bestows all His riches on them.

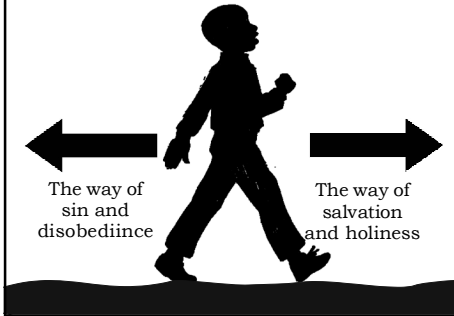
We shall consider this topic under three sub-headings:

1. THE TRUE BELIEVER:

Ephesians 1:1-7; John 3:16; 1:12; Romans 10:9-13

A believer is a Christian who has turned from sin to become a friend of Jesus. Bearing Christian name, church attendance and others cannot make a person to become a believer. Therefore, for a sinner to become a believer, he must take these steps: (a) Realize his sinful state because all have sinned (Romans 3:23). (b) Repent from all sins. (c) Confess all sins to God. (d) Pray and ask

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. (2 Corinthians 5:17)



for forgiveness and cleansing through the blood of Jesus. (e) Ask Jesus into his heart to be his Saviour and Lord.

This is the foundation of the Christian life.

To become a strong believer, you must: (i) Read the word of God daily. (ii) Pray

every day and be watchful. (iii) Attend fellowship and other church programmes regularly. (iv) Tell other people about Jesus (evangelism). (v) Live holy and righteous life daily.

Jesus has gone to prepare a place for all believers in heaven. He will come back to take us there (John 14:1-3). We must live every day expecting the return of our Saviour and Lord.

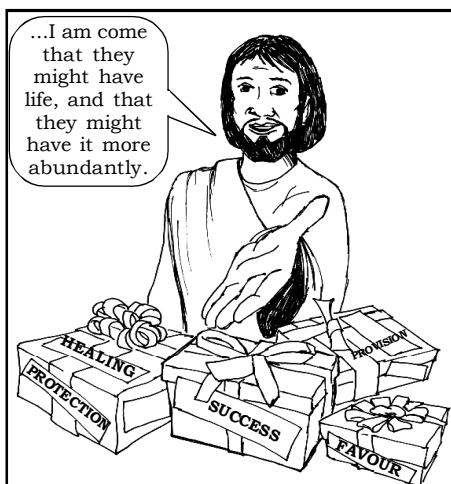
2. ENRICHMENT THROUGH CHRIST:

Ephesians 1:8-14; Colossians 2:9,10; I Corinthians 1:5

“That in everything ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge” (1 Corinthians 1:5).

Jesus Christ, Our Saviour and Lord is rich in everything. He bestows these riches on all who follow Him as true disciples. Riches is not measured by the amount of money or material things that one has. The riches that believers have in Christ is both spiritual and physical. Spiritual riches include: Salvation, righteousness, spirit-filled life, abundant grace, faith, godly wisdom, daily walk and communion with Christ, divine guidance and hope of eternal life.

On the other hand we are also rich in physical blessings such as: provision of good things of life, success in academics, healing, good health, favour, protection and preservation. Christ gives us His riches freely without adding any sorrow. Whereas the riches that the people of the world run after come with sorrow and troubles.

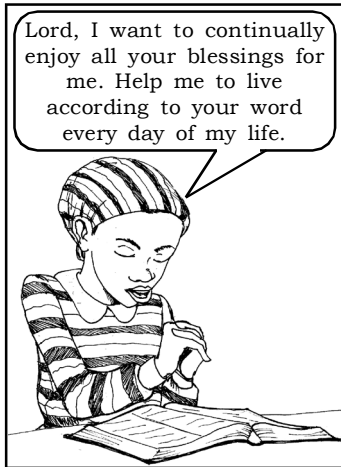


As a believer you must separate yourself from worldly influences. Sinners run here and there to gain success, they employ negative means to achieve their desire. Believers must be different. Do not be desperate to be rich, trust in the Lord and wait for Him. He will greatly enrich your life.

3. ABIDING IN CHRIST:

John 15:4,5; Revelation 21:7; Luke 17:32

Jesus Christ told His disciples “**Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me**” (John 15:4). Since Christ is the source of our enrichment, we must remain with Him to continue to enjoy this great provision. The branch of the tree receives life and nourishment as long as it remain attached to the tree. So believers also have Christ’ life and enrichment as long as they remain in Him.



To abide in Christ and continually enjoy His blessings, believers must (a) Read God's word daily, think on it's instructions, keep it in their hearts. (b) Be in close fellowship with Christ through daily prayers and holy living. (c) Constantly obey Christ command and remain in His love. (d) Show love to others, resist sin and yield to the Holy Spirit leading.

As a friend of Jesus, keep following Him, don't look back (remember Lot's wife – Genesis 19:26). Your reward is waiting for you.

QUESTIONS:

1. A true believer is _____
2. Everyone can receive the fullness of the riches of Christ. Yes/No?
3. _____ is the source of believers' enrichment.
4. Mention three spiritual and three physical blessings that believers enjoy in Christ. _____
5. To continue enjoying the riches of Christ, a believer must _____, _____, _____ and _____.
6. What must a sinner do to enjoy the fullness of Christ's riches? _____

MEMORY VERSE: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ" (Ephesians 1:3).

LESSON: Jesus Christ is the source of believers' riches.

THOUGHT: I will trust and abide in Christ so as to partake of His riches.

ACTIVITY: Read and memorize Philippians 4:19.

HOMEWORK: Mention two instances in the New Testament where Jesus made miraculous provision for people's needs.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG GHS: 216 – MORE ABOUT JESUS WOULD I KNOW

CHORUSES: (1) Complete, complete, complete in Him, we are complete in Him.... (2) He's enough for me, the man of Calvary (3) Jesus the same yesterday, today and forever.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	COLOSSIANS	2:9-11
TUESDAY	COLOSSIANS	2:12-15
WEDNESDAY	I CORINTHIANS	1:4-6
THURSDAY	JOHN	15:6-8
FRIDAY	JOHN	15:9-11
SATURDAY	2 CORINTHIANS	8:7-9
SUNDAY	2 CORINTHIANS	9:8-11

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Believer 2. Enrichment 3. Sufficient
4. Dwell 5. Bestow.

PRAYING FOR BELIEVERS' SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Ephesians 1:15-23

Paul the Apostle spent over two years in Ephesus preaching the gospel and establishing churches. Many of the people who used curious acts brought their magical books together and burnt them publicly (Acts 19:18, 19). Paul knew that they were truly saved but he still prayed earnestly for their spiritual growth. This shows how important it is for believers to grow spiritually. As a friend of Jesus, who wants to make heaven at last, you must grow in faith. It is also important to pray for the spiritual growth of other believers.

Let us consider this topic under these sub-headings:

1. THE NEED FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH:

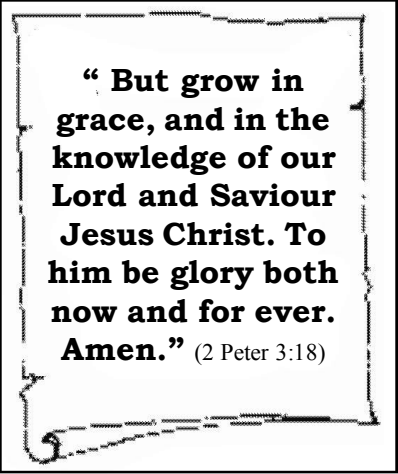
Ephesians 1:15-23; 2:19-22; 2 Peter 3:17, 18

Spiritual growth is a systematic development from a baby believer to a mature Christian. A child is born into the family through physical birth. The baby starts to grow, gets bigger and is able to sit, crawl, stand, walk and continue systematically in growth until he reaches adulthood. When a baby grows well, the family especially the parents will be very happy. The baby grows to be a blessing to his family and the people around him.

As it is in the physical so also it is in the spiritual. When a sinful child repents, turns from his bad ways and becomes a friend of Jesus, he is seen as a baby

Christian. If he remains at this stage without growing, he will not be a good and useful friend of Jesus. This will make Jesus to be unhappy. Therefore, every saved child must grow spiritually. This is the prayer of Apostle Paul.

Lack of spiritual growth can lead to spiritual weakness, unfruitfulness and backsliding. Therefore every believer must strive to grow spiritually and also pray for others to grow.



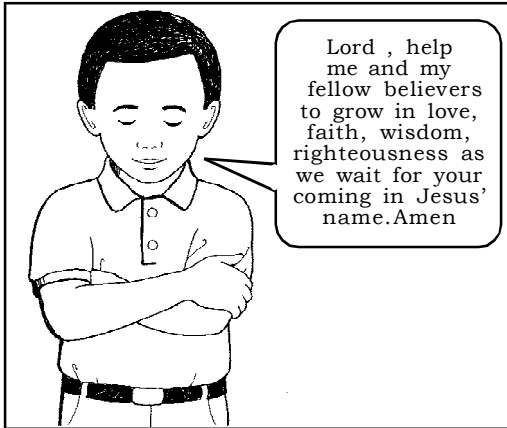
“ But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.” (2 Peter 3:18)

2. PRAYING TO GROW SPIRITUALLY:

Ephesians 1:16-19; 3:14-19; Philippians 1:9-11;
Colossians 1:9-12

For a new born baby to grow well, he needs physical nourishment like milk, water, care, love, warmth and other good things. Growing spiritually is not automatic. There are certain ingredients that are needed. These among others include daily reading and meditating on the word of God and prayer. Apostle Paul knew the importance of prayer. He therefore prayed often for his converts and the church. He also asked the church to pray for him at all times.

As believers we must constantly pray for other believers in the church, missionaries, pastors and for ourselves to grow in grace. We must pray that they should (i) Understand God’s word (ii) Receive divine



Lord , help me and my fellow believers to grow in love, faith, wisdom, righteousness as we wait for your coming in Jesus' name. Amen

wisdom (iii) live holy (iv) Bear fruit for Christ (v) Be strengthened by the Holy Spirit (vi) Persevere in faith and righteousness (vii) Experience God's presence (viii) Show love and kindness to one another.

(ix) Be sincere, truthful and blameless. (x) Eagerly await the Lord's return.

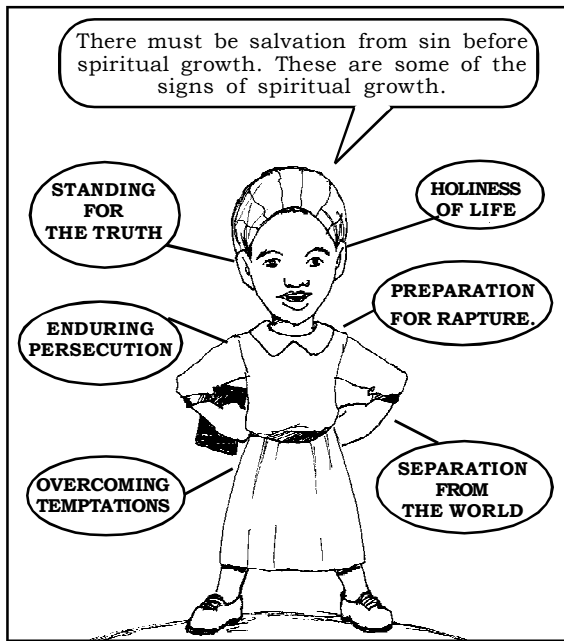
It is time to arise and pray for the growth of the church.

3. EVIDENCE OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH:

Ephesians 1:17-19

When we sincerely pray for believers to grow spiritually, the result will show. There will be: (i) revival in the church, (ii) love for fellowship among the brethren, (iii) preaching of the gospel, (iv) unity and love among the brethren. Also, believers will be strengthened to stand for the truth, endure persecution, overcome temptations and trials. Many souls will be saved and added to the church.

Moreover, believers will live a separated life from the world and all its attractions. There will be grace to resist false teachers and their teachings, manifestation of God's power for signs, miracles and wonders. Friends of Jesus will live holy, become more prayerful and daily live in expectation of the rapture.



Friends of Jesus, are you growing spiritually? Pray always for yourself and other friends of Jesus as Paul did. Do your quiet time every day, listen to the word of God, read your Bible and obey it. Attend fellowship regularly and always tell others about Jesus. These are the things you must do to grow spiritually and continue to abide in Christ till the end.

QUESTIONS:

1. Spiritual growth means _____
2. Spiritual growth is necessary for every friend of Jesus. Yes/No?
3. _____ prayed for believers' spiritual growth in our passage.

4. Mention four things that will happen when we pray for believers' spiritual growth. _____

5. What are the marks of spiritual growth? _____

MEMORY VERSE: “For this cause we also, since the day we heard *it*, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding” (Colossians 1:9).

LESSON: It is the duty of every saved child to pray for believers' spiritual growth.

THOUGHT: I will always pray for the church to grow spiritually.

ACTIVITY: Write out 10 prayer points for believers and the church in your notebook. Spend time to pray on these points.

HOMEWORK: Pray every day on the prayer points you have written.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG GHS: 168 – I NEED THEE EVERY HOUR

CHORUSES: (1) Read your Bible, pray everyday if you want to grow. (2) I will dig a little deeper Jesus' love must be sweeter. (3) Prayer is the key.

SALVATION BY GRACE

Ephesians 2:1-22

Salvation involves three important aspects in the life of a child. First, it is the rescue from sin and death. This is because all have sinned and deserve to die. Second, is the renewing of the spirit. This is necessary because we have fallen from the original condition of purity into sin. Salvation therefore will renew our spirit to help us live a life pleasing unto God. The third aspect is the restoration of a right relationship/fellowship with God. One of the results of sin is separation from God. The Bible makes it clear that salvation restores one's relationship with God. Salvation is a free gift made available through the grace of God. No one can obtain salvation through good works or personal strength in trying to keep God's commandment. We are saved by grace. This is why every sinner must take this opportunity to repent and be saved.

The study is in three parts:

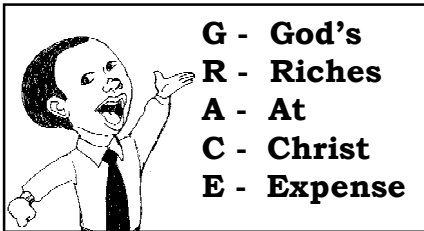
1. THE MEANING OF GRACE:

Ephesians 2:1-10; Titus 2:11, 12

Grace means the underserved and unmerited favour of God. As soon as Adam and Eve fell into sin, God in His mercy made provision to save and bring them back to Himself (Genesis 3:15). No one can be saved by works, good deeds of love or mere keeping of God's commandments. A sinner must be saved by the grace of God. This is because: (i) Sinners are spiritually dead in sin and under God's condemnation. (ii) In order to be

saved, the sinner must receive God's provision of salvation, be forgiven of sin, be made spiritually alive, be delivered from the power of Satan and sin and be made a new creation. No amount of self-effort can do all these.

No matter how dirty a sinner is, the grace of God is



available to save him. Grace is God's Riches at Christ Expense. Grace is the totality of the gospel of Christ. God planned the salvation of sinners even before the

foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:4; 2 Timothy 1:9). It was grace that provided salvation through the death of Jesus (Romans 3:24). It is grace that enables a sinner to realize his sinful state and repent (Ephesians 2:8, 9). Grace is a free gift from our loving heavenly Father to a sinful world. If you are a sinner, come and receive the grace of God to set you free from sin today.

2. SALVATION BY GRACE:

Ephesians 2:1-17; Titus 2:11, 12; John 3:16-18

Despite the availability of the grace of God which has brought salvation to man, many sinners are still dying in their sins and going to hell. There is no excuse for anyone who still remains and perish in sin. The grace of God is open to everyone both young and old. Salvation is a two-way affair. God has played His part by sending His only Son to die for our sins. The sinful child must also play his/her own part by: (a) Receiving the call to repentance. (b) Responding to this call in faith. (c) Repenting of all sin (stealing, cheating, fighting, witchcraft and wicked acts). (d) Requesting for

forgiveness and cleansing through the blood of Jesus. (e) Receiving Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Saviour.

This experience will make you to become born again and have a new life. As a born again child, you must also continue to serve God through His grace. Every sinner must

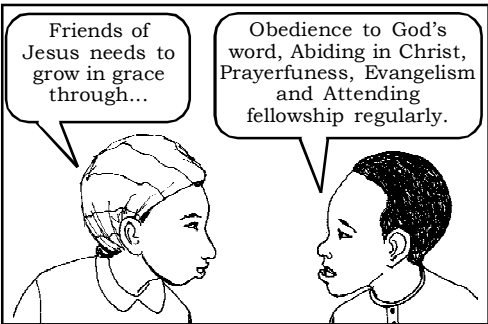
take advantage of this provision of grace and repent. Anyone who remains in sin will suffer for it.



3. GROW IN GRACE:

Ephesians 2:18-22; 2 Peter 3:18

Salvation is the beginning of the Christian life for every child who repent and turn away from sin. To continue the Christian journey, the saved child needs the grace of God. Sanctification, Holy Ghost baptism and other Christian experiences are also made available to every believer through God's grace. God also gives grace to believers to be able to do His will and good pleasure,



to obey His word, to pray effectively, to overcome temptations, to endure trials and persecution, to witness for Christ, resist sin and serve God acceptably.

This is the reason the Bible counsels that we must grow in grace.

God's grace must be diligently desired and sought for. To receive and grow in grace, you must: Humble yourself before God (James 4:6, 10), (ii) daily read and obey the word of God, (iii) abiding in Christ and praying always (Hebrews 4:16), (iv) attending fellowship regularly and living holy.

Grace saves, keeps us in faith and strengthens us to serve God acceptably. The whole movement of the Christian life from beginning to the end depend on God's grace. Therefore, if you are still a sinner, you must turn away from your sins and be saved by grace today. If you are a friend of Jesus, you must continue to grow in His grace until we see Jesus face to face.

QUESTIONS:

1. Salvation can only be obtained through _____
2. What is grace? _____
3. How can a sinful child be saved by grace? _____

4. Mention four ways that a Christian can grow in grace.

MEMORY VERSE: "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8).

LESSON: The grace of God is available to save all sinners who genuinely repent.

THOUGHT: I will repent of every sin and receive forgiveness through the grace of God.

ACTIVITY: Sword drill: Proverbs 28:13; Titus 2:11; Matthew 1:21; Ephesians 1:7; Romans 3:24

HOMEWORK: Write down the names of two people in the Bible who covered up their sins and two people who repented and received God's grace.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG GHS: 129 – GRACE GREATER THAN OUR SIN

CHORUSES: (1) It is not by work of righteousness. (2) The grace of God is sufficient unto me. (3) Give me grace to follow.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	ROMANS	3:23-25
TUESDAY	ROMANS	10:9-13
WEDNESDAY	JOHN	3:16-18
THURSDAY	TITUS	2:11-13
FRIDAY	ROMANS	5:12-15
SATURDAY	ROMANS	5:16-18
SUNDAY	I JOHN	1:7-9

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Salvation 2. Grace 3. Restoration 4. Renew 5. Diligently.

MYSTERY OF THE CHURCH MADE KNOWN

Ephesians 3:1-21

The human brain is one of the largest and most complex organs in the body. It is made up of more than 100 billion nerves which control such things as thoughts, breathing, handwriting, body position, movements, memory, hearing, problem solving, mood, thirst, hunger, sleep and so many other human activities. The way the brain functions is beyond human understanding. The human brain is a mystery.

What then is the meaning of ‘mystery’? The dictionary defines the word mystery as something that is difficult to understand or explain. The creation and control of this world we live in remains a mystery. Even, science cannot fully explain it. For example, there is confusion and disagreement among scientist about the creation of human beings. It remains a mystery. Only the Bible has a simple and straight forward explanation about the creation of the world and man.

Our study is on the revelation of the mystery (hidden truth) of the Church. The Church is the body of Christ made up of believers. The church as a universal body is a mystery to the world. This study will help you to understand that mystery.

The study is in three parts:

1. HIDDEN TRUTH ABOUT THE CHURCH MADE KNOWN:

Ephesians 3:1-8; Romans 16:25, 26; 1 Corinthians 2:7-10

The word mystery in our study today refers to the truth that was previously hidden from common knowledge, but is now revealed by the help of the Holy Spirit. Paul was a great persecutor and enemy of the Church and the Lord Jesus Christ. But when he knew the truth about Jesus as the Saviour of the world, he totally surrendered his life to Jesus. He loved and surrendered his whole life and served Jesus Christ without looking back. Before Jesus Christ died on the cross, only the Jews could claim to be children of God through Abraham. They were the only people that could enjoy or inherit the promises God made to Abraham. But now, we are partakers of these promises through faith in Christ. Therefore, the mystery of the Church as revealed in the Bible is that:

Paul the Apostle wrote about the mystery of the Church that is God's plan to save the world through the death and resurrection of Jesus' Christ.
(Ephesian 3:4-6)



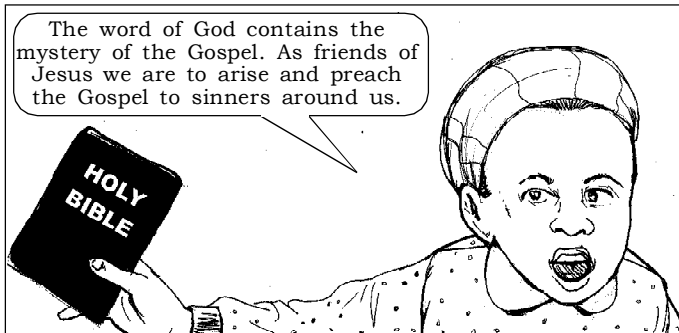
- (i) God so loved the world that He sent His only begotten Son that whosoever believed in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. God loves everybody; Jews, Gentiles, white or black.
- (ii) God in His love and mercy is not interested in the death of any sinner.
- (iii) Jesus Christ suffered, died and shed His blood to save sinners from their sins.

(iv) Sinners who accept this great sacrifice, repent, ask for forgiveness and cleansing through the shed blood will be saved.

(v) Sinners who totally surrender will receive pardon and become children of God, heirs and joint heirs with Jesus Christ.

(vi) All who believe and remain with Christ will inherit heavenly homes which have been prepared even from ages past.

These truths remain hidden to the world because they love darkness more than light. The simplicity of the gospel



is a mystery to sinners. This is why many have refused to accept the gospel and be saved. They want to depend on their personal efforts, rituals, sacrifices and human wisdom. If you are a sinner, accept Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Saviour. This is the period of dispensation of grace. It is the best time to be saved because Jesus has paid the sacrifice by dying on the cross.

2. SPREADING THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL:

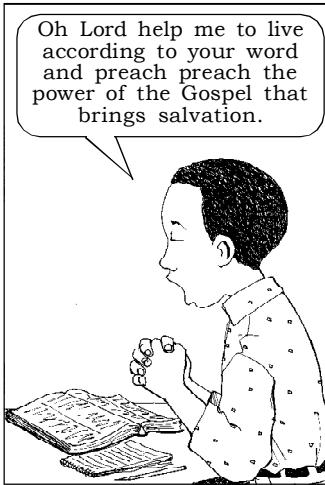
Ephesians 3:7-13

When Apostle Paul received the revelation of the hidden truth, he did not keep it to himself. He

understood the fact that the door of salvation was now open to all men, women, boys, girls, nations, tongues and culture.

This discovery pushed him to go everywhere preaching the gospel through the power of the Holy Spirit. The truth of God's word remains forever. Apostle Paul has done his part; the baton has been passed to every saved boy and girl. They are to go everywhere spreading the truth.

Are you saved? Are you a member of the universal church? Jesus is calling you today to become a member of His body. If you are still a sinner, repent and believe the truth. Ask God to forgive and cleanse you from all sins. Invite Jesus to be your Lord and Saviour. The door of salvation will not be opened forever. Jesus is coming soon, this fact should compel every believer to get ready and spread the good news to sinners everywhere.



Jesus is coming soon, this fact should compel every believer to get ready and spread the good news to sinners everywhere.

Tell them of the Saviour's love to save sinners. Tell them of the coming judgment on unrepentant sinners. Tell them that the door of God's mercy is still open. Lead them to make the decision to accept Christ as Lord and Saviour. As you do all these, God will be happy with you and reveal more truths to you.

3. IMPORTANT PRAYERS FOR ALL BELIEVERS:

After the revelation of the mystery of the church by God to Apostle Paul, he prayed one of the greatest and

most important prayers for believers. **“For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ”**. This prayer should serve as a guide to believers who want to experience and enjoy God’s eternal purpose in Christ. These prayer points are that:

- (i) God will give you spiritual strength and make you a strong Christian by His Spirit (Ephesians 3:16).
- (ii) Christ will dwell (live) in your heart by faith and make you well grounded in love (Ephesians 3:17).
- (iii) God will help you understand the purpose of God for your life and the church (Ephesians 3:18).
- (iv) You will know and experience the love of Christ which passes all knowledge (Ephesians 3:17).
- (v) You will be filled with all the fullness of God (Ephesians 3:19), and you will be a good child.

Jesus our Lord and Saviour taught His friends to always pray and not be tired or give up until answer comes (Luke 18:1,2). Whatever we ask we shall surely receive from God. If you are a sinner, pray that God will save you. As a believer, pray to receive other Christian experiences, for spiritual growth and progress.

QUESTIONS:

- 1. What is the meaning of the word mystery? _____

- 2. What is the mystery that God revealed to Apostle Paul about the church? _____

- 3. How can a sinner benefit from the revealed truth? _____

- 4. What should believers do with the truth revealed unto them? _____

5. Mention three of the prayer points prayed for all believers. _____

MEMORY VERSE: “And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ” (Ephesians 3:9).

LESSON: The revealed truth is to save sinners and make them to serve God acceptably.

THOUGHT: I will totally surrender my heart to Jesus so I can serve God acceptably.

ACTIVITY: Read Matthew 13:24-43, then complete the table below by writing the meaning of some words that Jesus used in the parables.

Words	Meaning
The seed	
He that sowed the good seed	
The field	
The tares	
The enemy that sowed the tares	
The harvest	
The reapers	

HOMEWORK: Read Matthew 13:10-13 and write out the reasons why Jesus used parables to speak to people.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG GHS: 75 – THE CHURCH’S ONE FOUNDATION

BELIEVER'S UNITY AND MINISTRY GIFTS

Ephesians 4:1-16

In obedience to the Great Commission, after Jesus Christ had ascended to heaven, the disciples went everywhere preaching the gospel. Many souls were won to the Lord through their evangelistic work and churches were established for the believers to gather for worship and fellowship.

For these believers to grow and fulfil Christ's purpose for the church, they must have certain spiritual qualities. Two of these important qualities are unity and manifestation of ministry gifts.

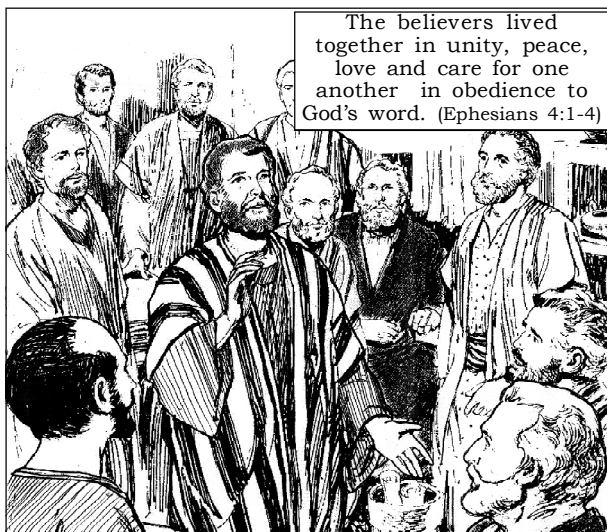
The study is in three parts:

1. BELIEVER'S UNITY:

Ephesians 4:1-6; Acts 2:41-47; I Corinthians 12:12-27

The early believers did everything together in common. They prayed and worshipped together. They were persecuted and suffered together. They gave willingly to the poor, studied the Bible together and ate together as they broke bread from house to house. The love and unity that existed among them made the people around to call them 'Christians'. A popular saying goes thus "united we stand, divided we fall."

Unity means togetherness and oneness. Unity can be easily achieved when there is love. This is why Jesus emphasized the need for His friends to love one another.



Believers must hold on to the truth which states that there is only one body, one spirit and one Lord. They are the body of Christ controlled by the Holy Spirit and Jesus is the head of the body. If you are a true believer, you must endeavor to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace (Ephesians 4:3).

If you are not yet a believer, you cannot be in unity with born again boys and girls who are members of the body of Christ. To unite with Christ and His church, you must repent now and accept Jesus as your Lord and Saviour. Unity among believers will bring about spiritual growth, divine favour and great blessings from God.

2. MINISTRY GIFTS:

Ephesians 4:7-11; Romans 12:3-8

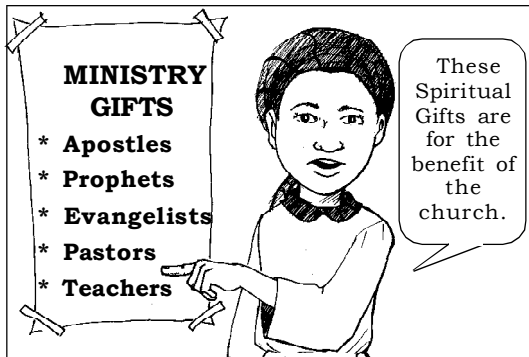
In the school, we have categories of leaders like the head teacher/principal, teachers, gatekeepers, sanitary workers, caterers etc. They all have their different

functions and roles in the school. One person cannot do the work of everybody. Also, everyone needs the cooperation of others to achieve success in the assignments given to them.

In the spiritual, God has given believers gifts to be able to function well in the church. These gifts are referred to as ministry gifts. They are five in number:

(i) **Apostles** – The word Apostle means ‘to send’. They are people called and given authority by the Lord to be

His representative in proclaiming the gospel and establishing the church. Examples are the twelve disciples, Paul and other leaders who



gave their lives to be true witnesses for Jesus.

(ii) **Prophets** – Prophets in the Bible, were gifted spiritual leaders sent by God to teach the word of God, give message to warn or comfort and build up the church. Examples are Elijah, Isaiah, Daniel, Agabus, Barnabas, John the beloved and many others.

(iii) **Evangelists** – In the New Testament, evangelists were Christians called by God, gifted, anointed and commissioned to proclaim the gospel of Christ to cities, nations and the unreached. The ministry of the evangelist is often accompanied with great conversion, miracles, signs, healing and deliverance. One such evangelist mentioned in the Bible is Philip (Acts 8:5-13, 26-40).

(iv) **Pastors** – They are individuals called by God to oversee and care for the spiritual needs of the member of the church. They help believers to grow spiritually through the teaching of the word of God. They defend the truth and keep the church from false teachers. For example, Timothy. He was ordained as a youth to oversee the church of Christ.

(v) **Teachers** – New Testament teachers were gifted leaders who had a special, God-given ability to teach, explain and proclaim God’s word effectively. They are to teach the church the original revelation of the Bible. They also train workers for the ministry.

All these ministry gifts are essential to God’s purpose for His church. We are learning about these gifts in order to be able to identify our own calling, surrender our will to God and ask Him to give us spiritual gifts in order to serve Him. No believer should be idle. God has called us to serve; he has also provided us with the gift to effectively work for Him. We must totally surrender to His will if we want to achieve success in our spiritual work.

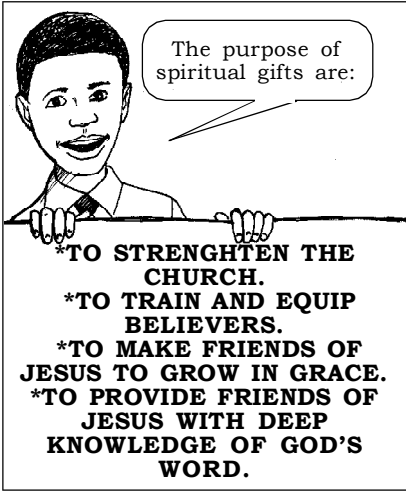
3. PURPOSE OF THE GIFTS:

Ephesians 4:12-16; 1 Corinthians 12:7

God has given us spiritual gifts to serve specific purposes in the church.

- (i) For the edifying of the body of Christ. That means to build up and strengthen the church and the members.
- (ii) For perfecting the saints – ministry gifts is given to ministers for them to train, equip and prepare the whole body of Christ to do the work of evangelism and church planting.
- (iii) To make friends of Jesus grow in grace and become mature Christians.

- (iv) To establish the believer in the faith so that they will not easily be deceived by false teachers and ‘every wind of doctrine’.
- (v) To provide friends of Jesus with a deep knowledge of God’s word and Christ.



For the church to fully benefit from these ministerial gifts there must be unity and perfect love. Friends of Jesus must be united in faith, holiness, love for Christ, His word and for one another. Thereby, the church will experience great revival; everyone will be blessed and ready for the coming of the Lord.

However, sinners cannot be in unity with the church nor possess spiritual gifts. If you are a sinning church goer, it is time to repent. Confess your sins to God. Ask for forgiveness and cleansing in the blood of Jesus. Make Jesus your Saviour and Friend.

QUESTIONS:

1. Believers are also known as _____
2. Two important qualities that should be seen in the life of believers are _____ and _____
3. What does unity mean? _____
4. Mention four practical ways the early believers showed that they were united. _____

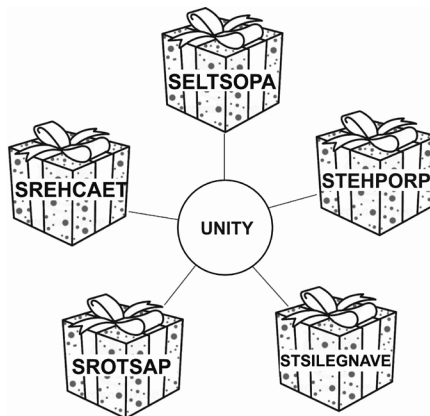
5. Mention the five ministry gifts that God has given to the church. _____
6. (a) Mention three purpose of ministry gifts _____
- (b) How can a sinful child become a believer? _____

MEMORY VERSE: “And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers” (Ephesians 4:11).

LESSON: Unity promotes the manifestation of spiritual gifts in the church.

THOUGHT: I will be in unity with other believers so that I can be spiritually gifted to work for the Lord.

ACTIVITY: Unscramble the wordings on the gift boxes. Discover the ministerial gifts to the church. Write them out in the numbered lines below.



- (1) _____
- (2) _____
- (3) _____
- (4) _____
- (5) _____

HOMEWORK: Pray that there should be revival in the church and the manifestation of ministry gifts.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG GHS: 92 – I SURRENDER ALL

CHORUSES: (1) We are heirs of the Father. (2) Use me, Jesus use me, take this life of mine and use me. (3) The church is matching on.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	COLOSSIANS	3:12-15
TUESDAY	ROMANS	12:4-6
WEDNESDAY	I CORINTHIANS	1:9, 10
THURSDAY	I CORINTHIANS	12:12-14
FRIDAY	I CORINTHIANS	12:27-31
SATURDAY	I CORINTHIANS	1:4-7
SUNDAY	1 CORINTHIANS	1:8-10

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Ministry 2. Proclaim 3. Doctrine
4. Commission 5. Ordained.

LESSON 726

VISION FOR MISSIONS

Acts 16:1-15

According to biblical records, visions were often used by God to reveal His word or will to His servants. Whatever the form of the vision; whether it was the 'action type' as was Jacob's dream of the angels ascending and descending (Genesis 28:12) or 'being spoken to directly' such as the call of Samuel and the Macedonian call to Paul the Apostle. Vision is always a message from God.

Visions are often dreams or dream-like and always involve direction, instruction or prediction. Vision is what we see or receive from God. While mission is what we do in response to the vision received. Visions are given only to people dedicated to the service of God.

In the Bible passage under consideration, the vision that Paul received was what resulted to his mission work. He did not waste time, he responded immediately and great was the harvest of souls. God is calling boys and girls into the mission work. Souls are perishing. The harvest is plenty but the labourers are few. Be counted among the few labourers. The study will examine the types of vision and how a Christian can get involved in mission work.

There are three parts to be considered:

1. HOME MISSION:

Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8

Preaching the word of God to sinners around us is the major work that Jesus wants all His friends to do. Preaching the word of God to other children around or

within your country is called home mission. Jesus told His friends in Acts 1:8 to preach to their people at home - Jerusalem and Judea. Your own Jerusalem is your country, city or community where you live. Why should you preach the gospel? (a) Jesus commands it (Mark 16:15). (b) Jesus wants to build His Church through evangelism (Acts 2:47). (c) Without preaching the gospel,

s i n f u l
children will remain in their sins and go to hell fire. (d) To show our love for sinners and to offer them help. You can tell others about Jesus' love by

Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

I want to tell you about Jesus...



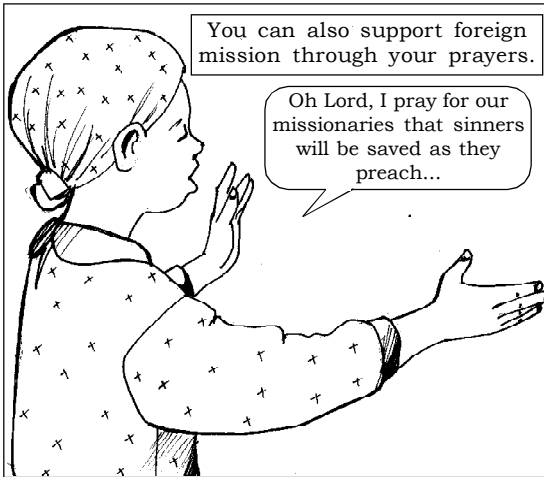
(i) Preaching to one person at a time (ii) Sharing tracts and Christian literature, Tender Life Magazines (iii) Letter writing (iv) Making telephone calls (v) Sharing your testimonies and also (vi) The life you live.

Are you involved in preaching the word of God? Many children are ashamed to preach because of their friends. Others do not want their friends to laugh at them. Where do you belong? Tell others about Jesus and the Lord will bless you for it.

2. FOREIGN MISSION:

Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8b

The word of God must be preached everywhere in the world. There are people living in other parts of the



world who may not have heard about Jesus. Some are eagerly waiting for someone to come and preach to them, for example- the people of Macedonia (Acts 16:9, 10).

It then becomes important for us to reach them with the good news. How can you be involved in mission work abroad? (i) Your father and mother may be missionaries. That means you have to leave your own country for another country with your parents and live there. This enables you to be involved in the mission work with your parents. (ii) You may not go there in person, but you can contribute money or other materials like tracts, Tender Life magazines (iii) Above all, you can pray for the success of the work of God in foreign countries and for missionaries.

3. CALL TO MISSION WORK:

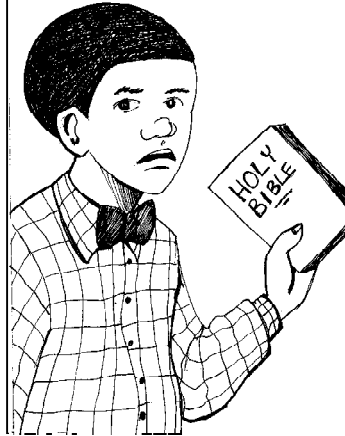
Acts 13:1-3; 16:9, 10

God can use children for mission work. However, He expects you to grow in grace and get matured spiritually and physically before you can go out to other nations on mission work. But then, God can implant the desire to be a missionary in your heart which will be fulfilled when you grow up. But you must from now love

the work of soul winning and daily preach the gospel to sinners around you.

It is only friends of Jesus that can be involved in both home and foreign missions. Are you born again? If not, you can give your life to Jesus today. Tell God all the bad things you do. Turn away from every evil thing, ask Him to forgive your sins and cleanse your heart with Jesus' blood. Then make Jesus to be your Lord and Saviour. Ask for a clean heart and baptism in the power of the Holy Ghost. It is only after this, that you can be ready to work for Jesus.

Friends of Jesus are to preach the gospel and support their parents who are missionaries.



QUESTIONS:

1. What do you understand by 'vision for mission'? _____
2. The two types of missions are _____
3. Why do Christians preach the gospel? _____
4. How should we preach the gospel? _____
5. How can you take part in foreign mission? _____
6. What can a sinful child do before he can take part in mission work? _____

MEMORY VERSE: “And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them” (Acts 16:10).

LESSON: Every friend of Jesus must be involved in mission work.

THOUGHT: I must work for Jesus.

ACTIVITY: Search the following Bible passages and mention the names of the people that took part in mission work. (1) Acts 13:2 (2) Acts 15:36-41 (3) Acts 18:24, 27, 28 (4) Ephesians 6:21, 22 (5) 2 Timothy 4:10, 11

HOME WORK: Go home and pray during the week for the mission work in your country and other countries.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 53 - SO SEND I YOU

CHORUSES: (1) When He calls me. (2) Go, tell it on the mountain. (3) Go and tell them.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	ACTS	17:16-18
TUESDAY	ACTS	17:19-21
WEDNESDAY	ACTS	17:22-25
THURSDAY	ACTS	17:26-29
FRIDAY	ACTS	17:30-34
SATURDAY	ACTS	1:6-8
SUNDAY	MARK	16:14-18

FOLLOW-UP AND DISCIPLESHIP

Acts 14:21-28; 15:35, 36, 41

Follow-up is an important part of evangelism. It involves visiting a boy or a girl whom you have preached the love of Jesus to and the child has equally accepted Christ as his Lord and Saviour. Discipleship on the other hand is the second step in training a convert to become a mature and fruitful believer.

A new convert do not yet fully understand what the gospel is all about. He is like a child taken to the school for the first time. His first day at school is filled with fear and confusion. Thus, he may cry for most part of the day. The parents of such a child may be concerned and prefer to stay with the child for some time to assure him that all is well.

The new convert needs follow-up and much encouragement both from the church and from the one whom the Lord used to bring him to Christ.

The study is in three parts:

1. THE NECESSITY OF FOLLOW-UP:

Matthew 28:19; Acts 14:21; 22; 15:36

When you preach to a sinful child and he gives his heart to Jesus, you have become a spiritual father or mother to that new friend of Jesus. As a spiritual father or mother, you have some roles to play: (i) you should prayerfully visit this convert to teach and train him in the way of the Lord. (ii) Show the child how he can have

The Apostles followed up and encouraged new converts to continue in the faith.



assurance of salvation. That is, once he has been forgiven his sins by God, he does not need to be putting up his hands and confessing the same sins

again. (iii) The Bible becomes a big book before the new convert, and he does not know how to start reading it. You are to guide and teach him how to read and understand it. (iv) Teach him how to do quiet time and have fellowship with God every morning. (v) Teach him how to run away from false prophets and teachers. (vi) He should be taught the importance of fellowship and attendance of weekly meetings.

(vii) He should be encouraged to learn how to pray for others and himself. (viii) He should also be taught to preach and win others to Christ.

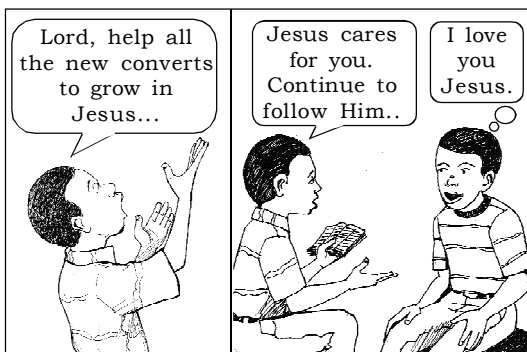
The new convert should be made to understand that salvation is just the beginning of the Christian life. He needs to press on for other Christian experiences like sanctification and Holy Ghost baptism. All these will make him to grow up very strong in the Lord Jesus and to become a true disciple.

2. PATTERN OF FOLLOW-UP AND DISCIPLESHIP:

Mark 3:14; Acts 14:21, 22; Philippians 2:19-22

Jesus Christ our Saviour, is the greatest soul winner. He has given us the methods to use for follow-up and to

disciple new converts. This are: (i) Personal contact. It involves purposeful visitation and counselling. (ii) Intercessory prayer. You must pray always for new friends of Jesus to grow and be established in the faith. (iii) Letter writing, text messages and phone calls. Through these, you can encourage, teach and warn new converts to stay away from sin. (iv) Your personal example of devotion and love for God (I Thessalonians 2:7,8).



3. PROFITS OF FOLLOW-UP AND DISCIPLESHIP:

II Timothy 3:15-17; 2:1, 2; Acts 11:25, 26

When you follow-up and disciple a new convert in the proper way, the new convert will become a follower of Jesus himself and win others also. There will be spiritual and numerical growth in the children church. Prayers will be answered. The power of God will continually be in our church. There will be love and care among believers and the church will grow.

When we follow up new converts they will grow spiritually and follow Jesus till the end. The church will grow and there will be more people to preach the Gospel.



Jesus is counting on saved boys and girls to preach the gospel, follow-up new converts and also disciple them. If you are not yet saved, you cannot preach the gospel. You can

come to Jesus and tell Him that you are sorry for your bad ways. Ask for forgiveness and cleansing in His precious blood. Jesus will forgive you if you are sincere in your prayer, and you will become a child of God.

QUESTIONS:

1. What is the meaning of follow-up? _____

2. State five reasons for follow-up and discipleship. _____

3. Mention three methods of doing follow-up _____
_____.
4. _____, _____ and _____
are the benefits of follow-up and discipleship.

MEMORY VERSE: “**And some days after Paul said unto Barnabas, Let us go again and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they do.**” (Acts 15:36).

LESSON: Follow-up and discipleship are the two most important tools which help converts to grow.

THOUGHT: I will be involved in following up new converts.

ACTIVITY: The children should be paired and given materials for the purpose of going out during the week to evangelize and follow-up new converts/comers.

HOMEWORK: Evangelism and follow-up. Bring the reports to Sunday service.

THE GREAT TRIBULATION AND THE ANTICHRIST

Matthew 24:14-30; Daniel 9:24-27; Revelation
6:1-17; 13:1-18

God Almighty, The Master Planner of the whole events of the world has set a time for each event in His own time table. As we set time apart for each subject in our schools, equally God has a set time for every event that will take place in the last days. The topic we are considering today is one of the events on God's time table for the world. No matter what happens, the time table will still be carefully followed.

This study will help born-again boys and girls to stand up and warn sinners of the danger to come, and also to help them live the holy life every day. Apart from this, sinful boys and girls will also learn and repent of their evil ways so as not to be partakers of the evil that is to come. The study is in three parts.

1. THE GREAT TRIBULATION:

Revelation 6:1-17; Matthew 24:14-30

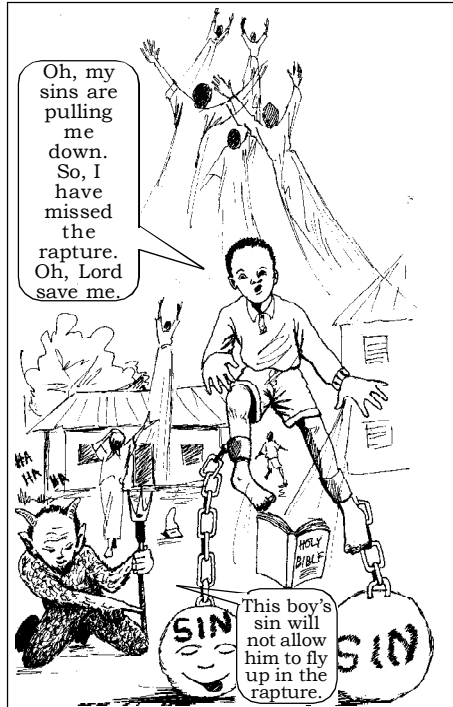
The next event on God's time table is the rapture (the catching away of God's children to meet Jesus in the sky). After the rapture, boys and girls who are not able to go with Jesus will be left behind. Then, the great tribulation will begin here on earth (Revelation 6:4-17). The great tribulation will be a time of great suffering, such that has never been experienced in the world before. It is going to be a time of great troubles, of war and of people killing one another. There will be no mercy.

Peace will be taken away from the earth. Moreover, there will be great famine, that is, food will become very scarce and expensive. The antichrist will also make people to suffer a lot during this period. He will deceive many people and many will be killed during this period.

Although the suffering will be upon the whole world, but the children of Israel will suffer more. This is why the period is also referred to as the time of Jacob's trouble (Jeremiah 30:7). The sufferings of the period are best studied, than experienced. Ah! It will be a very bad time for boys and girls who are on earth at that time (Revelation 6:12-16).

However, during this period, some people will still be saved. They will refuse to worship the beast but they will never find it easy at all. In the long run, many of them will be killed.

For how long will the tribulation last? It will be for seven years, but the seven years will be as a thousand years because it will be very, very bad for people on earth (Daniel 9:24-27). While people will be suffering on earth, boys and girls who have gone up with Jesus will be



enjoying at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb (Revelation 19:6-9). Many will look for death, they may even do certain things to harm themselves because of the pains and sufferings from the antichrist, but they will not die. What a terrible time! By the way, who is this antichrist that will torment people in such a way? A man or a force?

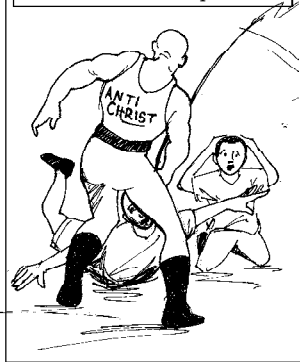
2. THE ANTI-CHRIST:

The anti-Christ is a person who goes against God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. He is referred to as the man of sin; the wicked man (2 Thessalonians 2:8) and the beast (Revelation 13:1).

The antichrist will be so powerful that he will command people living on the earth to worship the dragon (Satan) who will give him great power. (Revelation

13:2, 4). He will speak bad and evil words against God. He will bring about a terrible war. Many wicked and evil things will be done so that people can worship the beast. The antichrist's reign will be so bad, that miracles and wonders will be performed so as to deceive people to worship him. Those who accept to worship him will be given marks on their right hands or on their fore heads. This mark shows that they are lost forever. The mark is '666.' Anyone who refuses to worship and receive the mark

After the rapture, then the wicked man called anti-christ will come to rule the world. He will punish all those who refuse to worship him.

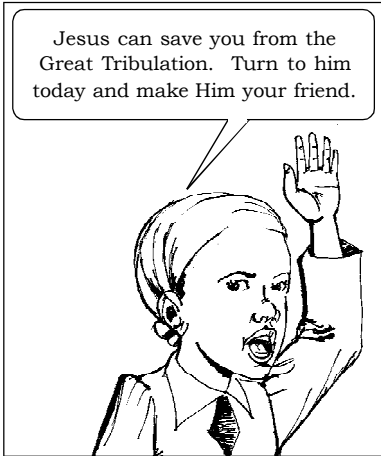


will not be able to buy or sell. That is, before you can be allowed to do anything, you must show them the mark.

What a terrible reign of terror! Boys and girls, it will not be easy at all for anybody on earth (Revelation 13:12-18).

3. ESCAPE THE GREAT TRIBULATION:

Through this study, the Lord has certain things He wants to tell boys and girls who are born-again and those



who have not given their lives to Jesus. For born-again boys and girls, they will not go through the great tribulation; but be sure to always live holy in school, at home and everywhere. Also make sure that you do all the necessary restitutions. Tell your unbelieving neighbours about this event; warn your friends of the danger and sufferings

of the great tribulation.

Jesus wants to save you, why then do you delay? Is it when the door of mercy is shut that you will repent? (Jeremiah 12:5). Why not now? Cry unto Jesus and ask for forgiveness as you confess and turn away from your sins. He will save you. Born again boys and girls, are you ready to meet your God? Study and think on the word of God every time. Obey it and be holy. Watch and pray always and trust God to keep you till the end.

QUESTIONS:

1. What is the great tribulation? _____
2. When will it take place and for how long? _____

3. Who are those that will partake of the great tribulation? _____
4. Who is the anti-christ? _____
5. What is the mark of the anti-christ? _____
6. What must you do to escape the Great Tribulation? _____

MEMORY VERSE: “For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be” (Matthew 24:21).

LESSON: The great tribulation is not for born again boys and girls who are watchful and are living holy.

THOUGHT: I will live holy so as to be ready to meet Jesus.

ACTIVITY: Decode the sentences to find the kind of suffering people will go through during the great tribulation.

Key: A=1, B=2, C=3, D=4, E=5, F=6, G=7, H=8, I=9, J=10, K=11, L=12, M=13, N=14, O=15, P=16, Q=17, R=18, S=19, T=20, U=21, V=22, W=23, X=24, Y=25, Z=26.

1. $\frac{\quad}{16}$ $\frac{\quad}{5}$ $\frac{\quad}{1}$ $\frac{\quad}{3}$ $\frac{\quad}{5}$ $\frac{\quad}{23}$ $\frac{\quad}{9}$ $\frac{\quad}{12}$ $\frac{\quad}{12}$ $\frac{\quad}{2}$ $\frac{\quad}{5}$
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 $\frac{\quad}{5}$ $\frac{\quad}{5}$ $\frac{\quad}{1}$ $\frac{\quad}{18}$ $\frac{\quad}{20}$ $\frac{\quad}{8}$
2. $\frac{\quad}{6}$ $\frac{\quad}{1}$ $\frac{\quad}{13}$ $\frac{\quad}{9}$ $\frac{\quad}{14}$ $\frac{\quad}{5}$

3. 11 9 12 12 9 14 7 15 6 16
5 15 16 12 5
4. 4 1 18 11 14 5 19 19

HOMEWORK: Children are to write letters to their friends and warn them of the great tribulation and how to escape. Some of the letters should be read to the class.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG: GHS 208 – THE GREAT JUDGMENT MORNING

CHORUSES: (1) The great day is coming. (2) When the saints are marching in (3) Will you be ready when the Lord shall come.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	MATTHEW	24:20-24
TUESDAY	MATTHEW	24:42-44
WEDNESDAY	2 PETER	2:1-3
THURSDAY	2 PETER	2:4-7
FRIDAY	2 PETER	2:20-22
SATURDAY	2 PETER	3:6-9
SUNDAY	2 PETER	3:10-12

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Tribulation 2. Antichrist 3. Rapture
 4. Scarce 5. Dragon.

SAMUEL REPROVES ISRAEL

1 Samuel 12:1-25

Israel was a chosen nation, specially loved by God and had a covenant relationship with Him. For a very long time, they were ruled and judged by God's appointed judges until the time of Samuel. They demanded for a king from Samuel (a judge) to rule over them like other nations (1 Samuel 8:5). Samuel hearkened to them and appointed a king over them according to God's instructions.

In our passage, Samuel had become very old, he called the children of Israel together to reprove them of their error in demanding for a king. To reprove also means "to correct", or "to rebuke". It is a way of making an offender to realize his errors so that he can repent. Samuel was qualified to correct the children of Israel because:

- He was holy, faithful and transparent in character (1 Samuel 12:3).
- His hands were clean (Psalm 24:3,4).
- He did not defraud, oppress, nor use force to take anything from anybody (1 Samuel 12:3).
- The people had a good testimony of him (1 Samuel 12:4).
- He had a good and sound knowledge of the word of God. As he corrected them, he constantly referred to the Scriptures as the basis for his correction.
- He was very prayerful and a great intercessor (1 Samuel 12:23).

God expects every boy and girl to follow the example of Samuel. In order to correct others, your life must be right before God.

We shall consider this topic under three sub-headings:

1. RECALL OF GOD'S FAITHFUL ACTS:

1 Samuel 12:6-12; Exodus 3:9,10; Deuteronomy 8:1-10

As the children of Israel gathered together at Gilgal to anoint Saul as the first king, Samuel made it a solemn occasion. He reminded them of God's faithfulness right from the time of Jacob their father; how God saved them



from Egypt, fought their battles for them and gave them a land flowing with milk and honey.

Despite all that the Lord had done for them, the children of Israel often disobeyed God by rebelling against His commandments. They sometimes forsook God to serve idols. Whenever they disobeyed God, He would allow their enemies to overcome them. When they repent and call on God for mercy He listened to them and delivered them from their enemies. Their lives were

characterized with rising and falling into sin. This was a bad habit in the lives of the children of Israel that friends of Jesus should avoid. God doesn't expect you to go back to sin once you have decided to give your life to Jesus. Israel continued in this unacceptable way, and this made Samuel to reprove (correct) them.

2. REPROOF FOR DISOBEDIENCE:

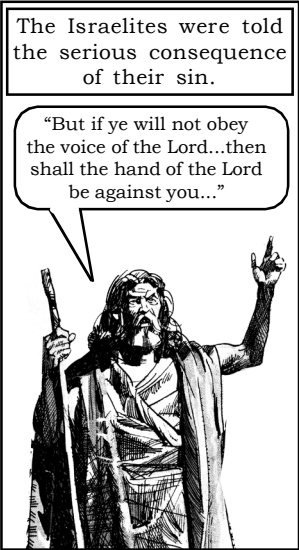
1 Samuel 12:13-19; Proverbs 3:11,12

Samuel being a judge and a faithful priest, he was in the position to correct the children of Israel. He made it clear to them, that God's blessing can only be received through obedience and not on the basis of just having a king.

Samuel did not hide anything from the people. He told them where they had gone wrong and how they forsook God to serve idols in disobedience to God's word.

He made them to realize that it was their sin that brought about their suffering and enslavement.

Children are meant to be corrected when they do wrong. A child that is left to himself, will bring shame to his parents. Do not harden your heart to the correction of your parents, teachers and pastors. God has appointed them to train you in the way of the Lord. You must humbly accept correction so that your life will be built up and you become godly. Correction moulds your life and puts you on the right path. It will also help you to do the right

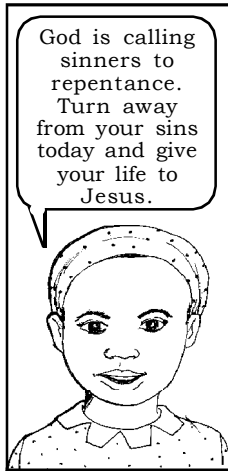


thing and be happy. Furthermore, it will deliver you from sin as you turn from your wrong doings to make Jesus your Saviour and Friend.

3. REPENT AND BE SAVED:

1 Samuel 12:20-25

Samuel did not just reprove the children of Israel, he told them to repent and turn from idol-worship and serve the living God. Although King Saul had been appointed to be king, Samuel as the prophet of God continued to guide both the king and the people, to walk in the way of the Lord. The people realized their error. They asked Samuel to pray on their behalf so that they can be saved.



God expects genuine repentance from children who receive corrections through His word. If you are still a sinner, you must accept correction and take the following steps:

- (i) Realize that you are a sinner.
- (ii) Repent of your evil ways and confess them to God (1 John 1:9).
- (iii) Ask God for forgiveness and cleansing in the blood of Jesus (Ephesians 1:7).
- (iv) Invite Jesus to come into your heart and be your Saviour, Lord and Friend.
- (v) Thank God for answering your prayers (Romans 10:13).
- (vi) Daily read the word of God, pray and attend fellowship regularly (Hebrews 10:25).
God will help you to be obedient.

QUESTIONS:

1. Who is Samuel? _____
2. Who did Samuel reprove, and why? _____

3. To reprove means to correct. Yes/No?
4. God showed His faithfulness to Israel by _____
and _____.
5. What steps can a sinner take to show his readiness
to obey God's word? _____

MEMORY VERSE: “If ye will fear the Lord, and serve him, and obey his voice, and not rebel against the commandment of the Lord, then shall both ye and also the king that reigneth over you continue following the Lord your God” (1 Samuel 12:14).

LESSON: Godly counsels and corrections will help a sinner to retrace his steps so as to escape destruction.

THOUGHT: I will always take heed to corrections so as to live daily to please God.

ACTIVITY: Scripture Hunt ____ The teacher should call out the following references one at a time and allow the children to search. The first person to locate the verse should stand, read out the passage and say the lesson that he or she learnt from it. (i) Psalm 141:5 (ii) John 16:8 (iii) Proverbs 29:1 (iv) 2 Timothy 3:16 (v) Proverbs 3:11.

HOMEWORK: Pray for grace to always accept corrections and godly counsels.

LESSON 730

SAUL DISOBEYS THE LORD

1 Samuel 13:1 -23

Saul was the first king in Israel. He was from the tribe of Benjamin (1 Samuel 9:20-21). God chose him to be a captain over His people Israel, that he might save them from the hand of the philistines. Saul was a brave soldier who successfully led the Israelites into battles against their enemies. Saul became a failure, because he constantly disobeyed the word of God and did things according to his own way. God eventually rejected him as king. Some children oftentimes, prefer to go their own way rather than follow the way of God. This will always end in being rejected and punished as it happened in the case of Saul.

We shall consider this topic under three sub-headings:

1. SAUL'S DELIBERATE DISOBEDIENCE TO GOD'S COMMAND:

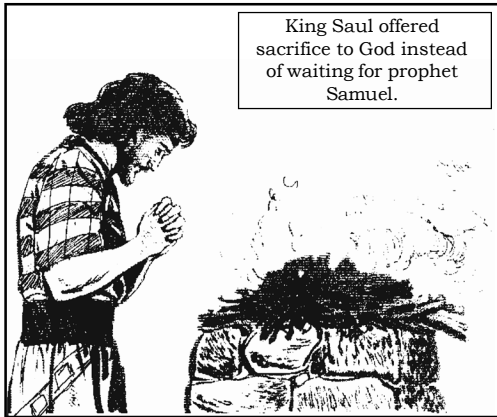
1 Samuel 13 1-10; 10:8; 15:8-11

Immediately Saul was crowned king, war broke out between Israel and their longtime enemy, the Philistines. Saul set out to perform his duty of defending Israel. He gathered the armies of Israel together for battle. The Philistine armies were very many. They also had weapons of war whereas the children of Israel were very few and had no weapon with which to fight. They become afraid of the philistines. Saul decided to go against God's

command and offered sacrifice to God instead of waiting for prophet Samuel.

King Saul felt he could manage his life alone without the assistance of God who had made him king over His people Israel. As children, you should know that there is nothing that you can do without the help of God. Now, what is disobedience? It means a deliberate refusal to do what you are told to do, either by God, parents or teachers. We have a lot of lessons to learn from the life of Saul. (a) We must be patient. If you know what God wants, don't go against the word of God no matter the pressure from

peers or society. God may sometimes test our obedience and patience through a little delay of answer to our prayer. (b) Saul was a king and not a priest. It was only the priest that was allowed to make

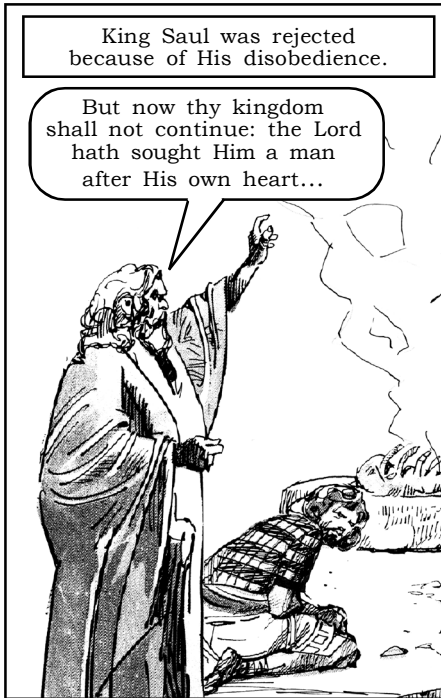


sacrifice. We must do things according to laid down rules and regulations (c) Always call upon the Lord for help when we are in trouble or facing any challenge. (d) God wanted to give Israel victory without using their sword in battle so that His Name will be glorified (1Samuel 13:19-23). (e) We ought to obey God rather than men (Acts 5:29). Saul listened to the voice of the people instead of obeying God's word.

2. DISOBEDIENCE BRINGS PUNISHMENT:

1 Samuel 13:11-23; 1 Samuel 12:24-25; Ezekiel 18:4

When people fail to obey simple instructions and have no fear of God in their heart, it can lead to very serious



consequences, which may affect the whole of their life and then throughout their generations if they fail to repent. God delighted in Saul and made him a king over His people; but he ended up disappointing God. This made him to be rejected and replaced with David

(1 Samuel 13:13-14). There are many people in the Bible who were punished because of their disobedience:

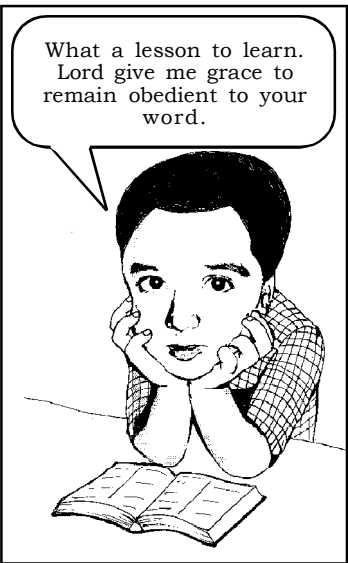
- a. Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden disobeyed God and brought curses upon themselves and the entire human race. (Genesis 3:14-19)
- b. Achan was stoned to death for stealing a goodly Babylonish garment and some other things (Joshua 7:21).
- c. Eli the priest lost his life, his two children and priesthood because of the sins of his son.

- d. Jonah disobeyed God and was swallowed by a big fish. He spent three days and three nights in the fish's belly (Jonah 1:17).
- e. The man of God who was sent by God to Bethel from Judah, disobeyed God and a lion met him on the way and slew him (1 king 13:21-24).
Disobedience destroys, be warned, any child that desires God's blessings must obey His word.

3. CALL TO REPENT:

1 Samuel 15:21; Luke 13:3; Romans 3:23

Today, some children still find it difficult to obey the word of God, despite the fact that they hear the word everyday. They continue to do what they like. God does not want sinners to perish. He wants them to repent and be saved. Saul sinned against God, even when Samuel told him, he did not repent but rather gave excuses for his actions. He forgot that God sees our hearts and motives (1 Samuel 2:3). If Saul had showed that he was truly sorry for his disobedience, he would have received pardon and his kingship would have continued with his children.



The lord is calling us to repent today and not tomorrow because tomorrow may be too late. Confess all your sins of disobedience and stubbornness unto God. Believe that God loves you. Surrender to Him and invite Jesus to come into your

heart (Revelation 3:20). Read God's word every day, meditate on it and obey it.

QUESTIONS:

1. What is disobedience? _____
2. Saul was the first _____ in Israel from the tribe of _____.
3. Mention three lessons that you have learned from the action of Saul. _____

4. Mention the name of the prophet that was sent to Saul. _____

5. Disobedience brings punishment, mention five people in the Bible who disobeyed God _____

6. How can a sinner be free from disobedience? _____

MEMORY VERSE: "And Samuel said, Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams" (1 Samuel 15:22).

LESSON: Obedience is the key to pleasing God.

THOUGHT: I will live to obey and please God so as to enjoy His blessings.

ACTIVITY: Place a mark ✓ in the boxes that states the actions you find easy to obey and X in those you often find difficult to obey. You can write out more actions.

Then pray that God will help you to be obedient in all things.

- Reading the Bible
- House chores
- School assignments
- Showing respect
- Praying
- Attending fellowship.

HOMEWORK: Pray daily for grace to live an obedient life

CONGREGATIONAL SONG GHS: 47 – JUST OBEY

CHORUSES: (1) Give me grace to follow, abundant grace to follow (2) I am ready to obey thy word (3) Obedience is the very best way to show that you believe

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	DEUTERONOMY	28:1-3
TUESDAY	DEUTERONOMY	28:14-15
WEDNESDAY	DEUTERONOMY	8:11-14
THURSDAY	1 SAMUEL	15:22-23
FRIDAY	1 SAMUEL	15:24-26
SATURDAY	EPHESIANS	6:1-3
SUNDAY	ISAIAH	1:15-19

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Humble 2. Challenges 3. Delighted 4. Priesthood 5. Disobedience.

LESSON 731

JONATHAN TRIUMPHS OVER THE PHILISTINES

1 Samuel 14:1-52

Jonathan was a brave, loving and God-fearing son of King Saul. He was also a friend of David a man after God's heart. The Lord confirmed His word in Jonathan's life as he wrought great salvation in Israel. The Bible says, "**the name of the lord is a strong tower**" (Proverbs 18:10). The Lord indeed was a tower to Jonathan because he was a righteous man. If you are a child of God and you are doing a great work for Him in this generation, God will surely protect and fight for you as He did in giving victory unto Jonathan. Do you know that you are more valuable than many sparrows? God is a refuge and fortress for children who put their trust in Him.

Make up your mind to be righteous and Jesus will empower you to triumph over sin, sickness and Satan all the days of your life.

The message is in three parts:

1. THE FAITH AND GODLY COURAGE OF JONATHAN:

1 Samuel 14:1-13; Hebrews 4:16; 2 Corinthians 10:4-6

In the midst of confusion, discouragement and fear of the enemy, one man stood out. His name is Jonathan the son of King Saul. The army that was with Saul were scattered because they were afraid. They had no weapon and also they were few in number. On the other hand,

the Philistines were many like the sand by the seashore and had powerful weapon of war.

Jonathan at this point sought to fight the battle by

Johnathan the son of King Saul was God-fearing and brave.



faith and absolute trust in God. He took his armor bearer (special assistant) and headed for the camp of the Philistines. It was a daring and courageous act for Jonathan to go to the camp of the Philistines. He had to climb through thorny and slippery rocks which made the way unsure and difficult. He was very determined and courageous in facing the battle ahead.

Grace is available for every child that willingly surrender to serve God. Put on the whole armour of God, be bold and courageous. The battle to stand firm in a corrupt world and defend the word of God is on. You will be victorious as you put your trust in God.

2. GREAT CONFUSION IN THE CAMP OF THE ENEMY:

1 Samuel 14:14-20; 2 Chronicles 20:20-23

The entrance of Jonathan and his servant to the Philistine's camp brought great confusion. God was with them and fought on their behalf. First, Jonathan killed about twenty Philistines. He confessed that, "**the lord hath delivered them into the hand of Israel**". Secondly, the Lord acted on their behalf to cause an earthquake. This result into great trembling and fear among the Philistines. There are several other instances where God fought for those who trusted in Him. Examples: (a) Gideon's 300 soldiers conquered the Midianites (b) Joshua's army marched round Jericho's walls and it fell



flat (c) David conquered the Philistine's champion, the giant with a stone and a sling.

God is still willing to do miracles and deliver His own children today. In any situation that you find yourself, be it fear of the unknown, failure, sickness, lack, temptation etc., have faith in God and He will fight for you.

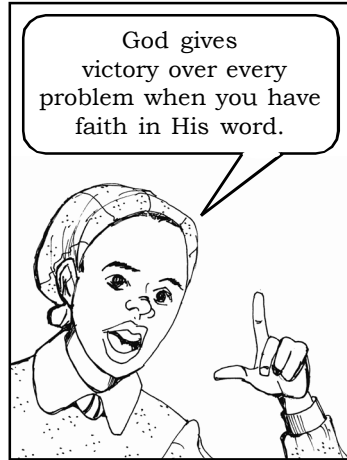
3. JONATHAN TRIUMPHS OVER THE PHILISTINES:

1 Samuel 14:21-23; Ephesians 6:10-18

Jonathan's courage, faith and commitment gave Israel victory over the Philistines. The enemy camp was in disarray, they did not only scatter but turned round and began to destroy one another. This also happened in the time of Jehoshaphat. When they prayed and praised the Lord, all their enemies began to fight one another until they were completely destroyed. The lesson

for us to learn here is that, the Israelites defeated the Philistines because God fought for them. They were discouraged, outnumbered and had no weapon. They had no hope for victory, yet they won the battle because **“the Lord saved Israel that day”** (1 Samuel 14:23).

Whenever we are faced with challenges and are unsure of what to do, as children of God, we have the right to call on Him to help us in our time of need. He has promised to be **“a very present help in trouble”** (Psalm 46:1).



Jonathan had faith and was more courageous than his father Saul. When Saul pronounced a death sentence on Jonathan as a result of an unnecessary oath, the people rose up to defend Him. Let your light shine for everyone to see, so that you can attract sinners to Christ.

If you are a sinner, you cannot have victory over Satan and his agents, neither can your life attract others to Christ. You must repent and then turn from your bad ways. Accept Jesus as your personal Lord and Saviour today.

QUESTIONS:

1. Jonathan was a _____, _____ and _____ son of King Saul
2. Mention two important qualities that helped Jonathan to have victory over the Philistines. _____

3. What happened when Jonathan and his servant entered the camp of the Philistines? _____
4. The Israelites defeated the Philistines because _____
5. As children of God, how can we have victory in all circumstances of life? _____

MEMORY VERSE: “And Jonathan climbed up upon his hands and upon his feet, and his armourbearer after him: and they fell before Jonathan; and his armourbearer slew after him” (1 Samuel 14:13).

LESSON: Victory is sure for anyone who put his/her trust in the Lord.

THOUGHT: I will put my trust in the Lord so as to have victory in every area of my life.

ACTIVITY: Search the Scriptures and write out three instances where God miraculously delivered the children of Israel from their enemies.

HOMEWORK: Pray every day of the week for grace to overcome Satan, sin and self.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG GHS: 100 – CHRIST, OUR MIGHTY CAPTAIN

CHORUSES: (1) I have overcome this day (2) In the Name of Jesus (3) We are able to go up and take the country.

LESSON 732

GOD REJECTS SAUL

1 Samuel 15:1-35

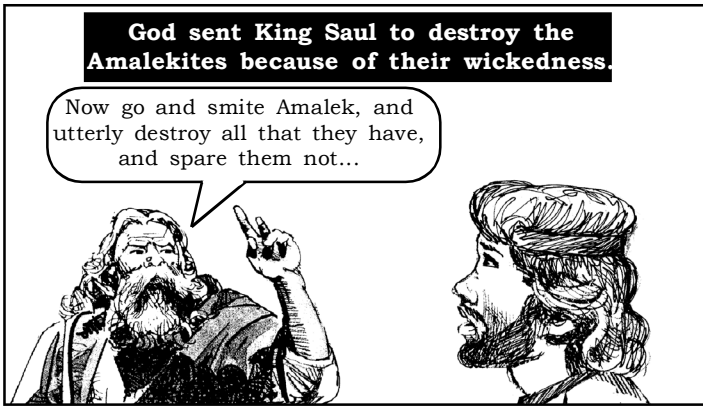
Saul was a young man from the tribe of Benjamin who obeyed his father (Kish) when he was asked to go and look for their lost asses. He was very handsome, having good stature and humble. He hearkened to the advice of his father's servant to visit Samuel the man of God when they were looking for their asses. He was chosen as king by God and given a divine assignment because of his initial obedience and humility. However, when he became king, he chose to obey and fear man rather than God. Therefore, he was rejected by God. He never repented and this brought his final rejection and separation from God.

The study is divided into three parts:

1. THE MISSION TO AMALEK:

1 Samuel 15:1-6

The Amalekites were a wicked people who had done evil against the children of Israel, God's chosen people. They thought that God had forgotten the bad things they had done. However, their punishment came when they least expected it. This shows that the just judgment of God will surely come on sinners who refuse to repent. The Amalekites attacked the children of Israel when they came out of Egypt on their way to the promised land (Exodus 17:8-13; Deuteronomy 25:17-18). They also joined hands with Eglon the king of Moab to attack Israel (Judges 3:13). The Amalekites were wicked and dangerous. Their sin was not only against Israel, but



was a demonstration of their hatred and rejection of the living God. God now remembered and decided to punish them. God instructed Prophet Samuel to tell Saul to utterly destroy them. God wanted to wipe out the Amalekites from the face of the earth. Just like what He did to Jericho, God wanted every living creature in Amalek to be destroyed. No spoil (treasures) were to be brought home from Amalek. It was judgment time for the Amalekites.

This is what will happen to sinners and nations who forsake God. God has given enough grace for sinners to repent, yet many have continued in their wickedness and abomination. They have taken God's patience and longsuffering as an open door to continue in their sins. They forget that God is a God of mercy as well as a God of divine judgment. Do not take the mercy of God for granted. Repent now. God gave the divine assignment to Saul to go and destroy the Amalekites. God is also giving us a divine assignment today to bring sinners to Him before it is too late. Warn sinners around you that the judgment of God is coming soon.

2. SAUL'S PARTIAL OBEDIENCE AND REJECTION:

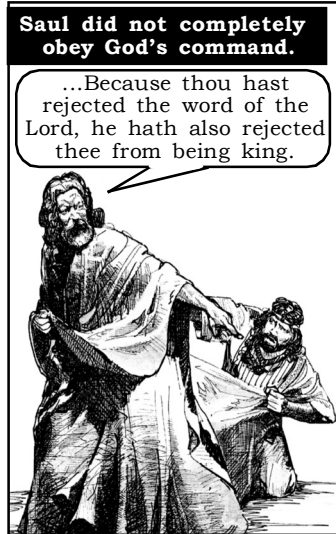
1 Samuel 15:6-23

Saul obeyed God partially. He went to Amalek but did not complete his assignment. He probably thought that he was wiser than God. Instead of destroying the entire living things found in Amalek, he listened to the Israelites and spared the best of the animals, other good things found there and also took Agag the king of the Amalekites alive. They only destroyed the things that were worthless. King Saul did this because of pride, greed and lack of respect for God's word.

Partial or incomplete obedience is as dangerous as outright disobedience. When Prophet Samuel confronted Saul with the evidence of his sins, he started giving excuses. He blamed others for his wrong doings and refused to genuinely repent.

This is the picture of some boys and girls. They are fond of blaming others for their misbehaviours while some are in the habit of not completely obeying Biblical commands and godly counsels from their parents and teachers.

The song here shows the real meaning of obedience: "obedience is the very best way to show that you believe, doing exactly what the lord commands, doing it happily, walking in the light with your attitude right on the narrow way, obedience is the very best way to show that



you believe.” Complete obedience leads to full blessings while partial obedience brings punishment.

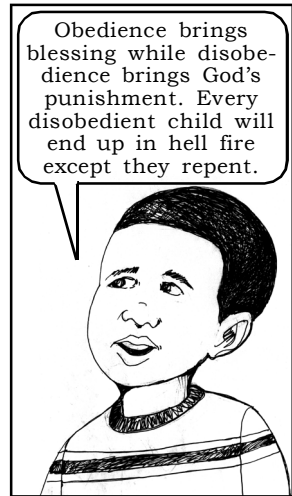
3. PUNISHMENT FOR DISOBEDIENCE:

1Samuel 15: 24-35

God does not easily reject sinners. He always gives them time to repent. Saul had earlier gone against God’s commandment when he offered sacrifice that he was not supposed to offer. Prophet Samuel then reproved him. Yet, he did not learn from his past mistake. His disobedience was deliberate and he paid dearly for it. He was disqualified and rejected from being the king. Though he continued to rule, he was like a figure head. God’s presence departed from him and he had no counsel or guidance from God.

Finally, King Saul became mentally sick and eventually died in battle with his son. It is not how well we start the christian race that is important, it is how well we finish it. To finish well, saved boys and girls must be careful not to tread the path that Saul trod. They must totally surrender to God and obey His word at all times. The Lord delights in obedience to His word far more than religious activities. Your Christian life must be balanced, showing complete (100%) obedience to God’s word. This is the way to enjoy God’s blessings all through the days of your life.

Sinners should repent now so that they will not be rejected at the end. Therefore, you must confess your



sin to God; ask for forgiveness and cleansing in the blood of Jesus. Invite Jesus into your heart to reign as your Saviour and Lord. If you take these steps, you will be saved.

QUESTIONS:

1. Does God overlook the sins of those who refuse to repent? _____
2. What did the Amalekites do to the children of Israel?

3. What was the assignment that God gave Saul to do?

4. Was Saul's obedience complete or partial? _____
5. (a) What should a Christian do to avoid the mistake of Saul? _____
(b) What should a sinner do to avoid being rejected on the last day? _____

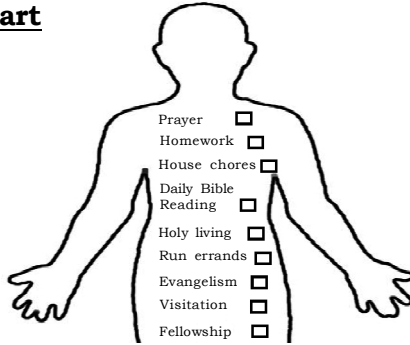
MEMORY VERSE: “**And Samuel said unto Saul, I will not return with thee: for thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, and the Lord hath rejected thee from being king over Israel**” (1 Samuel 15:26).

LESSON: God demands total and not partial obedience to His word.

THOUGHT: I must obey God totally in order not to be rejected like Saul.

ACTIVITY: Obedience chart
Score yourself to know how obedient you are in carrying out the activities in the human chart. Write Yes, No, a little and perfect in the boxes in front of the activities as it applies to you.

Obedience chart



HOMEWORK: Search and write out in your homework book, three examples in the Bible where some people disobeyed God and the punishment they received.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG GHS: 47 – JUST OBEY

CHORUSES: (1) obedience is the very best way to show that you believe (2) I will never let the devil win the battle (3) I have chosen the way.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	1 SAMUEL	2: 27-29
TUESDAY	1 SAMUEL	2: 30-32
WEDNESDAY	1 SAMUEL	2: 33-36
THURSDAY	1 SAMUEL	13: 5-7
FRIDAY	1 SAMUEL	13: 8-12
SATURDAY	1 SAMUEL	13: 13,14
SUNDAY	EPHESIANS	6: 1-3

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Partial 2. Stubbornness
3. Disobedience 4. Rejected 5. Consequence.

LESSON 733

DAVID ANOINTED KING

1 Samuel 16:1-23.

The study of today has some important lessons for us to learn. David was the youngest son of Jesse from the city of Bethlehem. He was a shepherd and cared for his father's sheep. He was good looking, humble, obedient and hardworking. God noticed these and other qualities in him and anointed him to be the king over Israel (1 Samuel 16; 10-13).

The blessings and favour of God will always be upon boys and girls who love the Lord and obey His word. As you study this lesson, the Lord will touch your life and make you a true friend of Jesus, so that you can serve Him acceptably.

We shall consider this topic under three sub-headings:

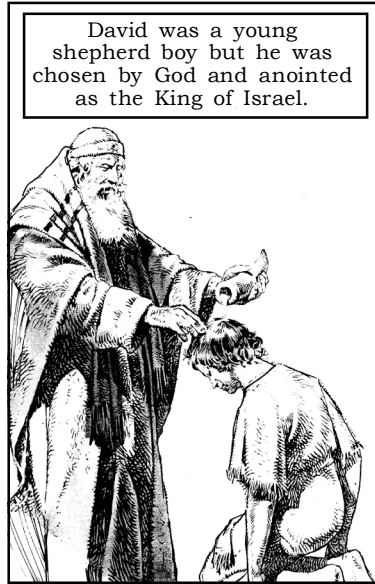
1. THE CHOICE OF DAVID:

1 Samuel 16:1-13

While Prophet Samuel was still sorrowing over Saul's disobedience, God was ready to do something new. Saul did not fully obey God's commandments. He preferred to please man, rather than obey God and do His will. God therefore, chose another person who would. He was a shepherd boy who soon became the shepherd of all Israel. David was divinely selected by God. Samuel would have anointed Eliab the eldest son because of his physical appearance. However, God soon corrected Samuel and this shows us that God looks inside our hearts. Physical appearance can be deceptive. The heart

is the centre of human activities, it directs our actions and deeds. No human being can see what goes on in a person's heart.

Only God knows our heart and our deepest thoughts. God is keeping a record of all that goes on in your heart, He will judge accordingly. Surrender your heart to the Lord for cleansing through the blood of Jesus. David was the youngest of his father's eight sons, yet, he was God's choice. God is looking for



boys and girls to serve Him in truth and Spirit. Make yourself ready to be used of God. Never say "I am too young." God can choose and anoint you for His service if you are obedient like David.

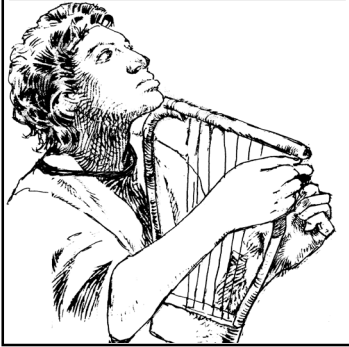
2. DAVID SERVES IN THE PALACE OF SAUL:

1 Samuel 16:14-23

Even when God had rejected Saul, he was still physically the king of Israel for many years. The Lord, however used this period to prepare David to be the next king of Israel. He led him to the palace of Saul to play music for Saul because of the evil spirit tormenting him. He also became his armor bearer. All these made him to be close to the king and to gain experience before he finally became king.

While he served in the palace, David suffered a lot at the hands of Saul. At a time, David had to run for his

David ministered in the King's palace.



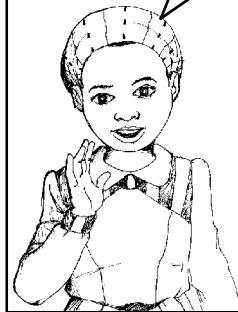
life. While waiting to become king, he learned to trust the Lord in times of trouble. David was humble, bold, courageous, hardworking and obedient. Just like Joseph, God used David's circumstances and trials to lead him to the throne. Remain focused, be humble and obedient to God's word and you will surely get to the top.

3. DESTINED FOR THE TOP:

1 Samuel 2:7-9; Jeremiah 29:11

David was anointed king when he was still a teenager. He did not get to the throne until about twenty years later. During this period, he was confronted with a lot of troubles. He ran from the wilderness to the desert and even had to hide in caves and under rocks. Through it all, he endured and trusted God to fulfill His promise in his life. Joseph was also destined for the throne, yet he faced many difficulties. He also stood firmly on God's word and he made it to the throne at last. Moses was destined to be the great deliverer of Israel. His brethren rejected him and he fled to the wilderness, but at last God's plan for his life was fulfilled. As a friend of Jesus, you are destined for

Trust and obey
God's word and you
are sure of His
blessings and
promotion.



the top. There may be challenges and difficulties, look unto Jesus; trust in Him and He will take you to the top.

Many children fail today because of the evil influences surrounding them, self-destructive habits and lack of trust in God and His word. If you are in such a situation, it is not too late yet. You can turn around today and come to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive and cleanse you with His precious blood. Forsake all your sins and trust Him to fulfill all His good counsel for your life. Rise up and claim His promises now.

QUESTIONS:

1. How many sons did Jesse have? _____
2. Who did God send to anoint David? _____
3. Mention four qualities in David that brought him favour _____
4. David's service in the palace of Saul was by divine arrangement. Yes/No?
5. How can: (i) A Christian child serve God Acceptably?

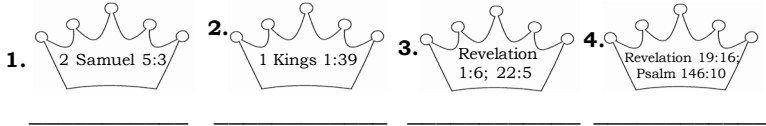
- (ii) A sinful child serve God acceptably? _____
6. Mention four blessings for serving God acceptably.

MEMORY VERSE: “Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah” (1 Samuel 16:13).

LESSON: Obedience to God will grant us divine favour.

THOUGHT: I will obey God's word so as to fulfill His divine purpose for my life.

ACTIVITY: Read the Bible passages on the crowns and write on the lines below, the name(s) of those who were or would be crowned king. (i) 2 Samuel 5:3 (ii) 1 Kings 1:39 (iii) Revelation 1:6; 22:5 (iv) Revelation 19:16; Psalm 146:10.



HOMEWORK: Children should show forth the character of a believer through their behavior.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG GHS: 214 – ALL HAIL THE POWER OF JESUS’ NAME!

CHORUSES: (1) Christ must be honored. (2) Jesus shall reign forever more (3) He is Lord, He has risen from the dead.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	RUTH	4:18-22
TUESDAY	1 SAMUEL	2:6-8
WEDNESDAY	PSALM	75: 1-3
THURSDAY	PSALM	75: 4-6
FRIDAY	PSALM	75: 7-10
SATURDAY	PSALM	23: 1-3
SUNDAY	PSALM	23: 4-6

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Divine 2. Destined 3. Deeds
4. Courageous 5. Challenges

THE NEW LIFESTYLE OF BELIEVERS

Ephesians 4:17-32

When a sinner repents and turns from his bad ways, he becomes a child of God and a member of God's family. Old life of sin will become a thing of the past and a new life of godliness will begin. In the Christian family, the Bible has given us the standard or pattern to guide friends of Jesus on how to live. If any child does anything contrary to God's word, then, such a child is not a Christian. In this study, you will learn the truth about how a christian child should live to be a shining example in the world. It is the lifestyle of a child that will show whether he is a true Christian or not. Remember the Apostles were called Christians because they behave like Christ. If you are a believer, then you must follow Christ' example in everything that you do

The study is in three parts:

1. PUT OFF THE WORKS OF DARKNESS:

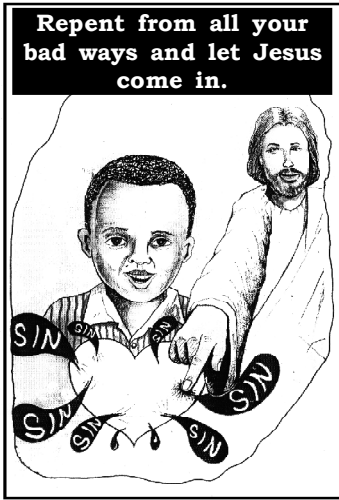
Ephesians 4:17-22; Galatians 5:9:21; 1 John 1:5,6

The process of becoming a Christian and living the new life involves "putting off" our undesirable character and "putting on" the character of a true Christian. It is like putting off an old dirty cloth in order to put on a fresh clean one.

The old life of sin is corrupt and therefore referred to as the work of darkness. For the sinful child to become

a Christian and walk in newness of life, he must put off the following:

i) Lying, which includes every form of deception. All liars shall end up in hell fire! Therefore, put off lying from your tongue.



ii) Anger and bad temper that can also lead you to harm others and destroy good things God has put in place.

iii) Stealing, that is, taking things that does not belong to you without the owner's permission. It also includes cheating in examination in order to have easy success.

iv) Evil friendship, association and communication that corrupt good manners. Also, put off

backbiting gossiping and tale bearing.

v) Impure thoughts, immoral friendship, fighting, and all forms of wicked behaviours.

To put off these works of darkness, the sinner must truly repent, confess and ask for pardon and cleansing of his sin in the blood of Jesus. He must also invite Jesus into his heart to be his Saviour, Lord and Friend and continue to follow Jesus by living a holy life.

2. PUT ON THE NEW LIFE AND WALK IN THE LIGHT:

Ephesians 4:23-32 Matthew 5:14-16, 1 John 1:7-9

To continue in our Christian walk, you need to put on the new life in order to walk in the light of God. Where there is light, darkness disappears. The light exposes

hidden things and shows the right way. Light represent the holiness and righteousness of God.

There are certain characteristics that must be seen in the life of a believer. These include:

- i) Truthfulness, whether you are going to be punished or not you must speak the truth in all situations.
- ii) Holy life; which shows in your conduct, character, conversation and comporment.
- iii) Diligence in service. It also means to be hard working and not being lazy in your studies, household chores and service to God.
- iv) Kindness towards everybody whether they do good to you or not.
- v) Tenderheart which makes us to be gentle and show our love to family members, friends, schoolmates, neighbours and even our enemies.
- vi) Forgiveness. The new life will enable you to forgive offences rather than seek to pay evil for evil.

Above all, your life must bear the fruit of the spirit which is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance. You are called to live in the newness of life, therefore, let your life so shine that people may see your good works and glorify our father who is in heaven.

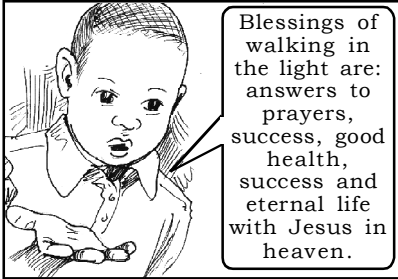
3. BENEFITS OF WALKING IN THE NEW LIFE:

John 1:9-12, Galatians 5:16

There are lots of benefits for Christian boys and girls who live the new life expected of them. They will be totally

Be prayerful, study and live according to God's word.





Blessings of walking in the light are: answers to prayers, success, good health, success and eternal life with Jesus in heaven.

free from darkness and become children of God. They will also receive answers to their prayers, success, good health, and inherit many other good things of life. They will become shining examples for others to follow and at

the end, they will live in heaven with Jesus and shine as light forever. Rise up and begin to live in the new life and shine for the world to see.

QUESTIONS:

1. The word of God is the _____ that guides the christian.
2. Mention five things to put off in order to be free from darkness. _____

3. Enumerate five things to put on to show that you have the new life. _____

4. Mention two benefits of living the new life _____

MEMORY VERSE: “**And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness**” (Ephesians 4:24).

LESSON: All believers are called to put off the old life and live in newness of life.

THOUGHT: I will live the new life to be a good example for others

ACTIVITY: Children are to read Ephesians 4:2, then mention other fruit of the spirit that Christian boys and girls are expected to have.

HOMEWORK: Search the scriptures and write in your homework book, three people who manifested the fruit of the spirit.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG GHS: 49 – LET OTHERS SEE JESUS IN YOU

CHORUSES: (1) I live for Jesus day after day (2) Give me grace to follow (3) Jesus in my inside working on my outside, oh what a change in my life.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	COLOSSIANS	3:1-3
TUESDAY	COLOSSIANS	3:4-7
WEDNESDAY	COLOSSIANS	3:8-10
THURSDAY	COLOSSIANS	3:12-14
FRIDAY	COLOSSIANS	3:15-17
SATURDAY	1 THESSALONIANS	4:1-4
SUNDAY	1 THESSALONIANS	4:5-8

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Christian 2. Process 3. Communication
4. Diligence 5. Comportment.

BELIEVERS' WALK AND WISDOM

Ephesians 5:1-21

A believer is one who has repented from a life of sin to live holy and constantly obey God. A believer is therefore a friend of Jesus who has been called out of darkness to walk with Jesus. Walking with Jesus means living in obedience to His commandment and submitting to the Holy Spirit's guidance in all that one does. It also involves living in the fear of God and total love for the things of God. True friends of Jesus walk in the Spirit and are led by the Holy Spirit in all that they do. By divine wisdom, friends of Jesus understand God's word and are able to walk with God acceptably. In this study, we shall be considering the believers walk and wisdom.

The study is divided into three parts:

1. MARKS OF GODLY WALK AND WISDOM:

Ephesians 5:1-2,13-21; Galatians 5:22-25;

Ephesians 6:10-18

The believers' walk refers to the godly and holy lifestyle of the believers. Godly walk and wisdom should be active and visible to everyone. It is a walk of love and purity. It involves living holy at all times and in all places. Godly walk also involves steadfastness that is, not deviating in any situation. Other marks (evidences) include: (i) loving and obeying the word of God. (ii) loving the things of God and the children of God, (iii) being

prayerful, reading and meditating on God's word. (iv) not being proud or boastful, being gentle, merciful and always ready to forgive; (v) not joining other children to do evil things or struggle for things. He loves to make peace. He does



not get along or fellowship with people that are not friends of Jesus. He does not tell lies, fight, cheat or dress like people of the world. He gives thanks always to God for all things and he is submissive and fears God. His lifestyle encourages other believers. Do you have these marks in your life?

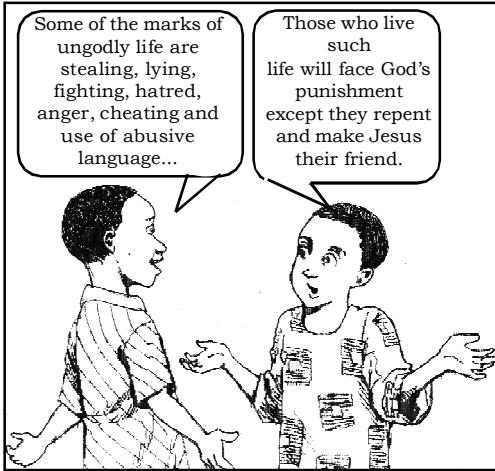
If not, it means that you are still of the world even though you attend church regularly. If you are walking in the flesh, you stand the danger of missing heaven. You need to pray right now and confess your bad ways to God. Ask Him to forgive you, wash your heart with the blood of Jesus then accept Him to be your Saviour and Lord. He will give you the power to walk in the spirit.

2. MARKS OF UNGODLY WALK AND WISDOM:

Ephesians 5:3-12; James 3:14-16

Ungodly walk and wisdom is a sinful lifestyle. A life that exhibits disobedience to the word of God. It is also a life that is "after the flesh". Children that have such lifestyle may attend church regularly but they do not obey the word of God. They desire and take part in sinful habits like stealing, lying, fighting, hatred, anger,

cheating and use of abusive language. Also, they are



self-willed, always wanting to have their way.

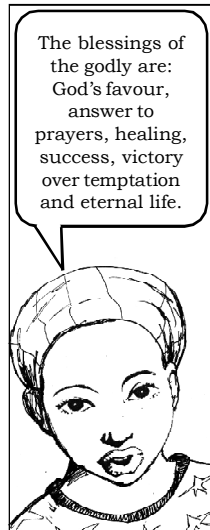
Such children have no inheritance in the kingdom of God. Are any of these marks in your life? If yes, then you are not a friend of Jesus. Do not wait for the punishment

of God to come upon you. Repent now, ask God for pardon and cleansing in the blood of Jesus Christ. Invite Jesus into your heart to be your Lord and Saviour. Then Jesus will give you the power to walk with Him.

3. BENEFITS OF GODLY WALK AND WISDOM:

Genesis 39:7,12; 40:37-44; Daniel 1:8,11-21; Psalm 1:1-3.

Godly walk and wisdom is one of the secrets of real success in life. It brings God's blessings, provision and favour. God answers the prayers of those who walk in love and purity. God gives them victories over temptations as He did to Daniel, Joseph, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. Godly walk and wisdom ensure divine provision, protection and peace with God.



It brings healing and health at all times. Finally, it will enable you to live forever with Jesus in heaven. Children who are not walking with God cannot enjoy these benefits. Repent and surrender your lives to Jesus now. Invite Jesus to come into your heart and be your Lord and Saviour. As you do, you will begin to experience numerous benefits of Godly walk and wisdom. These and more benefits will be yours in Jesus' Name. Amen

QUESTIONS:

1. What is godly walk? _____
2. What are the marks of (a) ungodly walk and wisdom (b) godly walk and wisdom? _____
3. Mention three benefits of godly walk and wisdom.

4. Attending fellowship meetings and involvement in church activities are marks of godly walk and wisdom. Yes/No?
5. How can a sinful child enjoy the blessings of walking godly? _____

MEMORY VERSE: “For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light” (Ephesians 5:8).

LESSON: Boys and girls who are friends of Jesus must walk in love, obedience and purity to make heaven.

THOUGHT: I will walk with Jesus till the end.

ACTIVITY: Children should memorize and recite the following verses: Galatians 5:16-24 and Colossians 2:6-15

HOMEWORK: Write in your homework book, 5 things that you will do to show that you are godly.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG GHS: 42 – CLOSE TO THEE

CHORUSES: (1) Follow, follow, I will follow Jesus. (2) It is a great thing to serve the Lord. (3) God must be honoured, must be honoured.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	PHILIPPIANS	2:12-15
TUESDAY	PROVERBS	4:5-9
WEDNESDAY	2 CORINTHIANS	6:1-3
THURSDAY	2 CORINTHIANS	6:14-16
FRIDAY	2 CORINTHIANS	6:17,18
SATURDAY	ROMANS	8:1-5
SUNDAY	ROMANS	8:12-14

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Wisdom 2. Godly 3. Believer
4. Boastful 5. Steadfastness.

LESSON 736

RULES FOR CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE

Ephesians 5:22-33

There are many institutions in the world today such as schools, cultural groups, the government, community associations and many others. However, marriage is the oldest and most important of them all. Marriage brings a woman and a man together to build a family. The family is the unit that makes up the society. God in His immeasurable wisdom instituted marriage in order to sustain the human race.

Marriage is a lifetime union. This is why the Bible commands that the man and woman be joined together until death do them part. Marriage is very important to God, no wonder the Bible compares it with the relationship between Christ and His church.

The children are expected to also fulfil the plan of God as they grow, get married and continue to be fruitful and multiply. Children have important roles to play so that the marriage institution can meet God's standard. As you go through this study, you will know what is expected of you. Make up your mind to play your part and God will reward you.

The study is in three parts:

1. GOD'S PLAN AND PURPOSE FOR MARRIAGE:

Ephesians 5:22-33; Genesis 2:18-25; Matthew 19:4-6

God's plan for marriage has to do with a man and woman coming together as husband and wife to become

one. They are united physically and spiritually. Marriage is NOT for children or between a child and an adult. Neither is it between a man and a man or a woman and a woman. It is ordained to be between a mature male and female. Anything outside God's plan is an

God wants every member of the Family to love, care for one another and obey God's word..



abomination. God made Eve and brought her to Adam to be his wife. This shows that marriage is part of the order of God's creation which should serve the following purposes:

- (a) **Partnership:** It is not good that man should live alone. Through the marriage relationship, everybody in the family enjoys fellowship and friendship with one another in sorrow, sickness, health and joy.
- (b) **Procreation:** (Bearing of children). Through marriage, children are born, nourished physically and spiritually, trained up to become good citizens

and for a good future. It is the God-ordained way of increasing mankind on the earth.

- (c) **Protection:** Family members are protected in the union of a God-ordained marriage. They will be bold as they all stand together and defend one another against Satan the enemy of the family.
- (d) **Provision:** Through marriage, there is provision of daily needs of the family members such as food, clothes, shelter and other essential things.
- (e) **Purity:** God's nature of holiness is revealed and encouraged in the union of marriage. Therefore, every relationship in the family must show forth the holiness of God and His love for us. Friends of Jesus must reject all forms of ungodly relationship and please God at all times.

2. RULES FOR THE CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE:

Ephesians 5:22-33; Colossians 3:18-21

The marriage and family that honours God will have the following characteristics:

Love: Husbands are commanded to love their wives. Both of them will love one another and their children also. In turn the children must love and obey their parents. The first ingredient in a Christian family is love. Therefore, every member of the family must love one another and allow such love to blossom and overflow.

Unity and oneness: Where there is love, there will be unity. All the members of a godly family are united in purpose, vision, character and in everything that they do.

Holiness and fear of God: The husband and wife keep their marriage vows and also teach their children to fear God and live holy.



Submission and respect:

The wife submits to the authority and counsel of the husband while the children are obedient to the instructions and teachings of their parents. They also respect their parents and love them.

Obedience: There is unquestionable obedience to God's word in the family. Parents obey God's word, teach

the same to the children who also live by what they have been taught.

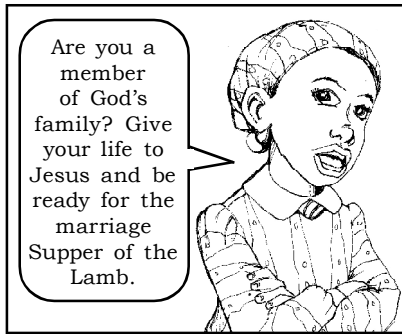
A Christian marriage should bring forth godly children and also bear the fruits of the Spirit as outlined in Galatians 5:22,23. As a member of the family, you must be obedient to the rules so that your family will be what God has designed it to be.

3. BELIEVERS' MARRIAGE TO CHRIST:

Ephesians 5:29-32; Revelation 19:7-9

Believers are described as the bride of the Lord Jesus Christ who is their bridegroom. Jesus suffered, died on the cross and shed His blood to save all who would believe in Him. Jesus loves and care for His own. He has gone to heaven and He promised that He is coming back again. When Christ comes He will receive all His friends as brides into His kingdom. Believers who endure and remain faithful to the end will be partakers of the great event called the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

The antichrist would torment those who did not go in the rapture while true friends of Jesus who were raptured will be celebrating the Marriage Supper of The Lamb with Christ. Our Bridegroom, Jesus Christ, shall wipe away all the tears of suffering during our pilgrim journey on earth. We shall be clothed in fine linen, clean and white. Then we shall receive the reward for our labour.



Indeed, “... **blessed are they which are called unto the Marriage Supper of The Lamb**” (Revelation 19:9). If you are still a sinner, in order to have your name written in the Lamb’s book of life, you must: (i) accept that you are a sinner (ii) be sorry for all the bad things you have done (iii) confess all your sins to God (iv) repent of all the sins (v) ask God to forgive you and wash you with the blood of Jesus (vi) invite Jesus to come into your heart and be your personal Lord and Saviour (vii) Go into all the world and preach the good news to sinful boys and girls. This is the time to prepare for the Marriage Supper of The Lamb. Be ready!

QUESTIONS:

1. Marriage is _____
2. The first marriage on earth was between _____ and _____
3. State three purposes of marriage _____

4. Mention five characteristics of marriage that honours God _____
5. Marriage is not for children. Yes/No?
6. (a) The great marriage celebration that believers are expecting is _____
- (b) How can a sinner prepare for this great marriage?

MEMORY VERSE: “For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body” (Ephesians 5:23).

LESSON: The marriage that is built on Christ will succeed.

THOUGHT: I will build my life on Christ and abide in Him forever.

ACTIVITY: Sword drill: Genesis 18:19; Proverbs 6:20; Ephesians 6:1; Colossians 3:20; Matthew 19:6

HOMEWORK: Read the following Bible passages and outline the characteristics of each of these families. Underline those who are Christian families.

- Abraham - Genesis 18:19; I Peter 3:6 _____
- Joshua - Joshua 24:15 _____
- Achan - Joshua 7:24,25 _____
- Eli - 1 Samuel 3:13 _____
- Noah - Genesis 7:1 _____
- Zecharias - Luke 1:5,6 _____

CONGREGATIONAL SONG GHS: 46 – A CHRISTIAN HOME

CHORUSES: (1) With Jesus in the family, happy, happy home. (2) Obedience is the very best way ... (3) Father Abraham has many sons.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	MATTHEW	19:4-6
TUESDAY	MATTHEW	1:18-21
WEDNESDAY	GENESIS	18:17-19
THURSDAY	GENESIS	1:27,28
FRIDAY	EPHESIANS	6:1-3
SATURDAY	COLOSSIANS	3:18-21
SUNDAY	REVELATION	19:7-9

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Ordained 2. Institution 3. Procreation
4. Justified 5. Submission.

BELIEVERS’ RESPONSIBILITIES AT HOME AND SCHOOL

Ephesians 6:1-9

Responsibility is a duty, obligation or liability for which someone is held accountable. Every member of a family has some responsibilities to carry out in their homes just as every member of a school community has some responsibilities to perform in the school. A servant has some responsibilities to carry out for his master and the master has his own responsibilities to his servants or workers. A believer is a person who has repented, turned away from sin and become a friend of Jesus.

As believers, the Bible has given us guidelines on what our responsibilities should be at home, in the school or at work. Every true friend of Jesus therefore should carry out their duties in obedience to God.

In this study, we shall look at these responsibilities under the following points:

1. THE BELIEVERS’ RESPONSIBILITIES AT HOME:

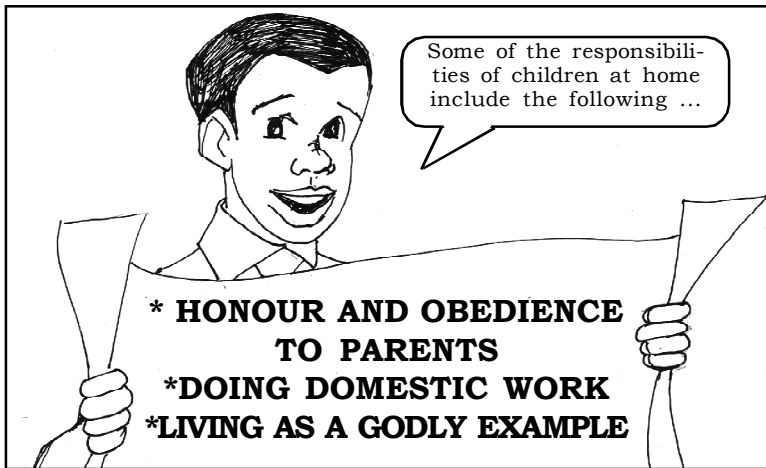
Ephesians 6:1-4; 1 Timothy 5:8; Exodus 20:12;

Deuteronomy 6:6-8

An adage says “charity begins at home”. A home consists of the father, mother and child or children. Each of them has duties or responsibilities to perform. The father is the head of the home and is responsible for

providing the needs of the family. He also teaches the children the word of God (Deuteronomy 6:6,7).

The mother takes care of the home. She makes sure that meals are ready and everywhere is tidy. The mother also assists the father to train the children in the way of the Lord and to become useful members of the society.



As children of God, our responsibilities at home includes:

- (i) Obedience to parental authority and instructions.
- (ii) Honouring our parents. To honour them means to respect them, love, greet, and speak politely to them.
- (iii) Domestic work – All the children (both boys and girls) must do household chores. Clean the house, wash plates, tidy your room, run errands and do other household chores as would be assigned by your parents.
- (iv) Living a God honouring exemplary life. This will attract others to also love God.

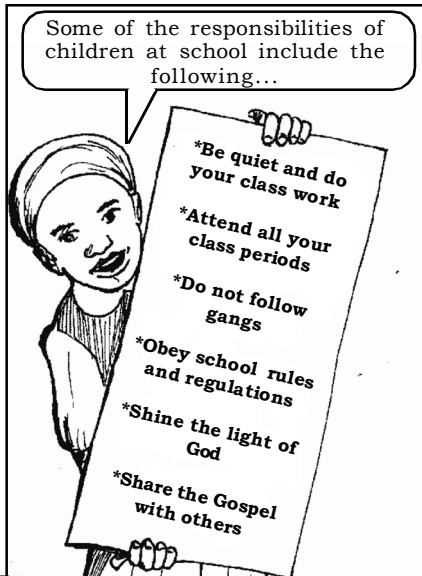
Obedience to parents attracts long life and prosperity. The first commandment with a promise is “**honour thy**

father and mother". You will not die young. When you grow old and have children, they will also obey and honour you too. Let your life bring joy and gladness to your parents.

2. BELIEVERS' RESPONSIBILITIES AT SCHOOL:

Ephesians 6:5-9; Hebrews 13:17; Matthew 5:13-16

The school is similar to the workplace. As adults come together at the workplace to carry out certain responsibilities, so also the children come together at school. The life we live in the school is very significant.



Boys and girls who are believers are to be obedient to their teachers and obey all the school rules and regulations.

Saved children are the light of the world. They show the light of God in their schools by living godly lifestyle in obedience to the word of God. As a friend of Jesus you must learn to be quiet in class and not follow bad gangs to riot or disobey school

authority. Be diligent in doing your school work and assignments. Wear the right kind of uniform, be neat, attend classes, be punctual and be example of a Christian for others to emulate. As an apprentice, be obedient to your master's instructions and work hard.

You should also share the good news of the love of Jesus with others.

3. BLESSINGS FOR FAITHFUL BELIEVERS:

Exodus 20:12; Daniel 1:20; I Samuel 2:26

God always blesses His faithful children who do His will, whether at home, in school or at work. God made the four Hebrew children ten times better than all their classmate in the school at Babylon. This was because they faithfully carried out their responsibilities. He blessed Samuel for remaining faithful in spite of the bad examples of Eli's sons. God made Samuel a prophet and priest in Israel. God made young Timothy a leader in the church because he knew the Holy Scriptures from an early age and always obeyed God's word (2 Timothy 2:15).

Some of the blessings that await children who carry out their responsibilities are: (i) Long life (ii) Promotion and prosperity (iii) Answers to prayer. (iv) Good success, (v) Divine favour and many more. However, these blessings are for believers. To become a believer, you must repent and accept Christ as your Saviour and Friend.



QUESTIONS:

1. Responsibility is _____
2. Mention two responsibilities of the father and mother in the home _____

3. State the responsibilities of the children at home _____
4. What are the duties of children at school? _____
5. Mention five blessings for faithful believers _____
6. What should a sinner do in order to receive grace to carry out his responsibilities? _____

MEMORY VERSE: “Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise” (Ephesians 6:1-2).

LESSON: Diligence in carrying out our responsibilities will attract God’s blessings to our lives.

THOUGHT: I will do all I am expected to do and enjoy God’s abundant blessings.

ACTIVITY: Group discussion. The children should be shared into different groups. They are to discuss the duties they will be involved in, both in school and at home. Someone should write down their various contributions.

HOMEWORK: Read Acts 6:2-4 and write out the responsibilities of the twelve apostles and that of the seven men of honest report.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG GHS: 49 – LET OTHERS SEE JESUS IN YOU

COMPLETE ARMOUR FOR SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Ephesians 6:10-24

Armour is a military terminology which describes special metal clothing that soldiers wear to protect their bodies while fighting. When soldiers fight in a battle, they can be easily killed by their enemies. As a result, in order to avoid being injured or killed, they make sure they wear metal objects on different parts of their body to serve as protective equipment whenever they are going to the battle field.

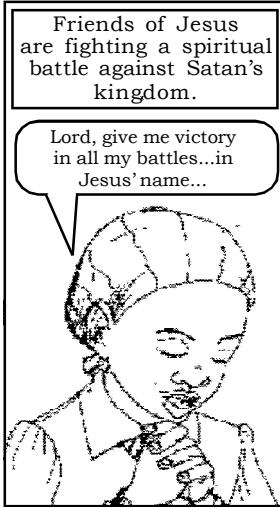
When a man fights with a fellow man, they are involved in a physical battle or warfare. But when a man fights with the devil and his messengers, it is described as 'spiritual warfare'. Friends of Jesus are constantly engaged in spiritual battle against sin, self, Satan and his demons. Therefore, they must put on their spiritual weapon in order to win the battle.

1. THE NATURE OF OUR WARFARE:

Ephesians 6:10-12; 2 Corinthians 10:3

Our text clearly indicates that the believers' warfare with Satan is spiritual, therefore no physical weapon can be effective against Satan and his agents. This warfare is not a physical one that we can see or handle. In this type of battle, Satan and his demons use many temptations and suggestions that are contrary to the will of God to make friends of Jesus to sin and disobey God.

When a child is not born again, all the things he does are the suggestions of the devil, because he/she obeys the devil. But for friends of Jesus, Satan knows that Jesus loves them and apart from the temporary blessings that Jesus gives here on earth, He will also take them to heaven to live and enjoy forever. Satan does not want any friend of Jesus to go to heaven. He is therefore fighting born again boys and girls to make sure that none of them ever get to heaven.



This is why there is battle everyday with the forces of darkness. Apart from temptations

to sin, Satan also fights using, persecutions, sickness, afflictions, worldliness, persecutions and a host of other bad things. He is in constant warfare with believers. Friends of Jesus must determine to win, hence, the need to possess and put on the complete armour.

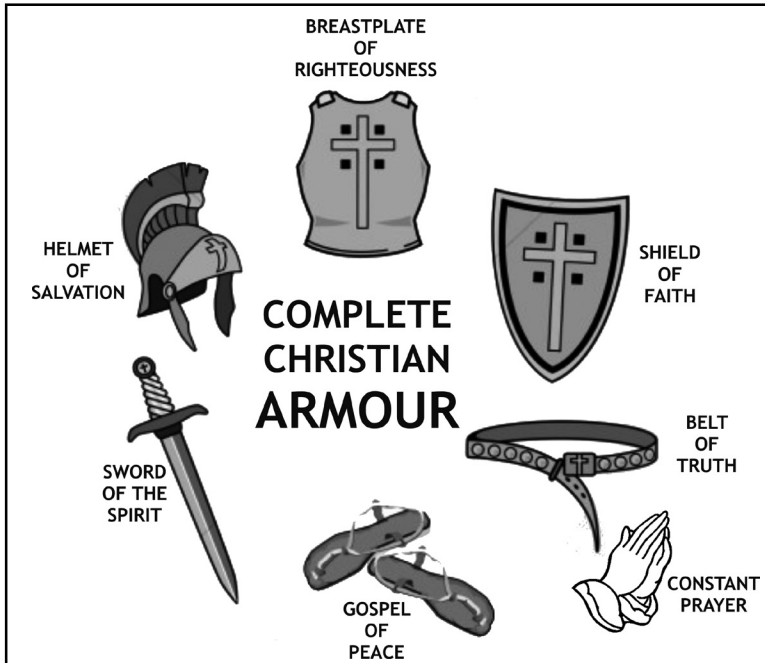
2. COMPLETE ARMOUR FOR VICTORY:

Ephesians 6:13-24; 2 Corinthians 6:7; 10:4-6;
1 Thessalonians 5:5-11

When Apostle Paul was in prison, he was guarded by Romans soldiers, so he knew very well their armour and uniform. He then used this as an example to teach the Ephesian Christians and us also today, some valuable lessons. The Christian soldier needs to put on all his armour piece by piece.

- i. **Belt of Truth:** verse 14 – The first piece of armour that the soldier put on in those days was his belt.

This was used to tie up his tunic (clothing) so that it would not hinder his movement. The belt was essential so that the other parts of the armour could function effectively. Truth is an essential part of the



Christian life. Jesus tells us that He is the Truth (John 14:6). His life is the perfect example of a truthful life. We should follow His example and be like Him. Are you ever tempted to cheat in a Mathematics test and copy your neighbour's answers? Then you need the belt of truth to help you to be truthful and honest.

- ii. **Breastplate of Righteousness:** verse 14 – This is the piece of defensive armour which protects the heart from arrows and darts. Righteousness is the

christian's breastplate. If we live a holy life, this will protect us against the attacks of Satan.

- iii. **Gospel of peace:** verse 15 - The Roman soldier would wear strong shoes of iron or brass to battle. These would protect his feet and give him a firm grip on the ground. To be a good soldier, live and preach the gospel of peace to others so that they can be saved and make peace with God also.
- iv. **Shield of faith:** verse 16 – The soldier used a shield to protect himself from arrows aimed at him. The large shields were used in such a way that they gave all round protection. The Christian is constantly under attack from his enemy, the devil. The shield of faith will give us all round protection. Faith is complete trust in the Lord Jesus. **Forsaking All I Trust Him.**
- v. **Helmet of salvation:** verse 17 – The helmet was a strong hat of shining metal which protected the soldier's head. It had a visor jutting out to give special protection to the eyes. Sight is very important to an active soldier. The Christian soldier needs to have spiritual vision to see where he is going. If you have experienced Christ's saving power, then your mind and spiritual vision has been protected from sin, our number one enemy. If you are careless and allow sin to penetrate your armour, this will remove the cover from your head. If you are not yet born again, you are naked spiritually. Sin makes you a juicy meat in the hand of Satan. You must repent now and accept Jesus as your Saviour and Lord.
- vi. **Sword of the Spirit:** verse 17 – The Roman soldier used a small sword as his weapon for attacking his enemy. The word of God, the Bible, is the Christian's sword. It is your weapon against the devil and sin.

Read your Bible every day, meditate on it's word, obey it and use it against Satan.

- vii. **Prayer and supplication:** verse 18 – A Christian should pray constantly. Jesus took everything to God in prayer at all times. We can pray at any time, in any place and about anything. You are sure to win as you pray always and never give up. All these pieces of armour must be complete in your life. If any is missing, it can cause defeat. Therefore, put on the whole armour of God so as to experience victory.

QUESTIONS:

1. What is the Christian armour? _____
2. Name the two types of warfare that people engage in.
(a) _____ (b) _____
3. Who and what are friends of Jesus fighting against in the spiritual warfare? _____

4. In your own words, explain what each piece of the armour stands for. _____

MEMORY VERSE: “Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places” (Ephesians 6:11,12).

LESSON: The battle against our arch enemy demands that believers should put on the complete armour of God.

THOUGHT: I will put on the whole armour of God so as to win in the battle against Satan.

ACTIVITY: Start at 'P' in the bottom left corner, work round the grid in a clockwise direction to find out what we have to do as Christian soldiers.

F	U	L	L	A	R	M	O
E	A	K	E	Y	O	U	U
H	T	H	E	D	E	R	R
T	N	T	M	E	V	S	O
N	A	T	E	S	I	T	F
O	C	S	H	IIIII	L	A	G
T	U	N	C	S	S	N	O
U	O	I	A	G	A	D	D
* P	Y	T	A	H	T	O	S

HOMEWORK: Pray for friends of Jesus who are going through persecution and facing challenges in their lives and ministry.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG GHS: 100 – CHRIST, OUR MIGHTY CAPTAIN

CHORUSES: (1) Move on to victory (2) I'm a soldier in the army. (3) Never, never mind we have conquered.

LESSON 739

WORLDLINESS AND WORLDLY AMUSEMENT

1 John 2:12-17; Isaiah 3:16-26; Titus 2:11-14

Ken was a boy who liked to imitate the lifestyle of other boys. One day, his father told him to go and have a haircut in the salon. When he got there, he told the barber to make a design on his head like that of a popular world music star. When his father saw the design, he asked him why his hair was cut in that way. Ken told him that a popular music star and his school friends had similar hairstyle. His father was very sad because Ken professed to be a friend of Jesus and that he was no more for the world.

When you love or do the things that worldly children do, you make God unhappy and also make yourself an enemy of God. Satan is the controller of the bad things in the world. Therefore, a true friend of Jesus must run away from the ways of the world and all their attractions. For better understanding,

We shall divide the topic into three parts:

1. MEANING OF WORLDLINESS AND WORLDLY PLEASURES:

1 John 2:15; Romans 12:2.

Worldliness means doing things in the way and manner people who do not know God do them (Romans 12:2a). It also means behaving like sinful boys and girls who do things against the commandments of God. Furthermore,

“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”
 (Romans 12:2)

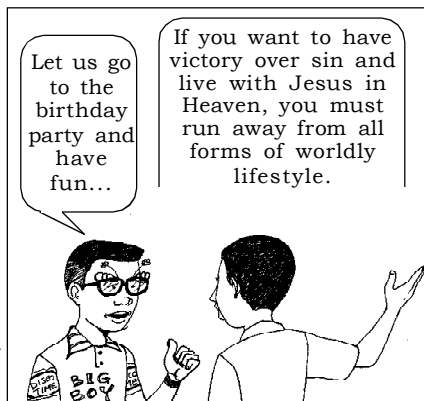
it means going against the word of God. Worldly pleasures are evil things that attract ungodly boys and girls to walk according to their disobedient minds. They see those things they do as, “having a nice time”. For example, attending night parties, going to disco halls, smoking, watching

bad films on TV and internet; dressing half naked, participating in worldly festivals, listening to worldly music and partaking in all forms of sinful habits. Any friend of Jesus, who involves himself in any of these things, will lose his salvation and eventually end up in hell fire.

2. DANGER OF WORLDLINESS AND WORLDLY PLEASURE:

1 John 2:12-17

Worldliness is as deadly as any other sin. It promotes fleshly desires, pollutes our minds and finally leads to sin. Worldliness has destroyed many peoples' lives. For example, Lot's wife in Genesis 19:26, became a pillar of salt because of her love for the things of the world. She should have looked away from the things of this world but she



refused. Samson lost the power and the plan of God for his life. He was deceived by Delilah because of the of the flesh and his love for a worldly woman (Judges 16:20-21). Demas left the work of God that he was doing with Paul because of worldliness. What then are the dangers of worldliness and worldly pleasure?

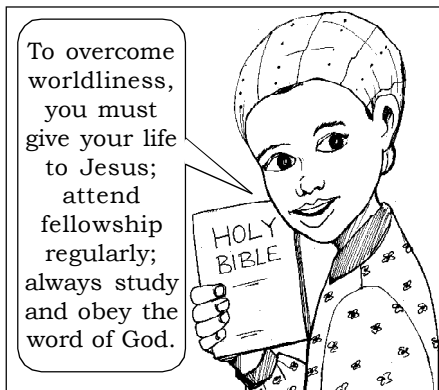
- i. Loss of spiritual power in the lives of friends Jesus
- ii. Loss of fellowship with God and other friends of Jesus
- iii. There will be no answers to prayer
- iv. Loss of God's plan and privileges
- v. Eternal separation from God and everlasting punishment in hell fire.

3. HOW TO OVERCOME WORLDLINESS:

1 John 2: 15-17; Titus 2:6-14; 1 Thessalonian 5:22.

Friends of Jesus are to live a separated life from those

who are worldly. You are to please God and not man, and live in a way that will help and not hinder others from loving Jesus. If you are a sinful child and want to become a friend of Jesus, you must take the following steps before you can overcome



worldliness:

- (i) Realize that you are a sinner
- (ii) Confess your sins to Jesus.

(iii) Repent of all your bad ways. (iv) Ask Jesus to forgive you and wash your heart clean with His blood. (v) Believe that Jesus has forgiven you. (vi) Accept Him as your personal Lord and Saviour. (vii) Read, meditate on and obey the word of God. (viii) Fill your heart with God's word. (ix) Attend fellowship regularly. (x) Run away from every suggestions that can lead to worldliness. (xi) Watch and pray always.

These are the ways to overcome worldliness.

QUESTIONS:

1. What is the meaning of worldliness? _____
2. Give six examples of worldly things that children engage in _____
3. How can a friend of Jesus overcome worldliness? _____
4. What must a sinner do to overcome worldliness and worldly pleasure? _____

MEMORY VERSE: “**Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him**” 1 John 2:15

LESSON: Those who love the world will perish with the world

THOUGHT: I will not love the world

ACTIVITY: Children are to read these Bible passages and state the warning there. (1) 2 Peter 3:11. (2) Romans 12:2. (3) 1 Corinthians 15:33. (4) Colossians 2:8.

HOMEWORK: Children are to write in their homework book how they can overcome worldliness and worldly pleasures.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG GHS: 52 – COUNT ME

CHORUSES: (1) I live for Jesus day after day (2) Keep me shining Lord (3) when I remember what the Lord has done.

DAILY BIBLE READING

MONDAY	2 TIMOTHY	2:1-3
TUESDAY	2 TIMOTHY	2:4-6
WEDNESDAY	1 TIMOTHY	6:6-10
THURSDAY	1 TIMOTHY	6: 11-14
FRIDAY	1 JOHN	5:1-3
SATURDAY	1 JOHN	5:4,5
SUNDAY	1 JOHN	2:15-17

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the meaning of these words. You can use your dictionary: 1. Sanctification 2. Christian 3. Tongue
4. Gospel 5. Baptism.

LESSON 740

CONSISTENT CHRISTIAN LIVING

Genesis 5:22-24, 17:1; Ephesians 6:10-18.

You may not realize this, but every human being, including boys and girls, are engaged in spiritual battle. Since Satan succeeded in making Adam and Eve fall from God's grace and favour because of their disobedience, he has continued to fight every child of God so that they too can fall like Adam and Eve. Satan engages wicked spirits and demons to tempt and cause people to offend God, die in their sin and go to hell fire.

God in His mercy does not want anyone to perish so He sent the Lord Jesus to die for our sins. His shed blood is able to wash sinners clean and make them children of God. After salvation, God equips us with His armour for us to fight the devil and his demons and be victorious over sin. Jesus wants us to continue to follow His commandments, have a clean heart and live a daily sinless life after we have accepted Him as our Saviour and Lord. This is what a consistent Christian life means.

We shall examine three points in our study:

1. SALVATION AND SANCTIFICATION: CONDITIONS FOR CONSISTENT CHRISTIAN LIVING:

Genesis 5:22-24; 17:1

A sinner is a servant of Satan and has no power to live a godly life. To be free from sin and Satan, you have to realize that you are a sinner. You must confess and ask God for forgiveness and the cleansing of your heart

Paul the apostle gave his life to Christ and preached the gospel to many people. He served the Lord all through his life.



with the blood of Jesus Christ. At salvation, a friend of Jesus has a measure of power to resist Satan and stop committing sins like stealing, lying and fighting. But the bad thoughts in his heart, unforgiving tendencies and some other little things are still within him.

Jesus died to save, make us holy and purify our hearts, but we must thirst and pray to receive the pure heart. It is only after this second Christian experience, that is called sanctification, that a person is free from outside and inward sins and can live a daily life of holiness.

2. BIBLE EXAMPLES OF THOSE WHO LIVED DAILY VICTORIOUS LIVES:

Genesis 5:22-24; 6:1-8

When God commanded Abraham to be perfect in Genesis 17:1 he was not asking for something impossible

from him. Enoch walked with God consistently or continually for three hundred years and was raptured. He did not experience physical death. Noah, Joseph, Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, Paul and John the



Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Joseph, Daniel, Paul, and John are examples of those who live daily victorious life.

beloved are all examples of those who lived daily victorious lives and made heaven at last.

God has provided spiritual armour for every Christian to overcome in their daily battle against Satan. If God was able to help them and these heroes of faith were victorious and they are now in heaven, He would also help friends of Jesus who will trust and obey His word.

3. THE POWER OF GOD’S ARMOUR FOR VICTORIOUS LIVING:

Ephesians 6:10-18

The word of God tells us that principalities, power, rulers of darkness of this world and spiritual wickedness

in high places are the enemies we fight against in this battle of life. The armour of God consists of truth, righteousness, the gospel of peace, faith, salvation and prayer. These are the sure weapons we require in our

There is protection for every friend of Jesus who surrenders his life to Jesus.



daily lives to overcome every satanic attack and works of his agents. Are you prayerful? Without salvation, sanctification and the whole armour of God, you can never live a victorious life.

If you are not yet saved, give your life to Jesus today and be free from sin. Then pray for your heart to be purified so that you can live a daily life of victory.

QUESTIONS:

1. What is another name for consistent Christian living?

2. Every person on earth is engaged in spiritual battles.
Yes/No?
3. Mention four people that served God consistently in
the Bible _____
4. What are the two Christian experiences that you need
to live a consistent Christian life? _____
5. Mention the parts of the complete armour of God ____

MEMORY VERSE: “And Enoch walked with God:
and he was not; for God took him” (Genesis 5:24).

LESSON: A consistent christian life leads to heaven

THOUGHT: I will live for Jesus all the time.

ACTIVITY: Write out some things you should do every
day of the week to show that you are a good Christian.
e.g. Praying for families, church and missionaries.

HOMEWORK: Write out in your homework book, the
pieces of weapon that make up the armour of God.

**CONGREGATIONAL SONG GHS: 49– LET OTHERS SEE
JESUS IN YOU**

LESSON 741

THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

Zechariah 14:3,4; Matthew 25:31-36; Jude 14,15

There is a song that goes thus: “He’s coming back again, my Lord is coming back again. He went away and promised that He’s coming back again, He’s coming back again, my Lord is coming back again. Oh, glory Halleluyah, He’s coming back again”. This song is about what we are studying in this lesson.

When Jesus was leaving this world, He told His disciples that He would come back again and receive them unto Himself (John 14:2,3). Also, when Jesus ascended to heaven after His resurrection, the angels who appeared to the disciples in white apparel told them that the same Jesus, who was taken up from them into heaven, shall so come in like manner as they have seen Him go into heaven.

The second coming of Christ will fulfil these promises. This is quite different from rapture – the catching away of friends of Jesus to meet Jesus in the air. It simply means that Jesus Christ is coming back to the world the same way He left the world after His resurrection. He will come from heaven with His saints and all eyes would see Him (Revelation 1:7). He will come down on mount Olives on the eastern side of Jerusalem with great power and glory. He is coming back as a Judge and a King, to judge the wicked and reward His faithful servants who also would reign with Him. Only friends of Jesus will reign with Him.

1. PROPHECY AND PURPOSE OF THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST:

Zechariah 14:3,4; Jude 14,15

There are many prophecies about the second coming of Jesus in the Bible.

- i. Zechariah 14:3,4 - Zechariah spoke about Jesus standing on the mount Olives at His second coming.
- ii. Isaiah 9:6 - Isaiah said that the government of the whole world would be on Christ's soldier.
- iii. Matthew 24:29,30; 25:31-36 - Our Lord Jesus Himself spoke of His return.
- iv. Acts 1:11 - The angel of God confirmed that "... the same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven."
- v. Hebrews 9:28 - The Holy Spirit, through the apostles, confirmed that Christ shall appear "the second time" and will reward His faithful servants with crowns of glory, praise and honour and His adversaries with fiery indignation (1 Peter 5:4; 1:7).
- vi. James 5:8 - Believers are encouraged to wait patiently for the coming of the Lord is near.

**"Behold, he cometh with clouds;
and every eye shall see him, and
they also which pierced him:
and all kindreds of the earth
shall wail because of him. Even**



