

Teacher Instruction

Before presenting a lesson to the children, read it over three or four times until you know it well enough to recall the main points from memory. Then practice aloud several times, holding each Flash-a-Card in sequence as you tell the story with feeling and animation appropriate to the age group.

Lesson 1 Rise Up and Walk

Acts 3:1-4:4

Introduction

Just think of all the wonderful things you've done today with your legs. You *jumped* out of bed. You *walked* to get dressed. You may have even *skipped* to the breakfast table. Did you *hop* over a crack or *kick* a pebble on the sidewalk? Now, imagine what it would be like if you were not able to use your legs. You would not be able to do any of those things.

Card GWJ 1

Lame man asks for help

The Bible tells us about a man like that. He had never taken a single step, not even when he was a little boy. He had never been able to run and play. He had been born with crippled legs. Because the man couldn't work, he sat at the gate of the Temple each day and asked for money. He hoped that the people going into the Temple to pray would give him enough money to buy some food to eat.

"Alms, alms," he would say as the people walked by. This meant "Help me, please."

Can you give me some money?" Some people were kind and gave him money and some did not have anything they could give.

One day Peter and John, two of Jesus' disciples, were going to the Temple to pray. They

knew it was important for followers of Jesus to worship at His house. When the lame man saw Peter and John, he called out to them and asked for some money. "Alms, alms," he begged.

Peter and John stopped to speak to the man. They looked on him with kindness; then Peter said, "Look at us." When the lame man looked back at Peter and John, he became excited. He hoped that because they had stopped to talk with him that they would soon give him some coins. Peter said to the man, "I don't have any silver or gold that I could give you. But I can give you something else."

The lame man must have wondered what else they could give him that he could really use. What he needed was money! He couldn't think of anything Peter could give him that would really help him.

But Peter continued, "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!" Peter reached down and took the man's hand. The man felt his feet and ankles immediately become strong. Peter helped him as he jumped up and stood steadily on his own feet for the first time in his life! The man was so thrilled to be healed that he started jumping up and down! He walked and he hopped and he leaped! Loudly, he began to praise God. Now he could walk, he could run, and he could jump! God had allowed Peter to do a miracle for this man in the name of Jesus. That was *much* better than giving him a few coins!



Lesson 1

Card GWJ 2

Thousands believe in Jesus

The Bible tells us that all the people nearby saw him walking and praising God. The crowds knew who this man was because they had seen him sitting by the Temple gate for many years. The people were amazed at what had happened to him!

The lame man was so excited that he grabbed Peter and John, hugged them tightly, and wouldn't let them go! Finally, the man went into the



Temple with Peter and John, still praising God and telling everyone that he had been healed. The people in the Temple knew this man had been lame all his life. They were so surprised to see him walking! They wanted to know what had happened.

Peter gathered the people together and asked, "Why are you so surprised by this?" Peter taught them that Jesus had done even greater miracles, but they had not believed on Him.

Then, Peter said, "Why do you look at us, as

though we had made this lame man walk in our own power?" Peter wanted to make sure the crowd knew only Jesus has the power to heal. It was by Him that the lame man had been made strong.

Then, Peter told them, "This Jesus who you did not believe, is the One who healed the lame man. If you will believe He is the Son of God, you will be forgiven of all your sins, just as this lame man was healed and forgiven."

Many of the people did believe. In fact, *five thousand* men believed in Jesus that day! God showed His power, first by healing the lame man, then by saving thousands of people in one day.

Peter, John, and the other disciples kept telling people about Jesus. Praying for God's help, they continued spreading the gospel, obeying Jesus' command. Many people just like the lame man were healed, and many others believed in Jesus.

Review Questions:

1. Why did the man at the gate need help? *He couldn't walk.*
2. Who did the lame man ask for help? *Peter and John*
3. Whose power healed the lame man? *Jesus'*
4. What other miracle happened that day? *Five thousand men believed.*

Lesson 2

Safe Outside the City Wall

Act 8:1-4; 9:1-25

Introduction

What kind of ride do you like best? Do you like to go high? Fast? Up and down? The man in our story today had a strange ride in a . . . well, you listen and I'll tell you about it.



Card GWJ 3 Saul goes to Damascus

The Bible tells us about a proud religious leader who hated Jesus. This man—Saul—was a Pharisee. He didn't believe Jesus was the One God had promised to send to take away the sins of the world, and he tried to get rid of everyone who *did* believe in Jesus. He went everywhere throughout the city of Jerusalem looking for believers. He even went into the homes, dragging out the followers of Jesus and putting them in jail.

Soon many of Jesus' followers left Jerusalem to go to other cities. They went farther and farther away. And everywhere they went, they told other people about Jesus. Before long Saul left Jerusalem, too. He was going to the city of Damascus to look for more of Jesus' followers. He wanted to find *every* believer in *every* city.

Card GWJ 4 Saul meets Jesus

The journey to Damascus was long, and the road was rough. Saul was hot and tired and thirsty. It had been a long journey; but as he neared Damascus, something unusual hap-



pened. Suddenly a great light—even *brighter* than the sun—shone down on him. Saul fell to the ground. Then he heard a Voice from heaven saying, "Saul, Saul, why are you fighting against Me?"

Saul was so frightened that he called out, "Who are You, Lord?" The Voice from heaven replied, "I am Jesus whom you are fighting against."

Saul began to tremble. "How could Jesus be *here* on the road to Damascus? *Had* He risen from the dead?" Saul wondered. Suddenly Saul knew: Jesus *is* alive! Saul no longer hated Jesus. Right there he became a believer in Jesus and was saved. As Saul lay on the ground covering his eyes from the blinding light, he asked, "Lord, what do You want me to do?"

Jesus replied, "Get up and go into the city of Damascus, and you will be told what to do." The men traveling with Saul stood beside him, not saying a word. They were frightened, too! They had heard someone talk to Saul, but they couldn't see anyone. Then Saul tried to stand up and walk, but he couldn't see! The bright light from heaven had blinded him. The men quickly crowded around Saul, trying to help him.

God sends Ananias

Saul stumbled along the road to Damascus, blind and helpless. One of the men led him by the hand. Finally, they came to the city. For three days Saul prayed to God. For three days he ate no food and drank no water. Then God told a man named Ananias to go to Saul. "But Lord—" cried Ananias, "I have heard about the terrible things Saul has done to the believers in Jerusalem." Ananias was frightened! *Every* believer was afraid of Saul.

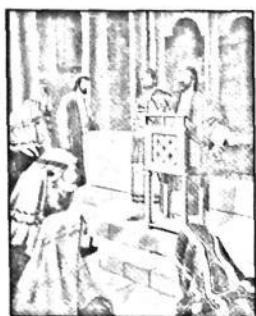
"Go and do as I have commanded," replied the Lord. Ananias obeyed God. When he saw Saul, he placed his hands on him, and immediately Saul could see again. Instead of wanting to get rid of all the believers, Saul wanted everyone to know that *he* believed in Jesus, too.

Card GWJ 5 Saul preaches

Saul stayed for many days in the city of Damascus, preaching in the synagogue. The

Lesson 3

synagogue was like a church, and every town usually had at least one. The Jewish people would gather at the synagogue to pray and to hear the Word of God read and explained.



Saul told the people that Jesus is the Son of God, the One God had promised to send to take away the sins of the world. The proud Jewish leaders who hated Jesus became angry. They were so angry that they began to think of ways to get rid of Saul.

Around the outside of the city of Damascus was a high wall. Every day and every night the angry religious leaders guarded the gates in the wall, hoping to capture Saul if he tried to leave the city. They were determined to get rid of this man who had become their enemy.

Card GWJ 6

Saul rides in a basket

But God was with Saul. The believers in Damascus learned about the plans of the Jewish leaders, and they made a plan of their own. Late one night when it was dark, they quietly climbed up on the high city wall. They stayed far away from the gates of the city so that the guards

could not see them. The men then tied a strong rope around the handle of a large basket, and Saul stepped into it.

Slowly, c-a-r-e-f-u-l-y, the men lowered the basket—and Saul—down to the ground *outside* the city wall. Saul quickly scrambled out of the basket and ran away from the city. God had kept him safe.

When Saul left Damascus, he started the long journey back to the city of Jerusalem. Everywhere he stopped along the way, he told others about Jesus.



Review Questions:

1. What did Saul see coming from heaven? *a bright light*
2. Who spoke to Saul from heaven? *Jesus*
3. Did Saul believe Jesus is God? *yes*
4. How did Saul's friends help him get outside the city wall? *They lowered him to the ground in a large basket.*

Lesson 3

Saul and Barnabas Team Up

Acts 9:26–30; 11:22–30; 12:24–13:4

Introduction

Has anyone ever been mean to you? Sometimes it's hard to forgive them, isn't it? And it is especially hard to forget what that person did to you. That is just what happened to the people in Jerusalem. Saul was a very mean

man. He had done many bad things to the people who loved God. But when Saul met Jesus He forgave Saul of all the bad things he had done. Now, Saul had a changed heart. He was very sorry for all the mean things that he

had done to the people who loved God. He wanted to please God and tell others that Jesus loved them and would forgive them of their sins, too. But some of the people did not trust Saul. They had heard about how mean he was and they did not believe that Saul had met Jesus. They thought, "What if Saul is trying to trick us?" Saul was not trying to trick them; it was true; Saul was now a believer of Jesus.

Card GWJ 7

Barnabas becomes Saul's friend

At last a kindhearted man named Barnabas took Saul to see Jesus' disciples. He told them,



"I am sure that Saul is no longer our enemy. I believe he really loves God now and wants to tell others about what Jesus has done for him." Barnabas told them how Saul met Jesus and how Jesus had forgiven him for the bad things he had done. After the people heard all that Barnabas had to say, they forgave Saul.

Card GWJ 8

Barnabas asks for Saul's help

Barnabas was not only a good friend to Paul but also a good preacher. Barnabas went to preach to the church of Antioch. Many people at this church believed in the Lord Jesus. And the church grew and grew so much that Barnabas needed a helper. That helper needed to be someone who loved God. Then he thought of Saul.

Barnabas went to Tarsus where Saul lived and asked, "Saul, I need you and God needs you to come and help strengthen the new church that has started in Antioch. Will you come help me?"



Saul said, "Yes, I'll go with you." Off went Saul and Barnabas ready to tell people about Jesus.

All year Saul helped Barnabas in Antioch teaching God's Word to great numbers of people. The people who lived in Antioch watched the ones who believed in Jesus. They saw that when someone believed in Jesus he acted differently from others. He did not lie or steal. He was loving, helpful, and kind to others. So the people began calling believers "Christians" or little Christs.

Card GWJ 9

Missionary trip

Many people believed in Jesus, and the church in Antioch grew bigger and bigger. God spoke to Barnabas and Saul and told them He wanted them to go to many more towns and tell other people about Jesus. They were the first missionaries. Many people prayed for Saul and Barnabas and were excited to see them sail off to other lands to tell the good news.

Today God still uses people to tell others about Him. You don't have to wait until you have grown up to be a missionary. You could be like Barnabas and Saul right now even though you are little. You could tell your friends that Jesus loves them and that He can forgive the bad things they do. I'm so glad someone told me about Jesus! Aren't you glad that someone told you? Let's pray and ask God to help us to tell others about Him.



Review Questions:

1. Who was the first to be a friend to Saul? *Barnabas*
2. What did Barnabas ask Saul to help him do? *tell others about Jesus*
3. What do we call people who tell others about Jesus? *missionaries*

Lesson 4

Philippian Jailer

Acts 16:11-40

Introduction

When Jesus went back to heaven He told His disciples to go into all the world and tell everyone that the Savior had come. They were to tell of the miracles they had seen Jesus do and how He died on a cross and rose from the dead so they could have their sins forgiven.

Card GWJ 10

Saul to Paul

Saul and Barnabas traveled to many places on their first missionary trip. They obeyed Jesus' command and told the people how they could be forgiven. Many of them believed and churches were started.

Along the way Saul received a new name and the people called him Paul. After his first missionary trip with Barnabas, Paul wanted to go back to encourage some of the new churches that had been started on his first trip. This time he took a helper named Silas. Paul and Silas visited their new Christian friends and then went to many more cities where no one had told the people yet about the good news.

Paul the missionary

One of the cities they visited was Philippi. In Philippi there were some people who did believe in God. But there was no church building for them to worship Him. So they would gather outside the city by the river to pray. When Paul and Silas found this group, there were only a few women and children.



The women believed in the true God, but they did not know about Jesus. Paul and Silas sat down with them and told them that Jesus is the Son of God, the promised Savior.

There by the river that day a woman named Lydia listened carefully to Paul. Lydia and

everyone that lived with her believed in Jesus and knew their sins had been forgiven. Lydia was a kind woman and invited Paul and Silas to stay at her home while they were in Philippi.

Card GWJ 11

Paul rebukes girl

For many days Paul and Silas walked the streets of Philippi telling the good news about



Jesus to the people who had never heard of Him. A girl followed behind them yelling out, "These men are servants of the Most High God. They have come to tell you the way to be saved."

Now, what the girl was saying was true, but she was not telling the people about God in the right way. She was saying these things to distract people from listening to Paul. She was not saying these things to please God. She was living a very sinful life. No matter where Paul and Silas went she would follow them, being terribly loud and annoying the people as they tried to listen to what Paul had to say. Finally, Paul turned around and told her to stop doing what she was doing. And the girl did. Some of the men in the city became very angry, so they took Paul and Silas to the rulers of the town.

Card GWJ 12

Paul and Silas in prison



The rulers of the city believed the lies that were told about Paul and Silas and had the men beaten and thrown into prison. The jailer knew that if anything happened and Paul and Silas escaped, he would be in very serious

trouble. So, he had Paul and Silas placed in the innermost part of the prison where they could not get away.

That night as Paul and Silas sat in their prison cell they did not whine or complain. They prayed and sang songs—songs of praise to God. Even though they were in a terrible place they trusted God. Suddenly, the walls and floors began to shake, all the doors of the prison flew open, and the chains of the prisoners fell off. The rumbling sounds made by the earthquake woke up the jailer. Quickly he went to check on the prisoners. To his surprise he saw the doors of the prison wide open. He just knew that his prisoners had escaped. What would he do?

Then Paul called out to him. "Everything is all right! We are all here."

Card GWJ 13 Jailer believes



The jailer called for a torch so he could see for himself. Just as Paul had said, all the prisoners were there. The jailer knew that these were good men. He had heard how they had been telling people all over Philippi how to

be saved. Now he wanted to know how he too could be forgiven. Down on his knees he fell in front of Paul and Silas. "What must I do to be saved?" he asked.

Paul looked down at him and said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." That night in the prison, the jailer believed. And that is not all.

Paul and Silas at jailer's home

The jailer took Paul and Silas to his home so that everyone in his house could hear how they too could be forgiven of the bad things they had done. They also believed and trusted Jesus to save them.

The next morning the leaders of the city sent soldiers to the jailer's home. Instead of arresting Paul and Silas and taking them back to prison, the leaders told the jailer to let Paul and Silas go free.

Before going any farther on their missionary trip, Paul and Silas went to visit Lydia and the new believers. They told them more about Jesus and how a Christian should live. Paul told them to be strong and assured them that God would always be with them. How happy the people were that Paul and Silas had come to their town!

Review Questions:

1. What woman believed first in Philippi? *Lydia*
2. What did Paul and Silas do while they were in prison? *sang and prayed*
3. What did God send that shook the prison doors open? *an earthquake*
4. Who asked Paul and Silas how he could be saved? *the jailer*

Lesson 5

Timothy Learns God's Word

*Acts 14:6–23; 16:1–5; 17:13–15; Rom. 16:21; 1 Cor. 16:10;
2 Cor. 1:1, 19; 1 Tim. 1:2; 2 Tim. 1:1–5; 2:3, 15; 3:14–15*

Card GWJ 14

Timothy learns God's Word

A long time ago, after Jesus went back to heaven, there was a little boy named Timothy who lived with his father and mother and grandmother. Timothy's mother and grandmother loved God, and they taught God's Word to Timothy from the time he was just a little boy. As Timothy heard the stories from God's Word, he chose to have the same faith in



God as his mother and his grandmother! Like other children in that day he would hear the stories from God's Word again and again.

I'm sure Timothy's mother and grandmother told him some of the

same stories that we hear about in Sunday school. He learned how God created the whole world—He made light; the sun, moon, and stars; the oceans with white-capped waves, and dry land covered with trees and flowers. He made the animals. And then God made the most wonderful thing of all—He made man.

He would have heard about God's love and care for Noah when he obeyed God and built a huge boat called an ark. God sent the animals into the ark, and then He closed the door. It rained for forty long days, but God kept Noah and his family safe inside the ark. Timothy must have learned to obey and trust God to take care of him, too.

Timothy could have heard about Joseph and the beautiful, brightly colored coat his father Jacob gave him. Joseph's brothers were jealous of him, so they threw him into a deep, dark pit in the ground. But the Lord was with Joseph. The Lord was with him even when he was sold to traders and taken to a strange land and even when he was sent to prison. God always took care of Joseph.

Maybe Timothy learned about Joshua and how the walls of Jericho came tumbling down. He learned that no matter how big a problem might be, God can help you—just like He helped David have victory over the giant Goliath.

All of those things happened before Timothy was born; but the people who loved God and wanted their children to love God would repeat these stories to their families, so they would always remember that God loved and cared for them.

Card GWJ 15

Timothy believes

One day, two missionaries, Paul and Silas, came to the town of Lystra where Timothy lived. Paul told the people there the good news that Jesus Christ was the Messiah—the Promised One who had come to take the punishment for the sins of the whole world. Some of the people listened carefully to Paul's message and believed that Jesus is God. They believed that Jesus took the punishment for their sins, and at some point Timothy believed Paul's message too.



On Paul's next missionary journey, he returned to the town where Timothy lived. Timothy was now a young man who knew much of the Word of God. When Paul saw that Timothy loved and obeyed God's Word, he asked Timothy to go with him and Silas to help spread the good news of Jesus Christ. Timothy willingly went with them, and Paul soon learned that he could trust Timothy to do what was right.

Several years later, after Timothy became a pastor, Paul wrote him two letters. These letters—1st and 2nd Timothy—are part of the

Bible. Even though Timothy knew God's Word well, Paul encouraged him to continue to study it. Timothy loved God, and he loved the Word of God—and he wanted others to love it, too.

Timothy listened when his mother taught him God's Word when he was young; and

when he grew older, Paul taught him even more. God wants you to learn His Word, too. He wants you to always obey, and He wants you to learn to love Him. Then God can use you to be a missionary, just like Timothy.

Review Questions:

1. Who first taught the Word of God to Timothy? *his mother and grandmother*
2. What did Timothy help Paul do after Timothy had trusted Jesus? *tell others about Jesus*
3. Which two letters in our Bible did Paul write to Timothy? *1st and 2nd Timothy*

Lesson 6 A Brave Young Boy

Acts 23:12–24

Introduction

Who is a missionary? Anyone who tells someone about Jesus is a missionary. Jesus, the Son of God, came to the world to take our punishment for all the bad things we do. God wants everyone who loves Him to tell others how they can be forgiven. That's just what Paul did. He was one of the first missionaries.

Paul traveled from town to town talking about Jesus to anyone who would listen to him. The Bible tells us that Paul went on three big missionary trips. Many people decided to believe in Jesus when Paul spoke to them. This made the leaders in the Temple very angry at Paul. They were upset because Paul loved Jesus. Sometimes the leaders in the Temple tried to hurt Paul, but God protected him.

Card GWJ 16

Paul's nephew hears the plan

Our Bible story today tells us about one of the times God protected Paul. He was in prison in Jerusalem because he was telling people about Jesus. Soldiers guarded the prison so that no one would escape.

Did God know where Paul was? Yes, God knows where we are all the time. He was watching over Paul, even in the prison. The Bible tells us that the Lord came to Paul in the prison and stood right beside him! He told Paul to "be of good cheer," and the Lord promised Paul that he would get to preach in another city very soon. And we know that God always keeps His promises.

Paul had a nephew who lived in Jerusalem. One day this boy was standing outside the Temple while some important Jewish leaders were talking nearby. They were talking so loudly that the boy heard what they were

Lesson 6

saying. "We must get rid of Paul! Let's go to the chief priest and tell him that we won't eat or drink anything until we get rid of him."

"Oh! They want to hurt my uncle," the boy must have thought. "I must tell him what these bad men are going to do!" God had planned for this boy to hear the evil scheme so that he could warn Paul that he was in danger. It was not an easy thing to do, but he knew what was right. "I'll go to the prison!" the boy thought. "Maybe they will let me see Uncle Paul just for a minute."



When the boy went to the prison, he was able to go right to Paul and tell him everything he had heard. It was God who made sure that the boy could see his uncle. God was using the brave young boy to help take care of Paul.

When the boy saw his uncle, I'm sure he ran right up to him and was happy to see he was all right. Paul was happy to see his nephew. Then the boy said, "Uncle Paul, I heard some of the Jewish leaders talking outside the Temple. They said that they will not eat or drink anything until they have gotten rid of you!" he told

Paul. "There are more than forty men who are planning to hurt you!"

Card GWJ 17

Paul's rescue

Paul called the guard, who took Paul's nephew to the man in charge of the prisoners. His name was Lysias. Lysias asked Paul's nephew what he had heard, and the boy told his story again. Lysias looked at Paul's nephew. "You have been very brave," he said. "You did the right thing when you came to your Uncle Paul. Now I can make sure that these men don't hurt him. You go home now, and don't tell anyone else what you have told me."

Lysias decided Paul should leave Jerusalem that night. Lysias knew that Paul had done



nothing wrong, so he did everything he could do to protect Paul. After dark, Lysias placed Paul on a horse and sent him away with 470 soldiers along for protection!

How happy Paul's nephew must have felt to know that his Uncle Paul was safe. God used the brave boy even though he was young to do something important.

Review Questions:

1. Why did the Jewish leaders want to get rid of Paul? *because he was telling people about Jesus*
2. Who warned Paul about the evil plan? *Paul's nephew*
3. Who was protecting Paul from harm? *God*

Lesson 7

Which Man Was Forgiven?

Luke 18:9-14

Card GWJ 18

Introduction

Two brothers did some work for their dad. Dad had asked them to pick up all the balls, sticks, and rocks in the yard so that he could mow the grass. Both of the boys did what their dad told them to do, but the one boy said to his dad, "The yard is ready to mow. I picked up most of the balls and sticks and rocks. I did more work than my brother; aren't you proud of me?"

His dad was pleased with the hard work the boys had done, but he was not pleased that one of his boys thought he did a better job. You see, one of the boys was older than the other, and he *should* have done more work. The older brother was bragging about himself, and that does not please God.

Today we are going to hear a story Jesus told to a group of men who did not believe



that they were sinners. Sometimes Jesus told the people stories so that they could understand things in a better way. These stories

taught the people about God and how God wants people to live. The stories Jesus told were called parables. In this parable, Jesus shows the people that it does not matter how good we think we are; we have all sinned and only God can forgive our sins.

Card GWJ 19

Pharisee and publican



There were two men in this story. One man was a Pharisee, and the other, a publican. Now, both of these men went to the Temple to pray. The

Pharisee stood tall and was very proud. Why, he was a very important religious man! Everybody knew who he was. He was at the Temple every day. He studied God's laws and acted as if he loved God very much. He wanted the people to think that he was a great man, but in his heart he did not believe Jesus was the Savior, the Messiah, the One God promised to send to take his sins away. Many times he told people how *they* were to act, but he didn't act right himself.

The other man was a publican; his job was to collect taxes from the people. The people did not like him because he often took too much money from them. He kept the extra money for himself, and bought things that he wanted with their money. He was a thief.

The Pharisee and publican were two very different people, and when they went to pray, their prayers were also very different. The Pharisee went to a part of the Temple where the people could hear everything that he was saying. With a loud voice he said, "God, I thank you that I am not like other people. I spend time in prayer, I give you part of my money, I do not cheat or steal or lie." He was very proud of the things he did for God, and he wanted everyone to know it.

But the publican was different. He knew he had done wrong, so he bowed his head and quietly prayed, "Dear God, I am so sorry for the bad things I have done: for lying to the people, for taking money that did not belong to me, and for not loving you the way I should. Please forgive me for all those bad things. Forgive me of my sins and be merciful to me." He was humble—he was not proud of himself like the Pharisee. He told God how *bad* he was instead of how *good* he was. God was glad to hear his prayer.

After Jesus told this story to the people, He asked them, "Who do you think had his sins forgiven—the Pharisee or the publican?" Then Jesus answered the question for the people. "It was the publican, for he is the one who told

Lesson 8

God he was sorry for his sins." The Pharisee did not have forgiveness because he was too proud to tell God the bad things he had done.

This story reminds us that we must not be proud, but confess our sins when we pray to God. We all sin, and we need to tell God we're

sorry for our sins, and ask for His forgiveness. There is nothing *we* can do to make our hearts clean. Jesus did it all for us when He died on the cross for our sins. Because Jesus died for us, God will forgive us for all our sins if we just ask Him.

Review Questions:

1. Which one of the men prayed loudly and proudly? *the Pharisee*
2. Which one of the men said he was a sinner and asked God for forgiveness? *the publican*
3. Who had his sins forgiven? *the publican*

Lesson 8 **Little and Lost**

Matt. 18:12–14; Luke 15:4–10; John 10:10–11; Psalm 23

Card GWJ 20 **Introduction**

When Jesus was on the earth, He told many special stories called parables. The parables were stories that taught the people about God and how He wanted them to live on the earth.



Grandmothers and grandfathers, mothers and fathers, and all the boys and girls would crowd together to hear the stories or parables of Jesus. Sometimes

they would sit down on the grass or rocks on a hillside overlooking the Sea of Galilee. They listened closely, because they wanted to hear every word that Jesus spoke.

Card GWJ 21 **A special coin**

Jesus said, "Once there was a woman who had ten coins." She wore these coins around

the top of her head. (When Jesus lived on the earth, many women wore their money like your mother wears her jewelry today.) The coins were important to the woman—they had probably been given to her as a special gift on her wedding day, and they were very expensive.



One day something terrible happened. One of the coins that the woman was wearing fell off her headdress. She may have heard the coin hit the floor and then roll, but when she reached down to pick it up, she couldn't find it. Even though she had nine more coins, she wanted to find the one that fell onto the floor. Quickly she got down on her hands and knees and felt all around. "I must find it!" she said to herself. She looked all over the floor, but she didn't find her coin.

The woman lit a candle and knelt on the floor. Carefully she carried the light to every corner. When Jesus lived on the earth, there were no electric lights in the homes. The people used candles or lamps like lanterns. The woman looked all around the floor, but she still didn't find the lost coin. She hurried to get her broom and began sweeping the floor. She swept along every wall, and she swept in every corner, and under all the furniture. Finally, she thought she saw something shiny. Could it be her lost coin? Yes! There it was!

Card GWJ 22 Lost is found



"My coin!" she cried. "I have found it!" She bent over and picked it up and held it tightly in her hand! The woman was so happy that

she called together all her friends and neighbors and said, "Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I lost."

Jesus used this parable or story to teach the people that even though the coin was very important to the woman, *we* are even *more* important to God. Jesus loves us very much, and He doesn't want anyone to be lost. Whenever mothers, fathers, grandparents, boys, or girls believe Jesus and take Him as their Savior, Jesus will forgive them of their sin. They are no longer lost; they are found.

Jesus told another story just to help the people understand how much He loved them and wanted them to trust Him.

Card GWJ 23 Lost lamb



Once there was a shepherd who took care of one hundred sheep. Every morning, the shepherd took his sheep to the pasture to find fresh,

green grass to eat and cool, still water to drink. As the shepherd led his sheep to the fields, he would look around to make sure there wasn't anything close by that would hurt them. He made sure that no lions, bears, or other wild animals were hiding in the bushes or behind trees, waiting to catch a little lamb. He used his rod and staff to protect his sheep against wild animals. He always kept his eyes and ears open for any sign of danger. He loved his sheep very much.

Sometimes a lamb would not obey the shepherd. The lamb would go off where it wanted to go. Each time the shepherd would call him back; if the lamb did not come back, the shepherd would go and look for him.

One evening the shepherd gathered his sheep together back in the sheepfold. As they went into the fold, he counted them. "One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, . . ." until he got to one hundred. "One hundred sheep; yes, that's how many I have," the shepherd would say to himself. But when he counted his sheep this time, do you know what? There were only ninety-nine. One little lamb was lost.

Up the path the shepherd went, back to the fields, calling the little lost lamb. But the lamb was not answering. The shepherd called and called. Finally the shepherd heard something. "Baaa-a-a."

"Little lamb!" he called out again.

"BAAA-A-A!" The little lamb recognized the voice of the shepherd. The shepherd reached down and rescued the little lamb. The shepherd placed the little lamb on his shoulders and carried him back to the sheepfold. "You are safe now," the shepherd gently said. How happy the little lamb was. He had been lost but now he was found. The shepherd loved the little lamb so much that he kept calling until the little lamb answered his call. Who does this shepherd remind us of?

Card GWJ 24 The Good Shepherd

Yes, it reminds us of Jesus. Jesus said, "I am the Good Shepherd." He calls to every person



to come to Him. Jesus said that the angels in heaven rejoice when one lost person comes to Him. Jesus, God's

Son, is the One who came to earth to take the punishment for all the bad things that we do. He wants every boy and girl to trust Him as Savior. Then they are no longer lost like the coin or the sheep; they are found.

Review Questions:

1. What was the woman searching for? *one lost coin*
2. What did the woman do when she found her coin? *rejoiced with her friends*
3. What was the shepherd searching for? *one lost sheep*
4. Who is called the Good Shepherd? *Jesus*

Lesson 9

Wise and Foolish Builders

Matt. 7:24-27; Luke 6:47-49

Introduction

Do you like to watch bulldozers and big trucks? Men use them to get the ground ready before they build a new house. They use these big machines first to push the dirt all around until it is completely flat, but they don't build the house on the dirt. Every house is built on some kind of foundation. The foundation is the bottom layer, and it is what keeps the house from slipping and sliding around and falling apart.

Let's listen to a parable Jesus told about a wise man and a foolish man who each built a house, but on different kinds of foundations.

Card GWJ 25 Two builders

One man built his house on a rock foundation. What a good, strong place to build a house! Rock is very hard. Can we break a rock with our hands? No, rock is too strong to break.



The other man built his house on a foundation of sand. Have you ever tried to make a sand castle? Does the castle last a long time? It gets ruined easily because sand is not strong—it just goes all to pieces if a wave comes over it or someone bumps it.

What kind of a man would build his house on the rock? Was it a wise man, or a foolish man? It was the wise man who built his house on the rock foundation! Do you think the man who built his house on the sand was a wise man? No! He was a very foolish man! I wonder what will happen to his house.

After the two men worked very hard to build their houses, they were excited when moving day came. They moved into their brand

new houses and were very happy until one day when a *terrible* storm came. The rain came down in sheets, and the wind blew fiercely against the two houses. The windows rattled and *shook* from the blowing winds. The waters swirled around the foundations of the houses.

During this terrible storm, what do you suppose happened to the house that was built on the sand? As the wind blew harder and harder, and the rains fell, and the flood waters rose, the sand began to wash away from under the house. Finally, the flood washed all the sand away, and the house was left with no foundation at all. It creaked and swayed and crumbled and fell! After all that hard work, there was not even one room of the house still standing.

Card GWJ 26

Storm comes

And what do you think happened to the other house, the one built on the stone foundation? As the wind blew harder and harder, and the rain came down, and the floodwaters rose, the house on the rock just stood there, as strong and safe as ever. The house on the rock could



handle the rains and the great winds of the storm, because it was built on a strong foundation.

What kind of man was it who built

his house on the rock? Was he a wise man, or was he a foolish man? He was a wise man, wasn't he? He made sure his house was built on the rock instead of the sand. After the storm, this wise man could still enjoy his house year after year.

The foundations are like the things we build our lives on. We can depend on God to be our foundation, because He is strong and true. When we trust Jesus and do what His Word, the Bible, teaches, we build our lives on a rock-strong foundation that will make us strong.

The Bible says that we are to obey our parents, doesn't it? Every time we obey God's Word by obeying our mother and father, we are building our lives on a rock-strong foundation that will keep us safe and happy. What else does the Bible say we are to do? The Bible says that we should be kind to others, even to those we don't especially like. If we obey the Bible and help others, what are we doing? We are building a strong foundation.

But if we don't pay any attention to the things that God says, we won't have a good foundation for our life. When hard times come, the world will not help us, but Jesus will always help us. Let's build our lives on Jesus and His Word.

If you have already trusted Jesus to be your Savior, then ask Him to help you to live for God and obey His Word every day so that you will become stronger and stronger.

Review Questions:

1. On what kind of foundation did the wise man build his house?
rock
2. What did the foolish man build his house upon? *sand*
3. When the storm came, which house stood strong? *the house upon the rock*
4. What should we build our lives upon? *God's Word*

Lesson 10 Unforgiving Servant

Matthew 18:21-35

Introduction

If someone did something to hurt you, what would you do? I'm sure many people would want to hurt that person back. But that's not the way Jesus wants His children to act. Jesus wants us to forgive those who are mean to us.

What if we forgive someone and then that person is mean to us again? Should we forgive again? Yes. But what if the person keeps right on doing mean things to us? Do we have to keep on forgiving *every time*?

Peter, one of Jesus' disciples, asked Jesus a question about this: "Lord," Peter said, "how many times should I forgive someone for hurting me? Seven times?"

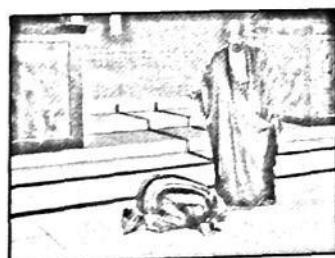
"Oh, no," said Jesus; "not just seven times. You should forgive so many times that you can't even keep track of how often you are forgiving someone." Then Jesus told a story to help us see why it is so important for us to forgive people.

Card GWJ 27

King forgives

Once a rich king was looking through his record books to see who owed him money. To his surprise, he discovered that one of his servants owed him a *huge* amount of money—millions of dollars!

In those days, when someone could not pay a huge debt, he and his family could be sold as slaves so the bills



could be paid. The king had the servant brought before him. "You owe me millions of dollars," the king said. "I am going to sell you, your wife, and

your children as slaves. I will have to sell everything that you own, too, to help pay your bill."

The servant immediately fell on his face before the king. "Oh, please, your majesty, have patience with me! Please just give me some time, and I'll pay back all that I owe—I promise!"

The king knew that his servant would never be able to earn enough money to pay his bills, no matter how long and hard he worked. He was a good king, however, and he felt sorry for the servant. "Arise," the king said. "I freely forgive you all the money you owe. I will not make you and your family slaves, and you can keep all of your things, too."

What a relief that was to the poor servant! "Oh, your majesty," he said, "you are a wonderful person! Thank you for forgiving me!" And the joyful servant left the king and probably started home to tell his wife the good news.

Card GWJ 28

Servant does not forgive

As he was walking away from the king's palace, he met one of the other servants, and he remembered something. "That man owes me some money!" he thought to himself. Now, the amount that man owed was hardly anything compared to the millions of dollars the servant had owed the king, so what do you suppose the servant who had just been forgiven did?

You'd think he would immediately forgive the man who owed him a little bit, wouldn't you? But that's *not* what the forgiven servant did! He grabbed the other man and started yelling at him. "Give me my money right now!" he yelled. "If you don't, you're in *big* trouble!"

The poor man was afraid! He immediately fell down before the servant who had been forgiven so much. "Oh, please, friend! Don't have me sold!" he begged. "Just be patient with me and give me some time, and I'll pay it all back to you, I promise!"



Do you suppose the servant whom the king had forgiven so much now forgave the man who begged him for mercy? No, he didn't! He said to

the other man, "Give me my money right now! If you don't, I'll send you to prison until you pay it all!"

Of course, the poor man could not pay the money; so he was thrown into prison. When the king heard about what had happened, he became angry. "O you wicked servant!" the king said. "I forgave you your debt of millions of dollars. You should have forgiven the man who owes you only a little!"

What do you think the king did to the servant who wouldn't forgive? He had him punished; and I think he deserved to be punished, don't you?

God is like the kind, forgiving king in this story that Jesus told to Peter. We have done many wrong things that make God sad, but He

forgives us. He does not want us to act like the servant who did not forgive others. God has forgiven us of the things that we do, and we need to forgive others when they do bad things to us.

The Bible says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." This means that when we do something wrong and then tell God we're sorry, He forgives us—every time. If God forgives us, shouldn't we forgive others, too? The Bible says something else about forgiveness. It says, "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." Let's thank God that He is a kind, forgiving heavenly Father, and let's ask Him to help us to be kind and forgiving, too.

Review Questions:

1. How much money did the servant owe the king? *millions of dollars*
2. What did the king do about the servant's debt? *forgave him*
3. How much money did the other man owe the forgiven servant? *a little bit*
4. Who is the kind, forgiving king like? *God*

Lesson 11

Which Son Obeyed?

Matthew 21:28-32

Card GWJ 29 Introduction

Have you ever been asked to do something you really didn't want to do? Maybe you were playing with your toys, and you just finished making the most wonderful castle you could imagine when Mother said, "Put your toys away." What did you do? Did you obey, or not?

Jesus told a story about two boys who were asked to do something for their father. Do you think they chose to do the right thing?



Jesus was in the Temple talking to the chief priest and elders of Israel. They had just asked Him who had given Him power to do the things He had been doing. Why, He made blind eyes see and lame

Lesson 11

legs strong! But Jesus did not answer their question. Instead, He asked the priests a question, "What do you think about this?" And He told them a story. You see, Jesus wanted them to think and figure out for themselves who had given Him power to do such miracles.

Card GWJ 30 Father's request

There was a man who had two sons. The sons were just about grown up. All their lives, their father had taught them to be truthful, hard-working boys. Now, he had a big job to do, and he needed his boys' help.

He went to his first boy and said, "I need you to work in the vineyard today. The vines need to be trimmed so the grapes will grow stronger."

"No," said the boy, "I won't." With that, he walked away from his father. Maybe this boy was busy. Maybe he planned on doing something with his friends. For some reason, he told his father no, and that was very wrong.



As he walked away, he started to feel bad. His father had never been mean or unkind to him. In fact, his father always tried to help him any way he could. The boy said to himself, "I cannot disobey my father like this after all he has done for me." So, he turned around, walked straight to his father's vineyard, and trimmed the vines.

The father also went to his other son and asked him the same thing: "Son, I need you to

help me in the vineyard today. The vines need to be trimmed so the grapes will grow better."

"Yes, sir, I'll do that job for you, Father," the son replied. But the second son did not go to the vineyard. Maybe he wanted to go fishing, or perhaps he was lazy. This son certainly did not do what he said he would do; he did not do what his father had asked.

Who obeyed?

"Which son obeyed his father?" Jesus asked the men when He finished telling the story.

The men listening replied, "The first one."

They were right! The first son said he wouldn't work, but he did; the second son said he would work, but he didn't. Jesus told them there are those who say they will do what God wants them to do, but they don't. Some of the men Jesus was talking to were like that—they acted as if they would do whatever God wanted them to do, but they were only pretending. They really didn't obey Him.

"Then," said Jesus, "there are people who have done very bad things, but they have changed their minds like the first son. Now, they believe in Me as their Savior. They follow Me."

Did you know that you can follow Jesus and do God's work, too? You can be like the first son and obey your parents. When you obey your parents, you are obeying God and doing work that pleases Him. The next time your parents ask you to do something, don't just *say* you'll do it; obey them and do it right away. The Bible tells us to not just hear the Word of God and *say* that we'll do what's right. We should be *doers* who follow God and keep His commandments.

Review Questions:

1. What did the father in Jesus' story ask his sons to do? *work in his vineyard*
2. Did the son who said he would work in the vineyard obey? *No, he just said he would but he did not.*
3. Does God want us to pretend to obey? *No, He wants us to obey.*
4. Which son was sorry for his answer and obeyed? *the first son*

Lesson 12

Midnight Visitor

Luke 11:1-13

Card GWJ 31

Bread for a guest

When is it a good time to pray? That's right, anytime is a good time to pray. It's always good to pray before you eat your food. And you can pray before you go to bed. God says we can come to Him in prayer at any time, and He will hear us. He likes to hear us pray. Jesus told a story to help people understand how much God enjoys our prayers. He wants us to keep praying.

The story was about a man who had a visitor that arrived late at night. The man had no food to offer him. What could he do? His visitor was hungry. Then, he remembered his friend who lived next door. The man went to his friend, knocked on the door, and called out, "Friend, lend me three loaves of bread. A visitor has come to my house late tonight and needs food. Please let me borrow some bread."

The friend and his family were fast asleep. In those days, most homes were very small;

the family often ate, lived, and slept in the same room.

But the knocking at the door finally woke up the friend. From inside he

called, "Don't bother me. My door is shut and my children and I are all in bed. I can't get up now and give you any bread."

But the knocking continued and the man kept calling, "Friend, lend me three loaves. My visitor is hungry and he needs food."

The man of the house, trying not to awaken his sleeping family, answered, "Don't trouble me at this time of the night. My family is asleep and I cannot help you!" But the knocking continued; the man at the door would not go away.

It was polite to give a guest food, no matter when the guest came. The man at the door had told his guest, "I'll go to my neighbor and get some bread. Just relax until I get back."



It was very late, so where could a man get food except from a neighbor? There were no stores open to buy bread at midnight. That's the reason he hurried to his friend's house and kept knocking at the door. He desperately needed the three loaves of bread.

"Please, please, lend me three loaves of bread," again he called through the closed door. "A visitor has just come from a long journey, and I have nothing to give him to eat."

The awakened neighbor was now upset because his children were also beginning to stir. It was very bothersome to him to have his whole family awakened at night! But the neighbor thought, "If I don't give him the bread he is asking for, he will keep knocking all night, and I'll never get any sleep!" So getting up and walking around and over his sleeping family, the neighbor finally opened the door and gave him the three loaves of bread.

Card GWJ 32

What does Jesus' parable mean?

Jesus told this story to His disciples after one of them had asked, "Lord, please teach us how to pray." (*point to the disciple asking*) What were some of the things Jesus was trying to teach in His story about prayer? That's right—Keep Praying! We should not just pray one time for something we need—we should pray many times. Just keep on asking until God answers our prayer. God will not be angry and upset like the neighbor was. He *wants* to hear and answer our prayers. Jesus also was teaching that unlike the neighbor in our story, God never sleeps; there is never a bad time to pray. He is always ready to listen when we pray to Him.



Lesson 13

The man asked for three loaves of bread. He told his neighbor exactly what he needed. Jesus was teaching that we should tell Him exactly what we need. Instead of praying, "God, help me to be good," it is better to pray, "God, help me to obey my parents today and help me to be kind to my friends in school today." You can

pray for a missionary that you know, or for a sick friend. Pray for your parents and your teacher.

We can talk to God early in the morning, in the middle of the night, or anytime in between. God wants to answer our prayers. He promises if we ask and keep on asking, He will answer. God wants us to pray and to keep on praying.

Review Questions:

1. What did the man need for his guest? *three loaves of bread*
2. Why didn't the neighbor want to give him the bread? *It was late at night, and his family was sleeping.*
3. Did the man quit asking and go home? *No, he kept asking.*
4. Why did Jesus tell this story to his disciples? *to teach them to keep praying*

Lesson 13 Who Is My Neighbor?

Luke 10:25-37

Introduction

What if you saw a friend get hurt and that friend needed help? What would you do? I'm sure you would help your friend, wouldn't you? Now, here's a harder question. What if the hurt person was someone you didn't like? Maybe that person had been mean to you. Would you stop and help him?

Card GWJ 33

Who is my neighbor?

One day a man asked Jesus this question: "The Bible says I should love my neighbor like I love myself; but who is my neighbor?" The man

wanted to know who he had to be nice to. Jesus wants us to be kind and loving to everyone, so He told this story to answer the man's question.

One day a man left the city of Jerusalem to go to Jericho. As he walked along the rocky



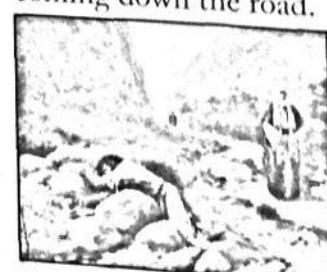
road, robbers suddenly pounced and took all of his money! These bad men stole from the traveler and beat him. Then, as quickly as they had come, the thieves were gone.

Card GWJ 34

Priest and Levite do not help

The poor man tried to get up, but oh, it hurt! What would he do? He needed someone to come along and help him!

He lay very still for a while, and then he finally heard something. It was someone coming down the road. It was a priest from the Temple! Surely he would stop and help the man.



If the man could call out he would have cried, "Help! Please help me!" But the priest didn't stop to help. He crossed to the other side of the road and went on his way.

Later, there came another pair of footsteps. It was one of the priests' helpers, a Levite.

But the Levite didn't stop to help the poor injured man either. He just crossed over to the other side of the street and went on his way again.

The hurt man must have felt hopeless. If the people who said that they loved God would not help him, who would?

Card GWJ 35 Good Samaritan helps

Suddenly, the hurt man heard someone else coming! It was a man on a donkey. As soon as he saw the hurt man lying by the road he got off his donkey and went to help the hurt man. He knelt down and looked closely at the man's sores.



What a kind man he was! He was not a priest or Levite. He was not even from Jerusalem or Jericho; he was a stranger. This man was a Samaritan!

Now, the Samaritans were people that the Jews didn't like at all, and they wouldn't have anything to do with them. The Samaritan knew that the hurt man was a Jew, one of the people who didn't like him, but that didn't matter. All he saw was a man who needed help quickly.

The Samaritan poured oil into the Jewish man's wounds to help them heal. Then he tore a piece of cloth into long strips to bandage the cuts. The Samaritan lifted the man onto his own donkey. He wanted to take the hurt man to a place where he could rest and get well.

Card GWJ 36 Safe at the inn

There were no hospitals in those days, so the Samaritan decided to take the wounded Jew to an inn, a place where travelers stay. The Jew, the Samaritan, and the donkey went along slowly and carefully down the road. *Clip-clop; clip-clop.* At last,



the Samaritan spotted an inn by the side of the road. At last there was a place for the hurt man to rest. The Samaritan carefully helped him into the inn and took care of the hurt man all night.

The next morning, it was time for the Samaritan to go, but before he left, he made sure that the man not only had what he needed, but that the innkeeper would take care of the hurt man until he was better.

"Here's some money," he said to the innkeeper. "Use this to take good care of him. I'll come again as soon as I can and will give you more money to care for him if you need it." Then the good Samaritan was gone. Oh, how thankful the hurt man must have felt to be safe and know he was going to be taken care of!

The priest hadn't helped him; the Levite hadn't helped him; but this good, kind Samaritan had saved his life!

When Jesus finished His story, He said, "Which of these three men do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell among thieves?" The answer was—the good Samaritan. Jesus wants us to treat people the way we would like to be treated, even if they look or talk differently from us, and even if they do not like us. Jesus wants each of His children to be kind like the good Samaritan.

Review Questions:

1. Who pounced on the Jewish man traveling to Jericho? *robbers*
2. Name one of the people who would not help the man. *priest/Levite*
3. Who helped and cared for the man? *the Samaritan*
4. How does Jesus want us to treat others? *Treat others like you want to be treated.*