

A
PILGRIMAGE
THROUGH
THE
NEW TESTAMENT

** Year 2 of 2 **

Cold Harbor Road Church Of Christ
Mechanicsville, Virginia
New Testament Curriculum

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New Testament
Lesson 53: PAUL BEFORE FESTUS AND AGRIPPA

Text: Acts 25; 26

Memory Verses:	Acts 26:16	But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee;
	Acts 26:28	Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.

Goals:	Student will learn: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To stand up for Christ. • That procrastinating about obeying the gospel has cost millions eternal life in heaven.
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Outline:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| I. Paul before Festus. | Acts 25 |
| A. Jews' accusations. | |
| B. Paul's defense. | |
| C. Appeal to Cæsar. | |
| D. Festus and Agrippa. | |
| II. Paul before Agrippa. | Acts 26 |
| A. Paul recounts his life. | |
| B. Paul recounts his conversion. | |
| C. Paul preaches Christ. | |
| D. Agrippa's response. | |

Facts:

1. Porcius Festus was made governor of Cæsarea in A.D. 60 by Nero.
2. The Jewish leaders wasted no time in filing charges against Paul with Festus and forming a new plot to kill him. Although Festus foils their plan of assassination, he does agree to hear them.
3. Paul is brought before Festus and his accusers at the "judgment seat." The judgment seat was an elevated throne in an open place. It was an authoritative symbol of a Roman judge.

4. The Jews repeat their “grievous charges,” which again have no proof to support them. Paul repeats his defense. He sums up his accusers as those 1) against Jewish law 2) against the temple or 3) against Roman law. Festus, not being Jewish, is only interested in offenses against Roman law, of which he has to conclude Paul is not guilty.
5. Yet, Festus, like Felix, fears the Jews and seeks to find favor with them, so he asks Paul if he would be willing to be re-tried in Jerusalem. If Festus was unwilling to rule fairly in Cæsarea, Paul knew he had no chance of a fair trial in Jerusalem among the Jews.
6. He exercises his right as a Roman citizen to appeal to Cæsar. He further declares his innocence, willing to suffer death if he were guilty. Festus confers with his cabinet officers who advise him on Roman law then formally announces, “Hast thou appealed unto Cæsar? unto Cæsar shalt thou go.”
7. Meanwhile, Festus has a visit with King Herod Agrippa II and Herod's sister Bernice, who came offering congratulations on his new appointment.
8.
 - Herod Agrippa II's father was Herod Agrippa I, who God smote and who was eaten by intestinal worms. (Acts 12:21-23)
 - Herod Agrippa II's great grandfather was Herod the Great, who ordered the slaying of babies in Bethlehem in an attempt to kill the baby Jesus.
 - Herod's great uncle was Herod Antipas, who beheaded John the Baptist.
 - Herod's sister Drucilla was married to Felix, who tried Paul earlier (Acts 24). She died in the eruption of Vesuvius in 79 A.D.
 - Herod's sister Bernice lived with him on occasion. She, like her sister, was known for her great beauty.
9. Festus knows that Agrippa, being a Jew, is more familiar with Jewish affairs. He relays the details of the previous trial. He “smoothly” excuses his proposal for delivering Paul over to the Jerusalem Jews by saying that these charges seem to be matters of religion. Paul's appeal to Cæsar reflects on Festus' lack of fairness in this case.
10. Agrippa is interested, either by curiosity or wanting to know more of Christianity by its greatest advocate, so he requests to hear Paul. Festus arranges it the next day. Following a great procession of pomp and display in royal robes and attire, Paul is brought in. A lavish introduction is made. Festus states he had not found Paul “worthy of death.” This was not a formal judicial hearing; they only sought some new facts so that Festus would know how to refer this case to the emperor.
11. King Agrippa assumes chairmanship. Paul is heard. He reflects on 1) his early life: his training, beliefs, education, belonging to the Pharisees. 2) Then he says he became a prisoner for the very thing the Jews emphasize so strongly, the hope of the promised Messiah, Jesus Christ.

- He expresses sympathy for those Jews that are like he was before his conversion. He tells of his zealous persecution of Christians under the sanction of the Sanhedrin. He gives a 3rd account of his conversion and why he had been summoned to a new, nobler work to preach Jesus. Since Agrippa is a practicing Jew, Paul emphasizes that his command to teach the Gentiles was from God through a heavenly vision. He tells Agrippa how he went to the Jews first then the Gentiles. Then he explains how he was unlawfully taken prisoner due to the Jews for preaching Jesus to the Gentiles. He attributes his strength to persevere to God. Finally, he reflects on how Christ's suffering was part of God's divine plan.
12. Paul is interrupted by Festus, who accuses Paul of being crazy (mad). Agrippa knew of the hope of the coming Messiah. He understood all Paul had said, he knew the public facts of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection and Paul's experiences.
 13. Paul continues a direct appeal to Agrippa challenging him with his belief of the prophets and Jewish religion to believe also what Paul preached. Agrippa, forced to reply, answers, "Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian." Possibly Agrippa's wealth, throne, companions, association with Bernice, etc. hindered him and caused him to procrastinate.
 14. Paul kindly expresses his desire that Agrippa and all those present become Christians, free of the chains and persecution he had had to endure. Sadly, those present were slaves to ignorance or sin (as many are today).
 15. King Agrippa dismisses the hearing by rising to go. Later he and Felix conclude that Paul is innocent. Although he had not won them to Christ, he had earned their favor and respect. Agrippa tells Festus Paul could have been set free if he had not appealed to Cæsar, but since he had made that request, they must provide him with safe passage to Rome.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - royal "attire"-crown/robe/scepter/throne
 - costume of Jewish leader-robe/headdress
 - chains for Paul-plastic/paper/toy handcuffs
 - set the atmosphere for private conversation between Festus and Agrippa such as over a meal/at night/dark/stars
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Puppets/Dolls
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- Almost Persuaded
- Come To Jesus
- Down In My Heart
- God Is My Father
- God Loves You & I Love You
- I Can Dare To Be Brave
- I Obey
- I've Been Working For My Jesus
- Jesus Is My Friend
- Jesus Loves Even Me
- Kindness
- Let All That Is Within Me
- Paul The Preacher
- Prepare To Meet Thy God
- The Eyes Of Jesus Are Upon You
- The Very Best Life
- What Shall Your Answer Be

Activities:

- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think King Agrippa II procrastinated about becoming a Christian?
2. Why do individuals today that know the gospel not become Christians?
3. What made it necessary for Paul to appeal his case to Cæsar?
4. What do you remember of King Agrippa's family background?
5. Recount Paul's plea to Agrippa.
6. In what ways did Paul stick up for what he believed? How could you do the same today?
7. What new facts about Paul's conversion are learned in these chapters that are not told to us in Acts 9 or Acts 22?

New Testament
Lesson 54: PAUL SHIPWRECKED/LIFE IN ROME

Text: Acts 27; 28

Memory Verses:	Acts 27:22-24	<p>And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of any man's life among you, but of the ship.</p> <p>For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve,</p> <p>Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Cæsar: and lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee.</p>
	Acts 28:26,27	<p>Saying, Go unto this people, and say, Hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and not perceive:</p> <p>For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.</p>

Goals:	<p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God does not take away our problems, but He will help us overcome them <u>when</u> we follow His guidance.
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Outline:

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Paul's voyage to Rome. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Aboard ship from Cæsarea to Crete. B. The storm. C. The shipwreck. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Paul takes charge. 2. Melita. D. Three months in Melita. | Acts 27-28:10 |
|---|---------------|

- II. Paul at Rome. Acts 28:11-31
- A. Arrival.
 - B. Interview with the Jews.
 - C. Retained as prisoner 2 years.

Facts:

1. Paul, among other prisoners, is now put in the custody of Julius, a centurion of the Augustan Band to make the voyage to Rome. Luke and Aristarchus are allowed to accompany Paul. (The Augustan Band were a noble, highly respected corps of legionary centurions in Italy.) Aristarchus is a Christian from Thessalonica. (Acts 19:29)
2. They board a trade ship belonging to Adramythium and travel 60 miles to Sidon. While docked there, Julius permits Paul to leave the ship and visit with friends and “refresh” himself. (We can imagine after being in prison at Cæsarea 2 years, Paul needed clothes and other personal items.)
3. As they set sail again, high winds drive them northward to Myra (next to Pamphylia). They change to a ship from Alexandria (in north Africa) carrying 276 passengers and a cargo of wheat to Italy.
4. Unfortunately, the wind was against them taking them 2-3 weeks to travel 130 miles. They dock first at Cnidus, then struggle on along the southern coast of Crete, stopping at Fair Havens to wait for more favorable weather.
5. Navigation on the Mediterranean was very unsafe between September and March; it was September or October at this time. Paul warns them of the great danger, injury and loss of property if they continued their voyage, but he is not heeded. Although the crew is divided in their judgment of the situation, they go on to Phoenix to harbor for the winter.
6. The north wind ceased to a breeze, momentarily, in Fair Havens and they set sail again, keeping close to the coast of Crete. Phoenix was only forty miles away and they hoped the breeze would last the few hours necessary to make the trip.
7. But a violent north wind arose and seized the ship, tossing it to and fro. They girded the ship with ropes or chains to hold it intact and lowered all the sails, fearing the winds might drive them southwest into the “Syrtis” or the African quick sands. All day they fought against the storm.
8. The second day, the storm grew more furious. They threw part of the wheat cargo overboard to stay afloat. The third day, they threw overboard the furniture of the ship that could be spared. The danger was great and increased every moment. The skies were so overcast, navigation was impossible. No land was in sight. Those on board had reached despair.
9. Paul reminds them he warned them against this voyage, but then calmly encourages them to take courage, for no one will perish. An

- angel had come to Paul in a vision to assure him that although they would lose the ship, they would all make it to shore.
10. On the 14th night, as they took a sounding, they found the depth of the sea to be 20 fathoms (120 feet). After a little while, they measured again and found the depth only 15 fathoms (90 feet), proof shore was near. The safest approach was to anchor in position and wait for daylight.
 11. Self preservation is aroused in the sailors and they decide to head for shore in the smaller boat. Paul, observing what they are about to do, warns the centurion that the help of the sailors was essential to the safety of all the others. The soldiers quickly cut the ropes to the boat being lowered, preventing the sailors escape.
 12. Waiting for dawn, anxiety and fear intense, Paul advises everyone to eat something for they would need their strength. Ironically, the prisoner, Paul, inspired them all, giving them courage and leadership. He was a positive influence, always giving God the glory.
 13. After eating, they throw overboard any cargo reserved for provisions. At daylight, the sailors did not recognize the island, but it seemed safe to run the ship ashore. But as they sail toward the shore, they are grounded some distance from shore. The rear of the ship is broken off in the force of the waves.
 14. The soldiers suggest killing the prisoners to keep them from escaping. (Roman law made soldiers answerable with their own lives for those in their charge.) But Paul had won the friendship of the centurion and instead, he has the soldiers swim to shore first; then they could take charge of the prisoners as they swim to shore. (Paul had suffered shipwreck 3 times before this (II Corinthians 11:15).) Those who could not swim would float on planks or furniture pieces to land. Paul's prophecy was fulfilled (Acts 27:24).
 15. The island turned out to be Melita (now called Malta). It is 65-70 miles south of Cilicia (Sicily). Those native to the island were very kind to the strangers. They made a fire to warm and dry them. As Paul was making himself useful gathering wood, a poisonous snake bites him. The superstitious natives suspect Paul to be a murderer and justice would have him die, but Paul shakes the viper off into the fire and no harm comes to him. Then the natives go to the other extreme, thinking he must be a god.
 16. The chief of the island, Publius, invites Paul, Luke, and Aristarchus to stay with him for 3 days entertaining them and showing great hospitality. But Publius' father is sick with a high fever and dysentery. Paul goes to his father, prays and lays hands on him to heal him. The immediate cure is made known all over the island. Soon others are brought for Paul to cure. This was another opportunity for Paul to spread the gospel of Christ. In gratitude, the natives generously give clothing and provisions to all those shipwrecked.
 17. After three months, at their earliest opportunity, they set sail again for Rome on a ship from Alexandria. They sail north to Syracuse, staying there three days, then on to Rhegium. Two days later, they arrive at Puteoli (a 26 hour voyage - 180 miles). Paul visits with Christians here

- seven days, then journeys on to Rome, where he meets with the Christians when they land.
18. Julius is lenient with Paul. He stays with a friend although a soldier must stand guard. Paul meets with the prominent Jews from the seven synagogues in Rome. He explains why he is a prisoner and defends himself for the "hope of Israel" (the expectation of the Messiah/the proof Jesus was that Messiah). The Jews of Judea had never expected Paul to make it to Rome, therefore, there were no formal charges represented against him. As usual, he used the law of Moses and the prophets to persuade them concerning Jesus.
 19. As usual, some believed and some did not. Paul applies Isaiah's prophesy to the non-believers (Isaiah 6:9,10) due to their stubborn and willful rejection of Jesus. Paul sadly warns them, then turns to the Gentiles with the gospel. (Within a few years of this, Jerusalem is destroyed and the Jews were no longer a nation.)
 20. Paul remains a prisoner under house arrest two years at Rome. He is sustained by gifts from other Christians (Philippians 4:14,15). During this time, he is not hindered from faithfully preaching and encouraging others (Philippians 4:4). He also writes Ephesians, Colossians, Philippians, and Philemon. Christianity had triumphantly spread across the civilized world!

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - paper chains, toy cuffs - Paul the prisoner
 - sword/breastplate/helmet - centurion/soldiers
 - boat/provisions (food, lifejacket, clothes, net, fishing pole, raincoat)
 - "refreshing" - soap/water/towel/clothes
 - map/cargo - wheat (grain/flour meal)
 - sound effects (tape) - storm, rain, lightning
 - rope/chain/boxes of "cargo"
 - food to eat - crackers, cereal, etc.
 - firewood/cellophane or tissue paper for fire/blanket/toy snake
 - chief's headdress - Publius/Jews' headdress
 - stationery (epistles)
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Puppets/Dolls
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- A Helper I Will Be
- Dare To Do Right

- I Can Dare To Be Brave
- I've Got Peace
- Jesus Savior Pilot Me
- Jordan River
- Paul, The Preacher
- Teach Me Lord To Wait
- The Lord Will Find A Way
- The Very Best Life
- Threatening Storms
- Throw Out The Lifeline
- What Will You Do With Jesus
- Where Could I Go

Activities:

- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. What has the Lord promised those who trust Him in every problem?
2. What scriptures come to mind that advise us on how to handle problems we might have? (I Thessalonians 5:16-18, Romans 8:35-39, Proverbs 3:5,6, Psalms 91:14,15)
3. What trouble did Paul and those on board have from the beginning of their voyage?
4. Why did Paul warn the captain not to continue the voyage?
5. What became the attitude of almost everyone on board?
6. How did Paul react? What did he have special the others didn't?
7. What is the first thing people want to do in a tough situation?
8. Give examples of how our decisions often ripple to affect others.

New Testament

Lesson 55: REVIEW OF ACTS

Text: Acts 1-28

FILL IN THE BLANK:

1. Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, _____, and be _____ every one of you in the name of _____ for the _____ of _____, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.
2. Acts 3:19 _____ ye therefore, and be converted, that your _____ may be blotted out, when the times of _____ shall come from the presence of the Lord;
3. Acts 5:29 Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey _____ rather than _____.
4. Acts 8:4 Therefore they that were scattered abroad went _____ preaching the _____.
5. Acts 8:36,37 And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is _____; what doth hinder me to be _____? And Philip said, If thou _____ with all thine heart, thou _____. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the _____ of _____.
6. Acts 10:34 Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no _____ of persons:
7. Acts 11:26b And the disciples were called _____ first in Antioch.
8. Acts 17:11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures _____, whether those things were so.
9. Acts 20:7 And upon the _____ day of the _____, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until _____.
10. Acts 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you _____, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own _____.

TRUE OR FALSE:

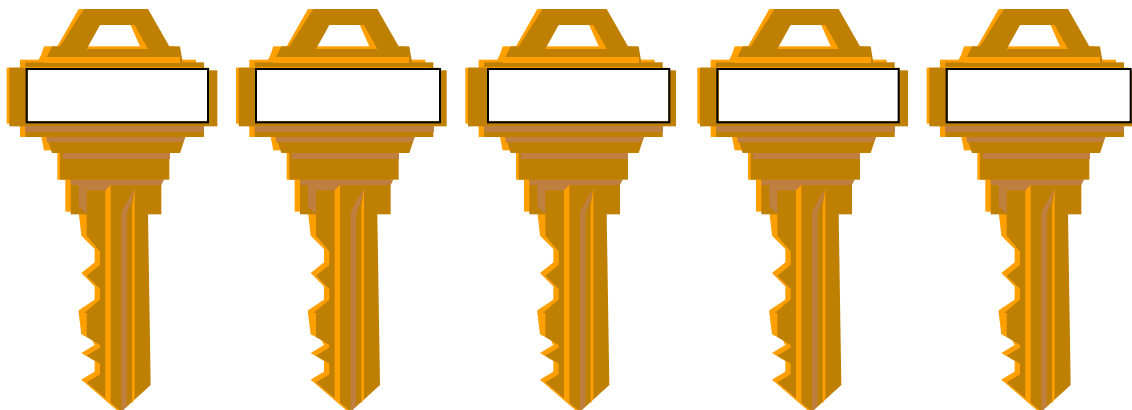
1. You are too young to tell someone else about Jesus.
2. We can find joy in sharing and meeting the needs of others.
3. Sometimes "white" lies are okay to tell.
4. We should always tell the truth and be as faithful to Jesus as Stephen was willing to give up everything for Him.
5. Baptism is not necessary to receive salvation from sins and go to heaven.
6. Anyone's life can be changed for good by trusting and obeying Jesus.
7. Jesus opened salvation up to everyone, to the Jews and Gentiles.

8. Jesus commissions all of us that will follow Him to spread the gospel throughout our part of the world.
9. It's important for us to meet together and encourage one another in living the Christian life.
10. Fortune telling, astrology, sorcery or witchcraft are okay to do.
11. No matter what the obstacle or circumstance, you can always trust the Lord to guide you to the right decision.
12. You should always stick up for what is right, no matter who or how many are against you.
13. If we become Christians, God will take away all our problems forever.

MATCHING:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1. Saul | A. died for lying |
| 2. Peter | B. taught the Ethiopian Eunuch |
| 3. Ananias and Sapphira | C. a devout centurion that Peter taught |
| 4. Stephen | D. preached in Jerusalem on Pentecost |
| 5. Philip | E. Barnabas' cousin |
| 6. Cornelius | F. seller of purple |
| 7. John Mark | G. another name for Paul |
| 8. Barnabas | H. first Christian martyr (stoned) |
| 9. Lydia | I. faithful companion to Paul on his 1st journey |
| 10. Aquila and Priscilla | J. a young man Paul loved |
| 11. Eutychus | K. wrote the book of Acts |
| 12. Luke | L. Christian tentmakers |
| 13. Demetrius | M. a silversmith who made idols |
| 14. Silas | N. went with Paul on his 2nd missionary journey |
| 15. Simon | O. the sorcerer |
| 16. Timothy | P. fell out of a window |

LIST THE KEYS TO SALVATION:



MULTIPLE CHOICE:

1. Paul was born in
a. Athens b. Tarsus
2. Before Paul became a Christian, he _____ Christians.
a. listened to b. persecuted
3. On the road to Damascus, Paul
a. was blinded b. had a stroke
4. Paul went on three
a. missionary journeys b. cruises
5. Paul was a _____ by trade.
a. doctor b. tentmaker
6. Paul was a citizen of
a. Rome b. Jerusalem
7. Paul was taught by
a. Socrates b. Gamaliel
8. Paul had been a member of the
a. Pharisees b. Sadducees
9. Paul established _____ everywhere he taught.
a. schools b. churches
10. Paul was bitten by a _____ when he was shipwrecked.
a. scorpion b. poisonous snake
11. _____ preached the first sermon in Jerusalem at Pentecost.
a. Peter b. Paul
12. _____ was imprisoned first for preaching about Jesus.
a. Peter b. Paul
13. _____ healed a woman named Dorcas.
a. Peter b. Paul
14. _____ took the gospel to the Gentiles first.
a. Peter b. Paul
15. _____ was imprisoned in Rome for at least two years.
a. Peter b. Paul

DISCUSSION:

1. What do you think is the most important lesson you learned in our study of Acts?

ANSWERS:

Fill In The Blank:

1. repent, baptized, Jesus Christ, remission, sins
2. repent, sins, refreshing
3. God, man
4. every, where, word
5. water, baptized, believest, mayest, Son, God
6. respecter
7. Christians
8. daily
9. first, week, midnight
10. overseers, blood

True Or False:

- | | | |
|----------|----------------|-----------|
| 1. False | 6. True | 11. True |
| 2. True | 7. True | 12. False |
| 3. False | 8. False | 13. True |
| 4. True | 9. False, all | 14. True |
| 5. False | 10. False, God | 15. False |

Matching:

- | | | |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. G | 7. E | 13. M |
| 2. D | 8. I | 14. N |
| 3. A | 9. F | 15. O |
| 4. H | 10. L | 16. J |
| 5. B | 11. P | |
| 6. C | 12. K | |

List The Keys To Salvation:

Hear, Believe, Repent, Confess, Baptism

Multiple Choice:

- | | | |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. b | 6. a | 11. a |
| 2. b | 7. b | 12. a |
| 3. a | 8. a | 13. a |
| 4. a | 9. b | 14. a |
| 5. b | 10. b | 15. b |

New Testament
Lesson 56: INTRODUCTION TO ROMANS

Text: Romans 1-4

Memory Verses:	Romans 1:16,17	For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.
	Romans 2:6	Who will render to every man according to his deeds:
	Romans 2:11	For there is no respect of persons with God.
	Romans 3:23-25	For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood, to declare His righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

Goals:	Student will learn: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baptism is a symbolic death and burial of sin and a resurrection to a "new" life (being born again). • Living a sinful life will bring eternal damnation.
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Outline:

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| I. Introduction to Romans. | Romans 1:1-17 |
| A. Paul the author. | |
| B. Paul's great desire to visit Rome. | |
| C. The gospel - the power of God unto salvation. | |

- II. God's wrath against sin. Romans 1:18-3:20
 - A. All have sinned and will meet judgment.
 - B. All need God's grace, both Jew and Gentile.

- III. Salvation by grace. Romans 3:21-4
 - A. The way to spiritual restoration.
 - B. Righteousness - a gift of God.
 - 1. Through faith.
 - 2. Example of Abraham.

Facts:

1. Paul wrote letters ("epistles") by inspiration of the Holy Spirit to Christians in different cities to encourage, instruct, or correct them in their worship and work for God. He wrote fourteen letters in all (including Hebrews).
2. The author is usually named at the beginning of a letter since it was written on scrolls that would have to be completely unwound to discover who the letter was from. Paul calls himself a "servant," referring to the great responsibility upon him to serve Christ as an apostle, spreading the gospel. (Acts 26:15-18)
3. In his greeting, he states his representation (of Jesus Christ) and directs his letter to the saints (Christians) in Rome. He commends them for their great faith in Christ, which had become known throughout the world.
4. He had longed for the opportunity to visit them. Although he had planned to do so sooner, God had led him in other directions. (Acts 27:7-44) Aquila and Priscilla were from Rome.
5. He hoped to bestow upon them spiritual gifts by laying on of hands, in order that they might understand more thoroughly God's will, be strengthened in faith and confirm God's word to reach others for Christ. He felt a deep indebtedness to the Lord to fulfill His commission to teach the gospel at every opportunity and to bring glory to God and Christ. (I Corinthians 9:16,17)
6. The Greeks called anyone who did not speak Greek, "Barbarians." The Romans called anyone not able to speak Latin, "Barbarians." Paul was anxious to teach all classes of people.
7. Although teaching the gospel had brought Paul persecution and suffering, he was never ashamed of being a Christian, always anxiously seeking someone to teach. Paul was so moved by the sacrifice of Jesus, he denied himself the comforts of the world while working daily for the gospel's sake. (Hebrews 7:25) He always kept focused on the eternal treasure that awaited him in heaven.
8. Paul sought to reinforce 1) salvation come only through acceptance of the gospel 2) to all that believe and have faith (both Jew and Gentile) (Mark 16:16) 3) This faith must be followed by obedience to God's will. (James 2:20) Truth will not mold our character unless it is practiced. Following God's ways molds our character to be like God's.

9. God hates sin. He tolerates those led into sin for a while, patiently hoping they will repent and follow Him, but sooner or later, He will prevail and those who refuse His plan of salvation will perish and suffer the consequences. Paul shows the universal need for a remedy for sin, pointing the way to the gospel of Christ through believing and obeying God's will. (Ephesians 2:12, I Corinthians 1:21, Romans 1:17)
10. God revealed Himself to all. Those who are conceited and imagine themselves wise enough to live without God are a "reprobate mind," wholly given to sin and abhorrent behavior.
11. Unrighteousness - not walking in light of God's word
Wickedness - unrestrained indulgence
Covetousness - undue desire to own
Maliciousness - deep-seated hate which takes pleasure in doing personal injury.
Envy - selfish ill
Murder - unlawful killing
Strife - angry contention; quarrelsome; seeks to irritate
Deceit - to deceive; lead in error
Malignity - looks at every action with an evil motive
Whispers - secrets, innuendoes, hurts the character of others
Backbiters - speak ill of others not present
Hateful to God - disrespectful of God
Insolent - offensive, grossly disrespectful, trample the rights of others
Haughty - conceit, feeling superior
Boastful - bragging
Inventors of evil - every species of wickedness that one could imagine
Disobedient to parents - casting off old, sick parents, to starve, die of cold/heat, or violence of wild beast
Without understanding - unwilling to know God's truth
Covenant breakers - violate obligations by covenants (promises)
Without natural affection - leaving infants to die, husband who abandons wife
and children, gloating over dying agonies
Unmerciful - incapable of showing mercy to poor, sick, or helpless
12. God is no respecter of persons.
13. All persons outside of Christ are in a lost condition and can only be saved by redemption found in Christ. The Jews were hearing the gospel, but not obeying it. (Luke 12 :47) They thought they had improved upon God's law with their customs and traditions. They did not practice what they preached, thus Christ called them hypocrites. Paul, here, shows the Jews they are sinners like the Gentiles, needing God's grace. (Isaiah 52:5, Ezekiel 36:18-24)
14. Circumcision was the mark of the Jews binding them to the service of God, but its value was subject to their keeping God' law; otherwise, being a descendant of Abraham and circumcised was useless. The same principle applies to the gospel. Faith is worthless without repentance, so is baptism

- without faith, and becoming a Christian is useless unless it is followed by a life devoted to God. (Colossians 2:11,12, Romans 10:10)
15. Thus, Paul brings the Jews full circle by showing although they once had God's favor, they were not above God's law and must submit to it or suffer the consequences. All have sinned and fallen short of God's glory. Salvation from destruction is only through redemption in Christ. One must believe in Jesus as God's son, repent of wrong doing, confess before others their belief in Christ as God's son, be baptized for forgiveness of sins, then live according to God's law until death. We should work to receive that same spiritual treasure in heaven for which Paul strove. (I Corinthians 15:3,4, Hebrews 9:13-15)
 16. Propitiate - make favorable
 17. The law of Moses was established to be fulfilled, completed, and taken out of the way by Christ, as our "tutor." (Galatians 3;19-25)
 18. Faith transforms our hearts. Faith led Abraham away from home and friends to follow God, to offer up Isaac his son of promise. His faith was perfected by his obedience. (Genesis 15:5, Hebrews 11:11,12) David also was faithful; even though he sinned, he repented and remained submissive to God. (Psalms 32:1,2, James 2:21,22)
 19. We, too, will be held accountable to God for our acceptance or rejection of Christ.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - "scroll" (dowel sticks and paper), stationery
 - Aquila/Priscilla, Greek/Roman, Jew/Gentile characters
 - "eternal treasure" - mansion in clouds/treasure chest, play money, jewels, pictures of happiness/tranquility
 - examples of doing good, sin & consequences, fairness (God's judgment)
 - plan of salvation
 - Abraham/David
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Puppets/Dolls
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- Down In My Heart
- Father Abraham
- God Is Mercy
- Happiness Is
- He Signed My Deed
- I Am Free Free Free
- Jesus Is Lord
- Jesus Loves Me
- Jesus Wants Me For A Sunbeam
- My Faith Looks Up To Thee
- One Door And Only One
- One Way To Peace
- Prepare To Meet Thy God
- The Very Best Life
- Tis So Sweet To Trust
- We Are One In The Spirit

Activities:

- Application stories/activities: faith, grace, sin, Jew/Gentile, boasting/superiority
- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. Who has committed sin?
2. Who needs God's grace or forgiveness?
3. What is salvation?
4. How does Paul's letter to the church in Rome apply to us?
5. How does God feel about sin?
6. What are the consequences of sin?
7. What is faith? Give some examples of faith.
8. Why was Paul anxious to go to Rome?
9. Why was Paul not ashamed to be a Christian even though he'd been criticized, arrested, beaten and put in prison for being one?

New Testament
Lesson 57: JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH
SIN AND REDEMPTION

Text: Romans 5-8

Memory Verses:	Romans 5:8	But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.
	Romans 6:3,4	Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death? Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.
	Romans 6:23	For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
	Romans 8:28	And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.
	Romans 8:31	What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?
	Romans 8:38-39	For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Goals:	Student will learn: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Baptism is a symbolic death and burial of sin and a resurrection to a “new” life (being born again).• Living a sinful life will bring eternal damnation.
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Outline:

- I. Justification through faith. Romans 5
 - A. Brings peace with God.
 - B. Righteousness comes through Christ.

- II. The fallacy of sinning that grace may abound. Romans 6
 - A. Baptism and the new birth.
 - B. The wages of sin is eternal death.

- III. We are new creatures in Christ. Romans 7
 - A. The old law made sin apparent.
 - B. The struggle against sin.

- IV. Victory over condemnation through Christ. Romans 8
 - A. Flesh vs. spirit.
 - B. Holy Spirit makes intercession.
 - C. Triumph of the believers by God's love.

Facts:

1. Being justified in God's sight comes through our faith in Jesus as God's son and the belief that He died on the cross for remission of our sins. This sacrifice of His son, Jesus, was the supreme example of how much God loves us.
2. Grace is the unmerited favor of God to call righteous those that have been obedient to the doctrine of Christ. It is a gift; we do not earn/deserve it. Like any gift, it needs to be received to enjoy its blessings. Tribulation is the trials of our faith, the testing of our faith, the day to day pressures of life that produce endurance, character and patience.
3. Christ died for all men, both good and bad. He offers peace, harmony, and the hope of heaven with God to everyone who is willing to come to Christ.
4. Because of Adam's sin, all mankind will die a physical death. We all have committed sin, yet God's grace is more powerful than sin. If we obey Christ's new covenant of Christianity, His grace will overshadow our sins and, through baptism, wash them away.
5. We cannot continue to sin just because of God's grace. When we are baptized into Christ's death, we have died to a sinful life. We are “buried” and “raised” with Christ in order to live a fresh new life day-to-day.

6. One set free from sin should not return to the old pattern of sinful living. Although the possibility of sinning is always present, we must determine to give up sin in our lives and constantly live to please God. Christ gives us the strength to accomplish this.
7. Paul tells us we either love God or sin. We cannot give allegiance to both. If we are slaves to sin, the result is spiritual death. If we remain committed to God, He will reward us with eternal life in heaven.
8. Paul illustrates the relationship of one to the old law and to Christ. (Romans 8:1-6) The old law was nailed to the cross and we are free to belong to Christ. He uses the analogy of a woman bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if he dies, she is free to marry another.
9. Without the law, sin is not apparent to us. We all have struggles between right and wrong. Paul tells us when he became a Christian, that struggle intensified.
10. Sin deceives us. Satan is tricky and his objective is eternal death. Fighting the desire to sin is a continual battle for each of us. The thought of being captive to sin caused Paul to cry out for help from Christ, our deliverer.
11. The Old Testament law required a way of life mankind could not live up to. So God sent His son in the flesh. Although He did not commit any sin, He suffered temptation, pain, and death for our sins.
12. Those that disregard Christ's sacrifice are hostile toward God, unwilling to subject themselves to Him. God is not pleased with them.
13. Spiritual death is the final banishment from God's presence. Spiritual life is a glorified life in heaven awaiting each obedient believer as a child of God.
14. "Abba" is Aramaic, meaning father. As believers, we are adopted by God (our father) as an heir with Christ of all God's blessings. But to be a joint heir with Christ means to be a fellow sufferer with Christ. Any suffering on earth cannot compare to the great rewards of heaven.
15. Sin brought distortion to the universe, making it subject to deterioration.
16. To those who continually express love for God in attitude and action, those called according to His plan, good things will come.
17. God loved us so much, He gave Jesus to die that we might be redeemed. Nothing can separate us from the love God/Christ extends to us.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - Jesus, nails, and the cross - emphasize His great suffering
 - present day examples of grace/mercy
 - present day exs. of trials/temptations-lying, stealing, cheating, etc.
 - Adam/Eve - tree of knowledge
 - death-tombstone
 - doll, water - simulate baptism/burial/washing away sin
 - examples of sinful life/Christian life
 - examples of old law/new law

New Testament
Lesson 58: GRACE – SALVATION IS FOR ALL
CHRISTIAN LIVING

Text: Romans 9-12

Memory Verses:	Romans 10:9,10	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. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.
	Romans 10:17	So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.
	Romans 12:1,2	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. 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 12:15	Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.
	Romans 12:17	Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.
	Romans 12:21	Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

Goals:	Student will learn: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• God offers salvation to everyone on an equal basis; we must be willing to obey Him.• We, as Christians, have certain duties to God in our daily living.
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Outline:

- I. The calling of the Gentiles/rejection of the Jews. Romans 9
 - A. Paul's sorrow for the Jews.
 - B. Children of promise
 - C. God controls wrath and mercy.

- II. Salvation is for all. Romans 10,11
 - A. Righteousness of the law vs. righteousness of faith.
 - B. The hardness of the Jews predicted.
 - C. Branches of the olive tree.
 1. Cutting off of the Jews.
 2. Grafting in of the Gentiles.
 3. Boasting.

- III. Christian living. Romans 12
 - A. Divine mercy moves us to be transformed.
 - B. Love/Duty.

Facts:

1. Paul felt a deep sorrow for his fellow Jews. He wanted so much for them to open their eyes and accept the gospel of Christ so they could claim salvation and God's favor again, but most would not. They stubbornly held on to the idea that, because they had once been called "God's chosen people," they would always be God's children.
2. Although God had "adopted" the Jews as His own, they had become complacent in the law and taken their position with Him for granted. They felt God could not reject them, but God can do exactly as He chooses; He is free, righteous and sovereign in His own being. They had closed their eyes to God's fulfillment of the old law with the coming of the promised Messiah and rejected Christ, thus rejecting God and His plan. Because of this, God rejected them as His chosen nation.
3. Paul further illustrates God can choose as He wills by reminding us He chose to bless Isaac over Ishmael (Genesis 16) and Jacob rather than Esau (Genesis 25:23). He can choose to have mercy or wrath on whomever He wants; for example, He showed mercy on the Israelites

- when they worshipped the golden calf (Exodus 32:19), yet He earlier had hardened Pharaoh's heart against them to prove His power over all the earth. (Exodus 7:13)
4. Paul also illustrates the absurdity of their questioning God's fairness, by using Jeremiah's example of the potter having complete control over use of the clay. (Jeremiah 18:4-6)
 5. He reminds them of the prophecies of Hosea 2:23 and Isaiah 10:22,23 where only a remnant of God's chosen people were saved. God will not be patient and long suffering forever, waiting for us to relinquish our will to His and become obedient. Eventually we will be judged according to the life we chose.
 6. In asserting Christ's deity, our inward conviction must have outward expression by confessing that we believe Christ is God's son.
 7. There can be no calling without belief or trust, no belief or trust without hearing, no hearing without preaching, no preaching if we are not commissioned. Reaching others for God begins by our being messengers (Isaiah 52:7), even though some, like the Jews, will not listen.
 8. Although most of the Jews of Paul's day turned their backs on Christianity, some like Paul did not. Paul reminds those of Rome that there was a Godly remnant in Elijah's day as well and God would not turn His back on them as long as they are faithful to His purpose.
 9. God wants to have mercy on everyone. He wants to reconcile both Jew and Gentile in Christ.
 10. Paul gives two metaphors: 1) Christ was offered as the first fruits of Israel and humanity. He was of Abraham's seed (the root), making Him holy and acceptable toward God in fulfilling the law. The Jews should have recognized this. (Leviticus 23:10-14, Colossians 1:17)
 11. 2) He illustrates the breaking off of olive branches (the Jews) who produced no fruit (unacceptable service to God). He "replaces" them by grafting in wild olive branches (the Gentiles) to receive life from the richness of the root. He also warns that those grafted in (Gentiles) had no right to boast, for if God would not spare the natural branches (Jews) for lack of bearing fruit, neither would He spare them. (John 15:2)
 12. God's plan enabled Him to show mercy to both the Jews and the Gentiles. He is able to make the rebellion of man serve a purpose in His plan. God's riches, wisdom and knowledge cannot be fathomed. Paul gives glory to God as the source, sustainer and goal of all.
 13. God's divine mercy should move us to give ourselves daily in spiritual service to God with our minds "transformed" to discovering God's will, not our own or our "worldly" associations.
 14. We should be humble, well balanced in our evaluation, not thinking of ourselves above others. God has given us all gifts and measures of faith. We are to use them to the degree we have been blessed. (Hebrews 11) We must be faithful in our personal Christian duties of

- service such as encouraging others, comforting, teaching, giving, helping others, showing compassion, and cheerfulness.
15. Character traits of a Christian:
 1. Love is to be genuine/sincere
 2. Do good constantly
 3. Show respect and devotion to one another
 4. Be aglow with the spirit of Christ; fair in our work
 5. Rejoice in our hope of heaven
 6. Endure affliction through prayer
 7. Be hospitable - providing for the needs of others
 8. Be kind to those who do evil to you
 9. Share the rejoicing and sorrow of others
 10. Seek the good for everyone
 11. Get along with others
 12. Be kind to your enemies - overcoming evil with good
 16. Vengeance and recompense are to be handled by God alone.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:

Doll(s)/puppet(s): Paul
Jew & Gentile
Christ
Isaac/Ishmael
Jacob/Esau
Pharaoh

clay, lazy susan for potter's wheel

large plant - uprooted / pruning shears to cut branches
grafting to other branches

pot

examples of Christian service/traits:

comfort

teaching - Bible

giving - money / food / time / clothes

compassion - tissue / bandaid

cheer - smile

hospitality - pillow / food

sharing - cookie

kindness to evil

- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Puppets/Dolls
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- A Helper I Will Be
- Be Like Jesus
- Cheerfully Obey
- Company Is Coming
- Do You Talk About Jesus
- He Lives
- I Am The Vine
- I John 4:7,8
- I Like To Talk To God
- I Want To Go To Heaven
- I'm Happy Today
- Isn't It Grand To Be Christian
- Jesus Is My Friend
- Jesus Loves Little Children
- Jesus Went About Doing Good
- John 13:34,35
- Love, Love, Love, Love
- More Holiness Give Me
- Our God Is So Big
- Purer In Heart O God
- Tis So Sweet
- The Very Best Life

Activities:

- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. To whom does God offer salvation?
2. What duties do we have as Christians?
3. How did Paul feel about his fellow Jews?
4. Who does God answer to?
5. Explain Paul's illustration of the olive tree.
6. What is the purpose of confessing Christ?
7. Who are God's messengers?
8. How is a Christian to live? (What character traits does he/she exhibit?)
9. Who may exhibit vengeance or retaliation?

New Testament
Lesson 59: HOW TO TREAT OTHERS
SALUTATIONS

Text: Romans 13-16

Memory Verses:	Romans 14:12,13	So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God. Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumbling block or an occasion to fall in his brother's way.
	Romans 15:1	We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.
	Romans 15:4	For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.
	Romans 16:16	Salute one another with a holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you.
	Romans 16:17	Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.

Goals:	Student will learn: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are to leave judgment to God. • We are to show brotherly love so as never to discourage or destroy another's faith in Christ. • Treat others as we would like to be treated.
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Outline:

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|--|-----------|
| I. The Christian and civil government. | Romans 13 |
| A. Appointed by God. | |
| B. Protection to the law abiding. | |
| C. Taxes and customs. | |
| D. Loving, holy manner of life. | |

- II. Differences of opinion. Romans 14
 - A. Food/special days.
 - B. Judge not one another.
 - C. Brotherly love/stumbling blocks.

- III. Mutual love and forbearance. Romans 15
 - A. Strong bear the weak.
 - B. Christ's example.
 - C. Paul's apostleship.

- IV. Personal salutations. Romans 16
 - A. Greetings.
 - B. Warnings against division.
 - C. Farewells.

Facts:

1. God, being the source of all authority, has appointed human governments for the common welfare of mankind. He commands us to obey our civil rulers in the interest of order and justice, except on occasions when their rule conflicts with God's. Nero was an example of this.
2. Taxes gathered from the Roman provinces were called tribute. Customs were a toll on goods, similar to our tariff. This was usually collected at the city gates on all goods entering. (Matthew 9:9)
3. We are to pay our obligations (bills) to everyone we owe. Treat others as you would like to be treated.
4. Be ever ready, by the godly life that you lead, to face God in judgment, for we don't know how soon that may come. (Matthew 24:36, I Thessalonians 5:1,2, II Thessalonians 2:1)
5. During this time, some of the new Jewish Christians thought it still wrong to eat meats that under the Old Testament law had been called unclean. Some of the Essenes (a primitive race in Eden) believed they must be vegetarians. Some new converts did not understand the new law had ended the Jewish law.
6. Each Christian is a servant of God and He alone is our judge. (Isaiah 45:23) We are not to judge one another.
7. Rather, we are to watch for anything we might do that would be a stumbling block to someone else. A stumbling block is anything which might cause a brother/sister to fall away from Christianity. If one is offended by something you do that he feels is sinful, the right thing to do is abstain from it for his sake, otherwise your influence for Christ will be tarnished. (I Thessalonians 5:11, I Corinthians 8:13)

8. Whenever we do something that violates our conscience, it is sin. When we aren't sure if it is right or wrong, we must not do it.
9. Justification: forgiveness of sins.
Minister of circumcision: a Jew of the seed of Abraham.
10. "Bear the infirmities of the weak." We are not to seek to please ourselves, but must please others, promoting peace that they may grow in Christ. Christ never pleased Himself. (Psalms 69:, Philippians 2:5-7) Our spirit should be as Christ's, to glorify God, the Father, in all we do.
11. Christ came to fulfill the Old Testament prophecies and to open salvation to the Gentiles that they might glorify God for His infinite mercy towards them. (Psalms 18:49, Deuteronomy 32:43, Psalms 97:1, Isaiah 11:10) The hope we have in Christ is a source of great joy.
12. Illyricum - north of Greece on the Adriatic Sea. Jerusalem was near the southeast corner of the Mediterranean Sea. Paul's missionary efforts encompassed the east and northeast shores of the sea. His policy was to go to "new fields." (II Corinthians 10:12-16, Isaiah 52:15)
13. Paul mentions his intent to go to Jerusalem (carried out in Acts 24:17) to deliver the contribution of the Gentile Christians of Macedonia to the poor saints there.
14. Since Jerusalem was the center from which the gospel had spread, those Christians had received the brunt of persecution, loss of goods, and loss of employment; thus, their needs were great.
15. Paul requests their prayers, for he knows the bitter hostility he will face from the Jews in Jerusalem and those prejudiced against him by false rumors.
16. Phoebe, a Christian sister, delivers this letter for Paul from Corinth to the church in Rome. She was going that way on business and Paul asks them to warmly make her welcome. Cenchreæ was a seaport 9 miles southeast of Corinth on the Ægean Sea.
17. He sends his regards to:
Priscilla and Aquila - fellow Christian friends who had helped Paul in Corinth (Acts 18:2), who prepared the way for him in Ephesus (Acts 18:26), and who now had returned home. At some time they had endured great danger to help Paul. Early Christians often met in the homes of brethren, as Aquila and Priscilla.
First fruits of Achaia - the family of Stephanas were the first converts of Achaia. (I Corinthians 16:15)
Epænetus - was an early convert in Ephesus.
Andronicus, Junias - most likely family members of Paul. Paul mentions other fellow Christians (men and women) dear to him for their faithful work in Christ.
18. A kiss is a common salutation in the east even now.
19. Paul warns them to mark false teachers of the gospel that try to cause divisions in the church and avoid them. He warns that they seek the unsuspecting, so know the scriptures and do not be deceived.

20. Paul bids farewell, along with Timothy, who is with him (Acts 20:4), Lucius (Acts 13:1), Jason (Acts 17:5), Sosipater (Acts 20:4), Tertius, who writes this letter for Paul, Gaius (I Corinthians 1:14), who offered Paul the hospitality of his home, and Erastus, the city treasurer (Acts 19:22, II Timothy 4:20).

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - some association with law/government, constitution, bill of rights,
 - policeman's hat, badge, black robe, gavel, king's crown, scepter, jail
 - taxes, tax form, play money, coins
 - unclean meat, sample of bacon, ham, sausage
 - blocks with examples of causes for stumbling
 - sample of a bill, statement, receipt
 - application examples/activities of the strong bearing the weak
 - map, compass
 - letter, stationery
 - application stories/activities on how to treat others
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Puppets/Dolls
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| • A Helper I Will Be | • My Helping Hand |
| • A New Commandment I Give | • Showing Love |
| • Angry Words | • Thank You Lord |
| • Blest Be The Tie | • The Very Best Life |
| • Dare To Do Right | • Watch Your Eyes |
| • I Want To Go To Heaven | • We Are One In The Spirit |
| • I've Got My Head In Heaven | • What Can I Do |
| • Love, Love, Love, Love | • When Jesus Comes |

Activities:

- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. Who is in a position to judge the actions/heart of others?
2. What is a stumbling block?
3. What obligations do we have as Christians to our government?
4. What things, as Christians, can we have different opinions on?
5. How can you show brotherly love?
6. Explain how the strong should bear the weak?
7. Of what does Paul warn the Romans?
8. Where does Paul write this letter? Who delivers it for him?
9. What were some of the new converts of Paul's time having trouble understanding?
10. How important is your influence on others? How can it be tarnished?

Commentaries used:

People's New Testament With Notes by B.W. Johnson
Commentary on Romans by David Lipscomb and J.W. Shepherd

New Testament
Lesson 60: UNITY – CHRIST IS OUR FOUNDATION

Text: I Corinthians 1-4

Memory Verses:	I Corinthians 1:10	Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.
	I Corinthians 1:18	For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish, foolishness; but unto us which are saved, it is the power of God.
	I Corinthians 3:6	I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.
	I Corinthians 3:11	For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Goals:	<p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If we do not study God's word, we can be easily misled by false teachers. • As Christians, we are united in Christ and do not wear names of men.
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Outline:

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| <p>I. Introduction.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">A. Salutations.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">B. Unity.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">C. Honoring human leaders reprovod.</p> | I Corinthians 1 |
| <p>II. Christ crucified.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">A. Power of the spirit.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">B. Divine wisdom.</p> | I Corinthians 2 |
| <p>III. Divisions.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">A. Rebuke strife.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">B. Christ is our foundation.</p> | I Corinthians 3 |

- IV. The apostles and the church. I Corinthians 4
- A. Stewards of God's mysteries.
 - B. Trials.
 - C. Be ye imitators of me.

Facts:

1. Paul receives word, through the household of Chloe, of divisions and immorality among the Christians at Corinth.
2. Corinth was a heathen metropolis and commercial center. The majority of converts there were Gentiles, not used to Christian morality. They knew little of Old Testament scriptures and were still without the written New Testament. They had gone astray and been victims of false teachers.
3. Paul reaffirms his divine calling as an apostle, as Judaizing teachers had come to Corinth saying he was not an apostle. Sosthenes was the chief ruler of the synagogue in Corinth and was influential among the Corinthians. (Acts 18:17) "Those that are sanctified" are Christians.
4. Paul begins by praising them. They, like other Christians, eagerly awaited the Lord's return and he assures them God will keep His promise.
5. Then Paul addresses their divisions. He earnestly implores them to be united, not to divide into different groups. Some had called themselves the Pauline party (after Paul), some "those of Apollos." There was a party of Jews called after Cephas (Peter) and a fourth group who claimed to be only of Christ. Paul reminds them the cross binds us to Christ alone; His body cannot be cut into parts. He says he is glad that he baptized none of these except Crispus (Acts 18:8), Gaius (Romans 16:23), and the household of Stephanus so they could not claim he had baptized in his own name. His job was to preach.
6. The Greek philosophers and Jewish scribes scoffed at the thought of a saviour having been crucified. They taught His crucifixion proved him a fake, but Isaiah 29:14 predicted these men would not search out the true God and they would be confused by the gospel. (Matthew 21:24) Their pagan religions and governments would be overthrown by the influence of the gospel, thus demonstrating God as most powerful.
7. God chose things and people the world would call weak or of not much value to reveal the "testimony of God," the gospel. (Ephesians 3:9, I Timothy 3:16) The Holy Spirit gave the apostles the ability to powerfully preach the gospel and so move men to obey.
8. Yet, the Christians in Corinth had not grown in God's word as they should. Paul says they are still "babies" fed on milk (the basics of Christianity). They should be "the perfect," full grown Christian eating the "meat" of the gospel. They must develop a spiritual hunger for God's word so they can know more of God's divine wisdom.

9. The natural man - uninspired man.
Spiritual man - inspired of the Holy Ghost.
Princes of this world - men of leadership among the Jews, Greeks, and Romans.
10. The Corinthians proved their lack of growth in God's word by their divisions in the church, following human leaders instead of Christ.
11. Paul says he and Apollos are merely servants of Christ. Paul's job for God was to "plant" the seed of the kingdom. Apollos came later to "water" or cultivate the young Christian "plants." But God gives the plant its life, vitality, and growth. The Corinthian church was God's "field" in which they as fellow laborers served.
12. Paul illustrates again using a building. The church is the building. Paul and Apollos are God's employees/builders. Paul laid the foundation. Apollos and others continued to build upon that foundation. (Matthew 16:16, Isaiah 28:16)
13. Every man's work as a "builder" will be judged by God. If it withstands the tests/trials, the builder shall be rewarded, but if it perishes, it was worthless to God.
14. We are God's, bought with the price of Christ's shed blood. We are given life to do God's work, not to give glory and honor to human leaders.
15. Paul warns Christians not to judge others, for God will judge each one as he/she deserves. He warns not to exalt one preacher over another or be boastful and conceited.
16. The apostles were to faithfully teach the gospel despite the reproach, attacks, and suffering which they bore until their deaths. The worldly called them fools for their service to Christ. They often went without food and clothing, they were beaten, and they had no house to call their home. They worked in other ways to make enough money to support themselves and always returned good for evil. For their faith the world considered them scum, yet what true heroes they are to us for the trials they suffered!
17. Paul closes by saying, as a father figure, they should imitate his example of self-denial and humility. Timothy would soon be coming to them to continue teaching. If God permitted, he would soon follow. He would confront those boasters if still necessary, but Paul hoped these problems would be resolved by that time and he could praise their growth in the Lord.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - map - Paul's 3rd missionary journey
 - stationery/scroll
 - picture of a "metropolitan" area
 - blocks in the form of a church building or a body (that can be taken

apart) - wood, clay, paper, etc.
name tags or hats - "Paul's group," "Apollos' group," "Cephas'
followers," "Christ's followers"
Christ on the cross
baby bottle – milk / meat
Bible
seeds, plant pots, water
building blocks, foundation - Legos
pictures of the apostles in service to God
Timothy

- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Puppets/Dolls
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- A Common Love
- Be Like Jesus
- Dare To Do Right
- Galatians 2:20
- God Is Not Dead
- God Keeps His Promises
- Humble Yourself
- Joined With Christ
- Make Me A Servant
- My Best Friend Is Jesus
- Our God Is So Big
- Paul The Preacher
- Ready To Suffer
- Rise And Shine
- Sowing Seed Of Kingdom
- Take My Life & Let It Be
- The Temple Of The Lord
- The Very Best Life
- The Wiseman/Foolishman
- Unto Perfection
- We Are One In The Spirit
- Without Him

Activities:

- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. How do Paul's teachings here in Corinthians expose denominationalism?
2. Explain unity.
3. Why were the great philosophers and Jewish scribes of the first century confused/non accepting of Christ and the gospel.
4. Explain what Paul means when he says they are babies unable to eat meat.
5. What illustrations does Paul use to explain his job for God?
6. What had the apostles suffered for Christ? What have you suffered for Christ?

New Testament
Lesson 61: CHURCH DISCIPLINE/MARRIAGE

Text: I Corinthians 5-8

Memory Verses:	I Corinthians 5:6,7	Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:
	I Corinthians 6:19,20	What! know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.
	I Corinthians 7:39	The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord.

Goals:	Student will learn: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the importance of choosing a Christian mate for a lifetime. • it is more pleasing to God to suffer being wronged than to do wrong to another.
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Outline:

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| <p>I. Impurity in the church.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">A. Fornication.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">B. Old leaven.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">C. Other grievous sins.</p> | I Corinthians 5 |
| <p>II. Litigation among brethren.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">A. Suffer wrong rather than do wrong.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">B. Christian's body a temple.</p> | I Corinthians 6 |

- III. Marriage. I Corinthians 7
 - A. Mutual obligations.
 - B. Unbelieving spouses.
 - C. Remarriage.
- IV. Strong toward the weak. I Corinthians 8
 - A. Offenses; act in love.

Facts:

1. Lasciviousness and sexual impurity were common among Gentiles. It took some time to cleanse the churches with predominately Gentile converts of these impurities. Paul here reproves a case of incest (man had taken his father's wife) and the fact that the church leaders had not exercised church discipline against him. Their pride was inappropriate when they had done nothing to rectify this sinful condition.
2. Church discipline, commanded by God (II Thessalonians 3:6, I Timothy 1:20, Titus 3:10), requires the church as a whole to withdraw from the evil doer. This action, in part, is designed to stir awareness of their lost condition and bring them to repentance so we might lovingly receive them once again. Another reason to withdraw is to prevent the spread of evil.
3. Paul uses the analogy of leaven (yeast). It only takes a small portion to leaven the whole mass of dough, thus the influence of one sinner in the church allowed to continue in sin would soon corrupt the whole church. The leaven (fornicator) must be removed. (At Passover, the Jews were required to cleanse their homes of all leaven. (Ex. 12:15) The church must also be cleansed.)
4. Paul warns them also not to have company with those that are covetous (greedy/self indulgent). God will judge all, but those within the church are to be looked after in love as we guard to keep the church pure.
5. The third problem Paul addresses at Corinth is with those who had sought judgment against a brother in civil courts. The Jews had ruled among themselves never to carry cases before heathen tribunals.
6. Paul says to settle differences among yourselves. If you can't, it is better to suffer being wronged than to take it before non-Christians and risk reflecting negatively on the church. The church is God's kingdom on earth and it's faithful members will inherit the heavenly kingdom. (Matthew 25:34) Anyone unrighteous cannot be an heir.
7. Many of these new Corinthian converts had been guilty of sexual sins, idolatry, adultery, self-indulgence, homosexuality, stealing, covetousness, drunkenness, and extortion. Paul makes it clear those that continue in these sins cannot go to heaven. He reminds them they have been baptized, sanctified (set apart) by the blood of Christ and are to live pure.
8. The Corinthians were reminded that their bodies were the temple of the Holy Spirit and, therefore, must be kept pure.

9. We are to run from any sin/temptation that might defile us and thus separate us from our union with Christ. We are members of Christ's body. He bought us by dying on the cross and we are to use our bodies to glorify Him.
10. In chapter 7, Paul addresses some questions on marriage. During this time, the church was under great persecution. Paul says under the present circumstances, it is better not to marry and be cumbered with family ties, but it is better to marry than to be tempted to sin sexually.
11. Marriage is a mutual obligation. Each partner must yield to the needs of the other. Adultery is forbidden. They are not to live apart except by mutual consent for a short period of time. Paul chose not to marry so he could devote himself wholly to God's work.
12. Paul tells the unmarried and widows it is best if you don't marry and can devote yourself wholly to God. But it is better to marry than sin. He tells those already married to stay married. If a spouse leaves the other they must both remain unmarried or be reconciled.
13. If one spouse is converted to the gospel and the other is not, Paul says they should stay together. If the unbelieving spouse refuses to stay together, let that person go. The Christian should be gentle, forbearing, and unselfish, true to Christ so that possibly through our actions the unbelieving spouse might be converted.
14. Paul tells the new converts circumcision has no bearing on salvation, only keeping God's commands.
15. At least half of the population of the Roman empire were slaves. Thousands of these were early Christians. Paul assures them that Christ paid the ransom for them the same as for free men.
16. In the east (and to this day), marriages were arranged by parents. Again, due to the great persecution of Christians going on at this time, Paul encourages those who had never married (virgins) not to marry, but he adds it is not forbidden. He knew it would add anxiety and stress to their family relations. One not burdened with family obligations can concentrate on pleasing Christ.
17. Within half a generation, the Roman empire was turned upside down in civil war. Jerusalem was destroyed. The early church supposed this would be the end of the world. Paul impresses on them the brevity of life and the fact that things of this world are temporary.
18. On the question of widows remarrying, Paul says upon the death of a spouse, they are free to remarry, but only a Christian.
19. Corinth, as all Greek cities, had many temples to idols. The sacrifices offered to these idols were later eaten. Some felt the idol was nothing so it was okay to eat the meat of these sacrifices. Others felt it paid homage to the idol to eat of these sacrifices. Paul says while we as Christians know these idols are nothing but wood or stone, love and humility would prevent us from being a stumbling block to a weak/young Christian who had not outgrown former superstitions, thus injuring the cause of Christ. This same principle applies to anything that may create a stumbling block.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - examples of “forms of discipline” they recognize: paddle, timeout chair, handcuffs, jail, etc.
 - hands on activity to simulate withdrawal of fellowship
 - yeast or small portion of dough with yeast, bread, biscuit, dough
 - examples of self indulgence: food, money, beauty, etc.
 - judge's robe, gavel
 - application activities for settling differences
 - application activities for how to care for or abuse our bodies
 - marriage wedding veil, bouquet, rings, etc.
 - “idol,” alter, sacrifice
 - application activity for being a stumbling block
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Puppets/Dolls
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- Bring Christ Your Broken Life
- Angry Words
- Be Like Jesus
- Because It Pleases God
- God Cares For Me
- He Paid A Debt
- I Gave My Life For Thee
- Jesus Wants Me For A Sunbeam
- The Very Best Life
- This Is My Commandment
- This Little Light Of Mine
- We Are One In The Spirit
- You Can Build A Bridge

Activities:

- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. Why should you only marry a Christian?
2. What might be some of the consequences if you marry a non-Christian?
3. What is church discipline? Why is it sometimes necessary?
4. Why must you not take another Christian to court?
5. How are our bodies the temple of God? In what ways must we protect it?
6. What kinds of actions might pose a stumbling block to others?
7. What types of sin does Paul warn against in these four chapters?
8. Define: leaven. Explain Paul's analogy.
9. What obligations do spouses have toward one another in marriage?

New Testament
Lesson 62: RULES OF WORSHIP
REGARD FOR THE WEAK

Text: I Corinthians 9-12

Memory Verses:	I Corin. 11:3	But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.
	I Corin. 11:24-26	<p>And when He had given thanks, He brake it, and said, Take, eat; this is My body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of Me.</p> <p>After the same manner also He took the cup, when He had supped, saying, This cup is the New Testament in My blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.</p> <p>For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till He come.</p>
	I Corin. 12:12	For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.

Goals:	<p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the parts of worship, focusing on the Lord's supper. • all are a vital/necessary part of the Lord's body.
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Outline:

- I. Self denial for the Gospel's sake.
 - A. Rights waived by Paul & others.
 1. Marriage.
 2. Financial support.
 - B. The Christian race.
 1. Grecian games.

I Corinthians 9

- II. Warnings from Jewish history. I Corinthians 10
 - A. Analogy of the Christian journey.
 - 1. Exodus from Egypt to Canaan.
 - B. Flee temptation.
 - C. Seek God's glory.
 - 1. Stumbling block.

- III. Disorder in worship. I Corinthians 11
 - A. Covering the head in prayer.
 - B. The Lord's supper abused.

- IV. Spiritual gifts. I Corinthians 12
 - A. Purpose.
 - B. Variety.
 - C. Oneness of purpose.
 - 1. Many members - one body.

Facts:

1. Some Judaizers still tried to discredit Paul as an apostle and destroy his influence by reasoning that since he was not married or would not accept financial support, he was not a chosen apostle. Paul points out he had seen the risen savior (on the road to Damascus) and he had established the church in Corinth after laboring with them.
2. Paul says he and Barnabas had the right to marry and receive financial support for their preaching, as other apostles had, but they had chosen not to so they might devote themselves totally to serving God and so that their acceptance of pay might not be misconstrued.
3. Paul uses the example of a soldier getting paid for serving his government; a man who plants a vineyard shall be paid for his produce; the shepherd who cares for the flock shall be paid for his work; and even the oxen that tread the corn are fed for their labor. Thus, as Christian soldiers or sowers, they should be paid for preaching the gospel, but he personally had chosen to support himself that the gospel might in no way be hindered.
4. Paul constantly reminded himself of the injury he had caused the early church in persecuting Christians. He chose to suffer as he had made others suffer for the cause of Christ. God had shown him mercy, thus the only reward he wished to receive was the satisfaction of fulfilling his charge to spread the gospel to the Gentiles.
5. Paul adapted himself in self denial toward both Jew and Gentile, coming to them from their standpoint in hope of gaining them for Christ, sparing no effort to win the crown of righteousness. (Acts 17:23, Acts 16:3, Acts 21:20-26, Acts 23:-6,7)
6. He had fixed his eyes on the heavenly prize, a crown that never fades. The Corinthians were quite familiar with Grecian races in the stadium. They

were the greatest of national gatherings. But of the multitude of contestants, only one would win the prize. They exerted themselves to the utmost. They showed great discipline and self denial in preparation for these games. Everyone would shower the winner with great honor for his victory and triumph.

7. Paul exhorts us each to run the Christian race with this same commitment and exuberance (Hebrews 12:1,2). He illustrates this point further with a fighter who puts himself wholly into his fight with great purpose and skillful aim. He says he continually checks himself that he always subjects his own will to serve God that he not give way to selfish or evil thoughts or actions that might cost him the prize of heaven.
8. In chapter 10, Paul draws an analogy of the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt to Canaan to the Christian who leaves the sin behind and begins the Christian life at baptism.
Examples: 1) The covering of the Israelites by the walls of the sea and the cloud parallels baptism. It also transcended leadership from Pharaoh to Moses as baptism transcends leadership from Satan to Christ. (Exodus 13:21-22, Exodus 14:21-25,29,30)
2) The manna and quail God provided the Israelites parallel Jesus as the bread of life. (John 6:31-35)
3) The water always provided to sustain them parallels Jesus' living water. (John 4:14)
4) The power behind the rock to sustain their needs, as ours, is always God/Christ.
5) The Israelites suffered punishment for their sins and rebellion toward God. Paul warns this will happen to us as well when we sin and put our own desires before God's.
9. Paul warns against sins common to the Corinthian culture such as idolatry. He reminds them of Exodus 32:4-6 when the Israelites honored the golden calf. 3,000 were punished. He warns of the sin of fornication as with the Midianites (Numbers 25:1-10) where 23,000+ perished. Do not complain of hardships and murmur against God as those of Numbers 21:4-9 who died of snake bites. (Also Numbers 16 - Korah, Dathan, and Abiram) Paul reminds us these examples of God's dealing with those of the Old Testament should remind us to always be on guard against sin and flee from it. Always rely on God lest we displease Him.
10. Temptations come to everyone to test and show their worthiness for the kingdom. Security is found in God. God always provides a way to escape sin but we must choose to use it.
11. Paul now addressed their abuse of the Lord's supper. He reminds them this is a memorial/fellowship in which we partake of symbols of the body and blood of Christ. But the Corinthians were also sharing in the eating of sacrifices offered to idol gods in their temples. Paul says they are trying to serve both God and idols and this is not acceptable.

12. Paul again admonishes them to seek the good of others, especially the weak, over themselves. The more we divide our blessings the more our own blessings will grow. Often the sacrificed meat was sold by the priest to the public meat market (shambles). If the meat was bought and eaten unknowingly by a Christian it was okay. But if it was served at the home of a non-Christian and the Christian was told it was part of an idol sacrifice, the Christian should not eat it for the conscience of others may be offended. In all you do, seek to bring glory to God.
13. God is supreme. Christ ranks second as our mediator. Man comes third. Similarly, in the family, man is first, the woman is second.
14. Paul addresses dress and conduct in the church. A man must not cover his head when coming to God in prayer or prophesy with long hair, hat, veil, or cloth of any kind for it dishonors him as being subordinate. But woman must cover her head□ showing subjection; for a woman's head to be shaven was a sign of shamefulness. It is God's will to keep the sexes distinguishable. Paul says it is inappropriate to bring further reproach on the church with this matter.
15. Woman was created as a help meet for man. (Genesis 2:18-23) Yet neither is independent of the other; they each need the other. She is created for man, but man is born of woman.
16. Paul also addresses their disorderly assemblies and perverting the Lord's supper. False opinion had caused divisions into different groups. They would divide and eat a meal, as Jesus had with His disciples, then observe the Lord's supper. They did this within their group at different times. (Some ate lavish meals; perhaps the poor had nothing.) Paul rebukes them and says to eat at home. He reminds them again this is a memorial remembrance of Christ's sacrifice to be continued until Christ comes again.
17. Paul reminds them partaking of the Lord's supper is to be done in a holy and reverent state of mind, examining ourselves of unworthiness, chastening ourselves. Partake in this memorial together with no concern for satisfying an appetite.
18. Spiritual gifts were given by the Holy Spirit by the laying on of the apostles' hands to many of the early church to prove they were of the true God. There were a variety of gifts such as: divine wisdom (such as the apostles had), knowledge to teach (apostles and prophets), faith which carried miraculous power (as to move mountains, Matthew 17:20), prophecy, healing, discerning spirits (reading the hearts of men), and the interpretation of tongues.
19. The unity of these different gifts, all from the same source, were to benefit the whole church, and is illustrated by the human body. All parts are different but vital for the whole. All had received the gift of redemption through baptism by the same Holy Spirit. These spiritual gifts were given:
1st to apostles (witnesses of what Jesus did and taught);
2nd to prophets (to make known God's will after it had been revealed);
3rd to teachers (to teach the duties of children of God);
4th to miracle workers (those with power to work miracles);

- 5th gift of healing (to heal diseases);
 - 6th helps (such as deacons, to help those in need: widows, orphans, etc.);
 - 7th governments (counselors, advisors, administrative);
 - 8th tongues (least of all gifts; ability to speak unlearned languages)
20. While Paul admonished them to fit themselves for the greater gifts, he tells them they are only temporary. It is more excellent to do the will of God of a pure heart, good conscience and unwavering faith.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - illustrate responsibilities of marriage-daddy,mommy
 - illus. occupations-paycheck-soldier, farmer, shepherd, farm animals, oxen
 - illustrate a race/prize-ribbon/trophy/crown
 - olympic torch/tape cheering/applause
 - boxing gloves/weights
 - pictures of the Israelites leaving Egypt/parting the sea/quail, manna
 - idol-papier mache/pinata painted gold/rock/wood image
 - toy snake
 - illustrate the Lord's supper: cracker on plate/grape juice in commun. cups
 - bites of meat on plate (sacrificed meat)
 - hat/veil for head covering
 - illustrate parts of human body with drawing/doll/cut out pieces of paper/clay (like a puzzle)
- Applic. materials/activities for:
 - worship
 - putting others first
 - the Christian race
 - fleeing temptation
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Puppets/Dolls
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- A Common Love
- A Helper I Will Be
- Be Very Quiet And Still
- He Paid A Debt
- Heaven Will Surely Be Worth It
- Humble Yourselves
- I Am Crucified With Christ
- I Want To Go To Heaven
- I'm A Hard Fighting Soldier
- I've Been Redeemed
- Jesus Is Lord
- O How I Love Jesus
- Oft We Come Together
- Paul The Preacher
- The Lord Is In His Holy Temple
- The Very Best Life
- Victory In Jesus
- What Can I Do
- What Ever I Shall Be
- When My Love Grows Weak
- Where Could I Go

Activities:

- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. How should we act during the worship service?
2. What should we be thinking about during the Lord's supper?
3. Why did Paul not want to be paid for preaching?
4. Should we pay preachers? Why?
5. Describe the Christian's race toward heaven.
6. What comparisons does Paul draw from the Israelites leaving Egypt to the Christian life?
7. Why must we be confronted with temptations?
8. In what ways were the Corinthians dishonoring God?
9. What spiritual gifts were given to the early church? Why? For how long? To whom?

* Commentary on the New Testament Epistles, David Lipscomb, J.W. Shepherd

* Peoples New Testament with Notes, B.W. Johnson

New Testament
Lesson 63: LOVE/GIVING

Text: I Corinthians 13-16

Memory Verses:	I Cor. 13:8	Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.
	I Cor. 13:13	And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.
	I Cor. 14:40	Let all things be done decently and in order.
	I Cor. 15:33	Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.
	I Cor. 16:2	Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.

Goals:	Student will learn: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the characteristics of love. • the vital relation of the resurrection to Christianity. • about giving.
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Outline:

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| I. The greatest gift - love
A. Characteristics.
B. Love endureth forever. | I Corinthians 13 |
| II. Prophecy preferred over tongues.
A. Two gifts compared.
B. Conduct in public worship. 1. Edify.
2. Women silent.
3. Orderly. | I Corinthians 14 |
| III. Christ's resurrection.
A. Essential facts.
B. Witnesses.
C. Life in Christ.
D. Victory over death. | I Corinthians 15 |

IV. Conclusions.

I Corinthians 16

A. Giving.

B. Admonitions/salutations.

Facts:

1. Paul had spoken with the Corinthians about spiritual gifts. He admonishes them that without love these gifts are worthless, empty, and vain. One may give all he has to feed the poor, charity in the highest degree, yet if you do not do it out of love, it is not recognized by God as a good deed.
2. Paul begins to describe "Love": love endures wrongs and returns a kindly spirit; does not get angry (Psalms 103:8, I Peter 2:23, Galatians 5:22); is not unhappy by another's good fortune (example, Cain); is not boastful or has an inflated ego; is not selfish (Romans 12:10); controls the temper; does not return evil for evil; is happy at triumph and sad at wrong doing; is not overcome by evil; trusts others; hopes for the best; has unyielding persistence; love survives all; is eternal and imperishable.
3. Paul explains that spiritual gifts such as tongues or prophecy or supernatural knowledge are all temporary. When the perfect (complete), the inspired written New Testament word was all together the spiritual (supernatural) gifts would be done away with. He illustrates with the development from childhood to manhood.
4. He also illustrates with a mirror. Ancient mirrors were of polished metal. Images were indistinct/imperfect. Their knowledge of divine things was incomplete, but soon they would have the full revelation. Faith, hope, and love abide, but the greatest gift is love.
5. Though love is supreme, Paul does not want to discourage them from seeking the temporary gifts. He does admonish them that in public worship the purpose of these gifts is to edify (instruct and strengthen) everyone in the church. So to speak in tongues with no one to interpret was meaningless. (The Corinthians placed an undue esteem on the gift of tongues.)
6. If you seek gifts, seek those that build up (edify) the church, such as prophecy or knowledge, something the members can say "amen" to. (I Corinthians 14:16 shows audible responses of praise were customary in worship.) Worship must be orderly, understandable, use good judgment, and stir the conscience.
7. Paul gives an example of the order of worship: a song, teaching, a prophetic revelation, a tongue spoken then interpreted. All must be done to edify everyone, speaking one at a time. God does not want confusion. He also instructs women not to speak out in public worship but to keep silent. (I Timothy 2:11,12)
8. Paul devotes chapter 15 to explaining the resurrection from the dead. Various false doctrines had crept into the church at Corinth through the newly converted Grecian Gentiles. The resurrection after death seems impossible to them. (Acts 17:32) They thought it referred only to the resurrection of the soul from sin to a new life. Paul declares the gospel's foundation is the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. Isaiah 53 outlines

Christ's suffering. The resurrection is predicted in Psalms 16:10. He reminds them of the witnesses such as Cephas (Peter) (Luke 24:34), the twelve apostles (Matthew 28:17), countless other brethren, James, Jesus' brother and elder at Jerusalem and even himself, Paul, the least of the apostles. (Paul never forgot he had been a persecutor.)

9. He states they have all preached the same gospel of a risen Lord. Our faith is built on Christ's resurrection, otherwise, our faith and teaching is in vain and Christ cannot be our savior. All those who have served and suffered for Christ faithfully but have physically died, died with the hope of being raised to an eternal life with Christ. At judgment there will be a resurrection of the just and the unjust (John 5:29, Revelation 20:12-14).
10. They ask Paul about what kind of body they would have after being resurrected from death. He uses the analogy of the seed when it is planted dissolves and brings forth a new form of life. Our new bodies will be in spirit form, suitable for its new purpose, not one of flesh, bones, and blood. Instantaneously, we shall be immortal and incorruptible (I Thessalonians 4:16, II Corinthians 5:2).
11. Paul concludes these thoughts by saying that will be our final triumphant victory over sin and death thanks to God and Christ. (Isaiah 25:8, Hosea 13:14, Romans 6:23) So be firm as a rock in your devotion to a Christian life that your faith shall not be found vain.
12. In the last chapter, Paul closes his thoughts. He refers to the collection being made for the poor saints in Jerusalem. (Acts 11:28-30) The first day of the week (Sunday) had been set apart for the church to assemble and partake of the Lord's supper. (Acts 20:7) They are instructed to also set aside monies in the treasury by weekly collections according to their ability to give. Paul would collect the money when he came for the Jerusalem Christians.
13. Paul says he intends to visit Corinth in the winter. (Acts 20:2,3) Timothy may stop by. Paul wanted Apollos to come, but Apollos had other plans at this time. Paul warns them to be on guard for sin, for they lived in a corrupt city with much sexual immorality.
14. Anathema - means accursed.
Maranatha - means "our Lord cometh."

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - heart - picture / model / toy / paper / candy
 - "food for the poor" - bread
 - applications examples
 - baby doll / boy / girl / adult
 - mirror / tin
 - record / tape of a foreign language
 - song book / Bible / "tongue"
 - Jesus doll - simulated death / burial (dirt) / cloud (cotton)
 - simulated baptism - water
 - seed / mature plant

play money/pennies/candy coins
collection plate/dish
scroll

- Application material/activities on love, giving
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Puppets/Dolls
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- A Common Love
- Down In My Heart
- His Banner Over Me Is Love
- I Am The Resurrection
- I Gave My Life For Thee
- I Will Call Upon The Lord
- Into My Heart
- I've Been Crucified W/ Christ
- Jesus Is Lord
- Jesus Loves The Little Children
- Jesus Loves Even Me
- Jesus Loves Me
- Kindness
- Love Is Something If You Give It
- Love Love Love Love
- Low In The Grave He Lay
- Oh How I Love Jesus
- Showing Love
- The Crayon Song
- The Love Of God
- This Is My Commandment
- You Can Build A Bridge

Activities:

- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. What are the characteristics of "love"?
2. How does Jesus' resurrection affect all Christians?
3. When should we give? What should we give? How should we give? Why should we give?
4. What ended the need for supernatural gifts?
5. Name 3 things that would survive the miraculous spiritual gifts.
6. How should we conduct our worship service to God? (Do's/Don'ts)
7. How does Paul explain Christ's resurrection?
8. What act symbolizes Christ's death, burial, and resurrection? How?
9. How does Paul illustrate immortality?
10. Which characteristics of love do you possess?

New Testament
Lesson 64: REPENTANCE
FORGIVENESS AND HOPE

Text: II Corinthians 1-7

Memory Verses:	II Cor. 5:7 (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)
	II Cor. 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.
	II Cor. 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things become new.
	II Cor. 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?
	II Cor. 7:10 For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.

Goals:	<p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When someone repents, we must forgive them. • We represent Christ to those we associate with each day. • the suffering we experience on earth for the cause of Christ will be well worth the price of heaven at the end of life. • we should marry a Christian.
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Outline:

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| I. Introduction and greeting. | II Corinthians 1,2 |
| A. Paul's sincerity in preaching the Gospel. | |
| B. His concern for Corinth. | |
| C. Why his visit was postponed. | |
| D. Their discipline commended. | |
| 1. Admonished to forgive. | |
| II. Old and New Covenants compared. | II Corinthians 3 |

- III. Immortal glory through suffering. II Corinthians 4,5
 - A. Ambassadors for Christ.
 - B. New creatures.
 - C. Reconciling ministry.

- IV. The apostolic ministry. II Corinthians 6,7
 - A. Blameless endurance.
 - B. Unequally yoked forbidden.
 - C. The effects of Paul's first letter.
 - 1. Purity.
 - 2. Godly sorrow.

Facts:

1. Paul writes II Corinthians probably about 57-58 A.D. from Macedonia, following the riot of Demetrius, the silversmith in Ephesus. (Acts 19-20) Titus met Paul in Macedonia to convey the effects of his first letter to Corinth. He is pleased his admonitions were willingly received and there had been a change in their lives.
2. Paul's purpose is to express joy over their repentance and give further spiritual guidance.
3. Paul sends the Corinthians greetings from himself and Timothy. He catches them up to date on his recent danger in Ephesus. (Ephesus is the capital of Asia Minor.) He had feared for his life. He appreciated the prayers on his behalf from the Corinthian brethren.
4. Paul must again reaffirm his credentials and his sincerity in preaching the gospel to those who seek to criticize him. He repeats his change of plans in visiting them as in I Corinthians 16:5. (Acts 20: 2,3) He assumes no dominion over them but only seeks to help them reach spiritual fulfillment.
5. Paul had written the first Corinthian letter in sorrow, sharply rebuking the immoral and divisive sins among them. He was greatly relieved they had received his admonitions and made necessary repentance and he did not have to write again rebuking them, but could rejoice with them.
6. Sufficient was the punishment of excommunication to the offender. (I Cor. 5:4,5) By the same token, forgiveness to the penitent sinner should be extended by the whole congregation. The object of discipline is always to save. When it has its desired effect, the sinner must be forgiven.
7. When victory is achieved by trials, sacrifice, and suffering of Christians over sin, it is a "sweet smelling savor" (odor) of Christ diffused and observed among the saved and unsaved. People notice when we stand up for what we believe in.
8. In chapter 3, Paul compares the old and new covenant. (Ex. 24:12)
 - a) One is the Law. The other is the Gospel (Law of Christ). (Hebrews 8)
 - b) The Old Testament law was written on stone vs. the Gospel written in the hearts of man (by the Spirit of God).
 - c) The Old Testament laws were written commands man could not keep, but the Gospel is a plan offering the reality of spiritual life.

- d) The Old Testament law was temporary whereas the Gospel is eternal.
e) The Old Testament law condemned man; the Gospel justifies man through obedience to Christ.
9. Thus, the glory of the Old Testament is fulfilled by Christ with the Gospel. It frees us from the bondage of an unattainable Law to enjoy God's grace and hope of eternal life. Paul pitied the Jews who had read the Law of Moses in their synagogues but didn't comprehend its purpose nor planned fulfillment.
 10. In chapter 4, Paul intends to rebuke his Judaizing opposers by his example and good conscience. They claim the Gospel is as much "veiled" to them as Paul had claimed the Old Testament law was "veiled" to the Jews, who rejected Christ. (Acts 15:1, Galatians 2:4) Paul says they were allowing Satan ("the god of this world") to blind them. (Philippians 3:19, John 12)
 11. Paul tells about the resilience of God's divine energy that sustained him in spite of the pressures of sin, the difficulties, despair, persecution and suffering he had faced for the sake of teaching the Gospel. Although he had come close to dying many times, God had always made a way of escape for him. Moved by the faith, hope, and love of souls, and the desire to attain the glory of heaven, he did not for a moment relax or give up his efforts to teach. Christ constantly renewed his spirit and his strength to go on. (Psalms 116:10, Romans 7:2, Ephesians 3:16) He will do the same for us!
 12. Paul always kept focused on winning the prize of heaven.
 13. In chapter 5, Paul describes our fleshly bodies as tents, "temporary housing," during the camping journey of this part of life. When death comes our fleshly body (tent) dissolves and we have a new, divinely clothed spiritual body. (I Corinthians 15:44) Our old body is discarded like old, worn out clothing.
 14. Paul longed for this deliverance (by death) from his earthly body to a "house not made with hands," or spiritual body. He knew it would be so much better. And he longed to be with God and Christ. This is why, as he faced the possibility of death so many times for teaching the Gospel, he was not afraid, for to him to die would mean getting to go to heaven.
 15. All of us must appear before God in judgment. Our earthly life is like a probationary period that ends with death or judgment. At that point we will reap eternal life or eternal death according to our earthly deeds and motives. God sees our whole life. Our objective each day is to live to please our Lord.
 16. Paul's intense love for Christ and desire to please Him affected everything he did. As he became a Christian upon being baptized, he says he became a "new creature." We die to a sinful, worldly life when we are baptized. We figuratively crucify that old life and bury it, rising to live a "new" life with all our hopes, desires, thoughts and motives centered around pleasing God. We change by putting what pleases Christ before what pleases ourselves. We become "ambassadors" (representatives, messengers, examples) of Christ, offering the peace of God to others so they too might be transformed by the love and mercy God gives through the Gospel and have their sins forgiven as ours have been.
 17. Paul warns in chapter 6, it is neither safe nor wise to neglect or put off God's offer of salvation. He says right now is the time to become a Christian. He

- also warns not to take becoming a Christian lightly. You must follow God's commands after you commit to Him. Be careful not to tarnish your influence and reputation as a representative of Christ.
18. Paul uses his life and the lives of his fellow workers as examples of committed life to God. He says they consistently endured griefs, ingratitude, seemingly hopeless situations, sickness, loss of friends, torturous beatings (Paul was beaten eight different times), imprisonment (Paul was in prison at Philippi, Jerusalem, Caesarea, and Rome), tumults (being driven from one place to another). Paul was able to bear all this because of his deep love and knowledge of the Gospel and the power of the Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 6:11)
 19. Paul had sometimes been honored as a God, other times treated as an outcast. Although his sufferings caused him inward grief, he always overcame them by rejoicing in assurance and the hope of heaven. (Philippians 4:4) Although poor by earthly standards, he considered himself the bearer of the riches of Christ to all men. (I Corinthians 3:21)
 20. Paul warns Christians not to be unequally bound (yoked, tied) to unbelievers. This should be applied to marrying non-Christians. (Deuteronomy 22:10, Leviticus 19:19) He presents the analogy of the union of Christ with heathen gods (Belial or Beelzebub - synonyms with Satan) (Matthew 12:24). They have nothing in common! He reminds Christians they are the temple of God. God dwells in his people and we are to separate ourselves from pagan or corrupting associations, (Romans 12:2, I Corinthians 8:3-9) always striving for greater holiness and seeking the ideal.
 21. Note on mixed marriages: Marriages of the "sons of God" with the "daughters of men" caused the sins which brought on the flood (Genesis 6:1-7). Alien marriages were forbidden to Israel (Exodus 34:16, Deuteronomy 7:3,4). This was the pit Sampson fell into (Judges 14:3) as well as Solomon (I Kings 11:1-10). Ezra had the Jews put away their alien wives (Ezra 10:10-12) The discussion of I Corinthians 7 implies marrying non-Christians is not acceptable. Thus the whole spirit of the Bible is against it.
 22. In chapter 7, Paul again expresses his great joy and relief that his admonitions in his first letter had been well received and caused them to repent and correct their way of living. (Note: regret is not repentance. Sorrow alone is not repentance. Godly sorrow or repentance is sorrow for sin that causes a change of heart and one's actions.)

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - scroll, stationery, feather quill
 - example of goddess Diana and Demetrius
 - application story/examples/activities for repentance
 - forgiveness
 - standing up for right
 - sweet smelling savor - perfume, incense, scented candle, air freshener
 - Old Testament law - model of stone tablets, 10 commandments

New Testament law - NT Bible, picture of Jesus
model/image of what heaven might look like
veil - sheer material
examples to reflect Paul's suffering - chains, handcuffs, beating
rod/whip, boat wrecked, snake (bite)
small tents made of paper, cloth, popsicle sticks, etc.
old clothing - faded, torn, dirty, wrinkled
"angelic" or spiritual clothing - white or iridescent fabric
picture or model of "judgment"
simulate baptism - doll/water
simulate burial - dirt, "sin," new creature
"ambassador" - hat or ribbon/paper banner
map
riches of Christ - gold coins, play money, chocolate money, paper
coins, treasure box
marriage - veil, bouquet, flower, ring
pictures to reflect Old Testament examples of flood, Sampson,
Solomon, Ezra

- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Puppets/Dolls
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- Bring Christ Your Broken Life
- Cheerfully Obey
- Did You Repent, Truly Repent
- Give Me Oil In My Lamp
- He Paid A Debt
- I Am Crucified With Christ
- I Want To Go To Heaven
- I've Been Working For My Jesus
- New Testament Books
- Oh Be Careful Little Eyes
- Rise And Shine
- Stand Up And Shout It
- Take The Blame
- Thank You Lord
- The Temple Of The Lord
- This Little Light Of Mine
- Unto Perfection

Activities:

- To illustrate "forgiveness," send a note to someone who offended you and tell them you forgive them and love them.
- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. How do we represent Christ? What does a representative/ambassador do?
2. Who are we representing if not Christ? How?
3. What suffering or persecution have you endured for the cause of Christ? How does it compare to Paul's sufferings?
4. How much are you willing to suffer for Christ? What do you hoping for in return?

5. Do you have to marry a Christian? Why?
6. What are the advantages/disadvantages of marrying a Christian?
7. How does Paul compare the Old Covenant to the New Covenant?
8. What concerns did Paul have over the Christians in Corinth?
9. When does Paul say is the best time to become a Christian? Why?
10. When do you plan to become a Christian?

New Testament
Lesson 65: HELPING OTHERS BY LIVING
THE CHRISTIAN EXAMPLE

Text: II Corinthians 8-13

Memory Verses:	II Cor. 9:6,7	But this I say, he which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.
	II Cor. 10:17	But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.
	II Cor. 12:9,10	And He said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for My strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

Goals:	Student will learn: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God is pleased when we give cheerfully and liberally of ourselves and our blessings. He does not recognize giving when you feel you have to or when you do it to receive recognition from others. • We must regularly examine our lives to make sure we exemplify Christ.
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Outline:

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|----|---|------------------|
| I. | The grace of giving. | II Corinthians 8 |
| A. | Blessings of liberal giving. | |
| | 1. Macedonia, do the same. | |
| | 2. Christ. | |
| | 3. Titus. | |
| B. | Sowing and reaping concept. | II Corinthians 9 |
| | 1. Abundant harvest. | |
| | 2. Unspeakable gift, Christ and the Gospel. | |

- II. False teachers rebuked. II Corinthians 10
 - A. Paul again defends his authority.
 - B. Contrasts himself and his opposition. II Corinthians 11
 - 1. Paul's suffering for the Gospel's sake.
 - C. Paul's revelations (visions as an apostle). II Corinthians 12
 - D. Thorn in the flesh.
 - 1. Strengthening effect.

- III. Conclusions. II Corinthians 13
 - A. Self examination.
 - B. Repent.
 - C. Parting farewell.

Facts:

1. Paul begins chapter 8 by commending the saints of Macedonia (which included all the Grecian countries north of Achaia such as Philippi, Thessalonica, and Berea) for their willingness to give liberally of what they had to the poor saints in Jerusalem in spite of their own poverty and persecutions. They actually gave beyond their ability, as did the widow who gave her last mite. Paul's expectations were exceeded.
2. Paul is sending Titus back to Corinth to complete this collection for Jerusalem before Paul comes back to visit them (Acts 20:1-3). He uses Christ as the supreme example of giving. He gave up all for us, becoming poor so we might have riches in glory. Christ exchanged glory for humiliation and bliss for suffering.
3. The church is a group of loving brethren. When one is lacking, the others should supply their needs that all be equally provided for.
4. The churches of Achaia, which covered all of southern Greece (Corinth, Athens, Cenchrææ), had begun their collection for Jerusalem but had not completed it. Paul is sending Titus and two others to help them complete this task.
5. Paul reminds them giving is not to be a grudging sacrifice, but a cheerful "sowing," as the farmer gives seed to the earth; if he sows sparingly, he shall reap sparingly, but if he sows liberally, then liberally he will reap. (Acts 20:35, Luke 6:38) One is not acceptable if he gives because he feels forced to give or if he seeks the applause of others. (Psalms 112:9)
6. God blesses charitable giving. Giving provides for the needs of those in want and glorifies God. God gave the "unspeakable gifts" of Jesus Christ and the Gospel to us, which broke down the enmity between Jews and Gentiles, bringing them together in love.
7. In chapter 10, Paul changes thoughts and must re-address his opposers, who accuse him of not being a true apostle. They think Paul is wrong for not requiring Gentile converts to also answer to Jewish law. They accuse him of

- trying to terrify them with empty threats in his letters to Corinth, and then acting differently when he arrives.
8. Paul assures them he confines his teachings to the guidelines assigned him by the Lord. (Galatians 2:7-9) They accuse him of overstepping his bounds in Corinth. He retorts that some were chosen to go to the Jews with the Gospel, but he and Barnabas had been chosen by God to teach the Gentiles (Acts 16:9).
 9. Paul generally chose to preach where no one had preached the Gospel before. At that time, Corinth was as far west as the Gospel had been preached. Paul insisted all glory (credit) go to God; he was but a servant.
 10. Although Paul's opposers made it necessary for him to defend his efforts, he felt a sense of shame for having to waste time on this and apologizes. His concern was not for himself, but for the young converts of Corinth. He was so afraid they would lose sight of the truth of the Gospel with the perversions of the false teachers.
 11. These false teachers had even accused Paul of not being a true apostle because he did not ask for financial support while he preached for them. Paul had supported himself as a tentmaker and received money from the churches in Macedonia while beginning the work in Corinth. (Acts 18:3-5) He worked to avoid any accusations they might make toward his motives.
 12. At that point, Paul sharply rebukes them, charging them as deceitful agents of Satan, posing as Christians. He says the sorest wounds to the church are not from without, but within.
 13. Paul again lists his credentials and sufferings to compare with his opposers:
 - He was a pure Hebrew (Philippians 3:5) of the seed of Jacob.
 - Heir of the promises to Israel.
 - Was imprisoned seven times.
 - Often faced death for preaching the Gospel.
 - Five times he was whipped/beaten 39 stripes by Jews.
 - Three times he was scourged by Romans.
 - Three times he suffered shipwreck.
 - The Jews constantly persecuted him.
 - Often he was tired, in pain, hungry, cold, and lacking basic needs.
 - He had to escape being seized in Damascus by having disciples lower him outside the city walls in a basket.
 - He was constantly anxious/worried for the churches. Nothing but his overwhelming conviction and love for Jesus could sustain him through all these perils for over fourteen years.
 14. While boasting is not ordinarily becoming, forced to vindicate his apostleship and authority, he tells of personal visions and revelations from God.
Visions: appearances to a person in a supernatural manner, awake or asleep.
Revelations: disclosures of truth or instruction of things previously unknown relating to salvation given by God.
 15. Chronologically, this vision occurred about the time Paul and Barnabas were sent from Antioch on their first missionary journey. (Acts 13:1-3) Paul sees

- himself carried to heaven before God's throne and is told of the unspeakable glories of heaven not yet revealed.
16. On the other hand, Paul also relates the "thorn in the flesh" which always humbled him. It could prejudice his hearers against him. (Galatians 4:13,14) Three times he prayed to ask God to remove this affliction from him (as Jesus prayed three times). God chose to instead strengthen Paul (and Jesus) to bear his suffering.
 17. Thus, when Paul's sufferings and persecutions brought him to a sense of helplessness, the Lord would rejuvenate and strengthen him again.
 18. Paul explains again why he would not accept financial support from them when he comes again. He loves them as a parent loves a child and would gladly give all for them. If this offends them he is sorry. He admonishes them again to work on correcting the sins among them (common to Gentiles) so their visit might be pleasant and not marred by administering discipline.
 19. In conclusion, Paul says he will deal strictly with those of disorderly conduct when he comes. Any charges brought against a brother must be substantiated with two or three witnesses. He would give ample proof to them he was of Christ. They should also examine their own lives, proving Christ to be in them by the fruits of faithful Christian living. Paul prays they might be free from sin, and then he asks God to bless them with grace, love, and communion (fellowship) of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - money-pennies, play money, chocolate coins
 - picture of Christ and the cross, born in a stable, as a carpenter's son
 - simulation of "riches in glory," heaven
 - application story for sharing, giving
 - map of Macedonia, Achaia
 - sowing, reaping, dirt, seed/example of sparing harvest vs. liberal harvest
 - tentmaker, material, large needle, thread
 - application story of a missionary (why we help support)
 - Paul's sufferings for the Gospel, reuse related visuals from Acts
 - limb with thorns
 - examples of possible abnormalities
 - examples of faithful Christian living: singing, praying, giving, sharing, teaching, doing good deeds, etc.
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Puppets/Dolls
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- All To Jesus I Surrender
- Don't Want To Be A Goat, Nope
- Give Me Oil In My Lamp
- His Banner Over Us Is Love
- Humble Yourself
- Into My Heart
- Jesus Loves Even Me
- Living For Jesus
- Make Me A Servant
- None Of Self All Of Thee
- Rejoice In The Lord Always
- This Little Light Of Mine
- Unto Perfection
- We Are The Church

Activities:

- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. According to Paul, how should we give?
2. What does Paul mean when he tells us to examine ourselves?
3. Explain Paul's analogy of "sowing and reaping" to giving.
4. How does Paul defend his apostleship to his opposers?
5. Define: visions, revelations.
6. Who is the greatest giver? What did He give us?
7. Who supported Paul while he worked with the Corinthians? Who do we support as our missionaries?
8. What kind of giver are you? Is there anything you should do differently?

New Testament
Lesson 66: INTRODUCTION
JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH

Text: Galatians 1-4

Memory Verses:	Gal 1:8	But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other Gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.
	Gal 2:20	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.
	Gal. 3:26-28	For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

Goals:	<p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • we must study the scriptures diligently so we will not be misled by false teachers. • we are forgiven of our sins because of our faith and obedience to Jesus Christ. • the old law (Old Testament) had no provision to forgive sins. • when we are baptized, we put on Christ. • we are all one in Christ as Christians.
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Outline:

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|---------------------------------|-------------|
| I. Introduction. | Galatians 1 |
| II. Paul's apostleship. | Galatians 1 |
| A. Galatians abandon the truth. | |
| B. Paul's life. | |
| C. False doctrine received. | |
| D. Paul's journey to Jerusalem. | Galatians 2 |

- III. Justification by faith, not works. Galatians 3
 - A. Old law - "schoolmaster."
 - B. Heirs according to the promise.

- IV. Comparison of the two covenants. Galatians 4
 - A. Insufficiency of the old Law.
 - B. Sufficiency of the Gospel.
 - 1. Christ sets us free.
 - C. Hagar and Sara allegory.

Facts:

1. Paul's Galatian letter is sometimes called a "circular" letter because it was written to several churches in Galatia. It was probably written around A.D. 57, during the last year of Paul's third missionary journey. These congregations consisted mostly of Gentile converts. (Acts 16:6) Paul was tender and sympathetic toward these brethren, but he wrote to them because they were being led from the truth by Judaizing teachers claiming that Gentiles must be circumcised and that Paul was not a true apostle.
2. Paul greeted them and immediately explains his reason for writing. He was disappointed that they would be led away from the Truth to believe a perversion of the Gospel so quickly. He explains that anyone who would corrupt the Gospel is an enemy of God. (I Cor. 16:22) In his last visit to Galatia, he had warned them of these Judaizing teachers. (Acts 18:23)
3. Paul defended his apostleship. (Acts 26:13-18, II Corinthians 12:1) He recounts his life: how he zealously persecuted the church (Acts 9:21), determined to destroy Christianity. He was a well educated Jew of the Pharisee sect. He witnessed the resurrected Christ on the road to Damascus. He spent time preparing and communing with God before beginning his ministry. (Acts 9:19,20) After three years, he met Peter in Jerusalem and counseled with him. He also met James, the brother of Jesus, an elder at Jerusalem. Paul moved on to Syria and Cilicia, preaching the Gospel. Fourteen years later, he returns to Jerusalem. (Acts 15)
4. He preached the Gospel with great success to the Gentiles. He met privately with church leaders in Jerusalem (Peter, James, and John) because he had been misrepresented by some Jews. He presented the Gospel he had been preaching. They had nothing new to add or change, showing that Paul had been fully endowed with the Gospel by Christ.
5. Some false teachers demanded that Titus be circumcised. Paul refused their demand as a decision of principle, for the Gospel did not require Gentile converts (such as Titus) to be circumcised.
6. It was evident to those "pillars of the church" (James, Peter, and John) that God had fully inspired Paul to preach to the Gentiles as Peter was to the Jews. They extended fellowship to Paul, Titus, and Barnabas as an expression of their approval of their work for Christ.

7. Although these leaders were in complete harmony, the Jewish converts and Gentile converts were not always equally harmonious. One extreme wing insisted the Gentiles should keep the Jewish law. It is this group with which Paul came into conflict.
8. The collections for the poor saints (primarily Jewish converts) in Jerusalem by churches of primarily Gentile converts aided in breaking down this barrier. (I Corinthians 16:1, Acts 11:28-30)
9. Peter later visits with the brethren in Antioch while Paul and Barnabas were there. Peter eats openly with the Gentile converts, but when some Jews from Jerusalem come creating prejudice against the Gentiles, Peter withdraws from the Gentiles. Those who accompanied Peter and Barnabas did the same! Paul publically rebukes Peter and those who followed him for being hypocrites. It is implied Peter acknowledged his sin and repented.
10. Paul tells Peter we are justified (forgiven) not by keeping the law of Moses, but through our faith in Jesus by the Gospel. (Romans 3:20, Psalms 143:2) Understanding the Gospel makes us realize we have sinned just as the Gentiles had. The Gospel freed the Jews of the old law and they became new creatures in Christ. By faith Paul was crucified (died to his old life) and now Christ lives in Him.
11. Faith is the bond that binds us to Christ and makes us live a changed life. If the Old Testament gave righteousness (could forgive sins), the Gospel would not have been needed and Christ would have died in vain.
12. Paul re-addressed the Galatians to ask why, if they had received the spirit of Christ and suffered for His cause, would they embrace the ordinances imposed by the old law? How could they be so easily tricked?
13. Paul reminded them, even as Abraham's faith made him righteous, believing in Christ made them heirs of the promise made to Abraham. (Genesis 12:3) This promise was made to Abraham before he was circumcised and it promised the coming of Christ and the Gospel.
14. Thus Paul concluded the just shall live by faith (in Christ) not by keeping ordinances required by the old law. (Leviticus 18:5) Christ redeemed us by suffering for us on the cross, that we might be blessed as Abraham was blessed.
15. Paul illustrates this point by saying, the covenant (promise) made by God was to Abraham and his seed (heirs). The law was given to restrain sin until the promised seed (Christ) should come. Thus, the promise is to those who believe in the Gospel through Christ. (Romans 11:32)
16. Paul says the old law was a "schoolmaster or tutor." In Roman families, a trusted slave took the children to school and protected them from harm. In comparison, the old law leads us to Christ. Once brought to Christ, we do not need the tutor.
17. Faith leads to obedience. The believer is baptized into Christ (puts on Christ). He/she becomes a child of God; a member of Christ's body. In Christ, the old lines drawn between Jew and Gentile were abolished.

18. Because Christ redeemed us, we have been adopted and are heirs to a heavenly inheritance (eternal life). Turning back to observe the bondage of the old law is returning to an obsolete system. Paul loved these brethren as a parent loves a child and longed to be there to help them face to face.
19. Paul makes one last analogy as to why it was wrong for them to take on the requirements of the old law. He compares Abraham's two sons, one of a bondmaid, the other of Sara, a free woman - the child of promise.

<u>Hagar - Ishmael (Judaism)</u>	<u>Sara - Isaac (Christianity)</u>
Old covenant	New covenant
the Law	the Gospel
natural birth (Gen. 18:10,14)	spiritual birth (Gen. 21:1,2)
Mt. Sinai	Mt. Zion above
earthly Jerusalem	heavenly Jerusalem
bondage (Isaiah 54:1)	freedom
persecutor (Gen. 21:9)	persecuted
cast out (Gen. 21:10)	heirs of the inheritance

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - stationery/scroll/quill
 - map
 - visuals used in Acts for Paul's conversion, missionary journeys
 - Titus - doll, picture, puppet
 - Paul, Peter, James, John
 - play money, coins for the "collection"
 - Peter eating with Gentiles - paper plates, cups, water, bread
 - Old Law vs. New Testament
 - Abraham - doll, picture, puppet
 - time line - Abraham promised, Old Law given at Mt. Sinai, Christ's coming
 - tutor, leader
 - analogy of adoption into a family
 - analogy of Ishmael vs. Isaac
 - story/activities applying the need to study our Bibles, know God's plan for us
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Puppets/Dolls
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- A New Creature
- All To Jesus I Surrender
- B-I-B-L-E
- Books Of The New Testament
- Books Of The Old Testament
- Faith Of Our Fathers
- Father Abraham
- He Paid A Debt
- I Am Crucified With Christ
- I Have Decided To Follow Jesus
- Jesus Is Lord
- My Faith Looks Up To Thee
- Oh How I Love Jesus
- Our God Keeps His Promises
- Study Our Bibles Every Day
- We Are Family
- We Are One In The Spirit
- We Are The Church

Activities:

- Create a Bible study plan: (make a chart)
 - Pick: a time each day
 - a place to study
 - an area of study
 - Set a goal:
 - My goal for studying the Bible is:
 - (Exs: "Memorize 20 verses by the end of the year."
 - "Read all of Galatians by the end of the month.")
- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is it so important to know and study the scriptures?
2. Which is more important: school work, activities with our friends, or Bible study? Why?
3. How much time do we spend in Bible study each week? Each day?
4. How much time should I spend on Bible study? When am I going to begin doing that?
5. How do we receive forgiveness of our sins?
6. Why was Paul always having to defend his apostleship?
7. Compare the purpose of the Old Testament Law to the New Testament Law.
8. Define schoolmaster (tutor).

New Testament
Lesson 67: FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT
BEAR ONE ANOTHER'S BURDENS

Text: Galatians 5; 6

Memory Verses:	Galatians 5:14	For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.
	Galatians 5:22,23	But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.
	Galatians 6:1,2	Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such a one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.
	Galatians 6:7	Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.
	Galatians 6:10	As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

Goals:	<p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • when Christ is at the center of our lives, He produces love, joy, peace, long-suffering (patience), gentleness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness (kindness), and temperance (self-control) in us. • we must help each other in troubles and problems, for we all need help at some time in our lives.
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Outline:

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| I. Fruits of the flesh and of the spirit. | Galatians 5 |
| A. Christ makes us free. | |
| 1. Faith through love, not circumcision. | |

- B. Love others as you love yourself.
- C. Works of the flesh.
- D. Fruits of the spirit.

II. Humility.

Galatians 6

- A. Bear one another's burdens.
- B. Sowing and reaping.
- C. Do good to all men, especially brethren.
- D. Glory in the cross/Marks of faith.

Facts:

1. In Galatians 5, Paul continues with his thoughts from chapter 4, urging them to cling to their freedom in Christ. Do not let the old law be forced upon you (of circumcision), for we are Christians (of Christ) and through our faith we work toward the hope of heaven in love and service to others.
2. Paul uses the example of the Grecian games (races). He asks who stopped their run (or following of the truth). Paul says to turn from those that teach false doctrine; remember a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump, and they will be condemned by God. (The great offense of the cross to the Jews was that Christ is the atonement for sin and the Jewish law was abolished by Christ's death.) Paul wished these false teachers would leave the Galatian church alone.
3. The freedom Christ gives us is not a license to do evil, but to love and serve others. The essence of Christ's law is "love others as you love yourself." (Romans 13:8, Matthew 22:39) If we are critical or hateful, we will only destroy ourselves. Paul advises us to live under the guidance of the Holy Spirit (Word of God).
4. Satan leads us to such wrong doings as adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness (impure thoughts), idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance (fighting), emulations (jealousy), wrath (anger), strife, seditions, heresies (false doctrine), envy, murder, drunkenness, revellings (wild parties), and such like. These are called the works of the flesh.
5. Paul addresses sexual sins frequently. These were sanctioned by the heathen religions in the worship of the goddess Venus. Witchcraft and sorcery were also prevalent in ancient times.
6. The fruit of the Spirit produces love, joy, peace, long-suffering (patience), gentleness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness (suffers wrong without resentment), temperance (self-control). If we belong to Christ, we nailed our evil desires to the cross and crucified them there through baptism. Living by the Word of God, we don't look for earthly honor and popularity. (Romans 6:2-6)
7. Paul tells us in chapter 6 that if a brother is overcome by some sin, gently and humbly help him back on the right path, for it could happen to you. Share each others' troubles or problems. Help each other; if you see someone about

- to stumble, hold him up. (John 13:34, Hebrews 12:1,2) None of us is perfect. If we think we are, we are deceiving ourselves. (I John 1:8)
8. Paul says to let those taught by preachers and teachers sustain (pay, support) them.
 9. Don't be misled into thinking God can be tricked. He cannot! He sees exactly what we sow, whether it be wrong desires or good things. We will reap accordingly. Paul says don't give up or get discouraged in doing good, for if we are faithful, the harvest of blessings we shall reap will be worth it all.
 10. Paul says take advantage of every opportunity God gives you to do good to everyone, but especially to those of the church.
 11. He gives one last warning against false teachers. They are looking for vain glory. Circumcision is of no importance to Christianity. What matters is that our lives are changed to focus on the fruit of the Spirit. Paul tells them not to dispute his authority as an apostle. He bears the scars that mark him as a slave to the Lord Jesus. (II Corinthians 11:24,25) May the grace of Jesus be with you.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - plastic, fabric, construction paper, artificial fruit
 - application stories/ activities for:
 - fruit of the spirit
 - works of the flesh
 - helping others
 - bearing burdens
 - paper chains, handcuffs/freedom in Christ
 - Grecian races - torch, wreath
 - leaven, yeast, dough
 - examples of loving, serving others:
 - cleaning your room
 - set the table
 - help carry groceries
 - pick up toys
 - take fruit or flowers to sick
 - examples of works of flesh, pictures, props
 - examples of fruit of spirit
 - cross, nail, hammer, pictures of evil
 - examples of helping one who has stumbled
 - play money, check, coins - pay preacher
 - sowing, reaping visuals
- Flannelgraphs
 - Flipchart
 - Puppets/Dolls
 - Sandbox Map
 - Storybook
 - Video

Songs:

- A Helper I Will Be
- Angry Words
- Be Careful Little Eyes
- Happy All The Time
- He Is My Everything
- Humble Yourselves
- I Am Crucified With Christ
- Jesus Loves Me
- John 13:34,35
- Love Love Love Love
- Love Love The Gospel
- The Fruit Of The Spirit
- The Very Best Life
- This Little Light Of Mine

Activities:

- Bring fruits, label them after the fruit of the spirit, put them in a basket, and give to someone in need.
- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. Name the fruit of the Spirit. Which ones do you possess?
2. Name the works of the flesh. Which of these do you need to work on?
3. Who might I help with a problem? How can I help? Why should I?
4. How do you love another as you do yourself?
5. What were some problems with which the Galatian church was dealing?
6. From what does Christ set us free? How?
7. What opportunities to do good have you taken advantage of recently? What opportunities have you let slip by?

New Testament
Lesson 68: CHRIST THE CORNERSTONE
THE UNITY OF THE BODY

Text: Ephesians 1-4

Memory Verses:	Ephesians 2:8,9	For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.
	Ephesians 2:20,21	And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:
	Ephesians 4:4-6	There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.
	Ephesians 4:32	And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Goals:	<p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • as Christians, we must live changed lives, imitating Christ's love and mercy, giving thanks always for God's infinite blessings. • our faith in Christ should consistently grow stronger as we serve Him. • Christ is the head of the body (the church). God gives seven unities of the spirit.
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Outline:

- I. Praise to God for His blessings.
 - A. Called to holiness.

Ephesians 1

- B. Redeemed through Christ.
 - 1. Adoption by grace.
- C. Christ - the head of the church.

II. New Life.

Ephesians 2

- A. Doomed by our sins.
- B. God's gift of grace.
 - 1. Salvation through faith.
 - 2. Be grateful.
- C. Christ broke the barrier.
 - 1. Jew and Gentile are one in Him.
- D. Unity.
 - 1. Jesus is the chief cornerstone.

III. Paul's ministry.

Ephesians 3

- A. Apostle to the Gentiles.
- B. Paul's prayer.
 - 1. That they may know the depth of God's love.
 - 2. Glory be to God.

IV. The unity of the church.

Ephesians 4

- A. Seven bonds of unity.
- B. Special abilities/responsibilities.
 - 1. To edify Christ and His church.
- C. Put on the new man; cast off the old sinful nature.

Facts:

1. The letter to the Ephesians was written by Paul probably around A.D. 62, when he was under house arrest in Rome. Luke and Tychicus were with him at this time.
2. Ephesus was a Grecian city, the capital of Asia. It was a great commercial metropolis, the location of the temple of Diana. Paul established a church in Ephesus on his second missionary journey. He spent two years with them on his third journey, after which he was forced to leave due to the riots caused by Demetrius.
3. Paul begins his letter by praising God for His many blessings. He praises God for His plan for Christ's coming and redeeming us through His shed blood, a plan beyond human comprehension. The Jews and Gentiles might be united in Christ. He praises God for all the grace and mercy He shows us.
4. As the Jews and Gentiles became believers in Christ and were baptized, their proof God had "adopted" them as His children was the Holy Spirit. They were "sealed" with the Spirit. A seal is an outward sign (proof). (Consider a notary seal, the state or U.S. seal, etc.) He again gives thanks to God for the favorable reports he has heard of the Ephesian Christians. He prays for them

- to have wisdom and understanding of the riches they have inherited and the awesome power of God.
5. Christ is above all angels, the ruler of all things, and the head of the church.
 6. Paul reminds the Ephesian Christians that before their conversion, their sins had separated them from God. But God is merciful and loving. He offered us a new life through our faith in the Gospel of Christ, not because we deserve it, but because God is kind, loving, and forgiving. We were “buried” in baptism, the likeness of Christ's death and are “raised” to walk a “new life,” imitating Christ's life. (Romans 6:5, Colossians 2:12, Colossians 3:1)
 7. Paul tells them to humble themselves and always show gratitude for God's forgiveness and gift of a “new life.” Show Him your gratitude by doing good works. Remember, it was Christ who broke down the wall of contempt that separated Jew and Gentile. Both have been reconciled to God equally as one new race. (II Corinthians 5:19,20, Ephesians 4:17,18)
 8. The spirit of adoption allowed both Jew and Gentile to call God “Father.” The Gentiles, having obeyed the Gospel, were no longer strangers to God, but family.
 9. The Word of God was the foundation of their faith. Christ is the chief cornerstone. (Cornerstone - a stone of double size at the corner of a building which became a part of both walls, joining them together.) He “joined” Jew and Gentile in unity to form one church. God dwells in the hearts of believers, giving Christians continuous access to Him.
 10. In chapter 3, Paul reiterates that he is in prison for preaching the “mystery” not revealed to prophets of the Old Covenant, that the Gentiles would share in the inherited riches of God and they are invited to belong to His church through the acceptance of the Gospel of Christ. Paul counted it a joy and privilege to be chosen to deliver this message to the world in spite of the hatred it created in many Jews toward him.
 11. It was God's master plan from the beginning that the Gentiles would become fellow heirs and partakers of His endless blessings with the Jews. Paul felt it an honor to be entrusted by God with such a message as he deemed himself so unworthy. (Paul was always humbled by the remembrance that he had once been a persecutor of Christians.)
 12. Paul did not want them to pity him or lose heart because of his imprisonment. Rather, he prayed that God would strengthen them through His Spirit, Christ would dwell in their hearts, and they would be deeply rooted in His abiding love. How else would they comprehend the infinite riches of Christ's love or the fullness of God's grace?
 13. Paul glorifies God for His infinite power. He prays God will be glorified by the light of His church to the world from generation to generation.
 14. In chapter 4, Paul discusses practical Christian duties. A Christian is called to the highest calling to which man can be honored, so he/she must be humble, gentle, patient, show love to one another, and maintain unity and peace. (I Corinthians 13)

15. Christ has one body , which is the church, and one Holy Spirit. We are called to one hope (eternal life in heaven). We have one Lord (Jesus Christ), one faith (the Gospel of Christ), one baptism (one way into Christianity). We have one God (one supreme ruler above, through, and in us all), thus providing us with unity. This refutes denominationalism, for denominationalism creates division.
16. Christ equipped us individually as Christians with different abilities in order to build each other up, strengthen one another and help us mature. Some were given special miraculous ability as apostles or prophets. Others were given the ability to preach and teach well. This created a unified effort to help each other grow and mature into Christ's likeness.
17. Being equipped in the knowledge of God's Word keeps us from being misled or deceived. (Acts 20:30) We, as the body of Christ, work together in love and harmony, each having purpose and deriving life from Christ our head.
18. Paul warns the Gentile converts of Ephesus not to return to their former sinful way of living even though ungodly acquaintances would tempt them to sin again. He reminds them they are "new creatures," holy and good in attitude and deeds. He tells them not to grieve or disappoint the Holy Spirit with sin. Instead, they should replace the old sin in their lives with kindness, tender hearts, and forgiveness just as God had shown them.
19. Paul specifically mentions sins that had been commonplace to the Gentiles of this time period such as lying, anger, stealing, bad language, meanness, bad tempers, and quarrelling. Even thieves had converted to Christ among this heathen nation and were learning to live a whole new way of life.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - stationery, scroll, quill
 - map
 - paper chains, handcuffs
 - pictures of ancient/modern day Ephesus
 - visuals used for Diana
 - Christ, cross, baptism
 - good reports, report card
 - visual for "riches of heaven" - cotton clouds, glitter, jewels, gold
 - visual for sin separating us from God - black murky pool between stick man and God-cloud, iridescent rays
 - present - wrapped up box with bow
 - wall between Jew and Gentile - Lego blocks
 - cornerstone on foundation - Lego blocks
 - tag, label special sticker, crown - "Christian - VIP" (highest calling)
 - doll - illustrate body/head of church
 - application stories dealing with:
 - adoption, baptism, heaven and its rewards, God's goodness

examples of kindness, good deeds

- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Puppets/Dolls
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- Freely, Freely
- God's Love
- He's Got The Whole World
- His Banner Over Me Is Love
- How Sweet How Heavenly
- I Stand Amazed
- Jesus Loves Even Me
- Love Love Love Love
- My God Is So Great
- One Door And Only One
- Pass It On
- Praise Him Praise Him
- Psalm 19
- Rejoice In The Lord Always
- This Is My Commandment
- Unto Thee O Lord
- We Are Family
- We Are One In The Spirit
- We Are The Church
- Wonderful Story Of Love

Activities:

- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. How had God blessed Paul and the Ephesian church? How has God blessed you?
2. What do we do to become a Christian?
3. Explain God's plan for church organization.
4. How do we show God our gratitude for the gift of life He offers us?
5. What was the purpose of Christ's coming to earth?
6. Why did God make Paul an apostle? How did people react to him?
7. Name the seven bonds of unity. Why are these important?
8. Define: grace
unity
cornerstone
9. As Christians, what duties do we have?
10. What does Paul warn the Ephesian Christians not to do?

New Testament
Lesson 69: SINGING/MARRIAGE

Text: Ephesians 5

Memory Verses:	Ephesians 5:1	Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;
	Ephesians 5:19	Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;
	Ephesians 5:22,23	Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. 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 5:28,29	So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:
Ephesians 5:31	For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.	

Goals:	<p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christian love must be cultivated and exhibited in all our relationships. • God asks us to sing and make melody in our hearts to Him, not to do so mechanically. • husbands and wives are to pattern their relationship after Christ and the church.
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Outline:

- I. Christian graces.
 - A. Imitate Christ in love.

Ephesians 5:1-21

- B. Flee all impurity.
 - C. Conduct yourselves with wisdom.
 - 1. Make good use of opportunities.
 - 2. Express joy and thanksgiving in song.
- II. Mutual duties of husbands and wives. Ephesians 5:22-33
- A. The union of Christ and His church.

Facts:

1. We are to imitate the love of God, forgiving one another as God has forgiven us. (Ephesians 4:32) In the Jewish temple there were offerings which were an expression of gratitude to God. These offerings gave off a sweet aroma, like perfume. Christ made himself an offering and a sacrifice for our sins because He loved us so (Ephesians 5:2).
2. Immorality was commonplace in Ephesus, so Paul again reminds these newly converted Gentile Christians to stay away from fornication, uncleanness (every kind of impurity), covetousness (an insatiable desire for others' things), filthiness (all kinds of indecency), foolish talking (dirty stories, foul language), and jesting (coarse jokes). These are not becoming of a Christian and will cost you your inheritance in the kingdom of heaven.
3. Paul tells them not to be deceived by those that excuse these sins, for God's terrible wrath is upon all those that do these things. Don't even associate with them, rather rebuke and expose them. Ye are now shining lights of Christ's goodness, bearing the fruit of the spirit (Galatians 5:22) and proving, by your actions, what is good and righteous.
4. Make the most of every opportunity you have for doing good.
5. Christ forbids intoxication. This too was a common vice in Ephesus. Paul says enjoyment is not to be sought as the world seeks it.
6. Christ commands that we instead sing together psalms, hymns (songs of praise) and spiritual songs. As we sing with our lips, our hearts join in the melody uplifted to God, always giving thanks in the name of Christ.
7. Paul addresses marital duties: The husband is to love his wife as much as Christ loves the church. The wife must submit to this loving husband as she would unto the Lord. The husband is the head of the family, as Christ is head of the church. He must be willing to give himself for it. (Every organization must have a head.) This is a close, tender relationship where service is of the heart. (Tenderest love <-> loving obedience) We honor Christ by submitting to each other.
8. Christ loved the church so He gave His life for her welfare. He sanctified it, making it holy, thus cleansing it from sin, making it a "bride" without blemish (a single fault).
9. The union of marriage between husbands and wives should be as Genesis 2:23, "a bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh." No man hates his own body but cares for it.

10. We are all members of Christ's body, the church. The church is Christ's bride. In verse 31, Paul quotes Genesis 2:24 which says man must leave his father and mother when he marries to be joined to his wife, and the two of them become as one.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - incense, perfume, potpourri
 - application stories: those that do wrong
 - those that are greedy
 - light in Christ, darkness in Satan
 - opportunity to do good
- flashlight, candle
- examples of opportunity
- song books, sing, heart
- "wedding festivities" - flowers, veil, dress, bowtie, hat, rings, candles
- dolls or students - bride, groom, parents, preacher
- cross - baptism visual
- simulate leaving parents to "become one"
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Puppets/Dolls
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- Are You Singing?
- Bible Thought Song
- Cheerfully Obey
- Happy All The Time
- He Keeps Me Singing
- I Sing A New Song
- I'm Happy Today
- Jesus Wants Me For A Sunbeam
- John 13:34,35 New Commandment
- Praise Him Praise Him
- Rejoice In The Lord Always
- Showing Love
- Sing And Be Happy
- Sing The Wondrous Love
- Sing To Me Of Heaven
- The Very Best Life
- This Little Light Of Mine
- To God Be The Glory
- Unto Perfection
- What I Shall Be When I Grow Up
- Would You Be Poured Out

Activities:

- Simon Says - "imitators of Christ"
- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. How do you imitate Christ?
2. What sins of impurity did the Ephesians face?
3. How are we to deal with these sins?
4. What opportunities does God give us to do good?
5. How does God ask us to express our joy and thanksgiving in worship?
6. How are we to sing? What are we to sing? To whom are we to sing? When? Where?
7. How are husbands to treat their wives?
8. What analogy does Paul use in explaining marital duties?

New Testament
Lesson 70: CHILDREN/THE ARMOR OF GOD

Text: Ephesians 6

Memory Verses:	Ephesians 6:1,2	Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honor thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise;
	Ephesians 6:4	And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.
	Ephesians 6:11	Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.
	Ephesians 6:14-17	Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

Goals:	<p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • we must always obey our parents, in the Lord, for this pleases God. • wearing God's armor will help us withstand evil as we face it day by day.
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Outline:

- I. Christian duties.
 - A. Children/parents.
 - B. Servants/masters.

Ephesians 6:1-9

- II. Christian warfare. Ephesians 6:10-20
- A. Armor of God.
1. Girdle of truth.
 2. Breastplate of righteousness.
 3. Shoes, gospel of peace.
 4. Shield of faith.
 5. Helmet of salvation.
 6. Sword of the spirit/Word of God.
- B. Prayer.
- III. Closing remarks. Ephesians 6:21-24

Facts:

1. The duty of obedience to parents is as old as the parental relation. We are always to honor and obey our father and mother (except in things forbidden by God). This was the fourth of the ten commandments. (Exodus 20:12) With it was attached a promise of long life if the law was kept.
2. Parents have duties as well as children. God commands fathers not to be excessively severe, cruel or use untempered language that might provoke resentment and anger. Rather, God says to bring children up with loving discipline, training, restraining and admonishing them.
3. The term "servants" does not refer so much to hired servants as to slaves, of which there were many millions in the Roman empire at that time. They were of all races, prisoners of war or their children. Christianity did not dissolve slavery but regulated it by introducing principles to break down evil relations.
4. God commands servants/slaves to obey their master, giving their best. Serve them as you would Christ, not just working hard when your master is watching, but all the time with gladness in your heart. Christ will reward each good thing that you do whether your earthly master does or not.
5. The Roman law allowed masters to abuse their slaves as beasts and even to murder them. But Christianity put Christian masters under restraint. God required they act on the same principles required of the slave. There must be mutual goodwill and mutual service. They were forbidden threatenings, a habit of cruel masters. He reminds them that they too have a master, God, who sees them and will hold them accountable if they wrong anyone, even a slave.
6. Paul admonished them to draw strength from the Lord's mighty power within them. You are engaged in a fearful war against the devil. You must equip yourself with all God's armor, so you will be able to stand safe against Satan's tricks and strategies.
7. An ancient soldier was not equipped for war until he had put on his armor. Paul, at this time, was a prisoner in Rome, so Roman soldiers were a familiar sight to him.

8. Paul warns that our battle is against Satan, the god or ruler of this world, who uses evil spirits in wicked men. We need all of God's armor to resist him and win over evil, so prepare yourselves.
9. The Roman soldier wore a girdle, breast plate, shoes with iron nails, a helmet, and carried a great shield on his left arm which he would hold in front of his body. His weapon was the sword. It was with the sword, not the spear as other nations, that the Romans conquered the world.
10. Paul uses these same parts of armor to represent the Christian's spiritual armor.
 - A) The girdle kept the armor in place and supported the sword. So truth holds the Christian armor and supports the sword of the spirit.
 - B) The breast plate lay over the lungs and heart. With Christ's righteousness over our hearts, we are protected.
 - C) The soldier's shoes represent carrying the gospel of peace, being a messenger of good tidings. (Isaiah 52:7)
 - D) The Roman's oblong shield (4 1/2 feet long) covered the whole body. Faith, fully trusting in God, is the best of all defenses. (Fiery darts - these were hand thrown missiles that were very dangerous unless stopped by the shield.)
 - E) The soldier's helmet was a metal cap to protect the head from any blows. The helmet of salvation is the consciousness that we have a saviour able to save us. It gives us courage for conflict.
 - F) The sword is to assail. The Christian soldier is to hold high the sword of the Spirit. The Spirit conquers through Him. The sword is God's Word. Peter, on Pentecost, conquered through these means and Paul, through his labors, proved he also was a faithful soldier of the Lord's army. (Isaiah 59:17, I Thessalonians 5:8, Hebrews 4:12)
11. In order to fight the good fight as God's people, we must stay in constant communication with Him. We must pray always. Pray for your needs and the needs of Christians everywhere.
12. Paul asks the Ephesians to pray for him. Not for his comfort or his life, even though he was in chains as a prisoner unjustly accused, but pray that he might be able to continue to boldly tell others about Jesus. Although in chains, he was God's ambassador to Rome.
13. Paul closes his letter to the Ephesians by admonishing them to receive Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister of the Gospel. He would be delivering this letter and catching them up-to-date on Paul's situation. Paul sends his love, peace and prayers for God's blessings to be upon them. (Acts 20:4, Colossians 4:7, Titus 3:12, II Timothy 4:12)

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - children/parents - students, dolls, paper doll family
 - application story - obeying parents (authority)
 - slave/master (employee/employer)

examples of discipline

child's toy armor, picture, flannelgraph of soldier in armor

examples of things to pray about

- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Puppets/Dolls
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- Am I A Soldier Of The Cross
- Be With Me Lord
- Cheerfully Obey
- God Is Watching Over You
- I Am Not Afraid
- I Can Dare To Be Brave
- I Have The Victory
- I Obey
- I'm A Hard Fighting Soldier
- I'm In The Lord's Army
- Make Me A Servant
- My God And I
- Onward Christian Soldiers
- Rainbow Of Christians
- Standing In The Need Of Prayer
- Take The Blame
- Teach Me Lord To Wait
- There Is Power In Prayer
- What Can I Do?
- Whisper A Prayer
- Yield Not To Temptation

Activities:

- Draw pictures of the armor of God and send them with a note to a Christian serviceman.
- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. Who must we obey? Why?
2. Is there ever a time you should not obey?
3. How should parents treat their children?
4. If a teacher or your boss treated you unfairly, how should you react?
5. Why should we arm ourselves with God's armor?
6. Do we have a choice? Why/Why not? What will happen?
7. Name the armor pieces of the Roman soldier. Explain their purposes.
8. Name the parts of the Christian's spiritual armor. Explain their purposes.
9. Who are some loyal Christian soldiers we can imitate?
10. Why is prayer important? What should we pray for or about?
11. Why did Paul need the prayers of other Christians? What do you need prayers for?

New Testament
Lesson 71: GLORIFY CHRIST BY EXAMPLE
HUMILITY AND OBEDIENCE

Text: Philippians 1; 2

Memory Verses:	Phil. 1:21	For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.
	Phil. 2:4,5	Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:
	Phil. 2:6-8	Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.
	Phil. 2:11	And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Goals:	Student will learn: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • we must imitate Christ in the life we live and always rejoice in Him; exalting Him above all.
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Outline:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| I. Introduction/Greetings. | Philippians 1:1-11 |
| A. Thanksgiving. | |
| II. Progress of the Gospel. | Philippians 1:12-30 |
| A. Different motivations. | |
| B. Desire to depart. | |
| C. Steadfastness and unity. | |

- III. Follow Christ's example.
 - A. Like-minded.
 - B. Lowliness/humility.
 - C. Christ exalted.
 - D. Shine as lights to the world.
 - E. Paul sending Timothy.
 - F. Epaphroditus.

Philippians 2:1-30

Facts:

1. The Philippian letter is one of Paul's "prison epistles," written from Rome. Paul was in Philippi on his second missionary journey. (Acts 16) He expresses tenderness and fatherly affection for this congregation.
2. Philippi was a Roman colony, the chief city in Macedonia, named after Philip of Macedon (father of Alexander the Great).
3. It was in Philippi Paul and Silas were beaten and the jailer and Lydia were converted. The Philippians supported Paul several times in his mission work. When they learned he was a prisoner in Rome, they sent Epaphroditus with provisions to fill his needs. (Philippians 2:25, 4:10-18) Epaphroditus delivers this letter to the church as he returns.
4. Paul and Timothy send warm greetings to the saints (Christians) at Philippi. He gives thanks to God daily for their faithfulness and their aid in furthering the Gospel. He is confident they will be faithful to the end, for they too had loyally suffered defending the Gospel, as well as sympathized, prayed for, and supported Paul in his efforts to preach.
5. Paul expresses his love for them and longing to see them. He prays they will grow in love, knowledge and wisdom. He exhorts them to glorify God by living sincere, holy and helpful lives.
6. Doubtless, the Philippians grieved that Paul was a prisoner, but Paul assures them that all that has happened to him had furthered the Gospel and given him an opportunity to reach some that otherwise would not have been accessible.
7. The praetorian camp was a great military camp of soldiers stationed at Rome. Paul was under their charge. He reported regularly to them and became well known, which created opportunity for him to preach Jesus. (Acts 28:16)
8. Other brethren had been encouraged by his boldness as a prisoner and begun to preach with greater zeal than ever before. Unfortunately, there were some, envious of Paul, who preached to undermine Paul's influence. (Galatians 1,2) Paul rejoiced in the furtherance of the Gospel of Christ regardless of the motives of men.
9. Paul knew through their prayers God would strengthen and direct him. If he was spared to live, he could further extend the Gospel to others. But personally, Paul felt to die would be a gain, to release him from personal sufferings and allow him to enter into eternal life with Christ.

10. Paul admonished them to live as Christ, united and taking courage even in the face of persecution. Two things are given in Christianity: we have the privilege of believing in Christ, but we must also suffer for Christ's sake. (Hebrews 12:3,4; I Peter 4:16)
11. Paul encourages them to also be like-minded (in full agreement), loving one another with pure hearts. There should be no strife (fighting) or vain glory (striving for human praise). Instead, they should seek to serve others as Christ did.
12. Christ loved us so much, He laid aside His divine glory with God the Father to make Himself a lowly human servant on earth. He died the most shameful and painful of all deaths (on the cross) for us. But God raised Him up from the grave to be exalted above all power and all authority. Everyone in all the universe will bow to Him as King of Kings and Lord of Lords, either in joy or shame.
13. Unless we are willing to do our part (carry out the commands of Christ), Christ will not save us. We must live determined not to fail.
14. Paul warns us not to complain. Rather, we should live blameless in this wicked world, our pure and holy lives shining as lights, preaching Christ in word and deed.
15. Paul was willing to die as a "sacrifice" of Christ if it would strengthen their faith. This imagery was familiar to the Gentile converts who had witnessed victims sacrificed as offerings in the heathen temples.
16. Paul was sending Timothy soon to encourage and check on them. Timothy was no stranger to them. He would also bring word of Paul's case (hopeful release). Epaphroditus, their messenger, had become seriously ill and almost died. But God had been merciful and restored his health. He would be returning too. The Philippians were to welcome him with joy and appreciation.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - map, compass, suitcase, stationery, quill
 - mask (picture of Jesus face with a rubber band or on a craft stick), disguise like Jesus (imitators of Christ)
 - heart (symbol of love, affection)
 - provisions - food, clothes, money, paper, pen, pillow
 - chains, bonds - paper handcuffs
 - soldier uniform
 - heaven (throne), cross, servant
 - candle, flashlight, small lamp
 - Timothy, Epaphroditus
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Puppets/Dolls
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- Where He Leads I'll Follow
- Swiftly We're Turning
- Take My Life And Let It Be
- Seek Ye First
- We Are One In The Spirit
- Love Is Something
- Jesus Is Lord
- Happiness Is
- Jesus Loves Me
- Rejoice In The Lord Always
- Jesus Is Lord Of Us All
- Do You Love Jesus?
- He Is My Everything
- This Little Christian Light
- Happy All The Time
- Jesus, Jesus
- Down In My Heart

Activities:

- Application stories:
 - prayer
 - death
 - Christian living
 - serving others
 - suffering for Christ
- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. How do we "exalt" Christ above all?
2. What do you know about the Philippian church?
3. What good had come from Paul's adversity as a prisoner?
4. Did Paul want to live or die? Why?
5. In what things does Paul encourage these Christians?
6. Of what things does Paul warn these Christians?
7. How can we serve others?
8. How serious should we take salvation? Why? When?
9. List how you imitate Christ. What have you suffered for Christ's sake?

New Testament
Lesson 72: PRAYER
VIRTUES IN CHRIST

Text: Philippians 3; 4

Memory Verses:	Philippians 4:6	Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.
	Philippians 4:8	Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.
	Philippians 4:11	Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.
	Philippians 4:13	I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Goals:	<p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • with Christ's help we can do anything. • we must be content regardless of our circumstances, knowing God will always provide our needs. • be happy and rejoice in God always, striving to reach heaven by setting our minds on virtues of abiding worth.
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Outline:

- I. Aim to attain the high calling.
 - A. False teachers vs. Paul.
 - B. Counted as loss for Christ.
 - C. Press toward the prize.

Philippians 3

- II. Christian living. Philippians 4
- A. Be steadfast/harmonious.
 - B. Rejoice always.
 - C. Don't worry, pray.
 - D. Think on things of abiding worth.
 - E. Paul's gratitude.
 - 1. Content.
 - 2. All through Christ.
 - F. Praise for their generosity.
 - G. Closing remarks.

Facts:

1. Paul warns the Christians of Philippi, as he had other churches, to beware of Judaizing false teachers who tried to force circumcision on Gentile converts. (Galatians 1)
2. Paul explains Christianity is not about laws of the flesh, as under the Old Testament. Paul says if it were, he would have something of which to boast since he was: a descendent of Abraham (as a Jew); circumcised according to the old law; of the tribe of Benjamin; a Hebrew by race, religion, education and customs; a Pharisee, the strictest sect in Israel; a man who had kept the law blamelessly and with great zeal.
3. Paul goes on to explain that he once counted these things important, but as a Christian, he counts them worthless. In Christ, he found righteousness, forgiveness of sin, all spiritual blessings, and hope of eternal life. (Romans 8:1) When we act upon our faith, causing us to obey Christ, we receive this same forgiveness.
4. We are baptized into Christ's death (Romans 6:3-6) and are "risen" triumphant over sin with Him (Colossians 3:1) to live a new life imitating Jesus. We must also share in His sufferings, but a home in heaven will be worth every sacrifice and all suffering.
5. Paul compares the Christian life to a race. He says he presses on and pushes forward, anxious and determined to win that glorious prize of heaven at all cost. With constant, consistent effort, he focuses his whole life on one purpose, reaching eagerly toward eternal salvation without regard for the hardships or sufferings necessary to attain it. His eye is on the goal and he pushes through every difficulty to reach it.
6. A crown was given to the winner of earthly races in Paul's time. Thus Paul was focused on that "eternal crown."
7. Paul encourages the Philippians to follow his example. Unfortunately, some members of the church were doing otherwise, which caused Paul great sorrow. They had not given up some of their pagan vices. One within the church causing scandal can bring about more damage to the cause of Christ than a dozen scoffers. They will reap eternal destruction. (II Peter 2:3)

8. Paul was so full of joy over the strong faith and affection (generosity) of the church in Philippi. He encourages them to continue.
9. Two women of the church of Philippi, Euodias and Syntyche, were at odds with one another, causing disharmony among the church. These women had both helped Paul in the Lord's work. Women were prominent in the early Philippian church. Lydia's home was a home to missionaries.
10. Paul encourages the church to rejoice! Paul, being a prisoner, demonstrates the power of the Gospel to comfort one who has made Christ his all. He tells them to be forbearing, deliverance is near.
11. He tells them not to worry, but to pour out their concerns to God in prayer and trust Him to work things out. He says to also state their desires and thankfulness to God. Fully trusting God brings a peace not understood by those outside of Christ.
12. In Philippians 4:8, Paul sums up Christian duties:
 - Christ's followers must cherish the truth.
 - Honesty: is worthy of reverence.
 - Justice: must be a part of all our dealing; an upright life.
 - Purity: chaste lives and clean hearts.
 - Lovely: deeds of love, inspiring love in others.
 - Good report: a life of which nothing evil can be said.We are to think only of praiseworthy virtues.
13. Paul expresses his appreciation and commends them for their generosity toward him (by sending things he needed by Epaphroditus). They had done this before (Acts 17;14, II Corinthians 11:9) when they were aware of his need.
14. Paul adds he had trained himself to be content whatever his situation. He had experienced want as well as plenty. Yet he relied on the strength he drew from Christ to rise to the top of every circumstance.
15. Paul tells them their love and selflessness please God and their gifts will return them God's blessings. God would supply their needs as they had supplied Paul's.
16. Paul closes this letter with greetings to all the saints, especially those from Cæsar's household. Among the vast number of the emperor's palace, some had become Christians.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - false teachers-doll under/behind a dog puppet ("sheep's clothing" principle)
 - 10 commandments visual
 - Christ - picture, doll
 - baptism, burial, resurrection - water/doll, dirt/doll
 - race - sweatbands/baton/ jogging shoes/crown/trophy/reward
 - examples of hardship in physical race vs. hardships suffered for Christ
 - Euodias, Syntyche - pictures, dolls, costumes

praying hands
needs supplied - food, clothing, money, pillow, blanket, etc.
palace household - cook, gardener, guard, servant, treasurer, etc.

- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Puppets/Dolls
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- A Helper I Will Be
- Be Not Dismayed
- Because It Pleases God
- He Is My Everything
- Heaven Will Surely Be Worth It All
- I Can Do All Things
- I Tried And I Tried
- I Woke Up This Morning
- Jesus, Jesus
- Living By Faith
- Love Love Love Love
- Pass It On
- Rejoice In The Lord Always
- Rise And Shine
- Seek Ye First
- The Very Best Life
- This Is My Commandment
- Unto Perfection
- Whisper A Prayer

Activities:

- Application story/activities for: Christian virtues, sharing, prayer
- Make posters depicting Christian virtues to be put on a bulletin board.
- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. What should we be content about? Why?
2. What can God/Christ help us with?
3. Why must we suffer struggles as a Christian?
4. Explain Paul's analogy of the Christian attaining heaven as a race.
5. Describe the early church at Philippi.
6. What warnings does Paul issue?
7. What do we have to rejoice about?
8. Name six virtues Paul gives for us to incorporate into our lives.
9. Which of these virtues do you feel you have attained? Which do you still need to work toward?

New Testament
Lesson 73: CHRIST THE SUPREME HEAD OF THE CHURCH

Text: Colossians 1; 2

Memory Verses:	Colossians 1:10	That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;
	Colossians 1:18	And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.
	Colossians 2:10-12	And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

Goals:	Student will learn: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the preeminence of Christ and that salvation comes only through Christ. • neither angels, men nor any created thing is to be worshipped.
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Outline:

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| I. Preeminence of Christ. | Colossians 1 |
| A. Introduction. | |
| B. Walk worthy. | |
| C. Christ was before all creation. | |
| D. Christ is greater than the angels. | |
| E. Christ is the supreme head of the church. | |
| F. Be rooted and grounded in Christ. | |

- II. Salvation through Christ alone. Colossians 2
- A. Paul present in spirit.
 - B. Be rooted and grounded.
 - C. Warning against false teachings.
 - D. Complete in Christ/Baptism.
 - E. Old Testament Laws removed.
 - 1. Meat, drink.
 - 2. Holy days.
 - 3. Angel worship.

Facts:

1. Colosse was a Roman province of Asia in the valley of Lycus near Laodicea. Through Epaphras, Paul learns Judaizing false teachers are threatening these new Christians, trying to force Old Testament laws upon them.
2. The purpose of this epistle is to fortify these new converts and correct any false teaching as well as to reinforce that Christ is the head of the church. This is one of Paul's four "prison epistles," written while imprisoned at Rome.
3. Paul and Timothy send greetings to the saints (Christians) of Colosse, thanking God for their faithfulness and rejoicing that the Gospel had born fruit in their lives. Epaphras had brought word of their trust and love toward others and how the Gospel had changed their lives.
4. Paul prays for their knowledge, wisdom, and spiritual understanding which will equip them against false teaching and help them abound more in good works to please God. (Ephesians 1:3,8, 5:10, I Corinthians 12:8)
5. Paul prays also that they would be strengthened with patience and long suffering to endure wrong with joy, for God in His infinite love has given us a heavenly inheritance. He has delivered us from the power of Satan through the Gospel. He has forgiven and blotted out our sins, making us a part of the "kingdom of His dear Son" (the church). Our freedom from sin was bought by the shed blood of Christ on the cross. (Ephesians 1:7)
6. Christ is the visible representative of the invisible God. He is in His likeness and reveals God's love for us. (John 14:10, Hebrews 1:1-3) Christ existed in the beginning. (John 1:3, Psalms 89:27) Jesus is the center and source of the universe. All laws and purposes which guide creation reside in Him. (One of the heresies Paul wished to counteract here was angel worship. He shows Christ is above them, created them and they were created for Him.)
7. Christ is preeminent in the church. It is His spiritual body and He is its head. (I Corinthians 11:3, Ephesians 1:10,22) He came to bring peace between Jew and Gentile, man and man, man and God. Through His blood shed on the cross, the partition wall was removed, bringing us access to God when we obey the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

8. Paul was a prisoner and sufferer because he preached the Gospel to Gentiles. Christ endured suffering for us. Hence we, as Christians, can expect to suffer and make sacrifices for the cause of Christ. (I Peter 4:13)
9. Paul was chosen by God to be His messenger to the Gentiles. He wanted to reach everyone that would listen to the Gospel of Christ, hoping to change their lives and present them back to Christ in appreciation for what Christ sacrificed for each of us. Paul says he was able to continue doing this because of the power of Christ working in him.
10. Paul tells the Christians at Colosse he wished they knew how much he struggled in his prayers over them and the church in Laodicea. He prayed they would be encouraged and knitted together by strong ties of love. He prayed they would have a clear understanding of God's Word and would be able to reveal false teachers when preyed upon.
11. Paul assures them that though he cannot be there with them, he is with them in spirit and he rejoices in their steadfast faith. He encourages them to continue to trust in Christ with each day's circumstances. Be "rooted" in Christ growing out of Him as a tree out of the soil, drawing strength and nourishment. Let your life be full of joy and thanksgiving for all He has done.
12. Paul warns them not to be deceived and drawn away from the Gospel by false traditions men may teach or Jewish ordinances (rudiments of the world) no longer in effect. In Christ is divine power, the authority over every other power. He can supply our every need. He makes us complete.
13. Through our burial in baptism, we re-enact the tragedy of the cross, the agony at the garden, the complete submission to divine will, the crucifixion, death, burial, rising with Christ. We are raised as He was raised from the grave to a new life. (Romans 6:3-5, Galatians 2:20)
14. The Gospel offers forgiveness. (Acts 2:38) It removed the ordinances of Jewish law. When the Jews nailed Jesus to the cross, the old dispensation ended. Jesus openly displayed Satan had no power over Him.
15. Paul again warns them not to let anyone compel them to keep Jewish ordinances such as: 1) what they eat or drink, 2) Jewish holidays such as Passover or Pentecost, 3) new moon or monthly observances, 4) the Jewish Sabbath. These were temporary and ended with Christ.
16. Paul also warns against those who seem very humble and righteous but try to make you worship angels, "saints" (living or dead); this would include the pope or any created thing. Paul says they have a clever imagination.
17. Although these human rules (such as not eating certain foods) may seem good, they are of no value against real temptation. They are self-imposed and give no allegiance or glory to God. Often they lead to pride.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - map, quill, stationery, scroll
 - Epaphras, Paul, Timothy - doll, picture, puppet

Christ and cross

- Creation:
1. God - iridescent cloud
 2. Jesus - picture
 3. World - globe

angel - doll, ornament, picture

body and head - doll, drawing

chains, handcuffs

plant in a pot of soil

baptism - water, doll

- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Puppets/Dolls
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- For Christ And The Church
- God Is So Good
- He Paid A Debt
- I Will Pray
- I've Been Redeemed
- I've Got My Head In Heaven
- Jesus Loves Me
- Make Me A Servant
- My God Is So Great
- Nothing But The Blood
- Oh Be Careful
- One Door And Only One
- Rejoice In The Lord Always
- Teach Me Lord To Wait
- Thank You Lord
- The Crayon Song
- This Is My Commandment
- This Little Light Of Mine
- We Are One In The Spirit
- Whisper A Prayer
- Who Will Follow Jesus

Activities:

- Application or story about prayer
- Write poems about believing in Jesus and ask if they can be printed in the bulletin.
- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. Who is the head of the church?
2. What things or individuals are to be worshipped?
3. How do we obtain salvation?
4. What do you remember about Colosse and the church there?
5. What things did Paul pray about concerning the Christians in Colosse? What should we pray for?
6. What does Paul warn the Christians at Colosse about?

7. Why was Paul a prisoner? What had God chosen him to do? How was he able to do this as a prisoner?
8. What is baptism in likeness of? Explain.
9. What does the Gospel have to offer you?
10. Discuss false teachings, ordinances of denominationalism with which you are familiar.

New Testament
Lesson 74: SEEKING THINGS ABOVE

Text: Colossians 3; 4

Memory Verses:	Colossians 3:2	Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.
	Colossians 3:13	Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.
	Colossians 3:16	Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.
	Colossians 3:17	And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.
	Colossians 4:6	Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

Goals:	Student will learn: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • as we become Christians, our priorities change to center around Christ to be like Him in every way and look forward to going to heaven.
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Outline:

- I. Living a new life in Christ.
 - A. Seek things above.
 - B. Put away earthly lusts.
 - C. The new man.
 - D. Singing.
 - E. Home relations.

Colossians 3

- II. Final charges. Colossians 4.
- A. Pray, walk in wisdom.
 - B. Tychicus and Onesimus.
 - C. Greetings from Rome.
 - D. Closing remarks, Laodicea.

Facts:

1. Paul begins chapter 3 by saying if you have been buried with Christ in baptism and are raised to walk a new life as a Christian, then let your aspirations ascend also. (Colossians 2:12, Ephesians 1:20) Seek heavenly, eternal treasure, not earthly things. Our hearts must yearn to be in heaven with our Lord.
2. Paul adds when Christ comes back for us, we will fully join Him in heaven. Analogy: a tree in winter appears dead, but its life is hidden. When spring comes, its life blooms to full glory. (Romans 8:19)
3. The Greek says, “put to death” your earthly lusts and passions of the flesh such as fornication (sexual sin), uncleanness (any unpure act), inordinate affection (lustful passion), covetousness (overpowering desire for what belongs to another), and idolatry (what you are absorbed by). Also, anger, wrath, malice (evil toward others), blasphemy, filthy communication, and lying (sins of the tongue).
4. These sins were common to their culture, but to walk as Christ, they must eliminate these sins from their “new” lives. (Ephesians 4:22, Romans 6:6) Christ is truth and those of Christ will be true in word and deed. The “new man” has a new heart, new thoughts, and a new life which grows continually in knowledge and in the image of Christ.
5. In Christ, there is no distinction of race/color or bond/free men. All are one in the kingdom of Christ, a new holy nation. (I Peter 2:9) In Paul's time, Greeks called anyone not a Greek a barbarian. The Romans did this as well. In the church, a master and slave were on the same level.
6. Graces should replace sin such as mercy (compassion), kindness, humbleness, meekness, longsuffering, forgiveness, and above all, love. All Christian graces are bound together in love. Peace must rule your heart, so there is no discord in the body.
7. Let the word of Christ “dwell” in you. Treasure the divine wisdom and teachings of Christ. Teaching and encouraging are to be done in song, not for just enjoyment, but edification, (Ephesians 5:19) expressing the love of Christ.
8. We must do all in the name of the Lord. Whether worship, business or pleasure, a Christian must not do anything that might tarnish the name of Christ. We must always be thankful, for Christ will always be with us, working out all for good.
9. Paul repeats the household relations he gave to the Ephesians:
 - 1) Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands, in the Lord.
 - 2) Husbands, love your wives.
 - 3) Children, obey your parents in all things.

- 4) Fathers, do not provoke your children to the point of discouragement.
- 5) Servants, obey your masters, doing a good job not just while they are watching.
- 6) Masters, treat your servants fairly, as you would want to be treated by your master in heaven. (Ephesians 5:22 - 6:9)
10. Paul reminds them to continue in prayer. Prayer should be regular, every day. Pray earnestly, give thanks to God for His mercies as you again ask for mercy. Paul asks them to include him in their prayers, not for his ease, comfort, or safety, but that he might be given every opportunity to preach Christ.
11. Paul warns them to conduct themselves prudently, to seek and make the best of every opportunity to teach Christ. This meant giving up their own pleasure. Be courteous in speech so as to attract listeners rather than repel, seasoned with grace. Say what is pertinent and best for the occasion.
12. Tychicus was one of Paul's most trusted evangelists. He, probably a native of Ephesus, delivers this letter for Paul as well as the one to the Ephesians and Philemon. As he visited with them, he would ascertain their state of affairs and instruct and comfort them. (Ephesians 6:21, Acts 20:4, II Timothy 4:12, Titus 3:12)
13. Onesimus accompanies Tychicus to Colosse. Onesimus was a slave of Philemon who had fled to Rome, become a Christian and now returns. He is the subject of Paul's letter to Philemon. He is also a native of Colosse.
14. Paul and his companions close with greetings to these brethren. Those with him include:
 - Aristarchus - a Thessalonian and fellow prisoner who accompanied Paul from Jerusalem to Rome (Acts 19:29, 20:4, 27:2)
 - Marcus (Mark) - Barnabas' nephew who had accompanied them on their first missionary journey. (Acts 15)
 - Justus - a Jewish convert
 - Epaphras - thought to have founded the church in Colosse (Colossians 1:7)
 - Luke - the apostle, beloved physician.
 - Demas - mentioned again in II Timothy 4:10 and Philemon 24
15. Through this letter, Paul also sends greetings to the neighboring church at Laodicea.
16. Lastly, Paul cautions Archippus to faithfully complete the Lord's work he was sent to do. Paul points to his sufferings in prison and encourages the Colossians to take heart. He sends them God's love and grace.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - “baptism” props - water, dolls
 - heaven, treasures – cotton, golden castles, homes, pathways, gems, glitter, angel figures, flowers (create desire to see heaven)

winter tree, spring tree - leafless branch, branch with full foliage -
artificial, flannelgraph, construction paper
treasuring God's Word - Bible, talk about treating it with respect, its value
singing - song book
Tychicus, Onesimus - figures

- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Puppets/Dolls
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- Amazing Grace
- Be With Me Lord
- Blue Skies
- Father We Thank Thee
- He Paid A Debt
- Heaven Is A Wonderful Place
- Heavenly Sunlight
- He's Got The Whole World
- Into My Heart
- I've Been Redeemed
- I've Got My Head In Heaven
- Jesus
- Jesus Loves The Little Children
- Joy Like A Fountain
- Love Is Something If You Give It Away
- Oh Be Careful
- Seek Ye First
- Sing To Me Of Heaven
- Teach Me Lord To Wait
- The Crayon Song
- This Little Light Of Mine
- Whisper A Prayer

Activities:

- Application story/activities on good vs. evil deeds
- Application story/activities on praying, how to, what to
- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. What is different about you when you've become a Christian?
2. What do we treasure as Christians that the world may not?
3. What "graces" are we to grow in as Christians?
4. How does the Word of God grow in us as Christians?
5. Give examples/illustrations of how we are to do all in the name of the Lord.
6. How are we instructed to treat those of our household?
7. How are we to pray? When?
8. Who was Tychicus? Onesimus? Epaphras?
9. How are we to sing? Why?
10. Why don't we use instruments with our singing?

New Testament
Lesson 75: THE COMING OF THE LORD
- BE READY -

Text: I Thessalonians

Memory Verses:	I Thess. 4:16,17	<p>For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:</p> <p>Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.</p>
	I Thess. 5:2	<p>For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.</p>
	I Thess. 5:16-22	<p>Rejoice evermore.</p> <p>Pray without ceasing.</p> <p>In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.</p> <p>Quench not the Spirit.</p> <p>Despise not prophesyings.</p> <p>Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.</p> <p>Abstain from all appearance of evil.</p>

Goals:	<p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • we must live our lives day to day pleasing Christ, always prepared for the coming of the Lord, for no one knows when that day will be.
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Outline:

- I. Introduction, greetings. I Thessalonians 1
 - A. Thanksgiving for faithfulness.
 - B. Efforts in spreading the Gospel.
 - C. Changed lives.

- II. Paul's ministry among them. I Thessalonians 2
 - A. His manner of teaching.
 - B. Their persecutions.
 - C. Paul's desire to return to them.

- III. Paul sends Timothy to them. I Thessalonians 3
 - A. Joyous report.
 - B. Prayers for them.

- IV. Exhorted to a godly life. I Thessalonians 4
 - A. Warnings against impurity.
 - B. Brotherly love, sober living.
 - C. The second coming, dead/living.

- V. Watch for His coming. I Thessalonians 5
 - A. Be ready.
 - B. Spiritual duties.
 - C. Closing remarks.

Facts:

1. While at Corinth, Paul writes to the Thessalonian church. Thessalonica was the capital city of Macedonia, a great commercial harbor at the head of the Aegean Sea, named after Thessalonice, wife of Cassander, and half sister of Alexander the Great. It had a mixed population of primarily Greeks, Jews, and Romans.
2. The young church had received great persecution from the Jews who had run Paul out of town. Paul desperately wanted to return to Thessalonica to comfort and support the brethren but was prevented, so he sent Timothy to check on them. In spite of the persecution, Timothy reports back to Paul they are faithful. Paul, of course, is pleased and encouraged. (Acts 17)
3. Thessalonica is now a part of Turkey. It is still the third largest commercial city there with a population of 100,000.
4. Paul begins with thankfulness for their continued faithfulness, in spite of persecution, because of their hope in Christ as a "chosen people." Their earnestness was worthy of imitating throughout Macedonia and Achaia. The church consisted primarily of Gentiles converted to Christ and the change in their lives spoke for itself. (Acts 17:4)

5. Preaching the Gospel made Christ's return a daily expectation. No one knows when Christ may come again so we too should watch and pray.
6. In chapter 2, Paul refers to their originally coming to Thessalonica. He says, in spite of the cruel and fierce opposition they faced, he thanked God for their being able to boldly continue preaching the Gospel intrusted to them as "stewards" of God, for the reward was seeing the now established church in Thessalonica flourish.
7. Paul says he did not try to win them to Christ by flattery or for money or vain glory as some accused, but worked night and day preaching and working as a tentmaker for support so as not to be a burden to them. As a result, they became strong, courageous Christians like those of Judea, faithfully suffering persecution from the Jews who also killed Christ and their prophets. (Acts 17:13, Matthew 23:31) Nothing created such animosity among Jews as did preaching the Gospel to Gentiles. (Acts 22:21-23)
8. Although Paul was again hindered from visiting them as he'd hoped, by difficulties Paul attributes to Satan, he is happy with their faithfulness and says he is with them in spirit. (Acts 18:1-5) Concerned about them though, he sends Timothy to strengthen them and report back. Paul reminds them it is the fate of any follower of Christ to suffer persecution.
9. Timothy reports to Paul in Corinth (Acts 17:5) the faithfulness of the Thessalonian church. Paul is filled with joy and thanksgiving. He continues to pray for them night and day appealing to God to let him again visit them. This plea is answered three or four years later. (Acts 20:1,2) He prays for their increased love.
10. In chapter 4, Paul points to the need of living a holy life. (Note how often this is repeated to Gentile churches. Remember they were recently heathens and still require teaching, especially since fornication (sexual sin) and physical desires were common place.) The Christian life demands purity. Our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit and to defile it is to insult God.
11. Their conduct showed brotherly love but Paul encourages them to grow and increase that love. He chasens them not to meddle in the business of others. (This was a common trait among Greeks.) He also warns them not to be idle or lazy, but to work so as not to reflect on Christ negatively. Some thought the second coming was so near that working was a waste of time.
12. Some in Thessalonica were expecting the second coming any day and were mourning those who had recently died, thinking they would not meet Jesus. Paul tells them that all that are "asleep" (dead) in the arms of Jesus will be raised up with Him. Paul explains at the second coming of Jesus, those who died in Christ will meet Him before those saints on earth. (They thought those on earth would meet Jesus and the dead would be unable to follow.) We will all ascend together to meet God.
13. Paul reiterates in chapter 5 that the time of the second coming of Christ was revealed to no one and will come unexpectedly, (Matthew 24:43, II Thessalonians 2:2, II Peter 3:10, Joel 1:15) as a "thief in the night" (I Thessalonians 5:2).

14. Paul uses the analogy of a soldier watchfully, and soberly on guard, prepared with his armor to defend and protest. (Ephesians 6:11-17) Death cannot rob us of salvation. Whether alive or dead when Jesus comes again, those faithful shall live together with Christ.
15. Paul encourages them to build each other up. Appreciate your elders and honor them for their work. (Hebrews 13:17, Philemon 1:22) Everyone should get along. Warn those who are unruly, inconsistent and determined to follow their own will. Comfort the timid, support those weak in the faith. See that no one pays back evil for evil, (Romans 12:21) but instead do good to everyone.
16. Always be joyful. Pray always, being thankful for God's blessings. (Luke 18:1, Ephesians 6:18) Do not resist the Holy Spirit (reject the inspired teachings). Test (study) what is taught to be sure it is truth and stay away from every form of evil. Be faithful and blameless until Christ's coming.
17. Paul requests their prayers for him and Timothy. (Ephesians 6:19, Colossians 4:3, II Thessalonians 3:1) He sends greetings. (Romans 16:16, I Corinthians 16:20) He charges them to read his letter to all the brethren at Thessalonica.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - scroll, parchment, stationery, quill pen
 - map
 - sailor hat - harbor, port
 - persecution: stuffed lion, paper chains, handcuffs
 - model church building (Thessalonian church)
 - tent, heavy fabric and needle, thread - tentmaker
 - construction paper cutouts of a human body/star for Holy Spirit
 - puppets - the living, dead in Christ, Christ
 - lock, key, light on - thief in the night
 - armor, soldier
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Puppets/Dolls-Paul, Timothy, Silas
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- Blue Skies
- Heaven Is A Wonderful Place
- I Don't Want To Be A Grumpy
- If I Don't Get To Heaven
- If You Miss Me Singing Down Here
- I'm Happy Today
- I've Got My Head In Heaven
- Jesus Is Living In Heaven Today
- Joy Like A Fountain
- Pass It On
- Praise Him Praise Him
- Rejoice In The Lord Always
- Showing Love
- Teach Me Lord To Wait

- Walking On Heaven's Road
- Watch Your Eyes
- We Are One In The Spirit
- When I Wake Up To Sleep No More
- When Jesus Comes
- Whisper A Prayer
- Why Not Now
- Will Jesus Find Us Watching

Activities:

- Application story/activities: choosing right over wrong/prayer/death/2nd coming
- Discuss examples of persecution
- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. How do we prepare for the second coming of Christ?
2. Was Paul pleased with the church in Thessalonica? By what indications?
3. What do you know about Thessalonica?
4. Who does Paul send to the Thessalonians? Why does he send him?
5. Of what things does Paul warn the brethren of Thessalonica? What things does he encourage them to continue?
6. What misunderstandings did the Thessalonians have about the 2nd coming of Christ?
7. Who does Paul say will rise with Jesus first? Second?
8. When will Jesus come again?
9. What will happen to those unprepared for His coming?
10. Are you prepared to meet Jesus? How do you know?

New Testament
Lesson 76: BE THOU FAITHFUL

Text: II Thessalonians

Memory Verses:	II Thess. 1:7,8	And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:
	II Thess. 3:13	But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing.
	II Thess. 3:14,15	And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed. Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.

Goals:	Student will learn: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • idleness is the devil's workshop. • we must obey God and be faithful to Him until death or reap the punishment.
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Outline:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| <p>I. Thanksgiving and encouragement.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">A. Introduction.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">B. Thanksgiving for their steadfastness.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">C. Second coming.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">1. Persecution will end.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">2. Disobedient punished.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">3. God glorified.</p> | <p>II Thessalonians 1</p> |
| <p>II. Preceding the second coming.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">A. The falling away (perilous times).</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">B. The man of sin.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">C. His destruction (at the 2nd coming).</p> | <p>II Thessalonians 2</p> |

- III. Closing remarks.
- A. Requests prayers.
 - B. Withdraw from the disorderly.
 - C. Be not idle.

II Thessalonians 3

Facts:

1. Paul learned by messenger that the state of affairs in Thessalonica was about the same, with persecution and their anticipation of Christ returning any day now.
2. Unfortunately, some had quit their jobs in such anticipation and Paul needed to instruct them again on the second coming, explaining to them that certain events must precede Christ's coming which had not yet occurred.
3. Paul begins by again thanking God for their growing faithfulness and brotherly love and the prayers He had answered on their behalf. (I Thessalonians 3:9-13) Paul praised their growth and behavior to other congregations, such as Achaia, to stimulate good works elsewhere. Their patient endurance of trials had proved them ready for God's righteous judgment.
4. One day, there will be rest and no more persecution for those faithful to Christ. (Matthew 24:30) But God will drive the wicked and all those who refused to accept His Gospel to eternal banishment forever from His presence. (Romans 1:28, Matthew 25:41)
5. In view of the seriousness of eternal judgment, Paul prays the Thessalonians would always stand worthy of the Christian calling. Living holy lives brings glory to God and pleases Him.
6. In chapter 2, Paul clarifies that certain events must occur before Christ comes again. He had taught them in his first letter (5:2) the Lord would come as a "thief in the night." Easily excited by this, some had given up their occupations and were begging support from other Christians. He cautions them, too, of deceivers (false teachers).
7. Before Christ's coming again there would be a falling away.
8. The "man of sin" or "son of perdition" is whoever or whatever sets aside God's order and establishes one of his own. Whenever those of the church add to, take away from, or change the laws, institutions, or order God has ordained, the man of sin is at work.
9. Denominationalism no doubt is a development of the "man of sin." God reserves for Himself the right to govern His kingdom and rule it. Organizations that usurp the work of churches and control them come between God and man. The man of sin exalted himself above God.
10. The persecution of the church at this time kept them humble.
11. The wicked shall be revealed and destroyed at the Lord's coming, including those who chose to be deceived by lies and false miracles (trickery) rather than accept Christ's truth. Those that know God's will but chose their own will delude themselves and will likewise reap destruction.

12. In contrast, the Thessalonian church had been true to the Gospel and Paul's instruction and for that he again expresses thanksgiving.
13. In chapter 3, Paul closes his thoughts again requesting their prayers, not for ease or prosperity, but that the cause of Christ might not be hindered by opposition and that God might be glorified. (I Thessalonians 5:25, Ephesians 6:19, Colossians 4:3, II Timothy 2:9)
14. Paul expresses confidence that they will continue to be faithful and patiently endure trial for Christ. He reminds them God will be with them.
15. By Christ's authority, Paul commands the church to withdraw from those who violate the teachings of God by walking disorderly. (I Corinthians 5:4,5)
16. There is no obligation of a Christian or the church to feed the idle and lazy who are able to work. The obligation is to help the helpless. Christ had no sympathy for such people. Paul had told them before if any would not work, neither should he eat. (I Thessalonians 4:11, Genesis 3:19, I Corinthians 5:11, III John 9,10)
17. Paul points to the example he had set by supporting himself while he preached and labored with them. (I Thessalonians 2:9)
18. The objective of disciplining by withdrawing fellowship from those who will not obey is to save. Discipline includes admonishing, warning, and persuading. (I Corinthians 5:5, Leviticus 19:17)
19. Thus, Paul closes his letter to the Thessalonians giving his salutation to the letter as proof of genuineness. (II Thessalonians 2:2)

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - compass, map
 - stationery, quill pen
 - model of heaven, hell
 - examples of occupations - hats, uniforms, etc.
 - examples of different forms of the "man of sin" - idols, self-centeredness, denominationalism
 - tentmaking, cloth, needle
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Puppets/Dolls
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- A Helper I Will Be
- Cheerfully Obey
- God Is My Father
- God Is Watching Over You
- Happiness Is
- He Is My Everything
- Hilltops Of Glory
- I Know The Lord Will Find A Way
- I Like To Talk To God
- I Searched
- I Want To Go To Heaven
- If You Miss Me Walking Down Here

- Jesus Is Living In Heaven Today
- Jesus Prayed
- Let All That Is Within Me
- Praise Him Praise Him
- Showing Love
- The Very Best Life
- To The Work
- We Are One In The Spirit
- When The Roll Is Called Up Yonder
- Work For The Night Is Coming

Activities:

- Application stories or activities on: prayer, brotherly love, kindness, consequences, helpers (work/eat)
- Refer back to Matthew 25: 10 virgins, 10 talents
- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. What is idleness? Why should we not be idle?
2. If we choose not to follow Christ or be faithful to Him until death, what will happen?
3. Describe the church of Thessalonica.
4. Explain what the "falling away" was.
5. Who/what is the "man of sin"? Give examples.
6. For what does Paul ask that they pray?
7. Explain "walking disorderly."
8. What does Paul command we do with those that walk disorderly? Why?
9. Who was walking disorderly among the Thessalonians?

New Testament
Lesson 77: WORSHIP AND PRAYER
CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Text: I Timothy 1-3

Memory Verses:	I Timothy 2:5	For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;
	I Timothy 2:9	In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with braided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;
	I Timothy 2:12	But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.
	I Timothy 3:1	This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.

Goals:	Student will learn: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how to prepare to serve the church as they grow older. • recognize our own church leadership. • understand proper roles for public worship.
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Outline:

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| I. Timothy's mission. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Introduction. B. Timothy's purpose at Ephesus/use of the law. C. Paul's apostleship. | I Timothy 1 |
| II. Public worship. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Public prayer. B. The Gospel is for all. C. Women in worship. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dress. 2. Teaching. | I Timothy 2 |
| III. Qualifications of elders and deacons. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Elders. B. Deacons. C. Wives. | I Timothy 3 |

Facts:

1. Paul writes this letter to Timothy, a young evangelist he had converted and for whom he had a great affection. Timothy's father was Greek; his mother was Jewish. From his youth, he was trained in the scriptures by his mother, Eunice, and grandmother, Lois.
2. Timothy had become "as a son" to Paul. He traveled with him on his third missionary journey and was left in Ephesus to preach. Fully aware of the false teachers Timothy must deal with there, Paul instructs Timothy on governing the church and training its members.
3. Paul begins his letter by warning Timothy of errors on which he must confront the Judaizing false teachers. They had given much attention to Jewish fables handed down as traditions from generation to generation. (The Targums were Jewish sacred books composed of these.)
4. The Jews also stressed their ability to trace genealogical lines back to Abraham. Many of these records were destroyed by Herod the Great. All of these caused strife, confusion and disputes in the early church.
5. Timothy was to teach those at Ephesus the most important command of God was love, a pure heart, a good conscience, and sincere faith, not idle disputes or foolish fables. Many of these wanted to teach but they needed to be taught.
6. Paul lists sins common to the Gentile world the law condemns. The Gospel opposed these and taught the unrighteous how to become righteous.
7. Paul thanked God many times for showing him mercy. Here again, he mentions his old life as a persecutor of Christians, reminding us if God showed Paul mercy, He will show the same to any penitent sinner.
8. Timothy is encouraged to hold fast to the faith and stand strong in his ministry of the Gospel. Two of their acquaintances, Hymeneus and Alexander, had been disfellowshipped for blasphemy. (II Timothy 2:17, I Corinthians 5:5)
9. In chapter 2, Paul instructs Timothy on public prayer. He says we should express our requests, our prayers for direct and specific blessings, personal communication, and individual petitions to God. We should pray for our rulers that God's people might lead quiet, peaceable lives. We should pray for all men that they might obey the Gospel.
10. We communicate with God through our mediator, Christ, who gave himself as a ransom (price paid, redemption) for everyone.
11. Paul tells us we can pray anywhere but those leading prayer publically should have upright, pure lives. (holy hands - Job 17:9, Psalms 24:4, James 4:8) We should pray without animosity or bitterness toward anyone.
12. Women are to dress in modest, simple attire so as not to attract attention from public worship. They should show inner restraint, not yielding to vain impulses. During Paul's time, it was a fashionable custom to interweave gold, silver and pearls in plaits over their heads, causing it to glisten in the light. They also liked to wear several bracelets, necklaces, anklets, rings, and/or chains. The Jews denounced such extravagant ornamentation. (Isaiah 3:16-23, I Peter 3:3)

13. Rather, women should “adorn” their lives with kind, helpful deeds. They are to be silent in public worship, never assuming authority or superiority over men. (I Corinthians 14:33-36, Titus 2:5, I Corinthians 11:9)
14. Chapter 3 gives us the qualifications of elders and deacons. (It was needful for Timothy to seek out and help appoint church leadership in Ephesus while there.) To be an elder, one must be:
 - blameless - of good reputation
 - the husband of one wife
 - temperate - moderate
 - soberminded - showing self control
 - orderly - kind, considerate, good behavior
 - hospitable - often by persecution, saints became homeless. The elders must set the example by receiving such.
 - apt to teach - know the truth, lead, teach the flock privately as well as publicly.
 - not a brawler - quarrelsome, drinker
 - not a striker - must be even tempered, slow to anger
 - gentle - kind, even to the unpleasant
 - not contentious - over unimportant matters
 - not a lover of money - not anxious for riches or ill-gotten gain
 - ruleth his house well - properly trains his family to respect God.
 - not a novice - not a new convert
 - good testimony from those without - spoken well of by non-Christians
15. Qualifications of a deacon: (Acts 6:3)
 - must be grave - reverent
 - not double-tongued - always truthful
 - not given to much wine - refrains from strong drink
 - not greedy - not covetous, unscrupulous
 - holding to the mystery of the faith - the Gospel revealed to believers
 - a pure conscience - does not violate convictions
 - be proven - not young converts, have had time for study and service in the work of the church
 - husband of one wife
 - rule children well
 - having boldness in the faith - fulfilling such duties gives strength and prepares one for higher duties
16. Women of the church should be:
 - grave - serious, earnest, cheerful
 - not slanderers - gossip
 - temperate - calm, collected
 - faithful - true
17. Paul hoped to be with Timothy in Ephesus, but he realized danger may not allow it. Timothy was to go ahead with these instructions. He emphasizes God as a living God among the pagan temples of Ephesus. The church (each Christian) is the foundation and support of the truth through teaching and example to the world.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - map, compass
 - stationery, pen, quill, scroll
 - Paul, Timothy, Timothy's family - dolls, puppets, pictures
 - suitcase - traveled with Paul
 - boat - discuss modes of travel
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Puppets/Dolls
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- Be Very Still - Close Your Eyes
- Father We Thank Thee
- Give Thanks To The Lord
- God Is Watching Over You
- God Will Answer Every Prayer
- Humble Yourself
- I Will Call Upon The Lord
- I Will Pray
- I Woke Up This Morning
- Jesus In The Morning
- Love Love Love Love
- Oft We Come Together
- Our God, He Is Alive
- Seek Ye First
- Standin In The Need Of Prayer
- Thank You Lord
- The Lord Is In His Holy Temple
- There Is Power In Prayer
- Whisper A Prayer

Activities:

- Explain fables they may recognize (ex: Æsop's fables)
- Explain genealogies
- Application story on love, good conscience, sincere faith, prayer
- Write a note of encouragement to a woman raising her children alone
- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. How do we prepare ourselves for serving the church? When?
2. Who are the elders and deacons at Cold Harbor?
3. What makes them qualified to be elders and deacons?
4. What should we include in our prayers?
5. How should we dress/"adorn" ourselves for worship?
6. What are men and women's proper roles during worship? Why?
7. What qualifications do the wives of our leaders have?
8. Describe Timothy's mission at Ephesus?
9. Tell what you know about Timothy.

New Testament
Lesson 78: GUIDELINES IN FAITH AND DISCIPLINE
THE LOVE OF MONEY

Text: I Timothy 4-6

Memory Verses:	I Timothy 4:12	Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.
	I Timothy 5:8	But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.
	I Timothy 6:6	But godliness with contentment is great gain.
	I Timothy 6:10	For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.
	I Timothy 6:12	Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

Goals:	<p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • we are to honor and respect our elders. <p>We are to care for widows.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • loving money and material things on earth more than God will cost us our place in heaven. Learn to be content with what God has blessed you.
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Outline:

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| I. A falling away predicted. | I Timothy 4 |
| A. Signs of that apostasy. | |
| B. Direction in view of this. | |
| C. Timothy, be an example in teaching and conduct. | |

Older men and women - dolls, puppets, pictures
water with visible impurities - cherry Nyquil, grape juice
wealth - money, jewelry

- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Puppets/Dolls
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- I Know The Lord Will Find A Way
- A Charge To Keep I Have
- Dare To Do Right
- Do Lord
- Give Me Oil In My Lamp
- God Is My Father
- How Beautiful Heaven Must Be
- I Searched
- If You Miss Me Walking Up There
- I've Got Peace
- Jesus Is Living In Heaven Today
- Love Is Something
- Mansion Over The Hilltop
- My Grandparents
- My Helping Hands
- O (*child*) Do You Love Jesus
- Pass It On
- Roll The Gospel Chariot Along
- Seek Ye First
- The Treasures Of Earth
- The Very Best Life
- Yield Not To Temptation

Activities:

- Application activity/story for: showing respect
caring for grandparents/elderly
choosing God over greed
good deeds
- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. How are we to treat those older than ourselves? (especially the elderly)
2. What responsibility does family/the church have toward those widowed?
3. What warnings does Paul give concerning money? Why?
4. Define: apostasy, reprove, contentment
5. What instructions does Paul give on discipline? (older, younger, elders)
6. Tell me about Timothy. How are you like him?
7. Who are widows indeed?
8. How are we to treat the elders of the church?
9. How do we "fight the good fight of faith"?
10. In what ways are you content? How are you investing in heavenly treasures?

New Testament
Lesson 79: STUDY AND TEACH GOD'S WORD

Text: II Timothy

Memory Verses:	II Timothy 1:12	For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.
	II Timothy 2:15	Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.
	II Timothy 3:16,17	All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.
	II Timothy 4:2	Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.
	II Timothy 4:7,8	I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

Goals:	<p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • we must diligently study God's word and apply it to our lives if we are to withstand the devil's temptations. • God commands us to teach His Word to others and be able to answer for what we believe.
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Outline:

- I. Be loyal to the Gospel. II Timothy 1
 - A. Introduction/greetings.
 - B. Timothy's early training.
 - C. Be bold and zealous.

- II. Study God's Word and teach it to others. II Timothy 2
 - A. Teach others.
 - B. Be a hard fighting soldier for Christ.
 - C. Study thoroughly God's Word.
 - D. Characteristics of a Christian.

- III. Some will defect. II Timothy 3
 - A. The ungodly.
 - B. Continue in the wisdom of the scriptures.

- IV. Preach the Word. II Timothy 4
 - A. Fulfill the ministry.
 - B. Paul's departure at hand.
 - C. Requests and personal directions.

Facts:

1. II Timothy was probably written around A.D. 67 or 68, when Nero (emperor) was fiercely persecuting the church. Paul was imprisoned in Rome. Timothy was still hard at work in Ephesus, and Paul longed to see him again. Paul asks Timothy to come quickly, but in case he doesn't make it, Paul writes some parting admonitions.
2. Paul recalls the tears they had shared at their last parting and their spiritual upbringing. He encourages Timothy to be bold in his teaching of the Gospel, never ashamed or afraid of suffering persecution. God will be with us. (Romans 9)
3. Teach sound doctrine. Unfortunately, some of Asia had been led astray by false teachers, including Phygellus and Hemogenes. Onesiphorus was faithful and courageous enough to seek out and find Paul (imprisoned) and visit him regularly to cheer and encourage him. (Onesiphorus was a native of Ephesus.)
4. As Paul had trained/taught Timothy to preach the Gospel, Timothy was to prepare other men to do the same. He illustrates with a soldier, an athlete, and a farmer who must also deny themselves and suffer in order to receive the reward.
5. Paul admonishes Timothy to ponder and take seriously his words, for if we continue to be faithful, we will be with Him in heaven, but if we fall away, Christ will deny us at judgment. (Matthew 10:13) Remind others of this.

6. Diligently study God's word. Present God's word clearly and truthfully, knowing what His word says and means.
7. Stay away from foolish arguments and speculations such as those of Hymenæus and Philetus.
8. Flee anything that causes evil thoughts. Stay close to things that make you want to do right. (I Timothy 4:12) Kindly and humbly correct opposers of the Truth, that they might escape Satan's grasp and repent. (Matthew 3:2, Acts 2:38, Acts 11:18)
9. Paul warns Timothy there will come a time when it will be difficult to be a faithful Christian. People will be selfish, lovers of money, boastful and proud, sneer at God, disobedient to parents, ungrateful and bad. They will be perverted, troublemakers, liars, mean, unhappy and despise those that are good. They will betray their friends, be hot tempered, preferring selfish pleasures over worshipping God. They may attend worship, but are not serious nor sincere believers.
10. These people establish friendships with those who are spiritually immature, teaching them false doctrine and luring them away. Such were Jannes and Jambres, Egyptian magicians, during the time of Moses. (Exodus 7:11, Exodus 22:11) Eventually God will expose and punish them.
11. Timothy knew the life Paul had lead for Christ's sake and could trust him. Paul encourages him to continue studying the scriptures which are inspired of God (God breathed). They are complete, fully equipped for teaching anyone how to obtain salvation.
12. In chapter 4, Paul charges Timothy that both he and all those he teaches will be judged by Christ one day. (I Thessalonians 4:5) Teach whenever you have the opportunity (when it's convenient and when it isn't). Correct, encourage and continually teach them God's word. Leave nothing undone.
13. Paul warns there would come a time when individuals would turn from the pure Gospel to teachers who would tell them what they wanted to hear. (Hosea 4:6-10, Matthew 15:3)
14. In the face of death, Paul looked forward to eternal life in heaven awaiting him. As in the Grecian races, Paul says he had "fought the good fight (for the Lord) I have finished my course (finished the race) I have kept the faith" (remained true in spite of every opposition). Thus a crown awaited him as for every faithful servant of Christ.
15. Final instructions: Come as soon as possible. Demas left in the face of trial. (Colossians 4:14, Philemon 24) Crescens is in Galatia and Titus in Dalmatia. Only Luke is here. Bring John Mark with you. Tychicus will take your place in Ephesus. Bring my coat, books and parchments I left at Carpus' house in Troas. Beware of Alexander the coppersmith. (Acts 19:23, I Timothy 1:20)
16. Paul sends greetings to Aquila and Priscilla and those at Onesiphorus. (II Timothy 1:16) Try to get here before winter (or navigation would be difficult until spring).

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - map, stationery, pen, quill
 - Bibles - study
 - handcuffs, paper chains, "jail"
 - Timothy, Paul - puppets, dolls, pictures
 - toy soldier, athlete, former and applicable rewards
 - teacher - glasses, pointer, pencil, chalk, notebook
 - dishes - china, wood, clay -old, chipped
 - runner - sweat band, baton, Grecian head wreath - leaf garland woven as crown
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Puppets/Dolls
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- A Charge To Keep I Have
- Because It Pleases God
- Face To Face
- God Is Watching Over You
- Gospel Means Good News
- I Have Decided To Follow Jesus
- I Know The Lord Will Find Away
- I Know Whom I Have Believed
- I've Been Working For My Jesus
- Jesus Is Lord
- Jesus Is My Friend
- Not Ashamed To Own My Lord
- O The Bible
- Seek Ye First The Kingdom
- Study Your Bible Every Day
- We Are Family

Activities:

- Application story/activity on evil doers vs. good; teaching vs. learning
- Compare "value" (importance) or the Bible vs. other books
- Write an older Christian, thanking him/her for remaining faithful all his/her life
- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. What does Paul tell us about studying God's word?
2. How often do you study God's word? How thoroughly?
3. What might assist you in the study of God's word?
4. Once we've studied & understand God's word, what does He command us to do?
5. To whom are you teaching God's word?
6. How can you teach God's word? How old do you have to be?
7. Give characteristics of a true Christian. Characteristics of the ungodly?
8. Was Paul concerned about dying? How do you know?

New Testament
Lesson 80: CHRISTIANS DUTIES
PURITY OF HEART

Text: Titus

Memory Verses:	Titus 1:7-9	<p>For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;</p> <p>But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate;</p> <p>Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.</p>
	Titus 2:12b-14	<p>...we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;</p> <p>Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;</p> <p>Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.</p>
	Titus 3:1b	<p>...be ready to every good work,</p>

Goals:	<p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God expects us to conduct ourselves as Christ would, no matter how old or young we are.
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Outline:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------|
| I. Directions to Titus. | Titus 1 |
| A. Introduction. | |
| B. Qualifications of elders. | |
| C. False teachers. | |
| D. Character and conditions at Crete. | |

- II. Christian duties. Titus 2
 - A. Four classes admonished.
 - B. Christian hope.

- III. Directions toward non-Christians. Titus 3
 - A. Christian conduct and service.
 - B. Avoid heretics.
 - C. Closing remarks.

Facts:

1. Paul writes to Titus, whom he had left in Crete with the church there, to preach, direct their affairs, and appoint elders. (I Timothy 3:1-6) Crete is a great island of the Mediterranean Sea with a strong blend of races and religions. Although there are many Jews, the population is predominately Greek Gentiles.
2. The church was plagued with problems of immorality, greed, and drunkenness typical of Gentiles. Paul instructs Titus as he had Timothy in handling such affairs.
3. There were to be a plurality of elders appointed at each of the congregations in Crete. Paul repeats qualifications:
 - must be blameless - no one could bring accusation against him
 - the husband of one wife
 - having faithful children that are good examples
 - honest
 - not stubborn willed
 - not easily angered
 - not a drinker nor fighter
 - not greedy
 - hospitable
 - benevolent
 - serious
 - fair
 - holy - devoted to God
 - uses self-control
 - faithful and able to teach or refute opposers of the Gospel (I Timothy 3:1-6)
4. Elder, overseer, and bishop are different names for the same office.
5. Judaizing (false) teachers troubled the churches here as they had elsewhere. Paul tells Titus they must be stopped; refuse to hear them. Some representing themselves as teachers were really only interested in selfish monetary gains.
6. Paul specifically brings up a Cretan named Epimenides, who fell into this category. The Cretans paid sacred honor to his philosophic legends (600 B.C.). Cretans had a reputation for being liars, animalistic and gluttonous (lazy).
7. Paul had observed these character traits first hand among those of Crete and warns Titus to sharply rebuke them. Jewish fables also challenged these

- congregations. (I Timothy 1:4, Mark 7:4,8, Matthew 15:1-10, Romans 14:14, I Corinthians 8:4-8)
8. In chapter 2, Paul tells Titus to teach practical duties. To the aged men: be temperate (not given to excess in anything, specifically strong drink), grave (serious), sound in the faith, not bitter or vindictive, and patient.
 9. To the aged women: reverent, not slanderers (gossips) or enslaved to wine. They must be teachers by precept and example, training younger women to love their husbands and children. They must be chaste (self control), manage their homes (domestic), be in subjection to their own husbands that the Lord may not be spoken against. (I Timothy 5:13)
 10. To the younger men: be sober minded (proper self control), an example of good works, teaching the pure Gospel with respect and dignity. They must use clear conversation producing a good influence that cannot be criticized or reflect badly upon Christianity.
 11. To the servants: be in subjection to their masters, faithful, obedient in a cheerful manner. They were not to steal (purloin). They were to be honest, reflecting positively upon the Gospel. (Many masters were converted by their servants.)
 12. By denying sin and living godly lives, we look forward to the glorious grace and hope of heaven that awaits us at Christ's coming again. For He delivers us from the power and penalty of sin when we live a holy life that commands the respect of others.
 13. The Cretans were subject to the Roman rule of Nero, who was a persecutor of Christians. Paul had just been released from prison, yet he teaches that we, as Christians, must quietly subject ourselves to government rulers except when contrary to God's will. (Matthew 17:24-27, I Peter 2:13-16) We are not to speak evil or create strife against these civil rulers, but to be kind and forbearing toward all men.
 14. Although we too were once disobedient, God's mercy has saved us by the washing of regeneration (baptism). (John 3:5, Romans 6:1-8, Matthew 3:14,15) God requires this outward act of faith and repentance in order for our sins to be forgiven, that we might be His children.
 15. Because of God's grace, we should live loyal, obedient lives filled with good deeds. We must avoid foolish questions/disputes over Jewish law and genealogies.
 16. Paul instructs Titus to warn and admonish the heretics (those causing division).
 17. In closing, Paul bids Titus to leave Crete as soon as Artemas or Tychicus comes to replace him (Colossians 4:7, Ephesians 6:21) and come to him at Nicopolis, a town on the west coast of Greece, also known as the "city of victory." Bring Zenas and Apollos with you. (Acts 18:24-28) Teach all Christians to be fruitful, supplying the needs of others.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - map, compass
 - stationery, quill, pen, scroll
 - aging people - gray hair, glasses, pictures of older people
 - Epimenides - doll, picture, puppet
 - domestic - wash dishes, sweep, polish furniture
 - young men - hat, mustache
 - servants, apron, hat, work clothes
 - heaven visual
 - picture of king, crown, scepter
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Puppets/Dolls
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- Because It Pleases God
- Dare To Do Right
- God Is Watching Over You
- I Want To Go To Heaven
- I'm In The Lord's Army
- Into Our Hands
- I've Been Redeemed
- Jesus Loves Even Me
- Jesus Wants Me For A Sunbeam
- Make Me A Servant
- My God Is So Great
- Paul The Preacher
- Praise Him Praise Him
- Seek Ye First
- Stand Up Stand Up For Jesus
- The Crayon Song

Activities:

- Application on good deeds, lying, gluttony, laziness, influencing wrong vs. right
- Write the elders' and deacons' wives, thanking them for assisting their husbands.
- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. What do you know about Titus? Crete?
2. List the qualifications for elders.
3. How does God expect us to conduct ourselves?
4. What problems must Titus deal with within the churches at Crete?
5. What four groups of people does Paul specifically address in chapter 2?
6. How does he expect them each to live?
7. Why is it important we live godly lives?
8. To whom must Christians be subject other than God? With what exception?
9. Define: heretics
10. Who would take Titus' place at Crete?

New Testament
Lesson 81: CHRISTIAN LOVE AND FORGIVENESS

Text: Philemon

Memory Verses:	<p>Philemon 3-5 Grace to you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.</p> <p>I thank my God, making mention of thee always in my prayers,</p> <p>Hearing of thy love and faith, which thou hast toward the Lord Jesus, and toward all saints;</p>
	<p>Philemon 17 But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defense of the Gospel.</p>

Goals:	<p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • we are to forgive others as Christ has forgiven us. • to please God, it is necessary to repent of wrong doing even though it is difficult.
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Outline:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| I. Introduction/Greetings. | Philemon 1-3 |
| II. Thanksgiving for Philemon. | Philemon 4-7 |
| III. Intercession for Onesimus. | Philemon 8-21 |
| IV. Closing remarks. | Philemon 22-25 |

Facts:

1. This letter was written by Paul during his imprisonment at Rome to Philemon, his convert who was actively working with the church in Colosse. He writes on behalf of Onesimus, a runaway slave of Philemon's who had been taught and converted by Paul while in Rome. Although he had been a great help to Paul, it was his duty to return to his master. Thus, he returns with Tychicus.
2. Slavery, at this time, was universal. Under Roman law, a slave was property and had no rights. With Christ's coming, all men of the church became brothers, standing on equal footing before God, bound by ties of brotherly love. Thus, Christianity revolutionized the conditions of slavery. Christianity does not destroy the civil laws of man, but makes the Christian use them for the good of others.

3. Servants were to faithfully serve their masters and masters were to treat the servant with love, trust, and fairness.
4. In his greetings to Philemon, Paul mentions Philemon's wife, Apphia, and Philemon's son, Archippus,. The church of Colosse met in Philemon's house. (Colossians 4:18)
5. Paul mentioned Philemon in his prayers often, grateful for his godly life and example to others. (Colossians 1:7) There is implication of a special bond of friendship and love between Paul and Philemon.
6. In verse 9, Paul states the purpose of his letter. He approaches Philemon with love to do what is right in this situation.
7. Although Onesimus may have been discontented when he ran away, he had changed, and had served Paul well. Paul had become very attached to Onesimus and for Philemon to treat him unkindly upon his return would disappoint Paul.
8. Paul would have liked to have kept Onesimus with him, but would not interfere with civil law; if Onesimus were to continue to serve Paul, it must be volunteered on the part of Philemon.
9. Paul suggests Onesimus' running away led to his conversion, a changed relationship. Now he is a brother in Christ, which creates a deeper bond between him and Philemon. He encourages Philemon to receive Onesimus back as he would Paul (his partner in Christ). (II Corinthians 8:232)
10. Paul had received service from Onesimus and was willing to assume any obligations Onesimus owed Philemon. (Philemon owed Paul, in a sense, for teaching him the Gospel and enjoying salvation.)
11. Paul expresses confidence that Philemon will grant his requests. A heart truly touched by the love of Christ never seeks the lowest limit of duty.
12. In closing, Paul asks Philemon to have a room ready for him. Please pray to that end. (James 1:6, John 15:7, I John 5:14, Romans 8:28)
13. Paul sends "hellos" from Ephaphras, a messenger of Paul's who was a resident of Colosse (Colossians 1:7, 4:12); Mark, Barnabas' nephew (Acts 13:13, 15:36-41, II Timothy 4:11); Aristarchus, a companion to Paul from Macedonia (Acts 19:29, 20:4, 27:2); Demas, a companion to Paul in Rome (Colossians 4:14, II Timothy 4:10); and Luke, the beloved physician and traveling companion to Paul (Colossians 4:14, II Timothy 4:11).

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - map, compass, suitcase
 - stationery, pen, quill, scroll, parchment
 - doll, picture, puppet - Onesimus, Philemon, Tychicus
 - paper chain, ball, shackles - slavery
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Puppets/Dolls
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- Bring Christ Your Broken Life
- Cheerfully Obey
- Company Is Coming
- Dear Lord & Father Of Mankind
- Down In My Heart
- God Is Watching Over You
- I Have Decided To Follow Jesus
- I Know The Lord Will Find A Way
- Love Love Love Love
- O How I Love Jesus
- Showing Love
- Take The Blame
- The Very Best Life
- Unto Thee O Lord
- We Are Family
- We Are One In The Spirit
- You Are Special

Activities:

- Application stories on forgiveness, righting a wrong, prayer, brotherly love
- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. How do you think Philemon reacted to Paul's letter? Why?
2. How do you react when someone wrongs you? When they ask to be forgiven?
3. What might Onesimus have been thinking as he returned to Philemon?
4. Give a brief example of a time you had to ask forgiveness of someone. How did you feel?
5. Who makes intercession for us?
6. Give an example of how you could intercede on someone's behalf.
7. Why was Paul so confident Philemon would do the right thing?
8. What lesson can be learned from this letter?

New Testament
Lesson 82: THE PRE-EMINENCE OF CHRIST
FAITHFULNESS

Text: Hebrews 1-6

Memory Verses:	Hebrews 1:1,2	God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;
	Hebrews 4:12	For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.
	Hebrews 5:8,9	Though He were a Son, yet learned He obedience by the things which He suffered; And being made perfect, He became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> obey Him;

Goals:	Student will learn: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • why the new covenant of Christ was better than the old covenant. • the power and influence of God's Word and why it is so important to be true to Christ and His teachings.
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Outline:

- I. Christ's superiority to prophets and angels. Hebrews 1; 2
 - A. Introduction.
 - B. God's methods of speaking to His people then and now.
 - C. God's greatest self-revelation.
 1. Christ, the divine Son.
 2. Tempted and tried as humanity.
 3. Power over death.
 4. Perfect savior.

- II. Christ's superiority to Moses. Hebrews 3; 4
 - A. Christ our high priest; builder above the house.
 - B. Israel provoked God and lost their place in the promised land.
 - C. Christian's rest through diligent faith.
 - D. Power of God's Word.

- III. Christ our superior high priest. Hebrews 5,6
- A. Of the order of Melchisedec; obedient through suffering.
 - B. Necessity of an ever-growing knowledge of the Gospel.
 - C. Strive for perfection; consequences of forsaking Christ.
 - D. God keeps His promises.

Facts:

1. Hebrews is addressed to Hebrew (Jewish) Christians. It reveals the superiority of Christianity to Judaism, how the two are related and how Christ had fulfilled the provisions of the old law. It was difficult for the Jews to accept the new covenant, so the writer of Hebrews systematically shows how Christ is superior to the prophets, angels, Moses, and Aaron. He shows how the new covenant is better than the old covenant and why it is so important to continue to grow in the Gospel rather than lapsing into unbelief. He gives examples of faithful men to imitate. Those he addresses were suffering great persecution and their perseverance was weakening. It appears almost certain that Paul was the author of Hebrews.
2. The writer begins by saying in times past, God spoke to His people in many different ways, usually to the head of the family, prophets, or angels, but now God speaks to us only through His son Jesus (His Word). He has chosen Jesus to be His messenger and has put Him in charge over all. (Matthew 28:18, Acts 2:36, John 17:10, Galatians 4:1, John 1:3)
3. In Christ, we have the tangible representation of God, the Father, having all power and having made atonement for our sins, He now sits at the place of highest honor, the right hand of God. (John 14:9, Ephesians 1:20, Psalms 110:1)
4. God shows Jesus to be superior to angels by calling Him "Son" (only begotten son). (John 3:1, Hebrews 1:5, Hebrews 5:5) He is divine, anointed by God to rule His kingdom eternally. (Joshua 10:24,25, Acts 2:35, I Corinthians 15:25) Christ is Lord; angels are servants who serve God in His divine plan.
5. It is crucially important to listen to Christ's message. If we see under Jewish law (spoken by angels/prophets) obedience was rewarded and disobedience punished, then we must not take lightly the Gospel from Jesus Christ, God's own Son, but heed every word or suffer the consequences.
6. When Jesus became the "seed of Abraham," taking upon Himself humanity, He was tempted as we are and suffered without sinning. He died for our sins, becoming the perfect Savior and providing us the hope of eternal life someday.
7. He now intercedes for us to the Father as our high priest and older brother, sympathizing with our trials and comforting us in times of need. (Isaiah 8;17, Psalms 22:22)
8. In chapter 3, the writer explains further that we, as Christians, must honor Christ above Moses, for although Moses was a faithful servant of God's and served Him well over Israel, Christ, as God's own Son, is the creator of all. He uses the analogy of honoring the builder over the building (His creation). (Numbers 12:6-8) Christ is the builder of the church. (I Corinthians 3:16, Matthew 16:18)
9. He warns them to learn a lesson from the fate of Israel. They provoked God, murmuring against Him and continuing to sin even as they wandered in the

- wilderness, showing a lack of faith in God's power. God became disgusted with these individuals and allowed them to die before reaching Canaan. (Psalms 95:7-11, Exodus 17:1-7, Numbers 14:20-35, 27:14)
10. The Hebrew Christians being addressed were allowing their own trials to weaken their faith. Reminding them of the fate of Israel would help them persevere toward the benefits and glory of that promised heavenly rest.
 11. God's promises are conditional. Those who follow the commands of the Gospel and obey God until death will receive the rest in heaven God has promised. Those who do not believe and obey God or begin but fall away will suffer the consequences. Everyone has the opportunity to accept the Gospel.
 12. Joshua led Israel into Canaan, giving them a promised land on earth but not complete rest. Nor did the Sabbath. David told them of a more permanent resting place where trials, toil and sufferings do not exist if we are faithful to the end.
 13. Never underestimate the power of the Word of God. It cuts keenly in all directions. It gives life and it slays. It lays bare our thoughts and intentions. All our thoughts and deeds are seen by God.
 14. The high priests of the Old Covenant were all appointed by God, not self-proclaimed. They must be merciful, approaching God on their own behalf as well as others'. God called Christ to be our high priest after the order of Melchisedec, who was both a king and high priest as Christ. Yet Christ was perfect, able to offer the Gospel to all and save all that obey. (Exodus 28:1, Leviticus 8:2, Ephesians 1:20-23, Genesis 14:18,19, Hebrews 7:1-10)
 15. The writer is discouraged that all this seems so difficult for the Hebrew Christians to understand. He says they have been Christians long enough to be teaching others yet they still need to learn basic principles of the Gospel. We must grow in our knowledge of the Gospel by studying thoroughly. This will enable us to teach others and discern right from wrong. (II Timothy 2:15)
 16. If Christians reject Christ, having no longer a penitent heart, God will reject them. It is as if they have crucified Christ again.
 17. God demands righteous fruit, so Christians are encouraged to continue in works of love and diligent study of God's word. Endure patiently and steadfastly as Abraham, Moses, or Stephen did to obtain the promise of heaven.
 18. God cannot lie. His promises are a certainty. As the high priest of the Old Law entered the Holy of Holies, so Christ, our high priest (intercessor), has entered within the veil of heaven (the Holy of Holies now), offering us heavenly hope if we are steadfast in the Gospel while on earth.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - map of Jerusalem
 - Old Testament - books, scroll, 10 commandments tablets, altar sacrifices
 - New Testament - books, Bible
 - examples of early persecution - lions, stuffed, picture, craft
 - cross - craft sticks, tied twigs
 - throne in heaven - golden chair, gems, glitter, red velvet, purple
 - builder tools, hat, carpenters belt, blue print, toy truck, backhoe

New Testament
Lesson 83: CHRIST ABOLISHES THE LEVITICAL SYSTEM
(THE LAW FULFILLED)

Text: Hebrews 7-10

Memory Verses:	Hebrews 9:27	And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:
	Hebrews 10:25	Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.
	Hebrews 10:30,31	For we know him that hath said, vengeance belongeth unto Me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, the Lord shall judge His people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Goals:	<p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christ's death on the cross was essential for our forgiveness of sins and our salvation. • the New Testament, law of Christ, replaced the Old Testament by which we must follow and be judged. • God has appointed a day in which He will judge everyone.
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Outline:

- I. The difference between Christ and the Levitical priesthood. Hebrews 7
 - A. Melchisedec.
 - B. Levitical priests.
 - C. Christ after the order of Melchisedec.
 - D. Christ and the New Covenant - superior.

- II. Old Covenant replaced by New Covenant. Hebrews 8
 - A. Christ - eternal priesthood - mediator.
 - B. Imperfections of Old Covenant.
 - C. New Covenant implemented.

- III. Old vs. New Covenant. Hebrews 9
 - A. Rites and sacrifices of Old Law.
 - B. Pattern of heavenly things - shadow of things to come.
 - C. Perfection of the sacrifice of Christ.

- IV. Christ's sacrifice once and for all.
- A. Imperfection of Old Law sacrifices.
- B. Perfection of Christ's sacrifice.
- C. Need for perseverance in faith.

Hebrews 10

Facts:

1. Melchisedec, characterized in Genesis 14:18-20, was both high priest and king of Jerusalem at that time. He is associated with great honor and dignity. As Abraham returns from battle in victory over the four kings of Hebron, Melchisedec meets him and his servants and shows them great hospitality and blessings. Abraham gives to the high priest (Melchisedec) a tenth of their spoils as tithes to God, as required. Interestingly, there is no account of Melchisedec's parentage, birth, death, or the beginning and end of his priesthood or royal state (like as to the Son of God). King of Salem means "king of peace." (Genesis 27:27-29)
2. The writer of Hebrews points out that if the Old Testament law (Levitical system) had been perfect, there would be no reason for a new one. But the Levitical priests could not forgive sin. Thus a change is predicted.
3. Under old law, priests must be of the tribe of Levi. Christ was of the tribe of Judah, the lineage of King David. Jesus becomes priest and king at His resurrection and His reign would last without end. (Ephesians 1:20, Psalms 90:4) He lives forever and there is no change of His priesthood as with the Levites.
4. The old law prepared for the new law. Christ brought a better hope with the ability to save anyone who obeys the new covenant. Christ replaced the daily offerings in the temple by His perfect offering of a perfect sacrifice (Himself) upon the cross.
5. In chapter 8, the writer sums up what he has said previously. Christ, our high priest and mediator, sympathizes with us, is sinless, unchangeable, able to save us, and divine. He sits at God's right hand in heaven. The tabernacle of the old law foreshadowed a heavenly plan. (Exodus 25:40)
6. God declares to Jeremiah, He would replace the old covenant with a new because Israel had been unfaithful. (Jeremiah 31:34) Under the new covenant, God requires the minds and hearts of men be surrendered to Him. The gospel (new covenant) is offered to anyone who believes in Christ Jesus, repents of their sins, is baptized, and gives their will to God.
7. In chapter 9, the writer contrasts the old and new covenant. He gives a review of the tabernacle and its articles, along with their significance:
 - Tabernacle: created at Sinai (Exodus 26); divided into the Holy Place and Holy of Holies; outlay duplicated when the temple was built.
 - Candlestick: gold with seven lamps for burning olive oil. (Exodus 25:31-40)
 - Table: overlaid with gold which held twelve loaves of shewbread (Leviticus 24:5-9)
 - Veil: first veil over the door into the Holy Place; second veil separated the Holy Place from the most Holy Place.
 - Golden censer: for burning incense in the Most Holy Place. (Leviticus 16:12)
 - Ark of the Covenant: a chest of acacia wood overlaid in gold; most sacred article of the tabernacle. (Exodus 25:10-16) Two golden cherubims hover over it. It disappeared when Nebuchadnezzar destroyed the temple.

Golden pot of manna: Exodus 16:32-34

Aaron's rod: Numbers 17:1-11

Ten Commandment tablets: Deuteronomy 10:1-5

8. Under the old law, the priests would serve in the Holy Place daily. Gifts, sacrifices, and divine washings were symbols of purification, but could not take away sins of ignorance or mistakes. (Leviticus 16:11-15, Exodus 30:10-25) Even the blood atonement made by the high priest once a year in the Holy of Holies did not take away their sins.
9. With the coming of the gospel (the new law), Christ, who was perfect (sinless), offered Himself as sacrifice upon the cross to atone for the sins of all people of every dispensation that obeyed God. Christ has now entered a permanent tabernacle (heaven), the "Holy of Holies" above, to serve as our high priest and to mediate to God on our behalf.
10. The writer explains it is as if God had written a will with His people under the Old Testament, and the inheritance could not be collected until Christ, the testator, came and died, bringing the New Testament into effect. Although the making of wills was not a custom in Israel, it was customary throughout the Roman Empire and Judea, thus, these Christians understood the illustration.
11. Under the old law, almost everything was purified by blood. Moses sprinkled the tabernacle, the people, the ten commandments, and all the furniture of the tabernacle with blood. (Exodus 24:1-8, Exodus 21-23, Exodus 40:9-15, Leviticus 8:24, Leviticus 16:16,19,33)
12. All such services of the old law foreshadowed a better plan to come. God has also appointed a time for each one of us to die and then be judged by Him.
13. The animal sacrifices of the old law had no power to cleanse (forgive, take away) sin, but pointed to the one perfect sacrifice of Christ, the Lamb of God. Christ's offering of Himself sanctified His followers and pleased God so it is honored forever, once and for all. (I Corinthians 1:2) This brought about the true forgiveness of sins (not rolling them forward anymore) that Jeremiah prophesied. (Jeremiah 31:33,34)
14. Christ has thus rent the veil, opening up the way for everyone who will follow Him into the Holy of Holies (heaven), both under the old law and the new.
15. We must cling to the faith in our high priest with a sincere, pure heart, being washed (cleansed) by His blood in baptism, purifying ourselves.
16. The writer encourages them to zealously care for and encourage one another, for during this time of persecution, the temptation to neglect church services was prominent.
17. He warns against willfully (deliberately) sinning and rejecting Christ. This will separate us from the hope of heaven, leaving only judgment and punishment in our future. Those who willfully sinned against the law of Moses were stoned to death. (Deuteronomy 17:2-7, Numbers 15:30-36, Deuteronomy 13:6-10) God promises vengeance upon those who despise His mercy.
18. These Hebrew Christians had suffered much persecution for the cause of Christ. They were exposed to public abuse and insult as criminals in the Greek and Roman theaters. They had witnessed some of their number put in jail or to death. They were discouraged, but the writer assures them to be confident and patient and continue to endure, for it will all be worthwhile. Any losses they suffered on earth for the cause

of Christ would be greatly rewarded in heaven. They had suffered too much to turn back now.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - kingly attire, crown
 - alter - clay, gravel, toothpicks, wood
 - tabernacle model - cardboard, clay, craft sticks, gold spray paint, jewelry boxes for furniture, lace/velvet for veil
 - model of heaven from previous lessons
 - Bible - Old and New Testaments
 - last will and testament - important looking paper with seal
 - baptism as illustrated from previous lessons
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Puppets/Dolls
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- Crayon Song
- Dare To Do Right
- He Paid A Debt
- Heaven Is A Wonderful Place
- Heavenly Sunshine
- I Am Crucified With Christ
- I Can Dare To Be Brave
- I Gave My Life For Thee
- I Have Decided To Follow Jesus
- I Want To Go To Heaven
- I'm Happy Today
- I've Been Redeemed
- Jesus Knows My Name
- New Testament Books
- The B-I-B-L-E
- To God Be The Glory
- Unto Perfection
- Walkin' On Heaven's Road
- We Are The Church
- What Will Your Answer Be
- Without Him
- Wonderful Wonderful

Activities:

- Make a list comparing the Jewish and Christian (material and spiritual) blessings.
- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. Why did Jesus die on the cross?
2. Compare the differences between the Old Testament and the New Testament.
3. What was the purpose of the Old Testament?
4. Who will face God on judgment day?
5. How have you planned for that day?
6. What similarities are there between Melchisedec and Christ?
7. Why is the New Testament superior to the Old Testament?
8. How does a will work?

9. What steps are necessary for us to enter heaven?
10. Why were some neglecting worship at the time of this writing? Why do some neglect worship today?
11. What might God's vengeance be like?

New Testament
Lesson 84: HEROES OF FAITH
LIVE A GODLY LIFE

Text: Hebrews 11-13

Memory Verses:	Hebrews 11:1	Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
	Hebrews 11:6	But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.
	Hebrews 13:8	Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever.
	Hebrews 13:17	Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

Goals:	<p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the meaning of faith supported by those great heroes of faith in the Old Testament. • the need to persevere to the end of the Christian race in order to gain the prize.
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Outline:

- | | |
|---|------------|
| <p>I. Faith.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">A. Faith defined.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">B. Examples of faith.</p> | Hebrews 11 |
| <p>II. The Christian race.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">A. Endure trials.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">B. Correction a part of love.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">C. New covenant vs. old covenant.</p> | Hebrews 12 |
| <p>III. Closing statements.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">A. Life of love/purity.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">B. Christ our example and high priest.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">C. Closing remarks.</p> | Hebrews 13 |

Facts:

1. Faith: the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen; the belief in things unseen; the foundation on which our hopes for the future are built. An example of this is creation; our knowledge of all past history depends on faith. (Note that we have evidence.)
2. The writer gives us a list of several remarkable examples of those having great faith:

Abel	Genesis 4:1-5	sacrificed as the Lord instructed
Enoch	Genesis 5:24, Jude 14	walked with God. God was pleased with him
Noah	Genesis 6:13-22	moved by faith he obeyed, building the ark
Abraham	Genesis 11:31-12:4, 22:1-14, 26:3,4, 27:4-14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •moved from Ur to a new land on faith •always trusted God •would have offered his only son Isaac to obey God
Sarah	Genesis 18:11-14, 21:1,2, 27:15-21	believed God's promise that she would bear a child at an old age (90 years old)
Isaac	Genesis 27:26-28:3	blessed Jacob
Jacob	Genesis 48:8-22	blessed sons of Joseph
Joseph	Genesis 50:24,25	believed God would bring children of Israel out of this land
Moses	Exodus 2:2, 10:29, 12:3-30, 14:13-22, Psalms 84:10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •faithful parents hid him •he refused the honor of royalty on earth for heavenly blessings •he obeyed God in faith by leading the Israelites out of Egypt to the promised land
Walls of Jericho	Joshua 6:8-21	faith of Joshua
Rahab	Joshua 2:1-22	received the spies
Gideon	Judges 6:11	defeated 120,000 Midianites with 300 men
Barak	Judges 4:1	subdued kingdoms
Samson	Judges 13:1	his faith gave him great strength
Jephthae	Judges 11:1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •won a battle with God's house •offered his daughter to God in return
David	I Samuel 16:1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •one of Israel's greatest kings •made mistakes but always remained faithful
Samuel	I Samuel 1:20	gave many years of faithful service in the temple
Daniel	Daniel 6:20	his faith stopped the mouths of lions

3. We cannot please God without faith in Him and His promises. By the power of faith, these listed lived holy heroic lives. The writer reminds these Hebrew Christians who were discouraged that they were not the only ones who had ever suffered for their faith.
4. These Old Testament heroes looked their whole lives toward a heavenly "country" without ever seeing the fulfillment of the promised Messiah. Yet, they trusted

completely in God's promises and obeyed His commands for the hope of the resurrection to eternal life.

5. God has now provided the new/better covenant, the gospel, the fulfilled promised to Abraham.
6. In chapter 12, the writer reiterates his analogy of the Christian race. After seeing in chapter 11 a numerous list of faithful forefathers persevering through the race, let us take off our "weights" (lack of faith and sins that tempt us) and let us also run the Christian race with steadfast perseverance. Make Christ and the prize of heaven your focal point, following directly in His footsteps.
7. When you get discouraged, remember what Christ suffered, even the death on the cross. He suffered more than we ever will.
8. As parents discipline or correct their children because they love them and want them to do right, so God also corrects and disciplines those He calls His children because He loves them and wants them to receive the reward of heaven. (Job 5:17,18, II Samuel 6:7-10)
9. God would have us live peaceful lives, pure and sinless, realizing He is always with us. (Matthew 5:8) He wants us to encourage one another. He cautions us not to "profane our Christian birthright" by giving it up in exchange for worldly power or possessions, as Esau did. (Genesis 25:27-30, 27:31-34)
10. As the Israelites received the old law at Mount Sinai, (Genesis 19,20) so we have received the new law from Mt. Zion, the kingdom of heaven, where Jesus lives on, recording the names of those who choose to accept the "birthright" as Christians.
11. Those who refuse to listen to God's own son cannot escape His judgment. While God is very merciful and loving, He will not overlook willful disobedience and will destroy those who ignore His commands.
12. Hence, serve God with reverence and godly fear. Love each other in the church, showing hospitality to everyone. (Genesis 18:3, Matthew 25:35) Show sympathy and special consideration toward those imprisoned for Christ's sake. Take seriously the commitment of the marriage bond. Be content with what you have, not stingy or desirous of the things of others.
13. Imitate those faithful leaders/preachers that have taught you the gospel, such as Stephen, James the brother of John, or James the brother of Christ at the Jerusalem church.
14. Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever. He is able to help you just as He did these early Christians.
15. Many years had passed since the church was founded and temple services/ceremonials were still observed by some of these Hebrew Christians. The writer emphasizes again it is time to give up these ties to the old covenant. By clinging to these rituals, they showed a lack of faith in Christ's atonement. (Jerusalem and the temple would soon be destroyed, A.D. 70.) They must go forth as their forefathers had, now following Christ toward that heavenly city.
16. Closing remarks: Do good deeds, be giving/generous, obey the elders of the church, pray for us. Allow the spirit of Christ to work through you.
17. The closing remarks of the writer's imprisonment, request for prayers, close association with Timothy and the fact it is written from Italy all harmonize with Paul's writings, thus leading to the likelihood of Paul being the writer of Hebrews.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - age appropriate contemporary examples of faith:
 - mom will be there when you come home from school
 - dad will be home for supper/before bedtime
 - the sun will come up tomorrow
 - historic examples:
 - George Washington was our first president
 - Noah built an ark
 - Adam and Eve lived in the garden
 - pictorial examples of the OT heroes listed
 - previously used model of "heaven"
 - Christian race - sweat bands, running shoes, ankle weights
 - prize - trophy, crown, ribbon
 - Esau - bowl of soup/stew
 - examples of worldly possessions - money, fur coat, jewels, flashing camera, crown, robe, fancy car (matchbox)
 - golden/white/important looking book God writes our names in
 - examples of hospitality - food, pillow and blanket, sharing clothes
 - examples of people they know in the church they could imitate - elders,
 - deacons, preacher, wives
 - old Hebrew ceremonials - alter
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Puppets/Dolls
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- 12 Sons Had Jacob
- Daniel Daniel Daniel Daniel
- Faith Of Our Fathers
- Father Abraham
- Gideon
- I Have Decided To Follow Jesus
- Jesus Is Lord
- Love Love Love Love
- New Testament Books
- Old Testament Books
- Once There Were 3 Wandering Jews
- Only A Boy Named David
- Ready To Suffer
- Samson's Strength
- Take Time To Be Holy
- The Christian Life
- This Is My Commandment
- We Are Family
- We Are The Church
- Who Built The Ark

Activities:

- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. Define faith. Give examples.
2. Explain the Christian race. What is the prize?
3. Why do parents discipline their children? Why does God discipline His children?
4. How should we live to please God?
5. Who should you imitate?
6. What did these Hebrew Christians need to change?
7. Who is your favorite Old Testament hero of faith? Why?
8. Who probably wrote Hebrews?

New Testament
Lesson 85: BE YE DOERS OF THE WORD

Text: James 1; 2

Memory Verses:	James 1:12	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 1:17	Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.
	James 1:22	But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.
	James 2:17	Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.
	James 2:24	Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.

Goals:	Student will learn: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • our faith in God is of no value if we do not demonstrate it by our obedience to God's commands each day.
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Outline:

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|--|---------|
| I. Instruction on moral precepts. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Introduction. B. Benefits of trials. C. Seek wisdom through prayer. D. Uncertainty of riches. E. Source of temptation. F. Pure religion/doers, not hearers only. | James 1 |
| II. Faith and works. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Respector of persons. B. Faith by works. C. Examples of faith. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Abraham. 2. Rahab. | James 2 |

Facts:

1. This "general epistle" appears to be written by James, the brother of Jesus. (Acts 12:7, Acts 15:19, Acts 21:48, Galatians 2:9,21) James addresses the letter to Jewish converts.
2. James begins by encouraging them not to murmur or complain about their persecution and temptations, but to be happy, because, as they overcame each persecution, they would be stronger and more fit for the kingdom of heaven.
3. He encourages them to pray for wisdom. God hears the prayers and requests of His people and answers them as a generous father would. We must pray having faith God will answer. (Matthew 21:21, Mark 11:23)
4. Earthly riches have no power to save us. Many with earthly glory and fame will perish.
5. Blessed are those who resist the temptation to sin. Everyone is tempted, but those that are faithful shall receive a heavenly crown.
6. God tempts no one, rather God is the giver of all good "gifts." He is the creator, the source of all moral "light." God is unchangeable; he is always the same.
7. We must be eager to hear the gospel, learn and apply it. We must be careful not to speak rashly or in anger. All wickedness in our lives should be replaced with planting/sowing God's word in our hearts.
8. As a result, we must be motivated to be "doers" of God's word, not just "hearers."
9. Pure religion has two elements: 1) kind and loving deeds and 2) a pure heart. Those that claim to be religious and do not control their tongue deceive themselves if they think they will be saved.
10. God is not a respecter of persons, nor should we be. When we show favoritism or partiality to the rich and contempt to the poor, God is displeased. (I Corinthians 1:16,17)
11. The law of God says to love thy neighbor as thyself. Showing partiality is a breach of this command and causes us to be guilty of sin. (Galatians 4:14) We must keep all the commands of God.
12. We must also show mercy to others if we hope to receive mercy. Our own spirit determines our manner of judgment. (Matthew 6:15, Romans 8:2,15) If we love our neighbor (rich or poor), God will love us.
13. Saying you have faith in God is of no value unless it is supported by deeds or kindness and the keeping of God's commands. Application: if a brother or sister are in need of food or clothing, and you only wish them well, it is worthless. Rather, we must follow up by actively meeting their needs.
14. Faith alone is useless. Our faith must be proven by the kind of life we live in order to receive salvation. Faith and works go hand in hand. Even demons believe there is a God and Christ, but their confession of Him did not save them. (Matthew 8:29)
15. This is again illustrated by Abraham's faith who was justified (proven) when he was willing to offer his beloved son, Isaac. Or when he was willing to leave his home in Mesopotamia and go to a land God would show him.

Abraham's faith was proven by his actions. As a result, his faith was rewarded by God's approval and glorious promises. (Galatians 3:7-9, Hebrews 11:8-17, Isaiah 41:8, II Chronicles 20:7)

16. Rahab is another example of one justified because her faith in God was demonstrated by her actions. (Joshua 2:1, Hebrews 11:31)
17. The body without the spirit is dead. Likewise, faith without proof or demonstration in good deeds and obedience is worth less. (I Corinthians 13:2)

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - map - to illustrate the disbursement of Christians
 - examples of temptations/persecution
 - examples of specific prayer requests
 - riches - money, jewels, fancy clothing, fancy toy car
 - clothing of someone poor, pennies
 - crown, robe
 - good gifts - "presents"
 - examples of kind words, please, thank you, may I
 - examples of good deeds, ways to be a helper (doer)
 - examples of showing favoritism
 - food, clothing for the needy
 - picture, doll, puppet - devil, demons, Abraham, Rahab
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Puppets/Dolls
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- Be A Doer
- Be Careful Little Eyes
- God Of Heaven God Above
- God Said Abraham Go
- God Will Answer Every Prayer
- I Can Listen To My Jesus
- I Have Decided To Follow Jesus
- I Know The Lord Will Find A Way
- I Want To Be A Worker
- If Jesus Came
- It Isn't Any Trouble Just To
- Jesus Knows My Name
- Lord My Desire
- May I Call You Father
- My Jesus
- Ready To Suffer
- To The Work
- Unto Perfection
- We Are One In The Spirit
- When I Grow Up

Activities:

- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. What is faith?
2. What are works? (Give examples)
3. Name the benefits of trials and persecution.
4. For what should we pray?
5. Are the rich more likely to go to heaven? Why?
6. What characteristics do we look for in choosing our friends?
7. Define mercy. To whom must we show mercy? Why?
8. What kind of faith is pleasing to God?
9. Give some biblical examples of those who demonstrated their faith by their actions.
10. How do you demonstrate your faith in Christ?

New Testament
Lesson 86: SIN SEPARATES US FROM GOD

Text: James 3-5

Memory Verses:	James 4:14	Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.
	James 4:17	Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.
	James 5:16	Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.
	James 5:19,20	Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.

Goals:	<p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • though the tongue is a small member of the body, it can cause much damage if our language is not controlled. • if we want God to be very near to us we must seek to be near to Him. Sin separates us from God. • we must pray for one another.
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Outline:

- I. Controlling the tongue.
 - A. Teachers.
 - B. Power of the tongue.
 - C. Inconsistent uses.
 - D. Proper control.

James 3

- II. Humble yourself before God. James 4
 - A. Love of the world.
 - B. Humility.
 - C. Speaking evil.
 - D. The uncertainty of life.

- III. Warnings. James 5
 - A. Sins of the rich.
 - B. Patiently endure as the prophets.
 - C. Prayer.
 - D. Restoring the lost.

Facts:

1. Those who teach others in the church are judged more strictly by God. (Matthew 7:1)
2. Those that control their words prove their self control. James illustrates with the bridle bit that controls the horse or the helm that controls a ship. Although the tongue is small, it is powerful enough to control the body.
3. The tongue is just as able to stir up great trouble. James illustrates with a small spark that can burn a house down. The tongue can kindle enough anger to start a war. It can lead the whole body to sin. It can be an effective tool of the devil if we do not control it. Many an animal or creature of nature has been subjected and controlled, but it is virtually impossible to tame the tongue.
4. James points out our inconsistent uses of the tongue. Though we pray and praise God with our tongue, we may also be guilty of using it for envy, anger, slander, or cursing. He uses the analogy that a spring does not give both sweet and bitter water, nor does a tree bear two opposite kinds of fruit.
5. A wise person shows goodness in word and deed, never bragging about how good they are. They seek peace and are courteous. They are not obstinate, but willing to discuss and yield to others. They are forgiving, not partial, and sincere, working always to get along with others. (Matthew 5:9)
6. James points to their evil, selfish desires as the source of their quarrels and fighting. Their envy of others had caused them to war and even kill to get what they want. He reminds them God is the source of all good things and we can take our reasonable requests to God. Of course, if our prayers are to satisfy greedy desires, God will not answer such prayers. (II Corinthians 12:7-10)
7. James accuses them of being like an unfaithful wife who would make friends of God's enemies (spiritual adultery). We cannot love the ways of the world and God also. (Matthew 6:24)
8. The way to receive God's mercy more abundantly is to humble ourselves before God. (Proverbs 3:34) Resist the temptations of the devil. If we want God to be near us, we must draw closer to Him. We must wash our hands of evil deeds and thoughts and sincerely repent. (Matthew 23:12)

9. Don't criticize or speak evil of each other. The law of God requires we love one another. Only the one that gave the law can judge us.
10. We have no control over the length of our lives. Our lives are as uncertain as the morning fog or whether tomorrow will come.
11. Knowing what is right to do and then not doing it is sin.
12. James warns those who spend their lives accumulating riches are guilty of two sins: 1) the improper use of their wealth and 2) cheating their laborers. They should weep for the judgment awaiting them for these sins. Their fancy clothes will be eaten by moths and their money will tarnish and rust. You should lay up your treasures in heaven instead of spending your wealth on pleasures of the world.
13. He reminds them of their crowning sin as rich and influential Jews who sought the death of Jesus. (Isaiah 53:7)
14. James then turns to his brethren by encouraging them to patiently wait for the coming of the Lord. He illustrates with the farmer who patiently waits for the harvest to ripen. (Deuteronomy 11:14) He also uses the Old Testament prophets and Job who were blessed for their endurance.
15. Another improper use of the tongue is swearing. (Matthew 5:33-37) Instead of swearing, express yourself in prayer and praise.
16. In the early church, miraculous gifts were imparted by the laying on of apostolic hands as a sign to unbelievers. One of these gifts was healing. The sick were anointed by the elders with oil, hands were laid and prayers offered. (Mark 6:13, Isaiah 1:6, Luke 10:34)
17. We are to confess our faults as a demonstration of repentance and pray for one another. Repentance, confession, and prayer are necessary for forgiveness of sins committed by Christians.
18. James illustrates the power of prayer with Elijah in I Kings 17 and I Kings 18. He prayed it would not rain until Israel repented. His prayers at Mt. Carmel resulted in the overthrow of the prophets of Baal.
19. It is a great act of love to bring back and restore a brother or sister who had been led away from the gospel.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - teacher - glasses, ruler, books, ABC's
 - bridle, bit, toy horse
 - helm, toy boat
 - mouth, tongue - red felt, paper, rubber, stocking stuffed w/ cotton in the form of a tongue, puppet with a tongue
 - body - doll, puppet, paper, posterboard
 - match - spark, candle
 - zoo, circus animals - controlled - picture, stuffed animal, toy water
 - “artificial” tree - 2 fruits, real, artificial, toy

examples - bragging, getting along w/ others, envy, requests to God both appropriate and inappropriate
vapor - steam vaporizer, cotton
riches - coins, play money, jewelry, plastic gem stones, fancy clothes, crown
moth - butterfly
farmer - bandana, John Deere hat, straw hat, overalls, tractor, truck
harvest - any fruit or vegetable
Elijah - picture, doll

- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Puppets/Dolls
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- Angry Words
- Be With Me Lord
- Earth Holds No Treasures
- Elijah Prayed
- Elijah Stood Alone
- God Is So Good
- God Will Answer Every Prayer
- Humble Yourself
- I Don't Want To Be A Goat Nope
- I Know The Lord Will Find A Way
- Pass It On
- Showing Love
- Standin' In The Need Of Prayer
- Teach Me Lord To Wait
- Thank You Lord
- The Very Best Life
- This Is My Commandment
- Unto Perfection
- Whisper A Prayer
- Wonderful, Wonderful

Activities:

- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. What kind of trouble can our tongues cause?
2. How do we get close to God? What separates us from God?
3. Why should we pray for one another?
4. What are some characteristics of a wise person?
5. How long do you think you will live? Are there any guarantees? Why?
6. Give an example of knowing what is right to do and not doing it.
7. Where should we store our treasures? Why? What kind of treasures should we store?
8. What does James warn the Jews about their treasures?
9. Who are you praying for?
10. What kind of requests might we ask of God?

New Testament
Lesson 87: HOPE FOR HOLY LIVING

Text: I Peter 1; 2

Memory Verses:	I Peter 1:16	Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.
	I Peter 1:22,23	Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.
	I Peter 2:2	As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:
	I Peter 2:9	But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvellous light:

Goals:	<p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • as children of God, we are promised the inheritance of a glorious life in heaven, if we live holy lives, following the example Christ gave us. • our Lord has been gracious enough to pay the ransom for each one of us with His own life. This should motivate us to live pure and holy lives, ever longing for more spiritual growth.
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Outline:

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| I. Salvation in Christ planned by God. | I Peter 1 |
| A. Introduction. | |
| B. Hope in Christ. | |
| C. Strength in trial. | |
| D. Foretold by the prophets. | |
| E. Motivation for full obedience. | |

- II. Christ, our chief cornerstone. I Peter 2
- A. Desire to learn.
 - B. Christ is our foundation.
 - C. We are special.
 - D. Obey authority.
 - E. Christ, our example in suffering and trials.

Facts:

1. I Peter is written by the apostle Peter, brother of Andrew, fisherman of Capernaum. He was a disciple of John the Baptist. Peter preached the first sermon on Pentecost.
2. Peter writes this letter to "the dispersion" or Jewish Christians (the elect) who were scattered among 5 provinces of the Roman Empire. His purpose was to comfort and encourage them to be courageous under the trials and severe persecution they were probably experiencing under Nero's leadership. He assures them holding out for the hope of heaven will be well worth it. He also indirectly lends support to Paul's authority since the churches of these areas were established by Paul.
3. It was God's predesigned plan to offer salvation through the gospel. In baptism, our sins are forgiven and we are "sanctified" or set apart from the world to God's holy use. (Romans 6:1-4)
4. All honor and glory goes to God for the privilege of being adopted into His holy family with the hope of inheriting eternal life. The trials and persecution we suffer for our faith on earth test our faith to see if it is strong and pure, as fire is a test for the purity of gold. Resisting temptation will be rewarded with the joy of salvation.
5. Christians as God's children, must strive to be holy like God the father. We must be sober, obedient, turning away from the old sins of our former life and holding on to the hope of heaven. (Leviticus 11:44, 19:2)
6. God judges everyone fairly, according to their deeds. He has no favorites. Our prayers and worship should show a reverent fear for God, for He paid the ransom for each of us to attain heaven by sacrificing His only, begotten, perfect, son Jesus on the cross.
7. Our faith must rest in God and Christ. The great sacrifice made for us should motivate us to obedience.
8. The spirit of Christ in our lives brings love for our brothers/sisters in Christ. (We must love those Christ died for if we profess to follow Him.) We must have a sincere heart letting the gospel live there. The power of the gospel gives us a new life which will last forever. (Acts 10:36, James 1:18, Romans 1:16, Hebrews 4:12, Isaiah 40:6)
9. We must also rid our lives of malice (hatred), guile (insincerity), hypocrisy (dishonesty), envy, and speaking evil of others. We should hunger for the knowledge of God's word in order to grow.
10. Christ is our spiritual foundation. Though rejected by the Jewish nation and those of the world, God has placed Him above all. We as Christians become "living stones" for God to use in building His church. Our spiritual sacrifices are prayer, praise, and good deeds in service to God.

11. To the believers in Christ, He is the most important part of the building, the cornerstone.
12. Christians are now God's chosen people, (Isaiah 43:21) a royal priesthood. (Exodus 19:6) Our lives shine as lights and honor God. We are different from those of the world. (Hosea 2:23, Romans 9:25,26)
13. Peter compares the Christian to a traveler looking for a better home. Evil worldly pleasures would destroy the prospects of reaching that home. Only the day-to-day perseverance in the Christ-like pathway will insure the inheritance of a heavenly home.
14. We are commanded to obey our civil government. Rulers are necessary to maintain order. (Romans 13) Our lives should be such as to silence those that condemn the gospel. Show respect to everyone. Show love to all Christians and reverently fear God. Hired servants must serve their masters with loyalty and respect.
15. To suffer patiently injustice, for Christ's sake, pleases God. For Christ suffered for us as our example. When insulted or made to suffer pain, He never threatened to get even, but left matters in God's hands. He carried the burden of our sins to the cross, not His own. Now He shepherds and guards our souls lest we be led astray by sin.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - last will & testament , inheritance
 - ransom - bag of play money, Jesus on the cross
 - Peter - doll, puppet, picture flannelgraph
 - fishing rod, net
 - sword - Malcom's ear
 - map, stationery, quill, pen
 - King Nero - doll, puppet, picture
 - baptism - doll, dish of water, dark or grey garment, white garment
 - candle flame, gold nugget, ring, earring
 - Christmas window, candle
 - prophet - Isaiah, Jeremiah, etc.
 - angel - doll, puppet, picture
 - God as our judge - gavel, book of life
 - heart
 - baby doll, bottle of milk
 - Christ above all - crown
 - stones, pebbles, Legos, building blocks
 - larger cornerstone
 - "lights" - flashlight, candle, small lamp
 - "being different" - white paperdolls vs. grey or dark colored paperdolls
 - traveler - suitcase, map
 - government - policeman's hat, badge

- injustice examples - insult, being laughed at, being hit, kicked
- Flannelgraphs
 - Flipchart
 - Puppets/Dolls
 - Sandbox Map
 - Storybook
 - Video

Songs:

- Apostle Song
- Do Lord
- Farther Along
- God Is My Father
- God Will Answer Every Prayer
- He Is My Everything
- He's My King
- His Name Is Jesus
- I Am Free, Free, Free
- I Can Dare To Be Brave
- I have Decided To Follow Jesus
- It Isn't Any Trouble Just To SMILE
- Jesus Is Lord Of Us All
- Jesus Was A Child Like Me
- Seek Ye First
- The Devil Wants Me To Sin
- This Little Christian Light Of Mine
- We Shall See The King Some Day
- Were You There?
- When I Survey The Wondrous Cross
- Yield Not To Temptation

Activities:

- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the inheritance God's children will inherit?
2. Who are God's children?
3. Describe a holy life.
4. How are we adopted into God's family?
5. Give examples of persecution (past/present).
6. How do trials make us stronger in Christ?
7. What would motivate one to become a Christian?
8. How is Christ our foundation/cornerstone?
9. Who is our authority?
10. How is Jesus an example to You? (Be specific)
11. What makes a Christian special?

New Testament
Lesson 88: EXPRESSIONS OF TRUE CHRISTIAN CHARACTER

Text: I Peter 3-5

Memory Verses:	I Peter 3:8,9	Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another; love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous: Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing; but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing.
	I Peter 3:15	But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear:
	I Peter 3:21	The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us, (not putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:
	I Peter 5:7	Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you.

Goals:	Student will learn: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • true Christian character is determined by the way we treat others, whether we say “no” to sin, and whether we determine to make the choices Jesus would make.
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Outline:

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| <p>I. True Christian character.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">A. Wives/husbands.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">B. Christian fellowship.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">C. Attitude/endurance against sin.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">1. Salvation in the ark.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">2. Baptism.</p> | I Peter 3 |
| <p>II. The purpose of trial.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">A. Christ's sacrifice for us.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">B. We must live as Christ; armed and watchful.</p> | I Peter 4 |

- C. Bring glory to God.
- D. Unto salvation.

III. Closing thoughts.

I Peter 5

- A. Elders admonished.
- B. Young admonished.
 - 1. Be humble.
 - 2. Be watchful.
- C. Greetings.

Facts:

1. Wives be submissive to your husbands. If your husband is not a Christian, he may be won to Christ by the pure and holy life of the wife. (Ephesians 5:21-24, I Corinthians 7:13-15) Adorn your spirit and your heart with Christian graces rather than outwardly adorning your bodies with extravagant dress or ornaments of gold and silver platted into your hair. (a common custom of the time¹) Holy women of history, such as Sarah, showed respect and a meek and quiet spirit. (Genesis 18:12, I Samuel 1:15)
2. Husbands are to show their wives wise judgment, living moderate lives and showing gentleness toward her. If the wife is not a Christian, he should still stay with her. If she is a Christian, they are "joint heirs" of God's grace and they must govern their home according to God's Word. There should be a mutual love and respect.
3. Christians are to be likeminded, compassionate, loving, kindhearted, and humble. We must not return evil for evil, but instead kindness and good deeds. For "as a man soweth, so also shall he reap" and in order to inherit God's blessings, we must abstain from wrong doing. (Matthew 5:44,45)
4. You may suffer wrong doing for Christ's sake, but God is always with you. When God is honored and revered by us, we have nothing to fear, for great is the reward He has for us. It is better to suffer for righteousness than to face the consequences for doing evil. (II Timothy 3:12)
5. Always be ready to prove your conviction in Christ in a meek and reverent way, knowing it pleases God when we know His Word.
6. Christ asks nothing of us He didn't do Himself, for He suffered cruel persecution and the ultimate death on the cross for us. Therefore, when we suffer evil, we must remember Christ's example and strive to be like Him.
7. Peter makes an analogy of those of the world Noah preached to for 120 years trying to get them to turn from wrong doing and acknowledge God, but they continued to mock and make fun of Noah. Yet, when the flood came, those Noah had tried to teach about God were separated from Noah and his family and they died because of their sins. Likewise, today, those that choose to

¹Farrar's Early Years Of Christianity, page 5

follow Christ are separated from those who do not, by the obedient act of baptism. As water saved Noah and his family by bearing up the ark, baptism in water is necessary for salvation. (Genesis 6, Galatians 3:27, Romans 6:1-6, Ephesians 1:20-23)

8. Peter obviously has those new Gentile Christians in mind when in chapter 4 he encourages them to arm themselves for fighting the devil and suffering to glorify God.
9. He reminds them of the sins common to their culture they have given up as Christians (lust, drunkenness, wild partying) even though they still lived among family and acquaintances that continue in this lifestyle.
10. Peter encourages them to persevere for heaven will be worth it. Be watchful and pray. Love one another showing hospitality. Remember, at this time, many brethren were being driven away from their homes for their commitment to Jesus. Share your gifts with one another, being good stewards of the gifts God has blessed you. always seek to glorify God. (I Thessalonians 5:6-8, Matthew 24:42, Proverbs 10:12, I Corinthians 13:7, Romans 12:13, I Timothy 3:2)
11. Peter encourages them to rejoice when faced with persecution and suffering for Christ's sake, for God's spirit will be with you and victory awaits those that are true to Him.
12. Do not suffer punishment for doing evil for there is no glory for God in that. But there is no shame in suffering trials for good. Judgment will begin with those of the church. If not all those that claim to be Christians are rewarded by God, there is no chance for those outside of Christ to see heaven. Therefore, commit yourselves to always doing good. (Matthew 25)
13. In chapter 5, Peter instructs elders, like himself, to actively watch over the members of their congregation. Lead them cheerfully, willingly, and without the thought of some worldly ambition for power. Be their example, not a domineering ruler. For you will one day give account to the chief shepherd, Christ, for your service.
14. Those younger must be humble and submissive to the elders and help one another. God will cast out those who are proud and arrogant and will honor those that are humble and do not think themselves better than others. (Proverbs 3:34) Give all your worries to God in prayer and He will take care of you.
15. Peter compares the devil to a roaring lion, hunting for new prey. He warns them to always be aware the devil is out there looking to spring upon them, catching them off guard. Be firm in you faith, ready to resist temptation and he will run from you.
16. All Christians must suffer trials and temptations during their life on earth, but God promises to supply our needs.
17. Greeting are sent by Silas, Peter's wife and John Mark. (Acts 16, I Corinthians 9:5) Silas then delivers this letter for Peter.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - husband/wife - doll, puppet, picture
 - examples of Christian graces: love, peacemaker, honesty, etc.
 - outward adorning - jewelry, fancy clothes, hair accessories
 - examples of "evil for evil"; examples of alternate choices (good for evil)
 - Christ on the cross
 - Noah/ark - model, boat, dish of water, dolls
 - examples of sins common to our culture (age appropriate); exs. of how to resist
 - judgment - gavel, book of life, etc.
 - elders - picture of our elders
 - lion - stuffed animal, toy, picture
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Puppets/Dolls
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- He Is My Everything
- Humble Yourself
- I Am Crucified With Christ
- I Have Decided To Follow Jesus
- I've Been Redeemed
- Live For Jesus
- O ___ Do You Love Jesus
- O Be Careful Little Eyes
- Seek Ye First
- Stand Up And Shout It
- Study Your Bible Every Day
- This Little Christian Light Of Mine
- Yield Not To Temptation
- Unto Perfection

Activities:

- Age-appropriate handwork
- Stories on how to treat others, making choices, Christian virtues

Discussion Questions:

1. What are the traits of a faithful Christian?
2. How should wives and husbands treat one another?
3. How are Christians to treat one another?
4. Why do we have trials and temptations?
5. Why may we not return evil for evil?
6. Give examples of returning "evil for evil" and "good for evil."
7. Who will be judged first?
8. In what ways do you resist sin and the devil? Why do you?
9. How is the devil like a lion?
10. What Christian character traits do you have? Which are you still working on?
11. What does Peter instruct elders to do?

New Testament
Lesson 89: BE READY FOR HIS COMING

Text: II Peter

Memory Verses:	II Peter 1:3	According as His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue:
	II Peter 1:5-7	And besides this, giving all diligence, add to you faith virtue; and to virtue, knowledge; And to knowledge, temperance; and to temperance, patience; and to patience, godliness; And to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, charity.
	II Peter 1:10	Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:
	II Peter 3:9	The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Goals:	<p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • not everyone that claims to be a follower of Christ will be saved. We must work, study God's word, and continue in it to insure our hope of heaven. • the Bible is inspired by God. Nothing within the Bible is made up by man.
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Outline:

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|--|------------|
| I. Spiritual growth. | II Peter 1 |
| A. Make sure of your salvation. | |
| B. Develop Christian character. | |
| C. Authenticity of Christ/no private interpretation. | |

- II. Destruction of false teachers. II Peter 2
 - A. False teachers, their followers, and punishment.
 - B. The godly delivered/example: Noah and Lot.
 - C. Those that forsake Christ.

- III. Second coming of Jesus. II Peter 3
 - A. Scoffers.
 - B. Opportunity to repent.
 - C. The Lord is coming.
 - D. Be blameless and grow in grace and knowledge.

Facts:

1. False teachers were becoming prevalent and scoffers of the church very influential, thus Peter warns the church, lest they be led away from the truth and lose their hope of heaven.
2. God has given us all we need to establish our faith and live acceptable Godly lives. He offers us a glorious eternal home in heaven if we follow His teachings and flee sin. Make every effort to strengthen your faith with virtue (moral courage), knowledge of God's word, temperance (self control), patience (endurance), godliness (reverence), brotherly kindness (active good will toward brethren) and love. These characteristics make us spiritually stronger and useful to God.
3. Those that lack these characteristics are short sighted. They have forgotten God graciously forgave their sins. We must be diligent in proving our love and loyalty to Christ to insure our place in heaven.
4. Peter verifies, as an eye witness apostle, that Christ is God's son and the gospel is no phoney, but of divine revelation. He again points out that Jesus had fulfilled the prophecy of the Old Testament. (There was no evidence more powerful with those of Jewish background than the prophecies fulfilled.) Thus, they should heed its teachings. The New Testament is as a light (lamp) to guide us. No scripture is made up by man, every word was inspired by God through the writers. (Revelation 22:16)
5. Peter, as Paul so often had, warns them of false teachers who create division within congregations, teach lies that would lead to punishment and destruction. Some even would deny the divinity of Christ and the power of His blood to save us. Unfortunately, he warns that many will be fooled by these false teachers, and will be used by them as a source of riches and power.
6. God cast the angels that sinned out of heaven to dungeons and darkness and punishment (Tartarus). In the Old Testament, when all the world became wicked but Noah and his family, God destroyed the ungodly. In Sodom and Gomorrah, when all became wicked but Lot and his daughters, God destroyed these two cities. He will do the same with these false teachers and their followers.

7. Peter says that for those that have received the word and then: live impure/immoral lives, refuse to submit to authority, are disrespectful to those in power, self willed, those that speak evil of things they do not understand (scoffers), those that seek to mar the church, those lustful and seeking worldly things, those that have known the gospel and leave it, that they will be worse off than had they never known the truth.
8. Solomon compares this to the most disgusting habits of unclean animals. (Proverbs 1:1, 26:11)
9. In closing, Peter implores them to live holy lives, remembering what the prophets of the old law had taught them as well as the apostles. Don't be confused or led away by scoffers who obstinately ignore the divine scriptures.
10. God is not bound by time. One day to Him is as a 1,000 years to us. But be certain that God keeps His promises. He has provided each of us with time to repent and live godly lives. He does not want any of us to suffer hell's punishment. But the day will come, when we least expect it (as a thief in the night) that God will judge us according to the choices we made.
11. Our stay on earth is temporary. We must prepare for our permanent home beyond. If we live a life always prepared to meet our Lord, our future will be happy. If we allow ourselves to be spotted with sin(s) or uncommitted to Christ, He will not take us with Him to heaven. So grow in the Christian graces and knowledge of our Lord, always anticipating His coming.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - model of heaven
 - examples of Christian virtues vs. a specific sin
 - ways to prove our love/loyalty
 - flashlight, candle, small lamp
 - false teachers - example used for past lessons, "wolf in sheep's clothing," present day examples (denominationalism)
 - angel - doll, ornament, picture
 - Noah, ark, water, globe
 - lot, daughters vs. city on fire
 - application of time - example how long it seems until your birthday, etc.
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Puppets/Dolls
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- Give Me The Bible
- Happiness Is
- He Is My Everything
- I Have Decided To Follow Jesus
- I Know The Lord Will Find A Way
- I Want To Go To Heaven
- Jesus Is Coming Soon
- Jesus Is Lord

- Jesus Is Lord Of Us All
- My God Is So Great
- O The B-I-B-L-E
- Prepare To Meet Thy God
- Study Your Bible Every Day
- The Devil Wants Me To Sin
- The Very Best Life
- This World Is Not My Home
- When I Grow Up
- Will Jesus Find Us Watching
- Wonderful, Wonderful Jesus Is To Me
- Yield Not To Temptation

Activities:

- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. Why won't God allow everyone to go to heaven?
2. What have you done to secure your place in heaven? What do you still need to do?
3. How do we know the Bible is from God?
4. Where might you find a false teacher? How would you identify a false teacher?
5. Name some Bible heroes God took care of in spite of all the godless people around them.
6. Would God take care of you the same way? Why?
7. When is Jesus coming back? What will it be like?
8. Who will He take with Him?
9. Who will receive the greatest punishment?

New Testament
Lesson 90: FELLOWSHIP WITH THE FATHER

Text: I John 1-3

Memory Verses:	I John 1:7-9	<p>But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His son, cleanseth us from all sin.</p> <p>If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.</p> <p>If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.</p>
	I John 2:1,2	<p>My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:</p> <p>And He is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.</p>
	I John 2:15,16	<p>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.</p> <p>For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.</p>
	I John 3:11	<p>For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.</p>

Goals:	<p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God has demonstrated His marvelous love toward us by adopting us as His children. We demonstrate our love for God by our obedience to Him and our love for each other.
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Outline:

- I. Fellowship with God. I John 1
 - A. Introduction.
 - B. Christ described.
 - C. God is our light.
 - D. We must walk in light.
- II. Our new life. I John 2
 - A. Christ our advocate/propitiation.
 - B. To know God is to keep His commands.
 - C. Love of the world vs. love of the Father.
 - D. Antichrists.
 - E. Abide in Him.
- III. Children of God. I John 3
 - A. God's great love for us.
 - B. Sin is not characteristic of His children.
 - C. Love one another.
 - D. Keep His commands.

Facts:

1. I John is written by John the "beloved apostle," son of Zebedee.
2. John writes concerning doctrinal error and practices. The source of this error centered around the denial of Jesus as God's son in the flesh while on earth.
3. John addresses who Christ is. Christ was in the beginning with God (Genesis 1:1). He came to earth, John witnessed this by touching Christ, seeing, hearing Him, being with Him as an apostle. Jesus is the source of eternal life and glory. John verifies these things so all that desire everlasting joy and peace might find it through divine fellowship with God, the Father and His Son Jesus.
4. Jesus had taught John that God is the source of all light, physically, morally, and spiritually. Light represents truth, knowledge, and holiness. Darkness represents ignorance, error, falsehood and sin. If we claim a fellowship (kinship) with God yet demonstrate activities of "darkness" in our lives, John says we are not honest. To walk in the light is to pattern our lives after Christ's.
5. Perhaps one of the most comforting scriptures in the bible is I John 1:7. We can know if we walk in the light (follow His teachings), that the blood of Jesus Christ continues to cleanse us of sin.
6. If we say we don't ever sin, we are only fooling ourselves. We all sin and need the blood of Jesus to cleanse us. Instead, we should confess our sins to God. God promises to show mercy and forgive us.
7. In chapter 2, he addresses Christians he loves so much in a fatherly style. He pleads with them not to sin, but when you do, go to God and ask for

- forgiveness. Christ bore sins of the world upon Himself that we might have the hope.
8. Loyal obedience is the proof as to whether we are truly God's children. (John 14:21, John 15:4) We must follow Jesus' example showing love for God and one another. Anyone who calls himself a Christian yet hates someone is still blinded by spiritual darkness.
 9. Stop loving the evils of this world, for when you love them you don't really love God. Evil fleshly desires, the ambition for material things or pride from wealth or power are not of God. This world and these things will someday be gone, but those that do God's will shall live forever.
 10. There are those that oppose Christ who once claimed to be Christians, but fell away. Anyone denying Jesus as God's son cannot be a child of God. They are described as antichrist. Continue to be steadfast and on guard against false teachers. (Matthew 24:4, John 16:13)
 11. The Holy Spirit given to the apostles and imparted throughout the early church through spiritual gifts guided them in the knowledge of the truth. These continued until the New Testament was fully prepared to guide them. (I Corinthians 13:8)
 12. What awesome love God has for us that He would allow us to be His children. What greater glory could we have than to be a child of the King of Kings! Although we have that privilege now, we will experience the best blessings of that adoption in heaven.
 13. The act of sin is breaking God's law. Those that habitually sin do not know Christ. Do not be deceived into thinking one can be righteous and still practice unrighteousness (sin). A sinful life is proof of the devil's power, such as Cain who killed his brother.
 14. We must follow Christ's example of love, for He loved us enough to die for us. We must love each other as brethren enough to die for one another. We must show compassion for one another's needs. Just saying we love one another is not enough.
 15. God knows our hearts and our conscience. He knows everything we think, how we feel, and what we do. If our conscience is clear, we can come to the Father and know He will answer our prayers.
 16. God requires we believe in Jesus as His son and love one another. If we do what God says, we will live with God and He with us.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - Children may understand being a part of God's family easiest by the principle of adoption.
 - doll family, paper dolls, flannel people, stick or pipecleaner people
 - father (Jesus) and children - preferably one for each child
 - flashlight with cloud taped on (God is light)
 - white cloud for light, black cloud for darkness

examples of doing good vs. evil
prayer examples (forgiveness requests)
Christ and the cross
examples of fleshly desires, material lusts, pride
antiChrists - doll, stick people
crown - construction paper for each child (king)
white cloth or paper tunic
Cain and Abel visual
examples of helping others - a meal, a visit, doing a chore for someone

- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Puppets/Dolls
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- Alleluia
- Blest Be The Tie That Binds
- Down In My Heart
- God's Love
- His Banner Over Me Is Love
- I Am Crucified With Christ
- I Gave My Life For Thee
- I Love The Father
- I Walk With The King
- I'm Happy Today
- Jesus Loves Even Me
- Jesus Loves The Little Children
- Love Love Love Love
- My God Is So Great
- Pass It On
- Praise Him Praise Him
- Thank You Lord
- They Will Know We Are Christians
- This Is My Commandment
- Unto Thee O Lord
- We Are Family

Activities:

- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. How are we adopted by God? Why? When?
2. How do we show God we love Him?
3. What does light represent? What does darkness represent?
4. Which people need forgiveness for sin? How do they receive forgiveness?
5. How can we tell which are faithful Christians? How can we tell which are not?
6. What proves that God loves us?
7. Can one be a Christian and habitually sin? Explain why.
8. Whose example should we follow? Whose example are you following?
9. What does God know about you? What does God require of you?

New Testament
Lesson 91: TRY THE SPIRITS
LOVE ONE ANOTHER

Text: I John 4; 5

Memory Verses:	I John 4:1	Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.
	I John 4:7,8	Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and everyone that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not, knoweth not God; for God is love.
	I John 4:10,11	Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.
	I John 5:13	These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

Goals:	Student will learn: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God is love perfected. His love comes full circle when He loves us, we love Him and each other.
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Outline:

- | | |
|--|----------|
| <p>I. Try the spirits.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">A. Distinguish truth and error.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">B. God is love.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">C. His greatest gift.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">D. Perfect love.</p> | I John 4 |
| <p>II. Love of God; eternal life of Christ.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">A. Love God, keep His commandments.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">B. Overcome the world.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">C. Believe in Jesus the Son.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">D. Prayer.</p> | I John 5 |

Facts:

1. John warns Christians to test teachers that would come to them. Make sure they were teaching truth, not false doctrine. Ask questions, compare their answers to what they knew was of the Gospel. If they reject Christ as God's son, reject them, they are the antichrist. You can conquer them because you have God on your side and He is much greater than the devil and his aids.
2. It is so important to love one another because love comes from God. When we show love and kindness to others, we show we are God's children. God showed the supreme love for us by sacrificing His perfect Son Jesus for our sins so we might become one of his children. Surely, if God loved us that much, we must show love one to another.
3. No one has ever seen God, but when we love one another, God dwells in us and we have a sense of His presence. His love comes full circle (is perfected) when He loves us, we love Him and each other.
4. John testifies that He has seen Jesus, that Jesus is God's Son, that He came to earth to die and rose again to be with God in heaven as our Savior. Anyone that confesses their belief in Jesus as God's Son and obeys His commands, God will dwell within and they with God one day.
5. Loving God involves knowledge of the Gospel and faith. Love binds us to God.
6. Children of God have no fear of the judgment day. They will not be ashamed or embarrassed to face Him, but will be filled with joy and excitement. Those that have patterned their lives after Christ will appear like him, pure and holy.
7. Our love comes from God showing us love first. No one can love God, whom He has never seen and hate brother/sister who is in God's image.
8. One becomes a child of God by believing Jesus is the Christ, confessing that belief and obeying God's commands. (Romans 1:5, James 2:22) We prove our love for God by obeying His command, defeating sin, and loving each other.
9. John reiterates there are many unimpeachable witnesses to the life of Christ, but the greatest witness is God Himself at the beginning of Christ's ministry, His baptism (John 1:31) and Christ at His death (John 19:34, Romans 6:1-3) The Holy spirit bore witness of Christ at Pentecost. (Acts 2) Those who do not believe Jesus to be God's Son, call God a liar.
10. Eternal life comes only through belief in Jesus Christ as God's Son. (Romans 12:2)
11. We can be confident that when we pray to God and make requests in line with His will, He is listening and will answer those requests.
12. John closes by warning us to keep away from anything that might take God's peace in your heart.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - large question mark - illustrate "try the spirits"- teacher tests your knowledge with a test
 - examples of showing love, kindness - gift, visit, compliment, helping w/ a chore
 - God sacrificed Christ (Abraham/Isaac)
 - stick, pipecleaner heart people  (enough to create a circle, 1/child + God)

white tunics/robes and paper crowns
application story - getting along with others, showing love and kindness, prayer
older students - review plan of salvation
examples of things to pray for - sick, problem at school, safe trip, forgiveness
examples of worldly idols - T.V., going fishing, ball practice

- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Puppets/Dolls
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- Be Like Jesus
- Blest Be The Tie
- Cheerfully Obey
- God Is Mercy
- God Is My Father
- God Is So Good
- Happiness Is
- I'm A Little Bible
- Jesus Loves Even Me
- Jesus Loves Me
- Jesus Went About Doing Good
- Love Is Something
- Love Love Love Love
- Not Ashamed To Own My Lord
- One Way To Peace
- Savior Teach Me
- Showing Love
- The Very Best Life
- Why Savior Come To Earth
- Wonderful Jesus Is To Me

Activities:

- Draw a picture of what they imagine God to look like
- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. Explain the phrase "try the spirits."
2. Why should we love one another?
3. Who has seen God? How do we know He is there?
4. How will you feel when judgment day comes? Why?
5. Is there anyone you hate? How does this affect your relationship with God?
6. How do you become a child of the King?
7. Who bore witness that Jesus was God's Son?
8. What stipulation does God make on our prayer request?
9. Who does John say we should pray for?
10. What might take God's place in your heart? How can you prevent that from happening?

New Testament
Lesson 92: SAFEGUARD THE FAITH

Text: II John

Memory Verses:	II John 6	And this is love, that we walk after His commandments. This is the commandment, that, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it.
	II John 9-11	Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.

Goals:	Student will learn: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God is pleased and happy with us when we are loyal and faithful to Him. • We may not fellowship false teachers in any spiritual manner.
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Outline:

- | | |
|--|---------|
| I. Safeguard the faith. | II John |
| A. Greetings. | |
| B. Rejoice in faithfulness; continue in love. | |
| C. Beware of false teachers; receive them not. | |
| D. Expect a visit soon. | |

Facts:

1. John addresses this letter to the elect lady and her children. He commends her for her faithfulness and loyalty of her children. John encourages her to continue to keep God's commands, loving others as He first loved us. (I John 2:7, 5:3, John 14:15, 14:23)
2. John then warns her of the many false teachers, antichrists among them that seek to deceive believers of the Gospel. To accept their teachings would cost you the prize of heaven you've worked so hard for. You want to make sure you get your full reward.

3. Those following the Gospel and the commands of Christ always have God and Christ on their side. Those who do to follow the Gospel or obey the commands of Christ make God their enemy. (I Corinthians 4:6, James 1:21)
4. So, anyone teaching against the complete gospel of Christ do not invite into your home. Do not encourage them in any way or recognize them as a brother. Do not wish them "God speed" or success or you will be looked upon as a partner in their evil deeds.
5. There are more things John wants to talk with her about but not in a letter. He hopes to visit her soon.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - paper, pen, quill, scroll
 - John, "lady," children - doll, puppet, stick person, picture, costume
 - examples of faithful service - regular attendance (toy car), study (Bible), teaching others (tract, OBS, invitation), helping others (carrying groceries, grocery sack), visit (flowers)
 - antichrist doll, puppet, stick person, picture, dressed in black
 - heaven illustration
 - house model, picture, legos, doll house
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Puppets/Dolls
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- Company Is Coming
- God Is Watching Over You
- God Needs Helpers
- I Know The Lord Will Find A Way
- I'll Never Forsake My Lord
- I'm Happy Today
- Pass It On
- Roll The Gospel Chariot Along
- The Very Best Life
- This Is My Commandment
- To The Work
- Unto Thee O Lord
- Walking With Jesus
- We Are Family
- We Are One In The Spirit
- Whatever Shall Be When I Grow Up
- When Jesus Was A Child Like Me
- When We All Get To Heaven
- Will He Find Us Watching
- You Are Special

Activities:

- Send "thank you" notes to a Christian man or woman you know who does a lot of good works or who has raised faithful Christian children.
- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. To whom does John address this letter? What do you know about her?
2. How was the elect lady pleasing God?
3. About what does John warn her? Why?
4. How could the antichrist affect her children?
5. How are we instructed to treat false teachers? Why?
6. Define: safeguard, antichrist, godspeed, partaker.
7. Write a letter of encouragement and warning to a Christian friend you know.

New Testament
Lesson 93: HOSPITALITY AT GAIUS' HOUSE

Text: III John

Memory Verses:	III John 4	I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.
	III John 11	Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God.

Goals:	Student will learn: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God is pleased when we are kind and hospitable to others. • Imitate good examples, not evil ones.
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Outline:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| I. Hospitality. | III John |
| A. Greetings to Gaius. | |
| B. His hospitality commended. | |
| C. Diotrephes, a bad example. | |
| D. Demetrius, a good example. | |
| E. I'm coming to visit. | |

Facts:

1. John writes this letter to Gaius, a benevolent devoted Christian, always dependable in showing hospitality to those missionaries and Christians who came his way. John commends his kindnesses and faithful service and encourages him to continue. Those that had stayed with Gaius had spoken well of him to John. (Acts 19:29, 20:4, Romans 16:23, I Corinthians 1:14)
2. The apostle John's greatest joy was to see and hear of Christian brethren being faithful to the Gospel and hard at work for the cause of Christ.
3. In the early church, hospitality was a very important service (and still is), especially for those persecuted and driven from their homes or those evangelists sent out on to mission areas. During those perilous times those persecuted would search for aid by knocking on doors and whispering "in the name!" a phrase synonymous with those of Christ.²
4. It was not appropriate for those evangelist to ask for provisions from those Gentiles they were trying to convert. It would have appeared they were

²Commentary on New Testament Epistles, Guy N. Woods, Vol. VII, Gospel Advocate, 1979

preaching for material gain. (II Corinthians 11:3) Yet they were certainly worthy of provisions and support from those of the church.

5. John warns Gaius that Diotrephes was ambitious and self-serving. He had rebelled against the apostles' authority and those missionaries sent by John. He had said wicked things about John and his associates. He had refused to be hospitable and even forbidden others to do so. If they went against his will he would expel them from membership. John promises to deal severely with Diotrephes and his unscrupulous behavior when he comes to visit.
6. John warns us not to imitate bad examples like Diotrephes, but imitate good examples like Demetrius. (I Corinthians 11:1, I John 3:6)
7. Demetrius, Gaius knew, possibly from the same congregation. He had a reputation for a godly Christian life and being a follower of the truth.
8. John again has lots of things he wants to talk with Gaius about but rather than write them in this letter he will come and visit soon. They will talk more then. He closes wishing Gaius peace, all the divine blessings of Christ. Friends of Gaius that are with John also say hello.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - paper, pen quill, scroll
 - Gaius - doll, puppet, stick figure, pipe cleaner, costume
 - John - doll, puppet, stick figure, pipe cleaner, costume
 - Diotrephes - doll, puppet, stick figure, pipe cleaner, costume
 - Demetrius - doll, puppet, stick figure, pipe cleaner, costume
 - house - model, paper, cardboard, legos, logs, craft sticks, toy, doll
 - examples of hospitality - chair, pillow/blanket, food/drink, play food/cookies, magazine pictures glued on paper plates
 - examples of faithful Christians the children know
 - examples of faithful missionaries the children know
 - letter - envelope stamped and addressed to the church of Christ
 - examples of bad behavior/good behavior
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Puppets/Dolls
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- A Beautiful Life
- A Common Love
- A Helper I Will Be
- Because It Pleases God
- Blest Be The Tie
- Company Is Coming
- Down In My Heart
- Give Me Oil In My Lamp
- I Know Lord Will Find A Way
- Kindness
- Love Love Love Love
- My Helping Hands
- Seek Ye First
- Showing Love

- Think Of Home Over There
- This Is My Commandment
- This Little Christian Light
- Unto Perfection
- When All Of God's Singers
- Whatever I Shall Be

Activities:

- Write notes to your elders, thanking them for leading the congregation to help missionaries.
- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. Who was Gaius? What was he like?
2. What did John sometimes call Christians? Why?
3. Why was hospitality such an important service in the early church?
4. How can you show hospitality? When? To whom?
5. When have you shown hospitality? To whom?
6. Who was Diotrephes? What had he done?
7. Who was Demetrius? Describe him.
8. List ways of being a good example/bad example. Which are you?

New Testament
Lesson 94: CONSEQUENCES OF SIN
CONSISTENCY IN THE FAITH

Text: Jude

Memory Verses:	Jude 3	Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.
	Jude 21	Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

Goals:	Student will learn: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to protect oneself from the consequences of sin by knowing the difference in truth and lies about God's word. • to avoid evil influences.
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Outline:

- | | |
|---|------|
| I. Earnestly contend for the faith. | Jude |
| A. Greetings. | |
| B. False teachers and their punishment. | |
| 1. Examples. | |
| 2. Their wickedness described. | |
| 3. Predicted by the apostles. | |
| C. Abide in God's love. | |
| D. Seek to save others. | |

Facts:

1. Jude refers to himself as the servant of Jesus Christ, the brother of James. This is most likely James brother of Jesus, an elder in Jerusalem, making Jude also a brother of Jesus by Mary and Joseph. (Matthew 13:55) He writes to Jewish Christians warning against those false teachers and the terrible punishment they will suffer.
2. Their present circumstances compel Jude to send a speedier and more brief letter than he had intended. He encourages them to cling to the Gospel of the apostles not the "altered gospel" of false teachers who had crept in among them.

3. The Antinomians and Libertines of the first century believed what was sin to others was permitted among the sanctified. They also denied Christ's coming in the flesh. They practiced overt fleshly indulgence calling it Christian liberty/freedom.
4. They had previously been warned of these false teachers. Jude reminds them of God's vengeance on evildoers. Example #1: Having saved the Israelites from bondage in Egypt, many lost their lives in the wilderness because of their sins. (Numbers 14:29) #2: Angels created pure and holy but sinned and became wicked angels. God has put in prisons of darkness awaiting judgment. (II Peter 2:4, Isaiah 14:12-15, Matthew 25:41) #3: Sodom and Gomorra were cities so full of lustful, sinful passions God destroyed them with fire. (Genesis 19:24, II Peter 2:6,10)
5. Yet, these false teachers deliberately continue in immorality, despising authority, mocking and cursing spiritual things. They are ruining their chances of eternal life being selfish and full of hate like Cain, (Genesis 4:8) or like Balaam who would do anything for money. Korah (Core) was another example who would rebel against the authority of God.
6. Jude describes these false teachers as evil blemishes at their feasts and gatherings, loudly carrying on, gorging themselves without concern others may not have enough. They are barren, making vain promises, but producing nothing. They are disgraceful like dirty foam left by raging sea waves or shooting stars doomed to outer darkness.
7. Enoch, the 7th generation from Adam even foretold of these evil blasphemers, that murmur and complain about God's laws. They are loud show-offs who show preference toward those they can get something from in return. The apostles as well told you in this last dispensation there would be shameful mockers and scoffers living as animals. (II Peter 3:3, I Timothy 4:1, II Timothy 3:1)
8. So you must build your lives stronger upon the foundation of Christ's love. Wait patiently for eternal life.
9. Be merciful with those confused about spiritual matters. Teach them. Snatch them away from the snares of a sinful life. Love the sinner, but hate his sins.
10. Glorify God who saves us. Recognize His power and authority. He is our only source of eternal salvation now and forever.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - pen, stationery, quill, scroll
 - Jude - doll, puppet, stick figure, pipecleaner, picture
 - false teacher - doll, puppet, stick figure, pipecleaner, picture
 - Old Testament examples: Israelites lost in wilderness - picture
 - fallen angels -angel dressed in black and chains
 - Sodom and Gomorra - model of a city with pretend fire
 - Cain - knife, large rock, or stick

Balaam - play money, pennies, chocolate coin money
examples of avoiding sin vs. strengthening yourself in Christ - do not lie,
prayer, etc.

- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Puppets/Dolls
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- Because It Pleases God
- He Is My Everything
- I Don't Wanta Be A Goat, Nope
- I Have Decided To Follow Jesus
- I Want To Go To Heaven
- Jesus Is Lord
- Let Him Have His Way
- Lord I'm Coming Home
- O Be Careful Little Eyes
- O The Bible
- Our God Keeps His Promises
- Out Of My Bondage
- Prepare To Meet Thy God
- Seek Ye First
- Take The Blame
- Thank You Lord
- The Very Best Life
- Unto Thee O Lord
- Without Him
- Wonderful, Wonderful

Activities:

- Sing songs about standing up for Jesus to record and send to shut-ins or visit the shut-ins to sing the songs
- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. Who was Jude?
2. What does Jude warn against?
3. Describe a false teacher.
4. Who else warned of false teachers?
5. How do you protect yourself from their influence?
6. How do you protect others from their influence? Why?

New Testament

Lesson 95: REVIEW OF ROMANS-JUDE

Text: Romans-Jude

Romans

Written by: Paul

Purpose: Encourage and instruct the Roman Christians

1. To whom did Paul write the book of Romans? (Romans 1:7)
2. Romans 1:16 "For I am not _____ of the _____ of _____; for it is the _____ of _____ unto _____ to _____ one that _____; to the _____ first, and also to the _____."
3. Who has sinned? (Romans 3:23)
4. What does "newness of life" mean? (Romans 6:4)
5. How can we have eternal life? (Romans 6:23)
6. Romans 8:28 "And we know that _____ things work _____ for _____ to them that _____, to them who are the called according to His purpose."
7. Romans 10:17 "So then _____ cometh by _____, and _____ by the _____ of _____."
8. Romans 12:21 "Be not _____ of _____, but overcome _____ with _____."
9. Who judges the actions/hearts of others? (Romans 14:12,13)
10. Where is the phrase, "churches of Christ" found in the Bible? (Romans 16)

I & II Corinthians

Written By: Paul

Purpose: Encourage and instruct the Corinthian Christians

11. What does Paul warn about in I Corinthians 1:10?
12. Why aren't we called "Paulites" instead of Christians? (I Corinthians 3:4-11)
13. What does Paul call our bodies? Why should we take care of them? (I Corinthians 6:19,20)
14. What sins does Paul warn about in I Corinthians 5? _____
I Corinthians 6? _____
I Corinthians 7? _____
I Corinthians 8? _____
15. I Corinthians 11:24-26 "And when He had given _____, He _____ it, and said, Take, eat; this is my _____, which is broken for you: this do in _____ of _____."

After the same manner also He took the _____, when He had _____, saying, This cup is the _____ in My _____: this do ye, as oft as ye _____ it, in _____ of Me.

For as often as ye eat this _____, and drink this _____, ye do show the _____ till He _____."

16. I Corinthians 13:13 "And now abideth _____, _____, _____, these three; but the _____ of these is _____."
17. I Corinthians 14:40 "Let all things be done _____ and in _____."
18. I Corinthians 15:33 "Be not deceived: _____ communications corrupt _____ manners."
19. What day does Paul say to "lay by in store" (make collections)? (I Corinthians 16;2)
20. II Corinthians 5:10 "For we must all _____ before the _____ seat of _____; that every one may receive the _____ done in his _____, according to that he hath _____, whether it be _____ or _____."
21. How should we give? (II Corinthians 9:6,7)

Galatians

Written By: Paul

Purpose: Encourage and instruct the Galatians Christians and the defense of Paul's apostleship

22. Galatians 3:28 "There is neither _____ nor _____, there is neither _____ nor _____, there is neither _____ nor _____: for ye are all _____ in _____."
23. Galatians 5:14 "Thou shalt _____ thy _____ as _____."
24. List the fruit of the spirit: (Galatians 5:22,23)
_____/_____/_____/_____
_____/_____/_____/_____/_____
25. Whose burdens should we bear? (Galatians 6:2)
26. What does Galatians 6:7 mean?

Ephesians

Written By: Paul

Purpose: Encourage and instruct the Ephesian Christians, emphasize Christ's being head of the body, and emphasize the importance of unity

27. Ephesians 2:8,9 "For by _____ are ye saved through _____; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of _____. Not of _____, lest any man should boast."
28. Who is the "chief corner stone" of the church? (Ephesians 2:20)

29. Ephesians 4:4-6 "There is _____ body, and one _____, even as ye are called in one _____ of your calling;
One _____, one _____, one _____,
One _____ and _____ of all, who is _____ all, and through _____, and in _____ all."
30. Ephesians 4:32 "And be ye _____ one to another, _____, _____ one another, even as _____ for Christ's sake hath _____ you."
31. Who is the head of the church? Who is the head of the wife? (Ephesians 5:23, Colossians 1:18)
32. How are we to make music to the Lord? (Ephesians 5:19)
33. Ephesians 6:1 "Children, _____ your parents in the _____: for this is _____."
34. The "armor of God" includes: (Ephesians 6:14-17)
_____ girt with _____
_____ of _____
_____ shod with the preparation of the _____
_____ of _____
_____ of _____
_____ of the _____

Philippians

Written By: Paul

Purpose: Encourage and instruct the Philippian Christians

35. For what does Paul give thanks at the beginning of Philippians? (Philippians 1:5)
36. What should we think on? Why? (Philippians 4:8)
Whatsoever things are _____, _____, _____, _____, _____,
_____.
37. Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through _____ which _____ me."

Colossians

Written By: Paul

Purpose: Encourage the Colossian Christians to remember Christ is the head of the church and to seek heavenly goals and be like Christ

38. What things should be important to us? (Colossians 3:2)
39. Why should we forgive one another? (Colossians 3:13)

I & II Thessalonians

Written By: Paul

Purpose: Encourage the Thessalonian Christians to be faithful and ready for Christ's coming

40. Where will Christians meet Christ when he returns? (I Thess. 4:17)
41. I Thessalonians 5:16-22 “_____ evermore. _____ without _____. In every thing give _____: for this is the will of _____ in Christ _____ concerning you. _____ not the _____. _____ not _____. _____ all things; hold fast that which is _____. _____ from all _____ of evil.”
42. What should we do about a Christian “walking disorderly,” or not behaving as a Christian should? (II Thess. 3:14,15)

I & II Timothy

Written By: Paul

Purpose: Encourage and instruct Timothy

43. Name 5 things on which Paul instructs Timothy. _____

44. Who intercedes for us when we pray to God? (I Timothy 2:5)
45. I Timothy 4:12 “Let no man _____ thy _____; but be thou an _____ of the _____, in word, in _____, in charity, in _____, in faith, in _____.”
46. List the qualifications of elders as given in I Timothy 3.
47. List the qualifications of deacons and their wives as given in I Timothy 3.
48. Who inspired the writing of the Bible? (II Timothy 3:16)
49. Did Paul believe he would go to heaven? (II Timothy 4:8)

Titus

Written By: Paul

Purpose: Encourage and instruct Titus

50. Of what does Paul write to Titus that he also wrote to Timothy? (Titus 1:7-9)
51. List the qualifications of elders as given in Titus 1.
52. How should we live in this world? To what should we be looking forward? (Titus 2:12,13)

Philemon

Written By: Paul

Purpose: Thanksgiving for Philemon and intercession for Onesimus

53. Who was Onesimus? (Philemon 8-21)

54. How did Paul tell Philemon to treat Onesimus upon his return? (Philemon 8-21)

Hebrews

Written By: probably Paul

Purpose: Instruction in Jewish history related to Christianity

55. Who abolished the old (testament) law? (Hebrews 1:2)
56. Hebrews 4:12a "For the word of _____ is quick, and powerful, and _____ than any _____,..."
57. Would you rather live under the old or new law? Why?
58. List 5 "heroes" of faith as mentioned in Hebrews 11. _____

James

Written By: James, brother of Jesus

Purpose: Encourage and instruct Jewish Christians scattered among Gentile countries

59. What benefit did Jesus say would come from persecution and temptations? (James 1:2-4)
60. James 1:12 "_____ is the man that endureth _____: for when he is tried, he shall receive the _____ of _____, which the _____ hath promised to them that _____ Him."
61. Who are the 2 people listed as examples of faith in chapter 2? _____
62. James 3:10,11 "Out of the same _____ proceedeth _____ and _____. My brethren, these things ought _____ so to be. Doth a _____ send forth at the same place _____ water and _____?"
63. What does James 3:10,11 mean?
64. Do we know when we will die? (James 4:14)

I & II Peter

Written By: Peter

Purpose: Encourage and comfort Jewish Christians who were suffering persecution

65. I Peter 2:2 "As _____, desire the sincere _____ of the _____ that ye may _____ thereby:"
66. Although we may suffer trials here on earth, what is reserved for faithful Christians in eternity? (I Pet. 1)
67. What are some rules of conduct given by Peter? (I Peter 2)

I, II, III John

Written By: John

Purpose: Emphasize the divinity of God, Christ, Holy Spirit and encourage Christians in the blessing of Christ as our advocate with God.

- 68. What could be said was John's main theme in his writing? (I John 3:11)
- 69. I John 2:15 "_____ not the _____, neither the _____ that are in the _____..."
- 70. I John 5:14 "... if we ask any thing _____ to _____ will, he _____ us:"
- 71. What 2 things does John write in his second letter? (II John)
- 72. Why was hospitality important to the early Christians? (III John)

Jude

Written By: Jude

Purpose: Warn the Jewish Christians against false teachers and encourage them to continue in the faith.

- 73. What examples of evil doers are listed in Jude? (Jude 5,7,9,11)
- 74. What advice does Jude give the Christians to whom he writes? (Jude 17-23)
- 75. What warning is given to the early Christians in every epistle (letter) we studied?

REVIEW ROMANS-JUDE

Answers

1. Christians in Rome
2. ashamed, gospel, Christ, power, God, salvation, every, believeth, Jew, Greek
3. all
4. begin a new life after baptism
5. through Jesus Christ our Lord
6. all, together, good, love, God
7. faith, hearing, hearing, word, God
8. overcome, evil, evil, good
9. God
10. Romans 16:16
11. division
12. we are God's/Christ is the foundation
13. temple of the Holy Ghost/to glorify God
14. fornication, lawsuits, adultery, offensiveness
15. thanks, brake, body, remembrance, me
cup, supped, New, Testament, blood, drink, remembrance
bread, cup, Lord's, death, come
16. faith, hope, charity, greatest, love
17. decently, order
18. evil, good
19. 1st day of the week
20. appear, judgment, Christ, things, body, done, good, bad
21. cheerfully
22. Jew, Greek, bond, free, male, female, one, Christ, Jesus
23. love, neighbor, thyself
24. love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance
25. one another's
26. what we do for others we shall receive for ourselves
27. grace, faith, God, works
28. Jesus Christ
29. one, Spirit, hope
Lord, faith, baptism
God, father, above, all, you
30. kind, tenderhearted, forgiving, God, forgiven
31. Christ/husband
32. in our heart
33. obey, Lord, right
34. loins, truth, breastplate, righteousness, feet, gospel of peace, shield, faith, helmet, salvation,
sword, Spirit
35. fellowship in the gospel
36. true, honest, just, pure, lovely, of good report
37. Christ, strengtheneth
38. things above
39. Christ forgave us
40. in the clouds (in the air)
41. Rejoice, pray, ceasing, thanks, God, Jesus, Quench, Spirit, Despise, prophesyings, prove, good,
abstain, appearance
42. note him/have no company with him

43. false teachers (1), public prayer (2), women's dress (2), qualifications of elders and deacons (3,5), myths (4), reproving (5), widows (5), servants (6), contentment/ riches (6)
44. Christ
45. despise, youth, example, believers, conversation, spirit, purity
46. blameless, husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behavior, given to hospitality, apt to teach, not given to wine, not striker, not greedy of filthy lucre, patient, not a brawler, not covetous, ruleth well his own house, children in subjection, not a novice, good report of them without
47. grave, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre, faithful, proved, blameless, husband of one wife, ruling children and house well / wives: grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful
48. God
49. yes
50. qualifications of elders
51. blameless, not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre, lover of hospitality, lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate, faithful
52. soberly, righteously, godly / Christ's returning
53. Philemon's servant who ran away, became a Christian, and was returning
54. kindly
55. Christ
56. God, sharper twoedged sword
- 57.
58. Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Rahab, Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthae, David, Samuel, Daniel
59. patience
60. blessed, temptation, crown, life, Lord, love
61. Abraham, Rahab
62. mouth, blessing, cursing, not, fountain, sweet, bitter
63. good things should come out of our mouths
64. no
65. newborn, babes, milk, word, grow
66. a home in heaven
67. lay aside malice, guile, hypocrisies, envies, and evil speakings; abstain from fleshly lusts, converse honestly, obey the law of the land, honor all men, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king, endure grief
68. love one another
69. love, world, things, world
70. according, His, heareth
71. love one another, beware of false teachers; antichrists
72. they worshipped together in one another's homes and helped guard each other from persecution
73. Israelites, angels, Sodom & Gomorra, Cain, Balaam
74. remember Christ's words: build yourselves up, pray, love God, look to Christ for eternal life, have compassion
75. beware of false teachers

Facts:

1. Revelation means uncovering, revealing. The book of Revelation reveals, through symbols and visions, the persecution of God's people. The theme is "Victory In Jesus." Jesus is pictured as the sacrificial lamb (ch. 5), victorious rider on the white horse (ch. 6), bridegroom who is going to return for his bride (ch. 19), judge who will make the final decision on acceptance or rejection (ch. 20). The bride is the church (ch. 21). The continuing theme is war and conflict between good and evil. The end result is victory for the righteous and defeat of the wicked.
2. A group of churches receives encouragement, correction, and awareness of things to come through the apostle John by revelation. The book is thought to have been written between A.D. 90 and 96. Much symbolic language is used, but many passages carry a clear message to Christians of every age.
3. Christ is revealed in glorified form with special characteristics to show His authority and power. His messages to the churches show His concern for their behavior. He strongly admonishes them to correct their wrong doing. He emphasizes repeatedly the need to be faithful to the end and that nothing is accomplished by stopping short of the goal.

Chapter 1:

4. An angel reveals the message to John, who was to make it known. It is addressed to the seven churches of Asia.
5. When John receives the revelation, he is on the Isle of Patmos, used by the Romans as a place of exile. The signal of the beginning of the revelation was a voice "like the sound of a trumpet."
6. John sees seven golden candlesticks and identifies them as the seven churches of Asia to whom he is writing. In the midst of the candlesticks, he sees one "like a son of man" which represents Jesus. Jesus holds in His right hand seven stars identified as angels (messengers) of the seven churches. He tells them not to fear for He is the "Alpha and Omega" – the eternal one.

Chapter 2:

7. The first four churches are Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, and Thyatira.
8. The church at Ephesus is commended for works, labor, and patience. They are unwilling to accept error. Members have not "grown weary." However, they have left their first love and their attitude is not right. They are urged to repent.
9. John closes each letter by stating that he "who overcomes" will be blessed eternally.
10. The church at Smyrna is in physical poverty, but they are spiritually rich. They are warned that things are going to get worse, but they are assured that if they are "faithful unto death" (2:10), God will give them a "crown of life."
11. The church at Pergamum found it difficult to be Christians. They lived "where Satan dwells." Pergamum is a political capital with many pagan

deities. They are criticized for their toleration of evil including teachings of Balaam and the Nicolaitans, a doctrine of compromise.

12. The church at Thyatira is a working, loving, growing church, but they tolerate evil and must repent or God will give them great tribulation. If they repent, God will give them "the morning star" referring to eternal life.

Chapter 3:

13. The last three churches, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea, are discussed. The works of the church at Sardis are not commended. They are encouraged to be watchful and to strengthen themselves. They are told to repent or Jesus would come as a thief. The faithful are encouraged to remain and God will bless them abundantly.
14. The church at Philadelphia was commended and assured of "an open door" of opportunity. Jesus promises to make them a pillar in the temple and to write His name and the name of His city upon them.
15. The church at Laodicea was indifferent ("neither cold nor hot"), yet they are reminded that Jesus assures those He loves. He knocks at the door of their hearts. If they allow Him back in, He promises a place with Him on His throne.
16. We can draw some conclusions from the study of these chapters. Christ knows each one of us. He wants us to teach only the truth and to grow in love and service (works). He wants us to live pure lives. He wants us to be able to accept, endure, and overcome persecution. He wants us to know we can be lost, but we will be richly rewarded for staying faithful.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - map showing the seven cities forming a circle
 - white robe, crown (wreath), throne
 - discuss usages of number "7" - seven stars, seven golden candlesticks (lamp holders)
 - big book - "book of life"
 - hot, cold, lukewarm
 - angel, key - "of David"
 - tree of life, clouds
 - Jesus in white, two-edged sword
 - gold, riches
 - door, thief
 - symbols of victory - trophy, "V"
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Puppets/Dolls
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- Alleluia
- Be Careful Little Eyes
- B-I-B-L-E
- Holy, Holy, Holy
- I Walk With The King
- My God Is So Great
- Paradise Valley
- Prepare To Meet Thy God
- This World Is Not My Home
- We Shall See The King Someday
- When We All Get To Heaven
- Will He Find Us Watching
- Worthy Art Thou

Activities:

- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. Why was this revelation given? (1:16)
2. Who will be blessed by it? (1:3)
3. To whom is the letter written? (1:4)
4. Does the kingdom exist at this time? (1:6, 1:9)
5. What does Jesus find good about each church?
6. What does Jesus find bad about each church?
7. What rewards does He promise each church?
8. What punishment does He promise each church?
9. What conditions are required to be rewarded?

New Testament
Lesson 97: HEAVEN
SOME INHABITANTS AND EVENTS REVEALED

Text: Revelation 4-7

Memory Verses:	Revelation 4:1	After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.
	Revelation 4:11	Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

Goals:	<p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the orderly arrangement in heaven intended for continuous worship of God. • a description of some of heaven's inhabitants and what they do. • heaven's plan for mankind (the seals). • that the prayers of Christians are received in heaven. (4:8b) • that only Jesus is worthy to set God's plan into action. (5:2-5) • that God knows that the behavior of sinful man inflicts pain on His saints (Christians) and that He cares.
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Outline:

- | | | |
|-----|------------------------------------|--------------|
| I. | A vision of heaven. | Revelation 4 |
| II. | Six of seven seals. | |
| | A. The unopened book. | Revelation 5 |
| | B. The lion of the tribe of Judah. | |
| | C. The first seal. | Revelation 6 |
| | D. The second seal. | |
| | E. The third seal. | |
| | F. The fourth seal. | |
| | G. The fifth seal. | |
| | H. The sixth seal. | |
| | I. An interlude. | Revelation 7 |

Facts:

Chapter 4:

1. John is invited to view a marvelous panorama in heaven and gives us a description of its contents and inhabitants.
2. We are shown that heaven is real and wonderful.
3. There are three main points in chapter four: a) God is on His throne, b) He rules the world, c) Heaven and earth should worship Him.
4. Twenty four elders are before the throne. Some think they may represent the saved of the Old and New Testaments which may be the same as the twelve tribes mentioned in 21:12 and the twelve apostles mentioned in 21:14.
5. The four living creatures are similar to the angels described in Ezekiel 10:20.
6. John states that the elders will fall down and worship God. Their closing statement is to the glory and honor of God (4:11).

Chapter 5:

7. God is on His throne with a book sealed with seven seals. John cried because no one was qualified to open the book. One of the elders tells John there is someone qualified; it is the Lion from the tribe of Judah, Root of David. John looks for the lion but sees a slain lamb. The Lamb (Jesus) takes the book and the heavenly host breaks forth with a loud voice proclaiming His worthiness.
8. The course of history is recorded, but only Jesus is worthy to reveal it by loosing the seals of the book. The reason for His worthiness is given.

Chapter 6:

9. The contents of six seals are revealed.
10. The first four describe destructive and deadly forces that probably represent man's ability to choose to defy God's will and the results of doing so.
11. Jesus, as the Lamb, opens the first six seals. Trumpets warn. God's judgments, bowls of wrath, are poured on the disobedient.
12. The first seal reveals a white horse and rider who are conquering (victorious).
13. The second seal reveals a red horse and rider creating persecution and bloodshed.
14. The third seal reveals a black horse and a rider with scales, indicating fairness and balance.
15. The fourth seal reveals a pale horse ridden by "Death" with "Hell" following him. They have power to kill with the sword, hunger, death, and beasts of the earth.
16. The fifth seal reveals, under the altar, the souls of those slain for the word of God, the faithful who suffered as a result of the first four seals. They cry loudly the question of how long until the judgment and the avenging of their oppressors. They are given white robes and told to wait a little longer. It shows that the number of persecuted Christians is incomplete.
17. The sixth seal unveils the beginning of God's punishment of the unjust. It reveals a description of a great earthquake, black sun, moon as blood, stars fallen

to earth, heaven parted as a scroll, mountains and islands moved, and men hidden. Many believe this is a description of the coming judgment and fall of the Roman Empire. The question is asked, "...who shall be able to stand?"

Chapter 7:

18. A further description of God's protection and provision for those who serve Him faithfully is given.
19. Holding the winds, four angels are pictured at the four corners of the earth. Another angel ascends with God's "seal" and cries loudly to the four angels not to hurt the earth until God's servants have gotten the seal on their foreheads. There were 144,000 that received the seal, 12,000 from each tribe.
20. John sees a great multitude standing before the throne, clothed in white robes. Angels, elders and beasts worshipped God on His throne.
21. An elder asks who those in white robes are. These are the faithful Christians that have died in the Lord.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - depiction of throne, altar, gold crowns
 - graphics of the living creatures: beasts full of eyes - lion, ox, man, eagle
 - heaven visuals from previous lessons
 - a lamb, trumpet
 - door
 - rainbow
 - jewels, jasper, emerald
 - white clothing
 - 7 lamps of fire
 - lightning, thunder
 - sea of crystal
 - book sealed with 7 seals
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Puppets/Dolls
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- Alleluia
- Be Careful Little Eyes
- B-I-B-L-E
- God Shall Wipe Away All Tears
- Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah
- I Walk With The King
- Jesus Loves Me
- My God Is So Great
- No Tears In Heaven
- Praise Him, Praise Him
- Prepare To Meet Thy God
- This World Is Not My Home
- When We All Get To Heaven
- Will He Find Us Watching
- Worthy Art Thou

Activities:

- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. What is heaven like according to chapter four?
2. Who do we find there?
3. Who is in control of all things in heaven and earth?
4. Does God allow terrible things to happen?
5. Does He care if we get hurt by these things?
6. Does He hear our prayers when we hurt?
7. Is He going to punish the evil ones?
8. Will He reward the righteous?

New Testament
Lesson 98: GOD WARNS WICKED MANKIND
WITH NATURAL DISASTERS

Text: Revelation 8-11

Memory Verses:	Revelation 8:2 And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets.
	Revelation 11:12a And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither.

Goals:	Student will learn: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that God patiently warns people to repent by sending natural disasters of every kind. • that God protects His saints and rewards them. • that God's patience will finally come to an end.
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Outline:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| I. The seventh seal. | Revelation 8 |
| | |
| II. The seven trumpets. | |
| A. The first trumpet. | |
| B. The second trumpet. | |
| C. The third trumpet. | |
| D. The fourth trumpet. | |
| E. The eagle. | |
| F. The fifth trumpet. | Revelation 9 |
| G. The sixth trumpet. | |
| H. An interlude. | Revelation 10 |
| I. The seventh trumpet. | Revelation 11 |

Facts:

Chapter 8:

1. After the seventh seal was opened, there was silence in heaven. John then sees seven angels before God who are given seven trumpets. Another angel has a golden censer of incense. The smoke of the incense which came with the prayers

of the saints ascended to God. The angel casts fire to the earth which causes thunder, lightning, and an earthquake.

2. As further warnings that sinful man must repent, angels sound trumpets to signal natural disasters from all possible sources (heaven, earth, rivers, seas, and even under the earth). These are meant to cause men to repent, but they do not.
3. Four of the seven angels sound their trumpets and a third of the earth suffers destruction. This is done in warning for the rest to repent. "Woe" is pronounced to the earth for when the other three angels sound.

Chapter 9:

4. When the fifth angel sounds, John sees a star fall from heaven (representing Satan or his influence) to whom is given the key to the "bottomless pit." As the pit is opened, smoke rises and locusts come out. The locusts are not to eat vegetation or hurt Christians. Some believe that the locusts represent the armies that would contribute to the continuing of the fall of the Roman Empire.
5. The sixth angel sounds. Possibly this also refers to additional forces against the remainder of the Roman Empire. Not all were destroyed. Many "Christians," by this time, had strayed far from the teachings of Christ. God wants them to repent and return to Him, which they do not do.

Chapter 10:

6. John sees an angel come down from heaven holding a "little book." The angel puts his right foot on the sea and left foot on the earth. He cries loudly and seven thunders sound. John is about to write what he is seeing, but is told not to do so.
7. John is told to eat the little book and it will be sweet in his mouth, but bitter in his belly. John is then told to preach (prophecy) again. The word of God, as John received it, is sweet, but when he preaches its messages of warning and sorrow for those that don't repent, it is bitter. God's word must continue to be preached throughout the world, both the good news and bad news (sweet and bitter).

Chapter 11:

8. John is given a reed to use as a measuring tool. He is told to measure the temple which, at this time, had been destroyed about twenty five years earlier. This is most likely, this is symbolic of measuring the church and worshippers to determine their acceptability to God. Not measuring the court might refer to the measuring of only those faithful to God. At this time, there were many false teachers and false religions.
9. God's people, both Jew and Gentile, must prophecy (teach) even if they are persecuted to death. God will restore their lives and invite them to heaven.
10. It is not clear who the two witnesses of 11:3 are, but it is clear that they were faithful to God and were rewarded by ascension to heaven. The two witnesses might refer to Jewish and Gentile Christians, because these are the only ones who could suffer death. The word of God could not; the Holy Spirit could not; the church could not.

11. The seventh angel sounds, Christ is declared to reign forever, and God is praised and worshipped.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - angels
 - trumpets
 - stars
 - golden altar, golden censer, incense
 - thunder, lightning, earthquake effects
 - bottomless pit - key, smoke
 - locusts, scorpions
 - battle horses
 - idols
 - candlesticks
 - olive branches
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Puppets/Dolls
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- Alleluia
- B-I-B-L-E
- Give Me The Bible
- Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah
- Holy, Holy, Holy
- I Know That My Redeemer Lives
- I Walk With The King
- Living By Faith
- My God Is So Great
- No Tears In Heaven
- O Worship The King
- Praise Him All Ye Little Children
- Praise Him Praise Him
- Prepare To Meet Thy God
- This World Is Not My Home
- We Praise Thee O God
- When We All Get To Heaven

Activities:

- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. Where do the seven angels stand? (8:2)
2. Where were the prayers of the saints? (8:3)
3. Do the disasters cause complete or partial destruction?
4. Are the disasters both natural and unnatural?
5. What size army does God send against His enemies? (9:16)
6. Who will be victorious in the end? (11:15 ff)

New Testament
Lesson 99: SATAN WARS AGAINST GOD BUT LOSES

Text: Revelation 12-14

Memory Verses:	Revelation 12:7,8	And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.
	Revelation 12:11	And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

Goals:	Student will learn: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that although Satan has great power, he cannot win against God.
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Outline:

- I. Seven significant signs.
 - A. The woman clothed with the sun. Revelation 12
 - B. Satan cast out.
 - C. War between Satan & the woman & her son.
 - D. The beast from the sea. Revelation 13
 - E. The beast from the earth.
 - F. The lamb on Mt. Zion. Revelation 14
 - G. The harvest of the earth.

Facts:

Chapter 12:

1. John sees a woman about to give birth to a son. He also sees a great dragon representing Satan. The glorious woman probably represents God's plan of redemption. Jesus, in human form, can be thought of as the child of that eternal plan and His atoning death and the shedding of His innocent blood as an essential part of God's saving grace.
2. A war in heaven is described. Michael has been described as an angel that helps the righteous (see Daniel 10:13 and 12:1).
3. Although Satan has great power, he cannot win against God. The evil force is cast out of heaven to earth. Those who fight against God are defeated. Satan tries to hide God's plan from man, driving it into oblivion, but cannot succeed.

Satan attempts to "water down" the plan of salvation through false teaching, and drown out true teaching, but cannot succeed.

4. Satan uses powerful political forces such as the Roman Empire to achieve his goals, but God will overthrow them and punish them. Rome was defeated in those days. The devil continues to persecute the church in the days of John's writings just as he continues today to persecute those that "keep the commandments of God" (vs. 17).

Chapter 13:

5. John sees a beast rise out of the sea who received his power from the dragon (Satan). He also sees a beast rise out of the earth. The first beast blasphemes against God (13:6) and makes war against the saints (13:7). The second beast was said to have horns like a lamb (13:11) and to be deceitful (13:14). Jesus said that false prophets would come in sheep's clothing (Matthew 7:15). The devil wages his war upon the church at the time of John's writings as well as in present times.

Chapter 14:

6. Christians are encouraged to remain faithful and are assured that the truth will ultimately prevail and they will be saved in heaven. John's vision is of those saved in heaven. They had Christ's and God's names written on their foreheads. They sang a new song that no others could learn but the saved.
7. Those that are to be saved must have followed Christ's teachings and be without blemish.
8. Judgment for the righteous will be like the harvesting of wheat. The saved will be gathered into heaven's garner. Judgment for the wicked will be like the gathering of grapes into the winepress to be crushed.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - figures to compare 7 headed beast to the glorified Christ of chapter 1
 - doll - woman clothed w/ sun, moon under feet, crown of stars
 - great red dragon - toy, picture
 - angels
 - throne
 - mountain with crowd of people
 - harp pictures
 - clouds
 - sickle
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Puppets/Dolls
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- A New Song
- Alleluia
- Be Careful Little Eyes
- B-I-B-L-E
- Give Me The Bible
- Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah
- Holy, Holy, Holy
- I Know That My Redeemer Lives
- I Walk With The King
- Living By Faith
- My God Is So Great
- No Tears In Heaven
- O Worship The King
- Praise Him All Ye Little Children
- Praise Him Praise Him
- Prepare To Meet Thy God
- Soldiers Of Christ Arise
- This World Is Not My Home
- We Praise Thee O God
- When We All Get To Heaven
- Will He Find Us Watching
- Worthy Art Thou

Activities:

- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. The great dragon is clearly identified as who?
2. The son of the woman also is clearly identified as who?
3. Although the woman is not identified, can she possibly be Mary?
4. Can the beast of chapter 13 represent a world power, such as Rome?
5. Can the second beast represent especially cruel Roman emperors such as Nero and Caligula?
6. Can the number 666 be positively identified except to represent great evil?

New Testament
Lesson 100: SEVEN LAST PLAGUES
JUDGMENT OF THE EVIL WOMAN
(BABYLON-ROME)

Text: Revelation 15-18

Memory Verses:	Revelation 15:1 And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God.
	Revelation 18:21 And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all.

Goals:	<p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that God's patience finally comes to an end. When His past warnings have gone unheeded, He brings destruction to the forces of evil and judgment to those who serve the devil.
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Outline:

- I. The seven last plagues (vials, bowls).
 - A. Preliminary celebration in heaven. Revelation 15
 - B. First bowl or vial. Revelation 16
 - C. Second bowl or vial.
 - D. Third bowl or vial.
 - E. Fourth bowl or vial.
 - F. Fifth bowl or vial.
 - G. Sixth bowl or vial.
 - H. Seventh bowl or vial.

- II. Rome's fall predicted.
 - A. The judgment of the great harlot. Revelation 17
 - B. The judgment of Babylon (Rome). Revelation 18

Facts:

Chapter 15:

1. The dispensing of the seven last plagues is preceded by a great observation of a victorious host. They praise God as He prepares to avenge them. They are not gloating, but they do celebrate that justice will be done.
2. Seals were opened to reveal future happenings (chapters 6-11) and trumpets sounding revealed warnings (chapters 8-11). Now John sees seven angels that have seven last plagues to disperse God's wrath. The angels with the bowls come from the temple which is in heaven. They are clothed in white with girdles of gold. "Vials full of the wrath of God" (judgment) are ready to be poured on the disobedient.

Chapter 16:

3. God now dispels His wrath through the pouring out of the seven bowls on all the earth, not just one third as in chapters 8 and 9. God is now dispensing punishment for lack of obedience rather than calling those disobedient to repentance as He did in Chapters 8 and 9. The bowls are emptied upon the earth, the seas, the rivers, the sun, the seat of darkness, the Euphrates, and the air; in short, no area escaped. Past plagues caused partial destruction, but in these it is more complete.
4. Enemies of God are pictured coming out of the mouth of the dragon (Satan), false prophet, and beast; unclean spirits are seen as frogs. God is victorious, of course, in this battle between evil and good.
5. We are reminded again to always be watchful as Jesus will come as a thief (verse 15). This is another example of how the events of this book can relate to us in modern times as well as to those for whom they were initially written.
6. Har-Magedon, not to be taken as a literal last battle, simply refers to a famous battlefield where decisive victories were lost and won. In the last battle over evil, God will be the victor. Har-Magedon (Armageddon) means mountain of Megiddo. Battles were most likely fought in the valley nearby (II Chronicles 35:22). Deborah and Barak defeated Sisera here (Judges 5:19); Josiah was slain here (II Kings 23:29,30); it was a place of great mourning (Zechariah 12:11). Hence, like the French "Waterloo," it becomes an emblem of a decisive battle.
7. At the time of John's writings, the prediction could possibly have been for the final downfall of the Roman Empire.

Chapters 17 & 18:

8. Rome is depicted as a fabulously wealthy but evil woman sitting upon a scarlet beast. This is suggestive of the Roman Empire and its holdings. Her name is written on her forehead. Rome, built on seven hills (mountains) had a succession of emperors, the sixth of which would be the emperor Verpasian.

9. Perhaps the greatest significance is that the predicted fall of mighty Rome came about just as these plagues suggest, by natural disaster, inward decay, poor leadership and outside enemies. Rome fell to inferior forces in about 410 A.D. It was sacked, plundered, and destroyed. Although it was rebuilt much later, it would never again have the influence it formerly held.
10. The same fate is in store for any society which opposes God and persecutes His church, His saints. We must not limit these warnings to past societies or times. They apply to us also.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - 7 angels
 - sea of glass - mirror, picture
 - fire - crumpled orange tissue paper, picture
 - beast - from previous lessons
 - temple - picture, model
 - 7 golden vials
 - woman in scarlet, purple - doll, picture
 - kings, crowns
 - lamb
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Puppets/Dolls
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- Alleluia
- Be Careful Little Eyes
- B-I-B-L-E
- Give Me The Bible
- Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah
- Holy, Holy, Holy
- I Know That My Redeemer Lives
- I Walk With The King
- Jesus Loves Me
- Living By Faith
- My God Is So Great
- No Tears In Heaven
- O Worship The King
- Praise Him All Ye Little Children
- Praise Him Praise Him
- Prepare To Meet Thy God
- Soldiers Of Christ Arise
- This World Is Not My Home
- We Praise Thee O God
- When We All Get To Heaven
- Will He Find Us Watching
- Worthy Art Thou

Activities:

- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. Why would the sending of these plagues be a cause for celebration? (ch. 15)
2. What people are the target for the first plague? (16:2)
3. Of what were the waters said to be guilty? (16:6)
4. Did men repent after they were scorched with fire? (16:9)
5. Who is said to be blessed? (16:15)
6. If so, who will be hurt by these plagues?

New Testament

Lesson 101: THE ULTIMATE TRIUMPH OF GOD

Text: Revelation 19-22

Memory Verses:	Revelation 19:16	And He hath on His vesture and on His thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.
	Revelation 21:7	He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.
	Revelation 22:14	Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

Goals:	<p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God's triumph over evil is certain and can be viewed as if it has already occurred. (John uses the past tense to describe future events.) • there is only one of two final destinations for each of us: a blissful home in heaven or a place of eternal torment. • the contrast between those who will inherit eternal life and those who will spend eternity with the devil in the lake of fire.
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Outline:

- I. Judgment and victory.
 - A. The judgment of the harlot. Revelation 19
 - B. Celebration and worship.
 - C. The marriage of the Lamb.
 - D. The final victory. Revelation 19:11-20:15

- II. Heaven described.
 - A. Living with God. Revelation 21
 - B. Separation between good and evil.
 - C. The holy city.
 - D. Provision for eternal life. Revelation 21:22-22:17
 - E. A final warning.
 - F. A final blessing.

Facts:

1. God is praised and worshipped after the victory. John states that God was just in His judgment. The righteous judgment of Babylon, or the harlot, is the occasion of rejoicing and praising.
2. The wedding between Christ and His bride (the church) is announced. A beautiful wedding is described with the bride dressed in "fine linen"; "fine linen" is the "righteous acts of the saints" (verse 8). Those invited to the marriage feast are blessed. The saved are represented by the guests at the wedding.
3. John describes a white horse with Jesus sitting on it. An exciting description of the ending of the evil forces (Satan's influence) is given. Another battle ensues where the beast and false prophet are cast alive into the lake of fire that burns with brimstone. The rest are killed with the sword in the mouth of the one on the horse.
4. Finally, the dragon (Satan) is bound and cast into an abyss and sealed. One thousand years is mentioned, but like much of this book, this is not literally 1,000 years but most probably a usage of a time period to summarize what has already been described in the book. The number one thousand was a number of completeness or closure in the Jewish way of thinking. See Psalm 50:10 and II Peter 3:8.
5. Those who lost their lives for Christ are raised to reign with Christ in heaven for a thousand years.
6. When Satan is loosed from his prison, one final deception (war) is allowed before he is cast into the lake of fire and brimstone with the beast and prophet. They will be in torment forever.
7. A description of judgment is given with the dead standing before the throne. The book of life is opened and judgment is pronounced "according to their works" (verses 12,13). Anyone not found in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.
8. Again, the faithful are given the promise of heaven while the unbelievers are condemned.
9. A new heaven and earth replace the first heaven and earth.
10. John is carried away to a high mountain by an angel to view the "holy city Jerusalem" (verse 10). A beautiful description of heaven is given. Only those written in the Lamb's book of life will enter there.
11. The bride of Christ is described as a marvelous city. It is a model of perfection and represents the glorified church. Great blessings are seen and nothing bad is allowed. A river and tree of life are described, and no curse, such as Genesis 3:17-19, can occur.
12. Again, it is stressed that Jesus will come quickly and those that have been obedient will be blessed. Those who are excluded are described as dogs, sorcerers, whoremongers, murderers, etc.
13. As John fell down at the feet of the angel to worship, the angel told him to worship God, not the angel.

14. The book ends with another reference to God as the Alpha and Omega, first and last, and an admonition for all to come to obey God's word because only the faithful will have the right to the tree of life. Jesus extends His invitation to partake of eternal life.
15. The book closes with a warning and blessing.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - white horse with rider
 - beast cast into lake of fire
 - angel
 - key to bottomless pit
 - great chain
 - dragon/devil
 - white throne
 - book - book of life
 - precious stones - jasper, sapphire, etc.
 - pearls - gates
 - light - no night
 - tree of life
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Puppets/Dolls
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- Alleluia
- Be Careful Little Eyes
- B-I-B-L-E
- Give Me The Bible
- Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah
- Holy, Holy, Holy
- I Walk With The King
- Jesus Loves Me
- Living By Faith
- My God Is So Great
- No Tears In Heaven
- O Worship The King
- Praise Him All Ye Little Children
- Praise Him Praise Him
- Prepare To Meet Thy God
- Shall We Gather By The River
- This World Is Not My Home
- We Praise Thee O God
- When We All Get To Heaven
- Will He Find Us Watching
- Worthy Art Thou

Activities:

- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

****Note:** Strive to convey to the students the importance of being citizens of God's kingdom instead of the world, based on the rewards and punishments that are in store.**

1. Find as many contrasts as you can between those who will inherit heaven and those who fail to reach it. Contrast heaven and hell.
2. What is the wife of Christ wearing? (19:8)
3. What is another name for Christ? (19:13)
4. What is another title for Christ? (19:16)
5. Where will the beast, false prophet, and their followers be cast? (19:20)
6. Why will Satan be bound? (20:3)
7. How is the judgment scene described? (20:12-15)
8. How is life in heaven described? (21:1-8)
9. How is hell and its inhabitants described? (21:8,9)
10. Describe the heavenly city of God. (21:10-26)
11. What is necessary to live in heaven? (22:14)
12. Where do you want to spend eternity?

New Testament
Lesson 102: REVIEW OF REVELATION

Text: Revelation

Memory Verses:	Revelation 1:1	The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto Him, to shew unto His servants things which must shortly come to pass; and He sent and signified it by His angel unto His servant John:
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Goal:	Student will review the book of Revelation.
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Revelation 1-3:

1. To whom was the "revelation of Jesus Christ" sent? (1:1)
2. What things are "revealed" in the book of Revelation? (1:1)
3. Who will be blessed by the revelation? (1:3)
4. List the churches to whom Revelation is written. (2:1-3:22)

Revelation 4-7:

5. Describe (or draw a picture of) heaven according to chapter 4.
6. Who do we find there? (4:4, 4:8)
7. Who is in control of all things in heaven and earth? (4:8)
8. Who was, at last, found worthy to open the book? (5:5-5:14)
9. What were the privileges of those in white robes with God? (7:13-17)

Revelation 8-11:

10. When the 7th seal was opened there was _____ in _____ for about _____.
11. Was John allowed to write about the 7 thunders? (10:4)

Revelation 12-14:

12. How is the devil described in heaven? (12:3)
13. Who is the son of the woman? (12:5)

14. What happened between Michael and his angels and the dragon? (12:7)
15. What would happen to anyone that worshipped "the beast"? (14:9-11)
16. What would happen to those that keep God's commandments? (14:12,13)

Revelation 15-18

17. What did the 7 angels have in chapter 15?
18. With what were their 7 vials filled? (15:1)
19. How does 16:15 apply to you?
20. What great city's fall is described in these chapters? (18:2)

Revelation 19-22

21. Find as many contrasts as you can between those who will inherit heaven and those who fail to reach it.
22. What is another title for Christ? (19:16)
23. Where will the beast, false prophet, and their followers be cast? (19:20)
24. How is the judgment scene described? (20:12-15)
25. How is life in heaven described? (21:1-8)
26. How is hell and its inhabitants described? (21:8,9, 22:15)
27. Describe (or draw a picture of) the heavenly city of God. (21:10-26)
28. What is necessary to live in heaven? (22:14)
29. Where do you want to spend eternity?

