

New Christian Bible Study for Older Children

Introduction

Lessons and Contents

These materials are a nine-part study for children. They are written to provide the beginning steps for new believers on their journey toward spiritual maturity. Each lesson is built around a different theme. The themes for the nine lessons are as follows:

1. Living Your Life to Please God
2. Reading the Bible
3. Praying to God
4. Going to Church
5. Learning to Give
6. Telling Your Friends and Family About Jesus
7. Knowing You Are a Christian
8. Baptism
9. Joining a Church

The lessons are designed to be completed in this order. Each lesson contains a segment of a story that runs throughout the entire series. If the lessons are given out of order, the story will not make sense.

Each lesson is arranged into five parts. Those parts are:

1. A segment of a continuing story focusing on the theme
2. A Bible study on the theme
3. A summary provided in the form of a list
4. An activity sheet on the theme
5. A simple quiz that reviews the material covered in the continuing story and Bible study

(The answers to the activity sheets and quizzes are not in the lessons. They are provided in a separate file. Be sure to download the answers to help the children if necessary.)

How to Teach the Lessons

These lessons should be taught to the children after they accept Christ. They can be taught in one of several ways:

1. Give the child a lesson to take home. He works on it with his parents and returns it to a designated person (a staff member, a Sunday School teacher, a volunteer in the children's department, etc.) when it is completed. This designated person and child briefly review the material and the child receives the next lesson. This process continues until all nine lessons have been completed.

2. Teach the lessons as a new member's class. Each session the facilitator will read (or creatively relate) the continuing story, review the Bible study material and summary, allow the children to complete the activity and quiz. The children can grade their own quiz papers.
3. A person is designated to work with a child and his parents in several sessions until the material is complete. This can be done at the church building, at the child's home or in a neutral location. This way is probably the most difficult, because of arranging everyone's schedule to meet on a regular basis. If this method is selected, be sure all nine lessons are completed on a timely basis.

Reproducing the Material

Permission is granted to reproduce these materials as needed.

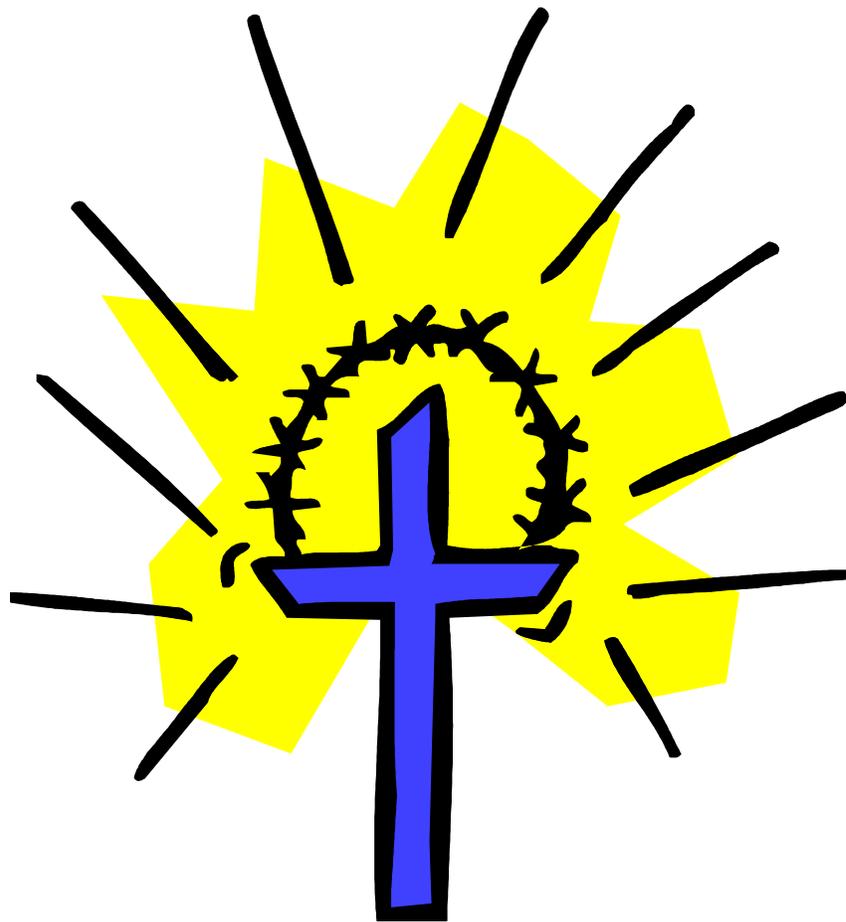
Additional Resources

These materials are based on the booklet titled, "The World's Greatest Adventure" produced by the North American Mission Board. For more information on this item or other children's materials produced by NAMB, call (770) 410-6332.

New Christian Bible Study for Older Children

Lesson 1

Living Your Life to Please God



The Amazing Adventures at Cascadia National Park (Part 1)



As we begin our story, let me introduce you to some friends, Tyler Thompson, his older sister Abby, and Tyler's friend, Ryan. They are ready to begin their vacation with the Thompson family at Cascadia National Park. Come join them on their amazing adventure inside the park!

"Whoa! Check that out!" Tyler said. A huge mountain suddenly came into view as they came out of a dark tunnel. "It's huge!"

Ryan was really excited now. He had no idea how beautiful the park would be. "This is going to be fun! Thanks for inviting me," Ryan said.

Ryan felt grateful that Tyler had chosen him to come along on his family's vacation. Ryan was a new Christian.

Before long, they arrived at the lodge where they would stay for the week. The kids hurried to put away their things so they could start exploring. After riding in the car all day, they were ready to get out and have some fun before dinner.

"Don't be gone too long," Mr. Thompson said. "We're going to meet in the lobby for dinner in two hours. And don't forget, you may be the only example of Jesus' love that other people see. Have fun, and stick together."

"OK, Dad. We'll see you later," Abby said. The kids looked at a map as they walked toward the lobby.

"Hmm. We have just enough time to walk to Horse Tail Falls," Abby said.

Walking through the lobby, Tyler saw a boy about their age in a

wheelchair. He was whittling something with his knife. Tyler was curious, so he walked over to the boy. Ryan followed him.

"What are you working on?" Tyler asked.

"Oh, it's nothing. It's just a whistle," the boy said.

"Why are you inside when there is so much to do outside?" Ryan asked.

"My older brother was going to meet me here so we could go take some pictures, but I think he forgot me," the boy said. "He is still talking to some girl in the gift shop."

"Would you like to go with us?" Tyler asked. "We're going to check out Horse Tail Falls."

Ryan raised his eyebrows and looked at Tyler with surprise. Ryan was ready to get started.

A wheelchair will just slow us down, Ryan thought. He felt guilty even thinking it, but after driving such a long way, Ryan was ready to begin his adventure.

Abby saw the look on Ryan's face. "That's a great idea. Why don't you tell your brother that you're going with us? We'll be back in a couple of hours," she said quickly. She looked back at Ryan. Ryan crossed his arms.

"Sure, I'd love to go," the boy said. "But I know that the trail is not paved, and I'd never make it with my wheelchair."

"We can go somewhere else," Tyler said. Tyler looked at the map. "What about Majesty Falls? The map shows that the pathway to those falls is paved."

"You would change your plans for me?" the boy asked.

“Sure,” Abby said.

“I’ll be right back,” the boy said. He sped away toward the gift shop in his wheelchair.

As soon as he turned the corner, Tyler said, “Come on, Ryan, what’s wrong?”

“If we have to wait for him, we’ll not have time to do anything before dinner,” Ryan said. “I’m going on ahead. You all can catch up with me.”

Before Abby or Tyler could say another word, Ryan picked up his backpack and walked away.

A moment later, the boy in the wheelchair returned.

“Where is your friend going?” the boy asked as he rolled to a stop in front of Abby and Tyler.

Tyler and Abby were still surprised that Ryan had gone ahead without them. Their parents had wanted them to stay together.

“Uhh...he went on ahead to check things out,” Tyler said. “He was a little excited to start exploring. We’ll catch up with him.”

Their new friend introduced himself as Buddy. After they all introduced themselves to each other the kids started toward the falls.

In the mean time, Ryan was feeling guiltier. *Don’t forget, you may be the only example of Jesus’ love that other people ever see. Have fun, and stick together.* Mr. Thompson’s words rang in his ears. Not only had Ryan not stayed with Abby and Tyler, but he had

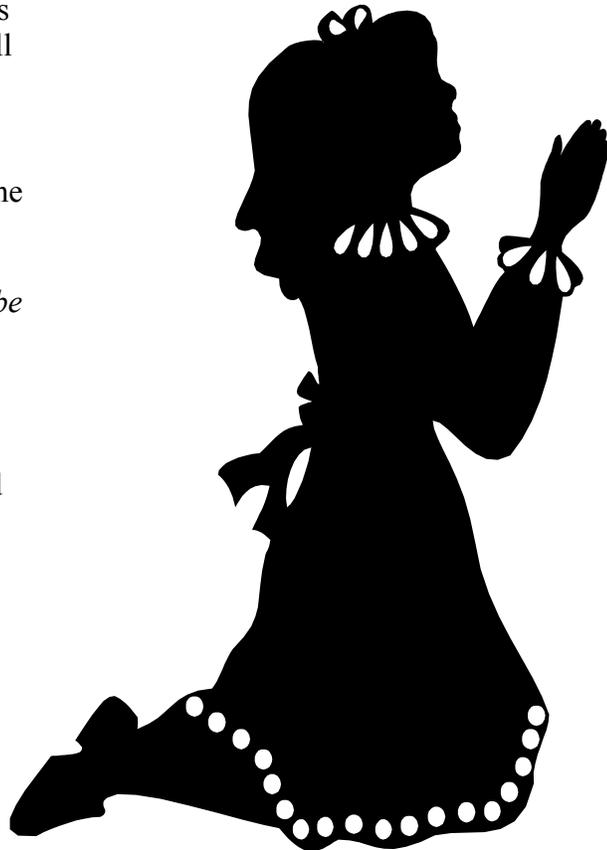
also been a bad example of a Christian to the boy in the wheelchair.

Ryan rattled the change in his pocket. He had been in such a hurry to get started. He didn’t feel like hurrying now. Ryan kicked a few rocks down the hill that was next to the pathway.

I guess I should go back and say I’m sorry to the other kids for leaving them. I acted pretty selfishly. God, please forgive me. Help me to live for You instead of me.

Ryan was not paying attention to where he was going. He was still praying when he stumbled on the edge of the paved pathway. Ryan lost his balance and fell down the steep hill into the creek below...

(What will happen to Ryan? Find out in the next lesson!)



Peter Lives His Life to Please God

The Bible says, “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility, consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.”—Philippians 2:3-4).

The Bible tells about many people who chose to live for Jesus. Take Peter, for example. Peter was a fisherman when he met Jesus. But Jesus had better plans for Peter’s life. Jesus asked Peter to leave his life as a fisherman and become one of His disciples (one of His special followers). Jesus told Peter that He would show him how to “fish” for people instead of fish! Peter dropped his fishing nets that very minute and started following Jesus.

Fishing was no longer number one in Peter’s life. Jesus was! Jesus showed Peter and the other disciples what it meant to live for Him. As Peter learned to live for Jesus, he helped people.

One time, Peter helped to heal a man who was crippled and poor. Peter could have let people think that he had healed the man with his own power. Instead, Peter told them that God had healed the man. Peter was just God’s helper. This gave Peter another chance to live for Jesus—by telling other people about Jesus. He wanted the people who had seen the man be healed know that God loved them, too.

Peter wasn’t perfect though. In fact, there were times early on when he was scared to live for Jesus. Once, a girl asked Peter if he was one of Jesus’ disciples. Soldiers had just arrested Jesus before sending Him to die on the cross. Peter got scared. He told the girl that he did not know Jesus. Peter denied that he

knew Jesus three times that night! He was afraid that someone might come and arrest him, too. Soon Peter felt badly about his lie. He knew it made God sad. The good news is that Peter asked for forgiveness, and Jesus forgave him.

The same Peter who was too afraid to admit that he was a Christian later went on to tell a whole crowd of people about Jesus. Peter wanted them to know how much God loved them, too (Acts 2:14-41). Once, after Peter and his friend John told a group of religious leaders about Jesus, the men were surprised at their courage. The Bible says they were amazed because they realized Peter and his friend were regular men. The leaders could see that “these men had been with Jesus.” (Acts 4:13)

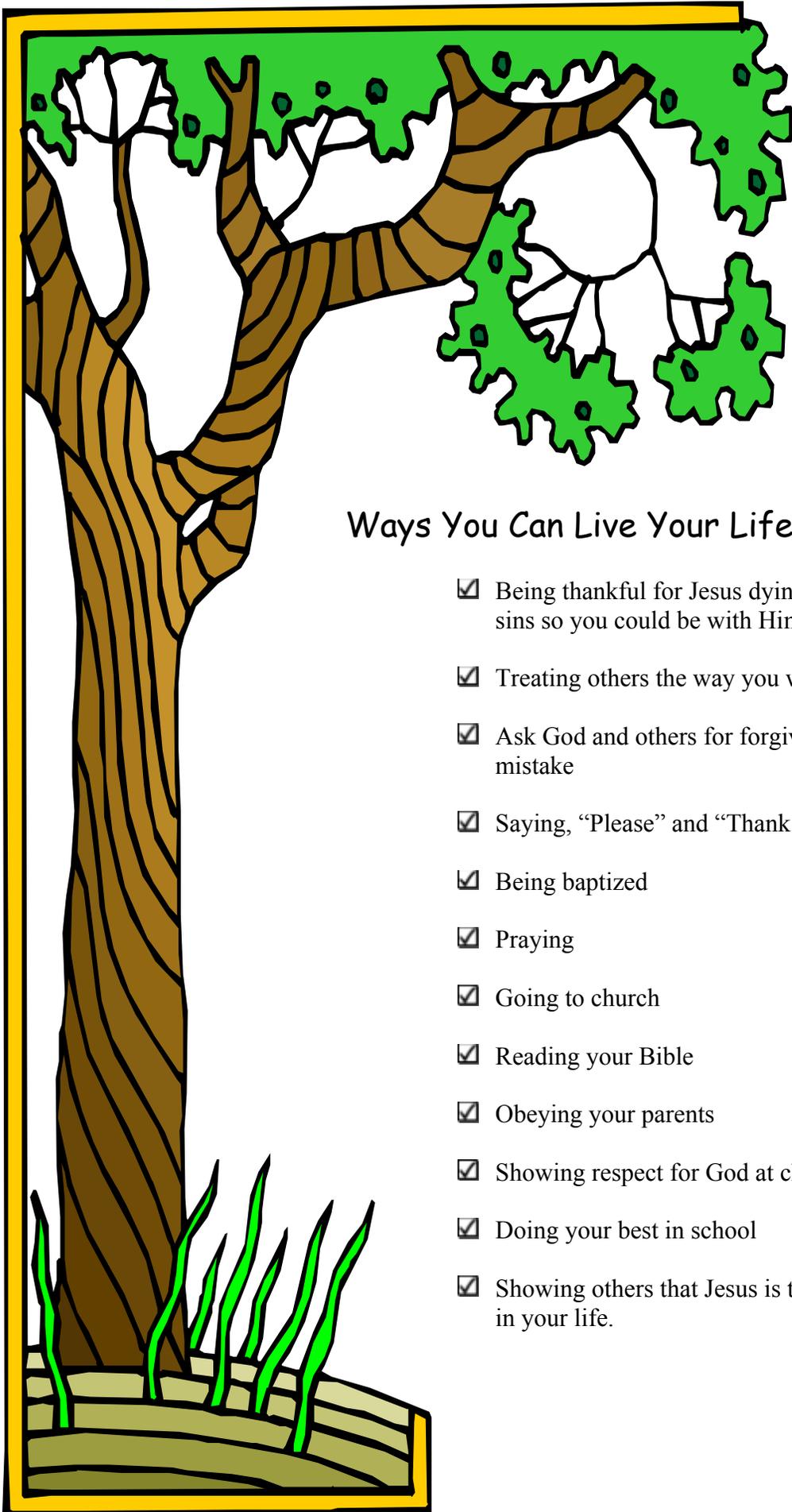
Peter also went on to write two books in the Bible (1 and 2 Peter). He also helped start churches in places where there were none so other people could know and worship God through Jesus.

This man, who was once just a fisherman, went on to live for Jesus with all his heart.

Like Peter, there may be times when you don’t always live for Jesus. Sometimes you might be afraid to show others that He is the most important thing in your life. Or you might act selfishly. If you ask Him, God will forgive you and give you boldness to live for Him, just like He did for Peter.

Living for Jesus each day is the best way to thank God for sending His Son to give you eternal life. So what about you? Can people see that you have been with Jesus? Can they see that He is the most important person in your life?





Ways You Can Live Your Life to Please God:

- Being thankful for Jesus dying on the cross for your sins so you could be with Him forever
- Treating others the way you want to be treated
- Ask God and others for forgiveness when you make a mistake
- Saying, "Please" and "Thank You" a lot
- Being baptized
- Praying
- Going to church
- Reading your Bible
- Obeying your parents
- Showing respect for God at church
- Doing your best in school
- Showing others that Jesus is the most important person in your life.

Pleasing God Activity You Do the Math!

Use the math code to find six ways you can live for Jesus. Some of the letters have been filled in to help you.

1. $\frac{0+1}{1+0}$ $\frac{4+1}{0+0}$ $\frac{P}{P}$ $\frac{23+5}{23+5}$ $\frac{8+2}{8+2}$ $\frac{Z}{Z}$ $\frac{2+3}{2+3}$ $\frac{2+2}{2+2}$

2. $\frac{25+3}{25+3}$ $\frac{1+4}{1+4}$ $\frac{10+5}{10+5}$ $\frac{1+14}{1+14}$ $\frac{Y}{Y}$ $\frac{2+18}{2+18}$ $\frac{U}{U}$ $\frac{0+25}{0+25}$

$\frac{4+2}{4+2}$ $\frac{R}{R}$ $\frac{7+3}{7+3}$ $\frac{3+2}{3+2}$ $\frac{12+6}{12+6}$ $\frac{1+3}{1+3}$ $\frac{S}{S}$ $\frac{0+0}{0+0}$ $\frac{1+0}{1+0}$ $\frac{5+15}{5+15}$ $\frac{U}{U}$ $\frac{26+2}{26+2}$

$\frac{6+6}{6+6}$ $\frac{1+4}{1+4}$ $\frac{19+8}{19+8}$ $\frac{U}{U}$ $\frac{1+26}{1+26}$

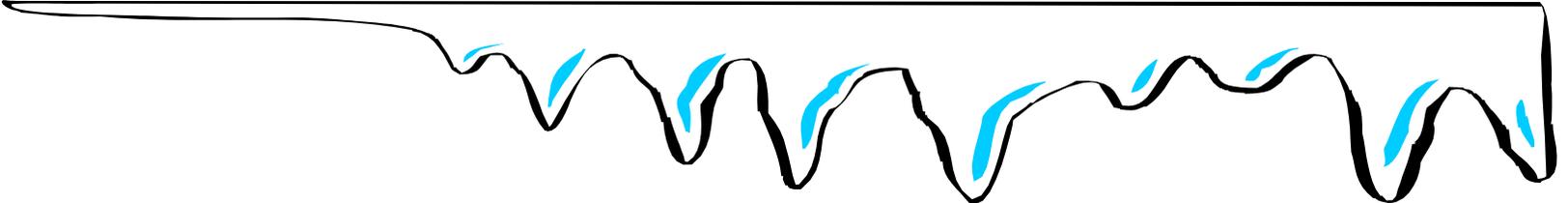
3. $\frac{5+3}{5+3}$ $\frac{11+9}{11+9}$ $\frac{T}{T}$ $\frac{10+10}{10+10}$ $\frac{0+2}{0+2}$ $\frac{3+6}{3+6}$ $\frac{U}{U}$ $\frac{R}{R}$ $\frac{1+1}{1+1}$ $\frac{8+1}{8+1}$

4. $\frac{1+24}{1+24}$ $\frac{0+5}{0+5}$ $\frac{0+0}{0+0}$ $\frac{2+2}{2+2}$ $\frac{22+6}{22+6}$ $\frac{7+2}{7+2}$ $\frac{1+4}{1+4}$ $\frac{1+0}{1+0}$ $\frac{6+4}{6+4}$ $\frac{0+1}{0+1}$ $\frac{11+4}{11+4}$ $\frac{2+3}{2+3}$

5. $\frac{14+7}{14+7}$ $\frac{R}{R}$ $\frac{0+0}{0+0}$ $\frac{40+5}{40+5}$

6. $\frac{6+3}{6+3}$ $\frac{5+0}{5+0}$ $\frac{14+1}{14+1}$ $\frac{19+2}{19+2}$ $\frac{15+5}{15+5}$ $\frac{T}{T}$ $\frac{1+8}{1+8}$ $\frac{1+4}{1+4}$ $\frac{2+23}{2+23}$ $\frac{26+1}{26+1}$

A=0,	F=6,	K=14,	P=21,	U=30,	Y=45,
B=1,	G=8,	L=15,	Q=24,	V=32,	Z=50,
C=2,	H=9,	M=16,	R=25,	W=36,	
D=4,	I=10,	N=18,	S=27,	X=40,	
E=5,	J=12,	O=20,	T=28,		

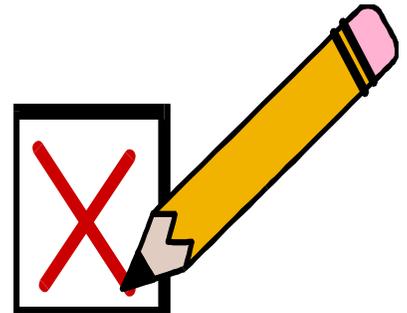


Living Your Life to Please God

Lesson 1 Quiz

Circle the letter of the correct answer for each question.

1. Why did Jesus die in your place?
 - A. Jesus died in your place to pay for your sins so you could be with Him forever.
 - B. Jesus died in your place to pay for your sins so you could be with Him sometimes.
2. What does it mean to live for Jesus?
 - A. Living for Jesus means finding ways to show that Jesus is sort of important in your life.
 - B. Living for Jesus means finding ways to show that Jesus is the most important person in your life.
3. What did Jesus tell Peter He would teach him?
 - A. How to fish for people
 - B. How to fish for big fish
4. Peter lived for Jesus by:
 - A. Acting like he didn't know Jesus
 - B. Boldly telling a crowd of people about Jesus
5. Peter later went on to write:
 - A. A children's book
 - B. Two books in the Bible (1 and 2 Peter)
6. As a Christian, God will love you:
 - A. Always
 - B. Sometimes
7. List four ways you can live for Jesus:
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____



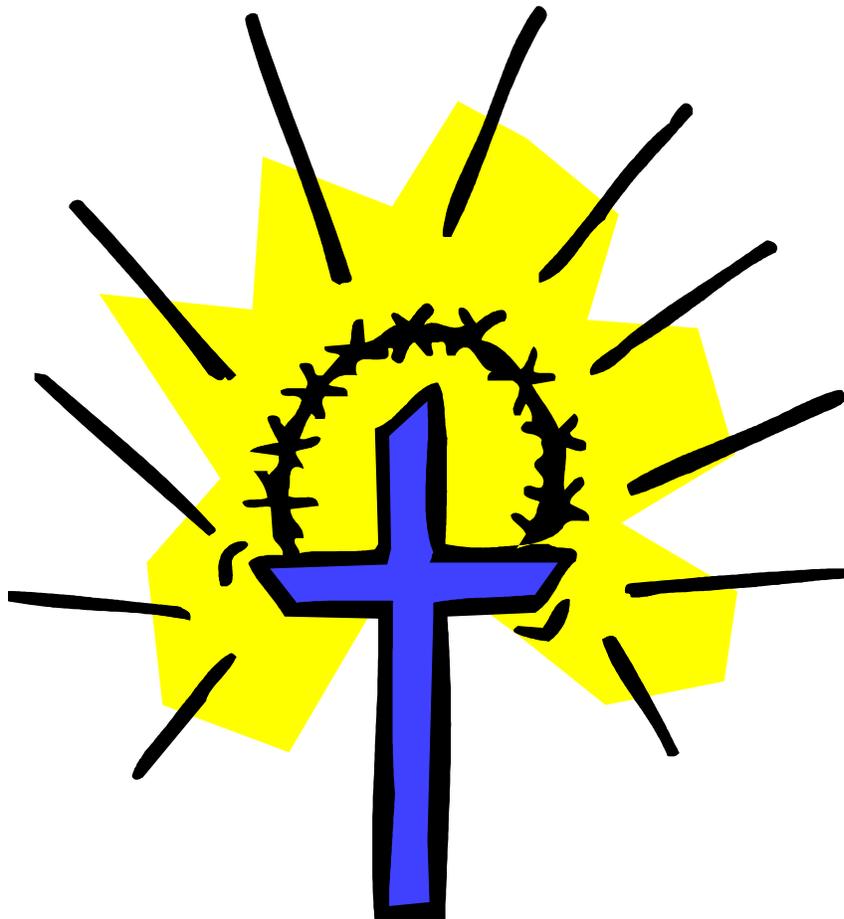
Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility, consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Philippians 2:3-4

New Christian Bible Study for Older Children

Lesson 2

Reading the Bible



The Amazing Adventures at Cascadia National Park (Part 2)



Welcome back! I'm glad you joined me again for another adventure. In the last story, we learned that Ryan is still finding out what it means to live for Jesus. We also learned that Ryan suddenly slipped and fell. Will Ryan be all right? Keep reading and find out!

Splash! Ryan's feet landed in a shallow area of the creek at the bottom of the rocky hill. One minute he was asking God to forgive him for being selfish. The next minute he was rolling down the hill. Ryan caught his breath...

Meanwhile, Abby, Tyler, and their new friend, Buddy, left the lodge for the trail to Majesty Falls. Just ahead, they saw a snack shop. A bright, pink, ice cream cone sign flashed above the shop's door.

"Hey, before we get started, let's get an ice cream cone!" Tyler said.

"But we need to catch up with Ryan," Abby said.

"We won't be long," Tyler said. "We can eat our ice cream on the way."

"You two go ahead," Buddy said. "I'll wait for you out here."

"You don't want any ice cream?" Tyler asked.

"No, it's just that..." Buddy paused and looked down. "I don't have any money with me."

"I've got some extra change in my backpack," Abby said. "Let me buy yours for you."

"OK. But I promise I'll pay you back later," Buddy said.

Abby dug around in her backpack. As she searched for the money, her Bible fell out on the sidewalk.

"What's that?" Buddy asked.

"Oh. That's my Bible," Abby said as she picked it up. She dusted off the cover and put it in her backpack.

The three kids bought their ice cream and began walking again. Just ahead, they could see where the pathway to the falls began.

Buddy had been quiet as he ate his ice cream. Finally, he asked, "So why are you carrying a Bible? I mean—do you actually read it? Isn't that for grown-ups?"

"Well, I'm a Christian," Abby answered. "I read the Bible to learn more about God. And no, you don't have to be a grown-up to know God," Abby said as she licked her strawberry ice cream cone.

The three children could now hear the rushing water from the creek just ahead.

Still surprised by his fall, Ryan rubbed his arm. It was sore. He took off his backpack and began to look for his water bottle. Ryan decided to stay where he was until his arm quit hurting. As Ryan drank, he remembered a Bible verse he had learned at church the week before. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins."

That's a relief. I sure have caused a lot of trouble, Ryan thought. He couldn't remember where that verse was in the Bible. Ryan put down his water bottle and reached for his Bible in his backpack. The Thompsons had given Ryan the Bible as a gift when he became a Christian earlier in the year. Mr. Thompson was the youth minister at his church. He had marked verses that would help Ryan learn more about God.

Ryan opened his Bible to the Book of Psalms. “I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you” (119:11). *Hmm. That’s just like what Mr. Thompson says. He’s always saying how we should learn God’s Word so we’ll know how to stay out of trouble and do what pleases God.* Ryan turned a couple of pages. “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path” (119:105). Ryan laughed to himself. He needed God to help him stay on the path, also!

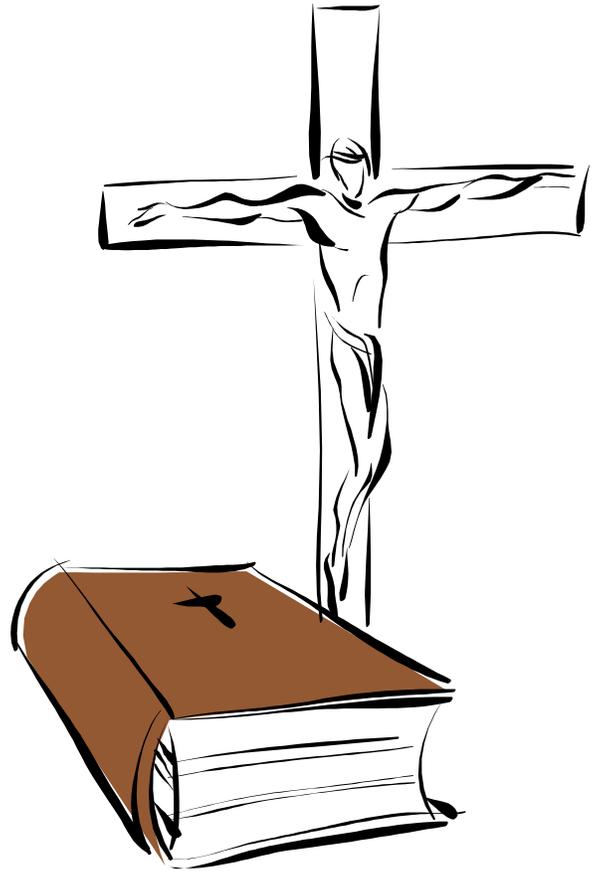
Ryan flipped to the back of his Bible where Mr. Thompson had marked some verses.

“There it is,” Ryan said. “First John 1:9.” Ryan felt better inside since he had asked God for forgiveness. But he sure hurt on the outside!

I’d better get back to the others before anything else happens, Ryan thought to himself. Before he stood up, Ryan said one more prayer. *God, thank You for what I read in the Bible. Thank You for speaking to me through what I read—even though I’m just a kid. Thanks for hearing me—AND for keeping me from getting really hurt.*

Ryan’s arm was still sore, but he was ready to find his friends. Ryan grabbed his backpack and dusted himself off. He leaned forward to grab hold of a rock as he started to climb up the hill. Ryan’s wet shoes made a squishy noise as he stepped. Just as he was ready to take his next step up the steep hill, Ryan began to slide back. The hill was covered with tiny rocks and clumps of dirt. He tried again. This time, Ryan took three steps before he slid back to where he started. This was going to be harder than he thought...

(How will Ryan make it up the hill?
Find out in the next lesson!)



Reading the Bible—God's Word for You

It's Christmas morning. Under the tree is a big, red present with your name on it. You wonder what could be hidden inside just for you. You rip into the package and discover a drum set that you have wanted all year long. But before you can begin making music, your parents must read the instructions and put it together for you. Have you ever watched your parents try to put together a toy without reading the instructions? Sure, it takes time to read them, but in the end, you have a great toy! Without the instructions, your toy may not work. It's the same way with the Bible. It is God's Word for you and me. The Bible helps us know how to live as Christians.

And it's never too soon to start reading God's Word. Second Timothy is one of the books of the Bible. It is found in the New Testament. This book is a letter from the Apostle Paul to a young man named Timothy. Timothy was learning what it meant to live for Jesus. In the letter, Paul tells Timothy to keep doing what he learned in God's Word. You see, Timothy's mother and grandmother had been teaching him God's Word since he was a small child. (That means when Timothy was your age, he had already been learning God's Word for several years!) Paul explains to Timothy that the Bible is good for "teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness," so that Christians will be ready to serve God (2 Timothy 3:16-17). So what does all that mean?

First, the Bible teaches you more about who God is so you can know Him better. How can you get to know God better unless you spend time reading His

Word. God speaks to you through what is written in the Bible.

Second, the Bible shows you when you're doing the wrong thing (that's what it means to rebuke). For example, you might have been mad at a friend for something he did that hurt you. Then some time later, you read the Bible verses that say: "Get rid of all...rage and anger...be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other just as in Christ God forgave you" (Ephesians 4:31-32). After reading these verses, you realize that staying angry with your friend is wrong.

Third, God uses His Word not only to rebuke you but to correct you as well. In other words, He not only tells you when you're doing wrong, He shows you how to do the right thing instead! So instead of staying mad at your friend, God shows you that you need to forgive your friend, just as He forgave you.

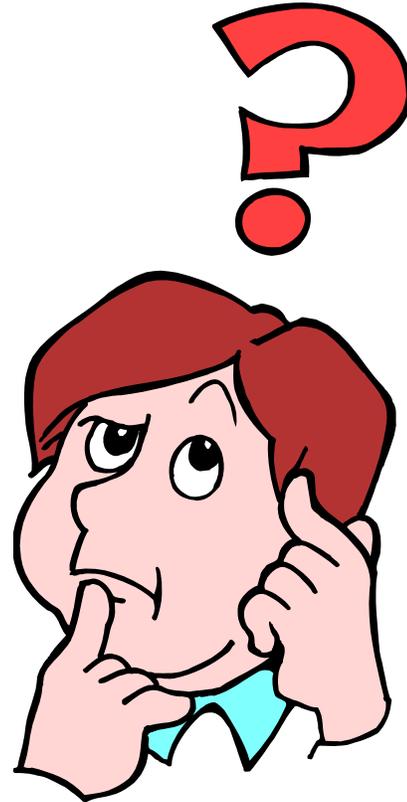
Fourth, "training in righteousness" means that the Bible can show you how to live a life that pleases God. When you live a life that is pleasing to the Lord, He can work through you to share His love. The more you learn about God from the Bible, the more you can teach other people so they will know God, too.

Lastly, God wants you to be ready to serve Him every day. In fact, God already knows the things He wants you to do. Ephesians 2:10 says that God already knows the good works which He "prepared in advance for us to do." He already knows how you can best serve Him. Reading the Bible will help you know how to serve God.

After all, when you became a Christian, you became a part of God's

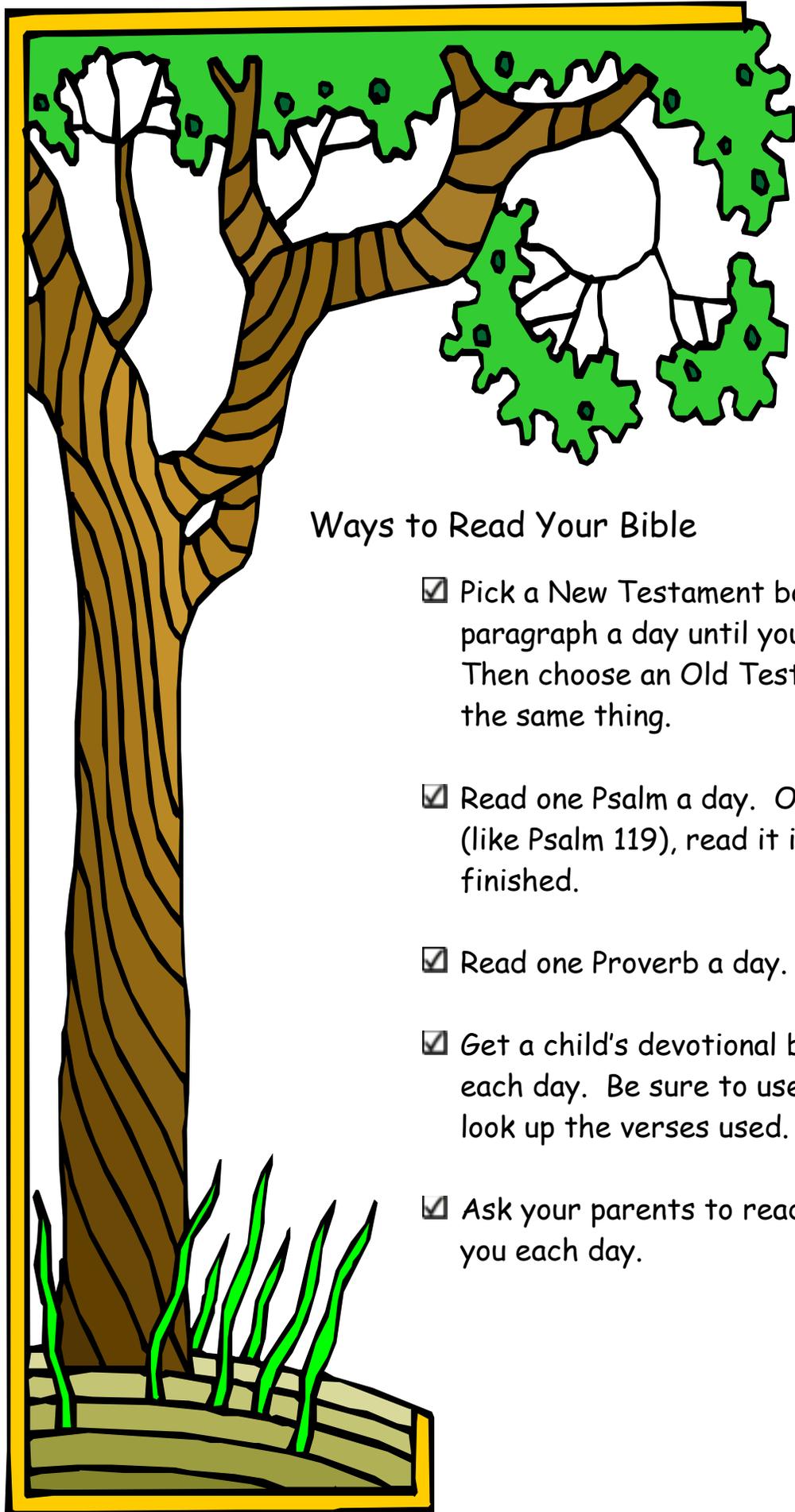
family. He wants to do good things in your life. In Jeremiah 29:11, God says, “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” When you became a part of God’s family, God promised to be with you wherever you go. He promised to help you. In fact, God’s promises are scattered like treasures throughout the Bible. Like the big

Christmas gift with your name on it, you won’t know what is in God’s Word unless you open it up and read the instructions.



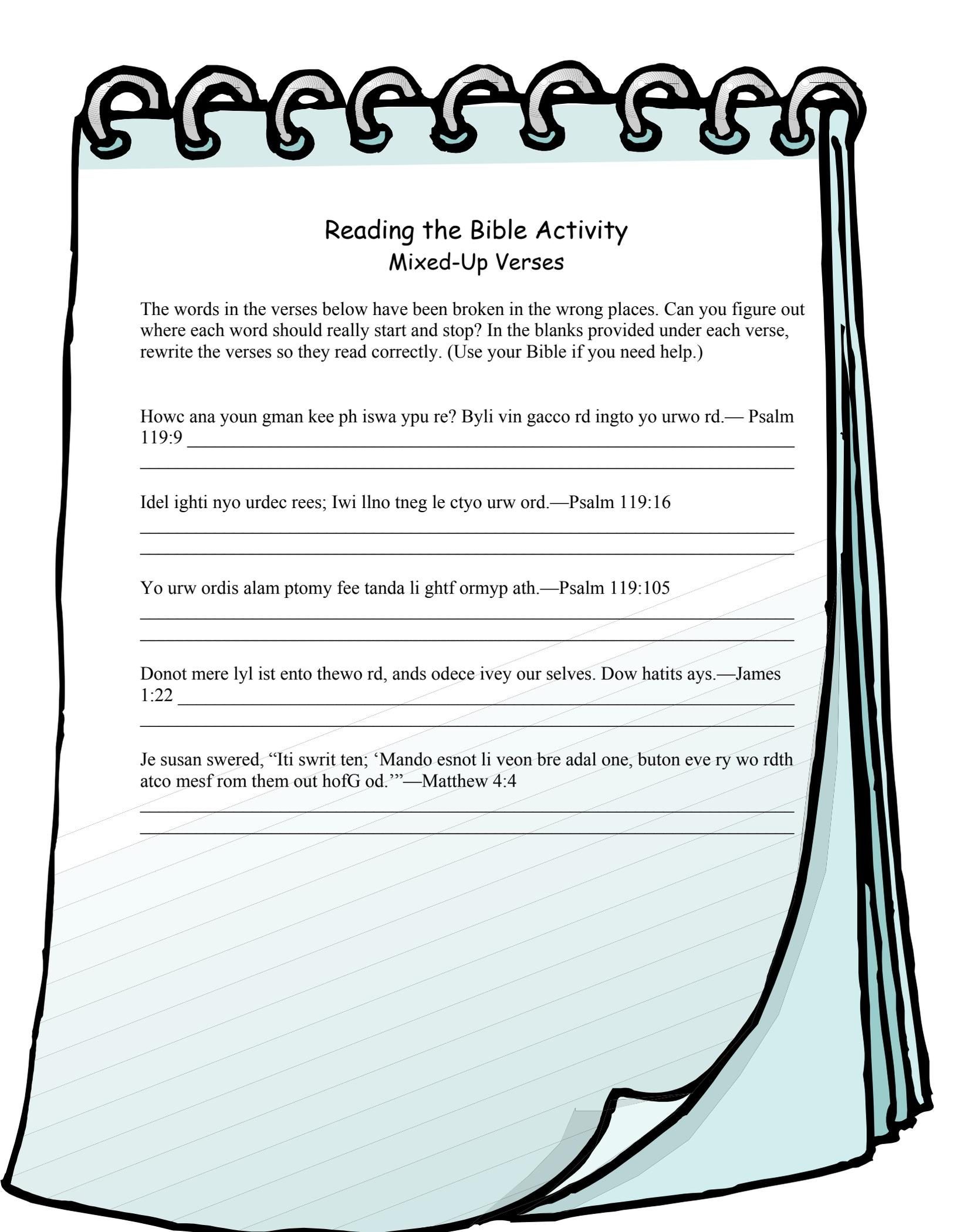
Did You Know?

- The Bible is made up of 66 books.
- The Bible is divided into two parts: The Old Testament and the New Testament
- The Old Testament tells of how God created the world and how God took care of His special people, the nation of Israel.
- The New Testament tells the story of how God’s Son, Jesus, came to earth, died on a cross, and rose from the dead to save people from their sins.



Ways to Read Your Bible

- Pick a New Testament book and read one paragraph a day until you finish that book. Then choose an Old Testament Book and do the same thing.
- Read one Psalm a day. On the long ones (like Psalm 119), read it in parts until you're finished.
- Read one Proverb a day.
- Get a child's devotional book and read it each day. Be sure to use your Bible and look up the verses used.
- Ask your parents to read some verses to you each day.



Reading the Bible Activity

Mixed-Up Verses

The words in the verses below have been broken in the wrong places. Can you figure out where each word should really start and stop? In the blanks provided under each verse, rewrite the verses so they read correctly. (Use your Bible if you need help.)

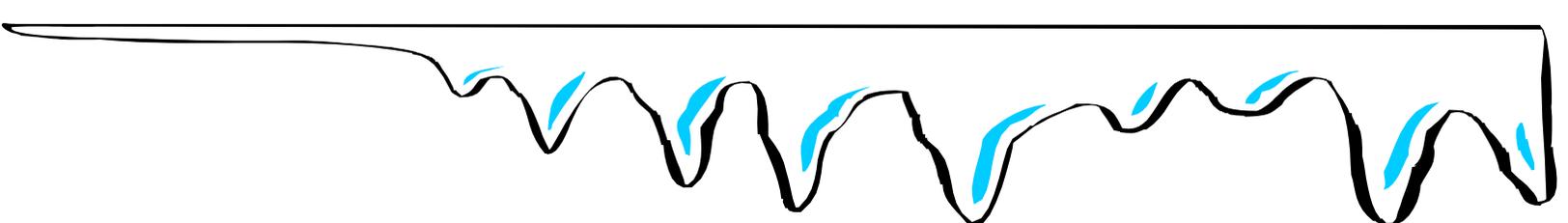
Howc ana youn gman kee ph iswa ypu re? Byli vin gacco rd ingto yo urwo rd.— Psalm 119:9 _____

Idel ighti nyo urdec rees; Iwi llno tneg le ctyo urw ord.—Psalm 119:16 _____

Yo urw ordis alam ptomy fee tanda li ghtf ormyp ath.—Psalm 119:105 _____

Donot mere lyl ist ento thewo rd, ands odece ivey our selves. Dow hatits ays.—James 1:22 _____

Je susan swered, “Iti swrit ten; ‘Mando esnot li veon bre adal one, buton eve ry wo rdth atco mesf rom them out hofG od.’”—Matthew 4:4 _____

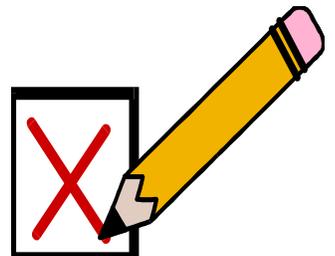


Reading the Bible

Lesson 2 Quiz

Circle the letter of the correct answer for each question.

- The Bible is like:
 - A set of instructions for how to live as a Christian
 - A Chinese dictionary
- How does God speak to Christians?
 - Through what is written in the Bible
 - He doesn't speak to Christians
- How did Paul help Timothy learn what it means to live for Jesus?
 - He sent him an e-mail
 - He wrote him a letter (the book of 2 Timothy)
- Through the Bible, God doesn't just show Christians when they are doing wrong, He also:
 - Shows you how to do the right thing instead
 - Stops talking to you
- Where can you find out more about God's promises?
 - The phone book
 - The Bible
- How many books are in the Bible?
 - 100
 - 66
- The Bible is good for "Training in righteousness." This means:
 - The Bible can help you know how to do weight training.
 - The Bible can help you know how to live a life that pleases God.



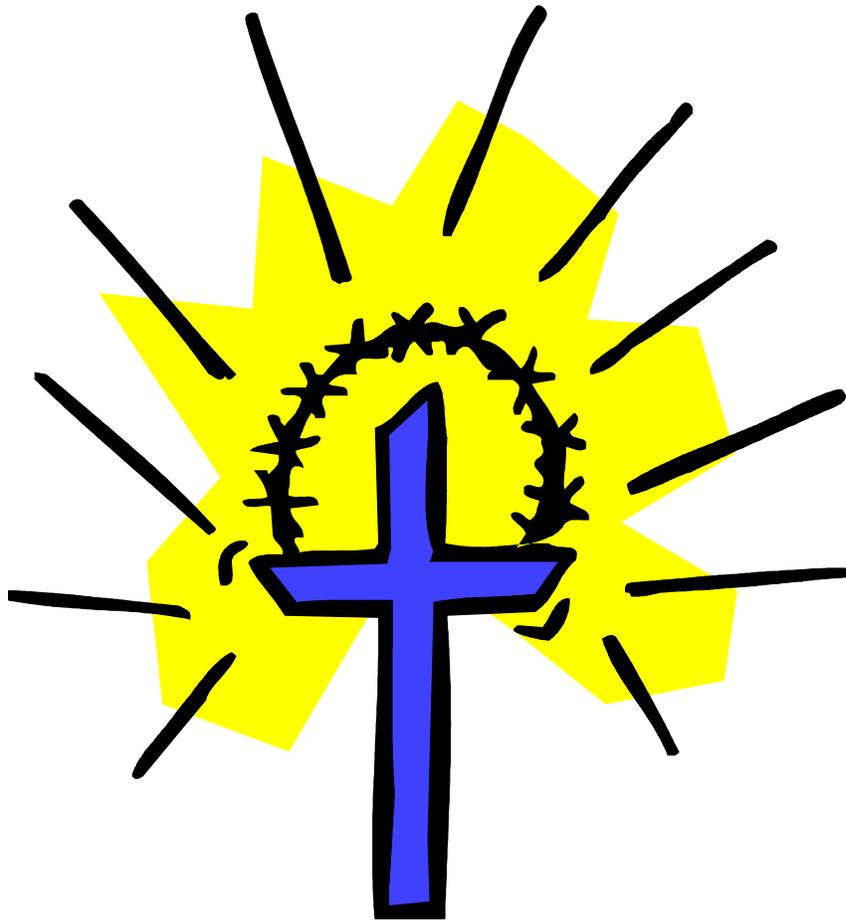
All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

New Christian Bible Study for Older Children

Lesson 3

Praying to God



The Amazing Adventures at Cascadia National Park (Part 3)



Well, we're back again for another adventure! Ryan left us hanging last time. Will Ryan make it back up the hill to his friends before the sun goes down? Keep reading, and find out!]
"Whoa!" Ryan yelled as he lost his balance. Ryan reached out and grabbed onto the side of the hill.

At least if I fall, I won't roll far, Ryan thought. He had only made it a few steps up the hill.

Ryan began to wonder how he would get to the top of the hill. Every time he took a few steps, he slid backwards on the small rocks that covered the hill. Ryan wanted to find his friends again. The sky was now a pinkish-orange. The sun would be setting soon. Ryan realized he would need help getting to the top of the hill.

God, it's me again, Ryan prayed in his heart. *I'm in trouble, and I need your help. I can't make it up this hill by myself. Please help me get back to my friends before it gets dark. Amen.*

Not far away, Abby, Tyler, and Buddy were near the falls.

"But how do you really know God is real?" Buddy asked. "And if God is real, why did He let me end up in a wheelchair?"

"Buddy, I don't know why bad things sometimes happen," Abby said. "But I do know that God is real. And that He cares. And God does answer prayer. It's hard to argue with that."

Just ahead, a rainbow had appeared over the falls.

"Look at that," Tyler said. "Ryan would love to see this!"

"Ryan!! Where *is* Ryan?" Abby shouted. "We should have already met up with Ryan by now."

The three children had lost track of time.

"I've got a bad feeling about this," Tyler said.

"And the sun is starting to go down," Abby said. "It will be dark soon, and we need to get back to the lodge for dinner."

"Should we split up and start looking for him?" Buddy asked.

"No, our dad wanted us to stick together," Tyler said.

"I think the first thing we should do is pray," Abby said. "God knows where Ryan is, so let's ask Him to show us what to do."

"I'll leave that to you two," Buddy said. "When you know what you're going to do, just let me know. I'll help if I can."

Abby and Tyler started praying. Buddy rolled closer to the falls and pretended not to listen.

"God, please help us find Ryan," Tyler prayed.

"We don't have much time," Abby prayed. "So please show us where to look. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen."

Buddy looked up at his new friends. *That was fast,* he thought.

"I thought that when you pray, you're supposed to use lots of big words," Buddy said.

"Nope," Tyler said. "Just tell it like it is—that's how God likes it."

"Hmm...I think we should retrace our steps on the path," Abby said. "Maybe we missed some clue."

"OK, Sherlock and Holmes, I'm with you," Buddy said with a grin.

Down by the creek, Ryan looked through his backpack. He was trying to find something to use that might help him be found. *Other than my Bible and*

some snacks, there's not much here, Ryan thought. *Lord, it's going to take a miracle for anyone to find me,* he prayed.

"Look for anything that doesn't seem right," Abby said.

The children looked for clues.

"I don't see anything but some old trash," Tyler said.

"Keep looking," Abby said.

"Look down here," Buddy said.

"I see some skid marks leading off the pathway. They go all the way down the hill."

"And there—a few of the shrubs have broken branches," Abby said.

Abby and Tyler followed the skid marks down the hill. Within minutes, they could see Ryan down below.

"There he is," Tyler shouted back to Buddy.

"Your God sure does answer fast," Buddy said.

"Now do you believe?" Tyler asked.

Before Buddy could answer, the three children heard Ryan calling from down the hill.

"Help! Can anyone hear me?" Ryan shouted.

"We're coming, Ryan," Abby yelled back.

Ryan looked up. A big smile flashed across his face. He was sure glad to see his friends.

"I can't get to the top of the hill. I keep slipping back down. You're going to have to help me out of here," Ryan shouted.

"Hey, there's a ranger station at the beginning of the trail to the falls," Buddy told Abby and Tyler. "I'll go see if I can find help."

Soon Buddy returned with a park ranger. The ranger had a thick rope in his hands. He tossed one end of the rope down the hill to Ryan.

"Tie this around your waist, and we'll pull you up," the ranger shouted to Ryan.

In no time, Ryan was at the top of the hill.

"I don't know what I would have done if you hadn't helped me up," Ryan said as he dusted the dirt from his clothes. You all were the answer to my prayers—a real miracle! I thought I was going to spend the night down there."

"Yeah, just think Buddy. If you hadn't found the park ranger, who knows how we would have gotten Ryan up the hill. God used you in a big way to help answer our prayers," Abby said.

"God using *me*—maybe that's the biggest miracle of all!" Buddy said.

(In the next lesson, Buddy and his friends attend a different kind of church!)



Lord, teach us to pray

If your best friend asked you how to pray, what would you say? As a new Christian, you may still be unsure. One of the disciples asked of Jesus “Lord, teach us to pray.” Let’s see what Jesus told him.

“When you pray, say: ‘Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation.’” (Luke 11:2-4)

The first word of Jesus’ prayer is *Father*. God is your Heavenly Father. Just as you go to your parents when you need something, your Father in Heaven wants you to come to Him, too. You can talk to God about all kinds of things. God wants you to tell Him when you are afraid. If you need God’s help in making friends, then ask Him. You can pray to God about anything at any time. The Bible says you should “pray continually” (1 Thessalonians 5:17). That means all the time! God will always be there to listen to you when you pray.

You can also ask God for something that is a want but not a need. God will always answer you. He will either say “yes,” “no,” or “wait.” When God answers you, you probably won’t hear a voice, but God will show you His answer in other ways. When God says “no” or “wait” to your prayers, it is because He knows what’s best for you.

The second word of Jesus’ prayer may be one you’ve never heard before. “Hallowed” means holy. That means God is perfect, unlike us. God’s name is holy. When you pray, it is good to remember that God is holy. You may think it is strange to tell God something about Himself that He already knows, but when you tell God that His name is

holy, you are showing respect. Just as it is important to show respect to your parents, it is also important to show respect to God. Showing respect is one way to let God know that you love Him.

You may be wondering what Jesus meant when He said, “Your kingdom come.” Jesus is asking God to do things in God’s way. In Isaiah 55:9, God says, “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways.” When God created the world, it was perfect. He was sad when the first woman and man did things their own way. When they sinned, they went a different way than God wanted. People have been sinning ever since. That’s why God had to send His Son, Jesus, to make us right with God again. When you decided to follow Jesus, you became a part of God’s kingdom—now on earth and later in Heaven. God doesn’t want anyone to miss out on being a part of His kingdom!

Asking God to bless a meal is probably something you have done before. But did you ever stop to think that God is the One who provided the food to eat? This is what Jesus meant when He said, “Give us each day our daily bread.” Sure, your parents probably bought the food, but God makes it grow. God wants to provide for all your needs. Food is a basic need. You can ask God to meet any need you have.

When you pray, you should also ask God to forgive your sins. Just because you became a Christian doesn’t mean you will stop sinning. The longer you are a Christian, the more you will see how God is able to help you stop doing many of the bad things you used to do. When you realize you’ve done something that is wrong, ask God to

forgive you right away. God promises to forgive you if you tell Him that you've sinned. With His help, God wants you to turn away from doing it again.

The next part of Jesus' prayer is not always an easy thing to pray. Jesus says, "For we also forgive everyone who sins against us." Sometimes that can be really hard. But you can't ask God to forgive you if you haven't forgiven someone who has hurt you. In fact, Jesus said, "For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins." (Matthew 6:14-15). God wants other people to feel the same forgiveness from you that He has given to you.

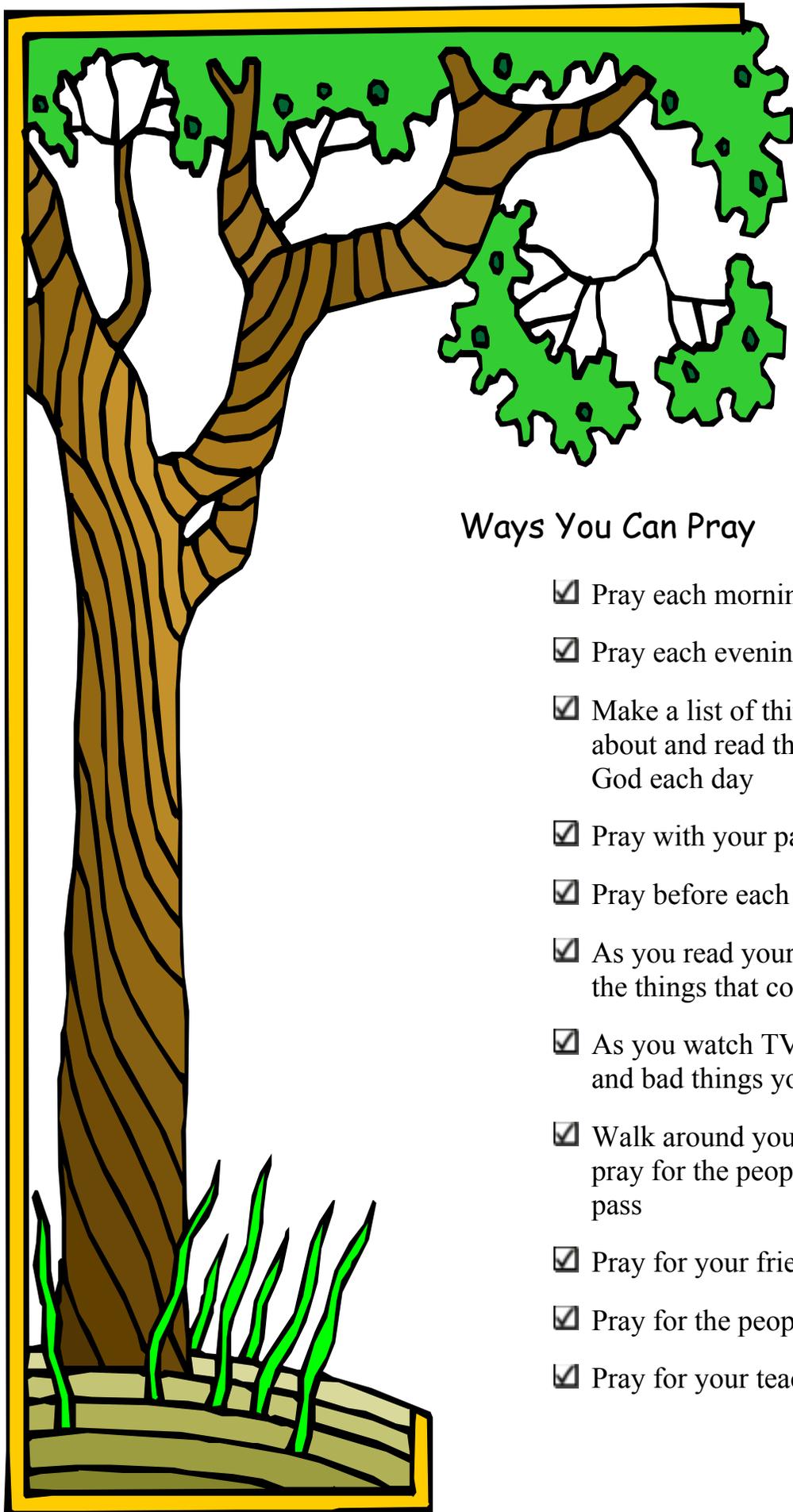
The last part of Jesus' prayer talks about temptation. Temptation is when you have the chance to do the wrong thing. You might be tempted to

tell a lie, or to be unkind to your brother or sister. Maybe you are tempted not to obey your parents. God says that He will never tempt you to do wrong. And He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can stand. God also promises to show you a way out when you are tempted so that you don't have to sin (1 Corinthians 10:13). When you are tempted, ask God for help. After all, when Jesus lived on earth, He was "tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin." (Hebrews 4:15). Jesus knows exactly what you're going through.

Jesus' prayer shows the kinds of things you should pray about. You don't have to use the same words Jesus used when you pray. And you don't even have to use lots of words to talk to God.

So what can you be praying about? Go ahead. God is listening!





Ways You Can Pray

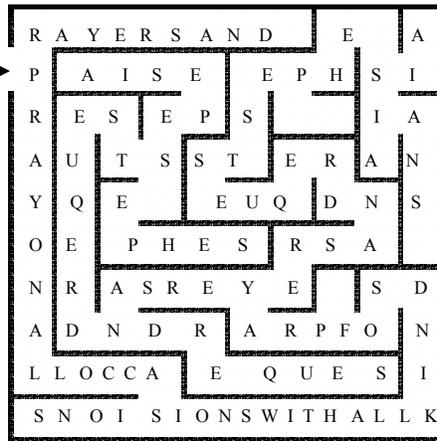
- Pray each morning when you get up
- Pray each evening when you go to bed
- Make a list of things you want to pray about and read them (or part of them) to God each day
- Pray with your parents each day
- Pray before each meal
- As you read your Bible each day, pray the things that come to mind
- As you watch TV, pray about the good and bad things you see
- Walk around your neighborhood and pray for the people in the houses you pass
- Pray for your friends
- Pray for the people you don't like
- Pray for your teachers

Praying to God

Mystery Maze



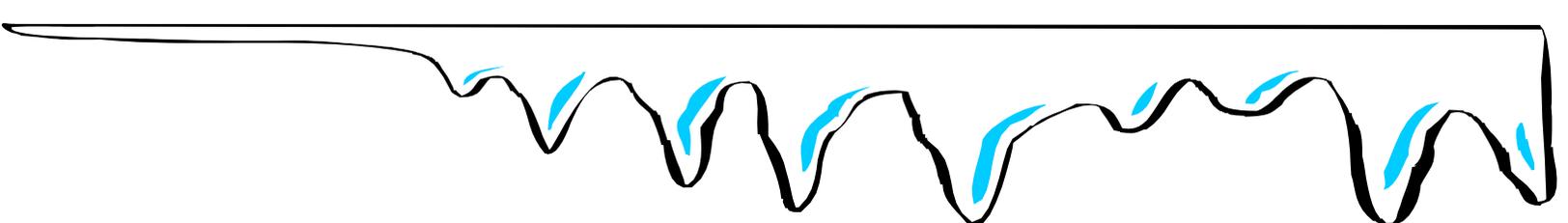
Ryan



Ryan's Friends

Help Ryan find his way back to his friends. Along the way, write the letters that you find along the way in the spaces below. Be careful! Some paths lead to dead ends. So make sure you only write the letters that are on the path that will take Ryan to his friends. When you are finished recording the letters, you'll see a special message.

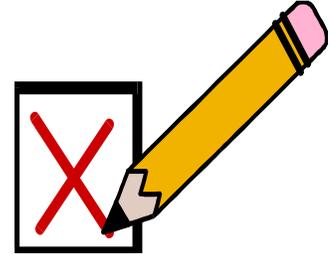
“ _____ ”



Praying to God Lesson 3 Quiz

Circle the letter of the correct answer for each question.

1. You can talk to God about:
 - A. Only certain things
 - B. All kinds of things
2. The Bible says you should:
 - A. Pray continually—all the time!
 - B. Pray only at Christmas and Easter.
3. When you go to God with a prayer request:
 - A. He will always answer you. He'll say, "yes," "no," or "wait."
 - B. God will never answer you when you pray.
4. God doesn't want anyone to miss out on being a part of God's kingdom.
 - A. True
 - B. False
5. You can ask God to meet any need that you have.
 - A. True
 - B. False
6. God will never forgive you if you confess your sins to Him.
 - A. True
 - B. False
7. Temptation is when you have the chance to do the wrong thing.
 - A. True
 - B. False
8. When you are tempted, you should ask God for:
 - A. Help
 - B. A pizza

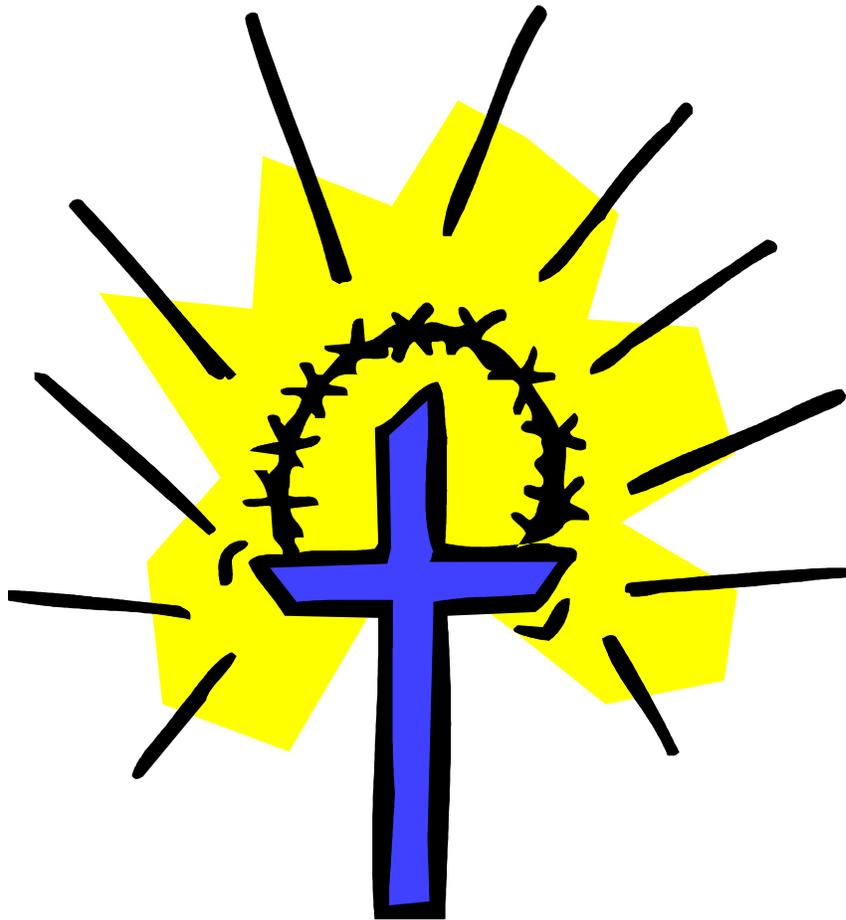


Pray continually.
1 Thessalonians 5:17

New Christian Bible Study for Older Children

Lesson 4

Going to Church



The Amazing Adventures at Cascadia National Park (Part 4)



Whew! Those last three stories had me hanging onto my seat! It looks like God is at work in Buddy's life, thanks to his new friends and their love for God. You're about to discover that Buddy is in for a surprise. But you'll have to keep reading to find out what it is. Mrs. Thompson looked at her watch.

"The kids should have returned by now," Mrs. Thompson said.

She and Mr. Thompson waited on a bench inside the lodge.

Within minutes, Abby, Tyler, and Ryan ran through the door, with Buddy rolling right behind them.

"What happened?" Mrs. Thompson said. "I was worried about you."

"You wouldn't believe it if we told you," Ryan said shaking his head.

"You can tell us all about it over dinner," Mr. Thompson said. "Would your friend like to join us?"

"Dad, this is Buddy," Tyler said.

"Nice to meet you," Buddy said. "I'd love to eat dinner with you guys, but I need to find my brother. He probably wonders where I am."

"Well, at least join us for church in the morning," Mr. Thompson said.

"Church?" Buddy asked.

"Yes, there's a church here in the park. But I bet it's not like any church you've ever seen," Mr. Thompson said.

"Come on, Buddy," Tyler said.

"Well, I don't have any church clothes with me," Buddy said.

"If you dressed up, you would be the only one," Mr. Thompson said with a smile. "Everyone there will be wearing shorts and jeans."

"I guess so," Buddy said. "I'm not doing anything else until noon."

"Meet us at the bonfire area just past the covered bridge at 11:00," Mr. Thompson said.

"At the bonfire area?" Buddy looked confused.

"You'll see," Mr. Thompson said.

"Now, you've got me curious, too," Ryan said.

The next morning, the air was filled with the smell of spruce and fir trees. Not a cloud could be seen in the deep, blue sky. Ryan and the Thompsons were enjoying the beauty of the park as they walked to the bonfire area.

"While you kids were busy on your adventures yesterday, we met someone really special," Mr. Thompson said. "His name is John Beasley, and he is the pastor of Cascadia Wilderness Church here in the park. During the week, he leads nature tours. He also works part-time at the rock climbing shop."

"I think your friend, Buddy, will want to meet him," Mr. Thompson added.

"Why is that?" Tyler asked.

"Like Buddy, Pastor John is in a wheelchair," Mr. Thompson said. "He can't use his legs. He fell while mountain climbing several years ago."

Just ahead, they could see some people sitting on blankets on the ground. Others were seated on logs. A man and a woman were playing songs on their guitars as people sat down.

"So *this* is the church?" Tyler asked.

"This doesn't look anything like our church at home," Ryan said.

"A church doesn't have to have four walls and a steeple," Mr. Thompson

said. “What makes a church is the people—not the building.”

“So who comes to this church—tourists like us?” Abby asked.

“Pastor John invites people that he meets on his nature tours and at the rock climbing shop,” Mr. Thompson said. “He also invites people who work in the park. Some are Christians who want to worship God while they are on vacation—like us. Other people might not usually go to church. But if they love being outdoors, they might be curious to see a church that meets outdoors. This could be the only church some people have ever visited.”

“Like our friend, Buddy,” Ryan said.

“Exactly,” Mr. Thompson said. “Pastor John tries to share God’s love with people so they will want to know God and accept Jesus as their Savior and Lord.”

Just then, Buddy joined them.

“This is the church?” Buddy asked.

“That’s what I said when we got here,” Tyler told Buddy. “Pretty cool, huh? They meet out here in the woods.”

“Your Dad was right. I’ve never seen a church like this before,” Buddy said.

Suddenly, Buddy felt someone bump into the back of his wheelchair.

“Oh—excuse me,” he heard a man say.

Buddy turned his chair around to see a man wearing a red bandana, shorts,

a t-shirt, and hiking boots seated in a wheelchair right in front of him.

“Sorry I bumped your chair.”

The pastor reached to shake Buddy’s hand. “Hi, I’m John Beasley. I’m the pastor of the church.”

“Uhh... nice to meet you. I’m Buddy,” Buddy said.

A pastor in a wheelchair like me? Wearing shorts and a t-shirt at church? Buddy thought.

Mr. and Mrs. Thompson introduced Pastor John to Abby, Tyler, and Ryan.

“I’m glad you all are here,”

Pastor John said. “We’re about to get started.”

Everyone found places to sit. Buddy sat next to them in his chair.

Pastor John rolled to the front of the group. “Welcome to Cascadia Wilderness Church,” he said. “Did you know that for some of you, today could be the beginning of a whole new life—a new adventure? And it is all possible with Jesus Christ...”

Hmm...an adventure? A new life? Buddy thought to himself. It sounds good. But what new life could God possibly give to someone like me?

“If God can use me, He can use you, too,” Pastor John said.

Buddy’s face felt hot. He felt like the pastor was speaking just to him...

(Buddy has a decision to make. Find out what Buddy does in the next lesson!)



Let's Meet in Our Father's House

Have you ever been separated from your parents in a crowd of people? Maybe you were at a football game or in a busy mall at Christmas time? Until your parents found you, they were probably scared. That's exactly what happened to Jesus' parents, Mary and Joseph. When Jesus was 12 years old, He and His family went to Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of the Passover. After the Feast was over, Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but His parents didn't know it. As they were walking home in a crowd of people, Mary couldn't find Jesus. She and Joseph looked in the crowd, but they couldn't find Him. Jesus' parents were scared. So they walked all the way back into Jerusalem looking for Him. After three days, do you know where they finally found Him? They found Jesus at the temple. The temple was the place where Jewish people worshiped God.

When Mary and Joseph found Jesus in the temple, Mary told Jesus, "Your father and I have been... searching for you." (Luke 2:48b)

"Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" (Luke 2:49)

So why do you think Jesus went to the temple? The Bible says that Jesus was "sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers." (Luke 2:46-47) Even at an early age, God's Son, Jesus, wanted to spend time knowing, loving, and serving God. At the temple, Jesus could read God's Word. In those days, people didn't have their own Bibles. The temple

was the only place where people could hear or read God's Word. At the temple, Jesus could talk with other people who loved God. He could ask questions from the Bible teachers. Best of all, Jesus could spend time worshiping God. In fact, He just couldn't stay away from His Father's house!

Did you know that in many parts of the world, Christians have to worship in secret? Many Christians don't even have buildings to meet in anywhere nearby. In various places in the world, it is against the law to be a Christian. So where do Christians in these countries worship?

Often times, Christians meet to worship God in people's homes. These are called house churches. For example, there are many house churches in China.

Many of the new Christians in Jesus' time were kicked out of the temple because they believed that Jesus was God's Son. They needed places to worship God, so they met in people's homes, too.

Today, churches meet in school cafeterias, restaurants, stores, parks—you name it! Just because it doesn't have a steeple doesn't mean it isn't a church.

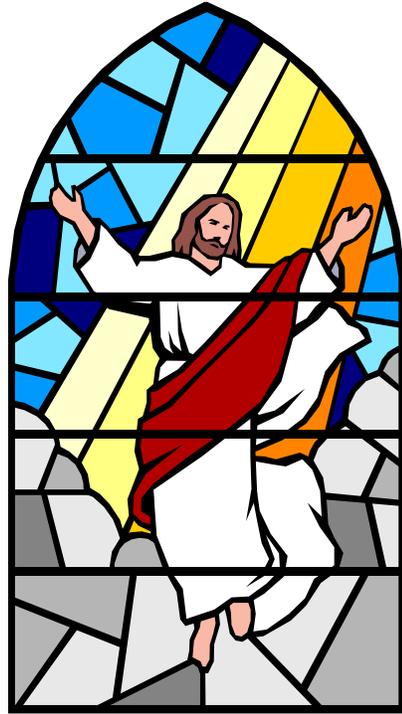
So if a church isn't a building, then what is it? The church is really made up of the people inside! And God wants us to be together at church to worship and serve God.

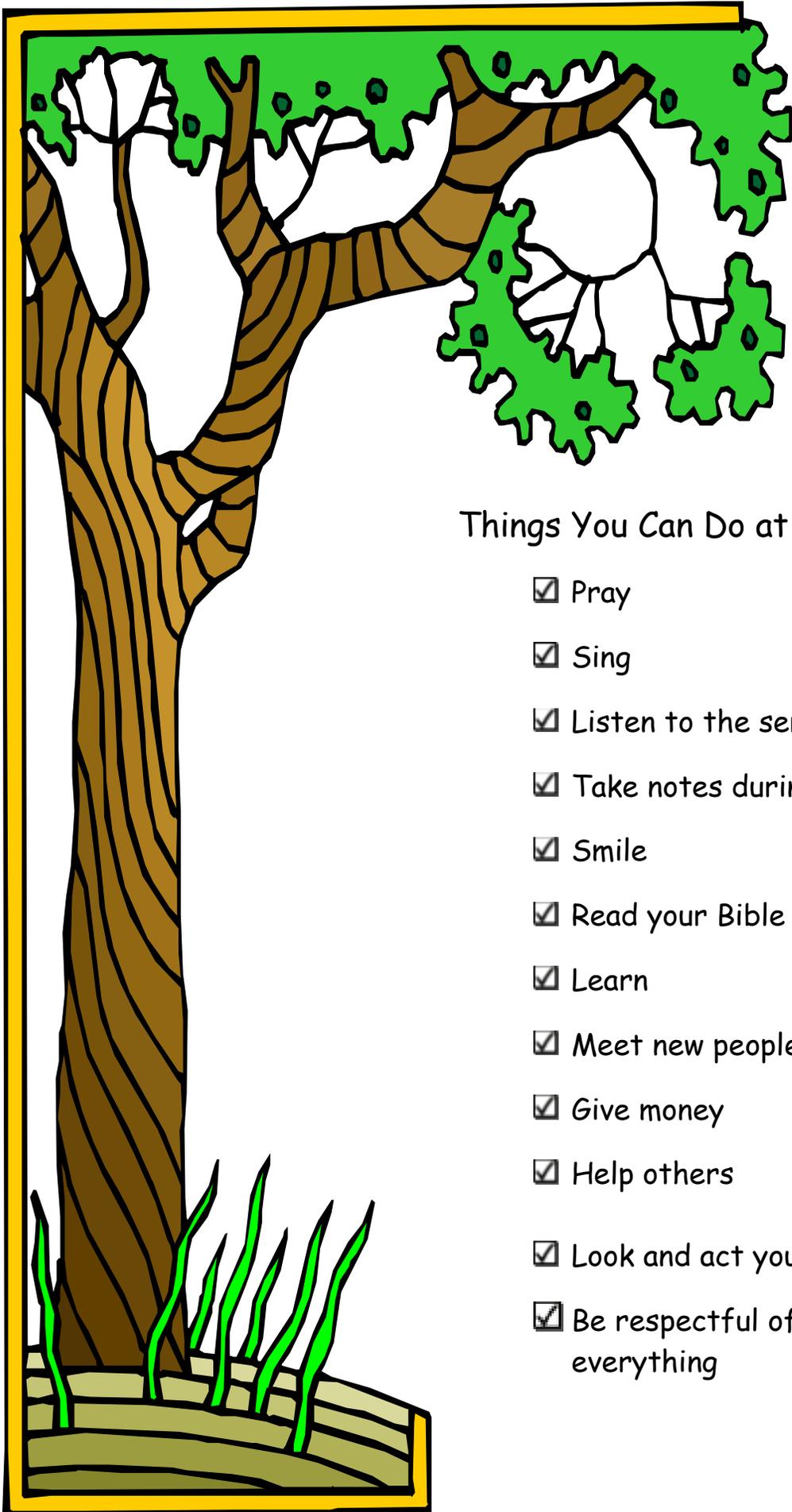
The writer of the Book of Hebrews reminds Christians: "Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing." (Hebrews 10:25). Just think of all the things you could do on Sunday instead of going to church. You could sleep in. You could go shopping, go to a sports game—you

name it. But if you want to grow as a Christian, church is the best place to be.

No, you don't have to be in church to worship God. But if you're not in church, you miss out on being with other Christians. God wants you to learn from other Christians. He wants you to find ways to serve other people together. If you're not in church, you won't be able to learn more about God's plan for your life. And you will miss out on knowing more about the One Who loved you so much that He sent His Son to give His life for you.

So if your friends can't find you on Sunday morning. Tell them you'll be in your Father's House. And ask them to come along, too!





Things You Can Do at Church

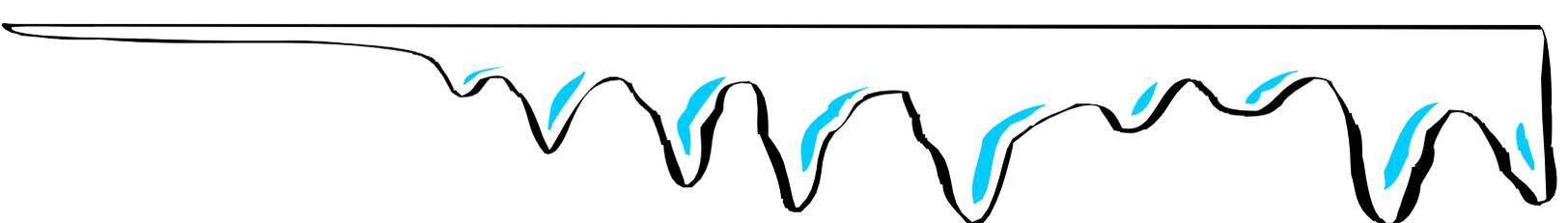
- Pray
- Sing
- Listen to the sermon
- Take notes during the sermon
- Smile
- Read your Bible
- Learn
- Meet new people
- Give money
- Help others
- Look and act your best
- Be respectful of everyone and everything

Going to Church Hidden Message

1. The opposite of lost. _____
1
2. The city where Mary and Joseph lost Jesus. _____
2
3. The place where Jews worshiped God. _____
3
4. A special gift of _____ others is one of many gifts that God gives Christians.
4
5. During Jesus' time, people didn't have their own _____.
5
6. In many parts of the world, it is against the law to be a _____.
6
7. When Mary and Joseph found Jesus in the temple, He was _____ to the teachers.
7
8. In China, many Christians worship God in _____ churches.
8
9. The opposite of found. _____.
9
10. If you want to grow as a Christian, _____ is the best place to be.
10
11. Today, some churches meet in school _____ to worship.
11
12. If you're not in church, you won't be able to learn more about God's plan for your _____.
12

Using your answers above, fill in the right letters in the spaces below to answer this question: What did Jesus call the place where his parents found Him?

_____ , _____
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

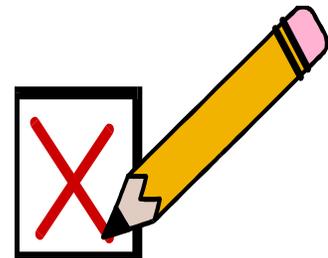


Going to Church

Lesson 4 Quiz

Circle the letter of the correct answer for each question.

1. After looking for Jesus for three days, where did His parents finally find Him?
 - A. At the local market
 - B. At the temple
2. The temple was the place where the Jewish people worshipped God.
 - A. True
 - B. False
3. In various places in the world, it is against the law to be a Christian.
 - A. True
 - B. False
4. In Jesus' time, many Christians were kicked out of the temple because they believed that Jesus was God's Son. They needed places to worship God, so where did they meet?
 - A. In tunnels
 - B. In people's homes
5. A church is really the Christians inside the building.
 - A. True
 - B. False
6. Why does God want Christians to go to church?
 - A. To worship and serve God
 - B. To do homework
7. If you want to grow as a Christian, where is the best place to be?
 - A. The mall
 - B. Church



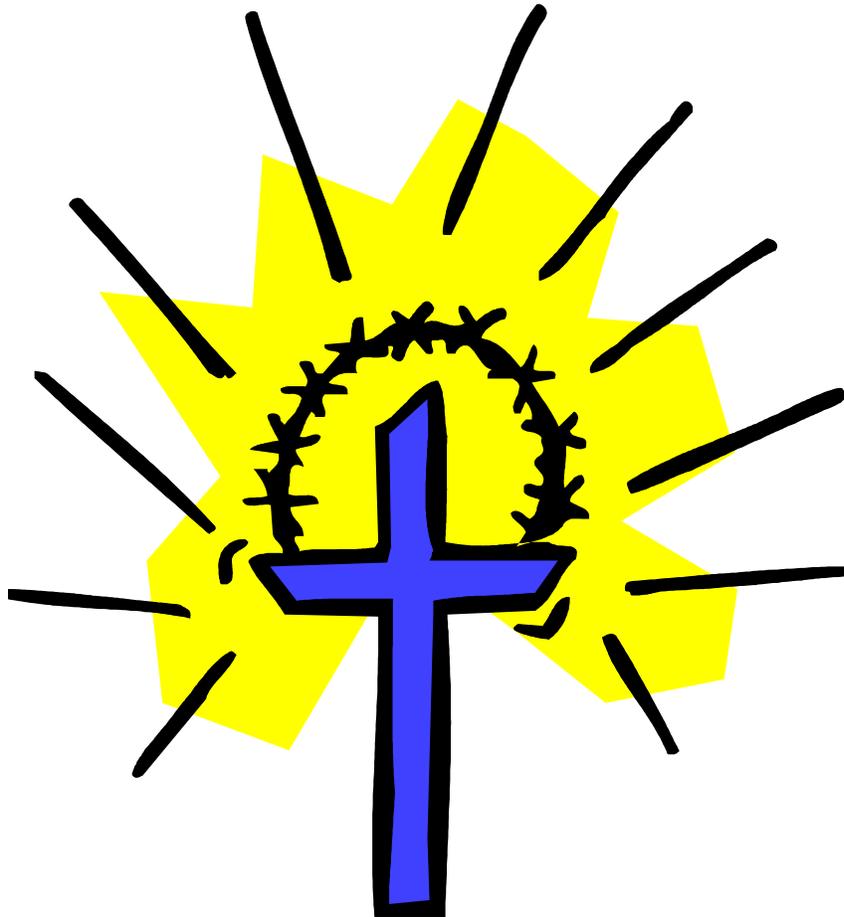
Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:25

New Christian Bible Study for Older Children

Lesson 5

Learning to Give



The Amazing Adventures at Cascadia National Park (Part 5)



Do you remember how you felt the first time you learned how to become a Christian? Do you remember what it was like to feel God speaking to your heart? That is how Buddy feels. Will he keep seeking God or will he turn away? Let's see what happens next!

Why does it feel like he's talking just to me? Buddy thought to himself. Buddy looked around. Other people also seemed to be listening to the pastor.

"I haven't always been in this wheelchair," Pastor Beasley said. "You might think it is a bad thing. But God brought some good out of it."

Could God really bring something good from me being in a wheelchair? Buddy wondered.

Pastor John told how he came to know Jesus. Before he was a pastor, he had gone mountain climbing with a friend who was a Christian. On the trip, the pastor's friend told him about Jesus. Later on the trip, the rope that held their harnesses started to break. His friend risked his life to try to keep them both from falling. The pastor broke his back. He lived but his friend didn't.

"In the hospital, I remembered what my friend told me about Jesus. I asked Jesus to be my Lord and Savior. I didn't know how to thank God for the gift of knowing Jesus and for saving my life. I asked God to show me what I could give Him. He showed me that I could give him my life. I could give my time, my talents—everything I have—to serve Him. Nothing could stop me from serving God—not even a wheelchair!"

Ryan was also listening to the pastor. He had been thinking a lot about how Buddy had gone to find help so he could be rescued. Ryan also thought

about how the Thompsons had invited him to go on vacation with them.

Hmm... What have I given lately? Ryan thought to himself. *God, please show me how I can give,* he prayed.

Before long, Ryan would have his chance to give...

During the service Buddy hung on the pastor's every word.

"If you want to know more about what it means to give your life to God," the pastor said, "then I can talk to you after the service."

Maybe I'll talk to him, Buddy thought.

The pastor prayed and ended the service with a hymn. Soon, other people walked to the front to talk to Pastor John.

Buddy looked at his watch. *Oh no, I've got to meet my brother in 10 minutes!* Buddy wanted to talk with the pastor but didn't want to show it.

Buddy thanked his new friends for inviting him to church. Then he started to leave.

"So where are you going?" Ryan asked Buddy.

"I need to get back to my family. We're going to take some pictures today," Buddy said.

"At 3:00, we're going to check out some of the caves," Tyler said.

"Yeah, I've wanted to see the caves ever since we got to the park," Ryan said. "I can't wait!"

"Maybe your family would let you go with us," Tyler said. He pulled out a map of the park. "It even shows that the pathway is paved and is wide enough for wheelchairs."

"Anything is better than going to take more pictures!" Buddy said. "But

I'll have to ask my parents. Maybe I'll see you there."

Later that afternoon, Ryan and the Thompsons headed for the caves. Near the entrance to the main cave, they could see Buddy. He was talking to a park ranger. Buddy didn't look happy.

"What's wrong, Buddy?" Tyler asked.

"They are repairing sections of the pathway inside the caves," Buddy said.

"The caves are still open," the park ranger said. "But parts of the pathway are really narrow."

"My wheelchair won't fit," Buddy said.

"We will finish the repairs in a few days," the ranger added.

Buddy looked down. "You all go on without me. I'll just go back and find my brother."

This is my chance, Ryan thought. Since Buddy can't go, I could stay behind with him. I wouldn't want to be left behind by myself.

"Hey, I don't mind staying out here with you, Buddy," Ryan said. Ryan looked at the Thompsons. "We can just wait for guys you out here."

"Are you sure, Ryan? I know how much you've wanted to see these caves," Mr. Thompson said. "Tyler and I can wait with Buddy instead. Right Tyler?"

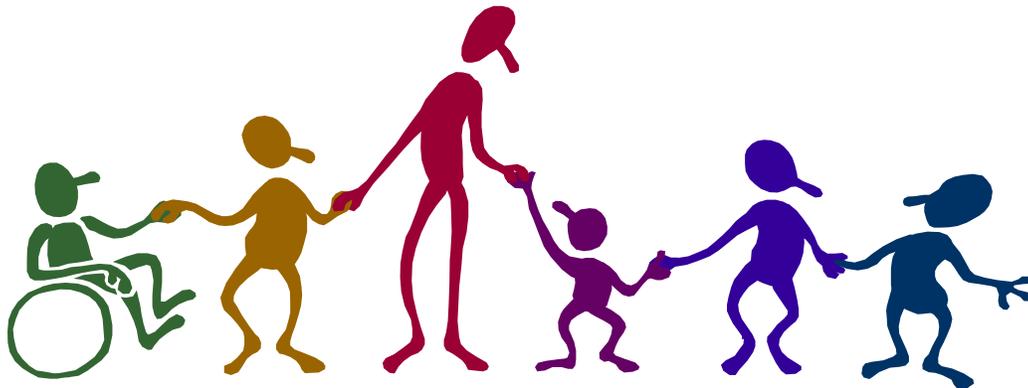
"It's the least I can do," Ryan said. "If Buddy hadn't found the ranger when I was stuck down by the river, I would have really been in trouble."

"You don't have to do that," Buddy said.

"Hey, maybe you can show me how to whittle while we wait for the others," Ryan said. "Whatever you were carving that day in the lobby looked really cool."

"I'll show you how to whittle if you'll tell me what those letters mean on your bracelet," Buddy said. "O-M-T-S-J... What is that—some kind of code?"

(In the next lesson, Buddy discovers how to become a Christian!)



Give What You are Able to Give

Just imagine. You are about 10 years old. You live in a fishing village on the Sea of Galilee in Israel. Everyone in your village is talking about this man, Jesus, who heals sick people. You want to meet him. One day, you have your chance. Someone has heard that Jesus has come to town. Everybody drops what he is doing. Soon a crowd is on the way to go see Jesus. You quickly pack a lunch since you don't know how long you will be gone. You take along two small fish and five small loaves of bread. You wrap up your lunch and start walking to the place where Jesus is.

While you are still on the way, Jesus and His disciples have been thinking about lunch, too. They know all the people who are coming to see Jesus will be hungry soon. So Jesus asks Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?"

Now Jesus already has a plan for how He is going to feed all those people. But he asks Philip the question to test him.

Do you know what Philip says? He tells Jesus that eight months' wages would not buy enough bread for each person to have a bite! (John 6:5-7).

About that time, Andrew sees you. He sees that you packed a lunch. So Andrew speaks up.

"Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?" (John 6:9)

Guess what happens? You give Jesus the five, small loaves of bread and the two small fish. Then Jesus thanks God for the food and passes out the fish and bread for everyone to eat.

Somehow, the food that you gave Jesus feeds more than 5,000 men! That doesn't even include all the women and children who eat, too!

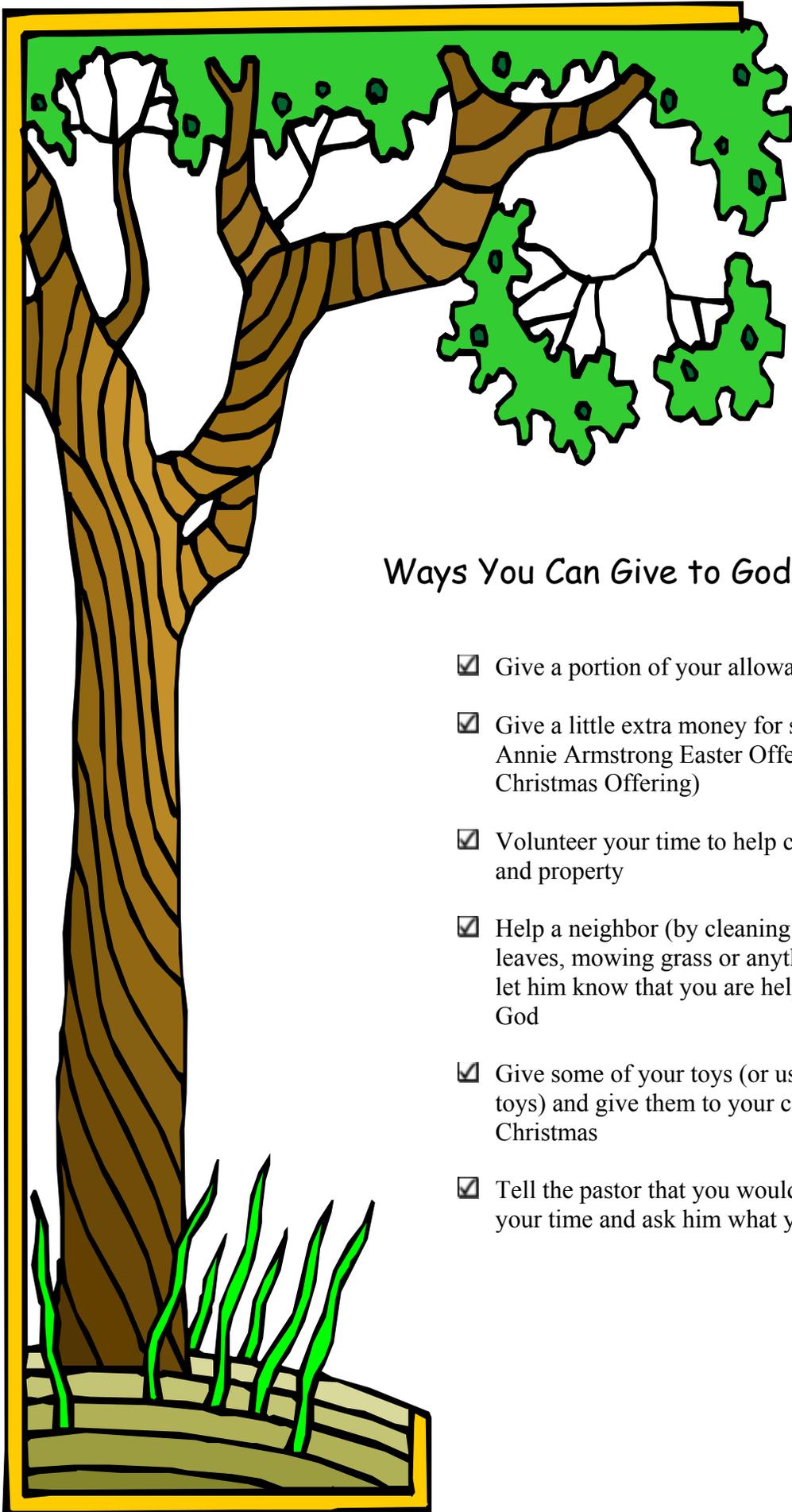
And that's not the end of the story. After everyone has enough to eat, Jesus tells His disciples to gather the leftovers so nothing is wasted. Do you know how much is left? The disciples fill twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who ate (John 6:13).

By now you know that this story is real. A boy about your age more than 2,000 years ago gave the food he had to Jesus. Using what the boy gave, Jesus helped to feed thousands of people.

So what is the point of this story? When you learn to give what you have—even if it doesn't seem like much—God can take it and do big things.

You don't have to be a grownup to be used by God. You just have to give God what you have. God will do the rest.





Ways You Can Give to God

- Give a portion of your allowance to the offering
- Give a little extra money for special offerings (like the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering or the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering)
- Volunteer your time to help clean the church building and property
- Help a neighbor (by cleaning yard, getting mail, raking leaves, mowing grass or anything else you can do) and let him know that you are helping because you love God
- Give some of your toys (or use your money to buy new toys) and give them to your church to distribute for Christmas
- Tell the pastor that you would like to volunteer some of your time and ask him what you can do

Learning to Give Cave Caper

When you give your time after school to rake the yard of an elderly neighbor...when you give your money so missionaries can build a well for a village that has no clean water... these are ways to give. The Bible says that when you give to others, it is like you are giving to Jesus. Follow the instructions below to find the Bible verse that talks about this.

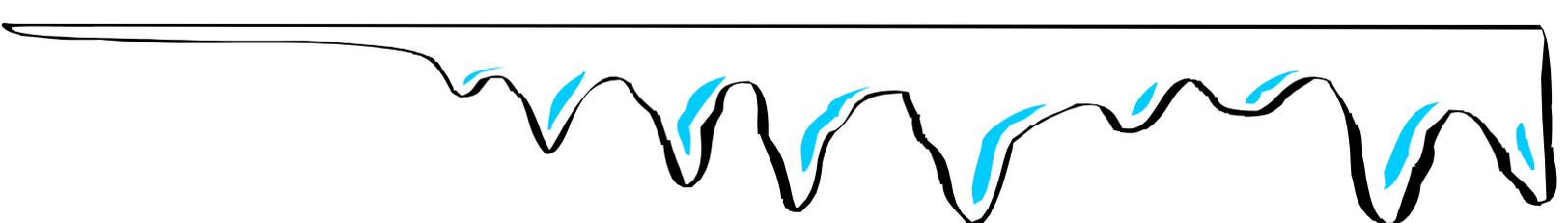
1. Begin at the arrow at the letter W.
2. Write every other letter in the spaces below (the first one is done for you).
3. Letters form the words of a Bible verse.
4. Learn the Bible verse.



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CACSCTCOCFCTCHCECSCECBCRCOCTCHCECRCSCOCFCMCICNCECYCOCU
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W _____

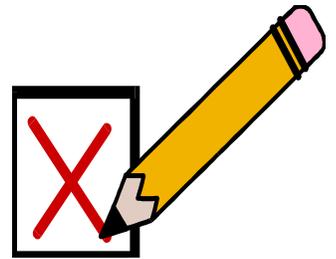
Matthew 25:40



Learning to Give Lesson 5 Quiz

Circle the letter of the correct answer for each question.

1. What did the boy in the Bible story give Jesus to help feed hungry people?
 - A. A truckload of deli sandwiches
 - B. Five small barley loaves and two small fish
2. How many people did Jesus feed with the food that the boy gave?
 - A. 5,000 men
 - B. Five men
3. How much food was left over?
 - A. None—they barely had enough to feed everyone.
 - B. The disciples filled 12 baskets full of leftover bread.
4. You have to be an adult to be used by God.
 - A. True
 - B. False
5. What does God want you to learn from the Bible story?
 - A. God can take what you give Him and do big things.
 - B. Jesus' favorite meal of the day was lunch.
6. What can God use in your life to help other people?
 - A. Your money, your time, and your talents.
 - B. He can't work through your life until you turn 18.
7. When you give all you have to God, you are being like:
 - A. Snoopy
 - B. Jesus



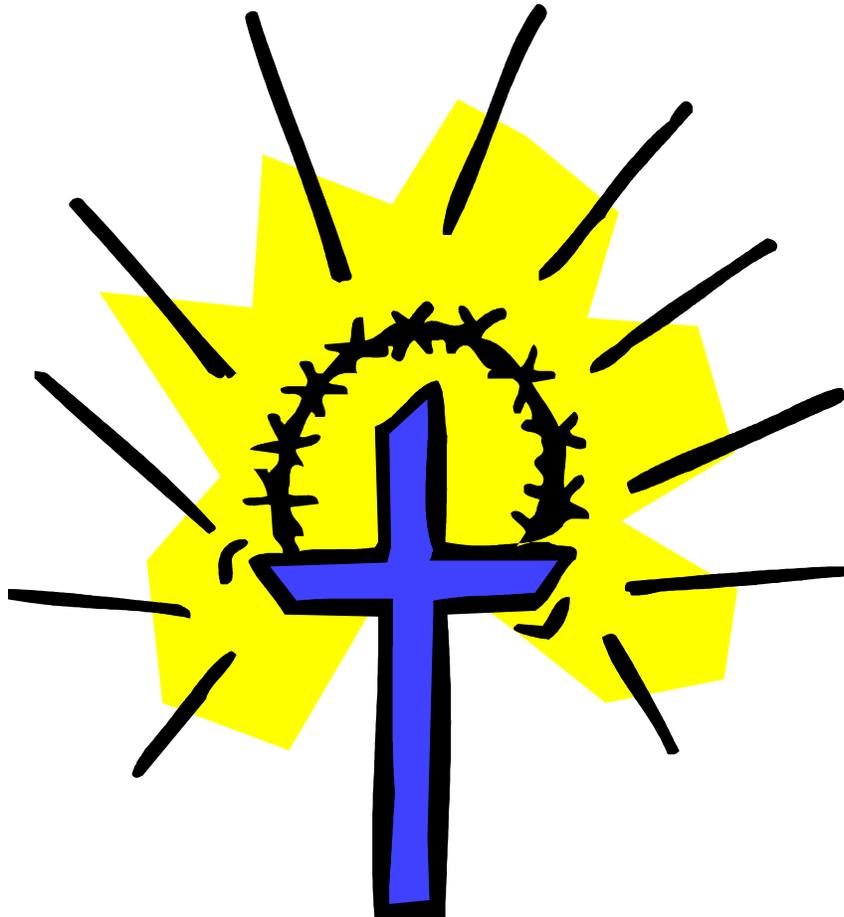
Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7

New Christian Bible Study for Older Children

Lesson 6

Telling Your Friends and Family about Jesus



The Amazing Adventures at Cascadia National Park (Part 6)



What do you think the strange letters on Ryan's bracelet mean? Will Ryan get to tell Buddy about Jesus because he gave us a chance to explore the caves? You'll have to wait to find out. First, let's join the Thompsons inside the cave.

Darkness quickly covered the Thompsons as they walked into the cave.

"I would hate to be in here without a flashlight," Abby said.

Abby shined her flashlight on the cave wall. "Ahhhhh! What was that?" she shouted. Abby had scared a bat that was sleeping on the cave wall.

"Maybe it would be better *not* to see everything that is in here," Abby said.

Outside the cave, Ryan was about to explain the letters on his bracelet, when he and Buddy heard some strange noises of their own.

"Did you hear that?" Ryan asked.

"Yeah, it sounded like something crackling in the woods," Buddy said. "Someone or *something* is breaking tree branches."

"There it goes again," Ryan said. "It's getting louder."

"Now it sounds like thunder," Buddy said. "What could it be?"

Before Ryan could answer, they saw a herd of elk running toward them. Their hooves sounded like thunder as they ran.

"Whoa! Those are bigger than any deer I've ever seen before," Ryan said.

"Those aren't deer, they're elk!" Buddy said. "And they don't know we're here! We better make some noise so they don't run over us."

The boys started waving their arms and screaming at the top of their lungs. The elk froze and then quickly ran off.

"That was close," Buddy said.

"Yeah, but what amazing animals," Ryan added. "How could anybody be in a beautiful place like this with so many amazing things to see and not believe in God?"

"Well, I didn't," Buddy said.

"But ever since I met you and your friends, I've been thinking there really is a God."

"So why didn't you believe in God before?" Ryan asked. Ryan sat down on a nearby bench.

Buddy rolled up next to him.

"Nobody in my family ever really talked much about God," Buddy said.

Ryan untied his bracelet with the strange letters that Buddy had asked about.

"I know what you mean," Ryan said. "I didn't know much about God until the Thompsons invited me to church. I believed in God, but I didn't know He cared anything about *me*. And I didn't know what it meant to be saved."

"Saved?" Buddy asked. "Saved from what?"

"Maybe this will explain," Ryan said. He pointed to the first bead on his bracelet. It was gray.

"The gray bead reminds me of the sin in our life—the bad things that we have done that keep us from God," Ryan said. The Bible says that, "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:23) That means that we should be punished for the bad things we've done. But Jesus was punished for

our sins. If we accept Jesus, God will give us eternal life and forgive our sins.”

Buddy listened as Ryan kept talking.

“The red bead makes me think of Jesus’ blood—”

“Blood?” Buddy jumped in.

About that time, Pastor Beasley rolled up. He was in the area to give an outdoor tour.

“What are you guys doing out here?” the pastor asked.

Ryan told Pastor Beasley about the repairs in the cave.

“I’m also trying to explain to Buddy what these beads mean,” Ryan said. “But maybe you could explain it better.”

“I bet you’re doing a great job,” the pastor said. “I’ll help you if you need it.”

“I was trying to explain the red bead,” Ryan said. “Jesus is God’s Son. He was nailed to a cross where He died to pay for our sins.”

One by one, Ryan explained the rest of the beads.

“But you still haven’t told me what the letters mean,” Buddy said.

“O-M-T-S-J stands for On Mission To Share Jesus,” Ryan said.

“That just means that Ryan wants to tell other people—like you—about what Jesus did for him,” Pastor Beasley said. “But the gift of eternal life is a free gift. You have to decide whether or not to take it.”

“So what about you, Buddy? Will you take it or not?” Ryan asked.

(Will Buddy decide to accept Jesus as his Lord and Savior? Find out in the next lesson!)



Don't Keep Good News to Yourself



Has anyone ever surprised you with a present? Did you keep the good news to yourself? Or did you tell your friends about it right away? I'll bet you told your friends the good news!

It's hard to keep good news to yourself, isn't it? That's the way it is with Jesus. The story of Jesus is the best news there is. And many people need to hear it. God doesn't want you to keep the good news to yourself.

Andrew couldn't keep quiet after he met Jesus. The Bible says, "The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, 'We have found the Messiah' (that is, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus." (John 1:41-42) Jesus changed Simon's name to Peter. Jesus also changed his heart. Do you remember Peter from Lesson 1? He was the one who went from fishing for fish to fishing for people.

Philip couldn't keep quiet either. He found Nathanael and told him about Jesus. At first, Nathanael didn't believe Philip. Jesus was from a town named Nazareth. Nathanael even asked, "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" (John 1:46) But once Nathanael talked with Jesus, he realized Jesus was God's Son and said, "You are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel." (John 1:49)

And what about the story of the Samaritan woman? She met Jesus when

she went to get water from a well. After talking with Jesus, the woman went back to her town to tell the people there about Jesus. She was in such a hurry that she even left her water jug at the well! The Bible says that, "Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony." (John 4:39)

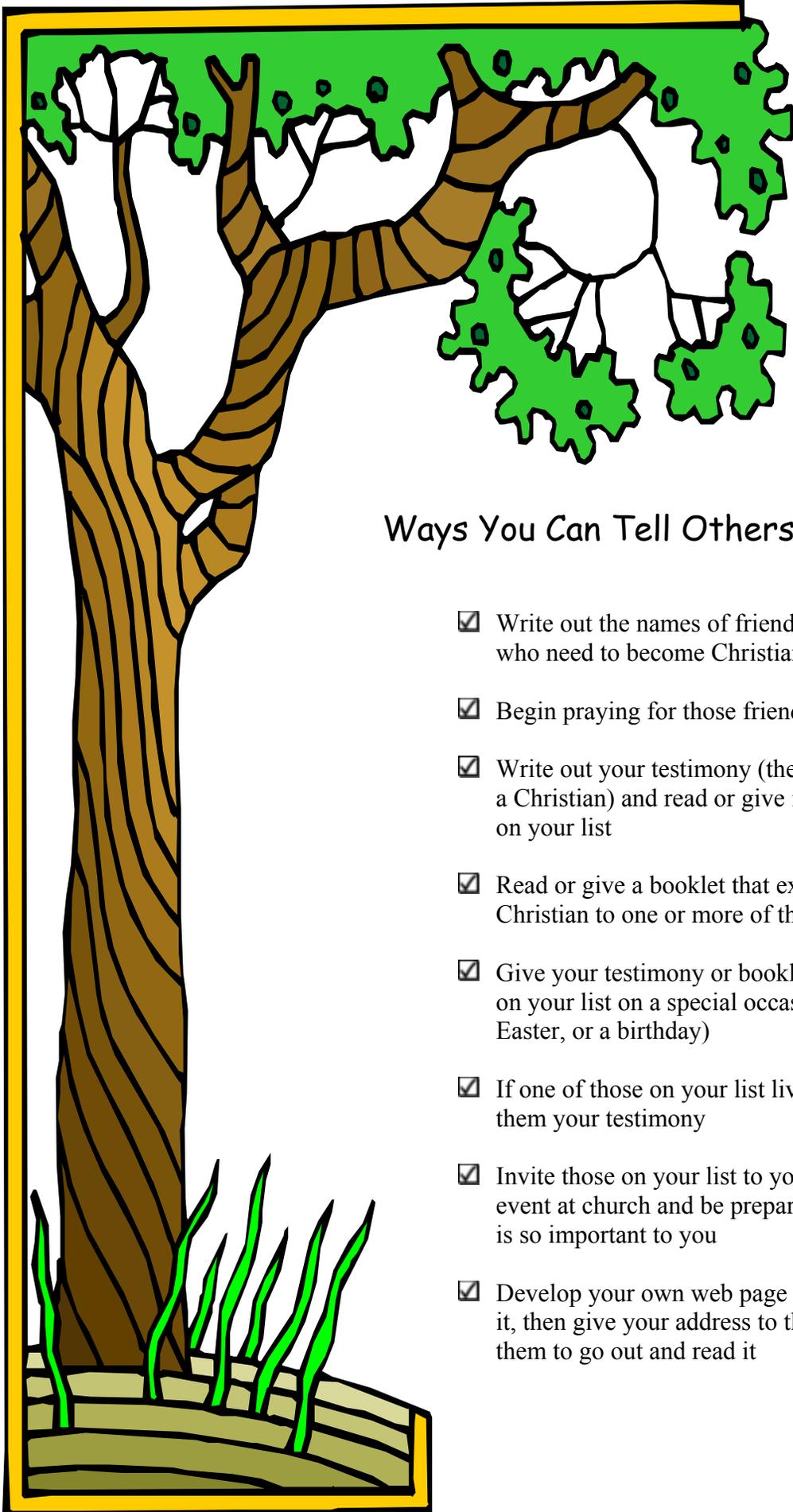
A testimony is a story of how someone meets Jesus. God can use your story to help other people know how much God loves them. Your testimony may be the first time someone has heard about Jesus.

Sometimes when you tell people about Jesus, they will follow Jesus right away, like Peter. At other times, people might not believe what you say about Jesus. When Philip told Nathanael about Jesus, he didn't believe. It wasn't until Nathanael talked with Jesus himself that he believed.

At other times, you might be able to tell many people about Jesus, like the Samaritan woman. For example, God might give you the chance to tell other children about Jesus at your school. You might be surprised to see how many children decide to follow Jesus because of what you say.

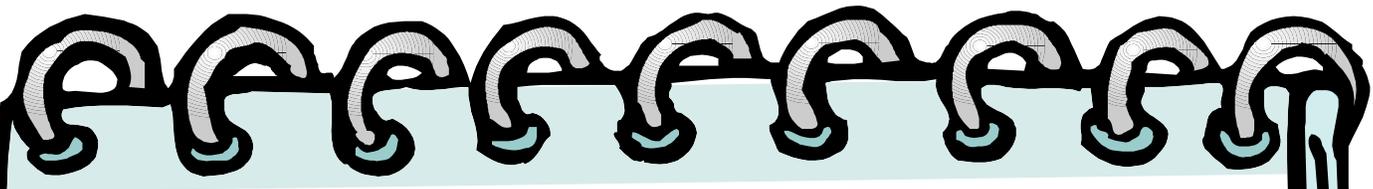
What if you are shy? Maybe it's scary for you to think about telling lots of people about Jesus. You could write a poem telling people about Jesus. You could write a song. You could draw your own cartoon strip showing how Jesus changed your life.

Whether you speak it, write it, sing it, or draw it—whatever you do—don't keep it a secret. Don't keep the good news to yourself!



Ways You Can Tell Others about Jesus

- Write out the names of friends and family members who need to become Christians
- Begin praying for those friends and family members
- Write out your testimony (the story of how you became a Christian) and read or give it to one or more of those on your list
- Read or give a booklet that explains how to become a Christian to one or more of those on your list
- Give your testimony or booklet to one or more of those on your list on a special occasion (like Christmas, Easter, or a birthday)
- If one of those on your list lives far away, call or e-mail them your testimony
- Invite those on your list to your baptism or some special event at church and be prepared to tell them why Jesus is so important to you
- Develop your own web page and put your testimony on it, then give your address to those on your list and ask them to go out and read it



Telling Your Friends and Family about Jesus Scrambled Words

Each verse below has something to say about telling the Good News. The only problem is that one word in each Bible verse has been scrambled. Can you figure out what the right word is? (Use a New International Version of the Bible if you need help.) Write the correct word in the blank.

1. Come and listen, all you who fear God; let me **letl** _____ you what he has done for me.—Psalm 66:16

2. Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his **fuldrenow** _____ acts.—Psalm 105:2

3. Turn to me and be **vasde**, _____ all you ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other.—Isaiah 45:22

4. How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who **grinb** _____ good news.—Isaiah 52:7a

5. The kingdom of God is near. Repent and **veelbie** _____ the good news!—Mark 1:15

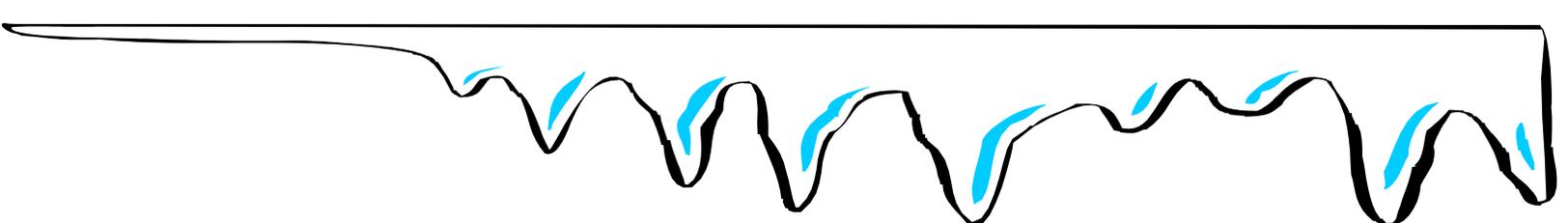
6. Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's **minoystet** _____.—John 4:39

7. You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, telling the good news of **ceape** _____ through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.—Acts 10:36

8. We tell you the **dogo** _____ news.—Acts 13:32a

9. But with the help of our God, we dared to tell you his **slopge** _____.—1 Thessalonians 2:2b

10. Always be prepared to give an **sanrew** _____ to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.—1 Peter 3:15b

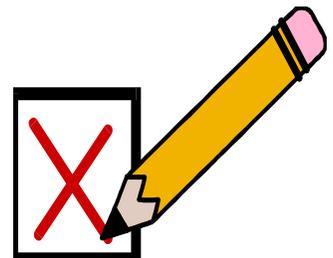


Telling Your Friends and Family about Jesus

Lesson 6 Quiz

Circle the letter of the correct answer for each question.

1. God wants you to keep the good news about Jesus to yourself.
 - A. True
 - B. False
2. The first thing Andrew did when he met Jesus was to:
 - A. Find his brother Simon and tell him that he met Jesus
 - B. Avoid his brother
3. What was the first thing the Samaritan woman did after meeting Jesus?
 - A. She went straight back to her town to tell others about Jesus.
 - B. She went and did her laundry.
4. A testimony is a story of how someone meets Jesus.
 - A. True
 - B. False
5. Because of the Samaritan woman's testimony, what happened?
 - A. People were mad at her.
 - B. Many people believed in Jesus.
6. God can use your testimony to help other people know how much God loves them.
 - A. True
 - B. False
7. Nathanael didn't believe in Jesus until he did what?
 - A. Talked with Jesus himself
 - B. Listened to the Bible on tape
8. How can you tell people about Jesus?
 - A. When you talk to them.
 - B. Write a letter.
 - C. Write a song.
 - D. Draw a cartoon.
 - E. All of the above.



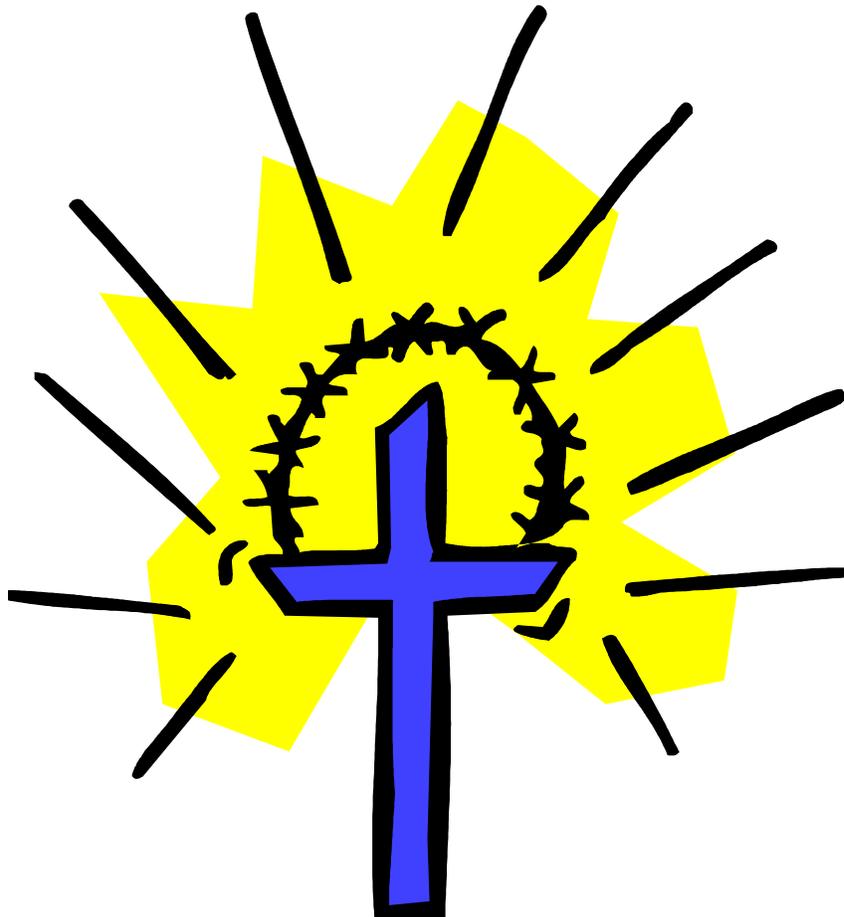
Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony.

John 4:39

New Christian Bible Study for Older Children

Lesson 7

Knowing You Are a Christian



The Amazing Adventures at Cascadia National Park (Part 7)



It drives me crazy not knowing what's going to happen next! At the end of the last adventure, Ryan asked Buddy if he wanted to become a Christian. What do you think? Will he give his life to Jesus? Let's find out! But first, let's see what new adventure Abby and Tyler are having inside the caves...

The caves were darker than nighttime.

At least we have our flashlights, Tyler thought to himself. *We'd be in trouble without them.*

The Thompsons were enjoying their walk through the caves. Mr. and Mrs. Thompson talked with an older couple that was also visiting the caves. Abby was watching for more bats. After nearly touching one by accident, she didn't want any more surprises. Up ahead, Tyler heard a strange sound.

I wonder what that is? Tyler thought to himself. *I've got to check that out.*

Tyler ran ahead to see where the noise was coming from. It sounded like water dripping. All around him water was dripping onto the cave floor. But this was different. It sounded like there was a pool of water up ahead.

On the trail outside, Buddy looked at the beads on Ryan's bracelet. He thought about what Ryan had said about each one.

"Jesus did all of that for me?" Buddy asked.

"He sure did," Pastor Beasley said. "But it is up to you to accept God's free gift of eternal life or not."

"I think I would like it very much," Buddy said.

Pastor Beasley and Ryan prayed with Buddy. Buddy asked God to forgive him of his sins and come into his life to be Lord and Savior. There in the woods, Buddy became a Christian.

After Buddy prayed, Pastor Beasley leaned over and gave Buddy a big hug.

"Welcome to God's family!" Pastor Beasley said.

Ryan gave Buddy his bracelet.

"For me?" Buddy asked.

"Yes, if you will promise me one thing," Ryan smiled. "That you explain what it means when people ask about it—just like I did for you."

Back inside the cave, Tyler reached the edge of a pool of water. He shined his flashlight on the water.

"Wow! Look at that!" Tyler said.

Inside the pool of water, a school of fish was swimming around. Only these fish were different.

"None of the fish have eyes!" Tyler shouted.

Abby heard Tyler and came to see for herself.

Tyler leaned forward between the bars on the guardrail. He wanted to see the fish up close. Tyler was too busy to notice his sister come up behind him.

"What's this about fish with no eyes?" Abby asked.

"Ahh!" Tyler shouted with a jump. Abby startled Tyler. He lost his balance and fell head first into the pool of water with the fish.

Outside, Pastor Beasley, Buddy, and Ryan slowly made their way back to the caves to wait for the Thompsons.

"I just never knew God loved me that much," Buddy said.

“And He will always love you,” the pastor added. “Now that you’re a Christian, God wants you to know that you will always be part of His family.”

The pastor told Buddy how he could know for sure that he was a Christian.

“In Romans 10:9, the Bible says, ‘If you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus Is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved,’” the pastor said. He also told Buddy how God would never leave him. Buddy could now look forward to a home in heaven, too.

“I always thought God was mad at me,” Buddy said. “I thought that was why I ended up in a wheelchair.”

“No, Buddy. God loves you very much,” Pastor Beasley said. “That’s why

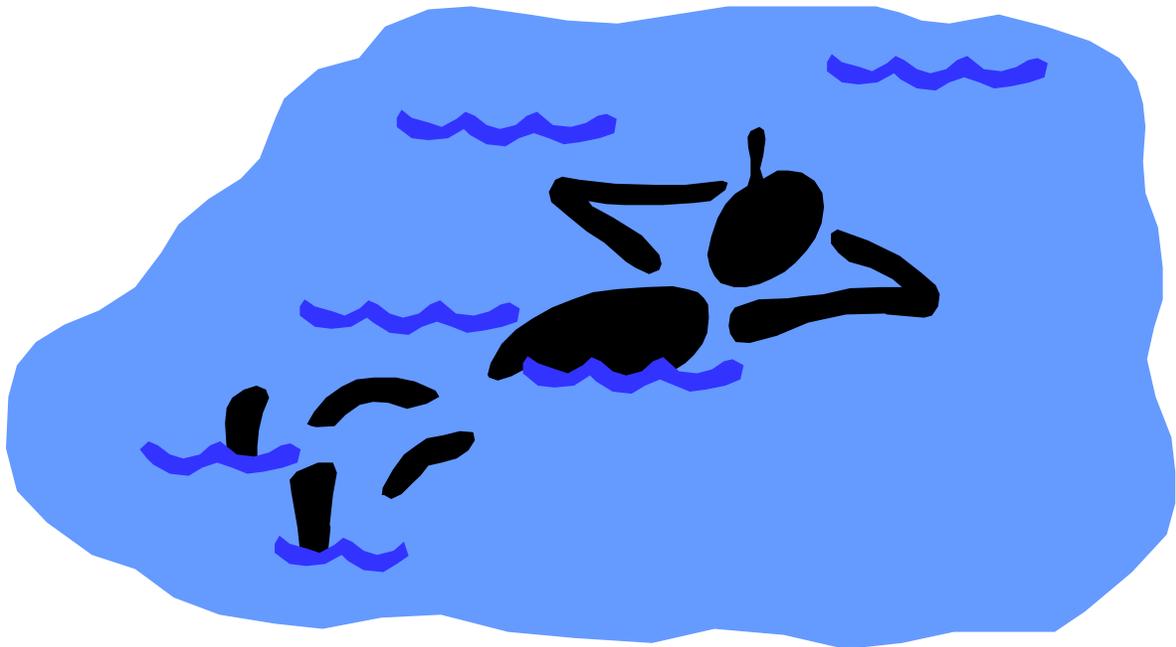
Jesus said in John 3:16 that, ‘God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.’

“Does eternal life mean life that lasts forever?” Buddy asked.

“That’s right,” the pastor said. “God wants you to be with Him forever—not just a little while! And He wants others to have eternal life, too. Your wheelchair will take you many places to share God’s love. In fact, God can use you in places where walking people cannot go.”

“Kind of funny, huh?” Buddy said with a smile. “Usually it’s the other way around.”

(In the next lesson, Buddy is baptized!)



Am I Really a Christian?

Did you know when you became a Christian, the angels in heaven celebrated? That's right! Jesus said, "I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." (Luke 15:10) The angels in heaven felt like throwing a party when you became a part of God's family. You probably felt good, too—like a brand new person inside.

Some days, you may not feel as good as you did on the day you became a Christian. There may be days when you wonder if you're still a Christian. Maybe it is because you have sinned. When you sin, you probably don't feel close to God. That is because sin puts a wall between you and God. But the Bible says in 1 John 1:9 that when you confess your sins, He will forgive you.

Or maybe you haven't been living for Jesus. So you begin to feel like you're not part of God's family anymore. When you feel that way, just think about this. When you make mistakes at home, what happens? Do your parents tell you that you are no longer their child? No! They feel sad that you have done the wrong thing. That is because they love you, and they want you to do what is right.

It is the same way with God. When you mess up, God still loves you. And He wants you to know that you are still part of His family. His Word tells us so. "God has said, 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.'" (Hebrews 13:5b) He won't leave you now—or ever!

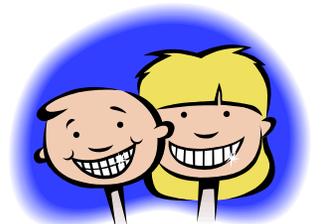
The Bible also says that "God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life;

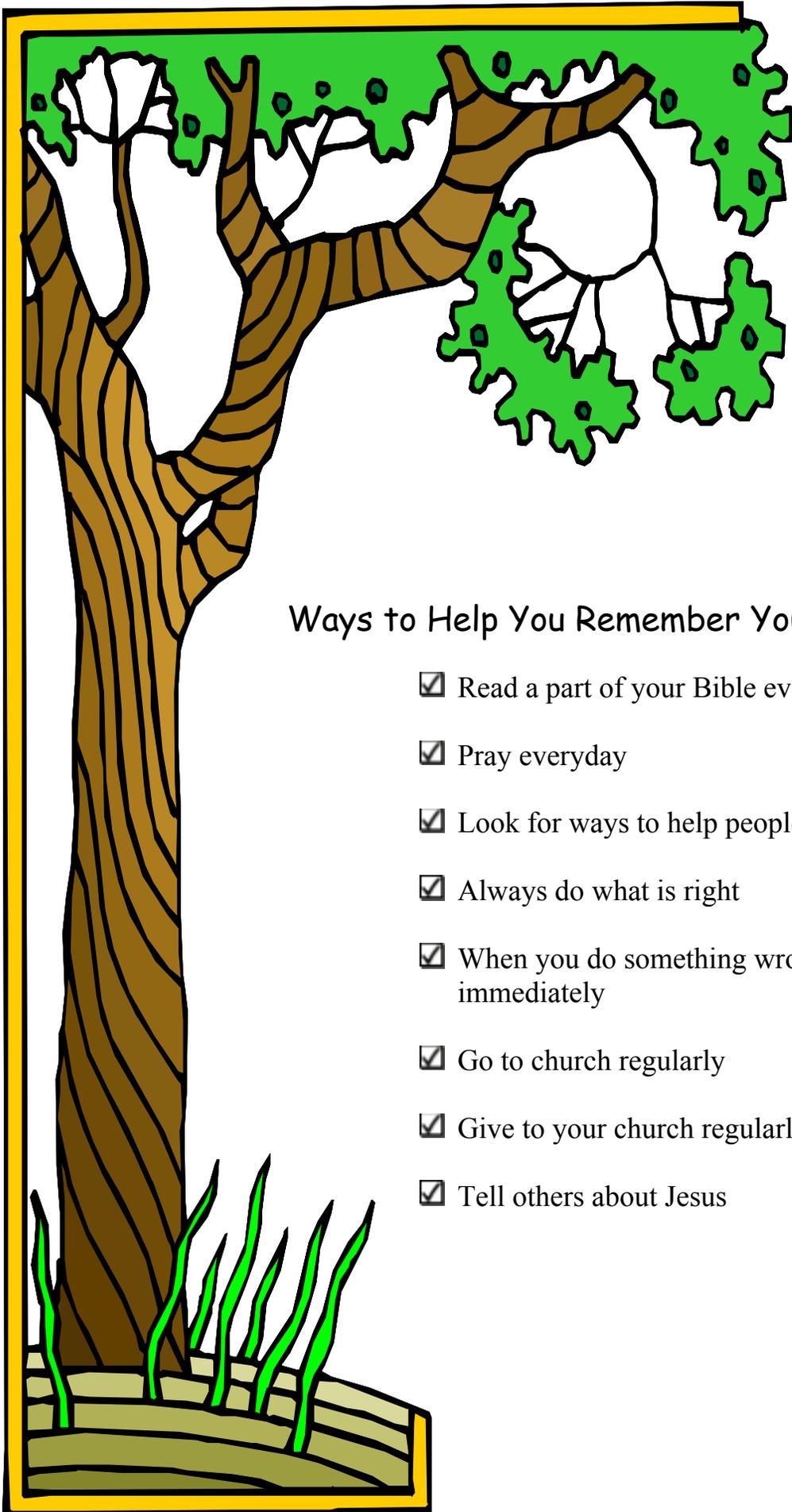
he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life." (1 John 5:11-13) Eternal life means a life that lasts forever. You will always be with Jesus and He will always be with you—not just for a little while, but forever!

Christians are sometimes described as sheep with Jesus as their shepherd. In the Bible, Jesus said, "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand." (John 10:27-28)

No one can take you out of Jesus' hand because you belong to Him. When you became a Christian, God did something special to show that you belong to Him. He put his Holy Spirit inside you. The Holy Spirit is the One who made you a new person on the inside. He helps you live to please God. He shows you when you sin. The Holy Spirit helps you when you don't know how to pray. With the Holy Spirit's help, you become the person God wants you to be. The Bible says that, "We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit." (1 John 4:13)

So if you ever start to think that you aren't part of God's family anymore, remember what Jesus said. "Whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life...he has crossed over from death to life." (John 5:24) Now that is something to celebrate!





Ways to Help You Remember You are a Christian

- Read a part of your Bible everyday
- Pray everyday
- Look for ways to help people everyday
- Always do what is right
- When you do something wrong, confess it to God immediately
- Go to church regularly
- Give to your church regularly
- Tell others about Jesus

Knowing You Are a Christian John's Letter

John, one of Jesus' disciples, wrote three letters to Christians who were trying to live for Jesus. Like you, they sometimes needed to know they were still part of God's family. Use the code below to read one thing that John told them.

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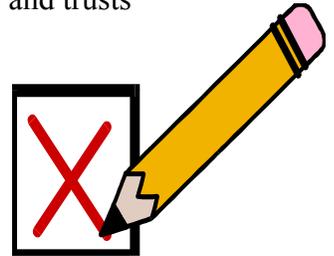
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Knowing You Are a Christian

Lesson 7 Quiz

Circle the letter of the correct answer for each question.

1. What happens in heaven when one sinner turns away from his sins and trusts Jesus to save him and give him eternal life?
 - A. Nothing
 - B. Angels celebrate in the presence of God.
2. What does sin do?
 - A. It puts a wall between you and God.
 - B. It causes the angels to stop working.
3. When you tell God that you are sorry for your sins, He will forgive you.
 - A. True
 - B. False
4. When you mess up, God still loves you. He wants you to know that you are still part of His family.
 - A. True
 - B. False
5. What is eternal life?
 - A. Eternal life is life that only lasts a few years.
 - B. Eternal life is life that lasts forever. You will always be with Jesus and He will always be with you—not just for a little while, but forever!
6. No one can take you out of Jesus' hand because you belong to Him.
 - A. True
 - B. False
7. What did God do when you became a Christian to show that you belong to Him?
 - A. He put his Holy Spirit inside you.
 - B. Nothing
8. Name three things the Holy Spirit does in the life of a Christian:



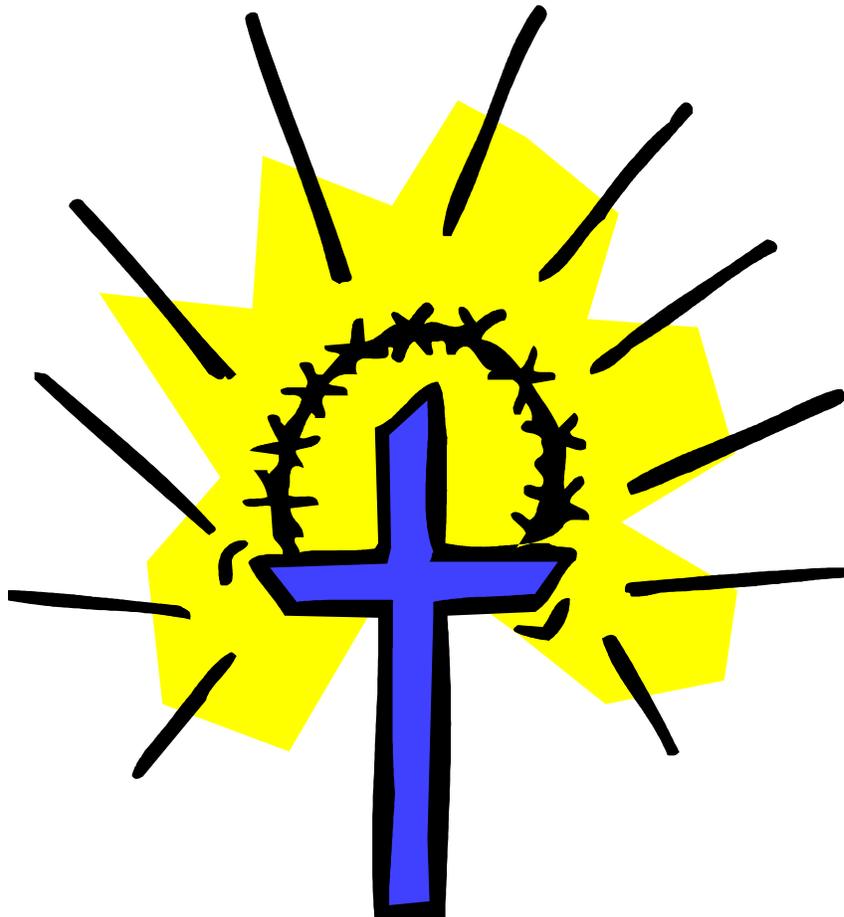
I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

1 John 5:13

New Christian Bible Study for Older Children

Lesson 8

Baptism



The Amazing Adventures at Cascadia National Park (Part 8)



It's amazing what God's love can do! Just a few days ago, Buddy didn't know God loved him. But thanks to his new friends, now Buddy is part of God's family! Will his parents let him be baptized? Let's find out!

With help from his family, Tyler climbed out of the fish pool inside the cave.

"I don't know who was more scared—you or the fish!" Abby said as she laughed.

"Very funny," Tyler said. He was soaked from head to toe.

Ryan, Buddy, and Pastor Beasley waited outside the cave entrance. Pastor Beasley told Buddy that he should follow Jesus' example and be baptized. He told Buddy what it means to be baptized and why it is important.

"Being baptized is a way to show others that you are a Christian now," Pastor Beasley said. "You could even be baptized today. But first, you need to ask permission from your parents. I'll be glad to go with you to talk to your family."

"That would be great. I want my family to know that I'm a Christian now," Buddy said.

About that time, the Thompsons finally came out of the caves.

"Has someone else been baptized today?" Pastor Beasley asked.

"No, Tyler just decided to get a close-up look at some fish swimming inside the cave," Mr. Thompson said.

"Speaking of baptism, there is someone who *would* like to be baptized," Pastor Beasley said with a smile. "Just not in a cold pool in the caves."

"Who?" Tyler asked.

"Me!" Buddy said. "While you were in the caves, I became a Christian!"

Everyone hugged Buddy.

"Thanks, guys," Buddy said. "I just hope my family is as excited as you are. Pastor Beasley is going with me to talk to my parents. We are going to make sure it's OK with my parents for me to be baptized."

"It is important for your family to know about your decision to follow Jesus," Mr. Thompson said. "Who knows, maybe your family will become Christians, too."

"But where could I be baptized?" Buddy asked.

"I think if we ask permission, we can baptize you in the hotel's heated pool," Pastor Beasley said. "The hotel manager attends my church. We have baptized other new Christians there before."

"But what about my wheelchair?" Buddy asked.

"I think between the Reverend Thompson and me," Pastor Beasley said, "everything will be just fine."

Late that afternoon, Pastor Beasley went with Buddy to talk to Buddy's parents about being baptized. At first, they had a lot of questions. Buddy told them how he had decided to follow Jesus. Pastor Beasley explained that baptism was a way for Buddy to show that he had become a Christian. After answering all their questions, Buddy's parents agreed to let Buddy be baptized. Buddy was excited that they would be coming to his baptism the next day. Buddy even asked his brother if he would take his picture as he was being baptized.

As expected, the hotel manager agreed to let Buddy be baptized at the

heated pool. So the next afternoon, everyone came to the heated pool at the hotel.

Pastor Beasley lowered himself out of his own wheelchair onto the steps in the shallow end of the pool. Mr. Thompson lifted Buddy out of his wheelchair and carried him into the water.

Pastor Beasley put his hand on Buddy's shoulder. He asked Buddy if he had asked Jesus to be His Lord and Savior.

"I have," Buddy said.

"Since you have asked Jesus to be your Lord and Savior," Pastor Beasley said, "I baptize you, Buddy, in

the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

With that, Mr. Thompson lowered Buddy under the water and quickly brought him out again.

"Buried with Christ in baptism and raised to walk in the newness of life," Pastor Beasley said.

Everyone clapped. Buddy's brother's camera flashed. And Buddy came up out of the water with a smile.

It feels good to have a new start, Buddy thought.

(Next Lesson: Buddy leaves his new friends, or does he?)





What is Baptism?

Have you ever played on a sports team? When you become part of a team, you usually wear a special jersey or uniform. This lets other people know that you belong to the team.

So how can you show others that you now belong to God's family? By being baptized! You may wonder what it means to be baptized. Baptism is when a minister lowers you completely under the water and raises you up again. It is a special time when you can show others that you are a follower of Jesus. Baptism doesn't make you a Christian. It just shows that you have already become a Christian.

Your church probably has a special place where you can be baptized. If you have ever seen your minister lower someone under the water and raise the person back up again, then you have seen a baptism. The minister probably spoke to the person who was being baptized and asked some questions. He might have asked the new Christian to tell everyone that he has decided to follow Jesus. Or he could have asked the person to share how she came to know Jesus. Your pastor might ask you questions like these when you are baptized.

So why is it so important to be baptized? Because Jesus told us to be baptized. In Matthew 28:19, Jesus said, "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." When you are baptized, you are obeying Jesus—just as Jesus was obedient to His Heavenly Father. Jesus obeyed God when He died on the cross to pay for your sins.

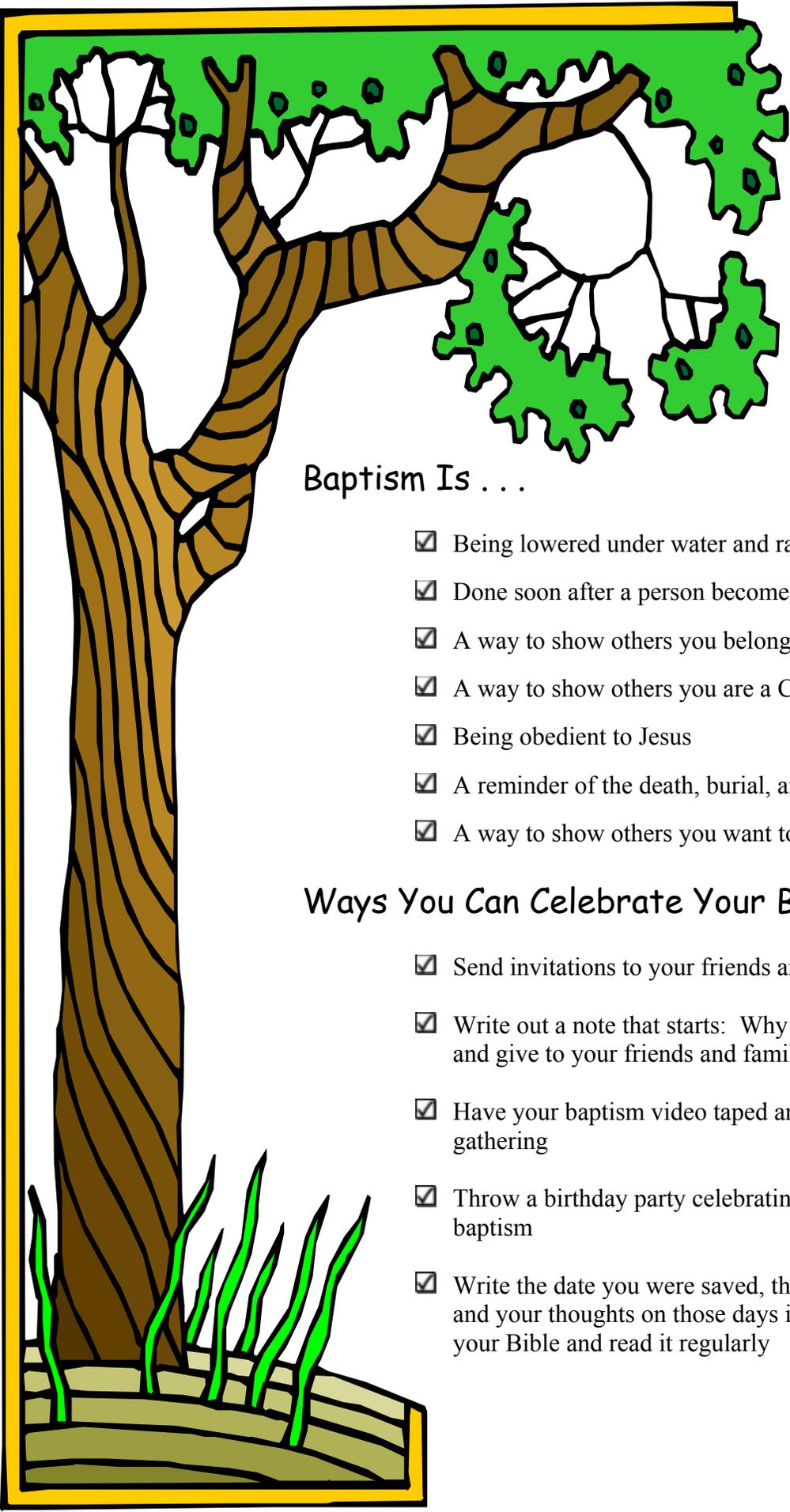
Baptism is also a reminder of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. (Resurrection means that God raised Jesus from the dead and gave Him new life again.) Romans 6:4 says, "We were therefore buried with him through baptism...in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." Since you trusted Jesus to save you, your old life without Him is gone. So when the minister raises you out of the water, it is a way to remember the new life you have in Jesus—now and forever.

Baptism also shows others that you are part of God's family. It shows people that you want to serve God in your local church.

Baptism is important because it lets others know that you love Jesus and are now a Christian. Do you have friends and family who are not Christians? Then invite them to your baptism. Maybe afterwards, they will want to follow Jesus, too.

By now you have probably figured out that as a Christian you have a lot to celebrate. God loves you, your sins are forgiven, and you're part of God's family—just to name a few. Your baptism can be a special time to celebrate what God has done in your life.

So if you still haven't been baptized, what should you do? Talk to your pastor or Sunday School teacher. Tell them you want to obey Jesus and be baptized. Be like the Ethiopian man who heard the gospel on the side of the road outside of Jerusalem. After he became a Christian he asked, "Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?" (Acts 8:36) And he was!



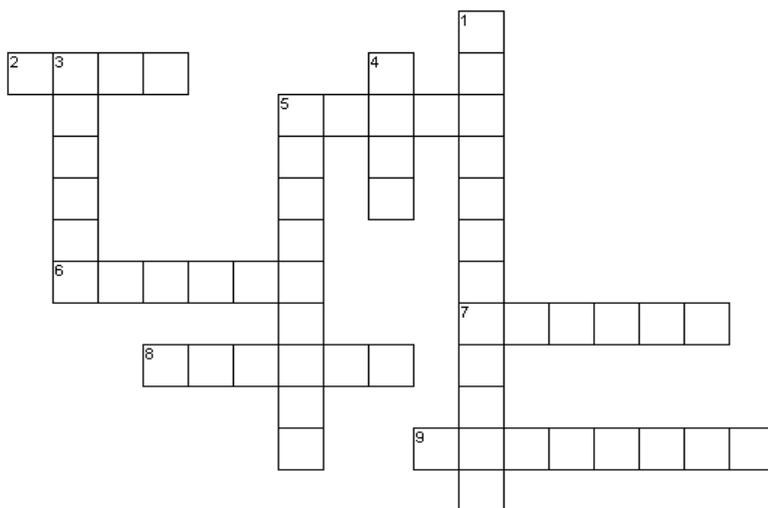
Baptism Is . . .

- Being lowered under water and raised quickly back up
- Done soon after a person becomes a Christian
- A way to show others you belong to God's family
- A way to show others you are a Christian
- Being obedient to Jesus
- A reminder of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus
- A way to show others you want to serve God in the church

Ways You Can Celebrate Your Baptism

- Send invitations to your friends and family
- Write out a note that starts: Why I am being baptized . . . and give to your friends and family who attend
- Have your baptism video taped and show it at a family gathering
- Throw a birthday party celebrating your new birth and baptism
- Write the date you were saved, the date you were baptized, and your thoughts on those days in the back (or front) of your Bible and read it regularly

Baptism Crossword Challenge

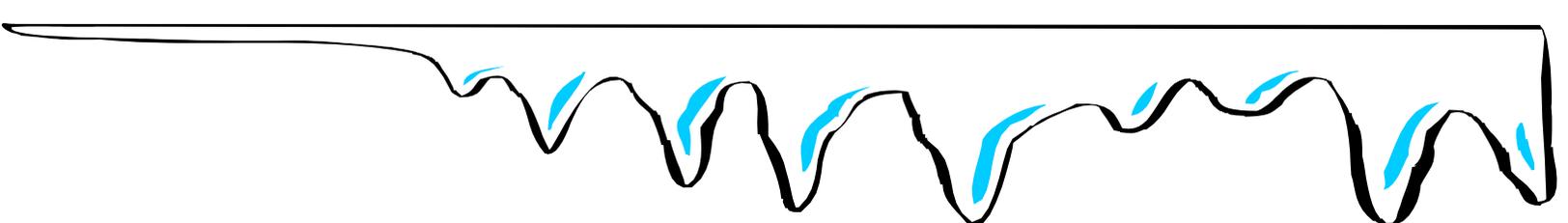


Across

2. If you want to _____ Jesus' command from Matthew 28:19, you should be baptized
5. Jesus died on a _____ to pay for your sins
6. When you are baptized, the minister _____ you completely under the water
7. Baptism shows people that you want to serve God in your local _____
8. Baptism shows that you have become part of God's _____
9. Baptism is a special time when you can show others that you are a _____ of Christ

Down

1. When the minister raises you out of the water, it reminds you of Jesus' _____
3. Baptism reminds us of Jesus' death, _____, and resurrection
4. The Book of Acts tells the story of a baptism that took place on the side of a _____
5. Baptism doesn't make you a Christian. It just shows that you have already become a _____

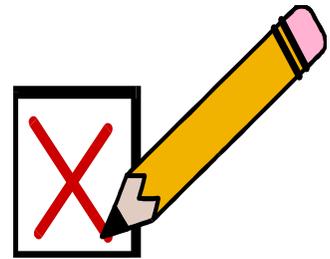


Baptism

Lesson 8 Quiz

Circle the letter of the correct answer for each question.

1. One way you can show others that you belong to God's family is to:
 - A. Learn another language
 - B. Be baptized
2. Baptism is when a minister lowers you completely under the water and raises you up again.
 - A. True
 - B. False
3. Baptism doesn't make you a Christian.
 - A. True
 - B. False
4. When you are baptized, you are _____ Jesus.
 - A. loving
 - B. obeying
5. Baptism reminds us of what?
 - A. Jesus' childhood
 - B. Jesus' hometown
 - C. Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection
6. Resurrection means that God raised Jesus from the dead.
 - A. True
 - B. False
7. When the minister raises you out of the water, it is a way to remember what?
 - A. Veterans' Day
 - B. The new life you have in Jesus—now and forever
 - C. How to multiply without a calculator
8. What should you do if you haven't been baptized?
 - A. Get your hair cut.
 - B. Buy new clothes.
 - C. Talk to your parents, pastor, or Sunday School teacher.



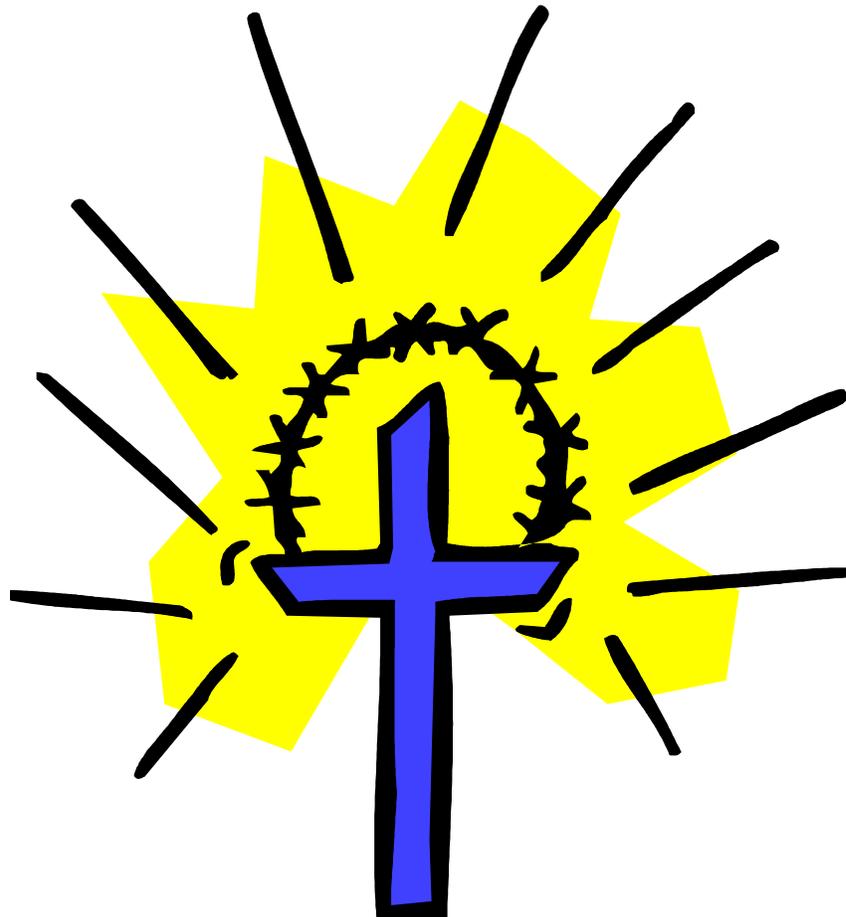
Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19

New Christian Bible Study for Older Children

Lesson 9

Joining a Church



The Amazing Adventures at Cascadia National Park (Part 9)



I hope you have enjoyed reading about the children's adventures inside the park. This will be the last one, but if you think the kids' adventures are over just yet, you're in for a real surprise...or two!

"Surprise!"

Just when Buddy thought his day couldn't be better, it was. Pastor Beasley had invited everyone to a cookout to celebrate Buddy's baptism. What a great way to end their adventures at the park!

As they roasted hotdogs over the campfire, everyone thought about what happened during the week.

"We thought we were just coming on vacation to have fun," Tyler said to Buddy. "But I think God knew we would meet you here."

"You're right, Tyler," Mr. Thompson said. "I believe God sent us here so Buddy could hear about Jesus and become part of God's family."

"Yeah, if you guys hadn't told me about Jesus, I would still be the same old me. Now I am a new person," Buddy said.

"As a new Christian, it is important that you go to church, Buddy," Mr. Thompson said. "When you go home, I hope you find a church. That way, you can keep growing as a Christian."

"I became a Christian earlier this year," Ryan said. "And I know I still have a lot of growing to do. If I hadn't been going to church with the Thompsons, I wouldn't have learned about the Bible. And knowing some of God's promises from the Bible came in handy when I was waiting to be rescued."

"Can you guys think of some other reasons why it is important to go to church?" Mr. Thompson asked.

"Well, at church we learn more about prayer," Tyler said. "I'm glad we know that God hears us when we pray. It made all the difference in finding Ryan."

"Best of all, church becomes your family—kind of like a real family," Abby said. "And having a family that you can count on is great when you fall into water in a dark cave." Abby grinned at Tyler.

"Hey, if it happened to you, you might not be laughing," Tyler said to his sister. He was also trying not to laugh.

"Abby is right," Pastor Beasley said. "A church is like a family. We serve God together. We have fun together. We pray for each other. And when other church members have trouble in their lives, we help them."

About that time, Mr. Thompson's face turned white. He put down the stick he was using to roast some marshmallows. He was staring past the bonfire into the woods.

"Speaking of trouble, I think we've found some," Mr. Thompson said. "No one move! I think we have another guest at our cookout."

A pair of dark eyes peeked out from behind a bush. Within seconds, everyone could see that the eyes belonged to a bear. He had smelled their yummy food and decided to come see what was for dinner.

"Quick, everyone make a lot of noise, and wave your hands in the air," Pastor Beasley said.

After a few minutes, the bear decided all the noise was too much for him. He finally left.

“Good job, everyone!” Pastor Beasley said. “Sometimes we have surprise visits from bears at cookouts around here. You all did a good job. We need to pack up and go before any more bears come to dinner.”

After hotdogs, roasted marshmallows, and a final adventure with a bear, it was time to say goodbye.

Buddy felt sad saying goodbye to his friends. His new friends were going to miss him, too.

“When we return home to the Tri-Cities, I will mail you a special baptism certificate so you can always remember this day,” Mr. Thompson said.

“Did you say you’re from the Tri-Cities?” Buddy asked. “That’s where I’m from!”

“You mean after all this time, you kids never talked about where you were from?” Mr. Thompson asked.

“No, I guess we were too busy on our adventures,” Tyler said.

“Who would believe that we came all the way here just to meet someone from our own city,” Abby said.

“That means that when we all get home, you can come to church with us,” Ryan said.

“I guess it’s not goodbye after all,” Buddy added. “I’ll see you on Sunday!”



Why do I need to be a part of a church?

Have you ever been a part of a special group—like a scout troop or a club or a choir? As a member of a special group, you spend time with others in that group. You also work together to sing or play or help others. It feels good to belong, doesn't it? God wants you to belong to something better than a club or a team. He wants you to belong to His church. Unlike some groups where only certain people can become members, God wants every Christian to join a church.

Do you know why it is important to be a part of the church? Jesus wants Christians to belong to a church so they can keep doing His work. We can't do the work God has given us to do very well unless we all do our part. Everyone has a special job to do. No person can do all the work alone.

The Bible describes the church this way: "Just as each of us has one body with many members...so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us." (Romans 12:4a, 5-6). Jesus is "the head of the body, the church" (Colossians 1:18). A gift is like a special talent from God. And we are like Jesus' hands and feet on earth!

And just like a body, every part has its own job to do. While every church member should give, some Christians have a special gift of giving. Some people are teachers, and some are pastors. You might have a special gift of helping others, while your friend has the gift of encouraging people—just to name a few. God gives every Christian a special gift to use. If everyone had the same gift, we would never be able to do all that God wants us to do as a church.

Like the Bible says, "If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact, God has arranged the parts of the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be." (1 Corinthians 12:17-18)

What do you think your special gift is? Ask your Sunday School teacher or your parents to help you find out what it is. When you use the gift God has given you, you will feel really good inside. The best part of all, others will feel good, too. Let's say your special gift is giving. When you give, the person who is receiving your money or your gift will feel God's love through what you gave. If you enjoy encouraging people (making other people feel better when they are sad or afraid) then others will feel God's love through what you say. When you use your gift, you will see how great it is to be a part of Jesus' church.

As a part of a church, you also pray with other church members. If you are not at church, you won't know how to pray for the needs of others. Jesus said, "For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them." (Matthew 18:20)

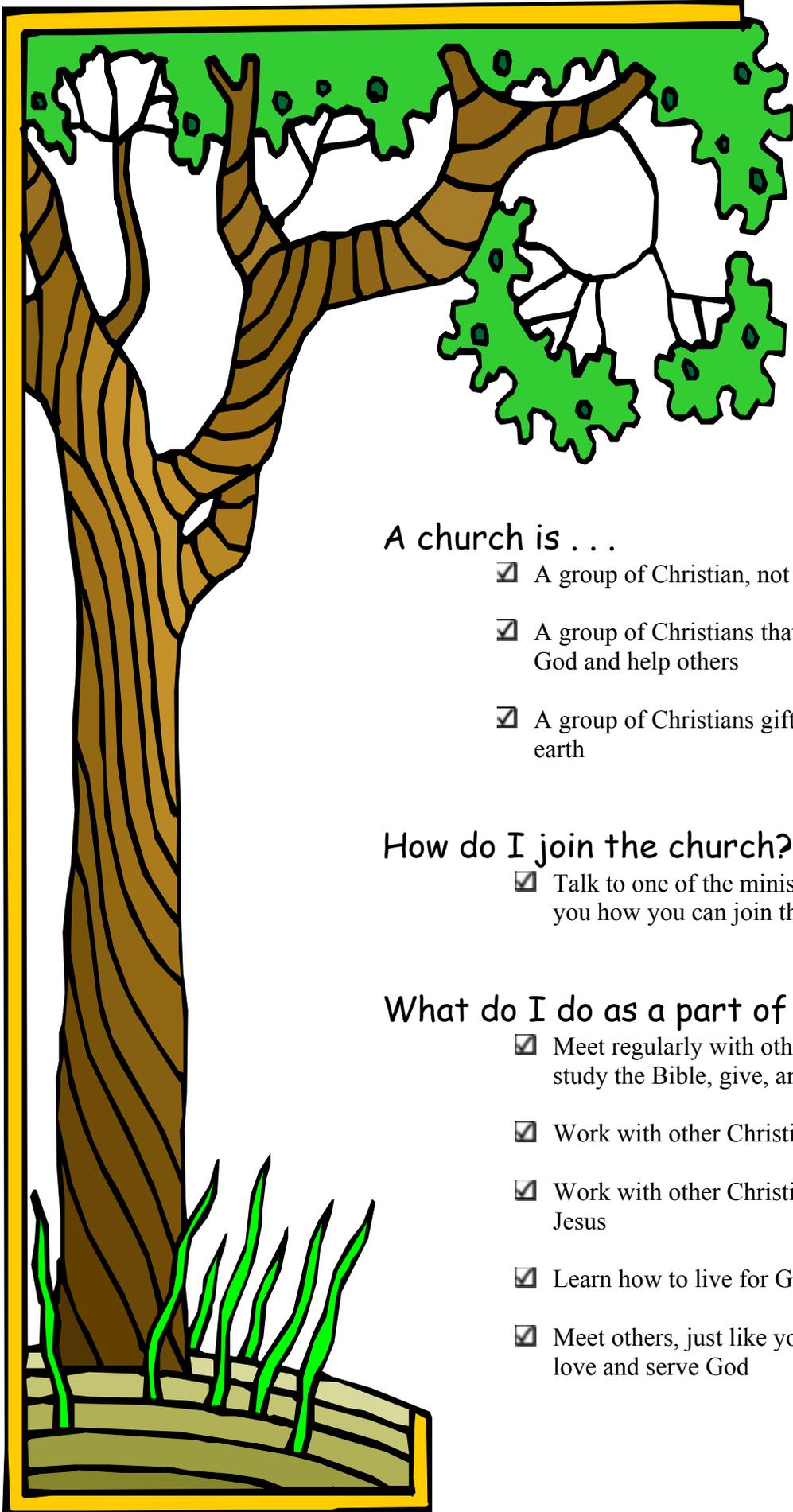
We can also study the Bible at church. The Bible says, "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15) The "word of truth" is the Bible. Studying God's Word helps you as a Christian. It helps prepare you for serving God with other church members.

Another important part of being a member of the church is giving. When you and others in the church give money to help with God's work, it can make a big difference. When you give money to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering or the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, missionaries can tell people about Jesus in our country and around the world.

When you put your money in the offering plate, you help your church so more people in your city and state can know Jesus.

Living for Jesus really is a great adventure. Being a member of a church prepares you for this adventure that will last your whole life through!





A church is . . .

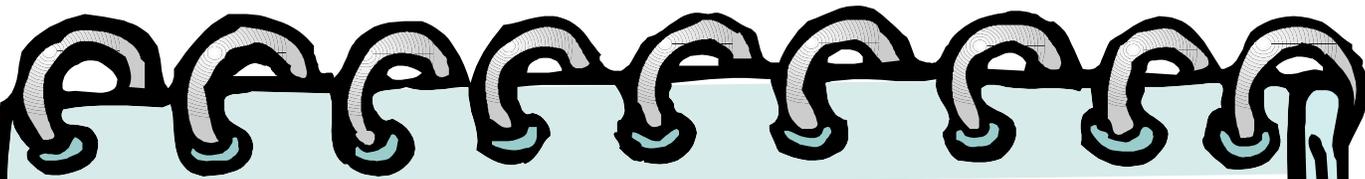
- A group of Christian, not a building
- A group of Christians that meet regularly to worship God and help others
- A group of Christians gifted to do God's work on earth

How do I join the church?

- Talk to one of the ministers and he will explain to you how you can join the church

What do I do as a part of the church?

- Meet regularly with other Christians to pray, study the Bible, give, and worship God
- Work with other Christians to help others
- Work with other Christians to tell others about Jesus
- Learn how to live for God and serve others
- Meet others, just like you, who are wanting to love and serve God



Joining a Church

Hidden in the Church Word Search

Can you find the words below inside the church? (Hint: You can find the words in any direction!)

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

BIBLE
CHURCH
ENCOURAGING

GIFTS
GIVING
HELPING

JOIN
MEMBER
PASTORING

PRAYING
SERVING
STUDY

TALENTS
TEACHING

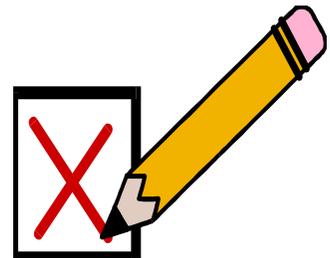
Joining a Church

Lesson 9 Quiz

Circle the letter of the correct answer for each question.

1. God wants only some Christians to join a church.
 - A. True
 - B. False
2. Every church member has a special job to do. No person can do all the work alone.
 - A. True
 - B. False
3. The Bible describes the church as:
 - A. A pizza
 - B. A body
4. Name at least three special gifts that God gives Christians:

5. You learn how to pray for others at church.
 - A. True
 - B. False
6. Studying the Bible at church:
 - A. Helps you grow as a Christian.
 - B. Helps prepare you for serving God with other church members
 - C. All of the above
7. The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering help who?
 - A. Missionaries in our country and around the world
 - B. Used car salesmen
8. When you and others in the church give money to help with God's work, it can make a big difference.
 - A. True
 - B. False



For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.

Matthew 18:20

Answers to Puzzles and Quizzes

Lesson 1 – Living Your Life To Please God

Puzzle - 1. Be baptized, 2. Tell your friends about Jesus, 3. Go to church, 4. Read the Bible, 5. Pray, 6. Help others

Quiz – 1. A, 2. B, 3. A, 4. B, 5. B, 6. A

Answers to Puzzles and Quizzes

Lesson 2 – Reading the Bible

Puzzle – How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word.— Psalm 119:9

I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.—Psalm 119:16

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.—Psalm 119:105

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.— James 1:22

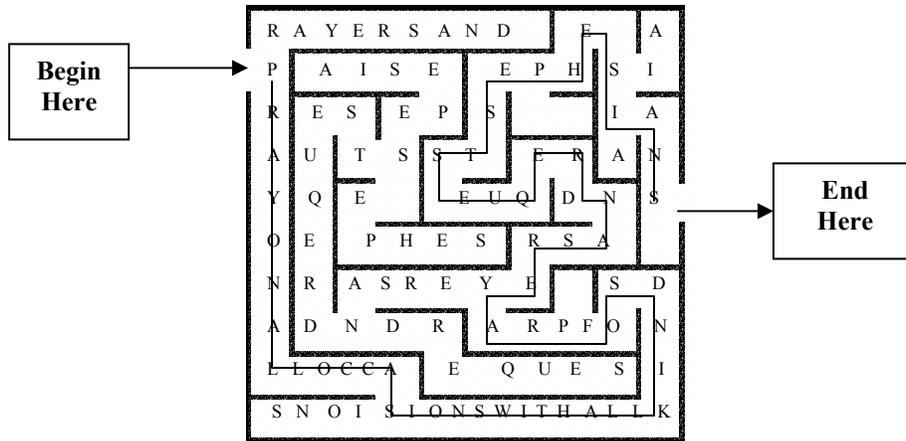
Jesus answered, “It is written; ‘Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”—Matthew 4:4

Quiz– 1. A, 2. A, 3. B, 4. A, 5. B, 6. B, 7. B

Answers to Puzzles and Quizzes

Lesson 3 – Praying to God

Puzzle - “Pray ... on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.”
Ephesians 6:18



Quiz – 1. B, 2. A, 3. A, 4. A, 5. A, 6. B, 7. A, 8. A

Answers to Puzzles and Quizzes

Lesson 4 – Going to Church

Puzzle - 1. FOUND, 2. JERUSALEM, 3. TEMPLE, 4. HELPING, 5. BIBLES, 6. CHRISTIAN, 7. LISTENING, 8. HOUSE, 9. LOST, 10. CHURCH, 11. CAFETERIAS, 12. LIFE.

ANSWER TO QUESTION: FATHER'S HOUSE

Quiz – 1. B, 2. A, 3. A, 4. B, 5. A, 6. A, 7. B

Answers to Puzzles and Quizzes

Lesson 5 – Learning to Give

Puzzle - Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine you did for me.—Matthew 25:40

Quiz – 1. B, 2. A, 3. B, 4. B, 5. A, 6. A, 7. B

Answers to Puzzles and Quizzes

Lesson 6 – Telling Your Friends and Family About Jesus

Puzzle - 1. tell, 2. wonderful, 3. saved, 4. bring, 5. believe, 6. testimony, 7. peace, 8. good, 9. gospel, 10. answer

Quiz – 1. B, 2. A, 3. A, 4. A, 5. B, 6. A, 7. A, 8. E

Answers to Puzzles and Quizzes

Lesson 7 – Knowing You Are A Christian

Puzzle - “I write to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name.”—1 John 2:12

Quiz – 1. B, 2. A, 3. A, 4. A, 5. B, 6. A, 7. A

Answers to Puzzles and Quizzes

Lesson 8 – Baptism

Puzzle – Across - 2. OBEY, 5. CROSS, 6. LOWERS, 7. CHURCH,
8. FAMILY, 9. FOLLOWER

Down - 1. RESURRECTION, 3. BURIAL, 4. ROAD,
5. CHRISTIAN

Quiz – 1. B, 2. A, 3. A, 4. B, 5. C, 6. A, 7. B, 8. C

Answers to Puzzles and Quizzes

Lesson 9 – Joining a Church

Puzzle –

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

BIBLE
 CHURCH
 ENCOURAGING

GIFTS
 GIVING
 HELPING

JOIN
 MEMBER
 PASTORING

PRAYING
 SERVING
 STUDY

TALENTS
 TEACHING

Quiz – 1. B, 2. A, 3. B, 4. --, 5. A, 6. C, 7. A, 8. A