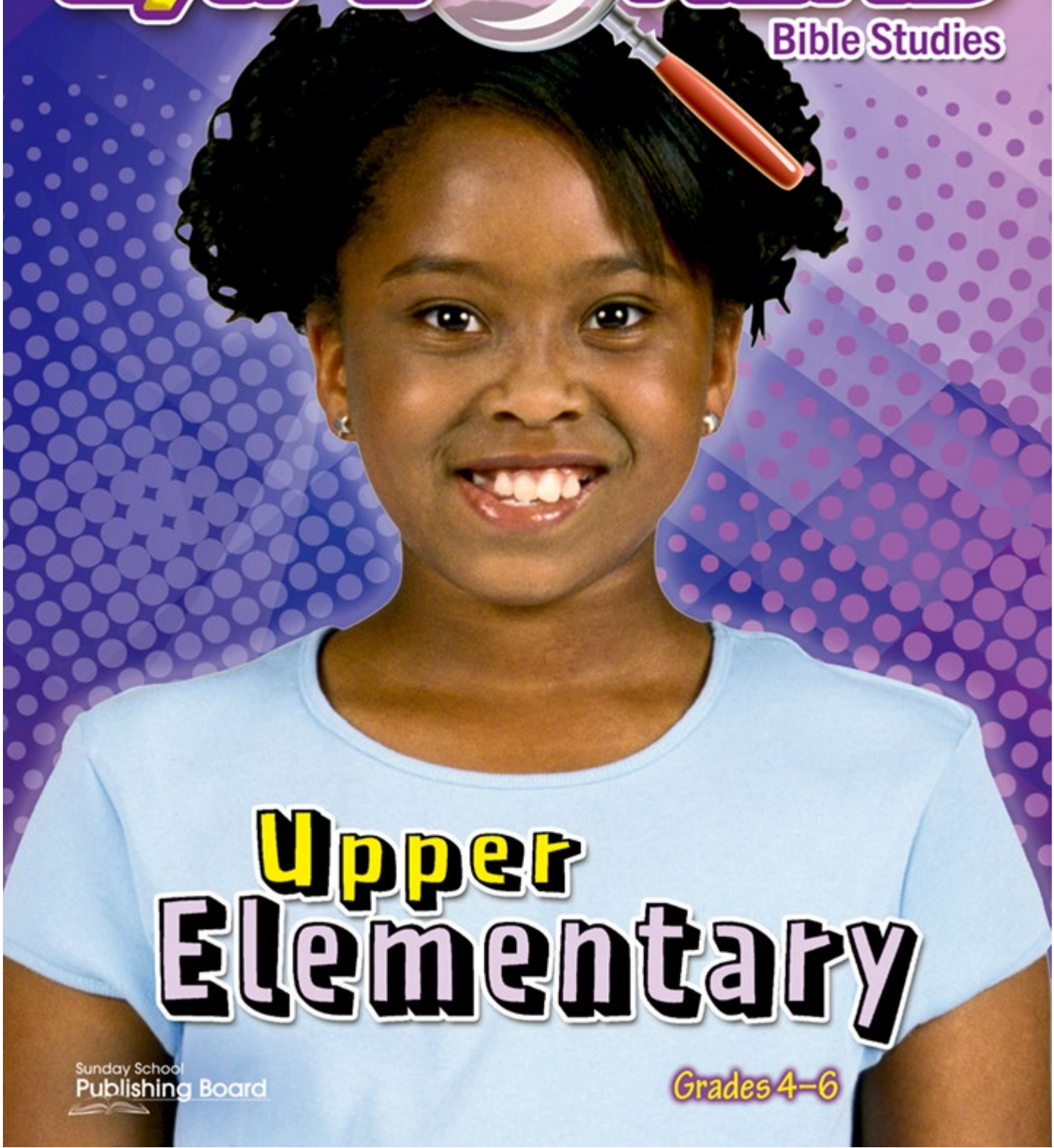


Spring Quarter 2024 • March / April / May

EXPLORERS

FAITH

Bible Studies



Upper
Elementary

Sunday School
Publishing Board

Grades 4-6



Spring Quarter

March / April / May 2024 • Vol. 12—No. 3

Unit I, "Looking at Our Faith," has five lessons from the books of Jude, 2 Corinthians, 1 Peter, Acts, and Mark. In lesson 1, Jude assures believers of God's promise to keep them from falling and to present them without blemish in God's presence. In lesson 2, Paul warns believers to examine themselves to ensure that they are living in the faith. In lesson 3, Peter urges his readers to defend their faith with humility, gentleness, and reverence. In lesson 4, Stephen is used as an example of how believers should be obedient to God during adversity. And in lesson 5, God raised Jesus from the dead and unlocked the door to Resurrection faith.

Unit II, "How Much Faith Do You Have?" has four lessons from the books of Luke and Matthew. The Scripture passage for lesson 6 cites four men who went through various obstacles to get their sick friend to Jesus for healing. Lesson 7 looks at the amazing faith of a centurion who believed that Jesus only needed to speak and his servant would be healed. Lesson 8 presents the faith of a sinful woman whom Jesus forgave. Lesson 9 identifies a Canaanite woman whom Jesus recognized and blessed for her great faith.

Unit III, "Learning to Stand in Faith," has four lessons from the book of Romans that encourage believers to continue standing in the faith. Lesson 10 indicates that the righteousness of God comes through believers' having faith in Jesus Christ. Lesson 11 provides an example from the life of Abraham. Lesson 12 explores the meaning of being justified by faith, and lesson 13 traces faith that comes from what is heard through the Word of Christ.

CONVENTION PRESIDENT, DR. JERRY YOUNG; Writer, JIMMIE CHAPLIN; ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM: DR. DERRICK L. JACKSON, Executive Director; KATHLYN T. PILLOW, Associate Executive Director; EDITORIAL TEAM: DEBRA L. BERRY, Senior Director of Publishing Administration; MICHELLE THIERRY, Children's Editor; JOE TRIBBLE, Senior Editor; TANAE C. MCKNIGHT MURDIC, Content Editor; YALEMZEWD WORKU, Senior Copy Editor; INGRID L. STONE, Copy Editing Assistant; CREATIVE SERVICES TEAM: JOYCE EVANS, Creative Services Director; SHARON BARKSDALE, Cover/Layout Designer; PAUL TRICE, Illustrator

FAITH EXPLORERS BIBLE STUDIES, UPPER ELEMENTARY (USPS 288-180) is published quarterly for \$16.00 per year by the Sunday School Publishing Board, P.O. Box 70990, Nashville, Tennessee 37207-0990.

Scripture taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

The Uniform Lessons from the International Sunday School Lessons Series are copyrighted by the Committee on the Uniform Series, 2020, Division of Education and Ministry, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America, and are used by permission. Printed in the United States of America.

A Notice on Web sites: Any Web sites listed in this book were reviewed and found to be active and appropriate for the lessons at the time this resource was developed. Unfortunately, Web sites change constantly, so we highly recommend that you review these sites prior to class to assure that they are still live and appropriate for children.

Periodical postage paid at Nashville, Tennessee. Copyright © 2023 by the Sunday School Publishing Board.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to FAITH EXPLORERS BIBLE STUDIES, UPPER ELEMENTARY, P.O. Box 70990, Nashville, TN 37207-0990.

E-mail: customercare@sspbnc.com • Web site: www.sspbnc.com

Bible Studies for Upper Elementary

CONTENTS

Grades 4–6

Lesson 1	When We Stumble, He Restores Us ..	2
Lesson 2	Meeting the Test.....	5
Lesson 3	Love Is the Best Way.....	8
Lesson 4	Stephen: Strength and Power	11
Lesson 5	Filled with Amazement	14
Lesson 6	Good Friends Lead to the Master	17
Lesson 7	Healed from a Distance	20
Lesson 8	He Loves Us Always.....	23
Lesson 9	A Mother's Faith	26
Lesson 10	Forgiveness Is a Gift	29
Lesson 11	Children of Hope	32
Lesson 12	Peace in Believing	35
Lesson 13	The Way	38

The **ABCs of Salvation** are found below. Do not hesitate to discuss this important decision of your life with your parent(s) or guardian(s) for guidance.

A—Admit
you have sinned or done wrong (see Psalm 32:5). Romans 3:23 says that everyone has sinned.

B—Believe
Jesus is God's Son. He took the punishment for our sins by dying on the cross (see Romans 5:8). Believe that God raised Him from the dead.

C—Call
on God to forgive you (see Acts 2:21) when you are sorry for your sins and want to stop doing wrong (see Acts 16:31).

March 3, 2024

BIBLE LESSON

1



KEY VERSES: [Jude wrote,]
But you, dear friends, . . . keep
yourselves in God's love.
(Jude 20, 21)



When We Stumble, He Restores Us

Lesson Scripture: [Jude 17-25](#)

God's Word

17 But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold. **18** They said to you, "In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires." **19** These are the people who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit. **20** But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, **21** keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life. **22** Be merciful to those who doubt; **23** save others by snatching them from the fire; to others show mercy, mixed with fear—hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh. **24** To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy— **25** to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.



Bible Story

When We Stumble, He Restores Us

Jude 17-25

In today's letter, the writer, Jude, encourages believers to remember what the apostles of Jesus Christ taught them. The apostles were followers of Jesus who also saw Jesus after He rose from the dead.

Jude reminds the believers that the apostles taught that there will be false teachers who do not tell the truth about God and His instructions. These false teachers would make fun of God's Word and not obey God. They would not accept Jesus. They would not have the Spirit of God living in their hearts.

Jude encouraged believers to trust God through faith and prayer. Prayer would give them the power to talk to and hear from God. He encouraged the believers to remember God's Word. Believers should remember God's love and show kindness to others. Their kindness may help save those who believed the false teachers. He encouraged believers to be careful and not be trapped by those who did not believe God's Word.

Jude ended his message by ensuring believers that God would keep them from falling. But if they stumbled and did not obey, God would save and restore them. Jude reminded the believers that God has all power and authority now and forever. God will never leave us; He will always stand with us.

Do What Is Right (Part 1)

When Erica saw her friend Samantha looking at her answers to the test, she said, "Don't do that."

Because Erica talked during the test, Mr. Edgerton, their teacher, said, "Erica, no talking during the test. Turn in your test and go to the office."

After school, Samantha called Erica.

She said, "Erica, I didn't want you to get in trouble. I didn't know the answers. Why did you talk during the test?"

Erica said, "I didn't want you to cheat. We prayed before our test. Did you think God wouldn't know you cheated even if Mr. Edgerton didn't see you? I want you to do what's right and live for God. Cheating isn't right."

Samantha said, "Maybe I didn't want to make the right choice."

Exploring the Story with Nicholas and Cornelius



Hello, everyone! Nicholas and Cornelius here! When Jude was written, there were false teachers called *apostates*. They no longer believed or followed God. They encouraged believers not to follow God.

Complete the sentence below about the false teachers by writing (on the line) above the letter the letter that comes before each letter.

The false teachers did not tell the _____ about _____!

U S V U I H P E

Do What Is Right

(Part 2)

The next day at school, Erica was not in class. Samantha was worried about her friend.

At lunch, Samantha saw Erica and her parents walking to the office. Samantha knew that Erica was in trouble because of her.

Before lunch ended, Samantha said, "Mr. Edgerton, I need to tell you something."

After Samantha talked to Mr. Edgerton, he said, "Thank you for telling the truth. You did what is right and helped your friend."

Samantha said, "I want to do what is right and help Erica. She always reminds me to do what is right."

Exploring the Story with Nicholas and Cornelius

Jude encouraged believers to live for God. When we live for God, His Spirit helps us to do what is right. When Samantha looked at the test answer, she did not make the right choice. When she told Mr. Edgerton what happened, she made the right choice. If we make mistakes, we can do what is right, and God will help us. God loves you and wants you to do what is right.



Decode the Message

Below is a message about God's promises. To decode the message, write the letter found where the two numbers intersect on the line. The first number represents the row, and the second number represents the column where the letter is found. (For example, 2-3=M.)

	1	2	3
1	T	B	D
2	C	S	M
3	W	O	V
4	A	L	N
5	F	Y	R



4-1 4-2 3-1 4-1 5-2 2-2 2-2 1-1 4-1 4-3 1-3

God promises to _____
_____ with us!

March 10, 2024



BIBLE LESSON

2



KEY VERSE: Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you. (2 Corinthians 13:11)

Meeting the Test

Lesson Scripture: [2 Corinthians 13:5-11](#)

God's Word

5 Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test? **6** And I trust that you will discover that we have not failed the test. **7** Now we pray to God that you will not do anything wrong—not so that people will see that we have stood the test but so that you will do what is right even though we may seem to have failed. **8** For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth. **9** We are glad whenever we are weak, but you are strong; and our prayer is that you may be fully restored. **10** This is why I write these things when I am absent, that when I come I may not have to be harsh in my use of authority—the authority the Lord gave me for building you up, not for tearing you down. **11** Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.



Bible Story

Meeting the Test

2 Corinthians 13:5-11

The apostle Paul sent a second letter to the believers in Corinth. An *apostle* is sent by Jesus to share God's love and message. The apostles saw Jesus after His resurrection. Paul promised to visit the believers in Corinth a third time and encouraged them to prepare for his visit.

Paul encouraged the believers to examine themselves before he returned to Corinth. Paul wanted the believers to ask themselves if their lives showed that they followed Jesus. Were they Christians who lived for God? He encouraged them to "test" themselves by looking at their lives. They met the test when they did what was right. Paul was happy when the believers showed strong faith (belief and trust in God). He prayed that they would return to following and loving God.

Paul told them that he passed the test. Paul lived by and followed God's Word. Paul hoped that the believers would be living for God when he returned. Paul had the authority from God to build up the believers. Paul did not want to use his authority to be harsh with them.

Paul ended the letter by encouraging the believers to rejoice and live right. He told them to help one another, be agreeable, and live in peace—and that the God of love and peace would be with them.



The Right Way to Go

(Part 1)

As Evan and his family drove to their family reunion, Evan's dad said, "We should get to the reunion in time for breakfast."

Evan said, "I can't wait to see my cousins! I miss Jonathan."

Evan's sister, Simone, said, "Every year, you both fight more than you play."

Evan's mom said, "Evan, please be kind to your cousin. Try to show him love and kindness. Remember that God expects you to do what is right . . . and so do we."

Evan said, "We're older now; we're in the sixth grade."

As soon as they arrived at their destination, they went to their family breakfast.

Within a few minutes, Evan's dad was asking, "Is that Evan and Jonathan I hear arguing at their table?"



Exploring the Story with Nicholas and Cornelius

Hello, everyone! Nicholas and Cornelius here! When Paul established the church in Corinth, it was an important port city in ancient Greece. People from the east and west traveled through the city of Corinth. Paul visited the city of Corinth during his second missionary journey to share God's love. He went to Corinth after he left Athens.

On the map to the left, trace the path of Paul's second missionary trip from Athens to Corinth.

The Right Way to Go

(Part 2)

As Evan's mom rushed to their table, she heard Evan say, "Jonathan, I love you. I don't want to fight. We can take turns playing games."

Jonathan said, "I don't want to fight, either. I want to have fun every day."

As Evan's mom returned to her table, she told her husband, "They did what was right and showed God's love."

Later, Evan's dad said, "Evan, we're proud of you. You did what was right and showed kindness to Jonathan."

Evan said, "I remembered arguing with him at the last family reunion. I prayed and asked God to help me do what is right."

Exploring the Story with Nicholas and Cornelius

God wants us to look at ourselves and do what is right. God wants us to be kind to others. In today's lesson, Evan wanted to have fun with his cousin. Evan remembered the last reunion and prayed that God would help him to do what was right. Always pray and ask God to help you do what is right.



A Double Puzzle

Unscramble the scrambled-up words from today's lesson. Then, solve the double puzzle by putting the numbered letters in the blanks to the right of the unscrambled words to complete the sentence.

1. UALP

2. INCOHRT

7 4

3. GTIRH

5 9 10 11

4. TETS

6

5. THURT

2

6. NSRGOT

1

7. XNMEIEA

3 8

God will help you to

D
1W
2 3 4
5 6
7 8 9 10 11

March 24, 2024



BIBLE LESSON

4



KEY VERSE: Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people. (Acts 6:8)

Stephen: Strength and Power

Lesson Scripture: [Acts 6:5, 7-15](#)

God's Word

5 This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism.

.....

7 So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith. **8** Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people. **9** Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called)—Jews of Cyrene and Alexandria as well as the provinces of Cilicia and Asia—who began to argue with Stephen. **10** But they could not stand up against the wisdom the Spirit gave him as he spoke. **11** Then they secretly persuaded some men to say, "We have heard Stephen speak blasphemous words against Moses and against God." **12** So they stirred up the people and the elders and the teachers of the law. They seized Stephen and brought him before the Sanhedrin. **13** They produced false witnesses, who testified, "This fellow never stops speaking against this holy place and against the law. **14** For we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs Moses handed down to us." **15** All who were sitting in the Sanhedrin looked intently at Stephen, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

Bible Story

Stephen: Strength and Power

Acts 6:5, 7-15

Stephen and six other men were chosen as the first *deacons* (or servant-leaders) in the church. The seven men were responsible for giving food to people in need in the early church. Stephen was a man of strength and power who obeyed Jesus when it was difficult to do so. Stephen had faith in God, and God revealed many wonders and signs through Stephen. More people believed as the message of God spread in the early church.

When Jews from different places disagreed and argued with Stephen, the Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit, gave Stephen wise words to say. No one could stand against the wisdom that God gave Stephen. Then, the Jews who disagreed with Stephen had people say untrue words about Stephen. They said Stephen that did not believe Moses and did not love Jesus. They also said that Stephen spoke badly about God's message and wanted to change the laws that Moses had given to God's people. Nothing they said was true.

Because of the false statements against Stephen, he was judged by the religious leaders. As Stephen stood before the religious leaders, they looked at Stephen's face—and what they saw was the face of an angel. His face showed his peace and love for God, whom he trusted. Stephen was not afraid but had faith in God.

Make a Choice (Part 1)

As Terrance played soccer during recess, Graham ran over to Isaiah, a new student, and took the ball that he was bouncing.

When their teacher, Mr. Atwood, said, "Recess is over . . . let's go in," Terrance didn't say or do anything.

After school, Terrance and his sister, Elisa, went to Nana's house.

During dinner, Nana asked, "Terrance, is everything okay? You're too quiet."

Before Terrance could answer, Elisa said, "Nana, there's a bully named Graham who was mean to Isaiah, a new student, today. We both saw him."

Nana asked, "Terrance, what did you do?"

Terrance said, "Nothing. I didn't know what to do."

Nana said, "You can always choose to help the person that the bully is hurting. You can show him kindness and encourage him to talk to an adult. Everyone wants to be shown kindness."

Exploring the Story with Nicholas and Cornelius

Hello, everyone! Nicholas and Cornelius here! In the lesson, the Jews who did not tell the truth about Stephen were known as the "Synagogue of the Freedmen." They were from North Africa and regions in Asia Minor. They were Jewish slaves freed by Rome. They formed their temple in Jerusalem. They argued against Stephen.



Make a Choice (Part 2)

The next day at school, Terrance was playing with his friends when Graham walked up to Isaiah and took his basketball.

Immediately, Terrance approached Isaiah and said, "Do you want to play with me and my friends? We're playing soccer."

Isaiah said, "Thanks. I'm Isaiah."

Terrance said, "I'm Terrance, and you can always play and talk with us."

After recess, Elisa ran over to Terrance and said, "I saw you talking to Isaiah. You showed God's love!"

Terrance said, "Thanks. Nana was right. We do have a choice."

Exploring the Story with Nicholas and Cornelius

If someone needs help but you do not know what to do, ask for help by praying to God and/or talking to your parents or an adult who loves God. Elisa told Nana what happened at school, and Nana encouraged Terrance to be kind. Terrance showed God's love by being kind when he went to Isaiah. Do you think that you show God's love when you are kind to others? Remember to always show God's love.



Point the Way: What Will You Do?

Starting at the given letter in the Puzzle Box below, follow the directional arrows to locate the letter to be written on the dash. When all the letters have been found, write the word (formed by the letters in order) on the blank lines provided at the bottom to complete the phrase from today's lesson. (Example: Q \uparrow \leftarrow \uparrow = G)

1. D $\leftarrow\leftarrow\leftarrow$ = _____
2. B $\rightarrow\rightarrow\uparrow$ = _____
3. F $\downarrow\rightarrow\rightarrow$ = _____
4. R $\downarrow\rightarrow\downarrow$ = _____
5. T $\uparrow\uparrow\leftarrow$ = _____
6. N $\leftarrow\uparrow\uparrow$ = _____
7. C $\downarrow\downarrow\rightarrow$ = _____
8. Q $\rightarrow\uparrow\uparrow$ = _____
9. F $\downarrow\rightarrow\rightarrow$ = _____
10. P $\rightarrow\downarrow\downarrow$ = _____
11. K $\leftarrow\leftarrow\uparrow$ = _____
12. S $\leftarrow\downarrow\downarrow$ = _____
13. E $\rightarrow\rightarrow\uparrow$ = _____
14. M $\uparrow\uparrow\uparrow$ = _____
15. C $\rightarrow\rightarrow\rightarrow$ = _____

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

Completed Statement:

Like Stephen, I will make a _____
_____!

April 7, 2024



BIBLE LESSON

6



KEY VERSE: When Jesus saw [the friends'] faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven." (Luke 5:20)

Good Friends Lead to the Master

Lesson Scripture: [Luke 5:17-26](#)

God's Word

17 One day Jesus was teaching, and Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there. They had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal the sick. **18** Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. **19** When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus. **20** When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven." **21** The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, "Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" **22** Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, "Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? **23** Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? **24** But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So, he said to the paralyzed man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." **25** Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God. **26** Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, "We have seen remarkable things today."

Bible Story

Good Friends Lead to the Master

Luke 5:17-26

After reports of Jesus' healing, many people came from the Galilee villages, Judea, and Jerusalem to hear Jesus speak and to be healed. God's power was revealed when Jesus healed the sick.

Several friends brought a paralyzed man on a mat to Jesus because the man could not walk. However, because of the crowd, they could not take him through the front door to see Jesus. But the paralyzed man had good friends who were determined to lead him to the Master. So, they lowered the man from the roof to be right in front of Jesus.

When Jesus saw the faith of the paralyzed man's friends, Jesus said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven." But the religious leaders were not pleased. The religious leaders believed that only God could forgive sins. Jesus knew what the Pharisees and teachers were thinking.

Jesus asked, "Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk?'" Jesus had the power to forgive sins on earth. Jesus then told the man to get up and take his mat home. The paralyzed man was healed! When the man stood up and walked, everyone was surprised. The man and others praised and thanked God.

Helping Others (Part 1)

When Jevante transferred to Weston Elementary School, his homeroom teacher was Mr. Alegre.

On his first day in class, Mr. Alegre said, "Jevante, our class has a service project each year. Your family just moved here, but you can show service by helping at home, at church, in the community, or at school. Let me know if you need help finding a way to serve."

Jevante told his younger brother that evening, "Andre, I need to find a service project for my class. But I don't know how I can help anyone."

Andre said, "Jevante, my class could use your help. My teacher, Mr. Eaton, told us that our family members can volunteer to help."

Exploring the Story with Nicholas and Cornelius



Hello, everyone! Nicholas and Cornelius here! The Pharisees were religious leaders who studied the Law. They dressed in fancy robes to stand out among the people. Jesus reminded the Pharisees that just knowing the Law was not enough. They must also have God's love in their hearts.

Decode the hidden message by writing on the line the letter that comes before each letter that appears above the line. Then plug the words into the phrase at the bottom to complete it.

H P E ' T M P W F P U I F S T
_ _ _ _ _

When we live for God, we show _____
_____ to _____!

Helping Others (Part 2)

Andre asked Jevante the following day at school, "Are you going to talk to Mr. Eaton today?"—to which he replied, "Yes. I will."

Later, Jevante and Mr. Eaton talked for a few minutes.

Mr. Eaton said, "My students need help with reading. Can you help?"

Jevante said, "Yes, I love reading. I can help." As Jevante left the classroom, he waved at Andre.

After school, Andre asked, "Are you going to help our class?"

Hugging Andre, Jevante said, "Yes! Mr. Eaton asked if I could help with reading. I'm great at reading! I'm happy to help!"

Exploring the Story with Nicholas and Cornelius

When you help others, you serve them and show them God's love. When Jevante chose to help, he was happy and thankful. Do you think God wants you to help others? In today's lesson, the paralyzed man's friends took him to Jesus; they helped him. When Jesus saw the faith of the man's friends, He healed the man. Remember that you can be a good friend and help others, too.



Complete the Activity: Matching

Match each word or phrase (from today's lesson) on the left with its meaning on the right by drawing a line between the two. (Some words/phrases may be matched with more than one meaning.)

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1. Jesus | a. Believed or had faith in Jesus |
| 2. Paralyzed Man's Friends | b. Did not believe that Jesus could forgive sins |
| 3. Pharisees | c. Healed the paralyzed man |
| 4. Crowd of People | d. Lowered the paralyzed man before Jesus |
| 5. Paralyzed Man | e. Went to hear Jesus speak and to be healed |
| | f. Knew what the Pharisees and teachers were thinking |
| | g. Were not pleased with Jesus |
| | h. Is the Son of Man |
| | i. Stood up and went away, praising God |



April 14, 2024

BIBLE LESSON

7



KEY VERSE: [Jesus] said [to the crowd], "I tell you, I have not found such great faith [as the centurion] even in Israel."
(Luke 7:9)



Healed from a Distance

Lesson Scripture: **Luke 7:1-10**

God's Word

1 When Jesus had finished saying all this to the people who were listening, he entered Capernaum. **2** There a centurion's servant, whom his master valued highly, was sick and about to die. **3** The centurion heard of Jesus and sent some elders of the Jews to him, asking him to come and heal his servant. **4** When they came to Jesus, they pleaded earnestly with him, "This man deserves to have you do this, **5** because he loves our nation and has built our synagogue." **6** So Jesus went with them. He was not far from the house when the centurion sent friends to say to him: "Lord, don't trouble yourself, for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. **7** That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. **8** For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." **9** When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, he said, "I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel." **10** Then the men who had been sent returned to the house and found the servant well.



Bible Story

Healed from a Distance

Luke 7:1-10

After teaching many people, Jesus went to Capernaum, on the northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee. A servant of a centurion was very sick. The *centurion*, an officer or leader in the Roman army, cared for his servant very much and believed or had faith that Jesus could heal him. When the centurion heard that Jesus was coming, he sent the elders of the Jews to ask Jesus to come and heal his servant. When the elders went to Jesus, they pleaded with Jesus to come. They told Jesus that the centurion was a good man who deserved his servant's healing. They told Jesus that the centurion loved their people and built them a synagogue.

Jesus agreed to go with the elders. As Jesus and the elders traveled, friends of the centurion met them. Jesus was not far from the centurion's home. The friends told Jesus that the centurion did not want Jesus to come to his home. The centurion believed that Jesus could say the words and his servant would be healed. Seeing as though the centurion commanded armies, he understood authority because his soldiers did what he asked. The centurion believed that Jesus had spiritual authority or power to say the word and his servant would be healed. When Jesus heard this, He was amazed at the centurion's great faith and healed his servant from a distance.

Having Faith

(Part 1)

When Jessica's parents came home, Jessica asked, "How is Grandma doing? Is she better?"

Jessica's dad said, "The doctors are doing everything they can. So, what we must do now is have faith."

Jessica said, "We've been praying for Grandma. Why isn't she better?"

Jessica's mom replied, "That is what faith is. We pray and believe that God hears and helps us. God is helping her right now."

Jessica's brother, Elton, asked, "Doesn't having faith mean trusting God and not worrying while we wait?"

Their dad said, "Yes!"

As tears ran down her cheek, Jessica said, "I guess I don't have faith because I'm worried. She needs a miracle."

Exploring the Story with Nicholas and Cornelius

Hello, everyone! Nicholas and Cornelius here! Did you know that Capernaum was a central location for Jesus' ministry? It was an important town in northern Galilee where the city grew because of fishing, farming, and caring for animals. It was a place where people came to trade. At the synagogue in Capernaum, Jesus amazed the crowds with His teaching and miracles. Your teacher will show you a map. On the map of Galilee, locate Capernaum and circle it.



Having Faith (Part 2)

Later that evening, Dad checked on Jessica and Elton.

When Dad checked on Jessica, she asked, "Dad, how do you know God hears you?"

Her dad said, "I have faith that He hears me because He loves me."

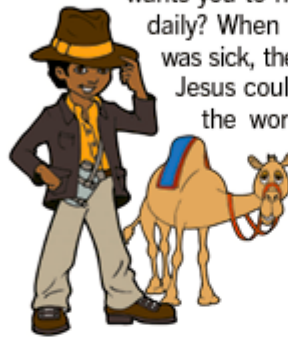
Jessica asked, "Does God still do miracles and heal people like Grandma? She needs a miracle—right?"

Jessica's dad explained, "Yes, she does. Have you forgotten about your Uncle Patrick and Grandpa? God healed both of them. They were miracles. When no one believed they would get better, they did."

Hugging her dad, Jessica said, "Thank you, Dad. I forgot those miracles. God does hear us!"

Exploring the Story with Nicholas and Cornelius

When we have faith, we trust God even when we are sad. With faith, we learn to trust God with what may seem impossible. Do you know that God wants you to have faith and trust Him daily? When the centurion's servant was sick, the centurion believed that Jesus could heal him by speaking the word. We must also have faith in God's Word. Nothing is impossible for God!



Searching for Words

Find the listed words from today's lesson in the word search below.

Amazed
Authority
Capernaum
Centurion
Faith
Heal
Jesus
Miracle
Servant
Synagogue

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



April 28, 2024

BIBLE LESSON

9



KEY VERSE: Jesus said to [the woman], “Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted.” And her daughter was healed at that moment. (Matthew 15:28)



A Mother’s Faith

Lesson Scripture: **Matthew 15:21-28**

God’s Word

21 Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. **22** A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly.” **23** Jesus did not answer a word. So, his disciples came to him and urged him, “Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us.” **24** He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel.” **25** The woman came and knelt before him. “Lord, help me!” she said. **26** He replied, “It is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to the dogs.” **27** “Yes, it is, Lord,” she said. “Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master’s table.” **28** Then Jesus said to her, “Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted.” And her daughter was healed at that moment.



Bible Story

A Mother's Faith

Matthew 15:21-28

In the Scripture passage for today, Jesus traveled north toward Tyre and Sidon, where He met a Canaanite woman. The people of Canaan worshipped pagan idols and did not believe or follow God. They were considered enemies of Israel. The Gentile woman from Canaan asked Jesus to heal her daughter from an evil spirit that controlled her. She called Jesus the "Son of David." She knew who Jesus was and believed that He could heal her daughter.

Initially, Jesus did not answer the woman. The disciples wanted Jesus to send the woman away. Jesus told His disciples he came to save the Jews, the people of Israel, God's chosen people. The mother continued to ask Jesus to help her daughter, but Jesus told her that it was not good to give the bread of children to the dogs. Jesus was not being rude. Jesus did not want the people of Israel's blessings to be thrown away like pieces of bread thrown to little dogs.

The woman replied, "Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table."

The woman showed great faith by believing that Jesus could bless or help her. She also believed that Jesus could help the Israelites, who were Jews—and the Gentiles, who were not Jews. The woman believed that Jesus could help everyone. When Jesus saw the mother's faith, He healed her daughter.

Praying for Others (Part 1)

At school, Mrs. Baton said, "Class, during morning prayer, we are going to pray for Justin's grandmother. She is still not feeling well."

At recess, Ayanna and Alexa saw Justin. With the kickball in hand, Ayanna and Alexa asked (almost in unison), "Justin, do you want to play kickball?"

Justin said, "Yeah. That would be great!" By the end of recess, everyone was playing kickball together.

When the kids returned to class, Mr. Thompson, the principal, came to the door. Shortly thereafter, Justin left with him.

At lunch, Ayanna said, "I hope nothing bad has happened."

Alexa asked, "Do you think God hears us when we pray? His grandmother isn't getting better."

Exploring the Story with Nicholas and Cornelius

Hello, everyone! Nicholas and Cornelius here! In today's Bible story, Jesus left Galilee and traveled north along the Mediterranean coast toward Tyre and Sidon. Tyre and Sidon were Mediterranean ports and Gentile cities. The Gentiles were considered foreigners. The Jews viewed the Gentile people as unclean and sinful. Although Jews were given the first opportunity to accept Jesus as the Messiah, salvation is available to everyone—Jews and Gentiles, males and females.



Praying for Others (Part 2)

Ayanna said, "Yes, I do believe that God hears our prayers."

Alexa said, "I hope He does—because I want Justin's grandmother to get better."

Ayanna said, "My parents encourage me to always pray for others because God hears us and will answer. We have to believe and trust God. We must remember to pray for Justin's grandmother at home."

Alexa said, "I will pray for Justin's grandmother and believe and trust God to heal her."

Ayanna said, "Great. That's what faith is—believing and trusting God as we wait for God to answer our prayers."

Exploring the Story with Nicholas and Cornelius

When you pray, trust God to hear your prayers. When we trust God, we pray about everything and believe that God will care for us and everyone else.

Alexa was unsure if God heard the prayers for Justin's grandmother because she was

not better. Having faith is believing that God will answer your prayers even when things don't change


immediately. Because the Canaanite woman had faith, Jesus healed her daughter.


Remember to have faith when you pray.




Solve the Picture Puzzle

Solve the picture puzzle to discover an important message from today's lesson. (– is "minus")

1.  – LVE + D = _____

2.  – T + S = _____

3.  – F = _____

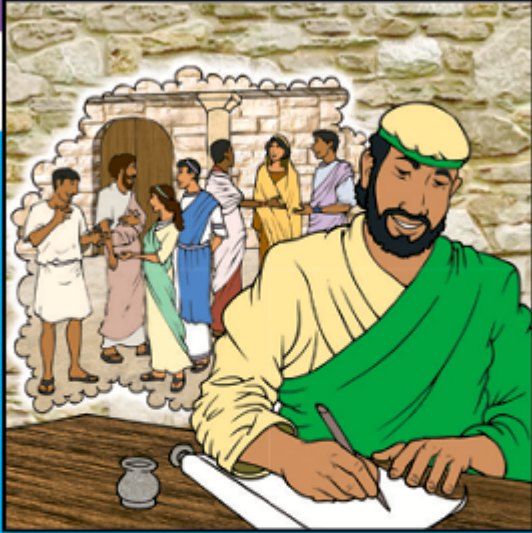
4.  – ING +   – A = _____

(What she is doing)



Message: _____ !

May 5, 2024



BIBLE LESSON

10



KEY VERSES: There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. (Romans 3:22b-24)

Forgiveness Is a Gift

Lesson Scripture: **Romans 3:21-29**

God's Word

21 But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. **22** This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, **23** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, **24** and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. **25** God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— **26** he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus. **27** Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. Because of what law? The law that requires works? No, because of the law that requires faith. **28** For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law. **29** Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles too? Yes, of Gentiles too.



Bible Story

Forgiveness Is a Gift

Romans 3:21-29

In today's Bible verses, the apostle Paul wrote that being made right (forgiven of sins) in God's sight does not happen by obeying the Law. Being made right in God's sight occurs by our having faith in Jesus Christ to take away our sins. This was the way promised in God's Word long ago. All people (Jews and Gentiles) are made right in the same way.

Everyone has sinned (disobeyed God) and fallen short of God's ways and standards. Everyone is *justified* (declared not guilty and made right in God's sight) by God's *grace* (undeserved favor) and kindness.

Jesus Christ has taken away our sins. Believers are free! Jesus died on the Cross to take the punishment for our sins. We are made right with God when we trust and believe that Jesus shed His blood on the Cross and gave His life for us. God declares that this gift of forgiveness is fair.

We cannot brag that we have done anything to be accepted by God. Jesus Christ did it all! We are made right through faith (belief and trust) in what Jesus has done for us. We are not made right by obeying the Law. God is the God of the Jews and Gentiles.

Jesus Saved Me!

(Part 1)

As Brooklyn and Eric played basketball after school, Brooklyn asked, "Are you going to the youth conference?"

Eric said, "Probably not; going to church and Sunday school is enough for me."

Suddenly, Eli ran over, saying, "Hey, guys, I'm playing ball, too!"

Brooklyn asked, "Eli, are you attending the church youth conference?"

Eli said, "I'll be there. Every year, I learn so much more about Jesus!"

Brooklyn said, "Same for me. Since I accepted Jesus, the conference helps me understand what it means to be saved."

Eric said, "Maybe I need to go. I accepted Jesus, but I'm not sure if I'm saved. I still make wrong choices."

Exploring the Story with Nicholas and Cornelius

Hello, everyone! Nicholas and Cornelius here! The apostle Paul wrote his letter or epistle to the believers in Rome while he was in Corinth for three months in the spring of AD 57. Paul was on his way to Jerusalem to take an offering from the Gentile churches to Christians who needed help. It was near the end of Paul's third missionary journey. Paul wanted the believers to understand God's gift of forgiveness. Do you understand?



Jesus Saved Me!

(Part 2)

Holding the basketball, Eli said, "Eric, you should attend the conference. I know that Jesus saved me, but I'm learning what Jesus did for me and how to live for God."

Before Eli could finish, Brooklyn said, "Eli's right. You'll learn about God's love for you."

Eli said, "We learn a lot when we go to class and ask questions. The conference has small classes, and we can ask questions and hear what other kids have to say."

Eric said, "I want to learn about God and know for certain that I am saved."

Brooklyn said, "We can go together. My parents will take us."

Eric said, "Thanks, guys! I'm choosing to go!"
"Good choice," Eric's friends said.

Exploring the Story with Nicholas and Cornelius

Because God loves us so much, He sent Jesus to give His life for us. When we believe by faith, we are saved from our sins and made right before God. Do you know that God loves you and wants to forgive you? In today's lesson, we learn God's forgiveness is a gift we receive when we believe that Jesus is the Son of God, who gave His life for us. Share God's message of forgiveness with someone.



Decode the Message

Below is a message about what happens when we accept Jesus. To decode the message, write the letter found where the two numbers intersect on the line. The first number represents the row, and the second number represents the column where the letter is found. (For example, 5-2=R.)

	1	2	3
1	O	I	M
2	A	U	F
3	E	G	T
4	L	S	V
5	D	R	B

3-2 1-1 5-1

2-3 1-1 5-2 3-2 1-2 4-3 3-1 4-2

2-2 4-2

When we accept Jesus,

_____!



May 26, 2024

BIBLE LESSON

13



KEY VERSE: "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."
(Romans 10:13)



The Way

Lesson Scripture: **Romans 10:5-13**

God's Word

5 Moses writes this about the righteousness that is by the law: "The person who does these things will live by them."
6 But the righteousness that is by faith says: "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) **7** "or 'Who will descend into the deep?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). **8** But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: **9** If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. **10** For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. **11** As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame." **12** For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, **13** for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."



Bible Story

The Way

Romans 10:5-13

In today's Scripture, Paul referred to Moses' writings in the book of Deuteronomy. Moses wrote that righteousness (or being made right) by the Law requires one to live by the Law. Living by the Law is too difficult because you must obey every law perfectly. The way to God is through having faith in Jesus Christ.

We are *justified* or made acceptable to God by our faith or belief in Jesus. We do not have to bring Jesus down from heaven. We don't have to bring Jesus to life again. *Salvation* (forgiveness of sin) through Jesus Christ is easy to reach. It is as close as your heart and your mouth.

We only need to say with our mouths that "Jesus is Lord" and believe in our hearts that God raised Jesus from the dead to be saved from the consequences of sin. By believing in our hearts, we are made right with God. And by confessing with our mouths, we are saved.

God's Word states that "anyone who believes in Jesus will not be ashamed or disappointed." There is no difference between Jews (God's chosen people) and Gentiles (non-Jewish people). God loves everyone and will save all who call on Him.

I Need What You Have

(Part 1)

After Julia was baptized, she was excited to live for God.

Each morning, she would say, "God, help me to do what makes You happy!"

One day during lunch, Julia went to sit with her friends Antonia, Levi, and Felicia. But Levi was sitting at another table.

Julia asked, "Why is Levi sitting by himself?"

Antonia said, "I think he's upset. Mr. Winton talked to him this morning. But I'm not sure what happened."

Julia walked over to Levi, whispering to herself, "God, please help me."

When Julia sat down, Levi said, "I want to be by myself."

Julia said, "I just want to sit with you. I'll be quiet."

Exploring the Story with Nicholas and Cornelius



Hello, everyone! Nicholas and Cornelius here! The message that Jesus Christ lives was announced throughout the Roman Empire. Paul traveled and preached to the Jews and Gentiles that Jesus lives. The Jews listened to the call to receive salvation by believing—but many did not believe. The Gentiles heard the same message, and many believed.

On the map to the right, trace Paul's travels during his three missionary trips to share the message that Jesus lives.



I Need What You Have

(Part 2)

As lunch was about to end, Levi said, "Mr. Winton showed me my history test results. I didn't do well, but he's letting me retake it."

Julia said, "Be thankful that you can retake the test."

Levi said, "You're right, but I thought I did better."

Julia said, "I'm learning to call on God for everything. Do you know that I always ask God to help me before I take a quiz? I know God helps me."

Levi said, "I've been wondering why you have so much peace and joy. I need what you have."

Smiling, Julia said, "I'm happy to share Jesus' gift of salvation with you!"

Exploring the Story with Nicholas and Cornelius

We are saved when we confess to God with our mouths and believe and trust in our hearts that Jesus went to the Cross and was raised from the dead for us. We have found the way to God by believing in Jesus. In today's lesson, Paul reminds us that God wants everyone to come to Him by faith that Jesus is the Son of God who gave His life on the Cross for each of us.



Searching for Words

Find the listed words from today's lesson in the word search below.

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

Bless Believe Confess

Faith Heart Jesus

Justified Law Profess

Righteous Saved

