

## Step By Step Through The Bible With Children

**"All thy children shall be taught of the LORD;  
and great shall be the peace of thy children."**

(Isaiah 54:13)

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CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP

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### LESSON 1 -

### THE GOSPEL STORY

We are glad to welcome so many boys and girls to our Bible Class. JESUS once said, "**Suffer (let the) little children to come unto me.**" How pleased He must be with children when they stop their play and come to learn about Him.

Before we have the story of JESUS' great love for us all, we will sing, "JESUS loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so."

Our story today is the gospel story. You may say "Gospel" together. Gospel means Good News, and the Good News is, "**That CHRIST died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures**" (I Corinthians 15:3,4).

Who will tell us what Gospel means? Yes, Good News. In order for there to be "Good News," there must also be "bad news" - and that is the news that man and woman, boy and girl, have fallen into sin - that is what we are going to talk about today, children.

I will repeat the Good News, and you children may repeat each phrase after me. The Good News is "**That Christ died for our sins.**" (Repeat); "**According to the scriptures**"; (Repeat) (Hold up the Bible); "**And that he was buried**" (Repeat); "**And that he rose again the third day**" (Repeat); "**According to the scriptures.**" (Repeat.)

We shall now learn why it was necessary for JESUS to die.

When GOD made Adam and Eve, the first man and woman, He made them very different from the fish, birds, and animals. He made them in His own image and likeness, without sin, and covered them with His glory-life. (Teacher see Lesson 6, "*The Fall of Man*" for an explanation of "glory-life.")

They were pure and innocent, and were able to talk and have fellowship with GOD as none of the other creatures could. For a time they were very happy in the beautiful garden in which GOD had placed them. And just as long as they obeyed GOD they had His image and likeness.

Then there came a day when Adam and Eve disobeyed GOD, and lost their image and likeness to GOD. Adam and Eve became sinners, unlike GOD and unfit to be in His presence.

When Cain and Abel, their two children were born, they were born sinners, which means without the image and likeness of GOD. They had life and ways for this earth, but not life and ways for Heaven.

GOD's Word tells us that ever since that day "**All have sinned and come short of the glory of God**" (Romans 3:23). That means that you and I, and everybody are sinners because we we're born unlike GOD.

Because man was ruined by sin, GOD promised to send His Son from Heaven to live in a human body and be a man and yet GOD, that He might die for man's sin.

GOD taught the good news story to Adam and Eve by the help of an object lesson. He no doubt took a lamb (place a lamb on board) which had done no wrong, and slew or killed it in place of the one who did the wrong.

This object lesson was to teach Adam and Eve and every one down through the ages, that they were born in sin and needed a Saviour.

You do not look bad to me, and I trust I do not look bad to you. But because I was born unlike GOD I know I am a sinner, and GOD says my thoughts are not His thoughts and my ways are not His ways. Your thoughts and your ways are wrong also, GOD says so. That is why we all need a Saviour to save us from sin. That is the bad news.

Many believed the promise of GOD and looked for the Saviour to come and GOD counted their faith for righteousness. That means that although they were born in sin, GOD saw their faith in the sinner's SAVIOUR and counted them as though they were not sinners. That is the Good news!

After a great, great many years (4,000), GOD sent an angel to Mary whom he chose to be the mother of His son. And to Joseph, the angel said, "**she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins**" (Matthew 1:21).

Many of the people would not believe that JESUS came from Heaven and that He was GOD, as well as man.

When He grew to manhood, He did many mighty deeds that only GOD could do, but the wicked people hated Him because of all the great and good things He did, and they said JESUS ought to die because He said He was the Son of GOD and that He came to save sinners.

Many times they tried to kill Him, but not until He had finished the work He came to do on earth

for His Father in Heaven did He give Himself up to die by the hands of those who hated Him, because their own hearts were evil.

The One who had no sin was led away by those who had sin, and nailed to the cross (set up large cross) to die between two murderers (set up other crosses).

Hanging there between Heaven and earth, the God-man prayed for those who hated Him, saying, "**Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do**" (Luke 23:34).

The wicked rulers standing near heard Him pray but only said, "**He saved others, let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God**" (Luke 23:35).

There were also soldiers standing near who heard Him pray, and they said, "**If thou be the king of the Jews, save thyself**" (Luke 23:37).

The thieves heard, too, and one of them said (point to right cross) "**If thou be Christ, save thyself and us.**" Then this thief (left) said something like this to this thief (right), "How dare you speak to Him like that, you and I deserve to die, not to be saved, but He deserves not to die because He hath done nothing worthy of death."

This thief (left) then prayed and said, "**Lord, remember me,**" or, "Have mercy on me, a poor dying sinner," and JESUS said to him, "**To day shalt thou be with me in paradise**" (Luke 23:39-43).

Because the sin of unbelief in the heart of this sinner (right) was changed to belief, his sin was forgiven and his heart made whiter than snow in the precious blood of JESUS, "**the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.**"

JESUS saved this dying thief so that you and I, as well as those standing there that day could see how very easy it is to be saved. There he was dying on the cross - he could do nothing to save himself - he just had time enough, and life enough to let JESUS save him.

How wise he was to open his heart and take JESUS as his SAVIOUR. That is all any sinner is able to do whether a little boy or girl, a grown man or woman, rich or poor, good or bad.

Everyone must come to JESUS the same way - in simple child-like faith. We must believe that we are sinners because GOD's Word tells us so. We must believe that GOD loved us so much that He sent JESUS to die for us. If we believe this story and open our hearts to JESUS He will save us right now.

This man (left) was born in sin, he lived in sin but he did not die in his sin. He opened his heart to JESUS and was saved.

This man (right) was born in sin, he lived in sin, and he died in his sin. He closed his ears to JESUS' words and closed his heart to JESUS. He said, "No, JESUS, I don't want you to save me."

GOD wants us to understand that because we were born without His image and likeness, we are unfit for Heaven, When we receive JESUS into our hearts we have GOD's image and likeness in our hearts and are prepared for Heaven, perhaps some of you boys and girls would like to tell JESUS right now that you know that you are a sinner, and that you want to take Him as your SAVIOUR, If there is one who would like to do this you may raise your hand and I will help you.

I see a number of hands raised and JESUS sees them also. Behind the hands are hearts that are saying, "JESUS, I believe that Thou didst die for me, and I open my heart to receive Thee."

Now you may confess Him with your lips by saying the words out loud after me. Just the children who really want JESUS to save them may repeat this prayer: "JESUS, I believe Thou didst die for my sins." (Children repeat.) (If they haven't understood just what they are to do, tell them again.) "I now take Thee as my Saviour. Amen."

Ask the children to keep their heads bowed while every one sings, "Into my heart." Close with prayer.

Lesson-Luke 23.

Memory verse - John 3:16.

NOTE: To make the crosses to illustrate this lesson, cut from tag board or heavy weight paper a strip 12 inches high and 1 1/2 inches wide. Make the cross beam same width and 6 1/2 inches long. Make two smaller crosses 9 inches high. Paste outing flannel on the back. On all the outer edges make a very black outline. Make a heavy shadow effect on the left, if you care to.

Place on board, then step far back and see if they are well placed and outlined sufficiently to make them stand out clearly. What effect do they have on you? Faintly colored and small indistinct objects are useless and detract from the message. Do not attempt to entertain your class, use only that which will impress truth upon their hearts and minds.

### ***OUTSTANDING CHRISTIAN WORKERS CONVERTED AT AN EARLY AGE***

***LORD Polycarp converted at the age of nine, Matthew Henry at the age of eleven, Richard Baxter came to CHRIST as a boy; so did Moffatt, the great missionary, and Paul Kanamori, who is called the Moody of Japan.***

***Sir Thomas Inskip, Helen Cadbury, who started the Pocket Testament League; Rosalind Goforth and Earl Cairns were converted while children.***

***All Catherine Booth's eight children were led to CHRIST before they were ten years old. Her oldest daughter came to CHRIST between two and three years of age; Dr. Watts, the hymn writer, at nine years of age, and George A. Fox, of the Friend Prayer League, came to CHRIST as a boy of seven.***

***Mrs. H. Grattan Guinness came to CHRIST at four, and Bishop Willis of Uganda felt his call to the foreign mission field when he was the same age.***

***What is the power that has won the hearts and changed the lives of these (and thousands more) who were saved as children? It is the pure gospel of the LORD JESUS CHRIST.***

- Taken from *Christian Life Stories*

***\*\*\* BBB: And yet there are those that would tell us not to confuse young children with religious stuff - it will only give them a false assurance of salvation. Where does the Bible tell us not to let the little ones come to JESUS?***

**IT DOESN'T! \*\*\***

~ end of chapter 3 / Lesson 1 ~

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