

Weekly Bible Study Sunday School Workbook

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Designed for those in Junior High and beyond

For week of March 5 - 11, 2007

These lessons are merely suggestions or aids when teaching a class. I always begin my class by asking the students if they have anything they want to discuss; healings, challenges, etc. I always get to SS early enough to talk to the kids before the bell goes off – this gives me the opportunity to hone in on what’s going on in their lives, at home, school, etc. Sometimes we start talking about a question they have asked and I never get to question number one on my prepared lesson – which is fine with me; because we never want to forget it’s their SS class. I want them to do most of the talking, ask questions of each other, etc. I usually ask what their goals are – name 5 or more things they want to learn in SS. I also stress that SS is a picnic and everyone has to bring something. You can’t expect one person (the teacher) to supply all the food. Right?

Read the Golden Text from Psalms 144:3 – *Lord what is man, that thou takest knowledge of him!* In the Amplified Bible there is a question mark after this verse: *Lord, what is man that You take notice of him?* This lesson answers any and all questions regarding man and his relationship to/with God.

1. Who is man?
2. What is man? (This question is the key to this lesson)
3. Who made man?
4. What is the substance of man?
5. Is there a material man and a spiritual man?
6. As a spiritual child, who do you resemble?
7. Is man subject to birth, growth, maturity and decay as the world believes? Explain
8. What does God have to do with man? Do we have a choice – can we be both spiritual and material? Explain.
9. In the 1st section of the lesson in S&H, I found over 12 definitions for man. Review them, list them and see if you can find more throughout this lesson and then answer the question from the G.T. when you have finished studying all six sections. *Lord what is man that You take notice of him?*
10. Explain verse 6, Psalms 8 in the Responsive Reading. What does it mean to have “dominion” over something? Read the rest of the RR; Ps. 144: 7, 8, 12 and explain what David is saying to God. In verse 7, David is asking to be delivered from “strange children,” (hostile tribes, aliens). Write a Psalm (song) in your own words expressing gratitude and praise to God. Have you ever had to deal with hostility in your own experience? Explain. How would you pray daily to protect our servicemen and women from hostile groups in Iraq and other parts of the world where fighting is prevalent?
11. Psalm 144: 15 states *Happy are the people whose God is the Lord.*” Why does that make folks happy?
12. B1, John 1: 1, 3, 4 – Read and discuss the meaning of these citations. In last week’s lessons we also John 1: 14; *The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us...* referring to Christ Jesus, and this week we begin with: *In the beginning was the Word, and Word was God... All things were made by Him... In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.* Study the meaning of these verses and rewrite them in your own words. Dummelow explains it this way:

*“Nothing is so close to a man as his own thoughts. It is within him and in a very real sense is himself. So nothing is so close to God as His own eternal Word. It is within Him, it is one with Him, and it is divine like Him. Christ is also God’ outward Word... Think of yourself as God’s light! Just like the rays of light can’t be separated from the sun, so man, Love’s light, can’t be separated from his Source. **“A reflection can’t run around by itself.”***

13. It’s interesting to note that to people living in the Middle East, a word is not just a sound, it’s an active power that does something. God’s word is omni-action. In B2; Genesis 1: 26, 27, 31, we see God’s word in achievement in Creation. **He spoke and it was done – immediately.** The speaking and the doing were one. Check out the action of “His Word:” Have you ever heard anyone say; “I want some action!” Turn your thoughts to God and believe me you’ll get plenty of action/activity, except it will all be perfect and harmonious at home, at school, on the athletic field, because God knows and made only good.

Here are some statements demonstrating the activity of the Word. “By the word of the Lord the heavens were made.” (Psalm 33:6. “He sent forth his word and healed them.” (Psalm 107:20). “He sent forth his commands to the earth; his word runs swiftly.” (Psalm 147: 15). “So shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty (void), but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and prosper in the thing for which I sent it.” (Isaiah 55:11). Look at the book of Proverbs. Whenever Wisdom: is mentioned it’s capitalized – meaning God, Mind.” It might be fun to take a Bible concordance and see how many times you can find biblical references to the Word of God in operation. Look at all the commands/words Jesus spoke. “Thy faith hath saved thee – go in peace.” “Your sins are forgiven.” “Take up your bed and walk.” How about in this week’s lesson, the healing of the Shunammite’s son by Elisha: “Take up thy son.” Find some more Bible verses where the Word/Truth was spoken and it was done.

We are constantly being bombarded by the Serpent’s lies – sickness, war, weather disasters, death, etc. These erroneous beliefs are all lies. God is All – He is Truth, therefore evil of every kind is merely the reverse of Truth – it’s like trying to look at a picture while standing on your head. You wouldn’t take the picture and change it by hanging it upside down would you? No, you would stand up straight so you could view it properly. We don’t need to “change” anything – we just need to see it as God, divine Mind made it. The simple facts are – if it is not **“very good,”** it is not real. Case closed!

14. Genesis 1:31 states that God saw every thing he had made and it was, not just good, but very good. If that statement is true (which we know it is), how does He see you; your folks, friends, teachers? How does he see our so-called enemies?

15. What is special about “light?” Why is it so important to mankind?

16. Write a testimony where verse 31 in Genesis 1 can be applied (prayed with) and bring about a healing result. Have you ever given a testimony at a Wednesday evening service? It may be difficult to get to the service during school, but what about when you are on vacation or in the summer months. Don’t be afraid to write out a testimony and read it, if you feel uncomfortable speaking without notes. The main thing is to express gratitude for everything no matter how small you think it is. Our divine Parent loves to hear us say “Thank you, God. You’re the best ever and I love You!

NOTE: Some churches are doing monthly OTM’s (Operation Testimony Meetings) where children from neighboring Sunday Schools are invited to a Wednesday Evening Testimony. If your church is already doing this, great! But if not, it’s a good idea during a school vacation or in the summer. The students can take turns visiting other C.S. churches in the area as well. At our church, we invited them

for Pizza first and then on to the Service. The reader was informed in advance, so that she could gear her readings to the interests of the children. In fact the Sunday School Superintendent asked the teachers to have the children write down some topics they would be interested in and then informed the 1st Reader. The older students might also enjoy ushering that evening as well – just some suggestions that can be dovetailed to meet the needs of your church. We also set up a bulletin board in the SS and children of all ages were asked to write testimonies of healing and place them on the board. Moms, Dads, and teachers, can write out the healings for the younger children. It's important for children in all classes to make Christian Science their own. If they themselves have been able to heal, the possibility of their leaving Christian Science after Sunday School is less likely. No one is too young to trust God to heal them. Jesus loved little children because they were innocent; they didn't carry around a lot of useless baggage that some of us need to get rid of. They are not only willing but receptive to feeling, seeing and knowing God's infinite Love.

I've told this story before, but one of the most beautiful statements of truth I ever heard came from a rambunctious five year old boy. The question was asked by a little visitor that Sunday morning. "*How come there's only one God.*" (We were studying the 1st Commandment). I was stumped on how to answer it so she would best understand its meaning. I turned to this little boy who, as usual, was fooling around – refusing to sit still. I said, "*Kevin, how come there's only one God?*" Kevin's instant answer: "*Because He takes up all the room.*" That deserved a big hug and to this day when I need to "pray on the run," I think of this child's beautiful/perfect answer. That was also the last time Kevin gave me any trouble in SS. Can you guess why? "*And a little child shall lead them.*" *The divine children are born of law and order, and Truth knows only such.* (Unity of Good, Page 23:7.

17. S1, page 172: 23-24. Mrs. Eddy asks this question how would you answer it? *What is man? Brain, heart, blood, bones, etc., the material structure?* Explain. By the way, every section in this week's lesson has a question asked by Mrs. Eddy in the Science & Health citations..

18. Why did God create man both male and female? Discuss

19. Read and discuss page 475:14; S5. It is part of the definition of man in Science and Health in Chapter 14: Recapitulation. When praying about a problem with yourself, it's sometimes helpful to add a name to the question; "What is man," and ask "What is Mary, Tom, Mom, etc. or "Who am I?"

20. Why are we here? What is our reason to exist? These are important questions to think about especially for teenagers who may be struggling with the concept of "Identity." Check out page 477: 19 in S&H: "*Question – What are body and Soul? Answer – Identity is the reflection of Spirit...*"

21. B6, James 3:11 – Here are more questions in this lesson we need to answer: *Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?* Can the ocean yield both salt water and fresh water? Can an orange tree sprout figs? Can divine Mind think both evil and good thoughts at the same time? Can Spirit create both a matter man and a spiritual man? Can there emerge from the same mouth both blessing and cursing? In this passage James is talking about the tongue – the words that come out of our mouth – do they bless or hurt our siblings, friends and family. Our words can either wound or heal. Have you ever said something hurtful to someone you wish you could take back. We always need to think before we speak. Ask yourself will what I am about to say help or hurt that person I'm talking to? Remember, once you say something – you can never take it back. It's like trying to put toothpaste back into the tube after you've squeezed it out. Yes, we can apologize for remarks we have made in anger, but how much better to "think before we speak." The tongue can be a deadly weapon if it is aimed to hurt someone.

22. Did you know that whenever the name of God was mentioned, a Jew must respond: “Blessed be He.” It might be a good idea for all of us to do the same thing.
23. B7, James 1:16-18. What kind of gifts do you expect from God? Many religions teach that God is the cause of pain, and sorrow, death and disasters – do Christian Scientists believe that? Do we believe it is God’s will that we suffer and are sick? Is it possible for divine Love to create His/Her image and likeness and then somehow create conditions that make us miserable? Acts 17: 28, B8. *For in him we live, and move, and have our being.* Discuss this question. Why did Mrs. Eddy choose the word “Soul” as a synonym for God?
24. B9. Deuteronomy 7:9, 13: Did you know you are God’s “cherished personal treasure?” He has to love you unconditionally because He loves Himself and we are His offspring. . Verse 13 from *The Message* states: “He will love you. He will bless you and He will increase/multiply you.” What does that mean? These citations in Deuteronomy are referring to the 10 Commandments. This would be a good time to review them in relation to man’s identity.
25. Read Deuteronomy 4: 13, B10. What is this sentence referring to?
26. S7, page 488: 14. Here Mrs. Eddy is asking us another question. *Do the five corporeal senses constitute man?* What’s your answer and why?
27. Who does all the knowing, seeing and hearing – matter or Mind? Can false beliefs of age or accident rob someone of their sight or hearing? Does divine Love decide at a certain age that a person is a Senior Citizen and his faculties must start to deteriorate? Discuss.
28. S9, page 281:8 – Read and explain the meaning of the word “Ego” as it relates to God; as it relates to man.
29. Have you or anyone you know ever felt deserted by God? Explain and discuss healing solutions? When did you last talk to God? Did you hear His answer? So often we say – “Listen, Lord for your servant is speaking – do you hear me? When we should be saying: “Speak, Lord for your servant is listening. How can we hear what God is saying to us when we refuse to stop talking and telling Him what we want? Remember – He is infinite Mind, therefore He knows everything – we don’t have to tell Him anything but we do have to acknowledge that divine Mind is our **only** Mind.
30. Why does Mrs. Eddy say that “*Health is not a condition of matter, but of Mind?*” S14, Page 120:15. How many times is the word “Mind” used in the third section in Science & Health.

Section 4 in this weeks lesson is dealing with the Shunammite Woman and Elisha. 11 Kings 4: 8, 12, 16, 17-21, 25, 26, 32, 33, 35, 36. See how many nuggets of truth you can uncover when reading it. We had this story in another lesson in January. Who was Elisha? His name means: “My God Saves.” Here are some key points in the story:

1. This woman was wealthy and a pillar of her community.
2. She had a big house and offered hospitality including room and board to Elisha whenever he passed through the town of Shunem.

3. She was receptive to the Word of God and was a positive up-beat, generous person. She had a compassionate nature, aware that “the man of God” would appreciate having a real bed to sleep in when he visited her neighborhood.
4. She had no children and her husband was quite a bit older than she was.
5. The room she created for Elisha was private and could only be reached by an outer stairway from the garden – making it easier for the prophet of God to come and go as he pleased.
6. The room was furnished with a bed, table, stool and a candlestick.

(The Message) One day Elisha passed through Shunem. A leading lady of the town talked him into stopping for a meal. And then it became his custom. Whenever he passed through, he stopped by for a meal.

Great Lady: (speaking to her husband). You know, dear, this holy man stops by to see us all the time when he’s in the area, why don’t we add on a small room upstairs and furnish it for him so that whenever he’s in town he can stay with us.

Husband: That’s fine with me, Sweetheart. I think it’s a great idea and so much better than staying at some cheap hotel or sleeping outdoors on the ground.

And so it happened that the next time Elisha came by he went to the room prepared for him by this generous lady from Shunem and lay down for a nap.

Elisha: (speaking to Gehazi, his servant). I want you to tell this kind Shunammite woman that I want to talk to her. She has been so nice to me that I want to do something special for her. Have you got any ideas?

Gehazi: She doesn’t have any children and her husband is an old man. I’ll bet she would love to have a little boy.

Elisha: (talking to the great lady). You have been so kind to me by giving me room and board and I want to do something special for you. This time next year you are going to have a baby boy in your arms.

Great Lady: Oh, Holy Man, please don’t tease me with such a daydream. I’ve been married for years to a man much older than I am, and we’ve never been able to have any children. My biological clock stopped ticking ages ago and the chances of us having a baby now are impossible. (*Remember; never believe anything is “impossible” to God*). Who else had a baby when they were well past child-bearing years?

The woman conceived and nine months later, just as Elisha had said, she had a son. When he was about 10 or 12 he went out to the fields to help his dad with the harvest. It was well over 100 degrees, no shade and after a few hours the child complained to his father that his head hurt. His father ordered a servant to carry the boy home to his mother. She held him on her lap singing hymns and praying for him. But to no avail, he died of sunstroke. She took him upstairs and laid him on Elisha’s bed and then went to her husband and asked him for a servant and a donkey to take her to the Holy Man of God. She told her husband not to wait up for her. She would be back as soon as she found him. Fortunately she found him at Mount Carmel about 15 miles away.

Elisha: (speaking to his servant). Gehazi, look yonder – way down the road someone is racing to get to us. Why it's the Shunammite woman. Quickly now, ask her if something is wrong? Find out if her husband and child is all right.

The servant ran to her and asked if everything was OK at home with her husband and child.

Great Lady: Yes, thank you, all is well. “*Shalom,*” *it's all right.*

When she saw Elisha she threw herself at his feet and held tightly to him. Gehazi tried to pull her away, but Elisha said to leave her alone.

Elisha: Can't you see something has upset her. Somehow God hasn't told me yet what's bothering her. I'm completely in the dark at the moment.

Great Lady: Oh master, did I ever ask for a son? Didn't I tell you not to tease me with false hopes?

Elisha: Hurry, Gehazi, don't waste a minute – grab my staff and run as fast as you can. (Note: servants/slaves had to walk and/or run, they weren't given a donkey to ride). If you meet anyone, don't even take time to stop and talk to them. When you get to the great lady's house lay my staff across the boy's face.

Great Lady: “As sure as God lives and you live, Master, you're not going to leave me behind, I'm going with you.

When Gehazi got to the house he did what Elisha told him and laid the staff across the boy's face, but there was still no sign of life. Elisha then went into the room and locked the door. The first thing he did was _____ to GOD. He then covered the boy with his body, mouth on mouth, eyes on eyes, etc. As he was stretched over him, the boy's body became warm. He then stretched himself once more upon the boy. Guess what happened next? The boy began to sneeze – 7 times, and then opened his eyes. Note: The number “7” in the Bible is a symbol of completeness (complete healing) and is also connected with creation – 7 days.

Matthew Henry explains Verse #35 this way by giving it a spiritual interpretation: “He first *put his mouth to the child's mouth*, as if, in God's name, he would breathe into him the breath of life; then *his eyes to the child's eyes*, to open them again to the light of life; then *his hands to the child's hands*, to put strength into them. Those that would be instrumental in conveying spiritual life to dead souls, must thus affect themselves with their case, and accommodate themselves to it and labor fervently in prayer for them.” (Notes from the Researched Bible Guide).

Elisha: Gehazi, go get the Shunammite woman in here right away. I have a wonderful gift for her. (The woman ran up the stairs into the room). Madame, he said, “Embrace your son!”

*She fell at Elisha's feet, face to the ground in reverent awe. Then she embraced her son and brought him downstairs to her husband. That night all of them celebrated her son's healing with a delicious meal. Glorifying and praising God for His infinite goodness and love. If this incident happened today, I bet she'd give a testimony at the Wednesday evening service don't you agree? Do you think this beautiful demonstration – raising a child to life might attract folks to our church? Never forget that The Mother Church and its branches are built solely on **Healing**.*

When you read this account, it's interesting to note that **before** the mother hugged her child, she first expressed gratitude to God and "the man of God" for the healing. The Christ Truth was present right there with Elisha and the mother. Love never fails! She never doubted for one moment that her child would be healed. Read this statement in Job 33:4: *The spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life.*"

31. Answer two other questions Mrs. Eddy asks on page 206: 19-21, 25-26; S16. *Does God send sickness, giving the mother her child for the brief space of a few years and then taking it away by death? Can there be any birth or death for man, the spiritual image and likeness of God?*

Let's review some interesting facts in this story:

- a. Not once did the woman say her son was dead.
- b. She undoubtedly recalled the story of how **Elijah** had raised from the dead the son of the widow of Zarephath. Do you remember that story?
- c. This spiritually-minded lady never doubted for a moment that Elisha would heal her son. She expressed neither distrust nor fear.
- d. When asked by Elisha's servant how things were at home – what was her reply? She never acknowledged defeat or hopelessness.

32. Name some special qualities expressed by this Shumammite mother, by Elisha; by Ghehazi? What's the key message in this story? **Note:** The healings performed by Elisha in the O.T. bears a resemblance to the works of Christ Jesus in the N.T. In a very clear sense it foreshadows the things to come in Jesus' ministry.

33. If man has never been born, can he die? If there' never been a beginning can there be an ending? S10, page 258: 27-1.

34. In Section 5; John 2:19-22, B 19. Jesus said, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up?" What temple was he talking about? The Jews couldn't figure out what he meant because it had taken 46 years to build the Temple – how could he possibly rebuild it in 3 days. Did Jesus mean that he would destroy the actual Temple structure? Look up the definition of "Temple" in the Glossary in Science & Health. This statement came after Jesus had chased out the loan sharks and the people who were selling cattle, sheep and doves in the Temple. The Temple was a place of worship and not to be used for materialistic gains. Obviously the Jews were angry with him for closing down their store fronts and interfering with their lucrative businesses. Do you think Jesus did the right thing by putting them out of business? Explain.

35. What was the reaction of his disciples to these verses? After the resurrection do you think they remembered what he had said? Did it reinforce their understanding that Jesus really was the Messiah – the Anointed one of God? The Temple of worship was made with hands (many many hands), but the Temple Jesus was referring to was not made with men's hands. Explain. These statements by Jesus were the promise of his resurrection and ascension.

"The promise of Jesus was: "I will give you a way to come to God without all this human elaboration and human ritual. I have come to destroy this Temple in Jerusalem and to make the whole earth the Temple where man can know the presence of the living God. In the years to come John saw far more in Jesus' saying. He saw it as a prophecy of the Resurrection; and John was right...It is the presence of the living, risen Christ which makes the whole world into the Temple of God...In the street,

in the home, at business, on the hills, on the open road, in church, we have our inner temple, the presence of the Risen Christ forever with us throughout all the world.” (The Daily Study Bible Series by William Barclay). Read Mrs. Eddy’s definition of “Church” on page 583 and examine it in light of these verses in John – also the definition of “Resurrection” on page 593.

36. Do you think God is aware of all the multi-religious denominations we have in the world today? Explain your answer.

37. Do we have to die to become spiritual? Discuss.

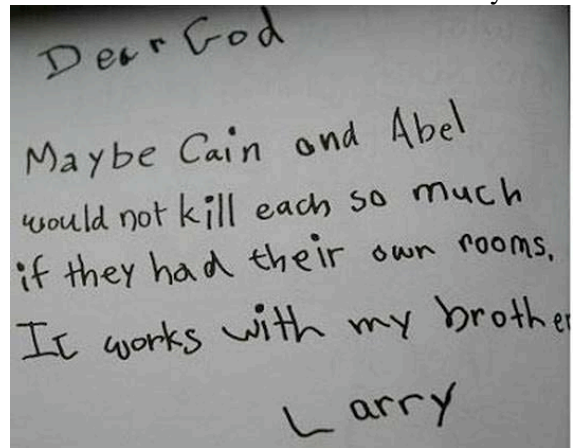
38. What was the purpose of the Resurrection and the Ascension of Jesus? What did Jesus look like after the Resurrection? Read S24, page 292:7. Why did Mrs. Eddy say that “Truth will be us “the resurrection and the life...”, etc.?

39. Teachers might want to work with their students regarding B22, Galatians 5:19-23, 25 referring to the works of the flesh – material sense and the fruits of the Spirit, (6th section). God is totally committed to our welfare, but we need to actively walk in the Spirit. How do we do this? Read hymn 139. I was interested in reading the definition of “witchcraft” in the commentary from the Researched Bible notes. “The Greek noun is *pharmakeia* from which “pharmacy” is derived. NTC explains: “Though basically *pharmakeia* is a term without moral implications, it is not difficult to understand how – particularly in an unscientific age – a *mixer of drugs* could be viewed as being a *magician or sorcerer*. When faith in magic replaces trust in God it is exposed as a form of idolatry.”

40. Name some things you do that you know pleases God? B25, page 494:25 we have another question. Read it and answer it.

41. Study S26, page 252: 16-18, 23, 25-28, 31-14. Here we have material sense stating what it can do to make man miserable, and then we have “Spirit” denouncing every false claim matter tries to make. It might be fun to perform a one act play using this scenario. Have you ever noticed when you are watching a movie whenever something bad is going to happen, the music becomes menacing and the scene instantly shifts from light to darkness – why? When we walk in the Spirit – we are walking in the Light. Check out the city foursquare in Revelation 21:23. *And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.* There is **no night – no fear, pain, or sorrow in Love’s universe**. We are Love’s light – His ever-burning candle and where man is, God is and there is no darkness. Read Matthew 5:14-16.

Below is a letter to God from a little boy I thought you and your students would enjoy.



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