

# BIBLE LESSON WORKSHOP

## MAN

August 28 – September 3, 2006

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Designed for those in Junior High and beyond

***We are all kids of a King! We have a Royal Heritage.***

1. If the above statement is true, which it is; what is our relationship to each other; meaning everyone?

2. What's the difference between a *hair* and an *heir*? In Romans (G.T.) Paul tells us we are "*heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ.*" He's Our Father and we're His heirs. That's exciting. Looks like we've officially inherited something. What is it?

- a. money
- b. good looks
- c. a brand new BMW
- d. everything good
- f.. perfection
- g. everything spiritual/not material
- h. a million \$ lottery ticket

2B. When we write a check or withdraw money from a bank we always have to prove our identity – provide evidence that we are who we say we are. How do we prove we're sons & daughters of a King?

**2C. What if: Your father was a King and as a baby you had been kidnapped by some aliens. Because they raised you, you learned to talk like them, act like them, dress like them and eventually even looked like them. One day the King's best friend (what's his name?) saw you and realized even though you looked like this group of aliens, he also noticed that you strongly resembled his friend, the King. He realized he had found the King's son that had been kidnapped. He stopped & talked to you. "Son, do you know who you really are?" The boy gave him his alien name which was "Rum-a-Ditty." The King's friend said that's not your real name. The boy persisted that he was the offspring of an alien. The friend said: "Follow me, and I will prove to you who you are and where you came from and who's son you really are." Can you finish the rest of this story? What is your real name (nature)?**

3. Name some qualities you've inherited from your divine Parent.

4. Picture this – Great Aunt Matilda just moved to another galaxy. Before she left she met with her lawyer and decided to leave each of her great grandchildren a brand new house. The papers were signed and the lawyers have handled all

the legal details. Currently all of her great grandchildren are living in old run down apartments and are unable to pay their rent – they have no money. What's the first thing each one would have to do to get their new house?

5. Do we need to earn God's love? What do you think your folks want for you – the best life has to offer or the worst? Do you pay them to love you? Our Father-Mother God gives us **everything** we need. He only knows how to give good to His children – it is ours by reflection. We don't have to beg for intelligence, health, happiness, harmony; we have to affirm/acknowledge that we already have it. "There's no burden in a reflection."

6. In Christian Science we are taught that we are God's reflection. What does that really mean? What do you see when you look at yourself in the mirror in the morning? What does God see when He looks at you?

7. Don't ever get discouraged or overwhelmed by things – remember Moses was once a "*basket case*," and look at what he accomplished.

8. Why did Jesus say that he could do absolutely nothing by himself? All the healings he performed, the so-called miracles; turning water into wine; healing leprosy (aids); blindness; deafness; death, etc. Who got all the credit and why?

9. In the Scientific Statement of Being there's this sentence: "*All is infinite Mind and its infinite man-ifestation, for God is All-in-all.*" Man is an abbreviation for "manifestation." When God looks at Himself He sees you. The *manifestation* of Himself.

10. Many religions teach that both the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Chapters of Genesis are true – what do Christian Scientists believe and why?

11. S1 – Page 515. Mrs. Eddy says that "Man is the family name for all ideas – the sons and daughters of God." How does that statement help to heal the claims of hatred and violence that seem so rampant today? Each of us needs to ask the question – are we part of the problem or part of the solution? As "Citizens of the World," it is our duty and privilege to demonstrate/prove God's omnipotence and omnipresence. Don't ignore evil!  
Invalidate (annul) it!

12. Are there two of you – one spiritual and one material? Are we both aliens as well as kids of a King? Is it possible to be both?

13. Do you believe in heredity? In other words do you believe you inherit your looks, your build, your disposition, your strengths and/or weaknesses from your parents? What about DNA? (Check Genesis 1: 26,27 for the answer).

14. If Jesus stopped by your house for dinner one night, and you could ask him only one question, what would it be?

15. (Section 2) – Why did Jesus teach in parables? B7 – Luke 15. We call this story the Prodigal Son (s) – what’s a prodigal? We could also call it Lost & Found – or the parable of The Good Father because it tells about the love of a father rather than the sin of a son. There are multi hidden messages in this story including references to the Commandments and the Beatitudes. When reading it, see if you can pick them out. Kind of like playing the game “Where’s Waldo?” Words meaning prodigal: Wasteful, excessive, extravagant, spendthrift; squanderer, wastrel, shopper (that’s an interesting one).

**Setting the stage (mood) for this story – called “The greatest short story in the world.”** When we’ve finished this 3 act play we will have answers to some very important everyday questions. Luke 15 also includes the parable of the Lost Sheep and the Woman who lost a coin. The Pharisees & scribes were angry at Jesus because he associated with people they considered **sinners** alias the **undesirables**. Today, we might think of them as individuals that are in to drugs, smoking, the homeless, homosexuals – people who don’t think or act as we do. In other words, folks we should ignore because they don’t measure up to **our** standards. **Pharisees** mean “separate ones.” They followed the letter of the law but not the spirit. Their nature was the exact opposite of the Christly nature that Jesus expressed. They also took a prominent part in plotting the death of Jesus.

**Cast of Characters:**

**The Father – God**

**Spoilt Boy George – All apologetic sinners, particularly the publicans & sinners.**

**Mean-Spirited Marvin – Self-righteous Pharisees or anyone who doesn’t believe in forgiveness. The Pharisees would rather see a sinner destroyed than saved (healed).** (Remember the woman taken in adultery in last week’s lesson. The Pharisees and scribes were the “stone-throwers”).

**Far Country – World of sin and material pleasures, where we forget all about God.**

**Spoilt Boy George:** Hey, Dad, I’m really getting tired of all your rules and regulations. Why do I have to keep my room clean, or be home by 11. Why can’t I go out with my friends and do what I want when I want. I don’t like school and I certainly don’t like homework. So here’s the deal; I know you and mom have put away money for me and my brother, but I want my share now. I don’t want to be involved in the family farming business like “Goody-two-shoes” Marvin over there. I want to travel and find myself. See the world. Have some fun. OK, Pops – just write me a check and I’m on my way.

**The Father:** My dear dear son. I understand your feelings even though I don’t agree with your logic. Nevertheless, I will give you your half of your inheritance. Don’t forget to write and know that no matter what, I will always love you. I think

of our home and our beautiful farm as the “Kingdom of Heaven” and the door is always open – the porch light on whenever you’re ready to come home.

**Spoilt Boy George:** (New far-off location). George winds up in Vegas and is having a ball. He’s found a group of hippie guys and gals that love to party, gamble, stay up all night, drink beer, etc. “Hey guys, isn’t life great! We can do what we want when we want with no adults to boss us around. It doesn’t get better than that. I’ve got money to burn, so the drinks and food are on me.”

**Mean-Spirited Marvin:** (3 months later). “Hey, Dad, have you heard from your spoilt son lately? (*Notice he doesn’t say “my brother”*). He left town months ago and is probably having a ball, while I’m stuck at home, feeding the chickens, milking the cows, mucking out the stables. I sure hope you give me a raise, as I really deserve it.” Aren’t you glad you have me around to help rather than loser George?

**Spoilt Boy George:** “My gosh! – where am I? The last thing I remember is the owner had locked me out of my hotel room because I couldn’t pay the bill. I must have gotten drunk. What am I doing sleeping by this dumpster? Where are all my friends? Couldn’t one of them have let me sleep at their house after all I did for them? Where are they when I need them? I’m flat broke. Maybe if I stand on the street corner over there where those other guys are standing, I’ll get hired by some wealthy farmer who will give me a job.”

### **Act 2**

**Spoilt Boy George:** “Ugh! This is awful. I’m starving to death – the pigs are eating better than I am. I can’t believe I’m actually stealing food from these dirty smelly animals. All the farmhands working for my Dad are eating far better than I am; at least they get 3 meals a day. I now know what I have to do. I’m going to swallow my pride and go home. I’ll tell my Dad that I’m truly sorry. I’ll work as a farmhand that should make him happy. I’ll admit that I sinned against him and God and beg his forgiveness. I sure don’t deserve to be called his son anymore.” (George thumbed a ride home).

### **Act 3**

**The Father:** “Look, look everyone. Come quick! Do you see him? Do you see him? Way off in the distance it’s my lost son Gorge coming home. Oh George, I’m so happy to see you (kiss, kiss, kiss). We’re going to have a huge welcome-home party and invite all the neighbors to celebrate your return. You have returned to the house where you belong. Next Wednesday night we’re all going to church and give testimonies of gratitude. Somebody run to the stables and get Marvin and tell him his long lost brother has come home and we’re having a PARTY!

**Mean-Spirited Marvin:** “What’s all the commotion about guys? Why is everyone so happy?”

**Stable Boy:** “Oh Marvin, hurry up to the house. Your Dad wants to see you. Your brother George has come home and there’s going to be a huge celebration tonight. Everyone in the neighborhood is being invited. Your father is sooooo happy. He gave George a beautiful new suit, shoes and a ring to wear for the occasion. Now we have to go and kill good old Bessie out there in the pasture, so we can serve barbecued beef to the invited guests.”

**The Joyous Father:** “Where are you, Marvin? Everyone’s inside celebrating your brother’s return home. Come inside and join the festivities.”

**Mean-Spirited Marvin:** (sulking outside). (Whining) “How could you do this, Dad? This son of yours has wasted all his inheritance; done all kinds of wicked things; has no ambition; never contributed anything to make our farm successful. He finally shows up on our doorstep after all this time, with his tail between his legs, and you kill good old Bessie for him; throw him a huge party and buy him new clothes. What about me? I’ve stayed home and worked like a dog for you. You never killed one of your precious cows for me. You never invited my friends over for a party – it’s just not fair.”

**The Father:** “Oh, Marvin, you don’t understand. You’re with me all the time. Everything that is mine is automatically yours forever. This merrymaking is to celebrate gratitude for your brother’s homecoming. He’s mended his ways and will start working tomorrow on the farm. We all thought he was dead – praise God, he’s alive. We thought he was lost – but instead he was found. Can’t you be happy for your brother and for me?”

**The story ends with the older son never going into the house to join the party. So near and yet so far away from his heavenly Father’s love. Could it be that this son is really the prodigal?**

- A. Who’s the real hero in this story?
- B. When George returned home his father:
- grounded him for a month.
  - threw him a party.
  - hoped he would stay in Vegas and not come back.
  - made him a hired servant.
  - made him go barefoot.
  - forgave him - unconditionally
- C. Why did the son who messed up receive the father’s blessing?
- because when it was offered, he accepted it.
  - he promised his dad he’d do all of Marvin’s chores for a year.
  - he promised he’d pay back all the money he lost in Vegas.
  - he bought his dad an Elvis Presley outfit as a gift.
- D. What does this story teach about God’s love?

F. Have you ever had an experience when you couldn't forgive someone who hurt you? What about when you **did** forgive someone? Explain.

16. (Section 3) B12; Luke 13: 11-17. Healing of woman with arthritis.

17. This poor lady was unable to straighten her body for how many years?

- a. 5
- b. 18
- c. 22

18. Picture yourself in this story: You've been walking for umpteen years, stooped over, unable to look up at the sky, totally miserable. You're in the crowd listening to Jesus speaking. You just want to soak up all this truth never believing you could ever be healed. All of a sudden he calls you over to him and says:

- a. Woman, you are free (healed).
- b. Woman, today is the Sabbath, sorry I can't heal you till tomorrow.
- c. Woman, what are you doing here, you should be home in bed.
- d. Woman, go get your husband, I want him to witness this healing also.

19. Why were the Rabbis angry that Jesus healed on the Sabbath? (*"We keep the Sabbath day holy by refusing to accept any material concept of Life."*)

Here's the rest of the story:

**Rabbis:** What's the matter with you, Jesus? You should know better than to heal on the Sabbath. There are 6 days when people are supposed to work, but not on the Sabbath. You have broken the Jewish law. This woman could have come to you any day from Sunday to Friday, but not Saturday. If she were dying, you could have healed her but she didn't have a life-threatening disease. You should have waited till tomorrow.

**Jesus:** You hypocrites, all of you. Each Sabbath you all untie your animals and lead them to water and think that's OK. This poor woman, a daughter of Abraham, has been literally tied in knots by a false belief in matter for 18 years – why should she suffer another day just to satisfy some useless, unloving law? If you were in that condition, wouldn't you want God to heal you ASAP?

**Crowd:** Right on, Jesus! You're correct and these "holier-than-thou" folks are mean and ignorant of the law of Love. We will follow you and the God you follow and worship.

21. What's the lesson this story teaches?

Mrs. Eddy sums up this week's Bible Lesson on "Man" this way: S28, Page 325:

***"When spiritual being is understood in all its perfection, continuity, and might, then shall man be found in God's image. The absolute meaning of***

*the apostolic words is this: Then shall man be found in His likeness, perfect as the Father, indestructible in Life, "hid with Christ in God," – with Truth in divine Love, where human sense hath not seen man."*

Have a happy week and don't ever forget – **WE'RE ALL SONS & DAUGHTERS OF A KING!!!!**