

# BIBLE LESSON WORKSHOP

## MATTER

September 11 - 17, 2006

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Designed for those in Junior High and beyond

1. What a wonderful opportunity to reread “THE NEW BIRTH,” page 15 in Miscellaneous Writings by Mary Baker Eddy. Mrs. Eddy reiterates two prominent laws which advance this concept of the new birth or being born again. What are they?

- a. “Thou shalt have no other gods before me” – which is the \_\_\_\_\_ commandment.
- b. “Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth.”
- c. Don’t follow in the footsteps of the Prodigal Son.
- d. “Love your neighbor as much as you love yourself.”
- e. Feed the homeless
- f. Share your favorite dessert with a fellow student.

2. Translate this sentence in modern day English: “Thou shalt have no other gods before me.” Next translate this one: “Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.” Explain their meaning.

3. Responsive Reading: Jesus’ nocturnal (night time) visitor: Cast of Characters: Both Nicodemus and Jesus were Jewish teachers and leaders, but they don’t see things the same way. Nick was a Pharisee and a member of the Sanhedrin. At some point he probably became a disciple of Jesus. He was trained in the O.T. laws and Jewish traditions. Jesus told him that just because he came from the lineage of Abraham wasn’t enough to be saved. He had to understand his spiritual creation and birth. Christ Jesus taught that Spiritual rebirth is the knowledge of man’s true and permanent selfhood as the child of God.

**Nick:** Good evening, Rabbi – how are you doing this beautiful evening? Every time I want to talk to you you’re surrounded by crowds of people, so I figured it would come at night when everyone was home in bed. You really are a teacher that was sent directly from God – right? Because nobody can do what you can do – no one can heal people, restore sight and hearing, and raise the dead unless that individual is God’s messenger.

**Jesus:** You’re 100% right Nick. Take it from me – unless we believe we are born of God and that we are His image and likeness, it’s not possible for him to see and understand God’s Kingdom. You must be re-born in thought and spiritual understanding not materially.

**Nick:** That’s silly, Jesus. How can anyone be born a second time? Does he go to his mom and say: “Hey, mother dearest, would you mind giving birth to me all over again? I don’t remember what happened the first time. How is it possible to be born again once you’re already a teenager? What kind of strange talk is this, Jesus?”

**Jesus:** You're not listening to me, Nick. Let me explain one more time: Unless you believe you are the man in Genesis 1 – the man God created in His image and likeness, created of Spirit not matter, you'll never enter into the Kingdom of God. You'll be an **outsider** instead of an **insider**. Once you understand your true identity as God's reflection; that your substance is Spirit not flesh and blood, then you'll realize that you exist now and forever in His kingdom. Did you already forget what the subject of last week's lesson was? It was SUBSTANCE/UNDER/STANDING. You must not have been paying attention otherwise you would have remembered that man is born of God of Spirit – not matter. Spiritual understanding is Substance. If you believe you're born of flesh, blood and bones, you are in deep trouble, Nick – because you're believing a lie. In that case, your friends would have to sing – “Liar, Liar, pants on fire!”

**Nick:** Sorry, Teacher, but I still don't get it.

**Jesus:** Pay attention, Nick: Let's take the wind – you hear it blowing through the trees, right? But you can't see it nor do you know where it's going next. We can't see Love, but we know it's here, there and everywhere. Did you know the word for Spirit and wind in Greek is the same: *Pneuma*. All my knowledge comes from my Dad – the one & only Father in heaven. If you can't understand or believe me, what's the use of telling you about “Our Father.” Stop questioning my message & accept it. My Dad is your Dad as well. We all have the same Parent. That means we all share the same spiritual DNA.

4. Definition of Wind – S&H Page 597. Definition of Baptism, page 581. Would you rather be submerged in water or in Spirit?

5. In old Biblical times, how did they publicize, advertise, promote, good news – God's word? How did Moses, Abraham, Elijah, etc. get the word out? B1 (Deuteronomy 32:1, 3, 4 (to 1<sup>st</sup> : ), 18)

- a. Newspaper ads
- b. TV
- c. Radio
- d. Sky writers
- e. Cell phones
- f. Mouth to mouth
- g. They had video cameras
- h. Spiritual rapport with God – they listened to Him & heard His voice.

6. In your opinion, what is the best way today for people to learn about Christian Science? How would you tell others that God's laws heal?

7. Without buying any advertising space, how did Jesus get God's message to the world centuries after his resurrection and ascension, when he was only on this earth for 3 years? Mrs. Eddy has told us that “today there is not a village or hamlet that has not heard the Christ message. How is that possible? S28 (S&H 149:3-5, 11-12, 31)

8. What did Joseph do when he found out his soon-to-be wife was pregnant?
- He put her in a home for unwed mothers
  - He took her to the village square and told the townspeople it was Ok to throw stones at her.
  - The angel, Gabriel, told him not to worry – this child was the son of God.
  - He sent Mary home to her mother and found another girl to marry.
9. Do you know what DNA stands for in Christian Science?
- Does Not Apply
  - Don/Nancy/Alice
  - Do Not Ask
  - Don't Need Assistance
10. What does Emmanuel mean?
- God with us.
  - Happy Birthday, Jesus
  - Child actor's name – Emmanuel Lewis.
  - “Good Morning” in Greek
11. Pretend we've been invited to a Progressive Supper. Each house we stop at the host/hostess has prepared a dish to serve her guests. I'm knocking at your door – each door I knock at the person has to tell the story of the birth of Jesus in two sentences – before he serves the meal. I then move on to the next house. Let's begin.
12. Explain this sentence: “Like produces like.” Check off the correct examples as either True or False: (S 8 and S 10) S&H 550:9-10, 26-31 and 551:3-6 (to 2<sup>nd</sup> .)
- A dog has puppies
  - A cat has bunnies
  - A cow has calves
  - God made man in His likeness
  - A serpent gives birth to a bird
  - A lamb's mother is a lion
  - Spirit can produce sickly children
13. Have you ever been told; “You look just like your mom or dad.” You're the spitting image of Uncle Don or Aunt Betty?” What if I told you you're the spitting image of your real and only Father-Mother God – what would you look like? You're the “apple of His eye.” What does that mean?
14. Do you know the difference between an Illusionist and a Magician?

*True Story: A couple had traveled to India. They were shopping in a large open marketplace. They came across a “snake charmer” who was making music by blowing on a wooden pipe. By his side was a large open basket. A large crowd is watching this outdoor show. As he blows on his pipe, a large snake slowly unwinds itself from the basket, almost moving to the rhythm of the snake charmer's music. The wife is so excited*

*that she gets out her camera and takes a picture of this little group – she actually waits till the snake is almost completely out of the basket. When the couple get back home and have the film developed; they discover they have a beautiful clear picture of the snake charmer blowing on the pipe; the wicker basket – but there’s no snake in the picture. Everyone saw that snake that day coming out of the basket including the wife and her husband. Why wasn’t it in the picture?*

15. Do you believe everything you see with your eyes? Is everything you see accurate? How about when you see an airplane in the sky? How big does that plane look to you when it’s flying high? How big does that same plane look when it’s on the ground?

16. You go to a carnival and there’s a “House of Mirrors.” The mirrors are designed to make the person standing in front of it look weird. In one mirror you look fat, another one thin; and in one your whole body looks deformed. You are looking at yourself but are you seeing your real self? Do you believe what you are seeing is the real you? Why not? What kind of a mirror would you have to look at to see what you really look like? What if a young child had no idea what he/she looked like; had never seen his reflection and you took him into this house of mirrors. He looked at himself in the mirror and saw this deformed giant looking back at him. He started to cry because he looked so awful and his reflection frightened him. What would you do? Would you call a doctor to help fix the problem and make the child look normal?

17. We don’t see with our eyes – we see with our understanding. Explain.

18. What does “evolution” mean? What is Spiritual evolution?

19. Does the clay control the potter? Why not?

20. What is the person called who writes a book? Who decides how many characters there will be in the book? Their physical appearance? What they say and do? Sometimes when we’re reading a story we get so caught up in the adventure and the different people in the story – men, women, animals, etc. that we forget that every single character exists only in the mind of the author. They have no ability to speak or act on their own. On page 29, S5, Mrs. Eddy tells us that “God is the **only** author of man.” Explain what that means to you?

21. What chapter in the Bible do you find the Commandments?

- a. Genesis 2
- b. Matthew 5
- c. Exodus 20
- d. Revelation 12

22. The 9<sup>th</sup> Commandment says that we should not bear false witness against anyone. What does that mean? How do we bear false witness?

23. What is the title of the most famous sermon that Jesus preached to his disciples?

24. In what book of the Bible can you find the following?

The Lord's Prayer  
The Golden Rule  
The Beatitudes

25. What is Darwin's theory of evolution? S1 (S&H 547:15-19)

26. If you pray real hard can you take a material body and make it a spiritual body? If "yes," how? If "no," why not?

27. Section 4 tells of Jesus healing the man who was born blind. B12, John 9. Prior to this story we have the proverb in Ezekiel 18, B10 which states (in modern English); "The parents have eaten sour lemons but the bitter taste is in the mouth of their children." Or, "The father has eaten rotten fruit, and their kids get the stomachache." Does that make sense? Mrs. Eddy says that "Heredity is not a law." However the Jews believed that if someone was born with a physical difficulty then either his parents had sinned or the new born baby had somehow sinned while he was still inside his mother. Ridiculous, right? Do you believe that? That was the question the disciples asked Jesus: "Who did sin – this man or his parents?" What was Jesus answer?

28. Give some examples of things people believe they inherit, either from their parents, grandparents or ancestors?

29. Give some examples of things we inherit from our REAL & ONLY PARENT.

Here comes the rest of the story:

**Disciples:** Jesus, who caused this man's blindness? His parents or was it something he did before he was born.

**Jesus:** You guys are asking the wrong question. It's like asking why doesn't  $3 + 3 = 4$ ? Or, how come there's a man in the moon? You're looking to blame someone for something that never happened. The truth is: "Perfect God = Perfect man." "Perfect cause = perfect effect. As long as I am in the world – I am the world's light. I'm here to do God's work and to show you all how to do it. It's easy when you understand what is true – when you believe who you are and who made you. (He calls the blind man over).

Jesus spat on the ground and made a mud-like clay from the dust. He took the clay and rubbed it on the blind man's eyes.

**Blind Man:** Hey man, that's gross – what are you doing?

**Jesus:** Don't be concerned, friend. If you burnt your finger and there was no water around, you'd probably stick it in your mouth to cool it off. I'm just doing a simple act of kindness to you by making it easier for you to follow my next instructions: Go wash

in the swimming pool over there – one of my disciples will lead you to it. Mr. & Mrs. Sent won't mind. While you're washing your face, you might as well wash your hands and feet as well as they look like they need a good scrubbing also.

30. What other reason did Jesus have for putting the wet mud on the man's face? (In that part of the country there was little or no rain. The man's eyes had been shut tight for over twenty years. His eyes were caked with sand/dirt. By performing this loving deed, Jesus made it easier for the man to open his eyes. Kind of like when you get up in the morning and your eyes are full of sleep, you wash your face with warm water which makes it easier to open your eyes.)

31. Finish the rest of the story. What happened after the man got out of the pool and finished washing? Why did Jesus call himself the "Light of the world?"

32. Section 5. B15 (Luke 8:40, 43-48) – Healing of woman who had been hemorrhaging for 12 years.

This poor woman had spent every dime she had going to doctors looking for a cure. Did it work? Because of the unpleasantness of her problem, no one would go near her. For over 12 years she had no friends; no family; no phone calls; no one invited her to dinner or a movie. She was a prisoner in her own house. If she went shopping, everyone ran away from her. What did she do when she saw Jesus?

33. What did Jesus say to her? What happened next?

34. SMILE. GOD LOVES YOU!

35. In your own words, sum up the message of this week's lesson on Matter.

Surprise your folks: Perform two Good Sam deeds for them this week and next week tell the class what you did and how it made you feel. Make a new friend at school, better yet, **be a good friend to someone.** Have a happy week! Spread Joy! Remember:

**THERE'S NO MATTER IN SPIRIT AND NO SPIRIT IN MATTER!**

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<http://www.csdirectory.com/biblestudy/blw-index.html>