

BIBLE LESSON SUNDAY SCHOOL WORKBOOK

ARE SIN, DISEASE, AND DEATH REAL?

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Designed for those in Junior High and beyond

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?

1. We know Sin, Disease & Death are not real but WHY?
2. Going round the class, each give one word that means **light**. It can be a noun, adjective or verb. What is its purpose?
3. Why did Jesus call himself “the light of the world?”
4. Greek myth: Mr. Night lived in a very dark house. One day he had had enough of the blackness surrounding him so he decided to visit Mrs. Light. She was a beautiful woman, cheerful, radiant, **bright** and always willing to help her neighbors. Mr. N. asked if she would mind coming to his home to see if there was some way she could get rid of the darkness for him. She was a loving and kind lady and she agreed to come by to see what she could do to banish the darkness. Mrs. Light walked into the house and went from room to room; but everywhere she went she couldn’t find any darkness. She spoke to Mr. Night and told him he must be mistaken. “Wherever I go,” she said; “I see only light.” I’ve checked out all the rooms, your closets, the bathrooms, the basement, and they are all beautifully lit.” How come Mrs. Light couldn’t find any darkness? Where did it go? Why didn’t she see it?
5. Wouldn’t it be wonderful if everyone was a 100 watt light bulb – glowing wherever they went – empowered by Love and Truth. Our batteries would never wear out because their substance is spiritual. Each one of us can light up someone’s life every day. Begin now! Come to class next week and share your light-blessing/healing moments.
6. In Gen. 1 (B3) after God created the heaven and earth. Earth was an inky blackness. What was the very next thing he made and why? In Gen1: 31 – the Bible says that God saw everything He had made and behold it was very _____. If that’s true, then where did evil (sin, sickness, death) come from? Who made it?
7. When someone says: “Let’s throw some **light** on the subject.” What do they mean?
8. What would it be like if you come home one evening around 10 pm & all the electricity was off in your house? You forgot to get any candles – did not have a Coleman lantern or any matches. Would you be a happy camper? Remember there would be no TV or computers working either. That’s kind of like the feelings we have when we’ve mentally turned away from the light of Love and have buried ourselves in selfish, sick, unhappy thoughts. Keep your light on and your (spiritual) batteries always charged!

9. S5 (Page 206: 30). Mrs. Eddy says that “God does not cause man to sin, to be sick, or to die.” Then who or what does?

10. True or False: If it doesn’t come from God, it’s not true.

11. What does “**Repent**” mean?

- a. Be happy
- b. Change your ways
- c. Atone – be sorry
- d. Reform
- e. Repaint

Section 3. B10/Mark 2:1-12 – The Healing of a Paraplegic: “A faith that would not be denied.”

Scene 1: Capernaum – A town on the North West shore of the Sea of Galilee. It was also a Roman military post. Jesus made this city his headquarters. Check off from the list below, the healings that Jesus had accomplished in Capernaum. Make sure you pick out the right ones.

- a. He healed Peter’s mother-in-law
- b. A demoniac – a very disturbed individual with a mental problem.
- c. A man sick of the palsy born of four.
- d. A centurion’s crippled servant.
- e. A nobleman’s son at the brink of death.
- f. Tons of other sick people laid on the streets and sidewalks and healed.
- g. He fed the 5,000
- h. Peter walked on water & Jesus saved him from drowning at Capernaum

(A brief history lesson: Did you know that in Palestine life was very public? In the morning the doors of a house were open and anyone could go in that house. Talk about an “open door policy.” Doors were never shut unless the homeowner wanted privacy. There were no hallways in these homes; doors opened directly on to the street. Hospitality is still an important tradition for both the Jews and the Arabs. Strangers are always given food and water).

(True Story) Regarding a friend who is an American, married to an Israeli and currently living in Israel with her husband & their new baby. Recently her husband was sent to northern Israel by the Army. His wife has no family or support system where she lives. Here is a quote from her email: “I am blessed to have a kind religious neighbor invite me to Shabbat dinner with her large family so I would not be alone on the Shabbat. A young orthodox man, who comes over to our house once per week to teach us the Torah, dropped by just to check if I needed anything. The proper religious gentleman that he is, wouldn’t even come in for a cup of water...he just wanted to check in knowing my husband was away with the Army. He lives 15 miles away and is only an acquaintance!...I have been totally blessed by these amazing people who take the law of the Holy One, blessed be His Name, very seriously. They are so eager to help those in need. My prayer is that I would be infected with the same kindness and do what all human beings should feel obligated to do in caring for one another as Scripture instructs. Of course, I have other friends that I could ASK for help if I really needed to. What I’m pointing out with the two above examples is that I DON’T HAVE TO ASK. They simply know the facts that at this time my baby and I are left without a father or husband who is off fighting a war and they have simply reached out and offered their help. This is so important to someone who has a hard time “asking” for anything from anyone.” (Note: This gal is an Evangelical Christian but studying Judaism).

Below is the Golden Rule from The Message. Matt: 7:12. “Here is a simple, rule-of-thumb guide for behavior: Ask yourself what you want people to do for you, then grab the initiative and do it for them.”

When Jesus returned home after being on the road for weeks at a time, everyone was so glad to see him that a crowd came to the home he was visiting. It was probably Peter’s house which was larger than most. Every inch of space was taken up. People were standing in doorways, blocking windows and exits. No one could get in or out. I doubt if the fire department would have been too happy as the crowd had definitely exceeded the maximum number of people allowed. But you can’t blame the people for wanting to hear the Christ-message; the Word of God that Jesus was teaching. Would you have liked to have been there? If Jesus asked you why you came, what would you say? If Jesus was giving a talk in your church a week from today at 2 o’clock on a Saturday afternoon, would you go? What would you do if you had no transportation? Would you invite anyone to go with you? At the end of the talk, if he opened it up for questions, would you raise your hand and ask any? If so, what question (s) would you ask?

Scene 1

Four Guys: (carrying a stretcher & talking to their paralyzed buddy). Hey, Marmaduke, I know we promised to take you to the house where your pal Jesus was talking about God and His infinite healing power, but I don’t know how we’re going to get you in. Look at the crowd? We should have left home a lot earlier. There’s no way we’re going to be able to carry you through the doorways or even haul you through a window. It’s standing room only, man. Hey, fellows, anyone have any suggestions?

One Of the Four (Alvin): I know – let’s uncover the roof. We can lower Marmaduke’s cot down that way. That will put him face to face with the Master. What do you think guys? You want to try it?

(Did you know?) The roof of a Palestinian house was flat? It was often used as a place for rest & quiet so usually there were outside stairs that led up to it. The roof consisted of flat beams laid across from wall to wall, about 3 feet apart. The space in between the beams was filled with brushwood, packed tight with clay. Basically the roof was made of earth and grass grew on the top of it so it was easy for our 4 Good Samaritans to dig a hole and let down their friend and then patch the roof up again. I’m sure Jesus was impressed by their ingenuity, as well as realizing how much this man wanted to be healed).

The 4 Stretcher Bearers: That’s a great idea, Alvin, I’m glad one of us finished high school and is so smart. The only problem we can see is that Marmaduke here is no lightweight so it’s not going to be that easy lowering him, (and his sleeping bag) and the cot down through the roof. I hope everyone ate their “Wheaties” this morning.

Marmaduke: Thanks fellows – you guys are really great. I don’t know what I’d do without you. Thanks for carting me around all the time. I know that when I come face to face with Christ Jesus and hear his healing message, I’ll be able to rise up and walk. I couldn’t have done it, without the four of you to help me. What great friends and neighbors you are.

Scene 2

Important Note: In the time of Jesus – the Jews connected sickness and suffering with sin. If a man was sick, no matter what the problem, they believed either he or his parents must have done something real bad. To the Jew, a sick man meant that God was angry with him. Do you agree with that line of thinking? Yes? No? Why not?

Jesus: (Suddenly noticing the paraplegic lying in front of him). Hi son. You and your friends must have really been anxious to hear my words. It's amazing what they had to go through to get you in this house. I'm told your name is Marmaduke and I'm so impressed with your fantastic faith. "Son, I forgive your sins."

A few angry Scribes: (whispering). Who does this man think he is? Only God can forgive sins. He can't talk that way and get away with it.

Jesus: (knowing their thoughts). What's the matter gentlemen? Why are you so skeptical? Let me ask you a question – which do you think is easier; to say "I forgive your sins?" or "Get up, fold up your cot and start walking?" Anybody can say "I forgive your sins." How would you know whether it was true or not? But if you say "Get up and walk," and the person was still a cripple, you'd look like a fool wouldn't you? I've come to prove to you all that the Son of man is authorized by God, my heavenly Father to heal sickness, sin and death. He has given me the power to forgive sins and make people well. The authority to do these acts comes directly from HIM, so everyone can do what I do, as long as you know whose THE POWER! You might as well get used to it, Scribes; the Christ, Truth is here to stay! Just a reminder – don't forget what I've previously said: "Before Abraham was, I am! (John 8:58). Jesus turned to Marmaduke. "Marmaduke, your faith has contributed to your healing. Get up & walk, better yet, **run** home. You are whole and free." Rejoice and thank and praise God for revealing your perfection.

Marmaduke: Master, thank you, thank you. Look guys, I can walk. You don't have to carry me around anymore. Let's all get dates tonight and go out dancing. I can't wait. It's been ages since I've been on a dance floor. I have soooo much to be grateful for – not only to God for this wonderful healing, but to you, my friends, who never let me down. Well you did once – through a roof. Ha! Ha!

The House Guests: (all talking at once). Did you see what this man (Jesus) did? He really is the Christ. I've never seen anything like it, have you?

12. Read B11 (Matthew 10:1). He called his disciples & gave them power to heal all manner of sickness and sin. Aren't we his disciples (students) as well? Then we too have the power to do what Jesus did – right? Have you exercised this power lately? Tell us about it.

13. S14 (Page 494: 30-16). Mrs. Eddy says that: "God will heal the sick through man, whenever man is governed by God." When is that? When is man **not** governed by God & therefore unable to heal? Don't let erroneous thinking trick you into believing a lie.

14. True or False (Page 494:30-16). "If sickness is true or the idea of Truth you cannot destroy it." Why does Mrs. Eddy tell us that sickness and sin is an illusion? An illusion, a dream can't leave any scars. Explain why.

15. Do you think Christian Science & divine Love is adequate to overcome cancer? Heart disease? A bad case of the flu? Death? A life-long drug habit? Poor grades? A relationship problem etc.? (Read S16/Page 412:13 for the answer).

16. Each week pick one of the 7 synonyms for God and work with it every day. This week begin with Truth. S19, Page 418: 28. Mrs. Eddy says to “Speak the truth to every form of error.” And then she lists some of them – what are they? How do you speak the truth to pain? You’ve already won the “wrestling match.” Claim your victory! Remember Light can’t see darkness and Love can’t know or see disease, accidents, sinful thinking or anything that is not good. If you had a double scale and put 10 lbs. of pure thoughts on one side and 10 lbs of evil thoughts on the other – what would be the total weight? Think carefully before you answer. Would they balance each other out? How much does evil weigh?

17. S15. John 3:16. Why did God so love the world that he sent his only Son so that folks would believe on him and have everlasting life? What did Jesus say was the last enemy to be destroyed? Why?

18. B14. Rev. 21:3, 4 – Where was John when he saw the new heaven & the new earth? Do you think it’s possible to have no more pain, grief, or death here on earth? Mrs. Eddy, in her spiritual definition of The Lord’s Prayer (pages 16-17) tells us that God is supreme in heaven and on earth. What does that mean to you?

19. Recently in the news we have heard about school shootings and children being killed. As a Christian Scientist, how would you pray about this? Never forget, we are **all** practitioners – from the youngest to the oldest because we are all **practicing** Christian Science.

20. Is their life in matter? Can matter die? What happened to the body you had when you were 3 years old? Did it die? Where did it go?

21. S28/Page 215: 12-21. Here is a great paragraph to memorize: “Whatever is governed by God, is never for an instant deprived of the light and might of intelligence and Life.” This word “whatever,” means you, me, and everyone – in other words: “Because I am always governed by God I am never for an instant deprived (destitute) of the light and might of intelligence and Life.”

Remember we are servants/sons and daughters of God. He is Principle (“ple” meaning rule as well as the Principal meaning Pal) of all His ideas. Last week we agreed that man is INNOCENT. We are innocent of the false claims of sin, sickness and death. Because error of any kind is not made by God who is all-Good, it has no place, no power, no law, no cause, no effect and no substance – hence it is NOTHING!

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE; SHINE; SHINE. Wherever you go – GLOW!

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