

BIBLE LESSON SUNDAY SCHOOL WORKBOOK

PROBATION AFTER DEATH

October 16 - 22, 2006

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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. Why do you think Mrs. Eddy chose this subject for a weekly Bible Lesson?
2. What does “Probation” mean?
3. How would you answer Job’s question? Job 14: 14. “If a man die, shall he live again?”
4. Let’s do some in-depth study of B3: I Corinthians 15:1-57, and understand what Paul is teaching here. It is important to note that the Corinthians were not denying the Resurrection of Jesus but the resurrection of the body. Paul was explaining that if a man denied the resurrection of the body he was also denying the Resurrection of Jesus and therefore didn’t understand the Christian message. Paul is unraveling the so-called mystery of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Explain: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” (1 Corinthians 15:54). The Resurrection is the triumph of love over hate.
5. The Sadducees believed that there was no life after death. Does matter die? What do Christian Scientists believe about heaven and hell?
6. What is Mrs. Eddy definition of “Resurrection” in Science & Health? (Page 593) Would there have been any Christianity if Jesus had not risen? What were the disciples doing after the crucifixion? Were they preaching & teaching the words & works of Jesus? Did Jesus have the same body after the resurrection? Explain 1 Cor. 15: 22. “For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive?”
7. Can Life die? Do Christian Scientists believe in reincarnation? In other words, dying and coming back as someone or something else?
8. Can we ever be separated from God? Would He ever break off His relationship with us? Do we sometimes feel separated from Him? What should we do when we have those feelings?
9. Did Paul know Jesus personally – in the same manner that Peter, James & John knew him? Who was Paul? Where did he come from? Was he always a believer in Christ Jesus? How did he treat the Christians? What did he do to Stephen? Paul was undoubtedly one of the first terrorists.
10. When did Paul first learn he was on the wrong road to salvation? What happened to him on the way to Damascus (Acts 9)? What was Paul’s original name before it was changed to Paul? Isn’t it interesting that even though this guy had persecuted and killed followers of Jesus, that when he once

felt the Christ Truth in his consciousness, he became one of the most important messengers/apostles in the history of Christianity. He was God's chosen vessel to teach the Gentiles and to carry out the words & works of the Master Christian. The book of Acts chronicles the first 35 years of the history of the Christian church. This goes to show that in the eyes of Love/God we are always perfect, beautiful, useful, and loving expressions of Him in whom we have our being.

11. Paul started out as a "false witness" and became a true witness. Have you ever felt unable to see (understand) the correct answer to a problem? Have you ever felt confused in your beliefs about God or doubted His existence? Did you know that when Saul (Paul) first saw the heavenly vision he was on his way to imprison & execute Christians? He was struck_____. He was also on the street called "Straight?" Interesting that the voice of Truth changed the man from a hater to a lover of Jesus Christ. Do you think when you graduate from SS that you will join a church and remain a Christian Scientist? Now is a good time to explore some of these questions?

12. Why are you a Christian Scientist – because your folks are? Is C.S. just a religion? Why did Mrs. Eddy name it "Christian Science?"

Suggestion: I have found it helpful with an older class to assign over a period of a year the reading of all of Mary Baker Eddy's biographies, including "MARY BAKER EDDY, CHRISTIAN HEALER" for the older children. I usually give them a month to finish the shorter books. You can gauge how much time they need to read the longer ones. Discussing our leader's life and what she went through to give C.S to the world is awe-inspiring and from now till they graduate SS can make a great C.S Book Club workshop activity. How can one ever get discouraged again after reading about the challengers our Leader faced. It's amazing how many children graduate from SS and know almost nothing about the Discoverer of C.S. I was one of those kids even though I had attended & graduated from a Christian Science boarding school. Many years after I had left Sunday School and was married with 3 young children, I had several major issues to deal with that were not healed through prayer – I left Science. By the time our 5th child was born, I knew I had to find my way back to the only way of life I knew and truly loved. I began by reading every single biography about MBE. I shortly discovered (at least for me) a whole "new" C.S. At this time we were living in a Chicago suburb and, along with several other families, had formed a C.S. Society. The day I finished reading the last biography, I called up a Practitioner/Teacher I knew from back East, and asked if I could take class with her. I was so excited, I couldn't wait. I took class in July of that year. It was finally learning to understand and appreciate the "Revelator" that enabled me to understand and appreciate the "Revelation." Thought my experience might prove helpful to other SS teachers and students.

One quick healing that occur during the time I was reading Mrs. Eddy's bios: I was fixing spaghetti for our family of 10 one night. I had just lifted off the stove a giant pot of boiling water and pasta which I was draining in the sink. Accidentally, I spilt the boiling water over my stomach and legs. At the time I had been thinking about some of the healings I had read from the bio "Twelve Years" by Irving Tomlinson. My husband & children cried out in fright. I told them I was fine, which was true. I felt absolutely nothing (except wet). I changed my clothes – there weren't even any red marks on my skin which goes to prove that "Nothing inharmonious can enter being;" especially when our thought is focused on Truth & Love.

Sometimes teenagers complain they have so much homework; they can't read the lesson or do SS assignments. Have you ever noticed, though, that all of us have time to do what we want to? The following paragraph is from the book "Christian Healer, Page 172. It might be helpful to share this with your SS class. It amazed me when I first read it: "1898 proved to be a landmark year for the

Cause of Christian Science and its healing activities. In January, Mrs. E. established the Church's Board of Lectureship and reorganized the Christian Science Publishing Society; February she established the Church's Board of Education; In April she provided the 26 subjects for the weekly Bible Lessons. In May she changed the testimony meeting from Friday to Wednesday. In September, she established the C.S. Weekly, which she renamed the Christian Science Sentinel four months later. In Nov. she taught her last class to which she invited 70 students. In December she established the Church's Committee on Publications. Earlier in the year in February, she addressed a meeting of church members – her talk was on the 91st Psalm. At the end of the year she wrote to a lecturer that she had worked day and night for her church and a systematic order of action in the departments of Christian Science.” By the way, all during this time she was also editing the final version of Science & Health. In 1908 she founded The Christian Science Monitor. Mrs. Eddy did all of this in her mid to late 80's when most people are retired and labeled Senior Citizens. She passed in 1910. One of the definitions of “Good” in Science & Health is omni-action.

13. Don't forget: “The world out there is merely a mirror of the world in here (in us). Explain.

14. What Psalm did Mrs. Eddy consider one of the foundations stones of Christian Science and why? (91st).

Acts 20:7-12 – A young man named Eutychus fell asleep & like Humpty Dumpty fell, not off the wall but off a 3 story high window ledge he was sitting on. This story, however, has a happy ending. Unlike Humpty whom “they couldn't put back together again” – Paul, through his absolute faith & trust in God, restored Euty to his inherent perfect selfhood. First we need to set the scene. Then read the story, told by Luke, about our healing hero Paul.

The first day of the week was Sunday. Breaking Bread is a “Love Feast” in celebration of The Last Supper. The people were served a full meal. Eutychus was probably in his late teens. He might have had an invitation to a great party that night, but instead chose to hear Paul speak about Jesus. How many of you would give up a party to attend a Wed. Evening Testimony Meeting. What does that tell you about this young man? He and a number of the other people present were Christian slaves. They had labored in the fields from dawn to dusk. This was probably the first good meal they had all day. Christians eating in loving fellowship symbolizes the family spirit of the church. By the time Paul started talking, it was late. The many lamps that were burning made the air hot and oppressive (picture all of this when reading this story in Acts). Paul talked the rest of the night till daybreak.

Euty was sitting on what we might call a window sill in today's lingo. He was soooooo tired that he fell asleep, lost his balance & fell 3 stories. The people screamed when they saw what happened and told Paul he was dead. But Paul didn't buy that verdict. He embraced him and said: “Stop crying – there's life in him yet.” After that, knowing that this young man was healed, Paul continued his speech. The next morning, they brought our friend Euty to Paul – he was strong and healthy. The people who witnessed this healing had the opportunity to see TRUTH IN ACTION. Paul didn't just talk the talk, he walked the walk. To put it bluntly – “he put his money where his mouth was.” (Biblical Note)☺ *Normally Easterner's never tire of listening to long sermons. Missionaries and preachers who speak for several hours are admired and looked upon as learned men, while preachers who are brief, lose their reputation.* This statement tells me that I better not fall asleep in any of our **one hour** church services.

15. Can you remember another instance when some disciples fell asleep at the most crucial of times in all of history? Where did this event take place? Who fell asleep? What had taken place prior to this incident? Who scolded them for falling asleep when he needed them to pray for him? What else

happened that same night? What question did he ask these lazy men after he had begged his followers three times to “watch with him?” What are some other words for sleep? What is the opposite of apathy?

16. Have you ever felt concerned only about **yourself** and your activities and no interest in anyone else? How often do you think about your folks and perhaps some of the every day challenges they are dealing with? Have you asked them if you can do anything for them? What about your siblings? Your classmates? One of the most wonderful qualities about Jesus was that **HE CARED ABOUT OTHERS**. How about your teachers? Do you try to make their life easier or more difficult? Would you like to be in their place and teach your class? When you hear an ambulance siren, what do you do? When you see or hear about war and disasters taking place in far away places, what do you do? Do you pray or just ignore it all because it has nothing to do with your life at the moment. If we call ourselves students of C.S., then we had better include all mankind in our daily prayers. Jesus was the most *un-selfish* man that ever lived. Don’t ever let an opportunity go by where you failed to help someone in need – someone who needed your prayers, your compassion.

17. The above presents a wonderful opportunity to have students learn “A rule for Motives & Acts” and the “Daily Prayer” as found in the Manual – Pages 40 & 41. As well as “Alertness to Duty,” page 42. On Page 450 in Science & Health Mrs. Eddy says that; “The Christian Scientist has **enlisted** to lessen evil, disease, and death; and he will overcome them by understanding their nothingness and the allness of God, or good.” She doesn’t say we were **drafted**. We have enlisted to lessen evil, disease and death – everywhere. Just going to SS & Church twice a week does not make us Christian Scientists – all of us need to practice every day in every way its teachings. We need to actively live our prayers. What do **we** have to do to see a better more harmonious and peaceful world?

18. Here’s the major question we all need to ask and answer for ourselves: (S&H, Page 496). “Ask yourself: Am I living the life that approaches the supreme good? Am I demonstrating the healing power of Truth and Love?”

19. On page 251:8-12 (S9) Mrs. Eddy tells us that “In the illusion of death, mortals wake to the knowledge of two facts.” What are they?

20. What are the tenets of Christian Science? (Page 497) If anyone wants to know what we believe, these 6 important statements will help you explain what C.S. is all about. This week’s lesson includes #5. Last week’s lesson included #4.

21. Because Life is real and all, it stands to reason that death must be an _____.

22. Explain what Jesus meant when he said: “If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death.” S13. Page 428:3-12, 22-23, 30-32.

23. True or False: We, as individuals, will never experience what the world calls “death.” Explain.

24. How did the disciples, Jesus, Paul, etc. travel from place to place in Biblical times? They sure didn’t have planes, trains, buses or automobiles. If your SS has maps, follow some of the places that Jesus and Paul visited. See how long it would take them to go from town to town. With today’s modern technology we have very little to complain about. We even have an Internet highway.

25. Some people believe they can commune with people who have died – do we believe that? How many have seen the movie GHOST? If you have, what’s your concept of the storyline? Believe it or not, this could be an interesting discussion question. Read S16, Page 74:29-11.

26. A wonderful on-going class assignment for the high school/college students is to spend time in and out of class studying the life of Paul. He certainly was both a fascinating and major character in the Scriptures. His life before he became a Christian; his conversion; his missionary journeys; all the times he was imprisoned, etc. “His letters, together with the Gospels, became the foundation of the Christian movement.”

27. When we have a problem, where do we begin? When is “judgment day? (Page 291: 28-12). Why isn’t a sinful, sick and dying mortal the likeness of God? RIGHT NOW, YOU ARE LIVING THE ONLY LIFE THERE IS. GOD IS YOUR LIFE! It doesn’t get better than that.

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