

BIBLE LESSON SUNDAY SCHOOL WORKBOOK

EVERLASTING PUNISHMENT

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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. Who punishes us when we are disobedient? God? Yes? No? Explain. Here are a couple of examples to help make clear the importance of this Lesson subject:

Jack & Jill were 8 year old twins. They lived in the country. Their mom had told that that they were always to come straight home after school, which was only a few short blocks from their house. One beautiful spring day they decided to go to a nearby park and play instead of going straight home. It was such a beautiful day and they couldn’t resist the temptation. They finally returned home over an hour late. Naturally their mom was upset because she had been worried about them. “Where were you two?” She said. “Uncle Ned had stopped by because he had 2 extra tickets to the circus and he wanted to take you with him. He waited as long as he could and then decided to take your cousins instead because they were home & you weren’t.” Obviously Jack and Jill were very unhappy to have missed going to the circus. Who made them unhappy? In reality who punished the twins? Mom? Uncle Ned? God? Who? Here’s another example:

You are driving down the highway in your brand new BMW convertible. The speed limit is 60 miles an hour. But your car is built to go a lot faster than that. There isn’t that much traffic so you decide to drive a cool 75 miles an hour. All of a sudden you hear a police siren. The policeman motions you to pull off the highway. He writes you a \$250 ticket for speeding. You’re furious with him and the amount of the fine. This speeding ticket will be a black mark on your driving record and will undoubtedly increase your insurance payments. Who punished you – really? God? The policeman? The salesman who sold you the BMW? Would you have gotten a ticket if you had been driving 60 miles an hour? Was it God’s fault you received a ticket? Did He whisper in your ear to speed?

2. Read B3: 1 John 3:1-4, 7, 9. Why are verses 1-3 read at the end of every Sunday service in Christian Science churches? Mrs. Eddy must have thought these verses were extremely important to permanently include them in our services. I especially like to emphasize the fact “**that we should be called the sons of God:** Of course we should be called God’s children because we indeed are God’s children. We’re not going to be at some future time. This verse is referring to the Gen.1 man – the man made in His image and likeness. When creation was all finished, man and the universe; what did God say? (He) “God saw everything that he had made and behold it was very _____.” (Gen. 1: 31). We are a done deal. No additions & no subtractions. Once a cake is baked you can’t add any ingredients or remove any.

3. What’s the correlative passage that is read in all C.S. churches from S&H before 1st John is read? (Page 468:8). Remember, it’s called “The scientific statement of being,” – not *becoming*.

4. There's a Beatitude that tells us what we have to see and be in order to see God – which one is it? What does it say? Matt. 5:8: “Blessed are _____ for they shall _____ God.” What does it mean?

5. 1 John 3, 9: Explain what this verse means to you: “Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him; and he **cannot** sin, because he is born of God.” I also like the translation in the Amplified Bible: “*No one born (begotten) of God (deliberately, knowingly, and habitually) practices sin, for God's nature abides in him. (His principle of life, the divine sperm, remains permanently within him): and he cannot practice sinning because he is born (begotten) of God.*”

6. Let's answer & discuss Mrs. Eddy's question on page 356: 25-27 (“Does divine”). S1.

7. Who is the author (creator) of evil? Is man a creator? Yes; No; Why not? Read S6. Page 470:16-18, 21-24 and discuss its meaning.

8. Why did Christ Jesus come into the world in the first place?

“Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.” If you stole something and were caught; went to court knowing you could be sentenced to jail time – would you ask the Judge to forgive you? Would you promise you wouldn't do it again? The Judge believes that you are truly repentant – truly sorry and forgives you – you of course have to return the item you stole and apologize to the owner of the store. If your debt can be forgiven don't you think you should forgive others when they have done you wrong? Here's an illustration: You say something mean about a friend of yours to another friend. The guy or gal then finds out what you said and you apologized to her/him. The next day, the friend who you apologized to told another person something mean about **you**. You found out about it and confronted your friend, but this so-called friend refused to apologize to you. How would you feel? You apologized – why didn't your friend apologize to you?

Let's perform a Biblical play about forgiveness: Matt. 18: 20-35. A one act play:

Moderator: Peter confronts the Master (Jesus)

Peter – Master, how many times should I forgive a brother or sister, friend, mom or dad who hurts or offends me? Seven?

Jesus – “Seven,” hardly – Try 70 X's 7. The Kingdom of God is like a king who decided to square accounts with one of his servants. The servant was brought before him who owed the king \$10,000. He couldn't pay the debt so the king ordered the man, along with his wife, children and everything he owned to be sold at the slave market.

The Servant – Please, please, dear Royal One, have pity on me. Give me a chance, and I'll try and pay it back. Don't sell my wife and children I beg you.

The King – Ok, Ok, stop crying. I'm sorry I threatened to put you in jail and auction off your wife, children and everything you own. I will erase your debt and forgive you. You have been a good and loyal servant who just fell upon hard times. It could happen to anyone.

Moderator – The servant had no sooner left the palace when he came upon a fellow servant who owed him \$20. He seized him by the throat & demanded: “Pay up or else I’ll throw you and your family in jail.”

Second Servant – Please, dear friend, have mercy upon me (he said this kneeling down, crying and begging at the feet of the 1st servant). I promise to pay it back as soon as I can. I had to buy food for my family and pay my taxes this month and was short the money I had borrowed from you. I’m sure you can understand how it feels to be broke as I know you’ve been in the same boat as I have. Please give me a little more time and I promise to pay you back in a week or two.

Original Servant - No way Hosea, you’re going to jail – directly to jail, where you can rot and your family can starve for all I care. I want my money now. Soldier, throw this man in jail & throw the key away – he doesn’t deserve to be forgiven. I don’t care what happens to his wife and children, they’re not my responsibility.

Moderator – When the other servants witnessed this exchange, knowing that the king had forgiven this man a much larger debt, they were outraged and went to the king and gave him a detailed report of what happened. The king summoned the mean-spirited, greedy man (whom he had just forgiven) and said to him:

The King – You wicked servant. I forgave your entire debt when you begged me for mercy. Shouldn’t you have been merciful to your fellow servant who also asked for forgiveness? For being so cruel, unloving and unkind, you are going to jail till you pay the entire amount you owe me. You deserve to be punished for not forgiving a neighbor his debt – it was only \$20. Why I forgave you debt of \$10,000. You had a choice to be loving and forgiving, but unfortunately you chose to be mean and heartless instead – now you will suffer the consequences of your actions.

Christ Jesus – And that’s exactly the way my Father in heaven (the true and only KING) feels when we refuse to forgive others. He forgives his children unconditionally and expects us to do the same. What Biblical rule does this story remind you of?

Do you ever remember a time when you found it difficult to forgive someone? Explain. How did the Amish people react to the family of the man who killed their children? How would you feel if you were in their place? How does God see the individual who did the killing? I love this line in a Christmas Carol as it reminds me of what God, divine Mind knows: ***“Do you see what I see? Do you hear what I hear?”***

9. What does it mean to forgive **unconditionally**?
- Absolutely
 - Sometimes
 - Totally
 - Completely
 - If and when we feel like it
 - Without restrictions or reservations
 - Never on Sundays

Read Luke 18: 9-14. (B6) Jesus’ parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector (The Publican & the Sinner). Some people think they are better than others? Have you ever been guilty of thinking like that? This parable is followed by another story of a repentant tax collector in Luke 19: 2-10. This little man goes by the name of Zacchaeus.

These 2 men went to the Temple to pray. However, the Pharisee (Publican) didn't really pray to God, he prayed with *himself* and about himself. He went to the Temple to tell God how great he was. The Pharisee prayed this way: (The Message).

The Pharisee: “Oh, God, I thank you that I am not like other people – robbers, crooks, adulterers or, heaven forbid, like this tax man over there. I fast twice a week and tithe on all my income.” You gotta love me best, God – because I'm such a good guy.

Moderator: “Meanwhile the tax man, slumped in the shadows, his face in his hands, not daring to look up and said:

Tax Collector: “God, give me mercy. Forgive me – I'm a sinner.”

Jesus: “I tell you, this tax man, not the other man, went home made right (justified) with God. If you walk around with your nose in the air; you're going to end up flat on your face.” KJV. “Every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.” Explain the meaning of Jesus' words.

10. Why did Jesus tell this parable? What was the message he was trying to convey to the people? Is this same message relevant today? Why? What were some of the qualities expressed by the Publican? What was a key quality expressed by the tax collector?

11. What does Mrs. Eddy tell us we most need? Page 4: 3-5.

12. Read Luke 19: 2-10. Why did Jesus befriend a man that so many people hated?

13. Why was Zacchaeus so anxious to see Jesus? Why was he willing to give back so much money to the poor – those he had initially cheated when collecting the tax money? Jesus knew the people considered this man a sinner, so why did Jesus agree to have dinner and sleep at his house? What's the message here? What's the spiritual definition of “house”? Where do we really all live?

14. Zacchaeus was rich, but he wasn't happy. He heard about Jesus and the works he did and desperately wanted to meet him. He had to climb a tree to see Jesus because he was so short, but also if he stood amongst the crowd, they would have hit, kicked & pushed him, because they didn't like him. Believe me, he was a lot safer in a tree than on the ground.

15. Verse 9. What did Jesus mean when he said: “This day is salvation come to this house, (his entire family and servants) forasmuch as he also is a son of Abraham? Verse 10 gives us the reason Jesus did what he did. The rest of the story: “Zacchaeus became a convert, surrendered half of his great wealth to the poor, and made restitution for his past misdeeds.” (Dummelow).

16. In S&H, page 259: 6 – What does Mrs. Eddy tell us is the “basis of thought and demonstration”? Why?

17. How do you feel when you knowingly do something wrong? Something good & right?

18. S 14, Page 497:9. Here is another tenet regarding “forgiveness.” Which one is this? How does God forgive sin?

Section 4 tells of Jesus healing the man who was born blind. John 9: 1-3, 6,7,32. Prior to this story we have the proverb in Exekiel 18: 1-4, 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?

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

20. 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. (Note: in Jesus’ day saliva was a recognized remedy for eye disease). 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.

21. What other reason did Jesus have for putting the wet mud on the man’s face?
Finish the rest of the story. What happened after the man got out of the pool and finished washing?

22. What are some other forms of blindness besides the seeming loss of one’s eyesight?

23. Page 138: 27-2 (S22). How do we love our neighbor as our self?

24. Page 497:24 – Here comes tenet #6. When you read this one don’t forget to pause after the word “*watch.*” This is an important one to memorize. Why?

25. Why is the title of our textbook SCIENCE and HEALTH with **KEY TO THE SCRIPTURES?**
Read Page 99: 5-11.

26. True or False: “The mission of Christian Science is not primarily one of physical healing.” Explain. (Page 150:4). What is the mission of Christian Science?

Here’s a cute SS Bible Story to make you smile: *“MOSES & THE RED SEA: Nine-year old Joey was asked by his mother what he had learned in SS. “Well, Mom, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy line on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his army build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. The he radioed headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge & all the Israelites were saved.” “Now, Joey is that really what your teacher taught you?” “Well, no Mom, but if I told it the way the teacher did, you’d never believe it.”* **Have a happy week.**

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