

# BIBLE LESSON SUNDAY SCHOOL WORKBOOK

## God the Only Cause and Creator

November 27 – December 3, 2006

Prepared by Peggy Koehler for CSDirectory.com

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?*

Thanksgiving Day was last Thursday, yet this lesson begins with praising God. The Golden Text, Psalms 147: 7, even reminds us to “Sing unto the Lord with thanksgiving; sing praise...”

B2, Psalms 148 says to Praise Him! Praise Him! Praise Him! Why is it so important to thank and praise God for creating **everything** including the stars, the moon, the sun, the ocean, mountains, trees, animals and all crawly things, birds, rain, snow & ice, earth's kings (including presidents and foreign leaders, men, women and children, etc. He created it **ALL**. How? When?

It's interesting that the above Psalm tells us to praise God for rain, snow, ice and other weather conditions which most of us find bothersome at one time or another. But Mrs. Eddy always saw the God-governed and Mind-controlled weather patterns – never their destructive elements. In the book “*Christian Healer*,” on page 204, she is quoted as writing the following to the Board of Directors of TMC: “...consider this my proposition – that you require some of the best Christian Scientists in Boston and vicinity to pray once each day that no thought of earthquake, tornado, or destructive lightening enter thought to harm it, but that he who reigns in the heavens and watches over the earth saves from all harm.”

Can we heal unfavorable weather conditions today? How do we do it? It's interesting that one of the definitions of “FIRE” in S&H, page 586, is *fear, remorse, lust and hatred*. One of the definitions of “FEAR” on the same page is *heat, inflammation, anxiety*, etc. Does this give you any ideas on how to handle the destructive element of out of control **fires**? We handle all erroneous conditions by acknowledging the allness of God/Good and the nothingness of matter. Could an all-powerful God possibly create a cause or condition the opposite of Himself? Why not?

Let's clarify the meaning of the following words: Cause; Creator; Effect. If God, good is the ONLY cause, what would be some of the effects of the false claims of war, hatred, poverty, sickness, fear, etc. be? Never forget to exchange the “objects of sense for the ideas of Soul.” As long as we put Love in charge of our lives, we have nothing to fear. Peace is always the effect. Read S1, Page 275:10-17

1. Most religions teach there are two creations? What does C.S. teach and why?
2. God has given man dominion over the whole earth – what does that mean? Wars? Hatred? Sickness? Fear? How do we achieve dominion over these problems?

3. B6 – Genesis 26 relates a beautiful story about Isaac and his absolute trust in God to supply his family’s needs during a severe famine in the land. Isaac was the son of:

- a. Saul
- b. Abraham
- c. Joseph
- d. Sarah
- e. Peter

**God:** Hello, Isaac – I know there is a severe famine but I don’t want you to go down to Egypt. I want you to stay here in this land, and I promise to be with you and bless you. I made a covenant (promise) with your father, Abraham, who always listened and obeyed me, that I would multiply your family and bless you and all your children. These lands shall be for your heirs. Crops will grow and you will be a very wealthy farmer as long as you trust me and listen to what I tell you to do.

**Isaac:** No problem, Lord, just say the word and I’ll do it. (So Isaac stayed put in Gerar).

Isaac planted crops and received a huge harvest because God had blessed him. He got richer and richer every day. He accumulated flocks and herds, and servants so much so that the Philistines, who inhabited that land, began to envy him. They were so jealous of his success that they got even with him by throwing dirt and debris into all the wells that his father’s servants had dug. Wells were a necessary means for supplying water to drink and for watering the crops. They seldom receive much rain in that part of the world. They certainly didn’t have any type of irrigation system which we’re familiar with today. Obviously when you fill up a well with dirt what happens?

**Abimelech (King of the Philistines):** Isaac, it’s time you left this land. You’re getting too wealthy for us and my people are jealous of your success. It’s no longer safe for you and your family to stay here.

**Isaac:** OK, folks, it’s time to move on. We’re no longer welcome here. Pack up your belongings we’re going to camp in the valley of Gerar.

Isaac and his servants dug again the wells which were dug in the days of Abraham. Previously the Philistines and also clogged up those original wells with dirt and debris. Isaac named them using the same names as his father had. One day, as Isaac’s servants were digging they came upon a well of spring water. But the shepherds of Gerar quarreled with Isaac’s shepherds.

**Shepherds of Gerar:** Hey guys, this water is ours, not yours so get lost.

Isaac then named that well *Esek* with means “Quarrel” because they fought over it. Isaac & his servants then dug another well, and the Philistine shepherds fought over that one as well so Isaac named it *Sitnah* which means “Accusation.” Again Isaac left that well and dug another one some distance away. Halleluiah, they finally stopped fighting over the wells so Isaac named it *Rehoboth*, which means “Wide-Open Spaces.” He knew that his God had finally made room for him and his people.

**Isaac:** Rejoice everyone – God has given us plenty of space to spread out in the land. From here we will go up to Beersheba.

**God (appearing to Isaac):** Isaac, I am proud of you – you have trusted and obeyed me even when it seemed your enemies were making your life extremely difficult. You know that I am the God of your

father, Abraham. You have absolutely nothing to be afraid of, ever. I will not only bless you but all your children, grandchildren and future heirs because of the loyalty, love and obedience shown to me by your father. My original promise was made to him and his descendants.

Then Abimelech came to visit Isaac from the city of Gerar. He brought with him his chief advisor, Ahuzzath, and Phichol, the captain of his army.

**Isaac:** Why have you come to see me, Abimelech? You hate me and threw me out of your country. You certainly didn't make me feel loved and wanted – just the opposite. Have you come to fight with us?

**Abimelech (Abby):** Isaac, my friend, we now realize that God is on your side and we'd like to make a deal between you and us. We don't want to hurt you. Let's promise to maintain friendly relations. We haven't attacked you in the past; we basically treated you kindly when you and your family and friends lived in our city and we let you leave in peace. We recognize that God's blessings are with you now and forever.

Isaac and his friends and family were certainly "happy campers." The women cooked a huge feast for Abby and his friends and they all ate and drank together in harmony and camaraderie. Early in the morning they again exchanged vows of peace. Then Isaac said good-bye and they parted as friends. What kind of foods do you think the women cooked? Later that same day, Isaac's servants came to him with more good news about the well they had been digging.

**Isaac's Servants:** You'll never believe this, Master, but we've struck water again.

So Isaac named this new well *Sheba* which means "Oath," and that's the name of the city – Beersheba (Oath-Well) to this day.

4. What God-derived lessons has this story taught? Could this incident between Isaac and the Philistines help us to solve the tribal problems taking place in the world today – in places like Darfur and Iraq? Carefully study the subject of this Bible Lesson for the answer – GOD – THE ONLY CAUSE and CREATOR!

5. What kind of a person was Isaac? How did he compare to Abraham, his father? Were they different in anyway?

6. The Philistines envied Isaac his success – have you ever envied anyone whom you think gets better grades than you? Or has a boyfriend/girlfriend that you would like to have? Or has nicer clothes, more money, a better figure, etc.? What should you do about it? What did Isaac do?

**NOTE TO TEACHERS:** A few years back Kim Shippey wrote an article in the C.S Sentinel about a Jr. High school class in rural TN who did a project on the Holocaust. This story which was later made into a movie, received world-wide rave reviews. Schools all over the country are still collecting "Paper Clips" and following in the footsteps of these students from Whitwell Middle School in Whitwell, TN. Because the students couldn't visualize 6 Million as the number of Jews killed in the Holocaust, they decided to collect Paper Clips. They ended up receiving over 40 million. The memorial they constructed included a total of 11 million paper clips – acknowledging the Jews as well as other groups of people that the Nazis exterminated under Hitler. If you can rent the DVD, PAPER CLIPS (the title of the movie), please do so. Perhaps you could have a special showing with SS students and their parents. I really believe the parents should see this movie along with their kids. Its fine for children

ages 7<sup>th</sup> grade on up. This student project teaches some beautiful lessons on overcoming long-standing prejudices as well as healing individual cultural differences that tend to divide people, cultures, and nationalities (in belief only). I had invited my SS class and their parents over one Sunday after church. Of course we went to Burger King first then came back to my house to watch the film. Everyone loved the movie which taught so many Biblical principles; such as The Golden Rule, The Good Samaritan Story, some of Jesus' teaching from The Sermon on the Mount including loving your neighbor and forgiveness, etc. To me the theme of this story was based on Malachi 2:10: ***“Have we not all one Father? Hath not one God created us? Why do we deal treacherously every man against his brother by profaning the covenant of our fathers?”***

If you do have the opportunity to review this film, ask your students to write the inspirational messages and/or principles they gleaned from this film which began as a lesson in teaching tolerance.

6. Why do you think Mrs. Eddy uses the word “Principle” as a synonym for God?

7. When we're praying about any problem, where does Mrs. Eddy tell us to begin? Page 275:6 (*“The starting-point of divine Science is that God, Spirit is All-in-all, and that there is no other might nor Mind, – that God is Love, and therefore He is divine Principle.”*) Another good paragraph to memorize.

### Section 3 – the birth of John, The Baptist.

It's a good idea to read this account in its entirety (Luke 1:1-80). This week's lesson includes these citations only: Luke: 5-9, 11-14, 57, 67-69, 76-79. You might also want to spend some time on this chapter reading about the angel Gabriel also visiting Mary when her cousin Elizabeth was about 6 months pregnant. I'm sure you can ask your students insightful questions relating to this 1<sup>st</sup> chapter in Luke. Its chock full of spiritual nuggets. I've mentioned a few, but I know you'll find many more.

1. Who was Luke? Was he a Jew? Believe it or not he was the only Gentile in an all-Jewish cast of New Testament writers. Do you think he sometimes felt like an outcast? Have you ever felt like the only Christian Scientist in your group of friends? How do you feel about it? Have you ever had to stand up for your beliefs with your peers? What did you say? How did you feel afterwards? The best way to tell people about the healing power of C.S. is to live it – kind of like “show & tell.” I'm sure you've heard this sentence: “Well, I'll show them a thing or two....!” Christ Jesus and MBE always lived their prayers and they certainly showed us a thing or two, or three or...

2. What was Luke's profession?

- a. A Shepherd
- b. A Physician
- c. A Fisherman
- d. A Tax Collector

3. Luke also wrote the book of?

- a. Acts
- b. Matthew
- c. Genesis
- d. Revelation

4. Who was John the Baptist? Was he any relation to Jesus?

5. What was John's mother's name?

- a. Ruth
- b. Elisabeth
- c. Martha
- d. Esther

6. Believe it or not Elisabeth and her husband, Zacharias were both direct descendants of Aaron – who was Aaron? Every descendant of Aaron was automatically a priest? A priest must only marry a woman of pure Jewish lineage. However, when we are first introduced to Zacharias we find out he was not a happy man – do you know why?

- a. His wife had burnt his toast that morning
- b. They had no children
- c. He was over-drawn on his checking account
- d. His boss was going to fire him

7. Believe it or not: The Jewish Rabbis said that Jews could be excommunicated from God if they had no wife or if they had a wife but had no children. In fact at that time and even in some Mid-Eastern countries today, childlessness was valid grounds for divorce. Zacharias was probably thinking about this situation while he was in the temple and wondering what to do. Suddenly an angel appeared to him (verse 13). The angel told him not to be afraid as his prayers were heard and his wife, Elisabeth, would give birth to a son and they were to call him, JOHN.

Note: In Palestine the birth of a boy was cause for great joy. When the child was born local musicians gathered near the house and broke into music and song. However, if it was a girl, then the musicians went home silently and regretfully. The name John means: God is gracious or Jehovah's gift.

8. Did Zacky believe the angel? What was the angel's name? One of the reasons Elisabeth's husband didn't believe it was possible is that they were both way past the age of having children. What other Biblical couple bore a son when they were both considered too old to have children? What does that tell us about God?

9. In Luke 1:26-28 we have a very busy angel named Gabriel visiting a young girl with an important message about another birth. Who was the girl? What was the message? Was she married at the time? When she got married, her husband's name was \_\_\_\_\_. Her child's name was \_\_\_\_\_. After Gabriel met with Mary, who was the next person he visited? Just prior to the birth of Jesus, he made another visit to some folks telling them about this very special event – who were they? What's Mrs. Eddy's definition of "Angels" in Science & Health? Page 581

10. Mary went to visit Elisabeth when she was 3 months pregnant. Elisabeth was her cousin. Do you know what Elisabeth said when she first saw her cousin? Luke 1: 41-43. Elisabeth recognized the coming of the Messiah before he had even been born. This section also deals with the understanding of true conception – God is the only author/creator of man. On page 256: 5 (S10), Mrs. Eddy tells us that Mind not matter is the only creator. So everyone's Father and Mother is \_\_\_\_\_. In that case are we not all related to the same Creator – the same source? Wouldn't demonstrating this truth bring about peace in the world? This section is not only dealing with the birth of John the Baptist but also explaining "spiritual conception." Because we are God's reflection of Himself, we must be spiritually, not materially conceived.

11. We have the Terminator (Exterminator) of all error with us all the time – it is the understanding that THERE IS ONLY **ONE** MIND. As this truth is demonstrated more and more, it would end wars

and conflicts at home and abroad. What's our role in establishing peace in our home, at school, and in the world?

Did you know? John the Baptist was the "forerunner of Jesus. Luke acknowledges that both John and Jesus' birth were specifically announced by the angel Gabriel – before they were born. John was a preacher and teacher – not in a temple, but in the wilderness of Judea. He dressed and acted similar to Elijah. His ministry was one of reform and in preparation for the coming of Christ Jesus.

12. When did Jesus first meet John and what did John do to him? Matt. 3:13-17.

13. Some folks believe that they have to tell God everything they need or want – thinking of Him as some type of Santa Clause guru – what does Mrs. Eddy say about this concept? Page 1: 10. "*Thoughts unspoken are not unknown to the divine Mind. Desire is prayer; and no loss can occur from trusting God with our desires, that they may be moulded and exalted before they take form in words and deeds.*" It's important to know that God knows exactly what we need **before** we ask him? How?

14. Section 4: B13: Mark 5:25-34. Read and relate this story in your own words. Jesus was this woman's last hope for healing. She had been hemorrhaging for over 12 years. (Note to women SS teachers with only female students from 12 on up). When I've had only girls in my class and this story comes up in the lesson – in order for them to get the picture of this woman's problem and her need for healing – I have sometimes told my students that it's like having your period non-stop for 12 years. That seems to give them a good idea of how much this woman wanted to be free of this "curse.")

Let's examine the rest of this story. She had spent all her money on doctors; probably most of them were fakes just taking her money with no idea on how to cure her. Because in this society and at this period of time in Biblical history, she was also considered "unclean" – which means she was a social outcast. No friends; no family and no one to go to the movies or out to dinner with. She wasn't even allowed to worship in the temple. Now she had heard about Jesus and his healing works but she had this embarrassing problem plus the crowd would not have been happy if they knew she was in their midst.. She figured if she could just touch the four tassels on Jesus' outer robe she might be healed. Obviously, this was pure superstition on her part, but none-the-less as soon as she touched his garment she instantly felt a change and knew she was healed. At the same moment, Jesus felt that a healing had taken place and he turned around to the crowd and asked who had touched his robe.

15. How did the disciples respond to Jesus' question? What did Jesus say to the woman? Did Jesus believe something had caused this woman's problem? How would you have healed this situation if Jesus had called on you to do so? If the cause of something is good – what must the effect be? Healing begins and ends with this spiritual principle from No & Yes by MBE; page 30:11-13: "God's law is in three words, "I am All;" and this perfect law is ever present to rebuke any claim of another law."

16. Explain this sentence in S&H (S17) page 208:25-1..."You embrace your body in your thought, and you should delineate upon it thoughts of health, not of sickness." How do we do that?

17. S19, page 417: 10-18. Look for one of the commandments in this citation.

18. Section 5. Mark 4:36-39. B16. Here is one more victory on the side of peace. The first section established God as the only cause and peace as the only effect. Next we had peace destroying acts of competition and envy involving Isaac. Following that was the unexpected birth of John to parents past the childbearing age. Peace and joy relating to spiritual conception and the false claim that good could

be denied someone. Section 4 is the proof that God/Good as the only cause brings us the peace of health and harmony; and Section 5 is a beautiful example of peace amid a storm. Whether storms of nature or unrest, confusion, fear, chaos, violence, anger, worry, frustrations, etc. Any condition that tries to rob us of our peace of mind can be silenced by these Christly words: “Peace – Be Still!”

19. To set the stage for Jesus’ calming of the raging sea, read B14. Psalms 89:8, 9,11.

20. What did Jesus say when the storm came and the waves smashed into the ship?

- a. Peter, sit down, you’re rocking the boat
- b. I knew I should have stayed on shore
- c. Peace, be still
- d. Pipe down, I’m trying to sleep

21. Mrs. Eddy has said that all force is mental. What does she mean? S23, Page 293: 13-16, 21-23, 28. She also says; “There is no vapid fury of mortal mind – expressed in earthquake, wind, wave, lightning, fire, bestial ferocity – and this so-called mind is self-destroyed.” How?

22. One of my favorite sentences to memorize is on page 379:6. S24. What a powerful, healing statement of truth.

23. Why would the world collapse without Mind? S25. Page 209: 10-11.

This lesson ends with the beautiful message from Luke 2:14: Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men.” What Beatitude does this lesson bring to mind? Focus on being walking, talking “Peace-makers” at home and at school. Share ideas and incidents when **you** were a Peacemaker.

Sunday School Anecdote: THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD: *“A SS teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible; Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the verse. Little Ricky was excited about the task, but he just couldn’t seem to remember the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line. On the day the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Ricky was so nervous. When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly: “The Lord is my Shepherd, and that’s all I need to know.”*

### **“THE NATURAL STATE OF MAN IS JOY & PEACE!”**

These Bible Lesson Sunday School Workbook notes can be downloaded from CSDirectory.com. <http://www.csdirectory.com/biblestudy/blw-index.html>

Web sites for Christian Science High School students:

TMCYouth.com <http://www.tmcyouth.com>

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