



Weekly Bible Study Resources

## Weekly Bible Study Sunday School Workbook

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Designed for those in Junior High and beyond

**For week of April 15 - 21, 2013**

**Note to Teachers:** The ideas for teaching Sunday School in this workbook are student-centered and each Section has a different idea for teaching in this manner. The purpose is to engage the students in active learning that will impress their thought and lead to deeper understanding of the spiritual truths. There will not be sufficient time to implement all these ideas, but you will be guided to use those that best fit your class, and of course, the hour is under the direction of the Holy Spirit. “And all thy children [students] shall be taught of the Lord” (Isaiah 54:13). Each class is a joyous adventure. — *PrayerfulLiving.com*

### **Subject: Doctrine of Atonement**

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OED = *Oxford English Dictionary*

**GT** Herein is Love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the **propitiation** for our sins (I John 4:10).

**Objective:** Students will gain in a clearer understanding of the spiritual, scientific sense of “atonement” and how this relates to them today.

**Teaching idea:** Ask students to find the meaning of **propitiation**. See what resources they use or ask for, help if needed. **Questions** (below) may be used for discussion.

**Propitiate.** To make well-disposed or favourably inclined; to win or regain the favour of; to appease, conciliate. 2. To atone for (OED).

**Propitiation.** 1. The action of propitiating someone; appeasement, conciliation; atonement, expiation; an instance of this 2. The condition or state of being propitiated or rendered favourable; favour (OED).

**Propitiation.** *Hilasmus.* Atonement, that is, (concretely) an expiator: – (*Greek Strong's* 2434).

**Propitiation** (reconciliation). ... closely related to the word *expiation*. To *propitiate* is to appease (one was angry or offended but not is appeased). To *expiate* is to remove or wipe away. Often where the *King James Version* has *propitiation*, the *Revised Standard Version* has *expiation*. In classic pagan usage, the word propitiation meant offering a gift to the gods who were angry in order to appease them and win favor or an answer to a request. The Greek word *hilaskomai*, designates the cover on the Ark that was the place of propitiation in the Day of Atonement ritual. ... Those who were out of favor are restored to favor because of a change of mind... God Himself, motivated by love, provides the propitiation as a free gift (*Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible*).

**Questions:** What is the scientific sense behind propitiation or expiation? What is the nature of God and His relationship to man? What does Science teach about sin? What do the Scriptures mean by the *anger* and/or *wrath* of God? What is the spiritually scientific sense of this? What is our relationship to this truth, and what are our responsibilities?

**RR** How do the verses in the *Responsive Reading* relate to this main idea?

**I.** B1. *Obey* is in contrast to *sacrifice*. First, what was the literal sense of this at the time of writing? What does it mean to us today? In what ways do we “obey” God? What do “obey” and “sacrifice” mean in Christian Science?

B4. Another contrast of terms is found in B4—*law* (Moses) and *grace and truth* (Jesus Christ). Begin a discussion to compare these two. Show students these examples of contrast in verses that they should be alert to as an aid in deeper understanding of the Scriptures.

B5. Verses 27 to 30 – recommend memorizing these verses and where they are located.

S&H 2. The first sentence is another good citation to memorize, with page number. Challenge the students to try this, give them a few minutes with both B5 and S&H 2, and at the end of class see how much they can recite together.

S&H 5 **Question.** What is the great point of departure for all true spiritual growth? What are we to “obey?” How do we do it?

**II** B9. **Questions for Discussion:** (Dealing with anger by reconciliation)

Have you ever had a time when you were angry with someone (“your brother”)? Is there any provision here for whose fault it was, for how

severe the hurt was, for whether or not the offender is sorry? What are we required to do? How can we get past the emotions that might get in the way of following what Jesus commands here? Does anyone have an example of this from his/her experience? Does anyone need help with this in a present situation?

*The Message Bible.*

23–24 "This is how I want you to conduct yourself in these matters. If you enter your place of worship and, about to make an offering, you suddenly remember a grudge a friend has against you, abandon your offering, leave immediately, go to this friend and make things right. Then and only then, come back and work things out with God.

#### **Cross references:**

##### **Romans 12:17–18**

Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

##### **1 Timothy 2:8**

I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling;

S&H 8 emphasizes the need to action in following Jesus' commands of B9.

III **B14.** Narrative of the woman taken in adultery. Explain the death penalty of stoning that was enforced at the time. What does Jesus do? What does he say? What does this teach us? The narrative makes clear

that the sin, the wrong-doing, did happen, the woman (and the man) were guilty. (Notice the man is not there)! What is the lesson Jesus is teaching about sin and guilt? If you put any “sin” term in the place of adultery it could read the same, and the lesson would be the same.

S&H 10. What is the final ultimatum that Jesus gives the woman? What is required of her after he saves her? She did experience a great penalty even though she was not stoned, do you agree? What was that penalty? Many people are burdened with the question of letting someone “get away with” a wrong-doing. How is that addressed here by Jesus?

**Condemn.** “Neither do I condemn thee. Go and sin no more.” To condemn means to pronounce an adverse judgment on; to express strong disapproval of, censure, blame (OED).

IV **B17. Narrative** – man “sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee.”

**Question.** Is this what the friends who brought the man were hoping for? Do you think they were surprised at what Jesus said in response to seeing the man lying on the bed? Why do you think Jesus said this? He did not immediately address the physical condition at all, did he?

**Teaching idea:** Students could take the narrative of B17 and make a mindmap to show the important ideas, concepts, vocabulary, action, and relationships; or they might make either an outline or a timeline showing the events of the story.

**S&H 15.** Teaching idea. Take the citation, “Divine Love always has met and always will meet every human need,” and have students analyze this. Give them about 10 minutes and then have each share what they have discovered. Facilitate discussion and questions. Ask students to ask questions of each other. Let your questions center around deeper thinking elements such as purpose, question, inference, consequence.

**V B19.** Who is speaking? Where? Why? Who is the audience? Ask students to research this. What books do they ask for? What others can you recommend? How might they work online to find more information from a reliable source? Do they have access to, and know how to, use Concord? Do they know how to use Bible Commentaries? What cross references can they find?

**S&H** – Do they see the connection between the Bible verses and the citations from Science and Health? Can they articulate the connections? Why are these correlative?

**Question.** Do the students know the vocabulary used in Science and Health in this Section?

**Vocabulary Quiz – S&H Section 5 (as a group or individually).**

**This activity will provide a way to discuss and analyze this important Section together more deeply.**

**Wrath –**

**Vented –**

**Theory –**

**Atonement –**

**Theology –**

**Efficacy -**

**Affection -**

**Demonstrator**

**Acknowledge -**

**Efficacious -**

**Way-shower -**

**VI**    **B22, 23 and S&H 22-27**

**Changing the text to question form.** Show students how to change text to form questions from the Bible and from *Science and Health*. Questions will often result in more questions and consequently deeper thinking, understanding, and good discussion. The question/answers from the text may be *similar* to the following:

**B22.** “Even when we were dead in sins” what did God do for us?

For what reason were we made as “his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus”?

**B23.** What is “given” to “every one of us ... according to the measure of the gift of Christ?

This gift continues until when? To accomplish what?

**S&H22.** What is “potent beyond all other means and methods?”

**S&H 23.** This is the doctrine of Christian Science...

What cannot be separated from divine Love?

What can joy never turn into?

What can good never produce?

What can matter never produce?

What does life never result in?

What is the condition of the perfect man, governed by God?

**S&H 24.** What is requisite in order to gain holiness?

**S&H 25.** Who did Jesus “mark the way” for?

**S&H 26.** Already a question!

What did Jesus present “in witness of his divine commission”?

**S&H 27.** What are we “elevated to” through “the revelation and demonstration of life in God?”