

[PYCL: Demonstrate God's laws in new ways! Little and BIG!]
Possible Younger Class Lessons for The Christian Science Bible Lesson for

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"Sacrament"

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Pycl #1: You have to take the steps...

Have the kids pick a spot across the room or out of the Sunday School. How would they get to that spot? They will likely respond that they "get up and walk there". Could we just think about getting there and think about how many steps it would take? Can we close our eyes and imagine we are getting there? Would any of that make us get there? (You might suggest that they try these things: "Let's take a moment to think about getting to the water fountain..... Okay, are we any closer to the water fountain now?") Then discuss how it really takes us getting out of our chairs and walking to the drinking fountain/whatever your goal is. This is kind of like our subject this week. We want to put our understanding of Jesus and what he told us to do into *practice!*

Pycl #2: Now think about what Jesus asked us to do...

What did he want us to do? You can take a broad view of the lesson, choose some of the passages that point that out and combine them: Matthew 16:24 from the Responsive Reading, citations B9, B10, and so on. (You will naturally have to think through what it means to "believe on Him that sent me" and eat the bread/drink the wine, etc.) There are also a number of places in *Science & Health* that voice Jesus' message about how to follow him, what is necessary. Citation S17, for example, tells us that true inspiration comes from "casting out error and making the body "holy, acceptable unto God..."—by healing— citation S25 is another place that shows what Jesus asked of us.

Pycl #3: What "new song" can you sing?

I have to think about the second section and its focus on finding a new view as part of the process of healing as Jesus did! What "new song" will you sing today? You can ask your pupils to think about this as they wake each day. Can you come up together with some ideas? You might decide that today you will think newly about your ability to run far... maybe you've always felt like that was something you were not good at (you come up with something appropriate). Look at citation B2 and think about the history that is in this passage. Paul is reviewing all the ways that God was looking out for His children by parting the sea, feeding them with bread/manna, guiding with the cloud, bringing out water from the rock. He's saying that we *should* remember those things. But the really "new" song came with the grace that Jesus taught when he came. Do we "throw out" the old and only celebrate the new? No! But we cannot confine ourselves to the old, we must, through demonstrating the laws of God as Jesus taught us, find something new each day in those laws. Citation S2 puts it this way: "The true sense is spiritually lost, if the sacrament is confined to the use of bread and wine." As a musician, I like to think of it this way: We have tons of great music from recent and distant past. We still listen to and enjoy it and even study some of it to learn about it. But we also welcome, listen to, enjoy and even sometimes compose new music. We'd never say "that's that" and never write or listen to a new song! Newness is demonstration of the laws that God has set down.

Pycl #4: Have fun thinking about baptism and communion.

What are they and how do we celebrate them today? This gives you the opportunity to talk about the symbolism of baptism. What does the water, the washing, etc. represent? Why is it important? Is it a “one time” event? Do we all need to be baptized? Page 35 in *Science & Health* gives some specific definitions of the wine, bread, cup, cross, and so on. So you can look there to launch some thoughts about those parts of the communion celebration that Jesus shared with his disciples. Why do the kids think he did that anyway? How do these rituals help us think in new ways about what Jesus wanted us to do? You can bring in some unleavened bread and talk about why they used that on the Passover celebration. What does that symbolize? You can use pita bread or some other kind of unleavened, flat bread. (Bring some jam if you want to have more fun with it...)

Pycl #5: Focus on doing right rather than what we want.

This is a constant mantra in our house. I really don't know if it does any good. But somehow I hope to convey the idea that when our goal is to do the right thing, rather than what we might want to do, then we will be happy—then we are doing the will of God. Citations B9 and B14 are great passages to focus on for this thought. Doing the will of God was such a monumental pillar in the work of Christ Jesus, and must be in our own efforts to follow him. Didactic examples of what can happen when we do “what we want” rather than what we know to be right, are generally boring and fall on deaf ears. Perhaps a great example from your own experience will help? Maybe we can bring in a big muffin and pretend like we are going to eat it all ourselves. Open a napkin and put it in front of ourselves and make kind of a production of pretending like we are going to enjoy it on our own while the kids watch. Then, look up and say something like: “you know? This won't taste nearly as good to me if I just eat it on my own while you guys don't have any... how about we share it between us?” Then get them each a napkin and a piece of the muffin for themselves. This is just a thought, there are probably much better ones out there to demonstrate doing the right thing or God's will. I remember a time, when I auditioned for a lead role in a middle school musical. I really, really wanted that role. I didn't even make the call backs. I was super disappointed. But a great friend of mine had made those call backs and as I was riding on the bus to school one day I prayed to find more joy in her good fortune than in my lack of fortune. I found myself genuinely happy for her and my disappointment over the “last chance” I had in middle school to get that role, faded away totally. I remember really talking to God, asking Him to help me find joy and not “want” that thing so badly. Well, a week later, after music class, the music director asked me why I hadn't showed up for call backs. I told him I wasn't on the list and he checked and said that was a mistake. He did the call back audition right on the spot and I ended up with that role. It was such a fun opportunity. But I must say, the healing that preceded it has always remained bright in my thought and helpful in dealing with things where it seemed a personal desire was not granted. These ideas are trivial in light of Jesus asking for the cup to pass from him in the garden that night, but since we are dealing with children, it may be okay to have the examples be “small”?

Hope this gives you a few thoughts for Sunday, have fun!



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