

Our Declaration

A Series of Sunday School Classes
From a Holy Ghost Filled Perspective

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Introduction

I have written this book because I have learned through the years that many times the younger children in church are not taught about spiritual things. Because of that, they have nothing to strengthen them, and keep them when they get older. No wonder the devil can destroy them when they get to be teens. When they are smaller, they are easier to teach. They are like little sponges soaking up spiritual things. Many times though, all we teach them is Bible stories, and even then we don't tell them how to apply these truths to their lives. One of the students at our Christian school put it this way. She said, "I didn't learn anything at my church that helped me. I didn't learn anything that helped me to stand up against the world, and against the devil. Sunday School was mostly about having fun at my church. We had a little short story, did a craft, and had snacks. Even though I went to church all the time, I wasn't taught anything spiritual. I wasn't taught about God's love for me, about the Holy Ghost, about how to find my identity in God, who the devil was and how to fight against him. Because I wasn't taught this, the devil was able to trap me. Then I went to another church. This time, I was taught these things. It changed my life. Even though I was young, I learned things there that kept me as I grew older."

The Bible says in Proverbs 22:6, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." I used to read this verse, but then I would watch children that I knew were taught the Bible who stopped serving God when they got to be teenagers, and who were destroyed. I almost stopped believing this verse. Then I heard someone preach about this verse, who taught it right. This verse doesn't mean that the child won't ever stop serving God. It means that the Word that you put in them won't ever leave them. If they depart from the Word, it still won't depart from them. It will be there to constantly deal with their hearts until they return back to God. I have seen this happen time and time again through the years.

The problem is, most of the time, we don't really put God's Word into our children. We give them a strained down version. For some reason, we think that is all they need. This is the foundation of their lives that we are laying when they are small. If we don't give them a strong foundation when they are small, then when we try to teach them spiritual things later on, they will not be able to relate to it at all. It will be like a foreign language. Also, we have to strain through all of the world's junk just to teach them. Most kids are so full of the world's teaching by the time they are school age that their minds are already conditioned to think like the world. They get the world's thinking in movies, videos, internet, other kids around them, in the world's music, anywhere that the devil can get hold of their minds. Then when we try to teach them spiritual things, they have to sort through all that junk just to be able to understand. Sad to say, many times, they

aren't able to. Especially if we have allowed them to get more of the world's thinking in their minds than they have God's Word, and this goes on for years. When they have more of the world's thinking than the Word of God in them, then they get to a certain age, and go crazy wild. We sit there and scratch our heads and wonder how it happened. It happened because we allowed it to happen.

I once heard a story taught that explains the battle between the flesh and the Spirit. It goes like this. A man had two dogs. One was really skinny and sickly, and the other was really healthy. Someone asked the man why one was so much healthier. He answered, "Because I feed it the most." When we feed the Spirit man inside of us, that God part of us will be stronger. We know that, but we forget that when it comes to our children. We allow them to feed the flesh side of them. We fail to teach them about anything else. They get a spiritual junk food diet sometimes because we just don't want to take time to teach them. Then when the devil comes along and destroys them, we watch helplessly. Somehow we are lulled into thinking that this won't happen to our children. The devil doesn't pick favorites. He is out to destroy you, and your family, and the children in your church, especially when you are serving God. This is reality.

I have taught school for over 35 years. I have watched children from all kinds of different families, and from all kinds of different churches grow up. I have watched how they responded to the Lord, to the Word of God, and to the Spirit of God. The children that I worried about less were those who from the time they were small were taught spiritual truths that kept them. They were taught about God, and about Jesus' love for them. They were taught about the Spirit of God and spiritual truths that would hold them. They were taught how to discern the world's junk and how not to buy into it, and be led by it. They were taught about how to stand against the devil. All of that is important. But most of all they were taught about the Holy Ghost, about the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. Those who were not influenced by the world, and the mess it offers them, those who were not destroyed by the devil in their teenage years, were those who received the Baptism of the Holy Ghost when they were young. They were those who were taught about the enemy and they had the tools to stand against him. The strongest young people that I knew that I had nothing to worry about when I watched them grow up were those who knew about making commitments and setting priorities in their lives. The children who were given these tools, grew up strong, and they taught their children these same truths that kept them, and I have watched their children grow up to be strong. What legacy are you leaving your children, and your churches' children?

I have watched parents and churches that fail to give their children the right tools for their lives. I think it is because they didn't really possess those tools themselves. Or maybe they didn't want to make a commitment to follow God

totally themselves, so they aren't able to teach their children to do this. Sad to say there are many families, and churches that fail to teach that this is even important. Families and churches make a grave mistake when they fail to teach their children that it is important to learn how to get a right and real relationship with God, obey Him, and leave the world behind. Maybe they fail to do this because in their heart they are too infatuated with everything the world is doing to teach their children to stay away from its mess. Then when they make mistakes because their own spiritual foundation is weak, when the devil destroys their lives because their commitment is weak, they destroy their children's foundation. We have no idea of how we influence our children. It is important to influence those in our church and those in our church family. As a teacher, you have been given this responsibility.

You may be all of God that some children see. They may grow up in homes where the children are not given these tools. The only tools that will be given are the ones that you are putting into their hands. Are you giving them tools that will help them to build a strong life? Just like any building, the building of our lives is built from the foundation up. The foundation is what we lay in our early years. If our foundation is strong, then our building will be strong. If our foundation is built on the sand, or if our foundation is weak, then our building will fall when lives' storms come. Give the children in your class tools that will help them to build a strong foundation. It is my prayer that this series of lessons will start you in a direction that will enable you to do so. This isn't just a series of lessons for the children. Through it, teachers will be taught about how to go on from this series to be stronger teachers- teachers that will help their children gain a strong foundation. It will help you as a teacher to learn how to be spirit led in your classes. It will help you to be a teacher that is more responsive to your student's needs.

Directions For Teaching

The best way to teach this book is by reading each lesson ahead of time. Don't just read it in class. I have given you main points to help you remember them. But teach it as the Lord leads you to teach it. More often than not, if you just read a lesson out of the Sunday school book, you will silence God's voice. He wants to lead you to say things that will minister to the children sitting in front of you. He wants you to be sensitive to each one of them and what their needs are. You can do this by being led by His Spirit.

How important is it to listen to the voice of God, and to be led by Him when you teach? There have been many times when I have been teaching a class, and the Lord showed me that one of the children was suicidal. He told me to get that child to the side and minister to it, according to what He led me to say. I would find out

later that if I had not listened to the Lord, and if His Spirit had not led me in ministering to that child, they would without a doubt have died. We live in a mixed up world, and the world's junk is harsh. The devil funnels into kids all kinds of things like depression, fear, like the thinking that no one cares about them, the thinking that they are rejects and hopeless. He uses other kids, bullies, movies, and especially worldly music to do this. I have seen more elementary and middle school kids who were suicidal than I have ever seen. That used to be an uncommon thing. Kids were resilient, able to bounce back from a lot of things. But the devil has begun an all out attack on children, and we are losing more and more of them to suicide. That is why it is so important to be spiritual minded when teaching, to listen to God. And to be spiritual minded and listen to God to your own children.

When you read about all this, the devil will probably try to convince you that you can't do this. Well, he will actually be doing you a favor if he does. When the devil tries to tell me that I can't do something, then I realize that this is exactly what God wants me to do, and it is important for me to do, or the devil wouldn't be trying to talk me out of it. In a way, that is a compliment. When the devil tries to stop you, you realize that you must be important to God, and what you are doing is important. Also, it will remind you that you can't do this, and actually that is a good thing to remember. Most of the things that I have done for God, I knew before I started that I couldn't do it. Like writing books. I know I can't write books. But I learned years ago that this doesn't matter. Matter of fact, that is why I write such good books. I have written nearly 30, and I still know that I can't do it. Not the way God can. I know that I can't do it so I yield to the Spirit of God inside me. I let Him lead me. I trust in Him to do His part, and I do my little part. When I teach, I know that what I do won't be perfect, but I love Him and the children enough to try. I let Him do the rest. I remember one time when He asked me to do something that I knew I couldn't do on my own that I told Him that I couldn't do it because I was afraid that I would mess up. He told me that He could fix a mistake and make it a miracle out of it, but if I didn't even try, there was nothing that He could make out of my doing nothing.

Through these lessons, both you and the children will learn about how we need to declare certain things that we will do, and certain things that we won't do. We will learn that there are two keys to being able to do this. One is love. The other is learning how to walk in the Spirit and trust God's help. The first key that will unlock whether or not you do this with all your heart is love. How much do you love these children? How much do you love God? That will be the fuel that keeps you going. The other will be walking in the Spirit, and trusting God to do what needs to be done through you. More often than not I know that God uses me in spite of my weaknesses and myself. We serve a wonderful God.

Helpful Hints

It was hard for me to try to put the exact amount of material that you would need for each lesson. It may be that your time will run out before the end of the lesson. That is fine. Just pick it up when you start the next class, and move on into the next one. Each Sunday, though, you will need to review what was covered the Sunday before. Also, do your memory verses. That is a good way to start each lesson. That helps them to remember it, and this also puts it into their hearts. The more that you go over something, the more it becomes a part of them.

Every child in class needs to start bringing their Bible to class. Learning how to look up things, and how to use their Bible is one of the most important tools that you can give them. Teaching them that they can find the answers to everything they need in the Bible is also important. Helping them to get familiar with God's Word so that they can do this is important. It is important to get these kids to be familiar with looking up things in their Bibles so that it is natural to them to do this. It is good to have them to spend a few minutes at the beginning of every lesson in memorizing the books of the Bible. Don't think that they are too little to do this. I've taught kindergarteners who learned many of the books of the Bible. At least they will get familiar with the books, and where they are. The way to do this is to do just a few at a time. Start with 5. Then add 5 more. Each Sunday go over all the ones you did, then add the new 5. Have them say them over and over. Every once in a while, play a game with going around the room and having each child say one. You won't have time to do this every Sunday. Remember, games are not the thing that you need to concentrate on. Add them to help things not get too boring, but add them carefully so that they don't eat up your time. There will be other games that we talk about as we go along. These will give you different ideas. Just always be sure that you don't get carried away with them.

Every time you have a scripture in your lesson, stop and help them to look them up. Let the older kids help the smaller kids to do it. Even if the smaller ones can't read really well, they need to look them up so that they get familiar, and that it becomes a habit to read God's Word when they are able to read. This is a habit that will change their lives. They can do this by you writing the book of the Bible for the scripture so that they can see it. Then have them to go to the index of the books of the Bible in their Bible, and look for that and find that word. Then have them go to that page. Then they can look for the chapter and verse by the numbers.

It is also important to start having memory verses. Have the children memorize a scripture a week. I have put a memory verse for each lesson. I have included a memory verse for each chapter. Write the memory verse on cards and pass them out every lesson. At the beginning and end of every lesson, go over all the

memory verses that you have done in this series. Don't assume that they are too small to memorize verses. It will take a while. If you review them every week, they will start to get them. Encourage them to practice them at home too. Encourage their parents to help them. This will encourage their parents to memorize scripture as well. **Note:** When you read these in class, it is important **not** to go around the room and have children to read the scriptures. Some may not read well. Read them together.

You can play games with the memory verses and books of the Bible. One is to go around the room and have each child say one word of the memory verse. If they can't get it, let the next child try. Another is to have them take turns saying the verse. If they can, then they get a point. The ones with the most points win. Another is to have them all stand up. Go around the room and have them to say their verses. If they mess up, they have to sit down. The one left standing is the winner. Another is, if you have a blackboard, let them line up at the board. Each child has to put one word on the verse. If they don't get their word right, then they go to the back of the line to try again. You can do these same games with the books of the Bible. Try to think of new games so that it doesn't get boring doing the same ones over and over. Have sword drills with the memory verses. Give the children the scripture and see who can look it up the fastest.

Important Note about asking questions: I have put a lot of questions in the lessons to make the children think. When you ask the questions, don't just read them, but give the children time to think about the answers. Let them tell you their answers.

Throughout this, I put little teacher notes. I write them in bold print. Lots of times these are questions to ask the children. It is easy just to read off the questions, and not have them discuss them. But it will do them very little good. When you have questions, take time to have the children discuss the answers.

Also, don't think that even the smallest children can't learn spiritual truths, and discuss spiritual topics. Sometimes, they are easier to teach than adults, because adults tend to over think and to be skeptical. Don't think that your class won't want to learn these kinds of things. If it seems at first that they don't want to, then pray and ask the Lord to help you to be the kind of teacher that can get these truths through to them. Be aware that the devil will not want you to teach these lessons to them. You will need to be spiritually aware, and pray for your class so that he will not be able to stop you from getting through to the children. He will even try to stop up their understanding. He will try to use a child to distract. It may be the one that needs to hear these lessons the most will be the one that he uses. Bind up the devil. Take authority over him. Remember that the devil is the enemy, not the

children. If a child gets unruly, remember this. Take authority in your classroom just as you take authority over the enemy. You are in charge.

I know that the devil will fight you as you do these lessons. What you are teaching will change these little lives forever. If this happens, just for your information, read ahead to the lessons on how to fight the devil. Resist him, and he will flee. The key is though to not give in. Keep on going with it. I am sure that you will feel like quitting these lessons many times before you get to the end. Just remember, if you quit, you will never reap the blessing of seeing the change in your student's lives. Know that it will get easier.

For Notes

Lesson 1.

About Declarations

You will need a card for each with their memory verse written on it-Joshua 1:8.

A declaration is something that you declare that you will do, and something that you declare that you will not do. It is like a promise that we make, but it is even more than that. This is a declaration of things that God will do for us, that we will do for God, and things that we will not let the devil do. The Bible is full of things that God declared He would do, and things that the people declared that they would do. When God declared things, it was a powerful promise. What He said was done. When the people declared things, if they lived what they declared, it changed them, their life, their families, and their world. **Note to teacher: When you ask these questions, pause and let them think about them. Tell them this before you ask the questions-- “These are not questions for you to tell me the answers to, but ones that I want for you to think about the answers to yourself quietly. Would you like to be a better person? Would you like to get closer to God? Would you like to be able to tell the devil to leave you alone? Would you like to be someone who can help others? We will learn a lot about different things when we learn about declarations. You will be able to do all these things by learning about declarations.**

One example of a declaration is the Declaration of Independence. Over 200 years ago, America was under England. England didn't care about Americans. They were making us to do things that weren't right, and they were taking our freedom. The leaders got together and wrote a declaration. They made a list of things that they declared that they were going to do, and a list of things that they declared that they were not going to let England do to them. They stuck by those things. They won their freedom from England, and we have our freedom today because they did that. Sometimes we have to make a list of things that we will do, and a list of things that we will not do. This helps us to be free from things that can mess us up.

Another example, and the best example of a declaration is the 10 commandments. It was a list of things that God gave people to live by. He declared some things to help the people. They are wise rules that can change people's lives, if they will live by it. God wrote them on flat tablets made out of stone, and gave them to Moses. People still live by them today, thousands of years after they were written. **(Note to teacher: Ask if they know about the story of how the 10 commandments were given to Moses? Have them tell what they think happened.**

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(Then talk about the story of Moses on the mountain. The scripture is found in Exodus 20:1-17. Have them get out their Bibles and look it up).

The 10 commandments are some things that God declared for us to do. Why do we do the things that God declares? The main reason is because He loves us. We trust His love and we know that He will lead us to do the things that are best for us. We also do it because we love Him and want to do our best for Him. Another reason is found in this verse. **Teacher Note: Let them look it up.** Joshua 1:8 which says, “This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.” The Bible tells us that God’s Word will help us to have a life that is full of success. Other verses tell us that if living by God’s Word will help us have peace and happiness. Not doing His Word gives us a life that is full of problems.

God is very smart. He knows what is best, even more than our parents do. When He tells us to do something, we need to do it. If we don’t then we will have problems. **Note to teacher: Ask these questions and let them discuss them.** How many times have you had problems when you didn’t do what your parents told you to? Did you wish that you had listened and done what they said? Do you think that it is even more important to do what God tells us to do? We need to do the things that God tells us to do. There is an old saying that parents used to tell their children, “If you don’t listen you will feel.” They meant that if you don’t listen to them, and do what they said, that you will have to face the consequences of what you do. You will have to feel the pain that not listening brings. For example, if they tell you not to run out in the road, you do, and a car hits you, then you will feel. That is a pretty extreme example, but some kids have died because they didn’t listen. There are all kinds of things that can happen when you don’t listen, especially if you don’t listen to God. He knows everything. He knows what is best for us. He knows how to lead us into the right place at the right time, and away from the wrong places at the wrong time where we can get hurt, or even worse, mess up our whole life. He knows how to keep us away from bad attitudes that will mess up our lives, and mess up the lives of people we love.

Teacher Note: Ask the question, how does God talk to us? Let them answer what they think. He talks to us the most by using the Bible. The Bible was written by people who wrote what He told them to write, so it is the same as if He wrote it. **(Note to teacher: Talk about a time when following what the Bible says changed your life. Ask the children to share a time. Don’t assume that they are too little to be able to do this.)**

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Another way that He talks to us is by using other people to tell us things. It might be preachers, teachers, our parents, or other people around us. We need to be careful to choose wise people to listen to, and don't listen to people that are not.

(Note to teacher: Talk about a time when God used someone else to speak to you and it changed your life. Ask them to share a time when God used someone else to tell them something important that changed their life. If they won't speak up, tell them that God might use them to help others if they will share.)

Another way that God talks to us is by speaking to us inside our hearts and minds. He will give us feelings that we need to do something, or we don't need to do something. He will speak to us, and we can hear His voice inside of us. One example of this is how the people that wrote the Bible wrote what God told them to write. He spoke to them. The Bible is full of stories telling how God spoke to people. He spoke to Abraham and told him to leave his home and travel to a place that God gave him for all his people to live. He spoke to Moses many times as he led God's people through the desert. He spoke to the little shepherd, David, as he protected his sheep. He told David how to beat Goliath in a battle. All the way through the Bible we learn how God talks to His people.

(Note to teacher: When I was first learning how to listen to God's voice, He showed me something that really helped me. We had an upstairs in our house where I grew up. He showed me someone coming in downstairs that I couldn't see. I could hear their voice. When I first heard them come in, I didn't know who it was. That person kept coming back. The more I listened to them, I started to recognize their voice. Then as I got more and more familiar with them, it was easy to know whose voice I was hearing. This is a good illustration to teach that at first it isn't easy to recognize God's voice, but as we keep listening to Him, we will begin to recognize Him more.)

It is important to hear God and listen to what He says. When we hear what He says, it is important to do what He says. It is important to hear our parents and listen to what they say. It is important to do what they say. When God gives us a declaration, and we do what He declares for us to do, then it will change our life for the better. We will be able to be free from bad things. We will have a better life. I challenge you this week to be obedient. I challenge you this week to make a declaration that you are going to listen, and do what your parents say. I challenge you this week to make a declaration that you will listen and do what God leads you to do. When we come back next week, we can talk about whether or not you did this, and if you did, how it changed your week.

Memory verse for the week: Teacher Note: Give them their card with their memory verse. This verse is a little long. So have them find the key words

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starting each phrase: book, depart, meditate, mayest observe shalt make thy way, shalt have. When they get stuck, you can remind them of the key phrases.)

Joshua 1:8 “This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.”

Close with prayer. Have them to pray that God helps them to keep this declaration.

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Lesson 2. About Obedience

(Note to teacher: Review from last Sunday to help them to remember, and for them to share with ones that weren't there. When you review, ask them questions so that they are reviewing. Here are some questions:

1. What is a declaration? (Something that we say that we are going to do. A promise. Also something that God says that He is going to do.)
2. What are some examples of declarations? (Ten Commandments, Declaration of Independence)
3. Why should we do the things that God declares? (Because we love Him and we know that He loves us and wants the best for us. He knows what is best for us. If we don't listen we will feel.)
4. How does God speak to us? (Through other people, through His Word, and by talking to us in our hearts and minds.)

Note to teacher: Go over memory verse from last week. (This verse is a little long. So have them find the key words starting each phrase: book, depart, meditate, mayest observe shalt make thy way, shalt have. When they get stuck, you can remind them of the key phrases.) Joshua 1:8 "This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."

Note to teacher: Last week you challenged them to make a declaration that they were going to listen to their parents, and listen to God. Ask who did this and what difference it made. If some of them get silly and answer stupid things, it may be they are doing this because they are convicted of not obeying. When they say stupid things, just say, "I can tell from what _____ is saying that he didn't listen and obey this week. Let's pray for one another right now that God helps each and every one of us to listen and obey even better this coming week. We are doing this because we love one another, and we want everyone here to have a better life, and to be happier. We know that if we don't hear and listen to God, we won't have a better life. Let's take time now to pray for each other.

About Obedience

We are going to talk today about obedience and why it is important to obey God. We talked about it a little bit last week, but we want to talk more about it because it is very important that we understand this. In today's world it is actually made to seem wrong when people tell us what to do. It is easy to think that always getting our way is the best thing for us, but is it the best? Think just a minute what kind of life would you have if you only had to do what you wanted to do, and no one told you to do things that were best for you? How would your life be?

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(Note to teacher: Let them discuss this.) For example, if your parents love you, then they will tell you things that you need to do, and tell you things that can harm you that you need to stay away from. It is important for them to teach you right and wrong. If they don't tell you what to do, you won't know what is right and wrong. If you were to just find out for yourselves, you would have to get in all kinds of trouble and heartache while you figured it all out. We all know kids who were left on their own to figure things out. Their parents didn't teach them what was right and wrong by making them do it, so they don't know today. Maybe they didn't make them do things and because of that, they don't know how to do things by themselves. Do you know anybody whose parents didn't make them do right, and they don't know how to get along with others because of it? Do you know someone whose parents didn't make them do right, and they don't know what is wrong and what is right because of it? Do you know anyone whose parents didn't teach them how to do things, by making them do, and they don't know how to do things today because of it? **(Note to teacher: Let them discuss this.)** Our parents don't tell us what to do, and make us do things because they hate us, but they make us do because they love us and want us to have a good life.

God is the same way. He has all kinds of commandments in the Bible, things that He declares that we need to do. These are for a reason. He knows what is best. He knows the things that can hurt us and make our life terrible. He guides us away from those things. Life is kind of like a journey. When we take a trip, we get on a road that leads us to where we are going. Have you ever gotten lost when you were taking a trip? Maybe you went to a dangerous place because you got on the wrong road? **(Note to teacher: Let them discuss this.)** Life is like this. There are all kinds of things that you can do that can lead you to a wrong road that can destroy your life, or even destroy your soul. You might start down that road, and think that it is OK. It might be by acting a certain way at school that isn't Christian, and you know it is wrong, but you want to impress people. Where can that road take you? **(Note to teacher: Let them discuss.)** It may be by getting caught up in things that other people are doing so that you never have time to spend praying, or reading your Bible because you are too busy doing these other things. Where can that road take you? **(Note to teacher: Let them discuss.)** It may be by going somewhere or doing something that you parents told you not to do. Where can that road take you? **(Note to teacher: Let them discuss.)** It may be by wanting your way all the time, and not listening to what anybody tells you to do? Where can that road take you? **(Note to teacher: Let them discuss.)**

So you see, there are all kinds of bad roads to take in our life. God, our parents, our teachers, our pastors, all love us. They don't want to see us go down the wrong roads. That is why they guide us into the right roads. That is why they tell us what to do, until we are old enough and wise enough to figure things out for ourselves. That is why they give us declarations of what to do. God loves us

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enough to guide us no matter how old we are. His Word and His Spirit will guide us the rest of our lives. He will guide us by telling us what to do, and what not to do. Sister Betty Horton is 87 years old. She testifies in church about how she is grateful that the Lord leads her to do the right things, and to make the right decisions. If we don't like anybody to tell us what to do, then we are in trouble all ready. We are going to get into all kinds of problems, and nothing will work out right, until we learn to listen. Obedience is very important.

Lets read some stories in the Bible that talk about people who obeyed God, and because of that He blessed them:

The first person is Noah. **(Note to teacher: Have them get out their Bibles. Read Genesis chapter 7 together. Remember not to go around the room and have different people read verses. Some may not read well. Always have them read the verses all together. This helps everyone to remember them. Remember to have the older ones help the younger ones to look them up.)** Ask what if Noah had not obeyed God? Let them discuss. Talk about why God destroyed the world. Tell them that the people were not obeying God. Because of that, it was a terrible world. Nobody even wanted to do the right things. They couldn't even think right things. How bad would the world be now if God hadn't started over with it then? Ask if they know anyone else in the Bible that obeyed God and how it turned out for them? Talk about these people they mention.

Now we want to talk about some people who didn't obey God and their punishment. **(Note to teacher: Talk about Adam and Eve's disobedience in Genesis 3. Ask if they know anyone else in the Bible that disobeyed God and how it turned out for them?)**

When we disobey God things will not turn out very good for us. When we don't listen and do what we should, things will not turn out very good for us. When we don't do what is right we reap a consequence. Adam and Eve were not allowed to stay in the garden because of their sin. That was just how it was. When we do what is wrong and disobey, then we will have problems. As kids we think that the problems that we have when we disobey our parents is just their punishment. They punish us because they want us to learn not to do it. They will punish you to stop you from doing wrong until you learn not to do it yourself. When you learn not to do it, then there is no more punishment. God is that way too. He knows how to get our attention to stop us from doing wrong until we can learn not to do those things.

Have you ever thought that the reason why your parents punish you is because they love you enough to want you to do right so that you don't have the problems that can come in your life by doing wrong? They don't punish you because they

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hate you or don't care about you. Parents that don't punish their children for doing wrong are the ones who don't care about them. It is easier to not make your children do than it is to constantly stay on their case when they do wrong. They love you and want you to grow up and be wonderful people who are doing things that help others to be the best they can be. They want you to have a life that is full of peace and joy. That is why they guide you by punishing you. They want to keep you on the right road. If you are determined to get on the wrong road, then they will do what has to be done to get you on the right road. If you don't want to be punished, then get on the right road with your actions and attitudes, and stay there. It is the same way with God. Let Him get you started on the right road, and stay there so that you can have a good life. Obedience is very important.

What does all this talk about obedience have to do with declarations? A declaration is something that you say that you will do, that you promise faithfully to do. It is more than a promise. It is something that you will stand on. Something that you purpose to do with all your heart. You can't promise to do something if you aren't willing to obey. When we start studying about declarations, it will change your life and it will make you a stronger better person.

Let's stop a minute and talk about someone called Mr. Me. Mr. Me only wanted to do what Mr. Me wanted to do. He only thought about himself. He didn't want to share. He didn't want to listen to anyone else. He didn't want to do what God or anyone else wanted him to do. He only wanted to be silly to be the center of attention, and he didn't want to care about anyone. Eventually all his friends and family stopped caring about him because he couldn't get along with anyone. All he had was Mr. Me. If you only do what you want to do, and you stop caring about those around you, you will become like Mr. Me. You will be a very lonely person.

(Note to teacher: Tell them that they are not to answer these questions out loud, but they need to think about these answers in their heart.) How many of you want to be loved, and want to love others? How many of you want to be a better person? How many of you want to do what is right? How many of you want to obey God? To do all that then you have to obey. How many of you are willing to obey God and your parents better than you have been doing? Now think just a minute to yourself. Have you been obeying your parents? **(Note to teacher: stop a minute and let them think.)** Have you been listening for God's voice, reading His Word, and letting Him guide you? **(Note to teacher: stop a minute. Give God time to deal with their hearts. Warning: if somebody gets silly here, it may be because God is dealing with their heart, and they are trying to ignore it. Just ask that person, Could it be that you are being silly because God is trying to get your attention? Be quiet and let God deal with your heart and with others hearts. They may also start telling on others when God starts dealing with them. Tell them that we don't want to know what**

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they have to say about someone else. We have to make our own selves do, not someone else. Tell them that feeling sorry for what someone else does won't change us.) Let's all let God deal with our hearts. Is He talking to you today and letting you know that you haven't been doing what you need to do? When God does that it is called conviction. That is His part. Our part is to repent. When God convicts us, we need to be sorry for what we do. We need to tell Him that we are. And we need to ask for His help to help us to do better. Lets take a minute to pray and ask God to show us what we are doing wrong, and ask for His help. Ask if anyone wants to pray out loud. **Note to Teacher: You pray if no one does. Let the Holy Ghost be there to lead you.**

Our new memory verse is Matthew 7:24. Let's look it up. Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock." Now lets review our memory verse from last week. Joshua 1:8 "This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success." This verse is a little long. So have them find the key words starting each phrase: book, depart, meditate, mayest observe shalt make thy way, shalt have. When they get stuck, you can remind them of the key phrases.)

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Lesson 3

(Note to teacher: Review from last Sunday to help them to remember, and for them to share with ones that weren't there. When you review, ask them questions so that they are reviewing. Here are some questions:

1. Is it best for us to live in a world where we only get to do what we want to do? (Somebody may get silly here and start saying yes, and say stupid things. If they do, pray for a minute, get control of them by helping everybody to realize that they don't want to do like what that person is. Say, "You know _____(person's name) reminds me of Mr. Me. Let's review what we know about Mr. Me. Mr. Me only wanted his way all the time, and he didn't want to listen. He always wanted to be silly to get attention. Who was Mr. Me, and what happened to him?
3. Why do God and our parents have rules for us to follow? They love us and want the best for us.
4. Why is it important to obey? If we don't, then we will do things that are bad for us, and we won't have a good life.
5. What is a declaration? A promise that we are going to do certain things.
6. What were the 10 commandments? Who gave them? What person did He give them to? Who were they for? (The children of Israel, and for us.)

Go over memory verses from last two Sundays. Matthew 7:24. Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock." Joshua 1:8 "This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success." This verse is a little long. So have them find the key words starting each phrase: book, depart, meditate, mayest observe shalt make thy way, shalt have. When they get stuck, you can remind them of the key phrases.)

We talked about how the 10 commandments were a declaration that God gave His people to obey. For thousands of years, people have followed the 10 commandments to be able to have a better life. Let's look at each one and go over what they mean. We read about the 10 commandments in Exodus chapter 20. Lets look at what they say. **Note to Teacher: Have the children get out their Bibles and turn to this.**

Go over the 10 commandments with them, and discuss each. They are listed on the next page.

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Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image- This means not to worship something that is not the real God. Some countries have things that they worship that are not God. They make idols or statues of things and worship those as God. Or they worship people who used to live but they are now dead as God. This also means not to put anything as being more important than God in your life. (**Teacher note: Let them discuss these questions.**) How can we make something to be more important than God in our life? What are some things that can become this way?

Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain. This means not to curse saying God's name. **Teacher Note: Talk about how sometimes we say "God" or "Jesus" and we are not talking to them. We shouldn't do that. Help them to realize they are really cursing God when they do that. They may not realize this.**

Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. **Teacher Note: Talk about how important it is to go to church. The Bible says that we should not forsake assembling ourselves together. When we get together and learn about God's Word, and worship God together, and we let the Holy Ghost touch our hearts and minds, and we fellowship together, all this makes us stronger Christians and able to overcome being with people all week at school who don't follow God.**

Honor thy father and thy mother that thy days may be long upon the land. **Teacher Note: When we don't honor and obey our parents, how can that shorten our life? Do you know anyone whose life was shortened when they didn't listen and obey?**

Thou shalt not kill. Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Thou shalt not steal. **Teacher Note: Why is it important not to steal from others? Do you like it when other people steal your things?**

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor. **Teacher Note: This means not to lie about someone. Why is this wrong? Do you like it when other people lie about you? We shouldn't lie at all. When you lie to people, especially when you lie about other people, then eventually no one will believe what you say. No one will listen to you at all. You might even be telling the truth, but because you have lied, no one will believe you.**

Thou shalt not covet. **Teacher Note: This means that you aren't supposed to look at things that other people have, you aren't supposed to look at what they are like, and want their things, or want to be like them in a bad way that**

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makes you to want to steal what they have, or mess them up, or hurt them because you are jealous of them. Be happy for what you are and what you have.

There are two more commandments that are often listed with the 10 commandments. These are found in Matthew 22:36-40. Jesus gave us these two commandments himself. **(Teacher note: Have them look these verses up in their Bibles.)** “Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.” **(Teacher note: Discuss these questions.)** Let’s talk a minute about what these two commandments mean? How can they change your life if you keep them? Who are your neighbors? Is it just the people that you live beside? Can it be the people that you go to school with? What about your brothers and sisters, and all your family? Aren’t they your neighbors?

The 10 commandments and the commandments that Jesus gave are a declaration that God and Jesus gave His people, declaring to them how they should live. They are very famous. They change people’s lives just by following these rules. But for people to change to have a better life, they have to keep those rules. They have to obey them. They have to make a commitment that they will do these things. They have to declare that they will do them. A declaration is even stronger than a promise. What does it mean to make a commitment? A commitment is when you decide that no matter what, you are going to do a certain thing. It is that important to you. You put a priority on keeping that promise. You make it a number one decision in your life to keep that. A declaration is when you decide that it is very important to you to do these things, and you declare that this is what you are going to do. **(Teacher note: Let them discuss these questions.)** Why should you make a declaration that you are going to keep the 10 commandments and Jesus commandments that we studied? Will loving one another as themselves will help their home to be happier?

When we make a declaration that we are going to do something, one of the things that gives us the strength to keep that commitment is love. When you make a promise to someone, if you love that person, and you are doing it for them, then that makes it easier to keep that promise. That is also true with promises that we make to God. When we love Him, it is easier to obey Him. We will talk more about that next week.

I challenge you this week to make a declaration that you will keep Jesus’ 2 commandments-to love the Lord with all your heart, and to love your neighbor as

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yourself. I'll ask next week if you did that, and how this helped your life to be better.

Memory Verses: Matthew 22:36-40. Jesus gave us these two commandments himself. **Have them look these verses up in their Bibles.** "Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."

Let's review ones from the past lessons. Matthew 7:24. Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock." Joshua 1:8 "This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success." This verse is a little long. So have them find the key words starting each phrase: book, depart, meditate, mayest observe shalt make thy way, shalt have. When they get stuck, you can remind them of the key phrases.)

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Lesson 4. About Love

In this lesson, you will need a card for each child to be able to write down scriptures. Or you can write down the scriptures for each child and have them ready for them. This depends on the ability level of the kids. Here are the verses. Jeremiah 31:3, John 3:16, Ephesians 2:4, John 15:9, Romans 8:35

(Note to teacher: Review from last Sunday to help them to remember, and for them to share with ones that weren't there. When you review, ask them questions so that they are reviewing.)

Here are some questions:

1. Why is it important to obey God, our parents, and those who are over us? If we don't, then things will not go well for us. We will have lots of problems.
2. What are the 10 commandments, and why are they important? They are what God gave Moses for the people to live by.
3. What are the 2 commandments that Jesus gave, and why are they important? Love God with all our heart, and our neighbor as ourselves.
4. What is a declaration? Something that we declare that we are going to do.
5. What does it mean to make a commitment? Something that we are determined to keep as important no matter what.

Memory Verses: Matthew 22:36-40. "Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."

Let's review ones from the past lessons. Matthew 7:24. Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock." Joshua 1:8 "This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."

Last week I gave you a challenge at the end of the lesson. Does anyone remember what that was? Who kept that challenge? How did it help your life to be better? (The challenge was to make a declaration that you will keep Jesus' 2 commandments-to love the Lord with all your heart, and to love your neighbor as yourself.)

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We talked last week how if we love someone, it makes it easier to keep a promise to them. Let's talk more about that. We all want to be loved. It is important to know that people love us. When people love us, we even feel better about ourselves. Have you ever noticed that when people act like they don't love you, you don't even like yourselves? It shouldn't be that way, but seems like it is. Sometimes when bullies at school act like they don't like you, you may start to feel like you hate yourselves. That is silly. When these stupid people do and say stupid things to hurt you, why should that make you feel like you hate yourselves? Does that really make sense? You should just feel sorry for them because they evidently have such a mess going in their own lives, and hate themselves so much, that they want everyone else to be just as miserable as they are. For goodness sake, don't let them cause you to feel miserable just because they are. Ignore them, and go on. It doesn't matter if more than one person is saying cruel things to you. That still doesn't make what they are saying and doing right. Know who you are. Know that you are special. Know that you are special to God. Then when stupid people say stupid things, you can just go on, and it won't bother you. You are able to ignore people who say stupid things when you know that you are loved.

You are loved. Your parents love you. Your brothers and sisters love you (even though sometimes they may act like they don't.) Your grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins, and everybody in your family love you. Your church family loves you. God loves you. Jesus loves you. You are not alone, and you will never be alone. Even though sometimes you may feel like you are all alone.

The devil makes us feel like we are alone. He makes us feel like no body cares. When we don't think that anyone loves us (and that is how the devil wants to make us feel) it makes us feel empty inside. It makes us feel like we are so bad that no body can love us. Isn't that how the bullies try to make us feel. The devil says stupid things to us, just like the bullies do. Just like we need to ignore them, we need to ignore the things that he tries to make us think. When we know that these bad feelings come from him, we can stop feeling that way.

When you feel like no body loves you, recognize that it is the devil who makes you feel that way, and tell him to go away and leave you alone. The Bible says that when we tell him to go away, he has to. Tell him, "In the name of Jesus, devil, shut up and leave me alone. The blood of Jesus covers me. The Bible says you have to leave me alone." The Bible says that the name of Jesus gives us authority to tell the devil to leave us alone, and he has to. Having authority means that we have a right to boss him around him, because we aren't doing that on our own, but in the name of Jesus. Jesus gave His blood on the cross to cover us so that the enemy can't mess with us. When we tell the devil to leave us alone because the blood of Jesus covers us, then he has to leave us alone. When we tell

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the devil he has to leave us alone and remind him the Bible tells him he has to, then we aren't just give him our word for it, we are giving him God's Word for it. So tell him, "In the name of Jesus, devil, shut up and leave me alone. The blood of Jesus covers me. The Bible says you have to leave me alone."

The devil is a lot like a pesky little kid. A pesky little kid will start bothering you. When you tell him that he needs to leave you alone, he may not listen at first. But then when you keep telling him, and you really, really mean business about it, he can tell. Then he will leave you alone. That is how you have to do the devil. Keep telling him. Let him know that you mean business. Let him know that you know that he has to leave you alone, and you aren't taking his junk. When he tries to make you feel like no one loves you, and that God doesn't love you, you can tell him off, and tell him to leave you alone because you know better. (**Teacher Note: It is really important to encourage discussion on this, also, that you be spirit led on dealing with this topic. So many kids are having problems with bullying at school. Many are even suicidal.**) Have you ever had a bully try to make you feel bad, try to make you feel that you were stupid, or something was wrong with you? How did you react to that? What did you do? Have you ever felt like nobody loved you? How did that make you feel? How did you get out of feeling that way?

It is important to know that people around you love you, but it is more important to know that God loves us. When you know how much God loves you, then that will change how you feel about everything, and everybody. It will especially change how you feel about yourselves. How do we know that God loves you? The place to find out how God feels and thinks is the Bible. Let's get out our Bibles and look up some verses about God's love. (**Teacher Note: Have them all look them up. Let the older ones help the smaller ones. Have them read them together, and let them discuss what they think each one means.**)

Jeremiah 31:3, John 3:16, Ephesians 2:4, John 15:9, Romans 8:35

(Teacher note: Have them write the references for these verses on cards to take home. Or have them written for them already.)

The next time that the devil or a bully or anybody else tries to make you feel like nobody loves you, look in the mirror and think about these verses. It might be a good idea to write them down on a card and put it on your mirror so that you can read it every morning when you are getting ready for school. Read these verses over and over until you know them by heart. God says He loves you. Enough so that He sent His son to die for you so that you could be saved. He loves you so much that you are like His children. When you remember this, no bully, and no devil can make you feel like no one loves you.

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We talked about how it is important to have the people in our family to love us, and how it is important to know that God loves us. What is our part in all this? The Bible teaches us that we are to love our brothers (and sisters) as much as we love ourselves. I John 4:21 tells us, “And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.” In this verse, brother means brothers and sisters. Brother also means our family in Christ, the brothers and sisters that we have in church, and in the family of God. All the children of God (young and old) are part of the same family. God is our father. Jesus is like our oldest brother. God’s love makes us all like family. God loves all His children very much. He warns us to treat everyone in His family right. He tells us to love one another the way He loves us. So we are to love our family that we are born into, and we are to love our Christian brothers and sisters too. We are to treat them all right because we love them and we know that they love us. How important is it to God that we love one another. Mark 12:30-31 tells us, “And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.” In this verse, neighbor is everybody around you. That especially includes your family at home, and your church family.

Sometimes we can get selfish if we aren’t careful. We want our way. We want to be the center of attention. If somebody else gets more attention, we get mad. If somebody gets something we don’t get, we get angry. We can get jealous of those that we should be loving. We want to be loved but we don’t want to love others. We want to get our way, but we don’t want to give in and let others have their way too. Do you remember the story about Mr. Me. How did that story turn out?

Teacher Note: Tell them that they aren’t to answer these questions out loud, but they need to think about their answers.) Think about these things for just a minute. Have you ever been this way? What is wrong with being this way? If you don’t change, what can happen? If you act this way all the time, will it be easy for people to love you? If you are acting this way at home, or at church, then you need to repent. Repent means that you become sorry for the way that you are acting, so sorry that you want to change. Then you ask God and others to forgive you, and you ask God to help you to be different. **Give them time to think about this, and ask God to deal with their hearts. Say, “Let’s ask God to show us if there is something that we need to fix about what we are doing to others. Let’s repent and tell Him we are sorry for this. Let’s ask Him to help us to do better.”**

Sometimes if we aren’t careful we do God that same way. We want all His love and attention. We want Him to do things for us. Our prayers are all about us, and asking Him for things, but we don’t ever tell Him how much we love Him. We don’t ever praise Him. We ask Him to help us to do what we want to do, but we

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don't ever take time to ask Him what He wants us to do. When we pray, we tell Him what we want, but we never listen to Him. How do you think that makes Him feel? He loves you enough to send His son to die for you. Love Him back. For real.

So how should we treat people if we love them? Let's talk about that. **Teacher Note: Discussion time.**

So, what does all this talk about love have to do with our topic of making and keeping declarations? If we love someone with all our heart, then it is easier to keep promises that we make them. If we love someone with all our heart then it is easier to keep our declarations. If we know how much someone loves us, then it is easier to keep our promises to them. It is easier to keep our declarations to them. Let's remember this week, and all the weeks ahead, how much our family loves us. Let's remember this week and all the weeks ahead, how much our church family loves us. Let's remember this week and all the weeks ahead, how much God loves us. Let's remember how much we really love them. Then let's start thinking about some promises that we want to make them, some declarations that we want to make them.

I challenge you this week to love one another. You will have to ask for God's help to do this. Who is willing to love one another this week? I especially challenge you to love your parents. When you love someone, you tell them. Tell your parents this week, and in weeks to come, how much you love and appreciate them and what they do for you. I also challenge you this week to tell God how much you love him, and how much you appreciate Him. How many are willing to accept this challenge for this week. How do you think that it will change your home if you do? I also challenge you to read your verses on the cards every time that the devil tells you that you are not loved.

John 3:16 is memory verse for this class. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Memory Verses: Matthew 22:36-40. "Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."

Matthew 7:24. Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock."

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Joshua 1:8 “This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.”

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Lesson 5.

Special Note: In this lesson you will be discussing more about God's love. There is a part of this lesson in which you will ask them if they have been saved, and you'll ask if anyone is not saved. Be led by the Lord. Be in prayer. It is important that you let the Lord lead you in every lesson. There may be times that He leads you to give an altar call. Be listening and be in the Holy Ghost when you teach so that you can obey God. In part of this lesson, you will have to give a story about someone in the Bible who found God's love and it changed their life. Think about a story that means the most to you. Also, you will be asked to tell your own testimony about how when you found God's love, it changed your life. Tell about how you found His love. This will come up in the lesson.

Last week I gave you a challenge. Who remembers what that challenge was? (To love one another. (To tell parents and God how much you love them, and how you appreciate them for what they do.) How many tried that? Tell me how that changed your home. Also, I gave you a challenge to read your verses on your cards when you felt the devil trying to tell you that you weren't loved. How did that change you?

(Note to teacher: Review from last Sunday to help them to remember, and for them to share with ones that weren't there. When you review, ask them questions so that they are reviewing.)

1. Remember our talk about bullies. Let's review that. Should we listen to what bullies have to say? Why not?
2. How is the devil like a bully when he tells us that no one loves us? Should we listen to him? How do we get him to leave us alone? (By telling him "In the name of Jesus, devil, shut up and leave me alone. The blood of Jesus covers me. The Bible says you have to leave me alone.") Does he have to leave you alone? Why? Yes, because God says so.
3. How do we know that God loves us, even when we don't feel like it? The Bible tells us so.
4. Are we ever really alone? Why? No, because there are people who love us, and God and Jesus, and our church family.
5. Why is our church family like our real family? We all have the same Father, God.

Review memory verses:

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

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Matthew 22:36-40. “Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.”

Matthew 7:24. Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock.”

Joshua 1:8 “This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.”

This week we are going to talk more about God’s love. Do you remember the verses we talked about last week that were on our cards? Who read their verses and memorized them? Or at least, you remember one of them? Who read your verses every day? How did that help you? Here are the verses: Jeremiah 31:3, John 3:16, Ephesians 2:4, John 15:9, Romans 8:35. Let’s go over them again.

We talked about how we know that God loves us because He has declared it to be so in His Word. He has made many declarations, or promises throughout the Bible that talk about how much He loves His children, us. The Bible talks a lot about how God is our Father. Here are some verses. **Teacher Note: Have them all look them up. Let the older ones help the smaller ones. Have them read them together, and have them discuss what they mean.**

Isaiah 64:8, Matthew 6:9, Matthew 7:11, Romans 8:15-16 (In this verse Abba means Daddy)

God loves you even more than you earthly fathers do. He loves you so much that He sent His son to die for you to be forgiven. No one will ever love you as much as God does. He has a perfect love for you. He wants you to get to know Him. The Bible says that He created man to walk with Him and fellowship with Him. He will get as close to you as you want Him to be. It is just like with our family or friends. Sometimes we shut ourselves away from the people around us. We don’t want to have anything to do with them, or at least we feel like we don’t. We feel like we don’t want to have anyone love us, maybe because we are afraid that we will disappoint them if they love us, and we love them too much to disappoint them. But they love us anyway. We don’t have to be perfect for people to love us and we don’t have to be perfect for God to love us. We need to trust their love. We need to let them love us.

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The Bible says that if we want God to love us, then He will get as close to us, and love us as much as we will let Him. We need to ask Him to help us to love Him back for all the wonderful love that He has for us. We are going to sing a couple of songs. **Teacher Note: Sing Jesus Loves Me, and Oh Who I Love Jesus. Keep the atmosphere serious, and prayerful, and pray that God's Spirit comes.**

Here is a story about someone in the Bible who found God's love and it changed their lives. **(Teacher Note: Tell the story that you researched. Then tell about your story, how you found God's love, and how it changed your life. Give your testimony. Then ask if one of the children wants to give their testimony of how they found God's love, and got saved. Discuss what it means to be saved, and how someone can be saved. Let God lead you to as to how you explain salvation. As God leads you, give an altar call. Share with them how God, everyone in heaven, and even the angels rejoice when someone is saved.)**

Challenge for the week: I challenge you this week to tell the people around you about God's love. Give them a testimony. Talk especially to the ones who you know are not saved.

Memory verse for this week:

Isaiah 64:8 Memorize last part. We are the work of your hand.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Matthew 22:36-40. "Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."

Matthew 7:24. Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock."

Joshua 1:8 "This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."

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Lesson 6.

(Note to teacher: Review from last Sunday to help them to remember, and for them to share with ones that weren't there. When you review, ask them questions so that they are reviewing.)

Here are some questions:

1. How much does God love you? Enough to send His son to die for you.
2. Do we have to perfect so that others can love us? Do we have to be perfect for God to love us? NO
3. Who remembers some of the verses about God's love?
4. What does it mean to be saved? Repent and ask the Lord to come into your heart. Give your life to Him. Yield to Him.
5. What is a testimony? When someone tells about what the Lord has done for them in their life. Ask children who were saved to give their testimony.

Last week I gave you a challenge at the end of the lesson. Does anyone remember what that was? Who kept that challenge? How did it help your life to be better? How did it help your family to be different? (I challenge you this week to tell the people around you about God's love. Give them a testimony. Talk especially to the ones who you know are not saved.) How many kept this challenge? What happened when you did? Remember that sometimes it takes more than one week for things to happen when you meet a challenge. Keep doing it by faith that God will help.

Memory verses review:

Isaiah 64:8 Memorize last part. We are the work of your hand.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Matthew 22:36-40. "Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."

Matthew 7:24. Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock."

Joshua 1:8 "This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that

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is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.”

Last week we talked about how love will help us to keep the declarations that we make. This week we will talk about something else that will help us even more to keep our declarations. It is called the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. **Teacher Note: Ask who knows someone in their family or in their church who has the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. Also, if you do, then give them your testimony about how you received it, and how it made a difference in your own life. You may also want to give a testimony of others that you know, and tell how it changed them.**

The Baptism of the Holy Ghost is a gift that God gives us to help us to be stronger Christians, to help us to be bolder about standing up for God, to help us to change to be more like Jesus. The Holy Ghost, which is also called the Spirit of God, is a part of God. He is the part of God that draws us to be saved. When we get saved, He is the part of God that comes into our hearts to help us to be the best we can be. He helps us to be able to serve God. He teaches us, and helps us to understand the Bible. He convicts us and makes us feel bad when we do wrong, so that we stop that and He helps us to be able to fix those things in our lives that need to be fixed. So you see, He is a very important part of God.

When you get saved, you get a measure of the Holy Ghost, a part of the Spirit of God, a little bit of Him, but after you get saved, you can also get the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. You can get totally filled up with Him. When you get baptized, you get all the way covered up with water. When you get Baptized with the Holy Ghost, you get all the way filled up on the inside of you with God’s Spirit. You get all the way covered up on the inside. God fills you up with His Spirit. You have a lot of God in you to help you to be strong, to be bold, to overcome the flesh part of you. You see, the flesh part of you is the part of you that makes it hard to do good. It is the part of you that you inherited from Adam and Eve. It is the part of you that always seems to want to do bad things, the part of you that always gets you in trouble. It is the part of you that stops you from praying when you feel led to pray, that keeps you from reading your Bible when you know you should, that makes you argue with your parents, and disobey. It is the part that keeps you arguing with your brothers and sisters. That flesh part of you and the devil that loves to get that part of you all stirred up, is what keeps you from doing what you should, and keeps you from loving God and serving Him with your whole heart, and obeying Him.

So God made a way to help us to overcome our flesh. He made a way so that we could be filled up with His Spirit, so that the God part of us is stronger than the flesh part if we yield the flesh part of us to Him. If we aren’t careful we can just

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be filled up with ourselves. We are especially that way if we are so spoiled that we want our way, and we don't want anyone or God to have His way in our lives. It is easy not to yield to anyone. That means we don't give in. That can be very bad. We cannot be good on our own. We cannot be the people that God wants us to be on our own. If we get filled up with His Spirit, the Holy Ghost, and we let Him have control of our hearts, our minds, and our lives, then we will be much better people, and we will be able to serve God. We will be much happier, and so will everyone around us. We will also have the strength that we need to keep the declarations that we make. We will be able to keep our promises. We won't be perfect, but we will have a lot of help, and we will be much better people than we are without it.

How do we get the Baptism of the Holy Ghost? The Bible tells us that it is a gift. Now how do you get a gift from someone? First, it has to be given to you. Then you have to take it, open it up, and enjoy it. It is that easy. That is how it is with the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. The Bible says it is a gift and that it is yours. In Luke 11:9-13 we read that the way to get the gift is to ask for it, and seek it. How do your parents know what to give you at Christmas? How do you know what to give them? You ask for it, or they ask for it. That is the same way that you get things from God that you need. You ask for them. In one verse, Jesus told the people that they didn't get certain things because they didn't ask for it. He wasn't talking about getting a new bike, or a PS2, or things like that. He was talking about getting the things that we need to make us and our lives better. If you want the Baptism of the Holy Ghost, then you have to want it. You have to ask for it. Then the Bible tells God will give it to you. You pray for it.

It is a lot like salvation in that way. When you felt God's Spirit leading you to be saved, and dealing with your heart, you asked to be saved, and God saved you. Most times someone led you to the Lord or people prayed with you. It is the same way with the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. You feel God dealing with your heart that this is what you need. Then you ask for it. Many times people pray for you to receive it in church.

If God is dealing with your heart that this is something that you need, then ask Him for it. Tell your parents, or teachers, or pastor that this is what you need for your life. They will be very happy for you, and they will be glad to pray with you. Sometimes the devil will talk people out of getting this gift. He is like a thief that breaks in your house on the day before Christmas to steal all your gifts. This is a gift for you. He does not want you to get it. He will use everything to stop you from getting this gift because he knows that when you get it, you will be able to stop him from pestering you as much. He knows that this gift will make you stronger. He knows that if you get this gift you will serve God in a greater way than you are now. He does not want that. So He will try to stop you. Think of the

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most favorite gift you ever got. If you had known that you were going to get that gift, would anything have been able to stop you from going to the place and doing the thing that you had to do to get that present? Get that determined about this very special, and important gift that God has for you. Don't let anything stop you from getting it.

Let's take time to stop and pray. Ask God if this is something that you need in your life. Let Him deal with your heart. Teacher note: Lead them in prayer. Don't cut the spirit off if He is dealing with hearts. If you feel led to, after the lesson talk to some of them individually. If you feel they are seeking the Holy Ghost let parents, or pastor know. Keep in touch with the child about this as well.

This is our challenge for the week. If the Lord has led you to find out more about the Baptism of the Holy Ghost, or if He has led you to ask for it, then I challenge you to go to someone and find out more, and have them to pray for you to receive this wonderful gift from God.

Memory verse for this week: Mathew 7:7, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you"

Memory verse for this week:

Isaiah 64:8 Memorize last part. We are the work of your hand.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Matthew 22:36-40. "Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."

Matthew 7:24. Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock."

Joshua 1:8 "This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."

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Lesson 7.

(Note to teacher: You will need to bring to class a copy of the declarations for each student, and a place for them to sign. You will find a printable copy at the end of this lesson)

Review from last Sunday to help them to remember, and for them to share with ones that weren't there. When you review, ask them questions so that they are reviewing. Here are some questions:

1. What is the Baptism of the Holy Ghost?
The filling of God's Spirit.
2. How can it help us to be stronger?
It helps us to overcome our flesh, to be bold against the devil, to have strength to stand up for what is right.
3. Who is the Baptism of the Holy Ghost for? It is for us all.
4. What is speaking in tongues? It is when the Spirit of God prays through us in His own language.
5. Why do we need this? Many times we don't know what to pray for but God does. So He can pray through us. Also, it is a very powerful prayer when God prays through us in His own language.

Memory verses: Mathew 7:7, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you"

Isaiah 64:8 Memorize last part. We are the work of your hand.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Matthew 22:36-40. "Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."

Matthew 7:24. Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock."

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Today we are going to make some declarations. We have learned about how it is important to make declarations. You could say it this way. When we fail to stand up for something, then we will fall for anything. If we fail to make a commitment to be strong for something, then we will be weak and fall for anything. Our life will get to be a mess. If we try to act like we fit in with the world and do all the things that everyone else is doing around us who aren't saved, then we will fall away from God. We need to decide who we love the most. Do we love God the most, or do we love those people around us who aren't serving God the most. One way to decide this is to ask yourself this question. Who loves you the most? God sent His son to die for you. He loves you so much. He wants you to have the best life, a happy life that is full of good things. Let's get out our Bibles and look up John 10:10. It tells us that God wants us to have a life that is full of good things. Let's look at the other verses around this verse. Then let's discuss what we think these verses mean. **Teacher Note: Have them read it all together. Have them discuss. The main thought is that Jesus loves us. He knows what is best for us. If we want to have an abundant life then we need to follow him. He will guide us. We can hear his voice. He will lead us to a life that is full of good things.**

If we want a life full of good things, then we have to make a stand for what is right. God loves us and wants the best for us. If we don't make a stand, we will fall for things that are bad for us. That is why it is important to make declarations. We declare that there are some things that we will do, and that there are some things that we will not do.

Here is a list of declarations: **Discuss each one.**

1. I will love God with all my heart.
2. I will yield to His Spirit.
3. I will read God's Word, and listen to it.
4. I will listen to God's voice and obey Him when He leads me to do something, or not to do something.
5. I will pray and spend time with Him, and talk to Him and listen to Him. I will praise Him and tell Him how much I love Him, and thank Him for all He is.
6. I will pray for those I love, and for those who are enemies against me.

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7. I will listen when God convicts me of things I am doing wrong, and things I need to change, and I will ask Him help me to change. I will trust that He is able to help me.
8. I will ask myself what would Jesus do about things that I face, and I will ask His help to do what He would do.
9. I will not try to be like people who are not following Jesus. Just because a lot of people are doing something, it doesn't make it right and it doesn't mean I should do it. I will not try to fit in with the wrong crowd.
10. I will try to put God first in my life. Then I will put my family next. Then I will put my church family next. Then I will put myself last. I will not be spoiled and think only of myself, and what I want. I will love others with the same love that God has for me.
11. I will know how much Jesus loves me. I will not forget this. I will not let the devil tell me that I am not important. When he tries to tell me that no one loves me and that I am not special, I will remind him of John 3:16. I will remember how much my family and my church family love me. I will stand up to the devil like I will stand up to bullies, and tell them all, I am loved. I am special because God loves me. I am somebody important.
12. I will love my family. I will not be spoiled, but I will treat them with respect. I will honor my father and my mother. I will love my brothers and sisters with the same love that I would want them to show me.
13. I will not argue with my family. I will not start things up between people. I will share with them.
14. I will not be selfish and spoiled. I will think instead about Mr. Me.
15. I will keep the 10 commandments.

This is my declaration. With God's help I will keep it.

Let's talk about what it means when we sign something. When you sign something, it is a solemn promise that you agree with what you are signing. It is also saying that it is a commitment, a promise that you will keep.

Teacher Note: Make a copy for everybody with a place at the bottom for them to sign it. Give it to them. (Printable copy is at end of this lesson.)

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This is our challenge for this week:

I challenge you to read your declarations this week. Study them. Your challenge won't be to keep them just yet. We will talk about how we are going to do that this coming Sunday.

Memory verse: Isaiah 50:9 first part-Behold the Lord will help thee...

Mathew 7:7, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you"

Isaiah 64:8 Memorize last part. We are the work of your hand.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Matthew 22:36-40. "Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."

Matthew 7:24. Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock."

Joshua 1:8 "This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."

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My Declaration

1. I will love God with all my heart.
2. I will yield to His Spirit.
3. I will read God's Word, and listen to it.
4. I will listen to God's voice and obey Him when He leads me to do something, or not to do something.
5. I will pray and spend time with Him, and talk to Him and listen to Him. I will praise Him and tell Him how much I love Him, and thank Him for all He is.
6. I will pray for those I love, and for those who are enemies against me.
7. I will listen when God convicts me of things I am doing wrong, and things I need to change, and I will ask Him help me to change. I will trust that He is able to help me.
8. I will ask myself what would Jesus do about things that I face, and I will ask His help to do what He would do.
9. I will not try to be like people who are not following Jesus. Just because a lot of people are doing something, it doesn't make it right and it doesn't mean I should do it. I will not try to fit in with the wrong crowd.
10. I will try to put God first in my life. Then I will put my family next. Then I will put my church family next. Then I will put myself last. I will not be spoiled and think only of myself, and what I want. I will love others with the same love that God has for me.
11. I will know how much Jesus loves me. I will not forget this. I will not let the devil tell me that I am not important. When he tries to tell me that no one loves me and that I am not special, I will remind him of John 3:16. I will remember how much my family and my church family love me. I will stand up to the devil like I will stand up to bullies, and tell them all, I am loved. I am special because God loves me. I am somebody important.
12. I will love my family. I will not be spoiled, but I will treat them with respect. I will honor my father and my mother. I will love my brothers and sisters with the same love that I would want them to show me.
13. I will not argue with my family. I will not start things up between people. I will share with them.
14. I will not be selfish and spoiled. I will think instead about Mr. Me.
15. I will keep the 10 commandments.

This is my declaration. With God's help I will keep it.

My Signature

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Lesson 8.

Review from last Sunday to help them to remember, and for them to share with ones that weren't there. When you review, ask them questions so that they are reviewing. Here are some questions:

1. Why is it important to stand for something? If we don't stand up for what is right, then we will fall into wrong things.
2. Who should we love the most god or others around us? Why? God, He loves us the most.
3. Why should we listen more to God than to others around us? God, because He knows what is best.
4. What does it mean when we put our signature on something? It is our names when we sign something. It means that we are making a solemn promise to keep what we have signed.

How many kept your challenge for the week. (Reading and studying declaration.)

Memory verses: Isaiah 50:9 first part-Behold the Lord will help thee...

Mathew 7:7, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you"

Isaiah 64:8 Memorize last part. We are the work of your hand.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Matthew 22:36-40. "Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."

Matthew 7:24. Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock."

Joshua 1:8 "This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."

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Let's go over your declarations again. This time I want you to tell me what you think each one means. Also, we are going to talk about how you can keep your declarations. I want to read to you about someone in the Bible who wanted to do good, but realized that he just couldn't. He had this to say about it.

(Teacher Note: go over each declaration and discuss what each means.)

When you try to keep your declarations, you will find that it may be hard for you to do that. Have you ever had a hard time doing something that you knew you should do? Here is someone who felt just like that. **Teacher Note: Read Romans 7:15-16, and 21-23 together. (When you do, don't tell them yet that this was written by Paul.)** What is this saying? Have you ever wanted to do good, but it was really hard to do? Seemed like the harder that you tried, the worst things got. That is what this man is saying. He said that when he wanted to do good, he couldn't, and when he wanted not to do things, that is what he did in spite of himself. Well, this man had a problem? He knew, like we know, that there are certain things that are important to do. He said that he felt like he had a war inside of him keeping him from doing right. Later on in the next chapter he told about how he found out how to do what was right. I know that he learned this really well. You see the person who wrote this was Paul. He started many of the first churches. He wrote letters to those churches. These letters became books of the Bible. He wrote the book of Romans that we read from. He wrote most of the New Testament. He became a powerful worker for God.

How did Paul figure out how to do right? If you read in the next chapter he tells us. He explains that you are almost like two people when you are saved. He says that you have a flesh part of you. That is the part that is the people part of you. It is the human being part. That is the part that finds it hard to do good. Then when you are saved, you have the God part of you inside, too. You have the Spirit of God who is living in you. When you have the Baptism of the Holy Ghost, that part of you is even stronger. You see, God made us that way so that we can do what we need to do. It makes it so much easier to serve God because He is inside of us helping us. We can't do it by ourselves, so God made a way to live right inside of us to help us. That is wonderful.

When you keep your declaration, you will have God's help from right inside of you. He will help you to think right, feel the right feelings, and do the right things. Talk about a powerful helper. So why do many people get saved, but still keep right on doing the same old things? I guess it is mostly because they don't really want to do right. Paul did want to do right, and be the best person that He could be. So he let God help him. If we don't really care, and we don't think that it is important, then we won't let God help us. We will just keep on being a mess of a person. I guess that this whole thing starts with the question, "What do you want

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to do?” Just remember, that if you decide that you don’t want to do what you need to do to stay strong and be the best person that you can be, then the opposite means that you will be weak, and be the worst person that you can be. In that case you will not have a good life. When you are choosing, remember, you can do it. God will be there inside of you to make a difference if you just let Him.

What does the word yield mean? When you are traveling down the road, you see all kinds of yield signs. What do they mean? **Teacher Note: Let them answer.** They mean if anyone is coming to this same intersection, you have to let them go first. You have to yield to them. You have to let them have their way. That is how you become strong, by giving in to God who is living in you. You let Him go first. You let Him have His way. You stop and let Him be in control. If you do this, then you will win the battle that is between your flesh, and God. You will become more like Jesus if you do this. You will be able to keep all your declarations and more. You will be able to lead others to the Lord. You will be able to help others to have better lives. You will be letting Jesus reach out to them through you. This will take some practice. It won’t happen over night. It will take a while. It is a whole new way of life. But if you really want this to happen in your mind, your heart and in your life, it will. God will help you. That is how we live for the Lord. We let Him live through us.

One of my favorite verses is Galatians 2:20, “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.” It means that when Jesus took our sins and died on the cross for them, our old flesh part of us was there on the cross too. Now Jesus lives in us. We live this live by the faith of Jesus who loved us and gave Himself for us. He will be there inside of us to help us. He died for you, and He will live inside of you, because He loves you. He will help you. You can trust Him, and depend on Him. God’s Spirit will be in you to help you.

The Bible talks about the fruits of the Spirit. When a tree has fruit on it, the fruit is coming out of the tree. An apple tree has apples. A peach tree has peaches. A cherry tree has cherries. You won’t see an apple tree that has peaches. The fruit comes from what is inside the tree. When we have the Spirit of God inside of us, then people will see fruit in our lives. Things will be coming out of us because He is on the inside of us. What are some of the fruits that the Spirit of God has, things that come from Him? Galatians 5:22-25 tells us. Let’s read it together. “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.” Let’s talk about what all these things mean.

For Notes

Teacher Note: Discuss each with them. Longsuffering means that you are extremely patient. Temperance means that you don't let your flesh control you. All these things are characteristics of the Holy Ghost. When you have Him inside of you, they can also become your characteristics. If you yield to Him and let Him have His way. If you let His characteristics be a part of you, how will it help your family? How will it help your friends? How will help everyone around you?

When this verse talked about crucifying the flesh with the affections and lusts, it means that we yield our flesh to God. The flesh has its own affections, the things that it loves to do that isn't the best for us. It also has lusts, things that control it. When we give these to God, they can't control us. When we let God's Spirit rule in our lives, then He will help us.

Does this mean that we will be perfect if we do this? It takes a lifetime of working on our flesh to become perfect. We will always have times when we mess up. We will always have times when we let our flesh have its way, and we fail to let the Holy Ghost have control. We are humans, and that part of us will still mess up. But when we want to have God be in control of us with all of our hearts, those mess up times will get fewer and fewer.

What about when we mess up? The Bible tells us that God loves us enough to send His son to die for our sins. He died so that we could be forgiven. When we mess up, we need to repent. We need to be very sorry for our mistake, for our sin. Then we need to tell Him we are sorry. That is what repent means. How will we know that we have messed up? God's spirit will convict us. He will let us know. We will get very sorry for what we have done. He will deal with our hearts, and let us know. The worst thing to do is to keep on doing wrong even after He deals with our hearts. That is dangerous. If we keep on doing something over and over, even after He has dealt with our heart about it, then eventually we will stop knowing what is wrong and what is right. We will stop Him from convicting us. If we never repent, we never feel sorry for doing wrong, and if we never ask God's forgiveness, then we will never be able to go to heaven. The Bible tells us that unrepented sin will not enter into heaven.

Your challenge for the week-So now that we know how we can keep our declarations, let's work on the first three this week. Let's talk about them and be reminded about what they mean. **Read first three again.** This will be your challenge for the week: Keep the first three declarations. Report next Sunday how this changed you, your family, and your friends. When you have others to talk to, it will strengthen you. Check up on one another this week to see how you are doing with this challenge. Let's get a partner. Talk to your partner this week.

For Notes

Help one another keep these three. Most of all know God will help you. **Teacher note: Divide people up in teams. Be sure no one feels left out.**

Our memory verse for the week will be Galatians 2:20, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

Isaiah 50:9 first part-Behold the Lord will help thee...

Mathew 7:7, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you"

Isaiah 64:8 Memorize last part. We are the work of your hand.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Matthew 22:36-40. "Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."

Matthew 7:24. Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock."

Joshua 1:8 "This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."

For Notes

Lesson 9.

Teacher Note: You will need a picture of armor that matches the armor in Ephesians 6:10-17. You can find this on the internet. Just search in Google for “picture of armor found in Ephesians 6:10-17”. Go to images. Also, you will need a paper with this verse written on it for each child.

Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Review from last Sunday to help them to remember, and for them to share with ones that weren't there. When you review, ask them questions so that they are reviewing. Here are some questions:

1. What does our memory verse mean? God can help us be what we should be if we yield to Him.
2. Who was the man who said he couldn't do what he was supposed to, and did what he wasn't supposed to? How did he change? Paul. He became a powerful worker.
3. What is the flesh part of you? What is the Spirit part of you? You by yourself. The Spirit of God in you when you are saved.
4. Do you remember the fruits of the Spirit? Let's try to do remember them all together. Love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance

Memory Verses: Galatians 2:20, “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”

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For Notes

Matthew 22:36-40. “Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.”

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How did it go with your challenge from last week? Were you able to keep this? How did it change your family?

Today we are going to talk about our enemy. We have an enemy who does not want us to keep our declarations. Our enemy is the devil. Now sometimes when we talk about the devil, we might get afraid. We have to realize that the devil is nothing to be afraid of. Who says that? God says that. He says that He has given us power over the devil, and He says that we can put the devil under our feet. Yes, the devil gives us trouble, but everything he does against us is turned out for our good. When he tries to mess us up, God turns everything that he does to help us to be stronger people. The problems the devil creates for us, God turns around and uses them to turn out to help us. So do we have to be afraid of the devil? Certainly not. The devil is just like any enemy. If soldiers are getting ready to fight, they have to be aware of their enemy. They have to know his tricks, so that the enemy can't destroy them. They have to know their enemy's strengths, and their weaknesses. They have to develop a strategy to fight against him. They can't take him for granted, or they will be weak, and they will lose the fight. They have to submit to their general who will lead them against the enemy. They have to know that they can win. But they cannot be afraid of their enemy, or their enemy will win. The devil is the same way. Fighting against him isn't a flesh battle. We can't drop a bomb on his head and fight him. We have to fight him in the spirit. God is our general. We have to let Him lead us. We have to follow the fight plan, the strategy to win which is the Bible. We can't take the devil for granted, but we do not have to be afraid of him.

Sing this song with me. **I'm in the Lord's Army.**

I'm in the Lord's Army, I'm in the Lord's Army.

I may never march in the infantry, ride in the calvary, shoot the artillery.

I may never fly over the enemy, but I'm in the Lord's Army

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The Bible says this about the devil and the war against him, and his war against us. I Peter 5:8 says, “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.” What does this mean? **(Teacher note: Let them answer.)** It means that the devil is trying to destroy us so we need to be careful. Ephesians 4:27 says, “... Neither give place to the devil.” What do you think that this means? **(Teacher note: Let them answer.)** It means don’t let him have his way. Don’t give in to him. Ephesians 6:10-17 talks about the armor that we can put on to fight the devil. He isn’t a flesh enemy. He is a spiritual enemy. So our armor isn’t flesh armor that we can see and feel, but it is also spiritual. Let’s read about it. Get out your Bibles. “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” Let’s talk about each piece of the armor, and why it is important.

(Teacher Note: Give the children the card and the picture you have for them.)

Let’s look at what the armor looks like. Let’s look at each piece and talk about what each is protecting. Your loins are across in between your hips. To a soldier, this is the part where the most of his strength comes from. If his loins are hurt, then he can no longer fight. Your breastplate protects your heart. If you are hurt there, you could die. Your feet are important. If your feet are not strong, then you cannot run and fight. Your shield is your protection. Your helmet protects your brain. Your sword is what you use to fight against the enemy.

Now that is physically what armor protects, but is the Bible talking about just physical armor? It is talking about spiritual armor. Truth is what protects our spiritual loins, the part of us that makes us strong. If we don’t know God’s truth then we cannot be strong. So the truth helps protect our strength. Righteousness protects our heart. Righteousness means that we want to do what is right with our whole heart. That will protect us from being caught up in bad attitudes and feelings. Your feet are protected by the preparation of the gospel of peace. If you are busy doing things to spread the gospel, to help other people, then you will not be going places where you should not go where you can get in trouble. Your shield that will protect you is faith in God and in the Bible. Your helmet is salvation. When you are saved, you think different because you have Jesus inside of you helping you to think right. You have the Spirit of God teaching you things.

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This helps keep you from thinking things that can just get you down, and away from God.

We can't put on real pieces of armor everyday, but we can picture ourselves putting on spiritual armor. Every morning, pretend to put on each piece of your armor. Say this, I am putting on my loins protector, truth. I am putting on my breastplate of righteousness to protect my heart. I am putting on my shoes of the gospel. I am putting on my shield of faith to stop the weapons on the enemy. I am putting on my helmet of salvation to protect my mind. I am putting on my sword of God's spirit, which is the word of God. You may be pretending to put on each piece, but in your heart picture yourself putting on your spiritual armor. Give notice to the devil that you are armed and ready for battle.

James 4:7 tells us that when submit ourselves to God, when we yield to Him, then we are ready to resist the devil. Then when we stand up against him, he has to run. "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." Do you have to be afraid of the devil. No!!! When you yield to God, and put on your spiritual armor, then he has to run from you.

The most powerful weapon that you have against the devil is speaking in tongues. If you have the gift of the Baptism of the Holy Ghost then you have the gift of speaking in tongues. When the Holy Ghost prays to bind the devil that is a very powerful prayer. The devil has to submit to Him. Let the Holy Ghost pray a prayer to bind Him from messing with you. Also, let the Holy Ghost pray to bind Him from messing up people that you love. That is a powerful prayer.

We talked about this some before as well. This is just a reminder. The Bible says that when we tell the devil to go away, he has to. Tell him, "In the name of Jesus, devil, shut up and leave me alone. The blood of Jesus covers me. The Bible says you have to leave me alone." The Bible says that the name of Jesus gives us authority to tell the devil to leave us alone, and he has to. Having authority means that we have a right to boss him around him, because we aren't doing that on our own, but in the name of Jesus. Jesus gave His blood on the cross to cover us so that the enemy can't mess with us. When we tell the devil to leave us alone because the blood of Jesus covers us, then he has to leave us alone. When we tell the devil he has to leave us alone and remind him the Bible tells him he has to, then we aren't just give him our word for it, we are giving him God's Word for it. So tell him, "In the name of Jesus, devil, shut up and leave me alone. The blood of Jesus covers me. The Bible says you have to leave me alone." The devil is a lot like a pesky little kid. A pesky little kid will start bothering you. When you tell him that he needs to leave you alone, he may not listen at first. But then when you keep telling him, and you really, really mean business about it, he can tell. Then he will leave you alone. That is how you have to do the devil. Keep telling him.

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Let him know that you mean business. Let him know that you know that he has to leave you alone, and you aren't taking his junk. Make a stand against him, and he will have to run away.

Your challenge this week is to do the next three declarations, plus the first three. That means you are going to do 1-6. Report next week how things changed. Remember, you will have an enemy who will try to convince you that this is stupid. He will try to get you to think that you can't do this. He will try to make things look like they are just getting worse instead of better. Remember this though, now, you are on to his tricks. Bind him, and tell him to leave you alone in the name of Jesus. Make up your mind you are not going to listen, and resist him. If this happens, if he starts fighting you, then you know that it is important to keep on going with your declarations. It must be important for you to do them, if he is fighting you to get you to stop.

Your memory verse is: James 4:7 "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

Galatians 2:20, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

Isaiah 50:9 first part-Behold the Lord will help thee...

Mathew 7:7, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you"

Isaiah 64:8 Memorize last part. We are the work of your hand.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Matthew 22:36-40. "Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."

Matthew 7:24. Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock."

Joshua 1:8 "This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."

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Lesson 10.

Review from last Sunday to help them to remember, and for them to share with ones that weren't there. When you review, ask them questions so that they are reviewing. Here are some questions:

1. Who is our enemy? Do we have to be afraid of him? Why not?
2. Do we have armor to put on? Is it spiritual or physical? What are the parts of the armor?
3. How do we fight the devil? Does he have to listen to us?
4. When we submit to God and yield to Him, when we resist the devil, what does he have to do?

Memory Verses:

James 4:7 "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

Galatians 2:20, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

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Teacher note: Let them discuss each answer and share what is going on with them. How is it going with keeping your declaration? Is it hard? Have you been asking God to help you, and yielding to Him? Have you been fighting against the enemy who might be trying to stop you? Are you discouraged? Who will try to make you feel discouraged? Who is trying to stop you? Don't be discouraged, keep trying. Let them encourage each other.

Let's go over all our declarations again. Why is each important. **Teacher note: Let them discuss each one.**

1. I will love God with all my heart.
2. I will yield to His Spirit.
3. I will read God's Word, and listen to it.
4. I will listen to God's voice and obey Him when He leads me to do something, or not to do something.
5. I will pray and spend time with Him, and talk to Him and listen to Him. I will praise Him and tell Him how much I love Him, and thank Him for all He is.
6. I will pray for those I love, and for those who are enemies against me.
7. I will listen when God convicts me of things I am doing wrong, and things I need to change, and I will ask Him help me to change. I will trust that He is able to help me.
8. I will ask myself what would Jesus do about things that I face, and I will ask His help to do what He would do.
9. I will not try to be like people who are not following Jesus. Just because a lot of people are doing something, it doesn't make it right and it doesn't mean I should do it. I will not try to fit in with the wrong crowd.
10. I will try to put God first in my life. Then I will put my family next. Then I will put my church family next. Then I will put myself last. I will not be spoiled and think only of myself, and what I want. I will love others with the same love that God has for me.
11. I will know how much Jesus loves me. I will not forget this. I will not let the devil tell me that I am not important. When he tries to tell me that no

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one loves me and that I am not special, I will remind him of John 3:16. I will remember how much my family and my church family love me. I will stand up to the devil like I will stand up to bullies, and tell them all, I am loved. I am special because God loves me. I am somebody important.

12. I will love my family. I will not be spoiled, but I will treat them with respect. I will honor my father and my mother. I will love my brothers and sisters with the same love that I would want them to show me.
13. I will not argue with my family. I will not start things up between people. I will share with them.
14. I will not be selfish and spoiled. I will think instead about Mr. Me.
15. I will keep the 10 commandments. Teacher note: When you get to this part, have them get out their Bibles and read the 10 commandments together. They are found in Exodus 20:1-17.

(Teacher Note: Go back and discuss 7-10 because these are the ones that they will do in this week's challenge. Talk more about things they can do to keep these. Let the Lord lead you with ideas.)

(Teacher Note: Review about putting on your armor. Then have them pretend to put on each piece saying the parts as they put them on.)

(Teacher Note: Close with having a major sword drill contest. Divide them up into ages. When the smaller ones have their contest, pair them with an older one to help.)

Your Challenge for the week is to keep 1-10.

No new memory verse.

James 4:7 "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

Galatians 2:20, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

Isaiah 50:9 first part-Behold the Lord will help thee...

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Lesson 11.

Your Challenge:

How many kept your challenge of keeping 1-10 of your declarations. How is this going? How has this changed your life? Remember, you might not see changes right away. You won't see any if you don't keep it up.

Memory Verses:

James 4:7 "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

Galatians 2:20, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

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Remember how we talked about the flesh part and God's Spirit inside you. **Teacher note: Discuss about it. Let them explain their understanding so that you are sure that they understand a right perspective of this.** We can do things that will strengthen the God side of us, or if we aren't careful we can do things that will strengthen the flesh side of us. Here is a little story that will help

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you understand this. A man had two puppies. One was a lot bigger than the other. Someone asked him why. He said it was because he fed one more. Which side of you will be the strongest, the God side or the flesh side of you? It will be the one that you yield to the most, and it will be the one that you feed the most. Let's talk a little more about these two things-which side we yield to, or give into, rules, and which side we feed the most will be the strongest.

We talked about yielding before. Let's do a little demonstration. **Teacher note: Hold a book. Don't let them have it. Tell a child to try to take it away from you. Hold onto it.** Sometimes we can be like this with God. God wants to take our flesh but we just don't want to give it to Him. We are too spoiled, like Mr. Me, to give it up. We want our way. We don't care about what God wants, we want to do our thing. When we become that way, our flesh will control us, and it will always get us into trouble. The Bible tells us that we will have nothing but trouble when the flesh part of us rules us. Now look what happens when we yield. **Teacher note: Have a child try to take the book, but give it up when they try to get it.** When we yield our life and our self to God, then He can have it. He can have the flesh part of us, and He can make it into something special. When we yield it to Him, the flesh part will no longer be strongest part of us. Sometimes we have to do this again and again and again. We have to choose everyday which side of us we want to be the strongest, and we have to yield our flesh to God.

Teacher Note: Sing the song **He's Still Working on Me**

He's still working on me to make me what I ought to be
It took Him just a week to make the moon and start,
The sun and the earth and Jupiter and Mars.
How loving and patient He must be, He's still working on me.

Verse

There really ought to be a sign upon my heart.
Don't judge me yet there's an unfinished part.
But I'll perfect just according to His hand,
Fashioned by the Master's loving hand.

I love this song because it reminds us that God is working in us to make us to better. When we yield to Him, it makes His job a lot easier.

Then we talked about the two puppies. Which puppy grew the most? (**Teacher note: let them answer.**) It was the one who was fed the most. How can we feed the God side of us to make it stronger? The Bible tells us that there are many things that we can do. One is to read the Bible. When we read the Bible it strengthens the God side of us. Another is when we pray. Especially when we

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pray in tongues in the Spirit. Prayer is not just asking God for things for us. Prayer is fellowshiping with God and talking to Him. It is listening and letting Him talk to you and lead you. It is praying for others more than you.

The best way to start praying is to start praising God. When I pray, I start by thanking God for all He has done to take care of me. Most of all, I start thanking Him for the wonderful God He is. I thank Him for His love. I thank Him that He is right and holy. I know that He will always do the right things. I thank Him for that. I thank Him for sending Jesus. I tell Him that I love Him, and I really do. God created us so that He would have company, so that He would have people to love Him, and to care for. Sometimes the only prayer that we have is asking for things. We don't take time to fellowship with Him. We don't praise Him and thank Him when He does things. Sometimes we don't even take time to notice when He answers our prayers. Talk to God when you pray. Just talk to Him like you talk to your friends. Know that He listens. He will answer your prayers. Have faith in that. Trust in that. It may not seem like He does sometimes. But He always does. Sometimes His answer may be, "You don't really need that". There have been many times when I have prayed for something that I just knew I really needed to have. I wouldn't get it, and I wondered why God didn't answer my prayer. Then later I found out how bad that would have been if it had happened the way that I thought it should. Sometimes God answers our prayer by saying no.

Sometimes God answers our prayer by saying "Wait a while. I will answer this in my time. I know when the best time is for this to happen. Trust me." God is on time. He is never late, and He is never too early. His timing is right on time for the things that He does. Sometimes the right things done at the wrong time can turn out wrong. God knows this. Trust Him.

Sometimes God answers our prayer just right away. These times make us stronger. When we see Him answer our prayers, it will strengthen our faith. We will be so excited that we will pray more for others. We will watch our prayers answered, and our faith will grow even more.

Prayer is a way to strengthen the God side of us. Praying in the Holy Ghost in tongues is another. When you have the Baptism of the Holy Ghost it comes with the gift of speaking in tongues. We talked about this in an earlier lesson. The Bible says that we can build up the God side of us by praying in tongues.

Also, listening to Gospel music is another way that we can strengthen the God side of us. Going to church and really listening to the sermons is another. Spending time with Christian friends is another. All these are ways that we can feed the God side of us to make it stronger.

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One of the most important things that we can do to feed to God side of us to make it stronger is to read the Bible. The Bible talks about itself as being spiritual food. Many times it is called the Word of Life.

Just like there are ways to feed the God side of us, there are ways to feed the flesh side of us, the side of us that always gets us in trouble. Since praising God and prayer strengthens the God side of us, then we know that not praying, and not praising God will strengthen the flesh side of us. Not reading the Bible will strengthen the flesh side of us. Listening to Gospel music will strengthen the God side of us, and listening to the worldly music will strengthen the flesh side of us, and cause us to start thinking wrong. If we aren't careful, listening to worldly music will cause us to act like people who aren't Christians. The music that we listen to has a powerful effect on us. Also, other things that cause us to get addicted can feed our flesh, and cause us to pull away from God. Cell phones, texting, facebook, getting hooked on things that you do on the internet. All these things can hook you and cause you to pull away from God. Playing games on the internet or play station, or whatever constantly can too. If you can't put up your phone or your game away for a day, then you are hooked. Anything that causes you not to want to pray, or read your Bible, then you need to leave it alone. If something has you to the place that you don't want to quit it, you feel like you have to do this, then this is not good for you. The devil will use things to make you addicted. Some things are made to be addicting like video games. These things will only mess you up and keep you from things that are good for you.

Teacher Note: Give them time to pray about things like this. Let's take time to pray. Let's ask God if there is anything in your life that you need to limit, or that you need to give up because it is causing problems in your life. Let's really pray and listen to what He tells us. He loves us and wants the best for us.

Your challenge for the week is to: Praise the Lord, pray and fellowship with Him, read your Bible, listen to Gospel music, pay attention in church. Also, stay away from the things that feed the flesh side of you.

Memory Verse-Romans 8:5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

James 4:7 "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

Galatians 2:20, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

Isaiah 50:9 first part-Behold the Lord will help thee...

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Mathew 7:7, “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you”

Isaiah 64:8 Memorize last part. We are the work of your hand.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Matthew 22:36-40. “Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.”

Matthew 7:24. Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock.”

Joshua 1:8 “This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.”

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Lesson 12.

(Teacher Note: For this lesson you will need a sheet of paper and pencils for everyone. Don't pass them out until you need them.)

Review from last Sunday to help them to remember, and for them to share with ones that weren't there. When you review, ask them questions so that they are reviewing. Here are some questions:

1. What two parts do we have? What is the God part of us that is inside us after we get saved? The flesh and the Spirit. The Spirit.
2. Which grows the most and gets the strongest? As a hint, remember the two puppies. The one that we feed the most.
3. What does it mean to yield? It means to give in to something or someone.
4. Why is it important to yield to God? The spirit of God in us will help us if we yield to Him.
5. What things can we do to strengthen the God part of us? Pray, read Bible, church.

Your challenge for the week was to: praise the Lord, pray and fellowship with Him, read your Bible, listen to Gospel music, pay attention in church. Also, stay away from the things that feed the God side of you. How did that go? How did it change your life? Did you find that you got stronger and closer to God? When you prayed last week, who felt that the Lord was wanting you to change some things that you are doing? Would you share with us about this? **Teacher Note: Take time to encourage them to share. Tell them that if they share it might help some one else.**

Memory Verse-Romans 8:5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

James 4:7 "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

Galatians 2:20, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

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Let’s sing together the song **He’s Still Working on Me.**

Chorus

He’s still working on me to make me what I ought to be
It took Him just a week to make the moon and start,
The sun and the earth and Jupiter and Mars.
How loving and patient He must be, He’s still working on me.

Verse

There really ought to be a sign upon my heart.
Don’t judge me yet there’s an unfinished part.
But I’ll perfect just according to His hand,
Fashioned by the Master’s loving hand.

We have talked a lot about prayer but it is so important let’s talk some more about it. What is prayer? **Teacher note: Let them answer.** I think that prayer is a conversation with God. What does conversation mean? How can we have a conversation with someone? Who would like to have a conversation with me? Let’s talk together. **Teacher note: Ask them a questions, and before they answer interrupt with asking something else. When they try to answer that, just keep interrupting. Don’t let them get a word in. Then ask them if they enjoyed having a conversation with you. Now ask another student to tell everyone about something they like to do. Tell the class that you are going to get to know more about this student by asking questions. Before they can say anything interrupt with talking about yourself. Ask the class what they**

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learned about that person. If we want to get to know someone and have a conversation with someone we have to be willing to listen. Did I have a good conversation? Why? Because I didn't listen. Did I learn something about this person? Why not? Because I didn't listen. How many times when you are praying do you stop to listen to God. Sometimes I have to listen to God before I pray just to find out what He wants me to pray about. He can give you a strong feeling, or speak to your heart about what He wants you to pray for. Don't let your prayer be all about you, and what you want God to do. Spend time with Him. Let Him speak to your heart.

Why should we pray? Prayer helps us to be closer to God. Prayer helps us to be stronger Christians. Prayer helps us to be better people, because we learn to love others more, and care about them enough to pray for them. Prayer helps us to be less selfish. Prayer builds our faith because when we see God answer our prayers it gives us more faith. Prayer changes the lives of people around us, and it changes our life. We can do a lot of things to help ourselves and the people around us, but the greatest thing that we do is to pray.

We have talked about this in another lesson, but we are going to talk about it again here. The best way to start praying is to start praising God. When I pray, I start by thanking God for all He has done to take care of me. Most of all, I start thanking Him for the wonderful God He is. I thank Him for His love. I thank Him that He is right and holy. I know that He will always do the right things. I thank Him for that. I thank Him for sending Jesus. I tell Him that I love Him, and I really do. God created us so that He would have company, so that He would have people to love Him, and to care for. Sometimes the only prayer that we have is asking for things. We don't take time to fellowship with Him. We don't praise Him and thank Him when He does things. Sometimes we don't even take time to notice when He answers our prayers. Talk to God when you pray. Just talk to Him like you talk to your friends. Know that He listens. Tell Him that you are glad that He is so good. Thank Him for being as special as He is. Just say "God I praise you". When you do this, tell Him and feel it. Love Him. Feel that love that you have for Him. When you tell your parents that you love them, do you feel love for them? Can they feel the love that you have for them? Do the same thing when you praise God. Feel the love that you have for Him when you tell Him that you love Him, and know that He is feeling that love.

Then it is a good idea to ask Him to forgive you for anything that you have done wrong. Ask Him to show you if you have done something wrong. He can do that. Then repent of it. Let Him know that you are sorry for that, and ask Him to help you to not be that way or do those things any more. Then before you start asking for anything for yourself, pray for those around you. Pray for your family, pray for your church, and pray for your friends. Then ask God to show you who else

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you need to pray for. It may be that someone close to you really needs prayer, but they haven't said anything. God sees everyone. He sees those that are having problems and that need His help. He can show you the people around you that need prayer.

Here is a verse that will help you when you pray. I John 5:14 says, "And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us." We can have confidence that God hears us. If we are asking something that is in His will, something that is the best for us, and the best for the person that we are praying for, then we can have confidence that He will answer our prayer. We can have faith that He will answer.

He will answer your prayers. Have faith in that. Trust in that. It may not seem like He does sometimes. But He always does. Sometimes His answer may be, "You don't really need that". There have been many times when I have prayed for something that I just knew I really needed to have. I wouldn't get it, and I wondered why God didn't answer my prayer. Then later I found out how bad that would have been if it had happened the way that I thought it should. Sometimes God answers our prayer by saying no.

Sometimes God answers our prayer by saying "Wait a while. I will answer this in my time. I know when the best time is for this to happen. Trust me." God is on time. He is never late, and He is never too early. His timing is right on time for the things that He does. Sometimes the right things done at the wrong time can turn out wrong. God knows this. Trust Him.

Sometimes God answers our prayer just right away. These times make us stronger. When we see Him answer our prayers, it will strengthen our faith. We will be so excited that we will pray more for others. We will watch our prayers answered, and our faith will grow even more.

Matthew 21:22 tells us a key about prayer. And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive. We need to believe when we pray. Let's talk about what it means to believe, to have faith. Does anybody here know how a remote control works? **Teacher Note: Let them answer. You may not know yourself, but you can be pretty sure that whatever they say won't be right.** How many of you use one? How many know all the details of how the internet works? Do you use it? How many know how a game on a ps2 works? Do you use it? How many know all the details of how a smart phone works? Do you use it? Just because you don't understand everything about something does that mean that you don't use it? You have to have faith to use a lot of things that you use.

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A lot of things about God can't be understood with our minds. Isaiah 55:8-9 tells us, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." God is a whole lot smarter than us. His ways are a whole lot better than our ways. We may not understand everything about everything about God. We may not understand all of His ways. Just like you still use a remote control, even though you don't understand how it works, you can still know that God is real, that He does what He does, that salvation is real, that the Baptism of the Holy Ghost is real, that obedience is important even though you don't understand all about all of it. You have to have faith in God. Just accept what He says is true, what the Word says is true. Just accept that He knows what is best for you, and that He loves you. When you do this, you are having faith. Have faith that prayer works, even if you don't understand how it works. Have faith that God hears your prayer and that He will answer. We know this because the Bible tells us so. We trust that. Faith and trust are important.

Do you have to be a perfect person so that God will hear you and answer your prayers? **Teacher note: Let them answer.** The Bible tells us that no one is perfect. So does that mean that God won't hear anybody that isn't perfect? What do we need to have so that God will hear our prayers? We need to have faith not in ourselves but in Him. We need to know that He will hear, and we can trust in Him to do the best for us, and others. Sometimes we think that we have to have faith in us to pray so that God will answer. No, we need to have faith in Him. When you pray, don't look at how you feel about yourself. Look to God.

When you pray, you may think sometimes that God isn't hearing your prayers because He isn't answering. Remember, we talked about earlier how sometimes God answers right away, sometimes He answer in His time, sometimes the answer is no, this isn't the best thing. But He always answers. The more you pray, the more you will see your prayers answered, the stronger your faith will be. Start a prayer diary. Write in it your prayers. When they are answered, write it down. When you find out that this wasn't the best thing, write it down. This will strengthen your faith. When your faith grows, it makes your prayers stronger.

One way for your faith to grow is to talk about times when God answered people's prayers. It reminds you that God will answer your prayers too. Who are some people in the Bible that prayed and God answered their prayers? Who are some people that you know prayed and God answered their prayers? Tell us about times that God answered your prayers?

Lets make a declaration. Lets declare that we are going to become prayer warriors. A prayer warrior is someone who fights against things that are wrong.

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It is someone who fights against the devil who is trying to mess things up, who fights for people that they love, by praying. Lets start today by making a prayer list. This is a good thing to do. You can add to it when the Lord shows you things to pray for, when you hear about people who need prayer, and when you see problems that people are having. This prayer list will help you to remember people who need you to pray for them. **Teacher Note: pass out paper and pencil now.**

My challenge to you today: Keep up your prayer list. Pray every day. Write down the prayers that are answered. This isn't so that you can come in and brag about how good you are because God answered your prayers. It is so that you can come in and brag about how wonderful God is, that He heard your prayers and answered them.

Our memory verse for the day is: Matthew 21:22 "And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive."

Let's go over all of our memory verses.

Romans 8:5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

James 4:7 "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

Galatians 2:20, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

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Closing

Now the rest is up to you. You need to continue with this until they meet all their declarations doing three new ones every lesson. Have memory verse reviews, and sword drills, and practice books of the Bible until they are all memorized. Add new things as the Lord leads you.

I pray that you will have seen the value of teaching even the smallest children spiritual truths. Keep this practice up in the classes that you teach from now on. Be led by the Spirit. Looking forward to hearing from you how this little book has changed your life, and the lives of the children you teach.

About the Author

Sandy has taught children for over 45 years, first as a Sunday school teacher, then as a public school and Christian school teacher. The last 27 or more years have been as teacher and director at New Life Christian Academy which is a part of New Life Church and Ministries. For more information about Sandy and New Life, see their website at www.newlifechurchandministries.net Also, for more of her books, see her website at www.freechristianonlinebooks.com

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