

The Person and Life of the Lord Jesus Christ

THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

INTRODUCTION

This series of lessons is written with the thought of it being used each year for the children in elementary school, in hopes that they will be thoroughly familiarized with the truth of the gospel by the time they begin junior high school and will have been led into a definite and personal knowledge of the Lord Jesus. There is more content and facts in each lesson than should be presented in each session. Because these lessons are primarily written as a resource for the teachers, children should only be presented with as much material as they can comfortably absorb at their level. Otherwise they will become frustrated, feeling they cannot grasp all that is being presented.

We have found that as the truth of the gospel is presented year by year to the children by different teachers they do not become bored or feel that it is mere repetition. As their level of understanding grows year by year, so the level of the presentation of the lessons can be raised accordingly by the teacher to meet the needs and comprehension of the children.

We have also found this series to be useful with junior high and high school students as "make-up" lessons for those who have not been familiarized with the gospel concerning the Person and life of the Lord Jesus Christ. With young people we found that reading the lesson together and having discussion was both enjoyable and profitable.

THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

OVERVIEW

Due to the tremendous importance of a basic knowledge of the Lord's life and person, it is suggested that the 17 lessons on the person and life of the Lord Jesus Christ be covered each year for several years with all the children. These should be covered according to the capacity of the group of children they are presented to. If this series on the person and life of the Lord Jesus Christ is started at the beginning of the school year, it is likely to be completed before the winter holidays. After these 17 weeks, the appropriate age groups' materials can be covered for 23 weeks for the remainder of the school year making up a total of 40 weeks.

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THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Lesson One

THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

Burden to Impart:

In this lesson we want to impress the children with the wondrous Person of the Lord Jesus; He is both God and Man. We also want to impress them with His unique conception; being conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of a young virgin girl. Because of this divine yet human source He is very, very special. He has no sin, no shortcomings, or defects; He is absolutely perfect in every way, inwardly and outwardly, in life and also in conduct. He is the One that all mankind had been waiting for ever since Adam sinned and God had promised that a Savior would one day come into the world (Gen. 3:15). For thousands of years God's prophets had told about His coming and gave many details that would come to pass with His birth, life, death, and resurrection. He would be the answer to every problem of man and the entire universe. He was the promised Savior and coming King. He would be called "Jesus" (meaning Jehovah the Savior) because He was a perfect man who would die upon the cross to save us from our sins. His name would also be called "Emmanuel" (meaning God with us) because He was the mingling of God with man. So then, His birth and His coming is the coming of God to be with us.

Memory Verse: "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21).

Facts to Teach: [Scripture reading: Matt. 1:18-25]

1. Before an important person visits a certain place their coming is always pre-announced so that everything and everyone will be ready to meet him. Because of the tremendous importance of the coming of the Savior and Redeemer, God gave many prophecies and promises about His coming hundreds and even thousands of years before He was born (Gen. 3:15; Isa. 7:14; 9:6).

2. Born of Mary: the Lord Jesus was born of a typical young Jewish girl, hence He is a true man, the Son of Man (1 Tim. 2:5).

3. Born of a virgin: Mary was a virgin, a pure young lady who had never been married or come together with a man. Hence, the Lord was not born of the seed of sinful man and therefore did not have a sinful nature, as all other men have (2 Cor. 5:21a).

4. Born of the Holy Spirit of God: because the Lord was conceived of the Holy Spirit of God, He had the life and nature of God, His Father. Therefore He is the Son of God (Luke 1:35).

5. Who He is: 1) Jesus--the Son to be our Redeemer, to save His people from their sins (Matt. 1:21).
2) Emmanuel--the Son of God, God with us, coming to man as a man so that man can receive Him as his life.

THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Songs for Lesson One

THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

Hymns, Jr., #47.

D E⁷ A⁷
Our God has come as man
D Em A⁷
According to God's plan --
D A D A
His name is Jesus Christ the Lord,
G D A D
Our wonderful God-man!

Hymns, #84.

D A D A
Christ, by highest heaven adored,
D G D A D
Christ, the everlasting Lord:
D Bm E⁷
Late in time behold Him come,
A E A E⁷ A
Offspring of a virgin's womb.
D G D A
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
D G D A
Hail th' incarnate Deity!
G B⁷ Em B⁷ Em
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
A D A⁷D
Jesus our Immanuel.

Repeat last two lines.

THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Lesson Two

THE DETAILS OF CHRIST'S BIRTH

Burden to Impart:

In this lesson we see how when the time appointed by God had come for Christ to be born, God sovereignly caused a universal census to be taken so that Mary and Joseph would be in Bethlehem for Christ's birth, as foretold by the prophet Micah (Micah 5:2). The Savior of the world had come, yet man gave Him no place to even be born, so He was born in a poor, humble manger among the beasts of the fields. Although men took no account of His birth in the city, the angels of heaven announced the birth of the Savior to others; to humble folk like their Savior, the shepherds of the fields. They had both time and room in their hearts to go and find the Savior who had been born. After finding Him they came back rejoicing and praising God.

Memory Verse: "A Savior was born to you today in David's city, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11).

Facts to Teach: (Scripture reading: Luke 2:1-20)

1. Many hundreds of years before the Savior was born, the prophet Micah had already announced beforehand that He would be born in the city of David, Bethlehem (Micah 5:2). Before great persons (presidents or kings) visit a city, the city is always pre-notified so that they can prepare the city for his coming. So great and important is the Savior who was to be born in Bethlehem that God gave hundreds of years notice beforehand about His coming.

2. In order to lead Joseph and Mary to the city of David where Christ was to be born, God sovereignly caused a universal census to be called for the first time in the history of the ancient Roman government. Everybody had to return to the city of their ancestry and be enrolled.

3. Joseph and Mary were very righteous. They did not take any excuse to avoid or hide from the census, even though she was nine months pregnant. This made it very difficult and even dangerous to walk all the way to Bethlehem to be enrolled. There was the danger that their baby might even be born while they were on their journey.

4. There was no room in the inns for Joseph and Mary when they arrived. There is no place given to the Lord Jesus in this world, for people do not care about Him. He later said, "Foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to rest His head."

5. Finally, the Lord Jesus was born in a lowly, dirty manger among the animals. They are called the dumb beasts of burden, yet they knew their Owner when He came and they knew their Master when He was born, but His people Israel did not (Isa. 1:3).

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Lesson Two (Continued)

6. The angels of heaven would not allow the greatest event that had ever happened in the universe (even greater than creation is God's incarnation) to go unannounced. They did not announce it to the busy, selfish people of Bethlehem, but to the simple shepherds as they took care of their flocks in the cold night out in the fields. They gladly received the good news, ran to the city and found their baby-Savior in the manger. They rejoiced and worshipped God.

Some songs about the Lord's birth and incarnation: Hymnbook 82, 84, 85 and Hymns Jr. 46-47.

THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Lesson Three

EVENTS AFTER CHRIST'S BIRTH

Burden to Impart:

The baby Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God, even God Himself. He came to be the Savior of the world and is therefore the most important One in the universe. God made the birth of His Son known to both the Jewish shepherds (His called people) and to the Gentile magi (who were not His called people), to the simple and to the wise. These ones treasured Christ's birth. They sought Him and, as the Lord Jesus promised (Matt. 7:8), they found Him. But Satan also knew of Jesus' birth. The Devil was working through the evil King Herod to attempt to destroy Christ, even as a baby. God, however, guided Jesus' step-father, Joseph, and preserved His life. God safely hid His treasure, His beloved Son, far away in Egypt and then later in the despised town of Nazareth.

Memory Verse: "Where is He who is born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and came to worship Him"
(Matthew 2:2).

Facts to Teach: (Scripture reading: Matt. 2:1-23)

1. The Jewish shepherds were informed about the birth of Christ, the Savior and King of Israel, directly by an angel sent from God (Luke 2:9).

2. The Gentile wise men (the magi) somehow realized that the long awaited King of the Jews had been born because they had seen "His star in the east" (Matt. 2:2).

3. The wise men followed the star but got distracted, lost the guidance of the star, and then came to Jerusalem to inquire where the King of the Jews should be born. Jerusalem was the capitol of the land of Israel.

4. Although the religious Jewish scholars knew the prophecies about where their Messiah, the Christ, should be born, they had no heart to go and find their newborn King. Instead, they merely informed King Herod where He would be born. King Herod then directed the wise men to go to Bethlehem where Christ would be born and to then return to him and inform him so that he could also go to worship the Lord. This was Herod's deceit. He actually wanted to kill the new baby-King. Herod wanted to remain king.

5. Once the wise men left Jerusalem, they were guided again by the star directly to the place where Jesus was. They worshipped Him when they found Him and gave their treasures to Him.

6. God warned Joseph in a dream to leave Bethlehem and to flee to another country, Egypt, in order to save Jesus' life. When the wise men did not come back to inform King Herod where Jesus was born, he became enraged. Since he could not know which baby was Jesus, he ordered his soldiers to kill all of the baby boys under two years of age. This was Satan's plot to destroy Christ.

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THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Lesson Three (Continued)

7. After King Herod died, the Lord again spoke to Joseph in a dream and led him and his family back to the land of Israel.

8. Once in the land of Israel, the Lord again warned Joseph in a dream and he went far away from Jerusalem, to Galilee, to a despised city called Nazareth.

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Songs for Lesson Three

EVENTS AFTER CHRIST'S BIRTH

Tune: "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star."

D G D
Lo! The wise men saw the star,
 G D A D
 Telling them that Christ was born.
 G D A
They went to Jerusalem,
 D G D A
 But the Baby wasn't there.
 D G D
Then they went to Bethlehem;
 G D A D
 There they found the Son of God.

Tune: *Hymns*, #889.

D A
Oh, do come, do come and worship,
 D A D
 For the Son of God is born.
 A
God is born a human being
 D A D
 As the Babe of Bethlehem.
 Em
See the star up in the sky,
 A D
 Follow it and you will find
 A D A
God's own Son, beloved Treasure,
 D A D
 Baby Jesus, Christ the Lord.

THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Lesson Four

HIS YOUTH

Burden to Impart:

This account in Luke is the unique account in the Bible about Jesus' life from His early childhood until His full manhood. Therefore the points revealed here about the Lord's growth and youth must be the single impression the Spirit wants to reveal to us. In verse 40 we see that the little child Jesus grew in an absolutely complete and balanced way. He "grew" physically, "became strong" spiritually (see Luke 1:80), and was "filled with wisdom" psychologically. Besides this, He enjoyed God sweetly within, for God's grace was upon Him.

Luke 2:52 says that Jesus "kept advancing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and men." One secret, or key, to the Lord's continual growth and development is in verse 51: the Lord was subject to His human parents. This basic lesson was what the Lord practiced in His human life for the next eighteen years, until He began His ministry. "Though He was a Son, He learned obedience (in His human life) through the things He suffered" (Heb. 5:8).

Memory Verse: "And Jesus went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them...And Jesus kept advancing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and men" (Luke 2:51-52).

Facts to Teach: [Scripture reading: Luke 2:40-52]

1. As a child, the Lord Jesus grew and developed physically, mentally, and spiritually.
2. Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem year by year to keep the Passover feast as God had commanded His people in His law.
3. When Jesus was twelve years old He went up with His parents to Jerusalem to keep the Passover feast also. After the feast was over, when Jesus' parents returned to Nazareth, they did not notice that He was not with them. Probably hundreds of people were in the "caravan" to walk the long journey (about one hundred miles) each time they went up to Jerusalem for a festival feast.
4. After three days of searching, the Lord Jesus was found by His parents in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, hearing them and questioning them.
5. All were amazed at his understanding and answers.
6. When Mary asked Him why He had treated them thus, His answer was not disrespectful to her question, but He answered her as a young adult, as the Son of God. He was carefully reminding Mary that His Father was not actually Joseph (as her question had implied), but was God. Also, He taught here that He must be occupied in the things of God, His true Father.

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THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Lesson Four (Continued)

7. However, because He was still not a full-grown adult, He submitted Himself to His earthly parents and from the heart subjected Himself to them. He waited another eighteen long years to begin His public ministry.

8. This shows us that Jesus took His earthly circumstances and human relationships as part of His Father's will. He handled all of these things in a proper manner so that He could do His Father's will and work in the proper way.

9. He not only obeyed His parents in outward action, He subjected Himself to them in His heart and attitude. He was truly "meek and lowly in heart" (Matt. 11:29), as He testified eighteen years earlier.

10. As a result of Jesus' subjection and denying of Himself He "kept advancing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and men" (Luke 2:52).

THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Songs for Lesson Four

HIS YOUTH

Luke 2:52; tune: "Kookaburra."

C F C
Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature;
F C
Jesus grew in favor with God and men.
F C F
I'm growing up and you're growing up
C F C
And Jesus grew up, too.

*May be sung in a round: second part starts
when first part reaches second line.*

Luke 2:40-52; tune: *Hymns*, #1069.

D G
In Jerusalem Jesus taught the men
E A⁷
In the temple when He was only twelve,
D G D A
And when His family left for home,
Bm A⁷ D
He stayed behind for three whole days.

His family turned around-
They were worried about Him.
His family turned around-
They were worried about Him.

Then they went to Jerusalem
And found Him in the temple still.

Jesus went with them, and was subject to
Their authority, as a young man should.
His mother kept this in her heart,
And Jesus as a young man grew.

In wisdom He advanced,
And in stature He advanced,
In wisdom He advanced,
And in stature He advanced,

And Jesus kept advancing, too,
In favor with God and men.

THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Lesson Five

HIS BAPTISM

Burden to Impart:

Although Jesus was the very Son of God, and He was a perfect Man, He was baptized. All the other people were baptized because they were sorry for their sins. Jesus had no need to be baptized for sins; He had no sins. He was a perfect Man. Jesus was baptized in order to live in complete obedience to God and in conformity to God's will and way. He could testify that "I do nothing from myself, but as the Father has taught me I speak these things...I always do the things that are pleasing to Him" (John 8:28-29).

Memory Verse: "And behold a voice out of the heavens saying, This is My beloved Son, in whom I delight"
(Matthew 3:17).

Facts to Teach: [Scripture reading: Matt. 3:13-17]

1. John the baptizer came preaching to the people, telling them to repent of their sins, to turn back to the Lord their God, and to be baptized.

2. In order to show their real repentance for their sins the people needed to be baptized in the dirty, muddy waters of the Jordan River. This was a public declaration of their repentance.

3. Before Jesus began His public ministry and service to God, He came to be baptized by John. John hesitated to baptize Jesus because he knew that Jesus was holy and without sin. Jesus was not being baptized because of repentance, but to fulfill all "righteousness." He would be baptized in order to be right with God according to the way He had established for all men; they must be baptized. The Lord Jesus did not make Himself an exception. He followed God's way.

4. John pointed the people to Jesus, to their Savior. He was the only One who could wash away their sins and save them.

5. When Jesus was baptized God showed how very pleased He was by giving the following signs:

- a. The heavens were opened to Jesus.
- b. The Spirit descended upon Him as a dove and remained upon Him.
- c. The Father spoke from the heavens and said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I delight."

THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Songs for Lesson Five

HIS BAPTISM

Matthew 3:13, 16-17; tune: "I've Been Redeemed."

D
Then Jesus came (Then Jesus came)
From Galilee (From Galilee)
A
Then Jesus came (Then Jesus came)
D
From Galilee (From Galilee)
G
Then Jesus came from Galilee
D
To the Jordan unto John,
A 7 D
Jesus came to John to be baptized by him.

The heavens were opened (The heavens were opened)
Were opened to Him (Were opened to Him)
The heavens were opened (The heavens were opened)
Were opened to Him (Were opened to Him)
The heavens were opened up to Him,
And He saw the Spirit of God
Descending as a dove to empower Him.

And behold, a voice (And behold, a voice)
Out of the heavens (Out of the heavens)
And behold, a voice (And behold, a voice)
Out of the heavens (Out of the heavens)
And behold, a voice out of the heavens
Said, "This is My beloved Son,
This is My beloved Son in Whom I delight."

THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Lesson Six

JESUS' TEMPTATION IN THE WILDERNESS

Burden to Impart:

The main point in this lesson is that Jesus overcame the Devil's temptation. Adam failed when tempted in the garden. Jesus fully overcame in the desert. As a man, Jesus was strengthened, empowered, and had the true wisdom to overcome the ancient tempter of mankind through the Word of God. By taking in the Lord's Word each day we are also strengthened and can say, "No!" to the tempter when he comes to us. The Devil tempts us to sin. Then when we do, he laughs at us. When we say, "No!" to him again and again, he will go away and stop bothering us, for a while.

Memory Verse: "Thy Word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against Thee" (Psalm 119:11).

Facts to Teach: [Scripture reading: Matt. 4:1-11]

1. Because the Lord Jesus was a Man of flesh and blood, He was also subject to every temptation as we are (Heb. 2:18; 4:15).

2. Yet He overcame every temptation victoriously and never sinned, for He was a perfect Man without sin.

3. He was tested physically with hunger, yet He refused to use His divine power to do a miracle. Jesus would not take any suggestions from Satan, not even one that seemed "good." He would only live and do things as His Father led Him.

4. He was tempted in His soul to do the exciting miracle of jumping off the temple without being hurt and attracting a lot of attention to Himself. The Lord refused to take Satan's suggestion and told him, "You shall not tempt the Lord your God." To allow the Devil to lead us into a dangerous or tempting situation and expect God to do a miracle to save us is to "tempt the Lord our God." Instead of listening to the Devil we should take the normal way down, finding a stairway and walking down slowly and carefully.

5. He was tempted in His spirit to worship the Devil in order to get all the power and glory (vainglory) of the world, yet He refused to worship the Devil in any way. He would only worship the Lord His God. To worship or serve anything other than God in order to get something you want in return, is always a temptation and surely comes from the Devil. He tempts us like this in order to get our worship.

6. We must read God's Word and even hide it in our heart. This is the only way we will be strong enough to resist Satan's temptations and not sin against the Lord.

THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Songs for Lesson Six

JESUS' TEMPTATION IN THE WILDERNESS

Hymns, Jr., #108.

D
God's word have I hidden in my heart
A D
That I might not sin against my God.
D A
God's word have I hidden in my heart
G A D
That I might not sin against my God.

Matthew 4:4; tune: "Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God."

D A G D
Man shall not live by bread alone,
G D E⁷ A⁷
But by every word
D A G D
That proceeds from the mouth of God
G D A⁷D
Hallelu-, hallelujah.

Hallelujah,
Hallelujah,
Hallelujah,
Hallelu-, hallelujah.

May be sung in two parts, both verses at the same time.

THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Lesson Seven

THE LORD'S MINISTRY WHILE ON EARTH

Burden to Impart:

The Lord Jesus began His ministry, His service, at thirty years of age. He ministered for 3 1/2 years, from His baptism until His crucifixion. There are two aspects of His ministry that must be seen in order to properly appreciate His service: 1) His relationship with, and service to, His God and Father, and 2) His relationship with and service toward the men to whom He ministered.

Memory Verse: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to send away in release those who are oppressed" (Luke 4:18).

Facts to Teach: [Scripture Reading: Select from verses below.]

1. The Lord Jesus did not come in His own name, to speak His own words (John 12:49-50), to give His own teaching (7:16), or to do His own will (5:30; 6:38). He never sought His own glory to express Himself (7:18), but always desired to glorify and express His Father. He did nothing from Himself (5:19). He only did those things that pleased His Father (8:29). He lived with the Father and only did what He inwardly saw the Father doing (5:19). He always lived in oneness and harmony with the Father (10:30). In fact, He did not live by His own human life; He lived by the Father's divine life (6:57) which was conceived in Him at His birth by the Holy Spirit. He was truly the "faithful witness" (Rev. 1:5) for God in His ministry. Therefore the Father demonstrated His approval of His service by opening the heavens to Him, pouring His Spirit upon Him, and declaring "this is my beloved Son, in whom I delight."

2. God demonstrated that the Lord Jesus was His Son and Servant by pouring His Spirit upon Him and enabling Him to do works of power, wonders, signs, and miracles (Acts 2:22). This was so that people would believe in Him and receive the great salvation He was speaking to them about (Heb. 2:3-4). He spoke and taught God's Word as no one on earth has ever done. He brought good news to the poor, released the people who were captive to Satan and his demons, recovered the sight to those who were blind both spiritually and physically, and sent away in release those who were oppressed and crushed by Satan (Luke 4:18).

He loved all men, sympathized with their needs, and had compassion upon them. He not only healed and saved them, but He called them to follow Him. He did not lose one of them that God had given to Him (John 17:12). Finally, as the good Shepherd who loved His sheep to the uttermost (13:1), He went to the cross to lay down His life for them (John 10:11). Because He lived such a life God raised Him from among the dead and gave Him a name above every name. Every knee will one day bow to the name of Jesus and every tongue will one day confess that truly Jesus Christ is Lord (Phil. 2:11). What a wonderful Savior is Jesus our Savior!

THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Songs for Lesson Seven

THE LORD'S MINISTRY WHILE ON EARTH

New tune.

Je- sus brought good news to the poor; Are you poor? Hear the good news!

Je- sus brought good news to the poor; Hear the good news of the Lord.

Jesus restored sight to the blind;
Are you blind? Come see the Lord!
Jesus restored sight to the blind;
See the good works of the Lord.

Jesus bound up the broken hearts;
Bring your heart, He cares for you!
Jesus bound up the broken hearts;
Open your heart to the Lord.

THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Lesson Eight

THE LORD'S ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM

Burden to Impart:

Having finished His ministry in Galilee, the Lord Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, the city that had rejected His forerunner John the Baptist 3 1/2 years earlier, to finish the most important part of His ministry; to suffer and die upon the cross for the sins of the whole world and to be raised from the dead so that He could be our Savior and give us His life.

Memory Verse: "From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised on the third day"
(Matthew 16:21).

Facts to Teach: [Scripture reading: Luke 19:29-48]

1. The Lord left Judea when John the Baptist was imprisoned. After that He mainly ministered in Galilee for the next 3 1/2 years. Now the time had come for Him to make His last journey to Jerusalem to keep the Passover feast, and to be the Passover Lamb. On the way, the Lord told His disciples at least three times that He was going up to Jerusalem to suffer, to die, and to be raised from the dead. This was not an unplanned accident (Matt. 16:21).
2. When Jesus began to enter Jerusalem He rode on a donkey's colt. This shows His humility. Any earthly king would exalt himself and make a big show with white horses, chariots, trumpets, etc.
3. The people recognized Jesus as their King and rejoiced. They cut down palm branches to lay on the road and strewed their garments on the highway (Matt. 21:8) to show Him honor. However, just a few days later they would forget about this and cry out, "Away with Him!"
4. The Lord went to the temple and exhibited His authority as the King and Son of God by cleansing the temple, throwing out the money changers, overturning their tables, and chasing out the animals they were selling for profit. He was righteously angry and jealous for God's house. He told them, "...My house shall be called a house of prayer, but you are making it a den of robbers" (Matt. 21:13).
5. He was tested by the religious leaders (the Pharisees and Sadducees), lawyers, and political zealots (the Herodians). They asked Him many crafty questions hoping that they could find something from His answer as ground to accuse Him of being an evil man. After He perfectly answered every question and passed every one of their tests, He asked them one question, "Whose Son is the Christ?" (Matt. 22:42). They could not answer His question, for they did not know the Scriptures, nor who Jesus was: the Christ, the Son of the living God. After this they dared not ask Him any more questions. In their evil hearts of jealousy and envy they secretly plotted how to do away with Jesus and have Him killed.

THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Songs for Lesson Eight

THE LORD'S ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM

Tune: *Hymns*, #1008.

G D G
Jesus, Jesus, what a King!
 D⁷ G
 Riding on a lowly donkey.
 D G
O, Hosanna, bless'd is He!
 D⁷ G
 Riding on a lowly donkey.
 D G
Oh, how our praises ring!
D G D G
Lord, how we love to sing,
 D G
"Honor the lowly King,
 D⁷ G
 Riding on a lowly donkey."

THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Lesson Nine

THE BETRAYAL AND ARREST OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Burden to Impart:

This last day of the life of the Lord Jesus while He was in the flesh was one of great suffering. He was betrayed in a cruel way by one of His disciples (friends) for thirty pieces of silver, He was innocently arrested, unfairly tried and mistreated, and was crucified without a cause, except for our sins.

Memory Verse: "...Behold, the hour has drawn near, and the Son of Man is delivered up into the hands of sinners"
(Matthew 26:45).

Facts to Teach: [Scripture reading: Matt. 26:36-56]

1. The people's warm and enthusiastic welcome of the King of Israel stirred up the jealousy and envy of the religious leaders of the Jews. Because they wanted the glory and honor of the people, they were jealous of the Lord Jesus and plotted to have Him killed (Matt. 27:18; Mark 15:10). Satan was working his hardest in the hearts of evil men to cause them to do the most wicked crime ever done by fallen mankind; to crucify the sinless and only begotten Son of God.

2. Although Satan and men were working together in their evil plot to have the Lord Jesus killed, He did nothing to stop them. This was because He knew that the hour had come (John 12:27; 13:1; 17:1) for Him to be crucified for the sins of the whole world. He did not try to hide or escape from the hands of those who came to arrest Him, nor did He resist them. He willingly gave Himself over to them when they came to Him, for He had already determined that He would do His Father's will (John 18:11), which was to die on the cross.

3. Judas, one of the twelve Apostles chosen from among many disciples who followed the Lord, was the one who took care of all the money people had offered to the Lord. However, Judas never called Jesus "Lord." Neither did he love the Lord Jesus. He loved money and used to steal it often (John 12:6). His heart was hard toward the Lord, so he let Satan enter into it (Luke 22:3).

4. Judas secretly made a plot with the chief priests to help them deliver up Jesus to death. They rejoiced and agreed to give him thirty pieces of silver for his evil deed (Matt. 26:15).

5. On the night of the Passover, Jesus and His disciples kept the Passover feast for the last time. This was to be their last dinner together before the Lord Jesus was killed. This was a very special and sweet time together with the Lord Jesus and His twelve disciples. They ate the Passover together, Jesus washed their feet, and He taught them many things they never understood before.

(Continued)

THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Lesson Nine (Continued)

6. After they ate the Passover Judas left the disciples and went out to betray Jesus (John 13:30). After the false disciple left, the Lord Jesus established the Lord's supper with the bread and with the wine (Matt. 26:26-28).

7. Jesus then took His disciples to the Mount of Olives to a special garden where He often prayed, Gethsemene. He was so burdened and in such an agony of suffering at that time that an angel came to strengthen Him (Luke 22:43-44). He told His heavenly Father that although He did not want to go to the cross, He did not want to do His own will, but His Father's (Matt. 26:39).

8. While the Lord was suffering alone in prayer, the disciples did not understand. They were sleeping. The Lord woke them from sleep three times. He told them to pray and watch, but they could not do it.

9. Suddenly, a great crowd of people came to Jesus in the garden with swords and clubs. They had been sent from the chief priests and elders to arrest Jesus.

10. Judas, the false disciple, led the mob of people. Judas had agreed with some of those in the mob to mark out which man was Jesus by kissing Him on the cheek in a friendly way. Although Jesus knew Judas was only pretending to love Him and be a disciple, He was not angry with him, nor did He reject him. He still called him "friend" (Matt. 26:50).

11. Although Jesus could have prayed to the Father and He would have immediately received more than twelve legions (36,000) of angels to help Him, He would not do it, so that the Scriptures would be fulfilled (Matt. 26:53-54) and we could be redeemed.

12. He willingly allowed them to seize and arrest Him, to bind Him and lead Him away to His trial and judgment (John 18:12).

THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Songs for Lesson Nine

THE BETRAYAL AND ARREST OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Tune: *Hymns*, #1213 (chorus).

C G⁷
The Lamb of God is meek,
C
The Lamb of God is meek.
F
He's very gentle and tenderhearted,
C G⁷ C
The Lamb of God is meek.

Hymns, #214; suggested tune: *Hymns*, #104.

G C G D G
According to Thy gracious word,
D⁷
In meek humility,
G⁷ C Am
This will I do, my dying Lord,
G D⁷ G
I will remember Thee.

When to the cross I turn my eyes
And rest on Calvary,
O Lamb of God, my sacrifice,
I must remember Thee.

THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Lesson Ten

THE TRIAL AND JUDGMENT OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Burden to Impart:

The cruel and unrighteous judgment of man only caused the glory and virtue of the Lord Jesus to be more manifest.

The Lord Jesus victoriously passed through many tests from many people after coming into Jerusalem (scribes, lawyers, Pharisees, Sadducees, Herodians). Now, after being unrighteously arrested, He passed through three more unrighteous trials and judgments where He was falsely accused, lied against, mocked, spit upon, beat in the face, His beard pulled, beat on the head with a reed, crowned with a crown of thorns, stripped, and scourged with a whip. He did not resist His accusers or defend Himself. Rather, He was silent to all: the Jewish Sanhedrin and the two Roman governors, Pilate and Herod. He stood before all these unrighteous judgments as the spotless Lamb of God. He was "silent before His shearers." The judges were unrighteous, the disciples were weak and forsook Him, and even the leading apostle, Peter (so full of self-confidence and pride), failed the test when asked by the little maids if he was a disciple of Jesus. Peter lied, swore he didn't know Him, and denied his Lord. Only Jesus passed every test. He stood in dignity and even His accusers and judges marveled at His conduct. He answered nothing to His accusers' false accusations. He only responded affirmatively when they asked Him questions concerning whether He was the Son of God, the King of the Jews. All mankind failed this test. But the darker and more unrighteous the situation became, Jesus, the righteous Son of God, shone brighter and brighter in His human virtue.

Memory Verse: "He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth" (Isaiah 53:7).

Facts to Teach: [Scripture reading: Matt. 26:56--27:32;
Luke 22:54--23:25)

1. The Lord was judged all night long by the highest Jewish authority, the Sanhedrin, by Caiaphas the high priest. False witnesses were sought, but their stories did not even match each other. Finally, He was falsely condemned for "blasphemy" because He admitted to the truth; He was the Son of God. He was then spit upon, beat on the face, mocked, and slapped.

2. During this trial Peter, who had succeeded in following the Lord at a distance, denied Him three times (Matt. 26:69-75), to his bitter sorrow.

3. In the morning He was brought to Pilate to be judged. The Jewish leaders had no authority to condemn a man to death, so they brought the Lord before the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate. As He

(Continued)

THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Lesson Ten (Continued)

was being falsely accused, the Lord Jesus answered nothing. He only confirmed Pilate's question that He was indeed the King of the Jews.

4. Because Jesus was from Galilee and the case was very delicate, Pilate took the opportunity to get rid of the Lord, sending Him to Herod, the governor of Galilee.

5. Pilate told the people that he did not find any fault in the Lord Jesus, but that He was a "righteous man." According to custom, one condemned criminal would be released at this time of Passover. Pilate proposed that Jesus be released. However, the people screamed and shouted that they wanted Barabas, a murderer, released and that they wanted Jesus to be crucified.

6. Pilate was a weak and "chicken" man. He was also an unrighteous judge. He said "O.K." to the people's cry. He tried to remove any guilt from himself for doing such an evil deed by putting the responsibility on the people. So he washed his hands in front of them and said, "I am innocent of the blood of this righteous man."

7. Then they put Jesus' garments back on Him and led Him away to crucify Him. By that time He was too exhausted, injured, and weak to carry the heavy cross, so a man named Simon was compelled to carry it for Him (Matt. 27:32).

THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Songs for Lesson Ten

THE TRIAL AND JUDGEMENT OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Tune: "Kumbaya."

 D G D
How You suffered, Lord, under men,
 G A
How You suffered, Lord, under men,
 D G D
How You suffered, Lord, under men,
 G D A D
Men whom You had made.

You were falsely judged for the truth,
You were falsely judged for the truth,
You were falsely judged for the truth,
 Silent as a lamb.

Then You died for us, Savior, Lord,
Then You died for us, Savior, Lord,
Then You died for us, Savior, Lord;
 You loved us so much.

THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Lesson Eleven

THE CRUCIFIXION AND DEATH OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST (1)

Burden to Impart:

The crucifixion and death of the Lord Jesus was by no means an accidental tragedy. This was a very crucial step in God's plan which was foreknown and foreordained in eternity past according to God's determined counsel (Acts 2:23; 1 Pet. 1:20; Rev. 13:8). Although God foresaw that man would sin against Him, rebel, and forsake Him, His love and purpose for man remained unchanged. He would provide a way for man to be forgiven and cleansed of his sin. However, because of God's righteousness, there could be no forgiveness of sins without the shedding of blood. God Himself would pay the great price for man's redemption. God Himself, in the Person of the Son, would provide His own sinless and holy blood in order to become the substitute and sacrifice for His dear creature, man.

Memory Verse: "Who Himself carried up our sins in His body onto the tree, in order that we, having died to sins, might live to righteousness; by whose bruise you were healed" (1 Peter 2:24).

Facts to Teach: [Scripture Reading: Mark 15:25; Matt. 27:34-44; Luke 23:32-43]

1. The Lord's sufferings on the cross can be divided into two periods of three hours each. In this lesson we will see the sufferings of our Lord and the events that took place from unrighteous and wicked men during the first three hours. In the next lesson we will look at His sufferings on the cross during the last three hours.

2. According to the Old Testament prophets, the coming Savior would come the first time to die for the sins of God's people and would come the second time in power and glory to bring in His kingdom. The Jews had no understanding regarding their Messiah's first coming, which would be to suffer and to die for redemption.

3. According to the Jewish way of execution, criminals were stoned to death. This was a quick death. Jesus, however, died according to the Roman way of execution; a shameful, painful, and cruel way in which the hands and feet were nailed to a cross. Thus was fulfilled the prophecy that His hands and feet would be pierced (Psa. 22:16).

4. At the third hour (9 a.m.) Jesus was crucified on a hill called Golgotha, or Calvary, in Latin.

5. The soldiers offered Him wine mingled with gall. This would drug him and reduce the pain and suffering. He would not drink it.

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THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Lesson Eleven (Continued)

6. He was crucified between two criminals, for He was counted by the people to also be one. This fulfilled the Scriptures in Isaiah 53:12.

7. The soldiers took away His clothes and cast lots for His garments, again fulfilling the Scriptures (John 19:23-24).

8. He was mocked by the people who passed by, the chief priests, and also the two criminals who were crucified with Him. They told Him, "If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross;" "He saved others, Himself He cannot save;" "He is the King of Israel, let Him come down now from the cross and we will believe Him" (Matt. 27:39-44).

9. He did not get angry with them or curse them. He only prayed to God that their sins would be forgiven, for they did not know what they were doing. If He had come down, there would be no way to save them or us (Luke 23:34).

10. Although the two thieves who were crucified beside the Lord Jesus both reproached Him on the cross, one of them later repented and asked Jesus to remember him when He entered into Paradise. The loving Savior forgave him and told him something even more gracious than he had asked. He told him that he would be with Him that very day in Paradise.

THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Songs for Lesson Eleven

THE CRUCIFIXION AND DEATH OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST (1)

Tune: "If You're Happy and You Know It."

 G D
Jesus died upon the cross for all my sins,
 D⁷ G
Jesus died upon the cross for all my sins.
 C
Jesus died upon the cross,
 G
Yes, He suffered pain and loss;
 D D⁷ G
Jesus died upon the cross for all my sins.

Jesus died upon the cross for you and me,
Jesus died upon the cross for you and me.
Jesus died for you and me
So that He could set us free!
Jesus died upon the cross for you and me.

Hymns, #988; suggested tune: Hymns, #841.

 G Em
Merciful and loving,
 C D
Suff'ring pain and loss,
 G
All for us, the sinners,
 A⁷ D⁷
Going to the cross;
 G
Tasting death for all men,
 C G
Dying for our sins;

This is Christ the Savior,
 C D⁷ G
We give praise to Him.

THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Lesson Twelve

THE CRUCIFIXION AND DEATH OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST (2)

Burden to Impart:

The Lord Jesus' greatest suffering was not the physical pain or the shame inflicted upon Him my man. A much greater suffering was the pain caused by God's judgment upon Him as He willingly suffered for the sins of the entire world and was forsaken by God, with Whom He had enjoyed eternal comfort and communion. Because of His obedience to God, and His love to man, and in order to fulfill God's eternal purpose, the Lord Jesus was willing to pay any price and endure any suffering in order for man to be forgiven and redeemed.

Memory Verse: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that everyone who believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

Facts to Teach: [Scripture Reading: Matt. 27:45-66; John 19:28-42)

1. During the first three hours on the cross the Lord Jesus' sufferings were physical (in His body) and psychological (in His soul). He suffered the pain of the crucifixion in His hands and feet. Also, His head had a crown of thorns and His back had been scourged. His face had been beaten and slapped, His beard plucked, and His mouth was parched and dry (Psa. 22:15). He suffered in His soul from the people's mocking and scorn. He was so humiliated that He felt as low as a worm (Psa. 22:6-8). In addition to all of this, He suffered the shame of having His clothes taken away from Him.

2. The worst suffering, however, was during the sixth through the ninth hours, from 12:00 p.m.--3:00 p.m. in the afternoon. During these three hours He suffered an agony in His spirit that we as human beings will never be able to understand.

- a. At noon the bright sun, the center of man's universe, became darkened. This was a great sign that something was happening in the universe that was of universal and eternal significance. Everyone on the earth at that time had to see that sign; the sun, the very source of man's light and life, temporarily became darkened and hid its face from the awesome sight that was taking place on the hill of Calvary as the Author of life was being killed (Acts 3:15).
- b. At the ninth hour Jesus cried out, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" (Matt. 27:46). Jesus, who had never known one moment of separation from His God and Father for all eternity, was separated and forsaken by God for those three seemingly eternal hours. God had to forsake His beloved Son at that time because as the Lamb of God He had become the sin offering for the whole world. All the sins and iniquities of the whole world (1 John 2:2; Isa. 53:6) were laid upon Him and He, the Holy One who knew no sin, was made sin for us (2 Cor. 5:21).

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THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Lesson Twelve (Continued)

- c. After bearing all of God's righteous judgment for the sins of the whole world, Jesus accomplished eternal redemption for us. Having fulfilled His Father's will He cried out in a loud voice, "It is finished!" and gave up His spirit (John 19:30). Actually, they did not kill Him. Because He had finished redemption's work, He Himself gave up His life (John 10:17-18).

3. It was already evening and the Sabbath was approaching, so the Jews asked Pilate to have the legs of Jesus and the two criminals broken. (They would do this to cause a speedy death, which occurred once the legs were broken and could not support the person's weight.) However, when the soldiers came to break their legs they did not need to break Jesus' legs because, to their surprise, Jesus had already died. Anyway, to be absolutely positive that Jesus was dead, and out of brutal cruelty, one of the soldiers thrust his spear into Jesus' side. Immediately blood and water gushed out.

4. After Jesus died, two disciples who loved Him very much (Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus) came to Pilate and asked him for the body of Jesus. They wanted to bury Him in an honorable way, and indeed they did. Though He was born in a poor manger, He was not buried in a poor way. He was buried in a special grave that Joseph had prepared for himself at great cost. He was buried in a great rock that had been hollowed out with much difficulty. They carefully wrapped His precious body in a clean linen cloth and put fragrant spices around it. Finally, an extremely large stone was rolled in front of the cave (Mark 16:4) and they went away.

5. Although His disciples apparently did not remember, the wicked Pharisees remembered that Jesus had said, "After three days I will arise." Because they were afraid that Jesus' disciples would come and steal away His body and tell everyone that He had risen from the dead, they begged Pilate for guards to watch the grave until the third day. Pilate granted their wish, so they were given at least two guards (Matt. 28:4) to seal His grave and keep watch over it for the remainder of the three days.

THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Songs for Lesson Twelve

THE CRUCIFIXION AND DEATH OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST (2)

Hymns, #986.

Christ has a full redemption made:
What a wonderful Savior!
We are redeemed! The price is paid:
What a wonderful Savior!

What a wonderful Savior is Jesus, my Savior!
What a wonderful Savior is Jesus, my Lord!

I praise Him for the cleansing blood,
What a wonderful Savior!
That reconciled my soul to God,
What a wonderful Savior!

The Trial and Judgment of the Lord Jesus Christ

L A M B O V S S F G J O D S S
Y R O L G A I D V E U S B A A
K C Y F B M E C S Y Z E G H N
S V P A O G W U T R F U T P H
E U R N R N S M F O V N E A E
D A O U X D U K A V R M J I D
B E O E E O D W L W I I X A R
C C I G T I V E S H V R O C I
S P D N G H T R E C R P T U N
L U U N E A G E L U Z F X U S
J Q I N L D H I Y S R N I R E
P T M I J G C J R A U L A E V
Y R P D R L A X B Z H S D S V
S U O E T H G I R N U I Z I N
T C X H J B A I A T E J R Y K

BARABAS
DIGNITY
JESUS
RIGHTEOUS
SIMON
VIRTUE

CAIAPHAS
FALSELY
JUDGED
SANHEDRIN
UNRIGHTEOUS

DENIED
GLORY
PILATE
SCOURGED
VICTORIOUS

— — — — — — — — — —

THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Lesson Thirteen

THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST (1)

Burden to Impart:

The fact of the Lord's resurrection is the most important and vital matter of our Christian faith. This great fact is based on solid historical evidence and many, many witnesses, who later themselves challenged the fear of death by their own martyrdom. Of the twelve Apostles who testified as eyewitnesses of Christ's resurrection, at least ten died as martyrs for their testimony. Surely they were not speaking lies or made-up stories.

The fact that Jesus was raised from the dead sets Him apart from all mortal men. He was not only a very good man, or a prophet sent from God, nor merely the greatest teacher of the truth; He was who He said He was, the very Son of God. He possessed the all-powerful, death-overcoming resurrection life. Secondly, He was a perfect Man, a sinless sacrifice for the sins of the whole human race. We know that He fully satisfied God's righteousness and accomplished our redemption because God raised Him from among the dead (Rom. 4:25). Thus, He was approved and vindicated by God to be the Christ, the Savior, the Son of the living God.

(No one in history ever was resurrected as was the Lord Jesus, nor is it said that anyone else has done such a thing; neither Confucius, nor Buddha, nor any other religious teacher. Only the Lord Jesus has the power of resurrection.)

Memory Verse: "I am...the living One, and I became dead, and behold, I am living forever and ever, and I have the keys of death and Hades" (Revelation 1:18).

Facts to Teach: [Scripture reading: Matt. 28:1-9; Luke 24:13-43]

1. Although the Scriptures in many places prophesied that the coming Savior would be put to death and raised from the dead (Psa. 16:10; 22:22; Isa. 53:10-12), and even Jesus Himself told this to His disciples at least three times, none of them understood. The fact that He would be resurrected from the dead was beyond the grasp of their human understanding.

2. Jesus was raised from the dead because of two reasons:

- a. Because He is the Son of God, He has God's life and is hence the resurrection and the life (John 11:25), which could never be destroyed.
- b. Because as a man He was accepted by God as a perfect and sinless offering for us, God raised Him from the dead (Rom. 4:25).

3. Mary Magdalene and other women who loved Jesus very much came to look for His body at the grave where He was laid very early in the morning on the third day after His death. This was the first day of the week, the Lord's day.

(Continued)

THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Lesson Thirteen (Continued)

4. When they came they found that the large stone that covered the opening of the grave (a large hollowed rock) had been rolled away by an angel (Matt. 28:2). The angel told the women to look inside the grave to see that Jesus was not there, for He had risen from the dead! They looked in and saw the empty grave. Then they ran back to tell the rest of the disciples that Jesus had risen from the dead.

5. While on their way, Jesus Himself met them. They came and held His feet and worshipped Him. When they returned and reported these things to the rest of the disciples, they did not believe them. Their words seemed like nonsense (Luke 24:11).

6. Later, on the same day, as two disciples were walking down the road toward a city called Emmaus, Jesus came near and walked with them. But He did not allow them to recognize Him at first. Later on, as they sat down to eat, Jesus gave thanks for the food. Suddenly their eyes were opened and He disappeared from them! They ran back very excitedly to Jerusalem and told the rest of the disciples that Jesus had truly risen from the dead and had appeared to them.

7. As they were all speaking to one another, the doors being tightly locked, suddenly Jesus Himself appeared and stood in the midst of the room and said, "Peace be to you." They were shocked and frightened because they thought they were seeing a ghost! How could Jesus get into a locked room? Was He not dead?

8. But the Lord Jesus assured them that He was not a ghost; it was really He Himself in resurrection. Although His body was different because it was spiritual now, He was the same Jesus whom they knew and loved! He showed them His hands and feet (where the nails had been) and allowed them to handle Him and touch Him. He even ate with them! His resurrected body was made of flesh and bones (Luke 24:39), not flesh and blood (1 Cor. 15:50). He had poured out all of His blood on the cross to wash away our sins. With His resurrected and spiritual body He could be with them visibly or invisibly.

9. How happy they were! Jesus was alive, alive, alive! He had overcome death and the grave! He had risen from the dead and came back to His beloved disciples! But that night not all of the disciples were there in the meeting. One, Thomas, was not there and did not see Jesus that night. We will learn more about him and Jesus' resurrection in the next lesson.

THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Songs for Lesson Thirteen

THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST (1)

Hymns, #123.

G
Up from the grave He arose,
C G
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes;
D7 G
He arose a Victor from the dark domain,
A7 D7
And He lives forever with His saints to reign.
G C
He arose! He arose!
G D7 G
Hallelujah! Christ arose!

THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Lesson Fourteen

THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST (2)

Burden to Impart:

The Lord Jesus was raised from the dead with a resurrected body that could be seen and touched, yet He could also mysteriously disappear. Sometimes the disciples could see Him, sometimes they could not. He did not want them to believe He was with them simply because they saw Him. He wanted them to believe because of faith. Today, although we do not see Him, He is always with us, and has promised to be with us until the end of this age (Matt. 28:20). We must practice living together with Him in His invisible presence.

Memory Verse: "Jesus said to him, Because you have seen Me, you have believed, Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed" (John 20:29).

Facts to Teach: [Scripture reading: John 20:19-29]

1. Before His crucifixion the Lord told His disciples that He would only remain in death for three days and that He would then be raised from the dead. But none of the disciples understood what He was talking about (John 20:9).

2. Even though on the morning of the third day, the Lord appeared to Mary (John 20:14) and other women (Matt. 28:9), when they told this to the Apostles they did not believe them. They thought they must be crazy (Luke 24:11).

3. However, in the evening when all the disciples were all gathered together behind shut doors for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst (John 20:19). He breathed into them the Holy Spirit. By doing this He came into them as the life-giving Spirit to live within them, as He had promised them on the night before His crucifixion (John 14:17-20).

4. One apostle was missing that night, Thomas. When the other ten apostles told him that they had seen the Lord he would not believe them. He said, "Unless I see in His hands the mark of the nails, and put my finger into the mark of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will by no means believe."

5. Eight days later, when they were gathered together again, Thomas was with them. Jesus appeared to them again in the room, and had a special talk with Thomas. He was there invisibly and had heard every word Thomas said in unbelief when the apostles testified to him about Jesus' resurrection. Jesus said to Thomas, "Bring your finger here and see My hands, and bring your hand and put it into My side, and be not unbelieving, but believing."

6. Thomas was overwhelmed by the reality that was standing before His very eyes. The Lord Jesus had truly risen from among the dead! He said to Jesus, "My Lord and my God!"

(Continued)

THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Lesson Fourteen (Continued)

7. Jesus told Thomas, "Because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

8. We are much more blessed than Thomas, because we have never seen Jesus with our eyes, or touched Him with our hands, but we believe in Him and even more, we love Him (1 Pet. 1:8).

9. Jesus appeared to His disciples and disappeared again many, many times for a total of forty days (Acts 1:3); over a whole month! One time He appeared at the beach when they were fishing (John 21) and another time He was with them at the mountain (Matt. 28:16). On another occasion, when more than five hundred brothers and sisters were meeting together, He appeared to them (1 Cor. 15:6).

10. By this way, the Lord Jesus trained His disciples to know that He was always with them. Whether He was visible or invisible, He was there with them. Now, although the Lord remains with us in an invisible way, His presence is always with us.

Songs for Lesson Fourteen

THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST (2)

THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST (2)

D G D
 Death cannot hold the resurrection life,
 G D E A⁷
 The life of God eternal manifest;
 D ⁷ G Em
 'Tis uncreated, indestructible,
 A D A⁷ D
 'Tis Christ Himself, unconqu'erable, expressed.

Death cannot hold the resurrection life,
All of God's fullness it will manifest;
God's righteousness and holiness it yields,
His glorious image by it is expressed.

THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Lesson Fifteen

THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST (3)

Burden to Impart:

In the previous two lessons stress has been placed upon the fact of the Lord's resurrection (He was seen by many, many witnesses who became His martyrs) and how His invisible presence is always with us. In this lesson we want to impress the children that the resurrection was not merely the physical raising of Jesus from the dead, but resurrection was the means for Him to be glorified and transfigured into the life-giving Spirit. This was the greatest thing that had ever happened! Now, in resurrection as the life-giving Spirit, the Lord Jesus is able to live within all those who believe in Him and receive Him.

Memory Verse: "So also it is written, The first man, Adam, became a living soul; the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit" (1 Corinthians 15:45).

Facts to Teach: [Scripture reading: 1 Cor. 15:35-38, 42-45]

1. The resurrection of the Lord Jesus is the most important fact of our Christian faith, because through it we have the assurance that He truly was and is the Son of God, and that He fully pleased God and lived according to God's will.

2. Because of this:

- a. We take *His living* as recorded in the four Gospels as God's standard model for our example.
- b. We take *His teachings* to be God's speaking to us and God's revelation to us as the principle for our living.
- c. We take *His crucifixion and death* to be God's provision for our redemption and salvation.
- d. We take *His resurrection life* to be our very life to live by (Col. 3:4).

3. It was by resurrection that the Lord Jesus changed His form and became the life-giving Spirit. He did this so that He could get inside of His believers and live in them.

4. To help us understand resurrection the Apostle Paul uses the example of a seed being planted in the ground (1 Cor. 15:35-38):

- a. Every seed has two parts: on the inside is the life of the seed and on the outside is the body, or shell of the seed.
- b. Before the seed is planted, you cannot see the beauty of its life (its flowers, leaves, form, fruit), you can only see the rather ugly, simple shape of its shell, its body.
- c. However, when the seed is buried into the ground, the outward shell decays and "dies." After this, you no longer see the seed. You see the life of the seed! At this point, you can actually enjoy the life of the seed; you can enjoy its beauty and you can even eat its fruit!

(Continued)

THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Lesson Fifteen (Continued)

5. Although the Lord's disciples did enjoy His presence and could see His beauty and glory (John 1:14, 18), still, His life was hidden within His physical body.

6. One day Jesus told His disciples that He would go away from them (John 14:16-20; 16:5-6). They were all very sad. He told them that they would even cry for sorrow (John 16:19-22). He was going to the cross and into death, like a seed being buried in the earth (John 12:24). However, He told them that this was much better for them, and that when He came back they would all rejoice. This is because He would not only be with them, He would be able to get inside of them. This is because He, like a seed when it is buried, would change His form by going through death and resurrection. In this way He became the life-giving Spirit.

7. Now, as the life-giving Spirit, the Lord Jesus is no longer limited by a physical body. He has a spiritual body (1 Cor. 15:44-45) that has no limitations. He, like the air, is in every place on the earth at the same time. So now, at any time and in any place, whoever calls upon His name can receive Him and He can live inside of them.

THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Songs for Lesson Fifteen

THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST (3)

Tune: "My Bonnie Lies over the Ocean."

Now Christ is the life-giving Spirit;
Now Christ is the Spirit today;

Now Christ is the life-giving Spirit,
So open your mouth up and say,

O Lord, Amen,
O Lord, Amen, Hallelujah!

O Lord, Amen,
O Lord, Amen, Hallelujah!

THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Lesson Sixteen

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Burden to Impart:

The children should be impressed that the Lord Jesus ascended to the highest position and authority in the universe. He is above all things, all persons, and every name that is named. He is Lord of all. All things, kings, principalities, powers, demons, and evil spirits (including the Devil) are beneath His feet. Today in the highest heavens, seated in the highest position of honor and authority, at the right hand of God, He is ruling over the whole universe. Especially, He is working in the lives of all of His chosen ones to lead them to salvation and to build them up together in His Body, the church.

Memory Verse: "Men, Galileans, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you beheld Him going into heaven" (Acts 1:11).

Facts to Teach: [Scripture reading: Luke 24:51; Matt. 26:64; Acts 2:36; 4:12; Eph. 1:22; Phil. 2:9]

1. After His resurrection, the Lord Jesus remained forty days with His disciples. During that time He showed Himself to them (thus proving that He was really alive), appeared to them and disappeared (thus training them to live in His invisible presence), and spoke to them concerning the kingdom of God (to strengthen their understanding) (Acts 1:3).

2. Then one day He led them to Bethany, to the Mount of Olives. He gave them a few final commandments and promises that day. What He said to them He also said to all of us, for we also are His believers.

3. He commanded them to go and preach the gospel, to tell the good news of the forgiveness of sins in His name to all people. He also told His disciples that they should baptize all those who believe in Him and teach them all the things He had commanded. Finally, He gave them one last and great promise: that He would be with them all the days, even to the end of the age. (That means He is with us still today!)

4. While He was speaking to them, He suddenly began to rise up off the ground and was lifted up into the air. As He was lifted higher and higher a cloud took Him out of their sight.

5. While they were looking intently into heaven, two angels in the form of two men asked them a question, "Men, Galileans, why do you stand looking into heaven?" Then they told the disciples, "This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you beheld Him going into heaven."

(Continued)

THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Lesson Sixteen (Continued)

6. Now, almost 2,000 years have passed since the Lord Jesus bodily ascended into heaven on a cloud. We are still awaiting His second coming. As the Lord Jesus told the high priest when He was being judged, afterward He would be "sitting at the right hand of power (God) and coming on the clouds of heaven" (Matt. 26:64).

7. When the Lord Jesus ascended up into the highest heaven, He was highly exalted by God, was made to sit at His right hand, and was crowned with glory and honor. He was made the Head over all things (Eph. 1:22), the Lord of all peoples (Acts 2:36), the King of kings and Lord of lords. Also, He was given a name above every name (Phil. 2:9). One day at the name of Jesus every knee will bow and every tongue will confess, "Jesus Christ is Lord." His precious name (the name of the One who loved us, died for us, and rose again!) is the only name given to men to call upon, by which they can be saved (Acts 4:12). How precious, how worthy, how glorious is the name of Jesus!

8. All authority has been given to the Lord. He is now watching over us, protecting us, and working through us, His believers, to preach the gospel everywhere to all men that they might be saved and become members of His Body, the church. In this way, He can express Himself and fulfill God's eternal purpose.

THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Songs for Lesson Sixteen

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Hymns, #1346.

D
Now unto the king eternal, immortal, invisible,
A D A
The only wise God, the only wise God,
D A D A
Be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen. Amen.
D A D
Be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Hymns, #132.

G
D
 Lo! in heaven Jesus sitting,
D⁷
G
 Christ the Lord is there enthroned;
G⁷
C
 As the man by God exalted,
G
D⁷
G
 With God's glory ever crowned.

He hath put on human nature,
Died according to God's plan,
Resurrected with a body,
And ascended as a man.

Lo! a man is now in heaven
As the Lord of all enthroned;
This is Jesus Christ our Savior,
With God's glory ever crowned.

THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Lesson Seventeen

THE SECOND COMING OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Burden to Impart:

In this lesson we see that while we are waiting for the Lord Jesus to return, we should live a proper Christian life; being faithful to the Lord's name and faithful to His Word. We do not know when He may come so we must be ready at all times by keeping our hearts turned toward Him and living in His presence. When He comes we will be raptured to the clouds to meet with Him. Our hope is that our Lord Jesus will soon fulfill His promise and come again to take us to be with Himself.

Memory Verse: "We should live soberly and righteously and godly in the present age, awaiting the blessed hope, even the appearing of the glory of the great God and our Savior, Christ Jesus" (Titus 2:12b-13).

Facts to Teach: [Scripture reading: Luke 19:12; Rev. 3:8; Matt. 4:43; 1 Thes. 4:17; Titus 2:13]

1. Before the Lord Jesus was crucified He told His disciples that He would one day go away, like a man who went away on a long journey (Luke 19:12), but He would come again. He "went away" when He ascended into heaven but He will come again, as He promised.

2. The Lord warned us that while we are waiting for Him to return we should not become careless in the way we live. We should not live like the worldly and unbelieving people live who do not care about or believe in the Lord Jesus or His words. We should be faithful to Him and His words; we should live and behave in such a way that others may know that we are God's children (Matt. 5:16). We should not deny or be ashamed of His name (Rev. 3:8). Rather, we should confess His name before men (Matt. 10:32) so that they might also believe in Him, call upon him, and be saved (Rom. 10:9, 13).

3. The Lord Jesus told us that no one knows exactly when He will come. It is a secret that only God knows. He warned us to be ready at all times, for He will come like a thief in the night (Matt. 24:43). This means that He will come suddenly and with no warning. We should always have our heart turned to Him, be living and in His presence, and be awaiting His return.

4. When He returns we will be raptured (taken up) from the earth and will meet Him in the air (1 Thes. 4:17). Also, all those believers who died before the Lord comes back will be resurrected and will be raptured to the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.

5. The world has no hope ahead of it, only more problems, troubles, and God's judgment because of all of its sin and especially for rejecting its only Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. We, however, are filled with hope and expectation for we are "Awaiting the blessed hope, even the appearing of the glory of the great God and our Savior, Christ Jesus" (Titus 2:13).