

# THE WORDLESS BOOK VISUALIZED

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Text published by: European CEF®  
Kilchzimmer  
4438 Langenbruck  
Switzerland  
[www.cefeurope.com](http://www.cefeurope.com)



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# Overview

Lesson	Special emphasis	Application	Memory verse
God and Heaven Revelation 5:11 Revelation 21-22 John 14:2 Acts 1:8-11	God is holy	Unsaved: Trust the Lord Jesus to make you ready for Heaven	“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life”  John 3:16
Sin Genesis 2:7-3:24 Romans 3:1-31 Romans 5:6-9	Sin separates us from God	Unsaved: Turn from your sin and trust God	“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”  Romans 3:23
The blood of Christ Luke 2:1-20 Luke 23:27-49 John 19:1-42 Matthew 27:46 Mark 15:34; 16:1-8 John 20:1-10	The Lord Jesus died for sinners	Unsaved: Believe that He died for you and trust Him as your Saviour	“Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures”  1 Corinthians 15:3b
Right with God Luke 24:13-46 John 20:24-29 Acts 13:39 Romans 5:1	You can be right with God	Unsaved: Trust Christ and you will be justified	“... by Him everyone who believes is justified”  Acts 13:39
Growing up in Christ Acts 16:1-5 1 and 2 Timothy	God’s plan is that those who have received new life should grow in Christ	Unsaved: You must have eternal life before you can grow  Saved: Obey God’s instructions about growth	“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ ...”  2 Peter 3:18

# Lesson 1

## God and Heaven

### Scripture for teachers

Revelation 5:11; 21-22

John 14:2

Acts 1:8-11

### Special emphasis

God is holy

### Application

Unsaved: Trust the Lord Jesus to make you ready for Heaven

### Memory verse

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” John 3:16

### Visual aids

- ◆ Flashcards 1-1 to 1-6
- ◆ Bag with gold coins or jewellery
- ◆ Picture of a crown

### Lesson outline

#### **Introduction**

Some people like books

#### **Progression of events**

- 1 The gold page reminds us of God - He is rich and He is king
- 2 Heaven is where God lives - a holy place
- 3 In the Bible God tells what will not be there
  - Sun or moon (Rev 21:23)
  - Lamps (Rev 22:5)
  - Sadness or tears (Rev 21:4)
  - Sickness or death (Rev 21:4)
  - Sin (Rev 21:27, Rom 3:23)  
Sin keeps us from Heaven
- 4 What will be in Heaven?
  - Angels (Rev 5:11)
  - Lord Jesus (Rev 22:4)  
Lord Jesus' death for sinners
  - Mansions (John 14:2)
  - Lamb's Book of Life (Rev 21:27)  
How to be saved

#### **Climax**

Amazing that God wants us in Heaven

#### **Conclusion**

- 1 Jesus last command Application saved
- 2 Jesus returns to Heaven
- 3 Angels say He will return  
Closing challenge

## Teaching the memory verse

### **Introduction**

Children participate.

Do you like to receive gifts? What is the best gift you ever got? God has given us many gifts. I am going to read aloud from the Bible about His biggest gift. Listen carefully, and tell me what it is.

### **Presentation**

*(Read John 3:16 from the Bible. Have the children read it with you from the visual.)*  
What was the big gift God gave? Yes, His only Son.

Always intersperse explanation with repetition.

### **Explanation**

Why did God give His Son? Because He loved the world. He loved the people of the world - including you. When did God give His Son? He sent His Son to die for our sin. Jesus died and rose again so now *whoever believes on Him should not perish*. That means if you trust Him as your Saviour you will not be separated from God forever. What happens to anyone who believes? They receive everlasting life. That is knowing God and belonging to Him forever.

### **Application**

Unsaved: You need to trust Jesus as your Saviour.

Saved: It is good and right to thank God for His great gift - even God could not have given a bigger gift.

Always repeat the verse and reference a couple of times before starting the repetition activity. Hide the visual the last time you repeat the verse.

### **Repetition**

“First Letter”

Have a child pick one word from the verse. As the children say the verse, have them stand when they come to any word beginning with the same letter as the word chosen. Continue repeating the verse using different beginning letters. If you have pre-school children tell them to watch a particular helper so that they know when to stand.

## Lesson

*(Show Wordless Book.)*

Some people like books, others don't. Perhaps you enjoy reading an exciting adventure, maybe you like comics best. I have a book here without any words or any pictures. You may think, "That's impossible!" But here it is! When you can read this book you will get a very special message. We are going to learn how to read it, starting today with this page, the gold page.

*(Hold up flashcard book.)*

We'll use this big picture book to help us understand it better.

### Flashcard 1-2 (God is ruler over all)

What does gold make you think of? It makes me think of being rich, having money and jewellery. This gold page reminds me of One who is very, very rich. He is far richer than anyone else. It is God. He made the world and it is all His. He owns the land, the oceans, the hill, the mountains. He allows people to think they own them but they are really His! (Psalm 50:10.)

*(Show picture of a crown.)*

Often a king wears a crown which shows that he is a ruler. God is the most powerful ruler of all. He rules everywhere, everyone and everything. Gold makes me think of God who is rich and is a mighty king.

We have a picture of a heart here because God loves us - just like we learned in our Bible verse.

Can you say the words which prove that God loves us?

### Flashcard 1-1 (City of gold)

Where does God live? He is everywhere. "Do I not fill heaven and earth?" says the Lord" (Jeremiah 23:24). But He also has a special home called Heaven. Heaven is a real and wonderful place. The Bible tells us that the streets of Heaven are made of gold. It is a place of such incredible beauty that there are not even words to describe it.

There is one more thing about gold. Does anyone know where gold comes from? It is often found in rocks, or in river beds. It has to be purified. Rocks are heated so that the gold melts and can be taken out. Gold is a pure metal, that is why it reminds me of God. God is pure. He is separate from all wrong doing. He is good through and through.

We have such a great awesome God! I am sure you would like to know more about His home, Heaven.

Allow children to respond. Have a small paper bag with coins or gold jewellery in it. Let children draw items from the bag.

Children repeat, "For God so loved the world."

To add interest you may want to cover these pictures with sticky notes and let volunteers reveal each one as you talk about it.

Children enjoy sharing about their sicknesses.

This gives children the opportunity to think through what they have been taught.

Children listen and tell the answer from God's Word.

You may also want to have these pictures covered with sticky notes and reveal each at the proper time.

Briefly review teaching about God - the children should provide the information.

### Flashcard 1-3 (Things not in Heaven)

The Bible tells us a lot about Heaven. The very last book in the Bible, the book of Revelation, tells us about some things we won't see in Heaven. There is neither sun nor moon in Heaven (Revelation 21:23). Heaven is full of great shining brightness, called the glory of God, which is even brighter than the sun. This special brightness is always there so there is no night time. No-one will need a candle, a torch or a lamp. There will be no worries about being scared in the dark!

Look at the boy and girl in this picture. They look pretty sad, don't they? Why do you think they might be sad? (*Let children answer.*) There are many things in this world that make us cry, but in Heaven there will be no tears. The Bible says that God Himself will wipe away all tears from our eyes (Revelation 21:4). Heaven will be a joyful place.

Two of the things that make us sad on earth are sickness and death. Perhaps you have had "flu", measles or a broken leg. No-one enjoys being ill. There will be no sickness in Heaven. And in Heaven no-one will ever die. On earth we see graves in cemeteries that remind us of people who have died, but in Heaven there will be no graves and no cemeteries. People in Heaven will live for ever.

There is one other thing that cannot be in Heaven - that is sin. This dark heart reminds us of the wrong we do. Can you think why there can be no sin in Heaven? Think of what we learned about God. God is pure, "holy" is the word the Bible uses ... Sin is disobeying God. God commands us to tell the truth, but I have told lies - have you? God commands us to obey our parents, but I used to disobey. Sometimes I pretended I did not hear them. Have you disobeyed your Mum or Dad? Those wrong things - even if it is only one wrong thing - disqualify you from going to Heaven the way you are. God cannot allow sin into Heaven. Do you know how many people on earth do sinful things? The answer is in the Bible, listen. (*Read Romans 3:23.*) "All" is the answer. Does that include me? you? Yes, "all" means everyone. Everyone is a sinner, and sin cannot be in God's home.

### Flashcard 1-4 (Things in Heaven)

The Bible also tells us of many things that will be in Heaven. Of course, God is in Heaven. We have no picture of Him because He has no body. We have learned some things about Him, gold makes us think of Him. Why?

There are angels there too. Angels aren't people who have died, they are special creatures made by God. The Bible tells us there are ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands - we can't even count that high. The angels praise God and serve Him.

The Lord Jesus Himself is in Heaven. We do not know what He looks like but we know He became a real human being, a man, when



He came to earth. He was God and man. He knew that none of us could get to heaven because of our sin. He loved us so much, that He came to be punished instead of us. He was nailed to a cross and died for sinners like you and me ... What did He do with sin, when He died?

Listen for the answer in these words from the Bible, “He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself” (Hebrews 9:26). He put away sin. He did not stay dead. He came back to life and soon returned to Heaven. You must depend on Him to make you ready for Heaven. Perhaps you think, “I want to do that, but I am not sure how.” If you have questions about this, I will be happy to answer them from the Bible and to help you understand how to depend on the Lord Jesus. At the end of the meeting stay in your seat (*or designate place*) and I will know you want to talk with me about this.

I am so glad I am trusting the Lord Jesus and that He will take me to Heaven. There will be lots of room in Heaven for all who have trusted Jesus Christ. He has special homes ready for them. He said, “In My Father’s house are many mansions ... I go to prepare a place for you” (John 14:2). I have no idea what they will be like but I am sure they will be more wonderful than any home you have ever seen!

There is one more thing we must look at. It is a special book that will be in Heaven. It is not a Bible or a prayer book. It is called the “Lamb’s Book of Life” (Revelation 21:27). It is a book of names - the names of all the people who trust Jesus Christ to “put away” all their sin forever. If your name is in the book you will go to Heaven. If it is not, you will never be in Heaven, but must be punished for ever for your sins.

If today you are sorry for your sin and want to quit that way of living, tell the Lord Jesus so. Tell Him that you believe He died to put away your sin. Trust Him today to make you ready for Heaven. If you do, then you can know that your name is in this very special book - just as we learned in our memory verse, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). You must believe or trust in the Lord Jesus, then you will have everlasting life.

Isn’t it amazing that God loves people like us and wants to share Heaven with us.

### **Flashcard 1-5 (Disciples gazing into sky)**

The Lord Jesus is in Heaven now, but He did spend 33 years here on earth. Just before He left He took His followers up to a hill top and spoke some final words to them.

This is what He said, “Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15). When you know that Jesus Christ

Children listen for the answer from God’s Word.

Later in your programme you may show how to

witness, using a role-play prepared beforehand.

has put away your sin and you know you have everlasting life, God wants you to tell others the Good News. That is what the Lord Jesus told His followers.

### Flashcard 1-6 (Jesus ascending)

They were absolutely stunned at what was happening next. Before their eyes their Master started to go up, up, up into the clouds. Then He disappeared out of their sight. He had returned to Heaven.

Two angels appeared and told His followers that Jesus would return again, just the way they had seen Him go.

The Bible says the Lord Jesus will return someday to take all those who have believed on Him as their Saviour, to Heaven.

Will you go to Heaven? Won't you believe in the Lord Jesus now, trust Him to put away your sin. Remember, "whoever believes" has everlasting life (John 3:16).

### Review game

#### "Heaven"

You will need 12 cards of the same colour with the letters "HEAVEN" on them, one letter per card (= two times the word "HEAVEN").

- ◆ Give each team the letter "H" and place the rest of the 12 letters face down, jumbled up on the table.
- ◆ Each team's objective is to complete the word "HEAVEN".
- ◆ When a team member answers a question, he chooses a card. If he chooses a letter his team already has, he must return it.
- ◆ The team that finishes the word first wins the competition.

### Review questions

- 1 Why does the gold page remind us of God? (God is rich, He is king, He is pure.)
- 2 How do we know that God loves sinners? (The Bible tells us.)
- 3 How many people are sinners? (All.)
- 4 Name four things that will not be in Heaven? (Sun, moon, sickness, death, tears, sin, etc.)
- 5 Why is there no sin in Heaven? (God is holy.)
- 6 What is written in the Lamb's Book of Life? (The names of all who trust in the Lord Jesus as Saviour.)
- 7 Why can the Lord Jesus make you ready to live with God? (He died to put away sin.)
- 8 How long did God's Son spend on earth? (33 years.)
- 9 What was His last command to His followers? (Tell the Gospel throughout the world.)
- 10 How did He go back to Heaven? (He went up into the clouds, back to Heaven.)
- 11 What do we read about in John 3:16? ("For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.")
- 12 What is everlasting life? (Knowing God and belonging to Him for ever.)

# Lesson 2

## Sin

### Scripture for teachers

Genesis 2:7-3:24

Romans 3:1-31; 5:6-9

### Special emphasis

Sin separates us from God

### Application

Unsaved: Turn from your sin and trust God

### Memory verse

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” Romans 3:23

### Visual aids

- ◆ Flashcards 2-1 to 2-6

### Lesson outline

#### **Introduction**

Think of a time you were in a dark place

#### **Progression of events**

- 1 God makes everything, including man
- 2 God gives Adam instructions  
God’s commands are in the Bible
- 3 Adam names the animals
- 4 God creates Eve
- 5 The serpent tempts Eve
- 6 Eve takes the fruit, and gives Adam too  
All are sinners
- 7 They cover themselves with fig leaves
- 8 God comes and questions them  
God knows about your sin
- 9 God punishes the serpent, Eve and Adam  
Sin brought death

#### **Climax**

God punishes Adam and Eve

#### **Conclusion**

The entrance to Eden is guarded

God’s “clue” about the Saviour

Christ, death, resurrection;

You can be saved

## Teaching the memory verse

### **Introduction:**

What does “ALL” spell? What does “all” mean? If your Dad says, “You may eat all the sweets,” or your Mum says, “I want all your toys tidied away,” it means every single one. There is an “all” in the Bible which God wants you to understand.

### **Presentation**

*(Read Romans 3:23 from the Bible and then show the visual.)*

### **Explanation**

What *all* do we find here? *All have sinned* means every one of us has sinned against God. Sin is disobeying God. We were all born wanting to sin, so we all disobeyed God by thinking wrong thoughts and doing wrong things.

*Fall short of the glory of God* - God is absolutely perfect and holy but we are not like that. We do not measure up to God’s standard. If the pass mark in a test is 100% and you get 98% - do you pass? No! If you get 73% - do you pass? No! None of us “pass”, we all fail to reach God’s standard.

### **Application**

Some people try to be good enough, but we can never be good enough to reach God’s standard. You need to see that you have sinned and you need the Saviour.

### **Repetition**

“Topsy-Turvy”

Have children read the verse together. Turn the visual sideways and repeat again. Turn it to the other side and repeat it again. Turn it upside down; rotate it slowly; put it behind your back.

## Lesson

Think of a time when you were in a really dark place. Maybe you were in a room with all the lights out, and you could not find the door. Or maybe you were outside when it was so dark you could not see where you were walking. Because of the darkness you were unable to get where you wanted to go.

When we looked at the gold page of our Wordless Book, we learned about God and Heaven.

*(Show Wordless Book and briefly review teaching on the gold page, letting children share what they remember.)*

The next page in our Wordless Book is the dark page. This page reminds us of the worst kind of darkness of all.

### Flashcard 2-1 (Adam in Garden)

There was a time when there was none of this “worst kind of darkness” - away back at the beginning of time. The Bible says, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1). One of the very first things God created was light. Can you name other things He made? Looking at the picture will help you. God also made man. He made man to know and love God. So we are different from the animals. The name of the first man was Adam. God put Adam in the Garden of Eden to enjoy it and care for it. He told Adam, “You may eat from any tree except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. When you eat of it you will surely die.”

God gave Adam a special job to do - He had to name all the animals and birds. Can you imagine thinking up what to call each animal? God had made Adam with a mind to think up new ideas, so naming the animals was not too difficult for him.

Everything around him showed Adam how much God loved and cared for him. One day he received a very special surprise from God. God put Adam into a deep sleep and took out one of Adam’s ribs. He made a woman out of the rib! When Adam awoke God gave him this beautiful woman ...

### Flashcard 2-1 and 2-2 (Adam and Eve in Garden)

... to be a friend, helper and wife. How they loved being together. They enjoyed the birds, the trees and the animals. But best of all was the close friendship they had with God Himself. Every evening God came and talked with them.

But God’s great enemy, Satan, did not want them to be friends with God. He wanted to spoil all that God had made. He worked out a cunning plan to use one of the most beautiful creatures in the garden, the serpent.

Alternatively, you may wish to blindfold a child and ask him to find his way from one side of the room to the other, making sure there are obstructions in the way.

Pre-schoolers benefit from this interaction.

### Flashcard 2-3 (Eve)

One day the serpent came to Eve. "So God said you are not allowed to eat any of the fruit in the garden," he suggested craftily. Is that what God had said? *(Allow children to answer.)* No - Satan was twisting God's words and Eve knew that too. "No," she replied, "we may eat any of the fruit, except from the tree in the middle of the garden, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If we eat that, or touch it, God said we will die."

"No you won't die," answered the serpent. "God knows if you eat that fruit you will be like Him. You will know good and evil." Satan was trying to make Eve believe that God was trying to cheat them out of something good. But God's instructions were good. He had made Adam and Eve and He knew what was best for them. He knows what is best for us too. We have His instructions in the Bible. It is very important to know what He says, and to obey Him. Of course Satan does not want you to do that. He wanted to turn Adam and Eve against God. Foolishly, Eve listened to the serpent's clever talk. She looked longingly at the forbidden fruit, reached out her hand, took it and tasted it!

### Flashcard 2-3 and 2-4 (Adam and Eve)

The children may suggest the conversation between Adam and Eve.

Perhaps she called to Adam. What do you think she said to Adam? He may have been busy in another part of the garden. Eve gave some of the fruit to Adam and he ate it too. They had listened to Satan, God's enemy. They had disobeyed God.

In the Bible, disobeying God is called sin. That is what the next page of our special book - with no words and no pictures - is about. It is dark. God's Word says, "The way of the wicked is like darkness" (Proverbs 4:19). The Bible tells us that because Adam and Eve sinned, all of us are sinners. Each one has the darkness of sin in his life. It may help to think of Adam as our team leader. Supposing you play a game of rounders *(or choose a similar type of game with which the children are familiar)* and the first person who bats is caught out, the whole team suffers. Adam, the first man, did wrong and we all suffer. He disobeyed God and that makes us all sinners. Every day we show that we agree with what Adam did, for we too disobey God's commands. He has said, "Love God with all your heart". We don't, do we? Your friends, your fun, yourself are more important to you than God. God said, "Love your neighbour as yourself". But you have quarrelled with others, you hit your brother and sister, you have shouted mean, angry words. The Bible says, "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). You have this problem of the darkness of sin in your life. Every person, except Jesus Christ, born since the time of Adam and Eve has had it. What a dreadful day it was when the first man and first woman disobeyed God.

They began to have feelings they had not known before. They felt shame when they looked and saw they were naked. Quickly they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

### **Flashcard 2-5 (Adam and Eve in fig leaves)**

Then it came to the time they had always enjoyed so much: their evening walk and talk with God. They heard Him coming and for the first time they were afraid. They had sinned and were scared to meet God. We too should be afraid of God because of the darkness of sin in our lives, for God is very displeased by sin. The Bible says, “in Him is no darkness at all” (1 John 1:5). Adam and Eve hid. In their hiding place they heard God’s voice, “Where are you?”. No-one can hide their wrongdoing from God, even if it is secret or perhaps mean thoughts in your mind. God knew what Adam and Eve had done and where they were.

Adam answered the Lord, “I heard you in the garden. I was afraid and hid, because I was naked.” God questioned them. “Who told you you were naked? Have you eaten the fruit I commanded you not to eat?”

“The woman you gave me, she gave me the fruit and I ate it,” Adam replied.

God spoke to Eve, “What have you done?”

“The serpent tricked me and I ate,” was Eve’s excuse. Adam blamed Eve, and Eve blamed the serpent. Do you blame others too? Perhaps you say, “He hit me first,” or “I did it without thinking,” or “My friends made me steal.” God knows that you are to blame for all the wrong you have done. He wants you to be truly sorry and say, “I have disobeyed God many times, I am to blame.” God knew Adam and Eve were to blame and they had to be punished.

First God dealt with the serpent, the creature Satan had used. “You are cursed,” He told the serpent. “From now on you will crawl on your belly and eat dust.”

God spoke to Eve next. “You will have pain, especially when you are having children. Your husband will rule over you.”

Finally, God spoke to Adam. “You are going to have to work very hard from now on as you care for the ground, for there will be thorns and thistles.”

Pain and suffering came into the world. Weeds, thistles and thorns started to grow. Since then, sin has spoiled the world and all the people in it. But what about the death God had promised? Yes, it came. Later Adam and Eve did die. Since then people have been born, they live and they die. Another kind of death came also. Adam and Eve’s disobedience brought the end of their friendship with God. Their sin separated them from God. Your sin separates you from



God (Isaiah 59:2). God is so pure and good, sin cannot be near Him. God is so right and fair that He must punish all sin. The punishment comes after you die and lasts forever. Perhaps now you understand how serious your sin is. You want it all taken away and you want to be different. If, at the end of the meeting you still do not understand and want to talk to me, I will show you what God says in the Bible. When the others leave please *(designate place where child should go)*. I will be happy to tell you how the darkness of sin can be taken away. This dark page of our little book has a dreadful message. It is about the darkness of sin that cuts us off from God.

### **Flashcard 2-6 (Adam and Eve in animal skins)**

God did not come to walk and talk with Adam and Eve after that. Indeed He made them leave the beautiful Garden of Eden. They could never return. He placed an angel with a flaming sword to guard the way to the tree of life. Oh how that heavenly creature and the bright flaming sword must have reminded Adam and Eve of God's holiness and purity and His hatred of sin. Adam and Eve deserved their punishment. They had disobeyed the One who made them. Their punishment was right and fair. When God punishes sinners, no-one can say, "It's not fair".

Yes, we are all in Adam's family or Adam's team and nothing we can do can get us out of it. You may try to be good, go to church, say prayers, but these things do not take away the darkness of sin. However, even before Adam and Eve sinned, God had a wonderful plan.

Even as God spoke to Adam and Eve, He gave a clue that He would do something about this problem. He promised to send Someone to destroy Satan's power. Hundreds and hundreds of years later He sent His only Son, Jesus Christ. He was not in Adam's team for He was not born a sinner. He never sinned, yet He loved sinners and He paid the price to get sinners out of Adam's team. Paying a large sum of money could never set you free. The Lord Jesus died on the cross and gave His life as a ransom for many (Mark 10:45). A ransom is a price paid in order to set someone free. He paid with His precious blood. He came back to life and lives forever. He can take away all your sin. He can rescue you from the punishment you deserve. I cannot do that for you, nor can anyone you know, but Jesus Christ can do it. When you depend on Jesus Christ you are sure of going to Heaven when you die. You will never suffer any of God's punishment for your sin. He will make you a different kind of person. The Lord Jesus said, "He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness" (John 8:12) - that is the darkness of sin.

Won't you trust the Lord Jesus Christ? Tell Him now, just where you are, that you are sorry you have disobeyed God. Thank the Lord Jesus for dying to pay to get you out of Adam's "team". Ask Him to



take away all the darkness of your sin and to change you. He promises that, if you come to Him, He will not turn you away (John 6:37).

### Review questions

- 1 What special rule or command did God give Adam in the Garden of Eden? (He must not eat from the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.)
- 2 What special job did God give Adam? (To name the animals.)
- 3 What special gift did God give to Adam? (A wife, Eve.)
- 4 Who tempted Eve to disobey God? (Satan.)
- 5 How did he coax her to disobey God? (He said she would not die and if she ate she would be like God.)
- 6 How did Adam and Eve's sin affect you and me? (It meant that we too are sinners.)
- 7 What is sin? (It is disobeying God.)
- 8 After they had sinned, how did Adam and Eve feel about meeting God? (They were afraid.)
- 9 How did God punish them? (They were put out of the Garden and they lost their friendship with God.)
- 10 What is the punishment for our sin? (To be separated from God and punished forever.)
- 11 About what great event did God give a "clue" to Adam and Eve? (The coming of the Saviour.)
- 12 Why can Jesus Christ save you? (He is God's Son and He died and rose again.)

### Review game

Have pictures of the following on equal sized cards: computer, bird, baby, child crying, flower, animal, butterfly, thorns, tree, dead plant, fish, rain.

- ♦ Place the cards with the pictures facing downward on a table.
- ♦ When a child answers for his team, he gets 10 points.
- ♦ He then chooses a card and tells the teacher whether or not what is pictured was in the world before Adam sinned. If he answers correctly he gets an additional 10 points. (The words underlined indicate what was not in the world before Adam sinned.)



# Lesson 3

## The blood of Christ

### Scripture for teachers

Luke 2:1-20; 23:27-49

John 19:1-42

Matthew 27:46

Mark 15:34; 16:1-8

John 20:1-10

### Special emphasis

The Lord Jesus died for sinners

### Application

Unsaved: Believe that He died for you and trust

Him as your Saviour

### Memory verse

“Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures”

1 Corinthians 15:3b

### Visual aids

- ◆ Flashcards 3-1 to 3-6

### Lesson outline

#### **Introduction**

Story of the fireman

#### **Progression of events**

- 1 Humanity from Adam onwards  
Everyone a sinner
- 2 Angels announce Christ's birth
- 3 Shepherds go to Bethlehem to find the Saviour  
You need a Saviour
- 4 Shepherds find Saviour  
Jesus is God's Son
- 5 Jesus grows up and lives perfect life
- 6 He is nailed to a cross  
He gave His blood
- 7 One thief cries to Him
- 8 The Lord Jesus hears the thief  
You can be saved
- 9 The Lord Jesus cries, “It is finished”  
He paid completely
- 10 The Lord Jesus is buried
- 11 The women go to the tomb

#### **Climax**

The angel tells them, “He is risen”

#### **Conclusion**

They run to tell the news

He is alive and He can save

Jesus Christ is the only One who can bring us to God  
Trust Christ now

## Teaching the memory verse

### **Introduction**

Has your brother or sister ever volunteered to take your punishment for something you did?

You might have a hard time believing that could ever happen. But something like this is even harder to imagine. A criminal kidnaps a businessman's son, he steals his car, he smashes the windows in his home, and when he's caught the businessman volunteers to go to prison instead of the criminal. This is a "make believe" story, but something even more amazing has happened.

### **Presentation**

I'll read it out to you. *(Read Bible verse from Bible and then show visual.)*

### **Explanation**

*Christ* - He is the One God promised to send, His only Son who had always lived in Heaven with His Father.

*died* - He became a man and He died on a cross.

*for our sins* - We were His enemies, doing a lot that displeased Him, but He took the punishment for us.

*according to the Scriptures* - The Bible, God's Word, tells us that these things happened. We can be sure it is true.

### **Application**

Have you ever thought, "Christ died for my sins"? It is much more amazing than the businessman's story. He died, so He can be your Saviour.

### **Repetition**

Use actions - "Christ died" *(make cross with pointer fingers)* "for our sins" *(hands over heart)* "according to the Scriptures" *(hands together, palms up, to form Bible).*

## Lesson

“Look - there’s a boy at the window up there!” exclaimed a fireman. The fire in the house was spreading rapidly. “You’re right,” replied another fireman. “I’ll go in,” and off he went into the danger. It seemed like forever before he appeared beside the boy. It was impossible for them to come down a ladder for the flames were licking their way towards the window. The big fireman lifted the boy on his shoulder. The only way out was down the smoke filled stairs and through the back door. The big fireman managed to get out. The boy was safe on his shoulder, rescued from danger. The big man had saved him. You and I need to be rescued from danger too. Of course it is not from a fire. Can you tell what we need to be saved from? (*Show dark page of Wordless Book and allow children to answer.*) Sin came into the world when Adam and Eve disobeyed God.

Hundreds and hundreds of years passed by. Adam and Eve died. Their children died. And their children’s children died. Each one had the dreadful problem of sin and separation from God. Was there no answer to the problem? So many years went by it seemed to some that God had forgotten His promise to send Someone to put right what Adam had made wrong. But God does not forget His promises. At exactly the time He had planned, He sent that special One. He sent His own special messengers, angels, to announce it.

### Flashcard 3-2 (Outdoor shepherds, sheep, angel)

The angels came to a group of shepherds caring for their sheep on hills outside of Bethlehem. The shepherds were amazed and afraid when they saw the angel. Like most other people, they had never before seen one! “Do not be afraid,” said the messenger from heaven. “I have good news for you. A Saviour for you has been born in the city of David. You will find Him wrapped up in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Suddenly the whole sky was filled with a choir of angels praising God. We do not know how long this spectacular sight lasted. Only when the angels had gone did the shepherds speak. They were joyful, afraid and excited all at once!

“Let’s leave the sheep and go to Bethlehem and see this for ourselves,” they said to each other. They never expected the Saviour to be lying in a feeding trough for cattle. But they knew what a saviour was. Do you? It is a person who rescues another from danger like the big fireman. Perhaps you have heard of mountain climbers who fell and someone rescued them. The person who rescues another is that person’s saviour. But the Saviour the angel spoke of was coming to rescue people from their sin and the punishment they deserve. (*Show dark page of Wordless Book.*) You are in danger because you have disobeyed God by your angry thoughts, disobedience at home, quarrels, lies, cheating and much more. We all deserve God’s punishment. God

A child could read the angel’s message (Luke 2:10-12).

says in the Bible, “The soul who sins shall die” (Ezekiel 18:4). That means if you disobey God - even if it were only once - you must be punished. You cannot stop doing wrong, for sin has a strong hold on you. You need to be rescued and changed. Do you want to know more about this Saviour? The shepherds did. That is why they hurried off to Bethlehem to search for Him.

### **Flashcard 3-1 (Manger scene, Mary, Joseph, Jesus)**

And yes - they found Him. He was in a stable with a lady and a man. Who were these people? The newborn baby was God’s only Son. He did not start His life that night for He had lived forever in Heaven with God. He had made the world, He had been worshipped and obeyed by the angels. But He became a baby. He was a real little baby and at the same time He was God. The lady was His mother Mary, the woman God chose to bring His Son into the world. The man was Joseph. He was Mary’s husband but he was not the baby’s father. The baby did not have a human father. He was God’s Son and His birth was a miracle. This is hard to understand but we know it is true for it is in the Bible.

“His name is Jesus,” Mary and Joseph must have told the shepherds. God had told them to give the baby this special name. Jesus means Saviour. The Saviour whom God sent was none other than His only Son. No-one else could be the Saviour.

God loved people like you and me so much that He sent His only Son to be the Saviour. And His Son loved us so much that He left Heaven and came to that stable.

### **Flashcard 3-3 (Jesus healing blind man)**

Of course, He did not grow up there. Mary and Joseph had a home where He grew up. He was a special child for He was not spoiled by sin. He was the only person ever born without sin. Everything He did was good, right and kind. He always did what pleased God. When He was grown-up, He made sick people well in a moment. He could make dead people alive, He could calm a storm in a moment. Why could He do those things? (*Allow children to answer.*) Yes, he was God. He was also a real man, who looked like other men. We could call Him the God-Man.

There was something else the Lord Jesus had to do if He was going to be the Saviour. He did it even though it was very, very difficult. Although the Lord Jesus was good and kind, He had enemies plotting against Him. They had Him arrested and sentenced Him to death. One morning rough Roman soldiers took Him out to a hillside just outside Jerusalem.

### Flashcard 3-4 (Hillside scene, with crosses, soldiers and other people)

The soldiers put three wooden crosses flat on the ground. Two were for thieves who were going to die on the same day. Probably they cursed and struggled as the soldiers held them and nailed them to their crosses. When they took the Lord Jesus, He did not struggle. He could have escaped but He gave Himself up and did not say a word. The nails were hammered into His hands and feet. He felt the awful pain. But He knew He must do it if He was going to save sinners. He knew this was part of His Father's plan.

His cross - and the other two - were put upright in the ground. He suffered so much as He hung there, His precious blood poured out. Yes, that is the meaning of the next page, the red page in our little Wordless Book. It tells us of the precious blood of the Lord Jesus who died for sinners. God had said that without the pouring out of blood there is no forgiveness (Hebrews 9:22). The Lord Jesus suffered and bled to be the Saviour, the One who could rescue us from sin.

Even as He was suffering there, He did rescue someone from sin and the punishment he would receive from God. It wasn't the soldiers. Can you see what they were doing? (Using a dice to decide who would get the Lord Jesus' clothing.) It wasn't Mary, or one of His friends - although all these people needed a Saviour. It was someone else. Suddenly one of the thieves understood that he wasn't ready to die. He had disobeyed God and it would be awful to meet Him. Somehow he understood that the Man on the centre cross was the only One who could help him. "Lord remember me when you come into your kingdom," he pleaded. The Lord Jesus did remember him at that moment. He became the thief's Saviour, rescuing him from the punishment he deserved. He said to the thief, "Today, you will be with Me in paradise." The Lord Jesus could do that, for He was actually taking the thief's place and was being punished by God for the thief's sin.

You can be just as sure that one day you will be with the Lord Jesus in Heaven forever. You must believe He took your punishment too. You must depend on Him to save you as the thief did. The Bible says, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31). Believe means depend, or trust. To be saved means to be rescued from Hell and from the grip sin has on you. If you really want to be saved and are still not sure how to be, I will gladly talk with you about it and try to help you understand what God says in the Bible. When the others leave please come and talk with me. I will be (*designate place*). Of course, I cannot save you - the Lord Jesus is the only One who can.

As He was on the cross a very unusual thing happened. I will read it from the Bible (*read Luke 23:44*). At midday a strange darkness came and lasted for three hours. During that time the Lord Jesus' suffering

Children tell what they see in visual.

Children listen for the answer.

was at its worst. He took on Himself the sin of the world and God punished Him as if He had done all that wrong. He cried out, "My God, My God. Why have you left Me?" (Matt 27:46, Mark 15:34). He was alone with no help from His Father. God could not be close to Him because He was taking the sin of the world on Himself. God could only punish Him. Every minute must have passed so slowly, but at last it was over. "It is finished!" He cried out and died.

If you trust Him as your Saviour, you can be sure He took all the punishment for your sin. He did everything that had to be done. If you depend on Him to be your Saviour, God will never punish you. No-one can do anything more to take away sin for the Lord Jesus did it all. That is why He called out, "It is finished!"

*(Show no visual.)*

A friend of Jesus got permission to remove His body from the cross. He lovingly wrapped Jesus' body in cloth, then took it to a new tomb and placed it inside. A huge stone was rolled into place to seal the opening of the tomb. The followers of the Lord Jesus were deeply saddened, confused and afraid. They didn't understand why these things had happened. Perhaps they worried that they too might die because they were His friends.

Three days after Jesus' death, some women who were His friends came to the tomb. They wanted to put spices into the folds of His burial cloth.

Arriving at the garden tomb, they were surprised to see that the huge stone was rolled aside. Thinking Jesus' body had been stolen, one of the women rushed off to tell Jesus' other followers.

### **Flashcard 3-5 (Women at tomb)**

But as the other women stood by, a bright, shining angel suddenly appeared. His words must have been the most exciting they had ever heard.

"I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here, for He is risen (alive) as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. Go quickly and tell His disciples."

With their hearts pounding with joy, the women hurried off to tell the others the news that Jesus was alive.

That is exciting news for you too! The Lord Jesus' death, burial and resurrection were all part of God's plan. Because the Lord Jesus is alive, you can know that God accepted what He did on the cross. Because Jesus is alive He can change you on the inside so you can live to please God. Because the Lord Jesus is alive, you can live forever with Him some day in heaven. That's exciting news.

Little wonder the women hurried to tell the disciples. But it was hard for the disciples to believe. Two of them, Peter and John, rushed to

Allow the children to pretend they are the women telling the news.



the tomb to see for themselves. When they got there, they found the stone rolled away and the tomb empty, with just the linen clothes left. John believed the Master was alive, we don't know about Peter.

Soon the risen, living Lord would prove it true.

### Flashcard 3-6 (Cross as bridge)

By His death on the cross and by coming back to life the Lord Jesus brings to Heaven all who trust Him as Saviour. He alone can save you from sin and the punishment you deserve. You must trust Him, depend on Him, knowing that He died in your place and that His resurrection proves that He took all your punishment. Trust Him now. The Bible says, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31). If you are depending on Him, He will certainly bring you to Heaven. If you are not, there is no way for you to come to God.

### Review questions

- 1 What does a Saviour do? (He rescues people.)
- 2 Who announced the birth of the Saviour to the shepherds? (Angel.)
- 3 Why did God give His Son? (He loved sinners.)
- 4 In what way was the boy Jesus different from other children? (No earthly father, no sin.)
- 5 Who did Jesus save from sin, as He hung on the cross? (Thief.)
- 6 What strange thing happened as Jesus was on the cross? (Darkness at mid-day, lasting for three hours.)
- 7 Why did God leave His Son, as He was on the cross? (Because He was taking the sin of the world on Himself.)
- 8 What happened to Jesus' body after He had died? (It was placed in a tomb.)
- 9 What surprise did the women get when they went to the tomb? (The angel said that Jesus was alive.)
- 10 What does the red page of the Wordless Book tell us about? (The blood of Christ.)
- 11 (*Show visual 3-4.*) What were the soldiers doing? (Using a dice to decide who would get the Lord Jesus' clothing.)
- 12 (*Show visual 3-6.*) What does this picture mean? (Only through Jesus Christ can people go to heaven.)

### Review game

#### **Sweets in a jar**

Have sweets in a jar with a fairly narrow opening, eg a coffee jar.

- ◆ When a child answers a question correctly, he receives 10 points for his team.
- ◆ He then puts his hand into the jar and takes out as many sweets as he can. The number of sweets is the additional score for his team.
- ◆ The sweets are put back in the jar and shared among all the children when the club is over!



# Lesson 4

## Right with God

### Scripture for teachers

Luke 24:13-46

John 20:24-29

Acts 13:39

Romans 5:1

### Special emphasis

You can be right with God

### Application

Unsaved: Trust Christ and you will be justified

### Memory verse

“... by Him everyone who believes is justified”

Acts 13:39

(We suggest that you teach this verse after the lesson; it will be easier for the children to understand.)

### Visual aids

- ◆ Flashcards 4-1 to 4-6

### Lesson outline

#### **Introduction**

Review the Wordless Book colours - gold, dark, red

#### **Progression of Events**

- 1 Cleopas and friend walk to Emmaus
- 2 Jesus joins them
- 3 They tell Him of the death of Jesus
- 4 He explains Old Testament prophecies  
Unbelief is sin
- 5 In Emmaus they eat
- 6 They recognise Jesus
- 7 He vanishes  
Resurrection proof that Jesus is God's Son and that He paid for sin
- 8 They tell the other disciples, Thomas is not there
- 9 The risen Christ comes Justification
- 10 Thomas's reaction to the news
- 11 Jesus appears again

#### **Climax**

Thomas: “My Lord and my God”  
Justification

#### **Conclusion**

Jesus appears to others  
He returns to heaven  
News of the resurrection spreads (Acts 13:39)

## Teaching the memory verse

### **Introduction**

Let's play opposites – I'll say a word and you say the opposite.

Black	(White)
Huge	(Little)
Upstairs	(Downstairs)
Condemned	?? - That is a harder one!

Listen in our Bible verse and you will find the answer.

### **Presentation**

(Read Acts 13:39.) The answer is “justified”. (Show visual.)

### **Explanation**

*By Him or through Him* - “Him” is the Lord Jesus Christ. He is God's only Son. He has died for sinners. He came back to life and lives for ever. Through Him something wonderful can happen to you.

*Justified* - Just-as-if-I'd-never sinned. It means that God sees you as if you have never done any wrong. There is only one person who lived like that. Who was it? Jesus Christ. When you are justified, God sees you “in Christ”, in His perfect goodness and He sees you “in Christ” for ever! That is what the white page is about.

*Believe* - Believe is not simply knowing and understanding, it is more. Patrick's uncle offered to take him up in a hot air balloon. Patrick wanted to go but wondered, “Is it safe?” His uncle reassured him. “Patrick, I have done it lots of times. I have taken up your cousin Frank.” Patrick said “OK,” but he still was not ready to trust himself to his uncle. Two weeks later, however, he went up in the balloon. Patrick trusted his uncle to handle the balloon carefully and to keep him safe. He entrusted himself to his uncle. That is what “believe” means. It means you depend on Jesus Christ. You entrust yourself totally to Him, to take away your sins and to make you pure and clean.

*Everyone* - It is you, you and you - everyone, whatever age, however good or bad. If you are sorry for the way you have displeased God and you want to be different, this is for you. It may be that you want to be justified, but you are not sure how. I would be glad to help you understand what God says in the Bible. When the others leave, please stay where you are and I will know you want to talk to me about it.

### **Application**

If you have never trusted the Lord Jesus, the Bible says you are condemned. If you trust Him as your Saviour, you are justified.

**Repetition**

“Popcorn”

Beginning with the reference, say part of the verse, then stop and sit down. The children then “pop up” and continue the verse until you pop up, at which point they stop and sit down. When you stop and sit down, they pop up again to continue with the verse. Say the verse several times with different children leading.

Allow the children to review the three pages you have already taught.

## Lesson

Now you can “read” some of the pages in our Wordless Book! Supposing we wanted to add a page which would tell us what kind of life God would be pleased with, what colour would it be? (*Allow children to respond.*) Yes, a pure white page would tell us of the perfect life which would please God. That would be like a life that never once disobeyed Him. That is what you need if you are going to live with God. It seems an impossibility for you and me - but God had a wonderful plan to make it possible. It was all part of His wonderful plan to send His only Son to die and to come back to life. That is where we left off last time, isn't it? But only a few had heard the news.

Two people walked along the dusty road feeling very discouraged. They were followers of the Lord Jesus, perhaps they had watched His crucifixion. They had heard about the stone being rolled away from the tomb. They knew that the women claimed that Jesus was alive. “If only it were true,” they thought, “but it was probably just the women’s imagination.”

### Flashcard 4-1 (Two people and Jesus)

If possible show the route on a map.

As the two continued slowly along their seven mile walk from Jerusalem to Emmaus, they talked quietly, trying to understand all that had happened. Just then a stranger approached and began walking with them. He asked what they were talking about.

One of them named Cleopas, said to the stranger, “You must be the only one in Jerusalem who hasn't heard what happened.”

You may ask the children, “What would you have told the stranger?”

Then they told the stranger all about the Lord Jesus - how He had taught the people and how He had died on the cross. They said they were disappointed because they thought that when God’s promised Saviour came, He would defeat Israel’s enemy, Rome, and bring God’s Kingdom on earth.

“And now,” they said, “some of Jesus’ followers have reported that He is alive!” But it was clear that those two did not believe the reports.

The stranger looked at them and said, “Oh, foolish people! Why is it so hard for you to believe? Don't you remember that the prophets said the Promised One would suffer all those things and then return to Heaven.” The stranger reminded them of all that had been written by the prophets in the Old Testament. God had said that the Promised One would die for sin - but these two followers did not believe, although they certainly felt better as they listened to the stranger.

Not believing God’s Word is sin. Perhaps you have learned about the gold page, the dark page and the red page. You have heard what God says about your sin. You have learned what the Lord Jesus did for sinners. You know that God says you should turn from wrong and trust His Son. Have you done it? If not, then you have not truly believed God’s Word and that displeases Him.

These two people did not believe either, they were confused and sad.

### Flashcard 4-2 (Jesus with bread)

Arriving in Emmaus where they lived, they invited the stranger to stay with them since it was almost evening. He agreed and they sat down together for a meal. The stranger took the bread and gave thanks to God for it, then He broke it, and passed it to them. As He did this, the Bible says that “their eyes were opened and they knew Him!” Suddenly they recognised the stranger - He was the living Lord Jesus. Then, the Bible says, at that moment He vanished. The two of them must have looked at each other in astonishment. It was true! Jesus was alive! They had been blinded to the truth by their unbelief, but now they had seen Him and they believed.

They were so happy, seeing Jesus alive made all the difference. Yes, He is alive and that can make an enormous difference to you and me too. Jesus being alive is proof that He really is God’s Son. It is proof that He really did take all the punishment for our sin.

*(Put visual aside.)*

Usually when you go to a shop and buy something, you get a little piece of paper, the receipt, which proves that you paid the price for the item you bought. Jesus being alive is like the receipt, it proves that He paid the full price of sin. If He were not alive, we could not be sure. But He is alive and we can be sure that He paid completely.

If possible show item and receipt.

He is alive! That was the news the two wanted to tell.

*(Show flashcard 4-2 again.)*

Do you suppose they finished their meal and went to bed? No! The two hurried back seven miles to Jerusalem. They couldn’t wait to share the news with the other followers.

In Jerusalem they went to the room where the others had been gathered. The door was locked because they were afraid that Roman soldiers might come and arrest them as well. Bang! Bang! Bang! The two probably pounded on the door, eager to tell their news.

Once inside, they must have shouted, “Jesus is alive!” In a rush of words they told about their experience on the road to Emmaus and how they didn’t recognise Jesus until He broke the bread and gave it to them. The other followers must have been amazed. First they’d heard the report of the women, then Peter and John’s story, and now these two were saying they’d seen Jesus alive. Could it be true?

### Flashcard 4-3 (Jesus with disciples)

Suddenly Jesus Himself stood in the room and greeted His startled followers. They recognised Him immediately, but they were terrified, thinking it was His ghost.

“Don’t be afraid,” the Lord Jesus said. “Why don’t you believe it’s really Me? Look at My hands and feet. Touch Me and see that I’m real. A ghost does not have flesh and bones.”

The Lord Jesus loved His followers and wanted them to know He was alive. He wanted them to understand what He had done for them. He wants you to understand that too.

*(Show white page.)*

He is the only One who ever lived that perfect life which we need in order to be accepted by God. He lived it for us. He died for sin - we need His death because all our sin must be punished.

He is alive for ever. That is important because a dead Saviour could do nothing for us. But what He can do for you is just amazing.

*(Set visual aside.)*

Do you ever swap things at school? *(Allow children to share.)* When you swap, you give something to your friend and he gives you something in return. When you trust Jesus Christ as your Saviour, you have the best exchange (or swap) that could ever happen. You give Him your sin *(show dark page)*. He takes it for He made your sin His own when He died on the cross. In return He gives you His perfect obedient life.

*(Show white page of Wordless Book.)* God looks on you as if you were perfect. Could God allow you into Heaven like that? Yes, of course.

What a difference it makes that the Lord Jesus Christ is alive.

*(Show flashcard 4-3 again.)*

This must have been an unforgettable experience for the disciples and the other followers of Jesus. But Thomas, who was also a disciple, wasn’t there that evening when the Lord Jesus appeared. When Thomas returned, the others told him what had happened. But Thomas couldn’t believe it. “Unless I see Him myself,” he insisted, “and touch the nail prints in His hands and the wound in His side, I will not believe.”

### **Flashcard 4-4 (Jesus and Thomas)**

A week went by, and once again the disciples, including Thomas, were gathered in their meeting room with the door shut. Just as before, the Lord Jesus suddenly appeared in the room with them. Thomas’ heart must have pounded as the Lord Jesus looked at him and said, “Look at Me, touch My hands and My side. Stop doubting and believe.”

All doubts left Thomas’ mind. He looked with wonder into the face of the risen Lord Jesus. “My Lord and my God,” he exclaimed. Thomas finally believed that the Lord Jesus is God the Son - the promised Saviour who died and rose again.



Let's think about what that meant for Thomas. What about Thomas' sin? (*Show dark page of Wordless Book.*) The Lord Jesus died for all Thomas' sin. What did the Lord Jesus give Thomas so that God could accept him? (*Show white page.*) He gave Thomas His perfect life. God saw Thomas as clean and pure, as if Thomas had lived the perfect life of the Lord Jesus.

Thomas finally believed that Jesus Christ is God the Son and that He really was alive. The Lord Jesus looked lovingly at Thomas and said, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed (or happy) are those who have not seen Me and yet believe."

### Flashcard 4-5 and 4-6 (Jesus and crowd)

Over the next few weeks other followers of the Lord Jesus saw Him. He even appeared to over 500 people at once. Then after 40 days on earth, the Lord Jesus returned to His Home in Heaven.

The people who saw Him alive after His resurrection were never the same again. They were so excited they just had to tell others. The Lord Jesus' death and resurrection made all the difference to them.

He can make an amazing difference to you too. You can have all your sins forgiven and you can be pure and clean before God. This will happen if you are truly sorry for your sin and trust Jesus Christ to make things right between you and God. The Bible says that "everyone who believes is justified" (Acts 13:39). What must you do? You must trust the Lord Jesus. What will God do? He will justify you! You will be pure and clean before God. God will look on you and see the perfect life His Son lived.

And this is all possible because Jesus Christ is alive!

### Review questions

- 1 Why were the two friends on the road to Emmaus so sad? (They thought Jesus was still dead.)
- 2 Who joined them on the road? (The Lord Jesus.)
- 3 What did the Lord Jesus explain to the friends? (What was written in the Old Testament about Him.)
- 4 When did they recognise Him? (When He ate with them.)
- 5 What great "swap" or exchange happens when you become a Christian? (The Lord Jesus takes your sin, and gives you His perfect life.)
- 6 Who missed seeing Jesus when He came to the group of His followers? (Thomas.)
- 7 What did Thomas say when they told him, Jesus had been there? ("I won't believe until I see and touch the prints of the nails.")
- 8 What did Thomas say when the Lord Jesus came to him? ("My Lord and my God.")

Allow children to review what they have learned by telling what difference the resurrection would make to Thomas.

### Review game

#### Pick a question

- ◆ Divide into teams and show the following "score chart".

1.	10
2.	50
3.	60
4.	100
5.	30
6.	120
7.	40
8.	70
9.	90
10.	20
11.	110
12.	80

- ♦ Ask questions alternately between the teams.
- ♦ For each round, let a child call out a number between 1 and 12 to indicate which question he'd like to answer.
- ♦ If he answers correctly, he earns for his team the amount of points given for that question, and the question is ticked off on the chart.

- 9 The Lord Jesus said that some people are even more blessed than Thomas. Who? (Those who have not seen Him but believe.)
- 10 The Lord Jesus being alive proves two important things. What are they? (He is God's Son, and He paid completely for sin.)
- 11 What was the biggest number of people to whom the Lord Jesus appeared? (500.)
- 12 What does the white page teach us? (Being right with God, pure and clean.)

# Lesson 5

## Growing up in Christ

### Scripture for teachers

Acts 16:1-5

1 and 2 Timothy - specific verses are mentioned in the text

### Special emphasis

God's plan is that those who have received new life should grow in Christ

### Application

Unsaved: You must have eternal life before you can grow

Saved: Obey God's instructions about growth

### Memory verse

"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ ..." 2 Peter 3:18

### Visual aids

- ◆ Flashcards 5-1 to 5-6
- ◆ We suggest you use a living plant and a dead plant at the beginning and end of the lesson
- ◆ Wordless Book for each child

### Lesson outline

#### **Introduction**

What is the difference between these plants?

#### **Progression of events**

- 1 Timothy learns God's Word
- 2 Paul preaches in Lystra  
The Gospel message
- 3 Timothy is converted
- 4 Timothy joins Paul on his journeys
- 5 Timothy stays in Ephesus  
You must have new life
- 6 Paul writes to encourage him  
Growth hand: 1 Bible  
2 Pray  
3 Witness  
4 Love God  
5 Church

#### **Conclusion**

God promises a reward

Challenge to unsaved

## Teaching the memory verse

### **Introduction**

One of the favourite sayings of adults when they meet someone 5, 8 or 10 years old is, "My, haven't you grown!" They always notice that - God wants you to grow as a Christian. We read about it in the Bible.

### **Presentation**

*(Read 2 Peter 3:18 and show visual.)*

### **Explanation**

*But grow in the grace* - These words are not about growing tall but about growing in grace. Grace is God's love to people who do not deserve it. As you see God's grace in your life each day you'll become a stronger Christian.

*knowledge of Jesus Christ* - This means that Christians should get to know the Lord Jesus better each day - just as you get to know a friend better.

How is He described? - *Lord and Saviour* - He is your Saviour if He has saved you from sin. If He is your Saviour, He is also your Lord. He is in charge of you, of every part of your life - of the company you keep, of the way you spend your money, of the music you listen to.

### **Application**

If you are saved, you need to spend time talking to your Lord and Saviour. It is important to obey Him. Little by little you will become like Him, you will grow as a Christian.

If He is not your Saviour, you cannot grow.

### **Repetition:**

"Crazy Stand-Ups"

Have those wearing green stand and say the verse ... those who have a sister ... those who like spiders, and so on. Continue with a variety of categories. Keep the game moving from one category to the next, but be sure the children are saying the verse correctly each time.

## Gospel presentation

*(You may wish to include this earlier in the programme.)*

*(On a large sheet of paper, draw a semicircle representing earth and a cloud representing Heaven.)*

Ladders come in different lengths. Some are short for reaching things nearby. *(Draw first ladder.)* Others are long for reaching things far away. *(Draw second ladder.)* Could a ladder be long enough to reach all the way to Heaven? *(Draw third ladder.)* No! But these ladders remind us of different ways people try to get to Heaven.

*(Label first ladder "works".)*

Some people believe that if they do good things and obey God's laws, they will please Him and be able to go to Heaven. But God says, "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). Doing good things will never make you perfect enough to get to Heaven. The good works ladder is too short.

*(Label second ladder "church".)*

Some people think they can get to Heaven by going to church. Going to church is a good thing to do, but God says it's not enough. The church ladder is too short.

*(Label the third ladder "Christian family".)*

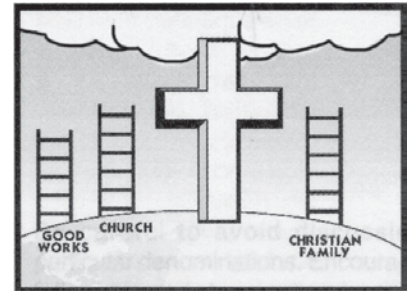
Some boys and girls think they will go to Heaven because they come from a Christian family. But God says that going to Heaven depends not on what your parents believe, but on what you believe!

None of these ladders is long enough. God says that because of your sin, you deserve to be separated from Him forever in a terrible place of punishment. But God made you and He loves you. He knew you could never be good enough to get yourself to Heaven, so He provided the only way.

*(Draw cross touching cloud.)*

God sent His own perfect Son, the Lord Jesus, to earth to die for your sin. Jesus took your punishment when He bled and died on the cross. Jesus was buried in a tomb, then three days later He came alive again! Today He is in Heaven. He wants you to believe on Him so you can be in Heaven too.

The Bible says, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31). When you believe, trust completely in the Lord Jesus as the only One who can forgive your sin, you will be saved from sin's punishment. Will you believe on the Lord Jesus, God's only way to get to Heaven?



## Lesson

*(Show the two plants.)*

What is the difference between these two plants?

*(Allow children to respond. During the brief discussion ask how they know one is dead and one is alive and healthy.)*

The green one is growing and that is the message of our green page - it is actually the cover isn't it?

Green is for growing. We are not thinking of growing taller and stronger but of another kind of growing. When you are sorry for your sin *(show black page)* and depend on the Lord Jesus *(red page)* to take it away, He does *(white page)*. You are pure and right with God for ever. Something else happens in you. God makes you a new person on the inside. You have new life in you for God the Holy Spirit lives in each one who trusts the Lord Jesus as Saviour. Little by little, He makes you the sort of person He wants you to be. This little by little change is called "growing in the Lord Jesus", that is what the green page is about.

Today we are going to meet a boy who grew in the Lord Jesus. We need to go back in time - nearly 2000 years! He lived soon after the Lord Jesus had gone back to Heaven. Let's visit his home in the town of Lystra.

Show Lystra on map.

### **Flashcard 5-1 (Timothy as a child)**

There he is with his mother and grandmother. His name is Timothy. His mother's name is Eunice and his grandmother's Lois. These were two very special ladies who took time to teach Timothy from the Bible - even when he was too young to read it for himself. Here is his mother teaching him. Their Bible looks rather unusual, not at all like mine *(hold up a Bible)*. At that time the Bible was written on scrolls. Do you think that reading the Bible made Timothy a Christian? No! - but knowing what God said helped him to be ready for one very special day in his life.

### **Flashcard 5-2 (Timothy meeting Paul)**

That probably happened when a great preacher, Paul, visited the town of Lystra. Paul told of God's great love for sinners and that He had sent His only Son to earth. His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, had died to save sinners. He told how people could be made ready to live with God by depending on Jesus Christ.

Timothy listened carefully and he put his trust in Jesus Christ. Let's think about what happened to Timothy that day *(encourage the children to answer)*. What was taken from him? - all sin. What was given to him? - the perfect goodness of Christ. What happened inside him? - God gave him new life. That little by little change began. Timothy started to grow in the Lord Jesus.

Others noticed the change in Timothy. He did not look any different, but the way he thought and behaved was different. His new life began to show.

One day the Christians in Lystra were excited for Paul was back in town. He was much older now. He listened to what others said about Timothy and then he talked to Timothy himself. Perhaps he said, "Timothy, I'm not so young anymore. I believe the Lord wants you to come along with me and help me. We will work for Him together. Will you leave home and travel from city to city with me? We will teach the Christians and we will tell the Good News about the Lord Jesus. It isn't going to be easy. In some places I have been stoned and beaten. I have been hungry and lonely. Timothy, can you stand hard things like a good soldier?"

### Flashcard 5-3 (Timothy preaching)

Timothy had to make a big decision. He agreed to go with Paul for he was sure this is what God wanted. As he said goodbye he must have felt sad and happy at the same time! Lois and Eunice would miss him but they were glad he would work for God.

Paul and Timothy worked together and Timothy did his job well. They travelled a lot and preached often. Many people believed the message and churches were formed where Christians gathered to learn from God's Word and to grow together. Later Paul asked Timothy to take charge of a local church in the city of Ephesus. The Christians there needed Timothy to teach them and help them grow in the Lord.

### Flashcard 5-4 (Paul writing letter)

Paul continued to encourage Timothy by writing him letters. We have two of these letters in the New Testament, they are called 1 and 2 Timothy. The things that God told Paul to write were not only for Timothy, but also for you and me. When Paul wrote to Timothy, he knew that this young man had already trusted the Lord Jesus to save him. Timothy was right with God. It is impossible to grow in Christ until you have trusted Him to take away your sin and to give you Christ's perfect goodness. Have you done that? Perhaps you have listened to the story behind each colour. You know you should trust the Lord Jesus. Won't you do it now, today? God will also put His new life in you. Then you can begin to grow in Him.

### Flashcard 5-5 and 5-6 (Christian growth hand)

#### Bible

Listen to these words that Paul wrote to Timothy and tell me which picture they are about. (*Read 2 Timothy 2:15; 1 Timothy 4:15,16.*) Yes, they are about the Bible. We will use our thumbs to remember it. Your thumb is the strong finger. If you read the Bible you will grow strong in the

Let children locate Ephesus on a map. You can also show them the book of the Bible related to that name.

If children have their Bibles, have a brief sword drill to see who can find these books first.

Alternatively, you may wish to use sticky notes to cover the pictures around the hand. Then reveal the relevant picture as you teach.

Let children participate.



If possible have Gospels of Mark available and encourage the children to read six verses per day.

Lord Jesus. Paul told Timothy to read the Bible very carefully and to study it. This is how God speaks to us for every word in the Bible is from God. It is very important that you read and understand what the Bible teaches. When God gives you new life, the Holy Spirit comes to live in you. The Holy Spirit will help you to understand the Bible. So if you want to know the right things to believe, read the Bible. If you want to know the right way to live, discover it in the Bible. If you read it and obey, you will grow in the Lord Jesus.

**Prayer**

Your index finger is your pointer finger. What could it remind you of? Listen to what Paul wrote to Timothy. (Read 1 Timothy 2:1.) Paul told Timothy to pray. Our index finger points upwards and it reminds us to pray. If you are a Christian, God wants you to talk to Him. You may talk to Him about the things happening in your life, the good things and the bad things. Paul told Timothy to pray for others; he mentioned rulers and those in authority. Can you think of people like that whom we should pray for? (Let children answer.) It is important to talk to God every day.

**Witnessing**

The children hold their fingers together, so they can see which one is tallest.

Your tallest finger can remind you to stand tall. God wants you to stand tall for the Lord Jesus, showing by the way you live that you belong to Him. If you are helpful at home, your parents will see that the Lord Jesus is changing you. (Based on 1 Timothy 4:12.)

Two helpers could demonstrate very simply how a child could use the Wordless Book to witness.

It is important to tell others about the Lord too. This is what Paul wrote to Timothy. (Read 2 Timothy 1:8a.) We have all learned the meaning of our special Wordless Book and you will receive one today. Why not use it to tell a friend or your family about the Lord Jesus. It may even be God's plan that someone here will one day be a preacher or a missionary as Timothy was.

**Heart**

Who can tell me what is often worn on the fourth finger? It is a wedding ring. That shows that the person wearing it loves someone and belongs to someone, and so we have a picture of a heart beside it.

When you are saved, God loves you and you love God, you belong to Him. Listen to what Paul wrote to Timothy, "love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith" (1 Timothy 1:5).

Sometimes, as a Christian you sin and that spoils your friendship with God - and spoils your love for God. You need to tell God that you have done wrong and ask Him forgiveness. He promises to forgive (read 1 John 1:9). Then you can love Him from a pure heart and a good conscience.



When you look at this finger, remember God loves you, you love God and don't let anything spoil that.

## Church

Your little finger is the weakest one, it can't do much on its own. But together with the other fingers it is very useful. If you did not have it you would really miss it. In his letters to Timothy Paul gave lots of advice about what should and should not happen when Christians come together to worship God. Paul knew that Christians need to meet with other Christians otherwise they are weak. God wants you to go to church or Sunday School to be together with others who know the Lord. Together you will be able to hear God's Word, worship God and encourage one another.

Paul wrote many other things to help Timothy to grow as a Christian. God wants you to grow as a Christian. Actually "growing" is a sign that you really are saved. Sometimes it may seem very difficult, but God tells us in the Bible that in Heaven He will reward those who grow and serve Him faithfully.

*(Put visual aside.)*

Let's look at our plants again. One has life and is growing. Are you like that? God has given you eternal life and you are growing. Let's see how our fingers can remind us of growing. Are you like this plant? It has no life. Are you like that? You do not have eternal life. John 3:16 tells us that if you trust Jesus Christ you will not perish but have eternal life. *(Read John 3:16 aloud.)*

## Review questions

- 1 How did Timothy first learn about God? (From his mother and grandmother.)
- 2 Who came and preached in Timothy's home town of Lystra? (Paul.)
- 3 What happened to Timothy during Paul's visit? (He became a Christian.)
- 4 What did Paul do as a missionary? (He travelled around, telling others about the Lord Jesus.)
- 5 Who did Paul choose to travel with him? (Timothy.)
- 6 How did Paul encourage Timothy while Timothy was in Ephesus? (He wrote him letters.)
- 7 What can your thumb remind you to do? (Read your Bible.)
- 8 What does the ring finger remind us of? (God loves you, you love God, don't let sin spoil that relationship.)
- 9 In what two ways can you be a witness? (Show by your life and tell others.)
- 10 What does your little finger remind you of? (The need to meet together with other Christians.)

Briefly review what each finger reminds us of.

## Review game

### Colour clues

- ♦ Write the following clues on pieces of paper and place them in a big bag or envelope: "God is King over all" (gold page); "You have sinned" (dark page); "God is pure and holy" (gold page); "We are all born in Adam's team" (dark page); "Jesus Christ was punished for our sin" (red page); "Jesus was born to be the Saviour" (red page); "You can be pure and clean before God" (white page); "We need the perfect life that the Lord Jesus lived" (white page); "If you are truly saved, you will become more like the Lord Jesus" (green page); "It is important for Christians to read God's Word" (green page); "Sin will never be in heaven" (dark page).
- ♦ Divide into two teams. Ask questions alternatively between the teams.
- ♦ If a child answers correctly he earns 100 points for his team.
- ♦ He may then choose a piece of paper from a bag which has one of the clues written on it. He may earn an additional 100 points if he can identify the page of the Wordless Book which the clue refers to.

Copy, cut out and keep in your Bible



## Summary of steps for counselling the child who wants to come to Christ

### Make sure the child understands about

#### God

Who is God?  
God made us. He speaks to us through the Bible.  
God is holy and pure. He loves us.

#### Sin

What is sin?  
Sin is disobeying God's commands. It is against God.  
Speak about specific sins.  
The child is a sinner by nature and act. (We sin because we are sinners.)  
Sin deserves punishment.

#### The Saviour

Who alone can take away your sin?  
God the Son died on the cross for sinners.  
The Lord Jesus rose again from the dead.  
He is Lord of all.

### Explain how to be saved

Explain what the Lord wants us to do, and what He will do.  
Use a Bible verse (*John 1:12; 3:16; 6:37; Acts 16:31; Romans 6:23 or 10:13*).  
What does the Lord want you to do?  
What will the Lord do?  
Warn about difficulties.  
Ask: "Do you want to trust Christ, or would you rather wait?"  
Encourage the child to pray audibly (if ready).

### Speak about assurance of salvation

Go back to the Bible verse you used.  
Speak about a changed life.  
Tell him what the person who is truly trusting in Christ can know.

### Give (later) some advice about the Christian life

Read and obey your Bible.  
Talk to God, our heavenly Father.  
Tell others what the Lord has done for you.  
Ask God to forgive you when you sin.  
Meet with other Christians.  
Remember the Lord promises: "*I will never leave you*" (*Heb 13:5*).