

TITLE: Being Attentive

SCRIPTURE: 2 Kings 13:20-21

MEMORY VERSE: *John 6:33 For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.*

FOCUS QUESTION: How can we work at being attentive?

Joe and his family started to get up and walk out the big door of their church. Joe and his family had attended First Baptist Church for as long as he could remember. During the drive home Joe's father asked him what he had learned from church that morning. Joe thought and thought but Joe could not think of much to say. It is very important for us to listen to the Pastor when he is talking. This is called being attentive. We learn much when we are attentive to the Pastor's preaching. Being attentive is not always easy, sometimes it takes hard work. Here are some way to work at being attentive.

- (1) Sit in your seat properly.
- (2) Make sure your eyes are on the Pastor.
- (3) Place your hands in your lap together.
- (4) Don't sit beside someone who is a distraction to you.
- (5) Don't sit beside a window where you could look outside.
- (6) Pray and ask God to help you be attentive.
- (7) Remove toys, candy, pens, papers, that could be a distraction from yourself.

We need to take what the man of God gives us so we can be used of God. When God gives something to us, it is for our benefit. God gives us life and our lives can increase greatly when we obey what God gives us from His Word, the Bible. Elisha was a man of God in the Bible who gave life to another man. A dead man was being carried by some men. The dead man was laid beside Elisha in his tomb. This dead body touched the bones of Elisha and the dead man became alive. The power of God was upon Elisha so much that when a dead man touched his bones he was given life. Whatever was given from touching Elisha the dead man took and revived. Be attentive, take what the Pastor's preaching gives, and revive.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Deuteronomy 3:28. Please answer the following questions.

- 1) How can we strengthen ourselves?
- 2) How can we strengthen others?

TITLE: The Broken Step

SCRIPTURE: Luke 14:28-30

MEMORY VERSE: *2 Thessalonians 3:12 Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.*

FOCUS QUESTION: Is work good?

Jason looked at the broken step that led into the back porch of their house. “Dad”, Jason said, “I think that step will be all right. That step has been wobbly for some time now”. Dad looked over at Jason, “Jason that step is broke and it needs to be fixed. If your mother would come out this door and fall we would be sorry we didn’t fix this step. We can measure this broken board, cut a new one, and then nail it down.” “All right Dad, what can I do to help”, Jason said reluctantly. Jason and his father worked that afternoon on the step. They did not stop until the job was complete. Jason was tempted to leave with some friends, but Dad encouraged him to stay and help. Before long the job was complete and they both were sitting on the new step. Dad looked across the yard and said, “Jason, in the Bible there was some people that were encouraged to do some building. In the book of Ezra, God’s people were to work at building God’s temple in Jerusalem. The people of God knew that the building was broken down and needed rebuilt. The people faced opposition in the building, but they stood together and God worked things out so the temple was completed. Jason, this step is fixed, but it will wear out again, so we must work to keep it together. Throughout our life we will encounter things that take work. Maintaining good relationships with others will take work. Having a job and doing it well will take work. Work is not bad, work is good. Work helps us to grow and mature. Opposition is not all bad, but sometimes good. Opposition will help us learn the character of determination. Settle it in your heart today to work your best for God.”

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Ezra 1:5-6. Please answer the following questions.

- 1) What were some things that God’s people took to work?
- 2) What did these things do for the people?

TITLE: Remember the Dark Days.

SCRIPTURE: Ecclesiastes 11:7-10

MEMORY VERSE: *Psalms 25:7 Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions: according to thy mercy remember thou me for thy goodness' sake, O LORD.*

FOCUS QUESTION: Why should we remember difficult days?

The dark days in your life will be many. Most people don't want to remember the dark days in their lives. People like to remember the good things that happen. I think it is important for us to remember the dark days, but don't live in them. In the passage of Scripture we read, "*But if a man live many years, and rejoice in them all; yet let him remember the days of darkness; for they shall be many. All that cometh is vanity.*" We learn from those dark days, but don't let the trouble that were in those days conquer you. Think about how God brought you through the darkest of night. Remember how God held your hand in the heaviest of times. Many people think that God is not there because God doesn't seem to be solving there problem. They might say, "Why doesn't God answer my problem the way I want?" Just because God does not answer our need the way we feel that He should, does not mean that God is not good. Why do we base God's goodness on how it affects us? We ought to say God is good regardless of how it affects us personally. Regardless of the dark days, "God is good". Regardless of the trouble I'm facing before me, "God is good". Regardless of the loss I've had, "God is good". No matter what might happen to me, "God is still good and that will never change".

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Exodus 33:18-23. Please answer the following questions.

- 1) What do most people base God's goodness on?
- 2) What do we base God's goodness on?

TITLE: The Dull Ax?

SCRIPTURE: 2 Timothy 3:14-17

MEMORY VERSE: *2 Timothy 3:15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.*

FOCUS QUESTION: Do you strive to know the Bible?

“It’s great to be a Christian!”, thought Bill. Bill had gotten saved at the church revival services and he was excited as he listened to the preacher on the last night of revival. The preacher spoke, “Every child of God needs to be wise with the Scriptures. The Bible is the Word of God, and God’s Word is powerful. The Christian needs to grow in God’s Word so he will be a strong, sharp, and wise Christian.” “The preacher is right, I’m going to read my Bible everyday and learn memory verse”, Bill thought.

The Bible says in Ecclesiastes 10:10, *“If the iron be blunt, and he do not whet the edge, then must he put to more strength: but wisdom is profitable to direct.”* Wisdom is like a sharp ax. A dull ax will take more strength, and a person will get tired very quickly without a sharp ax. How like many men and women who start out to do something and then tire along the way, and give up. We must make sure we have wisdom in every matter of life. If you are lacking in any area of service for the Lord, then you need to whet the edge of your iron. There is nothing wrong with a person who will say to another, “I need help”. It is better for a person to seek help than for a person to run headlong into his endeavor and to make a mess, and in many cases make things worse. Be wise and make sure that the iron of your ministry is sharp. The ax is never too sharp, but many an ax too dull. Every Christian needs to know the Bible, so study it everyday.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Hebrews 4:12. Answer the following questions.

- 1) What is the Bible compared to??
- 2) Why is it important to have a sharp weapon?
- 3) Would you go into battle with a dull weapon?

TITLE: Standing Strong

SCRIPTURE: Judges 7:16-21

MEMORY VERSE: *John 1:17 For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.*

FOCUS QUESTION: Do you stand for truth?

One of the hardest things for us to endure is confrontation. Many times we will be tested by others. Remember to stand your ground for what is right, and do not run. The Bible says in *Ecclesiastes 10:4*, “*If the spirit of the ruler rise up against thee, leave not thy place; for yielding pacifieth great offences*”. Many of times a barking dog will not bite unless a person runs. The dog certainly can’t chase you unless you run, so stand firm on God’s Word. If you are wrong then admit your error and do not run, but make restitution quickly. If you are right according to God’s Word, then do not compromise and “*leave not thy place*”, but stand with confidence on God’s Word. Many of times it is not the wise who are exalted, but instead the foolish. A look at the Hollywood actors will immediately reveal this truth. It is not the preacher of the Gospel or the missionary who risks his life on a daily basis who is exalted, but instead it is an actor. A person who pretends to be someone he is not. Many times the pervert is promoted above the clean, decent, respectable person. People love dirt, and so gossip is put forth in rag magazines, and newspapers for folks to read up on and pollute their minds. The hippie activist is usually promote above the man or woman who is fighting for the freedom of our country. Whatever is the popular thing at the moment is what usually is exalted. What a shame it is that the temporary is given so much promotion instead of the eternal.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read *Ecclesiastes 10:4-5*. Answer the following questions.

- 1) Why is it important to stand for what is right?
- 2) Why is it important for everybody to stand where God has placed him?

TITLE: The Right Handed God?

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 25:31-33

MEMORY VERSE: *Psalms 63:8 My soul followeth hard after thee: thy right hand upholdeth me.*

FOCUS QUESTION: Which hand does God favor?

What does it mean to be right handed or left handed? It would be assume to be the hand that a person would use the most, or favor the most. Throughout the Bible it seems as though the majority of the time it speaks of the right hand, it is something that is pictured as something Godly. From many passages in the Bible it would seem that Jesus and God were right handed. The Bible says in Psalms 139:10, "*Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me*". Also in Isaiah 41:10, "*. . . I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.*" In Psalms 118:16 the Bible speaks of the exalted hand of the Lord, "*The right hand of the LORD is exalted: the right hand of the LORD doeth valiantly.*" The Bible says that God's law went out from His right hand. Deuteronomy 33:2, "*. . . from his right hand went a fiery law for them.*" In the book of Revelation chapter two Jesus is holding the seven stars which are the seven angel. The verse says that Jesus has them in His right hand. Revelation 2:1 says, "*Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;* In another passage Jesus is hold a book in His right hand. Revelation 5:7, "*And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne.*" It seems as though the right hand is the hand that is favored the most with God and Jesus Christ. The Bible also speaks of Jesus' seat in Heaven, at the right hand of God. Colossians 3:1 says, "*If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.*" In the Old Testament priesthood, the men were cleansed by the blood of a sacrifice which was applied to the right ear, to the right hand, and also to the right foot. Leviticus 14:14 says, "*And the priest shall take some of the blood of the trespass offering, and the priest shall put it upon the tip of the right ear of him that is to be cleansed, and upon the thumb of his right hand, and upon the great toe of his right foot.*" Jesus speaks of the right hand doing alms in Matthew 6:3, "*But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth.*" When Jesus comes back to set the Kingdom in order He will separated the children of God from the children of Satan. Matthew 25:31-33, "*When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.*"

TITLE: Snowflakes

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 139:1-16

MEMORY VERSE: *Psalms 139:14 I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made . . .*

FOCUS QUESTION: How does God see you?

“Snow! Snow! Look outside sis, it snowed last night”, Brian exclaimed. “And you’ll never guess what else”, Brian continued, “Mom has canceled our home schooling today!” “Well then, what are we waiting for?” Brian’s sister said. Let’s get our sleds and go outside.” The two went outside and played in the snow all day long. It started as a sled riding contest, to see which one could sled the farthest. After the sled riding Brian and his sister had a snowball fight. Brian used a tree as his protection, but sister had a better idea. She made a fort out of snow in which she would hide dodging her brother’s snowballs. It seemed as if they would never come inside the house, then finally, they both came trotting inside the back porch. There they took off their wet snow clothes, then came inside to warm up. Mom had hot chocolate for them, and they both were glad. “Well”, said father, “This looks like a good time for us to have our family altar time.” Their father carried his Bible to the kitchen table, read some Scripture, then led in prayer. “I hope that you both had a good time outside today in the snow”, father said. “It reminded me of something that I’ve heard. J. Wilson Bentley was a man that devoted his life to the study of snowflakes. He photographed over 10,000 flakes. He found no two snowflakes alike. This is because every snowflake is different. There could be a foot of snow across the country, yet you could not find two that were the same. Each snowflake consists of six sides. Snowflakes are very beautiful and yet very different. When God looks at us He sees each and every one of us as different and yet the same in our great need. We all have different needs, but we all have one great need which is the Saviour. Everyone has not sinned alike, but we all have sinned, and we all need the forgiveness of sin which is only through Jesus Christ.”

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read John 3:14-19. Answer the following questions.

- 1) How are people different in their needs?
- 2) How are people the same in their need?

TITLE: The TV Zombie

SCRIPTURE: Phillipians 4:8; Psalm 101:3

MEMORY VERSE: *2 Timothy 2:22 Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.*

FOCUS QUESTION: Can television be harmful?

Can watching TV be harmful? The answer is yes. In London England a father of a sixteen year old boy told a court that the boy did nothing but watch television for eight months and has been reduced to the state of zombie. The boy is out of control his father confessed. Many people spend endless hours in front of the TV. The violence that is put out on it's daily shows are seen by the whole family. Father, mother, brother, and sister, all sit in front of the television for their daily dosage. The family sits down together in the living room. Father reaches over for the holy book. The book is opened, and father thumbs through the pages while the family waits with such great anticipation. Suddenly brother is unable to control himself, "What is in the holy book?!", with excitement he says, "Father, what does the TV guide say? What's on television tonight?" It is a sad commentary for most families that God is not the center of their family's life, but instead it is the god of television. Dr. Manuel Suarez Perdeguero is a president of the Spanish Pediatrics Association. He says that television is damaging the brain cells of millions of children throughout the world. Dr. Manuel says, "The damage to the cells is both structure and chemical. The cells undergo a change in their structure and chemical make up which though slight, definitely affects the child's normal intellectual development."

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read 1 Corinthians 6:14-18. Answer the following questions.

1) What does it mean to separate ourselves from darkness?

2) Why should we not look at sinful things?

TITLE: A Generation of Ignorance

SCRIPTURE: Judges 2:8-16

MEMORY VERSE: *Psalms 143:10 Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God . . .*

FOCUS QUESTION: Why should we teach the Bible?

Moses had led the Israelites out of the land of Egypt. The leadership was handed to Joshua, who was also a great leader of Israel. At the age of one hundred and ten years old, Joshua died. The Bible says in Judges 2:10, “*And also all that generation were gathered unto their fathers: and there arose another generation after them, which knew not the LORD, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel.*” There came up a generation that did not know the Lord. Maybe this generation had turned their backs on God and did not think that they needed Him. I seem to think that maybe the parents in the homes did not do their God given responsibility and teach their children the things of God. The preachers all decided to back down and stop preaching. The local churches closed up for lack of attendance. The witnesses who were faithful for so long, gave up on soul winning. It is hard to imagine a nation that was so blessed by God turned their backs to Him, but America has done the same. America has kicked God out of every place that He was once welcome. The result is a generation of children that have grown up and know not God. God has been expelled from our schools. No more prayer and no more Bible reading is allowed in our schools. Our courts are not shouting “objection” to throwing out the ten commandments. The country that was founded by Christians and made great by the God of the universe has now said that God is no longer needed or wanted. Parents, Pastors, and Christians in every walk of life have failed to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. They have failed to preach a life changing Gospel that effects every aspect of our life. Religion that is Sunday only, is not Gospel of Jesus. We must rise up with the Words of God in our hearts, and on our lips. Let’s make sure that we obey God by raising a generation that knows the Lord and His ways.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Psalm 78:1-7 . Answer the following questions.

- 1) Why is it important to teach children the Bible?
- 2) Who is primarily responsible for the education of their children?

TITLE: Pornography

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 37:1-9

MEMORY VERSE: *Psalms 101:3 I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me.*

FOCUS QUESTION: How can a magazine destroy your life?

“What is this Curt?”, his father confronted him. In his father’s hand was a magazine that Curt had kept hid under his mattress. It was a magazine that a friend had given him containing nude pictures. “Curt, this magazine is trash, and it will ruin you”, his father continued. The Bible says that we should not look at magazines like this or anything else that is perverse. Most rapist, child molesters, and other sexual perverts started looking at these types of magazines and it ruined their lives. Satan will draw you in through lusts and then turn you into an addict of pornography. Pornography could be in the form of movies, magazines or books. The people who make these pornographic things take what God has given for inside the realm of marriage and twist it, and pervert it. “Dad”, Curt said, “I never knew that a magazine like this could mess up a life?” “Well”, said dad, “It will not only mess your life up, but it will destroy others and their lives. God does not want to see you do that, because He has got a great plan for your life. God will make you into a godly man who will be used to help people and not to destroy people. Pornography destroys, so stay as far away from it as you can. Why don’t we go and destroy this magazine?” “I think that’s a great idea dad”, Curt replied. They went down behind the house to the burn barrel. The burn barrel was a metal barrel with holes in the side of it. Dad would take the trash out to the barrel and burn it every Saturday. Dad placed the magazine into the barrel, then lit the magazine with a match. The magazine quickly started to burn. “Dad”, Curt said, “Today is definitely burning the trash day.”

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Romans 1:24-32. Answer the following questions.

- 1) What kind of affections is talked about in verse 26?
- 2) What is the result of perversion found in verses 29,30?
- 3) What does God think of these kind of people?

TITLE: God's Foolishness

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians. 1:18-31

MEMORY VERSE: *1 Corinthians 1:27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;*

FOCUS QUESTION: Can foolishness be good?

The Bible says in 1 Corinthians. 3:18, *"Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise."* The world reads of the virgin birth and say, "impossible" (We look at the virgin birth as the only way for Jesus to be born sinless). The world looks at the miracles of Jesus Christ and tries to explain them with science (We look at the miracles of Jesus Christ and say it is the power of God). The world looks at the cross of Calvary and sees it as a senseless tragedy (We see it as God's great sacrifice for sins). The world looks at the tomb in which Jesus Christ was laid and sees no hope (We as God's children look at the empty tomb and see the hope of the resurrection). What the world regards as folly we are to believe and live.

Many people will not serve Christ because they are afraid they might appear foolish. They are not willing to suffer a little bit of embarrassment for Jesus Christ. "What would people think if they saw me", they might say? The question should be, "What would Jesus Christ think?" We place a lot of emphases on ourselves instead of doing the right thing. This lack of zeal to do right because of what others might think is called "pride". Pride in yourself will take your eyes off of Jesus Christ and place them on yourself. We need to become a fool for the cross of Christ. What the world sees as foolish, we should see as the power of God to salvation. Soul winning might make you look foolish, but it is the right thing. Going to church might make you look foolish, but it's the right thing to do. Going to the altar during the invitation might make you look foolish, but it's the right thing to do. If you want to become wise, then become a fool for Jesus Christ. Don't let anything keep you from selling completely out to serve the King of Kings.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read 1 Corinthians 1:25-28. Answer the following questions.

- 1) What does the Bible say about man's wisdom compared to God's wisdom?
- 2) Why does God use the foolish things of the world?

TITLE: The Poor Wise Man

SCRIPTURE: Ecclesiastes 9:14-15

MEMORY VERSE: *Proverbs 4:7 Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.*

FOCUS QUESTION: How important is wisdom?

“Mother”, Ginny said, “Remember Jimmy, the boy from my school?”  
“Yes, I do remember, mother answered. Wasn’t he the boy that was trying to get you to go on a date with him?” “Yes”, said Ginny, “And I’m glad that I obeyed you and dad to stay away from him. He was caught with drugs at school today.”  
“I still think that you are too young to be thinking about boyfriends, mother said. I know that God will lead the right person to you, when we say it’s time. I’m sorry about Jimmy. Remember Ginny, every decisions that we make needs to be with wisdom, and wisdom comes from God. God is the One Who gives wisdom. In the Bible God tells us, *“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.”* We can get wisdom by praying for wisdom. He has given us some ways to gain wisdom, one way to get wisdom would be from studying our Bible. When we look at the Word of God we need to remember to be teachable. We could seek godly counsel from the pastor and from parents. The Bible also says that, *“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom . . .”*

There is an interesting story in the Bible. There was a wise man who lived in a city. He did not possess much, but he did have wisdom. We can do without a lot of things, but we can’t do without wisdom. Without wisdom those nice things that you have accumulated will soon be growing wings and flying away. Without wisdom you will suffer and those who are in your family will suffer. Wisdom is essential to the life the believer. The Bible says a great king came up against the city to destroy it. The poor man used wisdom to deliver that city from certain destruction. Many people work on strength without ever thinking about wisdom. Some one can be very strong, but lack wisdom and all is for nothing. The Bible says in Proverbs 4:7, *“ Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom. . .”*

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read James 1:5. Answer the following questions.

- 1) Who has wisdom?
- 2) Who does He want to give wisdom to?

TITLE: The Rich Man and Lazarus

SCRIPTURE: Luke 16:19-31

MEMORY VERSE: *Psalms 14:1 The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God*

FOCUS QUESTION: How can we keep people from going to Hell?

The story is told in the Bible of a poor man named Lazarus that went to paradise, and a rich man that went to Hell. The Bible never mentions the name of the rich man who went to Hell, but I'm sure it was a real prestigious name. It was probably a name that most people in the area knew. The Bible say that he fared sumptuously, meaning he ate only the best, he was also clothed with the very best. I'm sure that the people loved to be invited to his house., they would wear their very best, and have a great feast. When people looked at the life of this rich man they were impressed, and they thought to themselves and talked about this rich man. What a great life he had. Lazarus on the other hand was clearly mentioned in the Bible, but I'm sure not to many people knew his name, and if they did, it probably was referred to in a negative, demeaning way. maybe something like this, "There's that good for nothing beggar, Lazarus." Maybe others would say, "Oh, he is so disgusting, I don't think he's bathed in months or even years." The world sees people very differently then God sees them. God sees men and women as souls that will live forever in either Heaven or Hell. This is why it is so important to go and tell others how to go to Heaven. The way to Heaven is only through trusting Jesus Christ as Saviour. The Bible says that Jesus looked at people and saw them as sheep in Matthew 9:36-38 which says, "*But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.*" Why don't you pray today for God to send someone to tell other about Jesus? Maybe that someone will be you.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Matthew 9:37-38. Answer the following questions.

- 1) Who should we pray to be sent?
- 2) Why is the harvest plenteous, but labourers few?

TITLE: The Rich Man and Lazarus (Part 2)

SCRIPTURE: Luke 16:19-31

MEMORY VERSE: *Psalms 116:15 Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.*

FOCUS QUESTION: Is Hell a real place?

The Bible says, that Lazarus the beggar died and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom, into paradise. The rich man also died, and the Bible says, that he was buried. The Bible says that the rich man was buried. The Bible says nothing about Lazarus being buried. I wonder if Lazarus was buried, I wonder if Lazarus was placed maybe somewhere afar off, maybe in an unmarked grave. I would imagine that the rich man had a wonderful ceremony. The people probably said, "What a wonderful person he was," they might have said, "If doesn't make it to Heaven none of us will." I believe that the people probably thought that, and shed so many tears over this loss. But as for Lazarus, no ceremony, no people to see him one last time, no tears would be shed for him. Hell is a real place. It is a place prepare for the devil, but it is also a place that the sinner goes to. The rich man did not know God, he never put his faith and trust in God. God had second place in his life. The rich man dies on earth and opens his eyes and sees that he is in Hell. A lot of people that walk around today with their eyes shut to the gospel of Christ will have them opened in a devil's Hell. The rich man opened his eyes , it was not a dream, it was real. "Oh no! the rich man must have thought, you mean that those preachers were right?" Yes, those preachers were right, and the Bible's right. Hell is a place not only for the devil, but also for the unsaved. Make sure you know that you are saved, by trusting in Jesus Christ alone to get you to Heaven. It is only through Jesus that one can be forgiven of their sins.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Revelation 21:8. Answer the following questions.

- 1) Who goes to Hell?
- 2) What kind of place is Hell?

TITLE: The Rich Man and Lazarus (Part 3)

SCRIPTURE: Luke 16:19-31

MEMORY VERSE: *John 3:18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*

FOCUS QUESTION: Are you concerned about missions?

The rich man who was burning in Hell, was being tormented in Hell's fire. This same man was concerned for missions. Please, send someone to tell my brothers, to turn from their sins is what the rich man was saying. He was not concerned with his house, his yard, and not concerned with his material possessions. The rich man was crying out for someone to tell others, and for someone to tell his family that Hell is real. Jesus was a preacher of Hell, Jesus believed in Hell. Jesus warned others about going to Hell. The rich man was worried about his family. There are some people who would like to say that Hell is not for real, that Hell is not forever, but that's not what the rich man is saying, and that's not what God says. The message from the rich man is, "don't come to Hell". The rich man in Hell wanted to see people get saved. Do you want to see people get saved? Are you saved? The only way of escaping Hell is for God to save you from Hell. God sent Jesus to take your sin punishment. The choice is Jesus and the eternal life He offers, or Hell, the lake of fire, the bottomless pit, sorrow and weeping, darkness, a place of no rest. We that are born again need to be telling others about Jesus Christ and warning them of the judgment to come without Christ. Jesus is not willing that you should perish, He loves you so much that He died for you. The Bible is very clear when it speaks of Heaven, there's one way to Heaven.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Matthew 13:49-50. Answer the following questions.

- 1) What does this passage say Hell will be like?
- 2) Who are the two groups mentioned in the passage?

TITLE: Are You Growing?

SCRIPTURE: Romans 6:8-10

MEMORY VERSE: *Romans 6:11 Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

FOCUS QUESTION: Should you neglect our spiritual life?

Many people today are worried about their physical life. They take their vitamins everyday, they drink spring water, they eat a healthy diet, they exercise everyday. Many buildings have been erected just for our physical bodies. Buildings have been built so we could increase our life span. Buildings such as hospitals, doctor's offices, health clubs, exercise gyms. We even go to places that make us appear to look better from the outside, such as beauty parlor, hair salon, barber, or a plastic surgeon. We care so much for the outside, but what about the inside, what about the spiritual life. We might look good on the outside but God looks on the inside, and God knows your heart. God knows the real you. Many people are looking so good physically but are dead spiritually. Drinking the very best water but not the living water, eating the healthiest of diets but starving spiritually for God's Word. They are exercising and working out everyday, but when it comes to God they give Him the out. Working so hard on a physical body without any regard for the spiritual. God has second place and we give ourselves first. We need to feed ourselves spiritually like we do physically. We can get the spiritual nourishment we need by going to church, reading our Bible, praying, and soul winning. The best way to be spiritually is fat. The believer who will not neglect himself spiritually will grow to be a strong child of God.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Hebrews 5:12-13. Answer the following questions.

1) What does the Bible call a believer who is unskilled in the Word of God?

2) Why should every believer grow in the Word of God?

TITLE: One Big Cat

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 5:6-9

MEMORY VERSE: *Romans 8:38-39 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

FOCUS QUESTION: What does the Bible compare Satan to?

Lions are not built for speed, but rather strength. A male lion can weigh from 350 to 400 pounds. There have been some lions that have weighed as much as 560 pounds. Most males are about 9 feet long their from nose to the end of their tail. One lion can drag a 600 pound zebra. The lion's shoulders and forelegs are extremely muscular. The lion is able to clutch it's prey and pull it to the ground. The lion's heavy paws are armed with curved claws that hook and hold the prey. A lion has thirty teeth. A lion will open it's mouth and roar. The lion warns intruders to stay away by roaring. The strangers then know that the territory is occupied. Lions prefer to hunt large animals like wildebeests, buffalo, zebras, giraffes, but they will eat anything that they can caught. The lion will usually hunt within its own territory, which can range in size as much as 150 square miles. A lion will normally surprise its victims by stalking. The lion will locate the prey, and move slowly to it, with the lion's body close to the ground. When the lion is about 50 feet from the prey, the lion rushes forward, grabs the animal, and pulls it to the ground where the lion will seize the prey by the throat and strangle it. The Bible says that Satan is like a lion that seeks to devour. This means that Satan wants to tear you apart, and gobble you up. A lion is not something that we should play with, and neither is sin. Satan would love to destroy you by luring you into sin. The Bible tells us how to make Satan run. The Bible says in James 4:7, "*Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*"

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read 1 Peter 5:8; James 4:7-8. Answer the following questions.

- 1) Why is Satan compare to a lion?
- 2) How can we make Satan run?

TITLE: Breaking the Law

SCRIPTURE: Daniel 6:10-11; 19-24

MEMORY VERSE: *1 Timothy 4:10 For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe.*

FOCUS QUESTION: Why would a Christian break the law?

We need to obey the authority. Many people will try to push the boundaries of the law and they find themselves in trouble. People will set the cruise control on the car for 70 miles and hour, when they know the speed limit is 65 miles an hour. What are they doing? Trying to get to their destination fast. How are they trying to do that? By pushing the limits that were set in place. The authority has the power and we should obey that power. I will interject this Biblical truth, that if the government oversteps it's boundaries into what God's Word clearly tells us as Christians we should or should not do, then we have a duty and a privilege to rather obey God. Daniel was a man in the Bible who was told not to pray. The king signed a decree that no one was allowed to ask any god, for anything. Daniel served the only true God, and Daniel prayed to Him 3 times a day. The men who had the king sign this decree watched for their chance to catch Daniel praying. They didn't have to wait long before they saw Daniel praying like he did everyday. Daniel was thrown into the lions den, but God did a wonderful thing. God shut the lions mouth and they did not hurt Daniel. The wicked men who plotted out this scheme where thrown into the lions den and the lions this time kill these wicked men. God took care of Daniel and God can take care of you. Don't let anybody stop you from prayer. God wants to hear from you, so talk to Him through prayer.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read 1 Peter 2:13-15. Answer the following questions.

- 1) Our we to obey the law of man?
- 2) When should we not obey man's law.

TITLE: The Forgotten Book.

SCRIPTURE: II Kings 22:3-13

MEMORY VERSE: *Psalm 119:10 With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments.*

FOCUS QUESTION: Where is your Bible?

Have you ever been lied to? Have you ever did something thinking that it was right, only later to find out that you were doing it wrong? Josiah was a boy that became king of Judah, and he reigned in Jerusalem. Josiah became king when he was just eight years old. The Bible says that Josiah did that what was right in the sight of the Lord. Sometime into his reign Josiah sent Shaphan to the house of the Lord to count the silver. Shaphan was a scribe that worked for king Josiah. Josiah was wanting Shaphan to take inventory of all that they had, because he wanted to have work done to fix God's house. The high priest's name was Hilkiah. Hilkiah found an old book in God's house. The old book had been forgotten and placed aside, but was now uncovered by the high priest. Hilkiah brought the book to Shaphan, it was the book of law. Shaphan read the book and then brought the book and read it to the young king. When the king heard the words from the book of law, the king rent his clothes. This means that the king was sorry for something that he had done and was showing his repentance by ripping his royal clothing. Josiah then said, *"Go ye, enquire of the LORD for me, and for the people, and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that is found: for great is the wrath of the LORD that is kindled against us, because our fathers have not hearkened unto the words of this book, to do according unto all that which is written concerning us."* Josiah then went and made sure that his land got back to doing what the book of law said to do. Josiah wanted to please the Lord, so he cleaned up the land by getting rid of the things that was leading Israel into sin. The young king was wise in obeying the book of law. We as God's children need to obey the Bible. It is God's book to us, which shows us how to live. Many people leave the Bible some place were it will be lost. The Bible might be forgotten at church, or on the church bus. Many times the Bible is forgotten at the house and never brought to church. When we neglect our Bible we will stray far from the truth, and far from God's blessings.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read II Kings 1-3. Answer the following questions.

- 1) Why is our Bible important?
- 2) What did Josiah decide to do?

TITLE: Bad Bulb

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 5:23-30

MEMORY VERSE: *Luke 16:10 He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much:*

FOCUS QUESTION: Are you faithful to your church?

“Mom”, Katie said, “This lamp is not working, I think the bulb is bad.” “Let me take a look”, Mother said. “Yes, I believe your right”, Mother said as she smiled. “This old light bulb does not work any longer because there is a disconnection inside of the bulb. The part that allows the electricity to flow through the bulb is disconnected. Christians are like a burn out bulb. They don’t come to church when church is going on and they are disconnected from the thing that will give life to them. Many people who come to church on Sunday morning only, are miserable Christians. They have just enough Christianity to make them miserable, but not enough to give them joy. A faithful child of God should be in church for Sunday School, church service, Sunday night service, and mid-week prayer service.” “Mom”, Katie said, “Why don’t the people who are saved come to church like they ought to?” “Well, I guess they feel they get enough on Sunday morning”, mother said. “Mom, that is not what the Bible says”, Katie said. “I know, Katie, but let’s try to encourage others at church to be more faithful to the services”, mother said.

Don’t be a bad bulb. Come to church every time the doors are open. Keep the connection by being in the house of God. If you love Jesus, then show it by being in His house. Let’s let our light shine so others will see our faithfulness to God by being faithful to church.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Hebrews 10:25. Answer the following questions.

- 1) What are we not to forsake?
- 2) What does it mean to exhort?

TITLE: Who's Dead?

SCRIPTURE: Romans 6:6-13

MEMORY VERSE: Ezekiel 18:20 "The soul that sinneth, it shall die. . ."

FOCUS QUESTION: Are you dead?

It was Sunday morning and Pastor Bob was teaching the teenage Sunday School class. Pastor Bob was about to do an illustration for the young people. "I need two young men to come up here and help me out", Pastor Bob said. "I want the one young man to stand by the pulpit and the other young man to lie down on the floor and pretend that you are dead. Listen class, what you see is not what God sees. God sees things different than what we see them. The boy that's standing by the pulpit will represent the world, and the boy that is lying down dead will be a representation of the Christian. The world mocks at the Christian, he laughs at the Christian, he says, "You can't do anything. You can't have any fun. You just read your Bible and go to church. I bet you wish you were like me. I'm alive! I can do whatever I want and nobody can tell me what to do!" Class, that's what the unsaved man or woman says with their life. The unsaved look at the Christian and to them they seem dead. The truth is not what man sees or says but what God says, because God tells us that the child of God is not dead but instead alive. The Bible says the soul of man is dead and can only be given life by God through Jesus Christ when a person is saved. The Christian is not the one that is dead, but instead it is the unsaved who are dead. We are looking at these two boys and their lives through fleshly eyes, but God sees the complete picture of man. God sees things different than what the world sees. The only thing that is to be dead in the life of a Christian is the flesh. The flesh will give you the hardest trouble with sin. The unsaved man or woman is dead spiritually, but the Christian is alive spiritually. The unsaved is alive to sin, but the saved is to be dead to sin."

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Ephesians 2:5. Answer the following questions.

- 1) Who is dead?
- 2) How is a person made alive?

TITLE: Gib Tells a Fib.

SCRIPTURE: Joshua 9:8-16

MEMORY VERSE: *Philippians 4:6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.*

FOCUS QUESTION: How do you make decisions?

Have you ever made a bad decision? Did you ever do something and then later regret the choice you made? Everything that we do needs to be looked at by what the Bible says. God needs to be involved in every decision that we make. God does not make mistakes, so if we follow and obey Him, we will do right. The Gibeonites were a group of people who tricked Israel into making a league with them. God told Israel to destroy the people that were in God's promise land. God said this, *"But of the cities of these people, which the LORD thy God doth give thee for an inheritance, thou shalt save alive nothing that breatheth."* The Gibeonites came to Israel and said that they had come from a far country. The bread that they had was moldy, and the wine that they had with them had fermented and broke the bottles. Their clothes were weathered just like they had been on a long journey. Joshua was the leader that God had chosen for Israel. Israel talked about this league and finally came to a conclusion. Joshua and the people decided to make a league with the Gibeonites. Shortly after the league was made. Israel found out that the Gibeonites were not from a far country, but instead they were a people that were in the land God had promised them. The Gibeonites could not be destroyed because of the league made, so Israel instead made the Gibeonites slaves. The downfall of Israel in the decision that they made was the fact that they did not ask God. The Bible says in Joshua 9:14, *"And the men took of their victuals, and asked not counsel at the mouth of the LORD."* We will make our own mistakes when we do things without first consulting God. All things, large or small need to be weighed according to the Bible. Everything done needs to be first brought before God in prayer, asking for His wisdom and will in the matter.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Joshua 9:14. Answer the following questions.

- 1) How did Joshua make his mistake concerning the Gibeonites?
- 2) What did the Gibeonites use to deceive Israel?

TITLE: Blind Bob

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 12:1-3

MEMORY VERSE: *Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

FOCUS QUESTION: What is your faith in?

The blind fold was put on Bob and he walked through the maze of obstacles. His friends on the other end of the course were shouting instructions on which way to walk. Bob knew he did not want to fall, so he listened very carefully and obeyed his friends' commands. "Right foot up, take a big step. Stop, now go to the left", his friends instructed. Bob finally made it to the end of the maze, took off the blindfold, and everyone cheered. Wednesday night at Bob's church, "First Independent Baptist Church", was a lot of fun. Wednesday night was always youth night. A night that was full of singing, preaching, and games. Mr. Watson quieted the youth down and said, "The game we just played has a lot to do with our story. Abram was a man that was called by God to leave his country, his father's house, and his kindred. God said that He would bless Abram, and Abram obeyed. Abram headed out looking for a land he had never been to before, but he trusted that God would lead. This would be very scary, wouldn't it class?" The class looked at Mr. Watson and said, "Yes, sir!" Mr. Watson continued, "Abram had faith. He trusted God even when he did not fully understand. You can't see faith, but you can see the effect that it had upon Abram, and you can see the effect it had on other great men of God. Faith means to trust, or believe, even if you can't see or even understand. We need to have faith in Jesus Christ as our Saviour. If you have not received Jesus, why don't you do that today, by asking Jesus to save you and forgive you of your sins. If you are saved then exercise your faith, by trusting and obeying God. When God tells us to do something, we need to have faith, and obey."

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Hebrews 11:1,8. Answer the following questions.

- 1) Did Abram know where he was going?
- 2) What is faith?

TITLE: The Future

SCRIPTURE: James 4:11-17

MEMORY VERSE: *Proverbs 27:1 says, "Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth."*

FOCUS QUESTION: Who knows the future?

"Hi Sally, do you want to know the future? I can tell you, Jenny said. Just tell me when you were born and I look it up on this newspaper page." "No thanks, Sally said, I don't believe that stuff and I shouldn't read it anyway because it doesn't please God."

Sally is right. Man does not know what is going to happen from day to day. A man might plan ahead of time, he might set some goals, but only God knows the future. Many people will but their trust in the horoscope, or the fortune tellers of today. The only one who knows the future is God. The horoscopes and fortune tellers do not get their advice from God, but from Satan. Why would you want to get your advice on how to live from the devil, when God is available? You would be hard pressed to find a newspaper today that did not have a horoscope in it. Today it seems as if there are 1-800 lines for every kind of psychic out there. I believe that these fortune tellers can't predict the future, but at they can tell of a manipulation of the future. I mean by this that the devil can use people and things to have different things happen to convince people that these fortune tellers are genuine. God is the only One who know about tomorrow. There is a song that is familiar with a lot of people that speaks of the day by day leaning on God's hand of mercy, and not man's. The song says, *"I don't know about tomorrow, I just live from day to day, I don't borrow from its sunshine, For its skies may turn to gray; I don't worry o'er the future, For I know what Jesus said, And today I'll walk beside Him, For He knows what is ahead. Many things about tomorrow, I don't seem to understand; but I know who holds tomorrow, And I know who holds my hand."*

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read 1 Chronicles 10:13. Answer the following questions.

- 1) What was Saul's sin?
- 2) Where should we get counsel?

TITLE: Help!

SCRIPTURE: 2 Chronicles 32:16-22

MEMORY VERSE: *Psalms 33:20 Our soul waiteth for the LORD: he is our help and our shield.*

FOCUS QUESTION: Where do you go for help?

There was a king who lived very long ago. The king's name was Hezekiah. King Hezekiah was a good king that loved the Lord. This king was in deep trouble, because there was another king that was coming to make war with good king Hezekiah. The good king started to make preparation for the battle that was going to take place. He made sure that any extra water that might be around in wells or springs would be stopped up, so the wicked king that was coming would not have anything to drink when he arrived. King Hezekiah set captains of war over the people. He also went out to his people and encouraged them saying, "*with us is the LORD our GOD to help us, and to fight our battles.*" These words made the people feel good to know that God would take care of them. When the wicked king's men finally came to the land they started by mocking God, and the good king. They laughed at the idea that this good king could save his kingdom from their mighty wicked army. They laughed at the idea that God could save them from this battle. The men even sent letters from their wicked king that mocked God and the good king. What could king Hezekiah do? This is what the good king did. King Hezekiah and the man of God went and prayed for God's help. The Bible says that they, "*prayed and cried to heaven.*" God answered this good king because God sent an angel which killed the wicked men. This is how the Lord saved king Hezekiah and the people of Jerusalem. God helped these people and God can also help you. Do you pray to God for help? We need to pray all the time but especially in difficult times, we need to go to God.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Psalm 27:1-5. Answer the following questions.

- 1) Where can you find help?
- 2) How can we be a help to others?

TITLE: Accounting the Account.

SCRIPTURE: Luke 16:1-9; Ecclesiastes 7:27

MEMORY VERSE: *Romans 14:12 So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.*

FOCUS QUESTION: What is in your account?

Have you ever tries to save something? Maybe you are like the little boy in our story who saved his money in a piggy bank. A little boy saved all his money in a piggy bank. Every time he would get money, he would put it into his piggy bank. He would get an allowance every other week and he would give put a tenth of the money in the offering plate at church, and he would also put some of it in his piggy bank. The little boy would lose a tooth and his parents would give him money for it, and into the bank the money would go. Every chance he had, he made sure to save some money for his piggy bank. He often wondered how much money he had in the bank. Finally one day, the bank was full of money. The little boy took a hammer, lifted it high in the air, and smashed the ceramic piggy bank which revealed all of his money. "Wow", the little boy thought, "I wonder how much is here?" The little boy counted up the money, "one cent, two cent, three cent." He counted up all the money until he found out how much he had. Do you want to find out the account, then count one by one until you figure the account out. If you want to learn, or find out about something, then you need to start one step at a time. You want to memorize Scripture, then start with one word, one verse at a time. If you want to learn at church about how God wants you to live, then start by coming to church and bringing your Bible. The Bible says that one day God will bring all that we have done for Him to a day of accounting. What have you been doing for God? God expects us to be busy about His work. One day God will count all our works that we have done for Him. One, two, three, and so forth, God's counting will go. What is in your account for God?

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Luke 12:48. Answer the following questions.

- 1) Why do you think it is necessary to finish what you have started?
- 2) What do you have that can be used for God?

TITLE: The Forgotten Friend.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 6:6-7

MEMORY VERSE: *Luke 18:1 And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;*

FOCUS QUESTION: Have you talked to God lately?

John talked to his friend Billy on the bus ride to school. At school John had many people to talk to. The first person he talked with at school was his best friend, Tom. Tom had been his best friend since first grade all the way to fifth grade. John was glad to have Tom as a best friend. John went to class and always spent time after class talking to his favorite teacher, Mr. Smith. Mr. Smith was John's favorite teacher and John liked to talk with him. Later that day John rode the bus back home talking to another friend who's name was Dave. John did a lot of talking today, to many people. Do you think that John forgot to talk to anyone? John did not think so until later that same day at home. John's father said, "John it seems that you did a lot of talking to many people today." John answered, "Its OK to be friendly to people, isn't it dad?" "Yes, I suppose", dad answered, "But did you talk to everybody?" "I think I did", John replied. "How about God?", John's father said. "God! Well I guess I kind of forgot about Him", John said. "Yes", dad said, "I thought that you might have. There is nothing wrong with talking to people John, but we also need to spend time talking with God. When we pray, we are talking with God. You need to set aside some time to pray to God. Very few people spend time with God, but we need to spend time with God everyday. Why don't we start with ten minutes a day?" "OK dad, I will do that", John said. John started from that day to not only talk with his friends but to spend time in prayer, talking to God. Before long John was spending more and more time in prayer with God. John would talk to Billy and Dave on the bus. John would talk with his best friend Tom when he got to school. John still would spend time talking with Mr. Smith after class, but the most important time was when John would spend time in the morning and evening talking to God in prayer.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Matthew 6:8-13. Answer the following questions.

- 1) Who's will should we pray for in our life?
- 2) How much time are you willing to spend each day in prayer?

TITLE: Play Ball!

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 16:13; 2 Timothy 2:3

MEMORY VERSE: *Psalm 56:11 In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me.*

FOCUS QUESTION: Do you ever feel like quitting?

A football coach put two players on the field and asked one to tackle the other, and instructed the other to avoid being tackled. The one that was doing the tackling knocked the other down, and the guy got back up. The one doing the tackling knocked him down again. Immediately the guy got back up. As soon as he got up, he was knocked back down again. He was knocked down so many times that he could hardly get up. Finally the coach stopped the two. He said to the football team, "That's what I want you to be like." One young man said excitedly, "You mean like Bill who could tackle Jim immediately and kept on tackling him!" "No", the coach said, "Be like Jim, and keep getting up no matter how many times you're tackled." It is easy for us to get discouraged, but we must endure. The runner of a race wins because he endures. In every area of our life we need to strive to do our best. It is easy to quit, hard to endure, but the one who endures gets the reward. A soldier who endures will get promoted, and he will also be looked up to by other soldiers. A soldier is prepared for his job and works at doing his best. One of Andrew Jackson's boyhood friends said, "I could throw Andrew nine times out of ten, but he wouldn't stay thrown." In other words he would not quit, he kept on coming. We don't like to fail, but the fact is that we do many of times. We need to take these failures, examine them and learn from them. Many times we fail when we do things in our flesh. Trusting in God and His plan for our life is the only way we can succeed. Abraham Lincoln failed many times. Lincoln said this, "I do the very best I know how - the very best I can - and I mean to keep doing so." Take a look at Abraham Lincoln's record: 1831- Failed in business - 1832 - Defeated for legislature - 1833 - Again failed in business 1834 - Elected to legislature - 1835 - Sweetheart died - 1836 - Had a nervous breakdown - 1838 - Defeated for speaker - 1840 - Defeated for elector - 1843 - Defeated for Congress- 1846 - Elected to Congress - 1848 - Defeated for Congress - 1855 - Defeated for Senate -1856 - Defeated for vice-president - 1858 - Defeated for Senate - 1860 - Elected President. Don't quit when you fail, but trust God even more.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Psalm 27.

TITLE: Who's in Control?

SCRIPTURE: 2 Timothy 1:9-14

MEMORY VERSE: *Romans 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.*

FOCUS QUESTION: Who is our manufacture?

Ronald Reagan was one of the presidents of the united States of America. Ronald Reagan was attacked by a gun man. When shots fired out, and the body guards pushed Ronald Reagan into the car and the other body guards jumped on the gun man. The body guards went against their own will to protect the President. The bullets were an after thought, the first concern was saving the President. They had their bodies in control, because they disciplined their bodies to be in control. Your body ought to listen and obey what you tell your body to do. Anybody that has set out to accomplish any thing of any value had to first, learn to control his body. A body guard will control his body and go against his own way of thinking just to protect another person. A fighter will train for a long time before a boxing match. He will study his opponent, and learn how to win against great odds. He will capitalize on the opponent's weakness, and dodge his opponent's strengths. When a fighter fights an enormous amount of energy is lost when the fighter punches and hits nothing. It is better for a fighter it hit something rather than swing and hit nothing. Our body should be in such control that when we swing at something for God we hit our target. God is the One who made you. God is the One responsible for the creation of the universe. Universe means: uni - meaning one, and verse - meaning a single spoken sentence. We live in a single spoken sentence, because God spoke and said, "Let there be", and there was. You belong to God because He is the One that created you. If you want to find out about how something is to run, you check with the manufacture. God is the manufacturer of you, so if you want to learn how to live properly, then check with the Manufacture. Pick the Bible up and read, and learn how to run right. God is the One who tells us how we are to live, so we need to read the Bible, God's Word.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Hebrews 10:7. Answer the following questions.

- 1) Who's will should we seek?
- 2) Where can we find living instructions for life?

TITLE: Going the Extra Mile

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 5:41-48

MEMORY VERSE: *Matthew 7:12 Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.*

FOCUS QUESTION: How far would you go for Christ?

“Boy”, the Roman said, “Carry my back pack.” John did not want to carry the pack, but he knew the law. He wanted to play with his friends and now he would have to carry the man’s pack at least one mile. “Come on lazy”, the Roman said, “Get the pack up on you and carry it, you know the law.” “Great”, John thought, “I’ve got to carry this pack and listen to this arrogant Roman.” John slowly picked up the pack and started carrying the pack outside the city along the road. The pack was not too heavy at first, but the more he walked the heavier it became. John could see the marker that was outside the city. This marker was the one mile mark, it was a colored stick that had been hammered into the ground to mark one mile. John walked to the stick, dropped the pack and started to walk back to town. “Thank you”, the Roman said, “Next time don’t be so rough with my pack, or I’ll have you tossed into jail.” “Next time?” John thought, “I hope there isn’t a next time.”

At the time of Jesus Christ earthly ministry, the Jews were under bondage of Rome. A Roman soldier could compel a Jewish boy to carry his pack for a mile. They boys caught on to this quickly and they would go out one mile in every direction and mark the one mile spot. The boys would then take the pack to that spot and drop it off as if to say, “That’s all I have to do, one mile, and I’m not carrying it a step further.” So Jesus told them. *Matthew. 5:41 “And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain.”* If you will be you will be an extra miler you will be somebody that people admire. There is something about doing a job, and doing it right that people look to and respect. People do not admire laziness, but someone who is doing. What are you doing for Jesus?

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Ephesians 4:32. Answer the following questions.

- 1) Why should you go the extra mile?
- 2) What are the benefits of going the extra mile?

TITLE: Your Appearance.

SCRIPTURE: 1 Samuel 16:7-13

MEMORY VERSE: *1 Thessalonians 4:1 . . . ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more.*

FOCUS QUESTION: How's your appearance?

Samuel was a prophet sent by God to the house of Jesse. God told Samuel to go and call Jesse and his sons to the sacrifice, then God would tell Samuel which one of Jesse's sons would be the next king. When Jesse came to the sacrifice, Samuel saw Jesse's son Eliab. Samuel said, "This certainly must be the new king." But God spoke to Samuel saying, "*Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.*" All seven of Jesse's sons passed before Samuel, yet none of them were chosen of God to be the next king. Samuel said to Jesse, "*Are here all thy children?*" Jesse answered saying, "*There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep.*" Jesse must have thought that this little son would never be the chosen king for Israel, so the young man stayed out in the field. The young man's name was David. David was out in the field taking care of the flocks of sheep. David was a shepherd. Samuel was waiting when finally David arrived. God spoke to Samuel and said, "*Arise, anoint him: for this is he.*" Samuel took a horn of oil and put some of the oil on David. Samuel anointed David with oil like God said. David was a man that was not picked by man to be king, but by God. Man looks on the outside, but God sees the heart. It is important to care for our inside as well as our outside. Our outside is the first thing people see, and it is important to look our best. Because man judges by the outside appearance we should be striving each day to dress and behave more godly as we grow. God does see our hearts, and He sees the real you. God knows your intents, your thoughts, your desires. Remember to be godly on the inside and reflect that godliness on the outside by taking care of your appearance.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Romans 12:1-2. Answer the following questions.

1) Why is it important to care for our appearance?

TITLE: The Lord's Side.

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 32:21-28

MEMORY VERSE: *1 Corinthians 2:5 That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.*

FOCUS QUESTION: Will you follow Jesus regardless of the cost?

God had brought the Israelites out of Egypt. In Egypt the Israelites were slaves and Pharaoh was killing their male children. God performed many miracles to bring the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt. Out in the wilderness, God calls for Moses to go up a mountain to speak with Him. Up on Mount Sinai God gives Moses instructions and commandments to take back to Israel. Moses would hear God and take this law back to the children of Israel. These were instructions and commandments that would teach Israel how God wanted them to live. Moses was up on the mountain for forty days and the people of Israel were impatient. The Israelites told Aaron to make them a god so they could worship it. Aaron made a golden calf and Israel was worshipping this idol. God was very displeased and told Moses to get down the mountain because Israel was defiling themselves. Moses came down the mountain and saw the idol worshipping that was taking place. Moses Told the Israelites, "Who is on the Lord's side?" The people of Israel had defiled themselves, they made a golden idol and were worshipping it. They gave praise to the golden idol for bring them out of Egypt, instead of God. The Bible say that the Levites came over and stood by Moses. Moses told the Israelites to take swords and to kill the idol worshippers. It did not matter whether it was brother, companion, or neighbor, the Israelites went through and destroyed all the idol worshippers. We should not worship idols, we should worship God. Moses asked the question, "Who is on the Lord's side?" Who side are you on? Are you on the side that is easy? It is always hard to do the right thing and to be on the Lord's side is never easy. Are you on the side that is most convenient? When you are on the Lord's side it is many times inconvenient, but it is still what God wants us to do. Are you on the side that is popular? The popular side is not the Lord's side. The Bible says, "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you." Settle it in your heart to follow Jesus Christ regardless of the opposition. Who is on the Lord's side? Are you?

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Exodus 32:7-8. Answer the following questions.

1) What three things did Israel do with the idols?

TITLE: Christ's Second Coming.

SCRIPTURE: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

MEMORY VERSE: *Revelation 22:12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.*

FOCUS QUESTION: Who will be left behind after Christ's coming?

Jim looked at his father intently as his family was having their daily devotion time. Everyday Jim's family made sure they had time of prayer, Bible reading, and dad would always comment on the passage of Scripture. They called this time "Family Altar Time". Jim was very interested this time, because dad was talking about the second coming of Jesus Christ. "Jesus said that He would return again someday", Jim's father said. "Just as Jesus came to earth and was born of a virgin, Jesus said that He would return again, but this time would be different then the first. The second coming of Jesus if in two phases. The first is called the rapture, which is when Jesus Christ comes for the saved. The people who have die are reunited with their bodies that have been buried, and are given new bodies. The people who are alive and saved will be raptured out and their bodies will be changed into an incorruptible body." "What about when Jesus Christ fights Satan? What about that", Jim said? "I'm getting to that", Jim's father said. "Phase two of Jesus Christ's coming will be with the saints. Jesus will come to defeat the armies of the anti-christ. After Jesus beats the devil, then Jesus will reign for a thousand years. We as believers in Jesus Christ need to be looking for that coming with excitement. The rapture could be at any time, day or night, maybe even today. Jesus' coming is something that we can be hopeful for. It is also important that we help others to know about the Gospel, and receive Jesus Christ a their Saviour, becasue when Jesus comes all of the believers, we will go with Jesus, but all the lost will be left behind to go through the Tribulation. This tribulation is a time when Satan's emissaries, the beast, the anti-christ, and the false prophet wreak havoc on mankind, but for the Christian the second coming of Jesus Christ is an event we are looking forward to.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Matthew 24:40. Answer the following questions.

- 1) What is Christ's second coming?
- 2) Does anybody know when Jesus will come again?

TITLE: The Happy Heart

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

MEMORY VERSE: *1 Corinthians 9:6 But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.*

FOCUS QUESTION: Do you tithe?

Jerry's mother was talking to him about giving to the Lord, she said, "Jerry we need to give to the Lord. The Bible says that we should tithe." "What's a tithe", Jerry questioned. "Well", Jerry's mother explained, "A tithe means a tenth. We are to give to God a tenth of what we earn. This means that when you receive your allowance for the week of ten dollars, you are to give to Jesus one dollar. One dollar is a tenth of ten dollars." "Jerry looked at his mother and said, "I guess that's not too much to ask. Mother, when you were my age was the tithe less than it is now?" "No", his mother said, "It has always been the same. Our taxes go up every year, but God has kept the tithe the same generation after generation." "I guess when God does something, He does it right, and it does not need fixed", Jerry said. "You could say that", his mother answered, "Jerry, a tithe is not the only time a Christian gives. The Bible says that there is also an offering which we can give. If you feel that God has blessed you in a special way you should give as God has blessed with an offering. This is God's plan for giving. An offering is not a tithe, it is above what you would normally give. We also need to give sacrificially. This means we are to give even if it means not being able to afford some luxuries in life. There is a connection between our love for God, and our giving. We need to give with a heart that is cheerful. A cheerful heart is a heart that is happy and glad that he receives a opportunity to give. Jerry, we are so very blessed to be able to give. Giving is not a chore, but instead it's a privilege to give to the God of the universe. We need to give with a happy heart.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read 1 Corinthians 16:2. Answer the following questions.

- 1) What is a tithe and an offering?
- 2) When are we to give?

TITLE: Keep Your Promises

SCRIPTURE: Ecclesiastes 5:1-2

MEMORY VERSE: *Ecclesiastes 5:2 2 Be not rash with thy mouth . . .*

FOCUS QUESTION: What does it mean to be rash with your mouth?

Be careful what you say. Don't be rash with your mouth. Don't be hasty to utter things before God. How many people do you know that said, "God I will serve you. What do you want me to do?" Then when God laid on their heart what He wanted them to do, they backed out. They might say, "God, I'll do a lot of things, but not that. I thought that you would ask me to do something easier than that." How about when God calls on you and you say, "God, that's not an important job. There is no recognition in that job. Lord, I want a job with a great title." If you're looking for a pat on the back, you're barking up the wrong tree. The devil will sink his teeth into you when you do something for God. He'll make it harder to come to church. He'll cause division in folks, get people fighting and angry at each other. John the Baptist was a great preacher in the Bible who God had called. John the Baptist was killed for his obedience to God. The only pat on the back that John the Baptist got was a Roman ax on his neck. Don't lie to God. Don't tell God that you are going to do something and then back out when the going gets a little tough. It's dumb to lie to God. You said, "Well I had good intentions." What will that get you? Will it help anybody? Will it get anybody saved? Will it bring glory to God? Let us be people of character, people with grit, people who will not cave in when the going gets a little hard. Watch what you say, because God is in Heaven keeping record. An account of every idle word is written down in Heaven. Be very careful when you promise God that you will do something.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Jonah 2:9. Answer the following questions.

- 1) Why is it important to keep our word?
- 2) What circumstance was Jonah in when he said this?

TITLE: Hate it, love them

SCRIPTURE: Amos 5:15; Psalm 119:128

MEMORY VERSE: *Psalm 97:10 Ye that love the LORD, hate evil:*

FOCUS QUESTION: Do you hate?

Do you know that we are told in the Bible to hate? You might say to yourself, "I thought that we're not to hate." The Bible tells us that there is something you can hate. If you don't learn to hate it, you will more than likely indulge in it. What should you hate? Sin. Has anyone ever told a lie to you? Maybe someone has stolen something from you, or talked about you in a bad way. These things are called sin and they hurt us. It is hard sometimes not to hate the person who has done those bad things to us, but we must follow Christ's example. Jesus Christ hated sin, but always demonstrated His love for the sinner. Jesus said that it is easy for us to love those who are good to us, but hard for us to love the people who sin against us. Jesus showed love for the sinner, and yet did no sin. The greatest example of love for the sinner is what Christ did at Calvary. Christ Jesus who knew no sin, died for our sins there. The Bible says, "*Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.*" Jesus loved us and He showed that love to us. The Bible says in Romans 5:8, "*But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*" We are to hate sin because of what sin does, it brings death. Sin also grieves the heart of God, and sin hurts others. Last of all, sin is what Jesus went to the cross for. Jesus never sinned, but He went to the cross to die for our sins. If there is one reason to hate sin, that is a good enough reason, because it nail our Saviour to the cross of Calvary. Remember to hate sin, but to care and pray for the sinner. Sin brings death. Sin grieves God's heart. Sin hurts others, and sin is what Jesus went to the cross for. We as God's children should remove ourselves from the path of sin, while reaching to the sinner leading them to salvation.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Ecclesiastes 3:8. Discuss following questions.

- 1) What is there a time to?
- 2) What are we to hate and to love?

TITLE: Have you ever kissed a frog??

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 1:1 Exodus 20:11; Matthew 19:4

MEMORY VERSE: *Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."*

FOCUS QUESTION: What is the age of the earth?

Have you ever kissed a frog? Gross, you say! I would never kiss a frog! You might never kiss a frog, but I'm sure you have heard this frog tale. Once upon a time far away and long ago ..... This is the typical beginning of a fairy tale, but did you know that there is a fairy tale for adults? The story of the girl who found the frog, kissed the frog, and the frog changed into a handsome prince. The same story is being told today by evolutionists. They believe that man began as a frog which became a man, but instead of a kissing a frog, the evolutionist replaces it with billions and billion of years. Evolution is a fairy tale for grownups. It has helped nothing in the progress of science. It is totally useless.

The Bible teaches that the earth is 6000 years old, but the evolutionist tells us that it is billions of years old, someone is clearly wrong. God created the world about 6000 years ago, and approximately 4400 years ago there was the worldwide flood. By taking a look at information given in Genesis 5-11 and Luke 3, it can be seen that the earth is about 6000 years old. If you asked the evolutionist how things evolved the answer is nearly always billion of years. Time is the evolutionist's god. In fairy tale: frog + kiss = prince. In modern science textbooks we are told: frog + time = prince. According to the evolutionist time can create order from chaos. Have you ever kissed a frog? Don't pucker up to this fairy tale story that the earth is billions of years old, instead of believing in a fairy tale, believe God and His Word. God's Word is true and can be trusted.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Genesis 1:25-27. Discuss following questions.

- 1) What image was man created in?
- 2) What did God give man dominion (authority & power) over?

TITLE: Snake Bit

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 3:1-6; I Corinthians 15:56

MEMORY VERSE: *Romans 3:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

FOCUS QUESTION: Can it hurt to play with sin?

Have you ever been snake bit? Many people have snakes as pets, these snakes have been tamed so people may hold them. Snakes are something that can be very dangerous, you must never play with a wild snake and you must be careful with a tame snake. Satan is said to be a serpent or snake. The characteristics of a snake can be applied to Satan. One characteristic is that a snake likes to hide. You don't know that he is there but he is. You go about your way not knowing that there is danger until the snake has bitten you. The serpent or snake came to Eve in the garden and tempted Eve to disobey God. God had said not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, yet Eve was tempted and disobeyed God. We sin when we disobey God. God wants us to obey Him and God tells us how to live in His Word, the Bible. Obey God and don't leave even the door of temptation open.

Sin is like a snake bite but Christ Jesus is the cure. When you get bit by a snake, there is a cure for the snake bite called *serum*. Many hospitals have it and will use it on a person if they get bit by a snake. It is interesting to know that the serum that gives the cure is made from snake poison. In this same way Christ took our sins upon Himself and became our cure for sin by dying and shedding His blood for us. The Bible says that Christ became a curse for us. Jesus died for our sins. When we were bit by the snake bite of sin, God gave us the cure, Jesus. Sin will bite like a snake, don't play with snakes and don't play with sin. Don't get snake bit.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Romans 3:10; 5:12. Discuss following questions.

- 1) How did sin enter this world?
- 2) What is sin?

TITLE: Don't Drink Dirty Water

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 5:14-16; 2:8-10

MEMORY VERSE: *Ephesians 2:10* "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, . . ."

FOCUS QUESTION: Are you doing good works for Jesus?

When we allow sin in our life it is not long until we are contaminated. To be contaminated is to become polluted. If water is contaminated it can't be used, and this water is useless. Contaminated water is a danger to people, the contaminated water could make someone very sick or even bring death. Would you like to drink dirty water? There is a sea that is called the Dead Sea. This sea has a river flowing into it but has no outlet. The only way the water leaves is by evaporation. Minerals from this water are left behind and the Dead Sea keeps getting saltier. Around the sea shore of the Dead Sea clumps of mineral deposits can be found. No fish can live in the salty waters of the Dead Sea. It is a body of water that is so full of minerals and salt that no animal can live in it. If the Dead Sea had the right outlet it would be able to have fish and other animals live within its waters. The right outlet would allow fresh water to come in and salty water to flow out. The right kind of outlet would enable this Dead Sea to be the Alive Sea. Do you have the right kind of outlet? We put many things into our life, but what are we putting out. The Bible talks about doing good works for Jesus Christ. Are you and outlet for Jesus. The right kind of outlet will bring life to your Dead Sea. In Sunday School we learn about the Bible, during church we receive a blessing from the singing and the preaching. During our devotions we read from the Bible and receive wisdom in living life. Parents work to supply shelter , food in refrigerator, electricity in house, water, and so much more We are given much, but are we giving much. Challenge yourself to have the right kind of outlet. Talk to your parents and pastor and see how you can do something for God. Don't be dead like the Dead Sea, but be alive in Jesus Christ.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Romans 6:1-4. Discuss following questions.

- 1) How can we be alive in Jesus Christ?
- 2) What good can you do for Jesus Christ?

TITLE: She hath wrought a good work.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 26:6-13

MEMORY VERSE: *Colossians 3:23 And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;*

FOCUS QUESTION: Do you do what you say you will do?

Do you determine to do what you say you are going to do? When you work at a job do you keep working until the job is complete? When working at something learn to follow through and complete the task. In doing what God wants us to do we need to plan to do it, and do it with purpose. In the passage of Scripture found in Matthew 26 a woman comes and anoints Jesus with some very expensive *ointment* or oil. The purpose of this was for a testimony, that Christ would die and be buried, for Jesus said, "*she did it for my burial.*" The ointment would have a perfume smell, and was very expensive. The ointment would cost about the same as the average man's wages for one year. This woman was determined to put this ointment on Jesus and nothing would stop her. No doubt she saved this money or sold everything she had to purchase this ointment. There was probably a crowd outside of this particular house of Simon's, yet the woman purchased the ointment, pressed her way into the house, and anointed Jesus. Jesus' disciples also gave this woman some discouragement, because they said, "*To what purpose is this waste?*" The disciples saw a great waste, but Jesus sees a great work. When you do something for God, the world will see a great waste, but Jesus sees a great work. Model yourself after the character of this woman, and learn determination. Whether it's reading your Bible, prayer, church attendance, witnessing, doing your devotions, obeying your mother and father, plan to do it for Jesus, and do it with purpose.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read 2 Thessalonians 3:10; I Corinthians 16:13. Discuss following questions.

- 1) What is something that people waste?
- 2) How can you use yourself for Jesus Christ?

TITLE: Safe Shepherd's Sheep Shouldn't Stray  
(Try to say this tongue twister three times, fast)

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 23

MEMORY VERSE: *Isaiah 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

FOCUS QUESTION: Are you staying close to your Shepherd?

The Bible compares God's people to sheep. Maybe you have seen sheep in a field or at a farm. Sheep are very interesting. Sheep need to be watched very carefully. Sheep have a tendency to stray. Many times sheep will wander off from the flock and become lost. This is very dangerous for sheep, because sheep can't see very far. Sheep can only see about 7 feet in front of them. A sheep will wander from the flock and not be able to see its way back to the flock. When sheep stray it can result in death. Many animals could make a lunch out of a lost sheep, sheep could wander and fall into a ditch or even over a cliff! Sheep need the shepherd and can not survive without him. The Bible compares us to sheep because we have a tendency to stray. Sheep can stray from the shepherd, and we sometimes stray from God. We have a sin nature that pulls us the wrong way. Sin can cause us to think that God does not have our best interest in mind. How foolish it would be for the sheep to think the shepherd does not love them, care for them, protect them, provide for them. I can imagine sheep leaving the flock to find greener grass, sweeter water, gentler breezes. Some sheep would go to find a better place, but instead find himself lost. How can we keep ourselves from ending up like a lost sheep? First, trust Jesus Christ to care for you. Second, Pray to Jesus Christ for your concerns. Third, obey the Bible. Learn a lesson from sheep and stay close to the Shepherd because, *Safe Shepherd's Sheep Shouldn't Stray*.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read John 10:10-15. Discuss following questions.

- 1) What does Jesus give for His sheep?
- 2) How did Jesus give for His sheep?

TITLE: The Neatly Folded Napkin

SCRIPTURE: John 20:1-8

MEMORY VERSE: *John 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*

FOCUS QUESTION: Is Jesus coming back again?

The napkin is something that everybody has used to wipe your face or your hands at meal time. Some place the napkin around their neck to catch food droppings, others place the napkin on their lap, while still others leave it along side their dinner plate until they need to use it. The Bible talks about the napkin that was used to wrap the Lord Jesus in after He was buried in a tomb. Jewish tradition teaches us that when the servant would set the table for his master, he would place a napkin on the table. This napkin was used for the same purpose that we would use a napkin. If the master was finished with his meal he would leave the table with the napkin lying in a rolled up crinkled manner, but if the master was leaving the table and going to return, he would leave the napkin on the table neatly folded. This neatly folded napkin was a sign to the servant that the master would return. When Jesus arose from the dead, the disciple came to see the tomb, but the tomb was empty. The napkin that was used to wrap Jesus' head in was laid aside neatly folded. Jesus give His disciples a message through their own Jewish tradition that He is returning. Jesus is not dead, He is alive. The body of Jesus did not see corruption, but is glorified. The next time you see a napkin lying on the table remember this Jewish tradition with the napkin, and remember that Christ is not dead but alive and in Heaven today. He is risen!

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read John 14:1-6. Discuss following questions.

- 1) Why is Jesus coming back?
- 2) How can you be ready for Jesus' return?

TITLE: Daddy's boy or the Father's son?

SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 1:10-15; Matthew 5:10-12

MEMORY VERSE: *Proverbs 1:10 My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not.*

FOCUS QUESTION: Should we run with the wrong crowd?

“Come on, it will be fun”, the boys cheered! Tommy knew that what the boys in his neighborhood were going to do was wrong. They wanted him to come along with them and do something that Tommy knew was wrong. “No, I think I’ll just stay home and help father”, Tommy said. Tommy’s father was cleaning the garage today going through deciding what needed to be thrown out and what needed to be kept in storage. Cleaning the garage was not exactly what Tommy wanted to do, but he knew that God did not want him to go play with other boys who’s idea of fun was getting into trouble. “Ahh, your just a sissy, stay home with your daddy, daddy’s boy”, the boys laugh. The words cut to Tommy’s heart, but he knew deep down inside he was doing what God wanted him to do. Later while working in the garage Tommy’s father asked him, “What seems to be the trouble Tommy, you don’t seem yourself today?” “Dad”, Tommy said, “Why is doing what God wants so hard sometimes?” “I heard what the boys talking to you earlier Tommy, and you made the decision that not only pleased God, but makes me proud of you also”, Dad said. Tommy felt so much better in the decision that he had made after his father had encouraged him. The next morning Tommy awoke with a great feeling in his heart of pleasing God, he knew that he had made the choice that was pleasing to God the day before. At the breakfast table dad said, “Look Tommy!” Tommy could not believe his eyes, the newspaper had a title story, “Boys arrested for Mischief.” Tommy knew that following Christ is hard sometimes, but following Christ also has rewards.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Proverbs 24:1-2. Discuss following questions.

- 1) How can we keep ourself from sin?
- 2) What are some things that are attractive about mischief?

TITLE: The Trinity

SCRIPTURE: John 10:28-30; 14:9,20; 1 Timothy 3:16

MEMORY VERSE: *1 John 5:7 For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.*

FOCUS QUESTION: What is the Trinity?

“How is it possible”, Sally asked her Sunday School teacher, “How is it possible that God is One, yet Three?” Mr. Rogers, Sally’s Sunday School teacher looked around the class at the puzzled look on the children’s faces. “The Bible teaches us”, Mr. Rogers said, “ of the *Trinity* which is that *God the Father; God the Son* (Jesus); and the *Holy Spirit* are three separate Persons, yet are One. This is difficult to understand, yet it is in the Bible. Let me try to use an example that might help us to understand a little about this great truth in God’s Word.” Mr. Rogers’ hand went into his duffel bag and pulled out an egg. “ This egg will help us to understand that God is three yet One”, Mr. Rogers spoke, “This egg is one egg yet it consists of three separate parts, there is the yolk in the middle, then there is the white of the egg, and on the outside of the egg is what we call the shell. This is a crude example, but it gives us a small bit of understanding about the awesome majesty of God.” “I’m still not sure if I understand this”, Sally said to Mr. Rogers. Mr. Rogers spoke back, “Sally, some things in the Bible are hard to understand, but we must trust God and His Word which He has given us. I don’t understand all there is about electricity, but I’m not going to sit around in the dark until I do.” Don’t you be in the dark about this great truth from God’s Word.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read John 1:1,14; 14:23; Colossians 2:9. Discuss following questions.

- 1) What three persons make up the Trinity?
- 2) Is it possible to believe this truth and not fully understand it?

TITLE: Contaminated Christian?

SCRIPTURE: I John 2:15-17; I Corinthians 6:19-20

MEMORY VERSE: *Psalm 23:5 “ . . . thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.”*

FOCUS QUESTION: Is your walk with Christ constant and fresh?

There is a bay over in England called St. Margaret's Bay. The bay is very interesting because on this bay is a fresh water spring. During high tide the ocean waters come up and completely cover this fresh water spring, yet an amazing fact is that this fresh water spring is never contaminated by the salty waters of the ocean. The reason for this because of an under ground water supply that is constantly being fed into this spring from the mountains above. The spring always has water coming in to itself and flowing out of itself that there is no way for contaminated water to seep in. What a great object lesson God has given us with this spring, lets see how we can apply this story of this spring to our own lives. First, there needs to be a constant supply of truth going in and coming out of our lives. You remember the spring? The spring had water coming into it from an unseen source under the ground fed from the high mountains above. The Christian's source of filling should come only from God. We need to read our Bible; have a time for prayer; and help others to know Jesus Christ and His love. Secondly, there needs to be a constant supply of truth coming in and going out of our lives. We need to read the Bible daily; seek God in prayer daily; memorize God's Word: and go to church every time services are being held. Not only should we fill our lives with this supply, but we should share with other what God has blessed us with. You could be to witness for Jesus Christ to your friends; talk to your parents about how you can be a help; ask your Pastor how you can serve others for Jesus Christ.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Luke 6:38. Discuss following questions.

- 1) What does it mean to be full and running over as a Christian?
- 2) Why is it important to be overflowing?

TITLE: Numbering our days.

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 90:1-15

MEMORY VERSE: *Psalm 90:12 So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.*

FOCUS QUESTION: Our you using your time wisely?

A man went to the doctor's office for an examination. It was the beginning of the new year and he wanted to start the year off with an examination from his family doctor. After a thorough examination the man went back home, only to be called back to the doctor's office a few days later. The man passed through the waiting room, stepped into the doctor's office, sat in a chair at the doctor's request. The doctor said, "Sir, I have some bad news, you have a terrible disease, which is incurable, there is nothing we can do for you, I'm sad to say you only have three months to live." The man leaves the doctors office devastated, goes home, sets down in an oversized recliner and tries to recover from the news that was just told to him. Suddenly the man sits upright, bounces to his feet, runs to the kitchen, looks at the front of the refrigerator which has a calendar taped to it. He sees January, 31 days; February, 29 days; March, 31 days, 91 days in all. The man realizes, 91 days is all that he has, 91 days to get things together, 91 days to see relatives I've not seen for so long, 91 days to tell friends and family that I love them, 91 days to witness to others I love about salvation through Jesus Christ. The man started from that point to go and he did not stop. He worked all day doing what he needed to get done. Late that night the man came home, crawled into bed, went to sleep. Ring! Ring! Went the alarm clock early in the morning and the man jumped out of bed, and was soon on his way, working, doing everything possible to get things in order, thinking to himself, 90 days left. The next day the man went again thinking 89 days left. The next day the man went again thinking 88 days left. The next day the man went again thinking 87 days left. This man who had received bad news about his health was learning something very important, to *number his days*. To number our days means that we should live each day as a gift from God, using our time wisely for Him. We need a sense of urgency that this man demonstrated, it only comes when we number our days.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read James 4:13-17. Discuss following questions.

1) Why is it important to number our days?

2) How can you number your days?

TITLE: The Lion in the Bushes

SCRIPTURE: I John 2:1-3; 15-17; Romans 6:23

MEMORY VERSE: *1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:*

FOCUS QUESTION: Why is the devil described as a lion?

The lion is in the bushes. He is waiting to jump out of the bushes and to devour the prey. The lion sits in the bushes patiently waiting until the prey gets close enough to kill. The lion is ferocious, a truly strong enemy to the prey, yet the prey does not seem to notice the lion in the bushes. All the prey notices is the fresh green leaves and the colorful flowers upon the bushes. The prey gets closer to the bushes, slowly moving. The lion crouches down in a position to leap on the prey. The prey moves closer, the lion leaps, the prey is devoured. The Bible says that the devil is as a roaring lion seeking who he may devour. The devil wants to gobble you up, to destroy you. The devil does not like you, and will do what ever it takes to lure you in and wreck your life. To many people are lured by the devil, and they don't seem to sense the danger. They say to themselves, "Look at me, I'm not hurt, nothing has happen to me. The Bible said that sin will ruin me, but closer to it, and deeper and deeper in it, and I've not been devoured." The person who plays with sin will find himself getting closer to what appears to be something that will satisfy himself, but he is not getting lunch, he is going to be lunch. The devil will draw you in close enough, till he is sure you won't get away. The devil will lure you in, let you taste sin, and destroy your life. If you have sinned go to God in prayer confessing it to Him, and turn away from sin. Stay away from the bushes of sin, there is a lion on the other side waiting patiently until your close enough to be his lunch.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read I Peter 5:8. Discuss the following.

- 1) Name some sin that you've seen bring destruction.
- 2) Have you confessed any sin to God today?

TITLE: Elisha & the Poison Water

SCRIPTURE: 2 Kings 2:13-22

MEMORY VERSE: *Hebrews 12:28 Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:*

FOCUS QUESTION: Our you showing respect?

Elisha, God's prophet was confronted one day by the people from city of Jericho. The water in this great city could not be used, the water supply had become poisonous. Elisha asked the people of the city for a new bowl filled with salt. The people brought Elisha his request, they trusted Elisha and respected him as the man of God. We should respect the man of God, and trust him. Our Pastor is God's special man, placed in the church to lead the people. When we listen and obey our Pastor, we are showing respect to him as well as to God. We should never talk, draw, or sleep during the preaching, this is being disrespectful to the preacher and to God. The respectful way to behave would be to have our eyes looking at the Pastor, listening to him carefully. Elisha was respected by the people of the city of Jericho, they brought him the new bowl filled with salt. Elisha took the salt and poured it into the poison water, declaring the water healed. Because the people listen and obey Elisha, the waters where made clean, and good to drink. Do you respect Pastor? Do you listen to him as he preaches? We need to be respectful to him, he is trying to preach to us God's Word. When a Pastor prepares his message he prays and asks God what to speak to the people. The Pastor has his congregation (church people) in mind when he is preparing his message. If the Pastor and God take so much care in preparing for Sunday's message, we can be respectful and listen, and learn. Elisha was a man that God had called, and he was a man that the people of Jericho respected as God's man, so by following Elisha the men and women showed respect to God. God deserves our respect, and so does our Pastor.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read I Thessalonians 5:12-13. Discuss following questions.

- 1) How did the city show respect to Elisha?
- 2) How can you love your Pastor?

TITLE: Abraham's Faith

SCRIPTURE: *Romans 4: 1-3; Galatians 3:6-9; John 14:6*

MEMORY VERSE: *Titus 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;*

FOCUS QUESTION: Can being good get you to Heaven?

There is some that believe that man can work for his salvation. That somehow Jesus sacrifice was not totally complete. That somehow there's more to salvation than faith in Jesus Christ. The thought that we must do some of the religious works to get us to Heaven, or that we must have some miraculous signs to follow us, and if there are no signs, and if there are no works then we're not completely saved.

As we look at Romans 4, we take a look at Abraham's faith. Abraham's faith was apart from works. Abraham's faith was apart from circumcision. Abraham's faith was apart from the law. His faith was in God. If Abraham was justified (meaning just as if he had never sinned) by works, how would God get the glory? Did you know that God deserves your praise. When was the last time that you gave the glory to God instead of to luck or chance? Do you know that its not only saying something that gives God glory, but we need to show it in our lives. A statement that I had heard that really stuck with me is this one, "*What you are speaks so loud that I can't hear what your saying.*" God gets the glory and if there was something that we could do for our salvation, God would not get the glory, not completely. The promise that was given to Abraham was not through the law, but through the righteousness of faith. What are you trusting in? Is it riches or church membership your trusting? Maybe your trusting in being good to get you to Heaven, maybe in baptism. The only thing that can make you fit for Heaven is placing faith Jesus Christ alone as your Saviour. What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus. What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Hebrews 11:8-16 and discuss following questions.

- 1) How was Abraham's faith demonstrated?
- 2) Would you have faith like Abraham?

TITLE: A Fish Story

SCRIPTURE: Jonah 1:1-17

MEMORY VERSE: *Matthew 12:40 For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.*

FOCUS QUESTION: What does it mean to run from God?

Jonah was a man that was called of God to go speak to the wicked people of Nineveh. Nineveh was a city that was very cruel, the people did not follow God. Jonah did not want to go to this city and preach, these people were not like him. Jonah ran from God, and tried to get as far as he could away from this wicked city. Jonah got himself a ride on a ship heading for Tarshish, and out on the ship a storm came upon them. The crew thought that they would surely die, so they started to throw overboard the cargo, to lighten the ship. Making the ship lighter did not work, and they said to themselves that somebody on this ship must be responsible for this storm, they all knew that it must be Jonah fault. Jonah confessed to the crew, yes, it was his fault. Jonah told them to throw him into the sea and the storm would stop. The men did not want to do this, so they tried to row for land, but to no avail. The men reluctantly picked up Jonah and threw him into the sea. Down into the depths of the sea Jonah sank. It looked like Jonah would surely die, but God prepared a whale to swallow Jonah. Jonah was in the whale's belly for three days, and in the belly of the whale Jonah prayed for God to forgive him for running away. After three days in the whale's belly, God had the whale vomited Jonah out on dry land. Jonah then obeyed God and went to Nineveh. This might sound like a fish story, but it is true story which tells us that we should obey God. Sometimes we feel that the job God has given us is too hard, but we need to trust God and obey Him. Notice also that when Jonah disobeyed God and went on the ship to Tarshish, that it put the crew in danger too. It is always best to obey God. You can obey God by obeying your parents, your pastor, and the Bible.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read again the passage of Scripture above, and ask the focus question above and discuss the questions below, allow time for response.

- 1) When should Jonah have listen to God?
- 2) What trouble did he cause for himself and others?

TITLE: Witches, Wizards, and Warlocks.

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 22:18; Deuteronomy 18:10-14

MEMORY VERSE: *Ephesians 5:11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.*

FOCUS QUESTION: Is there such a thing as a good witch?

“Witches, Wizards, and Warlocks”, said Tom, “What a great book. I started reading this book and I have not been able to put it down since.” Tom was talking about the new book the school’s press just came out with which told the story of a teenage witch. “I’m not so sure about that book”, Keith said to Tom. “What! It’s a great book”, Tom said, “The school gives it out, and besides, this is a book about a good witch, not some old ugly mean witch.” Keith knew different, because the Bible speaks of all witches and wizards as an abomination. “Tom”, Keith said, “Remember what God says about witches and wizards? The Bible says, Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live.” “ Yes, I know, but that was back in the Bible days” , Tom sneered. “The Bible is still true today on this subject of witchcraft, God has not changed His mind. To God there is no difference between a so called good witch or bad witch, they are all an abomination in God’s sight”, Keith said.

Some people think that reading about witches, wizards, and warlocks is only fantasy, and that it has no lasting impressions upon the minds of it’s readers.

Even some Christians are promoting these occult books as so called “good reading.” If a book has a good story line, it still does not change that fact to separate from such wickedness, that will pollute the mind of it’s readers. Don’t sacrifice your children to these occult lures for the sake of “We’ll at least the children are reading.” These books are used to get children attracted to witchcraft, to fantasize about witchcraft, and eventually seek it’s power.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read above Scripture and read Acts 19:18-20. Discuss following questions.

- 1) How does God feel about witches?
- 2) What did God’s people do with witchcraft books in Bible?

TITLE: The Fortune Teller

SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 18:10-14; Leviticus 19:26,31

MEMORY VERSE: *Leviticus 20:27* “A man also or woman that hath a familiar spirit, or that is a wizard, shall surely be put to death . . .”

FOCUS QUESTION: Should we read the horoscope?

Many children from the public school that Mark went to, read the horoscope. They would read the horoscope on the back page of the newspaper, then talk about it with their friends throughout the day. It was hard for Mark to listen to them talk about this fortune telling, especially because he knew what the Bible says about these things. “The Bible says that we should be perfect before the LORD, and these things will corrupt us”, Mark would say to them. Mark would quote some Bible verses to these students, yet they still would not obey God’s Word. It seemed to be as though once they had started reading the horoscope, or seeing a fortune teller in person, that it was difficult to stop. Mark knew that sin works like binding cords, that tie you up restraining you from doing right.

Don’t be fooled into believing that horoscopes and fortune tellers are just harmless fun. These fortune telling people are being deceived by the devil, who is the father of lies. There are some TV shows that are wicked because they promote this same kind of occultism. TV shows that seem to be harmless are usually the most dangerous. Children who you go to school with who use fortune tellers, witch’s boards, horoscopes, should not be your friends, but they need to be warned that the devil is behind this divination (fortune telling). Be sure your parents are aware that this satanic activity is going on with other children, and pray for the children involved.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read above Scripture and read. Galatians 5:19-21. Discuss following questions.

- 1) What can witchcraft (works of the flesh) keep somebody from coming to?
- 2) What does God call and abomination?

TITLE: Newness of Life

SCRIPTURE: *Revelation 21:5* “*And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. . . .*”

MEMORY VERSE: I Corinthians 15:51-58

FOCUS QUESTION: What’s new in Heaven?

“A person does not get into Heaven by anything else, but by trusting Jesus Christ as their Saviour. Salvation does not get old, but we do, salvation is always new, fresh and exciting”, Bob said. Bob looked at his bike, it had not been long since he had it and it was wearing out. The tires were starting to go bald and the paint was fading on that once new bike. Bob always tried to keep the bike on the porch out of the rain, but still the sun and the wet weather faded the paint on his bike. Bob would oil the chain often when he could remember, but rust had still set in on the bike’s chain. “I’m glad salvation does not wear out like the different things I have”, Bob said. Bob thought to himself about his bike, his games, clothes, even his parent’s car, they all were getting old and wearing out. Bob knew what his parents had said about Heaven. Bob’s parents had said, “Heaven is a place where things never wear out. A place where we will receive a body that is always new and is not sinful.” Bob smiled when he thought about Heaven. He knew that things could get pretty tough here on this earth, but Heaven would be so wonderful. Bob thought about his grandparents who had died in the Lord, they would be in Heaven with new bodies waiting for him. Bob thought of some other people that were in Heaven, and Bob’s heart grew fonder of Heaven. “Things get old, but not in Heaven; things wear out, but not in Heaven; things get broke, but not in Heaven”, Bob thought, “What a wonderful place God has prepared for His children, Heaven.”

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Revelation 21:1-8; 2 Corinthians 5:17. Discuss following questions.

- 1) What are some new things God makes?
- 2) What are some new things you are looking forward to seeing in Heaven?

TITLE: Children for Slaves

SCRIPTURE: 2 Kings 4:1-2; Romans 8:26-28

MEMORY VERSE: *Psalm 79:9 Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of thy name: and deliver us, and purge away our sins, for thy name's sake.*

FOCUS QUESTION: Are you praying for God's help today?

A desperate woman came to Elisha one day. The woman's husband had died and she was unable to pay her bills. The bill collector came and he wanted to make her sons slaves, because of her debt. This widow went to Elisha, she knew that if anybody could help it would be the man of God. The woman's only possession was one jar of oil. This jar of oil would be used to solve the widow's problem, if she would obey God's man, Elisha. The poor widow needed help, and the only help is God. We might think that others can help our needs, but only God can truly help us. God uses people, places, and many circumstances to help us in our time of need. Sometimes things seem to be very troublesome, and even in these circumstances growth can occur in our life. This widow found out that her only help was in God. The widow was also desperate, because the bill collector was going to come and take her two sons for slaves. Sin is like this situation, because sin will make a slave out of you. People are slaves of sin. Sin will destroy your life, your family's happiness. Sin is like little cords that will tie you up until you are unable to brake free from it's hold. Remember that God is our help, and sin is our enemy. Here was widow who knew that God was her only help, and sin was her enemy. Remember to trust in God for help, and hate sin, It's you enemy. Why don't you pray to God today and ask Him to help you?

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Discuss following questions.

- 1) Name some sins and how they enslave.
- 2) How has God helped you in your past?

Part two of this story in next lesson.

TITLE: Children for Slaves (part 2)

SCRIPTURE: 2 Kings 4:1-7

MEMORY VERSE: *Matthew 18:11 For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost.*

FOCUS QUESTION: Who paid your debt?

Unable to help herself, the widow went to Elisha for help. Elisha told this woman to go borrow as many vessels as she could. I can imagine that this widow and her two sons went to every neighbor borrowing as many vessels as they could and bringing them, into the house. Elisha then told her to pour the oil out of her own vessel of oil into the others. What a miracle of God happened, because the oil kept coming and filled all the vessels that she had collected. The widow was then able to sell the oil and pay off her debt, thanks to God's meeting her need. We have a bill to pay with God. The Bible says that the "*wages of sin is death*". The Bible teaches that when we die that we will go to one of two places, Heaven or Hell. Men and women who have not received Jesus as their Saviour go to Hell, because their sin is not forgiven. God is holy and right, there can be no in his presence, so for us to live with God in Heaven someday we must be saved. First, you must know that you are a sinner. Second, you must believe that Jesus die for you on the cross, arose from the grave, and is alive in Heaven. Third, you need to ask Jesus into your heart to save you and forgive you of your sins. Receiving Jesus into your heart by prayer is the only way to Heaven. If you have never received Jesus Christ into your heart as your Saviour, won't you do that today. The widow in the story had the vessels in her house filled with what came from God, and the only thing that can truly fill you completely is what comes from God. Jesus is the only way to Heaven, there is no other way.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Romans 3:23-24;6:23; 10:9-13. Discuss following questions.

- 1) What keeps people from Heaven?
- 2) What is the way to Heaven?

TITLE: True Contentment

SCRIPTURE: Ecclesiastes 2:1-11, 17

MEMORY VERSE: *1 Timothy 6:6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.*

FOCUS QUESTION: Who can bring lasting contentment?

Timothy looked out the window at his neighborhood friend, Billy, riding a new bike. The bike was bright red with chrome, it sparkled in the morning sun. Timothy thought to himself, "I wish that I could have a new bike, because my bike is old and worn out." Timothy was getting jealous of his friend Billy, because of his new bike. Timothy thought, "If I had that new bike I would be so happy." Timothy remembered reading in the Bible about a man of great wealth. A man in the Bible called King Solomon, he had everything that a man could want. The Bible says that he had houses, vineyards, gardens, orchards, cattle, musical singers with instruments, and so much more. The Bible says that, "*the king made silver to be in Jerusalem as stones.*" The queen of Sheba came to see King Solomon and said, "*Behold, the half was not told me.*" King Solomon was a very rich man, but he found out that money and possessions do not bring lasting happiness. He found out that until God is in His proper place there is no contentment. Timothy thought again to himself, "I shouldn't feel this way, this is not pleasing to God." Timothy then went outside to play with his friend Billy, knowing that earthly things do not bring lasting happiness, but only God brings true contentment. Remembering that new things are nice, but God is the only One who can truly bring true contentment, so place your faith in Him to provide, and pray to Him about your needs and wants, because God knows what is best. Timothy thought, "I will take care of my old bike and be happy with it, and trust God for a new bike someday."

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Ecclesiastics 1:1-11; Philippians 4:11. Discuss following questions.

- 1) How long would a new bike have made Timothy happy?
- 2) What are some things God has given that have made you happy?

TITLE: The Tattoo

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; James 4:17

MEMORY VERSE: *Leviticus 19: 28 Ye shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor print any marks upon you: I am the LORD.*

FOCUS QUESTION: Should we get tattooed?

As the boys at school were walking down the hall they noticed the tattoos on the Janitor's arms. The boys talked about the tattoos, some boys thought they were cool, some though they were ugly, still others were undecided about these tattoos. The boys decide to ask their Bible teacher about tattoos, and this is what he said,

“The Bible says that tattoos are sin. Many people believe that there is nothing wrong with tattoos, but the Bible says that tattoos are sin. Tattoos came from a practice in which involved marking fro the dead. Tattoos are a practice that comes from marking yourself in devil worship. In the Old Testament there were many who worshipped false Gods or Idols. Many time that would cut themselves and rub ink into these wounds for marking themselves. The Bible teaches that tattoos were forbidden without any references to pagan, heathen, or idol practices. In other words, the tattoo itself, regardless of the reason was strictly forbidden. Death and darkness have always been a main theme with tattoos, such as; skulls, snakes, demons, flames. The Bible says that Jesus is the author of life and that Satan is a murderer, yet tattoos are almost always picturing demons, fire, skulls. Even if the tattoo is of a cross or Jesus, the Christian should not get involved in tattoos. Tattoos are sinful because of were they originated, and also what the Bible says about them. Many times children will be permitted to wear temporary tattoos by there parents. I don't believe that wearing temporary tattoos is what God would want children to do, because acting out this sinful practice by pretending, is wrong and can lead to getting a real tattoo.”

The boys look at each other after their Bible teacher had spoke. The boys had never heard tattoos talked about like this before, this would be something that they would never forget.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read 2 Corinthians 6:14-17. Discuss following questions.

1) What does the Bible say about tattoos?

2) What does God say about our body?

TITLE: Body Language.

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 3:16-17

MEMORY VERSE: *1 Corinthians 6:19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?*

FOCUS QUESTION: Why should we be careful with our actions?

A train crashed in north Carolina and eighteen of the passengers were killed. The signal man insisted that he had displayed the red flag which meant for the train engineer to stop the train. The other engineer that drove the train that had crashed contended that it was a white flag. The white flag told the train engineer that everything was OK and to proceed. The flag was produced and the mystery was then solved. The flag was red, but faded and might have been mistaken for a white flag at a distance. How are you being looked at? Are people seeing the message your sending and interpreting it for godliness, or are they reading your body language as ungodly. There is a saying that goes, "What you are speaks so loud that people do not hear what you are saying." If you are saved, your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. In the Old Testament, the book of Exodus, the children of Israel are brought out of Egypt. God tells Moses to have built for Him a tabernacle. The tabernacle is a place of sacrifice and worship. God gave special detailed instructions on how the building was to that place. The tabernacle was like a tent. The tabernacle was built that way to be portable. God does not live in houses build by man anymore but inside of the believer. You are to take care of your body because that's the place where God lives if you are saved. Jesus did the unexpected when He came and paid for man's sin on the cross. Make sure that you are not sending the wrong signal to others by the way you dress, your attitude, or with your body language.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read 2 Corinthians 6:16. Answer the following questions.

- 1) What might someone interpret by watching you pout?
- 2) What might someone interpret by watching you frown?
- 3) What might someone interpret by watching the way you dress?

TITLE: Left all alone.

SCRIPTURE: Leviticus 13:43-46; Genesis 2:18

MEMORY VERSE: *Hebrews 13:5b* “. . . I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”

FOCUS QUESTION: Have you ever been alone?

The Bible says that a man with leprosy was not to be in the camp of Israel, because the leprosy was very contagious. Very few people with leprosy would live, it was a very deadly plague. Leprosy was also a lonely disease.

The man of Israel noticed a sore upon his arm. He put some medicine on it, but it would not heal. The man showed his wife a few days later, she cared for it, wrapped it up with some medicine, but the sore would not get better, in fact it started to spread up his arm and break out into other sores. After more days went by the man had sores on his neck, his chest. The man went to the high priest, show him the sores. What the man was told was the worst thing anyone could hear, because the man was pronounced unclean, he had the plague of leprosy. The man would have to go outside of the city to live in a little tent, perhaps a cave. This leprosy man could not live with others because this plague was dangerously contagious. The plague would waste a man away until nothing was left of him. The plague would create sores that would hurt with great pain, then the flesh around these sores would rot apart, and fall off. His fingers, toes, ears, nose, different parts of his body would get these sores, rot, and fall apart. As the man would sit outside the city, he could see the lights at night. All he might have would be a small fire. He would think about the people in the city with their families, and himself, all alone. He would think about the meals families would be having together, he would eat by himself, all alone. He would tuck his children in at night, but not any more. He would spend evenings with his wife, but not any more. His friends would come and visit him, but not any more. For the Bible says that the plague of leprosy will keep him unclean, and alone.

The Bible says that if we know Jesus Christ as our Saviour, we are never alone. Isn't that great? Never alone, never again. Jesus Christ was alone for us, so we would never be alone again.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Hebrews 13:5; John 16:32; Romans 5:21; Galatians 3:13. Discuss following questions.

- 1) Was Christ alone in John 16:32?
- 2) What does Christ promise not to do?

TITLE: Fishing Day

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 4:18-22; 28:16-20

MEMORY VERSE: *Matthew 4:19 And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.*

FOCUS QUESTION: What does Jesus want us to fish for?

Bobby was excited, today was the big day for him. Bobby was going to go fishing with his father. Bobby carefully gathered all his tackle together. The day of fishing would be a lot of fun, it was something that he was looking forward to. He picked up his fishing net, and pole, then headed to the car. Bobby's father was still getting things together for the day, but Bobby could hardly contain himself, setting in the car. Before long they were both off driving down the road headed to the stream to go fishing. What a great day it was the fish were biting, Bobby was bringing fish in one after another. Bobby would carefully toss his fishing line into the water, and before long a fish would be biting on the bait, and Bobby would be reeling them in. What really made things great was fishing in the stream gave Bobby a chance to wade in the water and get into the hard to reach places for fishing. "These hard to reach places seem to always have schools of fish in them to catch", Bobby thought. It did not take too long to fill the stringer up with fish, and soon Bobby and his father were on there way back home. "Pretty good day at the fishing hole Bobby", father said. "It sure was, I caught so many, it was great", Bobby replied. "Do you know Bobby, that God says in the Bible that we are to be fishers of men. That means we are to be going out and telling others about Jesus, and leading them to receive Jesus as their Saviour. Those big fish you caught in those hard to reach places remind me that we should be going everywhere with the Gospel, even to places that seem hard to reach."

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 1:8. Discuss the following questions.

- 1) What does Jesus command us to do?
- 2) Where does Jesus command us to go?

TITLE: Jordon's Decision

SCRIPTURE: Acts 2:21; Romans 10:9-13

MEMORY VERSE: *Romans 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*

FOCUS QUESTION: Are you going to Heaven someday?

Jordon sat in the class listening carefully to the Sunday School teacher speak. "Do you know for sure that you are going to Heaven?", the teacher said. Jordon's belly sunk down, and in heart was an awful feeling because he did not know if he were going to Heaven or Hell. The teacher continued, "The Bible says that we are all sinners, and as sinner we are in danger of God's judgment. The Bible says that, "all have sinned". Sin is anything that you think, say, or do that displeases God. Hell is a place of punishment for the sinner, and without Jesus Christ as your Saviour this will be your home forever and forever. God who loves us did something for us, He came and died in your place, He took your punishment on the cross. The Bible says that God became flesh for us, His name is Jesus Christ. Jesus was born without sin, lived a life without sin, and died a sinner death on the cross for us. The Bible says that Jesus knew no sin became sin for us. Jesus wasn't through, because after He died on the cross and was placed in a tomb, three days later He arose from the grave. God says in His Word, the Bible that if you will receive Jesus, that God will receive you and make you a child of God. God says that the child of God will have a home in Heaven. Do you want to know Jesus? Would you like to invite Jesus into your heart to save you?" Jordon wanted to so bad, but he was afraid of what the other children might think if he responded to this invitation. The teacher said, "Let's bow our heads and close our eyes. If you are here and you do not know Jesus as your Saviour, but you would like to, would you come to me?" Jordon worked up the courage, went forward to the teacher. The teacher helped Jordon to prayed and asked Jesus to forgive his sins and come into his heart.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Acts 2:41; I John 5:1. Discuss the following questions.

- 1) What did Jordon do to receive Jesus?
- 2) What must you do to receive Jesus?

TITLE: The Display.

SCRIPTURE: *II Corinthians 4:10,11*

MEMORY VERSE: *1 Thessalonians 5:23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

FOCUS QUESTION: What are you displaying?

The people looked into the store front window and saw a terrible display of moth eaten, ragged, out of date clothing. Nobody wanted to come into the store to see anymore than what was seen in the front display window. The sight was a terrible sight, because the same filth could be seen everywhere else. Who would want to go to a store that had the same things that people wanted to throw out of their own closet's. People would not walk into the store because of the display. The display told the people outside what was inside of the store. Before long people stopped looking in the window and walked by, not even glancing at the display. The store owner to his dismay became aware of the display and said, "What shall I do? This display is awful to look at. I must clean the display up". The store owner worked very hard to make the display in the window something that would make others want what was inside. The day finally came when people started to look in the store owner's window. Soon after that people started to come inside because they desired what the store owner had and wanted it also for themselves. The same is true in our lives. If people do not see a godly appearance, then people will never listen to what we say about receiving Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour. If they don't see a change in you, then why would they want what you have? Make sure people see Jesus in your life. Some years ago in the city of New York there was a great demonstration. Twelve thousand people marched in a parade down one of New York city's streets. In the procession were three vans, one was packed full of men, women, and children. In another van was the judge of the Court of Appeals. In the last van was a ragged street boy, and on the sides of a car was written, "These people have been saved from burning buildings by the New York Firemen." Behind this caravan of vans was the firemen who had saved them marching, displaying their medals. People are watching us, we are on display for them to see. Our we serving God with our bodies? Are we glorifying God with our bodies? Are we displaying Christ with our bodies?

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read I Corinthians 6:19-20; Philippians 1:20.

TITLE: Poisonous Gas

SCRIPTURE: *1 John 1:5-10*

MEMORY VERSE: *Psalm 32:5 I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.*

FOCUS QUESTION: What do we do with sin?

A man went to bed one evening, blew the pilot light out but did not turn off the gas. When he awoke choking, instead of turning off the gas, he got a bottle of cologne and sprinkled it on himself, and went back to bed. This would be a very foolish thing to do, trying to overcome poisonous gas with perfume. I'm sure that the next day this man would no longer be alive, instead of laying in bed he would be laying in a funeral home. This is the same way that some people try to take care of their sins. The Bible tells us that the Christian needs to pray, confessing his sins to the Lord Jesus Christ. Many people try to change the way they act, they turn over a new leaf, thinking that God will forgive them because of their new found merit of do gooding. Many people will give money to charity or to the church in hopes to pay off their sins. Some men and women in other countries think that if they suffer for their sins, that God will look at their suffering and have mercy on them and forgive them. The Bible says that the only way of having sin forgiven is to confess sin to Jesus Christ. The Bible says that when a man receives Jesus Christ by faith as their Saviour, that God imputes Christ righteousness to that person, making them a child of God. The Person who knows Jesus Christ as their Saviour needs to confess their sin to Jesus as well. Our flesh still is sinful and will fail us, we need to confess sin to Jesus Christ asking Him to forgive us, and to help us to turn from this sin. Christ Jesus said that He will never leave you, but we ought to confess our sin, because our sin drives a wedge of broken fellowship with Christ. Your prayer might be something like this: *Dear Lord Jesus Christ, I am sorry for the sin that I have committed. Please forgive me for doing what I have done. I repent of my sin, give me strength to turn from this. Help me to never do this sin again, and to live a life that would bring glory to Your name. In Jesus name I pray amen.*

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read 1 John 2:1-2; 2 Corinthians 7:10. Discuss the following questions.

- 1) What should the unsaved do with their sin?
- 2) What should the saved do with their sin?

TITLE: Sin will Entangle You.

SCRIPTURE: 1 John 1:9; Romans 5:8-12

MEMORY VERSE: *Proverbs 5:22 His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins.*

FOCUS QUESTION: Where did sin come from?

According to the St. Petersburg Times, a thief grabbed some sausages in a meat market but discovered to his sorrow that they were part of a string forty-five feet long. The man lost his balance, stumbled over the string, and became so entangled that he couldn't get up to escape. The police arrived and caught him as he was trying to untangle himself from the sausages. Many people get their lives so entangled with sin that they are tied up by the sin that they thought would bring them fulfillment and happiness. Sin is a sickness that has been passed down through man from Adam and his sin. The Bible says that we all have sinned. We all have sinned, we have done things that are displeasing to God. Eve was tempted to sin by Satan, and she chose to disobey God and eat from the tree God said not to eat from, the tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Eve then went to Adam and gave to Adam and he did eat, also disobeying God. This disobedience of Adam and Eve is what brought sin into the world and has cursed everything. We all are born sinners from Adam, but we also choose to sin everyday. The Bible says that everyone has sinned, and that means all people everywhere. If we are born wrong from Adam then we need to be born again. Being born again means to receive by faith Jesus Christ into your heart, realizing that Jesus died, was buried, arose again from the grave, and is alive in Heaven today waiting for you to pray and ask Him to save you. Sin will entangle you like the story of the man entangled in the sausage links. Sin will tie you up and will render you helpless. God to Jesus for help, and He will save you. If you already know Jesus Christ as your Saviour, then confess your sins to God in Jesus' name asking Him to forgive you, then determine in your heart to turn away from that sin. Don't let sin get by, it will entangle you.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Romans 5:12-18. Discuss the following questions.

- 1) How did sin come into the world?
- 2) What should a Christian do when he sins?

TITLE: Found out

SCRIPTURE: Galatians 6:7-10

MEMORY VERSE: *Numbers 32:23 But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and be sure your sin will find you out.*

FOCUS QUESTION: What does it mean “be sure your sin will find you out”?

Billy pushed the magazine back far into his closet. He was hiding something that he knew his parents did not approve of. Billy had the magazine for sometime without his parents knowledge of it, and he only got the magazine out when he was sure his parents were gone. Though no one knew about what he was doing, he knew it was wrong. “Let me look at it quickly one last time”, Billy thought, pulling the magazine back out of the closet. Just as the magazine was pulled out, Billy’s father stepped through the bedroom door and looked at Billy and then at the magazine in his hand. Billy quickly tried to cover the magazine up to hide it from his father. “It’s not mine”, Billy said, lying to his father. Billy’s father knew and Billy was caught and received a spanking from his father and was also grounded for several days.

This story teaches us three things about our sin, so lets take a look at them. First of all this story teaches us that you can’t hide your sin. The Bible says that sin will soon be found out, because the sin you commit will come out eventually. Remember the magazine Billy had, it was eventually found. The second thing we can learn from this story is that sin leads to more sin. Remember how Billy was caught and then tried to hide the magazine, and after that he lied to his father about it. When you sin it always leads to more sin. Finally, the last thing is that sin will steal your joy. Billy was getting away with sin for a while but he just didn’t seem to have any joy in his sin. Your happiness will soon vanish away because sin will rob you of your joy. Don’t hide your sin, take your sin to Jesus Christ, pray and ask Him to forgive you, and turn from your sin.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Romans 7:15-17. Discuss the following questions.

- 1) Why is hard to obey what God tells us?
- 2) How can sin steal your happiness?

TITLE: How to Wear Your Clothes

SCRIPTURE: 1 Timothy 2:9-14

MEMORY VERSE: *Deuteronomy 22:5 The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the LORD thy God.*

FOCUS QUESTION: Should a man dress different then a woman?

The Bible says that a man should not wear the clothing of a woman, and a woman should not wear the clothing of a man. Mr. Bailey was the young adult's Sunday school teacher at First Baptist Church. Danny was a young man in this class that had just started coming. This was the church that Danny started attending after he got saved. Danny went to church every Sunday morning, Sunday night, and also to church on Wednesday evening. Mr. Bailey's talk about clothing was something that was new to Danny, but he listened intently as his Sunday school teacher spoke. Mr. Bailey continued, "Just as a man should not wear a dress, a woman should not wear pants. The Bible says that women should dress in modest apparel, which is clothing that does not fit to show off the figure of a woman's body. There are also some things that a man should not wear that belong on a woman, such as make up, necklaces, or even ear rings. A man should look masculine, which means he should leave no doubt to others that he is a Christian man. The same is true in the way a woman should dress, because she should dress in such a modest way which would leave no doubt that she is a Christian woman." Danny thought about what Mr. Bailey had said. Mr. Bailey's message certainly made sense to him that a woman and a man are different and need to dress and conduct themselves differently.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Colossians 3:17. Discuss the following questions.

- 1) Why do you think proper dress is important?
- 2) What does God think of improper dress?

TITLE: All Alone?

SCRIPTURE: John 10:27-30; Hebrews 13:5

MEMORY VERSE: *John 10:29 My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.*

FOCUS QUESTION: Will Jesus ever leave you?

Mary walked forward down the aisle to the altar at church during the invitation. She walked to the front and took the Pastor's hand like he had asked those to do who wanted to receive Jesus Christ as their Saviour. Mary was a young girl who had been coming to church for sometime, ever since her Mother and Father trust Jesus Christ as their Saviour. They made sure that Mary did not miss a service at church. Mary went with the Pastor after the service to one of the Sunday school rooms. "Mary", the Pastor said, "I want to ask you why you came when I gave the invitation." Mary looked down at the floor and said, "I am not sure that if I were to die that I would go to Heaven." Mary had went forward in church before, it was just a couple weeks earlier that Mary came forward to receive Christ on Sunday morning, and then was baptized that evening. The Pastor looked at Mary and said, "Mary, I remember when you came and trusted Christ Jesus to save you, do you remember that?" Mary shook her head yes. The Pastor continued, "Mary why do you think that your not saved anymore?" Mary look up and said, "Because I have done some things that are wrong." The Pastor looked and smile, "Mary, we all do things that are wrong sometimes and when we do these things we need to take our sin to Jesus and ask Him to forgive us. The sin we do brings sorrow to God and also to us. If you know Jesus as your Saviour you are His forever." Mary looked up with a smile, "Pastor how do you know?" "Becasue the Bible tells me so", the Pastor replied, "Let me show you some verses in the Bible that will strengthen your confidence in Jesus Christ and His saving and keeping power." The Pastor showed Mary verses in God's Word and had prayer with her, she felt so much better knowing that Jesus Christ would never leave her.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Ephesians 1:13-14. Discuss the following questions.

- 1) What does is mean to be sealed?
- 2) What is the believer sealed with?

TITLE: The Trap

SCRIPTURE: Ecclesiastes 10:5-15

MEMORY VERSE: *Proverbs 20:22 Say not thou, I will recompense evil; but wait on the LORD, and he shall save thee.*

FOCUS QUESTION: Are you trapping yourself?

The Bible says, *“I have seen servants upon horses, and princes walking as servants upon the earth. He that diggeth a pit shall fall into it; and whoso breaketh an hedge, a serpent shall bite him.”* The scene is all too familiar. The hunter walks around through the forest and forgets about his trap. He soon stumbles in his trap and has trapped himself. People who deserve to be treated with respect and dignity are sometimes not treated the way they should be. For a servant to be on a horse and a prince to be walking on the earth seems to be observed, yet many times this is the case. Jesus was God in the flesh yet He had no place to lay His head. The Bible says in Matthew 8:20, *“And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.”* The *“serpent shall bite him”* phrase found in this particular verse reminds me of another verse found in Proverbs 26:27 which says, *“Whoso diggeth a pit shall fall therein: and he that rolleth a stone, it will return upon him.”* People might think that they can lay a trap for someone, but the Bible teaches that the trap planned for someone else will turn and backfire on you. Don't try getting even with someone who has hurt you, but trust that God will take care of the situation. It is like the cartoon on the hunter who digs a pit and covers the pit with branches and grass. The hunter walks around through the forest and forgets about his trap. He soon stumbles in his trap and has trapped himself.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Psalm 130:1-5.

***Think about this:*** *Although a Christian is to wait for the hand of God to work in time of trouble, we need to make sure we are making use of what God has given us. We have a justice system in America that punishes men because of their evil deeds. We as God's children should never let someone get away with lawlessness.*

TITLE: Shop till you drop.

SCRIPTURE: Romans 12:1-2

MEMORY VERSE: *Psalms 40:8 I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.*

FOCUS QUESTION: What is God's will?

Life will sometimes leave you asking yourself what is life all about. The following story will hopefully help you see that life is more than what you can accumulate for yourself .

Donna is a teenager who is like most girls her age, because Donna loves to go shopping, and she likes to call it, shop till you drop. She is always looking through clothing magazines, seeing what the latest buy is. Donna always gets a little bounce in her step when she knows she is taking a trip to the mall with her mother. One day Donna seemed a little depressed, her mother asked her, "Donna what is your problem today, you don't seem yourself?" Donna's eyes started to water up as she said, "Mother, I don't feel good today, I feel lonely and depressed. Sometimes when I go to the store I'll buy something and I'll feel better for a while, but after a few days, I don't feel myself again. So I go over to the mall and shop there, but no matter what I buy the satisfaction that I had seems to wear thin." Her mother look at Donna with a serious look, " Donna, I can remember when you asked Jesus into your heart, you were just four years old. I'm so glad that you are on your way to Heaven, but while you are here on this earth God has a great plan for your life. God wants to uses you if you will simply follow Him one step at a time. The reason that you buy like you do is that you are trying to fill a spot in your life that belongs to God. When a Christian goes outside of God's will and tries to bring satisfaction to his life by another way, this is sin. True happiness comes from serving Jesus Christ with your life. Donna here is God's prescription for living in His will: read your Bible; pray everyday; go to church; tithe; and tell others about Jesus." Donna smile, "Mother I feel better already." "Great" mother said, "Now lets pray about this."

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Psalm 119:9-16. Discuss the following questions.

- 1) What are some things people do to try to fill their life?
- 2) What is Bible reading, prayer, church, tithing, telling other about Jesus?

TITLE: Tithe Your Time.

SCRIPTURE: Colossians 4:2-5

MEMORY VERSE: *Ephesians 5:16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.*

FOCUS QUESTION: Could you tithe your time?

To tithe means to give a tenth of our money to the church. Let's follow Jesus' example of being faithful, shall we? He loved the church. He didn't talk bad about it, He loved it. You say, "Yes, I know all about Jesus and His love for the church." That what the problem is for many of us. We are so familiar with the love of Christ that you have grown cold to the beauty of it. It does not excite you any longer, and it doesn't pull at your heart like it once did. All right, you say that you love the church? Then give to the church! This is what Christ did for the church. The result of loving the church is always giving of oneself. If you are not giving, but taking, then you are not loving. The people that are tightest with their wallets, the tightest with their time, the tightest with abilities are the people who are tightest with their love. If we would tithe our time, we would turn our community upside down for Jesus Christ. If we would take a week and spend one tenth of it doing the work of God, we would see revival. 168 hours in a week, one tenth of that is 16.8 hours. Think what that could accomplish for Christ. Think about how many souls would going to Heaven because of that time that was tithed. If that is too much, then lets take out time for sleep at eight hours a night, equals 112 hours, take out 40 hours a week for work, equals 72 hours. One tenth of 72 hours is 7 hours a week. If everyone would give 7 hours a week to the church, just imagine what would happen. The only thing that'll stop a person from giving is their lack of love for the church.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read . Answer the following questions.

- 1) If you would give a tenth of your time to the church, what would you do?
- 2) Why would it be important to tithe time?

TITLE: The Beautiful Garden Home

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 3:1-7

MEMORY VERSE: *Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*

FOCUS QUESTION: Where did sin come from?

In the very beginning God made the first man and woman, their names were Adam and Eve. God made them a beautiful garden to live in called the Garden of Eden. They loved to walk in this perfect garden and look at all the wonderful things that God had made. Walking in the garden was great because they didn't need shoes. There was no thorns or broken glass to walk on and cut your feet. The Bible says that God would come and walk with Adam in the cool of the evening. What an interesting walk that would be, a walk with God Himself. God gave Adam the job of taking care of the Garden, and Adam loved to work with the Garden. The animals in this garden did not fight with each other, but instead would play with one another. Wouldn't it be nice to sit down with a tiger, elephant, or a bear, and not have to worry about them hurting you, but that is what this wonderful garden was like. Adam also was given the job of naming all the animals. God would bring the animals to Adam and he would name them. God also made many kinds of trees in the Garden of Eden. God gave Adam and Eve permission to eat the fruit from all these trees except for one tree. This tree was called the *Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil*. God told Adam and Eve that in the day that you eat from this tree, you will die. All these fruit trees to eat from and only one tree that they could not eat from, this was not a problem for Adam and Eve, until one day. Satan came to Eve and said, "Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" Eve said, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden. But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die." "Ye shall not surely die", Satan said, "For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil." Eve then ate of the tree's fruit, then gave some to her husband, Adam. Because of their disobedience sin came into this world. We are all sinner because of what Adam and Eve had done. Sin is passed on from generation to generation from Adam. We are born sinners, and we choose to sin everyday, and that is why we need to pray and ask Jesus Christ to forgive us of our sin. Adam and Eve's sin brought a curse on the whole world, and destroyed their beautiful garden home.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Genesis 3:8-19.

TITLE: Cain and Abel.

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 4:1-13

MEMORY VERSE: *1 Samuel 15:22 "Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams."*

FOCUS QUESTION: Are you obeying God?

Cain and Abel were the first brothers who lived on the earth long ago. Cain was a farmer and he like to go into the field, and plow the field, plant the seed, water the ground, and enjoy the harvest. Abel on the other hand was a shepherd. As a shepherd he would take care of his flock. He would make sure that they had food to eat and also that they had water to drink. The Bible says that Cain brought an offering to the Lord God. Cain brought what he had grown in his garden, fruits and vegetables. The Bible also says that Abel brought an offering to the Lord. Abel brought to the Lord a firstling of his flock which was a little lamb. God received Abel's offering, but Cain's offering was rejected. God gave instructions about the offering, Abel offered a lamb as God had said, but Cain did not obey God's Word and did it his way. Cain did not take this rejection well. God told Cain, "If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted?" God loved Cain and wanted Cain to bring the right kind of an offering, to do things according to God's way. Cain was in the field talking with his brother Abel and something terrible happened. Cain rose up and killed his brother Abel. The Lord then asked Cain, "Where is Abel thy brother?" Cain tried to lie about what had happened, but God knew what had happened and brought punishment upon Cain. Cain did not obey God's Word and Cain's offering was rejected. Cain would not obey God's Word and his rebellion caused him to kill his own brother. Cain would not obey God's Word and it led to Cain being punished. We need to obey God's Word. God has given us His Word, the Bible, so we know He wants us to live, and it is very important that we obey God's Word. Not obeying God's Word is sin and can lead to many pitfalls. God has given us His Word because He loves us and we need to obey God's Word, this shows God we love Him. God has given His Word, but He has also preserved His Word in the 1611 King James Bible. If one word is changed in God's Word it would be easy for obedience to be turned into disobedience. Read God's Word, study God's Word, memorize God's Word, know God's Word, obey God's Word.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Hebrews 11:4. Discuss following questions.

- 1) Why was Abel's sacrifice more excellent?
- 2) Why is it important to obey God?

TITLE: Hell Fire

SCRIPTURE: Luke 16:19-31

MEMORY VERSE: *Revelation 20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*

FOCUS QUESTION: Is hell a real place?

Johnny was out with some of the men from church Saturday morning soul winning. They would go out every Saturday morning knocking on doors sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with others. Johnny many of times was paired up with other folks from the church, but this week he was paired up with his youth Pastor and Johnny was excited to be with him. Pastor Mike was a great youth Pastor, he would visit church children, start bus routes, and was always ready to give a listening ear to one of his young people. Johnny and Pastor Mike started to walk down a driveway to a house, as they did they noticed a woman outside burning branches, twigs, and leaves. "Nice day to be doing yard work", Pastor Mike said, "We're passing out these through your neighborhood, and would like to leave one with you." Pastor Mike handed the woman a Gospel tract. Pastor Mike continued, "I'm a youth Pastor and we're out sharing the good news of Jesus with others. Do you know for sure that you are going to Heaven someday?" "No", the woman said. "The Bible says that if your not saved you are on your way to hell", Mike said. "I don't believe in hell", the woman stammered! Mike looked at her and said, "Not believing is not going to change the fact that the Bible says it is forever, and it is a place of great torment, fire and brimstone." "I don't believe a loving God would send a person to a place like that", the woman insisted. "God has said that sinners go to hell in His Word, the same loving God is also a just God. Look into the fire that you are using to burn these branches, hell will be much hotter then that, and forever. Do you want to ask Jesus to forgive you of your sin and to save you?", Mike said. "I'm not interested", the woman grumbled. Mike and Johnny left, walking back up the driveway, praying quietly to themselves to God, for this woman.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Revelation 14:11; 21:8. Discuss following questions.

- 1) What is hell like?
- 2) Who goes to hell?

TITLE: Cow, Cow

SCRIPTURE: Philippians 4:10-13

MEMORY VERSE: *Psalms 107:1 O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.*

FOCUS QUESTION: Are you content?

Betsy was a cow that lived on a milk farm. Betsy the cow had lived there for a very long time. The farm was very beautiful, with many acres of land. The farmer would come out every morning and do his work around the farm before the heat of the day. Betsy would watch the farmer doing his work. The farmer would plow fields, plant corn, and do many other things that need done around a farm. Sometimes the farmer's grandchildren would come to the farm. His grandchildren liked the farm because they could play outside all day and have great fun. Their names are Steve and Sally. "Sally" Steve said, "Look at that cow, Betsy." Steve and Sally stopped what they were doing and walked over to Betsy. "Can you believe what that cow is doing? The cow his sticking his head through the fence and eating the grass from the other side of the fence", Steve said. "I've seen a of crazy things before, but this is about the most foolish thing I've seen in a long time. The grass is the same on both side of the fence, yet the cow will stick his head through the fence to the other side for that grass", Sally said. Steve and Sally ran to their grandfather and said, "Grandfather, you have got to see this silly old cow. The cow will eat grass from the other side of the fence instead of eating the grass in the gate, and it looks like the grass is the same." "Yes, the grass is the same", grandfather said, "That cow seems to think that the grass is better tasting on the other side of the fence. Children, one day I was curious and so I brought that cow outside of the fence to eat the grass that it's been sticking it's head through to eat. It was the most silly thing that I've ever seen, because that cow would stick his head under the fence and start eating the grass from within the fence this time. It didn't matter which side of the fence he was on, she wanted the grass from the other side. Children we can be like that cow sometimes as well. We can be discontent with what we have, or who we are. God what us to be happy with the things we have. We should be thankful for our parents. God wants us to be content. Old Betsy is a cow that is not content. Don't you be discontent, but instead be thankful, be content."

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Hebrews 13:5. Discuss following questions.

- 1) How was the cow discontent?
- 2) What are some ways a believer can be content?

TITLE: Wolves in Sheep's Clothing

SCRIPTURE: Acts 20:29-31

MEMORY VERSE: *2 John 1:10 If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed:*

FOCUS QUESTION: Is the Mormon Church a Christian Church?

Susan Smith sat in church and listen to the preacher as he talked about people who where under the influence of cults. These cults could sometimes seem to be like Christians in what they believe, but were not. Susan could remember when two men came to the front of her house knocking on the door. She had no idea who they were, but they talked like Christians, and dressed like Christians. Susan's father quickly came and gave these young men a Gospel tract and sent them on their way. "Who were those men?", Susan asked. "They are the Mormons, they call themselves the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints", Susan's dad replied." Susan's eyes quickly focused back on the preacher. The preacher went on to say that Satan is a master of lies, and many of these people have been taught wrong, they have been believing a lie. The Mormons are worshipping a Jesus who is not the Jesus of the Bible. The Mormons believe that Jesus and Satan are brothers. The church teaches the false doctrine of working your way to Heaven by good works. These men are wolves in sheep's clothing, trying to devour you with the razor sharp teeth of false doctrine. The Mormon church also teaches wearing priestly under garments, that merit some kind of good grace in going to Heaven. One of the many false teachings that this cult spreads is that God was once man that worked hard enough to become God, and if they are a good Mormon, someday they get to be God. The Bible teaches to have no fellowship with the darkness of this world, and the Mormon church does not follow the teaching of the Bible, but instead their leader Joseph Smith and his unholy bible called the "*Book of Mormon.*" This is one reason why it is so important to know God's Word, because the devil is sneaking around, using man to promote his philosophy of working one's way to Heaven. Susan could not believe what she was hearing, she thought, "Are people really that blind that they can't see the lies in the cult that they are in?" The preacher continued, "Why don't we make a commitment to God today to study His Word, the Bible, and pray for these people trapped in this cult." Susan's heart was burden as she went forward, she thought, "These people in these cults need to hear of the true Saviour, I'll pray for them."

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read 2 Timothy 3:13-14. Discuss following question.

1) What animal does the Bible compare false teachers to? Why?

TITLE: Turn to Fish

SCRIPTURE: Luke 5:1-11

MEMORY VERSE: *2 Corinthians 7:10 For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.*

FOCUS QUESTION: What is repentance?

Simon Peter was a fisherman who worked with his brother, Andrew. They were partners with James and John who were the sons of their father Zebedee. These fishermen were cleaning their nets when Jesus came to preach. The Bible says that the people pressed upon Jesus to hear what He would say. This means that the people crowded around Jesus, in fact they crowded Jesus so much that He used these fishermen's boat to preach from. After Jesus preached to the people, Jesus told Peter, *"Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught."* These fishermen used nets to catch their fish, and Jesus wanted them to go out and try fishing again, but this time in the deep water. Peter said, *"Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net."* Peter obeyed Jesus and the Bible says that he caught so many fish that the nets started to brake and he had to call for his partners James and John to help them. Peter recognizes Jesus' righteousness and his sinfulness and falls at the feet of Jesus saying, *"Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord."* Jesus then says, *"Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men."* Peter then immediately goes and follows Jesus.

To repent means to turn away from. Repenting from sin means to have sorrow in one's heart over sin which causes them to turn from their sin, a turning of the mind and heart toward God. Peter showed repentance when he was brought to conviction of his own sin and turned to Jesus. Before anybody can be saved they must know that they are a sinner, and make a decision to trust Jesus Christ as their Saviour. To receive Jesus Christ as your Saviour means that you are turning yourself to the only hope of salvation, the Lord Jesus Christ, asking Him into your heart to save you. After we are saved, we as Christians we need to confess our sins to God in prayer and repent of those sins, which simply means to stop doing them.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Acts 26:18. Discuss following questions.

- 1) What did Peter call Jesus in Luke 5:5?
- 2) What did Peter call Jesus in Luke 5:8?
- 3) Why do you think Peter call Jesus by two different names?

TITLE: Pray For Me

SCRIPTURE: Colossians 4:12; 1 Thessalonians 1:2; 2 Timothy 1:3

MEMORY VERSE: *Ephesians 1:16 Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;*

FOCUS QUESTION: Do you pray for others?

Dad sat at the breakfast table eating his bagel and reading the mail. "Look at this", Dad said to his daughter Katie, "This is a news letter from our missionaries in the Philippines. See the picture of the young boy and what it says over top of the picture." Katie looked at the newsletter and read, "Pray for me." "What's that all about", Katie questioned? "Well", Dad said, "It seems that in the Philippines they are in need of some things, mainly the Gospel. This little boy wants us to pray for his people. It seems that they want to start a church if someone would pastor it." "So they want us to pray", Katie asked? "Yes they do", Dad answered. "Dad, some of the girls at school said that they are tired of praying, they said that they don't need anything, so why pray", Katie said. "Listen Katie, God commands us to pray. We need to pray everyday, asking God for His blessings. Not only does God command us to pray, but He wants us to pray for others. If you think you don't need prayer, don't be so selfish not to pray for others who do need our prayers", Dad explained, "Look at this little boy, you can see the desperation in his face. Many of the things we have and take for granted he needs and wants us to pray for. Katie, I can't look at this picture of him and say that I won't pray for him. We need to pray, if not for ourselves then at least for others." Katie looked at her Dad and said, "Can we pray right now for this young boy in the Philippines?" "You bet", Dad said.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Matthew 7:7-11. Discuss following questions.

- 1) Why should we pray for others?
- 2) Is it a command to pray?

TITLE: Success at What Expense?

SCRIPTURE: Joshua 1:1-8

MEMORY VERSE: *Matthew 6:21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*

FOCUS QUESTION: What will make you truly successful?

A person who has a lot of money is called rich or he is called a tycoon. Many people think that success is measured by the amount of money in your bank account. This thinking that rich equal success is not what the Bible teaches about true success. In 1923 a group of the world's richest men met at the Edgewater Beach Hotel in Chicago. These tycoons controlled more wealth than there was in the United States Treasury. Many young people looked admired these rich men, and magazines and newspapers were printed urging the youth to follow their example. Twenty-seven years later this is what happen to them. CHARLES SCHWAB - the president of the largest independent steel company lived on borrowed money the last five years of his life, and died penniless. ARTHUR CUTTEN - the greatest wheat speculator died abroad unable to meet debts. RICHARD WHITNEY- the president of the New York Stock Exchange was released some time ago from Sing Sing. ALBERT FALL - the member of the President's Cabinet was pardon from prison so he could die at home. JESSE LIVERMORE - the greatest bear in Wall Street committed suicide. LEON FRASER - the president of the Bank if International Settlement committed suicide. IVAR KRUEGAR - the head of the world's greatest monopoly committed suicide. These men knew how to make money, but how about how to live? To have true success we must live in the will of God. We must do as God wants us to do: reading our Bible; praying daily; witnessing to others; tithing; going to church. When you die, the riches of this life will not be taken with you but instead will be left behind for somebody else. What you do for the Lord is the only riches that will matter in Heaven. Before you can lay up treasures in Heaven you must be saved. If you have never received Jesus Christ as your only hope to Heaven, by forgiving your sins, then why don't you call on Him today. Pray in the name of Jesus Christ asking Him to forgive you of your sins and to save you. Now that you are a child of God, work for Jesus today, laying up treasure in Heaven.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Matthew 16:24-26. Discuss following questions.

- 1) What is true success measured by?
- 2) Who is the measurer of true success?

TITLE: The Dead Umpire

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 19:27-30

MEMORY VERSE: *Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*

FOCUS QUESTION: What is temporal activities?

Many people place great importance on temporal activities. These are activities that might not be sinful but that are not of any great importance for all eternity. These things might be important to us today, but in the eyes of God are not. Are you placing importance on things that are not important, such as computer games, ball games, television. Many times these things will pull us away from church and other spiritual things. This must grieve the heart of God to see such things take place in our lives. Here is a good example of people who saw the unimportance of temporal activities.

In the O. C. Lewis Gymnasium in Anderson, Indiana there was a champion basketball game. With three minutes to play, the visitors were leading by two points. A foul was called on one of the hometown players. The excitement of the game rose when the Anderson boy stepped up to the foul line for his free throw. Just then, the umpire slumped to the floor and laid there motionless. A doctor came and was at his side trying to revive the umpire. The announcement was made that the umpire was dead. The game was then canceled, the people left the gymnasium like it was a mortuary. The crowd that was once loud, yelling, sports minded had become a crowd of sober faced individuals who had been reminded of the unimportance of temporal activities. How about your life? Are you so caught up in the world that you are pulled away from the things God has called all of us to do? The activities of today will fall away and be of no importance years from now, so live your life in the mind set of eternity.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read 1 Timothy 6:6. Discuss following questions.

- 1) What temporal things keep you from church?
- 2) What can you take with you when you die?

TITLE: The Indestructible Word

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 40:8; 1 Peter 1:25

MEMORY VERSE: *Psalm 119:89 For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.*

FOCUS QUESTION: What book can't be destroyed?

God's book the Bible is indestructible. Over many years, many people have tried to destroy this precious book yet none have completed the task. The words of the Bible have been translated in thousands of languages in countries all over the world. The words from this Holy Book are memorized in the hearts of Christians everywhere. If the Bibles were to be burned everywhere I believe that God's people would get together and put it back together, for the Word of God is so perfect and preserved that it's words are inscribed in the hearts of His people. It has been told that prisoners of war left in a jail cell without hope would write down verses that they had memorized and pass them around to others. The only comfort that these prisoners had was through prayer and these portions of Scripture. There is a story of a man that was hired to build a fence. He was told to build a fence four feet high, and also be guaranteed not to fall down. The man thought for sometime and finally came up with a idea. The man worked on the fence and then went to the owner to collect his money for the work. The owner said, "Did you build the fence four feet high?" "Yes", the man said. "Did you build it so that it would never fall down", the owner questioned. "Yes", the man answered. "What assurance do I have that it will not fall down", said the owner? "Well", the man said, "I not only built the fence four feet high, but I also built the fence five feet thick, so if it falls it will be a foot higher than it was before it fell." This is how the Bible stands, because when the devil and the world attack this old Book, God lifts it up even higher then before. You can't destroy the Bible, it's like the words of this song, "*The Bible stands like a rock undaunted ' Mid the raging storms of time; Its pages burn with the truth eternal, And they glow with a light sublime. The Bible stands tho' the hills may tumble, It will firmly stand when the earth shall crumble; I will plant my feet on its firm foundation, For the Bible stands.*"

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read John 10:35. Discuss following questions.

- 1.) What Book is under the attack of the devil?
- 2.) What can't be broken?

TITLE: The Titanic

SCRIPTURE: Romans 9:1-3

MEMORY VERSE: *John 15:13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.*

FOCUS QUESTION: Are we concerned about the souls of men?

In the night of April 14, 1912, a ship called the Titanic, sank. This was a ship that men had boasted could never be sunk, went down into the freezing waters of the Atlantic ocean. One of the men on the ship was John Harper. John Harper was born in Houston, Renfrewshire, on May 29th, 1872. John was thirteen years old when he trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as his Saviour. John had the privilege of being raised in a Christian home. John was a preacher that did not go to a college or university, he came direct from the call of God to the service of God. Any education he had received was obtained at Board school in his native village. After his call from God, the next day his lips were opened standing on the street corner of his village, pouring out his soul, preaching the Gospel.

The Titanic was sinking in the icy waters as John Harper cried out, "Let the women, children and the unsaved into the lifeboats." Harper took his life jacket off and selflessly gave it to another man. Two hours after the Titanic struck the iceberg, she sank under the icy waters. Hundreds of people, some in lifeboats, rafts, and others holding on to pieces of wood trying to stay afloat. Many people drowned in that icy water, cries would go out for help with no help available. During this time John Harper was not fighting for his life, but for the souls of men. John would cry out to folks while he was clinging to something floating from off the ship, "Are you saved? Believe on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." John Harper finally slipped from what he was floating on, and under the waters. In Hamilton, Ontario, a survivor of the Titanic has said that he was the last convert that John Harper had won to Jesus. Harper's last words to him was, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." John Harper was a preacher that demonstrated great love for God and men. John preached the message that God had called him to preach until his departure. May each of us strive as John Harper did to win souls.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read John 4:35. Discuss following questions.

- 1.) What is the harvest that the Bible speaks of?
- 2.) Why should Christians be witnessing?

TITLE: Nail it.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 5:23-26

MEMORY VERSE: *Matthew 7:12 Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.*

FOCUS QUESTION: How should you treat others?

“Billy, why do you have to treat people so mean”, Billy’s dad asked? This was not the first time that Billy was in trouble, it seemed as though Billy’s temper had gotten him in trouble again. Billy was a boy that liked to argue with other boys and it always seemed to end with a fight. It was almost as if Billy enjoyed hurting others. His father gave Billy a spanking and then sent him to his room where Billy laid on his bed. Dad came to the door of the room and looked at Billy and said, “Billy, we are going to do something, follow me.” Billy followed his father outside unsure of what to expect. Billy would usually receive a spanking for doing something wrong, but this was unusual of his dad to take him to the front gate. Billy’s dad took a hammer and pounded a nail in the fence by the gate and said, “Billy, every time you do something that hurts somebody your going to hammer a nail in this fence and every time you do something kind for someone we’ll pull a nail out.” Billy listened to this unusual request and shook his head yes. Over the years that fence became old and weathered, many nails twisted, bent, half hammered in were there in that fence pounded in by Billy. Every time Billy would walk out pass the fence to school, the store, or to play with his friends, he would be reminded of those nails and the hurt he inflicted on others. Billy one day thought to himself, “There sure is a lot of nails in that old fence, maybe I ought to work on getting them out.” Billy started being kind to others, he would go to those people he was mean to, and apologize. One by one those nails started to be pulled out of the fence until the last one came out. Billy jumped and cheered, “No more nails daddy, no more nails in the fence.” “Yes”, Billy’s dad said, “But the scars are still there.”

Jesus wants us to love one another. Christ wants us to be kind, even to those who are not kind to us. The hurt we cause others will scar much deeper than the surface. If we have hurt someone we need to ask God to forgive us and we need to repent of that sin, and ask that person we’ve hurt to forgive us.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Matthew 18:15-17. Discuss following questions.

1.) What should we do when we do wrong to someone?

TITLE: Submit Yourselves

SCRIPTURE: I Thessalonians 5:12-13; Hebrews 13:17

MEMORY VERSE: *Hebrews 13:17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves:*

FOCUS QUESTION: Who is the leader of the church?

“Why should I have to listen to the Sunday School teacher”, Sally thought, “I’m ten years old and I can do what I want, she’s not my mother.” Sally’s teacher had been teaching Sally about obeying God, in how to dress, and what friends to play with, and Sally was tired of all the rules and decided that she would do as she wanted. She was given some freedoms at the house that her younger brother did not have, and felt as though she was able to make decisions for herself with no regard for authority. Many times that morning during Sunday School the teacher had to scold Sally for her bad behavior. After the morning service Sally saw her parents talking with her Sunday School teacher. Sally knew that her father was not happy from the look on his face. Sally went out to the car and buckle herself in and rode home without saying a word. “Maybe mom and dad will forget about their conversation with her teacher”, Sally thought. “Sally we want to talk with you”, Sally’s dad said, “We have heard that you are not obeying your teacher and you are causing disruptions in your class.” “she’s not my boss”, Sally told her parents. “Yes she is”, dad replied, “She is the one that the Pastor has placed in that class to teach. We are to submit ourselves to the authority of the Pastor, and this means everyone he places in a leadership position. Sally when you are resisting the Pastor and the people placed in the positions of the church, you are resisting against God. Sally, every man and woman in the church is to submit to the Pastor which means we are to place ourselves under his authority. Sally thought about what her father had just said, “I guess I should apologies to my teacher for the way that I’ve been acting, I’m sorry dad.” “First”, Sally’s father said, “Lets pray and ask God to forgive you, and give you the strength to do right in obeying, then we’ll call your teacher on the phone and get things right with her.”

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Romans 13:1. Discuss following questions.

- 1.) When we resist the Pastor’s authority, who are we really resisting?
- 2.) What does is mean to submit?

TITLE: The Busy Child

SCRIPTURE: Luke 10:38-42

MEMORY VERSE: *Colossians 2:3 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.*

FOCUS QUESTION: What are you putting before God?

Sam was a busy child. He always was doing things, which was not all that bad, but the problem was that with all Sam's hustle and bustle, he had time for everything but spiritual things. Sam did not read his Bible, he did not have time to. Sam did not pray, he didn't have time for that. Sam was not regular with his church attendance. He would make it some weeks and other weeks he would be doing something else. One day Sam's Pastor came to visit with him. "Sam", the Pastor said, "I've noticed that you have time for everything under the sun, but no time for the Lord." "I'm sorry Pastor, that's true, I'm a busy person", Sam replied. Sam's Pastor looked at Sam and said, "Sam, you keep going the way your going and you'll be the devil's lunch, because Satan wants to destroy you. Sam, have you ever seen a lion tamer." Sam looked at the Pastor with a puzzled look and shook his head no." "Well", said the Pastor, "Let me tell you what a lion tamer uses. The lion tamer will get in the cage with a mean old lion and he will have something in each hand. He'll usually have a whip in one hand and a chair in the other. The lion tamer will holds the back of the chair and punches the four legs toward the lion. Sam there is a reason for that four legged chair. This chair keeps the lion confused. He does not know which leg of the chair to attack. He'll hit at one leg and then the other, and if the lion tamer had a broomstick, the lion would attack immediately. Sam your like that lion, batting your paws at this and that and never getting anywhere. If you are going to grow as a child of God you need to remove some of these things that causing you to be disobedient to God. The things that keep you from praying, Bible reading, witnessing, tithing, and attending church must be removed. Sam, when your too busy for God, then your just too busy." "Pastor", Sam said, "I understand what you are saying, I need to put God first, before my own self. I guess I've been so busy that I've just haven't thought about it."

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Colossians 3:1-2. Discuss following questions.

- 1.) Where should our attention be?
- 2.) What things can keep us from doing what God wants?

TITLE: Shedding of Blood

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 9:24-28

MEMORY VERSE: *Hebrews 9:22 And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.*

FOCUS QUESTION: Why did Jesus shed His blood on the cross?

The children in the neighborhood were playing. It looked to Tommy as though they were really having a good time. The children in the neighborhood would get together and play basketball, ride bikes, and even play tag sometimes. Tommy could see them having a good time, but he was helping his mother with taking the varnish off of an old dresser. They carried the dresser out in the backyard where there would be fresh air, because of the varnish remover that they were using. Tommy thought, "It sure would be nice to go and play with the other children, but mom needs my help." Tommy's mother would put the varnish remover on the dresser, wait a little while, then scrape it off. She would repeat the process over and over until the old varnish was removed. "Mom, it sure is taking a long time for the old varnish to come off the dresser", Tommy said. "Yes", mom answered, "It was a lot easier to put the varnish on than it was to take off. It's kind of like the message that Pastor John spoke on last Sunday. He said everybody is in sin and needs the blood of Jesus to forgive them of their sins. It's easy for us to put on sin, first, because we are born sinners, secondly, because we choose to sin, but impossible for us to remove. Jesus died on the cross, was buried, and arose the third day. Jesus is alive and in Heaven today. Because of the work that Jesus did on the cross we can have our sins forgiven by asking Him to forgive us." "Wow", Tommy said, "I never thought of it that way before." "It's pretty amazing what Christ did for us", his mother said, "Would you like to go and play with the other boys?" "Yes ma'am", Tommy said. "Well, what are you waiting for, go play!"

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Matthew 26:28; Hebrews 9:14. Discuss following questions.

- 1.) Why is Jesus' blood of importance?
- 2.) What can Jesus' blood do for us?

TITLE: Forgive and Forget

SCRIPTURE: Mark 11:25-26

MEMORY VERSE: *Isaiah 43:25 I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.*

FOCUS QUESTION: How should we forgive others?

“I might forgive, but I’ll never forget”, Sue said as she stomped off to her bedroom. One of Sue’s friends, Mary, had hurt her by something that she said. Sue was very upset with Mary’s remarks. Mary had said something while she was upset and asked Sue for forgiveness, but it was too much for her friend Sue to take. Mary left Sue’s house and went to her own house while Sue sat up in her bedroom and pouted about the whole situation. Sue’s father came up into the her bedroom to talk with her, “Sue, I understand that you were hurt by what Mary said to you, but she asked you to forgive her and the Christian thing to do is to give her your forgiveness.” “I said that I would do that, but I’m not going to ever forget what she did to me,” Sue said. Sue’s father looked at her and said, “Not forgetting is not forgiving.” “Dad how can I ever forget, it’s there in my head, what she did,” Sue said? “Forgetting means to never hold that fault against your friend ever again,” Sue’s father said, “It means that fault is put behind you never to be brought out again. Sue, God says that He will never remember our sins again, that our sins are not remembered anymore. This does not mean that God is forgetful, but that He chooses not to remember them anymore. Wouldn’t it be terrible if God said that He forgave our sins and then brought up our sins to us again sometime in the future. God says that we need to forgive others and put their faults behind us.” “I’m sorry dad”, Sue said, “I’m going to go to Mary’s house and forgive her and forget the fault. If I’m suppose to be like Jesus, I guess I better learn to forgive and forget. Dad, it will be hard for me to forget what Mary said, it hurts.” “I know Sue, doing right is sometimes difficult, but let’s pray for God to help you with this.”

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Psalm 79:8; 25:7. Discuss following questions.

- 1.) What does the psalmist ask God not to remember?
- 2.) Does this mean that God is forgetful?

TITLE: Rebuke the Lies that Blind the Eyes

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 23:13-15

MEMORY VERSE: *1 Timothy 5:20 Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear.*

FOCUS QUESTION: What should we do when others speak a false gospel?

Pastor Bob was the youth Pastor the First Independent Baptist Church. He would make many visits with folks from the church. Many times he would go out and knock on doors and tell people about how to go to Heaven someday. The church had a scheduled time for soul winning which Pastor Bob was sure to be at, but he also felt it important to go on other days as well. Pastor Bob would visit the sick, he would also visit with the bus children. Pastor Bob was always trying to encourage the parents of the bus children to come to church. Pastor Bob led some of the parents to the Lord Jesus as they received Him as their Saviour. Visiting these people and encouraging them always made Pastor Bob encouraged himself. Pastor Bob also would visit senior homes where many elderly people would look forward to a visit. Pastor Bob on one occasion visited one home where a woman he was talking to told him she was a Mormon. A Mormon is a person who is involved in a cult called, Mormonism. Many people think they are Christians, but they are not. Pastor Bob said to this woman, "Here let me give you some pretty interesting reading material." Pastor Bob reached into his front shirt pocket and pulled out a tract dealing with Mormonism and their lies. "Lies, we don't lie," the woman said, "You belong to the First Baptist Church and you and your Pastor have been saying bad things about our church." Pastor Bob look and said, "I just want you to see the truth." "I know the truth," the woman scoffed. "The truth is that Mormonism has a different Jesus then the Jesus of the Bible", Pastor Bob said, "The Mormon church believes that Jesus was a man that was good and became a god. They also teach that if a man will be good, and obey them he too will become a god. This is a lie that has been spread by Satan." The woman refused to listen and Pastor Bob moved on with his visits. The Bible says that the people that are not saved, people in these cults are blind. This blindness means that they can not see the truth, they can't understand the Gospel. It is the job of Christians to win the lost with the Gospel, and to rebuke the lies that blind the eyes.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Titus 1:13; 2 Timothy 4:2. Discuss following questions.

- 1.) What should a child of God say about false doctrines?
- 2.) Can you think of other cults that teach a false doctrines?

TITLE: Two Memorials

SCRIPTURE: Joshua 4:1-9

MEMORY VERSE: *Ecclesiastes 12:1 Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;*

FOCUS QUESTION: What is a memorial?

What is a memorial? A memorial is a monument or a holiday established to preserve the memory of a person or an event. A memorial is something that helps us to remember. God also wants us to remember some things. In God's Word we are told of two memorials. In the book of Joshua, the children of Israel are being led into the promised land by Joshua. They come to the Jordan river, the priests who are carrying the Ark of the Covenant put their feet in the river's edge, and the waters push back by God. The Israelites then walk over to the other side of the Jordan on dry land, because God had parted the Jordan river's water. God then tells the Israelites to put up two memorials. One memorial was to be in the river and the other memorial was to be outside of the river Jordan. Twelve stones were taken from the river bed where the Israelites crossed and set up outside of the river bed as a memorial. Twelve stones were taken from outside the river bed and placed in the middle of the river bed where Israel crossed. These two memorials were to cause Israel and other generations after them to remember. Two memorials, one in the river and the other outside of the Jordan river. God wants us to remember some important things. God wants us to remember to read our Bible. The Bible is God's Word and should be read everyday. God wants us to also remember to pray. Praying is how we talk to God, when we pray we are asking God some things. God wants us to remember to be a witness. Being a witness is important, because others need to hear the Gospel and get saved. God wants us to be at church. The church house is the place where God's truths are preached and we learn how to live, and to also have fellowship with other believers. A memorial is something that is established to cause us to remember and honor something or someone. We can show obedience to God, and honor to God by remembering to do what it is He wants us to do.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Psalm 78:5-6. Discuss following questions.

- 1) What should fathers make known to their children?
- 2) What is a memorial?

TITLE: Lifestyle or Sin style.

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 2:18-25

MEMORY VERSE: *Genesis 2:24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.*

FOCUS QUESTION: What is marriage?

God created man on the sixth day. The first man's name was called, Adam. God saw that Adam was alone and said that it was not good. So God created woman and brought her to Adam in the garden of Eden. God brought Adam and Eve together as husband and wife. God created marriage between a man and a woman that is brought together by God. Marriage is something that is to be between a man and woman and is also to be permanent. Marriage is never to be between a man and a man or a woman and a woman. God says that the sin of homosexuality is sin, and God hates it. Many people are trying to promote another form of marriage or relationship, but the Bible says that marriage is between a man and a woman. The name alternative lifestyle or gay is what some might use to call their sin, but God still calls it an abomination. In schools, some children are being taught that homosexuality is the way that they are born, but this is a lie from Satan. Children, don't you believe that gays are born that way, this is simply not the truth. This so called lifestyle is not a lifestyle, but a death style. The disease called Aids is being spread over the world, one way is through a break down of marriage, in which the Bible's view of marriage is tossed aside and a view of one's own personal interpretation of marriage is put in its place. We that are saved by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ must remain pure and go to the wedding altar a virgin. We must remember that marriage is one man and one woman for one lifetime. This is God's plan for marriage. A report by the Heritage Foundation reveals that efforts recommending abstinence to teens can pay off in reducing out of wedlock births. God created marriage to be something wonderful between a man and a woman for a lifetime.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Leviticus 20:13. Discuss following questions.

- 1) What is marriage?
- 2) What does God say is an abomination?

TITLE: Seasons of life

SCRIPTURE: Ecclesiastes 3:1-11

MEMORY VERSE: *Ecclesiastes 3:1 To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:*

FOCUS QUESTION: Will you trust God in life?

“Alright class”, the teacher said, “What are the four seasons?” John rased up his hand high in the air. “Yes”, the teacher said, “John, what are the four seasons?” John stood up beside his desk and said, “Winter, spring, summer, fall.” “Very good John, you knew them all”, the teacher said. It was easy for John to remember the four seasons after what he learned from his Sunday school teacher. John enjoyed going to Sunday School, becasue it was in Sunday School that John learned so much about the Bible. John was glad he had received Jesus as his Saviour, but he did not want to stop with that, he wanted to grow as God’s child. John’s Sunday School teacher told him that there are many seasons in life. Not just winter, spring, summer, fall, but also different periods in our life as we grow. Many times these periods are difficult, other times they are very joyous. No matter what the circumstance, God can take it and use it for our benifit if we will allow Him and trust Him to. To trust God is to put our life in His hands daily, trusting God to work in our life for His purpose. As God’s children, God is working in us to conform us to the image of His Son, Jesus. Though we are unable to understand the seasons of life, God has a divine purpose. John was only fifteen years old, but John could see that in his own life God was working. John had come through some happy times as well as sorrowful times. This was a difficult thing to do, to put it in God’s hands, but that is what John started to do. Probibly the thing that John’s Sunday School teacher said that stuck with John the most was that God created us, not only for time, but also for eternity. God is working in our life with an eternal purpose.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS:Read Ecclesiastes 3:1. Discuss following questions.

- 1) To every thing there is a what?
- 2) To every time there is a what?

TITLE: The Picture.

SCRIPTURE: Romans 8:29; 12:1-2

MEMORY VERSE: *Philippians 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:*

FOCUS QUESTION: Who does God want you to be like?

A famous artist was in a public exhibition, showing everyone his skill in painting. He took a piece of canvas about six feet long by two feet wide, he then placed the canvas horizontal upon an easel before his audience and then began to sketch a landscape. Quickly appeared green meadows with cattle, fields of grain, the farmhouse, a bright blue sky with clouds. The artist held his brush as if done and stepped aside to receive the applause from the audience. After the applause, the artist stepped back to the canvas as if not quite done with the picture. He took some darker colors and applied them to the canvas in a reckless way. The meadow disappeared, the bright sky vanished. "Did you ever see a picture like this?" the artist said. Up and down the picture the artist went until all the landscape was totally obliterated. Then the artist look at the picture with a look of being complete, and stepped back from the picture so the audience could see. No applause came from the audience, but instead perplexed looks. The artist then had the stage attendee come out and put a frame around the ruined work of art, and turned it in the vertical position. The mystery of the picture was revealed, for the picture was of a beautiful waterfall with water flowing over dark mossy rocks. The audience bursts into applause. Many times we do not see the work the God is doing in our life as Christians, but God is conforming us into something beautiful for all eternity. God wants us to be conformed to the image of His Son. Although we do not understand everything now, one day the picture will be turned around for us to see and understand.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Hebrews 13:21. Discuss following questions.

- 1) Who does God want you to be like?
- 2) Why does God want us to be like Jesus Christ?

TITLE: The Repackaging.

SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 18:9-12

MEMORY VERSE: *Isaiah 5:20 Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil;*

FOCUS QUESTION: Is there a difference between “good magic” and “bad magic?”

Many times people think that they can dabble in the occult and it will not effect them. The Bible says that we are to have no dealings with darkness. Witchcraft is sin, and many times it is repackaged so the public will buy into this demonic perversion. Witchcraft is also called, “white witchcraft, wicca, or neo-paganism.” Wicca means to twist, bend, or warp. Wicca is claimed to be a “back to nature” religion, but it is nothing more then repackaged witchcraft. Harry Potter movies have sparked an interest into the occult. Harry Potter is a witch who entices children into witchcraft by making them feel at home with the paranormal. The Bible shows us that witchcraft, sorcery, spells, divination, and magic are evil. God hates these practices because they are demonic. The lie that “good magic” overcoming “bad magic” is a lie to confuse the one watching these films. “Good magic” or “bad magic” still get their power from the same source, the devil. When Christians read and watch these Harry Potter stories, they desensitize their hearts and minds to evil. This is turning God’s truth upside down, and allowing the devil to gain ground in our life. Peter Smith, the general secretary of the British Association of Teachers and Lecturers said this, *“The premiere of Harry Potter the movie will lead to a whole new generation of youngsters discovering witchcraft and wizardry . . . Increasing numbers of children are spending hours alone browsing the internet in search of Satanic websites and we are concerned that nobody is monitoring this growing fascination.”* Psychic Eye Book Store manager cheers “the Harry Potter craze” he says, *“It’s taken away a lot of the fear. People are more accepting of things like witchcraft and magic after Harry Potter came out.”* God’s people are commanded to have nothing to do with the fruits of darkness. As children of God we must separate ourselves from witchcraft or anything else that would be condemned by God’s Word, and draw us away from Jesus Christ.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Colossians 2:6-9. Discuss following questions.

- 1) Is there a difference between “good magic” and “bad magic?”
- 2) Should a Christian watch movies or read books dealing with witchcraft?

TITLE: The Gospel Tract

SCRIPTURE: Romans 5:6-10

MEMORY VERSE: *Romans 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*

FOCUS QUESTION: Do you know the way to Heaven?

Bruce looked at the tract his friend from school had given him. It's title read, *"How to Get to Heaven."* Bruce had been going to this school for a few weeks when he met his new friend Ken. Ken was very nice to Bruce, and it was nice to have somebody befriend him, since Bruce was the new kid in town. Bruce move from the city to this small town and was having trouble making friends, but that is when Ken showed up and gave Bruce a tour around the school. Bruce and Ken had been friends at school ever since the day of the tour. Bruce looked at the tract again which said, *"The Bible is God's Word."* Bruce believed the Bible, even though he had never read it much. Bruce read the tract some more, *"The Bible says, **For all have sinned.**"* Bruce knew that he was a sinner, because he had done many things wrong, things that were displeasing to God. Lying, cheating, cursing, stealing, disobedience was all sin. The punishment for sin is Hell, which is a terrible place of judgment for the unsaved. As Bruce read the tract he noticed that it read, *"Can I save myself from Hell? No! Jesus who is God's Son never sinned, He came to pay for our sins on the cross. Christ Jesus died, was buried, and arose again. Jesus is alive in Heaven today. The Bible says, **But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.**"* How can a person be saved from sins? Pray to God asking Jesus to come into your heart and to forgive your sins, and to save you. The Bible says, ***For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.***" Bruce understood what he needed to do to be saved. Bruce closed his eyes and prayed, asking Jesus to forgive his sins and save him. The next day at school Bruce went to Ken and said, "Hey Ken, remember that Gospel tract you gave me. I read it and understood it and I've asked Jesus to save me." That made Ken so happy to think that his extra effort in passing out a tract paid off in getting Bruce saved.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Romans 10:14-15. Discuss following questions.

- 1) How is a person to hear the Gospel?
- 2) Why is it important to tell others about Jesus Christ?

TITLE: The Murmuring

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 15:22-27

MEMORY VERSE: *Philippians 2:14 Do all things without murmurings and disputings:*

FOCUS QUESTION: What is murmuring?

It is easy to murmur and complain. To murmur is to complain to yourself or to others. To murmur is to complain about someone or something behind their back. When you grumble around about not having something, it is murmuring. God's chosen people called the Israelites were brought out of Egypt by God, at the hand of Moses. They were not long in the wilderness and they began to murmur because they had no water that was fit to drink. The water at a place called Marah was bitter and could not be drunk. Moses cried to God and He showed Moses what to do. Moses took a tree and cast it into the bitter waters and the waters were made sweet. God provided for the Israelites, water. Again the Israelites were in the wilderness and murmured because they had no food to eat. The Israelites murmured that it would have been better for them to die in Egypt then to die of hunger in the wilderness. God answered their cry and rained bread from heaven called *manna*. Israel would go outside in the mornings and pick this bread up to eat throughout the day. God provide for Israel once again. God was displeased with the murmurings of the Israelites, Moses said, "*the LORD heareth your murmurings which ye murmur against him: and what are we? your murmurings are not against us, but against the LORD.*" When we murmur we are murmuring against God. Sometimes you might murmur about cleaning your room, or maybe picking up your toys. Remember that murmuring is sin, and the next time you are tempted to murmur or complain, pray and ask God to help you.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Exodus 16:8. Discuss following questions.

- 1) What does it mean to murmur?
- 2) When you murmur, who are you murmuring against?

TITLE: The Golden Calves

SCRIPTURE: 1 Kings 12:25-29

MEMORY VERSE: *Matthew 4:10 “. . . Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.”*

FOCUS QUESTION: How can someone turn you away from God?

Has anyone ever tried to turn you from doing what God wants you to do? Maybe they wanted to keep you home from church. Sometimes children will try to persuade each other to go and do something wrong. There is a man in the Bible that turned people from God, his name was Jeroboam. Jeroboam was a king. Jeroboam was the king of Israel. He was a king that turned the Israelite's heart away from God. What a terrible thing Jeroboam is remembered for, turning God's people from God. Jeroboam was a king that was afraid of losing his kingdom to a neighboring king. The Israelites would go to Jerusalem with a sacrifice. Jerusalem was in the kingdom of king Rehoboam. Jeroboam thought that if his people went into Rehoboam's kingdom, they would want him as their king instead of Jeroboam. Jeroboam thought of a plan. His plan was to build some idols in his own cities and command the people to worship them. King Jeroboam had two calves built, made out of gold. Jeroboam said to the people, *“It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem: behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.”* One calf was set up in the city of Bethel, and the other calf was set up in the city of Dan. Jeroboam was leading God's people into sin. Jeroboam was giving the people a counterfeit worship, and this was displeasing to God. Sometimes people will try to lead you the wrong way, and into sin. Remember what God has said in His Word and trust it completely. When someone tries to get you to stay home from church, they are leading you the wrong way. When someone tried to get you to stop reading your Bible, they are leading you the wrong way. When someone tried to get you to talk bad about someone, they are leading you the wrong way. Learn from this example of Jeroboam, and serve God the right way, the Bible way.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Hebrews 12:28. Discuss following questions.

- 1) How are we to worship God?
- 2) What book tell us how to live?

TITLE: Fishing Lures

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 26:41; James 1:12

MEMORY VERSE: *Matthew 6:13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:*

FOCUS QUESTION: What is your favorite lure?

One day while fishing, I hooked a big fish. The fish was so big that I had trouble getting him reeled in with my fishing pole. This was not the first big fish that I had ever caught, but it was one of the largest. I caught that fish on a lure. A lure is something that looks like real food for the fish, but it is not. A lure will have hooks on it so that when the fish bites the lure, you will be able to catch him. A lure will make a sound going through the water to attract the fish. The lure will also be attractive. Lures come in many colors for many different fish. When you go fishing, a fisherman must go at the right time, which is generally in the morning or evening. The fisherman must put the lure in the right place, which is where the fish is (*In the water*). The last thing a fisherman must do is use the right lure. If you do not use the right lure the fish will not bite. It must be the lure that the fish is attracted to. The devil will try to lure us into sin. He is a master of leading people into sin. The devil knows the right lure to use on each and every one of us. We might look at the lure the devil places in front of us and think that it will bring satisfaction. We might look at the lure and think that it will make us full. We might look at the lure and think that it will bring happiness. The lure will not help us at all, but instead will hook us. Many people get hooked on drugs. There are boys and girls that get hooked on swearing. I have talked to men who were hooked on tobacco. There are people who are hooked on gossiping. Do not even look at the lure that is put out there by the devil, or the lure of the world that promises some kind of fulfillment outside of God. Follow God and beware of the lures in your life.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read 1 Corinthians 10:13. Discuss following questions.

- 1) What promise does God give in I Corinthians 10:13?
- 2) What should we do with the lures in life?

TITLE: Cookie Jar Crook

SCRIPTURE: Romans 6:11-14

MEMORY VERSE: *Romans 13:14 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.*

FOCUS QUESTION: What are provisions?

The little boy looked at the cookie jar. His mother had told him to stay out of the cookie jar, because a cookie would ruin his supper. The little boy stared at the cookie jar and thought, "A cookie would be nice to eat." The boy move over a little closer to the cookie jar, and before long he was beside the cookie jar. He took the lid off the jar and peeked inside. The cookies looked good to eat. The cookies were chocolate chip, his favorite. As he stared at the cookies in the jar, he smelled the chocolate chip cookies, "Delicious", the little boy thought. Before long the cookie was in the boy's hand, then in his mouth. The cookie felt good going down into the boy's belly and filling that empty spot. After the cookie was gone the boy began to feel guilty about what he had done.

The story of this little boy and his sin is a good example of making provisions for the flesh. Provisions are *a stock of supplies that are necessary*. Food, water, clothes are things that are necessary. Provisions for the flesh are things that supply us to sin. The boy left some things in his life that caused him to fall into sin. Most people would not think that taking a cookie as sin, but it is. Many people would say, "What is the harm, it was just a cookie?" The boy by taking and eating the cookie was disobeying his mother. The boy's sin grieved God. The boy also was grieved himself by his disobedience. Stealing a cookie will not get you thrown in jail, but it could lead you on the path that will take you there. Instead of the staying around and starrng at the cookie jar, the boy should have left it. By being at the cookie jar, smelling the cookies, thinking about the cookies, the boy was making provisions for the flesh. He made the temptation greater by being around the cookie jar. When we are tempted we should remove that temptation from our lives, or leave that temptation. If we are around something that we can't resist we should always leave. Do not make provisions for the flesh. Do not allow things in your life that will make it easy for you to sin.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read 1 John 2:1. Discuss following questions.

- 1) What are God's children not to do?
- 2) How can we not make provisions for the flesh?

TITLE: Tears in a Bottle

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 1:3-6

MEMORY VERSE: *Psalms 56:8 Thou tellest my wanderings: put thou my tears into thy bottle: are they not in thy book?*

FOCUS QUESTION: Who can give us comfort?

When we look around throughout the world we see many things that make us sad. We see people who are hungry. There are some countries where people are dying at a high rate because of disease. Many people wander around from place to place because they are homeless. Thousands of people die each year because of alcohol and drugs. America's cost for alcohol and drug abuse is more than 240 billion dollars each year. People are more interested in pleasure than they are people's lives. Homes are broken up, families are destroyed and children are being abused. When we look around we see oppression everywhere. To oppress mean to persecute by unjust use or force or authority. During Jesus' earthly ministry He would go from city to city, over the country healing people. The Bible says that Jesus was healing those who were oppressed of the Devil. The Devil is the source of oppression. Acts 10:38 says, "*How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.*" Satan is the oppressor of people. Satan is the one who wants to weight people down and persecute them. Every hurt, every broken home, every disease can be traced to the Devil and sin. People in this world apart from God have no comfort. They look around at all the hurt and pain and see life as something that is not worth living. God's people have something worth living for, because in a world full of tears, we have a God that can give comfort. God sees each one of our tears and He knows why they are cried. God knows our pain and our troubles, and He is a God of comfort. All our troubles and heartaches need to be brought to God in prayer, because God cares, God knows, and God can comfort us. In a world that is oppressive and many tears are cried, God is a God of comfort.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Psalms 142:3-6. Discuss following questions.

- 1) What are God's children to do when they are troubled?
- 2) How can we help others who hurt?

TITLE: Spider Root

SCRIPTURE: Romans 12:1-3

MEMORY VERSE: *Romans 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*

FOCUS QUESTION: What is the root of man's problems?

Sin is something that grieves God. That means that it makes God sad when we sin. Sin is anything that we think, say, or do that displeases God. We need to ask God to forgive us of our sins in Jesus Christ's name and turn from those sins. Many times we look at what sin causes instead of at the sin itself. You can work and work at what sin causes and still not get anywhere, because you need to deal with the problem. The problem with man is sin. You can pull a weed and the weed will grow back in a few days, because there is a root that you can't see. This root is hidden to the eye and will allow the weed to grow back. To kill a weed you need to get to the root. If you kill the weed's root, you have truly killed the weed. Sin is like this weed's root. If you pull all the filthy sinful things out of a person's life he will look cleaned up, but it will only last temporally. Before long the root of sin will grow back into a gross weed again. The person who appeared to be cleaned up on the outside will find himself back into his old ways again. There was a preacher who was so vexed with the people of his church. They would gather around the altar every Wednesday night at prayer meeting and pray. The people of that church would almost always end their prayers with this, "*and Lord, please clean all of the cob webs out of the corners of my heart.*" Finally one night the preacher had enough of this cob web prayer business. One of the people of the congregation closed their prayer with, "*and Lord, please clean all of the cob webs out of the corners of my heart,*" and the preacher yelled, "Don't do it Lord, kill the spider." The preacher in this story had the right idea about sin. He said to kill the spider, and we need to kill the sin in our life by taking it to Jesus Christ and asking Him to forgive us of our sin. We can try to clean all the messes that sin causes, but we need to deal with the spider and the root, which is the sin in our life. Confess your sin to Jesus, pray, read your Bible and live it.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Psalms 119:9. Discuss following questions.

- 1) What should we do with sin?
- 2) What should a child of God use to clean his way?

TITLE: Verbal Inspiration of the Bible

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:9-16

MEMORY VERSE: *John 8:32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*

FOCUS QUESTION: What is verbal inspiration?

The Bible says this about itself, *“thy word is truth”*. The Bible is truth. This means that you can rely and trust in the Bible. The Bible is written by verbal inspiration of God. This word inspiration means *“God breathed”*, God spoke and man wrote down the words. There are people who deny the Bible as God’s Word. One way they deny the Bible is they say that just portions of the Bible are true. They pick and choose what they want to believe. Some people will add to or take away from the Word of God. The Mormons are a cult that believe they have another bible with writings that are inspired from God. The book the Mormons will hold to more than the Bible is called the *“book of Mormon”*. They believe that this book is to be more perfect than the Bible. The Seventh Day Adventist church believes that the writings of *“Mrs. White”* is just as inspired of God as the Bible is. These groups are adding books with the Bible which they believe are inspired and are adding to God’s Word. The new translations are coming out everyday and they are taking away from God’s Word by picking and choosing what to put in and what to leave out. The Living Bible, New International Bible, Good News for Modern Man, are just some of the many translations that are polluting, and corrupting God’s Word. Then there is some people that have a total disregard of the Bible. They do not believe that it is God’s Word at all, and because of this they can never be saved. They have a life without hope because they can’t come to the Saviour without faith. These folks have no standard on how to live, and they wander from what God could make out of their life, and never know the joy of God’s wisdom, guidance, and protection. The last group I’ll talk about is the people who delight in God’s Word. They believe the Bible to be verbally inspired of God. They have built their life on the truth of God’s Word. The Bible is a joy to their hearts to read and they do what the Bible says. Because of their obedience and faith to, and in God’s Word they have the joy of knowing God’s plan for their life, and God’s promises for all eternity.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read John 17:17. Discuss following questions.

- 1) What is truth?
- 2) What does it mean to sanctify?

TITLE: Revival

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 2:7; 2 Chronicles 7:14

MEMORY VERSE: *Psalm 85:6 Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?*

FOCUS QUESTION: What is revival?

Bob looked at the bulletin from Sunday morning church service. Over by the right side on the bulletin under announcements Bob read, “*Revival*”. The church was planning revival services for the next month. Bob looked to his father and asked, “Dad, what does that word “revival” mean?” “Revival comes from the word revive. The word revive means to live again. We are planning to have these services for the people of First Baptist Church to stir their hearts, and get them excited about the work of God”, Bob’s father answered. “I thought that is what the church services were suppose to do”, Bob replied. “Well”, his father said, “Church is suppose to do that, but it is easy for folks to get into a routine with church, and have no zeal. Revival starts with God’s people. People have a tendency to loose their love for the work of the Lord. People might even let bad feelings get in-between themselves and others. These revival services are a special time in which we are praying that God will do a special work in our church and revive us.” “There are a lot of people that need revived at our church”, Bob answered. “Yes, there are,” Bob’s father answered, “But Bob you need revived as well. Revival does not start with the people farthest from God, but the people closest to God. It’s like building a fire. You don’t start building a fire with a log, you start building a fire with little sticks. Once those start to burn, then you can move on to bigger pieces of wood, and then eventually logs. If revival is going to start, it will start with the people who are ready and willing for it to start. Many of times revival starts with the young people of the church before it will ever move to the adults.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Habakkuk 3:2. Discuss following questions.

- 1) What is Habakkuk praying for?
- 2) What is revival?

TITLE: Bowl of Milk

SCRIPTURE: Colossians 3:1-4

MEMORY VERSE: *Colossians 3:2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.*

FOCUS QUESTION: What should a Christian focus his live on?

There was a king that ruled a kingdom. King James was the name of the king. He was a very good king that love the people of his kingdom very much. He had a kingdom of people who were very loyal to him as king because he loved them very much. The castle were the king lived was very large and it was filled with expensive works of art. There was all kinds of paintings on the castle walls. The king was very proud of his paintings. One night someone broke into the king's castle and stole some of these expensive paintings. The thief broke into the castle in the dark of night and almost got away with the kings paintings, but was caught by a guard. The king had a trial and the man was found guilty and sentence to death for his crime. The king was happy to have his paintings back, but was sad that the punishment for the thief was death. The king knew the thief should be punished, but a sentence of death seemed very harsh. The king thought for a while and came up with an idea. The king told the thief that he would be forgiven of his crime if he could carry a bowl of milk in the king's parade without spilling it. The thief agreed and was soon carrying the bowl of milk in the parade. Sure enough the thief made it completely through the parade without spilling a drop of milk. The king said to the thief, "You did it! You carried the bowl of milk through the entire parade and did not spill a drop, you are forgiven of your crime." "Let me ask you something", the king said, "How did you like chariots, in the parade?" The thief said, "I didn't see the chariots." "We'll how did you like the military men in the parade", the king asked? "I didn't see them either", the thief answered. "How about the musical instruments", the king said? "I didn't see the musical instruments, because all my attention was on that bowl of milk I didn't see anything else", the thief replied.

As God's children are attention should be focus on Jesus Christ so much that we don't see all the distractions of life. Our lives should center around the Lord Jesus Christ and serving Him that all our concentration is on living for Him. Pray to God today to help you not to be distracted by the world's attraction, but instead to be focused on Jesus and His work.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read 1 John 2:15. Discuss following questions.

- 1) Where should our love be?
- 2) What should our attention be on?

TITLE: God's Word

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 34:16; Psalm 119:11; Joshua 1:8; James 1:22

MEMORY VERSE: *James 1:22 "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves."*

FOCUS QUESTION: What should we do with God's Word?

We need to delight ourselves in the Bible. We delight in things we like to do. Sometimes doing things takes work until we can get ourselves into the habit of doing it. The Bible is God's Word and we need to read the Bible. The Word of God has been preserved for us in the 1611 King James Bible. The Bible is a precious book, it's pages have the words of God and it teaches us how to live. We need to read the Bible on a daily basis. To much of our time is filled up with television, radio, games, and other things, and there seems to be no time for God's Word. It is very important to set time aside for Bible reading and prayer. If you do not set aside some time you will never have the time for reading God's Word. Make sure that when you do your Bible reading you can be alone to concentrate on it. We also need to memorize God's Word. Pick out some verses in the Bible which you would like to memorize and start with those verses. Maybe your church has monthly memory verses you can learn as well. Practice saying these verses wherever you go, and it will soon be committed to memory. The next thing to do with God's Word is to meditate on God's Word. This word meditate does not mean to empty oneself, but instead to fill oneself with the Bible. Think about the truth of the Bible all day long. Get the Bible in your heart, and into your head, and think about it. The last thing to do with the Bible is to mandate it. This means to apply it to your life, make it apart of your life. Do not be just someone who reads the Bible, but put the Bible to use in your life. The Bible says this in James 1:22 *"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves."*

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Psalms 18:30. Discuss following questions.

- 1) What does it mean that God's Word is tried?
- 2) What time will you set aside for Bible reading and prayer?

TITLE: The Big Switch.

SCRIPTURE: 1 Timothy 6:6-11

MEMORY VERSE: *1 Timothy 6:6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.*

FOCUS QUESTION: Are you happy with who you are?

Have you ever heard of the story of the two boys who wanted to be someone else? The first boy was a prince and the other boy was poor. The poor boy was always thinking how great it would be to be a prince. Anything that he would need or want he could have. The prince on the other hand would think to himself, "I wish I could be like the poor common people. They get to go wherever they want, but I can't because I must stay in the castle." The poor boy was around the castle one day and came upon the prince. The prince and the poor boy noticed something, they both looked alike. The only difference that could be seen between the poor boy and the prince was their clothing. They talked and thought that it would be great if they could switch clothing and then switch lives. The prince would become the poor boy and the poor boy would become the prince. The two boys switched cloths and went about their new lives. The prince soon found out that being poor was not as great as he had thought. He did not have the meals like he once had in the castle. His cloths were not as nice as they once were when he was a prince, and even his royal duties which he did at the castle he began to miss. The poor boy that became a prince had also found out that being a prince was a lot of hard work. The prince had to do many duties around the castle. The prince would give many speeches in a day's time to thousands of people. The freedom that the poor boy once knew were gone and his days were filled with responsibility. The story ends with the two boys switching back to what they once did and being content with their position. Many times we are discontent with who we are. We should never wish to be somebody else, because God made us for a very special purpose. God loves you very much and has a wonderful plan for your life. If we keep thinking it would be great to be somebody else we will never learn to be content, and our life will be miserable.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Philippians 4:11. Discuss following questions.

- 1) Why is it important to be content?
- 2) What should we be content with?

TITLE: The Ford Story

SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 1:24-29

MEMORY VERSE: *Isaiah 43:15 I am the LORD, your Holy One, the creator of Israel, your King.*

FOCUS QUESTION: Do you ignore the Creator?

Here is a story that is said to have been true. There was a young man who Ford car was broke down along the road. This man was some what knowledgeable about car, so he started to work on his car. It was a hot day and the car was in the sun. It was not long until the young man was sweating. He worked for sometime until another car pulled off the road behind him. Out of the car stepped a frail old man. The old man walked up to the broken down Ford car and offered to help. "No, old man, I've got it", the young man replied. The old man looked at the young man working and said, "Son, I think that I can be of some help." "No, I told you, I've got it", the frustrated young man yelled back. "Very well", the old man said, "Have it your way". As the old frail man pulled out and drove down the rode the young man noticed his license plate, which said Ford. The frail old man that offered his help to the young man was Mr. Ford the founder of the company Ford, and the creator of the Ford car. The young man said no to the advice of the creator of that car. This story illustrates an important truth. We should never say no to the Creator's advice. We should never ignore the Creator and what He says. Many people do say no to God when they do not read His Word, the Bible. They say no to God when they will not pray, go to church, or tithe. God has told us in the Bible to be a witness everywhere, yet people ignore the Creator. God has told us how to live, and many folks will turn their heads, do their own thing and ignore the Creator and what He says.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Ecclesiastes 12:1. Discuss following questions.

- 1) Why is it important to listen to our Creator?
- 2) What are some things our Creator tells us to do?

TITLE: Wise Child or Foolish King

SCRIPTURE: Ecclesiastes 4:13-14

MEMORY VERSE: *Psalm 34:11 Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the LORD.*

FOCUS QUESTION: Are you like a child?

God has a lot to say about children in His Word the Bible. Children are very special to God. The Bible says that children are like olive plants. A plant is something that requires care to grow. An olive plant is not a tree yet, but is something that is small and is still growing. Olive plants will grow and someday give a special oil that is useful. The Bible says that grandchildren are a crown to old men. Everyone knows that grandparents love to talk about their grandchildren, telling everybody how proud they are of them. Grandfathers will usually have a wallet full of pictures to show off their grandchildren. The Bible says that children are as arrows in the hand of a mighty man. Children are something that is very important and precious. Jesus said that if a man or woman were to be saved they would need to come to Him as a little child. Jesus said that to trust in Him for safety that people would need to trust as a child would. Jesus said to Jerusalem that He wanted to gather them together as little children and protect them as a hen would gather her chicks under her wings, and they would not. Jesus told people that if they wanted to be great they would need to humble themselves and become as a little child. The Bible says so much about children, because children are a good example of the special need of us all. Everyone of us needs to be cared for as a child does. We need to all be growing as believers in Christ, like a child grows into an adult. Children need to be taught like believers need to be taught the things of God from the Bible. Many older people will not learn anything new because they are set in their ways. The Bible says that it is better to be a wise child than a foolish king. A foolish king is someone who has stopped learning and will not be taught. They feel that they have been around long enough to know everything, or they know enough to get by. The Bible says that you are foolish if you will not continue to learn. We all can learn, and need to learn more about the Bible. We can learn at Sunday School, Sunday Church Service, Sunday Evening Service, as well as mid-week service. All of God's children should have a daily time to read, pray, and study God's Word. God wants us to be a child that is wise. Many children are wise because they are ready and willing to learn. A person can be a foolish king at any age, so be careful not to let pride get the best of you. Have the attitude that you are ready to learn from God's Word and from God's people. God wants us all to have the characteristics of children, but not just any children, wise children. A wise child is a child that is teachable, so remain wise by remaining teachable.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Psalm 72:4, 128:3, 127:4; Proverbs 17:6.

TITLE: Stuck Up!

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 143:10; Ecclesiastes 4:13

MEMORY VERSE: *Psalm 143:10 Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness.*

FOCUS QUESTION: Have you ever wanted to be somebody else?

Bobby thought that he was very wise because he lived in a very nice house. It was the nicest house in town, at least he thought it was. Bobby thought to himself, "This house I live in is so nice, better than any other in town. Nobody can tell me anything, because my house is better than theirs." Bobby thinks he is better than others because he lives with his parents in a very expensive house. Bobby thinks he is wise because of the palace he lives in. Sue is a girl who has many nice things. Her father has a very good job, and is able to buy her many beautiful things. Sue always has nice clothes, the latest fashions. Sue has all the new and latest toys, and computers. Many of the children in school look up to her and try to be her friend because of all that she has. Sue thinks to herself, "I'm pretty special, because I've got so much. Everybody wants to be my friend, because whatever it is the other kids want, I already have it." Sue thinks that she is wise because she has many things. Sue thinks that she is better than others because of her possessions. Derrick is a boy who is very popular at school. All the children love to be around him, because Derrick is a very good looking boy. Derrick thinks to himself, "I'm so handsome, better looking than anyone else. I know that all these kids at school would love to be me because I'm so popular." Derrick thinks that his popularity makes him better than other children. Derrick thinks that he is wise because of his position with being popular. Have you ever wanted to be somebody else? You should be happy with who you are, because God made you special. In your life there might be some characteristics or habits that you do that are sin, and you need to confess and repent of that sin, but God made you as an individual, special. We are not wise because of our big beautiful house. We are not wise because of the possessions we have. We are not wise because of our popularity with people. The Bible says we are wise if we allow God to teach us. Many folks are foolish because they are unteachable. They will not let anyone tell them anything, because they feel that they know it all. Their palace, possessions, popularity has their eyes blinded and they think that somehow they are smarter or better than other people. What makes a person smarter or better is Jesus Christ. Keep yourself teachable and let God show you how to be wise.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Proverbs 12:15; James 1:5

TITLE: Anybody for Calvary?

SCRIPTURE: Luke 23:33-38

MEMORY VERSE: *“Hebrews 2:3 How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation . . .”*

FOCUS QUESTION: Do you know for sure you are going to Heaven?

Many people are fascinated with trains. Trains are apart of the history of the United States. We ride in cars and buses today, but at one time it was the mode of transportation. In one part of a town there was a train station. This particular part of town had a great burying ground. The cemetery was called Calvary Cemetery. In that part of town there was more dead people in the cemetery then there were living people. The trains did not at the cemetery except on request. Just after leaving the last station before this cemetery, a guard would open the door and say, “Next station is Calvary. Train stops on signal only. Anybody for Calvary?” The train would stop at every other stop in town, but to stop at Calvary the train would not, except someone expressed desire. This is a story that illustrates life. People will go through life stopping at many things, but if they wish to go to Heaven they must make a choice to stop at Calvary and receive the Saviour. Calvary is the place were Jesus Christ laid down His life and shed His blood for the world. All the sinners in the world could be saved if they would take the time to stop and ask God to forgive their sins through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross at Calvary. Everyone must be saved to go to Heaven, there is no other way. Many people know about Jesus, and what He has done on the cross, but they have never excepted Him into their heart to be their personal Saviour and to forgive them of their sins. Are you sure that you are going to Heaven when you die? You can be sure by trusting Jesus Christ as your Saviour. Ask Jesus Christ to come into your heart and forgive you of all your sins. Trust in Jesus Christ and what He did at Calvary, and that alone.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Luke 23:39-47. Answer the following questions.

- 1) What did the one malefactor recognize about Jesus?
- 2) What did Jesus say to the malefactor?

TITLE: Old & New Testament

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 9:15-20

MEMORY VERSE: *Hebrews 7:22 By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament.*

FOCUS QUESTION: What is a testament?

The Bible is God's Word. God's Word has been preserved in the 1611 King James Bible. When we open that Book we can rest assured that it is the words of the living God. When your Pastor preaches his sermon from the Bible, you can be assured that it is the mind of God. The first half of the Bible is called the Old Testament. A testament is a covenant or promise between God and man. It is tangible proof or tribute that testifies to serve as evidence. The Old Testament dealt with the blood of animal sacrifices. It was a religious system that was work, work, work. This religion is called Judaism. The Old Testament speaks of the coming Messiah, which is Jesus Christ. The Old Testament speaks of Jesus and what He would do on the cross of Calvary. The second half of the Bible is called the New Testament. This is the fulfillment of the prophecy from the Old Testament. This means, what God said He would do in the Old Testament concerning Jesus, God fulfilled in the New Testament. We that have received Jesus Christ as our Saviour are under the New Testament covenant. This means we no longer sacrifice animals daily for sin, because God's sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross was once for all, saving us from hell and washing us clean from sin. This sacrifice was a one time sacrifice that satisfied God in Heaven. It was the payment for sins made complete in Christ Jesus. The payment for sin has been paid, so a person needs to accept that payment, by receiving Jesus Christ into their heart by prayer, asking God to save them through Jesus Christ's sacrifice.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Mark 14:24. Answer the following questions.

- 1) What is a testament?
- 2) What is the difference between the Old and New Testament?

TITLE: Thy Foot

SCRIPTURE: Ecclesiastes 5:1; Hebrews 10:25

MEMORY VERSE: *Ecclesiastes 5:1 Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God . . .*

FOCUS QUESTION: Where should your foot take you?

“I don’t feel like going to church today”, Todd said to his father. “I’m sure you don’t”, his father answered, “But that has nothing to do with it, because we are going.” Todd was in church so much that he thought it would not hurt to miss just one service. “Todd”, his father said, “God expects us to be at church. In fact, it’s a command to come to the house of God. Many folks don’t feel the importance of coming to Sunday School or Sunday evening services. Some people think that they can skip Wednesday mid-week service, but God wants us to be there. It’s not a matter of if we feel like going or not. We are commanded to be at church, so we must go.” “Dad”, Todd said, “Other children get to have a choice in going to church. Some stay home if they decide to. Why can’t I do the same?” “Todd”, father answered, “Your my son, and I love you very much, but I would not be doing you any favors by leaving you stay home. You would not grow into the man that God would want you to be if I left you do whatever you felt like doing. Many parents let their children choose to go or stay home from church because they are tricked into believing that they are teaching their children responsibility. They are disobeying the Bible when they do this, because a parent’s responsibility is to God, and God says to train up a child according to the Bible.”

The Bible says to “*keep thy foot*” when you go to church. The Bible is talking about faithfulness. Solomon is speaking in the book of Ecclesiastes of being in church when church is going on. Many people will let their foot take them every and any place else but to the church house during church time. If you’re sick, stay home; if you’re not able to come, OK, but if you are able to go, then you should go to God’s house when church is going on. They say that the crowd on Sunday morning shows the popularity of the church; the crowd on Sunday night shows the popularity of the Pastor; and the crowd Wednesday night shows the popularity with Jesus.”

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Psalm 122:1. Answer the following questions.

- 1) How often should we go to church?
- 2) What should our attitude be when going to church?

TITLE: Follow the Shepherd.

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 13:7, 17

MEMORY VERSE: *Psalms 119:176 I have gone astray like a lost sheep; . . .*

FOCUS QUESTION: Who should lead the church?

There once was a flock of sheep. The flock of sheep had a shepherd. The shepherd loved the sheep very much. His job was to watch over the sheep, protect the sheep, lead the sheep. The shepherd would lead the sheep to the water for a drink. The shepherd always knew where the water was the best. Many times water can be infected with bacteria which could make a sheep sick. The shepherd would be very careful where he would lead the flock. The shepherd was also very wise, because he knew where to lead the sheep to green pastures. The sheep loved to eat and the shepherd was happy just to see his sheep happy. One day a sheep from the flock spoke up to the other sheep and said, "I think that we are able to find our own water. I know just where the water is cold and fresh. I also think that we are smart sheep, and we can find our own green grass. Who does this shepherd think that he is? We can do these things ourselves. Why do we need somebody to tell us what to do? I think we were doing fine before this shepherd came." It was not long before the other sheep were agreeing with this rebellious sheep. They all set out to find fresher water and greener pastures. They all said to the shepherd as they were leaving, "We are all tired of your leadership, we can do these things our own self, so we are done with you." The sheep wandered off to find fresh water, much fresher than the water the shepherd had provided. The sheep wandered off to find greener pastures, much greener than the pastures the shepherd provided. The sheep wandered and wandered until they were lost. A wolf spied the sheep out and started to destroy some of the sheep. The wolf ripped some sheep, wounded some sheep, and kill other sheep. Many of the sheep returned to the shepherd wounded and sore, but others did not. The sheep did not find what they were looking for, fresh water and green pastures. The wolf found the sheep when they were not properly led. So is the case in our churches when people do not follow the man God puts there as the shepherd, the Pastor. A church is to follow the Pastor, this is God's plan for the church.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Psalm 23. Answer the following questions.

- 1) What animal are we compared to?
- 2) What are some things we can do to show our obedience to our Pastor?

TITLE: The Church

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 16:13-18

MEMORY VERSE: *Psalms 122:1 I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD.*

FOCUS QUESTION: What does the word church mean?

When we say the word “church” we usually think of the building that we meet in for services on Sunday and also on Wednesday evenings for mid-week service. There also are people who think of church as the actual services Sunday School, Morning Church Service, and so forth. When the Bible speaks about church, it is referring to, the majority of the time, to the local independent church. This is a congregation of born again believers that have been baptized and meet together. First, the church is a local congregation of believers. Acts 8:1 say, “. . . *the church which was at Jerusalem.*” 1 Corinthians 1:2 say, “*Unto the church of God which is at Corinth.*” The local churches in the Bible are churches that are independent of each other. These churches are lead by the Pastor and still worked together with other churches to reach the lost with the Gospel, such as supporting Paul on his missionary journeys, sending money to other struggling churches. Secondly, please notice that the Bible speaks of the church having a local meeting place. Many times these Christians would meet in homes. Romans 16:5 say, “*Likewise greet the church that is in their house. . .*” 1 Corinthians 11:18 says, “*For first of all, when ye come together in **the church** . . .*” 1 Timothy 3:15 says, “. . . *the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.*” Last, I would like you to see that the Bible makes reference of the church as all the saved. Everyone, everywhere that has placed their faith and trust in Jesus Christ, that are born again, the Bible calls the church. Hebrews 12:23 says, “*To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven . . .*” Colossians 1:18 says, “*And he is the head of the body, the church:*”

When Jesus returns it is called the “rapture”, which is all believers going to be with the Lord Jesus Christ. The church is all born again believers everywhere; the church is also the local congregation of believers; the church is also a specific meeting place for the services.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Hebrews 10:25; 12:23. Answer the following questions.

- 1) What is the church?
- 2) Can you have church by yourself?

TITLE: Jesus' Virgin Birth

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 1:18-25

MEMORY VERSE: *Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*

FOCUS QUESTION: What does it mean that Jesus was virgin born?

Jesus was God's gift to man. Man is a sinner and God sent Jesus to pay for our sins. Jesus came to pay a price for our sins, but in order for Him to do that He could not have any sin of His own. Sin is passed down through the blood line from generation to generation. It started with Adam in the garden of Eden when he willingly ate of the fruit from the tree God said not to eat from. The Bible tells us that everyone born is a sinner, because of sin, passed all the way from Adam to us today. The blood that Adam had was passed down from family to family, person to person. This is why it is so important that Jesus should come born of a virgin. This means that when Jesus was born, He was born of a woman without an earthly father. Joseph would have been a step father to Jesus, because Jesus was conceived of the Holy Ghost. This means that God was the One who placed the life within Mary. This life was put together by God. Jesus was not born by an earthly father, but by the Holy Ghost. This is important, because Jesus needed to be sinless to pay for our sins. Only a sinless sacrifice could die for the sins of the world, and Jesus was that sacrifice. Jesus was the only person ever born that did not have an earthly father, because He was conceived of the Holy Ghost. Adam was created by the hand of God. Adam made a wrong decision in disobeying God, but Jesus came as the second Adam to make things right. God's sacrifice was Jesus, and this sacrifice was what God required for sin. If we will receive that sinless sacrifice, God will receive us. If you are not saved, will you pray and admit that you are a sinner? Acknowledge what Jesus did on the cross for sin, asking God to forgive you of your sins and to save you, receiving Jesus Christ as your Saviour. The Bible says that God will save you and make you a child of God if you will receive Jesus Christ as your Saviour.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read 1 Corinthians 15:21-22. Answer the following question.

1) Why is it important that Jesus was born of a virgin?

TITLE: The Label

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 5:12-17

MEMORY VERSE: *Colossians 1:29 Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.*

FOCUS QUESTION: How do others see you?

A label tells you some things, like what's on the inside of the container that it is on. Labels are very important. Somebody might say, "Don't label me!" But what an appearance does is labels you. When people see the outside of you, it tells them about you. A label has a list of ingredients. This list tells us what the product is made of. If you are saved you need to have good godly ingredients in you. Ingredients like love, joy, peace, happiness, gentleness, meekness. What about the ingredient called sodium? Sodium is salt. The Bible says we are to be the salt of the earth. This means we are the ingredient that brings out the flavor of the other ingredients. We are to be working spreading what God has given us with others. Another ingredient on many labels is protein. Protein is for building muscle and strong health. We should be growing strong as God's children and helping others to grow in the Lord. How about the ingredient of carbohydrates. Carbohydrates are starches that turn to sugar and will make you fat if you are not careful. Don't be so stiff and starching when you talk to others about Jesus, or the church. We are comfortable to talk about everything else, how about talking about Christ. People see, and hear your attitude. If you have a bad attitude it will make you look ugly. But a pleasant attitude will make a person look more attractive. The fairy tale stories always have a witch in the stories that looks beautiful, until something happens and her true ugliness is revealed. Get a good and pleasant attitude and it will improve your appearance. We should work on our appearance. We should strive to make sure we are sending a message to the world that we are saved and living for the Lord. Everyday you should try to dress neat. Everyday you should try to put on a happy face. Everyday you should pray and ask God to give you a proper attitude. Man looks on the outside because that's all he has to see of you. He does not have x-ray vision to see your guts. All he has to go on is what he sees, that's your appearance. Your appearance is your dress and your attitude that others see. You only get one chance to make a first impression. Your appearance is what others use to know about you. It's like a label.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read 1 Thessalonians 5:22. Answer the following question.

1) How is our life like a label to other people?

TITLE: The Butterfly's Meal

SCRIPTURE: Romans 8:1-4

MEMORY VERSE: *Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*

FOCUS QUESTION: Who is to control your body?

We are not to be out of control, but instead in control of our body. There is a lot of out of control people. Your body is to be controlled. Some things you have to control your bike are pedals, brakes, and handle bars. If you take any of these things away, you will run the risk of getting out of control. Cars have the same set up, it has a gas pedal, a brake pedal, a steering wheel. Suppose you are going to the store in your new car and the throttle sticks. The sudden burst of speed of the open throttle would make you go out of control. They say that most accidents take place because of a quick action on the gas pedal, brake pedal, or the steering wheel. Try driving a car without any brakes, and that would be very dangerous. How about driving a car without a steering wheel that worked properly, certainly you would go out of control? But you see it all over, in just about every person, everywhere. It is a spirit of out of control. This attitude will destroy you, it will send you off out of control to destruction. There is a little beautiful butterfly of less than an inch wingspread. It is a butterfly that is wonderfully colorful to look at. The butterfly is bright blue, and has gold spots on its wings. The butterfly is very beautiful, but the butterfly has a very disgusting habit and diet. The butterfly could fly up high in the air, but he does not. The butterfly could fly from flower to flower, out in the sunlight, but instead its beauty is masked by its descend to dung, where it lands and feeds there. This is the same way people will look at us if we have the wrong body language. They will look at us with a wrong view of Christ likeness. People will not see the beautiful godly characteristics in us, but instead they will look on in disgust.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Romans 6:11-13. Answer the following questions.

- 1) Who is to be in control of your life?
- 2) What is the difference between "members" and "instruments" in this passage?

TITLE: Unthankful Frank

SCRIPTURE: Ecclesiastes 6:1-2

MEMORY VERSE: *Ecclesiastes 6:9 Better is the sight of the eyes than the wandering of the desire: this is also vanity and vexation of spirit.*

FOCUS QUESTION: Are you able to enjoy?

Frank is a boy who is like most boys, but Frank has a problem. Frank's problem is that he is always so unthankful. We'll call him unthankful Frank. Unthankful Frank is always complaining about what he has. Unthankful Frank is always complaining about what he does not have. Unthankful Frank is always complaining. Unthankful Frank is looking forward to a day when he will have what it is he wants, but he is not sure what that is. Unthankful Frank looks at what he does have with such contempt, because he does not have, what it is he wants, though he's really not sure what it is. Unthankful Frank just keeps looking forward to where, he does not know, to a day, he knows not when, to what it is he wants, but he's really not sure. Unthankful Frank is a boy who can't enjoy what he has today. He will spend all the days of his life being miserable and making others miserable, if unthankful Frank does not ask God to help him enjoy what he has, and learn to be thankful. We need to be thankful for what we have and enjoy what God has blessed us with. The ability to enjoy what we have is a blessing from God. If you have a bike, be thankful for the bike you have and enjoy that bike. If you have an hour to play outside and no more, then be thankful for the time that you do have to play and enjoy. If you have only one friend to play with and no others, then be thankful for the friend that you do have to enjoy. It is better to be satisfied with what you have today than to be longing for future delights. Be content with what you have, enjoy what you can see today, and don't waste your time, spending it like vanity, wishing for what you don't have. Be content with what you have and thank the Lord that you can enjoy it.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Hebrews 13:5. Answer the following questions.

- 1) Is being able to enjoy things a gift from God ?
- 2) How can we be more thankful to God and others?

TITLE: No Milk Without Manure

SCRIPTURE: Job 5:7; 14:1; Psalm 51:5

MEMORY VERSE: *Proverbs 14:4 Where no oxen are, the crib is clean: but much increase is by the strength of the ox.*

FOCUS QUESTION: What comes with strength?

“Mom”, Jane said, “Why is school such a bother? I can’t seem to understand anything the teacher is saying. Not only that, but the other children at school make fun of me because of the Christian standards we have in our dress. They call me a goody goody. I don’t think that I can take it anymore.” Mother stopped what she was doing in the kitchen and sat down beside Jane and said, “Would you like a glass of milk and a few cookies?” “Yes”, Jane said, “That would be nice.” Jane’s mother poured her a glass of milk and sat it down beside her. Jane’s mother said, “Jane, as long as there are people there will be problems. You want to have no problems then get rid of the people. A verse in the Bible speaks of an ox giving strength. An ox will also give you something else and that is manure. If you want to keep the crib clean better get rid of the ox, but remember if you get rid of the ox you also lose the strength of the ox for the work. You want some milk? Milk comes from a cow that also give something else, manure. You can not do the work of God or live for God without problems. There will always be some things in life that will need cleaned up. Some people pray for strength, it doesn’t come alone, but it comes along with problems. If you want strength, then you’ll have to shovel some manure.” “Mom”, Jane said, “Does that mean that I can get strength from the trials I’m going through?” “That’s right”, Mother said, “Trust God and don’t give up.”

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Romans 8:28. Answer the following questions.

- 1) What are some problems you are facing?
- 2) What strength can come from these different problems?

TITLE: David Brainerd's Prayer.

SCRIPTURE: Romans 10:14-16

MEMORY VERSE: *Romans 8:13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die . . .*

FOCUS QUESTION: Do you put other's needs before your own?

To protect themselves from hostile Indians, pioneer settlers built stockades around their settlements, each with a high pole. On top of the pole was an iron receptacle filled with flammable material. When Indians would attack, the material was lighted as a signal to other pioneers. One day the occupants of a stockade some distance from others were surrounded by murderous Indians, armed with bows, and poisoned arrows. A brave youth began to climb the pole and light the signal. Poison arrows pierced the boy's body, he fell lifeless to the ground. Seeing the lighted fire, the nearby settlers came to the rescue. On the boy's grave marker were these words, "He saved others. Himself he could not save." What a great example of selflessness. David Brainerd was a great example of selflessness. He was a missionary to the American Indian and a man of great spiritual power. Great work was accomplished by his prayer life. In the depths of those forests, alone, unable to speak the language of the Indians, he spent whole days literally in prayer. What was he praying for? He knew that he could not reach those savages; he did not understand their language. If David wanted to speak at all, he must find somebody who could vaguely interpret. He knew that he was totally dependent upon the power of God. He spent whole days in prayer, simply that the power of the Holy Ghost might come upon him so unmistakably that these people should not be able to stand before him. David Brainerd was a great example of seeing the need; seeking God's power; and selflessness. Many Indians received Christ as their Savior because of the burden of David Brainerd. Indian convert after convert came to trust Christ, we can account for it only by the tremendous power of God behind him. David Brainerd lived that the American Indian might hear the Gospel. He died a selfless death, spitting blood, killed by the people he loved, serving the Lord Jesus Christ.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read John 15:13. Answer the following questions.

- 1) What does it mean to be selfless?
- 2) Have you ever thought about being a missionary?

TITLE: Phony Wisdom

SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 1:10-15

MEMORY VERSE: *Proverbs 3:13 Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding.*

FOCUS QUESTION: Where can we find wisdom?

Can you find wisdom? Where can you look? If you where to climb the mountain, would you find wisdom? If you where to swim to the bottom of the sea, would you find wisdom there? Man has been looking for wisdom for a long time. Many people say that they have wisdom, but do they? The world professes to be wise, but in a world of such great wisdom why is their so many people doing so many dumb things. Our lips profess wisdom, but our actions profess something else. Our lips profess wisdom, but our results are another matter. We are a nation that professes such great learning, yet in a newspaper (*Dec. 2001*), which said, that children are being suspended from schools at an alarming rate. A child punches a pregnant teacher, a child stabs another child with a pencil, a child exposes himself to his class. All these children are 5 years old, suspended from kinder garden. We are a nation that claims to be religious, one nation under God, God bless America, yet God is out of the courthouse, God is kicked out of the school house, and most houses in this country. Congress starts every day with prayer, a president takes the oath upon the Bible, the courtroom sware witnesses in by the name of God, yet in the education system God is not permitted. A 14 yr old boy shot a man in his car six times. Why? because the man looked at him. In 1995 a family made a wrong turn down a street in Los Angeles and was subject to a hail of gun fire by a gang which killed a little girl in the car. A 10 and 11 yrs old pushed a 5 yr old out a window to his death. Wisdom is not found in the schoolhouse, the courthouse, or the whitehouse, but it is found in God's house. You push God out, you push His blessings and His wisdom.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read James 1:5-6. Answer the following questions.

- 1) Where can wisdom be found?
- 2) If you want wisdom, what can you do?

TITLE: The Worry Worm

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 6:25-34

MEMORY VERSE: *Philippians 4:19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

FOCUS QUESTION: What can we do with our worry?

Here he comes, the worry worm. It is looking for someone to rest on. The worry worm like to bother folks, and is a worm that is good for nothing at all. Mary is a girl who is 12 years old. She likes to ride bikes and go to the park. Mary has got a problem today, because Mary has got the worry worm. She does not have a real worm in her, but she is thinking about problems that she has today, and problems that she might have tomorrow. Mary needs to do what she can to solve these problems, but worrying can't solve problems, but it instead adds to problems. The Bible says that when dealing with trouble, we need to take one day at a time. There is a song that came out called "One day at a time". There is a lot of truth in that song, because many of times we put all of our time and effort into worrying about tomorrow, and we lose today. We need to keep our eyes focused on Christ, and toward Heaven. Our troubles need to be prayed about to the One who can solve them, God. If we do this, the problem of this world will seem not as difficult as once before. Someone once said, "He is so heavenly minded that he is of no earthly good." I never have met anyone that fit into this category. I have met people who were so tied to earthly things that they were of no good to God. God knows what you need. God knows what you want, so trust Him. God supplies the needs and wants of His children. Also remember this, God won't give His child something that would hurt them, so sometimes you don't get everything that you want. One day's problems is enough for anybody, so don't get hung up on past failure or tomorrow's worries. Charles Spurgeon said, "Anxiety does not empty tomorrow of its sorrows, but only empties today of its strength." Don't let the worry worm bother you.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read 1 Peter 5:7. Answer the following questions.

- 1) Is worrying doubting God?
- 2) What do we do with our troubles?

TITLE: Stepping Stones

SCRIPTURE: Philippians 1:12-13

MEMORY VERSE: *Psalms 40:2 He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.*

FOCUS QUESTION: Are you stepping or stumbling?

Tommy got out of bed first thing in the morning. It was still early, but he was excited. This was the day that Sara and Tommy were to go on their hike up the mountain. Sara was Tommy's younger sister and she always liked to come along with Tommy on his adventures. Tommy ran up stairs to get Sara up out of bed. This was not an easy task, because Sara was a very sound sleeper. Tommy ran up the stairs and down the hall to Sara's room. "Hi there", Sara said, "I'm already up." Tommy looked at Sara and said, "Wow! I can't believe you got up out of bed so early." "All right", Sara said, "Let's get ready for that hike." The children went downstairs and packed a lunch and got some other things together for their trip up the mountain. Before long they were working their way up the mountain climbing and walking, walking and climbing. The boy and his little sister were on the path, but soon the path got steeper and steeper. Many rocks were in the way of the path. Sara began to complain, "This is not a path, look at all these rocks." Her brother said, "The rocks are for climbing. We need to make stepping stones out of stumbling stones. Sara thought about that remark her brother said, she thought, "These rocks aren't to slow me down, just to lift me up." Let's remember that troubles are not in our life to destroy us, but God can use them for His honor and glory. The toughest thing a Christian will do is walk consistently with Christ. Many of times, the world will cast stumbling stone in our path. The devil will throw his stones of stumble in the path of God's children. Do not be discouraged, but be encouraged. The source of encouragement comes from God.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read 1 Corinthians 15:57. Answer the following questions.

- 1) What are some things that cause people to stumble?
- 2) Where can we go for help in time of need?

TITLE: Nickname

SCRIPTURE: John 20:26-31

MEMORY VERSE: *John 2:19 Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.*

FOCUS QUESTION: Do you doubt that Jesus is alive?

Do you have a nickname? Some nicknames are fun to have, but other nicknames are not. Nicknames usually describe us in some way to others. Some nicknames describe good traits, and other nicknames describe bad traits. The disciple Thomas in the Bible has been nicknamed “Doubting Thomas”. His nickname was given to him because he doubted that Jesus had risen from the dead. Jesus was crucified on the cross, being tortured and dying for the sins of the world. Jesus was placed in the tomb for three days and three nights. On the third day Jesus arose from the dead. It was at this time that Thomas would not believe Jesus had risen unless he could put his finger in the nail prints of Jesus’ hands and put his hand into Jesus’ side. Jesus came to his disciples after eight days and said to Thomas, “*Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.*” Jesus came to Thomas and gave Thomas exactly what he had asked for, but when Jesus had said this, Thomas said to Jesus, “*My Lord and my God.*” It was at this time that Thomas recognized the deity of Jesus Christ. The deity of Jesus Christ is that God became flesh in the person of Jesus Christ. The tomb is empty because Jesus Christ is risen. Jesus Christ had conquered Hell and death. Jesus Christ is alive and in Heaven today. Nicknames can be fun to have, but some nicknames can be negative. Don’t let your nickname be doubting, trust God and His Word.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read John 2:18-22. Answer the following questions.

- 1) What temple was Jesus talking about?
- 2) How did Jesus arise from the dead in spirit or body?

TITLE: Liar, Liar!

SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 18:20-22; Matthew 24:44

MEMORY VERSE: *Ephesians 4:25 Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour:*

FOCUS QUESTION: When will Christ return?

Patty was in trouble again. Patty had lie to her mother. Patty was caught once again for her lying. Patty told her mother that she would be coming home right away, but she did not have any intention of doing so. Patty was having too much fun at her friend's house. Mom had supper ready for Patty, but by the time mother found Patty and returned back home the meal that was hot was cold. "Patty", mother spoke after supper, "How many lies do you have to tell to be a liar?" "I guess just one", Patty replied. Mother looked at Patty and said, "Patty, when we lie we not only hurt the person we have lied to but we also sin against God. God does not want us to lie, but God wants us to be truthful. In the Bible the Israelites where to judge a prophet by the prophecy coming to past. If the prophecy came to past then the prophet was of God, but if the prophecy did not come to past then they would kill the false prophet. This false prophet was a liar and God did not want him to live. Patty the world is full of liars, God wants us to be truthful. A religious group called the Jehovah's Witness had a leader that was a liar. This man had founded this group and told the group that Jesus would return on a certain date. He said that Christ would return to earth in 1874, 1914, 1925, 1975. He picked four different false dates, and because of the ridicule with these false dates many of the Jehovah Witness insist that Christ appeared invisibly on the earth in 1914. The Bible says that no man knows the day or hour of Christ's return, and that when Christ returns that every eye will see Him. If somebody tell us that Christ is coming back on a certain date we can mark that person off as a liar. Patty we must always tell the truth, it is what pleases God."

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Matthew 24:36. Answer the following questions.

- 1) Who knows when the return of Christ will be?
- 2) What is our response to date setters of Christ's return?

TITLE: The Directions.

SCRIPTURE: John 3:15-18; Proverbs 14:12

MEMORY VERSE: *Matthew 7:14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.*

FOCUS QUESTION: Do you have the right directions?

It was time for family vacation and the Henry family was looking forward to spending some time together. The family would be going to a national park where they would be doing some picnicking, hiking, biking, and fishing. The family could hardly wait, this was going to be fun. Father got his map out and started to look at the roads on it. He started to mark out his plan, how to get to their destination. After this he thought it would be good to consult grandfather and see which route he would suggest taking. Later that same day father asked a friend for his directions to the park. To father's dismay he found out that each one had told him a different way of getting to the destination. Father thought for a little bit and said, "Maybe I ought to call the Automobile Club and see what they have to say about driving directions." Sure enough the Automobile Club gave the correct directions for the right way to go. The club marked the directions out and made it easy for the family to find the park. This trip was quite easy, but what about heaven? You might try to map it out yourself, but sure enough you will fail. You might go consult a friend, and you would get an answer, but it would be a wrong answer. In finding an answer you need to go to the authority. The authority is God's Word. The Bible says that the way to Heaven, the route to Heaven is only through the Son, Jesus Christ. There are many roads, bridges, tunnels, routes in this life, but there is only one way to heaven, and that way is only through Christ Jesus.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Acts 4:12. Answer the following questions.

- 1) Who is the only way to Heaven?
- 2) What are some roads that people try to take to get to Heaven?

TITLE: God's Gift.

SCRIPTURE: Romans 5:12-17

MEMORY VERSE: *Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

FOCUS QUESTION: Do you have God's Gift?

Freddy and Joe told the riddle to the girls, but they were stumped. The girls said, "We can't think of what it might be." "Come on, think about the riddle its not that hard. The answer is easier then what you think", the boys answered. "You can't see it but its on every side of you and it is one of God's greatest gifts. You can't do without this gift, and it is absolutely free", Freddy said. The girls looked at each other and finally said, "Just tell us the answer, we give up." "Its the air that we breathe", Joe said "You can't see it, but you've been told that its there, all around you."

Freddy and Joe are right with their riddle, and their riddle speaks a truth. The fact that you can't see the air does not stop you from believing it, and receiving it. Say, suppose I refused God's gift? Go ahead try it. You say, "That's foolish." That's right, not receiving a free gift that will give you life is foolish. You say, "I'll go buy it someplace." "My question is where?" The same is true with God's gift of Jesus Christ. You can't buy it, its free. Either you'll receive God's gift of eternal life, or you'll die in your sins. Either you have life or you do not, and the only way to have life is by receiving Jesus Christ as your Saviour. Jesus Christ left His home in Heaven and came to earth to be born or a virgin. The woman's name was Mary. Jesus lived the life that we could not, a sinless life. Jesus had to be sinless, because He needed to die in our place as a perfect sacrifice for sins. Jesus died on the cross and was placed in a borrowed tomb. Three days later, Jesus arose again from the dead and is alive in Heaven today. Do you know Jesus Christ as your Saviour? Have you received that free gift by praying and asking Him to forgive your sins and to come into your heart. Jesus Christ is a free gift. You can't live without air, and you can't live without Jesus Christ.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Romans 5:1-2. Answer the following questions.

- 1) What do we have with God by faith?
- 2) What do we have access to by faith?

TITLE: The Work of God.

SCRIPTURE: Ecclesiastes 7:13; John 9:4

MEMORY VERSE: *John 6:29 Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.*

FOCUS QUESTION: What can you do for God?

Bob was a worker down at the shipping dock. Bob was a good employee. Bob always made sure he was on time, and worked hard when he was there at the shipping dock. Bob had a worker friend named John. John was not like Bob. John did do his job well, and John did show up on time for work. The difference was inside of John. John was a Christian. John asked Jesus to save him from his sins and Jesus Christ did. Because John had Jesus in his heart as his Saviour, John was going to Heaven. John's life was different; he talked like a Christian, dressed like a Christian, acted like a Christian. John always was a witness to other people he worked with. One day John was talking to Bob at break, and John led Bob to the Lord. Bob was always a good worker, but now he was a better one because of Jesus. Bob said, "I want to let others see and hear of the work that God did in me." Bob joined the "First Independent Baptist Church", and he started to work for things of eternal value. He helped with church maintenance, Bob started to go soul winning, and before long everybody down at the shipping dock knew that Bob was a Christian. Bob had a work done in his heart at salvation, but Bob also let God do a work in his life by simple obedience to the Word of God.

God has a work for every Christian to do. God has something special for you to do. Before you can do a work for God, God needs to do a work in your heart. The Bible says to "*consider the work of God.*" God wants you to consider His work. A person can get himself cleaned up on the outside, but God is the only One who can clean up the heart. The only way to get to Heaven is through Jesus Christ. The work of God in the heart of a repentant sinner is powerful. The Bible says that the Gospel of Christ is the power of God. The greatest work that can take place in a life is salvation. What great power there is in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Consider salvation, if you are not saved, because it is the only way to Heaven. Christian, consider working for God, its not an option. You can do something for the Lord.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Ephesians 2:8-10. Answer the following questions.

- 1) What are we created to walk in?
- 2) How does this creation take place?

TITLE: Vote

SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 1: 12-18

MEMORY VERSE: *Proverbs 29:16 When the wicked are multiplied, transgression increaseth: but the righteous shall see their fall.*

FOCUS QUESTION: What candidate should a Christian vote for?

“What is the sense in voting for a President?”, Jody said, “The person that I vote for never wins, its always the other person that gets into office. Anyway, I think that they don’t do much when they get into office.” “Jody we need to vote”, Father said, “When we know to do right and do not do it, then that is sin. Regardless of the outcome we need to vote. Jody, let’s take a look at what one vote can do. By one vote, Texas was admitted into the union; Hitler won leadership of the German Nazi party; the U.S. House of Representatives elected Thomas Jefferson as president. If you will not vote conscientiously for godly rule, evil will increase in our nation. How should a child of God vote? He needs to vote knowing the candidates views and letting God’s Word be his guide. Noah Webster said this, “ *In selecting men for office, let principle be your guide. Regard not a particular sect or denomination of the candidate ... look to his character ... It is alleged be men of loose principles, or defective views of the subject, that religion and morality are not necessary or important qualifications for political stations. But the Scriptures teach a different doctrine. They direct that rulers should be men who rule in the fear of God, able men, such as fear God, men of truth hating covetousness ... When a citizen gives his vote to a man of known immorality, he abuses his civic responsibility; he sacrifices not only his own interest, but that of his neighbor; he betrays the interest of his country.*

The great evangelist Charles Finney said this in 1835, “*The time has come that Christians must vote for honest men and take consistent ground in politics, or the Lord will curse them ... God cannot sustain this free and blessed country, which we love and pray for, unless the church will take right ground. Politics are a part of religion in such a country as this, and Christians must do their duty to the country as this, and Christians must do their duty to the country as a part of their duty to God ... God will bless or curse this nation according to the course Christians take in politics.*” We must not neglect our duty to vote for the candidate that God would be most pleased with.”

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read James 4:17. Answer the following questions.

1) How should a Christian vote?

TITLE: The Poison of Choice

SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 23:29-35

MEMORY VERSE: *Proverbs 20:1 Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.*

FOCUS QUESTION: Why not drink alcohol?

“What is the neon sign for daddy”, Brain said. “They are advertising their poison”, dad answered. “Poison!”, Brain exclaimed, “What do you mean they are selling poison!” “That place is what is called a liquor store”, answered father. “What they are selling is wine and beer, but it is still poison and God hates it.”

The Bible says that it is a sin to drink wine in its fermented state. Fermented means that the juice has started to change and has alcohol present in it. Liquor, wine, beer are all wrong to drink. Special reports to Congress on alcohol and health: *“In this report the medical authorities say that with every drink one shortens his life twenty minutes. It also says that there are 11 to 17 million alcoholics in America.”* We as Americans spend fifty billion dollars a year on alcohol. Congress says that alcohol problems cost the American economy over 68 billion dollars every year. The problems that can result from people drinking are, physical problems, jobs lost, man hours lost, and accidents taking place on the highways. The leading cause of mental retardation among children is alcohol consumption during pregnancy. If liquor is a disease, its the only disease that requires a license to sell the garbage. If liquor is a disease its the only disease that’s bottled, sold, and taxed by Uncle Sam. If liquor is a disease its the only disease that is spread by advertising. God says that to drink alcohol is a sin, and God always associates drinking alcohol with immorality. Beer commercials are also always promoting beer with an immoral lifestyle. “I guess the best thing for me to do is to stay far away from liquor”, Brain said. “Not only should you stay away from that poison, but the Bible says not even to look at wine”, dad answered.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Habakkuk 2:15-16. Answer the following questions.

- 1) What will alcohol do?
- 2) What is God’s response to the supplier of alcohol?

TITLE: Far Off and Exceeding Deep.

SCRIPTURE: Ecclesiastes 7:18-24

MEMORY VERSE: *1 Corinthians 2:16 For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.*

FOCUS QUESTION: How do we know God's thought and God's ways?

Have you ever wondered what it was like out in other galaxies. Maybe you thought to yourself what it might be like to travel to another planet that was far off. Some people would like to go into the depths of the ocean and look to see what they might discover. Going to places helps us to understand things, but many times these places are out of our own reach. Who can find out the things that are "far off"? This phrase means that they are so far away that they are out of our grasp. The phrase "exceeding deep", means that they are beyond comprehension. That which is far off or exceeding deep does not mean that we don't know something about these things, but that we are not able to grasp it entirely. Scientist have seen through very powerful telescopes, planets and galaxies. We can see them but we have never been there, because they are far off. We are unable to understand them on a deeper level because of their distance. The ocean is very deep in some places and man has been to many parts within the waters of the ocean, but not all parts of the ocean. Special gear is needed in scuba diving because of the depths. Scientist did not know about fresh water springs that were in the oceans until about a hundred years ago. The ocean was and is unable to be understood on a deeper level because of its great depths. The ocean is exceeding deep. God is so far off, and God's ways are exceeding deep, who can know them. We can know them because God has given them to us in His Word, the Bible. When we where unable to cross the great divide to know God's thoughts and God's ways, God came to us.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Isaiah 55:8-11. Answer the following questions.

- 1) Are our thoughts and ways like God's?
- 2) What happens when God's Word goes out?

TITLE: Born Again

SCRIPTURE: John 3:1-7

MEMORY VERSE: *John 3:15 That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.*

FOCUS QUESTION: Are you born again?

There was a man whose name was Nicodemus. Nicodemus was a good man. He was a man who was very religious. The Bible says the Nicodemus was ruler of the Jews. Nicodemus had heard about Jesus and wanted to meet Jesus. In the night he came to Jesus to ask some questions. Why did Nicodemus come to Jesus at night, we are not sure? Maybe he was afraid of the other religious leaders seeing him talk to Jesus. Maybe it was because of the questions that Nicodemus was going to ask Jesus. Whatever the case, Nicodemus came to Jesus at night and talked with Him. Jesus told Nicodemus that the only way he could see the kingdom of God was to be “born again”. Nicodemus said, “*How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?*” Jesus told Nicodemus that He was talking about being born of the spirit, not being born of the flesh. This was something new that Nicodemus was hearing. Never before had he heard that he needed to be born again to go to Heaven. The same message is true with you and me. We are sinners and we can't go to Heaven, but God made a way for us to go. God sent Jesus Christ to earth, to be born of a virgin in Bethlehem. Jesus lived a sinless life for His Father, God. Jesus was crucified on the cross for our sins, then laid in a tomb for burial. Three days later, Jesus arose from the dead and went to Heaven to make intercession for us. The Bible says that if we will receive Jesus as our Saviour, that God will receive us as sons and give us a home in Heaven someday. Do you want to go to Heaven? The only way to Heaven is by being “born again”. Please ask Jesus Christ into your heart to forgive you of your sins, and to save you. Jesus die, was buried, and arose from the grave for you.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read John 3:15-18. Answer the following questions.

- 1) How does a person have eternal life?
- 2) Why did God send Jesus according to John 3:16?

TITLE: Tony Learns to Study.

SCRIPTURE: 2 Timothy 3:14-17

MEMORY VERSE: *Matthew 22:29 Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.*

FOCUS QUESTION: How do you study your Bible?

“All right class, let’s all look up here”, Mr. Kass said, “We’re going to take a look at this.” Mr. Kass held his Bible up high for the class to see. “Here at Victory Baptist Church, we believe this book. Today we are going to take a look at the Bible.” “Tony paid close attention to Mr. Kass. Mr. Kass always made class time interesting. Mr. Kass would pray and ask God to help him to be the very best teacher that he could be. Tony thought, “Mr. Kass really wants us to grow as Christians. I can tell that he works hard on the lessons every week.” Mr. Kass walked around the class and said, “The title of this book is the Bible. The word “Bible” means “The Book”. The Bible is broken up into two parts, the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Bible is completely inspired of God. God used men to write the Bible, by speaking to them through the Holy Spirit of God. The Bible does not contain truth, it is truth. The Bible does not contain the words of God, but it is the Word of God. All the Bible is profitable and is the Word of the living God. The 1611 King James Authorized Bible is the persevered Word of God. God has promised to keep His Word for all generations. God’s Word can be trusted. The Old Testament has 39 books in it, and the New Testament has 27 books in it. An easy way to remember this is to count the letters in the word “Old” which equals 3 letters. Now, count the letters in the word “Testament” which equals 9, and then put the numbers together which is 39. There are 39 books in the Old Testament. Count the letters in the words, “New Testament”. There are 3 letters in “New, and 9 letters in “Testament”, so 3 times 9 equals 27. There are 27 books in the New Testament. These books are broken down into chapters, then verses, then words. The way you study the Bible is by looking at verse, then taking a closer look at the words. Look at the verses around that particular verse, the chapters, and the book it’s in. Take a look to see what testament your reading in, and compare Scripture with Scripture.” Tony thought, “This is what I’m going to start doing so that I can know my Bible better, and how God wants me to live.”

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read 1 Peter 1:23-25. Answer the following questions.

1) What will endure forever?

TITLE: Who is a Wise Man?

SCRIPTURE: Ecclesiastes 8:1; Proverbs 1:20-22

MEMORY VERSE: *Proverbs 2:6 For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.*

FOCUS QUESTION: Where is wisdom found?

If I were to ask you “Who is as the wise man?” What would you say? There is something special about a man with wisdom. It is not a common thing to find. Many people have knowledge but do not have wisdom. Wisdom is the ability from God to make Godly decisions. A man of wisdom will see more than the average person sees when looking at a thing. The verse in our reading says that “*his face to shine.*” Immediately I think of Moses and how his face shone when he came from the presence of God. The Bible says in Exodus 34:35, “*And the children of Israel saw the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face shone: and Moses put the vail upon his face again, until he went in to speak with him.*” When Moses came back from being with God, his face shone bright. When a man goes to God, he'll get more than he anticipated. When a man spends time with God, he is never the same again. If we would spend time with God, we would find that not only would our faces shine, but we might actually start to smile and enjoy life again. We have such a dead and dry Christianity today, we need to have our countenance changed by spending time with Jesus Christ. The Bible says the disciples had a change by spending time with Jesus and people noticed, “*Acts 4:13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marveled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus*” The people marveled at Peter and John because they knew they were ignorant, but they took notice of the knowledge of them that had been with Jesus. We need to spend time with Jesus Christ everyday.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Proverbs 1:33. Answer the following questions.

- 1) Why is wisdom important?
- 2) What affect will wisdom have on the face?

TITLE: The Testimony

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 1:12-20

MEMORY VERSE: *2 Timothy 1:8 "Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord . . ."*

FOCUS QUESTION: Will you give a testimony?

In an open air meeting a preacher walked around asking for testimonies. While this time of testimonies was going on a skeptic was passing by. A man stood and gave his testimony of how God had saved him. The man was saved from a life of drunkenness. God had truly worked a miracle in his life by saving his poor, wretched soul. The skeptic started to scoff by making a few remarks to those standing near him. The skeptic said, "It is no more than a dream, religion saving a man in this manner; just a mere dream, and nothing more." A little girl was there among the listeners. This girl had known the life of the drunkard, all the hurt, and pain. She said, "Please, sir, if it is only a dream, please don't wake him, that is my daddy."

Jesus Christ makes a difference in a life. When a person receives Jesus Christ as their Saviour, a change takes place, and they are never the same again. When a person gives a testimony, they are telling what Jesus Christ did for them. Many people will give a background story of what their life was like before Christ, then their experience coming to Christ, and finally what Christ has done in their life since being saved. Sometimes a testimony might be how God has blessed you recently. A person might give testimony to the fact that God has blessed them with a good family, or that God has blessed them with a good health. It is important to share our testimonies with others, because this is a great way for us to share what God has done and is doing in our life.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read John 21:24. Answer the following questions.

- 1) What is a testimony?
- 2) Why is it important to give a testimony?

TITLE: The Lost Son

SCRIPTURE: Luke 15:11-24

MEMORY VERSE: *Luke 19:10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.*

FOCUS QUESTION: Where are you wandering?

A young man said to himself, "What am I doing living here at my father's house? He watches everything that I do. I can't get away with anything. I have been thinking about this for some time now, and I think that it is about time that I do something for myself. I want to have my own house, my own life. I think it's time for me to make a life of my own." The young man went to his father and said, "Dad, can I borrow the car? I want to move out on my own." The young man's father was very troubled by his son who wanted to move out into the world. The father gave his son some money that belonged to the son. The money was the boy's inheritance. The first thing the young man bought was a new car. "Wow", he thought, "Look at that, all my new friends will think that I am the coolest." The next thing that the young man bought was some new clothes. "Check it out, I'm am looking good", the young man thought. The young man had many new friends, he bought them what ever they wanted, after all, he had more money then he knew what to do with. Dollar by dollar, coin by coin, the money was spent until the young man had no money left. The new friends soon left and found some new friends that were cooler then the young man. The young man was thrown out of his place to live because he did not pay his rent. Little by little everything was taken from the young man till he had nothing left and he found himself in a garbage can digging for something to eat. He said to himself, "Wait a minute. My father has much, maybe my father will let me work for him. I am so hungry, surely my father will help me." The young man started to walk home, after many miles he stepped up to the back door to knock and there was his father waiting and watching for him. His father embraced him and said, "My lost son is home. Welcome home my son."

The lost son started on the road of being lost when he started to look at his father's house without contentment. We need to be content, and follow God's Word. Don't wander by foot, or wander in your mind.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read 1 Timothy 6:8. Answer the following questions.

1) What does it mean to be content?

TITLE: Obey the King.

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 2:13-17

MEMORY VERSE: *2 Samuel 22:31 As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler to all them that trust in him.*

FOCUS QUESTION: Will you obey God?

We need to obey the authority (1 Peter 2:11-15). Many people will try to push the boundaries of the law and they find themselves in trouble. People will set the cruise control on the car for 70 miles and hour, when they know the speed limit is 65 miles an hour. What are they doing? Trying to get to their destination fast. How are they trying to do that? By pushing the limits that were set in place. Policemen have been placed in authority and we should obey that authority. If you obey the commands, then you don't have to worry about being punished. Man's sin nature pushes him in the opposite direction from God. All the commandments from God, man finds himself braking. When we step over the commandments of God we are saying to God that His way is not the best way. God tells man and woman to go to the wedding altar a virgin, but some do not obey God. God tells man and woman to go to church, but they do not obey. God tells man and woman how to live, and raise a family, but they do not obey God. The Bible says in Proverbs 14:12, "*There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.*" Man has a way and God has a way. The difference in the ways is the end result. Do you want to have a life that you can look back on and say that God was in control, leading, blessing?

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Ecclesiastes 8:2-4. Answer the following questions.

1) Should we obey man's laws?

2) Should we obey God's laws?

TITLE: The Lighthouse's Warning.

SCRIPTURE: Matt. 5:14-16

MEMORY VERSE: *Matt. 5:14 Ye are the light of the world.*

FOCUS QUESTION: Will you shine for Jesus?

The Christian is the candle; the light is the Lord Jesus Christ; and the candlestick on which the candle stands to be an elevated beacon is the church. You are to have your candle lit, which means you are to be saved. Once you are saved you are to let your light shine by joining a church and letting the church be the candlestick which will lift you up in Christ and will challenge you, and encourage you to do good works for the cause of Jesus Christ.

A lighthouse will be a warning to ships at sea of dangerous rocks in the waters. There are some rocks in the water that can't be seen with the eye, but the rocks are there under the waters. If a ship would happen to not take heed to the warning of the lighthouse, certain disaster would happen. The ships would find themselves wrecked on the rocks. The lighthouse is a warning to all who come within its shining light of danger. Many of the lighthouses of old used a gas flame that was so small, but it was magnified by a glass that would go around the flame. The light from the flame would be seen for miles because of the works within the lighthouse that rotated the magnifying glass around the flame. In the church the light of God's people needs to be shone. We can do so much if we all work. When God's people are letting their lights shine, then the work of God is magnified.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Psalms 18:28; Revelation 1:20. Answer the following questions.

- 1) Who is the candle?
- 2) What is the candlestick?

TITLE: The Shadow

SCRIPTURE: Ecclesiastes 8:12-14

MEMORY VERSE: *Ecclesiastes 8:13 But it shall not be well with the wicked, neither shall he prolong his days, which are as a shadow . . .*

FOCUS QUESTION: What is the wicked's future compared to?

It will not be well with the wicked, regardless of how it looks right now. The wicked's days are as a shadow. A shadow is dark, and the future of the wicked is as pitch black as the darkness within the earth. I went into a cave with a guide and the guide told our group to put your hand in front of your face. He then turned the lights in the cave out. The hand that was right in front of your face was no longer visible. No matter how long you were in the cave, your eyes never did get adjusted to the darkness, because it was absent of all light whatsoever. The wicked's future is liken unto darkness of a shadow. I also notice that a shadow starts off large, but starts to get smaller as the sun rises. The closer the wicked gets to death the smaller he will become in every aspect of life. The closer the wicked get to the sun's high noon smaller the shadow. The closer we get to the sun's return, the S-O-N, the closer the wicked gets to his own destruction. Last of all, a shadow is temporary. Our life on this earth is not forever, but temporary. The wicked might be stockpiling treasure down here on earth, but for what? He will be dead in his own wickedness, faded away, quickly out of sight, because the light was shown, and there isn't any shadow that is a match for the light. The reason for a shadow is because of the dark side of the person. the sun shines in such a way as to reveal the darkness. If the person was in light, there would be no shadow. We go to a photographer to get the children's picture taken. They will put light the whole way around the children. Why? To keep them from getting any shadow. God will reveal the wickedness of a man or woman. How? By His Light.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Romans 2:6; Hebrews 9:27. Answer the following questions.

- 1) What two appointments must man keep?
- 2) How will man be rewarded?

TITLE: God is Not Dead

SCRIPTURE: Ps. 115:3-8

MEMORY VERSE: *Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*

FOCUS QUESTION: Who made God?

God is not dead, God is alive. God has always been, He had no beginning. There are many false gods that are worshipped, but only One True God. The Bible says, "*They that make them are like unto them; so is every one that trusteth in them.*" The Bible says that people trust in these idols that they make with their hands. A native in an African village was carving a long piece of wood. He was asked what are you carving? He said, "Not sure. Maybe idol, maybe bedpost." In India millions of Idols are worshipped. They'll worship cows, monkeys, rats, and other pest that will leave damage to their crops. People are dying all the time, but God will never die, because the Bible says that He had no beginning and He will have no end, He is everlasting. Every second, 3 people around the world die. Great Britain became the first country in the world to have more cremations than burials. In Japan the grave yards are crowded that only members of royal families have a sure burial place where they will not be dug up and moved around. West Berlin has a six week waiting period for burial. Arlington National Cemetery is so crowded that officials had to work on a place to hold 50,000 urns of ashes. The World's largest cemetery is in Russia, Leningrad. The burial site which contains over 500,000 victims of the German army's siege of 1941-42. Even things that we have do not last forever. The life of a pencil which is 7 inches long can draw a line 35 miles, or write 45,000 words, or take 17 sharpening.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Isaiah 40:25. Answer the following questions.

- 1) Does God have an equal?
- 2) Does God have a beginning or an end?

TITLE: Importance

SCRIPTURE: Luke 10:38-42

MEMORY VERSE: *Colossians 3:1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above . . .*

FOCUS QUESTION: What does “priority” mean?

What would you take for your Bible if you knew you could not get another one? Many times a loss will help us to appreciate what it is we have. Many people neglect things that are very important for things that are not very important. A little boy brought a little red Bible for \$ 2.75. The boy grew to be a great business man. The man was now making a lot of money. Later in life he said, “I have made large purchases of property in my time involving millions of dollars; but it was as a boy that I made my greatest purchase. It was that little red Bible has been the foundation on which my life has been built.” Here are some things you can do to get things of major importance first in your life. Number one, Prioritize Your Life (Put what the Bible says is the most needful things are first). The Bible says in Matthew 6:3 “*But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*” Number two, get saved today because after death it is too late. The Bible says in 2 Corinthians 6:2 “*. . . behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.*” Number three, live your life for Christ now (When your dead it’s too late). The Bible is important to our lives, it tells us how we are to live. Some books inform, other books reform, but only the Bible can transform. Someone once said, “The Gospel is either a lie or it is the truth. There is no middle ground. If it is a lie, what a lie it is! It has made millions of liars truthful. It has made millions of thieves honest. It has made drunken and debauched fathers into industrious men who could be loved. It has made selfish people into benevolent ones so that they have shared their bread with the hungry. It has been the torch which has lighted the way for education and science. It has brought harmony and healing and happiness to homes which were breaking or broken. It has been a light to the blind, wisdom to the foolish and hope to the hopeless. it has been first of all salvation from sin an self, and a chart for this life.”

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Matthew 23:23. Answer the following question.

1) How do we know what is the important things to do?

TITLE: There is None Righteous

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 2:4-10

MEMORY VERSE: *Romans 3:10-12 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*

FOCUS QUESTION: How good must you be to go to Heaven?

There is an idea in the world that man can save himself. The idea that somehow Jesus sacrifice was not totally complete. The idea that we must do some kind of religious thing to get us to Heaven. The Bible says that there are none righteous without the blood of Christ. The only good thing about you is what Christ has done in you. I'm reminded of a man who went witnessing. He knocked on a door and a man answered the door and invited him in. The man of the house was dressed all in black and wore a cross about his neck. As they preceded to talk, the man of the house, stood up straight and puffed out his chest and said that he had not sinned for eleven years. The man who was there witnessing said, "Oh I'm so sorry." The man of the house said, "What do you mean?" The man witnessing said, "Well the Bible says that pride is a sin, and you see you sinned. What a run you were on and I came in and ruined it." That about as silly as the little boy that said "I don't lie I just fib." The Bible says that we are all a bunch of no good sinners and if we are saved it is only through grace by Jesus Christ alone. The Bible says in Romans 3:10-12, "*As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.*" We all have gone our own way. We do what we want to do, and not what we should do. Do you know why people are not in church? Because they don't want to be in church. Do you know why a lot of people are not helping with different aspects of the church? Because they don't want to. Do you know why people do not get saved, get baptized, and become members of a Bible believing church? Because they don't want to. It is because you do what you want to do. We all have gone are own way. The only way to Heaven is through Jesus Christ. By trusting in the payment on the cross you can be saved. Ask Jesus Christ into your heart to save you from your sins. It is Jesus Christ, and Him alone that can save you by making you a child of God, and will receive you to Heaven someday.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Romans 3:10-12 again, and then answer the following question.

1) What are some things people do to gain merit with God?

TITLE: Being Full

SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 8:22-36

MEMORY VERSE: *Proverbs 16:16 How much better is it to get wisdom than gold! and to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver!*

FOCUS QUESTION: What should every believer be full of?

Wisdom can save a lot of lives. Wisdom can save a lot of time. Wisdom can save a lot of money. A sinner destroys, and what is needed is wisdom. Adam destroyed very good world from his sin. Adam and Eve had a wonderful home, and because of sin, Adam brought a curse on it. The Bible says that Eve looked at the forbidden tree as something that would make her wise. In Genesis 3:6 it says, “ *And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise. . .*” She was deceived into thinking that this fruit was going to give her an upgrade, but instead gave her an incurable disease called “sin”. Jesus came into this world and He had wisdom. The Bible says in Luke 2:40, “ *And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.*” Jesus had wisdom and if we are to follow Christ, then we must have wisdom. Jesus went to the cross to shed His blood and die for us. Jesus, Who was filled with wisdom, gave it all up, on a criminal’s cross, He died for you and for me. The Bible says that God uses the foolishness of preaching to saved them that believe. The Bible says in 1 Corinthians 1:21, “ *For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.*” The world in their own wisdom does not bring anybody to Christ, but draws people further away from God. If we are going to get wisdom we must get to Jesus Christ, because Jesus is the only way to God. When we are in Jesus Christ we are in the presence of wisdom. Study the life of Christ. Look at what Jesus said, and how He answered others. Open and read the Bible, for it has the words of wisdom. 1 Corinthians 1:30 says, “ *But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:*”

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Luke 2:40,52. Please answer the following questions.

- 1) Why is wisdom important?
- 2) How can we get wisdom?

TITLE: The Sunlight

SCRIPTURE: John 1:6-17

MEMORY VERSE: *John 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.*

FOCUS QUESTION: Are you walking with God?

The light is a pleasant thing to look at. On long winter days, it is good to see the sun. The Bible says in Ecclesiastes 11:7, *“Truly the light is sweet, and a pleasant thing it is for the eyes to behold the sun”*. Many times it is overcast for such a long time that when the sun comes out it is truly a blessing. Rainy days are days when people seem to feel tired and sleepy. Plants need the sun light for a process called photosynthesis. If a plant does not have sunlight, it will die. The plant needs the sunlight to produce energy. A plant will take the sunlight and turn it into energy. While the plant does this process it will leave off oxygen and we need oxygen to survive. The sun is a powerful power plant. If you were to take just one square yard of the sun, you would find that it would give off 70,000 horsepower of continuous energy. Just like the sun is a pleasant thing to behold, so is the Son of God. Jesus is a life giving, life changing Saviour. When you see the Son of God and receive Him as your Saviour, the course of your future is put in His hands and life is truly sweet. Christians start to run out of energy because they haven't been to the Son for a while. A plant can't survive without sunlight and you can't survive without God's Son light. Lives are in disarray because they think that they know more than God. The average Christian is lazy, and the solution is to get some energy. The only energy that will do will come from a love and a drive to follow Jesus Christ. Stay out of your Bible and you will find your energy draining. Skip prayer for a day and look at the wattage in your spiritual life dwindle. Get charged, by getting to Jesus Christ.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read 1 John 1:5-7. Please answer the following questions.

- 1) Why is the sun important?
- 2) How can a Christian walk close with God?

TITLE: Enjoy Life

SCRIPTURE: Romans 14:7-12

MEMORY VERSE: *Psalms 144:12 That our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth; that our daughters may be as corner stones, polished after the similitude of a palace:*

FOCUS QUESTION: Why should a Christian enjoy life?

Have you ever heard an adult say to you, "Go ahead and enjoy life." Many times I've heard that saying. God says in the Bible that a person should enjoy life. In Ecclesiastes 11:9 we read, "*9 Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment.*" A Christian should enjoy life more than the unsaved because he has Jesus Christ as his Saviour and a home in Heaven waiting for him. Enjoy life, but remember that God will bring into an account the thing you do. When you think about childhood, you think about a carefree life of fun without worry. Many children find themselves in trouble with sin because of their carelessness in some area of their lives. Here are some statistics that will make you realize that many young people ruin their life before they ever have a chance to grow up into adulthood. 7700 teenagers relinquish their virginity everyday. 1 in 4 American have a sexually transmitted disease because of their loose lifestyle. Violence in dating relationships is in 1 out of every 10 relationship. Many girls suffer from date rape because of parents that are all too eager to push teenagers out on first dates. 38% of high schoolers smoke cigarettes, 28% smoke marijuana, and 54% drink alcohol. Peer pressure pushes many good children into doing something they never dreamed they would and heads them off to a life long of sin and destruction. No matter if you are a child or a senior citizen you need to enjoy life, because God wants you to enjoy it. To every one there is a warning about life and it is this, "*God will bring thee into judgment*". Enjoy life, but live in such a way as to bring glory to Jesus Christ.

NIGHT DEVOTIONS: Read Ecclesiastes 12:1; 1 Timothy 4:12. Please answer the following questions.

- 1) Is it all right for a Christian to enjoy life?
- 2) What should we be careful of?