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The Christian Faith

Introduction

Lost and Found

[Jesus said,] "Suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Does she not light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.' In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." Luke 15:8-10

Share with your group a time when you were younger and became lost.

How did you feel when you first realized you were lost?

In what way are people who don't know Jesus "lost"?

In the parable that Jesus told, the woman is like God. How does God feel about lost people and what has He done to find them?

The Shepherd and His Sheep

[Jesus said,] "I am the good shepherd; I know My sheep and My sheep know Me—just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father—and I lay down My life for the sheep" (John 10:14–15).

Use paper and markers to draw a poster picture of this Bible passage. Be sure to include in your illustration the Father, the Shepherd (Jesus) and yourself, one of His sheep.

God's People Make Choices

These people faced real life situations that called on them to make tough decisions. Choose one of the passages listed and answer the following questions for the situation the people faced.

Joseph	Genesis 39:5–10
Rahab	Joshua 2:1–7, Hebrews 11:31
Daniel	Daniel 6:6–10
Andrew, Peter, James, and John	Matthew 4:18–22
Paul and Silas	Acts 16:22–28, 29–34

1. What choice did the follower of God face?



Joseph and Rahab, Heroes of Faith by the Grace of God

2. How did his or her faith in God influence his or her decision?

3. What did he or she decide to do?

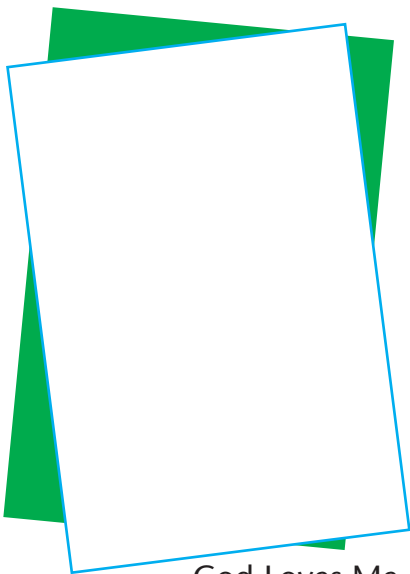
4. How did it turn out in the end?

Time for Reflection

Complete the following information about yourself. Then respond to the questions about your Christian faith right now. You may want

The Growing Family

- Interview your parent or parents using the questions on the Activity Sheet. Sign and date on the spaces provided after completing your interview. Keep this sheet with your Response Book to reflect upon in the future.
- Ask your parents to tell you their goals for your participation in this confirmation study program. Consider together, **How will we know one year from now that this confirmation program has been a success?** With your parents, establish one or two goals to share with the pastor by the next session.
- Ask your parents to tell you what their relationship with Jesus Christ means to them in their daily lives. Tell your parents what being a



God Loves Me

follower of Jesus means to you.

With My Mentor

- Ask your mentor for a favorite Bible passage that helps him or her understand the heart of the Christian faith. What passage best explains the way of salvation and offers words to live by?
- Ask your mentor to share with you a recent major decision. Ask him or her to share how faith in Christ helped influence the decision and how he or she felt after the decision was made. Talk about how a strong and informed faith helps a Christian make tough decisions.

to refer to what you have written sometime in the future.

Name: _____ Age: _____

Church affiliation _____

Pastor: _____

Others in your class: _____

In what ways is your Christian faith important to you?

What plans do you have for your personal relationship with Jesus Christ in the future?

Write a prayer, thanking God for the gift of faith that He has given you. Sign and date what you have written.

God Provides

The Ninth Commandment The Tenth Commandment

All Your Needs

I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through Him who gives me strength. ... And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen. Philippians 4:11-13, 19-20

Wants and Wishes

Everyone dreams of the day. A shiny, new van pulls into the driveway, well-dressed men and women emerge, holding balloons and a large poster. A camera crew walks up the sidewalk. The doorbell rings. "Everything you want," they shout together, "all your wishes come true."



What would you wish for? Write your top five wishes below.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

It is, of course, not wrong to wish for something. Yet wishing for something we should not have or wishing for something inappropriately at the expense of someone else is sinful. It's called "coveting." The Bible includes many stories of people who coveted. They wanted, and in many cases attempted to get, what was not rightly their own.

Think of famous people from Bible times. As you watch the pantomimes, think about the following questions.

Who covets? What does he or she covet? How did he or she act upon their desires? What's the result?

The Ninth Commandment

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not scheme to get our neighbor's inheritance or house, or get it in a way which only appears right, but help and be of service to him in keeping it.

The Tenth Commandment

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not entice or force away our neighbor's wife, workers, or animals, or turn them against him, but urge them to stay and do

What We Covet

Covetousness revolves around three distinct objects: the desire for power, for people, or for possessions. Read the following examples and match each with the appropriate category.

_____ 1. Janice cheated on her arithmetic test; she received the highest grade in her class.

_____ 2. Kim was running for class officer; she stole money from her mother's purse to buy ice cream sundaes for popular students.

_____ 3. Jack's parents couldn't afford expensive basketball shoes for him; he stole a pair from the gym where he works after school.

_____ 4. Tom told lies about Jeff to Lisa in hopes that she would like him better.

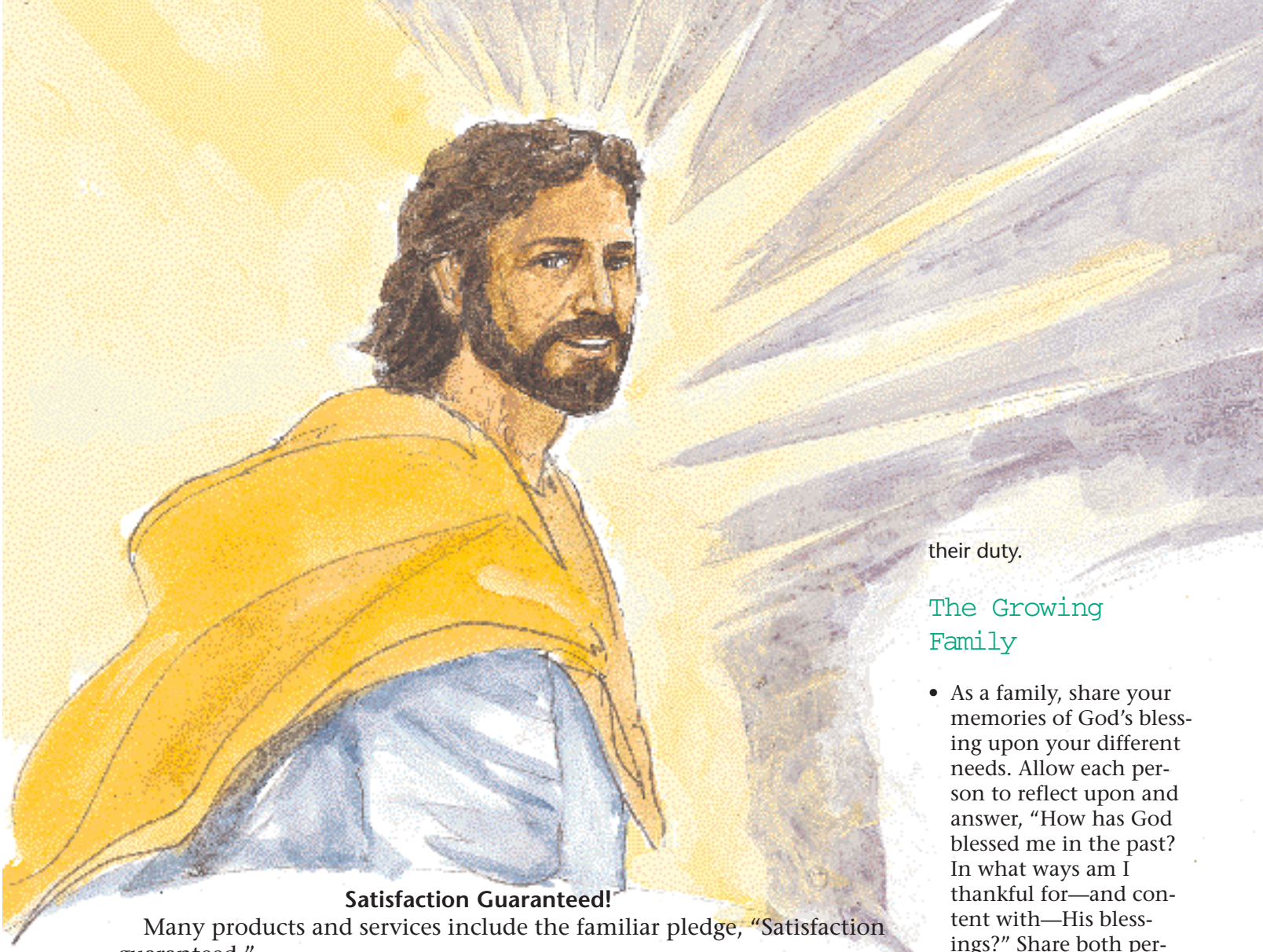
_____ 5. Bill spent part of his church offering for candy on the way to school.

_____ 6. Sarah smoked marijuana to get the attention of the boy next door.

People often covet because they confuse WANTS with NEEDS. Write a definition for each word:

WANTS

NEEDS



Satisfaction Guaranteed!

Many products and services include the familiar pledge, "Satisfaction guaranteed."

God's people live with a similar promise: In Christ, satisfaction is guaranteed. His death and resurrection are the heavenly Father's pledge of His eternal favor and protection. Nothing in all of creation will separate us from God's love in Christ.

Reflect, with your partner, how God's love can offer hope and contentment as well as new opportunities to live and grow as His people in the following situations.

My family is moving to a new city ...

My best friend transfers to a different school ...

their duty.

The Growing Family

- As a family, share your memories of God's blessing upon your different needs. Allow each person to reflect upon and answer, "How has God blessed me in the past? In what ways am I thankful for—and content with—His blessings?" Share both personal and family experiences. Offer a prayer for the specific blessings of the past and present.
- Ask your parent(s) to explain your family stewardship. You may wish to discuss the household budget, regular expenses, and contributions to the Lord's work through your congregation. If you receive an allowance or a part-time job, ask for guidance in developing your own stewardship plan. By learning how to manage wisely what

God provides, you will learn about Christian stewardship.

With My Mentor

- With your mentor explore together the different ways that you may be a “good steward” of God’s gifts and still “make the most” of time with your friends and family.
- Ask your mentor whether he or she is content. Talk with him or her about the contentment God in Christ has brought to his or her life.

My team loses every game of the season ...

My parents decide to live separately ...

My mom loses her job ...

Signed: _____ Date: _____