

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 101 **Lesson Name:** Creation

Theme: God's Power and Greatness

Reading: Genesis 1:1-45

Memroy Verse: Genesis 1:1

Memory Verse Text: In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

Attention Getter: Guess what I made this week? (For example... cookies, bird feeder, model, etc.)

Point 1: God's creation was created out of nothing. Compare it to how we make things.

Point 2: It was in the beginning, nothing would have been without Him.

Point 3: The Triune God was involved in Creation.

Point 4: God spoke, "Let there be light."

Illustration: Meal, cookies to share, etc.

Notes: Make something together as a group or have individual students bring in something they have made. Put the items on display or present briefly them in front of whole SS or another class.

Summary: Look around at what God has made... why did He do it? He wanted to reveal Himself to you. You can know this Great and Wonderful God.

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 102 **Lesson Name:** Man was Blessed of God

Theme: God's Goodness

Reading: Genesis 3:1-7

Memroy Verse: Rom. 5:12

Memory Verse Text: By one man sin entered in to the world.

Attention Getter: Tell a story of someone who was so good to you even though they had no reason. How would you treat them?

Point 1: Adam and Eve were incredibly and wonderfully made: They had everything they needed physically, materially (garden had all he needed), emotionally (Eve was the perfect counterpart), and spiritually (God came near in the cool of the day). Adam was given dominion; God raised him up and gave him his place, as well as suitable work and satisfaction. Finally, they were given guidelines for their own good.

Point 2: God put him in the garden (God had a purpose for him). It is important for man to have a purpose. God has a high purpose for each of us.

Point 3: Specify about the two trees in the midst of the garden: 1) The Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil and 2) The Tree of Life. Prohibition: It was God's garden and under God's rules. So was Adam.

Point 4: Specify how that man was given a free will in order that he wouldn't be a robot. Show how the Serpent questioned God's Goodness (Gen. 3:5), questioned God's Word (Gen. 3:1), and lied (Gen. 3:4). He's the same today. Show how Eve twisted what God had said so that it sounded better.

Illustration: Tell of one who lied and the resulting cost or mistake.

Notes:

Summary: Trust the ONE whose Word is true, not the one who lies. God wants the very best for us.

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 103 **Lesson Name:** Consequences of Sin

Theme: God Doesn't Forsake Fallen Man

Reading: Genesis 3:8-24

Memroy Verse: Genesis 3:21

Memory Verse Text: The Lord made coats of skins and clothed them

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Adam and Eve were afraid, so they hid from God.

Point 2: God called, "Where art thou?" Why? God knew where they were already. He called because He wanted them to know.

Point 3: What should Adam have said when God came near?... "I have sinned" How did he answer when God asked him, "Hast thou eaten?" How did Eve answer? Why did they do that? Sin has a bad effect on the mind and heart. Did their excuses change anything?

Point 4: God made them coats of skins. How did God get the skin? God made a promise @ the Saviour (Gen. 3:15). God put them out of the beautiful garden.

Illustration:

Notes: Note the effects of sin: fear, distance, tears and sorrow, increased childbirth, shortened lives, certain death, cursed ground, and sweat.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 104 **Lesson Name:** Cain and Abel

Theme: Only One Way is Right

Reading: Genesis 4:1-17, 25-26

Memroy Verse: Hebrews 11:4

Memory Verse Text: Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain.

Attention Getter: If you could visit the Prime Minister, President, Queen, etc., what would you bring, if you could, that they would want?

Point 1: Cain and Abel were raised in the same home. They had heard the same stories; likely the story of Adam and Eve's sin was the story told most of all. Perhaps it was a favorite because it was true and had a good ending.

Point 2: Both must have given thought about how they, as individuals, could come to God. Have you? Each of us has to come to God on our own! No one else can do it for you. When you come to God, you would probably think about what kind of a person you would be coming to. How would they know what God was like? From their parents!

Point 3: God respected Abel and what he brought. Why? God refused Cain and what he brought. Why? Yet God spoke to Cain even after he made his offering in self-will.

Point 4: The consequences of Cain's offering: Brought judgment on him. The outcome of Abel's: God accepted the offering for him and Abel went to be with his God.

Illustration: Story of a child or driver who went the wrong way!

Notes:

Summary: We can't go wrong if we go God's way!

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 105 **Lesson Name:** Flood Conditions

Theme: Sin's Darkness and Danger

Reading: Genesis 6:1-13

Memroy Verse: Gen. 6:5

Memory Verse Text: God saw that the wickedness of man was great.

Attention Getter: Do you know what I saw? (Perhaps someone stealing, etc.)
What do you think I did? What should I have done?

Point 1: Cain was sent away and he eventually married and had children. Hundreds of years passed and men only seemed to get worse. Seth, another of Adam's many sons, also had children. Noah was Seth's great great great (many times) grandson.

Point 2: Emphasize the many mentions in Gen. 6 of words like wickedness, evil, corrupt, corrupted, violence. God was grieved; note the mentions of repented, grieved, etc.

Point 3: God warned, "My spirit shall not always strive with man." Time was running out. God shortened man's lifetime to 120 years.

Point 4: God noticed Noah, he walked with God. God made a difference, why? Noah was still a sinner, but he continued to avail himself of God's provision to cover his sins!

Illustration: Dad took his son to steal apples... he looks each way but up.

Notes:

Summary: God saw it and God did something about it. He always does!

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 106 **Lesson Name:** In the Ark

Theme: God's Provision - Its Fullness

Reading: Genesis 7:1-24

Memroy Verse: Heb. 11:7

Memory Verse Text: Noah, moved with fear, prepared an ark.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: God's voice governed what Noah did as he acted to preserve the creatures. Note that there were 2s of every creature and 7s of the clean animals. Clean animals were to be used for sacrifices as well as for food, therefore God planned that there would be more available.

Point 2: They entered as the Lord commanded Noah and the Lord shut them in. Since they had been shut in by God and God was with them in the ark, why would they be concerned about the storm?

Point 3: The waters prevailed, covering even the mountains. Depending on the age of your class, it may be well to remind them that there is geological and scientific evidence of a worldwide flood. Also, it could be shown how quickly the water must have risen so that the deluge would have overwhelmed the unbelievers very quickly.

Point 4: Outside the ark, all died (Gen. 7:21-23). Inside the ark, Noah and them that were with him had life (Gen. 7:23).

Illustration:

Notes: Keep in mind that if everyone in your class is saved, it may be profitable to show them that, in reality, Noah does not appear as a sinner. He instead appears as a just man that feared God and worked righteousness, yet also needed to know the salvation which the Gospel brings.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 107 **Lesson Name:** After the Flood

Theme: God's Promise - He Keeps It / Eternal Security

Reading: Genesis 8:1-22

Memroy Verse: Genesis 8:1

Memory Verse Text: God remembered Noah.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: God remembered Noah AND every living thing. When the ark came to a rest, Noah sent forth the raven after 40 days. The raven became occupied in it's same old activities and found satisfaction.

Point 2: Next, Noah sent forth a dove, which could only find satisfaction once all things had become new, therefore, it could not rest. Noah sent the dove forth again after another seven days and upon its return, brought a sign (an olive leaf) that growth had begun. When sent away again after another seven days, the dove found delight in new things.

Point 3: Noah removed the covering of the ark and saw that the ground was dry, yet he does not go forth until God speaks to him, "Go forth."

Point 4: Noah's first deed after coming forth was to build an altar and take of every clean beast and every clean fowl and offer a sacrifice to God. The offering's sweet savour was something for God! The greatness of Noah's giving shows the depth of his appreciation for the deliverance. Note that the promise at the end of the chapter is not based on God thinking that man's heart was now changed and that His faithfulness would be in response to man's.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

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Lesson: 108 **Lesson Name:** God's Blessings on Noah

Theme: God Made a Covenant with Man

Reading: Genesis 9:1-19

Memroy Verse: Luke 1:50

Memory Verse Text: His mercy is on them that fear Him

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Promises made: Blessing of God rests with those who have obeyed His voice and taken shelter within His provision. Noah had been delivered, blessed in fruitfulness, and given sovereignty.

Point 2: Requirements were imposed in relation to: Responsibility towards all creatures, reproduction was encouraged, the food they themselves could eat, murder and capital punishment.

Point 3: The appearance of the sign of God's covenant, the rainbow, from time to time was a reminder of God's faithfulness. Note that God would look upon it and remember his everlasting covenant between God and the earth. How good it is to see this pertinent reminder... it should call the heart to remember the God who spared Noah.

Point 4: For more mature classes, a warning about drinking, losing control, and immorality is not out of line. Kids are far more aware of the incidents of sexual abuse, immorality, and homosexuality than the previous generations ever were.

Illustration:

Notes: If you do handle Point 4 with your class, take care in the way you present it. Take counsel with both male and/or female partners and mature believers as to how to mention what you want to cover.

Summary: Express the joy and appreciation that Noah must have had at his deliverance. In addition, remind the class of the sad but obvious truth that Noah was still subject to temptation and vulnerable to sinful tendencies. Noah even became snared at a time when he knew an abundance of God's blessings.

Misc:

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Lesson: 109 **Lesson Name:** Tower of Babel

Theme: God's Power and Greatness / Sin's Blindness

Reading: Genesis 11:1-9

Memroy Verse: II Chronicles 25:8

Memory Verse Text: God hath power to help and to cast down.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Settled down in the world, their ambition was to build themselves a name and to show forth their power. Life was easier in the plains and was not so hard on the flesh.

Point 2: Even the building materials in the plains were different than they would have been in the hills and mountains: slime and mud rather than stone.

Point 3: The Lord saw it (Gen. 11:5), and due to their motive to exalt themselves, He did not come down to strengthen, but rather to destroy their plans and to leave behind them the evidence of their folly.

Point 4: God's ways are different than ours, but are so effective. The LORD scattered them. He still interferes in the lives of men lest they be allowed to pursue all their wicked imaginations (Gen. 11:6).

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

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Lesson: 110 **Lesson Name:** God's Call to Abraham

Theme: God Speaks to Man

Reading: Genesis 11:27-32; 12:1-9

Memroy Verse: Heb. 11:8

Memory Verse Text: Abraham, when he was called, obeyed.

Attention Getter: Story about a boy playing with friends and his mother calls him. "Did you hear?" "Yes, but I don't have to go now." She called repeatedly and the boy still didn't go. Then she called again and the boy jumped up, "I gotta go right now!" He knew that he

Point 1: Abraham was described as "A Syrian ready to perish" in Deuteronomy 26:5.

Point 2: A voice from the unseen world.

Point 3: Promises: remind the class of how God speaks today!

Point 4: An altar and obedience: Abraham didn't know where he was going, but God knew where He was taking him and all that the future held. The fullness of what God promised is yet to be seen. God keeps His promises.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary: Tell quickly of one thing God asked you to do and what happened when you did or didn't obey!

Misc:

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Lesson: 111 **Lesson Name:** Faith Tested and Favored Man Fails

Theme: Way Seems Right

Reading: Genesis 12:10-13:1

Memroy Verse: Job 31:4

Memory Verse Text: Doth He not see my ways?

Attention Getter: Did you ever make a choice that turned out wrong? Any class member have a good example?

Point 1: In a famine, sad things happen and sorrows occur. God's promises never fail, even during the times of testing.

Point 2: The man who obeyed God's word and trusted His promise for eternal and spiritual blessings couldn't trust God for his temporal needs.

Point 3: His choice, a sad choice, had lots of consequences: Hagar came out of Egypt, Sarah was affected by it, Lot's choice of Sodom may have been made because of going down to Egypt here.

Point 4: Fear and disobedience always bring trouble. If the students are well informed, see if they can recall and compare other incidents where this was true.

Illustration: Tell a personal story such as a purchase gone wrong.

Notes: The world rebuked Abraham twice. Even though Isaac was not born yet, the parental example was followed by him later on.

Summary: God still promises to bless those that trust Him. However, if you take your own way and trust your own thoughts, don't be surprised if you find trouble!

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 112 **Lesson Name:** Lot Makes His Choice

Theme: Sin's Attractiveness / Two Ways

Reading: Genesis 13:2-18

Memory Verse: Romans 3:12

Memory Verse Text: They are all gone out of the way.

Attention Getter: Holding a handful of high denomination (imitation) money, allow the students' imaginations to tell you what they would do if the money were real and if it were actually theirs!

Point 1: Riches bring it's own problems. In this case, there is strife between brethren.

Point 2: Abram, the friend of God, wanted no trouble between them.

Point 3: A choice is made based on externals.

Point 4: Abram chose "an altar unto the Lord" (Gen. 13:18), and Lot chose a place in the administration and company of the wicked (Gen. 13:13). Afterward, God gives it ALL to Abraham and Lot loses everything.

Illustration: Tell how a choice you made or pursued caused you hurt or shame.

Notes: Note for believing children how that Lot grieved his righteous soul and dwarfed his own usefulness (2 Peter 2:6-9).

Summary: Lot made a big blunder. You and I each must choose who, and which path, we will follow. Be careful how you choose!

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 113 **Lesson Name:** God Warns Abraham About Sodom

Theme: God's Promise - He Keeps It / God's Wonderful Ways

Reading: Genesis 18:1-33

Memroy Verse: Proverbs 15:8

Memory Verse Text: The prayer of the upright is His delight

Attention Getter:

Point 1: God came to visit in human form.

Point 2: Abraham welcomed the visitors and showed them hospitality and kindness.

Point 3: During the visit, God promised that Sarah would have a son and also revealed the future regarding Sodom. As a result, the friend of God was able to pray for the unsuspecting Sodomites who wouldn't know the future until it happened. Note that God reveals the future to us today through His Written Word.

Point 4: In relation to Abraham's prayer, note it's content, extent, and God's willingness to agree.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

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Lesson: 114 **Lesson Name:** Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah

Theme: Sin's Danger and Consequences

Reading: Genesis 19:1-29

Memroy Verse: Job 36:18

Memory Verse Text: Because there is wrath, beware.

Attention Getter: Calluses... how do you get them? Relate calluses to the conscience and "acceptable sins!"

Point 1: Twenty or more years in Sodom had made Lot rich and powerful, but unaware of what was happening. Obviously his daughters loved the Sodomite lifestyle since they married Sodomite men who were in for a good time.

Point 2: God made His decision that there would be fire and destruction poured out upon Sodom and Gomorrah, so He sent messengers to Lot to warn him. Since the coming destruction was sure, the angels did not simply have an active imagination or a doom and gloom mentality.

Point 3: Homosexuality can be discussed if the kids are mature enough to deal with it. (Some of its implications are the creation of a violent society and the people simply live for pleasure.)

Point 4: Discuss Lot's slowness to respond.

Illustration:

Notes: If applicable, note the importance of decisions that affect children and others in a bad way.

Summary:

Misc:

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Lesson: 115 **Lesson Name:** Abram, Sarai, and Hagar

Theme: Sin's Foolishness and Carelessness

Reading: Genesis 16:1-16

Memroy Verse: Gen 16:13

Memory Verse Text: Thou God seest me.

Attention Getter: Ever play hide and seek?

Point 1: Abram: Consider his impatience about a child, his foolishness about the whole thing, and his carelessness about God's promise.

Point 2: Sarai: What seemed so sensible at one time to her became unbearable and a reproach. She calls it, "My wrong."

Point 3: Hagar: God was good to her in that she was blessed with health and conception, however she now uses God's goodness as a tool to provoke her mistress Sarai.

Point 4: Hagar couldn't run away from God. He didn't desert her, but instead, He had wonderful purposes for her still.

Illustration: Tell a story about a small child who tried to hide from Mom.

Notes:

Summary: No one is smart enough to run away from God.

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 116 **Lesson Name:** Hagar and Ishmael Delivered by God

Theme: God's Provision - Its Fullness / Sinner's Need and Helplessness

Reading: Genesis 21:1-21

Memroy Verse: Revelation 22:17

Memory Verse Text: Whosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: The true son of promise was born just as God had said he would.

Point 2: Ishmael, "born after the flesh," mocked the promised son. As a result, there was conflict between the promised son and the results of the flesh, Ishmael (Galatians 4:28-31). Note: Mocked could mean played with, teased, or taunted.

Point 3: The water in the skin ran out, bringing Hagar and Ishmael to an end of themselves.

Point 4: God heard the voice of the lad. (It might be a good idea to emphasize that God was keenly aware of their need and was quick to respond even though Ishmael was only a lad.) He called to Hagar from heaven and opened her eyes to behold the well of water, provision that had been made long before they knew or saw it. Hagar and Ishmael each had to take of the water and drink it, and forget their pride.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 117 **Lesson Name:** Abraham Gives All

Theme: Christ the Substitute

Reading: Genesis 22:1-19

Memroy Verse: Rom. 8:32

Memory Verse Text: He spared not His own Son.

Attention Getter: How do you treat your friends? How did God treat His friend?

Point 1: God tests Abraham, His friend, to see if he would now fully rest in His promise.

Point 2: God's test: "Take Isaac, whom thou lovest, and offer him." Even though Abraham left immediately, what a mental struggle must have filled Abraham's mind during that journey!

Point 3: God will provide Himself... Was this statement by Abraham a real grasp of God's ultimate purpose? This thought may be good for discussion if the timing is right.

Point 4: Abraham's obedience: He obeyed in spite of the personal cost involved. Isaac's obedience and compliance: He didn't resist in spite of his concern. Ram provided: God renewed His promises and revealed His purposes to follow.

Illustration: Tell the story of the man who fell from a tower onto passing sheep.

Notes: God never asks us to do something that He is not prepared to do as well.

Summary: Love gives its all. Consider how much God was willing to give to save our souls!

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 118 **Lesson Name:** The Servant and Rebekah

Theme: Opportunity: A Turning Point / Choices

Reading: Genesis 24:1-67

Memroy Verse: Gen. 24:58

Memory Verse Text: Wilt thou go with this man? And she said, I will go.

Attention Getter: How would you like your parents to pick your marriage partner?

Point 1: Father desired a gentile bride for his son, Isaac, and sent a servant to find her. (Liken the servant to the Holy Spirit and His work.)

Point 2: God was in the search; "The Lord led me" (Gen. 24:27). Even Rebekah's family said, "The thing proceedeth from the Lord" (Gen. 24:50).

Point 3: Rebekah is told of the father's desire and greatness, as well as his loving purposes for the "Son of the Promise."

Point 4: It was Rebekah alone who must ultimately answer the call.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 119 **Lesson Name:** The Twins and The Birthright

Theme: Sin's Foolishness and Carelessness / Mocker's Consequences

Reading: Genesis 25:20-34

Memroy Verse: Hebrews 12:16

Memory Verse Text: Esau . . . sold his birthright.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Jacob and Esau's choices reflected their personalities. Jacob was a quiet thinker, clever, and had clear goals. Esau was macho and cunning, but he did not think ahead. Esau was probably more likeable!

Point 2: Mention the sorrows of favoritism as seen in Gen. 25:28. Possession of the birthright meant being heir to the promises God had made to Abraham.

Point 3: Esau, the "more likeable" son, was outsmarted from the benefit of his birthright. Application: It is not always the "more likeable" that will be saved.

Point 4: Esau despised his birthright, and in the desire of the moment, he sold it for an appealing meal of soup and bread. The food had no future value whereas his birthright had great future value.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 120 **Lesson Name:** Jacob and Esau: The Blessing

Theme: Opportunity: A Turning Point / Choices

Reading: Genesis 27:1-40

Memroy Verse: Prov. 10:22

Memory Verse Text: The blessing of the Lord . . . maketh rich.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Isaac as old and blind physically is a picture of his failing spiritual perception. The time was near that he would die; he wanted the blessing for Esau.

Point 2: Rebekah knew that Jacob valued the blessing, so a plan was developed to rob Esau of its benefit.

Point 3: Even though Jacob lied, cheated his brother, and deceived his father, the story shows that God's grace is bestowed on the most undeserving person because he longed for it.

Point 4: Make the class go to the Hebrews 12:17 to make a final comment regarding Esau's remorse and what God says about Esau's loss.

Illustration:

Notes: Make it clear that Jacob's lies and deceit were SIN.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 121 **Lesson Name:** Jacob's Pillow and Ladder

Theme: Grace: God's Undeserved Favor

Reading: Genesis 28:1-22

Memroy Verse: Psalm 114:7

Memory Verse Text: Tremble at the presence of the God of Jacob.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: A great blessing was pronounced upon Jacob despite his unworthiness and Esau's purposes to kill him later on (Gen. 28:3). Afterward receiving the blessing, Jacob became an outcast and left with no possessions in his hands.

Point 2: Jacob was sent away with all this on his conscience, but he still does not feel any of the direct consequences yet. He likely experienced fear and guilt, and possibly even mild regret.

Point 3: Jacob laid down to sleep with a stone for a pillow and dreamed of a marvelous ladder! Even though he was away from home and family, his contact with Heaven not cut off. Jacob had no companions but messengers from God.

Point 4: He was made to realize that there is no where you can go to successfully get away from God: "Surely the Lord is in this place." Jacob would never forget Bethel, the House of God, because God revealed Himself there.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 122 **Lesson Name:** Jacob Meets Esau Again

Theme: Judgment's Certainty

Reading: Genesis 32:1-33:17

Memroy Verse: Ecclesiastes 12:14

Memory Verse Text: God shall bring every work into judgment.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Years after tricking his parents and stealing from his brother, God told Jacob to return to the land, and that there, he was going to meet Esau again. Before he does, however, Jacob had to with God in order to be the man that God intended him to be, as well as to free him from his own devices.

Point 2: God sent messengers to Jacob who told him that Esau, the one he feared, was coming to meet him with 400 men. Fear fell upon Jacob despite God's promise in Gen. 32:12. As a result, he divided his people and sent a large present ahead. Jacob was still plotting.

Point 3: Jacob was left alone one night after the others passed over the brook Jabbok, reminding him of the previous night when he had found himself alone. There, he wrestled and prevailed with a man, but he won't let go without a blessing. Jacob's name was changed to Israel, which means, "A Prince of, or with, God." What a change! Only God could bring it about. Jacob was marked for the rest of his life by his experience at Peniel. (Peniel means "seeing God face to face.")

Point 4: The reunion that took place was far different than Jacob had imagined. God had worked in Esau and changed his thinking so that he was gracious and forgiving.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 123 **Lesson Name:** Joseph's Dream

Theme: Christ the Lord / Mocker's Consequences

Reading: Genesis 37:1-11

Memroy Verse: Rom. 14:11

Memory Verse Text: Every knee shall bow to me.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Joseph was his father's favorite, a fact which Jacob couldn't help from showing. (There likely was a moral reason for this favoritism if Jacob could have perceived it.) As a result, Joseph was seen as unique amongst his brothers.

Application: It would be foolish to show favoritism in our families since everyone has failed in some way.

Point 2: God also marked Joseph out as unique by giving him a revelation in a dream. God told him in a special way what the future held. How does He tell us today?

Point 3: Joseph's brothers hated him for what he had said, but Jacob kept what Joseph had said in mind and thought about it (Gen. 37:11).

Point 4: Read Gen. 43:26 with the class to show the fulfillment of God's promise and remind everyone that God will keep His every word.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

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Lesson: 124 **Lesson Name:** Joseph's Brothers Plot His Death

Theme: Sin's Foolishness and Carelessness

Reading: Genesis 37:12-36

Memroy Verse: Proverbs 11:21

Memory Verse Text: The wicked shall not be unpunished.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Joseph went to the flocks in Shechem in order to do his father's will and to seek the good of his brothers.

Point 2: His brothers mocked him as the "Dreamer" and determined to kill him. Reuben tried to save Joseph from death, but he was thrown into a pit before he could. The brothers' intent was likely to let him die there.

Point 3: God sent a band of strangers (Midianites) to serve His purpose and save Joseph's life. The brothers outsmarted themselves by selling him and thinking that they will never see him again. "Tune in later for the rest of the story!" God was not done with those brothers yet.

Point 4: The brothers deceived their father into thinking that a wild beast had devoured Joseph, so Jacob is sure that he will never see his son again.

Application: No matter how sure you may be that you've got all the angles covered, remember that God is going to bring all to the light.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 125 **Lesson Name:** Joseph is Falsely Accused and Put in Prison

Theme: The Conscience: How it's Regulated and Activated

Reading: Genesis 39:1-23

Memroy Verse: Genesis 42:18

Memory Verse Text: Joseph said unto them. . . "I fear God."

Attention Getter: Use a compass and show how it is affected by a magnet. What regulates it? What guides us? A conscience regulated by God's Word.

Point 1: In his work in Potiphar's house, the Lord was with Joseph. Potiphar was pleased with Joseph and trusted him with everything he had. In turn, the Lord blessed Potiphar for honoring Joseph.

Point 2: Potiphar's wife was attracted to Joseph for another reason. Joseph was far from home and life had given him a rough deal, yet still HE REFUSED to give in to her. Why? "This (is) great wickedness, and SIN AGAINST GOD" (Gen. 39:9).

Point 3: Even though Joseph remained faithful, he was falsely accused. His master, Potiphar, should have known better and may have ordinarily executed a man accused as Joseph was, but instead he was unjustly imprisoned.

Point 4: Note: Even in prison, the Lord was with Joseph and gave him favor (Gen. 39:21).

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 126 **Lesson Name:** The Dream Interpreter

Theme: Two Ways

Reading: Genesis 40:1-23

Memroy Verse: Daniel 2:28

Memory Verse Text: There is a God that revealeth secrets.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Two others were imprisoned justly with Joseph because of what they had done; they deserved it. Joseph, like the Lord Jesus, "was numbered with the transgressors" (Isaiah 53:12).

Point 2: In spite of his own troubles, Joseph noticed the other prisoners' sad faces (Gen. 40:7). With God's help, he was able to reveal the meaning of their dreams.

Point 3: One prisoner was to be freed and the other was to be hung, similar to the thieves on the crosses; one was saved and one was forever lost. Which one was freed? The prisoner with the cup, which was a reminder of shed blood. Which one died? The prisoner with the baked goods, which was a reminder of man's best efforts.

Point 4: Joseph asked only to be remembered, but he was forgotten.

Illustration:

Notes: This was the first hanging in the Bible, Judas was the last!

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 127 **Lesson Name:** Joseph is Praised

Theme: Christ the Lord / Sinner's Need and Helplessness

Reading: Genesis 41

Memroy Verse: John 6:37

Memory Verse Text: Him that cometh to me, I will in no wise cast out.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: When God's time came, He invaded Pharaoh's mind with a troubling dream and also stirred the butler's thoughts. God helped Joseph interpret Pharaoh's dream and saw to it that Pharaoh was so impressed that he would choose Joseph, a prisoner, to act as ruler of the land (Gen. 41:38-44). Joseph was 30 years old at this time after several long years in prison.

Point 2: Note the "bow the knee" of Gen. 41:43 and remind the class of Joseph's dreams (Gen. 37). Also note the great and long famine over all of the nearby lands; God was setting the stage for the rest of His purposes.

Point 3: Joseph acted wisely in that he took a Gentile bride and organized storehouses of grain in Egypt requiring everyone to come to him for food (Gen. 41:57).

Point 4: Apply Gen. 41:55, "Go unto Joseph; what he saith to you, do" to the saved and unsaved in the class. Application: You need to come to the Saviour, and you can, but remember that you must "Bow the knee" to Him as well.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 128 **Lesson Name:** Jacob Sends His Sons to Egypt

Theme: Sin Acknowledged: Leads to Salvation

Reading: Genesis 42

Memroy Verse: Romans 14:12

Memory Verse Text: Every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: When news came that there was corn in Egypt, the ten brothers went down. Jacob wouldn't let Joseph's only full brother, Benjamin, go. Their mother, Rebekah, had died when Benjamin was born.

Point 2: The brothers bowed themselves before Joseph (Gen. 42:6) without knowing that it was him. Joseph knew that it was his brothers and spoke harshly and accusingly to them (Gen. 42:7,8). The brothers then told him their story. Because Joseph feared God, he didn't treated his brothers the way they had treated him.

Point 3: After demanding that they bring their youngest brother to prove they weren't spies, Joseph heard his brothers confess their sin (Gen. 42:21-23). What a reminder that each of us will give account of ourselves to God.

Point 4: Joseph had a purpose in bringing his brothers to this dark hour of their lives. He also knew why God had allowed everything that happened (Gen. 45:5).

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 129 **Lesson Name:** Joseph Takes His Brothers to His House

Theme: Grace: God's Undeserved Favor

Reading: Genesis 43

Memroy Verse: Romans 2:4

Memory Verse Text: The goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: The famine remained hard; God allowed the seven years of severe famine in order to bring reconciliation between Joseph and his family. How important this reconciliation was to God. Think of what God has done to bring about reconciliation for us.

Point 2: Benjamin had to go, but Judah had to be willing to bear the blame before Jacob let him go. God must have been working because this was a very different attitude than Judah used to have. The brothers were to take a present (act of homage) for "the man on the throne" in order to try and ensure that nothing happened to Benjamin.

Point 3: Joseph was moved when he saw his younger brother and prepared a meal for them all. The brothers had expected that he would try to seek occasion against them. At the meal, Joseph had one more test for them, he gave Benjamin five times as much food as any of the other brothers, the portion that rightfully belonged to the eldest.

Point 4: Note: 1) The brothers bowed themselves (Gen. 43:26, 28); 2) Joseph brought God into his dealings with them (Gen. 43:23, 29).

Illustration:

Notes: Joseph's brothers had wrong thoughts and suspicions about him.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 130 **Lesson Name:** Joseph Reveals Himself to His Brothers

Theme: Christ Revealed

Reading: Genesis 44; Genesis 45:1-8

Memroy Verse: Acts 7:13

Memory Verse Text: Joseph was made known unto his brethren.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Joseph's brothers were unsettled when they found the money in their sacks the first time, and now, they were accused of stealing Joseph's silver cup. He had specified that the cup should be hidden in Benjamin's sack.

Point 2: Before they knew what the search would produce, they promised that if the silver cup was found, the man in whose sack it was found would die, and that, the other brothers would become Joseph's slaves (Gen. 44:9). Note that when the cup was found, the brothers went to Joseph and fell before him (Gen. 44:14) and they brought their guilt before God into the situation (Gen. 44:16).

Point 3: Joseph did all this to see if his brothers had learned from their earlier mistakes. Judah now not only took the place of a servant before Joseph (Gen. 44:18), but he also volunteered to be a substitute for Benjamin for fear his father would die! Judah hadn't cared about his father's thoughts before.

Point 4: Joseph couldn't refrain himself or wait any longer. He sent everyone away in order to be alone with his brothers, who became terrified. Once alone, Joseph revealed himself, drew them near, and explained their situation in relation to the Divine Will of God (Gen. 45:5,7,8). God had allowed it all to happen for good!

Illustration:

Notes: The point at which Joseph couldn't refrain himself is a reminder of our Lord's desire to have all distance and doubt removed in order that we might be with Him.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 131 **Lesson Name:** Jacob Called Down to Egypt

Theme: Restoration / Christ the Sympathizer / God's Provision

Reading: Genesis 45:9-28; 46:1-7, 29-34

Memroy Verse: Gen. 45:9-10

Memory Verse Text: Come down unto me, tarry not . . . and thou shalt be near unto me.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: During the time alone with his brothers: Joseph called for haste in bringing his father Jacob down to Egypt, wept with joy, kissed all of his brothers, and restored communion with them (Gen. 45:13,14,15).

Point 2: Note what the brothers were to tell to Jacob: "God hath made (Joseph) lord of all Egypt," a dwelling place had been prepared, "a near place," and that nourishment was available (Gen. 45:9,10,11). The brothers were to tell Jacob of all Joseph's glory (Gen. 45:13).

Point 3: Wagons were sent home with the brothers loaded with provisions for the way and presents for Jacob. All their former possessions were to be counted as nothing (Gen. 45:20).

Point 4: All the words of Jacob's sons didn't convince him about Joseph. He finally believed when he saw the wagons sent from Joseph. Jacob and Joseph finally had their moment of meeting in Gen. 46:29,30. Joseph gave his father and brothers the best of the land (Gen. 47:11).

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 132 **Lesson Name:** Death of Jacob and Joseph

Theme: God's Faithfulness

Reading: Genesis 49:33; 50:1-26

Memroy Verse: II Tim. 2:13

Memory Verse Text: He abideth faithful.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: When Jacob died, Joseph kept his promise to his father and buried him in the land of Canaan.

Point 2: After Jacob's death, Joseph's brothers became afraid of him again and wondered if they might yet reap what they had sown. Apparently they still didn't know him very well; they were compelled to bow before his throne again (Gen. 50:18).

Point 3: Joseph's attitude toward his brothers did not change. God was a reality in his life so his attitude reflected God's unchanging character. Joseph removed their fears again and reminded them of God's purposes for him (Gen. 50:19-22). Joseph not only comforted and spoke kindness to his brothers, but he also promised to sustain and nourish them. What a wonderful man! Are we reminded that God has a purpose for the things He allows in our lives?

Point 4: Joseph lived 110 years, 80 of which were characterized by glory and grace. This is amazing, yet it can't compare with the eternal ages that God has in mind for His people. Joseph prophesied that God would visit them, and He did through Moses! Joseph made his brothers promise that his bones would rest in the Promised Land rather than in Egypt.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 201 **Lesson Name:** Moses in the Bulrushes

Theme: Satan's Character: The Enemy of God and the Christian

Reading: Exodus 1:1-22; 2:1-10; Hebrews 11:23

Memroy Verse: I Peter 5:8

Memory Verse Text: The Devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Many years passed (about 400) and a new king rose to power who didn't know Joseph. The Israelite population had grown from 300+ persons to 1.5 - 2 million or more.

Point 2: A plot was made to control, burden, and weaken the Israelites. Taskmasters tried to afflict them with burdens, ordering them to build cities of treasure and store houses, and making their lives bitter (Ex. 1:11-14). Another plot was made to destroy the sons because the Devil put it in Pharaoh's heart to kill the deliverer that God had promised. Cf to Herod.

Point 3: Amram and Jochebed were courageous to hide Moses; he was the hope of their hearts. They expected that God would send a Saviour! The ways of God are wonderful; the very one who was to save Moses, and then nourish, educate, and protect him, would be the daughter of the one determined to destroy him.

Point 4: Perhaps we could remind the children that have Christian parents of their tremendous importance. Christian parents are not only caring... look at the difference that praying and obedient parents made!

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 202 **Lesson Name:** Moses' Decision Time

Theme: Opportunity: A Turning Point / Choices

Reading: Exodus 2:11-22; Acts 7:22-24; Hebrews 11:24-26

Memroy Verse: Hebrews 11:24

Memory Verse Text: By faith, Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharoah's daughter.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Moses came to a point in his life, when he was more mature, that he realized his own potential for God.

Point 2: Moses saw the Israelites' burdens and he was moved with compassion. He also witnessed their abuse and realized the lost potential of God's people.

Point 3: Moses wanted to do something. Note that it is possible to do something before God's time and not in God's way. Discuss what Moses hadn't balanced out yet: God's character and ways. As a result, he killed the Egyptian. God's people would have had reason to be afraid to have such a man for a leader.

Point 4: God had a lot to teach Moses still that he couldn't learn in Egypt, it had to be learned in the desert. Notice in Ex. 2:17,19 that Moses had learned something already since he didn't kill the shepherds.

Illustration:

Notes: Moses still looked like an Egyptian. Likewise, you can get out of the world and away from it's influence but still have marks that need to go.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 203 **Lesson Name:** Moses' Mission (Part 1 of 2)

Theme: God's Power and Greatness

Reading: Exodus 3:1-14

Memroy Verse: Psalm 145:3

Memory Verse Text: Great is the LORD. His greatness is unsearchable.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Moses had learned to keep sheep and raise a family.

Point 2: Moses had run away from Egypt and God wanted to send him back, but before God sent him back, He took the initiative to reveal Himself.

Point 3: The bush burned with fire but was not consumed. This was not a special kind of bush, it was God in the bush that made the difference. What a lesson for Moses and ourselves. It is God in us that makes the difference.

Point 4: God is the great I AM (Explain). The man who is going to serve God must know how great his God is! He must also know his humble position in relation to God... Moses had to take the shoes off his feet.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 204 **Lesson Name:** Moses' Mission (Part 2 of 2)

Theme: God's Wonderful Ways

Reading: Exodus 3:14-22; 4:1-9

Memory Verse: Psalm 9:12

Memory Verse Text: He forgetteth not the cry of the humble.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: In Ex. 3:16, note what God wanted Moses to say to the Elders: I am visiting you (amazing thought), I have seen, and I will bring you up out of Egypt.

Point 2: Discuss what God wanted for His people: A three day journey out of Egypt (rather than 40 years), a clear distinction between His people and all others, and to have all gathered to Him without distraction or rival. However, this wouldn't take place without problems.

Point 3: Moses said, "I know they won't listen to me." How quick we are to doubt the greatness of the One who reveals Himself and speaks through us.

Point 4: Through a few "object lessons," God had something for Moses to learn and remember: 1) Rod turned into serpent. Lesson: God could have made him run! 2) His hand became full of leprosy, an appalling and awful disease. Lesson: God can cleanse the vilest thing.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 205 **Lesson Name:** The Plagues (Part 1 of 7)

Theme: Seeker Hindered

Reading: Exodus 5:1-23

Memroy Verse: Matthew 11:28

Memory Verse Text: Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Moses and Aaron went to the great, powerful, and proud Pharaoh to speak what God said, "Let MY PEOPLE go."

Point 2: Pharaoh had no respect for God and had no appreciation for what the Lord wanted. He thought himself to be a god. God's will and God's people meant nothing to him; he didn't want the people to leave their burdens. Egypt and His pleasure were all that mattered to the King.

Point 3: Instead of getting better gradually, the situation got worse. Further burdens were added and hurtful conditions were afflicted.

Point 4: The people doubted because they were worse off, had more hurts, greater hardship, less family time, and less time for God's things. Moses doubted and wondered, "WHY?"

Illustration:

Notes: God reveals in Exodus 12 that He wanted His people released so that they could: 1) Sacrifice (v. 27), 2) Feast (v.14), and 3) Serve (v. 25). It is clear that salvation starts us on the road to WORSHIP, FELLOWSHIP and SERVICE.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 206 **Lesson Name:** The Plagues (Part 2 of 7): Snakes and Blood

Theme: Sin's Danger and Consequences

Reading: Exodus 6:1-3; 7:10-25

Memroy Verse: Hebrews 12:25

Memory Verse Text: See that ye refuse not Him that speaketh.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Exodus 6:3; Jehovah, the Self-Existing One, needs no one, however, He still reveals Himself to others including sinners. "Jehovah" is the name linked with redemption.

Point 2: Aaron's rod turned into a snake, but so did the magicians' rods with their tricks. After exclaiming, "See we have power just like you.", Aaron's serpent swallowed theirs up! Application: There are lots of imitations, but only one real thing!

Point 3: Moses and Aaron met Pharaoh at the river and repeated God's demand. Upon refusal, the river was made into blood in the sight of all. Even though the magicians had witnessed what happened with the serpent, they insisted on trying the same because they were satisfied with their pretence, self-impressed with their power, and still unrepentant.

Point 4: Just like the magicians, Pharaoh was not repentant. Instead, he hardened his heart and shut his ears. How stupid could he be? Pharaoh was supposed to be the leader, but his foolish heart was darkened.

Illustration:

Notes: PLAGUES: 1) Water turned to blood, 2) Frogs, 3) Lice, 4) Flies, 5) Cattle Die, 6) Boils, 7) Hail, 8) Locusts, 9) Darkness, 10) First born dies

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 207 **Lesson Name:** The Plagues (Part 3 of 7): Frogs and Lice

Theme: Sin's Depravity

Reading: Exodus 8:1-23

Memroy Verse: Job 33:14

Memory Verse Text: God speaketh yet man perceiveth it not.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: God again renewed His demand. Who would win?

Point 2: Frogs were one of the things that the Egyptians worshipped. As a result of the plague, they had more than enough frogs! After Pharaoh asked for the frogs to be removed, it was a great miracle in itself that the frogs died (causing the whole land to stink.) Pharaoh renewed his promise to let the Israelites go, but instead he hardened his heart again.

Point 3: The dust was smitten to become LICE. The magicians couldn't do this, so "the finger of God" was obvious. Comment on the great things God can do with His finger and how God could teach the magicians a thing or two.

Point 4: Pharaoh continued to lead the people in unbelief and stubbornly refused to acknowledge that he saw God's work and that he was incapable of overcoming it.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 208 **Lesson Name:** The Plagues (Part 4 of 7): Flies, Cattle Die, & Boils
Theme: Two ways

Reading: Exodus 8:20-32, 9:1-11

Memroy Verse: Jeremiah 21:8

Memory Verse Text: I set before you the way of life and the way of death.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Pharaoh was once again reminded of God's requirement and claims, "Let MY PEOPLE go."

Point 2: A clear division was seen between the land of Goshen and the land of Egypt (Ex. 8:22, 23). God made a difference. Discuss the kinds of differences God puts between the saved and unsaved today.

Point 3: God did just what He said He would (Ex. 8:24). God can and will do just what He says. When Pharaoh said "I will let you go," in Ex. 8:28, notice that he also said, "only ye shall not go very far". The Devil never wants us very far from the world and it's control.

Point 4: The division was seen with the cattle: Egypt felt the judgement, but there was NO judgement for the Lord's people (Ex. 9:7).

Illustration:

Notes: Perhaps it should be noted very clearly that while God puts a difference between His own and the world, that does not mean that Christians have no sorrows or pains. God grants His power and presence to help His own with their trials.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 209 **Lesson Name:** The Plagues (Part 5 of 7): Hail

Theme: Sin's Foolishness and Carelessness

Reading: Exodus 9:13-35

Memroy Verse: Proverbs 27:12

Memory Verse Text: The simple pass on and are punished.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Consider how the plague of hail (and the final plague, death of the firstborn) differed from all the rest; Egypt was warned of God and provided with a way of escape.

Point 2: Another division now existed between Pharaoh's servants that feared the word of the Lord and those that didn't (Ex. 9:20). Those that feared had to take action; if they stayed as they were, they would receive the coming judgement. God's judgement included THUNDER, HAIL, LIGHTNING, and BLOOD, what a combination!

Point 3: Once again, the Lord's people were spared from this most severe judgement (Ex. 9:26). Pharaoh, also desiring to be spared, sent for Moses and said, "I have sinned this time" (Ex. 9:27). He knew that God could withhold the judgement if he sincerely repented (Ex. 9:28). Warn the class against incomplete and insincere repentance.

Point 4: Moses testified to Pharaoh, "The earth is the Lord's" (Ex. 9:29). However, when danger is passed in Ex. 9:34, Pharaoh "sinned yet more and hardened his heart." Perhaps this is a good point at which to give a warning against stubbornness.

Illustration:

Notes: Older classes might like to research the plague of hail in Revelation 8:7; 11:19; 16:21.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 210 **Lesson Name:** The Plagues (Part 6 of 7): Locusts & Darkness

Theme: Sinner is Diseased, Dark, and Dead

Reading: Exodus 10:1-29

Memroy Verse: Psalm 82:5

Memory Verse Text: They know not, neither will they understand; they walk on in darkness.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Notice what God wanted Israel to know: "I am the LORD" (Ex. 10:2) Recall from Lesson 206 that Jehovah, the Self-Existing One, needs no one, but He still reveals Himself to others including sinners. The call is given to Pharaoh, "How long wilt thou refuse to humble thyself before ME?" (Ex. 10:3)

Point 2: Even Pharaoh's servants now pressed him to release the Israelites. Pharaoh was now partly willing and let the men could go; he knew that they would want to come back eventually for their kids. God, on the other hand, wanted to deliver everyone. Pharaoh's terms were unacceptable, so he drove Moses and Aaron out of his presence. Application: We cannot afford to leave the young behind in the world today.

Point 3: God took action once more and sent the most voracious locusts to eat up everything left over after the hail. In turn, Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron in haste yet again and asked for favor of the Lord, even though he had no true desire to change.

Point 4: The darkness of the ninth plague could be FELT, causing Pharaoh to be seemingly relenting again. He gave permission for the children to leave, but still holds back all the flocks and herds. God terms were that "Not a hoof (should) be left behind," so Pharaoh drove them out of his presence again; he had decided his own fate for himself. Application: Be absolutely clear that when a person rejects God and His Word, they are also inviting spiritual darkness into their lives; some will feel their darkness for all eternity.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 211 **Lesson Name:** The Passover and The Last Plague

Theme: Redemption: Its Purchase and Purpose

Reading: Exodus 11:1-10; 12:1-13

Memroy Verse: Exodus 12:13

Memory Verse Text: When I see the blood, I will passover you.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: The Israelites had been slaves and were under condemnation, however God made provision so that they did not feel the judgement he had reserved for the wicked and unbelieving.

Point 2: The Israelites were to "take a lamb" (Ex. 12:3). Even though thousands of lambs died, God only saw "The Lamb" that each of the Passover lambs represented. Notice: "a lamb" (Ex. 12:3), "the lamb" (Ex. 12:4), and "your lamb" (Ex. 12:5). Speak of how everyone could have taken a lamb for himself.

Point 3: The Israelites were to kill the lamb (Ex. 12:6). There was a day appointed and a time set when the lamb (and "The Lamb") were to die.

Point 4: The Israelites were to apply the blood (Ex. 12:7). Application of the blood to the door posts shows how the lamb's provision had to be personally accepted. The hyssop plant (a common weed that could have even been oregano) spoke of faith.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 212 **Lesson Name:** The Red Sea

Theme: Salvation: Provision For All

Reading: Exodus 13:17-22; 14:1-31

Memroy Verse: Exodus 14:13

Memory Verse Text: Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: God gave His people the reward of gold borrowed from the Egyptians as payment for their labor. Now, God miraculously and personally led them with fire by night and a pillar of cloud by day. The fire and pillar of cloud were more than just symbols; they meant that God was with them. God still desires and is able to lead today through His Word.

Point 2: Pharaoh's heart was "changed" in Ex. 14:5 causing him to take his army to pursue the released Israelites. In line with God's plan, the Israelites began to wail and doubt (Ex. 14:10). Pharaoh might have had all the weapons, soldiers, and chariots, but the Israelites had the Lord with them. Somehow, neither the Egyptians, nor the Israelites, saw the Lord.

Point 3: The Israelites witnessed another great miracle when Moses stretched the rod out and the Red Sea parted. While all of Israel passed through, God confused the Egyptians and hid the Israelites from their revenge. When the rod is stretched out again, one simple act of God brought the feared enemies to nothing. What a great God we have!

Point 4: Note what Israel saw in Ex. 14:30,31, as well as their song in Ex. 15. Only the saved really have something to sing about: "Isn't He wonderful?"

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 213 **Lesson Name:** The Manna

Theme: God's Provision - Its Fullness

Reading: Exodus 16:1-36

Memroy Verse: John 6:35

Memory Verse Text: I am the bread of life, he that cometh to me shall never hunger.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Even though what the Israelites had in Egypt likely wasn't very much, they compared it to their current situation, and perceived it as having been much better. They were hungry and tired of the wilderness conditions, so they began to murmur again and discredited the Glory of the Lord seen amongst them.

Point 2: The Lord heard their murmurings, yet He graciously spoke, "I will rain bread from heaven for you" (Ex. 16:4,12). The manna came from above freely, it was easily available on the ground where even the children could collect it, it was sweet, and satisfied the Israelites' need.

Point 3: The manna was/is a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ. It was/is a marvelous illustration of God's amazing ability to meet the need of our souls, whether we are sinner or saved.

Point 4: The manna was provided for 40 years, the same amount of time as the children of Israel were in the Wilderness on their way to the Promised Land.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 214 **Lesson Name:** The Water and the Rock

Theme: Sinner's Need and Helplessness

Reading: Exodus 17:1-7; Numbers 20:2-13

Memroy Verse: John 7:37

Memory Verse Text: If any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: The Israelites murmured to Moses again, this time because there was no water (Ex. 17:1), so Moses interceded for them before the Lord. Even though they were where the Lord wanted them, they couldn't see anything good about their circumstances, their leaders, or their God.

Point 2: God told Moses to "smite the rock" with his rod (Ex. 17:6). Moses obeyed and there was an abundant supply of water for all. This is a picture of God smiting the Saviour (the Rock of our salvation) on the Cross and of what has flowed forth from that smiting to meet the sinner's need.

Point 3: Just after Miriam had died, the children of Israel had no water and began murmuring again. They apparently had forgotten all about what God had done previously. Even though the Tabernacle had been built, the Israelites didn't seem to have a greater sense of the reality of God with them. When Moses and Aaron went before the Lord, Moses was directed to "Take the rod... and SPEAK ye unto the rock" (Ex. 20:8). Disobediently and angrily, Moses smote the rock twice; nevertheless, God provided water for all.

Point 4: As a result of his actions, God told Moses that he would not be able to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land. Application: How tremendously important it is to listen to and obey what the Lord says.

Illustration:

Notes: Other uses of the rod: Rod became a serpent, Swallowed the magician's rods (that had also turned into serpents), Used to turn the waters into blood (First plague), Used to divide the Red Sea. God used Moses' rod to cause all these events: The rod did not have power, GOD did.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 215 **Lesson Name:** Fight with Amalak

Theme: Satan's Character: The Enemy of God and the Christian

Reading: Exodus 17:8-16; Deuteronomy 25:17-19

Memroy Verse: Heb. 7:25

Memory Verse Text: He is able also to save them.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Amalek, Esau's grandson, is a picture of the flesh at enmity with God. Amalek fought against the faint and weary Israelites and attacked the hindermost (Deut 25:17,18).

Point 2: Even though the children of Israel have been redeemed from Egypt, they are still not safe in the Promised Land. While in the wilderness, they are still subject to attack from enemies and danger from the outside elements.

Point 3: A Christian in this world is like a stranger and a pilgrim passing through (1 Peter 2:11-12).

Point 4: Joshua, which means Saviour, fought in the battle against Amalek while Moses interceded, supported by Aaron and Hur. Notice who really won the victory, Jehovah Nissi, The Lord My Banner (Ex. 17:15). Song of Solomon 2:4 says, "His banner over me was love."

Illustration:

Notes: The flesh is the evil corrupt nature we all possess through Adam. Even when we get saved, God does not remove it, but instead, he gives us a new nature that in itself cannot do the evil things. The flesh is incurably bad and will not change.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 216 **Lesson Name:** When God gave His Law

Theme: Law of God: Its Purpose and Character

Reading: Exodus 19, 20

Memroy Verse: Romans 3:20

Memory Verse Text: By the Law is the knowledge of sin.

Attention Getter: Tell a story about a little child who was anxiously exploring everything when the mother said, "No, that fire is HOT!" Did she say it because she hated the child? Why did she say it?

Point 1: God had been so good to His people; He now desired to teach them a most valuable lesson as well as give them a guide to preserve them. When the Israelites were told what the Lord planned to do, they were very quick to promise, "All that the Lord hath spoken we will do," even before they knew how high God's standards were/are (Ex. 19:8).

Point 2: Mount Sinai, where Moses was to meet with God, was to be respected with holiness. (Make reference back to Moses and the burning bush.) The Israelites had to cleanse themselves before they could even come near the mount (Ex. 19:10); nevertheless, they still trembled with reverence and fear in response to the darkness and thundering (Ex. 19:16).

Point 3: God called Moses to come up alone; nobody else was even allowed to come near the mount or else they would die (Ex. 19:23,24).

Point 4: In relation to The Law itself, perhaps the teacher should discuss each point individually with the class, even it meant two weeks or more to cover it all. Involve the students by having them provide examples of each type of sin; this will make it all more real to them.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 217 **Lesson Name:** The Golden Calf
Theme: The Law's Lack of Power to Control Us

Reading: Exodus 31:18; 32:1-35

Memroy Verse: James 2:10

Memory Verse Text: Whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: While still at Mount Sinai just after having promised to keep all that God would say, the Israelites broke the first three commandments of God's Law before they even received it. This revealed the incurable character and depravity of man's heart; man keeps returning back to idolatry even after they learn this great lesson.

Point 2: Aaron, who was to be a priest to the Lord, led the people to make the calf. The people further distorted the idea of the calf and became engaged in immorality. Despite Aaron's failure, the Lord forgave him and still chose to use him later on.

Point 3: The Israelites used a lot of their wages from the Egyptians to make the calf. Earrings, which were used to make the calf, were/are often connected with idolatry (Ex. 32:2). The people who used their jewelry to make the golden calf lost the potential/opportunity to use it later for the service of God.

Point 4: Moses broke the tablets of stone when he saw what had happened after coming down from the mount in an attempt to try and prevent the Lord's full judgement from falling upon them. He later questioned the people, "Who is on the Lord's side?" (Ex. 32:26). The sons of Levi, who responded and came to Moses, were instructed to go out and kill the others; obediently, they killed 3,000 persons (Ex. 32:28).

Illustration:

Notes: The Israelite's sin had three parts: 1) They worshipped the calf, 2) They made a graven image or idol, and 3) While worshipping the calf, they called it a "feast unto the Lord."

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 218 **Lesson Name:** The Hebrew Servant

Theme: Consecration

Reading: Exodus 21:1-6

Memroy Verse: Mark 10:45

Memory Verse Text: The Son of Man came. to minister and to give His life a ransom for many.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Exodus 21:1-6 reveals the "Law of the Servant." A master had to treat his servants with respect, compassion, and care if he/she ever wanted the same response of devotion as this servant gave. God never intended that slaves would be treated as poorly as so many masters, who did not fear God, have through the years all around the world.

Point 2: The normal requirements for a servant were discharged when his time of service was complete, and in his "time of reckoning," the Hebrew servant had to consider and acknowledge the kind of master he had served.

Point 3: The devoted Hebrew Servant, willing to continue working for his master for the rest of his lifetime, responded, "I love my master... I will not go out free" (Ex. 21:5). The devoted Hebrew Servant is a picture of the true Hebrew Slave, our Lord Jesus, and of everyone who recognizes all that He has done for them and wants to be just like Him.

Point 4: The Hebrew Servant was marked forever by having his ear bored through with an awl. In reality though, the Hebrew Servant was marked by love long before he ever had the physical mark placed in his ear.

Illustration:

Notes: Isaiah 50:5 may well be a reference to the devoted Hebrew Servant. The Lord was truly the SERVANT who bore this character; He was not rebellious.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 219 **Lesson Name:** The Tabernacle

Theme: God's Faithfulness

Reading: Exodus 25:1-9; 40:17-38

Memroy Verse: Psalm 138:5

Memory Verse Text: Great is the glory of the Lord.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: God specified exactly what was needed for the Tabernacle in order that He could dwell amongst His people.

Point 2: God's specifications also told the people what they were to offer and how to make the offerings. God wanted His people to make their offerings with a willing attitude.

Point 3: The Tabernacle was built with a lot of careful, intricate work; work that only had value because the Lord was with them and was in support of the project.

Point 4: Even though the Tabernacle had considerable glory, it is such a wonder that God made His presence known in such a humble place. God also made His presence known to the Israelites while journeying in the forms of the cloud and the fire.

Illustration:

Notes: God knew that the day would come when He forsake the Temple. The Lord Jesus' words while here on Earth were; "Your house is left unto you desolate" (Matt. 23:38; Luke 13:35). It is such a tragedy of God when He leaves us to falter onwards on our own.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 220 **Lesson Name:** Day of Atonement

Theme: Christ the Lamb

Reading: Leviticus 16:1-34

Memroy Verse: John 1:29

Memory Verse Text: Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: God placed a prohibition (restriction) on who could enter within the veil to the Presence of God: Only one man, Aaron the High Priest, was allowed to come inside.

Point 2: Before that man could enter God's Presence, it was necessary for him to prepare himself. Not only did he have to be washed and clean; he also had to be clothed with the appropriate and designated holy garments that God had demanded.

Point 3: The Israelites were required to give Aaron two kid goats to offer and Aaron was to bring a bullock to be offered for himself and for his family. One of the kid goats was for a sin offering and the other for a burnt offering. First of all, Aaron had to offer his bullock. Secondly, he was to kill the first goat and take the blood to be applied for the uncleanness of the children of Israel.

Point 4: Next, Aaron confessed upon the living goat's head all the sins of the people, including both their iniquities and their transgressions. (It is important to understand what iniquities and transgressions are so that you can explain them.) The goat was then taken away to die in the wilderness under the eye of God where no human eye could see.

Illustration:

Notes: Note how serious uncleanness and defilement were/are to God. If we had God's thoughts, would we think differently of our sin today?

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 221 **Lesson Name:** Judgement of the Two Men

Theme: God is Holy

Reading: Leviticus 10:1-11

Memroy Verse: Psalm 89:7

Memory Verse Text: God is greatly to be feared.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Aaron's sons, Nadab and Abihu, were very privileged. Leviticus 10:8-11 shows us that Aaron should have taught his sons God's standards and rules, but he failed to convey His great truths. What a tremendous cost for failing to teach them... the death of his two sons!

Point 2: Application: A person cannot come before the Lord any way they want. God is not like any other; He is altogether Holy and He deserves our total respect. God is not a man.

Point 3: Note that God did not give any warning of what He was going to do, and as a result, disaster not only came with finality, it came suddenly. God has taken great care to reveal His Character to us in His Word.

Point 4: Nadab and Abihu's bodies were no longer fit to be within the camp, so they were carried out. God said that there was to be no mourning for them; mourning would have shown tolerance and sympathy for the sinner who had so grossly offended God by not giving Him the due reverence and respect.

Illustration:

Notes: Our attitudes, thoughts, words, and actions should all be pleasing to God. Discuss how we can make a difference by communing with God in His Presence, listening to His Word, and praying.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 222 **Lesson Name:** Israel Murmurs and God Answers

Theme: Sin's Danger and Consequences

Reading: Numbers 11:1-35

Memroy Verse: Heb. 12:29

Memory Verse Text: Our God is a consuming fire.

Attention Getter: It happened again! (See Lesson 133A) The fire of the Lord reached beyond the sons of Aaron to the uttermost of the people!

Point 1: Complaining doesn't seem too bad, does it? No, it doesn't until you see it from God's point of view. God had continued to manifest Himself amongst His people and they seemed to completely take His goodness for granted. As a result, God was about to make them reconsider how great His goodness was!

Point 2: The Israelites could never have journeyed through the desert without God having had provided for them. Pride and selfishness were/are extremely dangerous. The mixed multitude (a group who accompanied the children of Israel from Egypt) lusted after the (nearly imaginary) flesh pots of Egypt. While slaves in Egypt, they probably ate very little of what they now hungered for.

Point 3: Manna, the sustaining and healthy food that God faithfully provided morning by morning, was the focus of the Israelites' complaining. As a result, God was angry. Application: We should be careful of arousing God's righteous displeasure.

Point 4: God sent wind that brought the Israelites quail and greedily, they took far more than they could ever eat. Even though God gave them what they had desired, He also sent a great plague along with it, resulting in the death of many. Had the Israelites' complaining and the fulfillment of their desire been worth it after all?

Illustration:

Notes: Manna is a picture of Christ.

Summary: Sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death (James 1:15). Be careful in case you get what you want, and more besides!

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 223 **Lesson Name:** Hobab Makes a Choice

Theme: Opportunity: A Turning Point / Choices

Reading: Numbers 10:28-36

Memroy Verse: Hebrews 3:15

Memory Verse Text: Today if ye will hear His voice, harden not your hearts.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: God had been revealing His goodness, greatness, purposes, and power amongst His people, and as a result, Hobab (Moses' father-in-law) had seen and heard a lot about it.

Point 2: Moses told Hobab all about God's purpose behind the journey from Egypt to the Promised Land. He also described to him the Promised Land and what Hobab would enjoy if he came along with God's Chosen People. Hobab's opportunity for great blessing was not a dream; God had spoken it.

Point 3: Hobab refused and excused himself on the grounds of his kindred. Moses pleaded again and explained how Hobab could be useful, but he was still unmoved. Hobab said, "I will not go" (Num. 10:30). Sad to say, there are others like him today.

Point 4: Notice: God went before His people and cloud and fire accompanied them; of all people, none were more unique than those the Lord had chosen. (And Hobab still did not want to accompany them.)

Illustration:

Notes: It might be helpful to compare Hobab to Ruth: Ruth was asked to leave, but she made her choice for God and His people saying, "I will go" (Ruth 1:16).

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 224 **Lesson Name:** Two Faithful Spies and A Million Fools

Theme: Sin's Foolishness and Carelessness

Reading: Numbers 13, 14

Memroy Verse: Psalm 106:24

Memory Verse Text: They despised the pleasant land, they believed not His Word

Attention Getter:

Point 1: As they neared the Promised Land of Canaan, the Lord told Moses to send spies to go and check it out. Twelve great men are chosen, however, great men are not always wise.

Point 2: The spies go up to see the land. Two of the spies, Caleb and Joshua, see the land for its tremendous possibilities knowing that God will be with them; they bring back a true report of the land as well as a sample of its bounty.

Point 3: Caleb and Joshua were not fools. Even though they saw the enemies and great cities of Canaan, amidst it all they saw GOD and His Faithful Word. The ten other spies discouraged the people with their report because they saw the GIANTS rather than a God who was far greater than them all.

Point 4: God was provoked with the Israelites that wanted to return to Egypt. As a result, He told them that they would never enter the Promised Land due to their unbelief. After hearing this, some tried to enter the land anyways and were met with death. The remainder of the people of that generation wandered in the wilderness until they all had died.

Illustration:

Notes: The majority of the people saw the abundance of the land, but they never got to enjoy it. God's promise to Caleb and Joshua, that they would be able to enter the land because they had been faithful, came true as God said it would, but even they had their hopes delayed for many frustrating years.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 225 **Lesson Name:** The Rebellion

Theme: Sin's Danger and Consequences

Reading: Numbers 16:1-40

Memroy Verse: Hebrews 10:31

Memory Verse Text: It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the Living God

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Korah, Dathan, Abiram, and others, all men of importance, influence, and power, rose up in opposition to the men (Moses and Aaron) whom God had given place and authority to. Even though these men had been given Levite responsibility by the Lord, they wanted more place than they had been given.

Point 2: The scriptures are clear that their actions and words were "against the Lord" (Num. 16:11). As a result, Korah and his company were told that there would be a reckoning "before the Lord... tomorrow" (Num. 16:16).

Point 3: The Glory of the Lord was manifested in the events that followed. God called upon Moses and Aaron to get away from everyone else as He was ready to bring destruction upon them all. As a result, they "fell upon their faces" and plead with God for mercy, who in turn, told them to instruct Israel to flee from the wicked men. (Notice that a response was necessary in order to avoid perishing.) After the declaration was made that God was about to act, the earth opened up and the wicked men promptly went down into the pit causing the Israelites to flee further in fear due to their cries. Finally, the Lord sent fire to destroy the remaining 250 men that had offered incense.

Point 4: Some of the sons of Korah must have realized their danger in time to escape because there are precious things in the Psalms from them.

Illustration:

Notes: This story gives us an example of railing; speaking against those who have been given authority over us and have been established by God. Examples include even those given authority in the Government or the Assembly. Perhaps it would be wise if there were a number of older Christians in the class to make this distinction and press for respect.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 226 **Lesson Name:** Serpent of Brass

Theme: Salvation: Provision For All

Reading: Numbers 21:4-9

Memroy Verse: John 3:14

Memory Verse Text: Even so must the Son of Man be lifted up.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: The Israelites still had not learned their lesson in spite of all that God had done for them because once again, complaining filled their mouths. Why is it that God must show us the awfulness of our sin time after time?

Point 2: Particularly note their complaint again about the manna and how they said, "our soul," indicating that they were "feelings" oriented, like we are so often today (Num. 21:5).

Point 3: God's response was clear; He sent fiery serpents that would bring death after only one bite. As a result, the people cried out to Moses. Their words, "we have spoken," reveal that they understood how that they had sinned (Num. 21:7). Perhaps it would be helpful to show the class that the thoughts and intents of the heart were the real cause of God's wrath and that their words were only the outcome of what was within.

Point 4: The people asked Moses to "pray unto the Lord" to take the serpents away (Num. 21:7). This request reveals the Israelites' shortsightedness and limited faith since taking the serpents away would not prevent those already bitten from dying. God planned to do something so much better than just take the serpents away. What a wonderful God we have!

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 227 **Lesson Name:** Balaam: The Man who was Dumber than His Donkey

Theme: Sin Found Out / Detected

Reading: Numbers 22:1-35

Memory Verse: II Pet. 2:16

Memory Verse Text: Balaam. . . Was rebuked for his iniquity.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: The King of Moab sent important men to Balaam with the purpose of getting him to do something that was wrong and sinful. The distance that the men may have gone was very great; it could have been up to 400 miles!

Application: There are many people and influences in the world today that seek the same thing; to encourage others to do sinful things.

Point 2: Balaam not only entertained the men sent from Moab, but he also allowed himself to entertain the thoughts they suggested. This was/is a very dangerous combination. Application: Be very careful about who you allow to be close to you.

Point 3: God spoke plainly to Balaam and told him that he couldn't go. (Suggest ways to the class that Balaam may have conveyed that message to the princes.) As a result, the men returned to the King who immediately sent them back to Balaam with a greater offer.

Point 4: Urged by the princes, Balaam was driven to Moab by his own lust and what God called "madness" in 2 Peter 2:16. On the journey to Moab, it became apparent that the donkey could see better than Balaam. Application: We should be thankful to God for others in our lives that He may use to awaken us.

Illustration:

Notes: Perhaps it could be noted that the world says, "Every man has his price." Believers have a price as well, but their price has already been paid at the Cross and as a result, they are not their own.

Summary: What would have happened if Balaam had continued on in the way he was going?

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 228 **Lesson Name:** Balaam: The Rest of the Story

Theme: Sin Admitted, not always saved

Reading: Numbers 22:35-41; Numbers 23,24,25; Numbers 31:8

Memroy Verse: Psalm 90:12

Memory Verse Text: Teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Even though Balaam admitted his sin in the previous lesson, that confession was not real. God knew that his confession had not been real even if outwardly it might have seemed real. Balaam did not behave himself in Moab according to Balak because he refused to curse Israel as he was instructed to do; God did not allow him to curse His people.

Point 2: Balaam spoke prophetically for God, yet no real change had taken place in his heart. He, as an onlooker, saw what God had purposed for His people and even expressed a desire to have Israel's Blessings and to have his last end be like theirs. This was a good desire if it proceeded from an honest heart.

Point 3: When the King of Moab was unsuccessful at cursing God's people, he resorted to causing the Lord's redeemed people to mix with the ungodly and partake in idolatry. His plan worked so well that God judged it harshly.

Point 4: It is most interesting to see that the man who did not die by the sword in Num. 22, died by the sword in Num. 31, when it is obvious that he was in the camp of the enemies. Our God was/is so careful that everything was/is done righteously.

Illustration:

Notes: Balaam actually was made to speak to God's Glory in Num. 23:19 as he was caused to reveal God's character and faithfulness. Application: God can make the wicked praise Him.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 229 **Lesson Name:** Two Strange Funerals

Theme: Sin's Foolishness and Carelessness

Reading: Numbers 20:12, 22-29; 27:12-17

Memroy Verse: I Sam.15:22

Memory Verse Text: To obey is better than sacrifice.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Aaron and Moses were told that they would not be able to bring God's People into the Promised Land. They were also told the reason why; the people did not believe God! The sin of unbelief affects all of us. Does the sin of unbelief seem big to you? It was and is very serious to God.

Point 2: Aaron was taken to the top of Mount Hor where God graciously gave him a chance to look at all of the Promised Land before he died. (Mount Hor is the highest peak near the border of the Promised Land.) The priesthood was transferred to his son, Eleazar, according what God desired. Aaron's death marked the end of the wanderings; the people still "marched and halted," but they no longer wandered.

Point 3: Moses blessed the tribes of Israel, which overall, was a statement of what his whole ministry for them had been. He also set before the people the new leader, Joshua. Finally, at God's instruction, Moses also went to see the Land that God had promised His People.

Point 4: Moses went right to the entrance of the land near Jericho. There, he was reminded of the reason why he could not enter. (Today, we all still need wisdom to foresee what might have been!) The Lord showed Moses all of the Promised Land and then buried him there. No one knows where Moses' sepulcher is but God. Psalm 116:15 says, "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints."

Illustration:

Notes: In addition to the specified passages, make sure you are also familiar with Numbers 33:38-39 and Deuteronomy 32:48-34:12.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 230 **Lesson Name:** The Successor of Moses

Theme: God's Faithfulness

Reading: Numbers 27:15-23; Deuteronomy 34:9-12; Joshua 1:1-9

Memroy Verse: Joshua 1:5

Memory Verse Text: I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: The LORD spoke to Joshua; hearing the Lord's voice is a necessary element if someone is going to be of any help to the Lord's people. God did not say, "Moses is dead," but rather, "Moses my servant" (Joshua 1:2). Application: This is a great reminder of what all true leaders must be, servants of God.

Point 2: Rather than letting them be overcome with the loss of their leader Moses, God's Word called the children of Israel to action; "Go over this Jordan" (Joshua 1:2). In addition, God's intentions remained the same for His people and He reiterated the promises He had made before. Joshua was reminded of God's power that would make it happen (Joshua 1:5).

Point 3: A call went out for courage of heart. It took/takes courage to obey God and go on. "Be not afraid!"... Something which is sometimes easier said than done.

Point 4: God's important counsel to Joshua should be noted: 1) Do all, 2) Turn not from it, 3) Take the Book of the Law with you always, and 4) Meditate, it is critical for a leader (Joshua 1:7,8).

Illustration:

Notes: Perhaps it would be a good to involve the class by having the students suggest a person they know who had courage. In addition, they can tell of some Bible character that showed courage. For example: Samuel meeting Saul, Daniel in the lion's den, David and the lion, etc.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 301 **Lesson Name:** Rahab and The Two Spies

Theme: Sinner's Need and Helplessness

Reading: Joshua 2:1-24

Memroy Verse: Psalm 17:1

Memory Verse Text: O Lord, attend unto my cry, give ear unto my prayer.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Spies were sent to Jericho. Even though Rahab would have been called disloyal for receiving the spies into her home, she did due to what she had heard (Joshua 2:9-11). Rahab knew that it was better to be on the Lord's side no matter what other people thought of her.

Point 2: Rahab's eyes were open to the fact that God was mightily with His people and to the potential danger of acting against God's people. Rahab recognized that her city and people were in danger and she did not wait for the judgment to fall.

Point 3: Rahab pled her case, starting with what she knew of God! She wanted to be spared! Which one of us wouldn't want the same? Rahab wanted a sure token; something she was sure God would give her.

Point 4: She was given God's people's word of promise and told to bind the scarlet cord in the window. The scarlet cord is a picture of the sinner's only hope, the precious shed blood of the Lord Jesus.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary: The best thing about it all is that it worked just as promised! Rahab's only hope laid in the scarlet cord and in the word that the spies had given her.

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 302 **Lesson Name:** Passage Over Jordan

Theme: Christ the Lifegiver and Resurrection

Reading: Joshua 3:1-17; 4:1-24

Memroy Verse: I Cor. 15:4

Memory Verse Text: He was buried and He rose again the third day according to the scriptures.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Likely this lesson should be used for the more advanced classes.

The passage over Jordan is a picture of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Point 2: Some references should be used to show that the Ark is a true picture of Christ; this will require some digging, but it is possible that older students could do some research to supplement what the teacher has to say.

Point 3: God gave Heaven-sent instructions for the passage before it ever took place. Likewise, God said that the Lord would rise again before it ever took place. The people were also instructed to maintain a holy distance. This was/is a reminder of the uniqueness and distinctness of the glory of our Lord.

Point 4: The Ark stayed in the midst of the river until all the people had passed over. God intended that everyone would know the great significance of it all (Joshua 4:21-24). In addition, the stones left in the river and placed upon the banks were a lasting testimony of what had happened.

Illustration:

Notes: This lesson presents a good opportunity to show interested believers the advantages and usefulness of having a concordance, a Bible dictionary, and a commentary.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 303 **Lesson Name:** Destruction of Jericho

Theme: Grace: God's Undeserved Favor

Reading: Joshua 5:13-15; 6:1-27

Memroy Verse: Heb. 11:31

Memory Verse Text: By faith Rahab perished not with them.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: God revealed Himself to Joshua in order to fill his mind with the greatness and holiness of the One who was the True Leader of His people.

Point 2: Even though the proposed strategy was strange to a human's way of thinking, it was the Lord who directed the battle. In fact, the Lord had declared the victory before the battle even started. Application: When God is with us, there is no doubt about the outcome, the outcome is victory!

Point 3: Notice: 1) The order of the people, 2) Their silence, and 3) Their unity. The Jericho walls literally fell into the earth when the people shouted in order that they could go straight forward into the city. The treasures of Jericho were to be for God and the rest was to be utterly destroyed. Application: God's value of earthly things is far different than ours.

Point 4: Every detail of the spies' promise to Rahab was kept. In addition, she was brought into the godly line as seen in Joseph's geneology; "Rachab" is mentioned in Matthew 1:5.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 304 **Lesson Name:** The Death of Achan

Theme: Sin Found Out / Detected

Reading: Joshua 7:1-26

Memroy Verse: Numb. 32:23

Memory Verse Text: Be sure your sin will find you out.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: The death of the 36 men and the chasing away of the rest came about in a very unusual and awful way. Afterwards, Joshua went before the Lord and stayed there until the Lord revealed the problem. Joshua was not in God's thoughts and the Lord had made him feel it.

Point 2: Sin calls for action; accordingly, the people were warned of the next day's reckoning. Why did Achan wait when he knew that tomorrow was coming? He thought that he could escape being detected.

Point 3: When the morning came, there was no delay. God came very close. Why did Achan still delay? Oh the foolishness of the sinner who does not know God! Achan admitted his guilt after finally being exposed. At that point, the garment which he stole did not look as attractive as it had and the gold could not buy him a right relationship with His God.

Point 4: After Achan's sin was exposed, all Israel was able to see what God had seen all along. Together they stoned Achan, with all his possessions, in the valley of Achor and raised a pile of stones over him so that everyone would remember that sin will find you out! Achor means trouble; likewise, sin is big trouble in the midst of God's people.

Illustration:

Notes: It would be wise for those of us who are saved to follow Joshua's example in Point 1: We should go before God on our knees to have Him show us the reason for our failures and how to deal with them.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 305 **Lesson Name:** The Trick of the Gibeonites

Theme: Sin's Attractiveness / Distractions

Reading: Joshua 8:1-35; 9:1-27

Memroy Verse: Prov. 3:5

Memory Verse Text: Trust in the Lord with all thine heart: and lean not unto thine own understanding.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: The Gibeonites were afraid of the Israelites because of what they had heard, so they made a plan to save their own lives. In successfully carrying out their plans, Israel agreed to be an ally to the Gibeonites and not hurt them. It is possible that the Gibeonites had heard that Rahab received a sure word from the Israelites and they knew that an agreement with Israel themselves would be kept. Application: Appearances can be deceiving!

Point 2: Israel had the Living and Omniscient God with them... how could they ever be fooled? Joshua had built an altar, wrote out the law, and read it to the people (Joshua 8:30,32,34), however, he acted independently to make his decision regarding the Gibeonites and did not ask God what they should do. (He did this before one time at Ai.) Even though Joshua had his suspicions, he trusted his own opinions and judgment.

Point 3: When the Israelites arrived at Gibeon, Chephirah, Beeroth, and Kirjathjearim on the third day, they were made to look like fools and realized that the Gibeonites had acted wisely. Israel was bound by its word to spare the Gibeonites, but in turn, they became slaves to Israel for the rest of their lives.

Point 4: Israel was hindered from pursuing its own goals in Joshua 10 because they had to defend their allies, the Gibeonites, from the Amorites.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 306 **Lesson Name:** The Wonder in the Heavens

Theme: God's Power and Greatness

Reading: Joshua 10:1-27

Memroy Verse: Luke 1:37

Memory Verse Text: With God nothing shall be impossible.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Israel now found out that their agreement with the Gibeonites was going to keep them from other things that the Lord had intended for them to do.

Application: Satan often entraps us by causing us to become involved with others or things such that we are prevented from making progress.

Point 2: Led by five kings in one accord, the Amorites mightily attacked the Gibeonites. The kings hated the fact that the Gibeonites had made peace with God's people and had turned from idolatry.

Point 3: God continued to work with His people in spite of their presumption and lack of looking to Him. He revealed His might and power working through His people in the battle as well as in natural elements with the hail. In the midst of God's work, Joshua, a man, commanded the sun to stand still; it did until the battle was over.

Point 4: There was no day like it before or since. However, there was a day near Jericho when the SON stood still, and that is a greater miracle than the first!

Illustration:

Notes: There is scientific evidence of this missed day in history. You should do some research and find a tract about this miracle; the class would be benefited by taking it home.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 307 **Lesson Name:** The Cities of Refuge

Theme: Salvation: Provision For All

Reading: Joshua 20:1-9

Memroy Verse: Ps. 46:1

Memory Verse Text: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: The plan for the cities of refuge all started with God; God knew that there would be a need and He knew what the need would be. As a result, God made sure that the need was met.

Point 2: The enemy was identified as the avenger of blood. Amongst men, while in the heat of an offence, vengeance is often hastily and poorly considered as the best choice and quickly brought to pass.

Point 3: There were to be six cities of refuge across the land, nearby to all, that the guilty could flee to for safety. Once in the city of refuge, the guilty party was to have a fair hearing and the mourners had time to cool off.

Point 4: Note David's cry later on when Joab slew Abner for killing his younger brother; David's cry had to do with the fact that Abner died right in the gate of a city of refuge.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 308 **Lesson Name:** The Final Message of Joshua

Theme: Opportunity: A Turning Point / Choices

Reading: Joshua 24:1-34

Memroy Verse: Joshua 24:15

Memory Verse Text: Choose you this day whom ye will serve.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: After Joshua led God's people to Canaan and they had become well established there, the time came for him to die. Joshua had fought a good fight, he had finished his course (as we all shall someday), and he had seen God at work with him in it all.

Point 2: The people, no doubt, began to appreciate the blessings of the land more than they appreciated the Great Giver of it all. Before his death, Joshua reviewed with the children of Israel all that the LORD had done and all that the LORD had brought them into.

Point 3: When Joshua commanded the people to reaffirm their choice to follow God, they obeyed with excellent words (Joshua 24:14-18). However, they quickly forgot their commitment to them and in the days of the Judges, every man did that which was right in his own eyes (Judges 17:6). Joshua clearly reminded the people about God's character and the response He expects from those He has redeemed, as well as the cost of disobedience (Joshua 24:19,20).

Point 4: Joshua died when he was 110 years old with the testimony that "Israel served the Lord all the days of Joshua" (Joshua 24:31).

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 309 **Lesson Name:** Deborah and Barak

Theme: Grace: God's Undeserved Favor

Reading: Judges 4, 5

Memroy Verse: Ps. 9:10

Memory Verse Text: Thou, LORD, hast not forsaken them that seek thee.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Even though the people now lived in the land, they still had not completely taken control of the territory (Judges 1). Once again, they did evil in the sight of the Lord by serving Baal, and suffered as a result by having to serve their ungodly oppressors (Judges 3:5-8,12-14). God graciously then chose judges to deliver and lead them; Othniel, Ehud, and Shamgar were the first judges.

Point 2: The third time the children of Israel "did evil in the sight of the Lord," God allowed them to suffer again. Jabin's oppressive control caused them to cry out to God for deliverance, and in spite of their great and repeated failures, the Lord graciously brought Deborah and Barak to deliver and lead them.

Point 3: Deborah called for Barak to come to tell him what God had revealed and His promise to deliver, but Barak was unwilling to do anything without Deborah. His attitude further revealed how weak the people really were. God said that He would bring Sisera, the army commander of the Canaanite king, to the people in order that he could be judged.

Point 4: Even though Sisera had great forces and mighty chariots, God made the battle go badly for him, so he ran away and stopped at the home of Jael where he was offered refuge, comfort, and refreshment. Sisera quickly fell asleep, and as he helplessly slept, Jael pounded a tent nail through his temple and killed him. His death brought deliverance to the people of Israel once again, so Deborah and Barak led them in a great song of praise to the One who had brought it all about!

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 310 **Lesson Name:** God's Call to Gideon

Theme: God's Wonderful Ways

Reading: Judges 6:1-40

Memroy Verse: I Cor. 1:27

Memory Verse Text: God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Even after the great deliverance led by Barak and Deborah, the people returned to their old ways; they forgot so quickly and fell into the same traps. The cost of their sin this time was seven years of serving the Midianites.

Point 2: God sent a special messenger, an angel, to Gideon; at the time, Gideon was seeking to provide food for God's people. God saw him and knew his burden before it was even expressed (Judges 6:13). God now encouraged and urged Gideon forward, promising that His power and presence would be with him.

Point 3: At first, Gideon objected and tried to excuse himself, but then he asked for a sign (as though that was better than a promise from God!) God demonstrated His power with fire from the rock.

Point 4: God appeared to Gideon again that night and told him to cut down the tree grove for Baal and build an altar to the LORD. One of the Ten Commandments was/is, "Thou shalt have no other gods before Me." Later, the Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon for a specific purpose and he blew a trumpet in the land (Judges 6:34).

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 311 **Lesson Name:** Gideon's Victory

Theme: God's Power and Greatness

Reading: Judges 7:1-25

Memroy Verse: Luke 18:27

Memory Verse Text: The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Gideon got an early start in the morning. Application: God's business requires haste and complete obedience.

Point 2: God told Gideon that there were too many men; Israel may have thought that with so many men and a good leader they could have won the victory alone. As a result, God called for those with courage to trust Him. Those without courage were sent home, still leaving 10,000 men.

Point 3: Next, God tested the men to see which ones were alert to the enemy and to danger. The men were brought down to the water for the test; it revealed that most were not vigilant. God excluded the unvigilant men from fighting, leaving only 300 men. There were only a few men, but God could do His work with a few trusting, obedient, and vigilant men. Application: We need to be on guard against the attacks of the enemy.

Point 4: God laid out the battle plans; He knew Israel's enemy, just as He knows ours today. The enemy's camels and men were without number; nevertheless, with trumpets, lamps, and a great shout that the sword the LORD and of Gideon with them, the enemy was put to confusion. The enemy fought against themselves and killed each other! God's ways were best and they worked to bring Him the glory, just as they still do today.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 312 **Lesson Name:** The Word to Samson

Theme: Sin's Deception

Reading: Judges 14:1-20; 15:4-16

Memroy Verse: Prov. 1:10

Memory Verse Text: My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Samson became the thirteenth judge. Moved by his own selfishness and lust, he told his parents to get him a wife from his own people's enemy. He told them, "I have seen...get her for me; for she pleaseth me well" (Judges 14:2,3). God planned to use this to bring about His own purposes. Application: It is sad that God has to use us in spite of ourselves at times!

Point 2: As Samson and his parents went down to Timnath, a lion attacked and he easily tore the lion apart with his bare hand. Coming back to Timnath the second time, Samson saw that bees had made honey in the unclean lion carcass. He gave the honey to his parents to eat and didn't tell them where it had come from. Samson's actions showed how little regard he had for God's requirement for the Nazarite, for his people, and for himself that they would be rendered ceremonially unclean by touching the dead.

Point 3: Samson told the Philistines a riddle and offered them a large reward if they could solve it. He did this to create an offense and to provoke an attack on the Philistines. When they could not solve it, they used Samson's wife to make him reveal the answer. She triumphed over Samson by getting the answer out of him, and then told his enemies. Application: Our families or loved ones can become points of attack that the Adversary may use to bring us down.

Point 4: Samson went to Ashkelon and killed thirty of the men's own people, Philistines, to pay the reward he had promised. In addition, due to his further actions, there was more death and defilement, including the death of his wife.

Illustration:

Notes: Make sure you know something about the Nazarite; the Nazarite is described in Numbers 6.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 313 **Lesson Name:** The Death of Samson

Theme: Sin's Danger and Consequences

Reading: Judges 16:4-31; Galatians 6:7

Memroy Verse: Proverbs 13:15

Memory Verse Text: The way of transgressors is hard.

Attention Getter: Have you ever heard the saying, "The bigger you are, the harder you fall?" Here's a story that teaches the truth of that saying loud and clear!

Point 1: No matter how strong a person is, they still have enough weak points to bring them down. Samson did many mighty acts against the enemies of the Lord's people in Judges 15: The foxes and the fire as well as he killed 1,000 enemies using a beast's jawbone. (Notice, he was touching dead things again!) Even though Samson must have known that it was God who gave him that power, and provided for his thirst (Judges 15:19), he still thought that he could do anything he wanted to, go anywhere he desired, and have whatever he wanted, no matter what it was. Samson was a very self-seeking man.

Point 2: Samson once again saw a woman that he wanted; so one day while with her, the enemy found out and closed and guarded the gates, planning to capture him when he tried to leave. However, Samson got up at midnight and took the gate doors, posts, and all with him 20-25 miles away. Even though Samson was a tremendously weak man, he had tremendous physical power because God allowed it and gave him the strength.

Point 3: Yet again, Samson was attracted to another woman named Delilah, a Philistine. The fact that she was of the Lord's enemies does not seem to concern him. Samson's enemies used Delilah to try and catch him; however, he fooled her and the other Philistines. Samson should have had wisdom from his previous experience in Judges 14; yet again, his weak point caused him to tell Delilah that his strength came from "the sign of his Nazariteness." As a result, he lost his hair and all his strength. When he woke up, poor Samson thought that nothing had changed; he didn't know that the Lord had departed from him. His waiting enemies blinded him and later mocked as he ground their corn.

Point 4: Samson's hair began to grow again and his enemies quickly forgot what had made him strong. One day while they were in the house of their god Dagon, they brought Samson in order to mock him. However, after praying to God, he died with them all. Samson slew more people in his death than he did during his lifetime.

Illustration:

Notes: God allowed Samson to act as he did even though He did not approve of his sin and lust. In preparing to teach this class, it would be good to remind your own soul of Proverbs 6:20-26 and Galatians 5:16-25.

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 314 **Lesson Name:** Ruth's Decision

Theme: Opportunity: A Turning Point / Choices

Reading: Ruth 1

Memroy Verse: Ruth 1:16

Memory Verse Text: Thy God shall be my God.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Elimelech left Bethlehem, the House of Bread, during the time of a famine which had been brought on by the failure and unbelief of the Lord's people. God had not failed His people; He simply was allowing circumstances that would cause them to truly turn to Him again. However, instead of calling upon God to meet their need and heal their land, Elimelech and his family left. The human heart has always been full of wickedness, evil desires, and unbelief.

Point 2: Naomi, whose name means "pleasant," found all her hopes swept away in Moab when those dear to her died. While there, God brought her to the decision to return to Judah; her two daughter-in-laws went with her. While in Moab, Naomi had become bitter and empty, so in her emptiness, she tried to discourage Orpah and Ruth from coming along. Perhaps she could not even see any good for herself in returning to Judah.

Point 3: Orpah turned back to go home. What a choice she made since we never hear of her again; she was lost. Ruth, in spite of all that was against her, sensed something real about the True God and made her choice clear. (She was "steadfastly minded," Ruth 1:18). Application: It should be emphasized that each of us has a choice to make that is even more important than Ruth's and Orpah's. Have we all made a clear choice? It is even possible that we know far more than Ruth did to make our choice and that we have had better influences on us.

Point 4: Everyone in Bethlehem was interested about the "Naomi" who came home; she said her name was Mara, which means "bitter" instead of Naomi. Even though she was bitter, Mara recognized that the Almighty One had worked to bring her back through affliction. (It is interesting that Naomi's and Ruth's return was at the beginning of the harvest time.)

Illustration:

Notes: The last words in the book of the Judges sets the background for the story of Naomi and Ruth.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 315 **Lesson Name:** Ruth is Redeemed

Theme: Redemption: Its Purchase and Purpose

Reading: Ruth 2, 3, 4; 1 Peter 1:18,19

Memroy Verse: Eph. 1:7

Memory Verse Text: We have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins

Attention Getter:

Point 1: It was of great importance that Naomi had Boaz as a kinsman (Ruth 2:1). Ruth noticed the need for food and went to look for something good to meet that need; God led her to the field of Boaz. Application: It is amazing that God watched over us and led us long before we were ever truly His.

Point 2: Boaz noticed Ruth and made sure that she was taken care of in a special way. Not only did he protect her and see to it that she was blessed above many, but he also told her come to him in order to find all her needs met in him. Application: Thank God that the Lord of Glory ever noticed us!

Point 3: Boaz spoke to Ruth in grace and Naomi noticed his attitude towards her. As a result, she worked to bring Ruth into the fullness of Boaz's blessing. Ruth was willing to obey Naomi, so one night, she laid down at Boaz's feet; there she asked him to graciously accept her as his kinsman.

Point 4: Boaz knew Ruth's circumstances as well as what had to be done to complete his responsibilities towards her. Therefore, he did not rest until he had finished what was necessary, even though it was at his own cost. Ruth was so blessed: By the grace of God, she, who was a stranger, was brought into the royal line of our Lord Jesus Christ. Ruth owed everything to Boaz, the mighty man of wealth.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 316 **Lesson Name:** The Call of Samuel

Theme: God Calls

Reading: I Samuel 1, 2, 3

Memroy Verse: Isa. 55:3

Memory Verse Text: Hear, and your soul shall live.

Attention Getter: Tell the story of a child that was playing when he/she was called by their mother to dinner. The child does not respond to her call until he/she a certain tone of voice!

Point 1: The priesthood and Eli were in a poor condition when God entered this dark night scene (1 Sam. 3:1,2).

Point 2: The Lord called Samuel, a lad, rather than the priest, a great and recognized man. God's wonderful ways often included children! Application: A life that is going to count for God may very well have its roots in childhood.

Point 3: Samuel did not understand that the LORD was calling him. This may possibly be due to the prevalent thinking of the day in which he lived as well as due to the fact that he did not YET know the Lord. Eli finally realized that it was the Lord who called Samuel; it must have been quite the moment for Eli when he realized that he had been passed by!

Point 4: Eli gave Samuel good counsel; he told him to tell the Lord that he was listening and wanted to hear what He would say. God graciously came and called Samuel as He had before; Samuel then alone had the choice whether he would ask God to speak to him or not.

Illustration:

Notes: Note the emphasis on "the word" in the passage as: 1) Precious (1 Sam. 3:1); 2) Unknown (1 Sam. 3:7); and 3) The means by which the Lord revealed Himself to Samuel (1 Sam. 3:21).

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 317 **Lesson Name:** The Ark is Captured and Returned

Theme: God's Wonderful Ways / Mocker's Consequences

Reading: I Samuel 4, 5, 6

Memroy Verse: Psalm 96:5

Memory Verse Text: All the gods of the nations are idols, but the Lord made the heavens.

Attention Getter: Have you ever seen a live high tension power line sparking and been tempted to take hold of it? No, you better not! What would happen? Similar to the power line, God is not to be trifled with.

Point 1: The two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were to be judged for their sins; they were guilty of bringing dishonor to the testimony of the Lord and are linked with the Ark of the Covenant of God in 1 Samuel 4:4. 1 Peter 4:17 says, "The time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God."

Point 2: Israel did not seem to be able to discern that God was offended; they all shouted in triumph when the Ark entered the camp because they thought it would help them win the battle (1 Sam. 4:5). However, the Philistines were victorious and Eli's two sons were killed. When Eli, 98 years old, found out that that the Ark had been taken, he dropped dead; the Ark was still dear to his heart.

Point 3: The Ark of God was also very important to Phinehas' wife. After hearing all the tragic news from the battle, she went into labor and gave birth to a son that she named Ichabod, which meant, "The glory is departed from Israel." The Ark was the symbol of the presence of God.

Point 4: The Philistines took the Ark, but it only brought them trouble: their idol fell before it and the people were plagued with tumors and death (1 Sam. 5:3,6). The Philistines learned the hard way that no one can stand before the Lord, and sent the Ark back (1 Sam. 6:20,21). Note as well that returning the Ark only part way was not sufficient; even in Bethshemesh where they failed to show reverence, the Philistines were smitten with a great slaughter.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 318 **Lesson Name:** Saul, The King of Israel

Theme: Way Seems Right

Reading: I Samuel 8, 9, 10

Memroy Verse: Ps. 118:8

Memory Verse Text: It is better to trust in the Lord.

Attention Getter: Have you ever wished for something that your parents didn't want to give you? You insisted you "needed" it and they finally allowed you to have it; however later, you discovered why they didn't want to give it to you.

Point 1: Samuel made mistakes with his family when he was old (1 Sam. 8:1-5). Desiring to solve all their problems, the Israelites wanted a King to rule over them, even though that was not what God wanted for His people. God reminded Samuel that the people had not only rejected Samuel, but they had also rejected HIM. Application: It is foolish to leave God out.

Point 2: The people were warned of the cost of having a king, but still they demanded that they have one like all the other nations. Application: Sometimes we are so sure we know what is best, but only God really knows what is for our good!

Point 3: Saul was selected as the best choice because he was taller than the others and handsome. However, even at the time of his selection, Saul demonstrated that he was not the best choice because his servant was better prepared to meet the prophet Samuel than he was.

Point 4: Saul was hiding when the time came to be presented to the nation as their chosen king. His behavior was perhaps an early indication of a problem that would develop. As 1 Sam. 10:26, 27 shows, both God and the Devil took notice of Saul's behavior; God still chose to touch hearts through him.

Illustration:

Notes: Saul, the best choice for king, was not going to be good enough when the time came to face a great enemy; his troubles were going to be bigger than he was.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 319 **Lesson Name:** Saul Disobeys

Theme: Sin's Danger and Consequences

Reading: I Samuel 13:1-14; 14:1-52

Memroy Verse: Jeremiah 38:20

Memory Verse Text: Obey I beseech thee the voice of the Lord.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: When Jonathan's 1,000 men won the battle against the Philistines in Geba, Saul took the fame for himself by blowing the trumpet in victory. The Philistines then gathered together to fight the Israelites, but the Israelites were afraid. Scared and trembling, they followed Saul to Gilgal where they were to wait seven days for Samuel to come. However, when Samuel does not come as expected, the people began to leave; Saul, not sure what to do, decided to make a burnt offering to keep the people there with him. Just after making the offering, Samuel arrived and he told Saul, "Thou hast done foolishly... thy kingdom shall not continue" (1 Sam. 13:13,14).

Point 2: Saul's disregard for God's order may not seem like a big deal, but the little things revealed how the rest of Saul's life would develop.

Point 3: In 1 Sam. 14, while Saul stayed in a place of comfort, Jonathan went out to battle, and relying on the Lord for help, he won another great victory. Jonathan respected and trusted the Lord. It is interesting to note how small a role Saul played in battles or victories!

Point 4: One day of battle, Saul foolishly ordered his men to not eat anything until evening, even though the soldiers would need strength to fight. However Jonathan, unaware of his father's command, ate some honey. As a result, Saul condemned his son, his greatest supporter and warrior, to death. The people stood up for Jonathan though and recognized that he had worked with God to accomplish the victory and obtain peace with the Philistines for a time, so he was allowed to live (1 Sam. 14:45).

Illustration:

Notes: Saul was able to recognize a strong or brave man, but he didn't seem to be able to recognize what had value to God or what brought Him glory.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 320 **Lesson Name:** Saul Disobeys Again

Theme: Sin's Blindness

Reading: I Samuel 15

Memroy Verse: I Sam 15:22

Memory Verse Text: To obey is better than sacrifice.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Notice how that God sent His prophet to Saul with a special message; "Hearken... unto the voice... of the Lord" (1 Sam. 15:1).

Point 2: God had not forgotten about the sin of Amalek as seen in Exodus 17:8-14, nor had he forgotten His promised justice. As a result, Saul was given clear and complete instructions to destroy Amalek and everything related to him; God also gave him the power and people to accomplish His will. However, Saul considered his own materialistic thinking more important than the Lord's will and disobeyed Him by sparing Agag and the best of the flocks and herds. God saw that Saul "WOULD NOT utterly destroy them" (1 Sam. 15:9).

Point 3: The Word of the Lord came to Samuel and Samuel went to tell Saul. Saul, however, claimed he had completely obeyed God and he tried to shift blame to the people for what he was ultimately responsible for (1 Sam. 15:13).
Application: It is easy to "rearrange" God's Word so it sounds more pleasant to us.

Point 4: Saul had been found out, so he began to plead for honor before the people and for the blessing of Samuel's company, but the time and opportunity for these things had already passed forever. Samuel instead did not hesitate to obey the Lord; he told Saul plainly, "Thou hast rejected the word of the Lord" and he refused to spend time with him (1 Sam. 15:26).

Illustration:

Notes: Samuel mourned for Saul in 1 Sam. 15:11. It is so sad that such a day ever had to come.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 321 **Lesson Name:** David is Appointed King

Theme: God's Power and Greatness

Reading: I Samuel 16

Memroy Verse: Daniel 4:37

Memory Verse Text: Those that walk in pride He is able to abase.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Even though Samuel continued to mourn for Saul, God did not. God's purposes were not put aside because a great man had fallen; it was time to move on. When God told him the next thing to do, Samuel, in a moment of weakness, worried that Saul would kill him, but God promised and reassured him that He would show him what to do. Application: God's servants have many human tendencies and faults.

Point 2: After taking one look at Jesse's eldest son, Eliab, Samuel was convinced that he was God's choice; however, he was completely wrong. God reminded Samuel that when He chooses a man, He looks upon the heart rather than the physical appearance. Application: God is still interested in the heart of man today.

Point 3: Once Samuel had started what God told him to do, he would not rest until it was done. Therefore, when all of Jesse's present sons had already been evaluated and none were chosen, Samuel did not quit, he asked if there were more sons and sent for David. Even though David was outwardly appealing, the Lord saw beyond that to his heart; God saw that David had a heart like unto His own, he had a shepherd's care.

Point 4: When David was presented to King Saul, he did not see him the way the Lord did. King Saul, however, was mentally comforted when David played the harp, and God put it into his heart to love him greatly in spite of his own sad state. God had left the disobedient man to fare for himself.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 322 **Lesson Name:** David and Goliath

Theme: Sin's Power: It Both Controls and Habits

Reading: I Samuel 17:1-53

Memroy Verse: I John 3:16

Memory Verse Text: He laid down His life for us.

Attention Getter: Have you ever had an enemy that was bigger than you? What could you do about it if you ever did? Perhaps one answer would be to have a friend at your side that was bigger and stronger than yourself.

Point 1: Goliath was a giant of a man; his height was in the range of 9'10" to 11'4" tall. That was big and scary for sure! Goliath was large enough to have put fear into the whole Israelite army, and he wanted to do even more than that, he wanted to make all of the Israelites his servants. (Do some research and find out how heavy Goliath's coat and spears head were!)

Point 2: When Goliath challenged God's chosen people, he not only challenged them; he was also challenging and defying the Living God.

Point 3: David went to his brothers at his father's request. There, his brothers put him down for his simple faith; they were only looking at the size of their enemy rather than at the size of their God.

Point 4: David was brought to Saul's attention again when Saul tried to fit him up in his armor. However David, who had already proved his God with his bare hands and a sling as a shepherd boy, went before Goliath without the armor. Instead, he went with simple faith in a great God that was at his side, to win a mighty victory. David made his position clear to Goliath in 1 Sam. 17:45-47, and Goliath, because he could not see the mighty God at David's side, boasted his empty words in vain.

Illustration: Have you ever kicked a beehive? It is fine to do as long as the bees don't care. However, if you get them angry, you are the one that is going to run!

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 323 **Lesson Name:** David and Jonathan

Theme: Christ the Saviour / Christ the Lord

Reading: I Samuel 17:54-58; 18:1-17; 19:1-17

Memroy Verse: I John 4:19

Memory Verse Text: We love Him, because He first loved us.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: There was a special place in Jonathan's heart for David after seeing him go into the battle and win the victory. As a result, Jonathan was willing to give up his own rights, position, and prospects to make David's glory even greater; he naturally would have become the next king if Saul had gotten his way, but he gave this up recognizing that the Lord had other plans.

Point 2: Saul, on the other hand, was threatened by David's victory as it exposed his own weaknesses and the people's hearts became taken up with the "hero of the day." Three times, Saul's jealousy towards David threatened to destroy him, but God always protected him.

Point 3: Jonathan acted as mediator for David and persuaded his father to bring him back into his favor because "the Lord wrought a great salvation for all Israel" through him; a day in which even Saul himself had rejoiced (1 Sam. 19:5).

Point 4: When war broke out again and David won another great battle, Saul once again tried to destroy David. Application: Like Saul, the hearts of some people may turn against Christ. However, how wonderful it is that there are always those like Jonathan who can never forget the great battle at Calvary; our hearts have been eternally won and redeemed by the Great Victor of that battle!

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 324 **Lesson Name:** David is Pursued

Theme: God's Faithfulness / Eternal Security

Reading: I Samuel 24:1-22; 26:1-25; Psalms 57

Memroy Verse: Ps. 34:19

Memory Verse Text: The Lord delivereth him out of them all.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Once again desiring to destroy David, Saul took three thousand men and relentlessly hunted for him in the wilderness of Engedi. David also had men with him that were completely loyal to him; they had become his followers as a result of the great victory over Goliath.

Point 2: God brought David's enemy Saul right to him; he fell asleep in the very cave where David and his men were hiding. As a result, David's men were sure that this was his opportunity to get rid of the King and to seize the kingdom for himself.

Point 3: David knew that God's ways are always better than man's ways, so instead of killing Saul, he took a piece of the bottom of his clothes while he was sleeping. After Saul woke up, David showed the piece of cloth to him and made him aware of how easy it would have been to kill him. Saul repented again, but it didn't last long.

Point 4: History repeated itself in 1 Sam. 26 when Saul, in yet another hateful manhunt, crossed paths with David. David was encouraged to take advantage of the situation again since Saul's spear was right there so close. However, Saul's life was spared when David chose to take his spear and water bottle instead; he then scolded Abner for his lack of alertness in guarding the King's life. It is interesting that God caused Saul to praise David and to admit, "I have played the fool." (1 Sam 26:21,25). Application: The Righteous Lord will be honored and praised as He deserves in a coming day by even those who hate Him now.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 325 **Lesson Name:** David and the Enemy Slave

Theme: Christ the Saviour

Reading: I Samuel 27; 29; 30

Memroy Verse: Psalm 34:4

Memory Verse Text: He heard me and delivered me.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: David went through a period of time when he was depressed and fearful that someday for sure, Saul was going to kill him. He went far away with his men to where the Philistines lived to escape Saul, but even there, Saul tried many times to kill him (1 Sam. 27:4). Application: David had many human faults and failures; God does not use superhuman men.

Point 2: David found favor in King Achish's eyes. He was given the city of Ziklag to base his army in and actually used his new friendship with the Philistines to do battle against other enemies of Israel (1 Sam. 27:8). God had worked in the hearts of the Philistine princes so that they did not want David to join them in their battles (1 Sam. 30:9).

Point 3: The Amalekites attacked and destroyed Ziklag while David and his men were away; in addition, all the wives, children, and possessions had been taken. As a result, they became very upset and sad. After receiving the command from the Lord, they pursued the Amalekites. On the way, they found an Egyptian (man of the world) abandoned by his Amalekite master (man of the flesh), who left him to die. David did not kill him, but rather revived him, saving his life, and gained an ally. The Egyptian wanted David to promise that he would not give him back to his old master. A picture of a soul won over!

Point 4: David and his men won a complete victory over and all is restored again. David sets up a new principle regarding the spoils of battle 30:24-25 that remained as a statute in Israel.

Illustration:

Notes: The man of the flesh, the Amalekite, did not care that his sick Egyptian servant may have died; he abandoned him without a second thought as he only cared about himself.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 326 **Lesson Name:** David is Crowned

Theme: Christ the Lord

Reading: I Samuel 31:1-13; II Samuel 1-5

Memroy Verse: Isaiah 32:1

Memory Verse Text: A king shall reign in righteousness.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: The battle against the Philistines went badly; many of the Israelites fled and many died. After Saul was mortally wounded by an arrow, he tried to get his armor bearer to kill him, but when he would not, Saul fell on his own sword and killed himself. He had finally come to his end in a dishonorable way; David did not kill him.

Point 2: Saul's head was removed and his body was hung in a hall in order that he might be further shamed. However, brave men risked their lives to take down the bodies (Saul's and his three sons') and to give them a proper burial.

Point 3: David grieved when he heard of Saul's and Jonathan's deaths and only spoke well of them both. David never forgot Jonathan. When the Amalekite told him that he had killed Saul, he punished him by having the Amalekite's life taken (2 Sam. 1). After Saul's death, David was accepted as King in increasing parts of the land and he did not take revenge on Saul's family, even though they feared that he would. In fact, he avenged the death of Saul's son, Ish-bosheth, who had been slain by those who wanted to gain favor with David, the new King.

Point 4: David had acted righteously and fairly through it all and now he was able to come into the fullness of his kingdom. God was with him to establish him over all. When his old enemy, the Philistines, came up against him, he fought against them at the Lord's urging, and the Lord delivered them into his hands.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 327 **Lesson Name:** David and The Ark

Theme: God is Holy

Reading: I Chronicles 15:1-24; II Samuel 6:1-12

Memroy Verse: Ps. 93:5

Memory Verse Text: Holiness becometh thine house, O Lord, for ever.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: God gave the Israelites some new commandments, but transporting the Ark on a new cart was not one of them. Even though God had put it in David's heart to bring the Ark out of the house of Abinadab, he needed to learn that there was a right way to do what needed to be done. The new cart was all wrong since it didn't follow the instructions that God had given long ago.

Point 2: When Uzzah touched the Ark, God struck him down in sudden judgment, causing David to become very afraid! The Ark was taken to the house of Obed-edom; the Lord blessed him and his household. Application: Fear can be a very good thing.

Point 3: Since the Ark was brought up to Jerusalem in the proper way, on the shoulders of the Levites, some one must have done some asking. There was a lot of and rejoicing once the symbol of the Presence of God was in the proper place again.

Point 4: Because Obed-edom kept the Ark in his home for three months, he became linked with it for the rest of his life. In addition, he and Jehiah became caretakers of the Ark.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 328 **Lesson Name:** David and Mephibosheth

Theme: Sinner's Need and Helplessness

Reading: II Samuel 4:4; 9:1-13

Memroy Verse: I John 4:10

Memory Verse Text: He loved us.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: David thought of Saul's descendants in kindness and questioned, "Is there yet any that is left of the house of Saul...?" (2 Sam. 9:1). In response, he was told that Mephibosheth, Saul's grandson, who had been lame on both feet since age five, was still alive. Application: God's kindness always has great purposes.

Point 2: As soon as David heard that Mephibosheth was still alive and living in a poor area some distance away, he sent for him. Mephibosheth was probably afraid and anxious about the possibility that David would seek him out and destroy any competition for the throne. However, his fear was likely justified when he remembered what his grandfather had done to David.

Point 3: Due to his lameness, Mephibosheth was brought near to David by someone else. Falling at his feet, Mephibosheth heard David speak his name in kindness and had everything that was his father's and grandfather's restored to him. David also gave him servants to maintain it all. Finally, David graciously welcomed him to his own table and home. Feeling unworthy of such grace, Mephibosheth compared his low estate to that of "a dead dog!" (2 Sam. 9:8).

Point 4: Mephibosheth had been given the place of a son of David! There, he seemed content to abide by the one who had blessed him so richly, and had not treated him as he deserved due to his association with David's enemy.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 329 **Lesson Name:** The Death of Absalom

Theme: Judgment's Finality

Reading: II Samuel 15, 16, 17, 18

Memroy Verse: Galatians 6:7

Memory Verse Text: God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Absalom was able to win the hearts of the people because he was handsome and charismatic. He used fair speeches and lies to get everything going his way. The King kissed him in spite of his waywardness, and he bowed down in pretence before him, but everything was not right.

Point 2: Absalom continued and strengthened "his program" to dethrone the one that God had made king, which was tolerated for a time. His actions even caused his father, King David, to have to flee at one point, as well as to receive mocking abuse from some of his subjects.

Point 3: However, the day came when the tide turned and Absalom became the one who had to flee in battle. Perhaps Absalom thought that he could look out for himself, but he didn't know that the woods in which he took cover held the very instrument that would bring about his death.

Point 4: The saddest part of this story was David's grieving; only a parent can fully understand the enormity of his loss. David's loss was made even greater due to the fact that Absalom was eternally lost.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 330 **Lesson Name:** The Shepherd

Theme: Christ the Shepherd

Reading: Psalms 23; I Samuel 17:34-51

Memroy Verse: Psalm 23:1

Memory Verse Text: The Lord is my Shepherd.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: The responsibilities of keeping sheep trained David for the work that God would give him on the throne over all Israel. He faced many enemies as a shepherd; he had to fight off a powerful bear and a cunning and swift lion which had taken a lamb. Application: The Wicked One is very bold and loves to steal and kill the lambs.

Point 2: David told of how he took the lion by the beard, face on, and how he smote and killed him. Later on, David further saw the Giant Philistine Goliath as nothing more than a puny man who had defied the Living God.

Point 3: Even though the giant Goliath despised David, David had the Lord with him and he made it clear that he had not come alone (1 Sam. 17:37,42,45).

Point 4: Goliath, the greatest champion of the Philistines, Israelite's enemy, was dead; his power was removed and his weapons were taken from him.

Application: The Lord saved us from our enemy of death as well... Hallelujah what a Saviour!

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 401 **Lesson Name:** The Glorious Kingdom of Solomon

Theme: God's Power and Greatness

Reading: I Kings 1-8

Memroy Verse: Prov. 29:25

Memory Verse Text: Whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: David was old and close to dying; he knew that God had a man in mind to take his place on the throne, Solomon. There were other men, however, like Adonijah, which wanted to take his kingdom and even tried to obtain it. Therefore, when Solomon was anointed as king, Adonijah became fearful that he would kill him; instead of killing him, Solomon promised him that he would live if he obeyed.

Point 2: David gave Solomon counsel as to the charge of God's people, as to those who may rise up to try and defy him, and as to how to treat those who were loyal and faithful. God made Solomon extremely wealthy and wise, but his glory was still very little compared to the glory of the Saviour who came here to die.

Point 3: Solomon showed how wise he was when the two mothers came to him fighting over their babies (1 Kings 3:16-18). Even though he was extremely wise, Solomon made a peace agreement with Egypt and married Pharaoh's daughter, choices which led to lots of trouble later.

Point 4: Solomon built a glorious temple for God; God saw it and took note of it.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 402 **Lesson Name:** The Queen of Sheba

Theme: Christ the Lord

Reading: I Kings 10:1-13

Memroy Verse: Matt. 12:42

Memory Verse Text: Behold a greater than Solomon is here.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: After a very busy time of building, as seen in 1 Kings 9, Solomon had a royal visitor. Notice how that what Solomon was and did was linked with "the name of the Lord" (1 Kings 10:1).

Point 2: The Queen of Sheba came with many servants and gifts of high value. She also came with many questions for Solomon, questions which Solomon was able to answer with God-given insight. The Queen of Sheba wanted to share with Solomon all that was in her heart.

Point 3: When the Queen of Sheba saw all of Solomon's glory and wisdom, she was astounded and she told him that it exceeded everything that she had heard of him. Before the queen left, she gave Solomon great gifts that had priceless worth. Application: The believer is going to be astounded at the glory of Christ's person and work throughout the eternal ages. He is worthy of the best gifts and offerings that we can give him!

Point 4: Even though the Queen of Sheba had a lot to give to Solomon to add to his glory, she still went away enriched by him herself.

Illustration:

Notes: What we do enhances either the glory of the Lord or else, the works of the Devil.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 403 **Lesson Name:** Idolatry in Israel

Theme: Sin's Blindness

Reading: I Kings 12:1-33

Memroy Verse: Proverbs 4:26

Memory Verse Text: Ponder the path of thy feet.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Rehoboam was a man whose heart was in Egypt, a land characterized by worldliness. Even though he was Solomon's son and reigned in the place of his father, Rehoboam was very unwise. He received good counsel from the old wise men about Israel, but disregarded it all and took the counsel of younger men. As a result, he added to the tax burden the Israelites had to pay. His decision eventually caused Israel to separate from Judah and started endless trouble between the ten tribes of Israel and the two tribes of Judah.

Point 2: Jeroboam, the new king of Israel, caused even more departure by building another place of sacrifice at Penuel. His choices resulted in a lot of confusion and the further destruction of unity, causing the nation to be weaker than it ever had been before.

Point 3: Jeroboam continued to make bad choices and led Israel into idol worship by setting up two golden calves, which were an abomination to God. Next, he made some of the lowest of the people to be priests, thus forsaking the Divine standard altogether.

Point 4: Heaven looked on and apparently did nothing. Nevertheless, the full harvest or outcome of this departure from God's standards was going to mean many deaths and much sorrow in both Israel and Judah.

Illustration:

Notes: When a nation or an individual begins to stray, there is no telling how many steps downward they will take.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 404 **Lesson Name:** Elijah and the Time of Famine

Theme: God's Wonderful Ways

Reading: I Kings 17:1-24

Memroy Verse: Rom. 2:2

Memory Verse Text: We are sure that the judgement of God is according to truth.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Elijah entered the scene with a Word from God. He prophesied that there would not be dew or rain for several years, a condition which meant real hardship in such an arid climate. The drought was a result of departing from God's ways into idolatry and unbelief; it was judgment from God. Does God still speak like that today? Is anyone listening?

Point 2: Elijah was sustained by God at Cherith with water from the brook and food brought by the ravens. When the brook dried up, he was sent on to Zerephath.

Point 3: God had planned for a woman in Zarephath to provide for Elijah's needs. One day, as she gathered sticks for her last meal, Elijah arrived and asked her for water and a little bread. After telling him the situation, he said, "Make me... a little cake first" (1 Kings 17:13). Miraculously, God then provided for the widow's, her son's, and the prophet's needs.

Point 4: The widow's son got sick and died, so she asked Elijah for help. When Elijah prayed, the Lord heard his voice and the boy revived. Through the circumstances of seeming tragedy, the reality and faithfulness of the prophet was clearly seen (1 Kings 17:24).

Illustration:

Notes: Do not fail to point out the important principle of giving something to God first of all. Two other principles to point out are the importance of prayer and how God wondrously provides.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 405 **Lesson Name:** Elijah and the Prophets of Baal

Theme: Two ways

Reading: II Kings 18:1-46

Memroy Verse: I Kings 18:21

Memory Verse Text: How long halt ye between two opinions?

Attention Getter:

Point 1: After three years, God sent Elijah to King Ahab, who hated him. At the time, there was still a bad famine in the land, so King Ahab sent Obadiah out to find grazing land for his animals. When Elijah met Obadiah, he told him to tell the king that Elijah was coming to see him.

Point 2: When they finally met, King Ahab blamed Elijah for bringing trouble to Israel because he was not willing to face up to the fact of his own sin and its consequences. Elijah told him to gather all the prophets of the false god, Baal, at Mount Carmel; there he would challenge the people to choose either God or Baal.

Point 3: The contest was set up; Baal's 450 prophets built an altar, set up a sacrifice, prayed, and afflicted themselves, hoping that fire would fall upon the sacrifice. Elijah mocked Baal's prophets all day long as they pled with a god who could not hear nor answer them.

Point 4: Elijah's turn was next; he repaired the altar of the Lord, put the sacrifice upon it, and then had the people pour water over it all so that even the trench all around the altar was full. When Elijah called on the Lord, fire fell from Heaven and consumed the sacrifice; it even dried up the water in the trench! After seeing that "the Lord, he is the God," the people brought all of Baal's prophets to Elijah to be killed; once they were dead, refreshing rain began to fall (1 Kings 18:39).

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 406 **Lesson Name:** Elijah Goes Up to Heaven

Theme: Return of the Lord Jesus Christ

Reading: I Kings 19:19-21; II Kings 2:1-25

Memroy Verse: Matt. 24:44

Memory Verse Text: Therefore be ye also ready.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: God called a new man to take Elijah's place. Even though Elisha was a busy man, he recognized that God's claims were greater than all others. As a result, he spent his time with Elijah until the time came that he would be taken up to heaven; Elijah was to leave this world without dying. The fact that he would leave the world without dying was no small thing!

Point 2: As Elijah and Elisha were going down to Bethel, some of the sons of the prophets of Jericho came and told Elisha that his master would be taken away. Elijah tried to get Elisha to stay at Gilgal, and then again at Bethel, but Elisha continued to travel with him and would not let him go alone. Fifty sons of the prophets also followed; all watched as Elijah smote the Jordan River with his mantle, and then Elijah and Elisha crossed over on dry ground.

Point 3: When Elijah gave Elisha permission to ask for whatever he wanted, he requested that a double portion of Elijah's spirit be given to him. He obviously recognized the uniqueness of God's gift to his master. Soon after, a chariot and horses of fire appeared taking Elijah up to heaven; his mantle was left behind. Elisha used the mantle in faith. The first sign of the double portion he had received was healing the waters. The sons of prophets, on the other hand, didn't have any faith since they wanted to look for Elijah.

Point 4: In spite of the proofs of his reality - Elisha is mocked by irreverent children telling him to go up to heaven like his master! Two she bears came out of the woods and attacked 42 of them.

Illustration:

Notes: Point 4 shows the importance of respect for God and His things. Never hurts to underline and emphasize that in a day of disrespect.

Summary: Just like Elijah was taken up supernaturally, so the Lord Jesus is coming again to take all believers home. What a day that will be! Are you ready?

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 407 **Lesson Name:** Elisha and the Shunammite's Son

Theme: The New Birth / Christ the Lifegiver & Resurrection

Reading: II Kings 4:8-37

Memroy Verse: Romans 6:23

Memory Verse Text: The gift of God is eternal life.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: At Shunem, Elisha made the acquaintance of a great woman. He was welcomed there where she had a special place for him any time he was passing through that area. She had no child. Elisha asked, "What shall be done for thee?" She seemed content but the longing of her heart was for a child.

Point 2: Elisha told her that she would have a child. This came to pass and a son was born. Years passed and the child grew and was out in the busy harvest fields, working with his father. He had a bad headache and was taken to his mother, where he died.

Point 3: She went to the man of God, who sent Gehazi first to help her. He concluded the child was dead. Elisha however came and went in. A great miracle took place as the child revived and was restored to his mother.

Point 4: She came in and fell at Elisha's feet. Sometimes we see a great miracle like this when a soul is saved who was dead and is alive again. May we never become accustomed to it, but instead, fall at His feet in genuine humility.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 408 **Lesson Name:** Elisha and the Widow's Oil

Theme: God's Provision - Its Fullness

Reading: II Kings 4:1-7

Memroy Verse: Acts 4:12

Memory Verse Text: We must be saved.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: One of the widows called out to Elisha. Her husband was dead and had left a debt behind. This meant that her two sons would be taken as slaves to pay the debt.

Point 2: There was a great need and it seemed so hopeless. Elisha asked what she had and what it was that she wanted. She replied that she had nothing but a little cruse of oil.

Point 3: Instructions were given to borrow vessels from all her neighbors. A miracle took place and all the vessels were filled. She went to Elisha for direction and then went and sold the oil to pay her debt. O the fullness of the provision.

Point 4: Notice - there is not just enough to pay the debt but more. Elisha said "live thou and thy children of the rest". We can safely assume that this provision met not only the present need but also all her need as long as she had the responsibility of raising those boys.

Illustration:

Notes: We have a wonderful God. The fullness of this provision is just like Him and what He has done in our salvation, providing not only payment for sin but also imparting all we need till travelling days are done.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 409 **Lesson Name:** Naaman the Leper

Theme: Sinner is Diseased, Dark, and Dead

Reading: II Kings 5:1-27, Luke 4:26

Memroy Verse: Isa. 1:18

Memory Verse Text: Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Naaman was envied, admired, honorable, and successful. He seemed to have treated his servants well. He was the favourite of the day!

Point 2: But leprosy spoiled it all. Like a beautiful day - sparkling with possibilities but thousands of biting bugs spoil any enjoyment of it.

Point 3: He had the problem but the little maid knew the cure. She told him that he must go to God's man if he was to be cleansed. Naaman still made many mistakes even after pointed in the right way. Perhaps he made 10 mistakes -he went to the wrong person, he thought he could pay etc.

Point 4: The cure was sure - most humbling but most effective. It worked just as God had said. Point out the fact that he was better than he ever had been!

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 410 **Lesson Name:** The Liberation of Samaria

Theme: Salvation: Provision For All

Reading: II Kings 6:24-33 7:1-20

Memroy Verse: Isaiah 55:1

Memory Verse Text: He that hath no money, come ye, buy and eat.

Attention Getter: Most things - if they sound too good to be true.. They probably are!

Point 1: Samaria was beseiged and therefore, the famine was great in the city. (Give some details from 6:25 and add some comparison of today's prices, etc. that children can relate to.) The danger was also great since there was no way to get more food. Time was running out and horrible atrocities were taking place due to their desperation.

Point 2: There came a word from God- a promise from the One who could meet the need. It was mocked at by a man in high position - the king. It happens often today as well.

Point 3: Four lepers were destitute and desperate at the gate, having not been allowed inside the city. All hope was gone but they determined to give themselves up to the enemy rather than starve where they were. God used them to discover what He had done and then tell others. The battle was fought, the victory was won - all they had to do was enter into it by grace.

Point 4: They are used to pass on the good news. So God uses the saved ones today to do the same and the result is that many are blessed but some who refuse to recognize God's provision die without it.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 411 **Lesson Name:** Joash the Young King

Theme: Christ the LORD

Reading: II Kings 11:1-21

Memroy Verse: Acts 2:36

Memory Verse Text: God hath made that same Jesus, both Lord and Christ.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Royal children were destroyed by Athaliah (the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel). The Devil was behind this move to destroy the royal line and in reality, the lineage through which the Lord would eventually come. Joash was "stolen away" and hidden.

Point 2: God saw to it that he was taken care of and sheltered for six years in spite of the evil attempt.

Point 3: The young King Joash (7 years) that they had tried to destroy was crowned (v12). Not only that - but he was given the testimony - that is, the charge of the Lord for the kings of his people. His great enemy - Athaliah - was destroyed.

Point 4: There was great rejoicing and great peace when the rightful king reigned and the enemy was slain.

Illustration:

Notes: There are pictures here of a coming day when the Lord Jesus (that men sought to destroy all through His life) will reign unhindered and the Old Enemy will be confined to the Lake of Fire.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 412 **Lesson Name:** Rebellion of King Uzziah

Theme: Sin's Foolishness and Carelessness

Reading: II Chron. 26:1-23

Memroy Verse: Luke 18:14

Memory Verse Text: Everyone that exalteth himself shall be abased.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Here another young king was put upon the throne. He reigned for a long time- 52 years. He did what was right in that he sought the Lord and he prospered. He warred and was successful because God helped him (v7). He built machines of war for defense.

Point 2: His name was spread abroad in fame. VERY IMPORTANT POINT - (v15) "FOR he was marvellously helped." It was God who was the secret of the man's strength and abilities.

Point 3: When we are blessed it is a real danger as well. We are very vulnerable to disaster if we think it was because of something special in us. Note these disastrous words in v.16. "His heart was lifted up to his destruction."

Point 4: He transgressed. We must never forget that God hates sin wherever he finds it. He took upon himself a privilege that was not given him and he became a leper. The Lord had smitten him.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 413 **Lesson Name:** Hezekiah is Healed

Theme: Sinner is Diseased, Dark, and Dead

Reading: II Kings 20:1-11 Isaiah 38:1-22

Memroy Verse: Isaiah 38:20

Memory Verse Text: The Lord was ready to save me.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Hezekiah was a king. Even kings are not immune from disease. The same is true today - no matter how greatly blessed we may be, we all have the disease of sin within. His sickness was one that was sure to be fatal.

Point 2: Set thine house in order - was the Word from the prophet Isaiah. It was God who sent the warning. God still warns men today that they need to be prepared - Amos 4:12

Point 3: His fear was evident as he turned his face to the wall (shutting everything else out). We read his fervent prayer in v3. Another word from the Lord came, saying that He had heard Hezekiah's prayer and added to his life fifteen more years. Only God could do that. How did Hezekiah know it was so? He had the WORD of the UNFAILING GOD!

Point 4: Notice that God had dealt with his sins (v 17). He rejoiced and pledged to praise the God who had delivered him all the days of his life.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 414 **Lesson Name:** Vision of Isaiah

Theme: God's Power and Greatness

Reading: Isaiah 6:1-13

Memroy Verse: Isaiah 6:3

Memory Verse Text: Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Hosts.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Before a man can do anything for God he needs to know the One he is serving. He needs to have dealings with His God.

Point 2: King Uzziah died. God sets up kings and takes them away. He is the Lord of Lords. He is the King Eternal. Perhaps Isaiah was greatly troubled as he thought of the vacancy on the throne. He learned that there was a higher and greater throne occupied by ONE who is above all.

Point 3: He saw the Seraphim. No doubt, we would be amazed to have a vision of these mighty beings. Far better to see the One that they were in awe of. Note first of all - the emphasis on the fact of God's great HOLINESS.

Point 4: He sensed his sin when He saw his God. Note that he confessed his own defilement first, then his people's. There was a provision. It was on the altar - and it was enough to cleanse him. After cleansing - it was the Lord Himself who sent him.

Illustration:

Notes: It should be clearly noted that we need to know Him as Saviour first of all. The teacher should carefully study this passage and allow themselves to be searched out relative to Isaiah's experience, and their own work with the young.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 415 **Lesson Name:** Jonah & the Fish

Theme: Grace: God's Undeserved Favor

Reading: Jonah 1:1-16 2:1-11

Memroy Verse: Jonah 2:9

Memory Verse Text: Salvation is of the Lord.

Attention Getter: Ever tried running away?

Point 1: A word from the Lord to any of us should call for our obedience. He is our God and Creator. We are responsible and accountable to Him. A word from the Lord to someone like Jonah should be enough to direct our service.

Point 2: God gave us a free choice. Jonah did not obey but tried to run away. The nearness of the Lord bothered him. How foolish- what did he think would happen?

Point 3: The Lord sent a great wind. A mighty tempest hit the ship and the mariners were afraid. First they tried their own efforts (lightened the ship) and then they called upon their God. Jonah somehow was able to sleep through it all till he was awakened. He should have been convicted from the mariner's words. The lot was drawn and told the story. Jonah finally was made to confess to his own shame and to witness to the mariners, even though unwilling.

Point 4: He thought only the worst of His God - that God meant to kill him. Likely even as the great fish swallowed him, Jonah thought he would surely die. But God's plans were far more encompassing. God had a lesson to teach him, and when he finally came to an end of himself and called for deliverance - God had only to speak a word and he was set forth on dry land.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 416 **Lesson Name:** Jonah in Ninevah

Theme: Grace: God's Undeserved Favor

Reading: Jonah 3:1-10 4:1-11

Memroy Verse: Jonah 4:2

Memory Verse Text: Thou art a gracious God, and merciful.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Word of the LORD comes again. Even now Jonah is still pouting and reluctant but knowing there is no running away, he goes and does the bidding of the Lord.

Point 2: Nineveh was a very large city. 3 days walking distance across it. His message was a message of doom and these ungodly people not only heard but felt the power of it. They 3:5 "believed God."

Point 3: The king immediately repents and calls on the people to do the same. And to "cry mightily unto God". Who knows the blessing that might result when such is the case. They had no guarantee or promise that God would spare them but HE was their only hope.

Point 4: Jonah is still mad even though God has used him so mightily in the salvation of Nineveh. God deals with him further to show him his own folly and to reveal that God is Sovereign. Amazing that God should be so gracious with one who was so ungracious and unappreciative.

Illustration:

Notes: It is significant that the Name of the LORD here means the Self-Existing One (ie He needs no one) who reveals Himself

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 417 **Lesson Name:** King that Burnt the Word of God

Theme: It's Important Who You Listen To

Reading: Jeremiah 36:1-32

Memroy Verse: Isaiah 40:8

Memory Verse Text: The Word of our God shall stand forever.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Jeremiah is given a Word from God to be hand delivered to King Jehoiakim. God wanted the people to hear His warning and then turn from their sin - and he would forgive them. Baruch the Scribe writes the words and goes in to read the Word to the king and all the people in the whole land.

Point 2: God was looking for a response to His entreaties, but His anger was kindled and there was a fury to be visited upon them if they did not repent. The Word was read, it's message was grasped for Michaiah was able to declare it's contents 36:13.

Point 3: They inquired and were told the source of the message and it was read again in the king's hearing. They were not afraid. What awful foolishness. God looks for those who will tremble at His Word (see Isa 66.2). They burned it. Wise men spoke against it, but the king's heart was fully set in him to do this evil. They would have destroyed the messengers too but the Lord hid them.

Point 4: God gives the same Words with the same warnings and promises of certain judgment for those who had rejected his word.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 418 **Lesson Name:** Jeremiah in the Dungeon

Theme: Sin's blindness

Reading: Jeremiah 37:11 - 38:28

Memroy Verse: Jeremiah 38:20

Memory Verse Text: Obey, I beseech thee, the voice of the Lord.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Jeremiah is falsely accused. He was put into prison. They were trying to keep him quiet and not alarm the people or their own consciences. The king must have had some serious thoughts as he has him brought out of the prison and he questions him. What a question! "Is there any Word from the Lord?" What an answer! "There is!" And the message from the Lord is the self same one that Jeremiah has been bringing to the people for years!

Point 2: Others were stirred up about Jeremiah's earlier message and the princes demand that Jeremiah be put in a prison. Zedekiah listens to men rather than God or conscience and allows the princes to put Jeremiah in the dungeon.

Point 3: Ebed-melech - an Ethiopian - hears and in spite of the fact he is only a slave and could easily be put to death for his bravery, he goes to the king and says that the princes have done the wrong thing for he will die down there and where would the people be then without one to bring them a Word from the Lord.

Point 4: A rescue is effected. Old rotten rags and thirty men are needed to get him out. It may not have been the method of choice but no doubt to Jeremiah, it was a welcome relief. Saved from above.

Illustration:

Notes: The dungeon was really a cistern - mud floors - no rest - no food.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 419 **Lesson Name:** The Lord and Ebedmelech

Theme: Sin Acknowledged: Leads to Salvation / Real Opportunity

Reading: Jeremiah 37-39

Memroy Verse: Jeremiah 39:18

Memory Verse Text: I will surely deliver thee.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Though for the most part, the king, the princes and the people refused the Word of the Lord, there were those who would have obeyed His voice. God takes notice of such though they may seem insignificant.

Point 2: Ebed-melech was an Ethiopian, a slave in the king's house. No doubt he heard the message that was read to the king and couldn't understand why the ruler did not obey the voice of the Lord. We have heard of him before when Jeremiah was pulled out of the dungeon.

Point 3: The Word of the Lord against the city is being fulfilled just as God had said it would be but God worked so that Jeremiah would be released and he did not forget the trust that Ebed-melech had put in his God.

Point 4: A special message is sent to Ebed-melech through Jeremiah, 39:16 He reminds him that His words will come true for the unbelieving and he promises the slave that he will not suffer the same fate. And he clearly tells him why - 39:18 "because thou has put thy trust in ME" Best of all - He kept His promise as He always does.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary: I'd rather be a slave that believes God than a King that doesn't!

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 420 **Lesson Name:** Jerusalem is Destroyed

Theme: Judgment's Certainty

Reading: II Chronicles 36:1-21 II Kings 23:34-37, 24:1-20, 25:1

Memroy Verse: Isaiah 59:12

Memory Verse Text: Our transgressions are multiplied before Thee, and our sins testify against us.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Zedekiah was a young king (21) and was king 11 years - did evil in the sight of the Lord 2Chr36:12 - what a description of a man's life! What description would be true of you and me? He would not humble himself - thought more of what the princes and great men thought than he did of God and of what God had said.

Point 2: This was a very willful man - rebelling against mighty Nebuchadnezzar was foolish - 2Chr36:13 but rebelling against God is even more foolish! Many years passed before God brought all His words to pass and the city fell but He was faithful to His Word.

Point 3: The way of Life and the way of Death had been set before them (Jer. 21.8). The loss was great. All the precious vessels of the House of the Lord were taken. Thousands of lives were lost through famine, illness and the sword. Many became slaves and were carried away into captivity. The City was laid waste for seventy long years.

Point 4: The king did not escape. He tried to look out for his own skin. Had laid his plans well. His own special plan but as he fled he was caught, brought back to see his own son killed by the sword, then his eyes were put out and he was taken away a captive to die in an enemy's land.

Illustration:

Notes: It would be helpful to be familiar with the story in Jeremiah 37-39 as well.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 421 **Lesson Name:** Daniel & Companions

Theme: Opportunity: A Turning Point / Choices

Reading: Daniel 1:1-21

Memroy Verse: Ps. 1:1

Memory Verse Text: Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: When Jerusalem fell and the people were taken captive to Babylon, God brings to light a great man and his companions even in the midst of difficult circumstances. Babylon was a beautiful but wicked city full of idol worshippers and superstition.

Point 2: The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord Pr 21.1. Several young captives were selected. Daniel and his three friends were chosen. It is obvious right at the start that these young men were unusually gifted -see v4.

Point 3: It is also evident that the King had designs on them for himself v4. For three years they were to be specially treated and taught. Thank God that Daniel had purpose of heart v8, and it seems that his influence also affected his friends.

Point 4: Testing comes. Melzar is asked to let them be proved. God had put it in his heart also to be considerate of the young captives. At the end of the test, they were better physically and God had given them more beside v17. The king comes to the conclusion that they were 10 times better. He always wins who sides with God.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 422 **Lesson Name:** Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

Theme: God's Power and Greatness

Reading: Daniel 2:1-49

Memroy Verse: Daniel 2:28

Memory Verse Text: There is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Nebuchadnezzar was a very mighty king and conqueror. But he has a dream that deeply troubled him! And he forgot what it was! The hand of God was in all of this. He demands of those who claimed great powers as wise men the dream and the interpretation. All were helpless.

Point 2: He suspects their lies in the past and he demands their death if they cannot tell. They are forced to admit that there is no man who can do it v10. Daniel hears and asks for time to seek Divine Help. His three friends join in prayer and the secret was revealed.

Point 3: Before he goes before the king he gives the praise and honour to his God. V20-23 Daniel stands before the king and again clearly declares that it is God who gives the answer. He tells of the image and what it represents.

Point 4: The mighty king fell upon his face and honours God at least in his words and honours the man that spoke for God before him.

Illustration:

Notes: For older students it may be good to tell them that there is a prophetic significance to the dream. Most of it has already been completed and the rest shall be - even perhaps before the student's eyes if they remain unsaved.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 423 **Lesson Name:** In the Furnace

Theme: God's Power and Greatness

Reading: Daniel 3:1-30

Memroy Verse: Daniel 3:17

Memory Verse Text: Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us.

Attention Getter: Ever think that you were pretty good. Even great or better? Smarter? Careful!

Prov 16:18 says,

Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

Point 1: Nebuchadnezzar has had his dream interpreted about the great image. He may have understand that his kingdom would some day pass away and now perhaps tries to make himself (the image may have been made to resemble him) and his glory extend in a greater way.

Point 2: He builds an image of pure gold. 90 feet high. His vast kingdom is called upon to worship the image.

Point 3: It seems that Daniel may have been occuppied in some other part of the kingdom at this time and Daniel's 3 friends do not have his physical support in this hour of testing. Note however, that they very likely had his earnest prayer support as he was known to pray at least 3X daily. God allows us to see that their personal convictions were just as genuine as Daniel's.

Point 4: They would not bow. They are reported. They are threatened. They stand firm and confident. V16-18 The fury of the king is obvious but he is proved helpless against the preserving power of God. After learning his lesson, his decree acknowledges that there is no other God of this sort. They are promoted to higher honour. But a greater honour will be theirs in a coming day.

Illustration:

Notes: It might be a very good thing to acquaint yourself with the true vastness of his world dominion that spread so far.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 424 **Lesson Name:** King Belshazzer's Banquet

Theme: Mocker's Consequences

Reading: Daniel 5:1-31

Memroy Verse: Daniel 5:27

Memory Verse Text: Thou art weighed in the balances and art found wanting.

Attention Getter: What do you weigh? How do you know? Did you ever say you weighed more / or less?

Point 1: Belshazzar was the grandson of Neb. His father was not interested in the throne and continued in military life as Bel. reigned. He throws a great party to the thousand. Mocked God by using the vessels taken out of the House of God when Jerusalem fell.

Point 2: Notice: Judgement was swift v5. He saw the writing. The man who would mock God was mocking no more v6. Calls for someone to interpret. No one is found. Then the queen remembered Daniel and what he had done for Neb.

Point 3: Daniel enters. How good to see that Daniel has not changed. He still plainly testifies of his God. He wants none of the gifts of the king. He rehearses the great errors of Neb. and reminds how he learned. Then speaking plainly about Bel. He reminds him that God holds him accountable since he knew this and did not humble himself before the Lord. Not only had not humbled himself but, in his pride and foolishness, thought he could do what he wanted with the things of God!

Point 4: The writing is interpreted and though the king rewards Daniel, he was slain since the armies entered the city by closing off the flow of a river that entered through the walls. Another took his place as king and Daniel was somehow preserved by God to serve him as well.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 425 **Lesson Name:** In the Lion's Den

Theme: Sin's Deception / Judgement's Finality / Salvation

Reading: Daniel 6:1-28

Memroy Verse: Psalm 119.170

Memory Verse Text: Deliver me according to Thy Word.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Daniel has conducted himself very well before several kings. His habits are well known (eg prayer 3X daily), his spirit was excellent and his abilities were such that he was raised over all the 120 princes of the wide spread kingdom.

Point 2: The princes being jealous and self seeking attempt to find fault or occasion against him. They come to the conclusion that the only way they can accuse him is in connection with his God so they hoodwink the king into signing a decree that will condemn Daniel.

Point 3: The king does not see through their scheme against his most trusted servant and signs the decree against prayer to any god. Daniel knew it was signed but does not change his habit and continues as he has all his long life. He is accused and though the king now sees thru the plot - his word is law and Daniel must be thrown into the den of lions.

Point 4: God preseved Daniel and he is able to clearly testify that God shut the lions' mouths. No hurt comes to him and the enemies are all cast in and they died since they had no God to deliver them in that awful day.

Illustration:

Notes: There may well have been a hundred lions in the den since when the princes and their families were cast in they were killed before they reached the den's floor.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 426 **Lesson Name:** Esther is Made Queen

Theme: God's Faithfulness

Reading: Esther 1 & 2

Memroy Verse: Psalm 143:8

Memory Verse Text: Cause me to know the way wherein I should walk, For I lift up my soul to Thee.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: King Ahasuerus - a mighty king over Persia and Media - had a party to show his riches, his majesty and to be honoured by all his princes. The party went on for a full six months! Hard for us to imagine the power and pomp and splendour and excesses of such a grand party.

Point 2: On a whim, he called for Vashti his queen to be brought before him and she refused. Worried about what effect that might have on other women - she was demoted from being queen and another queen was to be chosen in her place.

Point 3: God worked behind the scenes in order to preserve his people from an enemy's hatred and a scheme that would have wiped out all Jews. Esther was a most beautiful young orphaned Jewess (raised by her older cousin) and she not only attracted the king's interest but became the loved wife and was crowned queen of the land. Though in all of this she had not revealed that she was a Jew.

Point 4: Her cousin, Mordecai, had also saved the king by warning him, through Esther, of a plot against his life, and when they were found out they were hung on a tree to die.

Illustration:

Notes: In those days women had very few rights, and it was a very dangerous thing to disappoint or anger a mighty king like Ahasuerus. Nevertheless, God is far more mighty than any earthly monarch.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 427 **Lesson Name:** Haman & Mordecai

Theme: Two Ways / Satan's Character: The Enemy of God and the Christian

Reading: Esther 3 & 4

Memroy Verse: Matt. 23:12

Memory Verse Text: He that shall humble himself shall be exalted.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Here are two very different men. Haman is an ungodly self-seeking man who flatters the king to gain popularity and plots to destroy the people of God. Mordecai is a godly man who seeks the glory of the Lord and the blessing of the Lord's people and wants the Lord's approval.

Point 2: Mordecai has saved the king's life but has not been recognized for his loyalty. Haman has done little but try to become greater and has been recognized and set above all other princes in the realm. It seems that Mordecai alone does not give him the honour he so much craves in the eyes of men.

Point 3: The plot is a diabolical scheme to kill a man and widened to destroy all those who could witness to the true God. The writing was signed and the day of their destruction was set. All seemed lost. But Mordecai began to pray. He informs Esther that she is also in danger and that God has put her there for just such an occasion as this 4:14 to come before the king with a counter petition.

Point 4: Though deeply afraid - she also asks that all the Jews humble themselves, fast and pray for three days. Though it seems Haman has it all going his way, yet when men depend on God, nothing is impossible. Even one man plus God is always a majority.

Illustration:

Notes: Remember that to humble yourself does not mean to think less of yourself than you would - but to think rightly of yourself!

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 428 **Lesson Name:** Esther Intercedes Before the King

Theme: Mocker's Consequences / God's Faithfulness

Reading: Esther 6-8

Memroy Verse: Psalm 145:18

Memory Verse Text: The Lord is night unto all them that call upon Him.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Praying time is over. It is time for action. Esther's moment has come but Esther does not move forward alone. Her God is with her. Her king could have had her killed for coming before him without being summoned. But he holds out the sceptre.

Point 2: He promises a great and magnimonious response to anything she asks, but wisely she simply invites the King and Haman to a banquet. He still seeks her petition and again she asks him and Haman to come to another banquet the following day.

Point 3: Haman was delighted at this special treatment. And seeing Mordecai unmoved to honour him, his anger is kindled against him all the more. He decides to seek Mordecai's life immediately and has a gallows built to hang him. However - the king could not sleep that night and hears the story read to him of Mordecai's loyalty and decided to honour him.

Point 4: Asking Haman what should be done. Haman thinks it must be him that was to be honoured so makes the reward good only to see that he had to carry it out for his despised enemy. Called to the banquet - the request is finally put forth and Haman is exposed and hung on the very gallows he had created. God moves in mysterious ways and the king makes a way for the people to be saved on that day!

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 429 **Lesson Name:** Captives Return to Judea

Theme: Grace: God's Undeserved Favor

Reading: Ezra 1:1-11 2:62-70 3:1-13

Memroy Verse: Psalm 103:12

Memory Verse Text: As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: After the years of chastening, God again takes up the remnant. The Lord stirs up the heart of Cyrus. It always starts with Him. Knowing that God had given him the place and power that he had, he wants to do something for Him and calls for the captives to go forth to rebuild the house of the Lord.

Point 2: All the things that had been carried away into captivity are given into their hands. Time and energy were put into the restoration and the altar is again set up and the sacrifices renewed.

Point 3: The people work together to put things right and the foundation of the temple was laid with much rejoicing and weeping! Truly the Lord had visited His people. What a thrilling yet humbling experience.

Point 4: However - whenever there is something for God, the enemies of the Lord are stirred up and there was an evil plot being hatched (4:1) even while they were rejoicing that the mercy of the Lord had been visited upon them in spite of their sin.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 430 **Lesson Name:** Nehemiah Builds the Walls

Theme: It's Important Who You Listen To / Restoration

Reading: Nehemiah 1-6

Memroy Verse: Romans 8:31

Memory Verse Text: If God be for us, who can be against us?

Attention Getter:

Point 1: The work of rebuilding had stalled. There was much reproach. Nehemiah is moved to tears and mourning and earnest prayer. He acknowledges again his sin and the peoples and their unworthiness. But he remembers that God promised restoration Neh1:8-11

Point 2: Nehemiah, the king's cupbearer, is given the king's attention and speaks of why he is sad. He makes what might seem an impossible request and a more unexpected answer that he may go to build the city of Jerusalem. Even more is granted - ie the supplies to do it - because "the hand of God" was upon him 2:8

Point 3: God put this work in his heart. And a few good men joined with him. He encourages others by telling them of the good hand of God upon him. Opposition follows ch 4, and prayer is the natural response of Nehemiah and they continued to build the wall 4:6. More outward opposition still and discouragement falls on some of the builders. Problems arise from within as well - Selfishness slows the work ch5. Sanballat and Tobiah and others try to harm the leader by distracting him 6:1-2 but Nehemiah is aware of the great work he is doing and will not yield. Even the threat of a murderous plot does not cause him to be discouraged for God was with him in the work.

Point 4: The wall was finished after 52 strenuous days. Their heathen enemies were cast down because they "perceived that this work was wrought of our God!"

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 431 **Lesson Name:** Joshua & the Angel of the Lord

Theme: God's Provision - Its Fullness / Sin's Defilement

Reading: Zechariah 3:1-10

Memroy Verse: Isaiah 64:6

Memory Verse Text: All our righteousnesses are as filthy rags.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Things that can't be seen with our eyes are shown us here by the Lord. The representative of God's people was standing before the Angel of the Lord. His garments are filthy. There to accuse him is Satan, the great Adversary.

Point 2: Satan is rebuked for his schemes and plots against the Lord's own. God shows that he already knows that the only hope for His people is like a brand plucked out of the fire. It is the Lord's next work to take away the filthiness of his garments and the Lord Himself provides a change of raiment!

Point 3: The Angel of the Lord stood by to see that it was all done according to His plan. It took the Lord's work to bring about this change and He Himself sees to it that it is done to His satisfaction.

Point 4: Now, he is introduced to God's Servant, the Branch. He is God's eternal solution to take away the pollution of our sin and satisfy the heart of God who has made us His own. This also pictures the desired change God had in mind for Israel through the work of John the Baptist in preparation for the "One who coming after me is preferred before me: John 1.27

Illustration:

Notes: This is a picture of the change from self righteousness to the righteousness of God in preparation for the welcome of the Lord Jesus (pictured here as The Branch)

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 432 **Lesson Name:** Visions of Dry Bones

Theme: The New Birth / Future Events

Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Memroy Verse: John 3:7

Memory Verse Text: Ye must be born again

Attention Getter:

Point 1: The vision comes from God. The hand of the Lord was upon him v1. What a disagreeable start. A valley of dry bones - very dry. No life, no hope humanly speaking. A picture of Israel in her sad state. The prophet responds in faith to the question of the Lord.

Point 2: God calls upon the prophet and gets him involved. "Hear the Word of the Lord" Here is the true source of all life in the One who spoke and it was done!

Point 3: There was a noise - something was happening. There was a shaking - things began to move at His Word. There was a joining and putting in order of these dismembered and scattered bones - God was showing him how he alone could produce true unity. Flesh and sinew and skin came up on the bones - Only the Lord can do this. And now there's a mighty army!

Point 4: All of this to show what God was going to do with His own people. Notice - all His work was in order that "ye shall know that I the Lord have spoken it, and performed it." God wanted them to know again Himself and His power.

Illustration:

Notes: Isaiah 66:6-9 speaks of the coming of the Lord before the actual birth pangs of Israel at the time of great tribulation, and telling of the day when the Israelite nation shall be born in a day. What a conversion that will be!

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 501 **Lesson Name:** Announcement of Christ's Coming

Theme: Christ's Birth

Reading: Jn 1:1-18 Mt. 1:1-25 Lk 1:26-56, 2:1-38 3:23-38

Memroy Verse: Luke 2:11

Memory Verse Text: Unto you is born. a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Who He was - the Word - Who He was - as to His earthly birth - his lineage and his parents. Matthew announces Him as the King, Luke announces Him as the Son of Man and John announces Him unashameably as God.

Point 2: Where he had been before - 1 Tim 1:15 came into the world! Note Zacharias words "The Dayspring from on High shall visit us!" Lu 1:78 Some time could be spent on heaven and what is is like and who dwelt there.

Point 3: It is important to emphasize that this One is different than all others. His character and Person should be noted carefully.

Point 4: Note the announcement 1. to Mary - 2. to Joseph - 3. by the Angels to the Shepherds as they kept their flocks in lambing season. Never been a Lamb born like this One.

Illustration:

Notes: It would be good for older classes who could appreciate it, that in Mark, there is no account of His Birth which is in keeping with the Servant Character of the Gospel account of Mark.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 502 **Lesson Name:** The Birth of the Lord Jesus

Theme: Christ the Saviour

Reading: Jn 1:1-18 Mt. 1:1-25 Lk 1:26-56, 2:1-38 3:23-38

Memroy Verse: Matthew 1:21

Memory Verse Text: Thou shalt call His Name Jesus.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Where He was born - Bethlehem Judah - just as had been prophesied. In the field (perhaps shelter in a cave) but not in the Inn. The circumstances that caused the prophecy to be fulfilled Lu 2:1.

Point 2: Perhaps emphasis should be laid on the fact that Mary was told of His birth and how He would be conceived. In spite of her amazement. She is most willing, and this emphasizes the fact that Mary knew she needed a Saviour. See Luke 1:47 That is a most important point to get across to any who might have been under RC influence.

Point 3: Note the poverty - swaddling clothes - lying in a manger. Note the glory - a heavenly host praising God. Note the joy of the the humble shepherds when they made known what they saw.

Point 4: Carefully note the parents offering - the offering of the poor at the temple. Note too that His coming was expected in the words of Anna and Simeon.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 503 **Lesson Name:** The Wise Men

Theme: Christ the Lord

Reading: Matt. 2:1-18

Memroy Verse: Matt. 2:11

Memory Verse Text: They fell down and worshipped Him.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Unlike the Wise Men of Esther and Daniel's day, they were not merely impressed by the Sign, but recognized it was HIS star! They came to Worship HIM. Such was their report that King Herod was deeply disturbed. Christ always causes a stir - to some, it is one of delight and to others one of disdain. Wise men still seek HIM!

Point 2: They didn't know everything. Sought the illumination of the Scriptures. It was that revelation that showed them the city and God graciously gave the seekers light that would lead them to the very place - note it is a house not a stable nor a cave.

Point 3: They were on the Search of their Life and they rejoiced not only in the Star that led them but in the One who had come. They gave of their gifts - tell them what the gifts would speak of in the simplest possible terms. Not all felt that way - the king was set to destroy the young child - that should remind you to tell them that it could be 1.5 - 2 years after the Shepherds came that night. How do we know - the king destroyed all the children 2 years old and younger.

Point 4: Note - God was not caught unprepared. The king's murderous attempt was thwarted. God frustrated the king by sending the Magi home another way, and warning Joseph to flee into Egypt.

Illustration:

Notes: Incidentally - for older ones - the Magi going home another way has instruction for us. Everyone should be affected by a meeting with the Lord - either at His Birth here, or His death as in Lu 23:48

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 504 **Lesson Name:** Childhood of Jesus

Theme: Christ the Son / Christ the Lamb

Reading: Matt. 2:19-23 Luke 2:39-52

Memroy Verse: Luke 2:49

Memory Verse Text: I must be about My Father's business.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: The Saviour was here - He had come unto His own people and His own things - yet Mt 2:14 was made a stranger to His own people and made to dwell in a strange land. Even when God tells Joseph to return they dwell in Nazareth again - a place despised because it was poor and inhabited by many gentiles.

Point 2: The Feast - that is, the Passover in Jerusalem. His parents were devout and sought to obey God's instruction to His people by attending the Feast. God never intended Passover to be forgotten. Who would know more about it than the One who was the true Passover Lamb?

Point 3: After the feast and all it's deep meaning - his parents left behind the One who was the True Center of the Feast. He is the Center of another gathering though. The Rabbis ask and receive answers. They are amazed even after 3 days at His understanding!

Point 4: Parents come seeking Him. Though there is much delay - they who truly seek Him, find Him. The Lord Jesus at 12 (when a young Israeli was to take on responsibility) tells them who His Father is and reminds them that He has more important business and yet in spite of it all and the fact that He truly knows far more than they, he goes home and is subject to them. In all things, He did that which was becoming as a man under the law.

Illustration:

Notes: Point 3 - how easy it is for us - to be occupied with the things of God and yet to go on with our lives without Him near.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 505 **Lesson Name:** The Forerunner & the Baptism of Jesus

Theme: Christ the Saviour

Reading: Luke 1:57-80 Mark 1:1-13 Matt. 3:1-4, 11 Luke 3:1-4, 13 John 1:19-34

Memroy Verse: John 10:41

Memory Verse Text: All things that John spake of this man were true.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: John was clearly sent of God. His work and message were prophesied ahead of time by Malachi and Isaiah.

Point 2: His birth was a miracle. His life was simple. His message was plain He sought no glory for himself. He saw results to his preaching. His testimony was given by the Lord Jesus Himself.

Point 3: He spoke plain words about sin. He baptized many who confessed their sin and the sins of the nation to prepare them for the coming One. His greatest honour came when the Lord Himself came to be baptized at Jordan. Though he resisted at first, he bowed to His Lord's will and did as He had bidden him.

Point 4: He saw the Spirit of the Lord rest upon the One he served. And heard a voice from heaven.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 506 **Lesson Name:** John's Disciples and Jesus Disciples

Theme: Christ the Lamb / Christ the Lord

Reading: John 1:35-51

Memroy Verse: John 1:36

Memory Verse Text: Behold the Lamb of God.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: John carries out his work and the second time is constrained to testify that Jesus is the Lamb of God. A true servant of Jesus will always point to Christ and not to themselves even though it may mean personal loss. John's disciples have been well taught and now follow Jesus.

Point 2: Jesus speaks to the root of the matter. What seek ye? A question that needs to be heard and responded to today. They call Him teacher at this early stage but will learn much more about Him.

Point 3: We aren't given a description of the place, nor the meal they enjoyed. When they return the thing that has impressed them is Himself note v 41. He must always be the true attraction. All other activity and settings pale beside the Glory of Himself.

Point 4: We then see another soul-winner at work. With his own heart now won to Christ, Andrew brought Simon to Jesus. Simon later on will see many many more brought to know the Lord. Philip too becomes a soul winner. Nathaniel is doubtful at first but his heart is totally surrendered as the Lord reveals himself to him.

Illustration:

Notes: It would be good to point out to older kids that Point 1 is valid today. Beware of those who go in for sensationalism and do not point clearly to Christ. For He is the only hope for sinners and the true example for the believer.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 507 **Lesson Name:** The Wedding in Cana

Theme: God's Provision - Its Fullness

Reading: John 2:1-12

Memroy Verse: John 16:20

Memory Verse Text: Your sorrow shall be turned into joy.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Marriage - the Lord Himself came. Honouring marriage by His very Presence. In the midst of what should have been a joyous occasion there was a need - something missing. How true even in life. What we thought should have brought us joy is oftentimes a disappointment.

Point 2: Mary - who had pondered so much for so long in her heart, knew what to do. She told the Lord Jesus. She knew what to tell others too v5. Perhaps by experiences in her own life and home. Note - there is no mention of Joseph who may have pre-deceased.

Point 3: He said "Fill" - and they did. "Pour out" and they did. What and how it all happened they didn't know. But they knew who made the difference!

Point 4: This wine was pronounced not good but best. What He gives is far better! He'll do better for you than this world can do!

Illustration:

Notes: Don't forget to use this opportunity to enhance the true meaning and purpose of Marriage. Children often only have the distorted views of parents and the world for an example.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 508 **Lesson Name:** Passover & the First Cleansing

Theme: Christ the Lord / Sin's Defilement

Reading: John 2:13-25

Memroy Verse: John 2:25

Memory Verse Text: He knew what was in man.

Attention Getter: In the last lesson, when the Lord Jesus was in someone else's house, he acted as a guest ought to. But here he is in HIS OWN house and acts accordingly.

Point 1: The Lord goes up to Jerusalem at the Pasover (always as a man keeping the law). One look and He could see what was wrong!

Point 2: He remembered what they forgot - it was His Father's House! Men cannot do what they like and get away with it. There are things that do not belong in His house and what is done there reflects on HIM. It is important to give God the respect that He deserves.

Point 3: Destroy this temple - speaking of His body! Yet three years would pass before His death. They spoke of the temple that they gloried in. It was still being built and wouldn't be complete till AD63 and would be torn down totally by Titus in AD66.

Point 4: His actions reminded the disciples of the Word of God vs 17,22. What a thought for us to apply to ourselves! Note: He not only saw what was wrong in the temple but He sees what is wrong in us. John 2:25

Illustration:

Notes: Passovers In His Public Ministry #1 John 2:13,23 #2 John 6:4 #3 John 11:55, 12:1, 13:1, 18:28,39, 19:14

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 509 **Lesson Name:** Nicodemus

Theme: The New Birth / Religion's Inability

Reading: John 2:23-3:21

Memroy Verse: John 3:15

Memory Verse Text: Whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: All he knew as THE Teacher of Israel - yet did not know what it was to have eternal life! You can't 'learn' salvation. The Lord knew what was in man John 2:25 and He knew Nicodemus true state too.No matter how good - he wasn't good enough.

Point 2: What Nicodemus did know - was that the Lord had God with Him v2. Perhaps this was something that Nicodemus longed for. How remarkable is the grace of God that would ever put such a longing in his heart.

Point 3: The Lord points out the importance of the WORD (water) and the SPIRIT in this work. This is something that none of us can afford to forget!

Point 4: Verses 14-15 are vital to this story. The Lord tells him that only through God's Gracious Provision is the sinner freely given life eternal!

Illustration:

Notes: Man has no capacity to SEE or ENTER INTO the New Birth!

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 510 **Lesson Name:** The Samaritan Woman

Theme: Sinner's Need and Helplessness / World's Attraction

Reading: John 4:1-42 Matt. 4:12

Memroy Verse: John 4:39

Memory Verse Text: He told me all that ever I did.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: MUST NEEDS v4 - shows how important this one person was to Him. "Weary" The way He had to come was hard. Not the way others would have chosen. Thank God He was not like the others!

Point 2: Notice - He was waiting for her to come to well. He knew she would. He knew when. He knew what thoughts she had beforetime and in spite of her sin - He loved her. She marvelled that He would speak to her v9 - the disciples marvelled that He spoke to her v27. Imagine the day to come when she thought on it all again - it truly was a marvellous thing.

Point 3: He is the One who starts the conversation. He interferes in the lives of men. He is the Lord and knows how to deal with His creature and how to reach the heart. He uses ordinary things to catch her interest.

Point 4: O the wonder of the moment - when He said "I. am HE!" Others were reached by her words - she brought them to Him. He met their need as well. He is still the Same!

Illustration:

Notes: Note His skill at using the right kind of thing to initiate a conversation. The Teacher needs to pray that the Lord will give them that touch.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 511 **Lesson Name:** Temptation in the Wilderness

Theme: Christ the Sinless / Christ the Substitute

Reading: Matthew 4:1-11, Mark 1:11-12, Luke 4:1-15

Memroy Verse: Luke 4:4

Memory Verse Text: Man shall not live by bread alone but by every Word of God.

Attention Getter: ONE PERSON did not sin. He could NOT sin! Who was it?

Point 1: The Lord Jesus was God - He was perfect. He was also man - and He was just as perfect but here we see just how perfect He was as He is allowed to be tested by the Evil One - a master at that trade.

Point 2: The Lord was hungry and the Evil One is quick to test Him on that - the Lord shows that the Word of God has far more effect upon Him than appetite. He quotes each of these verses from Deuteronomy and shows how real the Word of God was to Him.

Point 3: His next appeal is the Kingdoms of the World that he claims are His to give. The Lord doesn't even respond to that appeal but shows how as man, God was always highest in His affection.

Point 4: The Devil seems to try and make Him show His power and be recognized now without going to the Cross - even quoting the Word of God - the Lord's attitude shows He is content with His Father's Will and Time.

Illustration:

Notes: The THEME of the Substitute is brought in here because it shows His qualification not because this lesson teaches substitution.

Summary: If the Devil had the nerve to do all of this with the Sinless Spotless Son of God, just think of how his temptations could affect us. How do we respond when he comes near?

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 512 **Lesson Name:** Nazareth & Capernaum Have a Visitor

Theme: Sin's Blindness / Christ Refused

Reading: Luke 4:16-37 Mark 1:23-26

Memroy Verse: John 1:11

Memory Verse Text: He came unto His own and His own received HIM not.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: The Lord Himself who has given the Word now reads it and expounds it in the synagogue at Nazareth. They wonder at the spirit of His Words but refuse the message and the One who brings it.

Point 2: He teaches two lessons from the outcasts of the OT. V 25 a widow - that was sustained by God when all Israel were suffering for lack of bread because of their sin and waywardness. V 27 a leper - Naaman - cured of his leprosy when there were many others in Israel who never knew his joy of deliverance. When they heard his news - why wasn't there a line up at the door of the Prophet that the same blessing might be theirs? Unbelief and Pride.

Point 3: In their wrath, they seek His death - but He passes through them and they dare not touch Him. Left them (what a tragedy!) and came to Capernaum and taught them - astonished!

Point 4: Satanic activity was manifest in those days after the preceding 400 years when God had ceased speaking to a disobedient people. The unclean spirit knew HIM. Of course! Others saw a demonstration of His mighty invincible power v36.

Illustration:

Notes: There's a principle here for the messenger of the Lord in v16 to speak it first where they grew up. The response may be as here - refusal or as in other places - a humble obedience and true repentance.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 513 **Lesson Name:** When He Rebuked the Fever

Theme: Sinner is Diseased, Dark, and Dead / Christ the Saviour

Reading: Luke 4:38-44 Matt. 8:14-17 Mark 1:29-38

Memroy Verse: Luke 4:40

Memory Verse Text: He laid His hands on every one of them, and healed them.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: It was a great fever. Fever had several grades even in those days. This was most severe - a galloping fever that caused the body to work as hard as it could to bring the temperature down but at the same time continued to escalate the problem because of the effort.

Point 2: He stood over her. He who knew the need had come near. He spoke and it was done. Demons or disease are no match for Him.

Point 3: No recovery time. It was virtually impossible for someone who was afflicted like this to have risen and served but such is His power that even the faint are able to soar like the eagle! Word seemed to get around and there were others in great need and just as hopeless apart from Him.

Point 4: His compassion reached to "every one of them" and His power availed to meet every kind of need even demonic. They would have kept Him there but there were others who needed to hear it all as well.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary: He too has come near to us. But He may not linger long if you delay. There are others upon His heart as well who will embrace Him.

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 514 **Lesson Name:** The King's Man and His Son

Theme: God's Promise - He Keeps It / Faith

Reading: John 4:46-54

Memroy Verse: John 4:50

Memory Verse Text: The man believed the Word that Jesus had spoken unto him.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: The Lord comes again to Cana where he had done a mighty miracle. The fame of which was likely well known. News travels and it was known that Jesus was near. A Royal Officer from Capernaum (+/- 25 miles or 40 km) comes to Jesus in his distress. Wanted Christ to come to Capernaum and heal (save) his son from death.

Point 2: The Lord puts his finger on the tendency of the officers heart - to think he needed some sign or ceremony, and also upon the thing he was not inclined to do - just believe! What does He find in our hearts?

Point 3: The man continues to plead his importunity. The Lord speaks, Go thy way, thy son liveth. He took the Word as being real. He acted upon it. How did He know? Only by HIS WORD.

Point 4: He leaves and as he travels he meets his servants who tell him the son lives. Consider the possibility that his question was not because he doubted. But rather to prove that what the Lord had spoken was now assured. It was at the very same hour. What a story he had to tell to his household. They all responded in faith. What a day of rejoicing that would be.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 515 **Lesson Name:** A Wonderful Catch of Fish

Theme: God's Power and Greatness / Christ the Lord

Reading: Mark 1:16-20 Matt. 4:18-22 Luke 5:1-11

Memroy Verse: Luke 5:8

Memory Verse Text: I am a sinful man, O Lord.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Wonderful to see the desire of the people to hear the Word of God. He then works to instruct and reveal Himself to His disciples. He uses Simon's ship to preach a message from and uses Simon's nets to impress him. He still uses what we have and desires to reveal Himself.

Point 2: He gives the call. Launch out. Though reluctantly and confessing their lack, they do as they are told. They inclose a great multitude of fish under His direction and Peter recognizes that he stands in the presence of One who is far greater than himself.

Point 3: The harvest is so great - they are not sufficient for it - James and John are called in too. They are all filled with astonishment at what the Lord could do.

Point 4: They are faced with a choice in view of such a revelation. They forsake all for Him. He has called them to higher service.

Illustration:

Notes: He called men who were busy already to serve Him. They had a legitimate occupation and had obviously known success as partners in fishing. It is likely that this had been their life (inherited from their fathers) but He has higher claims.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 516 **Lesson Name:** The Leper is Cleansed

Theme: Sinner is Diseased, Dark, and Dead / Sin's Defilement

Reading: Mark 1:40-45 Matt. 8:2-4 Luke 5:12-16

Memroy Verse: Luke 5:12

Memory Verse Text: Lord if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Leper - full of leprosy - leprosy at it's worst. Everyone would now know it. At first it may have been easily hidden, a mere rising in the skin (like a pimple perhaps) but now he is made to know the awfulness of his state. There is significance too in the fact that he is a leper (Matt 8:2) - the problem is not just what he has but what he is! Like the sinner.

Point 2: Lord, if thou wilt - his faith was simple and plain. For another to stretch out his hand would have defiled him but the Lord touches him with a healing hand that can never be defiled.

Point 3: The leper seemed to doubt the Lord's willingness not His ability, but the Lord quickly banishes that notion "I will, BE thou CLEAN" Same sort of language that brought light into being in the creation, "Light BE!" Here it is no more difficult for Him to banish defilement "Clean BE!"

Point 4: The Leper was counselled to go to the priest and offer a sacrifice for his cleansing. A sacrifice that had been rarely seen. It was for a testimony to them that sin had reigned so long amongst them unchecked. The One who could heal their diseases had left them alone in their folly.

Illustration:

Notes: Leprosy is often thought of as causing parts of the body to fall off. This is not so. Leprosy deadens nerves, both motor and sensory. Loss of the sense of pain often caused a leper to be burned or cut and with no accompanying pain often permanent damage was done. There is many more lessons that could be applied in the gospel with a little research of your own.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 517 **Lesson Name:** The Paralytic is Healed

Theme: Sinner is Diseased, Dark, and Dead / Pardon and Forgiveness

Reading: Mark 2:1-12 Matt. 9:1-8 Luke 5:17-26

Memroy Verse: Mark 2:5

Memory Verse Text: Thy sins be forgiven thee.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Another miracle in Capernaum where He had cast out the unclean spirit. Someone let the people know that He was back again. The crowds came - filling the house to beyond the doors. He preaches the Word.

Point 2: A man in need is brought along. His friends are so anxious to see him cured that they break up the roof and let him down so that he can get to Him who has the power to deliver. The man before Him has NO power, but the One to whom they brought him had ALL power.

Point 3: The Lord speaks words to forgive. What an indication this is to show that He was concerned with the real problem that plagued the people. His ability to pronounce His forgiveness was not hindered by the presence of the Scribes and Pharisees who were quick to criticize.

Point 4: He then shows that His words to forgive are just as effective as His words to heal. He demonstrates His ability to heal and the man who was powerless receives power and rises up before the critics - causing the people to be filled with amazement and to glorify God.

Illustration:

Notes: Palsy in this passage refers to him being a paralytic.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 518 **Lesson Name:** Choice and Call of Matthew

Theme: Christ the Lord / Grace: God's Undeserved Favor

Reading: Mark 2:13-17 Matt. 9:9-13 Luke 5:27-32

Memroy Verse: Luke 5:32

Memory Verse Text: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Matthew was a despised Tax Collector but I like the way the King saw him in Mt9:9 "He saw a man!" Thank God for the way He sees us. The man was in a place of authority and he was busy & successful. Matthew recognizes and bows to One with Higher Authority than all others and when He called him he left it all to follow Him.

Point 2: The man who has felt the eyes of the One who knew everything about him, now shows his appreciation and makes Him a feast! Note - he did what he could. Perhaps (since we have no recorded word that he spoke) he was not a man to speak but that did not stop him from doing something for His Lord. To the feast he invites his friends and business acquaintances that they might meet the Lord. Into this scene of fellowship and joy, comes the voices of the critics.

Point 3: Jesus knew what the Pharisees and Scribes were saying. He also knew the hearts that they were speaking from. He speaks a Word that ought to have reached them. They thought they were alright and needed nothing. They would receive nothing.

Point 4: He tells us that He came to call the sinners to repentance. Repentance is a change of mind, which involves a choice and change of direction.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 519 **Lesson Name:** Sabbath Controversy - The Sick Man

Theme: Christ the Lord / Christ Revealed

Reading: John 5:1-47

Memroy Verse: John 5:39

Memory Verse Text: Search the Scriptures; they are they which testify of ME!

Attention Getter:

Point 1: A feast of the Jews. In Jerusalem the first mention of anything is a man who is sick & helpless! The people there believed that an angel troubled the pool and when that happened - the first one into the water was made whole of whatever disease he had.

Point 2: This man was perhaps the worst case of them all. 38 years he had had this infirmity. He'd laid there a long time hoping to be cured. "Jesus saw him" - what a statement! Jesus spoke "Wilt thou..?" He confesses that he has no man to help. Here were words so full of meaning to the One who had said he would be father to the fatherless and help to the helpless.

Point 3: Jesus speaks a Word of Power. "Rise up" The Word is not a mere Word that ceases to sound the moment it is uttered but carries with it omnipotent result producing power and the powerless one now walks! As he carries his bedroll, he is accused of breaking the Sabbath, by poor blind critics that cannot see the miracle! He later identifies Jesus as the One who had so blessed Him.

Point 4: Persecution arose and they claimed he was in the habit of doing these things on the Sabbath day. They wanted to kill Him for this alone. Then He uses the occasion to reveal that the things He does it is because this is what His Father is working for and now they want to kill Him because of this claim as well.

Illustration:

Notes: Jewish Feasts were intended by God to be Holy Gatherings. Probably best to remind the children that the Sabbath was a Jewish Day. It is the last day of the week (Saturday) not Sunday which is the Lord's day or Sunday. The commandment about the Sabbath is the only commandment the Lord did not quote while here on earth.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 520 **Lesson Name:** Sabbath Controversy - The Corn

Theme: Christ Revealed / Law's Lack of Power to Control

Reading: Mark 2:23-28 Matt. 12:1-8 Luke 6:1-5

Memroy Verse: Matthew 12:7

Memory Verse Text: I will have mercy and not sacrifice.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: In their hunger the Disciples plucked some heads of wheat to eat as they went. How diligent and observant the accusers were! "They watched HIM" and when they found nothing wrong in Him they accuse those who associated with Him.

Point 2: The *Pharisees call it to His attention. His response is right from the Word of God. His message was clear - the sabbath was made for man not the other way around as they were construing it. How easy it is for us to get the cart before the horse also. Nothing works that way!

Point 3: Note His CLAIM - in this place is One greater than the Temple (Matt. 12:6). So very true, but what a stinging comment to those who had put the Temple on a higher level in their thinking than the ONE who dwelt in the Midst of His People.

Point 4: Notice - He is most conscious of His Authority as evidenced in the Title of The Son of Man. He was the anointed and sent One - with authority over man and all else.

Illustration:

Notes: *Pharisees had started out as a devout group intending to call the Nation back to God but had degenerated to being ultra legal in their observance of Jewish laws (often times of their own contrivance) and had drifted far from God in heart. Nb. See Matthew 15:8

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 521 **Lesson Name:** Sabbath Controversy - Withered Hand

Theme: Christ the Sympathizer: His Care and Compassion

Reading: Mark 3:1-6 Matt. 12:9-15 Luke 6:6-11

Memroy Verse: Matthew 12:18

Memory Verse Text: Behold My Servant whom I have chosen.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: The authorities watch Him with malice and intent! Knowing it, and seeing a man with a withered hand. He brings Him forth as an example. He was really a picture of the Jewish People (as are many of these healing miracles) who had no power to please God. Their hand was withered and could not do anything to please God in their own efforts.

Point 2: Is it lawful? - they ask. He puts His finger on their own hearts and wallets as He uses the example of a sheep in distress. They would have delivered their own sheep because it was important to them - He was going to deliver a man who was of infinite importance to Him.

Point 3: Again a Word of Power - Stretch forth - it was made whole like his other. Now not only could the man feel good about himself but able to be useful as well. He shuts the accusers mouths with the truth of God and a work they cannot deny!

Point 4: Now the Pharisees are resolved to destroy Him. Notice he withdrew himself from these religious bigots. Beware lest your attitude towards Him causes Him to draw back from you. He did however make Himself available to every seeker Matt. 12:15. What wondrous love and mercy!

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 522 **Lesson Name:** Choice of 12 & Sermon on the Mount

Theme: Sinners: Evidences / Evidences of Salvation / Two Ways

Reading: Mt. 5-7 Lk 6:12-45

Memroy Verse: Luke 6:44

Memory Verse Text: Every tree is known by his own fruit.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Prayed all night before He identifies those He had called to be His Disciples. Note - he even choice Judas Iscariot knowing what he would be! Traitor!

Point 2: Great crowds gathered about Him. Over and over we are told He healed them all. There was no lack of Power, no cure that eluded Him, no demon that could deny Him.

Point 3: Blessed are ..! He gives the rules and guidelines for the future kingdom that will be manifest and those who would join themselves to Him now - these are truths to live by in the here and now.

Point 4: He teaches lessons about the heart Luke 6:42-45. Basically He reduces us all to two categories. Good tree - bad Tree. Thorns - Vines. Good man - evil man. The fruits are vastly different!

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 523 **Lesson Name:** The Two Builders

Theme: Two Ways / It's Important Who You Listen To

Reading: Matt. 7:24-29 Luke 6:46-49

Memroy Verse: Luke 6:46

Memory Verse Text: Why call ye ME, Lord - Lord - and do not the things that I say?

Attention Getter:

Point 1: The Lord puts the Sayings He has spoken on the highest ground. Every Word He uttered was the Breath of God. He always means what He says. He always keeps every promise. He fulfills every prophecy.

Point 2: Foolish Man hears - but does not act accordingly or obedience. How many there are who think that because they are aware that He has spoken and of what He has said that they are better or Okay as they are.

Point 3: Wise Man hears - and follows that Word or Revelation with obedience and simple trust. All that the Foolish Man has done will be swept away in the day of Judgement. Great was the fall of it - how devastating to find yourself with nothing to cling to in that day. What the wise man has done - will be preserved in that day. Are we living in light of that day?

Point 4: Why call ye me Lord Lord and do not the things that I say? O the folly of boasting in our relationship or privileges and not making sure our lives are built on the ROCK. O the tragedy of presuming that our puny hopes are unshakeable! Only that which was built on the ROCK was not shaken Luke 6:48

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 524 **Lesson Name:** The Centurion's Servant

Theme: God's Promise - He Keeps It / God's Power & Greatness

Reading: Matt. 8:5-13 Luke 7:1-10

Memroy Verse: Hebrews 4:12

Memory Verse Text: The Word of God is quick (living) and powerful.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: A Centurion (Gentile) Army Leader of a hundred men comes to Jesus. As a Gentile he has no claim on the Lord. He realizes this and requests through the mediacy of the Jews that the Lord do this. However the Jews come and tell the Lord that he is worthy (not what the centurion thought or asked them to do) for he loveth their nation and has built a synagogue. This seems to be evidence that the centurion was a Jewish proselyte therefore, in spite of it's weakness, he has shown faith in the only God Given religion!

Point 2: The Lord goes with them but the centurion sends other messengers who report that he does not even now see himself as worthy that the Lord would come under his roof. Just SPEAK THE WORD ONLY - the Lord marvels that this kind of faith has not been seen at all in Israel yet this stranger gives Him the respect of believing that He can heal with a Word.

Point 3: Go thy way - and it was done in that moment. The servant was whole. No evidence at all remained of the grievous life threatening sickness.

Point 4: What a lesson for us this is! The Lord's Word is not unlike the Word of a Centurion giving orders to his men. It will be done. There is no question. The only difference I can see is that HIS WORD HAS THE HIGHEST AUTHORITY and HE HAS NEVER KNOWN FAILURE!

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 525 **Lesson Name:** The Nain Lad

Theme: Christ the Lifegiver and Resurrection / Christ the Sympathizer

Reading: Luke 7:11-17

Memroy Verse: Luke 7:16

Memory Verse Text: God hath visited His people.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: A Widow - she had suffered loss - her husband was gone - now a second blow - her son. He was the one she might have hoped would show some care and provide for her, but her grief was also more intense because he was her ONLY son. She'd really lost her all.

Point 2: The Lord demonstrates the Words He had spoken long before Deut.10:18 & Psalm 146:9. Israel had been given instructions many time and reminded countless more that they were to do whatever they could for such as this widow and her son. They failed miserably and often took advantage of them instead. Our Lord did what He could for this poor widow. And O what He could do.

Point 3: The son was dead. The Lord stops the procession and changes the scene from sorrow to rejoicing. Death never took place in His Presence and fled when He came near. He had compassion. He was touched with her grief and loss. He spoke to the DEAD and he heard and obeyed and rose to life! Now the one who was dead begins to speak.

Point 4: There came a fear on all. Respect is given for God had visited His people. Let us never forget that when a dead sinner is brought to new life, God deserves the glory. The actions of the Lord Jesus brought glory to God from the hearts of others. Do we?

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 526 **Lesson Name:** The Two Debtors

Theme: Sin's Depravity / Debt Owing / Debt Paid

Reading: Luke 7:41-43

Memroy Verse: John 3:17

Memory Verse Text: God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Use this lesson as a prelude to the one that follows about the sinful woman. Then you can make reference to it if you wish or have time in that story. It is a parable from the lips of the Lord. No one is named, but the conclusions are obvious.

Point 2: TWO Debtors - they both the same in that they owed a debt.

Point 3: TWO Debtors Unable to pay - they were both the same in that as well. They had nothing - here we see the absolute depravity of the sinner - totally destitute of anything to satisfy God's judgement against them.

Point 4: TWO debtors with the same benefactor. Let us remember who it is that we owe the debt to. Our hearts should be filled with wonder and appreciation when we remember that when He saw we had nothing to pay. He frankly forgave both.

Illustration:

Notes: In order to forgive the debt - the One to whom it was owed had to assume the cost Himself. So it was with our Lord, sin demanded payment in blood and He gave Himself to pay what we owed.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 527 **Lesson Name:** The Sinful Woman

Theme: Debt Paid / Sin Found Out / Detected

Reading: Luke 7:36-50

Memroy Verse: Luke 7:48

Memory Verse Text: He said unto her, "Thy sins are forgiven."

Attention Getter:

Point 1: One of the Pharisees - usually proud of their compliance with the outward form of the law. Loved to be seen and recognized as devoted to God's law. Invited the Lord to his home. In the midst of the meal, an uninvited woman turns up. She is well known. She is a sinner - and the word used describe exactly what kind of sinner she was.

Point 2: Amidst the inward groan from Simon's heart, she comes to the feet of the Lord. She weeps and washes them, drying them again with her long hair. To all of this it appears that the Lord is silent and for all we know, does not even look at her.

Point 3: The Lord knows what Simon thinks in his heart. Simon forgot something in his silent accusation - the Lord not only knew what kind of a sinner she was, He knew what Simon was. The Lord speaks to Simon about the woman. Likely those words fell on her ears in wonder! O can it be?

Point 4: The Lord then speaks directly to the woman. He wanted her to know firsthand. Sins forgiven - Saved - Peace. O the blessedness of it all. How did she know? She had his unfaltering word.

Illustration:

Notes: This passage in a chronological bible arrangement seems to fall after the words of Matthew 11:28 - perhaps she stood at the back of the crowd when the words were spoken and that is why she came! There is no clear reason to believe that this is Mary Magdalene.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 528 **Lesson Name:** The Sower

Theme: Earnest Seeker, but Hindered / Real Opportunity / Choices

Reading: Mark 4:3-25 Matt. 13:3-23 Luke 8:5-18

Memroy Verse: Mark 4:9

Memory Verse Text: He that hath ears to hear - let him hear.

Attention Getter: The Devil doesn't want you to be saved!

Point 1: The Sower - is identified in Mt 13:37. The whole purpose of the Sower is to place the Seed in the soil. His work is good. His desire is precious.

Point 2: The Seed - is the Word of God Luke 8:11. The Seed is alive. It is good. It never becomes stale dated. It will do it's work. I has the power to produce the results.

Point 3: The Soils - are they that hear the Word Luke 8:12-15. Here is where the difficulty comes. The wayside hearer brings before us the problem of the birds - the Devil comes quickly with many attractions in place to snatch away the Seed. The Stony Ground Hearer tells us that there was enough soil and moisture to cause the Seed to germinate but not to thrive. How often we only want the Word to reach so far and no further. There was never going to be fruit. The Thorny Soil tells of cares - the difficulties - and riches - the pleasures. Opposites yet having the same effect. The Devil doesn't care what it is that keeps us from producing fruit to God's Glory. The Good Ground Hearer - the sinner is not good in himself but an awakening and being plowed up by God can produce the right environment and lots of fruit.

Point 4: The Sermon - he that hath ears to hear, let him hear Mark 4:9. O the simplicity of applying this lesson. Will we be good ground hearers even in this right now?

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 529 **Lesson Name:** The Treasure & The Pearl

Theme: Price Paid / Bought with a Price / Redemption

Reading: Matt. 13:44-46

Memroy Verse: Matthew 13:46

Memory Verse Text: When He had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that He had, and bought it.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: The point of these stories is not the same but there are similarities! God's earthly people (Israel) are the Treasure so entwined in the world of men. Israel has lost the Peculiar Character God wanted them to bear. The Bride of Christ is the Pearl of Great Price in the great marketplace. That which is bought is meant to be His alone and forever.

Point 2: God still looks forward to the day when He shall have joy in Israel. Christ sees the tremendous value of that one pearl.

Point 3: One thing remains exactly the same. He had to see all that he had in order to buy. One aspect of the purchase points to it's overall character - He bought what is representative of the whole world to obtain the treasure. In the case of the pearl - it was specially the object of His delight.

Point 4: Lesson from a Pearl - 1. Round - a symbol of completeness or perfection. 2. Formed - it is not manufactured or shaped. Comes about due to the pain of a Living Thing. 3. Glory- one of the reasons for having a Pearl of this sort is being able to display it to others.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 530 **Lesson Name:** Jesus Calms the Storm

Theme: Christ the Lord / Christ the Saviour / Eternal Security

Reading: Mark 4:35-41 Matt. 8:18, 23-27 Luke 8:22-25

Memroy Verse: Romans 8:1

Memory Verse Text: There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: It was the Lord who suggested that they cross the Sea. He falls asleep - He truly was a man and grew weary from all His constant labour.

Point 2: A great storm arose. Galilee is known for these sudden storms, but one would wonder if this were not an attempt by the Devil. This was a real storm.

They were in jeopardy.

Point 3: They came to HIM. A move in the right direction! Their cry is a little different in each account and allows us to understand in a fuller way all that was involved.

Point 4: He told the storm to Hush as one would a little child. He is absolute Master of wind and wave and storm and the elements. Is He my Master? Have I heard Him? Do I obey His voice?

Illustration:

Notes: He will never lead us where He cannot sustain us.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 531 **Lesson Name:** Demons & the Gadarene

Theme: Sin's Power: It Both Controls and Habits

Reading: Mark 5:1-20 Matt. 8:28-34 Luke 8:26-39

Memroy Verse: Romans 5:8

Memory Verse Text: God commendeth His love towards us.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: At the point where they came to land, there was a man waiting for Him. Because of the Demon within - he expresses no desire to be freed - even rather the opposite - Torment me not. His falling down before the Lord was not a self humbling but no Demon can withstand the Authority of the Son of Man.

Point 2: He seemed a hopeless case. The Lord would not leave him in the grip of such masters. In spite of all he was and all that he had done, the Lord loved him. Lots of evidence of others who had tried to control him. The Demon says he is Legion. Requested that the Demons are not sent into the Great Abyss.

Point 3: The Lord sent them into the swine. The WHOLE HERD rushed down a steep place into the sea. Lost money talks and the citizens and owners can only see the loss and not the gain. The distorted values of our day are no better and may well be worse.

Point 4: They were afraid. Should have been more afraid of the sinister powers of Evil. They asked Him to leave. And He did. Think about your attitude to Him and be careful how you treat Him. He might do what you want.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 601 **Lesson Name:** Jairus' Daughter

Theme: Christ the Lifegiver and Resurrection / Sinner is Dead

Reading: Mark 5:21-43 Matt. 9:18-26 Luke 8:40-56

Memroy Verse: John 11:25

Memory Verse Text: I am the resurrection and the life.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Many anxious to see Him. One man's need stands out above them all. Jairus, a teacher of the synagogue, has an only 12 year old daughter who is dying. He falls at His feet. "A broken and a contrite heart, thou wilt not despise"! Ps. 51:17 He wants Him to lay His blessed Hands upon her! O the joy Jairus must have felt when he thought the Lord would come and heal his daughter.

Point 2: **He sees a miracle along the way but not the one he wanted so badly. Bad news comes running. The daughter is dead. Jesus speaks to reassure him. Then tells him to fear not but just trust Him.

Point 3: When they came to house - all weep and wail greatly - Death is an awful thing, a dread reality - He speaks again and they scorn His Precious Words. He took her by the Hand - we have HIS TOUCH (Cf with the next lesson when we have her touch) here and He speaks again, "Maid, arise!"

Point 4: She arose and walked! He does not ask for fame or recognition - it is enough for Him to have brought it all about!

Illustration:

Notes: **The Next Lesson fits with this one. So while the readings cover both stories, remember that you may not want to give all the details along with this one. You may want to say, As he was going, another very interesting thing happened which we'll talk about next week.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 602 **Lesson Name:** Woman who Touched the Hem of His Garment

Theme: Sinner is Diseased, Dark, and Dead / Real Opportunity /Forgiveness

Reading: Mark 5: 21-34

Memroy Verse: Mark 2:10

Memory Verse Text: The Son of Man hath power to forgive sins.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: This story follows Matt 9:1-8 The Paralytic so she had likely heard the news. She may also have been aware that when the Messiah came, "He would heal their diseases" Exactly why she came - we may not know - but the Lord said she acted in faith v34.

Point 2: She'd spent all she had - O the bleakness of her situation. But at least - when she had an opportunity she was aware of, she decided not to let it (Him) get away from her! He knew all about her struggle. He knew what was in her heart.

Point 3: Perhaps thought that the problem that had plagued her for 12 years was too small to trouble Him with since He was on His way to heal Jairus daughter. Just a touch but what a difference. Immediately cured. Note - he asks "Who touched my clothes?" He knew exactly what she had touched. She came and told Him al the truth. How easy to tell Him all about it now.

Point 4: He could have let her go without this conversation but He wanted to speak to her. He had something to say - something more to impart. He assures her that the plague will never trouble her again. He gives her peace and let her know that He recognized the simplest faith!

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 603 **Lesson Name:** What Jesus said about John the Baptist

Theme: Two ways

Reading: Matt. 11:2-19 Luke 7:18-35

Memroy Verse: Matthew 22:42

Memory Verse Text: What think ye of Christ?

Attention Getter:

Point 1: John had heard the prophecy and had carried out his purpose as the forerunner but now in deep trial the questions or need for assurances arise Mt 11:3

Point 2: The Lord responds by naming the evidence (his miracles) that prove He is the One He claims to be. He also reminds him that it is possible to stumble. A lesson to believers of all ages that trials can cause us to slip from our assurance and hope and calling.

Point 3: He then examines the hearts of John's hearers as He powerfully questions their response to the Forerunner. He highly praises dear John for his faithfulness and reminds the people of how John was both chosen and sent with a message for THEM. Further examination shows that He knows their response to HIS OWN PERSON as well.

Point 4: Mat 11:19 is such a great reminder of the great truth that what men said in derision is wonderfully true to all those who will humble themselves at the counsel of God and believe His gracious offer of mercy. A Friend of publicans and sinners.

Illustration:

Notes: Two responses: The people JUSTIFIED God by the baptism of John while the Pharisees Lu 7:30 justified themselves and rejected the counsel of God.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 604 **Lesson Name:** John the Baptist's beheading

Theme: Christ the Judge

Reading: John 3:25-30 Mark 6:14-29 Luke 3:19-20 Luke 9:7-9 Matt. 14:1-12

Memroy Verse: Romans 2:4

Memory Verse Text: Despisest thou the riches of His goodness and forbearance and longsuffering?

Attention Getter:

Point 1: John had made it clear that he was not the Christ. Yet what an honour to have ever been taken for Him! John had shown them the One who was the Way, the Lamb. John had condemned sin and stood for what was right. John had fulfilled his ministry. He had done what he could.

Point 2: John had boldly testified against Herod's sin. That sin is still wrong and still needs to be plainly spoken against *. He was known to be holy and true and Herod (conundrum!) liked to hear John in spite of his plain words that condemned him. Later in Lu9: he even desired to hear and see the Lord Jesus. Sometimes this is still true today. There are some who seem to be willing to go on hearing as long as they continue to do nothing about the Word they hear thus mocking God and not giving Him the respect He deserves.

Point 3: Herodias hated him. Waited - plotted - and with guile got her desire to shut up the man that spoke for God. The foolish king is caught by his own words and his weakness and sin is clear in this ultimate test of whether he was willing to do the right thing and honour God after all. "We ought to obey God rather than men!"

Point 4: The truth is Herod loved his sin and darkness rather than light. Note two things at the end of the story. His disciples came and took his body away to bury - does that mean it's over? No! they went and told Jesus! Is it over - no! Acts 17:30-31 that clear.

Illustration:

Notes: * While it needs to be plainly spoken against some of the children in the class may be the unwilling and innocent victims of it all. It behoves us to speak kindly and with consideration yet still plainly.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 605 **Lesson Name:** Feeding of 5000

Theme: Christ's Power

Reading: Mark 6:30-44 Mt. 14:13-21 Lu. 9:10-17 Jn 6:1-14

Memroy Verse: John 6:51

Memory Verse Text: I am the living bread which came down from heaven.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Lord Jesus desires to take His busy disciples aside to rest. But such was the miraculous power of His works that the throngs followed Him even there. There was little rest for Him while here. What an indicator of His great love for us and His devotion to the heart and will of His Father.

Point 2: Spoke to them and healed. His desire to reveal the Word Lu 9:11 preceeded the authentication by the miracles. O the tremendous importance of what He has to say and reveal.

Point 3: Darkness was nearing. Hunger and need were apparent to Him. He cares Mark 6:34! He tests His disciples. How often they failed to understand Him or His purposes. There is but little available for Him to use Lu9:13. Yet it was freely surrendered into His hands John 6:9. He prays. A dependent man*.

Point 4: The result is that they are ALL FILLED. No lack with Him! He had enough power to bless them all. What a remarkable lesson that they should have been able to apply to their spiritual need. There were leftovers. Abundant yet fresh and good as at the first. Wonder who took them away with them.

Illustration:

Notes: * Good lesson for us who are dependent on God as we break the bread to the young. Also a good time to remind the children that it is God we owe thanks to for everything including the food we eat.

Summary: The power to meet their need was all in HIM. That boy's lunch would not have even begun to meet the need without HIM. He is still the One we need.

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 606 **Lesson Name:** Jesus Walking on the Water

Theme: Christ the Saviour

Reading: Mark 6:47:52 Matt. 14:24-33 John 6:16-21

Memroy Verse: Mark 6:50

Memory Verse Text: Be of good cheer: it is I.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: After the feeding of the 5000. It is time to leave but Jesus remains to pray on the mountain as the disciples cross the lake. A fierce storm arises. Perhaps the Devil is out to destroy those that the Lord is going to send forth into the world to do his work. Perhaps the storm is allowed of the Lord alone so the disciples will see how He can meet their need.

Point 2: Praying on the mountain. An illustration of intercession for His own tossed on the sea of difficulties. Notice they were greatly troubled but He didn't wait till the ship went down before He came to meet their need. They cry out in fear. He speaks a word of cheer. How glad they would be to hear that familiar voice!

Point 3: Peter's action on the sea were of his own volition. Sometimes we too put ourselves in situations where we have to prove Him. The Lord gives him encouragement and direction. COME. But he takes a look around. What a lesson that should be. We are so prone to look on circumstances and others around.

Point 4: Peter "begins" - it wouldn't take but a moment. Likely not a swimmer, at least He knows who to cry out to. And in a split second - the Lord has rescued him. Another great sign of His ability is seen when He enters the ship. The storm is banished at His presence.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary: The Lord Jesus is the only ONE who can make the awful storm of judgement cease. If we have Him in our lives, the storm is a thing of the past and peace is ours instead.

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 607 **Lesson Name:** Peter's Confession

Theme: Christ the Lord

Reading: Mark 8:27-30 Matt. 16:13-20 Luke 9:18-21

Memroy Verse: Matthew 16:16

Memory Verse Text: Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: It is in gentile territory - not Jerusalem where the incident occurs. It is the Lord who presents the subject matter. Who do men say I am. There was obvious confusion. Not because the Lord had not clearly revealed Himself, but because men seem to listen to their peers and trust their own wicked hearts.

Point 2: If time and interest allow - it might be valuable with older ones to show who He was compared with and what the reasons might be.

Point 3: It really comes down to the individual's confession. Notice Peter's own confession Mt 16:16 The original text indicates that he said it with EMPHASIS "THOU"! The repetition of the definite article also shows EMPHASIS on Christ being the only One. Each of us are called upon to own up to what Christ means to us. What about you?

Point 4: NOTE the BLESSING of the Lord on Peter Mt 16:17 on the basis of his confession. This can be emphasized to the class. No one is truly blessed unless he is blessed of Christ. Peter's name was changed at this time. Our identity ought to know a difference depending on what He means to us as individuals.

Illustration:

Notes: Could be profitable with older ones (particularly if saved but important to all) to show them the purpose of the Lord Jesus to have a gathering (Church) together of those who own His Name and Claims and nothing will prevail against His purposes.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 608 **Lesson Name:** The Caananite's Daughter

Theme: Mercy

Reading: Mark 7:24-30 Matt. 15:21-28

Memroy Verse: Psalm 25:7

Memory Verse Text: According to Thy mercy remember Thou me.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Mk 7:24 Thank God "He could not be hid." Thankfully God's purpose was not to hide the One who was the Saviour but to reveal Him and all His grace.

Point 2: The woman heard of Him. She would be forever grateful too! What a sad state for her daughter to be in - unclean spirit. Whatever she had heard - she realized that He was worthy of her homage and humility. If only sinners realized the wonder of the Person who draws near to them.

Point 3: She besought Him to cast forth the demon - she knew what was the trouble and wasn't afraid to name it. She didn't beat around the bush. Came directly to the point. Didn't try and explain why she should be blessed. She knew it all depended on Him who could and then if He would.

Point 4: The Lord reminds her that His purpose in coming was for the children (the Jews) and she was a greek. She takes the low place - even the little dogs eat the crumbs. She would be forever grateful that He even had crumbs to give to the little dogs. The result of His word was waiting for her when she got back home.

Illustration:

Notes: Keep in mind that we deserved nothing either. We were at that time strangers etc - see Eph 2:12

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 609 **Lesson Name:** Deaf and Dumb No More!

Theme: Sinner is Diseased, Dark, and Dead / God's Power and Greatness

Reading: Mark 7:31-37 Matthew 15:29-31

Memroy Verse: James 1:21

Memory Verse Text: Receive with meekness the engrafted Word, which is able to save your souls.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Here the sinner is pictured as one who does not hear. "Hear and your soul shall live". Not only so, but he cannot speak rightly - another picture of the sinner who cannot give God the glory He deserves.

Point 2: He takes him aside. All alone with the Lord. He speaks a word - not unlike the words at creation "light be" here it is "open be" - the same results - omnipotent power knows no obstacle!

Point 3: He spake plain. What a picture of the sinner when he tells of the work of grace God has done in his soul. Once like Naaman, he thinks, but now he knows!

Point 4: The conclusion that the largely gentile (around the Sea of Galilee) multitude come to is the truth, "He has done all things well!" What has he done for you? Have you ever talked as plain as this man? Have you an ear to hear His voice?

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 610 **Lesson Name:** The Transfiguration

Theme: Christ the Son / Christ the Lord

Reading: Mark 9:2-8 Luke 9:28-36 Matt. 17:1-8

Memroy Verse: Matthew 17:5

Memory Verse Text: This is My beloved Son.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: As man He prayed. As the Son He communed with His Father. Note the pleasure He found (and frequency if suitable and you have time). A good study for young Christians. Perhaps we could ask - have we ever known what it is to be altered by our communion with the Father? Good check-up for teacher and young believers alike.

Point 2: Elijah - great(est?) prophet. Moses great Leader. Both talking with Him. Though great - the greatest of all was the One who condescended to talk with them. No doubt the 3 disciples were amazed. They highly esteemed these two - perhaps - even more highly than the One who was with them. Need to take care that we always give HIM the Highest Honour. Too easy to become familiar with these things.

Point 3: Peter has an idea - it seemed good to him. Likely to the others too. Our thoughts are not God's thoughts.

Point 4: God clearly declares both His pleasure and the wonder of His relationship with this glorious One who was visiting amongst the sons of Men. Left alone with Him. Did they finally realize the Wonder of the Person who was with them - who has no equal and to whom none can compare!

Illustration:

Notes: Peter later tells of the event with wonder. 2 Peter 1:16-18. Make sure YOU read it and let the wonder of it fill your soul, even if you never refer to it as you teach.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 611 **Lesson Name:** Wicked & Unthankful Servant

Theme: Mercy

Reading: Matt. 18:23-35

Memroy Verse: Matthew 18:32

Memory Verse Text: I forgave thee all that debt.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: There's a day of reckoning. And it's coming for us as well.

Point 2: They owed HIM - no dispute! NOTHING TO PAY. He'd wasted it or he'd lost it or whatever and the COST was going to be greater than he ever dreamed Mt. 18:25

Point 3: Asks for mercy and time - neither of which he deserves. Got far more - FORGIVEN - why? His Master is moved with compassion (pity that touches the whole being!) At His own cost - He has forgiven.

Point 4: What lesson did the First Debtor learn? None. What did the blessing he received so freely do for him? Nothing. How sad - the same is true of so many today who have been shown mercy from the Lord who undertook their debt and endured the cost Himself. Remember Someone is watching all that we do and seeing what lessons we have learned from His love to us.

Illustration:

Notes: Speaking very conservatively - The talent is probably worth about (750 ounces of silver) \$1000.PLUS - That makes a MILLION PLUS owing for the 1st debtor. A hundred pence is like \$7,500 ie 100 days work @ \$75.

Summary: There was another day of reckoning for that man who never learned the lesson! And there was no mercy in that day.

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 612 **Lesson Name:** Bring the Lunatic to Jesus

Theme: Christ the Saviour

Reading: Mark 9:14-29, Matthew 17:14-2, Luke 9:37-42

Memroy Verse: I John 4:10

Memory Verse Text: He loved us and sent His Son.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: The cause of THIS Lunacy is from the World of Evil Spirits. This lad, was an only child: he had also had this problem for some time. The father, sorely grieved as only a loving father could be, comes kneeling and calling for mercy. The spirit assumes control and tears him from time to time, foaming and gnashing teeth and the father has watched his son thrown into the fire and water - out of control and hopeless. He seems to be slowly dying.

Point 2: The disciples were helpless and could do nothing. BRING HIM TO ME. The evil spirit, when brought near, tears him again - observe that the spirit purposes to destroy him.

Point 3: In Matthew and Luke - the Lord rebukes the demon but Mark gives us a little more insight, as to the Lord's purpose in delivering this lad. He speaks to the father - if you can believe - then - makes a grand statement - all things are possible. His distress is evident but he acknowledges he believes but confesses the need of help with his doubt.

Point 4: The Word the Lord speaks is a commanding word that brings results - and the deaf and dumb spirit is never allowed to return. His work and results endure.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 613 **Lesson Name:** The Light of the World

Theme: Sinner is Diseased, Dark, and Dead / Christ Revealed

Reading: John 8:12-25, 1:1-9,3:19-21, 2Corinthians 4:3-6

Memroy Verse: John 12:46

Memory Verse Text: I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.

Attention Getter: Use a flashlight or a lighthouse to catch attention or prompt a story to get started with

Point 1: THE LIGHT is a title of the Lord Jesus and what a remarkable title it is! Sometime we talk of people who light up a room with their smile or personality. He "Lights" a LIFE forever.

Point 2: In John 1, the WORD is the LIGHT - which explains how the Light dawns in the lives of Sinners. We know that the Lord is the "Logos" and words give understanding. He literally sheds light on every man 1:9. In John 1 light and life are brought together and just as light is necessary in the natural world for life - so He is necessary if a sinner is ever to have spiritual life.

Point 3: John 3 tells us that men love darkness rather than light and it tells us why, their deeds are in fellowship with the Prince of Darkness. A person who does the truth, is not afraid of Light because truth is in fellowship with the LIGHTGIVER.

Point 4: The Devil is opposed to The True Light ever reaching those he has duped. He knows what will happen. Use the example of Acts 9:3-5 Saul. The Light that shone spoke, Saul called the One who spoke, Lord.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 614 **Lesson Name:** The Man Born Blind

Theme: Christ the Lord / Sin's Blindness

Reading: John 9:1-41

Memroy Verse: John9:33

Memory Verse Text: If this man were not of God, He could do nothing.

Attention Getter: Ever tried to pretend you were blind. How did you make out. Pretty good sometimes. Did you cheat? Anyone want to stay that way?

Point 1: Man was blind from birth. Could not, had not, seemed like he would never SEE. What a blessing it is to see.

Point 2: The Lord makes a wonderful declaration about the life of this poor handicapped man. "That the works of God should be made manifest in him". Is there not a sense in which the Lord looks at every one of us and whatever handicap we may face with the same wonderful possibility?

Point 3: He proclaims Himself to be 'the Light of the World' and shows that fact in what He does for the man. The man obeys the instruction. Simple faith. Direct obedience brings him to experience the wonder of what the Lord has done. Same is true today.

Point 4: Questioned about it all - he is afterward somewhat uncertain about who but never what took place. Then he meets HIM, and sees HIM and hears HIM. and he'll never forget HIM! And you could meet HIM too.

Illustration:

Notes: The importance of seeing. We gain knowledge by smelling 3% - by tasting 3% - by touching 6% by hearing 13% but by seeing - 75%. That is why we need to make use of visuals!

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 615 **Lesson Name:** What will it cost me?

Theme: Christ the Lord / God Calls / World's Attraction

Reading: Luke 9:46-62, Mark 9:33-37

Memroy Verse: Psalm143:10

Memory Verse Text: Teach me to do Thy will.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: It is interesting that just after they have all failed to cast out the demon Mark 9:37-43 and all are amazed at the Lord Jesus v43. It should be very obvious who is the greatest and that there is no else even near His standard.

Point 2: Nevertheless - there is a dispute and the Lord (of course!) perceived it. He takes a child - his interest in the children is well documented - as an illustration of what it means to be least or smallest! But His Rules are transforming see Luke 9:48. Are we honestly willing to take the low place?

Point 3: Next - it is seen that He is on His way to Jerusalem (and all the rejection and sorrow that will surround Him there). The Samaritans prejudice and bias caused them to refuse Him - what does He do? Fire from heaven? No - he shows grace. Are we willing to show grace when abused.

Point 4: Some with seeming potential as disciple come to Him. The Lord reminds them of what it will cost. Comforts, Common Expectations, Convenience are all on the block.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary: The man in v59 calls the Lord Jesus "LORD" but in the same breath says "ME FIRST" - this cannot be! Either He is LORD OF ALL, or not LORD AT ALL. What do you say today. Think not of what it will cost me, but what did it cost HIM to save us. 1John 3:16

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 616 **Lesson Name:** The Good Samaritan

Theme: Love of God

Reading: Luke 10:25:37

Memroy Verse: Luke10:33

Memory Verse Text: When he saw him, he had compassion on him.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Story is told to show the reality of love. Love is revealed by the things we do. Here's a man who could say 'No one cared for me like that Samaritan Stranger!'

Point 2: The man is on his way! He was on the way down. Which way are you going? His journey was taking him farther from the City of God, the City of Peace. Every single step was taking him further away.

Point 3: He joined up with others quite innocently*. They seemed okay to him or he never would have done it. Then, when opportunity came, they showed their true colours. They beat him, robbed him, and left him for dead. Many are the thieves of good conscience, morals, good intentions, time etc.

Point 4: Who made all the difference. Not the ones who should have cared. the priest who should have been there for God, the levite who boasted in the law and the privileges of God's people. It was the Kind Stranger who showed how much he cared by what he was willing to do! He had to do it all - the poor beaten man could do nothing at all.

Illustration:

Notes: * but had he been more aware, less self confident about his own discernment he might have been warned and saved himself this grief! Too many in the world are saying, I know what is good for me!

Summary: No doubt, visitors would come to the Inn where the poor man was recovering. Can't you see him straining to see if it was the MAN who now meant everything to him?

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 617 **Lesson Name:** Jesus at Bethany

Theme: Christ the Sympathizer / Christ Revealed

Reading: Luke 10:38-42

Memroy Verse: Isaiah 1:18

Memory Verse Text: Come now and let us reason together, saith the Lord.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: He wanted to come to their home. Martha wanted to have him there. What a wonderful thing. She received Him. Not only did she receive Him, but right into her house. How would the Lord feel if He came to your house? How would you feel?

Point 2: She made a supper - likely put on her very best - pulled out the best recipes she had - nothing was too good for Him. What about you and me, what do we think of Him? Has there ever been anything we've done just for Him?

Point 3: But look at Mary - she's at His feet. Why? That's where she wanted to be. Why? She wanted the best He had to give. Martha is upset cause Mary doesn't help with what she thought was important.

Point 4: She wanted the Lord to rebuke her but she was rebuked instead. Did He yell at Martha? No. Perhaps sadly He chides with her to consider what is best. There's room at His feet for you too.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary: What do we learn at His feet as we listen to Him? He'll tell us what is really important, He'll show us things that have real value, He'll reveal how much He loves us etc etc.

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 618 **Lesson Name:** Disciples Taught to Pray

Theme: Christ the Sympathizer: His Care and Compassion

Reading: Luke 11:1-13

Memroy Verse: Luke 18:1

Memory Verse Text: Men ought always to pray.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: He was praying. His example alone ought to teach us that we need to pray. If He needed to pray as He met the difficulties of life on earth. Even more do we! Their request was Teach us TO PRAY not HOW TO pray.

Point 2: It should be pointed out (especially to older classes) that the disciples are Jewish and this is a prayer that the people of Israel will pray especially in the 7 year Tribulation period after the Lord Jesus returns. Also it was never intended to be a repetitive prayer such as is used in Churches etc. It is a model prayer that is - these are things that should concern us when we pray.

Point 3: First - Holiness ascribed to God. Then - A desire that HIS KINGDOM would come ON EARTH (Millenium - 1000 years. Following that - the request is for daily bread - importance of recognizing that God is the Great Provider and being thankful for food can be mentioned **. Forgiveness of sins likely a recognition of Israel's past rejection of Christ and the Word. Temptation* - the danger of being lured by their extremity into Idolatry by the Beast

Point 4: He then tells a parable to remind us of how willing and able God is to meet our need. And the importance of continuing in prayer till we receive the answer we seek. It would be a very good idea right there and then to bow your head with the class and name them all praying specifically for them.

Illustration:

Notes: **but in particular this means that in tribulation times, those who would be faithful to God would be denied food etc because they would not take the mark of the Beast! *Note God leads no one into wickedness but often into trial that at times seem very evil - also in this case, it may even mean they would be brought to the attention of the Evil One.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 619 **Lesson Name:** Reformation is Not Enough

Theme: Sin's Power: It Both Controls and Habits

Reading: Luke 11:14-26, Matthew 12:43-45

Memroy Verse: Luke 13:3

Memory Verse Text: Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: When the Lord does a mighty miracle there are those who attribute it to the Devil. He shows the difference between the work of the Evil One and the Righteous One. Satan working against his own work is most unlikely foolishness.

Point 2: Using a fortress idea - he calls the Devil the Strong Man - but Himself the Stronger than he! - What a title for the Mighty One. He shows the folly of self reformation too - like a house swept and cleaned up - but with no defense against the evil onslaught of sinfulness and depravity.

Point 3: Notice - the UNCLEAN spirit gathers up others worse than himself. How like a man who has cleaned up his act - yet the very accomplishment brings pride and self will that are far more deadly. More people go to hell because of pride and self-will than because of murder and other vile sin that we would quickly condemn and eschew - yet we embrace the monsters of our depravity, feed them and give them a home within our lives.

Point 4: The sinner's only hope is to acknowledge his utter hopelessness and turn to God that the STRONGER THAN HE might altogether save and keep him.

Illustration:

Notes: Repent = to think differently - So since our thinking is wrong then differently means rightly - and where will we get right thoughts about ourselves. From the word of God - "we are all as an unclean thing and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags"

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 620 **Lesson Name:** The Rich Fool

Theme: World's Attraction / Choices

Reading: Luke 12:13-21

Memroy Verse: Luke 12:15

Memory Verse Text: A man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: God blessed and gave the increase in the harvest. God gave the man the intelligence and skills and strength he had. God gave him the persistence and abilities he had. But God got nothing from the man who had given him it all. Not even a mention. Not a single word of thanks. Not to mention a portion set aside for God which the Jew was required to do by the law of God.

Point 2: Here is blind reason without God 'reasoned within himself'. Like thought it all through well considering all the pros and cons - but the highest human wisdom cannot compare with the knowledge of God - see Isa. 55:8-10

Point 3: The decision is made to pull down and built up - how is this man different from the sinners in the days of Lot Luke 17:28-29? Not at all. They did what they did without thought of consequence or God. So did he. Romans 15:4

Point 4: GOD SAID - the final word. If making plans - beware - God always has full knowledge of the basis of your decision making and always has the Final Word. Always.

Illustration:

Notes: Note this incident and lesson is really about covetousness. Something that is growing more and more obvious each year in our day. Far too many decisions are being made on the basis of monetary gain only.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 621 **Lesson Name:** The Barren Fig Tree

Theme: Opportunity: A Turning Point / Choices

Reading: Luke 13:1-9

Memroy Verse: Isaiah 55:6

Memory Verse Text: Seek ye the Lord while He may be found.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: He is told of Pilate's harsh treatment of the Galileans. He also reminds them of the Tower of Siloam that fell. Tragedies both manmade and accidental occur. But the lesson is not to decide the cause but rather to recognize that this is a voice to be prepared.

Point 2: Preparation - readiness is to repent. Repentance is not to be sorry but to turn from your indifference & fruitlessness and to look to God to make that complete turnabout in you.

Point 3: Fig tree in a vineyard. Unusual - must have been put there with very special intent and design. Same is true with where & how God has placed us. It was a place where there was a special caregiver. He had spent years trying to make it fruitful. He was will to extend extra effort to make it fruitful.

Point 4: No fruit. A picture of a life without Christ. Nothing for the Master. His heart yearned for the figs. Had come often but no pleasure from the tree. Must have been painful for the Owner to say "Cut it down"! Pleadings that it might be left till further work and time would bring the desired result.

Illustration:

Notes: Fig tree is a very special picture of Israel. Just a thought - while an additional year is asked for, there is no word from the Master consenting to it. We all assume it will be given but no promise of even tomorrow!

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 622 **Lesson Name:** Jesus Straightens a Woman

Theme: God's Promise - He Keeps It

Reading: Luke 13:10-27

Memroy Verse: Psalm 33:9

Memory Verse Text: He spake and it was done.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Sabbath Day Object Lesson: Still hadn't learned the lesson he had taught them so clearly in Matthew 12:11 - Woman reduced to utter uselessness. Helpless in her awful state. What a picture of the sinner only the sinner doesn't seem to realize how desperately sin has affected him.

Point 2: He saw her. What a word that is! But then to read, He called her! What a moment when the Creator takes notice of the lost and undone. Called her to Him - He calls still to many today. She obeyed.

Point 3: He speaks a word - like at the beginning of the Creation. 'He spake and it was done.' How we need to wonder at His words and learn to give them total respect. He can do all He says He can.

Point 4: Interesting to see the response of puny men who quote the Lord's own Words to Him from the law. Thank God - at his response - they at least were put to shame!

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 623 **Lesson Name:** Two Ways

Theme: Two Ways

Reading: Luke 13:22-33 Matthew 7:13-14

Memroy Verse: Matthew 7:14

Memory Verse Text: Broad is the way that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat.

Attention Getter: It is too easy to go to hell ! But no one ever goes there without having the opportunity to go to heaven! Some say that the road to hell is paved with good intentions. Do you intend to be in Heaven? Need to do something about it.

Point 1: It is the Lord who tells us of the two ways. So we can trust Him. He would not tell us that if it were not true. IF THEN it is true - we should pay very close attention to WHY he is telling us.

Point 2: Notice where the Lord is going v22 and v35. He knows what will take place. At Jerusalem is the answer to our need. What is the answer? There is no other way than for Him to die in order to provide that Way to heaven. Herod - the Fox - a reference to his cunning - but no instrument of cunning or man's wisdom could ever be successful against the One who knew all things. They could not tell Him anything He did not already know.

Point 3: Someone is going to close the DOOR! And likely soon. Which side are you on? Do you want to be on that side forever? This door will never open again.

Point 4: A tremendous difference is pointed out between IN Luke 13:24(2x),28,29 Matthew 7:13,14 and OUT Luke 13:24,25,27,28 & Matthew 7:13,14. Note there are people from all over the world who will be in v29! But will you be OUT?

Illustration:

Notes: This is perhaps a good time to use a class size copy of the Two Roads Chart. Handy to have this visual expression of the Lord's words.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 624 **Lesson Name:** The Watchers & The Wedding

Theme: Christ the Sinless / Religion's Inability

Reading: Luke 14:1-15

Memroy Verse: Luke 14:9

Memory Verse Text: Give this Man place.

Attention Getter: There are two stories here. They watch Him for faults in the first one - He watches them in the second and He knows what's wrong!

Point 1: Was there a plot behind the invitation? Likely for they watched Him. Even so, our Lord was not afraid of any or all of them. He acted before His God without fear. Were they the ones who saw to it that this pitiful man was "before Him" knowing He could not resist releasing him. Dropsy is not a disease itself but a symptom involving swelling of the limbs. It's cause due to some inner problem of heart or kidneys and may even have been some judgment for sin. Don't press Nu. 5:11-27 but consider it.

Point 2: These men cared about profit (thus they would pull and animal out of a pit) but no care for this poor individual. No man like this is going to go away unblessed when the Lord Jesus is there, no matter what the Pharisees or anyone else says. No one, with the disease of sin, needs to go away unblessed now either.

Point 3: He tells a story to these same men, whom He had observed wanting the best seats at the meal, to reveal His knowledge of them. At a wedding, he reminds them it is better not to chose the place of honour for yourself (like these men did) as you may be embarrassed when someone worthy of more honour displaces you. How much better to take the lowest place (as He did) and then be exalted in the eyes of others as you are placed at a seat of honour.

Point 4: Directly he now speaks to His host about who to invite. It is wrong for any man to isolate himself (with friends, brethren, kinsmen & rich neighbours) so that he does not consider the needs of the less fortunate. God will reward.

Illustration:

Notes: While our verse is in the story. Make sure that the class understand that this is a reference to the Lord Jesus. Have you any room for Jesus? If the response is Yes - then what place are you giving Him right now?

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 625 **Lesson Name:** The Great Supper
Theme: Choices / God's Provision - It's Fullness

Reading: Luke 14:16-24

Memroy Verse: Luke 14:17

Memory Verse Text: Come for all things are now ready.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: The Certain Man is clearly a Great and Caring Man. The gospel supper is loaded with forgiveness, peace, the Hope of the believers, joy, the greatness of His love etc. A Boundless supply.

Point 2: Simple to avail themselves of it. COME. Excuses are not reasons. THEY MISSED IT because of their own folly. All these same things were evident in Noah's day. Man's attitude towards God's grace is tragic. Look what happened then.

Point 3: The response of the kind & generous hearted man is to send forth His Servant with great haste to the highways and hedges - to the poverty stricken. Is that why the gospel is being accepted in 3rd world countries today but so few are reached in our own land?

Point 4: The desire of the Man and the efforts of the Servant (Cf servants in Matt. 22 - like the Holy Spirit) to see that the table is filled is quite noticeable. God is doing everything to see that all men are invited to enjoy the great feast He has prepared.

Illustration:

Notes: You may want to choose which of these two stories - this or "No Wedding Garment" as you may find it rather duplicates the truth. However, you may want to take two sessions and use both to emphasize both truths more effectively.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 626 **Lesson Name:** NO WEDDING GARMENT

Theme: God's Provision - Its Fullness / Judgment's Finality

Reading: Matthew 22:1-14

Memroy Verse: Isaiah 64:6

Memory Verse Text: We are all as an unclean thing.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: It is no less than a great King who sends forth the Invitation to the Feast.

The greatness of the supper will reflect the greatness of the One who provides.

Point 2: In the case of the king the response extends even to mocking, and the murder of those that brought them the invitation. The tragedy is that they

MISSED it. The violence & carelessness of their reaction is alarming. THE extent they were willing to go reveals the depravity resentment in their hearts.

Point 3: THE RESPONSE - the king sends forth His armies vs 8 . This story can be related for older students to the Revelation of the Lord after the tribulation when so many have been abused and martyred.

Point 4: The king comes in to see the guests. A picture of those who would fain join the ranks of heaven on their own merit. What this man had on could not begin to compare with what the King had offered.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 627 **Lesson Name:** The Cost of Discipleship

Theme: Consecration / Christ the Lord

Reading: Luke 14:25-35

Memroy Verse: John 9:28

Memory Verse Text: Then they reviled him and said, THOU ART HIS DISCIPLE.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: It is the Lord who speaks of the Cost. He wants them to come to Him but also makes the multitude aware that it is not without cost. HATE = relative word meaning to love LESS**! Family claims.

Point 2: It is the Lord who says - that unless this is true - HE CANNOT be my disciple! Note - there were many types of disciples (John Baptist's, Pharisees etc all with their particular characteristics) but the Lord here reveals the characteristics of 'His' disciples.

Point 3: The standards are His to set, NOT ours to decide upon. The Cross v27 is not a disease or burden as some think, but a man who took up a cross, was only headed for one thing - eternity. And in that moment - only what he had (with eternity's value) had any worth. World and it's claims.

Point 4: Now he takes up the comforts and claims of things. The word is RENOUNCE - to turn the back on the claims those things would have on our time, energies and abilities and say "NO". Our only fit response then to Him is "YES, I will follow Thee"

Illustration:

Notes: ** Mal. 1:2,3 "Jacob have I loved, Esau have I LOVED LESS"

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 628 **Lesson Name:** The Lost Sheep

Theme: Sinner's Need and Helplessness

Reading: Luke 15:7

Memroy Verse: Luke 15:2

Memory Verse Text: This Man receiveth sinners.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Sheep has wandered - that is it's nature. Sheep cannot clean themselves like a dog or other animal - they need a diligent Shepherd to watch for disease that can easily claim them. Sheep cannot find his way back - no sense of direction - always seems to take the wrong way - need the watchful Shepherd to bring them back. Sheep cannot protect themselves - need a strong deliverer for they are easy prey.

Point 2: 99 sheep are not enough for this Shepherd. While the story seems to be about Sheep - really it is about the Shepherd of the Sheep for without Him they cannot continue to exist.

Point 3: He goes after ONE. He cares, His movement and purpose show how much. He does not abandon any - not even one. Though this one may have strayed many times previously and is seeming hopeless - yet all are important to HIM.

Point 4: He goes so far. He does not stop. He will not stop until He finds it. When He does - He rejoices - it means so much that He calls others to rejoice with him as well. This "MY SHEEP".

Illustration:

Notes: Allow the children to use a little imagination with regard to the enemies of the Sheep (Wolf, Lion, Bear at least) if they were to find that sheep wandering without HIM.

Summary: Another note on the Shepherd's Care:

Isa 40:11 He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young. - His gentleness - care - and tenderness are very evident.

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 629 **Lesson Name:** The Lost Coin

Theme: Sinner is Diseased, Dark, and Dead

Reading: Luke 15:1-2, 8-10

Memroy Verse: Luke 15:10

Memory Verse Text: There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: The Coin is unconsciously lost. Yet it is valued and missed. It cannot bring itself to the place of being saved. It cannot even sense it's lostness yet may grow more defiled as time goes by and less likely in the natural sense to ever be recovered.

Point 2: The coin was a drachma approximately equal to a denarius and about the amount paid in Bible times for a days labour. It's value was not so much in it's own worth but rested in the value set upon it by the woman who sought it.

Point 3: Lights a lamp - o the need for the light to expose what lies in the darkness. Searches DILIGENTLY - with great care - she was doing it in a manner that could not possibly miss it.

Point 4: She wanted others (neighbours) to share in the joy of the moment. Here we find the estimation of heaven is brought before us in the rejoicing over the recovery of the lost.

Illustration:

Notes: In this lesson the emphasis is on the Work of the Spirit of God. Lost Sheep - the emphasis is on the Son. In the Lost Son - the emphasis is on the Father. The Godhead is involved in the work of Salvation.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 630 **Lesson Name:** The Lost Son(s)

Theme: Sin's Depravity / World's Attraction / Sin Admitted

Reading: Luke 15:11-31

Memroy Verse: Luke 15:18

Memory Verse Text: I have sinned against heaven and in thy sight.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: The "Father" is mentioned so frequently in this story (12x). It is clearly his heart that is revealed in the good things that take place. The prodigal(s) for there really are two prodigals. Their hearts are also revealed in the things that they do.

Point 2: The Prodigal takes his own selfish determined way with NOT ONE WORD of thanks or acknowledgement of all the good that the Father has provided him with all these years. *Note the eldest son is unthankful too v29. How sad that in all that time he never felt the joy of a grateful appreciation for all the Father's love.

Point 3: Gathering all - he leaves. Wasting all - he earns a bad conscience. Spending all - he feels his want. Considering all - he comes to himself and faces a momentous decision. Leaving all - he turns about. Admitting all - he finds out just how gracious and loving was his father's heart.

Point 4: There are those who rejoice with the Father. But the eldest son will never understand - his hear and his sin is just as bad though he never left home.

Illustration:

Notes: You may want to take a second week with this story since oftentimes the problem of the class (if believer's children) is that they are self-righteous like the older brother feeling they have never done anything so bad.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 631 **Lesson Name:** Rich Man & Lazarus

Theme: Judgment's Certainty

Reading: Luke 16:19-31

Memroy Verse: Luke 16:26

Memory Verse Text: Between us and you, there is a great gulf fixed.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Two men in life - one rich & one poor - one privileged & one so desparate - one who did not listen to God & one who did. Men may have spoken in his life of how shrewd and wise he was to have such a fortune.

Point 2: Two men in death - Lazarus died - no surprize - we must all die - but it was a voice of warning to the rich man, and he paid no attention. Note - angels carried the real man to glory while the body perhaps went to the garbage dump - no burial mentioned. The rich man also died - likely with much attention, glowing words of eulogy and great pomp and ceremony.

Point 3: Two men in Eternity - one comforted & the other tormented. One blessed and rejoicing - the other in direst need and pain. Lazuras doesn't speak about need now because he has everything heart could long for but the rich man needs so much and has nothing even though he pleads for undeserved mercy.

Point 4: What made the difference. What they did with the Word of God. The rich man now realizes how important the WORD was but his response to it proves him to be a fool forever!

Illustration:

Notes: It is important for older classes to point out that this is not a parable. These were real men.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 701 **Lesson Name:** The Good Shepherd

Theme: Christ the Shepherd

Reading: John 10:1-18, 26-28

Memroy Verse: John 10:11

Memory Verse Text: I am the Good Shepherd: the Good Shepherd giveth His life for the sheep.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: There are others who are interested in the sheep. The Thief and the Robber are interested but only so far as it might suit their pleasure or profit. There is a wolf in the passage. He too is interested I the sheep but not their welfare only his own.

Point 2: The Shepherd cares. The Shepherd knows the sheep - by name and habit and need. The Shepherd speaks to the sheep and they know his voice and they follow him.

Point 3: This Shepherd would give his life for the sheep in order that no harm might come to them. The Second picture of Him in the passage is that the Shepherd is the Door. That is when the Sheep are safe from all danger inside the fold, He (like the Judean shepherds) lies down in the door way. No danger will reach those that He counts dear.

Point 4: MY SHEEP are distinguished in v 14,26,27 They are known, they hear His voice, they follow Him, and they are eternally safe

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 702 **Lesson Name:** Lazarus Raised out of the Grave

Theme: Sinner is Diseased, Dark, and Dead / Christ the Lifegiver and Resurrection

Reading: John 11:1-44

Memroy Verse: John 11:5

Memory Verse Text: Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Lazarus is sick. This sickness is to display God's glory v4. Sorrow comes to his own in spite of God's love for them V6,35,36. The Able One does not immediately relieve the problem and to their grief death seems to claim the victory.

Point 2: Death and Corruption are well established - 4 days dead v17. The Lord Jesus speaks to illuminate and reveal Himself in spite of the obvious death and sorrow that existed. 'I AM . . .'. Important for us to realize that this person wants to reveal Himself and be known in all our circumstances.

Point 3: Notice how moved the Lord was about this. He does share a real part in our sorrow. He cares but somethings are needful for His Glory to be revealed v40. He takes over in spite of death and the unseen world. Note He acts in fellowship with God the Father. Take away the stone.

Point 4: HE SPEAKS and all must yield to Him. Note the difference between Him saying, Come forth! And "Lazarus, come forth!" Note too - he was bound and the Word of the Lord brought him right out of the tomb. There are no limits to His power.

Illustration:

Notes: Some feel that this tomb was more like a catacomb having many graves in it. The stone would be over the main entrance.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 703 **Lesson Name:** Ten Lepers

Theme: Sinner is Diseased, Dark, and Dead / Christ the Saviour

Reading: Luke 17:11-19

Memroy Verse: Psalm 145:8

Memory Verse Text: The Lord is gracious and full of compassion.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: The Lord Jesus is on His way to Jerusalem and is passing through the midst of Samaria and Galilee. Ten Lepers meet him - but stand afar off. What a pitiful picture of the sinner. At such a distance from God and ruined by the loathsome disease of sin.

Point 2: They plead both His Saving Name (Jesus) and also for mercy. HE saw them as no one else ever had. HE speaks to them as no one else ever could. "Go show yourselves to the priests"

Point 3: They simply obey and as they go - they are cleansed as He had said. One of them turns back - falls on his face - with thanksgiving. A Samaritan - stranger to the covenants of Israel.

Point 4: The Saviour noticed - there had been so little glory attributed to God even in all His works (though none had ever brought more glory to Him). The response of mankind so poor and pitiful compared to the abundant blessing imparted! He still takes pleasure in the praises of His people

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 704 **Lesson Name:** The Pharisee & Publican

Theme: Way Seems Right / Religion's Inability

Reading: Luke 18:9-14

Memroy Verse: Proverbs14:12

Memory Verse Text: There is a way that seemeth right unto a man.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Note the purpose of the story v9. Trusting in themselves and their efforts. Claiming their own righteousness. Comparing themselves with others.

Point 2: Both men felt their need of God. IN truth - all men need God and should be concerned about their relationship and standing with Him. Both men prayed to the same God but their approach to Him was different.

Point 3: One claimed his own merit and righteousness. He never realized how holy God was and how he was a sinner by birth. Even pride is sin and God hates it "a proud look"Pr. 6:17. The other could not claim any righteousness in himself and smites upon his chest, bows his head and cries for "Mercy".

Point 4: THE OUTCOME IS IMPORTANT. One man did not get anything. The other got more than he asked for "justified" (to be cleared from every charge of sin that could ever be brought up against him" because his only claim was the sacrifice that was right then being consumed upon the altar.

Illustration:

Notes: Make sure you have an adequate idea of what Mercy is. Don't confuse Bible terms when you are speaking to them. Also - remember that the more simple an explanation and example are - they are more likely to be understood and remembered.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 705 **Lesson Name:** Jesus & the Children

Theme: Christ the Saviour / Faith

Reading: Mark 10:13-16 Matt. 19:13-15 Luke 18:15-17

Memroy Verse: Mark 10:14

Memory Verse Text: Suffer the little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not.

Attention Getter: Why did Jesus want the little children to "suffer"?

Point 1: Someone brought the children to Him. What a wise idea. Here was one who could bless them not only physically but also spiritually and eternally.

Point 2: His disciples somehow thought He didn't want to be bothered. Perhaps from the example of other religious folks around. Note carefully. HE is not like anyone else! He is our Creator and God the Son.

Point 3: He uses the children as an example for all. That if they are to come to Him they need to come with the trust and acceptance of a very little child. Use examples to show how trusting young children can be.

Point 4: He had time for them v16. He had a place close to His heart for them and He was very willing to bless them. Think of what He could do and can do for you! Perhaps having the children suggest those things would be good as long as you can keep them on track.

Illustration:

Notes: Important to make sure the class understands this old fashioned word. Perhaps you should read the text in several other versions for yourself before attempting to make it clear.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 706 **Lesson Name:** Rich Young Ruler

Theme: Choices / Sin's Attractiveness

Reading: Mark 10:17-31 Matt. 19:16-20 Luke 18:18-30

Memroy Verse: Luke 18:22

Memory Verse Text: Yet lackest thou one thing!

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Young Teacher seems so earnest - he runs to Jesus. Looks as though he can't wait. Kneels - looks as though he really knows who the Saviour is. Shows apparent respect. Seems a lovely young man! Asks an excellent question.

Point 2: The Lord Jesus reminds him of the commandments which were given to awaken man to his need and sin Rom 3:19-20. He claims to have kept them and quotes some but not all - significant? Doesn't quote "Thou shalt not covet!" In the heart of the best of us lurks a nature that is clever at hiding sin.

Point 3: Jesus beholding him. He could see what no one else could see. He knew there was enough in his sinful nature to reject the Saviour. LOVED HIM - in spite of all.

Point 4: Puts the test before him that will reveal all that is hidden behind the respectable outward appearance. Touches on what is dearest to this young man. Focusses on what he holds dearer than eternal things.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 707 **Lesson Name:** The Lord and the Laborers

Theme: Christ the Lord / God's Wonderful Ways

Reading: Matt. 20:1-16

Memroy Verse: Acts 10:36

Memory Verse Text: He is Lord of all.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Lord wanted someone to work for Him in His vineyard. Makes a bargain with them for the going rate. A penny was the amount an average man would earn daily.

Point 2: Later in the day the Lord seeks others to work for Him too. His only promise is that they will receive what is right! He always does what is right. We can count on that. They were happy enough to join the others without getting a specific rate. His work was enough.

Point 3: The problem came when it was time to recompense what was done for Him. They "supposed" - we can count on His Word but not our suppositions! Their thoughts led them to murmur against Him. O the importance of recognizing that we have such a propensity for evil thoughts and actions.

Point 4: They had measured themselves against the others v12. They accused Him of favouritism. How important for us to remember that He is sovereign - He can and will do what is right and what He wills.

Illustration:

Notes: Kingdom of Heaven parable - check out for yourself the significance of that and the Lord may give you fresh ideas for input in this lesson.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 708 **Lesson Name:** Blind Bartimaeus the Beggar

Theme: Sin's Blindness

Reading: Mark 10:46-52 Matt. 20:29-34 Luke 18:35-43

Memroy Verse: Mark 10:52

Memory Verse Text: He received his sight and followed Jesus.

Attention Getter: One day the SUN stood still. (add a detail or two about that old testament scene.) But there came a greater day than that. The SON stood waiting for a blind beggar to come to Him.

Point 1: Jericho - the city that was cursed. Yet the Lord came there. Blind and Begging - a very real picture of the sinner.

Point 2: Heard the crowd - Curious - no doubt! Heard it was Jesus. He must've known something. Perhaps he had gathered up many fragments of information from others to make him certain of who Jesus really was v47. Had he heard the prophecy that when Christ came He would heal their diseases?

Point 3: Cries out. What a blessing when a sinner gets stirred enough to cry out. Others tried to silence him - they did not care. The Lord stood still. Thank God - He had time for the cry of a beggar! The blind man throws away any hindrance and comes. His life is about to change forever!

Point 4: Saviour could have gone directly to him right at the first, but waited for the man to feel His need and cry out. Saviour knew what Bart wanted but wanted him to tell it. A WORD from Him was all it took and the only suitable response, for the man whose eyes were opened, was to follow Him.

Illustration:

Notes: Blind people oftentimes speak of a more acute sense of hearing. Hearing is involved several times in this passage. 1. The things he had heard of HIM before this day. 2. The crowd passing by. 3. Homing in on the Voice of the Saviour as He comes to Him.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 709 **Lesson Name:** Zacchaeus

Theme: Earnest Seeker, but Hindered

Reading: Luke 19:1-10

Memroy Verse: Luke 19:10

Memory Verse Text: The Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: A man - others might only see a no-good cheating sinful tax gatherer, but the Lord saw a man with all his need and potential. The man was rich but unsatisfied. He was clever but not too smart for his own good. He was seeking the Saviour. How wise.

Point 2: He is earnest - repeatedly he was hindered from seeing him so made it his business to get into the tree where no one could hinder him. The Saviour was earnest too. He made it His business to come to where Zacchaeus was.

Point 3: Zacchaeus heard the Saviour's voice that day. He even called him by name. He was obedient. He was ready to be saved. He was made to rejoice. What other accomplishment in life could compare with this. He had received HIM.

Point 4: He was real - does not just call Him LORD but acts in keeping with that truth. Returned with interest the embezzlement of the past (which shows that he knew the OT Law and had acted all these years with a bad conscience) - and he also shows great compassion toward the poor.

Illustration:

Notes: You may need to differentiate between what it means to call Him Saviour and LORD. Could have the class participate in this discovery.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 710 **Lesson Name:** THE TEN POUNDS

Theme: Christ the Lord / Choices / Future Events / Accountability

Reading: Luke 19:11-28

Memroy Verse: Romans 2:11

Memory Verse Text: There is no respect of persons with God.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: The Lord chose to put his property in the hands of his servants. The Lord gave them instructions what to do with it, but left leeway for their individual abilities. The Lord gave them opportunity v13 until His return. A pound - ie about 12.5 ounces of Silver Money

Point 2: His citizens hated him. They refused to have him reign over them.

Point 3: He came back as he promised. First he deals with his servants (like the judgment seat of Christ). They must account for what he has placed in their care. Application can be made to both saved and unsaved. Note how they differed in their ability but their responsibility was equal. They must account to him.

Point 4: The thoughts of the servant who failed him are close to the thoughts of the citizens. Compare the thoughts of a worldly believer to the world around us. The world brings forth no fruit for God's glory. What a pity if we are like them. After he deals with his own, then he deals with his enemies (like the great white throne).

Illustration:

Notes: Note - two reasons are given for this parable. v11 - 1. near to Jerusalem (his rejection and cross???) 2. They had wrong thoughts. 2nd Note - v28 tells us that the Saviour literally and figuratively was ascending towards Jerusalem and the Cross - like the altar!

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 711 **Lesson Name:** He Enters Jerusalem

Theme: Christ Revealed / Christ the Lord

Reading: Mark 11:1-11 Matt. 21:1-11, 15-17

Memroy Verse: Psalm 145:3

Memory Verse Text: Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: His foreknowledge - He knew the Scriptures that must be fulfilled Mt.11:4. He knew what they would find Mt. 11:2. He knew what would follow Mt. 11:3.

Point 2: There was no higher claim than His: The Lord hath need of him. Have we felt His claims upon us?

Point 3: The multitudes cry out His praises. The whole city is moved but some are moved with greater indignation than ever v15.

Point 4: Choices are made on their part. But notice the choice on HIS PART - He left them v17. We need to be careful about the choice we make - he may take us at our word.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 712 **Lesson Name:** Problems in the Vineyard

Theme: Sin's Depravity

Reading: Matt. 21:28-38

Memroy Verse: I John 1:9

Memory Verse Text: He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: The Owner of the Vineyard has done everything and brings the renters in his favour and the fullness of what was his, expecting, at least, respect and consideration.

Point 2: The servants are sent by him and they endure the mistreatment intended for him. They remain unrepentant and deliberately violent. What a picture of what man is today. Sending subsequent servants just shows forth the glory and grace that would forgive and bless them still.

Point 3: Now - with all the grace the Owner has he sends his son. He cannot countenance that they would mistreat him after all he has done for them. But they murder him and yet hang on to the Owners property and things.

Point 4: Those who hear the story know the response such an action calls for - utter destruction and others blessed instead. He brings before them the practical prophecy of the Scriptures and in spite of what they have just heard and know: they manifest the very intent that he has just told them of.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 713 **Lesson Name:** Marriage Feast for the Son

Theme: Christ the Son / Sin's Depravity

Reading: Matthew 22:1-14

Memroy Verse: Romans 3:10

Memory Verse Text: There is none righteous, no, not one.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: What the King did - he did for the Son who was dear to his heart. Nothing was too good for him. All is provided in the manner of great kings. Even the garments so that none would feel unworthy in his sight.

Point 2: Sends his servants to bring them along. They **WOULD NOT** come. Sends still other servants with an even clearer and more enhanced call. They **MADE LIGHT** of it. They **WENT THEIR WAYS**. Each of these points is easily adaptable to the depravity and sinfulness of man.

Point 3: The rest treated his servants spitefully and **KILLED** those he had sent. This is a more obvious indication of the disrespect and dishonour they had in their hearts. **BUT NOTE - NONE OF THEM** were worthy.

Point 4: Another shows his disrespect when he does not take advantage of the wedding garment, thinking he is acceptable in his own right. A picture of the self righteous sinner. **NOTE** how the Lord upgrades this to the supernatural - in v13 - outer darkness - weeping and gnashing of teeth. How careful He was to lay all the facts before them.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 714 **Lesson Name:** The Widow's Mite

Theme: Religion's Inability / Detected

Reading: Mark 12:38-44 Luke 21:1-4

Memroy Verse: Romans 3:20

Memory Verse Text: By the deeds of the law, there shall no flesh be justified in His sight.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Religious men of the day loved to make an outward show. Compared themselves and measured one to another. Yet would devour a widows household if they could for financial gain rather than recognize the interest and care God has encouraged towards those who are in need.

Point 2: Here we are shown that He not only observes all we do, but also knows the reasons for what we do. And not only so, but He alone can rightly value what a person may do.

Point 3: Others drop in of their abundance - the widow only two mites - next to nothing. Yet He says that she put in more! And in fact, when the whole picture is revealed, she put in all that she had to live on!

Point 4: When a believer does something for the Lord however small, let us remember it is not up to us to value what it means. But He will and does value every mite.

Illustration:

Notes: Widows today still oftentimes offer greater sacrifices and sweeter praise to the Lord than many who are very active but devotion is lost.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 715 **Lesson Name:** 5 Wise & 5 Foolish

Theme: Future Events / Return of the Lord Jesus Christ

Reading: Matt. 25:1-13-46

Memroy Verse: Matt. 25:13

Memory Verse Text: Ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of Man cometh.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: All of these appeared the same. Seems that they had an outward moral life. They all professedly were doing the same thing - waiting for Him. They all had lamps - speaking of some kind of testimony.

Point 2: There were differences. The foolish had a testimony but no oil (speaks of the Spirit of God who indwells every saved one). There was also the Divine Distinction - that is in this story they were called wise or foolish.

Point 3: While waiting they were all sleeping. Even the wise! At the midnight cry - there was a stirring and a revelation. Some lacked what they needed most. In that hour the wise have nothing to impart to them. While they went - the Bridegroom came!

Point 4: The door was shut - final, just, universal. Some left outside - He never knew them! And they never knew Him. The story ends with the Saviour's own warning.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 716 **Lesson Name:** The Living People's Judgment

Theme: Christ the Judge / Future Events

Reading: Matthew 25:31-46

Memroy Verse: Matthew 25:46

Memory Verse Text: These shall go away in everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: This is not a parable - this is a revelation. Note it is His Coming in Glory. Not his return to the air but to the earth at least 7 years later.

Point 2: All those living at that time of the nations shall be brought before Him. During the 7 year tribulation which precedes this - all men will reveal their state by their treatment of the Jews who will be fiercely persecuted by the Beast.

Point 3: Those gentiles who are saved will protect those that are precious to the Lord. By this evidence of salvation will all men be divided. Some to inherit the kingdom with Israel and some to everlasting fire.

Point 4: What the sheep do, the Lord says they have done it to Him. The contrasting destinies are clearly seen in v46.

Illustration:

Notes: You will likely be wise to use a good chart of Future Events when you deal with this subject in order to clearly differentiate between events.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 717 **Lesson Name:** Mary Anoints Him
Theme: Christ the Lord / Evidences of Salvation

Reading: John 12:1-11, Mark 14:3-9, Matthew 26:6-16

Memroy Verse: Psalm 116:12

Memory Verse Text: What shall I render unto the LORD for all His benefits toward me?

Attention Getter: Many others had come to Him to have their needs met - but Mary came to give Him His due - the worship of a grateful heart.

Point 1: After the Resurrection of Lazarus, Martha serves, Lazarus communes and Mary worships. There was no command for Mary to do what she did but her sacrifice pleased Him. What could we bring - what could we give to cause Him pleasure?

Point 2: It was very costly - and was prized because the odour would fill the house and linger for days on both the Lord and also her long hair. The value set on it by Judas could not possibly compare to the value of it in the eyes of the Lord.

Point 3: The Lord notes that it is in anticipation of His burying. How did she know? What did those who heard it think this meant? She definitely knew something. Those who spend time at His feet will always know things that others cannot fathom.

Point 4: Many who were there came to see the man risen from the dead. Such was the attention he was getting, that the Rulers were consulting to even put Lazarus to death. How could they ever justify such a thing? But there were others who witnessing the reality of Lazarus resurrection, were impacted by the fact that the Christ had come and they believed on Him!

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 718 **Lesson Name:** Greeks Seek Jesus & Jews Question Him

Theme: Christ the Saviour / Christ the Lord / Christ Refused

Reading: John 12:20-48

Memroy Verse: John 12:32

Memory Verse Text: I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto Me.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: After His anointing by Mary in Bethany and the entry in Jerusalem and just before the Last Passover and His crucifixion - some Greeks (Jewish Proselytes) come seeking Him. Philip seems to be the most approachable of the disciples or more constantly watchful of opportunities like this. John 1:45 also involved with the lad in John 6.

Point 2: They wanted to see Jesus. The whole countryside ought to have shared their desire. Do you? Would you like to know Him? Would you like Him to speak right to your need?

Point 3: The Lord Jesus brings before them the fact of His impending Crucifixion. V24, 27. AS He speaks to His Father, there is an answering voice from above! Others overhearing this are told that the voice was for their sake and He further develops what He had been saying to the Greeks v31-33. How willfully blind is the response of the Jewish crowd in v34!

Point 4: It is then followed by several solemn warnings - examine verse 35 Light now but darkness coming, v36 believe the Light while it is available. Note - at this point - He departs and hides Himself from them. He had done so many miracles yet - see v37. He speaks of blindness & hardened hearts v40. And finally of what will certainly take place if they refuse Him and His words v47-48. DARKNESS for EVERMORE.

Illustration:

Notes: In the verse - ALL MEN - means all without any distinction. Men will be drawn to Him because of the Cross to meet Him in grace or when He is upon the Great White Throne, they will be drawn to Him for judgment and doom.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 719 **Lesson Name:** The Last Supper & The First Breaking of Bread

Theme: Christ the Lamb / Price Paid

Reading: Mark 14:12-25 Matt. 26:17-29 Luke 22:7-30 1Corinthians 11:23-28

Memroy Verse: I Corinthians 11:26

Memory Verse Text: For as often as ye eat this bread and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till He come.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: The time draws near when His sacrifice must be made. It is the Passover. This is the recollection of a night long to be remembered and He is the true fulfillment of it all.

Point 2: The place chosen is an upper room. The hour comes - the Saviour sits down with His disciples. He reveals His desire for this hour Luke 22.15 and speaks of suffering. How little they knew what those words conveyed.

Point 3: After the Passover celebration with all it's beauty and meaning, He speaks with pain of the Betrayer. Even in the midst of such a lovely time with His own, there lurks a dreadful reminder of what is to come. The betrayer is dismissed to do his nefarious deed.

Point 4: He takes bread - breaks it and gives to His own telling them of the significance of it. Likewise of the cup (speaking of both it's significance and also the New Covenant). Matthew tells us plainly that this blood is shed for many for the remission of sins. What a reminder that nothing else but precious blood would do.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 720 **Lesson Name:** Garden of Gethsemane

Theme: God is Holy / Redemption Purchase and Purpose

Reading: Matthew 26:30-46, Mark 14:26-42, Luke 22:39-46, John 18:1

Memroy Verse: Matthew 26:42

Memory Verse Text: If this cup may not pass away from Me, except I drink it, Thy will be done.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: He went forth from the Upper Room. Ever moving closer to the reality that lay before. His disciples follow Him but little do they know. He longs over them, encouraging them to pray that they not fall in the testing ahead (while His own need so vastly overshadows theirs).

Point 2: As to the physical aspect. He goes a little farther - this indicates that there was some aspect that they could not share in - this was HIS cup. He kneels Luke 22:41. He falls on the ground according to Mark 14:35. He fell on His face Matt. 26:39. Bowed under the weight of it all. Surely He hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows!

Point 3: Prays 3 times similarly yet perhaps you can perceive a subtle difference. What seems to be a request about the cup at first becomes a revelation to us that He knows and (that since there is no way we can be saved apart from this cup being endured), He willingly embraces the Will of the Father who will have all men to be saved.

Point 4: He finds them sleeping again and again. They do not know the trials He is enduring nor do they understand their own need as all things move forward to the great hour of Crisis. He knows the time - He knows what is going to take place. He stirs them and moves forward notwithstanding all. Hallelujah - what a Saviour!

Illustration:

Notes: The "if" of the verse is not a question, it is the idea of "since this cup cannot pass from Me" if salvation is to be accomplished and there is no other way, then "Thy will be done".

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 721 **Lesson Name:** The Denial

Theme: Evidences of Salvation / Sin's Danger and Consequences

Reading: Matthew 26:33-35,67-75, Mark 14:27-31,53-56,66-72, Luke 22:31-34,54-62, John 13:36-38, 18:15-27

Memroy Verse: Psalm 51:4

Memory Verse Text: Against Thee, Thee only, have I sinned.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: The Lord has prayed that Peter will be preserved though tested sore. He predicts that Peter and the others will be offended and Peter insists that he will remain faithful to Him.

Point 2: Sad to say - a very little while later, and Peter, in spite of all his boldness, denies Him with curses. We are often tested and found wanting on what we may think is our strongest point. How unlike the Lord Jesus - who when He was tested in all points as we are - remained true and faithful.

Point 3: Peter follows afar off and sits with those who follow the proceedings as the Saviour is accused and mistreated. He (2x) attempts to warn himself at the fire. Soon he is identified - but denies Him before them all! Twice more and with greater vehemence, he denies the One who loved him so. Then the alarm bell rings (rooster crows!)

Point 4: He remembered the Word of Jesus. His bitter tears are at least an evidence of the reality of conviction and understanding. The Saviour will later complete the work of restoration in this beloved disciple.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 722 **Lesson Name:** Jesus Teaches How to Wash Feet

Theme: Christ the Lord / Christ the Shepherd / Christ Revealed

Reading: John 13:1-17

Memroy Verse: Philippians 2:8

Memory Verse Text: He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the Cross.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: In the Passover Room, there are three statements that set the scene for what follows, yet what follows is hard to understand in light of them. "Knew that His hour was come"v1 "Knowing that the Father had given all things into His Hands"v3. Then v11 "knew who should betray Him". The first would distract any of us from thinking on others. The second would likely cause us to think more highly than we ought. The third would have influenced us to treat Judas far differently. But He stands alone, supreme, sinless and pure.

Point 2: From the Passover supper - he rises and girds himself with a towel. Note - no servant who was a Jew would be asked to do this for fear of defilement. Only Gentile servants. Yet the Lord of Might and Glory takes a servants towel. What grace O Lord and beauty shone around Thy steps below!

Point 3: He comes to Peter and while Peter does not offer to take the Lord's place - he refuses to let the Lord do it for him at first. The Lord teaches him a lesson in grace but he blunders again - showing how little he understood His Lord and the Lessons He would impart.

Point 4: There are 4 more KNOW's in the passage. V7, v12, 18 and v17. There are lessons in all of them. Verse 17 is the practical application of the EXAMPLE He has set.

Illustration:

Notes: Washing their feet points out at least two things: First, they would be weary and He wanted to refresh them. Second, their feet would be dusty and He would remove the defilement of the Way. Important Truths for all believers. Are we like HIM?

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 723 **Lesson Name:** The COMFORTER Promised

Theme: God's Promise - He Keeps It

Reading: John 14:16-26, 16:7-15

Memroy Verse: John 16:8

Memory Verse Text: He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: The Holy Spirit is called The Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, & the Holy Ghost (though Holy Spirit is a better rendering).

Point 2: His work is defined. To encourage and comfort and impart truth to those who are true believers. To Reprove the World of sin - the sin of unbelief John 16:9 - and righteousness - because God has brought about justification and Christ lives to prove it's value - judgment - not judgment to come but the fact that this world is already under judgment and reserved unto fire. Worldlings make their nest in a world that has been judged already.

Point 3: He will guide into all truth. He will glorify the Lord Jesus. Beware of any (Charismatics who make more of the Spirit and gifts than they do of the Lord Jesus.)

Point 4: He was to come after Christ departed. He was to be with the believers constantly. See the lesson called Peter and Pentecost for reference and the initial fulfillment.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 724 **Lesson Name:** The Betrayal

Theme: Christ Refused

Reading: John 13:20-30 Mark 14:43-52 Matt. 26:47-56

Memroy Verse: I John 1:7

Memory Verse Text: The Blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanseth us from all sin.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Judas has made his bargain and now comes to do his deed. Thinks perhaps that there is safety in numbers and comes with a multitude. His way to identify the Lord Jesus is with a kiss (perhaps that had been his customary way of greeting him).

Point 2: The Saviour calls him "Friend" - was there something that the Saviour found so appealing about him in spite of his betrayal Cf Ps.55.21, Ps. 41:9. Peter tries to defend the One who has all-power. Seems like a noble act but the Saviour acts more nobly still by putting the ear back and reminding Peter that if He were to call, the angelic legions would respond.

Point 3: The anguish of rejection, the accusations and afflictions of His trial and the pain of Calvary could be avoided but how then could the scriptures be fulfilled? Note - the importance of the scriptures to Him Matt. 26:54,56.

Point 4: All His disciples forsake Him utterly and flee. So much for brave words and best intentions. He is left alone to face the heartless venom of men's sinful hearts.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 725 **Lesson Name:** Jesus Standing before Pilate

Theme: Christ the Sinless / Christ Refused / Choices

Reading: Mark 14:53-15:15 Matt. 26:57-27:26, John 18:28-19:16

Memroy Verse: Isaiah 53:3

Memory Verse Text: He is despised and rejected of me, a Man of Sorrows.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: There are many stages in the trial of the Lord Jesus. He suffered a religious trial before the High Priest and the High Council of the Jews. He endured a political trial before Herod as well. Then He stood before Pilate to be judged of him. All were unjust and all charges were unfounded.

Point 2: Pilate hears the trumped up charges of the people, but repeatedly (careful reading may show you 5 times) says there is no reason (fault) for judgment in Him.

Point 3: Knowing this Pilate tries to distract them by offering Barabbas. Crying for the blood of Christ - Pilate has Him scourged in the hope that will be blood enough. Don't underplay scourging. Many people died under it.

Point 4: Finally - to content the people - to show that he was Caesar's friend - he takes sides against the Son of God and pronouces the death sentence. All of this in spite of the words of the Lord Jesus -John 19:11

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 726 **Lesson Name:** The Barabbas Story

Theme: Christ the Substitute

Reading: Matthew 27:15-18,26 Mark 15:6-15, Luke 23:17-18,25, John 18:38-40

Memroy Verse: Isaiah 53:5

Memory Verse Text: The chastisement of our peace was upon Him, and with His stripes we are healed.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Pilate once again has tried to appease the people by giving up a prisoner as was his custom - Barabbas - a brazen murderer and a major troublemaker or releasing Jesus. Their voices will not be stilled and they ask that Barabbas be released.

Point 2: The world would rather have a well known sinner amongst them than the Saviour of Sinners. Barabbas (Murderer) was desired -Luke 23:25. Christ (LifeGiver) was not desired.

Point 3: So the one who was obviously guilty and deserving was let go. The One who was obviously innocent and undeserving was made to die the death that Barabbas was worthy of.

Point 4: This was a CHOICE they would regret forever, but Barabbas would benefit from. We do not know, but surely as the story was unfolded to this released convict, he would make his way to the cross - and there behold the Man who died in his place. What response would there be? Surely even this reprobate could see the value of His death on his behalf.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 727 **Lesson Name:** The Crucifixion, Death & Burial

Theme: Christ the Substitute

Reading: Mk 15:20-47 Mt 27:27-66 Lu 23:26-56 Jn 19:16-42

Memroy Verse: Luke 23:33

Memory Verse Text: When they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified Him.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Scourged, stripped, crowned with thorns beaten down, mocked, taunted, ridiculed with a robe and a reed, spitten upon and smitten - there in my place, condemned He stood.

Point 2: Simon is made to support the trailing part of the cross that the Saviour bore. Golgotha, Calvary - the place of a skull - what a scene. Know before of and anticipated by God, it was now destined to be a place that all would look back to forevermore.

Point 3: They crucified Him, the soldiers shared His garments and gambled for His handwoven vesture. They watched Him. They mocked Him. They said "He saved others (and the word they used for others meant others like himself) - there was no one like HIM. Himself He could not save for there was no other way that we could be delivered.

Point 4: Darkness - that's all the NT tells us about his suffering at the hand of God for our sin. The Prophetic Scriptures tell us of the horror of those hours and the NT later reveals all it's wondrous blessed purpose.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary: There they laid Him. But this is not the end of the Story. They had silenced His voice but they will hear it again. They had crucified the Lord but they will never treat Him that way again.

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 728 **Lesson Name:** The Dying Thief

Theme: Christ the Saviour / Christ Refused

Reading: Luke 23:27-43, John 19:18, 31-32, Mark 15:27-28,
Matthew 27:38,44

Memroy Verse: I Peter 3:18

Memory Verse Text: Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the Just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: The men and women of their day had determined that these two thieves deserved death - a cruel death. In their case they were right as one of the thieves acknowledges Luke 23:41, but in the case of the Lord Jesus - they were all wrong!

Point 2: When did this guilty thief notice that there was a tremendous difference about the Man on the middle Cross? He had joined in the mocking at first. But were the words of Christ so different (unlike the cursing swearing and remorse he himself might have felt)? Were the early statement of the Lord enough to touch him (Forgive them for they know not what they do!)? Was it the accusation over His head (so different from the list of the thief's crimes over his own head) or the accusations of those who crucified what finally sunk in? He saved others!

Point 3: Perhaps it was thoughts of Eternity - a fear of God? But he is brought to recognize that this man had done nothing amiss - who else could this be? There was no one else in all history that fit that description. Carefully consider this - if it is true that He did nothing amiss, then His cross has a wonderful purpose too.

Point 4: Note - his desperate cry "Lord" This called for a decisive CHOICE. He believes in the resurrection. He doesn't know much - but His Cry reached the heart of the Saviour. In spite of what little the thief knew - he is given a promise that leaves nothing out. He is to enjoy the presence of His Lord that very day in a place bright and fair!

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 729 **Lesson Name:** HE is Risen from the Dead

Theme: Christ the Lifegiver and Resurrection / Christ the Lord

Reading: Mk 16:1-18 Mt. 28:1-20 Lu 24:1-49 Jn 20 & 21

Memroy Verse: Romans 14:9

Memory Verse Text: Christ both died, and rose and revived, that He might be Lord.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: The powers of Rome had secured the Tomb and the Seal of Rome was upon it. The women come to the Tomb - a great Earthquake and a mighty Angel's visit caused the keepers to shake and become as dead men. All Rome's power could not match this authority and majesty.

Point 2: While the soldiers feared rightly - the women are told not to fear. He is risen, AS HE SAID. They are told to go with the message but as they went - Jesus met them! They worshipped Him and rightly so. His resurrection ought to cause fear in unbelievers and worship and joy in those that are His.

Point 3: The High Counsel of the Jews bribe the soldiers and secure their secrecy and give assurance that their lives will not be forfeited. Why were they so determined to hide the truth? Because a Resurrected Christ means that they will have to meet Him again.

Point 4: The Saviour gives instruction to His own in Matt. 28 to go and make disciples of all nations(gentiles) - Israel that once found itself the object of God's special favour and grace is now set aside because they have refused the Lord of Glory.

Illustration:

Notes: Risen Lord Comforts, Restores, Teaches, Confirms, Commissions

Summary: YES, up from that grave HE AROSE - HE LIVES and all will meet Him again. How will you meet Him? Will you fall at His feet with appreciation? Or will you fall at His feet in fear?

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 801 **Lesson Name:** The Ascension

Theme: Christ the Lord

Reading: Acts 1:3-12 Matt. 28:16-20 Luke 24:49-53

Memroy Verse: Acts 1:11

Memory Verse Text: This same Jesus.. shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Having been erroneously taught that Christ would immediately vanquish their foes and set up His kingdom. They ask Him when they met HIM in Galilee if He would set it up now. His answer was - that it was not for them to know but that there was a work He wanted them to do for Him and He would provide all they would require in order to do it.

Point 2: He gave them further instructions and details about the witness they must maintain first in Jerusalem then all Judea then further out and onwards to the uttermost parts of the earth. (You can follow that very expansion if you read the book of Acts carefully.)

Point 3: He had spoken to them. He is now taken up from them and surrounded by a cloud of heavenly beings. With hands upraised in blessing He vanishes from their sight and as they are still gazing upwards - a message is imparted that He shall come (to the earth) to be revealed as King, in the same manner as He departed. Zech.14.4,9

Point 4: The Lord had left instructions for the Disciples to stay in Jerusalem until they received the Promised Comforter. The Indwelling Holy Spirit was the link with Power and Blessing. They needed this to carry on the commission He had given them. As instructed they returned to Jerusalem and waited 10 more days for the Day of Pentecost.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 802 **Lesson Name:** Peter and Pentecost

Theme: Earnest Seeker / God's Wonderful Ways

Reading: Acts 1 & 2 John 20:24-29

Memroy Verse: Acts 17:30

Memory Verse Text: God. now commandeth all men everywhere to repent.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: The Lord has gone back to Heaven. Matthias is chosen to replace Judas Iscariot. Now in Acts 2 - we are presented with a wonderful picture. They were all in one place with perfect agreement and accord amongst themselves.

Point 2: Tongues of Fire sat upon them and the Spirit of God for the first time "dwelled"* in created men. In Jerusalem at that feast there were many devoted Jews who had come from many countries. Note Acts 2:11. A miracle** was witnessed questions were raised!

Point 3: Peter rises - how precious to see that all the rest stood 'with him'. They were not the speaker but in full agreement & fellowship with him. There to encourage and strengthen the hands of the man who would speak for God.

Point 4: He preaches the claims of God and the need for Christ the Lord weaving the OT scriptures into the message. Pricked in their heart they cry out "What shall we do?" The only suitable response for sinners is REPENT and BELIEVE the gospel and follow it with evidence of their faith - Baptism. They gladly received the Word and 3000 were saved. The secret to such a work is still to gladly receive the WORD.

Illustration:

Notes: * You should briefly differentiate between OT believers who had the Spirit of God "come upon" them for specific purposes. **It is also important to show that this miracle meant that they understood clearly what the men spoke. These were not unintelligible sounds or words.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 803 **Lesson Name:** Peter & the Lame Man

Theme: Sinner's Need and Helplessness / Christ's Power

Reading: Acts 3:1-26, 4:1-31

Memroy Verse: Acts 4:12

Memory Verse Text: Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other Name under heaven, given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Ninth hour (3p.m.) is the time of the evening sacrifice. The same time the Lord Jesus died and likely the same time the Pharisee and Publican (Luke 18) went up to pray. A man 40 years lame (Acts 4:22) was there begging.

Point 2: Peter claims to have no silver and gold personally - perhaps all that he had had went into the all things common of the early church. However what he did have was worth far more. Power with God and the blessing of the Lord accompanies his words. What a thing to covet!

Point 3: Christ of Nazareth (the despised One) has all power in spite of what men may think. Many saw the once lame man now leap up, walking, praising God and holding Peter and John. There was a very real difference in his walk, his words and his company.

Point 4: There is much conjecture and animosity about it all. But seeing the man standing with them and witnessing the reality of Peter and John as they plainly identify the source of such power - their mouths are shut Acts 4:14,16. Still in unbelief they try to minimize the effects - but what can hold back the glory of such a God - Acts 4:21.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 804 **Lesson Name:** Ananias & Sapphira

Theme: Evidences of Salvation / God is Holy / Accountability

Reading: Acts 5:1-42

Memroy Verse: James 1:22

Memory Verse Text: Be ye doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Ananias and Sapphira were likely what appeared to be very fine believers - but at least one sin in their lives was unjudged. Seems as though they were afflicted with pride and wanted the admiration of others.

Point 2: They had not been constrained to give all. They wanted to appear as making a great sacrifice - and made pretence that they had given all. Note - in this act -Peter charges Ananias with lying - not to men - but to God. Immediately he drops dead and great fear comes upon those who know what has taken place.

Point 3: Sapphira comes three hours later, and unknowingly, also lies about it. She too is taken in death. What a message about the seriousness of sin. For the second time in this story, "great fear" comes upon all the infant church.

Point 4: Many other signs and miracles were done and there was much accord amongst them as God continued to add to their numbers. However the fear of God was upon them to such an extent that pretenders didn't dare walk with the true believers. Persecution begins to rear it's ugly head but in spite of it there is further growth and joy even in being counted worthy to suffer for His sake. And their unceasing gospel activity magnified the Name and Person of the Lord Jesus.

Illustration:

Notes: Note - this FIRST public SIN in the Church - a severe judgment follows. This points out a PRINCIPLE (OT has a similar judgment in relation to Israel) though subsequent sins were not treated with death as was this one.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 805 **Lesson Name:** Stephen's Testimony & Death

Theme: Christ Refused / Evidences of Salvation

Reading: Acts 6:1-15, 7:54-60

Memroy Verse: Acts 7:60

Memory Verse Text: Lord, lay not this sin to their charge.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: One of the real and remarkable men of the Bible. Stephen is a man of God, Acts 6:5 who is a real testimony, active and a help amongst the people of God. The secret of his power and effectiveness seems to be his absolute trust in His God Acts 6:8 and his likeness to the Person of the Lord Jesus. Anyone with those characteristics to bound to amount to something for God.

Point 2: It is also inevitable that such character will result in persecution - see 2Tim.3:12. When unable to resist his wisdom and spirit they determined to destroy him as they had his Master.

Point 3: Falsely accused and detained. They saw his face as it were the face of an angel. They heard his words as he speaks of the unbelief of Israel in spite of all God's OT dealings finally leading God to send the Just One whom they had murdered!

Point 4: Their attitude is unchanged. Indeed, becomes more hateful. He on the other hand, gets a glimpse of a glory greater than earth by far, and a look at His Lord and as he speaks of it, they rise up and stone him to death. And like his Lord, he speaks words of forgiveness to those who abused him.

Illustration:

Notes: Chapter 8:1 tells us Paul was there. He too condemned him and aided those who killed Stephen, but God was goading this man who would ultimately bring many to the Light.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 806 **Lesson Name:** Philip meets Simon the Sorcerer

Theme: Detected / Sin Admitted, but not always saved

Reading: Acts 8:1-25

Memroy Verse: Psalm 69:5

Memory Verse Text: My sins are not hid from Thee.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Due to Philip's testimony and death and the persecution that followed, the believers are scattered but do not stop testifying Acts 8:4. Notice what they preach - the Word of Salvation. Another man is raised up, and Philip preaches in Samaria - see the direction the gospel is taking according to Acts 1:8.

Point 2: A wonderful work is done there and great joy results. Possibly some of the reason for such a great work lies with those who believed in John 4. Simon, a man with demonic links, and seeming power also joins himself with the believers professing salvation.

Point 3: He offers money for the same kind of power. Notice that this man does not have any understanding of God's ways. On the other hand, Philip shows that God knows the true condition of Simon altogether and that he needs to repent and cry out to God. Simon is bound by sin and like a bitter root produces bitter fruit (metaphor of extreme wickedness).

Point 4: His heart was not right in the sight of God. How do we stand before Him today - Luke 16:15? Simon, at least outwardly, pleads for mercy, fearing the wrath of God. Was he real? What about you today? Are you being honest with the God who knows all the truth about you?

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 807 **Lesson Name:** Philip and the Ethiopian

Theme: Christ the Substitute / An Earnest Seeker

Reading: Acts 8:25-39

Memroy Verse: Acts 8:32

Memory Verse Text: He was led as a sheep to the slaughter.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Philip has been busy and greatly blessed in his preaching at Samaria. God calls him away from what seems so successful, to meet one man in the desert miles away. Notice his obedience - he went! No questions just simple obedience.

Point 2: A black man likely - of great authority and power. A man who would know wealth and it's power - yet seeking something more. He was likely a Jewish proselyte having already found his own national religion to be flawed and lacking. He is still searching. He comes to Jerusalem but it seems evident he has not found the satisfaction he craves there either.

Point 3: He buys a copy of the book of Isaiah. What led him to buy that book - which could be called the gospel book of the OT? He is already reading it when Philip arrives. Not above asking for aid, he invites Philip to help. The passage brings Christ before him, but he doesn't know about Him. Philip takes that very scripture and preaches Christ.

Point 4: In evidence of true faith - this man wants to be identified with Christ and obey Him in baptism. The reality of his confession is all that is required - the mode of baptism is very clear - he rejoices in the rest of his journey and likely became one who would spread the gospel to Ethiopians. Ethiopia is not mentioned in Acts 1:9-11!

Illustration:

Notes: Drawing attention to the fact that he was a eunuch is probably not particularly profitable. Perhaps it would be better just to call him an Ethiopian. After his salvation - Philip is found in Azotus and preaches in all the cities till he comes up the coast to Caesarea. There are 14 more mentions of Caesarea in the NT which indicates a mighty work was done there.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 808 **Lesson Name:** Peter visits Cornelius

Theme: God Speaks to Man / Religion's Inability

Reading: Acts 10:1-48 11:1-18

Memroy Verse: Acts 10:33

Memory Verse Text: Now are we all here present before God, to hear all things that are commanded thee of God.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Peter has come to help the saints in Lydda but the Sea and is now staying with Simon the Tanner at Joppa. God begins a work with a Gentile who is another Jewish proselyte. At the same time God is going to do a work in His servant, Peter, who still has many Jewish thoughts. First the Lord impresses Peter through the vision to listen to God only and set aside his personal prejudice, when there is a difference.

Point 2: Peter is still in doubt when messengers arrive - but God tells him, "I have sent them!" "GO, doubting nothing." Cornellius is a man of character, a respectable man of high principle and a love for the Jews and their God.

Point 3: Cornelius' attitude is seen - in his words. He does not delay. He obeys God's word. He gathers others with the same respect to listen. He is ready to hear and obey ALL that God has spoken.

Point 4: Peter's preaching is plain, direct, and reveals a full orbbed gospel - with warning of sin, presentation of the Sent One and promise of salvation and cleansing from sin. God does a work upon believing and those who trust Christ show their reality as they are baptized, then seek further teaching from the Word.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 809 **Lesson Name:** Disciples Called Christians

Theme: Christ the Lord

Reading: Acts 11:1-30

Memroy Verse: Acts 11:26

Memory Verse Text: The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Others shared Peter's prejudice and contention arose with him when Gentiles were saved. Peter gives an account of God's work through him. They honestly recognize God's work and glorify Him. This was to be the first of a very great work. Note again the text in Act 1:8 as the gospel spreads to others.

Point 2: Persecution spreads further and intensifies Acts 11:19 and the believers seeking to move out of it's path are scattered as Seed (they preach everywhere they go and God blesses). Some take the gospel to Antioch in the north of Syria.

Point 3: The simplicity of their message - preached the Lord Jesus. The reality of it - the Hand of the Lord was with them. The blessing that resulted - great number repented (turned). News of this blessing got back to Jerusalem and Barnabas is sent.

Point 4: He sees the grace of God in them and this work. He comforts and encourages them. Teaching them that with purpose of heart to bind themselves to the Lord and His word. It is this people who are firstly identified as Christians. Literally Christ's Ones" - they must have shown likeness to Him. They also show their reality as they communicate help to others of the Lord's people who are suffering deprivation.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 810 **Lesson Name:** Peter's Jailbreak

Theme: God's Faithfulness / Judgement's Certainty

Reading: Acts 12:1-25

Memroy Verse: Psalm 145:18

Memory Verse Text: The Lord is nigh unto all that call upon Him.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: The persecution began to get very ugly. Herod has James, John's brother executed with a sword. When it pleased the agitating Jews, he took Peter too. Peter is put in prison, and four groups of soldiers rotate to guard him. He intends to satisfy the lust for blood by later bringing him out to the people.

Point 2: God's people pray. Perhaps even Peter thought this was the time the Lord had spoken of in John 21:18 (crucifixion) though he was not yet old! Though so closely guarded, God's messenger goes where no one else would dare, and delivers him. He does not kill the keepers - to whom Peter had likely communicated the Word of Salvation. Some may have even been saved as a result.

Point 3: When Peter arrives at the house where so many are gathered. They can scarcely believe it is true. In spite of their prayers for his deliverance - they expected the worst - and in spite of Rhoda's testimony thought it was his spirit v15.

Point 4: Peter gives God all the credit for his deliverance. This is a good picture of salvation from the grip of sin and Satan. Sad to say - the keepers were killed by Herod. No mercy or respect shown for them. What if some were not ready? Hopefully some were by the grace of God.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary: Men, not even kings, can do what they like. Herod dies an awful death. He got away with killing James and imprisoning Peter, but the man who would not give God the glory for his skills, dies a wretched death. He died and God's great work went on.

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 811 **Lesson Name:** Saul's Conversion

Theme: Christ Revealed / Grace: God's Undeserved Favor

Reading: Acts 7:58-60, 9:1-25, 22:3-16, 26:4,5,9-18

Memroy Verse: I Timothy 1:15

Memory Verse Text: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: God had had his eye on this man for sometime. As we understand the scripture, God had had his eye on him from the very beginning. Only much later on did it really dawn on him Galatians 1:15.

Point 2: His good life - exemplary and energetic so far as human standards - Philippians 3:4-6 - all stands for nothing, and he was found to be an enemy of God and His Christ. God had been speaking to him - goading him - and never more loudly than at Stephen's death.

Point 3: God brings the man to a halt. Though bent on the destruction of the believers. God is determined to make him one himself. The various things - his journey - light from heaven - bringing him to a halt - humbling him - causing him to cry out in his distress, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? Are all things that picture the work of God in the salvation of a sinner. Use them to your advantage as you press home the story.

Point 4: Overwhelms him in a moment. Saves him and changes him and then motivates and uses him. Use the various accounts and references to Paul's conversion in preparing the lesson.

Illustration:

Notes: The story of God's grace to him - expanded over the telling, for the more he thought about it and told it, the work of grace was enlarged and enhanced.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 812 **Lesson Name:** Paul & Barnabas in Cyprus & Regions Beyond
Theme: God is Holy / Sin's Deception

Reading: Acts 13:13-52 14:1-28

Memroy Verse: Acts 14:15

Memory Verse Text: Ye should turn from these vanities unto the Living God.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Paul and Barnabas are sent because the Spirit of God urged the Leaders of the people of God to do so. They too were willing to be sent and preach the Word on this first Missionary journey. They see the blessing of the Lord but almost immediately meet with opposition in the form of Elymas the Sorcerer.

Point 2: Remarkable that a man close to Elymas would seek out Paul and Barnabas but Sergius Paulus desired to hear the Word of God. The Devil seeks to defend his territory through the Sorcerer. Paul faces him and pronounces a curse which having witnessed convinced S P.

Point 3: Paul rehearses God's gracious and governmental dealings to the people (Jews and Proselytes) of Antioch (in Pisidia not Syria) - preaching the wonderful word of Salvation that is sent unto them and all others that fear God. They see the Lord's hand again and persuade those who believe to follow the truth in spite of opposition.

Point 4: Moving on they preach in Iconium, Derbe and Lystra and there was a cripple. He heard Paul's preaching - was healed - stood on his feet. The heathen worshippers of that day attribute the names of mystical gods to Paul and Barnabas but they retrain the people yet later Paul is stoned. Not killed - he rises up to confirm the saints and appoint elders in the newly formed assemblies of the area.

Illustration:

Notes: Good idea to follow this on a map with the class. Should also take note that it is likely that the groundwork for Timothy's salvation was laid at this time. See Timothy and Lydia Lesson

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 813 **Lesson Name:** Paul's Troubles & Triumph

Theme: God's Faithfulness / Christ the Lord

Reading: Acts 9:15-16,26-29 13:5,50 14:2,19, 15:23-26, 16:22-24, 17:5,13, 21:13,27,30-32, 22:22-24,23:12-16 2Cor. 11:23-30 2Tim. 4:1-22

Memroy Verse: II Timothy 4:17

Memory Verse Text: The Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known.

Attention Getter: Why bother? Paul - all that pain and trouble! Why?

Point 1: This I do for the Gospel's sake! This is why God saved me. I am to be a chosen vessel unto him.

Point 2: I count it all joy! Human accomplishments I count as offal that I might win Christ.

Point 3: That I might be as a lesser drink offering poured out upon your sacrifice.

Point 4: There is laid up for me a crown!

Illustration:

Notes: You will certainly not want to read all the scripture above with the class but likely with an older class you should hand out reading assignments to all and get them to bring some observations to contribute to the class and discussion.

Summary: Paul's last days were full of hope and usefulness. His was not a wasted life. What will your last days be like?

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 814 **Lesson Name:** Timothy & Lydia

Theme: Earnest Seeker / Opportunity: A Turning Point

Reading: Acts 16:1-15

Memroy Verse: II Timothy 3:15

Memory Verse Text: Thou hast known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Paul comes to Derbe and Lystra for the second time - this time with Silas. There is evident fruit of his earlier labours. Particularly in the life of Timothy. His believing mother and grandmother had greatly influenced his life and the foundation of God's word had been effective in his salvation and his on-going testimony.

Point 2: His father was a Greek and may not have been a believer. Paul sees the potential in this young man and takes him along with him. They impart the teaching of those in Jerusalem and strengthen the believers and with them see the work grow and increase. What a training ground for the work Timothy was later called to do as he serves the saints in Ephesus while Paul goes across the Aegaen sea to Macedonia once more perhaps on his 3rd missionary journey - see 1Timothy1:3.

Point 3: Paul is given the vision of Macedonia and as they come to Philippi - they are quickly encouraged by Lydia who seems hungry for the gospel and ready to receive it.

Point 4: Please note - it is the Lord who opened her heart. There is much talk by some today who encourage the sinner to open their heart and invite the Lord Jesus in. In this case, note it was a heart that God opened to receive His Word. There is clear evidence to follow of the work of grace in her life.

Illustration:

Notes: It is quite likely that Timothy has only been saved a short time when Paul takes him along. Perhaps 7 years at the maximum. Yet there was abundant evidence of God's grace in him as he was known and respected in both cities amongst the believers.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 815 **Lesson Name:** The Philippian Jailor got Shaken Up

Theme: Evidences of Salvation / Christ the Saviour

Reading: Acts 16:16-40

Memroy Verse: Acts 16:31

Memory Verse Text: Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Lydia must've been such an encouragement to Paul and Silas but they almost immediately encounter a young woman who was possessed. A reminder of the dreadful grip of Satan. Her constant crying moved Paul to command the demon to come out of her. By the grace and power of God - there was deliverance. Now - even with such a victory - persecution arises.

Point 2: The two faithful servants are stripped and beaten - then cast into the most secure part of the prison. But at midnight - these two preachers are singing. What a testimony. God has a work to do yet and sends a most unusual earthquake. Just strong enough yet not too strong. He is still in control of all things.

Point 3: The keeper was sleeping. No one is so asleep that God cannot awaken him! God woke him up. He is about to kill himself knowing the Roman officials will hold him responsible but Paul's cry reaches him in the darkness. Obviously enough impression had been made upon him - he cries out for salvation.

Point 4: They (both it would seem) present the same simple salvation message. In a moment, all has changed for him, and the others of his family who took in the gospel. Evidence follows of his change - and the treatment he gives these dear servants now shows the reality of his conversion.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 816 **Lesson Name:** Paul at Thessalonica & Berea

Theme: Choices / Real Opportunity

Reading: Acts 17:1-14, 1Thessalonians 1:1-10

Memroy Verse: Acts 17:11

Memory Verse Text: They received the Word with all readiness of mind.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Paul and Silas come to Thessalonica and after their custom enter the synagogue and reason with them about the OT Scriptures. Some believe and follow those who have brought them the truth of the gospel. But others are greatly moved with ENVY - O the damage done by this evil thing!

Point 2: Those who had believed sent Paul and Silas away. 1 Thessalonians 1 however reminds us that the gospel is self-propagating when believers appreciate His deliverance from wrath, follow the Lord, allowing His truth to shape them, and live with the reality of His Second Coming before them. 1Thessalonians 1:8 tells the results.

Point 3: Again entering into the Berean Synagogue they find those who diligently search the OT scriptures and with honesty of heart and mind welcome the Word. God is still looking for honest hearts and ready minds.

Point 4: Many of them believe. The Jews of Thessalonica come 50 miles (80 km) to stir things up again against Paul. Likely Paul is a special target because of his defection from such prominence amongst the Jews at the time of his conversion. Amazing how far the Devil's advocates will go to hinder the work of the Lord. Yet Silas and Timothy are left here to encourage the people and work of God.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 817 **Lesson Name:** Paul Preaches in Athens at Mars Hill

Theme: Real Opportunity / God's Power and Greatness

Reading: Acts 17:13-34

Memroy Verse: Acts 17:31

Memory Verse Text: He hath appointed a day, in the which He will judge the world in righteousness.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Paul likely moves on by ship to Athens. A city given over to idolatry. Others have accompanied him there and he sends them back to Berea with a message for Silas and Timothy to come. As Paul waits - he is stirred as he sees the ungodliness of the city. He speaks in the synagogue and in the market. He was met by some who bring him to Mars Hill - a meeting place of those in v21.

Point 2: He preaches plainly to them of their altars and devotions to the many heathen gods - showing the folly of thinking that God is like unto something fashioned with gold or silver. He declares to them the ONE GOD that they do not know.

Point 3: His message is full orbed - warning, the need for repentance, and a risen Christ. Notice - he does not even name the Saviour. It was likely a well published thing that Christians claimed this. It seems that they had already discussed and dismissed it as impossible. O the folly of the wise of this world 1Cor.1:20.

Point 4: Some openly mocked. Their minds were closed. Others proclaimed that they would like to hear this all again. Unconvinced yet thinking they could trifle with the Word and had the right to subject it to their mind and opinions without the desire to obey or respond to it.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary: Paul walked away - never to come back to Athens! It was their only chance. They missed it.

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 818 **Lesson Name:** Crispus' Conversion & Gallio's Decision

Theme: Choices / Religion's Inability / Two Ways

Reading: Acts 18:1-17

Memroy Verse: Psalm 39:5

Memory Verse Text: Verily, every man at his best state is altogether vanity.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Paul now moves on to Corinth - 45 miles away. Corinth was populous and wealthy but it is unlikely that there was a more profligate city in the ancient world. It was a city of splendour, commerce, show and corruption. Lust and wantonness not only practised and allowed but actually consecrated in the temple of Venus. Yet - God had much people here- v10.

Point 2: Paul first meets a Jew (with a gentile name!) who is going to figure much later on. He dwells with him and supports himself while he waits for Timothy and Silas to catch up. While there - note it is on the Sabbaths that he reasons in the Synagogues - likely indicating that at this time he was busy with tentmaking during the week. Total time spent here 18 months.

Point 3: Pressed to plainly preach Christ - his message is refused by the Jews and the great change in his ministry comes about as he turns to the Gentiles - note Acts 9:15. Nevertheless - the chief teacher of the synagogue is converted and many Corinthians as well. The Jews stir things up and bring him to court. Their charges are heard but judged of no concern to Gallio who had no time for the Jews pranks & subterfuge. Most students of God's Word believe that this man was not careless at all - but rather this was considered of no concern to his office. He was known in those times as capable and honest in his duties. Sosthenes (the Chief Teacher who replaced Crispus) is grabbed and pummelled by the Greeks who seem to resent his behaviour.

Point 4: While this matter was officially of no concern to Gallio's jurisdiction and court - it would be an excellent time to remind your class that God's Word and the Saviour are matters that fall into the court of our minds and we must make a choice!

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 819 **Lesson Name:** The Possibilities in Apollos

Theme: Accountability / God Speaks to Man

Reading: Acts 18:24-28, 19:1 1Corinthians 1:12, 3:4

Memroy Verse: Romans 3:4

Memory Verse Text: Let God be true, but every man a liar.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Here was a man who knew the OT scriptures and was well educated and very capable. He was also a man who had an excellent spirit and genuine convictions. He was diligent and careful and wanted to honour the Lord. He was willing to speak out and stand and be counted. BUT - he didn't know everything.

Point 2: It didn't take very long for Aquila and Priscilla to figure it out either. The wisdom of this couple is really quite remarkable. They did not criticize or act condescendingly. They took him unto them - this can literally mean several things and likely all of them in their case! It means they made him a friend, took him to their home, they provided food and fellowship.

Point 3: Wisely they use this time to carefully instruct him further. He was a very valuable man - as he was teachable. They opened up to him through their knowledge of the Word - the things of God more carefully.

Point 4: Notice - they encourage him v27 in his exercise and encourage others to put this fine exercised man to work. The result being - he helped them MUCH. Thank God for a couple like that who could see the true potential.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 820 **Lesson Name:** Paul in Ephesus

Theme: Christ the Saviour / Grace: God's Undeserved Favor

Reading: Acts 18:18-23 19:1-41

Memroy Verse: Eph. 2:8

Memory Verse Text: By grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Ephesus was larger and richer than Corinth. Here the Power of Rome and the splendour of Greek Culture mixed with superstition and magic. The Temple of Artemis (Diana) was one of the 7 wonders of the World. The city was centered on major trade routes - a busy bustling city that seemed have everything but Christ.

Point 2: These people were all that Paul spoke of in Ephesians 2:2-3,11-12. Paul sees a work done with some who already had an incomplete understanding then moves on to the synagogue where he presents the truth of God for three months. Some hardened themselves and Paul moves the focus of his work to the school of Tyrannus which was likely a lecture hall loaned to him for this purpose.

Point 3: It would seem that though his overall time in the area was 3 years Acts 20:31, he centered his activities for two years in this location. It sums up his activities in these words "all they which dwelt in Asia here the word of the Lord Jesus."

Point 4: Two incidents follow. The teacher may wish to teach both or one. In the first an attempt is made by Jewish exorcists to imitate God's work by Paul - they are overwhelmed and the spirit speaks to their shame. In the second, there is a great outcry from the commercial world as the gospel cuts into their profits. It seems as though Paul had never directly attacked their goddess v37. That is a good example to follow - never to directly malign any group or religious form but rather teach and preach the WORD of GOD. It will do it's work and if opposition or persecution arises it will not be because you have directly offended anyone.

Illustration:

Notes: From the mighty work of God in Corinth Paul sails from Cenchrea (a port for Corinth), to Ephesus for a brief visit of which little is recorded Acts 18:21-23 back across the Mediterranean to Caesaria, then visiting Antioch before starting his third missionary journey back through Cappadocia and Phrygia in order westward till he came back to Ephesus.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 821 **Lesson Name:** They Arrested Paul in Jerusalem

Theme: God's Wonderful Ways

Reading: Acts 21:1-40

Memroy Verse: II Timothy 1:12

Memory Verse Text: I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Paul says goodbye to the believers in Ephesus leaving there to Greece - where he spent three months till the Jews were determined to kill him. It would seem that he went to Thessalonica and perhaps even Corinth before returning by way of Troas (where they specifically waited till the Lord's day in order to remember the Lord) enroute again through Miletus - and it was here he called for the Ephesian Elders to meet with him.

Point 2: He reminds them of both his past and his present purpose. He reminds them of God's grace which is sufficient to help them in the care of the Church and also the responsibility that they have as shepherds (plural) to protect and guide God's flock.

Point 3: There is great sorrow as they part knowing what he is certain will befall him in Jerusalem. They then sail to Tyre and on to eventually arrive at Caesarea. Paul confesses "I am ready" Acts 21:13. At Jerusalem he gives a missionary report and less that a week later he is falsely accused and when the Jews were about to kill him, he is rescued by the Roman forces.

Point 4: Eventually given permission to speak - they give him an ear until he speaks of the Gentiles and rise up against him. That night the Lord stands by him with specific instruction and encouragement. The Jews plan to make occasion to slay him but word leaks out and Paul is secreted away and remanded to a higher court.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 822 **Lesson Name:** Paul in the Court of Felix

Theme: Real Opportunity / World's Attraction

Reading: Acts 24:1-27

Memroy Verse: II Cor. 6:2

Memory Verse Text: Behold now is the accepted time; behold now is the day of salvation.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: The Jewish Leaders appear in force with a noted orator to present their case with class. Using flattery and pleasant words Tertullus tries to malign Paul as though he were a trouble maker and a political foe. Also seeks for sympathy by hinting that their privileges and rights were violently abused when Paul was spirited away by Lysias.

Point 2: Paul is called to defend himself. He speaks forthrightly and clearly and yet in a manner which would glorify his Lord. He uses his opportunity wisely. Aptly showing that they had not yet managed to outline any evil action on his part.

Point 3: Felix knew more than he would admit to. He deferred the issue likely because it was politically expedient to defuse the troublemaking Jews. Later Paul is able to speak again of the faith in Christ and with such obvious power that Felix trembled but yet put the matter off.

Point 4: Sadly he was more interested in money than he was in the matter of his eternal welfare. Though he heard him often - we never hear of him trembling again. Sad when a person gets hardened to these truths. Felix - even after two years of Paul's influence - does what was politically correct - to please the Jews - he leaves Paul unjustly bound.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 823 **Lesson Name:** Paul Before Festus & Agrippa

Theme: Sin's Foolishness and Carelessness / Christ Refused

Reading: Acts 25:1-27 26:1-32

Memroy Verse: Acts 26:28

Memory Verse Text: Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Festus replaces Felix. And like him is just as influenced by the World and it's pomp and position. Also, he is as unresponsive to God and God's Truth. Though the Jews could not prove anything against Paul, Festus leaves Paul bound - more concerned about the pleasure of the wicked Jews than the thoughts of God.

Point 2: When Festus suggests that Paul go back to Jerusalem, as a Roman, he appeals to Caesar's court. King Agrippa wants also to hear the story and the arrangements are made. Paul begins his defence by relating his life as a Jewish Pharisee - telling the story of his conversion and subsequent call and the message he has brought to men everywhere.

Point 3: He again plainly summing up and stating 25:22-23. Evidently the power of his message reaches Festus again - and he says that Paul must be mad. He not only reminds Festus that he not only speaks serious 'words of truth' but points to King Agrippa and reminds them all that Agrippa is well aware of the truth of these things.

Point 4: He directly puts it to the King. Believest thou? Agrippa says, With a little persuasion you would make me a Christian? Paul confirms his intent - he would like to see Agrippa not only almost but altogether as he is. Perhaps it is too intense - Agrippa feels the heat of conviction - but he walks out.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 824 **Lesson Name:** Shipwrecked!

Theme: Sinner's Need and Helplessness / God Speaks to Man

Reading: Acts 27:1-44

Memroy Verse: Acts 27:25

Memory Verse Text: Sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God that it shall be even as it was told me.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Paul and other prisoners are being conveyed to Rome by ship, though this will mean several stops along the way. He is trusted and given some liberty. Verse 10 reveals that Paul knew there was going to be a problem ahead. Though he seems to respect Paul, Julius believes the Ship Master and go on in spite of the warning. What a picture of unheeding sinners who would rather listen to fair promises than the truth.

Point 2: The winds seemed favourable for a while. Then v14 the storm begins in earnest and they are driven by a power they could not control - till all hope was gone. They got a little look into eternity.

Point 3: Paul has a Divine Visitor in the night! Paul reminds the others that they should have listened to the man who unabashedly claimed to be God's servant - but now still - there is room for cheer - and he clearly declares - I believe God.

Point 4: Seems like Paul is now in charge. And just as the Angel revealed, all 276 souls are saved from perishing just as was promised. What a word - 'all safe' - what about you today - will you arrive safe on that other shore, dear sinner?

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary: There's a tremendous difference between SAFE and LOST. Which will it be for you?

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 825 **Lesson Name:** Bitten by a Viper!

Theme: God's Wonderful Ways

Reading: Acts 28:1-10

Memroy Verse: Ps. 145:20

Memory Verse Text: The Lord preserveth all them that love Him.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Landing at Melita (called the island of Malta today) where Paul was given three months to powerfully influence the people there. These gentiles were so kind - but an incident was going cause these people to see Paul in a new light.

Point 2: Bitten by a viper - he shakes it off into the fire. Perhaps this caused Paul a moments concern but he had the promise of God that he would not die here - see Acts 23:11.

Point 3: First the attention of the people is focussed on him and they are convinced that he is very bad. Then when no harm comes - they concluded he must be a god. God has marvelous ways of making our testimony more effective. Now when Paul speaks - they are going to listen.

Point 4: Not only so - but Paul is instrumental in the wonderful healing of Publius' father. Others too got in on the blessing and we may be sure Paul did not miss the opportunity of preaching just who was really responsible!

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 826 **Lesson Name:** Paul in Rome

Theme: Christ Refused / Sin's Blindness

Reading: Acts 28:11-31

Memroy Verse: Acts 28:28

Memory Verse Text: Be it known therefore unto you, that the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles, and they will hear it.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: The journey goes on. Word had somehow reached the believers, and Paul is greeted by Christian Brethren near Rome. What a joy that must have been to him. Nonetheless, he is at last brought to Rome but allowed to dwell in his own place under guard.

Point 2: Paul immediately begins to reach the Jews of Rome - tirelessly working to convince them from the OT Scriptures about the Saviour of sinners. Some believed and some believed not.

Point 3: IN finality, He brings before them the truth of Isaiah and having sought to win them to the best of his ability he turns to the Gentiles. At least those who heard it considered what he said v29.

Point 4: Notice his activity for two years while waiting for his own trial. Plainly powerfully and confidently he preaches the Lord Jesus Christ (the full title no doubt reminds us of the fullness of the presentation of His claims).

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 827 **Lesson Name:** Paul Answers for Onesimus Sin

Theme: Christ the Substitute / Debt Owing / Price Paid

Reading: Philemon 1-25

Memroy Verse: Philemon 18

Memory Verse Text: If he hath wronged thee, or oweth thee ought, put that on mine account.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Paul has been a prisoner in Rome. Yet with a certain amount of freedom. He now writes to his fellow and friend Philemon, in Colosse, with a mission on his heart. After greetings and genuine encouragement for his friend and others, he comes to the main purpose of writing.

Point 2: Onesimus was a slave to Philemon, but robbed his master & run away. Paul asks that the punishment due to the runaway be eliminated for the guilty one. Paul sends him back (now saved and dear) knowing that Philemon has the right to do what the law demands to the delinquent - but expecting that mercy will be shown.

Point 3: Paul gives Philemon every reason to show this grace as he is willing to pay the whole price himself. Nevertheless, Onesimus had to go by himself (no one else could go for him!) Onesimus had to cast himself on the mercy of the one he'd offended. But thank God, Onesimus could claim that there was another who was the guarantor of payment in full.

Point 4: Note the confidence Paul had as he attempted this reconciliation in v21. He knew the man who had been offended and he knew he would do even more than Paul sought for. How like the One we've offended. 'To God be the glory - great things He hath done' etc.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 828 **Lesson Name:** The Believer's Story

Theme: Grace: God's Undeserved Favor / Redemption

Reading: Ephesians 2:1-22

Memory Verse: Romans 5:10

Memory Verse Text: When we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Notice in this passage - the verbs that are in the past tense - he is talking of something we once "were"! Similarly Romans 5:6,8,10. Dead - because of sins. Walked according to the "course of this age" and seemingly encouraged by the Evil One and his emissaries. Our manner of life showed our lusts and nature. Speaking of Gentiles - we had no covenant with God, no promises, no hope and no God.

Point 2: We were without Christ - alienated and strangers. The only things we had to our credit were things we didn't need. Sin, distance from God,

Point 3: Notice the verbs and indications that are present tense. NOW v13,19. We or ye are v5,8,10. Quickened v5. He is -v14! Nigh v13. Now therefore ye are NO MORE v19. There are more.

Point 4: And not only so - but look for the future tense too v14. Then trace it all to the cause - great love v4, He came v17, grace v8, gift v8.

Illustration:

Notes: This is a passage that needs to be studied together with more mature children or young believers.

Summary:

Misc:

Gary Sharp's Lesson Book

Lesson: 829 **Lesson Name:** The Christian's Responsibility

Theme: Bought with a Price / Consecration

Reading: Romans 12:1-13:7

Memroy Verse: Romans 12:2

Memory Verse Text: Be not conformed to this world.

Attention Getter:

Point 1: Romans 12 starts off with an appeal to the Believer on the basis of all that God has done in the past: received grace and righteousness ch1, glory, honour and peace accredited to us ch2, righteousness through the Just One ch3, justified known through the resurrection ch 4 and many more in the intervening chapters.

Point 2: To whom do we owe our allegiance for all this work of Grace? Then show it by your realistic surrender of your life in the only reasonable way - sacrifice. Present your bodies - "living" - on the altar. Note God is most interested in what you do with your BODIES. The whole you.

Point 3: We are clearly admonished in v 2 not to be pressed into the mold of the thinking and ways of the age in which we live. God expects that those He has redeemed will be transformed as their thinking is shaped by His Word. It is in this way, we put to the test and prove the WILL of GOD, which is complete and perfect for us.

Point 4: The rest of the chapter gives us practical direction in which to show the reality of what we have done in the earlier verses. Right estimate of self, proper appreciation of others, and a life that shows the work of Grace that was begun in us.

Illustration:

Notes:

Summary:

Misc: