

Weekday Bible School Series

LEARNING ABOUT GOD and DOING HIS WILL

Third Grade

UNIT II



Published by the
Christian Nurture Committee
of the Lancaster Mennonite Conference
1960

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HARVEY W. BAUMAN, *Revision Editor*

Reprinted by the
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOARD
OF LANCASTER CONFERENCE OF MENNONITES
1976

Published by the
Christian Nurture Committee
of the Lancaster Mennonite Conference

Printed in U.S.A.
By Mennonite Publishing House
Scottdale, Pennsylvania

General Introduction to Third Grade Course

This course appeared in a mimeographed book of thirty lessons in 1938. It is now being given to you in units of twelve lessons for greater convenience.

The third-grade child is able to read, and wants to have this ability recognized. However, his abilities have not developed far enough to supply the child with a lot of information. The child should be encouraged to do a lot of directed reading. He can also begin to understand maps and charts.

In public school, these children are taught the first principles of good citizenship. In their religious education it is proper that they be taught moral obligations to God. A very definite sense of right and wrong is implied in the title, "Learning About God and Doing His Will."

You can force this age group to attend, but you cannot force them to be interested, except by making the material interesting. The Word of God is the most interesting subject to teach. If this interest has gripped the teacher, it will get the pupils. A certain amount of intelligent method and teaching material will simplify this matter of holding interest.

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Lesson I

God Forgives a Wicked King

Aim and Presentation

In this lesson we want to see God as One who delivers and protects as well as forgives when the wicked turn unto Him.

This lesson may be presented effectively in story form. In the lesson approach bear in mind that the youthful Manasseh was the son of the righteous reformer, Hezekiah. The accession of such a youthful, dependent king was the signal to the old idolatrous party, which had been repressed, to recover its old ascendancy.

Some details that will stimulate interest in the development of the story are:

1. Manasseh—a boy king.
2. The wicked practices (with a good Bible dictionary study the following):
 - a. Star (in connection with star worship).
 - b. Molach or Molech.
 - c. Ashtaroth and Baal.
 - d. Sorcery and enchantment.
3. Manassah was caught among the thorns.
4. He was bound with fetters; literally, two chains of brass.

Help the pupils to see imprisoned Manasseh at the end of himself. Show him in humble contrition offering a prayer of forgiveness. Also let them see the goodness and mercy of God in forgiving him and restoring him to his kingdom.

Lesson Outline

II Chronicles 33:1-19

- I. A boy king reigns in Jerusalem.
 1. He built altars to idols.
 2. He worshiped the stars.
 3. He built altars to idols in the Temple.
 4. He caused his children to pass through the fire.
 5. He used witchcraft.
 6. He set up a carved idol in the house of God.
 7. He and his people did more bad things than the heathen whom God commanded them to destroy.

II. God punishes the bad king.

1. The Lord spoke to him through a prophet but he refused to hear.
2. The king is captured, bound with fetters, carried to a far country.

III. God forgives the bad king and he decides to do right.

1. He became humble and prayed to God for forgiveness.
2. God hears his prayer and restores him to his kingdom.
3. He puts away all the idols that he had set up.
4. He repaired God's altar and worshiped Him.
5. He commanded the people to serve God.

Expressional Work

Have the pupils fill in the blanks in these sentences.

1. Manasseh was _____ years old when he became king.
2. Instead of worshiping God he built _____ for the people to worship.
3. The wicked king made his children pass through the _____.
4. _____ spoke to the king about his bad acts but he refused to listen.
5. God _____ the king for his bad acts.
6. He was captured, bound with _____, and carried to a far country.
7. In the country far away from home the king _____ to God for forgiveness.
8. God _____ his prayer and brought him back home.
9. He repaired the _____ of God and offered sacrifices of thanks to God.
10. God is anxious to forgive sinners if they _____.

Lesson II

God Cares for Birds and Flowers

Aim and Presentation

Children should be taught to notice the birds and flowers as gifts sent from God for our enjoyment and happiness. Try to imagine how it would seem around our homes if there were no birds or flowers. If God cares for birds and flowers, He will also care for us. If birds and flowers can depend upon God, boys and girls ought to do so too. The fact that the Creator made and cares for birds and flowers proves His great love to us.

Name as many of the birds and flowers as you can. Tell about their songs and how they live.

Lesson Outline

- I. The birds have their beautiful homes.
 1. Jesus thought of the homes of the birds. Luke 9:58.
 - a. Where are their homes? Ps. 104:16-17.
 - b. Who makes their homes? Ps. 84:3.
 2. Jesus thought of the food for the birds. Luke 12:24.
- II. What the birds do for us.
 1. They praise our maker. Ps. 148:7-10.
 2. They make us happy with their sweet songs.
 3. They are beautiful to behold.
 4. They destroy harmful insects.
- III. Where the flowers grow.
 1. In the fields. Ps. 103:15.
 2. By the babbling brook.
 3. On the mountainside.
 4. Along the dusty road.
 5. In our gardens.
- IV. Our God cares for the birds and flowers.
 1. God made the birds and flowers. Gen. 1:11, 20.
 2. He cares for them. Matt. 6:26, 28, 29.
 3. He made them for our happiness.
 4. We should thank Him for these gifts.
 5. We should not harm the birds or destroy the flowers.

Expressional Work

Fill in the following blanks.

Birds.

1. We should _____ the birds and not _____ them.
2. The birds sing songs of _____ to _____.
3. Many birds _____ harmful insects.
4. God _____ the birds and _____ for them.

Flowers.

1. Flowers make _____ feel better.
2. Beautiful flowers grow _____.
3. God _____ for the flowers.
4. God gave us the flowers to make us _____.
5. We ought to love _____ more because He _____ us all the _____ flowers.

Lesson III

Israel Saved at the Red Sea

Aim and Presentation

Not only does God care for birds and flowers, He cares for people. He is interested in and understands the troubles of His children. His children need to look to Him for perfect deliverance and leading.

Give the story of a nation of people being servant to another people. Show how difficult it was for them to serve the real living God. Show how God heard their cry when they called unto Him and gave a glorious deliverance in His own time, His own way, and for His own glory.

Lesson Outline

Exodus 14:5-31

- I. The children of Israel were in trouble.
 1. They were not permitted to serve their God. Ex. 5:1-4.
 2. Their burdens as servants were made harder. Ex. 5:7, 8, 19.
 3. They were beaten by taskmasters. Ex. 5:16.
- II. God uses Moses to help them out of their trouble.
 1. God heard their cry. Ex. 3:7, 8.
 2. God calls Moses to lead them. Ex. 3:6, 10.
 3. Ten plagues sent to the Egyptians.
 4. Egyptians sent them out in haste. Ex. 12:33.
 5. God will be honored by a real deliverance. Ex. 14:4.
 6. Moses a calm leader, for he knew the great God. vv. 13, 14.
- III. God opens the Red Sea for them to pass through.
 1. God gives His order. v. 16.
 2. God in the cloud moved between His people and the enemy.
vv. 19, 20.
 3. Darkness to one and light to the other. v. 20.
 4. As Moses obeyed God, there is dry land in the sea. vv. 21, 22.
 5. The Egyptians also enter. v. 23.
 6. God gave the word to bring the waters together. vv. 26, 27.
 7. The victory was complete. v. 28.
- IV. God cares for His people.
 1. God saw both His people and the wicked people. v. 24.
 2. God saved His people. v. 30.
 3. Israel saw God's work. vv. 30, 31.
 4. The people believed and honored God. vv. 30, 31.

5. To have victory they need to obey God and allow Him to do the leading. v. 13.
6. God knows everything about our lives and is ready to have us call on Him.

Expressional Work

Use the following words to fill in the blanks:
Egypt, divided, followed, God, heard, one, Red Sea, Egyptians, rod.

1. The Israelites were servants in the land of _____.
2. They could not serve _____ there.
3. They cried to God and He _____ them.
4. After the Israelites started their journey the Egyptians _____ _____ them.
5. The _____ was before them and the _____ _____ behind them.
6. Moses stretched out his _____ over the sea, and the waters were _____.
7. Not _____ of the Egyptians was left.
8. _____ gave the victory.

Lesson IV

David's Work and Prayer

Aim and Presentation

We learned that God cares for the birds and flowers. In the last lesson we learned that God is concerned about the troubles of man. In this lesson we learn that God is interested in our work. Just as God was concerned and interested in the work David wished to do, so He is interested in the work of each of us. God cares for even the smallest details of our life. We need to consider God in our work. It is very important that we make the choosing as well as the doing of our work a matter of prayer.

Lesson Outline

II Samuel 7

1. God sent Nathan to David.
 1. David had rest from his enemies. v. 1.
 2. God promised David His presence. v. 3.
 3. David wanted to build the Temple. v. 5.
 4. David was chosen for ruler. v. 8.
- II. David received blessings from God.
 1. God was with David and cut off all his enemies. v. 9.
 2. God made David a great name. v. 9.
 3. God will appoint His people a place to dwell in. v. 10.
 4. Freedom from enemies promised. v. 10.
 5. Temple promised. v. 11.
 6. David's son promised the kingdom. v. 12.
 7. Mercy promised to Solomon. v. 15.
- III. David pours out his heart to God in prayer.
 1. David reasons concerning God's plans. vv. 19-21.
 2. He recognizes God's greatness and wisdom. v. 22.
 3. God's special concern for His people. v. 23.
 4. David accepts God's way. v. 23.
 5. David asks for God's blessing. v. 29.
- IV. God cares and will hear when we call to Him in true prayer.

Expressional Work

Fill in these blanks.

1. God sent _____ to David.
2. David was _____ over Israel.
3. David wanted to build a _____.
4. God told David that his _____ should build His house.
5. David _____ to God about these things.
6. God loves and _____ for His children.
7. We should love and serve _____ better because He cares.

Lesson V

Kindness to Strangers

Aim and Presentation

One of the ways to do God's will is to help others. One group we ought to help is the strangers among us.

There are many details in this story that can be pointed up so as to stimulate the child's imagination. For example, a mental picture of a man sitting in the door of his tent in the heat of the day, the catching of the young calf, the dressing of the calf.

We want to notice especially the splendid spirit of Abraham in preparing a bountiful and tasty meal of butter, milk, cakes, and veal. The promptness and enthusiasm which he showed is also worthy of note. Everybody would graciously entertain angels, but we need to remember that Abraham was kind and friendly to his guests before he knew that they were angels.

Lesson Outline

Genesis 18:1-8.

- I. Some angels visit Abraham and Sarah.
 1. Abraham in the tent under the oak. v. 1.
 2. Middle of a hot summer day. v. 2.
 3. Unexpected visitors come. v. 2.
- II. Abraham shows kindness to strangers.
 1. Runs to greet them. v. 2.
 2. Provides water for them to wash their feet. v. 4.
 3. Provides a shady place for them to rest. v. 4.
 4. Provides a large meal that was "tender and good." vv. 6-8.
- III. Helping to show kindness.
 1. Sarah bakes cakes. v. 6.
 2. A young man dresses the calf. v. 7.

Expressional Work

Answer the following questions:

1. Have you ever been invited to another person's house for dinner?
2. How can you return this kindness?
3. What should we do to strangers that come to our church?
4. What can we do to strangers to show them that we are glad to see them in our homes?
5. Name different kinds of strangers to whom we can show kindness.

Lesson VI

David Helps a Lame Man

Aim and Presentation

In this lesson we see the necessity for helping the unfortunate. Our unfortunate friends are those who may be crippled or ill.

Helping is doing things willingly and not expecting something in return. King David might have helped someone who would have given him much more honor and glory, but he wanted to show kindness to someone from the house of Saul, because of his great love for Jonathan. Due to his position as king he was better able to help the crippled man.

Lesson Outline

II Samuel 9.

- I. Personal description. II Sam. 4:4.
 1. Lame man's name.
 2. His age when he became lame.
 3. How he became lame.
 4. Name of his father.
 5. Name of his grandfather.
- II. David seeks to show kindness to someone from the house of Saul, his enemy. v. 1.
 1. How he finds that one. v. 3.
 2. Calls a servant from the house of Saul. v. 2.
 3. Ziba tells the king about Jonathan's son. v. 3.
 4. The king at once said, "Where is he?" v. 4.
 5. The man is sent for and found. v. 5.
- III. The cripple's responses to the call of the king.
 1. Falls on his face and does reverence. v. 6.
 2. His first words uttered. v. 6.
 3. He bows himself. v. 8.
 4. His humility and sense of unworthiness. v. 8.
 5. He dwells in Jerusalem. v. 13.
- IV. The helpfulness of the king to the cripple.
 1. The cripple did not ask for help. v. 5.
 2. David calls him by his name. v. 6.

3. David promises to restore all the land of Saul. v. 7.
4. The man shall eat bread at David's table continually. v. 7.
5. The servants should till the land for him. v. 10.
6. The cripple was to live as one of the king's sons. v. 11.

Expressional Work

Draw the king's palace and a small house from which the cripple came.

Lesson VII

Joseph's Care for His Father

Aim and Presentation

To do the will of God we need to care for our parents. In this lesson we see the kindness of Joseph in caring for his father. The story of Joseph is familiar and it is not intended that this lesson be simply a telling of the story of Joseph. Briefly review his story so that all are acquainted with it and so that they will better appreciate Joseph's kindness.

In showing Joseph's kindness it will be well to emphasize the fact that Joseph did not allow his high position to cause him to disregard his father and his father's family. Enlarge upon the details of the ways in which Joseph showed his kindness.

Lesson Outline

Genesis 45:16-28; 46:1-7; 47:1-12.

- I. Joseph's going to Egypt and his experience there.
 1. Sold by his brethren.
 2. He rises to high position.
 3. The famine.
- II. Experiences of his father and brethren.
 1. Sore famine in Canaan.
 2. Joseph's brethren come to buy food.
 3. Joseph inquires of his father.
- III. Joseph's kindness to his father.
 1. Sends ten asses with good things to him. 45:23.
 2. Sends ten asses with corn, bread, meat. 45:23.
 3. Invites him to Egypt and provides wagons. 45:27.
 4. Presents him to Pharaoh. 47:7.
 - a. Jacob a shepherd.
 - b. Shepherds despised by Egyptians.
 - c. Joseph not ashamed of a shepherd-father.
 5. Places him in the best land and provides for him throughout the famine: 47:11, 12.
 6. Kindness to his father after his death.
 - a. Weeps over him and kisses him. 50:1.
 - b. Commands Egyptians to embalm him. 50:2.
 - c. Keeps the promise he had made to his father. 50:5.

Expressional Work

Oral questions.

1. How did Joseph become separated from his father?
2. In what country did Jacob live?
3. Name some things Joseph did for his father before he died.
4. Name some things he did for him after he died.
5. What things have you done for your father that you think made him happy?
6. What are some more things that you could do for your father to make him well and happy?

Lesson VIII

Elijah's Faithful Life and How It Ended

Aim and Presentation

It will not be possible to make a study of Elijah's entire life. In this lesson we use only those passages in which he is associated with Ahab. Thus we see the contrast between their lives and in the way their lives ended. The climax of the lesson is Elijah's translation to heaven. This translation to heaven will give the teacher an opportunity to teach the final destiny of the righteous in contrast with that of the wicked.

Lesson Outline

I Kings 16:30-33; 17:1-6; 18:41-46; 22:34-38; II Kings 2:11, 12

- I. Ahab, a very wicked king. I Kings 16:30-33.
 1. He did more evil than any king before him.
 2. He married Jezebel, a heathen woman.
 3. He built an altar to worship Baal, a heathen god.
 4. God was very angry because of his wickedness.
- II. Because the people did not worship God, God did not give them rain. I Kings 17:1-6.
 1. The prophet told Ahab there would be no dew or rain.
 2. God told Elijah to hide by a brook.
 3. Elijah drank water from the brook and ravens brought him food.
- III. After three and one-half years, God sent rain again. I Kings 18:41-46.
 1. The prophet told Ahab it would rain again.
 2. The prophet went up into the mountain and prayed.
 3. He sent his servant to look toward the sea seven times.
 4. The seventh time the servant saw a small cloud.
 5. The sky becomes black and there is a great rain.
 6. God was with Elijah and he ran before Ahab into the city.
- IV. Ahab continues in his wickedness and is killed in battle. I Kings 22:34-38.
 1. Ahab was hit by an arrow.
 2. He died that evening.
 3. The dogs licked up his blood.
- V. What became of Elijah. II Kings 2:11, 12.
 1. He was walking with another prophet.
 2. They were parted by a chariot and horses of fire.
 3. A whirlwind took Elijah to heaven.
 4. Elisha saw him go.

Expressional Work

Write the name of the man referred to in each of the following:

1. A wicked king. _____.
2. A prophet of God. _____.
3. Said it would not rain. _____.
4. Married a wicked woman. _____.
5. Hid by a brook. _____.
6. Fed by ravens. _____.
7. Worshiped Baal. _____.
8. Prayed to God. _____.
9. Dogs licked his blood. _____.
10. Taken to heaven. _____.

Lesson IX

A Man Dies for Telling the Truth

Aim and Presentation

This is another lesson of contrasts. John the Baptist is the representative of God's people. He was just, holy, and very active in teaching people their duty toward God and man. He hated sin and was not afraid to rebuke sinners even though they were men of importance and had the power to take his life.

Herod, on the other hand, seems more concerned in having pleasure than in doing something helpful and useful. His party of pleasure led him to do that for which he was sorry. It will not be necessary to emphasize the gruesome details of the beheading in order to have the children see the difference between the activities of those who know God and do His will and those who do not do the will of God.

Lesson Outline

Mark 6:17-29.

- I. John the Baptist, a preacher sent from God.
 1. Herod put him into prison. v. 17.
 2. John had told Herod it was wrong for him to have his brother's wife. v. 18.
 3. Herodias wanted to kill John. v. 19.
 4. Herod was afraid to do this. v. 20.
 5. Herod knew that John did that which was right. v. 20.
 6. John was a holy man. v. 20.
- II. Herod had a birthday party.
 1. Many great men were at the party. v. 21.
 2. Herod was much pleased when Herodias' daughter danced for them.
 3. He promised to give her whatever she asked for. v. 23.
 4. The girl's wicked mother told her to ask for the head of John the Baptist. v. 24.
- III. The death of John the Baptist.
 1. Herod was very sorry. v. 26.
 2. He was ashamed to break his foolish promise. v. 26.
 3. He gave the girl what she asked for. v. 28.
 4. John's friends bury his body and then go and tell Jesus. v. 29.

Expressional Work

Fill in the blanks.

_____ was placed in prison by _____ because he told the _____. Herodias, _____ of the ruler, had her daughter ask for the _____ of _____. His _____ buried his body and went and told _____.

Lesson X

An Unhappy Ending of a Sinful Meeting

Aim and Presentation

In this lesson the children should see the folly of a life of sin. It should be clear from this study that God weighs the life of each person in His balances. Belshazzar was a king and thought he could do as he pleased. God suddenly brought his party to an end. Thus it is with all worldly pleasures. The king knew better, but was unconcerned until he saw the hand writing on the wall. Then it was too late. There comes a time in the life of everyone when it is too late. The king was now anxious to know the will of God. He should have tried to know it earlier.

Lesson Outline

Daniel 5.

- I. The king made a dinner for a thousand great men.
 1. They drank wine with cups taken from the Temple of God. v. 3.
 2. They praised gods made of gold, silver, brass, iron, wood, and stone. v. 4.
- II. What the king saw on the wall.
 1. Fingers of a man's hand. v. 5.
 2. The fingers were writing. v. 5.
 3. The king's knees shook together. v. 6.
 4. The king called for wise men to read the writing. v. 7.
 5. The wise men could not read it. v. 8.
 6. He sends for Daniel. v. 13.
- III. Daniel explains the writing.
 1. Daniel told the king he should not have been so proud. v. 22.
 2. The king should have worshiped the God of heaven. v. 23.
 3. God was displeased with the king's doings. v. 24.
 4. Daniel explains the writing.
 - a. He could be king no longer. v. 26.
 - b. He was not fit to be king. v. 27.
 - c. An enemy would become king. v. 28.
- IV. That night the king was killed and another man became king.

Expressional Work

Have the children write the words, "Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin," and draw the fingers of a man's hand writing. Below this they should write the meaning of the strange words: "Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting."

Lesson XI

Peter and John Attend a Wonderful Prayer Meeting

Aim and Presentation

In this lesson we want to see that God will hear those who do His will when they call upon Him.

Briefly tell the story of Peter and John's imprisonment and release. Make it clear that they were imprisoned for doing a good work. Also emphasize the fact that the chief priests and elders had commanded them not to speak or teach in the name of Jesus.

These early Christians were very much interested in spreading the Gospel. Therefore they had a meeting where they talked things over and talked to God about it. They obeyed God rather than man. Because of this God was with them and helped them so that they had no fear of their enemies. When we are on the Lord's side we can always get help from Him.

Lesson Outline

Acts 4: 23-33.

- I. What Peter and John did.
 1. They went to a meeting with other Christians. v. 23.
 2. They told what their enemies had said.
- II. What all the Christians did.
 1. They listened to Peter and John. v. 24.
 2. They prayed. v. 24.
- III. Their prayer.
 1. Praised God who made all things. v. 24.
 2. The heathen and wicked people had done evil. v. 25.
 3. Jesus was a Holy Child. v. 27.
 4. They named some wicked people who stood against Jesus. vv. 26, 27.
 5. The things they asked God to do.
 - a. To notice what evil men threatened to do. v. 29.
 - b. To make His people bold. v. 29.
 - c. To heal. v. 30.
 - d. To do signs and wonders. v. 30.
- IV. Some things that proved God was with His people.
 1. The place was shaken. v. 31.
 2. They were filled with the Holy Ghost. v. 31.

3. They were not afraid to speak the Word of God. v. 31.
4. They received great power and grace. v. 33.

Expressional Work

Help the children make a list of persons who opposed Jesus and His followers.

Help the children write a short paragraph on why we ought to obey God rather than man.

Lesson XII

Stephen Stays True to Jesus

Aim and Presentation

This lesson vividly portrays the differences between the Christian and the non-Christian. The lesson presents a number of contrasts which should make an impression on the children. On the part of Stephen we see a clear conscience, a love for God, for the truth, and for his enemies. He had the courage to do the right even in the face of death. In his accusers we see a smitten conscience, hatred of God and His truth, falsehood and guilt.

It will not be necessary to go into detail about Stephen's defense. Point out clearly what Stephen gained through faithfulness and show that this was worth more than natural life.

Lesson Outline

Acts 6:8-15; 7:54-60.

- I. Stephen arrested because of his work for God.
 1. He did wonders and miracles. v. 6.
 2. He spoke with wisdom. v. 10.
 3. His enemies tried to make the people think he was a bad man. v. 12.
 4. They said things about him that were not true. v. 13.
 5. His face looked like the face of an angel. v. 15.
 6. He explained why he believed in Jesus. 7:1-53.
- II. What Stephen's enemies did after he spoke.
 1. They knew that he spoke the truth and that they were wrong. v. 54.
 2. They cried out with a loud voice. v. 57.
 3. They stopped their ears. v. 57.
 4. They all ran upon him. v. 57.
 5. They took off their coats and threw stones at him. v. 58.
- III. What Stephen did when he was mistreated.
 1. He looked into heaven and saw Jesus standing at the right hand of God. v. 55.
 2. He told the people what he saw. v. 56.
 3. He prayed to God while he was being stoned. v. 59.
 4. He prayed for those who threw the stones. v. 60.
 5. He died and his spirit went to be with Jesus. v. 60.

Expressional Work

Fill in these blanks.

1. Stephen was a _____ man. (good, bad)
2. He preached to please _____. (God, the people)
3. The face of Stephen looked like the face of an _____. (angel, devil)
4. The stones _____ Stephen. (hurt, didn't hurt)
5. Stephen looked up to heaven and saw _____. (angels, Jesus)
6. While he was being stoned, Stephen _____. (prayed, complained)

On the blackboard draw a number of stones and some candles. Have the children help you label each one of the stones with some wicked thing that Stephen's enemies did. Label the candles with the good things Stephen did.

