

BEGINNER

Bible Teacher



December 2014, January, February 2015

WINTER QUARTER



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Editor in Chief: Grace M. Todd

Writer: Donna Poole

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Dear Beginner Teacher,

Do you suppose saints in former days were more skilled in worship than we are? They did not have the electronic distractions we have, nor did they have our fast-paced lives. I think, though, that the devil has always put roadblocks in the way of worship. Why? Worship changes our lives.

“Acts of Worship” is this quarter’s theme. The more we worship, the more confidently we trust God’s choices for us. Worship dispels many things, among them doubt and despair. Worship takes our minds off “me” and puts them on “Him.” Worship leads to service.

It is not possible to worship and complain about circumstances at the same time. Try it the next time you get a flat tire on a snowy road.

Worship is an art we only begin to learn here. In heaven we will perfect the art of worship. Since worship is heaven’s activity, we do well to practice it on earth.

December’s lessons teach the awe of God. When I was a child, children were “in awe” of anyone in authority, but that is not the case today. Perhaps your students will catch the concept of awe more by your attitude and tone of voice than they will by your words. Let them hear a happy reverence as you teach them to make a joyful noise, to worship God’s Son, and to praise God in the highest. Awe may come as they discover that Jesus has all power!

Prayer is an act of worship. Learning to pray is the focus for January. You will teach the model Christ gave us for prayer, as well as Jesus’ prayer for His disciples. It is a joy to know that Jesus prays for us! Praying for one another is also a part of prayerful worship.

February’s focus is stewardship for life. We worship not just with words but also with actions. We serve God by how we eat. We serve God as we serve neighbors and those who have little. We serve God by being prepared to fight spiritual battles.

You will notice in lesson 12, “Putting on God’s Armor,” that the armor is not mentioned specifically in Telling the Lesson. The editors have requested that, when possible, writers avoid symbols and just explain the meaning. Many children this age are not able to understand symbolism.

I have prayed for you,

Donna Poole

Sound-Effects

A popular game show that has been around for many years has a “mighty sound-effects lady.” Whatever our age, sound effects, drama, drawings, music, and visuals of all kinds capture our attention and help us learn and retain. A good teacher goes beyond the written material and adds her talents (be they few or many) to her teaching.

When telling the story of the good Samaritan recently, I drew on the dry-erase board a simple, curvy road with rocks to represent the road from Jerusalem to Jericho. I am no artist, but I added a stick figure of a man lying on the road.

The next Sunday, a five-year-old asked whether I would tell the same story. “I can do the drawing,” he said. He stood on a chair and exactly duplicated the drawing I had done, which was no longer on the dry-erase board. He even drew the rocks in the same place!

He handed me the dry-erase marker. “You draw the man lying in the middle of the road,” he said.

I was astonished at his memory. Since there was time, I did briefly retell that story and asked the children for their help. When I came to the part about the priest and the Levite passing the poor man on the road, the same five-year-old duplicated the sound I had made before of the passing feet.

Children live in an audiovisual era. The quickest way to accomplish nothing in Sunday school is to read directly from the manual and do nothing more. You may know from experience that the result of that is wiggly bodies and bored yawns. As teachers, we are not merely trying to fill an hour. We are

investing in eternity.

Perhaps you do not feel comfortable with acting out stories, or drawing pictures, or singing part of the lesson, or braying like a donkey, or standing on your head. (I am joking about the standing on your head part.) Give it a try. Be creative. The more you do it, the easier it becomes.

Use music. Our granddaughter, who has delayed development, has many learning disabilities. She can, however, remember anything that is sung.

My mother-in-law, with advanced dementia, recalls every hymn she ever knew, though she cannot remember that her husband is no longer alive. Even if you do not sing well, music is a valuable tool.

Are you afraid of looking like a fool? With Paul I say that I will look like a fool for Christ’s sake (cf. I Cor. 4:10). There are few things I will not try in order to help a child retain a Bible truth.

Most of us do not mind yelling at a sporting event. I “wahoo!” with the best of them at my granddaughter’s volleyball and basketball games and at her track meets.

Do not feel silly raising your voice if the character in the Bible story raised his. Do not hesitate to limp, to act sick or near death, to clomp like a donkey, or to imitate a new mother with a baby in her arms.

We have beginner children for a short time. We want them to leave class knowing the Lord as Saviour and remembering the parts of His Word we have taught them. We can accomplish this better if we are not afraid to be a sound-effects lady or gentleman.

A Helper

Barbara G. James

Barbara G. James

I can be a help - er

The first system of music is written in 6/8 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The vocal line (treble clef) features a melody of quarter notes: G4, A4, Bb4, C5, Bb4, A4, G4. The piano accompaniment (bass clef) consists of a steady eighth-note bass line: G3, F3, E3, D3, C3, B2, A2, G2.

For Je - sus ev - 'ry day.

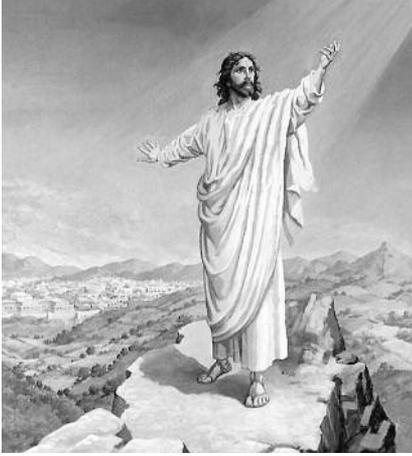
The second system continues the melody: G4, A4, Bb4, C5, Bb4, A4, G4. The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note bass line.

I can be a help - er

The third system repeats the first system's melody and accompaniment.

At home, at church, at play.

The fourth system continues the melody: G4, A4, Bb4, C5, Bb4, A4, G4. The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note bass line.



We praise and worship Jesus, the Son of God.

Worship God's Son

LESSON: Hebrews 1:1-9

GOLDEN TEXT—“[Jesus is] the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person” (Hebrews 1:3).

Scripture Lesson Text

HEB. 1:1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

4 Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

5 For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I

begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?

6 And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.

7 And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire.

8 But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.

9 Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.

THOUGHTS FOR TEACHERS

AIM: to teach children to worship with their words, songs, and lives.

Amy Carmichael knew the art of worship. She wrote, “Worship and laud and praise Thee evermore; / Look up in wonder, and behold a door / Opened in heaven, and One set on a throne; / Stretch out a hand, and touch Thine own, / O Christ, our King, our Lord whom we adore” (*Rose From Brier*, Christian Literature Crusade).

How much time do we spend in worship? We cannot teach what we have not experienced. If by temperament you are more of a Martha than a Mary (cf. Luke 10:38-40), perhaps Christian poems or a hymnbook can help you practice the art of worship.

Nothing is so satisfying to the human heart as worship. When death calls, I think we will only wish we had done it more. We can worship with words and song, but we can also worship with our lives. Nothing praises God more than a holy life lived for Him and others.

Worship gives us strength to face hardship. An unknown writer penned the book of Hebrews to Jewish Christians living in nightmarish times. Having trusted Christ, they were exiled from any support from Jewish friends or family. Nero, the Roman ruler, hated Christians and persecuted them in hideous ways.

Many of the recipients of this letter were “mocked, scourged, tormented, and imprisoned. They lived in caves and holes in the ground” (Swindoll, *Hebrews Vol. I*, Insight for Living).

There was an escape from the nightmare. If the Christians rejected Christ and returned to the Jewish religion, they could find help and support. Is it any wonder that some were tempted? The writer of Hebrews showed these

Christians that in all ways, Christ is superior to all other things. Whatever it may cost, Christ is worthy of worship.

The Jews held angels and prophets in highest esteem. Hebrews teaches that Christ is far superior to both. Jesus is God the Son. The writer of Hebrews urged the persecuted Christians to worship. This would give them the strength they needed to stay true to Christ. As they realized how worthy He is, they would also be willing to follow Him, whatever the cost. Worship gives us strength and courage to face life’s trials.

Getting Ready

For Telling the Lesson, prepare a visual you will use for all the lessons this quarter. From three large sheets of green poster board, cut three pine trees. Paint the edges of the pine trees white to look like snow. From red and blue poster board, cut twelve birds, six of each color. (If you are not artistic, ask someone to make you a simple bird pattern, or find one on the Internet.)

Attach the trees to a classroom wall. On one bird print “Worship God’s Son.” You need tape.

For Handwork, you need paper plates, crayons, a paper punch, and yarn.

Beginning Worship

Welcome, boys and girls. Do you want to know how to make a good day better? Do you want to know how to make a bad day better? Worship God! Worship Him with your prayers. Worship Him with your songs. It is a good and happy thing to worship God.

Suggested Songs

“A Helper” (page 4)

“Wonderful Jesus” (Baur)

“Praise Him, Praise Him” (Anonymous)