Objects that talk and teach

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OBJECTS

that

TALK and TEACH

Louis T. Talbot
OBJECTS THAT TALK AND TEACH
FOREWORD

It has always been the custom of the writer, from the beginning of his ministry, to set aside from five to ten minutes of the morning service for the children, using an object by which can be illustrated the saving grace and keeping power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The object lessons contained in this book were delivered in The Church of the Open Door, during the year 1933.

God has been pleased to bless these messages, and because of that, this little book is sent forth with the prayer that it may be of service to pastors, teachers, children’s evangelists, and all those who may be called upon to minister to “these little ones.”

Louis T. Talbot.

March, 1934
Los Angeles, California.
Let Me Guide a Little Child!

"Dear Lord, I do not ask
That thou should'st give me some high work of Thine
Some noble calling, or some wondrous task.
Give me a little hand to hold in mine;
Give me a little child to point the way
Over the strange, sweet path that leads to Thee;
Give me a little voice to teach to pray;
Give me two shining eyes Thy face to see.
The only crown I ask, dear Lord, to wear
Is this: That I may teach a little child.
I do not ask that I may ever stand
Among the wise, the worthy, or the great;
I only ask that softly, hand in hand,
A child and I may enter at the gate."

—King's Business.

Jesus said, "Suffer little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God" (Luke 18:16).

TO
THE BOYS AND GIRLS
OF
THE CHURCH OF THE OPEN DOOR
who, by their interest, have furnished inspiration for these object lessons
THIS BOOK
IS
AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED

"Come, ye children, hearken unto Me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord" (Ps. 34:11).
INTRODUCTION

The importance of presenting the Gospel message in terms which the little child can understand is inestimable. During His earthly ministry, our Lord Jesus Christ recognized this need for simplicity, and constantly taught the people spiritual lessons through reference to objects with which they were most familiar. The wise pastor today must be ever on the alert to employ this method in presenting the truth to the children of his congregation. Since fully eighty-five per cent of our knowledge is acquired through the eye-gate, this avenue of approach should be more widely utilized than is generally the case.

As a part of the morning service each Lord's day, in the Church of the Open Door, Los Angeles, California, the pastor, Rev. Louis T. Talbot, gives an object lesson for children, presenting vital spiritual truths applicable to young and old alike. To meet the demand of many who know of this plan, and in order to furnish practical examples for those desiring to follow this method, Mr. Talbot is making available much of the material which he has recently used.

It gives me great pleasure to write this note of commendation of the illuminating and appealing lessons which have been used with such benefit in the services of the Church of the Open Door. I, for one, rejoice greatly that this suggestive material is now accessible to all those who seek to utilize the object lesson method in leading the children into a deeper interest in the things of God.

ELBERT L. McCREERY.

Dean of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles,
March, 1934.

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OBJECT LESSONS FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS

A Christmas Star

Christmas Candles

Consider the Lilies

Death and Resurrection

The Easter Egg

Lighthouses

Send Out the Light

The Homing Pigeon

The Kite that Wanted to be Free

The Lord's Portion

The Blood Covers

SOUL WINNING

Fishers of Men

TITHING

THE SINGING HEART

OBJECTS: Two large hearts; one black and one white. Heart-shaped candy boxes may be used. Fill the black box with filthy rags, and other articles mentioned. Put a red cardboard heart in the white box, also a music box, taken from a vanity case. Cut a door in both boxes and leave closed.

These two hearts, boys and girls, picture two classes of people in the world today, folks with black sinful hearts and folks with clean white hearts. Now I'm sure that not one of you boys and girls really want a black heart; do you? How, then, may folks with black hearts have them changed to white hearts?

Let us look closely at these two large hearts. There is a door to each, but the latch that opens the door is not seen, that is, it is on the inside of the door. Like the heart's doors of boys and girls, they must be opened from the inside.

The Lord Jesus stands at the heart's door of every boy and girl, knocking—and His hand is nail scarred. He has been to the Cross of Calvary. His Word says, "Behold I stand at the door and knock, if any man open I will come in."—Rev. 3:20.

When some one knocks at the door of your home, you say, "Come in," don't you? And the one who knocks comes in. There are some folks, however, who do not want visitors because their houses are all topsy-turvy, so they don't say, "Come in," when any one knocks. Have you ever known folks like these?

This black heart represents the boys and girls who have never let the Lord Jesus come into their hearts to be their Saviour, though He has been knocking, knocking. They have refused to open their heart's door.

Let us look inside this black heart and see what is in it, then we will know why it's so black and why the Lord Jesus has been kept out.

Why here is a filthy rag (open door, take out articles as mentioned). What does this mean? Ah, this pictures self-righteousness and good deeds. You know some folks are trying to make their hearts white by good works—but God says in Isaiah 64:6—"All our righteousnesses are as filthy rags." Fancy a man or woman, boy or girl, priding themselves on their good works which in God's sight look just like this dirty rag!
And, what is this box I find in the black heart,—oh,—"a package of cigarettes," you say. Yes, some folks are holding on to some bad habits which they are not willing to give up for the Lord Jesus.

Here's another box—a box of playing cards. This tells us of the worldly amusements which some folks love so much that they have no time for the Lord or the church and Sunday school. As for these cards, boys and girls, did you know that they were originally made to entertain an insane king in Europe?

What do you suppose I will find next in this heart—Why, here are some green pieces of paper-dollar bills. These tell us of "the love of money" which so dominates the lives of some people that they lose sight of the Lord and His work.

And now, last of all, see this ugly serpent which I found hidden away in the black heart. Who does this make you think of, boys and girls? "Satan"—of course—and he it is who is responsible for all these things found in this heart. No wonder the heart is black and the door shut, keeping the Lord Jesus out. I wouldn't want a heart like this, would you?

Let us look now at the beautiful white one. Why, this heart is full of melody. Hear the sweet music. (Music box inside.) Let us see why this heart is full of joy. (Open door of heart.) The door has been opened to the knock of the Lord Jesus. This white heart tells us of the boy or girl who has said to the Lord Jesus, "Come in and be my Saviour."—and He has come in, for in Rev. 3:20 we read, "If any man opens I will come in." As we look past the door we see a red heart (red heart inside). This tells us of the precious blood of Jesus which was shed on Calvary's Cross. This heart has been washed in the Blood of Jesus and so has been made white as snow—all the blackness of sin has been washed away. This is the only way to make black hearts white. "The Blood of Jesus Christ, His son, cleanseth us from all Sin."—1 John 1:7. "Without the shedding of blood there is no remission for sins."—Heb. 9:22.

Are your hearts black or white in His sight, boys and girls? If black with sin, won't you open your heart's door today, and let Him come in. Not only will He wash away all the blackness of sin and make you white as snow, but He will put a "new song in your heart, even praise unto our God."—Ps. 40:3. Yours will be a Singing Heart, making music like this white one.

"What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus."
Lamb died on the Cross (Romans 5:8). I trust, boys and girls, that whenever you see a little lamb you will be reminded of the Lord Jesus, the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world. Have you ever received Him as your Lamb, the One who died for your sins? If not, won't you do so today?

*A live lamb was given by the pastor to the child who brought the most children to the church service to hear the Object Lesson.

OBJECTS: Red Candle and a silver Dollar.

I have with me this morning, boys and girls, a tall RED candle. (Display.) This represents the men and women, boys and girls, who have been washed in the blood of the Lord Jesus. "Without the shedding of blood there is no remission for sins."—Hebrews 9:22, and "The blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanseth us from all sin."—1 John 1:7.

Not only are sins blotted out when one accepts the Lord as Saviour, but something else happens, too. You know, in God's word we read, "The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord," and "The Lord will light my candle." Those who believe on the Lord Jesus as Saviour have the candles of their hearts lighted by the Lord Himself.

When the Lord Jesus was here upon earth, He said, "I am the light of the world, he that followeth me, shall not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life."—John 8:12. When the Lord Jesus comes into a heart He brings light and everlasting life. If you have never opened your heart's door and let Him come in to be your Saviour, the candle of your heart is still unlighted.

(Light candle.) See the golden light. Having received Jesus as your Saviour, this is the way you are to shine for Him. In Matthew 5:14 we read, "Ye are the light of the world" and in Matthew 5:16, "Let your light so shine before men..."

There are ways in which this light may be made to shine the brighter and farther, and there are ways, too, in which the light may be hindered in its shining. I have here a silver dollar which represents not only money, but all of one's earthly possessions. By holding the dollar in front of the light, it is hindered from shining, isn't it? (Demonstrate.) Love of money and the things of this world are keeping many from shining for the Lord Jesus. (Suggest other things which enter lives of boys and girls and hinder their shining for Him.) But suppose we put the dollar back of the light. (Demonstrate.) Ah, what a difference! Now, it becomes a reflector and sends the light farther. A reflector can be used to send the light into the farthest and
darkest corner. So money, the root of all evil, can be used to send the
good news of the Lord Jesus to the farthest and darkest corner of the
whole earth. (Suggest ways, such as supporting missionaries, sending
out gospels, tracts, etc.)

Every Christian has money and earthly possessions on one side of
the light or the other. Have you given all to the Lord Jesus, boys
and girls, to be used by Him as a reflector, or are you still holding on
to the things He has given you, thus hindering your shining for Him?
Remember He said, "Ye are the light of the world," and "Let your
light so shine."

The Christian, too, has many dangers to meet as he journeys on
toward heaven. There is an enemy also, strong and powerful. This
is Satan whose chief delight is to encounter the Christian and cause
him to live a defeated Christian life. He is aided in his efforts by
hosts of emissaries who act at his bidding. (Explain how boys and
girls are tempted to do wrong—disobey parents, steal, etc.)

But God who has so wonderfully provided an armor for Mr.
Tortoise, has for the Christian also made ample provision, that he
might victoriously meet this terrible enemy, Satan.

In the sixth chapter of the Book of Ephesians, we read about this
wonderful armor that every Christian should be wearing. (Eph.
6:10-18.)

First, there is the GIRDLE of truth and BREASTPLATE of
righteousness. What a protection His truth and His righteousness
are for the body! (Jno. 14:6, 17:7; Isa. 61:10.)

For the FEET, there are the shoes of the Gospel of peace, (Isa.
52:7). For the HANDS, there is the shield of faith, (Rom. 10:17).
The helmet of Salvation is to be worn on the head. What a
blessed thing it is to KNOW that one IS saved, (Jno. 5:24). For the MOUTH, the sword of the Spirit is provided, which is the Word of God. What a complete armor this is!

Ephesians 6:13 says, “Wherefore TAKE unto you the whole armor of God” . . . So the Christian must TAKE this armor by faith—reckon it as yours—thank God for it. He has provided it. It is very costly. The Lord Jesus purchased it for every Christian when He died on the cross. (1 Peter 1:18, 19.)

If you have accepted the Lord Jesus as your Saviour, boys and girls, you should be making use of His armor. Like Mr. Tortoise, rely on God’s protection for you. Any Christian who makes use of this armor is sure to be victorious over Satan and all his hosts of emissaries. “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and the POWER of His might.”—Eph. 6:10. Don’t rely on your own strength when meeting the enemy,—if you do, like the tortoise, you will only be terribly defeated.

“Now thanks be unto God which ALWAYS causest us to triumph in Christ.”—2 Cor. 2:14.

Lightouses are such interesting places. Have you ever seen one, boys and girls? They are tall, tower-like buildings located at the entrance to harbors, on points of land extending out into the water, or at any part of the coast where warning should be given of danger of any kind to ships, such as rocks, sand banks, etc.

A strong light is placed near the top of the lighthouse, whose rays are sent far out to sea by mirror-like reflectors. These lighthouse lamps send forth their light at intervals so as to attract more attention, and to let it be known that it is a true lighthouse light and not a counterfeit.

Here is a lighthouse, boys and girls, that will give you some idea of how these tall, tower-like buildings look along the coast. (Present toy lighthouse or picture. Darken room and let the lighthouse light be the only light.)

These lighthouses have a two-fold mission to fulfill. They point out the harbors and places of safety for the wayfaring seaman, and give warning of the dangerous places to avoid. The captain of a ship always looks for the light from the lighthouse when nearing the end of his journey. It guides him into the harbor. I well remember, when taking a trip to Australia a few years ago, of rising early one morning when near Sydney Harbor, just to catch sight of the swish of the great light from the lighthouse which stands as a guard there. I was rewarded, for far in the distance I saw a gleam of light, and it was the light which guided the captain of our ship into that great harbor.

What a blessing these light-giving buildings are to travellers of the sea! But suppose a light should fail to shine; what then! A ship with its precious cargo of life might miss the harbor and be lost, or failing to receive the danger signal, be wrecked. Before the days of lighthouses, many a ship was dashed to pieces on rocks, and failed to reach the harbor.

A lighthouse keeper’s work is most important. He must keep the great lights in good condition and the large mirror-like reflectors shining, that the lives of those at sea might not be endangered because
of any neglect on his part. To perform these duties, the lighthouse keeper must give himself up to a life of separation as far as friends, neighbors and many things that make life pleasant are concerned. But the reward of being used in such a service of sending out a light to travellers on a dark, storm-tossed sea is greater than any of the sacrifices.

These lighthouses have many messages for us, boys and girls. We are living in a world that is dark and foggy with sin. Those who have received the Lord Jesus as Saviour are journeying toward a safe and sure harbor, but there are many dangers along the way where warning should be given. Many are travelling in this world of darkness, not knowing the way into the harbor of safety. Like a ship upon a storm-tossed sea in the days before lighthouses, they are lost and wrecked. What a need there is for boys and girls, men and women, to be lighthouses, as it were, along the shore of life!

When Jesus was here upon earth, He said, "I am the light of the world. A city that is set upon a hill cannot be hid."—Matt. 5:14.

In Proverbs 20:27 we read, "The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord," and in Ps. 18:28, "For Thou wilt light my candle." When a boy or girl, man or woman, accepts Jesus as Saviour, the "candle of the heart" is lighted. The Lord Jesus, the true Light, comes into his heart and he is ready to be a lighthouse for the Lord.

Just as lighthouses point the way to the harbors of safety and give warning of the dangers along the way, so the Christian should point the way Home to those travelling in this world of darkness and sin, and sound a warning of the dangers to avoid. Harbors have only one entrance. So there is only one way or entrance into the Port of the way Home to those travelling in this world of darkness and sin, warning of the dangers along the way, so the Christian should point.

Lighthouses are located wherever there is a NEED. God has a special needly field for each Christian, whether in Africa, China, or the home-land. Boys and girls can give forth a light for the Lord Jesus among playmates at school, or among sisters and brothers at home. It is a blessed privilege to be a lighthouse for Him wherever it is needed.

Be a lighthouse for the Lord Jesus, boys and girls! "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven."—Matt. 5:16.

"Let the lower lights be burning! Send a gleam across the wave! Some poor fainting, struggling seaman You may rescue, you may save."

L

THE POWER OF THE CROSS

OBJECTS: 1. A Fish Bowl containing a white solution made by dissolving 1 phenol phthaline tablet in a glass of water.
2. A red solution made by adding a few drops of ammonia to the above solution. Indicated in story. 3. A white Cross made of boxes, weighted at the base. Small atomizer, containing a small amount of hydrochloric acid concealed inside cross, and this added to the above solution as indicated in story.

Let us look at this large fish bowl this morning, boys and girls. (Exhibit.) You can see that it is partly filled with a pure, white liquid. (See 1 above.) This brings to our minds something very clean, and white, and beautiful. We will let this white liquid picture the world as it was before sin entered. Plants grew without thorns and briars; animals played about with no tendency to harm, or destroy. God walked and talked with Adam and Eve in the cool of the day.

In Genesis, chapters 1 and 2, we read the wonderful story of the creation of this great wide, beautiful, wonderful world. We read, too, of the beautiful Garden of Eden which God made as a home for Adam and Eve. What a lovely place this must have been! (Describe; Gen. 2:8-20.)

Then after a while, how long we do not know, a terrible thing happened. Satan (Isa. 14:12-17; Ezek. 28:13-19) came to Adam and Eve in the garden as a bright and shining creature and tempted them to disobey God. They listened to his words and disobeyed God by eating the forbidden fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. (Repeat story of Gen. 3.)

Sin had entered the world.

Let us look again at this large bowl! Why, the solution has changed color. (Add few drops of ammonia while giving above story.) See how red it is! You wouldn't like to get any of this liquid on your clothes, would you? Red is the hardest color of all to remove. Red rags have to be placed by themselves in the paper mills. No acid has been found that will remove this "red" color, so that rags of this kind have to be made into special products, as red blotting paper, etc.

God knew this, and so described sin by this color. In Isa. 1:18 we read, "Though your sins be as scarlet they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

So, we will let this red liquid picture the world as it looked after sin entered. Because of Adam's disobedience, ALL men became sin-
But Isa. 1:18 says that though your sins be as “scarlet and red as crimson, they shall be as white as snow and as wool.” How, then, can this change take place? The object I have here will answer the question. (Present cross.) As I place this cross in the red liquid, notice what takes place! (Demonstrate. Press rubber bulb of atomizer concealed in the cross.) Hydrochloric acid changes red liquid to clear. Ah, the red liquid has become pure and clean! This is God’s way of removing sin, and what a wonderful way it is! God so loved...that He gave—gave His only beloved Son to die on the cross of Calvary in the sinner’s place. “For He hath made Him to be sin for us who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.”—2 Cor. 5:21. “In whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins.”—Col. 1:14.

Yes, the cross tells of the death of the Lord Jesus, and God’s way of removing sin. There is no other way. “Without the shedding of blood, there is no remission for sin.”—Heb. 9:22.

The Old Testament gives a beautiful picture of what the cross will do in any life. The children of Israel in their wilderness journey came to the bitter waters of Marah (Ex. 15). God commanded Moses to place a tree in the waters, which he did, and they became “sweet.” This tree was a picture or shadow of the cross of Calvary, (Gal. 3:13). The cross, and all that it stands for will make a “bitter” life “sweet,” and make a blessing of any trial or circumstance.

Have you given the cross a place in your lives, boys and girls? The old hymn says, “The way of the cross leads home,” and so it does. Those who have believed that the Lord Jesus died on the cross in their place and stead, not only have their sins “red as crimson” made “white as snow,” but are looking toward heaven as their home. Some day they shall be with Him, and live with Him forever in the beautiful home He has gone to prepare.

In 1 Cor. 1:18 we read, “For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness, but unto us which are saved it is the POWER OF GOD.”

So shall we ever give the cross a place in our lives, boys and girls, and as Paul said in Gal. 6:14, seek only to “glory in the cross.”

“When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.”

This jar is full of water, boys and girls—clear, pure water. Have you ever thought of how important water is? You know what it is to find a cool drink of water, when thirsty; don’t you? Water means life and refreshment. It means fruitfulness and beauty. It cleanses, produces power, and changes barren desert places into garden spots. Most of you have studied geography and know that certain parts of the world are desert places, such as the great Sahara Desert, parts of Arabia, etc. These places are barren because of the lack of water.

I have a friend who has a ranch out in the desert. One day he took me out to see it. We drove for miles over barren land, seeing no growing thing, save sage brush. Finally we came to my friend’s ranch. What a transformation! There in the midst of the desert was this beautiful ranch! There were acres of green alfalfa and other growing things. Why was this part of the desert so beautiful and fruitful while the other part of it was barren and a waste? The difference was found in that one word, WATER. My friend’s ranch had been watered.

There are people today, boys and girls, whose lives are like the desert land, barren and waste. There is no fruitfulness and fragrance about them. They have never known the Lord Jesus as their Saviour. The world abounds in moral deserts, too, countries where the people are still in heathen darkness, such as China, Japan and India, etc., and know not the Saviour. Just as natural water can change a desert place into a garden spot, so the Lord can change moral deserts into places of beauty and fragrance.

The Lord Jesus is the Living Water. (John 7:37-39.) ALL that water does in the natural, He is able to do in the spiritual. He cleanses, refreshes, and makes lives fruitful and beautiful. When one receives Jesus as Saviour, they partake of the Living Water. “If any man thirst,” the Lord Jesus said, “let him come unto me and drink.” (John 7:37.)

Here I have a Japanese flower. (Display.) See how dried up it
looks. There doesn't seem to be any life in it, but I want you to notice what happens when I put it in this jar of pure water. (Demonstrate.) Ah, see it open up, the petals unfold, color appears, green leaves unfold! Notice the bubbles on the water—the plant is drinking in life. What a difference water made to this dried up plant. Isn't it beautiful? See how it fills the jar! (Demonstrate.)

A person who does not know the Lord Jesus as Saviour, is not only like a desert, barren waste, but also like this dried up Japanese flower. No beauty, no fragrance, and yet what possibilities were hidden in the dried up plant. So in a life that has never believed on the Lord Jesus, there are many hidden possibilities, needing only the Living Water to bring them out.

"... and thou shalt be like a watered garden."—Isa. 58:11b. This is the Lord's desire for you, boys and girls, instead of the barren, thirsty desert.

I am so glad that many years ago I drank of the Living Water, Christ Jesus, and found in Him all that I needed; have you, boys and girls? If not, come today to the fountain of Living Water. "... And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."—Rev. 22:17.

OBJECTS THAT TALK AND TEACH

WHEAT AND CHAFF

OBJECTS: Some Wheat with Chaff on. Electric Fan or Hand Fan.

How many of you, boys and girls, have been on a large wheat ranch at harvest time? Some of you have, and so know what it means to "thresh" the wheat and put it away in the barns. (Describe harvest-time today. Compare the methods used today with those used at the time the Lord was upon the earth.)

I have here, today, a basket of wheat just as it came from the field. (Display.) I want you to notice what happens when I turn this fan on near the wheat. (Demonstrate.) Why, something blows away! What is it? "Chaff," you say. Yes, the chaff is separated from the wheat when the fan is used. Chaff is really of no importance. This is the reason that it is removed from the wheat at harvest time. There is no life or nourishment in it. Cattle won't eat it.

But the golden grains of wheat are full of life and nourishment. Think of the many healthful and life-giving foods that are made from wheat!

No doubt you have some wheat products on your table at every meal. Yes, wheat is very valuable.

Removing chaff from the wheat, is what takes place at harvest time. It is a time of separating the good from the bad. It is also a picture of another harvest time which is to take place on the earth when those who belong to the Lord are to be separated from those who do not belong to Him.

John the Baptist, when speaking of the Lord Jesus said, "Whose fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly purge His floor and will gather His WHEAT into His garner; but the CHAFF will He burn with fire unquenchable."—Luke 3:17 and Matt. 3:12.

Chaff is God's estimate of an unsaved person. Wheat is His estimate of one who has received the Lord Jesus as Saviour. Like the wheat, they have life, and are able to nourish others with the Word. Today, Christians and non-Christians mingle together. Even in homes, some members of the family are Christians while others are
now, they are living under the same roof, enjoying the same comforts of the home, but this will not always be—a harvest day is coming, and a harvest day means a day of SEPARATION.

Christians are looking forward to a blessed time called the Rapture. (1 Thess. 4:13-18.) This is the time when the Lord Jesus is coming for all who belong to Him. What a blessed day this will be for those who love Him and know Him as their Saviour! But, what a sad day this will be for those who do not know Him! It will be a day of separation. Some will be taken and others will be left behind. The chaff will be separated from the wheat.

When the Lord Jesus comes back to earth there will be a final harvest time, when the fan will be used and those whose names are not found written in the Lamb's Book of Life, like the chaff, will be cast away into everlasting punishment. (Rev. 20:11-15.)

All through eternity there is to be a separation of the righteous and unrighteous. Chaff and wheat only remain together until the harvest.

I am sure, boys and girls, that you want to be among the WHEAT and not among the CHAFF. If so, put your trust in the Lord Jesus today as your Saviour. “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.”—Acts 16:31.

FISHERS OF MEN

OBJECTS: A Net, containing Fish cut out of paper. Fishing pole, line, etc. Large Fish, mounted.

Have you ever been fishing, boys and girls? Many of you have, I'm sure. I wonder if you've ever had the joy of catching a fish? Fishing is great fun, and there is no thrill in any sport, to me, like that of drawing in the fishing line with a big fish on it.

I was down on one of the beaches, yesterday, and there I saw three or four men, fishing. They were patiently standing by while their fishing lines were far out in the water. It takes patience to fish, you know. Finally one of the men began to draw in his line. It had a fine fish on it, but just as he had it drawn up a bit, the fish slipped off the line and back into the water. It was a disappointment, but the man didn't give up, but continued fishing, hoping in the end to catch that very same fish.

God's Word has much to say about fishing and fishermen. The Lord Jesus loved fishermen, and chose several of them to be His disciples. Peter, Andrew, James and John all followed this trade.

“And Jesus walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea, for they were fishers. And He said unto them, Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men... And they straightway left their nets and followed Him.”—Matt. 4:18-20.

This invitation of the Lord Jesus is extended to us today, boys and girls—“Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men.” This is His desire and plan for all those who follow Him—that they shall go forth to win souls for Him. Here is a sword fish. (Exhibit or display picture.) Someone was so pleased at catching this fish that they had it mounted. Often in visiting offices, I notice large fish mounted and kept as reminders of a time when their owner was very successful at fishing. Such trophies surely do bring a thrill, but they can never compare with the joy of winning a soul for Christ.

How well I remember the first soul I ever won. The man was a saloon keeper, and as I left him after he had confessed Christ as his Saviour, a joy flooded my soul such as I had never known before. The
thrill of catching a fish down on the wharf, boys and girls, is as nothing compared to this joy.

The fisherman waits with patience to catch a fish, so in soul-winning, much patience is needed. A boy or girl does not always come to Sunday school the first time you invite them, do they? Often it takes many invitations. Sometimes a soul is won for the Lord only after years of prayer and testimony.

The successful fisherman throws his line far out into the water and stands back from the pier or wharf so that as little of his shadow is seen as is possible. When fishing for souls, we must be careful to avoid letting self be seen or even the shadow of self. Only One must be seen, and that One the Lord Jesus. Tell of Him and all of His love and power to save. Someone will hear and believe and receive everlasting life. (Jno. 5:24.)

It is very important to know the kind of bait to use to attract the various kinds of fish; so it is important to know how to use God’s Word in dealing with different people. “Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth.”—2 Tim. 2:15. Hide God’s Word in your hearts, boys and girls, so that you will be able to use it in soul winning at any time and any place.

God uses some men as evangelists, and when they “cast their net,” as it were, at the close of an evangelistic meeting, many souls are won for the Lord. So some kinds of fishing is carried on by means of a net like this one. (Exhibit net.) Perhaps you have been at a wharf some time and have seen the fishermen come in from a day’s fishing with such nets. However, the average fisherman uses a pole and line like this one (exhibit line and pole) and catches fish one at a time. Most of us are used in this way in soul-winning—leading souls to the Lord one by one.

“He that winneth souls is wise,” we read in Prov. 11:30. This means boys and girls as well as grown-ups. If you would be wise, begin today to be a soul winner or a fisher of men. Invite your playmates to Sunday school and church where they may hear the good news of the Gospel. Give your own testimony of what the Lord Jesus has done for you, and what He longs to do for them.

A “crown of rejoicing” is promised to the soul winner in “that day” (2 Cor. 5:10; 1 Cor. 3:9-15) when rewards are given out. (2 Thess. 2:19.)

The fisherman rejoices at the close of a day’s fishing in his catch of fish, so when our days of fishing for Him are over, and we stand in His presence, our joy will be to have others there who have heard the Gospel story through us.

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the temple of the Holy Spirit when a boy or girl accepts the Lord Jesus as Saviour. "What, know ye not that your body is the TEMPLE of the Holy Ghost which is in you ... and ye are not your own?" -1 Cor. 6:19.

These bodies, then, are His temple and how careful we should be to take nothing into God's temple that will defile it in any way. The cigarette smoking habit generally leads to evil companionship which in turn keeps many boys and girls away from the Sunday school and church, and the Lord Jesus, who is longing to be their Saviour.

So shun the poisonous cigarette, boys and girls, as you would this dangerous weapon. "Wherefore, come ye out from among them and be ye separate, and touch not the UNCLEAN thing." -2 Cor. 6:17.

How many of you have a baby brother or sister in your home? Most of you have, so these articles all look familiar to you; do they not? (Display articles generally found in a nursery.)

This bottle of milk is the baby's food, isn't it? You wouldn't think of giving your baby sister or brother meat soon after they are born, would you? No, babies must have milk first. (Discuss other articles used in connection with baby life.)

You have noticed, too, how helpless babies are at first, just like this baby doll. (Display.) They can't do one thing for themselves. Some one must tenderly care for them all the time. If a baby has the right care and is healthy, how quickly he grows! However, if the baby in your home fails to grow or develop, how sad your parents would be. Each day a healthy baby gets a bit stronger and soon leaves behind the nursery and all that pertains to it.

Now, God's Word speaks of "babes in Christ." (1 Cor. 3:1.) When a person accepts Christ as his Saviour, he becomes a member of God's family and at first is only a babe in Christ. Just as your mother delights to see the baby in your home grow and develop, so God, the Heavenly Father wants His children to grow in the Christian life. Sad to say, there are some Christians who continue as "babes" most of their lives.

Just as these articles from the nursery have reminded you of a baby, so, God has told us in His Word of certain things that go along with "babes in Christ." You will find these things mentioned in 1 Cor. 3:1-4. Notice that babes in Christ are called "Carnal" Christians. Carnal Christians or babes in Christ never seem to grow—they continue feeding on the "milk" of the word when they should be partaking of "meat." As long as the baby in your home had no teeth he drank milk, didn't he, but when he developed teeth, he was given meat. The same is true in the Christian life—some folks never seem to develop spiritual teeth so that they can understand the deep truths of the word. They continue as babes, helpless, unable to do anything for themselves. What a sad state!
God's word further tells us what some of the things found in a spiritual nursery are. In verse three of 1 Cor. 3, we find these things mentioned, “envying, strife, and divisions,” and “walking as men walk” who know not God. (Discuss each in regard to boys and girls.)

Let us examine ourselves, boys and girls. Are you growing in your Christian life or are you still living in the nursery? Proper food and care helps the baby to grow, so certain things help Christians to grow in grace and the knowledge of Him.

Mothers spend much time finding out what things will cause a baby to grow strong, so we find there are certain things that make boys and girls, men and women, grow in the Christian life. Definite time for prayer (talking to God, the Heavenly Father), and Bible study (when God talks to you out of the Word), linked with daily living for Him, serving Him in the home, at school or wherever you are, faithful attendance at Sunday school and church (suggest others), are all certain to cause one to grow into a strong, healthy Christian.

Mothers wonder how many of you girls received a baby doll at Christmas time? If so, I know how happy you were. I borrowed this one (exhibit) from a little girl who loves it very much. I won't it just like a baby? Notice its chubby arms and feet! It goes to sleep, too. See it open and close its eyes! And it can even talk; hear it say, “Mamma.” It is heavy, too, and just about the size of a baby sister or brother.

But although this baby doll looks like a baby and in many ways acts like a baby, yet you, boys and girls, know that it is not a real live baby. There is one thing lacking. Do you know what that one thing is? “It is not alive,” someone says—yes, that is just it. This doll does not have LIFE. If it had life it would be a real baby, but this doll was made, and not born.

God's Word speaks of two kinds of life. There is LIFE which one has when born into this world as a little baby; this is NATURAL or human life. Then, there is EVERLASTING life which one receives when “born again” by receiving the Lord Jesus as Saviour. Jno. 3:7, 14-16.

There are many people, boys and girls, who are like this baby doll. They act very much like born again people who have everlasting life, and yet they are lacking in this very thing. They may attend church regularly and even take part in the service of the church, and not have everlasting life. They may even speak the language of a Christian and call God “Father,” and yet, like this doll, be only life-like.

"Man looketh on the outward appearance, but God looketh on the heart."—1 Sam. 16:7. He knows those who are His and have life. He also know those who are not His, despite how they look, or act or talk. “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.”—Jno. 10:25.

A baby is born into the world possessing natural life, so a Christian is born, and not made. He is a born again person, and receives everlasting life when he believes on the Lord Jesus Christ as
his Saviour. "For as many as RECEIVED Him (Jesus, as Saviour) to them gave He power to become children of God, even to them that believe on His name."—John 1:12.

When a baby is born, it becomes a part of the family, doesn't it? Your little brother or sister became a child of your parents at birth. So when one is born again, he is born into God's family and becomes a child of God, and possesses everlasting life.

Have you believed on the Lord Jesus as your Saviour, boys and girls? If so, you HAVE everlasting life and have been born again. "He that hath the Son hath Life."—1 John 5:12. But "he that believeth NOT the Son shall not see LIFE but the wrath of God abideth on him."—Jno. 3:36b. So, though you attend Sunday school regularly, and in many ways act like those who have believed on the Lord Jesus, yet YOU are without everlasting life unless you, yourself have believed on Him as your own personal Saviour. Do so today, boys and girls, and possess this precious gift which God so longs to give to all who will receive His Son as Saviour. John 3:16.

**MY CUP RUNNETH OVER**

_Objects_: Four Cups, all different sizes,—one very small.

There are two mistakes that folks often make in their thinking. One is, if the Lord Jesus is received as Saviour, life would be uninteresting and robbed of all its joy. The other is, if one accepts the Lord as Saviour before death, that one will have the same place and enjoyment in heaven that a person has who has served the Lord all of his life.

Here are four cups, all different in size. I think they will help us to see with our eyes what God has said in His Word concerning these two questions.

We will let these cups picture people, all of whom have received the Lord Jesus as Saviour. The large cup (designate) represents one who has known the Lord longer than any of the others. The person represented by this cup, became a Christian when very young. This very small cup (designate small cup) pictures a person who accepted the Lord as Saviour at the very close of life.

Let us fill the cups with water. (Demonstrate.) Now, they are all filled to running over, regardless of the size.

Water, as you know, boys and girls, in God's Word is a picture of Living Water or the Holy Spirit. (Jno. 4:13, 14; Jno. 7:37-39.)

When talking to the Samaritan woman at Sychar's well, the Lord Jesus said, "Whosoever drinketh of this water (an earthly well of water) shall thirst again—but whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall NEVER thirst."—Jno. 4:13, 14. So those who receive Him as Saviour and drink of the Living Water, regardless of age, possess a "joy unspeakable and full of glory." The pleasures of the world, like earthly water, do not satisfy. To know the Lord Jesus as Saviour, to possess everlasting life, to know that one's sins are all forgiven, fills the heart with a joy the world knows not of. Like the four cups, the Christian can truly say, "My cup runneth over." Do you know this song:

_Running over, Running over,_  
_My cup's full and running over._

_Since the Lord saved me_  
_I'm happy as can be,_  
_My cup's full and running over._—C. S. S., Chorus Book
Let us look at these cups again! (Designate.) Though all are full of water, yet it can be easily seen that the capacity of each is different. The smallest cup does not begin to hold what the largest cup holds. The smallest cup represents a man who at 70 accepted the Lord Jesus as His Saviour, and at 72 was called into the presence of the Lord.

The largest cup, on the other hand, pictures the person who "remembered his Creator in the days of his youth," and received the Lord Jesus when he was, say, ten years old. He, too, was called into the presence of the Lord at 72. One invested 2 years in the service of the Lord while the other served the Lord for 62 years. Someone has said that when a child is won for the Lord, a soul plus a life is saved. So, though both of these were saved, and both entered the presence of the Lord, their rewards will differ.

There is to be a time, boys and girls, after the Lord comes for His own, in the rapture, (1 Thess. 4:13-18) when the work and service of all believers is to be examined and rewards given accordingly (2 Cor. 5:10; 1 Cor. 3:9-15.)

Receive the Lord Jesus as your Saviour NOW in the days of your youth, that your souls might not only be saved, but that you might have a lifetime of service to lay at His feet!

"Must I go—and empty-handed?
Must I meet my Saviour so?
Not one soul with which to greet Him?
Must I empty-handed go?"

WHY SOME FOLKS ARE BLEST

OBJECTS: Two Balloons, one filled with air and the other with natural gas.

These two balloons will give us our message today, boys and girls. (Display). They look exactly alike;—don't they; but let's see if they act alike.

I will toss this first one up into the air (Demonstrate). It soars for a moment, then falls to the floor, and there it will stay unless I toss it up in the air again. No matter how many times it is tossed up, it never stays very long.

Let us toss the second one up! Away it goes, up and up toward the ceiling, soaring, soaring. It doesn't seem to ever want to come down, does it?

Why do these two balloons, which are the same size and same color, act so differently? Since they are so alike on the OUTSIDE the difference must be on the INSIDE. The first one is FILLED with AIR and so won't stay up long, but falls to the floor; while the second one is filled with NATURAL GAS which causes it to soar and soar.

Now, these balloons are very much like two men who come to our churches every Sunday. Both are well dressed and physically fit in every way. They choose good seats in church so that they can hear every word the preacher says. They hear the same sermon and yet as they leave the church and go to their homes, like the balloons, they act quite differently. One goes away with a heart full of praise. His soul has been fed. The sermon was just what he needed. God seems to have spoken especially to him through the pastor. He seems truly to be living in heavenly places. Like the second balloon he soars into the heights.

But the second man—what a contrast! He goes forth from the church unmoved by the sermon, complaining that he didn't get a thing out of it.

Why are these two men, who seemingly are so much alike, affected so differently? The balloons behaved differently because they were FILLED with DIFFERENT things, didn't they? And this, boys and girls, is the reason why these two men responded in the very opposite ways to the same thing.
The first man arose on Sunday morning, rejoicing in the Lord and all of His goodness and mercy. He looked into the face of the Lord in the quiet of his own room before he met the members of his own family. After breakfast he led his family in devotions. The Word was read, prayer was offered, and a hymn sung. With preparation like this, the first man and his family came to church and Sunday school. I trust, boys and girls, that it is your privilege to come to Sunday School from a home like this.

No wonder this first man was blest—his soul fed on the Word. His thoughts and imagination had been brought into captivity to the Lord, (2 Cor. 10:5), his ear tuned to hear Him speak and his heart prepared to receive the Bread of Life.

The second man arose with no praise in his heart, nor prayer on his lips. His mind was filled with the many things he had to do before church time. Instead of the family altar he spent his time with the Sunday newspaper and with his mind filled with the stock exchange reports, accounts of murder, and divorces, he came to the House of God. No wonder he went away from God's house unblest.

There are boys and girls, too, who go to Sunday school with their minds full of the funny papers, stories, and play. They have no mind, to grasp the Sunday school lesson or recite the golden text. No wonder these boys and girls receive no blessing from the Sunday services nor find joy in going to the House of God.

Yes, it does make a difference, boys and girls, with what you fill your mind and hearts on the Lord's day. Remember the two balloons! Let us please Him in setting aside the first day of the week wholly for Him and preparing ourselves in every way to receive His blessing.

"Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting." Ps. 139:23-24.

"My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O Lord; In the morning will I direct my prayer unto Thee, And will look up." Ps. 5:3.

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SATAN’S COUNTERFEIT

OBJECTS: A Jar of what looks like Raspberry Jam. A Snake concealed in the jar, jumps out when the lid is removed. (Can be bought at a toy-shop.)

What do you think is in this jar, boys and girls? "Raspberry jam," you say. And doesn't it look good! It makes me hungry to look at it—doesn't it you?

One time we were having Thanksgiving dinner with some friends, and during the meal a jar just like this one was passed around. We all thought it contained real raspberry jam. Someone unscrewed the lid and the very same thing happened that will happen now as I remove the lid. (Demonstrate.)

Oh!—Why, this jar doesn't contain raspberry jam at all, but an ugly snake! What a disappointment!

Looking at this jar from the outside, no one would ever have guessed but what it contained delicious raspberry jam.

Sin is very much like this jar, boys and girls. It is often done up in fancy packages. The devil has a way of deceiving folks.

Certain pleasures appear so enticing and innocent, but when indulged in, like the jar of raspberry jam, prove to be only a deception. This serpent or snake, pictures Satan, and he is concealed in some way in the "pleasures of sin." (Suggest sins which at first appear innocent and harmless, but which sooner or later overpower one.)

The hunter who goes to Africa to hunt for large game tells how the animals are trapped. Pits are dug, then covered over with brush. The animal walking along never dreams of a pit until the brush collapses and he falls, caught in a trap from which he never escapes. This is the way Satan works, trying to trap boys and girls in sin.

The man who has fallen in such a trap of sin will tell you that perhaps ten years ago or more, he began his life of shame by indulging in something which proved to be raspberry jam ONLY on the outside.

Beware of the devices of Satan. He is so subtle. God's Word speaks of the "wiles of the devil" (Eph. 6:11).

How can one escape these pitfalls, you ask.

"Remember NOW thy Creator in the days of thy youth." Put your life in the hands of the Lord now, today, boys and girls. He will protect you from the enemy that is going about as a "roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8).
THE PRODIGAL SON

OBJECTS: Three Clothespin Dolls. One dressed to represent the youngest son as he left home; another dressed in soiled garments to picture him in the “far country”; and the third dressed in a white, beautiful garment to picture the “Best Robe.”

D in any of you boys and girls ever want to run away from home because your parents were too strict?

When I was a lad, the boys in our neighborhood were allowed to do as they pleased. My mother made the children in our family obey her. Often I used to wish I could be free to do as I pleased, like the other boys. One time, especially, do I remember that I decided to run away from home. Early one morning I started out, but by supper time I was glad to be back home. It was so good to see my mother again, and I have since learned that a mother is the best earthly friend a boy could ever have.

In God’s Word, we find a story of a “younger son” who was not satisfied with his home, and so one day asked his father for the “portion of goods” that belonged to him, and soon after left home. (Luke 15:12-24.)

I can imagine the sadness in that home the day the youngest son left, can’t you?

The Word says he journeyed into a “far country” and there wasted his substance in “riotous living.” (Give details of story. Display clothes-pin doll, wearing soiled, black clothes.) This is the way the youngest son may have looked after he had been in the far country awhile.

Finally, after all of his possessions were gone, “he came to himself” and remembered his home and his father. “I will arise and go to my father,” he said.

And so I’m glad to tell you that he turned his face toward home. But what a spectacle he must have made! His hands were empty; his clothes, no doubt torn and soiled; but, despite the way he looked nor the way he had done, his father still loved him, and day by day no doubt had waited at the gate of the old home, hoping for a glimpse of his younger son returning.

And one day his faith and hopes were rewarded,—the younger son was seen in the distance. The father ran to meet him and welcome him home. Imagine the meeting, boys and girls! The son tried to tell his father something of his life in the “far country.” “I have sinned . . .” he said; but the father only commanded the servant to bring the BEST ROBE for the son; a ring for his hand and shoes for his feet, and to prepare a great feast, for said he: “This my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.” “And they began to be merry.” Dressed in the clothes of his father’s providing this is the way he must have looked. (Display doll dressed in beautiful robe.) What a transformation! Soiled garments changed for beautiful white ones.

And so the Heavenly Father waits to welcome home the wandering boy, for, worse than leaving one’s earthly loved ones sad as that is, is to turn one’s back upon God and His love, and travel into a “far country.”

But as the father received the younger son joyfully and gladly, so the Heavenly Father will receive any wandering boy or girl who will come to Him with the heart cry of the younger son, “I have sinned.”

The Lord Jesus died on the cross to purchase a robe of righteousness as pure and holy as His own, which becomes the possession of any one who receives Him as Saviour. “The blood of Jesus Christ, God’s Son, cleanseth us from all unrighteousness.”—1 John 1:7.

If you have received the Lord Jesus as your Saviour, boys and girls, God sees you clothed in a beautiful robe of His providing, and you may truly say, “I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, He hath covered me with the robe of righteousness.”—Isa. 61:10.
OBJECTS TALK AND TEACH

HOW GOD SPEAKS

OBJECTS: Frogs—toy or live ones. Toy Bed and Blankets. Loaf of Bread, hollowed out. Vanity Case.

Boys and girls, how is it that you know what your mother would have you do each day? "By listening to her voice, and hearing her speak," you say. But I know there have been times when you have HEARD her instructions but have failed to OBEY. Hasn't this been true of you? These have been the times when you have gotten into trouble, and often punishment has had to be meted out so that you would remember not only to HEAR but to OBEY. You can remember such times, can't you?

There are folks today who say if they could only hear God speak, they would be willing to HEAR and OBEY. God does speak to folks today through His Book, the Bible. If you want to hear God speak to you—to know His plan, for your life—to know what He would have you do day by day, read and study His Word!

But there are people who will not hear God speaking through His Word, so He has to speak in other ways. God would rather speak through His Word. He finds no pleasure in arresting man in his mad way by permitting judgment and sorrow to enter his life—and yet, some will hear in no other way.

Most of you remember the story of Pharaoh, the king in Egypt at the time of the bondage of the Children of Israel. (Ex. 5:12.) God spoke to Pharaoh through Moses, but Pharaoh refused to hear God's commands to let "His people go," so God had to speak in other ways. He spoke through the dreadful plagues which came upon Pharaoh and the Egyptians after they had refused to hear God speak as He desired to speak, through His servant Moses.

One of the most dreadful of these plagues was the plague of frogs. Imagine a scene which may have taken place in the palace of Pharaoh. His beautiful daughter, the princess, arose one morning and sat down to her dressing table as usual. Her maids were gathered about her to anticipate her every need. The dressing table was in readiness with its beautiful silver and gold toilet articles, for should not a princess have the very best of everything? She was a daughter of Pharaoh, the great king of Egypt, you know.

As the maids hastened to prepare her for the Egyptian court—the lid of one of the beautiful dishes on the dressing table was removed—a scream of horror was heard from all—a frog was hidden in the dish. (Lift lid of dish where frog has been concealed.)

Down to the breakfast room they went. Surely the princess would be able to eat without being disturbed by the terrible frogs—but no—the maid proceeded to cut the bread, but could get no further with the breakfast preparations, for from the loaf of bread emerged a large frog. (Have loaf of bread hollowed out and frog concealed therein.) Needless to say, the princess left the breakfast room without eating.

All day long frogs were found everywhere. At last night came on. Surely there would be relief in sleep. So to the princess's room they hurried, glad, at last, to get away from the frogs. The beautiful canopied bed was made ready for the princess, but as the coverings were turned back, lo, the bed was full of frogs. There was no way of escape. (Turn back covers of toy bed where frogs had been concealed.)

And so God spoke long ago in Egypt, but even then His voice was not heard. He had to mete out death before Pharaoh would HEAR and OBEY. How foolish he was not to hear God's voice, and thus save himself and his people from those terrible plagues!

Let God speak to you today, boys and girls, in His way. He most desires to speak to you through His Word. And as you prayerfully read, may your heart continually say, "I will hear what God, the Lord will speak."—Ps. 85:8. Set apart a time each day to hear Him speak to you in this way. Read at least a chapter daily from your Bible. "Study to show yourselves approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth."—2 Tim. 2:15. And having heard His voice, be quick to obey.

"Be ye DOERS of the Word, and not HEARERS only."—James 1:22.
THE DOLL PREACHERS

OBJECTS: Two Dolls: One with a steel base, which returns to an upright position when pushed or knocked over. The other doll—an ordinary unbreakable one which remains "down" when pushed over.

In nearly all of your homes, boys and girls, there's a baby sister or brother, is there not? Do you remember the day when your little brother stood alone for the first time? What a notable day that was in your home! The first thing your mother said to your father when he returned from work that night was, "The baby stood alone today." The baby was able to stand alone because of strength.

And so it is with you, boys and girls, and all believers on the Lord Jesus, it takes strength to make you "stand up" for the Lord under all circumstances. You cannot do this alone, but the Lord supplies the needed strength. "... The Lord is the strength of my life."—Ps. 27:1.

Today we will let these dolls teach us our lesson. Let us first look at this beautifully dressed doll. (Present ordinary unbreakable doll, without steel base.) This is a nice looking doll; isn't it? But how will it act if pushed over? (Demonstrate.) Why, it remains "down." It has no power or strength to sit upright again. Some boys and girls act just like this doll. When they get pushed over by an unkind word or get their feelings hurt in some way, they don't seem able to "stand up" again, but remain "down." Have you ever seen boys and girls who acted like this? Let us look at this other doll. (Present one that has steel base.) Notice the smiles all over its face. This is the way the faces of boys and girls should always be—full of smiles. "They looked unto Him and their faces were lightened" or made radiant.—Ps. 34:5. Now, all dolls won't stand up, as we noticed in examining the first doll, but this one will. Not only will it stand up alone, but see what happens when it is knocked over! Up it comes and makes music as it does so. (Demonstrate—music box inside.) The more you knock it over, the more it stands up and the more music it makes. Each bang or knock starts the music playing on the inside.

God is able to make you "stand," boys and girls, under every circumstance. This doll stands up right because of something inside—a piece of steel, perhaps. The first doll could not stand up alone, and remained down when pushed over because it lacked the piece of steel. So it is with a Christian. The Lord Jesus dwells in the heart of every believer, and He is able to make you strong to stand up for Him no matter what the test. (Ps. 27:1; 1 Cor. 3:16.) His presence enables you to sing and "make melody in your heart to the Lord," (Eph. 5:19) like the doll who "comes up" after a hard knock, smiling and making music.

THE MANGER

I've built a little manger
Within my heart tonight
To welcome in the Stranger,
The Lord of Love and Light.
I've built a manger lowly
Where he may come and rest,
And here the infant holy
Shall be my welcome Guest.

For many a door has turned him
Into the evening gloom,
And many a voice has spurned him,
Saying, "No room. No room."
I've made a little manger
Because I have no more.
Come in, thou blessed Stranger,
Possess it evermore.

Clarence E. Flynn, in "Kind Words."
LET JESUS COME INTO YOUR HEART

OBJECTS: A large Milk Bottle and a hard-boiled Egg, with shell removed.

We have a most interesting object lesson today, boys and girls. Here is a milk bottle and an egg. I'll place the egg on the mouth of the bottle. How many of you think the egg will ever go into the bottle? I can hear some of you saying, "All the King's horses and all the King's men can never get that egg in the bottle without breaking it." But wait!

No, the egg can't get into the bottle as it is now, because the bottle is too full of something else. Do you know what that "something else" is? "Air," some of you are saying. Yes, this bottle is full of air and this keeps the egg out.

See what happens when the bottle is emptied of its contents! (Drop lighted match into milk bottle.) Notice what is happening to the egg! Why, it has entered the bottle unaided. The lighted match has consumed all the oxygen in the bottle and with the bottle emptied, the egg went in.

The Lord Jesus stands at the heart's door of every boy and girl, man and woman, and knocks. Revelation 3:17 says, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock—if any man open I will come in . . . ." But the hearts of boys and girls and men and women are so full of "things," that there is no room for the Lord Jesus. (Suggest "things" that keep Him out of hearts today, such as love of money, amusements, pride, friends, etc.)

Over nineteen hundred years ago, the Lord Jesus was born in Bethlehem in a manger. There was "no room for Him in the inn." How sad it is that some are still saying, as the inn keeper did so long ago—"no room." The egg went into the bottle as soon as the bottle was emptied. The match consumed the contents. Won't you let the Lord Jesus empty your heart of all the "things" that are filling it and keeping Him out? He longs to come into your heart and be your Saviour. His arms are laden with many precious gifts for you. He will bring peace and joy and everlasting life. Make room for the Him today, boys and girls! Give Him a place in your heart and life. Let Him hear you say, "Come in Lord Jesus and be my Saviour—come in today" . . . and He WILL come in.

THE EASTER EGG

OBJECT: A large White Easter Egg, made of cardboard, half of it perforated, and removable. Conceal in the egg several live chicks.

This is Easter Day, boys and girls, and one of the happiest days of the whole year. Today we are remembering that glad "first day of the week" so long ago when the Lord Jesus arose from the dead and came forth from the dark cold tomb. You remember the story, don't you—of how the Lord Jesus died on the cross of Calvary and was buried in a garden in Joseph's tomb—but on the third day the stone was rolled away and Jesus arose from the dead, while angels announced the glad news with "He is risen." (Briefly tell the Resurrection story as recorded in the Gospels—Matt. 28; Mk. 16; Luke 24; John 20.)

Some of you have received prettily colored eggs today, haven't you? But, can Easter eggs bring any message of hope and life after death? Why, an egg is just like a dark tomb or grave, isn't it? And yet out of an egg comes life. Every little chicken was once in an egg tomb. Have you ever watched a baby chick as it burst the shell of the egg and came out into a new world? It is a wonderful sight, and all according to God's plan.

I have here this morning a large white Easter egg. (Display large egg.) It is closed on all sides, as you can see. Can it be possible that there is life in this egg tomb? Let us see! (Remove lid, showing baby chicks.) Why, this dark tomb is full of life! What beautiful little chicks! Here we see LIFE and an EMPTY, open tomb. There is life beyond the grave. Death does not end all!

So, boys and girls, we look forward to a glad resurrection day when the graves of all those who sleep in Jesus are to be opened and the "dead in Christ" are to be raised up. "Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together WITH THEM in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air."—1 Thess. 4:13-18. Empty tombs—reunion with loved ones—meeting our dear Saviour! What a glorious prospect. Easter day gives us the promise of this glad day of reunion.

The tomb in Joseph's garden was opened on that first Easter day and the Lord Jesus arose. Because He arose from the dead, all who belong to Him shall also be raised up. "Because I live, ye shall live also."—Jno. 14:19.
OBJECTS THAT TALK AND TEACH

FAITH

OBJECT: A Peanut.

Today, boys and girls, I have something in my hand that no man has ever seen. Yes, it is something material and real, hard and brownish in color—and yet it has never been seen by anyone, and never will be again. How many of you believe what I’ve told you about this object which I have in my hand? It sounds hard to believe, doesn’t it? Are you willing to believe it even though you cannot understand how it can be true, but because I have told you that it is true? (Have those who are willing to believe without seeing stand up.)

I’m sure none of you can ever guess what it is, so I will show you. (Display peanut; crack open and display kernel.) See this kernel of the peanut! Didn’t I tell you the truth about it? It is hard, isn’t it, and brownish in color? And has any man ever seen it before? No! And will anyone ever see it again? (Put in mouth and eat.) No.

Some of you believed all that I said about this peanut, though you did not know what it was, and though you had not seen it. This was an example of FAITH. God’s Word says that “FAITH is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”—Heb 11:1. When you believe God’s Word, though you cannot understand nor see, nor feel, but believe it because God says so, you are exercising faith. Belief in a statement depends upon who said it. God is the Author of the Bible (2 Tim. 3:16). It is His Word, so that you can safely exercise your faith by believing every word of it.

“Have faith in God,” we are told in Mark 11:22. We are obeying in this respect, when we believe what He has said in His Word, as some of you did regarding what I had in my hand.

“So, then, FAITH cometh by HEARING, and hearing by the Word of God.”—Rom. 10:17. If you would increase your faith, boys and girls, HEAR God’s Word and BELIEVE it. Let us be known as boys and girls—men and women of faith!

THOUGH YOUR SINS BE AS SCARLET

OBJECTS: Old Rags, especially some red ones. A piece of White Paper.

“Any rags, any bottles, any bones today?” Did you ever hear a call like that, boys and girls? I have. When a lad, I often heard this cry as an old man pushed a cart up and down the street collecting old rags and old bottles and anything else that could be sold for a few pennies.

I used to wonder what happened to all of the rags the old man (for so we called him) collected; and never really understood until I visited a paper mill in Iowa one time.

There I saw rags of all kinds. There were piles and piles of rags all sorted out according to color. White ones were in one pile on a table, blues in another, etc.

These rags were placed in a large receptacle, according to color. Acid was applied, and they passed through a bleaching process. Then they were passed through large rollers which turned out pure white sheets of paper. What a transformation from old rags to snowy-white paper! (Display old rags and white paper.)

But I noticed that all red rags were put aside in a place by themselves and were not put through the bleaching process with the others. This, I learned, was because of the color. No acid can be found to completely bleach a red cloth. However, there is a use even for red rags. They are made into red blotting paper, and this we know is very useful in offices and schools, etc.

As I heard the story of the red rags, I thought of the Scripture which says, “Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”—Isaiah 1:18. God knew how hard men would find it to bleach the color “red,” and so He used it in describing sin. No matter how great a sinner one is, God has provided a way whereby that one may become white as snow. Jesus Christ died on the cross and shed His precious blood for the sinner, and when He is received as the sinner’s Saviour, sins red as scarlet become white as snow.
In the paper mill, wonderful products were made out of old rags—
even the reddest of them were made into something useful. Man can work such a transformation, how much more can God do with a life that has been cleansed in the blood of Jesus, and become a "new creature in Christ Jesus."—II Cor. 5:17. (Suggest men who are now leading useful lives who were once great sinners.)

In the paper mill, the bleaching process preceded the making of a useful product, so the cross is the way to a life of service for the Lord.

Put your life in the hands of the Lord Jesus, boys and girls; let Him fit you for service, and place you in a place of usefulness where "it hath pleased Him" to use you.

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THE KITE THAT WANTED TO BE FREE

OBJECTS: Several Kites and Strings.

I have some kites to show you this morning, which I'm sure you boys and girls would like to own. (Display kites. Tie to chairs or desk.) What a pretty sight these would make, flying high in the air from some vacant lot!

It is about a kite that wanted to be free that I am going to tell you. Sometimes kites, like boys and girls, seem to feel a craving for freedom, you know.

On a spring day several years ago I found myself walking down a street in a city where I was pastor of a church. As I strolled along, enjoying the sunshine and fresh air, I passed a corner where a group of boys were playing. I recognized them as being members of my Sunday school. They were flying kites something like these. (Designate.) High against the blue of the sky the kites stood out, floating on the breezes that kept them aloft, guided by strong cords held in eager little hands. One of the boys spied me as I stood watching them, and called out, "Oh, do come over here and feel how these kites pull!"

I went over where the boys were, and took the cord out of the hand of the boy who had called me. I could feel the strong pull of the kite, as I held the cord; it leaped and tugged like a live thing, and do you know, boys and girls, while I was holding that string, the kite seemed to be talking to me? What do you suppose it was saying? Why, it seemed to be begging for liberty, and saying, "Oh, why don't you let go of the string? You think I am high up in the sky, but if you would only let me loose and give me freedom, I'd show you how high I could go!"

So the kite talked to me. And as it pulled and tugged and talked to me of freedom and liberty, something happened. The cord broke! The boys gasped as they saw the broken cord fluttering in the breeze—then we all fastened our eyes on the kite. It wavered uncertainly for a moment, swept from side to side, then suddenly turned topsy-turvy, its tail streaming out behind it, and came floating down, down,
down—helpless to right itself. At last it was swept by the wind up against a telegraph wire, and there the poor kite hung its tail; all discolored and bedraggled and torn to shreds; the frame broken and disfigured.

I have thought of that kite many times since, as I have come in contact with boys and girls who have talked of “freedom.” How many boys there are who feel that, if they could only get away from the mother’s “apron strings,” out into the big, wide world, they could do something! They are like the kites, tugging at the cords which hold them. I was like that when I was a boy. When they caught me smoking my first cigarette, I thought resentfully, “Oh, if only I could get away where I could be FREE!” I wanted to break the cord which bound me to Sunday school, to church, to mother and home.

But, boys and girls, there is a greater freedom which we all have. It is the freedom which comes from doing right, from obeying the kindly laws which keep us safe,—the freedom which comes from becoming acquainted with the best Friend a boy or girl can have— the Lord Jesus Christ! If you let Him into your life, and let Him hold the cords, you will have real freedom, and can rise to undreamed-of heights. “... If the Son shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.”—John 8:32-36.

Once I went to visit a big penitentiary. There, I met a young man who had been sentenced to serve twenty years imprisonment for a crime. I talked to that young man, and he told me his story. He had been brought up in a Christian home, but like the kite, craved for freedom. He resented the demands that were made of him—he didn’t want to go to Sunday school and church;—he didn’t want to know the Lord Jesus. He felt that all those things were just strings that would keep him tied down, and keep him from realizing his real freedom.

So he broke away, just as the kite, I told you about. He tugged and pulled, and finally the ties which held him broke, and he was left to seek his freedom. But, boys and girls, he was just as helpless as the kite. You see, the kite could go higher only as long as it was held by the cord in the strong hand of the one who had sent it aloft. The moment the string broke, the same wind that kept it aloft, swept it to the ground.

So the young man found himself drifting when the cord was loosed. Instead of rising, he sank. He wavered, and began to go down, down, down, just as the kite did, and soon, he too, found himself entangled in unfriendly wires. His whiteness was soiled, his strength was broken, and at the last he found himself facing a long term of imprisonment—all because, when he was a boy, he wanted to be free from the kindly, protecting, restraining influences of home and mother, and church, and God.

There is a verse in the Bible which says, “Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them.” Boys and girls, that young man in prison had forgotten the Lord’s command to remember his Creator; he had also forgotten God’s command, “Honor thy father and thy mother.”

What happened to the kite that wanted its freedom will happen to every kite which breaks loose from the cord that holds it steady. What happened to the boy who broke the ties which bound him, will happen to every boy and girl who breaks away from the ties which keep them steady. The kite lost its freedom, for it was hopelessly entangled in the wires. The young man lost HIS freedom, for he was doomed to spend the best years of his life behind prison bars.

Boys and girls, it is only the freedom which comes through obedience which is worth while! Remember the fate of the kite that wanted to be free, and of the boy who wanted to cast off all restraints—and “remember NOW thy Creator in the days of thy youth!”
FOUR CUPS AND FOUR TYPES OF PEOPLE

OBJECTS: 1. A Tin Cup with holes in bottom. 2. A Cup clean on the outside, but black on the inside (blacken a white cup with stove soot). 3. A Cup dirty on the outside and inside. 4. A collapsible Cup, such as is used in traveling. 5. A Pitcher of Water.

Here are four cups (display). Would you like to hear a message from these cups today? I'm sure we can learn much from them if we examine each one carefully. These four cups are very much like folks; even like some boys and girls.

Here is a tin cup. (Designate.) It looks all right, doesn't it? Such a nice large cup, too. Why, this tin cup looks as though it could hold a large amount of clear, pure water.

Let us pour some water into this cup. Why, see, it passes right out! What is the matter? Ah—it's full of holes! This cup that looks as though it would hold so much water, will hold none at all. It was made with a large capacity, and made to hold water, but how it has failed to fulfill the purpose for which it was made.

Sad to say, there are people like this tin cup, boys and girls—people who have a capacity for holding Living Water, but are failing to have God's best plan for their lives carried out. They should not only be filled themselves with the Living Water, but should be bearing it to other thirsty souls. (Jno. 4:13, 14; Jno. 7:38, 39)

These people attend church, but the water of the Word finds no place in their lives. It seems to "go in one ear and out the other." They do not retain nor put into practice what they hear. I wouldn't want to be a tin-cup-full-of-holes person, would you?

Let us look at this second cup (Designate). How pretty it is on the outside! This cup should be very useful. What a refreshing drink it could bear to some thirsty person! But look on the INSIDE! (Display cup.) It is all black and soiled. This one is failing, too, in usefulness and the purpose for which it was made because of being dirty on the inside.

There are people like this cup, too—people who make such a good appearance. They seem so kind, but their hearts are black with sin. This fact is hidden from their friends, but not from God. He sees the heart and all that is therein. When the Lord Jesus was upon earth, He called the Scribes and Pharisees who were very much like this cup, "Hypocrites," and to them He said, "... for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess."—Matt. 23:25.

Though these people may seem very religious, their hearts have never been washed in the blood of the Lord Jesus. Good deeds and kindly acts will never make black hearts white. "For by grace are ye saved through faith, ... it is the gift of God."—Eph. 2:8, 9.

Could it be that there is a boy or girl here, a nice boy or girl, too, who has never received the Lord Jesus as Saviour? If so, you have missed God's purpose for your life. He wants to fill you to overflowing with the Living Water. Don't you want to be like a cup that is clean on both the OUTSIDE and inside?

Look at the third cup. (Designate.) One can easily see that this cup is of no use as a cup. It is dirty on both the outside and inside. It surely needs a good cleansing to be of any use at all.

So there are people, like this cup, who are sinners in every respect. Their actions betray a black heart within. They don't try to cover up their sins. Like the cup, they need to be thoroughly cleansed.

"Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way—by taking heed to the Word."—Ps. 119:9. God's Word tells of a "fountain filled with blood" that cleanses from all sin. "Though your sins be as scarlet . . . they shall be as white as snow."—Isa. 1:18. Yes, even a person whose life is as soiled and dirty as this cup can be made clean by the blood of Jesus, then as a clean vessel he can be used of God to bear the Water of the Word to thirsty, dying souls.

Now, the last cup is one that is often used in travelling. It is collapsible and folds up so that it can be carried in a very small space. See this little cup! It is clean and shiny, but its capacity is limited to its unfolding. The more it is unfolded, the more water it will hold. When opened completely it holds a good drink, but when closed up it holds hardly enough to satisfy the thirst of anyone. (Demonstrate.)

This cup, too, is a picture of many folks—people who have been washed in the blood of the Lord Jesus and are Christians, but whose lives are being used so little in bearing the "good news" to others. Like the little travelling cup, they could be used if they would only surrender their whole lives to the Lord, to be filled with the Living Water, His Holy Spirit. Like the cup when folded up, they give such a small part of their lives to the Lord. God's Word says, Rom. 12:1, "I beseech you ... that ye present your body," and Eph. 5:26, "Be filled with the Spirit."

Are you like any of these cups, boys and girls? Let us remember the message these cups have brought to us today, and profit thereby.
How many of you have a pet gold fish at home? Yes, some of you have. I have a beautiful gold fish here in this fish bowl. See how gracefully it swims around in the water! It is at home there. God made this gold fish to live in water. It would not be at home anywhere else.

Here is a beautiful platter, far more beautiful than the fish bowl. Yet if I took the gold fish out of the water and placed it on this platter, it would soon die, wouldn't it? This gold fish was made to live in water and not on a beautiful platter. It is in its element when in water in the fish bowl.

Now, this gold fish makes me think of some folks in the church—boys and girls. It pictures those who received the Lord Jesus as their Saviour in their early youth, and have always been at home in the church. They were made for the church and the church atmosphere. They feel at home with God's people. They find joy in attending the prayer meetings, the missionary meetings, etc. What the water and fish bowl are to the gold fish, the church and all of its activities are to these folks. From their earliest childhood they have lived in the church atmosphere, and would be happy in no other place.

The world and all its allurements have no charm for these gold fish-folks. Like the gold fish on the golden platter, they are not at home in a worldly atmosphere. They would soon die if taken from the church realm.

What else do you see in the fish bowl, boys and girls? "Tadpoles," you say. Yes, there are several tadpoles in the fish bowl. Of course you know that these tadpoles will soon become frogs. As long as they are tadpoles they are quite content to live in this fish bowl with the gold fish—they seem to be contented and happy, don't they? But when they become frogs, out they will jump. They will no longer want to live in the gold fish realm.

These tadpoles are very much like some boys and girls I've known. While they were young they were quite content and happy to attend church and Sunday school along with the gold fish-folks. They seemed to be right at home there—but after a while, a change came. Like tadpoles-changed-into-frogs, they jumped right out of the Sunday school and church. No longer were they at home in the church atmosphere. How sad that boys and girls could ever act like tadpoles, changed into frogs!

I trust that you, boys and girls, will always stay in the church and Sunday school—that it will always be home to you. In Eccles. 12:1, we find this verse, "Remember NOW thy Creator in the days of thy youth." This I believe is the secret of being like gold fish instead of frogs. Accept the Lord Jesus as your Saviour while you are in your youth, then you will never be like the tadpoles-changed-into-frogs, and want to leave the Sunday school and the atmosphere of the church.

A gold fish or a frog—which are you, boys and girls?
OBJECTS THAT TALK AND TEACH

POWER OF A HABIT

OBJECTS: A Rope several yards long, easy to unravel. A pair of Scissors.

I have a rope with me today, boys and girls. Some of you would like to have it to play “jumping rope,” I'm sure. See how strong it is. (Demonstrate.) Not one of you could possibly pull it in two parts in your own strength. Let us examine this rope, and see why it is so strong and hard to pull in two. (Unravel.) Why, it is made of many, many strands of hemp. I wonder if any of you can break a single strand? Would you like to try? (Call boy to platform.) See how easily this boy breaks one strand! Now try two. Yes, he can break two and perhaps three (demonstrate), but each time it is harder and harder to break, until at last the rope is too strong for him to break apart.

Suppose we wind the rope once around his wrists. (Demonstrate.) Can he free himself? Yes,—but as I wrap it around more than once, you will notice that, try as he may, this boy is bound by strong cords. (Demonstrate and continue to wind rope around his arms and body.) He is absolutely helpless to free himself, isn't he? Help must come from someone apart from himself. With these sharp scissors, I can free him at once. (Demonstrate.) Notice now the strong cords fall from his body at one snip of the scissors! Isn't it good to be free again, isn't it?

Now habits, boys and girls, are very much like this rope. If you were to ask a man who has formed the habit of smoking, swearing or drinking, just how he began, he would no doubt tell you that he began in some seemingly innocent way, and that these habits had no more effect upon him at first than a single strand of this rope—but, as he continued, the habits grew stronger until he became bound by them as by strong cords, just as you saw the boy bound by this strong rope. Innocent beginnings, as far as habits are concerned, always have sad endings. Prov. 23:31, 32 says, “Look not upon the wine when it is red . . . at LAST it biteth like a serpent and stingeth like an adder.”

There are other habits, too, that boys and girls form, which are displeasing to the Lord; the habits of murmuring and complaining (1 Cor. 10:10), disobedience to parents (Eph. 6:1), lying (Col. 3:9; Prov. 6:16) and many others that you could name. (Suggest others.)

However, there are good habits as well as bad ones. God's Word speaks of many things which should become a part of one’s daily living. Read Rom. 12, Col. 3 and Eph. 6, and make a list of all the things mentioned in these chapters which could be listed as GOOD HABITS.

There may be boys or girls here today, who realize that they have formed habits which are displeasing to the Lord. Like the many strands of the rope, the habits are growing stronger and stronger and harder to overcome. And like the boy bound with the rope, you realize that you are helpless to free yourself. Help must come from someone apart from you—or that you are sure. What is the remedy? Is there no one who is able to break the strong cords? Yes, there is One—and that One is the Lord Jesus. Receive Him as your personal Saviour first of all; then ask Him to break all the habits which, like strong cords, bind you. He is not only willing, but able. "He brought them out of darkness . . . and brake their bands in sunder."—Ps. 107:14-16.

Ask Him, too, to help you to form in your youth habits that will cause your life to speak of Him. “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.”—Phil. 4:8.
OBJECTS THAT TALK AND TEACH

THREE CLOCKS

OBJECTS: Alarm Clock, Dining Room Clock, tall Hall Clock.
(Use pictures.)

This morning, boys and girls, I want to talk to you about clocks. Clocks are among the most useful articles you have in your homes as you well know. There are many different kinds of clocks which tell time for various occasions.

When you study the Word of God, you will find that every believer is in himself a sort of clock. He is to tell the same thing, in a spiritual way, that the clocks we are going to talk about tell us in a material way. If I were to ask you to tell me what kind of time this alarm clock tells, (designate) you would all say, “Time to get up.”

The “ting-a-ling-ling” of this clock in the early morning is always very welcome, though you set it the night before with care. But no matter how you may wish it would wait an hour later, “ting-a-ling-ling,” it just goes right on, saying, “It’s time to get up!” and at last, in despair, you obey the bidding of the alarm clock, and get up. The alarm clock has done its duty.

Well, boys and girls, do you know that people are asleep when it comes to the matter of their salvation? God’s Word says in Eph. 5:14, “Awake, thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.” Unbelievers are not only “asleep,” but are dealing in trespasses and sins (Eph. 2:1). The duty of every preacher, every minister, man and woman and boy and girl who is a Christian, is to get the sleeping person to awake. People who are having a good time, do not think about Jesus, and how He will save them when it is time to get up. They do not think about Jesus, and how He will save them when it is time to get up. They do not think about Jesus, and how He will save them when it is time to get up. They do not think about Jesus, and how He will save them when it is time to get up. They do not think about Jesus, and how He will save them when it is time to get up.

So, just as the alarm clock is for the purpose of arousing us from our sleep in the morning, we as Christians are to be like the alarm clock, and arouse the unsaved from their spiritual sleep.

There is another kind of clock which has a more pleasant message when it is time for breakfast, and time for lunch, and time for dinner. This is a welcome message for most boys and girls. Just as the dining room clock tells of provision for satisfying bodily needs, so you and

I am living in a world filled with people who are hungry spiritually, and it is our duty to tell the people who have been awakened by the “alarm clock” that God has made marvelous provision for satisfying their spiritual hunger.

The Lord Jesus said, “I am the Bread of Life.” There is no food that so satisfies a hungry person as bread, so the Lord Jesus, the True Bread from heaven, is the only One who can satisfy hungry hearts. He said, “... he that cometh to Me shall never hunger . . .”—Jno. 6:35.

Then, boys and girls, there is another clock, which is almost as unpopular as the alarm clock, and that is the stately hall-room clock, the one which tells guests when it is time to go home. You have seen those tall clocks, with their solemn faces, haven’t you? They are usually in the hall or the drawing room, in full view of the guests, so they will know when it is time to go home.

There are people, boys and girls, who live today as if they thought they were going to live forever. Children play around, and never think of Sunday-school or church, unless their parents make them go. They do not think about Jesus, and how He said, “suffer little children to come unto Me.” They take no heed of the words, “Remember NOW thy Creator in the days of thy youth,” in Eccles. 12:1. They see the years stretching out ahead of them, and they think they will just go on, eating and drinking and going to school and playing. They do not stop to remember that this life isn’t all, and that someday the Reaper, which is Death, will come and take them away from the scenes of earth. They don’t stop to remember that this life is followed by another. And, boys and girls, the life beyond is determined by the decision you make here of ACCEPTING or REJECTING the Lord Jesus as Saviour. If you expect to live forever with the Lord and with Christian people in the beautiful home He has gone to prepare, you must make this most important decision. Believe on Him today.

“Now is the accepted time, behold, now is the day of salvation” (2 Cor. 6:2). Tell others, too, boys and girls, that unless they expect to miss heaven and all of its glories, they too must accept the Lord Jesus as Saviour, and change their way of living.

May each of us be like these three clocks; ready to tell those who are asleep that it is time to get up; to tell those who are hungry for the bread of life, that there is a time to eat, and to tell those who are indifferent, that there will come a time when they, too, will have to depart from this life. Men and women, boys and girls, “NOW is the accepted time!”
THE LORD'S PORTION

OBJECTS: A Basket of Irish Potatoes. Arrange into two piles; 10 potatoes in one pile, and 7 in the other.

I have with me this morning, boys and girls, a basket of potatoes. Let us arrange them in two groups or piles. We will put 7 in the first pile and 10 in the second. We will let the 7th pile represent our time—God has given us 7 days in each week. And out of the week how many days has He given you which to play and work?

"Six," you say. We will represent the days that belong to you these six potatoes. In the Old Testament, God asked His people one day out of the seven to be set aside for Himself. This was called the Sabbath Day. (Ex. 20:8.) This, you have learned, was one of the Ten Commandments. Special blessings were promised those who kept this day wholly for the Lord (Isa. 58:13, 14).

In the New Testament, the first day of the week, the resurrection day, is set aside as the Lord's Day (Jno. 20:19). The Lord still asks for one day out of seven—1 potato out of 7, as it were. Surely, every Christian should be glad to give one whole day out of seven to the Lord. But no, sad to say, many want to keep even this day for themselves, as well as the other six. Of course all of our days belong to the Lord, but the Lord's Day should be different from all others. This is the day to rest our bodies, feed our souls on the Bread of Life, and worship Him in the House of the Lord. (Suggest ways boys and girls may spend Sunday well pleasing unto the Lord.)

Let us talk for a few minutes about the potato which represents the Lord's Day. We will cut it up into three parts, one part representing the morning of the Lord's Day, the other the afternoon, and the third part the evening.

Some boys and girls are quite willing to go to Sunday school, but hurry home afterwards to play, so this part of the potato will have to be made smaller. (Peel and cut off parts.)

The second part of the potato represents the afternoon of the Lord's Day. How many spend this part of the day for the Lord, and in a way that is pleasing to Him? I fear we will have to cut off a good slice of this part, because so many make Sunday afternoon a time for pleasure and recreation.

This third part represents the evening of the Lord's Day. If the rest of the day has been spent for the Lord, we feel sure this part will be also—but if the rest of the day has been spent for self, the evening will, no doubt, have to be spent getting ready for the week's work which lies ahead. So many are too tired to attend church at night. Once a day seems to be the extent of their worship.

Now look at the potato which represented the Lord's Day! There's not much of it left, is there? Six potatoes and most of the seventh kept for self. Oh, boys and girls, do give the Lord one day out of seven. Keep this day especially for Him. Make it different from all other days!

Now we will look at this other pile of potatoes. There are ten in this group. Why ten? In the Old Testament a tenth part of one's money was called the tithe, and this part belonged to the Lord. Mal. 3:10 says, "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse . . . and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of Hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

In the New Testament, we are not commanded to give the tithe, but much is said about giving. We are told to give "cheerfully, as God hath prospered us," "willingly," etc. The tenth seems to be the smallest part that we should set aside wholly for the Lord. Of course all of our money and possessions belong to Him, but a portion should be set aside to be used wholly for His work. Setting aside a tenth causes us to give to the Lord systematically, and according to the Word, is always attended with blessing.

So we will let one potato represent the Lord's portion of this pile of 10 potatoes. How many are left for YOU? Count—1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9—nine potatoes for you and one for the Lord. Surely every one should be glad to give this much to the Lord and His work. But sad to say—as folks keep the Lord's Day for themselves, so, many refuse to give the Lord ALL of the tithe.

How many of you are tithers, boys and girls? If not, begin today to set aside this portion for the Lord and His work. Study God's Word, and wait before Him in prayer, and He will direct you in the spending of it to His praise and glory. (Suggest where and how this money should be spent.)

Remember, boys and girls, the Lord wants one day out of seven, and one dollar out of ten. It is only Satan that wants you to whittle down your potatoes and give less.
Pleasures of Sin

**Objects That Talk and Teach**

**Pleasures of Sin**

**Objects:** Four Sparklers.

Choose four children to hold and display the same. A tall white candle, electrically lighted.

These four boys and girls are each holding in their hands a sparkler. You all know what a sparkler is, do you not? Nearly every boy and girl has one at Fourth of July time. We will let these four sparklers picture four people, who spend their lives in the pleasures of sin.

Let us light the first sparkler! (Demonstrate.) See how it sparkles and burns! Notice that the light comes from WITHIN and not from WITHOUT. The sparkler is using up its own energy to produce this bit of light. Ah—see, it has burned out! Its sparkling days are over. Only a charred black stick remains! And so it is with the boy or girl, man or woman, who spend their lives in the pleasures of this world, forgetful of God and His Son Jesus Christ. These people use their strength going here and there, first to this place of amusement, then to another. (Suggest places, as far as children are concerned.) Before they have hardly reached the age of fifty, their strength is gone, their health impaired, and they are like the charred stick with the sparkler gone.

Let us look at the second sparkler. (Light.) See how it sparkles and shines—but only for a moment. The light is soon gone, and only a black, worthless stick remains. This is the story of a young man who falls into the clutches of Satan and spends his life in nights of revelry and drinking. At first this young man thought this was the way to shine and shed forth a light among his friends, but if you should ask him his opinion now after years of such a life, he would have to admit that he was only able to shine for a short time, and now at middle age he is broken down in health and has nothing left but a wasted life. His life is like the worthless stick of the sparkler.

This third sparkler (designate), pictures the young man or woman who sets out to make money. See how it sparkles! So these young people sparkle for awhile as their business prospers, and at the age of thirty they are worth several thousand dollars. This prosperity continues for awhile. Soon they are worth many, many thousands.

At the age of fifty, they retire from business. They are rich as far as money and riches are concerned, but oh, such empty lives! Their sparkling days are past. Their hearts are lacking in joy and peace and rest. “What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?”—Matt. 16:26.

We will look now at the fourth sparkler. Like the other three it burns but for a moment and is gone, leaving only a worthless stick. This tells of the young men and women who start out in life to win a name for themselves. Their one desire is to be famous. They delight to see their names in print. These young people may win the applause of the world by giving large gifts to many worthy institutions, or attract attention by their ability to lead in politics or some other cause; but at last the end of their lives comes. Their sparkling days are over. Their lives are cut short by death. They are soon forgotten. The end of their lives meant only emptiness. They had no time for God. How sad, how sad!

Let us turn from these worthless sparklers to this beautiful white candle. (Present candle, electrically lighted.) What a contrast! This candle receives its light from an outside source. It will continue to burn day after day. It is not dependent upon itself. This candle pictures those who have received the Lord Jesus, the Light of the world, into their hearts and lives, and are shining for Him.

In Daniel 12:3, we read, “And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars forever and ever.” This is God’s picture of a soul winner. This candle pictures those who are spending their lives in winning souls for the Lord Jesus Christ. What worth-while lives these people are living. Instead of coming to the end of life as a worthless sparkler, they shall “shine for ever and ever.” When these people stand in the presence of the Lord some day, their hearts will be filled with a special joy because there will be those who heard the good news of the Gospel through them. They will realize then how important it was to spend their lives in such a worth-while service. The Lord Jesus said, “Come ye after me and I will make you fishers of men.” Let us be quick to obey this command, boys and girls, that our lives might count most for Him!
CHRISTMAS CANDLES

OBJECTS: A tall White Candle, and small colored Candles.

Christmas time is candle time. Green ones, red ones, pink ones—give forth their golden light. We see them in the stores—large tall ones, or passing along the streets, they bid us a friendly greeting from a Christmassy window. As they send forth their rays of light, here and there, making festive even the dullest and darkest place, what message do they bring to you at this blessed Christmas season? Of course, to hear the candle’s message, one must really listen with one’s heart. Eyes do not always see all, nor ears hear all, but hearts do. They understand candle language perfectly.

This tall white candle (display candle), so pure and clear, tells us of ONE who said, “I am the Light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life” (John 8:12). And that One is the Lord Jesus, who was born in Bethlehem so long ago. He came into the world of darkness and sin to be the “true light” to show men and women, boys and girls, the way out of darkness and into God and Heaven.

I am sorry to tell you that some did not recognize Him as the “true light.” “And the light shineth in darkness and the darkness comprehended it not,” (John 1:5) but all of those who did believe on Him as the true light, were lighted in their hearts and all the darkness of sin left.

You know, boys and girls, darkness and light will not remain together. When light comes in, darkness leaves. How we enjoy light! You would rather be in a lighted room than in a dark one, wouldn’t you? Light brings joy and comfort to our homes, so the Lord Jesus, the true light, brings to every heart that receives Him peace and happiness.

These many small colored candles; some red, some green or blue, tell me of the boys and girls of the whole world. (Display candles) children of Japan and China and Africa. Before these pretty colored candles are lighted, they seem to picture the boys and girls of every land who are still in the darkness of sin and know not the Lord Jesus.

With the candle of your heart lighted you are ready to shine for the Lord Jesus. “Ye are the light of the world.”—John 5:14. He said, “Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father, which is in heaven.”—Matt. 5:16. (Suggest where boys and girls may shine—at home, school, church. Have picture of these and as each place is suggested, place candle in front, also show maps of heathen lands where Light is needed.)

Like the song you so often sing, “Jesus bids us shine with a clear pure light, like a little candle burning in the night,” and we are to shine not only at Christmas time, but every day of the whole year. Whether at work or at play we are always to remember that we are His lights and that He would have us always giving forth a light for Him. Then, when our “shining” days are over He will take us into the beautiful city where He is preparing a Home for us. There we will be with Him forever. “And there shall be no night there; and they need no CANDLE, neither light of sun; for the Lord God giveth them light and they shall reign for ever and ever.”—Rev. 22:5.

With this glorious prospect in view, let us keep on shining, boys and girls. The Christmas candles are making the dark places bright. Why not you?—M.S.H.—King’s Business.
CAN THE LORD DEPEND ON YOU?

OBJECTS: Two Nails, one made of steel and the other of rubber, driven into board; a Picture, Coat, and Hat to hang on nails.

Here are two nails, boys and girls. They look exactly alike, don’t they? Nails are such useful things to have in one’s possession. They are used in building houses and bridges and furniture. How many uses we find for them, too, about our homes. We hang pictures and other things on them. A good strong nail can be depended upon to hold many things in place.

Let us examine these two nails and see how useful and dependable they are.

I’ll hang a hat and coat on this first nail. It looks strong, doesn’t it? (Hang garments on rubber nail.) Why, they only fall off! Perhaps these things were too heavy. I’ll try hanging this small picture on it. No, the nail will not hold this up either. Let us examine the nail. Why, it is only made of rubber. (Stretch it out.) It is not to be depended upon to perform the duty of a nail. You can’t even depend upon a nail of this kind to hold up even the smallest article.

Let us try hanging things on the second nail. Why, it holds the coat, hat, and picture. (Demonstrate.) This is a dependable nail. It is made of steel. No matter what you put on this nail, it faithfully holds it up. This is the kind of a nail to have in one’s home.

Now, people are very much like these two nails, boys and girls. You find these two classes of people at school, in your homes and in the church. Some, like the nail made of rubber, cannot be depended upon to perform the smallest task assigned to them. They seem interested and enthusiastic at first and make promises, but never fulfill them. Then there is the other group of folks who like the steel nail can always be depended upon. They not only promise but fulfill their promises. You can always count on them. What splendid folks these are! In which class are you, boys and girls? Can mother depend upon you in the home, your Sunday school teacher in the church and most of all—the Lord Jesus depend upon you to do always the things that are well pleasing in His sight?
MODERNISM

OBJECTS: A Table spread with Cloth and Dishes, containing counterfeit Doughnuts, Cookies, Wiener, Meat, etc. These can be bought at a toy shop. Keep table, dishes of food, etc., covered over until time for the object lesson.

Boys and girls, you will remember that many of our object lessons have been warnings about certain habits and sins that creep into your lives, but today I want to talk to you about something that the Devil puts before boys and girls, men and women. This is the most subtle of all. This object lesson has to do with the message that are being given forth today from the pulpits of certain churches. A counterfeit Christ is being presented and not the true Christ of the Bible, the Son of God.

Let us see what is under this cloth. (Remove cover, show in table, etc.). Why, here we have a table set with the most tempting foods—a plate of meat, and a dish of all sorts of good things. If it looks all right, doesn't it—but you can't always tell by just looking can you? What is this? “A wiener,” you say? Yes, it looks exactly like a wiener, but do you know, it is really only a piece of rubber (Pull apart.) What a disappointment! This would be to a hungry boy.

Then here is what looks like a doughnut. It even has sugar on the outside, but I'll see what it is made of—cotton! Who would want to eat cotton? Then here is a cooky with caraway seeds on top. It looks just like those that Mother used to make, doesn't it? But it too, is made of cotton.

So we see, boys and girls, that though this table is loaded with beautiful food, and food that looks exactly like the real thing, yet it is all counterfeit. Counterfeit food will never satisfy hunger.

There are two kinds of hunger, boys and girls—physical hunger and spiritual hunger. When one is physically hungry, he is satisfied by eating bread and other foods. When one is spiritually hungry, he is satisfied only the Lord Jesus, the True Bread of Life, will satisfy.

Jesus said while here on earth, “I am the Bread of Life” (Jno. 6:33). “Whoso eateth My flesh and drinketh My blood hath eternal life.”—Jno. 6:54. When He said this He was referring to Himself as the true Christ of God, the One who died on the cross for our sins, and rose again for our justification. When a person receives the Lord Jesus as His own Savior BY FAITH, He partakes of His body, and drinks His blood, and receives the gift of eternal life. The Lord Jesus is bread indeed for the spiritually hungry. Bread is a food that you have on the table at home for practically every meal, don't you? It gives strength and nourishment to your bodies, so that you are able to live. And all that bread means to you physically, the Lord Jesus, the True Bread of life, wants to mean to you spiritually.

I'm sure that you boys and girls have heard very much about Modernism and Fundamentalism, but I'm not sure that you have understood the meaning of these words. They represent two Christs. The Modernist represents a Christ that is very much like what you have seen on this table. This plate of meats and bread and other good things looked like real food, but upon examining them, we found them only fakes or imitations.

So the Modernist presents a Christ that to many appears as the true Christ, but who is not the Christ of the Bible. They present a Christ who lived upon this earth, and even died, but who did NOT rise again. They picture Him only as Man, and not as God manifested in the flesh.

One time, while in New York, I heard an address given by a Modernist preacher. He used eloquent language. His diction was perfect. He pictured the loveliness of Jesus while He was upon the earth. He told of His love for little children, of His sorrow and sufferings and death. The people in the congregation were touched—everyone wept—but the Jesus he pictured was only a man, and His death only that of an ordinary man.

You see, boys and girls, some might listen to a sermon like this and think it was all right, but like the food on this table, it is only counterfeit, because it does not represent Christ as God's Word sets Him forth. The sermon may be beautiful and clothed in words of eloquence, but unless the Lord Jesus is presented. as the Son of God—very God, indeed, Who died on the cross for man's sins, and rose again for his justification, (Rom. 4:25)—it is only the Devil's lie and will never satisfy spiritual hunger, nor bring salvation to the lost.

In Isaiah 55:2 we read, “Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which satisfieth not?”... So, boys and girls, remember this warning and test out all the sermons that you hear, by what is said about the Lord Jesus, whether or not He is set forth as the Christ of the Bible. Be satisfied only with the true Bread of Life. Refuse all counterfeits.
CONSIDER THE LILIES

The pure white lily with its calyces of gold always blooms for us at Easter time, boys and girls, reminding us anew of our Father's love and care.

When here upon earth, the Lord Jesus one day said, “Consider the lilies of the field.” So let us look at this beautiful Easter lily. I am sure it has a message for each of us. (Display Easter lily.)

It was once a dark brown bulb (show bulb, speak of color, size, etc.) with no beauty at all. You have seen the bulbs before, haven't you? And perhaps some of you have planted them.

Could anything beautiful come from the little brown bulb? And yes, when we remember that our Heavenly Father is concerned with even little, brown, ugly bulbs. If you have ever planted a lily bulb you will remember how you waited and nothing seemed to happen at all—that is, nothing that you could see; but after a while a little green blade or shoot was seen peeping up above the earth-bed. Each day the little blade seemed to grow taller and taller and soon became a lily stalk with cool, green leaves like these. (Designate.) Surely our Heavenly Father was good to give us even this beautiful green plant—but this was not all.

One day you noticed a bud, a lily bud, didn't you? How eagerly you watched your lily plant then. Your watchfulness and care were soon rewarded—your lily bud had burst into blossom and you had a beautiful lily, like this one. (Designate.) The little brown bulb had become your beautiful Easter lily, shedding forth the rarest of perfumes.

Again the Lord Jesus spoke of the lilies and said, “Even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.”

What a transformation—from dark brown bulb to a beauty, surpassing the costly robes of a King. Yes, a miracle has been wrought by our Heavenly Father and if He cares for the lily, which can only shed its beauty but a few days, how much more shall He care for and provide for you, His dear children, for whom He gave His only begotten Son?

The Heavenly Father who changed the ugly, brown bulb into the most beautiful of flowers can also change the lives of boys and girls. He wants to make us all “new creatures in Christ Jesus.” As the little lily blade shot upward from the dark earth, so we must turn our faces heavenward to the Lord Jesus. Believe on Him as the one who died on the cross to be your Saviour, and the change is wrought. “Old things are passed away, behold all things are become new.” His blood washes all our sins away, and in His sight we become as beautiful and pure as the lily, shedding forth the perfume of His love and grace.

The lily has yet another message. The Heavenly Father called forth the lily flower from the dark earth. Some day the Lord Jesus will call us unto Himself and then what a transformation! (1 Thes. 4:13-18.) His word says that we are to be like Him. The change in the lily plant was truly wonderful, as it emerged from the dark, ugly bulb, but how marvelous will be the transformation in us who are so dear to His heart when we awake in His likeness! “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, but it doth not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that when He shall appear we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.”—1 John 3:2.

So shall we “consider the lilies of the field” at this blessed Easter season, and let them speak to us a message from our Heavenly Father.

—M. S. H.
JESUS BIDS US SHINE

OBJECTS: Four Flash Lights. Remove batteries and fill with various things, as mentioned below.

Today I have with me, boys and girls, four flash lights. They are nice looking flash lights, too, on the outside, but then something wrong with all four of them. Not one of them will give forth any light. They were made to shine, you know, but they are all missing the purpose for which they were made. No matter how dark the room, still they can’t shine.

What a picture these four flash lights are of some folks today—nice looking folks as far as their outward appearance is concerned, but failing in the thing that God has commanded that every Christian should do. “Ye are the light of the world,” He says in Matthew 5:14, and “Let your light so shine before men” in Matthew 5:16.

Now if we can find out the reason why these flash lights fail to give forth a light, perhaps we can understand why some folks fail to let their “light shine for the Lord Jesus.”

I have here four flash lights so I will need four boys to help me find out what is wrong with them. (Let the four boys who volunteer hold the flash lights as they are examined.)

Let us look at the first flash light. It is surely all right on the outside, so the trouble must be on the inside. (Unscrew top.) Why, this flash light is filled with red ink. (Pour red ink out into pitcher.) No wonder it won’t shine. Flash lights were never made to hold red ink. This red ink, boys and girls, pictures jealousy, temper, and the spirit of criticism which fills the life of many who come to church and Sunday school. The sad part is, that these folks, instead of keeping these things to themselves, pour them out on others, who will just as the red ink leaves a stain on whatever it touches, so tales and criticism that these folks pass on to others, leaves their stain on those who hear.

However, with the red ink poured out of the flash light, let us put the button and see it shine. (Let the first boy hold the lighted flash light.) It is now fulfilling the purpose for which it was made—giving forth a clear yellow light. Let us ask the Lord Jesus to put out of our lives anything that is like red ink and fill us with a battery of power, which will cause us to shine for Him with a “Clear, Pure Light.”

Now we will look at the second flash light. It is bright and clean on the outside, but still won’t shine or give forth a light. Like the first one, the trouble must be on the inside. (Unscrew top and pour out contents.) Look on the inside! Why, this light is full of money. Just look at the dimes and quarters that were in the flash light! This light was never made to be filled with money—was it? If we could look into the hearts of some people, boys and girls, like this flash light, we would find them filled with the love of money, more than the love of God. The rich young ruler was like this. (Luke 18:18-25.) To him the Lord Jesus said, “Yet lackest thou one thing, sell all that thou hast and distribute unto the poor.”

Not that it is sinful to have money, boys and girls, but to make money first in one’s life is the trouble. The desire to earn money keeps some folks away from the church and the Lord. When this is true in one’s life, like this flash light, there can be no light given forth. I Timothy 6:10 says, “... the love of money is the root of all evil.”

With the money taken out of this flash light and a battery put in, see the beautiful light it gives forth. (Let second boy hold the lighted flash light.)

We will now examine the third flash light. (Unscrew top and empty out contents.) See what is in this one—cigarettes and a cork which smells very much like beer. Fancy trying to shine when filled with such things as these! And yet, there are men and women, and even boys and girls who are holding on to some bad habit which is keeping them from letting their light shine for the Lord Jesus. This flash light, when filled with a battery, will give forth light; so our lives when filled with His power, will shine and give forth a light which will lighten up a dark place.

Look now, at the fourth flash light. What can be the matter with this one? Like the others the trouble seems to be on the inside. (Unscrew the top.) Why, this one has nothing in it. This must picture the folks who never have a serious thought from the beginning of the year until the end. Their time is taken up with parties and amusements and pleasures, which after they are past, leave the life empty as this flash light. A life like this, needs to be filled with the power of God, just as this flash light needs a battery. (Put battery in.) See how the light shines now? It is filled with what it was made to hold.
God's plan for each of us, boys and girls, is that we are to be filled with His power, the blessed Holy Spirit. Put out of your lives, by His help, the things that should not be there, yield your lives to Him and let Him fill them with His power—the Holy Spirit. Eph. 1:19; Rom. 12:1; Eph. 5:18. Then like these flash lights you will be able to shine for Him. Folks in the darkness of sin will be guided by your light to the Lord Jesus who said, “I am the Light of the world.”

While the boys hold these bright lights high for all to see, let us sing:

“Jesus bids us shine
With a clear, pure light,
Like a little candle
Burning in the night;
In this world of darkness
We must shine;
You in your small corner,
And I in mine.”

How many of you, boys and girls, have ever heard of a gyroscope? I have one here with me this morning. See, it looks like a small wheel within a larger one. (Display for all to see.) I can wind up the smaller wheel so that it will spin, but the outer wheel remains still.

This little instrument maintains an even balance, no matter where it is put. (Demonstrate by putting it on the edge of a glass, tip of a peg, etc.) Not only does the gyroscope maintain an even balance for itself, but it keeps upright whatever it is placed on, or in. For instance, let us wind it up and place it in this box, fastening the lid. (Demonstrate, by placing box on the edge of dish, etc.) See, the box keeps upright no matter where it is placed!

The gyroscope is also a stabilizer. It keeps things steady, and in an upright position. A great maritime company is considering putting large gyroscopes in all of its ships to keep them steady and on an even keel even during a storm at sea. One large shipping company has already tried this instrument. What a wonderful invention! People will not fear to travel on stormy seas if the boat they are sailing in carries a gyroscope.

Now, boys and girls, the Christian is on a journey from earth to heaven, and on this pilgrim way, there are often many trying circumstances to face, and many storms to endure. These are called life's storms. (Suggest circumstances hard for a child to endure.) Man is so weak in himself, he could never endure these trying times, he would only topple over. But God has provided a gyroscope for the Christian—a Living Gyroscope, in the person of the Lord Jesus. All that this little instrument can do for the ship upon a stormy sea, the Lord Jesus does, and more, for one tossed about on life's sea. (Tell how the Lord comforts, and strengthens a little child, in trying circumstances.)

He indwells the heart of every believer. “I will dwell in them
and walk in them," the Word says in 2 Cor. 6:16. And in Gal. 2:20 Paul said, "Christ liveth in me." This blessed fact is true of all who have received the Lord Jesus as Saviour.

With the Lord Jesus dwelling in our hearts, boys and girls, we are able to remain upright in our Christian life, and not topple over, no matter what the circumstance or temptation. (1 Cor. 10:13.)

Like the ship upon a stormy sea, kept upright by the gyroscope, the Christian is able to pass through life's storms with a peace that passeth understanding, abiding in his heart. "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee, because he trusteth in Thee."—Isa. 26:3, and "When thou passeth through the waters I will be with thee."—Isa. 43:2.

Let us thank Him, boys and girls, for being to us, all that we need at all times and in every place and circumstance!

THE MAGNET AND THE NAIL FAMILY

OBJECTS: 1. A Magnet. 2. Young Children of the Nail Family—small, bright, shiny Nails. 3. Mr. Nail (father), large nail, a bit rusty—invisible string attached, concealing large bottle under the table. 4. Mrs. Nail (mother) middle-size nail; invisible string attached concealing deck of cards. 5. Big Brother Nail, tall, bright nail; invisible string attached, concealing a filthy rag. 6. Bent, rusty Nail (Grandpa Nail).

We have the NAIL family before us this morning, boys and girls. See them here on the table! They picture a good many families living all about us today.

And what is this? (Exhibit magnet.) Some one says, "a MAGNET." Yes, this is a magnet. It has drawing power. In John 12:32 the Lord Jesus said, "And I, if I be lifted up will draw all men unto Me." He was speaking of His death on the cross, which would enable Him to draw men and women from sin unto Himself as Saviour. We will let the MAGNET picture the Lord Jesus.

Let us put the magnet in among the Nail family. See the bright, shiny nails fly to it? These are the small children in the Nail family. Like many other small children, they are eager to accept the Lord Jesus in their youth. (Eccl. 12:1.) They gladly accept His loving invitation to the children, "Suffer the little children to come unto Me and forbid them not."—Luke 18:16.

But what about the other members of the Nail family? Some seem unmoved, while others make an attempt to come, but something seems to hold them back. (Demonstrate.) Let us look at each one separately.

This tall, strong looking nail, is Mr. Nail, the father of the household. Surely, Mr. Nail, as the head of the house, should accept the Lord Jesus as His Saviour. (Apply magnet.) But no, he refuses to come, though he does seem moved as the story of God's love is presented to him. Something seems to hold him back. Let us see what it is. Ah—this tells the story. (Lift up a large beer bottle.) Mr. Nail is bound down by a habit which seems to have the better of him. This bottle tells not only of a habit, but of worldly friends and pleasures, which are keeping him away from the church and the Lord. Is there no hope for Mr. Nail? Oh, yes, the Lord Jesus is able to break
every fetter. He says, "Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out."—John 6:37. (Cut string.) Now, see Mr. Nail cling to the magnet! Hear him sing:

"Other refuge have I none,
Hangs my helpless soul on Thee."

With Mr. Nail a Christian, he is anxious for Mrs. Nail and the other members of the family to accept the Lord Jesus as Saviour. (Apply magnet to Mrs. Nail.) Mrs. Nail has surely seen a change in Mr. Nail since he became a Christian—she would like to come to the Lord Jesus, but something seems to be exerting an influence over her. Let us see what it is—Why, attached to Mrs. Nail is a deck of cards. So this is the reason Mrs. Nail will not put her trust in the Lord as her Saviour—she loves the world and the pleasures of the world. Finally she too, accepts the invitation of the Lord Jesus. She hears him say, "Come unto Me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest."—Matt. 11:28. (Cut string.) What rest and peace she found in Christ—a peace that the world never knew or offered.

Another member of the Nail family is Grandpa. This bent, rusty nail is Grandpa Nail. He is getting old—all of his life has been lived for self, with practically no thought of God. (Apply magnet—has no effect on rusty part.) He hears of the Lord Jesus from his son and daughter-in-law, but it doesn't seem to be for him. He feels he has lived in sin too long. Again and again they tell him of Jesus' love. His heart seems changing—he listens with more interest. (Keep applying magnet.) Finally one day as Mr. Nail repeated Romans 5:8, "For God commended His love toward us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us"—a joy filled his heart and life as he exclaimed, "He died for me! He died for me!" (Apply magnet to part not rusty.)

With Grandpa Nail in the fold, there was only one other member of the family left untouched by the Gospel. This was Big Brother Nail. Big Brother was a Senior in college. He couldn't understand what was happening to the family. His mother and father tried to tell him, but he was always too busy—besides, he said such things were "old fashioned." How they all yearned over Big Brother and longed to see him come to the Lord Jesus and accept Him as Saviour.

This tall, bright looking nail is Big Brother. Let us see if we can find out why he refuses to come to the Lord Jesus. (Apply magnet.) Something seems to be preventing him from even listening to the "Good News." Ah, see what is attached to Big Brother—a filthy rag! What can this mean? God's Word says that self-righteousness is in His sight as "filthy rags," (Isa. 64:6). Big Brother feels that he has a righteousness of his own, and so does not need a Saviour.

But the prayers of the Nail family are not to go unanswered. At last Big Brother is brought to realize that, "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God."—Rom. 3:23. He turns his back on his own righteousness, (cut string), takes his place as a sinner in need of a Saviour (apply magnet). What rejoicing there was in the Nail household the day that Big Brother came to the Lord. "Praise God from whom all blessings flow," they all sang that night as they gathered around the family altar.

What happened in the Nail family can happen in your family too, boys and girls. The Lord Jesus longs to DRAW unto Himself those who know Him not. "The Son of Man is come to seek and to save the lost" (Luke 19:10), and "Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out."—John 6:37.
MUSICAL BRUSHES OR CURRY COMBS—WHICH?

OBJECTS: Whisk Broom or Brush, which makes music as it is used (obtain from toy shop). A Curry Comb.

What object is this, boys and girls? "A brush," you say. Yes, this is a brush or whisk broom. It is a very useful article to have in any home. It is used to brush off your coat before you are ready for Sunday school and church. You know coats and clothes catch so much dust as they are worn from place to place, that they need to be brushed; don't they?

But this brush is different from the one you have in your home, as you will see. Now, I am sure if you watch and listen as I use it you will see how different it is. (Call boy to platform and brush off his coat.) Ah, what do you hear as I brush off this boy's coat? "Music," you say. Yes, as this brush, or broom, is used, it makes music. I wouldn't mind having this brush remove the dust and dirt from any clothes, would you? It does its work so gently, making music all the while. It doesn't hurt a bit, either.

What else do I have here? Boys are sure to know what this is—a curry comb. Where do you generally find curry combs? In the stable, of course, for curry combs are used to remove the dust and dirt from horses' coats. They are fine to use on animals but I wouldn't like to have one used on me; would you? The treatment would be too rough, I fear. As for brushing off clothes—why, the curry comb would tear them, wouldn't it? No, a curry comb is not made to be used on folks.

Now you know, boys and girls, that as we go through this life, sometimes our conduct and manners get soiled and dusty. We need to be corrected—"brushed up," as it were. How good it is to have some one come to us at such a time in the spirit of love and meekness, reminding us of the things in our lives that are not pleasing unto the Lord. In Gal. 6:1-2 we read, "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual restore such an one in the spirit of meekness. . . Bear ye one another's burdens . . ." Those who obey these words do indeed use the "musical brush," as it were. Do you know of a playmate, boys and girls, whose conduct is not pleasing to the Lord?
A story is told, boys and girls, that many years ago a British subject in Mexico was falsely accused of a crime, and sentenced to death.

The morning of the day for the execution arrived; the innocent man was led out to meet his death. But, just as the fatal shot was about to be fired, up rushed the British ambassador carrying the British flag. Quickly to the side of the condemned man he went, and wrapped about him the flag, crying to the executioners as he did so, "Fire if you dare!"

At that very time, the American ambassador appeared on the scene carrying the flag of the United States. Like the British ambassador, he rushed to the side of the condemned man and covered him with the Stars and Stripes. Then he, too, cried, "Fire if you dare!"

Needless to say, the life of the condemned man was spared. The soldiers dared not fire on such a covering.

Boys and girls, the sinner stands before God today CONDEM NED . . . "He that believeth NOT is condemned already."—Jno. 3:18. He is guilty, for "all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."—Romans 3:23. The penalty is death, "the wages of sin is death." (Romans 6:23.) What a sad picture! Is there no one to provide a covering that he might escape God's wrath and judgment? Yes, I'm glad to tell you, boys and girls, there is One, even the Lord Jesus Himself, who has provided a covering, by shedding His own blood on the cross of Calvary. "But God commended His love toward us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."—Romans 5:8. This is the blessed story of the Gospel. When the sinner turns to the Lord Jesus and receives Him as Saviour, then it is that the covering is provided. Only the blood-red banner of the cross will avail. What a costly covering! In Isa. 61:10 we read that God covers the saved sinner in a "garment of salvation and a robe of righteousness."

Not only are his sins forgiven, but God declares him as righteous as His Son, and looks on him as though he had never sinned. This is justification (Rom. 3:24). Oh, what marvellous grace! (Illustrate by wrapping white sheet about boy or girl.)

Boys and girls, are you standing with the condemned today, the ones who have never received the Lord Jesus as Saviour, or are you among those who are covered with the robe of righteousness?

The British and American flags spared the life of the condemned man in Mexico—but the cross of Calvary provided a covering that gives LIFE EVERLASTING to the one who will RECEIVE and BELIEVE.

"In my place condemned He stood,
Sealed my pardon with His blood,
Hallelujah, what a Saviour!"
OBJECTS THAT TALK AND TEACH

BEAUTIFUL FEET

BOYS and girls, have you ever known folks who wished for BEAUTIFUL feet? Perhaps you have never thought of feet being beautiful, but God speaks of “BEAUTIFUL feet” in His Word.

Here is a foot of an animal. (Display.) Do you know what kind of an animal has a foot like this? An elephant—yes, this is an elephant’s foot. You wouldn’t call this a beautiful foot, would you, and yet it is a very useful part of the elephant. This is a fact of great importance to animals.

But human beings want not only strong, useful feet, but beautiful ones, and spend much effort in accomplishing this desire.

Have you ever stood before a shoe store window and looked at the different shoes and styles. Some have a lacy-like design as this pair. (Show a pair having small hole perforations, making a design.) Others are made of several colored leathers as this pair of brown and tan. (Display such a shoe.) Or this pair of dark and white leather. (Display.)

Why is all this trouble taken to make shoes of various colors and design? The answer is that folks want beautiful feet.

Here is a pair of shoes worn by a Chinese woman. (Display.) See how small they are! In China, the smaller the feet the more beautiful they are considered. (Tell of the binding of the feet of Chinese children.) Even here in America many regret having large feet, and they often try to wear shoes that are a size too small, just so they will appear to have beautiful feet.

But these shoes (on display) only tell of man’s way of making one’s feet attractive. What kind of feet does God say are BEAUTIFUL? Let us read Isa. 52:7, “How BEAUTIFUL . . . are the feet of them who bring GLAD TIDINGS.”

Ah—not how one’s feet LOOK, but how they are USED, makes them beautiful in God’s sight. They are to carry glad tidings. On that first Christmas Day so long ago, the angel said to the shepherds, “Behold I bring you good tidings of great joy . . . For unto you is born this day . . . a Saviour.”—Luke 2:10, 11. This is good tidings, indeed—that a Saviour is born—even the Lord Jesus, who went to the cross in the sinner’s stead. Those who have received Him as Saviour and are bearing the good tidings to others, in God’s sight have BEAUTIFUL feet. Are your feet beautiful, boys and girls? No, it matters not whether your shoes are new or old, brown or black—but are they bearing the good news of the Gospel (1 Cor. 15:1-3) to loved ones at home or to playmates at school.

As God, our Heavenly Father, looks down upon us today, boys and girls, may He see our feet BEAUTIFUL for Him!
OBJECTS THAT TALK AND TEACH

BEAUTIFUL HANDS

OBJECTS: Pair of fancy Gloves, several Rings, Bracelets, etc.

Have you ever noticed the hands of your playmates, boys and girls? Some are large, some are small, some rough, others soft as silk, but all very useful members of the body. Many people long for beautiful hands, and spend much time trying to make them so. There are those who try to make their hands beautiful by wearing rings and bracelets such as these (display), and fancy gloves such as these (display), but these are only outward adornments, and please the eye of man. What does God see, when He looks at your hands?

God’s Word has much to say about hands, and often refers to the whole body when these members are mentioned.

First, there are the DEFILED or UNCLEAN hands. (Haggai 2:14; Isa. 59:3.) Anyone who has never received the Lord Jesus as Saviour and been washed in His precious blood, is in God’s sight unclean or defiled. As I think of these hands, my mind goes back to the days when as a lad I attended school in Australia. When the nine o’clock bell rang we all lined up in front of the school house, but before we marched into the school room the head master would say, “Show hands!” The teachers would then pass down the rows of children and inspect the hands. Those who had dirty hands had to leave the line and wash them. One day a boy standing next to me in line only partly opened his hands. He was trying to conceal the stains on them. When the teacher finally inspected them he was told to go to the trough-like sink and wash. “I’m sorry,” he said, “but I can’t get the stains off.”

“There’s a brick by the sink,” the teacher replied; “use that until all the stains are removed.”

If God should some day say to all the people in the world, “Show hands,” what would He see? All would have to hear the sentence, “Unclean.” “For ALL have sinned and come short of the glory of God—there is none righteous, no not one.”—Rom. 3:23.

But in Psalm 24:4 we read, “Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord; who shall stand in the holy place? He that hath CLEAN HANDS and a pure heart ...”
I have some strange things to show you this morning, boys and girls—two black hats. They look very much alike, do they not—and yet they are as different as can be, as you shall see.

Now these two hats are quite like boys and girls in the Sunday school, or grown up folks in the church. They look, and are, very much alike on the outside, but are very different on the inside. They are very different, too, under various kinds of circumstances.

Hats, you know, are to be worn on heads, but if by any chance they get “sat upon,” they are never quite the same afterwards. To prove it, I will sit on this first hat. (Demonstrate. Hat greatly crushed by this treatment.) What a sad-looking hat it is now; full of wrinkles and creases! If I worked on it for a week I would never be able to straighten it out so that it would look as it did before. This hat will never be the same again. It will never get over being “sat upon.”

This first hat is like some boys and girls, nice boys and girls, too, seemingly, from their outside manners—or like a very nice dignified grown-up. They come to church or Sunday school and, sad to say, someone says an unkind word to them, or perhaps someone fails to speak to them, or offends in some point. Try as one will to straighten things out for them, they are never the same again. Like the first hat, they never get over being “sat upon.” The wrinkles and creases won’t come out.

Let us examine the second hat. It looks just like the first one on the outside, but let us see how it will act when “sat upon.” (A collapsible hat which flattens out, but by pressing a button, returns quickly to its original shape.) It does look crushed—but only for a moment. See it “snap out” of it and return to its original shape! Not a crease or wrinkle to be seen!

This hat is like the man or woman, boy or girl, who is filled with the joy and the love of the Lord. “Love suffers long and is kind... Doth not behave itself unseemly... Beareth all things.”—1 Cor. 13:4-7. When unkind words are said to them, or they are offended in any way, they go to the Lord in prayer and talk it all over with Him. Like the second hat, they are able to “snap out” of their trouble and return to Sunday school and church as though nothing had happened. It’s a wonderful thing to be like this hat. The Lord Jesus is able to make us like this,—loving and quick to forgive. Let us ask Him to make us “get over” things. We can never be of any use in the service of the Lord unless we become like this second hat. We all need to learn lessons, but after the lessons are learned, let us go on in the service of the Lord without any marks or creases.
THREE QUALITIES THAT SHOULD BE FOUND IN THE LIFE OF EVERY CHRISTIAN

OBJECT: Three Dogs (alive or toy dogs). A Bull Dog, a Shepherd and a Lap Dog (Mexican Hairless).

When the Lord Jesus was here upon earth, He often mentioned dogs, but the kindest thing He ever said about them was in the story of the "Rich man and Lazarus" (Luke 16:19-31). "Moreover, the dogs came and licked his sores." Here the dogs only showed sympathy.

Today, boys and girls, I want to talk to you about DOGS. How many of you have a dog at home? Most of you have—and your dog isn't he?

When I was a lad, away in Australia, there were these kinds of dogs that I liked especially, and today, boys and girls, I have these three kinds of dogs here with me. Let us see what lessons we can learn from them. Of course you already know that a dog can teach a boy or girl a good many lessons, don't you?

First, I have with me a BULL DOG. (Show a bull dog, either a live or toy one.) A bull dog has always appealed to me. He has TENACITY to do what he wants to do. Have you ever watched a dog of this kind walk down the street? He goes straight ahead and attends to his own business. No small dog of any kind can cause him to turn aside. Not even a lion, can make a bull dog swerve from his purpose.

In this day, boys and girls are needed with steadfastness of purpose to live for the Lord Jesus. God wants us to have TENACITY to do what He wants us to do. In I Cor. 16:13 we read, "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit ye like men, be strong."

There will always be some who will try to tease you and make fun of you because you refuse to smoke and swear and steal. They will make fun of you because you are faithful in attending Sunday school, and in reading your Bible. When these things happen to you, boys and girls, remember the bull dog and his tenacity of purpose, and his refusal to turn aside for anything or any one!

The second dog I have always liked was a SHEPHERD dog.

(Show a Shepherd dog.) This dog speaks of FIDELITY or faithfulness. Over in Australia nearly every boy has a dog like this. Australia is a great sheep country, you know, and the sheep men or "squatters" depend on these dogs to help with the sheep. At five o'clock every afternoon a sheep dog like this one rounds up the sheep and the cattle. He can always be trusted and depended upon.

Over in Sydney, one winter's day, while walking along the street, I saw one of these shepherd dogs guarding his master, who was a poor beggar. It was afterwards found that the beggar was dead, but the dog continued to faithfully guard him. So true was he to his trust, that the policeman had a hard time removing the body of the dead man from the street. For years, this dog had put into execution the will of his master.

The Lord Jesus wants you to be FAITHFUL, boys and girls, faithful in pleasing Him and doing His will. It is a fine thing to always be DEPENDED UPON to do the right thing. Let us be found faithful to Him at all times, and to His precious Word! Psa. 28:20, says "A faithful man shall abound with blessing."

Now the last dog I have with me this morning, is this little LAP DOG. (Show a Mexican hairless dog.) He is such an inoffensive little fellow, "harmless as a dove," and very gentle. These are qualities we need in our lives also, boys and girls—Gentleness and inoffensiveness. "The servant of the Lord must not strive, but be gentle unto all men."—2 Tim. 2:24. Some folks think it is not manly to be "gentle," but the Lord Jesus Himself was gentle and kind (2 Cor. 10:1) "full of grace."

(Stand the bull dog and the lap dog side by side.) What a contrast! Some folks want to "chew" every one up, just the way this bull dog looks, while others, like the lap dog, have no conviction on any matter and are never willing to stand up for what they know is right.

God wants us to have in our lives the three qualities we have seen in these dogs. May God enable us to have TENACITY of purpose, which will cause us to stand for the faith of our Fathers; FIDELITY to Him and His Word, and the GENTLENESS of the Lord Jesus Himself.
BREAD SERIES

Jesus said, “I am the Bread of Life” John 6:48

OBJECTS: 1. A Beautiful Wedding Cake, iced and decorated. Inside hollowed out and filled with sawdust.
2. A Loaf of Bread-inside removed and filled with nickles, dimes and dollar bills.
3. Loaf Cake, iced white. Inside removed, filled with dirty rags.

PLEASURES OF THIS WORLD

Isn’t this a beautiful cake, boys and girls? It looks so beautiful on the outside, but when you taste it, you would like a piece of it; wouldn’t you? Let us cut it! Ah, see what is on the inside! Sawdust! What a deception! You can’t eat sawdust, can you? This is not a cake for a hungry person, is it?

Boys and girls, do you know that this cake is very much like the “pleasures of this world”? They seem so beautiful on the outside, but when you taste them or have a part in them, like this cake, they prove to be only sawdust—something that is only waste, and will never satisfy the hunger and longing of a soul.

This cake filled with sawdust is an example of how Satan is enticing boys and girls to partake of his pleasures today. God’s Word calls him an “angel of light” so one would expect his gifts to appear beautiful on the outside.

The Lord Jesus said of Himself, when here upon earth, “I am the Bread of Life.”—Jno. 6:48. He is the true Bread which came down from heaven.

You know how satisfying the bread is that is served on your table at home; don’t you? When you are very hungry, it is bread you want. Bread nourishes and builds up one’s body—is life-giving, and all that bread is in the natural, the Lord Jesus is in the spiritual.

The pleasures of this world, like the cake, will never satisfy, but the Lord Jesus, the Bread of Life can and will satisfy. Believe on Him and He will know what it is to partake of Christ, the Bread of Life. Jno. 6:51, 53-56.

Love of Money

This loaf of bread looks good, doesn’t it? When one is hungry, there’s nothing like a good piece of bread and butter, as you boys and girls well know. (Discuss bread—how it is made from wheat, threshed, chaff removed, ground, etc.) Let us cut off a few slices of this bread and see if it is as good on the inside as it looks on the outside. Why, see what is in this loaf of bread! It’s full of money! Such bread as this would never satisfy a hungry boy or girl, would it?

And yet some folks today are eating bread like this. They are trying to satisfy the hunger of their hearts, by money-making and money-saving. The rich young ruler, who came to Jesus one day, was like this. His love of money kept him from the true Bread, the Lord Jesus (Matt. 19:16-22).

Money in itself is not bad—but it’s the place some folks give it in their lives that is dishonoring to the Lord—God has entrusted money to many of His children who count themselves as His stewards and seek His guidance in the spending of all He has given them.

The Word of God has much to say against the love of money, and riches that keep one away from the Lord. Read James 5:1-5, Luke 12:16-21. Put the Lord first in your lives, boys and girls. Money will never satisfy. Feast upon Christ, the Bread of Life.

WHITED SEPULCHRES

How good this cake looks, doesn’t it? The frosting is so white and smooth. Anyone would enjoy a piece of cake like this, I know. Let us cut it. Ah, see what is in it! Dirty rags! Think of such things being found in a cake!

And yet, boys and girls, many folks are like this cake. They have filled their lives with a righteousness of their own, which God says is to Him as “filthy rags.” Isaiah 64:6.

The outward appearance of this cake was very beautiful,—quite a contrast to what was found inside; so, many people appear very religious, as far as their manner and conduct is concerned, but “God looketh on the heart.” 1 Sam. 16:7.

When the Lord Jesus was here upon earth, He called such people “hypocrites” and “whited sepulchres.” Hear His words, “Woe unto you, Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness. Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.”—Matt. 23:27, 28.

Nothing is hidden from the all-seeing eye of God. Self-righteousness will never save a boy or girl, man or woman. God has provided a righteousness in Christ Jesus which is available to all who will receive Him as Saviour. Rom. 3:21-24.

Self-righteousness will never satisfy the hunger in one’s heart—only the Lord Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life, can satisfy. Jno. 6:51.
SECRET OF SUCCESS

OBJECTS: A Brick and a Paper Bag.

If I should ask you today, boys and girls, what you would like to be when you are grown men and women, I am sure that most of you could tell me.

Here on the table is a brick and a paper bag (designate) which I think will give us the secret of being successful in our life work, whatever that may be. As you know, a brick is a heavy object and this one, like all others of its kind, is heavy and hard to move. Now, I want to move this brick, but how shall I do it without using my hands? Suppose I blow on it with my breath (demonstrate). Why, it doesn't move a bit, does it? My breath is too scattered, but if I direct my breath on the brick by means of this paper bag, what will happen? (Demonstrate. Place brick on part of paper bag. Blow in bag!) The brick is not only moved, but is pushed off the table.

This demonstration shows us that if large objects are to be moved there must be a real concentration of effort. So it is in carrying out God's plan for one's life, boys and girls, there must be a real concentrating of effort along that one line.

Vocational training has come to the front in the past years. If one feels called to be a doctor, he chooses one special branch of medical science and specializes in this subject. Study the lives of great men and you will notice that they devoted their powers along one channel. For instance: Thomas Edison directed all of his efforts into the study of electricity. He spent his life in this. (Suggest others.)

Some of you are fitted for one thing and some for another. God has a plan for each life. (Rom. 12:1-2; 1 Cor. 12:12-31.) Seek His guidance in choosing your life work and when He has made His will plain to you, begin preparing yourself in the best possible way to accomplish His plan. The same is true in one's spiritual life. The secret of success is the same,—a concentration of one's efforts and desires to please Him.

Over 1900 years ago, there lived on this earth the greatest man who ever lived apart from the Lord Jesus. This man was Paul. He has left us a formula for success in one of his letters, Philippians 3:13—"This ONE thing I do." Paul had a great objective. He wanted his life to count for the Lord Jesus; everything else in his life took second place. He counted "all things" that were gain to him as "loss" for Christ's sake. (Phil. 3:4-8.)

Do you have a great desire, boys and girls, that your lives should glorify your Saviour, the Lord Jesus? If so, remember that the brick was moved not through scattered effort, but through concentrated efforts. The Lord Jesus must have first place in your life. Let your life motto be, "Whatsoever He saith unto you, do it."—Jno. 2:5: "... that in all things He might have the pre-eminence."—Col. 1:18. To please the Lord in one's spiritual life there must be a willingness to take time to study God's Word and to talk to Him in prayer. This is the way to get acquainted with Him. Setting apart a time for this in the early morning before school, play or work, is a splendid practice. Some call this the "Quiet Hour"—and even boys and girls can keep a "Quiet Hour" with the Lord. (Explain how, etc.)

Then there must be a daily practice of the teachings of the Word. "Be ye doers of the Word and not hearers only."—James 1:22. It will take time and real determination. Play will have to take a second place. It may mean sacrifice, but to receive His "Well Done" at last will be recompense beyond measure.
OBJECTS THAT TALK AND TEACH

THE HOMING PIGEON

OBJECTS: A live Homing Pigeon, or a Toy Pigeon. A picture of one may be used. A box of Bible Messages.

Our object lesson for today, boys and girls, is most interesting. I have in this box, a little bird which I'm sure you will agree is in many respects a really truly missionary. What wonderful lessons this little missionary has for us! First of all, you would like to see him, wouldn't you? (Display bird.) What a pretty little creature he is! This is a homing pigeon, boys and girls.

This little bird has his face set towards his home. If I should turn him loose, he would go straight home. Heaven is the home that God has planned for every boy and girl who really wants to go there. Do you know the WAY to the heavenly home, boys and girls? The Lord Jesus said, "I am the WAY." He is the way home. If, like this homing pigeon, you would know the way home, you must know and love the Lord Jesus as Saviour.

This little bird not only knows the way home, but nothing can change his course. He flies STRAIGHT for home. Home is the big motive of his life. Is heaven the goal of your life, boys and girls? Are you looking forward to living forever with Him—of seeing His face and being like Him? In Phil. 3:20 we read, "For our citizenship is in heaven." Heaven is really our home. Realizing this, we are apt to travel straight ahead toward home, and not to be tempted to change our course to any of Satan's bypaths.

This bird not only goes straight home, but carries a message. Notice the rings on his legs! This is the way he carries the message. He carries any message that is given him,—carries it just as it is given him without changing it, and is not content until the message is delivered.

You have received a wonderful message, boys and girls. It is contained in this greatest of all books, the Bible. It is the good news of the Gospel (1 Cor. 15:1-3). This little bird carries any message he receives, straight home. Are you carrying the story of Jesus and His love to your father and mother and brothers and sisters? In Mark 5:19 the Lord Jesus said to one who desired to stay with Him,
OBJECTS THAT TALK AND TEACH

CONTROLLED BY THE HAND OF GOD

OBJECTS: A Jar three-quarters filled with water. A small Doll.

Boys and girls, I have a most interesting object to show you this morning. See the little doll in this jar! His shirt is red, his trousers blue, and his arms folded so. What a pretty little fellow he is! But, the most interesting part about him is that he will do anything I want him to do. If I want him to go half way up the jar, away he goes. He seems to be continually saying to me, "Anything you say, I'll do—Wherever you want me to go, I'll go."

Now, this little doll lives in a world by himself, as you can see, being inclosed in this jar. I am on the outside, he on the inside, and yet, I control all that he does. He moves only at my direction.

You know, boys and girls, we are living in the world as this little fellow is living in the jar. And this world is in God's hands. Some folks feel at times that God has forgotten them. This accounts for the many who commit suicide each year. They seem to feel that God is not interested in their lives. If they only knew the love of God as it is made known, and through the Lord Jesus. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."—John 3:16.

This great world of ours contains over one billion seven hundred million people, and yet God is interested in each one, and longs to direct their lives according to His plan and pattern.

But God has given each of us something that this little fellow in the jar does not have, and that is a will. We each have the right of choice and can choose to be controlled by God, or to control our own lives. God longs to have us give our wills to Him, and let His WILL be our will. Then we will realize what a wonderful plan He has for each of us. He has a special plan for each of your lives, boys and girls, and longs to control you. If you give Him your will He will guide you and undertake for you. Sad things are happening to men and women today, because they are not willing to put their lives in the hands of a Great God.

Will you today, boys and girls, put your lives in His hands and say, "From this time on I will strive to do Thy Will." Then your life will be controlled by God as this little fellow is controlled by me. (Read prayerfully Rom. 12:1-2.)

Let us watch this little man in the jar move about. Up he goes or down, stopping in the middle or stopping a while at the top, just as I wish. You can see that there are no strings on the little man for me to pull him up or down, so I'm sure you are wondering how I make him move about. Well, I will tell you the secret—it is all done by the pressure of my hand on the outside of the jar. When I release the pressure, up he goes!

Have you heard the lovely song, "The touch of His hand on mine?" It is the touch of His hand when sorrowful or discouraged, that lifts us up as the little doll in the jar is lifted up. It is wonderful to live in a world like this, controlled by the Hand of Our Great God. Though we cannot see Him, yet we know that He controls. Let us rejoice in this fact, boys and girls, and go to our homes today realizing that our lives are ordered and controlled by His Loving Hand.

"Fear thou not for I am with thee . . .
I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."—Isa. 41:10.

* Special kind of doll has to be used in this lesson. You can get the same at a toy shop. A wooden ball on a string may also be used. The ball moves up and down on the string—stops, etc., as indicated by control of the hand. This may also be purchased at a novelty shop.
A CHRISTMAS STAR

OBJECTS: Electrified Star. (Star made of transparent paper; electric light placed back of it.) Letters P-E-A-C-E placed on points of star.

THE BIRTH of Jesus was connected with the shining of a star, for it was a star, you know, that led the wise men from afar at that first Christmas time, to the very place where the child Jesus was (Matt. 2:1-12). So, this morning we will look at this star (display star) and let it tell us something of what His birth meant for Him, and what it means to each of us.

The star, as you see, has five points. We will choose five words that tell something of what His coming into the world MEANT TO HIM, and five words that tell what His coming has MEANT TO YOU AND ME. You will notice that the star will grow brighter and brighter as these different things are mentioned. This is to show, that while the things that pertained to Him grew darker—for us, they became brighter (have electrician arrange for this).

First, the birth of Jesus meant to Him POVERTY. "He who was rich became poor for our sakes, that we through His POVERTY might become rich." 2 Cor. 8:9. We will place the letter P which stands for POVERTY on the first point of the star (demonstrate). Many today know what poverty means, but not by choice. He chose to be poor for our sakes. The letter P also stands for POSSESSIONS, for while His coming meant poverty for Him, to all who have received Him as Saviour, it means "possessing" many things. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who hath blessed us with ALL spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ."—Eph. 1:3. We have been made rich by Him, possessing everlasting life—redemption through His blood, forgiveness, etc.

The second letter is E. This stands for "EMPTYING of glory" for Him—Phil. 2:5-8, but "ENTERING into glory" for us.—Rom. 8:18, 30. Though He never ceased to be God, yet He laid aside garments of glory, "made Himself of no reputation and took upon Him the form of a servant ... " But those who have believed on Him shall one day share His glory, and be like Him.—1 John 3:2.

A is the next letter, which tells of the AFFLICTION His coming brought to Him. In Isa. 53:7 we read, "He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth." A also stands for "ACCEPTANCE in the Beloved" (Eph. 1:6). The believer has no merit of his own. His acceptance by the heavenly Father depends wholly upon the Lord Jesus. Believers are "made nigh by the blood of Christ."

C tells of the CURSE which He was made for us when He died on the cross. "Christ hath redeemed us from the CURSE of the law, being made a CURSE for us, for it is written, cursed is everyone that hangeth on a tree."—Gal. 3:13. The curse for Him, but the CROWN for us—Wondrous grace that it should be so! God's Word speaks of crowns (1 Pet. 5:4; James 1:12; 2 Tim. 4:8; 1 Thess. 2:19; Rev. 2:10), which the believer has the privilege of earning and receiving at the Crowning Day when rewards of service will be given out (2 Cor. 5:10; 1 Cor. 3:14). These are someday to be laid at the feet of Him who is "worthy ... to receive glory and honor and power"—Rev. 4:10, 11.

The last letter is E. This tells of His death on the cross. Heb. 12:2 says, "Who for the joy that was set before Him Endured the Cross." God so loved that He gave—gave His Son to die on the cross in the sinners' place (Rom. 5:8, 2 Cor. 5:21). His death brought life to us. E also stands for EVERLASTING LIFE which is God's gift to all who receive the Lord Jesus as Saviour—Jno. 3:16; Rom. 6:23.

Now let us look at the star! Each point bears a letter. Shall we spell the words together:--P-E-A-C-E. The angels sang on that first Christmas day, "Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth PEACE, good will toward men." Luke 2:14.

The Lord Jesus came to earth on that first Christmas day to bring peace. Have you, dear boys and girls, received this precious gift? "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." (Rom. 5:1.) All who have received Him as Saviour are justified or declared righteous and have this wonderful gift of PEACE. "My peace I give unto you."—Jno. 14:27.

Let us remember on Christmas morning to thank Him, for the many gifts His coming as a Babe in the manger so long ago has brought to us, and especially for the gift of PEACE!
OBJECTS THAT TALK AND TEACH

DEATH AND RESURRECTION

OBJECTS: A Watch in battered silver case, a Gold Case in which the works of a Silver Watch will fit, and a Box in which the watch can be placed. (These can be borrowed from a local jeweler.)

Most of us, boys and girls, have at some time in our lives lost a dear one through death. No doubt, many of you have wondered where your dear ones are now, and when you are to see them again. I think this little watch I have here, will help you to understand something of what God teaches in His Word about DEATH and RESURRECTION.

Let us look at this watch. (Display silver watch.) I wonder if you can tell me which part is the real watch? You know there are several parts to this watch. (Remove works.) See, the silver part you were seeing as I held it up is only the case. If you went to a jewelry store to buy a watch, you would be quite disappointed if you came home with only a case, wouldn't you? The real watch is in the "works." See, the works are functioning as a watch even though they are out of the case. So with boys and girls, men and women, the real You is not the body that we see as we look at each other, though it may tell us many things about the person who lives inside. These bodies of ours are only the houses or cases in which the real YOU or the SOUL lives.

God calls the case in His Word "earthly tabernacles." (2 Cor. 5:1.) As one grows old, this earthly tabernacle shows signs of age and decay. This watch case is not new. See how scratched and battered-up it is! Though the case is old, the works are as good as ever.

At death, if a Christian, the real you, or the soul leaves the earthly tabernacle and goes immediately into the presence of the Lord. "Absent from the body, present with the Lord."—2 Cor. 5:6. The works of this watch, as I told you, picture the real you. Notice, when I removed the works from the case of the watch they did not cease functioning. So when the real you or the soul leaves the case, called the body, it does not cease living, but continues to live in the presence of the Lord. What happens to the case or the body? It is put away in a grave to await the glad resurrection day. (Illustrate by putting watch case in box and burying if possible, placing marker.)

The case, or body, of a Christian does not remain in the grave always. God's Word tells of a resurrection day, when those who have died in the Lord will be raised from the graves. This is called the rapture. This is the day when you will see your loved ones again. (1 Thes. 4:13-18; 1 Cor. 15:52-57.) The body or case will not be raised as it was buried, weak, frail, subject to disease and decay, but it will be raised a "glorious body," like unto the body of the Lord Jesus.

I will put the works of this watch into the new, beautiful case. (Demonstrate.) See how beautifully the works fit into this lovely, new gold case! Though taken from the silver case, and the silver case buried, yet they have never ceased functioning. So, in the glad resurrection day, the real you or the soul, which has been living in the presence of the Lord, is to be clothed in a glorified body; one that will never be sick again; never suffer pain or anything that this earthly body is subject to. God's Word calls the new body "incorruptible." Clothed in the new body, we are to live with the Lord forever. "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is."—1 Jno. 3:2.

With such glorious prospects ahead, no wonder God's Word says, "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?"—1 Cor. 15:55.
YE ARE THE SALT OF THE EARTH

Salt is not an expensive article of food, but a very important one. When the Lord Jesus was here upon earth, He said, "Ye are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has lost its savor, wherewith shall it be salted? It is therefore good for nothing but to be cast out and be trodden under foot of men."—Matt. 5:13.

All that salt is in the natural, the Lord Jesus wants the Christian to be in a spiritual sense. Salt was a common product in the days when the Lord Jesus walked the earth, as now, so that His disciples understood what He meant when He said, "Ye are the salt of the earth."

Let us listen to the message of these fine grains of salt.

Salt is used to season food and make it palatable. Think of a meal being served without salt. So, think of a community without Christians. The reason such terrible conditions exist in heathen lands, is that the Lord Jesus is not known and the Bible not read. People who do not know Him are SALTLESS. There is no savor about their lives.

Salt permeates, or penetrates food very quickly. Put a bit in a glass of water and soon the entire contents are affected by it. It is not careful to hide its identity—it seems to be constantly saying, "I am salt; I am salt."

What a challenge to the Christian boy or girl to always let his or her influence be felt for the Lord Jesus, to let others know that he or she is a Christian.

(Suggest ways of boys and girls letting their influence be felt for the Lord.)

Salt has healing properties, and is often used as an antiseptic or a purifier. If Christian boys and girls are like salt, then they too, will lend a purifying influence among their playmates and friends. They will be able to HEAL many quarrels and misunderstandings. Parents are always glad to have their children make friends with the Christian boy or girl, for this very reason.

Salt is very powerful, too, as you shall see. I have here a jar of water and an egg. When I put the egg in the jar of water, notice what happens! (Demonstrate.) Why, the egg falls to the bottom of the jar. It can only be lifted up by means of a spoon. But suppose I add some salt, then what will happen? (Demonstrate.) See the egg come to the top? Salt has lifting power, and is able not only to lift the egg, but to keep it afloat on the water.

The world drags a man down in sin and would keep him down. A Christian should, like the salt, lift men "up"—not in his own strength, but by pointing him to the One, who alone can reach down to the depths and lift a man up to the heights. "There is none other name given among men whereby ye can be saved except the name of Jesus."—Acts 4:12. There is power in the name of Jesus. "Thou shalt call His name Jesus for He shall save His people from their sins."—Matt. 2:21.

When one accepts the Lord Jesus as Saviour, he becomes a "new creature in Christ Jesus." His life becomes powerful like the "salt." He has a savour about him that tells of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Are you like these little white grains of salt, boys and girls? If not, the Lord Jesus wants you to be. Hear His words, "Ye are the salt of the earth."
OBJECTS THAT TALK AND TEACH

THE BOOK WITHOUT WORDS

OBJECTS: A large Wordless Book, several feet high and several feet wide—made of colored papers—black, red, white, green, and yellow.*

I suppose, boys and girls, that every one of you have some books of your own at home, haven't you? Books with lovely stories and beautiful pictures? Now, I have a book here with me this morning that tells a wonderful story, and yet it hasn't a single word or picture in it. Would you like to hear the story of the Wordless Book? See what a tall book it is! (Show book, turn first page and then continue to turn pages as the message of each page is given.)

Why, the first page of this tall book is BLACK—black as the very blackest object you can think of, isn't it? What does this BLACK page say to you, boys and girls. In God's Word we read, “All have sinned and come short of the glory of God,” (Rom. 3:23) and, “The wages of sin is death,” (Rom. 6:23). This black page tells us how black our hearts must look to the Lord Jesus if we have not believed on Him as our Saviour. I am sure that no boy or girl wants a black, sinful heart.

The second page is RED, (turn page), red as blood. What a blessed story this page tells! It tells of One who loved us enough to die for us. (Tell the story of Jesus—of His coming into the world—His life and death). Yes, the red page tells us that “the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:7). There is no other way to cleanse sinful hearts. “Without the shedding of blood is no remission of sin” (Heb. 9:22).

We turn from the red page to one that is clean and pure, and WHITE as snow. This is the way our hearts look to the Lord Jesus if we have believed on Him as our Saviour. His blood makes black hearts white and clean. “Wash me and I shall be whiter than snow” (Psa. 51:7). I am sure that you would rather have a heart washed clean by the blood of Jesus than one that looked as black as the first page of our book, wouldn't you?

Then there is the GREEN page. The green color tells us of the green grass and all growing things which we see in the springtime. After you have come to know the Lord Jesus as your Saviour, He

would have you “grow in grace and in the knowledge of Himself” (2 Peter 3:18). Even boys and girls can do this by taking time to read God's Word each day, and to talk to Him in prayer.

The last page of our Wordless Book is most beautiful. Can you tell the color before I turn the page? Yes, it is GOLD. Gold tells us of that beautiful city, the New Jerusalem whose streets are to be of pure gold (describe Rev. 21:2). Gold also tells us of the glory that we are to share some day with the Lord Jesus. “When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall we also appear with Him in glory” (Col. 3:4).

Now I'm sure, boys and girls, that you all want to live in this beautiful city some day, don't you? The Lord Jesus wants you to be there, and you yourselves may be sure of going there if your BLACK hearts have been washed WHITE in the BLOOD of Jesus. “Blessed are the PURE in heart, for they shall see God” (Matt. 5:8).

*A large book 6' x 4' was used for this lesson. A small child turned the pages. Small books of this kind can be purchased at the Biola Book Room—5c.
HIDE GOD'S WORD IN YOUR HEART

OBJECTS: A Funnel, a Sifter (or Sieve), and a Sponge.*

This morning, boys and girls, I want to tell you about three kinds of HEARERS who are generally found in church and Sunday school every Sunday. I wonder how you HEAR the Word as it is given out each Sunday? I will let these three objects help you to classify yourself.

Now here is a FUNNEL. You've all see a funnel, haven't you? Most of your mothers have one in the kitchen, and no doubt you've often seen her use it in pouring liquid from one jar to another. I'm going to use it this morning to fill these jars with water. See how the water goes right through! The funnel looks as empty now after pouring the water in as it did before. You know, boys and girls, some folks who come to church and Sunday school every Sunday are "funnel-hearers." The message "goes in one ear and out the other." The water I poured in the funnel, pictures the Word of God which is given out each Sunday: but the funnel-hearers can't remember a word they heard after leaving the church or Sunday school. By Sunday night the message has quite gone out of their minds and lives, just like the funnel. Things just won't stick in the minds and hearts of the funnel-hearers. Oh, I do trust that you, boys and girls, don't belong to this class, but if you do, that you will get out of it immediately.

Here is another object found in your mother's kitchen—a SIFTER. Of course you know that this sifter is used to sift flour. After the flour is sifted, only lumps remain in the sifter, which are good for nothing but to be thrown away. Did you know that some folks are sifter-hearers? No matter how good the message, by the time they reach home all the good of the message has been sifted away and only the lumps or unimportant parts are remembered. If there is any part of the sermon that the hearer doesn't like, the sifter-hearer is sure to remember this very part. Sifter-hearers are continually finding fault or picking flaws with what they've heard. This is surely not a very good class of hearers to be in,—is it?

Now my last object is a SPONGE. Let us see how this sponge will act when put in this bowl of water! Why, it takes it all in and leaves not a drop in the bowl. Best of all it not only takes the water in but hides it away and keeps it. What a splendid group of hearers this sponge pictures! Like the sponge, they drink in the water of the Word, every drop of it. Not only do they hear it, but hide it away in their hearts and lives to help them live for the Lord Jesus all through the week. Psalm 119:11—"Thy Word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against Thee." The Word to them, too, is food to nourish and strengthen. Jer. 15:16—"I have found Thy Word and did eat it, and it was unto me the joy and rejoicing of my heart..."

This is the kind of a hearer I'm sure that you boys and girls want to be—a sponge-hearer. May you go away today determined to "Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom." Col. 3:16.

* Objects suggested.
OBJECTS THAT TALK AND TEACH

STORY OF THE FOUNTAIN PEN

OBJECT: A pretty Fountain Pen.*

LAST summer I heard this lovely story of the fountain pen. I thought it such a splendid one, I want to share it with you boys and girls.

Fountain pens are so very useful. Many of us feel we could scarcely do without them. If you boys and girls do not own one now, I am sure you will own one when you are older. The one I have is such a pretty one I think I will let it tell you its own story.

If this pen could talk, I am sure it would tell its life story something like this:

"I was not always as you see me now, boys and girls—bright and shining and green. I was once only pieces of rubber and metal. But one day someone sought me out and FOUND me. Someone saw the making of a fountain pen in the pieces of rubber and metal, even as they were scattered about.

Having been FOUND, I was taken to a great building called a factory. There I was MADE or fashioned into this pretty pen you now see. I was then taken to a large store and displayed in a beautiful window along with other pens. For awhile I seemed of no use at all, until one day someone came into the store and BOUGHT me. A price was paid for me and from that day on I have been OWNED or possessed. My owner is very fond of me and guards me carefully day by day.

After I was bought my owner took me to his office, but I was of no use to him until he FILLED me with something called ink. He said I was made to be FILLED. Having filled me with ink, he said I was ready to be of SERVICE to him. He began to write with me, and many, many letters I have written for my owner. I enjoy being of service to him. He HOLDS me in his hand and guides me gently and surely over the paper. I am really only an instrument in his hand. My owner keeps me in a special place near his heart. He says he will always KEEP me, and even when I am worn out will always CHERISH and love me. I am so glad I belong to such a kind owner. And this is my life story, boys and girls. Is the story of your life anything like mine?"

Yes, I believe it is, boys and girls, only far more wonderful and marvelous. God's Word says in Eph. 1:4, that we were "CHOSEN to be His very own" before He laid the foundations of this great wonderful world—before the pretty stars ever twinkled in the blue sky. He loved us even then, so long ago. What a precious fact! It's hard to realize, isn't it—but it's true, nevertheless.

Then there came a time when we were MADE. It was God's hand which fashioned us. In Psalm 139:14 we read, "I will praise Thee for I am fearfully and wonderfully made."

But even from our birth we were sinners. Romans 3:23 says, "For ALL have sinned and come short of the glory of God"—and that included you and me. In Isaiah 53:7 we also read, "All we like sheep have gone astray." Yes, we were once as wandering sheep, far away from God, but the Good Shepherd, the Lord Jesus, SOUGHT us out and FOUND us. He came into the world to SEEK and to SAVE the lost. (Luke 19:10.) Tenderly and lovingly He placed His shepherd arms about us and drew us into His safe fold.

We have been BOUGHT, too—a price has been paid for us. No, we were not purchased with "silver and gold" as the fountain pen, but with the precious blood of the Lord Jesus. (1 Peter 1:18, 19.) He died on the cross to REDEEM or purchase us. What a great price He paid for us! Those of us who have received Him as Saviour, boys and girls, can truly say we have been bought with a price. (1 Cor. 6:20.) We now belong to the One who paid so great a price for us, even the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

But the pen had to be filled by its owner to be of any use to him, didn't it? So we, too, boys and girls, were meant to be filled with the Holy Spirit. In Eph. 5:26 we read, "Be filled with the Spirit." As we yield, or give our lives over to our OWNER, the Lord Jesus, He fills us with Himself and fits us for His SERVICE.

As a pen is only an instrument in the hands of its owner, so the Lord Jesus wants us to be so yielded to Him that He can guide us and use us "to the praise of His glory" as day by day we serve Him in our homes at school, or wherever we are.

The fountain pen is KEPT by its owner close to his heart, so we, dear boys and girls, are kept "by the power of God" close to His heart of love. Our owner says in His Word that He is "able to keep us from falling" (Jude 24). He also keeps us as the "apple of His eye." Yes, we can truly say, "The Lord is our Keeper" (Psalm 121:5). He not only keeps us but carries us in His bosom of love.
"He shall lead His flock like a Shepherd. He shall gather them in His arms and carry them in His bosom."—Isa. 40:11.

We are so dear to Him, boys and girls, He will never let us go. In John 10:28 He says of us ... “They shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand.”

Not only has He made provision for us in this earth life, but after our days of service are over, He will take us to the beautiful home He has gone to prepare, and throughout the eternal ages He will cherish us and “show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us” (Eph. 2:7).

Ours is a blessed story, isn’t it, boys and girls, and though very much like that of the fountain pen, I’m sure you will agree that it is indeed far more wonderful and glorious because our OWNER is the Lord Jesus Christ.—M. S. H.

* Suggested by a message given by a young people’s worker.