



INFANT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

YEAR 4

LESSONS 21 – 40

Lesson 21

The unforgiving servant

Matthew 18:21-35

Lesson Aim: To help children understand what it means to forgive and to teach them that we have a duty to forgive those who do wrong, because God forgives us if we ask Him.

Visual Aids: Pictures or drawings to illustrate the people in the story and the amounts of money involved.

Point 1 Talk about parables and the reason Jesus told these stories to teach the people.

Point 2 One day Peter, who was one of Jesus' special friends, came to ask Him a question, "If someone keeps on doing something bad against me, how many times must I forgive him - will seven times be enough?" Jesus then told a story to show that he had to forgive many more times than that.

Point 3 Tell the story vividly. The king was setting all his accounts in order and he commanded the servants who owed him money to come to him and explain their debts. One servant owed his king a very large sum of money. When he told the king he could not pay it back, the angry king ordered that he, his wife and his children be sold and the money received used to repay the debt.

Point 4 Tell how the servant pleaded with the king not to do that and how the king felt sorry for him and forgave him. Discuss the feelings of the servant who had his large debts forgiven. He would have gone away feeling very happy.

Point 5 As the servant went out, he met another servant who owed him a very small amount of money. Just as he could not pay back the large amount of money he owed to the king, so this other servant could not pay back the little money he owed. The first servant got so angry that he attacked the man, refused to listen when he pleaded for more time to repay the debt and sent the man to jail.

Point 6 Describe the reaction of the other servants of the king when they realised that the servant who had been forgiven treated the other servant so cruelly. Tell how they decided that the king should know what had happened. When the king heard what his servant had done, and how unkind he had been, he was very angry. Help the children to think about what the king would say when somebody who had such a great debt forgiven did not then forgive the one who owed him so little. The king then ordered the unforgiving servant to jail where he stayed until he paid the king all the money he owed.

Conclusion: Recall the story by questions and answers. Why did the king forgive the servant who could not pay him back the money? What did the servant do to the other servant who had a very small debt? What should he have done? Why?

Help the children to apply the lesson, thinking of the forgiveness Jesus offers to sinners.

Lesson Aim: To help the children understand that God gives everybody different gifts and expects everybody to use these to serve Him.

Visual Aids: Pictures of people doing things they are good at. Eg someone cooking, playing sport, painting. Try to include 'ordinary' things like someone caring for children, singing, cleaning. Advertisements would be a good source of suitable pictures.

Point 1 Set the scene by talking simply about work and always doing everything in the best possible way. Help the children to think about the importance of everybody working hard and doing their best, whatever they are doing.

Point 2 Describe the businessman gathering his workers and giving them very large amounts of money, with the instruction to work until he returned. The workers were not all given the same amount, but rather differing amounts depending on their ability. Stress that all the amounts were large.

Point 3 Introduce the first two men and explain what they received and what they immediately did.

Point 4 Explain that the third man acted differently. Read verse 18. Encourage the children to comment on this man's attitude.

Point 5 The businessman returned after a long time. Help the children to anticipate his response to the first two workers. Read verses 20 to 23.

Point 6 Move on to consider the third worker, beginning with what the children think the businessman would have expected. Explain simply what the worker said and how the businessman responded.

Conclusion: Think about the parable with reference to the different gifts God gives to us and what he expects us to do. Help the children to see that they all have gifts and talk about how they can use these to serve God.

**LESSON 23 IS A REVISION LESSON
USING THE NOTES FOR LESSONS 21 AND 22**

NOTES THAT FOLLOW FOR LESSONS 24 – 28 WILL BE USED EACH YEAR, HENCE THE LENGTH AND DETAIL OF THE NOTES. THE TEACHER SHOULD CHOOSE WHICH ASPECTS OF THESE STORIES TO TELL EACH YEAR, BEING GUIDED BY THE WORKSHEETS.

Lesson 24

The Last Supper

Matt. 26:1-30, John 13:1-17

Lesson aim: To show how Jesus' impending death was constantly in mind as He looked forward to the Passover and to show that Jesus was going to die willingly for sinners.

Visual Aids: You could simply concentrate on telling the story and then use the worksheets provided. A drawing of what a table set for the Passover would look like when prepared would be appropriate, or pictures of each separate item, which children could take in turns fixing to a board.

Point 1 Talk briefly about the Children of Israel suffering in Egypt, about the plagues and especially the Passover, which was kept as a special feast every year. Every year a special feast was held in Jerusalem. It was called the Passover Feast and the Jews liked to be in Jerusalem for that time. As many as could travelled to Jerusalem to the Temple for the Passover and there they would remember a special occasion from many years before, when God saved the Israelites from the cruel king in Egypt.

Point 2 Jesus was at Jerusalem for the Passover when something special took place. Where could Jesus and the disciples have this meal? The disciples asked Jesus. Jesus directed them to the place He had in mind and told them what to say when they got there (v.18). Jesus knew that He came into the world to die for sinners and He also knew that it was almost time for this to happen.

Point 3 On the first day there was a special meal which families or friends took together. Tell what was needed for the meal: lamb, bread (baked without yeast), herbs, cups of wine, dishes of sauce and some other things too. Talk about all the disciples would have to do to make ready this special meal.

Point 4 The disciples did exactly as Jesus said. Jesus knew that the Passover would not be just the same as usual. He knew that before very long He would die. This would be His last Passover with His disciples. He looked forward to it in a special way. Describe them reclining at table. One of Jesus' friends was to turn out not to be a friend at all. He was going to betray Him. Discuss how you feel sad when someone who is your friend lets you down. When Jesus told them of the betrayer, each said, "Surely, it's not me, Lord?" Jesus said, "One of you who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me." He meant that one of them, who had seemed to be a friend, sharing in the things He did, was now going to betray Him. Tell how Jesus indicated that Judas was the betrayer. Discuss what the children would do if they discovered someone was going to kill them. They would try and avoid it. Explain that Jesus didn't try and stop Judas because He was willing to die.

Point 5 Tell the story vividly, but as simply as the Bible does. Talk about the food they had to eat: bread and wine. Explain how these would have a special meaning for the disciples from now on. Jesus had given them a special meaning. They would now remind them of Jesus and His death. Some of the children may be able to connect this with the Lord's Supper. Jesus introduced the Lord's Supper - the new sacrament to replace the Passover. Show how the Passover meal would help the Jewish people to remember what happened when they were freed from Egypt and show how this was to serve the same purpose for Christians.

Point 6 It seems a very sad story and the disciples did not understand everything Jesus was telling them. Jesus was going to die soon; just as the Passover lamb had died. Jesus was going to save from sin. Get over the point that Jesus saves from sin just as, through the Passover Lamb, the Israelites were saved in Egypt. But Jesus also said: "I will not drink of this fruit of the vine, until I drink it new with you in My Father's Kingdom." He told them He was going to die but that that was not going to be the end of the story.

Conclusion Find out what the children know about the Lord's Supper and link this with the Bible story. Revise the main points of the passage, reminding the children that every time we celebrate the Lord's Supper it helps us to remember the love of Jesus and His willingness to die for sinners.

Go over the main points again. - Jesus knew He was going to die. - He knew who would betray Him but did not try and stop him, because He knew it was God's will that He should die to provide forgiveness for His people. The bread and wine that the disciples ate and drank would always remind them of Jesus and how He died to forgive sins.

Lesson 25 The Betrayal and the Garden Luke 22:39-62, Matt 26:36-46

Lesson aim: To show that Jesus submitted to God's will that He should die the death of the Cross. To show how two of Jesus' disciples let him down.

Visual Aids: You could simply concentrate on telling the story and then use the worksheets provided. You could use a pouch containing 30 pieces of silver (5p or 10p pieces) and a picture of a cockerel.

Point 1 Discuss with the children if they have ever been asked to do something but they were not willing to do it, e.g., go and brush their teeth after a meal; help out in the middle of a TV programme; say 'sorry' when they have been wrong. Discuss with them their feelings - they know what is being asked is not wrong in itself, but they don't feel like doing it just at that moment. What happens when they don't obey? Are they thinking only about themselves? How do they feel if they ask for help/a favour and they don't receive it? Do they end up wishing they had co-operated?

Point 2 Jesus was very concerned about something He had been asked to do. He was finding it hard to do but He knew He must do it. Look at what Jesus did and show how He was thinking about God. Jesus often went to the Mount of Olives and His disciples went also. He knew he was in danger but still he went. Jesus and His friends went together to this special/familiar place in His time of need. When we have a problem/crisis, we want to be at home or in a 'safe' place. We also like to be with our family/friends - people who care for us.

Point 3 Jesus asked His disciples to pray. He was aware of their need as well as His own. Do we shut ourselves off and not speak to caring friends? Jesus moved away from the disciples but He was near enough for the disciples to hear and see Him. He prayed. He spoke to God about His problem. Why did He speak to God? We can speak to God too.

Point 4 Explain to the children that some 'awful things' were going to happen to Jesus - betrayed, tried, put to death - and that He prayed he might be spared these things. As Jesus prayed, He knew that He must go through these 'awful things'. He wasn't thinking about Himself. He wanted to please God, His Father. "Not my will" Jesus was resolute and determined. He did not flinch from doing His Father's will - right to the end. Tell the children that Jesus did all this for sinners.

Point 5 Jesus was still speaking to His disciples on the Mount of Olives when a large crowd came into the garden. They carried swords, clubs, lanterns and torches. Explain that this incident happened late at night - how do we know? What would the soldiers carry? (swords and lanterns) and the ordinary people? (clubs and torches). This large crowd had a guide. His name was Judas Iscariot and he was one of Jesus' disciples. He knew that Jesus came here often and he knew where to find Him. Judas said, "Peace be with you, Teacher" and went to kiss Jesus.

Discuss who we kiss - people we love - like Mum and Dad. If someone kisses us do we think they are going to be nice to us, or not? Emphasise love/care aspect. Jesus said, "Judas, are you going to betray me with a kiss"? Judas' kiss wasn't to show that he loved Jesus but rather it was a

sign to Jesus' enemies. It was to show them, in the dark, which one was Jesus, so that they could capture Him and take Him away. But Jesus knew what Judas was doing all the time because Jesus is God and God knows everything. One of His special friends betrayed Him. Judas was paid 30 pieces of silver for betraying Jesus.

Point 6 When the crowd came to take Jesus away, one of the disciples wanted to protect Jesus and used his sword, but Jesus told him to put it away. This disciple was called Peter. Explain that Peter was one of the disciples closest to Jesus and had been with Him on special occasions. When Jesus told them that they would all run away and leave Him, Peter said he would not do that. Jesus told him that not only would he leave Him, but he would also say three times that he did not know Jesus and then a cockerel would crow.

So Jesus was taken by the crowd and the disciples ran away. What would we do? Why? Peter cared about Jesus and wanted to know what was happening to Him so he followed, but far behind and sneaked after Him. There was a fire outside the house where Jesus was taken and Peter joined the soldiers and servants who were trying to warm themselves around it. A fire had been lit because it was night-time and cold. Do you think Peter was pretending to be one of the crowd?

Point 7 First, a servant girl said that Peter was a friend of Jesus, then two other times this happened and Peter said 'NO, NO, NO'. A cockerel crowed. Just then Jesus turned and looked at Peter. Peter remembered that Jesus had said this would happen. Peter had thought he wouldn't let Jesus down. Jesus' words were always true. Peter was really sorry for what he had done. He went off and wept bitterly.

How do you think Jesus felt? Would he have felt let down?

Conclusion What about our attitude when asked to do something and we don't feel like it? Jesus did not think of Himself. He put Himself last -so should we!

J-Jesus O-Others Y-You (an attitude that brings Joy)

Jesus prayed to God to help Him face His trial. We need to pray too because we can't have a right attitude on our own.

How many disciples were there? Who kept the disciples' money? What was the sign to Jesus' enemies? Who followed Jesus when His enemies took him away? How many times did Peter say He was Jesus' friend? How many times did he say 'NO'? What happened then? What did Jesus do then? What did Peter do then?

Lesson 26 The Trial and the Crucifixion Luke 23:1-46, Matt. 27:32-56

Lesson aim: To show how Jesus willingly died in order to save.

Visual Aids: You could simply concentrate on telling the story and then use the worksheets provided. Pictures of Pilate (Roman Governor), an angry crowd, the clothes men usually wore.

Point 1 Show a picture of children in a school playground, badly treating one little boy or describe the scene. Discuss what is happening in the picture. The children go to the teacher and blame the boy for all the trouble. What happens to the boy? He is brought before the teacher and other children accuse him. He denies everything and then teacher decides how to deal with the situation. Explain that all this is like a trial. The Bible tells us that Jesus was brought to trial, even though He had done no wrong. Let's find out what happened to Him.

Point 2 When Jesus and the disciples went out after the meal, the priests arrived with soldiers and arrested Him and took Him prisoner. That night a trial was held. They decided to take Him to Pilate (Roman Governor). They said to Pilate that Jesus was a bad man and was stirring up trouble. He wanted to make Himself King. The people wanted to get rid of Jesus. Why? Pilate asked, "What has He done wrong?" Nobody could think of even one wrong thing Jesus had done. But they said, "You must crucify Him all the same". Discuss what it must be like to be blamed for something you didn't do. Jesus did not defend Himself – why not? Pilate said, "I will punish Him and then release Him". He said this because one prisoner was released every year at this time. With one voice they cried out, "Away with this man". They preferred to release Barabbas, a murderer. Why? Pilate had a dilemma. He did not want to crucify Jesus but the people kept shouting "Crucify Him, Crucify Him". Pilate was afraid of the people. (He could lose his job, etc) He knew Jesus was innocent but he let the people take Him and he released Barabbas, a murderer, to them.

Point 3 Describe graphically, but fairly briefly, the background to the Crucifixion: the soldiers and chief priests who were there, the two criminals, the title erected over the cross, etc. 9.00 am - 12 noon Younger children will have no concept of the time involved but older children may. By law, all crucifixions had to be outside the city. Describe all Jesus endured - His exhaustion, carrying the cross to the place of execution and tell how Simon was made to carry the cross in the end. Explain the cruelty of crucifixion - the extent to which the physical sufferings can be detailed will vary quite dramatically. While some children can 'absorb' an amazing amount of physical details of suffering, many can be quite distressed by it. Jesus' knowledge of the purpose of it can be emphasised to balance out any distressed reaction to the cruel way in which He was put to death. Crucifixion was a very cruel way of putting people to death and so the prisoners were given drugged wine to help them feel less pain. Some people came with drugged wine for Jesus to drink but He would not drink any of it. He chose to suffer willingly because He knew God's plan for Him as the Saviour. They began to share His clothes - headgear, belt, sandals, outer garment and seamless tunic. They were probably throwing dice and the one with the highest number would have had first choice. Tell the children about the title on the Cross: 'This is Jesus the King of the Jews'

Point 4 12.00 - 3.00 pm Talk about the unexpected darkness in the middle of the day and the questioning which must have gone on among the people about it. The people must have thought that something terrible was happening when there was darkness in the middle of the day. When it had been dark for nearly three hours, Jesus called out: "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" Jesus, who was God's own Son, was taking the punishment for the sins of the world. He was being separated from the experience of God's love and care so that His people would be forgiven. God darkened the sun. He made everything dark. Something terrible was happening. He was punishing sin. Explain that it was not a case of God stopping loving Jesus but rather of Him leaving him alone and not answering Him. This was necessary as Jesus was accepting the punishment of God for sin.

Point 5 Explain briefly to the children that two others were on crosses as well as Jesus. Discuss why the criminals were dying and how Jesus was different from them; He was not dying because He was a sinner but because He was the Saviour. One of these two thieves began to insult Jesus. He really did not believe in Jesus. "If you are Christ ..." And yet he wanted Jesus to help him. The other thief who was in the same trouble did nothing like that - in fact he gently scolded the other man. Instead he turned to Jesus and asked Him to help him. What do you think Jesus did? He could have said "You are a bad man and I am not going to help you". But He did not say that. He answered the man's prayer and said to him that he would be in Heaven with Him that very day. He forgave him for all his wrong.

Point 6 Explain the tearing of the Temple curtain and talk about the reactions of the people to all that was happening. Tell the children about the curtain in the Temple, separating off the special part which was God's special place. It reminded us of the great gulf between us and God. The curtain is now torn. Men can now come to God.

Conclusion: Jesus was willing to go through all this for us. What are we willing to do for Him? Are we like Pilate, afraid of the crowd? Who stands with us when we stand alone for the truth? Jesus had known all along that He would die. He had told his disciples about it. But He had said something else as well. He had told them that after he had been betrayed and handed over to be crucified, He would, on the third day, rise again.

Lesson 27

The Resurrection

Matt 28:1-10, John 21:1-17

Lesson aim: To show the reality and the wonder of the resurrection. To show that Jesus is alive and ready to save.

Visual Aids: You could concentrate on telling the story and then use the worksheets provided.

Point 1 Recall the last lesson on the crucifixion. Let the children tell as much as possible of the story and its meaning.

Briefly explain the burial of Jesus in the tomb, or cave, sealed by a big stone and guarded by soldiers because they knew that Jesus had said that He would come alive again on the third day. They didn't want anyone to hide His body and pretend He was alive. How do you think the disciples and friends of Jesus were feeling? Note that it was not a burial as we know it, but in the rock. Not a natural cave, but one specially made. The stone keeps out intruders (both human and animal).

Jesus had been crucified. The people who loved Him were sad and upset. The priests and the elders were happy because they thought that was the end of Him. But we know that Jesus had said to His disciples that on the third day He would rise again. Now the chief priests and elders had heard about Jesus saying this, so, after Jesus' burial they sent guards to the tomb to watch over it, just to make sure that no one stole the body and then said that Jesus had done what he said and had really risen. So the guards were there, day and night.

Point 2 Two followers of Jesus, both called Mary, and probably others too, were on their way to the tomb on the first day of the week. They were showing their love for Jesus, but while He was with them He had told them that on the third day He would come alive again. They seem to have forgotten this and not really to have believed it. The women were there and saw the tomb - the empty tomb was not a case of mistaken identity. Remember that the Sabbath = Saturday, in this case. The first day of the week is, of course, Sunday. If you wish you may display a drawing or a picture of the sort of place where the Lord was buried.

God was at work in a special way. Mention here two factors: firstly, the earthquake - try and get the children to imagine what it must be like to be in an earthquake. They will then be able to see why so often earthquakes are connected with God's working. Talk about the angel. Ask if they remember what an angel does (a messenger of God). Tell how he is described here, and how the guards became like dead men. Tell of the earthquake. Get the children to try to imagine what that earthquake must be like and how the guards would feel - walking along - suddenly an earthquake - everything shakes - just as when Jesus died. The earthquake was really telling them that God was at work. Describe the angel and again imagine what the women would feel like on seeing him. He moved away the stone to show that the tomb was really empty. Recount vividly the words of the angel: his reassurance, his statement of the resurrection. "He has risen, just as He said." Describe how the guards felt. Describe how the angel's message had a strange effect on the women: afraid, yet filled with joy. Tell simply what the angel said. Make a list of the things he told the women. Talk about how the women would be feeling. He had such a kind message.

They were frightened. He said, "Don't be afraid". He knew why they had come. He told them Jesus was not there but had risen. The angel showed them where Jesus had been, and then he sent them to tell the others.

Point 3 Vividly recount Jesus' appearance. They met Jesus. He told them not to be afraid but to go and tell his brothers to go to Galilee where they would see Him. Imagine the feelings that this must have produced in them, causing them to worship. Tell this incident vividly and discuss how the women would feel about it. What happy women! They had been so sad as they went to look at the tomb of the dead Jesus. Now they were running, excited, thrilled. Jesus, whom they loved, was not dead any longer. He had risen from the dead! The angel had told them. They had seen him for themselves. Now they had to go quickly and tell His disciples and friends the wonderful news.

Point 4 Night-time - disciples fishing
The disciples would have been disappointed at their lack of catch. They would also be cold and hungry. They had stuck together despite losing their leader. Tell the children that this is Jesus' third appearance before the disciples. Describe the first and second appearances. Mention Thomas and his doubts, and how Jesus dealt with him.

Point 5 Early morning - Jesus appeared on the shore. The fishermen obeyed Jesus when He told them to cast their net on the other side of the boat - enormous catch. Discuss situations where the children have been helped. The disciples were surprised and then realised it was Jesus.

Point 6 Peter's sheer joy. How do we feel when we meet a friend after a few days' absence? The other disciples were just as pleased as Peter but they attended to the boat and the fish. Jesus dined with the disciples. This was like a celebration meal. Jesus was present and He had performed the miracle of the catch. They knew it was Jesus - everything seemed familiar as He ate with them. Jesus was alive! Jesus IS alive!

Point 7 Jesus reinstated Peter - Question asked 3 times. Answer given 3 times. Jesus' replied 3 times.

Why did Jesus direct the questions to Peter? Recall the earlier time of Peter's denial. A time of reconciliation. Discuss times when the children have 'fallen out' - need to say 'sorry' and 'make-up'. Peter and the disciples started out sad, empty failures. They ended the day full of joy and blessing with renewed opportunities for service. Jesus died and rose again to give us days/lives like this - to provide forgiveness.

Conclusion Go over the story again and build it up with what the children remember.

Lesson 28

The Ascension

Luke 24:50-53, Acts 1:7-11

Lesson Aim: To show that Jesus returned to heaven and will one day come back again.

Visual Aids: You could concentrate simply on telling the story and then use the worksheets provided.

Point 1 Get the children to recall briefly the previous lessons by a question and answer method. Discuss the joy of Jesus' disciples and friends on knowing of His resurrection.

Describe Jesus and the eleven disciples walking out to Bethany on the slopes of Mount Olivet - talking together - Jesus answering questions - helping them to understand all that was happening.

Point 2 Briefly discuss with the children what the disciples witnessed. Discuss what a witness is (someone who says what he saw). Try to involve the children by letting them tell of some simple incidents of which they have been witnesses. The children cannot be expected to understand the places named (Acts 1:8) but create the impression that they had to witness to as many people as possible. Discuss what the disciples had to tell people. Tell how they were promised help for the work that they had been given to do.

Point 3 Jesus blessed them: nothing mechanical or magical - effectively giving His peace and power.

Point 4 Jesus left them to go to His throne in heaven - to go to be with God.

Point 5 Acts 1:11. Stress the message of the angels - that one day Jesus is coming back. Describe the reactions of the disciples. Tell simply the reasons for their joy, and the difference from their feelings after the crucifixion, e.g. they had more time with Jesus – He helped them to understand more. They had the promise of the Spirit forever. They are going to tell others the good news of Jesus' death, resurrection and ascension. Jesus is going to come again. They rejoice in His joy - in His triumph - He is alive!

Conclusion: Go over the main points by question and answer.

**LESSON 29 IS A REVISION LESSON
USING THE NOTES FOR LESSONS 24 - 28**

Lesson 30

The Call of Abraham

Genesis 11:27-12:9

Lesson Aim: To teach the narrative of God's call of Abraham, making reference to the fact that God was choosing a man from whom Jesus would come.

Visual Aids: You could use pictures or just the worksheets. Perhaps a family tree chart – just faces to show how a family can grow in number over the years. A road map might also be useful.

Point 1 Introduce Abraham's family: his wife Sarah, his father Terah and his nephew Lot. Explain that Abraham and Sarah had no children of their own. The family left the city of Ur, where they lived, and set out on a long journey. They came to the city of Haran and stayed there for some time. Explain that when they were at Haran, Terah died and at that time Abraham was 75 years old.

Point 2 Tell how God called Abraham to go to a far-away country which God would show him. With a road map show the children how they would get from their homes to the nearest place of interest and then explain that Abraham was not given a map. He had to rely on God showing him the way to go. Ask how they would feel if they were told to move house to somewhere a long way away, but not told exactly where they were going. Talk to the children about the goodness of God and explain that He did not just leave Abraham to worry about all that lay ahead. He gave him a wonderful promise. Read and explain simply the promise in verses 2 and 3.

Point 3 Talk about the practicalities of moving house. Some children may have done so. Show how different and how complicated it was for Abraham, because of his servants and animals and tents. Talk with the children about the preparations: saying goodbye, the difficulties of the long journey ahead of them, etc. Discuss with children the things that would make them glad and the things that would make them sad, e.g. glad because God was with them, because they were obeying God and because they had God's promise.

Point 4 Help the children to think about the journey and to describe what they think it would have been like. Abraham and his family came to the land of Canaan and all the Canaanite people were living there and ruling the land, but God renewed His promise to Abraham. Abraham built an altar there to worship God.

Point 5 As they moved further into the land, they came to a hilly area. When Abraham and those with him arrived there, Abram again built an altar where he worshipped the Lord. God kept His promises and Abraham continued on the journey with his family.

Point 6 Abraham praised God in the way God said. As he acknowledged God had finished the first part of the plan, it would help Abraham to believe that God would finish the whole plan. We know God did this because Jesus really was a descendant of Abraham. Explain that Jesus was a Jew, so he was a great, great, great, great (many greats) grandson of Abraham.

Conclusion: Remind the children that God keeps all His promises always.

Lesson 31

Abraham and Lot

Genesis 13:5-18

Lesson Aim: To relate the story and tell the children that God was giving Abraham the chosen land.

Visual Aids: Magazine pictures showing different kinds of countryside, or simple line drawings.

Point 1 Ask the children what kinds of sweets or fruit they like. Ask if they ever chose a lovely looking fruit only to find it was all bad and rotten inside. Discuss how they would feel and how they would probably wish they had not chosen the one that only looked good. Today, we are going to hear about two men, one of whom made a very bad choice.

Point 2 Introduce Abraham and Lot again and recall their journey to this point. Remind the children that Abraham trusted God as he journeyed to the new country God had promised to give to him and that he had taken his family, his servants and his herds with him.

Point 3 Explain that God blessed Abraham and Lot as they journeyed and that their herds were increasing in number, so much so that it was becoming increasingly difficult to find enough grass for all the animals. This led to quarrelling between the herdsmen who were looking after Abraham's animals and the herdsmen who were looking after Lot's animals. They were all looking for the best grassy areas.

Point 4 Abraham did not want quarrelling in the family. Set the scene as Abraham and Lot looked over the whole land, where there was more than enough space for them both. Tell of Abraham's solution that they go separate ways, one going to the left and the other to the right.

Point 5 Talk about making decisions and all that helps us to decide. Explain simply the choice before the men, the grassy valley near the cities, which were known to be filled with wickedness, and the drier, hilly country with less grass. Abraham gave Lot the choice.

Point 6 Talk with the children about Lot's choice and about what he was thinking as he looked at the beautiful fertile area of the Jordan valley. Then talk with them about the area left with Abraham and tell how, once again, God made the same promises to Abraham. Read or retell simply verses 14 to 18.

Conclusion: God was pleased with Abraham and God kept His promises.

Lesson 32

Lot's Wife – Sodom and Gomorrah Genesis 18:17-33, 19:1-3 and 12-29

Lesson Aim: To relate the story, showing the importance of putting God first.

Point 1 Recall the choice Abraham set before Lot and the decision Lot made, reminding the children about the wickedness in the cities. Lot parted from Abraham, moved into the fertile area and pitched his tent near the city of Sodom and settled there with his family.

Point 2 Tell simply how, some time later, God did not hide from Abraham that He was going to punish the people in the cities for their great wickedness. Explain that Abraham then prayed that the city of Sodom would not be destroyed if there were people there who were doing what was right, beginning with fifty people and then, humbly pleading that God would not be angry with him, he continued asking for the city to be spared if there were 45, 40, 30, 20 and then 10. As God did not find even ten people in the city doing what was right, He told Abraham that he was going to destroy the cities.

Point 3 Set the scene at the gates of Sodom, with the men there in the evening and Lot among them. Two angels, or messengers from God, arrived and it was Lot who got up to greet them, recognising that they were important and bowing before them. He insisted that the men should go with him to his house, have a meal and spend the night there.

Point 4 Explain that the men advised Lot to gather all his family together and to prepare to leave the city. The men who had married Lot's daughters laughed at Lot and refused to think about leaving the city.

Point 5 Describe vividly the scene very early next morning, with the two visitors telling Lot that he had to leave the city very quickly and taking Lot, his wife and his two daughters by the hand to rush them out of the city. Once they were out of the city, they told Lot to escape with his family to the mountains and then warned them all that they must on no account look back to Sodom. Lot pleaded with them to allow him to go to a small city nearby instead of up into the mountains and they allowed him to do that.

Point 6 Tell of the punishment God inflicted on the cities. God sent fire and sulphur from heaven, covering the cities and all the surrounding area and destroying everything and everybody. Lot and his wife and daughters were safe, but Lot's wife disobeyed the command and she looked back. She was punished and turned into a pillar of salt.

Conclusion: Abraham looked down on the valley and saw all the smoke rising from it. God remembered Abraham and saved Lot, his nephew, from the destruction of the cities.

Lesson 33

God gives Abraham a Son Genesis 15:6, 18:1-15. 21:1-7

Lesson Aim: To show how Abraham believed God's promise.

Visual Aids: Pictures showing the landscape with tents

Point 1 Discuss with children their grandparents. Discover their definition of the word 'old'. Emphasise that old people don't have babies. Now introduce two very old people, Abraham and Sarah. Refer to the promise in Genesis 12:1-2 and repeated in Genesis 13:14-18. Abraham continued to believe God's promises, although he and Sarah were old and had no children.

Point 2 Tell vividly how Abraham was sitting in the shade of an oak tree when he was visited by three men, who were messengers sent by God. Describe how Abraham welcomed his visitors. Describe the way he cared for their physical needs, encouraging the children to think about the different welcoming customs and the different ways of cooking.

Point 3 Explain that after they had finished eating, the men asked about Sarah, emphasising how the men knew her name and all about her, although they had not met her. Although she was unseen in the tent, Sarah could hear what the men were saying. The men told Abraham that they brought a message from God, that in a year's time, Sarah would have a son.

Point 4 Emphasise that the next part of the story has something very sad in it. Sarah heard what they said, but she did not believe God's promise and she showed this by laughing in a nasty way. Read or tell simply verses 13 to 15, emphasising that nothing is too hard for God.

Point 5 God kept His promise and Abraham and Sarah had a son when Abraham was 100 years old. They called him Isaac. Sarah laughed again, but in a different way. Read or tell simply verses 6 and 7. The name Isaac means laughter.

Conclusion: Talk about how God kept Abraham following in the right way all the years he was waiting for Isaac, waiting for God to keep His promise. Talk about God always looking after Abraham and Sarah.

Lesson 34

God asks Abraham to give up his Son

Genesis 22:1-14

Lesson Aim: To show that God has a plan for us and that trust in Him brings us blessing.

Visual Aids: A picture or drawing of a sheep stuck in bushes.

Point 1 Ask the children about their most precious possession. Ask what they think their parents' most precious possession would be. Discuss how precious they are to their parents and so how precious Isaac was to Abraham and Sarah. Create anticipation by saying how God was going to ask Abraham to do something very surprising with his son to test if Abraham really trusted God.

Point 2 Talk about ways Abraham had already trusted God. He left his own home, he was led by God to an unknown land, a son was born when Abraham and Sarah were very old. Abraham loved God. God blessed Abraham. Discuss ways in which we show love, e.g., to parents. God wanted Abraham to trust and obey Him in everything, and He gave him a difficult test.

Point 3 Remind the children about altars and the sacrificing of animals. This was the way God wanted His people to show that they loved Him, wanted Him to forgive them and wanted to obey Him. This time, God asked more of Abraham. Help the children to think about how Abraham would have felt when God asked him to place Isaac on the altar.

Point 4 Set the scene as Abraham and Isaac set out early in the morning with two servants and all that was needed for offering a sacrifice to God, all except the lamb. Consider with the children how Abraham might have felt at each stage of the journey. He kept on because he remembered God's promise about his descendants and he trusted God to work it out.

Point 5 It was a long journey. Describe the events of the third day, when the servants were not to accompany them any further. Note particularly Abraham's words in verse 5. From that point, Isaac had to carry the wood, while Abraham had the fire and the knife. Tell how puzzled Isaac was. They had the wood and the fire, but where was the lamb? Emphasise Abraham's answer. 'God will provide the lamb.'

Point 6 Tell vividly about Abraham building the altar, placing the wood, binding up Isaac and placing him as the sacrifice on the altar and then raising his hand with the knife poised ready to kill Isaac. Help the children to imagine the great feeling of relief and joy at this point, when God told Abraham to stop and not to harm Isaac. When Abraham looked up, he saw a ram caught in the bushes and he offered that animal as a sacrifice to God instead of Isaac.

Point 7 God was pleased with Abraham. He showed that he loved God enough to obey him, even when He asked him to give up his precious son. God had His plan all the time and He had given Abraham great promises about his descendants.

Conclusion: Discuss with the children why God asked Abraham to do this difficult thing, why it was so difficult, and then talk about what they may have to do to show they love God and trust in Him.

**LESSON 35 IS A REVISION LESSONS
USING THE NOTES FOR LESSONS 30 – 34**

Lesson 36

China

Isobel Kuhn

Isobel's home was in Canada and it was a Christian home. Her mum and dad loved God and missionaries often came to both her church and her home to tell about their work in far-away countries. It was not until she grew up that Isobel trusted Jesus for herself. After she left school, she trained to be a teacher.

On one occasion, Isobel attended a church conference where a missionary came to tell of the work of bringing the good news about Jesus to the Lisu people, who lived in part of the large country of China. The speaker said that they needed men to go to China to help to spread the good news to the people. Isobel wondered if they needed women too and if she could go.

After that, Isobel went to study at a Bible College and there she met a man called John Kuhn. She married John and later they set sail for China, with their little daughter, Kathryn. They were going as missionaries to spread the good news about Jesus among the Lisu people.

Kathryn soon had friends among the Lisu children and she was a little missionary too, speaking to them about Jesus. A few years later, the Kuhn family returned to Canada to spend some time with their family at home. The time came for them to go back to China. They had to travel by boat and the journey took a very long time. They had a stop at a place called Hong Kong and there they got a message to tell them that they should send Kathryn with another missionary to a school especially for missionaries' children, instead of taking her back with them to the Lisu village. They were all very sad saying goodbye in Hong Kong.

Isobel wrote about a time when she had toothache. They lived so far from the nearest dentist that it would take two weeks to get there! One of the men from their village went with Isobel, to look after her. At that time, a war was being fought in the whole area and Isobel often wondered about Kathryn, so far away from her parents. While Isobel was in the town where the dentist was, a letter arrived there from Kathryn. She was safe and well. Isobel was very glad that she had to go to visit the dentist because she got that letter and it would have taken a very long time for it to reach their village home, if it ever got there at all.

Some time later, John and Isobel had another baby and they called him Danny. Kathryn was a teenager and she was away at school. Danny was a running about little boy before his big sister saw him for the first time. The family met up again when John, Isobel and Danny travelled to America to spend time with their families.

When Kathryn grew up, John and Isobel returned from China, because Isobel was not well enough to stay there. Kathryn later became a missionary too and Isobel was able to wave her off as a missionary going to China, just as Isobel and John themselves had done many years earlier.

Lesson 37

Holland

Corrie Ten Boom

Corrie lived in Holland. Her father worked with clocks and watches and he had his own shop. Corrie loved to spend time with her father in his workshop as he repaired clocks and watches. The watches were so small that he needed a special magnifying glass to see the workings clearly and a tiny screwdriver to help him carry out the work. Corrie was always delighted when her father allowed her to look through the magnifying glass at the watches, where she was able to see what was happening inside them and to look at the diamonds which helped make the watches tell the time accurately. Corrie had a sister called Betsie and the family lived above the shop in a house which had twisting staircases and several little rooms and attics.

When Corrie grew up, a war started and the people of Holland were in danger. Holland is near Germany and Corrie and her family often heard the German fighter planes flying over their town. One night, the noise of the planes was so loud that Corrie and Betsie could not sleep. They crept down the twisting staircase to the kitchen, where they had a cup of tea. When they went back upstairs, they discovered that the house had been damaged by one of the planes and that there was a large piece of metal on Corrie's pillow. She would have been killed if she had still been in her bed. Betsie said to Corrie that night that God had saved her for a reason.

The German soldiers were on the streets in the town where Corrie and Betsie lived. They were particularly cruel to Jewish people and many of them were taken away to prison camps. Corrie remembered that Jesus was a Jew and she asked God to show her how she could help them. The family decided to help and, as their house was so unusual, with its twisting staircases and tiny rooms and spaces under the floors, they decided that they could help by hiding people there.

The family made plans for keeping everybody safe. They set up an alarm upstairs and if German soldiers came into the shop and started to search, whoever was working in the shop set off the alarm, which only sounded up in the house. The Jews in the house knew they only had a very short time to return to their secret hiding places. Many Jews were saved in this way, but there was always danger for them and for all the family. Corrie's family helped many Jews to escape, but one day they were discovered, arrested and all taken to different prison camps.

Corrie was being moved one day and she saw her sister, Betsie, in the crowd. She carefully made her way across to Betsie and so they were together when all the prisoners were moved to a prison camp in Germany. The guards were cruel and the camp was full of rats and fleas. They learned to thank God for the fleas, because the guards did not like going into the parts where the fleas were. Corrie and Betsy tried to help the other prisoners as much as they could. They were often able to pray and study the Bible together.

Corrie was eventually freed from the prison camp and, when she got back to Holland, she set up a home for other people who were returning from the prison camps. She spoke in churches all over the world. One day she met a man who had been a guard in the prison camps. He said, 'Isn't it wonderful that Jesus has washed my sins away?' He held out his hand to shake hands. Corrie was taken aback and she prayed quickly. God filled her heart with forgiveness and she shook his hand.

Joni was a very happy and active girl. When she was eleven years old, she had a horse called Tumbleweed. One day, she was out in the countryside with her three sisters. They enjoyed a picnic together and on the way back home, Joni pushed Tumbleweed on at a gallop and together they jumped over fences. Her oldest sister tried to persuade her to take more care, but Joni just laughed. She said Tumbleweed would not let her fall and she called out, 'I never have accidents.'

When she was fifteen years old, Joni went to a Christian camp and while there, she trusted Jesus as her own Saviour.

She carried on living a very active life and one day, when she was seventeen, she was on a beach with friends. It was very hot and they enjoyed swimming in the sea. Joni was very good at diving and so she decided to dive into the water. The others watched as she went into the water, but then they realised something was wrong. Joni did not come back up to the surface after her dive.

Panic filled Joni, as she couldn't rise up in the water. She was struggling, because she couldn't breathe under the water. A wave swept her up on to the beach. Her sister lifted her, but Joni was filled with fear. She could see that her sister was holding her, but she could not feel anything. She couldn't feel her arms or legs, only her neck and head. An ambulance arrived and, as it took her to hospital, 'The Lord is my shepherd' was what Joni was saying.

Joni spent many months in hospital and she could do nothing at all for herself. She could not move her arms or legs, only her head. She prayed to God. She knew that nobody understood but God and she asked Him to help her to get through the days and cope with her life, unable to move around.

Joni spent a very long time in hospital and she was only able to get home when lots of help was arranged for her there. However, she was determined to live as full a life as possible. She was soon doing all sorts of things. She sings very well and she writes books. She is even able to draw, holding the pencil in her mouth! She travels a great deal and enjoys speaking at meetings. After a few years, Joni got married.

Some time later, while she and her husband were talking one day, Joni realised that she had lived for exactly the same amount of time after her accident as she had before it. Then she did not know how she would cope with not being able to move and look after herself. She talked about her feelings and her thoughts that she would not be able to leave the hospital, that she would not laugh again and that she would never get married, but there she was married, living a busy life and laughing again. She praises God for all He has done for her and she loves to tell others about Him.

Lesson 39

England

Catherine Booth

Catherine Mumford was 12 before she went to school! Maybe you think that would be great - think of all the time you'd have to do what *you'd* like to do. Catherine was very happy, but her dad and mum made sure that she learned to read and write at home. By the time she was 12, she'd already read the Bible through from beginning to end eight times!

Do you know what the first and last books of the Bible are?

Catherine had to spend a whole year in bed soon after this time and maybe you think that not being able to get up would have made Catherine cross with God? But instead, she used the time to read books and learn more about Him. By the time she was seventeen, Catherine had decided that she wanted Jesus to be her best friend.

Think about your friends. Now try to think why you like them. Why do you think that Jesus would be the best friend that you could ever have?

When she was twenty six, Catherine married William Booth, who was a travelling preacher. Over the years, she became more and more involved with his work, even after they had children of their own.

When William felt that God was asking him to take the Good News about Jesus to people who were difficult to love - people who were dirty and poor - people who had no work and who drank too much - Catherine was right there beside him.

William Booth felt that instead of asking people to come to their church, the church should go to where the people were. So it was that after a huge effort to raise money the People's Mission Hall was opened in one of the poorest parts of London in 1870. But they also had meetings in the open air and used every chance to tell people about God's love.

There was a lot to be done in the Mission Hall, especially as it was to be open not just on a Sunday but every day! The people came to hear about Jesus but they also came because they were hungry and they were given food. Some came because they were cold and they were given clothes and shelter.

Can you think of practical ways in which your church helps people who are in need?

Helping so many people in so many different ways needed organisation and the Booths became leaders of the Salvation Army. William was known as General Booth and Catherine as the Army Mother. The Salvation Army is still very busy today helping people and reaching out to them in Jesus' name.

LESSON 40 IS A REVISION LESSON
USING THE NOTES FOR LESSONS 36-39