



Mustard Seed Lesson for December 17, 2006
Released on December 13, 2006

"Jesus: The Light That Conquers"

SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT: I John 1:1 - 2:5

1 John 1:1-10 (KJV)

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;

2 (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)

3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

4 And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

1 John 2:1-5 (KJV)

1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

3 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

4 He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

5 But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.

GOLDEN TEXT (Memory Verse):

"God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all" (I John 1:5 KJV).

LESSON OBJECTIVE:

The lesson objective is to show that when we follow God, we obey Him, keep His commands and walk in His light. The following teacher's notes should help direct the lesson discussion for the children.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

1. God is the only one who is always good.
2. When we obey God, we walk in the light and do what is good.
3. Sometimes we still do wrong. Jesus can cleanse and forgive us when we do wrong.

LESSON BACKGROUND:

In Scripture, darkness frequently represents sin and evil. Sin is a departure from God's holy standards. Light represents all that God sees as good, pure, and lovely.

The book of I John begins by affirming that what the apostles saw as eyewitnesses is being passed on to other believers in this epistle. Six times in the first three verses alone, the theme of "seeing" is set forth. Seeing requires light, so the next three verses show that God is the Light. He shows us the way. He is the standard of what is right and good, and we judge what is wrong and bad by His standard.

If we walk in God's light, we see and admit our own sinfulness. We confess our sins and receive His cleansing and forgiveness.

If we walk in His light, we obey Him and follow His commands out of love for Him. Though we may occasionally fall, obedience is the hallmark of our lives. This is what it means to walk in the light. We are made able to free ourselves from the bondage to sin by God's grace in Jesus Christ.

TELLING THE LESSON:

1. What is darkness? What is light?

Everything that is bad, God calls darkness. Everything that is good, God calls light. We are not talking about colors; dark colors can be just as lovely as light ones. We are not even talking about day and night. God planned the day for us to work and play and the night for us to rest; both day and night are good. When we talk about light and darkness, we are talking about good and bad.

Everything about God is good. Everything He says and does is right. God is perfect in every way and knows what is good or bad. God is the Light and shows us what is good, pure and lovely.

2. How do we show that we are friends of God?

If we are God's friends (in fellowship with Him), we will live good lives and walk in the light. If we say we are God's friends but we are living bad lives, God says we are not telling the truth. His friends want to do good things that please Him.

If we are God's friends, we will also be friends with others who love Him. When we do wrong, we will ask God to forgive us, and the blood of Jesus will wash all our sins away.

3. What should we do when we do the wrong things?

It is sad to admit, but we all sin sometimes. If we say we never sin, we are just fooling ourselves and calling God a liar. When we do not do the things that please and honor God, He does not forget us or reject us. If we confess our sins, God is faithful to keep His promises to us. He will forgive our sins and wash away everything that is bad from our hearts.

4. Why does God forgive us when we do wrong?

God forgives us because our risen, living Lord (Jesus Christ) is now with Him in heaven. Jesus is like our lawyer. He speaks up for us to God. He takes our side when Satan accuses us of doing wrong. Satan may speak against us, but Jesus speaks up for us to God!

Jesus can ask God to forgive our sins because He has always been perfect in every way; yet He died for our sins and for the sins of everyone in the world. He took our punishment for us.

5. How can we know that we love God?

The Bible says that if we love Him, we will keep His commands. We will do what He says. If we say we know God but do not obey Him, we are just not telling the truth. We know that we love God because we are keepers of His word – we do those things that please and honor Him.

TELLING HOW TO LIVE:

Be careful with the truth of this week's lesson. The text asks us to discern whether we are really God's children based on the presence of certain evidences of regeneration in our lives. These include obedience to His commands, fellowship with His people, and such.

Be careful also that you don't fall into believing that obeying or fellowshiping can save you. Scripture is clear that there is no good work that can save us. Rather, the truth of the lesson is that the good works mentioned are evidences or results that show or demonstrate that we really have salvation.

In your own life and in counseling the children, be discerning about what is really needed. Is it salvation, or is it confession and cleansing? All are readily available through Jesus Christ, who is the light of the world and offers the light of life to all who would follow Him (John 8:12).

EXPLAINING THE GOLDEN TEXT:

"God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all" (I John 1:5 KJV).

Everything about God is good. He is perfect in every way. Everything that He says and does is right. That is why the Bible says He is light. In God, there is nothing bad or wrong.

LESSON ACTIVITIES:

Encourage your student to learn the golden text – use this as the memory verse for the lesson. Other activities: discuss ways to walk as Jesus did; discuss personal examples of how to walk in the light; complete word search activity (included at end of lesson).

PRAYER:

Father God, we thank you for loving us in spite of our sin. Thank you for your message of light that conquers sin. Help us to obey you, keep your commandments and walk in the light, in Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

ANTICIPATING NEXT WEEK'S LESSON:

Christmas lesson for next week is "Jesus: God with Us" from John 1:1-18.

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Jesus: The Light That Conquers (Word Search)

I John 1:1 - 2:5

Find each of the following words.

WITNESS

ADVOCATE

WALK

JESUS

MESSAGE

LIGHT

CONFESS

FORGIVE

FAITHFUL

TRUTH

LOVE

FELLOWSHIP

DARKNESS

CONQUER

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Answer Key

WITNESS	MESSAGE	FAITHFUL	FELLOWSHIP
ADVOCATE	LIGHT	TRUTH	DARKNESS
WALK	CONFESS	LOVE	CONQUER
JESUS	FORGIVE		

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