

=BOOKS OF THE BIBLE=

Lesson 19

Psalms

Objects to have:

The new Bible book sign: PSALMS

The Bible Songbook

A songbook

Seven different illustrations representing the following Psalms: (Have the name of the Psalm as the heading on each illustration.)

Psalm 1 - Pictures of two men or two ladies or two children; one who is sad, and one who is happy

Psalm 8 - Pictures of stars, moon, sun

Psalm 23 - Pictures of sheep and shepherd

Psalm 51 - Drawings of tears and a smile

Psalm 91 - Picture of a wall

Psalm 121 - Pictures of a plane, car, boat, bicycle

Psalm 126 - A beautiful picture to represent Heaven

Your Bible.

Introducing the lesson:

(Review with the children the names of the books of the Bible learned thus far. Then show them a song book. Take a moment to let them get a good look at the notes and the words. You could have the children sing a song with you from the songbook.

(Lay down the songbook and pick up your Bible. Show the children the location of the book of Psalms. Tell them the title of the book, and then tell them that this is the songbook of the Bible.) There are all kinds of music; some music is good music, and some music is bad music. Of course, the psalms that are in the book of Psalms are good music; rock music is bad music. We should listen to and sing good music. We should not listen to nor sing bad music.

Let's think about some good music. Some good music makes us want to march. Some good music makes us feel happy. Some good music makes us want to hurry with the jobs that we are doing. Some good music makes us love God and makes us live better. Good music will never make us want to do wrong or to behave badly.

Let us think about what bad music makes some people want to do. Some bad music makes some people want to dance. It is not right to dance; it is wrong. Some bad music makes some people hate each other. Some bad music makes some people hate Jesus. Some bad music makes some people not want to go to church. Some bad music makes fun of the flag of the United States of America. What should we do when bad music comes on the radio or on the television? Yes, we should turn it off; we should not listen to it.

Telling the story:

(Pick up your seven illustrations. Hold them like flashcards. Have the first one on top so that the children see it first; then put each "card" at the back of the group whenever you have finished telling about the Psalm that it illustrates. Be sure to hold the illustrations up high enough for the children to see them; turn slowly or walk with them while talking so that the children can get a good look at each one. Do not ask, "Can you see?" That will disrupt your talking with the children.)

In the book of Psalms in the Bible there are 150 Psalms! Today I want to tell you about just seven of the Psalms in the book of Psalms. (Hold up the pictures of the sad person and the happy person.) Look at these two people.

These people are very, very different. One person is happy; whatever he is doing is turning out right. Do you know why he is so happy? Psalm 1 tells us why he is: He does whatever his preacher tells him to do; he does whatever his Sunday school teacher tells him to do; he would not do what a man who sells liquor would tell him to do; he would not do what a neighbor who does not go to church tells him to do. This person who is happy does not have friends who do not love Jesus. This person who is happy always listens to someone who warns about doing badly. This person who is happy loves to hear Bible stories and to read the Bible; he thinks about God's Word day and night. We can be happy, too; Psalm 1 tells us that we should do as this happy person does. (Review quickly what to do to be happy.) This other man is very unhappy. The reason that he is unhappy is because he does not love Jesus, and he does not want to do right. He may say that he is happy, but deep down he knows that he is not really happy. Worse than that, he will not go to Heaven when he dies; he will go to Hell. That's what Psalm 1 tells us about. It tells us about two different people; one who is happy and the other who is unhappy.

Another very important Psalm is Psalm 8. (Put illustration #1 on the back of the cards.) Here is a picture of the stars and the moon. The man who wrote down the words for Psalm 8 had been looking up at the sky at night. He saw the moon, and he saw the stars. The moon is very large and the moon is very, very far from us. God put the moon in the sky to give light in the darkness at night. The stars are there to give light, also. They are very, very far away from us, too—some much farther away than the moon is. The stars look very little when we see them, because they are so far away; they are really very, very large. The man who wrote Psalm 8 thought, as he looked at the sky at night, "God made the wonderful moon and the beautiful stars. In Heaven are angels; God made the angels. God also made everything that is on the earth. People seem to be so unimportant beside all these wonderful things which God made, yet God loves people and talks to people." How wonderful it is that God thinks about each person on earth. Psalm 8 praises God because of His love for each person on earth. God loves you, too!

A very wonderful Psalm is Psalm 23. (Put illustration #2 on the back of the cards.) Psalm 23 helps us remember how much a shepherd loves his sheep. Jesus is our Good Shepherd, and we are like sheep. We do not know what we should do and be when we grow up, but Jesus knows. He will guide us if we let Him, and if we obey Him. Jesus watches over us and takes care of us. The man who wrote down the words for Psalm 23 said that dying is only like walking through a dark valley that is between two mountains. Even when we die, Jesus our Good Shepherd is there to take care of us. He will take us to Heaven when we die if we have trusted Him as our Saviour. That's just a little bit about Psalm 23.

Psalm 51 tells us about a man who had sinned. (Put illustration #3 on the back of the cards.) King David was that man. He had committed a terrible sin. Psalm 51 tells us that David was very sorry for the sin that he had committed. He told God all about it, and he asked God to forgive him. King David cried while he was praying because he remembered how bad it is to sin. That's why there are tears drawn here. He asked Jesus to wash his heart clean. Then David smiled, and his tears were gone away. He decided that he would not commit that sin again. Psalm 51 tells us about that.

(Put illustration #4 on the back of the cards.) Psalm 91 lets us know that we never have to be afraid! Isn't that wonderful! Sometimes in the dark we get afraid because we cannot see what is there, but we do not need to be afraid. Jesus can see us even in the dark. He can take care of us, and He does. The man who wrote down the words in Psalm 91 said, "In Him will I trust." We can trust Jesus to take care of us because He will! Just like having a big, high wall around our house, that's how the Lord puts protection around us. Don't forget this picture of a big, high wall. Jesus puts His protection around us just like this big, high wall.

Psalm 121. (Put illustration #5 on the back of the cards.) Here are pictures of a plane, a car, a boat, a bicycle. These things are all used for one thing; they are used to take people places. People ride in or on them so that they can go quickly from one place to another. The man who wrote down the words for Psalm 121 was thinking about traveling from one place to another. He might have been thinking, "Can Jesus see me when I go away from my house and go to another city? Yes, I know that He can. He never goes to sleep. He never even gets sleepy. He

stays wide awake and watches me all the time. He takes care of me.” That’s the wonderful message to us from Psalm 121.

Psalm 126. (Put illustration #6 on the back of the cards. Let the children see the picture of something beautiful.) See this; see how beautiful it is! This makes us think of how beautiful Heaven is. But, really, nothing can be as beautiful as Heaven is! Heaven is wonderful! Heaven is wonderful because Jesus is there. There is no sin—nothing bad in Heaven. We know that if we have trusted Jesus as our Saviour, we will be able to go there when we die. The man who wrote down the words in Psalm 126 wrote that we ought to tell other people about how to go to Heaven, and about how to be happy.

(Put down your “flashcards.”) We have talked about only seven Psalms; there are 150 of them all together! Also, we know the names of 19 Bible books; there are 47 more! There is so much in the Bible! You can never get tired of the Bible, not in all of your life!

LEARN OUR BIBLE VERSE: Psalm 126:2, “Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing...The LORD hath done great things....”