

=BOOKS OF THE BIBLE=

Lesson 46

I Corinthians

Objects to have:

The sign for this new Bible book: I CORINTHIANS

Do Right

Your mailman, with the letter to the Romans in it

A letter addressed to the Corinthians

Pictures of: A baby, a little child, an older child, a teenager, an adult, men and women in a group, a big tent, a synagogue, a house

Your Bible.

Introducing the lesson:

Last Sunday in Sunday school we heard about Paul. Paul was a Jew. Paul's name was not always Paul; at first it was Saul. Paul had not loved Jesus; in fact, he had permission from the Jewish leaders to go to the houses of Christians and to take the Christians to prison just because they were Christians. Paul had hated the thought of anyone's trusting Jesus.

Then Paul got saved. Jesus called from Heaven to Paul when Paul was on the road to Damascus. Paul was on the way to the city of Damascus so that he could get more Christians. Paul listened to Jesus, and his name after that was not Saul any longer; it was Paul.

Paul wrote a letter. (Take from the mailbox the letter to the Romans.) Paul began to travel all around, telling people about Jesus. He wrote the people who lived in Rome; he wrote a letter to the Romans. Today we'll hear about another letter that he wrote (put into the mailbox the letter to the Corinthians.)

Paul wanted everybody to love Jesus as he loved Him. Paul had gotten saved. When a person gets saved, we say that he gets born again. When people get born for the first time, how do they look? (Hold up your picture of the baby.) They are babies. They don't stay babies, however; they grow. They grow to be little children (show the picture of the little child), then they get to be bigger children (show the picture of the older child), then they get to be teenagers (show the picture of a teenager), then they get to be adults—a man or a lady (show the picture of the adult).

When people get born again, they don't know much about Jesus, and they don't know much about how to live as good Christians. When people first ask Jesus to be their Saviour, it's as if they are babies—baby Christians. They are supposed to learn more and more about the Bible, more and more about Jesus, and more and more about how to live to please Jesus. Just as little babies (show the picture of the baby) are expected to grow and grow until they get to be ladies and men (show the picture of the adult), so Christians are supposed to get to be better Christians, knowing more of the Bible, knowing more about Jesus and asking Jesus to help them to be better Christians than they were the day before.

In today's Bible book, called First Corinthians, we learn about some new Christians who did not learn very fast about the Bible; they did not learn very fast about how they should act—they stayed baby Christians. (Show the picture of the group of men and women.)

Telling the story:

Paul decided that the people who lived in the city of Corinth needed to hear about Jesus. He made plans to go there. He was in a city that was not near Corinth, and it would take a long time to get to Corinth. He may have taken a boat from the city where he was to the city of Corinth, and it would have taken maybe a day or so to get

there. However, he may have gone all the way by land; then it would have taken many days to get there. There were no cars or trains or buses or airplanes then; people either rode in boats, or walked, or rode animals.

Somehow Paul got to Corinth. It was a great big city. Corinth was noisy and busy. There were many, many people on the streets. There were little stores without doors on them. Some of the people were selling things. Other people were buying things.

Corinth was a wicked city. The people used bad, bad language; they used God's name in a bad way. The people drank liquor, and they could not think straight. They were loud and they were mean. They were dishonest; they wanted to take things for themselves without paying for them. The people in Corinth needed to hear about Jesus!

Paul went into the city and looked around. The first thing he would have to do was to get a job. He needed to work and earn some money so that he would have money to pay for a place to live, and so that he could buy food and clothing for himself. Paul knew what kind of work he could do; Paul could make tents. (Hold up your picture of a tent.) Paul knew how to make tents from great big pieces of canvas: he knew just how to cut up the canvas, and he knew how to sew the cut-up canvas so that he could make tents. Paul was looking for a tent-making business where he could get a job.

Paul went to the man and the lady who owned the business of making tents. Paul said, "Hello, I know how to make tents. I need a job. Do you need anybody to help you make tents?"

Priscilla and Aquila, the lady and the man who had the tent-making business, were glad to see this man named Paul. They said, "Oh, yes, will you work for us?" How happy Paul was that he had a job!

Then Paul was pleased to learn that Priscilla and Aquila were Jewish people, just like he was. Paul asked, "How did you happen to get to Corinth? Jewish people did not used to live here. When I heard that Jewish people now live here, I knew that I had to come."

Priscilla and Aquila said, "When the king commanded all the Jewish people to leave Rome, we decided to move here to Corinth. We thought that we could have a good business here in this big, busy city." Paul was excited because he wanted other Jews to know about Jesus, and he could teach about Jesus in the home of Priscilla and Aquila.

Now, Paul would work on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday—making tents. On Saturdays he did not make tents; on Saturdays he went to the synagogue. (Hold up your picture of the synagogue.) The synagogue is where the Jewish people went for church. Paul loved to go to the synagogue; it was his chance to tell many Jewish people that the Son of God had really come to earth. Paul loved to preach in the synagogue about how Jesus grew up on the earth, how He lived as a man, and that because of Jesus' great love for everybody, Jesus paid the price for their sin. Paul loved to tell that Jesus died and rose from the dead, and that Jesus is in Heaven. Paul loved to tell how Jesus talked to him while he was on the road to Damascus and how Jesus had changed his life.

While they were listening to Paul, Priscilla and Aquila were saved—they trusted Jesus; other Jewish people were saved also. Then they wanted to know more and more about Jesus. They wanted also to know more and more about the Bible.

There were some Jewish people, however, who hated Paul. They hated him because they did not want to trust Jesus. When the man who was the ruler of the synagogue got saved, that really caused an uproar! The Jewish people who hated Paul hated him even more. They captured Paul, and they forced him to go to court!

Court was held outside; the lawyers and the judge and the witnesses and the person being accused were all on a high platform or stage. The mayor of Corinth was there, too. Most of the Jewish people of Corinth wanted Paul to be put in jail. The mayor of Corinth, however, said, "Stop this trial. Paul has done nothing to break the laws of Corinth. Let him go."

Oh, Paul was glad that he did not have to go to prison. Paul was so sad, however, that so many of the Jewish people would not accept Jesus as their Saviour.

Paul, after that day, said, "I cannot preach to the Jews anymore. I will preach from now on to the Gentiles." So, Paul stopped preaching to the Jewish people, and from then on preached to all people.

Well, he had to have a place to preach. He would not go to the synagogue anymore where the Jewish people were. A man named Justus came to Paul, and he said, "Paul, my house is the house that is next door to the synagogue. I have heard you preach; I have asked Jesus to be my Saviour. Please let my house be the place where we can have church services." (Hold up your picture of the house.)

Paul said to this man, "Why, thank you, Justus. That is kind of you to let me come there and to preach to the people who will come." So it was that in the city of Corinth a man's house became a church building. Paul preached in Justus' house for many, many Sundays. More and more Gentiles got saved.

Then one day Paul said, "I am sorry that I cannot stay in Corinth any longer. I have been here for a year and a half. It is time for me to travel to other places to tell other people that Jesus can be their Saviour, too." I am sure that the people who knew and loved Paul were sad at that news. They hated to see Paul go.

Priscilla and Aquila said, "We won't have you leave us, Paul. We want to travel with you. Please, may we?" Paul was very happy to have Priscilla and Aquila go with him from Corinth, working with him in other places to get crowds of people to hear him preach.

A while after Paul had been away from Corinth, Paul got some news about the Christians in Corinth. It was news that he did not like to hear. Paul heard that those Christians were not living right. They had started acting bad like their old, sinful ways. So, Paul decided that one day he would have to go back there. He could not go right away, so he wrote a letter. In the letter, he told the Corinthian Christians that he had not heard good things about them. In his letter Paul scolded those Corinthian Christians; he said that they were like babies. Paul told the Corinthian Christians that they needed to grow up. They needed to remember that in their bodies God the Holy Spirit was living.

Then Paul went back to see them one day.

The letter that Paul wrote to them (pull the letter from the mailbox) is right here in the New Testament. (Show the children the book of I Corinthians in the Bible.) This book is called First Corinthians. Say that with me. It is the letter that Paul wrote to the Corinthian Christians, telling them that he was disappointed that they were not living right. And, he said, if he was disappointed, how must Jesus feel about the way they were behaving?

I wonder: Is our Preacher pleased with the way that we act? Most of all, is Jesus pleased?

(Say the books of the New Testament through I Corinthians.)

LEARN OUR BIBLE VERSE: I Corinthians 3:16, "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God..."