

=BOOKS OF THE BIBLE=

Lesson 47
II Corinthians

Objects to have:

The new Bible book sign: II CORINTHIANS
Listen to God

A letter in an envelope

Blank paper and a blank envelope and a pen

Chalk and chalkboard

Cut-out a picture of a rocking chair and mount it on stiff paper

Four signs with strings to hang from the posts of the rocking chair:

BELIEVE ME

LIVE RIGHT

HELP OTHERS

JESUS IS COMING

The picture of your mailman with the letter of II Corinthians in the bag

Your Bible.

Introducing the lesson:

(Hold up the letter in the envelope.) Maybe one time you got a letter in the mail. I don't mean that someone made an A or a B or a C and sent it to you; I mean that someone wrote some words and those words told you some things. I got a letter. See, it has my name on it. It has my address on it; it came to my house. The letter is for me to read. I can open this letter and read it. ("Read" the letter. Let it be brief, a friendly-type letter from someone who has done some interesting things.)

(While saying the following, pick up the blank piece of paper and the blank envelope and the pen.) I want to write a letter back to my friend. I want to tell my friend that I got his/her letter. I want to tell my friend what I've been doing lately. I want to let my friend know that everything is all right. (Pretend to write the letter.) Now that I have my letter written, I have to put the name of my friend on the envelope. (Do this.) The people in the post office and the mailman will not know where my friend lives. I have to put on this envelope the house number and the street name and the name of the city and the name of the state where my friend lives, along with the zip code. Now, it is ready to mail. (Lay down the letter.)

Paul wrote another letter to some people. In Sunday school we have heard about two letters Paul wrote. He wrote to people in Rome; those people are called Romans. The letter he wrote is called the letter or the epistle to the Romans. Then he wrote another letter; he wrote to people who lived in the city of Corinth. These people were called Corinthians. Even though these letters are addressed to the Romans and to the Corinthians, we can read them. They are here in the New Testament of the Bible. (Show the children the location of the book of Romans and I Corinthians.)

Paul had been sad when he wrote the letter called First Corinthians. We remember why Paul was sad when he wrote that book; he was sad because he had heard some bad news about the Corinthian Christians. The bad news was that the Corinthian Christians were not living right. They were still like baby Christians. They were fussing with each other. They were living wicked lives. They did not want to please Jesus. So Paul had to write a letter to them. The Holy Spirit told him to write the letter, and the words that should go into the letter. Paul had to remind them that they were in God's family and that they should live the way Jesus wanted them to live.

When he had finished writing the letter, he gave it to a man who took it to Corinth. That man gave the letter to a Christian in Corinth. That Corinthian Christian took the letter to church, and he stood up and read the letter to the people.

Telling the story:

(Draw on the chalkboard the Mediterranean coastline of Israel. Then, along the north side of the sea, draw a line straight west, then make the “upside down U” that would represent the coastline around the Aegean Sea. Put the dot for the location of Philippi on the map. Point to the dot.) After Paul wrote First Corinthians, he was in this city that is called Philippi. (To the south and a little to the west put another dot.) Paul was thinking about the Christians who lived here—the Corinthian Christians.

Paul was so tired. He was weak, also. In some of the places where he had been, the rulers of the cities had treated him badly. In fact, when he was here at this place before this time (point to the first dot), Paul had been put in prison. Paul had not done anything wrong. He had been telling people about Jesus. Rulers of the city did not like that, so they put Paul into prison. God got him out of prison. Later on some soldiers found Paul, and they beat Paul with a whip.

But Paul would not stop telling about Jesus. Paul traveled to other cities. Then he came back to this place. He was tired and not feeling well. He was worried, also, about the Christians in Corinth. He was wondering whether the Corinthians who lived around here (point to the second dot) had decided to do what he told them to do. Paul was wondering if they were growing to be better Christians. Paul even started to cry because they had not been doing well.

Then something happened to wipe Paul’s tears away. Something happened to make Paul feel happy instead of sad; Paul got company! A man named Titus came to see Paul. “How good to see you, Titus. Come on in.”

“Paul, I have some news for you. I have been to Corinth.”

Paul said, “Oh, tell me about the Corinthians. Tell me about the Christian people in Corinth. How are they doing?” He listened eagerly as Titus told him that the Corinthians had read Paul’s letter. Titus told Paul that when the Corinthians had read his letter, they felt sorry for their sins. They asked God for forgiveness. They were doing better! Oh, they were not perfect people. There were still some things in their lives that were not just right, but they were behaving better. They had started to be better Christians.

Paul was so glad! He said, “I’d like to write another letter to them. Timothy, would you please come in here? I’ll tell you what should be written down in a letter that I want to write to the Corinthians, and you write it down. I cannot see very well, so I need you to write the letter for me. Will you do that, Timothy?” Timothy, of course, was glad to do what Paul asked him to do.

Paul said to write, “Think about some things.” Now, people have favorite places to sit when they want just to think. Some children like to go sit on the front steps of the house where they live when they want to think. Some go sit under a tree in the yard and just sit and think a while. Some sit on the couch in their living room. Some children sit in a rocking chair and rock when they want to think.

Let’s pretend that this rocking chair is our “thinking place.” (Hold up the picture of the chair.) Paul said in his second letter to the Corinthians, “Believe me.” (Hang the sign BELIEVE ME on a post of the rocking chair.) “Believe me that I know what I am talking about. I have heard Jesus’ voice. I know that He is my Saviour. I know that He tells me what to tell you. Believe me when I say that I Paul am a preacher for Jesus. I am an apostle for Jesus.”

Paul said in his letter called Second Corinthians, “Think about this: Live right.” (Hang the sign LIVE RIGHT on the second post of the chair.) “You belong to Jesus now. You want others to belong to Him, too. If you do not live right, they will not want to hear you talk about Jesus. If you do not live right, Jesus will be unhappy. Corinthians, live right,” Paul wrote in Second Corinthians.

Paul said, "Timothy, write down also, 'Corinthians, help others.'" (Hang the sign HELP OTHERS on the first post of the chair. "Sometimes a person gets sick and he cannot work. Then he has no money for food and clothing and a place to live. Whenever you see any fellow Christians who need help, help them. Think about other people, Corinthians. Help others.")

Paul said, "I want something else to be written in that letter. Tell the Corinthians that Jesus is coming again." (Hang the sign JESUS IS COMING on the second post of the rocking chair.) Oh, how wonderful it will be when Jesus comes in the clouds and He calls Christians to come and join Him. When Jesus comes in the clouds, you don't want it to be at a place where you might be saying or doing something wrong. When Jesus comes, you will want to be living right. You will want to be helping others. Think about this, Corinthians," Paul said, "Jesus is coming."

Timothy wrote down all that Paul told him to write. Paul said, "Thank you, Timothy, for writing down all the words in my second letter to the Corinthians."

Paul spoke the words for this letter that God told him should be written in the letter. Then the second letter to the Corinthians was delivered to the city of Corinth. The Corinthians got the letter that Paul wrote to them, and they were so glad to read it. That's the way Second Corinthians got to be in the Bible.

This is the book of Second Corinthians. (Show the children where the book of II Corinthians is.) This letter is for us, too. (Pull the "letter" of II Corinthians from the rabbit's mailbag.)

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

LEARN OUR BIBLE VERSE: II Corinthians 2:14, "Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ..."