

=BOOKS OF THE BIBLE=

Lesson 48

Galatians

Objects to have:

The sign for this new Bible book: GALATIANS
Trust Jesus

Chalk and chalkboard

Writing paper and pen

A cross

A piece of fabric, like a heavy drape

Your Bible.

Introducing the lesson:

(Teacher, pretend that you are Paul; tell the children who you are. Tell them that you have just heard some sad news from other churches. Show them by drawing a simple line map on the chalkboard where Galatia is located. Tell the children there were many churches in Galatia. Paul had been there, had told the people how to have faith in Christ, and they had trusted Jesus.

(Pick up paper and pen, telling the children that you want to write to the people in Galatia. Write DEAR GALATIANS in large letters at the top of the paper. Explain to the children that Paul was writing this letter himself. Paul could not see very well, and when he wrote, he had to write in large letters so that he could see what he was writing. Paul wanted so much to write to the Galatians that he could not wait for someone to come to write the letter for him.

(Pretend to be writing the letter while saying the following:) I, Paul, am writing this letter to you myself. It is important that I write this letter to you. You need to be reminded of some things. I need to tell you again about a very important day. You seem to have forgotten what happened on that day. Please read this letter carefully.

(Lay down the letter and pen.) In the letter to the Galatians, Paul told them to remember a true story. Listen to the story that Paul told them to remember:

Telling the story:

What a large crowd of people there was! The people were in a huge building where the governor's office was. The governor was there in a very large room with a great crowd of people. One Man was standing in the front of the room with the governor. It was Jesus Who was standing there. Pilate the governor was saying to the people, "What do you want me to do with Jesus?"

The crowd of people shouted, "Command that He be killed!"

"Why, what has He done?" asked Pilate, the governor. The people could not really say anything wrong against Jesus. A lot of the people just did not like Him because He told them about their sins. The priests in the temple did not like Jesus; they wanted to get rid of Jesus. Pilate tried to argue with the people, but no one listened to him. Finally Pilate just gave up and said, "All right. You may take Jesus. You may crucify Him." Pilate ordered the soldiers to take Jesus away.

The soldiers took Jesus to another big room in the building. They got a big whip and whipped Jesus. They made fun of Jesus. They put someone else's clothes on Him.

From a bush outside they got some long thorns. They took the long thorns and made a crown of them. They pushed the crown of thorns down over Jesus' head until it was torn and bleeding. They spit on Jesus. They called out bad things to Jesus. Then they led Jesus away.

(Hold up your cross.) Someone had chopped down a tree. They had split and chopped the tall trunk of the tree and put it together to make a cross. The cross was heavy. The wood was rough. You would get splinters in your hand if you ran it along the wood of that cross.

The soldiers forced Jesus to carry this very, very heavy cross. (Show the children by motions how He must have dragged the cross that was leaning against His shoulder.) By this time, Jesus was hurting all over His body. His back was full of open, bleeding sores. His head was bleeding. His face hurt because He had been slapped so much. He was weak and He was tired. Jesus suddenly fell because of the heavy weight of the cross. Another man was made to carry the cross for Jesus. Jesus got up and continued walking.

Jesus had to walk down the streets of the city of Jerusalem until He and the crowd of people got to the north wall that was around Jerusalem. Jesus was led outside this wall to a hill. He had to climb the hill. The name of that hill was Calvary. On Calvary Jesus was laid down on the cross. Someone took a big hammer and some huge nails, or spikes. These spikes were pounded into Jesus' hands and His feet. (Act this out.) Then the cross was stood upright in a deep hole in the ground. Jesus was hanging on the cross.

Some of the people shouted at Jesus, "If You are Who You say You are, come off that cross and save Yourself." Jesus could have saved Himself; Jesus could have come off that cross all by Himself. Jesus did not have to let the people do things like they did to Him; Jesus wanted to let the people do it. Wanted to? Yes, He wanted to. Somebody had to die for sin, and Jesus was the only Person Who could do that. It had to be someone who had never sinned. Jesus, the Son of God, is the only Person Who could die for our sins. Jesus is the only Person Who lived on earth and never did sin. Jesus never did anything wrong. He never said anything wrong. Jesus died on the cross on a hill outside the city of Jerusalem.

Paul was writing his letter. He said in his letter, "Galatians, something else happened when Jesus died on the cross. It happened in the temple. In the temple was a great big, beautiful, thick curtain. The curtain was red and purple and gold and white. It was beautiful! The curtain was made of such heavy material that nobody could tear it. The curtain hanging in the temple was very, very thick and very, very big. It hung all the way from the ceiling to the floor and clear across one end of the temple. The curtain was like a wall, dividing the temple into two rooms."

(Hold up the heavy fabric which you have brought.) Let's pretend that this could be that huge, beautiful curtain. The curtain was called a veil. Behind the curtain or veil was a room. Nobody could go into that room except the High Priest. That room was called the Holy of Holies. When the High Priest would go into the room, the Holy of Holies, he would pray to God and tell Him about the sins of His people. The High Priest was carrying a pan that had blood in it into the Holy of Holies. The blood was from a lamb, a lamb that was not sick or hurt—that had nothing wrong with him, a perfect lamb. Only the High Priest could come and tell God about the sins of His people. Only the High Priest could bring the blood for the sins of the people. Then God would forgive His people of their sins.

I said that something happened in the temple when Jesus died on the cross. There was a loud ripping noise. The veil—this big curtain—was ripping. Who was ripping it? No one could see anybody ripping it. It was being ripped from the top to the bottom.

No man could reach the top of that curtain without climbing a big ladder. There were no ladders and there were no people when the veil was ripping. God was ripping the curtain. The veil in the temple was torn in two when Jesus died on the cross. That showed the people that they did not have to go to a priest anymore and have the priest pray for them. Nobody ever again would have to tell a priest about his sins and have the priest pray for him. From the time that Jesus died on the cross, everybody could talk to God and say, "Dear Lord, I have sinned.

Please forgive me. I believe that You can wash away my sin. I know that Jesus has shed His blood on the cross so that my sins could be washed away.”

Paul was writing in this letter, “Dear Galatians, remember that Jesus died on the cross for you. Remember that the veil in the temple was torn from the top to the bottom; God tore it. He wanted you to know that you trust Jesus as your Saviour, and that you can talk to Him.”

Some people say, “If you tell a priest about your sins, you will go to Heaven.” That is not right! You trust Jesus and tell Him about your sins; He will forgive you, and that is the only way you can go to Heaven. Some people say, “If you remember to do good, you will go to Heaven.” Paul wrote, “Only by trusting Jesus can you go to Heaven.” Paul also wrote, “After you are in His family, then He wants you to do right. Jesus helps you to do right.”

What happened to Jesus after He died on the cross? His body was placed in a tomb. But Jesus did not stay dead! Jesus did not stay there in that tomb. He rose from the grave! What a wonderful story of which Paul reminded the Galatians.

We can talk to Jesus by ourselves. We can talk to Him if we trust Him; Jesus does not listen to anybody who has not trusted Him. The first prayer that He hears from anybody is the prayer that a person says, “I know that I am a sinner, dear Jesus. I want You to be my Saviour. Save me.” What a wonderful gift God has given to those who trust Jesus. We can talk to Him. What a wonderful gift it is to be able to talk to Jesus! How wonderful it is to be able to ask Him to help us every moment of every day. That’s what the book of Galatians in the New Testament tells us.

(Review the letters that we have studied so far. Review the names of the books of the New Testament.)

LEARN OUR BIBLE VERSE: Galatians 3:26, “For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.”