

=BOOKS OF THE BIBLE=

Lesson 61

II Peter

Objects to have:

The sign for this new Bible book: II PETER

Listen to the Truth

Bulletin board or flannelboard

Objects which could be called “not real,” for example: a stuffed animal, a toy car, a doll, rock candy, some jewelry that would represent precious stones, chocolate candy that is wrapped with gold foil to represent coins, artificial fruit, etc.

Individual cards reading: TRUE PROPHETS, FALSE PROPHETS, PASTOR MEYERS, PACIFIC BAPTIST CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS, SOME OTHER PREACHERS, SOME OTHER SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS, NOAH, PAUL, PETER, JESUS—NOT THE SON OF GOD, PRAY TO STATUES, DO GOOD TO GO TO HEAVEN

Your Bible.

Introducing the lesson:

(Bring your objects to class in a plastic shopping bag or a suitcase, etc. Open the container. Take out the objects one at a time. Tell the children what the object is. Ask them to tell you whether each object is real or not real—whether it is truly that object or something to stand for that object. Get them to tell you whether it is true or false, whether it is really that thing. With some objects the answer can be given by examining them more closely; such as by tasting them, feeling them, etc. Tell the children that help is needed from other people to tell whether some objects are true or false, as is the case of a precious stone in a piece of jewelry: a stone is supposed to be a diamond, a sapphire, etc., but for you to know whether it is true or false, you need to ask a jeweler. A jeweler is the man who knows how to tell the difference between a real diamond or a pretend diamond.)

There are true teachers and there are false teachers. There are true preachers and there are false preachers. We could call the preachers “prophets”; there are true prophets (put the sign TRUE PROPHETS at the left top of the bulletin board), and there are false prophets (put the sign FALSE PROPHETS at the top of the board, on the board). In our church there is a true prophet—a true preacher (put the sign reading PASTOR MEYERS under the sign reading TRUE PROPHETS). In our church there are true Sunday school teachers (put the sign reading PACIFIC BAPTIST CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS under the sign reading PASTOR MEYERS). In some churches there are Sunday school teachers who are false teachers (put the sign reading SOME OTHER SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS under the sign reading FALSE PROPHETS). In some churches there are preachers who are false preachers (put the sign reading SOME OTHER PREACHERS under the sign reading SOME OTHER SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS).

We know that Pastor Meyers is a true preacher, and we know that Pacific Baptist Church Sunday school teachers are true teachers. Our preacher and our teachers teach what is in the Bible. They do not change what is in the Bible. In some other churches there are also TRUE PREACHERS and TRUE SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS, but there are some other churches in which their preachers are not true preachers and their Sunday school teachers are not true Sunday school teachers.

(Hold up your Bible.) Here is my copy of the Bible. The Bible is the Word of God. All the words in the Bible are words which God the Holy Spirit told men to write down. There are many books in this one Book, the Bible. Here is a book that is named Second Peter. (Show the children the location of the book of II Peter.) Peter was a man who wrote down the words that God the Holy Spirit told him to write. Do you remember that last Sunday I showed you the book called First Peter? Peter wrote down the words in that book, also.

Peter was a fisherman. Peter got saved; then Peter followed Jesus. After Jesus died on the cross and went to Heaven, Peter became a preacher. Peter was a true prophet. (Point to that sign on the bulletin board.) When he preached, he preached what God wanted him to say. He was like Paul. (Put PETER and PAUL under PACIFIC BAPTIST CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS.)

Telling the story:

Peter preached and then Peter wrote, "Listen to me. The true words of God were not made up by men, but," said Peter, "there are some men who are not true men of God; they pretend to be true preachers. They are not true preachers. Be careful. Watch out for these false prophets." That is what Peter wrote right here in the book of II Peter. (Show the children II Peter 1:21-2:1-3.)

Do you know what is going to happen to false prophets? They will be punished and then destroyed by God. Peter said, "In Noah's day" (under PAUL put up the sign reading NOAH) "the false prophets were destroyed." We remember Noah. We read about Noah in the Old Testament part of the Bible. Let's remember Noah.

"Come on, sons," said Noah. "Help me." Whenever their daddy told them to do something, the three sons of Noah obeyed him. Noah's three sons had grown up; they were men when Noah talked to them on this particular day. Noah said to them, "We have to build something. God told me what to build." Noah's sons wondered what God had told Noah to build.

Noah said, "You know that people around us do not love God. We love God. We want to do as He says to do, but you know that there are mothers and daddies and boys and girls who do not want to do what God tells them to do. God has to destroy them all." Noah's sons probably wondered how God was going to destroy all the wicked people that lived around them. If those wicked people were going to be destroyed, how was God going to protect Noah and his three sons and their wives?

Noah said, "Sons, you and your wives and your mother and I will be safe. Anyone else who wants to trust God will be safe, too. God has said that He would send a lot of rain. It will rain from morning to night for many, many days. There will be a terrible flood. The waters will drown everybody and all the animals. We will be safe from drowning, however, for we will be inside a big boat."

The sons asked, "How will the boat look, Father?" Noah showed his three sons the plans that God had given him for the boat. "Let's get started. We will need many, many boards of wood. We will need pitch—which is like mortar—to go between the boards." So, they got the wood and made boards and they got the pitch to put between the boards so that no water could leak in.

The sons said, "Now, could we take another look at those plans, Father?"

Noah said, "See. The boat will be like a huge ship." (Gesture as you describe the ark.) "It will have three floors in it. There will be rooms downstairs, rooms on the next floor and rooms on the top floor. There will be a roof over the entire boat. We will have to plan into what rooms each thing should go—we will need a room for giraffes, a room for bears, a room for lions, a room for monkeys, a room for tigers, a room for snakes, a room for bugs, and rooms for other animals and for birds." What strange plans these were! "Then, of course," Noah said, "we need rooms for you—my three sons and your wives and for Mrs. Noah and me."

Noah said, "God wants to save alive a certain number of every kind of animal and bird and creeping thing. Besides, He wants to save alive you and your wives, and your mother and me, because we trust Him."

Noah and his three sons started immediately to build the big boat which was called an ark. "Hey, Noah, what are you and your sons doing?" asked the neighbors. "Building a boat? God told you to do that? You guys are crazy!"

Noah stopped working long enough to preach to the people who were watching. He told them the truth of God, but the people would not listen. False preachers had already filled the people with lies. The false preachers said that God loved everybody so much that He would never let them be punished. The false preachers said that nobody is ever bad enough for God to send them to Hell. The false preachers said that they did not even have to trust God. So, the people who were outside Noah's family would not listen to Noah's preaching.

After many, many days and weeks and months of building, the ark was finished. God said, "All right, Noah, it is time for you and your whole family to go into the ark. Be sure that there are two of every animal and every bird and every creeping thing; of some animals you need to have seven. Is everything all set?" All were on board with Noah and Mrs. Noah, Shem and Mrs. Shem, Japheth and Mrs. Japheth, Ham and Mrs. Ham. Then God shut the door to the ark. The people who had believed the false preachers and teachers were all outside the ark.

Soon rain began to fall. The rain fell harder and harder. It rained and it rained and it rained. There was so much rain falling that water even came gushing up out of the earth. It was not long until everything was covered with water; the trees were covered, the houses were covered. Then the mountains were covered! There was not a thing on earth that was not covered with water. Everything that was outside the ark was drowned. Inside the ark all the people and animals and birds and bugs were safe and dry. Noah had been a true preacher; he truly preached God's Word, but only his family would believe him. All the false preachers and all the false teachers and those who believed them were drowned.

After several days, the waters started to dry up. The earth was pretty and new and sunshiny. Noah and his family and all the animals and all the birds and all the bugs that were in the ark left the ark.

(Pick up your Bible which is open to II Peter.) God told Peter to write, "It was because of false teachers and preachers that God had to drown everybody in the day of Noah. False preachers and teachers were teaching the people not to trust God or to obey Him."

We can tell if a person is a false preacher or a false teacher. If that person teaches that Jesus is not the Son of God (Put the sign JESUS—NOT THE SON OF GOD under SOME OTHER SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS), then we know that he is a false prophet. If someone says PRAY TO STATUES (put the sign PRAY TO STATUES under JESUS—NOT THE SON OF GOD), then we know that is a false prophet. If someone says DO GOOD TO GO TO HEAVEN (put the sign DO GOOD TO GO TO HEAVEN under PRAY TO IDOLS), then we know he is a false prophet. To be sure that we are always right and are listening to the truth, we need to be sure to listen carefully to what is in the Bible; when we can read it for ourselves, we need to read it everyday. To be sure that we are always listening to the truth of God, we need to ask God everyday for guidance and for wisdom. These are truths that we are taught in the book of Second Peter.

Now, let's say all the books of the New Testament that we have studied so far. (Do this with the children.)

LEARN OUR BIBLE VERSE: II Peter 2:5a. "And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness...."