

=BOOKS OF THE BIBLE=

Lesson 62

I and II John

Objects to have:

Signs for these two Bible books: I JOHN AND II JOHN

Several pictures of little children

Pictures of adults

A big, red heart

Two signs: BROTHER AND SISTERS IN CHRIST  
NOT THE WORLD

Two lengths of ribbon

Your Bible.

Introducing the lesson:

(Show the pictures of the little children, one at a time. Discuss what they are doing, how many are in each picture, etc. Use the words “little children” over and over. To introduce the pictures of the adults, tell the children that you are going to show them more pictures of little children. Then show them the pictures of the adults. Wait for their reaction to the fact that these are not pictures of little children. Then tell the children to sit up real straight and listen; you will tell them how those pictures of adults can be called pictures of little children.)

(Show the children the books of I John and II John.) The words in these books were written down by a man named John. God the Holy Spirit told John the words to write for these two books in the Bible. The Bible is, therefore, the Word of God.

Telling the story:

(Put down your Bible.) How many of you children have babies in your house? (Allow a few minutes for the children to tell you this, for this is exciting news for them to tell.) Those babies were born into your families. In your house the baby is either a son or a daughter of your mother and daddy. That baby is a brother or a sister to you. Together with your parents and your baby, you are all a family. The parents and the children are a family.

God has a family, too. You can choose to be in God’s family. Anybody who wants to get born into God’s family has to say, “I am thinking of what I am. I am a sinner.” Children, everybody is a sinner. Nobody can help the fact that he is a sinner.

Sin is dirty and wicked. Sin cannot be around God. Because we are sinners, we have sinned. So, we can’t be near God; we can’t be in His family. But, He wants us to be around Him.

Sin has to be washed from our hearts. Soap and water won’t wash away sin from our lives. Let’s pretend that my hands are dirty. Over here is a bar of soap and there is some water, (also, pretend). I want my dirty hands to be made clean. I have to take the soap in my hands. Under running water, I have to rub the soap on my hands. The soap on my hands makes my hands clean. Then I rinse off the soap.

Soap and water can’t wash away sin from our lives. The blood of Jesus washes away sin. Jesus’ blood flowed out of His body so that it could wash us from sin. Remember, Jesus died on the cross. When He died on the cross, His blood flowed out of His body. Jesus shed His blood so that our sins might be washed away.

Getting washed by Jesus’ blood is not like getting washed with soap and water. We do not have Jesus’ blood in the sink; Jesus’ blood does not flow over us. This is the way the blood of Jesus washes us clean: We tell Jesus we know we are sinners, and that we trust Him to wash us clean from our sins. He washes us clean! In just that moment we are made clean from sin. Then right away we are made children of God; we are born into His family!

Everybody who wants to go to Heaven has to be born into God's family. Nobody will get to Heaven unless he is in God's family. To be born into God's family we just have to admit that we are sinners. We have to say, "Dear Lord, I know that I am a sinner." That is the first step to getting born into God's family.

The next step is to say, "I want Jesus to be my Saviour." Then we are in His family. That is how these adults (pick up those pictures) can be called "little children." God called them that in the books of First John and Second John. God is their Father. They are brothers and sisters toward each other. All of us who have asked Jesus to be our Saviour are brothers and sisters in God's family!

Now, there are certain rules about how brothers and sisters are supposed to act toward each other. Brothers and sisters aren't supposed to hate each other. Brothers and sisters are supposed to love each other. Let's put this big, red heart on the board to remind us of that. (Do that, extending the ribbon beyond the heart a ways.) Now, let's put this ribbon on the heart. (Do that.) Now, we'll put this sign on the ribbon. (Do that.) This sign says **BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST**. We are supposed to love each other. (Discuss with the children for a few minutes some of the ways that we can show that we love each other; for instance: by helping families who are hungry by giving them food, by giving clothes to our brothers and sisters in Christ when they do not have enough to wear, by saying only good things about each other, by letting someone get ahead of us in line or walk in front of us, by saying nice things to each other, by visiting someone when he is sick.)

I know of something that we are not supposed to love if we are in God's family. (Put the second length of ribbon and the second sign up on the board, attaching one end of the ribbon to the heart and the other end of the ribbon to the sign.) We are not to love the world. (Discuss with the children what that means: We are not to love money, we are to be thankful for the money that God lets our mothers and daddies have so that our needs can be supplied. Getting lots and lots of money is not supposed to be the most important thing in the life of God's family. We are not supposed to love the sinful things of the world. Discuss these things.) We are to love Jesus most of all. Then we are to love each other, because if we have Jesus as our Saviour, all of us are brothers and sisters in God's family.

(It would be good for you to give the children your testimony of how and when you were saved, and that since then, you have been one of God's children.)

LEARN OUR BIBLE VERSE: I John 3:23, "And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment."