

=BOOKS OF THE BIBLE=

Lesson 64

Jude

Objects to have:

Sign for this new Bible book: JUDE

Obey God

An old-style railroad sign which reads: STOP

LOOK

LISTEN

Another sign which reads: SUFFER

Another sign which reads: OBEY

A bulletin board or a flannelboard

Your Bible.

Introducing the lesson:

(Hold up your Bible.) For many, many weeks we have been talking about a different book of the Bible each Sunday. Each Sunday I have told you something about one book, except for I and II John; we talked about both those books on the same Sunday. But, on each Sunday I could not tell you all that is in the Bible book for that Sunday. We can keep on studying the Bible the rest of our lives, and we will never get tired of it. There will always be something fresh and new for us each day from the Bible. It is the most wonderful book in the whole world.

Men wrote down the words that are in the Bible. Someone told the men what words to write when they wrote down the words that are in the Bible: God the Holy Spirit told the men what to write when they wrote the words that are in the Bible.

Here is the Old Testament. (Show the children.) There are many books in the Old Testament; there are 39 books in the Old Testament. Here is the New Testament part of the Bible. (Show the children this.) There are 27 books in the New Testament. Let's say the books of the New Testament which we have studied thus far. (Repeat with the children the names of the books of the New Testament through Third John.)

We're going to talk today about the next book in the New Testament, and this is the next to the last book in the Bible. This book is another short book; it is called Jude. Jude is the name of a man. The book of Jude is another letter, also. Jude was the man who wrote the words in this letter in the New Testament.

Telling the story:

(Pick up the railroad warning sign; lay down your Bible.) Let us pretend that we are coming to a railroad crossing. At some railroad crossings we see the sign which says, STOP, LOOK AND LISTEN. These signs warn us that there is danger on those railroad tracks. A train might be coming. If we do not stop to look and to listen at tracks where there are no gates, we could be hit by a train and be killed. It would be for our own good to obey the sign at the railroad tracks where there are no gates. If we did not obey the signs, we would be the ones to be hurt! If we did not obey, we would suffer for it. (Put on the board the sign which says SUFFER.)

In the book of Jude, God the Holy Spirit told Jude to write: Obey God. If you do not obey Him, you will suffer. There have been a lot of people who have suffered because they have not obeyed God. (Put on the board the sign OBEY.)

In the book of Jude we are reminded of a lot of people who suffered because they did not obey God. I'm going to tell you about one of those people who suffered because he did not obey God.

God says, "Remember Cain. There are many men who are like Cain." I remember Cain. We read about him in the Old Testament.

Cain was a very busy man. From the time the sun was up in the morning until the sun went down at night, Cain was very busy. He was a farmer. He was working in his fields everyday. He would go back and forth, back and forth in his fields, plowing the ground. He was turning over the ground, getting it soft and ready for the seed. Then he would go up and down the rows of the plowed field, putting the seed into the ground. Everyday for many, many days he worked in the fields, plowing and planting seed. As the plants started growing from the seeds, he worked in the fields, digging out the weeds. He watched over the fields to be sure that the good plants had room to grow. After the plants grew up, then Cain harvested his crop: he picked the corn and stored it in bins. He cut down the wheat stalks and beat the wheat from the stalks. He picked fruit from the trees, and put it into baskets. Whatever kinds of crops Cain raised, those were the kinds that he gathered at harvest time. Cain was very, very busy. He was very proud of the work which he was doing.

Cain had a brother. Cain's brother's name was Abel. Abel was not a farmer. Abel watched sheep; he was a shepherd. Abel made sure that the sheep got good grass to eat and water to drink. He took care of the sheep whenever they got sick or hurt. He cut the wool from the sheep and sold the wool to make clothing. He also sold some of the sheep for meat. Abel was very busy with his work. He loved taking care of the sheep, selling their wool, and selling some of the sheep for meat. Cain and Abel were brothers; Cain and Abel had different work to do.

There was one thing that both Cain and Abel knew they should do. Cain and Abel knew what they should do to please God. Their father Adam told Cain and Abel what they should do to please God: "Cain, Abel, you need to bring sacrifices to God. If you do not bring a sacrifice to God, you will not get to go to Heaven when you die. This is the kind of sacrifice God wants: He wants you to bring a little lamb. The little lamb must be perfect; he must not be sick. He cannot have an injury on him. Bring the little lamb to the altar. Kill the little lamb. Let his blood flow out. Confess your sins to God. Tell God what you have done wrong, and ask Him to forgive you. God will forgive you your sins when you have brought the right kind of sacrifice. When you bring the little lamb and let his blood flow out, God will hear you when you confess your sins and when you ask for forgiveness." That is what God wanted everybody to do in the years before Jesus came to earth. When Jesus came, He was the perfect sacrifice for sin. After Jesus paid the price for people's sins, people have not confessed their sins over animals that they have killed.

It was time for people to come with their sacrifices and to confess their sins to God. Abel came. He brought a little lamb from the flock. He put the lamb on the altar. He confessed his sins. He killed the little lamb. The little lamb's blood flowed out. God saw Abel's sacrifice, God heard Abel's confession of sin, and God forgave Abel of his sins. Abel had obeyed exactly what God told him to do. Because Abel did what God wanted him to do, Abel would go to Heaven when he died.

Cain said, "Here I come with my sacrifice." Look, here comes Cain. Oh, but something is wrong. Cain is not carrying a lamb. Cain is carrying a basket full of wheat and corn and fruit. Let's talk to Cain. "Cain, you made a mistake. You are not really bringing a sacrifice that has blood in it. No blood will be shed from what you brought." It made no difference to Cain what God commanded. He wanted to bring to the altar what he wanted to bring. Cain did not want to obey God.

When Cain brought his grain and fruits to the altar, God said to Cain, "I am not pleased with your sacrifice; it is not acceptable." This made Cain angry. Cain thought, "My sacrifice is just as good as Abel's." God said, "Cain, I am giving you another chance. See, there is a sin offering at the door. Get that lamb there; come, offer it to Me." But, Cain went stomping off away from the altar. Cain was pouting and had a bad look on his face.

Cain went looking for his brother Abel. He hated Abel because God was pleased with Abel and not pleased with Cain. Cain found Abel in the field. Cain looked at Abel. Abel looked happy. Cain did not feel happy. Cain hated his brother Abel.

Cain said, "Hello, Brother." Abel turned to talk with Cain. Suddenly, without warning, Cain hit Abel. Cain hit Abel hard enough to kill him. "Oh, my, what have I done! I have killed my brother Abel. I must dig a grave and bury him." Cain frantically dug a long hole in the ground. He put the body of Abel into the long hole and pushed the dirt back into the hole over Abel's body. Abel's dead body was in the ground. The real living part of Abel, however, had gone to Heaven. He had gone to Heaven because he had obeyed God. He had trusted God's way to get to Heaven.

I am sure that Cain ran away from the place where he had buried Abel. Then Cain heard a voice, "Cain, where is your brother Abel?" God was asking Cain where his brother was. God knew where he was, because God knows everything. He wanted Cain to confess that he had killed his brother.

"How should I know where he is? Am I my brother's keeper?" What a way to answer God!

God said, "Cain, I know where Abel is. You have killed him. Besides that, you will not obey Me and be saved from your sins. You will suffer the rest of your life here on earth, and you will not go to Heaven when you die because you have not accepted My plan for your salvation." Cain had to suffer because he disobeyed God. How easy it would have been to have obeyed God! Too bad that Cain did not!

(Show the children again the book of Jude in your Bible.) In this book we are warned to obey God. No matter what we or anyone else thinks, we are to obey God. You won't ever forget that, will you?

LEARN OUR BIBLE VERSE: Jude 3, "...ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."