

=THE CHRISTIAN'S BEHAVIOR=

Lesson 13

Review and Demonstration Lesson 1

AIM: to teach my pupils so that they will remember the main points of the lessons on the Christian's behavior toward God and toward himself.

POINT OF CONTACT: Think of the purposes for maps and guides. There are no maps available for uncharted lands; therefore, someone who is familiar with these particular areas has to act as a guide to a stranger who wishes to travel through the land. We Christians do not know how we ought to walk through life, but God has left a road map and a Guide. Through the Bible and the teaching of the Holy Spirit we can be directed on the journey of our earthly life.

INTRODUCTION: Just as we enjoy possessions that are attractive as well as useful, so God wants us, His children, to be proper and pleasing in appearance and in the kind of condition that can best serve Him. First of all, let us be sure that we truly belong to Him. Let us also be sure that we can tell others how to belong to Him.

I. THE PLAN OF SALVATION.

1. Ask the pupils to recall the facts a person must know in order to be saved.
Everyone is a sinner. Romans 3:10; 3:23; 5:12. Everybody has inherited his sinful nature.
 - 1) Everyone who dies as a sinner will go to Hell to pay for his sin forever. Romans 6:23a.
 - 3) Jesus died to pay our sentence of death. Romans 5:8.
 - 4) Everyone must ask Jesus to be his Saviour in order to be saved from the fate of eternal punishment in Hell. Romans 10:13.
2. Lead the pupils in an illustration of salvation.
 - 1) Set up the situation. Designate places in the room where there are two roads—one, the Road to Heaven; the other, the Road to Destruction. Choose one person to be the one who is traveling the Road to Heaven. Choose another to hold a STOP sign. Place him into position along the Road to Heaven. Choose another to hold a sign which is in the shape of a cross. He is to be stationed by the side of the Road to Destruction.
 - 2) Start the traveler on his life's walk. Tell him that he is a baby just starting life. Have him walk toward the STOP sign. As he gets closer, tell him that he is getting to the age where he is no longer innocent; he is beginning to understand the difference between right and wrong. Have him come up to the STOP sign.
 - 3) Stop the traveler at the STOP sign. Tell the class that the sign says: 1) You are a sinner. 2) You cannot go to Heaven because you have not accepted Jesus as your Saviour. 3) From this point on you are traveling the Road to Destruction. You have just come to a pay station (hand an envelope to him); you are receiving wages from the Lord—"The wages of sin is death."
 - 4) Turn the traveler onto the Road to Destruction. Tell the traveler, "Periodically there are times in your travels on the Road to Destruction that you will see a sign in the shape of a cross; you should stop and read this sign and act upon its offer. This sign says, 'Jesus suffered for you. Stop here and ask Him to be your Saviour.'" Point out the fact that here is a kneeling place.
 - 5) Have the traveler kneel. Tell the traveler, "Tell the Lord that you know you are a sinner. Ask Jesus to save you." Now take his "pay envelope" from him and explain that he is automatically transported from the Road to Destruction to the Road to Heaven. Move him to the Road to Heaven beyond the STOP sign. Explain that once a person is saved he will remain on the Road to Heaven; he cannot ever become lost again. I John 5:12.
 - 6) Bring the traveler to the first step of obedience. Tell the traveler that he has come to a lake of water beside the Road to Heaven. He should stop here and be baptized; this is the first step of obedience to Jesus.

II. THE CARE OF THE BODY.

1. God's instructions for the care of the body. (Now review with the class I Corinthians 3:16, 17; 6:19, 20.)

2. The meaning of God's instructions for the care of the body. (Teacher, bring to class a simple drawing of the exterior of a house. There should be boards or bricks, a chimney, two or three windows, a door, and a foundation showing. The drawing will not help the lesson, however, if it is not drawn with straight lines and neatly done. As this part of the lesson progresses, the teacher can either tape over the original drawing other little drawings to fit the suggestions given, or he can draw on the original drawing.)

Since we Christians are God's property, it would be wrong for us not to be available for His use. Romans 12:1, 2. If we physically abuse our bodies, they will not be available for His use as long as He intends for them to be. Abuses turn into defilements. In what ways do people abuse their bodies?

- 1) By having wrong eating habits. The bad diet consists too much of desserts, rich foods, and carbonated beverages. The wrong diet is not the simple wholesome diet that Daniel insisted upon for himself and his friends. Some eat too much food. The glutton is condemned by God. Proverbs 23:21. Some are not thankful for their food, nor do they ask God's blessing upon their bodies. (Teacher: To the picture of the house show damage done to the foundation or the supports by rust or by termites to illustrate harm done to the body by bad eating habits.)
- 2) By poor habits of cleanliness. A clean body has more of a chance of being a healthy body. Anybody knows that dirt harbors disease germs. Daily bathing or showering with soap, periodic face and hand washing throughout the day, at least twice-daily brushing of the teeth, and at least weekly shampooing of the hair are necessary for the dissolving of perspiration and poisons that the body excretes onto the skin as well as dirt which accumulates on a person from his daily schedule of working, playing, and eating. The use of deodorant and breath aids also make the Christian a nicer person with whom to associate. (Teacher: Draw dirt on some boards; put a "bandage" around the house.)
- 3) Through improper appearance. God is very specific about how our bodies are to be covered. No construction worker would leave short boards on the house nor attempt to stretch boards or bricks to cover a space for which he does not have enough materials. The Christian's clothing is to be ample covering, modestly styled. No materials specified for one style of house would be used for another style, either. Girls who dress and act as boys and boys who dress and act as girls are an abomination to the Lord. (Review Deuteronomy 22:5.) God is also specific about the style of hair which is to be worn by males and females. (See I Corinthians 11:6, 14.)
- 4) By the use of tobacco. It has been proven that the use of tobacco is poisonous to the body and is definitely a cause for a decrease of mental alertness and of physical efficiency even before the smoker becomes aware of the fact that the tobacco has made him sick unto death. (Teacher: Blacken the door of the house and mark broken places in it.)
- 5) By the use of alcoholic beverages. Beer, wine, whiskey, or any alcoholic beverage is another cruel master which enslaves the user. (Teacher: Cause one side of the house to become crooked, the roof to have a hole in it, and the chimney to begin to fall.)
- 6) By the use of dope. Well-known published facts about the poor eating habits and the incidents of mental collapse indicate that the dope user is destroying his body and his mind. (Teacher: Blacken the windows of the house, cause the other side of the house to become crooked, put another hole in the roof, and put cracks into the foundation.)
- 7) By engaging in sex acts outside the marriage vows. The breaking of God's laws concerning clean sexual living will not be ignored by Him. Adultery, fornication, and loose moral living are noticed by Him and will result in punishment from Him. (Teacher: Cause a break in the rainspout on the house; draw water pouring down over the house.)

- III. THE CARE OF THE MIND. Inside the body of the Christian is the person who “lives” in his body. Also inside the body of the Christian is the Holy Spirit Who should be allowed to control the thinking of the Christian. The Christian must be conscious of the fact that his mind needs as careful maintenance as his body does. How can the Christian take good care of his mind? (On the other side of the house drawing, the teacher could have drawn or have glued a picture of a living room of a house.)
1. He can furnish it properly. Through good reading, through proper meditations, by good television viewing, he can fill it with good, strong, beautiful furnishings. Reading which tears down our country’s laws or its founding principles, and reading which employs dirty words and words which curse our Lord fill the Christian’s mind with deteriorating thoughts. (Teacher: Tape dirty, broken-down furniture over the pretty furniture in the room.) The Christian ought to fill his mind with the Word of God. Unlike the rooms of a house, the Christian’s mind can expand—it does this as more and more of the Word of God is crammed into it.
 2. He can work to keep it clean. Christians should clean out dirty thoughts that cross their minds by telling the Lord about them and asking for forgiveness and cleansing. I John 1:9. They should clean out the passageways by which dirty language enters the mind and keep them closed as much as possible to such talk. Don’t let the interior of your house become like this. (Teacher: Tape strips of dirty paper to the walls; draw cobwebs around the pictures.)
 3. He can keep it calm, peaceful, and beautiful or handsome. (Review Philippians 4:6, 7.) Open the windows of your house on a very windy day and watch papers and curtains blow. The blowing curtains or drapes hit objects and cause them to tip and break or water to spill from a vase. Frustration and harbored guilt do worse than this to the Christian’s mind. Proper thoughts are named by God. Philippians 4:8.

CONCLUSION: Compare yourself with the broken-down house in the illustration. The Christian’s dwelling place is his body while he is alive on earth. In what condition is your “house”? God does not leave the Christian in ignorance about the proper care of his mind and body; it is up to the Christian to follow God’s orders.