The following is from Pr Glenn Coon's study, "The Science of Prayer, it's ABC's" which is available from archive.org/details/GlennCoonBooks

This is a parable, a made-up story to teach something important. Imagine, it is a beautiful afternoon, and we are picnicking with Pastor Brown, his wife, and their son Jim. The boys are swimming in the fast-flowing river, when our son, Jack, becomes trapped underwater, caught by tree roots. Jim is a lifeguard, and with his father's agreement, he manages to save Jack, but loses his own life.

At the funeral, our son, Jack, expresses his thanks over and over to Pastor Brown and his wife, saying, "I can never forget what you did for me." They reply, "Jack, you know now how much we love you."

A few weeks later my wife and I are called away for a couple of days, leaving Jack at home. When he slips out to get the mail, the door shuts behind him, and he finds himself locked out of the house. He has forgotten to have lunch; his wallet is locked inside and after checking everyone window and door he realises he is in trouble. As night falls, he begins to panic, calling himself a fool! Then he remembers that Pastor Brown and his wife live not far away; he can stay with them. But on his way fear grips him and doubt fills his heart. When Pastor Brown answers the doorbell, Jack bursts into tears and says something like this: "Pastor Brown, I am in trouble, but I do not know whether you will help me. For several hours I have been thinking of you and have wondered whether you really love me..."

Pastor Brown can scarcely believe what he is hearing. Yes, our son is in great trouble, but also in great doubt, he actually doubts the willingness of Pastor Brown to help him, when only three weeks before, Pastor brown gave his son to die for Jack!

"Jack," he begins tenderly and reprovingly, "have you already forgotten the river?"

When my wife and I return the next day, we are surprised to hear what happened. "Jack, why did you for a single moment doubt Pastor Brown's willingness to help you?"

Our son replies sheepishly, "Dad, I forgot the river."

When we doubt our heavenly Father's willingness to help us, have we forgotten a hill called Calvary?

Seeking the Truth

Sabbath

Do you know the truth? Tick true or false for each question and then check your answers on the bottom of the page.

True /	' False	
		The Son of God slept in a manger.
		Jesus was Mary's second child.
		Joseph, Jesus' father, was a descendant of King David.
		Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem.
		The book of Mark tells us about Jesus' birth.
		Elizabeth was Mary's sister.
		Jesus' parents were rich.
		The shepherds were Jesus first visitors.
		Rome ruled the world when Jesus was born.
		Mary and Joseph travelled to Bethlehem for the Censes.
		Jesus was the Son of God.
		Both Matthew and Luke wrote about Jesus' birth.

True, False, True, True, False, False, False, True, True, True, True, True, True

Year 2, Quarter 3, Week 4, Level: "Pre/Teens"

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Refer: Matthew 2 NLT & NIV ;The Desire of Ages p59-67; The Bible Story vol7 p47-62

Sunday

Since the beginning of sin on earth, people looked forward to the promised Saviour. The Old Testament of the Bible has many prophecies about the coming Saviour; things that God revealed to His prophets hundreds of years before they actually happened!

The prophet Isaiah wrote in Isaiah 7:13 & 14, that Jesus would be a descendant of David and that his mother would be a virgin. The prophet Micah, in Micah 5:2 told that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem. Moses, King David, and the prophet Jeremiah also wrote about the coming Saviour.

Now a group of wise men from eastern lands had been studying these prophecies, and when they saw a new star in the sky, they knew it was a sign of the Saviours birth. They travelled to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw His star as it rose, and we have come to worship Him."

King Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men, and he learned from them, the time when the star first appeared. Then he told them, "Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back, and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!"

After this interview the wise men went their way. And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

When it was time to leave, they returned to their own country by another route, for God warned them in a dream not to return to Herod.

When Herod realised they were not coming back, he was furious and ordered his soldiers to kill all the baby boys in Bethlehem, two years old and under. But an angel spoke to Joseph in a dream warning him to flee to Egypt, and they left that very night, escaping to Egypt to live until it was safe to return.

Friday

Now that you are a <u>teenager</u>, there will be times you have to <u>choose</u> between <u>God's truth</u>, and <u>Satan's lies</u>. And if you choose not to choose – Satan wins.

At school, you will be taught <u>evolution</u>; they will say that God <u>didn't</u> make the world. You will face more pressures from friends, to break God's <u>commands</u>, to <u>steal or lie</u>, to <u>covet</u> – to want what everyone else has, to spend Saturdays with them – not at Church. They might encourage you to watch violent or rude movies, or to do drugs, and to make <u>choices</u> that Satan will like.

As a teenager, you can choose to follow Jesus' example and prepare for <u>baptism</u>. If you choose to

<u>follow God</u> now, He will <u>guide</u> your life in truth, and give you His <u>inner peace</u> as you spread His love to others.

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Thursday

Draw a line to match God's truth with Satan's lie.

Remember the Sabbath day to keep it Holy. (Exodus 20:8)

Death is like sleep; the dead know nothing. (John 11:11,12 and Ecclesiastes 9:5)

Do not steal. (Exodus 20:15)

God created the world. (Genesis 1:1)

You must not make an idol or bow down to it. (Exodus 20:4)

Love your neighbour. (Romans 13:9)

Baptise as an adult, in water, such as a river. (Matthew 3)

You are just taking what you deserve.

Your parents are there to make life easy for you.

Baptise babies by sprinkling them with drops of water.

When you die you go to heaven and watch what is happening on earth.

The world evolved by chance.

Look after number one (yourself)

Statues of Mary or Jesus will help you worship.

If you want to go to church – Sunday is the day to go.

As you can see, Satan has many lies. Some are very obvious, but others are really hard to know. The only way we can be sure what is truth and what is a lie is by studying the Bible for ourselves, and checking everything we are told to make sure it agrees with the Bible.

Monday

Another important part of the Armour of God as described by Paul is the "Belt of Truth".

What is the opposite of truth? - Lies.

In fact, Jesus called Himself "the Way, the Truth, and the Life" (in John 14:6), and He called Satan the "father of lies!" (John 8:42-44)



The first lie that Satan to Eve was, "you will the forbidden been lying ever

By the time Jesus was born, Satan had woven his lies so well, that

the religious leaders of the day - the Priests and Levites in the temple, were totally deceived. Jesus even called them "whitewashed tombs" - they looked very good



not die if you eat

fruit", and he has

since.

told

on the outside - but they were full of bad stuff, and they had distorted God's way so much that the people of Israel didn't even notice when Jesus was born.



The priests had turned the Sabbath (created by God as a blessing for His people) into a burden with a huge list of "do not" rules to be followed.

They had corrupted the sacrifice system at the temple - a system that God gave the Israelites, to teach them about the sacrifice of Jesus, and turned it into a money making business for themselves.

And so it was the wise men of eastern lands, not the wise men of Israel, who were studying the Bible for themselves and came to see Jesus - because they were the ones who had found the truth.

Tuesday

Many of the prophets wrote about Jesus' birth, hundreds of years before He was born. Here is something that the prophet Isaiah said in Isaiah 7:14





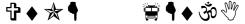






















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Wednesday

The answers to the following questions are found on Sunday or Monday. Use these answers to solve the crossword.

1.	Jesus called the religious leaders							
	tombs.							
2.	The wise men came from lands.							
3.	The priests had corrupted the system of							
	in the temple.							
4.	The priests had filled the Sabbath with							
5.	Jesus called the and Levites whitewashed							
	tombs.							
6.	Jesus called Himself the Way, the and the Life.							
7.	Satan's first lie was "you will not"							
8.	is the father of lies.							
9	The priests had turned the Sabbath into a							

1			2		3			
4								
				5			6	
	7							
						8		
		9						