

The following is a summary of Pilgrims Progress by John Bunyun:

As I walked through the wilderness of this world, I lighted on a certain place, where was a den; and I laid me down in that place to sleep: and as I slept, I dreamed a dream. I dreamed, and, behold, "I saw a man clothed with rags, standing in a certain place, with his face from his own house, a book in his hand, and a great burden upon his back." I looked, and saw him open the book, and read and as he read, he wept and trembled; and not being able longer to contain, he brake out with a lamentable cry, saying, "What shall I do?" I saw also that he looked this way and that way, as if he would run; yet he stood still, because, he could not tell which way to go. I looked then, and saw a man named Evangelist coming to him, who asked, "Why do you cry?"

He answered, "Sir, I see, by the book in my hand, that I am condemned to die, and after that to come to judgment and I find that I am not willing to do the first, nor able to do the second."

Evangelist gave him a parchment roll, and there was written within, "Fly from the wrath to come." The man therefore, read it, and looking upon Evangelist very carefully, said, "Whither must I fly?"

Then said Evangelist, pointing with his finger over a very wide field, "Do you see yonder wicket gate?" The man said, "No."

Then said the other, "Do you see yonder shining light?" He said, "I think I do."

Said Evangelist, "Keep that light in your eye, and go up directly thereto, so shalt thou see the gate; at which, when thou knockest, it shall be told thee what thou shalt do."

So I saw in my dream that the man began to run. Now, he had not ran far from his own door, but his wife and children seeing it, began to cry after him to return; but the man put his fingers in his ears, and ran on, crying, "Life! Life! Eternal life!" So he looked not behind him, but fled towards the middle of the plain. The neighbours also came out to see him run and two decided to fetch him back by force. The name of the one was Obstinate and the name of the other Pliable and soon they overtook him.

Then said the man, "Neighbours, wherefore are ye come?"

They said, "To persuade you to go back with us."

But he said, "That can by no means be. Good neighbours come with me."

"What," said Obstinate, "And leave our friends and our comforts behind us?"

"Yes," said Christian, for that was his name, "Because that all which you shall leave is not worthy to be compared with a little of that which I am seeking to enjoy..." And he went on to tell them of what he read in his book.

"Tush," said Obstinate, "Away with your book; will you go back with us, or no? Come, then, neighbour Pliable, let us turn again, and go home without him."

Then said Pliable, "If what the good Christian says is true, the things he looks after are better than ours; my heart inclines to go with my neighbour."

"What! More fools still? Go back, go back, and be wise..."

"Well, neighbour Obstinate," saith Pliable, "I begin to come to a point; I intend to go along with this good man, and to cast in my lot with him. But, my good companion, do you know the way to this desired place?"

Christian: "I am directed by a man whose name is Evangelist, to go to a little gate that is before us where we shall receive instructions about the way."

Pliable: "Come then, good neighbour, let us be going..."

"And I will go back to my place," said Obstinate, "I will be no companion of such misled fantastical fellows."

Now I saw in my dream, that when Obstinate was gone back, Christian and Pliable went talking over the plain. And Pliable said, "Well, my good companion, glad am I to hear of these things; come on, let us mend our pace." But Christian said, "I cannot go so fast as I would because of this burden that is on my back."

Your Light

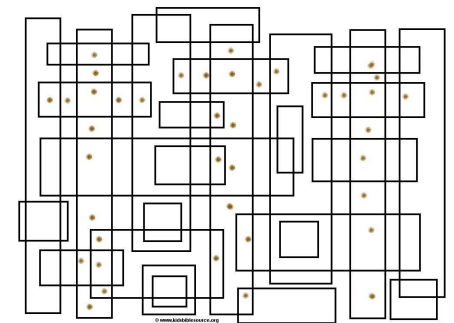
Sabbath

Jesus often used parables and object lessons to teach people; parables and object lessons have several advantages.

1. When someone sees the object again they remember the lesson.
2. It is a way to put a difficult lesson into a form that someone is more likely to understand.
3. It can be a more tactful way of showing where someone has gone wrong. The meaning is seen by those who want to learn but others see it as just a story without taking offense.

As you grow older, parables and object lessons will mean more to you. You will be able to understand their hidden meanings better. You will even be able to think of your own object lessons.

Perhaps the most famous object lesson that Jesus used is the flat bread and the grape juice at the last supper. Colour the spaces with dots.



Jesus wasn't the only person to use object lessons and parables, many Christians have learnt from Jesus way of teaching.

John Bunyun was born in 1628 in Bedford, England. This was after the time of Tyndale who translated and published the Bible into English but before the Wesley brothers lived and the Pilgrims left England. His family was very poor but they managed to send him to school. It wasn't until his marriage that he started to question his salvation. He struggled for many years before finally finding peace and eventually becoming a deacon in an independent church in Bedford. They soon discovered that he had a talent for preaching and he started preaching not only in his own church but in other places as well; however, this was against the law and as a result, he spent many years in prison. During this time he often preached to the inmates but he also turned to writing. He is most famous for writing Pilgrims Progress which is an allegory – a made up story that, like a parable, has a hidden meaning.

Year 2, Quarter 4, Week 1, Level: "Pre/Teens"

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Refer: Matt 5:1-26, 33-48; John 4:1-19, 27-42 NLT; The Desire of Ages p183-195,298-308;

The Bible Story vol8 pages 58-61 vol7 pages 145-150

Sunday

One day lots of people followed Jesus up a mountain. So Jesus sat down and talked to the people. We call part of this talk the Beatitudes. Jesus said:

"God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him,
for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

God blesses those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

God blesses those who are humble,
for they will inherit the whole earth.

God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice,
for they will be satisfied.

God blesses those who are merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

God blesses those whose hearts are pure,
for they will see God.

God blesses those who work for peace,
for they will be called the children of God.

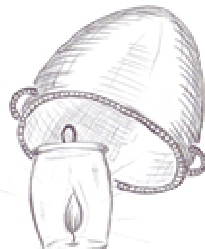
God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right,
for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs." Matthew 5:3-10_{NLT}

Jesus said God will bless them even if they are laughed at or hurt by others because they choose to do the right thing and they should actually be glad because they would have a reward in heaven.

Then Jesus said Christians should be like salt; they should make life better like salt makes food better. Christians should be like a city on a hill top; everyone can see its lights. Jesus said people should be able to see Christians by the way they act and what they do.

Jesus said "No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. No - they put it on a stand, where everyone can see.

Like a light, your actions should shine out for all to see; then people will praise your Father in heaven."



Friday

Pliable and Obstinate are well named. The word pliable means something that is flexible, that can be easily bent, reshaped or changed. Pliable was easily influenced to go with Christian, but as you will learn next week, he was easily influenced to give up again too. Obstinate on the other hand would not change his mind for anything.

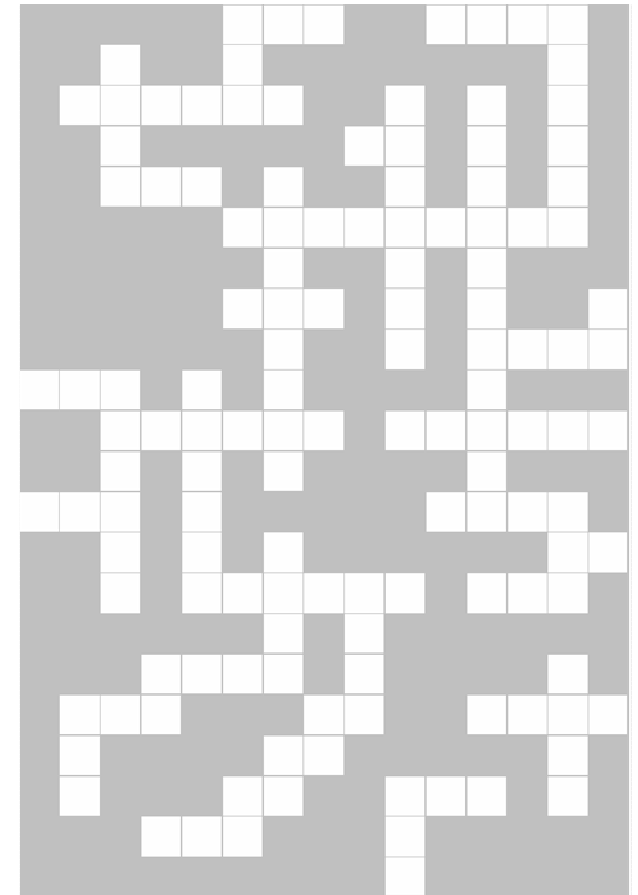
Christian was willing to give up everything for the reward which is described in 1 Peter 1:4 _{NLT}, "We have a priceless inheritance – an inheritance that is kept in _ _ _ _ _ for you, pure and undefiled..."

The apostle Paul says in 2 Corinthians 4:18_{NLT}, "So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we _ _ _ our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever."

Fit the underlined and missing words from 1 Peter 1:4 and all of the words from 2 Corinthians 4:18 into the grid.

What about you?
Have you yet, like Christian:

- Felt a fear of God's judgment?
- Feared of death
- Felt like there was something missing in your life?
- Realised how much God wants to give us?
- Started a journey to learn more about God?
(Christian started a physical journey, which represents the spiritual journey that each of us will one day take.)



Thursday

During the next six months we will be studying many of the parables of Jesus. We will also have a look at the allegory of John Bunyun, Pilgrims Progress.

Have a read of the story on the back page, and then come back here to learn more about the object lessons in the allegory. You might also like to play the dramatized audio book which is available for purchase from orionsgate.org

Isaiah 64:6 NLT, "We are all infected and impure with sin. When we display our _____ (3d) deeds, they are nothing but _____ (4d) _____ (1d)."

The prophet Isaiah is not talking about real filthy rags but about spiritual ones; in other words – the best things that we do look as bad to God as filthy rags look to us and so John Bunyun dressed his Christian in filthy rags.

David wrote in Psalm 38:4 NIV, "My _____ (8d) has overwhelmed me like a _____ (5d) too _____ (12a) to bear."

This is what Christian's burden represents; many people who become Christians do so after feeling convicted by guilt; this happened to Bunyun.

Hebrews 9:27 NLT, "Each person is destined to _____ (13a) once and after that comes _____ (7a)."

Christian is asking the same question as the jailor asked Paul and Silus in Acts 16:30 NLT, "What must I do to be _____ (9a)?"

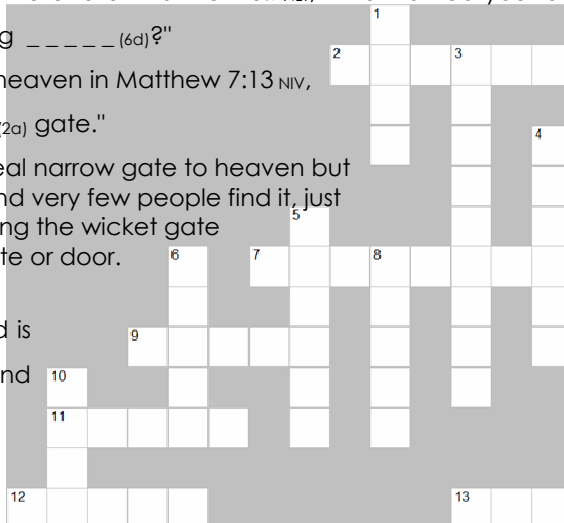
Evangelists scroll is found at the end of Matthew 3:7 NLT, Who warned you to _____ (10d) from God's coming _____ (6d)?"

Jesus speaks of the gate to heaven in Matthew 7:13 NIV,

"Enter through the _____ (2a) gate."

He wasn't saying there is a real narrow gate to heaven but that there is only one way and very few people find it, just as Christian had trouble seeing the wicket gate – a wicket gate is a small gate or door.

Psalms 119:105 NLT, "Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a _____ (11a) for my path."



Monday

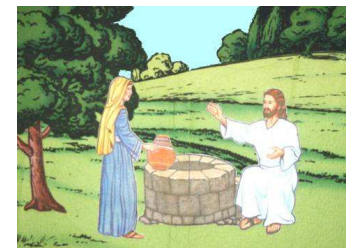
Jesus said he did not come to end the Commandments and the laws of Moses and the prophets but to fulfil them; in fact He said of the Commandment "Do not kill," - "If you are even angry with someone, or call them an idiot, or swear at them, you have broken the commandment! If you remember that someone is upset with you, make things right straight away. Love your enemies! Pray for those who hurt you! If you do this you will be acting like a true child of God."

Jesus said, "You say do not break your promises, but I am telling you it is better not to make promises – just say what you mean. Don't use any swear words or exclamations like 'by heaven' or 'by the earth' because heaven is God's throne and the earth was created by Him. Just say 'Yes I will' or 'No I won't' – anything else is from the evil one. You talk about just punishment but I am telling you love your enemies and pray for them."

Jesus and His disciples continued travelling. One day they stopped outside a Samaritan village. The Jews hated the Samaritans and wouldn't even speak to them unless they had to. Jesus waited by the well while the disciples went to buy food. A Samaritan woman came to get water, and Jesus said to her, "Please give me a drink." The woman was surprised and said, "Why are you asking me, a Samaritan, for a drink?"

Then Jesus said, "You should ask me for a drink. I can give you living water so you will never get thirsty again."

Jesus and the woman talked, and Jesus told the woman that He was the promised Saviour. He also told her that He knew she had had five husbands! – The woman ran to bring the town's people to meet Jesus, and many people believed in Him because of this.



Tuesday

Most people would not think that being poor, sad or persecuted was a blessing. But Jesus said God has a special blessing for people who suffer from these things.

Find the underlined words from Sunday and Monday.

Jesus said that Christians should be seen just like everyone can see this.

Add the numbers together and join the answers.

Some people say that since Jesus died the Ten Commandments don't apply anymore. They are usually thinking of the fourth Commandment – "Remember the Sabbath day" when they say this. But Jesus said in His sermon that the Commandments apply to not only what we do but also to what we think and feel.

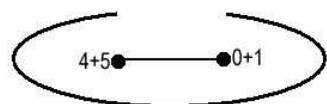
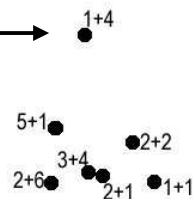
It is obvious that murder breaks the sixth Commandment, but Jesus said that even being angry, doing or saying something mean, can break it!

God's law is all about showing love and He wants us to love God and other people not only with what we do, but in the way we feel, in the things we say and the way we act.

Most people have not murdered someone, but according to Jesus, we have still broken the sixth Commandment in other ways, and no doubt we have broken the other Commandments too.

Write the meaning of Romans 3:23 in your own words:

L A M P W R F L B A M E T W
C O M M A N D M E N T A R M
H T O H T S U N A X S H I N
R E U S E P L A T M P R F L
I A N M R E T L I V I N G W
S A T R M T H S T U N X S H
T I A N E S P J U S T I C E
I L I A M P R F D L H A M E
A T N W P E A C E A I R M T
N H S U N X S H S I R N E S
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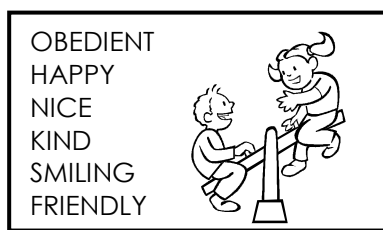
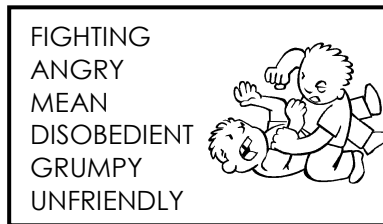


Wednesday

Write the meaning of 1 John 1:9 in your own words.

It is impossible for us to keep the Ten Commandments by ourselves; it is only when we ask God to send His Holy Spirit to live in us and help us that we have any chance, but we need to ask God everyday.

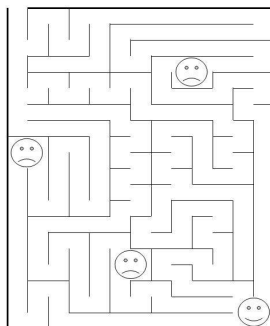
Which are you?



W D H I C H U A R E Y O U W H
F I G H T I N G I C H A R E Y
O S U W H I F C H A R E Y O U
W O H I C H R A R E Y O U W H
I B C H A R I E Y O U O W H I
M E A N C H E A R E Y B O U W
H D I C H A N R N I C E E Y H
O I U W H I D C H A R D E Y A
O E U G W H L I C S H I A R P
A N G R Y E Y Y O M U E W H P
I T C U H A R F R I E N D L Y
E Y O M U W H I C L H T A R E
Y O U P W H I C H I A R E Y O
U W H Y I C H K I N D A R E Y
O U W H I C H A R G E Y O U W

What did Jesus offer the woman at the well?

Jesus was talking about spiritual thirst – a longing to get to know God. Find the underlined words from



Sunday and Monday.

Find your way to the happy face without passing a grumpy face.

Do your friends see that you're different? Do they know that you go to church? Do they know that Jesus is your best friend?

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