

Down the straight and narrow way, Christian came to the house of the Interpreter who led him into a large parlour that was full of dust and called for a man to sweep. Now, when he began to sweep, the dust began to fly about and Christian almost choked. Then said the Interpreter to a girl that stood by, "Bring the water, and sprinkle the room," and when she had done, it was swept and cleansed with pleasure. The Interpreter said, "This parlour is the heart of a man, the dust is his sin and He that began to sweep at first, is the Law; but she that sprinkled the water, is the Gospel.

Then the Interpreter took him by the hand and had him into a little room where sat two little children. The name of the elder was Passion and the name of the other Patience. Passion seemed to be much discontented; but Patience was very quiet. Then Christian asked, "What is the reason of the discontent of Passion?" "The Governor of them would have him wait for his best things till the beginning of the next year; but he will have all now." Then I saw that one came to Passion and brought him a bag of treasure, but after awhile he had lavished all away and had nothing left him but rags... "Then," said Christian, "I perceive it is not best to covet things that are now but to wait for things to come." "You say the truth: 'For the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.'"

Interpreter led him into a place where was a fire burning against a wall and one standing by it, always casting much water upon it; yet did the fire burn higher and hotter. "This fire is the work of grace in the heart; he that casts water upon it, to extinguish and put it out, is the Devil." Then he took him about to the backside of the wall where he saw a man with a vessel of oil in his hand, of the which He did also continually cast, but secretly, into the fire. "This is Christ, who continually, with the oil of His grace, maintains the work already begun in the heart; so notwithstanding what the devil can do, the souls of God's people prove gracious still."

I saw also, that the Interpreter took him again by the hand and led him into a pleasant place where was a palace. There also sat a man at a little distance from the door, at a table-side, with a book to take the name of him that should enter therein; he saw also, that in the doorway stood many men in armour to stop those who would enter. Then Christian saw a man say, "Set down my name, Sir." The man drew his sword and put a helmet upon his head and rushed toward the door. The armed men, who laid upon him with deadly force but the man, not at all discouraged, fell to cutting and hacking most fiercely. So after he had received and given many wounds to those that attempted to keep him out, he cut his way through them all and into the palace at which there was a pleasant voice heard from those that were within, saying—"Come in, come in; Eternal glory thou shalt win."

Then the Interpreter led him into a very dark room, where there sat a man in an iron cage. Now the man seemed very sad and he sighed as if he would break his heart. Then said Christian to the man, "What art thou?" The man answered, "I am now a man of despair, and am shut up in despair, as in this iron cage. I cannot get out; I sinned against God; I have grieved the Spirit, and He is gone; I tempted the devil and he is come to me. I cannot repent, therefore I have shut myself out of all the promises and there now remains to me nothing but dreadful threatenings of certain judgment..."

Interpreter led him into a chamber where there was one rising out of bed; he shook and said, "This night, as I was in my sleep, I dreamed of the day of judgment and I was not ready for it; the pit of hell opened just where I stood. My conscience, too, afflicted me and just as I thought, the Judge had always his eye upon me in anger."

# The Wise Man

## Sabbath

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

If you ask Jesus to help you every day, you will be connected to Jesus and become more kind, loving, patient, obedient, happy, and more like Jesus.

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How should we live?  
Matthew 7:12<sub>NLT</sub>

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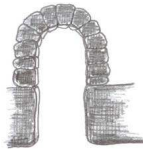
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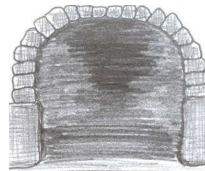
## Sunday

Jesus often used stories to teach the people. Here are some of the things He said, "This is the Golden Rule:

Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you.

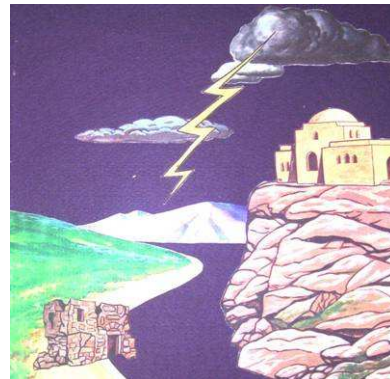


"The entrance to God's Kingdom is like a narrow gate. But the way to death is like a highway; its gate is wide and many choose that way. The gateway to eternal life is very narrow and the road



is difficult; only a few ever find it. - It is often easier to do the wrong thing than it is to do the right thing."

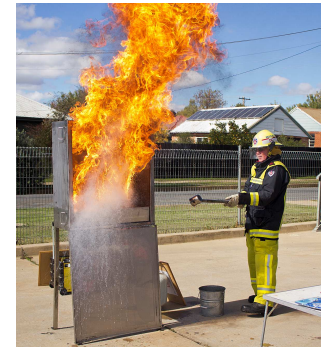
Jesus also said: "Anyone who listens to what I teach and follows it, is wise; they are like a person who builds a house on solid rock. Even though the storm comes and the floodwaters rise, the house will stand strong because it is built on rock. But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn't obey it is foolish; they are like a person who builds a house on sand. It will fall when the storms comes."



Jesus was not talking about the wisdom of having a solid foundation in a house, but the wisdom of having a solid spiritual foundation in a person's life. The foundation of your life is made up of your habits, your beliefs and ideas and your faith in God. A person with a good spiritual foundation will find it a lot easier to withstand the difficulties of Satan's attacks.

## Friday

The Interpreter showed Christian many other object lessons, including a fire and a man who poured water on the fire to try and put it out. Have you ever seen what happens when water is poured on an oil fire? The fire gets bigger! This fire fighter has just poured a cup of water on the pot of burning oil to show how it turns a small fire turns into a big one.



Matthew 19:26<sup>NIV</sup>, "But with God all things are \_\_\_\_\_"

Many missionaries have survived and continued their mission work despite great difficulties. How could they do this? - Because God was with them.

These missionaries are also like the man who fought his way to the door of the palace. Those who were afraid to even try missed out.

Romans 8:18<sup>NLT</sup>, "Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the \_\_\_\_\_ He will reveal to us later."

Did God lock the man in the iron cage? No - it was his own disbelief.

1 John 1:9<sup>NIV</sup>, "If we \_\_\_\_\_ our sins, He is \_\_\_\_\_ and just and will \_\_\_\_\_ us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

Is God an angry judge like the man who dreamed thought? No - God wants to save everyone, but He lets us choose.

2 Peter 3:9<sup>NLT</sup>, "He does not want anyone to be destroyed."

Find the underlined and missing words in the grid.

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

## Thursday

Read the next part of Pilgrims Progress from the back page.

The Interpreter told Christian that the dusty parlour (a parlour is like a living room) represented a person's heart.

What did the dust represent? \_ \_ \_

What did the man who swept represent? The \_ \_ \_

What did the girl with the water represent? The \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

Why does Romans 3:20 say the law was given?

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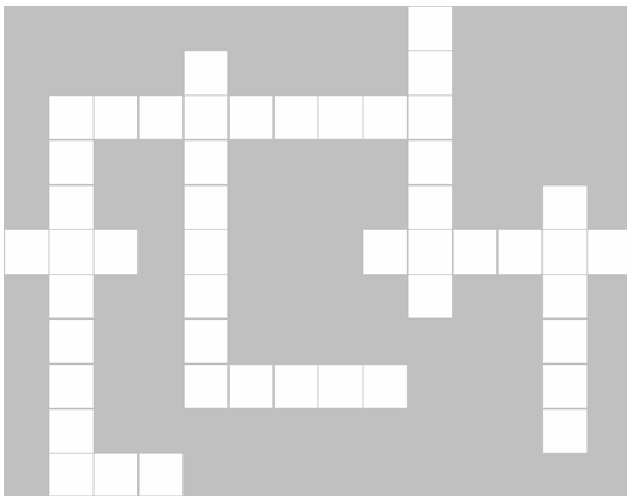
Then the Interpreter shows Christian two children.

What is the name of the happy child? \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

What is the name of the unhappy child? \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

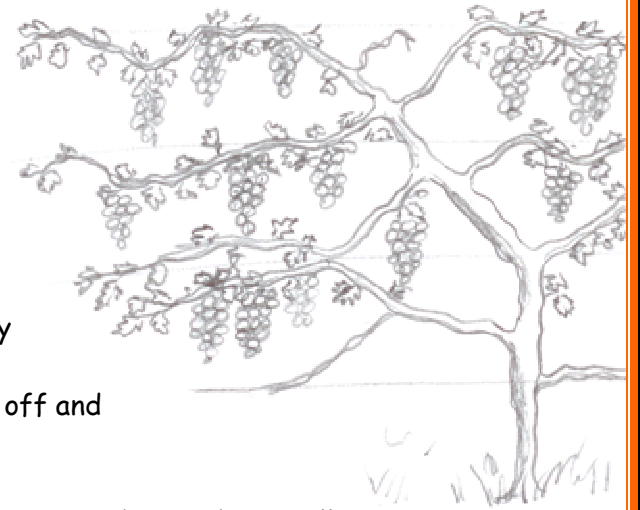
Fill in the missing words from Matthew 6:19, 20<sup>NLT</sup> "Don't store up

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
here on \_ \_ \_ \_ ,  
where moths eat  
them and rust  
destroys them,  
and where thieves  
break in and steal.  
Store your  
\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ in  
\_ \_ \_ \_ \_."



## Monday

Jesus said, "I am like a grapevine, you are the branches and my Father is the gardener. A branch cannot grow fruit if it is cut off from the vine, and any branches that do not grow fruit will be cut off and burned.



"Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce lots of good fruit. Without me you can do nothing. When you obey My commandments, you remain in My love and you will be filled with joy."

Jesus was talking about spiritual fruit, not real fruit that you can eat. Paul expanded more on this idea. In Galatians 5:22-23 Paul writes that the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Jesus said, "Beware of false people. You can tell them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act."

One day Jesus told the story of a man who planted a fig tree in his garden. Three years later, the tree had not grown any fruit so he told the gardener to rip it out. But the gardener asked for just one more year; he would give the tree extra attention and plenty of fertilizer and if it still didn't grow fruit they would destroy it after that.

## Tuesday

Last week in Pilgrims Progress, we left Christian at the house of Good-Will, the keeper of the wicket or small gate.

*Then Good-Will said, "Look before thee; does thou see this narrow way? THAT is the way thou must go; it was created by the patriarchs, prophets, Christ and His Apostles; and it is as straight as a rule can make it. This is the way thou must go."*

*"But," said Christian, "Are there no turnings nor windings, by which a stranger may lose his way?"*

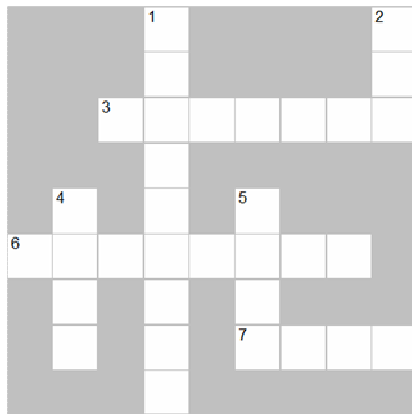
*"Yes, there are many ways that join upon this and they are crooked and wide. But by this thou mayest distinguish the right from the wrong, the right only being straight and narrow."*

Here John Bunyan is using the idea that Jesus shared in Matthew 7:14, that passing through a gate and along a road represents a person's spiritual journey. As sinful humans it is easier for us to do the wrong thing – it is easier to find a highway than a country road; and more people choose to do wrong than right - more people use highways than country roads.

Then Jesus compared house foundations to people's spiritual foundations. Fill in the missing words to learn how to build a good spiritual foundation.

Luke 11:28, "But even more \_\_\_\_\_ (3 across) are all who \_\_\_\_\_ (5 down) the \_\_\_\_\_ (4d) of \_\_\_\_\_ (2d) and put it into practice."

David called God his, "\_\_\_\_\_ (7a) and my \_\_\_\_\_ (1d), my \_\_\_\_\_ (6a) where I will never be shaken." Putting God first in our lives and trusting God is the key to a good foundation.



## Wednesday

Read John 15:5, 6



Who does the vine represent? \_\_\_\_\_

Who do branches represent? \_\_\_\_\_

Read Galatians 5:22, 23

What does the fruit represent? \_\_\_\_\_

What happens to a real branch if it is broken off from the tree?

What happens to a person when they are not connected to God?  
(See John 15:5)

Read the story of the fig tree in Luke 13:6-9

In this object lesson the tree represents a person who does not have the Fruit of the Spirit yet. Why was the tree allowed more time?  
(Read 2 Peter 3:9 for a clue)

