

Aim:**Refer:****Resources:** Pictures of Pilgrims Progress are available here: <http://www.bunyanministries.org/>**Pilgrims Progress Continues:**

I saw then in my dream that they went till they came into a certain country, whose air naturally tended to make one drowsy, if he was not used to it. Here Hopeful began to be very dull and heavy of sleep; wherefore he said unto Christian, "I do now begin to grow so drowsy that I can scarcely hold up mine eyes; let us lie down here and take one nap."

"By no means," said the other; "Lest, sleeping, we never awake more. Do you not remember that one of the Shepherds bid us beware of the Enchanted Ground? He meant by that, that we should beware of sleeping; 'Therefore let us not sleep, as do others, but let us watch and be sober.'"

Then Hopeful said, "I acknowledge myself in a fault; and had I been here alone, I would have slept and been in danger of death. I see it is true that the wise man says, 'Two are better than one.' Your company has saved me and thou shalt have a good reward for thy labour."

Do you know the parable that Jesus told, about the wise and foolish bridesmaids?

It is a parable that Jesus told to teach about people waiting for Jesus to come back. We will learn more about it next term. The groom too so long to come, what did the bridesmaids do while they waited and nothing was happening?

Read Matthew 25:5**Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-10**

It's much easier to remember to spend time with God when we want things, or when exciting things are happening at church, or even when difficult things are happening to us, but there is a bigger temptation to forget to spend time with God when things are easy and relaxed. Having Christian friends to do Bible study with, meeting together for Sabbath School and Church, help us to be spiritually awake.

"Now then," said Christian, "To prevent drowsiness in this place, let us start a good discussion. Where shall we begin?"

"Where God began with us," said Hopeful. "But do you begin, if you please."

Christian replied, "I will sing you first this song—

"When saints do sleepy grow, let them come hither,

And hear how these two pilgrims talk together:

Yea, let them learn of them, in any wise,

Thus to keep open their drowsy slumb'ring eyes.

Saints' fellowship, if it be managed well,

Keeps them awake, and that in spite of hell."

Then Christian said to Hopeful, "I will ask you a question. How came you to think at first of so doing as you do now?"

Hopeful asked, "Do you mean, how came I at first to look after the good of my soul?"

"Yes," said Christian, "That is my meaning."

Hopeful said, "I continued a great while in the delight of those things which were seen and sold at our fair; things which, I believe now, would have, had I continued in them still, drowned me in destruction."

"What things were they?"

"All the treasures and riches of the world," said Hopeful. "Also I delighted much in rioting, revelling, drinking, swearing, lying, uncleanness, Sabbath-breaking, and what not, that tended to destroy the soul. But I found at last, by hearing and considering of things that are Divine, which indeed I heard of you, as also of beloved Faithful, that was put to death for his faith and good living in Vanity Fair, that 'the end of these things is death.'"

Christian asked, "And did you presently fall under the power of this conviction?"

Hopeful replied, "No, I was not willing at first to recognise the evil of sin, or the condemnation that follows; but tried to shut mine eyes against the light of the Word."

"But why," asked Christian?

Hopeful said, "I was ignorant that this was the work of God upon me. I never thought that by awakenings for sin, God at first begins the conversion of a sinner. Sin was yet very sweet to me and didn't want to leave it. I could not tell how to part with mine old companions; their presence and actions were so desirable unto me. And when I thought of my sins, I was so troubled I did not want to think about it anymore. And then sometimes I would forget and would be happy and carefree again."

And so they continued their discussion as they walked over the enchanted ground.

Notice that Hopeful said, 'Sin was very sweet to me.' –

Romans 5 talks about how Adam's sin brought sin to everyone. And also that the purpose of the law was to show us our sin. Because of Adam's sin, it is easy for us to sin, and easy for us to like sin. It is only with God's help that this can be different.

In John 16 Jesus talked about the work of the Holy Spirit. **Read John 16:8** (He will convict of sin)

So should be praying that God will show us the things in our lives that He needs to work on. And also praying that we will not become spiritually sleepy. And I encourage you to take time every day to pray and read your Bibles, do your Bible lessons or read Bible stories.

TURN OVER TO CONTINUE

Going back to the story of Lazarus death, discuss the following:

- How do you think Mary and Martha were feeling when Lazarus first became sick?
- How do you think they were feeling when Jesus didn't come straight away?
- How did they feel when Jesus finally did come?
- What did Jesus say when the message came that Lazarus was sick? **Read John 11:4**

A few things to note:

- When Jesus came to the tomb He cried – Jesus is sad when we are sad. John 11:34-35
- Is there any mention of Lazarus saying anything after about what it was like to be dead he came back to life? (No)
Many Christians believe that when a person dies, they go straight to heaven, but as Seventh-day Adventists, we believe that the Bible teaches that death is like a sleep – when a person wakes from sleeping, they don't immediately know how much time has passed or what might have happened while they were asleep.

Read John 11:11-14

Now Read what Solomon wrote in **Ecclesiastes 9:5-6** (the dead know nothing)

If there is extra time, look at the other discuss topics in the lesson program.