



ROYAL RANGERS
BIBLE STUDY
LESSONS

VOLUME 3

FOUNDATIONS FOR SPIRIT-FILLED LIVING

Acknowledgment

Special thanks to Paul Feller for writing the lessons in this booklet.

Instructions to the Commander

1. Each commander must complete the courses in advance. There are no answer sheets.
2. Provide *Bible Study Lessons* for everyone in the outpost group. Assign the lesson to be completed that week. Encourage the boys to take the lesson home and work on it by themselves. (The younger age groups may need help from their moms or dads.)
3. Have the boys return the lesson at the very next meeting. Give recognition to those completing the lesson each week. Keep interest high by making weekly reports to the outpost group on those doing good work.
4. During the Bible study period, review each question and give the correct answer. Let the boys grade their own lessons. This will give the fellows a chance to review each lesson and will also save the commander a lot of valuable time.
5. Scripture verses in this manual and in the Advancement Trail can be quoted by the Rangers from the NIV or KJV.

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2nd Printing 1997
Revised 1995

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Printed in the United States of America

Royal Rangers
Bible Study Lessons
Volume 3

Prepared by
Royal Rangers
Men's Ministries Department

Gospel Publishing House
Springfield, Missouri
02-0708

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Section One

Geography

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Subject: Geography

Lesson 1: The Land of Palestine

With this lesson we start a new series of lessons where we will search the Bible to see what we can learn concerning the world in which we live. Some of the areas we will study are plant life, animal life, birds, and geography.

Since most of the events in the Bible take place in the land of Palestine and the surrounding areas, let us see what kind of land Palestine is.

1. "The land you are crossing the Jordan to take possession of is a land of _____ and _____ that drinks _____ from heaven" (Deuteronomy 11:11).
2. Deuteronomy 8:7 describes it as "a land with _____ and _____ of water, with _____ flowing in the _____ and _____."
3. It is "a land with _____ and _____, _____ and _____ trees, _____, _____ and _____" (Deuteronomy 8:8).
4. "A land where bread will not be scarce and you will lack nothing; a land where the rocks are _____ and you can dig _____ out of the hills" (Deuteronomy 8:9).
5. "They wandered in _____ and _____, and in _____ and _____ in the ground" (Hebrews 11:38).
6. "Jesus was led by the Spirit into the _____ to be tempted by the devil" (Matthew 4:1).

The words that we have just filled in tell us quite a bit about the geographical features of Palestine, which includes the land of Israel. There are mountains, hills, valleys, rivers, springs, wildernesses, deserts, and caves in Palestine. Palestine was a land that could grow plenty of food.

The following Scripture verses speak of four seas connected with Palestine. Two of these seas are within the land, and two form borders for the land. The two seas within the land are the Salt Sea (now known as the Dead Sea) and the Sea of Galilee. The two seas that form borders are the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea. Locate these seas on a map.

7. "Their southern boundary started from the bay at the southern end of the _____" (Joshua 15:2).
8. "As Jesus walked beside the Sea of _____, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake" (Mark 1:16).
9. "I will establish your borders from the _____ to the _____ [another name for the Mediterranean Sea], and from the desert to the River" (Exodus 23:31).

Subject: Geography

Lesson 2: Mountains (Part A)

When mountains are mentioned we think of towering peaks reaching high above the clouds, sheer cliffs thousands of feet high, and streams of water rushing over precipices with a roar and falling in thundering tones on rocks hundreds of feet below. Who formed these towering giants of rock with their beauty and might? Amos gives us the answer in his book, Amos 4:13, "He who forms the _____, creates the wind, . . . the Lord God _____ is his name."

In last week's lesson we learned there are mountains in the lands of the Bible. Some of these mountains are tall and rugged while others are smaller, like hills. Several of these mountains have become famous because of the events that took place on them. In this lesson we want to learn the names of these mountains and the events they are known for. Locate these mountains on a map.

Mountains of Ararat

1. Why did God send the Flood (Genesis 6:5,11,13)? _____
2. Why was Noah saved (Genesis 6:9; 7:1)? _____
3. Why are the mountains of Ararat known today (Genesis 8:4)? _____

Mount Sinai

Mount Sinai is known today because God spoke to a man and gave this man something. Read Exodus 19:9 to 20:20 and 24:9-18.

4. What was the name of the man? _____
5. What did God give to this man? _____
6. What was the Law written on? _____

When God came down on Mount Sinai, several phenomena happened. What were they?

7. "On the morning of the third day there was _____ and _____, with a _____ over the mountain, and a very loud _____" (Exodus 19:16).
8. "Mount Sinai was _____ with _____, because the Lord descended on it in _____. The _____ billowed up from it like smoke from a _____, the whole mountain _____" (Exodus 19:18).

Subject: Geography

Lesson 3: Mountains (Part B)

In last week's lesson we studied two mountains that have become famous. We found that the mountains of Ararat are known because the ark, built by Noah, landed on one of them at the end of the Flood. Mount Sinai is known because the Ten Commandments were given to Moses on that mount. In this lesson, we want to look at two more mountains. They are Mount Carmel and Mount Olivet (also called the Mount of Olives). Locate these mountains on a map.

Mount Carmel

Mount Carmel came into the picture at a time when many of God's people had quit worshipping Him and started to worship Baal. One prophet of God met with 450 prophets of Baal for a contest. Turn to 1 Kings 18:17-40 and read the account of this contest. Now answer the following questions.

1. What was the purpose of this contest (verse 21)? _____
2. How were the people to know who was the real God (verse 24)? _____
3. How long did the prophets of Baal pray (verses 26,29)? _____
4. How long did Elijah pray (verses 36-38)? _____
5. Who answered by fire (verses 29,38)? _____
6. What did the fire consume (verse 38)? _____
7. Who proved to be the real God (verse 39)? _____

Mount Olivet

The Mount of Olives is known for three reasons. First, it is known because Jesus prayed there the night of His betrayal. Read about His prayer in Luke 22:39-46.

8. Jesus prayed so intensely that His sweat was not normal. What did Jesus sweat as He prayed? _____

Second, it is from this mountain that Jesus ascended into heaven.

9. Acts 1:9 says, "After he said this, he was _____ before their very eyes, and a _____ hid him from their sight."

Third, it is the mount on which Jesus will stand when He returns to earth to reign. Read Zechariah 14:4.

10. What will happen to the mount at this time? _____

Subject: Geography

Lesson 4: Caves

In the first lesson of this series we learned that Palestine is a land of mountains, hills, and valleys. Since Palestine is a mountainous country, a person would expect to find some caves. Searching the Bible, we find there are caves in Palestine. Let us see if we can obtain some idea of the sizes of these caves and the purposes that they were used for.

Sizes of the Caves

1. First Kings 18:4 says, "While Jezebel was killing off the Lord's prophets, Obadiah had taken a hundred prophets and hidden them in two _____."
2. "David left Gath and escaped to the _____" (1 Samuel 22:1).
3. How many men joined David at this cave (1 Samuel 22:2)? _____
4. "He came to the sheep pens along the way; a _____ was there, and Saul went in to relieve himself. _____ and his _____ were far back in the _____" (1 Samuel 24:3).
5. How many men did David have at this time (1 Samuel 23:13)? _____

The first cave was large enough for approximately 50 men to live in. The second cave was large enough for 400 or more men to live in. The third cave was large enough for at least 600 men to hide in so that they could not be seen or heard by anyone near the entrance of the cave.

Uses of the Caves

Listed in the left column below are three ways that caves were used. Several Scripture verses are listed in the right column, and each verse tells a way that caves were used. Read a Scripture verse on the right, then place the number of that verse in the space provided at the end of the statement on the left that describes that use.

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| Caves were used as a place to hide. _____ | 1. Genesis 23:19 |
| Caves were used as a place to live. _____ | 2. 1 Samuel 13:6 |
| Caves were used as a place to bury the dead. _____ | 3. Joshua 10:16 |
| | 4. 1 Kings 19:9 |
| | 5. John 11:38 |
| | 6. 1 Kings 18:4 |
| | 7. Genesis 50:13 |
| | 8. Job 30:6 |
| | 9. Genesis 19:30 |

Subject: Geography

Lesson 5: Valleys

In our lessons thus far, we have studied the mountains and caves of Palestine. In this lesson we want to turn our attention to the valleys.

The valleys of Palestine were very fertile and produced good crops. The following verses will tell us what some of these crops were.

1. "The people of Beth Shemesh were harvesting their _____ in the valley" (1 Samuel 6:13).
2. "I went down to the grove of nut trees to look at the new growth in the valley, to see if the _____ had budded or the _____ were in bloom" (Song of Songs 6:11).
3. "When they reached the Valley of Eshcol, they cut off a branch bearing a single cluster of _____. Two of them carried it on a pole between them, along with some _____ and _____" (Numbers 13:23).
4. "It will be as when a reaper gathers the standing _____ and harvests the grain with his arm" (Isaiah 17:5).
5. "A land with _____ and _____, _____ and _____, _____, _____ and _____" (Deuteronomy 8:8).

Due to the hilly and mountainous terrain of the land, most of the battles were fought in the valleys. The armies would set up their camps on the hills on each side of a valley and fight in the valley where it would be level enough to use horses and chariots. One of the best known battles is recorded in 1 Samuel 17. Read this chapter.

6. Where did Saul and his army camp (verse 2)? _____
7. Where did the Philistines camp (verse 3)? _____
8. What valley was between them (verse 2)? _____
9. Who challenged the army of Israel (verse 8)? _____
10. Who accepted the challenge for Israel (verse 32)? _____
11. What was the outcome of this battle (verse 50)? _____

Second Kings records another strange battle. Read 2 Kings 3.

12. What did the kings of Israel, Judah, and Edom need for their armies (verse 9)? _____
13. What did the Lord tell them to do (verse 16)? _____
14. What did the Moabites think the ditches of water were (verses 22,23)? _____
15. What was the outcome of the battle (verse 24)? _____

Section Two

Birds

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Subject: Birds

Lesson 1: Eagles (Part A)

In the past five lessons we have studied the geographical aspects of the land of Palestine. Starting with this lesson, we want to turn our attention to the wildlife mentioned in the Bible. We will begin with a study of birds. In our study of birds, we will not only learn about some of their habits and characteristics, but we will also learn spiritual lessons. The first bird we will study is the eagle.

Members of the eagle family are found in many countries. Three members of the eagle family—the golden eagle, the bald eagle, and the sea eagle—are found in the United States. The bald eagle (our national bird) is found only in North America, while only a few sea eagles are seen in North America. The golden eagle is found not only in North America, but it is also found in many other countries, including Palestine.

The Eagle's Nesting Place

Job 39:28 says, “[The eagle] dwells on a _____ and stays there at night; a rocky crag is his _____.”

The eagle, as this verse states, picks a high, inaccessible place to build its nest and raise its young. In mountainous regions, the nest is located on a high cliff that cannot be reached from either above or below. In regions without mountains, the eagle builds its nest near the top of a tall tree, usually the tallest tree available. The eagle seems to know it is much easier and safer to build its nest away from danger and enemies.

We can learn a lesson from the eagle. It is much easier to live a Christian life if we keep away from sin and temptation. If you choose boys who smoke, drink, and are trouble-makers to be your best friends, it will be much harder to live a Christian life than if you choose Christian boys to be your best friends. The Bible warns us against evil companions. Let us see what it says.

1. “Do not set foot on the _____ of the _____ or walk in the _____ of _____” (Proverbs 4:14).
2. “My son, if _____ you, do not give in to them” (Proverbs 1:10).
3. “My son, do not _____ with [sinners], do not set foot on their _____” (Proverbs 1:15).
4. “Avoid _____ kind of _____” (1 Thessalonians 5:22).
5. “Blessed is the man who _____ in the counsel of the _____ or _____ in the way of _____ or _____ in the seat of _____” (Psalm 1:1).

Subject: Birds

Lesson 2: Eagles (Part B)

The eagle's habit of building its nest high above its enemies and danger was the subject of last week's lesson. We learned it is better to avoid sin and evil rather than trying to overcome the temptation to sin, which comes from associating with it. In this lesson, we want to study the eagle's eyesight and see what it teaches us.

The Eagle's Eyesight

"From there he seeks out his food; his eyes detect it from afar" (Job 39:29).

The writer of Job speaks of the eagle's marvelous eyesight. The eagle has such keen sight that while flying hundreds of feet in the air, the eagle can see a rabbit. Not only can the eagle see at great distances, but it can also see the fleas and insects that sometimes get on the eaglets (young eagles). The sharp eyesight make it possible for the eagle to pick off these insects without harming the eaglets.

Although the eagle has tremendous eyesight, there is one who has better eyesight. To learn about this, complete the following verses.

1. "My [God's] _____ are on all their _____; they are not _____ from me, nor is their _____ from my _____" (Jeremiah 16:17).
2. "The _____ of the _____ are everywhere, keeping watch on the _____ and the _____" (Proverbs 15:3).

A boy was taking a test at school. Since he had not studied, he could not answer the questions. A glance showed the teacher's back was turned. Quickly he looked around the room. Seeing no one was watching, he pulled out the piece of paper on which he had written the information he needed. Finding the answers on the paper, he completed the test. He felt pretty good. He was certain that no one had seen him.

Read the Scripture verses and answer the following questions.

3. Did anyone see him (Jeremiah 23:24)? _____
4. If someone saw him, who was it? _____
5. Does God see all the sins we commit (Jeremiah 16:17)? _____
6. Will it help if we cover our sins (Proverbs 28:13)? _____
7. Is it possible to hide from God (Jeremiah 23:24)? _____
8. What should the boy in our story do about his sin (Proverbs 28:13)? _____ and _____
9. What should we do about our sins? _____ and _____
10. If the boy confesses and renounces his sin, what will Jesus do (1 John 1:9)? _____ and _____
11. Will Jesus do the same for us? _____

Subject: Birds

Lesson 3: Eagles (Part C)

Thus far in our study of the eagle we have learned two characteristics of the eagle. In the first lesson, we discovered the eagle always builds its nest high above dangers and enemies. From this characteristic of the eagle, we learned we should avoid temptation and sin. In the second lesson, we learned the eagle has tremendous eyesight. This reminded us that God's eyesight is even better, and He can see all we do. We are continuing our study of the eagle by studying the eagle's speed while flying.

The Eagle's Swiftness of Flight

The eagle is one of the fastest birds. Many times in the Bible when the writers wanted to show the speed that an event would take place, they compared the speed of the event with the speed of the eagle. This is what Moses did in Deuteronomy 28:49, "The Lord will bring a nation against you from far away, from the ends of the earth, like an _____ down." The speed that the eagle power-dives on its prey is amazing.

As we watch the eagle mount up in the sky, we think of a time when we also will rise in the air, only much faster. This event is called the Rapture. Let us see how fast the Rapture will take place, who will be taken in the Rapture, and when it will take place.

How Fast Will the Rapture Take Place?

1. "We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a _____, in the _____ of an _____, at the last _____. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed" (1 Corinthians 15:51,52).

Who Will Be Taken in the Rapture?

2. Those who _____ (Hebrews 9:28).
3. Those who are _____ (Matthew 24:44).

When Will the Rapture Take Place?

4. Do we know the day and the hour? _____ (Matthew 24:36).
5. Could the Rapture take place soon? _____ (James 5:8; Revelation 22:20).

Bible scholars tell us Jesus could return at any time. Since no one knows exactly what day or hour Jesus is coming, the only way we can be certain we will be ready is to be ready at all times. The important question is *are you ready?* If not, why don't you ask your commander or pastor to help you get ready.

Subject: Birds

Lesson 4: Vultures (Part A)

In the last three lessons we have learned some valuable lessons as we studied the eagle. With this lesson, we will turn our attention to the vulture and see what lessons this bird can teach us.

One of the first things that is noticeable about the vulture is its ability to soar. The vulture is able to find updrafts of air and rise thousands of feet up in the air without flapping its wings. By making use of the air currents, the vulture can soar and glide for hours as it looks for food.

Although the vulture has keen eyesight and a great flying ability, there are some paths that it cannot see or use. Turn to Job 28:7: "There is a path which no fowl knoweth, and which the vulture's eye hath not seen" (KJV). The path Job is speaking about in this verse is probably the paths and tunnels that miners make as they mine gold, silver, and other metals and precious stones. The Bible also speaks of the road to heaven, which only Christians know about and walk upon. Let us see what the Bible tells us about this road that vultures cannot see.

What Kind of Road Is It?

Unscramble the word and place it in the blank. If you need help, look up the verse that is given.

1. The road to heaven is (raorwn) _____ (Matthew 7:14).
2. The road is called the Way of (nloieshs) _____ (Isaiah 35:8).
3. The path of the (gthirsoue) _____ is level (Isaiah 26:7).
4. It is the path of God's (scmmonda) _____ (Psalm 119:35).
5. The road will lead us to (iefl) _____ (Matthew 7:14).

Who Can Travel on this Road?

6. The road to heaven is for the (meeeerdd) _____ (Isaiah 35:9).
7. It is a highway of the (gpirhut) _____ (Proverbs 16:17).
8. We must (vdoia vlei) _____ to walk this road (Proverbs 16:17).

How Will We Know the Way?

9. God will make (nnowk) _____ the path of life (Psalm 16:11).
10. God will (uiedg) _____ us in the paths of righteousness (Psalm 23:3).
11. The Lord will (lelt) _____ us the way (Isaiah 30:21).
12. God will make our paths (triaghst) _____ (Proverbs 3:6).
13. God will (ceaht) _____ us His ways (Isaiah 2:3).

Subject: Birds

Lesson 5: Vultures (Part B)

The vulture builds its nest in the wilderness. Isaiah 34:13,15 gives a description of the vulture's nesting and roosting place: "Thorns shall come up in her palaces, nettles and brambles in the fortresses thereof: and it shall be a habitation of dragons, and a court for owls. . . . There shall the great owl make her nest, and lay, and hatch, and gather under her shadow: there shall the vultures also be gathered, every one with her mate" (KJV).

The Vulture's Eyesight

Each morning the search for food begins. The vulture locates food by using its keen eyesight. Although the vulture may be flying hundreds of feet in the air, it is able to see even the smallest animal. When a dead animal has been found, the vulture soars in circles, slowly descending toward the ground. When the vulture determines it is safe, it lands and starts to eat. Although no other vulture has been visible to the human eye in any direction, other vultures are soon winging their way to the meal. They had seen the descent of the first vulture and knew a meal had been found.

The Vulture's Willingness to Share

As each new vulture arrives, it joins the others in the meal. There is no fighting. The vulture that located the food willingly shares it with all newcomers. They eat together peacefully.

We can learn a lesson from the vulture's willingness to share. Let us see what the Bible says about sharing.

With Whom Should We Share?

1. "If your _____ is hungry, give him _____ to eat; if he is thirsty, give him _____ to drink" (Proverbs 25:21).
2. "He who gives to the _____ will lack nothing" (Proverbs 28:27).
3. "Give to the _____ who _____, and do not turn away from the _____ who wants to _____ from you" (Matthew 5:42).
4. "In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must _____" (Acts 20:35).

What Are the Results of Sharing?

5. "_____, and it will be _____ to you. A good measure, _____ down, _____ together and _____ over" (Luke 6:38).
6. "It is more _____ to _____ than to _____" (Acts 20:35).

Subject: Birds

Lesson 6: Owls

Owls usually live and nest in wooded areas. However, an owl will sometimes nest in a barn. Isaiah describes the owl's usual choice of a place to live. Isaiah 34:13 says, "_____ will overrun her citadels, nettles and brambles her strongholds. She will become a haunt for _____, a home for _____." For a nest, most owls use a hollow tree or an abandoned crow's or hawk's nest. However, the burrowing owls of the plains nest in burrows in the ground.

The owl, a bird of prey, does most of its hunting at night. The owl can see in the daytime, however, and sometimes hunts in the daylight hours. The wings and feathers of this bird are made in such a way that the owl does not make any noise while flying. The noiseless flight of the owl leaves its prey completely unaware of the owl's presence until it is too late.

Down through the years, the owl has generally become known as a symbol of wisdom. We can learn a lesson from this feathered friend. Let us see what the Bible tells us about being wise.

The Bible Tells Us To Be Wise

1. "Listen to my instruction and be _____; do not ignore it" (Proverbs 8:33).
2. "Therefore be as _____ [wise] as snakes and as innocent as doves" (Matthew 10:16).

The Bible Defines Wisdom

3. "The _____ of the Lord—that is _____, and to shun evil is understanding" (Job 28:28).
4. "He who _____ souls is _____" (Proverbs 11:30).

The Bible Tells Us How To Become Wise

5. "If any of you _____, he should _____ God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it _____" (James 1:5).
6. "Everyone who _____ these words of mine and puts them into _____ is like a _____ man who built his house on the rock" (Matthew 7:24).
7. "From infancy you have known the _____, which are able to make you _____ for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 3:15).
8. "The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, _____ the simple" (Psalm 19:7).

Subject: Birds

Lesson 7: Peacocks

The peacock is the largest bird of the pheasant family. It is found in India and Ceylon, although it has been imported into many different countries. Solomon, like many other kings, brought peacocks to his palace for display. First Kings 10:22 says, "Once in three years came the navy of Tharshish, bringing gold, and silver, ivory, and apes, and peacocks" (KJV).

Peacocks roost in trees but build their nests on the ground. If you try to approach a peacock, you will soon find they have an unfriendly disposition and a harsh, disagreeable voice.

The most outstanding thing about the peacock is its beautiful feathers. These feathers are known around the world. The peacock's coverts (tail feathers) are striking. On each covert are colorful markings that look like eyes. These tail feathers can be raised and spread out like a fan thus displaying the eye-like markings. When they display their tail feathers, peacocks also strut around, giving the impression of great pride. Due to these actions the peacock has become a symbol of pride and vanity.

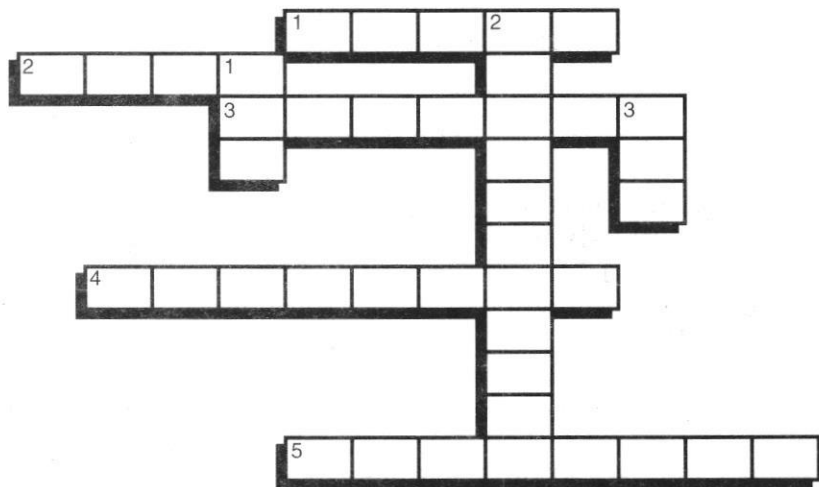
Let us see what the Bible teaches us about pride. Complete the following crossword puzzle.

Across

1. What is one thing that God hates (Proverbs 8:13)?
2. What does a haughty spirit go before (Proverbs 6:18)?
3. What does God do to the proud (James 4:6)?
4. What comes with pride (Proverbs 11:2)?
5. A man's heart is proud before his _____ (Proverbs 18:12).

Down

1. Where does a man's pride bring him (Proverbs 29:23)?
2. What does pride go before (Proverbs 16:18)?
3. What is a proud heart (Proverbs 21:4)?



Subject: Birds

Lesson 8: Ravens

The raven is completely black in color, measures 2 feet long, and has a wing span of approximately 4 feet. They are most abundant in rocky districts near the banks of lakes and rivers. The raven's senses are very keen, making the bird so wary and cunning that it is rarely caught in traps or shot by hunters. When they are caught, they can be tamed by kindness. The raven can be taught to imitate the human voice. They can pronounce a few words with great distinctness; however, their natural note is a deep, hoarse croak.

The raven is first mentioned in the Bible in connection with its flying ability. Genesis 8:7 says that Noah "sent out a raven, and it kept flying back and forth until the water had dried up from the earth." The raven can do flying stunts as well as make long flights. They have been observed flying upside down for brief moments under favorable conditions.

A second incident in the Bible tells of the raven's obedience to God. First Kings 17:4,6 says, "I have _____ the _____ to feed you there.' . . . The _____ brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook." We should also obey God. Let us see what the Bible tells us about obedience.

1. "Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may _____ everything written in it" (Joshua 1:8).
2. "Not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord," will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who _____ the will of my Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 7:21).
3. "Blessed are those who _____, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the _____" (Revelation 22:14).

Great Men of the Bible Obeyed God

4. "Noah did _____ just as God _____ him" (Genesis 6:22).
5. "As the _____ commanded his servant Moses, so Moses commanded Joshua, and Joshua _____" (Joshua 11:15).
6. "So then, King Agrippa, I [Paul] was _____ to the vision from heaven" (Acts 26:19).

Will you commit your life to God and do what He asks you to do?

Subject: Birds

Lesson 9: Sparrows

There are many different kinds of sparrows. Each kind of sparrow has its own favorite place to build its nest. The nesting place may be in a tree, in a birdhouse, on the ground, in bushes, under the eaves of a house, or any number of other places. Two unusual places are mentioned in the Bible. Psalm 84:3 says, "Even the _____ has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may have her young—a place near your altar, O Lord Almighty, my King and my God." Psalm 102:7 says, "I watch, and am as a sparrow alone upon the housetop" (KJV).

Sparrows must be on constant guard so their natural enemies do not destroy their young. Therefore, it is important for them to choose their nesting places wisely. As long as the sparrow stays in its nest, it is quite safe.

Do you know that is the way it is for Christians? Satan, our enemy, is waiting to attack us. But as long as we stay close to God and serve Him, God protects us. Isaiah tells us this in the 59th chapter and 19th verse of his book, "When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him" (KJV). Throughout the Scriptures, there are promises that tell of God's protection and watch over us. The following are a few of them.

1. "The eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose _____ are fully _____ to him" (2 Chronicles 16:9).
2. "The _____ of the _____ around those who fear him, and _____ them" (Psalm 34:7).
3. "He will _____ with his feathers, and under his wings you will _____" (Psalm 91:4).
4. "So do not fear, for _____; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will _____ you and _____ you; I will _____ you with my righteous right hand" (Isaiah 41:10).
5. "You will not _____ the _____ of night, nor the _____ that flies by day" (Psalm 91:5).
6. "When you lie down, you will not be _____; when you lie down, your _____ will be _____" (Proverbs 3:24).

Subject: Birds

Lesson 10: Pelicans

Three of the 10 different species of pelicans are native to the United States. These three species are the white, the brown, and the California pelicans. The pelican is a large bird. It weighs up to 16 pounds and measures from 4 to 6 feet in length with a wingspan of 8 to 9 feet. They are easily distinguished by the great membranous pouch attached to the throat and lower jaw. They use this pouch as a fishing net.

The white pelican flies low over the water, scooping up fish that are swimming near the surface. After draining off the water, it swallows the fish. Another method the white pelican uses to secure fish is to drive the fish to shallow water. They do this by forming a long line and beating the water with their wings as they advance toward the shore. The fish are easily scooped up from the shallow water. The brown pelican flies about 20 feet above the water, power-diving into the water to catch any fish it sees.

Although the pelican is large, it is not equipped to protect its young. Therefore, they choose uninhabited coastal areas and islands as a place to live. Here they build their nests, a rude heap of earth and trash. Due to the lonely places that they live in, the pelican has become a symbol of loneliness and solitude.

Complete the following verses and see why Christians will never be lonely.

1. "Do not _____, for I am _____ you; do not be _____, for I am your God. I will _____ you and _____ you; I will _____ you with my _____ right hand" (Isaiah 41:10).
2. "Surely I am _____, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:20).
3. "Never will I _____ you; never will I _____ you" (Hebrews 13:5).
4. "Though my father and mother _____ me, the _____ will _____ me" (Psalm 27:10).
5. "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes _____; he will never _____ you nor _____ you" (Deuteronomy 31:6).

Christians will never be completely alone because God has promised to never leave them. The Lord will be with them in school, at work, and even on the battlefield.

Subject: Birds

Lesson 11: Doves (Part A)

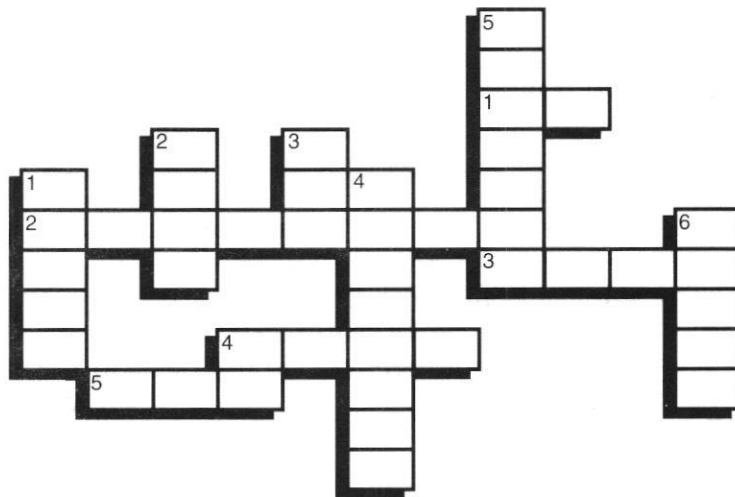
Doves are members of the pigeon family. There are many varieties of them; several are mentioned in the Bible. They have many different nesting places. Some of these nesting places are the lower branches of trees, bushes, cacti, dense brier thickets, on the ground, and on cliffs. The nest is usually quite flat and not too well built. A person wonders why the eggs do not roll out of the nest.

Doves are known for their cooing sound. This call may suggest hopeless sorrow to one who is sad, or it may suggest tender love and devotion to one who is in love. What the call suggests depends on the mood of the listener. Some of the other characteristics of the dove are its swift flight, the sharp whistling sound made by its wings while flying, and its gentleness. Doves have been observed for years. Throughout this time, people have noticed the unusual gentleness of this bird. Thus, the dove has become a symbol of gentleness and peace.

The Scripture verses used in the crossword puzzle below tell us of the qualities of peacefulness. Complete the puzzle and see what the verses tell us.

Across

1. The letters used in the Assemblies of God emblem.
2. If possible we should live at peace with _____ (Romans 12:18).
3. "_____ at peace with everyone" (Romans 12:18).
4. What should we be to everyone (2 Timothy 2:24)?
5. Peacemakers will be called the sons of whom (Matthew 5:9)?



Down

1. We should make every effort to live in what (Hebrews 12:14)?
2. Psalm 34:14 says to "_____ peace and pursue it."
3. What will the promoters of peace have (Proverbs 12:20)?
4. No one will see the Lord without what (Hebrews 12:14)?
5. What must the servant of the Lord not do (2 Timothy 2:24)?
6. We should live at _____ with everyone (Romans 12:18).

Subject: Birds

Lesson 12: Doves (Part B)

In our last lesson we learned that the dove is a symbol of peace and gentleness. When an artist wants to represent peace, all he needs to do is draw a picture of a dove with an olive branch in its mouth. A picture like this reminds us of Noah and the Flood. At the end of the Flood, Noah let a dove out of the window of the ark. The last time the dove returned, it carried an _____ (Genesis 8:11) in its mouth. Thus Noah knew the Flood was almost over and peace had returned to the earth.

To the Christian the dove has also become a symbol of the Holy Spirit. The reason for this is found in Matthew 3:16, "As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the _____ descending like a _____ and lighting on him." When early Christians saw a dove they were reminded of their helper, the Holy Spirit. Let us see how the Holy Spirit can help us.

The Holy Spirit Will Teach Us

1. "The Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will _____ you all things and will _____ you of _____ I have said to you" (John 14:26).
2. "When he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will _____ you into all _____" (John 16:13).
3. "The Holy Spirit will _____ you at that time what you should say" (Luke 12:12).

The Holy Spirit Will Help Us Pray

4. "In the same way, the _____ us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the _____ himself _____ for _____ with groans that words cannot express" (Romans 8:26).

The Holy Spirit Will Give Us Power to Witness

5. "You will receive _____ when the _____ comes on you; and you will be my _____" (Acts 1:8).
6. "Stay in the city until you have been clothed with _____ from on high" (Luke 24:49).

Have you received the power and help the Holy Spirit can give you? If you have not, why don't you ask the Lord to fill you right now?

Subject: Birds

Lesson 13: Cuckoos

The cuckoo is mentioned twice in the King James Version of the Bible. It is mentioned once in Leviticus 11:16 and once in Deuteronomy 14:15.

The cuckoo is a parasite. They have a lazy way about them when it comes to raising their young. In fact, they do not raise their young but let some other bird do this for them. The cuckoo will slip into another bird's nest and lay its eggs while the other bird is away. The cuckoo will then fly away, leaving the job of raising the young to the other bird.

Did you know there are some people like this? They never want to work for themselves. They are living off other people. If people will not give them things, they steal them. A Royal Ranger should never be a parasite but should always do his part. Let us see what the Bible says about working and helping others.

Working

1. "He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must _____, doing something _____ with his own hands, that he may have something to _____ with those in _____" (Ephesians 4:28).
2. "Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to _____ with your _____, just as we told you" (1 Thessalonians 4:11).
3. "Even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: 'If a _____, he _____'" (2 Thessalonians 3:10).
4. "Whatever your hand finds to do, _____" (Ecclesiastes 9:10).

Helping Others

In the story of the Good Samaritan, Jesus tells us we should help others who are in need. Read the story in Luke 10:30–37 and answer the following true or false questions. (Circle T for True or F for False.)

5. All the men who passed by helped the wounded man. T F
6. The Samaritan bound up the wounds. T F
7. The Samaritan took the man to an inn and left right away. T F
8. The Samaritan paid the bill because he knew he would get his money back. T F

Subject: Birds

Lesson 14: God Cares for the Birds

With this lesson we will bring our study of birds to an end. In the last 13 studies we have considered nine of the many different kinds of birds. In each study we have learned a valuable lesson. In this one we will learn of God's care for the birds and His care for us.

Have you ever noticed the large flocks of birds that fly south each fall and return again each spring? Some of these birds fly only a few hundred miles. Other birds fly thousands of miles. One species of birds travel approximately 18,000 miles each year. These birds can leave their nests in the fall, fly thousands of miles, and return to the same nest in the spring without the aid of a compass or map. This is a God-given ability.

God did not stop with giving the birds these abilities; He cares for them too. Complete the following verses and learn of God's care.

1. "Look at the birds of the air; they _____ or _____ or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father _____ them" (Matthew 6:26).
2. "Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet _____ of them is _____ by God" (Luke 12:6).
3. "Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will _____ to the ground apart from the _____ of your Father" (Matthew 10:29).

God not only cares for the birds (even knowing when a sparrow dies), but He also cares for us.

4. "Don't be afraid; _____ are _____ more than many _____" (Matthew 10:31).
5. "Even the very _____ of your _____ are all numbered" (Matthew 10:30).

Below are more verses that tell of God's care for us. Complete the verses by unscrambling the words and placing them in the blanks.

6. First Peter 5:7 says, "_____ all your anxiety on him because he _____ for you." (stac) (resac)
7. Philippians 4:6 says, "Do not be _____ about anything, but in everything, by _____ and petition, with thanksgiving, _____ your requests to God." (xisoanu) (yrepar) (tnepres)
8. Psalm 37:5 says, "_____ your way to the _____; _____ in him and he will do this." (mimcot) (drol) (rstut)
9. Matthew 6:33 says, "Seek _____ his _____ and his _____, and all these things will be given to you as well." (tfris) (godmkni) (gthiesnsusero)

Section Three

Animals

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Subject: Animals

Lesson 1: Chameleon (Part A)

The chameleon is mentioned only once in the Bible. This one place is Leviticus 11:30, where it is listed as an unclean animal. However, the chameleon is an interesting animal and can teach us several lessons.

The chameleon is an Old World animal belonging to one of the families of lizards. There are no true chameleons in the United States. However, some of the North American lizards have many of the same characteristics as the chameleon.

The first thing you would probably notice while watching a chameleon is its ability to change colors. Wherever the chameleon goes it changes color to match the colors around it. After watching the chameleon as it moves from place to place, you may wonder what its true color is.

The chameleon's ability to change color reminds us of some Christians. When they are in church they act like Christians, but when they go to school they go along with the crowd and do not show their true Christian colors. You never really know what they are because they are always changing.

Complete the following to see what the Bible says about this.

1. "No servant can serve _____. Either he will _____ the one and _____ the other, or he will be devoted to the one and _____ the other. You cannot serve both _____ and _____" (Luke 16:13).
2. "You cannot drink the cup of the _____ and the cup of _____ too; you cannot have a _____ in both the _____ table and the table of _____" (1 Corinthians 10:21).

Answer the following true or false questions. (Circle T for True or F for False.)

3. The Bible says we can serve God and Satan at the same time. T F
4. We can serve God on Sunday and serve Satan during the week. T F
5. Christians serve God every day of their lives. T F

These Scripture verses teach us that it is impossible to serve God and Satan at the same time, nor can we change back and forth. Joshua knew that everyone had to decide whom they would serve, so he made his decision and gave a challenge to others to decide. Fill in the blanks to see what his decision was.

6. "If serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then _____ for yourselves this day whom you will _____. . . . But as for me and my household, we will _____ the _____" (Joshua 24:15).

Have you decided to serve God? If you have not, why not decide now?

Subject: Animals

Lesson 2: Chameleon (Part B)

Normally the sides of a chameleon have rows of pale brown patches; the rest of its body is gray-green with dark flecks. However, because of its color-changing ability, you may have to watch a long time before seeing one this color.

The chameleon hides by changing colors and blending with its surroundings. Some Christians hide their testimony this way. Instead of letting people around them know they are Christians, they try to blend in with their surroundings.

Read the following Scripture verses and fill in the blanks to find out what God wants us to do.

1. “You are the _____” (Matthew 5:14).
2. “Neither do people _____ a lamp and put it under a _____. Instead they put it on its _____, and it gives _____ to everyone in the house” (Matthew 5:15).
3. “Let your _____ before men, that they may _____ your good deeds and _____ your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:16).

These verses tell us to let our light shine before others; in other words, tell others about the love of God. We can do this in several ways. Two of these ways are mentioned below.

Witnessing

4. “Come and listen, all you who fear God; let me _____ what he _____ for me” (Psalm 66:16).
5. “My _____ will tell of your _____, of your _____ all day long” (Psalm 71:15).
6. “I will _____ of your statutes before kings and will not be put to _____” (Psalm 119:46).
7. “Go into all the world and _____ the good news to all creation” (Mark 16:15).

Good Deeds

8. “Command them to _____, to be rich in _____, and to be generous and willing to share” (1 Timothy 6:18).
9. “I was hungry and you _____, I was thirsty and you _____, I was a stranger and you _____” (Matthew 25:35).
10. “Do not forget to do _____ and to _____ with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased” (Hebrews 13:16).

Subject: Animals

Lesson 3: Chameleon (Part C)

In the last two lessons we discussed the color-changing ability of the chameleon. In this lesson we want to turn our attention to another interesting characteristic of the chameleon, its tongue.

One of the interesting aspects of the chameleon's tongue is its ability to stretch. It can extend its tongue a distance exceeding the length of its body and withdraw it at an amazing speed. Another feature of the chameleon's tongue is the sticky spot on the tip.

The chameleon uses its tongue to secure food. It either stalks a fly or insect or waits for one to fly into range, shooting out its tongue with lightening speed to catch its prey.

The quick, deadly tongue of the chameleon reminds us of another tongue that is every bit as dangerous. That tongue is the human tongue. James gives us a vivid description of the tongue. Let us see how he describes it. "The tongue also is a _____, a _____ among the parts of the body" (James 3:6).

The picture that James paints is pretty black. Although man in himself is not able to control the tongue, the Holy Spirit will help each Christian to control their tongue. The Bible tells us some ways the tongue should not be used and some ways the tongue should be used.

Ways the Tongue Should Not Be Used

1. "Keep your tongue from _____ and your lips from _____"
(Psalm 34:13).
2. "I said, 'I will watch my ways and keep my _____ from _____'"
(Psalm 39:1).
3. "You love every harmful word, O you _____!"
(Psalm 52:4).

Ways the Tongue Should Be Used

4. "I will _____ of the kindnesses of the _____, the _____ for which he is to be _____" (Isaiah 63:7).
5. "Then those who feared the Lord _____ with each other, and the Lord listened and heard" (Malachi 3:16).
6. "All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to _____ in _____ as the Spirit enabled them" (Acts 2:4).

Subject: Animals

Lesson 4: Coney

The coney that is mentioned in the Bible is known by several different names. The name most often used today is hyrax. They are also called “rock rabbits,” although they are not rabbits. The *Encyclopedia Britannica* describes the hyrax as plump, having a “pointed head, short neck, relatively short slender legs, and squat tailless body.”

There are three interesting characteristics of the conies that we want to mention. The first is their climbing ability. The pads on their feet make climbing easy for them, allowing them to scale surfaces that are almost vertical. The second characteristic is their choice of living quarters. Their choice is described in the Bible: “_____ are creatures of little _____, yet they make their home in the _____” (Proverbs 30:26). “The high mountains belong to the wild goats; the _____ are a refuge for the _____” (Psalm 104:18). The third characteristic is their natural helplessness to defend themselves when attacked. In the Book of Proverbs the conies are called “creatures of little power.”

The conies make up in wisdom what they lack in strength. Knowing their natural helplessness, the conies have made their homes in rocky places. In this retreat they are stronger than all the powers that come against them. We also have a Rock to which we can flee. In this Rock we are stronger than all the powers that can come against us. Let us see what the Bible says about this Rock.

God Is Our Rock

1. “The Lord is my _____, my _____ and my _____”
(2 Samuel 22:2).

God Is Our Salvation

2. “He alone is my rock and my _____; he is my fortress, I will never be shaken” (Psalm 62:2).

God Is Our Refuge

3. “The eternal God is your _____, and underneath are the _____” (Deuteronomy 33:27).

God Is Our Help and Shield

4. “You who fear him, trust in the Lord—he is their _____ and _____”
(Psalm 115:11).

Subject: Animals

Lesson 5: Hart (Part A)

The hart mentioned in the Bible is the male member of the red deer family. The hart normally lives in a wooded area where it can secure plenty of grass, moss, and tender twigs to eat. The woods also provide a place to hide in time of danger. In addition to an adequate supply of food, the deer requires a good source of water to meet its unusual need for water.

While the hart is escaping from its enemy, he must run long and hard. Afterward every fiber in its body calls for water. The Psalmist uses this illustration to demonstrate how we should search after the living water. You can read it in Psalm 42:1: "As the hart panteth [longs eagerly] after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God" (KJV).

There is only one person who can satisfy this thirst for living water. That person is Jesus.

Turn to John 7:37 and after reading this verse answer the following questions.

1. Who said "come to me and drink"? _____
2. Who may come and drink? _____

Jesus is not the only one who invites us to come and drink of the water of life. There are others who extend this invitation to us. Read Revelation 22:17 and decide whether the statements below are true or false.

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 3. The Spirit tells us to come. | T F |
| 4. The bride tells us to come. | T F |
| 5. Only a select few may come. | T F |
| 6. All persons who are thirsty should come. | T F |
| 7. Whoever wishes may come. | T F |
| 8. It will cost a lot of money if you drink the water of life. | T F |
| 9. The water of life is free. | T F |

The Lord has made special promises to everyone who comes to Him. Complete the following verses and find out what these promises are.

10. "He _____ the _____ and _____ the _____ with good things" (Psalm 107:9).
11. "Blessed are those who _____ and _____ for righteousness, for they _____" (Matthew 5:6).
12. "Whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a _____ of _____ up to _____" (John 4:14).

Subject: Animals

Lesson 6: Hart (Part B)

The hart, like most deer, runs very swiftly. It is able to reach speeds of 45 to 50 miles per hour. In addition to its ability to run, the hart is also good at jumping and can jump over a fence of 8 to 10 feet high. Isaiah pictures this act of the hart as a means to express great joy and refers to the hart when describing some of the wonders and glories of the millennial reign of Christ.

Read Isaiah 35 for a description of this age. Reread the sixth verse and decide whether the following statements are true or false. (Circle T for True or F for False.)

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1. The lame man will be healed. | T F |
| 2. The lame man will have to be carried everywhere he goes. | T F |
| 3. The lame man will be able to run and jump as other men. | T F |

What other miracles will take place? Reread Isaiah 35:5,6 and answer the following questions with a short sentence.

4. What will happen to the blind? _____
5. What will the mute (people who cannot speak) be able to do? _____
6. Will anything special happen to the deaf? _____ If so, what? _____
7. Isaiah 35:6 tells us of a change that will take place in the desert. What is this change? _____

Isaiah 35:10 gives more information concerning this wonderful age. Read the verse and then answer the following questions.

8. Who shall return? "The _____ of the Lord."
9. The ransomed shall enter with what? _____ and _____
10. What will overtake the ransomed? _____ and _____
11. What are the two things that will flee away? _____ and _____

Each one of us who faithfully serves Jesus Christ will have an important task to perform. We read about this task in Revelation 20:6. Complete this verse by filling in the words that tell us what this task is.

12. "Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be _____ of God and of Christ and _____ with him for a thousand years."

Subject: Animals

Lesson 7: Foxes

The fox is a very sly and cunning animal. Its ability to escape from hunters and avoid traps is known around the world. When chased by dogs, the fox will double back on its trail, wade through creeks, and use many other tricks to make the dogs lose the trail.

Solomon referred to the fox in the Song of Songs 2:15 and gives this warning: "Catch for us the _____, the _____ that ruin the vineyards, our vineyards that are in bloom." These little foxes are able to slip into the vineyard unnoticed. Once in the vineyard the fox eats some of the grapes and spoils many more. They injure the roots of the vine in their digging. They damage the vine further by gnawing on the stems and young shoots, thus destroying both the grapes and vines. It takes constant watchfulness on the part of the farmer to keep the foxes out and to destroy any that slip into the vineyard.

Like the farmer, every boy has a field he must guard. This field is his heart. Many "little foxes" would like to slip into the heart, and it is up to each boy to keep them out.

Below are listed eight of the "foxes" that try to get into boys' hearts. Fill in the blanks in the verses listed on the right by looking up the Scripture references. Then put the number of the "fox" on the left in the blank before the verse that tells about it.

1. Anger _____ "The Lord detests _____" (Proverbs 12:22).
2. Envy _____ " _____ stirs up _____, but love covers over all wrongs" (Proverbs 10:12).
3. Hatred _____ "When _____ comes, then comes _____" (Proverbs 11:2).
4. Lying _____ "Where you have _____ and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every _____" (James 3:16).
5. Pride _____ "Do not _____" (Leviticus 19:11).
6. Selfishness _____ "Refrain from _____ and turn from wrath" (Psalm 37:8).
7. Unbelief _____ "Do nothing out of _____ ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves" (Philippians 2:3).
8. Stealing _____ "The cowardly, the _____, . . . their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur" (Revelation 21:8).

Subject: Animals

Lesson 8: Camel

The camel is probably best known for its ability to go for several days without drinking water. Another distinguishing feature of the camel is its hump or humps. There are two kinds of camels: the Arabian camel, which has one hump, and the Bactrian camel, which has two humps. A special kind of Arabian camel called a dromedary is raised for riding and racing.

Jesus makes use of the camel and a needle to teach us a very valuable lesson. This lesson is found in Mark 10:24–25: “The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, ‘Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is _____ for a _____ to go through the _____ than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.’”

In these verses Jesus points out the difficulty a person has entering heaven when trusting in riches, righteousness, or ability. Let us see what some of these things are that men trust and the results of their trust.

Some men trust themselves. These men feel that their own righteousness and knowledge will take them to heaven. What does the Bible say about this trust?

1. “Lean not on your own _____” (Proverbs 3:5).
2. “He who _____ in _____ is a fool” (Proverbs 28:26).
3. “All of us have become like one who is _____, and all our _____ acts are like _____” (Isaiah 64:6).

Other men trust in a great leader or a good friend. What does the Bible say about this trust?

4. “Do not trust a _____; put no confidence in a _____” (Micah 7:5).
5. “This is what the Lord says: ‘ _____ is the one who _____ in man, who depends on _____ for his strength and whose heart turns away from the Lord’” (Jeremiah 17:5).

Many men have placed their trust in the Lord. What does the Bible say about this trust?

6. “Trust in the _____ with all _____” (Proverbs 3:5).
7. “Blessed is the man who _____ in the _____, whose confidence is in him” (Jeremiah 17:7).

Subject: Animals

Lesson 10: Sheep (Part B)

Sheep can live without water for long periods of time. The *Encyclopedia Britannica* tells us that by feeding on lush forage, which is occasionally wetted by dew or rain, sheep can go days and even weeks without drinking water. Sheep are also surefooted, bold climbers. These characteristics make them an ideal animal for the mountainous and wilderness areas of Palestine.

Sheep live and move in flocks or herds. They want to be with other sheep. When a sheep becomes separated from the flock it is because it is either lost, ill, or injured.

Just as healthy sheep will stay with the flock, there are some things a Royal Ranger will do if he is healthy spiritually. Let us look into God's Word for some of the qualities of a healthy Christian.

A Desire to Study God's Word

1. "Like newborn babies, _____ pure _____ milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation" (1 Peter 2:2).
2. "Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the _____ with great eagerness and examined the _____ every day to see if what Paul said was true" (Acts 17:11).

A Desire to Attend Church Services

3. "I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the _____ of the _____'" (Psalm 122:1).
4. "Let us not give up _____ together, as some are in the habit of doing" (Hebrews 10:25).

A Love for One Another

5. "My command is this: _____ each other as I have loved you" (John 15:12).
6. "By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you _____ one another" (John 13:35).

If a sheep does become lost, ill, or injured, is it forgotten? Read Matthew 18:12-14 and determine whether the statements below are true or false. (Circle T for True or F for False.)

7. If a sheep is lost, a shepherd will not bother to look for it. T F
8. A good shepherd searches for his lost sheep. T F
9. Finding a lost sheep causes the shepherd to rejoice. T F

Subject: Animals

Lesson 11: Lions (Part A)

The lion's size and majestic bearing have won for it the title "king of the beasts." The most outstanding feature of this king is probably the mane of the male lion. It is usually yellowish brown in color, although some lions have reddish manes and occasionally one will have a black mane.

Lions are different from the other members of the wild cat family in that they live together in groups, having from 4 to 35 members. The ancient Persians made use of the lion's ability to live together peaceably and kept them in dens for execution purposes. Daniel was thrown into one of these dens when he disobeyed the law and prayed to God. Daniel 6:16 says, "So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and _____ him into the _____." (Read all of the sixth chapter for the full story.)

Not only do lions live together, but at times they also work together to capture prey. When an animal is spotted, one or two lions silently circle the victim, driving it toward the other lions who remain hidden. When the victim comes within reach, one of the hidden lions will bring the prey down with its paws. By working together, the lions are able to secure food they would not be able to capture alone.

Often in the Christian life, Royal Rangers need to work together to accomplish things that one Ranger cannot do alone. There are several examples of this type of cooperation in the Bible. One example is found in Exodus 17:8-13. Read this passage and determine whether the statements below are true or false. (Circle T for True or F for False.)

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. The Amalekites went to war against Israel. | T | F |
| 2. Joshua led the army of Israel while Moses held the staff of God. | T | F |
| 3. As long as Moses held up his hands, Israel prevailed. | T | F |
| 4. Moses' arms became tired, so he let down his hands and Israel lost the battle. | T | F |
| 5. Aaron and Hur held up Moses' hands. | T | F |
| 6. Because Aaron and Hur helped Moses, Joshua won the fight. | T | F |

Another example of cooperation is found in Mark 2:3: "_____ came, bringing to him a paralytic, carried by _____ of them." One man could not have done this. Two or three might have been able to, but four could do it easily.

Jesus tells us of the added power when praying together. Turn to Matthew 18:19 and see what He said. "Again, I tell you that if _____ of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it _____ be done for you by my Father in heaven."

Subject: Animals

Lesson 12: Lions (Part B)

In this lesson we are continuing our study of the lion. Last week we learned that lions sometimes work together as a team when hunting.

Lions usually hunt at night. One method the lion uses to hunt is to creep silently under the cover of darkness toward its victim. The lion makes a sudden charge covering the last few feet before its startled victim can get away. A second method used by lions is referred to in Psalm 17:12: "They are like a lion hungry for prey, like a great lion _____ in _____." Using this method, the lion waits quietly hidden until its prey comes within reach. Then with a sudden lunge the hunt is over.

The tactics of the lion remind us of the tactics of Satan as he tries to capture Christians. Peter compares Satan to a lion. Let us see what he said in 1 Peter 5:8: "Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the _____ prowls around like a roaring _____ looking for someone to _____."

In spite of its strength, the lion fails to capture over 50 percent of the animals it attacks. It fails because the prey follows three rules: They avoid all lions; they run if attacked; and if cornered, they fight. These are three methods we can use in our war against Satan.

Avoid Evil

1. " _____ from _____ and do good" (Psalm 34:14).
2. " _____ every kind of _____" (1 Thessalonians 5:22).
3. "A wise man _____ the Lord and shuns _____" (Proverbs 14:16).

Flee From Evil

4. " _____ the _____ desires of youth" (2 Timothy 2:22).
5. "My dear friends, _____ from _____" (1 Corinthians 10:14).

Resist Evil

Ephesians 6:10–17 tells us about the armor we should use when resisting evil. Read these verses and then underline the right answer.

6. We should put on the (full, partial, none) armor of God.
7. When we put on the armor of God we should (run, stand) against the devil's schemes.
8. The shield of faith will quench (all, none) of the flaming arrows of the evil one.

Subject: Animals

Lesson 13: Leopards

In the past two lessons we have studied the lion. Now we want to turn our attention to the leopard, another member of the cat family. Leopards are smaller and lighter than lions. However, they make up in agility, speed, and wit for what they lack in weight and power. In a fight, a leopard would probably defeat a lion. The leopard is such a fierce fighter that the natives of Africa would rather face a lion than a leopard.

The leopard hunts much the same way as the lion. It either stealthily stalks its victims or springs upon them from an ambush. The leopard is ferocious, bloodthirsty, and cunning.

One of the most outstanding features of the leopard is the markings of black spots and rings on the leopard's coat. These spots are such an unchanging part of the leopard that when people talk about something that does not change, they use the leopard's spots as a comparison. Jeremiah does this in Jeremiah 13:23: "Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard change its spots? Neither can you do good who are accustomed to doing evil." Jeremiah is saying it is just as impossible for a person to remove the spots of sin from his life as it is for a leopard to change its spots. God is the only one who can change a person's evil nature. In order for God to do this, we must do three things:

We Must Believe in God

1. "Everyone who _____ in him may have eternal _____" (John 3:15).

We Must Confess Our Sins

2. "If we _____ our sins, he is faithful and just and will _____ us our sins and _____ us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

We Must Accept Christ

3. "To all who _____ him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the _____ to become _____ of God" (John 1:12).

When we have done these things, God takes away the spots of sin and makes us a new person. Second Corinthians 5:17 says, "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"

Subject: Animals

Lesson 14: Bats

Although the bat can fly, it is an animal, not a bird. Most of the bats in Palestine live in caves or some other dark place. Their living quarters are just the type of places people throw things they no longer want. This may have been the reason Isaiah said the people would throw their gods of silver and gold to the rodents and bats (Isaiah 2:20).

Bats usually sleep during the day and do their eating at night. Thus most of their waking hours are spent in darkness. Bats are equipped with an unusual guidance system for their dark lives. As they fly, they emit a high-frequency sound. When the sound waves hit an obstacle, they are reflected back to the bat. The bat is able to detect these reflected waves and from them tell the location of all obstacles. This allows the bat to fly safely in complete darkness. Did you know that Christians also have an unusual guidance system that helps them avoid the snares and pitfalls of Satan?

The first part of this system is the Bible. We receive guidance as we read and study God's Word.

1. "Your _____ is a _____ to my _____ and a _____ for my _____" (Psalm 119:105).
2. "How can a young man keep his way pure? By _____ according to your _____" (Psalm 119:9).

The second part of our guidance system is the Holy Spirit. Read John 14:26 and 16:13 and then determine whether the statements below are true or false. (Circle T for True or F for False.)

3. The Holy Spirit will teach us things we need to know. T F
4. The Holy Spirit will bring things to our remembrance that will help us know the right way. T F
5. The Holy Spirit will guide us into the true way. T F

The third part of our guidance system is God speaking to us and telling us what to do. The guidance system may come as it is recorded in Isaiah 30:21: "Your ears will _____ a voice behind you, saying, 'This is the _____; _____ in it.'" You may have an experience similar to Jeremiah's when he just had to speak for God. Jeremiah 20:9 says, "His word is in my heart like a fire, a _____ shut up in my bones. I am weary of holding it in; indeed, I cannot." Or it may be that as you are praying, God suddenly lets you know what to do. You do not hear a voice or see a vision, but you know in your heart the way to go. Every Royal Ranger needs to tune into God's guidance system and let God guide him throughout his life.

Section Four

Insects, Fish, and Plants

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Subject: Insects, Fish, and Plants

Lesson 1: Locusts

We now leave the subject of animals and move in our studies to the subject of insects. In this lesson we will study the locust. The locust of Palestine is similar to the North American grasshopper and is approximately 2 inches long. It feeds mainly on grass and leaves, although a locust will eat any green plant life. In Leviticus 11:22 the locust is listed as "clean" and could be eaten. Matthew 3:4 tells us that locusts formed a part of John the Baptist's diet, "His food was _____ and _____." The people of the East still eat them.

As long as the number of locusts stay within normal bounds, they fill a need in the life of the poor. But there are times when conditions are just right and the locusts multiply too fast. Soon there are millions of locusts moving across the land eating every green thing in their path. Exodus 10:15 gives a description of the damage they can cause. At times like these, the locust becomes a curse to mankind.

Like the locust, our emotions are beneficial as long as they are kept within God-given bounds. However, once they get out of bounds, they become harmful to us. Let us look at some of these emotions.

Anger

Anger is an emotion Royal Rangers need to keep under control. Anger that is not controlled often causes people to do things that they are sorry for later. The Bible gives us some good guidelines concerning anger.

1. "In your _____ do not _____': Do not let the sun go down while you are still _____" (Ephesians 4:26).
2. "Better a _____ man than a warrior, a man who _____ his _____ than one who takes a city" (Proverbs 16:32).

Love

Love is a powerful emotion and needs to be kept under control. God's Word gives us guidelines for this emotion.

Deuteronomy 6:5; Matthew 22:39; and John 15:12 tell us whom we should love. Who are these persons?

3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____

In 1 John 2:15 two things are listed that we should not love. What are those two things?

6. _____ 7. _____

Subject: Insects, Fish, and Plants

Lesson 2: Flies

A feature that distinguishes flies from other insects is that flies have only one pair of wings. Just behind and a little below these wings are a pair of “balancers.” Without these balancers, flies would not be able to fly. Flies vary in size from the no-see-ums that are one-twentieth of an inch long to a wood-boring fly of South America that is three inches long with a wing span of nearly three inches. The common housefly carries bacteria from its breeding grounds of manure, garbage, and other filth to human food. Other members of the fly family transmit germs in other ways, thus placing the fly among the most dangerous pests known to man.

An example of how flies sometimes contaminate things is found in Ecclesiastes 10:1, “Dead _____ give perfume a _____.” Flies had gotten into the perfumed oil and died. Soon the fragrance of the perfume changed to a stench, making the perfume worthless and unwanted.

Just as flies spoiled the perfume, there are “flies” that will spoil a Royal Ranger’s Christian testimony. Below are listed seven “flies” that will spoil your testimony. Fill in the blanks in the Scripture verses by looking up the reference and then place the number of the “fly” listed on the left in the blank before the verse that describes it.

1. Strife _____ “The wisdom of the prudent is to give thought to their ways, but the folly of fools is _____” (Proverbs 14:8).
2. Boastings _____ “The discerning heart seeks knowledge, but the mouth of a fool feeds on _____” (Proverbs 15:14).
3. Quarrels _____ “A fool’s lips bring him _____, and his mouth invites a beating” (Proverbs 18:6).
4. Folly _____ “He who conceals his hatred has lying lips, and whoever spreads _____ is a fool” (Proverbs 10:18).
5. Conceit _____ “It is to a man’s honor to avoid strife, but every fool is quick to _____” (Proverbs 20:3).
6. Deception _____ “As it is, you boast and brag. All such _____ is evil” (James 4:16).
7. Slander _____ “Woe to those who are _____ and clever in their own sight” (Isaiah 5:21).

Be on the lookout for these flies. Do not let them enter your heart and spoil your Christian testimony.

Subject: Insects, Fish, and Plants

Lesson 3: Ants (Part A)

We now turn to an insect that the Bible uses as an object lesson. Proverbs 6:6 says, "Go to the _____, you sluggard; _____ its ways and be _____!" Although we are not sluggards, there are several things we can learn from the ant.

The Ant Prepares for the Future

The ant referred to in Proverbs is the harvester ant. This ant is long-legged, black or brown, and often one-third of an inch long. The harvester ants use their jaws to pick up seeds and grain that have fallen to the ground and to cut seeds from weeds and grass. The kernels gathered are stored inside their nest and the husks are thrown outside the entrance. All summer they are busy adding to their store preparing for the future.

Each Royal Ranger has a future that he should prepare for. This future includes life on earth and eternal life. We can best prepare for our earthly life by first preparing for eternal life. John 5:24 tells us how to prepare for eternal life.

1. "I tell you the truth, whoever _____ my word and _____ him who sent me has _____ life."

The Ants Prepare When They Have Opportunity

The ant does not wait until fall and then hurriedly try to gather its food. It uses the opportunities of summer. The ant " _____ its provisions in _____ and _____ its food at harvest" (Proverbs 6:8). If the ant waited until fall, it would be too late and the ant would perish.

Every Royal Ranger should also use his opportunities to prepare for the future. Here are the instructions from God's Word.

2. "Seek the Lord _____ he may be _____; call on him _____ he is _____" (Isaiah 55:6).
3. "Remember your Creator in the _____ of your _____, before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say, 'I find no pleasure in them'" (Ecclesiastes 12:1).
4. "For he says, 'In the time of my _____ I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you.' I tell you, _____ is the _____ of God's favor, _____ is the _____" (2 Corinthians 6:2).

Have you used your opportunity to prepare for eternal life? If you have not, why not bow your head and accept Jesus now.

Subject: Insects, Fish, and Plants

Lesson 4: Ants (Part B)

In our last lesson we learned that the ants use their opportunities to prepare for the future. We were made to realize we need to use our opportunities to prepare for eternal life. In this lesson we will continue our study of the ants.

Ants are sociable creatures and live together in colonies. Each colony may contain anywhere from 10 to 250,000 ants. A close examination of a colony will show that every ant is busy working. Some of the ants gather food, others care for the young, while others serve as guards. "Ants are creatures of little _____" (Proverbs 30:25); yet because each ant does its part, they are able to build large colonies.

God has given the Church the task of reaching the world for Him. There is not one person who can do this by himself. However, if all Christians will do their part, like the ant, we can reach the world for Christ. First Corinthians 3:6-9 gives us an example of this kind of teamwork. Read these verses and then answer the following questions.

1. Three persons had a part in leading the Corinthian Christians to the Lord. Name these three persons: _____
2. Each of these persons did (the same thing) (different things).—Underline the correct answer.
3. Through the combined efforts of these workers, the Corinthians were led to the Lord. Yes ___ No ___
4. Would this have happened without the planting? Yes ___ No ___
5. Would this have happened without the watering? Yes ___ No ___

There are many areas of service in the Christian work. Each area is important. Ephesians 4:11 gives five areas of service and 1 Timothy 3:1,8 give two areas. List these areas in the following spaces:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

These are just a few of the many areas of service. If the item in the list below is an area where Christians can serve, write yes in the space following it. If it isn't, write no.

- | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Church Song Leader _____ | Royal Rangers Leader _____ | Witnessing _____ |
| Church Choir _____ | Sunday School Teacher _____ | Visitation _____ |
| Church Orchestra _____ | Royal Rangers Senior Guide _____ | |

What other areas of Christian service can you name? Write them on the bottom of this sheet. The important thing is to ask God where He wants you to serve and then serve Him in that place with your best effort.

Subject: Insects, Fish, and Plants

Lesson 5: Gnats

Gnat is a name applied to several tiny, delicate-looking, winged insects. The gnat belongs to the fly family. Many gnats suck blood from animals, but others do not bite. The gnat has two wings and a proboscis that may be either long and sharp or short and blunt. The proboscis is a sort of snout or trunk that the biting-type gnat uses to pierce the skin and suck.

Jesus uses the gnat to teach a lesson in consistency. The Pharisees were very careful about the small points of ceremony or duty, while at the same time they completely disobeyed major points of the moral law. By making a comparison between the gnat and the camel, Jesus showed them how their inconsistencies looked to God. Turn to Matthew 23:24 and read what Jesus said, “You blind guides! You strain out a _____ but swallow a _____.” In verse 23 Jesus called them hypocrites because they obeyed God in some things and disobeyed Him in others, yet pretended to serve God all the time.

God wants us to serve Him at all times. In the left-hand column are some verses that speak of being consistent. Look up the verses in your Bible and fill in the blanks. Read a saying on the right and then in the blank before it, place the number of the verse that says the same thing.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. “You, then, who teach others, do you not teach yourself? You who _____ against stealing, do you _____?” (Romans 2:21). | _____ Clean up your own backyard first. |
| 2. “Out of the same mouth come _____ and _____. My brothers, this _____ not be” (James 3:10). | _____ Practice what you preach. |
| 3. “First take the _____ out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the _____ from your brother’s eye” (Matthew 7:5). | _____ What you do speaks so loud that I cannot hear what you say. |
| 4. “They _____ to know God, but by their _____ they deny him” (Titus 1:16). | _____ He talks out of both sides of his mouth at the same time. |

Subject: Insects, Fish, and Plants

Lesson 6: Moths (Part A)

The moth is the next subject in our study of insects. Since moths and butterflies are sometimes mistaken for one another, here are three things to look for when identifying moths: (1) Moths usually fly at dusk or during the night, while butterflies fly in the daytime; (2) When resting, the moth holds its wings flat over its body, but butterflies usually hold their wings up over their backs or spread out at an angle; (3) The moth has thread-like antennae, whereas the butterfly's antennae are shaped like a club.

The people of Bible times placed high value on top-quality clothing; therefore, clothing was included along with valuable metals and jewels when determining a person's wealth. Moths were a constant danger. In spite of all precautions, moths would sometimes get into these treasured clothes and in a few days turn them into worthless rags. Jesus uses the damage caused by moths to teach us a spiritual lesson.

Complete the following verses and then answer the questions by unscrambling the words in parentheses.

“Do not store up for yourselves _____ on _____, where _____ and _____ destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in _____, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal” (Matthew 6:19,20).

1. What happens to treasures laid up on the earth? They are _____ (ydrstoed) or are _____ (nstloe).
2. What destroys these treasures? _____ (hotsm) and _____ (sutr)
3. Where should we store treasures? _____ (eeavnh)
4. Our treasures will be safe because three things will not be in heaven. These things are _____ (stmho), _____ (tsru), and _____ (seeihtv).

The question that now needs to be answered is how does one lay up treasures in heaven? Below are just a few ways.

5. “Anyone who _____ you a cup of water in _____ because you belong to Christ will certainly not lose his reward” (Mark 9:41).
6. “_____ your _____, _____ to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great” (Luke 6:35).
7. “Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who _____ to _____, like the stars for ever and ever” (Daniel 12:3).

We can lay up treasures in heaven by using our time, talents, influence, and money for the glory of God.

Subject: Insects, Fish, and Plants

Lesson 7: Moths (Part B)

Moths have four stages of development in their life cycle. These stages are the egg, the larva (known as caterpillar), the pupa, and the adult. The larva is the only stage of the moth that is harmful, but at this stage moths are very destructive. The best known moth is the clothes moth. The larva of the clothes moth will feed on wool, hair, furs, skins, or feathers. Since many clothes contain these materials, clothes have become a chief target for this moth. The clothes moth is the moth referred to in Scripture verses such as James 5:2: "Your wealth has rotted, and _____ your clothes."

The adult moth lays eggs on clothes made from wool or other material suitable for food. The eggs are so small they are not noticeable. If the eggs are not destroyed, they hatch into larvae in about 10 days. The small caterpillars start to eat right away. Soon the garment is full of holes and worthless. Did you know sin is much like moths? Satan will place an evil thought or suggestion in your mind. It may seem small and harmless, but if it is not removed, it will grow. Soon the thought will become a deed and sin will be the result. Sin will ruin your life as moths ruin clothing. Proverbs 23:7 tells us why it is important to guard our thoughts. "As he thinketh in his heart, so is he" (KJV).

There are three things we can do to keep our minds free from evil thoughts. The first thing we can do is put out of our mind any evil thoughts that creep in.

1. "Submit yourselves, then, to God. _____ the _____, and he will _____ from you" (James 4:7).

The second thing we can do is keep our minds busy with things of God. The following Scripture verses list some things for us to think about.

2. "Within your temple, O God, we _____ on your unfailing _____" (Psalm 48:9).
3. "Finally, brothers, whatever is _____, whatever is _____, whatever is _____, whatever is _____, whatever is _____, whatever is _____—if anything is _____ or _____—think about such things" (Philippians 4:8).

The third thing we can do is include this prayer in our morning prayers:

4. "May the _____ of my _____ and the _____ of my _____ be _____ in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer" (Psalm 19:14).

Subject: Insects, Fish, and Plants

Lesson 8: Spiders

Spiders are not insects, although many people think of them as insects. Scientifically, spiders are classified as arachnids. Spiders are different from insects in that they have only two segments to their body rather than three; they have eight legs instead of six; and they do not have antennae. Spiders vary in size from a little smaller than the head of a pin to as large as a man's hand. Spiders live wherever food is available. There is even one kind of spider that spends most of its life under water.

Spiders are probably the best known for the silk webs they spin. If you could examine the web closely, you would see that it is made of several strands of silk that look like a small cable. This web is stronger than steel wire with the same diameter. By joining several webs together and coating them with a sticky substance, the spider makes a trap to catch its food. One spider, the bolas, spins only a single line of silk with a drop of sticky silk at the end. When an insect flies near, the spider swings the line and traps the insect in the sticky ball. As soon as an insect is caught, the spider quickly wraps other webs around it until it is completely bound. Isaiah likens the deeds of some of the people of his day to these webs. "They hatch the eggs of vipers and _____ a _____" (Isaiah 59:5).

Sin is much like spider webs. Satan spins webs of temptation. If we yield to the temptation, Satan is quick to entangle us in others. Soon we could be completely bound. One of these webs is worldly pleasures. The world says these pleasures are great. Let us see what the Bible says about them.

1. "I thought in my heart, 'Come now, I will test you with _____ to find out what is _____.' But that also proved to be _____" (Ecclesiastes 2:1).
2. "Even in _____ the heart may _____, and _____ may end in _____" (Proverbs 14:13).

Where can we find true pleasures?

3. "You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with _____ in your presence, with _____ at your right hand" (Psalm 16:11).
4. "For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, _____ and _____ in the Holy Spirit" (Romans 14:17).
5. "With _____ you will draw water from the wells of _____" (Isaiah 12:3).

Subject: Insects, Fish, and Plants

Lesson 9: Fish

Fish are mentioned several times in the Bible. Probably the two best known Scripture verses mentioning fish are Jonah 1:17, "The Lord provided a great _____ to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was inside the fish three days and three nights"; and John 6:11, "Jesus then took the _____, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the _____."

There are over 30,000 different kinds of fish. They vary in size from the great fish that swallowed Jonah to the smallest of minnows. Fish are found in rivers, streams, lakes, and oceans. In fact, there are only a few waters that do not contain at least one kind of fish.

Fish has become an important part of many people's diet. To meet the demand for fish, men have developed several different ways to catch fish. The Bible mentions three of these ways. Let us see what these ways are.

1. In John 21:6 a _____ was used to catch fish.
2. In Matthew 17:27 a _____ was used.
3. In Job 41:7 _____ and _____ were mentioned.

At times fish are not too particular about what they try to eat. One example of this is found in Matthew 17:27. Read this verse carefully and then complete the following.

4. Judging from what the fish had in its mouth when it was caught, the fish had tried to eat a _____.
5. When Peter threw out a _____, the fish tried to eat it and was caught.

Every year thousands of fish are caught because they are attracted by a hook that has a little bait on it. Do you know there are many boys caught by Satan each year the same way? Satan places a little bait on the hook of sin in an attempt to get you to bite on it. Let us see what some of the bait is that Satan uses.

6. Satan tried to catch Moses by using the _____ of Egypt as bait (Hebrews 11:26).
7. Satan used the "love of this world" (pleasure) as a bait to catch _____ (2 Timothy 4:10).
8. Satan used the "_____ from men" (popularity) as bait to keep many of the chief rulers from confessing Christ (John 12:42,43).

Satan still baits the hook of sin. He not only tells you how much fun it will be, but he also tells you, "Everyone is doing it," and, "It's the 'in' thing to do." Don't bite his bait! Under the coating of fun and pleasure is the deadly hook of sin.

Subject: Insects, Fish, and Plants

Lesson 10: Oysters

The oyster is not mentioned by name in the Bible. However, pearls, a product of the oyster, are mentioned 10 times. One of the more familiar Scripture passages is Matthew 13:46,47, “The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine _____. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.” Since pearls are made by oysters, we know that the people of Bible times knew about the oyster.

Oysters live on the ocean bottom, mostly in inlets near shore where the water is usually quiet and not too deep. They are found in many parts of the world that have a mild or warm climate. There are many different kinds of oysters and most of them can form pearls. However, the pearls used as gems come only from the pearl oyster. These oysters live in tropical waters. Sometimes foreign matter such as a grain of sand or a tiny parasite gets between the oyster and its shell, irritating the oyster. When this happens, the oyster coats this particle with a thin layer of a substance it makes called nacre. As soon as one layer is completed, another layer is started, thus making a pearl.

We can learn a lesson from the oyster. Instead of complaining about the sand or parasite, the oyster forms a beautiful and valuable pearl around it. There are times when things happen to us that hurt and are unfair. We can either allow these experiences to make us bitter, or, like the oyster, we can turn them into valuable experiences.

The apostle Paul and Silas gave us a good example of this. Turn to Acts 16:16–40 and read the story, and then answer the questions below.

1. What kind act did Paul do for the girl with a spirit that predicted the future (verse 18)? _____
2. What were Paul and Silas accused of doing (verses 20,21)? _____
3. What did the magistrates command be done to Paul and Silas (verse 22)? _____
4. Where did they put Paul and Silas (verses 23,24)? _____
5. Did Paul and Silas become angry? _____ What did they do (verse 25)? _____
6. What happened (verse 26)? _____
7. Paul’s and Silas’s singing and praying and the earthquake caused the jailer to ask a question. What was the question (verse 30)? _____

Paul and Silas had reason to complain. The injustice they suffered was enough to make any person angry and discouraged. Yet they turned this experience into a joyous one by leading the jailer and his household to the Lord. With God’s help you too can turn the hard things of life into a blessing. See Romans 8:28.

Subject: Insects, Fish, and Plants

Lesson 12: Trees (Part B)

The fruit tree normally bears good fruit. However, if a tree has not been given proper care, the fruit it bears will not be usable. Some fruit trees do not bear fruit at all, even with the best of care. Jesus told a parable concerning a tree like this. Read the story in Luke 13:6–9, and then answer the questions below.

1. What did the owner look for on his fig tree? _____ (tuifr)
2. Did he find it? _____
3. How many years had he looked for it? _____ (heret)
4. What did the owner tell the dresser of the vineyard to do with the tree?
_____ (utc) _____ (ti) _____ (onwd)
5. What did the dresser of the vineyard ask to do? Wait _____ (noe)
_____ (raey) so that he could _____ (gdi) around it and _____
(ezilitref) it.
6. If the tree did not bear fruit after this extra care, what would be done with it? It
would be _____ (uct) _____ (ownd).
7. What else will be done to a tree that does not bear fruit? Luke 3:9 says it will be
_____ (nrwoht) _____ (tnoi) _____ (eth) _____ (efir).
8. Luke 3:8 tells us the first type of fruits we should bear. They are _____
(sitruf) _____ (ni) _____ (ginkpee) _____ (thwi)
_____. (eeeacntpr).

Jesus tells us in Luke 13:5 what will happen to a person who does not bear fruits of repentance.

9. ““Unless you _____ (peertn), you too will all _____ (hersip).””

The rich man in Luke 16:19–31 is an example of a person who did not repent. Turn to the story, read the account, and then answer the following questions.

10. Where did the rich man go when he died? _____ (lelh)
11. Why did he want some water? To _____ (olco) _____ (shi) _____
(ugoent).
12. According to Revelation 20:15, if someone’s name is not found in the Book of Life,
where will they be thrown? _____ (keal) _____ (fo) _____ (reif)

Have you repented of your sins and asked God to forgive you? If you haven’t, why not bow your head and do so now?

Subject: Insects, Fish, and Plants

Lesson 13: Trees (Part C)

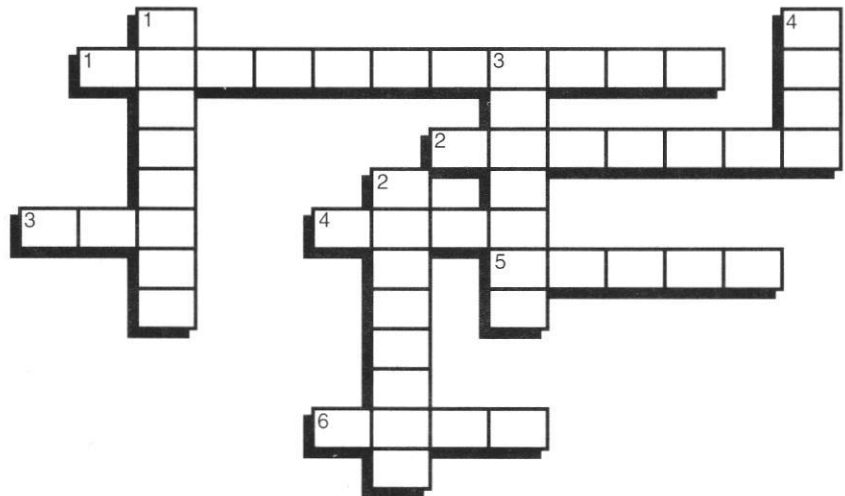
Trees have a special clock that tells them when to prepare for winter and when to start growing again. This clock is governed by the number of daylight hours in a day. In the spring, when the time between sunrise and sunset reaches a precise number of hours and minutes, the clock signals the tree to start growing again. Sap starts to flow, buds burst forth, blossoms appear, and new shoots and leaves grow. So dependable is the clock of a tree that when we see the buds and blossoms, we know that spring has arrived and summer is not far off.

Jesus likens these signs of spring to signs that will appear just before He returns to earth in power and glory. Luke 21:29–31 says, “He told them this parable: ‘Look at the fig tree and _____ . When they _____ , you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the _____ is near.’”

Complete the crossword puzzle below and see what will happen just before Jesus returns in power.

Across

1. The second half of Matthew 24:7 says that _____ will occur in various places.
2. The first part of Matthew 24:7 says, “There will be _____.”
3. Luke 21:25 says, “There will be signs in the _____, . . .
4. . . . _____ (Luke 21:25 continued)
5. . . . and _____” (Luke 21:25 continued).
6. According to Matthew 24:29, what will happen to the stars?



Down

1. What will happen to the sun (Matthew 24:29)?
2. Luke 21:27 says, “At that time they will see the _____ [three words] coming in a cloud with power and great glory.”
3. “Nation will rise _____ nation” (Matthew 24:7).
4. “You will hear of _____ and rumors of wars” (Matthew 24:6).

Subject: Insects, Fish, and Plants

Lesson 14: Trees (Part D)

A tree needs an adequate supply of water. To gather this water, a tremendous root system is developed. In their search for water, roots grow into almost every crack and crevice. They make their way between small stones and into cracks of larger stones. They buckle sidewalks and pavements and clog sewers. The tips of the roots are guided by specks of moisture, which attract them like magnets. When the root reaches a drop of moisture, root hairs reach out and absorb it. The roots are continually searching for and absorbing the water that the tree needs.

Water is so important to the tree that if there isn't a sufficient supply, the growth of the tree will be stunted and the tree will become fruitless. A lack of water will cause the tree to die. On the other hand, a plentiful supply of water will permit a tree to grow and become fruitful.

Did you know that God likens a person who studies His Word to a tree with a good supply of water? Turn to Psalm 1:2,3 and read what He said. "His _____ is in the _____ of the _____, and on his law he _____ day and night. He is like a _____ planted by streams of water, which yields its _____ in season."

Just as it is important for a tree to have a continual supply of water, it is important for a Christian to read and study the Bible regularly. Let us see what some of the great men of the Bible said about Bible study.

Multiple Choice (Underline the correct answer.)

1. Peter tells us to (avoid, forget, crave) the pure spiritual milk of the Word (1 Peter 2:2).
2. Moses tells us in Deuteronomy 8:3 that (man lives by bread and a part of the words of the Lord, man lives only by bread, man lives by bread and every word of the Lord).
3. Job said that he esteemed the words of God (less than, more than, equal to) his daily bread (Job 23:12).
4. The Psalmist in Psalm 119:72 states that the law of God is more precious to him than (tens, hundreds, thousands) of pieces of silver and gold.

We can see from these Scripture verses that we should study God's Word. The next question is when should we study the Word?

5. The Psalmist said he meditated on God's Word (most of, all of, part of) the day (Psalm 119:97).
6. In Acts 17:10,11, the people of Berea searched the Scriptures (every day, once a week, every other day).