THE
CHRISTIAN
ADVENTURE

BY FRANK HAMRICK
After Bunyan wrote the story, he was not sure that it would be accepted by the public. No one had ever written an allegory on biblical truth. He let his fellow prisoners read the story and give their opinions of its usefulness. Some of them advised him to publish it; others advised him to forget it. He decided that the only way to know for sure whether it was worth publishing was to print it and see if anyone would buy it.

Within a year of its publication, several thousand copies had been sold. By the time of his death ten years later, more than one hundred thousand copies had been sold.

Although the plot of The Pilgrim’s Progress makes a nice little story, it is not a children’s book. It contains deep lessons for life. Both nobles and common men, educated and uneducated, have read the book with equal enjoyment and benefit. Some of history’s greatest men admired it. For example, Charles Haddon Spurgeon called it the most important book in his life outside of the Bible, and he read it twice a year—more than a hundred times during his life. Spurgeon was one of the greatest preachers who ever lived.

Hudson Taylor, the great pioneer missionary to China, was also greatly influenced by The Pilgrim’s Progress. Also J. H. Jowett, a great Congregational preacher of England and a master of the Word, rarely preached a sermon in which he did not refer to The Pilgrim’s Progress.

Alexander Whyte, a great Scottish preacher of the nineteenth century, gained a reputation as a graphic and compelling preacher unparalleled even in a country of great preachers. He had a life–long fascination with Bunyan’s great work. He preached whole series of sermons on The Pilgrim’s Progress and referred to it in many of his sermons. He compiled his sermon sketches of the characters of The Pilgrim’s Progress into a book titled Bunyan Characters. (The reprinted version of the book was retitled The Characters of The Pilgrim’s Progress.)
The Style of the Book

- *The Pilgrim's Progress* is an allegory. What is an allegory? ________________
  a story that has an underlying meaning different from the surface
  meaning of the story itself; a story in which the characters, places,
  objects, and events have another meaning, often morally or spiritu-
  ally instructive

- Bunyan called his story a metaphor. How does the dictionary define
  metaphor? ________________
  an implied comparison between two different things; the use of a
  word or phrase literally denoting one kind of object

- Christ taught the people of His day using a similar method. What do we
  call Christ’s metaphors or allegories? ________________
  parables

As you read *The Pilgrim's Progress*, remember that each character and each place
that it mentions has a deeper meaning than what you might see at first glance. To
understand the story best, we must know the intent and purpose of the author
so that we can discover the deeper meanings behind the events he is recounting.

*The Pilgrim's Progress* was written during the seventeenth century by an
Englishman who spoke and wrote using the language in the unique style of that
time. The language of his original version is close to that of the language in the
King James Version of the Bible and similar to but a little easier to read than the
writings of William Shakespeare. In fact, the King James Version was translated
in the same century in which Bunyan lived (1611). Bunyan was thoroughly satu-
rated in the King James Version and in the language of that day.

Therefore, the original version of *The Pilgrim's Progress* has a beauty of expres-
sion that is found only in the much–loved King James Version of the Bible. The
version that you will read, however, has been modernized so that today’s young
people can more readily understand, enjoy, and benefit from the lessons of this
great book.

The Summary of the Book and Its Meaning

The central figure of *The Pilgrim's Progress* is Christian, a married man with chil-
dren who lives in the city of Destruction. In the story, we learn that his name
at first was Graceless. Later, when he came to the Cross of Christ, his name was
changed to Christian. Throughout the book, however, in addition to either of
these names, he is often referred to simply as “the pilgrim.”

*The Pilgrim's Progress* is the story of how Christian journeys from the city of
Destruction to the Celestial City. Its deeper meaning, however, is the story of a
lost soul’s flight to Christ and then its journey as a Christian from the Cross to
heaven.

Because *The Pilgrim's Progress* is an allegory, the various characters and places have
deeper meanings. Thus, we see in the story that a lost man is seeing his need of
escaping the damnation of hell, but Satan is doing everything he can to thwart
him. At last, however, the man is saved as he comes to the Cross of Christ. From
there to heaven he faces all of the temptations and evils that Satan can muster.
The Lord, however, provides for Christian’s every need. At last, Christian reaches
heaven at God’s appointed time.

Sir Francis Bacon once wrote an essay titled “Of Studies” in which he stated,
“Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed
digested.” John Bunyan’s *The Pilgrim's Progress* is certainly one of the books
that every Christian student should chew and digest.

The Significance of the Characters and Places

Following is a list of the various characters and places found in *The Pilgrim's
Progress* and their meanings. Pay particular attention to these places and people as
you encounter them in your reading. Use the map of Christian’s journey that is
provided in your book to aid you in your study.
Student Manual Pages

Hill of Lucre
The enticement of riches and materialism

Doubting Castle and By-path Meadow
The temptation to find an easier way to godliness and the doubts and fears by which a Christian can be tested

Delectable Mountains
The Word of God and the mature Christian’s experience

Enchanted Grounds and Beulah
The point of sweet fellowship that a mature Christian achieves later in life

River of Death
The appointed time for a Christian to die (Note: If he is not careful, he can die before this point. Christians sometimes die prematurely when they get out of God’s will.)

Celestial City
Heaven

NOTES FROM THE TEACHER’S LESSON

Five Great Lessons from The Pilgrim’s Progress

1. The **Condition** ___________ of the Lost

2. The **Power** ___________ of the Cross

3. The **Importance** ___________ of the Word
   - The Word Gives Graceless the **Burden** ___________ of His Condition
   - The Word Points Him to the **Cross** ___________
   - The Word Became His **Armor** ___________
   - The Word Frees Him from **Despair** ___________
   - The Delectable Mountains Represent the **Enjoyment** ___________ of God’s Word

4. The Prominence of **Satan** ___________

5. The **Difficulty** ___________ of the Way

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<td>A lost man</td>
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<tr>
<td>The pilgrim as Christian</td>
<td>A saved man</td>
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<tr>
<td>Obstinate</td>
<td>A rebellious man who tries to keep the pilgrim from trusting Christ</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pliable</td>
<td>A curious man who, for a time, shows some interest in being saved, but he is not willing to suffer and pay the price</td>
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<td>Mr. Worldly Wiseman</td>
<td>The intellectual, egotistical religious person who tries to lead a soul in the wrong direction</td>
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<td>Goodwill, the Gatekeeper</td>
<td>Jesus Christ, who is the Way and the Door</td>
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<td>Interpreter</td>
<td>Both the minister of the gospel and the Holy Spirit</td>
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<td>Evangelist</td>
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<td>Apollyon</td>
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<td>The citizens of Vanity Fair</td>
<td>Unsavved people in a hurry to enjoy the pleasures of the world</td>
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<td>Giant Despair</td>
<td>The Christian’s own temptation to give up in his Christian life and in the world, the flesh, and the devil have the victory</td>
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<td>By–ends</td>
<td>An unsaved person who is making an effort at religion but is a hypocrite. He is two–faced and is using his religion only to benefit his business, his popularity, and his ego.</td>
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<td>Faithful</td>
<td>The virtue of faithfulness that Christian needs</td>
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<td>The city of Destruction</td>
<td>Generally, this world system, which is doomed to destruction; more specifically, the condition of every lost soul</td>
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<td>Slough of Despond</td>
<td>A feeling of sadness and despondency through which most burdened sinners go before they get saved. Many such sinners never get through it and so never trust Christ for salvation.</td>
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<td>High Hill near Morality</td>
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<td>Vanity Fair</td>
<td>The world and all its temptations and enticements</td>
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APPLICATION ACTIVITIES

1. Compare and contrast the original language of *The Pilgrim’s Progress* with the modernized version in your textbook. What conclusions can you make from this study? Why do you think that the old language style has survived for so long? What influence has it had on our society?

2. Study the parables of Jesus. Make a chart outlining their surface plots and their deeper meanings. Find Scripture reasons why He taught in parables.

3. Conduct a study and write a report on the religious conditions in England during Bunyan’s day.

4. Read “The Author’s Apology for His Book” (see Appendix A) and write a summary of what it tells about why and how Bunyan wrote *The Pilgrim’s Progress*. 


The phrase “and yet there is room” (as the King James Version states) gave him the assurance that he needed, and he was saved.

Soon thereafter, he told the three ladies whom he had overheard in Bedford of his salvation experience. They introduced him to their newly arrived pastor, John Gifford. Over the next while, Gifford taught Bunyan the doctrines of grace. In 1653, Bunyan was baptized and joined Gifford’s church.

In 1656, he was encouraged to preach to the people of Gifford’s little Baptist church, and soon crowds flocked to hear this uneducated but godly tinker–preacher. In that day, it was unheard of for a man with no schooling to preach. Furthermore, it was illegal for anyone to preach without a license from the state! Bunyan had neither the license nor the education. Yet, his wit, vivid imagination, and masterful preaching held audiences spellbound.

For the first two years, his preaching dealt almost exclusively with the sinfulness of man.

“I preached what I felt,” he wrote, “what I smartingly did feel; even that under which my poor soul did groan and tremble to astonishment. I went myself in chains, to preach to them in chains. Thus I went on for the space of two years, crying out against man’s sins, and their fearful state because of them.”

Soon, however, the Lord gave him more knowledge of His Word, and for the next two years, after Gifford had left the church, he ministered at Bedford. During this time, he preached a different message: “Jesus Christ in all his offices, relations and benefits unto the world.” Later, God led him to a third truth about which he began to preach: the mystery of the union of Christ.

For six years, Bunyan preached at Bedford, during which time he learned a number of lessons. In his autobiography, Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners, he offered the following observations of some of those lessons.

“I have observed, that where I have had a work to do for God, I have had first, as it were, the going of God upon my spirit, to desire I might preach there.” If a church or a person needed to hear John Bunyan, God seemed to lay that church or person on Bunyan’s heart. He then went to them and always found them ready to listen and be saved.
“I have also observed, that where there has been a work to do upon sinners, there the devil hath begun to roar in the hearts and by the mouths of his servants.” Whenever God was about to do a great work, Bunyan received his greatest attacks and threats from ungodly men. This taught him to praise God when the clouds grew darkest because he knew that the sunshine of God’s blessing soon would follow.

Bunyan had a peculiar running battle with Satan. Sometimes while he was preaching, he was violently assaulted with thoughts of blasphemy and was strongly tempted to speak the blasphemous words to the congregation! He also had a long running battle with pride. Satan was constantly telling him how great he was, as the following incident from Toplady’s Works (Vol. 4, p. 11) illustrates.

“Mr. Bunyan having preached one day with peculiar warmth and enlargement, some of his friends, after the service was over, took him by the hand, and could not help but observing what a sweet sermon he had delivered. ‘Ay,’ said the good man, ‘you need not remind me of that for the devil told me of it before I was out of the pulpit.’”

Another battle that Bunyan fought with Satan involved the lies and slanderous attacks upon his character that the evil citizens of Bedford launched against him. At various times he was rumored to be a witch, a Jesuit priest, and a highway robber. Some people said that he had frequented harlots and even had two wives at once!

Bunyan said of these slanders, “Now these slanders, with the others, I glory in, because they are but slanders, foolish or knavish lies and falsehoods cast upon me by the devil and his seed. So, then, what shall I say to those who have thus bespattered me? Shall I threaten them? Shall I entreat them to hold their tongues? No, not I. Therefore I bind these lies and slanders to me as an ornament; it belongs to my Christian profession to be vilified, slandered, reproached, and reviled…I rejoice in reproaches for Christ’s sake.”

After five or six years of uninterrupted preaching, he was asked in 1660 to preach in Samsell, a suburb of Bedford. He had planned to preach on John 9:34, but as he stood to preach, the constable walked in and arrested him for preaching without a license. A mock trial followed, during which Bunyan made fools of the judges. However, he was sentenced to twelve years in the Bedford jail. Justice Keeling sternly read the sentence: “You must be had back again to prison, and there lie for three months following; and at three months’ end, if you do not submit to go to church to hear divine service, and leave off your preaching, you must be banished from the realm: and if, after such a day as shall be appointed you to be gone you shall be found in this realm or be found to come over again without special license from the king, you must stretch by the neck for it, I tell you plainly.”

After three months in jail, Bunyan was brought before a Mr. Cobb, who examined him and pleaded a long time with him, trying to convince him not to preach any more. The account of the conversation is interesting and again shows Bunyan’s great intellect and amazing ability to confound his accusers.

Cobb thought that he had convinced him when he asked if Bunyan believed the Scripture that commanded him to obey those who had the rule over him (Heb. 13:17). Bunyan agreed that he believed the Scripture. Then Cobb said, “Well, the king requests that you preach no more.”

Bunyan replied, “Sir, the law hath provided two ways of obeying: the one to do that which I in my conscience do believe that I am bound to do actively (that is, to preach the gospel); and the other, when I cannot obey actively (because of the law), I am willing to lie down, and to suffer what they shall do unto me.”

At that, Cobb sat silently for a great while and then rose and left. Bunyan called after him, thanking him for his kindness and meekness in listening to and talking with him!

Bunyan was left in prison for twelve years, until release in 1672. During his imprisonment, he had only two books to occupy his time: his Bible and Foxe’s Book of Martyrs (both of which still exist today). During the long years, he began writing his autobiography (Grace Abounding) and The Pilgrim’s Progress. Before he could complete The Pilgrim’s Progress, however, he was released in 1672. He enjoyed only about six months of freedom, however, before he was again arrested and confined for another six months. During this confinement, he finished The Pilgrim’s Progress and wrote The Holy City’s Resurrection and Of Prayer by the Spirit.

The first part of The Pilgrim’s Progress (the part that you have in your textbook) was published in 1678. He completed and published the second part, which is the story of how Christian’s wife and children follow him to the Celestial City, in 1684. The Holy War was published sometime after 1678.
Bunyan became the pastor in a new church that was erected just for him in Bedford. There he preached until he became sick after visiting a family in a chilling storm. Ten days later, he died at the house of Mr. Straddock, a London grocer, on August 12, 1688.

One sentence from Bunyan’s classic book perhaps best marks the philosophy of his life: “If you will go with us, you must go against wind and tide. You must own religion in his rags as well as in his silver slippers; and stand by him, too, when bound in irons as well as when he walketh the streets with applause.”

- What do you think the preceding statement means? ______________
  __________________________________________________________
  __________________________________________________________
  __________________________________________________________

NOTES FROM THE TEACHER’S LESSON

- John Bunyan Lacked a  Formal Education
- He Was a Man of the  Bible
- He Was a  Preacher

APPLICATION ACTIVITIES

1. Read and summarize Bunyan's autobiography, *Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners.*
2. Read and summarize *Foxe’s Book of Martyrs.* In your report, explain why this book had such an influence on Bunyan’s life.
3. Make an annotated list of Bunyan’s complete works. (An annotated list means a list with comments about each work.)
4. List the books that have had the greatest spiritual influence on you and explain how and why they affected you.
5. Research the lives of other great Christians and list the books that influenced them.
When a person is lost, he cannot be saved unless he first comes under conviction, and that conviction can come only through the Word of God. As the person reads the Word or hears it preached, he becomes aware of his sinful condition and realizes that he must die and suffer in hell for his sin if he is not saved. This knowledge becomes a great burden upon his back; it will allow him no ease until it is removed at the Cross.

- What does Hebrews 9:27 say? And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.

- What does Isaiah 30:33 say that evidently worried Graceless? Tophet is old, deep, and large; God's breath is like brimstone.

- What do you think Tophet is? Hell

The Condition of Graceless

The condition of Graceless is a perfect picture of all lost souls. Read the following verses in the Bible and place beside each reference the statement in the first paragraphs of the reading assignment for this lesson that illustrates the corresponding condition of the lost soul.

- Isaiah 64:6 a man who was dressed in dirty, ragged clothes, all our righteousnesses
- Psalm 38:4 a heavy pack, or burden, on his back, mine iniquities
- Acts 24:25 made him cry and tremble, Felix trembled
- Acts 16:30 What shall I do? What must I do to be saved?

The Conviction of Graceless

- Graceless is broken and burdened over his and his family's condition. According to the reading, what causes this conviction and burden? what he was reading in the book
- What does this book represent? the Bible, God's Word

When Evangelist comes, he asks why Graceless is crying. In his answer, Graceless reveals three things that contribute to his conviction. Beside each of the following items, place the statement from the reading that best reveals its part in convicting Graceless.

- The Word of God this book I'm reading says that
- Death I'm condemned to die
- Hell and then to be judged
- What do you think Tophet is? Hell

The Confrontation with His Family

- Graceless comes home with a heavy heart. For a while he tries to hide his burden, but, at last, he has to share it. What does he first inform them that he has discovered in 2 Peter 3:10? that the city will be burned (destroyed) by fire
- What does he say to his family that might remind you of Hebrews 2:3? The city and its inhabitants would be destroyed by fire unless some way of escape was found.
- What is their reaction to his statement? They were amazed, not that they believed him, but that they thought he was crazy, insane, and mentally unbalanced.
- The more he talks to them, the more Proverbs 29:1 applies. What happened? They're hardened to his message, and then they begin to treat him rudely, scold him harshly, and ignore him.
Such questions are aimed squarely at causing the lost soul to reach the following conclusions:
1. I have a problem.
2. I have to die and go to hell.
3. I can’t stand still but must do something about it.
4. I must go through a narrow gate, a way that the crowd isn’t going.
5. I must follow the light of God’s Word to reach the gate.

The Cry of His Neighbors and Family

When a person begins to show a real desire and keen interest in spiritual things, he will face the taunts and jeers of his unsaved friends and family members. They will tease him, mock him, and even threaten him because his sudden change in attitude makes them look bad. Similarly, Graceless hears the cries and taunts of his family and friends as he hurries toward the wicket–gate.
• How does Luke 9:62 apply to Graceless?
  
  Once he (and the plowman) starts, he can’t turn back again.

• In Genesis 19:15–17, how does Lot’s experience parallel the story of Graceless? Both of them were told to leave their respective cities with their families and not to look back lest they be consumed with the cities when they were destroyed.

• In Jeremiah 20:10, what were Jeremiah’s enemies anxious to see happen to him? They wanted to see him fall to enticements, etc., so that they could rejoice in his downfall and could get revenge against him.

The lesson: The world does not like to see one of its own get caught up in spiritual things, so it puts even more pressure on the sinner who is under conviction, thereby making it even harder for him to come to Christ.

• When his family calls after him, what does Graceless do that a sinner must do if he is to make it to Christ?
  He ran the other way, stopped his ears against their cries, and repeated to himself his goal of eternal life. He refused to look back.

NOTES FROM THE TEACHER’S LESSON

The Burdened Sinner

• All Are Burdened, But Only One Is Concerned

• The Reason Only One Is Burdened
  He is the only one that really believes his condition because he is the only one that has been exposed to the Word of God.

• The Light–Hearted Sinner
  They Are _______________________________________

• The Wise Evangelist
  He Appears at the Right Time
  God Leads Saints and Sinners Together
  The Man Who Finds Hungry Souls Is the Man Who Hunts For Them
  He Knew the Right Approach
  He Asked Questions
  He Knew Where to Point Him

APPLICATION ACTIVITIES
1. What are some other scriptural techniques of soulwinning? Regardless of the techniques used, however, upon what (ultimately) does the salvation of a soul depend?
2. What personal qualities must an effective soul winner possess? Why?
3. Where might you find burdened souls to whom you could be an Evangelist?
4. Conduct a study of other religions (e.g., Islam, Catholicism, and Buddhism), emphasizing the different ways in which their adherents react toward one of their own that converts to Christianity.
When Bunyan’s parents took him to church on Sunday mornings, they followed the path through the field shown on your map. As he and his parents came to the spring, they turned north and walked between the cornfield, where a large windmill stood, and a field of daisies until they came to a stile (a ladder over the fence). Crossing the stile, they came to a marshy meadow that stayed wet because of Cardington Brook. At times, the brook overflowed its banks, causing the meadow to be very slick and slimy. His father, or perhaps an earlier inhabitant of the area, had placed a series of stones across the worst part of the marsh, but during the worst states of flooding, even those stones were covered and could not be used easily. Part of the marsh was lower than the rest and was overgrown with reeds. This reedy pool was especially dangerous and had to be avoided during severe flooding.

The family crossed the marsh at its driest point, jumped the brook, and crossed another stile onto a public footpath, which was roofed over by large elm and ash trees. Soon they came to the main road to Elstow and, passing the blacksmith’s barn, they came to the village green and Abbey Church.

To the right of Abbey Church stood the bell tower, which so much attracted Bunyan when he was a child. He often had wild thoughts about the devil’s sitting on top of the tower shooting arrows down at the people who tried to go through the nearby gate. The gate was actually a wooden picket fence that stood beside the Abbey Church. After Bunyan married, he and his bride moved to a small cottage about a hundred yards to the right of Abbey Church.

Farther down the road on either side stood the houses of the tiny village. When Bunyan was a young man, he played the game of Cat in the village green in front of the Abbey Church. The people gathered on the same green each November for their county fair. Bunyan never forgot the exciting sights, sounds, and smells of those fairs. The sweet smell of pies, cakes, meats, and wine and the sounds of laughter turned Elstow from a sleepy little farm village into a raucous, wicked city for one week each fall.

Years later, when he wrote his great allegory, boyhood influences figured heavily in his imaginative writing. One can easily see where Bunyan’s imagination framed the ideas of the Slough of Despond, the wicket–gate, the Tower of Beelzebub from which Satan shot arrows at those who attempted to enter the gate, and Vanity Fair.
As we continue studying the story, note the historical setting of each of the major places in The Pilgrim’s Progress. Perhaps you will sense the feel of Bunyan’s England of the late seventeenth century.

**A Closer Look**

Graceless, leaving his family and friends behind, follows the light that will lead him to the wicket-gate. Soon, he clearly sees that his former friends think that he is foolish because they call out to him to return. Paying no heed to their calls, however, the pilgrim continues toward the light (which, as the preceding teacher’s lesson indicated, could be the Gospel of John).

- Why did the teacher’s lesson suggest that the “light” that Evangelist told Graceless to follow was possibly John’s Gospel?
  
  **Light is a key word in John, and its theme is “that believing ye might have life through His name.”**

The lesson: Whenever we meet a burdened sinner who does not yet know or understand what it means to place one’s faith in Christ, the best book of the Bible to get him to read is the Gospel of John. It is simple and easy to understand; yet, its purpose is to lead people to believe in Him and live (John 20:31).

- Two men from the city of Destruction who are bolder than the rest set out after the pilgrim, determined to bring him back. Their names are **Obstinate** and **Pliable**.

  When they tell him their purpose for coming after him, Graceless tells them that they are wasting their time because he will not go back with them.

  - What reason does he give for not returning with them?
    
    **because whoever stays in the city of Destruction will die there when the city is destroyed**

He then invites them to come with him. At this point, we begin to see the character traits of these two men and how they are no different than men today.

**Obstinate**

**Definition**

- What does the word obstinate mean? 
  
  stubbornly and inflexibly sticking to an idea; difficult to subdue or control

**His Character**

This section of The Pilgrim’s Progress gives us an excellent illustration of the character traits of an obstinate person. Note the traits carefully and consider if any of them are in you.

**His Values**

- What does Obstinate value more than escaping the damnation of hell?
  
  friends and comforts

- What does this show us about why many people do not trust Christ?
  
  They are more concerned about what they enjoy here and now than they are with what they will have in eternity.

- Obstinate cannot imagine anything more valuable than the things of this life. The pilgrim responds to Obstinate’s indignant retort (“What?! And leave all of our friends and comforts of life behind us?”) by stating that nothing that one must forsake is worthy to be compared with a little of what he is going to enjoy. He is evidently referring to Romans 8:18, which states, 

  **For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory to be revealed in us.**

- Obstinate’s values also affect his opinion of the Bible. What phrase expresses his low esteem for God’s Word?
  
  “Yeah, right. Forget your old book.”
His Pride

- This section shows Obstinate’s pride in many ways. How does he show his pride in his remarks to Pliable about the pilgrim?
  He says that they should go back home without him because some people think they’re smarter than anyone else.

- How is his pride revealed in his response to Pliable’s stated desire to go with the pilgrim?
  He thinks that Pliable is a fool, too, and he urges him to come back with him because they don’t know but what the pilgrim is crazy or insane or what kinds of problems he’ll lead them into.

Pliable

Definition

- What does the word pliable mean? flexible, easily bent or shaped, and easily influenced or persuaded

His Character

A pliable person is one who yields for a time but is easily turned. He has no perseverance. He is caught by promises and hopes, but he doesn’t count the cost of the journey. He is ready (pliable) for good or bad, depending on the circumstances. He is quick to get on the bandwagon, but he is just as quick to get off of it when the winds of change blow in another direction. He is like Play–Doh—he fits whatever mold he’s put into.

Christ describes such a person in His parable of the sower and the seed in Luke 8:4–15.

- Which of the four types of ground mentioned in the parable does Pliable represent? rocky or stony ground

Note the following three main characteristics of a pliable person.

He Is Easily Persuaded

- How do we see this trait in Pliable?
  He was easily persuaded to go with Obstinate to fetch the pilgrim back to the city of Destruction, then he decided to go with the pilgrim, and then—when trouble came—changed his mind and decided to go back after all.

- How did the man in Luke 8 receive the Word? with joy

- We see this same characteristic in Pliable. He follows the pilgrim not because of a burden but because of glorious promises. From the teacher’s lesson, list four reasons why a pliable person follows after Christianity for a time.
  1. He is following a preacher.
  2. He is following a church or a youth group.
  3. He is following after companionship.
  4. He is following his family.

The pliable person will follow anything that seems to offer entertainment and excitement. Note the following additional characteristics of those who are easily persuaded.

- They have no perseverance because if they are easily persuaded to do something, they can just as easily be persuaded to quit doing it. What does Luke 8 tell us about such a person’s perseverance?
  He believes for a while but then falls away.

- According to Luke, why does he not persevere?
  He has no root.

- What one thing causes Pliable to quit?
  His falling into the Slough of Despond.
Alexander Whyte said that the only real error in Bunyan’s story occurs here because “Pliable had not knowledge enough of himself to make him ever despondent. He was always ready and able to mend his pace. He had no burden on his back, and therefore no doubt in his heart.”

Perhaps it is the overflow of the pilgrim’s despondency that affects Pliable and spills into his heart. He tires of walking with a man who is so dirtied by despondency. The pilgrim is so unhappy that Pliable can no longer enjoy his company.

• What makes the Slough worse for the pilgrim? ______________________________________________________

• Who lifts him out of the Slough? __________________________

In Bunyan’s real-life experience, he entered a period of despondency, but one day, crying out in his soul for help, he read Martin Luther’s commentary on Galatians. This book gave Bunyan the assurance that he was heading in the right direction. Thus, Luther was Bunyan’s Help.

• Does the king desire the pilgrim to enter the Slough? ______________

• What do the steps represent? ________________________________

________________________________________________________

God has given us these steps to help us overcome despondency in our own times.

NOTES FROM THE TEACHER’S LESSON

Obstinate

• His Parents

  • Eli (1 Sam. 2:12, 16, 22; 3:13)
  • David (1 Kings 1:5–6)

• His Short-Sighted Values

• His Refusal of Salvation

• His Hindrance to Others
Pliable

- His Roots Are Not in Himself
- He Is Following a Preacher
- He Is Following a Church or a Youth Group
- He Is Following After Companionship
- He Is Following His Family
- He Is a Gentleman
- He Is a Follower of Man Rather Than Christ
- His Experience Is Emotional

APPLICATION ACTIVITIES

1. Explain Whyte's statement, "Pliable had not knowledge enough of himself to make him ever despondent." Why is a correct knowledge of oneself necessary for salvation?

2. Christians, being human, sometimes fall into a state of deep discouragement, despondency, or depression. What are some things that lead them to this condition? What types of things do you find tend to discourage you? How has such discouragement affected your Christian testimony? How do you deal with discouragement?

3. Conduct a study of Philippians to determine what the apostle Paul says about restoring one’s joy. Make a list of the “do’s and don’ts” of dealing with discouragement in the Christian life.

4. Read and write a summary of The Christian’s Secret of a Happy Life by Hannah Whitall Smith. Focus your attention on anything she has to say about overcoming discouragement.
Bunyan, Foster explained, had merely to promise that he would not call the people together to worship outside a State–approved church. After all, John was only a tinker, not a preacher. Because Bunyan did not know the original Greek, he could hardly be expected to understand what he was talking about. Surely, then, he could promise not to call the people together anymore.

None of these arguments made the smallest impression on Bunyan. For every legal argument that Foster advanced, Bunyan had a theological or moral answer.

At length, Foster gave up the attempt and remanded Bunyan to Francis Wingate for sentencing.

Soon thereafter (May 10, 1670), Parliament passed a new Conventicle Act, which made conventicles, or meetings of independent or nonconformist worshippers, illegal if they were held in a house with more than four people who were outside of the immediate family, or if they were held in a field or wood and more than four people were present. The justice of the peace was empowered to break open doors and arrest those who violated this law. Many people were arrested, and soon Bunyan had plenty of company in his jail, thanks to Foster’s relentless pursuit and dogged determination to wipe out these poor, ignorant independents.

For twelve long years, Bunyan sought to gain his release from prison, but each petition, regardless of how it was filed, found its way to Foster’s desk, where it was immediately rejected. Foster had one thing in mind: to seek political gain by showing how much he hated the nonconformists. Bunyan could have been speaking of Foster when in *The Pilgrim’s Progress* By–ends said, “I was always lucky to jump whichever way the winds of the times were blowing, and my chance was to profit by it.”

Foster’s cruelty and self–seeking interests soon gained for him a place in Parliament. To show how two–faced he was, when Charles II came to the throne late in Bunyan’s life and changed the laws to favor the nonconformists, Foster stood in Parliament and praised the king, saying that he was behind him! Yet, the first chance he had to return to laws that were against the nonconformists, he sought with all of his power to do so.

After Foster had been long forgotten, his shadows—Mr. Worldly Wiseman and Mr. By–ends—show how disgusting he really was.

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**STUDENT WORK**

**Historical Background: Mr. Worldly Wiseman**

Mr. Worldly Wiseman and By–ends did not appear in Bunyan’s original manuscript. Not until the third edition was printed did Bunyan add them to his allegory. It is highly probable that the two characters were the same man in Bunyan’s life.

Bunyan knew a number of “false professors” who might have come to his mind and caused him to include these two characters in his later edition of the book. Their most probable allusion, however, is to William Foster, whom Bunyan regarded as the man who kept him in prison. In fact, Foster, in quizzing Bunyan as to why he was trying to preach when he was only an uneducated tinker, said, “It is happened unto thee as to other weak men, who meddling with things too high for them, do suddenly fall into thy distractions.”

Bunyan remembered those words with delight and gave them to Mr. Worldly Wiseman in his allegory. In *The Pilgrim’s Progress*, Bunyan also said of Mr. Worldly Wiseman, “He looked like a gentleman, and he talked a lot to me.” He often gave the same description of William Foster.

Bunyan’s first encounter with Foster occurred the day after he was arrested for preaching without a license. Foster, a justice of the peace at Bedford, hated independents and nonconformists and sought to make Bunyan promise not to preach. (Nonconformists believed that a man should worship as he pleased and not be forced to go to a State–approved church. They did not believe that it was biblical for them to conform to the State in matters of faith and worship.)

Foster started his interview with Bunyan with much flattery and pretended affection. Bunyan later said of this meeting, “He greeted me with such seeming affection, as if he would have leaped on my neck and kissed me.” However, this pretended kindness was guaranteed to fail from the start; Bunyan had a natural suspicion of anyone who acted overly friendly. Bunyan later called this man “a right Judas.” As the man spoke, Bunyan thought of several Bible verses, such as “Their tongues are smoother than oil” and “Beware of men.” Therefore, he became even more wary of Foster’s smooth and effusive talk.
A Closer Look

In addition to Christian and Evangelist, three other men figure in this part of the story: Mr. Worldly Wiseman, Mr. Legality, and his son, Civility. We could call them “the unholy trio.”

The Allegorical Meaning of the Unholy Trio

These three men represent people who seek to gain heaven by their own efforts, such as keeping the Law, church membership, charitableness, humanitarian deeds, high moral standards, self-improvement, etc.

Mr. Worldly Wiseman represents people who view life and religion from the viewpoint of man’s own human wisdom without any of the wisdom of God.

- What was Mr. Wiseman’s home town? Carnal Policy

This shows that those who think that religion will get them to heaven are fleshly (that’s what carnal means), and their policy is to do only what will build their ego, satisfy their flesh, and enhance their reputation. This is Mr. Wiseman’s policy.

- How do we see Mr. Wiseman’s carnal approach (i.e., to build the pilgrim’s ego) in this story? He called him a good fellow, seemed concerned about him, advised him to follow a happy life with ease among honest neighbors; this way would be easier than the way he was then taking.

The Meaning of the High Hill

The High Hill represents Mt. Sinai, where God gave Moses the Law; thus, it represents keeping the commandments. Thousands of people think that if they can keep the commandments, they can be saved. The “wise” men of this world often make this mistake.

The World’s Approach to Religion

- The world is religious! We make the mistake of thinking that Satan would not go to church. Yet, 2 Corinthians 1:13–15 says that Satan has ministers of righteousness (v. 15), but in reality they are false apostles (v. 13). Satan himself can be transformed to look like an angel of light.

Thus, Satan can be very religious, and so can his ministers. Of course, Satan’s church has many members, and that membership is made up of people like Mr. Worldly Wiseman—men who use their religion to gain respectability and prestige. Let’s examine Satan’s religious approach.

The Ministers

- According to 2 Corinthians 11:13–15, who are the preachers in the world’s church? false apostles, deceitful workers, Satan’s ministers

The Congregation

- According to what we have already studied, what kind of people are generally members of this kind of church? They are people who want to gain God’s blessings by their own effort, who view life from the standpoint of man’s wisdom, who are carnal and want to do only what builds their ego, satisfies their flesh, and enhances their reputation.

The Doctrine

We can see the doctrine of this church in the people and the places to which Worldly Wiseman refers:

- Carnal Policy—doing things that appeal to the flesh and build the ego
- Morality Village—pretending to live a morally good life to please both men and God
- Mr. Legality—keeping the Law and commandments (which requires man’s efforts and thus brings glory to man rather than to God) to save himself
• Civility—being courteous, considerate, polite and learning how to be very cultured and gentlemanly (not to honor God but to draw attention to one’s own goodness)

Thus, the doctrine of the world’s religion centers on the goodness and efforts of man rather than on his sinfulness and utter helplessness.

**The Comparison of Law and Grace**

Two mountains figure in this story—Calvary and Mt. Sinai. The High Hill represents Sinai, and the little hill on which stands a cross (to which the pilgrim comes later) represents Calvary, salvation by the grace of God, whereas Sinai represents salvation by keeping the commandments. Note the difference between the two.

**Salvation by the Law**

• Does the High Hill remove the pilgrim’s burden of sin?  **No**

• What does the Hill do to his sinful behavior?  **It only makes it heavier.**

This is but a picture of scriptural teaching concerning the fact that the Law cannot save but will instead only increase man’s burden. Read the following verses and state what they tell us about the Law.

**Concerning Justification**

• Galatians 2:16— **By the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.**

• Romans 3:20— **By the deed of the law shall no flesh be justified; the law gives only a knowledge of God.**

According to each of the following verses, if man could be justified by his own efforts, what would be true?

• Romans 4:2— **Man could glory in himself, his own efforts.**

• Galatians 2:21— **Christ’s death would be in vain (i.e., there would have been no reason for Christ to die on the Cross).**

• Galatians 3:21— **Righteousness would be by the Law.**

• Galatians 5:4— **Christ is become of no effect.**

**Concerning the Law**

• Why do men seek to keep the Law for salvation? (Gal. 6:12)  **They want glory, but they don’t want to suffer for Christ.**

• What will the Law do for man? (Rom. 4:15)  **work wrath (i.e., judge, condemn, punish him)**

Those who seek to go to heaven by keeping the Law will have to endure the curse of the Law—hell—if they disobey even one little point.

What is the purpose of the Law? If the Law condemns men rather than saves them, why did God give the Law? Note the following verses.

• Romans 3:20—By the law is the **knowledge of sin**.

  If God had not given the Law, man would not have known that he was a sinner. Romans 4:15 says, “Where no law is there is no transgression,” that is, man cannot break the Law if there is no Law and would never know what a great sinner he is if God had not given the Law to show him.

• Galatians 3:24— **Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ that we might be justified by faith.**

  (i.e., the Law shows man that he cannot keep it and makes him realize further that only Christ can save).
Salvation by Grace

Grace means receiving salvation freely, without any effort and totally without deserving it either by our works or our goodness. Grace is called "unmerited favor" (God’s favoring those who do not merit, or deserve, it). Grace has also been defined using the following acronym:

- God’s
- Riches
- At
- Christ’s
- Expense

How does one gain this grace? Ephesians 2:8 says that it is through faith. It is a gift of God.

- If a man worked to earn salvation, then when God gave it to him, it would not be because God was gracious but because man earned it and deserved it. How does Romans 4:4 explain this point?
  
  To him that worketh, the reward is not reckoned of grace but of debt.

- What is Paul’s conclusion in Romans 3:28?
  
  Man if justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.

NOTES FROM THE TEACHER’S LESSON

Mr. Worldly Wiseman

His Approach

1. He is Friendly
2. He Seems Concerned
3. He Is Intent on Helping the Pilgrim

His Appeal

1. Better
2. Quicker
3. Easier

His Attitude

Why Did God Give the Commandments? (Gal. 3:17–24)

1. To Show Us We Are Sinners
2. It Is Our Schoolmaster
3. To Bring Us to Christ

Two Roads to Heaven

The High Road of Keeping the Law

1. You’re Admired
2. If You Break One, You Are Condemned

The Low Road of Trusting Christ’s Death

1. You Must Be Humble; It Is Humiliating
2. Getting Saved Gives You a Home in Heaven
APPLICATION ACTIVITIES

1. Conduct a survey of the world’s “great religions” and list the ways that each of them strives to earn salvation by means of man’s own efforts (works, or keeping the law). Can you think of any “Christian” groups that also teach salvation through legalism, or keeping of the law? Who are they, and what do they teach?


3. Explain the difference between trying to keep the law for salvation and obedience to Scripture in matters of biblical separation. Is insistence on biblical separation a form of legalism? Why or why not?

4. Study what Paul has to say about biblical separation in his epistles. List the circumstances and situations in which Paul says we should be “separatists.”

5. List specific instances in which you have been required to make decisions about separation.
STUDENT WORK

Historical Background

As we have already learned, the wicket–gate in Bunyan’s story, although it represents Christ, had its imaginative origin in a little wooden gate that stood close to the bell tower of the Abbey Church in Elstow. When he was a child, Bunyan had to go through that little wicket–gate to get into the churchyard. The bell tower had originally been part of another church in the eleventh century. That church was torn down in the 1500s, leaving only the tower. The new church was erected soon afterward, but it was never connected to the tower.

Living as a young boy close to the Abbey Church and beside the wicket–gate, Bunyan used to imagine that the devil stood in the top of the bell tower, shooting arrows at the people who tried to enter the church through the gate. He later added those details to his famous allegory. The wicket–gate became the realization that Christ was the answer to sin (“I am the door,” John 10:7), and the bell tower corresponded to Beelzebub’s castle from which he shot his arrows at anyone who sought salvation through Christ.

A Closer Look

Evangelist, having rescued the pilgrim from the bad advice of Worldly Wiseman, set him on the right course toward the wicket–gate. The pilgrim finally reached this gate, which represents Christ, and our story continues.

The Details of the Story

• What was written over the gate? ______________________________
  “Knock, and it shall be opened unto you.”

• This is a quotation from Mathew 7:7. In that same chapter (v. 13), we find that two gates are open to man. What are they called?
  the strait gate and the wide gate

• Through which gate must one enter to be saved? the strait gate

• Does this gate lead to an easy way or a hard way? a hard way

• Who opened the gate for the pilgrim? Goodwill, who, like the gate itself, also represents Christ.

• In answer to the gatekeeper’s question, who does the pilgrim say is knocking? a poor, burdened sinner

• Why does Goodwill pull the pilgrim inside? ___________________________________________________________________________
  He does this because Beelzebub and those with him are shooting arrows at anyone who tries to enter through the wicket–gate.

• Goodwill then asks the pilgrim a number of questions. After gathering this information from the pilgrim, he points him on his way. According to Goodwill, how is the pilgrim to distinguish the right way from the wrong way? __________________________________________________________________________
  The right way is always straight and narrow.

• The pilgrim leaves, still bearing his burden, and comes to which place? Interpreter’s house

• This man represents both the Holy Spirt and the minister of the gospel (from Lesson 1). Here the pilgrim will learn seven important lessons that will help him get to the Cross. Describe what the pilgrim experiences in each of the two rooms studied in this lesson.

  1. The private room—There was the picture of a man with eyes toward heaven, best of books in hand, law of truth on lips, the world behind him, crown hanging over his head. His work is to unfold dark things to sinners. This man is the only man the Lord has authorized to guide the pilgrim.
2. The large parlor— The parlor is man’s unsanctified heart; dust is man’s sin; man sweeping is the Law, which cannot save; and water is the gospel, which can save.

The Teaching Concerning the Wicket–Gate

The Wicket–Gate

The wicket–gate represents Christ, but it does not represent salvation! Note that the pilgrim does not get saved until he gets to the Cross. At least four things show us that the Cross, not the wicket–gate, is the point of his salvation.

1. His burden does not fall off until he reaches the Cross.
2. His name is not changed from Graceless to Christian until the Cross (although in the story he is called Christian from the beginning).
3. He is not declared to be forgiven until the angel at the Cross declares him to be forgiven.
4. His rags are not changed to robes of righteousness until he gets to the Cross.

In a sinner’s experience the gate represents the time when he has, like the pilgrim, realized that there is no other way of salvation except by Christ. He still, however, has not come to the point of trust and assurance, which comes only at the Cross. He is now “in the way” and needs only a little more guidance from Interpreter to be forever rid of his burden of sin.

Goodwill

• Goodwill also represents Christ and has several parallels to the Lord. First, he is willing to open the door to the pilgrim. What does 2 Peter 3:9 say about this? The Lord is not slack concerning his promise but is willing that all should come to repentance and none should perish.

• Second, he is concerned about not only the pilgrim but also his family and friends. According to 2 Peter 3:9, Christ wants all to come to repentance.

The Teaching Concerning Interpreter’s House

The seven rooms in Interpreter’s house represent seven truths that will finally bring the pilgrim to the Cross and help him in his life after he trusts Christ. This lesson covers the first two of these truths.

The Private Room

The picture that Interpreter shows to the pilgrim represents the kind of man to follow on this pilgrimage through life. The pilgrim, as Christian, will meet many such people as he has already met in Mr. Worldly Wiseman, Obstinate, and Pliable. Some of them will lead him rightly, but some of them will lead him astray. How will he be able to detect the kind of man to follow? How can he spot a deceiver?

Note the following characteristics of the kind of person one can follow without fear.

• He can beget children, that is, he is an effective witness.
• He labors in birth with children, that is, he not only witnesses but also prays for, agonizes over, and works with the sinner until he is born again. (That’s what Evangelist did. He not only witnessed once to the pilgrim but also kept after him and helped him along the way.)
• He nurses them. What does this fact indicate? He teaches them, feeding them the Word of God after they have been born again; he disciplines them.
• His words are based on the Book, and his advice is backed up by Scripture.
• His eyes look to heaven; he is a man of prayer and dependence upon the Lord.
• His back is to the world. What does this fact indicate? It indicates that he is separated from the world, he doesn't care for the things of the world, and his main concern is to serve his Master and to help others to know Him.
The Importance of the Virgin Birth

If there were no virgin birth,

then He is not innocent; thus, He cannot be our substitute; therefore, justice cannot pardon or forgive us of sin, and we must all die and spend eternity in hell.

APPLICATION ACTIVITIES

1. If you have been saved, who pointed you to Jesus Christ? Have you had someone who took the time and exerted the effort to disciple you, helping you to learn important lessons from God’s Word? Have you ever thanked either person for pointing you to the Savior and discipling you? If not, write a thank-you note to them, telling them how much you appreciate their faithful witness and the interest they took in you.

2. Read 2 Timothy 3:14. What does this verse explicitly instruct us to do? What does it imply that we should do? Write a one- to two-page essay summarizing what these people taught you.

3. Conduct a study of the major religions of the world, showing how they try to get people to gain salvation by just about every conceivable way except by the one true way, Jesus Christ.

4. The “politically correct” view today is the way of tolerance of every religion, regardless of how false and contrary to the Word it might be. People hate Christianity because they say it is “too exclusive”; it teaches only one way to salvation. Make a collection of newspaper and magazine clippings of events or
statements that reveal this unbiblical view. Write out verses (with their references) that refute the world’s idea of many equally valid ways to God.

5. Conduct a study of the concept of substitutionary sacrifice in the Old Testament. Show how Christ is the perfect substitute for sin in the conclusion of your study.
Although Bunyan was then inside the wicket-gate, he still had not arrived at the Cross. Gifford served as the Interpreter. Bunyan said that Gifford “took occasion to talk with me, and was willing to be well persuaded of men though I think on too little grounds. But he invited me to his house, where I should hear him confer with others about the dealings of God with their souls. . . . At that time also I sat under the ministry of holy Mr. Gifford, whose doctrine, by the grace of God, was much for my stability.”

Bunyan was the man in rags, the pilgrim, and Gifford was both the Evangelist and the Interpreter.

A Closer Look

- The Interpreter has seven lessons to teach the pilgrim, the first of which we studied in the preceding lesson. In the private room with the picture, Christian learned the kind of man to follow.
- In the large parlor with the dust, the pilgrim learned the only way to remove sin.

In this lesson, we see Christian as he moves through the rest of the house. Note the following lessons that he learned.

Proper Values

Two children named Passion and Patience sit in a room. The one child is discontented and agitated, but the other child is very calm and quiet. The passionate one wants his benefits now; the patient one is willing to wait. The first one has his wish but soon uses up his treasure. The second one in time receives his treasure, which lasts forever.

Answer the following questions, which reveal some important lessons for us:

- Who does Passion represent? the men of this world
- Who does Patience represent? the men of the world that is to come

Historical Background

The Interpreter in The Pilgrim’s Progress almost certainly was inspired by the influence of John Gifford upon John Bunyan’s life. Undoubtedly, the Interpreter represents both the Holy Spirit and the minister of the gospel who guides the seeking soul to that final meeting with God at Calvary. For Bunyan, that man was John Gifford.

On June 1, 1648, the Parliamentary forces defeated the Royalist army, ending the bloody English civil war. The Parliamentarians were Puritans and were literally fighting for their religious freedom. In one night, the Puritan armies stamped out the Royalists and took hundreds of them prisoner.

Among the prisoners was a Royalist major named John Gifford. As a Royalist, he now had no prospect but the gallows. On the night before his execution, his sister was allowed to visit him. But the soldiers, exhausted from battle and weary with lack of sleep, did not notice Gifford and his sister as they slipped past the guards and escaped. For several days, he hid in ditches and thickets until he could escape to London and, from there, to Bedford. In Bedford, as soon as it was safe for him to do so, Gifford began to serve as a doctor, putting to use the medical training he had received in the Royalist army.

But Gifford’s life in Bedford was disgraceful. He became a gambler and a drunkard. He hated Puritans and so persecuted and tormented them that his name became infamous and filled men with fear. His life of dissipation did not satisfy him, and he was near suicide. But then Gifford heard the gospel, and God saved his soul.

The change in his life was dramatic. His face radiated the glory of God. He redirected his energy into bold witnessing, and he immediately joined those whom he had formerly persecuted. Soon, his zeal and knowledge of the Word propelled him into the pastorate of the Puritan church in Bedford.

At this point, his life and that of Bunyan’s crossed paths. As we’ve already learned, in his search for the truth, Bunyan met three ladies who introduced him to their pastor, John Gifford.
Inner Struggle for Salvation

As strange as it might seem, this lesson is the only lesson in the Interpreter’s house that is not explained for us. It is also the only one that is hard to understand. What was Bunyan trying to show or teach by this scene of valiant men trying to conquer the stately palace? Surely he was not saying that one gains salvation by his own efforts. We have already learned that Bunyan emphasized salvation by grace through faith, not of works or human efforts at reform.

What, then, does the stately palace represent? Who are the armed men? Who are the fearful people? What is the book, and who is the valiant man who charges the palace gate? Evidently, Bunyan was trying to describe the inner struggle that goes on in a man’s soul. Many people desire to be saved, but the demons of hell, man’s own doubts and excuses, and peer pressure cause them to remain timidly “outside the gate.” They struggle with conflicting emotions. Those who do trust Christ will endure an inner struggle. Only by the power of the Word (the sword in this illustration) and the earnestness of the heart (the man’s stoutness) can a person conquer his doubts, fears, and conflicting emotions and trust Christ.

• How does Acts 14:22 speak of this result? 

God’s grace will always be sufficient for us because His strength is made perfect in our weakness, so we should glory in our infirmities because we can then see the power of Christ resting upon us.

Sustaining Grace

• In the next room, the pilgrim finds a fire burning (where?) against a wall. A man is standing beside it continually throwing water on it, but the more he throws on it the higher and hotter the fire burns.

• What does the fire represent? the work of grace in one’s heart

• Who is trying to put out the fire? the devil

• What causes the fire to blaze higher and hotter? Christ, who is on the other side of the wall, is continually pouring oil on the fire.

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The Bible seems to indicate that a man can reject Christ so often that he eventually hardens his heart and cannot trust Christ. He has sinned away his last chance to be saved and is therefore helpless to trust Christ!

- For what three things did the man in the cage reject Christ?

  - for the lusts, pleasures, and profits of this world

How tragic! For the “pleasures of sin for a season” the man is now doomed to a Christless eternity, and he sits dreading the day of his death because he knows that he will slip into hell with no hope of escape.

**The Second Coming of Christ**

- The last lesson that the pilgrim learns at the Interpreter’s house is taught in a chamber. What does Christian see in that chamber?

  - He saw the return of the Lord and the Great White Throne Judgment.

Bunyan seems to combine both the Rapture of the church and the revelation of Christ in this one illustration. Certainly he wanted to portray the Great White Throne Judgment. Although Bunyan seems to have been somewhat confused about the two aspects of Christ’s Second Coming, the point that he made is clear—the Lord had come and the man in bed had not been ready.

The Interpreter used this scene as his final lesson because he wanted it to be a goad to prod the pilgrim to hurry along to the Cross lest he, too, not be ready at Christ’s coming.

What about you? Are you saved? If Jesus Christ returned today, would you be ready to meet Him? If not, why not accept His free offer of salvation today?
NOTES FROM THE TEACHER’S LESSON

The Holy Spirit _Inspired_ the Scriptures

- 2 Timothy 3:16
- 1 Peter 1:10–13

The Natural Man _Cannot Understand_

Only by the Holy Spirit Can We _Understand_

- He _Teaches_
- He _Reminds_
- He Reveals the _Future_
- He Teaches About _Christ_

APPLICATION ACTIVITIES

1. Explain the difference between the Rapture of the church and the Second Coming of Christ.

2. Describe what will take place at the Great White Throne Judgment.

3. Conduct a study of the book of Job, focusing on Job’s patience and quiet waiting on the Lord to work His will in his life. List the lessons from your study that you can apply to your life as a teenager.

4. Conduct a study of the life of Joseph, focusing on the necessity of his having patience while in prison in Egypt. List the lessons from your study that you can apply to your life as a teenager.

5. Do an in–depth research paper on the doctrine of the inspiration of the Bible. In your paper, explain why this doctrine is critical to Christianity.

6. Study the ministry of the Holy Spirit in teaching the believer.

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STUDENT WORK

Leaving Interpreter’s house, the pilgrim is directed into the Way of Salvation and soon arrives at the Cross, where his burden immediately tumbles into the sepulchre.

- He is very glad about this and says, “He has given me ___ rest ___ by His ___ sorrow ___ and ___ life ___ by His ___ death ___.

- He then stares at the Cross and begins weeping for joy. Suddenly three Shining Ones come to him. The first one says, “Your sins will be forgiven you.”

- The second one gives him a change of clothes and takes off his ___ rags ___.

- The third one puts a mark on his forehead and gives him a roll with a seal on it.

Next, the pilgrim comes upon three men who are sleeping. They have chains on their ankles. Their names are ___ Simple, Sloth, and ___ Presumption ___. Christian tries to wake them up and warn them of their danger, but they aren’t concerned and go back to sleep. (In part two of Bunyan’s story—not included in this study—the pilgrim’s wife, Christiana, comes to this spot and finds the three men “hanged up in irons.”)

Soon, Christian spied two men, Formalist and Hypocrisy, climbing over the Wall of Salvation. Christian warns them that they must come in at the gate. He also quotes John 10:1: “He that cometh not in by the ___ door, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a ___ robber ___.”

- Why do they not go by the gate? They think it’s too far; they prefer to take a shortcut ___.

Christian states that he knows that he will be accepted because of what he has:

- A ___ coat ___

- A mark on his forehead

- A ___ roll with a seal ___

Christian parts ways with Formalist and Hypocrisy when they come to the hill Difficulty. Whereas he continues on the straight and narrow path right up the hill, the other two men go by other ways around the hill. One road is called Danger and leads into a great forest, and the other road is called Destruction and leads into dark mountains, where the man stumbles and falls, never to rise again.

- Christian falls asleep in the Arbor and loses his roll. A dream awakens him, and he hurries on his way. He meets two men named ___ Timorous and Mistrust ___. running back down the hill because they are afraid of two lions that they saw lying beside the path.

- Christian discovers that he’s lost his roll and goes back to the Arbor to get it, but meanwhile nightfall overtakes him. He asks God to forgive him for falling asleep. He fears that the lions will be roaming after their prey in the dark, but he continues on his journey. At the end of this section of reading, he sees a very stately palace called ___ Beautiful ___.

A CLOSER LOOK

Salvation

The cross and the sepulchre represent the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ and mark the spot where the pilgrim...
Righteousness

1. What Righteousness Is
   • A Christian is not only saved at the cross but also is given a robe of righteousness (Isa. 61:10). Righteousness is being all that God demands and meeting all of God’s most exacting standards.

2. How Righteousness Is Obtained
   • No man is righteous because no man can meet God’s demanding standards. But Christ came to do for us what we cannot do for ourselves. God declares to be righteous (Rom. 3:26) all of those who believe (with the heart) (Rom. 10:10) and are found to be in Christ (Phil. 3:9).

Christ has four kinds of righteousness, three kinds of which He keeps for Himself, but He gives us one kind. His four kinds of righteousness are as follows:

1. A righteousness of His Godhead. As God, He is righteous.
2. A righteousness of His manhood. He was the perfect man.
3. A righteousness of the union of His two natures. This was a righteousness that qualified Him as both God and man so that He could die for us.
4. A righteousness of obedience. He earned this by His perfect life.

If Christ gave us the righteousness of His Godhead, He would cease to be God. If He gave us the righteousness of His manhood, He would cease to be pure man. If He gave us the righteousness of the union of His natures, He would lose the perfections that qualified Him to die for us. He cannot give up any of those types of righteousness.

• But He can give us the fourth kind of righteousness because He does not need it; He is still God and perfect man without it. Romans 5:19 says, “So by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.”

1. The Place of Salvation
   • First Corinthians 15:1-4 defines the gospel. It is first that Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures; second, that He was buried; and third, that He rose again on the third day, according to the Scriptures.

2. The Price of Salvation
   • According to Romans 3:24, how much does salvation cost man?
     It costs man nothing; it is a free gift.

   • According to 1 Peter 1:18, 19, what did our salvation cost God’s Son?
     It cost His precious blood.

3. The Procurement of Salvation
   • What, according to Ephesians 2:8, must man do to obtain this salvation?
     Man must exercise the faith that God has given him.

Therefore, God gives us salvation without any works or merit on our part (that is, by grace). He even gives us the faith to trust His Word and accept His gift of salvation. And that salvation comes the moment we exercise our faith in His shed blood on the cross.
NOTES FROM THE TEACHER’S LESSON

What Salvation Isn’t

• It Is Not a Psychological Experience
• It Is Not Joining a Church or Turning Over a New Leaf

What Salvation Is

• It Is a Definite Experience
• It Is a Transforming Experience
• It Is a God-Wrought Experience
  • He Provides the Way of Salvation
  • He Sends the Spirit to Convict
  • He Gives Man the Faith
  • He Gives Man a New Nature

Further, Christ must give us this righteousness because if He is to obey the Law, He must “if he hath two coats give one to him that hath none” because Christ has two coats—one for Himself and one to spare. He gives it freely to those who believe.

When one receives this robe, it means that God sees him as being just as obedient and as perfect as Christ was on earth. We enter heaven because of His obedience—not because of ours.

APPLICATION ACTIVITIES

1. Write a two-page paper explaining and illustrating why, in light of the biblical teaching that Christ is the only way to salvation, the modern “politically correct” philosophy of the complete equality of all religions cannot be a reality for the believer.
2. Using a concordance and a Bible, conduct a study to learn what the Bible has to say about sleep(ing).
3. The mark that Christian received on his forehead was a mark of identification. Make a list of practical “marks” that identify a separated believer today.
myself things that they saw no evil in. If they saw anything in me, it was a great tenderness and sensitivity to sinning against God or of doing anything wrong to my neighbors.

Charity
Indeed, Cain hated his brother because his own works were evil, and his brother’s deeds were righteous (1 John 3:12). If your wife and children have been offended by you for this, they show themselves to be incapable of being changed. You have delivered your soul from their blood (Ezek. 3:19).

STUDENT WORK

A Closer Look
Christian found his roll in the arbor and headed back up the hill Difficulty. As the darkness fell, he was very much aware of the two lions about which Timorous and Mistrust had told him at the top of the hill.

The Lions
- The way to the Palace Beautiful led through a very narrow passage. In that spot, Christian saw the two lions. What he could not see, however, was that they were chained.

The lesson that we learn from this is that many apparent spiritual dangers seem formidable until we examine them more closely with the eye of faith. The world, the flesh, and the devil can do us no harm. In fact, Christian’s greatest enemy at this point was not the lions but fear itself.
- The Porter, whose name was Watchful, explained to Christian the purpose of the lions being there. What was the twofold purpose?
  1. to try one’s faith to determine in what it was being placed

2. to reveal those who have no faith

- God sometimes puts obstacles in our way and allows Satan to test us to see the greatness of our faith. How did God do this with Abraham in Genesis 22? He told Abraham to offer his only son, Isaac, as a sacrifice.

The Porter
- The Porter represents the pastor of the church. He is always to be watchful of new believers. Fittingly, the word pastor comes from the same word as pasture, and it refers to the shepherding ministry of a preacher. Note Paul’s command to the pastors of the church at Ephesus in Acts 20:28. Of what does he say they are to take heed?

• What position does the pastor have over the church?
(i.e., he watches over the spiritual welfare of the people)

• Who gave him this position? The Holy Spirit

• What is his responsibility to the church flock?
  to feed them spiritually

• Hebrews 13:7 gives further insight to the pastor’s responsibilities. Note the following:
  • The congregation’s responsibility to the pastor is to remember him, follow his faith, and consider the end of his conversation (behavior or conduct)
  • The pastor’s responsibility to the congregation is to speak the Word of God to them and to rule over them
  • The pastor’s accountability is that he will have to give account to God for how he watches over the flock that has been entrusted to him.
The Four Young Ladies

- Watchful called for a young lady who, in turn, introduced Christian to three other ladies. These ladies and the Palace Beautiful itself represent the local church, which provides the Christian with fellowship and instruction that is necessary to a victorious Christian life. What are the names of the four young ladies that Christian met? ____________

  Discretion, Piety, Prudence, and Charity ____________

- Those four names represent the basic character that every fundamental church should possess. Besides having a watchful pastor who is aware of the dangers and issues of the day, the church must consist of a congregation whose members are discreet, pious, prudent, and full of love. Let’s examine each of these names in more detail.

1. Discretion

- The dictionary defines discretion as **good judgment, wise caution** in speech or action. ____________

- Interestingly, Watchful (the pastor) first calls Discretion to examine Christian before he is allowed to spend the night at the palace. This action portrays the examination of a new Christian about his qualifications before he is admitted to membership in the church. Discretion is the exercise of good judgment in determining the suitability of an applicant for church membership. Notice the types of questions that Discretion asked Christian.

- After Christian shared his testimony and the other young ladies asked Christian a few more questions, they were satisfied with his answers, and they invite him to **join them as part of their family**. ____________

  This is equivalent to accepting him into church membership.

2. Piety

Piety is a sincere and earnest desire to do God’s will. We get the word pious from it. Piety asked Christian about his inward motives for seeking salvation, and Christian’s response reminded him of his flight from the city of Destruction. He told them of the dreadful sound, of his meeting with Evangelist, who pointed him in the right direction, and he named three things that impressed him most in the Interpreter’s house. He also recalled his experience at the cross.

- Piety liked what she heard from Christian because it revealed a pious spirit. It showed that Christian sincerely loved the Lord and wanted to serve Him. This is a characteristic of all true believers—they love the Lord with all of their ____________ heart and they sincerely desire to do His ____________ will.

3. Prudence

- Prudence is the ability to govern and discipline oneself. Prudence questioned Christian concerning his inward desires and temptations to indulge in the sins of the flesh. Did Christian ever think back to his sinful life? **Yes**. Did Christian find himself going through an inward struggle to do things that were wrong? **Yes**. What words of Christian’s sound like those of Paul in Romans 7:21? ____________

  *When I would do what is best that which is worst is with me.* ____________

- When Christian was tempted to sin, how did he overcome it? (Note his fourfold answer)

  1. I think of what I saw at the Cross.
  2. I look upon my nice coat.
  3. I read in the roll.
  4. I think warm thoughts about where I’m going.

4. Charity

- Charity is love. Charity questioned Christian concerning his family and his desire for their souls’ salvation. What proved Christian’s love for his family’s souls? **He cried for them**. ____________

- Why didn’t his wife and children follow him? ____________

  *His wife feared losing the world; his children were deceived by the pleasures of childhood.* ____________
NOTES FROM THE TEACHER’S LESSON

What the Church Is

Ecclesia: To Call Out

• A _____________________________ Church
  • Local
  • All Believers—The _____________________________ Church
  • Universal

When the Church Began

It Was _____________________________ by Christ

• _____________________________ Builds It
• Christ
• The Church Is Built on _____________________________
• Christ
• The Church Will _____________________________
• Never Fail

Do you weep for people’s souls? Are you careful that your daily words and actions do not mar your testimony before them?

Conclusion

In this lesson, we’ve seen the characteristics of the ideal church. Its members are discreet, using good judgment in admitting new members; prudent, exercising self-control over worldliness and the fleshly desires; pious, earnestly loving God and desiring to do His will; and full of love for each other and for the lost.

APPLICATION ACTIVITIES

1. List examples from Scripture of ways in which God sometimes tried the faith of various Bible characters. What lessons can you learn from each of those examples?
2. Explain an instance in which your faith was tried. What specific things strengthened you during these trials, thus enabling you to “pass the test?”
3. Study the life and trials of Job. What lessons can you learn from his example?
4. Write a one- to two-page paper explaining the teachings of James 1:12 and 1 Peter 1:7.
5. Study and research the hymn by Ron Hamilton (also known as Patch the Pirate) “Rejoice in the Lord.” What circumstance inspired him to write that song? What aspects of the song indicate that this circumstance was a great trial
of his faith? What lessons do you think he wanted to convey to you as he was composing the song?

6. Interview your pastor about the process by which new members are admitted into your church. What types of questions are applicants for membership asked? For what specific types of things (either good or bad) does the pastor look when examining an applicant. For what types of things would membership be denied an applicant, and why?
Let's examine Christian's experiences in the local church (Palace Beautiful) to see the blessings that it holds for us.

**Fellowship**

Acts 2:42 mentions three specific purposes of the first local church:

1. To teach the apostle’s **doctrine**
2. For **fellowship** and breaking of bread
3. For **group prayer**

Christian experienced these blessings while he was staying at the Palace Beautiful. He learned his doctrine in the study and the importance of prayer in the armory, and he fellowships at the meal that his hostesses provided.

The word fellowship means “sharing with others; communication.”

- Many Christians call any gathering of Christians “fellowship,” including eating, drinking, and talking about current events, sports, jobs, etc. In the most general sense, this is true because the people have shared common experiences and interests in those topics. In the strictest sense, however, that is not the kind of fellowship that the Bible means. According to 1 John 1:3, what is the topic of true fellowship? **the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ**

Therefore, banquets, socials, class meetings, etc., events that focus on anything other than Christ, cannot be considered fellowship in the strictest sense.

- About what three things did Christian and his friends talk at their meal?
  1. **what the Lord has done**
  2. **why He did those things**
  3. **why He built that house**
• What was the greatest single thing that Jesus did and about which the friends were sure to talk?

He shed His blood on the cross for our sins.

• According to John 3:16 and Ephesians 5:25, why did He purchase the church with His own blood? so that He could present it to Himself, a glorious, spotless, unwrinkled, holy church

Thus, we see that the church is founded on the blood of Christ, and it is purchased by that same blood and founded for the purpose of His own holy enjoyment. His greatest pleasure comes from our gathering and talking about His wonderful works and grace toward us. That is true fellowship among believers and with Christ!

Doctrinal Study

The first church met daily and, according to Acts 2:42, continued “steadfast in the apostles’ doctrine.” Read 2 Timothy 3:16–17 and list the six–fold purpose of the Scriptures.

1. doctrine
2. reproof
3. correction
4. instruction in righteousness
5. perfection of the man of God
6. his furnishing for all good works

Note where doctrine appears in this list—first! Thus, the purpose of the church matches the purpose of the Scriptures: to teach the doctrines of the Word.

Christian learned his doctrine in the study of Palace Beautiful. The study represents the Bible itself. In the study, he learned of the pedigree of the Lord, that is, of His deity. The rest of what he learned there is a summary of the various books of the Bible. In the spaces provided, summarize what he learned about each of these groups of books of the Bible.

• The Four Gospels—
acts that He had done; the names of many hundreds that He had taken into His service

• Acts— the worthy acts that some of His servants had done

• Old Testament Events—
They subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, etc.

• Romans through Jude—
showed how willingly the Lord receives into His favor even those who used to be His enemies and were so offensive to Him

• Revelation—
of things old and modern, prophecies and predictions of things to come that will surely come to pass and that will make His enemies dread them and comfort His pilgrims

• Your pastor has the same responsibility to you and the rest of his church as the people at the Palace Beautiful had for Christian. According to Acts 20:27, what is your pastor to teach and preach? the whole counsel of God

• According to verse 28, he is to take heed that he feed the church of God. He is not to be sidetracked from this great task. The ground for his—and every other Christian’s—every action, attitude, and method is doctrine. If we do not understand doctrine, we have no grounds for our standards or for dealing with the issues of the day or for our service for the Lord. Without doctrine, our views are only opinions and preferences.

Strengthening the Christian

• In the armory, Christian is equipped for the battles of the Christian life. Read Ephesians 6:13–18 and then list the pieces of the Christian armor.
Conflicts Can Be Good for Us

In Psalm 119:71, David makes an unusual statement about his affliction: “It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes.” Afflictions make one go to God for answers and help. This is one of the greatest benefits of problems. How often do you turn to God’s Word when you have a problem?

We Must Arm the Spirit

When Satan attacks a Christian through a conflict with someone or through inappropriate attitudes and thoughts, how does the Christian fight back? Ephesians 6 tells us that it is the Spirit, not the believer, who should fight the battle. However, the Spirit must have a weapon, and that weapon is described as “the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” The Spirit gets this sword by the Christian’s memorization of specific verses for various conflicts. (See the illustration of this point.) You must build up an arsenal of ammunition to use against Satan. Then, every time you have a conflict, record the event and a verse that deals with that problem.

NOTES FROM THE TEACHER’S LESSON

The Body, of Which Christ Is the Head

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A Building, of Which Christ Is the Chief Cornerstone

The Importance of the Right Foundation

The Importance of the Right Materials

The Inhabitant of the Building—The Holy Spirit

The Bride, of Which Christ Is the Groom

The Groom Loves the Bride (Eph. 5:25)

The Bride Submits to the Groom (Eph. 5:22)

The Groom Is Coming for the Bride (Rev. 19:7–9)

APPLICATION ACTIVITIES

1. Draw an illustration of a soldier who is equipped with the armor discussed in Ephesians 6. Label each piece of equipment as it is named in that passage of Scripture with its corresponding reference.

2. Write a paper describing each of the pieces of armor mentioned in Ephesians 6 and explaining how each piece equips the believer for life in this world.

3. Make a list of parachurch organizations whose ministries assist the pastors and congregations of local churches. Contact one of them to ask how they ensure that they do not usurp the authority of the local church or drain funds from its necessary work.

4. Write a paper explaining the proper role of a parachurch organization.

5. Many believers try to be “lone ranger” Christians, getting by without the benefits offered by the local church. Explain why such an attitude is unscriptural and counterproductive.
Christian I’ll give thanks right here to Him who has delivered me from the mouth of the lion, to Him who helped me against Apollyon. And he did so, saying,

Great Beelzebub, the captain of this fiend,
Designed my ruin; therefore to this end
He sent him harnessed out; and he, with rage
That hellish was, did fiercely me engage:
But blessed Michael helped me, and I,
By dint of sword, did quickly make him fly:
Therefore to Him let me give lasting praise,
And thank and bless His holy name always.

Then a hand appeared holding some leaves from the tree of life. Christian took them and put them on the wounds that he had received during the battle, and he was healed immediately. He sat down there and ate some bread and drank some of the juice that his friends had given him that morning. Being refreshed and strengthened by these things, he continued on his journey with his sword drawn and in his hand.

Christian I don’t know but what some other enemy might be at hand.

But he met no other attack from Apollyon through the rest of the valley.

STUDENT WORK

Every Christian has slightly different experiences in life. That’s also the way it is in The Pilgrim’s Progress with Christian and his wife, Christiana. To Christian, the descent from the hill Difficulty to the Valley of Humiliation is difficult and dangerous. The valley (when he gets there) becomes the site of one of the fiercest battles he has in the course of his journey to the Celestial City.

Yet, this valley is not perilous to all pilgrims. In part two of The Pilgrim’s Progress (not included in your textbook), Christiana describes it as a fruitful place, “the best and most fruitful piece of ground in all these parts.” It consists of meadowlands and green valleys, “beautiful with lilies; filled with sheep, and resounding with the pastoral songs of the shepherds; and its chiefest glory is, that it was the chosen dwelling place of Jesus, the Lord of all.”

But to Christian, the Valley of Humiliation is a place of awful conflict. If one studies Christiana’s experience, Christian seems to have wandered into a dangerous part of the valley called Forgetful Green, where he is exposed to the assault of the great foe, Apollyon.

Lesson: When we get our eyes off of the Lord, and forget momentarily what He has done for us, we become vulnerable (as a defenseless lamb) to the lion (Satan), who goes about “seeking whom he may devour.”

The Valley of Humiliation

From the great heights of the hill Difficulty, Christian goes down to the Valley of Humiliation. God has both the high ways and the low ways for the Christian. The high ways encourage us to press forward; the low ways keep us from thinking that we can make it in our own strength.

Someone has said that humility is produced by a vision of God. Christian has just learned much about his Lord in the Palace Beautiful, and this knowledge humbles him because it reminds him of his own weaknesses, his own sinful nature, and his own total dependence upon God’s Help.

Some people think that the man who claims friendship with the God of the universe should never walk in humility. They say that he should lift his head high and feel as though he has been exalted above most other men. Perhaps this is exactly what Christian does. He steps out of the Palace Beautiful “heady.” He thinks that no one can whip him. Therefore, he soon forgets his great God. He will soon learn an unforgettable lesson.

Humility is evidenced by the following four proofs.

Reverence

The first step of humility is a reverence for and a holy awe of God. At this point, Christian does not have this reverence, although he loves the Lord. His suit of armor and his new knowledge of the Word are all that he needs—or so he thinks. He will emerge from this valley with a new reverence for God.
Confession of Sin

When one reveres God in all of His power, glory, and holiness, he automatically
sees his own sinfulness and begins confessing his sin. Christian has at times admit-
ted his sinfulness:
1. Before he was saved, he spoke of his awful burden of sin.
2. He admitted his sin to the porter, confessing, “I would have been here
sooner, but, wretched man that I am, I slept in the arbor that stands on
the hillside.” However, the vision of God that gave him this attitude has
now slipped from his mind.

Lowly Mindedness

• Humble souls express the thought of the pilgrim when he said to Goodwill
about Pliable, “I don’t think there’s any difference between him and me
in that regard.” Again, at the wicket–gate, the pilgrim is amazed that they
would receive someone like him. He had truly obeyed Philippians 2:3,
which states, “…but in __________________________
lowness of mind let each esteem others better than themselves.

Gratitude

Someone has said, “Gratitude is the flower of which humility is the root.”
Christian has shown gratitude numerous times, including the following.
1. At the Wicket–Gate
“What a favor it is that I’m still admitted entrance here.”
2. At the Arbor upon Finding His Lost Roll
“He thanked God for directing his eye to the spot where the roll lay…. ”
3. At the Palace Beautiful
“But, thank God, I’m here. Thank you for receiving me.”
• He once more returns to a humble attitude and falls on his knees after
the encounter with Apollyon. What does he say that shows his humil-
ity by way of a grateful spirit? __________________________

Apollyon has delivered me from the mouth of the lion, to Him who helped
me against Apollyon. Therefore to Him let me give lasting praise.
And thank and bless His holy name always.”

Augustine said, “Well nigh the whole substance of Christian discipline is humility.”
If one is to live a disciplined life for his Master and Lord, he must be humble. This
truth can easily be seen when we apply the following four elements of humility.
1. If one does not revere, respect, and fear God, he will not discipline himself
to follow Him.
2. If one is not aware of his own sinfulness and total need of Christ to fight
for him, he will not follow the Lord.
3. If one is not lowly minded (i.e., if one thinks himself to be something
great), he will not discipline himself to follow his Lord. He thinks, Why
do I need Him? I can make it on my own!”
4. If one is not grateful to God for what He has done for him, he will have
no motive or inward urging to follow the Lord.

Thus, Christian discipline is impossible apart from humility.

Apollyon

His Identity

• Read Revelation 9:11. Describe who Apollyon is according to the passage:
  • His position— __________________________
  “the angel of the bottomless pit”
  • He was king over what creatures (Rev. 9:1–11)? __________________________
  “locusts who tormented men as scorpions”
  • His name in Hebrew is __________________________.
  • His name in Greek is __________________________.

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Thus, this part of The Pilgrim’s Progress depicts a conflict with the powers of hell and with Satan himself.

**His Description**

The name Apollyon means “the destroyer.” Thus, we see that side of Satan that seeks to destroy the testimony, influence, and—if possible—the life of a Christian.

Describe Apollyon according to the story.

- **His Clothing**—scales like those of a fish
- **His Wings**—like a dragon indicating his speed of attack.
- **His Feet**—like those of a bear (for softness of tread, allowing him to attack by surprise, and for strength and power to injure)
- **His Mouth**—like that of a lion to kill and to devour.
- **His Breath**—fire and smoke came from his belly representing the inner fire that burns within the breast of the fallen Lucifer.

**His Tactics**

- Apollyon doesn’t begin his attack with a shocking, crushing, lightning-fast blow, like the Nazi blitzkrieg of early World War II, but with tempting questions that raise doubts in one’s mind. Note how he did the same with Adam and Eve in Genesis 3. What was his first question of Eve? _Yea, hath God said, ye shall not eat of every tree in the garden?_
- His sole purpose in asking this question was to get her to doubt God. He tries the same tactic on Christian in the Valley of Humiliation. What does he first ask Christian? _Where did you come from? Where are you going?_
- His purpose is to convince the pilgrim that he belongs to him. It’s the old temptation that Satan still uses: “You’re not good enough to be God’s child. Why don’t you quit pretending. Look at all of your failures. You’ll never be like those saints. Give up and forget it. Get back to your home where you belong.” He reminds the pilgrim of his many sins as evidence that he has no business trying to act like a Christian. What sins does he recall to the pilgrim? ________________________________
  ________________________________
  ________________________________
- Here, as is stated in Revelation 12:10, we see Satan enjoying his role as the __accuser of the brethren__. His tactic is always the same. First, he seeks to get a Christian to doubt God’s Word or his own salvation. Failing there, he flies into a rage and seeks by wrathful means to accomplish the same purpose.

**Christian**

Two great characteristics are prominent in Christian in this episode: his faith and his courage.

**His Faith**

- At first, Christian starts to run from Apollyon. This initial reaction is further evidence that he has temporarily forgotten his Lord. Still thrilled with the blessings of the Palace Beautiful, he has not “come back down to earth” and is jolted by the realization of his weakness by the sudden appearance of Satan (Apollyon). However, he soon recovers and defends his Lord against the lies of Satan. He then states boldly, “I believe that the Prince ______ whom I now serve is able to clear me of that crime and, yes, even to grant me full pardon for what I did in your service ______.”
- Apollyon then reminds him of the hundreds of Christians who have been killed trying to follow the Lord, yet God did not save any of their lives. Instead, He let them be slaughtered! What does Christian answer to this
ens Christian, yet note his fearless words: "Apollyon, beware what you do because I’m in the King’s highway, the way of holiness. So watch yourself!"

What brave, courageous words! And his heart was beating ninety miles an hour for fear!

3. Fortitude (Endurance)

- Endurance is stored courage. Christian—although he was wounded, flung to ground, weak from bleeding, and having lost his sword—did not give up! His courage is seen in his nimbly grabbing his sword and giving Satan a decisive thrust. What words from Romans 8 does he then quote as he wins the battle? ___________________________________________

- Thus, his courage, firmly rooted in his deep faith in the power of God, wins the day. "May God give you the faith and courage to stand," as Ephesians 6:11 says, "against the ___________________________."

- Remember, it was by the sword that Satan fell. As we hide God’s Word in our heart, record it, and then quote it back to Satan when he attacks us, we have victory. What does Psalm 17:4 say about this? ___________________________________________

NOTES FROM THE TEACHER’S LESSON

The Reality of Satan

His Origin and Purpose

- Satan Was _________________ (Ezek. 28:13)
- He Was Named Lucifer—Brilliant, Shining One
- He Was Created to _________________ and _________________ God
3. Using a commentary and a concordance, conduct a study of Ephesians 6:10–18 and share your findings with the class either orally or in writing.

4. Divide a sheet of paper into two columns. In the column on the left, list the ways in which Satan most frequently tempts you. In the column on the right, list ways by which you may resist those temptations. Include Scripture references that you can use in your resistance program.

His Characteristics

- Wisest
- Most _Beautiful_
- Greatest _Musician_

His Fall (Ezek. 28:16–17) — _Pride_

The _Determination_ of Satan

- Deceit (Rev. 12:9)
- Perversion
  - Truth
  - Morals
  - Will of God
- Imitation (2 Cor. 11:13–15)
- Rebellion (2 Thess. 2:1–12)
- Entrapment (1 Peter 5:8)

The _Defeat_ of Satan

APPLICATION ACTIVITIES

1. Read C. S. Lewis’s little book _The Screwtape Letters_. List the various methods that the character Screwtape suggests will help his nephew Wormwood successfully tempt his Christian victim. Make another list of the practical lessons that you learn from reading this book.

2. Read _flambeau@darkcorp.com_, Don Hawkins’ modernized takeoff on C. S. Lewis’s _The Screwtape Letters_. List the methods of temptation included in that book. Then list the lessons you can apply to your own life from that book.
Thus, we see the historical setting for the Shadow of Death. Yet, we must remember that not all Christians have the same experiences. Faithful, soon to be Christian’s traveling companion, later reports a totally different experience both there and in the Valley of Humiliation. He says, “I had sunshine all the rest of the way through both that valley and the Valley of the Shadow of Death.”

Each of us will have to make our own application of this experience to our lives. Some of us have, like Bunyan and Christian, very real battles with doubt. Others of us have inner struggles with impure thoughts. And perhaps still others of us find ourselves thinking blasphemous thoughts or curse words—though we don’t utter them. Whatever your experience is, apply it to this story. Note Christian’s victory and how he gained it.

The Valley of the Shadow of Death

The Meaning of the Valley

This valley represents the inner doubts, temptations, and confusion concerning one’s spiritual state into which one often falls. If Satan can’t defeat us one way (as in his personal confrontation with Christian in the preceding lesson), he will come at us from another angle. In this case, the battle is from within. It is a battle for the mind and the soul.

The Description of the Valley

• How does Jeremiah 2:6 describe this valley? ________________________________________________________________________________

1. The First Half of the Valley

• On the right hand is a very deep ditch, and both groups of people have perished there ____________________.

• On the left hand is a very dangerous quag—soft, miry land that had no bottom. Who once fell into this place? ____________

• How was he rescued? ________________________________________________________________________________

STUDENT WORK

The Valley of the Shadow of Death is a continuation of the Valley of Humiliation. In this second valley, Christian is tested and tried more than he was in his fight with Apollyon.

The fight has hardly ended when Christian meets a horror of great darkness and gloomy terrors that assail his soul. The whole scene—from the first assault by Apollyon to the rising of the sun—is the reproduction in allegorical terms of Bunyan’s own spiritual experiences. These are described more fully in his autobiography, Grace Abounding. In one paragraph of that book, Bunyan recalls his own experience in the Shadow of Death.

“For about the space of one month after,” he wrote, “a very great storm came down upon me, which handled me twenty times worse than all I had met with before;...first, all my comfort was taken from me; then darkness seized upon me; after which, whole floods of blasphemies against God, Christ, and the Scriptures, were poured upon my spirit, to my great confusion and astonishment. These blasphemous thoughts were such as also stirred up questions in me against the very being of God, and of his only beloved Son; or whether they were, in truth, a God, or Christ, or no.”
Lesson: Certain times occur in our life when Christ alone can rescue us. Our friends, church, pastor, and own efforts are futile. Only Christ—“He that is able”—can pluck us out.

2. The Pathway
The pathway is very narrow and so dark that Christian often didn’t know where to step next.

3. The Middle of the Valley
   • What stands at the middle of the valley?  the mouth of hell
   • From this comes flames and smoke with sparks and hideous noises

4. The Length of the Valley
   • How long is the valley?  several miles

This detail no doubt represents days or even years of spiritual conflict. In Bunyan’s personal experience, he endured two long periods of inner torment, one of which continued for two and a half years.

5. The Second Half of the Valley
   • The second half of the valley is even more dangerous than the first half, but God provides light to ease the pilgrim’s way. What lay in the way to the end of the valley?  snares, traps, and nets here and pits, pitfalls, and deep holes down there

6. The End of the Valley
   • What lay at the end of the valley?  blood, bones, ashes, and mangled bodies of men, pilgrims who had gone this way before

Bunyan’s Experience in the Valley

The valley was a true experience in Bunyan’s life, as we note in the following features.

The Mouth of Hell in the Middle of the Valley

In Grace Abounding, Bunyan describes his comparable experience: “Again, as I was at another time very ill and weak, all the time also the tempter did beset me strongly, for I find he is much for assailing the soul when it begins to approach toward the grave; this is his opportunity, laboring to hide from me my former experience of God’s goodness.”

• Note when Satan attacks us the hardest:  when our soul begins to approach toward the grave, when we are sick or physically weak

• Note what Satan works to do to a Christian:  to hide from us our former experience of God’s goodness
The Lord Himself

- Christian cannot use his sword. His own strength is of no avail. Only the Lord Himself can win this battle. Therefore, Christian cries, “I will walk in the strength of the Lord God.”

Later, Christian realizes that God gave him the victory and, quoting Amos 5:8, he says, “He hath turned the shadow of death into morning.”

- As the sun arose, he quoted Job 29:3: “He turneth the shadow of death into the morning; He calleth the darkness a burning brightness.”

What does God do for Christian in this valley? Note the following points.

- As the fiends close in on Christian and he cries, “I will walk in the strength of the Lord God,” they backed off and never came close again.

- Just when Christian is so confused about blaspheming, God causes him to hear the voice of another pilgrim quoting Psalm 23:4: “It made him realize that he wasn’t alone; others who feared God were also in the valley.”

Christian’s Victory and How It Comes

The fact that Christian emerges victoriously from this valley is a monument to— not Christian—but the grace of God. Note the weapons that helped him win the battle.

Prayer

- Here is an experience unlike any other that Christian had faced. Doubts, inner conflicts, and sinful thoughts are always the hardest difficulties with which to cope because they make us doubt God, His Word, and our salvation. Christian first draws his sword (the Word of God). However, he soon realizes that he is facing an enemy that “cared not for the Christian’s sword.” There are some battles that the Word of God will not suffice to win. Christian must rely on another weapon— all prayer.

Note this part of the armor, as described in Ephesians 6:18. Sometimes, only prayer will produce the victory. Read the simple prayer in Psalm 116:4. Memorize both of these verses.

The Temptation to Blaspheme

- Just as Christian approaches the mouth of the burning pit, one of the wicked ones got behind him, stepped up softly to him, and whispered many awful blasphemies to him.

- In his confusion, Christian thought that these blasphemies had come from his own mind.

- This is Christian’s hardest temptation. Why? because even to think that he should now blaspheme the very One whom he had loved so much before was more than he could bear.

The Voice of a Friend

Christian is greatly encouraged by the voice of another pilgrim (Faithful), whom he is soon to meet.

In your own words state three reasons why this fellow pilgrim’s voice helps Christian.

1. It made him realize that he wasn’t alone; others who feared God were also in the valley.
2. **It made him realize that God was with them although it was dark** and he couldn’t actually see God or the other pilgrim.

3. **It gave him hope that he could overtake the other pilgrim and that he would have company with whom he could travel in the future.**

**Conclusion**

Do you have problems with assurance of your salvation? Do you have constant inner temptations to turn from the Lord? Do you sometimes doubt the truthfulness of God’s Word? Does your mind sometimes sink to the gutter? Then draw help from this part of *The Pilgrim’s Progress*, and take the following five steps.

1. Fill your mind with Scripture. (Note how many times Christian quotes Scripture during this trial.) Record those Scripture promises.

2. Immerse your heart in prayer. When they were faced with the wiles of the devil, Paul admonished the Ephesian Christians to pray “always with all prayer and supplication.”

3. Trust in the Lord with all of your heart. Write out Proverbs 3:5–6 below.

   *Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding, in all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy path.*

4. Listen to fellow Christians who have had the same inner conflicts. Share your burdens and thoughts with others. Listen to their experiences. Be faithful in attending the preaching of the Word. Christian was encouraged by the voice of Faithful as he quoted Scripture.

5. Be courageous to go on. Every time Christian was tempted to stop and turn back, he resolved to go on. We must display a courageous determination to press forward and not give up. God will, in His perfect time, give us the sunshine and take us out of the Valley.

**NOTES FROM THE TEACHER’S LESSON**

**The Meaning of the Valley of the Shadow**

- Attacks by Satan

**The Occurrence (20 times)**

- Psalm 23:4
- Job 10:21–22
- Psalm 107:10
- Jeremiah 2:6

**The Cause**

- He Didn’t __Pray__
- He Trusted Experiences More Than the __Word__

**The Advantages**

- More Aware of the Blessedness of __Christ__
- Saw the Nature of __God’s Promises__
- The Scriptures Became __More Wonderful__
- Better Understood God’s __Grace and Mercy__

**APPLICATION ACTIVITIES**

1. Read Bunyan’s autobiography, *Grace Abounding*, and summarize other struggles through which he had to come in his spiritual experience.

2. Make a list of Scripture references that offer assurance of salvation.

3. Explain why you think Bunyan includes in his allegory such mythological creatures as hobgoblins, satyrs, and dragons. What modern forms of such creatures exist today?
4. Define paganism. What forms of paganism still exist today? In some places, including the United States, paganism is making a comeback. Identify such instances and explain how the Christian should respond to it.

5. Conduct an in-depth study of the papacy and Roman Catholicism in the England of Bunyan’s day. Many people, including some individuals and organizations that claim to be Bible believers, are working for an “understanding” and cooperation between Protestants and Catholics. Why can a Christian not support such a move and remain true to God’s Word?

6. Read Ernest Pickering’s book *Biblical Separation: The Struggle for a Pure Church*. Summarize his position on any attempt to compromise with or to establish dialogue with apostate and anti-Christian organizations. What should be the believer’s position concerning fellow Christians who compromise with such organizations?
Christian  Why, I don’t think that you consented to her desires—did you?

Faithful  No, not to the point of defiling myself. I remembered an old writing that I once saw that said, “Her steps take hold on hell” (Prov. 5:5). So I shut my eyes because I didn’t want to be charmed by her looks (Job 31:1). Then she yelled bad things at me, and I went on my way.

STUDENT WORK

Leaving the Valley of the Shadow of Death, Christian comes to a small hill, where he spies Faithful ahead of him.

- Faithful’s experiences at each point along the way are totally different from those of Christian, again emphasizing the fact that no two people have the same experiences in life. Thus, God’s Word confirms, “There are diversities of operations, but it is the same God who worketh all in all” (1 Cor. 12:6)."

Little Hill

- Why is the little hill put in the way? ____________________________ so that the pilgrims can see ahead of them on the way.

Note especially the words on purpose. God is a God of purpose. Nothing ever happens—either for good or ill—accidentally. Many things happen for our harm because of our own blundering and foolishness, but all that happens does so for our ultimate good. (See Rom. 8:28.)

- What does James 1:17 say about this issue? ____________________________ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above and cometh down from the father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

The little hill, or rise in the road, represents any time of revival or special closeness to the Lord. It might be a particular week or month when you just seem closer to the Lord than usual. His Word is a little more precious to you, prayer is a little fresher, souls are a little more valuable, and preaching seems to warm your heart more. How long has it been since your last “little hill”?

Vainglory and Its Results

- Seeing Faithful, Christian hurries forward and soon not only overtakes him but also passes him. What does Christian immediately do when he overtakes Faithful? ____________________________ He smiles proudly.

However, what results from this moment of pride? ____________________________ He stumbles and falls.

What Vainglory Is

- What is the dictionary definition of vainglory? ____________________________ an extreme pride in oneself, boastful vanity

The vainglorious smile that plays on Christian’s lips indicates that the carnal nature is still working in him.

The Result of Vainglory

- What does Proverbs 16:18 tell us follows vainglory? ____________________________ destruction; a fall

Note how quickly Christian’s fall follows his ascent up the little hill. Revival is followed by the temptation to pride, and soon thereafter we find ourselves flat on our face.

- The word vainglory is found once in the Bible (Phil. 2:3) and means “empty glorying” (i.e., being proud of worthless or foolish things). Of what worthless things are you proud? ____________________________ Answers will vary.
Faithful

The best definition of faithful is “full of faith.” Our modern definition has more the idea of dependability than of faith, but faith is what makes a person faithful and dependable in the first place. You will see that Faithful is named appropriately.

His Tenacious Faith

We see his faith even before he leaves the city of Destruction. Not only does he believe in the coming judgment on the city, but also he firmly believes it. Here we see the tenacity of faith. Real faith holds on firmly when everyone else deserts. Real faith will stand alone while the rest of the crowd mocks and jeers. Do you have firm faith?

1. What former companion of Christian did not have tenacious faith? _____________

2. Why was it seven times worse for him when he returned than if he had never started the journey at all? _____________

The people of the city of Destruction greatly derided and berated him and mocked and despised him, and he couldn’t get anyone to hire him for work.

3. Why did they mock him? After all, didn’t they, too, hate the way that he forsook? They said that he was a turncoat, a traitor, and untrue to his profession _____________

Lesson: Faith that is not tenacious brings more shame than glory to both God and the faithless Christian.

His Loyal Faith

True faith is loyal to that in which the faith is placed. If a coach has faith in a basketball player’s ability, he will stick by him even when he misses a few shots. We call this loyalty.

A Christian shows loyalty by his faithfulness in devotions when others are unfaithful, by his loyalty to his church and school leaders even when others criticize them, and (most importantly) by his loyalty to God when Satan tempts him to fornication.

His Temptation by Wanton

Wanton tempts Faithful to fleshly, lustful enjoyment. Note the following points about her.

1. Her Character

Wanton means “undisciplined” and applies especially to a lack of discipline in sexual relations. Those who are more apt to fall prey to this woman are those who lack (among other things) personal self-discipline.

2. Her History

• Wanton is as old as history. What Old Testament (Gen. 19:11–13) man did she try unsuccessfully to beguile? Joseph How did he escape her? He fled right out of his coat.

3. Her Ways

• She uses ______________________. All humans are subject to flattery. A young girl entices a young man by boasting of his muscularity or his lovemaking ability. Similarly, many young ladies have been ruined because of the flattery of a young man. His declaration that “I love you and want you” causes her heart to melt and her emotions to run high.

• She also uses promises. What does she promise? ______________________

Yet, these promises are all lies. Her promises do not include the promise of the contentment of a good conscience. Those who lose their loyalty to God through immorality wake up with a wounded, dirty conscience that will haunt them.

What does Proverbs say of Wanton’s lips?

• Proverbs 2:16 she flatters with her lips

• Proverbs 5:5 her lips are like a honeycomb
4. Her Future

Sexual or moral laxness results in death and judgment. According to the following verses, what are the result of following Wanton’s path?

- Proverbs 2:16–19  Her house inclines to death; no one returns from her house alive.
- Proverbs 5:4  Her end is as bitter as wormwood and as sharp as a two-edged sword.
- Proverbs 5:5  Her feet go to death and her steps take hold on hell.

Conclusion

Read Proverbs 7:6–23.

God wants teens who are faithful in their vows to Him. Therefore, “flee fornication” (1 Cor. 6:18), and “flee also youthful lusts” (2 Tim. 2:22).

NOTES FROM THE TEACHER’S LESSON

Faithful’s Temptations

Wanton

- Means  Without Discipline, and Occurs  Five  Times in the Bible

Incontinent

- Occurs Only in 2 Timothy 3:3 and in 1 Corinthians 7:5

Lasciviousness

- Occurs Six Times

1. Comes from a  Filthy Heart (Mark 7:21–22)

2. Must Be  Repented of (2 Cor. 12:21)

APPLICATION ACTIVITIES

1. Write a two–page paper describing the characteristics and benefits of Christian friendship. In your paper, explain the meaning of and apply the statement “Faithful are the wounds of a friend” (Prov. 27:6).

2. Study Ecclesiastes 4:9–10. Explain the significance of this passage to the topic of Christian companionship.

3. Read and report on Jack Wyrtzen’s booklet Sex and the Bible. Include in your report the Christian philosophy of sexuality and what should be a Christian teenager’s attitude and conduct in this regard.
The Description of Adam the First

- Adam the First represents the old sinful nature that we inherited from Adam. What does the Bible call the old nature? the old man
- How does Ephesians describe the old man? as corrupt, according to deceitful lusts
- What are the works of the old man that we must put away (Ephesians and Colossians)? lying, unrighteous anger, giving place to the devil, stealing, corrupt communication, bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, evil speaking, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication
- According to Bunyan and 1 John, who are the children of the old nature? the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life
- What does Faithful see printed on the forehead of Adam the First that helps him overcome his enticements? “Put off the old man with his deeds.”

The Tactics of Adam the First

Adam the First acts much like Wanton acted. One of his tactics is to appeal to our self-interest with appealing promises. How does he describe his work? many delights
- How does he describe his wages? that he would be his heir
- How does he describe his house? It is maintained with dainties of the world

Student Work

Leaving Wanton, Faithful continues his journey from the city of Destruction. In response to Christian’s question about any other assaults with which Faithful met, Faithful details his encounter with Adam the First, Moses, Discontent, and Shame.

Each of these experiences holds a great lesson for the Christian today because we meet with the same characters.

Adam the First—Our Old Nature

Read Romans 6:6; Ephesians 4:22, 25–31; Colossians 3:8–9; 1 John 2:16; and Romans 7:24 before answering the following questions.
The True Character of Adam the First

- Instead of providing all of these delights as promised, what would he really do to Faithful once he got him home? 

Thus, we see his true character: he is first and foremost a liar. Note the first characteristic associated with him, according to Ephesians 4:25: 

Lesson: No man can trust his own desires because his own fleshly heart will lie to him. This is why Jeremiah 17:9 calls our heart deceitful. We cannot trust our feelings because they promise us delights when in reality they will lead us into captivity.

Moses—Our Guilt Feelings for Desiring the World

- Faithful turns to leave Adam the First and is given a painful twist backward so that he cries out:  

- From what verse in the Bible does this phrase come? Romans 7:24

- Reaching the arbor where Christian lost his roll, Faithful meets a man who comes after him as swiftly as the wind. He strikes Faithful down three times. For what crime does he strike him?  

- Of what is the man who strikes him incapable? 

- The man would have continued beating Faithful had it not been for whom? Christ

- Who is the man who strikes Faithful? Moses

This man represents Faithful’s own conscience and makes him feel guilty for secretly desiring to give in to Adam the First. He is so named because the Law knows how to condemn a man and make him feel guilty.

This is Faithful’s version of inner doubts and conflicts. Although Christian’s inner struggles were much greater, Faithful still has his own problems. Although

Discontent—Our Inner Repulsion to Humility

Leaving the arbor, Faithful continues up the hill Difficulty and past the Palace Beautiful. Here is one of his greatest sins: he does not join the church and receive its blessings! Christian mildly rebukes him for his oversight, saying, “I wish that you had stopped at the house. They would have shown you so many rarities that you would scarcely have forgotten them to the day of your death.”

Failure to avail himself of the blessings of the local church will show up in the future, as you will see later. Christian seems to possess more wisdom and discernment in this matter than does Faithful.

- Coming to the Valley of Humility, Faithful meets not with Apollyon but with  

- Shame—Our Shameful Peer Group

Shame represents those members of our peer group who try to shame us for our stand for the Lord. They seek, by bold statements, to make us ashamed to live for Christ.

Shame’s Arguments

Describe Shame by drawing on Faithful’s description of him.

- He objects against religion itself

- He says that Christianity is a pitiful, low, sneaking business
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The poor man that loves Christ is ___________________________
________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________.

Christian’s Response

Christian responds to Faithful’s remarks by stating that this person promotes only the fool. What does Proverbs 3:35 say about this issue? ___
________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________

Lesson: Those who speak boldly and loudly against Christ in an attempt to shame us into cowardice are themselves to be shamed because God calls them fools.

NOTES FROM THE TEACHER’S LESSON

Adam the First

His Identity—Our Old Nature

His Characteristics

- Lying
- An Ill Temper and__________a Loose Tongue__________
- Allegiance toSatan
- Cheating
- CorruptSpeech

His Children

- The Lust of the Flesh—__________Please the Senses; Feeling Oriented__________
- The Lust of the Eyes—__________Materialism; Covetousness__________
- The Pride of Life—__________Concerned with Reputation__________

Faithful’s Rebuttal

Faithful’s anger is roused by shame until he remembers Luke 16:15, which states, “And he saith unto them, ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God.”

Faithful reasons in his heart against these attacks by Shame. Note his rebuttal.

- What God says is best, though all men are against it, because in the day of doom men will be judged, not by their words, but by the ________Law of the Highest__________
- God prefers his__________religion__________
- God prefers a__________tender conscience__________
- They who are wisest are those__________who make themselves fools for Christ__________

- The wise shall inherit glory, but shame shall be the promotion of fools.

Lesson: Those who speak boldly and loudly against Christ in an attempt to shame us into cowardice are themselves to be shamed because God calls them fools.
His Defeat
- Starvation
- Nurture and Exercise

Shame
- He Is Bold
- He Is Generally Our Best Friend

APPLICATION ACTIVITIES
1. Use your Bible and a concordance to conduct a study of the “put ons” and “put offs” of the New Testament. Make a three-column chart. Write the references of the appropriate Scripture passages in the left-hand column. In the middle column, list the things that each passage tells believers to “put off.” And in the right-hand column, list the things that each passage tells believers to “put on.”
2. Study Romans 1:18–32; 6:1–23. What do these passages say about the “old man” and the “new man”? If one is now a “new man,” or a “new creation,” how should he/she then live?
3. Make a three-column chart. Label the column headings “Lust of the flesh,” “Lust of the eyes,” and “Pride of life,” respectively. Then under each column, list activities or attitudes of modern life that characterize each of those “children of the old man.”
4. Explain how the following poem relates to this lesson:
   
   Two natures struggle within my breast—
   The one is vile, the other blest.
   The one I love, the other I hate;
   The one I feed will dominate.
STUDENT WORK

Talkative is a picture of the person who has the ability to talk about the Bible but isn’t saved. He completely fools Faithful. He fools many people today, too. Just because a person talks a great deal about the Bible doesn’t indicate that he is saved.

Talkative Fools Faithful

- If you were Faithful, what words of Talkative probably would have convinced you that he was saved? ____________________________
  __________________________________________________________
  __________________________________________________________
  __________________________________________________________
  __________________________________________________________

Talkative’s theology seems sound enough. He uses the language of fundamental believers.

Talkative Puzzles Faithful

- What does Talkative say that causes Faithful to wonder about his sincerity? ____________________________
  __________________________________________________________
  __________________________________________________________
  __________________________________________________________
  __________________________________________________________

He wanted to talk of things that are good, things of God, the necessity of the new birth, the insufficiency of works, the need of Christ’s righteousness, etc.

Talkative’s theology seems sound enough. He uses the language of fundamental believers.

Christian Isn’t Fooled

Christian warns Faithful that this smooth-tongued talker will beguile [fool, deceive with his tongue] twenty people who don’t know him.

- To what kind of person does such a person appeal? ____________________________
  __________________________________________________________
  __________________________________________________________
  __________________________________________________________

Christian says, “He is best abroad.” What does that mean? ____________________________

He appeals most to those who don’t know him well. At home, where he is fully known, he has no appeal.

- According to Christian, where is everything that this man has? ____________________________
  __________________________________________________________
  __________________________________________________________
  __________________________________________________________

Christian says, “He is best abroad.” What does that mean? ____________________________

He appeals most to those who don’t know him well. At home, where he is fully known, he has no appeal.

- According to Christian, where is everything that this man has? ____________________________
  __________________________________________________________
  __________________________________________________________

He appeals most to those who don’t know him well. At home, where he is fully known, he has no appeal.

- What is the purpose of this man’s religion? ____________________________
  __________________________________________________________
  __________________________________________________________

- According to Christian, he is “a saint abroad and a devil at home.”

Faithful Learns a Lesson

As Christian describes Talkative, Faithful learns to distinguish a great difference between saying and doing.

- The Pharisees are a perfect example of this problem. According to Matthew 23:3, how were they like Talkative? ____________________________
  __________________________________________________________
  __________________________________________________________

They said, but did not.

- About what do you find yourself talking but seldom doing? ____________________________
  __________________________________________________________
  __________________________________________________________
  __________________________________________________________

Answers will vary.

Lesson: Unsaved men might have a perfect theology, but they can be spotted by the fact that they talk just as readily about any other subject as they do about the Bible.

Some men just love to talk! Religion is an interesting subject to them, and they speak of it just as they might speak of astronomy, business, sports, or any other topic.
Talkative Makes a Mistake

- Christian summarizes Talkative’s mistake: “He thinks that hearing and saying will ___ make a good Christian ___.” Talkative is sadly unaware that men will be judged not by their talk but by their fruit. Or, as someone has said, “God is interested in your walk, not your talk.”

- Faithful supports this conclusion by an illustration from the Old Testament. Read Leviticus 11:1–8. What two conditions had to be met to make an animal clean?
  - The animal had to be clovenfooted (part the hoof) and had to chew the cud.

- What three animals are listed that chew the cud but do not part the hoof?
  - the camel, the coney, and the hare

- Which animal is mentioned as parting the hoof but not chewing the cud and is therefore unclean?
  - swine

Lesson: Parting the hoof is a picture of a separate, holy walk. Chewing the cud is a picture of knowing, studying, meditating on, and talking about the Word.

- In your opinion, how does this lesson apply to Talkative?
  - He chewed the cud in that he sought knowledge from the Word and talked about it, but he was not separated to a holy walk because he didn’t truly believe. Therefore, he didn’t divide the hoof.

Conclusion

Read the following verses. Then state what each teaches in support of this lesson.

- Matthew 13:23—
  - We are not only to hear the Word but also to bear fruit in daily life.

NOTES FROM THE TEACHER’S LESSON

Clean Animals (Lev. 11:1–8)

- Part Hoof—__ Walking a Separated Life ___

- Chew Cud—__ Meditating, Talking About the Word ___

Camel, Coney, & Hare

We Speak Two Ways: Through Our Life and Our Message.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chew Cud</th>
<th>Don’t Part Hoof</th>
<th>Scripture</th>
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<tr>
<td>Good School Grades</td>
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<td>Talk of Spiritual Things</td>
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<td>Pray Impressive Prayers</td>
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### APPLICATION ACTIVITIES

1. Define discernment. Explain what it means to “try the spirits.” Why are these two gifts important for a Christian today?

2. Some people accuse Christians of being “judgmental” when they question the salvation of an individual or the Christianity of a particular organization. Explain why such conduct is not necessarily being judgmental. What does the Bible say concerning our responsibility to be “fruit inspectors”?

3. Make a list of organizations that claim to be Christian (i.e., their names or their promotional literature give the appearance of being Christian) but are actually deceivers. What proof can you produce for each that reveals its non-Christian nature?

4. Although believers are not under the restrictions of the Jewish dietary laws today, what spiritual lessons can we learn from them that are applicable to our daily Christian walk?

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<tr>
<th>Part The Hoof</th>
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<td>Express Myself</td>
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Christian  I told you how it would be. Your words and his lusts cannot agree. He would rather leave your company than reform his life. But he’s gone now, as I said. Let him go; it’s his loss. He’s saved us the trouble of leaving him. Besides, the apostle says, “From such withdraw thyself.”

Faithful  But I’m glad that we had this little conversation with him. He might think about it again. However, I have dealt bluntly with him, so I’m clear of his blood if he perishes.

Christian  You did the right thing in speaking bluntly to him. There’s not much faithful dealing with men nowadays, and that makes religion stink badly in the nostrils of many people, for they are these talkative fools, whose religion is in word only. They are wicked and vain in their conversation, and they puzzle the world, blemish Christianity, and grieve sincere believers. I wish that all men would deal with such people as you have dealt with Talkative. Then they would either be made more conformable to religion or the company of saints would be too hot for them.

Then Faithful said,

How Talkative at first lifts up his plumes!
How bravely doth he speak! How he presumes
To drive down all before him! But so soon
As Faithful talks of heart-work, like the moon
That’s past the full, into the wane he goes;
And so will all but he that heart-work know.

So the two pilgrims walked on together, talking of what they had seen by the way. This conversation made their journey much easier. Otherwise, it no doubt would have been dull and tiresome, for by now they were going through a wilderness.

STUDENT WORK

Armed with Christian’s revealing insight into the true character of Talkative, Faithful goes back to Talkative determined to follow Christian’s advice. Christian has suggested that Faithful speak to Talkative not about religion but about the power of religion and to ask him bluntly if he has this power in his life. Poor Talkative is about to be revealed as the hypocrite he is!

Faithful’s First Arrow

Faithful’s Question

• Faithful undoes Talkative by asking two penetrating questions. Write the first question:

How does the saving grace of God discover itself when it is in the heart of man?

Talkative’s Reply

Talkative gives two answers to this question.

1. Where the grace of God is in the heart, there is an outcry against sin...
2. and great knowledge of gospel mysteries.

Faithful’s Counterattack

Faithful brilliantly and boldly counters Talkative’s answers by showing how completely wrong they are. Explain Faithful’s answer to each of Talkative’s replies.

1. True salvation makes one concerned about his own sins, not the sins of others.
2. One can know a lot about the Bible and the things of God and yet be unsaved. Salvation comes from acting on that knowledge.

Examining Faithful’s Counterattack

• Faithful is especially sharp in exploding Talkative’s second answer. He shows from Scripture that God is not as interested in what one knows as in what
one does. He then digs at Talkative, saying, “To know is something that pleases talkers and boasters, but to do is what pleases God.”

However, Faithful realizes that knowledge is important, for without knowledge the heart is nothing. In other words, a man needs knowledge to know how to serve God, but knowledge for the sake of knowledge is sin! This point should remind us of a lesson from *The Inner Man* study: we must know to be and be to do.

- Some people do without knowing how; they often make foolish blunders.
- Some people do without being what they ought to be; they are hypocrites.
- Some people know without doing; they are dead Christians.
- Some people know without being; they are intellectual snobs.

A Christian must know God’s Word that he might be what God wants him to be and that he might righteously do what God wants him to do.

What phrase in Psalm 119:34 goes with each of the following statements?

- David knew the Word **Give me understanding**
- David’s heart (being) was right **I shall observe it with my whole heart**
- David did the Word **I shall keep thy law**

**Faithful’s Advance**

Good soldiers advance after fire. Faithful is a good soldier, and he has Talkative reeling and therefore advances to answer his own first question. His answer is twofold.

**How a Work of Grace in the Soul Is Revealed to the One Who Has It**

- It convicts him of sin. He sees the absolute necessity of trusting Him, and he hungers and thirsts to do so.

**How a Work of Grace in the Soul Is Revealed by Others**

- First, by an experimental confession of his faith in Christ and second, a life that is answerable to (is consistent with) that confession
- That is, a person who has truly been saved is easily discovered by others because he openly confesses to being saved, and his life backs up his confession with three kinds of holiness. What are they? heart, family, and life (his behavior in the world)

**Faithful’s Second Arrow**

- Write Faithful’s second question (which pierces Talkative like a barbed arrow).
- *Do you experience this first part of the description of it, and does your life and behavior testify the same thing? Or does your religion stand in word or tongue but not in deed and truth?*

**Talkative’s Reply**

- What was Talkative’s reaction to Faithful’s very personal question? *He began to blush.*

- He is reluctant to answer honestly because he can’t, so he throws a question back at Faithful. What is it? *Why are you asking me such questions?*

**Faithful’s Final Thrust**

Faithful now intends to finish off Talkative. He levels with him.

- I saw that you were eager to talk and knew that you had nothing else but notions or empty ideas.
- You are a man whose religion lies in talk.
• According to Christian, to allow men such as Talkative to remain a part of our churches does what three things?
  1. ______________________
  2. ______________________
  3. ______________________

Thus, our pilgrims continue their journey without one hypocrite. Soon, however, they are to meet their hardest test of all.

What is your life—message? Does it move men toward God? Does your life prove that salvation transforms a life? Does your life prove that when God saves a man, he is a new creature?

• Record below the message that you think your life preaches to others.
  __________________________________________________________
  __________________________________________________________
  __________________________________________________________
  __________________________________________________________
  __________________________________________________________

NOTES FROM THE TEACHER’S LESSON

Question 1

• How Does the Saving Grace of God Discover Itself? _______________

When It Is in the Heart of Man?

Answer 1

• It Causes a Great Outcry Against Sin _____________________________

At this point, Talkative is finished. He abruptly says goodbye and leaves the two pilgrims. Can you believe the strong language that Faithful uses on Talkative?!

Notice how each succeeding statement that he makes is stronger than the one before it.

Conclusion

Christian, who has been an advisor/bystander, now congratulates Faithful for a job well done. Why is Faithful glad for this experience?

• ______________________
• ______________________
• ______________________
Question 2

- Do You Possess These Evidences?

Proofs

- Deep Conviction of Personal Sin and Condemnation
- Trust and Faith in Christ
- Public Confession of Christ
- Holiness of Life
  - Heart Holiness
  - Family Holiness
  - Holiness Before Others

APPLICATION ACTIVITIES

1. Using your Bible and a concordance, list the characteristics for which we should look in genuine, born-again Christians. (Note especially Psa. 15.)
2. Read R. A. Torrey's little book *How to Succeed in the Christian Life*. List the various activities or responsibilities that should accompany or characterize the true believer’s life.
3. Read Francis Schaeffer’s book *How Should We Then Live?* Summarize the book and its applications to this lesson for your classmates.
Note the following lessons that we’ve learned at each of his appearances in the story.

In his first appearance, we saw the following soul winner’s methods.

• Look for burdened hearts.
• Arouse interest by asking piercing questions.
• Use the Scripture to point the soul to Christ.

In his second appearance, we saw the soul winner’s follow-up program.

• Keep in touch with the sinner.
• Point him back to Christ.

Now, in his third appearance, we see his concern for his convert.

• He is just as interested in Christian now that he’s saved as he was when Christian was lost and called Graceless.
• He warns him of danger to come.
• He is loved by the convert.
• His joy is in seeing the growth of his converts.

The Admiration of the Evangelist

A soul winner’s converts never forget him! One of our earthly rewards is the continued love and friendship bestowed upon us by those whom we lead to the Lord.

• How do Christian and Faithful illustrate this truth? ____________________________________________

A soul winner is always admired. Who admires you for your soul-winning efforts?
Have you ever experienced the joy of seeing someone whom you led to the Lord grow into a strong Christian? No sports accomplishment, achievement in life, or amount of money or gain can rival the joy of the soul winner!

The Messages of the Evangelist

Evangelist brings two exhortations to Christian and Faithful. Both messages are meant to prepare them for their approaching experiences and trials in Vanity Fair.

The First Message

The first message has the following five points.

1. Keep Your Crown

• A Christian can win a number of crowns. Read the following references and write in the space the types of crowns mentioned.

  • 1 Corinthians 9:25—_________________________  
    (This crown is not an actual crown but the souls won to Christ.)
  • 1 Thessalonians 2:19—_________________________
  • 2 Timothy 4:8—______________________________  
    (Who wins this crown? _____________________________)
  • James 1:12—_______________________________
  • 1 Peter 5:4—_______________________________  
    (This crown is reserved for faithful pastors.)

• Which of these crowns do Faithful and Christian stand to gain? ___________________________

2. His Concern

Evangelist’s first two statements reveal much about his heart. Record these statements and what you learn about his heart in each case.

  • First statement: **Peace be with you, dearly beloved, and peace be to your helpers.**  
    Lesson learned: He loves them and is concerned about them.
  • Second statement: **How have you been doing, friends, since the time I saw you last? What has happened to you along the way, and how have you behaved yourselves?**  
    Lesson learned: He’s concerned about how they’ve fared along the way since he last saw them. He wants to know what’s happened to them and how they’ve reacted to things.

From this we learn that a true soul winner is as concerned for his converts after they are saved as he is before they were saved. He follows up and helps them grow and avoid dangers.

3. His Joy

The soul winner’s joy is by far the greatest joy that a man can have on this earth. Evangelist is glad for the following three reasons:

  1. that they have been victorious through all of the trials and tribulations they’ve encountered
  2. that they have continued in the right way
  3. for both of their sakes

Peace be with you, dearly beloved, and peace be to your helpers.

He loves them and is concerned about them.

How have you been doing, friends, since the time I saw you last? What has happened to you along the way, and how have you behaved yourselves?

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5. Don’t Trust the Flesh

Which of Evangelist’s statements warn of this danger? _____________

Above all, guard carefully your own hearts, and beware its lust
because they are “deceitful above all things and desperately wick-
ed.”

The Second Message

Christian now thanks Evangelist for his message and then asks that he do

tell them about some of the things that they can expect to hap-

pen to them along the rest of their way

Thus, Evangelist begins a final short exhortation. His text is Acts 14:21–22, which warns us that

we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God

A Christian does not defeat Satan until the believer reaches heaven!

3. Live With Eternity in View

Which saying of Evangelist teaches the pilgrims to keep their minds on

the future? __________________________________________________________

Keep the kingdom always uppermost in your mind and believe
steadfastly the things that are invisible.

4. Avoid Being Entangled by the World

What words of Evangelist express this lesson? _______________________

Don’t let anything on this side of the other world get inside you.

This warning can apply to cars, boats, sports, houses, popularity, riches,
clothing, friends, etc. Read Matthew 13:4–8, 18–23. Which type of

ground (heart) never bears fruit because of its worldly entanglements?

the thorny soil

What two things keep such a person from bearing fruit? _____________

the cares of the age and the deceitfulness of riches

(After is the mention of a second crown that we will receive.)

Which pilgrim will get the best of his brother? _______________________

the one who dies

Why? ____________________________________________________________

because he arrives at the Celestial City first and because he will

thereby escape many miseries that the other will encounter during

the rest of the journey
NOTES FROM THE TEACHER’S LESSON

Four Types of Leaders

1. **Apostles** — (“Sent one”)
2. **Prophets** — (Reveals the future)
3. **Pastors/Teachers** — (Shepherd)
4. **Evangelist** — (To announce good news)

The Methods of the Evangelist

In The City of Destruction

- He Was Looking for **Burdened Souls**
- He Pointed Graceless **to the Word**
- He Used **Questions**

Outside the City of Morality

He **Kept After** the Lost Soul

Outside Vanity Fair

He Acts As **Pastor and Prophet**

APPLICATION ACTIVITIES


2. Using your Bible and a concordance, conduct a study of “crowns” in the Bible. Report your findings (either orally or in writing) to the class.

3. Read the chapter titled “Persecution” in R. A. Torrey’s book *How to Succeed in the Christian Life*, and explain how he says Christians should accept persecution.

4. Read and study Part I, “The Biblical Basis for Christian Service,” in William Goulooze’s book *The Christian Worker’s Handbook*. Explain (1) the steps necessary for the preparation of the soul winner and (2) the nine steps for making an effective soul-winning contact or call.

5. Interview several people in your church concerning the people who led them to the Lord. Specifically ask them about any followups that the soul winner made to disciple them. Record their comments and share them with the class.

6. Who led you to the Lord? Write them a thank-you note letting them know how much you appreciate their concern for your soul. Who has done the most to disciple you? Write that person a thank-you note, too.

7. Put what you learn from this lesson (or any of the preceding activities) into practice by making soul-winning calls and following up on any converts. Report the results.
chief product for sale. At Vanity Fair, this product is the ware of Rome, and her merchandise is heavily promoted here. (Only the English nation and a few others have expressed a dislike for the promotion of this product.)

Now, as I’ve said, the way to the Celestial City lies right through Vanity, where this busy fair is held, and whoever will go to the Celestial City without going through Vanity must get there by going out of the world (1 Cor. 5:10). Even the Prince of princes Himself, when He was on earth, went through this town to His own country—on Fair Day, too. In fact, now that I think about it, it was Beelzebub, the chief lord of this fair, who invited Him to buy some of his vanities. He would even have made Him lord of the fair if He would just have worshipped him as He went through the town. Because He was such a person of honor, Beelzebub showed Him from street to street, showing Him all of the kingdoms of the world in just a short time. He was trying, as if it were possible, to lure that blessed One to lower Himself and buy some of his vanities. But He wasn’t interested in the merchandise, and therefore He left the town without spending even a penny on its vanities (Matt. 4:8–9; Luke 4:5–7). This fair, therefore, is really old, having been here a long, long time, and it’s a very great fair.

STUDENT WORK

- Leaving Evangelist, Christian and Faithful head for Vanity Fair with Evangelist’s words ringing in their ears: “One of you must seal with blood the testimony that you hold. But be faithful unto death, and the King will give you a crown of life.”

Vanity Fair is Bunyan’s amazingly accurate picture of the world and its characteristics. What is worldliness? What is the world? This lesson will answer these questions by giving a seven-fold description of Vanity Fair. (Note: when we use the word world in this lesson, we are not referring to the planet earth or its geographic features. Rather, we are referring to the world system. The following description will make this point obvious.)

The World Is Vain

Definition

- How does the dictionary define vanity? WORTHLESS PLEASURE OF DISPLAY; LACK OF REAL VALUE

- Why is Vanity Fair given such a name? THE TOWN IN WHICH THE FAIR IS LOCATED IS LIGHTER THAN AIR, AND ALL THAT’S SOLD THERE OR COMES FROM THERE IS WORTHLESS.

Examples

- Read Ecclesiastes 1:2, 14; 2:1–11, 18–23; and Isaiah 40:17. List all of the things that Solomon, the wisest man, called vain. All works under the sun, pleasure, wine, wisdom, folly, great works, houses, vineyards, gardens, orchards, trees, pools, servants, maidens, herds and flocks, silver and gold, singers, music, all of his labors, sorrowful days, all nations

Worldliness is anything that is empty or meaningless.

- On what empty, meaningless things do you expend a lot of your time and energy? What should you do about it? ANSWERS WILL VARY.

The World Is Nonstop Temptation

- The world always tempts the Christian. It never lets up. How does Bunyan illustrate this fact? HE SAYS THAT VANITY FAIR WAS KEPT OPEN AND OPERATING ALL YEAR LONG.
• Think of it. Almost every minute of every day, the world’s philosophy, attitudes, fads, styles, and way of life are pressuring us, trying to get us to conform. What does Romans 12:1–2 command us not to do?  

\[ \text{not to be conformed to the world} \]

Someone has paraphrased that passage this way: Don’t let the world squeeze you into its mold!

• According to these two verses, how can you keep the world from molding you to its shape?  

\[ \text{by being transformed by the renewing of our mind} \]

• According to Romans 8:29, to what, instead of to the world, are we to be conformed (molded)?  

\[ \text{Christ’s image} \]

Therefore, worldliness is anything that would keep you from being conformed to His image.

The World Is Ancient

• How does Bunyan express this point?  

\[ \text{This fair is not new; it is actually quite old. Almost five thousand} \]
\[ \text{years ago, pilgrims were walking to the Celestial City.} \]

Since the beginning of time, Satan has used the world to entice men and women from Christ. Teenagers, you are not the only ones who have had it rough. The world has been just as active from creation as it is today.

The World Is Sinful

Bunyan describes the merchandise to be sold at this fair. He lists thirty-four specific products. Study these items, noting the seven types of sin.

Four Covetous Sins

1. \[ \text{houses} \] 2. \[ \text{lands} \]
3. \[ \text{occupations} \] 4. \[ \text{positions} \]

Eight Sins of Wrong Values

1. \[ \text{lives} \] 2. \[ \text{blood} \]
3. \[ \text{bodies} \] 4. \[ \text{souls} \]
5. \[ \text{silver} \] 6. \[ \text{gold} \]
7. \[ \text{pearls} \] 8. \[ \text{precious stones} \]

Satan traps Christians today by getting them tied down by daily cares and busy schedules. He tempts us with a wrong set of values. He devalues the life and the soul of a lost person and devalues Christ’s blood. Gradually, believers get so involved with their own problems that they lose both whatever burden they might have had for the lost and their “love and esteem for the blood of Christ.”

Eight Sins of Frivolity

1. \[ \text{juggling} \] 2. \[ \text{cheats} \]
3. \[ \text{games} \] 4. \[ \text{plays} \]
5. \[ \text{fools} \] 6. \[ \text{apes} \]
7. \[ \text{knaves} \] 8. \[ \text{rogues} \]
Four “Blood–red” (Crimson) Sins

1. thefts
2. murders
3. adulteries
4. perjury

- In these seven categories of sins, we see seven ways in which the world tempts the Christian. Review these seven types of sins and note how Christians today are still tempted by the same things. To which of these types of sins are you most susceptible? **Answers will vary.**

- List the specific ways in which you are tempted by each of these seven types of sins:
  1. Covetousness **Answers will vary.**
  2. Pride/ego
  3. Flesh
  4. Cares of life
  5. Values
  6. Frivolities

Worldliness is involvement in any of the seven types of sins.

**The World Is Universal**

- How does Bunyan show that worldliness is a problem wherever a person lives? **by telling of rows and streets where wares are sold and every country has its own specialty: British row, French row, Italian row, Spanish row, etc.**

Lesson: you cannot hide from the world. You might go to a Bible–preaching church, attend a Christian school, and socialize with only Christian teens, but you will still be influenced by the world.

- Name various ways in which the world influences a Christian although he might be almost isolated from it by his home, school, and/or church environment. **Answers will vary.**

**The World Is Inescapable**

- How does Bunyan illustrate this truth? **He says that the way to the Celestial City goes through the town that has Vanity Fair; there is no other way but to go right through it.**
The World Is Controlled by Satan

• How does Bunyan illustrate this truth?
  He says that Beelzebub is the chief lord of the air.

How to Escape the Effects of the World

Remember, we can’t escape the world; it’s all around us. What we are to avoid is surrendering to its influence. How can we do this? List in the following spaces the three major definitions of worldliness as given in this lesson.

1. anything that is empty or meaningless
2. anything that would keep us from being conformed to Christ’s image
3. any of the seven types of sins

Attack each of these three definitions as follows.

1. Fill your life and time with things that count for eternity. Bible reading, Scripture memorization, meditation on the Word, soul winning, and reading Christian books—these and other worthwhile projects should fill our time so that we have no free time to be tempted by empty, meaningless activities.

2. Avoid anything that presses you out of God’s shape (and into the mold of the world).
   • List TV programs that you must quit watching if you are to accomplish this goal. Answers will vary.
   • List books and magazines that you now read that you must stop reading. Answers will vary.

3. Confess any of the seven types of sin of which you are guilty, and avoid the thousands of ways by which they sneak up on you. Pray about the things you’ve listed. Ask God to fill your life with things that are good, wholesome, and worthwhile and that will count for eternity.

NOTES FROM THE TEACHER’S LESSON

What the World Isn’t

• Things We’re Against
• Specific Sins

What It Is

Attitude (1 John 2:16)

• Lust of the Flesh—Attitude, Please the Senses of the Body
• Lust of the Eyes—Covetousness, Materialism
• Pride of Life—Reputation over Service

Influence

Any influence that limits, prohibits, or takes prior claim to godly service.
How to Overcome the World

- Do the Will of God (1 John 2:17)
- Love the Lord (1 John 2:15–17)
- Live by Facts, Not Feelings (James 4:17)

APPLICATION ACTIVITIES

1. Skim through Steve and Ruth Bennett’s little book 365 TV–Free Activities, and list at least ten interesting, enjoyable, and worthwhile activities with which you can replace TV viewing in your home.

2. What role do friends and companions play in a believer’s success or failure in avoiding worldliness and living a life based on eternal values? In preparing your answer, refer to chapter three (“Friends That Sharpen”) of Donna Morley’s book Choices That Lead to Godliness.

3. Conduct a study of how Joseph successfully resisted temptation and thereby was able to achieve God’s purpose for his being in Egypt. (An especially good source of information on this topic is Robert E. Reccord’s book When Life Is the Pits: A Bible Study on the Life of Joseph. Pay particular attention to chapter three, “The Devil Made Me Do It.”)

4. Read chapter 23 (“The Sanctification of Our Minds”) of A Treasury of A. W. Tozer. Then explain the following statement: “Feats of thinking may create reputation, but habits of thinking create character.” Apply the information in this reading to your life in your efforts to oppose the influences of worldliness.

5. Read and summarize Love Not the World by Watchman Nee. In chapter one, who does Nee say is “The Mind Behind the System”?

6. Explain, illustrate, and apply the following statement from Hannah Whitall Smith’s classic The Christian’s Secret of a Happy Life: “One of the most fatal things in the life of faith is discouragement; one of the most helpful is confidence.” (See specifically chapter ten, “Difficulties Concerning Temptation.”)

7. Read chapter thirteen (“Amusements”) of R. A. Torrey’s book How to Succeed in the Christian Life. List Torrey’s seven rules for determining activities in which you as a believer should not be engaged. Apply these seven guidelines to your own activities.
At this point, what did the pilgrims remember? 
what Evangelist had told them about suffering and reward

What does each pilgrim secretly wish for himself? 
that he will be the one to suffer death because Evangelist had said 
that that person would get the better end of the deal

From this part of the story, we see a strikingly clear picture of the condition of the true Christian in the world today. Note the following points of similarity between the pilgrims in Vanity Fair and the true Christian today.

They Are in the World but Not of It

As believers, we cannot withdraw from the world any more than the two pilgrims could have bypassed Vanity Fair. The path to the Celestial City lay right through the middle of Vanity Fair.

God does not remove a Christian from the world but offers him victory in the midst of the world. We are in the world but not of the world.

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They Have a Different Kind of Dress

Just as the pilgrims dressed differently, so should today’s Christians. A Christian must be careful to observe God’s standard for dress. Every Christian should follow at least three principles of dress.

1. Men Must Dress as Men and Women as Women

- Read 1 Corinthians 11:7–15 and Deuteronomy 22:5. What two statements in these passages reveal this particular standard of dress?
  (1) If a man has long hair, it is a shame unto him. But if a woman has long hair, it is a glory to her. (2) The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman’s garment.

The main point of this passage is that the hair styles and clothing styles of men and women need to be distinct. That is the principle of the passage.

2. All Dress Must Be Modest

- Read 1 Timothy 2:9–10. What kind of clothing is a woman to wear? modest

Although this passage is written specifically to women, the principle applies to both sexes: Christians are to dress such that their godly character is magnified, not overshadowed. What they wear is not to draw attention to itself or distract others from seeing their godly character.

Therefore, we may define as modest clothing that magnifies one’s godly character; conversely, immodest clothing is anything that draws attention from one’s character to something else (generally to something fleshly).

Three types of clothing are immodest in that they distract from one’s godly character.

1. Overdressing

Overdressing is dressing such that others notice the outlandish clothes, wardrobe, jewelry, glamour, etc., rather than one’s holy and godly life.

2. Prudish Dressing

- Prudish dressing is deliberately dressing such as to appear homely and without beauty, proportion, or arrangement. Read Matthew 6:16. How did the Pharisees do this?
  They disfigured their faces so that they would appear to be sad and suffering.

Sometimes, prudish dressing is an overreaction to overdressing or provocative dressing. Insofar as it distracts from one’s godly character, however, prudishness is as much immodesty as is overdressing. Rather than increasing or proving one’s superior spirituality, it merely creates a worse sin—hypocrisy and self-righteousness.

3. Provocative Dressing

Provocative dressing is dressing such as to cause others to notice one’s body and to lust to see more of it. It is wearing clothing that provokes, or tempts, one to sinful thoughts. Wearing skimpy and/or tight-fitting clothing is dressing provocatively.

3. Dress Should Reflect God’s Character

- Read Exodus 28:4–9, 15, 31–34, 40–41. What do these verses teach about the colors, textures, and general appearance of the High Priest’s clothing? that holy garments were made of gold, blue, purple, and scarlet and were finely woven and skillfully made

These colors and textures are a picture of Christ and His office as our High Priest. The way we dress reveals our character and attitude. What kind of imprinted clothing do you wear? Do you advertise the world’s crowd, the devil’s products, a materialistic philosophy of life? Do your clothes promote drugs, alcohol, tobacco, rock music, materialism, and other worldly values and activities?

They Use a Different Form of Speech

The citizens of Vanity Fair not only wondered at the pilgrims’ clothing but also their manner of speech. Christians are never to talk like the world talks.
1. According to your talk?  **Answers will vary.**
2. According to your excitement?  
3. According to your thoughts?  
4. According to your use of time?  
5. According to your use of money?  

Based on the answers you have given to the preceding questions, are your values any different from those of the world or a typical unbeliever?  

They Are Blamed as The Cause of the World’s Problems

The citizens of Vanity Fair blamed the two pilgrims for all of the commotion and confusion. Similarly, the ancient Romans blamed the early Christians for the social, political, and economic problems of the declining Roman Empire. Nero even blamed them for the torching of Rome.

It’s the same today. The world cannot understand Christians. It often wishes that no Christians existed to oppose abortion, liquor by the drink, various forms of legalized gambling, pornography, the unisex movement, the gay revolution, the drug culture, and all other “progressive” movements of the world system. When Christians oppose such ungodliness, the world thinks that we are mad, ignorant, out of touch, and a hindrance to “progress.”

Do you oppose the world’s liberal thinking, or do you find yourself going along with it, promoting it through your clothing and speech, or even agreeing with it in many respects? Think about it!
They Are Hated by the World

The men of Vanity Fair threw the two pilgrims into jail, accused them unjustly, and made sport of them. So it is today. Christians who stand for righteousness in school, in society, or on the job will be scorned, ridiculed, mocked, and sometimes even persecuted. Do you stand for right even when you are mocked?

• Have you ever had to stand when it meant that you would be despised, discriminated against, or persecuted in some way? If so, give details about the incident.  

  
  Answers will vary.

If you have never had such an experience, you might not be taking a stand! The Bible says that all who live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution (2 Tim. 3:12).

They Are Patient and Meek When Opposed

• What words describe the reaction of Christian and Faithful to their persecution?  

  They were patient, “not rendering railing for railing, but contrariwise blessing” and doing good work in response to the injustice and injury that was being inflicted on them.  

  1 Peter 3:9

• From what passage of Scripture was Bunyan quoting here?  

  1 Peter 3:9

• When someone calls you an unkind name, mocks you, or tries to argue with you, what is your response?  

  Answers will vary.

• Can you say that you are patient and meek in your response to someone’s unkind treatment of you?  

  Answers will vary.

They Need Encouragement

Christian and Faithful comforted each other, thus showing us the importance of helping each other through the temptations and trials of life. Too often, we criticize rather than comfort one another. When another Christian falls or has a hard time, we don’t go to him in love; rather, we stand aloof and reject him or gossip about him. We don’t pray for him; we prey upon him!

Too often, we ignore rather than notice and offer help with each other’s problems. How many times have you had a problem but no one seemed to notice or care? It’s the same with all Christians. How sad! Remember Evangelist! He was interested in people. We, too, must be concerned about others and notice when they are having a hard time. Be conscious of the needs of others, and pray for them!

• Read Galatians 6:1–2 and write it in the space provided here. Then memorize the passage.  

  Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.  

  Galatians 6:1–2

They Are Persecuted by the World

Finally, the citizens of Vanity Fair wanted to kill Faithful and Christian. What does Christ say in His prayer to the Father in John 17:14 will be true of a Christian? According to that verse, why does the world hate the Christian?  

  He is not of the world.

• A Christian who lives truly like Christ lived will be despised by the world. Teen, you cannot live for God and be popular with the world! It’s impossible. The world will hate you just as it hated Christ. According to that measuring stick, are you living like Christ lived?  

  Answers will vary.
NOTES FROM THE TEACHER’S LESSON

Our Relationship __________________________ to the World

- “Of” ________________ Condemnation
- “Out of” ________________ Salvation
- “In” ________________ Integration
- “From” ________________ Separation
- “Into” ________________ Proclamation

Our Relationship __________________________ to Each Other

- One with Each Other
- Love

Our Relationship to God

- Given to ________________ God (John 17:2, 6)
- Receive His ________________ Word (17:8)
  - Hear
  - Study
  - Believe
  - Practice
- Glorify ________________ Him (17:10)
- Share His ________________ Joy (17:13)
- Share His ________________ Love (17:23, 26)
- Share His ________________ Glory (17:24)

APPLICATION ACTIVITIES

1. Read John Guest’s book *This World Is Not My Home* and summarize what it says concerning the Christian’s dress, speech, and values.

2. Read Mary Kay Ash’s book *Mary Kay on People Management* and report on (1) how she applies the Golden Rule to her business management practices and (2) what we can learn from her comments about how Christians should treat others, especially fellow believers.

3. Read about and report on how Christians have suffered persecution during the various ages. Some source materials include the following books: *Foxe’s Book of Martyrs*, *In God’s Underground* by Richard Wurmbrand, and *Watchman Nee: Man of Suffering* by Bob Laurent.

4. Report on how many Christians are currently being persecuted for the faith in some countries. What prevents us from being similarly persecuted to that extent here in the United States?

5. Read and summarize “Patience” in Jerry Bridges’ book *The Practice of Godliness*.


7. Find another Christian who is struggling with persecution, temptation, or other problems, and offer to help them. For example, write them a praying-for-you card and include it with a fruit basket or bouquet of flowers that you take to them. Follow up later with a phone call to see if you can help them.

8. Explain the difference between and give examples of sympathy and empathy. How might you demonstrate each of these abstractions in a concrete way?