



**Mustard Seed Lesson Summary for March 25, 2007
Released on Wednesday, March 21, 2007**

"God Gives Eternal Life"

Golden Text- "This is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son (1 John 5:11).

1 John 5:1-12

1 Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.

2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.

3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

6 This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth.

7 For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

8 And there are three that bear witness in earth, the spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.

9 If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son.

10 He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.

11 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

12 He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

TEACHER'S NOTES ON THE LESSON

Undoubtedly the reason many (if not most) people place their faith in Christ is that they have become aware of their need for forgiveness of sin. Forgiveness is indeed one of our great needs. "We were dead in sins" (Ephesians 2:5), and "whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins" (Acts 10:43). But forgiveness is not our only need.

Our other great need is *life*. God created Adam and Eve with two kinds of life - life for relating to this world and life for relating to Him. After they sinned, they retained their physical life, but the spiritual connection was gone.

Since then, Adam and Eve's descendants too are dead in sin. We come into the world with one kind of life only - the physical kind. No one is born with the kind of life that connects us with God. That life is something God must later supply if we are to have it. First John 5 reviews our need for that spiritual life and how it is received.

The apostle began the chapter by reminding his readers that it was through faith, not their good efforts, that they were born into God's family in the first place. "Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God" (v. 1). They had accepted the message they heard as the word of God and not the word of men (1 Thess. 2:13). They had taken Him at His word, unlike unbelievers, who by their unbelief were in effect accusing God of lying.

Eternal life, John reminded them, was not given to them because of their good deeds. Rather, it was a free gift from God, undeserved and unearned. The apostle then added these remarkable statements: "This life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life" (1 John 5:11-12). The converse is equally true: the one who does not have the Son does not have life.

So what does this mean? When we receive God's gift of salvation, He does not suddenly extend our lives so that we shall live forever with Him in heaven. Rather, when we take Him at His word, believing what He said about His Son, He catches us up, as it were, and places us within the very life of Christ. Ephesians 1 says we are "in him." Christ's life is everlasting, and at conversion every believer is joined to that life. We live because He lives. We shall live eternally because He lives eternally.

That is the joyous and amazing thrust of this week's Bible lesson. It is one of the life-changing teachings of the Bible. Will primaries fully understand this? No. But they can understand "God says He did this, and He knows." They can recognize the truth as good news.

Perhaps, instead of thinking only of the *duration* of our eternal life, we need to focus more on where we are, now and eternally. The eternal life we have is not everlasting life separate from Christ. Our eternal life is His life. We have been joined to Him. God put it this way in Ephesians 2:6: we are "in Christ." Thank You, Lord.

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Teach that eternal life comes from God as a free gift and is received by believing in Jesus as the God-sent Saviour.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

1. All people are in need of everlasting life.
2. God wants everyone to have everlasting life as a gift.
3. Those, and only those, who trust Jesus to save them receive this life.

PLANNING VISUAL AIDS

For Telling the Lesson, using colored marking pens, make three flash cards: "God," "Life," and "Gives." Bring a Bible. You will need pictures of a baby and a creation scene showing Adam and Eve. Also have on hand a few coins.

For Helping to Remember, take crayons and a sheet of construction paper for each child.

BEGINNING THE LESSON

Ben was waiting by the door, ready to go along with his mother to the supermarket.

As Mom came into the kitchen, Dad called after her from the living room. "Why are you driving all the way across town to Bixby's when there is a market right down the street?" he asked.

"Because of what I need," Mom called back. "Bixby's is the only store in town that has the special kind of salad dressing I need."

We know that is the way it is. Sometimes there is only one place to get what we need. The Bible says that there is something special we need and that there is only one place to get it. We shall find out this morning what that special thing is. Then we shall find out where to go to get it.

TELLING THE LESSON

Let us begin by talking about three important words. Here is the first one. (Display "God.") What does this word say?

God has given us a Book to tell us about Himself and ourselves and what He wants. (Hold up Bible.) Because He loves the people He made, He wants us to have something important. He wants us to have something we do not have when we come into the world as babies. (Show baby.) It is something we do not get by going to school. It is something grown-ups do not get by working hard. God wants us to have life. (Display "Life" beside "God.")

Wait a minute. I thought we already have life. Well, yes, we do. We all got up this morning, so we are alive. We got dressed. We came to Sunday school. We have been walking, talking, singing. We do have life - one kind of life. We have life for living in this world.

But the Bible says there is another kind of life. Do you remember Adam and Eve? (Show picture.) They were the first people the Lord made. Did you know that Adam and Eve had two kinds of life? They walked, they talked, they ate, they touched things, they saw things. Their bodies were alive. They had life for living in this world, just as we do. But Adam and Eve had another kind of life too. They also had the kind of life that made them friends of God.

But then Adam and Eve chose to disobey. They decided to do just what they wanted instead of what the Lord had told them to do. When they did that, their special living with God kind of life died. Their bodies stayed alive, but now they had only one kind of life, the kind for living in this world.

God wants us to have more. (Point to "God.") He wants us to have the kind of life that lets us live with Him forever. (Point to "Life.") The Bible calls it everlasting life. Sometimes the Bible calls it eternal life. "Eternal" and "everlasting" both mean forever and ever. How many of you think that kind of life would be good to have? Well, God wants you to have it.

When you have everlasting life, you will live in heaven with the Lord someday-and that is good. But because you have Jesus' everlasting life inside, you can live the way God wants you to live now. You can obey Him even when obeying is hard. You can really care about other people and want to help them. Yes, having everlasting life is good!

How do you get everlasting life? You cannot take money and buy it from God. (Pour coins from one hand to the other.) You cannot be good enough to get it. You cannot get it by trying your best. You cannot get it by going to Sunday school every Sunday.

God will give it to you, though. (Place "Gives" between "God" and "Life.")

God *gives* everlasting life, and that is the only way anyone can get it. The Bible says, "The gift of God is eternal life" (Rom. 6:23). A gift is a present. What do you do to get a present? You just take it.

God's Book tells how. God gives eternal life, and this life is in His Son. Then the Bible says the boy or girl or man or woman who has the Son has life. Now, you know God's Son is Jesus. So God is saying that if you will just believe in Jesus - that He came and died for you and came alive again - He will give you eternal life right now. If you do believe in Jesus as your Saviour, you can be sure you have everlasting life, for He says so. God gives life, and that everlasting life is in His Son. (Point to "God Gives Life.")

TELLING HOW TO LIVE

If you are a boy or girl who has believed in Jesus, do not go to bed tonight without saying a big thank-you to Him for your everlasting life. If you are not sure you have that kind of life, come talk with me after Sunday school. You can take God's gift today.

HELPING TO REMEMBER

Help the children, if necessary, to fold their sheets of construction paper in half to form a book. On the front cover they should print on three lines "God Gives Life." Inside, have them draw on the right side a hill with a cross on top. On the left side each should draw himself with arms outstretched toward the cross, as though receiving everlasting life from Jesus.

EXPLAINING THE GOLDEN TEXT- "This is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son" (1 John 5:11).

When boys and girls and grown-ups receive Jesus as their Saviour, God does many good things for us. One thing is that He washes away our sins. Then it is just as though those sins had never been there. He also gives us a special present. That present is the kind of life that lets us live in heaven with Him. It is the life of Jesus Himself, and the only way to get that life is to come to Jesus for it.

Eternal life is not something to wait for. Yes, there is a future fulfillment in heaven, but eternal life is ours as soon as we receive Christ. Your primaries will probably not appreciate this fully, since they are so young, but it is important for them to know nevertheless.

ANTICIPATING NEXT WEEK'S LESSON

Lessons for the remainder of the quarter are based mainly on texts from the book of Revelation. Texts from Luke and John will also be used for Palm Sunday and Easter. For next week study **Revelation 1:8; Luke 19:28-38 "Jesus Is King."**

LESSON ACTIVITY

God Gives Eternal Life

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

ANOTHER
CHRIST
FATHER
LOVE
SON
WATER

BELIEVE
COMMANDMENTS
GOD
ONE
SPIRIT
WITNESS

BORN
ETERNAL
LIFE
OVERCOME
TESTIFY
WORLD

18 of 18 words were placed into the puzzle.

God Gives Eternal Life Solution

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

(Over, Down, Direction)

ANOTHER (10, 7, SW)
BELIEVE (8, 1, S)
BORN (4, 14, W)
CHRIST (8, 13, NE)
COMMANDMENTS (2, 15, E)
ETERNAL (1, 13, N)
FATHER (1, 3, SE)
GOD (2, 1, SE)
LIFE (2, 13, N)
LOVE (15, 5, NW)
ONE (6, 5, E)
OVERCOME (1, 1, SE)
SON (3, 8, NE)
SPIRIT (9, 5, E)
TESTIFY (15, 13, NW)
WATER (2, 5, S)
WITNESS (15, 6, W)
WORLD (7, 2, SW)

LESSON SUMMARIZED BY

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