

Summer Quarter: June • July • August 2024

SUMMER



# PRIMARY

SUNDAY SCHOOL QUARTERLY



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SUNDAY SCHOOL QUARTERLY

Vol. 61 • No. 3

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Rev. Roderick D. Belin, President and Publisher  
 Rev. Garland F. Pierce, Executive Director, Department of Christian Education  
 Tiffany N. Gregory, Chief of Operations

# For the Parents

Dear Parents,

I feel blessed to have the opportunity to work with your child this quarter. My prayer is that your child's learning will result in their having a closer relationship with God.

Unit I, "Jesus Gives Us Hope"—drawn from the books of Colossians (lesson 1), 2 Corinthians (lesson 2), Romans (lesson 3), Hebrews (lesson 4), and Acts (lesson 5)—considers Christian hope through the lens of the early church. The mysteries of God made known to the early church, the working of the Holy Spirit in believers, and the spiritual lifeline to God through Christ all inspire Christian hope. The unit closes with Paul's testimony of Christian hope.

Unit II, "Praying with Hope," turns attention to the prayers of ancient Israel as a model for offering to God our praise and petitions. These Hebrew prayers are also expressions of Christian hope. The first lesson of the unit is from a song of lament in Lamentations 3, while the remaining lessons of Unit II are drawn from the Psalms.

Unit III, "Hope for the Future"—from the books of 1 Thessalonians, 1 John, and Titus—considers facets of the promised future that God is preparing for believers. Paul anticipates the nearness of Christ's return in 1 Thessalonians 3 (lesson 10); and in seeing Christ, we become more like Him (as found in 1 John—lesson 11) and, according to Titus 2 and 3, live out the present moment with hope (lessons 12 and 13).

You can have a discussion with your child about giving his or her life to God with help from the *ABCs of Salvation*, listed below.

- A. Say, "Admit you have sinned (see Psalm 32:5), or done wrong." Go through just a few of the Ten Commandments—stealing or lying and so forth. Tell how our sins separate us from God (see Isaiah 59:2 and Romans 3:23).
- B. Say, "Believe Jesus is God's Son. He took the punishment for our sins by dying on the cross (see Romans 5:8). We must believe that Jesus is God's Son and that God raised Him from the dead."
- C. Say, "Call on God to forgive you (see Acts 2:21). When we are sorry for our sins and want to stop doing wrong, we can ask God to forgive us (see Acts 16:31)."

Thank you for the opportunity to help shape your child's spiritual life.

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Your Child's Teacher



June 2, 2024

## LESSON

## 1



## Suffering for Your Sake

Paul wrote a letter to the Colossian believers. Paul was in jail when he wrote the letter. But Paul was happy and *rejoiced* (was joyful) while in jail. Paul did not mind suffering for the church. God chose Paul to serve the church and preach God's complete Word. God's complete Word was a mystery kept hidden for many years—but now it is available to all of God's people.

Paul struggled for the Colossian believers and for others who had never met Paul personally. Paul's goal was for the believers to be encouraged and united in love for one another. Paul wanted them to have the riches of understanding the mystery of God. This mystery is Jesus Christ, who gives hope to all believers. In Jesus lie all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge (see Colossians 2:3).

Paul did not want anyone to trick the believers with their arguments. Paul was far away and in jail, but he was present with the believers in spirit. It made Paul happy to see how strong the believers' faith in Jesus was.



**Lesson Scriptures:**  
Colossians 1:24-26; 2:1-5

### Key Verse

To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. (Colossians 1:27)



## Suffering for Hope



Dante and his dad volunteered each weekend at The Legacy Center. Dante loved delivering breakfast to the seniors each week. He loved seeing and talking with them. Some of them would even play games with Dante.

While out delivering one morning, Dante knocked on Ms. Katie's door.

"Who is it?" the voice asked.

"It's me . . . Dante. I'm here to deliver your breakfast," he replied.

"That's you, Dante?" the voice asked.

"Yes, Ms. Katie, it's me and my dad," Dante answered.

"Come on in," Ms. Katie responded.

Ms. Katie sat at her kitchen table, looking through a box of old photos. Dante leaned over her shoulder and asked, "What are you looking at?"

"Photos of when I participated in one of the marches of the Civil Rights Movement," Ms. Katie responded.

"Is that how you hurt your leg?" Dante asked.

"Yep. I've been suffering with this leg for a long time. We did so much to change life for you all—to give so many people hope," Ms. Katie explained.

"Wow, you have suffered a long time just for us," Dante replied.

"Yes, I have," Ms. Katie replied, "but it's all been worth it."



### Exploring the Story in Ruby's Lab

Thank God for  
people who  
suffer to give  
us hope.



Hello! Ruby here! I have discovered that science can't explain some things, such as hope. In today's Bible story, Paul reminded the believers that he did not mind suffering because of the hope he had. No matter what Paul went through, whether physical or emotional, he always had hope. Like Paul, Ms. Katie had suffered for others to have hope during challenging times in our history. She accepted her suffering and saw it as hope for others. How do you define *hope*?

Here's your homework: Think about ways people suffer so that others might have hope for a brighter future. Be ready to share next week.



# Fill in the Blanks

Complete each statement related to the lesson by filling in each blank with the correct word from the Word Bank.



## WORD BANK

encourage • happy • hidden • knowledge  
love • mystery • suffering

1. Paul did not mind \_\_\_\_\_ for the church.
2. God's complete word was a mystery that was kept \_\_\_\_\_ for many years.
3. Paul's goal was to \_\_\_\_\_ the believers.
4. Paul wanted the believers to be united in their \_\_\_\_\_ for one another.
5. Paul wanted the believers to understand the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
6. In Jesus lie all the treasures of wisdom and \_\_\_\_\_.
7. It made Paul \_\_\_\_\_ to see how strong the believers' faith in Jesus was.



# Draw a Reminder of Hope

In your own words, tell what you learned from today's lesson on the lines below. Then, draw and color a picture that helps remind you of Paul's writing about having hope in Jesus.



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June 9, 2024

## LESSON

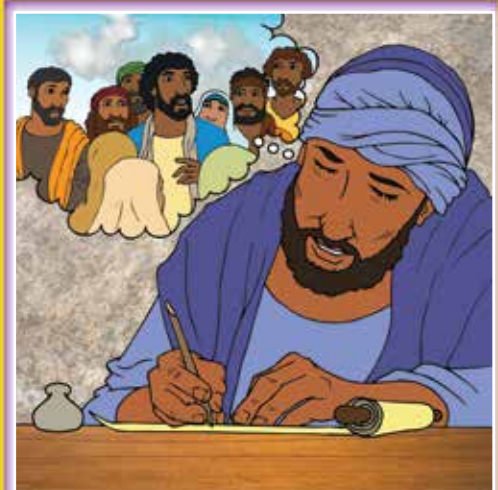
## 2



## You Are Our Letter

Paul wrote a letter to the Corinthian church. Paul asked if he and others needed to brag about themselves again. Did Paul need a letter of introduction like some other people? No! The believers (Christians) in Corinth were Paul's letter of introduction. The way they lived their lives was like a letter written in Paul's heart. Everyone looking at the believers' lives could see and read it themselves. The believers' lives were a letter from Jesus showing Paul's ministry and good work among them. This was not the type of letter written with ink. This letter was written with God's Spirit. This letter was not carved on stones. It was carved on human hearts—meaning what they learned about the believers stuck with them.

God is Spirit . . . and wherever God's Spirit is, there is freedom. All believers have had a *veil* [vayl], or covering, removed from their faces. All believers are like mirrors reflecting God's glory. God's Spirit makes believers more and more like the Lord every day. Believers are changed to live like Jesus and show God's glory.



**Lesson Scripture:**  
2 Corinthians 3:1-3, 17-18

### Key Verse

Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God. (2 Corinthians 3:5)





## A Living Letter



Mom entered her office and found Morgan at her desk with her notebook, pencils, and tablet.

"Morgan, why are you sitting at my desk? Do you have some work to do? I see you have all your supplies out," Mom asked.

"Mom, Pastor Chris is asking the Youth Ministry to write letters to help tell other kids about Jesus Christ. These kids have never heard about Jesus Christ," Morgan explained. "I don't know where to start writing my letter."

"Morgan, you never have a problem with words or expressing yourself. Just tell them what you know," Mom replied.

"But who am I to write this letter? Why should they believe me?" Morgan asked with concern in her voice.

Mom responded, "Who are you? You are someone who knows Christ for yourself. That's all the power that you need to write to them. You live your letter every day. I see how much you love Jesus. Just write about that."

"Mom, I never thought about my life as a living letter. Thanks for pointing that out," Morgan responded, hugging Mom.

## Exploring the Story in Ruby's Lab

Believers are  
living letters  
for God!



Hello, friends! Ruby here! I read a lot of science briefs and letters to keep up with what's happening in the world of science. In today's lesson, Paul compares believers to letters written on their hearts with God's Spirit. God's Spirit helps believers to live like Jesus. Paul encouraged the Corinthian believers to reflect God's glory for everyone to see.

Let's discuss this: think about the letter you write daily as you live for Jesus. Do your daily actions and words teach others about God's love? During the week, write in a journal what you did to teach others about God's love.



# Sharing God's Love

Write a letter, a poem, or song lyrics sharing God's love with someone who needs encouragement, using what you learned in today's lesson. Write in the space below.



**Dear Friend:**

**Your Friend in Christ,**

# Searching for Words

Find and circle the listed words related to today's lesson in the word search below.



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

**CHRIST**

**FREEDOM**

**HEART**

**HOPE**

**LETTER**

**LORD**

**LOVE**

**PAUL**

**SHARE**

**SPIRIT**

June 16, 2024

## LESSON

## 3

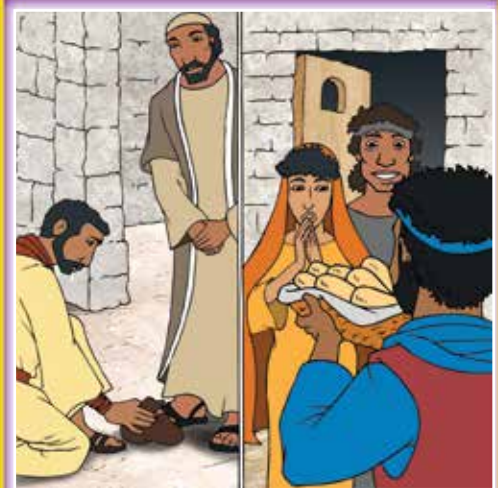


## Friends Build Up

Paul wrote a letter to the believers (Christians) in Rome. Paul reminded the believers who have strong *faith* (trust in God) to help those with weak faith. Believers with strong faith must not please themselves. After all, Jesus Christ did not please Himself. Believers with strong faith must be *considerate* of (think about) their neighbors. They must help to build up their neighbors by encouraging, teaching, and praying for them—cheering them on. This helps to make their faith strong.

The Word of God teaches all believers. It provides encouragement and hope as believers wait for God's promises. God gives believers the attitude of Jesus Christ. This Christlike attitude helps believers live in harmony and peace with each other. Then believers can join with one mind and one voice in praise and glory to God, the Father of Jesus Christ. So, believers must accept each other just as Jesus Christ accepted all.

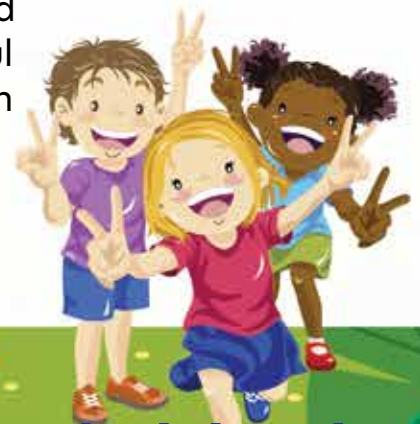
Paul prayed that the God of hope would fill the believers with joy and peace. Paul wanted the believers to overflow with hope through the power of God's Spirit.



**Lesson Scripture:**  
Romans 15:1-7, 13

### Key Verse

Each of us should please our neighbors for their good, to build them up. (Romans 15:2)



## Good Friends



Zia loved hanging out with Destiny and Destiny's mother, Ms. Horton. Today, Ms. Horton was taking them to the local trampoline park and then out to eat.

As they rode, Zia said, "Destiny, you are my best friend."

"You are my best friend, too," Destiny responded.

"Can I ask you a question?" Zia asked. "Do you think I'm a good person?"

"You sure are. When I had my tonsils taken out last year, you spent a lot of time making me smile and helping Mom take care of me," Destiny explained. "Why do you ask?"

"Someone told me that I wasn't a good friend, and it made me feel bad," Zia replied.

"That means they don't know you. You are always nice and helping others. I've never seen you be mean to anyone," Destiny noted.

"It makes me feel good to hear that," Zia responded.

"I'm glad you all are such good friends and build up one another. Building up each other is encouraging each other no matter what," Ms. Horton said. "Keep that up!"



### Exploring the Story in Ruby's Lab

Friends  
encourage  
each other!



Hello! Ruby here! I recently did scientific research on how friendship affects your health. I discovered that those who enjoy healthy friendships are happier and have high self-esteem. In today's Bible verses, Paul wrote about the importance of friendship. He reminds us to be good friends who encourage and build up one another.

Let's discuss this as a class: Think of a time when you were cheered up or on by one of your friends. How did it make you feel? How did you see your friend serving Christ when he or she did this? During the week, make every effort to build up someone.



# Fill in the Blanks

Fill in the missing words of the Key Verse below. Then, on the lines below, rewrite the verse, using your own words.

“ \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ should \_\_\_\_\_ our  
\_\_\_\_\_ for their \_\_\_\_\_, to \_\_\_\_\_  
them \_\_\_\_\_.”

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# Word Scrambler

Unscramble the scrambled-up words below from today's lesson. (You may refer to the Word Bank if you need help.)

## WORD BANK

Christ • Deliver • Neighbor • Paul  
Rome • Scripture • Strong

1. UALP \_\_\_\_\_

2. OREM \_\_\_\_\_

3. VELIEBER \_\_\_\_\_

4. TSROGN \_\_\_\_\_

5. EIGNHORB \_\_\_\_\_

6. RHICST \_\_\_\_\_

7. RUCIPSTRE \_\_\_\_\_



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