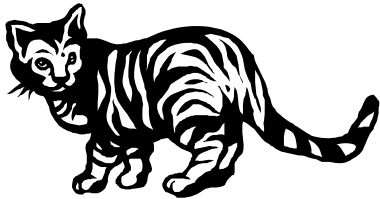


TEMKIT FOR CHILDREN

TEMKIT'S MISSION:

To provide Bible based, true reading material for children and youth.

Year 1 - 4th Quarter - Issue #4



CREATION CORNER

The Incredible Cat! 2

More stories of cats helping people:

1- Tony Marie Bivens had never heard her five-year-old Siamese growl before. But one night, Sire's alarming snarls were so loud, they woke his mistress from a deep sleep. When she realized the sounds were coming from the kitchen, Bivens decided she'd better check.

She found Sire sitting at the back door of the apartment, his fur bristled, growling like a grizzly bear. Bivens reached down to calm him with one hand; with the other she opened the door to show him everything was all right.

Just then she spotted the figure of a man trying to break into a window in the building. Sire shot out the door, chasing after the man, who fled down the back stairs.

2- The perceptiveness of Al Collis' cat may have saved his master from being robbed - or worse. According to an article in the Eugene Register Guard, two men broke a window at the back of Collis' auto glass shop. Someone heard the noise and phoned the police.

When they arrived, the police found the outside doors and windows still locked and no sign of movement inside. So they waited for Collis to show

up.

When Collis unlocked the door, his cat, Fred (who lives at Collis' business premises) slunk out. Fred seemed ill at ease. He hugged the floor and held his ears flattened against his head.

Alerted by Fred's strange behavior, Collis suggested to the police that something was still very amiss. The police concluded that someone might still be lurking in the building and radioed for backup. When they finally entered the shop, they found the robber hiding under a truck at the back.

3- Dr. Ute Pleimes, a German psychiatrist working at Giessen University, has collected over 800 cases of pets warning their owners of impending disaster. So many of these are cats, Pleimes says, that she is convinced they have a special ability to sense danger before it happens. "We are fools to ignore them," she concludes. Some folks are lucky they didn't.

4- Luther Criswell was so heavily sedated after an auto accident that he didn't hear his smoke alarm go off. But his eight-year-old cat, Boo Boo, sensed the danger.

The 17-lb. cat pounced on Criswell's bed, frantically scratching his stomach and sinking his

CONTENTS:

CREATION CORNER

HISTORY

TRUE-STORY-TIME

STORY LESSON

BUILDING FOR JESUS

WEEKLY BIBLE LESSON

teeth into his wrist.

Angrily waking from his deep slumber, Criswell was ready to whack the cat when he saw the smoke. Coughing and gasping for air, he and Boo Boo managed to escape through a window.

Could it be that Boo Boo was merely reacting to his own strong survival instinct and that he simply awakened Criswell to save his own furry hide?

5- Perhaps. But another case proves without a doubt how one cat's first reaction was actually to save his owners first - despite the threat to his own life!

In 1970, a cat raced directly into the flames of a burning house to alert his sleeping owners. Only when it was obvious that they were leaving the building did the cat make his way out of the fire, with many a backward look to assure sure himself they were following him. = ^ .. ^ =

HISTORY

The Protestant Reformation: 12 New Champions

After Berqiu's death, persecution broke out in France and this caused Protestants to move to other places. Just like in the early church, they went everywhere preaching the gospel in new areas.

In a school in Paris was a thoughtful young man named, John Calvin. The Roman teachers though he would become a great defender of the church. He thought the new teachings were terrible and the heretics deserved to be burned. But God had His eye on young Calvin.

One of his cousins, Olivetan, had joined the reformed faith and met with John often to discuss religion.

"There are but two religions in the world," said Olivetan, the Protestant. "The one class of religions are those which men have invented, in all of which man saves himself by ceremonies and good works; the other is that one religion which is revealed in the Bible, and which teaches men to look for salvation solely to the free grace of God."

"I will have none of your new doctrines," exclaimed Calvin; "think you that I have lived in error all my days?"

But the thoughts stayed in his mind and he thought about them when he was alone in his chamber. He felt he was a great sinner and the more

he tried penance, and ceremonies, good works and praying to the saints, the more he felt himself a lost man.

One day he saw a heretic being burned in the public square. John was amazed at the look of peace on the martyr's face. In spite of the torture and the sentence of condemnation from the church he had a faith and courage that could be clearly seen.

Calvin knew the heretics rested their faith on the Bible. He determined to study it for himself and try to learn the secret of that calm faith.

In the Bible he found Jesus the Saviour and gave his whole heart to Him. His life changed direction.

Calvin had been trained to be a priest and had been appointed a chaplain when only 12 years old. Now he knew he could never be a priest.

Finally he dedicated his life to preach the gospel he once denied. He left Paris and went to a town where he was under the protection of the Princess Margaret who loved the gospel. Calvin preached in the people's homes, reading the Bible to families. The word went from place to place and he traveled and taught the people Bible truth.

The Princess hoped the protestant faith would triumph in France and she ordered a Protestant minister to preach in the churches in Paris. But this was stopped by the Papal leaders. So the princess opened up the palace and had a chapel made there. It was announced that at a certain time a sermon would be preached and all people were invited.

Thousands came daily to hear and when the king found out, he ordered two churches in Paris to be opened for the preaching.

Wonderful changes began to happen as the people heard the Gospel. It was like the Spirit of Heaven was there and the people turned from their drunken and wicked lives and became temperate and hard working.

But the Roman leaders were determined to stop it. King Francis would not forbid the preaching, so they began to rouse up the people by exciting their fears. For two years the gospel had been preached in Paris and many had accepted it. But as always, most rejected it and listened to the leaders. King Francis was a wishy-washy king and could be swayed by the people, and soon the churches were shut and the stake set up again. Paris had missed her chance. = ^ .. ^ =



TRUE-STORY-TIME

DRAGONS AND WINGED SERPENTS: 5

We read last week about the Viking Winged Serpent now lets go to China:

5: THE ORIENT

It is said in China that the Dragon is the king of all reptiles and a Divine animal. In the Orient it is believed that the Dragon is able to call in the clouds and rains and make use of all things in the universe. In the minds of the Chinese people the Flying Dragon which is in heaven is created by "The Great."

Dragon Dances are performed at Chinese New Year in February. Some Dragons, made of cloth or silk, are very long, measuring well over 100 feet!

Generally, a Dragon is divided into 24 sections, symbolizing the 24 Seasonal divisions of the year. Those carrying the Dragon move together, up and down. The noise of gongs and the thunderous explosions of firecrackers make one wonder if this festival has a deeper meaning than even the oriental people realize. Could it be that this represents a war in heaven such as we read about in the Bible in Revelation 12? Remember that China is the oldest country on earth and was set up as a nation soon after the flood.

The Dragon can be seen throughout the Orient. Dragon Ships are used in their festivals. The Vikings had Dragon Ships as well. Isn't it strange how often the Dragon can be seen throughout the world and there is no such thing as a Dragon?

A temple in Bangkok, Thailand, houses a

Bronze Buddha. Buddha was considered to be the Enlightened One: His aim was to liberate all things from the endless cycles of birth, death and re-birth that the Pagan religions believed in. Buddhism has a powerful influence in the far east and all over the world.

The Bronze Buddha in Thailand has two Winged Serpents, one on each side. By many, Buddha was considered to be the Life Giver in the Orient. It cannot be a mere accident that in Egypt the Pharaoh, considered to be the Life Giver, had Winged Serpents on either side of his throne. In Central America, the Chac Mool, the Life Giver, had a Winged Serpent on each side and in the Orient we find the same thing!

The Bronze Buddha, Bangkok, Thailand, has the Winged Serpents. The heads are at the base, the tails come together over the head, and the wings are in the form of a crescent moon at the shoulder.

6: THE ANSWER

What is the answer to the Mystery of the Dragon and the Winged Serpent? The Bible gives the answer in Revelation 12:7-9:

"And there was War in Heaven: Michael and His Angels fought against the Dragon: and the Dragon fought and his Angels, and prevailed not: (did not win!) neither was their place found any more in Heaven. "

"And the Great Dragon was cast out, that old Serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. "

Here we find the symbols for the Devil, being a Dragon and a Serpent. When the Devil is pictured as a Serpent, he is sly and sneaky. When he is called a Dragon, he is a persecutor. In the last scenes of this earth's history Satan will certainly be like a Dragon.

Revelation 12:17 says: "And the Dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the Commandments of God, and have the Testimony of Jesus Christ."

But what is the answer to the mystery of the Winged Serpent?

The story is told in the Bible of Lucifer. He was honored of God and called, "Son of the Morning." He was first of the Covering Cherubs and was holy and undefiled. He stood in the presence of the Great Creator, and the beams of Glory from the Eternal God, rested upon him.

He was full of wisdom and beauty. Ezekiel

28:14,15 says, “Thou art the Anointed Cherub that covereth: and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou was perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created.”

“Thou hast said in thy heart, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God. . . I will be like the Most High.” Isaiah 14:13.

He stirred up rebellion in Heaven, going around to the other angels with lies and telling them, “God has been unfair to all of us. Make me your leader and I will give you greater honor and power than you now have. Many angels have accepted me as their New Ruler.”

So it was that Lucifer, “The Light Bearer,” The sharer of God’s Glory, became Satan, “The Adversary,” of God and Holy beings. One-third of the angels in Heaven followed his rebellion and War was the result.

When God made the earth, it was beautiful. The LORD planted a garden in Eden: and there He put the man whom He had formed. Everything that God had made was perfect and lovely. There were all kinds of trees and a rainbow of flowers everywhere.

No longer free to stir up rebellion in heaven, Satan was cast to the earth. He decided to try and trick Adam and Eve.

The Tree of Knowledge which stood near the Tree of Life in the middle of the garden, was to be a test of obedience. Adam and Eve were told they were never to eat the fruit from that one tree or they would die!

Satan chose to use a beautiful Serpent as his medium, so he could deceive Eve. The fruit on the tree looked very beautiful to Eve, who had wandered away from Adam, and she began to question in her mind why God had told them not to eat it. Now Satan had his chance. “Yea, hath God said, ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?” he asked Eve in a musical voice.

What kind of a Serpent was this in Eden? Legends say it was a Winged Serpent. The primitive writing in the Chinese language shows this. When you analyze the word-picture for ‘reptile’, you can see a snakelike body. Attached to the left side are 3 strokes that indicate feathers or wings.

An inspired writer wrote: “Satan chose to employ as his medium the Serpent. The Serpent was then one of the wisest and most beautiful creatures on earth. It had wings and when flying through the air presented an appearance of

dazzling brightness, having the color and brilliancy of burnished gold.”

In the occult world today the story is told of a Winged Serpent that lived in the first Paradise. All through the ancient world when the Serpent was pictured with wings in meant heavenly wisdom.

By the way—can you guess where the idea of the Magic Wand and Crosier come from? Not from a shepherd’s staff as some would like you to believe—They represent the Serpent Power. The idea came right out of the ancient Babylonian Mysteries. In the pictures of King Tut you can see him with his crosier and wand. Any religion or belief that uses these things has its roots in Pagan Satan Worship!

By the way, another place you can see a lot of dragon and serpent symbols is at the Vatican in Rome! Here is what ‘Vatican’ originally meant: Vatis=diviner; can=serpent; Vatican=the divining serpent.

Although Genesis 3 does not say the Serpent had wings, it indicates another form of locomotion other than crawling. The curse for the Serpent was “Upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life.” Genesis 3:14.

Lucifer was one of the most beautiful angels in Heaven. When sin came through him, he was cast to the earth and the most beautiful became the most dreaded. The same experience occurred to the Winged Serpent.

God’s throne is in heaven. On either side of the throne are the highest order of Angels. At one time Lucifer was one of these Covering Cherubs. When he sinned the Devil was cast to this earth, and ever since he has tried to duplicate the throne in heaven, on earth.

It is a marvel, how Satan has used the Winged Serpent as a symbol of a Covering Cherub. Ancient Egyptian paintings show a Winged Serpent with its wings outstretched over the god Osiris, the many-eyed god.

The rock group “KISS” (Knights in Satan’s Service) use a Winged Serpent in their act. Remember their title, “In Satan’s Service” and his symbol the ‘Winged Serpent’.

The movie “Starship Invasions” had this sentence in its advertising, “Forced to seek a new home, the legion of the Winged Serpent has selected planet earth.”

Watch out for things that use the Serpent, the Winged Serpent or Dragons as symbols or decorations or part of a story. Dragons as real

animals—do not exist—they are not real. But the Being who uses them as his symbol is real!

The power that they represent is not our friend! It is a deceitful power, appearing fascinating and beautiful, but bringing death and destruction, just like we saw in the Viking Raiders, the Mayan Serpent-Sun Worshipers and we are told about in the Bible.

If whatever religion or practice you are involved with uses Dragons or Serpents as symbols or associates them with good: then you know it has its roots in the pocket of the Fallen Angel, Lucifer, who made a Devil out of himself and is pledged to destroy all good. Get out of there fast! And don't look back! = ^ .. ^ =

What Satan fears most
Is a man on his knees;
Not vast marching armies
With great weaponry.

He knows he can stand
Against the power of men;
To engage us in battle
Is mere sport to him.

But a man on his knees
With his head bowed in prayer
Is something quite different
To the prince of the air.

For when he sees us in prayer
To our God most high,
He knows we have seen
Through his devilish lies.

That's why Satan fears most
A man on his knees;
And we'll keep him trembling
If our prayers never cease.

STORY LESSON

Our Foods

We all know that if we do not eat we will lose weight and become very weak. Did you ever think how much one eats in the course of a lifetime? Let's see if we can figure it out. How much do you suppose a boy eats in a day? Let us say two pounds. How much does he eat in a year? There are three hundred and sixty-five days in a year; 365 multiplied by 2 equals 730. So a boy eats a good many times his own weight in a year. How much would a person eat in fifty years?

Our bodies are made of what we eat and absorb. If we eat bad food, our bodies will be made out of poor material and will not be able to work or play

well. So we need to learn about our foods and know what things are good for us to eat, and what will do us harm.

Foods are those substances that nourish the body and keep it in good working order. People get foods from both animals and plants. All food really comes from plants, for those animals some people use as food, live on the plants, which they eat.

For example, the ox and the cow eat grass and furnish people with beef and milk. Chickens eat corn, and other grains, and supply eggs and meat also.

The principal animal foods are milk, cheese, eggs, and flesh-meat like beef, (cows) mutton, (sheep) pork, (pigs) fish, fowl, (Chicken and Turkey) and wild game.

More kinds of food comes from plants than from animals. Most plant foods are included in three classes; fruits, grains, and vegetables. Fruits are the fleshy parts of plants which contain the seeds. Our most common fruits are apples, bananas, melons, pears, peaches, plums, grapes, cherries, and nuts.

The seeds of grass-like plants are called grains; we have wheat, rye, barley, corn, and rice. Some seeds grow in pods; such as peas and beans, which are a bit like grains. We also have sunflower seeds which grow in a flower-head.

We eat the leaves, stems, or roots of some plants, as cabbages, celery, turnips, and potatoes. Foods of this kind are called vegetables.

There are things, which, if we eat or drink them, will make us sick or do us harm. These are called poisons. Only food that is pure and free from poison is good or safe for us to use.

There are things known as narcotics and stimulants; which, have bad effects on our body, and are really poisons. Tobacco, opium, alcohol, and cocaine are really poisons. People have died from using them. We'll learn more about tobacco and alcohol later.

People eat things that are not good for them. They do not stop to think if what they eat is good for them or harmful. Without knowing it, sometimes, we eat harmful things. We should try to learn what is good to eat and what is not, and be very careful not to eat anything harmful.

"Diseased" mean to be sick. Animals are often sick or diseased. In fact because of the cruel way the poor birds and animals people eat, are fed and treated these days, it is almost impossible for them not to be diseased!

The Spirit of Prophecy tells us that in our days animal products are not safe to use because of this.

Pork, the flesh of the pig, is said by the Bible to be 'unclean' and unfit for food. The same with lobsters and shell-fish. These animals are nature's garbage eaters; we are not to eat the garbage eaters.

Food that is spoiled, or stale, musty, or moldy, should not be eaten as it can make you very sick. People often get sick or even die of 'food-poisoning' when they eat foods, especially containing animal products, that have stood in a warm place or not been carefully cooked. Germs in these foods grow and multiply and harm the body when eaten. Plain fruits, seeds, nuts, grains and vegetables are much less likely to contain hidden germs like that.

Condiments and seasonings are things people use on their food to change the flavor. They are not foods, and don't nourish us. Many of them are harmful to our bodies.

Mustard, black pepper, hot pepper sauce, ketchup, cinnamon and other spices all are irritating. If we put mustard upon the skin, it will make the skin red, and even blister it. If we get pepper in our eye, it hurts and makes it very red and inflamed. When we put these things into our stomach, its lining becomes red and irritated, just as our skin or eye does. Vinegar is bad for our liver and stops food from digesting right.

God put into our foods very nice flavors and we can learn to enjoy eating them the way he made them. It is far better not to use harmful condiments. There are good condiments we can use freely; things like lemon or lime juice, onion or garlic, and mild seasoning herbs.

Tobacco comes from a plant with long, broad leaves that are dried and then rolled up into cigars, ground into snuff, shredded into cigarettes, or prepared for chewing. Tobacco makes people sick when they first begin to use it; for it contains a very deadly poison called nicotine, as well as many other harmful things. Tobacco will quickly kill a cat or a dog. A boy once gave a piece of tobacco to a monkey, which swallowed it not knowing what a bad thing it was. The monkey soon died.

Doctors have noticed the bad effects that come from using tobacco, it will especially do great harm to boys and girls! It makes them puny and weak, so they can't grow up into strong and useful people. No one should use it or go where people are smoking it. If tobacco is not good for monkeys, it is not good for boys and girls, or grown-ups either!! More next week. = ^ .. ^ =

BUILDING FOR JESUS

WHAT'S IT LIKE?

Little Kenneth was very sick. He felt that he was not going to get well. Turning toward his mother, who sat by his bedside, he asked, "Mother, what is it like to die?"

Mother was filled with grief, and she knew not how to answer him. She replied, "Kenneth, I must go to the kitchen. I'll be right back." Hurrying there, she prayed, "Lord, show me how to answer Kenneth's question." Immediately, she knew how to express it.

Returning to Kenneth, Mother said, "Kenneth, you know how you have often played hard and gotten very tired in the evening? Then you have come into my room and climbed upon my bed and gone to sleep. Later your father carried you in his arms and put you in your own bed. In the morning you have awakened and found yourself in your own room, without knowing how you got there."

Kenneth said, "Yes, Mother, I know that."

"Well, Kenneth," Mother continued, "death is something like that for God's children. Jesus spoke of death as sleep. God's children go to sleep when they die. Later, at the resurrection, they will wake up and arise and be with Jesus forever. Heaven is a wonderful place, Kenneth!"

Then the boy smiled and said, "Mother, I won't be afraid to die now. I'll just go to sleep and, later, wake up and be with Jesus forever. I know God will take care of me." = ^ .. ^ =





Year 1: 4th Quarter:

“BIBLE PICTURE STORIES”

WEEKLY BIBLE LESSON 4: “TREES”

For our Bible lessons we are going to use the King James Version of the Bible. Just like the boys and girls used to use to learn to read from in the pioneer days.

There will be some texts to look up for each day and you should practice your memory verse until you can say it without looking. Don't forget to learn the text too.

MEMORY VERSE: “And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.” Psalm 1:3

Sunday

Text: Jeremiah 17:7,8 “Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.”

You can find this picture-story in our memory verse, Psalms 1:3, and it is showing us what the life of a true Christian, who has given their whole heart to Jesus will be like.

In good times or in hard times, he will keep trusting in Jesus and as he does, Jesus will give him strength for each day and what ever problems he has to face.

A true Christian does not fall to pieces when

things don't seem to go right for him. He remembers the promise in Romans 8:28, “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God...” and he just hangs on to Jesus knowing that our Lord will not lead us in anyway that is not best for us.

He keeps ‘yielding fruit’ – that is he stays sweet and kind, patient and courteous even when having a hard time. One who truly belongs to Jesus will not be grouchy and mean just because he doesn't feel well.

Thought - There is never an excuse for us to be mean or grouchy; think about all Jesus suffered, and never lost His temper! He will give us power to be like Him.

Monday

Text: Luke 13:6 “He spake also this parable; A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none.”

The fig tree was one of the symbols Jesus used to show what his people were to be like. This kind of tree is interesting because, each year, it makes its fruit before it makes its leaves. This shows we are to be obedient and doing good deeds in our life and not just showing off.

In Jesus' ministry, He told a story about a man who had a fig tree and it didn't grow any figs. He was going to cut it down, but his servant said, lets give it special care and see if it gives figs next year—and if not—we will cut it down.

At the very end of Jesus' ministry, the disciples and he were walking and he saw a fig tree covered with leaves—now there should be figs on it because the figs come first. But when Jesus looked—there was none!

Then He did a strange thing, He told the tree that never would it have figs again. And the very next day the disciples saw the tree all dried up and dead!

Jesus was showing them the end of the fig tree story—even with the extra care; the tree still had no fruit, only show-off leaves. So it was cursed, and withered away.

Thought - Many people seem to be good Christians when you hear them talk; but when you look at their lives, you see no good fruit.

Tuesday

Text: Matthew 24:32 “Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh.”

In this lesson, Jesus was telling the people that they needed to pay attention to the things that were happening and see what they meant according to what the Bible had said would happen.

The scriptures had many prophecies telling what was to happen when the Messiah came to earth. Isaiah in Chapter 53, told how He would be rejected; other verses in Psalms and prophets told what He would do and how the leaders would reject Him.

If the people and leaders had been studying their Bibles, as they should, they would have recognized their Messiah. The few people who did study for themselves, did see in Jesus the long looked-for Redeemer.

In our day there are also many signs that show that it is soon time for Jesus second coming. Sin is increasing, wars and trouble are everywhere, most people don't care about what God says and live selfish lives; the churches are all trying to force people to obey the church leaders instead of the Bible; all these things show that we are near the end of time. People who read the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy for themselves, see and know what is coming. But those who just listen to what other people and preachers tell them, don't see it.

Thought - For thousands of years, Israel waited for the Messiah; and when He came, they didn't know Him: We must know our Bibles so we won't be fooled like they were.

Wednesday

Text: Genesis 3:7 “And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.”

The first time we see fig leaves mentioned in the Bible, Adam and Eve after they had sinned, were trying to use leaves to cover themselves up with. You see, they had a lovely robe of light God gave them to wear; but when they disobeyed God, the light went away. They tried to make something to take its place.

Fig leaves, in the aprons they made, and later on the fruitless tree, meant man trying to save

himself without God; something that was no-good and could not work. Just imagine wearing a bunch of leaves to school; before the day was over they'd just shrivel up and leave you bare.

That is just the way it is when people try to follow religions of their own, instead of learning what the Bible says—sooner or later it all shrivels up and leaves you bare!

It is interesting how much the fig tree is mentioned in the Bible. It was a very important source of food for the people. In fact we are told in heaven we will each have our own fig tree. (Zechariah 3:10.)

According to the rabbis the first choice for altar fuel was fig-wood, although fir, walnut and other trees might be used when necessary. The fig log fire burning the lamb on the altar showed the sins of God's people, which “burned” the Lamb of God.

Thought - If we want to be saved, we must do it God's way, our own ideas won't work.

Thursday

Text: Luke 13:19 “It is like a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and cast into his garden; and it grew, and waxed a great tree; and the fowls of the air lodged in the branches of it.”

Jesus told this picture story when the disciples asked him to give them more faith. He explained that God gives each person some faith. This faith is a living thing like a little mustard seed; which is a small round seed. When the mustard seed is placed in the ground where it has water and earth and sunshine, it starts to grow! Up and up it grows until the mustard plant is like a small tree and the birds can perch on it.

So with the faith that God gives each one of us; it is small but it has life in it when it is based on God's Word, the Bible, and when we take hold of the things God has given us to help us grow; the Bible; Prayer; believing in Him; claiming His promises for us; choosing His ways, then our faith will grow until it can be like a tree.

This also shows that when we first meet Jesus, He may not be a very important part of our life, but as we learn more about Him and come closer to Him, soon He will be the most important thing in our whole lives!

Thought - Faith grows as we exercise it. We exercise it by choosing to believe God's word is true and acting on it!

Friday

Text: 1 Kings 19:4 “But he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers.”

Elijah was discouraged, so he sat under a juniper tree. Have you ever seen a juniper tree? They are scratchy and prickly and low to the ground. Here poor Elijah was crawled under the juniper, so discouraged he wanted to die! And this was on the same day he had prayed and God had answered his prayers in an amazing way on Mount Carmel.

But God did not get angry with Elijah, He actually sent an angel who spoke kindly and made dinner for him, then Elijah had a sleep, and the angel made some more dinner for him. Then Elijah felt stronger and traveled to the Mountain Horeb, and hid in a cave.

God then gave him a very important lesson. He asked Elijah why he was there hiding in the cave. God had not told him to do that. And Elijah told

God that all the true worshipers of God were gone and there was only himself, Elijah left.

God then told him, I have 7,000 people who have not worshipped Baal, the idol. Elijah did not know this, and he was encouraged.

Sometimes when we are discouraged because when we choose to do right and follow Jesus all the way, our friends make fun of us, and leave us, and we feel all alone. But when you are under your ‘juniper tree’, remember that there are many others who also love and obey Jesus, and also there are all the good angels, and millions of people on other worlds who obey God and love Jesus. They are all on your side. And God is on your side—if God is on your side, that’s all that matters!

When you have to stand alone for the right—remember God would send all the angels out of heaven to come and help you rather than have you captured by old Satan!

And remember that Jesus is patient with us, like He was with Elijah under the juniper tree. He knows when it is hard for us, tell your troubles to Him and He will always help you!

Thought - We are never alone if we give our hearts to Jesus. One person with God is a majority!
= ^ .. ^ =

