

TEMKIT FOR CHILDREN

TEMKIT'S MISSION:

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

Year 3 - 2nd Quarter - Issue #2



CREATION CORNER

The Bell of Atri

Atri is the name of a town in Italy. The king of Atri was a just and wise ruler. He wanted to serve his people well. He wanted all to have justice. But how could he know when injustice was done anyone? He had a plan by which he could tell. He ordered a bell hung in a high tower in the market place. A long rope fastened to the bell reached almost to the ground so that even a child could reach it.

"It is the bell of justice," said the king.

When anyone was wronged, he had but to ring the bell, and the good king heard his prayer for help. The wrongdoer was then punished.

For a time the bell of justice was often rung. But men soon learned to fear the punishment that would surely follow their evil deeds. At last, for months the bell was not needed. It idly hung in the tower until the lower end of the rope, exposed to the rain and sun and blown about by the wind, finally rotted away.

A wandering grapevine found its way to the tower, and reaching out its tendrils, began to climb.

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Soon it grasped the end of the rope, to which it firmly fastened itself. Day after day it grew, each day clinging more closely to the swaying rope.

In the village there lived a cruel man who owned a fine horse. For years, the good horse served his master faithfully. At last, he grew old and lame. He could no longer work for his owner. So the cruel man turned the poor old horse out to starve. The horse wandered to the market place. He saw the grapevine in the tower. How good its fresh green leaves looked! He stretched his thin neck and took the strong vine in his mouth. It was hard to break it loose. He pulled and pulled at it, and the great bell above him began to ring. Again and again he pulled. Again and again the bell rang out in clear tones.

It seemed to say; "Ding dong-ding dong-ding dong! Some one-has done-me wrong! Ding dong-ding dong-ding dong! Some one-has done-me wrong! Oh, come-and judge-my case! For I've-been wronged!-Ding dong!"

All the people of Atri heard the bell. "Who has been wronged?" they asked one another.

Quickly the king's herald came to the market place. He saw the horse, half-starved and lame. He told the king.

"The starving brute appeals for justice," the

good king said. "Bring his owner."

The cruel owner was brought. A crowd gathered in the market place to hear how the case would go. The decree which the king sent was; "Tell this man, Long as he lives this horse must fare On oats and grass of his. Beware! If he again for justice call, My wrath shall on his owner fall."

The people shouted for joy. The cruel man hung his head in shame, but he led his horse away to a good stall and to a dinner such as he had not eaten in many a day. = ^ .. ^ =

POEM

Quarantined

1. Did you ever stop to think about
This place we call the earth,
And why you've never left it
Since the moment of your birth?
And how the folks in other worlds
Can all go out and in,
While you're restricted" to this earth?-
You're quarantined for sin!
2. God put up the quarantine
With a bright and flaming sword
When the angels drove our parents
From the "garden of the Lord."
But His heart was filled with pity
When He saw our sad estate,
And the world that He had quarantined,
He moved near heaven's gate.
3. Then He sent the Great Physician
To this earth to save the lost,
And reveal the love of God to man;
Nor did He count the cost
Too great to pay; but gave His life
A ransom full and free,
So He could lift the quarantine
That's over you and me.
4. In the glad time before us,
When He comes to claim His own,
He will take the ones He's purified
Back to His Father's home.
When the quarantine is lifted,
We may all go out and in,
And tell how He redeemed us
Who were quarantined for sin.
—Adele R. Dewey.

TRUE-STORY-TIME

Where the Matron Was

It was the middle of an afternoon many years ago, in Union College, Nebraska. The students were studying in the library and other study rooms in the college building. The dormitories and campus were almost deserted. Suddenly, there was a sharp cry that terrified every one.

"Fire! Fire in South Hall!"

Instantly, students hurried from every study room out on to the campus. The girls rushed toward the burning building; it was their dormitory. But quickly the firemen stopped them.

"Not one person allowed inside," the six-foot-four night watchman ordered. "Fire's up through the dust closets and air shaft. Looks bad. Shuts off all stairways. But every one is out. All your valuables together are not as valuable as one life. No one gets in the building!"

Then, calling several men to guard the entrance, he plunged inside. Faculty men hurriedly organized groups to help save the wings of the building if the central section went. From within came only smoke and the yells of the fire fighters.

The college President came running up. "Are all the young women out?" he asked the men.

"Yes, from every room."

"And the Matron?"

"She must be out of the building, President. Her door is locked, and she did not respond when we called."

"But are you certain she is not there?"

"No, sir."

The crowd of students surrounding the veranda saw the anxiety on the President's face. As if from one voice the girls called loudly, "Mrs. Shepherd! Mrs. Shepherd! Mrs. Shepherd!" But no response. Again and again the call rang out, the volume gaining with each call of the name. The inside passage to her room was cut off entirely, so a line of boys formed to climb to her window from the outside and force an entrance, lest she be asleep.

Then suddenly, the yelling crowd became a hush of humanity. They heard; they saw. They heard a queer hissing, crackling, puffing sound, like the sound of a mighty sigh. Then silence. At the same time, they saw a great puff of black smoke, then a clearing of white smoke, until, wonderful as it was, there was no smoke.

A volunteer fireman came rushing out of the

building. "Fire's out!" he exclaimed breathlessly. "A strange thing - no way to explain it - in that air shaft - gaining headway every minute - absolutely beyond our power to control - then suddenly - it stopped!"

Every one heard his breathless words. The silence of the crowd was changed to a mighty cheer. And in the midst of it, the door opened and Mrs. Shepherd came out. Instantly, the cheer was cut off, and the astonished crowd waited. Mrs. Shepherd stood a moment, calm, and smiling as ever, while the President sprang up the steps to where she stood.

"Why, Mrs. Shepherd, where have you been?"

She answered quietly, but in the dead stillness every word was distinct.

"In my room, President, praying."

No one could say how long it was before a word was spoken in that crowd. Certain it was that the few young men with hats quickly bared their heads, as if in the presence of something that demanded reverence. There were tears, but no words in that company, where a moment before there had been a frenzy of yelling and cheering.

Every one knew that God had answered Mrs. Shepherd's prayer, and had saved the building from destruction. Stella Parker-Peterson (adapted).
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STORY LESSON

The Power of Habit

John B. Gough, who wrote this story, was a great temperance lecturer. He had seen many young men go over the rapids of intemperance, by drinking alcohol and smoking for 'fun', and he knew how they started on the downward road.

Find Niagara Falls on the map.

I remember once riding from Buffalo to Niagara

Falls. "What river is that, sir?" I said to a gentleman.

"That," he said "is Niagara River."

"Well, it is a beautiful stream," I said; "bright, and fair, and glassy. How far off are the rapids?"

"Only a mile or two," was the reply.

"Is it possible that only a mile from us we shall find the water in the turbulence that it must show near the falls?"

"You will find it so, sir."

And so I found it. And the first sight of Niagara I shall never forget.

Now, launch your boat on that Niagara River. It is bright, smooth, beautiful, and glassy. There is a ripple at the bow. The silver wake you leave behind adds to your enjoyment. Down the stream you glide, oars, sails, and helm in proper trim, as you set out on your pleasure excursion.

Suddenly some one cries out from the bank, "Young men, ahoy!"

"What is it?"

"The rapids are below you!"

"Ha! Ha! we have heard of the rapids, but we are not such fools as to get there. If we go too fast, then we shall up with the helm, and steer to shore. We will set the mast in the socket, hoist the sail, and speed to the land. Then, on, boys; don't be alarmed, there's no danger."

"Young men, ahoy there!"

"What is it?"

"The rapids are below you!"

"Ha! ha! We will laugh and quaff. All things delight us. What care we for the future! No man ever saw it. 'Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.' We will enjoy life while we may, we will catch pleasure as it flies. This is enjoyment. Time enough to steer out of danger when we are sailing swiftly with the current.

"YOUNG MEN! AHOY!"

"What is it?"

"BEWARE! BEWARE! THE RAPIDS ARE BELOW YOU!!"

Now you see the water foaming all around. See how fast you pass that point! Up with the helm! Now turn! Pull hard! QUICK! QUICK! QUICK! Pull for your lives! Pull till the blood starts from your nostrils, and the veins stand out like whipcords upon your brow! Set the mast in the socket! Hoist the sail!

AH! Ah! it is too late! Shrieking, howling, blaspheming, over they go.

Thousands go over the rapids of intemperance every year, through the power of habit, crying all

the while, "When I find out that it is hurting me, I will give it up." John B. Gough. = ^ .. ^ =

A Snake Among Books

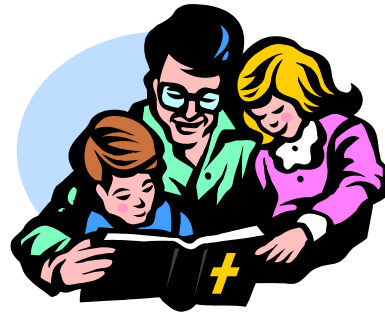
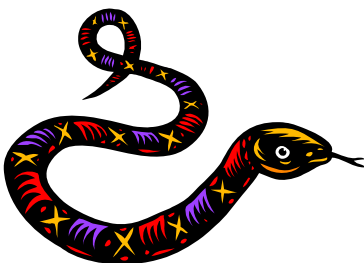
Not long ago, I read of an army officer in India, who one day went to his library to get a book, which he found wedged in between two large books. In moving one of these, he felt a slight pain, like a pinprick, in one of his fingers.

As the officer turned the book around to examine it, a small snake was dislodged from its hiding place. With one dash of his army boot, the snake was killed, and the incident was forgotten until, a few hours later, he felt a slight pain in his arm, and noticed that his finger was beginning to swell. In two days he was dead.

There are many snakes among books. They are coiled within the leaves of many storybooks. They are lurking in books for girls, for boys, and for older people. At first, one may not realize that he has taken poison into his mind; but it will make itself felt.

Do not think that because a book has an interesting title or a pretty cover, or it is popular, it will do you no harm. Too often a poisonous snake lies coiled within, ready to sting.

The serpents of infidelity, discontent, disobedience, Sabbath breaking, and many others, lie coiled between the covers of fiction books. There are many more good books than you can ever read. Then why waste the time given you in reading that which will finally destroy both soul and body? Mrs. Marietta Carpenter. = ^ .. ^ =



WEEKLY BIBLE LESSON

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.

GIVE US A KING!

The First Kings of Israel

LESSON 2: Saul's Last Chance!

MEMORY VERSE: "Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry." 1 Samuel 15:22, 23

Sunday

Text: 1 Samuel 14:1 "Now it came to pass upon a day, that Jonathan the son of Saul said unto the young man that bare his armour, Come, and let us go over to the Philistines' garrison, that is on the other side. But he told not his father."

Saul had committed a terrible sin against God by offering the sacrifices himself, even while he was wearing his armor and dressed for war! Now the Philistines were coming up against Israel and it looked that they would destroy Israel.

The situation was about as bad as it could be, because the Philistines had taken away all the men who could work with metal in Israel, so there was no one who could make weapons. Only the King himself and the Prince, Jonathan even had a sword and spear!

God wanted to help His people but He knew if He fought for Israel through king Saul, the king and the people of Israel would take all the credit to themselves and become even more proud and

boastful.

But Jonathan was a true man of God. He trusted in the Lord and knew that God can deliver whether by many or by few. He was not boastful and rash though, and so he prayed carefully to the Lord and asked if it was God's will for he and his armor-bearer to go and attack the Philistine headquarters.

His armor-bearer agreed with him and Jonathan asked a sign of God to show him whether to attack the camp or not. The two men would go to a place where they could be seen and then if the Philistines told them to come up to them, they would know that God would give the camp into their hands.

“And the men of the garrison answered Jonathan and his armourbearer, and said, Come up to us, and we will shew you a thing. And Jonathan said unto his armourbearer, Come up after me: for the LORD hath delivered them into the hand of Israel.” 1 Samuel 14:12

So up they went, and when they got to the top they began to slay the Philistines right and left! How could just two men do this? This is the answer:

Thought - “God sent angels to protect Jonathan and his armor-bearer, and to shield them from the instruments of death in the hands of their enemies. Angels of God fought by the side of Jonathan, and the Philistines fell all around him. Great fear seized the host of the Philistines in the field and in the garrison; and the spoilers that had been divided into separate companies, and sent in different directions, ready for their work of slaughter, were terribly afraid. The earth trembled beneath them, as though a great multitude with horsemen and chariots were upon the ground, prepared for battle. Jonathan and his armor-bearer, and even the Philistine host, knew that the Lord was working for the deliverance of the Hebrews. The Philistines became perplexed. It seemed to them that there were men of Israel among them, fighting against them; and they fought against one another, and slaughtered their own armies. “{1SP 358}

Monday

Text: 1 Samuel 14:16, 17 “And the watchmen of Saul in Gibeah of Benjamin looked; and, behold, the multitude melted away, and they went on beating down one another. Then said Saul unto the people that were with him, Number now, and see who is gone from us. And when they had

numbered, behold, Jonathan and his armourbearer were not there.”

It was a while before Saul, and the 600 men he had left in his army, were aware that something wonderful was happening. The watchmen reported that something was going on among the Philistines and there was a lot of noise, the Philistines were decreasing and no one knew why.

It had happened that the Lord caused the earth to tremble as if a great army with horses and chariots were coming to the attack. The Philistines were terrified as God made them afraid and when God makes someone afraid, they are really scared! They saw their fellow soldiers and it looked to them that it was an Israelite soldier and they fought and killed their own men!

Saul demanded the rolls be checked to see if anyone was missing from his army. Only Jonathan and his armor-bearer were missing. Saul asked the High Priest to ask God what they should do, but before the answer came the noise became so great that they knew the Philistines were being slaughtered and the Lord was working for Israel.

Now Saul and his army got into the battle too, and many of Israel who had hidden in the caves and some, who had even joined the Philistines out of fear, began to fight and chase the enemy also. Soon what was left of the Philistines were running away and Israel was chasing them and cutting them down as they ran.

Now God had worked through the only man available that would not exalt himself and become proud, and that was Jonathan. But Saul was proud and eager to take the credit for this wonderful victory to himself. As his men hastened after the enemy, Saul did a very foolish thing. He shouted out a vow that no one was to eat anything or drink anything until the sun went down, so HE could be avenged of HIS enemies!

What a selfish and foolish vow to make! Here the men were fighting with all their might and running under a hot sun and they were told they must not eat or drink anything or they would be killed! This was not at all needed and was only Saul's way to get some credit back to himself instead of honoring God and those God had chosen to work through.

Thought – Nothing is more foolish than the proud, selfish heart of a man that does not honor God!

Tuesday

Text: 1 Samuel 14:24 “And the men of Israel were distressed that day: for Saul had adjured the people, saying, Cursed be the man that eateth any food until evening, that I may be avenged on mine enemies. So none of the people tasted any food.”

By now, Jonathan and his armor-bearer were with the other soldiers, and all were going after the fleeing enemies. They came to a wood and there were broken bee’s nests on the ground, perhaps knocked down as the Philistines crashed through the wood running for their very lives. Honey was lying around and Jonathan, who had not heard his father’s foolish vow, took the end of his rod and dipped it in the honey and ate some for strength.

The other men would not touch it although they were fainting with hunger. Then one of them told Jonathan about the vow and so he did not eat any more. Now if Saul had not been so foolish, his men would have had a better chance to defeat all the Philistines, because they could have eaten the honey and their strength would come back greatly and they could have gone on to the battle. As it was, they were weary and fainting, and soon the Philistines got ahead of them.

1 Samuel 14:29,30 Then said Jonathan, My father hath troubled the land: see, I pray you, how mine eyes have been enlightened, because I tasted a little of this honey. How much more, if haply the people had eaten freely to day of the spoil of their enemies which they found? for had there not been now a much greater slaughter among the Philistines?

Thought – God had wanted His people to have the honey to strengthen them, but Saul in his foolish pride spoiled it all and brought defeat even when God was working to bring victory! This is a good example of the results of wanting a human king.

Wednesday

Text: 1 Samuel 14:37-39 “And Saul asked counsel of God, Shall I go down after the Philistines?”

wilt thou deliver them into the hand of Israel? But he answered him not that day. And Saul said, Draw ye near hither, all the chief of the people: and know and see wherein this sin hath been this day. For, as the LORD liveth, which saveth Israel, though it be in Jonathan my son, he shall surely die. But there was not a man among all the people that answered him.”

As soon as the sun was set the men, very hungry and fainting, grabbed some of the animals and killed them and began to eat without draining them of blood and cooking them properly. Of course Saul blamed this sin on the people, but it was himself who caused it. This was a sin brought about by Saul’s foolish vow. Quickly this was corrected and proper means set up to properly bleed the animals and the men had their feast.

Now Saul, still eager for glory for himself, wanted to go after the Philistines and fight all night. The men said they would go along with it, but the Priest wanted to ask the Lord first. But when Saul asked the Lord, He would not reply to him.

Now Saul decided there was sin in the camp. He was right, the sin was in himself! But Saul decided it was because someone had broken his foolish vow. So he had lots cast and the lot fell on Jonathan.

“Then Saul said to Jonathan, Tell me what thou hast done. And Jonathan told him, and said, I did but taste a little honey with the end of the rod that was in mine hand, and, lo, I must die. And Saul answered, God do so and more also: for thou shalt surely die, Jonathan. And the people said unto Saul, Shall Jonathan die, who hath wrought this great salvation in Israel? God forbid: as the LORD liveth, there shall not one hair of his head fall to the ground; for he hath wrought with God this day. So the people rescued Jonathan, that he died not.”
1 Samuel 14:43-45

Notice the foolish pride of Saul, he was willing to kill his own son, the very one that God had worked through to deliver Israel, just for the sake of an unwise and hasty vow. He was not fit to rule the nation anymore and the people soon suffered greatly under the king they had wanted so badly. So the battle came to an end and the men went home.

Thought – Even though Saul had been blessed by the Holy Spirit and God had been with him, once he started to be proud and disobedient, the Holy Spirit left him and an evil spirit took over.

Thursday

Text: 1 Samuel 15:1-3 “Samuel also said unto Saul, The LORD sent me to anoint thee to be king over his people, over Israel: now therefore hearken thou unto the voice of the words of the LORD. Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I remember that which Amalek did to Israel, how he laid wait for him in the way, when he came up from Egypt. Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass.”

Our God is amazingly patient and gives us chance after chance to show whether or not we will obey Him so He can bless us. So it was with Saul. God was going to give the foolish king one final test.

He sent Samuel to Saul to remind him who had made him king and who was the real Ruler of Israel. Then Samuel told Saul to go and attack and wipe out the nation of Amalek. Now this nation had in a most wicked way, set themselves to fight against God and had pledged themselves to destroy God’s people and to blot the very name of the God of heaven from the earth.

God wanted them destroyed and chose to have Israel, the very people Amalek had vowed to blot out, do the job. It was to be an object lesson for all the other nations, a warning of judgment for all who should live in such bold defiance of God. They were not to take anything for themselves from the Amalekites, but destroy it all.

Saul was happy to go out and attack this nation, but again, instead of honoring and obeying God, he decided to get some honor and glory to himself as well. So he ordered the best of the animals, and also the richly dressed and haughty king, Agag, to be saved alive and brought back to Israel.

Now by doing this, the real lesson God wanted to teach was made blurry and not clear. To the other nations, it looked like Israel was doing just like the rest of them did, attacking other nations to get benefit for themselves. They did not recognize the lesson that God had wanted to teach, that the destruction of the Amalekites was a judgment from Heaven upon them. Again, Saul’s eagerness to exalt himself brought dishonor to the Name of God.

Thought – Of all the Amalekites, the cruel king Agag, deserved to die more than any of the rest, but Saul wanted to show off by bringing him back a captive.

Friday

Text: 1 Samuel 15:16-19 “Then Samuel said unto Saul, Stay, and I will tell thee what the LORD hath said to me this night. And he said unto him, Say on. And Samuel said, When thou wast little in thine own sight, wast thou not made the head of the tribes of Israel, and the LORD anointed thee king over Israel? And the LORD sent thee on a journey, and said, Go and utterly destroy the sinners the Amalekites, and fight against them until they be consumed. Wherefore then didst thou not obey the voice of the LORD, but didst fly upon the spoil, and didst evil in the sight of the LORD?”

As Saul marched home, after disobeying the instructions of God, he was met by the prophet Samuel. Boldly he walks up to the prophet and says, “Blessed be thou of the LORD: I have performed the commandment of the LORD.”

Samuel was not fooled, God had already told him all that was going on. “So why do I hear all this baaa-ing and moo-ing?” he asked the king.

Saul was quick to find an excuse; he blames the people. “The people wanted to bring the best animals back to use for sacrifices to God.” Saul protested. Saul here uttered a falsehood. The people had obeyed his directions; but in order to shield himself, he was willing the people should bear the sin of his disobedience.

God had declared that the Amalekites were cursed and everything they had was cursed. Imagine what an insult to the Lord that would be, to bring back a cursed thing to offer to God as a sacrifice to point to the pure and holy Saviour! To even suggest it was a terrible sin.

Samuel pointed out to Saul that before he had become so proud, he was willing to obey God, but now he had disobeyed and rebelled, therefore his family would not continue as kings in Israel.

Samuel then told Saul the words of our memory verse, 1 Samuel 15:22,23 And Samuel said, “Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to

hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.”

Now Saul made a half-way confession, still blaming the people, and he begged Samuel to come and eat with him as if everything was still OK. But Samuel would not dishonor God by doing this. He told Saul, “I will not return with thee: for thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD hath rejected thee from being king over Israel.”

As Samuel turned to walk away from Saul, the rebellious king grabbed his mantle and tried to pull him back. The mantle ripped and Samuel turned and said, “The LORD hath rent the kingdom of Israel from thee this day, and hath given it to a neighbour of thine, that is better than thou.”



Now Saul was worried, he admitted he had sinned and begged Samuel to honor him and come and worship the Lord with him. Samuel did go and worship the Lord, and afterward called the wicked king Agag before him. Then Samuel the prophet slew Agag himself. Then Samuel went home to his house in Ramah.

“And Samuel came no more to see Saul until the day of his death: nevertheless Samuel mourned for Saul: and the LORD repented that he had made Saul king over Israel.” 1 Samuel 15:35

Thought - It is so important to remember, that what God wants from us is loving obedience. Great and fancy offerings or great works that we do, claiming that it is ‘for God’, are not acceptable to Him and even are disgusting to God, if we are not willing to humbly obey Him. = ^ .. ^ =

