

August 20, 2017
Volume 6, Issue 1

Sunday School Times

Stuff For Today

- Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess!
- Paper clip anatomy
- The Elusive Loopy
- Anatomy of a "shell" game

The World's Simplest Knot To Tie—But Its Not Easy

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Growing up in a small town in central Kansas in the 1960's was not as boring as it might seem to someone looking at the scene from our day and time. One could describe it all with a few basic words:

Flat: Imagine a square mile with no more than a 5 foot high "hill" out in the middle of it.

Hot: In the summer, I recall 20 consecutive days of 120 plus degree temps. (The warmest—128°)

Cold: One winter, 20-30 degrees below zero for weeks with even water towers freezing solid!

Windy: Always windy! On a clear day—gusts up to 80 mph were possible.

And for me, there was Boy Scouts. I learned a lot in that program. To this day, I can still tie every knot that I learned as a 10 year-old boy.

Published almost weekly, but more likewhenever, so get used to it, OK?

How To Not Destroy A Watch

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Luke 10: 38-42

38 As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. 39 She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. 40 But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" 41 "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, 42 but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

The passage above provides a glimpse of an everyday moment in Jesus' life. We find the Lord giving instruction to Martha concerning her decision-making processes. He gently reminds her of her dislocated priorities.

As Christians, we often face identical challenges. The world that we live in is quick to drag our focus away from God. How we make choices every day is crucial. Fortunately, the Bible gives us a few hints to guide us in making positive, Godly, choices.

1. Pray. Talking to God results in a closer walk with Him. That can never be a bad thing.

2. Read the Bible. There is a wealth of information to be found in the Word.

3. Apply what you find in the Bible. That sounds easy, but often it is not.

4. Accept God's leading. Don't doubt or argue with Him. He's REALLY, REALLY smart!

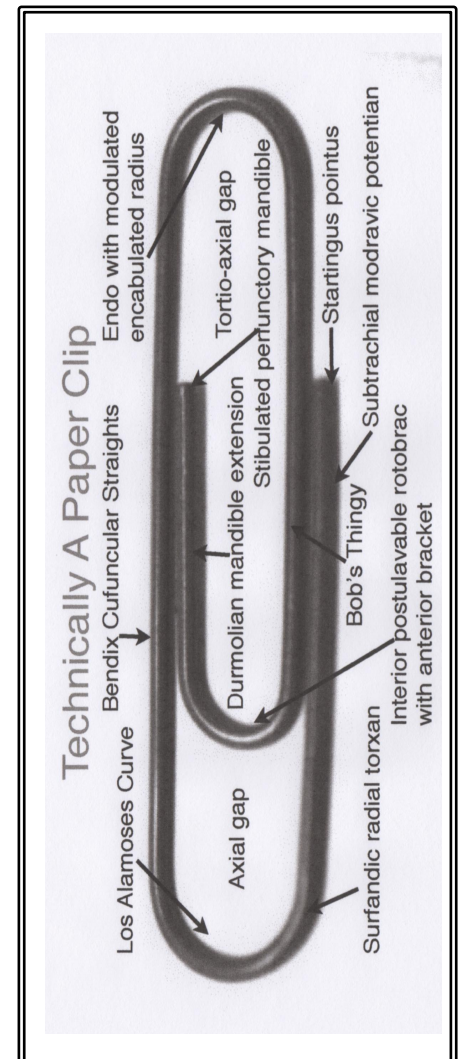
5. Seek Godly council. Many times there are people in our paths that God has conveniently placed there for us to lean on.

6. Stretch your faith. There are times when we must be prepared to throw caution aside and follow God blindly—and never, never give up.

7. Check the desires of your heart. When we walk with God, His "wants" become our "wants".

Life hands us opportunities. How we use those moments can affect our lives tremendously. It may be cliché, but what would Jesus do (or say)?

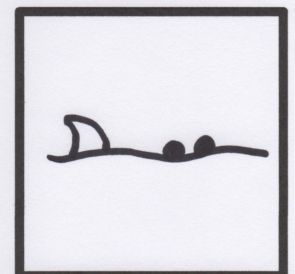
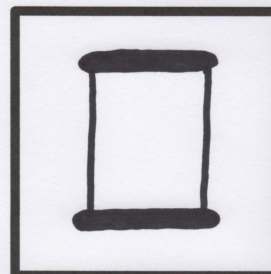
And what about that watch? Well, that is part of the lesson today.



A Simple Misunderstanding

After extended discussions with my wife I have learned that the excitement for this Monday is about an "eclipse" and not "paper clips". My sincerest apologies.

Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess.



August 27, 2017
Volume 6, Issue 2

Sunday School Times

Published almost weekly, but more likewhenever, so get used to it, OK?

Stuff For Today

- Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess!
- Presidential Trivia
- Classic literature
- Court Case 32 U.S. 7 Pet. 150 (1833)

Stuff You Probably Didn't Know About Past Presidents

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

1. John Quincy Adams was known to regularly go swimming in the Potomac—always in the nude.
2. James Garfield was ambidextrous. It is recorded that he could simultaneously write a sentence in Latin with one hand and in Greek with the other.
3. Ulysses S. Grant got a speeding ticket for riding his horse too fast down a Washington street.
4. Lewis and Clark sent two bears back to Thomas Jefferson who kept them as pets on the White House lawn.
5. Herbert Hoover spoke Mandarin Chinese fluently and often spoke it around the White House for privacy.

Kimberton Stage Robbed at Gunpoint!

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Nehemiah 9:17

And refused to obey, neither were mindful of thy wonders that thou didst among them; but hardened their necks, and in their rebellion appointed a captain to return to their bondage: but thou art a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and forsookest them not.

In the passage above, note the phrase "thou art a God ready to pardon."

On November 26, 1829, the stagecoach from Philadelphia to Reading was robbed at gunpoint at a bend in the road known as Kimberton. Eleven days later, the same gunmen held up the stage again—at the same location—this time hurting the driver in the process. This event took place early in our country's development, and the US Mail was held in great regard. The leaders of our nation felt a strong obligation to instill absolute trust in this newly established communication network. Thieves targeting the US Mail could expect VERY heavy penalties!

And so the case of the Kimberton stage robbery was no small spectacle. An enormous manhunt ensued, and the capture of the offenders inevitable.

James Porter, George Wilson, and John Poteet were arrested and charged with 6 counts each. John Poteet, a young man, still

wet behind the ears, turned State's Evidence and was let off with little punishment. With John's testimony against them, James Porter and George Wilson were found guilty on all counts and scheduled for sentencing three weeks later. At sentencing, George Wilson was given a chance to speak, and in surprise to everyone, changed his original plea of innocence to a plea of guilty on all but one count. The court was not moved, and sentenced both men to hang by the neck until dead on July 2, 1830.

The story now takes a bizarre twist, as news of this odd behavior by George Wilson struck at the heart of some very influential people who were following this case. Using their position and prominence, they successfully obtained an audience with none other than the President of the United States, Andrew Jackson! Pleading for George Wilson's life, they requested that the President exercise his constitutionally granted power to issue an official Presidential Pardon. Two weeks later, Jackson granted their request.

The story now takes an even bizzarrer (I know it's not really a word, but it sounds funny) twist! When presented with the officially signed document

of Presidential Pardon, George Wilson refused it, choosing rather to die than live! This was unprecedented in US history. Never before had a pardon been turned down. Eventually, this case came before the US Supreme Court.

In a decision that has stood the test of time, the Supreme Court sided with George Wilson. A pardon could not be forced upon anyone. Acceptance by the accused is a crucial factor. The story ends with the needless death of George Wilson.

We serve a God ready to pardon. God has granted all of us relief from our death sentence—the result of sin. Some in this world choose to accept His forgiveness and pardon. Others refuse it. And God will not force His gift on anyone. We are all given freedom of choice.

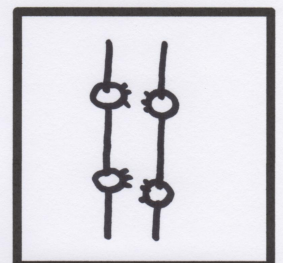
Each of our stories have two possible endings, and only two. Ending number one is to accept God's pardon and enjoy eternity with Him forever one day. The alternative is to reject His offer and die needlessly forever in Hell.

Don't be a George Wilson!

Mr. Lyle Explains Classic Works of Literature

The Wizard of Oz is the poignant story of two women trying to kill each other over a pair of shoes.

Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess.



September 24, 2017

Volume 6, Issue 3

Sunday School Times

Published almost weekly, but more likewhenever, so get used to it, OK?

Stuff For Today

- Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess!
- Of Ice Hockey and OREOs
- Children's books
- Prince Charmin—a story

My Favorite Children's Books No Longer In Print

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

1. The Boy Who Died From Eating All His Vegetables
2. A Children's Guide to Hitchhiking
3. Curious George and the High Voltage Fence
4. See, Some Kittens Really Can Fly...Uh Oh!
5. Why Can't Mr. Fork and Mr. Electrical Outlet Be Friends?
6. Freeway Dodge Ball: Official Kindergarten Rules
7. The Little Engine That Thought He Could—But Failed Miserably
8. The Invisible Child Eating Crocodiles That Live and Hide Absolutely Everywhere
10. Nuclear Launch Protocol and Command Codes for Single-Person Authorization via Non-secure Civilian Communication Systems

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Luke 15: 11-32

11 Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. 12 The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. 13 "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. 14 After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. 16 He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. 17 "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! 18 I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' 20 So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. 21 "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' 22 "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. 24 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate. 25 "Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. 27 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.' 28 "The older brother became

angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. 29 But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. 30 But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!' 31 "'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. 32 But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"

This passage is commonly known as the Parable of the Prodigal Son. The narrative follows the mistakes and failures of a young son who finally comes to his senses and realizes he has erred greatly.

However, the most important character in the story is the loving father. In spite of the extreme disrespect and disdain present in the young son's life, the father still loves him unconditionally. We see in the father, an attitude that does not force the son into submission, but patient grace and mercy awaiting the son's return.

God understands us. We come into this world rebellious and sinful. Often we do not realize just how hard hearted and stiff necked we can be. The young son in the story said and did some absolutely

horrid things towards his father.

Our loving Father patiently awaits our response to His love. He does not force Himself on us, but quietly reminds us of His concern.

The son reunited with the father is a picture of salvation. A humble child faces the reality of his mistakes and asks for forgiveness. And of course the father forgives and a celebration ensues.

Luke assures us that there are angels rejoicing in Heaven when someone repents and is saved. First Peter tells us that they are intrigued by the way that God has structured salvation, and are in awe of what He has done.

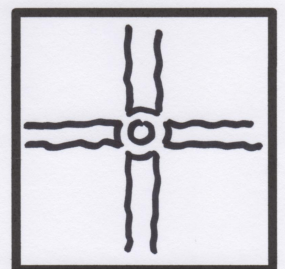
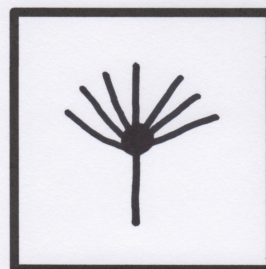
So a question remains. Are you still feeding pigs?

*Don't forget
to pray to God
today—He
didn't forget
to wake you
up!*

The Only Way That Ice Hockey Will Ever Be Interesting to Me...

Is if I pretend that both teams are fighting over the last OREO cookie left on Earth.

Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess.



October 1, 2017
Volume 6, Issue 4

Sunday School Times

Stuff For Today

- Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess!
- A Love Story
- A little lost dog
- Why a Victor 4-Way?

Lost Dog Found

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)



A male beagle was found around 11:30 AM on September 23rd on the corner of 14th and Pine. Approximately six months old and mostly brown with cute patches of white on his nose and feet. A slightly crooked tail, and a blue collar but no tags. Very friendly, and loves kids. Tasted a lot like chicken.....
.....He licked me first, so I licked him back. What, did you think I ate him?!!!

A Love Story

*He knew it would never work between them.
The girl had been born into a wealthy family.
He was just a third person singular masculine
subject pronoun*

Published almost weekly, but more likewhenever, so get used to it, OK?

A "Victor Four Way" Rat Trap

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Proverbs 3: 5

**Trust in the Lord with all your heart
and lean not on your own
understanding.**

Rodent control is much more reliable with the use of *Victor 4-Way Rat Traps*. Rat and mousetraps have evolved little over the many years, and the spring-loaded-rodent-crusher is still my method of choice.

Most would think it hardly a topic for a Sunday School lesson, but bear with me and perhaps I can draw things together sufficiently.

The writer in Proverbs is using a common technique for Hebrew poetry. No rhymes as we might want in our culture, but rather, a repetition of a phrase with a slightly different set of words with their implied subtle differences in meanings. Let's look at this verse in two parts.

The first phrase is *Trust in the Lord with all your heart*. I have little problem in that area. I know and understand that God is able to do anything, and I don't have to worry or fret about anything. He will take care of me always. I can trust Him completely!

It's the second half that I personally struggle with. *And lean not on your own understanding* requires something from me that I am not comfortable giving up. I am by nature an inquisitive person. I want to know how things work,

and how they operate. I want to understand them.

There are times in life when God does not find it necessary to explain to us all of the details. It is not important to Him that we completely understand everything.

At times He wants us to simply obey blindly, not knowing the future or the outcome. Only knowing that we are operating in the will of God, and that needs to be enough for us.

That is the ultimate test of trust--to obey blindly. Imagine the following.

Suppose you had a *Victor 4-Way Rat Trap* directly in front of you. It has been baited with several one dollar bills. Now suppose you are blindfolded and given the *opportunity* to reach in and grab the money but it will have to be done incredibly fast, so your hand is not crushed by the trap.

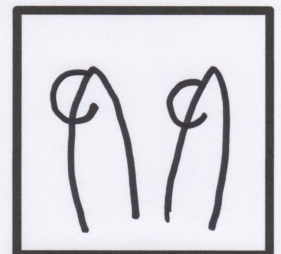
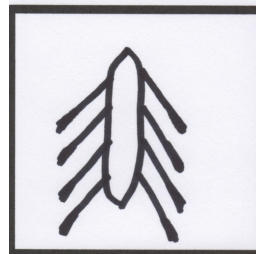
Would you follow the instructions, or would you balk at the idea because it made no sense to you to take that risk?

Welcome to our Sunday School Bible lesson!

Books of the Bible Puzzle

Can you find the 34 books of the Bible hidden in this paragraph? This is a most remarkable puzzle. From this point on, everything is dynamic ahead. If you row a shipment of Honolulu kerosene to Oregon in a john boat while playing a banjo eleven hours straight--even that would be easier than this challenge. Perhaps alms giving might help. One of my friends judges the job of solving this puzzle so difficult that she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There is one fact. Some people will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually requires a seminary degree to see some of them at the worst. And it is very likely that something in our genes is the reason for our difficulty. The local paper, *The Chronicle*, said that when they featured this puzzle in the paper, the Alpha Delta Phi lemonade booth set a new record. As my friend Daniel, eating a banana, humorously put it, "The books are all right here in plain view hidden from sight." Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also, keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well. And wear a fez rather than a baseball cap. It doesn't take a pro. Verbs and nouns all need to be considered. Remember, there is no need for a mad exodus; there really are 34 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found.

Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess.



October 8, 2017
Volume 6, Issue 5

Sunday School Times

Published almost weekly, but more likewhenever, so get used to it, OK?

Stuff For Today

- Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess!
- Little Known Conjecture
- Amerigo Vespucci
- Hu Waru

Little Known Conjecture About Me

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Back in the early 80's I lived in Southern Florida where I worked at Joes Gator Ranch as head alligator wrestler.

As a kid I never played with dolls. I played with ACTION FIGURES! But I never did find a nice camouflage outfit for Malibu Barbie.

I really enjoyed my three years as a power forward for the Detroit Pistons!

When I put on my shoes, once I get one shoe on, I almost always know where the other one goes.

On my first day of school, my parents dropped me off at the wrong nursery. There I was, surrounded by all those trees, shrubs, and bushes.

One of the goals in my life is to put a whole bag of M&M's in alphabetical order!

I asked my Mom if I was a gifted child. Well, she said they certainly would not have paid for me!

...and then Satan
said,
"Let's put the
alphabet in Math."

An Island Paradise Called Hu Waru

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Luke 6: 27-31

27 'But to you who are listening I say: love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who ill-treat you. 29 If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. 30 Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. 31 Do to others as you would have them do to you.

Even on a good day, it is difficult for us to genuinely love those who mistreat us.

The story of Hu Waru embraces this topic. The mythical island chain is composed of three islands. The first island, Watts, is named after Sir Ampsund Watts. The middle and much larger island is Yoore, named of course after the Viking Crusader Yoore Seally. And to the far west we find Nayme, discovered and mapped by the famous Dutch explorer Gwatno Nayme. The islanders traditional greeting of "Hu Waru, Hu Waru.", lends itself to the common name of the island chain.

As the story goes, The islanders embarked upon a campaign to build a National Monstrosity, and division among its citizens soon followed. The engineers responsible for the project, commonly known by the acronym NME (The National Monstrosity Engineers) became arrogant and disrespectful. They chided the less educated with their constant flaunting of mathematical formulas used

during the construction process. The division among the population was shocking.

Probably the darkest hour for these islands was the day that the NME's took control of a key supply of raw materials. A mine on the island of Watts was taken by force and declared to be under new ownership—the island of Yoore! The headline in the newspaper the next day said it all. Watts Mine Is Yoore's!

Luckily, there was a level head among the indigenous population, Mr. P. Smayker. His attention to detail and thoughtful consideration resulted in an excellent campaign to reunite the torn nation. He called it an LUV program. Let's Understand Volume was a well-received effort to teach the less educated the formulas that the engineers were flaunting upon the people.

T-shirts were printed and a nationwide emphasis begun. Billboards everywhere proclaimed:

**Luv
Yoore
NME's**

It worked! In no time at all the nation was reconciled. This little paradise of the South Pacific was once again a wonderful place to live and work.

Jesus was adamant that his disciples know that there

would be those that would not tolerate them and would genuinely hate them simply because they were Christ like—Christians. We would do well to heed his advice and learn how to deal with those that may not like us much (or at all).

Elisha dealt with an enemy army in 2 Kings chapter 6. In one of the most striking "battles" in the Old Testament, Elisha asked God to blind the entire army. He then promptly led them into the capital city, where he presented them to the king and told him to feed them and send them home in kindness. With their blindness healed, and food in their stomach, and a story unlike any other, they returned home and allowed Israel to continue in peace.

Love your enemies? Hmmm, it does work. How about that!

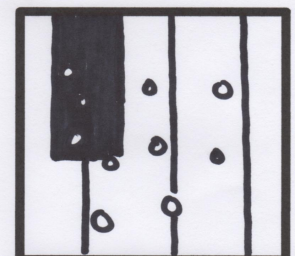
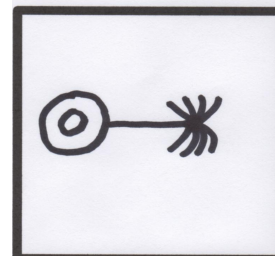
Remember to Give 100% Each Week!!

Monday—12%
Tuesday—17%
Wednesday—23%
Thursday—19%
Friday—4%
Saturday—16%
Sunday—9%

Just a thought:

If they had used his last
name instead of his first,
we might all be living in
**The United States of
Vespucci.**
Like I said, it is just a
thought.

Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess.



October 22, 2017
Volume 6, Issue 6

Sunday School Times

Published almost weekly, but more likewhenever, so get used to it, OK?

Stuff For Today

- Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess!
- Veterinary Corner
- Fairy Tales
- What is COTSA?!

An Amazing Celebration of COTSA

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Matthew 20: 1-16

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. 2 He agreed to pay them a denarius[a] for the day and sent them

into his vineyard. 3 "About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. 4 He told them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' 5 So they went. "He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. 6 About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, 'Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?' 7 "Because no one has hired us," they answered. "He said to them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard.' 8 "When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.' 9 "The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. 10 So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. 11 When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. 12 'These who were hired last worked only one hour,' they said, 'and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.' 13 "But he answered one of them, 'I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius? 14 Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. 15 Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?' 16 "So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

collected them when they were young, and their collection is actually quite impressive! The activities associated with COTSA are an object lesson to help us understand a little better, the sovereignty of God.

We humans tend to define God down to our level. Our belief that He thinks and acts the same way we do is often misguided. God is not bound by our rules or understanding. He conducts the affairs of this world as He wishes. We would do well to acknowledge that.

In the parable found in Matthew 20, the landowner represents God. 1. We find Him to have an overall plan that He is executing. 2. He is just and fair. 3. He is caring enough to go to where the workers are to be found and hire them. He doesn't just put up a *Help Wanted* sign. 4. He did the choosing of His workers, not the other way around.

As an employer myself, I see one more concept here that would apply to us as Christians. Our work for God is not just something to be endured. It should be an honor and a pleasure to work for such a just, fair, loving and caring boss. And He does pay well—Heaven is an amazing place!

Every second year we observe the *Celebration Of The Stuffed Animals* in this class. It is a wonderful time for those familiar with "Beanie Babies". My two daughters

Veterinary Corner

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

How to Give Your Cat a Pill

Pick cat up and cradle it in the crook of your left arm as though holding a baby. Position right forefinger and thumb on either side of the cat's mouth and lightly apply pressure to its cheeks. When the cat opens its mouth, gently drop the pill into the mouth. The cat will then close its mouth and swallow.

Apply bandages as necessary to arms and face.
Retrieve pill from the floor and cat from behind sofa.
Repeat the process.

Retrieve the cat from the bedroom and throw the soggy pill away.
Kneel on the floor with the cat wedged firmly between your knees, immobilizing front and rear paws. Ask assistant to hold cat's head firmly with one hand while forcing a wooden ruler into the cat's throat. Remove next pill from foil wrap. Flick pill down the ruler with forefinger and rub cat's throat vigorously.

Retrieve cat from living room curtains.
Carefully sweep shattered figurines from hearth and set aside for later gluing.
Apply bandages as necessary to your legs and feet.
Remove next pill from foil wrap.

Wrap cat in beach towel, and ask assistant to lie prone on cat with cat's head visible under assistant's armpit. Put pill into the end of a paper tube that you have made for this purpose. Force cat's mouth open with pencil and insert the end of the paper tube. Take a deep breath and blow the pill into its mouth.

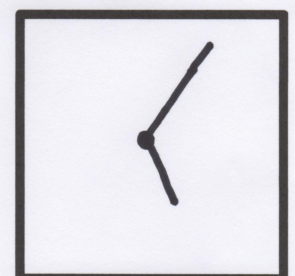
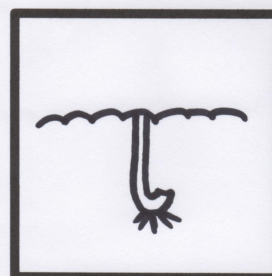
Check label to make sure the pill is not lethal to humans.
Sip enough water to take terrible taste away.
Apply bandage to assistant's forearm, and remove blood from carpet with soap and water.

Call 911, and ask fire department to retrieve cat from tree in front yard.
Remove remaining pill from foil wrap.
Tie cat's front paws to rear paws with bailing twine and secure to leg of dining table.
Put on heavy duty welding gloves.
Force cat's mouth open with tire iron.
Drop pill into cat's mouth.
Hold your head vertically with nose pointed to ceiling to stop nose bleed resulting from collapsed dining table.
Don't worry, lots of people get concussions and survive.

Ask assistant to drive you to emergency room.
Sit quietly while doctor administers anesthetic, stitches arm and removes pill remnants from your eye.

Drop off cat with a generous donation at an animal shelter.
Go to Walmart and adopt a goldfish.

Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess.



The Difference Between Northern Fairy Tales and Southern Fairy Tales

Northern: "Once upon a time..."

Southern: "Y'all ain't gonna believe this..."



October 29, 2017

Volume 6, Issue 7

Stuff For Today

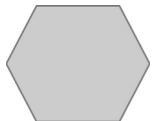
- Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess!
- Geometry
- Olympic Trivia
- A Sunday School funeral

Fun With Geometric Shapes

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)



Pentagon



Hexagon



Oregon



This Day in US Olympic History
Frank Sheffington, 1804 US Hide and Seek Olympic Gold medal winner (center) is finally found October 27th, 1939 in Huntington, New York. Frank is quoted as saying...it was the perfect hiding spot!

Published almost weekly, but more likewhenever, so get used to it, OK?

A funeral for A Very Dear friend

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Luke 12:15

Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions."

A Eulogy

I remember it just like it was yesterday. My family and I were walking through Walmart shopping. We browsed through the various areas we encountered as we searched for the items on my wife's shopping list.

As we passed by the housewares isle, oddly, I felt a presence. I was indeed being watched. And as I looked around, there on the very top shelf he sat, looking down with a big grin. There was no question about it—I had to take him home with me!

Through the years he became a part of the family. Always displaying a familiar, affable personality, I became particularly attached to him. We became the best of friends.

I fondly remember the many summers we spent together. On any hot, dry, dusty day I knew that, without question, he would be there when I came inside, and we would share cold, refreshing iced tea.

That all abruptly came to an

end this week. Our family had gone out for an evening meal, and when we returned, to our horror and sadness, we discovered him lying on the floor lifeless. All attempts at reviving him were unrewarded. We had to face the fact that a very dear friend was gone forever.

We are not sure how it all happened, but this is our best guess scenario. Our last recollection of his whereabouts is that he was setting on the edge of the countertop as we walked out of the door that evening. Some iced tea must have sloshed out somehow, and as he reached to catch the spill, he lost his balance and fell face first onto the hardwood floor.

We feel that his time on this earth was brief, but we were honored to have known him.

Glassy will be missed dearly by my family. And in sadness we say "Good bye". We know he would want us to go on with our lives. That's just the way he was, always there to serve us. And so we will go on without his physical presence, but many fond memories.

We have already set forth on our quest to carry on in respect to his memory. A trip to Walmart was completed and we found a new friend! As the winter months approach, I

know our family will love and support our newest member—Mugster!

What a funeral that will be! Ridiculous? Perhaps we should take a few moments to analyze our own attachments to our possessions. The culture that we live in today is all about money, possessions and power.

Jesus warned people in His day of the challenges regarding wealth. Things have not changed much since then. We humans have always counted the things that we own and endeared them to ourselves.

Throughout the Bible we are warned to keep our desires focused on Him, and everything else that we need will be provided. It is easy to say, but difficult to live.

Eulogy for the Wicked Witch of the East:

"Ding dong! The witch is dead. Which old witch? The wicked witch! Ding dong! The wicked witch is dead. I must aver I thoroughly examined her. And she's not only merely dead. She's really, most sincerely dead."

Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess.



8 out of 10 wicked witches prefer free range over caged.

November 5, 2017

Volume 6, Issue 8

Sunday School Times

Published almost weekly, but more likewhenever, so get used to it, OK?

Stuff For Today

- Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess!
- Alarm clocks
- Random thoughts
- A first sermon gone wrong?

Random Thoughts That I Thought While Thinking Thoughts This Week When Thinking About Daylight Savings Time. (I Think).

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

1. Most people recover from deadly diseases better than I recover from Daylight Savings Time.
2. Don't forget to reset all those clocks you never look at because you have an iPhone.
3. Just a gentle reminder, if you thought last Monday was bad, this one will prove to be much, much worse.
4. Don't forget, the clock on the oven will be wrong again for six months.
5. I couldn't believe it took me an hour to make a pop tart! And then I realized that today started daylight savings time.

Alarm Clocks

Because every morning should begin with a heart attack!!

His First Sermon A Catastrophe!

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Isaiah 61: 1-2

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted; to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn.

The Bible is largely silent regarding the early life of Jesus. A few short moments are recorded for us as well as some very general statements. This we do know for sure: Jesus grew up as a normal human being. He experienced all that any of us might expect. And through all His experiences, He never sinned!

Place yourself nearby that amazing idea for just a moment. What would it be like to know someone growing up who never lied, never hurt anyone, never teased anyone, never, ever disobeyed—imagine you had a friend like that. What would your personal feelings be towards that individual?

I believe it would be very difficult to not like someone with those qualities. Jesus grew up in Nazareth, and the entire little community probably knew Him well—and liked Him very much.

When Jesus was approximately thirty years old, He began his earthly ministry. Immediately following His baptism by John, He was whisked off into the desert to

be tempted for an extended period of time by the Devil himself.

As that episode ended he headed home to Nazareth. It was his custom to attend the temple services on Sabbath Day. He was invited to speak to the gathered group and what transpired there that day is one of the truly awesome stories found in the Bible.

First sermons are always important. And this one was no exception. God saw fit to record many significant details of this address and we will look at a few of them today.

He was handed the scroll of Isaiah. Few Scriptures are as respected and loved by the Jewish people as is the book of Isaiah—even today. Many of the prophecies found there tell of an astonishing time in the future for Israel. A day when Israel will be restored to her rightful place near to God is the hope and confidence of many of the faithful in Israel.

He unrolled the manuscript all the way to nearly the end. That itself took some time no doubt. He found what we know as Isaiah 61 (remember, there were no chapter and verse divisions then) and read two verses—almost! This passage was well known by all and He stopped just short of reading all of this familiar poem, rolled up the scroll and sat down. In the culture of

the day, the customs required the listeners to remain standing, and the one who taught to be seated as a sign of respect.

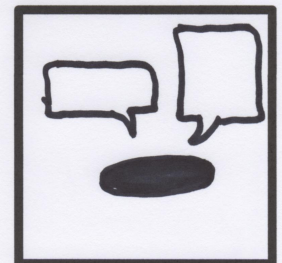
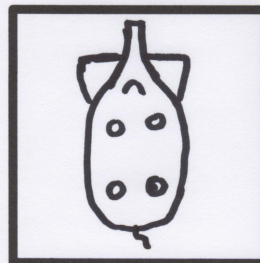
He then graciously explained that the passage that He had just read was being fulfilled in their presence. It is notable what He did NOT read that morning. He completely disregarded the phrase referring to the vengeance of God.

Jesus did not come this first time in vengeance. He came in love. There is most certainly a day coming when He will return in vengeance and the world will see a righteous God ready to judge the sin of the inhabitants of the earth.

God is a God of love to be sure, but He is also a God of righteousness. Failure to uphold His standards is punishable by death. There are many today who look upon the concept of Hell and its torment and say that a loving God would never do such a thing to anyone. A righteous God must.

The people in Nazareth turned on Jesus that day. They despised His message and genuinely tried to kill Him then and there! How could a hometown turn on one of its own? Sin is ugly!

Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess.



1. How many tickles does it take to get an octopus to laugh?
2. How much does it cost a pirate to get his ears pierced?
3. What is brown and sticky?

November 12, 2017
Volume 6, Issue 9

Sunday School Times

Published almost weekly, but more likewhenever, so get used to it, OK?

Stuff For Today

- Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess
- Rscheearch
- Man's survival
- 10%

Rscheearch

Aoccdrnig to a rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it deosn't mttar in waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoetnt tinhg is taht the frist and lsat ltteer be at the rghit pclae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can siltl raed it wouthit a porbelm. Tihs is bcuseae the hamun mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe. Amzanig, huh?

Jesus is
coming back
someday.

RUE ?

A Verdict Based Upon The Evidence

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Romans 1:20

For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

I once had the opportunity to witness our judicial system at work. I sat in a courtroom for nearly two weeks and watched a homicide trial from beginning to end,

After all of the testimony was completed and all of the pieces of evidence had been accepted by the court, the judge turned to the jury and instructed them that they must decide the guilt or innocence of the accused based solely on the evidence presented in court.

It was a complex case involving nearly 30 witnesses and 230 individual pieces of evidence. And no one single piece of evidence, if considered by itself and only itself, could bring a jury to a fair conclusion. They had to look at all of the evidence and put everything together to come to a verdict.

Proving the existence of God is much the same. We do not have a living eyewitness who we can call on to give us firsthand testimony that He is indeed real. Rather we must make a decision based upon the evidence available to determine if He exists or is simply a figment of someone's vivid imagination.

God gives us a hint where to start our search for evidence—creation. Look at the universe around us and know it could not happen by chance.

Science and technology are showing us some amazing things about the universe we live in. We

now know the universe is expanding, and at an accelerating rate. There is no reasonable explanation for this other than it is the fingerprint of God.

Then go to the small end of the spectrum. The advancements in the understanding of genetics and DNA have serious scientists leaving the thoughts of evolution to be an impossible idea to consider anymore. Again, we can see the fingerprint of God.

These arguments come from the Bible. Can we believe the Bible to be true? God left us little doubt in that category also. Consider this list:

A. The ancient original works of Plato—7, the earliest written 1200 years after his death.

B. The works of Aristotle—49, the earliest written 1400 years after his death.

C. Homer's Illiad—the most copied book in antiquity, 643, the earliest written 500 years after his death.

D. The Bible—24,000 copies, and all written from 30 to 100 years after Jesus was buried and rose again! God left little question as to the validity of His Word.

All of us must admit that we have had doubts as to God's existence. It is natural. But just as the trial juror must deliberate, so we too must sift through the evidence before us. We cannot expect to find that one special piece of evidence that proves everything in and by itself. Rather, it takes an effort on our part to honestly look around us and put it all together.

You must reach a verdict based solely on the evidence.

10%=Tithe

So, how do you figure out how much to give God?

Money—that one is easy.. Divide the total by ten. But does a God who owns everything really need our money? Or does He want us to be less absorbed by it? What about our...

Time—with a limited amount of time at our disposal, it may well be the most valuable thing that God gives us. With 24 hours a day, ten percent would be 2.4 hours? Imagine what God could do with our willingness to give Him our time. And then there is...

Talent—that's even harder to figure! God has given every Christian at least one spiritual gift. He wishes for us to learn to use our gift for His purposes. Also, don't forget all of the ...

Many things beside money that God gives us. Through our life, we receive many gifts from a very generous God. Can we ever calculate a true tithe?

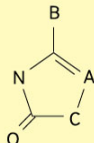
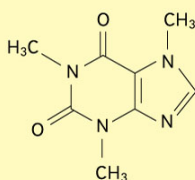
Your Greatest Treasure

Remember, friendship is the greatest treasure of all...that is, of course, unless you have a magic pony! Then, by all means, it is the magic pony.

MOST VITAL COMPONENTS TO MAN'S SURVIVAL

O=O

H-O-H



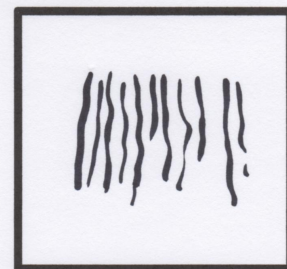
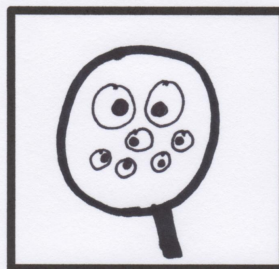
Oxygen

Water

Caffeine

BACON

Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess



November 26, 2017
Volume 6, Issue 10

Sunday School Times

Published almost weekly, but more likewhenever, so get used to it, OK?

Stuff For Today

- Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess!
- Foreign Language
- Worship Signals
- A lady named "Glamorous"

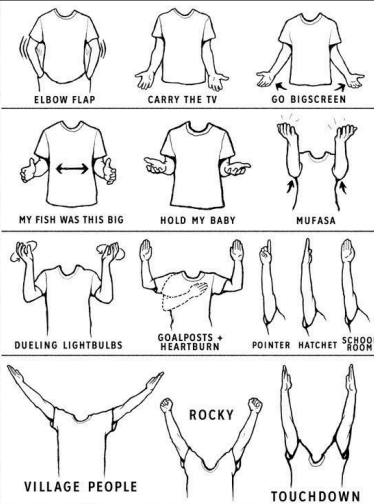
Foreign Language 101

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Phrases every world traveller
needs to know:

1. Wa Shing Ka
2. No Pah King
3. Tai Ni Po Ni
4. No Bai Dat Ting
5. Ai Bang Mai Ni
6. Wai Yu Mun Ching
7. Yu Skin Ki Pu

Official Non-denominational Worship Signals



By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

The Book Of Ruth

Multiple Choice Outline For Today's Lesson

1. This lesson taught by
 - a. ___Mr. Lyle
 - b. ___Ol'-what's-his-name
 - c. ___His Majesty
2. Mr. Lyle's family tree is
 - a. ___really just a broken branch
 - b. ___"funky"
 - c. ___His Majesty thinks "a" is the right answer.
3. "Skittles" in Hebrew means:
 - a. ___"Chocolate"
 - b. ___"Unicorn Poo"
 - c. ___His Majesty wishes it was "Kit Kat Bars"
4. Thou shalt not
 - a. ___lick all of the color off of the Skittles and then put them back in the bag.
 - b. ___put Skittles up our nose.
 - c. ___quote or sing any part of "The Little Mermaid"
5. Home is where
 - a. ___Mom buys me Skittles
 - b. ___Dad buys me Skittles.
 - c. ___the castle is
6. When life is hard
 - a. ___I believe everyone should turn to Skittles for support
 - b. ___I believe the more Skittles you eat, the better things get.
 - c. ___I turn to Kit Kat Bars.
7. The best color of Skittles is
 - a. ___Razorback Red (because of that crazy play in yesterday's Razorback game)

- b. ___green (because it is so politically correct.)
 - c. ___Dorian Gray (because they are Wildely delightful and last forever. Get the picture?)
8. This outline has got to be the stupidest outline ever, but...
 - a. ___I tasted the rainbow!
 - b. ___I will have a serious case of Skittles Pox
 - c. ___His Majesty's generosity will be fondly remembered by his subjects and they will live happily ever after. The End.

In the book of Ruth we find an unvarnished and uncensored account of a poverty stricken family making poor choices. Their condition goes from bad to worse as life throws them one curve after another. The decisions we make in life have consequences. Sometimes the choices we make haunt us for a lifetime.

God's laws were clear regarding their options. Elimelech should not have taken his family away from the Promised Land. The hardships of famine should have been endured with others who believed and lived as God's people. Instead, he chose to subject his family to the despicable lifestyle present in Moab.

When the little family's spiritual leader died, the sons, as they came of age, decided to marry women from Moab. Marriage is

a huge step in life, and these young men boldly stepped in exactly the wrong direction. God had warned His people over and over against intermarrying with the population of neighboring pagan nations.

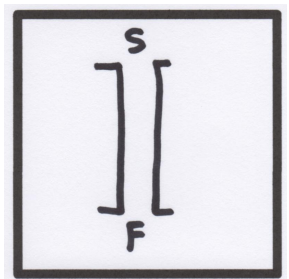
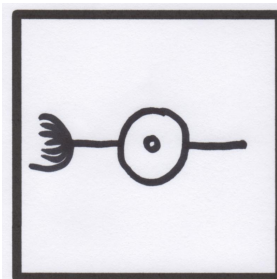
When both young sons unexpectedly died, Naomi was left broken, hopeless, and alone.

There is one bright spot in this tale: a young lady named Ruth. Having grown up in the spiritual darkness of Moab, she caught a brief glimpse of the One True God in the lives of her new family. Not wanting to lose that, she boldly chose to follow her mother-in-law back to Israel.

Her willingness to leave everything she had ever known behind and embrace and identify with this new life she had found is just the beginning.

Most family histories in the Bible are centered on the men—father to son. As God gives us the family tree of the Messiah, we find Ruth proudly displayed in one of the branches. Who would have thought we would find a woman guilty of incest, a prostitute, an adulteress, and a woman from an unbelievably disdained, sinful background. God is able to forgive all sin and use the cleansed believer. We find an excellent example of this in the person of Ruth.

Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess



Searching For A New Church Motto?

1. Our Sundays are better than Dairy Queen's.
2. Life stinks. We have a pew for you.
3. Honk if you love Jesus. Text while driving if you want to meet him.

December 3, 2017
Volume 6, Issue 11

Sunday School Times

Published almost weekly, but more likewhenever, so get used to it, OK?

Stuff For Today

- Flying Insects
- Wait, Wait...
- eharmony.God

Poetry For My Wife

By Mr. Lyle

Roses are woody perennials
Violets are medicinal some of the time
Sugar is $C_{12}H_{22}O_{11}$
And I still got it to rhyme
(I'm a poet and didn't know it.
Why, look at my feet, they're such long fellows)

The Part You
Squish
(All Of IT!)

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

The Book Of Ruth Chapter 2

God is sovereign. He can and will do what He wishes. How He accomplishes His will is beyond our grasp of understanding. Our God knows all, including the future, and is actively involved in the events of this world.

And He does have plans. Some see God as a sort of terrarium builder. They say He created the world and set everything into motion, then stood back to see what would happen. But the Bible tells us over and over that we serve a God who is intricately involved in the affairs of man.

He influences and moves the hearts and minds of all of us to accomplish His perfect design. In the book of Ruth we find God putting together a very unlikely, but tender love story. It was God's blueprint that Boaz and

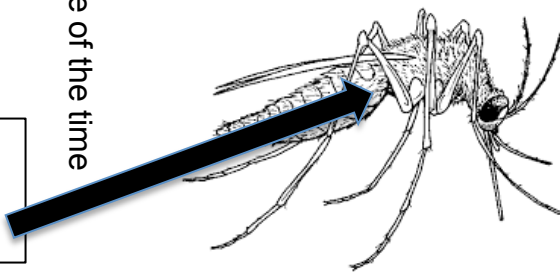
Ruth meet, fall in love, marry, have children, and raise those children to fear God.

The story unfolds with incredible precision. Two lives from seemingly opposite backgrounds merge and God moves His plans another step further down the hallways of time.

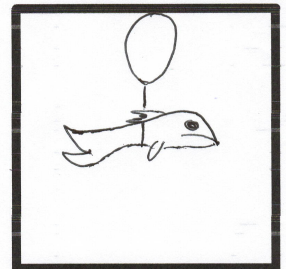
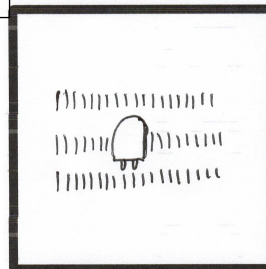
Isaiah tells us that God is zealous—very zealous. Everything God does, He accomplishes with eagerness and excitement. He is sincerely fervent about all He has ever done. That is an amazing idea. Just think what that can mean. Not only was He intensely passionate and enthusiastic about the big moments, like creation. But He is also as ardently interested when dealing with individual people on a day by day, moment by moment basis.

We see an excellent example of this in the story of Ruth. God, the ultimate match maker, succeeds in bringing together two people destined to have a large influence upon history. They would one day have children, and those children would grow up and have their own children, one of which was known later in life as King David.

Parts of a Mosquito



Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess.

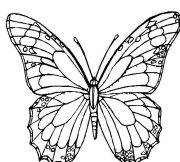


A Very Special Edition Of "Identifying Flying Insects"

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)



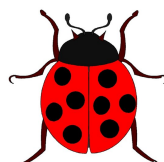
Dragonfly



Butterfly



House Fly



Won't Fly



Can't Fly



Better Never Be
Able To Fly!

Sunday School Times

Stuff For Today

- Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess
- Evolutionary Theory
- Christmas Begins
- The Redeemer says "yes"

If you decide to build a snowman this year, may I suggest...



Mr. Lyle Explains Evolutionary Theory

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

120 million years ago this boulder looked remarkably like a 1983 Nissan Sentra. Isn't evolution amazing?!



Published almost weekly, but more likewhenever, so get used to it, OK?

Ruth Chooses A Redeemer

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

The Book Of Ruth Chapter 3 and 4

To a Hebrew, the New Testament term of redeemer would be more accurately defined as kinsman-redeemer. The Old Testament law of the kinsman-redeemer provides some interesting insights into the concept of calling Jesus our Redeemer. The Biblical narrative says that Ruth washed (we are washed, born again, forgiven), anointed herself (we have the anointing of the Holy Spirit), dressed in her best clothes (we are clothed in the righteousness of Christ), and she claimed her redeemer (we, too, must accept our Redeemer). Staking that claim was her only requirement. Everything else became the responsibility of Boaz. (God performs all the work in our salvation.)

There is also mention of a redeemer who was of closer relationship who refused to do his duty, and thus Boaz could fulfill the request. That nameless kinsman represents the Law. It cannot save, because no one is able to keep it. The kinsman-redeemer was also responsible

for justice. If we claim Jesus to be our Redeemer, He is our Kinsman-Redeemer, and we have no need to seek personal revenge for wrong done to us, he will ensure that justice is applied.

The romance of redemption is a beautiful thing to behold.

Our Christmas Vacation Last Year

Most of our vacation was in **Consequential**. Our best friends asked us to meet them in **Vitation**. I must have misunderstood them, because they were actually in **Terpret**. We spent a miserable afternoon in **Tolerable**, and the bugs were really bad in **Sept**. I fell off a horse in **Jure**, and when we went to find a doctor, we couldn't find one in **Visible**. So we stopped for directions in **Quire**. We took a wrong turn in **Verse** and ended up in **Variably**. The wound became very red and swollen in **Fection**. Things got worse in **Crease**. And there was one thing that happened in **Cident** that I'd rather not talk about. After an anxious day in **Secure**, we decided to cut our trip short and spend our last night in **Complete**. On the last night we were in **Sane**. Apparently they have no airport because we have been driven there often by friends, family, and co-workers.

Hope yours this year will be better than ours.

Reindeer Biology

Observation A: Santa has nine reindeer

1. Dasher
2. Dancer
3. Prancer
4. Vixen
5. Comet
6. Cupid
7. Donner
8. Blitzen
9. Rudolph

Observation B: It is a biological fact that both male and female reindeer have antlers.

Observation C: It is also a biological fact that male reindeer shed their antlers each year around October. Only the females would have antlers during the Christmas Season.

Conclusion: All of Santa's reindeer are ladies. Including Rudolph!

Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess.



December 17, 2017
Volume 6, Issue 13

Sunday School Times

Published almost weekly, but more likewhenever, so get used to it, OK?

Stuff For Today

- Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess
- Christmas trivia
- A Kroger Christmas

17th Annual Kroger Christmas

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Luke 1: 26-38

26 In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, **27** to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. **28** The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." **29** Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. **30** But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. **31** You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. **32** He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, **33** and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." **34** "How will this be," Mary asked the angel,

"since I am a virgin?" **35** The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called [b] the Son of God. **36** Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. **37** For no word from God will ever fail." **38** "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

Luke 2

2 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. **2** (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) **3** And everyone went to their own town to register. **4** So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. **5** He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. **6** While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, **7** and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. **8** And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. **9** An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. **10** But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. **11** Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. **12** This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." **13** Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, **14** "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." **15** When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see

this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." **16** So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. **17** When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, **18** and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. **19** But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. **20** The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Really...How
Well Do You
Think You Know
Christmas?

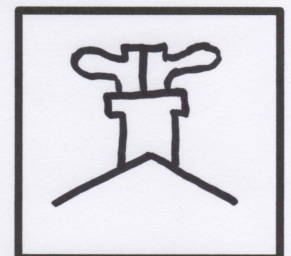
Yup
Nope
Dunno

1. ___ Gabriel told Mary she would have a son.
2. ___ Jesus was named before He was born.
3. ___ Mary and Joseph were married when Jesus was announced.
4. ___ Jesus and John the Baptist are related.
5. ___ Ceasar commanded all to be registered for taxes.
6. ___ Joseph was from Bethlehem.
7. ___ Mary rode a donkey to Bethlehem.
8. ___ When they got to Bethlehem, the Inn keeper said there was no room for them.
9. ___ They were allowed to use a stable instead.
10. ___ Jesus was born in a stable.
11. ___ Jesus was the only baby ever born who was older than his mother.
12. ___ There were animals there.
13. ___ Jesus' first bed was a feed trough.
14. ___ Jesus was born on December 25th.
15. ___ God chose shepherds because they were well respected men in the community.
16. ___ An angel appeared at night with a message for them.
17. ___ The angel appeared in the sky.
18. ___ The angel was very frightening because he was so bright.
19. ___ An angel choir sang to the shepherds.
20. ___ The angels then suddenly disappeared into the night sky.
21. ___ The shepherds then hurried to see the baby Jesus.
22. ___ They found everything just as they had been told.
23. ___ The shepherds stayed a long time at the manger.
24. ___ An arch angel was above the manger.
25. ___ Three wise men came to the manger with gifts.
26. ___ They showed up right after the shepherds left.
27. ___ They had followed a star to the manger.
28. ___ The gifts they brought were significant.
29. ___ Mary understood everything about what had happened that night.
30. ___ And everybody lived happily ever after.

How Well Do You Know Christmas?

1. ___ There are 32 "la"s in the first verse of "Deck the Halls".
2. ___ "Jingle Bells" never mentions Christmas.
3. ___ "Silent Night" was originally written for guitar.
4. ___ "Joy to the World" was not written as a Christmas song.
5. ___ Snowflakes have 6 sides.
6. ___ Animal cracker boxes have strings on them so they can be used as Christmas tree decorations.
7. ___ Pointsettias, mistletoe, and holly are all poisonous.
8. ___ Snowmen fall from the sky unassembled.
9. ___ Santa did not live at the North Pole until 1882.
10. ___ Santa's North Pole has an official Canadian Zip Code.
11. ___ Mistletoe means "bird poo on a twig".
12. ___ Both male and female reindeer have antlers.
13. ___ Rudolph's real name is Rollo. He was also known as Reginald.
14. ___ All Santa's reindeer are males.

Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess



January 7, 2017
Volume 6, Issue 14

Sunday School Times

Stuff For Today

- Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess
- Girl Scout Cookies
- 12 Steps to Success
- Bears and You

This White Space Has
Been Set Aside for Notes
of Today's Lesson



Published almost weekly, but more likewhenever, so get used to it, OK?

The Great Bear Hunt Of 2018

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

John 15:2-9,16

2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away; and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

9 As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.

16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bear fruit.

The context of these verses is significant. The following day, Jesus would lay down his life on a cross. It is no accident that Jesus commanded us to bear fruit, and then gave us the most incredible demonstration ever. The only fruit that will last is that which grows out of the cross.

We are chosen by a God who's choices bear the weight of eternity. That decision was with purpose in mind. We can confidently bury our fears and hesitations, knowing that God will not abandon us or leave us

barehanded and barefoot. He can and will remove the barricades and obstacles. Robert E. Barron said "No one is granted an experience with God without being subsequently sent." We can bear in mind that God is in control.

So, what exactly is fruit-bearing? And what fruit have we been called to bear? In a nutshell, it is loving others and leading them to Christ. All too often the horrors and reality of Hell are put out of our minds. We bear the responsibility of sharing the Gospel with a spiritually dead world that, without a relationship with God, will die one day and be buried and suffer unimaginably for eternity. That thought we should find unbearable.

So God, the ultimate vine dresser, prunes us and cultivates us, to bear fruit. We are left with the impression that it is completely unacceptable to not bear fruit. We are to make disciples. That requires us to love others.

There is one final key to success in this area. Bearing fruit is going to be impossible with out a close connection to the vine—Jesus. If we are barely connected, fruit bearing is going to be difficult, if

nonexistent. And that connection is based in the Word of God. We must be continually absorbing the Word, letting it soak into us and cleanse us and give us an understanding and a desire to be close to Him.

Finally, and maybe most importantly, bearing fruit is ultimately for the glory of God. God is glorified when we bear fruit—good fruit. Being a fruit-bearing branch closely connected to the vine results in not just a barely bearable situation, but rather, our lives can be a joyful experience always—bearing fruit.

Girl Scout Cookies Go On Sale



Thin Mints

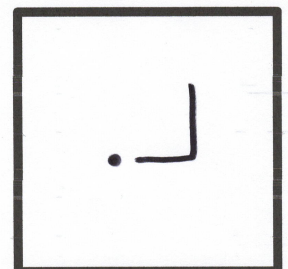
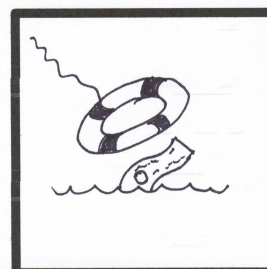


Thick Mints

Wile E. Coyote's 12 Steps To Personal Success



Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess.



January 14, 2018
Volume 6, Issue 15

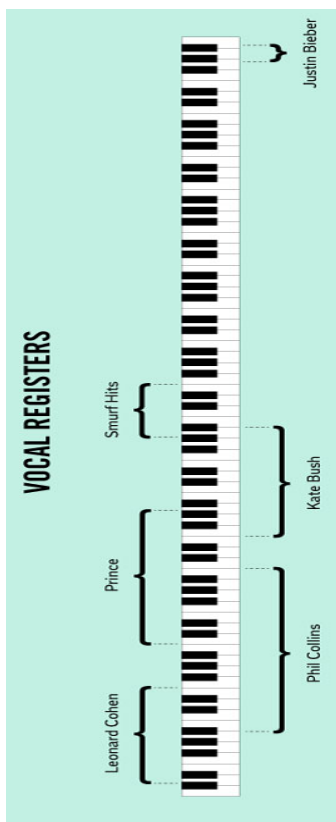
Sunday School Times

Published almost weekly, but more likewhenever, so get used to it, OK?

Stuff For Today

- Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess
- Keys of Life
- Questions and Answers

A Handy Guide To Pop Music



Clay Jars + Oil = All Bills Paid In Full

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

II Kings 4: 1-7

The wife of a man from the company of the prophets cried out to Elisha, "Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that he revered the Lord. But now his creditor is coming to take my two boys as his slaves." 2 Elisha replied to her, "How can I help you? Tell me, what do you have in your house?" "Your servant has nothing there at all," she said, "except a small jar of olive oil." 3 Elisha said, "Go around and ask all your neighbors for empty jars. Don't ask for just a few. 4 Then go inside and shut the door behind you and your sons. Pour oil into all the jars, and as each is filled, put it to one side." 5 She left him and shut the door behind her and her sons. They brought the jars to her and she kept pouring. 6 When all the jars were full, she said to her son, "Bring me another one." But he replied, "There is not a jar left." Then the oil stopped flowing. 7 She went and told the man of God, and he said, "Go, sell the oil and pay your debts. You and your sons can live on what is left."

The Old Testament is replete with pictures, or types, of New Testament truths. One episode in the life of Elisha is worthy of a second look. An un-named prophet of God had passed away, leaving his wife and family saddled with an unfortunate amount of debt. In the stress of her heart, the woman came to Elisha for help. He told her to gather jars into her house, *not just a few*, then close the door and

pour oil into those very jars. The Bible says that the oil kept flowing until every jar was full. She then sold the oil and paid the creditors their money.

Oil, in the Bible, is often times a picture, or type, of the Holy Spirit. Such is the case in this passage. As Christians, we know that we are called by God to serve Him, but the task is impossible from a human standpoint. From within our own selves we have nothing of value or importance to bring to the table. However, God has a solution. We are but jars of clay, vessels, to be filled by the Holy Spirit and used by Him. In the story of the miracle, note that the only limitation on the quantity of oil was in the number of clay jars the woman collected beforehand. Likewise, in our own lives, we curb the influence and impact of the Holy Spirit by "collecting and filling" a limited number of "jars" in our hearts. God places no

restrictions upon the infilling of the Holy Spirit. Recall that Elisha requested a double portion of the Spirit of Elijah. What might be accomplished in the life of a man or woman completely filled and controlled by the Holy Spirit?

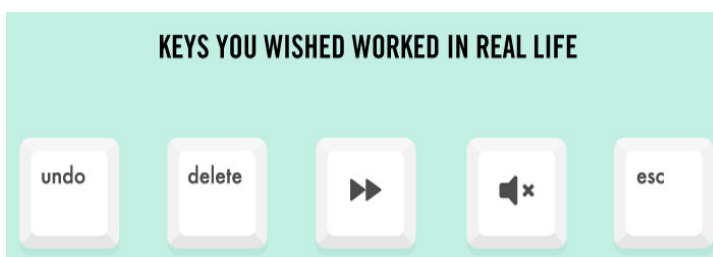
We continue today with our question and answer time. If you have not had an opportunity to submit a question, Ms. Jeanette has paper and pencils for you to do so.

Math Corner

Coles Law
 $T/S=C$

(Thinly/Sliced=Cabbage)

KEYS YOU WISHED WORKED IN REAL LIFE



Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess.



January 21, 2018
Volume 6, Issue 16

Sunday School Times

Published almost weekly, but more likewhenever, so get used to it, OK?

Stuff For Today

- Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess
- Romeo and Juliet and Hammie
- Questions and Answers

The Wisdom Of Hammie (By The Beach)



Hammie has always been doubtful of man's reputed high intelligence. After seeing many spend their entire vacation frolicking in his toilet, he was convinced that his understanding of the human race was absolutely correct!

Romeo and Juliet Is Not a Love Story

It's a two-day relationship between a thirteen year old and a twenty year old that ended in six deaths.

The Biblical Account of Creation

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

II Peter 3: 3-6

3 Above all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. 4 They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation." 5 But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens came into being and the earth was formed out of water and by water. 6 By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed.

One phrase in the passage in II Peter 3, as of this writing, has not been fully explained scientifically. *They deliberately forget that long ago, by Gods word, the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water.* Couple that with the mention in Genesis of *the deep*, and questions arise. Clearly, God has the ability to create an earth with the appearance of age. (Do we doubt that Adam was created with the developmental form of a mature man?) There is no solid explanation for the water, but one interesting observation.

Beginning in 1960, and until the fall of the Soviet Union, there was a tremendous rivalry between the two world super powers. The US and the USSR were

both intent on showing the rest of the world that their system of life was superior. Most are familiar with the race for the conquest of space. Few are aware of another contest that was ensuing. Both nations proceeded with the task of attempting to drill deep into the core of the Earth. The United States conceded early, but Russia continued from 1965 until officially discontinuing drilling in 1994. Known commonly as the Kola Superdeep Borehole, the result was a nine inch diameter hole bored 7.5 miles deep. Drilling in the tremendous pressures and heat (356°F), are beyond the solutions of current technology. Two discoveries made at that facility are worthy of mention here. First, fossils were found at a depth of four miles. Secondly, and to the point of our subject, it was found that the granite at those extreme depths is super-saturated with water. There is currently no scientific explanation for this. In fact, it goes against all

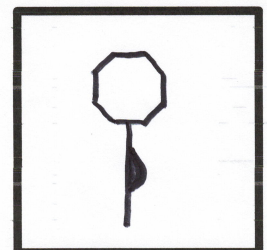
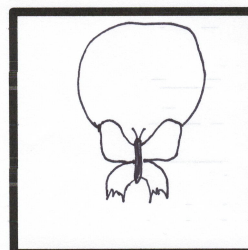
known models and theories.

God created this universe by speaking it into existence from nothing, and He did it in less than a week. As "science" progresses, He shows us from time to time the complete folly of the evolutionary theory.

News has been released just this week of an incredible find of five partial skeletons that are, amazingly well preserved. They date (Carbon 14 dating is a flawed concept, but that is another topic) back to the earliest "human" ancestor—and yet they are fine examples of the last step of the so-called "evolutionary" chain. The pull quotes from the articles all read this way. "The findings will most likely completely obliterate all previous theories of human evolution as we now perceive them!"

Keep watch on this story. God has provided all the proof we need of His Creation Majesty.

Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess.



January 28, 2018
Volume 6, Issue 17

Sunday School Times

Published almost weekly, but more likewhenever, so get used to it, OK?

Stuff For Today

- Wait, Wait
- There is no "I" in team?
- The Gospel

Nehemiah 3

Nehemiah 3 reads much like a boring engineer's report of an ongoing construction project. It is a comprehensive account of the rebuilding of the wall of Jerusalem. The captivity in Babylon was over and the Jewish people who had returned were struggling to bring their lives back to normal. With the leadership of Nehemiah, the plan was orchestrated to reconstruct the damaged walls surrounding Jerusalem. The Babylonians had left the walls in ruin seventy years previous. Restoring the walls was a matter of pride, identity, and security. The work was difficult and even dangerous. God approved and took note of all of it and recorded this footnote in history for us to see. With organization in place, the construction project began, and finished less than two months later.

A beautiful spiritual lesson can be found in the names of the gates of Jerusalem mentioned here. The plan of salvation and our ensuing Christian walk can be seen in detail as we take a tour of the walls of Jerusalem by way of a construction progress report.

The Sheep Gate. We begin at the Sheep Gate. The sacrificial animals were brought in through this gate into Jerusalem. Jesus was the Lamb of God. He was the Passover Lamb, the ultimate sacrifice offered once for all of time. There is a notation that the men of Jericho worked on the wall next to this gate. Jericho was a cursed city, a city of sin. Jesus carried our sin to the cross, bearing all of the sin of the world. This gate also reminds us that we are sheep, wandering our own way, lost. Jesus is the Great Shepherd, who came to search for and save those who are lost. It is fitting that our tour begins with the person of Jesus.

The Fish Gate. We would do well to recall the first command given by Jesus to new converts. He directed them to go and tell others what God had done for them. As Jesus called his disciples, He said that He would make them fishers of men. In fact, He stated that even He had come to seek and to save that which was lost. Spreading the good news about the salvation available to all is one of the most important aspects of being a Christian. Unfortunately, it is also the most neglected by many. The Fish Gate reminds us that we have an obligation to tell others about the love of God.

The Jeshanah Gate. Translated into English, the name would become the Old Gate. Our world that we live in today is one that accentuates and strives for that which is new. Many want the newest this or that, and it is human nature to look toward possessions or cultural practices from that view. But the Bible encourages us to look back to the old ways. God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He never changes and the Bible remains ever true. The human heart has not

changed over the years. We need to look to that which has proven to be correct and valid in the past. We are fallen creatures with a sin nature, susceptible to degrading moral standards and ever increasing sinfulness. As I look back at my few years upon this earth, I can see a decline in the values of the society that I live in. Many of the old ways were better, and we need to grasp hold of, and embrace, those things worth keeping.

The Valley Gate. This gate reminds us that there will undoubtedly be times in our life when we will suffer deeply. Life is not a cake walk, and we can expect difficulties. King David understood the valleys well as he mentioned in the 23rd Psalm. For the Christian, the walk through the valley is not a lonely one. God has promised to be with us during the dark times in life, and it is a comfort to know that is true. It is also during these challenging times that we have the potential to grow the most. Our joy is in the Lord, even in the valley.

The Dung Gate. In a world that used beasts of burden to accomplish many of the normal day to day aspects of life, there was a need to clean up after them. Refuse of that nature cannot remain in a city for long or health problems will arise. This gate was devoted to this very unglamorous but most necessary task. The honest individual will admit that we all have things in our lives that should not have residence there. We are called to live a righteous lifestyle as children of God. There will be times in our lives when some unmentionable things need to be cast out through the dung gate of our heart. Our spiritual health depends upon cleanliness.

The Fountain Gate. For the Christian, the joy associated with our salvation and walk with God is not to be bottled up within us. We are to share the love of God with the very dark world that we live in. Jesus said that the result of the Holy Spirit indwelling us is that He will be a fountain bubbling up through our lives. We should not be afraid to pour out our hearts into the lives of those around us.

The Water Gate. Note that no repairs were necessary on this gate. In the Bible, we see the analogy of Scripture with water. We are washed by the Word of God. We are cleansed by the Word. The Bible is not in need of repair, it does not need to be adjusted to become useful for our day. It is the one thing in life that we can be absolutely sure of. It is as relevant today as it was two thousand years ago, and will be in another two thousand years. Unchanging

and applicable in every situation, the Bible, as is water, is not only necessary for cleanliness, but life cannot go on without it. We need the Word of God in our lives. We cannot live well without it.

The Horse Gate. In days of warfare, the army traditionally marched out through this gate, led by those on horseback and chariots. Paul emphasizes in the New Testament that we are involved in a spiritual battle every day. Our warfare is ongoing and very real, and we cannot let down our guard for even a moment, as the enemy will take advantage of any weakness found in our hearts.

The East Gate. Each morning, as the sun rose above the horizon and the new day began, the East Gate was the first to be opened. The uncertainty associated with the darkness dissipated, and the excitement of daybreak took root. We look forward to a time when our Lord will return. The dark night of sin will be ended and a glorious new day will dawn. Jesus will enter through the East Gate, and a new day that will never end, will begin.

The Gate Miphkad. Visitors to Jerusalem were to enter through this gate. It was the gate of inspection and review. Travel visas, or other documents, were checked at this gate before the traveller was allowed to proceed. This was also the gate through which a returning army entered back into the city. King David would meet his troops there, and the crowds were present to cheer them on in celebration of a job well done. We will one day stand before Jesus in review, at the judgment seat of Christ. For the Christian, all that we have done will be open for evaluation, and our rewards will be handed to us personally by our Savior. It is not a matter of salvation at this point. That issue was settled at the cross. This time of inspection is focused upon our actions as a child of God since the moment of our new birth.

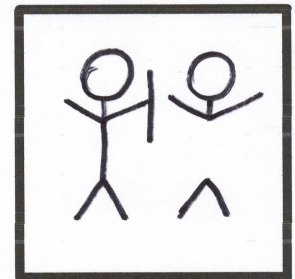
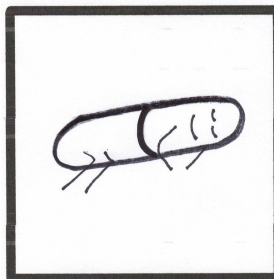
The Sheep Gate. We end our tour at the Sheep Gate. Our lives should revolve around the person of Jesus Christ. It is because of Him that we live and have our being. He is the sum total of all that is important. He is the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End.

Even a lowly engineer's progress report of something as benign as the building of a rock wall, when inspired by the Holy Spirit and included in Scripture, need not be overlooked and ignored. God included it to give us a modicum of insight into what He expects of our walk with Him as His children

Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess.

T E A M

There it is!



February 4, 2018
Volume 6, Issue 18

Sunday School Times

Published almost weekly, but more likewhenever, so get used to it, OK?

Stuff For Today

- Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess!
- Spiritual Salad
- Super Bowl Trivia
- The Game

Munchies for the Game: A Spiritual Salad

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Romans 13:12—LET US cast off the works of darkness

Romans 13:13—LET US walk honestly

Romans 14:13—LET US not therefore judge one another any more

Romans 14:19—LET US therefore follow after the things which make for peace

2 Corinthians 7:1—LET US cleanse ourselves from all filthiness

Galatians 5:25—LET US walk in the Spirit

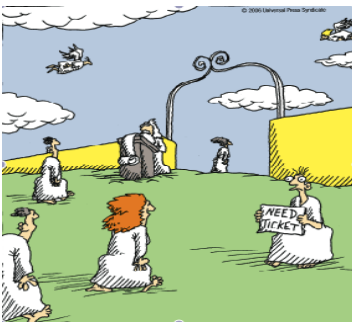
Galatians 5:26—LET US not be desirous of vainglory

Galatians 6:9—LET US not be weary in well doing

Galatians 6:10—LET US do good unto all men

1 John 4:7—LET US love one another

There Will Be No Extra Tickets Available At The Gate Of Heaven!



MR. LYLE BOWL XVIII

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him, should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Official Rules

The game begins with the participant standing at the beginning line with their toes touching the line but not completely covering it. Hands shall be held down at the side, but not tight against the body. A bend in the elbow is allowed to a maximum of 15 degrees. Once movement has begun, moving of the arms is allowed but shall not be so noticeable as to distract from the other processes of the game. Should the referee feel the arm movement to be a showy display of exuberant conduct, the turn shall be forfeited. Each time a potential participant shall attempt a traverse of the course, they shall begin with placing the right foot forward, first. They shall then pull that same foot back for exactly 2 seconds, not allowing it to touch the floor. It shall be held up off the floor for that 2 second interval at a regulation height of 6 inches. The same foot may then be placed firmly down in front of said participants. If an alternate foot, namely the left foot is chosen as an option, the entire process must be completed in the afore mentioned details, but with the opposite foot being used. This process may be used a third time, but the 6 second time limit will come into bearing by then and is probably not a good strategy anyway, so it is not recommended that it even be tried. The eyes of the participant must be open, looking straight forward. Glancing around is expressly prohibited, as is any direct or indirect communication from the participant to his or her team mates. They may direct their words of encouragement and suggestions to the participant, but in no way are they allowed to physically touch the participant. No smile shall be allowed at this point in the procedure. Humming of a song is allowed, but it must be a song that everyone else knows. Should a song be hummed that is not known by everyone, a penalty shall be assessed by the judge. If this entire procedure is not accomplished in a minimum of 6 seconds, a delay of game penalty may be assessed by the referee at his discretion. Penalties may not be questioned by any participants, ever! If any guards do arise due to the participant not being aware of this rule, another penalty may be assessed by the referee. Once the initial step, namely the afore mentioned placement of the first foot onto the carpet, has been achieved, the participant must stand still, cross both arms, and loudly proclaim the three that are watching the proceedings these exact words: "Ma Ma Ooga Ooga Ma Ma". This procedure constitutes the first step and it's appropriate regulations as prescribed by the official who is the inventor of this magnificent event.

The second step is now going to be addressed. The second step may be taken backwards if so desired, but if taken, it must be done in exactly the same method as the first step, but in opposite order. Starting with the "Ma Ma Ooga Ooga Ma Ma" statement, all the way to standing with the toes aligned on the starting line. While this process is allowed, it serves only as a process whereby to confuse the other teams in the competition, and is therefore considered a method of strategy. A forward step strategy must follow the following prescribed order of events. The left foot is now to be considered. The participant must at this point step for a moment and carefully perform each of the required elements. After clearing of the throat, arms must be raised, with hands placed under the armpits. A ritual flapping should immediately begin, with arms rising to at least a horizontal position in the upward movement. This shall be known as the "Chicken Tribute". A "Chicken Tribute" must be done with flamboyant gestures, clucking and bobbing of the head in a chicken pucking fashion. If the referee is not satisfied that the "Chicken Tribute", it must be done again until done correctly, or the game participant will forfeit their turn, and return to the starting line and begin again from the beginning, because that is the appropriate place to begin again. Once the "Chicken Tribute" has been successfully performed, the right foot may now be placed into movement. In a very quick jerk, the left foot must be moved from the starting line, but at no time may it be raised any higher than 3 inches from the floor. The foot may be placed next to the already placed right foot. If this is the chosen placement, the participant must stand at attention with arms to their side and sing one verse of "Yankee Doodle Dandy". The rest of the team still standing and watching the events that are transpiring must clap and cheer for the magnificent rendition of this American classic. These cheers shall be no less than 5 seconds in length and no more than 10 seconds in length. The second option available to the participant is that they may choose to indeed put the left foot down ahead of the already placed right foot. This results in obvious increased travel on the course of competition, and also has requirements to be allowed to remain valid. Once the left foot has been placed in the down position, balance shall be checked, and once checked, the following course of events must transpire. First, there shall be a smile on the face of said participant. The participant must then cross like a rooster. This must be done with gusto and exuberance. The referee is the sole consideration of this part of the process. Should the referee feel that the requirements have not been met to assigned levels of expertise, the move shall be forfeited. Once the rooster cross has been successfully completed, the "Chicken Tribute" must be completely performed to the afore mentioned details. If properly performed, the participant shall be allowed to hold their position and prepare for their next step.

And that, ladies and gentlemen, is just rules 1 and 2 (of 150). An incredibly complex game, winning is nearly

impossible. The level of expertise and perfection required to traverse the field and succeed is non-negotiable. No regular player has ever even come close to winning. Many try and fail. The referee is demanding, and rightly so—he invented the game with it's magnificent rules. Yes, I said "magnificent" rules.

For anyone brave enough to read through the entire rule book, there is an amazing solution available. A careful study of rule number 131 reveals that, if requested and accepted by the player, a substitute furnished by the referee can and will traverse the field perfectly, and thus win the game for all players. You can win this impossible game, but not by yourself!

God has a game for us to play—life. And it is incredibly difficult to win because He demands perfection. Luckily for us, He knew we would have a problem succeeding on our own and furnished a substitute, Jesus Christ, who came to this earth and lived a perfect life, so that, if we accept Him as our savior, we can have eternal life in Heaven. Are you still trying to play the game on your own?

Super Bowl Facts You Probably Never Knew

1. Each team gets 108 footballs. 54 for practice, 54 for the game. An average of 120 are used during each game. The extras are the "kicking" footballs. (That is a lot of footballs to deflate...yeah, I went there!)

2. Each football is hand made by Wilson.

3. Tickets for the first Super Bowl game cost \$6 each in 1967. There were 30,000 empty seats. It wasn't called the Super Bowl back then. It was called the AFL-NFL Championship game.

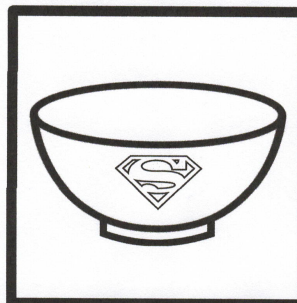
4. Halftime performers do not get paid for their services. Don't feel too bad for them. They get \$millions in free exposure, and usually their performance isn't worth a dime anyway.

5. My wife personally ruined the chances for the Miami Dolphins to go to Super Bowl IX. She poured hot coffee on Bob Griese's hand in 1974!

Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess.

Just a thought:

Have A Day!



February 11, 2018
Volume 6, Issue 19

Sunday School Times

Published almost weekly, but more likewhenever, so get used to it, OK?

Stuff For Today

- Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess!
- A Valentine
- A Valentine ruined
- The Wedding

Excuse Me, But Wednesday Is Valentine's Day?

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

May I suggest a trip to Walmart to buy a very nice box of assorted chocolates. Be sure to get one with a "roadmap" of the flavors with their locations in the box. It may require you to spend a few extra dollars, but it is worth it.

Open the box, and take out the ones that you know your sweetheart doesn't like. Save them for yourself. Next, take out some of the good ones for later—your sweetheart will never know the difference. (But be sure to keep the "roadmap", or they will realize what you have done.)

And finally, duct tape the box closed. If they decide to throw the box at you in disgust, all that candy won't go to waste.

Not a good idea you say?

If we are honest, there are times that we give to God but hold back for ourselves the choicest pieces of our lives. God wants the whole box of chocolates, not just part.

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

1 Corinthians 13:4-6

4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Bob and Darla's Wedding

The Bride----Darla

The Groom---Bob

The Maid of Honor---Ariel

The Best Man---Patrick

The Ring Bearer---Crush

The Officiant---Bruce

Narrator---Mr. Lyle

Guests---You

Today we will observe a wonderful time together in celebration of the sacred ceremony known as the wedding.

In little more than 8 years or so, many of you may be considering taking the plunge into the world of marriage. I will probably not be your teacher then anymore. Chances are that you will still find me here in the 6th and 7th grade classroom.

So I decided to approach the subject in a unique way. Valentines Day falls on a Sunday every 6 years or so.

What better way to celebrate the day dedicated to love than with a wedding.

As a reminder, understand that Darla is a VERY high maintenance young lady! She is known to be quite exuberant and demanding. She shuns the idea that she is not the center of attention—always.

Bob on the other hand is...well...how shall I say it politely? Um...ok, Bob may be happy and fun loving, but he has some very annoying traits. And he is also a bit naive, and cannot drive anything well.

Using the definition of love found in most of our world today, this couple's chance of a successful marriage stand at slim to none. In the US today, 43% of all marriages fail for one reason or another. These failures cause untold heartbreak and misery for the men and women involved, and even more issues for any children that are caught in the turmoil.

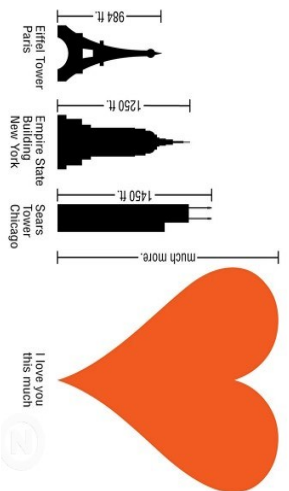
When my grandparents were married, statistics show that less than 10% of all marriages ended in divorce. The year my parents were married, that percentage had risen to just over 20%. So what has happened?

The greatest factor stabilizing our country today is the concept of family. It is the core foundation of our society. Satan understands the principles involved and why God deemed marriage and the family good. And he has set out to undermine and pervert the definition of family in America today.

God's definition of love, on the other hand, is one that can keep the marriage and family together. An unconditional, unwavering love, not a warm fuzzy feeling, is what God desires. He demonstrated true love for us when Jesus went to the cross and died for us "while we were yet sinners."

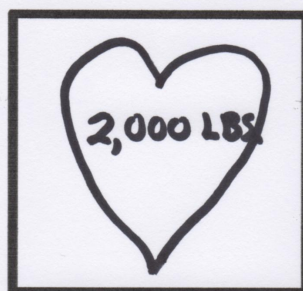
If Bob and Darla are Christians, and are loving each other as God would have them to, even with all of their personal baggage that they are bringing into this marriage, even their marriage can be successful!

A Valentine for Mr. Lyle's Wife



For God so lo__ed the world
that He g__ve
His on__y
b__otten
So __
__hat whosoever
bel__eveth in Him
should __ot perish
but have __verlasting life.

Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess



February 18, 2018
Volume 6, Issue 20

Sunday School Times

Published almost weekly, but more likewhenever, so get used to it, OK?

Stuff For Today

- Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess
- Recall notice
- Ly Lé

The Portraits of the Famous 20th Century French Artist Ly Lé

Isaiah 1: 18b

*"Though your sins are like
scarlet, they shall be as white as
snow; though they are red as
crimson, they shall be like wool."*

Manufacturer's Recall Notice

The Manufacturer of all Human Being units has issued a massive recall and has included instructions for remedying the problem discovered. This recall covers all units manufactured since the beginning of time. The entire inventory has been declared flawed and in need of serious factory repair. Operating these units without implementing the corrective procedures outlined by the company can be fatal. The core problem is the central processing module. It has failed to distinguish commands given to it, resulting in a massive cascade of confusion through all other components of the units.

The malfunction was first observed in the original prototype units and the flaw has been subsequently found to be present in each unit produced since that time. Symptoms include: (a). Loss of direction and position in relation to the manufacturers home facility, (b). Difficulty in identifying information as to manufacturing facility of origin, (c). Pollution from auditory emissions and misuse of proper vocabulary syntax, and (d). Erratic, unregulated behavior, placing other units in close proximity in danger.

The Manufacturer is neither liable or at fault for this defect, but is offering factory authorized repair of all affected units, and has agreed to bear the entire cost of the process required for the fix. No additional fees will be required for processing each Human Being. The company again reiterates the fact that operating these units without repair is a very serious risk.

The problem is known technically as Substantive Improperious Nature, or the SIN defect. The defect is present in all units, regardless of color or size, and is easily identifiable and noticeable. Left unattended and unchecked, the issue will cascade into all components of the unit, causing complete system failures and subsequent permanent shutdown. The Manufacturer has declared the SIN defect to be contagious and a chronic condition that must be dealt with immediately and has ordered the total destruction of all completely failed units which have not previously undergone the repair procedure. These units are to be burnt and totally destroyed in fires of unimaginable temperature.

All repaired units that eventually fail with age, will be recycled and rebuilt in a brand new manufacturing facility and the Manufacturer has declared that those rebuilt units will last for an eternity and never break down or be susceptible to the SIN issue.

Warning: Continuing to operate the Human Being unit without the factory authorized repair processes can be fatal. Please adhere to the cautions provided. Consult the official operating manual. It is a rather large compendium of instructions and FAQ's regarding the Human Being units. It is commonly referred to as the Bible. Consult it frequently and often for tips and updates for operating repaired units.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this recall matter.

The Manufacturer

Initially, most may find it odd to ask the simple question: "If sin was described by its color, what hue comes to mind?" Often the answer given refers to a shade of black, as black is the opposite of pure white.

God places an interesting description in the Bible. Isaiah quotes God talking to Israel of their sin, and He refers to it as being red, scarlet, crimson, or burgundy.

At first glance that may seem odd, but a short lesson in the physics of light gives at least one interesting bit of insight into the unique color reference.

Known well by a small but loyal group of followers, the French artist Ly Lé has been rendering portraits of one particular individual for over fifty years. An un-named collector of his works has consented to display his very first portrait of this nameless individual. We will have the chance to examine first hand the subtle nuances of color and textures used by Ly Lé.

During the art presentation we will be fortunate enough to see his very latest portrait—drawn, as it were, with a hole in his side. Careful observation will reveal that Ly Lé chose to color the exposed heart red.

Using this amazing portrait,

we will show how light and color react when the entire portrait is viewed through a red lens. (A hint: the red is no longer visible!)

When we turn our lives over to Jesus and become Christians, God says that the blood of Jesus covers us. We are forgiven because of the Atonement of Christ. The very word "atone" means to cover.

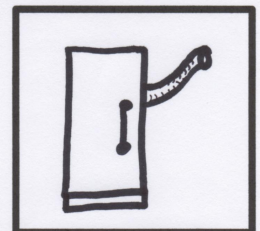
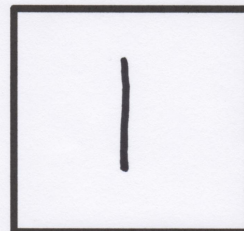
God forgives us of our sins, but none of us continues in perfection after that moment. Fortunately God's solution is adequate to cover our sins and allow us to stand in His presence. The precious blood that Jesus shed for us covers our sin.

What color is blood? Red of course. What color is sin? red also. And just as the demonstration shows the seeming "disappearance" of the red heart in Ly Lé's portrait, so the blood of Jesus creates the "disappearance" of our sin as well, allowing a Holy, Perfect, God to draw near to us and call us His own.

And by the way, don't bother to GOOGLE the artist Ly Lé. You won't find him! He is a complete fabrication of my imagination. (At least I think so.)

By Mr. Lyle

Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess



February 25, 2018
Volume 6, Issue 21

Sunday School Times

Published almost weekly, but more likewhenever, so get used to it, OK?

Stuff For Today

- Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess
- Seasonal Fruits and Veggies
- Texting Shorthand
- 4 x 4 x 4

What Texting Shorthand Will Look Like When Your Generation Reaches 60

ATD—At the doctor's

BFF—Best friend fell

BTW—Bring the wheelchair

FWIW—Forgot where I was

IMHO—Is my hearing aid on?

TTYL—Talk to you louder

LMDO—Laughing my dentures out

AIFOTV—Asleep in front of TV

WTALOS—Wow that's a lot of stairs!

WRU—Who are you?

4 Faces, 4 Gospels, 4 Names

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Ezekiel 1: 5-11

5 and in the fire was what looked like four living creatures. In appearance their form was human, 6 but each of them had four faces and four wings. 7 Their legs were straight; their feet were like those of a calf and gleamed like burnished bronze. 8 Under their wings on their four sides they had human hands. All four of them had faces and wings, 9 and the wings of one touched the wings of another. Each one went straight ahead; they did not turn as they moved. 10 Their faces looked like this: Each of the four had the face of a human being, and on the right side each had the face of a lion, and on the left the face of an ox; each also had the face of an eagle. 11 Such were their faces. They each had two wings spreading out upward, each wing touching that of the creature on either side; and each had two other wings covering its body.

Ezekiel struggles to find words to adequately describe the scene before him in the first chapter of his prophecy. One cannot read through the entire narrative without asking "What in the world are we seeing?" Four creatures are introduced in the passage, completely beyond our comprehension, with four faces each. That particular attribute is more than just a bizarre oddity, it has significance. The Bible is not a mere piece of literature. It is an amazingly intricately interwoven collection of writings obviously inspired by God and put together by Him for our use to understand Him.

Each creature had four faces; the first, the face of a man, the second, the face of a lion, the third, the face of an ox, the fourth, the face of an eagle. A parallel can be drawn to the

four Gospels found in the New Testament. Luke wrote his gospel from the viewpoint of a medical doctor. He saw first-hand the humanity of Jesus. Jesus was indeed a human being, and Luke referred to Him often as the Son of Man. The first face mentioned was the face of a man. The second face was that of a lion, a symbol of kings throughout history. A beginning to end reading of Matthew reveals that he saw Christ as a king. Matthew begins that portrayal with his record of the Magi visiting the Child shortly after His birth. Mark saw Jesus through the lens of a servant. He recognized that Jesus came as the Servant of God, a man who learned obedience as an example to us. An ox is a beast of burden whose life is dedicated to serving its master. The final face was that of an eagle. The eagle represents divinity. Jesus was and is divine—He is God. No other inspired writer explained that more clearly than did John in the first verse of his gospel. And through the remainder of his book, he focuses on the reality that Jesus was God in human form.

Revelation 19 describes for us in detail, a rider on a white horse. That rider, found in verses eleven through sixteen, is Jesus Christ. When He returns in the fullness of His glory, He is described by four specific names.

Whose rider is called Faithful and True. No one is more loyal than is the faithful servant. Mark mentioned that attribute. His name is the Word of God. Immediately, we recall John's opening words. Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega, the great I AM. He has this name written: KING

of KINGS and LORD of LORDS. Matthew couldn't have said it better. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. The fourth name is actually a secret in Revelation. The greatest mystery of Scripture is this simple fact: Why would God, the Creator, the Almighty, lower Himself to the condition of his creation, man, and walk among us? His love for us is astounding, a great unknown quality to us were it not for the fact that He demonstrated His love toward us by going to a cross and dying a very human death on our behalf. Luke recounts in detail the human being he touched and talked to face to face, who he also recognized to be God.

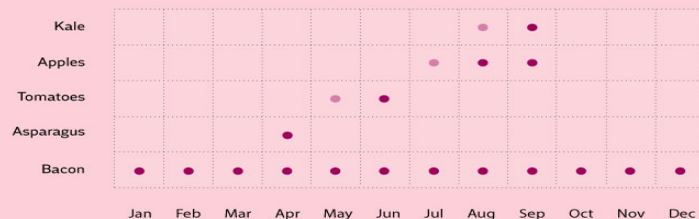
Four unique Gospels, four unique faces, four key attributes of God, masterfully intertwined in the Bible. The Word of God is unlike any other piece of literature, and the deeper one looks into Scripture, the more there is to be learned. Never discontinue that thrilling discovery.

Today is the tomorrow we worried about yesterday.

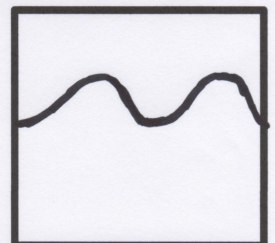
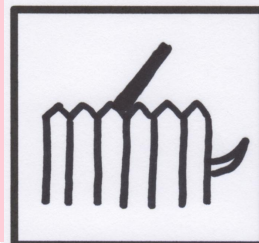
Now, yesterday's tomorrow is today and likewise, tomorrow's yesterday is today. And, tomorrow just as it nears arrival, suddenly becomes today, and today then becomes yesterday. It follows that yesterday's tomorrow and today's tomorrow are tomorrow's yesterday and today's tomorrow respectively. However, today, when seen from tomorrow's today is yesterday. And yesterday's tomorrow, as seen from today, is tomorrow's yesterday.

Yesterday's yesterday's tomorrow's tomorrow is actually tomorrow's yesterday—AND THAT'S TODAY!

SEASONAL FRUITS AND VEGETABLES



Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess



March 4, 2018
Volume 6, Issue 22

Sunday School Times

Stuff For Today

- My Little Poem Corner
- Corner idioms
- Gravity Corner

Corner Idioms Found In Our Culture

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

How many of these do you know?

1. To corner the market
2. To back someone into a corner.
3. To cut corners.
4. From the four corners of the world.
5. To have someone in your corner.
6. Out of the corner of ones eye.
7. To turn the corner.
8. To be in a tight corner
9. Catty-corner
10. To paint into a corner.
11. To be around the corner.
12. A corner kick.
13. The corner pocket.
14. A cornerback
15. Bringing in the corners
16. A corner throw
17. Riding a good corner.
18. Long and short corners
19. Cow corner.
20. A neutral corner.
21. The corner rule.
22. Kings in the corner.
23. Corner chess.
24. Lutz corner.

So Where Did The Word "Corner" Come From?

To answer that question, we travel back in time to the Roman Empire. The Latin word used to describe a projecting point or a horn was *cornu*. The French picked it up as *come* hundreds of years later. By the 1300's, through use and the natural changes that a living language normally undergoes, the French had modified it to become the word *cornere*. We Englishmen borrowed it from the French and made it ours by deleting the e.

Published almost weekly, but more likewhenever, so get used to it, OK?

Gravity Corner

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Matthew 10:16

16 "I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves."

Hands down, the most trying, difficult, and physically demanding object lesson I have ever done has to be a short movie I made called "Gravity Corner".

I came up with the idea from a Saturday Night Live skit I had seen in 1986. Comedy magicians Penn and Teller were featured that night and one of their best moments involved them doing various basic tasks, but with very unique twists. Gravity did not work normally for them that night.

Fast forward in time about 15 years. Imagine a 45 year old guy building a set based on that old Penn and Teller skit, and convincing his kids to help him film one of the silliest things he has ever tried to do!

The preparation took several days, planning everything in detail. There were safety concerns to be addressed as well. The result was an unedited 10 minute video that took a total of 45 minutes to record. It was the most physically demanding thing I have ever done in my life!

It was filmed in a VHS format, so the quality is a bit lacking. I wish I could have a do-over and get a nice digital version, but I am not sure that I could do it again at my present age.

If I could have an entertainment themed television show, this movie would be my

first episode. Spoiler alert—the show is all about gravity!

When you begin watching the movie, you may genuinely be amazed at what I was able to do. Eventually though, you will probably figure things out, and not be quite as amazed, but hopefully still entertained.

The world you live in is genuinely difficult to understand at times. It can look impossible at first. But understand that God is in control of everything, and He knows what is going on. The good thing is that we have been given a behind the scenes look at this world and how it operates. It is commonly called "The Bible".

God has spelled out in remarkable detail what we can expect here on this earth. He has also given us everything we need to know to deal with the difficulties handed to us. Use the resource He has given you. Read and study your Bible!

Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess!

My Little Poem Corner

A candy bar.
A piece of cake.
Two liter Coke.
A chocolate shake.

Crème filled Long Johns.
Oreos.
Two dozen glazed
Doughnut holes.

A slice of pie
Make it two.
I'll have another.
Three will do.

Vanilla wafers.
Cherry punch.
My wife slept in
While I made lunch



Published almost weekly, but more likewhenever, so get used to it, OK?

Stuff For Today

- Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess!
- Formula for Love
- Laundry hints
- The story of one roll of toilet paper

Helpful Hints Regarding Laundry

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Someday you will be doing your own laundry. These are a few things I have learned over the years.

1. Always remember the miracle of **Laundromatic Pressure**. The force exerted by the weight of clothes at the top of a pile of dirty laundry is inversely proportional the square of the number of days since laundry day. When factored with enough time and pressure, the dirty laundry at the bottom of the pile becomes clean.

(Sniff, sniff ...close enough!)

2. My handy Laundry symbol guide.



Advanced laundry guide

Functional laundry guide

GUIDE TO LAUNDRY SYMBOLS



Of Toilet Paper and Canons

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Romans 8:28-29

28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. 29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son

Long before this class time began, I made plans.

Long before He made the universe, God made plans.

I wanted a roll of toilet paper, so I went to the store.

God wanted a relationship with us, so He came to this earth.

I found the roll I wanted on the shelf. It did not come looking for me first.

God came looking for you and I first as well.

I took the roll of toilet paper to the checkout stand and paid the price to make it mine.

God went to a cross and shed His blood to pay the price to make you and I His property.

The roll of toilet paper accepted my arrangement and I took it home.

You and I need to accept God's gift of salvation.

Let me put this delicately—had I not rescued that roll of toilet paper from its predicament, it would have faced a life of unspeakably disgusting things!

If God did not rescue us

from our sin, we would be facing an even more disgusting and awful future ourselves!

Now that the roll of toilet paper is mine, I can begin executing the plans I had for it.

When we become Christians, we are in a position to be used by God for His planned purpose in our lives.

I begin unrolling and removing the stuff I don't want on the roll.

We have stuff in our lives that doesn't need to be there—sin—and God wants to rid us of those things.

The roll of toilet paper does not resist my gentle process.

We need to be willing to allow God to work in our lives.

I know what I need the roll to be, and will continue the process of trimming and removing material until it finally becomes truly useful.

God will clean up our sinful hearts if we let Him, because He has a plan for our lives.

I have a target dimension for the roll of toilet paper. I want to remove everything that does not total 100 mm in diameter.

God has a target for every Christian's life—we

are to become like Christ.

Finally, the toilet paper is loaded into a 100mm canon and fired through the air in an amazing display. Everyone wonders in awe at the spectacle.

God will do amazing, awesome things in your life as well. Let Him do the work in your heart, and go along for the ride! And we will all wonder in awe at the great things God has done!

The Formula For Love (Solve for "i")

$$9x - 7i < 3(3x - 7u)$$

$$9x - 7i < 9x - 21u$$

$$-9x \quad -9x$$

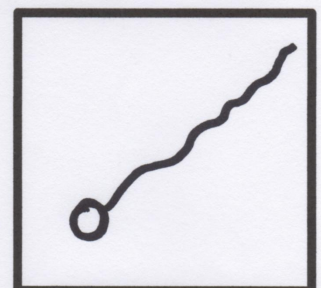
$$\frac{-7i < -21u}{-7 \quad -7}$$

$$i < 3u$$

For the True Scholars Among Us

This week, remember to take an in-depth look at the literary works of Martin Handford.

Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess



March 25, 2018
Volume 6, Issue 24

Sunday School Times

Published almost weekly, but more likewhenever, so get used to it, OK?

Stuff For Today

- Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess!
- Peter Piper
- How they pick Easter Day
- Easter Eggs

Picking Easter

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Easter Day is the first Sunday after the full moon which happens upon, or next after the 21st day of March; and if the full moon happens upon a Sunday, Easter Day is the Sunday after."

Using this method, Easter can only occur between March 22 and April 25.

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

John 12:1, 12-17

1 Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead.

12 The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem.

13 They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the king of Israel!"

14 Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written: 15 "Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey's colt."

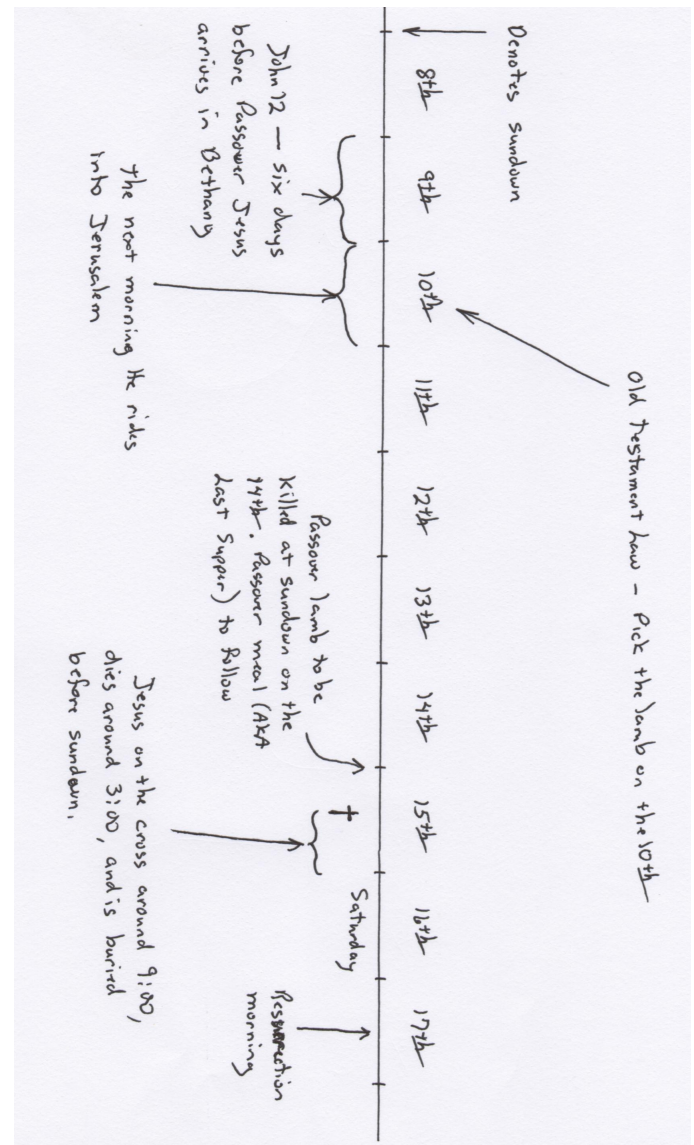
16 At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that these things had been done to him.

17 Now the crowd that was with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to spread the word. 18 Many people, because they had heard that he had performed this sign, went out to meet him. 19 So the Pharisees said to one another, "See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him!"

Exodus 12:1-6

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, 2 "This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. 3 Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. 4 If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. 5 The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. 6 Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the members of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight.

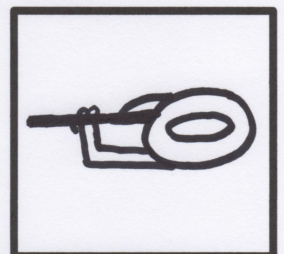
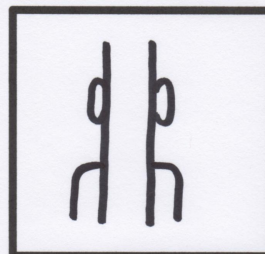
Hunting For An Easter Egg



Peter Piper Picked A Peck Of Pickled Peppers

We all know that Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers, but who in the world is Peter and why should we care if he's got pickled or fresh peppers? As it turns out, this story is far more interesting than the simple tongue twister we're all familiar with. First off, it's important to know a little history about the spice trade. You see, a long, long time ago, all spices were referred to by the generic name of "peppers." They were also incredibly expensive and the companies who ran the spice trade would go out of their way to keep the supply low by rubbing the seeds with lime before selling them so they couldn't germinate if planted. The practice was called "pickling." As for Peter Piper, he was actually a French pirate and horticulturalist named "Pierre Poivre" (which has become Anglicized into Peter Piper). Pierre was known for raiding spice stores so he could grow them in his garden in Seychelles and hopefully make spices more affordable and accessible for the average European. The rhyme comes from the fact that there were at least a few occasions where Peter Piper picked pickled peppers that wouldn't grow in his garden.

Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess



April 8, 2018
Volume 6, Issue 25

Sunday School Times

Stuff For Today

- Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess!
- Dandelions
- If'n it was 1865
- Extreme Recycling

Dandelions— mmm Good!

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)



Ingredients:

dandelion blossoms with green base and stems removed (leave enough of the base on to hold the flower together)
1 cup milk
salt
1 egg
1 cup flour
vegetable oil

Directions:

Soak the dandelion flowers in a bowl of cool salt water to remove any bugs or debris. After they've soaked for around 1/2 hour, take them out of the water and gently blot the excess moisture away. Heat enough oil to fry the dandelions you have. While the oil is heating, make a batter using the milk, salt, egg and flour. Dip each flower into the batter, and toss it into the oil once it's popping hot. Fry until they're lightly browned. Use a paper towel to gently blot away excess grease, and serve immediately. Yum!

Published almost weekly, but more likewhenever, so get used to it, OK?

Extreme Recycling

Dumpster Diving Has Now Come of Age How You Can Save the Earth!

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)



Philippians 4: 8

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things

Consider the average bag of trash found in a dumpster. Has it been sufficiently recycled? Let's walk through this together. First, sift through the paper. It's not very high in protein, and actually of very little food value. Bottles and cans, though, can be saved for liquid storage later. The real gems we are looking for are the food items. Take this half eaten hot dog. Scrape off the crumbly stuff stuck to it and I'll bite off the open end to see if it's still good enough to eat. Yes, we'll keep this one. Hot dogs tend to last a very long time, so don't be too scared of them. Ooh! Now here's a treasure. Most people are not aware that dog food is actually processed to the same quality standards as human food. I find it to be a little less salty, and a little oregano goes a long way in bringing it up to standard. Let's see if this brand is similar to the others. Yes, I would say a bit more salt would be in order. Ooooh! Now this is special! Milk! And it's only 2 weeks past its expiration date. Will you look at that! A bit chunky and yet it is full of flavor. And finally, a word about bread. Most old bread will have a fine tint of green as it begins to age. This mold is actually not harmful, and can be ingested with no health risks at all. As you might guess, the bread does indeed taste a bit funny, but I'll just grab some water later.

As you might guess, this is totally ridiculous, right? Certainly. But as Christians, we sometimes scrounge for a different kind of meal. We must always be on our guard against what the world offers to us. So much of what we see and hear around us is nothing but trash in God's eyes. Taking in the smut and filth found in the average movie today is hardly the way to stay spiritually healthy. Television, commercials, inappropriate music...all of these serve to make us more comfortable around sin. We have another option available to us. It is called the Bible. Why go looking for garbage to fill our minds, when God has an excellent alternative right in front of us.

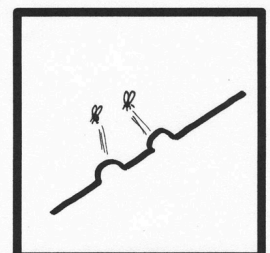
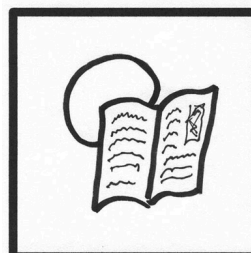
Satan sets snares to catch the unsuspecting Christian. Snares are, by design, difficult to perceive if the intended target is not constantly vigilant. I have over the years had a few instances of nuisance wild animals around the house. Setting live traps to capture and relocate these creatures is a challenge. They are wary of everything that does not look normal and familiar to them. We likewise, should be so familiar with God's Word that we recognize immediately when something does not look quite right or normal and avoid being caught in the trap. I make my traps as enticing as I possibly can, adding food and placing them as conveniently as possible for the animal to consider. Satan uses the identical game plan. He knows what works and uses the perfect bait for his prey, placing it at a very handy location.

We must be careful where we get the stuff we take into ourselves. Food items from a dumpster probably are not a good idea. But we must be just as careful ingesting the things that we might

Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess.

If This Were the Year 1865...

Tomorrow, Robert E. Lee and his Confederate forces will be fighting the Union forces at Appomattox. He will eventually realize his defeat and sign the terms of surrender documents in the afternoon, effectively ending the US Civil War.



Published almost weekly, but more like whenever, so get used to it, OK?

Stuff For Today

- My Little Poem Corner
- Impossible stuff
- Six impossible things

Alice's Six Impossible Things

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Near the end of the 2010 movie remake of "Alice in Wonderland", Alice is about to fight the dreaded *Jabberwocky*. As she prepares herself mentally for the battle, she counts six impossible things that she now believes in:

1. There is a potion that can make you shrink
2. There is a cake that can make you big.
3. Animals can talk
4. Cats can disappear.
5. There is a place called Wonderland.
6. And she completes her list by admitting to herself that she can indeed dispatch the ugly *Jabberwocky*.

And having convinced herself, she slays the horrible animal.

Matthew 19:26

Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

In Lewis Carroll's sequel to *Alice in Wonderland* called *Through the Looking Glass*, Alice is complaining to the White Queen. "There is no use trying", she says, "one can't believe impossible things."

But the White Queen responds, "I daresay you haven't had much practice. When I was your age, I always did it for half-an-hour a day. Why, sometimes I've believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast."

I believe in six impossible things, and I didn't have breakfast today, so it still counts, right?! Here is my list.

1. God created this universe, and everything in it, from nothing. He spoke it all into existence in six, literal, days. And gave us a record of it all in the book of Genesis. That's impossible.

2. God created Adam and Eve with a free will to do as they wish. They/we failed, we sinned, and God still loves us. That's impossible.

3. God despises sin so intensely, that a relatively short time after creation, He destroyed the world with a cataclysmic, world-wide flood. And only 8 people, and two of every kind of animal aboard an ark, survived that catastrophe. That's impossible.

4. God loves us so much that He made a plan to redeem us

so that we can live forever with Him in Heaven. Jesus, who is God, came to this earth, laying aside His Heavenly prerogatives while He was here, and lived a perfect sinless life as an example to us. He died and was buried and rose again. He still lives! That's impossible.

5. God is coming again some day to take all believers to be with Him forever. And we will live happily ever after FOREVER! That's impossible.

6. God will soon judge sin completely and finally as time and this earth come to an end. Hell is very, very real and worse than we can possibly imagine. That's impossible.

I hope you understand I am being facetious as I recount these things as impossible. The world we live in counts all of these six items to be preposterous and blatantly impossible to even consider. However, for the Christian, these

impossible things are the very basis of everything that we believe. Without them, we have nothing.

As you continue your walk with the Lord, cement these six "impossibles" into the foundation of everything that you believe. Don't allow the world to create doubts in your mind. All things are possible with God—even the impossible things! He tells us that all we need do is to believe.

That's a bit tough in our world. Many have the erroneous idea that visual proof is necessary before they can believe. Our senses will fool us. Many a magician has made a very good living capitalizing on that idea. The only thing that is solid and completely trustworthy is God's word, the Bible.

I believe in as many as six impossible things before breakfast. I hope you will also.

On This Day in History...

the RMS Titanic sank. A perspective.

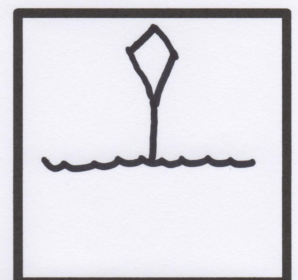
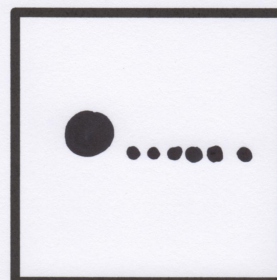
Children of first class passengers—only 1 lost.
Children of second class passengers—none lost

Women in first class—3% lost
Women in second class—14% lost

Men in first class—67% lost
Men in second class—92% lost
Crew—80% lost

I wonder if chivalry is still alive and well today. Would the numbers look the same if the tragedy had happened this morning?

Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess.



Danger: handle this newspaper with extreme care! If mishandled or used carelessly, this paper can cause paper cuts leading to loss of blood and in extreme cases a long, slow, painful "good by". I highly recommend our "Paper Use Safety Training" course. In this course we cover such topics as "Don't lick the edge of the paper with your tongue" and "Don't drag your finger along the edges of a piece of paper. The life you save could be your own. Thank you.

April 22, 2018
Volume 6, Issue 27

Sunday School Times

Published almost weekly, but more likewhenever, so get used to it, OK?

Stuff For Today

- Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess!
- Essential English
- Seasons in the South
- Ezra—my hero

Essential English (Words you can use in your next term paper)

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Adolescence—The period when a young man or a young woman refuses to believe that someday they will be as stupid as their parents.

Ants—People who marry uncles.

Cashew—The sound of a nut sneezing.

Adult—A person who has stopped growing at both ends and is now growing in the middle.

Aquarium—Interactive TV for cats.

Bananosecond—The time elapsed between slipping on a banana peel and smacking the pavement.

Boy—Noise with dirt on it.

Dust—Mud with all of the juice squeezed out.

ecnalubmA—An emergency vehicle that can only be seen in a rear view mirror

Gross Ignorance—144 times worse than regular ignorance.

Me—What Geronimo yells when he jumps out of an airplane.

Ow—The first word spoken by a child with an older sibling.

Calories—Tiny creatures that hide in your closet and sew your clothes a little bit tighter every night.

Clapping—Repeatedly high-fiving yourself for someone else's accomplishments.

Subdued—Like, a guy who, like, works on one of those, like, submarines, dude.

Vegetarian—A not so skilled hunter

Feet—A device used for finding Legos in the dark.

The First Pulpit

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Ezra 9:4

Then were assembled unto me every one that trembled at the words of the God of Israel, because of the transgression of those that had been carried away; and I sat astonished until the evening sacrifice.

Accomplishments define a man. Look at what he does, and you will also see the focal point of his heart. That was true of the prophet Ezra. We find a man whose life and actions revolved around his lifelong pursuit of the Word of God. He is described as a student of the Word, a scribe, and his achievements stand as testimony to that fact.

Ezra was of the priestly line, but because there was no temple in Jerusalem, he could not serve in that capacity. So he devoted himself to the study of God's Word, sharpening his understanding in preparation for his role in the plan of God. He probably wrote the books of I and II Chronicles, Ezra, and Nehemiah and was the one responsible for organizing the Psalms, playing a large part in settling the canon of Scripture. It was he who stood before those who had returned to

Jerusalem from Babylon, and positioned on the first pulpit mentioned in the Bible, simply read the text of Scripture to those listening and explained the meaning as he went. The revival and reformation that took place from this unassuming act was stunning. The Word of God is very sharp and will cut the heart in places no other implement can reach.

If a theme were to be assigned to the book of Ezra, it would be "The Word of the Lord". There are ten direct references to the Word of God in this short book, with the key verse found in Ezra 9:4. They "*trembled at the words of the God of Israel*". Seventy years of captivity had an effect upon the people, but there was no revival seen during their time in Babylon. It was not until the day that all the people gathered in front of the Water Gate, and stood in reverence as Ezra read from the Scripture for over six hours, that something began to stir in their hearts. They began to see that the

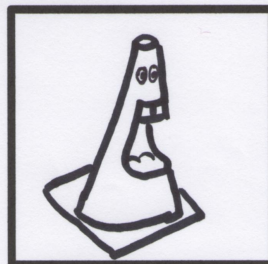
commands of God demanded performance. Obedience and holiness before an Almighty God finally became an issue to be dealt with, and it changed the lives of many, drastically. God's Word is powerful. Ezra understood that well, and his life reminds us of what is truly important.

A Handy Guide For Seasons in the South

After moving to the South, I expected to experience four seasons just like everywhere else. I was sooooo wrong! These are the 20 seasons I have learned to enjoy:

Hunting
Winter
Pollen
Winter
Tornado
So Much Pollen!!!!
One More Winter
Tornado
Attack of the Mosquitoes
Summer
More Summer
Even More Summer
Please, Lord! Make This
Summer End!
Football
Tornado
Fall
Just Kidding, Here's
Some More Summer
Winter
Christmas
Maybe One More
Summer

Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess



April 29, 2018
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Sunday School Times

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The Soap Opera of Daniel 11

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Stuff For Today

- Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess!
- Quotes n Stuff
- Jeanette
- Soap Operas and History

Famous Quotes And Stuff

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

"18...19...20! Yup, he's got all of his hands and feet!" (Mr. Potato Head at the birth of his son)

How am I feeling today? You decide. :) :

I have decided I am not old. I am 29 plus shipping and handling.

I love my pillow because it gives me a new hairstyle every day.

Has anyone else noticed that the character "&" kind of looks like a guy dragging his rear end across the floor?

Lazy people fact #3549837465: "You were too lazy to read that number".

We cannot all be the king or queen. Someone has to clap and cheer as I walk by.

If people winked as much as they do in texts this world would be a pretty creepy place. :)

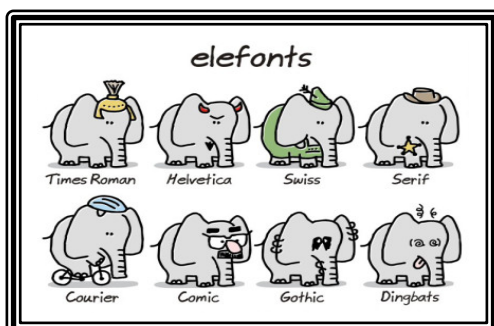
Daniel 11: 2-35

2 "Now then, I tell you the truth: Three more kings will arise in Persia, and then a fourth, who will be far richer than all the others. When he has gained power by his wealth, he will stir up everyone against the kingdom of Greece. 3 Then a mighty king will arise, who will rule with great power and do as he pleases. 4 After he has arisen, his empire will be broken up and parceled out toward the four winds of heaven. It will not go to his descendants, nor will it have the power he exercised, because his empire will be uprooted and given to others. 5 "The king of the South will become strong, but one of his commanders will become even stronger than he and will rule his own kingdom with great power. 6 After some years, they will become allies. The daughter of the king of the South will go to the king of the North to make an alliance, but she will not retain her power, and he and his power will not last. In those days she will be betrayed, together with her royal escort and her father and the one who supported her. 7 "One from her family line will arise to take her place. He will attack the forces of the king of the North and enter his fortress; he will fight against them and be victorious. 8 He will also seize their gods, their metal images and their valuable articles of silver and gold and carry them off to Egypt. For some years he will leave the king of the North alone. 9 Then the king of the North will invade the realm of the king of the South but will retreat to his own country. 10 His sons will prepare for war and assemble a great army, which will sweep on like an irresistible flood and carry the battle as far as his fortress. 11 "Then the king of the South will march out in a rage and fight against the king of the North, who will raise a large army, but it will be defeated. 12 When the army is carried off, the king of the South will be filled with pride and will slaughter many thousands, yet he will not remain triumphant. 13 For the king of the North will muster another army, larger than the first; and after several years, he will advance with a huge army fully equipped. 14 "In those times many

will rise against the king of the South. Those who are violent among your own people will rebel in fulfillment of the vision, but without success. 15 Then the king of the North will come and build up siege ramps and will capture a fortified city. The forces of the South will be powerless to resist; even their best troops will not have the strength to stand. 16 The invader will do as he pleases; no one will be able to stand against him. He will establish himself in the Beautiful Land and will have the power to destroy it. 17 He will determine to come with the might of his entire kingdom and will make an alliance with the king of the South. And he will give him a daughter in marriage in order to overthrow the kingdom, but his plans will not succeed or help him. 18 Then he will turn his attention to the coastlands and will take many of them, but a commander will put an end to his insolence and will turn his insolence back on him. 19 After this, he will turn back toward the fortresses of his own country but will stumble and fall, to be seen no more. 20 "His successor will send out a tax collector to maintain the royal splendor. In a few years, however, he will be destroyed, yet not in anger or in battle. 21 "He will be succeeded by a contemptible person who has not been given the honor of royalty. He will invade the kingdom when its people feel secure, and he will seize it through intrigue. 22 Then an overwhelming army will be swept away before him; both it and a prince of the covenant will be destroyed. 23 After coming to an agreement with him, he will act deceitfully, and with only a few people he will rise to power. 24 When the richest provinces feel secure, he will invade them and will achieve what neither his fathers nor his forefathers did. He will distribute plunder, loot and wealth among his followers. He will plot the overthrow of fortresses—but only for a time. 25 "With a large army he will stir up his strength and courage against the king of the South. The king of the South will wage war with a large and

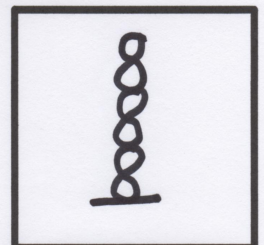
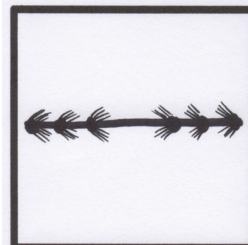
very powerful army, but he will not be able to stand because of the plots devised against him. 26 Those who eat from the king's provisions will try to destroy him; his army will be swept away, and many will fall in battle. 27 The two kings, with their hearts bent on evil, will sit at the same table and lie to each other, but to no avail, because an end will still come at the appointed time. 28 The king of the North will return to his own country with great wealth, but his heart will be set against the holy covenant. He will take action against it and then return to his own country. 29 "At the appointed time he will invade the South again, but this time the outcome will be different from what it was before. 30 Ships of the western coastlands will oppose him, and he will lose heart. Then he will turn back and vent his fury against the holy covenant. He will return and show favor to those who forsake the holy covenant. 31 "His armed forces will rise up to desecrate the temple fortress and will abolish the daily sacrifice. Then they will set up the abomination that causes desolation. 32 With flattery he will corrupt those who have violated the covenant, but the people who know their God will firmly resist him. 33 "Those who are wise will instruct many, though for a time they will fall by the sword or be burned or captured or plundered. 34 When they fall, they will receive a little help, and many who are not sincere will join them. 35 Some of the wise will stumble, so that they may be refined, purified and made spotless until the time of the end, for it will still come at the appointed time.

Today we will overlay this very passage with world history and see an amazing, perfect match written many years before it actually happened.



The greatest test of faith is when you don't get what you want, but are still able to say, "Thank You Lord!"

Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess



May 13, 2018
Volume 6, Issue 29

Sunday School Times

Published almost weekly, but more likewhenever, so get used to it, OK?

Stuff For Today

- Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess!
- Mother's Day
- How to balance pennies
- Dangerous toys

The Most Dangerous "Toy" in Mr. Lyle's Collection!

Today, for those interested, I have brought the most dangerous "toy" I have. I really shouldn't call it a toy! Children could be very badly hurt by this thing.

It is so dangerous, that my wife will usually leave the room when I bring it out to "play" with. (I had to sign a legal document just to purchase this amazing "toy!")

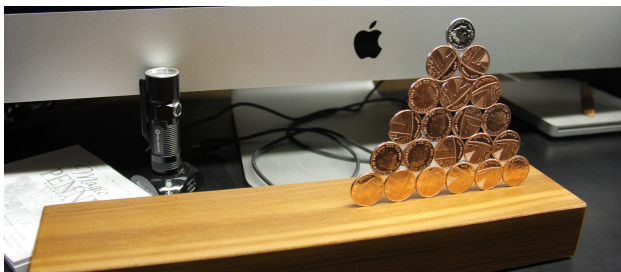
Yes, I have even been hurt by it, so don't think for a moment that I will allow any of you to handle this thing. Just observe a professional at work.

A Balancing Act

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

A Personal Best!

Among my talents and abilities, I count penny balancing as an odd curiosity. This is my personal best! 6 pennies across the bottom and 6 rows high! No trick photography and no glue. This is a very real pyramid of pennies. I will attempt a 4x4 in Sunday School this morning.



Nd

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Romans 15:13

¹³ Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

Neodymium is the chemical element with the symbol Nd and atomic number of 60. It was discovered in 1885, but is actually quite common in the Earth's crust. Most of the world's neodymium is mined in China today. It has a variety of uses. Initially it was most often used as a dye in glass making. The reddish/purple colors are still popular today. My personal interest in neodymium is its use as an alloy in metal work. Combined with appropriate metals, heated to specific temperatures, and exposed to a strong magnetic field, neodymium becomes the strongest natural permanent magnet known today.

No one can see magnetism. But we can see its effects on the world around us and understand and believe in its existence. Magnetism is an integral part of nearly every facet of our lives today.

For those of us who are Christians, who have invited God to be a very genuine part of our lives, we have an amazing asset given to us by God. We understand that God indwells each believer. The Holy Spirit literally lives inside us! And God's power is with Him. Remember this phrase:

Power is the special and peculiar prerogative of God, and God alone.

The majestic power of the Holy Spirit is displayed through the Bible, as well as in the world even today. Job 26:13 says that the Holy Spirit garnished the heavens—He put beautiful and amazing finishing touches on the universe. Genesis 2 says that He is responsible for human

life.

I Peter 3: 18 tells us that the Holy Spirit raised Jesus from the dead.

And for each Christian, God has promised that the Holy Spirit is a compass pointing us in the right directions. He is our conscience convicting us of sin, and He is the power we need to resist sin and live a victorious life. He refines us daily if we will only allow Him to work in our hearts.

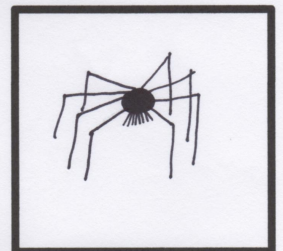
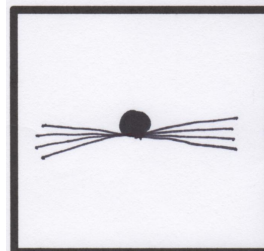
And in the future, we find Him involved in the return of Jesus to this earth. Romans 8:11 affirms that He will be directly responsible for millions of people rising from the grave someday!

We have that power living within us. What will we do with it?

Dear Mom,

I love how we don't even need to say out loud that I'm your favorite child. I turned out awesome! Great job Mom! (And as we both get older, I will always love you no matter how many times you ask me how to do things on the computer.)

Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess



May 20, 2018
Volume 6, Issue 30

Sunday School Times

Published almost weekly, but more likewhenever, so get used to it, OK?

Stuff For Today

- Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess!
- Stuff about chocolate Easter bunnies.
- The only swear word you will ever be taught in Sunday School!

Chocolate Easter Bunny Technical Consumption Regulations.

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

We have included the following technical data. Also, please note that all facts quoted herein are conjectural and any and all reasonable conclusions should be considered fortuitous.

Always, always, always eat the ears first. Easter bunnies have an unmatched, highly acute sense of hearing. The slightest sound can set off their natural flight instinct, and you may never see them again. Eating the ears first makes them totally deaf, leaving them much more docile and easy to eat.

Secondly, eat the eyes and nose. Bunnies have incredible eyesight, and blinding them will make them easier to keep track of, should you lay one down for any reason. Their inherited defense mechanism is to remain completely motionless, hoping to not be detected by predators such as you.

And by eating the nose and mouth relatively early in the consumption process ensures that they cannot scream out in pain as you devour their frail little bodies.

Lastly, you want to be known as a generous person, so carefully eat around the tail portion, being careful to not get too close to it. When it has been sufficiently trimmed off, offer it to your little brother or sister. They'll never know the difference! And you're a hero!

A Four-Letter Swear Word--

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Deuteronomy 21

22 If someone guilty of a capital offense is put to death and their body is exposed on a tree, 23 you must not leave the body hanging on the tree overnight. Be sure to bury it that same day, because anyone who is hung on a tree is under God's curse. You must not desecrate the land the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance.

Capital punishment in the Old Testament was far from the manner adopted in our culture today. The Mosaic Law permitted three methods, all of which we would find extremely repulsive today.

First, God allowed justice to be served with a sword. A quick, but brutal method of execution, it was used many times.

Secondly, there was a place in the Law for death by fire. This method would require preparation and planning. Implementation of this sentence would have been much more difficult and probably more public.

Lastly, the third option was stoning. This was a community event. Everyone was to throw stones at the accused until they were dead. The average individual participating in the execution would have forever, a lasting memory of a human being slowly dying right before their eyes.

But oddly, Deuteronomy 21 does not deal with these allowable techniques of execution. It instead deals with crucifixion. Somewhat common in the pagan world, its torture and degradation were not to be introduced by Israel into its criminal justice system. God says it is a "cursed" way to die.

God knew the future. He knew that His Son would come to this earth and die at the

hands of the Roman government. He knew that their most heinous form of punishment was death by the cross.

The extreme agony suffered by a convicted criminal was difficult to watch. The Romans could execute swiftly and cleanly if they desired. But the cross was a public spectacle of torture, reserved for the most despicable humans, and deigned to keep them alive for as long as they wished their public torture to continue.

In our culture and language, we have swear words. These are words that are used in times of extreme emotion or anger. Generally they refer to something nasty or disgusting or horrible. For the Romans, watching a crucifixion was one of the most disgusting, horrid things any human could experience. And a curse, or swear word, developed from it.

In Latin it has four letters, making it oddly similar to many of our curse words. The word—CRUX. In Latin, it is the very word for "cross".

God despises sin so intensely that He sent His Son to die a horrible death as an innocent, yet

convicted, man.

And God loves us so intensely that He sent His Son to die a horrible death as an innocent, yet convicted, man.

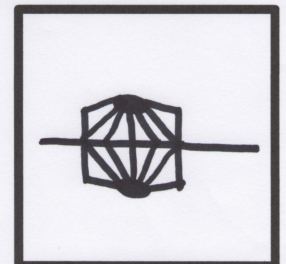
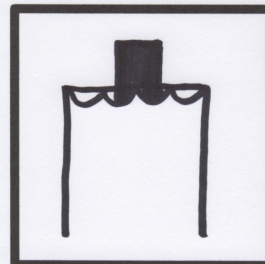
This Easter, may we remember these facts and allow them to sink into our hearts and consider the great gift that as given to us that day over 2000 years ago. God loves us! And showed us, and the entire universe, just how much He cares about us.



On this day in history:

1. Codell Kansas was hit by a tornado in 1916, 1917, and 1918!
2. The Hubble space telescope sent back it's first photograph in 1990.
3. My mother celebrated her 80th birthday in 2014.

Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess.



June 3, 2018
Volume 6, Issue 31

Sunday School Times

Stuff For Today

- Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess!
- The Internet
- My Summer Vacation
- To Tell the Truth

Now That The Summer is Here, Remember...

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

How I Spent My Summer Vacation (An Essay)

Most of our vacation was in Consequential. Our best friends asked us to meet them in Vitation. We couldn't decide where to spend our first night so we stayed in Decision. We thought about staying in Considerate, but felt it might offend them.

Our stay in Eptitude was a fail. In short, our vacation was awful!

No one seemed to even notice us while we stayed in Conspicuous. We spent a miserable afternoon in Tolerable, and the bugs were terrible in Sect. Nothing went right for us during out time in Correct. I started keeping track of all of our difficulties when we travelled in Dex. We were treated like animals in Human, and the temperature was unbearable in Ferno. We were very careful while in Trepid, and never got a good night's sleep during our stay in Somnia. I thought our time in Finity would never end. We never felt safe in Secure, and our evening walks in Cline were always uphill. Things got worse in Crease!

There was a problem in Cident that we wanted no part of, so we never stayed in Volved. In fact, we had to spend the night in Nocent to clear our names with the local law enforcement.

And our trip got even worse in Ferior. Our hotel room was robbed in Vasion, our credit cards quit working while we were in Active, and I had to undergo minor surgery in Cision. I fell off of a cliff in Jure and we got lost looking for a hospital. We finally got directions when we stopped in Quire. By the time we stopped for lunch in Fection, it was really getting bad. We then took a wrong turn in Variably, and the pain became unbearable in Tensify. A stranger came to our rescue in Tervene. On our last day we were in Sane. Apparently they have no airport. We were driven there by friends and family.

I wrote this during our stay in Coherent.

Published almost weekly, but more likewhenever, so get used to it, OK?

To Tell The Truth

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

John 13: 36-38

36 Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place." 37 "You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me." 38 "What is truth?" retorted Pilate.

Television in the late 50's and early 60's was much different than it is today. As a child of that era, I grew up enjoying a select few TV shows. One of my favorites was a show simply called "To Tell the Truth". Airing in both an evening and a daytime time slot, it became one of the five most popular game shows of all time.

The premise of the show was quite simple. Three contestants would stand before a panel of well-known Hollywood celebrities who were poised and ready to ask questions of them. The show's announcer would then read a unique or interesting story, many times recalling some strange or bizarre incident or accomplishment. The three contestants would proclaim to the celebrity panel that they were the subject of the story.

Questioning would then begin as the celebrities would try to determine which contestant was indeed telling the truth, and which two were not. The two who were essentially given free license to lie could say anything they liked to try to convince the panel that they were the right choice. Only

the true, central character of the story was sworn to always tell the truth. Often it was remarkably difficult to determine simply from a few questions, who was indeed telling the truth and who was not.

John, in his Gospel, includes a conversation that took place between Jesus and Pilate. As Jesus stood before the Roman who had the power to condemn him to death, the subject of truth came up. Jesus explained to Pilate that there is absolute truth. Not understanding the concept, and probably well acquainted with a pagan world system that exceled at not telling the truth, Pilate responds with one of the most loaded questions recorded in the Bible.

"What is truth?" he asked. Today we still live in a world that struggles to always tell the truth, even when it is inconvenient to do so. As Christians, we are called to always be truthful.

What The Internet Was Like When I Was Young

Google Mail

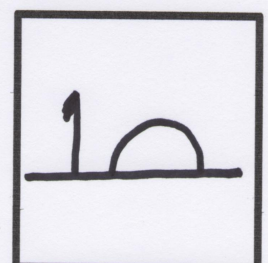
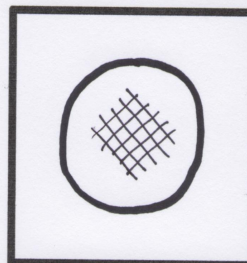
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1800 Amphitheater Parkway
Mountain View, CA 94043

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Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess



June 10, 2018
Volume 6, Issue 32

Sunday School Times

Published almost weekly, but more likewhenever, so get used to it, OK?

Stuff For Today

- Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess!
- Thoughts
- The last word
- Questions and Answers

Thoughts For Today

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Why are little candy bars called "fun size?" It's always more fun to eat a big one.

Do you realize that every time you clean something, you make something else dirty?

The word "swims" upside down is also "swims".

You have to be odd to be number 1.

If your shirt isn't tucked into your pants, then your pants are tucked into your shirt.

Is it rude for a deaf person to sign while holding a hamburger in their hand?

Mars is populated entirely by robots.

A Few More Thoughts

Your stomach thinks all potatoes are smashed.

Why is there no mouse flavored cat food?

Why is tuna sometimes called "tuna fish." Chicken is never called "chicken bird."

The Last Word

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Malachi 4:6

And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

Malachi's soliloquy is the concluding scene in the final act of the Old Testament. As the curtain begins to descend, the closing expression we hear, the last word spoken by God, is *curse*. The audience sits in reverent silence, unsure if applause is appropriate at this point. The lights go down; it is a somber ending to the story to be sure. Four hundred years of silence follow. God will say nothing more until His Son steps out onto center stage in Matthew.

The Old Testament would seem to be merely backdrop scenery, were it not for the New Testament. It is there that we realize what God was doing, and why. The panoramic background on the stage is filled with the colors and subtle hues and tints that point to the person of Jesus Christ. We began this exercise with a study of the first word in Genesis. It would be appropriate to consider the final word found in the Old Testament.

Verse four, of the fourth chapter of Malachi, is a reminder that the Law given to Moses was much more than just a piece of legislation. David reassures us in the Psalms that the decrees of God are wonderful and are to be studied and meditated upon, and that a close walk with the Lord is predicated on that truth. They are a *lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path*. The godly coordinate their lives by the commandments of the Lord. But as we have found, many of those laws also prefigure the person of the Messiah, making them doubly delightful to contemplate and reflect upon.

God's warning in the last verse is delivered with a cautionary portent. His exact words are, *lest I come and smite the earth with a curse*. That final word immediately takes us back to the Garden of

Eden and the fall of man. When Adam and Eve sinned, a curse was pronounced by God upon mankind, as well as all of creation. Since that moment, the scourge of sin and the consequences of the judgment of God plague our daily existence. But our merciful God foreknew that, and planned a solution in eternity past. Salvation, and the eventual complete redemption of man from that curse, is the central theme of the Bible, from cover to cover.

In the original language, the word translated *curse* is quite interesting. It carries with it the subtle idea of a net or snare. Picture, if you will, a fisherman along the shore, working with a casting net. His polished technique is evident as the net unfurls in the toss and then drops into the water. Attached to his hand is a cord which he deftly begins gathering back towards himself. As the net descends around an unsuspecting fish, he has already drawn the bottom closed, sealing off any chance of escape for his prey. Likewise, if the hearts of God's people are not focused upon Him, His judgment will be a shocking, sure, deadly surprise to the unprepared.

The common usage of this word also takes us into the realm of the camel driver. The more stubborn of these animals, at times, require a supplementary method of persuasion to submit to the master. The process of placing a large round guide ring through the soft cartilage between the nostrils is a bit unpleasant to imagine, and God is warning His people that He will administer the painful implantation of devices that will coerce obedience if necessary. God demands compliance with His Laws.

In addition to these nuanced definitions, the clear warning God communicated was a direct reference to

Leviticus 27:29. In times past, as the Israelites were conquering and occupying the Promised Land, God had specific requirements assigned to individual battles for various reasons. In some instances, as in the case of the battle for Jericho, everything was to be *devoted* to the Lord. The identical Hebrew term translated as *curse* in Malachi, is translated differently in Leviticus. Everyone *devoted* to the Lord was to be killed. All that was flammable was to be burned. Nothing in the plunder could be ransomed, no one could be redeemed. Every living thing died, every combustible thing was destroyed, and anything that was left after those two ravages, was God's. Consider the fact that those who were *curse*d or *devoted* to the Lord were not eligible for redemption. No price could be paid to bring them into a condition of relationship. Here we find the most significant concern of God. If His people were distracted and unconcerned with God and His love for them, they might miss the gift that was to come. He was planning to send a Savior, Jesus the Messiah, who would voluntarily go to a cross and shed His blood, and pay the necessary redemption price for all mankind who would accept the offer extended to them. Those not watching, those not attentive, would suffer the *curse* and miss the only possibility of redemption from sin.

The Old Testament begins with a subtle reference to the person of Jesus, and ends with a warning not to miss the Messiah and the redemption plan of God. Jesus Christ must be the focus of our lives. I trust that as you continue in your walk with God, your fascination with the Savior never ends, and that the reading and study of the Word of God become an ever increasing part of your life.

Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess



June 17, 2018

Volume 6, Issue 33

Sunday School Times

Published almost weekly, but more likewhenever, so get used to it, OK?

The Inmates of "Prison le DeViI"

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

A fictitious story is told of a notorious prison in France near the turn of last century. "Prison le DeViI" was a hideous place to be, and anyone incarcerated by the French justice system hoped that they would never be sent there.

It seems that when Jean Pierre LaFayette became the newly elected president of France, he decided to exercise a constitutional authority granted to him by virtue of his position. He had the power to pardon anyone he chose. That meant that if he so decreed, the person or persons of his choosing would be allowed out of prison, their criminal record expunged, and granted a new life in France!

He carefully chose three individuals and sent their official documents of pardon to the prison by messenger. As the messenger approached the cell door of the first recipient of pardon, he loudly proclaimed the good news.

The prisoner's response was surprising. In a shout of rage and disgust, he let the messenger know in no uncertain terms that he wanted nothing to do with a

president who could issue pardons, and to leave him alone forever!

Somewhat in shock, the messenger then went on the second cell door. He called out the same greeting—he had brought a pardon from the president.

This belligerent prisoner immediately began an argument. You see, he did not believe in presidents, or pardons. He had never seen a president or a pardon before and was convinced that they were just some made-up story. He refused because he doubted their existence.

Unable to convince the inmate of the truth, the messenger reluctantly went on the third recipient. And as he approached, he called out his news of a pardon.

The cell window came open as the news was proclaimed. Unfortunately, this inmate had other ideas as well. His cell was immaculate! So clean and shiny that anyone could have eaten off of the floor! But he refused his pardon as well. He explained to the messenger that he felt that one day the Warden would come down to visit

and would see all of the work he had put into keeping his cell clean. His belief was that the Warden would be so impressed that he would be granted release from prison.

The messenger bowed his head in disbelief. How could these naïve people turn down the greatest gift possible?

The world around us is lost in sin—in a prison of sin. And God has graciously extended to every human being walking the face of the earth a pardon. Jesus paid for our sins, he took the punishment, and we can go free—genuinely free!

Do you recognize the inmate's reactions as being parallel to reactions of people that you meet each day?

Some despise the Gospel and do not want to hear anything about it. Others say that they don't trust in a God they can't see and don't believe exists. And of course there are those who are trying to work their way into Heaven by living as cleanly as possible.

There is only one way out of "Prison le DeViI". A pardon from Jesus Christ!

Stuff For Today

- Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess!
- Been there...
- "Prison le DeViI"
- Questions and Answers

Been There?

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

I had a really tough week! Everything that could go wrong, did. I had not just one, but two tires blow out on a loaded trailer. Then the jack didn't fit under the axle and I had to unload the machine off the trailer to take weight off of it, then the tire wrench broke. Then when I finally got where I was going, the machine had a hydraulic leak that had to be taken to a mechanic to fix, and then it tried to overheat as well, and then it took 3 days to get parts in to fix it, and then I spilled diesel fuel all over myself refueling the machine...need I go on?

Many years ago, Matthew Henry, a well-known Bible scholar, was once robbed of his wallet. Knowing that it was his duty to give thanks in everything, he meditated on this incident and recorded in his diary the following:

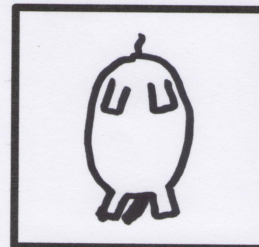
Let me be thankful, first, because he never robbed me before; second, because although he took my purse, he did not take my life; third, because although he took all I possessed, it was not much; and fourth, because it was I who was robbed, not I who robbed.

The Bible says that we are to give thanks in all things. And sometimes that can be very difficult.

Questions and Answers

Today we continue this semester's Q and A time!!!!!!

Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess



June 24, 2018
Volume 6, Issue 34

Sunday School Times

Published almost weekly, but more likewhenever, so get used to it, OK?

Stuff For Today

- Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess!
- A Father's Story
- Thanks Dad
- KLEW

Thanks Dad

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Dad,
thanks for never missing
a display of the
disappointing athleticism
I inherited from you!

Dad,
I love how
we don't even need
to say out loud
that I'm your
favorite child!

Dad,
you're the
World's Greatest Dad...
although my
frame of reference
is rather limited!

Dad,
thanks for
never taking me
to the zoo.
I remember
how you used to say
"If they want him,
they'll come and get him!"

Here is a bunch of Father's Day stuff I forgot to put
in the paper last week. Sorry about that.

Matthew 28: 19-20

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

In 1944 England, World War II was an ever-present concern. When air raid alarms would sound, people scrambled for shelters and sat. Anthony Pratt decided a new board game might amuse some folks and help pass the interminable time. Originally titled "Murder", it was later published in England as "Cluedo" and in America, marketed as "Clue".

I grew up playing this game at family gatherings and such. We didn't own a copy of our own, so it was a treat to play it with family.

I have re-engineered the basic game to fit our Sunday School format. It's new name is KLEW. That is an acronym for "Keep Living an Excellent Witness".

The basic premise of the game is that someone became a Christian! And it is up to the contestants in the classroom to determine who was saved, where did they make their decision for Christ, and what brought about their choice.

The cast of characters include All American Billy Boy Bob, Sugar and Spice and Everything Nice Young Yolanda Yorgensen, Grumpy Old Man Mr. Hrumph, Weaqlthy Businessman Mr. Dollar Bill, Alcoholic Loser Gwatno Name, and Road Hog Mike on a Bike.

Their conversion took place at one of these places: at a ballgame, at church, at school, at the shopping center, at home, in Africa, in jail, or while on vacation.

And something you did led them to realize they needed Christ as their Savior. Was it your Bible, your personal testimony, your lifestyle, your friendship, your inviting them to church, or your help in sending a missionary?

We are called to tell the world about Jesus. In our culture, that is becoming more and more difficult to do. KLEW focuses more on our day to day witness than the mission trips we might take on occasion. I do not want to take away from those at all. But this is where we live and walk each day and where we can have a profound effect on those around us.

You may not know who, but there is someone watching you. Someone who maybe even looks up to you. Are you the example that you should be—always?

Be a good example of what a Christian should look like. Live as though someone is watching your every move. Not because you have to, but because of what Jesus did for you many years ago when He went to a cross and paid for your sins and mine. Good News!

KLEW

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

A Father's Story

A young woman brought home her fiance to meet her parents. After dinner, her mother told her father to find out about the young man. The father invited the fiance to his study for a talk.

"So what are your plans?" the father asked the young man.

"I am a Bible scholar," he replied.

"A Bible scholar. Hmmm," the father said. "Admirable, but what will you do to provide a nice house for my daughter to live in, as she's accustomed to?"

"I will study," the young man replied, "and God will provide for us."

"And how will you buy her a beautiful engagement ring, such as she deserves?" asked the father.

"I will concentrate on my studies," the young man replied, "God will provide for us."

"And children?" asked the father. "How will you support children?"

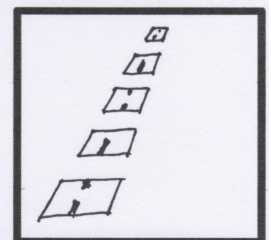
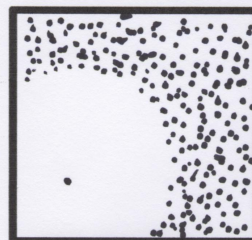
"Don't worry, sir, God will provide," replied the fiance.

The conversation proceeded like this, and each time the father questioned, the young idealist insisted that God would provide.

Later, the mother asked, "How did it go, Honey?"

The father answered, "He has no job and no plans, but the good news is he thinks I'm God."

Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess



Published almost weekly, but more likewhenever, so get used to it, OK?

Stuff For Today

- Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess!
- Written language
- Cuteness
- Moses makes a mistake

CUTENESS

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Cuteness vs. Number of Legs	
Awwwww---adorable!	Cute
Pretty normal	Unfortunate
Creepy	Creepy
GAHAHHH KILL IT! KILL IT!	
0	1
1	2
2	3
3	4
4	5
5	6
6	7
7	8

Numbers 20;2-12

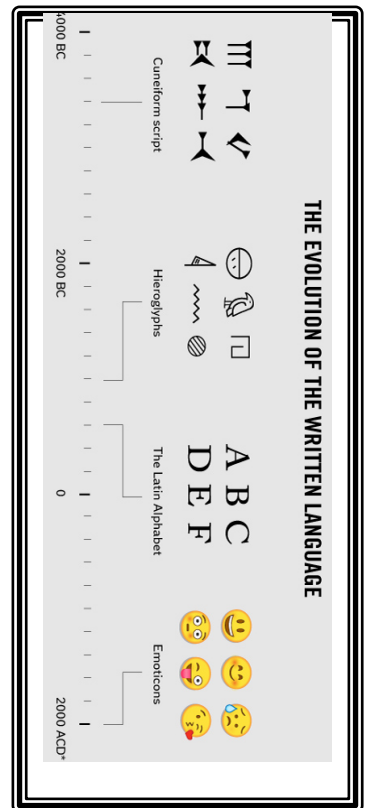
2 Now there was no water for the community, and the people gathered in opposition to Moses and Aaron. **3** They quarreled with Moses and said, "If only we had died when our brothers fell dead before the Lord! **4** Why did you bring the Lord's community into this wilderness, that we and our livestock should die here? **5** Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to this terrible place? It has no grain or figs, grapevines or pomegranates. And there is no water to drink!" **6** Moses and Aaron went from the assembly to the entrance to the tent of meeting and fell facedown, and the glory of the Lord appeared to them. **7** The Lord said to Moses, **8** "Take the staff, and you and your brother Aaron gather the assembly together. Speak to that rock before their eyes and it will pour out its water. You will bring water out of the rock for the community so they and their livestock can drink." **9** So Moses took the staff from the Lord's presence, just as he commanded him. **10** He and Aaron gathered the assembly together in front of the rock and Moses said to them, "Listen, you rebels, must we bring you water out of this rock?" **11** Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with his staff. Water gushed out, and the community and their livestock drank. **12** But the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not trust in me enough to honor me as holy in the sight of the Israelites, you will not bring this community into the land I give them."

The Israelites had been moving about as an assembly at the direct command of God. The community lacked water and began to express their

Mistakes Were Made!

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

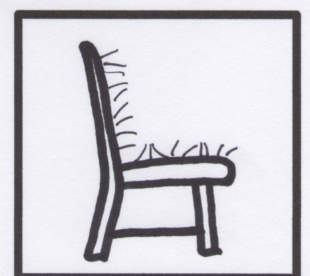
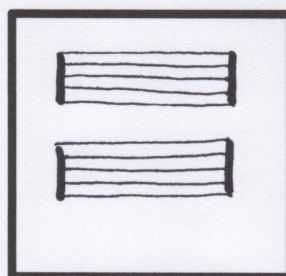
dissatisfaction. They congregated around a large rock, and at God's explicit direction, Moses struck the rock and water came forth. They praised God for His provision and continued on their way. Interestingly, thirty-seven years later, they again found themselves at the very same location, experiencing an identical challenge. On this occasion, however, Moses was instructed to speak to the rock. In anger, he struck it in the same manner as he had previously. Water came forth, but Moses was severely reprimanded by God for his actions. This rock was a picture, a type of Jesus Christ, The Rock. Jesus was to be "struck" once by going to the cross. That was a one-time event, never to be performed again. Moses, in anger, had tarnished that picture. God felt so



For the True Scholars Among Us

So...what did you think of the literary works of Martin Handford?

Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess



Published almost weekly, but more likewhenever, so get used to it, OK?

Divine Wood Cutters

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Philippians 1: 12

But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel.

Paul is in prison in Rome, writing to his friends the Philippians. He is assuring them that the circumstances in which he finds himself are contributing to, rather than hindering, the advance of the Gospel. He says in this passage that the things that have happened to him have fallen out rather to the furtherance of the Gospel.

The word "furtherance" is from a Greek word used in the first century to refer to a company of woodcutters preceding the progress of an army. You see, with far fewer roads, an army often traveled cross country. The woodcutters would go ahead of an advancing army, clearing away trees and brush, creating a road capable of handling everything that an army might wish to carry with them.

So what was Paul saying when he said his circumstances were divine woodcutters? His liberty was gone. He was chained to a Roman soldier night and day. God had built a fence around the apostle. He had put limitations about him. He had placed handicaps upon him. And Paul says that these were God's woodcutters making a road for the Gospel.

The Gospel was now being proclaimed from the pulpit in the

Roman empire. The Praetorium guard of 10,000 hand picked Roman soldiers was hearing the Good News from the soldiers chained to Paul. The jealous brothers in Rome were preaching Christ more energetically, out of envy of course, but yet preaching about Him. And the friends of Paul were even more zealous in their preaching.

And so it is in every Christian's life. The things that hedge us in, the things that handicap us, the tests that we all go through, are all divinely appointed woodcutters used by God to hew a path for our presentation of the Gospel to those we meet each day.

It may be that our fondest dreams are not realized. We may be in difficult circumstances. Illness may be our lot. Yet if we are in the center of God's will, all these are contributing to the progress of the Gospel.

They draw us closer to God, so that the testimony of our lives will count for more.

Thank God for the handicaps and problems you face. They are blessings in disguise. When we have limitations imposed upon us we do our best work for the Lord, for it is then that we are most dependent upon Him.

Paul told the Corinthians, "Most gladly therefore will I glory in my infirmities, that

the power of Christ may rest upon me." (II Cor. 12:9).

Paul had plenty of woodcutters.

The Chicken in the Library

A chicken marches into the library, walks up to the library desk, and says: "Book, book, BOOK!"

The librarian hands over a couple of slim children's paperbacks, and watches the chicken as it leaves the library, walks across the street, through a field, and disappears down the hill.

The next day, the chicken is back. And walks right up to the librarian, drops the books on her desk, and says, "Book, Book, BOOK, BOOK!" The librarian hands over a few books and again watches the chicken drag them away.

The next day, the chicken comes for a third time. Drops the books on the desk, and says, "Book, Book, Book, BOOK!!!"

This time, once the chicken is out the door, the librarian follows — across the street, through a field, and down the hill to a small pond.

On a rock on the edge of the pond is the biggest frog the librarian has ever seen. The chicken walks up to the frog, drops the book on the pond's edge, and says, "Book, Book, Book!"

The frog hops over, uses the front leg to push through the pile, and says: "Read it, read it, read it..."

Stuff For Today

- Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess!
- A chicken in the library
- Lions
- If Jesus were here...
- Cutting Wood

If Jesus Were Here Today He Might Say...

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

"No, I'm not talking about Twitter! I literally want you to follow me."

"Sorry, but the Ark was too full for those two unicorns."

"If anyone asks you 'What would Jesus do?', remind them that flipping over tables and chasing people with a whip is within the realm of possibilities."

"You need an Ark? I Noah guy."

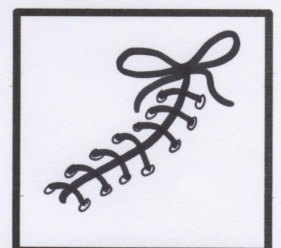
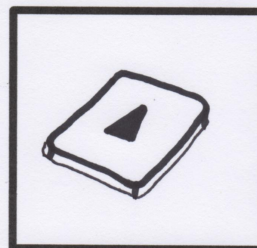
"Honk if you love me. Keep on texting if you want to meet me."

A young missionary on his first term in Africa was reading his Bible in a clearing when a lion came up and laid down beside him. As he quietly prayed for deliverance, another lion came out of the bush and laid down by his other side.

Convinced that this was a test of his faith, he returned to reading his Bible. As soon as he did, the two lions pounced on him and devoured him.

Moral: Don't try to read between the lions.

Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess



July 22, 2018
Volume 6, Issue 37

Sunday School Times

Stuff For Today

- Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess!
- Back to School Advice
- Walter and William

"Starting-a-New-School-Year-Soon" Advice

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

If you have to **sneak** to do it, **lie** to cover it up, or **delete** it to avoid it being seen...

then you probably shouldn't be doing it!

Coming Soon...

BACK
TO
SCHOOL

Published almost weekly, but more likewhenever, so get used to it, OK?

Walter and His Dad, William

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Joshua 1:8-9

Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. 9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

Whether the story is actually historical, or merely a legend, no one knows for sure. Regardless of that fact, the tale of William Tell is an important part of Swiss national identity. Many times it is extremely difficult to separate fact from fiction when studying events that happened over 500 years ago. Fortunately for our purposes today, it matters little if the story is merely a story. It is apropos for our topic of Biblical study. The earliest versions of the legend were told as follows.

The area presently known as Switzerland was once under the dominating control of various Austrian families. They were harsh and many times cruel, and a constant reminder to the Swiss people that tyranny was

to be despised.

An Austrian named Hermann Gessler was appointed to rule the area in question, and set his center of government in a village known as Altdorf. He was especially unsavory to the locals, and in a public display meant to bring the people into subjection, he ordered that a tall pole be erected in the town square. He would then "donate" a hat to be placed atop that pole, and every citizen would then be required to show submission by bowing to the hat and what it represented, each time they passed by.

On November 18, 1307, a local man and his son entered the little town. William Tell was a man's man. A mountain climber, a renowned marksman with a cross bow, he was also incredibly strong. William found the Austrian influence in his village abhorrent, and in a display to his son Walter, as well as any authority watching his actions, he refused to bow to the acclaimed hat on the pole.

Gessler was furious, and arrested William Tell on the spot. When he realized whom he had in his possession, Gessler decided to make a huge public spectacle of this situation as a statement to the locals who still had animosity towards the Austrians. When he discovered that Tell was known for his abilities with a cross bow, he forced William Tell into a despicable situation. He must shoot an apple off of his son's head.

As the story goes, Tell split the apple off of his son's head. Gessler noticed that he had

actually pulled two arrows from his quiver as he had prepared for the difficult shot. When questioned about the oddity, Tell informed him that, had he missed and killed his son, the second arrow was for Gessler himself. And of course, Gessler was furious, refused to allow him his freedom, and made plans for Tell to spend the rest of his life in a dungeon.

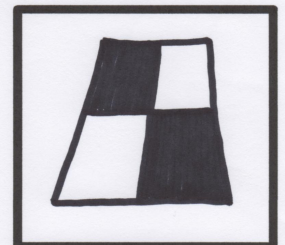
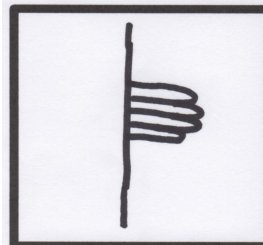
The trip to Gessler's castle was partly by ship. But severe stormy weather gave Tell a chance to jump overboard and escape. He ran cross country ahead of Gessler, ambushed him as he entered his castle and assassinated him there. News of the act traveled across the countryside. It became a rallying cry for the people, and Swiss independence from the Austrian oppression soon followed.

In class today we will reenact this moment in history. At first it may seem a dangerous task, but plans have been set in place to make it as safe as you can possibly imagine.

God cares about His children. He will protect them from undo harm. He loves us, and will not let anything come between Himself and His prize possessions.

Free Advice:
Behave today as if
this is the day for
which you will
always be
remembered.

Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess.



July 29, 2018

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Sunday School Times

Stuff For Today

• Gender Identity

Published almost weekly, but more like.....whenever, so get used to it, OK?

Gender Identity AKA Gender Dysphoria

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Romans 1:19-28

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. That phrase should fill our hearts with reverential fear. The immensity and absolute perfect majesty of God's handiwork throughout the universe is stunning. The Hebrew word that we translate as *created* is a word that is reserved by Biblical authors for something that only God can do—create something from absolute nothingness. A Biblical view of creation must bring us to admit that we worship a God readily capable of accomplishing the events recorded in Genesis. The Biblical creation story is not some kind of religious mythology that we can choose to ignore. It is real. It is accurate. And it is true.

We live in a technologically advanced culture that is uncovering daily, new insights into the astounding intricacies of our world, and things beyond. God's attention to detail cannot be denied. But just how much can we attribute to God? Did He indeed create everything? What about the laws of physics that we have come to respect and rely upon? Did He create them also, or were they pre-existing and in place long before He came on the scene?

To deny that God created everything, including all of the laws and rules that govern this universe, is to relegate God to a less than deserved position in our lives. There are influential religious leaders of our day that have said that God did not have a magic wand at creation, that no one is that big and powerful. It is true that He did not have an enchanted apparatus. He didn't need one. He *is* that big and powerful!

Note that on day one *God said let there be light*. That simple statement is vastly more complex than we can imagine, because in it is embedded the beginning of all of the laws of physics, and possibly even time itself. Light is a function of intensely technical physical properties, working in perfect, predictable and observable, unison. It is no wonder that God finished that day with the comment that *it was good*.

The following days, plants were created, along with the laws of nature that govern their growth and propagation. And then animals, with all of the laws that sustain their ability to live, were commanded to fill the earth.

As our scientific discovery continues, we are becoming more and more aware of the complexity and intricacy of the laws that give our universe order. Without those laws, our lives would be chaotic. Imagine if gravity were unpredictable and varied from day to day—or from hour to hour. What if the coefficient of friction changed unexpectedly minute by minute? Life would be impossible were it not for the perfect, observable order dictated and put in place by God at creation.

God's establishment of order does not stop with physics and botany. In His final effort, His crowning achievement, God created man and woman. *Male and female He created them*. God created gender. He called it good and perfect. Gender is not a social construct. It is part of the perfect plan of God and, just like all of the other laws He created to make our world make sense, therefore unchangeable.

The first chapter of Colossians gives us a perspective of creation that must not be ignored. There we find that *all things were created by Him, and by Him all things consist*. In short, He holds all things together. Were God, but for a moment, to take His hand out of this universe, everything would cease to be. God did not create this universe, set things in order, and then step back to see what would happen next. He is constantly influencing and affecting this physical world, and placing His guidance into even the smallest of minutia and details. And that loving concern prompts Him to even choose the physical body He places us into at conception. It is a beautiful thought to realize how intensely God focuses upon each of us throughout our entire lives.

God created life and it's sanctity. He created the two genders comprised of their uniqueness. He created marriage built upon it's covenant. And He created the family encompassed with its responsibilities. These institutions are sustained by God's ordained laws that are unique to each, regulations that give them order and propriety, and statutes that are impossible to circumvent successfully.

We examine the laws of physics steadfastly fixed in place by God, and agree that they cannot be altered or changed. We scrutinize the laws of nature securely rooted by God, and agree that they cannot be modified or transformed. But our society today surveys the laws established by God that order human behavior, and believes that *those laws can* be updated and corrected. That is a costly mistake for any culture.

The straightforward truth of the Bible contains a stern warning that God has standards, rules, and laws. To ignore any of these concerns is to flirt with misery. Sin is defined as anything that is not God's perfect standard. To indulge in sin always results in heartache. It's the natural result of not being in the direct will of God. In fact, the Bible says that *the wages of sin is death*. Sin's ultimate course always leads to despair.

As society has embraced the concept of choosing ones gender identity, those caught up in the game of trying to adopt their femininity or masculinity based solely upon their feelings, report dissatisfaction with the rejection from their peers. They feel trodden down and disrespected, blaming culture for their unhappiness. The truth is that their actual problem is not with society. Their real dilemma is with God's laws. No one successfully violates or circumvents them. No one.

Studies have shown a remarkable difference between people who accept their God assigned gender, and those who undergo medical gender transformation. The suicide rate for those who accept gender reassignment surgery as the answer to their confusion is an astonishing 30-45%! God's laws cannot be violated successfully.

To embrace the concept that gender identity is a personal choice, or a feeling or the desire of the heart, will ultimately result in confusion. Both at a personal level, for the participant, and at a societal level, for the "tolerant" crazed culture we live in.

The answer lies in the Bible in the book of Genesis. We must recognize that the God who created this entire universe in a literal six days, conceived and instituted impeccable order. It is there for a reason. It staves off unimaginable chaos and makes our lives wonderful and enjoyable. God's love is evident as He places His mark upon each of us with the gift of gender. Whether we are born as a male or a female, we can know that it is His plan for us.

Some, in the stubbornness of their hearts, will deny that God knows best. To proceed to choose to be something entirely different than He made us to be will inevitably end in misery. It's the law.

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Sunday School Times

Published almost weekly, but more like.....whenever, so get used to it, OK?

Stuff For Today

- Remembering
- Graduation
- Goodbye!

Today's Graduation Ceremony

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

Welcome and Prayer

*Pomp and
Circumstances beyond
our control*

*The Reading of the
Sunday School Times*

Announcements

*Address by Class
Valasalutadictatorian
Magnanimous
Canunimous
Laudinum*

*Presentation of
Diplomas and Various
Other Unsundry Items*

Closing Prayer

You're Outa Here!

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

How many of these lessons do you remember?

1. Finding a watch under a cup
2. George Wilson Pardon
3. Prince Charmin
4. 4 Way Victor rat trap
5. Hu Waru
6. COTSA
7. Funeral for Glassey
8. Jesus' first sermon
9. Verdict in a court case
10. Story of Ruth
11. Kroger Christmas
12. The great bear hunt
13. Oil in clay jars
14. Creation
15. Gospel in the Gates
16. Mr Lyle Bowl XVIII
17. Bob and Darla's wedding
18. The famous artist Ly Lé
19. Creatures with 4 faces
20. Toilet paper canon
21. Gravity Corner
22. Picking the Lamb
23. Ultimate recycling
24. 6 mpossible things
25. Nd
26. Daniel 11
27. Crux
28. To tell the truth
29. Prison le Devil
30. KLEW
31. Moses makes a mistake
32. Divine wood cutters
33. William Tell
34. Gender dysphoria

The End

A World of -Infinite- Possibilities -Awaits You- -Will Might One Day Await You	Graduation Cards Are So Difficult To Writel
A World of -Infinite- Possibilities -Awaits You- Will One Day Await You	Life Is Hard!
A World of -Infinite- Possibilities Awaits You	A World of -Infinite- Possibilities- -Awaits You- -Will Might One Day Await You
A World of Infinite Possibilities Awaits You	A World of -Infinite- Possibilities- Awaits You -Will Might One -Day- -Awaits You-

Good Bye

See you later, alligator
After awhile, crocodile
In an hour, sunflower
Toodle-oo, kangaroo
Gotta go, buffalo
Adios, hippos
Chow chow, brown cow
See ya soon, baboon
Adieu, cockatoo
Better swish, jellyfish
Chop chop, lollipop
Bye Bye, butterfly
See ya mañana, iguana
Give a hug, ladybug
Can't stay, blue jay
Farewell, gazelle
Take care, brown bear
Stay loose, bull moose
Good wishes, little fishes
Gonna hit the road, spotted toad
I'm outa here, white tailed deer

**I would just like to take a few
moments to congratulate myself
on sitting through your
graduation ceremony.**