



SIN

Missing the Mark

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NOTE TO THE TEACHER

Display each illustration where indicated in text, laying volume aside when the story line continues beyond the picture.

Lesson #1

JESUS HEALS LEPROSY

Scripture to be studied: Matthew 8:1-4; Mark 1:40-45;

Luke 5:12-16

The aim of the lesson: To show that the Lord Jesus Christ loves and cares for even the poorest and most needy. Far more wonderful than that: He has power to forgive and cleanse from sin.

What your students should know: That leprosy is a reminder of the awfulness of sin.

What your students should feel: A desire to have Jesus forgive their sins.

What your students should do: Believe that Jesus, the Son of God, died for their sin and receive Him as Saviour.

Lesson outline (for the teacher's and students' notebooks):

1. The lonely leper was doomed to die (Luke 5:12).
2. The leper asks Jesus to heal him (Matthew 8:1-2; Mark 1:40).
3. The Lord Jesus heals the leper (Matthew 8:3; Mark 1:41; Luke 5:13).
4. The leper returns home (Matthew 8:4; Mark 1:42-45; Luke 5:14-16).

The verse to be memorized:

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 6:23)

NOTE TO THE TEACHER

Let the Lord impress the truths of this lesson upon your heart as you read it in your Bible in three of the Gospels.

THE LESSON

In previous lessons we have learned that the Son of God came to earth to take the punishment for our sin.

This series of lessons has to do with the subject of sin. You may already know a great deal about sin. So suppose you tell me what sin is. (Now, Teacher, ask as many questions as you can, so you will discover what your pupils understand about sin. We will list a few questions. You will think of others.)

1. In the sight of God, what is sin? (*Sin is disobedience to God. Sin is wanting our own way instead of God's way. Sin is missing the mark of the perfection of God. See Romans 3:23; 1 John 5:17.*)
2. If we have done only one wrong thing, are we sinners? (*Yes! See James 2:10.*)
3. How many people have sinned? (*All have sinned. See Romans 3:23.*)
4. What is the one sin that will keep us from receiving everlasting life? (*Not believing in the Lord Jesus as Saviour. See John 3:18.*)
5. What is the punishment for sin? (*"The wages of sin is death." That is, to be forever separated from God and all that is good and holy. See Romans 6:23; Ezekiel 18:4b; James 1:15.*)
6. What is the remedy (cure) for sin? (*Believing on the Lord Jesus as the Son of God and receiving Him as Saviour. "The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."*)

NOTE TO THE TEACHER

If your students have Bibles, be sure to have them look up the verses of Scripture. In their notebooks, under the topic of *Sin*, they should write the *references* which are used in answering the questions. Or, if they do not have Bibles, time should be taken for them to write some of the *verses* so they will have them to refer to.

Sin is an awful thing! And, humanly speaking, there is no possible way to get rid of it. We cannot get rid of our sin by deciding to be good. Cutting off the hand of a thief will not keep him from stealing. How can a person stop lying or cheating or losing his temper? Name any wrong thing you can think of. There is no human way of getting rid of it.

Here are five things to remember about sin:

1. There is no human remedy (cure) for sin.
2. A sinner is lonely.

3. A sinner often loses his friends.
4. His friends may even become afraid of the sinner.
5. Sin separates the sinner from God. "The wages of sin is death." This means to be separated from God forever.

1. THE LONELY LEPER WAS DOOMED TO DIE

Luke 5:12

In His Book (the Bible), God caused a record to be kept of some things that happened to a very sick man long ago. Listen closely. Later, as you think about the man, you will remember the five truths about sin which we have learned today.



Show Illustration #1

"Unclean! Unclean!" The sick man who shouted these words had one of the worst of all diseases—leprosy. In that day long ago, he knew that *no man could heal him*. The white spots on his body would not go away, he knew. Instead they would get worse, becoming ugly sores. This dreadful sickness would finally twist and change his face and body so much, that he would no longer look like himself. He knew this.

The sick man was lonely. He was not permitted to go into the synagogue (the place where the Jewish people worshiped God). He was not allowed to stay in his village. (See Leviticus 13:4-6.) He lost his friends. And no one would ever dare to touch him! It was believed that the one who touched a person who had leprosy would himself get the disease. His friends were afraid of him.

So the sick man had to live alone far away from everyone else. Whenever he walked about he shouted, "Unclean! Unclean!" This was a warning to anyone who might be coming that way.

Slowly—very slowly—the days and nights passed. The man became more sick, more lonely—oh, so lonely! Sadly he waited for the day that he would die.

2. THE LEPER ASKS JESUS TO HEAL HIM

Matthew 8:1-2; Mark 1:40

One day he saw a great crowd of people coming down the mountain. (Teacher: Show the mountain on the map on the back cover.) They were following a Man. How the sick man knew that the Man was the Lord Jesus Christ, we do not know.



He may have heard the Lord Jesus as He spoke to the people. Or perhaps he had seen Him do a miracle.

Show Illustration #2

Crying, "Unclean! Unclean!" the sick man rushed as near to Jesus as he could and worshiped Him. Then, looking up into the kindest, most wonderful face he had ever seen, he whispered, "Lord, if You want to, You can make me clean."

3. THE LORD JESUS HEALS THE LEPER

Matthew 8:3; Mark 1:41; Luke 5:13



Show Illustration #3

Do you know what the Lord Jesus did? He reached out His hand and touched the sick man. He really, truly did. He touched him! Jesus was not afraid of leprosy. Jesus is God's Son.

Ever so kindly the Lord said, "Of course I want you to be well. Be clean!"

4. THE LEPER RETURNS HOME

Matthew 8:4; Mark 1:42-45; Luke 5:14-16



Show Illustration #4

That very instant the man was healed—he was made clean. There was not one sore left—not one tiny white spot. His leprosy was gone!

What a happy man he was! Now he could return to his village. He could be with his friends. He could live with his family. No longer would he be chased away or feared by others. No longer would he be lonely. He was a happy man—

so happy that he wanted everyone to know about the wonderful thing that had happened to him.

He told so many about the miracle the Lord Jesus had done for him, that people crowded around the Son of God wherever He went. Everyone wanted to get to the One who could cure even the dreaded leprosy.

But had the Lord Jesus come simply to heal the sick? No! He came, He said, to give eternal life. That is, life with Him and with God forever and ever. (See John 3:15-18, 36.) Far worse than any sickness is the awfulness of being forever separated from God. The Lord Jesus had come to earth so that all people everywhere would know what God is like. He had come so He could take upon Himself the punishment for sin. He died so that we, by believing in Him and receiving Him as our sin-bearer, might live forever with God.

Like the sick man, you may have the Lord Jesus say to you, "Be clean!" You can have the joy of sin forgiven. Gone will be your fear of death. Far more wonderful than being healed of sickness is to be forgiven of sin. The Lord Jesus alone can forgive sin.

Do you believe that the Lord Jesus is the Son of God? Do you believe He died for your sin? Would you like to ask Him, this moment, to forgive your sin? Will you receive Him as your Saviour?

NOTE TO THE TEACHER

Now that you have studied the lesson, think it through carefully again. Is it perfectly clear that *there is no human remedy for sin?* (In Bible days, there was no cure for leprosy. Because of medicine today, there is a cure for that dread disease. Still, many who are afflicted must live away from family and friends.)

As people who had leprosy were not wanted, so sinners are often unwanted by others. Sinners are frequently feared by others. As those with leprosy were lonely, so a sinner can be the loneliest person in the world. And sin eternally separates the sinner from God. But though "the wages of sin is death . . . the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord!"