

C.R.O.S.S



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April 2016:

Restorative Faith

The April unit deals with restorative faith. It begins with the healing of the centurion's servant, which occurred after the Jews spoke appreciatively of this Roman soldier. This is followed with the salvation of the woman who came to anoint Jesus' feet while He ate in Simon's house. The third restoration came to the demon possessed man inhabited by a legion of demons. The last lesson reminds us of the loving restoration by the father of the prodigal son; he serves as a portrayal of our loving heavenly Father.



Restoration

Faith that restores is a beautiful thing. The biblical meaning of the word "restoration" is to receive back more than has been lost to the point where the final state is greater than the original condition.

Imagine the broken down places in your life being restored so that the end result is greater than where you started. That's the kind of God we serve!

My faith looks up to Thee,

Thou Lamb of Calvary!

COME TO SUNDAY SCHOOL!

God Says: Search the Scripture; for... they are they which testify of me. John 5:39

Everyone ought to go to Sunday School!
Don't pass up the opportunity!

Every Sunday morning – 8:15 a.m.

Scriptures of the Month

"Now faith the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him".

– Hebrews 11:1, 6



Faith That Hopes

Hebrews 11:1

God wants us to possess a faith that will make evident the things we hope for in Him.

How do we do that? We live as if those things we hope for will surely come to pass. We place our confidence in Jesus and His ability to accomplish His will for us.

What does that look like? Our thoughts and conversations embody that confidence. Our behavior reflects that same confidence. Though we cannot see it, we still live in full assurance that it shall be done.

Like the songwriter, "My hope is built on nothing less, than Jesus' blood and righteousness; I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name."

That's faith that hopes!

*My hope is in Jesus,
my Solid Rock!*

We Are One

One—it's not a big number. It's not a complicated number. Anyone who can talk can count to one! No big deal!

The Bible, though, does make a big deal of it—of oneness, of unity. Consider Romans 12:5: "So we, being many, are one body in Christ." Our Savior unites people from every nation under heaven, from every era in human history, from every economic and educational status. We are one—in Christ.

This unity is not something we could have dreamed up or made possible. In fact, one of the best evidences of the sin in our hearts is the human tendency toward prejudice and hatred. We're one with some—a few friends and family members. But our temptation is to focus on differences, on otherness in those around us. It leads us to loveless thoughts and actions. We can't fix this in ourselves.

How good to know, then, that Jesus died on the cross to remove the guilt of those sins—and all our other sins as well. Knowing his forgiveness opens the door of love into our hearts. Christ's forgiveness enables us to walk through that door to love other people—even those who are very different from us.

Politics, tastes, skin color, traditions, language, clothing—all these and more may differ, but those who belong to Christ by faith are one body in Jesus, and we show his care and commitment to each other in many tangible ways, ways too numerous to count.

One—a small number, but a big difference.

"We, being many, are one body in Christ"

(Romans 12:5).

One body.

One heart.

One loving Lord.



TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Where Was Jesus?



1. Where did Jesus live as a boy?
2. In what river was Jesus baptized?
3. Where was he tempted by Satan?
4. Where did Jesus perform his first miracle?
5. Where did Jesus talk with a woman by a well?
6. Where did he live while he preached in Galilee?
7. Where did he feed four thousand people?
8. At what pool did he heal a man who could not walk?
9. At what place did he raise Lazarus to life?
10. From what mountain did Jesus go up to heaven?

GOT JOKES!



Have You Read My #1 Best Seller?

There Will Be A Test! – God



A mother was teaching her three-year-old the Lord's prayer. For several evenings at bedtime she repeated it after her mother. One night she said she was ready to solo. The mother listened with pride as she carefully enunciated each word, right up to the end of the prayer. "Lead us not into temptation," she prayed, "but deliver us some E-mail, Amen."



Reverend Billy Graham tells of a time early in his ministry when he arrived in a small town to preach a sermon. Wanting to mail a letter, he asked a young boy where the post office was. When the boy had told him, Dr. Graham thanked him and said, "If you'll come to the Baptist Church this evening, you can hear me telling everyone how to get to heaven." The boy replied, "I don't think I'll be there... You don't even know your way to the post office."

Test Your Knowledge Answers

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| 1. Luke 2:39 | 6. Matthew 4:12-23 |
| 2. Matthew 3:13 | 7. Matthew 15:32-39 |
| 3. Matthew 4:1 | 8. John 5:2 |
| 4. John 2:1-11 | 9. John 11 |
| 5. John 4:1-7 | 10. Acts 1:9-12 |