

Primary

My Bible First

teaching helps samples
for C-48
“Almost Persuaded”

Teaching helps packet includes these items:

- Book 1—Teacher’s Guide
- Book 2—Children’s Lessons; Pen of Inspiration
- Book 3—Reproducible Masters
- Nature Corner
- Supplied Pictures

Contents:

Book 1:

- Complete outline of the Sabbath school class, with detailed instructions and suggestions for each part.
- Detailed list of materials needed and where to purchase each.
- Weekly lesson teaching outline (see pages 4, 5) that includes...
 - introduction and conclusion
 - heart appeal
 - opening and closing prayers
 - lesson emphasis
 - key points
 - suggested verses to read in class
 - object lessons and illustrations
 - the memory verse
- Principles of teaching primary with guidelines for...
 - being a godly teacher
 - choosing music
 - choosing visual aids
 - conducting teacher's meetings
 - arranging the classroom
 - seasonal decorations
 - maintaining proper behavior
 - understanding primary children
 - maintaining reverence
- Felt scenes for each week's lesson

Book 2:

- Complete text of the children's Bible lesson
- Spirit of Prophecy quotations for each lesson (See page 8).

Book 3:

- Reproducible charts
 - the quarter's memory verses
 - class attendance chart
 - quarter overview/schedule
- Reproducible activity sheets with a variety of different activities. (See pages 2, 3.)
- Answer key for all activity sheets
- Reproducible memory verse copy sheets. (See page 2.)

Materials Checklist	
Materials to purchase before the quarter begins:	
Available from My Bible First:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bible lessons—My Bible First for primary	<input type="checkbox"/> Visualized Songs:
<input type="checkbox"/> Memory verse booklets or individual cards	“All Things Bright and Beautiful”
<input type="checkbox"/> My Bible Pictures (spiralbound or unbound)	“Can You Count the Stars?”
<input type="checkbox"/> Posters (“Creation: And God Said...”, “The Ten Commandments”, “Ten Commandments”)	“Don't Forget the Sabbath”
	“Mighty Power of God”
	“Even Me”

What the Bible Says About...

Coveting

Fill in all the missing vowels:






1. Exodus 20:17
“You shall n_t c_v_t.”

2. 1 Timothy 6:10
“For the l_v_ of m_n_y is a r__t of __ll kinds of _v_], for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced th_ms_]v_s through with many s_rr_ws.”

3. Proverbs 8:11
“For w_sd_m is b_tt_r than r_b_s, and all the things one may desire cannot be compared with her.”

4. Proverbs 11:4
“R_ch_s do not pr_f_t in the d_y of wr_th, but r_gh_t__sn_ss delivers from d__th.”

5. Hebrews 13:5
“Let your conduct be w_th__t_c_v_t__sn_ss; b_c_nt_nt with such things as you have. For He Himself is with us and will be with us and will be with us and will be with us.”

What the Bible Says About...

The Tower of Babel

Fill in the puzzle below with the missing words.

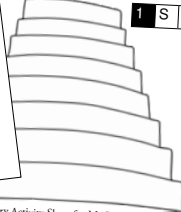
Genesis 11:4
The people did not want to be **1** over all the earth.

Genesis 11:7
God changed the languages of the people so they could not understand one another's **2**.

Genesis 11:9
The people built a tall tower that was named **3**.

Genesis 11:4
The people wanted to make a **4** for themselves.


Genesis 11:4
The people said, “let us **5** ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens.”




Numbers 14:9
“Do not **6** against the Lord.”

Hannah's Prayer Answered

Copy your memory verse on the lines below.
Circle one picture every day you practice it.





Primary Memory Verse Sheet for My Bible First A-45

Primary Activity Sheet for My Bible First A-10

Nature Corner:

- Nature Corner **in full color**. One nature object lesson coordinated with each week's lesson. (See pages 6, 7 for black and white sample.)
- Stories indexed by nature object and lesson.

Pictures to illustrate lessons:

- Full-color photographs and visuals (called supplied pictures in the “teaching aids” box) to illustrate object lessons and stories in the lesson teaching outline

What the Bible Says About...

Choosing Today

1. What three things did Paul explain to Felix? Acts 24:25

- a.) _____
b.) _____
c.) _____

2. What did Felix tell Paul to do? Acts 24:25

"Felix was afraid and answered, ' _____ for now; when I have a _____ time I will call for you.'"

3. When should we ask Jesus to help us repent and do what is right? 2 Corinthians 6:2

"He says: 'In an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation I have helped you.' Behold, _____ is the accepted _____; behold, now is the _____ of _____."

4. Should we wait until another time to obey? Hebrews 3:15

" _____, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion."

5. My Choice:

"Dear Jesus,
I choose to love and obey
You today. Please forgive
my sins and help me
to obey You."

My name: _____



Almost Persuaded

C-48

Teaching Aids

*See page 9.

- Bible
- My Bible Pictures*
- Money
- Poster—Paul’s Journeys #4 (see page 2)
- Bread
- Plastic snake
- Supplied Pictures:
 - SP-CQ4 #7: Snowman
 - SP-CQ4 #8: Passenger train in India

Lesson Emphasis

Being *almost* saved is the same as being totally lost. We must be 100% for Jesus like Paul was, or we are not His at all.

Memory Verse—Psalm 91:15

“He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him.”

Introduction



Story (SP-CQ4 #8): Susan stood on the platform of a busy train station in Calcutta, India. As she waited for her train, she noticed a young man sitting on a bench nearby. He was looking at the train which had stopped right in front of him. Later the train started to move slowly out of the station and down the tracks. Still, the man didn’t get up. But when it began going faster and faster, he leaped to his feet and ran furiously after it. Reaching out his hand as he ran, he tried to grab the rail on the back of the train. But he couldn’t run fast enough. He waited too long, didn’t he? Our lesson today is about several people who also waited too long. Let’s pray.

Prayer


Dear God, as we talk about Felix, Festus, and Agrippa who waited too long to accept Jesus, please send Your Holy Spirit to help us choose to love and obey You today. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Teaching the Lesson


1 Briefly tell about Felix.

- a. Paul was now a prisoner. He was in Caesarea, where Felix the governor lived. Felix had listened to Paul and to the Jewish leaders who accused him, and he knew that Paul was innocent.
- b. But Felix kept Paul in prison since he wanted to please the Jews more than he wanted to do right.
- c. **Ask**, “After a few days, what did Felix do?”  **Acts 24:24 Show Picture #C.48.1**
- d. **Ask**, “How did Felix feel as he listened to Paul?”  **Acts 24:25, first part**
- e. Felix had done many cruel, wicked things. He was not righteous, and he did not have self-control. No wonder he was afraid of the judgment! But God loved him and was giving him a chance to repent.



Object Lesson (SP-CQ4 #7): Do you remember that a snowman gets hard and icy in the cold night air? What happens to it when the warm sun shines on it? It gets soft and melts, doesn’t it? Felix’ heart was cold and hard with sin. He did not want to do right. But as he listened to Paul that day, Jesus, God’s Son, the light of the world, shone on his heart. But he chose to shut out Jesus’ love.

- f. **Ask**, “Did Felix repent?”  **Acts 24:25, last part** Sadly, Felix chose not to listen to the Holy Spirit, and he never received another chance to repent. Do you remember your memory verse from last week? It says, “Behold, *now* is the accepted time; behold, *now* is the day of salvation.” If we hear the Holy Spirit speaking to our minds, should we wait until later to obey? No. There will never be a better time.
- g. After that day, Felix often talked with Paul; but he did it just because he hoped that Paul would give him money. **Visual (money):** Felix loved money more than he loved God.

2 Tell about Festus and Agrippa.





- a. After Paul had been in prison for two years, Festus became the new governor.
- b. When the Jewish leaders came to see Festus, they accused Paul of doing many terrible things. But they could not prove that they were telling the truth.
- c. **Ask**, “What did Paul tell Festus when it was his turn to talk?”  **Acts 25:8**
- d. Festus knew that Paul was innocent. But like Felix, he wanted to please the Jews, so he didn’t want to let Paul go free. Finally Paul said, “I appeal to Caesar.” He was asking Festus to send him to Rome and

let Nero, the Caesar, decide what should happen to him.

- e. While Paul was waiting to go to Rome, King Agrippa came to visit Festus. **Ask**, “When Festus told him about Paul, what did the king say?”  **Acts 25:22**
- f. The next day, dressed in their fancy clothes, King Agrippa, his sister Bernice, and Festus, and many other important people gathered to listen to Paul.
- g. Then Paul was brought from prison. He was dressed in humble clothes, and he had chains on his wrists. **Show Picture #C.48.2**
- h. Paul told those people about his early life, his conversion on the road to Damascus, and how Jesus had changed his life completely. He also spoke about Jesus and why He came to our world.
- i. **Ask**, “What did King Agrippa say when Paul finished speaking?”  **Acts 26:28**
- j. Sadly, Agrippa didn’t actually decide to become a Christian.
Visual (SP–CQ4 #8): Did *almost* catching the train mean that the man was on the train? Oh, no! He completely missed the train. Agrippa was like that. He completely missed salvation and heaven.

3

Tell about Paul’s shipwreck.

- a. Finally, it was time for Paul to travel to Rome where Caesar lived. **Visual (Poster #4)**: Show Rome. In those days, it took a long time to travel from Caesarea to Rome in a ship. **Show Picture #C.48.3** And because it was almost winter when storms happened often, it was dangerous to travel in a ship.
- b. Paul’s ship finally got to the island of Crete. **Visual (Poster #4)**: Show Paul’s route to Crete.
- c. The ship’s captain planned to spend the winter on that island in a city named Phoenix, because it had a good harbor for the ship. But while the captain was trying to get to Phoenix, a big storm suddenly came up. The storm blew their ship away from the island and across the Mediterranean Sea. **Ask**, “Did that storm last a long time? Did the people on the ship think that they would die?”  **Acts 27:20**
- d. Paul was not afraid. Jesus had promised that he would go to Rome someday. But he knew that the other people on the ship were not ready to die. So he asked God to save their lives.
- e. One night an angel came to talk to Paul. And in the morning, he told the people on the ship what the angel had said. **Ask**, “What did Paul say?”  **Acts 27:21–26**
- f. That terrible storm lasted for fourteen days. All that time, the people on the ship didn’t eat anything. **Visual (bread)**: So Paul encouraged the men to eat, and they ate some bread together.
- g. The next day, the ship ran aground and broke apart near an island named Malta. Some people swam to shore, and the others floated in on broken boards from the ship. **Show Pictures #C.48.4, 5**
- h. All arrived safely on the island just like the angel had said. **Visual (Poster #4)**: Show Malta.
- i. The people who lived on the island built a fire to help the men get dry and warm.
- j. Even though Paul was old and sick, he did what he could to help. **Ask**, “As Paul was gathering firewood, what happened to him?”  **Acts 28:3 Show Picture #C.48.6**
Visual (snake): The people were sure that Paul would die.
Ask, “But did God let Paul die?”  **Acts 28:5**
- k. God delivered Paul from many troubles, just like our memory verse says.

Memory Verse Review

Repeat the memory verse together.

Conclusion

Felix, Festus, Agrippa, and many other important people waited too long to accept Jesus, and they were lost. But Paul kept choosing to serve Jesus with all his heart, and God saved him from many troubles.

Appeal to the Heart

Do you want to accept Jesus right now? I do. (Raise hand.) Shall we pray right now and tell Jesus that we are choosing to love and obey Him like Paul did?

Prayer

Dear God, how wonderful it is that You saved Paul from so many dangers, and how wonderful it is that Paul kept on choosing to serve You every day! Today we have chosen to love and obey You, too. We want to belong totally to You. In Jesus’ name, amen.



WATERFALLS

Being *almost* a Christian is the same as not being a Christian at all.

The Bible Says...

“So they come to you as people do, they sit before you as My people, and they hear your words, but they do not do them; for with their mouth they show much love, but their hearts pursue their own gain. ... they hear your words, but they do not do them.”

Ezekiel 33:31, 32

Have you ever hiked to see a waterfall? Perhaps your parents planned a special family hike for a Sabbath afternoon activity. You were probably excited to go; waterfalls are very special things to see, and each one is different from all the others.

Now let's suppose that the trail to this waterfall is three miles long. That's a long way to walk, but you look forward to the reward at the end—seeing a beautiful waterfall. As you walk, though, you get more and more tired. “When will we ever get to see the waterfall?” you wonder. Finally, when you are almost to the waterfall, you give up. “Let's go find a different trail,” you say. “We've hiked all this way and haven't seen any waterfall yet.”

Would that be wise? No, of course not. Just a few more minutes of walking would bring you to the waterfall. But if you don't hike all the way, you won't see the waterfall at the end.

Often it's true that *almost* doing something is

the same as not doing it at all. Walking *almost* all the way to a waterfall means not seeing it at all. Being *almost* a Christian is something like that, too.

One time Paul was talking to King Agrippa and some others about Jesus. Paul wanted the king to choose to believe in Jesus—to be a Christian. But at the end of Paul's speech King Agrippa said, “You almost persuade me to become a Christian” (Acts 26:28).

Almost a Christian! Is that almost as good as actually being a Christian? No. There are only two sides we can choose—God's side or Satan's side. If we do not choose to be on God's side, then we have automatically chosen Satan's side. So “almost a Christian” actually means choosing to obey Satan instead of God!

Do you want to be “almost a Christian?” Almost unselfish? Almost kind? Almost obedient? No, certainly not. Let's decide today to follow God with our whole heart.



The gospel of Christ is not only to be believed, but it is to be acted upon. We are to be doers of the word; and in doing or not doing according to the instruction of Christ, we are deciding our eternal destiny for life or death. God does not desire fitful service, emotional spasms of religion. We are to act from principle, to have a firm, abiding trust in Christ. If Christ is formed within, the hope of glory, it will be made manifest in the development of our character and actions; for there will appear the likeness of Christ in our life. We shall represent the Father and the Son to the world. The command is given, “Work while it is day; for the night cometh, in which no man can work.”

Jesus calmly asks, “Are there not twelve hours in the day?” If we employ these hours realizing our accountability to God, acting as serious, candid agents for God, keeping eternity in view, we shall live in such a way as to secure the eternal inheritance, and by our precept and example shall bring souls to Christ. But we have no time to devote to the indulgence of self in sin, no time for selfish pleasure seeking. Time is golden. We have characters to form for eternal life, and angels of God are watching what progress we are making. Angels are weighing moral worth. Oh, that we all might realize the value of time! A ruler exclaimed, when the physician told him that he could live but a few minutes, “A kingdom for an hour’s time.” He had been granted year after year. He had had twelve hours of the day. Was not the time granted him that he might secure his eternal interests? Now is the appointed time, now is the day of salvation. Oh, may none put off the day of repentance and reformation! Now is the accepted time.

Jesus Christ has engaged to save every soul who will believe in him as a personal Saviour. He has engaged us in his service, and has pointed out to us the work that he expects us to do. He has given us a glimpse of eternity, in order that we may realize that temporal things are of little moment beside that which is eternal. Something higher than the affairs of this life is to engage our attention, and call forth the energies of our being, that we may glorify our Redeemer. Christ calls upon us as human agents to cooperate with heavenly agencies in the work of saving the world. Not one is to feel that he can use his time as he chooses. Heavenly requirements are not to be ignored. It is the universal tendency of men to subordinate the eternal realities to temporal matters, to make the claims of the future, immortal life subservient to the commonplace affairs of this fleeting life. But the Lord has said: “No man can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.” The god of this world claims the service of men, and seeks to keep them in continual slavery to his will. But Christ, the uplifted Saviour, calls to men in authoritative tones, saying, “Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things [of secondary importance] shall be added unto you.”

—ST July 30, 1894

Now, just now, is our time of probation, wherein we are to prepare for heaven. Christ gave His life that we might have this probation. But so long as time shall last, Satan will strive for the mastery over us. He works with power to lead men to become absorbed in money getting. He invents many kinds of amusement, so that their minds may be engrossed with worldly pleasure. He would have them forget all about the inward adorning—the adorning of a meek and quiet spirit—which in the sight of God is of great price. He is determined that every moment shall be filled with efforts to carry out ambitious projects or to amuse and gratify self...

Satan uses his influence to drown the voice of God and the voice of conscience, and the world acts as if under his control. Men have chosen him as their leader.... Infatuated with schemes for pleasure and amusement, they are striving for that which will perish with the using....

The fast-fulfilling signs of the times declare that the great day of the Lord is right upon us. In that day shall it be said of any of us: “This man was called by God, but he would not hear, he would not give heed. Again and again the Spirit moved upon his heart, but he said, ‘Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.’ This man saw the Saviour’s sacrifice in a beautiful light, but some matter of minor importance came in, and his heart was captivated.... Every gracious, heavenly influence was dismissed.”

Christ is ready to set us free from sin, but He does not force the will, and if by persistent transgression the will itself is wholly bent on evil, and we do not desire to be set free, if we will not accept His grace, what more can He do? We have destroyed ourselves by our determined rejection of His love. “Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.” “Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts” (2 Corinthians 6:2; Hebrews 3:7, 8)

—HP 346