

TEMKIT'S FOR CHILDREN

TEMKIT'S MISSION:

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

Year 2 - 4th Quarter - Issue #7



CREATION CORNER

The Feathered Policeman

KING was a parrot, and master of the place, except when the owner decided otherwise. He kept strict guard over the premises, scolding the birds that gluttonously ravaged the fruit, driving away bad dogs that came to steal, and keeping out, with his talk, numerous beggars who might have borrowed (?) certain things and forgotten to return them.

King was a very useful and highly prized bird; for though he had the range of the place, he was content to abide at home, where his valuable assistance was needed.

A band of ruffians who lived by stealing, had taken up their quarters in the town, and the people were sorely vexed because of them. The police were constantly on the watch, but no one succeeded in catching the outlaws. So matters dragged on for months. Then the thieves decided to plunder the doctor's home on the hill. They immediately found themselves in trouble, because King guarded his master's property. I nearly forgot to tell you that King's master was a doctor.

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WEEKLY BIBLE LESSON

One dark night, the doctor, who lived alone much of the time, saddled his horse, and hurried away in answer to an urgent call. The patter of hurrying hoofs sounded along the driveway. Scarcely had the gate swung closed behind the hastening doctor ere three men stepped from the shadow.

Two remained without, one on either side of the house, while the third pushed open the unfastened door and entered. He had nothing to fear; therefore he took no care to conceal his movements or to avoid making a noise during his search. Because it was unhandy to find things in the dark, the thief struck a light, and soon the place hid nothing from any eye that cared to look. Taking from inside his coat a large sack, the man proceeded to fill it with various articles of value, going through the whole house, till the bag became bulky and quite unwieldy. Then, with some difficulty, he passed from the doctor's study into the dining room, which was King's sleeping quarters and the last room to be pillaged.

As soon as the lights flared, Mr. Parrot blinked his eyes and shifted on his perch drowsily. But all at once, he became alert, for the man before him was not his master. Something must

be wrong! Silently he watched the intruder going around the room. The man had not seen the bird, and knew of no living thing around but himself and his two confederates. Just as he was about to tie the sack, having finished his pilferage, a shrill voice cried angrily: "Stop it, I say! Stop it! A-a-h, I'll have to shoot you!" These were the words the doctor always used when rebuking his pet, and the parrot employed them now to advantage.

The man stopped as though shot. He dropped his heavy sack and rushed for the door. Before he got out, King swooped down upon him, and plunged his bill into the frightened man's face, tearing at the thief's left eye so that he drew forth blood and screams of anguish.

The two thieves who had remained outside took alarm for their safety, and fled at once, leaving their comrade to escape any way he could. With his blinded eye and the other wounds inflicted by the angry parrot, the thief could hardly move for intense pain and fear. He groped his way, in the dark, to the porch, where, unable to see, he fell off the edge, striking his head against a hitching block on the ground below, and lay there unconscious from the blow.

Arriving at the home to which he was supposed to have been called, the doctor found no one sick, and took instant warning. He turned his horse about, and ran for his home on the hill. From a distance, the light blinked at him; and he spurred the speeding animal to greater exertion. As he raced along the highway, two men stepped out of the road into the concealing bushes; but he paid no attention to them, and dashed on to the house, where he drew rein and leaped to the ground, with pistol in hand.

King met him at the door, calling: - "Stop it, I say! Stop it! A-a-h, I'll have to shoot you!" Quickly the doctor glanced about, observing the abandoned sack, also the blood upon the floor and over King's head. A groan attracted him to the porch, where, upon striking a match, he discovered the injured thief.

The poor fellow had suffered the loss of his left eye, with the added affliction of a broken collar bone, bruises, cuts, and scratches, which were all the result of his attempted burglary. The doctor dressed the wounds, and King stood close by all the while, saying: "Stop it, I say! Stop it! A-a-h, I'll have to shoot you!"

Anger at his companions for their coward-

ice in deserting him, led the captive thief to reveal the names and whereabouts of all the others in his company. Thus was the whole band broken up.

So you can see that King, by his faithfulness, performed an act that was not only of signal service to his master, but also a great blessing to the whole town. After this thrilling experience, the doctor's fighting parrot was known far and wide as "the feathered policeman." Robert G. Strickland. Our Little Friend - December 12 1924 = ^..^ =

TRUE-STORY-TIME

DANGER SIGNALS

WHEN I was a very small girl, I lived with my grandfather in the city. Every summer, I looked forward to going home to see my mother, and the dear little brothers and sisters, who lived on a large farm.

One day in early summer, my mother came for me, to take me to the farm, where I was to spend four happy weeks. It was a long, long way; so I amused myself, as we rode along in the carriage, by reading the signs I saw beside the road. I was just learning to read, so it was great fun to pick out the longest words I saw, and try to read them. But I did not know them all; and when I came to a large sign by the side of a railroad track, my mother helped me read the words, "Danger-Look-out for the train-cars."

"Has my little girl never learned to know the danger signals?" my mother asked, when we had safely crossed the track. "You will always find one of these signs at every railroad crossing. They are placed there to tell us that a crossing is a dangerous place; and we must see if any trains are coming, before we try to cross."

And then it was that she told me something I shall never, never forget. She said there were many kinds of danger signals in the world, and she wanted me to know them; for some of them were so very small, and looked so harmless, that I might not be able to find them all alone.

"One of these danger signals," she said, "is using bad language; and whenever you are with anyone who uses bad words, that is a signal for you to hurry away as fast as you can."

She said that "Bad Manners" and "Keeping Bad Company" were other, danger signals. Bad

manners always go with bad company; and when we are not careful about our manners, we are really putting out a danger signal that will make people afraid to be with us.-

The dull, sleepy feeling that we sometimes have after eating, is a signal that we have eaten too much. It is a signal we should watch closely; for if we do not learn to control our appetites while we are children, we will not be able to resist bigger temptations when we are older.

Telling untruths is still another signal we should be sure to see; and boys (& girls) especially must watch the signal that says "Smoking." It is a danger they should always avoid, - or when they get to be bigger, they will not be able to run when they see the signals "Drinking," "Swearing," and "Stealing.""

"But we are almost home," said mother, "and I cannot talk to you longer. To-night however, I will tell you how even the animals teach their little ones the danger signals"

That night, when story time came, and I, with the other children, was sitting by the side of my mother, she told us this story:

"In some parts of the world, there lives an animal something like a reindeer. It is called a caribou. I have read that one day a man was walking through the woods, when, from the top of a little hill, he saw a mother caribou and her calf feeding in the valley below him. He quickly hid behind a stump; but the wind was blowing in the direction of the caribou, and already she had caught his scent.

"At once she thought of her little calf, and the danger it might be in. Here was a danger signal, and she must teach her little one to avoid the danger. So she brought her baby up the hill some distance toward the man, and made it smell the ground where the man had walked. Then, to teach it that whenever it got this scent again, it must run for its life, she got behind the calf, and butted it down the valley as fast as it could go.

"That is why I am telling you to-night about the danger signals. I want my boys and girls to learn to watch for them, and when they see them, to run quickly away from them. In this way, you will grow up to be strong and clean and pure." Mrs. Grace Robison Rine *Our Little Friend*: May 19: 1916. = ^ . ^ =

STORY LESSON

COUNTERFEITS 4

The Truth About Harry Potter

There are several mistakes people make about miracles, or super-natural events. One is the most common; these folks just say they don't believe any miracles or supernatural things ever happen. They think it is all a trick. These are also the folks that tend to say books like Harry Potter are 'Just Pretend' and so perfectly all right to read.

Now these people are easiest for Satan to fool, because all he needs is to do something or tell them something that they think nobody else knows about, and right away they are convinced.

The sad thing about these people is that when they are convinced, they go right into believing whatever the 'occult' teacher or psychic counselor told them. They do not question it, or go to the Bible and see what the warnings are. This is because when they didn't believe in anything, they didn't believe in God or the Bible either. Now they end up believing whatever Satan feels like telling them; Very sad indeed!

Now another group believes that all miracles and supernatural things don't come from God or the devil; but they are sure that it is just some law of science that hasn't been discovered yet. They don't believe in either God or the devil, and laugh at people who do believe. They think they are 'very scientific' and they often get involved in learning 'magic' or 'new age' stuff because they think it is the way to explore 'unknown science.'

These people are the ones that tell you, that man only uses just a tiny part of his brain (maybe that is all *they* do use) and all these 'miracle powers' are really just abilities in our brains that we can learn to use. They think we have a lot of abilities in there from the animals we evolved from.

Most of them think our 'mind' or 'soul' cannot die, and so they are open to being fooled by Satan's angels into talking with famous 'dead people' who are just evil angels in disguise. They will believe whatever these tricky demons tell them. Some, who don't talk to 'dead people', talk to 'aliens' from outer space, which are Satan's angels also.

These folks are also the ones that think the

universe is full of 'powers' that we can learn to tap into, by linking our brain somehow to them. These people are spiritualists, but will get very mad at you if you tell them that. They are so sure it is just some kind of *science* they are involved in. Satan can fool them very easily, and really, science is the god they worship.

Now I want to mention another little group; this group was very common as the missionaries first went into the heathen lands. These people believe in devils!! They KNOW there is such a thing as devils, and they live their whole lives in fear of offending the demons.

They often believe that every stone and tree and animal has a demon spirit in it and so they practice all kinds of things to try and make sure the demons don't get mad at them. Often they have to make costly sacrifices, and offer what little food they may have to the devil-gods. They also believe that dead people's spirits walk the earth.

These people are ruled over by witch-doctors or devil-devil people, who often get rich by keeping the poor people so afraid to offend them. These people worship all these spirit-gods, and live a sad life of fear. When our missionaries first told them that God up in Heaven loved them, and could protect them from devils, it seemed too good to be true. Many believed and were able to break free of the devils and life in the love of Jesus.

There is another little group in our world, who know the truth about Lucifer, and yet they worship him willingly, because they are fooled into believing that he will win the fight against God; and he will make them rich and famous. Often he does make them rich and famous; but Satan can't give anybody life- and when they are dead, being rich and famous is no use at all! Some of these people help to make books and movies about things like Harry Potter, because by doing this, they know it helps their master Satan, to fool more people.

Now many Christians fall into a different trap. They say they believe in God; but they don't believe in Satan and his angels. When they do this they don't really believe God or the Bible, because they are calling God and Jesus a liar. Satan and his angels are talked about in God's Word and Jesus talked about Satan when He was on earth.

These people, if they see a miracle or some-

thing supernatural, just right away think it comes from God. No matter how weird it is, or even if it doesn't agree at all with the Bible, they are sure it comes from God. Many Catholics, and some people in all other churches as well, are like this. Most of these people also believe the 'soul' lives on after the body dies, and so Satan can have an easy time fooling them. Satan fools these people with weeping statues; pictures that bleed; appearances of the Virgin Mary, and all kind of things.

I want to especially tell you that there are other, more sneaky ways that he is fooling Christians today, even many Adventists! It is through 'feelings and emotions'. People believe that if they are in a church or a church group, and they are talking about Jesus, and singing about Jesus, that Satan cannot fool them. So they think that whatever happens to them must come from God and the Holy Spirit!

It is happening often that people who get together to 'pray for the Holy Spirit' end up having some strange feeling or action come to them. Some get a wonderful excited, happy feeling and go dancing about or clapping or shouting. Others feel something like a shock or a blow and they fall down helpless to the floor, usually backwards.

On the floor they may roll around or cry or make noises or just be paralyzed. Some people in groups like this start laughing and they can't stop; or they make noises like animals, pigs, lions, dogs or chickens. Some stagger around as if they were drunk.

Boys and girls, Satan is not afraid anymore to go to church! We are told that in the last days, and the last days are here now, that he will pretend to be 'converted' and appear as an angel of light. Many ministers claiming to work for God are really just working for Satan, some of them know it, but most of them don't know it, and really think it is God guiding them!

There are many danger signs that you can watch for. If a person or a group does not like to spend time reading or learning from the Bible, but would just rather talk, or sit around 'meditating' or praying in groups for the 'spirit'; if they ever make fun of the Bible, saying it is boring; especially the King James Version, or the writings of Ellen White; if they like to talk a lot about 'feelings' and loving everybody and do a lot of hugging and kissing; if instead of Bible

and Spirit of Prophecy they use sentimental stories or jokes; if they want to use music that has a strong Rock and Roll beat, or makes you feel like clapping and swaying; if they make fun of 'old fashioned hymns' or they don't want to be around older folks in the church; if they think that young people should only have their own meetings or groups, and not have any older people to guide them; if they act or talk as if they do not have to worry about sin or obeying God, but "just do our own thing"; these are all danger signals!!

Another danger signal is a person that tells you they have a special 'gift' from the Holy Spirit, and you should come to them for counsel. Or they may want to lay hands on you, so you can have the gift too. If you are invited to go to a meeting and you have heard there are strange things happening, people falling down, or even "healings" taking place; do not go there, as you are walking into Satan's ground, and you can be fooled and harmed by him if you do. If you go to a meeting or group and you didn't know before that strange things were happening, but the people start talking about them, or doing them, or telling you how to get some 'wonderful feelings or power' from the Holy Spirit; or any of the danger signals are there, get up and leave quickly, warn the others they better leave too, but get out, even if they won't come with you, or even if they laugh at you.

Satan is coming to church, boys and girls, and you don't want to be fooled by him! He is counterfeiting the real blessings that Jesus wants His children to have.

There is only one group of people that are going to stay faithful to Jesus and go to heaven with Him; they will be those who give all their heart to Jesus and choose to obey Him. They will read and study the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy until they know it well, and obey it, even if they have to do it alone! They will not just hang around in groups, but will study on their own. They will put away all wrong entertainment out of their lives. They will pray for the power of Jesus and the Holy Spirit in their lives, not to give them funny feelings or make them do strange things, or so they can boast about being 'someone special', but to overcome sin and serve the Lord.

These people will have real guidance and power in their lives, but they will not be boast-

ful or pretend to have some 'special gift' that other people can't have; Oh, No, they will be humble and quiet, and will talk more about God and the Bible than they talk about themselves or other people. They will not act silly or go after parties or entertainment. Also they will not excuse sin! They will learn to 'walk with God' as Enoch did long ago. You too CAN CHOOSE to be like this if you will seek to know Jesus and obey Him. Continued = ^..^ =

HISTORY

The Four Brave Jurors

Trial by JURY is an important part of a good justice system. A jury is usually 12 people who are to be 'peers' or much the same as the person accused of the crime. It is the job of the Jury to listen carefully to all the evidence in the case and decide if the person is guilty and deserves to be punished or not.

What many people don't know is that a jury has the power to refuse to enforce a law that it feels is not right in the sight of God's proper human rights.

The story of Edward Bushell and three fellow jurors shows the harshness of the times when the 'church' used the courts to enforce its wishes. These four men were part of a twelve-man jury in England that was brought to decide the guilt of a young man who had dared to preach without a license from the Church of England.

It was 1670, the tenth year of the reign of Charles II. The young man, William Penn, was on trial for breaking the 'Conventicle Act'. This bad law gave the Church of England the only legal right to decide who could preach. Of course, Penn, a Quaker, had clearly broken this law. Penn was on trial for his life. His 'crime' included preaching and teaching a different view of the Bible from that of the Church of England.

The prosecutor and the judge were determined to have a guilty verdict, but these four men refused to agree to find the man guilty. Eight other jurors had gone along with the demands of the judge and prosecutor.

The four brave jurors spent nine weeks of torture in prison. Often they were given no food or water, they were provided no toilet facilities, thus they were soaked with urine and smeared with feces when they were hung up by wrist-

chains. They were threatened with fines, yet not one of them gave in. Edward Bushell said, "My liberty is not for sale." Bushell was a man of great wealth. He owned an international shipping company, but he refused his own freedom, comfort, and safety to defend the rights of another man.

Great good came from the faithfulness of the four jurors who refused, even under torture, to find this godly man guilty of a capital offense, when indeed he had done harm to no man. Neither Bushell nor the other jurors could know how important was their courageous stand. What would have happened had William Penn been found guilty? He would have been put to death, or kept in prison for a very long time!

The noble colony of Pennsylvania, with its major city, Philadelphia, named for brotherly love, would never have been known. Oh yes, the colony would have been established by someone else, but its history and name would have been very different.

This was only one of the good things that came from the brave stand of the four jurors. Their stand set the basis for freedom of religion in Britain, a principle that was to be even more strongly upheld in the United States. It helped towards the English Bill of Rights, established in 1689. At the time, this was the greatest bill of human rights ever provided by a secular government. The English Bill of Rights was certainly the forerunner of the American Bill of Rights.

The action of the four jurors provided the basis for the right for people to get together in peaceful assembly, which is central to the free practice of religion. It was the foundation of freedom of speech and 'habeas corpus', which declared that no man could be kept in jail without being charged with a jailable offense. Indeed, the first writ of habeas corpus that was issued by the Court, was used to free Edward Bushell himself. The stand of these men would ultimately lead to freedom of the press.

The trial of William Penn and the courage of the four jurors established a precedent in law—that justice is a higher standard than legality. Penn had broken the law. By the law he was condemned to a harsh penalty. But the four jurors judged the law itself, and determined that it was an unjust law. To them, justice was not to serve laws, which deprived a man of his God-

ordained freedoms. Thus it must always be in civilized nations. No man or woman must be condemned on the basis of law alone. Every juror must judge if the law is right before declaring the accused guilty. The jury in this sense is above the law. (Adapted) = ^ .. ^ =



Year 2: 4th Quarter:
"FROM THE WILDERNESS TO CANAAN"
WEEKLY BIBLE LESSON 7: "A TRICKY DEAL"

For our Bible lessons we are going to use the King James Version of the Bible. Just like the boys and girls used to use to learn to read from in the pioneer days.

There will be some texts to look up for each day and you should practice your memory verse until you can say it without looking. Don't forget to learn the text too.

MEMORY VERSE: "Deliver my soul, O LORD, from lying lips, and from a deceitful tongue." Psalms 120:2

Sunday

Text: Joshua 8:1 "And the LORD said unto Joshua, Fear not, neither be thou dismayed: take all the people of war with thee, and arise, go up to Ai: see, I have given into thy hand the king of Ai, and his people, and his city, and his land."

Now that the sin was put out of the camp and Joshua and the people were again taking their directions from God, the Lord told them that Ai would be given to them and they were to destroy it all, but this time they could keep the animals and treasures for themselves.

Joshua made a very clever plan. He divided his army into sections and most of them he sent to hide in different places away from the city of Ai. Then he took a small group and came

up where they king of Ai saw him coming.

The king of course thought he could chase them away as he did before-but this time God was with His people. Out came the Ai army after Joshua and his small band and they pretended to run away as before. Further and further from the city the enemy chased after the Israelites running in front of them.

All at once a cry from the enemy soldiers was heard. Someone had looked behind and saw their city was on fire. One of the groups Joshua had hidden had attacked the city while the army was chasing Joshua's group.

Very quickly the other hidden groups attacked the Ai army and very soon it was destroyed. The king was buried under a huge pile of rocks that made a monument in the entrance of the city. This was to remind people in future years of the power of God and what He can do for His people when they obey His commandments.

Thought - It does make a difference whether we obey the Lord or not.

Monday

Text: Joshua 8:30,31 "Then Joshua built an altar unto the LORD God of Israel in mount Ebal, As Moses the servant of the LORD commanded the children of Israel, as it is written in the book of the law of Moses, an altar of whole stones, over which no man hath lift up any iron: and they offered thereon burnt offerings unto the LORD, and sacrificed peace offerings."

Now the people were ready to go right on into the land of Canaan, capturing cities and driving out the people of that land. But first God ordered them to have a very special ceremony, one that they were never to forget.

All of the people, men and women, boys and girls, now marched a long ways to two mountains in the land of Canaan. God was with them as they did this and their enemies were not at all able to bother them or attack them.

When they got to Mount Ebal and Mount Gerizim, they were divided into 2 parts by tribes. Half the tribes were sent to Mount Ebal and half to Mount Gerizim. Joshua followed the directions that Moses had given him from God just before he died.

This place was where that Abraham made his first altar to Jehovah in the land of Canaan.

Here both Abraham and Jacob had pitched their tents. Here Jacob bought the field where the tribes buried the body of Joseph also where he dug a well. It was a beautiful spot with a lovely valley and green fields dotted with olive groves, and flowers.

Ebal and Gerizim, upon opposite sides of this valley, make a natural pulpit, every word spoken on one side can be heard on the other and there was lots of room between for the people.

Joshua built an altar to God on Mount Ebal and offered sacrifices. Then they made a huge monument of plastered stones and they wrote all the Law of God upon them. They wrote the Ten Commandments and all the other laws that Moses had written for them as God had given them to him for the people.

Thought – The altar of sacrifice was put on Mount Ebal, to show that if it wasn't for the promised Messiah that was to give His life for sin, because they had broken those laws, they would all die.

Tuesday

Text: Joshua 8:33-35 "And all Israel, and their elders, and officers, and their judges, stood on this side the ark and on that side before the priests the Levites, which bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD, as well the stranger, as he that was born among them; half of them over against mount Gerizim, and half of them over against mount Ebal; as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded before, that they should bless the people of Israel. And afterward he read all the words of the law, the blessings and cursings, according to all that is written in the book of the law. There was not a word of all that Moses commanded, which Joshua read not before all the congregation of Israel, with the women, and the little ones, and the strangers that were conversant among them."

There all of Israel stood, half the tribes on Mount Ebal and half on Mount Gerizim. In the valley between was the Ark of the Covenant carried by the Priests. Joshua stood near the Ark. A trumpet was sounded and everyone was quiet. Then Joshua read the Blessings that would come

to those who obey God's laws. All the tribes on Mount Gerizim shouted "AMEN!"

Then he read the curses that would come if they did not obey God's laws and all the tribes on Mount Gerizim shouted "AMEN!"

Joshua not only wrote the laws on the great monument where all could read them, but he read every word of them to the people as they listened on either side. It was God's will that every seven years all the people should come together in some place that He would choose, and there the Law would be read to the people.

You can read the Blessings and the Curses for yourself in Deuteronomy 28. Remember that they are for us too. God is the same yesterday, now and forever and He does not change His laws. He does not break His promises either. Those who keep all His commandments through the power of Jesus and the Holy Spirit living in their hearts, will have blessings today.

Thought – Even the children were all there to hear the words of the Law of God. It is important that we all spend time learning to understand what God wants us to do. Obedience is the way to happiness, now and forever.

Wednesday

Text: Joshua 9:3-6 "And when the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done unto Jericho and to Ai, They did work wily, and went and made as if they had been ambassadors, and took old sacks upon their asses, and wine bottles, old, and rent, and bound up; And old shoes and clouted upon their feet, and old garments upon them; and all the bread of their provision was dry and mouldy. And they went to Joshua unto the camp at Gilgal, and said unto him, and to the men of Israel, We be come from a far country: now therefore make ye a league with us."

After the special ceremony was over, Israel went back to their camp at Gilgal. Many of the kings of the nations in Canaan thought they had a good idea about how to beat the Israelites and save their lands. They made an agreement together to fight as one big army. "That will beat those Israelites", they thought.

But one of the nations, the Gibeonites, weren't so sure. They were a bit like Rahab had been. They realized that if the God of heaven was fight-

ing for the Israelites, it wouldn't matter how many people joined together, they would still lose!

They decided that if they were going to make an agreement, they wanted to make it with Israel, not the Canaanites. Now, God had told the people of Israel that they were to make no deals with the nations of Canaan. God did not want those nations to remain there and He did not want Israel mixing with them and learning their ways.

So these leaders of Gibeon decided to pull a sneaky trick. They took some moldy bread and some old wine-skins and put on old raggy clothes and worn out shoes. They put some old sacks on some tired old donkeys and like this they marched one day into the camp of Israel and asked to see Joshua.

Thought – They thought they were real smart to tell lies, but their lies were found out.

Thursday

Text: Joshua 9:8,9 "And they said unto Joshua, We are thy servants. And Joshua said unto them, Who are ye? and from whence come ye? And they said unto him, From a very far country thy servants are come because of the name of the LORD thy God: for we have heard the fame of him, and all that he did in Egypt."

As soon as these ambassadors said they wanted to make a deal with Joshua, he said, "Maybe you live right here near us, and we are not to make deals with the people here."

But the men said, "Look at us, how ragged and old our things are and our shoes all worn out. Look at our wineskins that were new when we left home, and our bread that was fresh baked the day we left. We come from a far away land, not near here at all."

Now Joshua made a mistake again, the same one he made at Ai. He forgot to ask God about these men and find out from Him what he was to do about them. If he would have asked God, He would have showed him the men were lying. God will show us many things if we remember to ask Him. But Joshua forgot.

So when he saw all the old things and heard the lying story, he believed it. I think he was also fooled by the flattering words these sneaky men told him about how great Israel was.

Anyway they made dinner for these men and all the leaders got together and made a deal, and swore to God, that they would not kill these people but let them live and have their lands.

Three days later they found out the truth as they marched on and found the Gibeonite's lands right in the middle of Canaan! Now what would Israel and Joshua do about these tricky people? The people of Israel were angry with their leaders for making this deal but the leaders said they had to keep their word.

He called them before him and asked, "Why did you lie to us?" They said they did it because they were afraid, and they knew Israel would destroy all the nations in Canaan.

Now Joshua told them that they would be allowed to live, but because they had said they were Israel's servants and they had dressed in old clothes to fool him, from now on they would always be servants to Israel and cut wood and carry water and do hard work. They would always be poor but they would be allowed to live and keep their four cities.

Thought – God expects us to keep our promises even if we were tricked into making them. The only time we break a promise, is if we find out that it would be breaking God's Law to keep it.

Friday

Text: Joshua 9:27 "And Joshua made them that day hewers of wood and drawers of water for the congregation, and for the altar of the LORD, even unto this day, in the place which he should choose."

Now if the men would have been honest and came and said they wanted to stop worshipping their heathen gods and become worshippers of the true God of heaven, they would have been spared and be allowed to be part of Israel, and would not have ended up a cursed people. Lying is never smart.

Now when the kings of Canaan heard about how Gibeon was now working for Israel, they were afraid and angry. Five kings of the Amorites got together and marched out to attack and destroy the Gibeonites.

Quickly the Gibeonites sent the message to Joshua to come and rescue them as they had promised they would. This time Joshua asked

God about it and God said go ahead, they will not stand against thee.

By marching hard and fast Joshua and his army got to Gibeon just as the five kings had surrounded it and were ready to attack it. The armies of the five kings turned and ran away with Israel chasing them.

Up one side of a mountain they went and down the other side trying to escape. When they got to the other side of the mountain, God sent a terrible hailstorm and great chunks of ice fell from the sky and killed more than the Israelites killed with their weapons.

Now Joshua looked up and saw that the day would end before he could destroy this entire enemy and they would get away into the hills and be a bother to Israel. So then he did an amazing thing. He looked up at the sun and the moon and told them to stay where they were!

Now we all know that is impossible, don't we? But God did it! Nothing is impossible with God! This became the longest day ever on earth. For a whole day the sun stood still!

The five kings hid in a cave, but they were captured and slain and soon all this great army was wiped out and Israel went back to Gilgal again.

Thought – God is a God of mercy, even though these Gibeonites had cheated and lied, they were sorry and repented and God forgave them and worked mighty miracles for Israel as they defended them. = ^..^ =

