



WHITER THAN SNOW

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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.

CHAPTER 1



Show Illustration #1

The mountains are steep and almost always covered with snow in winter in the beautiful land of Switzerland. It was one such cold, snowy morning that a young girl stretched one arm after the other over her head and yawned. It was cozy warm in the feather bed under the eiderdown quilt. Annette turned over and was about to go off to sleep again when suddenly she sprang out of bed, remembering that this

was Christmas morning! She must not be late getting breakfast ready. Her father would be coming in from the barn cold and hungry, and Grandmother always expected her coffee to be ready when she hobbled into the kitchen.

Annette took time to arrange her long blond braids. Shivering, she then threw a shawl around her shoulders and turned to look at the little five-year-old brother she supposed was still asleep in the other bed.

But Dani's bed was empty. The little brown bear made of cookie dough was still where she had placed it for him the night before. It looked cold and lonesome. Dani must have gone off in a hurry to have forgotten the little Christmas bear every child in Switzerland loved to get on Christmas Eve.

Drawing her shawl more closely around her shoulders, Annette hurried down the long flight of steps and into the warm kitchen.



Show Illustration #2

There she saw Dani kneeling on the floor. Kneeling beside him she saw her father—long legs beside Dani's short ones, and broad shoulders hunched over something in one of Dani's red slippers. As she got closer Annette saw a tiny white kitten, curled up in the rabbit-fur lining in the slipper. Father was feeding it warm milk from a teaspoon.

"See, Annette," Dani whispered, "Father Christmas did bring me a present. You said he only brought presents to rich boys, and Father said he did not think he would come to a chalet (house) so high in the mountain. But I put my red slipper outside last night—just in case. And look, he brought me the nicest present I have ever had." The kitten began to squirm around a little as it felt the warmth of the fire. Both Dani and Father watched it closely. "I am going to call it 'Klaus,'" Dani said.



Show Illustration #3

Annette sat down in Grandmother's rocking chair and watched. She knew she should have breakfast ready before Grandmother, lame with arthritis, hobbled into the kitchen. Yet she sat there as though she were unable to move.

Annette's thoughts went back to a Christmas Eve just five years ago. She remembered well how, as a child of seven, she had gone to church with a neighbor woman and the woman's son, Lucien. Lucien was about the same age as herself. She remembered how she had come from church joyfully hugging her little brown cookie bear.



Show Illustration #4

Lucien had eaten his bear greedily and then begged for a bit of Annette's. But Annette would not take, nor give, even a tiny bit of hers. "I will never eat him. Never! Never! Never!" And she had pulled her bear closer under her warm coat. She did not like this greedy, disagreeable, dark-haired boy.

Now as she sat watching Dani and her father care for the kitten, Annette remembered how she had come home, all filled with the wonder and joy of Christmas. Yet, as soon as she had seen her father's face she knew something was wrong. "Is Mother worse?" she had asked.

“Yes, Annette, your mother is very ill. She’s been asking for you.” Frightened, Annette had run quickly to her mother’s room.

“I have a present for you, Annette,” her mother had said faintly.

“Yes, Mother,” Annette had answered, for she was accustomed to having a present on Christmas Eve.



Show Illustration #5

But she had not been prepared for the little bundle which the nurse had placed in her arms.

“He is yours, Annette,” her mother had said, “yours to bring up. Take good care of him, dear. He’s your little baby brother and his name is Daniel.”

Annette had not quite understood all of this until later that Christmas Eve when her father had come to her where she lay awake in her bed. “Annette, your mother has gone to keep Christmas in Heaven. She knew she was going, and this is why she gave little Daniel to you. Do you think you can be a mother to him?”

Now, five years later, Annette sat watching her healthy little brother with curly hair and big blue eyes. She saw how tenderly



he watched over the little kitten and she thought, *Mother would be pleased. Dani is a fine boy.*

Show Illustration #6

Just then Annette heard her grandmother coming slowly and painfully down the long hall to the kitchen.

Grandmother had come to live with them after their mother had died. And

even though she was badly crippled with arthritis, she had been a great help to the little family.

Annette roused herself and hurried to open the door. “Don’t scold me, Grandmother,” she said. “I will have your coffee ready very soon.”

“Scold? Who said I was going to scold? No scolding on Christmas Day. But what have we here, Dani, eh?”

Dani explained how the little kitten was a present to him from Father Christmas. “But it must have been there a long time. Father says it was nearly frozen to death. But it’s all right now, Grandmother. See how it licks its fur to make itself nice and clean for Christmas? Grandmother, if my kitten had died would it have gone to Heaven where my mother is?”

“Oh, Dani,” Annette said, “what a question!”



Show Illustration #7

Grandmother said nothing, but when breakfast was over and the dishes neatly placed in the big cupboard, the family gathered around as Father prepared to read from the big family Bible. “Please read about Heaven, Father,” Dani pleaded. “I want to know what it is like in Heaven.”

They sat and talked about Heaven for a while. “There will be many wonderful things in Heaven,” Grandmother said. “But some things can *never* be there. One of those things is sin. There will be no sin in Heaven, and no person who has sin in his heart will be in Heaven.”

All day long Annette thought about what Grandmother had said. She thought about her great dislike for Lucien. This, she knew was sin. “But I just can’t like that selfish, mean boy,” she said to herself. And the sin remained in her heart.

CHAPTER 2



Show Illustration #8

If Annette’s dislike for Lucien was great, his dislike for her was equally great. How he hated that smarty girl with her blond hair and big blue eyes, so unlike his dark hair and eyes. Annette always got the best grades in school, while Lucien usually came out at the bottom of the class.

It was easy for Lucien to hate. He had no father and his mother needed him to help her with the little farm. Lucien resented it because he couldn’t play as much as other boys played, and he didn’t have fine skates.

While it was true that Annette could not have these things either, and that she had to work hard because she had no mother, she was always happy and did not seem to mind. This made Lucien hate her even more.

Lucien was thinking of these things as his sled flew over the snow on the way to school.

Show Illustration #9

Because he wasn’t watching ahead, his sled ran into Annette’s sled at the fork in the road close to the chalet where she lived. He sent her into a deep ditch. When she caught her breath, Annette shouted,



“You big, clumsy donkey! Can’t you see where you’re going?”

Lucien was sorry for the accident. He surely hadn’t meant to dump Annette in the snow in this fashion. He got off his sled and turned back to help Annette out of the drift. But Annette only shouted the more, “Get out of here and leave me alone! I don’t need you to help me!”

Turning aside, Lucien shouted angrily, “Ah, you don’t have to make such a fuss. Might think I’d killed you. Go ahead, climb out.” And Lucien hurried on his way, leaving Annette to get out of the snowdrift as best she could.

When Annette finally came into school she was a sorry sight. Her eyes and nose were blue with cold. Her poor, red hands were bleeding and her books were all wet.

“Whatever happened to you, my child?” the schoolmaster asked.



Show Illustration #10

Annette had been taught not to tell tales, but she was so angry when she saw Lucien sitting at his desk all warm and dry that she began to cry. “It was Lucien! He knocked me in a ditch and went off and left me. I had a hard time getting out.” Annette’s eyes flashed hatred at Lucien.

The boys and girls did not seem to realize that Annette was as wicked as, or worse, than Lucien. Annette was smart and pretty. Everyone

thought she was a wonderful girl. Hadn't she taken a mother's place to her little brother?

But God, who looks on the heart, saw that the hatred and unforgiving spirit in Annette's heart was very great. Although she did not *show* it, God knew how wicked Annette was.

Lucien only hung his head when all the other boys and girls glared at him. When the master got out his cane and gave him a whipping, hatred for Annette filled his unhappy heart completely.

A little voice told both Annette and Lucien that it wasn't right to hate each other, that such hatred is sin. But neither listened to the voice.

Lucien was the last one to leave the little school. He pulled his sled behind him and climbed high up the mountain to his chalet, passing the place where he had dumped Annette in the ditch that morning. True, he had not done it intentionally. Yet he knew he would have been glad to do it; and now he was not a bit sorry for what he had done.



Show Illustration #11

Then, looking up, Lucien saw little Dani close by making a snowman. He had just put on the head and was busy making the eyes. It was a beautiful snowman. Dani was just about to call Annette to come and look at it, when Lucien lifted his foot with its heavy boot and gave the snowman a hard kick. It fell flat on its long nose, and Dani began to howl.

Annette, crossing from the shed to the chalet, saw what was happening. She flew like a young tigress and slapped Lucien hard in the face.

Lucien was just about to hit her back when he saw her father coming out of the chalet. Lucien did not dare hit Annette then. Instead he made an ugly face and yelled, "Sneak! Telltale! Coward! Big baby, coming into school crying," and was on his way.

"Big bully!" yelled Annette. "Why do you have to bully girls and little boys? I'm glad you got caned in school."

Taking Dani by the hand, Annette walked up the path to the chalet where her father waited.



Show Illustration #12

At the door she paused and looked at the beautiful sunset. The patch of pink behind the mountains made her think of God. She knew He was displeased with her. She knew this hatred in her heart was sin and that with it in her heart she could never go to Heaven and be with her mother. Yet, Annette would not ask for forgiveness.

Lucien hurried to reach his home, higher on the mountain, before dark. He was trying to think of some way to get even with Annette. If he could hurt that precious little brother, Annette would surely be sorry she had tattled to the schoolmaster.



Show Illustration #13

Dani had named his little kitten "Klaus" because it had come to him on Christmas morning. Klaus was getting to be a lively, frisky kitten. He and Dani were always together. Lucien found them one spring day out on the hillside. Dani

had wandered there in search of flowers where the snow had melted. *This is my chance to get even with Annette*, Lucien thought.

Looking around to make sure he was not seen, Lucien walked up to Dani and snatched the lovely yellow crocuses and alpine flowers from his tight little fist.

Dani began to punch Lucien. "You can't have the flowers," he said. "They're for Annette."

"Annette is a proud, stuck-up girl and a dunce. She knows no more than her cows, and I hate her! She won't have the flowers."



Show Illustration #14

Lucien threw the lovely flowers on the ground and trampled them.

Dani began to cry. "I'll tell my father!" he shouted.

It was then that Lucien noticed Klaus sitting in the sun, on a wall overlooking a deep ravine. Klaus didn't like to get his paws wet and cold in the snow.



Show Illustration #15

Running to the kitten, Lucien picked it up and held it over the ravine. "Unless you promise not to tell your father about the flowers, I'll drop your cat into the water down there."

Instead of promising, Dani began punching again in rage. The kitten gave Lucien a long, sharp scratch. And although he had not really intended to do so, he let go of the kitten and it fell into the ravine.

After that, everything happened in a few seconds. Dani was over the wall and climbing down the ravine after his kitten which had not fallen into the water, but had landed on a ledge of overhanging rock.

"Come back here! Come back here! You'll fall to the bottom!" Lucien yelled. But Dani paid no attention.



Show Illustration #16

Dani got to the ledge safely and was about to take Klaus in his arms, when his feet slipped on the wet rock and he fell, screaming in fright.

When Lucien saw Dani fall, he put his hands over his eyes and would not look down again. "Dani is drowned," he moaned over and over. "I've killed him. What shall I do? Oh, what shall I do?"

Get away from here quickly and no one will know you had any part in this. Just act as though nothing unusual has happened, a voice seemed to whisper in his sinful heart.

Lucien did hurry away, leaving Dani in the ravine. But when he got to the door of his chalet he couldn't go in. And he couldn't face his mother. He had a dreadful secret in and surely his face must look different. Why, perhaps he was a murderer!

Turning toward the barn, Lucien went in and climbed the ladder which led to where the straw was stored above the cowshed.

Here he flung himself down in the straw bed, sobbing as though his frightened, wicked heart would break.

CHAPTER 3



Show Illustration #17

Grandmother sat beside the fire shredding dandelion greens for the family's supper. In early spring the tender little leaves made a delicious meal. Grandmother was more lame than ever now, although she tried hard not to let the family know this. And she was always tired.

"I'll close my eyes for a few moments to rest them," she said to herself. Soon she was fast asleep, her gray head nodding.

Later Annette came into the room and awakened her grandmother. "Where's Dani, Grandmother?" she wanted to know. "I didn't see him anywhere around the chalet."

"He went to the hills to pick flowers, Annette." Then, seeing by the kitchen clock how long Dani had been gone, she said anxiously, "Hurry and look for him, Annette. He's been gone for a long time. How could I have slept so long? Call your father from the barn and hurry, both of you."



Show Illustration #18

Together Annette and her father set out up the mountainside. But they climbed in silence. Father was afraid to voice his thoughts. The spring brings certain dangers to the mountains in Switzerland—swollen torrents of rushing water and sudden falls of melting snow called avalanches, and Dani was such a little boy.

Grandmother, left alone, bowed her head and prayed. As she prayed, she seemed to see Dani running along a path in the forest, his hands filled with flowers. Beside him walked an angel. "In Heaven their angels always behold the face of My Father which is in Heaven," whispered Grandmother. "The Lord Jesus said that." And Grandmother, feeling a wonderful peace, began preparing the evening meal.

"Papa," Annette said suddenly, as they walked along calling Dani's name. "I have a feeling that hateful Lucien may have something to do with this. I am going to his chalet and find out," and Annette was off.

"Madame! Madame!" Annette called when she saw the door of the chalet open. "Madame, Lucien, are you there? Have you seen Dani?"

"No, I haven't seen Dani, and Lucien isn't here, unless he went straight to the barn to start milking." Off to the barn ran Annette. Lucien's mother followed more slowly.

"Listen," Annette said, "do you hear a sobbing noise, Madame? Up there?"

"Yes, I do."

Show Illustration #19

Up the ladder Annette sprang like a wild cat. "Dani," hissed Annette, shaking Lucien. "Where is he? What have you done to him?"

Lucien cowered lower in the straw. "I don't know—where—he—is!" He screamed. "It wasn't my fault!"

"What wasn't your fault?" Annette

screamed back, shaking him again. "You do know where he is. You're telling lies. Madame, make him speak the truth."

Lucien's mother dragged Annette out of the way. She pulled Lucien's face up from the straw and turned it toward her.

"Lucien," she commanded, "speak at once. Where is Dani?"

"He's dead," Lucien sobbed and again buried his face in the straw.

For a moment Annette did not move. Her face was white. Then she spoke in a hoarse voice, "Madame, he must come and show us where."

Lucien's mother dragged him up from the straw. "Either you show us now, or the police will force you to do so," she said, her voice trembling.

Frightened, Lucien climbed down the ladder and took off on a run up the mountain path, with Annette close behind him. When they arrived at the place where little Dani had been picking flowers so happily, Lucien pointed to the ravine.

"He's down there, drowned in the raging water." Lucien threw himself down, burying his face in the grass.

Just as Annette's father arrived at the spot, he noticed something the others had not noticed—a tiny, shivering white cat crouching on a ledge, right at the crest of the overhanging boulder.



Show Illustration #20

Taking a heavy rope, Father tied it securely to a big tree and flung it over the boulder. Hanging on with hands and knees he disappeared into the ravine. What he saw brought a cry of joy to his lips, which the others heard as they peered down anxiously.

Dani had not fallen into the stream. Instead he had landed on a boulder jutting out from the hillside. There he lay, one leg doubled under him, frightened and crying because he couldn't move.

As he snuggled close in his father's arms Dani whispered, "Papa, where is Klaus?"

"Just above you," replied his father. "We'll pick him up on our way back."

The little procession trudged back home—Dani in his father's arms and Klaus in the big pocket of Father's jacket. No one paid the slightest attention to Lucien, who, feeling very neglected and alone, finally walked slowly home in the evening shadows. He went straight to his bed, a lonely, miserable boy.



Show Illustration #21

When Dani's leg was bandaged and he was safe in the bed Grandmother had warmed and ready for him, Annette began to plan her revenge against Lucien. She paid little attention to the Bible story Father read about the lost sheep. Nor did she heed what Grandmother said about the Lord Jesus being the Shepherd who had bled and died that all who receive Him might be saved from sin.

It was not until sometime later that Annette finally found the opportunity to really hurt Lucien. Her heart had grown more

and more bitter against the boy, for it became apparent that Dani was not going to be able to use his leg ever again. None of the doctors who had looked at him gave his family any hope.

As was the custom, Father went to help his neighbor cut her hay. He wouldn't refuse to go to the widow's farm even though it was her son who had crippled his little boy. And each day Annette carried lunch to her father as he worked in the neighbor's meadow. Each time she passed by the chalet the hatred in her heart deepened.

One day as she was returning home, Annette noticed something which stood on a little table on the balcony outside of the kitchen.



Show Illustration #22

Climbing the steps which led to the balcony, Annette stood and looked at the most beautifully carved little horse she had ever seen. It appeared to be in full gallop, with waving mane and hooves so delicate they seemed not to touch the tabletop.

Immediately Annette guessed what this meant.

There was to be a contest in school. Each pupil had the opportunity to enter something which he had made by hand. Annette was certain no other boy in school could enter anything as perfect as this little horse.

So, he thinks he'll win a prize, does he? Well, he won't!



Show Illustration #23

With one sweep of her hand Annette sent the little horse to the ground. Running quickly down the steps she trampled the horse under her feet.

No one had seen her break the horse, and she would never confess—never, never. She would teach Lucien a lesson. She was not sorry she had broken his horse. No—she was glad! There wouldn't

be time for him to carve another one before the contest.

Annette knew only too well that the meanness and hatred in her heart was sin. But she excused herself by thinking, *Lucien is a worse sinner than I.*

A rebellious little girl hurried homeward, her secret wickedness locked in her heart, unwilling to turn to the Lord Jesus for forgiveness.

CHAPTER 4



Show Illustration #24

It would be difficult to say who was the most miserable person when winter began to draw close to the hills of Switzerland—Annette, who held her mean secret in her heart, or Lucien. Lucien's wrongdoing was known and he was shunned by all the boys and girls.

Lucien's disappointment over not being able to win a prize was very great.

He had thought this was a chance to prove there was something he could do better than others. He was almost certain Annette had broken his horse, but he could not prove it. There were times when he was almost glad little Dani was a cripple, just because it made Annette unhappy. He knew how much she loved her little brother.

Lucien often climbed even higher into the mountains and spent time in carving. He had no friends.



Show Illustration #25

One day as he sat on a tree stump carving, he heard a pleasant voice behind him. "You carve very well, boy. I like to carve also."

Immediately Lucien guessed it was the old man who lived alone in the forest. He didn't realize he had wandered so close to the tiny chalet. Folks said the old man was strange and Lucien knew the old

man went to the village only when he needed supplies.

Frightened, Lucien turned slowly around. When he saw the kindly bright eyes of the man who smiled at him, all fear left him. They talked for a little while about carving and then the old man invited Lucien to come to the chalet and see his carvings. Lucien went willingly.

The old man lived alone, except for a goat, some hens and a cat which sat washing her face as they entered the chalet. Lucien noticed how tiny and clean everything was.



Show Illustration #26

He noticed almost at once the beautiful carvings about the room. There were bears and cows and goats and Saint Bernard dogs and squirrels. There were little men and women, gnomes and dwarves and little children. There were boxes with alpine flowers carved on the lids. This made Lucien remember the alpine flowers he had snatched from Dani the day of the terrible accident.

Noticing the cloud pass over Lucien's face, the old man said, "Someday you shall be able to carve something like this. For a friend, perhaps?"

"I have no friends," Lucien replied sullenly.

"Then you must be very lonesome," said the old man, putting his hand on Lucien's shoulder. "I, too, am lonesome. I, too, have no friends. Would you care to tell me about your trouble?"

Because Lucien longed to talk to someone, he found himself telling this man, who was a stranger to him, the story of his wickedness—his hatred of Annette and her hatred of him.

"This isn't good," the old man said. "You're too young—too young to be lonely because of your sins. I am lonely and it is because of my sins, too. Yet there is a difference. You, my boy, seem very unhappy. I am lonely but I'm not unhappy."

When Lucien looked at the old man with a big question mark in his eyes, the man continued. "This is perhaps the difference. I have asked God to forgive me and to cleanse my heart from sin. I have the Lord Jesus living in my heart. He has made it as clean and white as the snow which falls on our mountains. Have you asked for forgiveness, son?"

Lucien only shook his head.

Walking over to the fire, the old man sat down in a high-back chair. "My boy," he said, "you have trusted me. I would like to trust you. If I tell you my story, will you promise to keep it a secret?"



“You would trust me?” Lucien cried out.

“Yes, I would trust you.”

“Then I shall never tell your secret, never.”



Show Illustration #27

“I was a spoiled child,” the old man began . . . “Yet I was able to hold a fine job in a bank and to marry a lovely girl. We had two fine sons and were very happy for a few years.”



Show Illustration #28

“Then I began to drink and to gamble. I used up all our savings and lost my job at the bank for getting drunk. When I wasn’t gambling, I was drinking.

“My poor wife went to work but could not earn enough to keep us out of debt.

“I wanted more money. I robbed the bank and was sent to prison.”

The old man looked out the window at the beautiful mountains and the sky which seemed heavy with snow. He seemed to have forgotten Lucien.

“All this time my wife tried to get me to confess my sins and be cleansed by the blood of the Lord Jesus,” he continued. “He died for you,” she often said. “Won’t you please just open your heart and ask Him to forgive you? He will come and live in your heart. His blood can make your heart whiter than snow.”



Show Illustration #29

“Yet, it wasn’t until she was dead and I was out of prison that I finally got to my knees and accepted the Lord Jesus as my Saviour.

“I knew that I was forgiven, but I had done great harm to my sons. I made up my mind that they should think of me as dead and go on living with their grandparents who were bringing them up to be fine Christian young men.

“And so, my boy, I have hidden myself in this chalet in the mountains, and I am lonely. I am able to earn enough with my wood carvings to get all I need—which is very little.

“The storekeeper in the village knows my secret. He sells my carvings and tells me from time to time about my sons.”



Show Illustration #30

“One is a businessman and one is a famous doctor. He is a surgeon who has made many handicapped people walk again.”

The old man hesitated a moment. Then he added, “And now for the big part of my secret. My doctor son is even now staying in a hotel in our village. I saw him yesterday. He is a handsome man, and a Christian, and I am very proud of him. But he must never know that I am his father. Promise you will never tell—if it is not necessary. You have already promised and I trust you.”



Show Illustration #31

Standing to his feet, the old man continued, “If you can trust me, and I can trust you, why can’t you also trust the Lord Jesus who died for you, my boy?”

Lucien got to his feet and began to turn away. The old man laid his hand on Lucien’s shoulder. It was this touch of love which broke the boy’s stubborn heart. Tears streaming down his cheeks, he knelt beside a chair and accepted the Lord Jesus Who had died and risen for him. He, too, was made clean and right in God’s sight through the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus. Lucien’s heart was made “whiter than snow.”

CHAPTER 5



Show Illustration #32

It was winter again and the first snow had fallen. Dani had gone to bed. The kitchen was tidy and clean. Grandmother sat in her big rocker trying to patch Dani’s trousers, holding her work close to her failing eyes. Father snoozed beside the fire, weary from his day’s work on the farm. Annette was restless. “I think I shall go to bed,” she said and left the kitchen.

Instead of going to her bedroom, Annette snatched her big jacket with its warm hood from the rack in the hall, slipped on her boots and went out into the night.



Show Illustration #33

The sky was bright with the light of a full moon and its many twinkling stars.

Walking silently in the snow, Annette wandered farther than she realized. So absorbed was she in her thoughts that she did not notice the thin ice on the little bridge at the fork in the road. Suddenly her feet slipped, and with a cry of pain she fell, twisting her ankle.

When she tried to stand, Annette realized she had sprained her ankle and couldn’t walk. She tried to hobble along on one foot but the snow was too soft and too deep for traveling on one foot.



Show Illustration #34

Finally, exhausted, Annette slid down in a little heap, crying.

“Perhaps I’ll have to stay here all night. Maybe I’ll freeze to death before I’m found,” she whimpered. “Father won’t come to search for me until morning. He and Grandmother think I’m in my bed. What a wicked girl I have been by lying to them.”

As she lay there shivering in the soft snow, Annette began to think of the things Grandmother had told her about the Lord Jesus, and how He wanted to come into her heart and be her Saviour.

As the cold began to make Annette drowsy, she seemed to hear Grandmother’s voice saying, “He died on the cross, Annette, that you might be saved. But you must ask Him to come into your heart. He won’t force the door open. We all must come to Him just as we are—with all our sins. When He comes

in, He forgives us and helps us to put away sinful thoughts and acts. We can then live for Him and become stronger Christians. We can grow a little each day, just as the evergreens grow a little each day on our mountains.”

Suddenly Annette sat up very straight. This was not Grandmother’s voice which she heard now. It was the sound that mountain children of Switzerland know very well—the very gentle sound of skis running through soft snow.

“Help! Help!” Annette called. She was now wide awake.

The skier heard. As he came closer Annette saw that it was Lucien. For a moment they looked at each other without a word. Then Annette said, “Please, Lucien, don’t leave me here to freeze to death. I sprained my ankle and can’t walk. Will you help me?”

Lucien did not say a word. He was thinking that perhaps the Lord Jesus had put it in his heart to go skiing in the moonlight this night.



Show Illustration #35

Taking off his own heavy jacket, Lucien put it around Annette. Then he said, “I’ll go for a sled. I won’t be long. Keep moving about as much as you can.” Away went Lucien as fast as he could, skimming over the snow to the chalet for a sled.

Left alone again, Annette looked up at the lovely full moon and at the path it made in the white snow. “Dear God,” she said out loud, “please, I believe that the Lord Jesus is the Son of God and that He died for me. I’m very wicked and I need Him very much. I ask Him to come into my heart right now and to make it as white as this snow. I don’t understand just how You can do it, dear God. But I do believe and trust You.” Then Annette bowed her head, said, “Amen,” and added, “and, dear God, it’s not just because I’m in this fix that I’m doing this. You know this. Amen, again.”



Show Illustration #36

When Lucien returned with warm blankets and a sled, Annette said, “Just a moment, before you take me home, Lucien. I have something to tell you. It was I who broke your beautiful horse so you couldn’t win that prize. And I want you to know God has forgiven me for all my meanness. I have just asked Him to forgive and cleanse me. And, Lucien, the

Lord Jesus came into my heart tonight. He chased out the hate and I want you to know I have forgiven you for what you did to Dani. I know you never really meant to hurt him . . . I don’t hate you any more. Can you forgive me?”

Annette’s teeth were chattering with cold and Lucien urged her to get on the sled. All he said was, “Forget it, Annette. I thought it was you who broke my horse. I’ve been hateful, too, you know.”



Show Illustration #37

A very grateful Father and Grandmother made Lucien sit by the fire for a long time that evening, sipping hot chocolate and eating little Swiss cookies. Yet it was the love they showed, more than the hot chocolate, which warmed Lucien’s heart. Grandmother was quick to see the opportunity, which she saw with spiritual eyes, and spoke to Lucien about

the Lord Jesus.

“Grandmother, Father,” Annette interrupted, with tears in her eyes, “I asked the Lord Jesus to come into my heart tonight. He did come in and He brought love in with Him. He will do the same for you, Lucien—if you want Him to.”

“I have already asked Him to,” Lucien said simply, as tears of happiness filled his eyes.

Lucien was happier than he’d ever been before. At his bed he prayed, “Dear God, thank You for saving me. Please could you show me some way to show Annette how sorry I am for hurting Dani?”

The answer to Lucien’s prayer came immediately in a thought which the Holy Spirit put in his mind. What about this famous surgeon who was staying in the village? He had helped many cripples to walk again, Lucien had been told. But he was to leave the village the next day. If he were to help Dani, Lucien would have to get to him tonight. The snow was falling heavily now, and he might not be able to get through to the village tomorrow morning.

Confidently Lucien got dressed again. He had often been out in worse storms than this. He left a note for his mother and was off.



Show Illustration #38

But it had already been a night that had taxed Lucien’s strength, and he had stayed until quite late talking in Annette’s chalet. The snow and icy wind stung Lucien’s cheeks as it lashed at his face. The road was very lonely. But now Lucien had a Friend who would always be with him. To that Friend he turned in prayer even as he skimmed along on his skis.

“Dear God,” Lucien prayed, “guess I’ve got a lot to learn. I thought I could make it alone. But I need You badly. Will You please help me get to the doctor and give me the right words to say so that he will be willing to help Dani? Make me a stronger Christian each day, dear God, and help me to help lots of people. Amen.”

When Lucien reached the hotel, he had only enough strength left to whisper the doctor’s name. Then he collapsed in a heap.

The maid who had answered Lucien’s knock hurried and awakened the doctor. Soon they had Lucien tucked in a warm bed, but he was too exhausted to tell why he had come.

The Christian doctor listened carefully to Lucien’s story the next morning. Because he, too, had the love of the Lord Jesus in his heart, and because of the boy who had so bravely faced the storm, the doctor promised to travel high up the mountain in the heavy snow, that very day. He would stay a day longer in the village.

Show Illustration #39



How surprised Annette was when, as she was sitting with her ankle bandaged and propped up on a chair, she heard the kitchen door open and saw Lucien standing there with a strange man.

When they understood why the doctor had come, the little family in the chalet high in the mountains of Switzerland was filled with hope.

The months seemed long with Dani away, but how happy the little family was when the doctor brought Dani home again. Their little Dani could walk!

Lucien had been invited to join the family and welcome Dani home. His heart swelled with thankfulness to God when the doctor said, "Soon Dani will not only walk but he will be able to run and perhaps even to ski, as other boys do."

Turning to Lucien, the doctor said, "And you have this boy to thank for risking his own life in a blizzard to come to me when I was visiting your village."



Show Illustration #40

Lucien hung his head to hide the tears. He knew it was not he who should be praised, that it was God who had done this thing. Yet God had used him as His messenger, and his heart was overflowing with love where once it had been filled with hatred.

Annette put her arms around her little brother, but it was to Lucien she spoke. "You must come often to our chalet, and together we'll learn how to live for God. We want to grow to be strong Christians—a little more each day—just as the trees on the mountain grow a little each day, don't we, Lucien?"

Lucien nodded his head.

NOTE TO THE TEACHER

We trust that as you tell this story, many boys and girls will come to know Christ as their own personal Saviour and will grow in Him.

When leading a child to Christ, be sure not to use too many Scripture verses. These important steps should be presented: (1) *The need of a Saviour*—Romans 3:23; (2) *The way of salvation*—John 3:16 or Romans 6:23; (3) *Receive Christ*—Revelation 3:20; (4) *Assurance of salvation*—also Revelation 3:20 (God cannot lie.). Encourage the child to *grow* in Christ through attending church, having daily devotions and witnessing to others.

Perhaps a child may have difficulty in understanding how Christ can enter his heart. When God speaks about the heart He means your life—the part of you that thinks and wants to do things, the part of you that feels happy or sad. This heart is the part of you that will live forever.

Remember: the Holy Spirit is able to work in the heart of a little child!

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Counseling Students to Know Christ as Saviour by Edie Cunningham

Counseling is a helping relationship during which you lead the pupil by asking a series of questions. "I'm so glad you remained behind to talk to me. What is on your mind?" Do not presuppose why a student has come to talk to you. Ask, "How can I help you? Read John 3:16 and tell me Who loves you?" Wait patiently for the student to sincerely respond. Ask "Who is Jesus? What did Jesus do because He loved you?"

Counseling is an interactive relationship—two people talking together about one issue. Read these verses in Romans 3:23 and 6:23. Ask the student: "Why should God let you into His Heaven? What is sin? Have you sinned? What is the payment for sin?" God has never reduced the wages of sin (death).

Read 1 Peter 2:24 and 1 Corinthians 15:1-3. Ask the student, "Who gave that payment for sin? God is holy and demanded payment for sin. Why was Jesus able to give that payment? What do you think of Jesus dying in your place? What happened to Jesus three days later? Jesus is alive forever and He can be your Saviour. Do you need to talk to Jesus about that?" Offer to help the student to pray to Jesus right now. To prevent making wrong assumptions, do not rush ahead of the student but wait for him/her to respond.

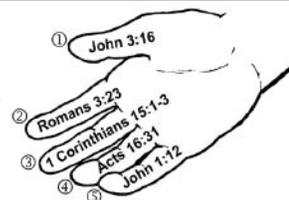
To assure proper comprehension, as a counselor you need to give and clarify information, then seek to clear up obvious misconceptions.

Because a student seeking to know Jesus must have the solid foundation of Gospel truths on which to make an eventual decision, you must counsel from an open Bible. Let the student finger the verses and read the words. You may paraphrase a verse (e.g., "God so loved the world" = "God loves you."). Give illustrations to broaden the student's understanding of salvation. Use a paper and pen to draw diagrams which amplify the meaning of salvation (e.g., a cross representing Jesus; a dark heart representing a person's sinful heart; a white/clean heart with "God" printed inside to show that a student has invited Jesus in).

As the counseling session continues, you should observe the student's reactions. Has he/she demonstrated conviction of sin and his/her need for the Saviour? Or is the student giving "yes" or "no" answers just to please you? Is the student ready to respond in a simple prayer of faith to ask Jesus to be his/her Saviour? In my estimation, it is poor judgment to let a student parrot a prayer to receive Jesus as Saviour if there is an apparent lack of comprehension and spiritual conviction. On the contrary, however, God is the ultimate judge of the heart.

If a student hesitates to pray to God, reassure him/her that you understand because it is an awesome thing to talk to the Creator God who is powerful and holy. Yet explain that God loves the student and wants to hear his/her voice. Use the student's hand to guide him/her in forming a simple prayer.

1. Thumb: "Thank You, God, for loving me."
2. Index finger: "I am sorry for my sin."
3. Middle finger: "Thank You for sending Jesus to die on the cross as punishment for my sin."
4. Fourth finger: "I believe you, Jesus. Please forgive my sin and come live in me."
5. Baby finger: "Thank you for forgiving me and making me part of Your family."



The outcome of each counseling session may vary. Some students may genuinely pray to receive Jesus as Saviour. Other students may walk away and decide to wait. Others may utterly reject the truth even after their need has been exposed and the way is made clear. Pray for and with each student whom you have counseled. And if a student does pray to know Jesus, explain the promises of John 3:16, Hebrews 13:5 and 1 John 1:9.

Review Questions

By Kristin Mayer

Chapter 1

1. Can you name each of the people in the family? (*Father, Annette, Dani, Grandmother*)
2. In what country does the story take place? (*Switzerland*)
3. What was the custom on Christmas Eve for children in regard to Father Christmas? (*They would put slippers or shoes outside for Father Christmas to put a present in.*)
4. What was in Dani's slipper on Christmas morning? (*A tiny white kitten*)
5. What had happened to Annette's mother? (*She had died when Dani was born and had gone to Heaven.*)
6. What job had she given Annette before she left? (*Annette was to take care of Dani.*)
7. Who was the boy that Annette did not like and why didn't she like him? (*His name was Lucien and he was about Annette's age. She thought of him as greedy, disagreeable and mean. He had begged for a bite of her cookie bear after he had gobbled his up.*)
8. What did Dani want Father to read about from the Bible that Christmas morning? (*Heaven*)
9. Grandmother said that among other things, one thing could never be in Heaven. What was it and why did it affect Annette? (*Sin. Annette had sin in her heart because she couldn't like Lucien.*)
10. What did Annette do about it? (*Nothing—and so the sin remained there.*)

Chapter 2

1. Describe Lucien's home life. (*His father was dead; he lived with his mother and helped her on their little farm.*)
2. Why did he hate Annette? (*She got good grades and he didn't; she was always happy and did not seem to mind the hard work in raising Dani.*)
3. What had Lucien done to Annette on the way to school? (*Because he wasn't watching, his sled ran into hers which sent her into a deep ditch. He hadn't meant to do it and offered to help her.*)
4. What happened to Lucien at school because of this? (*He received a whipping.*)
5. Who could see the hatred and unforgiving spirit in Annette's heart? (*God could.*)
6. What did both Lucien's and Annette's conscience (the little voice) tell them? (*It told them it was not right to hate each other and that such hatred is sin.*)
7. Why did Lucien want to hurt Dani? (*He wanted to get even with Annette for tattling on him to the schoolmaster.*)
8. What did Lucien do to Dani that spring day out on the hillside? (*He grabbed the flowers that Dani had picked for Annette and trampled them on the ground.*)
9. What happened next? (*Lucien grabbed the kitten and held it over the ravine until Dani would promise not to tell about the flowers. Klaus scratched Lucien who let go of him, dropping him into the ravine. Dani went after his kitten but slipped and fell into the ravine.*)
10. What did Lucien do now? (*He ran away from the ravine and went and hid in his barn.*)

Chapter 3

1. What was Grandmother making for the family dinner? (*Dandelion greens*)
2. When Annette and Father took off to find Dani, of what was Father afraid? (*He was afraid Dani might have fallen into a raging stream or gotten caught by an avalanche.*)
3. When Grandmother prayed for Dani, what did she see? (*She seemed to see Dani accompanied by an angel.*)

4. What did she feel? (*A wonderful peace*)
4. Who did Annette think may have had something to do with Dani's disappearance? (*Lucien*)
5. What had really happened to Dani? (*He landed on a boulder that was sticking out and hurt his leg.*)
6. What had Lucien thought? (*That he had killed Dani when he fell*)
7. What was the outcome of the accident? (*It seemed that Dani was not going to be able to use his leg again. Annette was very bitter against Lucien for it.*)
8. What did Annette see at Lucien's house when she carried her father's lunch to him as he cut the neighbor's hay? (*A beautiful carved horse that Lucien had made for a contest at school.*)
9. Why did she break the horse? (*To teach Lucien a lesson*)
10. Does a heart full of sin like Annette's know peace and happiness? (*No*) How could she experience this? (*By coming to the Lord Jesus for forgiveness*)

Chapter 4

1. Why did Lucien want to win that prize at school? (*He thought it was a chance to prove there was something he could do better than others.*)
2. Why did Lucien climb so high in the mountains? (*He had no friends, so he spent his time there carving.*)
3. What was so special about meeting the old man who lived in the tiny chalet? (*He too carved beautiful figurines, and also had no friends.*)
4. What was the difference between the old man and the boy? (*Both were lonely, but the old man was not unhappy as Lucien was.*)
5. Why was this so? (*The old man had asked God to forgive him and cleanse his heart from sin. Jesus was living in his heart now.*)
6. Who were the two people the old man was hiding from and did not want to hurt any more? (*His two sons*)
7. What was Lucien made to promise? (*That he would never tell, unless necessary, that the old man was the father to the businessman son and the famous doctor son who was a surgeon and could help cripples walk again.*)
8. What happened to Lucien that day on the mountain? (*He came to the Lord Jesus Who had died and risen again for him. He was forgiven and his heart was made "whiter than snow."*)

Chapter 5

1. What did Annette tell her father and grandmother that was the start of her troubles that evening? (*A lie—she didn't go to bed as she said but went outside.*)
2. Even though Grandmother was getting older and was in pain a lot, what was she always faithful to do? (*She would tell Annette about the Lord Jesus and how we must come to Him. He will forgive us and help us to put away sinful thoughts and acts.*)
3. What had happened to Annette and who was her rescuer? (*She fell and twisted her ankle. Lucien had gone out skiing and found Annette. Perhaps the Lord had put it in his heart to go skiing.*)
4. As Annette waited in the snow for Lucien to return, what happened? (*She came to the Lord Jesus for forgiveness, believing He is the Son of God and that He had died for her. Her heart was also made as "white as snow."*)
5. When Lucien came back with the sled, what hard words did Annette have to say? (*That she was the one who had broken his horse and she asked for his forgiveness; also that she forgave him for Dani getting hurt and that she didn't hate him any more.*)

6. What brave act did Lucien have to do that night even after rescuing Annette? (*He went on skis through a snowstorm to get the famous doctor in the village. He hoped that he could help Dani.*)
7. Who was it that Lucien talked to as he went to get the doctor? (*He talked to his new Friend, God, Who listened and helped him.*)

8. Why was it necessary that Lucien get to the doctor right away? (*The doctor was leaving the village the next day.*)
9. When Dani returned, what was the result of the doctor's work with him? (*Dani was able to walk again!*)
10. What was Annette's invitation to Lucien at the end of the story? (*"You must come to our chalet often, and together we'll learn how to live for God."*)

Student Activities

By Karen E. Weitzel

CHAPTER 1

What's in Heaven Handout

Materials Needed: Crayons, one copy of handout on page 12 for each student.

Instructions: Ask students to think about what they will think they would find if they would visit Heaven for a day. Then have them circle those things, and cross out the things that would not be in Heaven. If time permits, they may color the pictures.

Memory Verse Tokens

Prepare: Duplicate the tokens found on back cover of illustrated volume or use the master for grayscale tokens on page 11, making one token for each student in your class.

CHAPTER 2

Bag Game

Prepare: Print Review Questions for Chapter 2 (see page 9) on separate pieces of paper. Place these in a small paper bag labeled *Questions*. Make sure you have the same number of questions as you have students. In another small paper bag labeled *Names*, place pieces of paper with the names of each student in your class.

Instructions: The teacher picks the first name and asks that student to pick a question. If he/she cannot answer the question, he/she may pick another which he/she must try to answer. If he/she answers it correctly, he/she picks the name of the next student and may keep his/her question paper. If he/she doesn't answer the question correctly, he/she must return the question to the *Questions* bag and his/her name to the *Name* bag for another try. The teacher pulls another name from the bag. The student who answers the last question correctly collects the questions and places them back into the *Questions* bag.

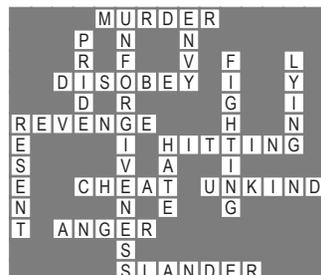
CHAPTER 3

Actions & Attitudes Puzzle

Prepare: Make one copy of the handout in the following column for each student. If your students are young and cannot read, it would be better to visualize or write the "sin" words on large cards and have the class verbally match the definition to the "sin" card.

Discussion: Discuss the positive Biblical value of each sinful action, attitude: Pride versus humility, envy versus contentment. Which of these actions or attitudes have you done or had? God calls them sin. Talk to God about them. Tell Him you are sorry. Ask Him to forgive you and help you change.

Answer Key:



Actions and Attitudes

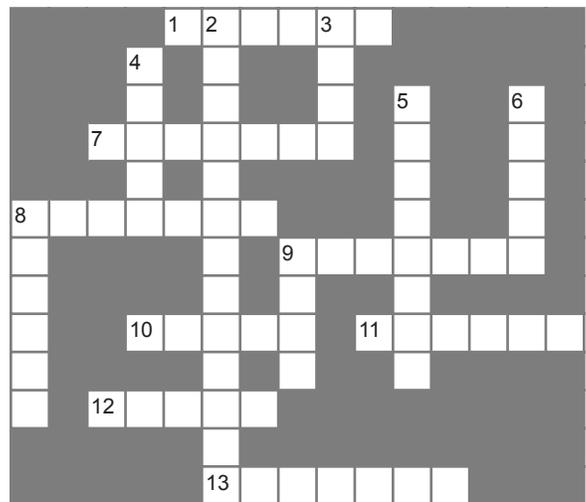
Using words from the word bank, find the word to complete each sentence. Print the word in the puzzle grid.

Word Bank	Anger	Hate	Resent
	Cheat	Hitting	Revenge
	Disobey	Lying	Slander
	Envy	Murder	Unkind
	Fighting	Pride	Unforgiveness

- Down:**
2. When I don't want to forgive someone who hurts me, I have _____ in my heart.
 3. When I want what someone else has, I _____ them.
 4. When I feel that I am more important than others, I have _____ in my heart.
 5. When I shove or hit someone, I am _____.
 6. When I tell things that are untrue or false, I am _____.
 8. When I dislike someone because they have hurt me, I _____ them.
 9. When I feel extreme dislike for someone, I _____ them.

Across:

1. When I kill a person, I _____ them.
7. When I will not follow instructions or will not obey what my teachers or parents ask, I _____.
8. When I want to get even and hurt others because they hurt me, I plan _____.
9. When I strike someone, I am _____.
10. When I get things by deceiving or tricking others, I _____.
11. When I am harsh or cruel, I am _____.
12. When I am mad, I have the feeling of _____.
13. When I say untrue and unkind things about others, I _____ them.

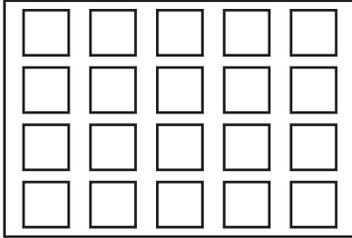


CHAPTER 4

Mystery Message

Prepare: Cut 20 two-inch squares from construction or colored paper and paste onto a 10" x 18" piece of poster board that is

a contrasting color. (See diagram.) Cover with clear contact paper. Choose a "Mystery Message" to fit the square, one letter per square, but do not write the message on the poster board.



Instructions: Students call out letters of the alphabet and teacher prints them on correct squares. The student who guesses the "Mystery Message" first is the winner.

Or,

Use in conjunction with a review. Ask class questions. When a student answers a question correctly, he/she guesses a letter. If it appears in the "Mystery Message," print the letter in the correct square. The student who guesses the "Mystery Message" may print the remaining letters.

NOTE: Use crayon or non-permanent markers which can be erased.

CHAPTER 5

Sword Drill

The references listed below will help your students understand how they can grow to become more like the Lord Jesus. Begin the drill by having the class hold up their Bibles in one hand. State the Bible reference twice and then call "go," "charge" or "begin." The first student to find the reference stands and the others stop looking. The student then reads the verse. Talk about each verse so the class understands what they hear. You may want to read the verse again in an easy-to-read translation. If you have young students who cannot read, use the references with the Wordless Book as a review.

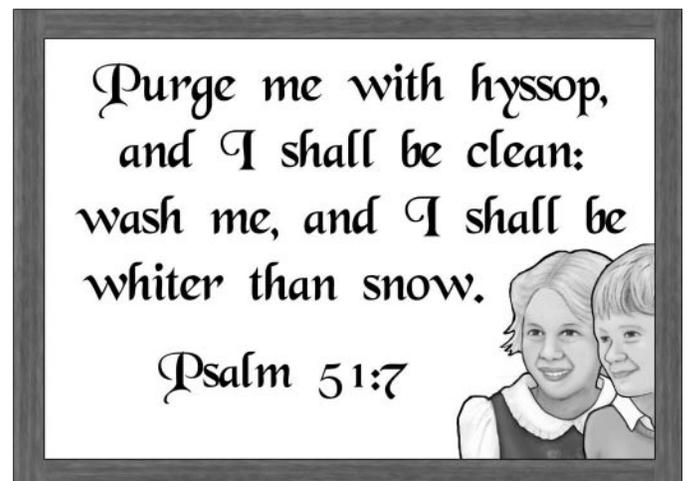
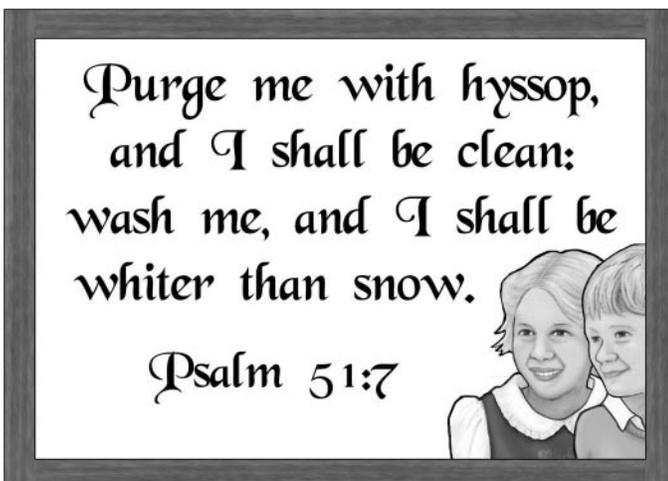
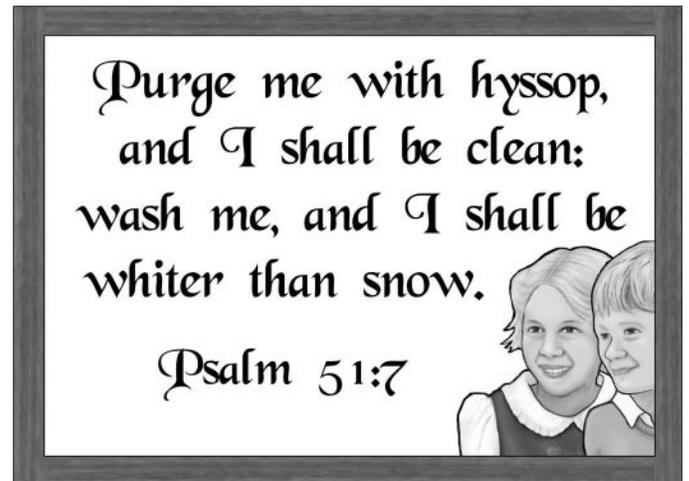
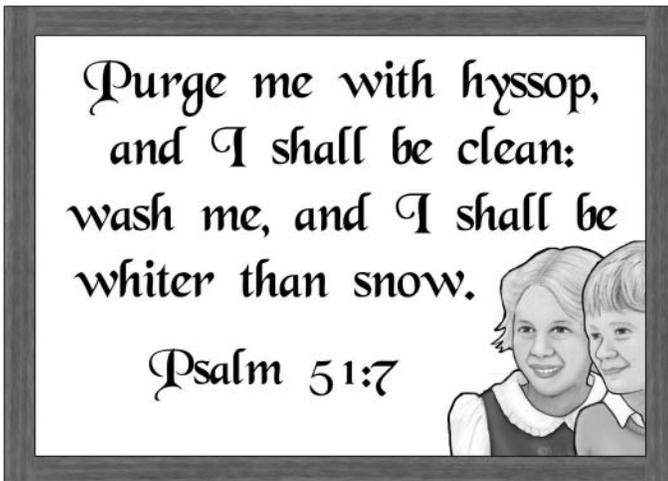
2 Peter 3:18
1 Peter 2:2
1 John 5:13
1 Peter 5:7

Proverbs 20:11
1 Thess. 5:18
Ephesians 4:15
Romans 6:13

1 Thess. 5:16-17
Philippians 2:14
Mark 16:15

MEMORY VERSE POSTER

Prepare: Enlarge and use the poster found on inside back cover of illustrated volume to teach the memory verse to your class.

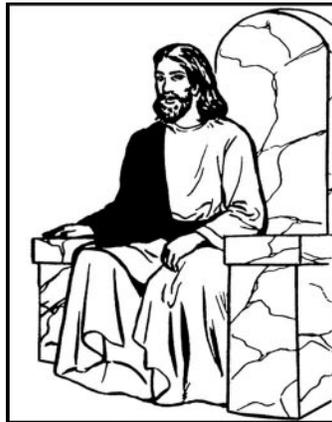


What's in Heaven?

What things will we find in Heaven when we get there? Circle those pictures, then cross out the pictures of things that will not be there.



Sin



Jesus



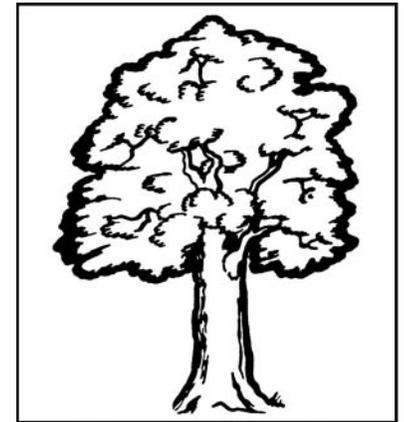
Sickness and Death



Mansions



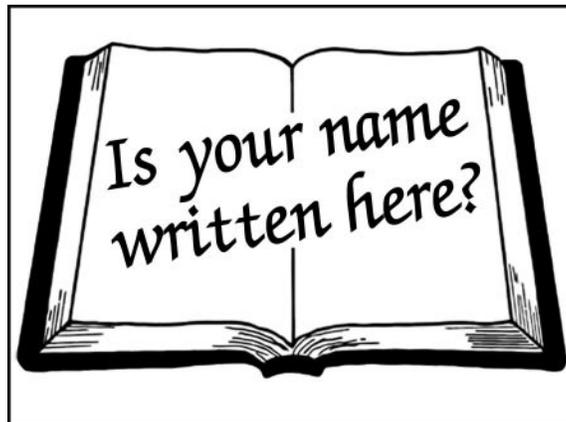
Church



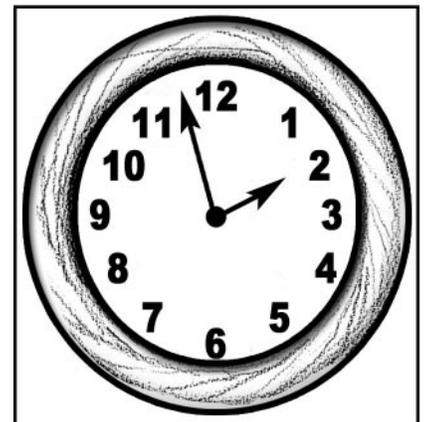
Tree of Life



Lights



Book of Life



Time

Jesus said in John 14:2, 3:

"In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there you may be also."

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