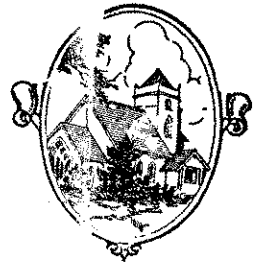


The

SABBATH SCHOOL ...MISSIONARY...



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The Four Little Possums

By Mary Holbert

The four little possums were growing. "My," said Mrs. Possum, "I didn't realize how you have grown. You're much too large to carry in my pouch any longer." Mrs. Possum was glad to have a pouch like her cousin, the kangaroo, to carry her four babies, but now that they were old enough to go to school, she told them to ride on her back.

This excited the four little possums who, with shouted "hurrahs", crawled up their mother's side, holding onto her thick fur with their sharp claws, until they sat in a straight row along her back, Mrs. Possum had swung her long tail up to rest on her back, each little possum wrapped his little tail around hers to keep him from falling off as his mother walked.

"Where are you taking us?" asked the smallest possum, who was sitting up front where it was easier to hold.

"You are going to school," answered his mother. "The possums' school is in the forest."

The second little possum almost lost his hold when he shivered and said, "Oh, it's dark out there."

"Yes, it is dark, but there is nothing to be afraid of," said Mrs. Possum. "You remember your lesson about how to sleep in the daytime, don't you?"

"Sure," said the third little possum, "You hang by your strong tail from the limb of a tree, then you are safe."

"Good," said Mother Possum. "Now, I am going to teach you how to take care of yourself in the woods at night. We hunt our food by the light of the moon." As she said this, she hurried along, her four short legs keeping her fat body only a few inches off the ground.

In the clearing, she stopped and had all her children circle around her.

The fourth little possum asked, "Will I get to be the biggest animal in the forest?"

"No," answered Mrs. Possum, "the bear and the fox will both be larger, but remember this: the biggest animals are not always the smartest."

The second possum spoke up, "I'll bet we'll be the fastest runners."

"No, the squirrel and rabbit can run faster. What can you do?" asked Mother.

"Well," said the biggest possum, "we have sharp claws and can climb trees. We have pointed noses to help us find insects, fruits and eggs to eat."

"Good," said mother, when she was interrupted by the littlest possum, sticking out his chest, saying, "With our sharp claws, I'll bet we'll grow up to be the best fighters."

"No, no!" answered mother, "we don't fight unless we have to. We have other ways of protecting ourselves. Watch and I will show you."

Mama Possum curled herself into a ball on the ground, opened her mouth and lay real still. The little possums thought she was asleep.

"Mama," whispered the first little possum.

"Mama," said the second little possum.

"Mama!" cried the third little possum.

"Mama, WAKE UP!" shouted the fourth little possum.

Mama opened her eyes and smiling said, "See what I mean. You thought I was asleep. It's what the other forest animals call, 'playing possum.' It takes two to make a quarrel, so you can avoid one by curling up in a ball, when another animal tries to pick a quarrel. He'll usually go away. Come let me see if you can do it."

There they were—four little fluffy balls. Mama Possum walked around and looked at each. They heard her say softly, "these little possums are 'A' students today."

The four little possums smiled. They were happy because they knew they had really learned something.

Now, you boys and girls know the possums can't talk in English, but you do know the mother possum teaches the little possums so they can learn how to take care of themselves. You can see how obedient these little possums were. Are you

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EVERYBODY PLEASE READ!!!

In a very short time we hope to have a new heading for the front page of our paper, and you will receive the paper every two weeks, instead of each week, as you do now. But you will have a larger paper as it will be eight pages instead of four. We are not sure just when the change will be made, but very likely it will be the first of the new year.

We hope you will like the paper in its new form and will continue to write for it. We would like to hear from all of you and know what you think of the intended change.

We hope to make the paper more interesting to all and would like to know what you like best in it.

So be watching for the change.

—M—

THE FOUR LITTLE POSSUMS

(Continued from page one)

obedient to your parents? The Bible says, "Obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right." Then too, you and I have a great Teacher who is Jesus. He wants us to follow in His steps. When we learn to do this, we'll be very happy for we will have really learned something important.

Note: Is there another lesson to learn from this little story? What about quarreling? It takes two to make a quarrel. Can you learn to "play possum" and avoid quarreling? The Bible says to forgive seventy times seven. If we do that we won't ever quarrel and say things that might hurt someone else.

—M—

Answer to Puzzle Corner

1. God is love. 2. Jesus wept. 3. Noah built an ark. 4. Mary was the mother of Jesus. 5. Adam was the first man. 6. The Bible is the best book.

THE OPINIONS OF A CLASS

At one time the Junior Class of the Marion, Ia., Sabbath School, was asked to write on the topics: "What God Means to Me," and "What I Think a Christian Should Be." Here are some of the answers.

What God Means To Me

God heals the sick and blind,
And never is unkind.
And if you kneel and pray
God will answer right away.
The golden temple shows bright
And there shall never be a night.

What I Think a Christian Should Be

I think a Christian should be kind and good-tempered. They should never swear and take God's name in vain and they should never tell a lie.

They should never quarrel. They should always obey the Ten Commandments.

Wayne Endecott.

* * * *

What God Means To Me

The blind and sick He heals,
Their poor; thin hands He feels.
And in that path of life we'll find
He never, never is unkind.
He is coming back someday.
We shall meet Him on the way
And to that promised land we'll go;
Not a bit of fear will show.

What I Think a Christian Should Be

A Christian should be kind and helpful. He should never swear or take God's name in vain. He should do unto others as he would have them do unto him.

Doris Endecott.

* * * *

What God Means To Me

What God means to me is something great and true.

He loves every soul on earth, even me and you.
He's with us every hour of the day;
He helps us along life's way.

When I sin He loves me just the same.

I'm sure everybody loves His name;

To think that He would die for a sinner like me;
He had love, that you can plainly see.

He gives us a place to rest, though He had none;
He gives us father and a mother of the very best;

I'm sure my heart He could have won.

He gives us food and toys and so many joys;

He gives us friends; and clothes to wear;

And He helps us our burdens to bear.

He gives us the birds and the flowers and the air;
And me being a child I haven't in the world a

care.

He gives us the sunshine and the little drops of
rain;
And when I am sick He heals me of my pain.
And best of all He gives us a church in which we
may worship Him;
And He makes us happy when we are sad and
grim.
So now you can plainly see God means a lot to me.
Helen Christenson.

—M—

JESUS LOVES LITTLE CHILDREN



The Lord Jesus had a very loving heart. One time the people brought their children to Him, that He might lay His hands on them and bless them. Jesus' disciples scolded about this. They did not think Jesus should take His time to bother with the children.

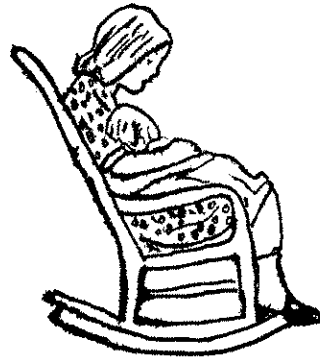
Jesus was much displeased with His disciples for feeling that way. He told them that they should not forbid the children to come to Him, for of such was the Kingdom of Heaven. Those who would not come into the Kingdom of God as a little child, could not get in at all.

Then, as the picture shows, Jesus took up the children in His arms, put His hands on them and blessed them. Jesus loves children. He never turns one away.

Two of Jesus' disciples, James and John, then came to Jesus and asked that they might sit, one on His right side and the other on His left side, when He would rule as King on earth. Jesus told James and John that they did not know what they were asking. He asked them if they could suffer as He was going to suffer. They said they could, but they did not understand what it would really mean to suffer as Jesus would suffer for our sins.

Jesus said they would indeed suffer for His sake, but He could not give them the places they wanted next to Him in His kingdom. These would be given to those for whom they were prepared.

GRANDMOTHER'S ROCKING CHAIR



Grandmother's rocking chair was a ship
That traveled the southern seas,
And brother and I set sail each night
On the rollicking, dancing breeze.

Away and away to the spicy isles
Where nutmegs and cinnamon grow,
Where doughnuts ripen on every bush,
And apple pies all in a row!

Chocolates, cookies, and lemonade—
Everything good to eat,
Waiting for good little boys and girls.
My, what a wonderful treat!

Softly the moon in its beauty shone,
With night winds whispering low,
Tired little hands and feet so still
As over the waves we go.

Lovely surprises in slumberland!
Of treasures there was no lack.
Grandmother's rocking chair was the ship
That carried us there and back.

—Cora Batemon in Our Little Friend

—M—

An old white haired man stood up in a meeting to speak. He said he had lived nearly all his life on Grumble Street, but recently he had moved on Thanksgiving Street. If any of you boys and girls are living on Grumble Street, quickly move over into a sunny house on Thanksgiving Street.

—M—

PUZZLE CORNER

This week the puzzles are for the tinier folks and are somewhat easier. Of course all of you may want to work them, too. Try rearranging the letters you find here and make them spell correctly.

1. evol si odG.
2. tpew suseJ.
3. haoN tliub na kra.
4. yarM saw eht rehtom fo suseJ.
5. madA saw eht tsrif nam.
6. eht elbiB si eht tseb koob.

Look elsewhere in the paper for the answers.



LESSON for
DECEMBER 17, 1949

Lesson Material: Isa. 7:14; Jer. 31:3; Luke 1.

Memory Verse: "Thou shalt . . . call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest." Luke 1:31, 32.

The Happy Promise

Many different times in the Bible God made promises to His people. God always kept His promises and never forgot them like people are apt to do.

One of the promises was that He would send Jesus, His Son, into this world as a little child. Jesus was to grow up and show the people how to live the way God would like for them to live. This was a good promise, and was the very best promise that God gave to the people.

God told the prophet Isaiah that He would send His Son into the world. In Matthew we are told that an angel from God was sent to tell Joseph and Mary that they were to have this wonderful Babe to care for. The angel also told them that they should name the Babe, Jesus.

This promise was a good promise. If God had not sent His Son Jesus into the world to show us the way to live, we would not be able to please God. Jesus came to die for us and take away our sins. We can't understand very well how this is done for us but God planned it that way, and we should know that this is a wonderful promise.

This was a promise that made many people glad. Mary was glad that she was to be the mother of Jesus. She said that God had done great things for His people.

God promised to send Jesus into the world because He loved the people in the world so very much. In return the people should love God and Jesus with all their hearts. If everybody loved Jesus it would make this world a very happy and nice place to live in.

Questions

1. Who always keeps His promises?
2. What is one good promise that He made?
3. How was Jesus to come into the world?
4. Why was Jesus to come?
5. Who told Joseph and Mary that they were to have the Babe to care for?
6. What was to be the Babe's name and who named Him?
7. Why did God send Jesus?
8. Do you think this was a good promise?
9. Are you happy because of this promise?



**YOUR
LETTERS**

FROM CALIFORNIA

Dear Golden Gems and Missionary Readers:

This is my first time to write to the little paper. I got a copy of this little paper and I like it very much.

I go to the Lodi Sabbath School and enjoy it very much.

I am nine years old and will be in the fourth grade this year.

Your friend,

Joyce Shaeffer.

* * * * *

FROM CALIFORNIA

Dear Golden Gems:

This is my first time to write to the Golden Gems. I am eight years old and in the fourth grade. I enjoy our little paper very much.

Yours truly,

Avia Smith.

* * * * *

FROM IDAHO

Dear Missionary Readers:

I hope you enjoy the little paper as much as I do. I am eight years old and in the third grade. There are six in our class. My teacher's name is Mrs. Sandy.

Sister Edna Palmer is my teacher at Sabbath School. There are seven in our class. We are studying the history of some of the Bible characters, such as Abraham and Lot.

I wish someone would write to me. For pets I have two cats and one dog. My dog's name is Shep, and the cats' names are Puff and Blacky Midnight.

Well, I had better close for now.

Pearl Elaine Cory,

Nampa, Idaho.

-----M-----

MEMOR VERSE FOR THE WEEK

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want."
Psalm 23:1.