



SERVANTS OF GOD

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ON LINE HELPS FOR THE TEACHER

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Lesson 1

GOD TAKES CARE OF HIS SERVANTS

Scripture to be studied: 2 Corinthians 1-4, 10-12

The aim of the lesson: No matter what difficulty a believer has when he/she is serving God, God will care for him/her and supply everything he/she needs.

What your students should know: Because God cares and comforts believers, they should comfort others.

What your students should feel: A desire to help someone in need.

What your students should do: Ask the Lord to make them conscious of the needs of others so they can share God's comfort with them.

Lesson outline (for the teachers and students' notebooks):

1. Paul escapes from those who tried to kill him.
2. Paul survives a shipwreck.
3. Paul is stoned, but God gives Him a glimpse into Heaven.
4. God allows Paul's problem to remain so He can show him His strength.

The verse to be memorized:

Casting all your care upon Him, for He careth for you.
 (1 Peter 5:7)

NOTE TO THE TEACHER

In one way or another all who belong to Christ are servants of God. Some may give more time to serving Him. But all of us—old and young—are God's servants. Therefore the lessons of this series should be very helpful to each child of God.

THE LESSON

Do you remember a time when you were young that you fell and hurt yourself? What did you do? You ran home to Mother, crying. And what did she do? She comforted you. She may have held you, or perhaps she washed the hurt with cool water. Soon you felt better. How is it that mothers know how to comfort their children? It was because when they were little, their own mothers comforted them.

In Paul's second letter to the Corinthians he tells of the many times that he, God's servant, needed comfort. He explains that because God comforted him, he can comfort others who have hard times in their lives. Later those whom he has comforted will be able to comfort others, he says. (See 2 Corinthians 1:3-6.)

The Apostle Paul was possibly the greatest of all missionaries. He took the Gospel to hundreds and thousands who had never heard it. He gladly served God with all his heart. Why should such a missionary need to be comforted? What kind of hurts did he have? He tells us the answers to these questions in Second Corinthians. This is what he says. (*Teacher:* Depending on the ability of your pupils, you may wish to read 2 Corinthians 11:23-28.):

I have been whipped many times.

I have often been in jail.

Many times I was in danger of death.

Five times I had 39 lashes across my back.

I was beaten three times.

Once I was stoned.

I was shipwrecked three times.

I was in the water a day and a night.

I have been in danger in water, in danger of robbers, in danger of people in my own country, in danger of those of other countries, in danger in the city, in danger in the wilds, in danger on the sea.

I have been tired and full of pain.

I have been hungry and thirsty.

I have gone without food.

I have been cold and naked.

I have had to take care of all the churches which were just getting started.

I had to escape one city by being let down over the wall in a basket.

Poor Paul! How he did need comfort!

1. PAUL ESCAPES FROM THOSE WHO TRIED TO KILL HIM

If Paul could be here today, we might question him about his experiences. For example, maybe we would ask, "Why did you have to escape from one city in a basket?"

Paul would doubtless answer, "That was one of my first experiences after I was saved. (See Acts 9:23-25.) I had returned