



THE HOLY WAR

Adapted from the classic by John Bunyan

Author: Rose-Mae Carvin

Illustrator: Sandra Jarrett Cover Art: Linda McInturff

Proofreader: Sharon Neal

PowerPoint Presentation, Interface and Download: Mark and LaRue Bowser
Typesetting and Layout: Patricia Pope

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NOTE TO THE TEACHER

John Bunyan's *The Holy War* is generally acknowledged to be second in greatness to his *Pilgrim's Progress*. The subtitle of the first edition in 1682 read: *The Holy War, Made by Shaddai upon Diabolus, for the Regaining of the Metropolis of the World; or The Losing and Taking Again of the Town of Mansoul*. Quite a subtitle!

The author of this volume, Rose-Mae Carvin, abridged John Bunyan's work. In an indexed copy of a late edition, there is a list of 242 people and places. To delete more than 200 of them and still have an excellent adaptation for children, is an indication of Mrs. Carvin's monumental achievement.

Even the young now have a keen interest in the spirit world. Because Satan worship is flourishing today, it is imperative that his wickedness be exposed, especially to the impressionable. Thus this visualized adaptation.

When telling this story, teach from the Bible also. We strongly urge you to use the correlated volume, *Bible Lessons for Life's Battles*.

God's blessing is always upon His Word. (See Isaiah 55:11.) God's Word is a lamp, a light. (See Psalm 119:105, 130.) Faith comes to those who hear the Word of God. (See Romans 10:17.) It is impossible, therefore, to overestimate the value of God's Word.

Although God always blesses His Word, at times He deigns to add His blessing to man-made stories. Because such stories are not authored by the Holy Spirit, they do not always have His illumination.

It is extremely difficult, indeed almost impossible, to have a 100 per cent perfect allegory. By remembering this, you will never be tempted to teach *The Holy War* only. You will be certain always to teach with it the five correlated lessons appearing in the volume, *Bible Lessons for Life's Battles*. (Or, if you prefer, you may use Bible lessons of your own choosing.) It is, after all, the Word of God that we must teach. If a double impact can be made upon your students by coupling His Word and an allegory, to God be all the praise.

CAUTION!

1. To lighten the plot, some humor is included. Do not be carried away by this, for Satan's activity is no laughing matter. He is a deceitful adversary, seeking whom he may devour. (See 1 Peter 5:8.)
2. Do not be satisfied to tell stories only. You are a teacher, so *teach*. Make certain that your teaching is under the guidance and control of God's Holy Spirit, so He can give eternal results.

Display each illustration where indicated in text, laying volume aside when the story continues beyond the picture.

Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

In England, many years ago, a man named John Bunyan was put in prison because he preached the Gospel. It was while he was a prisoner that he had an unusual dream in which there were many Bible truths. The dream gave him an idea for a story which he called *Pilgrim's Progress*. The story is about Pilgrim, a man who had many interesting experiences traveling from the City of Destruction (earth) to the Celestial City (Heaven).



Show Illustration #1

Later John Bunyan wrote another story—*The Holy War*. He does not say this story came from a dream. Yet this story teaches many things we need to know. It shows how Satan opposes all of us every day. It helps Christians understand that they are in a constant battle.

The Holy War story is full of excitement: A great King; a Prince; a fierce, deceitful enemy; a castle; armies; battles!



Show Illustration #2

Had he chosen to do so, John Bunyan could have written of people who lived in his day, 300 years ago. Instead, he wrote about a city which had a most unusual name. The city was surrounded by a great wall which had five gates: Ear Gate, Eye Gate, Mouth Gate, Nose Gate, Feel Gate. In order to enter the city, one of the gates had to be used.

Those who lived inside the city had uncommon names: Captain Resistance (who refused to let any evil thing get into the city), Mr. Innocent, Mr. I Will (he had great power and influence), Mr. Understanding (whose house was full of light). Mr. Conscience was a man of great courage who spoke the truth at all times. There were others too—good men in the city—at least in the beginning. So let's start with the beginning. Listen carefully to see if, as the story progresses, you can discover someone you know personally.