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!

Chapter 1

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, and an allegory, to God be all the praise.

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 satisfied to tell stories only. You are a teacher, so

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