



John Bunyan's

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

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NOTE TO THE TEACHER

These five captivating lessons are ideal for children's meetings of any kind. For a double impact, teach *Pilgrim's Progress* with the series of correlated lessons entitled *Bible Lessons for Life's Journey*. Also included in that series are five visualized memory verses. Use these two volumes as suggested in the Daily Schedule (page 13 in this volume). Extra teaching activities (pages 11-12) and review questions (pages 12-13) for each chapter of *Pilgrim's Progress* will help you reinforce the concepts in this allegory.

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

A FOUNDATION FOR THE STORY

Use the Wordless Book and the following object lesson to prepare the children for the story of Pilgrim.

You may have heard one person say about another, "Oh, he (or she) is okay. He is *true blue*." You knew the speaker meant that the person was a fine person—one who is dependable. You knew that the person spoken of was not the color blue. You knew the color blue stood for something, or made you think of a certain thing. In this case it was honesty and dependability.

Or perhaps you have heard someone say, "Oh, she (or he) is just jealous. She is green with envy." You knew the person spoken of was not the color green, but a very jealous, a very envious person. The color green may make us think of jealousy or envy. And so we use colors to make us think of—or to remind us of—certain things which really have no color in themselves.

I am holding a little book in my hand. Little books like this one have been used for more than 60 years. Did you know that this book could tell a wonderful story even though it has no words or pictures in it? You may have guessed that this book tells its story by colors. That is exactly right!

GOLD PAGE

I'm going to show you the last page first because it's a very important page. What color is it? *Yellow* or *gold* is right. What does yellow make you think of? Sunshine? A daffodil? Yellow makes us think of many things. But when we think of metals, yellow makes us think of gold, doesn't it?

The Bible tells us about a city which is "pure gold, like unto clear glass" (Revelation 21:18); and "the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass" (Revelation 21:21). The gold spoken of here was like melted gold, clear as glass. And so we use the color gold to make us think of that city which is Heaven; or The Celestial City as it is sometimes called. We will hear Heaven called The Celestial City in the story we are to have each day. Pilgrim, the hero in our story, wanted very much to enter the Celestial City.

The Celestial City is a very wonderful place. Not only is it beautiful with precious jewels built into all the buildings, but

it's the place where God lives. It's the place where God's Son, the Lord Jesus, went when He left this earth. And best of all, it's the place where God wants each of us to go someday when He is ready for us. No one is ever sick in the Celestial City. No one is ever hungry or cold. And there is no death. Boys and girls are welcome there. Boys and girls are very happy there. The Bible tells us, "And the streets of the City shall be full of boys and girls playing in the streets thereof" (Zechariah 8:5, prophecy concerning the new Jerusalem). Would you, as Pilgrim in our story, like to go to the Celestial City when you leave this earth—when you die? Remember, God wants you there, and the Lord Jesus said, "I go to prepare a place for you."

DARK PAGE

Now let's turn to the first page of our book of colors. This page is black. It makes us think of darkness. God's Word says, "Men loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light" (John 3:19-20).

We know that those who do wicked things like to do them in the dark so they won't be seen. And so this black page makes us think of the *darkness* of sin. It reminds us of "the blackness of darkness for ever" (Jude 13)—the place where all will go if they insist on continuing their sinful lives and refusing to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour from sin.

(Acts 26:18 may be used with older students. "To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins . . .")

(*Note:* Some persons prefer to use the color red to represent sin. The Bible does say, "Though your sins be as scarlet . . . though they be red like crimson . . ." in Isaiah 1:18. However, since red is the color which reminds us of the blood of Christ, it can be confusing to children to have it represent sin also. There is much in the Scriptures which relates sin to *darkness*.)

The unhappy part of this black page though is that no sin can ever enter the Celestial City. Yet each one of us has sinned.