

## Thrown Out: Is There Any Hope?

by Annette Gulick 10/1/2001

### Lesson Six

**Lesson Objective:** That students understand God's plan to save man, and to make sure that they themselves are saved.

**Bible Passage:** Genesis 3:14,15, 21-24

**Bible Truth:** After God punishes sin, he graciously provides hope by giving us a glimpse into how Satan will be defeated.

**Before You Begin:** This session requires some advance preparation for it to really be good, including volunteers prepared to perform a skit

- ◆ paper
- ◆ "magnifying glasses"
- ◆ other paper with Bible verses written on them
- ◆ tape
- ◆ Bibles
- ◆ three pieces of blank paper
- ◆ pencils
- ◆ optional: TV, VCR, and video "Prince of Egypt"
- ◆ snacks for a party, like drinks and chips
- ◆ balloons for decoration
- ◆ music (if you wish)

### Opening:

**Human Knot--**Have the students form groups made up of between 6 and 8 people (an even number) and ask them to stand in a circle. The students should then reach into the circle with their right hand and grasp the hand of someone else, other than the person on their immediate right or left. They repeat the process with the left hand, resulting in a large human knot. Then they should try to untangle themselves, without letting go of the hands they are holding. When a group manages to untangle themselves, congratulate them as the winners, have all of the students return to their seats and ask:

- *Was it easy or hard to get untangled?*
- *Did any group get stuck and not know how to make more progress? If so, how did you feel?*

- ***How is being part of this knot like the lives of Adam and Eve after they ate the forbidden fruit? (They got themselves in a mess; it's hard to get out.)***

## Interactive Learning

[Before the lesson begins find two volunteers for a skit. If you can't get someone ahead of time, be prepared to act the part of the person receiving the news in order to emphasize the element of relief. The skit will consist of two scenes. In both someone is sitting on a park bench eating his lunch when a friend approaches. After some greetings the friend tells the other not to worry because he doesn't have to pay him anything. In the first scene there won't be much response on the part of the seated one because he didn't owe his friend anything anyway. In the second scene, communicate that the seated friend owes the other one a lot of money so when he is told that he doesn't have to pay anything he is very relieved and excited.]

Place the skit participants where everyone can see them. Have them perform the skit and afterwards thank them and ask the rest of the class:

- ***Why was the reaction to the news so different in two scenes? (In the second scene it was really good news because the person owed a lot of money, it was a relief.)***

## Bible Application

In this study it is very important that you as leader understand the verses and prepare the materials so you can help the students experience the search and come to understand their verses. There are several ways you can do the following study. The most creative is to cut the shape of a magnifying glass out of different colors of construction paper, write a verse on each one, and tape them around the room with the verses in chronological order from Genesis to Revelation. The students are detectives on an investigation searching for clues. Use red paper for the "lamb" verses, purple for the "king" verses, and white for the "priest" verses. Or you can write the verses in the different colors on pieces of plain paper and paste them around the room. The "priest" verses are more challenging than the others so study them first and decide if they are too difficult for your students. If so use only the other two verses.

***Last week we saw how God punished Adam & Eve for their sin and threw them out of the Garden of Eden, leaving all humanity and the whole earth in a cursed state. God is just and he punishes sin. But He is also merciful and so began to put into action his plan to restore the relationship broken by mankind and to remove the curse from the world.***

Have a student read Genesis 3: 21-24 out loud. Then ask:

- ***What gracious acts of God do we see in vss. 21-24? [God clothed them with something more adequate than fig leaves; by throwing them out of the garden he prevented them from eating from the tree of life and thus having to live forever in their cursed state.]***
- ***What do we learn about God's plan from 3:15? [Although the serpent/Satan will cause mankind to suffer ("bruise his heel"), he will eventually be defeated by a man, ("bruise your head").]***

***The statement, "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head and you shall bruise His heel," is the first glimpse in the Bible of God's plan to rescue the world from the mess it's in. And it's the first hint that this rescue will happen through a man, a "Seed" of Eve. Everything that follows in the Bible is the story of this plan being put into action. This is a process like the rising of the sun. At first you can barely see a change in the darkness, then gradually you can see more clearly the shadows and the light, until the sun bursts over the horizon and fills the world with its light. Let's take a few minutes now and search through the Bible looking for the clues about this plan.***

**Lamb: Gn 22: 6-14; Ex 12: 21-28; Lev. 17:11; Is 53:7; Jn. 1:29; Rev. 5:6-10**

**King: Gn 49: 8-12; 2 Sam. 7: 12-17; Is 9: 6,7; Jn. 18: 33-37; 1 Tim. 6: 13-16; Rev. 15:3,4, 19:16**

**Priest: Gn 14: 18-20, Ex 28: 1, 29, 30; Lev. 4: 20, 26; 1 Sam. 2: 35; Heb. 2: 17, 18, 9: 11-15; Rev. 21:22**

**Divide the students into three groups and give each group a piece of paper and a pencil. Explain that they are detectives searching for clues about God's plan. Assign a color to each group and tell them to walk around the room collecting their clues in order. At each clue they should look up the verse, or verses, and write down a summary. When they have collected all of the clues they should return to their seats and as a group come up with an explanation of God's plan according to their clues. When all groups have finished ask them to share what they found with the other groups. Then discuss:**

- ***Were any of your verses hard to understand? If so, which ones? [If students still do not understand some of their verses try to help them understand them the best you can. For this reason your preparation is important.]***
- ***Did the verses make more sense as you moved on to later clues? If so, why?***
- ***What did you learn through this activity?***
- ***How does God's plan for mankind make you feel towards Him?***

**Commitment**

If possible, show the Passover scenes from the movie “the Prince of Egypt” where the Israelites put the blood on their door posts and the angel of death goes about in the city. If you can’t show the movie clip, ask someone to describe what happened during Passover. If they don’t know, summarize for them Exodus chapter 12. Then discuss:

- *Why did the Israelites paint the blood of the lamb over their front doors? [So that the angel of death would pass over and not kill the firstborn in the house.]*
- *What would have happened if an Israelite had neglected to put the blood over their door? [The firstborn would have died.]*

*One thing we learn in the Bible is that God doesn't save people "automatically" because of their race or religion or even because of the faith of their parents or grandparents. Just like each house had to have the blood over the door, each person must have Jesus' blood covering his or her sins in order to be forgiven. Each person has to go to Jesus, the High Priest, asking Him pay for their sins with His blood and making Him the king of his or her life.*

*Some of you have already done that and show Him your gratitude by trying to live like He wants you to. Others of you have committed your life to God at some point, maybe at a camp or an evangelistic meeting, but you still have doubts about some things or you still have things in your life that you know aren't pleasing to Him. And others here may have never confessed their sins to God and asked Jesus to be their Savior and Lord. If that's you maybe you've come to realize how your sin causes a barrier between you and God and you want that barrier to be broken down. Maybe you've seen how much God loves you and wants to have a relationship with you. No matter what your situation is right now God knows what is in your heart.*

*Let's bow our heads, and if you already know that your sins have been forgiven, thank God for that and ask him to help you share that joy with others. (Let those pray silently now.) If you have doubts or struggles in your faith, ask Him to teach you and strengthen you through his Spirit and through his people. (Give a moment for this group to silently pray.) If you have never trusted in Jesus as your savior and king, He's here now, wanting you to do that. Either pray silently to trust Him as Savior and King, or talk to me afterward about how to do it.*

Allow the students a few minutes to pray then close with a brief prayer, thanking God for his plan of salvation. After the prayer tell the students that you are more than happy to talk with them after the lesson about any decisions or doubts they might have.

## Closing

*In closing let's just celebrate all God has done and will do for us.*

**Open up party snacks and decorate with balloons. Sing some praise songs and close with a prayer of thanksgiving.**