

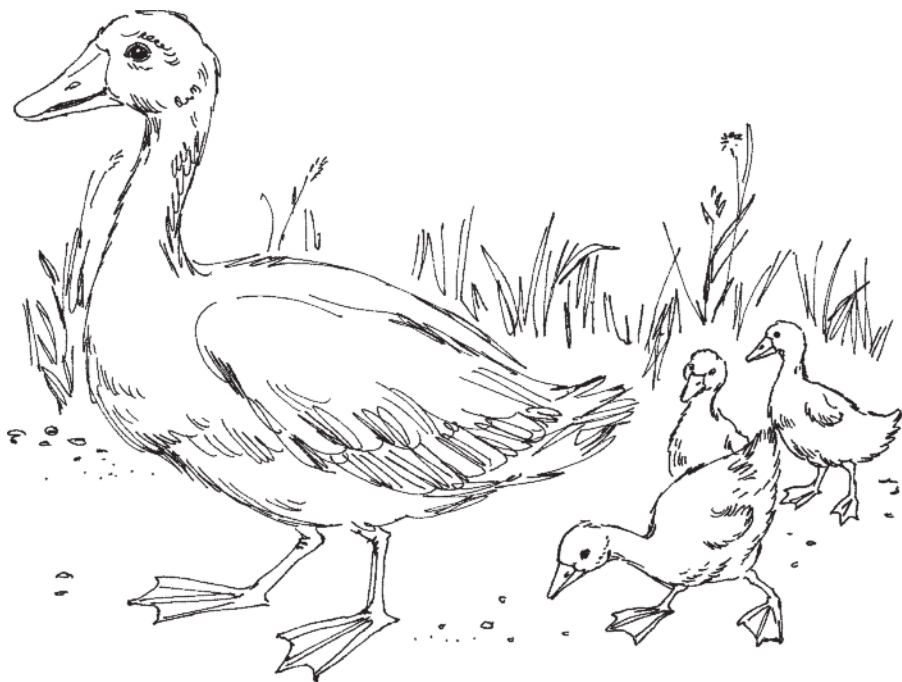
# Primary Bible Learner

March, April, May 2017

• SPRING QUARTER

*For Children Ages 6 Through 8*





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SPRING QUARTER

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**“The Lord is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy” (Psalm 145:8).**

Cleveland, Ohio  
Spring 2017

Dear Boys and Girls,

The most important thing you can learn as you are growing up is that God loves you very much. He loves you more than your parents or any other human can possibly love you. That is because He is God.

Because God loves you so much, He wants you to love Him with all your heart and soul and mind. You can tell God how much you love Him when you pray. You can sing songs that tell how much you love Him.

God does not just want to hear you say how much you love Him. He wants to see how much you love Him. You can show Him that you love Him by obeying the things He tells us to do in the Bible. Obeying God is a wonderful way to show God that you truly love Him.

Another way you can show God that you love Him is to love other people. When you show love and kindness and helpfulness to other people, you are actually showing love and kindness and helpfulness to God Himself. When you love others, you are showing God your love for Him, and those you love will see in you the love that God has for them. You will be loving God and sharing His love with others.

Your friend,  
*Wanda Tupps*

# A New Life

Twenty-year-old Zach Murphy heard something whiz by his head, then felt the thud of something that hit him. He blacked out. When he woke up, he was in a hospital bed. His younger brother, Chip, and his mom were standing beside his bed. Then a nurse was there giving him some medication, and Zach felt as if he were passing out again. *Just like Dad*, thought Zach, *I am going to die*.

Zach's dad had died of a heart attack when Zach was only ten and Chip was only four. He had been helping one of the elderly ladies of the church. Zach knew his dad loved God and loved the people of God, but God had let him die. After that happened, Zach was through with God. As a teen and young adult, Zach had fallen in with a bad crowd and had become involved in criminal activities.

Day after day in the hospital, Mom, Chip, and someone named Pastor Bob kept coming to see him. Pastor Bob told him, "God spared your life for a reason. You almost died."

Zach thought and thought about what Pastor Bob had said. Why did God spare him and not his dad?

The time came for Zach to leave the hospital. His mom and brother came to take him home with them. Zach had moved away from home when he turned eighteen and had moved in with one of his friends. After everything that had happened, Zach was glad to be going home with his family.

Zach determined that his life was going to be different now. He asked Jesus to be his Saviour and committed this new life God had given him to the Lord.

# Love Your Enemies

Janet had awakened in the middle of the night from another nightmare. They were not as frequent now as they were when the horrible things started happening. Dad and Mom had tried to shield Janet from the awful things that were happening around the world, but she heard about everything at school.

Janet talked to her mom about the cruel acts and what some kids at school were saying. “James says that we should drop a bomb on them so that they all die,” Janet said. “Kelly thinks that we should go to where they are and kill as many as we can.” Then Janet asked, “Mom, why doesn’t God just get rid of them for all the cruel and violent things they do?”

Mom did not want hate to fill her daughter’s heart. She asked Janet, “Who does God love?”

Janet had thought about the question and then quoted John 3:16. “I see what you mean, Mom. He loves the *whole world*.”

Then Janet’s mom asked, “For whom did Jesus die?”

Janet then realized what her mom was trying to get her to understand. “I know that Christ died for those people too, but I hate the evil things they do,” Janet said. “What should I do then?” she asked.

Mom told her, “You should pray for them that they will turn from their evil ways and turn to God. Pray that they will trust in Jesus as their Saviour and Lord.”

After that discussion, Janet started telling her



friends that they needed to pray for the people who were doing all those horrible things. “Jesus even said to pray for your enemies,” Janet told them, and they could not disagree. It was hard for them to believe that God loved people who did such terrible things, but they believed the Bible, and that is what the Bible says. God loves the whole world, and that is why He sent His Son, Jesus, to die for the sins of the world.

Janet prayed silently to God about the things that were troubling her. She prayed for the cruel people who were doing such awful things to others. She prayed that they would realize that Jesus came to save them. Before her prayer was even finished, Janet felt a sense of peace come over her.



# God Is Love

LESSON: I John 4:7-19

**GOLDEN TEXT**—"Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another" (I John 4:11).

## OUR LESSON TALK

John was one of Jesus' twelve disciples. He was with Jesus all the way to Jesus' death on the cross. He saw the empty tomb after Jesus arose from the dead. John was a true eyewitness of everything Jesus did.

John knew that God sent His Son, Jesus, to die for our sins because God loved all of us so much. In fact, John says that God is love. God loved all of us before we ever loved Him. Since God loves us so much, we should love one another. God has given us His Holy Spirit to live inside us to help us love others as we love ourselves. People who love other people show that they have the true love of God in their hearts.

If we love God and love one another the way we should, then we will not be ashamed when we go to heaven and face God. We will not be afraid because we know God loves us very much. Let us now live in the love of God and truly love one another because of God's love for us. We can love because God is love.