

God Is Father

ILLUSTRATED SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

By Alfred J. Boescher

Scripture—Hosea 11:1-4; Matthew 6:9, 11:25-30; Luke 15:11-24; John 14:1-11; II Corinthians 1:3, 4.



God called Israel His son, His first-born. His love for the chosen nation is demonstrated in the mighty works and preservation of His people. His revelation through the scripture.—Hosea 11:1-4.

Like the loving, compassionate father of the Prodigal Son, God stands ready to welcome back to Himself all who are truly repentant, offering full and immediate reconciliation through Christ.—Luke 15:11-24.

Jesus declares Himself the way, the truth, the life; the source and foundation of all the great acts of God, for He and the Father are one, and those who have seen Him have seen God.—John 14:1-11.

God offers a father's loving comfort and consolation to those in need that they, in turn, might comfort and console others in their affliction. II Corinthians 1:3, 4.

MEMORY VERSE:—"But now, O Lord, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we are the work of thy hand."—Isaiah 64:8.

FATHERHOOD OF GOD

He Comforts, Strengthens

(Editor's note: The following material relating to tomorrow's Sunday School lesson is based on copyrighted outlines produced by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of Churches in the U. S., and is used by permission.)

By R. H. RAMSEY

When we discuss the matter of God as Father, and pray to Him as our Heavenly Father, we are not acting upon a truth arrived at through philosophy, science or speculation, but a truth resting solidly upon the affirmations of the Scriptures.

There are four major aspects of this Fatherhood of God. First His natural Fatherhood of all men by nature as Creator and Maker. Second, His providential Fatherhood, especially in relation to Israel, which He has called "my son, my firstborn."

Fatherhood of Jesus Christ, the Son.

The concept of God as Father of all mankind, because of their creation by Him has been generally regarded as a New Testament doctrine. Actually, as in the case of most Christian beliefs, it began in the Old Testament where we find God's love for His child Israel shown, from the beginning, by His mighty works and the preservation of His people.

In spite of all God's love, Israel departed again and again from His worship and was punished. Yet even the retribution was tempered with mercy, compassion and God's Fatherly love.

The idea of God as Father goes much further in the teach-

ings of Christ. We are encouraged to pray to God the Father, assured that our prayers will be answered. We are encouraged to confess our sins to God the Father, assured that if we are truly repentant, our transgressions will be forgiven.

In the New Testament we find the Hebrews God of wrath and vengeance becomes a kind, loving, forgiving Father, who draws His children to Him with cords of humanity and compassion and bonds of love.

Perhaps the best illustration of this is the parable of the Prodigal Son. Here, mankind is the son separated from God the Father by sin. God stands ready to welcome back to Himself all who are truly repentant. This is more than compassion. It is full and immediate reconciliation for us and we experience it when we recover, through Him, full communion between God and man.

The first four verses of John

14, one of the greatest chapters of the Bible, set forth four profound truths: the certainty of God, Christ's equality with the Father, the reality of heaven as our eternal home, and the future return of Jesus Christ.

In a great threefold description of Himself, Christ declares He is the way, the truth, and the life. He is the source and the foundation of all the great acts of God; He is the only way, the divine way to God, for "no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

In verses 9 to 11 we find these startling direct statements: "he that hath seen me hath seen the Father" and "I am in the Father, and the Father in me."

The short opening passage from Paul's second epistle to the Corinthians is a fitting climax to this lesson on God as Father, for it suggests yet another paternal facet of God, that of comforter. God gives comfort and consolation to those in need that they, in turn, might comfort and console others, whatever the affliction they may be suffering.

Impressive Results Seen

The Rev. Dr. Webb Garrison, minister of a Methodist Church in Indiana, recently described in Christianity Today his experiences with the use of Scripture portions in his visiting program.

"Over the years I have tried practically all the devices commonly used to draw attention to the Christian message," he writes. "Year in and year out, however, I have seen the most impressive results of all come from the use of low-cost portions."

"Whenever I am calling, whether for evangelistic purposes or for visiting the sick and bereaved, I have a few copies of the Psalms and a Gospel or two in my pocket. Sometimes I make a few notes on the flyleaf before handing the booklet to the person visited."

"At other times, I talk briefly about the way Scriptures can communicate with us in every situation of need, and I urge a troubled man or woman, 'Read this little book. Read it three or four or half a dozen times, until you find a personal message in it.'"

"At least some of the persons who receive attractively printed portions of God's Word will open and read them and respond to their message," says Dr. Garrison.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS—Sunday, Jan. 23: Luke 16: 1-31. Monday, Jan. 24: Luke 17: 1-37.

Tuesday, Jan. 25: Luke 18: 1-43.

Wednesday, Jan. 26: Luke 19: 1-27.

Thursday, Jan. 27: Luke 19: 28-48.

Friday, Jan. 28: Luke 20: 1-26.

Saturday, Jan. 29: Luke 20: 27.

LBJ Charges N. Viet Nam Blocks Peace

INDEPENDENCE, Mo. (AP) President Johnson has accused North Viet Nam of blocking peace talks and said "if the aggressors are ready for peace... let them come to the meeting place and we will meet them there."

The door of peace must be open for all who wish to avoid the scourge of war, Johnson said, "but the door of aggression must be closed and bolted if man himself is to survive."

Johnson joined former President Truman at a ceremony establishing the Truman Centre for the advancement of peace. The multimillion-dollar centre, financed privately, is to be erected on the campus of Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

Truman, who will be 82 in May, was obviously tired after sitting through more than 90 minutes of speeches and did not deliver his address.

A part of his prepared speech was read by David Noyes, a long-time associate.

"It is all too obvious," Truman had written, "that if we do not abolish war on this earth, then surely, one day, war will abolish us from the earth."

U.S. Tightens Copper Export

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U. S. government has established a "virtual embargo" on the export of domestic copper ores and other unrefined copper, and set strict quotas for shipment abroad of other categories of the metal.

At the same time, the commerce department revoked all outstanding licenses issued last year for refined copper exports. The government based its action on what it said is "the increasing scarcity of the metal here and abroad."

The department included in the "virtual embargo" all domestic copper ores, concentrates, matte, blister copper and other unrefined forms of the metal.

GIRL PLEADS GUILTY

MILTON, Ont. (CP) — Judy Thomson, a 17-year-old Milton High School girl who pleaded guilty earlier to a charge of infanticide, was placed on probation for two years, by Mr. Justice E. G. Moorhouse Friday. The unwed mother's newborn infant died Sept. 10 from multiple stab wounds. The Supreme Court judge noted there was a lack of communication between the girl and her mother and urged her to confide in her probation officer.

Castonguay Declares Resignation To Stick

By KEN KELLY OTTAWA (CP)—Nelson Castonguay, 51, signalled the end of an era and a dynasty Wednesday.

For a second time, he submitted his resignation as chief electoral officer. He withdrew his last resignation in 1963, but he says this one will stick.

Someone else will fill the \$21,000-a-year post of running federal elections, a job Castonguay has been doing since 1927. Mr. Castonguay then will be free to concentrate on his other major job—representation commissioner.

He took on this \$25,000-a-year post in 1963—the unanimous choice of Parliament. He's been doing both jobs ever since.

When last November's general election rolled round, he spent his days in his office as chief electoral officer helping to settle the 1,001 problems that arose in giving 10,000,000 voters a chance to cast their ballots.

WORKED NIGHTS, TOO He spent nights poring over transcripts of the 10 commissions drafting new boundaries for federal constituencies.

As representation commissioner he's a member of each commission. Last November's election was his sixth, one more than this father, the late Jules Castonguay, ran during his period as chief electoral officer.

"I wanted to quit when I equalled dad's record. I had six, but I didn't plan it that way."

He was asked to stay on partly because the 1963 election, as did the 1965 election, produce a minority government, which meant an election was possible on short notice.

But he was needed also for his encyclopedic knowledge of federal constituencies which haven't had new boundaries since 1953. The task was to be given for the first time to independent commissions instead of to a Commons committee.

SUBMITTED WEDNESDAY The proposed new boundaries were submitted to the Commons Wednesday with the report in which Mr. Castonguay asks to be replaced as chief electoral officer.

But his work is only half done. As representation commissioner he now must undertake a two-year study aimed at establishing a permanent list of voters and making absentee voting possible.

Before he tackles this, Mr. Castonguay is going to take an extended holiday in Mexico. Dark circles under his eyes are witness to the strain of 1965, when he collapsed three times under the strain of carrying two jobs.

People who have met him probably recall him as a short-bright-eyed figure, with greying hair, seated behind a big desk, a telephone glued to one ear and an ashtray full of cigarette butts nearby.

He enjoys the unique distinction of being appointed by resolution of the House of Commons.

PARK ROYAL UNITED CHURCH

13 Christie Drive, Parkdale Rev. J. H. Tye, B.A., B.D., Minister

Mr. Leslie Hiscott—Organist and Director of Choirs

MORNING: 9:45 a.m.—Junior, Intermediate and Senior Church School 11:00 a.m.—Nursery and Kindergarten Classes 11:00 a.m.—DIVINE WORSHIP Sermon: "FIRST-AID BY THE ROADSIDE" Anthem: "Unto Thee O Lord" (Soloist Mrs. Gordon Jensen)

11:15 a.m.—Primary Church School

EVENING: 7:00 p.m.—Evening Worship Sermon: "TO WHOM WE PRAY" Anthem: "O For A Thousand Tongues"

English Carol—(The Junior Choir) ORDINATION OF ELDERS

YOU ARE WELCOME TO WORSHIP WITH US

First Baptist Church

Corner of Prince and Fitzroy Streets Rev. Malcolm F. Barlow, B.A., B.D., Minister Mrs. V. L. Dingwell, Organist and Choir Director

9:45 a.m.—Sunday School for all ages 11:00 a.m.—GOD IS LIGHT Anthem: "O For A Thousand Tongues"

7:00 p.m.—"OUR ONE AND ONLY MESSAGE" Male Octet Solo: Mr. Stephen MacLeod

Wednesday 7:30—Annual Business Meeting. A WARM WELCOME AWAITS YOU

Charlottetown Bible Chapel

235 Cumberland St. at Longworth Ave.

11:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.—James Stahr, B. Sc., M. Th. 8:45 p.m.—Film: "SOUL OF QUEBEC"

"The Old Book... the New Birth... the Precious Blood the Blessed Hope."

BIRCHWOOD FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(Birchwood St. near Longworth Ave.) Minister: Rev. W. R. Underhay, B.A.

11:00 A.M.—Morning Worship 7:00 P.M.—Evening Worship VISITORS WARMLY WELCOME.

Zion Presbyterian Church

Corner Prince and Grafton Streets The Rev. Donald A. Campbell, B.A., Minister Miss Roberta Shaw, Deaconess Mrs. Harvey MacKinnon, L.M.S., B.M.S., Organist and Choir Director.

9:45 a.m.—The Church School. Classes for all ages 10:00 a.m.—Bible Class. 11:00 a.m.—Nursery School 8:00 p.m.—Young People's Bible Class

11:00 a.m.—DIVINE WORSHIP Sermon: THE RULING ELDER AT WORK Anthem: Lord, Lead Us SHH—J. Brahms

7:00 p.m.—DIVINE WORSHIP Sermon: THE SECRET OF SAYING "I CAN" Solo: Evening Hymn—Miss Judy Matheson VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

St. Peter's Cathedral

Rochford Square Anglican Church of Canada Ven. Archdeacon J. R. Davies, M.A., Rector Rev. Canon E. M. Malone, M.A., D.D. Honorary Assistant Priest

Miss Suzanne Brenton, Lic. Mus., Organist Mrs. B. W. Patterson, Choir Director

Jan. 23—The Third Sunday after the Epiphany "Theological Education Sunday"

8:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist 8:45 a.m.—Mattins 9:45 a.m.—Sunday School (Infants Class 11 a.m.) 11:00 a.m.—Choral Eucharist and Sermon 7:00 p.m.—Evensong and Sermon

Visitors are most cordially welcome at all services.

CALVARY TEMPLE PENTECOSTAL ASSEMBLIES OF CANADA Upper Prince Street Rev. C. K. Benn, Pastor 9:15 a.m.—Radio Broadcast, Summerside Station 9:45 a.m.—Sunday School, Classes for all REV. AND MRS. CYRIL CLARKE, LOCKEPORT, N.S. GUEST PREACHERS AND MUSICIANS 11 a.m.—7:30 p.m. Attend Charlottetown's Full Gospel Assembly.

The Salvation Army Great George Street Capt. Ray Nelson Sunday: Directory Class—9:30 a.m. Sunday School—10 a.m. Holiness Meeting—11 a.m. Sermon: "FAITH" Salvation Meeting—7 p.m. Sermon: "YOU CAN'T MISS IT" Tuesday, 8 p.m.—Home League (Public meeting) Thursday, 8 p.m.—Prayer Meeting. A WELCOME AWAITS YOU AT THE ARMY

Central Christian Church 219 Kent Street 10:00 a.m.—Sunday School for all ages 11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship and the Lord's Supper Sermon: "THE PRIVILEGE OF PRAYER" Trumpet Duet: Mr. W. O. Weale and Ronnie Mellich 7:00 p.m.—EVENING SERVICE Sermon: "WHAT SHALL I DO?" Quartet: Miss Rosina Beck, Miss Shirley Graham, Mr. Delroy Brown, Mr. Ronnie Mellich Minister: Mr. W. O. Weale Organist: Mrs. Helen MacRae, A.R.C.M. WE EXTEND A WARM WELCOME TO ALL

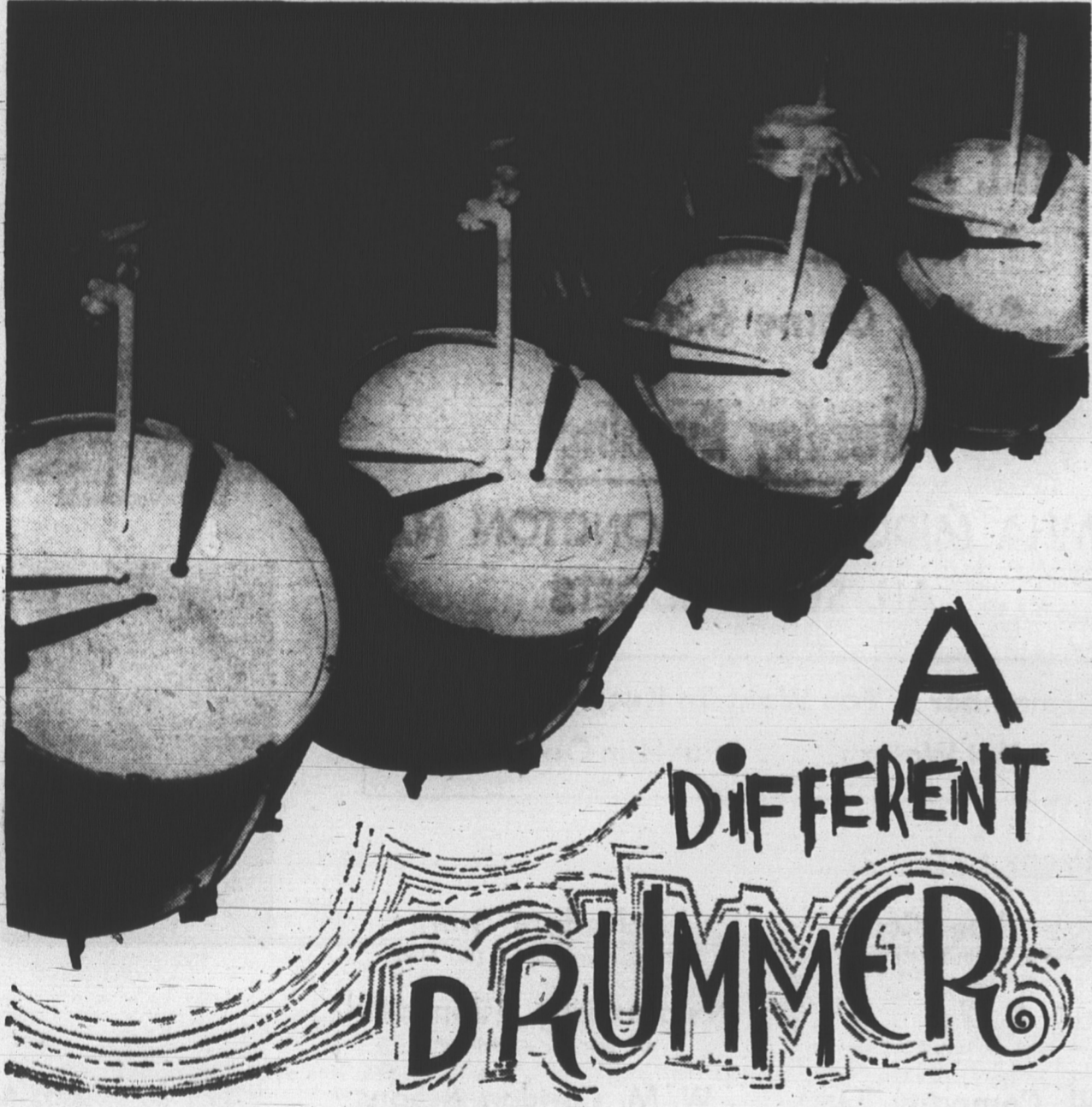
Sherwood Christian Bible School (Sherwood Elementary School Building) A Sunday Bible School for all Ages 9:45—10:45 a.m. Superintendent—Mr. Preston Beck Assistant Super.—Mr. Barry Clark Adult Class—Mr. Kenneth T. Norris Young People—Mrs. Preston Beck Junior High—Mr. W. A. MacRae Primary—Mrs. Wm. Kells Mrs. W. A. MacRae Beginners—Mrs. W. S. MacLeod Miss Mary Lou MacLeod A WARM WELCOME TO ALL

The Kirk of St. James Minister: The Rev. Malcolm A. McCaug, B.A., B.D. Director of Music Christopher Gedhill, M.A., B. Mus., ARCCO 11:00 A.M. Sermon: "OUR CHURCH AND THE BUDGET" Anthem: "O Be Joyful In The Lord"—Wood 9:45 a.m.—Sunday School 11:00 a.m.—Churchtime Nursery 11:30 a.m.—Children's Corner You Are Invited To Worship With Us

SPRING PARK UNITED CHURCH Kirkwood Drive Minister: Rev. Clayton G. Lewis Organist: Mrs. J. B. Herdman, L.R.A.M. CHURCH SCHOOL: 9:45 a.m.—Junior, Intermediate, Senior Church School 11:00 a.m.—Nursery, Kindergarten and Primary Classes 11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship Sermon: "FROM SMALL BEGINNINGS" Anthem: "The Lord Is My Shepherd" 2:00 p.m.—Religion and Life Awards Classes You Are Welcome To Worship With Us

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH Charlottetown, P.E.I. Ministers: Rev. John G. E. Hall, B.A. Rev. Gerald G. Wyrwas, B.A., B.D. Organist: Mr. J. B. Herdman 9:45 a.m.—Senior, Intermediate and Juniors 11:00 a.m.—Primary and Kindergarten 12:00 a.m.—Crib Room and Nursery up to two years (Social Hall) 11:00 a.m.—REVIEW OF SUNDAY (Rev. G. G. Wyrwas) Anthem: "Sing Alleluia Fortis" Eric Thomas 2:00 p.m.—Religion and Life Classes for Brownies, Guides, Cubs and Scouts 7:00 p.m.—PARADE OF POWER Rev. J. G. E. Hall Anthem: "O Come, ye servants of the Lord" (Tye)

St. Paul's Anglican Church Established 1769 by Royal Foundation The Rev. F. Louis Elias, L.S.T., Rector Organist and Choir Director George A. Thompson, F.R.C.O., (CHM) A.R.C.M. 8:30 a.m.—HOLY COMMUNION 9:45 a.m.—SUNDAY SCHOOL: Junior, Senior and Bible Classes 11:00 a.m.—SUNDAY SCHOOL: Crib Nursery, Beginners and Primary Classes 11:00 a.m.—MORNING PRAYER AND SERMON Anthem: "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desire" J. S. Subject: "THE MAN WHO HAD THE GREAT-EST FAITH" 7:00 p.m.—EVENING PRAYER AND SERMON Subject: "THE CONTAGION OF WORSHIP" (Part IX—Sermons from the Psalms) TUESDAY NIGHT—January 25th—PATRONAL SERVICE (Celebrating St. Paul's 1966th Anniversary) SPECIAL UNITED CHURCH—ANGELICAN SERVICE Guest Preacher: DR. J. B. HARDIE, B.A., B.D., M.A., Ph.D. (Professor at United Church's Pine Hill College) Subject: COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED PRINCIPLES FOR UNION BETWEEN THE UNITED CHURCH AND-ANGELICAN CHURCH OF CANADA Reception: At the Parish Hall—Informal luncheon gathering for everyone immediately following the Service.



THE CHURCH FOR ALL... ALL FOR THE CHURCH

The Church is the greatest factor on earth for the building of character and good citizenship. It is a storehouse of spiritual values. Without a strong Church, neither democracy nor civilization can survive. There are four sound reasons why every person should attend services regularly and support the Church. They are: (1) For his own sake, (2) For his children's sake, (3) For the sake of his community and nation, (4) For the sake of the Church itself, which needs his moral and material support. Plan to go to church regularly and read your Bible daily.

The world is filled with the sound of many drums. Drums of militarism stir man to war and conquest. Drums of conformity invite him to keep step with low standards and false values. Drums of greed lure him into the killing pace of selfish getting and gaining. But a different drum sounds, too. It beats in the rhythm of law and love, and rings with the sound of eternal truths. It beckons man to integrity and true self-fulfillment; it calls him to the path of duty and to the way of service. The different drum is God's. A man must choose which drum he will listen for and follow. Many years ago, Henry David Thoreau wrote: "If a man does not keep pace with his companions; perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer." God's house is one place where you will hear the "Different Drummer." Worship there this Sunday with your family.

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Table with 7 columns: Sunday Numbers 14:13-24, Monday 1 Kings 18:20-24, Tuesday 1 Kings 18:20-40, Wednesday Psalms 81:1-6, Thursday Proverbs 18-19, Friday Colossians 2:1-4, Saturday James 1:12-18

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