

Sunday School Lesson

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON for DEC. 2, 1951
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A DOUBTING AND DISOBEDIENT PEOPLE

MEMORY SELECTION: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."—I John 1:9.
Lesson Text: Numbers 14:1-11.

About a year after the Israelites departed from Egypt, they had an opportunity to take possession of Canaan, the Promised Land, had their faith been courageous enough to rely upon Jehovah. At Kadesh-Barnea, just south of Canaan, the Israelites halted.

During the year which had intervened since they left Egypt, they had been organized, trained to a certain extent, received the wonderful code of laws which was to influence mankind down through the centuries and been given many evidences of God's protecting beneficence. The ex-slaves, however, were not equal to the opportunity. The preparation they had received proved to be insufficient to meet the challenge.

Twelve leaders—one from each tribe—were sent to tour the land of Canaan and report back to Moses and to the Israelites. These leaders were chosen so that their tribe would be represented by men in whom they had confidence and upon whose judgment they would rely. While Jehovah was ready to help his people, it was their duty to acquaint themselves with the problems before them and to utilize every human resource to accomplish the desired end.

For 40 days, these 12 spies were absent, traveling the length of Canaan. When they returned, the majority report of the spies was adverse. These 10 fainthearted men agreed that the land was rich and alluring but they emphasized in detail the fierce, warlike tribes which inhabited it, exaggerated their physical strength and military prowess. This pessimistic prophecy completely shook the faith of the members of the tribes, who rejected the courageous invitation of the two optimistic leaders—Joshua and Caleb—to go up and possess the country.

So disappointed were the peo-

ple that they murmured against Moses and lamented the fact that they had left Egypt. They talked of selecting another leader and following him back to Egypt. Joshua and Caleb were distressed and pleaded with the Israelites, saying "The land which we passed through to spy it out, is an exceeding good land. If Jehovah delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it unto us; a land which floweth with milk and honey. Only rebel not against Jehovah, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread unto us; their defense is removed from over them, and Jehovah is with us: fear them not." This only angered the people further and they threatened to stone both Joshua and Caleb.

The lack of faith and the disobedience of the children of Israel also angered Jehovah, who appeared unto Moses and said, "How long will this people despise me? and how long will they not believe in me, for all the signs which I have wrought among them?" Moses again found it necessary to intercede in behalf of his disobedient people.

Moses' prayer to God was twofold: (1) Jehovah should pardon the people because if he destroyed them, he would gain an evil reputation among the surrounding peoples, and, (2) because his character is merciful and gracious. Jehovah relented from an impulse to destroy the Israelites but informed Moses that none of the men then 20 years or over would be allowed to enter the Promised Land, with the exception of Joshua and Caleb, the two brave spies.

J. E. MacFayden has said: "The great lesson of this passage is the base ingratitude and the peril of unbelief. God is represented as being especially vexed that the people refused to believe in him 'for all the signs which I have wrought among them.' Behind them was a wondrous Providence which had, in the most unmistakable way, delivered them, led them and sustained them; yet they could not trust God for the experiences that were ahead of them. Note the result of this unbelief—it shut them out of the Promised Land . . . God did not shut them out; they shut themselves out by refusing to trust him, though the evidence of his mighty love was so abundant and persuasive."

The Israelites then had a change of heart. They repented of their lack of faith and became enthusiastic for an immediate invasion of Canaan. Moses was powerless to dissuade them, although he foretold their disastrous defeat should they attempt it. A military disaster followed the impetuous invasion and the children of Israel were turned back to wander 39 years more in the Wilderness.

Recruiting for the armed forces is reported to be going ahead at a pretty lively rate. Probably a lot of young fellows have discovered that being a civilian is a luxury they cannot afford at this time.—New Yorker.

Miss Green: "I know he's rich, but isn't he too old to be considered eligible?"

Mrs. Brown: "My dear, he's too eligible?"

Mrs. Brown: "My dear, he's too eligible to be considered old!"

WAGE ADJUSTMENTS GRANTED BY FOURTH REGION WAGE BOARD

RICHMOND, Va.—Nine of 18 decisions announced recently by the Fourth Region Wage Stabilization Board granted wage increases or adjustments on the basis of WSB's inter-plant inequity policy. Affected by the adjustments are 278 union employees and 129 non-union workers in Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, Maryland and the District of Columbia. Four of the nine petitions involved agreements between management and labor, while the other five had been filed by the employer.

The decisions on inter-plant inequities were unanimous and were in accordance with the Defense Production Act which requires that wage stabilization be so administered as to prevent or correct

hardships or inequities. None of these approvals permitted an increase above "industry within area practice." They were based on wage and salary rates of comparable companies within the area involved.

The labor-management approvals concerned: 189 United Construction Workers, UMW, of the National Electric Coil Company, Bluefield, West Virginia; 27 United Steel Workers of the West Virginia Steel and Manufacturing Company, Huntington, West Virginia; 10 members of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Local 322, H. H. Pike and Company, Inc., Richmond, Virginia; and 21 members of Warehouse and Distributing Workers Union, Local 222, Fries, Beall and Sharp Company, Washington, D. C.

The non-union cases included: 49 machine shop workers of Flynn and Emrich Company, Baltimore, Maryland; 25 truck drivers of the Nottingham Hauling Corp., Norfolk, Virginia; 15 service department employees of the Wilson Sales Company, Fairmont, West Virginia; 8 waitresses of the Hotel Morgan, Morganton, West Virginia; and 7 office workers of the Belair Road Chevrolet Company, Inc., Baltimore, Maryland.

Other wage adjustments were approved for new plants of the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company in Norfolk, Virginia, and the Charlotte Table Pad Manufacturing Company of Charlotte, North Carolina.

A deferred increase petition was granted 31 bakery and confectionery workers (AFL) of the National Biscuit Company, Wilming-

ton, North Carolina, while merit increases were approved for five employees of the New York Central Iron Works, Hagerstown, Maryland.

The Board also announced the appointment of J. Madison Ma-

con, Jr., of Richmond as executive assistant to its four industry members. The Fourth Regional Board, of which Colonel George E. Strong is chairman, is composed of four representatives each of public, industry and labor.

When you see a Union Shop Card you know the firm which displays it pays Union wages and observes Union working conditions. Non-Union firms do not display the Shop Card. Look for it!

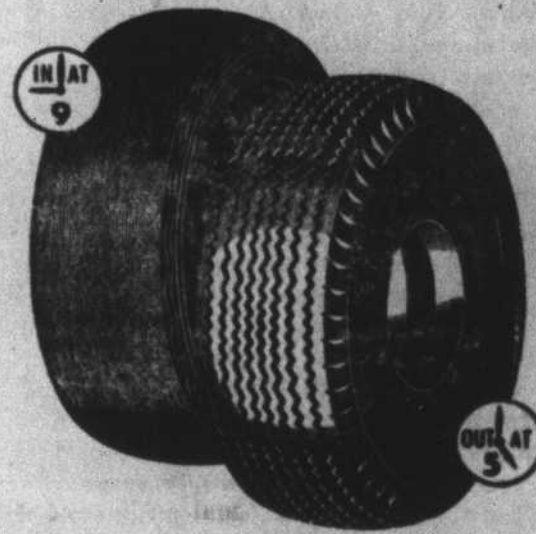


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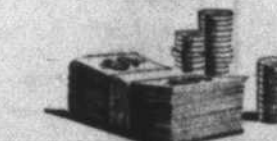
You may still redeem any Series E Bond at any time after you've owned it for sixty days. (The tables on this page show what you can get for it.) But unless you really need the cash you're much better off to hold your bonds. For U. S. Defense Bonds are as safe as America itself.

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So if some of your bonds are coming due, take advantage of this new offer of your government—just sit back and let them go on making money. Meanwhile keep adding to your savings by buying more United States Defense Bonds regularly—through the Payroll Savings Plan where you work or the Bond-A-Month Plan where you bank. System is the secret of saving.



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Issue price.....	18.75	37.50	75.00
Period after issue date	Redemption values during each year		
1 year.....	\$18.75	\$37.50	\$75.00
2 years.....	19.00	38.00	76.00
3 years.....	19.25	38.50	77.00
4 years.....	19.50	39.00	78.00
5 years.....	20.25	40.50	81.00
6 years.....	20.75	41.50	83.00
7 years.....	21.50	43.00	86.00
8 years.....	22.50	45.00	90.00
9 years.....	23.50	47.00	94.00
10 years.....	24.50	49.00	98.00
Maturity value (10 years from issue date).....	25.00	50.00	100.00

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Original maturity (at face) value.....	\$25.00	\$50.00	\$100.00	\$200.00	\$500.00	\$1,000.00
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Period after issue date	Redemption values during each year					
11 years.....	\$25.31	\$50.62	\$101.25	\$202.50	\$506.25	\$1,012.50
12 years.....	26.56	53.12	106.25	212.50	531.25	1,062.50
13 years.....	27.19	54.37	108.75	217.50	543.75	1,087.50
14 years.....	27.81	55.62	111.25	222.50	556.25	1,112.50
15 years.....	28.44	56.87	113.75	227.50	568.75	1,137.50
16 years.....	29.06	58.12	116.25	232.50	581.25	1,162.50
17 years.....	30.00	60.00	120.00	240.00	600.00	1,200.00
18 years.....	31.33	62.67	125.33	250.67	626.67	1,253.33
20 years.....	32.67	65.33	130.67	261.33	653.33	1,306.67
Extended maturity value (20 years from issue date).....	33.33	66.67	133.33	266.67	666.67	1,333.33

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