

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

THE FAMILY AT BETHANY

International Sunday School Lesson
For February 17, 1952.

Memory Selection: "She said unto him, Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, he who is coming into the world."—John 11:27.

Lesson Text: Luke 10: 38-42;
John 11: 1-5; 24-27.

Just a few miles outside the City of Jerusalem was the town of Bethany. There, three intimate friends of Jesus lived—two sisters, Mary and Martha, and their brother, Lazarus. These friends held a unique place in the heart of Jesus. They believed in him as the Messiah and followed his teachings, but were not disciples in the same way as the twelve, accompanying him from place to place.

However, as Jesus went to and from Jerusalem, he often stopped at their home. On the occasion of which Luke writes, Jesus had stopped by and was staying in the home. It seems that Martha had assumed the responsibility of preparing and serving the meals and, on this particular occasion, she became very displeased with her sister, Mary, because Mary sat at Jesus' feet and listened to him as he talked, leaving all the preparation of the meal to her. In her impatience, Martha forgot her manners and rebuked her sister in the presence of their guest, even asking Jesus why he did not bid Mary help her.

Jesus' answer was a gentle rebuke, reminding Martha that she was "careful and troubled about many things, but one thing is needful..." While some think that Jesus referred to the fact that only one dish would have been sufficient for the meal, others believe that he was speaking of the relative importance of material things, even so important as meals to nourish the body, as compared with the opportunity of having true fellowship with him.

This warning is often needed today in homes where the emphasis is on keeping an immaculate house rather than making a real Christian home for one's loved ones and guests. Fortunately indeed is the family who live in a home where the real spirit of Christ abides.

Later, Jesus was at Bethabara, about twenty miles from Bethany when he received word that his friend, Lazarus, was very ill. Jesus delayed his departure for two days, to the amazement of his disciples. Before reaching Bethany, Martha heard that Jesus was coming and went out to meet him.

Her greeting was a complaint that he had not come earlier. "Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died." But, although puzzled by his failure to hurry to Lazarus' bedside, Martha had great faith in Jesus, saying, "I know," she insisted, "that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee." Martha's confession of faith in Jesus is almost to be compared with Peter's, when she declares, "I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world."

Martha calls Mary, who hurries to Jesus. She greets him with the same words that Martha had used. Seeing her grief of those with her, Jesus himself wept. Then, going to the tomb, where Lazarus had laid for four days, Jesus called him from the dead.

This act became the excuse the enemies of Jesus needed to get rid of him. "Because many of the Jews went away and believed on Jesus," these enemies realized that they must hasten his death, because of his growing popularity.

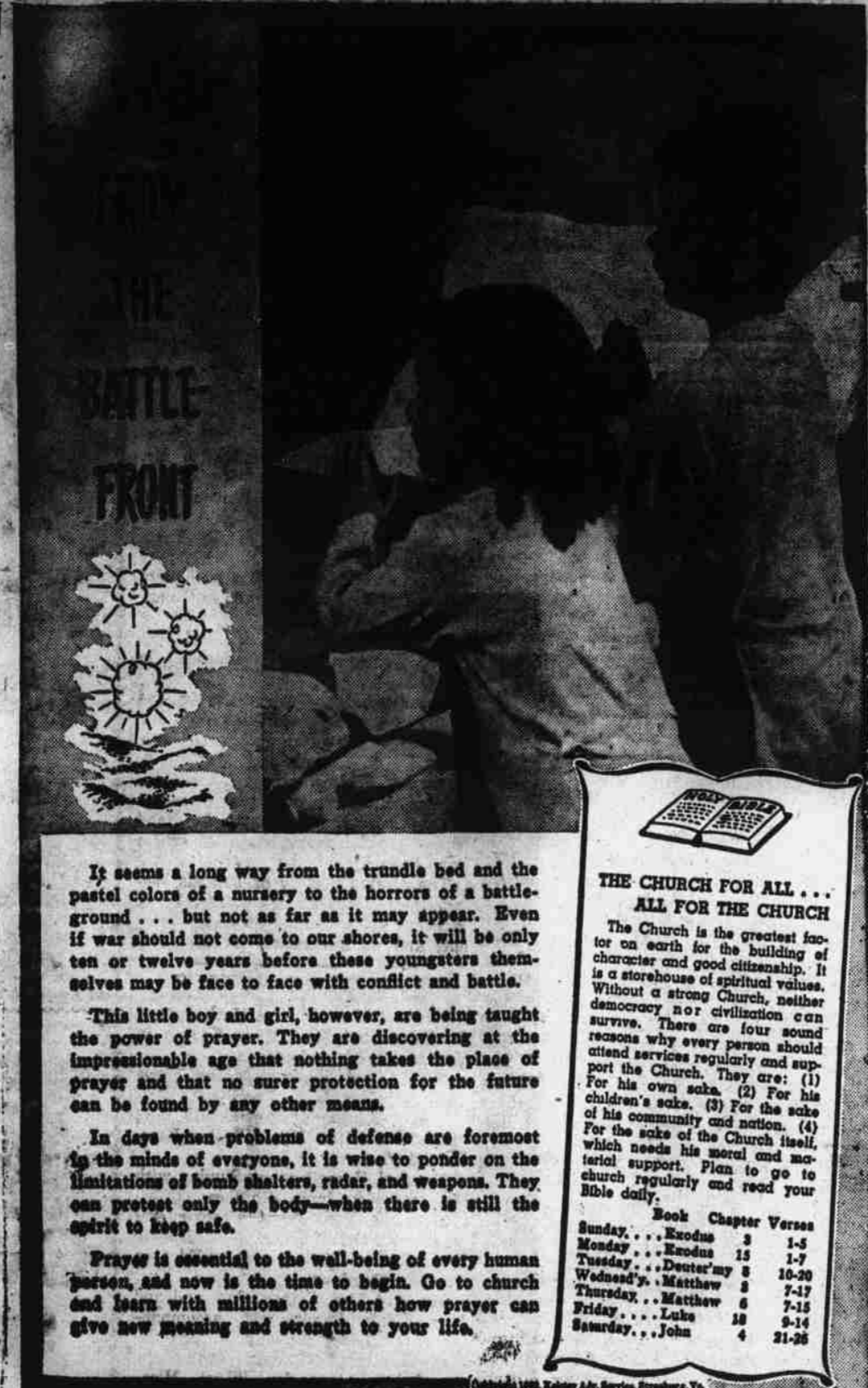
Just a week before his crucifixion, Jesus came back to this home in Bethany. Mary, Martha and Lazarus made a feast in his honor. Since their home was not large enough to accommodate the guests, they gathered in another home, belonging to someone who is referred to as Simon the Leper.

Again, Martha served but Mary was busy, too. She acted as hostess, washing the feet of their beloved guest, anointing them with precious ointment and wiping them with her hair. She gave the best she had, with all of her love.

Is your's a happy home? If it isn't, whose fault is it? Let's remember that happiness has to be earned—it can be bestowed. It has to be earned by unselfishness, by good, honest work and by active loving. To be loved, we must make ourselves lovable. "If you are a child of God, your life in your home will reveal it," some one has truly said.

(These commentaries are based on the International Sunday School Lesson outlines, copyrighted by the International Council of Religious Education and used by permission.)

BE A BETTER
CITIZEN!
GO TO SOME
CHURCH
NEXT SUNDAY



It seems a long way from the trundle bed and the pastel colors of a nursery to the horrors of a battleground... but not as far as it may appear. Even if war should not come to our shores, it will be only ten or twelve years before these youngsters themselves may be face to face with conflict and battle.

This little boy and girl, however, are being taught the power of prayer. They are discovering at the impressionable age that nothing takes the place of prayer and that no surer protection for the future can be found by any other means.

In days when problems of defense are foremost to the minds of everyone, it is wise to ponder on the limitations of bomb shelters, radar, and weapons. They can protect only the body—when there is still the spirit to keep safe.

Prayer is essential to the well-being of every human person, and now is the time to begin. Go to church and learn with millions of others how prayer can give new meaning and strength to your life.

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 the 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.

Day	Book	Chapter	Verses
Sunday	Exodus	3	1-5
Monday	Exodus	15	1-7
Tuesday	Deuteronomy	5	16-20
Wednesday	Matthew	3	7-17
Thursday	Matthew	6	7-15
Friday	Luke	18	9-14
Saturday	John	4	21-28

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Perquimans Church Services

- HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH**
C. W. Duling, Pastor
Sunday School, 9:45 A. M.
Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.
Evening Worship, 8 o'clock.
Mid-week Services, Wednesday at 8 P. M.
- BETHEHEM CHURCH OF CHRIST**
Joe Brickhouse, Pastor
First Sunday
11 A. M. and 7 P. M.
- BURGESS BAPTIST CHURCH**
Colon Jackson, Jr., Pastor
Church services second and fourth Sundays at 11 A. M.
Sunday School at 10:00 A. M.
Church service 7:45 P. M. second and fourth Sundays.
- PERQUIMANS CHARGE CHURCHES**
H. M. Jamieson, Pastor
First Sunday:
New Hope Church, 11:00 A. M.
Oak Grove Church, 7:00 P. M.
Second Sunday
Winfall Church, 11:00 A. M.
Cedar Grove Church, 10 A. M.
Woodland Church, 7:00 P. M.
Third Sunday
Oak Grove Church, 11:00 A. M.
New Hope Church, 7:00 P. M.
Fourth Sunday
Cedar Grove Church, 11:00 A. M.
Woodland Church, 10 A. M.
Winfall Church, 7:00 P. M.
Fifth Sunday
Woodland Church, 11:00 A. M.
Prayer Meeting each Wednesday at Winfall Church, 7:00 P. M.
- ANDEBSON'S METHODIST CHURCH**
R. M. Gradeless, Pastor
Church School, 10:00 A. M.
Morning Worship, 11:00 A. M., second and fourth Sundays.
- WOODVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH**
James F. Burke, Pastor
Church Services on second and fourth Sundays at 11 A. M.
First and Third Sundays at 7:45 P. M.
Sunday School 9:45 A. M.
- UP RIVER FRIENDS CHURCH**
Elizabeth White, Pastor
Sunday School, 9:45 A. M.
Church Services, 11 A. M.
Christian Endeavor, 6:30 P. M.
- BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH**
Rev. Bennie Crawford, Pastor
Sunday School, 10 A. M.
Preaching first and third Sundays at 11 A. M.
Preaching second and fourth Sunday evening at 7:30.
- PINEY WOODS FRIENDS CHURCH**
No Pastor At Present
Sunday School, 10 A. M.
Morning worship—11:00 A. M.
- WHITEVILLE GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH**
Rev. Carl Bjork, Pastor
Sunday School, 11 A. M., every Sunday except third Sunday.
Church services every third Sunday at 3 P. M.
- HERTFORD METHODIST CHURCH**
A. L. Chaplin, Pastor
Church School, 9:45 A. M.
Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.
Youth Fellowship, 6:45 P. M.
Evening Worship, 7:30 P. M.
Mid-week Fellowship, Wednesday at 7:30 P. M.
- BAGLEY SWAMP PILGRIM**
Coy S. Saunders, Pastor
Sunday School, 10:00 A. M.
Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.
Young People's Meeting, 6:30 P. M.
Evening Worship, 7:30 o'clock.
Mid-week Services, Thursday at 7:30 P. M.
- HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH**
Rev. Charles F. Wulf, Rector.
9:45 A. M., Church School, every Sunday.
9:00 A. M., Holy Communion, 1st Sunday.
8:30 A. M., Holy Communion, 2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays.
11:00 A. M., Holy Communion, 3rd Sunday.
11:00 A. M., Morning Prayer, 2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays.
10:00 A. M., Holy Communion, Fridays and Saints' Days.
- BERRA CHURCH OF CHRIST**
Walker Perry, Pastor
2nd and 4th Sunday at 10:30 A. M.
Morning worship on first and third Sundays at 11 A. M.
Evening worship first and third Sundays at 7:30 P. M.
- CHAPPELL HILL BAPTIST CHURCH**
A. H. Outlaw, Pastor
Sunday School, 2 P. M. every first Sunday.
Church Service 3 P. M. every first Sunday.
Sunday School at 11 A. M. every second, third and fourth Sunday.

Go To Church Your Church Any Church But Go