

# Sunday School Lesson

## FINDING PEACE WITH GOD

Job 29:1-5

After Job's counselors were reduced to silence, the servant of God recalled when he was in the prime of his young adulthood. In his anguish over the loss of his children, and while it seemed to him that his previous condition was in the distant past, and thinking that God had deserted him,

Job yearned for the return of the satisfaction which was his when we was aware of God's protection.

Job 40:6-9

Job did not hesitate to admit his insignificance. He spoke at great length trying to justify himself by implying that God had not been fair in dealing with him. God rebuked Job and challenged him to take God's place and do better than He had done. Exposing Job's guilt in criticizing God, and in an effort to get him to straighten out his thinking, God asked Job four penetrating questions which did not require vocal answers, namely, if he meant to label Him as being unfair, to find fault with Him in order to make himself appear to be right, to pit his human strength against that of his Creator, and to match his voice with that of his Maker. These pointed questions exposed Job's lack of wisdom, made him aware of his guilt in questioning God, brought forth his confession that he had spoken unwisely and reduced him to silence.

Job 42:1-6

Job affirmed the omnipotence and omniscience of God, and then hastened to acknowledge his own stupidity in talking so freely. Like many of us, Job did wrong in expressing his opinion about things which God had done. It should never have been a matter of personal concern with Job as to what God had done or why He did it.

God intervened and Job received a fresh vision of His holiness. That resulted in a new realization of the sinfulness of his own heart. This vision humbled Job greatly. While standing in the presence of God his self-righteousness vanished. In the dust of humility and in the ashes of contrition Job truly repented of his unworthy and resentful thoughts about God. After confessing that he had talked about things beyond his comprehension, Job, obtained God's forgiveness. Rash and irresponsible talk usually results in embarrassment and frequently in sincere regret.

Seeing God in His perfection, Job also repented because of what he was, as well as because of what he had said. He prostrated himself in helplessness and complete dependence on God. Genuinely repenting, Job trusted himself to the sovereignty and wisdom of God, and his faith became more meaningful. Out of his personal experience with God, Job realized that God was in control of the universe, that He was concerned about the correct solution of his personal problems, and that He was the source from which his inner peace had come. Out of the Divine appreciation of the patriarch's attitude and action, God saw to it that Job's fortunes changed dramatically.

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## Service News

Marine Staff sergeant Alonza Barnett, son of Nancy Smith of Rt. 1, Box 25, and whose wife Sophia is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Godfrey of Rt. 3, Box 441, all of Hertford, has reported for duty at Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C.

He joined the Marine Corps in April 1967.

Staff Sergeant Redmond R. Perry III, whose parents

are Mr. and Mrs. Redmond R. Perry Jr. of Rt. 3, Hertford, has been awarded the Air Training Command Master Instructor rating at Tyndall AFB, Fla.

Sergeant Perry was honored for outstanding service as a technical instructor in the aircraft maintenance field at Tyndall.

The sergeant is a 1968 graduate of Perquimans High School.

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MISS DEBORAH ANN BADGLEY

## Wedding Set

Mr. and Mrs. Johnnie Phthisic of Hertford, N.C. announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Miss Deborah Ann Badgley to Henry Carlton Elliott, son of Mr. and Mrs. H.C. Elliott also of Hertford.

Miss Badgley is a junior at Perquimans High School. Mr. Elliott graduated from Perquimans High School in 1976. He is employed at the Ford Motor Company at Norfolk, Va.

The wedding will be held at Woodville Baptist Church at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 27, 1977.

Friends and relatives are invited to attend. A reception will be held in the church social hall.

## Lewis-Dale To Wed

Mr. and Mrs. Worth W. Dale request the honor of your presence at the marriage of their daughter, Bridget, to Mr. George Lewis, United States Army, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Lewis of Snug Harbor on Saturday the seventeenth of December, 1977 at 1:30 p.m. at the Bethel Baptist Church, Bethel, N.C.

MISS SUSAN MICHELLE ALEMIDA

## Miss Alemida To Wed

Mr. and Mrs. David Alemida of Red Bluff, Calif. announce the engagement of their daughter Miss Susan Michelle Alemida to Donald Thomas Hurdle, son of Mr. and Mrs. D.T. Hurdle of Rt. 4, Hertford.

The wedding is set for Dec. 18 and will be held during the Morning Worship Service at the First United Methodist Church in Hertford.

A reception will follow at Mr. and Mrs. Hurdle's home from 2-4 p.m. Friends and relatives are invited to attend.

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