

# Sunday School Lesson

## THE STEWARDSHIP OF LIFE AND WORK

Since all that we are and possess constitute an entrustment from the Lord, today's lesson challenges us to be faithful stewards of all that He has committed to us. Nehemiah 2:11-18

In his youth Nehemiah was a captive in a strange land, and was appointed by Artaxerxes, king of Persia, to the responsible position of cupbearer, which task required the services of one whose character and loyalty were unquestioned. Later, when some Jewish brethren, including his own brother, Hanani, were visiting him, he inquired concerning his people and their beloved city. With sad voices they reported that the Jews in Jerusalem were in miserable and deplorable condition, that the walls of the city were broken down, its gates burned, its streets filled with rubble, and its people living in poverty. Nehemiah sat down, wept, fasted, and prayed.

Normally Nehemiah was happy and buoyant, so when he appeared before the king with a sad countenance the latter inquired as to the cause of his unhappiness. He explained that he was grieved because Jerusalem was in ruins and his people were suffering. He requested permission to return to his beloved city for the purpose of leading in the work of reconstruction. The king granted his request, gave him assistance, and sent him on his mission of doing all that he could for his people.

Man of God that he was, Nehemiah sought divine counsel upon his arrival there. After spending three days in meditation, he arose in the night and, with a few friends, made a personal investigation of the existing conditions. Then, he called a meeting of the Jewish leaders and disclosed to them how God had led him to them, and what he intended to do. So ardent was his eloquence and so cogent was his argument that the assembly shouted, "Let us rise up and build." Nehemiah's faithfulness in the stewardship of his life and work inspired others to join him in discharging their duties also for the glory of God. Together they enjoyed the blessing of God upon their efforts.

John 15:1-5  
When about to leave them, Christ informed the disciples that they could maintain an intimate fellowship with Him, which relationship was like unto the figure of the vine and its branches. Fellowship with Christ is the secret of a radiant personality, the untroubled heart, the victorious life, and effective service. It results in fruit-bearing for Christ. Because He is the life-giving vine, the believers, who are the branches, should bear much good fruit for the Lord. This calls for pruning, purging, and cleansing. While this process is not always pleasant, it is profitable. Often when the believer is pleased with what he has done, the Lord purges or cleanses the branch in order that it may produce more and better fruit.

For abundant fruitfulness is the Christian life, there must be a regular study of the Word of God for correction and instruction, a frequent calling upon God in prayer, and a consistent dependence upon Him for the necessary strength for various living, and for the doing of all things that are harmonious with God's will. When the Christian surrenders and Christ's strength unite proper fruit always results. In the bearing of fruit for Christ the believer fulfills his purpose in life and the Lord is glorified. The more fruit of the right sort that the Christian bears, the more that the Lord is honored and glorified.

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## 4-H Pres. Elected

Janice Rose Talley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Talley, Rt. 1, Hertford, was elected as the president of Harvest Point 4-H Club during their January 9 meeting. Other officers elected were Ronnie Brothers, Vice-President; Secretary, Teresa Brothers; Assistant Secretary, Shirley Brothers, Treasurer, Margaret Foreman; and Reporter, Teresa Brothers. Stanely Phillips was elected as the song leader. Special committees were also appointed which are as follows: Program Committee Chairman, Eric Skinner; Recreation, Janice Skinner, and Refreshment Committee, Robin Brothers, Chairman and Levi Brothers, Co-Chairman. The club will meet Tuesday after their first Sunday of every month in the home of Mr. and Mrs. James Talley. The 4-H Leaders are Mr. and Mrs. James Talley, Mrs. Dorothy Wills, and Mrs. Ann Phillips. During the meeting, Mrs. M.B. Taylor explained the 4-H Project Selection Guide, 4-H award program and led a brief discussion on How Mickey Mouse and Goofy explored Energy Conservation, by Walt Disney.



Miss Stallings

Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Stallings of Rt. 1, Belvidere announce the engagement of their daughter, Cheryl Ann to Michael Ernest, son of Mr. and Mrs. Rollo P. White, also of Belvidere. The wedding is set for Feb. 17 at the Up River Friends Church at 2 p.m. Friends and relatives are invited to attend.



Miss Sherlock

Mr. and Mrs. Linwood Earl Sherlock of 1109 Weeks Street, Elizabeth City announce the engagement of their daughter, Annette Lynne to Floyd Gene Etheridge, son of Mr. and Mrs. Percy C. Etheridge of Route 1, Hertford. The wedding is set for February 24 at the First Baptist Church of Elizabeth City at 2 p.m.

# Tucker-Spear Exchange Vows

Berea Church of Christ was the setting Dec. 24 for the wedding uniting Helen Carol Tucker and Dutchie Spear, Jr. The Rev. Thomas Biggs heard the vows exchanged at 3 p.m.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F.B. Tucker of Durants Neck and the bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Dutchie Spear, Sr. of Hertford.

Given in marriage by her father, the bride had Ms. Paula Poyner of Elizabeth City as her honor attendant.

Music was provided by Miss Susan Banks of Hertford and mistresses of ceremony were Mrs. Norman Justice and Mrs. Melvin Eure, Sr.

Johnny Jarman of the Clearwater, Fla., served as best man. Ushers were Pat Harrell and Jackie Spear, brother of the bridegroom.

Following the ceremony, a reception was held at



Durants Neck Community Building.

The bride is a graduate of Norview High School in Norfolk, and is employed at Belk-Tyler Co. The bridegroom is a Perquimans High School graduate and is employed at Winslow Oil Co.

The couple will make their home on Rt. 3 in Hertford.

## CARD OF THANKS

We wish to thank everyone for their many acts of kindness such as cards, prayers, food, flowers, and visits shown to me while I was a patient in the hospital and since my return home.

John Dilbon Young

## For Your Information

Dear friends,

The funeral is a rite of separation. It confirms the reality of death. This, psychiatrists say, is a necessary beginning toward healthy adjustment to the loss. Viewing the deceased in the casket confirms the fact of death, safeguards mental health by promoting the acceptance of reality.

Respectfully,



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## Energy Saver

A total of 13 meetings with the Extension Homemakers Clubs and senior citizen groups were held during the month promoting energy conservation. M.B. Taylor, Home Extension Agent, and Larry Johnson, of the Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation, gave the talks on how to reduce energy output in and around the house.

The information the two provided is available upon request from either Taylor or Johnson. Contact Taylor at 426-7897 or Johnson at 426-5735. If all of us join to do our part, the total energy and money saved will be enormous.

## Friendship Senior Citizen Club Meets

"Showing You Care" was the theme of the Hertford Friendship Senior Citizen Club Members, during the Holiday Season recently. The club members collected and shared gifts among 35 sick and shut-ins. A special committee included the

Club President, Mrs. R.B. Gibbs, Mrs. M.B. Taylor, Home Extension Agent, Vice-President, Mrs. Anna Holley, and Mrs. Sadie Davis. All of the sick and shut-ins visited expressed thanks and lost tears of joy that entered their hearts as a result of the Holiday spirit shared with them.

The gifts were collected during their annual Christmas Dinner Meeting which was held at Wynn Fork Court. During the meeting special greetings were given by Joe Nowell, Chairman of the Perquimans County Commissioners, and Billy Wooten, County Recreation Leader.

The devotion was given by Rev. J.H. London, Pastor of the First Baptist Church. A demonstration was given on Dried Fruit Punch and Food Safety by Mrs. M.B. Taylor. The members were inspired from the talk on "Sharing of Love" by the club president, Mrs. Gibbs.

## Memory Lane Club meets

The Memory Lane Senior Citizens Club met January 15, 1979 at the R.E.A. Building. There were twenty-seven members and guests present. The meeting was called to order by Vice-President, Elaine Phillips.

Mrs. Selma Harrell read a short message from the Bible and reflected on thoughts and memories of the old year and meditations for the new year. Mrs. Grace Dizon was present and explained the new plans concerning District 1-B. It is expected

the Memory Lane Club will come under the Parks and Recreation Department.

The Rockaway Revue will be in Elizabeth City either the 16 or 17 of May. A trip to Florida is planned for May and any persons who wish to make the trip

are asked to sign up in March.

Information on how to obtain ID cards was discussed, also how to get help with house repairs and other needs. The meeting adjourned to meet again on Feb. 19.

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