



WE HAVE PASSED *from* DEATH *unto* LIFE

CLARENCE SEXTON



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WE HAVE PASSED *from* DEATH *unto* LIFE

TEACHER'S GUIDE

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Credit: Two Ships Passing at Sunset (oil on canvas)

by Claude T. Stanfield Moore (1853-1901)

Private Collection: © Gavin Graham Gallery, London, UK

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INTRODUCTION TO THE TEACHER'S GUIDE

This Teacher's Guide is designed to assist those who will be leading in the study of these Bible lessons. You will find helpful information in the front of this book that will be of great value as you prepare to teach each lesson.

◆ Preparing to Teach the Lesson

◆ Ten Laws for the Sunday School Teacher

◆ Tips for Teaching the Bible

◆ Goals for This Series

After the introductory material, you will find preparation instructions and Class Teaching Notes for all thirteen lessons in this series. At the conclusion of this book, information is given for those who are interested in additional materials. Our prayer is that the Holy Spirit will give you divine enabling as you faithfully teach the Word of God.

PREPARING TO TEACH THE LESSON

As we study to teach God's Word, we must realize that thorough preparation is extremely important. The teacher should teach from an overflow. The truths of each lesson should make an impact in the teacher's life before being communicated to others. Here are some suggestions for preparing to teach the lessons in this series.

Begin Preparation Early

For many teachers, preparation is something that begins and ends in the same evening. Usually, that evening is the one before the lesson is to be given. If you begin to prepare early, you will have the opportunity to "live" with the lesson throughout the week. Many times we do not get the full impact of Bible truths because we do not give the Lord the opportunity to develop these truths in our own lives.

Look to Christ

In our Bible study and teaching, our goal is not to know information; our goal is to know Jesus Christ and to make Him known. Begin your preparation time by "*looking unto Jesus.*" We need to come to God's Word in faith believing that He is going to speak to us. Take time to commune with the Lord Jesus and get your heart in tune with Him.

Read the Bible Background Reading

Read the background Bible passages that are given for each lesson. Be sure to read each passage twice.

1. Read the first time for general understanding. Look up any unfamiliar words or phrases.
2. Read the second time to mark key words and key expressions that speak to your heart.

Read the Bible Lesson

After reading and marking the Scripture passages which correspond to the lesson, read the Bible lesson from *We Have Passed From Death Unto Life* that corresponds with the lesson you are studying. As you read, mark key statements or paragraphs so that you can review them later.

Answer the Questions

In the Class Teaching Notes, you will find preparation questions for each lesson. After reading the lesson, answer these questions to reinforce the things you have read. These are identical to the questions that the students are given in the *Study Guide*.

Teacher's Preparation

Notice the Lesson Aims

In each lesson, you should not try to teach many things, but rather teach a *few* things well. Give careful attention to the “lesson aims” which help to identify the key truths that are to be taught in each lesson. Keep these aims before you during your preparation time. They will help you to communicate the key truths in the lesson.

Write Out Ideas for Application

A good Bible teacher will always strive to apply the truths of God’s Word to his audience. Before teaching, write out specific ideas for applying this lesson to your particular audience. We can teach people of all ages and stages in life to bring their burdens to Christ. Make your application especially strong in the conclusion of the lesson.

Use Illustrations

The Lord Jesus often taught great truths through the use of practical illustrations. Perhaps the best illustrations are those that come directly from the Bible. Take time to reflect upon the lesson and make note of biblical illustrations that could help you teach more effectively. You may also think of some experiences from your life or the lives of other Christians that would help to illustrate a truth in the lesson.

Teacher's Preparation

Personal illustrations should always be truthful and practical; at times, they may be thought-provoking or humorous as well.

Use the Class Teaching Notes

Class Teaching Notes have been prepared for each lesson in this series. These notes are identical in format to the *Study Guide*. The page numbers on the Class Teaching Notes correspond to the page numbers in the *Study Guide*.

Be sure to make any handwritten notes on the Class Teaching Notes that you feel will assist you in teaching the lesson. You may wish to mark down personal illustrations, application ideas, or quotes and key expressions from the book *We Have Passed From Death Unto Life*.

The Class Teaching Notes will be your aid as you teach the Bible lesson. The Class Teaching Notes are designed to be removed from the *Teacher's Guide* and placed neatly in your Bible. When teaching these lessons, do not carry the entire *Teacher's Guide* or the book *We Have Passed From Death Unto Life* to class; only carry your Bible and the Class Teaching Notes.

Teacher's Preparation

Review

When you walk into class, you should know thoroughly what you are going to teach. Plan a time to review the Class Teaching Notes and Scripture reading. If you take the time to review the lesson, the things you have studied will be more firmly planted in your heart.

Conclude With a Time of Prayer

- ◆ Pray for the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit.
- ◆ Pray for a spiritual understanding of God's Word.
- ◆ Pray for your pastor and church to be strengthened.
- ◆ Pray for lost souls to be saved.

Ten Laws for the Sunday School Teacher

1. Prepare early for Sunday School.
2. Recognize the authority of God's Word.
3. Enter into study with prayer.
4. Know the material comprehensively before teaching in parts.
5. Use proper teaching methods.
6. Take your class to the Scripture often.
7. Help your class think biblically and use biblical language.
8. Make strong application in the conclusion of the lesson.
9. Encourage Bible memory.
10. Find a way to encourage daily preparation for next week's lesson.

Clarence Sexton

TIPS FOR TEACHING THE BIBLE

As teachers of God's Word, we have a desire to be as effective as possible because we know that people need to hear and understand the Bible. You do not have to obtain a formal education to be a good teacher. Here are several suggestions that will help you to become a more effective teacher.

Always Begin and End on Time

This shows great respect and consideration for others. The teacher should arrive to class early and should be prepared to teach before he arrives.

Do Not Be Afraid to Ask Questions

You may ask questions to the entire class or to individuals. Some questions may take time for people to answer. You may need to reword a question to lead people to the correct answer.

Get Every Member of the Class Involved

This can be done in a variety of ways including the following:

- ◆ Allowing the class or class members to read Scripture
- ◆ Asking questions that call for a response
- ◆ Encouraging class members to write in the *Study Guide*

Maintain Eye Contact With Your Class

Many teachers fail in this matter because they are bound to their notes or to a book they have carried to class. When teaching, carry only your Bible with the Class Teaching Notes neatly placed in it. Use the notes to help you stay on track and teach in a logical order, but do not give your notes more attention than your students.

Use Variety in Your Teaching

No one wants to be part of a Sunday School class that is cold and dead. You can make a class much more lively and interesting by varying your teaching methods and styles. This can be done in many ways including the following:

- ◆ Using object lessons or visual aids when teaching
- ◆ Allowing students to answer or discuss questions
- ◆ Using an illustration to grab the students' attention at the beginning of the lesson
- ◆ Varying your tone of voice
(Do not speak in a monotone voice.)

Tips for Teaching the Bible

Make Specific Applications to Your Students

As you are teaching, work diligently to apply the truths you are teaching to the students in your class. They will find joy in *obeying* God's Word. Be clear and specific as you seek to show the students how the lesson applies to them. At the conclusion of the lesson, call for definite decisions; encourage each student to write these decisions in the *Study Guide* or in his Bible.

Keep the Bible Central

As Baptists we believe that our sole authority for faith and practice is God's Word. When you teach, your students should know that you have taught them God's Word. Take people to the Scriptures often and read the passages given in each lesson. You should teach in such a way that every student feels as if he needs a Bible in order to participate. Keep the Bible central in every question, in every discussion, and in every lecture.

Be Filled With the Holy Spirit of God

God can enable all of His children to do the work He has called them to do. For the Christian, the filling of the Spirit is not an option; it is a command (Ephesians 5:18). The Lord Jesus said in John 15:5, "*Without me ye can do nothing.*" We often try to

Tips for Teaching the Bible

do for ourselves what we are not capable of doing. God can speak to the hearts of men, and He will speak through us as we are yielded to Him and filled with His Spirit.

GOALS FOR THIS SERIES

- ◆ *TO EMPHASIZE THE PERSON OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AND SHOW THAT ETERNAL LIFE IS FOUND ONLY IN HIM*
- ◆ *TO KNOW THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CHILDREN OF GOD AND THE CHILDREN OF THE DEVIL*
- ◆ *TO LEARN OF THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WHO TEACHES US AND HELPS US DISCERN TRUTH FROM ERROR*
- ◆ *TO HAVE ASSURANCE OF SALVATION BY SEEING THE THINGS THAT GIVE EVIDENCE THAT WE HAVE PASSED FROM DEATH UNTO LIFE*
- ◆ *TO UNDERSTAND WHAT IT MEANS TO TRULY LOVE ONE ANOTHER WITH THE LOVE OF GOD*

Preparation Questions for Lesson 1

THE WORD OF LIFE

Background Reading

I John 1:1-4; I John 5:13; John 1:1, 14; Genesis 1:1; John 3:16; II Peter 1:15-21; Acts 4:19-20; I Corinthians 6:9-10; II Corinthians 4:7; John 15:11

MONDAY

What name is given for Christ in I John 1:1, and what do you think this name means? (See John 1:1.)

TUESDAY

According to I John 1:2, what has been manifested unto us?

WEDNESDAY

Compare I John 1:1-3 and II Peter 1:15-21. What do these testimonies of John and Peter have in common?

THURSDAY

Read Acts 4:19-20. When the disciples were persecuted and told not to speak about Jesus Christ, what was their response?

FRIDAY

According to I Corinthians 6:9-10, how are people's lives changed?

SATURDAY

Notice I John 1:4 and John 15:11. Where do we find fullness of joy?

THE WORD OF LIFE

1

Teacher's Preparation

John wrote a testimony to believers in this first epistle concerning the Word of Life. Try to imagine the radiant hope in John's heart as he said, "I have seen the risen Christ! I know He is real! I have looked upon Him. He is everything that He claims to be. He is God!" The Lord Jesus Christ is referred to as the "*Word*." In the Word, the Lord Jesus, we have the very expression of God. God reveals to us who He is in the Person of Jesus Christ.

Bible Background Reading

I John 1:1-4; I John 5:13; John 1:1, 14; Genesis 1:1; John 3:16; II Peter 1:15-21; Acts 4:19-20; I Corinthians 6:9-10; II Corinthians 4:7; John 15:11

Bible Lesson Reading

Read chapter one in *We Have Passed From Death Unto Life* by Clarence Sexton.

Lesson Aims

To see that God reveals Himself in the Person of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ

To show that those who know and love the Lord Jesus will declare Him to others

To understand that our lives can be changed and we can be brought into fellowship with God only by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ

To realize that fullness of joy is found in the Lord Jesus

THE WORD OF LIFE

1

Teacher's Notes

Scripture Memory

"That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life."

I John 1:1

Notes



he "Word of Life" is one of the wonderful titles given to our Lord Jesus Christ. The powerful purpose of the Bible is to reveal the Word of Life to us.

As the Lord opens for us the first epistle of John, we find how quickly He leads us to the Word of Life. The things we find in this epistle are written to believers who *"...believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God"* (I John 5:13).

John wrote a testimony to believers concerning the Word of Life. The Lord Jesus Christ is referred to as the "Word." We all have thoughts, but thoughts are not known until they are formed into words.

In the Word, the Lord Jesus, we have the very expression of God. Christ is the "Word of Life." I trust you know Him as your Saviour.



*God reveals
to us who
He is in the
Person of
Jesus Christ.*

The Manifestation of the Word of Life

In I John 1:1-2 we find that John does not give us this account as one would give an account secondhand. He states, "I was there! I heard His voice!" Try to imagine the radiant hope in this man's heart as he says, "I have seen the risen Christ! I know He is real! I have handled the Word of Life!"

Has God made Himself known to you? Do you truly know Him?

John's life was changed by Jesus Christ. John says in verse two, *"For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us."* Christ existed before He came to earth. He was with the Father, and He was manifested unto us.

The Declaration of the Word of Life

You cannot know Jesus Christ without declaring Him. You cannot know Him without speaking about Him. In I John 1:3 the Bible says, *"That which we have seen, and heard, declare we unto you."* We must declare what we have seen and heard. We *"declare"* Him.

When you love someone and know someone, you are going to speak about that person. If you and I are not talking about Christ, it is because something is wrong with our knowledge of Jesus

Christ and our love for Him. We know the facts and ideas and cute, religious expressions to give; but Christ has become nearly meaningless to us. How shameful!

The first-century disciples suffered severe persecution because of their faith. In Acts chapter four, they were told not to speak. They were beaten and threatened. We read in Acts 4:20 that they said, *"For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard."* They could not keep themselves from speaking about Christ because of what He had done for them.

True followers of Jesus Christ cannot be silenced.

The Possession of the Word of Life

Read I John 1:3-4. How are the lives of people changed so dramatically from a life of sin and self-service to a life of true joy in following Jesus Christ? They were changed by the blood of Christ. They were washed, sanctified, and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God (I Corinthians 6:9-10).

When God manifests Himself to us, He becomes real to us, and then we declare Him to others. As we declare Him to others, they come to know Him, and they find the joy that can only be found in Jesus Christ, the *"Word of Life."*

Where is the joy the Lord Jesus promised? It is in Him.

Preparation Questions for Lesson 2

GOD IS LIGHT

Background Reading

I John 1:3-7; Revelation 21:9-23; John 1:1-14; John 8:12;
John 16:7-11; Amos 3:3; Romans 4:1-8; Hebrews 9:11-24;
II Corinthians 5:21

MONDAY

In I John 1:5, what is the message that John heard and then declared?

TUESDAY

Read Revelation 21:9-23. Who is the light in the city of God? What would that city be like without this light?

WEDNESDAY

From John 1:1-14, what do we learn about the true Light?

THURSDAY

According to John 8:12, what must we do in order to have the light of life?

FRIDAY

According to I John 1:6-7, what must we do in order to have fellowship with the Lord?

SATURDAY

In I John 1:7, 9 what does God's Word teach about His forgiveness and cleansing?