

***JESSE LYMAN
HURLBUT***

***HURLBUT'S
BIBLE
LESSONS
FOR BOYS
AND GIRLS***

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Jesse Lyman Hurlbut

Hurlbut's Bible Lessons for Boys and Girls

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

PREFACE.

SUGGESTIONS FOR TEACHING.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSONS.

PART FIRST.—FROM ADAM TO MOSES.

Lesson I. The Beautiful Garden.

Lesson II. The Earliest People.

Lesson III. Abram.

Lesson IV. Abram and Lot.

Lesson V. Isaac and his Sons.

Lesson VI. Jacob.

Lesson VII. Joseph in Egypt.

Lesson VIII. Joseph and his Brothers.

Lesson IX. The Youth of Moses.

Lesson X. The Israelites Leaving Egypt.

Lesson XI. The Israelites in the Wilderness.

PART SECOND.—FROM JOSHUA TO SAMUEL.

Lesson XV. How Jericho was Taken.

Lesson XVI. How the Land of Canaan was Won.

Lesson XVII. The Earlier Judges.

Lesson XVIII. The Later judges.

Lesson XIX. The Last of the Judges.

Lesson XX. The First King of Israel.

Lesson XXI. Review of Bible People, from Joshua to Saul.

Lesson XXII. Review of Bible Places in Part Second.

PART THIRD.—FROM SAUL TO SOLOMON.

Lesson XXIII. Saul as King.

Lesson XXIV. The Boy David.

Lesson XXV. David and Saul.

Lesson XXVI. The End of Saul's Reign.

Lesson XXVII. David, King of Israel.

Lesson XXVIII. David and Absalom.

Lesson XXIX. Solomon.

Lesson XXX. The Temple.

Lesson XXXI. Review of Part Third.

PART FOURTH.—THE KINGDOM OF ISRAEL.

Lesson XXXII. The Two Kingdoms.

Lesson XXXIII. Elijah.

Lesson XXXIV. Elijah on Carmel and Horeb.

Lesson XXXV. The Prophet Elisha.

Lesson XXXVI. Elisha and Jonah.

Lesson XXXVII. The Ten Tribes Lost; with Review of Part Fourth.

PART FIFTH.—THE KINGDOM AND PEOPLE OF JUDAH

Lesson XXXVIII. The Early Kings of Judah.

Lesson XXXIX. The Later Kings of Judah.

Lesson XL. The Jews in Babylon.

Lesson XLI. Daniel.

Lesson XLII. The Return from Babylon.

Lesson XLIII. Queen Esther.

Lesson XLIV. The end of the Old Testament.

Lesson XLV. Review of Jewish People.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSONS.

PART FIRST.—THE STORY OF JESUS.

Lesson I. The Angel by the Altar and in Nazareth.

Lesson II. The Stable and Shepherds.

Lesson III. The Wise Men and the Star.

[Lesson IV. The Boy Jesus.](#)

[Lesson V. John the Baptist.](#)

[Lesson VI. Jesus in the Desert and by the River.](#)

[Lesson VII. The Water Turned to Wine.](#)

[Lesson VIII. Jesus at Jacob's Well.](#)

[Lesson IX. Jesus at Cana and Nazareth.](#)

[Lesson X. Many Mighty Works.](#)

[Lesson XI.](#)

[Lesson XII. The Captain's Servant and the Widow's Son.](#)

[Lesson XIII. The Parables, the Storm and the Wild Man.](#)

[Lesson XIV. The Little Girl Raised to Life.](#)

[Lesson XV. The Death of John the Baptist.](#)

[Lesson XVI. The Mother's Prayer, and the Four Thousand Fed.](#)

[Lesson XVII. The Glory of Jesus on the Mountain.](#)

[Lesson XVIII. The Little Child, the Ten Lepers, and the Two Sisters.](#)

[Lesson XIX. The Man with Clay on his Face.](#)

[Lesson XX. The Good Shepherd and the Good Samaritan.](#)

[Lesson XXI. Lazarus Raised to Life.](#)

[Lesson XXII. Some Parables in Perea.](#)

[Lesson XXIII. Jesus and the Little Children.](#)

[Lesson XXIV. Jesus at Jericho.](#)

[Lesson XXV. Palm Sunday.](#)

[Lesson XXVI. The Last Visits to the Temple.](#)

[Lesson XXVII. On the Mount of Olives.](#)

[Lesson XXVIII. At the Supper and in the Garden.](#)

[Lesson XXIX. The Trial of Jesus.](#)

[Lesson XXX. Jesus on the Cross.](#)

[Lesson XXXI. The First Easter Day.](#)

[Lesson XXXII. Jesus on the Shore and on the Mountain.](#)

[Lesson XXXIII. Review of People in the Gospel Story.](#)

[Lesson XXXIV. Review of Places in the Gospel Story.](#)

[PART SECOND.—STORIES OF THE EARLY CHURCH.](#)

[Lesson XXXV. The First Days.](#)

[Lesson XXXVI. The Beautiful Gate, and the Apostles in Prison.](#)

[Lesson XXXVII. Stephen and Philip.](#)

[Lesson XXXVIII. The Voice that Spoke to Saul.](#)

[Lesson XXXIX. About the Apostle Peter.](#)

[Lesson XL. The First Missionaries.](#)

[Lesson XLI. Paul's Second Journey.](#)

[Lesson XLII. Paul's Third journey.](#)

[Lesson XLIII. Paul a Prisoner.](#)

[Lesson XLIV. Paul in the Storm.](#)

[Lesson XLV. Paul at Rome.](#)

[Lesson XLVI. Review on the Early Church.](#)

PREFACE.

Table of Contents

This lesson-book was prepared in order to meet a need realized in my own work as a pastor; a need which is felt by many pastors and workers among the young.

In the Home, Sunday-School and Church are children of all ages, from six to sixteen. It is found impracticable to give to all this varied company the same teaching. The lessons that are admirably adapted for boys and girls between ten and fifteen are utterly unsuited to the children between six and ten. Moreover after looking carefully, I have not been able to find satisfactory lessons which can be taught to the young children except by one especially trained for the work; and such instructions are hard to find.

After various experiments I adopted in my own teaching the following plan. We divided the children into two sections; the First Section including all over nine years old, the Second Section all those under nine.

I selected for twelve lessons, twelve Bible stories following in succession, beginning with the story of Adam and Eve. On each of these stories I prepared a catechism of very simple questions and answers, and printed them by a duplicating process. After the opening of "The Children's Hour," I told the story to all present in simple language, explaining that while the story was told to all it was for the special benefit of the smaller children; but **I noticed even**

the oldest boys and girls listened to it with interest equal to the youngest.

After the Bible story and the singing of a hymn, the Second Section withdrew to another room. There the children were divided into classes, and taught the questions and answers. A copy of the leaflet containing the questions and answers of the story for the day was given to each child, to be taken home and reviewed by parents or the older members of the family.

By separating the children into two grades, the older young people can receive instruction suited to their age, and the little ones are also provided for.

So many pastors and others have requested copies of the leaflets containing the questions and answers, that it has seemed desirable to publish them; and they are now completed upon the entire Bible story, and brought together in book form for the use of teachers of children.

These lessons may be used in classes of the Sunday School, by teachers who desire a more consecutive treatment of the Bible story than is given in the International Sunday School lessons, and by parents.

There are many families where "The Story of the Bible" has been read to the interest and profit of the children. Parents will find that these lessons will help to fix the important facts of the Bible story in the minds of the little ones.

It will be seen that the questions and answers do not embrace all the stories in the book. A selection has been made of what seem to be the most important subjects, affording weekly lessons for one year, with allowance for

vacations, in the Old Testament, and another year in the New Testament.

In the hope that these lessons may aid the children of to-day, who are to be the men and women of to-morrow, to gain a definite knowledge of the Word of God these lessons are sent forth.

JESSE LYMAN HURLBUT.

SUGGESTIONS FOR TEACHING.

[Table of Contents](#)

1. Let the teacher in advance read over the questions and answers of the lesson, note their relation to the story as told in "The Story of the Bible," and to some extent fit the story to the lesson which is to be taught.

2. Tell the story (or stories) of the day's lesson to the children, following the plan given in the book. Use very simple words and avoid all that are in any sense technical, or above the mind of a child.

3. After telling the story for the day, the children may be divided into classes, and assistants may teach the questions and answers. But before the close of the session it would be well to ask all the questions, and have the answers given by the children.

4. In order to complete each course, in the Old Testament and in the New, within a year, it may be necessary to omit some of the lessons, where classes take a vacation in the summer. To complete the course of each year in such classes the Reviews at the end of each series of lessons might be omitted, although they will be valuable as

summaries of the important facts of the lesson. Some teachers might prefer to omit from the Old Testament lessons, some of the following in order to complete the course in a year. Lesson XXVIII David and Absalom; XXX The Temple; XXXVI Elisha and Jonah; XXXVIII, XXXIX The Kings of Judah; XLIV Queen Esther. These are suggested for omission not because they are unimportant or uninteresting, but in case some lessons must be omitted. In order to complete the course in one year in the New Testament lessons, the following might be omitted, if some must be. XVI The Mothers Prayer; XX The Good Shepherd; XXIII Jesus and the Children; XXVI, XXVII The Last Teachings.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSONS.

[Table of Contents](#)
