

CHILDREN OF THE HEAVENLY FATHER

Lesson Three

YOU ARE THE SALT OF THE EARTH

Burden to Impart:

As children of the heavenly Father, we are different than the worldly people.

Memory Verse: "You are the salt of the earth, but if the salt has become tasteless, with what shall it be salted? It is no longer good for anything but to be cast out and trampled underfoot by men" (Matthew 5:13).

Facts to Teach:

1. What is salt used for? Salt is mainly used for putting taste into food when it is cooked. Without salt, food is tasteless and cannot be enjoyed. Also, salt is used for preserving food so that it will not spoil and rot. Before the refrigerator was invented the most common way to preserve meat was to dry it out and heavily salt it.
2. Ever since Adam sinned, the whole world has begun to corrupt. All people sin and disobey God. They ignore God's Word and do whatever they want to, whether it is right or wrong. The more a person sins the more corrupt they become. In God's eyes they become rotten.
3. As children of the heavenly Father we are different. We are the salt of the earth. Just as the presence of salt prevents meat from rotting, we as God's children influence the world of people around us to help preserve the world from being totally corrupt and sinful.
4. Sometimes our friends and classmates want us to do something with them that is not right, or something that is not pleasing to God. At times they even want us to do something with them that is sinful. We should not go along with them. Rather, we should be different. Don't be afraid to be different! Don't be ashamed to be different! You are different! You are children of the heavenly Father; you are the salt of the earth.
5. Two scriptural examples are:
 - a. A warning example of a woman who did not obey God's Word to forget the sinful world, not even to look back at it, is Lot's wife. When she looked back at Sodom (the very sinful city where she had come from and where all her friends, etc. were) she became a "pillar of salt"--she was good for nothing (Gen. 19:17, 26).
 - b. A positive, inspiring example of some children being different than the rest are Daniel and his friends, who would not eat the meat sacrificed to idols (Dan. 1:8) nor bow down to the idols (Dan. 3:1-18). They were very different, even at the risk of their lives. But God was with them and preserved them. Dare to be a Daniel.

Song: Dare to Be a Daniel

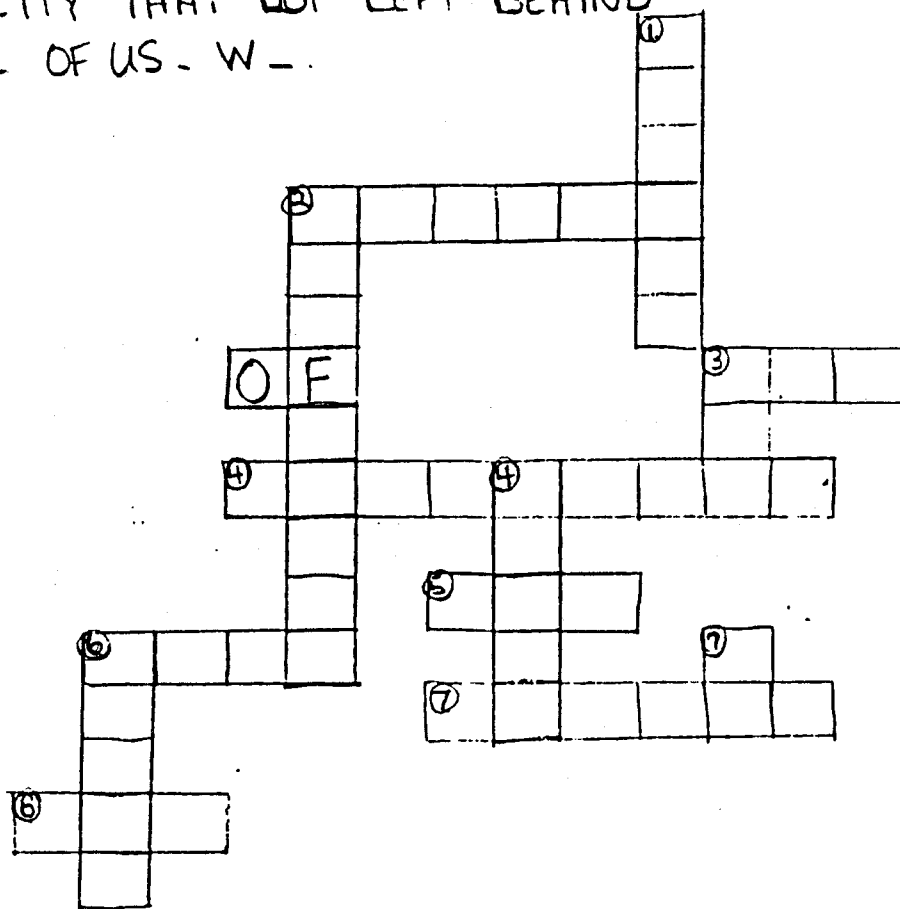
"you are the salt of the earth"

MATTHEW 5:13a

DA13

DOWN

- 1 - WHAT LOTS WIFE BECAME; A _____ OF SALT
- 2 - WHAT WE ARE. D_____
- 3 - T____ ITS IN YOUR MEMORY VERSE TWO TIMES
- 4 - THE LAST WORD IN YOUR MEMORY VERSE.
- 5 - A CITY THAT LOT LEFT BEHIND
- 7 - ALL OF US. W__



ACROSS

- 2 - A BOY WHO DARED TO BE DIFFERENT
- 3 - THE SAME WORD AS 3 DOWN
- 4 - WE NEED TO BE KEPT THIS WAY -
- 5 - A WORD THAT STARTS WITH A AND SOUNDS LIKE "R"
- 6 - LOTS WIFE BECAME A PILLAR OF _____
- 7 - WE HAVE BEEN _____ BY GOD.
- 8 - A THREE LETTER "WORD" THAT SOUNDS LIKE "U"

You are the Salt of the earth

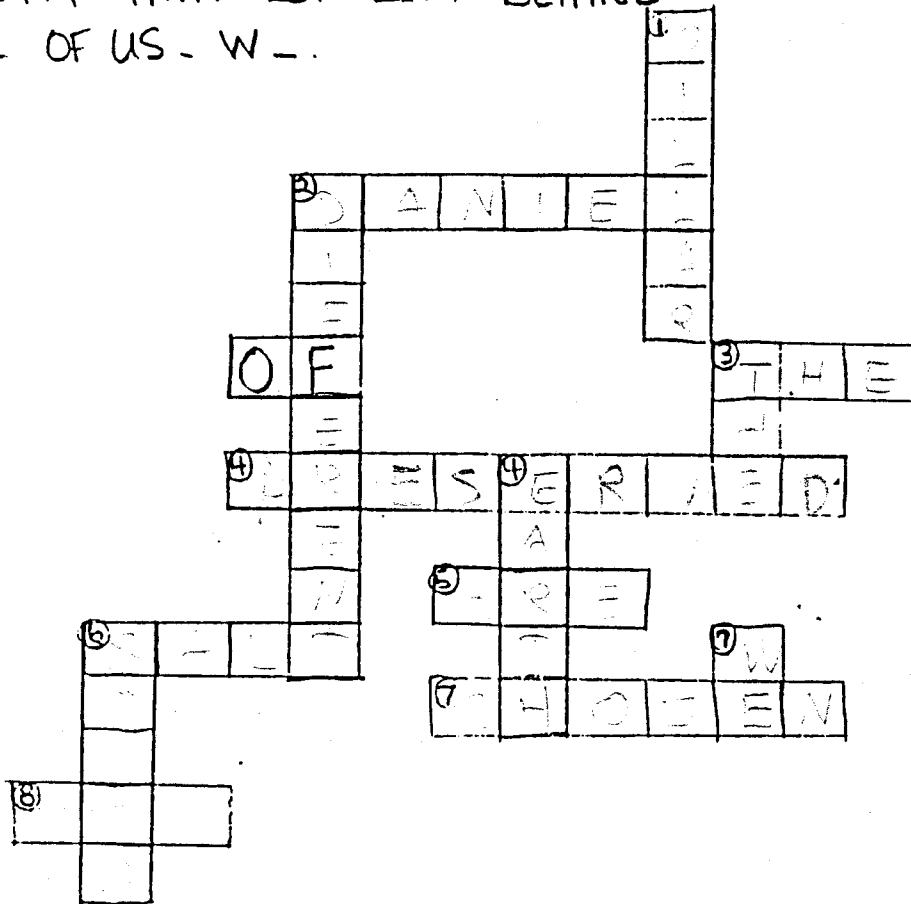
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MATTHEW 5:13 a

DAY 3

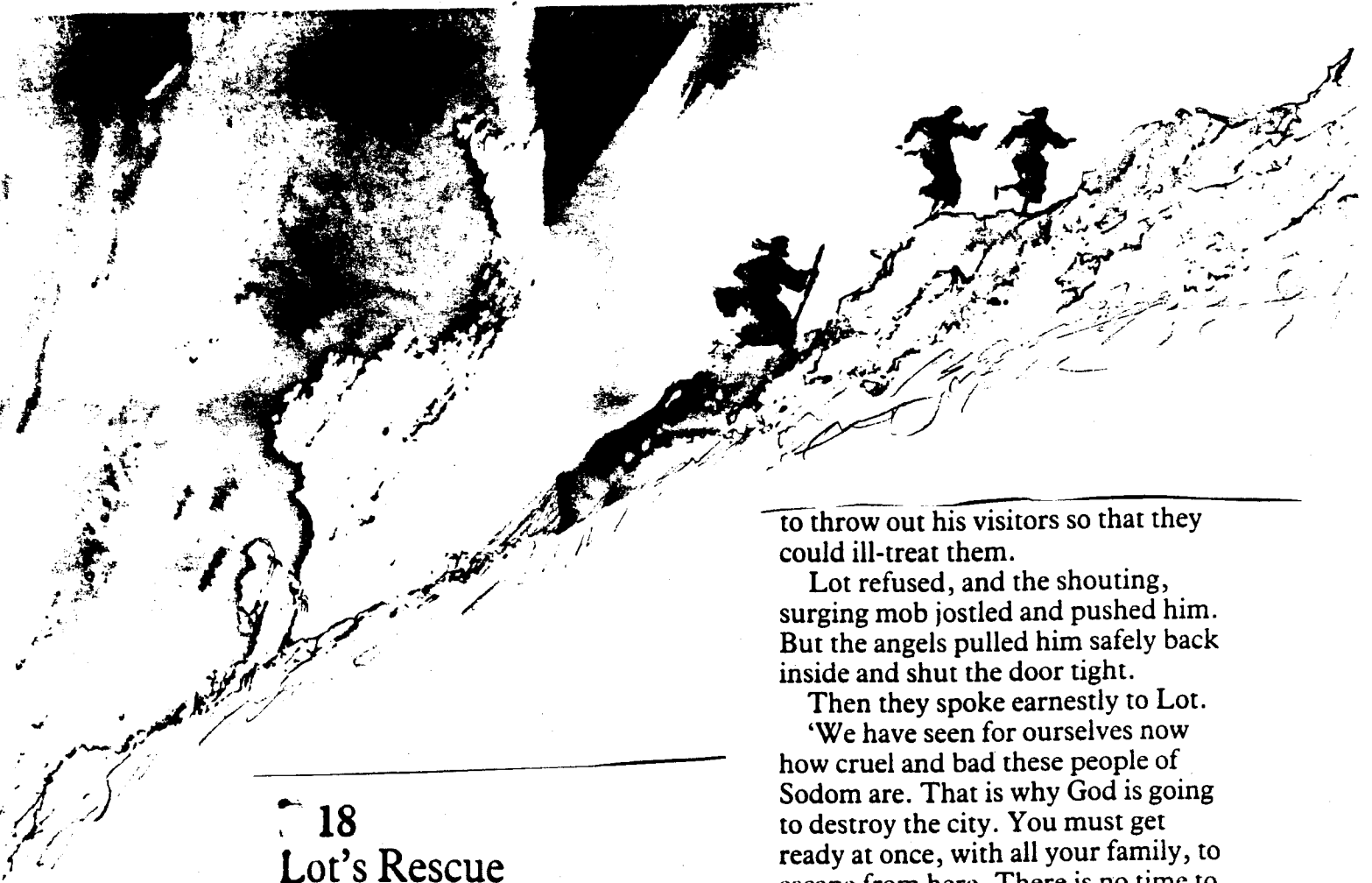
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- 2 - WHAT WE ARE. D_____
- 3 - T____ITS IN YOUR MEMORY VERSE TWO TIMES.
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ACROSS

- 2 - A BOY WHO DARED TO BE DIFFERENT
- 3 - THE SAME WORD AS 3 DOWN
- 4 - WE NEED TO BE KEPT THIS WAY -
- 5 - A WORD THAT STARTS WITH A AND SOUNDS LIKE "P."
- 6 - LOTS WIFE BECAME A PILLAR OF _____
- 7 - WE HAVE BEEN _____ BY GOD.
- 8 - A THREE LETTER WORD THAT SOUNDS LIKE "U."



18 Lot's Rescue

Genesis 19

It was evening by the time the two angels who had visited Abraham arrived at Sodom. Lot was sitting at the gate of the city, where all the business was carried on. He came politely forward to greet these strangers and invited them to stay the night in his house.

When they arrived at his home, Lot set his servants to work preparing a good supper. But before they could go to bed, the citizens of Sodom came banging at the door. They shouted threats and insults at Lot and told him

to throw out his visitors so that they could ill-treat them.

Lot refused, and the shouting, surging mob jostled and pushed him. But the angels pulled him safely back inside and shut the door tight.

Then they spoke earnestly to Lot. 'We have seen for ourselves now how cruel and bad these people of Sodom are. That is why God is going to destroy the city. You must get ready at once, with all your family, to escape from here. There is no time to be lost. You will have to run for your lives.'

While Lot's wife and daughters began to collect their things together, the angels kept hurrying them on. Still they dawdled and, when at last dawn began to give a faint grey light, the angels took the family by the hand and rushed them quickly out of the city, setting them on the road to the hills.

Then indeed they began to run for their lives, for already the rising sun over Sodom was blood red. The ground beneath their feet began to move. Burning sulphur rained down on the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah.

Breathless, Lot and his daughters ran for the safety of the hills. But Lot's wife stopped running. She looked longingly back at her home and all the comforts of Sodom. She was caught in a hail of salt, and died where she stood.

Daniel and his Friends

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Special Training at the Palace

Daniel 1

When Nebuchadnezzar first marched into Jerusalem, he arrested the king and his court and took them back to Babylon. He told his chief official, Ashpenaz, to pick out all the young men who could be trained to become advisers at the Babylonian court.

Ashpenaz searched for teenagers who were healthy, good-looking and at the top of the class at school. He ordered them to be ready to set off for the court of King Nebuchadnezzar, far away.

One of the chosen young men was Daniel. He was glad that three of his best friends had been picked too.

Once they arrived in Babylon, Ashpenaz explained to them what would happen. The Babylonians were not cruel like the Assyrians, and the captives were well treated.

First of all, Ashpenaz himself would teach them to read and write in the Babylonian language. Then they would begin a three-year university course, studying philosophy, literature, astrology and the Babylonian religion. Once they had qualified, they would become advisers at court.

'You will live well,' Ashpenaz told them. 'You are to have the same choice food and wine that is served to the king himself.'

Although Daniel and his friends were far from God's temple in Jerusalem they were determined to be loyal and true to God. They did not want to live a life of luxury, accepting

special treatment from the king and making themselves *his* chosen people. They decided to ask for a more simple way of life.

'Please let us have a plain vegetarian diet,' Daniel asked Ashpenaz. 'We don't want the royal luxuries.'

'I dare not do as you say,' Ashpenaz answered. 'If you looked pale and underfed, I'd be blamed and might be put to death.'

When Ashpenaz had gone, Daniel repeated his request to the guard who was in charge of them.

'Please give it a try,' he begged.

'Give us plain vegetables to eat and water to drink, just for ten days. Then see how we look compared with the other students.'

The guard agreed. *He* would be able to enjoy the special rations set aside for Daniel and his friends.

After ten days, the guard examined the four closely. He had to admit that they looked healthier and more full of energy than any of the other young men.

So, for the three years that they were students, the four Jewish boys kept to their simple diet and stayed loyal to God and their own people far away.

