

# Children's Corner

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## AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION.

### What does this mean?

*God indeed tempts no one; but we pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us, so that the devil, the world, and our flesh may not deceive us nor seduce us into misbelief, despair, and other great shame and vice; And though we be assailed by them, that still we may finally overcome and obtain the victory.*

Two boys were walking along when they came to a sign. It read, "Do not jump over the fence."

"I hate being confined by this fence," one said to the other. "I'm going to jump over it."

But what was the fence really there for? It wasn't just a fence, it was really a guardrail!

God's commands are really like that guardrail. They seem to be harsh, especially when it seems that "everyone else is breaking them, so why can't I?" But God's commands are really

like that guardrail. They are written in the Bible to keep us from harm.

Fresh temptation to sin will confront us day by day. This is why God has given us the Bible. God knows **that** the devil, the world, and our flesh, **will** tempt us to evil continually. In the Bible we are warned:

1 Peter 5:8, 9: *Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary, the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour; whom resist steadfast in the faith.*

Therefore, we are taught to pray, "Lead us not into temptation".

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### THE GUARDRAIL



A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



Peter here instructs us how to resist the devil. To be sober means to be careful, to have your wits about you. To be vigilant means to be watchful, always on your guard. How do we resist temptation? By remaining steadfast in the faith. This means to employ the Word of God against him, as Jesus did in the wilderness.

The devil has not unlimited power over us; God restrains him, he can do nothing more than God allows.

We know this from the story of Job, whom the devil could only attack to the extent that God allowed.

**V. 6. And the Lord, said unto Satan, Behold, he is in thine hand, but save his life. (Job 2:6)**

Satan could only go so far as God allowed. At first, he could touch Job's possessions, but not his body. Then, he was permitted to touch **Job's** body, but spare his life. The devil can do nothing beyond what God allows.

God tempts or tests His children in many ways to make them steadfast in the faith.

### **What does temptation mean?**

In Bible times, the word "temptation" had two meanings. It can mean "to tempt (to sin)" or "to test (one's faith)". For instance, in one text we read, "God did tempt Abraham" Gen. 22:1. Here it means that God "tested" Abraham.

In another, "neither tempteth He any man." Here this means that God does not cause people to sin. Is this a contradiction? Unbelievers are quick to say it is. But we must remember the word has two meanings.

Temptation means a leading into sin:

**2**

such a temptation can never come from God. See James 1:13:

**"Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God; for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man;"** For example a kidnapper might tempt a child with lollies, so that the child will come with him, when their mother has warned them not to take lollies from strangers.

In Genesis 22:1 temptation means a testing of faith: "God did tempt Abraham" means "God put his faith on trial."

In James 1:2-3 the word is explained: **"My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers (various) temptations, knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience."** For example a weight is attached to a rope, not to break it, but to test it.

In modern English, we usually say that if the temptation (or test) comes from God, He is sending it to test our faith, but with the purpose of strengthening our faith. If the temptation (test) comes from the devil, he is trying to seduce us into sin and thus cause us to lose our faith.



This is what we pray for in this petition. We ask our Father to guard and keep us from the devil, the world, and our flesh. If we are serious with this prayer we shall not willingly place ourselves in temptation's way.

We cannot expect to go through life without being assailed by temptations. But in times of testing and temptation, we have this promise of God:

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1 Cor. 10:13: **There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able, but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.**

Here we have two assurances. Our gracious Father will not let anything come our way that we cannot, through His grace handle. When we experience testing, we can be certain there is a way out. God has promised.

*I teach you to avoid and flee  
What harms your soul's salvation,  
Your heart to purify and free  
From sin's abomination.  
Your Rock and Fortress e'er am I.  
And lead you to the life on high.*

*But if too hot you find the fray,  
I, at your side, stand ready;  
The fight is Mine, I lead the way,  
At all times firm and steady.  
A coward he who will not heed  
When the chief Captain takes the lead.  
(Hymn 387 verses 4 and 5)*

Remember the saying of Martin Luther: "You cannot prevent the birds from flying in the air over your head, but you can stop them making a nest in your hair."



We cannot stop temptations for evil coming to us. But by the power of Christ's death we can prevent them from overpowering us.

A soldier who has fought in many battles is a better soldier than the one who has never faced the enemy. A child of God who conquers temptation will be encouraged and strengthened for further battles.

***YIELD** not to temptation, for yielding is sin,  
Each victory will help you some other to win;  
Fight manfully onward, dark passions subdue,  
Look ever to Jesus, He'll carry you through.  
Ask the Saviour to help you,  
Comfort, strengthen, and keep you;  
He is willing to aid you,  
He will carry you through.*

God is faithful, He keeps His promises, and He has promised that He will not leave us nor forsake us. God knows your strength. He will never permit greater temptation to befall you than you are able to withstand.

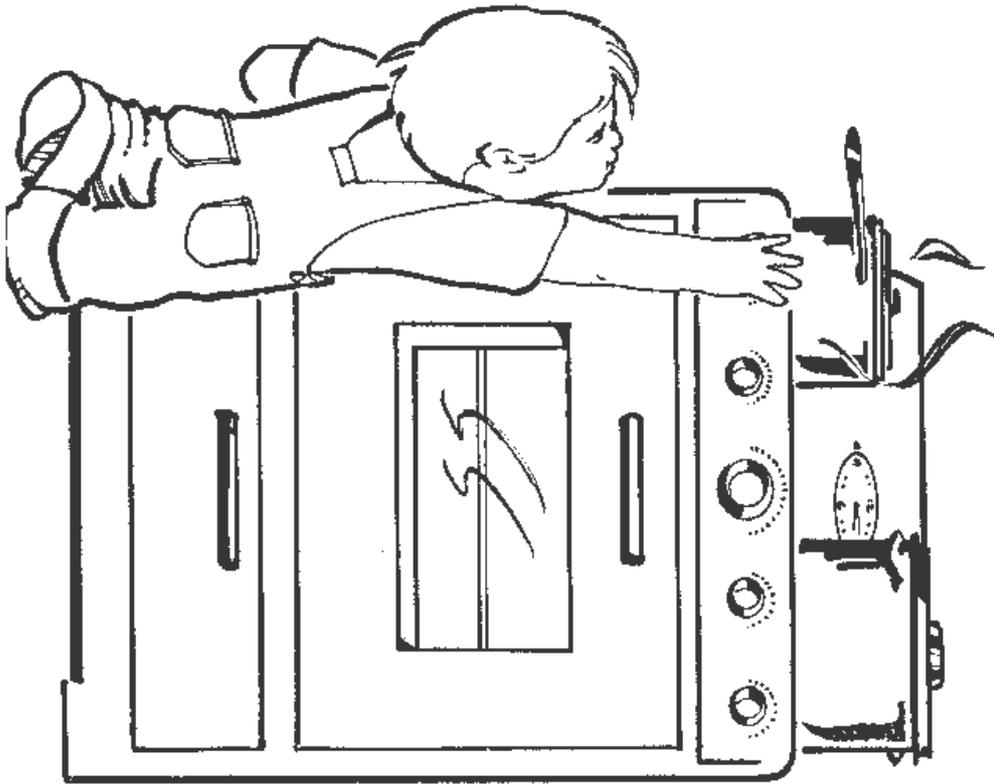
**Prayer:**

Our merciful Saviour Jesus Christ, You know our hearts and see our temptations and struggles. Have pity on us and deliver us from the devil who seeks our destruction. Oh Lord, You are almighty, but we are weak. We trust alone in You, dear Jesus. Help us valiantly to fight the good fight of faith, and grant us the victory.

We ask this for the sake of Your innocent suffering and death. Amen

(TJW)

# COLOURING



And Lead us  
Not into Temptation

By faith Abel offered unto  
God a more excellent sacrifice  
than Cain, by which he obtained  
witness that he was

*Hebrews 11:4*

righteous, God testifying  
of his gifts: and by it he  
being dead yet speaketh.

**GOLDEN TEXT:** Genesis 9:6

Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made He man.

**Dear Children.**— Our last lesson taught us that man, whom God had made in His image, in perfect innocence, righteousness, and holiness, fell away from God and allowed the devil to lead him into sin. From that time man's heart was evil, and took pleasure in the things that were evil. God's image in man was blotted out by sin. He was open to all the evil temptings of Satan. An example of this is given in our lesson for today.

## CAIN AND ABEL

GENESIS 4 & 5

**Brothers.** — Adam called his wife Eve; and Eve bore a son whom they called Cain, and she said, "I have gotten a man—the Lord." Later another son was born. He was called Abel. And Abel, when he grew up, became a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

**Cain's Envy.** — Adam and Eve and their children knew that they were sinners, and that God was angry on account of their sins, so they brought offerings to God and prayed to have their sins forgiven. And it came to pass that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the Lord.

And Abel also brought an offering of the firstlings of his flock. Now the Lord was pleased with Abel and his offering, because he had a truly repentant heart; but with Cain and his offering the Lord was not pleased, because Cain was not truly repentant. Then Cain was very angry, and his anger showed itself in his face.

So the Lord, who wished to lead Cain to true repentance, said to him, "Why art thou angry? and why is thy countenance (face) fallen? If thou doest

well, shalt thou not be accepted? But if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. Through sin the devil will try to ruin thee, but thou shalt rule over him."

**Murder.** — Thus God gave Cain a lesson about sin and its results, and taught him that he must fight against the evil in his heart. But Cain did not follow the advice he had received; instead he allowed his thoughts of envy and hatred to grow in his heart against Abel his brother. He talked with Abel, but when they were together in the field, Cain rose up against his brother and slew (murdered) him.

And the Lord said unto Cain, "Where is Abel, thy brother?" And he said, "I know not; am I my brother's keeper?" But the Lord said, "What hast thou done? The voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground."

**The Curse.** — "And now art thou cursed from the earth which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand. When thou tillest the ground, it shall not henceforth yield unto thee

*(Continued on page 6)*



her strength; a fugitive (one who flees) and a vagabond shalt thou be in the earth.” And Cain said unto the Lord, “My punishment is greater than I can bear. Behold, Thou hast driven me out this day from the land; and from thy face shall I be hid; and it shall come to pass that everyone that findeth me shall slay me.”

And the Lord said unto him, “Therefore, whosoever slayeth Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold.” And Cain went out from the presence of the Lord, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden.

**Adam’s Descendants.** — When Adam was one hundred and thirty years old another son was born to him in his own likeness, after his image; that means, he was a sinner like his father; and he was named Seth. After that Adam lived eight hundred years; and many sons and daughters were born to him. The whole length of Adam’s life was nine hundred and thirty years, and he died. (Death is the result of sin.)

**6** From Adam came Enoch, who lived upon the earth 365 years. And because

Enoch lived a life pleasing to God, God took him; and he was seen no more. Methuselah, the son of Enoch, died 969 years old; no other man reached so great an age. His son’s name was Lamech, who called his son Noah, saying, “He shall comfort us concerning our work and toil, because of the ground which the Lord hath cursed.”

**Dear Children.** — Learn from this story that since Adam’s fall into sin, all men are sinners like Adam, and all alike must cry to God for mercy and forgiveness. Remember that God forgives sin to those who repent and ask forgiveness for Christ, the Saviour’s sake.

Learn also that unrepentant sinners fall ever more deeply into sin. That is, they become worse and worse. Cain’s story shows how his heart became worse and worse. Cain’s story shows how his heart hardened in sin because he did not repent, until at last he became a murderer of his brother. Luther has said that a Christian’s life must be a life of constant repentance. Christian boys and girls each day pray, “Forgive us our trespasses.”

You may be surprised at the great ages to which the first men lived. There is no need for surprise. Their bodies and minds and souls were, so to say, fresh from the hands of the Creator. The longer the world stands, the shorter become men’s lives, because sin is constantly destroying all those things that are necessary to enable men to reach a great age.

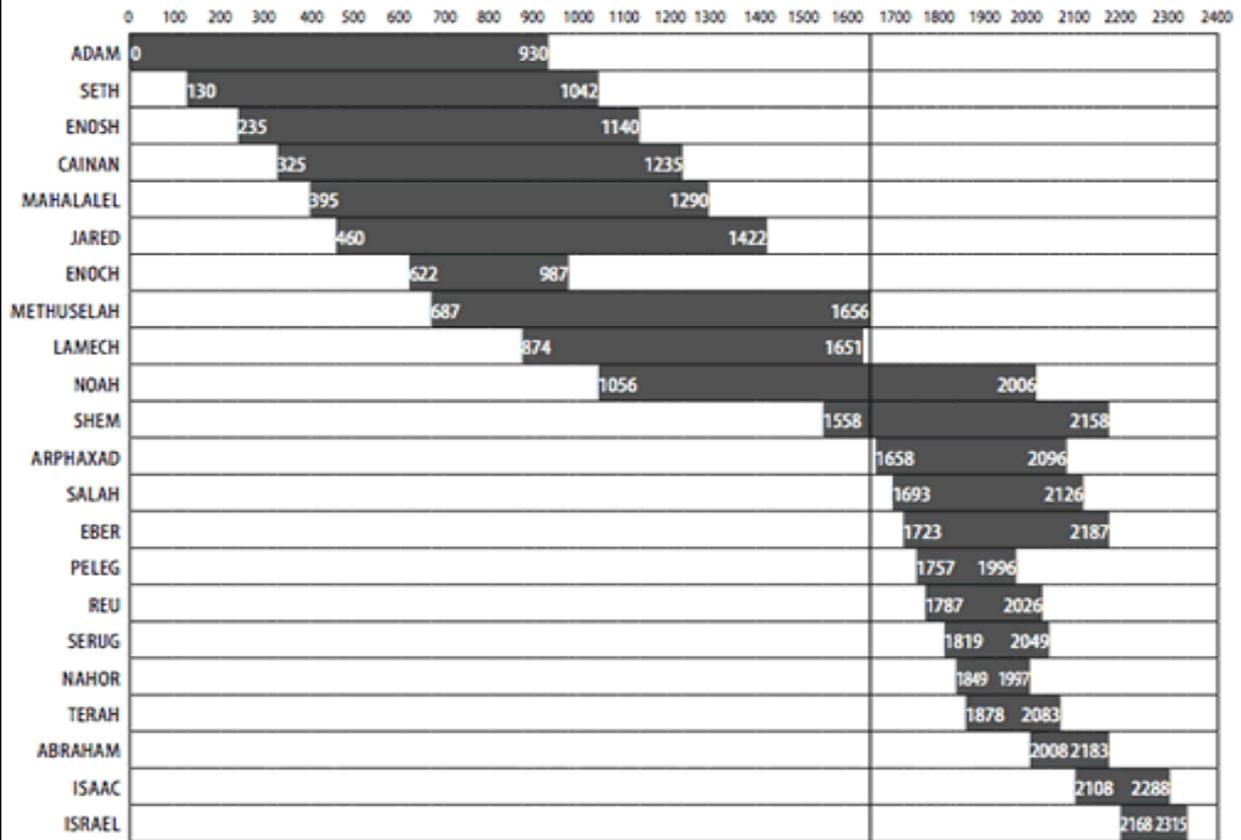
But that does not need to fill you with sorrow. If you have learned to know, and love, and believe in your Saviour, you have little need for a very long life, and your life on earth has been long enough.

*He saw me ruined in the fall,  
Yet loved me notwithstanding all,  
He saved me from my lost estate —  
His loving kindness, oh, how great!*  
(Hymn 192:2)

(Taken from “Our Sunday School Paper” Feb 12, 1939. Used by permission.)

(Continued on page 7)

### YEARS AFTER CREATION



FLOOD 1656

### QUESTIONS

1. What did Adam call his wife?
2. Who was the first son born to them?
3. Who was the next born?
4. What did Abel become?
5. What was Cain?
6. What did Cain and Abel bring to the Lord?
7. Why?
8. With whose offering was God pleased?
9. Why?
10. With whose offering was He not pleased?
11. Why?
12. How did Cain become?
13. Where did his anger show itself?
14. Who then spoke to Cain?
15. To what did God wish to lead him?
16. Against what did God warn him?
17. What did He tell Cain he must do?
18. What did Cain, however, not do?
19. With whom did he speak?
20. Where were they together?
21. What did Cain then do?
22. What did God ask Cain?
23. What did Cain reply?
24. What did God then say to him?
25. What curse did God pronounce upon Cain?
26. What henceforth was he to be?
27. What did Cain think of his punishment?
28. What did he fear?
29. What therefore did God set upon him?
30. Why?
31. Where did Cain then dwell?
32. Where was the land of Nod?
33. Who was Adam's third son?
34. How old was Adam when he was born?
35. What were you told about Seth?
36. What does that mean?
37. How long did Adam live after that?
38. What was his whole age?
39. Name Adam's chief descendants down to Noah.
40. What were you told about Enoch?
41. Who was the oldest man on earth?
42. What are all men since the fall?
43. What must all alike do?
44. For whose sake does God forgive sin?
45. What happens with men who will not repent?
46. Who is an example of this?
47. How often should Christians repent?
48. In which words of the Lord's Prayer may we express our repentance?



# PUZZLES



## HOME EXERCISES

1. God is the Source of Life. Satan is the source of sin and death. God and Satan are thus opposites. Name as many ways in which God and Satan are opposites as you can.
2. Name as many results of sin as you can.
3. What did Cain mean when he said: "From thy face shall I be hid"?
4. Find a proof of God's mercy in this story.
5. Whose duty is it to punish murderers? Whose duty is it not?
6. How may a murderer be punished? Mention some text of Scripture to show that the governments have the right to execute the murderer.
7. Out of what kind of sin do the worst sins usually grow?
8. With God's help, and out of love for Christ, Christian boys and girls must watch themselves, and as soon as they notice they are forming a bad habit, **they must fight against it and try to overcome it. If you, with God's help, do not rule over sin, sin will rule over you!** Read that several times, think about it, try to remember, try to act accordingly.

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