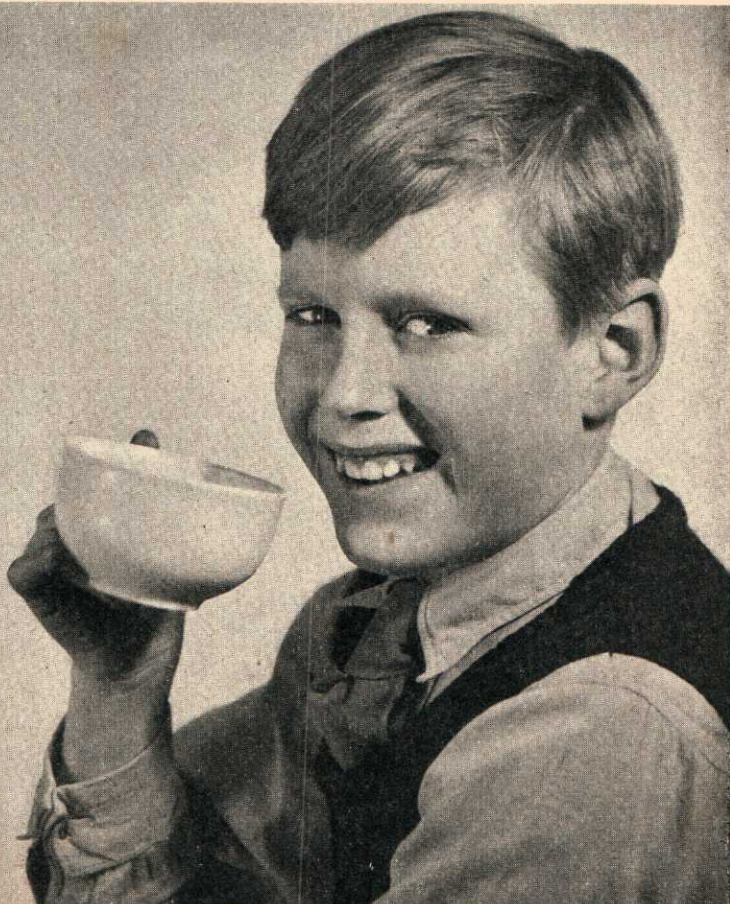


SPECIAL STORIES

BOYS & GIRLS

ILLUSTRATED GOSPEL MAGAZINE
FULL OF
BRIGHT PICTURES & GOOD STORIES



THE BEST THING

MR. AND MRS. DAVIS and Colin shared a house with another family but, of course, they often wished they had a house of their own. One evening, as Colin was doing his homework, he noticed his mother look at the clock.

"Daddy is late to-night, isn't he?" he said.

"Yes," said Mrs. Davis, but before she could say anything further they heard footsteps on the garden path. "Here he is!" cried Colin, and ran to the door to meet his father.

Mr. Davis came in with a happy smile on his face and said: "Where's Mother—I have some good news for her?"

"I'm here," said Mrs. Davis, quickly. "What do you think?" said her husband. "We have a house at last!" "Oh, John!" she gasped, "I can scarcely believe it! Tell me all about it!"

"Well," said Mrs. Davis, "this is how it has come about. The people who were going into this particular house have had to change their plans and as I have been on the waiting list for so long, I have been given the chance to rent it. It's only small, but the Agent said it would be all right for a small family! What a good thing I had my name put down when I did!"

"Oh, it's lovely to think we shall have our own home again," said Mrs. Davis. "Is there a garden?" asked Colin, eagerly. "Yes," said his father, "there is." "Oh, then I can have a pet rabbit, can't I?" said Colin. "All in good time, sonny," said his father.

"Mother," said Colin a little later, "I'm looking for a text to learn ready to say in Class on Sunday. Isn't there one about a house somewhere? Teacher read about one the other afternoon."

"Yes," said his mother, "I expect it's that verse in the 14th Chapter of St. John." "I'll look," said Colin, turning the pages of his Bible. "Yes, here it is—'In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.' 'We don't have to put our names down for a house in Heaven, do we, Mother?'" said Colin.

"Oh, yes, we do!" said Mrs. Davis. "The Lord Jesus has a wonderful book called 'The Lamb's Book of Life'—we can read about it in Revelation—and our names must be written there before we can have a home in Heaven. There is one condition; first of all we must come to Jesus so that He can wash all the stains of sin away in His precious Blood. Then He writes down our names and we are sure of a home in Heaven."

Colin thought over this for a little while then he said: "I would like my name written down in His Book; will He have my heart, do you think?" "Yes," said his mother, gently, "He certainly will; He is always glad when boys and girls come to Him and He can write their names in His wonderful Book."



"Mother," said Colin again, "Daddy said it was a good thing he had his name down for a house, didn't he? Now I have done a good thing too, haven't I?"

"Yes, dear," said Mrs. Davis, "the very best thing that anyone can do!"

D. GREENING

COME BACK!

"NO, I'm not going to Sunday School any more," said Evelyn to herself one day. "There are so many more exciting things to do. I think I'll go for a nice long walk instead."

Jinx, her golden-haired spaniel, was delighted with the idea for Evelyn's decision meant an extra outing for him the following Sunday afternoon. He panted and nearly wagged his tail off with delight. But Evelyn's mother was troubled as she watched them scampering up the street towards the woods.

"If you really feel like that," she had said to Evelyn, "I won't force you to go to Sunday School, but do think very carefully about what you are doing."

This made Evelyn feel a little guilty and somehow she didn't find her walk in the wood nearly so exciting as she had expected.



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"Make Friends"

THE VINE

AT Hampton Court, near London, there can be seen the Great Vine. It spreads over the inside of the roof of a large glass-house, and clusters of grapes hang from the roof. It was planted in the year 1768. You will probably remember that George III was on the throne at that time. In 1765 Watt invented the steam engine. And, what interests especially Christian people, that great man, John Wesley, obtained the knowledge of the forgiveness of sins just 30 years before the vine was planted, that is, in 1738. And during 1768 he was busy preaching up and down the country, and wielding very great influence for good throughout the British Isles.

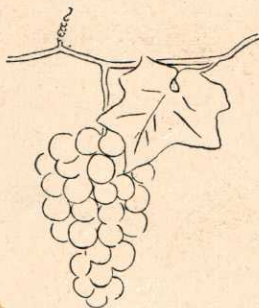
Almost everyone who reads this magazine knows those words of the Lord Jesus, "I am the true Vine." In the parable of the vine as we have it in chapter 15 of John's Gospel Jesus compares Himself to the main stem of the vine and His disciples to the branches. And He tells them that they cannot produce any fruit, that is, cannot please God, unless they 'abide' in Him. Just as the branch of the vine draws all its nourishment from the main stem, so the Christian must draw all his strength to do God's will from the Lord Jesus. To 'abide' in Christ means to trust and obey. Perhaps you have sung that hymn where the chorus runs: "There is no other way to be happy in Jesus but to trust and obey." And not only to be happy, but to be pleasing to Him and useful to others. What an important lesson that is; if you are a Christian, have you learnt it? Or perhaps we had better ask, "Are you learning it?"

But there's another question for everyone who reads this magazine.

—Are you a true branch in the true Vine? That is, have you trusted Jesus and Jesus alone for forgiveness and cleansing? Have you the new life that He gives to all who so trust Him? Is Jesus your Saviour, Master and Friend? If not, you may become a true Christian just now by saying from the heart the words of the hymn:

*"Jesus, I will trust Thee,
Trust Thee with my soul;
Guilty, lost and helpless,
Thou canst make me whole."*

E. ADAMS



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The Most Important Thing

Certainly, Jinx enjoyed himself, finding all sorts of imaginary rabbits to chase and having the time of his life, barking up trees. But Evelyn kept wondering how they were getting on at Sunday School. It was only a small village School and she knew that she would be missed. She was the oldest scholar and Mr. White, the Superintendent, relied on her to help him by playing the piano to accompany the hymns. What would he be thinking, she wondered?

"Well, did you have a nice time?" Mother asked when she returned with Jinx panting at her heels.

"Well——" Evelyn answered doubtfully, and that's all she said.

During the week, however, her mind was busy and by the time next Sunday came round she had made up her mind. She had betrayed her trust once and had felt unhappy about it ever since. She would never do it again!

Yet, as she set out for Sunday School, she suddenly felt very shy. What excuse would she be able to make to Mr. White? Would he be hurt as her mother had been? All sorts of disquieting thoughts ran through her mind, making her walk more slowly. By the time she reached the School Hall, the scholars had started to sing the first hymn! She stood outside, listening and feeling too nervous to go in. She was, in fact, on the point of turning round to go home again when Mr. White, glancing out of the window, saw her.

How his bright eyes beamed and what a great smile spread over his face! He lifted his long arm and beckoned her in. Then Evelyn didn't feel shy or nervous any longer.

"Aren't you cross with me about last Sunday?" she asked him quietly when lessons were over.

"Of course I'm not," he smiled down at her. "You see, you've come back and that has made me very happy. Jesus once told a story of a young man who ran away from home. He wanted to do just what he liked. Yet after a while he began to think of his home for he was unhappy. He had spent all his money and he had no friends. One day he decided that he would go back to his father but now he was humble. You see, he'd learned a lot whilst he had been away. 'I'll ask my father if he will employ me as a servant on his farm,' he said to himself."

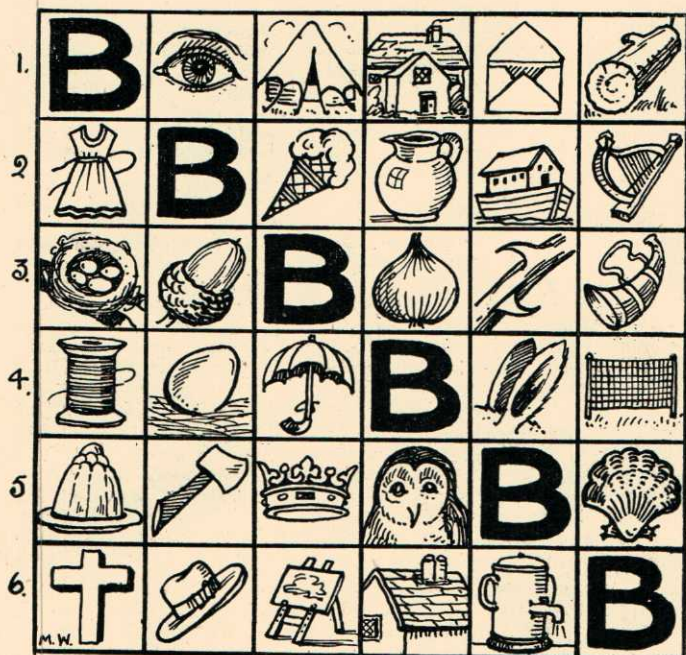
"I know that story—it's the one about the Prodigal Son, isn't it?" said Evelyn.

"Yes," Mr. White went on. "But the most important thing to remember is that when the young man returned, his father was waiting for him because he still loved him. He had already forgiven him. You know, Evelyn, that is just what God is like. We may sin, do unkind things to hurt Him, but He still loves us and is waiting for us to come back to Him. Just like I waited and prayed that you would come back this afternoon."



A. HAYNES

TO PAINT AND SOLVE



A BIBLE PUZZLE. To Solve and Paint

- | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|----|----|----|----|--------------|
| 1. A Place | .. | .. | .. | .. | (1 Sam. 7) |
| 2. Son of Jeroboam | .. | .. | .. | .. | (1 Kings 14) |
| 3. Had a Vineyard | .. | .. | .. | .. | (1 Kings 21) |
| 4. A Son of Jacob | .. | .. | .. | .. | (Gen. 35) |
| 5. Whose Son was Joseph? | .. | .. | .. | .. | (Gen. 35) |
| 6. Ten Cubits in Height | .. | .. | .. | .. | (1 Kings 6) |

Rules.—All papers must (1) be sent in from Britain by end of month and from abroad at earliest after receipt; (2) Bear the name, address, and age of sender; (3) Be addressed to EDITOR of *Boys and Girls*, 29 Ludgate Hill, London, E.C.4, England. Awards given monthly.