



## A STORY FOR CHILDREN

### "The Parable of the Little Mouse"

By David Goodwin



Once upon a time, as all good stories begin, there was a scientist working in his lab. Now this scientist wanted to see if he could teach any one of the animals in his lab a trick or any kind of feat. He considered this carefully then decided to use one mouse out of the many mice he had in the lab.

Then he decided to teach the mouse to go through a maze. So the scientist set out to build the maze. When the maze was finished the scientist thought about what it might take to encourage the mouse to go through the maze and he came up with an idea and made preparations.



Once this was done he had to decide which mouse to use. When he looked into the cage, the mice all looked the same. Bright white fur, small shiny eyes, with long tails all about the same in size, except for one. This mouse was smaller in size, his fur wasn't very white, his eyes not as bright, nor was his tail as long as the others either. The scientist with a big smile on his face picked up the mouse and said aloud, "Perfect! You are the one I will use."

The scientist returned the little mouse to the cage with the others and went home. The next morning he returned to the lab excited to get started with the mouse he had chosen. The scientist set the little mouse at the beginning of the maze, all the while explaining what the mouse had to do to get through the maze. The mouse only sat motionless. The scientist had anticipated this and presented a piece of cheese to the mouse. The mouse sniffed the cheese and liked what he smelled. Then he took a bite of the cheese and really liked what he tasted!



The scientist removed the cheese and put it in the center of the maze. The mouse had liked what he had smelled and tasted and wanted more so he took one step, then two, three, four... and came to a wall, then turned and went back to the opening

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## Personal Note

Hello Everyone,

*The Spring Holydays will be here shortly. It's not too early to make sure that everything will be done on time in order to partake of Passover (The Lord's Supper) and the Days of Unleavened Bread.*

*It's usually a very busy time for most of us. We have to go through our homes and make sure we have all the leavening out. This year Passover is on Friday night, which is the beginning of the weekly Sabbath. Our local church is having the Passover Service on Friday night after sundown, and then having our regular Sabbath Service in the late afternoon on Saturday; then we'll have a catered meal Saturday night for The Night to be Observed, (Remembered) which is also the beginning of the First Day of Unleavened Bread. We'll be having another church service on Sunday April 24 and finishing the spring holydays up on April 30 with another service.*

*Whew! Sounds like a whirlwind schedule, doesn't it? It reminds me of the great feast in the fall (Tabernacles) because we have many days when the church comes together and I find it so enjoyable. The sermons, sermonettes and bible studies reminds us of when Israel came out of Egypt and how our Savior Jesus Christ became our Passover Lamb and died for our sins. It's a time when our focus should be on God our Father and Christ our Savior and on their great love for us and all mankind. We should be building up our relationship with God as He wants all of us to be in His Family.*

*In this issue we have an article called "The Parable of the Little Mouse" which might help to understand how God feels toward us and how much He looks forward to having us in His Family. Be sure and read "Pass It On", written by Diane Kleeschulte, regarding the Book of Psalms. We have also included a Youth Bible Study on the spring holydays for any age group. It can also be used by adults as a quick study on these days.*

*I hope you all have a wonderful blessed Spring Holyday Season!*

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## "Pass It On"

By Diane Kleeschulte

### Psalm 46:10

In the rush of our everyday lives it is possible that the only world we come to know is that of busyness. Certainly we have all felt the hurry of yesterday and today; most likely we are planning now for the hurry of tomorrow. Rush, don't stop, keep going, all this clatter in our minds keeps us from the world of peace. At what point do we stop the constant thoughts of our mind that prevents us from knowing calm and quiet?

Think of your mind as a full runway, with jets ready to take off at a moments notice. All those jets are the little plans and tasks of your day. The noise is so deafening that all you can think of is escape. CLEAR THE RUNWAY! All thoughts, those "jets" that cluttered your mind's runway, must be cleared; but how? How do we accomplish this seemingly impossible task? God, in His infinite mercy and wisdom, gave these words to us through David: "**Be still, and know that I am God...**" (Psalm 46:10)

Do we really understand what it means to be still? According to Webster's Dictionary, still can mean, "to sink" or "to relax". After studying this particular use of the word still, you unearth these little treasures: **Still is a verb, an action word. What a paradox!** The very word that God uses for our instruction so that we may know who He is, denotes action or movement! He said be still, relax, sink into the peace that will lead you to Me. Imagine sinking into the arms of our loving Father, His embrace rescuing us from the busyness that has separated us from Him, for an hour... a day... a lifetime?

Many wonder just how this calm can be achieved and this may be the best starting point: prayer. Ask for help. Pray that you may find those still moments of your day to relax and sink into His presence. Maybe you should begin asking for help before the runway is full and excruciatingly loud. Surrender yourself, your thoughts and your busyness to experience His promise through His word. Remember, Psalm 46:10 has a two-fold message. It is actually an example of cause-and-effect if you look at it like this: Because you are still, you will know that I am God. What if we reverse this thought: How will we know that He is God, unless we are still? This can be a very powerful scripture tool for anyone who is seeking to know who God really is. **BE STILL!** Even our voice should be quiet and still at some point, in order for us to hear His voice.

Clear the runway, your mind, of the little "jets" that consume your time to the point that God is absent. Seek the still of the day or night in order that you may truly commune with the Heavenly Father and hear His word: "**Be still, and know that I am God...**" And remember, be a good steward of His word, **pass it on!**

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and sat there. The next day the mouse made it past the wall only to find another in his path. Again he stopped. The scientist reminded himself this was going to take time. Days passed. The mouse made progress but slowly. Each day the scientist would talk to the mouse, encourage him, even give a firm nudge to get the mouse to continue on with his task. The mouse would continue.

There would be times when the mouse seemed to not feel well so the scientist would give the mouse extra attention. One afternoon when the scientist was writing in his book what the mouse had accomplished for the day he looked up to see the mouse at the last turn before making it to the cheese! The scientist stopped what he was doing to watch. Rounding the corner the mouse saw the cheese and ran forward! The mouse first smelled the cheese, touched it, then tasted it. He had made it to his prize! The scientist was overjoyed! He jumped in the air, clapped his hands together, and praised the mouse for finishing the maze! "You did it!" he cried "You did it!" The scientist had tears of joy in his eyes. This was the moment he had waited for. It was the end of the day and time to go home, but the scientist couldn't return the mouse back to the cage with the other mice. His mouse was different to him now. So he took the mouse home with him to be a part of his family.

And they lived happily ever after!  
**The End?**

**How does the Parable of the Little Mouse tie in with us?** If Christ returns in our generation our children will be the leaders of the world tomorrow. They are the ones who will be standing before those who remain when Christ returns to teach and reign. Our children will present God's way of life to all those people. So how do they do it? How do you teach someone God's truth?

One way, although not effective, is to run out and slap them in the face with the truth. How many of us did just that to family members, friends, co-workers? Another way, a way Christ used was through parables, stories (recorded in the books of *Matthew, Mark and Luke*). A good story always sticks out in you memory, doesn't it? It doesn't matter how young or old you are when you hear it, but it sticks in your mind for a very long time.

Have you had days when you wake up, prepare for the day and think, "I've got it together today! My hair is in the right place, my clothes look good on me, this is going to be a good day." Then you find out that the day turns out to be a bad day. You really don't have it all together as you thought you did. Look at *1 Cor. 1:26-28*, "For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world..."

Just remember, God uses the base things of the world to do His work. *In us, God has chosen the not so shiny looking mice, hasn't He?* We are the average, maybe even less than average. So why us? Perhaps, so He can show the rest of the world, if we can do it, then they can do it.

In the story of the mouse, he had a sniff of the cheese and was given a taste of the cheese at the beginning. When we are baptized we get a taste (portion) of God's Holy Spirit. And every day when we pray to God, we are "smelling the aroma" of His Spirit within us. We ask for more and want more so we can have that taste again.

The mouse had tried many ways to get to the cheese but *there was only one way*. The same goes for us. We try many ways to God's way, but there is only one true way.

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## Spring Holy Days

### Youth Bible Study



#### Teachers/Parents:

As you teach the Spring Holy Days to your children, ask questions and check your children's understanding of these days.

#### Old Testament Passover:

**Read: *Exodus 12:6-7*** A lamb was to be killed on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the first month at evening. The blood of the lamb was to be painted on the side posts and over the doors of all the houses of Israel. It is called the Lord's Passover (*Verse 11* ).

**Activity:** Instruct the children to draw a doorway and color the sides and overhead of the doorway red to represent the blood but instruct them not to color the threshold (lower door post). Explain that the blood was not to be painted on the threshold. When Israel left Egypt they went through the doorways of their houses that had been painted with blood overhead and on the side posts but since their thresholds had not been painted with blood, they did not step over the blood of the sacrifice as they left.



(**Note:** For older students also teach that the blood represents the shed blood of Christ and we are never to tread under foot Christ's blood. See *Hebrews 10:29* "...who has trodden under foot the Son of God, and has counted the blood of the covenant wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing...".)

**Read: *Exodus 12:12-13*** The death angel was to pass over the land by night and kill all the firstborn of man and beast in Egypt. All Israel's houses were to be spared because the blood was on their doorposts. It happened at midnight (*Verse 29*).

***Exodus 12:42*** – Explain that this "Passover Night" is a night to be remembered and why we should observe it. It's also a memorial to be kept forever. (*Exodus 12:14*)

#### **Activity:**

- 1) Explain what "firstborn" means and ask the children who are the firstborn in their family.
- 2) Ask how their family observes this night. Do they get together with family and friends, have a special meal, tell the Passover Story, etc.

#### Days of Unleavened Bread:

**Read: *Exodus 12:15-18*** – Israel was to eat unleavened bread seven days.

***Exodus 12:30-39*** – Explain that Israel left Egypt in a hurry and their bread dough didn't have time to rise. Israel left Egypt by night. (Read: *Deuteronomy 16:1*) God commanded Israel to put away all leavening from their houses. (*Exodus 12:15*)

Explain what leavening is: Definition – substances used to puff up or cause to rise, such as yeast, baking powder and baking soda.

Explain what products contain leavening such as cakes, cookies, bread, buns, crackers, etc.

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**Activity:**

- 1) Have the children draw pictures of foods containing leavening and foods not containing leavening (fruits, vegetables, meat, dairy foods, etc.)
- 2) Ask them how many days we are to keep the Days of Unleavened Bread?
- 3) How do we prepare for these days and what are we supposed to do during these days.



(NOTE: If you have older children you might want to include the following lesson about the New Testament Passover also called the Lord's Supper by Paul in *I Corinthians 11:20*.)

**New Testament Passover (The Lord's Supper):**

**Read: *Matthew 26:1-2*** Christ said in two days would be the Passover, and He would be crucified. ***John 13:1-5*** tells about Christ and His disciples coming together to keep the Passover meal. Christ rose from supper and washed the disciples feet and commanded them to do likewise (*verses 13-15*). Then He instituted new symbols using unleavened bread and wine, representing His body and blood (See *Matthew 26:26-28 and Mark 14:22-24*). By Christ's death He became our Passover Lamb (*I Corinthians 5:7*)

Preparation of Last Supper – *Matthew 26:17-19, Mark 14:12-16, Luke 22:7-13*

Blood of New Covenant, Bread and wine instituted – *Matthew 26:26-28, Mark 14:22-24, Luke 22:19-20*

A Memorial of Christ's death: *I Corinthians 11:23-26*

**Activity:**

- 1) Ask the children the meaning of the word "crucified".
- 2) Why did Christ wash His disciples' feet and why should we wash each other's feet?
- 3) What symbols represents the body and blood of Christ?
- 4) How did Christ become our Passover Lamb? (By becoming our sacrifice for our sins.)

**Should we keep Passover (Lord's Supper) and Days of Unleavened Bread?**

We are to keep **Passover** as an annual memorial of Christ's death (*I Corinthians 11:23-26*) because He became our Passover Lamb by His sacrifice for our sins. (*I Corinthians 5:7*)

Paul stated in *I Corinthians 5:8* to keep the **Feast of Unleavened Bread**. "Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth". (Revised Standard Version) Paul wrote this years after Christ's death.

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In *John 14:6* Jesus said, "I am the way the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me". There is only one way to get through this life, to be the Christian who inherits eternal life and that is only through Christ.

There were times the mouse was discouraged, not feeling well, any number of things to slow him from achieving the goal. What about us, what discourages us, what slows us from over coming? In *Romans 8:35* Paul wrote, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?" In *2 Timothy 1:12* he wrote, "...for I know in whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day." Paul went through severe trials in his life but he knew and believed that Christ could save him and establish him. "In *2 Thes. 2:16-17* Paul wrote, "Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, Who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work".

We go to God for encouragement and direction in our lives daily. He wants us to finish the maze. At the end of each day the mouse stayed with all the other mice. But he was different in that he knew things the others didn't. *John 17:16-19* states, "they are not of the world just as I am not of the world...". When the mouse found his way through the maze, the scientist couldn't put him back with the others again.

We have to be different from the world no matter what. With God's Holy Spirit we are to live in the world but not be a part of it. We understand that we are like that mouse working through the maze of our lives.

When we make it through to the reward prepared for us, God is like the scientist who rejoiced

with joy in his heart and tears in his eyes. God is "longsuffering towards us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." (*2 Peter 3:9*) In *John 3:16* it states, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him, should not perish but have everlasting life". It's God's will that none of us perish and He wants to give us everlasting life.

God's family will grow from two to millions! (See *Revelations 7:9*, "...and behold, a great multitude which no one could number of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the Lamb, clothed with white robes...") God will keep His promise He made to Abraham in *Genesis 22:17*, "...I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore..." and continued on in *Verse 18*, "In your seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed...". *Galatians 3:29* states, "And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise". The promise is to us, our children, their children, and so on and so on. There will be a great deal of emotions at the birth of many more into God's Family! He knows what emotions are, how they feel, He created them. Perhaps there will be tears of joy when we become part of His Family, much in the way of the joy we feel with the birth of our own children.

God's family will become perpetual teachers, and reign with Him FOREVER AND EVER!

**And they Lived Happily Ever After!!!**

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*And YOU!!*