



# Where Is Jesus in Your Sunday School?

by Dick Gruber

**A**llow me to launch today from a familiar Bible story. We are beginning towards the end of Samson's judging days. Delilah has discovered his secret, cut his hair, and called in the Philistines.

"Then she called, 'Samson, the Philistines are upon you!' He awoke from his sleep and thought, 'I'll go out as before and shake myself free.' But he did not know that the Lord had left him" (Judges 16:20).

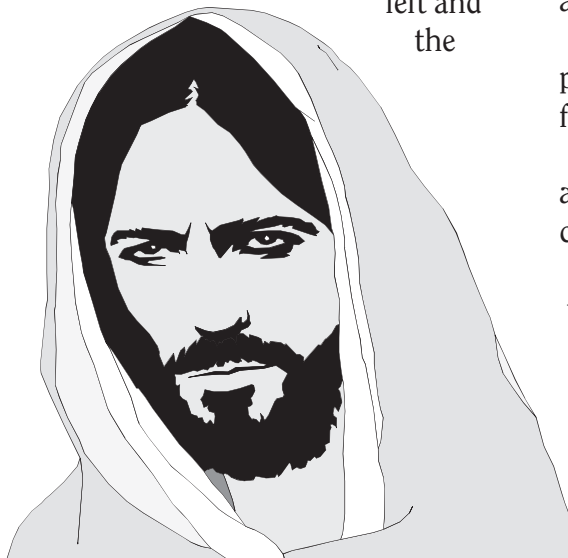
I propose to you today that in many of our Sunday Schools, Jesus has been chiseled down to a flannelgraph figure or curriculum point of interest. It is God's desire to work in and through every teacher in every class. He wishes to enter your Sunday School with the fresh anointing of His Holy Spirit. He desires to be part of the program, not just another point of interest on our Bible-study charts.

The wise men asked, "Where is the one who was born king of the Jews?" Children are asking this question of Sunday School teachers today. Where is the real Jesus? Where is Jesus in your Sunday School? Boys and girls are tired of teachers who plod through powerless sessions do-

ing their time until pastor finds another. Kids want and need to experience the power of God in every classroom from the nursery to the rafters.

When my son Tim was two years old, we produced an Easter musical at our church. I arrived early to assist with makeup. The man playing the part of Jesus came out in full makeup and costume and talked with my family for a few minutes. As he

left and the



door swung closed behind him, Tim asked, "Is Jesus coming back?"

Good question, Tim! Is Jesus coming back? Boys and girls, teens, and adults are all wondering the same thing. Where is Jesus in your Sunday School? Without a vision and the power

of God behind that vision, Sunday School perishes!

I am a Sunday School man. I know we call it everything but Sunday School anymore. It's school of the Bible, morning Bible study, Saturday celebration, Bible blast. A rose by any other name is still as sweet.

## Where is Jesus?

Jesus can be found—

- \* in our nurseries as babies are burped for the Lord.
- \* in our preschools as pre-evangelism vocabulary and feelings are developed.
- \* in our elementary classes as altar calls are given in every classroom each week.
- \* in our youth groups as, under anointed teachers, young people commit themselves to lives of service.
- \* in our adult classes as leadership rises up from the pew and everybody becomes active in the body.

## God can be found through three things in our Sunday Schools.

### 1. Well-prepared teachers

- \* Found in daily study of God's Word
- \* Found in godly Pentecostal curriculum

- \* Found in steady training to better their ministry

## **2. Well-presented lessons**

- \* Message is all important
- \* Meditate on God's Word and curriculum
- \* Methodology that appeals to your audience

## **3. Well-prayed foundation which includes prayer for—**

- \* students
- \* pastors (every day—no complaints, only pray)
- \* anointing
- \* ministry

## **Where is Jesus in your Sunday School?**

\* He's in the tear-stained cheeks of that nine-year-old who gives her life to the Lord next to an old, metal folding chair.

\* He's in the glory felt when sixth graders pray one for another and several are filled with the Holy Spirit in class.

\* He's in the two-year-old room as a small child hugs a teacher and says, "I love you."

\* He's in the hallway as you push the button on that drinking fountain for a little one who cannot reach.

\* He's in your patience as you minister lovingly to that foul mouth, dirty-nosed bus kid.

**S**amson was caught sleeping at the enemy's barber shop. He didn't even know the Lord was absent. Don't be caught sleeping. We live in a day and age when children need the Lord. You can be the inspiration that your church needs to pray in the return of Jesus in your Sunday School.

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## **Questions for Further Study—**

1. Evaluate your own ministry to children. Where is Jesus in your class? How do you show Jesus to the children? How do you focus on Jesus in the lessons?
  
2. List two ways you can train your volunteers to keep Jesus in their Sunday School preparation.