

GOD'S LESSONS OF THE SEASONS
WINTER - SABBATH SCHOOL CLASS

Say - Welcome to Sabbath School Class, let's bow our heads and ask God for understanding and guidance as we study today. Are you able to determine what I am thinking just by looking at me? Am I able to determine what you are thinking? No, of course not. What about God and His thoughts.

Say - The Bible says, "For the invisible things (His invisible nature) of him (God) from creation of the world are clearly (obviously understandable) seen, being understood by the things that are made (by God), even his eternal power and Godhead; so that (we) are without excuse" Romans 1:20.

Say - Have you ever wondered what God wants us to understand from the cycle of His seasons, Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter? I hope you will enjoy our next four Sabbath School lessons on "God's Lessons of the Seasons".

Say - Just like He said, through His physical creation, God made the invisible, His spiritual plan, understandable for all mankind. Let's see what understanding we can gain from the "Lessons of the Winter Season".

Say - The winter season is known as the "dark season" because it is the season of the year which has the shortest amount of daily sunlight. The darkness of the winter season is symbolic of our lives before we were called by God and shown the Truth of God for we lived in spiritual darkness. But "Through the tender mercy of our God ... He hath visited us, to give light to them that sit in (spiritual) darkness and ...to guide our feet into the way of peace" Luke 1:78, 79.

Say - God said, "To every thing there is a season (all things are frail and fleeting), and a (proper) time to every purpose under the heaven" (under God), Ecclesiastes 3:1. There is perfect order to all God does, there was a perfect time for Him to call each one of us out of the season of spiritual darkness unto Him, John 6:65.

Say - During the winter season of darkness of our life, we were spiritually blind; our minds were not open to God's way of life. We made our own rules with our own human reasoning. The Bible says, "He ... walks in darkness, and knows not where he goes, because the darkness has blinded his eyes" I John 2:11. It is sin (lawlessness)

which blinds us and separates us from the love of God and the "Light/Truth" of His ways.

Say - The darkness of winter is also symbolic of the dormant or dead time of year. Christ says, we were as "dead in our sins" (before we knew Him), Ephesians 2:1, 5. He said, "We were as, "...trees whose fruit (was) withered" Ezekiel 9:11-13. Just as a tree in winter cannot bear fruit, neither can we bear Godly fruit reflecting Him for we were in a hopeless state of mind, dazed and sleepy as a bear in his winter den. The Bible says it this way, "The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble" Proverbs 4:19.

Say - Before we knew God, we were as a blade of grass in winter, we lacked nourishment or spiritual food. We were weak, hungry and thirsty because we lacked God's tender care. "Our skin was black as in a terrible famine" a famine of spiritual food, Lamentations 5:10, 4:8. When Christ called us He said, "I am the bread of life" John 4:13, 14; 6:35. Learn of My way and My love and come and follow me and "You shall never thirst again" John 4:14.

Say - In the winter darkness of our spiritual life, God was not leading our life, we had, "...fleshly wisdom (human reasoning)" 2 Corinthians 1:12. "We did not "...walk on the Paths of righteousness of God's laws but walked in the ways of darkness" Proverbs 2:13. We lived in the, "Broad way" which leads to destruction", not life, Matthew 7:13. Satan was our God, the god of darkness and death, Ephesians 6:12, Isaiah 33:15.

Say - In the winter of our spiritual life we had what was necessary to exist. We had NO future; we were like "dead branches" to God, Isaiah 28:11. God wanted us to have an abundant life, He said, "I am come that they (you) might have life, and that they (you) might have it more abundantly" John 10:10.

Say - When God called us out of the dark season of deception, we had a decision to make; we had to consider our fate, Deuteronomy 32:28-29, Hosea 4:6. Did we want to fade away as a blade of grass or did we want to live forever. We chose God for in God is life! James 1:10-11.

Say - Winter, the season symbolic of spiritual darkness, is also symbolic of no understanding (of the ways and plan of God for all mankind), Psalm 82:5, Deuteronomy 32:28-29, Jeremiah 5:21, Hosea 4:6. When we were in blindness to God's truth, we were dead to understanding and He said, "The dead know not anything"

Ecclesiastes 9:5. Deceived by Satan, we thought we had the world by the tail, but God tells us, we were “Sunken down and snared by the works of our own hands” Psalm 9:15-16.

Say - What was God’s purpose for allowing us to experience the spiritual darkness of winter? It was the “season of spiritual discomfort, hunger, misery and emptiness” of our life which brought us to repentance, “For the enemy (Satan) persecuted my soul; he had smitten (crushed) my life down to the ground; he had made me dwell in the darkness like a (grave), as those that have been long dead” Psalm 143:3.

Say - But there’s more good news!! When our lives were in the winter season of spiritual darkness, with a mind of disobedience to God, in fact enemies of God, Christ died for us, Romans 5:6, 8. Does He use the winter season to teach us about His kind of love, I think so.

Say - In the darkness of winter; we wait for the warmth from the sun. We wait for the “Moving of the water”, LIVING WATER, John 5:3. Is that why we say, “I can’t wait ‘til spring”? We will talk about “God’s Lessons of Spring” next Sabbath.

MEMORY VERSE

YOU ARE A CHOSEN GENERATION,
A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, AN HOLY NATION,
A PECULIAR PEOPLE;
YOU SHOULD SHOW FORTH THE PRAISES OF HIM
WHO CALLED YOU OUT OF DARKNESS INTO HIS
MARVELOUS LIGHT.
I PETER 2:9

BELOW IS THE SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON FOR YOUTH AND TOTS

"GOD'S LESSONS OF THE SEASONS' - "WINTER"

GOD SET THE EARTH IN MOTION, HE MADE THE
SUN TO SHINE;

GOD MADE THE MOON FOR SEASONS,
HE IS THE GREAT DIVINE! PSALM 104:19, 136:8

ONCE DEAD TO UNDERSTANDING, SLEEPY AND
CONFUSED AS A HIBERNATING BEAR;
WE WERE HUNGRY, WEAK AND THIRSTY, WE LACKED
GOD'S SPIRIT AND GENTLE TENDER CARE.

WE WERE LIKE A WISTFUL SNOWFLAKE WHICH
FADES UPON THE WINDOW PANE;
THERE WAS NO FUTURE, ONLY DISCOMFORT,
MISERY AND PAIN.

IN THE DARKNESS OF MY SIN, CHRIST GAVE HIS
LIFE FOR ME; HE WAS SENT FROM GOD ABOVE;
IT IS THROUGH THE DARKNESS OF WINTER, HE
TAUGHT ME OF HIS UNLIMITED LOVE.

NOW I WAIT FOR THE "LIVING WATER" SHOWN IN
THE GENTLE FALLING RAIN;
IS THAT THE REASON WE HEAR EVERYONE SAY,
"I JUST CAN'T WAIT 'TIL SPRING"? BY B. R. B.

GOD CALLED YOU OUT OF DARKNESS,
I PETER 2:9

...WE WERE DEAD IN (OUR) SINS...

EPHESIANS 2:1



BRB

*THROUGH THE TENDER MERCY OF OUR GOD...
HE HATH VISITED US, TO GIVE LIGHT TO THEM
THAT SIT IN DARKNESS (SPIRITUAL) AND... TO GUIDE
OUR FEET INTO THE WAY OF PEACE*

LUKE 1:78-79