**Bible Awareness – Children’s Funnies**

Billy draws a picture of an airplane carrying four passengers. The picture is supposed to depict Jesus, Mary, and Joseph’s flight into Egypt. The mother asks: “Who’s the 4th person you’ve added?” The child answers: “That’s Pontius the Pilate.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)*

“Do you know what happened to Adam and Eve in the Bible?” I asked one seven-year-old boy. “Sure,” he said. “They ate the apple and then God told them to get out of the Garden of Eden, so they went to the airport.” “I’m not sure they went to the airport,” I told him, “because airports hadn’t been invented yet.” “Well,” he said, “that’s how they got out of town when God told them they had to move.” *(Bill Cosby)*

The Sunday school class had reached the part in the lesson where “Abraham entertained the angel unaware.” “And what is the meaning of ‘unaware’?” the teacher wanted to know. There was a silence; then one young lady volunteered, “Unaware is what you take off before you put on your pajamas.” *(SoCaSan, in Quote magazine)*

Linus: “Look, Charlie Brown, my application not to go to camp was accepted.” Charlie Brown: “You, too?” Linus: “Boy, what a relief! No summer camp. We have escaped as a bird from the snare of the fowlers; the snare is broken, and we have escaped! King David, Psalm 124.” Charlie Brown: “I never realized that King David worried about going to camp.” *(Charles M. Schulz, in Peanuts comic strip)*

As Dolly reads the book to her little brother she says: “And they knew the baby in the basket was Moses by checkin’ the name on his driver’s license.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)*

Dear God, I read the Bible. What does begat mean? Nobody will tell me. Alison. *(The Laffatorium Web site)*

Linus: “I sort of figured that you’d be here, Charlie Brown.” Charlie Brown: “I tried to go to camp. I really did. I went down to the bus station, but I just couldn’t get on the bus. That’s when I came back here to the pitcher’s mound. I’ve been sitting here for two days. Maybe I’ll sit here for the rest of my life.” Linus: “Even Job got up from among the ashes eventually.” Charlie Brown: “Job never had to worry about going to summer camp.” *(Charles M. Schulz, in Peanuts comic strip)*

Children’s take on the Bible: In the first book, Guiness, God got tired of creating the world, so he took the Sabbath off. Noah’s wife was Joan of Ark. Lot’s wife was a pillar of salt by day, but a ball of fire by night. Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the Apostles. Moses died before he ever reached Canada. Then Joshua led the Hebrews in the battle of Geritol. *(Rocky Mountain News)*

“Do you know how God punished Adam and Eve for eating the apple?” I asked one small boy whose name was Max. “Yeah,” he replied. “God made ‘em sit down and read the Bible.” “Well, at that point, reading the Bible didn’t take very long.” “No, the Bible’s a big book. They got ‘em in church. I see them there all the time.” “What I mean, Max, is that almost nothing had happened yet when they were in the Garden of Eden, so there was almost nothing to put in the Bible.” “Maybe in your church,” said Max. *(Bill Cosby, Kids Say the Darndest Things, p. 22)*

Two little neighbor girls about the same age, one Christian and one Jewish, were constant companions. After one Easter holiday, the grandfather of the Christian girl asked her what her friend had received for Easter. The girl looked at her grandfather in surprise, and said, “But Grandpa, you should know that Becky is Jewish and she wouldn’t get anything for Easter.” Then she went on to explain patiently, “You see, I’m Easter and she’s Passover. I’m Christian and she’s Hanukkah.” Then with a big smile, she added, “but I’m really glad that both of us are Halloween.” *(Buddy Westbrook)*

The one commandment that threw me was “Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor’s wife.” Now I was 7, and I always thought the priest was saying, “Thou do not cover your neighbor’s wife.” You can cover all the other wives in the neighborhood, and you’re home free. But the minute you cover your neighbor’s wife, you’d better get to Confession.” *(Bob Newhart, in Catholic Digest)*

The story is told of the youngster who came home from Sunday School, having been taught the biblical story of the crossing of the Red Sea. His mother asked him what he had learned in class, and he told her: “The Israelites got out of Egypt, but Pharaoh and his army chased after them. They got to the Red Sea and they couldn’t cross it. The Egyptian army was getting closer. So Moses got on his walkie-talkie, the Israeli air force bombed the Egyptians, and the Israeli navy built a pontoon bridge so the people could cross.” The mother was shocked. “Is that the way they taught you the story?” “Well, no,” the boy admitted, “but if I told it to you the way they told it to us, you’d never believe it.” *(Harold S. Kushner, in When Bad Things Happen)*

One morning, a Sunday-school teacher asked her group if they knew who had defeated the Philistines. After a few moments one youngster asked, “They’re not in the NBA, are they?” *(James Dent, in Charleston, W.Va. Gazette)*

A Sunday school class listened to the story of Adam and Eve one day and the teacher asked the children to draw a picture about some part of the story. One little girl drew a car with three people in it. She had a man in the front seat and a man and woman in the back. “Very good, Mary,” said the teacher. “Now would you tell the class what this picture means?” “This is God driving Adam and Eve out of the garden,” said Mary.

*(Bits & Pieces)*

“Do you know what Easter is?” I asked one girl of five. “Oh, yes,” she replied. “Easter is when Jesus died and they put Him in a tomb with a big rock and then three days later they rolled back the rock and Jesus walked out and He didn’t see His shadow.” Which meant that the Holy Land would have six more weeks of winter. *(Bill Cosby, in Kids Say the Darndest Things, p. 19)*

“You see,” she said, “had the lamb been obedient and stayed in the flock, it would not have been eaten by the wolf, would it?” “No, ma’am,” answered one small boy, “it would have been eaten by people.” *(Bits & Pieces)*

Two seven-year-olds were fighting in their Sunday-school class. One boy told their teacher, “He hit me first. And it says in the Bible it’s all right to hit back.” “Where,” the Sunday-school teacher demanded, “did it say that in Scripture?” “You told us,” said the boy. “You said the Bible said you should ‘do one to others as others do one to you.’” *(James Dent)*

A Sunday School teacher was quizzing her class about their Old Testament knowledge. “What do you think Noah did all that time he was on the ark?” she asked. There was silence. “Do you think he did a lot of fishing?” “What?” sneered one boy. “With only two worms?” *(Glenn Van Ekeren, in Speaker’s Sourcebook II, p. 222)*

A father was reading Bible stories to his young son. He read: “The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked back and was turned to salt.” The boy looked puzzled. “What is it?” asked his father. “I was just wondering,” said the boy, “what happened to the flea?” *(Rocky Mountain News)*

Dolly asks: “Didn’t they have any food but apples in the Garden of Eatin’?” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)*

In our parish a three-year-old was listening to her grandmother reading aloud from Genesis. After she had finished, the girl seemed lost in thought. “Well, dear,” asked her grandmother, “what do you think of it?” “Oh, I love it,” the girl replied. “You never know what God is going to do next.” *(Gladys Kent, in Catholic Digest)*

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At Sunday School they were teaching how God created everything, including human beings. Little Johnny seemed especially intent when they told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam’s ribs. Later in the week his mother noticed him lying down as though he were ill. “Johnny,” she asked, “What’s the matter?” “My side hurts,” he said. “I think I’m going to have a wife.” *(Rocky Mountain News)*

A little boy, after having many weeks of Sunday School lessons devoted to the Old Testament, and then coming to the first lesson in the New Testament, remarked to one of his classmates after Sunday school: “Boy, God sure got better as He got older, didn’t He?” *(Eric Butterworth, Discover The Power Within You, p. 31)*

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A nun was telling some children about John the Baptist and said that at one time he had lived in the wilderness, and eaten wild honey and locusts. When a child asked what locusts were, the nun replied, “They’re like grasshoppers.” “He ate grasshoppers?” one girl said, aghast. “What’s wrong with that?” demanded a boy. “My grandmother drinks them.” *(James Dent, in Charleston, W. Va. Gazette)*

While reading New Testament stories to my 3-year-old granddaughter, I came to the passage about Herod. As I read about King Herod wanting to find the Baby King and kill Him, she looked up at me sternly. “He ought to be in jail with that attitude,” she said. *(Hedy Rackers, in Catholic Digest)*

History according to sixth-grade students from Chicago Catholic schools: “Ancient Egypt was inhabited by mummies and they all wrote in hydraulics. They lived in the Sarah Dessert. The climate of the Sarah is such that the inhabitants have to live elsewhere. The Bible is full of interesting caricatures. In the first book of the Bible, Guiness is. Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. One of their children, Can, asked, “Am I my brother’s son?” Moses led the Hebrew slaves to the Red Sea, where they made unleavened bread, which is bread without any ingredients. Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the Ten Commandments. He died before he reached Canada.” *(Denver Rocky Mountain News)*

“What did Noah do?” I asked one girl, who was six. “He collected a lot of animals,” she replied. “That was his hobby?” “Yeah.” “But didn’t he have a special collection?” “Yeah, Bible animals.” “It was two of each, right?” “You know the story?” “I do.” “So why are you asking me?” “Well, that’s sort of my job on this show. And tell me, do you know why Noah took in two kinds of animals?” “To keep ‘em from getting bored.” *(Bill Cosby, in Kids Say the Darndest Things, p. 30)*

A Sunday-school class was concerned about one member’s mother, who was in the hospital. The teacher suggested that each child sign a get-well card to send the mother and write a Bible verse after his name. One little boy opened his Bible and made his selection, Matthew 5:26. He wrote: “Truly, I say to you, you will never get out till you have paid the last penny.” *(Rev. A. J. Tavenner, in Reader’s Digest)*

“Can any little girl or boy tell me who Job was?” asked the Sunday School teacher. After a moment’s pause one small boy replied: “A doctor.” “A doctor! Oh, dear no, wherever did you get that idea?” “Please, Miss, did you never hear of the patients of Job?” *(Arkansas Baptist)*

Dear God, I would like to know why all the things you said are in red.

*(Stuart Hample and Eric Marshall, Children’s Letters to God)*

In our parish Sister Colette was teaching a religion class when she came to the passage in St. Paul, “Five times I received 40 lashes save one.” Sister said, “That’s a very unusual way of saying 39. Perhaps St. Paul wanted to impress them just as much by the way he said it, as well as by what he said.” “Oh, no, Sister,” piped a young lad. “St. Paul was talking in Roman numerals. That’s the way they talked in those days.” *(Sister Mary Claude, in Catholic Digest)*

Dolly: “This leaf was in the Bible. Maybe it’s the one Adam wore!”

*(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)*

Know what we learned in Bible class? The Lord is my chauffeur, I shall not walk. *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)*

The Sunday School teacher explained to a Bible class how Lot’s wife looked back and suddenly turned into a pillar of salt. A young boy raised his hand, and said, “My mother looked back when she was driving and turned into a fire hydrant.” *(Sam Ewing)*

A small boy saw a Bible, not too recently dusted, lying on a shelf in his home. He asked his mother whose book it was. “It is God’s book,” she said. “Well,” the boy commented, “don’t you think we should return it? Nobody seems to read it here!” *(A Synoptic Study of the Teachings of Unity, p. 54)*

One day, I had my fourth-grade CCD class pantomime the story of the Good Samaritan. I had no trouble getting someone to play the part of the robbers. As the victim was lying on the floor, Jeff, the Good Samaritan, was standing in the corner and going through many maneuvers. “What,” I finally asked him, “are you doing?” “I’m making him a peanut butter sandwich,” he said. *(Helen Byrne, in Catholic Digest)*

At Sunday school, the topic was Elijah and the prophets of Baal. The teacher explained that Elijah built an altar, placed wood upon it, cut the sacrificial bullock in pieces and laid them on the wood. He then commanded that the people fill four jars with water and pour the water over the sacrifice. “Why do you think they did that?” asked the teacher. A little girl raised her hand and said, “To make gravy.” *(Bill Dana)*

The third-grade class had just finished the week’s Bible study on the Exodus and entry to Canaan. The teacher asked for students’ questions. “Mr. Morkert,” Billy called to the teacher, “there is one thing I didn’t understand.” “What’s that?” asked the teacher. “Well, according to our Bible history book, the children of Israel crossed the Red Sea, right?” “Right,” Mr. Morkert confirmed. “And the children of Israel fought and won the battle at Jericho, right?” “That right.” “And the Children of Israel built the temple, right?” “That’s also correct,” agreed the treacher. “So what’s your question, Billy?” “What I’d like to know,” Billy continued, “is what were all the grown-ups doing?” *(The Lutheran Witness)*

Charlie Brown: “And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights. Unbelievable.” Snoopy: “Who went out in the back yard and got the dog dish?” *(Charles M. Schulz, in Peanuts comic strip)*

“Did you ever read the Bible?” I asked another very young man. “A little,” he replied. “But I’ve heard your record about Noah.” “You have?” “Yeah, my dad made me hear it.” “And what did you think of it?” “It was okay.” “You liked it that much. Well, part of the record is based on that record.” “I didn’t know that.” “Most people don’t. It’s the part about Noah. Do you know what happened to Noah?” “Yeah, he took all the animals and built an ark and then it rained a lot for a few years and then it cleared up.” “Must have been El Nino. So what happened to the animals?” “They put ‘em in a zoo.” “There were zoos in those days?” “Don’t you know that?” *(Bill Cosby)*

The family assembled in church for the anniversary renewal of vows and Mass. With due ceremony, the large, faded family Bible was lifted from the podium. As the priest held it in front of the middle-aged couple, my 4-year-old looked over, sighed, and whispered, “Is he gonna read the whole book?” *(Jean Tyrell, in Catholic Digest)*

“Do you know the story of Adam and Eve?” I said to one six-year-old girl. “Everyone knows that story,” she replied. “Well, who made Adam?” “God.” “And who made Eve?” “Eve was made out of a rib. “Yes, but it was a special kind of rib.” “A chicken rib.” *(Bill Cosby, Kids Say the Darndest Things, p. 20)*

The Russian schoolteacher asked a pupil, “Who were the first human beings?” “Adam and Eve,” the young boy replied. “What nationality were they?” “Russian, of course.” “Fine, fine,” the teacher commented. “And how did you know they were Russians?” “Easy,” said the boy. “They had no roof over their heads, nothing to wear, only one apple for the two of them, and they called it ‘paradise.’” *(Thomas La Mance, in The Saturday Evening Post)*

Lucy: “Stop that stupid sighing, Linus.” Linus: “There’s nothing wrong with sighing.” Lucy: “There is if it bugs someone!” Linus: “It’s Scriptural!” “Lucy: “It’s what?!” Linus: “Likewise the spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the spirit himself intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words. Romans, 8th Chapter.” Lucy: “I don’t know, I’m either going to have to slug him, or start going back to Sunday school!” *(Charles M. Schulz, in Peanuts comic strip)*

One day, I was teaching the external signs of the seven sacraments to my fifth-grade class. After explaining that the pouring of the water and the words of the priest are the external signs of Baptism, the class caught on quickly; they did well, in fact, until we got to Matrimony. All the students were stumped except Joshua, who raised his hand excitedly. “I know, I know,” he said. “The outward sign of Holy Matrimony is the limo outside the church.” *(James Souza, in Catholic Digest)*

After church, my brothers and sisters and I could usually persuade our father to buy us sodas and ice cream. But one Sunday he protested: “Where does it say that you kids should always get something to eat and drink right after church?” “In the Bible,” my sister responded. “It says, ‘Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness.’” *(Bob Bonebrake, in Reader’s Digest)*

Dolly says while being irritated by a mosquito landing on her arm: “I wish Noah had swatted his two skeetos.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)*

Dad: “What does that story of Adam and Eve teach us?” Billy: “Not to eat fruit.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)*

After Grandpa had some teeth pulled, he spoke with a lisp. His granddaughter listened curiously as he read his usual Bible story to her the first night after his visit to the dentist. Hearing words like “saith” and “hath” and “doth,” she exclaimed, “God had his teeth out, too!” *(Leslie and Bernice Flynn, Humorous Incidents and Quips)*

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Shortly after our son, Christopher, received the sacrament of confirmation, his godfather sent him a beautiful, large Bible. Christopher’s thank-you note, written a couple of days later, was to the point: “Thank you for the Bible. It is very nice. I haven’t finished reading it yet.” *(Joseph M. Vastine, in Reader’s Digest)*

“Do you know why we give thanks at Thanksgiving?” my friend once asked her. “Because that’s when Pharaoh passed over the Pilgrims,” she replied. *(Bill Cosby)*

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A 10-year-old, under the tutelage of her grandmother, was becoming quite knowledgeable about the Bible. Then one day she floored her grandmother by asking, “Which Virgin was the mother of Jesus? The Virgin Mary or the King James Virgin?” *(Catholic Digest)*

Ways the Bible would be different if written by college students: Last Supper would have been eaten the next morning, cold. Ten Commandments are actually only five, double-spaced and written in a large font. New edition every two years in order to limit reselling. Forbidden fruit would have been eaten because it wasn’t dorm food. Paul’s Letter to the Romans becomes Paul’s E-Mail To: abuse@romans,gov. Instead of God creating the world in six days and resting on the seventh, he would have put it off until the night before it was due and then pulled an all-nighter. *(Rocky Mountain News)*

**“What faith are you?” I asked him. “What’s a faith?” he said. “What religion?” “Oh, Jewish, but we don’t always go.” “Go where?” “To the Jewish place.” “You mean the synagogue.” “Whatever.” Eager to explore more of the Old Testament with this sometime scholar, I said, “Do you know what the Torah is?” “Oh, sure,” he said, and I braced myself for him telling me that “Torah! Torah! Torah!” is what the pilots cried as they bombed Pearl Harbor. “And what’s your favorite part of the Torah?” I said. “My favorite part is when God made America. *(Bill Cosby)***

A fourth-grader approached me at Epiphany School Library where I am librarian. “Sister, do you have any books about the first woman?” “Would you like a Bible book? One about Eve?” I asked, as I tried to think of the fourth-grade reading level. “Oh no, Sister,” she replied. “I want a book about Hillary Clinton.” *(Sister M. Thomas Magee, in Catholic Digest)*

Dolly asks her Mom: “Did God write the Bible Himself? Or did He have some Holy Ghost writers?” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)*

Billy says to his Dad about his drawing: “You drew this one of Adam and Eve wrong, Daddy. They didn’t have belly buttons.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)*

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