

# Mustard Seed Series

CHRISTIAN FAITH FORMATION



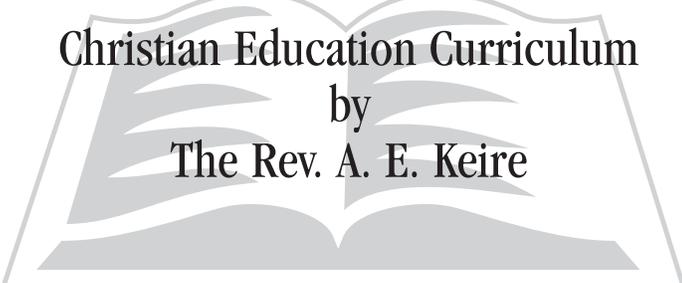
## Junior 2



**Junior 2**  
**Teacher Book**



**MUSTARD SEED SERIES**



Christian Education Curriculum  
by  
The Rev. A. E. Keire

Curriculum Development  
Associates, Inc.

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# JUNIOR II

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# N E W T E S T A M E N T

# 16

## FOCUS

- Sin and Temptation
- Jesus' First Temptation in the Desert
- The Spirit of Christmas Past in *A Christmas Carol*



### ATTENDANCE AND SHARING



### REVIEW

- Who was John the Baptist and what was his purpose in life?
  - He was the son of Zechariah and Elizabeth and Jesus' second cousin.
  - He came as God's prophet to prepare the way for God's Messiah, Jesus.
  - He came to make people aware of their sins, seek forgiveness, and start a better life based on sharing what we have with the less fortunate.
- Why did the Pharisees and Temple officials follow John? (They wanted to make sure that he would not start a revolution against Rome.)
- What is the difference between John's approach to salvation and the Pharisees'?
  - John required belief, repentance, and good deeds.
  - The Pharisees believed that observance of the Mosaic Law was all that was necessary.
- Why is water used in baptism?
  - Symbolically water washes away sin.
  - Then a person is clean and fresh and can begin living a new life.
- How did John die? (Herod beheaded him at his stepdaughter's request.)



### PREPARATION FOR TODAY'S LESSON AND STUDENT'S BOOKS

- People came to John for forgiveness of their sins. The Jewish people no longer believed that animal sacrifice would remove their sins.
- John taught the people that they must do good deeds to show that they are truly repentant or sorry for their sins.
- We have not talked about what sin is. Can anyone give me a definition for sin? (See if they can come up with their own definition.)
- Turn to New Testament Lesson 16 in your Student's Book. \_\_\_\_\_, will you read what is written there about sin?
  - There are many definitions of sin. You may want to speak to your minister or priest about a good definition for sin. What follows are some definitions for sin.
  - Sin is estrangement, alienation, and a wrong relationship with God. Sin shows itself in wrong attitudes, motivations, and acts.
  - Sin is hostility towards God.
  - Sin is "any act, which includes thoughts as well as deeds, done in conscious and deliberate violation of God's will" (Van A. Harvey's *A Handbook of Theological Terms*).
  - Sin is the "breaking of a religious law or a moral principle, especially through a willful act. A state of habitual

MATTHEW 4:1-11

## Jesus' First Temptation

“

*Man cannot live on bread alone.*

”

MATTHEW 4:4

## MATERIALS

- Bibles
- Student Books
- Activity Supplies
- Music to *Christ for the World We Sing*

67

violation of such principles” (*Webster’s New World Dictionary*).

- Can you give me examples of sin when it is estrangement or a wrong relationship with God?
- Why are wrong attitudes and motivations sinful?
- Why are some people hostile toward God?
- For the next several weeks, we will examine Jesus’ life and his choices, some of the people who knew Jesus and their choices, and Scrooge’s life and his choices.



### TODAY’S LESSON AND DISCUSSION POSSIBILITIES

- Last week we learned that John baptized Jesus. John’s baptism was for the forgiveness of sin. Many people wonder why Jesus felt it necessary to be baptized. Any answer to this question is pure speculation. We believe Jesus was without sin. He chose to be baptized and to identify himself with humanity. His ministry began with his baptism. Jesus’ baptism was also a sign of God’s approval of him. A voice from heaven said, “You are my own dear Son. I am pleased with you.”
- After Jesus was baptized, and before he began his ministry, he went into the wilderness, fasted for 40 days, and was tempted by Satan. This time spent in prayer and fasting helped Jesus decide the direction and shape of his ministry.
- Before we begin our reading, let us talk about evil. Evil has many names. Can you give me a few names used for evil? (The Devil, the Tempter, and Satan)
  - The Devil, Tempter, and Satan are words given to describe evil incarnate, or evil in the flesh, that actively works against God and God’s purposes. If we were to play word games, we could change these words, but the concept and meaning would remain the same.
  - Medieval artists created the image of a red, horned creature carrying a pitchfork as a way to express their conception of evil incarnate.
  - In *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, C.S. Lewis has the beautiful White Witch of Narnia represent evil incarnate.
  - Evil comes in many forms. They are usually attractive and tempting, such as beautiful women, handsome men, and glistening gold. Most people

are not attracted to something ugly or repulsive. Evil can have no power over people unless people allow it to have power over them.

- Can you think of any examples of something very attractive that corrupts good people?
- \_\_\_\_\_, will you read Matthew 4:1-11?
- These three temptations are three of the most common ones that people face. People need to eat. People seek economic, political, and military power. People want the devotion of other people. These things do not tempt Jesus.



### STUDENT BOOKS

- Before Christmas we began reading *A Christmas Carol*. We saw that Scrooge had chosen a path in life that was leading him directly to a tormented afterlife. Marley’s Ghost was trying to save Scrooge from the torment that he, Marley, was experiencing. Marley’s Ghost said that three spirits would visit Scrooge. Let us read what happened next.
- \_\_\_\_\_, will you begin reading Chapter 2? Wherever you see a series of periods, called ellipses, information not crucial to the story has been left out.
  - Scrooge did not want to go traveling through the cold night.
  - What was the purpose of the Ghost of Christmas Past? (To save Scrooge’s soul)
  - What was the purpose of John the Baptist and Jesus? (To save our souls)
  - Where did the ghost first take Scrooge? (He took him to the run-down boarding school of his childhood where his father left him.)
  - Why do you suppose Scrooge has forgotten this part of his history?
  - Who was the little girl that came to take Scrooge home? (She was his younger sister who had pleaded with her father to let Scrooge come home.)
  - How is Scrooge’s nephew related to her? (She was his mother.)
- Let me reread Jesus’ first temptation in the desert to you: “Then the Devil came to him and said, ‘If you are God’s Son, order these stones to turn into bread.’ But Jesus answered, The scripture says,

‘Man cannot live on bread alone, but needs every word that God speaks’” (Matthew 4:3-4).

- Scrooge had food, clothing, and shelter. What was missing in his life? How does this first temptation relate to Scrooge’s situation as a boy and a young man?
  - Scrooge needed a home and the love of a family.
  - Families today, as in Scrooge’s time, are often separated from each other.
  - Many people, then and now, try to provide for those people who are homeless and destitute. But the need is so great that their efforts are never enough.
- Jesus tells the Devil that providing food alone to a hungry world is insufficient to make people whole. God’s love and acceptance are necessary for life to have meaning.
- God reaches out to us in love. Do we respond to that love?
- How do we in the church share that love?
- People may not realize it, but Jesus knew that spiritual hunger is more devastating than physical hunger.



### ACTIVITY

- Let us write on a sheet of newsprint a list of what we are learning about Jesus.
- What can we put down for today’s lesson?

- Through Baptism, Jesus identifies himself with humanity.
- In the first temptation in the desert, Jesus chooses God and spiritual wholeness over temporary physical needs.
- Jesus’ resistance to temptation shows he will not cooperate with evil.

- For the bulletin board, I want you to draw various pictures of what you think evil looks like. Before we pin them up, let us share them with each other.



### CONCLUSION

- Let us form a prayer circle.
- I am giving you a hymn that focuses on the mission of the church. We believe that the church is an extension of Jesus Christ in this world. The church must do the work of Jesus. Let us read the words to *Christ for the World We Sing*.
- Let us pray.

**Lord Jesus, we thank you for coming among us and living your life as we live our lives. We thank you for your servants who do your work in this world. Help us to become one of your servants and to bring your light to those who live in darkness.**

**And now as you taught us to pray, we humbly pray, Our Father....**

- Let us sing *Christ for the World We Sing*.

# CHRIST FOR THE WORLD WE SING

1. Christ for the world we sing; The world to  
 2. Christ for the world we sing; The world to  
 3. Christ for the world we sing; The world to  
 4. Christ for the world we sing; The world to

Christ we bring With lov - ing zeal; The poor and  
 Christ we bring With fer - vent prayer; The way - ward  
 Christ we bring With one ac - cord; With us the  
 Christ we bring With joy - ful song; The new - born

them that mourn, The faint and o - ver - borne,  
 and the lost, By rest - less pas - sions tossed,  
 work to share, With us re - proach to dare,  
 souls whose days, Re - claimed from er - ror's ways,

Sin - sick and sor - row - worn, Whom Christ doth heal.  
 Re - deemed at count - less cost From dark de - spair.  
 With us the cross to bear, For Christ our Lord.  
 In - spired with hope and praise, To Christ be - long. A - MEN.

End of Teacher Book Preview.

Student Book Preview Follows.

# A Christmas Carol

## SIN

- Sin is estrangement, alienation, and a wrong relationship with God. Sin shows itself in wrong attitudes, motivations, and acts.
- Sin is hostility towards God.
- Sin is “any act, which includes thoughts as well as deeds, done in conscious and deliberate violation of God’s will.” (Van A. Harvey, *A Handbook of Theological Terms*)
- Sin is “The breaking of a religious law or a moral principle, especially through a willful act. Sin is a state of habitual violation of such principles.” (*Webster’s New World Dictionary*)

## CHAPTER 2—THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS PAST

Scrooge awoke in a dark room. He heard the bell strike twelve. He believed the clock must have broken since he went to bed at 2:00 a.m. He couldn’t believe that he could have slept through an entire night and into the next night.

Scrooge got up and looked out his window and saw that it was still foggy. There was no noise from the street. Then he went back to his bed. The clock struck 12:45. Scrooge remembered that Marley’s Ghost said the first of the spirits would visit him at one o’clock

At one o’clock a light flashed in his room and a hand slowly parted his bed curtains. Scrooge sat up and found himself face to face with an unearthly creature—part childlike and part old man. Its hair, which hung about its neck and down its back, was white as if with age; and yet the face had not a wrinkle in it, and the tenderest bloom was on the skin. The arms were very long and muscular; the hands the same, as if its hold were of uncommon strength. Its legs and feet, most delicately formed, were, like those upper members, bare. It wore a tunic of the purest white; and round its waist was bound a lustrous belt, the sheen of which was beautiful.... But the strangest thing about it was that from the crown of its head there sprang a bright clear jet of light, by which all this was visible and which was doubtless the occasion of its using, in its duller moments, a great extinguisher for a cap, which it now held under its arm.... The figure itself fluctuated in its distinctness: being now a thing with one arm, now with one leg, now with twenty legs, now a pair of legs without a head, now a head without a body: of which dissolving parts, no outline would be visible in the dense gloom wherein they melted away....

“Are you the Spirit, Sir, whose coming was foretold to me?” asked Scrooge.

“I am!”

The voice was soft and gentle. Singularly low, as if instead of being so close beside him, it were at a distance.

“Who, and what are you?” Scrooge demanded.

“I am the Ghost of Christmas Past.”

“Long past?” inquired Scrooge: observant of its dwarfish stature.

“No. Your past.”

... He then made bold to inquire what business brought him there.

“Your welfare!” said the Ghost.

Scrooge expressed himself much obliged, but could not help thinking that a night of unbroken rest would have been more conducive to that end. The spirit must have heard him thinking, for it said immediately:

# A Christmas Carol

“Your reclamation, then. Take heed!”

It put out its strong hand as it spoke, and clasped him gently by the arm.

“Rise! and walk with me!”

It would have been in vain for Scrooge to plead that the weather and the hour were not adapted to pedestrian purposes; that bed was warm, and the thermometer a long way below freezing; that he was clad but lightly in his slippers, dressing-gown, and nightcap; and that he had a cold upon him at that time. The grasp, though gentle as a woman’s hand, was not to be resisted. He rose: but finding that the Spirit made towards the window, clasped its robe in supplication.

“I am a mortal,” Scrooge said, “and liable to fall.”

“Bear but a touch of my hand there,” said the Spirit, laying it upon his heart, “and you shall be upheld in more than this!”

As the words were spoken, they passed through the wall, and stood upon an open country road, with fields on either hand. The city had entirely vanished. Not a vestige of it was to be seen. The darkness and the mist had vanished with it, for it was a clear, cold, winter day, with snow upon the ground.

“Good Heaven!” said Scrooge, clasping his hands together, as he looked about him. “I was bred in this place. I was a boy here!”

The Spirit gazed upon him mildly. Its gentle touch, though it had been light and instantaneous, appeared still present to the old man’s sense of feeling. He was conscious of a thousand odors floating in the air, each one connected with a thousand thoughts, and hopes, and joys, and cares long, long forgotten!

“Your lip is trembling,” said the Ghost. “And what is that upon your cheek?”

Scrooge muttered, and with an unusual catching in his voice, that it was a pimple; and begged the Ghost to lead him where he would.

“You recollect the way?” inquired the Spirit.

“Remember it!” cried Scrooge with fervor—“I could walk it blindfold.”

“Strange to have forgotten it for so many years!” observed the Ghost. “Let us go on.”

They walked along the road; Scrooge recognizing every gate, and post, and tree; until a little market-town appeared in the distance, with its bridge, its church, and winding river. . .

“These are but shadows of the things that have been,” said the Ghost. “They have no consciousness of us.”

Scrooge recognized all the travellers. He knew and named them every one. Why was he rejoiced beyond all bounds to see them! Why did his cold eye glisten, and his heart leap up as they went past! Why was he filled with gladness when he heard them give each other Merry Christmas, as they parted at crossroads and byways, for their several homes! What was merry Christmas to Scrooge? Out upon merry Christmas! What good had it ever done to him?

“The school is not quite deserted,” said the Ghost. “A solitary child, neglected by his friends, is left there still.”

Scrooge said he knew it. And he sobbed.

They left the high-road and approached the run-down mansion with its broken class, barren, damp rooms, and empty stables. They opened a classroom door and saw a solitary boy reading near a feeble fire.

Scrooge sat down upon a desk and wept to see his poor forgotten self as he had used to be. . . .

The Spirit touched him on the arm, and pointed to his younger self, intent upon his reading. Suddenly a man, in foreign garments: wonderfully real and distinct to look at: stood outside the window, with an axe stuck in his belt, and leading an ass laden with wood by the bridle.

# A Christmas Carol

“Why, it’s Ali Baba!” Scrooge exclaimed in ecstasy. “It’s dear old honest Ali Baba! Yes, yes, I know! One Christmas time, when I was a boy left alone here, all alone, he did come for the first time, just like that . . . .”

To hear Scrooge expending all the earnestness of his nature on such subjects, in a most extraordinary voice between laughing and crying; and to see his heightened and excited face; would have been a surprise to his business friends in the City..

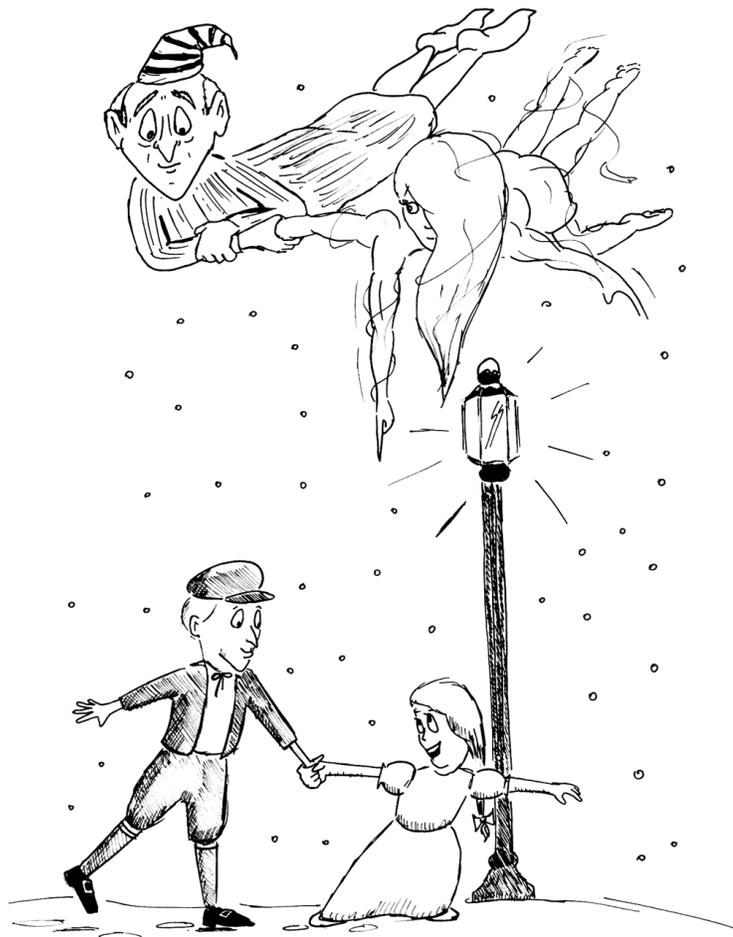
Many more scenes and memories from Scrooge’s past flashed before him. Then Scrooge said, “I wish... but its too late now.”

“What is the matter?” asked the Spirit.

“Nothing,” said Scrooge. “Nothing. There was a boy singing a Christmas Carol at my door last night. I should like to have given him something: that’s all.”

The Ghost smiled thoughtfully, and waved his hand: saying as it did so, “Let us see another Christmas!”

Scrooge’s former self grew larger at the words, and the room became a little darker and more dirty. The panels shrank, the windows cracked; fragments of plaster fell out of the ceiling, and the naked laths were shown instead; but how all this was brought about, Scrooge knew no more than you do. He only knew that it was quite correct; that everything had happened so; that there he was, alone again, when all the other boys had gone home for the jolly holidays. He was not reading now, but walking up and down despairingly. Scrooge looked at the Ghost, and with a mournful shaking of his head, glanced anxiously towards the door.



# A Christmas Carol

It opened; and a little girl, much younger than the boy, came darting in, and putting her arms about his neck, and often kissing him, addressed him as her “Dear, dear brother.”

“I have come to bring you home, dear brother!” said the child, clapping her tiny hands, and bending down to laugh. “To bring you home, home, home!”

“Home, little Fan?” returned the boy.

“Yes!” said the child, brimful of glee. “Home, for good and all. Home, for ever and ever. Father is so much kinder than he used to be, that home’s like Heaven! He spoke so gently to me one dear night when I was going to bed, that I was not afraid to ask him once more if you might come home; and he said Yes, you should; and sent me in a coach to bring you. And you’re to be a man!” said the child, opening her eyes, “and are never to come back here; but first, we’re to be together all the Christmas long, and have the merriest time in all the world.”

“You are quite a woman, little Fan!” exclaimed the boy.

She clapped her hands and laughed, and tried to touch his head; but being too little, laughed again, and stood on tip-toe to embrace him. Then she began to drag him, in her childish eagerness, towards the door; and he rejoiced at going.

“Always a delicate creature, whom a breath might have withered,” said the Ghost. “But she had a large heart!”

“So she had,” cried Scrooge. “You’re right. I’ll not deny it, Spirit. God forbid!”

“She died a woman,” said the Ghost, “and had, as I think, children.”

“One child,” Scrooge returned.

“True,” said the Ghost. “Your nephew!”

Scrooge seemed uneasy in his mind; and answered briefly, “Yes.”

Although they had but that moment left the school behind them, they were now in the busy thoroughfares of a city, where shadowy passengers passed and repassed....

*A Note Home:*

*Today your child learned about sin, evil, and temptation by examining Jesus’ first temptation in the desert. We continued reading A Christmas Carol. The scripture reading was Mathew 4:1-11.*