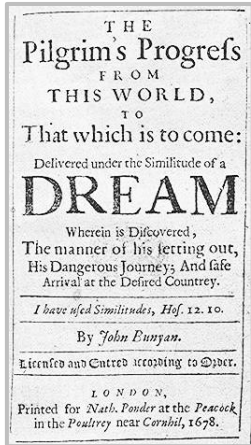


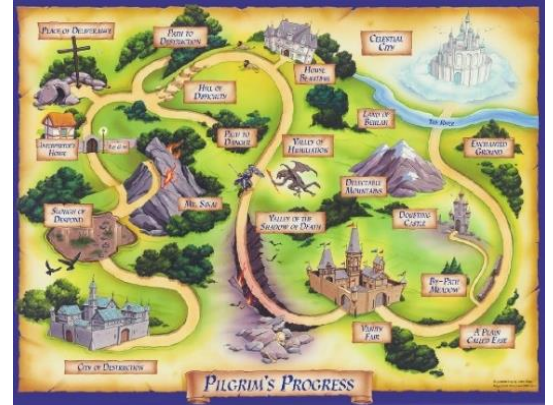
# Adventure Club

A weekly lesson for children, young people, parents and grandparents, from the GCI Watford Church.  
Number 22, 21st August 2020



## Pilgrim's Progress

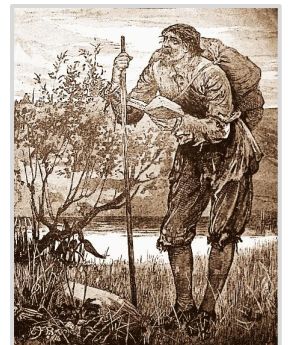
*Pilgrim's Progress* is regarded as one of the most significant works of religious fiction in English literature. It has been translated into more than 200 languages and has never been out of print. At times it was the world's best seller (apart from the Bible). Its full title is: *The Pilgrim's Progress from This World, to That Which Is to Come*. The book was written by John Bunyan. It was first published in 1678 (see the original title page, left). The main character in the



book is a man called Christian. The other characters live out their spiritually descriptive names. The story starts in Christian's home town called the *City of Destruction*. He then journeys to the *Slough of Despond*, *Mt Sinai*, the *Wicket Gate* and the *Interpreter's House*. He learns at the *Place of Delivery* that nothing can remove his burden (of sin) except the cross of Christ. Christian then travels up the *Hill of Difficulty*, to the *House Beautiful*, the *Valley of Humiliation*, the *Valley of the Shadow of Death*, *Vanity Fair*, *A Plain Called Ease*, *Doubting Castle*, the *Delectable Mountains*, the *Enchanted Ground* and the *Land of Beulah*. The journey ends in the *Celestial City* (see above map). Along parts of his journey he is accompanied by two friends, firstly Faithful and then Hopeful. The book is a masterpiece. It can have a tremendous effect on those who read it. The scriptures used below are all John Bunyan's. Some of the 17<sup>th</sup>-century language and grammar have been kept. I suggest you read the whole book. Below are some edited and summarised sections from the beginning of *Pilgrim's Progress*.

As I walked through the wilderness of this world, I lighted on a certain place where there was a den, and I laid myself down in that place to sleep, and as I slept, I dreamed a dream. I dreamed, and behold, I saw a man clothed with rags, standing in a certain place, with his face from his own house, a book in his hand, and a great burden upon his back. Isa. 64:6; Luke 14:33; Ps. 38:4. I looked and saw him open the book, and read therein, and as he read, he wept and trembled, and then broke out with a lamentable cry, saying: "What shall I do?" Acts 2:37.

In this plight, therefore, he went home, and restrained himself as long as he could, that his wife and children should not perceive his distress, but he could not be silent long, because his trouble increased. Wherefore at length he broke his mind to his wife and children, and thus he began to talk to them: "O, my dear wife," said he, "and you my dear children, I, your dear friend, am in myself undone by reason of a burden that lies heavy upon me, moreover, I am certainly informed that this our city will be burnt with fire from heaven and that all of us will be ruined unless we can find some way of escape, the which I don't yet see." At this his family were sore amazed, not



that they believed what he had said to them was true, but because they thought that some frenzy madness had got into his head, therefore, it drawing towards night, and they hoping that sleep might settle his brains, with all haste they got him to bed. But the night was as troublesome to him as the day, wherefore, instead of sleeping, he spent it in sighs and tears. So, when the morning was come, they would discover how he did. He told them: "worse and worse". He also set to talking to them again, but they began to be hardened and lose patience with him. They also thought to drive away his madness by being harsh to him, sometimes they would deride, sometimes they would chide, and sometimes they would quite neglect him. Wherefore he began to retire himself to his bedroom to pray for and pity them, and also to condole his own misery. He would also walk solitarily in the fields, sometimes reading, and sometimes praying, and thus for some days he spent his time. Now I saw, upon a time, when he was walking in the fields, that he was (as he was wont) reading in his book, and greatly distressed in his mind, and as he read, he burst out, as he had done before, crying: "What shall I do to be saved?" Acts 16:30, 31.

I saw also that he looked this way, and that way, as if he would run, yet he stood still because (as I perceived) he could not tell which way to go. I looked then, and saw a man named Evangelist coming to him, and he asked: "Wherefore do you cry?"



He answered: "Sir, I perceive, by the book in my hand, that I am condemned to die, and after that to come to judgment." Heb. 9:27. . . . Then said Evangelist: "If this be your condition, why stand you still?" He answered: "Because I don't know where to go." Then he gave him a parchment roll, and there was written within it: "Flee from the wrath to come". Matt. 3:7. The man therefore read it, and looking upon Evangelist very carefully, said: "Where must I flee?" Then said Evangelist (pointing with his finger over a very wide field): "Do you see yonder wicket-gate?" Matt. 7:13-14. The man said: "No." Then said the other: "Do you see yonder shining light?" Ps. 119:105; 2 Pet. 1:19. He said: "I think I

do." Then said Evangelist: "Keep that light in your eye, and go up directly thereto, so shall you see the gate, at which, when you knock, it shall be told you what you should do." So, I saw in my dream that the man began to run. Now he had not run far from his own door when his wife and children, perceiving it, began to cry after him to return, but the man put his fingers in his ears and ran on, Luke 14:26, crying: "Life! life! eternal life!". So, he looked not behind him, Gen. 19:17, but fled towards the middle of the plain.



The neighbours also came out to see him run, Jer. 20:10, and as he ran, some mocked, others threatened, and some cried after him to return, and among those that did so, there were two that were resolved to fetch him back by force. The name of the one was Obstinate, and the name of the other Pliable. Now by this time the man was a good distance from them, however, they were resolved to pursue him, which they did, and in a little time they caught him up. Then said the man: "Neighbours, why are you come?" They said: "To persuade you to come back with us." But he said: "That can by no means be, you dwell," said he, "in the *City of Destruction* so, good neighbours, be content and join me on my journey."

**Obstinate:** "What", said Obstinate, "and leave our friends and our comforts behind us!"

**Christian:** "Yes", said Christian (for that was his name), "because all which you forsake is not worthy to be compared with a little of that I am seeking to enjoy, 2 Cor. 4:18, and if you will go along with me, and hold fast to it, you shall fare as I myself, for where I go, there is enough space and to spare. Luke 15:17. Come and prove my words."

**Obstinate:** "What are the things you seek, since you leave all the world to find them?"

**Christian:** "I seek an inheritance incorruptible, undefiled, and that fades not away, 1 Peter 1:4, and it is laid up in heaven, and safe there, Heb. 11:16, to be bestowed, at the time appointed, on them that diligently seek it. Read it so, if you will, in my book."

**Obstinate:** "Tush", said Obstinate, "away with your book, will you come back with us or not?"



**Christian:** "No, not I, because I have laid my hand to the plough and will not look back." Luke 9:62.

**Obstinate:** "Come then, neighbour Pliable, let us turn again, and go home without him. There are a whole load of these crazy-headed lunatics, that when they get an idea into their heads, they think they're wiser than everybody else."

**Pliable:** "There's no need to be insulting Obstinate, if what the good Christian says is true, the things he is seeking are better than ours, my heart inclines to go with my neighbour."

**Obstinate:** "What, more fools still! Be ruled by me, and come back, who knows where such a brain-sick fellow will lead you? Come back, come back, and be wise."

**Christian:** "No Obstinate. Why don't you come with your neighbour Pliable? There are such things to be had which I spoke of, and many more glories besides. If you don't believe me, read it here in this book. For the truth of what is written in it is confirmed by the blood of Him who made it." Heb. 9:17-21.

**Pliable:** "Well, neighbour Obstinate", said Pliable, "I've decided to go along with this good man, and to cast in my lot with him." Then he asked Christian: "My good companion, do you know the way to this desired place?"

**Christian:** "I am directed by a man whose name is Evangelist, to go to a little gate that is before us, where we shall receive instructions about the way."

**Pliable:** "Come then, good neighbour, let us be going."

**Obstinate:** "And I will go back to my place", said Obstinate: "I will be no companion of such misguided, fantastical fellows."

Now I saw in my dream, that when Obstinate was gone back, Christian and Pliable continued talking together over the plain.

**Pliable:** "Come, neighbour Christian, since there are none but us two here, tell me further about where we are going."





**Christian:** "I can better conceive of them with my mind, than speak of them with my tongue, but yet, since you are desirous to know, I will read of them in my book."

**Pliable:** "And do you think that the words of your book are certainly true?"

**Christian:** "Yes, truly, for it was made by Him that cannot lie." Titus 1:2.

**Pliable:** "Well said, what things are they?"

**Christian:** "There is an endless kingdom to be inhabited, and everlasting life to be given us, that we may inhabit that kingdom for ever." Isa. 65:17; John 10: 27-29.

**Pliable:** "Well said, and what else?"

**Christian:** "There are crowns of glory to be given us; and garments that will make us shine like the sun in the firmament of heaven." 2 Tim. 4:8; Rev. 22:5; Matt. 13:43.

**Pliable:** "This is very pleasant, and what else?"

**Christian:** "There shall be no more crying, nor sorrow, for He that is Owner of the place will wipe all tears from our eyes." Isa. 25:8; Rev. 7:16-17; 21:4.

**Pliable:** "And what company shall we have there?"

**Christian:** "There we shall be with angels, Isa. 6:2; 1 Thess. 4:16, 17; Rev. 5:11, and living creatures that will dazzle your eyes to look on them. There also you shall meet with thousands and ten thousands that have gone before us to that place, none of them are hurtful, but loving and holy, every one walking in the sight of God, and standing in His presence with acceptance for ever. In a word, there we shall see the elders with their golden crowns, Rev. 4:4, there we shall see those who are pure, Rev. 14:1-5; there we shall see men, that by the world were cut in pieces, burnt in flames, eaten of beasts, drowned in the seas, for the love they bare to the Lord of the place, John 12:25, all well, and clothed with immortality as with a garment." 2 Cor. 5:2.

**Pliable:** "The hearing of this is enough to ravish one's heart. But can we enjoy these things? How can we get to share it?"

**Christian:** "The Lord, the Governor of the country, has recorded that in this book, Isa. 55:1-2; John 6:37; 7:37; Rev. 21:6; 22:17, that if we are truly willing to have it, He will bestow it upon us freely."

**Pliable:** "Well, my good companion, I'm very glad to hear of these things. Come on, let's go quicker."

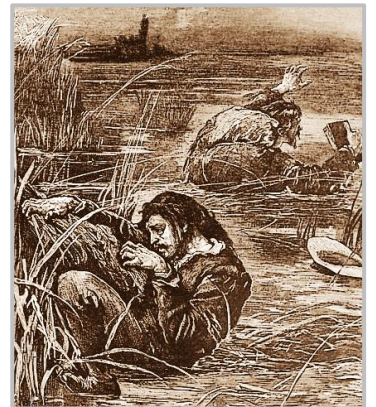
**Christian:** "I cannot go as fast as I'd like, by reason of this burden that is on my back."

Now I saw in my dream, that just as they had ended this talk, they drew near to a very miry slough that was in the midst of the plain, and they, not noticing, did both fall suddenly into the bog. The name of the slough was *Despond*. Here they wallowed for a time, being grievously bedaubed with the dirt, and Christian, because of the burden that was on his back, began to sink in the mire.

**Pliable:** Then said Pliable: "Ah, neighbour Christian, where are we now?"

**Christian:** "Truly," said Christian, "I don't know."

**Pliable:** At that Pliable began to be offended, and angrily said to his fellow: "Is this the happiness you have told me all this while of? If we have such ill speed at our first setting out, what may we expect later on?"



And with that he gave a desperate struggle or two, and got out of the mire, on that side of the slough which was nearest to his own house. So away he went, and Christian saw him no more. Wherefore Christian was left to tumble in the *Slough of*



*Despond* alone, but still he endeavoured to struggle to that side of the slough that was farthest from his own house, and nearest to the wicket-gate, the which he did, but could not get out because of the burden that was upon his back. However, I beheld in my dream, that a man came to him, whose name was Help, and asked him what he was doing in there?

**Christian:** "Sir," said Christian, "I was told to go this way by a man called Evangelist, who directed me also to yonder gate, that I might escape the wrath to come, and on my way, I fell in here."

**Help:** "You should have used the stepping stones." Then, said he: "Give me your hand". So he gave him his hand, and he drew him out, Ps. 40:2, and he set him upon firm ground, and bid him to continue on his way. . . ."

Now as Christian was walking solitary by himself, he spotted someone crossing over the field to meet him. The gentleman's name was Mr Worldly Wiseman. He dwelt in the town of Carnal Policy, a very great town.

**Mr Worldly Wiseman:** "Hello my good fellow, where are you going so laden down? Will you listen to me, if I give you counsel?"

**Christian:** "Laden down indeed. Yes, I stand in need of good counsel."

**Mr Worldly Wiseman:** “I would advise you, then, that you with all speed get yourself rid of your burden, for you will never be settled in your mind till then, nor can you enjoy the benefits of the blessings which God has bestowed upon you till then.”

**Christian:** “That is what I seek for, even to be rid of this heavy burden, but get it off myself I cannot, nor is there any man in our country that can take it off my shoulders, therefore I’m going this way, as I told you, that I may be rid of my burden.”

**Mr Worldly Wiseman:** “Who told you to go this way to be rid of your burden?”

**Christian:** “A man that appeared to me to be a very great and honourable person. His name, as I remember, is Evangelist.”

**Mr Worldly Wiseman:** “I curse him for his counsel! There is not a more dangerous and troublesome way in the world than that into which he has directed you, and that you shall find, if you will be ruled by his counsel. You have met with something, as I perceive, already, for I see the dirt of the *Slough of Despond* is upon you, but that slough is the beginning of the sorrows that do attend those that go on in that way. Hear me as I’m older than you. You are likely to meet with, in the way which you are going, wearisomeness, painfulness, hunger, perils, nakedness, sword, lions, dragons, darkness, and, in a word, death, and what not. These things are certainly true, having been confirmed by many testimonies. Should a man so carelessly cast away himself, by listening to a stranger?”

**Christian:** “Why, sir, this burden on my back is more terrible to me than are all these things which you have mentioned. I don’t care what I meet with along the way, if so be I can also meet with deliverance from my burden.”

**Mr Worldly Wiseman:** “How did you get your burden in the first place?”

**Christian:** “By reading this book in my hand.”

**Mr Worldly Wiseman:** “I thought so, and it has happened unto you as to other weak men, who, meddling with things too high for them, do suddenly fall into your distractions, which not only unman men, as I perceive has happened to you, but encourage desperate ventures, to obtain they know not what.”

**Christian:** “I know what I would obtain, it is ease from my heavy burden.”

**Mr Worldly Wiseman:** “But why will you seek for ease this way, seeing so many dangers attend it? especially since I could direct you to the obtaining of what you desire, without the dangers that you will run into on the path you are currently on. Instead of dangers you will meet with safety, friendship and content.”

**Christian:** “Sir, I pray open this secret to me.”

**Mr Worldly Wiseman:** “Why, in yonder village (the village is named Morality) there dwells a gentleman whose name is Legality, a very judicious man, and a man of a very good name, that has skill to help men off with burdens such as yours. He has done a great deal of good this way, aye, and besides, he has skill to cure those that are somewhat crazed in their wits with their burdens. To him, as I said, you may go, and be helped. If he is not in when you call, his son who is called Civility will help you. Moreover, if you wish, there are houses standing empty in the village, all at reasonable rates. The food is cheap and good and you can send for your wife and family and all live happily together.”

Christian, unfortunately, was all too ready to listen and follow Mr Worldly Wiseman’s advice, who had courteously turned poor Christian to go up the wrong road. For what he had failed to tell him was the hill on this road ahead was actually a fearsome mountain. It seemed to overhang the road so much so that Christian was afraid that it would fall upon him. Worse than that, there were flashes of fire coming out of it and Christian, because of his burden, might easily have fallen, and thus early in his journey been burnt to death. Wherefore did he quake and fear. At the moment who should appear, but Evangelist!

**Evangelist:** “Aren’t you the man I found weeping outside the *City of Destruction*? How is it then that you’ve so quickly turned aside? Now give earnest heed to the things that I shall tell you of. I will explain who it was that deluded you, and also who it was to whom he sent you. The man that met you is one Worldly Wiseman, and rightly is he so called, partly because he savours only the doctrine of this world, 1 John 4:5, (therefore he always goes to the town of Morality to church) and partly



because he loves that doctrine best, for it saves him best from the cross, Gal. 6:12, and because he is of this carnal nature, therefore he seeks to pervert my ways, despite the fact that they are right. Now there are three things in this man’s counsel that you must utterly abhor. 1. His turning you out of the way. 2. His labouring to render the cross odious to you. 3. And his setting your feet in that way that leads unto the administration of death. Also, Worldly Wiseman was sending you to Legality, who is not able to set you free from your burden. You cannot be justified by the works of the law, for no one can get rid of their burden by the deeds of the law. So Worldly Wiseman is an alien, Legality is a cheat and his son Civility is a hypocrite. They can’t help you. Believe me, there is nothing in anything you’ve heard except a plot to turn you away from the right path.”

Christian then called himself a thousand fools for listening to Mr Worldly Wiseman. Then continuing his journey, Christian arrived at the wicket-gate. Now, over the gate there was





written: "Knock, and it shall be opened unto you." Matt. 7:7. So Christian knocked and a person came to the gate, named Goodwill, who asked who was there, where they came from and where they were going.

**Christian:** "Here is a poor burdened sinner. I come from the *City of Destruction*, and am going to *Mount Zion* (another name for the *Celestial City*), that I may be delivered from the wrath to come. I would therefore, sir, since I am informed that by this gate is the way forward, know if you are willing to let me in."

**Goodwill:** "I am willing with all my heart," said he, and with that he opened the gate. So when Christian was stepping in, the other gave him a sharp pull. Then said Christian: "What did you do that for?" The other told him: "A little distance from this gate there is erected a strong castle, of which Beelzebub is the captain, from where both he and they that are with him, shoot arrows at those that come up to this gate to try and kill them before they can enter in." Then said Christian: "I rejoice and tremble." So when he was in, the man of the gate asked him who had directed him there.

**Christian:** "Evangelist bid me come here and knock, as I did, and he said, that you, sir, would tell me what I must do."

**Goodwill:** "An open door is set before you, and no man can shut it."

**Christian:** "Now I begin to reap the benefits of my hazardous journey."

**Goodwill:** "Good Christian, I will now teach you about the way you must go. Look before you, do you see this narrow way? That is the way you must go. It was set up by the patriarchs, prophets, Christ, and his apostles, and it is as straight as a rule can make it, this is the way you must go."

**Christian:** "But", said Christian, "are there no turnings nor windings, by which a stranger may lose his way?"

**Goodwill:** "Yes, they are crooked and wide, but in this way you may distinguish the right from the wrong, the right only being straight and narrow." Matt. 7:14.



Then I saw in my dream, that Christian asked him further, if he could not help him off with his burden that was upon his back. For as yet he had not got rid of it, nor could he by any means get it off without help. Goodwill told him: "As to your burden, be content to bear it until you come to the *Place of Deliverance*, for there it will fall from off your back."



Now I saw in my dream, that the highway up which Christian was to go, was fenced on either side with a wall, and that wall was called Salvation. Isa. 26:1. Up this way, therefore, did burdened Christian run, but not without great difficulty, because of the load on his back. He ran thus till he came at a place somewhat ascending, and upon that place stood a cross, and a little below, in the bottom, a tomb. So I saw in my dream, that just as Christian came up to the cross, his burden loosed from off his shoulders, and fell from off his back, and began to tumble, and so continued to do until it came to the mouth of the tomb, where it fell in, and I saw it no more. Then was Christian glad and lightsome, and said with a merry heart: "He has given me rest through his sorrow, and life through his death". Then he stood still a while, to look and wonder;

for it was very surprising to him that the sight of the cross should thus ease him of his burden. He looked, therefore, and looked again, even till the springs that were in his head sent the waters down his cheeks. Zech. 12:10.

Now as he stood looking and weeping, behold, three Shining Ones came to him, and saluted him with: "Peace be to you". So the first said to him: "Your sins are forgiven you". Mark 2:5. The second stripped him of his rags, and clothed him with change of raiment. Zech. 3:4. The third also set a mark on his forehead, Eph. 1:13, and gave him a roll with a seal upon it, which he encouraged him to look on as he ran, and that he should give it in at the celestial gate; so they went their way. Then Christian gave three leaps for joy. . . .

.....

'Next to the Bible, the book I value most is John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*. I believe I have read it through at least a hundred times. It is a volume of which I never seem to tire; and the secret of its freshness is that it is so largely compiled from the Scriptures. It is really Biblical teaching put into the form of a simple yet very striking allegory.'

Charles Haddon Spurgeon

.....

See if you can memorize some, or all, of these words:

'These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.'

Hebrews 11:13, NKJV

# The Hymn He Who Would Valiant Be

He who would valiant be 'gainst all disaster, let him in constancy follow the Master. There's no discouragement shall make him once relent his first avowed intent to be a pilgrim.

Who so beset him round with dismal stories do but themselves confound his strength the more is. No foes shall stay his might; though he with giants fight, he will make good his right to be a pilgrim.

Since, Lord, thou dost defend us with thy Spirit, we know we at the end, shall life inherit. Then fancies flee away! I'll fear not what men say, I'll labour night and day to be a pilgrim.



## Word Search

PILGRIMS PROGRESS  
JOHN DESTRUCTION  
BUNYAN CELESTIAL  
CITY EVANGELIST  
SLOUGH OBSTINATE  
DESPOND GOODWILL  
WICKET CHRISTIAN  
GATE LEGALITY  
WORLDLY CIVILITY  
WISEMAN VALIANT  
PLIABLE BURDEN  
STRAIGHT NARROW  
HELP FAITHFUL  
KNOCK HOPEFUL

C	Y	J	J	N	A	I	T	S	I	R	H	C	B	Y
H	J	T	O	O	Y	A	L	N	B	P	C	E	U	T
R	O	J	I	N	H	L	E	D	L	E	V	F	N	I
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H	D	D	F	A	P	E	T	A	N	I	T	S	B	O

The following pictures are courtesy of: Evangelist pointing the way: **WordPress**. Christian holding white stick: **Pinterest, WordPress**. Help helping Christian out of the slough: **Pinterest, WordPress**. Map of Christian's journey: **Pinterest, WordPress**. Christian's burden falling off at the cross: **Douglas Ramsey, WordPress, Pinterest**.

..... (Pictures/illustrations not mentioned above are believed to be all in the Public Domain.) .....

Any questions, etc, please contact the UK GCI Watford Church Council  
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