

HYMNS, OUR CHRISTIAN HERITAGE

LESSON 17 Upper Level – Jesus, What a Friend for Sinners

PACING: 1 day

ESSENTIAL QUESTION, BIG IDEA, and STANDARDS: See Introduction to *Hymns, Our Christian Heritage*.

CONCEPT: Christian hymns are a cherished and valuable legacy, expressing the emotions and experiences of God's people through many centuries.

OBJECTIVES: Learn the text and tune of an important hymn of faith. Interpret the spiritual meaning of the hymn. Understand and communicate important facts about the life of the author of the words and/or the composer of the music.

VOCABULARY: hymn, hymn writer, hymnal, text, tune, composer, verse, stanza

RESOURCES: Links to performances of the hymn "Jesus, What a Friend for Sinners" (none have both text and tune as they are used in our hymnal)

- ✓ Matthew Smith, tune is HYFRYDOL (3:39), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t24uLvayvsM>
 - ✓ Mixed choir, tune is HYFRYDOL(4:06), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QdtAtC99rH0>
 - ✓ Gaither Quartet, *a cappella*, tune is HYFRYDOL (4:16), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1bzJNfRJC-E>
 - ✓ Orchestral arrangement, tune is HYFRYDOL (4:22), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4BCmkoFx2O8>
 - ✓ Mountain dulcimer, HOLY MANNA (1:56), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4BNi-Nyaqol>
 - ✓ Bluegrass band, HOLY MANNA with text "Brethren, We Have Met to Worship" (3:00), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=unGEf6RUPPI>
 - ✓ Mormon Tabernacle Men's Chorus, HOLY MANNA with text "Brethren, We Have Met to Worship" (3:51), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IFmtO4-oogQ>
 - ✓ The Collingsworth Family, HOLY MANNA tune with text "Brethren, We Have Met to Worship" (3:48), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xt3rZxuUgZc>
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ACTIVITIES:

- ✓ Either give each student a printed copy of the hymn, display the hymn for the class electronically or have the students find the hymn "Jesus, What a Friend for Sinners" (#187) in the *Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal*.
- ✓ Read the words through together. Discuss what the words mean. Review the meaning of specific words and phrases to clarify the students' understanding: *assail*, *billows*, etc.
- ✓ Play a recording of the hymn for the students. (See links above)
- ✓ Use discussion questions found in the Introduction to *Hymns, Our Christian Heritage*.
- ✓ Sing the hymn together. Discuss its form, melody and rhythm. Note how many *verses* or *stanzas* it has. Does it have a Refrain?
- ✓ Read or tell the story of J. Wilbur Chapman who wrote the words of this hymn, using the biographical sketch found in this lesson.
- ✓ This hymn was written by a man who traveled all over the world to tell people about Jesus. What was international travel like in the early 1900s? How long do you think it would take to travel between some of the cities he preached in—in one trip, Vancouver, British Columbia, to Australia, Philippines, China, Korea and Japan?
- ✓ Imagine going to a large hall holding ten thousand, twenty thousand, or thirty thousand people. Imagine speaking to those people—without microphones. Imagine that the people in that huge crowd heard you from every corner of the hall. How could that happen?
- ✓ During Chapman's final years as an evangelist, the world was torn apart by World War I. How do you think that affected his meetings in other countries? Although the war ended on November 11, 1918, not long before his

death, the deadliest influenza pandemic in modern history occurred in 1918-1919. It infected an estimated 500 million people worldwide and killed between 20-50 million people. What else can you learn about the times in which he lived that might have influenced people spiritually?

- ✓ Review the story by completing the Lesson 17 Review.
- ✓ Sing the hymn, focusing on its expressive qualities and memorization of at least the first stanza.
- ✓ Choose a venue to perform the hymn. If no opportunity is found for a performance at the school, church or other community event, consider videotaping a performance for future use.
- ✓ Create posters for a bulletin board display featuring aspects of the hymn story or the words of the hymn in a calligraphic style with hand-drawn illustrations.
- ✓ Use activities found in the Introduction to *Hymns, Our Christian Heritage*.
- ✓ EXTENSION ACTIVITIES:
 - Create a choral reading of the hymn.
 - Create a special arrangement of the hymn, utilizing vocal or instrumental solos or ensembles, etc.
 - Create a skit telling the story of the hymn writer or the circumstances under which the hymn was written. This may be presented to the younger students in a worship or at Sabbath School or church.

ASSESSMENT:

There is a Lesson 17 UL Review included. Also, any of the following assessments may be used: teacher observation, discussion, performance, teacher-created worksheets.

ANSWER KEY: (9 points) "Jesus, What a Friend for Sinners"

1. C
2. A
3. C
4. A
5. D
6. False
7. False
8. True
9. B

Jesus, What a Friend for Sinners

John Wilbur Chapman (1859-1918)

Born in Indiana, Wilbur Chapman grew up attending a Quaker school during the week and the Methodist Church for Sunday School. His mother died when he was 13. At age 17, he joined the Richmond Presbyterian Church. He earned a college degree, went to the seminary and was ordained to the gospel ministry at the age of 22. (He later was awarded the Doctor of Divinity degree.)



His happiness at having a daughter, Bertha, with his beloved wife, Irene, was shattered when Irene died less than a month after childbirth. That summer he was experiencing deep discouragement when he heard a preacher say, "If you are not willing to give up everything for Christ, are you willing to be made willing?" Chapman said, "That remark changed my whole ministry; it seemed like a new star in the sky of my life."

Chapman married his second wife, Agnes, a couple of years later and they had four children, one who died in infancy. When Agnes died in 1907, they had been married nearly twenty years and most of those years Chapman had served as a pastor.

After being inspired by the great evangelist Dwight L. Moody, Mr. Chapman left the pastoral ministry and became an evangelist, conducting large campaigns around the world. He teamed up with world-famous gospel singer Charles Alexander for the next ten years.

In 1904, they went to Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. They divided the city up into nine districts and with 17 evangelists they held meetings simultaneously around the city. Seven thousand conversions were reported.

The next big campaign was in Philadelphia in 1908. They divided the city up into 42 sections covered by 21 evangelist-musician teams. After three weeks of "King's Business" meetings in each half of the city, they reported 8,000 conversions. There were 35,000 in attendance nightly.

In early 1909, the mass campaign was in Boston. They divided the city into 27 districts and 166 churches were participating. In each district, there were two services held each day. In addition, there was a special talk each day for children, a Sunday afternoon meeting for men only, meetings for mothers, young folks and old folks, and parents. Chapman had special meetings for drunks, university students, actors, prostitutes, office workers and shop girls. Nearly a thousand services were held in Boston during the three-week campaign. Total attendance was estimated at 720,000 with 7,000 conversions recorded.

In March 1909, Chapman and Alexander began a worldwide campaign that didn't end until November 1909. That trip began in Vancouver, British Columbia. Over the next ten months, they held evangelistic meetings in

- Australia, eight cities
- Philippines, Manila
- China, seven cities
- Korea, Seoul
- Japan, four cities

They regularly had crowds of 10,000 people to whom they sang and spoke without benefit of microphones and amplifiers. In many places, Wilbur Chapman gave three to five sermons a day. It was estimated at that time that Chapman had given 50,000 sermons to at least 60 million people. Up to that time, no one had evangelized in as many nations as Chapman and Alexander.

In 1910, Chapman married Mabel Cornelia Moulton. He also wrote the hymn "Our Great Savior," which we know as "Jesus, What a Friend for Sinners." It was paired with the tune HYFRYDOL.

The Chapman-Alexander team continued their involvement in large meeting revivals, but their approach slowly lost support. They continued to give meetings, however, traveling to Australia, Scotland, Ireland, India, New Zealand and the United States. Their final campaign was in early 1918.

Chapman was not yet 60 years old, yet the strenuous lifestyle had taken its toll on him. Over his last 15 years, he suffered many breakdowns in his health, but near the end of 1918, he had to undergo an emergency gall stone surgery. He did not recover from the surgery and died on Christmas Day 1918 at the age of 59.

The hymn for which we know Wilbur Chapman is set in the *Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal* to HOLY MANNA, a very popular tune that was first printed in Tennessee.

Student Name:

Hymns, Our Christian Heritage Lesson 17 UL - Review

Score:

9

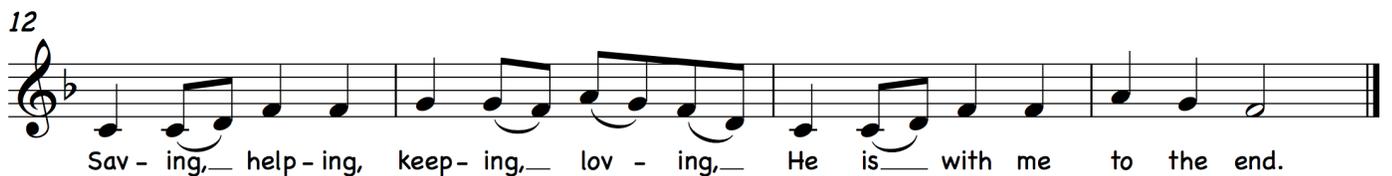
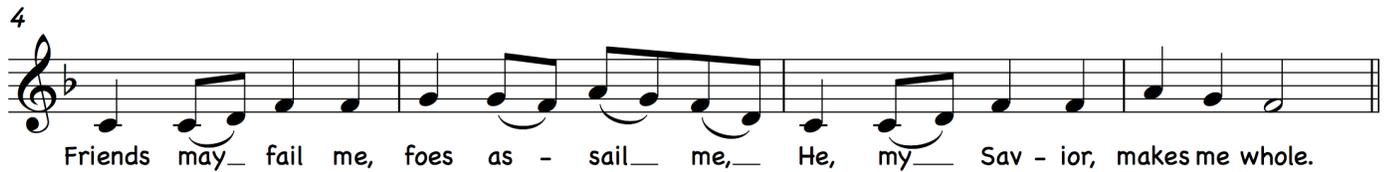
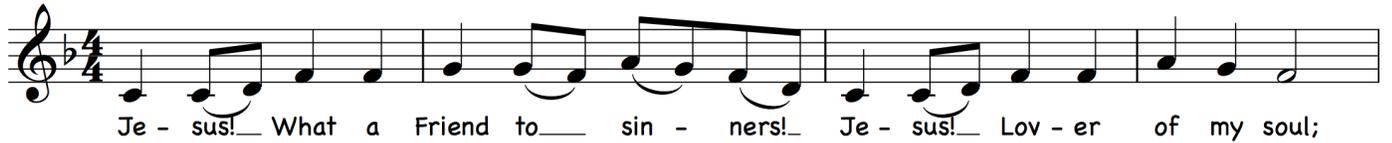
“Jesus, What a Friend for Sinners” Text by J. Wilbur Chapman

1. J. Wilbur Chapman attended a school operated by whom?
 - a. Baptists
 - b. Catholics
 - c. Quakers
2. Although Wilbur attended a Methodist church as a lad, he eventually joined what church?
 - a. Presbyterian
 - b. Lutheran
 - c. Adventist
3. What happened in Wilbur’s life that caused him great sadness and discouragement?
 - a. He began going blind
 - b. He lost his job as a pastor
 - c. His wife died after childbirth
4. After serving as a pastor for nearly 20 years, what change did Wilbur Chapman make in his career?
 - a. He became an evangelist, traveling around giving revival meetings
 - b. He and his second wife had four children
 - c. He began singing at his meetings
5. With his musician friend and ministry partner, Charles Alexander, Chapman
 - a. Had a huge campaign in Philadelphia
 - b. Had a huge campaign in Boston
 - c. Had a huge campaign in Baltimore
 - d. Both A & B
 - e. A, B, & C
6. True or False. Chapman and Alexander were only able to speak and sing for crowds of 10,000 people because of the excellent sound systems.
7. True or False. By 1910, it is estimated that Chapman had preached 50,000 sermons to 20 million people.
8. True or False. “Jesus, What a Friend for Sinners” was originally known as “Our Great Savior.”
9. At the age of 59, Chapman died after
 - a. Having a heart attack
 - b. Having surgery for gall stones
 - c. Having a nervous breakdown

Jesus, What a Friend for Sinners

J. Wilbur Chapman, 1910

HOLY MANNA



2. Jesus! what a Strength for weakness! Let me hide myself in Him;
Tempted, tried, and sometimes failing, He, my Strength, my vict'ry wins.
REFRAIN.

3. Jesus! what a Help in sorrow! While the billows o'er me roll;
Even when my heart is breaking, He my Comfort, helps my soul.
REFRAIN.

4. Jesus! I do now receive Him, More than all in Him I find,
He hath granted me forgiveness, I am His, and He is mine.
REFRAIN.