

First Reading Book

FOR

Schools and Families.

“Suffer the little children to come unto me, and
forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom
of God.”

The Words of Jesus. Mark x. 14.

LONDON :

G. MORRISH, 20, PATERNOSTER SQUARE, E.C. 4.

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P R E F A C E.

As this book has not been composed for spelling, but for reading and instruction, the writer has not limited himself to words of three letters in the first pages, but simply to words of one syllable. The fact is, that reading is not really learnt by means of spelling, but by familiarity with the form of the word and the sound given to it. Spelling should be a separate exercise from reading, for correct spelling belongs more to the art of writing. Let the teacher endeavour to fix the scholar's attention on the form of the word, giving him the sound of it; then he will find him in a short time making easy and rapid progress without the tedious mode of spelling every word. The above principle also allows of the introduction of more advanced reading in the same book. Children learn to read much faster than they get understanding. It is the parent's and teacher's office to seek to exercise the intelligence of the child by explanations.

The instructions in this book are not given so fully as they would be if the sole object had been to explain truth; therefore the teacher must supply the lack in this, and by questioning, and explaining, and illustrating in a simple way, impress on the young minds the truths of the word of God, which are here but briefly touched upon.

May all who teach the young remember that it is for eternity they labour, and be led to teach with the high aim of leading sinners to Jesus, that they may have eternal life. Above all, forget not that it is only in dependence upon the Lord, who alone can by His Holy Spirit quicken the soul, that any should engage in this blessed work.

FIRST READING BOOK.

a b c d e f g

h i j k l m n

o p q r s t

u v w x y z



A B C D E F G

H I J K L M N

O P Q R S T

U V W X Y Z

PART I

1. God is great. God is good.
2. God is just. God is love.
3. God made the dry land and the sea.
4. He made the sky.
5. He made the sun, and the moon, and the stars.
6. He made the trees.
7. He made man.
8. He made all that we can see.

9. God made all that we
do not see.
10. God made all things
by His word.
11. He said, "Let there be
light," and there was
light.
12. He can see all men.
13. No one can be hid from
God.
14. He can hear all we say.
15. He can do as he will.
16. He is near to us all.

17. God made man good.
18. He said all that he
 had made was good.
19. He made Eve to be
 with the man.
20. He told them to eat
 of all the trees but
 one.
21. One tree made man to
 know good and bad.
22. This was the tree that
 man was not to eat
 of.
23. God said man must
 die if he eat of it.

24. Eve took of it and
gave to the man.
25. It was sin to eat what
God said man must
not eat.
26. Man did eat of it.
27. So now sin is in man.
28. Man dies now, for sin
is in him.
29. Sin is in us all, for we
are born from the
first man.
30. Sin in us makes us do
what is bad, and so
we have no love for
God.

31. God will not let sin be near him.
32. No one can be with God till his sin is put from him.
33. To do our own will is sin.
34. To take what is not our own is sin.
35. To say a bad word is sin.
36. You are of an age to know good from bad.
37. You know when you do wrong.

38. Man can in no way
put his sin from him.
39. God gave a law to tell
man what he ought
to be.
40. Man did not keep the
law, for sin was *in*
his heart.
41. The law could not take
sin from man.
42. The law finds out the
sin, and says man
must die.
43. God sent his own Son
to take sin from man.

PART II.

1. Je-sus Christ is the Son of God.
2. Je-sus Christ came from God.
3. Je-sus was very good.
4. He was ne-ver bad.
5. Je-sus was full of love, and was very kind.
6. He took lit-tle chil-dren in-to his arms and bles-sed them.
7. He is glad now when lit-tle chil-dren come to him.
8. Je-sus was once a lit-tle child.
9. He was ne-ver a rude child.
10. He al-ways o-bey-ed his pa-rents.

- 11 When he be-came a man,
he went a-bout do-ing
good.
12. Je-sus al-ways did the will
of God his Fa-ther.
13. There was no sin in him.
14. He ne-ver had a bad thought.
- 15 There was no need for him
to die, for there was no
sin in him.
16. But he did die—he was
nailed to a cross.
17. His side was pierced with
a spear.
18. His blood was shed.
19. It was for our sin that Je-sus
died and shed his blood.
- 20 No-thing but the blood of
Je-sus can take a-way sin.

21. Je-sus was ta-ken from the cross, and put in-to a grave.
22. A large stone was put be-fore the door of the grave.
23. Men with swords were sent to take care that no one broke o-pen the grave.
24. But the an-gel of the Lord came, and took the stone from the door of the grave.
25. The men did shake for fear of him, and wère as if they were dead.
26. But Jesus rose from the dead.
27. He came out of the grave, and left all the grave-clothes be-hind him.

28. Mary and oth-ers, who saw him die, and saw him put in-to the grave, saw him a-live a-gain.
29. Je-sus oft-en talked to those who loved him aft-er he rose from the dead.
30. At last he left them and went up in-to hea-ven.
31. As he was talk-ing to them he was ta-ken up in a cloud.
32. He went and sat down on the right hand of God.
33. Those who saw him as-cend kept look-ing up in-to hea-ven.
34. And two an-gels told them that this same Je-sus would come a-gain.

35. When Je-sus went back to his Fa-ther, God sent his Ho-ly Spi-rit.
36. Je-sus told those who loved him to wait for the Ho-ly Spi-rit.
37. While they were all in one place the Ho-ly Spi-rit came.
38. They then be-gan at once to tell all a-bout Je-sus.
39. They told how he had died and rose a-gain.
40. This made those who heard it think about their sins.
41. It made them cry out and ask, What shall we do?
42. Have you cried out, What shall I do to be saved?

43. The Bi-ble says, Be-lieve on
the Lord Je-sus Christ,
and thou shalt be saved.
44. Till we be-lieve in Je-sus,
we have no-thing but sin
and death in us.
45. Je-sus, the Son of God, has
life.
46. This life will last for ev-er
and ev-er.
47. If we do not get this life,
we shall die, and go in-to
hell, for ev-er and ev-er.
48. We get this life by faith in
Je-sus.
49. If Je-sus had not died, we
could not get this life.
50. But God loved us so much,
that he gave up his Son
for us.

51. He was lift-ed up on the cross and died, that any one who be-lieves on him may live and not die.
52. Some one had to die for our sins, or we must have died for them our-selves.
53. If we die for them, we can-not put them a-way.
54. Our sins will be up-on us in hell for ev-er if we die in them.
55. Je-sus could put a-way sin ; so, when he had put it a-way, he rose from the dead.
56. God takes a-way the sins of all who be-lieve in Je-sus, so that they are clean in his sight.

57. They al-so have e-ter-nal life.
58. All who be-lieve have e-ter-nal life.
59. God says so in his word, and what he says is true.
60. When you have faith in Je-sus, you have life : and you will nev-er go in-to hell.
61. When you have faith in Je-sus, God for-gives all your sins at once.
62. It is very sad to go on in sin, and not be-lieve in Je-sus.
63. All who will not have this e-ter-nal life will be cast in-to the lake of fire.

64. All who have this life will
be with Je-sus in hea-ven
for ev-er.
65. Those who have this life,
and the par-don of their
sins, love God.
66. They love Je-sus.
67. They hate sin.
68. They do not any more like
their old bad ways.
69. They love to do good.
70. They love all who love God.
71. They are kind and gen-tle.
72. They are pa-tient and for-
giv-ing.
73. They serve the liv-ing and
true God.
74. They wait for his Son to
come from hea-ven, to

take them to be with him for ev-er.

75. They love to talk a-bout Je-sus. They try to get oth-ers to know Je-sus, and to be-lieve in him.

76. Dear Read-er, ask your-self, Do I love Je-sus? Do I know that he has died and ris-en a-gain? Do I be-lieve what I have heard a-bout Je-sus?

77. Oh, do not put off this great bless-ing of be-ing saved at once! Je-sus is rea-dy to re-ceive you —God is wil-ling to for-give you. Do not de-lay. God asks you to hear his voice and be-lieve his words “to-day.”

PART III.

PARABLES.

When Je-sus was up-on the earth he of-ten spoke to the peo-ple in par-a-bles, that is, he taught the truth in sim-ple sto-ries.

In the fif-teenth chap-ter of Luke there are three beau-ti-ful par-a-bles that tell us of God's love for poor lost sin-ners.

They tell us how God seeks af-ter the lost ones, how he re-ceives them, and what joy there is in hea-ven when a sin-ner re-turns to God.

The first par-a-ble tells us how Je-sus the good shep-herd seeks the lost one till he finds it, and then car-ries it home.

The se-cond par-a-ble tells us that God, by his Spi-rit, spares no pains in seek-ing ve-ry dil-i-gent-ly till the lost one is found.

The third par-a-ble tells us that God the Fa-ther joy-ful-ly wel-comes the re-turn-ing pro-di-gal, and makes him fit to be in his house as a son.

The fol-low-ing are the three par-a-bles of the *Lost Sheep*, *Lost Piece of Mo-ney*, and the *Pro-di-gal Son*.

¹ Then drew near un-to him all the pub-licans and sin-ners for to hear him. ² And the phar-i-sees and scribes mur-mur-ed, say-ing, This man re-ceiv-eth sin-ners, and eat-eth with them.

³ And he spake this par-a-ble un-to them, say-ing, ⁴ What man of you, hav-ing a hun-dred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the nine-ty and nine in the wil-der-ness, and go af-ter that which is lost, un-til he find it? ⁵ And when he hath found it, he lay-eth it on his shoul-ders, re-joic-ing. ⁶ And when he com-eth home, he call-eth to-ge-ther his friends and neigh-bours, say-ing un-to them, Re-joice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost. ⁷ I say un-to you, that like-wise joy shall be in hea-ven o-ver one sin-ner that re-pent-eth, more than o-ver nine-ty and nine just per-sons, which need no re-pent-ance.

⁸ Either what wo-man hav-ing ten pieces of sil-ver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a can-dle, and sweep the house, and seek dil-i-gent-ly till she find it? ⁹ And when she hath found it, she call-eth her friends and her neigh-bours to-ge-ther, say-

ing, Re-joyce with me ; for I have found the piece which I had lost. ¹⁰ Like-wise, I say un-to you, there is joy in the pre-sence of the an-gels of God o-ver one sin-ner that re-pent-eth.

¹¹ And he said, A certain man had two sons : ¹² And the young-er of them said to his fa-ther, Fa-ther, give me the por-tion of goods that fall-eth to me. And he di-vid-ed un-to them his liv-ing. ¹³ And not many days af-ter the young-er son gath-ered all to-ge-ther, and took his jour-ney in-to a far coun-try, and there wast-ed his sub-stance with ri-ot-ous liv-ing. ¹⁴ And when he had spent all, there a-rose a migh-ty fa-mine in that land ; and he be-gan to be in want. ¹⁵ And he went and joined him-self to a cit-i-zen of that coun-try ; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. ¹⁶ And he would fain have filled his bel-ly with the husks that the swine did eat : and no man gave un-to him. ¹⁷ And when he came to him-self, he said, How ma-ny hired ser-vants of my fa-ther's have bread e-nough and to spare, and I per-ish with hun-ger !
¹⁸ I will a-rise and go to my fa-ther, and will

say un-to him, Fa-ther, I have sin-ned a-gainst hea-ven, and be-fore thee, ¹⁹ and am no more wor-thy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.

²⁰ And he a-rose, and came to his fa-ther. But when he was yet a great way off, his fa-ther saw him, and had com-pas-sion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

²¹ And the son said un-to him, Fa-ther, I have sin-ned a-gainst hea-ven, and in thy sight, and am no more wor-thy to be called thy son. ²² But the fa-ther said to his ser-vants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: ²³ And bring hith-er the fat-ted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be mer-ry: ²⁴ For this my son was dead, and is a-live a-gain; he was lost, and is found.

And they be-gan to be mer-ry. ²⁵ Now his el-der son was in the field: and as he came and drew nigh to the house, he heard mu-sic and danc-ing. ²⁶ And he called one of the ser-vants, and asked what these things meant. ²⁷ And he said un-to him, Thy bro-ther is come; and thy fa-ther hath killed the fat-ted calf, be-cause he hath re-ceived

him safe and sound. ²⁸ And he was an-gry, and would not go in: there-fore came his fa-ther out, and en-treat-ed him. ²⁹ And he an-swer-ing said to his fa-ther, Lo, these ma-n-y years do I serve thee, nei-ther trans-gressed I at any time thy com-mand-ment: and yet thou ne-ver gav-est me a kid, that I might make mer-ry with my friends: ³⁰ but as soon as this thy son was come, which hath de-voured thy liv-ing with har-lots, thou hast killed for him the fat-ted calf. ³¹ And he said un-to him, Son, thou art e-ver with me, and all that I have is thine. ³² It was meet that we should make mer-ry, and be glad: for this thy bro-ther was dead, and is a-live a-gain; and was lost, and is found

THE FOOLISH RICH MAN.

(Luke xii. 16—21.)

This par-a-ble shews us the fol-ly of think-ing on-ly of en-joy-ing this world's goods and for-get-ting God.

It is ve-ry fool-ish to pro-vide on-ly for the bo-dy and neg-lect the soul, be-cause God may this night re-quire your soul.

¹⁶ The ground of a cer-tain rich man brought forth plen-ti-ful-ly : ¹⁷ And he thought with-in him-self, say-ing, What shall I do, be-cause I have no room where to be-stow my fruits ? ¹⁸ And he said, This will I do : I will pull down my barns, and build great-er ; and there will I be-stow all my fruits and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years ; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be mer-ry. ²⁰ But God said un-to him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be re-quired of thee : then whose shall those things be, which thou hast pro-vid-ed ? ²¹ So is he that lay-eth up trea-sure for him-self, and is not rich to-ward God.

THE PARABLE IN THE HOUSE OF SIMON, THE PHARISEE.

(Luke vii. 36—50.)

It is the sin-ner who feels the need of a Sa-viour that knows most about the grace and love of Je-sus, and there-fore loves him most.

Si-mon thought too well of him-self, there-fore he thought too lit-tle of Je-sus, so Je-sus re-bukes him with the par-a-ble of the two debt-ors.

³⁶ And one of the Phar-i-sees de-sired him that he would eat with him. And he went in-to the Phar-i-see's house, and sat down to meat. ³⁷ And, be-hold, a wo-man in the ci-ty, which was a sin-ner, when she knew that Je-sus sat at meat in the Phar-i-see's house, brought an al-a-bas-ter box of ointment, ³⁸ and stood at his feet be-hind him weep-ing, and be-gan to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and a-noint-ed them with the oint-ment. ³⁹ Now when the Phar-i-see which had bid-den him saw it, he spake with-in him-self, say-ing, This man, if he were a pro-phet, would have known who and what man-ner of wo-man this is that touch-eth him: for she is a sin-ner. ⁴⁰ And Je-sus an-swer-ing said un-to him, Si-mon, I have some-what to say un-to thee. And he saith, Mas-ter, say on. ⁴¹ There was a cer-tain cre-di-tor which had two debt-ors: the one owed five hun-dred pence, and the

other fif-ty. ⁴² And when they had nothing to pay, he frank-ly for-gave them both. Tell me there-fore, which of them will love him most? ⁴³ Si-mon an-swered and said, I sup-pose that he, to whom he for-gave most. And he said un-to him, Thou hast right-ly judged. ⁴⁴ And he turned to the wo-man, and said un-to Si-mon, Seest thou this wo-man? I en-tered in-to thine house, thou gav-est me no wa-ter for my feet. but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head. ⁴⁵ Thou gav-est me no kiss: but this wo-man since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet. ⁴⁶ My head with oil thou didst not a-noint: but this wo-man hath a-nointed my feet with oint-ment. ⁴⁷ Where-fore I say un-to thee, Her sins, which are ma-n-y, are for-giv-en; for she lov-ed much: but to whom lit-tle is for-giv-en, the same lov-eth lit-tle. ⁴⁸ And he said un-to her, Thy sins are for-giv-en. ⁴⁹ And they that sat at meat with him be-gan to say with-in them-selves, Who is this that for-giv-eth sins al-so? ⁵⁰ And he said to the wo-man, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.

MIRACLES.

When Je-sus healed the sick he did not use any med-i-cine, he on-ly spoke the word that they should be healed, or if he did not speak, he willed it, and im-me-di-ate-ly they were well.

He cured a great mul-ti-tude of sick peo-ple.

He made the lame to walk, the blind to see, the deaf to hear, the dumb to speak.

He turned wa-ter in-to wine, and e-ven the winds and sea o-beyed his voice.

He cast out de-vils, bid-ding them go where he pleased.

He fed ma-ny thou-sand peo-ple with on-ly five loaves and two fish-es.

He raised the dead to life again.

In the gos-pels we are told of three cases in which Je-sus raised the dead, and that you may have it im-pressed up-on your mind that Je-sus is the one who can and who will raise the dead, you shall read of these three cases.

THE WIDOW'S ONLY SON RAISED TO LIFE AGAIN.

(Luke vii. 12—15.)

¹² Now when he came nigh to the gate of the city, be-hold, there was a dead man car-ried out, the on-ly son of his mo-ther, and she was a wi-dow : and much peo-ple of the city was with her. ¹³ And when the Lord saw her, he had com-pas-sion on her, and said un-to her, Weep not. ¹⁴ And he came and touched the bier : and they that bare him stood still. And he said, Young man, I say un-to thee, Arise. ¹⁵ And he that was dead sat up, and be-gan to speak And he de-li-vered him to his mo-ther.

THE RULER'S ONLY DAUGHTER RAISED TO LIFE AGAIN.

(Luke viii. 41—56.)

⁴¹ And, be-hold, there came a man named Jai-rus, and he was a rul-er of the syn-a-gogue : and he fell down at Je-sus' feet, and be-sought him that he would come in-to his house : ⁴² For he had one on-ly daugh-ter, a-bout twelve years of age, and she lay a dy-ing.

⁴⁹ While he yet spake, there com-eth one from the rul-er of the syn-a-gogue's house, say-ing to him, Thy daugh-ter is dead, trou-ble not the Mas-ter. ⁵⁰ But when Je-sus heard it, he an-swered him, say-ing, Fear not: be-lieve on-ly, and she shall be made whole. ⁵¹ And when he came in-to the house, he suf-fered no man to go in, save Pe-ter, and James, and John, and the fa-ther and the mo-ther of the maid-en. ⁵² And all wept, and be-wailed her: but he said, Weep not; she is not dead, but sleep-eth. ⁵³ And they laughed him to scorn, know-ing that she was dead. ⁵⁴ And he put them all out, and took her by the hand, and called, say-ing, Maid, a-rise. ⁵⁵ And her spi-rit came a-gain, and she a-rose straight-way: and he com-mand-ed to give her meat. ⁵⁶ And her pa-rents were as-ton-ished: but he charged them that they should tell no man what was done.

THE RAISING OF LAZARUS.

(John xi. 32—45.)

³² Then when Mary was come where Je-sus was, and saw him, she fell down at his feet,

say-ing un-to him, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my bro-ther had not died. ³³ When Je-sus there-fore saw her weep-ing, and the Jews al-so weep-ing which came with her, he groaned in the spi-rit, and was trou-bled, ³⁴ And said, Where have ye laid him? They said un-to him, Lord, come and see. ³⁵ Je-sus wept. ³⁶ Then said the Jews, Be-hold, how he loved him! ³⁷ And some of them said, Could not this man, which o-pened the eyes of the blind, have caused that e-ven this man should not have died? ³⁸ Je-sus there-fore a-gain groan-ing in him-self, com-eth to the grave. It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it. ³⁹ Je-sus said, Take ye a-way the stone. Mar-tha, the sis-ter of him that was dead, saith un-to him, Lord, by this time he stink-eth: for he hath been dead four days. ⁴⁰ Je-sus saith un-to her, Said I not un-to thee, that, if thou would-est be-lieve, thou should-est see the glo-ry of God? ⁴¹ Then they took a-way the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Je-sus lift-ed up his eyes, and said, Fa-ther, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. ⁴² And I knew that thou hear-est

me al-ways: but be-cause of the peo-ple which stand by I said it, that they may be-lieve that thou hast sent me. ⁴³ And when he had thus spok-en, he cried with a loud voice, Laz-a-rus, come forth. ⁴⁴ And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with grave-clothes: and his face was bound a-bout with a nap-kin. Je-sus saith un-to them, Loose him, and let him go. ⁴⁵ Then ma-ny of the Jews which came to Ma-ry, and had seen the things which Je-sus did, be-lieved on him.

Let your read-ing be al-ways some-thing good, and ve-ry of-ten in God's book. It is said of Tim-o-thy, that from a child he knew the ho-ly scrip-tures, which are able to make us wise un-to sal-va-tion through faith which is in Christ Je-sus. (2 Tim. iii. 15.)

May you soon know these ho-ly scrip-tures, and may God bless you, dear reader, and make you his own, and then we shall meet each o-ther in hea-ven to tell of his wcn-drous love.