

Christian Light Publications

Ill-Temper

He was angry, and would not go in. – Luke 15:28.

Those who have studied paintings must have observed unique works where their peculiar beauty lies, by a trick of art, in their partial ugliness. One sees flowers and birds, knights and ladies; but in the corner of the canvas, at their feet, some uncouth and loathsome form—a toad, a lizard, a slimy snail—to lend, by contrast with its repulsiveness, a lovelier beauty to the rest.

Many accounts of the New Testament powerfully exhibit this contrast. The twelve disciples—one of them is a devil. Jesus upon the cross, pure and regal—on either side a thief. And in the fifteenth chapter of Luke, a most exquisite painting of a young man touched off with the black thundercloud of the elder brother.

But this contrast, of course, is more than artistic. The association of these two characters—the prodigal and his brother—has a deep moral significance.

When we look into sin, not in its theological aspects, but in its everyday clothes, we find that it divides itself into two kinds. There are sins of the body and sins of the disposition. Or more narrowly, sins of the passions, including all forms of lust; and sins of the temper. In the New Testament, the prodigal is the instance of sins of passion; the elder brother, sins of temper.

One would say, at a first glance, that it was the younger brother in this picture who was the thundercloud. It was he who had dimmed all the virtues, and covered himself and his home with shame. Possibly the estimate is wrong.

The elder brother, hard-working, patient, dutiful—let him get full credit for his virtues—comes in from his long day's work in the fields. As he nears the old homestead, he hears the noise of mirth and music. "Thy brother is come," the servant says, "and they have killed the fatted calf." His brother! Happy hour! How long they mourned for him! But no—there is no joy on that face, it is the thundercloud. "Brother, indeed," he mutters. "The scapegrace! Killed the fatted calf, have they? I can teach them what I think of their merry-making!" And he was angry, and would not go in.

"Oh, the baby!" one inclines to say at first; but it is more than this. It is the thundercloud, a thundercloud which has been brewing under all his virtues all his life. It is the thundercloud. The subtle fluids from a dozen sins have come together for once, and now they are scorching his soul. Jealousy, anger, pride, cruelty, self-righteousness, sulkiness, touchiness, all mixed up together into one—Ill-Temper. This is a fair analysis. And yet, men laugh over it. "Only temper," they call it: a little hot-headedness, a momentary ruffling of the surface, a mere passing cloud. But the passing cloud is composed of drops, and the drops here betoken an ocean, foul and rancorous, seething somewhere within the life—an ocean made up of jealousy, anger, pride, cruelty, self-righteousness, sulkiness, touchiness, lashed into a raging storm.

Look at the parable for a moment, and see how the elder brother's wretched pettishness spoiled the happiness of a whole circle. First, it certainly spoiled his own. Then look at the effect on the father, or on the guests, or even on the servants—that scene cast its miserable gloom on the entire company. But there

Cont. on page 3

Language Arts 300 Sunrise 2nd Edition

Language Arts 300 teaches grammar, spelling, and penmanship. Students identify nouns, verbs, adjectives, and sentence subject and begin diagramming. Language mechanics taught include punctuation, capitalization, and subject-verb agreement. A creative writing lesson is in each LightUnit. Students learn to use contents pages, indexes, dictionaries, and encyclopedias.

Revision Notes

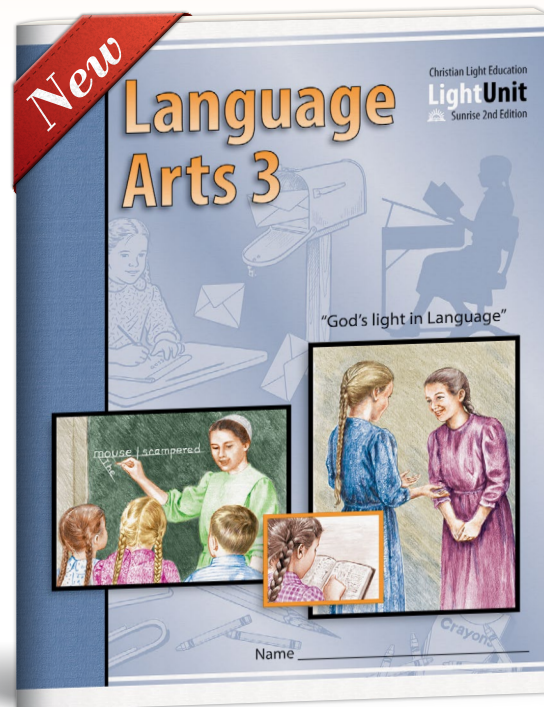
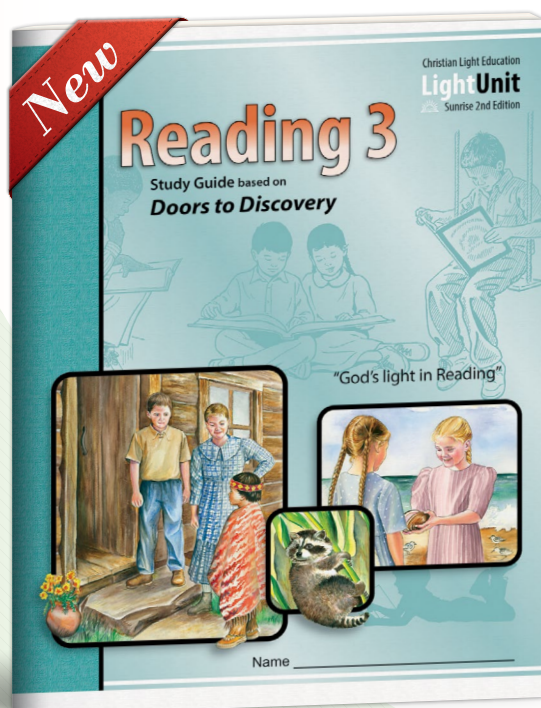
Sunrise Second Edition features both content revisions and formatting improvements over the previous edition. All materials are revised, so Answer Keys and Teacher's Guides cannot be mixed and matched. Use LA Diagnostic Tests to place new students. The Teacher's Guide still includes LightUnit pages with answers, teaching tips, alternate tests, and spelling words.

Course Components

10 LightUnits 301-310	\$34.00
1 Teacher's Guide (includes answers)	\$12.00

Optional Items

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Reading 300 builds good character, solid values, and knowledge of other countries and times through *Doors to Discovery*. The LightUnits expand the students' vocabulary, lay foundational study skills, and employ comprehension. New concepts are taught thoroughly and reviewed systematically. **Available July 2014.**

Revision Notes

Sunrise Second Edition features both content revisions and formatting improvements over the previous edition. The LightUnits and accompanying materials are revised, so Answer Keys and Teacher's Guides cannot be mixed and matched. The new Teacher's Guide still contains answers, instructions for teaching new concepts, ideas for oral reading activities, and questions for discussion. Changes in the Reader were mostly limited to Bible verses and glossary items, with the pagination remaining the same. It may be mixed and matched with some adaptation required. **The Worksheets and accompanying materials have not been changed.**

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1 Reader <i>Doors to Discovery</i>	\$10.50
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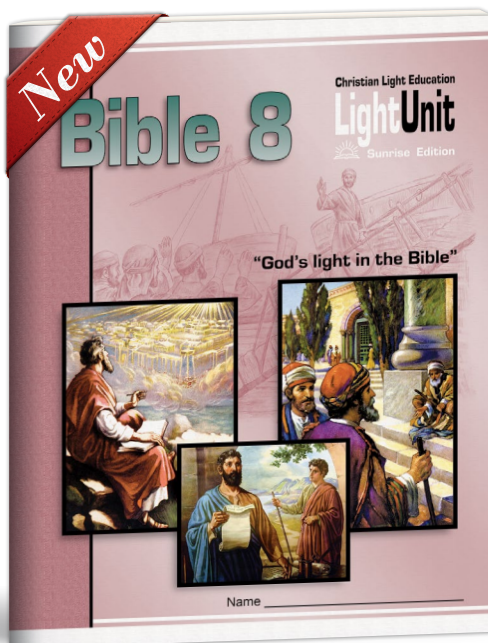
Available June 2014.

How to Teach the Course

Bible 800 has ten LightUnits with 16 lessons in each, including two quizzes and a test. This provides for one lesson per day for one school year. The Teacher's Guide is in development, but is not yet available.

Course Components

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2 Answer Keys 801-810	\$6.80
<i>Baker's Bible Atlas</i>	\$29.75



Cont. from page 1 was another who felt it with a tenfold keenness—the prodigal son. We can imagine the effect on him. This was home, was it? Then, it was a pity he ever came. If this was to be his reception, he had better go. One repulsive Christian will drive away a score of prodigals. God's love for poor sinners is very wonderful, but God's patience with ill-natured saints is a deeper mystery.

The curtain drops on the story of the prodigal, leaving him *in*, but the elder brother *out*. And why is obvious. It is impossible for such a man to be in Heaven. He would spoil Heaven for all who were there.

Even now, there are many heavens in the world from which we might shut ourselves out by our own exclusiveness—heavens of friendship, of family life, of Christian work, of benevolent ministrations to the poor and ignorant and distressed. Because of some personal pique, some disapproval of methods, because the lines of work or some of the workers are not exactly to our taste, we play the elder brother, we are angry and will not go in. This is the naked truth of it, we are simply angry and will not go in. And this bears, if we could see it, its own worst penalty; for there is no severer punishment than just to be left outside, perhaps, to grow old alone, unripe, loveless and unloved. We are angry and will not go in. All sins mar God's image, but sins of temper mar God's image and God's work and man's happiness.

—Excerpt from *Ideal Life*,
by Henry Drummond (1851 – 1897)

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