

LESSON 7

Reading Answer Key

Hudson Taylor, “The Half-Crown Piece”

QUESTIONS FOR CLASS DISCUSSION

1. Why had Hudson Taylor not asked his employer for that money that was owed him, especially since he was without money (except for a half-crown piece)?

Hudson Taylor determined to ask God in prayer for the money due. (He knew he had only God to rely on as a missionary in China and wanted to make sure he was suited for the work.)

2. What did Hudson Taylor do after attending Sunday morning worship service?

Hudson Taylor filled his Sunday evenings with gospel work and visited the poorest lodging houses in town (Bristol).

3. Why did Hudson Taylor repeatedly mention his wish that he had been carrying around two shillings and a sixpence rather than a half-crown?

The half-crown forced him in a dilemma: either help the man in his suffering and face privation himself, or not aid the man and sacrifice his plans to enter the China mission field. With two shillings and a six-pence (which make a half-crown), he would not have been forced to face such a dilemma.

4. Why was Hudson Taylor nervous on entering the poor man’s lodgings?

On his last visit to the lodgings, he had been very roughly handled, his tracts had been torn up and he was warned not to come again.

5. In a few sentences describe the struggle that went on in Hudson Taylor’s mind that night in the poor man’s dwelling.

Hudson Taylor was attempting to comfort the poor people with spiritual matters, but knowing that he had the power to relieve them somewhat of their situation but not doing so, he felt himself a hypocrite. Taylor writes: “You

hypocrite! telling these unconverted people about a kind and loving Father in heaven, and not prepared yourself to trust Him without half-a-crown!"

6. Why did Hudson Taylor find it difficult to pray with the poor man regarding his difficult situation?

Hudson Taylor had the means to accomplish himself what he was asking God to do, and therefore he felt that he would be mocking God with the half-crown in his pocket.

7. What did Hudson Taylor mean when he said, "In the word of a king there is power"? What king was he talking about?

He was talking about the power of Christ's word, who said, "Give to him that asketh of thee." (Matthew 5:4).

8. Why had Hudson Taylor returned home so happily on "the lonely deserted streets"?

He was rejoicing that he had not abandoned the true Christian life by his lack of trust and that he had obeyed the Holy Spirit. (He also knew that he would be able to continue with his plans to become a missionary in China, where he would have to trust in God alone.)

9. What did Hudson Taylor receive the next morning? Give two reasons why this was a joyous discovery.

An envelope with a half-sovereign piece had been mailed to Hudson Taylor. He had no knowledge regarding who sent it: the envelope had no return address and he could not recognize the handwriting. The wonderful, mysterious gift relieved him of his own need, but also was a sort of reward for his own trust, encouraging him to trust even more.

10. What did Hudson Taylor mean when he said that he "determined that a bank which could not break should have my savings or earnings"? In other words, what is the "bank" he is talking about?

Hudson Taylor writes that he was "determined that a bank which could not break should have my savings or earnings as the case might be—a determination I have not yet learned to regret." The "bank" that he had was God and his Providence, who could be petitioned in prayer.

John Bunyan, "The Key of Promise"

READING QUESTIONS

1. b
2. c
3. b
4. e
5. d
6. d
7. c
8. a
9. c
10. d

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Why do Christian and Hopeful have little to say when the giant takes them off to his dungeon for trespassing?

They knew that they were guilty for trespassing.

2. What is the giant's name? What does his name mean?

The name of the giant is "Despair," which means "hopelessness."

3. Describe the dungeon of his castle.

The castle, called "Doubting Castle," has a dungeon, which is described as dark, nasty and stinking.

4. In your own words, why does Christian have double sorrow in the giant's castle when they first arrive?

It was through Christian's own advice that they were both trapped there.

5. What does the giant's wife tell her husband to do when she finds out about the prisoners? What does she advise the second night?

She first advises her husband to beat the prisoners without mercy; on the second night she advises her husband to tell them to "do away with themselves," or take their own lives. Her advice fits into the allegorical framework, as they are imprisoned by giant Despair and are held captive in Doubting Castle.

6. When the giant delivers his wife's advice to Christian and Hopeful, they consider it for a while. What is Christian's opinion on the matter?

Christian is inclined to despair, saying that their lives are miserable and that the grave was easier for him than the dungeon.

7. Hopeful tells Christian he does not agree with the advice of the giant and gives reasons why. List four of his reasons.

Hopeful gives four reasons for them not to lose hope: 1) The Lord of the country has commanded "Thou shalt not murder." 2) Hell is worse than the dungeon. 3) The law is not in the hands of the giant. 4) Others have escaped the giant's clutch, and so they should wait for the giant to have one of his "fits."

8. What does Christian find that enables him to escape the prison?

He finds the "Key of Promise."

9. When they escape, the giant pursues. How are the pilgrims able to get away from him?

The giant has one of his fits.

10. Bunyan's story is an allegory. Write down the specific people, places, things and events of the story and write down their respective meanings. List at least six items.

Answers will vary.

THE STORY	THE ALLEGORICAL MEANING
Hopeful	a Christian who does not lose hope in God's promises
Christian	a Christian, who like Bunyan himself, is vulnerable to despair
Giant Despair	the thoughts and circumstances that encourage us to despair
trespassing	a thought life that inclines to doubt God's promises
beatings	the effects of despair and doubt on the Christian
the Key	God's promises, which when applied by the Christian, can release us from the prison of despair
the pillar	encouraging and advising other Christians to trust in God and not to fall in despair

William Cowper, Selected Poems

'DEPENDENCE'

1. b
2. b
3. d
4. d

'THE LORD WILL PROVIDE'

5. c
6. b

'FOR THE POOR'

7. d
8. c

LITERARY WORDS: METAPHOR AND SIMILE

EXERCISE: LITERAL AND FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

1. F
2. L
3. L
4. F
5. F
6. F
7. L
8. L
9. L
10. F

EXERCISE: METAPHORS

1. I will use the lamp of my experience to light the road I take.
Experience is being compared to a lamp in a metaphor. Just as a lamp can be our guide, our experience can help us along the way of life. Also, life is being compared indirectly to a road in that we navigate the path of life in a similar way that we travel on a road. We come to bumps, detours, etc.
2. I have a mountain of work to do.
In this sentence work is being compared to a mountain in a metaphor. Just as a mountain is massive, our work may seem overwhelmingly large.
3. I was nervous about my first violin performance, but once I jumped over that first hurdle, every performance since then has been easier.
A violin performance is being compared to a hurdle in a metaphor. Both are difficult to get over.
4. My grandmother complained that her nurses were watch dogs.
Nurses are being compared to watch dogs. Just as watch dogs are vigilant and

tenacious, the grandmother thinks her nurses keep a very close eye on her and won't let her out of their sight.

5. The experience at her house was not a bowl of cherries.

An experience is being compared to a bowl of cherries. Just as bowl of cherries is something sweet, experiences can be pleasant (and unpleasant, as in the case of the sentence).