

Quotations from the Bible Reading Club for a Congregational Religious School

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Genesis of the Idea

The high point of summer vacation during my ninth year was having the circulation clerk at the Finney branch of the Milwaukee (WI) Public Library rubberstamp my reading club form with a small figure of Billy the Bookworm for each book read since the previous visit. Now, more than a quarter-century later, I find myself in the position of designing reading motivation programs with similar positive reinforcement techniques in a congregational library.

While browsing through a mail-order catalog from the Walter Drake Co., I came upon pages of address labels pre-printed with various symbols and pictures—a rose, an apple, a turtle, a pig, a musical clef, ballet slippers, etc. Each label had space for three or four lines of text. It occurred to me that these labels could be imprinted with appropriate Biblical quotations and used in combination with individualized reading logs as a motivational tool for a religious school reading club. After much poring through an English translation of the *Tanakh* (*The Holy Scriptures*, Jewish Publication Society, 5723–1963, c1917), I found an appropriate Biblical quotation for each image on the labels. Thus was created the "Quotations from the Bible Reading Club."

In previous years, at the Rebecca Kauffman Memorial Library of Congregation Keshet Israel in West Chester, Pennsylvania, I had organized a Noah's Ark reading club, with stickers from Cardesign; and I have also used holiday motif stickers from Contemporary Designs. Walter Drake stickers are less expensive than either of these lines, however, and they give participating students more to think about.

Materials

The materials required for the Bible Quotation Reading Club include:

- A reading log for each child (an 8½ x 11" sheet with the club name).
- A supply of illustrated Biblical quotation stickers (samples in Figure 1).
- A large chart for recording reading progress of the entire group (Contact paper with a grid design is recommended).
- A supply of gold and silver dots or stars.

(This article supplies details on the Bible quotation stickers. Instructions for producing the reading logs and chart can be gotten by writing the author at the address given below.)

Procedure

A child reads a book from our library, writes a brief report on the book in the first available space on his/her reading log, and is then entitled to paste a sticker above the report. The child then takes a gold or silver dot or star and pastes it on the large chart on his/her name line.

Results

This year, 73 reports were submitted by the religious school students. Most of the reports were incorporated into library columns in the Temple Bulletin. At the end of the school year, some were "published" in the first issue of the library student newspaper, edited by a third-grader, Sarah Kanen, who typed the bulk of the text herself on her computer.

Ordering Information

The basic stickers have an illustration; most measure 2¼" x 5/8". You provide the words. The limit for most of the stickers is four lines of 26 characters/spaces each. Suggestions for Biblical quotations are found in the chart which accompanies this article. Most of the designs cost \$1.98 for a set of 250 stickers; shipping is additional. Send orders to: Walter Drake & Sons, Drake Building, Colorado Springs, CO 80940. (Allow approximately one month for delivery.)

For synagogue libraries that find these stickers too costly, I suggest splitting orders with another congregation or using just the gummed label assortments: P5080 FOUR SEASONS labels with the quotation from Koheleth given in the chart (the quotation will appear on 1,000 labels of 4 different designs: robin, autumn leaf, sun, and snowflake), and P4088 FLOWER LABELS (84 each, approximately, in each of 12 different designs) at \$2.49 for 1,000. Copy to read:

For, lo, the winter is past,
The rain is over and gone;
The flowers appear on the
earth.—Song of Songs 2:11–12.

Such an order would give the library 2,000 stickers of 16 different designs for \$4.48.

Additional quotations will be added annually. Quotations from the Talmud and other Jewish sources may eventually be included. For further information, write: Blue Balloon Books, P.O. Box 681, Westford, MA 01886.

Sherri L. Rice, Librarian of the Jewel K. Markowitz Library at Reform Congregation Beth David in Gladwyne, Pennsylvania through January 1988, currently resides in Massachusetts.

Table and Figures follow on next two pages.

Biblical Quotation Stickers: Suggested Texts

CATALOG #	PICTURE	BIBLICAL QUOTE	ALTERNATE QUOTE
P1088	APPLE	Stay ye me with dainties, Refresh me with apples. —Song of Songs 2:5	
P1107	BALLET SHOES	And Miriam, the prophetess and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances. —Ex.15:20	
P1089	BUTTERFLY	And He rode upon a cherub, and did fly; Yea, He did swoop down upon the wings of the wind. —Psalms 18:11	
P4110	CACTUS	Seeking . . . for food The desert yieldeth them bread for their children. —Job 24:5	
P4119	CLEF	And his brother's name was Jubal . . . father of all (who) handle the harp and pipe. —Genesis 5:21	I will sing a new song unto Thee . . . Upon a psaltery of 10 strings will I sing praises. —Psalm 145:9
P4120	FLAG (formerly Statue of Liberty stickers, no longer available)	. . . and proclaim liberty throughout the land unto all the inhabitants . . . —Leviticus 25:10	
P5080 (1,000 gummed/ \$1.99)	FOUR SEASONS (4 different designs)	To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven. —Koheleth 3:1	
P6128 (250/\$2.98) P1093 (500/\$4.49)	GOLD FOIL LABELS	Weary not thyself to be rich; . . . For riches . . . make . . . wings, Like an eagle . . . —Proverbs 23:4-5	
P4106	GULL	' . . . I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven—and the sand upon the seashore.' —Gen. 22:17	
P4112	HEART	A merry heart is a good medicine; But a broken spirit drieth the bones. —Proverbs 17:22	Set me as a seal upon thy heart. —Song of Songs 8:6
P4118	HORSE	Vessels of silver . . . of gold, and raiment, and spices, horses, and mules. —I Kings 10:25	I have compared thee, O my love, To a steed in Pharaoh's chariots. —Song of Songs 1:9
P4109	PALMS	. . . in Elim were 12 springs of water, and threescore and 10 palm-trees. —Numbers 33:9	
P5144	PENGUIN	And G-d said: 'Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures.' —Genesis 1:20	

(Continued)

Biblical Quotation Stickers: Suggested Texts (Continued)

CATALOG #	PICTURE	BIBLICAL QUOTE	ALTERNATE QUOTE
P5145	PIG	The swine . . . parteth the hoof . . . is cloven-footed, cheweth not the cud . . . —Leviticus 11:7	
P4108	PINES	Solomon was building his own house 13 years . . . of the forest of Lebanon . . . —I Kings 7:1-2	
P1071 (250/\$2.98) P1092 (500/\$4.49)	RAINBOW	'I have set My bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant . . . —Genesis 9:13	Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children . . . and he made him a coat of many colours. —Gen.37:3
P5148	ROOSTER	'And let fowl fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven.' —Genesis 1:20	But he shall let go the living bird out of city into the open field —Leviticus 14:53
P4114	ROSE	I am a rose of Sharon, A lily of the valleys. As a lily among thorns. —Song of Songs 2:1-2	
P5143	SCOTTY	'Every one that lappeth of the water with his tongue, as a dog lappeth . . . —Judges 7:5	
P5155	STAR	The tower of David . . . Turrets . . . there hang a thousand shields. —Song of Songs 4:4	
P5146	TURTLE	The voice of the turtle is heard in our land. —Song of Songs 2:12	
P5147	WHALE	Canst thou draw out Leviathan with a fish-hook? —Job 40:25	

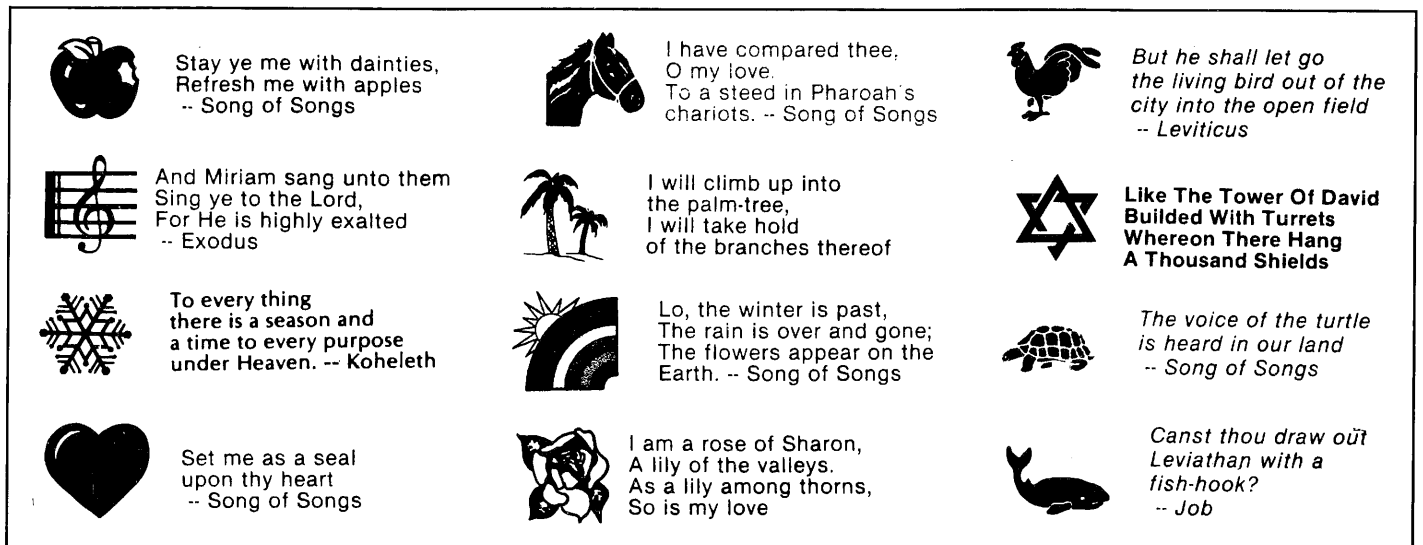


Figure 1. Sample Biblical Quotation Stickers