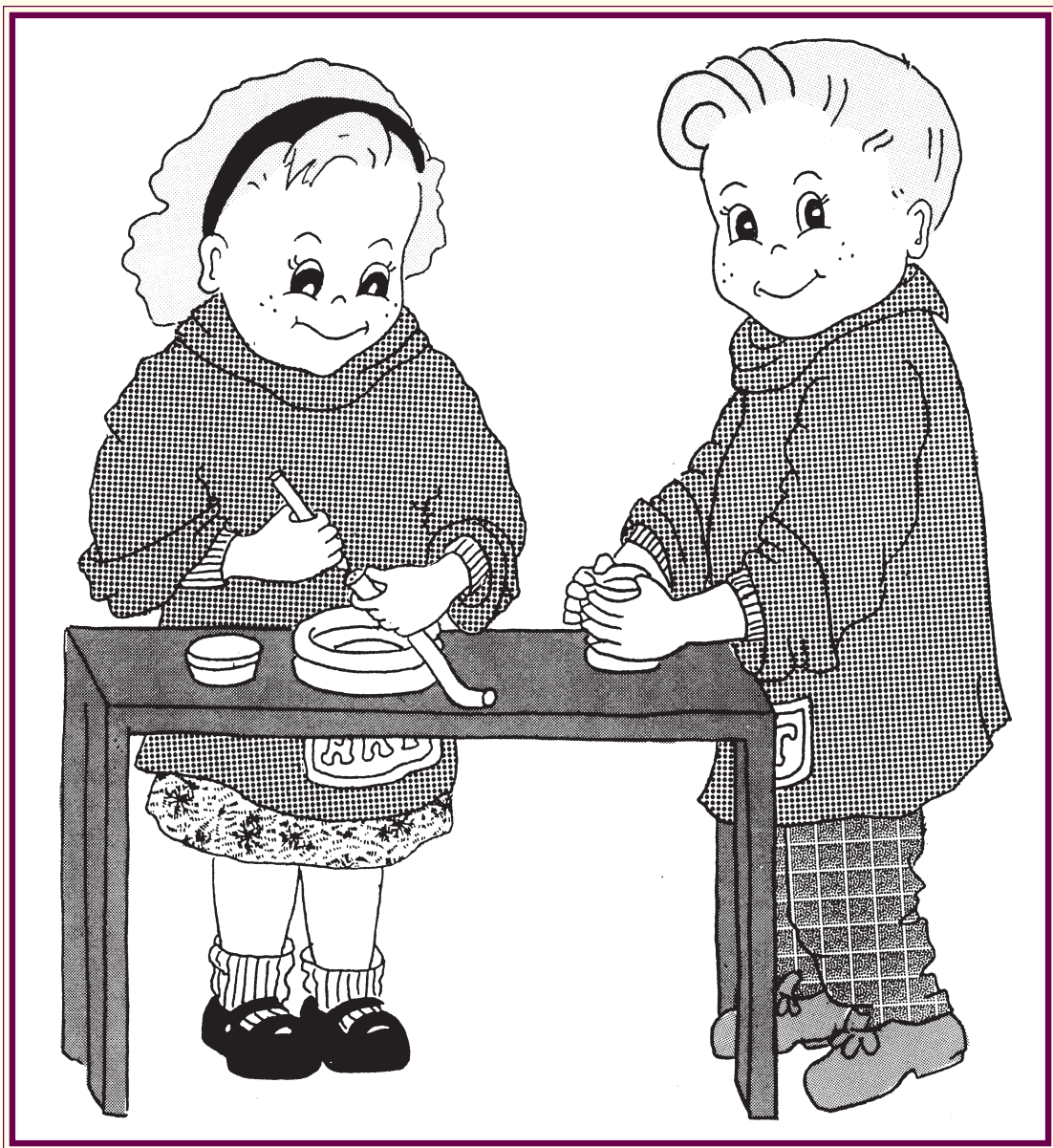


Flowers and Bulrushes

Unit Seven



A. SCRIPTURE TALK

“Obey them that have the rule over you.”

Hebrews 13:17

BILLY'S BIG MISTAKE

(Part 1)

“Don’t forget to slip and score,” reminded the teacher, as the children worked hard to finish the coil pots they were making. “That’s the glue that holds the pieces together, remember.” The children had watched Miss Harper’s muddy fingers mix clay and water together to make slip.

It’s sure messy! thought Billy. But making coils and building walls is fun.

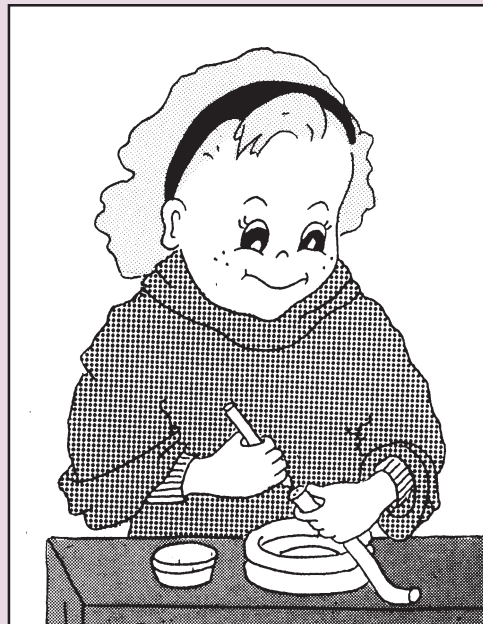
Susan needed help, and Miss Harper leaned over beside her. Billy watched as she began to score,

making pencil holes in Susan’s clay. She poked and scratched with her pencil all around the top edge of a coil. Then she scored all around the bottom of the next coil. She told Susan that the holes and scratches would fill up with slip

and that it would make her joins strong. Miss Harper left and let Susan poke holes and smear on the slip by herself.

Billy loved to watch his classmates work.

Higher and higher the coil pots grew. Each one looked a little different. Billy



looked around at the bulging sides of some and the lopsided walls of others. The pots were not like the shiny, smooth bowls in the kitchen cupboard at home. These bowls were special. They were hand-made, designed by the kids in Billy's class. Some of the taller, thinner pots would turn into mugs. That's what Billy was making.

"Better get busy, Billy, or you won't finish," warned Miss Harper. Billy hadn't realized how long he had been admiring his friends' work.

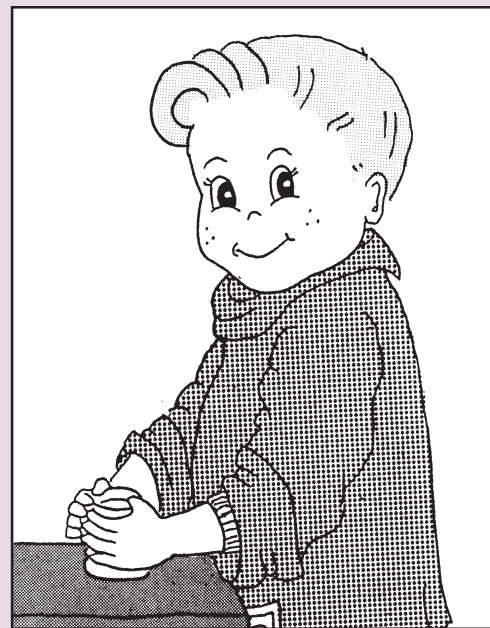
Miss Harper was spreading out tools and weeds and bits of cloth. They would be used to add texture to the sides of the pots when the building was finished. For Billy, this would be the most exciting part of all. Building was fun, but adding the finishing touches - that was the part he was really looking forward to.

His pot was only two coils high, and Billy knew he had better get back to work. *Burlap*, he thought. *That's what I'll use to decorate the outside of my mug.* He began to

imagine pressing pieces of coarse burlap against the soft, wet clay. *Those prickly weeds would make a pretty good design, too*, thought Billy. *I can see it now.* He imagined taking his mug home to show his mom. How proud she would be!

The other children were already choosing from the variety of textured objects and cloth, adding the finishing touches to their pots.

"Aren't you going to finish?" Peter asked, jolting Billy back from his daydreams. "You'd better get to work!" he said,



noticing Billy's interest in the texture table. "You can't decorate a pot you haven't made."

Billy began to roll a chunk of clay into a coil as he watched Peter smooth the outside of his mug. He dipped his hands in the gooey slip and spread it over the rounded walls. How shiny and slippery it looked! That would be fun!

Billy turned his attention to his own mug. He was in a hurry now. "One or two coils without slip won't make any difference," he said to himself. He wanted to get to the exciting part. *I'll just push the coils tight together, he thought. Slipping and scoring takes too long.*

Quickly Billy rolled another two coils and fitted them. And without either slipping or scoring, he laid the last two coils down onto the rim of the pot. *There, five coils. That should do it, Billy thought. Sure looks good! Now to smooth the outside with some slip, and then for the finishing touches. This sure is fun!*

Billy began to smear a little slip over the fat coil that attached itself snugly to the base of his mug. He smoothed out wrinkles and bumps with his muddy, wet fingers. "Now for the best part!" he exclaimed aloud, as he grabbed for a piece of burlap.

His classmates were admiring their work as Billy chose some prickly weeds for one last design. For the final touch he rolled another coil, cut it, bent it, and pressed its ends against the side of the pot. "That's a mighty fine handle," Billy said to himself. "And now my mug is finished." *Who needs to slip and score?* he thought.

Billy was glad that he had gotten back to work when he did. He stepped back from the table and gazed proudly at his mug. How pleased he was with the way it looked! *What a fine pot!* he thought. Now, to wait for it to dry . . .

(to be continued . . .)

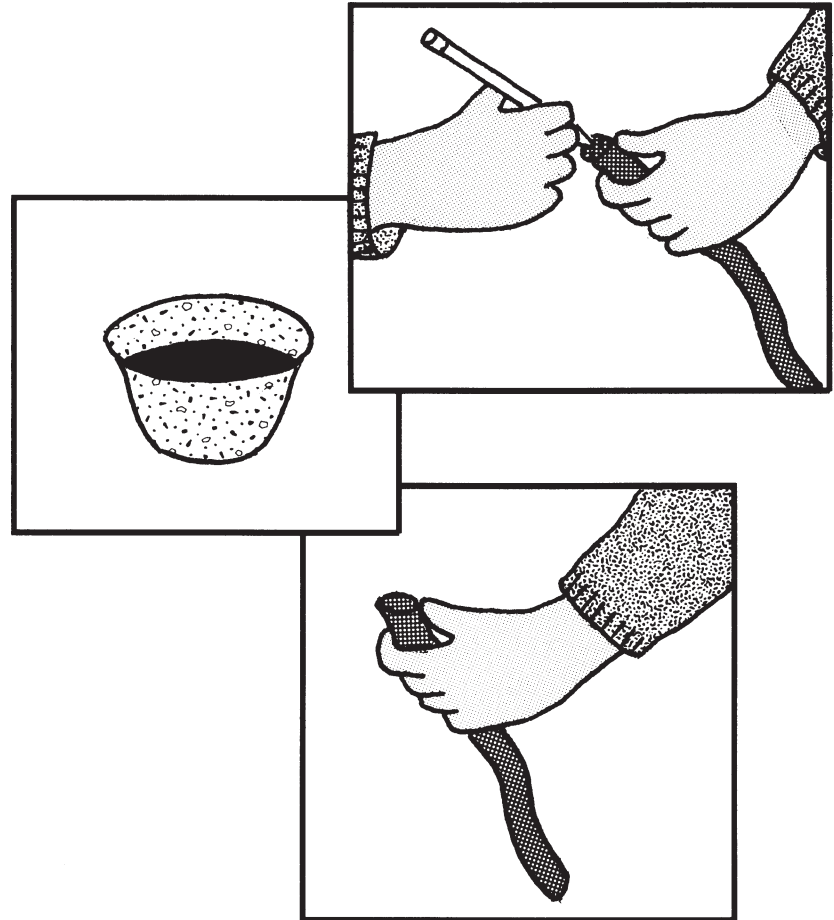
QUESTIONS

Match the following:

1. slip

2. coil

3. score



Answer with true or false:

1. ____ Billy disobeyed his teacher.
2. ____ Billy did not slip and score every time he was supposed to.
3. ____ Billy worked hard all through class.
4. ____ Billy tried to take a shortcut.

QUESTIONS

Fill in the blanks from the word pool below:

coil scoring disobeyed slip teacher glue

1. A mixture of clay and water is called _____.
2. We slip and score to _____ pieces of clay together.
3. Poking holes in clay before adding slip is called _____.
4. A rolled piece of clay is called a _____.
5. Billy made a mistake when he _____.
6. Billy should have obeyed his _____.

Answer the following:

1. What did Billy do that was disobedient?

2. What do you think will happen in Part 2 of *Billy's Big Mistake*?
