The Origin of the Home and Its Corruption

MEMORY VERSE: "The Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there He put the man whom He had formed. . . . And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an helpmeet for him." Gen. 2:8, 18.


SEED THOUGHT: "God made the first home. He made it right. It was a pattern for all future earthly homes. He founded it on the marriage relation."—"The Real Home," p. 10. In no other phase of human experience is the dire consequence of sin more manifest than in the marriage relation and the home life. As the home became more and more degraded, society became corrupt until God destroyed the wicked world by a flood.

God's Plan for Man
1. What is the origin of the home? Gen. 1:26, 27.
2. What did God say to the newly created pair? Verse 28.

The Creation of Eve
3. Because it was not good for man to be alone, what did God purpose to do? Gen. 2:18.
4. Before giving Adam a companion, how did God cause him to feel his need of one? Verses 18-20.
5. What is the record of the creation of Eve? Gen. 2:21, 22.

Note.—"God Himself gave Adam a companion. He provided 'an help meet for him,'—a helper corresponding to him,—one who was fitted to be his companion, and who could be one with him in love and sympathy. Eve was created from a rib taken from the side of Adam, signifying that she was not to control him as the head, nor to be trampled under his feet as an inferior, but to stand by his side as an equal, to be loved and protected by him. A part of man, bone of his bone, and flesh of his flesh, she was his second self; showing the close union and the affectionate attachment that should exist in this relation."—"Patriarchs and Prophets," p. 46.
The Ideal Home

6. How is the first home described? Gen. 2:8-10.

Note.—“The home of our first parents was to be a pattern for other homes as their children should go forth to occupy the earth. That home, beautified by the hand of God Himself, was not a gorgeous palace. Men, in their pride, delight in magnificent and costly edifices, and glory in the works of their own hands; but God placed Adam in a garden. This was his dwelling. The blue heavens were its dome; the earth, with its delicate flowers and carpet of living green, was its floor; and the leafy branches of the goodly trees were its canopy. Its walls were hung with the most magnificent adornings,—the handiwork of the great Master Artist.”—“Patriarchs and Prophets,” p. 49.

7. What was to be the occupation of Adam and Eve? Gen. 2:15.

Note.—“Though rich in all that the Owner of the universe could supply, they were not to be idle. Useful occupation was appointed them as a blessing, to strengthen the body, to expand the mind, and to develop the character.”—“Education,” p. 21.

The Results of Sin


Note.—“Adam could neither deny nor excuse his sin; but instead of manifesting penitence, he endeavored to cast the blame upon his wife, and thus upon God Himself: ‘The woman whom Thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.’ He who, from love to Eve, had deliberately chosen to forfeit the approval of God, his home in Paradise, and an eternal life of joy, could now, after his fall, endeavor to make his companion, and even the Creator Himself, responsible for the transgression. So terrible is the power of sin.”—“Patriarchs and Prophets,” pp. 57, 58.


10. How was the first home further disrupted by sin? Gen. 4:8.


Note.—“The people who were under His direction still pursued the plan of life that He had appointed in the beginning. Those who departed from God built for themselves cities, and, congregating in them, gloried in the splendor, the luxury, and the vice that make the cities of today the world's pride and its curse. But the men who held fast God's principles of life dwelt among the fields and hills. They were tillers of the soil, and keepers of flocks and herds; and in this free, independent life, with its opportunities for labor and study and meditation, they learned of God, and taught their children of His works and ways.”—“Education,” pp. 33, 34.

“It was not God's purpose that people should be crowded into cities, huddled together in terraces and tenements. In the beginning He placed our first parents amidst the beautiful sights and sounds He desires us to rejoice in today. The more nearly we come into harmony with God's original plan, the more favorable will be our position to secure health of body, and mind, and soul.”—“Ministry of Healing,” p. 365.


Note.—The ugly head of polygamy is first shown in connection with
violence and bloodshed. And wherever it appears in the Old Testament, even in the homes of the patriarchs,—in Abraham's, in Jacob's, in Elkanah's,—it brings with it jealousy, rivalry, treachery, and deceit.

13. To what extent was the purity of the home finally broken down? With what result? Gen. 6:1-5.

Note.—"For some time the two classes remained separate. . . . So long as this separation continued, they [the children of Seth] maintained the worship of God in its purity. But in the lapse of time they ventured, little by little, to mingle with the inhabitants of the valleys. This association was productive of the worst results. 'The sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair.' The children of Seth, attracted by the beauty of the daughters of Cain's descendants, displeased the Lord by intermarrying with them. . . . Mingling with the depraved, they became like them in spirit and in deeds; the restrictions of the seventh commandment were disregarded, 'and they took them wives of all which they chose.'"—"Patriarchs and Prophets," p. 81.

Lesson 2, for January 13, 1940

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Husbands and Wives

Memory Verse: "I therefore . . . beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love." Eph. 4:1, 2.


Seed Thought: "Thus was the marriage institution ordained of God in Eden, before man sinned. Like the Sabbath, it has come down to us with the Edenic dews of divine blessing still upon it. It was ordained not only for the purpose of peopling the earth and perpetuating the race, but to promote social order and human happiness; to prevent irregular affection; and, through well-regulated families, to transmit truth, purity, and holiness from age to age. Around it cluster all the purest and truest joys of home and the race."—"Bible Readings for the Home Circle," p. 706, (ed. 1914).

The Relationship of Husband and Wife

1. What was God's plan in creating Eve? Gen. 2:20, 18.

2. What was to be the relationship between our first parents? Gen. 2:23, 24.

Note.—"God celebrated the first marriage. Thus the institution has for its originator the Creator of the universe. 'Marriage is honorable' (Heb. 13:4); it was one of the first gifts of God to man, and it is one of the two institutions that, after the fall, Adam brought with him beyond the gates of Paradise. When the divine principles are recognized and obeyed in this relation, marriage is a blessing; it guards the purity and happiness of the race, it provides for man's social needs, it elevates the physical, the intellectual, and the moral nature."—"Patriarchs and Prophets," p. 46.

3. Who was to be the "head of the house?" Eph. 5:22-25.
Note.—There are those who seek to discredit the fact that the husband was designed to be the head of the house, though the teaching of the Bible is conclusive on this point. The most orderly and contented homes are those where the husband fills his rightful place. However, the husband, conscious of the sacrifice Jesus made to redeem him from his own selfish nature, will manifest a Christlike spirit in this the closest of all human relationships. Where there is the greatest temptation to abuse authority, there the greatest effort is called for to acquire and maintain self-control. "Forbearance and unselfishness mark the words and acts of all who live the new life in Christ. As you seek to live His life, striving to conquer self and selfishness and to minister to the needs of others, you will gain victory after victory."—"Ministry of Healing," p. 362.

4. Against what are husbands cautioned? Col. 3:19.

5. How can wives exert a winning influence on their husbands? 1 Peter 3:1.

True Marriage Upheld by Christ and Apostles

6. What is the witness of the New Testament on the sanctity of the marriage relation?


7. What is the warning against unequal marriages? 2 Cor. 6:14-18.

Note.—"The Lord commanded Israel not to make marriages with the idolatrous nations around them. 'Thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son. For they will turn away thy son from following Me, that they may serve other gods; so will the anger of the Lord be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly.' 'For thou art a holy people unto the Lord thy God; the Lord thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto Himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth.'"—"Testimonies," vol. 5, p. 328.

"The heart yearns for human love, but this love is not strong enough, or pure enough, or precious enough, to supply the place of the love of Jesus. Only in her Saviour can the wife find wisdom, strength, and grace to meet the cares, responsibilities, and sorrows of life. She should make Him her strength and her guide. Let woman give herself to Christ before giving herself to any earthly friend, and enter into no relation which shall conflict with this. Those who would find true happiness, must have the blessing of Heaven upon all that they possess, and all that they do. It is disobedience to God that fills so many hearts and homes with misery. My sister, unless you would have a home where the shadows are never lifted, do not unite yourself with one who is an enemy of God."—"Testimonies," vol. 5, pp. 362, 363.

The Marriage Ideal


Note.—At the dawn of creation the institution of monogamy was given to man; i.e., the state of being paired with a single mate.

9. In what beautiful symbolic language does God show at once His high ideal of marriage among His people and His love for His church? Song of Solomon 4:7; Eph. 5:25-27; Isa. 54:4, 5; Jer. 3:14; Rev. 19:6-9.

10. How only can marriage prove the mutual blessing God designed it to be? Eph. 4:1, 2.

Note.—"The grace of Christ, and this alone, can make this institution what God designed it should be,—an agent for the blessing and uplifting of humanity. And thus the families of earth, in their unity and peace and love, may represent the family of heaven.

"Now, as in Christ's day, the condition of society presents a sad comment upon heaven's ideal of this sacred relation. Yet even for those who have found bitterness and disappointment where they had hoped for companionship and joy, the gospel of Christ offers a solace. The patience and gentleness which His Spirit can impart, will sweeten the bitter lot. The heart in which Christ dwells, will be so filled, so satisfied, with His love that it will not be consumed with longing to attract sympathy and attention to itself. And through the surrender of the soul to God, His wisdom can accomplish what human wisdom fails to do. Through the revelation of His grace, hearts that were once indifferent or estranged may be united in bonds that are firmer and more enduring than those of earth,—the golden bonds of a love that will bear the test of trial."—"Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing," p. 101.

"The family tie is the closest, the most tender and sacred, of any on earth. It was designed to be a blessing to mankind. And it is a blessing wherever the marriage covenant is entered into intelligently, in the fear of God, and with due consideration for its responsibilities."—"Ministry of Healing," pp. 356, 357.


Note.—"Home should be a place where cheerfulness, courtesy, and love abide; and where these graces dwell, there will abide happiness and peace. Troubles may invade, but these are the lot of humanity. Let patience, gratitude, and love keep sunshine in the heart, though the day may be ever so cloudy. In such homes angels of God abide."—"Ministry of Healing," p. 393.

Lesson 3, for January 20, 1940

The Work of Parents

Memory Verse: "Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him." Ps. 103:13.


Seed Thought: "Every child born into the home is a sacred trust. God says to the parents, 'Take this child, and bring it up for Me, that it may be an honor to My name, and a channel through which My blessings shall flow to the world.'"—"Counsels to Teachers," p. 145.

A Heritage of the Lord

1. From whom are children a heritage? Ps. 127:3, 4; Gen. 33:5.

2. For what did Ezra pray in behalf of Israel and all their children? Ezra 8:21.
Training of Children Essential

3. What is the Lord's will concerning the training of our children? Prov. 29:17; Ps. 144:12.

Note.—“As the children sang in the temple courts, 'Hosanna! Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord,' so in these last days, children's voices will be raised to give the last message of warning to a perishing world. When heavenly intelligences see that men are no longer permitted to present the truth, the Spirit of God will come upon the children, and they will do a work in the proclamation of the truth which the older workers cannot do, because their way will be hedged up.”—“Testimonies,” vol. 6, pp. 202, 203.

4. What is the result of failure to train and discipline children? Prov. 29:15.

5. In an effort to discharge their duties, against what are parents warned? Eph. 6:4; Col. 3:21.

Note.—“It will pay to manifest affection in your association with your children. Do not repel them by lack of sympathy in their childish sports, joys, and griefs. Never let a frown gather upon your brow, or a harsh word escape your lips. God writes all these words in His book of records. Harsh words sour the temper and wound the hearts of children, and in some cases these wounds are difficult to heal. Children are sensitive to the least injustice, and some become discouraged under it, and will neither heed the loud, angry voice of command, nor care for threatenings of punishment. Rebellion is too frequently established in the hearts of children through the wrong discipline of the parents, when if a proper course had been taken, the children would have formed good and harmonious characters.”—“Testimonies,” vol. 3, pp. 532, 533.


Note.—Not only does sin and transgression bring hardship and suffering to the transgressor; upon the Saviour of mankind fell the punishment for man's sin. Every sin willfully committed wounds the Son of God afresh. Yet His suffering in our behalf brought our only hope for healing. “With His stripes we are healed.”


Note.—“Chasten” signifies to correct in love, to punish in justice. (See Isa. 53:5.) That substitutionary punishment by which our peace, that is, our reconciliation to God, salvation, and happiness, was purchased, was laid upon Christ by God's justice, with Christ's own consent. There is nothing brutal nor cruel in the Lord's correction. That chastisement which comes from Him is tempered with mercy and is dealt only in love. There is no warrant in the Bible for cruel beating. We do not forget, however, the passage from the word, “He that spareth his rod hateth his son.”

The objection to the brutalizing character of corporal punishment cannot apply to the sting of a little switch applied to feet and legs. But this should be used very early,—while the child is still in the nursery. “Obedience there must be arbitrary; it will be too late if we wait for adolescence. As the child grows, reasoning should play a larger and larger part in his discipline. The aim of discipline is not to break or to crush the child, but to bring him to the point [7]
of accepting the responsibility of his own actions. . . . The habit of obedience must be learned in early infancy, by using the simple law of pain and pleasure. 'No' must be linked with pain until 'No' can be substituted for pain. There must be restraint in infancy, but self-control must be the ultimate end and purpose of all discipline."—"The Way He Should Go," Agnes Lewis Caviness, pp. 55, 56.

The Necessary Instruction and Its Results

9. How should children be instructed in the precepts of the kingdom? Deut. 6:6, 7; Ps. 78:4-7.

10. What examples have been given us? Gen. 18:17-19; Job 1:5.

11. What is told us concerning the sons of Eli? 1 Sam. 2:12.


Note.—"Eli did not manage his household according to God's rules for family government. He followed his own judgment. The fond father overlooked the faults and sins of his sons in their childhood, flattering himself that after a time they would outgrow their evil tendencies. Many are now making a similar mistake. They think they know a better way of training their children than that which God has given in His Word. They foster wrong tendencies in them, urging as an excuse, 'They are too young to be punished. Wait till they become older, and can be reasoned with.' Thus wrong habits are left to strengthen until they become second nature. The children grow up without restraint, with traits of character that are a lifelong curse to them, and are liable to be reproduced in others.

"There is no greater curse upon households than to allow the youth to have their own way. When parents regard every wish of their children, and indulge them in what they know is not for their good, the children soon lose all respect for their parents, all regard for the authority of God or man, and are led captive at the will of Satan. The influence of an ill-regulated family is widespread, and disastrous to all society. It accumulates in a tide of evil that affects families, communities, and governments."—"Patriarchs and Prophets," pp. 578, 579.

Failure to Correct—Its Consequences

13. What sentence was pronounced by God upon Eli's failure to correct his sons? 1 Sam. 3:11-14.

14. As a comforting contrast, what beautiful example is given us in the life of Hannah? 1 Sam. 1:9-11, 26-28.

Note.—"What a reward was Hannah's! and what an encouragement to faithfulness is her example! There are opportunities of inestimable worth, interests infinitely precious, committed to every mother. The humble round of duties which women have come to regard as a wearisome task, should be looked upon as a grand and noble work. It is the mother's privilege to bless the world by her influence, and in doing this she will bring joy to her own heart. She may make straight paths for the feet of her children, through sunshine and shadow, to the glorious heights above. But it is only when she seeks, in her own life, to follow the teachings of Christ, that the mother can hope to form the character of her children after the divine pattern."—"Patriarchs and Prophets," p. 572.

15. What grave question will be asked of us by our Master? Jer. 13:20.
Lesson 4, for January 27, 1940

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Duties of Children

MEMORY VERSE: “My son, attend to My words; incline thine ear unto My sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart.” Prov. 4:20, 21.

STUDY HELP: “Patriarchs and Prophets,” pp. 573, 574.

SEED THOUGHT: “Children, do you desire eternal life? Then respect and honor your parents. . . . If you have sinned in not rendering love and obedience to them, begin now to redeem the past. You cannot afford to take any other course; for it means to you the loss of eternal life.”—“Messages to Young People,” p. 332.

Blessing in Obedience

1. Repeat the fifth commandment. Ex. 20:12.

Note.—“Parents are entitled to a degree of love and respect which is due to no other person. God Himself, who has placed upon them a responsibility for the souls committed to their charge, has ordained that during the earlier years of life, parents shall stand in the place of God to their children. And he who rejects the rightful authority of his parents, is rejecting the authority of God. The fifth commandment requires children not only to yield respect, submission, and obedience to their parents, but also to give them love and tenderness, to lighten their cares, to guard their reputation, and to succor and comfort them in old age. It also enjoins respect for ministers and rulers, and for all others to whom God has delegated authority.”—“Patriarchs and Prophets,” p. 308.

2. What instruction is given children with reference to their attitude toward their parents? Prov. 1:8, 9; 23:22; Col. 3:20.

3. What are some blessings pronounced on those obedient to this instruction? Prov. 4:20-22; 6:20-22.


Note.—“Our youth profess to be among those who keep the commandments of God, and yet many of them neglect and break the fifth commandment; and the rich blessing promised to those who observe this precept, and honor father and mother, cannot be fulfilled to them. Unless they repent of their sin, and reform their practices and character through the grace of Christ, they will never enter into the new earth, upon which they may live eternally. Those who do not respect and love their parents will not respect and honor God. Those who fail to bear the test, who fail to honor their God-fearing parents, fail to obey God, and therefore cannot expect to come into the land of promise.”—“Messages to Young People,” pp. 331, 332.

A Sign of the End

5. What attitude of children constitutes one of the signs of the last days? 2 Tim. 3:2.

7. What was the effect of the spirit of reform in the work of John the Baptist? Luke 1:17.

8. What is one of the reforms promised as part of the work of God's remnant church? Mal. 4:6.

Note.—"The hearts of your parents have been drawn out in tender sympathy toward you, and can you return their love with cold ingratitude? They love your souls, they want you to be saved; but have you not often despised their counsel and done your own will, your own way? Have you not followed your own independent judgment, when you knew that such a stubborn course would not meet the approval of God? Many fathers and mothers have gone down brokenhearted to the grave because of the ingratitude, the lack of respect, shown them by their children."—"Messages to Young People," p. 332.

Examples of Faithfulness

9. Name Bible examples of obedience due to parental instruction.
   c. Josiah. 2 Chron. 34:1-3.
   f. Timothy. 2 Tim. 1:5; 3:14, 15.


Note.—"Jesus is our example. There are many who dwell with interest upon the period of His public ministry, while they pass unnoticed the teaching of His early years. But it is in His home life that He is the pattern for all children and youth. The Saviour condescended to poverty, that He might teach how closely we in a humble lot may walk with God. He lived to please, honor, and glorify His Father in the common things of life. His work began in consecrating the lowly trade of the craftsmen who toil for their daily bread. He was doing God's service just as much when laboring at the carpenter's bench as when working miracles for the multitude. And every youth who follows Christ's example of faithfulness and obedience in His lowly home, may claim those words spoken of Him by the Father through the Holy Spirit, 'Behold My servant, whom I uphold; Mine elect, in whom My soul delighteth.'"—"The Desire of Ages," p. 74.

"The life of Christ was marked with respect and love for His mother."—"The Desire of Ages," p. 90.

"On the cross in His last act of tenderness toward His mother, Jesus again addressed her in the same way, as He committed her to the care of His best-loved disciple. Both at the marriage feast and upon the cross, the love expressed in tone and look and manner, interpreted His words."—"The Desire of Ages," p. 146.

THIRTEENTH SABBATH OFFERING
March 30, 1940
Far Eastern Division [10]
Lesson 5, for February 3, 1940

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The Home and Religion


SEED THOUGHT: The child born into a home brings with him a threefold nature which must be nourished that it may develop sturdily and symmetrically. The first year or two we are concerned chiefly with his physical needs. As his capacity for observation and expression begin to be manifest, we begin to plan for his intellectual nourishment. But the spiritual side of his nature is often neglected or deliberately left to lie dormant under the misapprehension that he is not old enough to comprehend spiritual things. However, the spiritual education is the most important work given to earthly parents. Upon its faithful performance depends the child’s welfare, for time and eternity.

Teaching in the Home

1. What beautiful example do we have from the childhood home of Timothy? 2 Tim. 1:5; 3:15.

   Note.—By precept and example we must teach our children how to come to our Father in heaven. The parents’ own relationship to their heavenly Father affords the best opportunities for these first lessons. If we are living in His presence, there will be an atmosphere of reverence and piety pervading the home which leaves its impress upon the child. The child may not understand his mother’s words as she kneels by his crib, night after night, and in fervent voice and heartfelt words invokes God’s blessing upon her child; but her kneeling position, reverent intonation, and manner all speak to him of an invisible, loving, and powerful Being to whom she is speaking. Again, he sees his father on his knees, in the same manner speaking to this same unseen One at family worship. Before every meal he observes that every head is bowed in gratitude when thanks is rendered to God for their food.

   Later, as his ears are opened to the understanding of words, he learns the various names and attributes of this unseen Friend,—ever-present, ever-loving,—and his heart is attracted to the same One by his parents’ faith. If in the home, love, patience, meekness, and gentleness are the prevailing atmosphere, the child will readily understand when his mother tells him, “Jesus loves and cares for you, my child.” And since love begets love, it will be an easy step for the child to love God and desire to please Him.

2. With what diligence should parents instruct their children? Deut. 6:6, 7.

   Note.—In all of life’s situations are to be interwoven God’s holy precepts. The child’s realization of God’s ownership of him, and, therefore, his obligation to God, will depend almost entirely upon the degree of sincerity which he sees and feels in his parents’ lives.

Trained in the Ways of the Lord

3. How are children to be brought up? Eph. 6:4, last clause.

   Note.—“Hearts that are filled with the love of Christ can never get very
far apart. Religion is love; and a Christian home is one where love reigns, and finds expression in words and acts of thoughtful kindness and gentle courtesy. Let no harsh words be spoken. Let the family worship be made pleasant and interesting. Be a Christian gentleman, my brother; for the very same principles that characterize the home life will be carried into the church. A lack of courtesy, a moment of petulance, a single rough, thoughtless word, will mar your reputation, and may close the door to hearts so that you can never reach them."—“Testimonies,” vol. 5, p. 335.

4. What attitude should our children learn to take toward God’s word? Ps. 119:105, 111, 129.

Methods of Parental Training

5. Against what human weakness are we warned by Paul in the epistle to the Hebrews? Heb. 13:5.

Note.—The need for training our children against the sin of covetousness is strongly stated in the following sentences: “To live for self is to perish. Covetousness, the desire of benefit for self’s sake, cuts the soul off from life. It is the spirit of Satan to get, to draw to self. It is the spirit of Christ to give, to sacrifice self for the good of others.”—“Christ’s Object Lessons,” p. 259.

6. What should we teach our children concerning judging by outward appearance? 1 Sam. 16:7; James 4:11.

Note.—“No outward beauty can recommend the soul to God. The wisdom and excellence revealed in the character and deportment, express the true beauty of the man; and it is the inner worth, the excellency of the heart, that determines our acceptance with the Lord of hosts. How deeply should we feel this truth in the judgment of ourselves and others. We may learn, from the mistake of Samuel, how vain is the estimation that rests on beauty of face or nobility of stature. We may see how incapable is man’s wisdom of understanding the secrets of the heart, or of comprehending the counsels of God, without special enlightenment from heaven.”—“Patriarchs and Prophets,” p. 638.


Note.—Training a child in habits of diligence and industry is essential to success in afterlife. Concerning this element in human life we are told: “The hill of progress is not to be climbed without effort. No one need expect to be carried along to the prize, either in religious or secular matters, independently of his own exertions. The race is not always to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, yet he that dealeth with a slack hand will become poor. The persevering and industrious are not only happy themselves, but they contribute largely to the happiness of others. Competency and comfort are not ordinarily attained except at the price of earnest industry.”—“Testimonies,” vol. 5, p. 180.

8. How should the child be trained as to his speech? Eph. 5:4; 4:29.

9. Concerning boastfulness, what should the parents teach? Prov. 10:19; 27:1, 2.


Note.—“Many mistake strong passions for a strong character; but the truth is that he who is mastered by his passions is a weak man. The real
greatness of the man is measured by the power of the feelings that he controls, not by those that control him."—"Patriarchs and Prophets," pp. 567, 568.


Note.—"Confession of sin, whether public or private, should be heartfelt, and freely expressed. It is not to be urged from the sinner. It is not to be made in a flippant and careless way, or forced from those who have no realizing sense of the abhorrent character of sin. The confession that is the outpouring of the inmost soul finds its way to the God of infinite pity."—"Steps to Christ," p. 43.

12. For what are all these scriptures concerning personal conduct profitable? 2 Tim. 3:16.

Note.—Parents should seek by the careful use of the principles laid down in the Sacred Book to instruct their children in the ways of God. Every principle of righteous conduct, of true living in honesty and sobriety, worthy of sons and daughters of God, is to be found therein. These words are profitable for the guidance of children and youth, for their correction, for their instruction in the ways of righteousness. Every father and mother should seek in love to so implant these principles in the heart of the child that they will be a shield and buckler against temptation in every experience of life.

13. To whom should God-fearing parents go for help in their task of guiding their children? James 1:5.

Note.—"Brought up under the wise and loving guidance of a true home, children will have no desire to wander away in search of pleasure and companionship. Evil will not attract them. The spirit that prevails in the home will mold their characters; they will form habits and principles that will be a strong defense against temptation when they shall leave the home shelter and take their place in the world."—"Ministry of Healing," p. 394.

Lesson 6, for February 10, 1940

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| SABBATH | SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |

The Home and Prayer

MEMORY VERSE: "My voice shalt Thou hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto Thee, and will look up." Ps. 5:3.


SEED THOUGHT: "True family worship is a fountain that brings streams of holy influences into every part of the household. It is a vase of perfume that sheds fragrance over all. It softens asperities. It quells anger. It quiets impatience. It settles differences. It subdues evil passions. Hearts that are drawn together at God's feet every day cannot get very far apart. The frictions of the day are forgotten when all voices mingle in the same heavenly song. As the tender words of inspiration fall with their benign counsels, all feeling of unkindness melts away. The altar in the
midst wondrously hallows and sweetens the home fellowship. Besides, it puts new strength into every heart. It comforts sorrow. It is a shield against temptation. It smooths out the wrinkles of care. It inspires strength for burden bearing. It quickens every religious sentiment and keeps the fires burning on every heart's altar."—"Week Day Religion," J. R. Miller, p. 79.

The Prayer Life of the Patriarchs

1. What marked the patriarchs' pilgrimages through their life? Noah, Gen. 8:20; Abraham, Gen. 12:7; Jacob, Gen. 35:1, 3; Moses, Ex. 17:15.

   NOTE.—"The father who is the 'house-band' of the family, will bind his children to the throne of God by living faith. Distrusting his own strength, he hangs his helpless soul on Jesus, and takes hold of the strength of the Most High. Brethren, pray at home, in your family, night and morning; pray earnestly in your closet; and while engaged in your daily labor, lift up the soul to God in prayer. It was thus that Enoch walked with God."—"Testimonies," vol. 4, p. 616.

2. What does David say concerning the blessing of divine worship? Psalm 84.

3. What is the exhortation to the Hebrews concerning the habitual worship of God in His sanctuary? Heb. 10:25.

The Prayer Example of Christ and the Apostles


   NOTE.—"It was from hours spent with God, that He came forth, morning by morning, to bring the light of heaven to men. The disciples had come to connect His hours of prayer with the power of His words and works. Now as they listened to His supplication their hearts were awed and humbled. As He ceased praying, it was with a conviction of their own deep need that they exclaimed, 'Lord, teach us to pray.' (Luke 11:1.)"—"Mount of Blessing," p. 152.


Examples of Answered Prayer

6. What was David's experience when in distress? What was the answer? 2 Sam. 15:30, 31; 17:7-14.


9. When Israel was threatened with alien armies, what prayer was prayed by Jehoshaphat? With what result? 2 Chron. 20:3-23.

Heart Preparation for Answered Prayer


11. Whose prayer is acceptable to God? Prov. 15:8; James 5:15.

**Rejoicing for Answered Prayer**


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**Lesson 7, for February 17, 1940**

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**The Home and the Sabbath**

**MEMORY VERSE:** “It shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before Me, saith the Lord.” Isa. 66:23.


**SEED THOUGHT:** “The Sabbath should be made so interesting to our families that its weekly return will be hailed with joy. In no better way can parents exalt and honor the Sabbath than by devising means to impart proper instruction to their families, and interesting them in spiritual things, giving them correct views of the character of God, and what He requires of us in order to perfect Christian characters and attain to eternal life. Parents, make the Sabbath a delight, that your children may look forward to it, and have a welcome in their hearts for it.”—“Testimonies,” vol. 2, p. 585.

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**The Sabbath of the Commandment**

1. Repeat the Sabbath commandment. Ex. 20:8-11.

2. How are we to keep the Sabbath day? What is the force of the word “remember”? Ex. 20:8.

**Note.**—We are to remember the Sabbath to keep it holy. Throughout the entire week we are so to plan our secular affairs that, when the Sabbath comes to us, we will be ready to receive it and not desecrate its sanctity because of our forgetfulness. In this sense the fourth commandment, like the other nine, covers all the transactions of life during the entire seven days of the week.

3. When does the Sabbath begin and end? Lev. 23:32, last clause; Mark 1:32.

**Note.**—There is no more fitting way to begin the Sabbath than, as its sacred hours draw near, to assemble the family, and, after singing, and reading God’s blessed word, engage in a season of prayer, invoking pardon for sin, and asking for a Sabbath blessing. Then as its closing moments draw nigh, offer a prayer of thanksgiving, and ask for strength for the coming week.

[15]
Preparation for the Sabbath

4. What is the day before the Sabbath called? Ex. 16:5; Mark 15:42.

   NOTE.—"Friday is the day of preparation. Time can then be devoted to
   making the necessary preparation for the Sabbath, and to thinking and con-
   versing about it. Nothing which will in the sight of Heaven be regarded as a
   violation of the holy Sabbath should be left unsaid or undone, to be said or
   done upon the Sabbath."—"Testimonies," vol. 2, pp. 702, 703.

5. What preparation should be made for the Sabbath? Ex. 16:4, 5, 23.

Proper Sabbath Observance

6. What miracle was wrought to teach proper reverence for the Sab-
   bath? Ex. 16:19, 20, 24-29.

7. How was the Sabbath observed by the New Testament believers?

Lawful to Do Good

8. What example of Christ's indicates the true spirit of Sabbath ob-

9. What else is included in proper Sabbath observance besides refrain-
   ing from work? Isa. 58:13, 14.

   NOTE.—"God requires not only that we refrain from physical labor upon
   the Sabbath, but that the mind be disciplined to dwell upon sacred themes.
   The fourth commandment is virtually transgressed by conversing upon worldly
   things, or by engaging in light and trifling conversation. Talking upon any-
   thing or everything which may come into the mind, is speaking our own

10. What is the character of God's law? Rom. 7:12, 14.

11. What condition of heart is essential for properly keeping the
    Sabbath? Ezek. 36:26, 27.

Blessing to the Obedient

12. What blessings are promised to the obedient? Ps. 19:7-11.

13. What further significance is attached to the Sabbath day? Ezek.
    20:12.

   NOTE.—'If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath, from doing thy
   pleasure on My holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord,
   honorable; . . . then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord.' To all who
   receive the Sabbath as a sign of Christ's creative and redeeming power, it will
   be a delight. Seeing Christ in it, they delight themselves in Him. The Sabbath
   points them to the works of creation as an evidence of His mighty power in
   redemption. While it calls to mind the lost peace of Eden, it tells of peace
   restored through the Saviour. And every object in nature repeats His invita-
   tion, 'Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give

THIRTEENTH SABBATH OFFERING
March 30, 1940—Far Eastern Division
Lesson 8, for February 24, 1940

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Christian Education

MEMORY VERSE: “Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” 2 Tim. 2:15.


SEED THOUGHT: “To restore in man the image of his Maker, to bring him back to the perfection in which he was created, to promote the development of body, mind, and soul, that the divine purpose in his creation might be realized,—this was to be the work of redemption. This is the object of education, the great object of life.”—“Education,” pp. 15, 16.

The Purpose of True Education

1. What is the purpose of true education? 2 Tim. 2:15.

Note.—“To dwell forever in this home of the blest, to bear in soul, body, and spirit, not the dark traces of sin and the curse, but the perfect likeness of our Creator, and through ceaseless ages to advance in wisdom, in knowledge, and in holiness, ever exploring new fields of thought, ever finding new wonders and new glories, ever increasing in capacity to know and to enjoy and to love, and knowing that there is still beyond us joy and love and wisdom infinite,—such is the object to which the Christian’s hope is pointing, for which Christian education is preparing. To secure this education, and to aid others to secure it, should be the object of the Christian’s life.”—“Counsels to Teachers,” p. 55.

2. What should be the basic principles studied? Phil. 4:8.

Note.—“To many who place their children in our schools, strong temptations will come because they desire them to secure what the world regards as the most essential education. To these I would say, Bring your children to the simplicity of the word, and they will be safe. This Book is the foundation of all true knowledge. The highest education they can receive is to learn how to add to their ‘faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.’”—“Counsels to Teachers,” p. 15.

3. What choice must be made by all who would truly live? Deut. 30:19, 20.

Note.—Whatever may bring life, both temporal and eternal, whatever may lengthen the days here and eternally, is “of God.” “He is thy life,” tells the whole story. If we would live, we must choose to know Him, to obey Him, to be like Him. To truly know Christ is life eternal. In choosing an education that truly elevates, one must study that which leads to the fuller understanding of God and of Christ.

The First School

4. When God created man, what provision was made for his education? Gen. 2:15.
NOTE.—"The Garden of Eden was the schoolroom, nature was the lesson book, the Creator Himself was the instructor, and the parents of the human family were the students."—"Education," p. 20.

5. What did God intend the Garden of Eden to be?

ANSWER.—"The Garden of Eden was a representation of what God desired the whole earth to become, and it was His purpose that, as the human family increased in numbers, they should establish other homes and schools like the one He had given. Thus in course of time the whole earth might be occupied with homes and schools where the words and the works of God should be studied, and where the students should thus be fitted more and more fully to reflect, throughout endless ages, the light of the knowledge of His glory."—"Education," p. 22.

"The holy pair were not only children under the fatherly care of God, but students receiving instruction from the all-wise Creator. They were visited by angels, and were granted communion with their Maker, with no obscuring veil between."—"Patriarchs and Prophets," p. 50.

6. What promise of instruction has God made to all His children? Ps. 32:8.

7. Through whom should all education begin? Deut. 6:7, first clause.

8. What should be the schoolroom of children of tender age?

ANSWER.—"The fields and hills—nature's audience chamber—should be the schoolroom for little children. Her treasures should be their textbook. The lessons thus imprinted upon their minds will not be soon forgotten."—"Fundamentals of Christian Education," p. 61.

9. How early in life should the principles laid down in God's word be taught? 2 Tim. 3:15.

NOTE.—"Children may be trained for the service of sin or for the service of righteousness. Solomon says, 'Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.' Prov. 22:6. This language is positive. The training that Solomon enjoins is to direct, educate, develop. But in order for parents to do this work, they must themselves understand the 'way' the child should go."—"Counsels to Teachers," p. 108.

The Source and Goal of Wisdom

10. What is everyone urged to seek? Prov. 2:2-5.


NOTE.—"In a knowledge of God, all true knowledge and real development have their source. . . . Whatever line of investigation we pursue, with a sincere purpose to arrive at truth, we are brought in touch with the unseen, mighty Intelligence that is working in and through all. The mind of man is brought into communion with the mind of God, the finite with the Infinite. The effect of such communion on body and mind and soul is beyond estimate. In this communion is found the highest education. It is God's own method of development."—"Education," p. 14.

12. What ideal in Christian character and cultural development is set for the youth in God's family? Ps. 144:12.

Note.—"For Christ's sake, let the aim of your education be shaped by the inducements of the better world."—"Fundamentals of Christian Education," p. 235.

Lesson 9, for March 2, 1940

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True Education Illustrated by Experience

MEMORY VERSE: "As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom." Dan. 1:17, first part.


SEED THOUGHT: "Fine mental qualities and a high moral tone are not the result of accident. God gives opportunities; success depends upon the use made of them."—"Prophets and Kings," p. 486.

The Schooling of Patriarch and Prophet

1. For what was Abraham commended of God? Gen. 18:18, 19.

Note.—"It is God that speaks. He who understands the thoughts afar off, and places the right estimate upon men, says, 'I know him.' There would be, on the part of Abraham, no betraying of the truth for selfish purposes. He would keep the law, and deal justly and righteously. And he would not only fear the Lord himself, but would cultivate religion in his home. He would instruct his family in righteousness. The law of God would be the rule in his household.

"Abraham's household comprised more than a thousand souls. Those who were led by his teachings to worship the one God, found a home in his encampment; and here, as in a school, they received such instruction as would prepare them to be representatives of the true faith. Thus a great responsibility rested upon him. He was training heads of families, and his methods of government would be carried out in the households over which they should preside."—"Patriarchs and Prophets," p. 141.

2. When Joseph was sold by his brethren into Egypt, what held him true to principle?

Answer.—"Then his thoughts turned to his father's God. In his childhood he had been taught to love and fear Him. Often in his father's tent he had listened to the story of the vision that Jacob saw as he fled from his home an exile and a fugitive. He had been told of the Lord's promises to Jacob, and how they had been fulfilled,—how, in the hour of need, the angels of God had come to instruct, comfort, and protect him. And he had learned of the love of God in providing for men a Redeemer. Now all these precious lessons came vividly before him. Joseph believed that the God of his fathers would be his God. He then and there gave himself fully to the Lord, and he prayed that the Keeper of Israel would be with him in the land of his exile."—"Patriarchs and Prophets," pp. 213, 214.
3. Tested by trial, educated in the wisdom of Egypt, what was the effect of his early education upon his afterlife? Gen. 50:24, 25; Heb. 11:22.

Note.—"When he saw that his end was near, he summoned his kinsmen about him. Honored as he had been in the land of the Pharaohs, Egypt was to him but the place of his exile; his last act was to signify that his lot was cast with Israel."—"Patriarchs and Prophets," p. 240.

4. What was the effect of the principles of true education upon the life and decisions of Moses? Heb. 11:23-27.

Note.—"God had heard the mother's prayers; her faith had been rewarded. It was with deep gratitude that she entered upon her now safe and happy task. She faithfully improved her opportunity to educate her child for God. She felt confident that he had been preserved for some great work, and she knew that he must soon be given up to his royal mother, to be surrounded with influences that would tend to lead him away from God. All this rendered her more diligent and careful in his instruction than in that of her other children. She endeavored to imbue his mind with the fear of God and the love of truth and justice, and earnestly prayed that he might be preserved from every corrupting influence. She showed him the folly and sin of idolatry, and early taught him to bow down and pray to the living God, who alone could hear him and help him in every emergency."—"Patriarchs and Prophets," pp. 243, 244.

"Only twelve years did he spend with his Hebrew kindred; but during these years was laid the foundation of his greatness; it was laid by the hand of one little known to fame. . . . Those principles of truth that were the burden of his mother's teaching and the lesson of her life, no afterinfluence could induce Moses to renounce."—"Education," p. 61.

5. Who in early childhood was called to become a prophet of God? What part did his mother have in his consecration to the Lord? 1 Sam. 3:2-4, 20; 1:27, 28.

Note.—"Once more Hannah journeyed with her husband to Shiloh, and presented to the priest, in the name of God, her precious gift. . . . Eli was deeply impressed by the faith and devotion of this woman of Israel. Himself an overindulgent father, he was awed and humbled as he beheld this mother's great sacrifice in parting with her only child, that she might devote him to the service of God. He felt reproved for his own selfish love, and in humiliation and reverence he bowed before the Lord and worshiped."—"Patriarchs and Prophets," p. 571.

6. At the time of the captivity, who among those taken gave outstanding witness to godly training? Dan. 1:4, 17.

Note.—"Daniel and his associates had been trained by their parents to habits of strict temperance. They had been taught that God would hold them accountable for their capabilities, and that they must never dwarf or enfeeble their powers. This education was to Daniel and his companions the means of their preservation amidst the demoralizing influences of the court of Babylon. Strong were the temptations surrounding them in that corrupt and luxurious court, but they remained uncontaminated. No power, no influence, could sway them from the principles they had learned in early life by a study of the word and works of God."—"Prophets and Kings," p. 482.

The 13th Sabbath offering goes to the Far Eastern Division.
The Schools of the Prophets

7. Aside from the home training of the youth of Israel, what special schools were established?

ANSWER.—"Further provision was made for the instruction of the young, by the establishment of the schools of the prophets. If a youth desired to search deeper into the truths of the word of God, and to seek wisdom from above, that he might become a teacher in Israel, these schools were open to him. The schools of the prophets were founded by Samuel, to serve as a barrier against the widespread corruption, to provide for the moral and spiritual welfare of the youth, and to promote the future prosperity of the nation by furnishing it with men qualified to act in the fear of God as leaders and counselors. . . . They enjoyed the respect and confidence of the people, both for learning and piety."—"Patriarchs and Prophets," p. 593.

8. How many such schools were there in Samuel's day?

ANSWER.—Two—one at Ramah and the other at Kirjath-jearim. (See pages 592-602 in "Patriarchs and Prophets").

9. What was the objective of the study in these schools?

ANSWER.—"In those schools of the olden time it was the grand object of all study to learn the will of God, and man's duty toward Him."—"Patriarchs and Prophets," pp. 593, 594.

10. What recorded experiences indicate the character of these schools?


Solomon's Choice and Ours


12. How did God respond to his plea? Upon what conditions was his request to be granted? Verses 11-14.

13. What similar assurance is given to all God's children? James 1:5.

NOTE.—"When a burden bearer desires wisdom more than he desires wealth, power, or fame, he will not be disappointed. Such a one will learn from the great Teacher not only what to do, but how to do it in a way that will meet with the divine approval."—"Prophets and Kings," p. 31.

Lesson 10, for March 9, 1940

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Christ the Center of True Education

MEMORY VERSE: "In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." Col. 2:3.

SEED THOUGHT: "To obtain an education worthy of the name, we must receive a knowledge of God, the Creator, and of Christ, the Redeemer, as they are revealed in the sacred word."—"Education," p. 17. "In the highest sense, the work of education and the work of redemption are one; for in education, as in redemption, 'other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.' 'It was the good pleasure of the Father that in Him should all the fullness dwell,' "—Id., p. 30.

The School of Christ

1. For what was Christ recognized in His interview with Nicodemus? John 3:2.

2. In His earliest ministry to the multitudes, how is His work spoken of? Matt. 5:2.

   NOTE.—"The beatitudes were His greeting to the whole human family. Looking upon the vast throng gathered to listen to the Sermon on the Mount, He seemed for the moment to have forgotten that He was not in heaven, and He used the familiar salutation of the world of light. From His lips flowed blessings as the gushing forth of a long-sealed fountain."—"Education," p. 79.

3. What manner of training for life did He give His disciples? Matt. 4:19, 20; chapter 10.

   NOTE.—"As Jesus ministered to the vast multitudes that gathered about Him, His disciples were in attendance, eager to do His bidding and to lighten His labor. They assisted in arranging the people, bringing the afflicted ones to the Saviour, and promoting the comfort of all. They watched for interested hearers, explained the Scriptures to them, and in various ways worked for their spiritual benefit. They taught what they had learned of Jesus, and were every day obtaining a rich experience. But they needed also an experience in laboring alone. They were still in need of much instruction, great patience and tenderness. Now, while He was personally with them, to point out their errors, and counsel and correct them, the Saviour sent them forth as His representatives."—"The Desire of Ages," p. 349.


The Christian School of Today

5. What is the true foundation of all understanding and wisdom? Prov. 9:10; Job 28:28.

6. What last-day conditions emphasize the necessity for true education? 2 Tim. 3:1-5, 7; 4:3, 4.

7. Against what class of teaching are the youth warned? 1 Tim. 6:20.

   NOTE.—This scripture warns against science, falsely so called. Of such scientific teaching we are told: "Human knowledge of both material and spiritual things is partial and imperfect; therefore many are unable to harmonize their views of science with Scripture statements. Many accept mere theories and speculations as scientific facts, and they think that God's word is to be tested by the teachings of 'science falsely so called.' The Creator and His works are beyond their comprehension; and because they cannot explain these by natural laws, Bible history is regarded as unreliable. Those who doubt the reliability of the records of the Old and New Testaments, too often go a step farther, and doubt the existence of God, and attribute infinite power to nature. Having let go their anchor, they are left to beat about upon the rocks of infidelity."—"The Great Controversy," p. 522.

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8. Toward what should all teaching in the Christian school of today point the way? Titus 2:11-14.

Note.—All that is taught in the Christian school of today should aid in preparation for the coming of our Lord and Saviour. Knowledge gained in the study of the sciences fills its place when rightly related to sacred truth. All true knowledge and wisdom finds its source in the Creator of heaven and earth, the One who guides the stars in their courses. In every study the aim of the teacher should be to lead to preparation for the higher school under the Master Teacher, and the aim of every pupil to obtain a fitting for a place in the school of the hereafter.

9. What should be the attitude of both teacher and pupil toward false theories in science or religion? 1 Cor. 2:13; 2 Cor. 11:2, 3; Phil. 3:8.

Note.—“By many, man’s wisdom is thought to be higher than the wisdom of the divine Teacher, and God’s lesson book is looked upon as old-fashioned, stale, and uninteresting. But by those who have been vivified by the Holy Spirit it is not so regarded. They see the priceless treasure, and would sell all to buy the field that contains it. Instead of books containing the suppositions of reputedly great authors, they choose the word of Him who is the greatest author and the greatest teacher the world has ever known, who gave His life for us, that through Him we might have everlasting life.”—“Christ’s Object Lessons,” pp. 107, 108.

10. What is the natural result of seeking the wisdom of this world? Matt. 11:16-19.

Note.—That which fails to recognize God brings in confusion of judgment. Thus in the days of John the Baptist and of Christ, the teachings of the day led to a rejection of John and of Christ and a condemnation of their lives. “Wisdom is justified of her children.” Of the present times we read: “In too many schools of our day God’s word is set aside. Other subjects occupy the mind. The study of infidel authors holds a large place in the educational system. Skeptical sentiments are interwoven in the matter placed in school-books. Scientific research becomes misleading, because its discoveries are misinterpreted and perverted. The word of God is compared with the supposed teachings of science, and is made to appear uncertain and untrustworthy. Thus the seeds of doubt are planted in the minds of the youth, and in time of temptation they spring up. When, faith in God’s word is lost, the soul has no guide, no safeguard. The youth are drawn into paths which lead away from God and from everlasting life.

“To this cause may in great degree be attributed the widespread iniquity in our world today. When the word of God is set aside, its power to restrain the evil passions of the natural heart is rejected. Men sow to the flesh, and of the flesh they reap corruption.”—“Christ’s Object Lessons,” p. 41.


12. What are the characteristics of the wisdom from above? James 3:17.

In the Hereafter

13. What indicates that in the new earth the saints will continue to study the wisdom of God? Eph. 2:6, 7; 3:17-19.

14. What are we told will be the occupation of the redeemed in the heavenly land? Isa. 65:17-25.
NOTE.—"There, immortal minds will contemplate with never-failing delight the wonders of creative power, the mysteries of redeeming love. There will be no cruel, deceiving foe to tempt to forgetfulness of God. Every faculty will be developed, every capacity increased. The acquirement of knowledge will not weary the mind or exhaust the energies. There the grandest enterprises may be carried forward, the loftiest aspirations reached, the highest ambitions realized; and still there will arise new heights to surmount, new wonders to admire, new truths to comprehend, fresh objects to call forth the powers of mind and soul and body."—"The Great Controversy," p. 677.

Lesson 11, for March 16, 1940

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The Home and Character Building

MEMORY VERSE: "I will contend with him that contendeth with thee, and I will save thy children." Isa. 49:25, last part.


SEED THOUGHT: "It is by the youth and children of today that the future of society is to be determined, and what these youth and children shall be depends upon the home. To the lack of right home training may be traced the larger share of the disease and misery and crime that curse humanity. If the home life were pure and true, if the children who went forth from its care were prepared to meet life's responsibilities and dangers, what a change would be seen in the world!"—"Ministry of Healing," p. 351.

Builders of Character


NOTE.—"In every generation and in every land the true foundation and pattern for character building have been the same. The divine law, 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, . . . and thy neighbor as thyself,' the great principle made manifest in the character and life of our Saviour, is the only secure foundation and the only sure guide. . . . "Here is the only safeguard for individual integrity, for the purity of the home, the well-being of society, or the stability of the nation. Amidst all life's perplexities and dangers and conflicting claims, the one safe and sure rule is to do what God says. 'The statutes of the Lord are right,' and 'he that doeth these things shall never be moved.'"—"Education," pp. 228, 229.


NOTE.—"Upon them [parents] depends in a great measure the well-being of their children in this world, and their happiness in the world to come. To a great extent they determine both the physical and the moral stamp that the little ones receive. And upon the character of the home depends the condition of society: the weight of each family's influence will tell in the upward or the downward scale."—"Ministry of Healing," p. 357.

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"Fathers and mothers should carefully and prayerfully study the characters of their children. They should seek to repress and restrain those traits that are too prominent, and to encourage others which may be deficient, thus securing harmonious development. This is no light matter. The father may not consider it a great sin to neglect the training of his children; but thus does God regard it. Christian parents need a thorough conversion upon this subject. Guilt is accumulating upon them, and the consequences of their actions reach down from their own children to children's children. The ill-balanced mind, the hasty temper, the fretfulness, envy, or jealousy, bear witness to parental neglect. These evil traits of character bring great unhappiness to their possessors. How many fail to receive from companions and friends the love which they might have, if they were more amiable. How many create trouble wherever they go, and in whatever they are engaged!"—"Fundamentals of Christian Education," pp. 66, 67.

3. What is the promise to God-fearing parents? Isa. 49:25, last clause.

Note.—"There is a God above, and the light and glory from His throne rests upon the faithful mother as she tries to educate her children to resist the influence of evil. No other work can equal hers in importance. She has not; like the artist, to paint a form of beauty upon canvas, nor, like the sculptor, to chisel it from marble. She has not, like the author, to embody a noble thought in words of power, nor, like the musician, to express a beautiful sentiment in melody. It is hers, with the help of God, to develop in a human soul the likeness of the divine."—"Ministry of Healing," pp. 377, 378.

4. What relationship exists between God, parents, and the child?

Answer.—"Parents, in the training of your children, study the lessons that God has given in nature. If you would train a pink, or rose, or lily, how would you do it? Ask the gardener by what process he makes every branch and leaf to flourish so beautifully, and to develop in symmetry and loveliness. He will tell you that it was by no rude touch, no violent effort; for this would only break the delicate stems. It was by little attentions, often repeated. He moistened the soil, and protected the growing plants from the fierce blasts and from the scorching sun, and God caused them to flourish and to blossom into loveliness. In dealing with your children, follow the method of the gardener. By gentle touches, by loving ministrations, seek to fashion their characters after the pattern of the character of Christ.

"Encourage the expression of love toward God and toward one another. The reason why there are so many hardhearted men and women in the world is that true affection has been regarded as weakness, and has been discouraged and repressed. The better nature of these persons was stifled in childhood; and unless the light of divine love shall melt away their cold selfishness, their happiness will be forever ruined. If we wish our children to possess the tender spirit of Jesus, and the sympathy that angels manifest for us, we must encourage the generous loving impulses of childhood."—"The Desire of Ages," pp. 515, 516.

The Purpose and Foundation of Character Building

5. What is the supreme purpose to be sought in character building?

Prov. 6:20-22.

Note.—"The object of discipline is the training of the child for self-government. He should be taught self-reliance and self-control. Therefore as
soon as he is capable of understanding, his reason should be enlisted on the side of obedience. Let all dealing with him be such as to show obedience to be just and reasonable. Help him to see that all things are under law, and that disobedience leads, in the end, to disaster and suffering. When God says 'Thou shalt not,' He in love warns us of the consequences of disobedience, in order to save us from harm and loss."—"Education," p. 287.

6. What is one of the first requisites of character building?

**Answer.**—Obedience. Heb. 5:8; Eph. 6:1.

**Note.**—"One of the first lessons a child needs to learn is the lesson of obedience. Before he is old enough to reason, he may be taught to obey. By gentle, persistent effort, the habit should be established. Thus, to a great degree, may be prevented those later conflicts between will and authority that do so much to create alienation and bitterness toward parents and teachers, and too often resistance of all authority, human and divine."—"Education," p. 287.

"Rules should be few and well considered; and when once made, they should be enforced. Whatever it is found impossible to change, the mind learns to recognize and adapt itself to; but the possibility of indulgence induces desire, hope, and uncertainty, and the results are restlessness, irritability, and insubordination."—"Education," p. 290.

7. Name another cardinal virtue that must be established in childhood.

**Answer.**—Faithfulness. Ps. 31:23; Matt. 25:21, 23; Rev. 2:10.

**Note.**—"Only by faithfulness in the little things can the soul be trained to act with fidelity under larger responsibilities."—"Christ's Object Lessons," p. 356.

"Christ in His life on earth taught the lesson of careful attention to the little things. The great work of redemption weighed continually upon His soul. As He was teaching and healing, all the energies of mind and body were taxed to the utmost; yet He noticed the most simple things in life and in nature. His most instructive lessons were those in which by the simple things of nature He illustrated the great truths of the kingdom of God. He did not overlook the necessities of the humblest of His servants. His ear heard every cry of need. He was awake to the touch of the afflicted woman in the crowd; the very slightest touch of faith brought a response. When He raised from the dead the daughter of Jairus, He reminded her parents that she must have something to eat. When by His own mighty power He rose from the tomb, He did not disdain to fold and put carefully in the proper place the grave-clothes in which He had been laid away."—"Christ's Object Lessons," pp. 357, 358.

8. Name a third virtue essential to firm and steadfast character.

**Answer.**—Honesty. Prov. 11:1; Rom. 12:17, last clause; Phil. 4:8, first three phrases.

**Note.**—"It is neither the magnitude nor the seeming insignificance of a business transaction that makes it fair or unfair, honest or dishonest. By the least departure from rectitude we place ourselves on the enemy's ground, and may go on, step by step, to any length of injustice. A large proportion of the Christian world divorce religion from their business."—"Testimonies," vol. 4, p. 337.

"These truths are not for the closet more than for the counting room. The goods that we handle are not our own, and never can this fact safely be
lost sight of. We are but stewards, and on the discharge of our obligation to God and man depend both the welfare of our fellow beings and our own destiny for this life and for the life to come."—“Education,” p. 139.

Seeking for God’s Approval

9. According to what principles must this training be done? Ps. 24:3, 4; Rom. 12:21.

10. What is the greatest joy possible to parents at the coming of our Lord? Heb. 2:13.

11. How should we labor toward this end?

Answer.—In love, Jer. 31:3; in sacrifice, Matt. 13:45, 46; in ministry, Matt. 20:28.

Note.—“But when we give ourselves wholly to God, and in our work follow His directions, He makes Himself responsible for its accomplishment. He would not have us conjecture as to the success of our honest endeavors. Not once should we even think of failure. We are to co-operate with One who knows no failure.”—“Christ’s Object Lessons,” p. 363.

“There are fathers and mothers who long to labor in some foreign mission field; there are many who are active in Christian work outside the home, while their own children are strangers to the Saviour and His love. The work of winning their children for Christ many parents trust to the minister or the Sabbath school teacher; but in doing this they are neglecting their own God-given responsibility. The education and training of their children to be Christians is the highest service that parents can render to God. It is a work that demands patient labor, a lifelong diligent and persevering effort. By a neglect of this trust we prove ourselves unfaithful stewards. No excuse for such neglect will be accepted by God.”—“Christ’s Object Lessons,” p. 195

Lesson 12, for March 23, 1940

This diagram for daily lesson study records only. Place a check mark in proper space.

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The Home a Soul Winner

Memory Verse: “She shall bring forth a Son, and thou shalt call His name JESUS: for He shall save His people from their sins.” Matt. 1:21.


Seed Thought: “One great reason why there is so much evil in the world today is that parents occupy their minds with other things to the exclusion of the work that is all-important,—the task of patient and kindly teaching their children the way of the Lord. Parents should allow nothing to prevent them from giving to their children all the time that is necessary to make them understand what it means to obey and trust the Lord fully.”—“Counsels to Teachers,” p. 129.

Our Children’s Salvation to Be on Our Hearts

1. What is the desire of our Lord for all His earthly children? 2 Peter 3:9.
2. Why need we be specially concerned today about our children's salvation? 2 Tim. 3:1-5; Rev. 12:12.

Note.—"We are living in an unfortunate age for the young. The prevailing influence in society is in favor of allowing the youth to follow the natural turn of their own minds. If their children are very wild, parents flatter themselves that when they are older and reason for themselves, they will leave off their wrong habits, and become useful men and women. What a mistake! For years they permit an enemy to sow the garden of the heart, and suffer wrong principles to grow and strengthen, seeming not to discern the hidden dangers and the fearful ending of the path that seems to them the way of happiness. In many cases all the labor afterward bestowed upon these youth will avail nothing."—"Counsels to Teachers," pp. 325, 326.

Why Do Parents Fail?

3. What is one reason for the failure of parents in training their children?

Answer.—Parents are busy about many things and neglect to train their children. (See 1 Kings 20:40.)

Note.—"The woman in the parable searches diligently for her lost coin. She lights the candle and sweeps the house. She removes everything that might obstruct her search. Though only one piece is lost, she will not cease her efforts until that piece is found. So in the family, if one member is lost to God, every means should be used for his recovery. On the part of all the others, let there be diligent, careful self-examination. Let the life practice be investigated. See if there is not some mistake, some error in management, by which that soul is confirmed in impenitence.

"If there is in the family one child who is unconscious of his sinful state, parents should not rest. Let the candle be lighted. Search the word of God, and by its light let everything in the home be diligently examined, to see why this child is lost. Let parents search their own hearts, examine their habits and practices. Children are the heritage of the Lord, and we are answerable to Him for our management of His property."—"Christ's Object Lessons," pp. 194, 195.


Note.—"But those who have been guilty of neglect, are not to despair. The woman whose coin was lost searched until she found it. So in love, faith, and prayer let parents work for their households, until with joy they can come to God saying, 'Behold, I and the children whom the Lord hath given me.' "—"Christ's Object Lessons," pp. 195, 196.


Note.—It is a great mistake to allow a child to grow to any age unrebuked. Our negligence to control gives false ideas of authority. God requires of us that we bring up our children to recognize and respect legitimate authority. So they learn to acknowledge the authority of God and to yield to it with grateful submission. Of course all correcting should be done in love.

"Few parents begin early enough to teach their children to obey. The child is usually allowed to get two or three years the start of its parents, who forbear to discipline it, thinking it too young to learn to obey. But all this time self is
growing strong in the little being, and every day makes harder the parents' task of gaining control. At a very early age children can comprehend what is plainly and simply told them, and by kind and judicious management can be taught to obey. Never should they be allowed to show their parents disrespect. Self-will should never be permitted to go unrebuked. The future well-being of the child requires kindly, loving, but firm discipline."—"Counsels to Teachers," pp. 111, 112.

The Only Safe Foundation


Note.—"The question that should come home to each of us is, Upon what foundation am I building? We have the privilege of striving for immortal life; and it is of the greatest importance that we dig deep, removing all the rubbish, and build on the solid rock, Christ Jesus. He is the sure foundation. 'Other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.' 1 Cor. 3:11. In Him alone is our salvation."—"Counsels to Teachers," pp. 61, 62.

7. What is the only safe foundation? Acts 4:12.


Note.—In His word God has given us a wealth of material largely in the form of examples of the right way, and dangers of the wrong way. These examples are for our education. On few topics have we been given more instruction than upon homemaking and the training of our children for eternity. Various precious lessons are given us in the books "Christ's Object Lessons," "Ministry of Healing," "Patriarchs and Prophets," and "Education." With these aids within our reach our duty to educate ourselves is clear.

9. What is necessary that our children be saved for God?

Answer.—"If more attention were given to teaching parents how to form the habits and character of their children, a hundredfold more good would result."—"Ministry of Healing," p. 352.

"Never will education accomplish all that it might and should accomplish until the importance of the parents' work is fully recognized, and they receive a training for its sacred responsibilities."—"Education," p. 276.


Note.—When sin clogs the channel from the heart of God to the worker's heart, the life-giving stream is cut off and we struggle on alone. This channel must be cleared of obstacles so that the contact can be restored. "As activity increases, and men become successful in doing any work for God, there is danger of trusting to human plans and methods. There is a tendency to pray less, and to have less faith. Like the disciples, we are in danger of losing sight of our dependence on God, and seeking to make a savior of our activity. We need to look constantly to Jesus, realizing that it is His power which does the work. While we are to labor earnestly for the salvation of the lost, we must also take time for meditation, for prayer, and for the study of the word.

The Far Eastern Division now has 32,000 Seventh-day Adventists within its territory.
of God. Only the work accomplished with much prayer, and sanctified by the merit of Christ, will in the end prove to have been efficient for good.”—“The Desire of Ages,” p. 363.

The Battle Is the Lord’s

11. Whose is the battle against the enemy of our children? 2 Chron. 20:15, last part.

NOTE.—“The secret of success is the union of divine power with human effort. Those who achieve the greatest results are those who rely most implicitly upon the Almighty Arm.”—“Patriarchs and Prophets,” p. 509.

12. In seeking for victory, of what may we be assured? 1 Cor. 15:57; 1 John 5:4.

Lesson 13, for March 30, 1940

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Our Father’s Home

MEMORY VERSE: “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.” John 14:1-3.


SEED THOUGHT: “From that scene of heavenly joy, there comes back to us on earth the echo of Christ’s own wonderful words, ‘I ascend to My Father and your Father; and to My God, and your God.’ The family of heaven and the family of earth are one. For us our Lord ascended, and for us He lives. ‘Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them.’ ”—“The Desire of Ages,” p. 835.

Heavenly Dwellings


NOTE.—“There the Eden life will be lived, the life in garden and field.”—“Education,” p. 303.

2. How has our heavenly home been described? 1 Cor. 2:9; Rev. 21:1, 2, 23.

3. What is the center of our heavenly dwelling place?

ANSWER.—“The tabernacle of God.” Rev. 21:3.

Attainments of Heavenly Home

4. What is promised those who have suffered for their Master? Rev. 7:14-17; 22:4.

5. What other companionship is promised? Isa. 35:10; 1 Cor. 13:12.
NOTE.—"There the loves and sympathies that God has planted in the soul will find truest and sweetest exercise. The pure communion with holy beings, the harmonious social life with the blessed angels and with the faithful ones of all ages, the sacred fellowship that binds together 'the whole family in heaven and earth,'—all are among the experiences of the hereafter."—"Education," p. 306.

6. What is the promise for the joy of music? Ps. 87:7; Isa. 51:3.

7. How fully will the desire for wisdom and knowledge be satisfied?

Answer.—"There every power will be developed, every capability increased. The grandest enterprises will be carried forward, the loftiest aspirations will be reached, the highest ambitions realized. And still there will arise new heights to surmount, new wonders to admire, new truths to comprehend, fresh objects to call forth the powers of body and mind and soul.

"All the treasures of the universe will be open to the study of God's children. With unutterable delight we shall enter into the joy and the wisdom of unfallen beings. We shall share the treasures gained through ages upon ages spent in contemplation of God's handiwork. And the years of eternity, as they roll, will continue to bring more glorious revelations. 'Exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think' will be, forever and forever, the impartation of the gifts of God."—"Education," p. 307.

The Joy of the Redeemed

8. What other satisfaction will be the joy of the redeemed? Rev. 22:3.

NOTE.—"In our life here, earthly, sin-restricted, though it is, the greatest joy and the highest education are in service. And in the future state, untrammeled by the limitations of sinful humanity, it is in service that our greatest joy and our highest education will be found;—witnessing, and ever as we witness learning anew 'the riches of the glory of this mystery;' 'which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.' "—"Education," p. 309.

9. In that heavenly home, what will be forever banished? Rev. 21:4, 5.

"We Shall Be Like Him"

10. What is the crowning assurance? 1 John 3:2.

NOTE.—"We shall be like Him." Already transformed in character by the movings of His blessed Spirit, we shall experience at Christ's return a transformation affecting our bodies, making them like His glorious body. Then will humanity be restored to the likeness of God, in whose image man was created. In character, in physique, in mind and understanding he will "be filled with all the fullness of God." Wonderful prospect! Worthy of our greatest sacrifices, our most ardent love, our most faithful service.


12. What is said of our Lord and His people in that blest abode? Isa. 53:11; Ps. 17:15.

The 13th Sabbath offering goes to the Far Eastern Division.
The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering

When we gave to the Far Eastern Division the first quarter of 1936, the Thirteenth Sabbath offering amounted to $80,732.27, the overflow, $3,073.23. We again gave to the Far East the second quarter of 1938, and the Thirteenth Sabbath offering amounted to $83,302.08, the overflow being $6,660.42. Thus almost $10,000 went to this needy mission field above their regular appropriations. The overflow in 1938 helped to provide equipment in schools and hospitals, establish small schools, purchase land in new centers; and now plans have been laid for a clinic in French Indo-China.

The gospel message is making progress in this division of our world work; twenty-five years ago there were only 674 Seventh-day Adventists in this territory, whereas today there are nearly 32,000. Through the help of our Sabbath schools in all the world, we can extend the work still farther and finish the task commissioned us. The Thirteenth Sabbath offering in March is to help take the message of salvation to those who now wait. We therefore ask our Sabbath school members to give liberally on the Thirteenth Sabbath.