

Relationships in God's Creation

RELATIONSHIPS IN GOD'S CREATION

- I. God As Creator - Zech. 12:1:
 - A. Of the Heavens - Gen. 1:1
 - 1. God's Throne is in the heavens - Psalm 103:19
 - 2. The heavens govern the earth - Daniel 4:26b
 - 3. Sun, moon, stars, day and night, weather, seasons, etc.
 - B. Of the Earth - Gen. 1:1
 - 1. Earth made for man
 - 2. Best environment, not too hot nor too cold, etc.
 - 3. Balance of nature, life cycles, etc.
 - C. Of Man - Gen. 1:27
 - 1. Physical body needs care - food, rest, exercise, etc.
 - 2. Heart to love God and to obey God (conscience)
 - 3. Spirit to receive and contain God

II. The First Couple And Their First Home

- A. The Garden of Eden - Gen. 2:8-10, 15:
 - 1. What it was like
 - 2. Man to care for God's creation and be over it.
- B. Trees of the Garden, good for food - Gen. 2:9
 - 1. Tree of Life - God's special food for man
 - 2. Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil - poison tree
- C. The Animals - Gen. 2:19-20:
 - 1. Adam named the animals and ruled over them.
 - 2. Man different from the animals - can read, talk, etc.
- D. Eve - Gen. 2:18, 21-24:
 - 1. A wife for Adam
 - 2. One couple to have a family

III. Disobedience Of Man And The Result:

- A. The temptation and disobedience - Gen. 3:1-8
 - 1. Listening to Satan's questioning of God's word
 - 2. Disobeying God's clear word
- B. God's talk with Adam and Eve - Gen. 3:9-13
 - 1. God came to help
 - 2. Adam and Eve made excuses
- C. God's curse on the serpent - Gen. 3:14-15
- D. God's punishment of Adam and Eve - Gen. 3:16-19
 - 1. Sorrow and pain for woman
 - 2. Hard labor for man
- E. Changes in the creation
 - 1. Earth not producing easily - thorns and thistles
 - 2. Wildness of animals
 - 3. Death

Outline is
probably not
correct. Go
by contents page
of Human Relationships
and lessons.

- F. God providing a covering for Adam and Eve - Gen. 3:21
 - 1. Blood needing to be shed for sin
 - 2. Nakedness needing to be covered
- G. Adam and Eve separated from God - Gen. 3:23-24
 - 1. Put out of the garden
 - 2. Cut off from the tree of life
- H. God's promise of a Savior to come, Jesus - Gen. 3:15
 - 1. To deal with the serpent, Satan
 - 2. To bring man back to God
- IV. The first brothers, Cain and Abel - Gen. 4:1-16 (tell the story in a positive way)
 - A. A choice to make - God's way vs. Satan's way
 - 1. The need of an offering for sin
 - 2. Shedding of blood needed for remission of sin - Heb. 9:22
 - 3. In the Old Testament animal sacrifices were needed
 - 4. In the New Testament Christ offered Himself as the Lamb of God for the sins of the world - John 1:29
 - B. Cain: taking Satan's - 1 John 3:12
 - 1. Jealous of his brother Abel
 - 2. Hated his brother Abel - 1 John 3:15
 - 3. Murdered his brother Abel
 - 4. Cursed by God (as Satan was) - Gen. 3:14)
 - C. Abel: taking God's saving way
 - 1. Offering the right sacrifice - Heb. 11:4
 - 2. Obeying God
 - 3. Loving his brother
 - 4. Working and living for God
 - D. We must love our brothers and sisters - 1 John 3:11; 4:7, 11
 - 1. To love them is to walk in the light with God - 1 John 2:10
 - 2. To hate them is to walk in the darkness with Satan - 1 John 2:11
 - 3. To love God we must also love our brothers and sisters - 1 John 4:20-21
- V. Parents (present a positive picture of a family with children)
 - A. Children are God's gift to parents - Gen. 33:5; 48:9a
 - 1. One purpose in marriage is to have children - Gen. 1:28a
 - 2. Not to have children is a sorrow; Examples: Sarah Gen. 16:1-2; Rachel Gen. 30:1; Hannah 1 Sam. 1:10-20
 - 3. Having children is a blessing - Psalm 127:3
 - B. Parents are responsible for their children
 - 1. Loving and caring for them
 - 2. Providing food, clothing, shelter, etc.
 - 3. Having to answer to God for them, therefore needing to discipline them - Prov. 29:17; 3:12; cf. Heb. 12:6-8
 - C. Children must honor parents - Exo. 20:12
 - 1. Love
 - 2. Respect
 - 3. Obey (Example: the Lord Jesus Luke 2:51a, 52)

D. Promise to children who obey - Eph. 6:1-3

1. Protection, safety and enjoyment
2. Long life
3. The Lord is pleased (a matter related to how you behave outwardly not a spiritual inward matter) - Col. 3:20

VI. Friends

A. What is a friend? (Ask the children first)

1. Someone we spend our time with - play games, have fun, do school work
2. Someone we can talk to
3. Someone our own age, someone older (we need both, why?)
4. In the church, in school, in our neighborhood

B. How to make and keep friends?

1. We must be friendly - Prov. 18:24
2. We must be loyal - Prov. 17:17; 27:10
3. We must not listen to or repeat gossip - Prov. 16:28; 17:9
4. We must share what we have and be helpful

C. How to choose the right friends?

1. Not those who make fun of the Lord Jesus or God's name - Psalm 1:1
2. Those whose behavior is proper (don't lie, steal, cheat, fight, curse etc.)
3. Those whose behavior is evil will damage us (Evil companionships corrupt good morals - 1 Cor. 15:33)
4. We cannot do the worldly things with our friends (movies, dancing, parties, gambling etc.) - James 4:4b

D. Friends of God

1. God spoke to Moses as a man speaks to his friend - Exo. 3:11
2. Abraham fellowshiped with God and believed Him - Gen. 18; James 2:23
3. The Lord Jesus wants to be our friend - John 15:13-15
4. We must bring our friends to the Lord Jesus - Mark 5:19
(As Cornelius called his friends to hear the gospel in Acts 10:24, we may bring our friends to children's meeting)

VII. Adults: Respect older ones - 1 Peter 5:5, note 5¹

A. God's arrangement

1. God's arrangement is to have all ages in a family
2. God's arrangement is to have all ages in the church
3. God's arrangement is to have all ages in human society
4. We must appreciate God's arrangement

B. God provides many older people in our families

1. Older brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts, grandparents
2. Older ones provide love and protection
3. Older ones provide for our physical needs
4. Family is the best environment for us to grow up

- C. God provides many older people in the church
 - 1. Older ones have more experience of God
 - 2. Older ones have more experience of human life
 - 3. Older ones can provide love, care and help to the children
 - 4. Children should want to receive help from older ones
- D. We must treat older people as we would our parents - 1 Tim. 5:1-2
 - 1. Because of God's arrangement
 - 2. Because of their love and care for us
 - 3. Because of the help we may receive
 - 4. Because this is the Word of God

VIII. Teachers - Prov. 1:7; 3:13; 12:1: 23:12

- A. Why do we go to school?
 - 1. Learn to read and write, arithmetic, etc.
 - 2. Learn to get along with others in work and play
 - 3. Help us to grow up properly
 - 4. Prepare us for our future life as adults

Example: Moses Acts 7:22
- B. Why do we need teachers?
 - 1. Teachers care for us
 - 2. Teachers teach us
 - 3 Teachers help us learn
 - 4. To learn we need someone who has learned first
- C. What should our attitude be toward our teachers?
 - 1. How much study needed to become a teacher
 - 2. Only people who care for children become teachers
 - 3. The preparation needed for each day's lessons
 - 4. We must appreciate and respect our teachers
- D. How should we behave in school?
 - 1. School is God's arrangement for us
 - 2. Principal, teachers, and other school workers take the position of parents while we are in school
 - 3. Church kids should be different than worldly kids

IX. Government Rom. 13:1-7; Titus 3:1-2; 1 Pet. 2:13-15; 1 Tim. 2:1-2

(Government is God's servant to deal with evil and reward good)

- A. What is the government in the United States?
 - 1. Federal - President, Congress, Supreme Court (for younger children - Mail Carrier)
 - 2. State - Governor, Legislature, State Supreme Court (for younger children - State Patrol)
 - 3. City - Mayor, City Council, Municipal Court, Policeman, Fireman
- B. How is this government carried out?
 - 1. Elections (describe voting process)
 - 2. Laws (example: stealing, vandalism, traffic laws, etc.)
 - 3. Taxes (support government services, provide for defense, help people in need, etc.) - Rom. 13:6-7; Matt. 22:21

C. Why do we need government?

1. Man is fallen and has an evil nature
2. Man's evil nature needs to be restricted
3. What would it be like if there was no government (eg. anarchy: no traffic signals, no police, no trash collection, no teachers, etc.)
4. Government restricts evil and rewards good - Rom. 13:3-4

D. Where does government come from?

1. From God - Rom. 13:1
2. Government is the servant of God - Rom. 13:4
3. Different forms of government (Caesar, King, Prime Minister, President, etc.)
4. U.S. Government keeps peace, and allows us freedom to worship God in the church

E. What should our attitude be to the government?

1. Be subject (be a good citizen) - Rom. 13:1-2
2. Pay our taxes - Rom. 13:6-7; Matt. 22:17-21
3. Obey the laws - Titus 3:1; 1 Peter 2:13-15a (unless they are against God's higher law, Exo. 1:17; Dan. 3:17-18; 6:10; Acts 6:29; but emphasize positive obedience, not exceptions)
4. Pray for the government - 1 Tim. 2:1-3

X. As God Fearers - Acts 10:22

A. All relationships are God's arrangement for us.

1. Brothers and sisters, parents, friends, adults, teachers, and the government are given to us by God
2. Good relationships are part of proper human life planned by God
3. Good relationships assure a peaceful happy life for us and others
4. We must thank God for His arrangements

B. All relationships have been spoiled by Satan

1. Satan hates God's arrangement in the universe
2. Satan wants to destroy God's arrangements
3. Satan wants us to hate God and God's arrangements
4. We must refuse Satan's way and choose God's way

C. God wants to restore proper relationships

1. God warned Cain but Cain wouldn't listen - Gen. 4:7-8
2. God warns us in His Word
3. Children's Meeting is to help us listen to God
4. The church is a place where God can speak to us and enable us to restore proper relationships.

D. To have proper relationships our relationship with God must be right

1. Believe that God made us, we are his creatures - Psalm 100:3a
2. Believe that God's arrangements are the best - Rom. 8:28
3. Believe that God will help us every day if we trust Him - Prov. 3:5-6
4. Believe that if we fear God and do right, God is pleased - Acts 10:34-35

Notes:

1. *As generally the children have not yet been regenerated and received the life of God, we must help them to be "God fearers" to prepare them for God's salvation. To be "God fearers" is half way to salvation until such time as the Holy Spirit comes (eg. Cornelius Acts 10:22, 34-35; 13:16, 26)*
2. *Proverbs is good in principles of human life, morals, and relationships to preserve the children's human vessel from the corruption of this present evil age, until Christ comes to fill it with Himself.*

HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS

INTRODUCTION

These lesson are intended for first grade children. They correspond with their practical experiences in life, especially as they become more involved with people outside of their own home and family. These lessons will help mold the children's understanding so that as children, they may know their proper place in this world and how to relate to others in a way that pleases God and harmonizes with His Word.

RELATIONSHIPS IN GOD'S CREATION - FIRST GRADE

OVERVIEW

In the first grade we teach the children relationships in God's creation; how to get along with their brothers and sisters, their mothers and fathers, how to respect their grandparents and their teachers in school.

Concerning friends we need to do something early. In the first grade and second grade we need to steer them in the right direction concerning friends: how to have friends, what kind of friends, and how to choose the right friends.

Then we have a little introduction on God's government. This is government ordained by God. We do not teach them this doctrinally. We just tell them what their attitude has to be toward adults; toward older ones; their attitude toward teachers in school; their attitude toward the government, the firemen, the policemen, to those in authority. We tell them how these people represent God. This is human relationships in society, in the family, and in the church. We teach them about the brothers and sisters in the church including the older saints in the church. We teach them to have a good attitude and relationship toward others.

The main stress here is that all of this is God's arrangement. God has an arrangement. All the relationships of human beings are arranged by God for a purpose. Eventually, what is their attitude toward God? Actually, we cover all of this because they have not yet been regenerated. We have to help them to be God-fearers, to prepare them for God's salvation.

The preceding are the blending of briefly edited transcriptions of Gene Gruhler's sharings given in several localities.

HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS

CONTENTS

Lesson One	Parents (1): The First Family
Lesson Two	Parents (2) Parents Are Responsible For Their Children
Lesson Three	Parents (3): Children Must Honor Their Parents
Lesson Four	Brothers and Sisters (1): Born after Sin Entered the World
Lesson Five	Brothers and Sisters (2): Cain's Wickedness and Abel's Righteousness
Lesson Six	Brothers and Sisters (3): Loving our Brothers and Sisters
Lesson Seven	Brothers and Sisters (4): Forgiving our Brothers and Sisters
Lesson Eight	Friends (1): What is a Friend?
Lesson Nine	Friends (2): How to Make and Keep Friends
Lesson Ten	Friends (3): How to Choose the Right Friends (1)
Lesson Eleven	Friends (4): How to Choose the Right Friends (2)
Lesson Twelve	Friends (5): Friends of God
Lesson Thirteen	Adults (1): Respect Older Ones
Lesson Fourteen	Adults (2): Honor and Subjection to Older Ones
Lesson Fifteen	Adults (3): Safety and Protection from Abuse
Lesson Sixteen	Teachers (1): Why We Go to School
Lesson Seventeen	Teachers (2): Why We Need Teachers
Lesson Eighteen	Teachers (3): How We Should Behave in School
Lesson Nineteen	Government (1): Why We Need Government
Lesson Twenty	Government (2): A Proper Attitude Toward Government
Lesson Twenty-one	God Fearers (1): Human Relationships Are God's Arrangement for Us
Lesson Twenty-two	God Fearers (2): All Relationships Have Been Spoiled by Satan
Lesson Twenty-three	God Fearers (3): God Wants to Restore Proper Relationships

HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS

Lesson One

PARENTS (1): THE FIRST FAMILY

Burden to Impart:

Children are God's gift to parents (Gen. 33:5; 48:9a). God created man like Himself so man could have a close relationship and companionship with Him. God created the woman to complete the man; so that man and woman could have an intimate relationship in love and unity. This sweet relationship is consummated with God's blessing: reproduction, children. Children are a blessing from God to the parents.

Memory Verse: "Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord,
the fruit of the womb is a reward"
(Psalm 127:3).

Facts to Teach:

1. God created the first man, Adam, out of the dust of the ground. He created him in His own image and likeness (Gen. 1:26-27). In this way, God and man could have a close relationship with one another and could understand one another's thoughts, desires, and feelings.

2. God saw that it was not good for Adam to be alone. Although Adam had many animals as friends he had no human companion. So God made a deep sleep fall upon Adam and from his side He took a rib out and made it into a woman (Gen. 2:21-22). When God awoke Adam and brought the woman to him, Adam must have greatly rejoiced. She was made just like him. She was a perfect match (Gen. 2:23).

3. Now, Adam and Eve were happy, so God was happy. God blessed this first couple and said to them, "Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish (fill) the earth..." (Gen. 1:28). One purpose of marriage is to have children.

4. Just as Eve was a blessing to Adam, so also children are a blessing from God (Psa. 127:3). When a couple has children, that relationship of love and unity that they share together is increased and enlarged.

5. If a couple does not have any children they feel sorrow, as Hannah felt in 1 Samuel 1:10-20. Hannah, as other women in the Old Testament, had no children even after many years of being married. She felt sorrowful and ashamed. She did not feel happy or blessed. So she cried out to the Lord and asked Him to give her a son. The Lord answered her prayer and blessed her with a dear baby boy who later became a great man of God named Samuel.

HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS

Lesson Two

PARENTS (2): PARENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR CHILDREN

Burden to Impart:

The children should be impressed with the responsibility their parents feel toward them and bear: to love them and provide for all of their needs. The parents do this joyfully and happily because they love them. Their parents must also be responsible to the Lord for them and answer to Him concerning them, for He gave them to the parents to raise up. For this reason they must train their children in the Lord's right way and even discipline them when they go astray (Prov. 22:6; 29:17; 3:12).

Memory Verse: "For whom the Lord loves He corrects, just as a father the son in whom he delights"
(Proverbs 3:12).

Facts to Teach:

1. Men and women were created with a desire to have children. When a couple is expecting a child, a feeling of joy and blessing grows within them as the months go by. Also, a feeling of longing and love grows within them for the child whom they have not yet even seen, but is already a part of their family.

2. The first responsibility that the parents have toward their children is to fulfill the very desire God put within them when they became parents: to love and care for their children.

3. The next responsibility that parents have toward their children is to provide for their physical needs for survival and growth: food, clothing, shelter, etc. This is not felt as a burden or chore to parents, it is their joy (Matt. 7:9-11).

4. Because the children were given to the parents by God they also must answer to God for them. They must be responsible to train up their children in the right ways of the Lord (Prov. 22:6) and discipline them when they go astray (Prov. 29:17; 3:12; cf. Heb. 12:6-8). Although this is a sorrow to the parents, this is their responsibility before the Lord. A positive example of this in the Scripture is seen in Job 1:5. A negative example of this is seen in 1 Samuel 3:13.

HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS

Lesson Three

PARENTS (3): CHILDREN MUST HONOR THEIR PARENTS

Burden to Impart:

Children have a two-fold responsibility toward their parents: to honor them in their heart (by loving and respecting them and their word) and to obey them in their actions (Col. 3:10). The Lord (who watches over their hearts and conduct) is pleased when they obey their parents and rewards them with a blessed and long life on this earth (Eph. 6:1-3).

Memory Verse: "Honor your father and mother, which is the first commandment with promise"
(Ephesians 6:2).

Facts to Teach:

1. The parents' responsibility for their children is three-fold: (1) to love and care for them, (2) to provide for them physically, and (3) to train and discipline them.

2. The children's responsibility toward their parents is two-fold: (1) honor and (2) obey.

3. The Bible tells us to "honor" a king (or a ruler). This would mean that we highly regard his decrees and laws; we respect them and keep them for the king is the highest authority.

4. The Bible tells us also that men "honored" a prophet (someone who spoke God's word to them). This means that they recognized that the prophet's word was God's word. Therefore they paid close attention to what he said and believed what he said was true. Sometimes the prophets told God's people that they were doing evil, that God was not happy with them, and that they must change their ways. They honored the prophet by listening to his word and by obeying his word.

5. Children honor their parents when they love their parents and realize that their parents are their source, origin.

6. Children honor their parents when they respect their parents and realize that their parents have lived much longer than they have, have already passed through what the children are now going through, have learned much more than they have, and are the sustainers of their existence. Respect is mainly seen in our attitude, the way we respond to our parents; either joyfully or begrudgingly, cooperatively or needing to be convinced, coerced, or threatened.

7. Children honor their parents when they obey them and carefully do what they are told to do and faithfully do not do what they are told not to do.

(Continued)

HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS

Lesson Three (continued)

8. If we obey our parents outwardly in our actions, but do not truly respect their wishes and trust in their wisdom, we have not honored them.

9. The Bible tells us that the Lord is pleased when we honor and obey our parents (Col. 3:20).

10. The Bible also promises us that to those children who honor their father and mother there will be blessing in two ways (Eph. 6:1-3):

- a. It will be well with them (they will have safety and happiness).
- b. They will have a long life.

HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS

Lesson Four

BROTHERS AND SISTERS (1): BORN AFTER SIN ENTERED THE WORLD

Burden to Impart:

Although God created the first parents in innocence and placed them in a lovely garden, because of their disobedience their children, Cain and Abel, were born outside of the garden and were born in sin.

Memory Verse: "Unto Adam also and to his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins, and clothed them"
(Genesis 3:21).

Facts to Teach:

1. Adam and Eve were created in God's image and likeness. They had no sin at that time. Their home was the most beautiful garden ever, for God had planted it and placed them there. God only gave them one simple commandment to keep: not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. He warned them that the day they ate of that tree they would surely die.

2. One day while Eve was guarding the garden, the Devil came up to her in the form of a serpent and tempted her to eat of the forbidden tree. Eve was not wise, for she talked with the serpent. Soon he deceived her and she doubted God's love. She ate of the forbidden tree and gave also to Adam to eat, and he also ate.

3. After eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and sinning against God, both Adam and Eve felt ashamed. They knew now that they were naked. They felt very bad inside. They also felt fearful and wanted to hide from God.

4. The first thing they did to try and help their situation was to quickly sew fig leaves together to cover up their nakedness. The leaves made a poor cover. Soon they would dry up, crack, and fall off.

5. God came looking for Adam and Eve as He always did every evening. Instead of coming out to meet God as usual, this time they hid from Him behind the trees. God came calling out, "Adam, where are you?" God knew where they were, but He wanted Adam to realize where he was, hiding from God.

6. God still loved Adam and Eve even though they had disobeyed His commandment and had sinned. He asked them if they had eaten of the forbidden tree. They confessed that they had eaten of it. What could be done? They were sorry for their sin, and God still loved them, but hadn't God said, "The day that you eat of it you shall surely die?"

(Continued)

HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS

Lesson Four (Continued)

7. God found a way to help the situation and yet be true to His word. Adam and Eve began to die that day, but they would not actually die for many hundreds of years. God told Adam and Eve that they would have children (Gen. 3:15). Also, God took one of His dear creatures, the most gentle and meek of them all, a lamb, and used it to teach Adam and Eve something they would never forget. That dear lamb was killed by God, its own Maker, as a substitute for Adam and Eve. Instead of Adam and Eve dying that day, the lamb died for them. Then God made two soft, furry coats out of its skin as coverings for Adam and Eve. The coats of skins felt much better and would last much longer than the aprons they had made of fig leaves for themselves.

8. Because the lamb died, Adam and Eve could live. This is a picture of what would one day happen in the future. God would give His only begotten Son to die upon the cross for our sins. Because the Lord Jesus died for our sins, we who believe in Him do not need to be punished for them.

9. God then had to take Adam and Eve out of their wonderful garden home. No longer could they freely eat of the fruit of the trees. Now they had to work hard to plant and to grow their own food.

10. Not too much later, Adam and Eve had two sons, Cain and Abel. Surely they were filled with joy. But things were not the same now for these two brothers as it had been for their parents in the beginning. Cain and his younger brother, Abel, were not born into a perfect world or a beautiful garden. They were born outside of the garden. Nor were they born in innocence, they were born in sin.

HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS

Lesson Five

BROTHERS AND SISTERS (2): CAIN'S WICKEDNESS AND ABEL'S RIGHTEOUSNESS (Gen. 4:1-16)

Burden to Impart:

In the story of Cain and Abel we see that the way we treat our brothers and sisters and feel toward them is very much related with the way we obey our parents and our relationship with God. Cain ignored both God's example and his parents' teachings. This caused him to become displeased and angry with God. Then he became bitter towards his brother and jealous. Eventually, he was so filled with anger and hatred toward his brother that he committed the worst sin possible, he murdered his own brother. We should always be on guard against any feelings of jealousy, envy, bitterness, anger, or hatred toward our brothers and sisters. These feelings come from the Devil. We need to confess them to the Lord and allow Him to wash away our sins and soften our heart again.

Memory Verse: "And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as also God in Christ forgave you" (Ephesians 4:32).

Facts to Teach:

1. After Adam and Eve had sinned in the garden, God showed them the only way that their sin could be covered, a pure and spotless lamb had to be killed in their place. They were taught that "without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness" (Heb. 9:22). The Lord accepted the shedding of animal blood until the time when the Lord Jesus would come and die upon the cross, shedding His own blood in order to wash away all of our sins forever (Heb. 9:26).

2. Adam and Eve had taught their two sons, Cain and Abel, this most important lesson which God had shown them in the garden. Man had only one way by which he could come to God and be saved or please Him, through the sacrifice of an animal, which represented Christ.

3. Abel believed his parents' word about God's way of salvation and service to please Him. Abel spent his time and energy to raise sheep. He took care of them and he offered them to God. God was pleased with Abel's offering and respected it. Abel was happy with God and God was happy with Abel.

(Continued)

HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS

Lesson Five (Continued)

4. Cain ignored his parents' teaching about God's way of salvation. Instead of offering an animal sacrifice to God, Cain brought God the work of his own hands, the fruit of the ground. However, his offering had no blood and his offering was not what God had shown them He wanted. Cain had rejected God's way and tried to please God in his own way. Of course, God would not be pleased by that kind of offering. God was not happy with either Cain or his offering.

5. Cain became very angry with God. He felt that God was not fair. Then his "countenance fell," which means he had a sad and bitter expression on his face. As he watched his younger brother happily taking care of sheep and offering them to God he became jealous and envious of him (1 John 3:12).

6. At this point, the Lord tried to touch Cain's conscience so that he would realize his sin and turn back to the Lord and take the way that the Lord had shown to his parents (Gen. 4:6-7).

7. Cain, however, did not soften his heart and repent. Rather, he hardened his heart even more, so his jealousy turned into hatred. He hated his younger brother Abel (1 John 3:15). Then one day, while they were in the field, Cain rose up and killed his brother.

8. Cain's heart became harder and harder. When God came to him to give him a chance to confess his sin and asked, "Where is Abel your brother?", Cain even lied to God and arrogantly replied, "Am I my brother's keeper?"

9. Some important points that can be applied to brotherly relationships from this story:

- a. We should believe and practice the important lessons our parents try to teach us.
- b. If we turn our back toward God, we will begin to have problems with our brothers.
- c. If we feel jealousy and anger toward our brothers we need to realize that this is completely wrong and hardens our heart. We need to confess any wrong feelings in our heart toward our brothers to the Lord so He can forgive us and wash away our sin. (If we do not know exactly what is causing us the problem we can tell our parents about it. Probably they can help.)
- d. We should learn to live like Abel did, taking care of the godly instructions from our parents, doing things for God in God's way, pleasing God by doing things for God in God's way, and pleasing God by doing what is right, even though our older brothers and sisters may not be doing so.

HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS

Lesson Six

BROTHERS AND SISTERS (3): LOVING OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS

Burden to Impart:

We naturally love those who are born from our same parents. God created within our human nature a "natural affection" for our family members (Rom. 1:31; 2 Tim. 3:3). To love our brothers and sisters is also related to the second greatest commandment in the Bible given to man (Mark 12:28-31). This shows us that loving our brothers and sisters is very important to God and must be very important to us also. We find that when we love our brothers and sisters we "abide in the light" (1 John 2:10) and feel happy and satisfied. When we have anger or hatred toward our brothers and sisters we experience darkness (1 John 2:11), gloominess, and sorrow.

Memory Verse: "He who loves his brother abides in the light...But he who hates his brother is in the darkness..." (1 John 2:10a, 11a).

Facts to Teach:

1. Our nature by creation:

By creation we are born inherently with a natural affection for our parents and brothers and sisters (Rom. 1:31; 2 Tim. 3:3). We naturally love our siblings and care about what happens to them. If they suffer or are hurt, we share in their pain and may even cry also. If something or someone tries to harm them we naturally do our best to try and protect them, even if we ourselves may get hurt in trying to do so.

2. The Second Greatest Commandment in the Bible:

a) The first and greatest commandment in the Bible is to love the Lord our God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength. The second greatest commandment is to love our neighbor as ourselves (Mark 12:28-31). Our closest "neighbor" is our brother or sister.

b) The Bible teaches us that we must love our brothers and sisters (1 John 4:20-21). If we say we love God (whom we have not seen) yet hate our brother (who we see all the time) we are a liar.

3. Our Experience:

When we love our brothers we experience what the Bible calls "abiding in the light" (1 John 2:10). That is, we feel an inward joy, satisfaction, brightness; we feel that God is so happy and we also are happy. However, when we become angry with our brothers or even begin to hate them we experience being in darkness (1 John 2:11), and feel heavy, bitter, angry and depressed. We can get out of darkness by confessing anything wrong in our heart (1 John 1:9) and loving our brothers again.

HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS

Lesson Seven

BROTHERS AND SISTERS (4): FORGIVING OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS

Burden to Impart:

Because God desires us to love one another, we experience His blessing and goodness when we are at peace with one another (Psa. 133:1). Although by nature we do love our brothers and sisters, yet, because we live so close together it is impossible to not have friction and offenses with one another. If we do not confess our offenses to one another and forgive one another our love will dry up and can even turn into hatred. As God's children we must love one another and for- give one another (John 13:34; Matt. 6:12; 18:21-35).

Memory Verse: "And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as also God in Christ forgave you" (Eph. 4:32).

Facts to Teach:

1. God desires us to love one another (1 John 4:7). Because God so loved each one of us He gave His beloved Son to die for our sins. If God so loved each one of us we also ought to love one another.

2. When we love one another and live in harmony and oneness with our brothers and sisters we feel "how good it is to dwell together in oneness!" (Psa. 133:1). God commands His precious blessing on such oneness. When we are one with our brothers God is happy and so are we.

3. However, no matter how hard we try to avoid differences and conflicts with our brothers and sisters we cannot avoid problems and offenses for very long. This is because sin is in our nature. This is what causes us to be selfish and mean, to get angry, to hurt others, to say bad words, etc. Also, the closer we are to someone, like our brothers and sisters with whom we even live, the easier it is to have friction and problems with one another. We all have our differences and peculiarities and sooner or later we either offend our sisters and brothers or they offend us.

4. When we become offended or angry at our brother our love begins to dry up and die. If we harbor a grudge in our heart against our brother our love may even turn into hatred, which God considers to be the same as murder (1 John 2:15).

5. We learn from the Lord's answer to Peter's question, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him?" that we must forgive our brothers and sisters every time that they offend us. Because God forgave us so much we must be willing to forgive our brothers and sisters, for in comparison to how much God has forgiven us their wrongdoing toward us is very small (Matt. 18:21-35).

6. Joseph's forgiving heart is a great example to all of us (Gen. 45:1-15). Although his brothers hated him and cruelly sold him as a slave Joseph did not hate them back or return them any evil for their evil deeds. He forgave their sins and loved them.

HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS

Lesson Eight

FRIENDS (1): WHAT IS A FRIEND?

Burden to Impart:

God created mankind with an inborn need of companionship (Gen. 2:18). God met this need for Adam by creating for him a companion, Eve. The need of companionship is also met by friendship. A friend is one we share the same interests with, can talk to honestly, can spend our time with, and share a part of our lives with. Although we may have friends at school and around our home, our brothers and sisters in the church are those who should be our most special friends.

Memory Verse: "And the Lord God said, It is not good that man should be alone" (Gen. 2:18).

Facts to Teach:

1. Although God created man in a perfect way, man nonetheless had many needs that had to be met in order for him to live and be happy. Man needed food in order to satisfy his hunger, water to satisfy his thirst, and air to breathe. Also, when God saw that Adam was alone He said, "It is not good that the man should be alone" (Gen. 2:18).

2. Because it was not good for man to be without human companionship God created a woman to be his friend and helper.

3. Even though it is enjoyable to have pets to play with, people do not feel completely satisfied with their company. They are not able to take away the feeling of loneliness, nor can they meet the deep desire God created within man for companionship.

4. A friend is a companion whom we spend our time with, someone we can play with, do things with, be with at school, in the church life, or at home. A friend is one with whom we share some common interests.

5. A friend is someone we can talk to "face to face" (Exo. 33:11) and heart to heart; one with whom we can share our feelings with and not be afraid of being laughed at or put down.

6. Some friends may be younger, some may be older, and some may be the same age. Different aged friends meet our need for companionship in different ways.

7. A friend is someone who is special to us because we like them and choose to share part of our life with them. We have no choice with our brothers and sisters, for we are born in the same family and share our lives together. But this is not so with friends. We choose our friends according to our own desire and selection. So, they are persons who are special to us because we desire to be with them.

HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS

Lesson Nine

FRIENDS (2): HOW TO MAKE AND KEEP FRIENDS

Burden to Impart:

God desires that men would not live selfishly, only caring about themselves. He wants us to love our neighbors as ourselves and treat them in the same way we desire others to treat us (Matt. 22:39; 7:12). These are the basic principles for us to live happily in this world with others. To make friends and keep good friendships we must learn to be friendly and loyal (Prov. 18:24; 17:17), and we must also learn not to listen to or repeat gossip about our friends (Prov. 16:28; 17:9). To build up a good friendship we must learn to willingly share with our friends (John 15:13).

Memory Verse: "A man who has friends must himself be friendly" (Prov. 18:24b).

Facts to Teach:

1. The basic principle that God gave us for dealing with others is to "love your neighbor as yourself" (Matt. 22:39). In the same way that we need love and care so do others. We should be just as concerned with other's needs and interests as we are for our own.

2. Based upon this we can realize that God expects us to treat others in the same way that we want them to treat us (Matt. 7:12).

3. Real friendships are not simply "found." They are "made." If they are not taken care of properly they will soon be destroyed.

4. In order to make friends we need to be friendly toward others. When we smile we express warmth and kindness toward others. When we show others a frown or ignore greeting them they will feel that we do not like them, or at least that we do not care for them (Prov. 18:24). In what other ways can we be friendly?

5. In order to keep friends we must be loyal to them (Prov. 17:17; 27:10). We all have ups and downs, good points and bad points. If we get upset with our friends for their mistakes or failures and act unkindly toward them instead of showing love and forgiveness we will not be able to have a very long or deep friendship.

6. In order to keep friends we must learn not to listen to people who like to spread gossip and bad talk about them (Prov. 16:28). Some people purposely try to damage friendships so that they can cause others to leave their friends and follow them. Also, we must not gossip about our friends and expose their weaknesses to others (Prov. 17:9). This will deeply hurt their feelings and cause them to not trust us any more.

7. If we want to build up friendships with others we must learn to share what we have with them. It is not easy to be friends with a selfish person. Also, we must learn to be helpful to our friends. A person who is bossy and pushy will not have friends for long.

HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS

Lesson Ten

FRIENDS (3): HOW TO CHOOSE RIGHT FRIENDS (1)

Burden to Impart:

We should be very careful who we choose to be friends with and to spend our time with. The wrong friends will eventually cause us to speak as they speak and do as they do. As Paul warned us, "Evil company corrupts good habits" (1 Cor. 15:33). However, good friends who fear God and believe in Him, who behave like the Lord's lambs, will help us to stay out of trouble and to live peacefully and happily as the Lord's children.

Memory Verse: "Blessed is the man (child) who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly..." (Psa. 1:1).

Facts to Teach:

1. Choosing the right friends is important because we tend to behave like and do the things our friends like to do.

a) If your friends are evil and they lie, steal, cheat, fight, and curse (say bad words), you will also eventually do the same.

b) If your friends are nice and love the Lord, you will also be a nice person and will also love the Lord.

2. Pick friends that behave properly: who do not lie, steal, cheat, fight, use bad language. The best item of all is to pick a friend who loves the Lord and is trying to live a proper Christian life.

3. The best way to pick a friend is to watch him and see how he behaves.

Does he behave like a child of the Lord or does he behave like one of Satan's people? Does he behave like a little lamb of the Lord, or does he behave like a goat or a pig?

a) Does he tell the truth, or does he lie?

b) Does he share, or does he steal?

c) Is he fair, or does he cheat?

d) Is he friendly, or does he like to fight?

e) Does he respect others, or does he curse and speak evil?

4. We must run away from ungodly and misbehaving kids that want to be our friends, because if we don't run away, we will eventually lie, steal, cheat, fight and curse. We will be corrupted and will behave like a goat or a pig.

5. Always pick friends that fear God, that believe in God, and if possible, that love God. Do not choose as a friend someone who does not believe in God, that makes fun of believing in the Lord Jesus, that curses the name of Jesus.

HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS

Lesson Eleven

FRIENDS (4): HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT FRIENDS (2)

Burden to Impart:

We must choose friends who love the Lord and who behave properly. We should watch their behavior at school and around the neighborhood. If their behavior is not proper, obedient, respectful, and honest we should look for better friends or we will soon find all of our good habits replaced by bad behavior.

Memory Verse: "Do not be deceived: evil companionship corrupts good morals" (1 Corinthians 15:33).

Facts to Teach:

1. We must understand that if we want to develop a good character and keep good habits we must have proper friends.

2. We should not deceive ourselves, none of us is that strong. If we keep evil companions we will quickly lose our good habits.

3. We must choose friends that love the Lord and behave as good citizens.

In the school environment, choose friends that obey all rules and obey their teachers. AVOID those who fight and cause problems, who talk in the classroom, who horseplay, who say bad words. Be friends with those who raise their hands when they want to ask a question, who study, help others, and turn in their homework.

In the neighborhood environment, choose friends who play safely and obey their parents and older persons who are responsible for them. Avoid any kids that lie and deceive their parents, who disregard their parents' limits, instructions, etc. Avoid those children who scheme up plans that will get them into trouble, who fight, provoke, play unfairly, and hurt others.

4. We must stay away from children who misbehave and are always getting into trouble. Otherwise we will eventually behave like them and will get into trouble. Our whole personality will be affected in a negative way, and we will no longer behave like the Lord's children. Eventually, the children who behave properly will not like us or want to be our friends; also, the Lord will be grieved.

5. We are often attracted to someone because the person is likable, funny, strong, or outspoken. We may like this person so much that we overlook the fact that he is really not the kind of friend we ought to have. He may be likable and funny, but he may also be disrespectful to his teacher and parents, or he may like to curse, talk back, argue, cheat, and steal. We must be careful to reject such so-called friends. This is why it is so important to listen to our parents. They can tell if a person is the kind of friend we really ought to have. If we don't listen to our parents we will eventually find out about our evil friend the hard way.

HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS

Lesson Twelve

FRIENDS (5): FRIENDS OF GOD

Burden to Impart:

God desires to be our friend and wants us to be His friend. Abraham and Moses were two persons who believed in God and were friends of God (Gen. 18; Exo. 33:11; James 2:23). When the Lord Jesus walked on earth He called His disciples His friends (John 15:15). He wants us also to be His friends. As His friends we can honestly open up our hearts to Him, cast all of our cares upon Him (1 Pet. 5:7) and fully trust in Him.

Memory Verse: "Abraham believed God...and he was called a friend of God" (James 2:23).

Facts to Teach:

1. God created man with the desire of companionship (Gen. 2:18). In like manner, God also desires to have an intimate companionship with man. This companionship is like that of a husband and a wife, and is also like that of friends. God desires man to be His friend, and God is man's best friend (Prov. 18:24).

2. Because of sin man was separated from God and lost the close friendship that he had with God in the garden of Eden.

3. However, those who believed in God and obeyed Him were brought back into a close relationship with God, as Abraham. Abraham was one who truly believed God. He followed Him "blindly" (Heb. 11:8). He obeyed God absolutely and offered his son Isaac back to God when God asked him to (Gen. 22).

4. One day God came in the form of a man and visited Abraham (Gen. 18). Abraham refreshed God. He washed His feet. He prepared dinner for Him also. He spoke with God heart to heart about what God was going to do with the sinful city of Sodom. He spoke to God and God spoke to Him. So close was their relationship that the Bible says that Abraham was God's friend (James 2:23).

5. Another man who was very close to God was Moses. Most of the children of Israel stayed at a distance from God. Moses would seek out God in the tabernacle. Whenever Moses went to be with God, God would meet with him and speak face to face, as a man speaks with his friend (Exo. 33:11).

6. The Lord Jesus called His disciples His friends (John 15:13-15). Because they were His friends the Lord hid nothing from them. He loved them so much that He even gave up His life for them. The Lord Jesus also loves us and called us to be His friends. How privileged we are to be friends of the Lord Jesus and to have Him as our friend.

7. As the Lord's friends we must bring our friends to know the Lord Jesus and to believe in Him (Mark 5:19; Example: Acts 10:24).

HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS

Lesson Thirteen

ADULTS (1): RESPECT OLDER ONES

Burden to Impart:

In God's arrangement we are related to and need people of all ages. Happiness and health depend upon a proper relationship with those around us, especially those who are older than we. They love, care for, provide for, and protect us. We should have an attitude of appreciation and respect for them, desiring to receive their help.

Memory Verse: "Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders" (1 Peter 5:5a).

Facts to Teach:

1. In order to grow up in a happy and healthy way we must recognize God's order and arrangement around us. Those who recognize their place in God's arrangement and behave accordingly will not only have less problems and difficulties, they will become the most proper, touchable, trainable and useful people in the Lord's hands.

2. In God's arrangement there are different ages in our families, in the church, and in human society. If everyone were the same age how would life be? We should appreciate God's arrangement for us.

3. God has provided many adults and older people in our families: brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts, grandparents, etc.

4. Older ones provide for the physical needs of the younger ones. They have taken the responsibility to work in order to provide for others' food, clothing, toys, house, etc. so that the younger ones can grow up happily. This is not a small responsibility.

5. Older ones provide love and care for younger ones. They worry about them and are concerned for their welfare. They encourage them when they are down and guide them when they are confused.

6. Older ones provide protection for the younger ones. They have already passed through many dangers in their life and can recognize a potential or possible danger before it befalls us.

7. We usually take older people for granted and do not appreciate them for what they are and have to provide for us. Children should have respect toward all adults and want to receive their help.

8. It would be good for the children to make a list of all the persons around them who are older or adults, and try to write down how they are benefited by them, or could be if they were willing to be.

HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS

Lesson Fourteen

ADULTS (2): HONOR AND SUBJECTION TO OLDER ONES

Burden to Impart:

Children should not only respect their elders (adults), but to honor them and be subject to them. They may honor them by politeness and kindness in their attitude, words, and actions. Age and wisdom go together (Prov. 16:31; 20:29) and should be respected by children. A lack of respect and honor to our elders (adults) reveals an improper attitude toward the Lord (see memory verse).

Memory Verse: "You shall rise before the grey headed and honor the presence of an old man, and fear your God: I am the Lord" (Leviticus 19:32).

Facts to Teach:

1. Children should regard adults and older ones with respect and even honor because they are more experienced and wiser than they are. A child of six years of age knows much more than a one year old child; how much more does an adult of thirty or sixty years of age know than a six year old child?

2. Adults and older persons have already passed through childhood and therefore understand it better than a child. They can be of a lot of help in solving some of the problems and difficulties children encounter if the children will receive their help.

3. The adults in the church life have gotten to know the Lord and His ways. Their knowledge and experience of Him and His Word is more precious than gold. Children should not only treat such persons with respect, but even with honor.

4. Some ways we may show honor to older ones are to:

a) Be subject to them (1 Pet. 5:5). This includes not talking back to them or arguing. Children should learn to LISTEN and LEARN from older ones; not argue, defend, or raise their voices. Even if the child disagrees he should learn to SUBMIT to the will and way of one who is older (as Jesus did in Luke 2:51).

b) Rise up before them when you greet them or they come to greet you.

c) Address them as "Brother" or "Sister" if they are saints, or "Mr." or "Mrs." if they are not. It is improper for a child to call an adult by their first name; it is even disrespectful to call an elderly person by their first name.

d) Stand quietly when your parents are speaking to other adults. Only interrupt if NECESSARY, after saying: "Please excuse me."

HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS
Lesson Fifteen

ADULTS (3): SAFETY AND PROTECTION FROM ABUSE

Burden to Impart:

Because children are innocent (unsuspecting) and weak they are vulnerable to abuse from adults. They should be instructed how to respond to any inappropriate contact with others, especially adults. They should AVOID, RESIST, and REPORT any disturbing contact or conduct to their parents or a responsible adult they can trust to help.

Memory Verse: "Keep me...from the traps of the workers of iniquity" (Psalms 141:9).

Background Information for the Teachers:

1. Statistics show that child abuse is much more common than was ever imagined. Experts estimate that one out of four girls and one out of seven boys have been sexually abused by eighteen years of age.

2. Children are very vulnerable to abuse from adults. They are smaller, weaker, and easily manipulated and intimidated. The children must be instructed and strengthened so that they can protect themselves from becoming the victims of perverse persons and adults. After two lessons on respecting adults, this lesson is intended to protect and arm the children from any kind of abuse. Preparation and instruction can enable our dear children to be preserved from abuse.

Facts to Teach:

1. Kidnapping is a daily occurrence (about 20-50,000 children per year). Evil persons steal children for many reasons: loneliness, to make them work for them, to make the parents pay to get them back, to harm them.

2. The children should be impressed that no adult has any business fooling around with children. If an adult is asking the children for help (to find his "lost dog"), says he is lost, offers a bribe (candy, money), or simply stays near the child or follows him/her -- SOMETHING IS ABNORMAL! The child should not talk to such a person. Rather, he should leave immediately. If any adult would persist in talking, following, etc. the child should RUN away. If any adult would try to chase, force or grab the child, he should scream as loud as he can, "Help me! I am being kidnapped!" (This is to inform people nearby that the child is not just throwing a tantrum.)

3. Children should play with friends when away from home. It is much safer to be with someone rather than to be alone. Also, avoid dark places or places that are away from others if you are alone.

4. Concerning sexual abuse: our body belongs to us. NO ONE has the right to touch our private parts nor to ask us to touch theirs. Whether a stranger tries to do so, or a friend of the family, or even a relative, it is forbidden and is wrong, and they know it. By firmly saying, "Don't touch me!" and getting away, most people would stop. If anyone tries to touch us we should tell someone as soon as possible. This will protect us and is the only way the abuser can be helped.

HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS

Lesson Sixteen

TEACHERS (1): WHY WE GO TO SCHOOL

Burden to Impart:

School (education) is one of the most important matters in the childrens' lives. They need to be impressed that to go to school is not only a duty, it is a great privilege. In school we can gain knowledge to help prepare us for our future. Also, we can learn to get along with others who are different from us in work and play. What was at one time only offered for the children of kings and the rich is now ours.

Memory Verse: "Happy is the man who finds wisdom, and the man who gains understanding" (Proverbs 3:13)

Facts to Teach:

1. In times of old a boy would learn to do whatever his father did (farm, carpentry, hunt, work with metals, etc.) and a girl would learn to do whatever her mother did (cook, sew, laundry, preserve foods, raise children, etc.). Most people never went to school. They could only learn the things they needed to know at home or at work, so they could help their parents.

2. In times of old only a very few children ever got the opportunity to go to a school. In a school they could learn about things their parents may never have learned or even seen. If they lived far away from the ocean they still could learn about the sea at school. If their parents never learned to read or write they could not teach their children, but they could learn at school.

3. Another very important thing we learn in school is how to get along with others. There are always a lot of students in a school. Some are nice and some are not so nice. Some are friendly and some are annoying. We like some, we don't like others. This gives us an opportunity to LEARN to get along with others who are different than us. We can also learn to work and play together with others. What would the world be like if people never learned to get along with others?

4. In school we learn many things we could not otherwise learn:

a) discipline: following instructions and obeying authority. How do you like to be with people who have no discipline? How would the world be if there was no discipline? Would you prefer a trained, obedient, disciplined dog, or a wild, untrained dog?

b) concentration: working on problems trains our mind so it can think longer and clearer. This is how we build up our mind, just like exercise builds our body.

5. School helps prepare us for our future life. If we do not learn our lessons now, we will not be prepared for the future. Both Moses and Paul were greatly used by God. Both were prepared in their child-hood for the works they did later in life when God called them.

HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS

Lesson Seventeen

TEACHERS (2): WHY WE NEED TEACHERS

Burden to Impart:

The most important relationship children have apart from their parents is probably that with his teachers. A wrong attitude (critical, disrespectful, disobedient, etc.) toward their teacher can really frustrate their learning experience. The children should realize that their teacher has studied, learned, and been qualified to teach. Moreover, they have chosen to teach because they have a desire to help children. The children should respect, obey, and cooperate with their teachers.

Memory Verse: "I have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, nor inclined my ear to those who instructed me" (Proverbs 5:13).

Facts to Teach:

1. As we grow up, the most important place in our life is our home. The next most important place (where we spend most of our time, even a great deal of our life) is our school. The most important persons in our life are our parents. The next most important persons are our teachers.

2. Our teachers are responsible for almost all of our education. Children spend about half of their waking hours in school to receive their education from their teachers. They teach us how to read, write, do arithmetic, health, science, etc. They teach us so many things about so many different subjects.

3. Our teachers must first go to school, study a lot, and learn a lot for many years before they are allowed to be come a teacher. At least they must study 12 years of school and four years of college. That is 16 years of learning. Surely they have a lot they can teach!

4. Not only must teachers be trained to teach, they must want to teach. Most adults who go to college do not want to be teachers because it is a hard job. It requires a lot of patience to handle a classroom full of children. And many children do not follow the teachers directions. Oftentimes teachers become so frustrated that after a few years they quit teaching to take up an easier job. Children should learn to highly respect their teachers and do their very best to be a help and a joy to the teacher, instead of a disturbance and cause of irritation.

5. Some children think of their teacher as someone who makes them work and do things they don't like (memorizing, writing, etc.). This is a wrong attitude. Children should realize that they **MUST** learn some things in order to work and live in the future, and their teachers are doing their best to help them. To speak disrespectfully to a teacher or about a teacher is a shame to a child. It means they are not grateful for the opportunity to learn. They should be courteous, friendly, respectful, and obedient to their teachers.

HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS

Lesson Eighteen

TEACHERS (3): HOW WE SHOULD BEHAVE IN SCHOOL

Burden to Impart:

School is God's arrangement for us. Not only does the society require children to get an education, their future requires it. So all over the earth schools have been set up to help the parents to educate their children. *The children should respect and obey their teachers and other school workers as they do their parents, for school is God's arrangement for their training and education in the first stage of their life.*

Memory Verse: "Be subject to every human institution for the Lord's sake" (1 Peter 2:13).

Facts to Teach:

1. The children need to realize that going to school is God's arrangement for them. It is not an unplanned accident. It is not a necessary evil either. It is not misfortune. It is God's arrangement. Because school greatly affects the children's lives today and in the future, it is very carefully planned and carried out. Going to school is so important that it is usually required by law and is not even left up to the parents' decision. It is a must. Society requires it and the preparation for the future requires it. It is God's arrangement.

2. Because our education and going to school is one of the most important matters in our human life as we grow up, it must be very carefully arranged for our development and benefit. No one person is able to plan and carry out such a great program. Many details are brought into consideration:

- a) Subjects to study (textbooks, projects, etc.)
- b) Recreation time (recess, equipment, playgrounds, etc.)
- c) Meals (cafeteria, kitchen, food storage, workers, etc.)
- d) Administration (superintendents, principals, vice principals, school boards: to oversee the teachers and handle any difficulties or problems that arise with the students)

3. No parent likes to leave their children in the hands of others for so many hours during the day. Yet, because most parents are not able to teach their children everything they need to learn, they send their children to school. They trust in the school to properly supervise their children, to protect their children and keep them safe from any bad persons or dangers, to properly teach their children and to correct and discipline them if they misbehave. For about half of the children's day the parents are trusting the school to take the position of the children's parents.

4. The children should therefore respect and obey their teachers as they would their parents. They should also gladly subject themselves to the rules of the school and its administrators so that they will not cause trouble. Church children should be different in many positive ways from the worldly children, taking school as God's arrangement for them.

HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS

Lesson Nineteen

GOVERNMENT (1): WHY WE NEED GOVERNMENT

Burden to Impart:

God has established human government to restrict evil, to execute His wrath and judgment on evil doers and to make the earth a more peaceful place to live, so we can fulfill His purpose (Rom. 13:1-7; 1 Tim. 2:1-2). Government is God's servant to us for our good.

Memory Verse: "Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities" (Romans 13:1a).

Facts to Teach:

1. Before man sinned he was ruled directly by God and lived under the authority of the word of God (Gen. 2:16-17).

2. After Adam and Eve sinned and disobeyed God, sin entered into the world (Rom. 5:19). All of Adam's descendants have a fallen, sinful nature. Adam's son, Cain, killed his own brother, Abel. Sin increased and filled the earth. All kinds of unrighteous, unfair, and sinful things now come from man, so God had to establish some way to restrict man's evil doings, to judge the evil doers and to reward those who do good. God Himself established human government, that is, that men should be under some form of rule and laws. Because man did not live under God's rule, God placed men under the rule and judgment of other men (Gen. 9:6), that is, under human government.

3. God has established human government to rule over the sinful and fallen mankind (Rom. 13:1-4). If there were no government, the entire earth would be in an absolute disorder and under complete lawlessness. Imagine what it would be like if there were no policemen. The strong and the wicked would devour the weak and the righteous like wolves do sheep. If there were no policemen to enforce traffic laws, would it be safe to drive? How would life be if there were no order? What if the nurses did not report to work in the hospitals? If the trash men didn't remove the trash?

4. God has established human government to rule over man so that evil would be restricted and good would be rewarded (Rom. 13:3-4; 1 Pet. 2:14). Government is to protect man from total lawlessness and destruction, so we can live peacefully and serve God (1 Tim. 2:1-2).

5. In order to carry out all the duties of the government there is the need of many officers and serving ones:

- a) Rulers: kings, presidents, governors, mayors, etc.
- b) Lawmakers
- c) Law enforcement officers: police, sheriff, FBI,
- d) Judges
- e) Prisons
- f) Military forces
- g) Public services, etc.

6. Those who live peacefully and obediently are neither afraid of nor resist the government. Those who do evil and are disobedient toward the government are actually sinning against God Himself, for it was God who established the government to rule over man for Him.

HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS

Lesson Twenty

GOVERNMENT (2): A PROPER ATTITUDE TOWARD THE GOVERNMENT

Burden to Impart:

Because God's Word reveals to us that God Himself is the one who establishes our human governments and their leaders (Dan. 2:21; 4:17), we should subject ourselves to the government and its laws and not resist or oppose them. We should not only support our government and its leaders by our attitude of respect and obedience, we should also support it by paying our taxes faithfully and praying for those who rule over us (Rom. 13:1-7; 1 Tim. 2:1-3).

Memory Verse: "Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready unto every good work" (Titus 3:1).

Facts to Teach:

1. In order to have a proper attitude toward the government, we must understand and recognize God's involvement with government. The Bible reveals to us that the authorities that rule are appointed by God, they are God's servants and officers (Rom. 13:1-4).

2. Therefore, as toward God, so also toward the government, we should subject ourselves. This means we should not resist the authority, for to resist the authority is to oppose what God has appointed (Rom. 13:2). We should have an attitude of respect toward those in authority. Toward some we should have an attitude of more than respect, even fear (as toward police officers), or honor (as toward judges, governors, presidents). A lawless person not only opposes God, he also opposes government and law. To speak evilly of those in authority does not honor God nor does it help establish righteousness. It only causes more lawlessness (2 Pet. 2:10; Jude 8).

3. In order to support the government's expenses and to pay for its employees we should pay our taxes (Matt. 22:17-21; Rom. 13:6-7). This was taught by both the Lord Jesus and the apostle Paul.

4. We should obey the laws that our government requires (Tit. 3:1; 1 Pet. 2:13-15a). We should not think we are an exception. We also are citizens under the government's laws unless the law of the government is against God's higher law, as in Exo. 1:17; Dan. 3:17-18; 6:10; Acts 5:29). To the children, emphasize the positive obedience to the laws, not the rare exception to the rule.)

5. We should pray for our government and its leaders (1 Tim. 2:1-3) that God would give them wisdom and understanding to rule properly, so that we may live a life for God in peace and tranquility.

HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS
Lesson Twenty One

GOD FEARERS (1)
HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS ARE GOD'S ARRANGEMENT FOR US

Burden to Impart:

We should impress the children with the basic understanding that God has planned and arranged for us to live and learn with others (parents, siblings, friends, etc.). We must learn to have a proper relationship with all of those who God has placed us together with.

Memory Verse: "...Cornelius the centurion, a just man, one who fears God and has a good reputation among all the nation of the Jews" (Acts 10:22).

THE PERSPECTIVE OF THESE LAST THREE LESSONS:

Since most of the children have not yet known the conviction of the Spirit concerning sin nor have been regenerated, our teaching is to help prepare them for salvation by leading them to be "God fearers," as Cornelius was before his salvation (Acts 10:22, 34-35; 13:16, 26). To be a God fearer is half way to salvation, when the Spirit comes to convict them and lead them into the reality (John 16:8, 13). In like manner, the wisdom in Proverbs is helpful in the principles of human life, morals, and relationships to preserve the children's human vessel from the corruption of this present evil age, until Christ comes to fill it with Himself.

Facts to Teach:

1. It is crucial to realize that our life is under God's sovereignty. He is in control; everything is under His authority and arrangement. He knows all about us, much more than we could know about ourselves, for He has even numbered the hairs on our head. Therefore we should realize that our parents were selected by God to bring us into this world and to raise us up. God arranged in which family we should be born, trained up, molded, etc.

2. God also arranged our siblings: who would be our brothers and sisters. We will spend a large part of our life with our brothers and sisters. Even after we grow up we are still involved with them for the rest of our life. God arranged that some would be our older brothers and sisters and some would be younger.

3. God has also arranged many other relationships for us to be involved in: friends, adults, teachers, and government. In God's plan we cannot live as an isolated individual in this world. We were born into this world and must be related with many persons in this world (John 17:15). Proper human relationships are part of the proper human life that God planned for each one of us.

4. Good relationships with others is necessary to have a peaceful life. Without a peaceful life we could never have a happy life, so good relationships with others is necessary to have a happy life also.

5. We should accept and give thanks to God for His arrangements.

HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS

Lesson Twenty Two

GOD FEARERS (2)

ALL RELATIONSHIPS HAVE BEEN SPOILED BY SATAN

Burden to Impart:

Although God's enemy, the Devil, has rebelled against God and rejected God's arrangement in this universe and spoiled all the relationships in the universe (between parents and children, sisters and brothers, men and their government, etc.), we should allow him to go no further! We should stand up for God by accepting and submitting ourselves to God's arrangements and rejecting the devil and his rebellious way.

Memory Verse: "...As much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men" (Romans 12:18).

Facts to Teach:

1. When God created this universe everything was perfect, was under God's rule, and was in perfect peace and harmony. The angels sang for joy as they beheld it all (Job 38:4-7).

2. All of the problems in the universe began when one of God's angels was dissatisfied with God's order and arrangement. He was jealous of God's authority and throne. He wanted to change the order of things: he wanted to overthrow God and exalt himself above God (Isa. 14:12-14).

3. Of course, Satan could never overthrow God or His arrangement. But he hates God and he hates God's arrangement in the universe. Since he cannot overthrow God Himself, he is trying to destroy God's order and arrangements in everything in the universe.

4. In God's arrangement the children should honor and obey their parents. But due to Satan's damage many children dishonor, disrespect, and disobey their parents. This damages their sweet relationship together. This brings in confusion and pain.

5. In God's arrangement all men should love each other, especially their brothers and sisters. However, Satan causes men and women, even brothers and sisters, to argue, hate, fight, and even kill one another (as Cain did).

6. In God's arrangement men should submit to those in authority by obeying the laws, paying their taxes, and honoring those who rule. However, Satan has caused men to break the laws, cheat the government out of paying their taxes, and disrespect those in authority.

7. We should not go along with Satan! He is crooked and corrupt! He has damaged everything, but we should not let his damage continue with us! We should refuse Satan's rebellious way and choose God's perfect way by submitting to and accepting His arrangements in our lives, by keeping good and proper relationships with all people.

HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS

Lesson Twenty Three

GOD FEARERS (3)

GOD WANTS TO RESTORE PROPER RELATIONSHIPS

Burden to Impart:

Our God is the God of peace (Rom. 16:20). He desires us to live peacefully together with others (Rom. 12:18) and in a good relationship with others. God's Word, our inner feeling, the children's meetings, and the church life all help us to learn to live a proper human life in a good relationship with those whom God has placed together with us in His arrangement.

Memory Verse: "Pursue peace with all people..."
(Hebrews 12:14).

Facts to Teach:

1. Since our God is the God of love and of peace (1 John 4:16; Rom. 16:20), He desires to see us live and behave in like manner. As we live in such a way God is able to restore proper relationships with ourselves and those we are involved with each day. In a small way God is then able to undo Satan's work of destroying proper human relationships.

2. God tried to rescue Cain from his jealousy and hatred toward his brother by warning him (Gen. 4:5-8). Cain would not listen to God.

3. God also warns us concerning our relationships with others by the feeling in our heart (our conscience). When we are wrong in any way with others we do not feel happy or right in our heart.

4. God also warns us concerning our relationships with others in His Word, the Bible. We cannot just speak and do as we please, for we are not the center of the universe. We must take our proper place in all of our relationships with others, for this is God's arrangement. The Bible shows us how God has placed us all under His arrangement: husbands, wives, parents, children, workers, bosses, men, women, etc.

5. We receive much help from the Lord in the children's meetings and in the church. Here we hear the Lord's Word and can get to know Him and His desires. Here He can speak to us, strengthen and encourage us to live peacefully and properly with everyone else. We all receive much help through the church life to continually restore proper relationships with all.

6. We can only have proper relationships with others if our relationship with God is right:

- a) Believing that God made us, that we are His creatures (Psa. 100:3).
- b) Believing that God's arrangements are best (Rom. 8:28).
- c) Believing that God will help us every day if we trust in Him (Prov. 3:5-6).
- d) Believing that if we fear God and do right, God is pleased (Acts 10:34-35).

If time allows, point #6 may be presented as an entire lesson.