

SANCTUARY CHURCH

SUNDAY SCHOOL



LESSON PLAN OUTLINES

YEAR ONE MIDDLE SCHOOL

KERRY K. WILLIAMS

YEONAH LEE MOON

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INTRODUCTION

HOW OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL IS STRUCTURED:

CURRICULUM SUMMARY BY CLASS

Sanctuary Church, located in Newfoundland, PA, has 3 Sunday School classes:

- Primary (ages 5-7)
- Intermediate (ages 8-10)
- Middle School (ages 11-14)

CURRICULUM THEME BY YEAR

Each class meets with the same teacher(s) for 3 consecutive years on the following curriculum themes:¹

- Year 1 - A Real God in a Real World: Beginning with the Old Testament
- Year 2 - God Sends His Son to Save Humankind: Jesus and True Father
- Year 3 - The Coming of God's Kingdom: After the Crucifixion Until Now

YEAR ONE OVERVIEW

Year 1 for Middle School Lesson Plan Outlines have been completed. Included in this manual are:

- 32 lesson plan outlines on the Old Testament
- 1 complete OT lesson plan (Lesson #25 on Psalms)
- 5 lesson plan outlines on Apologetics²
- Objectives for each lesson
- Bible Verses and Father's Words for each lesson
- Lesson Plan Template

Teachers are encouraged to create their own lesson plans for the Eight Great Festivals, also known as the Eight Great Holy Days, established by True Father during his time on earth (see brief description of each Great Festival below).

Some churches also have family worship services during the course of the year, where the entire family is present at the main service (we have 6 family services per year at Sanctuary Church in Newfoundland, PA).

Our hope is that Intermediate and Primary Sunday School teachers will be able to adapt these lessons to make them age-appropriate for the children in their classes.

¹ Commonly referred to as a "spiral curriculum"

² Some excellent resources for further study on Apologetics: "The Evidence Bible" ed. By Ray Comfort, "Apologetics Study Bible" ed. By Sean McDowell, www.livingwater.com, TrueU DVD series (Focus on the Family).

MIDDLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM OBJECTIVES: “A REAL GOD IN A REAL WORLD: BEGINNING WITH THE OLD TESTAMENT”

The objectives are defined as what students should believe, know, and do as a result of their first year of study:

YEAR ONE OBJECTIVES:

1. Believing

- a. God is real. He interacts with us in our daily life by providing for us and guiding us to live meaningful lives.
- b. In the Old Testament, God is making the national foundation for the Israelites to receive His son the Messiah.

2. Knowing

- a. Understand that the Bible is a historically accurate document describing God’s central dispensational work to save humankind.

3. Doing

- a. Build a personal relationship with God by talking, praising, and praying to Him whenever and wherever you are.
- b. Read the Old Testament as the word of God, in order to understand His story to send His only begotten son.

CONCLUSION

We look forward to receiving feedback from you as you create lesson plans from the outlines provided.³ Our goal is to eventually provide a manual with complete lesson plans for each year of study on the primary, intermediate, and middle school levels. Please email us your completed lesson plans (using the lesson plan template provided) so that we may more quickly accomplish this important task.⁴

Our hope is that both you and your students will have a rich experience studying the Scriptures, growing closer to God as you experience the Bible as His living word.

³ T are encouraged to utilize resources such as www.teensundayschool.com, or YouTube videos such as “The Bible Project” or “God’s Story” when making lesson plans.

⁴ Send completed lesson plans to sc.edu154@gmail.com

EIGHT GREAT FESTIVALS:

TRUE GOD'S DAY (HC⁵ 1.1)

“What kind of day is God's Day? For God, it is a joyful day and a good day. He wants to encounter good people on this day. He wants to bless you and celebrate this day with you, but actually, He has no one qualified to receive that blessing. All around the world people are celebrating this first day of the year, but only members of the Unification Church celebrate it as God's Day. Therefore, God wants to be with you this day. We must celebrate God's Day with a solid content. Never before has God had the chance to fully manifest His love throughout history. God's Day gives Him the opportunity to show His love to His children. God has been suffering for so long, awaiting this opportunity. Love, which was supposed to be God's property, was stained and stolen by Satan; ever since, it has been misused and perverted by Satan for his own purposes. God has been desperately seeking the day when that love would be purified and returned to Him. Finally, that moment of restoration has come.” 1/1/83

TRUE FATHER'S HOLY BIRTH (HC 1.6)

True Father was born on the sixth day of the first lunar month in 1920 (February 25, solar). He was born in Sangsari, Deogeon-myeon, Jeongju-gun, North Pyeongan Province, Korea (now in North Korea), the fifth of eight children who lived past childhood in the family of Moon Kyeongyoo, and Kim Kyeong-gye, who gave him the name Yong Myung. Their house was one of a line of 15 which made up a tiny village, or ri. Ten of the households were of the Moon clan.

Some testified to prophetic signs prior to True Father's birth. A gold-colored crane, for example, was said to have perched in a tree across from the Moon home. Others referred to dreams or misfortunes. True Father emphasized the significance of his birthplace, stating that he was “the product of Pyeongan Province.” He noted, “People from Pyeongan Province are like ferocious jungle tigers” who “travel freely beyond boundaries” and at the same time “possess good diplomatic skills.” He said, “People from Pyeongan Province are not given recognition in official positions—because once given a position, they will take over everything.” More significantly, Pyeongan Province was a hotbed of Christianity and patriotism. In 1919, the year before True Father's birth, the Christian population of Korea was 300,000, of whom 110,000 resided in North Pyeongan Province.

True God's Day and True Father's Holy Birth are celebrated together on HC 1.1. The second King has directed that Jesus' Holy Birth should be celebrated on the same day as the Holy Birth of True Father.

TRUE PARENTS DAY (HC 3.1)

For 6,000 years God had been seeking the heavenly family and the restored foundation of His love on earth. The establishment of True Parents' Day signified that God had finally established His first son and daughter as the True Parents of humankind. Fallen humanity should rejoice because through the establishment of True Parents Day, it is finally possible for humanity to attend the True Parents. True Parents declared in 2008 that Hyung Jin nim and Yeonah nim are the “Teshinja” or representative body of True Parents on earth.

DAY OF TRUE ALL THINGS (HC 5.1)

Due to the fall, creation has waited “with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God” (Romans 8:19). The desire of all things is to see the day when they can receive the true love of God through human beings. All things of

⁵ HC=Heavenly Calendar

the creation are looking forward to the fulfillment of the three basic loves: the love of God, love of true parents, and the love of children who receive the perfect love of God and parents. Because of this day, the entire cosmos has become harmonized: God, humanity, and all things. All things can find their real owner and all humankind can give glory to God because we have the freedom to embrace and love all things.

True Father always marked the Anniversary of the founding of HSA-UWC on this day as well, although it is not a Holy Day.

7.1 FESTIVAL (DECLARATION OF GOD'S ETERNAL BLESSING) (HC 7.1)

At the Hannam Dong Residence on July 1, 1991, True Father conducted the "Ceremony to Declare God's Eternal Blessing" and instructed that the day be commemorated each year as the "Seven One Festival". True Father stated that, as of this day, all preparations in the Providence had been completed to let God rest. He declared that this day marked a watershed, where we were passing over a ridge into a new era of hope that would lead us into a world of peace. This was also the day when blessed central families could make their official beginning as tribal messiahs.

7.8 FESTIVAL (DECLARATION DAY OF COSMIC SABBATH)

To commemorate the victory of the 3.6-Million Couple Blessing at 7 seconds past 7:07 AM on the 7th day of the 7th lunar month in 1997, True Father declared the "Cosmic Sabbath for the Parent of Heaven and Earth centering on True Parents".

In a speech titled, "Ideal Families are God's House of Rest", True Father emphasized the importance of creating families where God could rest. He encouraged us to extend the victory of 3.6 million couples to 36 million and 360 million couples so as to bring about a world in which God's sovereignty would be established forever.

7.1 Festival and 7.8 Festival are celebrated together, generally on HC 7.1. This date is flexible.

TRUE CHILDREN'S DAY (HC 10.1)

"If you want to become true children of God then you must be different from people of the past. You must say to God that you are no longer pursuing ordinary, secular goals. "I am Your son, and day in and day out my goal will be to fulfill Your will and be Your representative and grow to be worthy of possessing Your love." Those are the words of true children of God, and nothing will change them.

On that day, before God and with Satan observing, the True Parents declared Children's Day to the world. On Children's Day 1977, Father said "You must be the son who can transcend the level of family, nation and world and overcome all obstacles. You will be the single-minded champion of God. The day you make such a covenant with God is the real Children's Day." 11/11/77

Children's Day was declared on the first day of the 10th lunar month in 1960.

DAY OF OPENING OF HEAVEN FOR THE UNIFIED NATION OF HEAVEN AND EARTH (HC 10.3)

After the success of the 1988 Seoul Olympics in Korea, on October 3, 1988, the same day as Korea's National Foundation Day, True Father declared the Foundation Day for the Unified World at the Yong In Factory of Il Hwa Co., Ltd in South Korea. True Father renamed the Holy Day as Foundation Day for the Unified Nation of Heaven and Earth on the 17th celebration of the holiday in 2004. In accordance with the Cheon-gi heavenly calendar, Foundation Day for the Unified Nation of Heaven and Earth is now celebrated on the 3rd day of the 10th month.

According to True Father, the ceremony of the Foundation Day for the Unified World was a major accomplishment. In his speech, “Children’s Day 1988 – From the Viewpoint of the Providence”, True Father said, “on that day, [October 3rd], the Korean nation celebrated the foundation of its nation 4,321 years ago. On October 3 [1988], we declared Foundation Day for the Nation of the World of Unification. This is not a secular nation but the heavenly, unified nation of the world. This means that spirit world and physical world are one...The restoration of each nation has become possible. Beyond communities and societies, nations can now be restored into the one heavenly world community.”

True Children's Day and Day of Opening of Heaven for the Unified Nation of Heaven and Earth are celebrated together on either HC 10.1 or HC 10.3.

FOUNDATION DAY

This day commemorates the crowning of the 2nd King and the Consummation of the Direct Dominion of God.

TRUE FATHER’S SEONGHWA (THE SEVEN DEATHS AND RESURRECTIONS)

On this day we remember Father’s victorious ascension into the spiritual world. In Father’s lifetime, he endured 7 deaths, and each time was victoriously resurrected both spiritually and physically. Tremendous grace from Heaven has come to humankind because of the victory of those resurrections.

Foundation Day and True Father’s Seonghwa are celebrated together on HC 7.17.

LESSON #1: "WHY SHOULD I BELIEVE IN GOD?" (APOLOGETICS)

OBJECTIVES (WHAT ARE THE TAKEAWAY POINTS FOR S LIFE OF FAITH?):

1) S WILL UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS REASONABLE AND SCIENTIFICALLY SOUND TO BELIEVE IN GOD!

BIBLE VERSES:

- Psalm 148:5
- Isaiah 40:28

FATHER'S WORDS:

"Religion and science, setting out with the missions of dispelling the two aspects of human ignorance, have seemed in the course of their development to take positions that were contradictory and irreconcilable. However, for humankind to completely overcome the two aspects of ignorance and fully realize the goodness which the original mind desires, at some point in history there must emerge a new truth which can reconcile religion and science and resolve their problems in an integrated undertaking."

Exposition of the Divine Principle, Introduction

"Science begins its research on visible and external things. However, science can also assist in understanding the frontiers of invisible or internal things of a spiritual dimension. Finally, the integration of the two realms should occur. Thus, we must be able to have a central point located in the external, visible world connected to the central point located in the metaphysical world of the highest dimension. Then, with the latter as the unchanging axis, the other will revolve around it for eternity in the action of give and take-giving absolute meaning and value to all things in space and time."

"The Centrality of Science and Absolute Values" 11/27/75

2) S WILL LEARN THAT REGARDING THE ORIGIN OF THE UNIVERSE, THE MOST DOMINANT AND ACCURATE THEORY SO FAR HAS BEEN THE BIG BANG THEORY.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Isaiah 42:5
- Isaiah 48:13
- John 1:1
- Hebrews 11:3

3) S WILL UNDERSTAND THAT THE BIG BANG THEORY WAS BACKED UP BY STRONG SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE FROM SCIENTISTS SUCH AS: 1) EDWIN HUBBLE (1929- EXPANDING UNIVERSE) AND 2) ARNO PENZIAS AND ROBERT WILSON (1964- COSMIC MICROWAVE BACKGROUND RADIATION).

BIBLE VERSES:

- Isaiah 40:22 (expanding universe)
- 2 Peter 3:8

4) LOOKING AT THE SACRED TEXTS OF ALL THE MAJOR RELIGIONS, S WILL LEARN THAT ONLY THE BIBLE DESCRIBES THE BIG BANG THEORY: AN EXPLOSION OF LIGHT, THE BEGINNING TO OUR UNIVERSE COMING FROM OUTSIDE THE UNIVERSE ITSELF.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Genesis 1:1-3
-

"DID GOD CREATE THE UNIVERSE?" EVERYSTUDENT.COM

Scientists believe that our universe began with one enormous explosion of energy and light, which we now call the Big Bang. This was the singular start to everything that exists. The beginning of the universe, the start of space, and even the initial start of time itself.

Nothing we observe today existed prior to that exact moment.

Further, it was something outside of time, outside of space, and outside of matter that caused all of this to come into existence.

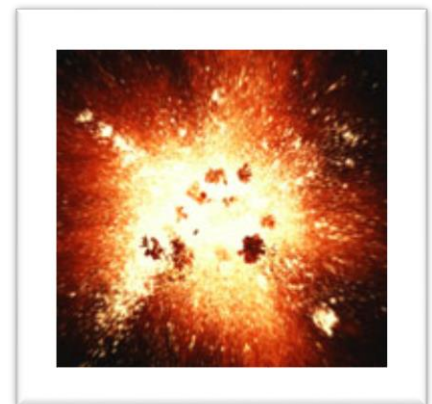
The realization that our universe started, and did not always exist, brings enormous challenges to nontheistic scientists.

Are scientists certain of this Big Bang Theory? Yes. In the late 1920's, astronomer Edwin Hubble saw through his telescope that galaxies (some millions of light years away) were hurtling away from each other at fantastic speeds. This was not caused by some force thrusting them away from each other. Rather, they were still moving as a result of a primeval explosion, all from one point of origin.

In this point of origin, all the mass in the universe was compressed into a single point of infinite density...smaller than a single atom. Then in a cosmic explosion--the Big Bang--the universe came into being. Steven Weinberg, a Nobel laureate in Physics, gives further description, "At about one-hundredth of a second, the earliest time about which we can speak with any confidence, the temperature of the universe was about a hundred thousands million (10¹¹) degrees Centigrade. This is much hotter than in the center of even the hottest star, so hot, in fact, that none of the components of ordinary matter, molecules, or atoms, or even the nuclei of atoms, could have held together." He goes on, "The universe was filled with light."

This eerily parallels the record, "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth...and God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light." It came about not from matter, but from pronouncement. A spoken word. "Let there be light."

Looking at the sacred texts of all the major religions, only the Bible describes what scientists have since discovered: there was an explosion of light and a beginning to our universe...from outside of the universe itself. With it came the very start of space, matter and time. It was a singular starting point for everything. Over and over in the Book of Genesis is the description, "And God said...." followed by "...and it was so."



Instead, could our universe have come about through the laws of physics: such as gravity, electromagnetism, speed of light, etc.? No, because those things did not yet exist. The initial start of the universe itself produced the laws of physics and everything began without them.

Astrophysicist Robert Jastrow, a self-described agnostic, stated, "The seed of everything that has happened in the Universe was planted in that first instant; every star, every planet and every living creature in the Universe came into being as a result of events that were set in motion in the moment of the cosmic explosion. It was literally the moment of Creation. ...The Universe flashed into being, and we cannot find out what caused that to happen." As stated, this conclusion is distressing to atheistic scientists. To observe a reaction and not be able to document the cause is unsettling.

Jastrow concludes, "For the scientist who has lived by his faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountains of ignorance; he is about to conquer the highest peak; as he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries."

Imagine the relief of these scientists when astronomers Hermann Bondi, Thomas Gold, and Fred Hoyle advanced what became known as the "steady state" universe in 1948. Their theory was that the universe was infinite in age. Thus, no creation or no cause was needed.

However, in the 1960s, the steady state theory suffered a devastating blow when two radio engineers at Bell Labs (Arno Penzias and Robert Wilson) discovered mysterious radiation coming from space. It came equally from all directions. When the temperature of the radiation was measured, its source was confirmed. This radiation did not always exist, or come from one part of the universe. It came from that singular, original moment of creation.

Later, in 1996, NASA's Cosmic Background Explorer (COBE) satellite also further confirmed that the primordial background radiation pointed to an explosive start of the universe. The levels of hydrogen, lithium, deuterium, and helium that exist in our universe today confirm it as well.

Pure scientific findings consistently point to only one conclusion: the universe had a singular start, an explosion, where everything we know--the universe, time, space, scientific laws we observe--all had a beginning. If you have ever wanted to believe in God, but certainly did not want to do so in contradiction of known scientific facts, science provides you reason to believe that God exists and powerfully created all things.

It is logical to conclude that God, who is from the beginning, eternal and outside of time, created time. God who is present everywhere and cannot be confined to space, created space. God who is spiritual, non-physical and outside of matter is the source of our universe and all that is. This is the message blatantly repeated throughout the Bible.

"Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth." (Isaiah 40:26)

"...for he commanded and they were created." (Psalm 148:5)

The Bible says that God formed the earth to be inhabited, with us in mind from the start. He gave people his breath of life and a brief stay upon the earth with the full purpose that we would seek him and find him. If we do not come to know him, we have missed the entire purpose for our existence. Who knows better than God the reason for our being?

Do you want to know the Author of the universe? Here is what he promises, "Draw near to God and he will draw near to you" (James 4:8). If we will seek to know him, God says, "I will be found by you" (Jeremiah 29:14). In fact, he

states, "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom. Let not the mighty man boast in his might. Let not the rich man boast in his riches. But let him who boasts, boast in this: that he understands and knows me" (Jeremiah 9:23-24).

We have an opportunity to know the God who brought about the beginning of the universe.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Genesis 1
- Isaiah 40:22 (expanding universe)
- Isaiah 42:5
- Isaiah 48:13
- John 1:1
- Hebrews 11:3
- 2 Peter 3:8

FATHER'S WORDS:

"As we marvel at the scientific laws concealed in the natural world, we can deduce that God, its Creator, truly is the very origin of science."

Exposition of the Divine Principle, Introduction

"You may ask why a religious figure would fund a conference on science. The reason is because God is the greatest scientist of all. The complicated problems of the world cannot be fully understood within the narrow perspectives of individual fields of knowledge. I recognize that in the Middle Ages religious dogmatism blocked scientific exploration and limited man's material development. However, it is also a big mistake for humanistic thinkers since the Age of the Enlightenment to hold that religious belief is inferior to reason and that man's spiritual needs are in conflict with human reason."

ICUS Conference

LESSON #2: "GOD MADE ALL OF THIS FOR ME?"

OBJECTIVES (WHAT ARE THE TAKEAWAY POINTS FOR S LIFE OF FAITH?):

1) THROUGH STUDYING THE CREATION STORY, S WILL LEARN THAT GOD CREATED THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE FOR ADAM AND EVE.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Genesis 1:26-31

FATHER'S WORDS:

"God created all things for the sake of Adam and Eve. Flowers could be their jewels, leaves could be their spoons, etc. Today we are touching the same things of nature that Adam and Eve touched in the Garden of Eden: the same grass, same flowers, same trees. If I asked the flowers whether they saw Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, they would reply, 'No, I don't go back that far, but at least my great-great-great-great-grandfather did, and I am connected to them in that way; there is a giant line linking us all the way back to Adam and Eve.' And if I ask the flowers what Adam and Eve said to them, they would reply, 'They told us we were so beautiful!' So even this very flower is part of Adam and Eve's legacy to us... The important thing is the heart which created those first flowers in the Garden of Eden for Adam and Eve. That same unchanging heart has been handed down, throughout the generations, to us today.

They had not a moment to be bored; there was so much to look at and explore: birds, rivers, fish, rocks, mountains, fruits, flowers, etc. Suppose they came upon a frog. What an odd creature frog is! When they tried to catch it, the frog immediately jumped into the water. 'Boy!' Adam thought, 'I should learn some jumping too.'

I want you to understand that God gave Adam and Eve a textbook to learn from, and that textbook was nature and all its creatures. All things were created to be a manual from which Adam and Eve could learn."

"The Day of All Things" 6/21/82

2) S WILL UNDERSTAND THAT GOD CREATED ADAM AND EVE SO THAT HE COULD EXPERIENCE THE WHOLENESS OF LOVE.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Genesis 2:18-23

FATHER'S WORDS:

"Why did God create Adam and Eve? He did so to have a body. God, as an incorporeal being, cannot love His physical children without becoming a father and mother with a substantial body. God's purpose in creating Adam and Eve was, first, for the incorporeal God to acquire a body through Adam's body."

CSG p.55

"Marriage is not just the unity of one man and one woman but of the male character and the female character. In other words, by loving your spouse you are loving the realm of masculinity or femininity. Thus the woman seeks to understand the man and the man seeks to understand the woman. The unity between

the male and female world takes place in marriage. Each couple represents the harmony of the entire universe. That kind of couple is what God has been longing to see here on earth.”

“The Historically Highest Career” 11/1/83

3) S WILL UNDERSTAND THAT GOD ASKS US TO OBEY HIS COMMANDMENT BECAUSE HE TRULY LOVES US.

BIBLE VERSES:

- 1 John 5:7-8

FATHER’S WORDS:

“Why do men and women have to wait and discipline themselves instead of just jumping into love whenever they feel like it? We know that the creation is bounded by a certain period of growth. Therefore, a child’s love cannot be consummated as soon as he is born; he must grow into the fullest realization of love.”

“Parents, Children, and the World Centering on Oneself” 6/5/83

LESSON #3: "ADAM AND EVE, I TOLD YOU NOT TO EAT!"

OBJECTIVES (WHAT ARE THE TAKEAWAY POINTS FOR S LIFE OF FAITH?):

1) THROUGH STUDYING ADAM & EVE'S STORY, S WILL LEARN THAT GOD INTENDED FOR THEM TO LIVE A BLESSED LIFE.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Genesis 1:26-31
- 1 Corinthians 3:16
- Matthew 5:48

FATHER'S WORDS:

"These are the three great blessings: to be fruitful (mature and ready to bear fruit), multiply and have dominion over the creation. Had Adam and Eve obeyed this divine mandate and built the Kingdom of Heaven, there is no doubt that God would have felt the greatest joy as His sons and daughters rejoiced in the world of His ideal."

Exposition of the Divine Principle, Part I, Chapter 1, Section 4.1

2) S WILL LEARN THAT DUE TO FEELING A LACK OF LOVE, LUCIFER SEDUCED EVE AND CONSEQUENTLY ADOPTED HER INTO HIS FALLEN BLOOD LINEAGE.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Matthew 12:34
- John 8:44

FATHER'S WORDS:

"What is it that God regrets? It is that humanity inherited a false lineage. You inherited false blood. Satan is the origin of this. He always wants to create havoc with all things of creation...Your ancestors are the fruits of a very evil parent. How much distress God experiences in His yearning to save them! Why could God not simply get rid of fallen Adam and Eve and create them anew? He had the power to do this, but because He originally created within an eternal relationship based on eternal true love, God could not do so."

CSG p. 137

3) S WILL UNDERSTAND THAT THE SPIRITUAL FALL HAPPENED BECAUSE OF EVE'S DISBELIEF IN GOD'S WORD, AND THE POWER OF UNPRINCIPLED LOVE.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Genesis 3:1-14

FATHER'S WORDS:

"The fall of Adam and Eve was immoral conduct against the ideal of the True Love of God. The fact that Adam and Eve needed to obey the Commandment shows that they fell in a stage of imperfection, that is to say, during their period of growth. The Archangel, who is symbolized by a serpent, tempted Eve to eat of the fruit of good and evil, and she fell spiritually. She later tempted Adam (who was also too immature to eat of the fruit), and they then fell physically. The only possible sin that could have been fatal in the Garden of Eden, where Adam and Eve were in communication with God and living in joy, was the sin of illicit love."

"View of the Principle of the Providential History of Salvation" 4/16/96

4) S WILL UNDERSTAND THAT THE FALL COULD HAVE BEEN PREVENTED IF ADAM AND EVE HAD CONSULTED WITH GOD WHEN FEELING INSECURE.

"Had Adam and Eve consulted with God, there would have been no Fall. They should have asked the question: *'The archangel is doing such and such, so what shall we do?'* Then God could have responded to them. The act of asking was their portion of responsibility."

CSG p.1114

5) GOD WILL NEVER FORSAKE US. HIS PROMISE TO SEND THE MESSIAH IN GENESIS 3:15 IS HIS PROMISE TO SAVE FALLEN HUMANKIND.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Genesis 3:15
- Isaiah 61:1-2a

FATHER'S WORDS:

"When God saw His children languishing in sorrow and suffering and despair, He did not say 'You deserve it.' Our Father worked to save His children pierced with sorrow by placing Himself in greater sorrow; He worked to save His children moaning in pain by going to a place of even greater pain. He did not hesitate even to go to His death to save His children who were on the verge of death."

2/28/60

LESSON #4: "GOD, WHY DO YOU LOVE ABEL MORE THAN ME?"

OBJECTIVES (WHAT ARE THE TAKEAWAY POINTS FOR S LIFE OF FAITH?):

1) THROUGH STUDYING THE STORY OF CAIN AND ABEL, S WILL LEARN THAT GOD USES THE POSITIONS OF OLDER AND YOUNGER SONS TO HELP US SEPARATE FROM SATAN AND RECLAIM US AS HIS CHILDREN.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Genesis 4:1-12

FATHER'S WORDS:

"The history of restoration follows a reversal course. Therefore, Abel, as the younger brother, has to gain the position of elder brother and Cain has to accept the younger brother's position. This exchange needed to take place between Cain and Abel. According to the formula for restoration, Cain should come down to the younger brother's position and Abel should come up to the elder brother's position. Unless this reversal occurs, there is no way for restoration to take place.

In human history, there has always been a Cain-Abel struggle, manifesting itself through all manner of battles and wars. In Adam's family, parents were lost and children fought to the death. It is almost unimaginable that the first family which God created ended in bloodshed. For humankind to be restored, there needs to be a reversal of order from the individual level to the worldwide level."

"Let Us Be Proud of and Love True Parents" 1/1/96

2) S WILL UNDERSTAND THAT ONE OF THE DEVIL'S FAVORITE STRATEGIES IS TO TEMPT PEOPLE TO HATE OTHERS BASED ON THEIR OWN INSECURITY.

BIBLE VERSES:

- 1Peter 3:8-12

3) GOD HATES EVIL, BUT HE HAS NO CONCEPT OF ENEMY. HE CAN RECOGNIZE US AS HIS CHILDREN WHEN WE SEPARATE FROM SATAN BY LOVING EACH PERSON AS HIS SON OR DAUGHTER.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Matthew 5:43-48

FATHER'S WORDS:

"Even wounded and dying, Jesus forgot about himself and loved his enemies and asked forgiveness for them. Under such circumstances, however vicious the enemy may be, as long as even one ounce of conscience remains in his heart he cannot help but bow down and surrender. 'I do not deserve such treatment,' he will confess. 'I cannot afford such treatment.' By practicing this you can completely separate yourself from your enemy -- and you will discover that you have no enemy. When you reach that level of perfection of love, you can enter a new era, the age of ideal love."

"The Road of God's Will" 5/30/82

LESSON #5: "NOAH'S ARK: GOD'S PLAN TO SAVE HUMANITY"

OBJECTIVES (WHAT ARE THE TAKEAWAY POINTS FOR S LIFE OF FAITH?):

1) THROUGH STUDYING NOAH'S STORY, S WILL LEARN THAT THE FLOOD WAS ACTUALLY GOD'S PLAN TO SAVE HUMANITY.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Genesis 6:4-8

FATHER'S WORDS:

"Noah's wife must have packed his lunch basket every day, using only a little food. Noah was so busy with the ark he could not find time to provide for his family. Within only a few months the family squabbles must have begun, but it was not just for 12 months or 12 years that Noah's wife had to sustain her situation, but for 120 years. Why, then, did God ask of Noah such an incomprehensible mission? Why does God have to work that way? There is a reason. It is because of evil.

God cannot dwell together with evil. The direction of God is 180 degrees contrary to the direction of evil. God abhors evil! God cannot accept the things that the evil world accepts. So God does not want anything to do with the evil world, or with whatever is tainted by evil. We are all in the image of God and can find traits similar to His in our human nature. Consider if you have an enemy toward whom you have strong feelings; you don't want to so much as look at that person. Likewise, God will have nothing to do with the evil, satanic world. Therefore, in dealing with it, He chooses ways often incomprehensible to man."

"God's Hope for America" 10/21/73

2) THROUGH STUDYING THE TRAGEDY OF HAM'S MISTAKE, S WILL LEARN THE VALUE OF TAKING THE TIME TO THINK DEEPLY, AND PERSEVERING WITH FAITH IN GOD.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Genesis 9:18-27

FATHER'S WORDS:

"We can say that the failure of every providential mission resulted from failing to think deeply. If Noah had persevered in his vigilance a little longer, instead of becoming intoxicated and lying naked, his mission would not have been invaded. We can definitely say his mission would have succeeded if he had continued his devotion to God and thought a little more."

"Perseverance and Contemplation" 8/27/78

3) S WILL LEARN THAT GOD CONTINUED HIS DISPENSATION THROUGH NOAH BASED ON NOAH'S DETERMINATION, PATIENCE, OBEDIENCE AND FAITH.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Genesis 6:9-9:17

FATHER'S WORDS:

"Noah maintained his unyielding determination even when Heaven dragged him around for 120 years. This is what made him greater than Adam. We know that Adam fell when he had not yet reached adulthood. Because Adam betrayed God, to make it possible for God to believe in us again, we must exert ourselves more than Adam. Even if we are to suffer through toils, hundreds of times more harsh, we must be able to break through them.

Noah was not affected when his own self, his family, his relatives, his people and anything in the world put up opposition. Fixed on his determination, he clung to God and fought on for 120 years. This became the condition for him to be elevated before the humanity of that time, representing God."

"Let Us Not Weaken Our Determination Toward Heaven" 2/23/58

LESSON #6: "THE TRIAL OF JOB"

OBJECTIVES (WHAT ARE THE TAKEAWAY POINTS FOR S LIFE OF FAITH?):

1) S WILL LEARN THE STORY OF JOB- HOW JOB WENT THROUGH SATAN'S TESTS BY LOSING ALL HIS POSSESSIONS, FAMILY AND FRIENDS. HOWEVER, IN THE END HE REGAINED THEM WITH MORE BLESSINGS FROM GOD.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Job 1, 2; 42:1-17⁶

2) S WILL LEARN THAT JOB COULD REDEEM EVERYTHING HE LOST IN HIS LIFE BECAUSE HE CHOSE TO UNCONDITIONALLY TRUST IN THE GOODNESS AND GREATNESS OF GOD.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Psalms 33:4-6
- 1 Peter 2:1-3

FATHER'S WORDS:

"When you are undergoing suffering, don't cry out. The living God knows your situation all too well, even though you don't tell Him about it. If you weep and pray sorrowfully for yourself, God will become more sorrowful and bear a double burden. Up to today, God had not a single person who could understand His great sorrow and pain in history. He has endured them by Himself. Comfort God first. If you do so, He will embrace you and shed tears of joy."

"The Way of God's Will"

"I never prayed from weakness. I never complained. I was never angry at my situation. I never even asked His help, but was always busy comforting Him and telling Him not to worry about me. The Father knows me so well. He already knew my suffering. How could I tell Him about my suffering and cause His heart to grieve still more? I could only tell Him that I would never be defeated by my suffering."

Words of Sun Myung Moon from 1970

3) S WILL LEARN THAT YOU CANNOT PREVENT SUFFERING FROM OCCURRING IN YOUR LIFE; MANY THINGS WILL HAPPEN THAT YOU CANNOT CONTROL. BUT REGARDLESS OF WHAT HAPPENS, WE CAN ALWAYS CHOOSE TO LOVE AND TRUST IN GOD, BECAUSE HE IS ALWAYS GOOD.

BIBLE VERSES:

- John 9:3
- Romans 8:27-28

FATHER'S WORDS:

⁶ See "The Bible Project: The Book of Job" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xQwnH8th_fs

"In order to restore belief, God has been seeking individuals of absolute faith on earth. During the time of Abel and Cain, absolute faith was required. Thus their sacrifices should have been accompanied by absolute obedience and faith, thus restoring the position of disbelief and overcoming satanic accusation. We must separate ourselves from Satan. Only then can we receive the blessing from God. We must believe when belief seems impossible. We must reach the point where we cannot be separated from God. To do this, we must make the impossible possible. Through this process we will receive God's blessing and love without accusation."

"The New Messiah and the Formula of God in History" 3/72

LESSON #7: "IS THE BIBLE A HISTORICALLY ACCURATE DOCUMENT?" (APOLOGETICS)

OBJECTIVES (WHAT ARE THE TAKEAWAY POINTS FOR S LIFE OF FAITH?):

1) S WILL LEARN OUR MODERN CULTURE PROMOTES THE BIBLE AS BEING BASED ON MYTH RATHER THAN HISTORICAL FACT.

BIBLE VERSES:

- 2 Timothy 4:3-4
- 2 Thessalonians 2:5-12

FATHER'S WORDS:

"Although the Bible has its many different writers, its direction or purpose is consistent, and so by looking at it we cannot deny the existence of God. History has not taken its direction accidentally. Behind history a great Power has worked to decide its direction."

"The Way of God's Will"

2) BY STUDYING THREE LINES OF EVIDENCE (SEE BELOW) THAT SUPPORT THE CLAIM THAT THE BIBLICAL DOCUMENTS ARE RELIABLE, S WILL UNDERSTAND THAT THE BIBLE IS THE AUTHENTIC WORD OF GOD.

BIBLE VERSES:

- 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- Isaiah 40:8

FATHER'S WORDS:

"I am telling you many unusual things, and you may ask by what authority I am speaking. It is the authority of the Bible, and with the authority of revelation. Let us read the Bible together..."

21 City Speaking Tour 10/73-1/74

3) S WILL BEGIN TO DEVELOP A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE BIBLE THROUGH RECEIVING A "RHEMA."⁷

BIBLE VERSES:

- Isaiah 41:13
- Hebrews 4:12

FATHER'S WORDS:

"Don't understand God's words only with your head, but know them in your heart and perceive them through your body."

⁷ A rhema is a verse or portion of scripture that the Holy Spirit brings to our attention with application to a current situation or need for direction. The individual seeking a rhema should seek in faith for a message of God as he or she opens the Bible.

“Become one with God's words. Multiplication will surely begin if you make your mind one with God's words and practice them actively.”

“God's words can create the personality of the highest goodness, the being of the highest happiness, and the being of the highest love.”

“The Way of God’s Will”

I. THE BIBLIOGRAPHIC TEST (FROM BIBLE.ORG BY DR. KENNETH BOA)

A. THE QUANTITY OF MANUSCRIPTS

In the case of the Old Testament, there are a small number of Hebrew manuscripts, because the Jewish scribes ceremonially buried imperfect and worn manuscripts. Many ancient manuscripts were also lost or destroyed during Israel's turbulent history. Also, the Old Testament text was standardized by the Masoretic Jews by the sixth century A.D., and all manuscripts that deviated from the Masoretic Text were evidently eliminated. But the existing Hebrew manuscripts are supplemented by the Dead Sea Scrolls, the Septuagint (a third-century B.C. Greek translation of the Old Testament), the Samaritan Pentateuch, and the Targums (ancient paraphrases of the Old Testament), as well as the Talmud (teachings and commentaries related to the Hebrew Scriptures).

The quantity of New Testament manuscripts is unparalleled in ancient literature. There are over 5,000 Greek manuscripts, about 8,000 Latin manuscripts, and another 1,000 manuscripts in other languages (Syriac, Coptic, etc.). In addition to this extraordinary number, there are tens of thousands of citations of New Testament passages by the early church fathers. In contrast, the typical number of existing manuscript copies for any of the works of the Greek and Latin authors, such as Plato, Aristotle, Caesar, or Tacitus, ranges from one to 20.

B. THE QUALITY OF MANUSCRIPTS

Because of the great reverence the Jewish scribes held toward the Scriptures, they exercised extreme care in making new copies of the Hebrew Bible. The entire scribal process was specified in meticulous detail to minimize the possibility of even the slightest error. The number of letters, words, and lines were counted, and the middle letters of the Pentateuch and the Old Testament were determined. If a single mistake was discovered, the entire manuscript would be destroyed.

As a result of this extreme care, the quality of the manuscripts of the Hebrew Bible surpasses all other ancient manuscripts. The 1947 discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls provided a significant check on this, because these Hebrew scrolls antedate the earliest Masoretic Old Testament manuscripts by about 1,000 years. But in spite of this time span, the number of variant readings between the Dead Sea Scrolls and the Masoretic Text is quite small, and most of these are variations in spelling and style.

While the quality of the Old Testament manuscripts is excellent, that of the New Testament is very good--considerably better than the manuscript quality of other ancient documents. Because of the thousands of New Testament manuscripts, there are many variant readings, but these variants are actually used by scholars to reconstruct the original readings by determining which variant best explains the others in any given passage. Some of these variant readings crept into the manuscripts because of visual errors in copying or because of auditory errors when a group of scribes copied manuscripts that were read aloud. Other errors resulted from faulty writing, memory, and judgment, and still others from well-meaning scribes who thought they were correcting the text. Nevertheless, only a small number of these differences affect the sense of the passages, and only a fraction of these have any real consequences. Furthermore, no variant readings are significant enough to call into question any of the doctrines of

the New Testament. The New Testament can be regarded as 99.5 percent pure, and the correct readings for the remaining 0.5 percent can often be ascertained with a fair degree of probability by the practice of textual criticism.

C. THE TIME SPAN OF MANUSCRIPTS

Apart from some fragments, the earliest Masoretic manuscript of the Old Testament is dated at A.D. 895. This is due to the systematic destruction of worn manuscripts by the Masoretic scribes. However, the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls dating from 200 B.C. to A.D. 68 drastically reduced the time span from the writing of the Old Testament books to our earliest copies of them.

The time span of the New Testament manuscripts is exceptional. The manuscripts written on papyrus came from the second and third centuries A.D. The John Rylands Fragment of the Gospel of John is dated at A.D. 117-38, only a few decades after the Gospel was written. The Bodmer Papyri are dated from A.D. 175-225, and the Chester Beatty Papyri date from about A.D. 250. The time span for most of the New Testament is less than 200 years (and some books are within 100 years) from the date of authorship to the date of our earliest manuscripts. This can be sharply contrasted with the average gap of over 1,000 years between the composition and the earliest copy of the writings of other ancient authors.

To summarize the bibliographic test, the Old and New Testaments enjoy far greater manuscript attestation in terms of quantity, quality, and time span than any other ancient documents.

II. THE INTERNAL TEST

The second test of the reliability of the biblical documents asks, "What claims does the Bible make about itself?" This may appear to be circular reasoning. It sounds like we are using the testimony of the Bible to prove that the Bible is true. But we are really examining the truth claims of the various authors of the Bible and allowing them to speak for themselves. (Remember that the Bible is not one book but many books woven together.) This provides significant evidence that must not be ignored.

A number of biblical authors claim that their accounts are primary, not secondary. That is, the bulk of the Bible was written by people who were eyewitnesses of the events they recorded. John wrote in his Gospel, "And he who has seen has borne witness, and his witness is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you also may believe" (John 19:35; see 21:24). In his first epistle, John wrote, "What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we beheld and our hands handled concerning the Word of life . . . what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also (1 John 1:1, 3). Peter makes the same point abundantly clear: "For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty" (2 Peter 1:16; also see Acts 2:22; 1 Peter 5:1).

The independent eyewitness accounts in the New Testament of the life, death, and resurrection of Christ were written by people who were intimately acquainted with Jesus Christ. Their gospels and epistles reveal their integrity and complete commitment to the truth, and they maintained their testimony even through persecution and martyrdom. All the evidence inside and outside the New Testament runs contrary to the claim made by form criticism that the early church distorted the life and teachings of Christ. Most of the New Testament was written between A.D. 47 and 70, and all of it was complete before the end of the first century. There simply was not enough time for myths about Christ to be created and propagated. And the multitudes of eyewitnesses who were alive when the New Testament books began to be circulated would have challenged blatant historical fabrications about the life of Christ. The Bible places great stress on accurate historical details, and this is especially obvious in the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts, Luke's two-part masterpiece (see his prologue in Luke 1:1-4).

III. THE EXTERNAL TEST

Because the Scriptures continually refer to historical events, they are verifiable; their accuracy can be checked by external evidence. The chronological details in the prologue to Jeremiah (1:1-3) and in Luke 3:1-2 illustrate this. Ezekiel 1:2 allows us to date Ezekiel's first vision of God to the day (July 31, 592 B.C.).

The historicity of Jesus Christ is well-established by early Roman, Greek, and Jewish sources, and these extrabiblical writings affirm the major details of the New Testament portrait of the Lord. The first-century Jewish historian Flavius Josephus made specific references to John the Baptist, Jesus Christ, and James in his *Antiquities of the Jews*. In this work, Josephus gives us many background details about the Herods, the Sadducees and Pharisees, the high priests like Annas and Caiaphas, and the Roman emperors mentioned in the gospels and Acts.

We find another early secular reference to Jesus in a letter written a little after A.D. 73 by an imprisoned Syrian named Mara Bar-Serapion. This letter to his son compares the deaths of Socrates, Pythagoras, and Christ. Other first- and second-century writers who mention Christ include the Roman historians Cornelius Tacitus (*Annals*) and Suetonius (*Life of Claudius*, *Lives of the Caesars*), the Roman governor Pliny the Younger (*Epistles*), and the Greek satirist Lucian (*On the Death of Peregrine*). Jesus is also mentioned a number of times in the Jewish Talmud.

The Old and New Testaments make abundant references to nations, kings, battles, cities, mountains, rivers, buildings, treaties, customs, economics, politics, dates, etc. Because the historical narratives of the Bible are so specific, many of its details are open to archaeological investigation. While we cannot say that archaeology proves the authority of the Bible, it is fair to say that archaeological evidence has provided external confirmation of hundreds of biblical statements. Higher criticism in the 19th century made many damaging claims that would completely overthrow the integrity of the Bible, but the explosion of archaeological knowledge in the 20th century reversed almost all of these claims. Noted archaeologists such as William F. Albright, Nelson Glueck, and G. Ernest Wright developed a great respect for the historical accuracy of the Scriptures as a result of their work.

Out of the multitude of archaeological discoveries related to the Bible, consider a few examples to illustrate the remarkable external substantiation of biblical claims. Excavations at Nuzi (1925-41), Mari (discovered in 1933), and Alalakh (1937-39; 1946-49) provide helpful background information that fits well with the Genesis stories of the patriarchal period. The Nuzi tablets and Mari letters illustrate the patriarchal customs in great detail, and the Ras Shamra tablets discovered in ancient Ugarit in Syria shed much light on Hebrew prose and poetry and Canaanite culture. The Ebla tablets discovered recently in northern Syria also affirm the antiquity and accuracy of the Book of Genesis.

Some scholars once claimed that the Mosaic Law could not have been written by Moses, because writing was largely unknown at that time and because the law code of the Pentateuch was too sophisticated for that period. But the codified Laws of Hammurabi (ca. 1700 B.C.), the Lipit-Ishtar code (ca. 1860 B.C.), the Laws of Eshnunna (ca. 1950 B.C.), and the even earlier Ur-Nammu code have refuted these claims.

NOTE:

S should also know that the Jewish scribes were faithful copyists of the divine text. The ancient scribes made extensive efforts to ensure that their copies matched the originals in every detail. They actually had men whose only job was to count the letters in the copies. They counted the “jots and tittles”, or the “little horns” that formed parts of the letters themselves. If the number of letters, of jots and tittles, did not match the number in the original, the copy was destroyed! If there was even one error, no matter how small in the text, the copy was destroyed and the copyist started over. These Jewish scribes were so faithful to the Word of God when they came to the name of God,

they would wash themselves, and get a new pen before they wrote God's name. Then they would discard that pen and use another to proceed. We are indebted to these Jewish scribes for their meticulous care of and reverence for the Old Testament Scriptures.

LESSON #8: "ABRAHAM: THE IDOL-MAKER'S SON"

OBJECTIVES (WHAT ARE THE TAKEAWAY POINTS FOR S LIFE OF FAITH?):

1) S WILL UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF ABRAHAM IN GOD'S PROVIDENCE BY LEARNING SOME KEY EVENTS IN HIS LIFE.⁸

BIBLE VERSES:

- Genesis 12:1-9 (The Call of Abram)
- Genesis 12:10-20 (Sojourn in Egypt during famine)
- Genesis 14:1-24 (Abram Rescues Lot)
- Genesis 15:1-16 (The Lord's Covenant Promise to Abram)
- Genesis 16:1-16 (The birth of Ishmael)
- Genesis 17: 1-14 (Abram is named Abraham)
- Genesis 19: 1-26 (Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah)
- Genesis 21:1-6 (Birth of Isaac)
- Genesis 22:1-18 (Offering of Isaac)

2) S WILL UNDERSTAND THAT GOD WAS ABLE TO BLESS ABRAHAM BECAUSE: A) HE WAS ABLE TO BECOME A RECIPROCAL OBJECT TO THE HEART OF GOD B) HE WAS DETERMINED TO OVERCOME ANY HARDSHIP TO ACCOMPLISH THE WILL OF HEAVEN.

FATHER'S WORDS:

"God called Abraham and drove him the opposite way, toward tribulation. You have to understand that God ordered Abraham to leave Ur of the Chaldeans and drove him into tribulations that his relatives, family, and people dared not attempt.

We have to understand that Abraham transcended himself and deeply felt the existence of Heaven, which was guiding his tribe and descendants to the ideal world. Abraham knew that ordinary daily life was not something of which the people could be proud. When God's command was given to him in this state of mind, he abandoned all that he owned. It was not easy for him to do that. Abraham set out on a truly miserable journey toward the land of Haran, abandoning all that he had- his family, which had given him great joy, and all his belongings. However, even though he was a pitiful wanderer, his footsteps were full of confidence because he believed that a glorious and proud day would come, even if he could not be proud of his situation at that time.

Abraham was determined that no matter what kind of ordeals and difficulties he might face, he would overcome them hundreds and thousands of times. Because the heart of Abraham and the heart of God, who was desperately looking for a reciprocal object, came together in unity, God was able to proudly give Abraham his blessings, which included the garden of the absolute ideal for which God longed. This is how Abraham was put in the blessed position of being the ancestor of faith before Heaven."

"Let Us Understand God, Who Wanted to Be Proud" 2/8/59

⁸ T may want to have S record the events of Abraham's life on a timeline.

3) S WILL LEARN THAT GOD DESIRES EACH ONE OF US TO BE A RECIPROCAL OBJECT TO HIS HEART.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Psalms 139:7-10
-

FATHER'S WORDS:

"Do you really love God? Do you want to make God your own personal God? God is not the God of Reverend Moon or some minister or church. You should feel: He is my God. I must love God more than anyone else. God has to become the God of ourselves. We have to start by making God our own God before we make Him our family, society, nation, or world God. We cannot enable Him to be a world unless He is first a personal God."

1/1/89

"If God is a personal God, do you think God needs love? When we human beings are born as God's sons and daughters and call God "Father," we need the Father just as He needs us, and the Father needs us just as we need Him."

10/22/89

LESSON #9: "ISAAC: OBEDIENT TO GOD'S WILL"

OBJECTIVES (WHAT ARE THE TAKEAWAY POINTS FOR S LIFE OF FAITH?):

1) S WILL LEARN HOW ABRAHAM BECAME AN ANCESTOR OF JESUS THROUGH HIS DEVOUT FAITH IN GOD.

BIBLE VERSE:

- Galatians 3:29

FATHER'S WORDS:

"If someone has something special, it is human nature to want to boast about it. But for a long time Abraham kept the great dispensational will promised to him in his heart. He upheld that dispensation for the sake of fulfilling the will of God. As the chosen root, no matter who touched him or tried to uproot him, he persisted in his way for the purpose of laying down a solid and unshakable foundation. Even when he was subjected to all kinds of persecution and ridicule, he lived a life of unseen ordeals in which he persevered and overcame.

Abraham's course of ordeals, which others did not know about, became even greater when Abram ("exalted father") was elevated from the individual level to Abraham ("father of many nations"), who was chosen to be the ancestor of faith. We should reflect back on our own past and, making a one-to-one comparison between ourselves and Abraham, we should deeply repent. What is more, we must experience the situation in which Abraham found himself.

We can never forget that we should inherit the foundation of faith that Abraham established on the basis of his hardships.

The family of Abraham, the ancestor of faith, was promised a blessing. Through Isaac, Jacob and Moses, this was raised to the level of the people, and eventually expanded to the worldwide level. If there had been no loyalty and faith in Abraham that had penetrated deeply into Heaven, then there could not have emerged a relationship on the earth that could create a bond with Heaven.

Do you know what the secret was behind Abraham's rise to the position of the ancestor of faith? Because his heart of longing toward heaven and love for the earth was so extraordinary, he could build a wide and solid ground for the relationship with the Father in Heaven and could become the ancestor of faith."

"The Responsibility of Those Who Have Become the Root" 7/1/56

2) THROUGH ABRAHAM'S FAILURE TO CUT THE DOVES, S WILL LEARN HOW LIVING A LIFE WITH GOD MEANS WE HAVE TO SEPARATE GOOD FROM EVIL WITHIN OURSELVES.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Genesis 15:7-16

FATHER'S WORDS:

- Exposition of the Divine Principle, Part II, Chapter 1, Section 3.1.2.1

3) S WILL LEARN HOW THE DIVINE WILL WAS TRANSFERRED FROM ABRAHAM TO ISAAC, THE SON WHO UNITED WITH HIS FATHER'S SACRIFICIAL OFFERING.

FATHER'S WORDS

- Exposition of the Divine Principle, Part II, Chapter 1, Section 3.1.2.3
-

4) S WILL EXPLORE HOW THEY CAN RESPOND TO GOD'S CALLING IN THEIR OWN LIVES.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Philippians 2:13
 - Romans 15:5
-

FATHER'S WORDS:

"I am not the origin. My origin must be the Being who transcends me, and my purpose must be transcendent of myself. If it were not the case, how could I stand in a position to confront this world?

My life did not begin from my parents, my society, tribe or nation, but from one transcendent Origin-God, the Absolute Being. My will must be firmly connected to His transcendent, absolute Will. My motivation must not be tainted by any relative factors, stemming from history, my circumstances or the society in which I live.

Only when a person's origin is linked to the transcendent Cause, the transcendent Purpose, can he or she leap, transcend and extricate him or herself from worldly circumstances."

11/15/70

LESSON #10: "TAMAR: THE WOMAN WHO LOVED GOD'S LINEAGE"

OBJECTIVES (WHAT ARE THE TAKEAWAY POINTS FOR S LIFE OF FAITH?):

1) S WILL LEARN THE EVENTS OF TAMAR'S LIFE THAT LED TO THE CONTINUATION OF THE MESSIANIC LINEAGE THROUGH THE LINE OF JUDAH.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Genesis 38:1-30

2) S WILL UNDERSTAND THE REASON WHY TAMAR IS A VICTORIOUS WOMAN IN THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD. SHE REVERSED THE FALL BY LOVING GOD'S LINEAGE MORE THAN HER OWN LIFE.

FATHER'S WORDS:

"The first mother, Eve, fell because she did not believe in God's words, so Tamar, who was to restore Eve's position, had to demonstrate absolute faith in God. She had to forget her self-esteem and pride and, furthermore, she had to determine to risk her life. Eve's faithlessness made her abandon her father, God. Instead, she accepted Satan as her father and put him in God's position. Therefore, Tamar, on the contrary, had to talk directly with God. Eve was not able to be united with her father, so Tamar had to be united with her father.

In order to accomplish her mission, she risked her life. Isn't that so? She had nothing in her mind at all except the desire to accomplish God's will. Finally, Tamar set up a condition to restore Eve's fallen condition by walking a course totally opposite to Eve. Nobody knew this fact except God."

"The Tribal Messiah", Section 3, Chapter 1

"If you can understand about Tamar, you can understand the whole Principle."

"Change of Blood Lineage" 10/13/70

3) S WILL LEARN TO APPRECIATE THE GIFT OF BEING ADOPTED INTO THE LINEAGE OF GOD, FREED FROM SIN, THROUGH THE BLOOD OF CHRIST.

BIBLE VERSES:

- 1 John 1: 5-7
- John 14:6

FATHER'S WORDS:

"Because he was born from that unique victorious blood lineage, he could be the only begotten son, loved by God. This is logical. If you do not believe in Jesus, you cannot go back to God. That is the absolute truth, but so far, nobody has been able to understand the true meaning of this. There are many religions, but only Christianity can stand in the absolute position of true son. All other religions stand in the position of servants or adopted sons."

"Change of Blood Lineage" 10/13/70

LESSON #11: THE VICTORIOUS STORY OF JACOB AND ESAU

OBJECTIVES (WHAT ARE THE TAKEAWAY POINTS FOR STUDENTS' LIFE OF FAITH?):

1) S WILL LEARN THAT GOD WANTED TO RESTORE THE FAILURE OF ABEL AND CAIN THROUGH JACOB AND ESAU.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Genesis 25:21-34

FATHER'S WORDS:

"If Cain had loved Abel as God loved Abel, together they could have been received by God. This was what Cain had to do. If that had happened, enough foundation would have been laid within three generations for the Messiah to come, and the perfected dispensation would have been materialized. But this did not work out, Cain killed Abel, and the foundation at that level came to naught.

After this, the dispensation became more complicated. Cain and Abel were two brothers born from one mother. To be reborn they must go back to the womb. Since they were born at different times, Cain and Abel were two quite different persons, and their emotions were not close. Thus when God came to attempt the dispensation for a second time, he used twins...

When Rebecca was pregnant and she prayed, 'God, within my womb there are two babies and they are fighting each other! What shall I do?' God answered, 'There are two countries in your womb, the elder one will serve the younger.' Why did God say that? It is a most crucial point in the Bible, but no theologians know the answer to this day. It was because God had to establish the correct heavenly order, to put it right side up. That is why God said the elder should serve the younger."

"How We Are Born Again" 5/18/78

2) S WILL LEARN THAT REBECCA STOOD IN THE POSITION OF RESTORED EVE BY HELPING JACOB RECEIVE ISAAC'S BLESSING.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Genesis 27:1-29

FATHER'S WORDS:

"If Jacob had not had cooperation from his mother, the history of Israel could have taken place. What did Jacob's mother do? In order to fulfill the will of God, she went to extreme measures, deceiving her own husband and her eldest son, thus allowing Jacob to be in a position where he could fulfill his mission from God...From a secular point of view, Jacob's mother was a liar and Jacob himself was a swindler...

Satan is the master of this world, so this satanic world is in the elder's brother position of holding sovereignty. If you confront Satan and inform him you have come to take over his world, will he just drop it and leave it to you? Instead, you say that you will take back the world in the same way that Satan first stole it. It is only logical- Satan took the world without God's permission, so you don't need Satan's permission to take it back to God...

In the process of the Fall, God and His daughter were separated when she became a betrayer. In restoration, the reverse way is necessary, so God and His daughter must be united; in other words, women should be united with God. Satan and women united in the Fall and took Adam and all things of creation away from God. In restoration, God and women unite to take the husband and all things of creation back to God."

"Day of the Victory of Heaven" 10/4/79

3) S WILL LEARN THAT JACOB, AFTER SUBJUGATING THE ANGEL, WAS VICTORIOUS IN WINNING THE HEART OF HIS BROTHER ESAU.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Genesis 32:3-32
 - Genesis 33:1-15
-

FATHER'S WORDS:

"Satan challenged Jacob from both directions: spiritually through the angelic world, and physically through Esau. Jacob had to wrestle very hard with the angel at the ford of Jabbok, all night long. Jacob thought, "You cannot stop me, because I have 21 years of hard work behind me, and now I'm going back to fulfill the final chapter of the dispensation that God has given me. I will win. Now nobody can stop me."

11/22/76

"God's children forsook their original position and went to dwell in Satan's realm. The basic struggle of history has always centered upon the second son's efforts to win the elder son's position. Only when that process is successful can people rise to another level in the providence. This is obvious in the story of Jacob, who first claimed the birthright of his elder brother, Esau, and finally overcame him with love-not force-winning his elder brother's love in return. Jacob was the first person to successfully subjugate the elder brother."

"Holy Water Ceremony" 8/20/85

LESSON #12: "JOSEPH: THE FILIAL SON WHO NEVER COMPLAINED"

OBJECTIVES (WHAT ARE THE TAKEAWAY POINTS FOR S LIFE OF FAITH?):

1) ALTHOUGH SOLD INTO SLAVERY BY HIS BROTHERS, S WILL LEARN THAT JOSEPH USED EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED TO HIM FOR THE GLORY OF GOD.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Genesis 37:18-35
- Genesis 39: 7-9
- Genesis 41:15-16, 37-40⁹

2) S WILL LEARN THAT JOSEPH MAINTAINED A PATIENT, LOVING MINDSET TOWARDS HIS BROTHERS, BECAUSE THEY ALL CAME FROM THE SAME PARENT, THEIR FATHER JACOB.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Genesis 45:1-15
- 1Peter 5:6-11

FATHER'S WORDS:

"I myself was in the same position as David and Joseph. For that reason, no matter what persecution I faced from my brothers in Christianity, I never felt hatred toward them or sought revenge. Rather, I was patient and persevered, knowing that they would one day come to me, the way the brothers of Joseph did, and ask for help. Joseph forgave his brothers, although forgiveness would be impossible from a purely personal point of view. He knew that they all came from the same parent, their father Jacob. He felt, 'They are my brothers and regardless of their crime, I will forgive them.' Likewise, from the personal point of view, I might feel no reason for forgiveness toward the leaders of established Christianity. But knowing that God is our common Father and I must embody His will, then I can and must forgive them."

"The Globe is Our Home" 6/8/86

3) FROM STUDYING JOSEPH'S VICTORIOUS ATTITUDE, S WILL LEARN THAT THERE ARE TWO FUNDAMENTAL WAYS TO RESPOND TO DIFFICULT SITUATIONS: 1) COMPLAIN 2) CONTEMPLATE HOW THE SITUATION CAN BE USED FOR GOODNESS.

FATHER'S WORDS:

"There are two kinds of people. One immediately fights and retaliates and ruins his whole day when this kind of inconvenience comes. The second thinks philosophically: why did this come to me? What do I deserve? Why do I deserve this trouble? What can I expect from this? We must know that this encounter has a great significance. You know the story of Joseph, whose jealous brothers put him in a well. Later he was rescued, and he served in the nobleman's [Potiphar's] house. The wife tried to seduce him, but he did not fall. Later on, because of that, he got to meet his brothers. This turned out to be the way of saving the Israelites. Who knew? Somebody was working. It's not mysterious to God, only to us.

⁹ T may choose to highlight other key aspects of Joseph's course.

If it were not for three years imprisonment in North Korea, I would never have known what communism really is. Maybe like everyone else I would have thought, 'Oh, that is just another philosophy,' and dismissed it. But by enduring three years in prison I could come to understand the minute details of the nature of communism, and could decide to liberate communism, the enemy of God.

This grand principle applies even to daily life. Just an innocent happening, an accident, depends upon your attitude toward it. If you live like that, your life will improve...we do have accidents. Maybe that's His will, and as a result of that we gain a different level, a higher level. We are bound to get to a higher level if our mind is basically good. Who knows what will happen in the future? If something happens, everyone may agree it is a tragedy. But there are two ways for us to respond: either complain, or continue on contemplating what chance this offers me. Who is the wise person, the sagacious person? The wise person, like Joseph, does not complain."

11/4/90

LESSON #13: "LET MY PEOPLE GO!"

OBJECTIVES (WHAT ARE THE TAKEAWAY POINTS FOR S LIFE OF FAITH?):

1) S WILL LEARN THAT GOD HEARD THE CRIES OF THE ISRAELITES ENSLAVED IN EGYPT AND RESCUED THEM. WE CAN BE CONFIDENT THAT GOD STILL HEARS THE CRIES OF HIS PEOPLE AND WILL DELIVER US FROM SIN, DEATH, AND EVIL.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Exodus 1:1-12:30 (ISRAEL IN EGYPT)
 - Slavery in Egypt
 - God chooses Moses
 - God sends Moses to Pharaoh
 - Plagues strike Egypt
 - The Passover

2) S WILL LEARN THAT AFTER CROSSING THE RED SEA, THE ISRAELITES BECAME QUARRELSOME AND DISCONTENT. ALTHOUGH WE WILL HAVE DIFFICULTIES IN OUR LIVES, UNPLEASANT CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD NEVER TURN US AWAY FROM GOD.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Exodus 12:31-18:27 (ISRAEL IN THE WILDERNESS)
 - The Exodus
 - Crossing the Sea
 - Complaining in the Wilderness

3) S WILL LEARN THAT THROUGH THE LAW GOD REVEALED AT SINAI, THE ISRAELITES LEARNED MORE ABOUT WHAT GOD IS LIKE AND HOW HE EXPECTED HIS PEOPLE TO LIVE. THE 10 COMMANDMENTS ARE STILL INSTRUCTIONAL FOR US TODAY, FOR IT EXPOSES OUR SIN AND SHOWS US GOD'S STANDARD FOR LIVING.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Exodus 19:1-40:38 (ISRAEL AT SINAI)
 - Giving the law
 - Tabernacle instructions
 - Breaking the law
 - Tabernacle construction

FATHER'S WORDS:

"When Moses said, 'The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet from your brethren as he raised me up. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you,' he was referring to Jesus. Jesus would stand in a position comparable to Moses and follow Moses' course as the model in order to walk the worldwide providence to restore Canaan- the Kingdom of God."

Exposition of the Divine Principle, Part 2, Chapter 2, Section 1.1

OVERVIEW OF EXODUS

- Exodus 1: The Israelites greatly increase and multiply in Egypt; Israelites are oppressed by a new Pharaoh.
- Exodus 2: The birth of Moses; Moses kills an Egyptian guard; Moses flees from Pharaoh; Moses marries Zipporah.
- Exodus 3: God appears to Moses through a burning bush; God calls Moses back to Egypt to deliver the Israelites from slavery to Pharaoh. Moses objects to going back to Egypt due to his lack of ability.
- Exodus 4: Moses continues to argue with God about going back to Egypt; Moses capitulates and goes back to Egypt.
- Exodus 5: God sends Moses to Pharaoh.
- Exodus 6: God promises to deliver the Israelites.
- Exodus 7: God begins sending plagues on Egypt; Aaron's staff becomes a snake.
- Exodus 8-10: God sends the Plagues; the Pharaoh refuses to let the Israelites go.
 - The Plague of Locusts; The Plague of Darkness; Pharaoh still refuses to let the Israelites go.
- Exodus 11: The Plague on the Firstborn of Egypt
- Exodus 12: The Passover; the firstborn in Egyptian family dies in the night; Pharaoh allows the Israelites to leave Egypt; Israel's exodus from Egypt.
- Exodus 13: Dedication of the Firstborn; Pharaoh hardens his heart one more time and pursues the Israelites to bring them back to Egypt.
- Exodus 14: God parts the Red Sea and the Israelites escape the Egyptians; The Egyptian soldiers are drowned in the sea.
- Exodus 15: Moses and Miriam sing songs of joy and praise to God for rescuing the Israelites; the Israelites complain for lack of water; God provides water at Marah and Elim.
- Exodus 16: Manna and Quail from Heaven.
- Exodus 17: The Israelites quarrel with Moses about a lack of water and long to go back to Egypt; God provides water through a rock at Horeb (Mount Sinai). The Israelites led by Joshua defeat the Amalekites.
- Exodus 18: Moses is visited by his father-in-law Jethro; Jethro teaches Moses how to delegate responsibility.
- Exodus 19: God fulfills his promise to Moses (Exodus 4) to bring him back to Mt. Sinai; Moses meets God on the mountain; God gives instructions for the Israelites to consecrate themselves before giving the Ten Commandments.
- Exodus 20: God gives the Israelites his Ten Commandments.
- Exodus 21-24: God gives instructions.
- Exodus 25: God instructs Moses to make the Tabernacle (a portable tent for worshipping God). Instructions about the making of The Ark of the Covenant.
- Exodus 26-31: Instructions concerning the making of the Tabernacle, the Altar, clothing for the priests.
- Exodus 32: Aaron makes a Golden Calf. Moses runs down the mountain to stop them, and breaks the two tablets. The Levites side with Moses and kill three thousand of the other Israelites. Moses goes back up the mountain to intercede for the Israelites.
- Exodus 33-34: God gives Moses new stone tablets with the Ten Commandments on them. Moses pleads with God to fulfill His promise to take Israel to Canaan. God reiterates his covenant with Moses.
- Exodus 35-40: The building of the Tabernacle and the Ark of the Covenant is completed.

LESSON #14 “WILDERNESS MENTALITIES”

OBJECTIVES (WHAT ARE THE TAKEAWAY POINTS FOR S LIFE OF FAITH?):

1) S WILL UNDERSTAND SOME OF THE “WILDERNESS MENTALITIES” THAT KEPT THE ISRAELITES WANDERING IN THE DESERT FOR 40 YEARS:¹⁰

A) WE CANNOT JUDGE THINGS ACCURATELY BY THE SIGHT OF OUR NATURAL EYES. WE MUST HAVE SPIRITUAL “EYES TO SEE” AND “EARS TO HEAR.” (THE ISRAELITES CONTINUALLY LOOKED AT AND TALKED ABOUT THE WAY THINGS WERE, RATHER THAN KEEPING THEIR EYES ON WHERE THEY WERE GOING).

BIBLE VERSES:

- Numbers 14:2-3, 20:2-4

B) GOD LED THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL THE LONG, HARD WAY BECAUSE THEY WERE STILL COWARDS. GOD NEEDED THEM TO BE READY TO FACE THE BATTLES IN POSSESSING THE LAND. (THE ISRAELITES COMPLAINED AND SAID TO MOSES “PLEASE MAKE EVERYTHING EASY: I CAN’T TAKE IT IF THINGS ARE TOO HARD!”)

BIBLE VERSES:

- Exodus 13:17
- Deuteronomy 30:11
- Galatians 6:9

C) THE ISRAELITES MADE THE MISTAKE OF THINKING THAT THEIR PROBLEMS WERE BIGGER THAN GOD (OF THE 12 SPIES, ONLY 2 GAVE FAITHFUL REPORTS.) THEY SHOULD HAVE KEPT THEIR EYES ON GOD AND NOT ON THE POTENTIAL PROBLEMS.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Numbers 13:1-3, 25-28

2) S WILL LEARN THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR THOUGHTS IN LIVING A LIFE WITH GOD.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Proverbs 23:7
- 2 Corinthians 10:4-5
- Ephesians 6:12
- John 8:31, 32

FATHER’S WORDS:

“There are good minds and at the same time evil minds. Your mind may think, ‘Yes, I am good,’ but that thought itself is not good. Our minds were formed as a result of the fall. Consequently, there are some

¹⁰ Based on “The Battlefield of the Mind” by Joyce Meyer.

whose minds are influenced by evil and the evil realm of Satan, and others by goodness. There are all types of minds.

Then what is of utmost importance? The way you set the gate to your mind is the most important matter in your life of faith. Therefore, in your life of faith, always be alert to those times when the gate of your mind opens and how to tune it to the gate of God's mind. Always be prepared for this. You always need to have a mind-set in your daily life of seeking and adjusting your mind to God at any given time."

CSG, p. 616

LESSON #15: "THE 10 COMMANDMENTS, NOT THE 10 SUGGESTIONS!"

OBJECTIVES (WHAT ARE THE TAKEAWAY POINTS FOR S LIFE OF FAITH?):

1) S WILL APPRECIATE HOW MUCH SUFFERING MOSES ENDURED TO BRING THE 10 COMMANDMENTS TO THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL.

FATHER'S WORDS:

"I am very sympathetic with Moses' position. When Moses went to the mountain to fast and pray for 40 days and nights he could receive the Ten Commandments. But when he came back down, his own people had created a golden calf and were worshipping their idol. Moses was overcome with wrath and cried, 'How could you betray God in this way?' He flung the stones to the ground and they were shattered. I have felt that same furious impulse many times. Moses went to the mountain and worked so hard to win the truth for his people, but their hearts were so small.

I have a fiery temperament and when I see such utterly impossible betrayal I just want to cut off that person and turn away. I have to impose the strictest discipline on myself in this area. I have my own credo and judge myself, saying, 'Before you want to conquer the world or be the Lord of all creation, you must attain lordship over yourself.' I want to conquer the weaknesses of my own temperament."

5/1/77

2) S WILL LEARN THAT JESUS USED THE TEN COMMANDMENTS TO SHOW SINNERS THE RIGHTEOUS STANDARD OF GOD.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Matthew 5:17-37
- Proverbs 6:23

3) S WILL LEARN EACH OF THE 10 COMMANDMENTS AND STUDY THEIR SIGNIFICANCE FOR THEIR LIVES.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Exodus 20:1-17
- Deuteronomy 5:4-21

10 COMMANDMENTS

- I. **I am the Lord Your God.** God, not man, is the source of ethics. Morality, an objective code of right and wrong, originates in God the Creator.
- II. **You shall have no other gods before me.** Understanding that there is only one God worthy of worship means that there is only one human race. We are all brothers and sisters; no one person or group has intrinsically more value than another.
- III. **You shall not misuse the name of the Lord Your God.** Do not commit evil in God's name. When an irreligious person commits evil, it does not bring God and religion into disrepute. But when "religious"

- people commit evil in God's name, they are not only committing evil, they are doing terrible damage to the name of God.
- IV. **Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.** The Sabbath day reminds people that they are meant to be free (as slaves in Egypt, the Jews would not have been able to have a Sabbath day). The Sabbath day is a day spent with God, and also serves to strengthen family ties and friendships.
 - V. **Honor your Father and your Mother.** Honoring our parents means acknowledging there is a moral authority above us to whom we are morally accountable. Without this, we cannot create or maintain a moral society.
 - VI. **Do not murder.** Murder is the immoral or illegal taking of a human life (which is not the same as killing, which may or may not be murder).
 - VII. **Do not commit adultery.** Adultery threatens the family, which is indispensable to creating and maintaining higher civilization. It violates the covenant of marriage, and of becoming the image of God, who is the harmonized duality of masculinity and femininity.
 - VIII. **Do not steal.** We are forbidden to steal what people own. Private property is indispensable to creating a free and decent society. All things ultimately belong to God, not ourselves.
 - IX. **You shall not give false witness against your neighbor.** This commandment means do not lie when testifying in court. Do not lie, period. A society cannot survive contempt for truth. God is the author of truth.
 - X. **Do not covet.** To covet means to want to the point of seeking to take away and own something that belongs to another person. Whatever belongs to another person must be regarded as sacrosanct.

FATHER'S WORDS:

"God does everything according to a rule. In the natural sciences, people solve the mysteries of the universe using the formula of mathematics. Since that is so, wouldn't there be formulas in the world of love? Were there no formulas, there would be no way to govern the people streaming into the Kingdom from every corner of the world."

11/22/87

LESSON #16: "THE GREAT LESSON OF THE TABERNACLE: GOD CAME DOWN TO DWELL WITH HIS PEOPLE"

OBJECTIVES (WHAT ARE THE TAKEAWAY POINTS FOR S LIFE OF FAITH?):

1) GOD WANTED MOSES TO BUILD THE TABERNACLE BECAUSE HE WANTED TO DWELL AMONGST HIS PEOPLE IN THE MIDST OF IDOLS AND PAGAN WORSHIP.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Exodus 25:8
- Exodus 25:10-22
- Exodus 32:1-29

FATHER'S WORDS:

"For what purpose did God give the tablets of stone, the Tabernacle, and the Ark of the Covenant? When the Israelites set out for the wilderness after completing the four-hundred-year indemnity period incurred due to Abraham's mistake in the offering, God struck the Egyptians with signs and plagues and drowned a host of Egyptian soldiers who tried to follow the Israelites across the Red Sea. The Israelites could not return to Egypt, not only because God's Will forbade it, but because they had become bitter enemies of the Egyptians. They had no choice but to complete the journey to Canaan; God had driven them to the point of no return. Nevertheless, the Israelites repeatedly fell into faithlessness during their journey. In the end, there was danger that even Moses might act faithlessly. To cope with this situation, God set up an object of faith, one which would remain unchanged even though the people might change. As long as even one person revered the object with absolute faith, God could continue the providential Will through him. That person would inherit the mission to attend the object of faith, as a baton is handed from one runner to the next in a relay race.

The Tabernacle, enshrining the Ark of the Covenant and the tablets of stone, was this object of faith."

Exposition of the Divine Principle, Part II, Chapter 2, Section 2.2.2.3.1

2) S WILL LEARN THAT THE TABERNACLE REPRESENTED THE MESSIAH. WHEN THE ISRAELITES BUILT THE TABERNACLE, IT SIGNIFIED THAT THE MESSIAH HAD ALREADY COME IN A SYMBOLIC SENSE.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Exodus 26:31-33

FATHER'S WORDS:

"What did the Tabernacle symbolize? Jesus likened his body to the Temple in Jerusalem (John 2:19-21). We who believe in him are called God's temples (Corinthians 3:16). The Temple was thus a representation of Jesus in image. If the Israelites had succeeded in the first course to restore Canaan under Moses' leadership, then as soon as they entered the land of Canaan they would have built the Temple and prepared to receive the Messiah. Yet due to their disbelief, the first course was aborted at the start. In the second course, God led them in a roundabout way across the Red Sea and through the wilderness. God could not have them build the Temple, but instead had to settle for the Tabernacle, which could be moved from place to place,

as its substitute. Like the Temple, the Tabernacle was a representation of Jesus, but in symbol. When God commanded Moses to build the Tabernacle, He said, 'And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst.'

The Tabernacle was divided into two parts: the holy place (sanctuary) and the most holy place (holy of holies). Only the high priest could enter the most holy place, and only once a year when making the sacrifice of the Day of Atonement. The most holy place was where the Ark of the Covenant was kept. Here was the place where God made Himself present. It symbolized the spirit of Jesus. The holy place contained a lampstand, an incense altar and a table for the bread of the Presence, which were tended daily by the priests. It symbolized the body of Jesus. Furthermore, the most holy place symbolized the spiritual world, while the holy place symbolized the physical world. When Jesus was crucified, the curtain between the holy place and the most holy place was torn in two, from top to bottom. This meant that Jesus' crucifixion laid the basis for spiritual salvation, when the gate was opened between spirit and flesh, or between heaven and earth."

Exposition of the Divine Principle, Part II, Chapter 2, Section 2.2.2.3.1

3) S WILL UNDERSTAND THAT GOD WANTED THE HEBREWS TO LEARN THE HEART OF ATTENDANCE THROUGH THE TABERNACLE.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Numbers 2:1-31

4) S WILL LEARN THE IMPORTANCE OF CENTERING THEIR LIVES ON THE UNCHANGING WORD OF GOD, WHICH WAS SUBSTANTIATED THROUGH CHRIST.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Psalms 119:1-16
- John 1:1-5

FATHER'S WORDS:

The fall means to be separated from the Word in substance and heart. So you should first know the Word and practice it. In practicing the Word, we must proceed with a parental heart." CSG p. 715

"Please take care of these Eight Great Textbooks more than me at this time because I am living in those textbooks. I am in the Word."¹¹

8/12

¹¹ Father also referred to the Eight Great Textbooks as the "Cheon Bok Ark."

LESSON #17: "BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS LIKE JOSHUA"

OBJECTIVES (WHAT ARE THE TAKEAWAY POINTS FOR S LIFE OF FAITH?):

1) S WILL UNDERSTAND THAT JOSHUA BECAME MOSES' SUCCESSOR DUE TO HIS UNWAVERING FAITH IN GOD.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Numbers 13; 14:1-9
- 2 Corinthians 5:7

FATHER'S WORDS:

"For us there is no death; we conquered death a long time ago. Our lives, our minds and souls, our everything is in the hands of God. Why should we worry? He has a plan and He has already established when we should live and when we should die. What if something goes wrong with God's computer and you die prematurely? When God discovers it He will come down and lift you up saying, 'Don't worry. You will have eternal life, and furthermore, I will personally take over your mission and finish it for you.' How glorious!"

"The Day of the Victory of Heaven" 10/4/76

"When you exceed your limitation trying to reach your goal, God has no other way but to cooperate."

1/13/72

2) GOD WANTS US TO BE STRONG AND BOLD LIKE JOSHUA THROUGH OPENING OUR HEARTS TO HIM, LISTENING TO HIS WORD, AND RECEIVING HIS GRACE.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Joshua 1:1-9
- Proverbs 3:5-8

FATHER'S WORDS:

"Furthermore, just as the group of people who entered the land of Canaan with Joshua and Caleb destroyed the seven tribes of Canaan, you are also responsible for destroying Satan. We should understand this. You should become courageous heavenly warriors and be responsible for walking such a path. You should remember this well. Even if someone like Joshua or Caleb who speaks the new word appears at any place in the world, we should become the kind of person who can open our hearts, listen to the word, and live for God.

The path of Joshua and Caleb was full of adventures. Their path was a difficult pioneering one, one of battles. Wherever they went, there were paths to be pioneered. Sometimes on the individual level, other times on the level of the environment, they had to face courses in which they had to fight all kinds of tribulations.

God said to Joshua and Caleb, 'Be strong and bold.' What does this mean? That means to transcend all the human conditions. For the same reason, Jesus was triumphant in overcoming all the human conditions

through his three temptations. Accordingly, even 2,000 years later, today you should also be strong and bold in overcoming all the human conditions.

Joshua was placed in the position where he had to walk a path of victory until the last moment from the individual course of battle on behalf of Moses. Along with the words, 'Be strong and bold,' he was also advised, 'Consider the individual whom you are dealing with to be an enemy, any people to be your enemy, and any land to be the land of the enemy.' We should understand this clearly today.

Today if we stand in the same position of Joshua, we will also meet enemies wherever we go. The environment will also attack us. It will be the same with the people and the nation. However, if we who are chosen are united and become second Joshuas who fight until the end at the risk of our lives, if we become saints who can take responsibility for worldwide Christianity, following Jesus Christ at the risk of our lives, we can win any battles ahead of us. This is the reason God wants us to be strong and bold.

Then what should we do with ourselves? We who are in the position of being strong and bold should be able to see ourselves correctly. We should be able to judge ourselves if we have done something wrong. Also, let us not think that we have lived thirty or forty years of life. Nor let us think of ourselves for the present only.

Who then are we? We should understand that in order for me to exist today, God has been working hard for 6,000 years, going through worldwide battles. We were found through such endeavors of God. Thus, you should not forget the grace of God who has been nurturing you."

"Let Us Be Strong and Bold and Restore the Lost Land" 6/23/57

3) S WILL LEARN FROM JOSHUA'S LIFE THAT GOD IS FAITHFUL TO HIS PROMISES. GOD PROMISED ABRAHAM THAT HIS DESCENDANTS WOULD DWELL IN THE LAND, AND UNDER JOSHUA, GOD BROUGHT THE PEOPLE INTO THE LAND THAT HE HAD PROMISED TO GIVE TO THEM.¹²

BIBLE VERSES:

- Joshua 24: 14
- Deuteronomy 7:9

4) S WILL UNDERSTAND THAT JOSHUA CAN BE SEEN AS A TYPE OF CHRIST IN THAT HE WAS THE ONE WHO WOULD LEAD GOD'S PEOPLE INTO THE PROMISED LAND.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Joshua 5:13-15
- Matthew 5:5

¹² Based on "The Ten Commandments: Still The Best Moral Code" by Dennis Prager.

LESSON #18: "GIDEON AND SAMSON: TWO UNLIKELY HEROES"

OBJECTIVES (WHAT ARE THE TAKEAWAY POINTS FOR S LIFE OF FAITH?):

1) S WILL LEARN THAT THE BOOK OF JUDGES IS A 350 YEAR RECORD OF ISRAEL'S REPEATED FAILURE TO OBEY AND HONOR GOD.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Deuteronomy 30:15-18

2) S WILL LEARN THROUGH THE STORY OF GIDEON THAT GOD CAN USE US FOR HIS WILL IN SPITE OF OUR LIMITATIONS AND FAILURES. AS WE ARE FAITHFUL, HE GIVES US MORE RESPONSIBILITY.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Judges 6-8 (summarize)

FATHER'S WORDS:

"Even though you are faced with difficulty, remind yourself of this- when you go through hardships, you must think of your obstacles as a challenge to build a better world. By giving your glory to God on the earth plane you can go through victories with lightheartedness and you will discover that a multitude of spirit men are mobilized to help us."

1/16/73

3) S WILL LEARN FROM THE STORY OF SAMSON THAT IT IS NEVER TOO LATE TO START OVER. HOWEVER BADLY WE MAY HAVE FAILED IN THE PAST, IT IS NEVER TOO LATE TO PUT OUR COMPLETE TRUST IN GOD.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Judges 13-16 (summarize)
- Jeremiah 29:11
- Isaiah 41:10

FATHER'S WORDS:

"When you have more hardship, more persecution, more rejection, then you expect more success, more happiness, more good results. That is the way you have to dive into this thinking, this kind of positivity. You will have the attitude of wanting to know what kind of trouble is coming, and what kind of hardship is coming. You are interested to know what will be next, you look forward to the problems."

7/4/73

4) GOD IS LOOKING FOR THE BROKEN AND WEAK, THAT THEY MAY BE MADE STRONG IN CHRIST.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Romans 8:26
- 2 Corinthians 12:8-10

LESSON #19: "THE STORY OF RUTH AND NAOMI"

OBJECTIVES (WHAT ARE THE TAKEAWAY POINTS FOR S LIFE OF FAITH?):

1) S WILL LEARN THE STORY OF RUTH AND NAOMI IN THE BOOK OF RUTH.¹³

BIBLE VERSES:

- Ruth 1-4

2) S WILL LEARN THAT THE ROOT OF RUTH'S COMMITMENT TO NAOMI IS RUTH'S COMMITMENT TO NAOMI'S GOD: "YOUR GOD SHALL BE MY GOD."

BIBLE VERSES:

- Ruth 1: 16-17

FATHER'S WORDS:

"The spirit of loyalty, filial piety and integrity, which stands as straight as the pine or bamboo, will be the central thought and spirit of the Kingdom of God on earth that is to be established. We must be loyal to heaven because heaven is God's country. We must offer eternal filial devotion to God because He is the Father of humankind."

10/19/78

3) THE BOOK OF RUTH WAS WRITTEN TO HELP US TRUST IN THE GRACE OF GOD IN OUR LIVES. THROUGH RUTH'S SIMPLE FAITH, WE CAN LEARN TO TRUST IN GOD'S GRACE EVEN WHEN THE CLOUDS ARE SO THICK THAT WE CAN'T SEE THE ROAD, LET ALONE THE SIGNS ON THE SIDE.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Romans 5:1-5
- Titus 2:11

FATHER'S WORDS:

"Almighty God is the God of love and God of mercy. He is deeply concerned and grieved over the living death of His children. He knows that people are incapable of breaking their chains and getting rid of their sin by their own efforts. He knows that only one power can bring people to salvation- God Himself. And God, in His mercy, is determined to save this world."

9/18/74

"Not due to our own will do we exist,
Not due to our own selves do we enjoy the glory of life,
And not due to our own efforts can we rejoice today in the presence of our Father,
But due to the grace mercifully bestowed by our Father,

¹³ Possible methods of learning story: 1) T divides the class into 4 groups; each group studies and summarizes one chapter. 2) S draw pictures of main events in a timeline 3) S act out a play on the Book of Ruth.

Who hast toiled through thousands of years of history.”

6/23/57

POSSIBLE METHODS OF LEARNING STORY:

1. T gives summary
2. T divides class into 4 groups, each group studies and summarizes 1 chapter
3. S write/act out play on the Book of Ruth
4. Watch video (e.g. Bible Project)
5. Draw picture(s) of main events
6. Sing (write) a song about the story

LESSON #20: "SAMUEL: GOD'S MESSENGER WHO CHOSE ISRAEL'S FIRST KING"

OBJECTIVES (WHAT ARE THE TAKEAWAY POINTS FOR S LIFE OF FAITH?):

1) S WILL STUDY THE STORY OF HANNAH, MOTHER OF SAMUEL. THEY WILL LEARN THAT SURRENDERING TO GOD'S WILL BRINGS BLESSING.

BIBLE VERSES:

- 1 Samuel 1
- 1 Samuel 2:1-10

FATHER'S WORDS:

"I examined the Book of Life in heaven. I saw the people whose names are recorded in that book were all simple and lowly. Millionaires, famous preachers and politicians are not found there."

2/21/80

2) SAMUEL SHOWED THAT THOSE WHOM GOD FINDS FAITHFUL IN SMALL THINGS WILL BE TRUSTED WITH GREATER THINGS.

BIBLE VERSES:

- 1 Samuel 3
- 1 Samuel 9
- 1 Samuel 16:1-13

FATHER'S WORDS:

"In order to restore belief, God has been seeking individuals of absolute faith on earth...We must separate ourselves from Satan. Only then can we receive the blessing from God. We must reach the point where we cannot be separated from God. To do this, we must make the impossible possible. Through this process we will receive God's blessing and love without accusation."

3/72

3) BY LIVING A LIFE FOLLOWING THE VOICE FROM GOD, THE PROPHET SAMUEL FORESHADOWED THE COMING OF JESUS.

BIBLE VERSES:

- 1 Samuel 3
- 1 Samuel 8: 19-22
- 1 Samuel 15: 35
- 1 Samuel 16:7
- John 10:4-5

FATHER'S WORDS:

"Would you ignore this voice, which is so earnestly calling to you? If there is anyone who cannot hear, he or she should at least feel the heart of bitterness. Is there anyone among you with ears to hear who does not long for that calling voice? We must shape up in order to listen to this voice. If you hear the voice calling out to you but cannot move because your body is not strong enough, you should direct your heart and soul toward that place. To claim back this one person who is like the lost lamb, God has been struggling not for one day, not for one year, not for one hundred years, but for 6,000 years. The 6,000 years He suffered to find the lost flock of lambs in heaven and on the earth is Heaven's history of redemption. Because we men cannot bear the voice of God calling out to us, He revealed it through Jesus, who was the embodiment of God. The words proclaimed by he who unveiled the invisible heart of God are the words of the gospel."

5/20/56

LESSON #21: "THE MIRACLE OF DNA" (APOLOGETICS)

OBJECTIVES (WHAT ARE THE TAKEAWAY POINTS FOR S LIFE OF FAITH?):

1) S WILL LEARN THAT CHARLES DARWIN FALSELY BELIEVED THAT THE CELL WAS A SIMPLE ORGANISM; HE PROPOSED THAT THE FIRST CELL COULD EASILY HAVE FORMED "IN SOME WARM LITTLE POND."¹⁴

BIBLE VERSE:

- Jeremiah 4:22

2) S WILL LEARN THAT THE TECHNOLOGY OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY HAS REVEALED THAT THE CELL IS THE MOST COMPLEX SYSTEM MANKIND HAS EVER CONFRONTED.¹⁵

BIBLE VERSE:

- Psalm 139:14

3) S WILL LEARN THROUGH THE DISCOVERY OF THE DOUBLE-STRANDED MOLECULE (WATSON AND CRICK, @ 1953) THAT DNA CONTAINS CODED INFORMATION FAR MORE COMPLEX THAN PREVIOUSLY UNDERSTOOD.

BIBLE VERSE:

- Job 11:7

4) S WILL UNDERSTAND THAT WHEN LOOKING AT THE DNA STRUCTURE WITHIN THE HUMAN BODY, WE CANNOT ESCAPE THE PRESENCE OF AN INTELLIGENT DESIGNER, WHO IS THE ORIGINAL CAUSE, GOD OUR CREATOR.

BIBLE VERSE:

- Job 37:5
- Colossians 1:16

FATHER'S WORDS:

"God is streaming into the very cells of your body. How can you not feel close to Him, knowing that He will be with you 24 hours a day, just as long as you work publicly? We must know that God is not a concept; He

¹⁴ From the "Life and Letters of Charles Darwin".

¹⁵ Today we know that the cell contains power stations producing the energy to be used by the cell, factories manufacturing the enzymes and hormones essential for life, a databank where all the necessary information about all products to be produced is recorded, complex transportation systems and pipelines for carrying raw materials and products from one place to another, advanced laboratories and refineries for breaking down external raw materials into their usable parts, and specialized cell membrane proteins to control the incoming and outgoing materials. And these constitute only a small part of this incredibly complex system.

is not anything less than love itself. All He wants is to make us the perfect objects to Him as the perfect subject."

4/22/84

"Human beings create societies, nations and the world. Yet, the fundamental cause that formed human beings does not lie within us. Without a doubt, we are resultant beings. We were formed from some preexisting motivation and content. We came from a cause.

God is the First Cause. How do you think He created human beings? God made us in His image, like Himself. That means the Father resembles us just as we resemble the Father. So when someone asks you, 'What kind of being is God?' you can answer, 'He is someone like me.' This answer will hit the mark."

"World Scripture and the Teaching of Sun Myung Moon", p. 50.

"IS GOD REAL?" (FROM EVERYSTUDENT.COM)

British philosopher, Dr. Antony Flew, was a leading spokesperson for atheism, actively involved in debate after debate. However, scientific discoveries within the last 30 years brought him to a conclusion he could not avoid. In a video interview in December 2004 he stated, "Super-intelligence is the only good explanation for the origin of life and the complexity of nature." Prominent in his conclusion were the discoveries of DNA. Here's why.

DNA in our cells is very similar to an intricate computer program.

In the photo on the left, you see that a computer program is made up of a series of ones and zeros (called binary code). The sequencing and ordering of these ones and zeros is what makes the computer program work properly.

In the same way, DNA is made up of four chemicals, abbreviated as letters A, T, G, and C. Much like the ones and zeros, these letters are arranged in the human cell like this: CGTGTGACTCGCTCCTGAT and so on. The order in which they are arranged instructs the cell's actions.

What is amazing is that within the tiny space in every cell in your body, this code is three billion letters long!!

To grasp the amount of DNA information in one cell, "a live reading of that code at a rate of three letters per second would take thirty-one years, even if reading continued day and night."

It has been determined that 99.9% of your DNA is similar to everyone's genetic makeup. What is uniquely you comes in the fractional difference in how those three billion letters are sequenced in your cells.

The U.S. government is able to identify everyone in our country by the arrangement of a nine-digit social security number. Yet, inside every cell in you is a three-billion-lettered DNA structure that belongs only to you. This code identifies you and continually instructs your cells' behavior.

Dr. Francis Collins, director of the Human Genome Project (that mapped the human DNA structure) said that one can "think of DNA as an instructional script, a software program, sitting in the nucleus of the cell."

Perry Marshall, an information specialist, comments on the implications of this. "There has never existed a computer program that wasn't designed...[whether it is] a code, or a program, or a message given through a language, there is always an intelligent mind behind it."

Just as former atheist Dr. Antony Flew questioned, it is legitimate to ask oneself regarding this three billion letter code instructing the cell...who wrote this script? Who placed this working code, inside the cell?

It's like walking along the beach and you see in the sand, "Mike loves Michelle." You know the waves rolling up on the beach didn't form that--a person wrote that. It is a precise message. It is clear communication. In the same way, the DNA structure is a complex, three-billion-lettered script, informing and directing the cell's process.

How can one explain this sophisticated messaging, coding, residing in our cells?

On June 26, 2000, President Clinton congratulated those who completed the human genome sequencing. President Clinton said, "Today we are learning the language in which God created life. We are gaining ever more awe for the complexity, the beauty, the wonder of God's most divine and sacred gift." Dr. Francis Collins, director of the Human Genome Project, followed Clinton to the podium stating, "It is humbling for me and awe inspiring to realize that we have caught the first glimpse of our own instruction book, previously known only to God."

When looking at the DNA structure within the human body, we cannot escape the presence of intelligent (incredibly intelligent) design.

According to the Bible (which is itself incredibly complex) God is not only the Author of our existence, but he is the Relationship that makes our existence meaningful. All the intangibles in life that we crave...enough strength for any situation, joy, wisdom, and knowing we are loved...God alone gives these to us as we listen to him and trust him. He is our greatest, reliable guide in life. Just as he has engineered DNA to instruct the cell, he offers to instruct us to make our lives function well, for his glory and for our sake, because he loves us.

Why is DNA important? It's one more proof for God. He designed our bodies. He can also be trusted to design your life.

LESSON #22: "GOD'S FINGERPRINT: THE FIBONACCI SPIRAL" (APOLOGETICS)

OBJECTIVES (WHAT ARE THE TAKEAWAY POINTS FOR S LIFE OF FAITH?):

1) S WILL LEARN THAT THE DISCOVERY OF NUMBERS WHICH CREATE THE FIBONACCI SPIRAL IS THE DISCOVERY OF AN ITALIAN SCIENTIST NAMED LEONARD OF PISA IN THE 13TH CENTURY AD.¹⁶

2) S WILL LEARN THAT THE FIBONACCI NUMBERS ARE PRESENT ON BOTH THE MICROCOSMIC¹⁷ AND MACROCOSMIC¹⁸ LEVELS OF CREATION.

BIBLE VERSE:

- Revelation 4:11

3) S WILL UNDERSTAND THE FIBONACCI SPIRAL IS OMNIPRESENT IN CREATION. THE RATIONAL CONCLUSION IS THAT THE CREATOR OF THE UNIVERSE IS A PERSONAL, INTELLIGENT BEING, WHO CREATED THESE THINGS AS A VISIBLE FINGERPRINT OF HIS INVISIBLE, YET PERSONAL EXISTENCE.

FATHER'S WORDS:

"If God is a personal God, do you think God needs love? When we human beings are born as God's sons and daughters and call God 'Father,' we need the Father just as He needs us, and the Father needs us just as we need Him."

CSG, p.63

4) S WILL LEARN THAT THE TONGIL LOGO, CREATED BY TRUE FATHER, IS BASED ON THE FIBONACCI SPIRAL, THE SACRED GEOMETRY OF GOD.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Psalm 19:1-4

¹⁶ The discoveries of Leonard of Pisa, better known as Fibonacci, are revolutionary contributions to the mathematical world. His best-known work is the Fibonacci sequence, in which each new number is the sum of the two new numbers preceding it. When various operations and manipulations are performed on the numbers of this sequence, beautiful and incredible patterns begin to emerge.

¹⁷ Fibonacci Numbers in the Microcosm: The DNA molecule, the program for all life, is based on the golden section. It measures 34 angstroms long by 21 angstroms wide for each full cycle of its double helix spiral. 34 and 21, of course, are numbers in the Fibonacci series and their ratio, 1.6190476 closely approximates phi, 1.6180339.

¹⁸ Fibonacci Numbers in the Macrocosm: In the area of very large phenomena when the time period of each planet's revolution around the sun is compared in round numbers to the one adjacent to it, their fractions are Fibonacci numbers! Beginning with Neptune and moving inward toward the sun, the ratios are 1/2, 1/3, 2/5, 3/8, 5/13, 8/21, 13/34. Spiral galaxies also follow the familiar Fibonacci pattern. The Milky Way has several spiral arms, each of them a logarithmic spiral of about 12 degrees.

REV. HYUNG JIN MOON'S WORDS:

- "Sacred Geometry: The Secret of the Unification Church Logo"
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZkJe8tgIYKc>

ARTICLE #1

"Shapes, Numbers, Patterns, and the Divine Proportion In God's Creation" by Fred Wilson, M.S.

In God's creation, there exists a "Divine Proportion" that is exhibited in a multitude of shapes, numbers, and patterns whose relationship can only be the result of the omnipotent, good, and all-wise God of Scripture. This Divine Proportion—existing in the smallest to the largest parts, in living and also in non-living things—reveals the awesome handiwork of God and His interest in beauty, function, and order.

I will first begin with shapes, then discuss how a numbering pattern and a ratio (the Divine Proportion) are an inherent part of these shapes and patterns and are ubiquitous throughout creation.

Let's begin with a shape with which we are all familiar. It is the spiral commonly seen in shells. By taking a careful look at that spiral (the chambered nautilus is probably the clearest example) you will observe that as it gets larger, it retains its identical form. Since the body of the organism grows in the path of a spiral that is equiangular and logarithmic, its form never changes. The beauty of this form is commonly called the "golden spiral."

This spiral is visible in things as diverse as: hurricanes, spiral seeds, the cochlea of the human ear, ram's horn, sea-horse tail, growing fern leaves, DNA molecule, waves breaking on the beach, tornados, galaxies, the tail of a comet as it winds around the sun, whirlpools, seed patterns of sunflowers, daisies, dandelions, and in the construction of the ears of most mammals.

This spiral follows a precise mathematical pattern. We will first look at this spiral in sunflowers. By looking carefully at a sunflower you will observe two sets of spirals (rows of seeds or florets) spiraling in opposite directions. When these spiral rows are counted in each direction, you will discover that in the overwhelming majority of the cases that their numbers, depending upon the size of the flower, will be of the following ratio: if small, 34 and 55; if medium 55 and 89; if large 89 and 144

These numbers are part of the Fibonacci numbering sequence, a pattern discovered around A.D. 1200 by Leonardo Pisa (historically known as Fibonacci). Each succeeding number is the sum of the two preceding numbers. The sequence of these numbers is 1,2,3,5,8,13,21,34,55,89,144,233, ad infinitum. This numbering pattern reveals itself in various ways throughout all of nature, as we shall see.

When the smaller number of this pattern is divided into the larger number adjacent to it, the ratio will be approximately 1.618; if the larger one adjacent to it divides the smaller number, the ratio is very close to 0.618. This ratio is the most efficient of similar series of numbers.

Beauty

Why did Phideas, the Greek sculptor, and others in ancient Greece and Egypt often use this ratio in designing many of their works of art? Because this ratio has been found to be remarkably pleasing to the human eye, it produces what is called a Golden Rectangle. If the short side of the rectangle is 1, the long side will be 1.618. This rectangular shape was close to the pattern used in the designing of the Parthenon of Greece and for many of their numerous pictures, vases, doorways, windows, statues, etc., and even for certain features of the Great Pyramid of Egypt. The

United Nations building is a golden rectangle. Many of the things you use are (approximately) patterned after the golden rectangle—credit cards, playing cards, postcards, light switch plates, writing pads, 3-by-5 and 5-by-8 cards.

Artists such as Leonardo da Vinci, Van Gogh, Vermeer, Sargent, Monet, Whistler, Renoir, and others employed the golden proportion in many of their works. They would "take a blank easel and divide it into areas based on the golden proportions to determine the placement of horizons, trees, and so on. Why the golden proportion? Art forms can be either of static or dynamic symmetry. In static symmetry the lines have definite measurements whereas in dynamic symmetry it is the proportioning of the areas that is given emphasis. It implies "growth, power, movement. It gives animation and life to an artist's work . . . rather than the effect of stillness and quiet" of static symmetry. This is the appeal of the golden proportion.

Another area of great interest is the occurrence of Fibonacci numbers in the spiral arrangement of leaves around a plant's stem (called phyllotaxis). This spiral pattern is observed by viewing the stem from directly above, and noting the arc of the stem from one leaf base to the next, and the fraction of the stem circumference which is inscribed. In each case the numbers are Fibonacci numbers. Examples: In an elm the arc is $1/2$ the circumference; in beech and hazel, $1/3$; apricot, oak, $2/5$; in pear and poplar, $3/8$; in almond and pussy willow, $5/13$; and in some pines either $5/21$ or $13/34$. Why did God arrange them this way? This pattern assures that each leaf will receive its maximum exposure to sunlight and air without shading or crowding other leaves.

Not only do we discover this pattern in leaf arrangements, but it is also commonly found in the arrangement of many flower petals. Examples: a lily has 3 petals, yellow violet 5, delphinium 8, mayweed 13, aster 21, pyrethrum 34, helenium 55, and michaelmas daisy 89. With such a great variety of spiral ratios in leaf and petal arrangement, no one has any reason to get bored with God's creation.

When we realize that the information to produce these spirals and numbers in living things is stored in the DNA, should we then be surprised to find that the DNA molecule is 21 angstroms in width and the length of one full turn in its spiral is 34 angstroms, both Fibonacci numbers? The DNA molecule is literally one long stack of golden rectangles.

Let's look into the area of very small and very large things. In the world of atoms there are four fundamental asymmetries (structure of atomic nuclei, distribution of fission fragments, distribution of numbers of isotopes, and the distribution of emitted particles), and it is significant that "the numerical values of all of these asymmetries are equal approximately to the 'golden ratio,' and that the number forming these values are sometimes Fibonacci or 'near' Fibonacci numbers." In changing states of a quantity of hydrogen atoms, as the atoms gain and lose radiant energy at succeeding energy levels, the changing proportion of the histories of the atomic electrons form Fibonacci numbers.

In the area of very large phenomena when the time period of each planet's revolution around the sun is compared in round numbers to the one adjacent to it, their fractions are Fibonacci numbers! Beginning with Neptune and moving inward toward the sun, the ratios are $1/2$, $1/3$, $2/5$, $3/8$, $5/13$, $8/21$, $13/34$. These are the same as the spiral arrangement of leaves on plants!

These shapes, numbers, spirals, and the divine proportion are ubiquitous in their presence throughout all of creation. They are found in living and nonliving phenomena. Their symmetry, beauty, and mathematical preciseness are evident in every aspect of nature. Although absolute perfection is not found in all of these (due to the effects of Adam's sin), their very presence virtually everywhere and in everything argues against their having occurred by blind chance or evolutionary processes. The only rational conclusion is that the Creator of the universe is a personal, intelligent Being, who created these things as a visible fingerprint of His invisible, yet personal existence. This great,

wise, powerful, creative, and sovereign God of creation is the One revealed in the Bible, of whom it can be said, "Great things doeth He, which we cannot comprehend" (Job 37:5). He is worthy of worship. And what is His name? The Lord Jesus Christ. "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created" (Revelation 4:11).

ARTICLE #2

Fibonacci Patterns from the Microscale to the Macroscale

Leonardo Fibonacci came up with the sequence when calculating the ideal expansion pairs of rabbits over the course of one year. Today, its emergent patterns and ratios ($\phi = 1.61803\dots$) can be seen from the microscale to the macroscale, and right through to biological systems and inanimate objects. While the Golden Ratio doesn't account for every structure or pattern in the universe, it's certainly a major player. Here are some examples.

1. Flower petals

The number of petals in a flower consistently follows the Fibonacci sequence. Famous examples include the lily, which has three petals, buttercups, which have five (pictured at left), the chicory's 21, the daisy's 34, and so on. ϕ appears in petals on account of the ideal packing arrangement as selected by Darwinian processes; each petal is placed at 0.618034 per turn (out of a 360° circle) allowing for the best possible exposure to sunlight and other factors.

2. Seed heads

The head of a flower is also subject to Fibonacci processes. Typically, seeds are produced at the center, and then migrate towards the outside to fill all the space. Sunflowers provide a great example of these spiraling patterns.

In some cases, the seed heads are so tightly packed that total number can get quite high — as many as 144 or more. And when counting these spirals, the total tends to match a Fibonacci number. Interestingly, a highly irrational number is required to optimize filling (namely one that will not be well represented by a fraction). ϕ fits the bill rather nicely.

3. Pinecones

Similarly, the seed pods on a pinecone are arranged in a spiral pattern. Each cone consists of a pair of spirals, each one spiraling upwards in opposing directions. The number of steps will almost always match a pair of consecutive Fibonacci numbers. For example, a 3-5 cone is a cone which meets at the back after three steps along the left spiral, and five steps along the right.

4. Fruits and Vegetables

Likewise, similar spiraling patterns can be found on pineapples and cauliflower.

5. Tree branches

The Fibonacci sequence can also be seen in the way tree branches form or split. A main trunk will grow until it produces a branch, which creates two growth points. Then, one of the new stems branches into two, while the other one lies dormant. This pattern of branching is repeated for each of the new stems. A good example is the sneezewort. Root systems and even algae exhibit this pattern.

6. Shells

The unique properties of the Golden Rectangle provides another example. This shape, a rectangle in which the ratio of the sides a/b is equal to the golden mean (ϕ), can result in a nesting process that can be repeated into infinity — and which takes on the form of a spiral. It's called the logarithmic spiral, and it abounds in nature.

Snail shells and nautilus shells follow the logarithmic spiral, as does the cochlea of the inner ear. It can also be seen in the horns of certain goats, and the shape of certain spider's webs.

7. Spiral Galaxies

Not surprisingly, spiral galaxies also follow the familiar Fibonacci pattern. The Milky Way has several spiral arms, each of them a logarithmic spiral of about 12 degrees. As an interesting aside, spiral galaxies appear to defy Newtonian physics. As early as 1925, astronomers realized that, since the angular speed of rotation of the galactic disk varies with distance from the center, the radial arms should become curved as galaxies rotate. Subsequently, after a few rotations, spiral arms should start to wind around a galaxy. But they don't — hence the so-called winding problem. The stars on the outside, it would seem, move at a velocity higher than expected — a unique trait of the cosmos that helps preserve its shape.

8. Hurricanes

9. Faces

Faces, both human and nonhuman, abound with examples of the Golden Ratio. The mouth and nose are each positioned at golden sections of the distance between the eyes and the bottom of the chin. Similar proportions can be seen from the side, and even the eye and ear itself (which follows along a spiral).

It's worth noting that every person's body is different, but that averages across populations tend towards ϕ . It has also been said that the more closely our proportions adhere to ϕ , the more "attractive" those traits are perceived. As an example, the most "beautiful" smiles are those in which central incisors are 1.618 wider than the lateral incisors, which are 1.618 wider than canines, and so on. It's quite possible that, from an evo-psych perspective, that we are primed to like physical forms that adhere to the golden ratio — a potential indicator of reproductive fitness and health.

10. Fingers

Looking at the length of our fingers, each section — from the tip of the base to the wrist — is larger than the preceding one by roughly the ratio of ϕ .

11. Animal bodies

Even our bodies exhibit proportions that are consistent with Fibonacci numbers. For example, the measurement from the navel to the floor and the top of the head to the navel is the golden ratio. Animal bodies exhibit similar tendencies, including dolphins (the eye, fins and tail all fall at Golden Sections), starfish, sand dollars, sea urchins, ants, and honey bees.

12. Reproductive dynamics

Speaking of honey bees, they follow Fibonacci in other interesting ways. The most profound example is by dividing the number of females in a colony by the number of males (females always outnumber males). The answer is typically something very close to 1.618. In addition, the family tree of honey bees also follows the familiar pattern. Males have one parent (a female), whereas females have two (a female and male). Thus, when it comes to the family tree, males have 2, 3, 5, and 8 grandparents, great-grandparents, gr-gr-grandparents, and gr-gr-gr-grandparents

respectively. Following the same pattern, females have 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, and so on. And as noted, bee physiology also follows along the Golden Curve rather nicely.

13. Animal fight patterns

When a hawk approaches its prey, its sharpest view is at an angle to their direction of flight — an angle that's the same as the spiral's pitch.

14. The uterus

According to Jasper Verguts, a gynecologist at the University Hospital Leuven in Belgium, doctors can tell whether a uterus looks normal and healthy based on its relative dimensions — dimensions that approximate the golden ratio. From the Guardian:

Over the last few months he has measured the uteruses of 5,000 women using ultrasound and drawn up a table of the average ratio of a uterus's length to its width for different age bands.

The data shows that this ratio is about 2 at birth and then it steadily decreases through a woman's life to 1.46 when she is in old age.

Dr Verguts was thrilled to discover that when women are at their most fertile, between the ages of 16 and 20, the ratio of length to width of a uterus is 1.6 — a very good approximation to the golden ratio.

"This is the first time anyone has looked at this, so I am pleased it turned out so nicely," he said.

15. DNA molecules

Even the microscopic realm is not immune to Fibonacci. The DNA molecule measures 34 angstroms long by 21 angstroms wide for each full cycle of its double helix spiral. These numbers, 34 and 21, are numbers in the Fibonacci series, and their ratio 1.6190476 closely approximates Phi, 1.6180339.

LESSON #23: "EVOLUTION: AN UNPROVEN THEORY" (APOLOGETICS)

OBJECTIVES (WHAT ARE THE TAKEAWAY POINTS FOR S LIFE OF FAITH?):

1) S WILL LEARN THAT CHARLES DARWIN EXPOUNDED THE THEORY OF EVOLUTION IN HIS 1859 BOOK THE ORIGIN OF SPECIES. IT WAS IN THAT BOOK THAT DARWIN THEORIZED THAT PLANTS AND ANIMALS EVOLVE AND DEVELOP WITHOUT THE AID OF AN INTELLIGENT CREATOR THROUGH A PROCESS OF NATURAL SELECTION, WHICH ENSURES THE "SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST."¹⁹

BIBLE VERSE:

- Romans 1:22
- Hebrews 11:1-3

2) S WILL LEARN THAT, WHILE EVOLUTION IS AN UNPROVEN THEORY ABOUT THE ORIGINS OF HUMANKIND, IT IS TAUGHT AS SCIENTIFIC FACT IN THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM, FROM ELEMENTARY UP TO THE GRADUATE SCHOOL LEVEL.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Psalm 33:4-11
- John 1:3

3) S WILL EXAMINE LOGICAL ARGUMENTS WHICH DEMONSTRATE THAT EVOLUTION IS NOT A SCIENTIFICALLY SOUND THEORY.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Colossians 1:16-17

FATHER'S WORDS:

"Until now, the question of what came first between evolution and God's creation has been a topic of endless discussion among the world's scholars. Was the concept of evolution there before the concept of love? Which came first? Certainly not evolution, for it came into being after the concept of love had long been in existence. The universe of the pair system was created first, and then the structural similarities between different beings gave rise to evolutionary theory. You need to realize that evolutionary theory did not emerge because the universe was created according to its teachings.

All kinds of birds are similarly structured. Nevertheless, distinction of the species is quite another matter. Can a sparrow and a bunting mate and reproduce? That can never happen. From the amoeba to a human being, there exist divisions of the species in several thousands of stages; so could they just be disregarded and an amoeba transform into a human being all at once? Not on your life. The differentiation of species is absolute."

¹⁹ It is interesting to note that Darwin himself had doubts regarding his theory of natural selection: "To suppose that the eye with all its inimitable contrivances for adjusting the focus to different distances, for admitting different amounts of light, and for the correction of spherical and chromatic aberration, could have been formed by natural selection, seems, I confess, absurd in the highest degree..." "The Origin of the Species" by Charles Darwin.

"The differentiation of species is very strict. There are thousands of species between amoebae and monkeys. Each of these species brings forth their young through the gates of the females and males, which means thousands of births. The thinking that one could go from one species to another disregarding the levels of thousands of species would suggest that it could all be done within one birth, a notion that is completely wrong because it denies the fact that the gates of love need to be passed through. How can an amoeba pass through the gates of love for thousands of species and become a human being? Would similar bone structures make all the other characteristics similar too? Similar bone structures can be found everywhere. Stop saying such crazy things."

(266-39, 1994.12.4)

"What is contradictory in evolutionary theory? In order for the amoeba to evolve and develop, it requires energy. It needs an external source of energy in order to grow gradually. For it to be able to say, "I will be born as a being of the stage above, as a higher being!" then something extraneous must be added there. Without additional energy input, it cannot grow. It needs energy from outside itself. The question is, can the amoeba grow and continue to live, and, at the same time, generate enough energy for itself to become a greater being? Such a thing can never happen."

(265-58, 1994.11.20)

"EIGHT PROBLEMS WITH EVOLUTION" BY TIMOTHY J. TURNIPSEED

Problem #1: Evolution is also faith

In the end, most people who believe in evolution are not scientists, therefore they believe in evolution not because they can prove it scientifically, but because someone told them it was so. Ask the average person to prove evolution, and unless they have a PhD in Biology (which would make them far from average!) they can't even begin to explain, much less defend, their position. They just assume it is true. They can't prove it. They don't have the evidence. They just believe. In other words, they believe in evolution by simple faith.

Problem #2: Mutations

Mutations are the only way to introduce new genetic material into an organism. Thus, they are considered the driving force of evolution. Say a rabbit gets a mutation that allows it to run faster. Thus it can better outrun its enemies, and passes that trait on to its babies. Since faster rabbits tend to survive better, soon the whole species becomes faster.

However, the vast majority of mutations -- like a 1,000 to one -- are harmful. Thus, unregulated mutation is far more likely to destroy a species over time than evolve it. There are about 4,000 genetic disorders in human beings with Cystic Fibrosis being the most common. Mutations are overwhelmingly bad, yet they are the only way evolution can work.

Problems #3: Gaps in the Fossil Record

As it turns out, the fossil record is not kind to Darwin's theory. The fossil record reveals no transitional species (animals changing from one major kind to another, like a lizard to a bird). If Darwin was correct, the fossil record should be full of them. Moreover, the fossil record never shows us a neat progression of an ancient animal slowly turning into a modern animal -- all such evolutionary "trees" have so far been shown to be false. Instead, species tend to suddenly appear in the fossil record without precedent (as if they were created?) and then disappear.

There is indeed a severe lack of transitional species in the fossil record. The very existence of the Punctuated Equilibrium Theory (the idea that evolution sometimes takes sudden leaps) is proof positive that even evolutionary scientists believe that there are gaps in the fossil record.

Problem #4: Still Insects

According to evolution, insects emerged millions of years before mammals did. Furthermore, because of their short reproductive cycles, insects have A LOT more generations than mammals, thus they get a shot at the "evolutionary lottery" A LOT more than mammals do. And yet, we are MUCH further ahead evolutionally than insects are. So why don't the insects get any better? Where are the great insect civilizations?

In the race to evolutionary perfection, Evolution gives insects a million mile head start and a car that goes a hundred times as fast, yet they are beaten by mammals. The idea of evolution says that an animal progresses through natural selection to higher and higher states of complexity. Another idea says that God creates an animal as it is, and it changes very little. Given the evidence of the insects, which theory makes more sense?

Problem #5: Some Progress, Some Don't

Why does Joe the Fish evolve, but Bill the Fish is still a fish? Both Joe and Bill are the exact same species and live in the exact same environment. Yet Joe goes from Amphibian to Reptile to Bird to Mammal to Primate and eventually becomes a man, while poor Bill remains a fish. Whatever happened to "survival of the fittest"? The problem with saying that all higher orders of animals are derived from fish is that we still have fish!

The problem of saying that all current species evolved from single cell organisms is we still have single cell organisms! If multi-celled organisms are so superior to single cell organisms – if evolution is all about survival of the fittest, then why are the single cell organisms not only still around, but by far the most numerous of organisms? If humans evolved from primates, why do we still have primates? We humans supposedly evolved from primates to a higher state. So what's wrong with the other primates? Why is it that Bob the monkey is still a monkey but Sam the monkey has become a man?

Problem #6: Irreducible Complexity

At some point in a living cell, we get to the point where one part simply cannot live without the other parts. The parts are all interconnected -- take away one, and the rest immediately die. {Use mousetrap = spring, hammer, trigger, plate or flashlight = battery + plastic housing + bulb + switch}

Let's put all the components of a flashlight in a big bucket – battery, plastic housing, bulb, switch. Now let's stir or shake the bucket until a flashlight emerges turned on. How long do you think that would take? Remember, we have to shake the bucket until a battery slides the right way into the housing facing the right direction with the bulb screwed in on top of it the right way – simultaneously.

Remember that to begin evolution, life must be produced from inorganic matter. Ideally, the right combination of inorganic chemicals will produce a living cell. Wherefore evolution requires that at some time in the distant past, certain chemicals – dead chemicals -- formed by random factors into a living cell.

(Note that this has never, ever been achieved in a laboratory, nor observed in nature. It is merely assumed in order for the theory to work!) Amino acids, which are the basic building blocks of life, have been formed in the laboratory out of conditions thought to represent an early earth. It cannot be stressed enough that not only are these amino acids and not life, but that they were the result of intentional design, not random factors – the scientist created them.

Let us suppose that in order to make a functioning living cell, you need five vital chemicals in just the right order – let's call them A, B, C, D, and E. (Actually, you need a great many more than that, but this isn't a college level biology course!) But if the chemicals form part A, it immediately dies, because parts B, C, D, and E are not there to support it. If part B is formed – and even this is a statistical impossibility -- it immediately dies, because parts A, C, D, and E are not there to support it. If A, B, C, E, and D join together, they will all die, because D has to come before E in order for the living cell to work.

This means that in order for life to get started at all, ALL parts must SIMULTANEOUSLY come into being at the exact same PLACE in the specific ARRANGEMENT of parts. To make one living cell, you can't have a part float around for a few million years, then eventually add another part some time later, then another. It's all got to happen at once. {flashlight = battery + plastic housing + bulb + switch}

Problem #7: Probability

If you throw lumber, glass, paint, and bricks at a spot long enough, will you eventually build a house? What if I give you millions of years? Let's say we drive out to the desert and see a house. What's more likely – that someone built the house or that it formed all by itself? A single living cell is far more complex than any house!

Some people say I'm comparing apples and oranges, because only living things evolve (by themselves) and a house is not alive. But we have already seen that in order for evolution to get started at all, a lot of non-living chemicals have to combine spontaneously and precisely in order to form a living cell, so the analogy still applies. If a house therefore cannot build itself, how can something more complex than any house – the first living cell – build itself?

Problem #8: No Record of New Species evolving from Existing Ones

The whole Theory of Evolution rests on the assumption that new species can evolve from existing ones (like say, ape-like creatures turning into humans). Supposedly, Bacteria slowly became Fish which slowly become Amphibians which slowly become Reptiles which slowly become Birds which slowly become Mammals which slowly become Apes which slowly become people.

And yet, our experience with animals strongly suggests that a fish can't slowly become anything other than another kind of fish. In the world of Evolution, fish became amphibians. Well, fish farmers have tamed many breeds of fish. But they have yet to compete with the frog legs market in France by turning any of their fish into frogs. The evidence suggests that it simply can't be done.

Evolutionists like to point out all of the variations that supposedly evolved in Darwin's famous finches. What they fail to realize is that not only are those things ALL birds, they are ALL FINCHES!! There is no evolution going on. They are not becoming any other type of animal. They are all of them finches. So exactly how do Darwin's finches provide evidence of evolution?

Also see: "Evolution vs. God" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U0u3-2CGOMQ>

LESSON #24: "DAVID: MOST BELOVED KING OF ISRAEL"

OBJECTIVES (WHAT ARE THE TAKEAWAY POINTS FOR S LIFE OF FAITH?):

1) THROUGH THE STORY OF KING DAVID, STUDENTS WILL LEARN ABOUT THE COURAGEOUS AND BENEVOLENT QUALITIES THAT GOD LOVED IN HIM.

BIBLE VERSES:

- 1 Samuel 17
- 1 Samuel 24
- 1 Samuel 26

2) STUDENTS WILL LEARN ABOUT HOW DEEP REPENTANCE CAN RESTORE THE RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD THROUGH THE MISTAKES AND ARROGANCE OF KING DAVID.

BIBLE VERSES:

- 2 Samuel 11
- 1 Chronicle 21

FATHER'S WORDS:

"There is always room for mercy in a righteous legal system, but in order to be entitled to receive it, a person must show his sincere repentance. Repentance is the key word. This is why Jesus' pronouncement was, 'Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.' What should we repent for? Very simply, we must repent for all those actions which violated the rule that says we should live in sacrifice and service for others. This was Jesus' first teaching."

10/89

3) STUDENTS WILL LEARN THAT THE KINGDOM COVENANT THAT GOD MADE WITH DAVID WOULD BE SPIRITUALLY REALIZED THROUGH THE COMING OF JESUS CHRIST.

BIBLE VERSES:

- 2 Samuel 7:1-16

FATHER'S WORDS:

"Therefore, God promised to send to Israel the Messiah- the one perfected person with complete knowledge. Jesus would be the beginning of the God-centered sovereignty and nation; this would be possible once the Israelites united absolutely with him."

3/10/72

LESSON #25: "THE PSALMS: EXPRESSING YOUR HEART TO GOD"

OBJECTIVES (WHAT ARE THE TAKEAWAY POINTS FOR S LIFE OF FAITH?):

Because the entire lesson is devoted to the study of Biblical text, only Father's words have been included.

1) S WILL LEARN THE BASIC STRUCTURE OF THE BOOK OF PSALMS.

Father's Words: "What is the path that God has decreed for Israel and Judaism? It is a path with universal significance. It is a universal mission. God chose the one specific people, Israel, to fulfill a mission not only for themselves but for humankind."

10/1/87

2) S WILL LEARN THAT REGULAR CONVERSATION WITH GOD WILL STRENGTHEN THEIR FAITH.

Father's Words: "Prayer is making a wish. By making a wish, you place yourself in an object position to God, the Subject. You set up a subject-object relationship of love. Having unfulfilled wishes and longings are good, because they motivate us to make this relationship. Because we lack confidence to fulfill them ourselves, we pray...clinging to God."

3/29/81

3) S WILL UNDERSTAND THAT SINCERITY IS FUNDAMENTAL TO REAL COMMUNICATION WITH GOD.

FATHER'S WORDS:

"When you pray, your heart should be as desperate as a baby crying for mother's milk."

6/6/67

PROCESS (ORDER OF LESSON, INCLUDING QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION POINTS):

1. Let's start by talking about music. What is your favorite type of music? Why? Who is your favorite group? What is your favorite song? Why do you think (almost) everyone loves music? What is it about music that is so powerful? (Get answers)
2. Let's listen to a song together. As you're listening, see if you can guess why I chose this particular song to play for you. (Play one of the songs based on Psalms, get answers after song finishes).
3. Music can really alter our emotions. It can get us pumped up, make us feel sad, or cause us to think. The psalms are no different. They are essentially an Old Testament song book for temple worship. No other poetry has been set to music more often in Western civilization.
4. T starts with questions: (Tell them the week before you will give a "quiz" on Psalms, and award a small prize to the winner!)
 - a. Which psalm is the longest? (Psalm 119)
 - b. Which psalm is the shortest? (Psalm 117)
 - c. Who wrote most of the psalms? (David...he wrote 73 of them.)
 - d. Which psalm starts "The Lord is my shepherd"? (Psalm 23)
 - e. How many psalms are there? (150)
5. Our goal is to gain a basic understanding of the book of Psalms as a whole, as well as some insights into how they can help us in our life of faith today.

6. The psalms are divided into five smaller “books.” Ancient writings suggest the five-fold division is based on the first five books of the Bible (called the Torah).
 - a. Book One (Genesis) Psalms 1-41
 - b. Book Two (Exodus) Psalms 42-72
 - c. Book Three (Leviticus) Psalms 73-89
 - d. Book Four (Numbers) Psalms 90-106
 - e. Book Five (Deuteronomy) Psalms 107-150
7. There are basically 2 types of psalms: happy (confidence, thanksgiving, wisdom) or sad (individual laments, community laments). The psalms are more about man talking to God than God talking to man. This is an important point to remember as we move forward. Just like song writers today, a lot of emotion is packed into these pages.
8. Let’s turn in our Bibles to the first psalm. You’ll notice I did not say “Psalm chapter 1.” The psalms are not like other books of the Bible that have chapters. Though the psalms have been intentionally ordered, they should not be looked upon as an ongoing narrative. Each psalm is distinct and should be referred to as such. So remember—no chapters in Psalms!
9. Let’s read Psalm 1. What kind of psalm do you believe that is? (Happy). Who is the author talking to? (The reader, the worshipper). What is the basic message of this psalm? (That righteousness is better than evil, etc.) Why do you think this was placed as the first psalm? (Allow for discussion).
10. Now let’s read Psalm 42. This is the first psalm in the second book. Notice the difference in tone. What kind of psalm do you think this is? (Kind of sad...but with hope). What feelings stirred inside you as you read it? (Allow for discussion.) What is the basic message here? (A thirst for God leads to being filled by Him...praise Him even in difficult circumstances.) How is this psalm different from the first? (Allow for discussion.)
11. Now flip to the third book, which spans from Psalms 73-89. Let’s read Psalm 84. The psalms, as they were constructed in the Old Testament, were a song book for worshippers. The cool thing is that since then, no one has done it better. Often, modern song writers look to the psalms for inspiration.
12. Now let’s turn to a psalm from the fourth book, Psalm 95.
13. This is a different kind of psalm, a psalm of remembrance. The idea is that, even through song, Israel would remember her history. What are the different postures encouraged for worship? (Singing, shouting, thanksgiving, worship). What is the attitude of God in this psalm? (Anger, because of the hardened hearts of the Israelites).
14. Let’s read a psalm from the fifth book, Psalm 137. What is the basic message of this psalm? (revenge) What is a gruesome image in verse 9? What do you think of that language being included in the psalms?
15. Remember, the psalms are man talking to God, not the other way around (although God did say that Babylon would be judged, and they were). Psalm 137 is the speaker describing his feelings in song about being held in captivity. The psalms speak about many themes, and they are very honest.
16. How many of you feel like you communicate with God well?
17. How many of you share your truest thoughts with God—anger, jealousy, sadness, etc.? We’ve read quite a few psalms now...do you communicate with God as honestly as the psalmists do? Why/why not?

The psalms can be helpful to us in our relationship with God because they express the whole range of human emotion.

ACTIVITY:

- 1) Some people have suggested there is a psalm for everything (hand out sheet entitled “A Psalm for Everything”).

- 2) Break up into groups of 4-5 people. Choose roles within the group: leader, secretary, time-keeper. Spend @10 minutes individually skimming through the psalms listed in the handout. Each person finds a passage that speaks to their heart. Share it with the group.
- 3) Based on the passages you have individually collected, write your own psalm as a group. Remember, be honest with God, because that's what psalms are all about!
- 4) If time, S may set their psalm to a melody and/or rhythm, and possibly add movement.
- 5) Each group presents their psalm to the group.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- 1) Song by one of the following artists

Song/Group Name	Corresponding Psalm
Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir	150
Charlie Hall	126
"Why Are You So Downcast"	42
Amy Grant "Everywhere I Go"	139
Chris Tomlin "Forever"	136
"Better is One Day"	84
"Everything that Has Breath"	150
"Not to Us"	115

- 2) Sound system to play song on
- 3) Individual student Bibles
- 4) Handout: A Psalm for Everything (from Life Application Bible)

Reason	Psalm
To find comfort	23
To feel closer to God	103
To learn a new prayer	136
To learn a new song	92
To learn more about God	24
To understand yourself more clearly	8
To know how to come to God each day	5
To be forgiven	51
To feel worthwhile	139

To understand why you should read the Bible	119
To give praise to God	145
To know that God is in control	146
To give thanks to God	136
To please God	15
To know why you should worship God	104

5) Paper and pen for each student

FOLLOW-UP:

Hopefully our lesson today has helped you understand that the psalms have as much meaning to us today as they ever have. I'd encourage you to read a psalm each day this week. Maybe you can read one when you first wake up or just before you go to sleep. Spend time with it, read it a few times. Enjoy.

LESSON #26: SOLOMON: "THE WISDOM KING OF TRAGEDY"

OBJECTIVES (WHAT ARE THE TAKEAWAY POINTS FOR S LIFE OF FAITH?):

1) S WILL LEARN THAT HOW GOD BLESSED SOLOMON WITH WISDOM AND LOVED HIM AS HE LOVED DAVID, HIS FATHER.

BIBLE VERSES:

- 1 Kings 3:6-28
- 1 Kings 4: 29-32

FATHER'S WORDS:

"I prayed for three things for my life: the love of Jesus, the wisdom of Solomon and the faith of Paul and beyond. I wanted to have infinite trust, infinite faith to come to the point where there would be no more to believe, to even ask: 'God, if there is something doubtful in your heart, give it to me, and I will believe it for you. Also if you have some worry, let me take it from you.'

Heavenly Father finally brought me to a love greater than Jesus', a wisdom greater than Solomon's and a faith greater than Paul's. For that reason, any faithless person who comes to me loves me and wants to be close to me, because my heart is one of love and trust. I look at all women as God's younger sisters, and all young men as God's younger brothers. My attitude toward them is love and trust. Therefore they are bound to love me."

5/19/84

2) STUDENTS WILL LEARN THAT THROUGH THE EXAMPLE OF SOLOMON THAT THE POWER OF UNPRINCIPLED LOVE CAN BE STRONGER THAN WISDOM.

BIBLE VERSES:

- 1 Kings 11:1-13

FATHER'S WORDS:

- Exposition of the Divine Principle, Part I, Chapter 2, Section 3.1

3) STUDENTS WILL LEARN OF OUR INESCAPABLE NEED FOR THE MESSIAH WHEN THEY LEARN THAT EVEN A MAN LIKE SOLOMON, BLESSED BY GOD WITH GREAT WISDOM, FELL INTO DISGRACE THROUGH LUST, GREED, AND IDOLATRY.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Romans 2:1-4
- Romans 8:9-14

FATHER'S WORDS:

"When he was being nailed to the cross, when the nails pierced his hands and feet, when the crown of thorns was forced on his head and a spear was thrust through his side and extinguished his life, Jesus did

not hold any grudge against the faithless people. On the contrary, with an intensely urgent heart, he bowed his head toward Heaven and felt deeply apologetic. This is the reason Jesus could become the Messiah for all humanity.”

3/23/58

LESSON #27: "LESSONS FROM PROVERBS"

OBJECTIVES (WHAT ARE THE TAKEAWAY POINTS FOR S LIFE OF FAITH?):

1) TO PROVIDE S WITH A BASIC UNDERSTANDING OF THE STRUCTURE AND THEMES OF PROVERBS.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Proverbs 3:5-6
- Proverbs 19:23
- Proverbs 25:21-22

2) S WILL LEARN THAT WISDOM COMES FROM OBEDIENCE TO GOD. THEY WILL UNDERSTAND THAT IF YOU DON'T HAVE WISDOM ALONG WITH KNOWLEDGE, YOU ARE ONLY A WALKING ENCYCLOPEDIA.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Proverbs 4:4-9
- Proverbs 9:10
- James 1:5

FATHER'S WORDS:

"Had there been no human fall, we would have had God as our best parent and best teacher. Since God is full of love and knowledge, who could teach anything better? Yet in this fallen world, Satan says, 'Go to the best university! Find a lover!' to capture young people for himself...

God still wants to teach us two things: 'I am your True Teacher, and I am your True Parent.' If we could only learn that, we would know everything."

1/1/79

"You are studying, but for what? To know how to live for God and others."

7/21/75

3) S WILL UNDERSTAND WHY SOLOMON DESCRIBES WISDOM AS GREATER THAN SILVER, GOLD, OR RUBIES (SEE PROVERBS 3:14-15). S WILL READ JAMES 3, AND IDENTIFY AS MANY "JEWELS" OF WISDOM AS THEY CAN FIND IN THE TEXT.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Proverbs 3:14-15
- James 3

PROVERBS SUMMARY BY JAY SMITH:

The genre of Proverbs is mainly "Proverbs" as the name describes, there are also some Parables and Poetry. This book was written mainly by Solomon, the wisest king ever to rule. However some of the later sections are written by Lemuel and Agur. It was written during Solomon's reign 970-930 B.C. He asked God for wisdom to rule God's nation and He granted the request.

The main purpose of this book is to teach wisdom to God's people. Proverbs are short clever explanations, which are easy to remember. They contain truisms. These are things which are typically true however, not always. For example, "He who tills his land will have plenty of bread" (12:11), it is typically true that one who works his land will have bread but it is not a guarantee to always be true. They deal with life, principles, good judgment, and perception. They often draw distinctions between a wise man and a foolish man with parable type examples.

- In chapters 1-9, Solomon writes about wisdom for younger people. He speaks of details of Godly living and heeding a parent's advice, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge" (1:7). Salvation is through faith and trust in Jesus Christ alone and Proverbs directly teaches us to, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight" (3:5-6).
- In chapters 10-24, there is wisdom that applies to average people covering various topics. Many of these parables contrast a righteous man and a wicked man, and urges us to commit our way to God, "There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death" (14:12).
- In chapters 25-31, wisdom is given to leaders. It was these very proverbs that were transcribed by King Hezekiah's people, and for good reason (25:1). They contain many warnings and instructions to assist in walking and seeking a godly life. As would be understood by a leader of an army, Solomon writes in 27:17, "Iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another."

LESSON #28: "LIFE DOESN'T MAKE SENSE WITHOUT GOD!"

OBJECTIVES: (WHAT ARE THE TAKEAWAY POINTS FOR S LIFE OF FAITH?)

1) S WILL GAIN AN OVERVIEW OF THE OLD TESTAMENT BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES BY EXAMINING EACH CHAPTER.²⁰

BIBLE VERSES:

- Chapter 1 sets the stage for the main purpose of the book. It discusses the seeming futility of human life, which comes and goes in cycles. We are born; we live; we work; we grow old and die. The earth and its cycles continue generation after generation, century after century; and nothing seems to change. Verse 9 tells us that there is nothing new under the sun. What's it all about? Isn't there something more to human life than this endless cycle?
 - In verse 13 we are told that Solomon was determined to use the wisdom given to him by God to find out the answers to these eternal questions.
- Chapter 2 relates to us some of the things that Solomon sought to bring satisfaction to his life: mirth, pleasure, wine, building projects, gold and silver, entertainment of every sort, and diversions of every kind. Yet it all left him unfulfilled and empty inside.
- Chapter 3 is perhaps the most familiar of all the chapters, since it deals with these endless cycles in a more poetic way. Modern songs have been written using these very words:
 - "To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to gain, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace" (3:1-8).
- Chapters 4 through 6 deal with the vanity and frustration of many of life's pursuits, such as:
 - Endless toil that seems to lead nowhere (4:4-8).
 - The fleeting nature of popularity (4:13-16).
 - The unsatisfying pursuit of money and things (5:10-17).
 - The haunting reality that no matter how much we gain of this world's goods, we all will have it end someday in the grave (6:6).
- Chapter 7 deals with the relative unfairness of life. Solomon sees many wicked people who seem to prosper and many good people who seem to suffer in life (7:15).
- Chapters 8 and 9 revisit the sober thought that death comes to all. "For the living know that they will die; but the dead know nothing, and they have no more reward, for the memory of them is forgotten. Also their love, their hatred, and their envy have now perished; nevermore will they have a share in anything done under the sun" (9:5-6).
- Ecclesiastes 9:10 is a verse often quoted to encourage hard work: "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might." But the reason for this is again in the context of death: "For there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going."
 - Solomon concludes that "time and chance happen to them all" (9:11).

²⁰ Also see "The Bible Project: Ecclesiastes" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lrsQ1tc-2wk>

- Chapters 10 and 11 cover a variety of subjects, including how easily a reputation can be ruined (10:1), the need for prudence (10:8-10), the effects of ethical and unethical governments upon a nation (10:16-17), and the uncertainty of life (11:1-8).
- Chapter 12 is a particularly interesting section because of its use of graphic metaphors to describe the aging process. Solomon calls old age “difficult days” in verse 1 and then proceeds to describe a man at the end of his life. Some have wondered if he isn’t really describing his own body that was now weak and frail as a result of the life he had lived—a life that included having 700 wives and 300 concubines (1 Kings 11:3) and the pursuit of wine, madness and folly (Ecclesiastes 2:3, 12).

The sad lesson of Solomon’s life is that he allowed this pursuit of all of life’s pleasures to turn his heart away from God. “For it was so, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the LORD his God, as was the heart of his father David” (1 Kings 11:4).

Thankfully, the book of Ecclesiastes does not end with chapter 12:8. The final few verses give us the answer to all these questions. Let’s look at them in some detail.

“The Preacher sought to find acceptable words; and what was written was upright—words of truth” (12:10). Even though Solomon wrote many proverbs and books, he gave a lot of thought to the concluding remarks of this book.

The main lesson of the whole book is reached in verse 13: “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter.”

What follows is the conclusion that Solomon drew from living life as fully as any person had ever lived life before. He did it all—more than any person who had ever lived—and was now about to tell us what is the most important thing we can do with our lives:

“Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is everyone’s duty” (Ecclesiastes 12:13).

2) S WILL LEARN THAT LIFE IS MEANINGLESS APART FROM GOD.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Ecclesiastes 1:1-11
- Ecclesiastes 2:17-26
- Isaiah 40:8

FATHER’S WORDS:

“No matter how hard you may work or how many accomplishments you may have, you have to be with Heavenly Father. If you act by yourself, Satan will take everything away.” “The Way of God’s Will”

“Your attitude should be: God is the source of my mind. I am God’s object partner who strives to move according to God’s mind.”

8/2/70

3) S WILL LEARN THAT FEARING GOD MEANS TO MAINTAIN A HEALTHY RESPECT AND ADORATION OF HIM. AS SINFUL PEOPLE, WE HAVE REASON TO FEAR GOD’S JUDGMENT.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Psalm 148

- Proverbs 1:7
- Hebrews 10:31
- Romans 6:23

FATHER'S WORDS:

"Beloved American people, the time has come for us to repent. We must fear the wrath of God. In the truest sense, who are the true Americans? True Americans are those who have a universal mind. True Americans are those who believe in the one family of man, transcendent of color and nationality as willed by God. True Americans are those who are proud of such international families, churches and of the nation which consists of all peoples. In the sight of God, there is no black; there is no white; there is no yellow. We must look at the human race as God sees it. America must return to the true founding spirit of the nation, to the ideals which her ancestors sought to establish with sweat and blood. America must return to Godism, an absolutely God-centered ideology."

6/1/76

4) S WILL LEARN THAT THE GREATEST EXAMPLE OF FEAR AND PERFECT LOVE WORKING TOGETHER IS JESUS CHRIST.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Luke 12:4-6
- 1John 4:16-19
- 1John 5:3

FATHER'S WORDS:

"O Father, Thy sons and daughters gathered here feel fearful that we might not be adequate to become sons and daughters who can receive everything Thou wouldst give us, and who can give everything to Thee. We fear that we may not be able to represent the world, history and the cosmos, when to us Thou wouldst express Thy heart, the heart Thou hast always wanted to give us."

10/25/70

"The Bible calls Jesus the 'only-begotten Son.' What does this mean? God's love is absolute love. Jesus was the first person in history who could receive the total love of God and represent that love to humankind. Because God gave Jesus the title, 'only-begotten Son,' he could become our Savior. Jesus taught that he is the true Son of God from the standpoint of love. Therefore, only by going through Jesus can we make a relationship of love with God."

6/15/86

EXCERPT FROM "FEARING GOD" IN CHRISTIANITY TODAY BY WILLIAM D. EISENHOWER:

"So how does fear of God, who is perfect love, take away fear?... As I walk with the Lord, I discover that God poses an ominous threat to my ego, but not to me. He rescues me from my delusions, so he may reveal the truth that sets me free. He casts me down, only to lift me up again. He sits in judgment of my sin, but forgives me nevertheless. Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, but love from the Lord is its completion.

And, of course, the ultimate example of fear and perfect love working together is Jesus Christ. He warned us at every turn to fear God, not men—and he confirmed that in everything about his life and death. He

spoke lovingly but frankly to all and didn't mince words when people needed to face their sin and repent. But he also demonstrated love beyond human understanding when he lived out his words, 'There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends' (John 15:13). With love like that, what is left to fear but God?"

LESSON #29: "GOD'S MOST PRECIOUS GIFT"

OBJECTIVES (WHAT ARE THE TAKEAWAY POINTS FOR S LIFE OF FAITH?):

1) S WILL LEARN THAT SEXUAL LOVE, WHEN EXPRESSED IN A MARITAL RELATIONSHIP, IS ONE OF GOD'S MOST PRECIOUS GIFTS.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Song of Songs 2:1-7
- Mark 10:8

FATHER'S WORDS:

"God's wedding is Adam and Eve's wedding. Consequently, the Kingdom of Heaven on earth and the Kingdom of Heaven in the spirit world are created at the same time. They begin from the love nest. The moment a man and woman unite through their sexual organs without committing the fall is the origin of the Kingdom of Heaven on earth and in the spirit world."

8/16/94

2) THE SONG OF SONGS CAN ALSO BE UNDERSTOOD AS A FORESHADOWING OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CHRIST AND HIS BRIDE (THE SHEPHERD/GROOM IS A FIGURE OF JESUS; THE SHULAMMITE MAIDEN IS A FIGURE OF HIS BRIDE).

BIBLE VERSE:

- Isaiah 54:5-8
- Ephesians 5:25-33
- Revelation 19:7

FATHER'S WORDS:

"Women are Eve; they cannot decide on their own paths to follow. You want to keep my photograph and live day and night before me. You don't want to go somewhere else and get married. Even after 100 years, when you are in the spirit world, you can call out 'Father' and we can meet and discuss things and understand each other fully in the same way that I am able to communicate with heaven. Do you think you will not be able to communicate this way? I am trying to liberate you."

"Owner of Peace, Owner of Lineage" 7/7/09

3) S WILL UNDERSTAND THE IDEAL OF THE MARITAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN A WIFE (AS A BRIDE OF CHRIST), AND HER HUSBAND (AS A SON OF GOD), CENTERED ON CHRIST.²¹

BIBLE VERSES:

- Song of Songs 7:10-13
- 2 Corinthians 11:2

²¹ Before marriage, women are in the position of daughter of Christ.

REV. HYUNG JIN MOON:

“You came as the fallen Eve, as a sinner, as a woman who is relating with Satan, but through his [Christ’s] love, through his sacrifice and laying his life down for you, you are purified; you’re made perfectly clean.

The Bible also says that the bride is set apart; she is as a stranger or alien in the world, meaning that you stand out in a different way...You have a holiness and righteousness that surround you because of Christ...

The wisdom of the bride is the word ‘phronimos’...this is the wisdom of the ‘phren’, the wisdom of the heart...God is saying, ‘If you’re going to be my bride, you need ‘phronimos’; that’s what you need..every breath you are taking should be about Me. Every heartbeat should be for Me; that’s the love the bride has for the bridegroom...

We think that if we allow our wife to be the bride of Christ, to be intimate with the bridegroom, we are going to lose her: ‘She is going to fall in love with Jesus more; she is going to love Father more than me. I am going to lose her.’ But we don’t understand that when we encourage her, be her number one fan to love God, to accept her place as the bride of Christ, to seek him, pursue him, press after him, when we are the type of husband that is a son of God who is encouraging her to be closer to God, guess what? We won’t lose her; we will gain her.”

“Bride of Christ” 5/3/15

LESSON #30: "THE SINS OF JEROBOAM"

OBJECTIVES (WHAT ARE THE TAKEAWAY POINTS FOR S LIFE OF FAITH?):

1) S WILL LEARN THAT JEROBOAM INITIATED THE DIVISION OF ISRAEL, RESULTING IN THE 10 TRIBES OF NORTHERN ISRAEL, LED BY JEROBOAM, AND THE 2 TRIBES OF SOUTHERN ISRAEL (JUDAH), LED BY REHOBOAM, SON OF SOLOMON.

BIBLE VERSES:

- 1 Kings 12:1-22

2) S WILL LEARN THAT ALTHOUGH GOD COMMANDED A DIVIDED ISRAEL NOT TO WORSHIP IDOLS SUCH AS THE GOLDEN CALF (WHICH HAD FIRST BEGUN IN EXODUS), THE SIN OF GOLDEN CALF WORSHIP CONTINUED UNABATED AMONG THE ISRAELITES.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Exodus 32:1-6
- 1 Kings 12:25-33
- 2 Kings 3:3
- 2 Kings 10:29,
- 2 Kings 13:2

3) S WILL IDENTIFY SOME OF THE FALSE IDOLS OF TODAY. WHAT HAS REPLACED WORSHIPPING GOD IN OUR MODERN WORLD? (E.G. MONEY? GOOD GRADES? SUCCESS? GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH FRIENDS?)

FATHER'S WORDS:

"What is idolatry? It is to abandon God and worship something else, to revere it more than God. Today numerous people are worshipping the idol called 'civilization' without being aware of it...They take as their idols material things; they become slaves of civilization. Hence, they do not know where to find the center of their life. Without seeking Heaven they make frantic efforts, yet they do not know what direction to go or what goal to aim for. They are no different than the benighted Israelites in the days of Ahab and Jezebel."

3/15/59

4) STUDENTS WILL LEARN THAT GOD IS FAITHFUL AND MERCIFUL. HOWEVER, WHEN PEOPLE LIVE WITHOUT REPENTING FOR THEIR EVIL WORDS AND DEEDS, HE HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO BRING ABOUT JUDGMENT.²²

BIBLE VERSES:

- 2 Peter 3:9

²² This theme runs throughout the 17 Old Testament prophetic books- Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi.

- Isaiah 5:4
- John 5:22

FATHER'S WORDS:

"Who possesses the central and highest conscience in the universe? God. When a man of conscience sees injustice, does he sit still? No, he explodes in righteous indignation. Is God's conscience any weaker? After seeing six thousand years of injustice His indignation grows hot; He prepares to do battle. God cannot stand by when He sees people committing wickedness- damaging the world for their own selfish benefit or for their own family's or tribe's benefit. He reserves a day to strike them down."

11/4/71

"I have endured, thinking that justice does not win by fighting, but by enduring. There were times when I was so indignant that my whole body was numb. But I endured, accounting myself an inadequate and unworthy son and thinking, 'God has endured far more indignation than I.'"

12/31/74

LESSON #31: "JONAH AND THE WHALE"

OBJECTIVES (WHAT ARE THE TAKEAWAY POINTS FOR S LIFE OF FAITH?):

1) S WILL LEARN THE STORY OF JONAH AND THE WHALE BY READING THROUGH THE BOOK OF JONAH.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Jonah 1-4

2) RATHER THAN RUNNING FROM GOD, IT IS BETTER TO TRUST HIM WITH OUR PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Proverbs 3:5-6

FATHER'S WORDS:

"Ultimately speaking, we can conclude that in this universe there is only one being you can fully trust: God; and His characteristics were manifested through Jesus Christ. God's words are always truth. He cannot tell any lies, and His actions or His instructions are always for your benefit, not His. He will never take advantage of you for His own benefit. He is the one who can always be trusted. I found God to be the one subject who can be absolutely trusted. That's why I believe in God."

1/2/77

3) S WILL LEARN THAT GOD HAS GREAT LOVE, PATIENCE, AND FORGIVENESS FOR ALL PEOPLE.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Jonah 4:1-11
- Lamentations 3:22-24
- Psalm 145:8-9

FATHER'S WORDS:

"Then where is God's patience coming from? The reason God has been leading a dispensation of struggle was to fulfill love. Also, the reason He has been endlessly patient with evil has been to establish the ideology of a good life. That is, to establish the standard of the unchanging heavenly laws to create a true human, He has been patient for 6,000 years. To fulfill the true will of God in this way, by finding a person who resembles God and can represent the value of all humankind, God has first been loyal to humans and infinitely patient with them before He expected them to be the same to Him."

8/4/57

LESSON #32: "ELIJAH, THE PROPHET OF TEARS"

OBJECTIVES (WHAT ARE THE TAKEAWAY POINTS FOR S LIFE OF FAITH?):

1) S WILL LEARN THAT ELIJAH WAS A GREAT PROPHET OF GOD BECAUSE HE DEEPLY LOVED THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL, AND MADE TREMENDOUS EFFORT FOR THE SAKE OF HEAVEN.

BIBLE VERSES:

- 1 Kings 18:1-46

FATHER'S WORDS:

"God sought out and set up a person called Elijah from the peasants living in Gilead. At that time, there was a king of Israel as well as the ten tribal chiefs. However, God put them all aside and elected Elijah, who was a mere peasant in Gilead. You must know how sorrowful a fact like this is.

The king of Israel should have stood guard over the holy temple of Heaven while ruling the nation. However, he forgot that responsibility. He rejected and reproached Heaven and trampled upon the people. Furthermore, he built an altar for Baal, the enemy of Heaven, and made Asherah poles... God, therefore, sought out and set up one person who knew and felt concern about the national grief and heavenly sorrow of that period, a person who prayed and cried out to Heaven. That person was Elijah...

Even if he was to die, Elijah tried to uphold the tradition of the prophets and sages who had represented the historical heart in the course of the national level providence. Going further, Elijah shed tears of concern about God's heart; he wept on behalf of the nation and its history. You must reflect upon this. That is why Heaven sought out Elijah."

3/15/59

2) S WILL LEARN THAT ALTHOUGH ELIJAH SOMETIMES STRAYED FROM HIS DIFFICULT MISSION, GOD NEVER FORSOOK HIM.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Deuteronomy 31:8
- 1 Kings 19:1-18

FATHER'S WORDS:

"Elijah had made great efforts to guide the people to fulfill the providential purposes of God, who had called him, set him up and had trusted in him. When God saw him pleading in the sad position of being driven away, saying, 'Father, I am the only one left!' He felt severe sadness. We must know this fact.

Heaven felt that Elijah, hiding after being driven away and pursued, was more precious than the numerous Israelites. He placed more hope in him than in the land of Israel. We must stop to think about Elijah, who pleaded with God to render a final decision in the wilderness where he could not choose the right direction, in utter exhaustion and having lost all hope. Furthermore, we must know God, who guided the Israelites and toiled to seek out and set up Elijah. He helped Elijah by performing various types of miracles when he was in trouble and lent him a helping hand from the time of his youth. The heart of Heaven in relation to Elijah came to be buried in grief.

Elijah walked for forty days and forty nights until he reached Mt. Horeb. There he went into a cave and fell asleep. He was in a pitiable condition, like the remnants of a defeated troop. Heaven again came looking for Elijah, who had run away for his comfort after breaking away from the path of God's guidance. Of the sleeping Elijah, God asked, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' Elijah replied, 'I have been very jealous for Heaven. But I am a weaker person than my ancestors.' His words did not comfort God.

However, God made Elijah stand on the mountain in His presence and advised him in many different ways. God advised him by means of creating strong winds and earthquakes and through fire...Later, God appeared to Elijah and called him in the quiet. Elijah responded, 'Father, the Israelites have put your prophets to death. I am the only one left. I cannot go on any farther. What can I do in this situation where I am being pursued and driven out?' To this, God said, 'Though Israel is in the hands of Ahab, there are more than seven thousand people who observe the law and get circumcised and whose knees have not bowed down to Baal. What do you think of them then?' This was the expression of the sorrowful heart Heaven had in relation to Elijah."

3/15/59

3) ELIJAH WAS A GREAT BUT IMPERFECT FORESHADOWING OF THE GREAT AND PERFECT CHRIST.

FATHER'S WORDS:

"If Elijah had embraced the same heart as Jesus at the Garden of Gethsemane and at the summit of Golgotha, Heaven would have been relieved from a fragment of historical grief then and there. Since he could not do so, Heaven's sorrow was prolonged to Jesus' time.

What must we think of now? Since Jesus said we should become his friends and brides, each of us must think of becoming such a person. Furthermore, we must relieve Heaven from the historical han²³ that our ancestors caused. We must not leave to posterity the cause and occasion of lamentation and death. We must be able to leave the Golgotha of victory, not the Golgotha of death. You must know that Heaven is seeking a person who will assume such responsibility."

3/15/59

4) S WILL LEARN THAT THE BIBLE IS A PERSONAL LETTER FROM GOD TO EACH ONE OF US, SO THAT WE MAY COMPREHEND THE HEART OF HEAVEN.

FATHER'S WORDS:

"You must know the heart of Heaven, deeply touched by sorrow because of our ancestors. As I said before, even if you stand in the same situation as Elijah when he received all kinds of persecution and harassment by King Ahab, even if your life disappears in an ephemeral way, you must go forth holding only onto God, without bewailing your lot."

3/1/59

"The Bible is like a love-letter written by a bridegroom searching for his bride and containing many secret codes. Why does God write in code? It is because God is a God of heart. Not everyone is meant to decipher the Bible; only the bride and bridegroom should be able to decipher it. In other words, only those who have prepared themselves to attend the Lord with a heart akin to God's heart can decipher the Bible; to anyone else it is an impenetrable mystery."

²³ Han is a historical grudge, built up over time.

2/14/60

5) GOD WANTS EACH OF US TO BE LIKE ELIJAH AND USE OUR PRECIOUS LIVES FOR THE GLORY OF HIS WILL.

FATHER'S WORDS:

"The people who shed tears on behalf of Heaven, holding onto the world when the people of the nation are corrupt and the world is in utter confusion are the successors to Elijah on the world level. Such people can stand before Heaven on behalf of the Israelites for whom Elijah felt concern. If you strut proudly, saying, 'Elijah is Elijah, and I am I,' you will meet with destruction. We must become those who can cry and feel sorrow together with Heaven."

3/15/59

LESSON #33: ISAIAH, THE FORETELLER OF THE SUFFERING SERVANT

OBJECTIVES (WHAT ARE THE TAKEAWAY POINTS FOR S LIFE OF FAITH?):

1) S WILL GAIN A BASIC OVERVIEW OF THE BOOK OF ISAIAH, AND OF THE MAN WHO WAS CONSIDERED THE GREATEST OF THE MESSIANIC PROPHETS.²⁴

BIBLE VERSES:

- Isaiah 6:1-8

2) S WILL LEARN THE ASTONISHING ACCURACY OF ISAIAH'S PREDICTIONS REGARDING THE COMING OF CHRIST.

BIBLE VERSES:

THE PROPHECY	THE FULFILLMENT
The Messiah:	Jesus of Nazareth:
Will be born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14)	Was born of a virgin named Mary (Luke 1:26-31)
Will have a Galilean ministry (Isaiah 9:1,2)	Ministry began in Galilee of the Gentiles (Matthew 4:13-16)
Will be an heir to the throne of David (Isaiah 9:7; 11:1, 10)	Was given the throne of His father David (Luke 1:32, 33)
Will have His way prepared (Isaiah 40:3-5)	Was announced by John the Baptist (John 1:19-28)
Will be spat on and struck (Isaiah 50:6)	Was spat on and beaten (Matthew 26:67)
Will be exalted (Isaiah 52:13)	Was highly exalted by God and the People (Philippians 2:9, 10)
Will be disfigured by suffering (Isaiah 52:14; 53:2)	Was scourged by Roman soldiers who gave Him a crown of thorns (Mark 15:15,19)
Will make a blood atonement (Isaiah 53:5)	Shed His blood to atone for our sins (1Peter 1:2)
Will be widely rejected (Isaiah 53:1,3)	Was not accepted by many (John 12:37, 38)
Will bear our sins and sorrows (Isaiah 53:4, 5)	Died because of our sins (Romans 4:25; 1Peter 2:24- 25)
Will be our substitute (Isaiah 53:6,8)	Died in our place (Romans 5:6, 8; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
Will voluntarily accept our guilt and punishment for sin (Isaiah 53:7,8)	Jesus took on our sins (John 1:29; Romans 6:10; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
Gentiles will seek Him (Isaiah 11:10)	Gentiles came to speak to Jesus (John 12:20,21)
Will be silent before His accusers (Isaiah 53:7)	Was silent before Herod and his court (Luke 23:9)

²⁴ Isaiah is often called "The Messianic Prophet." He is called this because he records many prophecies of the coming of the Messiah into the world.

Will save us who believe in Him (Isaiah 53:12)	Provided salvation for all who believe (John 3:16; Acts 16:31)
Will die with transgressors (Isaiah 53:12)	Was numbered with the transgressors (Mark 15:27, 28; Luke 22:37)
Will heal the brokenhearted (Isaiah 61:1,2)	Healed the brokenhearted (Luke 4:18, 19)
God's Spirit will rest on Him (Isaiah 11:2)	The Spirit of God descended on Jesus (Matthew 3:16; Mark 1:10; Luke 3:22; 4:1)
Will be buried in a rich man's tomb (Isaiah 53:9)	Was buried in the tomb of Joseph, a rich man from Arimathea (Matthew 27:57-60; John 19:38-42)
He will judge the earth with righteousness (Isaiah 11:4,5)	Jesus was given authority to judge (John 5:27; Luke 19:22; 2 Timothy 4:1,8)

Isaiah prophesied during the rule of four different kings of Judah. They were Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah (Isaiah 1:1). Isaiah was probably born in Jerusalem about 760 B.C. He likely began prophesying about 740 B.C.

He was God's spokesman to Judah for fifty years or even longer. Isaiah lived and preached during a very important time in the world's history. During most of his lifetime, Assyria was the most powerful nation on earth. Babylon was only beginning to gain strength as a nation. While Isaiah lived in Judah, Romulus and Remus were beginning the city of Rome. The Greek cities of Athens and Sparta were just being built. It was during Isaiah's lifetime that the Northern Kingdom, Israel, was taken into captivity by the Assyrians in 721 B.C.

During most of the time that Isaiah preached to God's people, the nation of Judah was very prosperous. People forgot about God because they were so involved in the things of this world (Isaiah 59:1-8). The rich people lived in luxury and idleness. The poor suffered from lack of food and clothing (Isaiah 3:14,15; 32:9-15). Many of the people were drunkards (Isaiah 5:11,12, 22, 23; 28:7,8). The women were just as bad as the men. They were lazy and were drunkards also (Isaiah. 3:16-26). Government officials were corrupt. They used their offices to oppress the poor (Isaiah 1:21-23). Even the prophets failed to do the job God had given them. Instead of rebuking sin and delivering God's message, they preached what the people wanted to hear (Isaiah 9:14-16; 30:8-14).

The Book of Isaiah can be seen as a microcosm of the Bible. Isaiah contains 66 chapters- the first 39 focus on judgment; the last 27 deal mostly with redemption. Additionally, the first 39 chapters of Isaiah correspond with the Old Testament in pointing to the coming Messiah. The last 27 chapters parallel the New Testament in dealing with the Messiah and his messianic kingdom.

3) S WILL BE ABLE TO RECONCILE THE CONTRASTING PROPHECIES OF MESSIANIC SUFFERING AND TRIUMPH IN THE BOOK OF ISAIAH THROUGH THE DUAL PROPHECY PRINCIPLE.

FATHER'S WORDS:

- Exposition of the Divine Principle, Part 1, Chapter 4, Section 1.5

LESSON #34: "JEREMIAH: PROPHET TO THE NATIONS"

OBJECTIVES (WHAT ARE THE TAKEAWAY POINTS FOR S LIFE OF FAITH?):

1) S WILL LEARN THAT JEREMIAH'S PROPHETIC ROLE ENCOMPASSED THE REIGN OF THE LAST FIVE KINGS OF JUDAH (626-586 B.C.) DESPITE HIS PREACHING, JEREMIAH HAD TO WITNESS THE COLLAPSE AND CAPTIVITY OF JUDAH BY THE BABYLONIANS.²⁵

BIBLE VERSES:

- 2 Kings 25
- Jeremiah 39
- Jeremiah 52

2) S WILL LEARN THAT JEREMIAH HAD A LONG-ENDURING, VERY CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH HIS CREATOR. GOD COMMISSIONED JEREMIAH FROM HIS MOTHER'S WOMB FOR HIS PROPHETIC APPOINTMENT.

BIBLE VERSE:

- Jeremiah 1:5

FATHER'S WORDS:

"What should you do in order to become a filial son or daughter? You should always keep your mind and heart in line with the direction of your parents' heart. A child who walks the path of filial piety does not act apart from his parents. If his parents go east, he goes east, and if his parents go west, he goes west. Should his parents suddenly turn back, he turns back without dissent. Even if they change their direction ten times, he still follows them."

12/18/85

3) S WILL LEARN THROUGH THE EXAMPLE OF THE POTTER AND THE CLAY THAT GOD ALONE IS SOVEREIGN; HE HAS AUTHORITY AND POWER TO FORM KINGDOMS AND NATIONS AS HE PLEASES. HIS RULES OF JUSTICE AND GOODNESS ARE UNCHANGING.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Jeremiah 18:1-17
- Romans 9:19-21
- Job 42:2

4) S WILL LEARN THAT JEREMIAH'S MINISTRY IS AS RELEVANT FOR US TODAY AS IT WAS IN THE TIME OF ANCIENT ISRAEL. OBEDIENCE TO GOD IS THE MASTER KEY TO HUMAN SURVIVAL, ON THE INDIVIDUAL AS WELL AS THE NATIONAL LEVEL.

²⁵ Northern Israel was destroyed by Assyria in 722 B.C. Therefore, in Jeremiah's time, only half of the original kingdom existed. Judah lasted @ 130 years more, and was destroyed by Babylon in 586 B.C. Jeremiah witnessed the end of the nation of the Jewish nation that had been united by King David.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Jeremiah 7:23
- Luke 11:28

FATHER'S WORDS:

"There are three types of obedience. One is just to obey whatever is told you. The next type is to obey while always eagerly seeking to know God, Truth, and the why of things. The third type is obedience after knowing the heart of the Father."

5/1/65

5) S WILL LEARN THAT WHILE THE BIBLE PROMISES PUNISHMENT FOR TRANSGRESSIONS OF DIVINE LAW, IT ALSO PROMISES A KINGDOM OF PEACE AND PROSPERITY MADE POSSIBLE BY THE COMING OF CHRIST.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Jeremiah 23:5
- Mark 1:15

FATHER'S WORDS:

"In the future there will be no fighting. Up to now we have had useless fights centering on the self. People fought to rob each other. In the unified world under God's sovereignty where people live for the sake of others, there will be no need for wars. Brothers do not need to rob each other; rather a needy person will have to run away as others try to give him more than he can use... Laws will all disappear. When all people govern themselves by love, they will observe the law automatically. If all people practice love for the sake of others, there will be no crime. Higher and lower become one, and front and back, left and right, all become one."

11/24/91

LESSON #35: "DANIEL, THE COURAGEOUS PROPHET"

OBJECTIVES (WHAT ARE THE TAKEAWAY POINTS FOR S LIFE OF FAITH?):

1) S WILL LEARN THAT THE BOOK OF DANIEL IS AN HISTORICAL ACCOUNT OF THE FAITHFUL JEWS WHO LIVED DURING THE TIME OF THE BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Daniel 1

2) S WILL LEARN THAT DANIEL WAS A COURAGEOUS YOUNG MAN WHO DEMONSTRATED GREAT FAITH AND TRUST IN GOD. REGARDLESS OF THE OUTCOME, HE AND OTHER RIGHTEOUS JEWS FOUGHT AGAINST EVIL BY REMAINING LOYAL TO THE GOD OF ISRAEL.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Daniel 3

FATHER'S WORDS:

"The world is evil; therefore, if you live without colliding with the world, you are an evil person. You live in a fallen realm; therefore, if you are living your life like a fish caught in a net, you are an evil person. If you just continue with your life instead of confronting the world's evils, you are an evil person. Since you know that the present-day world is an evil world, you must fight against it.

Why? It is because humans fell. Having fallen from our original position, you must climb back up, and in order to climb back up, you must struggle through it. It will not do to stay still. Otherwise, you will never be able to greet the new world that humankind desires. You will not leave a mark of goodness in history, and history will not be able to progress. That is why, as people who would advance the cause of goodness, you must fight."

8/1/70

3) S WILL LEARN THAT DANIEL'S QUIET CONVICTION OF FAITH EARNED LONG-TERM RESPECT FROM KINGS OF NATIONS.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Daniel 6

FATHER'S WORDS:

"I want you to know that precious things, like diamonds, carry their own power and value. Others see that value and respect it and are moved by it. Who is the more precious person, one who is influenced by others or one who can influence others? What kind of person are you? Among those who influence others, the person having the best influence is the most precious person."

5/9/82

4) S WILL LEARN OF THE NUMEROUS MESSIANIC PROPHECIES IN THE BOOK OF DANIEL.

BIBLE VERSES:

Subject	Prophecy	Fulfillment
<u>The Messiah would ascend into heaven.</u>	<u>Daniel 7:13-14a</u>	<u>Acts 1:9-11</u>
<u>The Messiah would be highly exalted.</u>	<u>Daniel 7:13-14b</u>	<u>Ephesians 1:20-22</u>
<u>The Messiah's dominion would be everlasting.</u>	<u>Daniel 7:13-14c</u>	<u>Luke 1:31-33</u>
<u>The Messiah would come to make an end to sins.</u>	<u>Daniel 9:24a</u>	<u>Galatians 1:3-5</u>
<u>The Messiah would be holy.</u>	<u>Daniel 9:24b</u>	<u>Luke 1:35</u>
<u>The Messiah would be announced to his people 483 years, to the exact day, after the decree to rebuild the city of Jerusalem.</u>	<u>Daniel 9:25</u>	<u>John 12:12-13</u>
<u>The Messiah would be killed.</u>	<u>Daniel 9:26a</u>	<u>Matthew 27:35</u>
<u>The Messiah would die for the sins of the world.</u>	<u>Daniel 9:26b</u>	<u>Hebrews 2:9</u>
<u>The Messiah would be killed before the destruction of the temple.</u>	<u>Daniel 9:26c</u>	<u>Matthew 27:50-51</u>
<u>A vision of the Messiah in a glorified state.</u>	<u>Daniel 10:5-6</u>	<u>Revelation 1:13-16</u>

5) S WILL GAIN THE UNDERSTANDING THROUGH THE BOOK OF DANIEL THAT GOD ALONE IS SOVEREIGN IN HISTORY AND OVER HUMAN AFFAIRS.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Daniel 2:20-23
- Daniel 5

FATHER'S WORDS:

"Father! Mayest Thou become the Lord of this heaven and earth which have no lord: the center who can be responsible for this nation and lead it to its future destiny, the center of our families' hopes, and our individual hopes. What the world needs, the nation needs, the family needs and the individual needs art Thou, our Father, the Lord who created all of heaven and earth. Thou art the Being of infinite might. Thou art the omnipotent Being, unlimited in the world of time and space, the Creator of everything. Thou art the Subject Partner endowing everything with meaning. Everything exists according to its destined relationship with Thee..."

7/9/72

"God is almighty. It was not due to His shortcoming or lack of ability that He has been imprisoned in great pain and has endured immense suffering behind the scenes of history. It was because there are provisions in the Principle of Restoration, which He was not free to disclose, that called Him to wait with forbearance until Adam and Eve's positions, lost at the human fall, were recovered with the appearance of the perfected Second Adam. Although God is all-powerful, He will not set aside the eternal laws and principles that He Himself established."

9/12/05

LESSON #36: "ESTHER: BRAVE AND SELFLESS QUEEN"

OBJECTIVES (WHAT ARE THE TAKEAWAY POINTS FOR S LIFE OF FAITH?):

1) S WILL LEARN THE EVENTS OF THE BOOK OF ESTHER.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Esther 1-10

2) ESTHER IS REMEMBERED AS A WOMAN OF GREAT WISDOM BECAUSE SHE ACTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOD'S TIMING RATHER THAN HER OWN.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Esther 5:1-8
- Ecclesiastes 1:1-7
- Proverbs 10:19

FATHER'S WORDS:

"Which is the good side? The good side waits for a long time, keeps patience for a long time and keeps hope for a long time. The evil side has no patience. If it is at a disadvantage, it will try to punch the other and jump to action at once. The good stays patient and endures even through struggle and frustration. Whatever comes, it maintains hope and does not fall into despair."

5/21/77

3) S WILL LEARN THAT ONE KEY ASPECT OF ESTHER'S VICTORY WAS THE FACT THAT SHE DEMONSTRATED UNCONDITIONAL RESPECT TOWARDS HER HUSBAND, KING AHASUERUS, WHILE MAINTAINING HER FAITH IN GOD.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Esther 1:20
- Ephesians 5:33

FATHER'S WORDS:

"When a wife is as happy to see her husband as she is to see the Lord or King, she carries the value of God's object. If you are God's object, you have the same value as God. When you completely love the King, Lord and God, your love can penetrate anywhere. Therefore, these three kinds of love are like a crystalline lens. True love can unite all the creation."

"Blessing and Ideal Family"

BOOK OF ESTHER SUMMARY

Chapter 1

Ahasuerus rules Persia. He holds feast – it is lavishly described (rather unusually given the narrative minimalism of most of the rest of the OT). Queen Vashti holds a parallel feast for the women. When merry with drink, Ahasuerus demands that Vashti come and show off her beauty to his guests. Queen Vashti refuses, making Xerxes angry. His counsellors express concern that Vashti's insubordination will set a bad precedent for wives everywhere. They advise that she is replaced so the right message is sent out across the land.

Chapter 2

Ahasuerus looks for new queen, with many virgins brought before him. Esther (brought up by Mordecai, her cousin) is prepared, presented, chosen and made queen. Esther conceals her Jewish identity. Mordecai saves Ahasuerus' life by revealing a conspiracy against him by two of his eunuchs, Bigthan and Teresh.

Chapter 3

Haman is promoted, and gains respect. Mordecai does not bow to Haman. Haman angry, and seeks to kill not only Mordecai, but all Jews. Haman obtains permission from the king to issue a decree to kill all Jews, on the pretext that they separated themselves from the rest of the land and did not observe the king's laws. The date of the killing is set for the thirteenth day of the twelfth month.

Chapter 4

Mordecai and Jews learn about the decree and mourn with sackcloth and ashes. Mordecai informs Esther of law, and advises her to speak with king. Esther resolves to do so, despite the fact that she risks death for approaching the king uninvited. (She has been called to the king for thirty days.) The Jews fast for three days.

Chapter 5

Esther visits king. The king welcomes her, holding out his sceptre to her, to indicate that she will not be killed. Esther invites king and Haman to a feast. At the feast, Esther asks that the king and Haman come to another feast on the following day. Haman is frustrated by Mordecai's continued refusal to bow before him, so his wife Zeresh advises him to have a gallows built, and to request the king at the banquet to have Mordecai hung.

Chapter 6

One restless night when he asks the chronicles to be read to him, the king discovers that Mordecai was never rewarded for saving his life. The king asks Haman to lead the parade of honour for Mordecai. Haman mourns, is warned by his wife of Mordecai's rising status, and hurries to the banquet.

Chapter 7

Esther begs that her life, and the lives of the Jews may be spared. The king is angry. Haman pleads for his life before the queen – when the king enters, Haman trips onto her couch, so the king thinks he is assaulting her. Haman is hung on the very gallows that he made for Mordecai.

Chapter 8

Esther is given Haman's property, and Mordecai assumes Haman's place. Esther begs the king to save the Jews. The decree is irrevocable once ratified by the king, but a counter-decree is issued allowing the Jews to protect themselves on the day they were scheduled for annihilation. When the Jews hear the news, they rejoice. Many in the land become Jews, because fear of the Jews fell on them.

Chapter 9

Jews defend themselves, killing 75,000 enemies. Mordecai is a very prominent citizen. At Esther's request, Haman's ten sons are hung. Jews celebrate victory, and Purim is declared an annual festival for all Jews. 'Purim' is derived from 'pur' meaning 'lots', and refers to the lottery that Haman used to choose the date for the massacre.

Chapter 10

Ahasuerus' empire is strong. Mordecai is a popular and powerful ruler under Ahasuerus, and his story is recorded in official records.

THE STORY OF ESTHER – A SKIT

Adapted by Amy Updike from "The Story of Esther" by Connie Cook as found on Sugardoodle.net

LIST OF CHARACTERS

1. Narrators 1 & 2
2. Royal Messenger
3. King Ahasuerus
4. Esther
5. Mordecai
6. Haman
7. Maidens/People (non-speaking)
8. Servants (non-speaking)

NARRATION

Narrator stands on the side of the stage. Esther sits in a chair on the left, King sits in a chair on the right.

Narrator 1: Today you are going to hear a story about a beautiful young lady named Esther, who had great courage.

Narrator 2: Every March, all around the world, Jews celebrate Purim, a holiday to remind them of a time when the Jewish people living in Persia were saved from being killed. They fast, have a feast, and retell the story of how they were saved. As we tell this story today, do what the Jews do, and boo, hiss, or stamp your feet whenever you hear the name Haman. And then, cheer whenever you hear the names Esther or Mordecai.

Narrator 1: Long ago Jerusalem was invaded, the city was destroyed and many Jews were carried away as slaves into Persia. After many years, some of the Jews were allowed to go back, but some stayed in Persia even though they weren't treated well.

Narrator 2: One of these Jews still in Persia was a young girl named Esther. *(pause for cheers)* She was an orphan and was raised by her cousin, Mordecai *(cheers)*, who loved her like his own daughter.

Narrator 1: The king of Persia was named King Ahasuerus. One time he held a great feast. He called his for his wife to come to the feast, but she did not want to come. This made the King angry, and he sent her away and decided to find a new, more obedient, queen.

(The Royal messenger stands in front of a group of people)

Royal Messenger: The King desires a new queen. All beautiful young women are to be brought to the palace. The beautiful girl that pleases the King will become the new queen.

Narrator 2: Finally all the girls are gathered into the palace and dressed for the King. The girls are all presented to the king. After looking over all the maidens the King makes his choice.

(The king walks up and down a line of Maidens, looking at them.)

King: hummm... This is an easy choice. I choose this one. What is your name?

Esther: My name is Esther. I am honored to be your queen.

(Maidens all leave, looking sad. Except Esther.)

Narrator 1: Later that evening Esther meets with her cousin, Mordecai.

(Mordecai walks up to Esther)

Esther: Mordecai, did you hear? The king has chosen me to be his queen!

Mordecai: Yes, my child. Esther, you have been chosen. But don't forget that you are a Jew. Many people in this country hate the Jews. You must keep it a secret.

Esther: I will not tell anyone, not even the King.

(Esther sits in a chair. Mordecai walk off stage)

Narrator 1: Esther becomes the Queen and lives in the palace. She is a kind good person. Later, her cousin comes to warn her of something.

(Mordecai walks over to Esther.)

Mordecai: Esther, I over-heard two of the Kings guards talking. They were plotting to kill the King. You must get word to the King!

Esther: Do not worry, I will tell the King. *(Esther walks quickly over to the King)*

Narrator 2: Esther tells the King of the Plot and this saves his life. The King is grateful to Mordecai and to Esther. The King Promotes a man named Haman to be above all the princes in his court.

Haman: *(Stands on a chair in front of a group of people)* My name is Haman. I am a great person in the palace, and therefore all the servants must bow down to me.

(everyone but Mordecai bows down.)

Mordecai: I will not bow down to you. I know how much you hate the Jews and you are cruel to my people.

Haman: *(angry)* You must bow down to me.

Mordecai: *(Humbly)* I will not bow down to you.

(Haman stomps off stage, everyone leaves.)

Narrator 1: Haman is so mad that Mordecai won't bow down to him, he decides to punish all the Jews. He thinks of a plan and goes to the king.

(King Ahasuerus sits in a chair. Haman walks up to him and kneels before the king.)

Haman: My King, I have found that some people in our kingdom do not keep all the king's laws. If it pleases you, I will write a decree that they will all be destroyed, "both young and old, little children and women, in one day." If you will let me do this I will pay a large amount of silver into the king's treasuries.

King: Everyone should obey the laws, do what you think is best.

Narrator 2: Haman writes a decree to everyone that on a certain day all the Jews will be put to death.

(Haman hands the King a piece of paper and the King signs it. King hands the paper back to Haman. Haman struts off, very proud of himself.)

Mordecai: *(Walks up to Esther)* Esther, only you can help us. Haman is going to kill all of our people. You must go tell the king.

Esther: I want to help. But I do not dare present myself to the King. I am only allowed to see the King if he asks for me and I haven't been called to see the King for over 30 days! If I go to see him without him asking for me, he could have me killed.

Mordecai: But you must! Maybe this is why you are the queen at THIS time, to save our people. You are our only hope.

Esther: *(Thinks about it. Takes a deep breath, then says with courage)* OK.... I will, "If I perish, I perish." Please have everyone fast and pray for me for three days. I need Heavenly Fathers help. With everyone's prayers and the Lords help, I can do this.

Mordecai: Yes, Esther. All the Jews will fast and pray for you. *(Mordecai leaves)*

Narrator 1: After 3 days of fasting and prayer, Esther puts on her finest clothes and enters the Kings court. If he is pleased to see her, he would raise his golden scepter and she would not be killed. She stands in front of King Ahasuerus and waits. She hardly dares to breathe when the King looks up. He sees her and holds out his scepter to her, allowing her to come to him.

(The king is sitting in a chair, Esther waits. The king raises his scepter, she walks up to the king's chair.)

King: *(Surprised)* Esther, I am glad to see you. I offer you whatever you want, even if it is half of the kingdom.

Esther: Let the King and Haman come to a banquet that I have prepared. Then I will tell you what I desire.

Narrator 2: Haman was thrilled to be invited to eat with Esther and the King. *(Esther leaves, the Kings stays seated there.)*

(Haman speaks to a couple servants)

Haman: Servants! I have been invited to eat with the Queen and King. Mordecai still refuses to bow down to me. I will not have it! He must show me respect. I order you to build a gallows to hang Mordecai from.

(Servants Nod "yes", then rush off)

Narrator 1: The servants get busy building the gallows, and the King goes to bed for the night. The King cannot sleep. He remembers that Mordecai saved his life.

(King sits up and yells to his Royal Messenger)

King: Royal Messenger! *(Royal Messenger runs in)* I recall a man named Mordecai that saved my life. Was he ever rewarded for this?

Royal Messenger: No, nothing was done for him.

Narrator 2: At that moment, Haman enters the court hoping to speak to the king about hanging Mordecai from the newly built gallows. *(Haman enters)*

King: Haman, what should be done for a man that makes the king happy?

Narrator 1: Haman, smiles because he thinks the King is talking about him.

Haman: *(Smugly)* I think that this person should be dressed in royal clothing, and the crown put upon his head. The Kings horse should carry him throughout the city, with someone shouting to the people how much the king wants to honor him.

King: Great idea! Quickly Haman, go and get the Jew Mordecai, and do all this for him.

(Haman hangs his head and walks out. Messenger leaves.)

Narrator 2: Haman was shocked. There was nothing to do but obey. Instead of hanging Mordecai, Haman had to lead him around on the Kings horse dressed in royal clothing, and shout out wonderful things about him. After escorting Mordecai around, Haman was very upset. He hurried and dressed for the banquet. They all sit down at the banquet...

(Esther, King, Haman, Mordecai and all others sit together at a feast)

King: Esther, this food is wonderful, but you still haven't told me what you request.

Esther: If it pleases the King, please spare my life and that of my people, for I am a Jew we are about to be slain.

King: I don't understand. Who wants to kill you or the Jews?

Esther: The person is Haman. The decree he had you sign will allow all Jews to be killed and myself, oh King. I know a king's decree cannot be changed, but could you please allow the Jews to defend themselves on that terrible day they are to be slaughtered?

King: What!?! *(Turning to Haman)* Haman! You tricked your King! *(to the servants)* Take him away!

(Servants grab Haman and take him roughly offstage.)

(Looking at Mordecai) Mordecai! I hereby allow the Jews to arm themselves and fight against any who try to harm them.

Narrator 1: The king was very angry at Haman, and he ended up suffering death on the very gallows he built for Mordecai.

Narrator 2: Because of the fasting and the prayers of the Jews, and Esther's great courage, the King changed the order and the Jews were all saved.

LESSON #37: "MALACHI: THE LAST PROPHET"

OBJECTIVES (WHAT ARE THE TAKEAWAY POINTS FOR S LIFE OF FAITH?):

1) DURING THE TIME OF MALACHI (@430 B.C.), THE TEMPLE HAD BEEN REBUILT FOR ALMOST A CENTURY. EVEN SO, THE ISRAELITES WERE ONCE AGAIN FALLING INTO FAITHLESSNESS AND BECOMING SPIRITUALLY CORRUPT.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Malachi:1-4²⁶

2) S WILL LEARN MALACHI PROPHESED THAT GOD WOULD SEND THE MESSENGER ELIJAH TO PREPARE THE ISRAELITES FOR THE COMING OF HIS SON.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Malachi 3:1
- Malachi 4:5-6
- Matthew 11:13-15
- Mark 1:2-4
- Luke 1:17

FATHER'S WORDS:

"Let us look into the Old Testament and examine the prophecy of Malachi: 'Look, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers...' (Mal. 4:5-6). The people of Israel knew God's promise clearly. They knew it by heart. And they expected the coming of Elijah before the Messiah appeared. When the Messiah did come, naturally they asked, 'Where is Elijah?'

Elijah had been a prophet who performed miraculous works about 900 years before Christ. And it was written he ascended into heaven in a chariot of fire. Since Elijah ascended into heaven, he was expected to return from heaven. Did such a miracle happen before the coming of Jesus? Did the people hear any news about the arrival of Elijah? No, they did not. But what they did hear one day was the voice of Jesus Christ declaring that he was the only begotten 'Son of God.' And Jesus spoke not timidly, but with authority and power. Such a man could not be ignored."

10/28/73

3) S WILL UNDERSTAND THAT THE PROPHET MALACHI PROPHESED DUAL DESTINIES FOR HUMANKIND BASED ON THEIR ACCEPTANCE OR REJECTION OF GOD'S WILL.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Malachi 4:5-6
- Deuteronomy 28

²⁶ T can cite (or ask S to locate) numerous examples of faithlessness and corruption depicted throughout the book.

FATHER'S WORDS:

- Exposition of the Divine Principle, Part 1, Chapter 4, Section 1.5

4) S WILL LEARN THAT GOD DESIRES OBEDIENCE TO HIS WILL, IN ORDER THAT HE MAY FULFILL THE DESIRES OF HIS HEART AS FIRST EXPRESSED IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN.

BIBLE VERSES:

- 1 Samuel 15:22
- Malachi 2:15
- Genesis 1:27-28

FATHER'S WORDS:

"There are three types of obedience. One is just to obey whatever is told you. The next type is to obey while always eagerly seeking to know God, Truth, and the why of things. The third type is obedience after knowing the heart of the Father."

5/1/65

"God only had one dream, which is to realize the ideal of love. However, God cannot accomplish this dream on His own. Neither love, nor happiness, nor joy can be achieved by one entity. They can never be realized without partnership."

CSG p. 317

LESSON #38: "GOD'S COMING KINGDOM"

OBJECTIVES (WHAT ARE THE TAKEAWAY POINTS FOR S LIFE OF FAITH?):

1) S WILL LEARN THAT GOD LABORED FOR 4000 YEARS TO PREPARE ISRAEL AS A COVENANTAL²⁷ NATION. ISRAEL WAS THE PREPARED ENVIRONMENT THROUGH WHICH GOD INTENDED TO ESTABLISH HIS KINGDOM ON EARTH.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Genesis 1:28
- Hosea 6:7 (Edenic Covenant)
- Genesis 9:1-17 (Noahic Covenant)
- Genesis 12:1-3, Genesis 12:7-9 (Abrahamic Covenant)
- Exodus 19:3-6 (Mosaic Covenant)
- 2 Sam. 7:8-13 (Davidic Covenant)

2) S WILL LEARN THAT GOD EXPECTED ISRAEL TO MAINTAIN ITS COVENANTAL POSITION BY ACCEPTING AND FOLLOWING JESUS CHRIST, THE ONLY BEGOTTEN SON OF GOD.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Deuteronomy 11:1
- John 6:29

3) S WILL LEARN THAT THE OLD TESTAMENT COVENANT IS BASED ON THE LAW, BUT THE NEW TESTAMENT COVENANT IS BASED ON THE SAVING GRACE OF CHRIST. THROUGH THE NEW COVENANT, GOD WILL WRITE THE LAW ON THE HEARTS OF THOSE OF US WHO ACCEPT JESUS AS OUR LORD AND SAVIOR, AND NEVER AGAIN REMEMBER OUR SINS.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Jeremiah 31:31-34
- Hebrews 8:7-12
- Ephesians 2:8

FATHER'S WORDS:

"Almighty God is the God of love and the God of mercy. He is deeply concerned and grieved over the living death of His children. He knows that people are incapable of breaking their chains and getting rid of their sin by their own efforts. He knows that only one power can bring people to salvation—God Himself. And God, in His mercy, is determined to save this world."

9/18/74

²⁷ A covenant is a sacred agreement between God and a person or group of people. God sets specific conditions, and He promises to bless us as we obey those conditions. When we choose not to keep covenants, we cannot receive the blessings, and in some instances we suffer a penalty as a consequence of our disobedience.

4) BECAUSE CHRIST DIED BEFORE ESTABLISHING GOD'S PHYSICAL LINEAGE ON EARTH, THE SUBSTANTIAL KINGDOM ON EARTH WILL BE REALIZED THROUGH THE SECOND COMING.

BIBLE VERSES:

- Matthew 16:27-28
 - Matthew 24:36
 - Amos 3:7
 - Revelation 19:11-16
-

FATHER'S WORDS:

"The Messiah comes with a clear mission: to complete God's Will by fulfilling the purpose for which God created humankind. The failure of Adam and Eve broke this purpose, preventing God from establishing His Kingdom in the beginning. Therefore, the Messiah comes with the mission to attain the perfection that Adam did not attain and to complete the Will of God that Adam did not complete. Thus, the Messiah comes to consummate the Will of God on earth."

2/27/77

LESSON PLAN TEMPLATE

Lesson # ____ :

(Lesson Title) _____ - _____

OBJECTIVES (What are the takeaway points for S life of faith?):

1)

Bible Verses:

Father's Words:

2)

Bible Verses:

Father's Words:

3)

Bible Verses:

Father's Words:

PROCESS (Order of lesson, including questions and discussion points):

ACTIVITY:

MATERIALS NEEDED:

FOLLOW-UP: