

## Life Applications

*But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.  
For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer,  
he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror.  
For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like.  
But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres,  
being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts,  
he will be blessed in his doing.*

*James 1:22-25*

Life applications put Sunday school lessons into practice. With these as part of the lesson plan, teachers and students make a commitment to live God's word every day. In many respects this is what Sunday schooling is about. It is what life is about. And it is not as hard as it sounds.

Chose one thing that is related to the lesson.

Talk about it. Pray about it together.

Try to do it in the week ahead.

Encourage each other in the doing.

Be blessed in the doing.

And share the outcome with everyone next week.

## Abraham, Sarah, and the Promised Seed – Genesis 17, 18, 21

Ishmael was a self-willed son. Yet Abraham interceded for him and prayed that he might live before God – Genesis 17:18-21.

- Reach out to a Sunday school member who shows no interest in the truth or doesn't attend regularly. Send notes, cards, and Bible-related mementos to let them know that you are thinking of them. Do the same for potential Sunday school members who have no present commitment to the truth. Pray for these children. Involve the active members of your Sunday school in these expressions of concern. Be discrete.

Abraham entertained angels unawares. It was the turning point in his long wait for the promised seed – Genesis 18:1-8.

- Look at Genesis 18:1-8 and Hebrews 13:1-3. Plan and carry out an act of kindness for a neighbor, a contact, or any person who comes to your attention. It is impossible to know what blessings you may receive as a result of your kindness. Help the children understand this lesson of living.
- Jesus will send his angels to gather the elect when he returns – Matthew 24:31. Will our willingness to show hospitality to strangers play a role in our deliverance at that time? Think about Lot's willingness to show hospitality to the two strangers who came to Sodom. They turned out to be the angels who rescued him from

destruction – Genesis 19:1-3ff. Discuss ways to show hospitality to others, even strangers. Follow up on this.

How do you balance being kind to strangers with the need to be wary of strangers in the sick world of the 21<sup>st</sup> century? Talk about this.

Sarah showed respect for Abraham in her heart – Genesis 18:12; cp. 1 Peter 3:1-6. Later she rejoiced in the birth of the promised seed – Genesis 21:6.

- Have the children list ways of showing proper respect for parents, ecclesial members, and others. Focus on one or two things to improve on. How does this train us to show proper respect for God and Jesus?
- Have the children think of reasons to rejoice over the birth of Christ. Then offer a class prayer of thanksgiving for him.
- Plan a Sunday School “Laugh with Sarah” party – Genesis 21:6. Have refreshments, and have students tell reasons why they are glad that God sent Jesus into the world and will send him back again. Clap and cheer! This could be a fun way to follow up a lesson on the birth of Isaac.