

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.

The Sacrifice of Isaac – Genesis 22

Abraham believed in the promises of God and acted with complete faith when God called on him to do the unthinkable: sacrifice Isaac. Abraham understood the implications of the promises: God would have to raise the promised seed from the dead – Genesis 22:1-5; Hebrews 11:17-19; James 2:21-22.

- Nothing will prevent the fulfillment of God's promises, including things that seem unthinkable to us. This is important to keep in mind if our faith is to remain firm in the days ahead.

Case in point. As Christadelphians we try to interpret signs of the times as we watch for Christ's return. But we don't understand everything, and we still have to live by faith. History takes twists and turns that God controls, not man, and when the end comes it won't be by a simple evolution of human events. It will be God's abrupt intervention in world affairs.

Here is an activity to do with older teens and adults. Based on Bible prophecy, try to define what we expect will happen with some of the following, leading up to Christ's return: the State of Israel, Russia, the Arabs, the western world, the eastern world, the third world, Islam, and Christianity. Then think the unthinkable. Will our faith in the promises of God be strong enough to endure if one of our expectations is completely overturned before Christ comes? Talk about it and pray about it.

- God's promises are designed to give us the confidence – faith – we need to deal with life's problems. Having given us His promises, God tests our faith with problems. List the promises of God given in the Bible. Note their eternal nature. Then brainstorm a list of personal problems that you and the children face. Note their temporary nature. Place the lists side by side. How do the promises of God assure us that every one of life's problems will be solved? Pray for a faith like Abraham's that is able to keep problems in perspective, knowing that God will solve them forever.
- Death is the biggest problem we face. Talk about it with the children. Let them share experiences they have had with death. Let them express their fears and concerns. Be sure they understand what death is and then talk about resurrection from the dead. Look at some Bible passages. Also help the children identify ways that God has built lessons of death and resurrection into daily life: sleep and waking; winter and spring, etc. This is reassuring. Talk about the fact that the death and resurrection of Jesus are intended to take away our fear of death – Hebrews 2:15. Look at the confidence Abraham had when faced with the death of Isaac – Genesis 22:5 and Hebrews 11:19. Strengthen the children's faith in the promises of God.