

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.

Like Father, Unlike Son Hezekiah – 2 Kings 16, 18-21 & 2 Chronicles 28-33

From one generation to the next, "the apple does not fall very far from the tree." Is this always true? From a spiritual standpoint, Ahaz was a bad king. His son, Hezekiah, was a good king. And his son, Manasseh, was another bad king. Why does faith skip generations like this?

- Identify factors that affect our spiritual thinking. Which ones are good? Which ones are bad? Make two lists.

Here are some passages to consider: 1 Kings 12:6-11; 2 Kings 12:2, cp. 2 Chronicles 24:15-19; Nehemiah 4:6; Proverbs 31:10, 27-28; Matthew 6:19-21; Matthew 13:18-19; Matthew 13:20-21; Matthew 13:22; Matthew 23:23; Acts 13:6-8; Acts 13:21-22; Acts 16:13-15; Romans 9:10-16; 1 Corinthians 15:33-34; 2 Timothy 1:5.

Do we have a choice in the matter? Identify something from the good list to pray about and focus on. Identify something from the bad list to pray about and strive against. Teacher included. In a week or two, revisit the lists and find out how everyone is doing.

- Talk and pray about these questions:

- 1 – How do we draw the line between being obedient to parents and not following their example when it is bad? Read Ephesians 6:1-4 and Colossians 3:20-25. What is the responsibility of children? What is the responsibility of fathers?
- 2 – Read Proverbs 1:7-9. When does v.8 apply? When can't it apply?
- 3 – At what point do we become responsible for what we do, regardless of what other family members say and do? To whom are we ultimately responsible for what we do?
- 4 – Does growing up and becoming an adult give us the liberty to act by a different moral standard than is required of us when we are young? What standard?