

# THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY

## CHILDREN'S MEETING LESSON

**DATE:** December 2, 2018

**SUBJECT: HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS: TEACHERS (1 of 3)—The Importance of School**

**SCRIPTURE:** Acts 7:22; Daniel 1:4, 17-20; 2:49; Acts 22:3; Philippians 3:1-6

**AIM:** To impress the children that school is one of the most important parts of their lives. It is a great privilege which they should take advantage of. They should learn as much as they can because the knowledge they acquire today in school is not just for themselves but to prepare them for the Lord's use.

**MEMORY VERSES TO CHOOSE FROM:** Proverbs 1:7 (The fear of Jehovah is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction); Proverbs 3:13 (Blessed is the man who finds wisdom, and the man who gains understanding.); Daniel 2:23a (To You, O God of my fathers, I render thanks and praise, for You have given me wisdom and might;); Acts 7:22 (And Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and he was powerful in his words and works.)

**SUGGESTED SONGS:** 2201 (Educated In Egyptian Ways); 9311 *Bible Story Songs Daniel Song 11* (Let The Name of God Be Blessed); 9301 *BSS Daniel Song 1* (The King of Babylon Besieged); 68 (The Word Of God); 62 (All Scripture Is God-Breathed); 7 (I am a Very Special Child); 74 (Boys and Girls for Jesus); 3419 (I Want to Be More Like Jesus); 9538 (Vessels Unto Honor Song #18 (I must do this! I must do that!))

**CRAFT IDEAS:** Prepare puzzles such as word search, crossword or acrostics using words that pertain to school and learning.

**APPROACH:** Ask the children why is school so important? Do they have a favorite subject or school activity? How do they feel about homework?

### **CONTENT:**

#### **I. What is a school?**

A school is an institution or a place designed to provide learning spaces and learning environments for the teaching of students (or “pupils”) under the direction of teachers. Education is comprehensive (all-inclusive or all-embracing) as well as progressive (advancing or improving). It is divided into levels, from elementary school to high school, and college/university. In college you can get bachelor's degrees, master's degrees and doctorate degrees. There are different kinds of schools. Besides public and private, there are schools for people with special needs like the deaf or mute, the blind, as well as other kinds of handicaps. Some parents choose to teach their children at home, or homeschool their children for various reasons. All the schools serve one purpose—to educate people. Both those with various limitations, and those who have sound minds and healthy bodies all need the training and discipline that schooling provides.

#### **II. The importance of school (Why we go to school)**

- A. It is a privilege.** Going to school is not only a duty but also a great privilege. School was at one time offered only to the children of kings and the rich; now it is ours to enjoy. We must take advantage of this privilege and opportunity to learn. In the olden days, boys learned farming, carpentry, hunting, metalwork, etc., from their fathers or as an apprentice. Girls would learn from their mothers how to cook, sew, do laundry, preserve foods, clean the house and raise children. Parents who had never learned to read and write could not teach their children to do so. Parents who did read and write often taught their children to read as well. In some countries today, it is still very difficult for children to get a proper education. Some countries are in the midst of war and much violence, and schools and homes are destroyed. It is not safe to go to school. Other children are taken out of school in order to work. In some regions of the world, they suffer a shortage of teachers, and in some countries, they allow the advanced education of boys but not girls. It is a real privilege to be able to go to school in a safe environment and to be educated.

- B. To gain knowledge.** In school, children can learn things that their parents may have never learned or even seen. (1) Educational trips are frequently planned, such as trips to museums, conservatories, planetariums, etc. (2) There are programs that make possible the exchange of students with those from other countries. (3) In school, students are trained and disciplined to develop a well-balanced character. (4) School provides an environment to learn, play, and get along with others of different backgrounds and with different personalities. (5) In school, students are trained to cultivate or develop mental abilities through problem solving, reading comprehension, spelling, etc. Quizzes and tests force students to study hard in order to retain what they have learned. (6) In school, the knowledge students have gained will prepare and equip them for the future. If they learn to work and study well now, they will have better opportunities to get better jobs.

In addition to all of the above, the knowledge which students gain during their school years will prepare them to be useful to the Lord. A well-trained, educated person can be a help to others in their communities and beyond.

### **III. Examples of well-educated men in the Bible who were greatly used by the Lord.** *Depending on the age group, it may not be necessary to cover all the examples.*

In the Bible, we can see some examples of people who were well-educated and were greatly used by the Lord:

- A. Moses** (Acts 7:22)—Moses “was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and he was powerful in his words and works.” Because Moses was raised in Pharaoh’s palace, like a son of the King, he received the highest education and training. He must have studied many different subjects from the best teachers. In those days, the land of Egypt was the most advanced. Eventually, Moses was greatly used by God in many areas: Moses was used by God to deliver His people out of slavery. The Bible tells us that there were 600,000 men on foot (Exo. 12:37), so including women and children, and the elderly, some estimate that there were well above a million people that Moses led out of Egypt. This was not an easy task. God also gave Moses the Ten Commandments. God also revealed to Moses the instructions for the tabernacle (the tabernacle was the portable earthly dwelling place of Jehovah among the children of Israel from the time they left slavery in Egypt until the time the actual temple was constructed). In addition, God gave Moses instructions concerning all the offerings. If Moses had not been educated, he might have had trouble understanding everything God was telling him and communicating God’s words to the people of Israel.
- B. Daniel** (Daniel 1:4, 17-20; 2:49)—As a youth, Daniel was selected from among his contemporaries because he “showed insight in all wisdom, understanding in knowledge, and apprehension in thought...” He was very knowledgeable, understood science, and was found to have the qualities of one who was able to serve the king. He was brought into the king’s palace to study for three years to learn the Chaldean language and Chaldean learning. When the king spoke with Daniel and his three companions, he found them ten times better than all who were (skilled) in his realm. Eventually Daniel advanced to the highest levels of government and was entrusted with great responsibility. Daniel served at the king’s court, the inner circle of the king. (Daniel 2:49) Not only was he useful to the king, the Lord also greatly used him. Daniel was able to interpret visions and dreams, including significant visions of Nebuchadnezzar about the history of human government and the end times.
- C. Paul** (Acts 22:3; Philippians 3:1-6)—As a young man, Paul was well-trained. Paul pursued to be the best in whatever he was doing. He learned the Scriptures well from Gamaliel, a teacher of the law honored by all the people (Acts 5:34). As a Jew, he was a Pharisee, which was the strictest sect of the Jewish religion. He was so zealous that he tried to pursue, arrest and get rid of

Christians ... until the Lord appeared to him and turned him around completely. He then became zealous for the Lord, pursuing the things of the Lord (Phil. 3:12). He was greatly used by the Lord to expound the Bible, write many books of the New Testament, and to care for many churches.

**SUGGESTED APPLICATIONS TO CHOOSE FROM:** *Please pray and fellowship over which applications to cover. Please do not try to cover all the applications. It is sufficient to cover just **one or two applications** which are appropriate for the age group of the children you are serving.*

- **We should learn as much as we can.** We should take advantage of the opportunity to learn as much as we can. We should do the best they can in school in every subject, including subjects that they do not like so much. If we have the opportunity to learn an instrument, we should do so. We should learn a new language and learn it well. Speaking different languages is very useful both now and in the future. It opens the door to speak to people from different backgrounds, and also opens the door for the gospel to speak to others about the Lord in their own language. Can you think of an example from the children's meeting lessons you have heard? E.g., Hudson Taylor, who was British, studied and learned four distinct dialects of Chinese and was able to preach in Mandarin, Shanghainese, Cantonese, and the Ningbo dialects. We should not be lazy, but rather work to the best of our ability.
- **We should have a good attitude to learn.** When we have a question, we should ask the teacher, our parents, or older ones. We should not have a know-it-all attitude, but be willing to learn and be corrected. There is always something more to learn.
- **We should try our best to do things well and not take shortcuts.** We should not rush through our homework just to say we did it. We should do it diligently, carefully and neatly. Before we take a test, we should study for it, and double check our answers before submitting the test. We should never cheat by copying others' homework. We should not cheat on tests by peeking.
- **We should pray for the Lord to help us.** We should remember to pray and ask the Lord to give us the wisdom and ability to concentrate and study. We should thank the Lord for the capacity He has given to us and not waste it. Some of us are good at certain subjects more than others. We should do the best that we can, and give the Lord the praise and the glory for our good work.

Adapted from *Bringing Children from Adam to Christ-Human Relationships*, Vol. 3, Lesson 16, and the Church in New York City Children's Meeting lessons: 11/30/97; 12/9/01; 12/16/07; 12/22/13

Reference: (1) <https://www.bbc.com/news/business-41558486> "10 toughest places for girls to go to school" (11 October 2017); (2) Concerning Hudson Taylor <http://www.globalchinacenter.org/analysis/>