

The Creator's Plan

“But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever” (2 Peter 3:18).

“[The people who were under the Lord's direction] were tillers of the soil and keepers of flocks and herds; and in this free, independent life, with its opportunities for labor and study and meditation, they learned of God and taught their children of His works and ways. This was the method of education that God desired to establish in Israel.”— The Adventist Home, p. 181.

Suggested Readings: Education, pp. 20–22. Fundamentals of Christian Education, pp. 416–420.

Sunday January 25

1. WHAT IS EDUCATION?

a. What is included in the meaning of education? Proverbs 9:10.

Proverbs 9:10

[10] The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy *is* understanding.

“True education means more than taking a certain course of study. It is broad. It includes the harmonious development of all the physical powers and the mental faculties. It teaches the love and fear of God and is a preparation for the faithful discharge of life's duties.”—Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, p. 64.

“The education that brings the student into close relation with the Teacher sent from God is true education.”—Fundamentals of Christian Education, p. 514.

b. What occurs in the counterfeit method of education? Proverb 14:12.

Proverbs 14:12

[12] There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof *are* the ways of death.

“There are two classes of educators in the world. One class is those whom God makes channels of light, and the other class is those whom Satan uses as his agents, who are wise to do evil. . . . The other class is in league with the prince of darkness, who is ever on the alert that he may find an

opportunity to teach others the knowledge of evil.”—Christian Education, pp. 70, 71.

Monday January 26

2. ARE YOU LEARNING YOUR ABC’S?

a. What is God’s specific instruction regarding how to teach our children His will? Deuteronomy 6:6–9.

Deuteronomy 6:6-9

[6] And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

[7] And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

[8] And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.

[9] And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

“So long as God gives me power to speak to our people, I shall continue to call upon parents to leave the cities and get homes in the country, where they can cultivate the soil and learn from the book of nature the lessons of purity and simplicity. The things of nature are the Lord’s silent ministers, given to us to teach us spiritual truths. They speak to us of the love of God and declare the wisdom of the great Master Artist.”—The Adventist Home, pp. 146, 147.

“It is God’s plan that agriculture shall be connected with the work of our sanitariums and schools. Our youth need the education to be gained from this line of work. It is well, and more than well—it is essential—that efforts be made to carry out the Lord’s plan in this respect.”—Testimonies, vol. 8, p. 228.

b. Why does God choose this way? Psalms 32:8; 37:3.

Psalms 32:8

[8] I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go:
I will guide thee with mine eye.

Psalms 37:3

[3] Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land,
and verily thou shalt be fed.

“Study in agricultural lines should be the A, B, and C of the education given in our schools. This is the very first work that should be entered upon. Our schools should not depend upon imported produce, for grain and vegetables, and the fruits so essential to health.”— Testomonies, vol. 6, p. 179.

“Students should be given a practical education in agriculture. This will be of inestimable value to many in their future work. The training to be obtained in felling trees and in tilling the soil, as well as in literary lines, is the education that our youth should seek to obtain. Agriculture will open resources for self-support. Other lines of work, adapted to different students, may also be carried on. But the cultivation of the land will bring a special blessing to the workers. We should so train the youth that they will love to engage in the cultivation of the soil.’ ”—Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, p. 311.

“Thorough work is to be done in cultivating the land, and from this the students are to learn how necessary it is to do thorough work in cultivating the garden of the heart.”—The Review and Herald, September 1, 190

Tuesday January 27

3. THE CONTRAST

a. Describe the contrast between the results of God’s method versus the results of the enemy’s method. Psalm 128:1–6; Proverbs 3:1–8.

Psalms 128:1-6

- [1] **A Song of degrees.** Blessed *is* every one that feareth the LORD; that walketh in his ways.
- [2] For thou shalt eat the labour of thine hands: happy *shalt* thou *be*, and *it shall be* well with thee.
- [3] Thy wife *shall be* as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house: thy children like olive plants round about thy table.
- [4] Behold, that thus shall the man be blessed that feareth the LORD.
- [5] The LORD shall bless thee out of Zion: and thou shalt see the good of Jerusalem all the days of thy life.
- [6] Yea, thou shalt see thy children's children, *and* peace upon Israel.

Proverbs 3:1-8

- [1] My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments:
- [2] For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee.
- [3] Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart:

- [4] So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man.
- [5] Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.
- [6] In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.
- [7] Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.
- [8] It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones.

The education centering in the family was that which prevailed in the days of the patriarchs. For the schools thus established, God provided the conditions most favorable for the development of character. The people who were under His direction still pursued the plan of life that He had appointed in the beginning. Those who departed from God built for themselves cities, and, congregating in them, gloried in the splendor, the luxury, and the vice that make the cities of today the world's pride and its curse. But the men who held fast God's principles of life dwelt among the fields and hills. They were tillers of the soil and keepers of flocks and herds; and in this free, independent life, with its opportunities for labor and study and meditation, they learned of God and taught their children of His works and ways. "This was the method of education that God desired to establish in Israel."—*Education*, pp. 33, 34.

b. Why is the place where God's method of education is to be done so important? Genesis 2:15.

Genesis 2:15

- [15] And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

"Never can the proper education be given to the youth in this country, or any other country, unless they are separated a wide distance from the cities."—*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 312.

c. What is included in this method of educating? Ecclesiastes 9:10.

Ecclesiastes 9:10

- [10] Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do *it* with thy might; for *there is* no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.

“In the children and youth an ambition should be awakened to take their exercise in doing something that will be beneficial to themselves and helpful to others. The exercise that develops mind and character, that teaches the hands to be useful, that trains the young to bear their share of life’s burdens, is that which gives physical strength and quickens every faculty. And there is a reward in virtuous industry, in the cultivation of the habit of living to do good.”— Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, p. 147.

Wednesday January 28

4. THE RESULTS

a. What were the results upon society from Joseph’s, David’s, and Daniel’s godly education? Genesis 45:26; 2 Samuel 5:3; Daniel 2:48.

[Genesis 45:26](#)

[26] And told him, saying, Joseph *is* yet alive, and he *is* governor over all the land of Egypt. And Jacob's heart fainted, for he believed them not.

[2 Samuel 5:3](#)

[3] So all the elders of Israel came to the king to Hebron; and king David made a league with them in Hebron before the LORD: and they anointed David king over Israel.

[Daniel 2:48](#)

[48] Then the king made Daniel a great man, and gave him many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief of the governors over all the wise *men* of Babylon.

“It is by the youth and children of today that the future of society is to be determined, and what these youth and children shall be depends upon the home. To the lack of right home training may be traced the larger share of the disease and misery and crime that curse humanity. If the home life were pure and true, if the children who went forth from its care were prepared to meet life’s responsibilities and dangers, what a change would be seen in the world!”—The Ministry of Healing, p. 351.

b. As we teach our children according to the Creator’s plan, what will be the result in our children’s life? Psalm 147:13, 14; Proverbs 8:32, 33.

[Psalms 147:13-14](#)

[13] For he hath strengthened the bars of thy gates; he hath blessed thy children within thee.

[14] He maketh peace *in* thy borders, *and* filleth thee with the finest of the wheat.

Proverbs 8:32-33

[32] Now therefore hearken unto me, O ye children: for blessed *are they that* keep my ways.

[33] Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not.

“Every human being, created in the image of God, is endowed with a power akin to that of the Creator—individuality, power to think and to do. The men in whom this power is developed are the men who bear responsibilities, who are leaders in enterprise, and who influence character.”—Education, p. 17.

c. Are there exceptions to the plan? Can we choose to do otherwise and still have good results? 1 Corinthians 15:33; Galatians 6:7.

1 Corinthians 15:33

[33] Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

Galatians 6:7

[7] Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

“There is not one family in a hundred who will be improved physically, mentally, or spiritually by residing in the city. Faith, hope, love, happiness, can far better be gained in retired places, where there are fields and hills and trees. Take your children away from the sights and sounds of the city, away from the rattle and din of streetcars and teams, and their minds will become more healthy. It will be found easier to bring home to their hearts the truth of the word of God.”— The Paulson Collection, p. 14.

Thursday January 29

5. THE GREATEST TEACHER

a. What can we learn from Jesus in His childhood? Luke 2:52. Where did He gain His knowledge? Job 12:7, 8.

Luke 2:52

[52] And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

Job 12:7-8

[7] But ask now the beasts, and they shall teach thee; and the fowls of the air, and they shall tell thee:

[8] Or speak to the earth, and it shall teach thee: and the fishes of the sea shall declare unto thee.

“What were the conditions chosen by the infinite Father for His Son? A secluded home in the Galilean hills; a household sustained by honest, self-respecting labor; a life of simplicity; daily conflict with difficulty and hardship; self-sacrifice, economy, and patient, gladsome service; the hour of study at His mother’s side, with the open scroll of Scripture; the quiet of dawn or twilight in the green valley; the holy ministries of nature; the study of creation and providence; and the soul’s communion with God—these were the conditions and opportunities of the early life of Jesus.”—The Ministry of Healing, p. 365.

b. What was the purpose in learning this way? Isaiah 50:4.

Isaiah 50:4

[4] The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to *him that is* weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned.

“Apart from the unholy ways of the world, [Jesus] gathered stores of scientific knowledge from nature. He studied the life of plants and animals, and the life of man. . . . Continually He was seeking to draw from things seen illustrations by which to present the living oracles of God.”—The Desire of Ages, p. 70.

“The parents of Jesus were poor, and dependent upon their daily toil. He was familiar with poverty, self-denial, and privation. This experience was a safeguard to Him. In His industrious life there were no idle moments to invite temptation. No aimless hours opened the way for corrupting associations. So far as possible, He closed the door to the tempter.”—Ibid., p. 72.