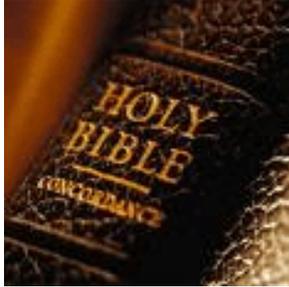


Remembering God



While You Are Young

By Bill Fairchild, Jr.



Uses For This Lesson Material

This lesson material has been designed for multiple uses. You will find below several of those uses. It is our intent through this material to lead individuals to a deeper appreciation for our God who made us ... appreciation for His revealed Word that serves to guide and comfort us ... and to help prepare our souls for eternity! May the Lord bless you as you study from His Word!

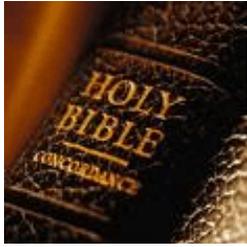
Individual Study: You can go through this series of lessons on your own at a pace that you are comfortable with. It would be suggested that you study one lesson per week to give you time to really consider the content of each lesson.

Family Study: This material can serve as a wonderful guide for a family to sit down and learn together what God expects of His own.

Group Study: You can use this series of lessons in a group setting such as a young people's devotion where each one who attends the class agrees to keep up with the study from class to class.

Bible Class Curriculum: This series of lessons is suitable for a 13-week or a 26-week quarterly system study and it contains sufficient material to be implemented both Sunday morning and Wednesday night if desired.

One-On-One Study: This series of lessons is suitable for you and a friend to study together from week to week. And both of you will experience personal growth in your faith and service to the Lord.



Practical Suggestions On Getting The Most Out Of This Lesson Series

If you want to really grow as a Christian ... you must be willing to spend the time necessary to know God's Word better and be courageous enough to apply what you learn to your own life! Sometimes ... there are truths learned in the Scriptures that can be most challenging to our hearts and our lives. This series of lessons will help you ... if you follow these suggestions:

- ☞ **Begin every Bible study with prayer. Ask the Lord to help you to have an open mind and a receptive heart!**
- ☞ **Use a good study Bible. You might want to consider the New King James Version or the New American Standard Bible. Also the English Standard Version.**
- ☞ **Really work through each lesson.**
 - **Look up every Bible verse that is referenced.**
 - **Think about each one of the questions that is being asked.**
 - **Answer each question ... don't skip any of them.**
 - **Make notes in the margin of the lesson sheet ... including any questions or thoughts you might have.**
 - **Start trying to memorize the text passages at the beginning of each lesson and those at the end of the lesson.**
- ☞ **Be brave enough to apply each Bible lesson to your own life.**
 - **Accept God's teachings as truth and be willing to obey Him in every relationship you have.**
 - **Be willing to change any attitudes that you may have that are not in keeping with God's will.**
 - **Determine to share the truths you learn from these studies with your friends, family and anyone else who will listen.**

Making The Most Of This Material

Psalm 102:18

***“This will be written for a generation to come,
that a people yet to be created may praise the Lord.”***

The objective of the **WalkingInSunlight.com** literature is to help young people to acquire a better understanding of ... and appreciation for ... God, His Word, and the church He purchased with the blood of His Son.

Our goal is to prepare young people for their daily challenges of choosing what will bring them real happiness by arming them with the ability to use God's Word to answer every question.

Laying their own life questions and experiences alongside the proper scriptures will enable them to clearly see God's directions.

God's instructions are so clear that even children can understand how God wants them to behave and what He would have them choose when they look at the scriptures without prejudices.

- These studies are made age-specific by **Discussion**.
- **Read aloud every Scripture** – every student should look up every Scripture in their own Bible.
- Allow adequate time for students to think about and answer **every question**.
- **Listen** to what they say.
- **Point them to God's instructions**, written and preserved for their benefit.

Hosea 4:1,6 *“Hear the word of the Lord, you children of Israel, for the Lord brings a charge against the inhabitants of the land: There is no truth or mercy or knowledge of God in the land.” “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me. Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.”*

Each lesson may require several class periods.

It is an awesome privilege to help young people grow closer to God!

You are encouraged to make copies of these lessons and use them free of charge in your Bible studies and classes. Please pray for the success of this work and for those who are helping to make it possible.

Table of Contents

Lesson One	Introductory Lesson To The Study
Lesson Two	Why Should A Young Person Remember God?
Lesson Three	How Do I Remember Him? Part One
Lesson Four	How Do I Remember Him? Part Two
Lesson Five	How Do I Remember Him? Part Three
Lesson Six	Joseph ... A Young Man Who Didn't Forget To Remember!
Lesson Seven	Josiah ... The Young King Who Didn't Wait To Remember!
Lesson Eight	Timothy ... A Young Man Who Remembered God Because Of What He Had Learned From The Scriptures
Lesson Nine	Young People Of The Old Testament ... Who Forgot To Remember!

Lesson Ten	A Power Hungry Son ... And A Strong Young Man: Two Young People Who Forgot The Lord!
Lesson Eleven	A Young Man Who Remembered And Then Forgot ... A Young Man Who Forgot And Then Remembered
Lesson Twelve	The Perfect Teenager ...
Lesson Thirteen	Examples From The Perfect Life Of The Perfect Teenager ... On How To Remember God!

Introductory Lesson To The Study

“Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, And let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth; Walk in the ways of your heart, And in the sight of your eyes; but know that for all these God will bring you into judgment. Therefore remove sorrow from your heart, And put away evil from your flesh, For childhood and youth are vanity. Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, Before the difficult days come, And the years draw near when you say, “I have no pleasure in them.” (Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:1)

1. God has always wanted for us what is in our best interest!
 - a. Question: Do you really believe this statement to be true?
 - b. Question: If this statement is not true ... where does that leave us with regard to purpose and meaning to life?

2. The fact is ... God has always wanted us to be happy! The Genesis account of creation recorded in Genesis 1,2 ... reflects God's intention to create this world ... and for man to enjoy the Creation!
3. The problem comes ... when folks decide to look in the wrong direction for purpose ... meaning ... and happiness! You see ... for both young and old alike ... far too many folks think they know what is best! Read and discuss the thoughts expressed in Jeremiah 10:23 ...



4. God has not placed us here on the earth ... without a compass ... or a road map to show us what direction ... what road we are to travel on!

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- a. Through a study of God's Word ... we can discover which road to take ... and which road not to take! Read and discuss the thoughts expressed in Psalm 119:105 ...



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- b. It is through a study and application of God's Word that all of us can discover which path to take that leads to happiness ... joy ... forgiveness ... and eternal life!
- c. And it is through a study and application of God's Word that all of us can discover which paths not to take ... the ones that will lead to certain unhappiness ... disappointment ... and heartache!
- d. Because there is nothing that escapes the knowledge of God ... He knows where decisions will lead ... what actions and words will produce! Psalm 139 expresses in a very clear and concise way that nothing escapes the knowledge of God.



5. The wise man Solomon ... who by inspiration penned the words of the Book of Ecclesiastes ... issues an invitation to young people to get all the joy and pleasure they can out of life!

- a. There's only one catch ... it must be God's way!

6. Solomon tells young people ... like yourself ... that 'you can mark it down well' ... God will hold you into account for how you've lived ... **EVEN AS A YOUNG PERSON!**

- a. When you look closely at the words of Ecclesiastes 11:9 ... Solomon says for young people to enjoy life ... but do not commit iniquity!



- b. Solomon is calling for young people to live a balanced life ... and the balance that is being called for insures that enjoyment is not obtained through the living of a reckless ... no holds barred ... lifestyle!

- c. Instead ... the balanced life that God calls for derives its origin from the pleasure that is found in pleasing God ... in serving Him with "... *all of our heart, soul, and mind* ..." (Matthew 22:37-39)!



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7. Question: Do you know what it means to live your life with eternity in mind?
Read and discuss the thoughts expressed in the following passages: Hebrews 9:27; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Romans 14:12 ...



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- a. You see ... whether we want to deal with it or not ... your life ... my life ... will soon be over ... and only what we have done with Jesus Christ ... and what we have done for Jesus Christ ... will matter!
- b. As the final modifications and amendments are being made to this series of studies ... a good wife and mother to two sons ... is reaching the end of life ... about to pass *“through the valley of the shadow of death”* (*Psalm 23:4*)!



- c. Her children are being introduced to the harsh reality of death!!!
8. Solomon then says to young people, *“Remember your Creator in the days of your youth ...”*
- a. When Solomon uses the word *“remember”* ... it is much more than ‘don’t forget Him!’
- b. Besides thinking about the work of God in creating this world from nothing ... there is a strong implication of action!
- c. Consider the following example of how God “remembered” someone:
- (1) There was a very godly woman in the Old Testament by the name of Hannah. She wanted to have a child ... but couldn’t.
- (2) She even prayed to God about it. The Scripture says in 1 Samuel 1:19, *“the Lord remembered Hannah.”*



(3) Question: What do you suppose this means?

(4) Answer: It means that God acted on her behalf and caused her to conceive!

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- d. This is the same term used by Solomon in Ecclesiastes 12:1! It means “to act decisively on behalf of someone.”
9. “*Remembering your Creator when you are young*” ... really means to act decisively on behalf of the living God!
- a. Remembering all that God has done ... is doing now ... and promises to do in the future ... will cause us to act on behalf of Him!
 - b. Question: Does this appear to be more than we can measure up to? More than you can measure up to?
 - c. All of us must come to the assurance that God does not ever require more of us than we are able to accomplish!
10. We must come to realize ... and how much better to realize it early in life ... that God is the one essential ingredient that we all need for a truly happy and productive life!
- a. So ... as the prophet Isaiah so humbly proclaimed, “*Here am I! Send me.*” (Isaiah 6:8).
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11. All of these things being true ... we must be able to arrive at the place in our heart and life where we listen to what He has to say and act accordingly!
- a. We must also be careful not to arrive at the place ... that place that will keep trying to be ‘front and center’ in our minds ... where we choose to follow the desires of our own heart rather than the dictates of God’s truth!
 - b. Question: Do you know about that place yet? Sure you do ... it is called selfishness and self-will! And it is a very ugly place that produces some very ugly thoughts ... words ... actions!

(1) Thoughts ... words ... and actions that can cost one’s soul!
 - c. Very simply ... we must be willing ... as God’s only begotten Son did ... to completely devote ourselves to doing the will of the Father. Read and discuss the thoughts expressed in Hebrews 5:8,9 ...



Conclusion:

1. In this series of studies we are going to learn more about the need for us to be **Remembering God While We Are Young!**
2. The beautiful thing about all of this is that ... when we do learn to remember Him early in our life ... if we live to be older ... our hearts and lives will be full of the joy and knowledge that we are truly His people!
 - a. We have discovered the “...*peace that passes all understanding*” (Philippians 4:7)
3. And if it should be the case that we don't live to be older ... we can have the assurance that we have lived as we should have!
4. Either way ... we come out a winner!



Why Should A Young Person Remember God?

Text: "Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, before the difficult days come, and the years draw near when you say 'I have no pleasure in them'." (Ecclesiastes 12:1)

Introduction:

1. Much of our adult lives are spent unfolding the decisions we either made or began to make as a young person!
 - a. When the archer releases his arrow, he has already made his necessary choices as to height, precise angle and wind velocity.
 - b. While these decisions were made before the archer released the arrow ... they still determine the final result!
 - c. Just ask the bow hunter or the person who is involved in competitive archery!

2. You see ... choices that you make at the age of 13, 15, and even 21, which may seem isolated and totally unrelated and even unimportant at the time ... will likely plot the course you take for the rest of your life!!!
 - a. Should you start smoking early in life ... or dipping tobacco or chewing tobacco ... you may find it extremely difficult to quit!
 - b. The same is true with regard to drinking alcoholic beverages and using drugs (both illegal and the abuse of prescribed)!
 - c. And these truths have just as much to do with becoming involved in sexual activity before marriage!

3. Question: How much of a problem are the above mentioned areas in the lives of young people today?

SIN ... means to "miss the mark."
It means going your way ...
instead of going God's way and
therefore being separated from
God!

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- a. Question: Do you know some young people ... where you attend school ... who are members of the church ... maybe even where you attend ... who have problems in these areas?
 - b. Question: Is there a possibility that you are having problems in one or more of these areas?
3. Listen very carefully ... the Bible teaches the importance of making choices in your youth that will be pleasing to God! Please note Ecclesiastes 12:1, 13, 14.
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4. Even though you are still young ... you simply must see the need to think seriously about the things you do ... about the places you go ... and about the thoughts you entertain in the privacy of your own heart and mind!
- a. This challenge ... of trying to conform your entire life to God's way of living ... can be even greater when you realize that most of the young people your age don't even give much thought to spiritual things ... and they will even make fun of those who do give thought to the spiritual side of life!
 - b. Please be impressed with the need you have to put your life on course with God Almighty!!!

I. What Does It Mean To Remember God?

1. To "remember" means "to mark; to be mindful of ..."
 - a. It simply means to give the Creator what is due Him!
 - b. Question: Isn't God deserving of some of our time and even some of our thoughts? Discuss ...
 - c. Question: Don't we want our families ... our friends, etc. ... to remember us at times ... especially at our birthday? Do you see the similarities? Discuss ...
 - d. To "remember" means "to act decisively on behalf of someone."
2. Read Psalm 63:6. 
 - a. We ought to always reflect upon God's character ... upon His holiness ... His justice ... His loving-kindness ... His faithfulness ... His truth ... His wisdom ... and His love!!!
 - b. In fact ... why not discuss each of these attributes!

3. We must with gratitude accept the daily gifts of God with thanksgiving and with consideration.

- a. Discuss some of these daily gifts we each receive ...
- b. To just consume these daily gifts without reflecting on how good they are and where they came from ... is to simply forget God!!!
- c. Please note the following passages: James 1:17; Colossians 3:17. 

4. To remember God is to meditate upon His Word! Please note the following passages: Psalm 1; Psalm 119:9-11. 

- a. If God's Word is counted as a "...*strange thing*" (Hosea 8:12) ... i.e., 'outdated, old-fashioned or boring' ... then no further proof is needed that God has been forgotten!
- b. Question: Is the Bible interesting or boring to you? How about discussing your answer to this question with the rest of the class?

5. To "*remember God*" is to be obedient! Please note John 14:15. 

6. Question: If one of your friends approached you ... knowing you were trying to serve God ... attended worship services ... etc. ... and asked you why they should try 'being spiritual' ... what would you say?

7. The Bible, in both Testaments, encourages young people to remember God! Again, note Ecclesiastes 12:1; 1 Timothy 4:12. Discuss the meaning of these two passages of Scripture ..



3. The question then arises. "Why should I remember Him when I'm young? What is so important about remembering God while I am a young person when I will have the rest of my life to do that?" How about discussing these questions with the rest of the class ...

II. Reasons Why You Should Remember God

Reason Number One: Because God says for you to!!!

1. Ecclesiastes 12:1 is actually in the form of a command!



a. Question: What does the word “command” actually mean? Discuss ...

2. This is just as much a command as the command given to Moses when he was told to go down to Egypt and bring Israel out of slavery (Exodus 3:1)!



3. Some commands can be obeyed in any period of one’s life ... but this one can be obeyed only when you are young! Think about it.

Reason Number Two: Because there are no guarantees!

1. Nobody has the guarantee they will live past today! Not even YOU!! It’s real easy to think you will have many years to live. Read the following passages: James 4:13-17; Proverbs 27:1.



a. Now ... how about discussing what relevance these verses have to you ...

2. Faster than I can type and faster than you can read ... death can come knocking at our door ... asking for us!!! And we will not be able to refuse ...

a. Question: Do you know of a young person who has died?

b. Question: How does that make you feel to know this is something that can happen to young people like yourself?

c. Question: Do most of us really want to think about dying ... especially in the immediate or even near future?

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3. The fact is ... the old must die ... but the young die too! Read and discuss the thoughts of Hebrews 9:27 ...



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4. You see ... while you're young may actually be the ONLY time you have to remember God!
5. How tragic if this is all the time you have and you fully intended to give Him your older days ... but just never got around to it!

Reason Number Three: Because your friends need your good example and good influence!

1. That's right! You may be the only Bible they are reading! You may be the only contact they have with God ... with Jesus Christ ... with God's Word!

- a. Question: So ... how does the Bible read according to *your* life? Read and discuss the following passages: Galatians 2:20; Philippians 1:20.



2. Paul told Timothy, "... *but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.*" (1 Timothy 4:12).

- a. Question: What is meant by "... *be an example*"? Discuss ...

- b. Question: What is the meaning of each of these areas that are listed in 1 Timothy 4:12?



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3. You have the wonderful opportunity to show your friends the wonderfulness of being a Christian ... and of what it truly means to love and serve the Lord!

Reason Number Four: Because God remembers you!!!

1. You may have forgotten Him in actions ... perhaps in words ... even in your thoughts ... etc.!

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2. You may have ignored or forgotten His Word ... even profaned His name ... yet not a day has gone by that He has not remembered you!!! Think about that ... would you!!!
 3. You may even be led to ask the question, “well, just how does He remember me every day?”
 - a. Answer: Look around you ... a world to live in ... food to eat ... clothes to wear ... a roof over your head ... family ... friends ... beautiful colors ... a variety of music to listen to ... and on and on we could list how God remembers you!
 - b. Read and discuss the thoughts being expressed in Psalm 8:3-8.



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4. Take the time to count your blessings and you will see just how much the Lord has done and continues to do for you!

Memory Verse: *“Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, before the difficult days come, and the years draw near when you say ‘I have no pleasure in them’.” (Ecclesiastes 12:1)*

Conclusion:

1. Your world is complex and very challenging. There is much to confuse and discourage you!
2. Hopefully ... this lesson and those to follow will help you to see just how much is said in the Bible to ... and about ... young people!
 - a. Young people ... that were just like you ... young ... inexperienced ... and confused about what’s really important in life!
3. It should be very comforting to know that God understands young people like yourself ... and that He has given many powerful Scriptures to encourage ... strengthen ... and, yes ... to warn them ... and specifically ... YOU!
4. Question: Is there any real reason why you should fail to remember God while you are young? If there is ... give your answer(s) and reason(s) why?
Warning: But I would be very careful in my reasoning ...

5. When we can remember that we are God's property ... and not our own ... it can really help us in making the choices that we make!

- a. Members of the church at Corinth were having a problem in remembering they belonged to God! Read and discuss the thoughts expressed in 1 Corinthians 6:9-20 ...



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- b. Learning who you belong to early in life ... well ... you just cannot believe what a difference it can and will make in your life!

6. Question: Would you be thinking about the implications of belonging to the Lord?

- a. Question: Would you not only think about it ... would you pray about it?
- b. Question: Would you ask the Lord to help you have an open mind ... a willing heart ... and to have the courage to do what is right in your life!

7. You can rest assured ... when you make the choice to serve Him in your early years ... you will cause the Lord to look upon you with favor!

- a. You will also cause the world to look at you through different eyes ... and that is exactly what both the apostle Paul and apostle Peter wanted the early Christians ... young and old ... to understand!
- b. Read and think about the following passages of Scripture ... and put down in your own words what these verses mean to you: Philippians 1:27; 2:15-16; 3:20; 1 Peter 2:9-12 (emphasis on verse 12) ...



5. Why would anyone ever want to belong to anyone other than the Lord!!!

HOW DO I REMEMBER HIM? Part One

*Text: "I love those who love Me: and those who seek Me diligently will find Me."
(Proverbs 8:17)*

Introduction:

1. Have you ever had any trouble remembering things that you are supposed to do? Welcome to the club! Discuss ...
 - a. The fact is ... we all do! It is also a fact that some just seem to do a better job of remembering ... or forgetting ... than others do!
 - b. Sometimes we have trouble remembering dates ... people and their names ... places or even things we're supposed to do.
2. It's no different when it comes to God and His Word! Note the following passages: Psalm 119:11, 52, 55. 
3. So ... how can we all do a better job of remembering the Lord ... especially while we are young?
4. This is really a good question and it is deserving of our time to think about the "how" of remembering the Lord while we're young!
5. So ... let's talk about it ...

I. We Remember Better When We Choose To Learn Of Him Early In Life (Proverbs 8:17)

1. The Bible is God's inspired Word and has been preserved for all of mankind to read ... accept ... and obey! Note the following passage: 2 Timothy 3:16,17;
2 Peter 1:3 
 - a. You see ... God's Word never becomes obsolete!

b. Would you define “obsolete” and explain the relevance of this word when it comes to the Bible?

c. Question: Do you think there are many people who believe the Bible is obsolete? Discuss ...

d. Question: Why do you think people want to believe that the Bible is obsolete? Discuss ...

2. The Bible is a Book for all ages! Its message challenges the young and the old alike! Note the following passage: 2 Peter 1:3 again and discuss the thoughts of “*all things that pertain unto life and godliness*”.



a. One is really never too young or too old to become acquainted with the Word of God! Right? Right! Discuss these thoughts ...

b. Question: Do you think there would ever be a time when we didn't need to read and study from God's Word? Why or why not? Discuss these thoughts.

c. Question: So ... just how important do you think it should be for parents to be reading God's Word to their children beginning at a very young age? List some of the reasons why you agree or do not agree with this statement:

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- d. We must remember that studying the Word of God ... listening to the Word of God ... reflecting upon the Word of God ... is actually the only way for us to obtain real faith in God! Note the following passage: Romans 10:17.



- e. Let's discuss the importance of regular, daily Bible study. Note the following passages: 2 Timothy 2:15; 2 Timothy 3:15.



- f. Question: Do you read your Bible every day?
g. Question: If not ... why not?
h. Question: Are you willing to do a better job of trying to read and study your Bible every day?
3. Solomon urges us to “remember” God while we’re young. Why is it so important to do this while you’re young? Let’s discuss the following questions:
- a. Question: Aren’t there more important things to be doing while we are young than “remembering God”?
b. Question: Don’t young people really have plenty of time to get busy in their study of God’s Word?
c. Question: Aren’t you supposed to be able to live just like you want while you are young?
4. Early discipleship is so important! Delay is dangerous and here’s why:
- a. Because other objects and people ... just may become more important to us as we grow up!
b. Question: Can you think of any examples of what we are talking about? What about self ... what about sports ... what about any form of recreation ... what about school work ... what about a boyfriend or a girlfriend?
c. Read and discuss the following passages: Matthew 6:33; 1 John 2:15-17.



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- d. Early discipleship is important because our lives may just come to an end before we are ready for them to! It's not really something we like to think about ... is it?
- e. Question: Have you thought about that possibility?
- f. Question: Have you thought about it lately?
- g. Procrastination ... not a very pretty word! Procrastination ... is contagious! Procrastination ... it can be deadly!
- h. Define the word "procrastination" and discuss.



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- i. And early discipleship is important because if you live to be an older and more mature person ... you can look back on your younger days ... knowing you used them wisely! Note the following passage: Ephesians 5:15-17 and discuss the thoughts expressed.



Conclusion:

1. The greatest thing your parents can do for you is to help you in remembering God while you're young!
2. The greatest thing you can do for them is to remember God while you're young!
3. The greatest thing you can do for yourself ... you guessed it ... remember God while you're young. Why? Because you belong to Him!!!!

How Do I Remember Him? Part Two

Text: "I love those who love Me: and those who seek Me diligently will find Me."
(Proverbs 8:17)

INTRODUCTION:

1. As we discussed in our last lesson ... it is so important for a young person to begin "remembering God" early in their life ... for a multitude of reasons!
2. From our text for both studies ... the thought is that God will love that person who makes the deliberate choice to seek Him ... to find Him ... to diligently strive to follow Him!
 - a. And from our text ... the Lord makes it very clear that when a person is really trying hard to "find" Him ... they will!
 - b. So ... doesn't it make good sense that the earlier a person finds the Lord ... the better off that person will be? Discuss your thoughts.

3. Let's move on and discuss some other ways in which I can do a better job of remembering God ...

I. By Being An Example Of Real Righteousness

DISCUSSION:

1. Question: What does the word "example" mean ... anyway? In fact ... why not define the words "example, real, and righteousness":

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1. The fact is ... with every blessing that God has extended to us ... there is a corresponding responsibility! Discuss ...
 2. As God's people ... with all of the wonderful blessings that are found in being a "child of God" ... there are responsibilities!
 3. As God's people ... for instance ... we are to be "*the salt of the earth and the light of the world*" (Matthew 5:13-16).



a. What do these two terms "*salt of the earth and light of the world*" mean?

b. Question: What in the world does Jesus mean by saying His disciples can be these things?

c. Question: How in the world are God's people "*the salt of the earth*"?

d. Question: How can salt lose its effectiveness?

e. Question: Are we really a "*light*" unto those who are around us (including our family, friends, etc.)?

f. Question: What kind of a "*light*" are you?

g. Question: Where is the example of your life leading and how is it influencing others?

h. Question: Would you like to be a better example for others to follow after?
You can you know!

4. Being an example of righteousness means that you are willing to *“flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the name of the Lord out of a pure heart” (2 Timothy 2:22).*



a. Question: What in the world are “youthful lusts”? Define this phrase ...

b. The fact is ... “youthful lusts” ... not only includes improper sexual desires ... but it also includes others desires that can be very common for a young person to deal with such as pride... desire for wealth and power ... jealousy ... self-assertiveness ... and having an argumentative disposition! Discuss each of these areas ...

c. Question: Can you think of any other desires that would fall in the same category as those we’ve just mentioned? List them ...

d. Question: The next logical question pertains to you personally and whether or not you need to be concerned about any of these desires? Do you?

e. Question: If the answer is “yes” ... why do you need to be concerned?

f. If the answer is “no” ... how so?

5. Young people need to remember God in both their character and their reputation!

a. Question: What does **character** mean (your definition)?

b. Question: What does **reputation** mean (your definition)?

5. Character is what we are inwardly! It is what we are in the dark ... when no one else is looking! Note: Don't forget ... the Lord is always watching! If you really aren't sure about this truth ... turn to Psalm 139:7-12 and discuss.



6. Reputation is what we are outwardly! It is what other people believe us to be!

a. Question: What do other people think of you?

b. Question: Are others really watching us and noting how we act ... how we talk ... how we dress ... how we live? Discuss the following passages:
Philippians 1:27-30; 1 Peter 2:11, 12.



7. You see ... with our reputation ... we do business for the Lord on a daily basis! So ... what kind of business are you doing for the Lord?

Conclusion:

1. I suspect there is plenty of room for improvement in your life ... isn't there! I know there is in my own life!
2. We ... yes ... that's right ... we ... have to decide that we are going to do a better job of living for the Lord ... of being the best "*salt and light*" that we can be!
3. And we have to decide that we're going to start ... while we are young! Starting younger ... well ... it gives us the opportunity to influence others earlier in life ... it helps us become more like God's dear Son ... Jesus Christ!
4. Those are just a couple of really good reasons for **being an example of righteousness ... even while we are young!**
5. May it be our daily prayer ... to become more like the Master!

How Do I Remember Him? Part Three

*Text: "I love those who love Me: and those who seek Me diligently will find Me."
(Proverbs 8:17)*

INTRODUCTION:

1. In talking about "Remembering God" ... we've been noticing in the last two lessons some thoughts regarding how to become better at this responsibility!
2. We've noticed that one way we "Remember God" is through **learning of Him early in our lives**. Review ...
3. We've also noticed that we can become more proficient at "Remembering God" when we make the deliberate choice **to be an example of righteousness**. Review ...
4. This leads us into another area of our lives ... and that is the area of worshiping and honoring our great God!
5. Let's take a closer look at this area of our life ... and see if there is not some room for improvement.

I. Private Worship

1. Every day of your life should have some time devoted to meditation upon God's Word and time devoted to prayer!
 - a. Did you ever watch a NASCAR race? From time to time ... each car and driver needs to stop in so that the car be serviced ... and the driver can be refreshed! This is called a "pit stop".
 - b. In a very real sense ... we're all in a race! Sometimes it is called a "rat race"!
 - c. Questions: Have you ever been in a rat race? Was it fun? Did you feel like you were winning or losing?

d. The Bible teaches us that we need to take time out of our busy day to refresh our souls and to stay in touch with God and with His Word. Note the following passage: Jeremiah 15:16.



e. Question: What is this passage teaching?

One of the secrets of all growing and maturing Christians ... they consistently spend time alone with God and with His Word!

f. If you allow a day or two to go by or even weeks to go by ... without letting God talk to you through His Word (Hebrews 1:1,2) ... or without talking to Him in prayer (1 Thessalonians 5:17) ... you will lose the race ... the race of life!!!

g. Read and discuss the thoughts expressed in 1 Corinthians 9:24-27. 

h. God's Word is deserving of our time! It may require that we skip a favorite TV show or a ball game or a trip to the shopping center ... so that you can spend some unhurried time in study and prayer!

i. Questions: By the way ... what does "unhurried time" mean? Do you have any?

j. Question: Define the word "*meditation*" used in Psalm 1: 

2. While you are young ... your minds are clear and sharp (or are they ...)!

a. Now is the golden time for you to be treasuring up the noble pearls of truth that are found throughout the Word of God!

b. Read Psalm 119:9-11. As you read this passage you will note there are three great things:



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- (1) The Word ... God's Word!
 - (2) The heart ... the receptacle for God's Word!
 - (3) The result ... that one might refrain from sinning against God!

- c. Read and discuss the following passages: 1 Thessalonians 5:17; Colossians 4:2.



3. So ... we can certainly see the importance and the relevance of devoting some time to honoring and listening to God in our personal lives ... can't we!
 - a. Questions: What do you think about all of this? Do you agree? Do you disagree? Do you even care? You make the call ...

II. Public Worship ...

1. Question: Is public worship important? To you?
 - a. Question: How does public worship help us to remember God?

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2. Early in life you need to form the determination and purpose to NEVER deliberately miss a public worship service of the church! Read and discuss the thoughts of Hebrews 10:24, 25.



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- a. If you will form the conviction early in your life ... the conviction to always put the Lord and His service first ... when you're older ... it won't be so hard to decide!
3. While in services ... how do you act?
 - a. Question: Do you participate in the singing ... the praying ... the studying ... etc.? Discuss the need for every one in attendance to be a participant.
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4. By being involved in worship service as an active participant ... you are involved in the highest activity you can be engaged in!
 - a. Question: Do you think there could be any other activity that would take precedence over worship to Jehovah?
 - b. Question: Is there really an activity that is more important than worshipping God? If so ... what is it?
 5. You see ... it is a privilege to worship Jehovah!

Note: So ... gentlemen ... when you are asked to serve at the Lord's Table ... to lead a prayer ... to lead in some public way in the worship service ... count it as an honor!

MEMORY VERSE (For Lessons 3, 4, 5): "I love those who love Me: and those who seek Me diligently will find Me." (Proverbs 8:17).

Conclusion:

1. You see ... a Bible that is rarely used is just not the way to Remember God!
2. Days and weeks without prayer is just not the way to Remember God!
3. Read and discuss the thoughts expressed in 1 Kings 19:11,12. 
 - a. To hear the voice of God ... you must be deaf to other voices ... friends ... TV ... stereo ... MP3's ... IPOD's ... etc.!
 - b. Don't approach your time allotted to remember God each day with the attitude of "five minutes with God and I won't turn off the TV or whatever is playing because I might miss something!"
 - c. Why? Because you will indeed miss something ... **communication with God!**
4. Read and discuss the following passage: Isaiah 40:31. 

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5. God has some very important things to say to you! You'll never hear what He has to say unless you turn down the volume of the world around you ... turn up the volume when it comes to hearing God's voice through His Word ... and stop long enough to listen!



6. Will you listen? Will you obey? Will you make the right choice? You can you know! But ,, You Must Make The Call!!!

Joseph ... A Young Man Who Didn't Forget To Remember!

Text: "Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity." (1 Timothy 4:12)

INTRODUCTION:

1. Question: Do you squirm when someone at school talks about "those crazy religious people" across the hall?

Question: Are you ashamed to tell your friends and others that you really do care about the Lord?

Question: Would you be willing to be put in prison because of your faith in the Lord?

Question: Would you be willing to stand up for Jesus ... for truth ... for what is right ... when everyone else is sitting down?

2. These are questions each one of us must come to grips with sooner or later in our lives. You can try to straddle the fence for a while ... but sooner or later ... a situation is going to arise in which you must make a clear choice between God and your reputation! You will be called upon to make a choice between right and wrong!

- a. Question: Can you think of some examples where this might be the case in your own life ... or in the life of someone else?
Discuss ...



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3. The Bible speaks of a number of people who were not ashamed to stand up and be counted on the Lord's side. Note the following passages: Romans 1:16; Matthew 10:29-32; Genesis 39; Daniel 3; 2 Chronicles 34; Hebrews 11.



4. Questions: Just who are these people? Can we be like them? Were they made of different clay than we are? Do we even want to be like them? Discuss ...

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- a. Maybe the question should be asked: “Why wouldn’t we?”
 5. Specifically for our study ... we want to notice in the next couple of lessons ... young people who had the faith ... the courage ... the desire to remember the Lord!
 6. And as we do so ... perhaps someone might be thinking ... “why bother looking at some young people who lived so very long ago?”

- a. The answer can be found in the following passage of Scripture: Romans 15:4.



- b. You see ... all of those truths we know to be preserved and included in the Old Testament were saved for a reason ... actually several reasons!
- c. Number One: Instruction ... the Lord has given us this wonderful information so that we can learn the truths about Him that He wants us to know ... and the truths about life and living!
- d. Number Two: Hope ... yes ... hope! You see ... when we read of Bible characters who possessed faith and strength and courage when we read of how they persevered and were strong “in the Lord” ... it serves to strengthen each of us to keep on going! Discuss ...

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7. Will you be willing to take an honest look at some young people who cared enough about God to remember Him? You make the call ...
 8. Let’s take a closer look at a young man by the name of Joseph ... a young man who didn’t forget to remember God!

I. Joseph ... The Young Man Whose Dreams Came True ... And Then Some!

1. The life of Joseph reads like a modern novel ... except in this story ... the events recorded really happened! The Bible gives us a full history of Joseph ... especially from the young age of 17 until the end of his life.
2. Joseph’s life could be divided into several categories:

a. Joseph ... the dreamer (Genesis 37).



(1) Discuss his two dreams ...

b. Joseph ... the slave/the worker (Genesis 39:1-20).



c. Joseph ... the prisoner (Genesis 39:21 - Genesis 41:13).



d. Joseph ... the ruler (Genesis 41:14- Genesis 50).



3. When we find Joseph at age 17 in Genesis 37 ... we do not find a young man who was irresponsible ... reckless ... or in some way unruly! Was he a perfect young man ... not by any means? Was he a young man who wanted to do what was right? Absolutely ...

a. Question: At your age ... are you considered to be a young person that is responsible ... obedient ... considerate?

b. Question: Or, at your age ... are you considered to be a young person that is disrespectful ... disobedient ... inconsiderate?

c. Take the self-examination test of 2 Corinthians 13:5 ... and see!



4. The fact is ... Joseph ... while he was still at home ... remembered God!

5. But things were not all good and happy in Jacob's home and family! There were problems ... problems of favoritism and jealousy and envy!

a. Question: Would you define each of these words (favoritism, jealousy, envy):

b. Question: Are these same problems that can exist today in our homes and in our families?

c. Question: Is favoritism a good thing? Discuss ...

d. Question: Would you enjoy being the favorite in your home or in class?

e. Question: Would you enjoy it if you weren't the favorite in that same situation?

f. Question: Have you ever been jealous of your brother or sister or jealous of someone else?

g. Question: How do you think God feels about us having feelings of jealousy and envy?

h. Answer: Read the following passage: Galatians 5:19-21.



6. The fact is ... favoritism and jealousy and envy have destroyed many people ... both young and old!

7. Regardless of how parents may feel toward you or how family may treat you in your teenage years ... you can develop an attractive personality!

a. The fact is ... you can become a young person of tremendous spiritual strength and character!

b. You see ... that is exactly what Joseph did ... and so can you!!!

c. If not ... why not? Before you answer ... read the following passages ... and then discuss your answer, Philippians 4:13; Galatians 2:20.



8. Now ... as easy as it might be for someone to be strong in the Lord ... and to have and maintain a faith in the Lord ... how about when you're away from home and family? How about being in a foreign country?



9. This is exactly the situation that we find Joseph in after being sold into slavery by his jealous brothers.

a. Question: Can you imagine being sold by your brothers into slavery?

b. Question: How would you have felt toward them?

c. Question: Would you have wanted to get even with them? Be honest ...

d. Question: Is revenge ever a problem in our own lives? Discuss ...

e. Questions: Is revenge good anytime? And can we really afford to have it?

f. Read the following passage and discuss its meaning: Romans 12:17-21



10. Joseph didn't turn away from God or stop remembering Him when he was away from home!

a. Question: How difficult is it for someone to remember God when they are away from home and away from the security that this generally found there?

11. When Potiphar's wife tried to get him to sin ... he refused and fled from the opportunity to sin. Read and discuss Genesis 39:1-18.



a. You see ... Joseph had learned something about self-control. Read and discuss the meaning of 1 Corinthians 9:25-27.



b. What is self-control?

c. Questions: Do you ever lose control of your temper? Do you ever lose control in whatever area of your life that control must be exercised? Now... be honest! Read and discuss 2 Peter 1:6.



d. Question: Does the apostle Peter seem to teach in any way that self-control is unimportant? What is he saying? Discuss ...

Conclusion:

1. Joseph was a man of astounding faith ... forgiving spirit ... and conviction to please his God!

2. Question: How did Joseph succeed?

- a. He kept his eyes on God!
- b. He didn't forget that God's eyes were on him all of the time!
- c. He knew how say NO ... again and again!!!

3. Question: Have you learned how to say NO ... and mean it?

a. Question: Can you say NO to sin! Read and discuss 1 Thessalonians 5:22.



b. Maybe we should be asking the question: “do we really want to say NO ... when we are tempted to sin?”

4. Joseph was a young man who kept close to God! His nearness and devotion to God are proof that young people don't have to go through a period of 'sowing wild oats'! Read and discuss Hebrews 11:22.



5. One of the great things about this young man Joseph ... he didn't forget to remember God!

a. Question: Do you think Joseph had any idea that so many ... would know about and be affected by his decision?

6. May more people ... both young and old ... think like he thought and live like Joseph lived!

Josiah ... The Young King Who Didn't Wait To Remember!

Text: "And he did what was right in the sight of the Lord, and walked in the ways of his father David; he did not turn aside to the right hand or to the left." (2 Chronicles 34:2)

INTRODUCTION:

1. Question: Do you remember about the time when you were in the third grade and you had your eighth birthday?

Question: What if at the young age of eight ... you were given the responsibilities of ruling an entire nation?

Question: Just how well would you have handled this responsibility?

Question: Would you have been scared? Discuss your thoughts ...

- a. Well ... this is exactly what happened to a very young Josiah ... he became a king at the age of 8!
2. It is a wonderfully encouraging story to read about this young person who became a king and of how he made the right choices when it came to remembering God.
 3. Let's take a closer look at this young man and see if there are not some lessons that we can draw from this study that will help you to be the very best young person that you can be for the Lord.

I. The Young Man Who Didn't Wait ... But Who Started Early To Remember God

1. Now ... we need to remember that these Old Testament truths have been preserved for our instruction and encouragement, Romans 15:4!



2. Read and discuss the truths recorded in 2 Chronicles 34:1-3.



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- a. At the age of 8 ... Josiah begins to rule until he is 39 years old! For almost his entire life ... he had the awesome task of leading a nation of people!
3. Now ... think about this ... young Josiah did not live to be an old man! Therefore, any remembrance that he made of God had to be done in his youth ... and in the days of early manhood!
4. Questions: So ... how did Josiah reign? How well did he do? What kind of a king was he?

a. Let's allow the Bible to answer these questions for us.

b. Read 2 Chronicles 34:2 again.



- c. The way that young king Josiah ruled was completely opposite from the way that his father and grandfather had ruled!
- d. You see ... young king Josiah didn't have to believe those before him ... or like those around him ... and neither do you! Are you listening?
- e. The fact is ... young king Josiah chose right over wrong ... he chose truth over error ... Jehovah rather than sin!
5. We are all serving someone or something ... and Jesus tells us that we are just not going to be able to serve two masters in Matthew 6:24.



6. Read and discuss the following passages: James 4:4; Romans 6:12-16.



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- a. Question: Do these passages apply to you and me? In what way?
7. Young king Josiah decided to do what was right in God's eyes!

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- a. Question: How important is it for us to be living our lives to please God?
Discuss ...
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8. Young king Josiah was a teenager when he began to become even more involved in living a life to please His God! In 2 Chronicles 34:3 ... we find him at the age of 16! Think about it!
- a. Many at this age are seeking other things! Discuss ...
- b. Many at this age are beginning to venture out beyond the walls of home and family ... seeing things they have never seen before ... having the opportunity to do things they've never done before!
- c. And sadly ... in some young people's hearts ... they feel they no longer need their parents telling them what they can and cannot do!
- d. Read and discuss Ephesians 6:1-3; Colossians 3:20.



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- e. You see ... for some young people ... acquiring their driver's license ... being in high school ... etc. ... somehow releases them from parental respect and obedience!
- f. Question: Have you seen this type of attitude in someone else's life?
- g. Question: Have you seen this type of attitude in your own life?
9. For some young people ... this age frame becomes a 'call of the wild'! And the "*far country*" mentioned in Luke 15 is successfully drawing them away.
- a. Read and discuss *the "far country"* mentioned in Luke 15:13.



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- b. The warning must be issued that the “*far country*” doesn’t have to be a distant place to which we must travel ... it can be in your own heart first!
- c. Life in the “*far country*” never lives up to its expectations ... and it never delivers what it promises to deliver!
- d. You see ... sin promises freedom ... but it only brings slavery (John 8:34)! 
- e. You see ... sin promises success ... but it only brings failure! It promises happiness and life ... but it only brings death. Read Romans 6:23. 
10. God and good are on the one side and Satan and sin are on the other side ... just like in the story of David and Goliath in the valley of Elah) 
Read this story recorded in 1 Samuel 17!
- a. The fact is ... these are the two alternatives each of us must decide on!
- b. We’re either going to be counted on God’s side ... or we are going to be counted on Satan’s side! There is just no middle ground. Read and discuss Matthew 12:30.



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11. Young king Josiah had a tremendous love for God’s Word. Read and discuss the thoughts expressed in 2 Chronicles 34:14-21.



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- a. Question: So ... just how important is it for each of us to develop the same kind of love for God and His Word that Josiah had?

Conclusion:

1. People followed God because of this young king's tremendous influence for good that his life had on them!
2. You don't have to be a king ... or a queen ... or even a prince ... or princess ... to have influence over other people! All you have to do is decide that you are going to live your life in such a way as to honor our God!!!!

a. It's the thought expressed by Jesus in Matthew 5:16 ...



3. Question: Can you name someone today who is now a faithful follower of the Lord who was influenced by you to do what is right?
4. Question: Can you name someone today who is now a faithful follower of the Lord because your life has influenced them in a good way?
5. There is no finer way to remember God while you're young ... than by seeking to persuade others to remember the Lord while they are young!!!
 - a. Read and discuss the following passages and how they pertain to you: Philippians 1:27; 1 Peter 2:12.



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6. Will you have the kind of faith and zeal for the Lord that young king Josiah had? You can ... you know! Be a young person who doesn't forget to remember!!!!

Timothy ... A Young Man Who Remembered God Because Of What He Had Learned From The Scriptures!

Text: "And that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." (2 Timothy 3:15)

INTRODUCTION:

1. We've been noticing just a few examples of many that could be considered of young people who *"remembered their Creator in the days of their youth"* (Ecclesiastes 12:1)!
 - a. We've noticed the faith ... strength ... and courage of Joseph! (Lesson Six).
 - b. We've noticed the faith ... zeal ... and resolve of Josiah (Lesson Seven).
2. Let's turn our attention to the life and example of the young evangelist named Timothy!
 - a. Question: What do we know about this young man named Timothy?
 - b. Questions: Where did he come from? How did he become associated with the apostle Paul? What kind of a young person was he?
3. Well ... let's find out ... and let's find out what it was about this young man that could lead others to say: *"... behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a certain Jewish woman who believed, but his father was Greek. He was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium."* (Acts 16:1,2).

4. Timothy ... the young man who remembered God because of what he had learned from the Scriptures!

I. A Young Man With Genuine Faith

1. There is absolutely no doubt that Timothy had a lot of things going for him early on in his life. You see ... he had the benefits of seeing ... observing ... listening to ... the life and teaching of both a godly mother and equally godly grandmother!

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- a. Read and discuss the thoughts expressed in 2 Timothy 1:5; 3:14, 15.
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b. You see ... this is a beautiful family picture that is painted by the apostle Paul regarding Timothy ... even though his father is not mentioned!

c. Question: Why do you suppose that more families don't spend time reading and studying their Bibles?

d. Question: Is there something that you can do as a young person to help promote a family study time?

2. There is no magic in just reading the Bible and knowing what it says! The one who wins at Bible Trivia is not necessarily the best Christian! Discuss why this is sometimes true ...
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3. The person who memorizes the most verses of the Bible isn't always the most spiritual person either!

a. So ... how can this be so? Discuss ...

4. Question: Is the conclusion to be drawn that it doesn't do any good to read the Bible regularly or to memorize passages of Scripture? Not at all!

5. Here is the lesson we all need to be learning: folks can read the Bible every day without it making a dent in the way they live or they can read the Bible every day and allow it become a resident in their heart and manifest itself in their life!

- a. Read and discuss the thoughts expressed in the following passages: Psalm 119:11; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Timothy 3:14, 15.
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6. Timothy had been so well taught in the Scriptures ... that when the gospel was preached ... he was ready to receive the gospel when it was preached!
 - a. The “*Holy Scriptures*” of 2 Timothy 3:14,15 were the “sacred writings” ... the common designation of the Old Testament by Greek-speaking Jews!
 - b. Timothy was a young man who had obtained his own faith!
 7. Each one of us has the personal responsibility to serve the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:10).

 8. The young man Timothy answered the call ... and became the child of God that the Lord wanted him to become! You see ... he not only obtained his own faith ... he had the courage to live it out before the eyes and ears of others!
 - a. Just listen to the words of the apostle Paul as he both instructs Timothy as to how he should be living ... but also as he commends Timothy to others for the way he is living. Note the following passages: 1 Timothy 4:16; Philippians 2:19-23.



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- b. Question: Could these kinds of compliments be said of us? I mean ... is it really possible for us to live courageously in this world? Absolutely it is!
 - c. Question: Would we like for these compliments to even be said about us?
 9. Listen ... the words of the apostle Paul recorded in 1 Timothy 4:16 are not just words ... they are commandments to be obeyed!
 - a. The words recorded and preserved in the Bible are not just good words to be engraved on plaques to be hung on the wall ... or painted with a beautiful background for us to admire!
 - b. God’s words must be taken into our own hearts and lived out in our own lives! Read and discuss the words of Jesus recorded in John 12:48.



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10. You could memorize directions on how to make a cake or how to tune up a car ... but they will have little significance ... until they are put into practice!
- a. Note the following thoughts expressed in James 1:22-25.



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- b. Are you getting the point of all this? Timothy was a young man who cared about doing right ... and about others doing right as well!
- c. It is the truth of ... “you cannot give away to others what you do not have yourself!”
- d. Question: Do you really care about doing what is right in your own life? I mean ... do you really care about doing what is right in your life?
- e. Question: Do you really care about others doing what is right? Do you really care?

Memory Verse: *“Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.” (1 Timothy 4:12)*

Conclusion:

1. Be willing to follow God in every situation! You don't have to put Bible verses on your letter jacket or on your sweater! You don't even have to preach hellfire and brimstone sermons in speech class ... or even carry a big Bible around in the halls ... or to the ballfield or the gym or to the band room!
2. But I will tell you what you must be willing to do ... you must be willing to let the world know just whose side you are on!

3. You must be willing to stand up and be counted among God's people! On the Day of Judgment ... all of us will be standing before the Lord ... and when we stand before Him ... individually ... we will hear one of two things:

a. "... *Well done, good and faithful servant*" (Matthew 25:21, 23)!



b. "... *I never knew you*; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness." (Matthew 7:23)



4. Young person ... don't ever forget to remember the Lord! You will be glad you did ... both in this life ... and in the life hereafter!

Young People Of The Old Testament ... Who Forgot To Remember!

Text: "Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth ..." (Ecclesiastes 12:1)

INTRODUCTION:

1. Question: How do you react when your parents say to you, "Don't ask me why! Just do it because I said so?"

Question: Do you feel like your parents owe you an explanation when they tell you to do something?

Question: Do you think that all persons in authority ... including God ... should give an explanation before issuing orders? Discuss ...

2. Question: Have you decided that you will always give reasons for your instructions when you're the one in authority? Why?

3. Wait a minute! Consider this scenario: Would a 3-year old accept your explanation of why green beans would be better for them to eat than a package of M & M's?

4. The fact is ... God made us! All of us!!! He knows what is best for us. Note the following passage of Scripture recorded in Jeremiah 10:23 and discuss its meaning.



- a. You see ... our entire existence depends upon Him. Note Acts 17:28.



b. So ... as our Creator ... our Maker ... our God ... doesn't He have the right to expect our obedience? Discuss ...

5. The sad fact is ... many have decided that He does not have the right! In fact ... one of the reasons why some individuals want to deny His existence is so that they will have no one to really answer to ... or be held accountable too ... for their actions. Discuss the relevance of these thoughts to our society today ...

a. Question: Do you think this was a great part of the reason the apostle Paul said what he said as he spoke to the Athenians in Acts 17:22-31? Discuss ...



6. Ecclesiastes 12:1 actually admonishes young people to remember God now ... that is ... while they are young! The implication is a most serious and sobering acknowledgment that young people may fail to remember God!

a. Question: Do you know anyone your age ... or close to your age ... who has already forgotten to remember God?

b. Question: Why do you suppose they forgot God? How did it happen?

c. Question: Do you think something like this could happen to you? Is there an outside chance that you already have started down this road of forgetting God?

7. Now ... there have been young people throughout the ages who forgot to remember God ... and who were given time ... who took advantage of God's grace and mercy ... and "came to their spiritual senses"!

8. But there are also many who never came back ... and actually have no intention of doing so!

9. Let's take a closer look at some young people of the Old Testament ... young people who forgot to remember.

I. Well Known Old Testament Young People Who Forgot ... To Remember God!

1. Cain ... The Jealous Brother

a. In Genesis 4 ... we read of the first two children being born to the first couple, Adam and Eve!



b. The Bible tells us that Abel "*was a keeper of sheep*" (Genesis 4:2) ... and that Cain "*was a tiller of the ground*" (Genesis 4:2).



c. Both of these occupations were respectable ... but God's focus was not on their vocation ... His focus was on their heart and the sacrifice they offered to Jehovah (Genesis 4:4,5)!



d. Question: Does it really matter what God wants ... when it comes to our sacrifice today ... or to our service to Him ... or to the way we live our lives? Note the following passages: 1 Samuel 15:22; Romans 12:1,2 ... and discuss these truths!



e. You see ... Cain preferred to offer what he wanted to offer ... rather than what the Lord had specified!

f. Cain failed to honor God ... to show Him the respect and obedience He deserved as God!

g. Question: Would you agree that Cain also failed to honor God with respect to the areas of "brotherly love" ... "concern" ... and even sympathy? Discuss ...

h. But Cain was also guilty of something else in addition to all of these things and including murder ... he was guilty of lying to God (Genesis 4:9)!



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- I. Question: How does a person forget to remember God when they lie?
 - j. Question: Is lying wrong? Is it a sin? Why? Note Ephesians 4:25; Revelation 21:8 ... then discuss!



CONCLUSION:

1. Very simply ... we find in the example of Cain ... the example of a young man who thought **more of himself** than he did of the Lord!
2. Very simply ... we find in the example of Cain ... the example of young man who thought **more about himself** than he did about the Lord!
3. The world will tell you “there are many paths to God” ... “so it really doesn’t matter what you believe ... or no particular belief is ‘right or wrong’ ... just as long as you genuinely seek Him!”
 - a. This entire thought process ... according to Scripture ... is sincerely wrong! Just ask Cain!
4. Note the following passages of Scripture: John 14:6; Acts 4:12 ... 
5. You see ... God’s way is really the only acceptable way! There is no reason to ask why! There is really no need for any drawn out explanations ... there is simply the need to accept His will and comply!
6. Young person ... don’t imitate the life and example of Cain ... and forget to remember the One who made you and who provides everything for you!

Memory Verse: “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man’s all.” (Ecclesiastes 12:13)

A Power Hungry Son ... And A Strong Young Man: Two Young People Who Forgot The Lord!

*Text: "A foolish son is a grief to his father, and bitterness to her who bore him."
(Proverbs 17:25)*

INTRODUCTION:

1. As we continue our study of young people in the Bible ... specifically the Old Testament ... we want to look at the examples of two young people who just didn't get it!
 - a. The examples of Absalom, son of David ... and Samson ... one of the judges of Israel.
2. And as we look more closely at these two young men ... let's be asking ourselves how we can make sure these same things don't happen in our lives!
3. Question: How does it happen that a young person ... brought up to serve the Lord ... can decide to turn away from the Lord? Discuss ...

- a. Question: How does it happen that a young person can decide to ignore or disregard the instruction of their parents ... whether it be with regard to study habits ... friends ... religion ... etc.?

- b. Question: How "free" is the will to make choices in this life? Read the following passages and discuss: Joshua 24:15; 2 Corinthians 5:10.



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4. There is so much wisdom to be found in God's Word ... information that will enable us to make good choices and avoid bad choices ... but we have to decide that we will listen to its instruction! Read Proverbs 2:1-5 and think about what is being advised by an older person to a younger 

person ... and then ask yourself if you are willing to benefit from the instruction of God's Word!

5. Let's look now at these two young men more closely ...

I. Absalom ... The Young Man Who Wanted It All!

1. We first read of Absalom in 2 Samuel 3:3 when he was born to David. 
 - a. He comes back on the scene in 2 Samuel 13 ... 
2. After a series of disgusting and troublesome events in David's household ... we find Absalom doing what so many folks decide to do ... taking the law into their own hands, 2 Samuel 13:23-33. 
3. Question: What is wrong with taking the law into your own hands ... especially if no one else is trying to do something about some wrong that has been committed?
 - a. Question: What does the Bible say about exacting judgment ourselves in Romans 12:17-21? Read and discuss ...



- b. Question: How does the attitude of 'getting even' compare with the example of Christ described in Philippians 2:1-5? 
4. But ... there were some other mistakes that Absalom made in his young life that proved to be very costly ... such as wanting to have his own way?
 - a. Question: How much of a problem in our lives is this desire to 'have our own way' about something?
 - b. Question: Do you ever try to insist on having your own way?
 - c. Question: Have you ever been around someone who seemed to be this way most or all of the time? Did you enjoy being around them?

d. Question: How do the words of Jesus recorded in Matthew 16:24 have relevance to this subject?



5. You see ... Absalom wanted to have his own way ... in punishing his brother ... and in seizing the crown from his father ... no matter who got hurt in the process!

6. One other thought: the Bible tells us that Absalom was a very handsome young man in 2 Samuel 14:25, 26.



a. Question: Is there anything wrong with being handsome or pretty?

b. Fact: What is wrong is when an individual begins to place too much emphasis on their looks ... or even on their abilities ... etc. Discuss how and in what other areas this could be a problem ...

7. Some young people ... and older folks as well ... don't handle their lives very well! Whether it's popularity ... looks ... intelligence ... abilities ... money ... or lack of money!

8. Absalom rebelled against his father ... he rebelled against his God ... and it cost him dearly ... it cost him his life!

II. A Strong Young Man ... Who Forgot Where His Strength Came From!

1. Samson lived during the period of Bible history known as the Judges.

a. We are introduced to Samson in Judges 13.



b. As a matter of fact ... we find a good portion of Judges ... chapters 13-16 devoted to the life and the mistakes of Samson!

2. Samson was a young man who had been consecrated to God's service (Judges 13). Read and discuss the events of Judges 13 ...



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- a. Question: Wouldn't you say that the Lord had great plans for this young man?
 - b. Question: Do you think that the Lord has great plans for you and your life?
 - c. Question: What is our part in all of this? Don't the thoughts of Proverbs 2:1-5 offer us insight into our role?



3. Samson ... a young man with a bright future ahead of him ... forgot who he was!

- a. Question: Do we ever forget who we are?
- b. Question: By the way ... who are we if we are children of God through faith and obedience to Christ? Read and discuss 1 Peter 2:9-11 ...



4. Samson forgot God because he was self-willed!



- a. Define "self-willed":

b. You see ... in spite of his parents' warnings ... he married the woman in Timnath (Judges 14:1-4).



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- c. We need to always be open-minded and teachable. Read and discuss the following passages: Matthew 5:6; Psalm 119:33, 105 ...



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- d. Samson wasn't ... and it cost him dearly!

5. Samson refused the wise counsel of his parents!

- a. Question: How many young people have committed the same mistake of not listening to their parents? Read the following passages: Proverbs 4:1; 13:1; 15:5 ...



- b. Question: What lessons do you draw from the preceding passages?
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6. Samson chose evil associations ... instead of God!

- a. It is really faulty reasoning when the people of God think they have to go among the enemies of the Lord to have a good time!

- b. Read and discuss the following passages: Proverbs 1:10-15; 4:14 ...



- c. If Samson had remembered God ... he wouldn't have had all the problems that he ended up experiencing! Now ... the life of a Christian isn't trouble-free ... but it certainly won't lead you down the wrong path! Read and discuss Matthew 7:24-27.



- d. The bottom line to this area of Samson's life ... and to your life is this ... be very careful who you associate with! Listen to the words of 1 Corinthians 15:33 ...



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7. Samson gave in! He yielded to temptation! But he didn't have to!
 - a. Question: Do we have to give in to temptation ... to peer pressure ... to the evils of this world? Listen to the words recorded in James 4:7 and decide if you have to give in? 

 8. Samson made the very foolish choice of fighting the Lord's battles by day ...and disobeying the Lord's commandments by night!
 - a. Don't you! *"Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life."* (Galatians 6:7-8)

Conclusion:

1. Choices ... we all have to make them ... daily!
2. May the Lord help each of us to look to Him for the wisdom ... the guidance ... and the strength ... to make the right choice!
3. Cain ... Absalom ... Samson ... and many others whose lives and examples have been preserved in the Old Testament ... young people who forgot to remember!
 - a. Young people who forgot who they were!
 - b. Young people who forgot their place!
 - c. Young people who forgot their God!

Memory Verse: *"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all." (Ecclesiastes 12:13)*

A Young Man Who Remembered And Then Forgot ... A Young Man Who Forgot And Then Remembered!

Text: "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you ... because you have forgotten the law of your God ..." (Hosea 4:6)

INTRODUCTION:

1. There are a number of passages of Scripture that can be troubling. Hosea 4:6 is one of those passages. 
 - a. When you consider all that God had done for His people in the Old Testament ... you have to wonder just how they could reach a point where they forgot the Lord and His will for them!
 - b. Question: So ... how does one reach the point in his or her life where they "forget" the Lord?

c. Question: Perhaps more importantly ... can it happen to us? Discuss ...

2. We've been noticing over the past couple of lessons ... examples of young people in the Old Testament who forgot to remember the Lord. Now ... we want to focus our attention in this lesson on two young men who had trouble with their memory.
3. May we all be open-minded and have the "teachable" attitude of James 3:17.



I. The Rich Young Ruler ... A Young Man Who Remembered At First !

1. Jesus often taught through the use of parables. One such parable is recorded by three of the gospel writers: Matthew 19:16-26; Mark 10:17-22; Luke 18:18-30 
2. Let's focus on Matthew's account ...

3. Here we find a very good example of a young man who temporarily remembered God!

a. Note the conversation beginning with Matthew 19:16 ...



b. This young man approaches the Lord with a question regarding “eternal life” (verse 16).

c. Question: Do we ever ask questions concerning the Bible ... really desiring to know the answer?

d. Question: Do we ever ask questions concerning the Bible ... really not wanting to know the answer?

4. So ... when Jesus begins to give him the answer ... he doesn't like what he hears! (Verse 22)

a. You see ... he made the wrong choice! When he was told what the full price would be for dedicated discipleship ... he departed “sorrowfully” (verse 22).

b. Question: Why was this young man “sorrowful”? Discuss ...

5. Question: Is there anything that is worth losing our souls over?

a. Read and discuss the following passages: 1 John 2:17; Matthew 16:26 ...



6. A word of Caution: Anytime ... anything ... anyone ... looks more important to you than serving the Lord ... would you just remember the example of the Rich Young Ruler! He chose to remember the world ... and to forget the Lord's instructions!

7. Don't think it can't happen ... because it happens all of the time ... to young and old alike! Read 1 Corinthians 10:12 ... and apply its truths to your own life!



II. The Prodigal Son ... A Young Who Forgot ... And Then Remembered!

1. We're probably all familiar with the Parable of the Prodigal Son recorded in Luke 15:11-32.



- a. The principle characters in the parable are the father ... the younger brother ... and the older brother.
 - b. And it's the younger brother that we want to consider in this lesson.
2. You will recall that the younger brother approaches his father and asks for his portion of the inheritance (Luke 15:12)



- a. Question: Are these problems that we have to worry about?
 - b. Question: Are these problems that belong exclusively to the young?
4. This young man forgot God ... and desired the far-off country of sin!
- a. Soon ... he was where his mind had already traveled! (Proverbs 23:7)
 - b. He spend his inheritance on ungodly living (verse 3)!
 - c. You see ... the pleasures of the world completely clouded God from his vision and his life! And that's what sin will do!
 - d. "*Prodigal living*" ("riotous living", KJV) ... is not in any way righteous living!
5. This young man ... in forgetting God ... made several more mistakes as a result of his poor choice!
- a. He left the joy and protection and the shelter of his home ... where his father loved him!
 - b. He was full of selfish feelings ... "I want what is mine!"



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- c. Question: Are we ever selfish like this? Are we really willing to admit it? Are we honest enough to see it in ourselves? Note 2 Corinthians 13:5.



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- d. This young man was overcome by the enticing appeals of the world! And it can happen to each of us before we know it. Read 1 John 2:15-17 and discuss.



6. But ... the parable has a happier ending than the other parable we just studied!

- a. This young man returned! How? Why?
- b. The Bible tells us that this young man “... *came to himself*” (Luke 15:17)!
- c. Question: What does this term “*came to himself*” mean?



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- d. Very simply ... this young man came to his senses! He left selfishness behind ... and seized the quality of selflessness!

- e. This young man gave thought to his condition! This is something we all need to be doing on a regular basis!

- f. This young man repented! He changed his will ... and that is what repentance is all about! Read the parable of the two sons in Matthew 21:28-32.



- g. He didn't say “I will try” ... he said “I will” (verse 18)!

- h. He made the right choice ... he remembered where he had come from ... he remembered who he really was ... and he came back to his father!

- i. The Bible calls this “*humility*”! It's the thought of 1 Peter 5:6 ...



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- j. This young man was truly sorry about his sin! He didn't want to live like the world anymore!
7. Forgetting God led this young man to the far-off country of sin and worldliness ... remembering God led him back home as a changed person ... where he really belonged!

Conclusion:

1. Question: Where do you really belong?
 - a. Question: Where do you really want to belong?
2. You do not have to experience the things of sin to know they are wrong ... and that they can bring no lasting happiness ... in this life ... and certainly not in the life to come!
 - a. Try and remember what was said of Moses in Hebrews 11:25 ... 
 - b. Decide this is the way it is going to be in your heart and life as well!
3. Bible reading ... prayer ... regular worship ... working for Christ ... and righteous living ... all of these ingredients form the perfect prescription enabling you to “remember” God while you are young!
4. As you live in this world ... this is your time ... dare to stand like Joshua ... dare to be courageous like Joseph! Choose the good life ... found in serving God!

The Perfect Teenager ...

Text: "For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow his steps." (1 Peter 2:21)

INTRODUCTION:

1. Question: How would your parents describe the 'perfect' teenager? Discuss ...

2. Question: How would you describe the 'perfect' teenager? Discuss ...

3. Question: Is there such a creature as the 'perfect teenager' today? If not ... why not? Discuss ...

4. We have been looking from week to week at a series of studies involving the admonition from Solomon to *"remember now your Creator in the days of your youth ..."* (Ecclesiastes 12:1).



a. Really ... no series of studies would be complete if it did not include a study of the only 'perfect teenager' who ever walked on this earth ... Jesus Christ!

b. Question: He was a perfect teenager ... wasn't He? Read and discuss the thoughts expressed in Hebrews 4:14-16 ...



c. Question: If not ... why not? Discuss ... Did the Lord “sin” in some way as He was growing up? Be careful how you answer this question!

5. In our last lesson ... we discussed the lessons taught by Jesus in the Parable Of The Prodigal Son (Luke 15).

a. Now ... we readily recognize that the younger brother was not the best example to be following ... except in his repentance and his willingness to come home and be forgiven!

b. Have you ever thought about doing a comparison/contrast study between Jesus Christ and the prodigal son?

6. Well ... let’s just see what such a study would bring to light ...

I. Jesus Christ And The Prodigal Son ...

1. Both of these persons left home! The prodigal son left for selfish reasons ... but Jesus Christ left His home in Heaven ... because He loves us so very much!

a. Read and discuss the following passage: Philippians 2:5-9 ...



b. You see ... there is a tremendous difference between selfishness and unselfishness!

c. Question: By the way ... is it easier to see and observe selfishness in others than it is to see it in our own lives? Why is that so?

2. Both these persons became poor! The prodigal son became poor because he made the choice to live in sin! (Luke 15:13,14).



a. Christ ... He became poor because He wanted us to have life ... eternal life! Read and discuss the thoughts expressed in 2 Corinthians 8:9 ...



3. Both these persons died! The prodigal “died” figuratively ... that’s what his father told his older brother in Luke 15:24!



a. Christ died literally ... for our sins ... that’s what the apostle Paul told the Roman brethren in Romans 5:8!



b. Question: What’s the difference in the two deaths just described? Discuss ...

4. But looking at these two persons ... it is also very interesting to contrast them!

a. One was a sinner ... the other a Savior!

b. One was selfish ... the other selfless!

c. The prodigal son spent all that he had on sin ... while Christ gave all that He had to save us from our sins!

5. Read and discuss the following passages: John 12:20-22; 1 Peter 2:21 ...



a. In the first of these two passages ... some men “*came to see Jesus*”!

b. The apostle Peter tells us what we will find when we see Him ... a perfect example!!!

c. You see ... Jesus Christ is our pattern for imitation ... in every aspect of His life ... including being a teenager!!

II. The Relevance Of Imitation ...

1. Question: Have you ever tried to imitate someone else? How well did you do?
 - a. Question: What would be the difference between a 'good' imitation ... and a 'bad' imitation? Discuss ...
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2. The word "*example*" that the apostle Peter uses in 1 Peter 2:21 is a very interesting word.



- a. The word "*example*" literally means "writing under." You see ... it was writing put under a piece of paper on which to trace letters.
- b. We've probably all done this multiple times in our lives ... especially when we were very young and were trying to learn how to write letters or to draw objects.
- c. Now ... in the context of 1 Peter 2:21 ... the apostle Peter is holding up the example of Christ when it comes to suffering! By doing this ... he was encouraging the early Christians on how to handle their own sufferings successfully.



- d. And the point we want to make with reference to His being our "example" is that ... not only is He the perfect example when it comes to suffering ... He is our perfect example in every way!
3. Very simply ... Jesus Christ is worthy of our imitation ... in EVERY WAY!
 - a. Question: Can you think of one area of our lives where He would not be the perfect example for us to learn from and imitate in our lives? Discuss ...
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III. The Wonderful Example Of What Real Obedience To Parents Is All About ...

1. "My parents make me so mad ... I could ..."
 - a. Question: Have you ever said this ... or at least thought it to yourself?
 - b. Question: When your parents tell you that you can't go somewhere ... or that you can't do something ... or that you are to go somewhere ... or that you are to do something ... **do you have a right to be angry?**
 - c. Answer: God says you don't! Read and discuss the thoughts expressed in Ephesians 4:31, 32 ...



2. Jesus lived during the Mosaical Dispensation. The Law of Moses required with crystal clarity ... respect for one's parents. Read and discuss the following passages: Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 5:16; 21:18-21; 27:16; Leviticus 19:3 ...



- a. During the years of His youth ... as a growing boy in Nazareth of Galilee ... Jesus was fully submissive to His earthly parents! Read and discuss the thoughts expressed in Luke 2:51 ...



- b. Now ... we probably want to cringe when we read the phrase "*... was subject to them ...*"! But we must understand that as Joseph and Mary were walking along the road back to Nazareth ... Jesus was walking with them ... and He was in subjection to them! He was submitting to their authority as His earthly parents!

- c. Very simply ... Jesus was just not rebellious or disrespectful to His parents! How do we know? Read John 8:46 ...



d. Question: Don't you think His enemies would have found out one way or another if He had been disobedient ... and used it against Him?

3. You CANNOT follow Jesus and be disrespectful ... rebellious ... hateful ... etc.!
Read and discuss the thoughts expressed in Ephesians 6:1-3 ...



a. One of the easiest ways to disobey God is to show disrespect for your parents! Think about that ... would you?

b. Another way to disobey God is to show obedience ... but to do so on the installment plan! When one of your folks asks you to take out the garbage ... do you jump up and do it ... or do you say, "Okay, after this TV show is over." Then you get busy with other things ... go to your room or to bed ... and forget all about the garbage!

c. Question: Does this sound familiar? Now ... be honest!!!

4. Very simply ... Jesus is our perfect example of showing respect and honoring our parents with obedience! Question: Are you following in His steps?

5. Questions: Do you cooperate with your parents' desires without griping and complaining?

Do you happily yield to your parents' requests when there is a conflict in the schedules at home?

Do you respond to your parents' advice and correction with appreciation for their love and interest in you?

Do you take care of your responsibilities as a son or daughter ... as well as a brother or sister ... thoroughly ... regularly ... and with a good attitude?

Examples From The Perfect Life Of The Perfect Teenager ... On How To Remember God!

*Text: "And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men."
([Luke 2:52](#))*

INTRODUCTION:

1. Most every family has at least one family photo album ... that shows the various members of the family at different times ... at different ages ... in different situations of life!
 - a. Now ... for most of us ... some of these photos can be very embarrassing! They can be very humiliating ... can't they!
 2. The photo album we have of Jesus Christ as a boy ... and as a young man really contains only a couple of photographs.
 - a. After the events are recorded showing His miraculous birth ([Matthew 2](#); [Luke 1](#)) ... we find Luke's description of the young boy ... Jesus Christ ([Luke 2:39-40](#)).

 - b. Secondly, we find Luke's description of the young boy ... Jesus Christ ... as he is about to become a teenager ([Luke 2:41-52](#)).

 - c. Question: What things become very obvious about Jesus Christ as he was a young person? Discuss ...
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3. Luke ... by inspiration ... gives us enough information to draw some very clear conclusions about Him ... and even about His earthly parents (Joseph and Mary)!

4. There is one other observation we need to make from Luke 2:52 ...

a. Not only did Jesus ... the young boy ... continue to grow physically (Luke 2:40) ... He continued to grow mentally ... emotionally ... and He “*increased in wisdom.*” (Luke 2:52).



b. Literally ... the thought is that Jesus continued to be filled with wisdom! You see ... it was a process!

c. Read and discuss the following passage: 2 Timothy 3:13-15 ...



d. Timothy ... as a young man ... learned about God ... he gained knowledge ... and he translated that knowledge into conviction ... learning “to walk in wisdom”.

e. Just as Christ increased in wisdom ... just as Timothy increased in wisdom ... you can too!! What a marvelous thought to consider!!!

5. Knowing there is really so much more that could be discussed ... it is imperative that we take the time to look at several areas pictured in the Scriptures in the young life of Jesus Christ on earth ... and learn from these examples.

I. The Example Of His Deep Dedication To The Heavenly Father ...

1. Define the word “dedication”: _____



2. “I don’t really feel like being a Christian today!”

a. Questions: Do you ever feel this way? Why?

b. The fact is ... there are occasions in our lives when we can be tempted to feel this way about serving the Lord!

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- c. It might be ... you want to sneak out when your parents have grounded you ... even though God commands you to obey them!
 - d. It might be ... there is going to be a party ... you know ... a party where a lot of your friends will be ... but a party that Christians really shouldn't be attending!
 - c. Question: Can you think of some other situations where this idea of not wanting to be a Christian for a day or so would appear? Discuss ...
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3. Sometimes it can be very difficult to be a Christian! But if you are completely dedicated to the Lord ... and if you are completely committed to His Cause ... you will serve God anyway!

a. And in serving God ... you will be successful ... you will be victorious!

b. Read and discuss the following passages: Psalm 25:2,3; 56:3; 143:8 ...



c. You see ... when a person (young or old) can reach the point where they are willing to place their trust in the Lord ... a degree of confidence begins to develop in one's heart and is then reflected in one's life!

d. Question: Do you have that kind of trust ... dedication ... commitment to the Lord ... so that you will be willing to follow Him anywhere He leads?

4. At the young age of twelve (12) ... our Lord accompanied Joseph and Mary to the city of Jerusalem in order to observe the Passover Feast (Luke 2:41-42). 

a. When His parents began the trip back home ... they discovered He wasn't with them. They hurried back to Jerusalem and found Him in of all places ... the Temple! (Luke 2:24-47). 

b. At this point we have the first recorded words of the Lord spoken by Him (Luke 2:49)! 

c. Jesus said “... *I must be about My Father’s business* ...”

d. Question: What does this statement mean? Discuss ...

e. You see ... this was His primary purpose in life. Read and discuss the thoughts expressed in Hebrews 5:8,9 ...



f. Now ... read Luke 4:16 ... noting the phrase “... *as His custom was* ...”



g. This occasion for His going to the synagogue ... was not His first appearance in the place where His Father’s Word was read and where service to Jehovah was offered!

h. Jesus had been a regular attender of the synagogue services while He was young! Question: Is there a lesson here for us? Discuss ...

i. Questions: Do you really think Jesus ever missed these synagogue services deliberately?

Do you think He missed in order to go to the Sea of Galilee to fish?

Do you think He misbehaved in these synagogue services?

Do you think He ever got angry or offended because some part of the Law was read that He didn’t want to hear?

Are you ever guilty of these things in your own life? Think about it!

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5. One of the clear conclusions that must be drawn from the life of Jesus Christ is His complete dedication to the Father! There are a number of occasions when Jesus made a statement similar to the one recorded in John 4:34! 

II. The Example Of His Growth And Maturity ... In The Right Direction!

1. Read Luke 2:52 again ... and discuss each of the areas that are mentioned with regard to the development of Jesus as a young man ...



a. There is no doubt that many questions exist regarding how Jesus left the joys of Heaven and lived among men!

b. But ... Jesus didn't perform any miracles as a boy! It was the turning of the water into wine recorded in John 2:1-11 that was His first miracle! 

c. Jesus worked with Joseph in the carpenter shop (Matthew 13:55; Mark 6:3!)



2. You see ... Jesus grew in four important areas of life ...

a. He grew in wisdom! It goes without saying that proper diet must be given to a person's mind. Read and discuss the thoughts expressed in Philippians 4:8,9



b. He grew in stature! This is suggestive of physical growth or bodily development. The Christian (young or old) needs to develop and care for their body ... just as they care for their mind! Read 1 Corinthians 6:19,20. 

c. He grew in favor with God! This was His spiritual growth. Read and discuss the thoughts expressed in Matthew 6:33 ...



(1) Also read and think about the thoughts expressed in 2 Peter 3:18; 1 Peter 2:1,2 ...



d. He also grew in favor with man! This was His social growth and development. You see ... He learned the art of abiding in a world where many others also live! Read and think about the thoughts expressed in 1 Peter 2:9-11 ...



3. We hear all of the time about the development of the 'whole man'!
 - a. Question: Is there anything wrong with getting an education? Obtaining a B.A. degree ... or B.S. degree ... or a Masters ...or PhD?
 - b. Answer: Only if this becomes more important than serving God!!!
 - c. Education is important ... in fact ... it is very important! But education that omits God and His righteousness is a curse!

Conclusion:

1. Our impressions of Jesus Christ ... our knowledge about His life ... His work ... His person ... should be obtained from God's Word ... not from the work of God's enemies!
2. If you want to learn more about Jesus Christ ... about His perfect life ... in His youth as well as in His adulthood ... you must be willing to spend time reading from the Gospels about Jesus! Read and think about the thoughts expressed in John 20:30,31 ...



3. My young friend ... one of the devil's biggest lies is that God is unkind and uncaring! Satan will tell you that if you choose to obey God ... you will always regret it!
4. May you be encouraged to take the advice of the wise man, Solomon, and remember God while you are young!

a. Proverbs 8:17 reads, *“I love those who love Me, And those who seek Me diligently will find Me.”*



b. This passage reminds us that in putting off service to God ... we run the very real risk of obtaining a hardened heart ... which will make finding God or His ways ... impossible!

5. May you be encouraged to make a commitment to the Lord early in life ... and be willing to make the sacrifice the apostle Paul speaks of in Romans 12:1,2!



“Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, Before the difficult days come, And the years draw near when you say, I have no pleasure in them” (Ecclesiastes 12:1)