

# Learning & Education

**Dear Facilitator:** The New Testament has a name for followers of Jesus: “disciples”. This word means “learner”, “student”, or “apprentice” and this emphasis provides an important foundation for this session. This week we will focus on learning and education, which involves more than just formal schooling, and includes all of the ways in which we learn and grow throughout our lifetime, especially by understanding God’s plans.

As we consider why it is important for us and our families to value education, and why we need to be life-long learners, we will talk about different kinds of education along with what it takes to make choices and sacrifices to educate our families and ourselves.

It might be helpful for you to know what we hope to accomplish through this lesson.

Participants will:

1. Explain the value of education and learning.
2. Be ready to do what God calls them to do.


This lesson will explain why families should value learning and education. Education should be valued because it prepares and sustains us to do what God calls us to do. We hope that at the end of this lesson, families will better understand God’s plan for them.

We pray that God will give you direction and clarity as you prepare the lesson and activities.


We hope that the families in your group will grow together in God’s love and become a source of friendship and support for one another.

*Blessings*


## Welcome *5 minutes*

 **Say:** Welcome back! I hope it's been a good week for all of you, as you have been working diligently on many things that positively influence and help you lead your family.

Last week we spent time discussing hopes and dreams.

 **Ask:** Did anyone try something that made a positive difference in your family this past week that you would be willing to share?


## Introduction *5 minutes*

 **Say:** The New Testament has a name for followers of Jesus, “disciples”. This word means “learner”, “student”, or “apprentice” and this emphasis provides an important foundation for this session. This week we will focus on learning and education, which involves more than just formal schooling, and includes all of how we learn and grow throughout our lifetime. As we learn, we become better equipped to fulfill God’s vision and call for our lives and families and lead others. Learning helps us understand better the needs of others in our communities and cities, and it allows us to imagine new possibilities and solutions to challenges that can make a real difference.

Today’s teaching objectives are to:

1. Explain the value of education and learning.
2. Be ready to do what God calls us to do.

# Family & Table Talk 20 minutes

 **Say:** Education and learning start at home and prepare us for the purpose that God has intended for each of our lives. Tonight, at your tables, let's talk about learning.

1. How do you learn best? Can you think of a learning experience you really enjoyed?
2. Who were some of your favorite teachers, and why?
3. List some reasons why you think education is important for personal growth, work/career, and community participation?

*After the meal, children are dismissed to their group.*

*As you begin this portion of the evening, explain that each time you will start with the overview and then the lesson time.*

*Notes*

<i>40 minutes</i>	
<h1>Parent Training</h1>	
<i>Legacy</i>	<b>LEARNING &amp; EDUCATION</b>

What did you learn about how others in your family learn? As parents, we have an incredible opportunity to educate our children and help them learn.

Learning is a lifelong journey. Why do we need to be educated? Education and learning prepares us to do the work God asks us to do; to live out our hopes and dreams.

Take a moment to think about areas you need to learn more about. This could be related to being a parent, dealing with challenges at work, or things happening in your community. Let's focus on work for a moment as an example. Perhaps you want to make a job change to provide more for your family and contribute to your community in a more significant way. You could consider taking classes and earning a credential, or perhaps starting a business or nonprofit organization. In each case, there are probably new things to learn and they are done with a purpose; to help you and your family, and to contribute to the flourishing of your community. As we learn and grow, we also model what ongoing,

lifelong learning looks like for our children. They will see a wonderful example in us that learning is an essential part of our lives.

As parents, we should also affirm our children daily in their learning. We should ensure they attend school and take advantage of other educational opportunities. We should help them with homework and read 20 minutes daily with them.

It is challenging to support education but you are up to that challenge! It involves making choices and sacrifices and employing gritty determination to succeed.

Education and learning are the foundation to help us plan and prepare to reach our hopes and dreams.

You might wonder what the Bible has to say about education. The Bible speaks of the fear of the Lord as the beginning of wisdom. Luke also points out that Jesus grew in wisdom

and stature. The word “education” may not appear in the English Bible, but scripture does say a lot about the process of education, and it begins with the parent and child. The church also has historically promoted education and the improvement of the mind.

Our scripture passage tonight is found in Deuteronomy 6:4-9. It says, “Hear, O Israel:

The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.”

**Write the five vital behaviors on the board.**

Can anyone summarize the five vital behaviors (BGRAD)?

**1. Believe in yourself.**

The choice to affirm children daily can help them set better goals and can help them take more responsibility for their academic success.

**2. Go to school.**

Helping children get to school is one of the best ways to improve their chances for academic success.

**3. Read at home.**

Studies show that children who read books at home for just 20 minutes a day do better in school.

**4. Ask for help.**

Parents who monitor school progress closely, and contact the school when their child has difficulty, help their children succeed in school.

**5. Do your homework.**

The time spent on homework is one of the best predictors of student grades and academic achievement.



## Scripture SUPPORT

### **Proverbs 9:10**

*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.*

### **Proverbs 4:5**

*Get wisdom, get understanding; do not forget my words or turn away from them.*

### **Proverbs 1:8**

*Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching.*

### **Proverbs 22:6**

*Start children off in the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.*

### **Proverbs 23:12**

*Apply your heart to instruction and your ears to words of knowledge.*

As a parent, how might you adapt and use the BGRAD for your own life?

Why is it important to teach our families to value learning and education?

Let's read this case study and discover why education is important:

Joe fights back the tears, as he stands alone on the corner, his backpack slung carelessly over his shoulder. At 15, the first day of school is never a welcome occasion, but for Joe, the feeling of dread is rooted in more turmoil than the typical end-of-summer blues. Joe hates school. And what's worse, he doesn't see the point in it. "What's in this for me?" he thought to himself time and again last year, as he did just enough to get through his freshman year.

Joe is the type of kid who likes to work with his hands, fixing his old car and building things in Grandpa's garage. He loves to talk to Grandpa about how it was in the old days. That's what Joe enjoys, and he doesn't see how the lessons at school apply to him. He hasn't thought much about what he wants to do when he gets older, and he doesn't feel any sense of direction towards the future. All he knows is that he can't stand the thought of wasting the next three years of his life in a boring classroom.

It wasn't always this way. Joe remembers how in second grade, going to school filled him with excitement. He was even excited about his first spelling test, and he felt so grown up bringing something home to study. But he needed someone to quiz him, and when he went to the kitchen to ask his mom, she seemed too busy to help. "Not now, Joe." She said, "I've got dishes to do and bills to pay and your sister still hasn't had her bath. Go to your room and play."

"I guess school must not be all that important," Joe thought to himself. Now, Joe stands at the crossroads. To his right is his high school. He

knows that if he hurries, he can still make it to class before the first hour bells rings. But to his left, he sees the skateboard park, where a couple of guys he knew in middle school are trying out new tricks.

Someone told him they dropped out of school.

## DISCUSS

- What decisions could Joe make, and how will they affect his life?
- If Joe's parents had used the five vital behaviors, how could they have changed the situation?
- What choices or sacrifices do Joe and his family have to make?
- What choices and behaviors would help your family value learning and education even more?

We are to bring honor and glory to God in everything we do and fulfill the calling that He has given to our families and us. This includes hard work, determination, diligence, and living as God intended us to live.

## SUMMARY

We covered a lot of material in the lesson.

Our objectives were to:

1. Explain the value of education and learning.
2. Be ready to do what God calls us to do.

I want to read a poem called, *At the Crossroads*. Let's ask ourselves this evening: How can we show our children and families a better road? (Read poem.)

To end our lesson, please answer the following:

1. Who has an insight tonight about something you've learned or want to try?
2. What will you change or improve in your role as a parent this week?



## Scripture SUPPORT

### Isaiah 54:13

*All your children will be taught by the Lord, and great will be their peace.*

### Romans 8:28

*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*

### 2 Timothy 3:14-15

*But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convicted of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.*

# At the Crossroads

The sunlight in his face;  
He had no thought for an evil course,  
He was set for a manly race.  
But the road stretched east and the  
road stretched west,  
And he did not know which road  
was the best;  
So he took the wrong road and it led  
him down,  
And he lost the race and the  
victor's crown.  
He was caught at last in an  
angry snare  
Because no one stood at the  
crossroads there  
To show him the better road.  
Another day at the self-same place  
A boy with high hopes stood;  
He, too, was set for a manly race  
He was seeking the things that  
were good.  
And one was there who the roads  
did know,  
And that one showed him the  
way to go;  
So, he turned away from the road  
leading down,  
And he won the race and the  
victor's crown;  
He walks today on the highways fair  
Because one stood at the  
crossroads there  
To show him a better road.

*-Sadie Filler Crawley*



Ages 4-16

40 minutes

# Student Training

*Legacy*

LEARNING & EDUCATION

## Objectives

- Help children to be aware of the importance of learning and education.
- Help children to be aware of the different types of learning.
- Help children be aware that some learning is a part of the preparation for their purpose.
- Help children be aware that our most important textbook is the Bible.
- Help children to be aware that the most important lesson we learn is to love, honor, and obey God.

We all know that learning and education are important! Can you imagine what it would be like if we lived in a world full of people without knowledge or education?

When we think of learning and education, we usually think of going to school and being in a classroom where we listen to teachers sharing new information. A lot of our learning and education happens at school, but did you realize that your parents and other adults in your family are your first teachers? In the Bible, God tells us to pay attention to our parents' instruction (Proverbs 1:8). Even our siblings, cousins, and friends teach us lessons like how to

ride a bike, how to jump rope, how to catch a ball, how to tie shoes, how to put make-up on, or how to tie a necktie. We are constantly learning!

When God created you, He knew you were going to need to have parents to protect you, care for you, and provide for you. God also knew you would need parents who would understand how the world operates and who could teach you what you need to know to have a good life. God gave you the right parents who would work alongside Him to make sure you grow up to be the person He created you to be.

Parents are also the first to teach you

how to communicate, how to share, how to solve problems, how to practice good manners, and how to show love, respect, and compassion. Parents help you experience the world. They take you to the grocery store, the park, the zoo, the museum, and so many other places. They introduce you to the taste of your first ice cream cone, your first dill pickle, or meatballs and spaghetti! Your parents let you watch certain TV shows. All these experiences are a part of your early learning and education. All your learning and education prepares you to serve God in a very special way. Your parents are usually the first to notice what kind of gifts God has given you. For instance, maybe they notice that you are good at math and science, so they enroll you in a special camp for children who like math and science. Perhaps they watch you dancing around the living room, so they may sign you up for a dance class. Maybe you always want to help others who need cheering up, so they take you to volunteer at a senior citizen nursing facility. God gives parents hints about their children's gifts so that they will be able to help their children develop their gifts.

For thirteen years, from kindergarten to high school graduation, we attend school nearly every day to gain the knowledge and information that the world says we must know to have a successful life. In the Bible, God tells us to get wisdom and understanding. God says, "Do not forget my words or turn away from them" (Proverbs 4:5). Yes, textbook learning is important to God, but to Him, the most important education comes from your parents, your first teachers. They are responsible for educating you about what the Bible—our heavenly textbook—says.

God knows that when parents teach you what the Bible says, you will be led to Him. This is how parents teach their children to love and honor God and His Son, Jesus. God commands parents to educate and train their children about Him in His Word. God wants you to know Him as your loving heavenly Father (Proverbs 22:6).

Parents are to help you practice the behavior that makes your heavenly Father happy and proud.

In the Bible, God promised us that if we continue to love, honor, and obey Him, all things in our life will work for our good, and we will have a successful life (Romans 8:28). If we ask God to guide our footsteps on the life path He has planned for us, we will become what He intended us to be. God says, “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future” (Jeremiah 29:11). We are to learn about God and His Son, Jesus, and practice those things in our lives. The Bible says true knowledge comes from honoring and respecting God the Father and His Son, Jesus (Proverbs 9:10).

Just like we read and study textbooks and other materials for learning information about the world, more importantly, God has given us the Bible to learn about Him and the heavenly world we will live in one day.

## **DISCUSS**

- Lead children in a discussion about the purpose of their learning and education.
- Lead children in a discussion about the difference in textbook learning and Bible learning.
- Lead children in a discussion about what the Bible says is the most important learning and education. Why?
- Lead children in a discussion about their parents’ responsibility for their learning and education.
- Lead children in discussing their responsibility for their learning and education.



# Activities

Activities are age appropriate. One is focused on ages 4-11, and the second is for older children ages 12-16.

## AGES 4-11

### Materials

Paper  
Pencils, markers  
Whiteboard  
Erasable markers

- Ask children to write down three important things they have learned at school and three important things they have learned at home. Have them share with the group. (To save time rather than having the children write the responses down, you can solicit their responses from the group and write them on the white board.)
- Then ask children to share some important things they have learned about God/Jesus at church and at home. Ask them why learning about God is more important than anything we will learn.

## AGES 12-16

### Materials

Whiteboard  
Erasable Markers

- Write these three phrases (attitudes about school) on a white/chalkboard to show the children.

#### Student A

“I am here to pass.”

#### Student B

“I am here to get good grades,  
so I can get into college.”

#### Student C

“I am here to gain intelligence  
and knowledge.”

- Let the children share some of their thoughts about each phrase.
- Tell the children to imagine three students are in the same class—each of them have one of the attitudes (above). Have the children answer the following questions about each student: (You can answer them as a class, put them in groups, or have them do this exercise individually.)
  1. Where might they sit in class? Why?
  2. When do they typically arrive to class?
  3. Do they study for class? How?
  4. Would they feel comfortable cheating?
  5. Do they respect the teacher?
  6. How do they behave in class?
  7. Who seems to have the brightest future?  
Why do you think so?
- Then ask the children why God says learning about Him is the most important thing we will ever learn.

*Notes*



**CHALLENGE QUESTION**

IS LEARNING WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS  
THE MOST IMPORTANT THING  
I NEED TO LEARN?

**CHALLENGE COMMITMENT**

WHAT ARE YOU GOING  
TO DO TO WORK ON THE CHALLENGE  
QUESTION THIS WEEK?



**AFFIRMATION** *Have children repeat:*

*All my learning  
and education prepares  
me to serve God in  
a very special way!*