

for Fathers

HOW TO TEACH your children ONE VERSE A DAY



One verse of the Bible, well applied to our lives, is worth more than all of the Bible, if we do not remember it.

For this reason, I suggest that you teach your children one verse of the Bible each day.

Matt. 6:9 (a) In this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven...

"IN THIS MANNER"
similar, not identical



(The heavens)



FATHER!

An intimate name



HOW TO TEACH YOUR CHILDREN ONE VERSE A DAY

by Art Dappen

“I have read the Bible forward and backward,” a man said.

“From that, I understand that you’ve read from Genesis to Revelation, and from Revelation to Genesis,” another answered.

“That’s it,” the first affirmed.

“Well, can you tell me one verse from memory?”

The first remained silent. Seeing that he did not respond, the second man observed, “A piece of roast beef on a plate is more useful than a whole cow far away.”

One verse of the Bible, well applied to our lives, is worth more than all of the Bible if we do not remember it. For this reason, I suggest that you teach your children one verse of the Bible each day.

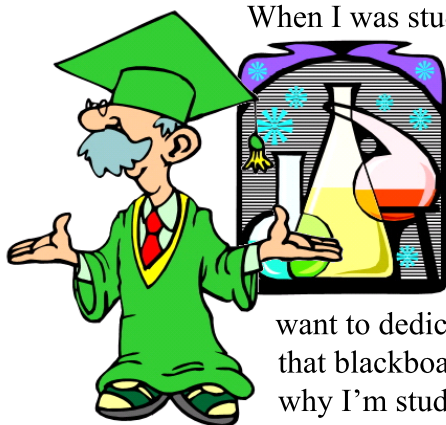
In this book, we are going to explain one method of doing this.

WHAT LEVEL DO YOU LIVE ON ?

Human beings have their location in the universe: above the animals and under God. Without doubt the Creator of all things occupies the highest place, while the animals and the non-living things occupy the lowest places in the universe.

Modern man with his science has learned to investigate the lower levels of the universe, that is, the elements, the plants, the animals, and the laws which govern these lower levels. With this knowledge man can utilize the powers of nature such as the strength of the horse, the heat of fire, and the force of electricity.

Many men have dedicated themselves to investigate and manipulate these lower levels of the Creation. Almost all the schools and universities dedicate themselves to the study of these elemental levels of the universe. And certainly this study was part of the commission which God gave to man in the beginning, when he said, "...replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over... every living thing that moveth upon the earth." (Gen. 1:28.) Man has been given the commission to rule over the lower levels of the universe. However, he has also been ordered to submit to the higher levels.



When I was studying at the University of Chicago, one day I was in a large lecture room hearing a lesson on organic chemistry. The professor had filled the blackboard with chemical reactions. At that moment the thought came to me: "Do you

want to dedicate your life to what is written on that blackboard?" I thought, "I guess so. That's why I'm studying here." Immediately another thought came to me, "Jesus Christ did not

dedicate his life to what is written on that blackboard." That answer left me deeply impressed. It is true that Jesus did not dedicate himself to teach us how to manipulate the lower levels

of the Creation that the scientists investigate. Then what? Jesus came to show us the way which leads to eternal life, and the teaching of Jesus has to do with the upper level of the universe, not with the lower levels. The manipulation of the elemental levels is very useful, but is totally incapable of taking us to eternal life. We cannot get closer to the eternal God by means of manipulating gold (making symbols and idols), by manipulating stones (making temples), or by manipulating our bodies (making movements and performing rituals). We can manipulate and control animals, plants, stones, and our bodies, but not God. All human effort to come closer to God by means of our own works and manipulations is useless, and is “idolatry.” I repeat: idolatry is the effort to approach God by means of the manipulation of the lower levels of the universe. It is impossible to find eternal life by manipulation.

Jesus did not come to teach us what he had learned in the university, but what he had received in Heaven with his Father. He came to explain and demonstrate the levels of the Creation which are above man. Now we are not talking about the material levels of atoms and stones. Neither are we talking about creatures whose bodies are composed of atoms. Nor are we talking about the energy of fire or electricity. All these can be manipulated by man. Rather we are talking about levels which man cannot manipulate. We are talking about a Spirit who is not composed of atoms.

Men teach their children to be idolaters

The saddest thing in all history is the fact that men have refused to submit to the higher levels of the universe. Men have only wanted to manipulate and control. They only want to recognize the importance of that which they can manipulate. Let us be careful not to teach our children to be “idolaters” by giving more attention to the things that men can manipulate than we do to God.

Man is the “master” of matter because he can manipulate it and give it shape, using a hammer and chisel. Man is “master” of the horse because he can tame and control it, using a bit and bridle. Man is “master” of fire and electricity because he can manipulate it for his own use, using machines. Men try to manipulate all things, and they dedicate themselves to a great variety of jobs and businesses, but



they forget or ignore that there are other levels above themselves. Proclaiming themselves to be wise, men stopped honoring God.

GOD RULES OVER VIRTUES

How can God be described? The Bible reveals that “God is love.” God is “holy.” God is “righteous.” God is “merciful.” God is “patient.” God is “wise.”

These words are used to describe the higher levels of the universe. These attributes of God can be called “virtues,” such as the virtue of love, the virtue of mercy, the virtue of righteousness, the virtue of holiness, and many other virtues.

All these virtues of the Creator were manifested in the man Jesus Christ. Jesus was the “image of the invisible God”. He was sent to make us understand those virtues, and make us participants in those virtues. We only have to obey what Jesus tells us.

“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.” (1 Peter 2:9.) The word “praises” in this verse is a Greek word which elsewhere in the New Testament is translated into the English word “virtue.” We are a people chosen to show forth God’s excellent virtues.

There are many things which religious people call “gods,” but which are not gods. Such things have nothing to do with the

virtues of the true God. There are also many rituals which the people practice to draw close to God, but which produce no benefit whatever.

These rituals have nothing to do with the virtues of the true God. Our tongue can pronounce the word “God,” but that word is not God himself, and when we repeat it many times, we are no closer to God. To say the word “God” is not a virtue. We can kneel down, but that body position does not make us closer to God. To kneel is not a virtue. We can go to a temple or a shrine or the city of Jerusalem, but being there does not cause us to be closer to God. To be located in one place or another is not a virtue. We cannot draw close to God by



manipulating our bodies. The various positions or locations of the body are not virtues. Jesus Christ did not teach us how to manipulate things. All religious manipulation is idolatry, but Jesus came to teach us the way of his Father’s virtues. He said, “And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.” (John 17:3.)

God is not composed of earthly dust, nor is he located at an earthly spot. God does not dwell among the plants nor the planets. God is a Being of virtues, and in order to come closer to God, we must do it by means of participating in those virtues. Drawing close to God is not a matter of utilizing earthly elements such as iron, gold, plants, stones, mountains, special places, electricity, the sun, the moon, buildings, special clothes, or the inventions of modern technology. All those things have their legitimate use, but to utilize them to get close to God is idolatry and vain.

We need to draw close to God by means of the virtues of God. The only man in history who possessed those virtues was the

Son of God, Jesus. “In him was life; and the life was the light of men.” (John 1:4.) Jesus said, “And he said unto them, Ye are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of this world; I am not of this world. I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.” (John 8: 23-24.) In Jesus Christ, and only in him, can we find the virtues that are necessary to really be united to God our Creator and to please him.

A diet of virtues

Jesus stated that it was necessary to “eat my flesh and drink my blood,” letting us know that we need a new form of nourishment, not just the normal nourishment of bread, milk, meat, and fruit. We need to “eat” the virtues of God that came to earth in human form. We need to strive after the virtues that we see in Jesus Christ, not just after foods for the stomach. (John 6:27.) The Creator of the Universe came down to our level and was made flesh in order to communicate with men like us who are made of flesh. This was the man Jesus Christ, the Son of God. He was made like us, but his purpose was to lift us up to heavenly levels where God is.

Jesus ate our food when he was here on earth, but now he wants us to eat the heavenly “food” that he brought from above. There is bread which proceeds from the earth, but there is also bread which proceeds from heaven. The former is to give form and strength to our earthly body. The latter is to form the virtues of God in us. This bread is the Word of God. “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.” (1 Peter 2:2.)

Modern men of science have become lords over metals and matter, but can’t control themselves. The world is full of wars, thefts, and divorce. This is due to a type of education which prepares people to control substances, but doesn’t teach them the virtues which they need to control themselves. And Jesus Christ came precisely to solve this fatal problem. He came to lead us to the virtues of God. His words explain these virtues. His life

illustrates these virtues. His death on the cross and his resurrection were necessary to impart to us those virtues.

The Bible is a nourishment of virtues. It is not only a book of history, but also a book of virtues. In every historical account we can see the virtues which men possessed, and we can understand why they were prospered. Men of virtue could do things that the others couldn't do. We see the difference between Jacob and Esau. We see the difference between Joseph and his brothers. We see the difference between Moses and Pharaoh. We see the difference between Caleb and the other ten spies. We see the difference between Ruth and her sister-in-law. We see the difference between David and Saul. And above all, we see the difference between Jesus and ourselves.

The Bible is a book of virtues because it explains what happens to men who possess virtues, and what happens to those who don't. This is what we need to teach our children every day. The eternal destination of each person will depend upon the virtues which reign in his life, not by the abundance of the riches he possesses.

To know is power

Our children need knowledge in order to live. There is power in knowledge.

Whoever discovered the wheel, imparted to many the power to transport their possessions.

Whoever discovered how to make steel enabled the rest to make better implements to cut wood and plow the earth. Whoever discovered how to burn gasoline in a controlled way, conveyed to many the power to use automobiles and airplanes. Whoever discovered how to generate electricity gave to the world a source of much light.

If the knowledge of these elemental levels of the earth have made possible so many benefits for the human race, what will the knowledge of heavenly levels do? That is to say, if the knowledge of the laws that govern the tiny atoms and grains of

sand have resulted in an abundance of food, clothing, and housing for millions of people, what would result from the knowledge of the treasures of God's virtues, by means of which men could stop sinning and destroying the truth? When men learn to please God, their Creator, through the knowledge of Jesus Christ his Son, then the very powers of God Himself will be manifested to humble all pride of the human mind, heal all incurable disease, change storms into calm, expel demons, reconcile broken marriages, restore rebellious children, and conquer death itself. In that day death will disappear because the Most High God will cancel it. When the virtues of God expel all sin from the human race, then death, the consequence of sin, will disappear. "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent." (John 17:3.) When the sore is healed, the bandage disappears.

Jesus Christ commanded us to make disciples, which means to work so that others will follow Jesus, know the truth, work righteousness, and conquer all evil. Just as men have deepened their study of the lower levels of the earth, Jesus is calling men to come to him and to learn of him. Since the virtues from above were operating in Jesus, he could conquer sin and death. He said, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father." (John 14:12.)

A HIGH VISION FOR OUR CHILDREN

We should have a high vision for our children. We must desire that our children obtain the knowledge of "those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God." (Col 3:1.) We must understand that this requires an adequate preparation, not in the university, but in the home. We must teach our children the book of virtues: the Bible.

But we must be practical too. As the man in the story said, "A piece of roast beef in a plate is more useful than a whole cow far away." We can't learn the whole Bible and possess all the virtues

of Jesus in a single day and not even in fifty years. But that is no reason to be discouraged. Little by little you can go far.

The teaching for our children must be based upon the Bible, maintaining the high vision that our children should possess the virtues of God. By means of these virtues, they will be able to glorify the Saviour Jesus Christ and transform the world in which they live.

THE SECRET THAT EVERYONE ALREADY KNOWS



Do you want to know a secret? The children that have been raised with an hour of Bible study every morning are going to know more of the Bible than the graduates of Bible institutes and religious seminaries.

Why? Because everything that little children learn, they learn better than an adult. For example, small children can learn to play the violin better than those who learn it as an adult. Those who learn to speak a foreign language as children will speak it better than those who learn it as adults. Those who learn to play soccer as children will play it better than those who learn it later in life. That's the secret, but the truth of the matter is that it is no secret. Everyone already knows it, but the majority don't apply it to teaching the Bible to their children.



TACOS DO NOT MAKE THEMSELVES

The Bible is true nourishment, but it requires effort to make the most of it. Tacos do not make themselves. They must be prepared.

God gave us many plants and animals for eating, but almost all of them require preparation. Daily, people invest many hours of their time in the purchasing and preparation of their breakfasts, lunches and dinners. If our family wants to have tacos, for example, they must be prepared. The meat must be cut and cooked. The salsa must be prepared, with tomatoes, chiles, cilantro, garlic and salt. The corn cobs must be shelled, and then the corn can be heated with lime (cal) to make “nixtamal.” After the nixtamal is washed and ground, the dough (masa) is made into little balls, each ball is made into a tortilla, and the tortillas are cooked on the griddle (comal). Finally, the children can eat the tacos.

In the same way, God gave us his words in the Bible, but these words require preparation to prepare “Bible tacos” for our children. Just as it requires time to prepare meat tacos, it requires time to prepare “Bible tacos.” Even the birds know that they need to take time to feed their babies. Hopefully they are not wiser than us!

Children cannot open the Bible and nourish themselves directly from it. For this the Bible says, “Fathers, provoke not your children to wrath, but rather bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” (Eph. 6:2) When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, he didn’t know even one verse of the Bible. The Author of Life was made flesh like us, and one attribute of flesh is complete ignorance at birth. The Creator didn’t know how to talk. He didn’t know how to do more than cry like other babies. But later, at 12 years of age, he knew so much of the Bible that he left the teachers of the temple in Jerusalem astonished.

How did the boy Jesus come to know so much? It is evident that Joseph and Mary had done with him that which God commanded through Moses. “And these words which I command thee this day shall be in thine heart, and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the post of thine house and on thy gates.” (Deut. 6:6-9)

WHICH IS MORE IMPORTANT-- PAID WORK OR THE BIBLE?

If the mother of the home does not prepare food, what are the children going to eat? In the same manner, if the father of the home does not prepare lessons from the Bible, what are the children going to learn from God's Word? The Bible does not indicate that children should learn the Bible from Sunday school teachers. The child who eats only once a week will be very skinny.

Children need to eat each day. And someone needs to prepare this teaching each day. The father should do it, because if he leaves it to his wife, the children will perceive that it is of little importance. Instead, they will learn that material work, to which their father is dedicated, is more important. *Please, do not teach your children by your example that material work is more important than the Bible!*



TO WHOM DO WE GIVE THE FIRSTFRUITS OF OUR TIME?

In the Bible we find a truth that has many applications: if we honor God with our firstfruits, then our other fruits will be blessed.

“For if the firstfruits be holy, the lump is holy...” (Rom. 11:16)
The Bible also says, “Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase. So shall your barns be filled with plenty, and your vats gush out with new wine.” (Prov. 3:9-10)

Therefore, if we dedicate the first minutes of our family life to the Lord each day, will not our family life be blessed the rest of

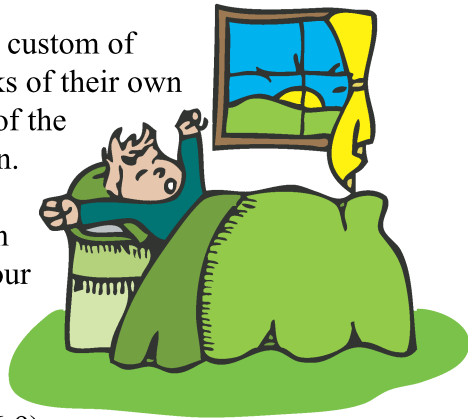
the day? Of course. This is why the Bible says we must teach our children the word of God each morning when we rise (Deut. 6:7) Let us give to God the firstfruits of our time each day. Otherwise, we will be keeping the firstfruits of our time, and God will keep the blessings.

Anyway, common sense teaches us that if someone is packing lots of things in a box, they should first pack the large items, because otherwise, if all the small items are placed first, the large items will not fit.

This is what happens in our daily life. After sunrise, we begin to do many things of less importance, and at the end of the day, there's no time to teach the children the Word of God. Then everyone needs to sleep. We shouldn't give God the leftovers of our time.

The First Hour Of The Day

To not be as idolaters, who have the custom of giving their best strengths to the works of their own hands, reserve for God the first hour of the day to teach the Bible to your children. There is no other activity in your family life that is more important than this. It is also the best hour, because our mind learns better after we sleep. "With my soul have I desired thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within me will I seek thee early..." (Isaiah 26:9)



Where will you find an extra hour to teach your children the Bible? It is not going to appear out of nowhere. You will need to get up at an earlier hour. You will also have to go to bed at an earlier hour each night. That is, you are going to take one hour of each night, and exchange it for an extra hour in the morning. The majority of families can gain more than one hour simply by turning off the television. Go to bed at an earlier hour, and wake up at an earlier hour. This first hour of the new day is going to be the firstfruits to the Lord.

If you commit to do this, and follow on faithfully, your children, like the Son of Joseph and Mary, will leave the pastors of the churches astonished by their wisdom. God is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him. I cannot over-emphasize the importance of this first hour of the day. "I love those that love me, and they that seek me early shall find me." (Proverbs 8:17)

Interruptions, Interruptions

How many have discovered that all day there is interruption after interruption, which leave no time to teach the Bible to your children in a peaceful environment? I know of a gentleman who, when asked how he was doing, always replied, "I'm behind, friend." So also the children of God are behind in their form of teaching the Bible to their children. They try to find time during the day to do it, but they can't find it. But if you do not want weak, skinny children, you are going to change your family life. You are going to take the first hour of the day, and you are going to begin it now. **There are no interruptions at 5 in the morning!**



ONE VERSE A DAY

We suggest the following practical method: that the father of the home teach his children one verse a day. This includes the meaning of the verse in its context; that is, the meaning throughout the whole chapter in which it is found. I repeat: we teach one verse a day in its context.

Each morning, before breakfast and before beginning the work of the day, we meet together as a family. We can begin by singing 2 or 3 hymns to turn our thoughts toward God. Afterwards we choose a chapter to learn. For example, these days I have chosen for my family Matthew 6 in Spanish.

I know some are thinking, “What happened? You finished talking about a verse a day, but now you're talking about a chapter.” But listen carefully: I said, “one verse a day in its context.” Therefore, we are going to read the whole chapter each day, but we will not study more than one verse a day from it. The whole chapter is the context.

Use Repetition

Now, we are going to read all of Matthew 6 each morning. I read the first words in a loud voice. “Take heed.” Then my wife and children repeat, “Take heed.”

I continue reading in a loud voice, “that ye do not your alms.” They repeat, “that ye do not your alms.” I continue, “before men.” They repeat this. I continue reading in this manner, until we finish the chapter, the family repeating my words. There are 34 verses. I assure you that after 34 days, your children age 7 and up will be able to repeat the whole chapter from memory, without having tried to memorize it. Memorization is a result of repetition.

Each day we study only one verse, in great detail. The first day we study verse 1. The second day, verse 2. Therefore, we will take 34 days to study 34 verses. Some verses are very large, or have much teaching, and can be divided into two lessons. In that case we will study the 6th chapter of Matthew longer than 34 days.

Write Out The Verse

Now we are going to study the first verse. I am going to write this verse on a white board before my wife and children copy it into their notebooks (*I forgot to say that each family member needs a notebook*). The first verse I am going to write is: “Matt. 6:1 – Take heed that you do not your alms before men to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven.” My children write this verse in their notebooks.



Use Drawings

In following, the father will make a simple drawing of the verse. Each child should copy the picture into their books. Many types of illustrations can be used to explain the meaning of the verse. Here are examples of four types of illustrations:



1. *A DRAWING OF A BIBLE STORY* -- You can draw a



picture of a Bible story that illustrates the meaning of the verse.

In this case, we are going to remember a story in the Bible that illustrates the words “Take heed,” or “to guard oneself from something.”

You can draw some men stoning Stephen, and another man who is not participating. Explain that this man is “taking heed” to not join in with this wickedness. Drawing Bible stories is a good way to describe the meaning of the words. Another example would be the young man Daniel who “took heed,” or “guarded himself” from the filthy food of the king.

2. *A DRAWING OF REAL LIFE EXAMPLE* – You can draw



a picture of an event you yourself have experienced. For example, to explain the words “your alms,” you can draw a picture of how your children have helped a needy person. In this

verse the words “your alms” also refer to good works which please God. Our children will better understand if we draw a picture of a real life experience. They will copy it with much pleasure into their notebooks. You can also draw something that happened to a friend or some news report that illustrates good works.

3. *A DRAWING OF A COMPARISON* – You can draw a



picture of a parable from nature to teach a concept. For example, in this verse Jesus is not prohibiting good works, only that we do not do them to be seen of men. You can draw something from nature that

should not be seen, such as a bird nest with its eggs. The nest should not be seen, and the eggs should be concealed with much care, so that foxes and snakes don't find them. It's best to use examples that the children are familiar with, because they will understand much better. If your children are not familiar with nests, here's another example: you can explain that Popsicles should not be left in just any place; instead they should be “concealed” in the freezer, because if they stay out in the open, they will melt, and be thrown out to be lost. So also good works should be concealed in a correct manner, or we will not receive the reward from God.

4. A SYMBOLIC DRAWING – You can illustrate the



meaning of a word using symbols.

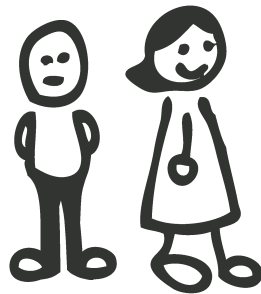
This type of drawing is harder to understand, and should be used carefully. Really, it shouldn't be used too much, because many times symbols are not interpreted correctly.

For example, the phrase, “otherwise ye have no reward with your Father which is in heaven,” can be drawn as a present falling from heaven, but then bouncing back up again. Since, in reality, presents do not fall out of the sky and bounce back to heaven, it's symbolic-- nothing more. But this symbol represents the idea that our reward is lost.

All drawings are symbolic, but some symbols are easier to understand than others. Many times the children do not understand the pictures we make. We can draw the devil with horns, and the children end up with the idea that the devil has horns (even though the Bible doesn't say so). This symbol of a devil with horns can give false impressions. We must be careful. These symbols can cause people to err. It's better to draw real life objects.

At the end of this book, you can see the drawings that some of my children made for Matt. 6:9. It shows a man standing on a ball that signifies the earth. This is symbolic, because the man is too large for the earth! The man is calling God a very intimate name, “Father.”

Here is a little drawing lesson. Begin with the head, the eyes and the mouth. Then (here goes my secret), just draw clothes. Draw a shirt with big sleeves; below the shirt, draw the pants. Then you can add hands, feet, hair, a hat, or put something in his hand. Drawing women is easier; it only requires a large dress below the head.



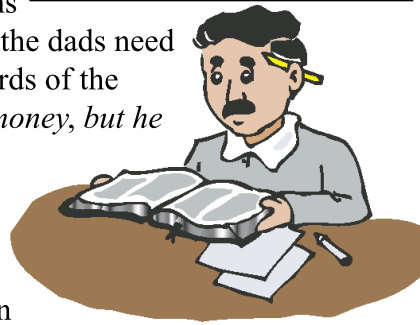
Use Other Bible Verses

Now that your wife and children are copying the picture, you can begin to explain the meaning of the important words of the verse. Allow me to make the observation that many people do not understand the Bible because they never have looked at the meanings of the words. They repeat the words of the Bible, but without understanding. For example, the most important part of the prayer Jesus taught us is “Hallowed be thy name.” Why do we say this if we do not understand the words?

To understand the words of the Bible will cost us much work, and we should give much attention to it. Just as the moms need to work to provide us tasty food, so the dads need to work to bring out the “taste” of the words of the Bible. *The true man is not he that gains money, but he that gains knowledge for his children.*

“Blessed is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding. For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the the gain thereof than fine gold.” (Proverbs 3:13-14)

**"Blessed is the man
that findeth wisdom..."**



The best place to look for the meanings of words in the Bible is in the context of the same chapter.

The second place to look for the meaning of the word is in other places of the Bible. But be careful: sometimes words have different meanings in other verses.

An example of this can be found in the Spanish translation of the verse, which our family is studying. In Spanish, the word "alms" is translated "justicia," which in the context of this verse, means "righteousness." But this same word, "justicia," has another meaning in Luke 18:3, where it says, "the widow...went to him (the judge), saying, Do me justice of my adversary...." Here the word "justicia" is used again, but in the context of this passage, it is not referring to good works, but to legal decisions of the authorities.

Use Synonymous Words

Two words that have similar meanings are called “synonymous.” You can write synonyms of the words “your alms” on the board near the picture. For example, if our picture shows a young man that is up on the house of the neighbor, repairing the roof, you can write the words “help” and “good works” on the board. These words can also describe “your alms.”

Almost all words have more than one meaning in different contexts, but do not forget this rule: even though a word has ten different meanings, in each verse it represents only one meaning.

Occasionally the common and current use of a word in the world is not the same as in the Bible. For example, the word “holy” here in Mexico (*santo*) means a place, person or thing related to the popular religion. A “saint” (*santo*) is a person who is regarded officially by the Roman Catholic Church. But the word “holy” in the Bible means one of the attributes of God that we should imitate. To be “holy” is to be apart from sin.

This is also true in English, especially if you use the King James Version. For example, in Romans 1:28, Paul says, “...God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient.” These days, “convenient” means easy to do, handy, in other words favorable to one's personal comfort. But in the KJV, “convenient” always means appropriate, or proper. Paul was describing these men's actions as inappropriate, not that they were inconveniencing themselves.

There are other words like this that people understand differently today. Our job as parents is to teach our children to really know the meanings of the words of the Bible. Satan wants to change the meanings of the words and cause confusion, and for the most part he has had great success, because the fathers have not diligently taught their children each day. But now we are going to take our place in the gap, so that the enemy does not hinder the faith of our little ones.

Use Questions

When you don't know what to explain to your children, begin asking questions. Begin asking for suggestions. I often ask them, "What should I draw? Help me out."

The question "Why?" is very useful.

For example, if the verse says, "Praise ye the Lord," we can ask, "Why should we praise him?" In vs. 1 of Matt. 6, we can ask, "Why should we not do our alms before men?" Many times the answers the children give are very interesting, and can open doors to investigation.



Use Other Thoughts

When the verse you are studying refers to the works of God's creation, you can take advantage of the opportunity to inform your children of other things you know.

For example, when our family was studying Job 38, one day we touched on verse 10, which says, "And [I] brake up for [the sea] my decreed place, and set bars and doors, And said, Hitherto shalt thou come, but no farther: and here shall thy proud waves be stayed..." Then I was able to explain to my children something about the natural forces that God employed, to keep the sea in its place. The first part is the durability of the immense layers of rock that extend above all the oceans. In the second place, the force of gravity that does not allow the waters to cover the dry earth of the continents. In the third place is the atmospheric pressure that does not allow the waters of the sea to be evaporated and go to the sky in the form of gas. In the fourth place there's the cold temperatures of the south and north poles where immense quantities of water are frozen, otherwise the waters of the ocean would rise and submerge all the coasts and islands of the sea.

Really, the study of the Bible many times relates to natural science or social studies. Children therefore learn that the Word of God includes all things, not only "religion."

USING A REVIEW LIST

After studying each verse of Matthew 6, each child's notebook should contain evidence of what was learned. Each child should be able to recite the chapter from memory with few errors. Now we are going to learn a way to not forget it.

First, choose a new chapter that you want to learn. Then each morning, before reading the new chapter, all the family should repeat from memory Matthew 6. (In this manner we are going to repeat Matthew 6 each morning during the next month.) In my Bible I have a review list of all the chapters that we have studied in the past five years, and each morning we recite two of the passages from this list. It is beautiful to review the chapters that have been learned. The children can recite them from memory with few errors.

CONCLUSION

Sometimes the educators of the public schools insist that our children should take the tests and exams they give to demonstrate that our children have achieved a certain measure of knowledge. But what will happen if children try to say fifty chapters of the Bible from memory? Would they be approved if they were given a test of the Word of God? Disciplinary problems are multiplied in public schools, because they do not look to the virtues of God.

“But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; and that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.” (2 Timothy 3 :14-15)

We cannot give our children this teaching in any other place.

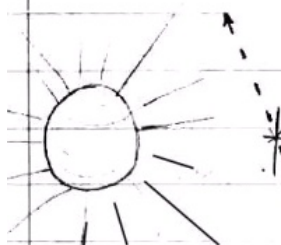
The place is the home, and the teacher is the father.

Mt. 6:9(a)

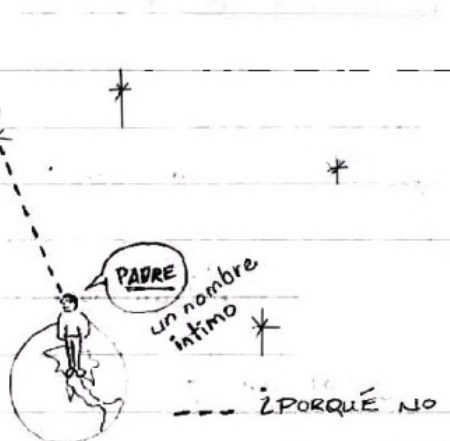
Vosotros pues oraréis **así**:

similar,
no idéntico

Padre nuestro que estás en los cielos...



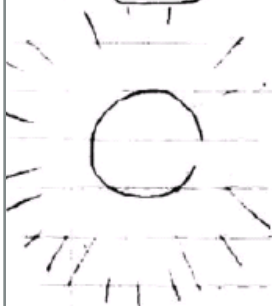
Betty
(20 yrs)



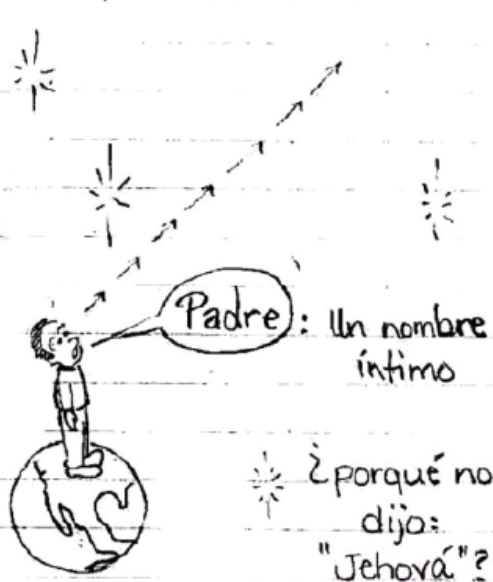
Mateo 6:9

Vosotros pues oraréis así:
Padre nuestro que estás en los cielos.

Así: similar, no idéntico.



Matt
(17 yrs)

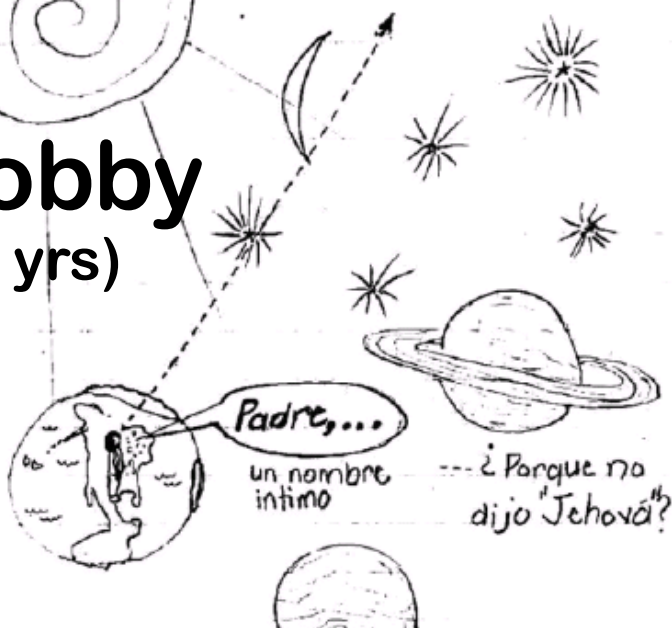


Vosotros pues orad así: Padre nuestro que estás en los cielos...
similar, no idéntico

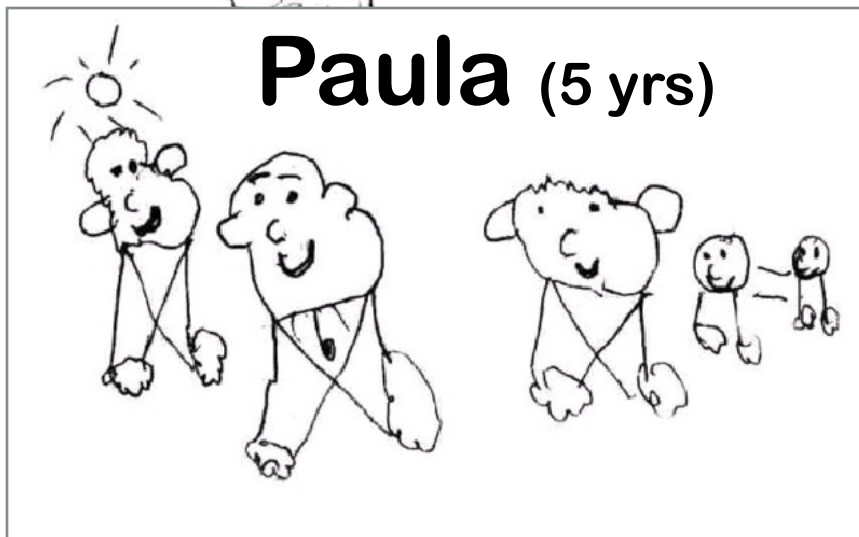
Los Cielos

Bobby

(13 yrs)



Paula (5 yrs)



Mateo 6:9

Jimmy
(9 yrs)

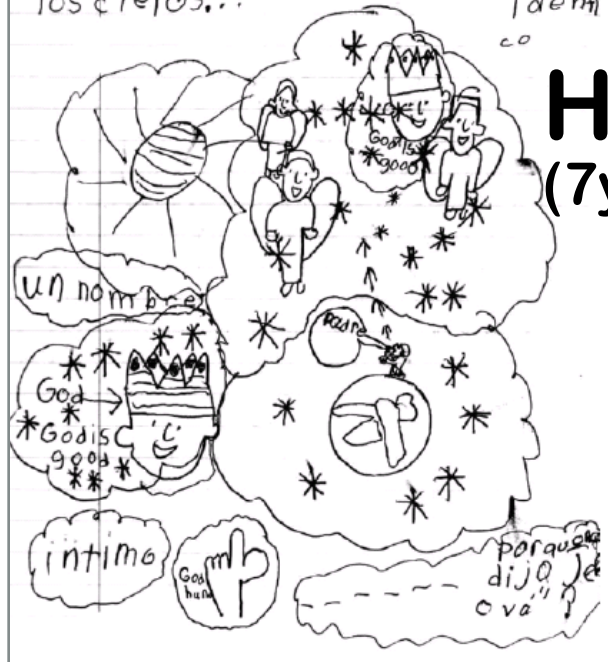
Vosotros pues oraréis así:
Padre nuestro que estás en los
cielos...



* Mateo 6:9
... santi
nombre.

Mateo 6:9
vosol pues oraréis (así) simila
no
Padre nues tro que es tás en
los ciejos... idemi
co

Hildi
(7yrs)





*"I love those that love me,
and those that seek me
early shall find me."*

Proverbs 8:17

Art Dappen (1946-2006) was a leader in the homeschool movement in Mexico. He served for over 30 years as a missionary with his wife of 35 years, Linn. Art's ministry included the creation and free distribution of a Spanish reading program for homeschoolers. About two years before his home-going, he and Linn added seven Mexican orphans to their family, making them the parents of seventeen. Two married daughters in the U.S. have blessed them with 13 grandchildren (so far). Linn and the rest of the family continue to live and minister in Mexico.

Art received his high school education at an elite boarding school in Connecticut, and continued on to university. One day, as a new Christian in a graduate-level chemistry class, he came to a realization. As he studied the equations on the blackboard, the thought came to him: "Jesus Christ did not dedicate his life to what is written on that blackboard." He left school and purposed to serve the Lord.

A daughter said, "He always felt it was a privilege to throw it all away."

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