

VISITING PROGRAM TRAINING CLASS

Twelfth Class

February 18, 1969

FORMAT:

1. Open with prayer.
2. World news discussion and drill (5 - 8 Minutes).
3. Difficult scripture drill (30 Minutes).
4. Sermonettes and evaluations (30 Minutes).
5. Recess (10 Minutes).
6. Lecture (one and one-half hours).
7. Assignments for next class.

DIFFICULT SCRIPTURES

1. Disprove: Infants should be baptized (Luke 18:16-17).
 - A. This scripture does not even mention baptism. The parallel accounts show that these children were being brought to Jesus so that He would lay hands on them and bless them (Matt. 19:13-15 and Mark 10:13-16).

Baptism is more than just laying hands on someone and sprinkling water on his head. It is total immersion in water picturing the burial of the old man (Rom. 6:3-4).
 - B. There is no Biblical basis for the doctrine of infant baptism. You can't be baptized until you first believe Jesus Christ is your Savior (Acts 8:35-37) and then fully repent (Acts 2:38). Obviously, an infant is incapable of doing either of these.
 - C. The word "as" in verse 17 does not mean that individuals must receive God's Kingdom while they are children. Jesus was explaining that to receive God's Kingdom a person must be "as" or like a little child in attitude--humble, faithful, teachable, unpretentious--or God will not accept him. Matthew 18:3-4 fully explains this. A Christian must yield to and trust his spiritual Father for everything as a small child does his physical parents.
2. Disprove: Angels married women and engendered a race of giants (Gen. 6:1-4).
 - A. This scripture does not say that angels married women. It states that the sons of God "took them wives of all which they chose" (verse 27).

These sons of God were not angels. The fact is that angels cannot marry--it is impossible for them to marry. Jesus said those in the resurrection "neither marry nor are given in marriage" but are as the angels (Matt. 22:30 and Mark 12:25).

- B. Angels cannot co-habit with women and reproduce sexually. Angels are spirit beings (Heb. 1:14). Women are human beings. Here we have two different kinds. God established a law that each kind produces only after its own kind (Gen. 1:11, 12, 21). This is made clear by the context as well. In Genesis 6:3-4 God states, "My spirit will not always strive with man." God is speaking of mankind, not angels. Verse 4 shows that the children of the sons of God and the daughters of men were "mighty men" not angels.
- C. In the Bible the phrase "sons of God" has three different meanings. One refers to spirit-begotten Christians (Rom. 8:14; I John 3:2). Also, angels are called "sons of God" (Job 1:7 38:4-7). But remember angels "neither marry nor are given in marriage." The third meaning refers to mankind in general because all men are sons of God by creation (Psa. 82:6; Mal. 2:10 Luke 3:38). Since these were obviously not spirit-begotten Christians, and could not be angels, it is evident that these "sons of God" were simply mankind in general who had forsaken God and were intermarrying in defiance of His law.
- D. One final clarification--giants were not exclusively the progeny of the sons of God and the daughters of men. Verse 4 shows that the giants existed before the sons of God married the daughters of women and afterwards, but does not state that they were the result of these marriages.

3. Should we answer a fool or not? (Prov. 25:4-5).

- A. First of all we need to realize the Bible does not contradict itself. God's Word is truth (John 17:17). The scripture cannot be broken (John 10:35).
- B. These two verses are not contradictory. They complement each other. The last part of each proverb shows the set of circumstances under which each is to be used.
- C. Verse 4 tells us not to answer a fool according to his folly lest we be like him. In this situation, to answer the fool's specific statement or question you would be descending to his level and end up in a pointless argument.

An example of this is given in Luke 20:1-8 where the Pharisees asked Christ by whose authority He did certain things. The Pharisees were

not there seeking to learn anything. To avoid being like the fools they were, Christ didn't answer their question. Rather, He asked them a question which they couldn't answer without condemning themselves. Since the Pharisees couldn't answer His question the discussion was dropped.

- D. Verse 5 tells us that under another set of circumstances we must answer the fool according to his folly--by a foolish answer, which exposes how ridiculous his statement, claim or question is--or he will be wise in his own conceit. This case is well illustrated by Paul's example in II Corinthians 11:23.

Certain men were at Corinth who claimed to be true apostles of Christ, but they were false apostles (II Cor. 11:13). For Paul to have remained silent at the time would have given tacit approval of these men who were leading the Church astray. They would have appeared wise in their own conceit. Therefore in Verse 23 Paul said, "Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool.) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft." These men had been boasting of their qualifications, and in this epistle Paul was exposing these men for what they were. Paul answered these false apostles' claims so they would not appear wise.

These scriptures do not contradict; but taken together they explain two different methods of handling the questions and statements of fools. You need wisdom to know just when and how to apply these principles. And wisdom comes from God.

THE BALANCED APPROACH TO CHILD REARING

I. AN AWESOME RESPONSIBILITY

A. A Commission to the Philadelphia Era

1. There are numerous identifying marks of God's true Church. But there is one upon which the entire future of mankind depends. It is so vitally important that if we fail to fulfill this commission, there will be no world .
2. This remarkable commission is recorded in Malachi 4:5-6: "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse. This very Work -- our Work -- has been given this awesome responsibility. What God is saying is that unless we succeed in restoring God's Government to the foundation of all

society - - the HOME -- unless we provide a trained nucleus of obedient young people, who will be the pioneers of the world tomorrow, there is absolutely no use in perpetuating physical, human life on this earth! What a commission! We must NOT fail!

B. The Importance of Your Example

1. You are the leading men in this area. You have, therefore, a definite responsibility to set a good example -- one that can be safely followed. What kind of example of child rearing are you setting? The other members of the Church are going to be watching your children. Are they good examples or bad examples? Are they a credit to God's Church or a reproach to God's Church?
2. As leading members, you can't afford to do a slipshod job of child rearing. In your case, there is even more at stake than your future and that of your children. Others are involved. You will either be helping or hurting them. What would happen if others began to - - and they most certainly will -- follow your example? What if others' children started turning out just like yours? These are questions you must come to grips with. Your examples are important, and they need to be the best examples of child rearing in the entire congregation.
3. God specifically pinpoints this very area as one of the determining factors whether a man is qualified to be ordained to any office in the Church -- whether it be that of deacon or an elder. "Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well" (I Tim. 3:12). There are some deacons in God's Church who need to do a far better job in this respect than they are presently doing. An elder must have "faithful children not accused of riot or unruly" (Tit. 1:6). If you hope to ever be a leader in God's Church, you and your children must meet these qualifications.

II. THE WRONG APPROACH - - TWO EXTREMES

A. Parents - - Trained Observers

1. The world has been deceived into believing that children will somehow evolve into decent, upright, respectful citizens and members of society -- if given enough time. The parents don't really have to do very much, which, of course, is very appealing since most parents are looking for the easy way Out when it comes to the rearing of their children. Parents become little more than trained observers. It is the parents -- not the children - - who need to be trained so they can understand why their children act the way they do as they pass merrily through one stage of behavior to the next more frightening stage. To step in and try to

alter their "normal" behavioral patterns would seriously warp and hamper their development. This is the easy way out for parents who don't want to be bothered with teaching) training, and disciplining their children. This approach is doomed to failure. Children only grow worse -- not better.

2. Effective child rearing takes time -- lots of time, and it is work -- hard work. There are too many members of God's Church who know how to rear their children God's way, but are failing because they aren't willing to pay the price of success by meeting the required daily payments in time and energy.

B. Parents -- Paddling Machines

1. Some members of the Church have worked diligently at spanking their children and feel that they are doing a good job of child rearing. However, such might not be the case. It is absolutely true that God's Word teaches the importance of spanking. In fact, no child can be successfully reared without a good measure of spankings.
2. However, spanking and effective child rearing are not synonymous. There is far more to child rearing than just paddling your children when they are disobedient. Spanking is only PART of the answer! Spanking, of and by itself, will NOT produce a respectful, obedient, balanced child. In fact, it may produce the very opposite -- a child who is surly, rebellious and who hates his parents.
3. Too many parents have used spanking as a quick, easy solution to their child rearing problems and as a substitute for the other necessary aspects involved in proper child training. Spanking IS definitely an effective tool when used properly and in relation to all of the other essential elements of child rearing. You need to see the overall approach -- the BIG PICTURE -- in order to make sure you are on the right track to successful child rearing, and to insure that the spankings will produce the right effect.

III. THE FOUR KEYS TO EFFECTIVE, BALANCED CHILD REARING

A. Set A Good Example

1. Actions do speak much louder than words. Regardless of what you say, your children will be far more influenced by what you do and are.
2. Your children's educational training begins long before they enter school. Your home -- the environment in which your children live -- is their

first classroom. You, the parents, are their first instructors.

3. Children learn by mimicking or imitating others. Haven't you noticed (sometimes to your dismay) how your children gradually take on certain of your characteristics -- usually, more times than not, the bad ones instead of the good ones. We are at times dumbfounded at how they are so much like we are. They are little carbon copies of their parents -- gradually being created in our image and in our likeness.
4. This is the very way God intended it should be. This is exactly the same way He is creating sons in His image and after His likeness. We, as parents, are privileged to witness an unfolding of the very physical type of what is spiritually taking place in our own lives. Jesus Christ was the perfect example of this. He said, "The Son can do nothing of himself, but what He seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise. For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth" (John 5:19-20). Jesus Christ learned from His Father. He imitated or copied His Father in everything. He was so much like His Father that He could say, "He that hath seen me hath seen the father" (John 14:9).
5. As children of God, we are learning by the same process by which our children are learning -- imitating. "Be ye therefore followers (imitators, mimics) of God, as dear children" (Eph. 5:1). God's ministers, as a type of spiritual parents, must set the right example for the Church to follow (I Cor. 11:1; I Thess.1:6; II Thess. 3:7; Heb. 13:7; I Tim. 4:12)
6. Small children naturally look up to and stand in awe of their parents. To them, their parents are the GREATEST. They view you in terms of the most fanciful superlatives. Daddy is the strongest man on earth, and Mommy is the most beautiful woman in existence. They believe whatever you tell them is absolute truth. There is nothing you don't know and nothing you can't do. They idolize you and want to be exactly like you when they grow up. All of this is a childlike form of WORSHIP, for to them you are a type of god.
7. This should come as a frightening realization. Can you begin to grasp the awesome responsibility this places upon you as parents? Think of the irreparable damage you could inflict on your children by your wrong example. Your example is a tremendous POWER -- either for good or for evil.
8. What kind of example are you setting before the plastic, impressionable minds of your children? What type of soil are you providing for these precious little lives to grow up in? Do you want your children to grow up to be exactly as you now are? Let's discuss a number of vital areas

where your example makes a big difference.

- a. Are you setting a good spiritual example for your children to follow? Do you always show complete respect for God and His laws by your faithful, consistent example of obedience -- even in the face of pressure to disobey? Or do you occasionally drop your spiritual guard and compromise with God's laws? Sit down and go over the various laws of God and see if your example can be safely followed by your children. For example, do you always hold God's Sabbath Day sacred and inviolate? Or will you occasionally work a little past sundown in order to finish some job you feel just can't wait? Don't be surprised if your children follow your example. How temperate are you? Do you occasionally have too much to drink? What about gluttony? Do you overeat? Fat children usually have fat parents. And, by the way, heredity is seldom the actual reason. Some families practice gluttony as a way of life. As the old statement goes, "like father (or, in this case, is it mother?) like son."
- b. Do you always show respect for and uphold the office of God's ministers? Or do you sit around and criticize the minister if he doesn't do something exactly the way you thought it should be done. It is amazing how many brethren in God's Church feature "roast preacher" as the main course in their conversational menu on the way home from Sabbath Services. Don't expect your children to respect the minister or, for that matter, any figure in authority whether he be a public school teacher or the President of the United States - - unless you back up the offices of all those in authority. Be careful you don't speak evil of dignities (Jude 8). Some loud talkers take more on themselves than Michael the great archangel dared to do (Jude 9). Show respect for all those in positions of constituted authority. Otherwise, be prepared to discover that your children, in following your wrong example, even talk against you behind your back. This shouldn't shock you since you have taught them well. This is what you are asking for.
- c. Do you wholeheartedly agree with all the doctrines and practices of God's Church? Or do you have your own little pet theories and sit around discussing the way "you look at it"? Driving home from services, do you evaluate what the minister said and openly state how you can't go along with this or that. Have you forgotten the big ears in the back seat. If you want your children to respect your word and believe what you tell them, you must do the same in relation to God's ministers.
- d. Is your home a happy home -- filled with love and concern? Are you and your wife happily married, and do you express your love for each

other in such a way that your children can see it? Or are there disagreements and dissension between you? Are your relations often strained? Occasionally, does this even erupt into open bitterness and criticism? Many a child has lain awake in bed at night in stark terror as he has listened to yelling and screaming coming from another part of the house. A child's mind can't understand and it shouldn't ever have to understand why his parents argue and fight. Children reared in such wretched surroundings are often nervous, unsure of themselves and are forced to seek their security outside the confines of the home. Do you "lose your temper" and "fly off the handle?" Your children will develop the same volatile nature. If a child goes around whining, you will often find the mother does the same.

- e. Dad, are you a strong, able leader of your family, setting the right kind of masculine example? Is your voice a good, strong masculine-sounding voice? Mom, are you a sweet, responsible wife with a meek and quiet spirit, setting the right feminine example? What does your voice sound like? Is it harsh, nasal, strident or shrill? Or is it warm, tender and mellow? These are very important factors which will go a long way in determining what kind of sons and daughters you eventually produce. Research has even found that a major cause of homosexual tendencies, especially in men, can be traced directly back to the home environment. One such typical environment was where the father was a weak, insipid dolt and the mother was a strong, lantern-jawed woman who ruled the roost. What a tragic legacy to bequeath a son through your failure to truly be a man or your wife's failure to be the right kind of woman.
- f. What kind of personality do you have? Are you friendly, outgoing, personable, fun-loving -- with a real zest for life? Or are you shy, backward, inhibited, quiet -- with a negative outlook on life. Your personality will be indelibly stamped into your children's lives. Friendly parents produce friendly children. Quiet fathers produce quiet sons. As much as we might hate to face the fact, our homes are just like a factory producing products fashioned after the master mold -- YOU.
- g. One last disturbing item. Do you have any obnoxious little habits like biting your nails or cracking your knuckles or (ad infinitum). Frightening isn't it. Well, enough said.

B. Love Your Children

1. We live in an age that is becoming more and more devoid of natural affection (II Tim. 3:2). The tragic proof of this can all too often

be seen in the attitude of parents toward their children -- yes, even in God's Church. More and more parents do not really, genuinely love their children. And this lack of love can plainly be seen in the way they treat their children.

2. Children are fantastic blessings from Almighty God. They are ASSETS -- not liabilities. And I don't mean merely at income tax time. Loving your children is more than just providing for their physical needs. Today, parents are giving more and more things to their children and less and less of themselves. True love involves giving of yourself. There is no substitute.
3. Enjoy your children. David wrote about the "joyful mother of children" (Ps. 113:9) and "Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them" (Ps. 127:5). Don't look on your children as a bother or a nuisance. Too many parents are trying to find some way to "get them out from under their feet" or "out of their hair". Parents can hardly wait until their children get old enough to send them off to school. Some parents have even succeeded in getting rid of their children by the age of three or four by sending them off for a half a day of preschool training, not realizing that the best training they could possibly receive is at home with their mother. But many mothers today couldn't care less.
4. Spend time with your children. Because of the many labor saving devices available to the modern housewife and the shorter work week for the man, you have more free time than any generation in the entire history of mankind. How much time do you spend each week with your children? How much do you actually play with your children? Playing with your children will prove to be not only an enjoyable experience but also a teaching experience. First of all, you will learn a great deal about your children by playing with them. You will also find that playtime is a valuable opportunity to teach them some very important principles. Children are naturally poor losers. They will cheat in order to win. Teach them to play fairly - - according to the rules -- and not to take unfair advantage of younger children. Teach them to play hard and not to give up and quit if they are losing. A quitter will never win.

Instill within them the right kind of desire to win a winning philosophy or approach. We should always enter a game with the desire and determination to win. However, if we put forth a 100 percent effort and still lose) we should not get into a bad attitude in defeat. Teach your children to lose gracefully - - that someone always has to lose and from time to time they will be that someone. Teach them to congratulate the winner.

A word of caution. While it is not wrong for a parent to get down on the floor and wrestle with his smaller children) you should never stoop

to their level and let them treat you as though you were another child. This is absolutely wrong and should never be permitted. They should not be allowed to make fun of you or hit you -- even in play. Never let them forget that you are their parent and should always be respected even during such fun times.

5. Be expressive in your love to your children. Let them know you really do love them. Tell them often how much you love them and how much they mean to you. Remember, true love is outgoing -- is expressive. Our children learn the meaning of love just as we ourselves have learned what true love is. We love God because He first loved us (I John 4:19). He set the example. He expressed love to us, and we responded to His love. You must teach your children how to love by first loving them. Hug, kiss and fondle them. How ridiculous for a father to send his little toddler off to bed with a handshake. It isn't wrong for a father and son to kiss -- regardless of their age. The parable of the prodigal son makes this clear (Luke 15:20). Little children enjoy crawling up into their parent's laps and being loved. The ticklings and piggy-back rides all go together to build a bond of love no force can break.
6. Get to know your children. Unfortunately, as children grow older they often pull into their shells and become virtual strangers to their parents. They claim their parents don't understand them and many times this is the tragic truth. Talk to your children, but don't make the mistake of doing all the talking. Let them talk. Find out what they are thinking. And make sure that you don't talk to them only when you need to correct them. Continually keep the channels of communication open.
7. Know where your children are. Don't get so involved in other things you forget about your children. When in public places, keep your children near you. Keep a watchful eye on them. It is amazing how frequently children wander away from their parents and become "lost." How thankful we are that God is a watchful Parent and we never find ourselves "lost." Because of the "perilous times" in which we live, we cannot be too careful about our children's safety.
8. When company comes over to your house, don't send your children outside or off to another part of the house to play and never check to find out what they are doing. Periodically look in on your children. Never let them go into a bedroom and close the door. Doors should always be left open. Never let them feel that they are "getting away with something." Many times sexual experiment is the tragic result.

God warns us that a child left to himself brings shame to his parents (Prov. 29:15. Don't permit your children to play "house" or play "doctor," which also provide opportunities for potential sexual explora-

tion. Neither should you allow children to bathe together past the age of three or four. A watchful parental eye can avert many a potential problem, and parents who really love their children watch over their children.

9. Appreciate what your children do. Children hunger for recognition and praise from their parents. They will often spend a great deal of time preparing some little gift for you - - totally worthless in any way except it is their way of saying, "I love you!" It will crush them if you belittle it or overlook it. When they accomplish something worthwhile in school by bringing home a good report card or winning a race on field day, acknowledge it. Let them know you are well pleased. God wasn't neglectful about expressing His satisfaction in His Son (Matt. 3:17).
10. Purchase gifts for them from time to time throughout the year as you are able to afford them. Don't stop buying gifts for your family just because you no longer are in bondage to the gift-giving days such as Christmas, Easter and birthdays.

However, a word of caution. Don't make the mistake of giving your children so much that they become spoiled. Use wisdom and moderation. Don't give your child everything he asks for - - even if you can afford it and what he wants wouldn't be wrong in itself. Teach your children this vital lesson of life -- that they can't always have everything they might want. They must learn to take "no" for an answer and not resent it. Show them how they should appreciate what they have and not lust after what they don't have.

11. Plan family activities. Do things together as a family. Backyard cookouts, picnics, an outing to the beach or to the mountains, camping, hunting and fishing trips - - these are the things your children will cherish in their memory throughout the rest of their lives.
12. Be tender and gentle with your children -- even as God's ministers deal with God's children (I Thess. 2:7). Too many parents address their children only when they have to correct them, and it is usually in a stern, harsh, even hateful tone of voice. Parents like this don't really love their children. This isn't the way God deals with us. If God thundered at us every time we slightly stepped out of line, it would be like living in a perpetual thunderstorm. This is the atmosphere in which some children are forced to live. No wonder they are nervous wrecks. Of course, there are times to be stern with your children -- but not all the time. Don't raise your voice in giving instructions in order to show them you mean business. Otherwise, your children will never obey unless you scream or yell, because they will think you don't really mean business. Speak in a normal voice. A command or instruction

can be given in a friendly, normal manner and should achieve exactly the same results - - if you have taught them that whenever you speak you expect them to obey. Don't yank or jerk your children around in order to vent your anger. Spanking is one thing. Abusing is another thing. Hitting them on the head with your knuckle, yanking them by the ear or belting them alongside the head should not be done.

13. Be compassionate with them in their weaknesses and imperfections. Your children are carnal. God created them that way. Therefore, they are going to act carnally. They are going to do many things that will disappoint and hurt you. You must resist the natural reaction to strike back and hurt them in return. Our heavenly Father has set the perfect example in this. Notice what David was inspired to write: "The Lord is merciful and gracious - slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. Like as a father pitieth (has compassion for) his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him. For He knoweth our frame He remembereth that we are dust" (Ps. 103:8, 13-14). Learn to have God's attitude in dealing with your children. Hate the sin but love the sinner. This is not easy. In fact, it is impossible to a carnal mind. With God's help through His spirit, you can do it.
14. Don't expect more of your children than they can give. Remember, they are children -- not adults. Don't rob them of their childhood by trying to force them to grow up faster than God intended. Notice Paul's statement concerning this: "When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man (and not before), I put away childish things" (I Cor. 13:11). Children will be and must be children. Of course, they are going to do childish things. What else would you expect? And no matter how much you discipline them, they will continue to be exactly what they are -- CHILDREN!: HOWEVER, "even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right" (Prov.20:11). Therefore, what we are striving to accomplish by the proper kind of child rearing is obedient, polite, respectful children -- not some kind of "little men" or "little women."

C. Teach Your Children

1. We have already seen how important your example is as a teaching method. And, while it is true that "actions do speak louder than words", nevertheless, words are very important. Teaching is also an expression of your love for your children. It does take time to teach your children. Many parents are just too lazy or too selfish to spend time teaching their children. Yet no program of child rearing is complete without this vital key.
2. What should you teach your children? The following is only a partial

list. There is much you can add to it if you give it a little thought.

a. The Reality and Power of God

There are numerous ways you can teach your children about God. Armed with a basic knowledge of the world around you, you can help your children discover the wonders of God's creative handiwork (Rom. 1:19-20; Ps. 19:1). Take the many articles that have appeared in The PLAIN TRUTH magazine on the various proofs of creation and use them to teach your children. Impress them with the greatness and power of God. Instead of having your children look to the imaginary heroes of Superman and Batman, make the strength of God so vivid that He becomes their Hero. Vividly describe what God's "strong arm" has done (Ps. 78:4-7). Captivate your children's imagination with God's feats of strength in Creation, the Flood, the miracle at the Red Sea, the capture of Jericho, etc. Graphically describe Jesus Christ as the powerful, masculine hero they can rightly idolize. Since war excites the minds of children, teach them about the successful battles Almighty God has won. Picture Christ as the mighty Warrior returning to wage war -- righteously. Show them why man's wars have never solved anything.

b. Make the Bible Relevant

Have regular family Bible study. This is a command from God (Deut. 4:9-10; 6:7; 2 Tim. 3:15) Use The Story of Man (formerly called The Bible Story) to teach your children. Not only read from it but also stop and apply the principles to their own, everyday experiences. Show them how God's Word applies to the playground, the classroom, their relationship with their friends -- every facet and phase of their lives. Explain God's laws simply on their age level. Show them how it hurts to break God's laws.

c. Make the Sabbath A. Delight

Sell your children on the value of keeping God's Sabbath. Make it a very special day -- one they will look forward to all week -- the finest day of the week. How can this be done? Well, remember that your children are carnal, and, therefore, whatever appeals to them will be physical -- not spiritual. Since God has commanded you to rest from all your physical work, you should be able to spend a little more extra time with your children on the Sabbath. This will automatically highlight the day. Not only could you have a little extra Bible study with them, but you could also read to them out of certain books which describe interesting facts about God's

great creation. Children love to have their parents read to them. You can also take them for a walk on the Sabbath. Show them God's hand in nature. You might even devise certain Bible games you could play with them -- at home and in the car on the way to services. Another way to make the Sabbath a special day is to have your finest meals on that day. It is a day of feasting, and you are commanded by God to use Friday as the preparation day so the Sabbath meals can be extra special. Ask the children for menu suggestions. Try periodically to feature one of their favorite foods. Get them into the act by allowing them to help prepare some part of the meal. Occasionally, a special dessert might be featured. If you set your mind to it, you will find many more ways to make the Sabbath a very special day to your children. Always take the positive, not the negative approach. Present the Sabbath as the day when you can DO certain things you can't do any other day of the week -- not as the day you can't do the things you can do on the other days. You might also find that a very special toy-- which can only be played with on the Sabbath - - heightens their anticipation of the Sabbath.

d. Develop Their Intellectual Curiosity

Children have eager, alert minds. They are continually filled with a vast assortment of questions. Don't stifle or dull this wonderful curiosity. Certainly there will be times when a child should be told "that's enough questions for now," or when you are legitimately unable to take the time at that very moment. Answer their questions for them. It is helpful to have a good set of children's encyclopedias or some type of "Book of Knowledge" around to come to your aid when you are stumped.

Another excellent method of making your children aware of their surroundings is to ask your children questions. Ask them such questions as what makes the lights go on when the switch is thrown or what makes the leaves move, why does it thunder. These will only serve as a starter. By working with your child in this way, you will improve his ability to learn and even help to raise his I.Q. You will find that not only will your children profit from this home educational program but so will YOU.

D. Punish Your Children

1. Punishment plays a very important place in child rearing, but, as you can now see, it is only part of the answer. Many people in the world oppose punishment because they do not understand the PURPOSE for punishment... Many in God's Church do punish their children but have never really understood why punishment is so essential.

2. In order to understand the reason for punishment, let's go back and see how God dealt with His children -- the Children of Israel. God set two diametrically opposite ways before Israel - - the way of obedience which leads to blessings and life and the way of disobedience which leads to cursings and death (Deut. 30:15,19). Furthermore, God showed in great detail just how different the RESULTS are from these two ways of life (Lev. 26).
3. The lesson God was trying to teach the children of Israel is that it PAYS TO OBEY and it HURTS TO DISOBEY: In the long run, it never pays to sin. It always hurts to disobey. Solomon was inspired to write: "The way of the transgressor is hard"(Prov. 13:15). The children of Israel are living proof that this is true. Israel learned the hard way that it hurts to disobey.
4. As parents, you must teach your children this very same lesson -- that whenever they disobey they are hurting themselves. However, much of the time the damage they are inflicting upon themselves is not immediately discernable. Very few acts of disobedience carry an obvious penalty the child immediately feels the moment he has disobeyed. However, there are a few such acts of disobedience where the penalty is painfully apparent. For example, touching a hot stove, sticking a fork into an electrical outlet, running out onto a busy street. But acts of disobedience such as not coming when called, refusing to finish a meal, being messy or not going to bed when told Do inflict damage to the child but it is not immediately noticeable to the child.
5. Here is why punishment is necessary. Whenever your child disobeys, YOU must provide the pain. Of course, the brief, momentary pain you supply is not the only, nor is it the worst, hurt your child receives when he disobeys. The worst hurt is that which he has inflicted on himself whenever he disobeys, whether or not you ever learn about it and punish him. The hurt you provide is but a physical type of the damage he is doing to himself. As the child grows older, this must be continually emphasized in the teaching that must accompany the spankings.
6. Also, you must equally stress the positive side -- that it really does PAY to be obedient. Teach them that all of the wonderful blessings and treats they receive from you are only available when they are responsible and obedient members of the family. Don't allow them to take everything for granted. In addition to spanking, another very effective method of punishment is denying them certain privileges or the use of a certain favorite toy or pastime.
7. Sell your children on the value of obedience not only to you but also

to God. Explain why the world is in the tragic mess it is in. In every instance, it can be traced back to some broken law of God. Remember that your children are carnal. So in selling God's way of life, don't stress the spiritual benefits -- emphasize the **PHYSICAL BENEFITS**. This is what will appeal to a carnal mind. And it does pay to obey God -- even in the physical letter of the law. Since they are selfish, show them what they can **GET** out of obeying God. This is how God Sold physical Israel on the benefits of obedience. He revealed to them all the physical benefits they could gain. (Lev. 26).

8. Make the world tomorrow really come alive by graphically describing all the physical blessings, opportunities and challenges that will be awaiting them. Instill within them an aggressive, **PIONEERING SPIRIT**. Inspire them with the challenges of **BUILDING A NEW WORLD**. Make them long for -- not dread -- the glorious future God has in store for them.

ASSIGNMENT FOR NEXT CLASS

No assignment except to practice in earnest what you have been given this class period!