

Life Applications

*But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.
For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer,
he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror.
For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like.
But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres,
being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts,
he will be blessed in his doing.*

James 1:22-25

Life applications put Sunday school lessons into practice. With these as part of the lesson plan, teachers and students make a commitment to live God's word every day. In many respects this is what Sunday schooling is about. It is what life is about. And it is not as hard as it sounds.

Chose one thing that is related to the lesson.
Talk about it. Pray about it together.
Try to do it in the week ahead.
Encourage each other in the doing.
Be blessed in the doing.
And share the outcome with everyone next week.

Abram and Lot – Genesis 13

Abram and Lot were both righteous men, but they had different levels of faith. This reflected in their personal priorities and in the decisions they made. Abram could let go of the world's advantages. Lot found it harder to do. However, Abram did not judge Lot for this, and he dealt graciously with him – Genesis 13:1-13; 2 Peter 2:7-9; Genesis 14:12 and 18:16-23ff.

- Think about Lot. What seemingly attractive choices can put a young person in the wrong place at the wrong time?

Think about Abram. How can good spiritual priorities actually keep a person safe and away from the wrong places?

Think about yourselves. What motivates you to do the things you do? Talk about the things that attract and influence you?

Share one or two examples of people who have *avoidably* been in the wrong place at the wrong time with tragic results. More often than not, they were there because the place was "attractive" to them.

- Have the students list things that are a serious temptation to them. Talk about ways to deal with temptation. How does an active life in the truth help us deal with

temptation? How can close association with other believers help us deal with temptation? How does faith in God's promises help us keep temptation in perspective? What can we do when we are tempted and fail? Pray about these things together.

Think of ways that Sunday school class members can help each other through temptation. Help them generate a list of practical things to do.

- Abram was rich (Genesis 13:2). Do you think this made it easier or harder for him to be kind to Lot? How does real generosity depend on faith, not wealth? It is important to understand this, especially in an affluent society.

Think of faithful ways to be kind and generous to others no matter how rich or poor we are. Try something.

- Lot also had great possessions (Genesis 13:5-6). Did this make it easier or harder for him to make good choices? How does good decision making depend on faith, not comfort and prosperity? It is important to understand this, especially in a society that encourages us to have everything we want in life.

Think of faithful choices we can make no matter how rich or poor we are. Try something.

- Abram willingly put himself at a disadvantage when he deferred to Lot (Genesis 13:8-9). Notice what God did for Abram immediately afterward (Genesis 13:14-17). Is making sacrifices for others worth it? How does Matthew 25:34-40 apply? Christ made the greatest sacrifice of all for us. How was it worth it to him?

Also see "Exchange stories" below.

- Talk about sharing and giving preference to others. Think about things as simple as letting a sibling have the last piece of cake, watch the video *they want*, play the game *they want*, have the part of a shared bedroom that *they want*, have first dibs on something you both want. Does your confidence that God will reward your faith make it easier to give others an advantage in life?

Brainstorm practical ways that you and the children can give an advantage to someone else. Select something from the list to work on during the coming week.

- Exchange stories about being kind to others. How did you and the children feel when you shared something with someone or gave them the very best that you could give? What are the right motives for sharing and giving?

- “We are brethren” – Genesis 13:8. Talk about peacemaking in the family. What are good and bad ways to handle personal disagreements? What can we learn from Abram in this regard? Identify practical ways to overcome evil with good. If someone in the class is struggling with a relationship problem, help them identify faithful things that they can do. Help them understand that they determine what they do regardless of what others do.
- “We are brethren” – Genesis 13:8. Talk about peacemaking in the ecclesia. How should differences be settled in the ecclesia? Look at your ecclesial constitution to see what guidelines it provides for faithfully resolving issues. Do the same thing with *The Ecclesial Guide*, written by Bro. Robert Roberts. How does the way we respond to problems reflect on our faith?