

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.

The Death of Sarah – Genesis 23

Abraham and Sarah lived and died as strangers and pilgrims on earth: (1) They took life as it came with their vision focused on the future – Hebrews 11:13; (2) Even though the promised land will be his forever, in the age to come, Abraham asserted no right of ownership in this life – Genesis 23:1-4; cp. Acts 7:5, and (3) Abraham allowed himself to be defrauded by men of this world. He was almost certainly overcharged for Sarah's burial place, and he paid without argument – Genesis 23:13-16.

- Work with the children to define a set of Bible principles (passages) for stranger-pilgrims to live by. Help *them* summarize the principles involved. What attitude does such a person have toward worldly ambition, career goals, the influence of advertising, material wants vs. material needs, credit card buying, financial debt, instant gratification, etc.? How does faith guide us in these things? Is anyone likely to adopt a stranger-pilgrim mindset without knowing the Bible principles involved?
- "Price gouging." It happens all the time. Let the children tell about times when they were overcharged for something. Ephron the Hittite charged Abraham a lot of money for a burial place, and Abraham paid it. Why do people charge as much as they can for things? Is this consistent with a life of faith? Talk about it. What should our attitude be toward this practice when we are the seller? When we are the buyer? Identify Bible principles that apply.

- Role play Abraham and Ephron the Hittite. Abraham needed a *temporary* burial place for Sarah, but he did not assert his God-given right to the land. Ephron would not have understood. In the meantime, Ephron believed the land was his. He charged a high price for land that God was going *to give* to Abraham. Abraham willingly paid the price. The difference in how Abraham and Ephron acted can be related to what they knew and did not know about the promises of God. Use the play to teach the children how faith guides what we do in this life and how we relate to others.
- Here is a chestnut for older Sunday school students to bite into. Abraham did not make funeral arrangements for Sarah until she was dead. He did not already own a burial plot. He didn't have an insurance policy to cover her final expenses. He took life and death as they came and dealt with things when they happened. Talk about the pros and cons of Abraham's mindset in this regard. Are things different today? As Christadelphians, we hold divergent opinions on subjects like these. Is it right for us to be judgmental of each other when it comes to matters of planning ahead?
- Death comes at a high price, monetarily and emotionally. Think of ways to be sensitive and kind to people who are bereaved? Then do something nice for someone.