



Unit Devotional Thoughts

Lesson 2: Biotic Versus Abiotic

Topic: Life or Death!

Scriptures:

The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9)

“As I live,” says the Lord GOD, “I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?” (Ezekiel 33:11)

Thought:

When God created the heaven and earth, He created both living and non-living things. At the earth’s conception, it was God’s plan that living things maintain eternal life. However His original plan was breached by the sins of our first parents. As a result, death and decay became a natural part of all living things.

Sin has separated us from God and leads to death. Yet, God’s love is an everlasting love (Jeremiah 31:3), and He extends to fallen humanity a second chance at eternal life. He is not willing that any of us should perish and miss out of the glory of Heaven. His call to all humanity is that we turn from our sins and follow the footsteps of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Lesson 3: Characteristics of Organisms

Topic: Spiritual Characteristics

Scripture:

For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. (Galatians 5:17)

Thought:

Everything is known by its characteristics. Animals, plants, people, etc., are all known by their characteristics. The same is true of those who follow or reject God. Galatians refers to these characteristics as the Fruits of the Spirit or the Works of the Flesh. Most of us are familiar with the Fruits of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, longsuffering, etc), but not so familiar with the Works of the Flesh (hatred, jealousy, selfishness, etc).



As you read Galatians 5:17-26, reflect on yourself. Which of the listed characteristics described do you reflect? Know that those who possess the Fruits of the Spirit are those that follow after Christ and will possess eternal life. However, those that follow after the Works of the Flesh are living a life that leads to death. We are always battling between the Spirit and the Flesh and must choose between Christ and the sinful things of the world. Let us all follow after Christ and develop the Fruits of the Spirit in our lives.

Lesson 4: Organisms are Made of Cells

Topic: A Part of the Big Picture

Scripture:

For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all. (James 2:10)

Thought:

You may have asked, "How good do I have to be to make it to Heaven?" or "Will God actually keep me out of Heaven if I fail in one point of the law?" When we ask these questions, it is a signal that our priorities are in the wrong place. It is not about how good do I have to be, or what must I do, it is about the whole picture.

God is more concerned about our hearts and our personal relationship with Him. The law is a portion of the bigger picture, our relationship with God. Our desire to break any part of the law is a direct reflection of a breach in our relationship with Him. Similarly, our desire to fulfill the law is a sign of our sincere love for Him.

Lesson 5: Organisms Obtain and Use Energy

Topic: Power

Scripture:

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. (2 Timothy 1:7)

Thought:

Life is difficult! Each day we face new obstacles. Children look to the future and say, "When I am old, I can do what I want and I won't have any problems." Adults say, "If I could only be young again, I would have no problems." The truth is, everyone has problems.

Our problems are very draining and at times can lead to a spirit of fear or even depression. How then do we deal with all the problems of life? It is God that gives us the strength and the power to overcome all of life's obstacles. If we but trust in Him and allow Him to work in our lives, He will bless us with power, love, and a sound mind.



Lesson 6: Organisms Maintain Homeostasis

Topic: Balance

Scripture:

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. (Matthew 6:33)

Thought:

The older we get, the more things we will have to juggle in life. Far too many people struggle with poor physical and mental health because they are unable to maintain balance in their life. God's desire for all His children is that they will find true balance in their lives.

Reading Matthew 6:24-34, Jesus gives us the key to finding balance. Yes, you will have to deal with all of the issues of life, but first seek after the things of God, and He will make way for everything else in your life. A balanced life begins and ends with God!

Lesson 7: Organisms Reproduce

Topic: Make Disciples

Scripture:

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you. (Matthew 28:19, 20)

Thought:

How alive are you in Christ? Before you answer that question, consider: what are you doing for Him? A Christian, in the truest sense, desires to be like Christ in all His ways. One of the reasons Christ came to earth was to reflect His Father (John 14:9). As His disciples, we likewise must be a reflection of Him.

As Christ reflected the Father, He called others to do likewise. These He called His disciples. They were to display and teach the character of their Master. As a result, this Christ-like character was to be reproduced in the hearts of sinful men. The same commission given to the 12 disciples is a command given to Christ's followers today. The light given to you by God must shine!



Lesson 8: Organisms Grow and Develop

Topic: Christian Growth and Development

Scripture:

And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.
(Luke 2:52)

Thought:

Christlikeness is not an overnight process. It requires time and effort. As we develop our minds academically, we must also develop our minds with the word of God. It is the word of God that will change our character. As Jesus grew, He too needed guidance. He made it a point to familiarize Himself with the word of God and as a result was prepared to face temptation with the scriptures.

Christ's spiritual strength was not the result of knowing scriptures alone, but of the fact that He depended on the guidance of His Father. Likewise we must trust the guidance of the Holy Spirit as He speaks to our hearts and directs our paths. In doing so, the Christian will grow and develop into the very likeness of His Savior!

Lesson 9: Organisms Adapt

Topic: Contentment

Scripture:

Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content. (Philippians 4:11)

Thought:

We live in a culture that teaches get all you can no matter what it takes. Many have forfeited their right to the Kingdom of Heaven because of this principle. Many have placed God on hold to fulfill their earthly desires and are found lacking in the sight of God.

Paul teaches that we must learn to be content. Not that we are to settle for less, but that we must be accepting of whatever our lot may be. Paul says that he has been on all sides of the spectrum. He knows what it is to have plenty, and he knows what it is to be in want. Yet, he proclaims that your current circumstance is irrelevant. Why? Because he has learned that he can do all things through Christ his strength (vs. 13). We too should be like Paul. Rather than chasing after the dreams of this world, we should chase after the reality of God's love. Thus doing, we, like Paul, will be able to adapt to whatever circumstance we find ourselves in.