

Lesson 11:

Christian Children Need To Live With Others

Theme - How To Have Good Relationships

Information For Teachers

Living on a desert island by oneself would have many disadvantages – but it could also have one big advantage. There would be no one else with whom we could disagree or fall out. There would be no breakdown in personal relationships!

But we all know that life is not like that; and we as Christians need to learn how to have good relationships with others and how to put what we have learned into practice in our daily lives.

Saved children also need to be taught how to have good relationships with others because, if they don't, they will run into problems which can affect and influence their spiritual lives.

There are four areas of relationships which you need to deal with when you are teaching this subject to the children and these are outlined below:

- Their relationship with God. This is the most important relationship of all.
- Their relationship with those in authority. This includes parents, school teachers and the forces of law and order.
- Their relationship with other Christian boys and girls.
- Their relationship with unsaved boys and girls.

But before you teach your children how to have good relationships, your own relationships need to be right in all four of these directions.

Supplementary Evangelistic Lesson No. 5

“Jesus Christ died for your sin” (see page 181).

There is a lot of teaching material in this lesson and you might want to divide it into two separate lessons. The first lesson could include the first four sections and flashcards; and the second lesson the other four.

Memory Verse

“And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you” (Ephesians 4 v32).

Powerpoint Slide 11-1 – You Live With Others

Do you know what a hermit is? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). There are not many of them in the world today, but there were hundreds of them years ago. A hermit was someone who wanted to get away from everyone and everything. So he would find a cave up in the mountains or out on an island where no one lived and spend the rest of his life completely isolated and removed from everyone. These hermits really wanted to live alone. There was no one to talk to, no one to fall out with, no one to laugh or cry with. How would you like to be a hermit? (*Give children the opportunity to answer*). Where would you go? (*Give another opportunity to answer*).

But you and I are not hermits. We live with people – and if we are Christians and have trusted the Lord Jesus as our Saviour we need to know how to live and get on with other people. If we don't we will have problems in our Christian lives.

(*Advance Slide*) In this picture you can see a number of people you need to get on with or you need to live with.

This looks complicated, doesn't it? I will need the rest of the lesson to explain it. But perhaps you can guess who some of these people are (*Give an opportunity to respond*).

Powerpoint Slide 11-2 – Live With God

(*Advance Slide*) If you have trusted the Lord Jesus as your Saviour the first one you must learn to live with and get on with is, of course, God, as you have been learning in your last two lessons. That was the top arrow in our last picture. He is the most important person of all – and this is where you must start.

If you have trusted Jesus Christ as your Saviour you need to learn how to live with God and have a good relationship with Him. Do you know what the word “relationship” means? Your relationship with a person is how you connect or link up with that person, and how well you know him.

There are several ways you can get to know God better, and build a really good relationship with Him and learn how to live with Him:

- You cannot live and get on with someone if you don't listen to him or her (*Advance Slide*). Wouldn't it be strange if you never listened to what your father and mother said? You cannot hear God's voice of course in the way you can hear your parents' voices but God does speak to you in the Bible. So you should read your Bible every day and think about what you are reading. In this way you can listen to what God wants to say to you.
- You cannot live with someone if you don't talk to him or her (*Advance Slide*). Your home would be very strange if you never spoke to your parents or to your brother and sister. So you should talk to God every day – when you have your Quiet Time or when you have a special need during the day. Also you should thank Him before your meals.
- You cannot enjoy living with someone if you don't try to please them and do what you can to make them happy. You should therefore try to please God in all you do. The Bible tells you how to please Him – by obeying (*Advance Slide*) what He tells you to do in the Bible. So you need to be careful what you say, what you do with your hands and where you go with your feet. If you obey God He will be pleased and you will be happy – and you will have a good friendly relationship with Him.
- You cannot get to know someone if you don't spend time with him. That's how you get to know your friends. You spend time together. So God wants you to meet with Him. How can you do this? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). You can do this when you have your Quiet Time once every day but you should also go to church (*Advance Slide*) on Sundays so that you can meet with God there and worship Him along with other Christians. Meeting with God and others who are saved like you will help you to know Him and live for Him.

The Bible tells us about a man who walked with God. His name was Enoch. What does it mean to walk with someone? (*Give children the opportunity to respond*). We have already seen what it means. It's the same as getting to know someone or to live with someone. It means to meet with that person, to listen to him, to talk to him, and to please him. How can we do these things with God? (*Give an opportunity to respond*). That's what Enoch did when he walked with God – and that is what it means for you too.

So the first and most important thing for you to do is to love God and build up your friendship with Him.

Powerpoint Slide 11-3 – Live With Those Above You

What do I mean by that? (*Advance Slide*) Let me explain.

God has a plan for this world in which we live and you are part of that plan. An important part of God's plan is that you and I live in a family. You are in this

world because of your parents – your mother and father. It was they who brought you into the world, and you became part of a family of which they are the leaders. And God’s plan is that you respect and obey (*Advance Slide*) your mother and father. One of God’s commands is, “*Honour (or respect) your father and mother*” (Exodus 20 v12). You are under their authority and they are therefore above you. (*Advance Slide*) Do you know what the word “authority” means? It simply means that you should do what they tell you to do.

God wants you therefore to obey your parents (*Give an example if you wish*). When they ask you to fetch the groceries, or go to the shop, or help with the housework, or go to bed, or keep your room tidy – you should do what they say – even if you don’t want to, or don’t feel like it. And this is also true if, for some reason, you are just living with one of your parents.

You should obey them at all times in everything except when they ask you to do something which God’s Word says is wrong. If they should ever ask you to tell a lie, or take something which does not belong to you, or even to worship some false god or idol you should tell them nicely that you cannot do that because God says it is wrong.

And God wants you to love your parents even though you may not always agree with them. It was they who brought you into the world and you should show them you love them by what you do at home and what you say to them. When was the last time you told them that you loved them?

An important part of God’s plan for you is that you live in a family and are under the authority of your parents. Another important part of His plan is that you live in a country. Remember, you are not a hermit. You have been born into a certain country and you are part of that country. But that means that there are people in your country who are above you, and the Bible which is God’s Word says that you are also under their authority:

- You are under the law of your country, and you are under the authority of the leaders of your country. You should always obey the laws of your country, and the people chosen by the leaders of your country, such as the police (*Advance Slide*), who are also over you. If a policeman tells you that you should not ride your bicycle on the sidewalk what should you do when he is not there? (*Give an opportunity to respond*).
- You are under the authority of your teachers at school (*Advance Slide*) and you should always do what they tell you. If your teacher tells you to stop talking what should you do? (*Give an opportunity to respond*).

You must always remember that God has set people above you for your good – parents, police and teachers. As you learn to live under them and their authority you will be helped in your own life and in your life with God.

Powerpoint Slide 11-4 – Live With Other Christians

(Advance Slide) God has placed you in a family, and in a country, and wants you to obey those who are over you. It is also part of God's plan that you find other people who are Christians and that you should meet with them and get to know them. So God wants you, thirdly, to be part of a church.

Let me explain. God knows that every Christian needs the help and friendship of other Christians. It's hard to live the Christian life on your own. God does not want us to be Christian hermits! So God in His Word tells Christians to meet together and form churches. We often call the buildings in which Christians meet churches; but the Bible says that the church is really the group of Christians who meet in that building including the children who are saved.

When we become Christians we become members of God's family and part of His church all over the world. But we also need to join up with other Christians in a church in the town or area where we live, to worship and serve God (Hebrews 10 v25), and as we do so we learn to help, love and care for each other. It is a kind of second home for us.

But you need to be part of a good church which believes and teaches God's Word. Going to church to learn about God's Word is like going to school to learn to read and write. You need the help and friendship of other Christians who meet there. Footballers don't play alone. They are part of a team – training, learning and playing. And you should attend church every Sunday as part of God's team. A red hot coal which is taken out of the fire soon loses its heat and glow, and if you don't meet with other Christians you will lose your glow. Sunday is a special day for you to praise God and give thanks to Him along with other Christians; and it also gives you the chance to meet and make friends with other Christians. There is usually a Sunday School or week day class in your church where you can meet with other Christian children and young people.

- There was a boy called Sam Sometimes who only went to Sunday School when he felt like it. Before long he gave up reading the Bible and praying; and he then forgot about the Lord Jesus altogether.
- Another boy called Andy Always went to Sunday School even on bright days when the park looked tempting and on dull cold days when it would have been easier to stay at home by the fire. He grew up to serve the Lord Jesus with all his heart.

So it is important for you to be like Andy Always and not like Sam Sometimes if you want to grow as a Christian.

You also need to ask God to give you Christian friends of your own age. You might meet them at church or Sunday School, or at Good News Club. There might even be someone in your class at school who is a Christian and who

could be your special friend. But it is important that you find at least one Christian boy or girl with whom you can get really friendly. You can then play together, you can talk with each other about the problems you have, you can pray for each other, and you can go together to *Good News Club*® and Sunday School.

Powerpoint Slide 11-5 – Live With Other Children

It would be nice to live all the time with other Christians who loved the Lord Jesus and wanted to serve Him, but this is not possible. Most people are not Christians. So we have to learn to live with those who are not Christians (*Advance Slide*) – at school, when we are playing, and sometimes also in our own homes. This is not always easy to do.

It is important to be friendly with other boys and girls who are not Christians, but you should not get too close to them. The Bible tells us what not to do by using a strange word. It says, “*Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers*” (2 Corinthians 6 v14). What does that mean?

In Bible times farmers used two oxen or cows to pull their ploughs (*Advance Slide*). A yoke was a wooden bar which held the necks of the two oxen together so that they could walk and pull together. It would not be possible to yoke an ox and an elephant together because it wouldn’t work. They couldn’t pull. They would be so different from each other.

In the same way the Bible says that if you are a Christian you should not be joined together or yoked together with someone who is not a Christian. They are completely different from you – and it just wouldn’t work. You would pull in different directions.

Be friendly and nice to boys and girls who are not Christians, but don’t get too close to them and don’t build up a very close friendship with them.

Powerpoint Slide 11-6 – Problems To Solve

Let’s think about several problems (*Advance Slide*) you might have with boys and girls who are not Christians and how to solve them.

PROBLEM. Valerie was a Christian girl, but the other girls at school made fun of her and called her names because she was a Christian. What should she do? (*Give the opportunity for answers*).

SOLUTION. She should not allow the jokes of others to make her sad as you can see in our picture. She should be nice to them and smile when they make fun (even though this is not easy). Don’t forget our memory verse (*Repeat it*). And she should pray for them. She should also remember that the Bible tells us that such things will happen (Matthew 5 v11) but God promises in the Bible to help us and give us strength to deal with these things (Hebrews 4 v16).

PROBLEM. (*Advance Slide*) Several boys in Terry’s class invited him to come with them to one of their homes. They then explained that they had got an X-rated video they were going to watch. What should Terry do? (*Give the opportunity for answers*).

SOLUTION. Terry should nicely, but firmly, say that he would not watch the video because he was a Christian and he felt something like this would harm him. If they decided to go ahead with it he should walk out.

PROBLEM. (*Advance Slide*) Phil’s parents were not Christians and didn’t want him to go to church. They took him to places where he was not happy and sometimes asked him to do things which were wrong. They would ask Phil to tell someone on the phone that they were not at home when in fact they were there. What should he do? (*Ask for answers*).

SOLUTION. This is a difficult problem.

The first answer is that Phil should be nice to his unsaved parents and that he should always show them by his conduct that he is a Christian – especially when they ask him to do something.

The second answer is to pray that God will save them.

Thirdly, he should obey them and do what they ask him to do unless it is wrong to do so. If they don’t allow him to go to church he should obey them but tell them nicely he would prefer to go. He should go with them to wherever they take him but if it’s not a nice place he should tell them he would prefer not to go. But if they ask him to tell a lie or cheat or steal he should say, “No, I am a Christian and I cannot do that.”

Powerpoint Slide 11-7 – If You Have Hurt Someone

God wants each of us who loves the Lord Jesus to learn how to live with others – with God first of all and then with those above us – our parents, teachers and the leaders of our country. It is very important to have Christian friends and to know how to love them and live and meet with them. But remember that most of the boys and girls you know who go to your school and with whom you play are not Christians, and you must learn how to love them, play with them and help them. If you have a problem with anyone and you would like to tell me about it so that I could give you some help and advice as to what you should do, stay seated after the meeting is over and I will come and talk with you.

Our memory verse (*Repeat it*) reminds us to be kind and nice to each other - that is most important.

But none of us is perfect and sometimes we don’t live and play with others the way we should. There are times when we all make mistakes: (*Advance Slide*)

- We disobey our parents.
- We don't do our school homework.
- We fall out with our Christian friend and take his pencil.
- We lose our temper with an unsaved boy or girl with whom we are playing.

What should you do when you make mistakes like these? (*Give children the opportunity to respond*).

There are several steps you should take:

- Firstly, you need to tell God you are sorry and ask Him to forgive you. What you did was wrong and sinful. The Bible tells you that He will forgive you immediately (1 John 1 v9).
- (*Advance Slide*) Secondly, and this is the hard part, you need to go to the person you hurt or disobeyed admitting you were wrong, say you are sorry and ask them to forgive you. This is what the Bible tells you to do (Matthew 5 v23-25). It is the only way to solve the problem and make a new start. If they refuse to forgive you there is nothing you can do about it. You have done what you could to make things right.
- (*Advance Slide*) There might be something else extra which you need to do. For example, if you had disobeyed your parents you now need to do what your parents had asked you to do, or you need to do the homework which you hadn't done, or you need to return the pencil you took from your friend.

Powerpoint Slide 11-8 – If Someone Has Hurt You

(*Advance Slide*) There is another problem which you might have and you need to find the answer to it also.

If you feel that your parents or your Christian friends have done something wrong to you then you need to do something about it. What should you do? (*Give children the opportunity to respond*).

- There are three things you should not do.

(*Advance Slide*) It is no good sulking like this first child in our picture, (*Advance Slide*) or not talking to them like this second child, (*Advance Slide*) or feeling sorry for yourself like this third child.

- (*Advance Slide*) The Bible says that you should go to the person who has hurt or wronged you and tell them what they have done and how much they have hurt you (Matthew 18 v15) as this child is doing. Of course you need to do this in a loving way, not with angry words. Don't forget our

memory verse (*Repeat it*). Perhaps he/she will explain what they did, or say that they didn't mean it – and the problem is solved. But even if they don't, you have done all you can to make things right. You cannot do any more than that. And remember that if he/she knows that what they did was wrong and are sorry for it, you should immediately forgive him/her completely and the two of you can make a new start. Our memory verse tells us to forgive others just as God has forgiven us (Ephesians 4 v32).

It is most important to learn and know how to live with other people so that everyone can see how a Christian lives. May God help you and me to do so.

If you are not a Christian why not trust the Lord Jesus as your Saviour today? He will save you if you ask Him to do so. Then you can start a new life and you can learn how to live with others.