

Back To Basics

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A Monthly Journal Dedicated To Teaching First Principles

SPECIAL ISSUE: BACK TO SCHOOL

Johnie Edwards

August is back to school month. As school days are approaching, it is a good time to call our attention to some basic Bible truths we need to keep in mind.

1) **LEARN TO SAY NO.** The word “no” is one of the hardest words for some to learn. School days present lots of temptations to partake in all kinds of evil. There will be temptations to smoke, use drugs, drink, curse, cheat, steal, engage in premarital sex, dress immodestly, skip school, show disrespect to the teachers, and the list goes on and on. There are three avenues by which you will be tempted: “the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life” (1 Jn. 2:16). All temptations fall under one of these channels. Eve was tempted this way (Gen. 3:6) and so was Jesus (Mt. 4:1-11). The devil, who is our “tempter” (Mt. 4:1), doesn’t like one thing. Do you know what it is? Resistance. James penned, “Resist the devil and he will flee from you” (Jas. 4:7). While resisting the devil, don’t forget to “draw nigh to God” (Jas. 4:8). Have you learned to say *no*?

2) **SET THE RIGHT STANDARD.** If you fail to set a standard of right and wrong, others

will ignore the right and exemplify the evil! Some have not learned the difference in what’s right and what’s wrong. Many, like those in Isaiah 5:20-23, “call evil good, and good evil; put darkness for light and light for darkness; put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter.” You may be the very one to “be an example of the believers in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity” (1 Tim. 4:12). Want to take on this challenge?

3) **SHOW RESPECT.** School days will provide a good time to show regard and esteem for those around you. Living in times when little or no respect is shown, it is a good time to learn to “Honour all men” (1 Pet. 2:17).

4) **PUT FIRST THINGS FIRST.** Plan your schedule to allow you to “Seek first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness” (Mt. 6:33). This may require you to miss some activities and avoid some people and things to assist you in putting first things first. You will not regret doing so as other things “shall be added unto you” (Mt. 6:33). These may be the best days of your life; use them for being the best you can be! Continue reading this special issue of *Back To Basics* and have a good school year.

NOT EVERYONE'S DOING IT!

Steve Monts

Peer pressure. Everyone faces it, young and old alike. But there is one age group that finds comfort and authority in the appeal, "BUT MOM, EVERYONE'S DOING IT!" Usually it is the age group from about 13-21. So parents, begin to explain to them how not everyone's doing it!

1) **THEY MAY SAY, "EVERYONE'S GOING TO THE PROM."** Show them this article for I can state that I have not gone to the prom; neither did my wife. So no, not everyone's doing it! Remind them the Bible condemns dancing (Gal. 5:19; Rom. 13:13). Parents, be firm. Don't stand there shaking your head while holding out your wallet giving them money!

2) **THEY MAY SAY, "EVERYONE'S DRINKING, SMOKING, AND USING DRUGS."** Tell them that is not true, but a lie. You have good brethren that don't do those things and you don't do those things (do you?). Take them down to the police station to ask what happens to those who use drugs. That will open their eyes. First, take them to the Bible. Paul didn't smoke. Jesus didn't get "high." Peter didn't get "loaded." Rather, they condemned all these things (Gal. 5:20-21; 1 Pet. 4:3). So, not everyone's doing it!

3) **THEY MAY SAY, "EVERYONE'S HAVING PREMARITAL SEX."** No, again that is not true. There have been countless individuals through the ages that have saved themselves for marriage. Open the Bible and share with them the story of Joseph (Gen. 39:7-13). He did not do it. Jesus and Paul didn't do it (1 Cor. 6:9; 1 Pet. 2:11). Again, not everyone's doing it!

4) **THEY MAY SAY, "EVERYONE'S CHEATING, STEALING AND LYING, WHY CAN'T I?"** Cheating is being dishonest. God condemns dishonesty (Prov. 6:16-19). Stealing is taking what is not yours. God condemns stealing (Eph. 4:28). Lying is deceit. God condemns lying (Eph. 4:25). Can you imagine a world where you are lied to everyday, where your property disappears all the time, and where you are always cheated? That shows that no, not everyone's doing it.

So, let's be honest here. Those that use this excuse are really just saying that some in their *peer group* are doing these things. So much smaller than EVERYONE, don't you think?

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PROVERBS FOR SCHOOL

John Isaac Edwards

The book of Proverbs, written to give “the young man knowledge and discretion” (Prov. 1:4), is full of wise sayings that would be good to take and apply at school.

1) **“IF SINNERS ENTICE THEE, CONSENT THOU NOT” (PROV. 1:10).** You might as well get ready – there will be enticements at school to engage in sinful practices. “If they say, Come with us...walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path” (Prov. 1:11, 15). There are some people we do not need to be with and some places we do not need to go. Have courage to say no, and don’t consent to the evil!

2) **“KEEP THY HEART WITH ALL DILIGENCE; FOR OUT OF IT ARE THE ISSUES OF LIFE” (PROV. 4:23).** Your heart is your inner most being; your thoughts, desires, intents, and motives. It’s who you are. “For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he...” (Prov. 23:7). Jesus said, “...for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things” (Mt. 12:34-35). What comes out of your heart depends on how you keep it – so keep it with all diligence! Don’t let it become a garbage dump for every form of evil. Be careful what you see, and “Take heed what ye hear” (Mk. 4:24).

3) **“HE THAT WALKETH WITH WISE MEN SHALL BE WISE: BUT A COMPANION OF FOOLS SHALL BE DESTROYED” (PROV. 13:20).** Whether we realize it or not, the company we keep has its influence on us. George Washington wrote, “Associate yourself with men of good quality if you esteem your own reputation; for ‘tis better to be

alone than in bad company” (*Rules of Civility*). Paul said, “Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners” (1 Cor. 15:33). Be sure to read the excellent article in this issue by Dathan Rader on *Making Friends At School*.

4) **“THE EYES OF THE LORD ARE IN EVERY PLACE, BEHOLDING THE EVIL AND THE GOOD” (PROV. 15:3).** Even at school, you are never alone – an all-seeing eye is watching you!

And have a good year of learning!

Special Issue: Back To School	
Johnie Edwards.....	1
Not Everyone’s Doing It!	
Steve Monts.....	2
Proverbs For School	
John Isaac Edwards.....	3
School Supplies	
David Eldridge.....	4
Our Clothing And Our Message At School	
David C. Morrison, Jr.....	5
Making Friends At School	
Dathan V. Rader.....	6
Things To Avoid At School	
Craig Thomas.....	7
Facing Drugs And Alcohol At School	
Leland Ping.....	8
Showing Respect At School	
Ryan Osborne.....	9
Kids Activity Page	
Aleisha Edwards.....	10
Being An Example At School	
Daniel Duvall.....	11

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

David Eldridge



It is the time of year to think about going back to school. In stores, the shelves are already loaded with school supplies. While it is important for young people to have pens, pencils, paper, etc. for school, it is of utmost importance that they be supplied with those things which lead to a life pleasing to God. Consider the most needed school supplies...

1) **PURPOSE OF HEART.** Daniel is a good example to young and old alike as we are told that he “purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself” (Dan. 1:8). Daniel had already decided, before the temptation, that he was going to do the right thing. Young people today would do well to supply themselves with much purpose of heart, that they might not defile themselves with the ungodly things of this world. If you have purposed in your heart to follow God and reject temptation, then you do not have to make a decision when faced with temptation – you have already decided. Be sure to have an abundant supply of purpose of heart to serve God as you return to school.

2) **GODLY PRIORITIES.** Jesus said, “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you” (Mt. 6:33). Priorities are the things we deem important and that we make sure we do. Jesus demands that we put God and the things of God as our top priority, before anything else. School brings many things that can take your priority of serving God off the top of your list,

if you are not careful. For example, school activities and sporting events may conflict with the meetings of the church. If you attend the school event instead of going to services, where have you placed God? Obviously, you have not placed Him first! Be sure in the middle of everything that goes with school that you supply yourself with godly priorities, putting Him first in everything.

3) **MORAL FRIENDS.** Have you ever heard the expression, “If you lie down with dogs, you will wake up with fleas?” That is one way of saying that the company you keep has an influence on you. The apostle Paul wrote, “Do not be deceived: Evil company corrupts good habits” (1 Cor. 15:33). Unfortunately, a lot of young people (and older people) are foolishly deceived by thinking that the people they spend their time with have no impact on the way they live their lives. But we do not want to act so foolishly. We should know, because God’s word says it is true, that if we have evil companions it will hurt our good morals. So, what can a person do? The best thing you can do is to have those who are true Christians as your closest friends. If there are no other Christians at your school, make sure you have as your friends those who are good, moral people.

The school years are a difficult time with many temptations. God will help keep you strong as He can “supply all your need” (Phil. 4:19). Don’t go to school without God’s supplies!

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OUR CLOTHING AND OUR MESSAGE AT SCHOOL

David C. Morrison Jr.

Our clothing is often the first thing that people notice about us. God's word makes it clear that our clothing sends a message. Proverbs 7:10 says, "And behold, there met him a woman with the attire of an harlot, and subtil of heart." I am not sure what this clothing was, but I wonder if this woman would have been out of place in our modern society.

1) DOES IT MATTER? I was once asked by a group of young people, "Why do you make such a big deal out of clothing?" With fewer lessons taught on "modest apparel," our young people are often left to wonder whether it matters. Yes, it does matter! God says it matters. Christians are to "abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul. Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles" (1 Pet. 2:11-12). We must be concerned about the message we are sending with our clothing. Our schools are often made up of differing groups that are identified at least in part by their clothing. There are the preppies with their designer image at one end and the Goth group with the dark image of death at the other. Many schools have had to deal with the "colors" and identifying marks of various gangs related to clothing. Our clothing sends a message.

2) WHAT MESSAGES ARE WE SENDING TO THOSE OUTSIDE THE BODY OF CHRIST? In our desire to fit in, are we embracing the fashion of the world? There is a great deal of peer pressure upon Christians to conform to the fashion of the world. God desires that we be "transformed, by the renewing of our minds" (Rom. 12:2). If we are truly interested in the souls of others, then even our physical clothing will reflect deep concern and love for the lost.

3) DO OUR CLOTHES SEND A MESSAGE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS OR SINFULNESS? Knowing there are those who have "eyes full of adultery" (2 Pet. 2:14; Mt. 5:28), we should cover the nakedness of our flesh (Gen. 3:21; 9:23; Ex. 20:26; Ezek. 23:10-29; Mt. 25:36, 43; Jas. 2:15). What message do we send when we wear clothing that is too short or too tight or too low? The Bible refers to exposure of the thigh as nakedness (Ex. 28:42). Also, in Genesis 3:9-21, when the upper body is exposed it is referred to as nakedness. In 1 Timothy 2:9-10, "modest apparel must be accompanied by shamefacedness and sobriety... a profession of godliness and good works." Is this the message you are sending?

4) DO OUR CLOTHES PASS THE INFLUENCE TEST? "Give none offense, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God" (1 Cor. 10:32). Jesus said, "let your light so shine before men" (Mt. 5:16). Jesus did not say, "let your leg or thigh so shine!" A child of God sends a devastating message when he conforms to modern fashion trends that are immodest.

5) DO OUR CLOTHES SCREAM, "LOOK AT ME, LOOK AT ME"? Excessive clothing also violates the principles of modesty (Mt. 6:16-18; Is. 3:24-26; 1 Pet. 3:1-4). 1 Timothy 2:9 says to "adorn modest apparel – not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array." This is more than mere contrast. What is the message when our clothing is extreme and draws attention to ourselves? When in doubt, favor that which you can be sure about! (Prov. 4:14-15).

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MAKING FRIENDS AT SCHOOL

Dathan V. Rader

All throughout the Bible, we read of the importance of friendship. With the 2006-2007 school year beginning, there are a few things that we must keep in mind as Christians. It is natural that every year, kids are always making new friends. In this article, I hope to give a few suggestions that might help us in choosing friends, and also remember who our ultimate friend should be.

1) **WE MUST CHOOSE OUR FRIENDS WISELY (PROV. 12:26).** To choose friends foolishly is to set a stumbling block in our own path. These friends can cause one to sin, but we are told, “keep your foot from their path” (Prov. 1:15). We must refrain our “feet from every evil way” (Ps. 119:101). By practicing this, we will save our soul from eternal punishment. Those we may consider to be the closest to us could be those who are dragging us down spiritually and causing us to lose interest in spiritual matters. We read in Deuteronomy 13:6-9 that those who pull us away from God should be ignored and rebuked. Clearly, it is best to choose our friends with wisdom, for “he who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will be destroyed” (Prov. 13:20).

2) **WHO WE SHOULD NOT MAKE FRIENDS WITH.**

An angry man (Prov. 22:24). An angry man stirs up strife (Prov. 29:22).

A furious man (Prov. 22:24). A furious man abounds in transgression (Prov. 29:22).

An evil man (1 Cor. 15:33). By associating with evil men, we are corrupting ourselves. It doesn't take long before we are affected, “for a little leaven leavens the whole lump” (1 Cor. 5:6).

The world (Jas. 4:4). The closer we get to the world, the further we get from God. It is sad to see that more and more people are getting comfortable with the sins and transgressions of the world. By loving the things of the world, we lose the love of our Father, but by doing His will, we abide forever (1 Jn. 2:15-17).

3) **WHO WE SHOULD MAKE FRIENDS WITH.** After seeing the danger in choosing the wrong friend, we can see that it is extremely important that we choose the right person. Here are a few qualities that we might look for.

A wise man (Prov. 13:20). By walking with a wise man, we make ourselves wise.

A righteous man (Ps. 1:1-3). We are told not to walk in the path of sinners, but rather walk with those who delight in the law of the Lord.

One who fears God (Ps. 34:9). By fearing God, we become blessed and have no need.

4) **THE ULTIMATE FRIEND.** Before getting too focused on gaining earthly friends, we must remember who our ultimate friend should be. Even if we have no friends here on earth, we will always have a friend in Jesus. John 15:14 says, “You are my friends if you do whatever I command you.” By serving Him and doing His will, we inherit an eternal reward and become more than just a friend. Through fearing Him and doing works of righteousness, we are accepted by Him (Acts 10:35).

Hopefully these thoughts will be of help as we make new friends and live the Christian life.

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THINGS TO AVOID AT SCHOOL

Craig Thomas

A new school year brings both positive and negative things. Positively, it holds the potential to renew old friendships and further one's secular education. Negatively, it will bring many temptations to sin and intense peer pressure to abandon your godly principles. As you prepare for the new school year, prepare yourself to avoid some things.

1) **AVOID THE CORRUPTING INFLUENCE OF UNGODLY FRIENDS.** This is the most important message of this article. Why? Because it is a well-established fact people of all ages are more likely to participate in ungodly behavior when they are trying to "fit in" with their friends. Thus the Bible says, "Do not be deceived: Evil company corrupts good habits" (1 Cor. 15:33).

2) **AVOID FORNICATION.** It is natural for young people to want to experience all that life has to offer. But, when it comes to sexual relations, you must remember God has wisely reserved this for when you are married (Heb. 13:4). It may seem exciting to "experiment" with it now, but to do so is a "work of the flesh" that will cause you to lose your soul (Gal. 5:19-21). Such indulgence will also bring you shame, guilt, and even perhaps an unwanted pregnancy. Remember the good advice my mother gave me as a teenager, "Five minutes of pleasure is not worth a lifetime of regret." To avoid fornication, you must also avoid situations that can lead to it. For example, such activities as dancing (e.g., proms), mixed swimming, and the wearing of immodest dress (e.g., cheerleading "uniforms") hold the potential to inflame the passions beyond the point of control. Therefore, be wise and avoid these things as well.

3) **AVOID BAD LANGUAGE.** Many in your peer group think to be popular one must use filthy language. Don't forget what the Bible says, "Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth" (Eph. 4:29). I always remember what a trusted English teacher once told me, "Using curse words only shows you are so ignorant and uneducated that you cannot express yourself in proper English."

4) **AVOID GAMBLING.** Many school clubs and groups employ "raffles" to raise money. Raffles may be used to support a good cause, but raffles are still a form of gambling and a sin. If the cause is indeed worthy of your support, why not just make a donation? Don't let a "good cause" cause you to do wrong!

5) **AVOID EVOLUTION.** The theory of evolution is accepted as fact by the world and Christians are often belittled for believing in God is as Creator (Gen. 1 & 2). As a scientist, I can tell you without reservation that evolution is "junk science" at its worst. Never be ashamed of your belief in the Creator and never be ashamed to stand up for those beliefs. Forearm yourself with good "anti-evolution" information. Study the Bible account of creation. Don't let the world force you to believe that which is untrue, unscriptural, and unscientific.

As you contemplate the new school year, be determined to "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Mt. 5:16).

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FACING DRUGS AND ALCOHOL AT SCHOOL

Leland Ping

The apostle Paul commands followers of Christ to be “living sacrifices” who appreciate the importance of not being like the world and going along with its practices (Rom. 12:1-2). And while this is a challenge for any Christian, it is a uniquely difficult task for a young person to face when he enters school and therein encounters so many temptations. One of the greatest temptations young people must consider as they head back to school is the temptation to use drugs and consume alcohol. As with any sin, drug and alcohol usage has appeal – fitting in with friends, being viewed as “cool,” and “getting high” are but a few of the reasons why one would want to use drugs and drink. Yet, the inspired writer tells us that the pleasures associated with sin are temporal and provide no real satisfaction (Heb. 11:25). As young people return to school, there are at least three things they should remember as to why using drugs or drinking alcohol is a bad idea.

1) DRUGS AND ALCOHOL ARE DETRIMENTAL TO ONE’S PHYSICAL HEALTH. Any high school health class will quickly teach that the usage of drugs and alcohol harm a person’s health both in the short term and long term. Drugs and alcohol impair one’s ability to think correctly and make good decisions. Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 6:19 that our bodies belong to God and not to ourselves. And while Paul’s particular discussion here is on the subject of sexual immorality, the lesson seems abundantly clear that we should not abuse our bodies physically as well.

2) WHEN A CHRISTIAN USES DRUGS OR ALCOHOL, HE GIVES UP THE OPPORTUNITY TO SET A GOOD EXAMPLE. Paul wrote that the

world will judge Christianity based on the lives that we live (2 Cor. 3:2). And, if the world sees those who profess to be followers of God living like the rest of the world, then the world will understand Christianity to be nothing really all too special.

3) THE YOUNG CHRISTIAN SHOULD NOT USE DRUGS OR ALCOHOL BECAUSE DOING SO IS SINFUL. In 1 Peter 4:3, the apostle condemns drinking. Solomon writes, “wine is a mocker” and “strong drink is a brawler” and that those who are “led astray by it” are considered unwise (Prov. 20:1). Anything that the Bible condemns, calls wrong, and regards as unwise should be avoided by the Christian.

Facing drugs and alcohol at school has never been an easy thing to do. And, there’s no reason to think that this year it will be any easier. Yet, remembering God’s promise to help us in time of temptation and remembering these things about why drug and alcohol usage are not appropriate for the Christian, young people can return to school with greater determination than ever to avoid sin and be the living sacrifice commanded in the Scriptures.

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THE THREE “R’S”

Rejoice (Eccl. 11:9)
Remove (Eccl. 11:10)
Remember (Eccl. 12:1)

SHOWING RESPECT AT SCHOOL

Ryan Osborne

One of the most fundamental concepts necessary for us as Christians is that of respect because it pervades every area of our lives. When the lawyer tested Jesus in Matthew 22, asking Him which was the great commandment, Jesus replied, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind...And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” The love that is being spoken of involves a respect and reverence for God. Jesus said that the entire law could be hung from these two commandments, which shows how crucial this concept is. Our love for God is shown by respecting, honoring, and keeping His commandments (1 Jn. 5:3; 2 Jn. 6).

However, we live in a time when rebellion is so widespread and even seems to be popular. People of the world do not seem to understand the importance of this concept. Anyone with an arrogant, rebellious attitude will have difficulty having and showing respect for others. As Christians, we are to live our lives with humility (Jas. 4:10). We should recognize that what we have does not belong to us, so we have no reason to boast of ourselves (Rom. 11:18). The praise belongs to God.

1) **RESPECT AT HOME.** Learning the lesson of respect begins in the home with the children learning to respect their parents. Parents are the first authority figures that enter a child’s life, and they will set a precedent for how that child will react to other authority figures throughout their life. If a child is raised with instruction in righteousness, they are more likely to remain faithful when they are older (Prov. 22:6). Throughout the book of Proverbs, instruction is preceded by the

words “my son.” Parents need to be teaching their children, and helping them to grow in their knowledge of God and desire to please Him.

2) **RESPECT AT SCHOOL.** In a school setting, showing respect is an effective way for young Christians to let their light shine among their peers and to allow them to see the difference between a faithful follower of God and a troubled adolescent seeking attention. The Bible speaks of our responsibility to set an example for the people of this world by living a godly life, so that God may be glorified by our actions (1 Pet. 2:12; Phil. 2:15). You may be the only example of a true Christian that some ever see. Show respect for your peers and be the good example that may end up winning souls for Christ.

3) **RESPECT FOR TEACHERS.** Show respect for your teachers. Romans 13 speaks of our submission to the governing authorities, but there are principles that can be applied to our subject. Your teachers are given charge over you while you are at school and they are to be respected and honored for that position. They should not be mocked and their authority should not be resisted.

4) **RESPECT FOR GOD.** Finally, we can show respect for God and everyone we come into contact with by talking about the word and spreading the gospel at every opportunity (Rom. 1:16). To neglect to declare the whole counsel of God is disrespectful to those we teach, so teach the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. In doing so, we will save ourselves and others.

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Kids Activity Page

Aleisha Edwards

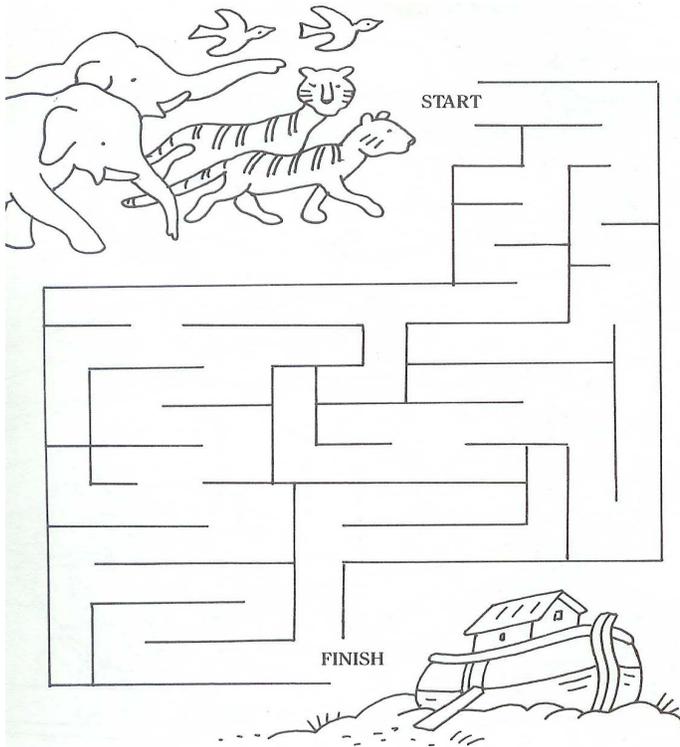
Noah and the Ark

(Genesis 6-9)

Fill in the blanks:

"And _____ did according unto _____ that the _____ commanded him" (Genesis 7:5).

Two by two, the animals went into the ark. Can you help them find their way?



Match the word with the right number to describe the ark (Genesis 6:14-16).

Length	1
Breadth	30 cubits
Height	3
Window	300 cubits
Door	50 cubits
Stories	1

Unscramble the word to see the token of God's covenant with man (Genesis 9:13).

WORINAB

"Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God" (Mark 10:14).

BEING AN EXAMPLE AT SCHOOL

Daniel Duvall

The Bible says, “Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity” (1 Tim. 4:12). I will go through these six ways of being an example in the order given in the text.

1) **WORD (SPEECH).** What we say in conversations and in teaching others the gospel is to be done as an example. There are plenty of things to help our speech. We shouldn’t be rude, speak on inappropriate subjects, use profanity, or condone others who do so by laughing (Col. 3:8). In my sixth hour biology class, toward the end of school, people were jokingly saying that they’d never used profanity in that class all year, and this went around the room. When it got to me though, I was honored to be able to say that I’d never used profanity the whole year. It goes to show that if you teach yourself self-control, you can do what is right.

2) **CONDUCT (BEHAVIOR).** The saying, “Actions speak louder than words,” comes to mind when speaking of conduct. Our conduct should not be one of hypocrisy, but one that is harmonious with our speech. We cannot teach people one thing, do things differently ourselves, and expect them to change for the better. A lot of the principles from Word (point 1) apply to this, like not being rude or acting in inappropriate actions such as drinking, smoking, drugs, lasciviousness, and premarital sex (1 Cor. 9:24-27).

3) **LOVE.** This love is toward God first and foremost and is shown by unconditional obedience (Jn. 14:15). Others should notice this of us when we decline to do sinful things.

4) **SPIRIT (EMOTION AND ENTHUSIASM).** It should not be a burdensome or reluctant feeling to do what is right. It is hard sometimes, but you know what, it was hard for Christ to die for us. It is a great investment to be faithful in order to receive eternal life in Heaven. So be happy to serve God! (Jn. 4:24).

5) **FAITH.** One must not waver from their faith (Col. 1:23). Faith is our belief. Through all the trials and tribulations we may experience from our peers, we must be strong. Be strong for those around us to have someone to use as an example. One of my favorite sayings is, “No one ever said it was going to be easy.” God has promised us many things in this life, but easy was never promised to anyone. It is a matter of choice. You can choose to be faithful, or you can choose to sin. Be strong, and one of the best pieces of advice I can give you is to pray.

6) **PURITY.** Purity is simply a combination of all these things. It is life without sin. When you are righteous, you have purity. Do the will of God (1 Jn. 2:17).

Be an example in word, conduct, love, spirit, faith, and purity and you will be blessed. Remember, your parents or your brethren may not catch you, but those around you are watching and most importantly, God is too!

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