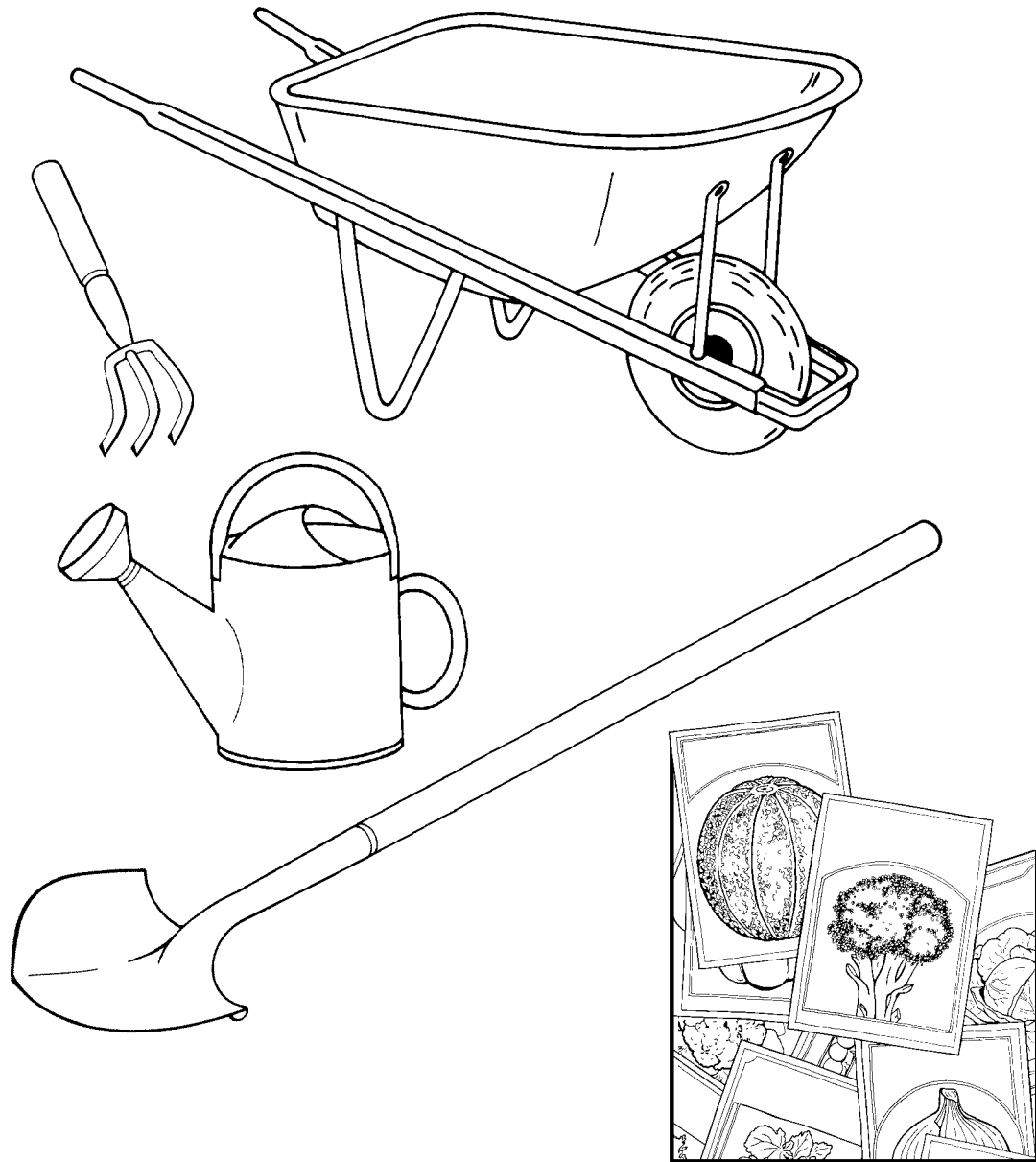


7 – Teach Truth

“Toys and Children’s Play”



“The many trifles usually spent on candies and useless toys may be treasured up with which to buy these volumes

[good books]” or real toys!

The Adventist Home 479

“And God saw
that the wickedness
of man was great
in the earth,
and that every imagination
of the thoughts
of his heart
was only evil continually.”

Genesis 6:5



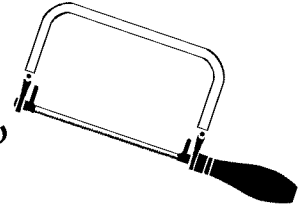
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7 - Teach Truth

"Toys and Children's Play"



Index of the Heart

"Our words index the state of our heart and whether men talk much or little, their words express the character of their thoughts. A man's character may be quite accurately estimated by the nature of his conversation. Sound, truthful words have the right ring in them."
(Sons and Daughters of God 180)
See Proverbs 23:7.

Also, we might say our children's play is an index to what is going on in their mind. If parents are observing what is taking place with their children's play they may think it trivial, when in fact it is destructive to their characters.

It is natural and healthy for children to play house and other real things that someday will take place in their home. Children observe those who are older and copy them in play. This is why it is so important to help your child choose who to play with, and what he plays. In play and work children are preparing to fill the role God has designed for them.

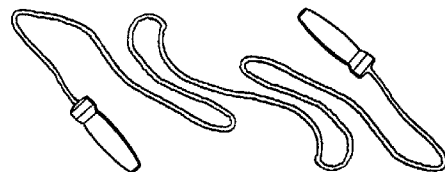
What is fantasy?

It is defined as something produced by the imagination.

Jesus clearly states that it is a sin to fantasize about something that would be sinful to carry out in real life.

"But I say unto you,
that whosoever
looketh on a woman
to lust after her
hath committed adultery
with her already in his heart."
Matthew 5:28

Children should never pretend anything that would be sinful for them to carry out in real life. They should not pretend they are stealing, killing, etc. Even when they play "house," those pretend children must obey and honor the pretend parents: the pretend mother must respect and be in harmony with the pretend father, and so forth.



Some may think this unrealistic, or simply too strict. But you as parents know that the attitudes expressed in play inevitably find expression in real life.

Kinds of Fantasies Real and Supernatural

1. Real Constructive

A child pretending to be a truck driver, father pretending to be a horse and letting the child ride on his back.

2. Real Destructive

A child pretending to shoot another person, or beat up someone.

3. Supernatural

A child pretending to fly through the air like Mighty Mouse or Superman. More and more children's toys encourage pretense in the area of the supernatural.

Toys as Aids

Toys can be aids to teach the child. It is best to provide constructive items such as a small rake a child could use to help rake the leaves, etc. Children love to create things. The best toys for a baby are kitchen utensils, tools, actual implements that are safe.

Four Areas of Dangerous Toys

**“These are dangerous
to your spiritual life”**

1. Vanity

Vanity is an inappropriate focus and concern for one's outward appearance.

“Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel;

“But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.”

I Peter 3:3-4

God is warning us not to focus our attention as much on outward beauty as on inward qualities of godliness.

“The king’s daughter
is all glorious within:
her clothing is of wrought gold.”
Psalm 45:13

Can you think of toys that tempt children to violate this principle? We want to teach our child proper grooming, and cleanliness. But to provide children with toy mirrors, makeup kits, hair dressings, starts them very young to be more concerned about outward appearance than inward purity.

Another kind of toy that encourages vanity is the fashion doll. Baby dolls encourage little girls to prepare for a role they most likely will fill. The fashion dolls, on the other hand, are intended to help children pretend they are “swinging singles” with lots of money to spend on gorgeous wardrobes. These dolls generally come with multiple changes of the latest clothing styles so children can develop a taste for what is fashionable but inappropriate for Christians. You can notice the thin waistline and large bosoms, causing little girls to develop a false sense of outward beauty. Most little girls do not grow up to look like “Barbie.” **These fantasies lead to:**

Fashion dolls
encourage vanity.

2 - Romance

Most of us would be alarmed if we saw clearly how significantly standards have changed over the last century regarding the experience of romance. Gradually, our society has accepted reserving less and less in the area of romantic and sexual relations for marriage. Hence, there are games and toys which teach children fantasies of teen dating. Child pornography is subtly being used in television, magazines, and other areas, to inappropriately arouse sexual appetites.

Which leads to:

3 - Violence

It is a sin to physically harm someone in real life. It is also displeasing to God to even imagine such a thing in our hearts. To point a toy gun, or knife at a person is not acceptable. No violent toys or weapons can be justified.

“But he that hateth his brother
is in darkness,
and walketh in darkness,
and knoweth not whither he
goeth, because that darkness
hath blinded his eyes.”

I John 2:11

**Evil always looks for
greater evil, and that leads to:**

4 - Occult

So many toys encourage children in the occult. Some may say “they are only playing,” while practicing witchcraft skills, such as casting spells, pronouncing curses, using charms, calling on supernatural forces, foretelling the future, mind reading, and so forth. All the “care bear stares” and “smurf chants” (or whatever is the latest fad) are intended to seem innocent, but we see the results in society in young adults who have been raised on vanity, romance, violence, and the occult.

Over many years, as Satan is taking control of human minds, the toy manufacturers have discovered children are particularly susceptible to toys that are connected with the latest television programs. These major toy manufacturers have begun releasing new lines of toys connected with new series on television. Satan is so deceitful by using hour long “commercials” to sell occult artifices called “toys.” The children are taught how to play with these “toys.” The larger problem comes when they begin to think and act like the characters in the programs. Children take on their personality traits and mannerisms and do not realize that they are an individual created by God to be uniquely different from everyone else.

“And God saw
that the wickedness of man
was great in the earth,
and that every imagination
of the thoughts of his heart
was only evil continually.”

Genesis 6:5

“When thou art come into the land
which the Lord thy God giveth thee,
thou shalt not learn
to do after the abominations
of those nations.

There shall not be found among you
any one that maketh
his son or his daughter
to pass through the fire,
or that useth divination,
or an observer of times,
or an enchanter, or a witch,
Or a charmer,
or a consulter with familiar spirits,
or a wizard, or a necromancer.

For all that do these things
are an abomination unto the Lord:
and because of these abominations
the Lord thy God
doth drive them out
from before thee.”

Deuteronomy 18:9-12



What if my child already has these toys?

We must accept the responsibility before God to pursue righteousness as a family, even if the decisions are unpopular.

“...We ought to obey God rather than men.”

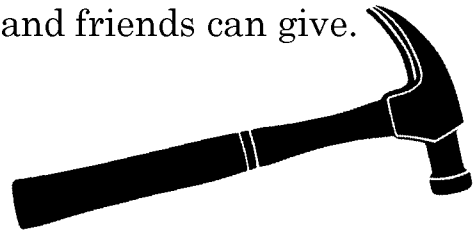
Acts 5:29

- Study with the child from God’s Word to help him understand God’s will concerning toys and other amusements.
- Replace ungodly posters and pictures with something better such as pictures of real animals. Replace clothing, bed spreads, curtains, and so forth, that have occult or make believe symbols (like Mickey Mouse, and on and on.), with beautiful flowers, realistic animals, or real things.

How do you deal with meaningful friends and family members that give ungodly gifts?

- Go humbly to them and share with them, apologizing to them for not showing a higher standard in your life, and that from now on you plan to be faithful to the Lord. (The Lord will bless.) Your repentant spirit will be a witness. Compromise is never the answer.

- If appropriate, offer a list of needed things your son or daughter could use, such as: tools for your son’s new tool box, or books that are needed for their school, or sewing equipment for your daughter, or garden tools for both, and so forth. These are useful gifts family members and friends can give.



Serve the Lord

“And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord,
choose you this day whom ye will serve;
whether the gods which your fathers served
that were on the other side of the flood,
or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell:
but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

Joshua 24:15

Further Information

Toys

“...Do not give the children **playthings** that are easily broken. To do this is to teach lessons in destructiveness. Let them have a few **playthings**, and let these be strong and durable. Such suggestions, small though they may seem, mean much in the education of the child.” (*Counsels to Teachers* 123)

“There are many who have not books and publications upon present truth. Here is a large field where money can be safely invested. There are large numbers of little ones who should be supplied with reading... The many trifles usually spent in candies and useless **toys**, may be treasured up with which to buy these volumes.” (*Review and Herald* 12/11/1879)

Work/Play

“Diligent study is essential, and diligent hard **work**. **Play** is not essential. The influence has been growing among students in their devotion to amusements, to a fascinating, bewitching power, to the counteracting of the influence of the truth upon the human mind and character. A well-balanced mind is not usually obtained in the devotion

of the physical powers to amusements. Physical labor that is combined with mental taxation for usefulness, is a discipline in practical life, sweetened always by the reflection that it is qualifying and educating the mind and body better to perform the **work** God designs men shall do in various lines. The more perfectly youth understand how to perform the duties of practical life, the more keen and the more healthful will be their enjoyment day by day in being of use to others. (*Special Testimonies on Education* 190-191)

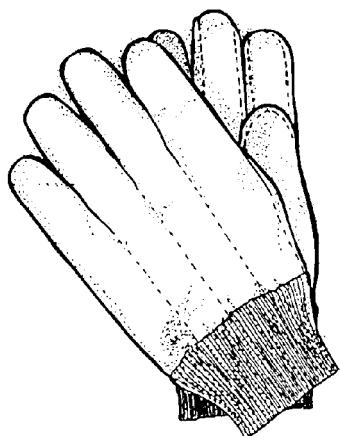
“One of the surest safeguards of the young is useful occupation. Children who are trained to industrious habits, so that all their hours are usefully and pleasantly employed, have no inclination to repine at their lot and no time for idle daydreaming. They are in little danger of forming vicious habits or associations.

“In the home school the children should be taught how to perform the practical duties of everyday life. While they are still young, the mother should give them some simple task to do each day. It will take longer for her to teach them how than it would to do it herself; but let her remember that she is to

lay for their character building the foundation of helpfulness. Let her remember that the home is a school in which she is the head teacher. It is hers to teach her children how to perform the duties of the household quickly and skillfully. As early in life as possible they should be trained to share the burdens of the home. From childhood, boys and girls should be taught to bear heavier and still heavier burdens, intelligently helping in the **work** of the family firm.

“When children reach a suitable age, they should be provided with tools. They will be found to be apt pupils. If the father is a carpenter, he should give his boys lessons in carpentry.” (*Counsels to Teachers* 122)

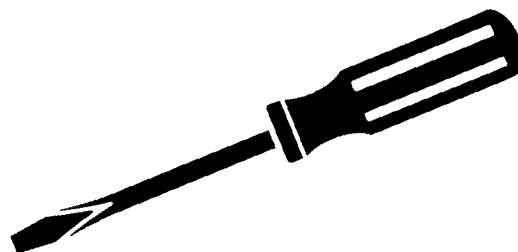
(Read *Child Guidance*
339-344
“Exercise and Health”)



Imagination

“Few realize that it is a duty to exercise control over the thoughts and **imagination**s. It is difficult to keep the undisciplined mind fixed upon profitable subjects. But if the thoughts are not properly employed, religion cannot flourish in the soul. The mind must be preoccupied with sacred and eternal things, or it will cherish trifling and superficial thoughts. Both the intellectual and the moral powers must be disciplined, and they will strengthen and improve by exercise.” (*Counsels to Teachers* 544)

“...There is no influence in our land more powerful to poison the **imagination**, to destroy religious impressions, and to blunt the relish for the tranquil pleasures and sober realities of life than theatrical amusements. The love for these scenes increases with every indulgence, as the desire for intoxicating drink strengthens with its use. The only safe course is to shun the theater, the circus, and every other questionable place of amusement.” (*4 Testimonies* 653)



“If the imagination is constantly overfed and stimulated by fictitious literature, it soon becomes a tyrant, controlling all the other faculties of the mind and causing the taste to become fitful and the tendencies perverse.” (4 *Testimonies* 497)

“Had you trained your mind to dwell upon elevated subjects, meditating upon heavenly themes, you could have done much good. You could have had an influence upon the minds of others, to turn their selfish thoughts and world-loving dispositions into the channel of spirituality. Were your affections and thoughts brought into subjection to the will of Christ, you would be capable of doing good. Your **imagination** is diseased because you have permitted it to run in a forbidden channel, to become dreamy. Day-dreaming and romantic castle-building have unfitted you for usefulness. You have lived in an **imaginary** world; you have been an **imaginary** martyr and an **imaginary** Christian.” (2 *Testimonies* 251)

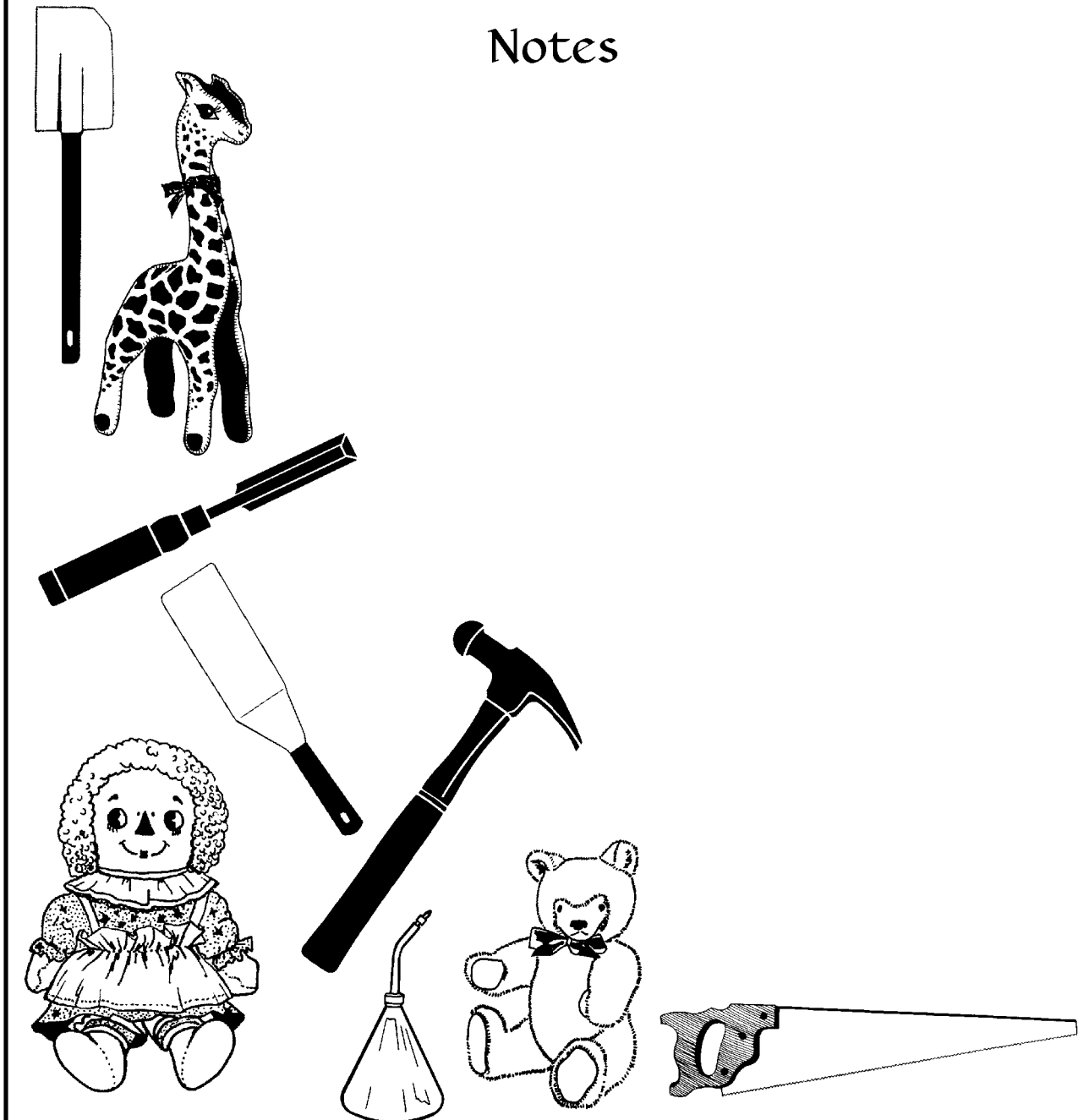
“This is an age when corruption is teeming everywhere. The lust of the eye and corrupt passions are aroused by beholding and by reading. The heart is corrupted through the **imagination**. The mind takes pleasure in contemplating scenes which awaken the lower and baser passions. These vile images, seen through defiled **imagination**, corrupt the morals and prepare the deluded, infatuated beings to give loose rein to lustful passions. Then follow sins and crimes which drag beings formed in the image of God down to a level with the beasts, sinking them at last in perdition. Avoid reading and seeing things which will suggest impure thoughts. Cultivate the moral and intellectual powers. Let not these noble powers become enfeebled and perverted by much reading of even storybooks. I know of strong minds that have been unbalanced and partially benumbed, or paralyzed, by intemperance in reading.” (2 *Testimonies* 410)



“The heart is corrupted through the imagination. The mind takes pleasure in contemplating scenes which awaken the lower and baser passions.”

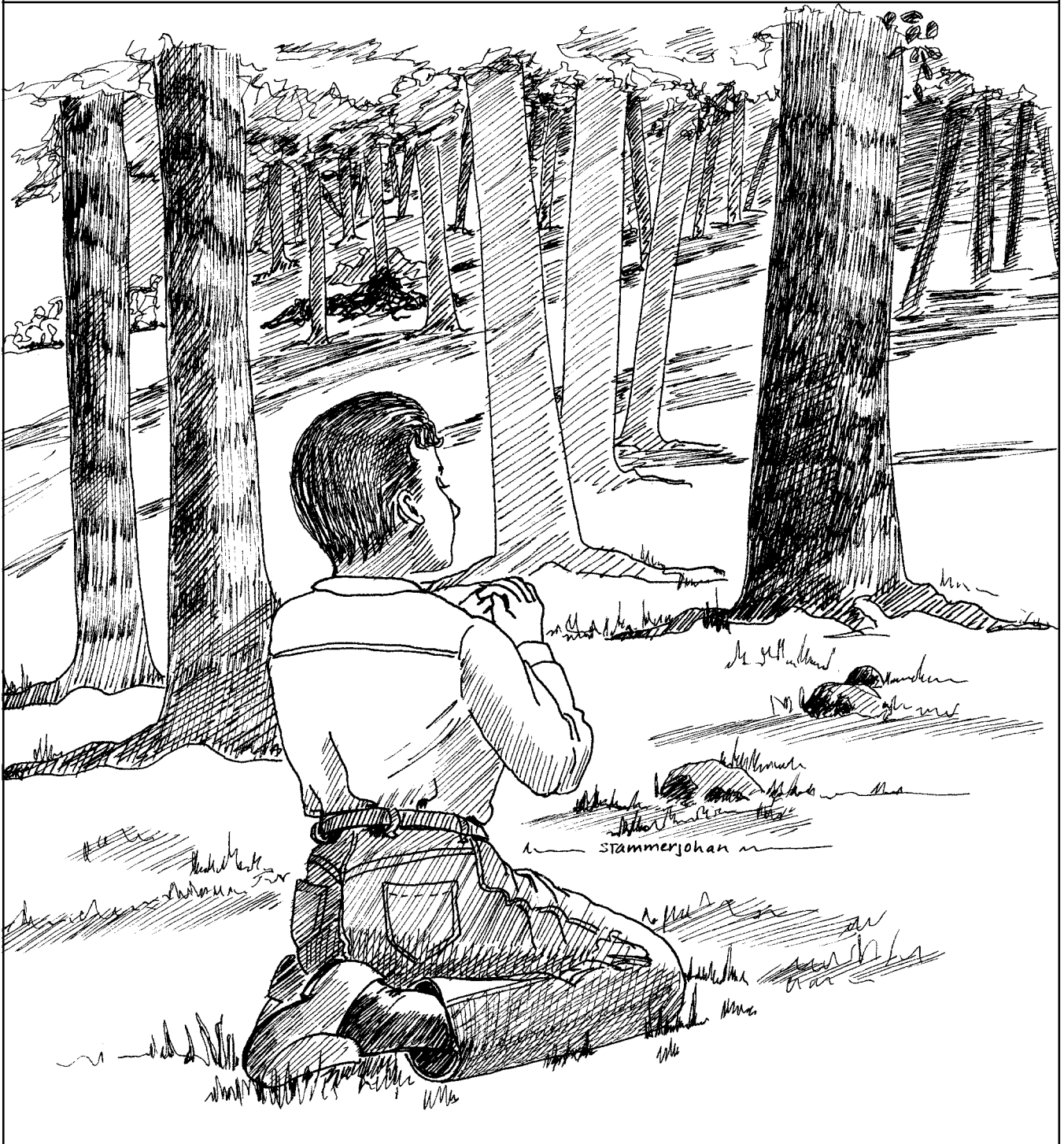
“The first work of those who would reform is to purify the **imagination**. If the mind is led out in a vicious direction, it must be restrained to dwell only upon pure and elevated subjects. When tempted to yield to a corrupt **imagination**, then flee to the throne of grace and pray for strength from Heaven. In the strength of God the *imagination* can be disciplined to dwell upon things which are pure and heavenly.” (2 *Mind, Character, and Personality* 595)

Notes



“Casting down imaginations, and every high thing
that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God,
and bringing into captivity every thought
to the obedience of Christ.”

II Corinthians 10:5



Introduction

When one hears terms like “children’s play” there is no feeling of alarm. In fact the mind may even have pictures of innocence and purity. Children are thought by many as not having been spoiled by the corruption of the world. This is not so today, for this generation of children have been corrupted by the ungodly ways of parents and peers, loose morals in books, on television and DVDs, electronic games, and the occult. These concepts are even being taught by toys. This generation is described in Deuteronomy 32:5.

“They have corrupted themselves,
their spot is not the spot of his children:
they are a perverse and crooked generation.”



“The way of peace they know not;
and there is no judgment in their goings:
they have made them crooked paths;
whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace.”

Isaiah 59:8

“He [God] keepeth the paths of judgment,
and preserveth the way of his saints.

“Who [evil men] leave the paths of uprightness,
to walk in the ways of darkness;

“Who rejoice to do evil,
and delight in the frowardness of the wicked;

“Whose ways are crooked,
and they froward [turn aside to be perverse] in their paths.”

Proverbs 2:8, 13-15

Note: The word “*perverse*” means making everything crooked that should be straight, and twisting things out of their right order. This can be especially observed in toys, pictures in books, and a multitude of other places. God reminds us, “...*strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it*” (Matthew 7:14).



“Perverse disputings
of men of corrupt minds,
and destitute of the truth,
supposing that gain is godliness:
from such withdraw thyself.

“But godliness with contentment
is great gain.”
I Timothy 6:5-6



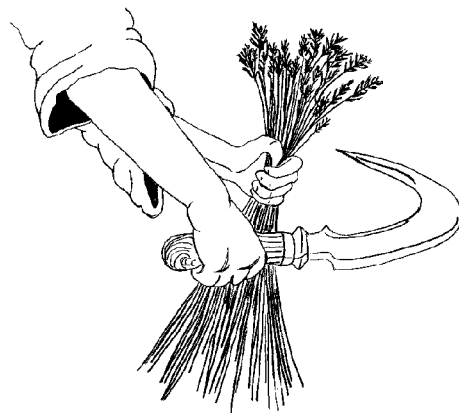
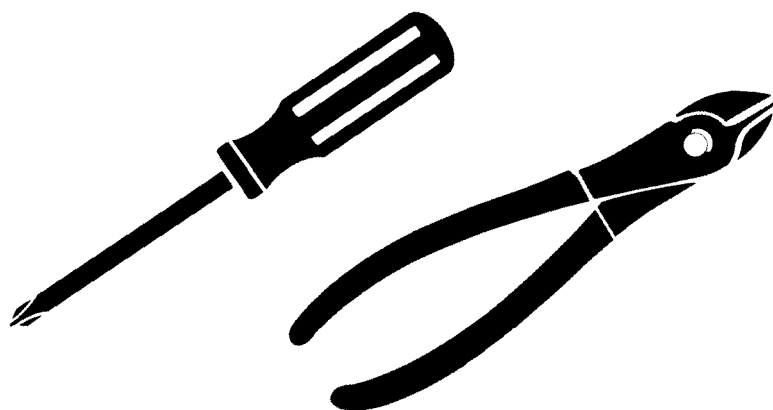
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Counsels to Teachers 123



Mark 4:29