

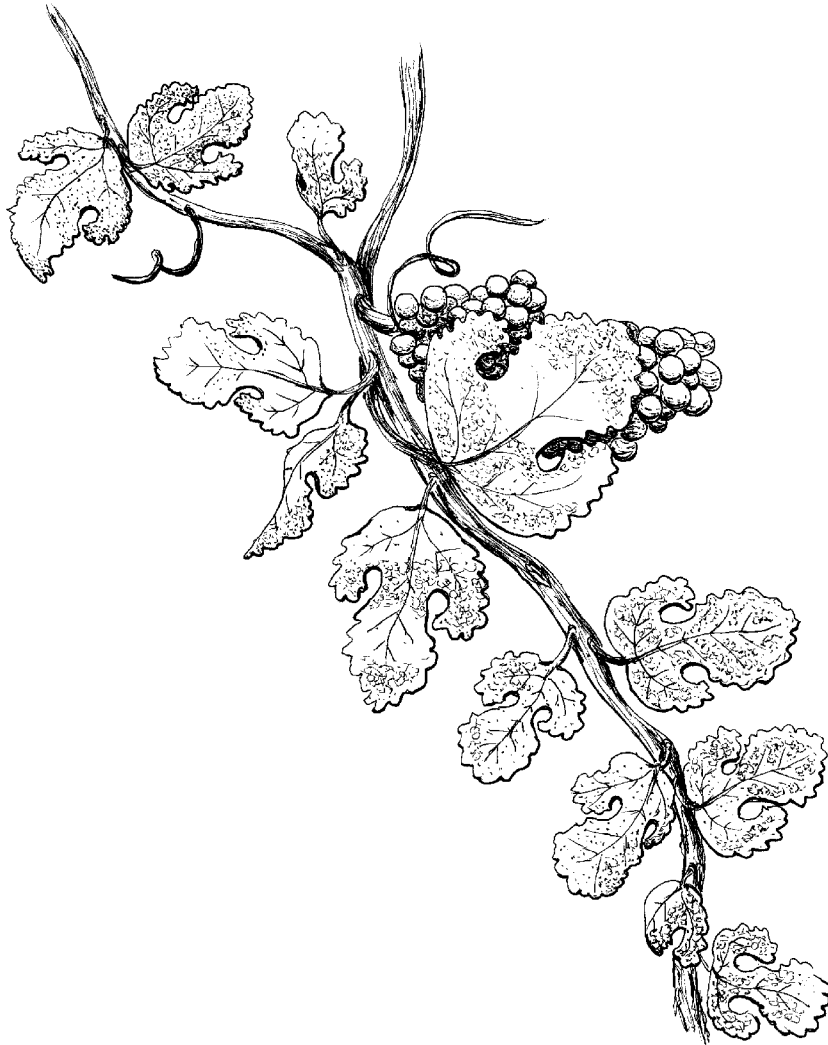
Schedule

“The Classroom,
Order, and Records”



“And the Lord God
planted a garden eastward in Eden;
and there he put the man
whom he had formed.”

Genesis 2:8



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The Classroom

When parents choose a setting for their homes, let them be more concerned about the spiritual welfare of their children rather than being controlled by any temporal consideration. The surroundings and the influence exerted are of supreme importance to the whole family. A country setting will provide the best location (a garden home like Adam and Eve—see Genesis 2:15). It will have a lasting influence on the children in the years that are so important to their character development.

Why out of the cities and into the country?

- Too much busy activity in the city—the early life of Jesus is barely spoken about in Scriptures because the childhood years of a child should be quiet ones.
- The country affords plenty of outdoor labor for physical exercise.
- Influences of many people are minimized.
- More quiet opportunities to communicate with God.
- Two of God's most important workers, Moses and John the Baptist, spent much of their time in the wilderness. John the Baptist was prepared for his most important work by living in the country and there learning the lesson of communion with God.
- It also gives you the privacy you may need from well-meaning friends and neighbors.



“And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever.

“And my people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places.”
Isaiah 32:17-18

God taught the Israelites in the wilderness, or country setting. Jesus taught outside most of the time.

The Outdoor Classroom

1. As much as possible, weather permitting, your classroom should be outside in natural surroundings. Use a table or home-type desk for the student to work at when inside. (You will need a place to store books and materials.) Use a chalkboard that is of medium size and portable. It can be used for illustrations when cooking canning, meal planning, doing science, experiments, mathematics problems, etc. Actually the entire house is to be used for your teaching experiences.

Homeschooling is meant to be done in a natural surrounding where children learn “naturally.”

2. Use clipboards and small hand blackboards for writing on when outside.

3. A picnic table is nice for outside school.

4. Teaching outside will keep younger children better occupied while you teach the older ones.

5. Teaching outside tends to quiet hyperactive, nervous, or restless-type students. At first there may be moments of distraction, like watching every bug, or turning away at every sound, but these moments will pass as the student becomes accustomed to being outside. Even these distractions can often be turned into lessons.

6. Teaching outside opens to the students what should have been their very first lesson book—the lesson book of nature—the wonders of God’s creativity in land, water, and sky!

7. Teaching outside will improve the five senses. Students will become more sensitive to seeing detail, hearing quiet sounds, smelling fragrances, feeling breezes and changes in temperature, and tasting

nature through its smells. This will help develop in them a sensitivity to people, their needs, their loneliness, and their fears. It will also help them develop a discernment of people's faces as they pay attention to details in nature. In their time of trouble it will be the little things that will help them to know how to respond to a friend or an enemy.

8. Teaching outside offers time for personal prayer, thoughts, and meditation. It offers opportunity for the Holy Spirit to speak gently to students through nature.

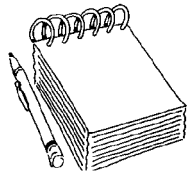


“O Lord,
how manifold
are thy works!
in wisdom hast thou
made them all;
the earth is full
of thy riches.”
Psalm 104:24

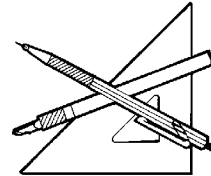


Notes





Order



“Let all things be done decently and in order” (I Corinthians 14:40). God is a God of order and all things move under His divine direction. We see an example of this in Ezekiel, chapter one. At the very hub of the universe is God’s throne—all moves in an orderly fashion around His dwelling place. Subjection and discipline mark the movements of the heavenly host, each one doing his appointed work. Success can attend order and harmonious actions.

“Order is heaven’s first law.” As we copy the divine example, let us also have order in our home-school. Order begins by starting school at the appointed time. Allow **no** interruptions to divert you from this most important task. Phones can be unplugged (or put on an answering machine); friends can be encouraged to visit at other times in the day.



Have a place for everything,
and put everything in its place!

Order means to have a regular arrangement. An arrangement in our time, person, place, and character.

- **Order of time** to carry out what God requires of us—we need a clearly defined schedule that we keep to. *“To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven”* (Ecclesiastes 3:1).

- **Order of our person**—always dressed, hair combed as if we are going to meet an important appointment. Having a crisp freshness about us, with a smile on our faces as we begin our day of educating.

- **Order of our place**—the home and the room we use for school has an order. A cluttered place has a tendency to encourage a cluttered mind or a sloppy paper. Provide a place for your school supplies—even if it is only a box arranged orderly under the corner of the table. *“For the Lord thy God walketh in the midst of thy camp, to deliver thee,*

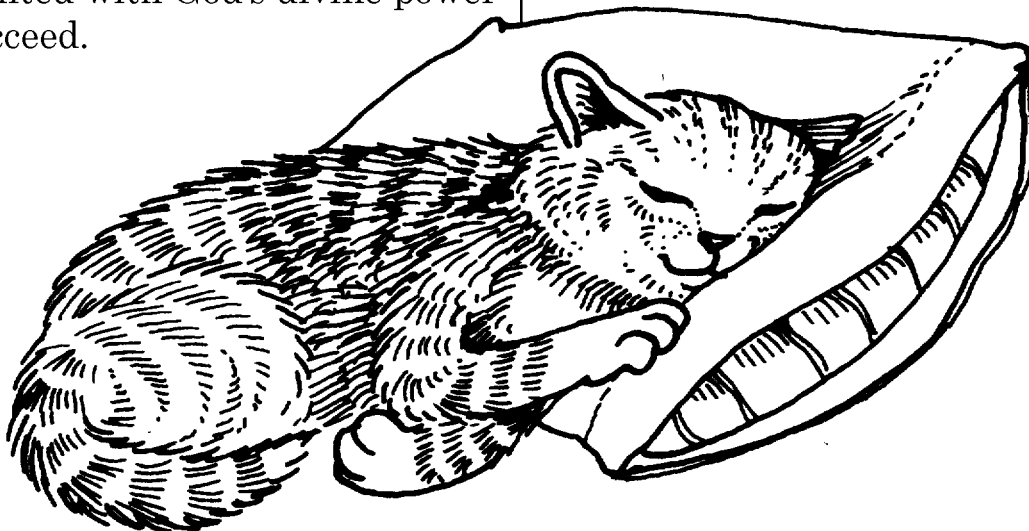
and to give up thine enemies before thee; therefore shall thy camp be holy: that he see no unclean thing in thee, and turn away from thee” (Deuteronomy 23:14).

• **Order of our character**—having spent your quiet time early that morning in Bible study and prayer you will be prepared to meet the many challenges of the day. *“The king’s daughter is all glorious within: her clothing is of wrought gold”* (Psalm 45:13).

Before God met with Israel on Mount Sinai to give them the law, the children of Israel were required to have clean clothing (Exodus 19:10). The children of Israel were to do all within their power to cleanse themselves from inward and outward defilement. It may be a struggle for us to come up to God’s high standard of inward and outward cleansing, but our human efforts united with God’s divine power will succeed.

An early start each day in our schedule is sometimes a problem because of lack of order and discipline. Children many times have no rules as to when to go to bed and when to arise. The birds of nature teach us when it is time to go to bed and when it is time to rise. When the precious habits of order are broken and time thus wasted in the early mornings, things are set out of course for the whole day. Remember, God wills us to bring ourselves into order. Let us go to bed early, and use the fresh hours of the morning to form habits of regularity and order. We will improve in health, spirit, memory, and disposition.

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



Records



“Slothfulness
[Habitual slackness or laziness]
casteth into a deep sleep;
and an idle soul shall suffer hunger.”

Proverbs 19:15



1. Days to have school—It is suggested we have a minimum of 180 days of school a year. We recommend for those who can, a year-round program; in the summer months having a more active outdoor program.

Plan the number of hours you will be in session each day; stick to it at least 90% of the time. Be flexible enough to break your program 10% of the time for special or unexpected happenings.

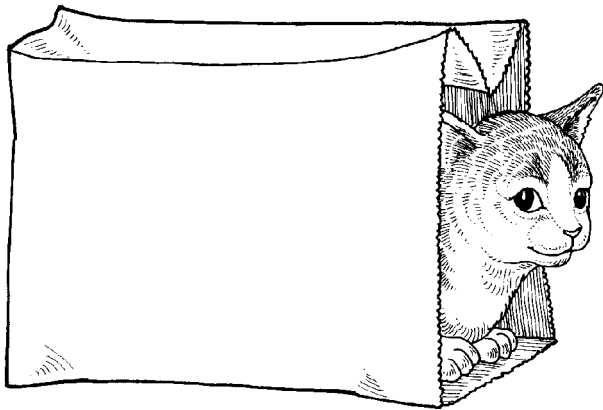
Two to three hours each day is generally sufficient for classroom study. Treat that time like you would a job. You are always there. Other things will have to revolve around school time. One of the biggest problems of homeschool is that most people begin very systematically but slowly slide into visiting or running errands, and school becomes a hit and miss program. This brings ill repute to God's name.

Do not allow the child to have mental indigestion by too much book work in a day. Here are some guidelines. Children under seven years of age ought never to be put to the study of books. From seven to ten years, two to three hours a day should be the extreme limit of confinement to study, or to any sedentary employment. From ten to fifteen years, four hours. From fifteen years (after puberty) to twenty, six hours; and at no period of life ought the time thus occupied to exceed seven hours.

2. Records—Divide the time into class periods combining subjects that are appropriately combined. Have them listed in your **Record Sheets**. Timing will vary according to your child's needs and according to what you are trying to accomplish. Keep a record of each day's activities.

3. File—Keep a file or notebook of your child’s work. Put dates on each page. These items show a continuous program to anyone who may investigate and shows your responsibility to this most important job.

See the enclosed suggested daily schedule.

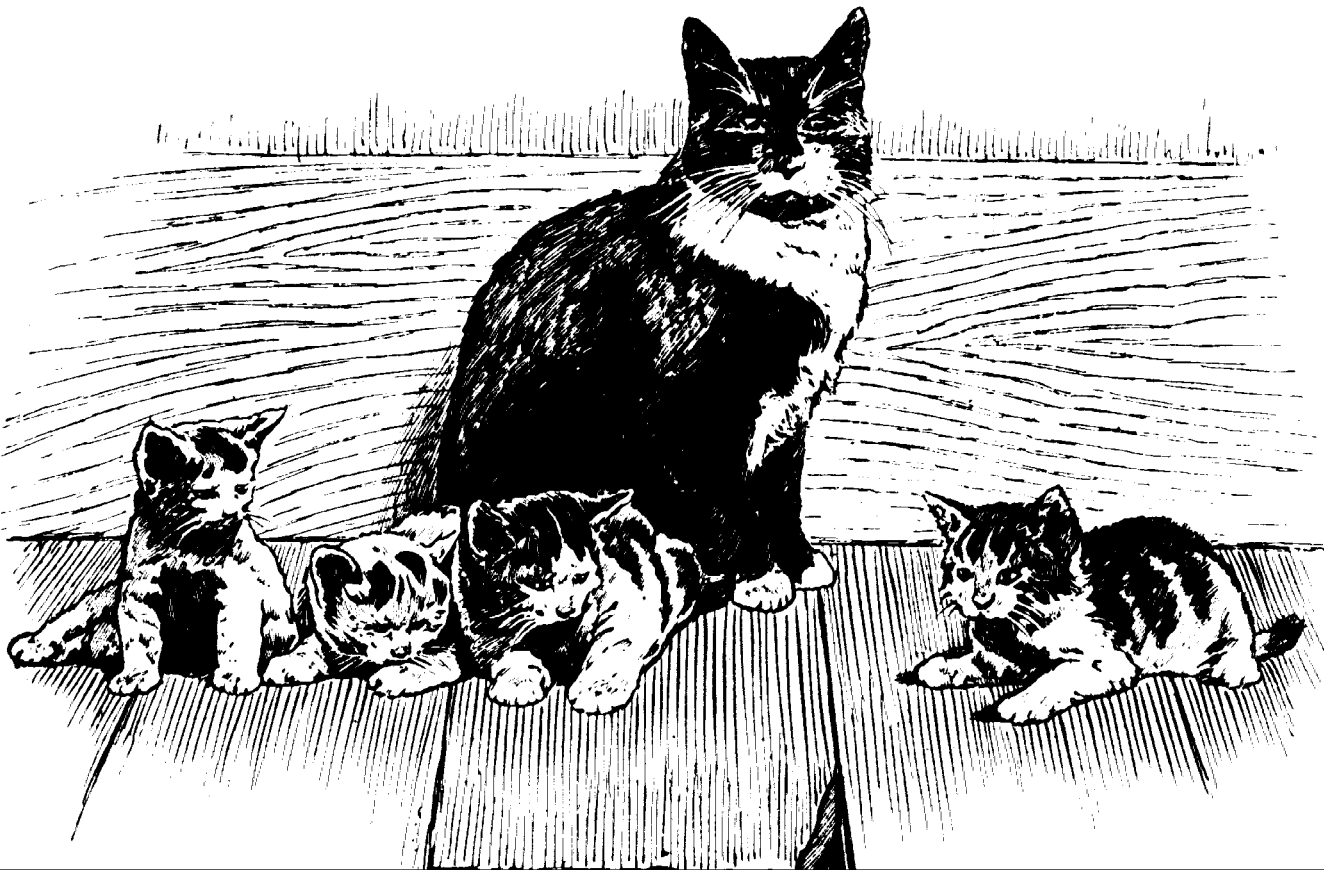


Notes



“The mind needs to be trained by daily tests, that it may acquire power to stand in any difficult position.”

4 Testimonies 561



Ways of Testing

It is not wrong to test your children on the important information they learn.

God tests us daily. But how does He do this?

There are a number of ways we can test our children.

Note some ideas below.

Testing can be done by:

A. Discussion – While riding in the car (direct the child's attention to the natural instead of the artificial); folding laundry (teach geometric shapes), mealtime (teach health principles); etc.

B. Practical Application – A camping trip (while sleeping out under the stars at night review what you have learned about God and the stars); writing a letter to grandparents (have child include information on what he learned in a history class); adding and subtracting (helping with the family checkbook); etc.

C. Review questions in the school-books – Writing down information is one way to review but not the only way.

D. Field Trips – Visit a generating plant (while learning about electricity), a rock shop (when studying about stones), an ear doctor (when studying about the ear), etc.

E. Projects – Let your child use mathematics skills such as measuring by

building a bird house, helping father measure out a garden plot, adding up the cost of groceries mentally as you pick each item up (rounding off numbers to make it easier), making a cube kite when studying geometry, etc.

F. Nature Illustrations – Take daily nature walks and look for principles illustrated in nature, (colors, for instance, when studying about light and color). Music skills are increased by learning to hear the sounds in nature, like the different songs of the birds, etc.

G. Garden/Kitchen – Discuss multiplication while weeding and harvesting (planting one seed produces many more), learn measuring in the kitchen while making a recipe; etc.

I am sure you will think of many other ways to make your book lessons more practical. If you feel you are not creative, and cannot think of any ideas, remember that the Holy Spirit can teach you all things.

Daily Tests

“The mind must be trained through daily tests to habits of fidelity, to a sense of the claims of right and duty above inclination and pleasure. Minds thus trained do not waver between right and wrong, as the reed trembles in the wind; but as soon as matters come before them, they discern at once that principle is involved, and they instinctively choose the right without long debating the matter.”

3 Testimonies 22

“God leads His people on, step by step.”

“He brings them up to different points calculated to manifest what is in the heart.”

“Some endure at one point, but fall off at the next.”



“At every advanced point the heart is tested and tried a little closer.”

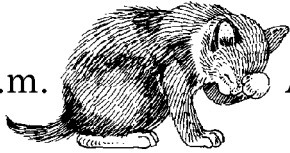
“Those who come up to every point and stand every test, and overcome, be the price what it may, have heeded the counsel of the True Witness, and they will receive the latter rain, and thus be fitted for translation.”*

**1 Testimonies 187*

A Suggested Daily Schedule

Adapt to your needs

5:00 a.m.



Arise, Personal Grooming, and Worship

6:00 a.m.

Family Worship and Bible Class—With Father

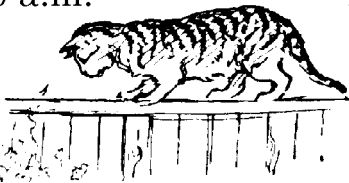
7:00 a.m.

Breakfast



8:00 a.m.

*Practical Arts/Academics
Domestic Activities
Agriculture
Industrial Arts



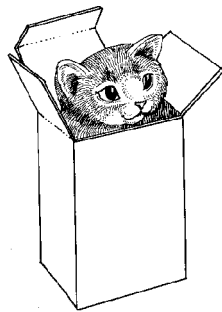
10:00 a.m.

Academics

12:00 a.m.

Dinner Preparations (Health Class)

1:00 p.m.



Dinner

2:00 p.m.

*Practical Arts/Domestic Activities
(Housework, Washing, Ironing, and Sewing)

5:00 p.m.

Fine Arts (Music and Handiwork)



6:00 p.m.

Light Supper (Fruit)

6:30 p.m.

Family Worship—With Father (History or Nature Class)

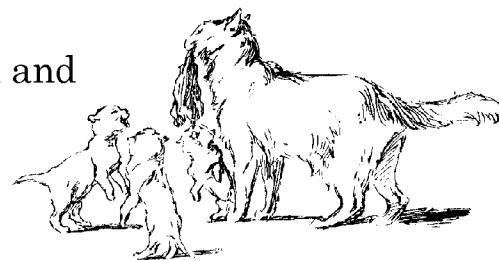


7:30 p.m.

Preparation for bed and personal time

8:30 p.m.

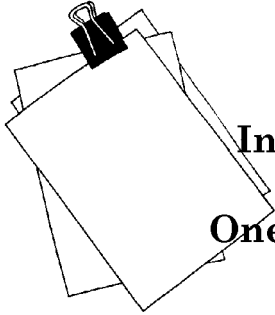
Bed



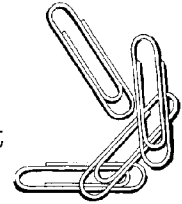
Teach your children academics while you are working together during the Practical Arts times or while you are walking, riding in the car, etc.

*Nature walks

Parent Planner



**In preparing to teach your child his lessons
try the following steps.
One or two hours once a week should be spent
in organizing the week's school lessons.**



Step 1

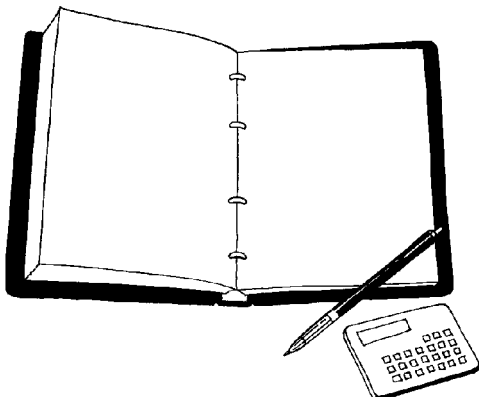
Read your Bible lesson through.
(See your Teacher's Section of the
lesson to find the guide.)

Step 2

Meditate on the Bible texts in the
lesson, praying for understanding.

Step 3

Study the overview of the whole les-
son (table of contents of the lesson).



Step 4

What is the spiritual lesson I will
teach? Pray for understanding
about what spiritual lessons in the
materials most apply to your fami-
ly's needs. _____

Decide which subject you will teach
first. Answer these questions about
that subject:

- What are the academic materi-
als I will teach? How can I intro-
duce the subject in a way that will
arouse the interest of the student?

- What is a student my child's age
capable of learning? (Check the re-
view questions in the Student Sec-

review questions in the Student Section and the Place I, II, or III in the Teacher's Section) _____

At worship time, select hymns or Scripture songs which support the theme you have been emphasizing in the lesson material. (Some hymns are usually suggested in the lessons.)

Repeat these questions for each subject just before you teach it.

Step 5

Plan how you will teach the lesson and where. (Example: mathematics—Addition I—a child is just learning his 4's addition facts. Take the addition flash cards with you when running an errand and the child can review the cards while riding in the car. When preparing lunch do problems in the mind such as: 4 knives + 4 forks set on the table = _____. 8 pieces of flatware + 4 spoons set on the table = _____. While eating review the spiritual lesson of addition.)

Once you get in the habit of teaching while working, your child will learn his academic materials, and the daily chores will be accomplished. Each day there should be a set time to sit down to do reading and written work. About two to three hours is enough time daily for this.* Most review can be done while working, traveling, etc.

Step 6

Especially notice and carry out all practical projects and ideas. If the ones suggested do not suit your family's situation pray for other ideas to reinforce the concepts learned in a practical way.

Step 7

Focus on the character quality all the time while the character quality is being studied. Pray about having or making opportunities to practice the character quality those weeks. Higher sentiments and principles of action are often "caught" by sympathy from the mind and heart of someone whom the child loves. Thus, demonstrating the quality is a much more effective teaching method than merely reasoning about it.

*Even this time should be monitored by the parent. See the following page for reasons why.

Teaching Academic Subjects By Christ's Method

The teaching ministry of Jesus is described in Mark 3:14. *“And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach.”*

The words to remember in this text are **“that they should be with him.”** Christ did not view teaching in the narrow sense of only imparting factual information. There is so much more to teaching than the teaching of content. The text does not say that Jesus appointed twelve that He might instruct them; nor does it say that they learned apart from His presence. The academic subjects of the SonLight curriculum are not meant to be taught in the conventional way. The academic material is actually reference material and it is not designed to take the place of the living teacher. Sitting the child down to go through the written material by himself without your personal involvement would not really be following Christ's method.

1. Be with your child even during the time he is doing reading and

written work. Being with him means discerning his level of interest, his level of capability his level of comprehension and retention, and adapting the lesson material or method of teaching so that the child grows and his mental and spiritual powers get some exercise.

Just because a student sits down and reads the material and answers the questions does not mean that he has learned much of anything. For example, very little mental effort is required to look back through the lesson material in order to find an answer to fill in a question blank. Always keep in mind that the student can easily get mental indigestion by going through more academic material than he is personally able to assimilate. This is much more likely to happen if the student is left by himself to go through the material.

Being in the presence of the student also enables you to observe his physical needs. Is he sitting correctly, is he sleepy because he needs more fresh air or to take a break?

“That they should be with him.”

2. Remember Christ's ideal method of teaching is to exhibit the principles of truth and duty one by one as they occur in connection with the ordinary incidents and events of life. Do not become so rigid in systematizing your life and teaching schedule that you miss the leading of the Lord. God is the Chief Instructor and He is arranging your family's curriculum which will be different from anyone else's.

The more the lesson material (academic and spiritual) fits in with your family's activities, interests, or needs, the better will be the comprehension and retention of it and the closer you will be to following Christ's method of teaching.



A Suggested Plan

**Each day
it is best to only work on 1-3
subjects rather than 5-7
which can cause
mental indigestion.**

First Week

Day 1 – Bible, Health

Day 2 – Bible, Health*

Day 3 – Bible, Mathematics

Day 4 – Bible, Mathematics

Day 5 – Review days 1-4**

Second Week

Day 1 – Bible, Mathematics

Day 2 – Bible, Nature

Day 3 – Bible, Nature

Day 4 – Bible, Nature, History

Day 5 – Review days 1-4
of week 1 and week 2**

Third Week

Continue this process.

*Or until done with the chapter, see the outline
of the lessons **Areas of difficulty

Record Sheet

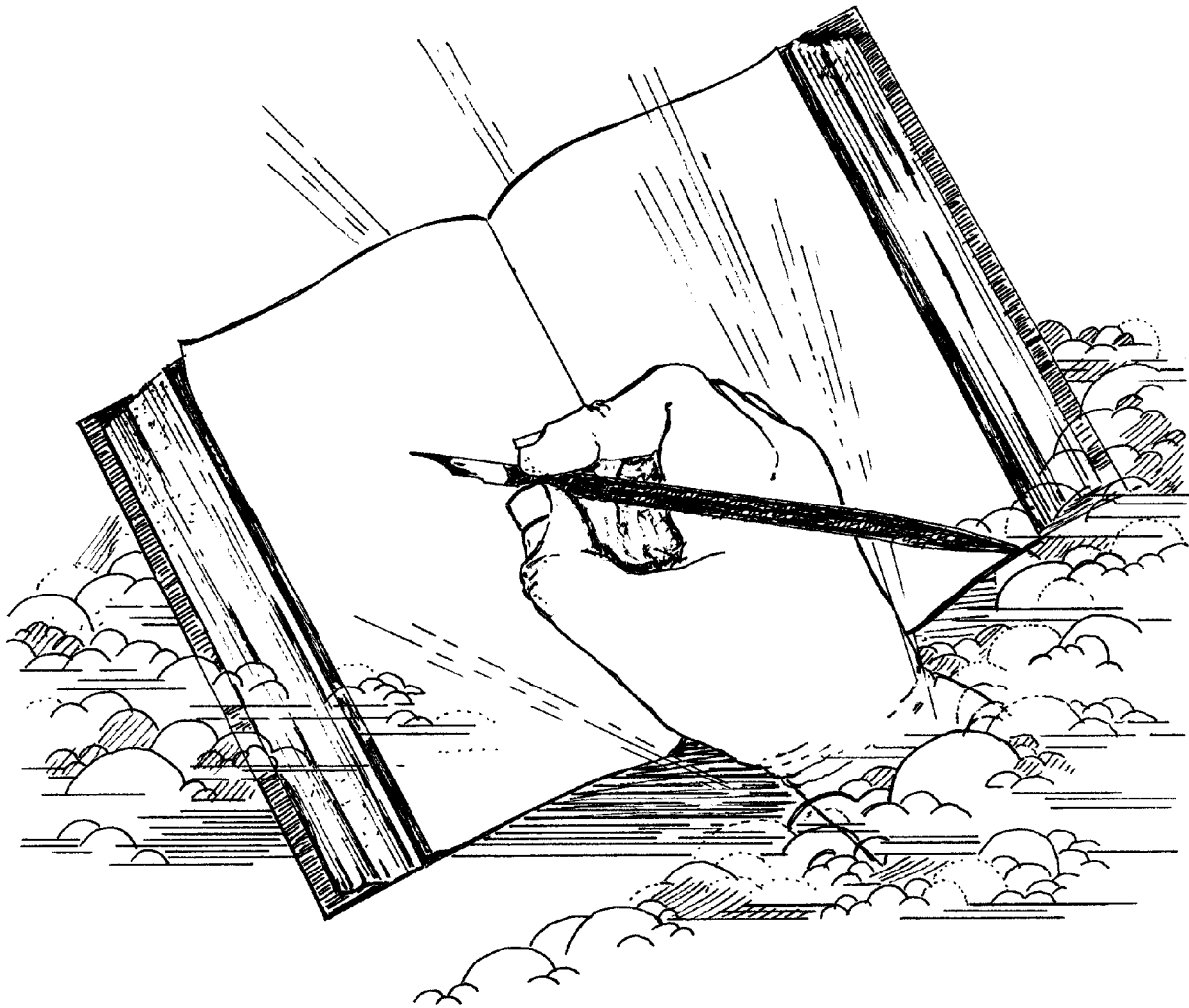
Date _____

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6
Bible (Morning Worship)						
Health						
Mathematics						
Music						
Nature (Evening Worship)						
H/G/P (Evening Worship)						
Language						
Voice						

Copy and use for your weekly records

“And I saw the dead,
small and great,
stand before God;
and the books were opened:
and another book was opened,
which is the book of life:
and the dead were judged
out of those things
which were written in the books,
according to their works.”

Revelation 20:12



“That search may be made
in the book of the records....”

Ezra 4:15

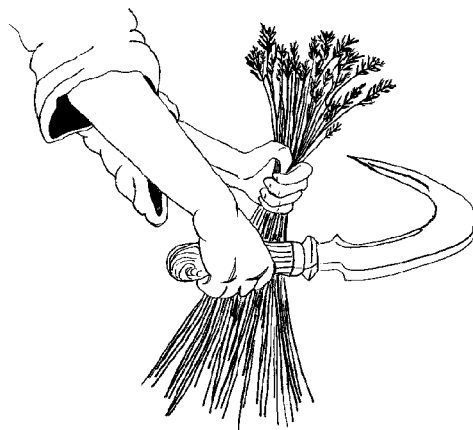
“Abiding in God’s love, you may stand every test.”

Prophets and Kings 175

Search

Search me, O God; my heart discern;
And try me, every thought to learn,
And see if any sin holds sway.
Lead in the everlasting way.

—*Unknown*



Mark 4:29