



## TEACHING LESSONS:

**1. Perseverance vs. Giving Up:** This lesson teaches the Biblical concept of persevering to finish one's work. The Scripture study highlights the Parable of the Two Sons (Matthew 21:28-31) and shows that blessings follow when one perseveres to the finish. When one does not complete their tasks, consequences are felt by that individual, as well as others who are relying on him/her. The highlighted scientist is Leonardo da Vinci, considered to be the Father of Modern Science. Though Leonardo had many gifts and abilities, his lack of perseverance limited him and affected the rest of the scientific community of his time. The children are taught how to look up Bible verses in this lesson, and the Gospel message is proclaimed.

**2. Standing Firm vs. Failing Under Pressure:** This lesson addresses standing firm in one's faith, despite peer pressure. Two human examples in Scripture are highlighted to show the children the appropriate choices to make under pressure. The first is the apostle Peter, who failed miserably when he denied the Lord Jesus Christ before his crucifixion (Luke 22:54-62). The example of one who stood firm under pressure is Noah, who was able to remain faithful to the Lord, despite society's pressure to do evil (Genesis 6:5-9). This lesson stresses that although we all fail at times, the Lord forgives and can strengthen us to be strong the next time we are faced with pressure from without. The highlighted scientist is Johannes Kepler, The Founder of Physical Astronomy, who stood firm in his faith although that meant he had to leave his beloved homeland during times of persecution. The Gospel message is proclaimed in this lesson.

**3. Selflessness vs. Selfish Ambition:** This lesson shows the children that they have a choice in being selfless or getting caught up in selfish ambition. They study the life of Haman from the book of Esther to see how his selfish ambition caused him to be hung on the very gallows he constructed to destroy Mordecai the Jew. Our example of selflessness is the Lord Jesus Christ Himself who gave up the glories of Heaven to offer Himself as a sacrifice for sin (Philippians 2:3-7). The featured scientist is Blaise Pascal, Mathematician and Founder of Hydrodynamics. His biography shows how he turned his life from pursuing his own fame and glory (selfish ambition), to selflessly serving the Lord Jesus Christ and others.

**4. Giving vs. Keeping:** This lesson highlights the concept of charity, and shows the children that they have a choice to hoard everything for themselves, or to graciously share what the Lord has given them. They will see that they have talents and abilities that they can use in service to others, as well as material gifts. Jesus' warning to His children found in Matthew 25:34-46 is studied and the children will discuss how they can be giving to "the least of these." Robert Boyle, the Founder of Modern Chemistry is highlighted and the children will see how his love of the Lord Jesus prompted him to be more than generous with his material possessions in order to lead others to Christ.

**5. Humility vs. Pride:** This lesson teaches that our attitude about ourselves is a matter of choice. The Scripture study highlights the pride of Goliath in contrast to the humility of David (1 Samuel 17:4-50). The children will learn from other Scriptures that pride is condemned by God, and true humility is God-honoring. They will gain a practical perspective on humility by studying the life of Sir Isaac Newton, “The Greatest Scientist Who Ever Lived.” Newton made numerous magnificent scientific discoveries which changed the course of scientific history forever, yet he was extremely humble, to the point of not wanting others to know that he was the scientist responsible for these discoveries. He was fearful that he would become prideful in his work. The Gospel message is proclaimed in this lesson.

**6. Dealing with Disappointment: Pressing On vs. Becoming Bitter:** This lesson addresses the fact that all who are part of the human race suffer disappointment, and that we have a choice in how we handle these difficulties. The Scripture study features the apostle Paul, and all the difficulties and disappointments he encountered in his service to the Lord (Philippians 3:12-14, 2 Corinthians 11:23-28). Contrasted with Paul’s choice to press on during disappointment is the life of Elijah, who succumbed to bitterness after he defeated the prophets of Baal (1 Kings 19:13-18). The children will learn that they have a role in being an encourager to others, and will profit from studying the life of Samuel Morse, The Inventor of the Telegraph. Morse’s example of pressing on after difficult disappointment will illustrate that the Lord sometimes uses failure and disappointment to lead us to a new and different purpose for our lives. Accepting Christ is suggested as the only true solution to pressing on in life with the gift of His grace.

**7. Showing Mercy vs. Withholding Mercy:** This lesson illustrates two types of mercy: <sup>1</sup>kind and compassionate care, and <sup>2</sup>exercising forgiveness instead of enforcing punishment. Kind, compassionate care is illustrated through the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37), and the choice of exercising forgiveness is illustrated through the Parable of the Unmerciful Servant (Matthew 18:23-35). Florence Nightingale, the Founder of the Nursing Profession is an excellent example of a merciful servant. The children will learn that her love for the Lord fueled her desire to leave a life of extreme luxury to serve the sick and dying. The children will learn that they have many opportunities at home and at school to extend mercy to others.

**8. Believing Truth vs. Ignoring Truth:** The children will learn that the most important truth that they can accept or choose to ignore is the truth about salvation and the Lord Jesus Christ. They will learn that the Bible defines truth as being in the person of Jesus (John 14:6). They will learn that the result of ignoring or rejecting this truth is eternal death (Romans 6:23). They will study the responses of the two thieves who were crucified with Jesus, and how believing the truth caused one to have eternal life. Ignoring the truth caused the other to suffer eternal separation from God (Luke 23:38-43). This topic comes to life in the study of Louis Pasteur, the Father of Microbiology. His work proved the *germ theory of disease*, which is now universally accepted as truth. His work also completely disproved Charles Darwin’s theory of *spontaneous generation*, upon which the theory of evolution is based. The children will understand that ignoring truth is actually rejecting it, and a strong Gospel message is communicated.

**9. Conserving vs. Wasting:** The concept of stewardship is introduced in this lesson. By studying the role of Joseph as the chief architect of the plan to store grain in Egypt during times of plenty, (Genesis 41:46-49, 53-57) the children will understand the necessity of conserving what God has given. In contrast, the wasteful life of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-24) serves as a warning to those who tend to waste what God has given. The featured scientist, George Washington Carver, serves as an excellent example of an agricultural scientist who discovered how to conserve every part of the peanut and everything else he ever worked with! This lesson will help the children identify areas of waste in their lives.

**10. Brotherly Love vs. Sibling Rivalry:** Combating sibling rivalry is addressed in this lesson and is an area where nearly every child can gain improvement. The Bible has many examples of sibling rivalry, and we have chosen to focus on the relationship of Joseph and his jealous brothers (Genesis 37:1-4, 12-36, 42:6-13, 21-14, 45:1-11) This lesson honestly addresses the feelings of jealousy that siblings often experience, and suggests that “serving one another in love,” and gaining help from their parents as solutions. The Wright Brothers, Inventors of the Airplane, serve as outstanding examples of brotherly love, even though they argued at times. Through their relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ they were able to demonstrate the true brotherly love that Joseph demonstrated. The Gospel message is communicated in this lesson.

**11. Waiting Patiently vs. Rushing Ahead:** This lesson introduces the children to the concept of waiting on God’s timing to fulfill our dreams in life. Through Scripture they study the wisdom in Joshua’s waiting on God to enter the Promised Land (Joshua 6:1-20). They will see that he waited and endured unusual methods and circumstances to gain what he longed for. In contrast, they will see how the life of Abraham illustrates the foolishness of rushing ahead of God’s timing. He was promised to be the father of a nation, yet he felt compelled to fulfill this promise through a woman who was not his wife. The son they produced has served as a source of conflict in their time, as well as ours, as we witness the conflict between the Arab and Israeli people. They will learn that the consequences of rushing ahead can be painful for generations. The highlighted scientist, Wehrner Von Braun, Space Scientist, shows how patiently waiting on the right timing allowed him to be part of NASA’s flight program to the moon.

**12. Follow Your Dreams while Following the Lord:** This last lesson suggests to the children that the Lord is the source of their dreams and ambitions in life. It is He who gave all the scientists we studied this year their sparks of interest in their scientific fields. It is also the Lord Who imparts the gifts and abilities necessary to realize those dreams. This lesson is a recap of the lives studied this year, and introduces the concept of persecution and suffering as part of following the Lord Jesus Christ. They are encouraged to remember the suffering that many of the scientists endured in order to fulfill their dreams. They are shown in Scripture how enduring suffering bring future rewards from the Lord (Matthew 5:10-12, Ephesians 6:7-8, Revelation 22:12). The Gospel message is communicated in this lesson, and a format for a Closing Program with the parents is suggested.