

3.4.c A Bible Lesson—Life Application for the Saved Student

The life application for the saved or Christian student suggests at least one thing the saved children can do during the week following the lesson to begin to put into practice the truths they have learned. It goes along with the lesson aim, but it suggests a very specific activity.

Example:

Lesson aim—To understand that God hates lying, and to stop every form of lying.

Life Application—In the following week, go to someone to whom you have lied and ask forgiveness.

Another Life Application—Try to speak nothing but the truth throughout the coming week.

After the teacher has suggested a life application, it is a bit like he has given the students a practice homework assignment. He should follow up on that assignment the next time the class meets. He should remind the students of the assignment given, and ask for reports. In the beginning, the children may not follow through on the assignment or they may often forget. However, if the teacher keeps on following up on assignments given consistently, some of the children will begin to take the assignments seriously and try to do them. The teacher should not scold the students if they forget, but he should be sure to encourage those who do at least attempt the assignment, even if the results should be less than perfect. He may allow some of the children to give brief testimony-like reports if they wish. He may reward those who do the assignments with some small prize from time to time, if possible. At least he should offer generous words of praise.

LET'S REVIEW

A new teacher is having trouble understanding the difference between the lesson aim and the life application for the Christian student. How would you explain it to him? Can you give an original example that shows the difference?

LET'S PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Look at Acts Chapter 10 again, the story of Peter taking the Good News to Cornelius

Let's say that the lesson aim you have chosen is this: "As a result of this lesson, I want the children to know that God loves all people from every land and every tribe the same. Therefore they should try to show this love to everyone."

Now think of a life application for Christian students that shows something specific they could do in the week following the lesson, something that would enable them to begin to put into practice the truth of the lesson aim. Write below the life application you have chosen:

Life Application for the Christian Student = Something specific the children can do in the week following the lesson to begin to put into practice the Bible truth they have learned in the day's lesson.

Now try choosing an appropriate life application for each of these lesson aims:

Lesson aim: As a result of this lesson, the children will know that God wants us to praise Him, and they will begin to praise Him every day.

Life application:

.....

Lesson aim: As a result of this lesson, the children will understand that the Holy Spirit is stronger than any evil spirit, so they will begin to refuse the work of evil spirits in their lives.

Life application:

.....

Lesson aim: As a result of this lesson, the children will understand that jealousy brings pain and trouble into their lives, and they will make efforts to reject jealousy whenever it appears.

Life application:

.....

Lesson aim: As a result of this lesson, the children will understand that the church is the gathering of believers, and they will be more faithful to meet together for worship.

Life application:

.....

If you have chosen good life applications, the assignments will provide a specific activity the children can do. The life application will be more specific than the lesson aim. It will be something they can do in the week to come and something they can report on.