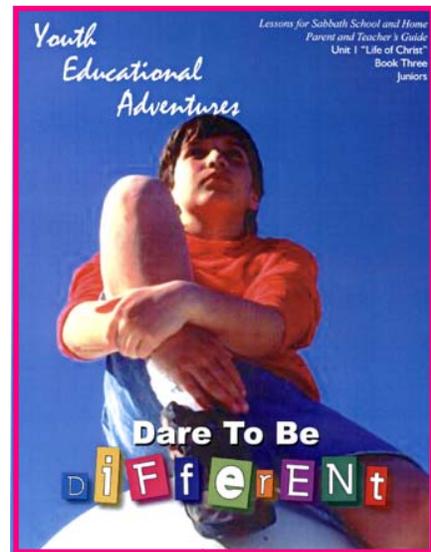




*A Companion to the
YEA Life of Christ Series
Junior Book Three*



“Now these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which the LORD your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go to possess it. . . And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up”
(Deuteronomy 6:1, 7).

What could be more important than teaching children the way of God and anchoring them to Jesus Christ? As the Scripture above shows, once a week is not nearly enough. Youth Educational Adventures (YEA) offers an ongoing series of lesson books for five age groups between the ages of three and 20 to be used at home or in Sabbath School. Each YEA book has an easy-to-use Teacher's Guide available to show you step-by-step how to make each lesson come alive and reach the minds and hearts of those you teach. For your child(ren) to benefit to the fullest, we recommend that you order these YEA books to use along with the following daily activities.

The purpose or objective of these easy-to-use, concise activities is to provide at least a week's worth of activities for you to use:

- To give the child an opportunity for self-directed study.
- To deepen comprehension and retention of the YEA lessons.
- To make the current YEA curriculum more easily adapted to the unique needs of:
 1. **Homeschooling parents** who need a daily lesson/activity.
 2. **Parents** who wish to extend or enrich the lesson for a family Bible study.
 3. **Sabbath School teachers** who would benefit from a supplementary activity to those currently available.
 4. **Junior-age students** who are ready for independent work.

Notes and Explanations

Junior R.E.A.C.H. activities: These activities are designed to be used by the student independently. If the child is not self-directed, these activities can easily be utilized by the child with a minimum of direction from the parent or teacher. Directions for writing in a Bible journal are included, both to benefit the child in developing a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ as well as to provide documentation for homeschooling purposes.

Materials Needed: YEA Students' and Teacher's books, Bible, Bible notebook (see explanation below), concordance, Bible dictionary, Bible encyclopedia, atlas, Bible map book, pencil, pen, colored pencils or markers, drawing paper, *CEM Hymnal*

Bible Notebook: The notebook can be a three-ring binder filled with notebook paper and several dividers for the different sections or a multi-subject spiral notebook. The different sections can be divided into the journaling section, word study section, note section, research section (for maps, etc.) and a question section.

Using the Sections: Each lesson has seven sections, one to use each day. They do not all have to be done, but are designed to target different interests of the child. Junior R.E.A.C.H. activities are divided into these sections:

- **Back to the Bible**

This is a section to review the lesson, relate to another Scripture teaching, and ask more in-depth questions. It may also provide a commentary on the lesson's memory verse.

- **Journal Jot**

Provides a thoughtful and spiritual application question or idea for them to consider that is lesson-related, as well as directions to record their thoughts and perceptions in their personal journal.

- **Word Study**

Takes a word from the lesson or memory verse and gives the Hebrew or Greek meaning. It will also give more depth to the lesson concepts.

- **Just Toolin' Around**

Gives directions for practicing the use of Bible tools: concordance, Bible encyclopedia, Bible dictionary, and maps, by locating the person, place, or thing related to the lesson.

- **Did you Know?**

Includes Bible trivia or unusual facts related to the lesson.

- **Stretch It Out**

Has an activity to extend and reinforce the lesson in a creative way; i.e., creating a word search or memory game, drawing a picture, or constructing a project which relates to the lesson.

- **Music Notes**

Provides the background or history of a song applicable to the lesson. Most songs will be in the *CEM Hymnal*. Juniors are making the transition from the *Kids Classics Collection* to more mature songs. Knowing the background of some hymns will excite the child when singing the hymn during services.

- **Questions?**

Reminds the child to write down (in their Bible journal) questions they may have as they are doing the activities, working through the lesson, or reading the Daily Devotionals.

YEA Lesson 1



Note:

Word Study notes are taken from Spiros Zodhiates' Hebrew-Greek KJV Key Word Study Bible and Lexicon.

Word Study: Phos (foce)

Matthew 5:14 starts with "You are the light of the world. . ." This word "light" comes from the Greek word "phos," which comes from an obsolete Greek word "phao," which means to shine or to make manifest, especially by rays. It is luminousness in the widest application! It can be natural or artificial, abstract or concrete, literal or figurative.

Did You Know?

In Jesus' day, people used small clay lamps that burned olive oil drawn up by a wick. The common New Testament mention of lamps is in connection with their household usage. Because they gave off only modest light, they were strategically positioned for maximum benefit. Such lamps were generally placed on a "lampstand," often a niche built into the wall. Since such lamps contained only a few spoonfuls of oil, a reserve supply would have been a necessity. (Source: *NIV Archaeological Study Bible*, p. 1565.)

Music Notes: Let The Lower Lights Be Burning

This hymn is found on page 142 of the *CEM Hymnal*. The words and music were written by Phillip P. Bliss. The lower lights surrounding a lighthouse guide boats in the harbor away from the treacherous rocks and into the channel. Phillip Bliss was inspired by this analogy as he listened to D. L. Moody talking about a pilot during a storm.

"Brethren, the Master will take care of the great lighthouse. Let us keep the lower lights burning," Moody said. Bliss immediately put this challenging thought into a hymn. Amazingly, he often completed the words and music to a hymn in one sitting!

Bliss first met Moody in Chicago in 1869 and soon joined him and his music associate, Ira Sankey, in their evangelistic campaigns. Bliss composed many Gospel hymns before he died in 1876. Among Bliss' hymns are "Jesus Loves Even Me," "Hallelujah! What a Savior!" and "Wonderful Words of Life." (Source: *Amazing Grace*, Osbeck, K., p. 95.)

Journal Jot

You may be able to shine God's light to someone, much like a lighthouse keeps a pilot from crashing on the rocks. Or you may be a small household lamp, which has just a little light. Both are necessary. Both are important. Every day people watch you to see what light you are shining. *Do you bring glory and honor to God? Or do your actions reflect badly on the name "Christian"?* Write a prayer to God about this—either asking for forgiveness for not shining brightly, or asking for wisdom and courage to shine for His glory.

Back to the Bible

It is difficult, if not impossible, to imagine that in the days before Jesus Christ was born that a lighthouse stood approximately 377-492 feet above the coast of Alexandria, Egypt. In fact, this building was designed by Sostratus of Cnidus in the third century BC. Pharos of Alexandria was built between 285-247 BC on the island of Pharos in Alexandria. It was identified as one of the Seven Wonders of the World by Antipater of Sidon. Originally the building was used as a marker or navigational landmark for ships, but around the first century AD began its use as a lighthouse. To produce light it required fire and reflective mirrors. Someone had to make a commitment to keep the light burning in those days. (Source: en.wikipedia.org.)

Remember that your light will bring people towards you. Just as it is today, keeping a light burning can be a matter of life and death.

In your Bible notebook write the answers to the following questions. Use any Bible reference books.

1. During the reign of which kingdom or empire was Pharos built?
2. Compare the name "pharos" with the Word Study: phos.
3. How were mirrors made in biblical days?
4. What materials were used to build or make a fire in biblical days?

Just Toolin' Around

In your Bible notebook draw a map of Egypt and label Alexandria. Use Bible reference books to find out more about historical and present-day Alexandria and write it in your Bible notebook, too.

Stretch It Out

Research the Pharos Lighthouse. Using materials of your choice, construct a model of the lighthouse and present it to your family or Sabbath School class.

Questions?

Remember to write any questions that you have in your journal. That way you will remember to ask your parents, teacher, or minister.

YEA Lesson 2

J e s u s & T h e L a w

Word Study: Nomos

The word “law” in Matthew 5:18 is the Greek word *nomos*, which comes from a primitive word *nemo* meaning to parcel out, especially food or grazing to animals. *Nomos* means the law as it is used for our good, as a doctor might prescribe medicine. Think of how the word *nomos* relates to *nemo*. The law, as the set of regulations which God gave us for our good, is as necessary as the food and grazing which the animals need. When you see the context in which this word is used, it makes even more sense! Of course God isn’t going to “do away with” the law until everything is completed! The law is good for us and as necessary as the grazing is for the animals.

Did You Know?

In the YEA lesson memory verse is the phrase “smallest letter.” In Greek that was “iota.” In Hebrew the smallest word is “yodh.” Now you know what it means when someone says they aren’t giving one iota. They are not giving at all, not even an inch!

Music Notes: Spirit Song

This hymn is found on page 201 of the *CEM Hymnal*. The words and music were written by John Wimber. John Wimber (born February 25, 1934 in Kirksville, Missouri, died November 17, 1997) was a charismatic pastor and one of the founding leaders of the Vineyard Movement. Wimber was raised in a non-religious family but converted to Christianity in May 1963. He had previously been the keyboard player in the band The Righteous Brothers. Some have attributed the formation of the band to Wimber (then as Johnny Wimber) since he was the one who brought Bobby Hatfield and Bill Medley together for the Paramours band in 1962. In the following years he attended a Quaker church in Yorba Linda, California. In 1974 he became the Founding Director of the Department of Church Growth at the Charles E. Fuller Institute of Evangelism and Church Growth, which was founded by the Fuller Theological Seminary and the Fuller Evangelistic Association. He directed the department until 1978. In this time a house church began to form in his home. This group began to embrace some of the beliefs of the Charismatic movement. This resulted in a split with the Quaker church to which this group belonged. Wimber pastored this new church, which would later become known as the Anaheim Vineyard Christian Fellowship, from 1977 to 1994. (Source: www.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Wimber.)

Read John 14:15-31. Then read the words of this song. Compare them. *Where can you find similarities?*

Journal Jot

How do you feel when you ace a test? Win a race? Finish a book? Get an A on a school project? It gives us a good feeling to do a job well. It's good that we like the feeling of having done our best because God wants to make us perfect. Oh, He doesn't want better people because our carnal nature fights against God. He wants a new creature in Christ. He is working in our lives until we know we need Him and we're ready for Him to create a new heart in us.

Read Philippians 1:6. Then write about these ideas in your Bible notebook.

Back to the Bible

Did you know that even Jesus Christ experienced times of anger? During the Passover Jesus found men in the Jerusalem Temple courts selling cattle, sheep, goats, and exchanging money. Jesus made a whip out of cords and . . . "drove all of them from the temple area." Jesus then told them to get everything out of the Temple and said, "How dare you turn my Father's house into a market!" (NIV). Jesus was quite upset that the Temple, a place of worship to God, was being used as a market. Jesus was angry, but He did not sin. He saw disrespect towards God and He was right to be upset. Ephesians 4:26 says, "In your anger do not sin: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry." Being angry is not a sin; it is how you choose to handle anger that can get you in trouble. Remember that you always want to be a bright light to others, even when they disappoint you and make you mad. But don't let the dark stain of sin dim your light. Go to your brother or sister and try to fix your relationship. Teach them love, grace, mercy, and forgiveness through your words and actions.

Just Toolin' Around

Use Bible reference books to find out what the Books of Psalms and Proverbs say about "anger." Record at least two Scriptures from each book in your Bible notebook.

Stretch It Out

Role play the YEA lesson activity situations on page 9.

Questions?

Remember to write any questions that you have in your notebook. That way you will remember to ask your parents, teacher, or minister.

YEA Lesson 3

TalEnt On LOaN

Word Study: Ek and Psuche

The phrase “all your heart” (from the YEA lesson memory verse in Colossians 3:23) is translated “heartily” in the KJV. This word comes from two Greek words: “ek” which means origin, or the point from which the motion or action proceeds, and “psuche” which means the spirit or soul. In this usage, it is not an action which you determine to do, but something you do because it is who you are.

Did You Know?

A mina was equivalent to about three months’ wages (Luke 19:13). (Source: *NIV Archaeological Study Bible*, p. 1705.)

Music Notes: Work, for the Night is Coming

This hymn is found on page 158 of the *CEM Hymnal*. The words to this hymn were written by Annie Coghill (1836-1907) when she was 18 years old. At this point in her life, she was unmarried (Annie Louise Walker) and lived in Canada. Her poem was first published in a Canadian newspaper and later in her own book, *Leaves From the Back Woods*. Annie married a wealthy merchant, Harry Coghill, in 1883. She became very well-known as a poet and author, writing several books which became quite well-known.

“We are to put forth our very best effort into whatever work God gives us to do. For the Christian, every occupation is sacred when it is done for God’s glory. What counts in God’s sight is not only the actual work we do, but the attitude with which we do it. The story is told of three men who worked on a large church building, all doing similar tasks. When asked what they were doing, one replied, ‘I’m making mortar.’ Another, ‘I’m helping put up this great stone wall.’ The third, ‘I’m building a cathedral for God’s glory.’ The right attitude makes all the difference.” (Source: *Amazing Grace*, Osbeck, K., p. 305.)

Journal Jot

You can do many things that your heart just isn't in: homework, cleaning your room, drying dishes. But what the memory verse and the word study are telling you is that you do these things with a goal in mind. The goal is glorifying God through your everyday actions, even cleaning your room. If you decide that you're going to do the chores your parents have assigned to you with a positive spirit, it will bring good things: you'll feel better, your parents will be pleased, and you are not bringing dishonor on the name Christian. Think about this idea. Then write in your notebook how you can apply the memory verse to your life.

Back to the Bible

Have your parents ever asked you to do a job that you really didn't think you could do—for example, wash the car or cut the grass? What if I don't get all the dirt off? What if the wax doesn't go on evenly? What if I miss a patch of grass? Can't you ask someone else to do the job instead of me? It is difficult to be confident in all situations. God asked Moses to do a job. Moses asked God: What if no one listens to me? What if they don't understand me? Even when God reassured him that He would help him, Moses still told God: "O Lord, please send someone else to do it" (Exodus 3: 7-19; Exodus 4:1-17). There will be times as you grow up that you will be faced with challenging job situations. Your parents may want you to try different chores and responsibilities to find out what your gifts and talents may be, and to build motivation and diligence into your character. Make a good effort to complete a job, instead of making excuses of why you can't. As God told Moses, "I will be with you," God will be with you, too. Moses did follow God's will for him. He was not sure he was the right person for the job, but he trusted and believed in God's help. Pray that God will give you faith and courage to be strong when you face difficult jobs. When God reveals your special talent, be sure to do your work with all your heart!

Just Toolin' Around

Read Joshua, chapter 1, to find out what Joshua's job was after Moses died. *Did Joshua react the same way as Moses? What words did God say to Joshua that were the same as what He told Moses? What phrase did God repeat several times to Joshua?* In your Bible notebook write what you found during your Bible reading.

Stretch It Out

Interview an adult about their gift or talent. Explain to the adult what you learned in this YEA lesson about talents, attitude, and following God's will. Be well prepared by writing your questions before the interview. Share the interview with family or Sabbath School class.

Questions?

Remember to write any questions that you have in your notebook. That way you will remember to ask your parents, teacher, or minister.

YEA Lesson 4

Family Matters

Word Study: Mathetes

The word “disciple” in the YEA lesson memory verse, Matthew 12:49-50, is the Greek word “mathetes,” which means learner or pupil. *Are you a learner and pupil of Jesus Christ?*

Did You Know?

Jesus had four brothers (James, Joseph, Simon, Judas) and sisters (although we don't know their names). Tradition says James became a leader of the Jerusalem church (Acts 12:17), wrote the Book of James, and was martyred. Tradition also says Jesus' brother, Judas, wrote the Book of Jude. (Source: *NIV Archaeological Study Bible*, p. 1581.)

Music Notes: My Jesus, I Love Thee

This hymn is found on page 51 of the *CEM Hymnal*. The words to this hymn were written by William R. Featherston (1846-1873) when he was a teenager. It is thought he scripted the words at the time of his conversion—when he was 16. He sent the poem to his aunt. It appeared in an English hymnal in 1864. (Source: *Amazing Grace*, Osbeck, K., p. 56.)

Read 1 John 4:7-21 first. Then read the words to the hymn. Write the answers to the following questions in your Bible notebook:

1. Can you think of some things that God has done for you?
(1 Peter 2:9; Ephesians 2:4-5).
2. Because God first loved us, we love God. What does that love give to us? (1 Peter 1:8).
3. How do we show God that we really love Him? (John 14:23).

Journal Jot

A good family name is important to many people. That is, when people think of their last name, they want them to think of integrity, honesty, compassion, love, etc. As a result, people are very careful about their actions if they want to ensure their family name is not dishonored.

As a Christian, you are carrying the family name with you wherever you go. *Do you bring honor and glory to God through your actions as a Christian? Or do you bring shame on the name?* Think about what you might want to change. Write about it in your Bible notebook.

Back to the Bible

Jacob had 12 sons, but Joseph was his favorite. Jacob's other sons were jealous of the attention and love that Joseph received from their father. Ten of the brothers were so angry that they threw Joseph into a well! After talking among themselves they decided not to kill Joseph. Instead they pulled him out of the well and sold him to be a slave. The brothers returned home and told their father that Joseph had been killed by a ferocious animal. As proof they showed Jacob the blood on Joseph's special coat. Jacob was so upset that no one could comfort him. Years would pass before all 12 brothers and their father were to meet again (Genesis 37-47).

At the beginning of Joseph's story you may have thought there was no way that his family would ever find a way to love and care about each other. It didn't have a very promising beginning. But as years passed and events brought them together, the ten brothers were very repentant for what they had done to their brother Joseph. *How did everything turn out right for this family?* In the Genesis account of his life, we read that even when Joseph found himself in trouble he still obeyed and trusted God. He knew that his Heavenly Father would never leave nor forsake him. He lived God's way. Sometimes families have problems. Repent and ask for forgiveness when you treat a family member unkindly. Honor your mother and your father. Pray that you and your family will always take loving care of one another. Take care of *Family Matters* with kindness and patience because families matter to God.

Just Toolin' Around

As a family, find out more about Joseph's family. Read Genesis 37-47. Make a family tree of Joseph's family in your Bible notebook. Then make your own family tree!

Stretch It Out

Showing love for God is often demonstrated in the love we have for others. Create three-dimensional flower arrangements out of construction paper and tissue paper to give to someone in the church congregation. Use pipe cleaners for the stems. Cut strips of paper which can be stapled in circles or twists. Other flowers can be made by picking up a piece of tissue paper in the center, and twisting it to let the outside edges fall like the petals of a flower. Use your imagination with glue, tape, and scissors to create a unique bouquet.

Questions?

Remember to write any questions that you have in your notebook. That way you will remember to ask your parents, teacher, or minister.



YEA Lesson 5

Growing God's Way

Word Study: Katecho (kat-ehk'-o)

In Luke 8:15 Jesus talks about the people who are the good seed. They keep the message they hear in their hearts—and produce a good harvest. This word “keep” is from the Greek “katecho,” meaning to hold down or hold fast.

Do you have a determination to grab hold of God and His ways and not let go for anything? Make it your goal to “katecho” God’s word in your heart!

Did You Know?

The mustard seed is not the smallest seed known today, but it was the smallest used by farmers and gardeners in the Holy Land at that time. Under favorable conditions, the mature plant could reach about ten feet in height. (Source: *NIV Archaeological Study Bible*, p. 1583.)

Music Notes: Higher Ground

This hymn is found on page 148 of the *CEM Hymnal*. The words were written by Johnson Oatman, Jr. (1856-1922). The music was composed by Charles H. Gabriel. The hymn “Higher Ground” was first published in 1898.

Johnson Oatman, Jr., was a businessman who wrote 3000 Gospel songs in his spare time. He was ordained by the Methodist Episcopal church, but was never a pastor. Although his hymns were well-liked, he was never paid more than a dollar for any of the texts!

Charles H. Gabriel was the music editor of the Rodeheaver Publishing Company. He wrote the music (and sometimes the texts) for more than 8000 Gospel songs. Many of these were especially popular in the Billy Sunday-Homer Rodeheaver campaigns from 1910-1920. “Higher Ground” was used often in the camp meetings during this time, and the singing of it would often be followed by shouts of “Glory, hallelujah!” (Source: *Amazing Grace*, Osbeck, K., p. 91.)

Journal Jot

The activity in the YEA book on page 18 helps you remember the different kinds of soil and what happens in each. As you are studying the YEA lesson, think about what kind of soil you are. Talk about the parable of the sower and the seed (Matthew 13:1-23) with your family. You may be surprised at which soil your parents feel they are most like. Write your ideas and conclusions in your Bible notebook.

Back to the Bible

Once a seed is planted in good soil, it takes time for it to take root and grow. Remember, it must have just the right amount of sun, water, and nutrients. A master gardener does not leave his garden untended to be ravaged by heat and drought. He does not let his growing plants go hungry. As your Master Gardener, God the Creator will not let you go untended or unwatched either. He wants a bountiful harvest at the end of the growing season. He needs you to be “rooted,” healthy, and strong. His word, the Bible, will give you just the right amount of what you need each day. Read, learn about, and know about His Son, Jesus Christ. When you are “thirsty” for help and don’t know what to do, Jesus will provide you with a drink of Living Water. When you are “hungry” and need food for strength to overcome a bad decision or sinful choice, the Bread of Life will feed you. The Son, the Water, and the Bread are in the Bible, the Word of God. While you are growing in your Christian life, learning the Bible by reading through it will keep you spiritually healthy and strong. The Bible has just the right amount of everything that you need to grow as a child of God. Growing a productive garden is a process that involves many steps and careful tending over time, but the result is a bountiful harvest for the Master Gardener. At the end of the growing season, you will be a part of the harvest: a child of the King, a part of God’s family.

Just Toolin’ Around

Using your Bible and Bible reference books, research what kind of garden tools were used in Bible times. In your Bible notebook, draw and label pictures of the tools. *Are similar tools used in gardening today?* Write the research information in your Bible notebook. Share with family or Sabbath School class.

Stretch It Out

Bible reading each day is important to your growth as a Christian. From this YEA lesson, choose at least seven words to get you started on a Bible study for the next week. To get you started, here are two: message and salvation. Use a Bible and a concordance to find and read Scriptures where these words are found. In your Bible notebook write the word and corresponding Scripture, as well as what you learned or thought of the Scriptures you read. Remember to pray each day that you will grow healthy and strong in God’s Word. And pray that these seven days of study will help you continue a daily Bible reading plan.

Questions?

Remember to write any questions that you have in your notebook. That way you will remember to ask your parents, teacher, or minister.

YEA Lesson 6

WEEEDS in THE Garden

Word Study: Katecho (kat-ehk'-o)

In 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22, Paul encourages his readers to “hold on to what is good.” This phrase “hold on to” is from the same Greek word, meaning “keep,” that we saw in the last lesson—“kathecho.” It means to hold down or to hold fast.

Think about the contrast: Grab hold of the things of God with all of your might. Stay away from every kind of evil with the same degree of determination.

Did You Know?

The weed referred to as “darnel” or “tares” in Matthew 13:24-30 is Zizania. It has poisonous seeds but looks like wheat in its early stages of growth. It is easily distinguished from wheat at harvest time. (Source: *NIV Archaeological Study Bible*, p. 1583.)

Music Notes: Bringing In The Sheaves

This hymn is found on page 35 of the *CEM Hymnal*. The text for this hymn was written by Knowles Shaw (1834-1878) in 1874. Shaw wrote music for these lyrics, but George Minor's tune is universally used today.

Knowles Shaw was a well-known evangelist who was very successful. Just before the train wreck which took his life, Mr. Malloy (a traveler who just happened to be on the train at the same time with Knowles Shaw) asked him to tell the secret of his success in protracted meetings. Knowles Shaw said, very earnestly, that “he depended much on the power of song, preached Christ, always kept Jesus before the people, made them feel that they were sinners, and needed just such a Savior as he preached, that he never became discouraged, had confidence in the gospel truth as the power of God, that he loved his work, and became wholly absorbed in it; and added: ‘Oh, it is a grand thing to rally people to the Cross of Christ.’” Just having said this, the train went over an embankment. Knowles Shaw was thrown from the train after pushing Mr. Malloy out of danger. Subsequently, Shaw was pinned under the train in the water. He died there on June 7, 1878, in McKinney, Texas (near Dallas). (Source: www.cyberhymnal.org.)

Journal Jot

What if you really want to be a choice Christian plant in God's garden, instead of a weed? How do you do that? Write your thoughts in your Bible notebook. Be sure to share your ideas and questions with your parents. This is too important to take lightly.

Back to the Bible

As a real Christian you will want others to see and know you as wheat, not weeds. Your life, then, must be walked in the footsteps of Jesus Christ. There will be days when you are tempted to give in and let the weeds take over. One day you may look around and see there are more weeds than wheat! They want to take you over and choke you out! Satan would be very happy harvesting weeds, not wheat. This enemy of yours prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone (you) to devour (1 Peter 5:8). Following in obedience to God and the teachings of Jesus Christ every day will help in building a strong defense against temptation of weed growth. Micah 6:8 says: "He has told you what he requires of you. You must treat people fairly. You must love others faithfully. And you must be very careful to live the way your God wants you to" (NIRV). *Are you fair with people? Do you love others with mercy and grace? Do you live your life in obedience to God?* People will know you are a Christian, a follower of Jesus Christ, when they see wheat growing tall, straight, and strong. Keep a defense against weed growth by obeying God and following Jesus Christ.

Just Toolin' Around

The memory verse for this YEA lesson is from the New International Reader's Version. The Bible is written in many different versions, for example the King James Version, New King James Version, and New International Version. *What version of the Bible do you usually read?* Use at least two other versions of the Bible and find the memory verse. Write the memory verse from each Bible in your Bible notebook. Compare and contrast each verse. Write in your Bible notebook how they are alike and how they are different. Share with family or Sabbath School class.

Stretch It Out

In your Bible notebook make two columns. Label one column "weeds" and the other "wheat." For the next week, listen and watch for examples of "weeds" in your life. Write them in the "weeds" column. In the "wheat" column write down what you would do to make them "wheat" examples. You do not need to share with anyone what you wrote in your notebook.

Questions?

Remember to write any questions that you have in your notebook. That way you will remember to ask your parents, teacher, or minister.

YEA Lesson 7

Find The Key

Word Study: Hodos (hod-os')

In John 14:6 Jesus says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." The word "way" comes from the Greek word "hodos," which is from a primitive word meaning a road. By implication the word means a progress, the route, act or distance. In a figurative sense, it means a mode or means.

When Jesus put the definitive article "the" in front of "hodos," He was telling us that He is the one and only way to eternal life, the only mode or means, the only road or route. We don't want to miss this road. Be sure to ask for directions if you're lost.

Did You Know?

Asceticism is the practice of denying yourself something as part of personal or spiritual discipline. In the Old Testament, the priests were not to drink any alcohol before they went into the Tent of Meeting (Leviticus 10:9). This is an example of asceticism, as is the practice of fasting on the Day of Atonement. In Matthew 19:21-22, Jesus tells the rich young ruler that his self-discipline cannot be limited; it has to affect his entire lifestyle. *What about you? Is there something in your life that you won't give up—something that is preventing you from seeking Jesus?*

Music Notes: My Faith Looks Up To Thee

This hymn is found on page 62 of the *CEM's Hymnal*. The text was written by Ray Palmer (1808-1887), a 22-year-old school teacher, in 1832. Several months after his graduation from Yale University and while still living with the family of the lady who directed the girls' school where he taught, Palmer wrote the text for this hymn. He had experienced a very discouraging year in which he battled illness and loneliness.

"The words for these stanzas were born out of my own soul with very little effort. I recall that I wrote the verses with tender emotion. There was not the slightest thought of writing for another eye, least of all writing a hymn for Christian worship. It is well-remembered that when writing the last line, 'Oh, bear me safe above, a ransomed soul!' the thought of the whole work of redemption and salvation was involved in those words, and suggested the theme of eternal praises, and this brought me to a degree of emotion that brought abundant tears."

Two years later, while visiting in Boston, Palmer chanced to meet his friend, Lowell Mason, a well-known name in musical circles during this time. Upon seeing Ray Palmer's text, Mason stated, "Palmer, you may live many years and do many good things but I think you will be best-known to posterity as the author of 'My Faith Looks Up to Thee'." Lowell Mason composed a melody for this text, a tune which he called "Olivet" in reference to the hymn's message. Soon the hymn appeared in its present form in a hymnal edited by Mason. (Source: *Amazing Grace*, Osbeck, K., p. 284.)

Journal Jot

Why isn't it enough to just do good deeds? Why can't we get into God's Kingdom through our own actions? Why is Jesus the Way? Think about it. Then write your thoughts in your Bible notebook. Use Scriptures to support your beliefs and conclusions.

Back to the Bible

In Matthew 7:7 Jesus said, "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened" (NIV). Jesus wants you to ask in order to learn about Him. *Who do you ask? What do you ask?* Through prayer you can ask Jesus to help you understand what you read in the Bible. Parents and Sabbath School teachers, and church ministers will also help you learn about Jesus. Knowing Jesus builds your faith in Him. Seeking or looking to live your life obediently takes time. Be patient. Keep seeking. Spend time in prayer and ask God to help you stay on course to eternal life. Have faith that Jesus will help you when the road of life is full of bumps. Stay on course! When you knock on the door of understanding, asking and seeking to know Jesus, He will answer. Jesus Christ, your Older Brother, wants to share His inheritance with you. He is faithful and trustworthy. Stay close to Jesus. Through your understanding and love of Jesus you will find the key. He will open the door for you to God's Kingdom.

Just Toolin' Around

Use your Bible and a concordance to find three "faith" Scriptures. Trace and cut out the outline of a key on poster board. Write one of the faith Scriptures on the key. Use it as a Bible bookmark to remind you to have faith in Jesus Christ, the key to eternal life.

Stretch It Out

In your Bible notebook, make three columns: what I know about Jesus; what I want to know about Jesus; what I learned about Jesus. Fill in each column accordingly. For example, you may write that you know Jesus is the Son of God. In the next column you might write, why did God send Jesus to us? In the last column you would write the answer to your question. Complete this activity as a family or with your Sabbath School class.

Questions?

Remember to write any questions that you have in your notebook. That way you will remember to ask your parents, teacher, or minister.

YEA Lesson 8

The Golden Rule

Word Study: Agathopoieo (ag-ath-op-oy-eh'-o)

"Do good" (in Luke 6:35) comes from the Greek word "agathopoieo." This Greek word comes from the word which means to be a well-doer, as a favor or a duty. *In Luke 6:35, how do you think Jesus used this word? Did He mean that we should do good as a favor to others? Or did He mean that it is our duty to do good to other people?* This is not a suggestion from Jesus. This is direction in how to live your life all the time.

Did You Know?

The so-called Golden Rule is found in negative form in Rabbinic Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism and Confucianism. It also occurred in various forms in Greek and Roman ethical teaching. That means these cultures said, "Don't do to other people what you don't want them to do to you." Jesus, in contrast, stated it in positive form. Jesus said, "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you . . ." (Matthew 7:12). (Source: NIV Archaeological Study Bible, p. 1570.)

Music Notes: A Beautiful Life

This hymn is found on page 206 of the *CEM Hymnal*. The words and music were written in 1918 by William Matthew Golden (1878-1934). It is said that most of his songs were written while he was serving an eight-year sentence in the state penitentiary. His only child reportedly died young. He died in a traffic accident in Mississippi. (Source: www.cyberhymnal.org.)

The inspiration for this song comes from Luke 10:30-37, the parable of the Good Samaritan. Read the words of the hymn and list in your Bible notebook the ways William Golden says he'll live a beautiful life.

Journal Jot

The situation with Annie and her little brother actually did happen. (The names have been changed to protect the guilty.) Annie was so angry with her brother. Then she was so angry with her dad for getting upset with her, instead of being upset at her brother. Oh, her dad was probably upset with her brother too, but first he had to deal with Annie assuming authority she didn't have.

In the same way, we can look at other people's actions and decide whether they are right or wrong, but we don't have the right or authority to administer discipline, punishment, or consequences. Read Romans 12:9-21. Then write in your Bible notebook how these verses compare to *The Golden Rule*. Write about how these apply to your life. *Can you think of a situation like Annie's?* Write about it.

Back to the Bible

Jesus Christ had many lessons to teach to large crowds of people that He met and those who followed Him. One day He found Himself with a very large audience on a mountainside. He sat down and began to teach them. (Read Matthew 5.) Teachers plan lessons according to what they believe their students need to hear or learn. So it was with Jesus. The lessons for His students then are the same ones for you today. You will meet people who will make fun of you for helping and listening to others. Your friends may not understand why you want peace over anger when someone hurts you or says bad things about you. They will not understand why you show mercy. The world can be a very unfriendly place, but as a child of God, you are not a part of this world. You follow Jesus Christ and His example. It will not be easy. But Jesus said that you would have a great reward in heaven. Let Jesus Christ be your Teacher of how to live a blessed life.

Just Toolin' Around

Read James 1:19. Write this verse in your Bible notebook and circle the words that come before listen, speak, and angry. *How does this verse relate to this YEA lesson?* Discuss this Scripture and explain it to your family or Sabbath School class.

Use your Bible and a concordance to find at least two Scriptures for listen, speak, and angry. *What Scripture do you think will help you most in a difficult situation, and why?* Explain your answer in your Bible notebook.

Stretch It Out

Write an acrostic poem in your Bible notebook from the title of this YEA lesson (omit "The"): G-O-L-D-E-N R-U-L-E. From the letters, write what you have learned from the YEA lesson, and then share/teach it with/to family or Sabbath School class.

Questions?

Remember to write any questions that you have in your notebook. That way you will remember to ask your parents, teacher, or minister.

YEA Lesson 9

Pay Up, Or Else!

Word Study: Chesed (kheh'-sed)

The word "kind" in the YEA lesson memory verse, Proverbs 11:17, is from the Hebrew word which can alternately be translated "merciful." The translation "lovingkindness" in the King James Version comes the closest to the full meaning of the word. It is most frequently used in terms of God's attitude towards His covenant people.

So apply the idea of God's lovingkindness in the memory verse. *What attitude benefits a man?* Not merely kindness, but a loving kindness, a love with mercy.

Did You Know?

The standard teaching within Judaism (based on Job 33:29-30; Amos 1:3; 2:6) was that three instances of forgiveness reflected a forgiving spirit. Peter's offer to more than double that number was generous, probably reflecting his desire for the completeness the number seven usually represented. Jesus' response—in essence that Peter was to forgive countless times—was astonishing. (Source: *NIV Archaeological Study Bible*, p. 1593.)

Music Notes: Blessed Be The Tie That Binds

This hymn is found on page 73 of the *CEM Hymnal*. John Fawcett (1740-1817) composed the words when he and his wife, Mary, were called to minister in a large parish in London. They had built such firm bonds with the poor peasant parishioners of Wainsgate that they could not bear to leave. As a result, the Fawcetts gave up a much higher standard of living. The event sparked a sermon based on Luke 12:15: "A man's life consists not in the abundance of the things he possesses." John Fawcett closed his sermon with the words that became "Blest Be the Tie That Binds." (Source: *Amazing Grace*, Osbeck, K., p. 66.)

One of the greatest of possessions is a close friend in the Lord. Psalm 133 says: "How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!" Pick the connections in verses one, two, and three; i.e., the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above; the sharing we do with each other to encourage and exhort in the Lord.

Hebrews 13:1 "Keep on loving each other as brothers." There's no room for misunderstandings when brethren truly love each other with this godly love. 1 John 2:10: "Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble."

When we are together, God promises to be with us. Matthew 18:20: "Where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them." All of the sharing, encouragement and love points us to God's Kingdom, so that even when we do leave each other (weekly and ultimately), we look forward to meeting again.

Journal Jot

Sometimes it is really hard to show “chesed” (see Word Study) to the people around us, especially our family. *Why? What is it that keeps us from being loving and kind?* Think about it. Pray about it. Search your heart and be as honest as you can. If you truly don’t know, read James 4:1-3. See if that helps you get an idea. Then write down what causes your attitude and what you should do about it.

Back to the Bible

Each verse in Matthew 5:1-12 begins with the word “blessed.” *What does it mean to be “blessed”?* Use your Bible and Bible reference books to find the meaning and then write it in your Bible notebook. Read these Scriptures, also called the Beatitudes, substituting the meaning for blessed at the beginning of each verse. *Do the verses sound the same or different?* In your Bible notebook write about this experience.

Jesus Christ was speaking to a multitude of people, including His disciples. (Can you name them? See Matthew 4:18-22.) Delivering His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus explained to the crowd what kind of reward would be theirs if they had a certain attitude or behavior while living a Christian life. Jesus’ lessons are also for you. For example, if you are poor in spirit, showing humility or being humble, then the Kingdom of Heaven will be yours (Matthew 5:3). When you choose to live your life according to the Word of God and His Son, Jesus Christ, others will learn by your example. People will usually remember your “attitude(s)” before they remember your “words.” However, this does not mean that your words cannot be comforting or merciful. Read the rest of the Sermon on the Mount. *What other “be” attitudes did you find in these verses? What are the results of these attitudes? Can you think of words and actions to match the Beatitudes?* Write them in your Bible notebook. Share with family or Sabbath School class.

Just Toolin’ Around

Using your Bible and a concordance, find and read at least two more Scriptures that tell of Jesus’ mercy and forgiveness toward others. Choose one to teach to your family or Sabbath School class.

Stretch It Out

Buy some magnetic strips at your nearest office supply store. These can be cut into any sizes, but they are available in business card size—which is perfect for this craft. Using a piece of card stock the size of a business card, make a refrigerator magnet that tells someone how very special they are to you. A two-dimensional magnet can be done with markers, colored pencils, glitter, etc. You may choose to make the magnet three-dimensional. If so you’ll also need glue, construction paper, scissors.

Questions?

Remember to write any questions that you have in your notebook. That way you will remember to ask your parents, teacher, or minister.

YEA Lesson 10

LOST and FOUND

Word Study: Chara (khar-ah')

In Luke 15:7 the word “rejoicing” comes from the Greek word “chara.” It comes from another word meaning “cheerfulness.” But the word itself shows that there is a cause for joy or rejoicing. The synonyms are exultation, exuberant joy, or gladness of heart. This word implies there is a reason for great joy.

Think about this meaning as you read the YEA lesson memory verse again. There is more “chara”—exultation—in heaven—by the angels!—when a sinner repents. *Doesn't it make you smile to know that God's angels are cheering when you repent, when you tell God you are sorry and change the way you have been living your life?*

Did You Know?

The father, in the parable of the prodigal son, may have divided the inheritance (with a double portion to the older son) but retained the income from it until his death. To give a younger son his portion of the inheritance upon request was highly unusual. (Source: *NIV Archaeological Study Bible*, p. 1698.)

Music Notes: The King of Love My Shepherd Is

This hymn is found on page 89 of the *CEM Hymnal*. The words were written by Sir Henry William Baker (1821-1877), an English musician most remembered as being the editor-in-chief of an extremely popular hymnal, *Hymns, Ancient and Modern*, which was published in 1861 and which sold more than 60 million copies.

Many hymns have been written based on Psalm 23, but Henry Baker wove the ideas of Psalm 23 with themes from the New Testament: the parable of the lost sheep from Luke 15:5 and the cross to guide.

Read the words to the hymn. Then read Psalm 23, John 10:1-18, and 1 Peter 2:25. In your Bible notebook, note the similarities you find. (Source: *Amazing Grace*, Osbeck, K., p. 26.)

Journal Jot

Have you ever lost something and then spent quite a while looking for it? Write about what you lost, where you looked, where you finally found it, and your feelings while you were looking and after it was found. Then compare your experience to what it would be like if you were talking about a person who was lost. Write a thank you note to God for being our Shepherd who looks for us when we are lost.

Back to the Bible

The Lord's forgiveness is very evident to the writer of Psalm 130. The point of this Psalm is confession and forgiveness. Confessing is admitting that you did something wrong. Maybe you had a harsh word for someone, or cheated on a test. Deep down inside you knew it was wrong, but you did it anyway. *How did your actions make you feel later, though? Did you know, like the lost son, that you needed to confess your sin? Read Psalm 130:1-2. Can you relate to these words? When you confessed your sin, did you want mercy from someone? Did you pray and ask God to forgive you for your sins? Did you know that He would be merciful and forgive you? Have confidence in approaching our Heavenly Father with a sorrowful heart. God knows your heart and the depths of your repentance. The lost son went to his father with confession on his lips, yet the father could only rejoice in his son's return. Likewise when you go to your Father with confession, He, too, will find reason for rejoicing!*

Just Toolin' Around

Use your Bible and Bible reference books to find at least three Scriptures on "confession." Use a Bible dictionary to find the meaning of the word "confess." Write the definition and Scriptures in your Bible notebook. Share with your family or Sabbath School class.

Stretch It Out

Do you have a difficult time offering others mercy and compassion? Pray that God will open your eyes to the wonderful gift of mercy and compassion towards others. As a family or Sabbath School class, begin a Bible study of one Psalm a day. The writers of the Book of Psalms express praise and worship of God the Father for His forgiveness, mercy, love, and faithfulness to us. Learning about God's way will help you know more about how He wants you to treat others. As you read and study, write your thoughts in your Bible notebook. Take time one day a week to write your own personal psalm. You do not need to share it with others.

Questions?

Remember to write any questions that you have in your notebook. That way you will remember to ask your parents, teacher, or minister.