

**Relationships
in
God's Creation**

RELATIONSHIPS IN GOD'S CREATION - FIRST GRADE OVERVIEW

In the first grade we teach the children relationships in God's creation; how to get along with their brothers and sisters, their mothers and fathers, how to respect their grandparents and their teachers in school.

Concerning friends we need to do something early. In the first grade and second grade we need to steer them in the right direction concerning friends: how to have friends, what kind of friends, and how to choose the right friends.

Then we have a little introduction on God's government. This is government ordained by God. We do not teach them this doctrinally. We just tell them what their attitude has to be toward adults; toward older ones; their attitude toward teachers in school; their attitude toward the government, the firemen, the policemen, to those in authority. We tell them how these people represent God. This is human relationships in society, in the family, and in the church. We teach them about the brothers and sisters in the church including the older saints in the church. We teach them to have a good attitude and relationship toward others.

The main stress here is that all of this is God's arrangement. God has an arrangement. All the relationships of human beings are arranged by God for a purpose. Eventually, what is their attitude toward God? Actually, we cover all of this because they have not yet been regenerated. We have to help them to be God-fearers, to prepare them for God's salvation.

The preceding are the blending of briefly edited transcriptions of Gene Gruhler's sharings given in several localities.

RELATIONSHIPS IN GOD'S CREATION

- I. God As Creator - Zech. 12:1:
 - A. Of the Heavens - Gen. 1:1
 - 1. God's Throne is in the heavens - Psalm 103:19
 - 2. The heavens govern the earth - Daniel 4:26b
 - 3. Sun, moon, stars, day and night, weather, seasons, etc.
 - B. Of the Earth - Gen. 1:1
 - 1. Earth made for man
 - 2. Best environment, not too hot nor too cold, etc.
 - 3. Balance of nature, life cycles, etc.
 - C. Of Man - Gen. 1:27
 - 1. Physical body needs care - food, rest, exercise, etc.
 - 2. Heart to love God and to obey God (conscience)
 - 3. Spirit to receive and contain God
- II. The First Couple And Their First Home
 - A. The Garden of Eden - Gen. 2:8-10, 15:
 - 1. What it was like
 - 2. Man to care for God's creation and be over it.
 - B. Trees of the Garden, good for food - Gen. 2:9
 - 1. Tree of Life - God's special food for man
 - 2. Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil - poison tree
 - C. The Animals - Gen. 2:19-20:
 - 1. Adam named the animals and ruled over them.
 - 2. Man different from the animals - can read, talk, etc.
 - D. Eve - Gen. 2:18, 21-24:
 - 1. A wife for Adam
 - 2. One couple to have a family
- III. Disobedience Of Man And The Result:
 - A. The temptation and disobedience - Gen. 3:1-8
 - 1. Listening to Satan's questioning of God's word
 - 2. Disobeying God's clear word
 - B. God's talk with Adam and Eve - Gen. 3:9-13
 - 1. God came to help
 - 2. Adam and Eve made excuses
 - C. God's curse on the serpent - Gen. 3:14-15
 - D. God's punishment of Adam and Eve - Gen. 3:16-19
 - 1. Sorrow and pain for woman
 - 2. Hard labor for man
 - E. Changes in the creation
 - 1. Earth not producing easily - thorns and thistles
 - 2. Wildness of animals
 - 3. Death

- F. God providing a covering for Adam and Eve - Gen. 3:21
 1. Blood needing to be shed for sin
 2. Nakedness needing to be covered
 - G. Adam and Eve separated from God - Gen. 3:23-24
 1. Put out of the garden
 2. Cut off from the tree of life
 - H. God's promise of a Savior to come, Jesus - Gen. 3:15
 1. To deal with the serpent, Satan
 2. To bring man back to God
- IV. The first brothers, Cain and Abel - Gen. 4:1-16. (tell the story in a positive way)
- A. A choice to make - God's way vs. Satan's way
 1. The need of an offering for sin
 2. Shedding of blood needed for remission of sin - Heb. 9:22
 3. In the Old Testament animal sacrifices were needed
 4. In the New Testament Christ offered Himself as the Lamb of God for the sins of the world - John 1:29
 - B. Cain: taking Satan's - 1 John 3:12
 1. Jealous of his brother Abel
 2. Hated his brother Abel - 1 John 3:15
 3. Murdered his brother Abel
 4. Cursed by God (as Satan was) - Gen. 3:14
 - C. Abel: taking God's saving way
 1. Offering the right sacrifice - Heb. 11:4
 2. Obeying God
 3. Loving his brother
 4. Working and living for God
 - D. We must love our brothers and sisters - 1 John 3:11; 4:7, 11
 1. To love them is to walk in the light with God - 1 John 2:10
 2. To hate them is to walk in the darkness with Satan - 1 John 2:11
 3. To love God we must also love our brothers and sisters - 1 John 4:20-21
- V. Parents (present a positive picture of a family with children)
- A. Children are God's gift to parents - Gen. 33:5; 48:9a
 1. One purpose in marriage is to have children - Gen. 1:28a
 2. Not to have children is a sorrow; Examples: Sarah Gen. 16:1-2; Rachel Gen. 30:1; Hannah 1 Sam. 1:10-20
 3. Having children is a blessing - Psalm 127:3
 - B. Parents are responsible for their children
 1. Loving and caring for them
 2. Providing food, clothing, shelter, etc.
 3. Having to answer to God for them, therefore needing to discipline them - Prov. 29:17; 3:12; cf. Heb. 12:6-8
 - C. Children must honor parents - Exo. 20:12
 1. Love
 2. Respect
 3. Obey (Example: the Lord Jesus Luke 2:51a, 52)

D. Promise to children who obey - Eph. 6:1-3

1. Protection, safety and enjoyment
2. Long life
3. The Lord is pleased (a matter related to how you behave outwardly not a spiritual inward matter) - Col. 3:20

VI. Friends

A. What is a friend? (Ask the children first)

1. Someone we spend our time with - play games, have fun, do school work
2. Someone we can talk to
3. Someone our own age, someone older (we need both, why?)
4. In the church, in school, in our neighborhood

B. How to make and keep friends?

1. We must be friendly - Prov. 18:24
2. We must be loyal - Prov. 17:17; 27:10
3. We must not listen to or repeat gossip - Prov. 16:28; 17:9
4. We must share what we have and be helpful

C. How to choose the right friends?

1. Not those who make fun of the Lord Jesus or God's name - Psalm 1:1
2. Those whose behavior is proper (don't lie, steal, cheat, fight, curse etc.)
3. Those whose behavior is evil will damage us (Evil companionships corrupt good morals - 1 Cor. 15:33)
4. We cannot do the worldly things with our friends (movies, dancing, parties, gambling etc.) - James 4:4b

D. Friends of God

1. God spoke to Moses as a man speaks to his friend - Exo. 3:11
2. Abraham fellowshiped with God and believed Him - Gen. 18; James 2:23
3. The Lord Jesus wants to be our friend - John 15:13-15
4. We must bring our friends to the Lord Jesus - Mark 5:19
(As Cornelius called his friends to hear the gospel in Acts 10:24, we may bring our friends to children's meeting)

VII. Adults: Respect older ones - 1 Peter 5:5, note 5¹

A. God's arrangement

1. God's arrangement is to have all ages in a family
2. God's arrangement is to have all ages in the church
3. God's arrangement is to have all ages in human society
4. We must appreciate God's arrangement

B. God provides many older people in our families

1. Older brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts, grandparents
2. Older ones provide love and protection
3. Older ones provide for our physical needs
4. Family is the best environment for us to grow up

- C. God provides many older people in the church
 - 1. Older ones have more experience of God
 - 2. Older ones have more experience of human life
 - 3. Older ones can provide love, care and help to the children
 - 4. Children should want to receive help from older ones
- D. We must treat older people as we would our parents - 1 Tim. 5:1-2
 - 1. Because of God's arrangement
 - 2. Because of their love and care for us
 - 3. Because of the help we may receive
 - 4. Because this is the Word of God

VIII. Teachers - Prov. 1:7; 3:13; 12:1; 23:12

- A. Why do we go to school?
 - 1. Learn to read and write, arithmetic, etc.
 - 2. Learn to get along with others in work and play
 - 3. Help us to grow up properly
 - 4. Prepare us for our future life as adults

Example: Moses Acts 7:22
- B. Why do we need teachers?
 - 1. Teachers care for us
 - 2. Teachers teach us
 - 3. Teachers help us learn
 - 4. To learn we need someone who has learned first
- C. What should our attitude be toward our teachers?
 - 1. How much study needed to become a teacher
 - 2. Only people who care for children become teachers
 - 3. The preparation needed for each day's lessons
 - 4. We must appreciate and respect our teachers
- D. How should we behave in school?
 - 1. School is God's arrangement for us
 - 2. Principal, teachers, and other school workers take the position of parents while we are in school
 - 3. Church kids should be different than worldly kids

IX. Government Rom. 13:1-7; Titus 3:1-2; 1 Pet. 2:13-15; 1 Tim. 2:1-2
(Government is God's servant to deal with evil and reward good)

- A. What is the government in the United States?
 - 1. Federal - President, Congress, Supreme Court (for younger children - Mail Carrier)
 - 2. State - Governor, Legislature, State Supreme Court (for younger children - State Patrol)
 - 3. City - Mayor, City Council, Municipal Court, Policeman, Fireman
- B. How is this government carried out?
 - 1. Elections (describe voting process)
 - 2. Laws (example: stealing, vandalism, traffic laws, etc.)
 - 3. Taxes (support government services, provide for defense, help people in need, etc.) - Rom. 13:6-7; Matt. 22:21

- C. Why do we need government?
1. Man is fallen and has an evil nature
 2. Man's evil nature needs to be restricted
 3. What would it be like if there was no government (eg. anarchy: no traffic signals, no police, no trash collection, no teachers, etc.)
 4. Government restricts evil and rewards good - Rom. 13:3-4
- D. Where does government come from?
1. From God - Rom. 13:1
 2. Government is the servant of God - Rom. 13:4
 3. Different forms of government (Caesar, King, Prime Minister, President, etc.)
 4. U.S. Government keeps peace, and allows us freedom to worship God in the church
- E. What should our attitude be to the government?
1. Be subject (be a good citizen) - Rom. 13:1-2
 2. Pay our taxes - Rom. 13:6-7; Matt. 22:17-21
 3. Obey the laws - Titus 3:1; 1 Peter 2:13-15a (unless they are against God's higher law, Exo. 1:17; Dan. 3:17-18; 6:10; Acts 6:29; but emphasize positive obedience, not exceptions)
 4. Pray for the government - 1 Tim. 2:1-3
- X. As God Fearers - Acts 10:22
- A. All relationships are God's arrangement for us.
1. Brothers and sisters, parents, friends, adults, teachers, and the government are given to us by God
 2. Good relationships are part of proper human life planned by God
 3. Good relationships assure a peaceful happy life for us and others
 4. We must thank God for His arrangements
- B. All relationships have been spoiled by Satan
1. Satan hates God's arrangement in the universe
 2. Satan wants to destroy God's arrangements
 3. Satan wants us to hate God and God's arrangements
 4. We must refuse Satan's way and choose God's way
- C. God wants to restore proper relationships
1. God warned Cain but Cain wouldn't listen - Gen. 4:7-8
 2. God warns us in His Word
 3. Children's Meeting is to help us listen to God
 4. The church is a place where God can speak to us and enable us to restore proper relationships.
- D. To have proper relationships our relationship with God must be right
1. Believe that God made us, we are his creatures - Psalm 100:3a
 2. Believe that God's arrangements are the best - Rom. 8:28
 3. Believe that God will help us every day if we trust Him - Prov. 3:5-6
 4. Believe that if we fear God and do right, God is pleased - Acts 10:34-35

Notes:

1. *As generally the children have not yet been regenerated and received the life of God, we must help them to be "God fearers" to prepare them for God's salvation. To be "God fearers" is half way to salvation until such time as the Holy Spirit comes (eg. Cornelius Acts 10:22, 34-35; 13:16, 26)*
2. *Proverbs is good in principles of human life, morals, and relationships to preserve the children's human vessel from the corruption of this present evil age, until Christ comes to fill it with Himself.*

RELATIONSHIPS

1. Children are God's Gift to Parents
 - A. One purpose in marriage is to have children
 - B. Not to have children is a sorrow- Examples: Sarah (Gen. 16:1-2); Rachel (Gen. 30:1); Hannah (1 Sam. 1:10-20).
 - C. Having children is a blessing (Psa. 127:3) Example- Hannah
2. Parents are Responsible for Their children
 - A. Loving them and caring for them
 - B. Providing food, clothing, shelter, etc.
 - C. Having to answer to God for them, therefore needing to discipline them (Prov. 29:17; 3:12; cf. Heb. 12:6-8) Examples: Eli (1 Sam. 3:13); Job (Job 1:5).
3. Children Must Honor Their Parents (Ex. 20:12)
 - A. Love
 - B. Respect
 - C. Obey (Example: Lord Jesus Lk. 2:51a, 52)
 - D. Promise to children who obey (Eph. 6:1-3)
 1. Protection, safety and enjoyment
 2. Long Life
 3. The Lord is pleased (a matter related to how you behave outwardly not a spiritual inward matter) (Col. 3:20)
4. Born after Sin Entered the World
5. Cain's Wickedness and Able's Righteousness
 - A. Cain -Satan's way taken by man
 1. Jealous of his brother
 2. Hated his brother Abel
 3. Murdered his brother Abel
 4. Cursed by God (as Satan was)
 - B. Abel- God's saving way
 1. Offering the right sacrifice
 2. Obeying God
 3. Working and living for God
 4. Loving his brother
6. Loving Our Brothers and Sisters
 - A. To love them is to walk in the light with God
 - B. To hate them is to walk in the darkness with Satan
 - C. To love God we must also love our brothers and sisters
7. Forgiving Our Brothers and Sisters
8. What is a Friend

(Note: For those children who have been regenerated, such as junior highers, Watchman Nee's chapter on friendship should be used instead of the following lessons on friendship. Also lessons on companionship should be used such as from A Word to the Young People by Brother Lee.)

- A. Some one we spend or time with- play games, have fun, do school ork
- B. Someone we can talk to
- C. Someone our own age, someone older (we need both, why?)
- D. In the church, in school, in our neighborhood

9. How to Keep Friends

- A. We must be friendly (Prov. 18:24)
- B. We must be loyal (Prov. 17:17; 27:10)
- C. We must not listen to our repeat gossip (Prov. 16:28; 17:9)
- D. We must share what we have and be helpful

10. How to Choose the Right Friends (Part 1)

- A. Not those who make fun of the Lord Jesus or God's name (Psa. 1:1).
- B. Those whose behavior is proper (don't lie, steal, cheat, fight, curse, etc.)

11. How to Choose the Right Friends (Part 2)

- C. Those whose behavior is evil will damage us (Evil companionship corrupt good morals) (1 Cor. 15:33).
- D. We cannot do the worldly things with our friends (movies, dancing, parties, gambling, etc.) (James 4:4b).

12. Friends of God

- A. God spoke to Moses as a man speaks to his friend (Ex. 3:11)
- B. Abraham fellowshiped with God and believed Him (Gen. 18, James 2:23).
- C. The Lord Jesus wants to be our friend (Jn. 15:13-15).
- D. We must bring our friends to the Lord Jesus (Mk. 5:19) Example: Cornelius called his friends to hear the gospel (Acts 10:24). Application: Bring our friends to children's meeting.

13. Respect Older Ones

14. Honor and Subject to Older Ones

15. Safety and Protection from Abuse

16. Why We Go to School

17. Why We Need Teachers

18. How We Should Behave in School

19. Why We Need Government

20. A Proper Attitude Toward the Government

21. Human Relationships are God's Arrangement for Us

22. All Relationships Have Been Spoiled By Satan

23. God Wants to Restore Proper Relationships

HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS

INTRODUCTION

These lessons are intended for first grade children. They correspond with their practical experiences in life, especially as they become more involved with people outside of their own home and family. These lessons will help mold the children's understanding so that as children, they may know their proper place in this world and how to relate to others in a way that pleases God and harmonizes with His Word.