

## Small Groups – Education and the Bible

By Pastor Richard Braun

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Week \_\_\_\_\_

### Mood Meter

What's happening this week? Let's talk about colors this week. Sometimes we feel colors like red might be hot, or yellow may be cautious. Please tell us what color you feel like and why.

### Opening Prayer

Gracious Father, we come before you with many things on our minds. At times we feel at loose ends, and at other times we feel powerful as if you were sitting in our midst. Today we will talk about education, learning, and what lessons you have given us in your Word regarding education. Fill us with anticipation, clear our minds, and allow us to be attentive to your Word and your Holy Spirit's influence as we share and get to know each other more deeply. Amen.

### Open It

1. What does it mean to be well-educated? Please list an example and why you believe as you do.
2. If you have children, how do you try to educate them? What value do you place on getting them to school each day? How do you try to educate yourself outside the organized school educational process if you don't have children?
3. How do you see education influencing society today? What are we failing to understand regarding the connection or lack thereof between education and culture?
4. Do you understand the concept of levels of learning?
  - a. You don't know what you don't know.
  - b. You know what you don't know.
  - c. You know what you know.
  - e. You don't know what you know.

If you can, give an example of levels of learning that you went through in educating yourself in a particular area. Maybe a sport, a technical subject, politics, or another area in which you are knowledgeable now.

### Scripture to Consider

Paul, the author of the book of Romans, talks about God's "wisdom and knowledge" and how difficult it is to understand. He then says we "need to present our bodies as a living and holy sacrifice" acceptable to God. Our thinking about God needs to be deeper - Paul says it this way in [Romans 12:2](#) "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."<sup>1</sup> The biblical implications here seem straightforward. We mustn't be "of the world" but still be in the world. Perhaps our mind needs to be stretched a little to understand the impact God can have and will have on our lives if we allow that transformation of mind to take place. Gaining God's "wisdom and knowledge" is an essential skill we need to cultivate or learn.

Proverbs is a book of wisdom, often giving wise counsel on many topics. Two examples:

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<sup>1</sup> *The New American Standard Bible*, (La Habra, California: The Lockman Foundation) 1977.

Proverbs 1:8 Hear, my Son, your father's instruction, And do not forsake your mother's teaching;<sup>2</sup>  
Proverbs 15:2 'The wise person makes learning a joy; fools spout only foolishness.'  
Figure out how to make learning a joy, and you can become wise.

Jesus was very active in teaching and educating his disciples and all the people around him; at least 20 passages in Matthew alone deal with Jesus as a teacher. Here is one from Matthew 4:23 And *Jesus* was going about in all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the kingdom's gospel, and healing every kind of disease and sickness among the people.<sup>3</sup> What was Jesus famous or noted for during his ministry - being a teacher?

This passage from Mark 1:29 concerns Jesus and his disciples, "They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. <sup>22</sup>The people were amazed at his teaching because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law."<sup>4</sup> Again, time after time, people talk about Jesus as a wise teacher who taught with authority.

### **Explore It**

1. Paul was the most prolific writer of New Testament letters. The apostle Paul went on two significant missionary journeys where he did much teaching. Paul's writings and exhortations challenge us to transform our minds to understand the will of God. How transformed is your mind so you can feel comfortable as a teacher?
2. Where does a proper attitude toward learning come from in your thinking? How do you encourage parents, teachers, managers, or workers to want to teach what they know to others?
3. Jesus was entirely man, but he was also fully God. If you can, describe how this might have influenced his teaching ability.
4. Education in the United States certainly affects a person's way of life. How did education affect earlier societies before the 21st century? Explain your understanding between education and a person's status in life.

### **Apply It**

1. As far as politics is concerned, how can you take what you learned in this study to understand a candidate's position on education? How much difference do you see in political candidates' positions on education? Explain those differences as you see them.
2. What will you do differently, if anything, in helping your children embrace learning with more gusto? If you don't have children explain how this study has influenced your thinking. Explain why your understanding of education and its importance may not have changed.

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<sup>2</sup> *New American Standard Bible*. 1986; Published in electronic form by Logos Research Systems, 1996 (electronic edition.) (Pr 1:8). La Habra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.

<sup>a</sup> Mark 1:39; Luke 4:14, 44

<sup>b</sup> Matt. 9:35; 13:54; Mark 1:21; 6:2; 10:1; Luke 4:15; 6:6; 13:10; John 6:59; 18:20

<sup>3</sup> *New American Standard Bible*. 1986; Published in electronic form by Logos Research Systems, 1996 (electronic edition.) (Mt 4:23). La Habra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.

<sup>4</sup> *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. 1984 (Mk 1:21). Grand Rapids: Zondervan.

3. Often, when we are in a group situation, we are shy or unwilling to share the difficulties that are going on in our lives today. Please try to be open with everyone and share a praise report in terms of some answer to prayer or let the group know about some trouble or challenge that pushes you a little to the edge when it comes to learning.

**Closing Prayer**

Almighty God, you have shown us the truth, allowed us to see perhaps a new side of a friend, or given us new resolve to move forward in what could be a challenging learning experience. Learning doesn't stop when we leave school. It's only the beginning of a new phase of knowledge which is often more difficult than school because it's less organized. Plus, it's not delivered by a teacher but by living life itself most of the time. Grant us wisdom, a desire to learn, and continue to open our hearts regarding your Word. Transform my mind so that I might take on the mind of Christ. I pray this in Jesus' name, the Son of the most high God, who is now and forever. Amen.