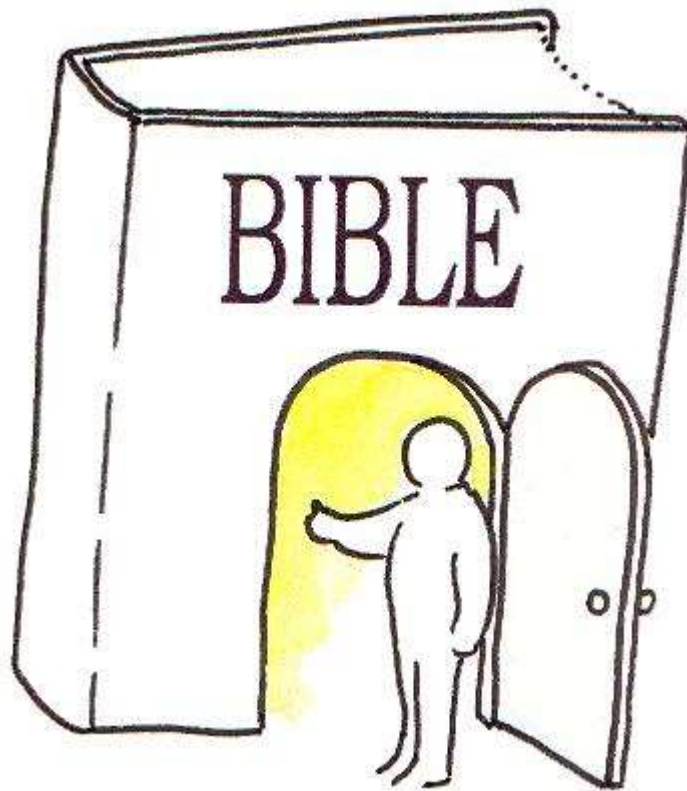


National Youth Department 2024-2025 Church Year Lesson Outlines



Prepared by:
Jana Coleman
Christopher Jenkins
Sterling Reese
David Johnson, Jr
Chazare Riley

- December 2024 -
Revision 0

Table of Contents

1. Lesson Title: “Not Always Young”	4
A. Objective:	4
B. Lesson.....	4
1. Youth should make the most of their time while they are young.....	4
2. Youth should form good habits now that will follow them into adulthood.....	4
3. Encourage youth to form and cultivate good relationships now	4
4. Youth is a blessing that should be enjoyed – no need rushing to be an adult!	5
5. While youth will not always be young, they are not too young to know who Jesus is and make a difference in their church.....	5
6. Build a Strong Foundation in Your Youth by being Nurtured by the Word of God	5
7. You will Reap in Your Adult Life what you Sow in Your Youth	5
8. Redeeming the time of Your Youth so That You Will Not have Regrets	5
C. Conclusion:.....	5
2. Lesson Title: “Come Taste and See that the Lord is Good! Drawing Others to God”.....	7
A. Scripture Text:.....	7
B. Focus Verses:	7
C. Objective:	7
D. Lesson:	7
1. Called to Make the World Spiritually Palatable	7
2. Being Seasoned with Salt Makes Us Acceptable to God.....	7
3. Remaining “Salty” By Being Sanctified and Holy to God.....	8
4. Called to Help the World See Spiritually	8
5. Shining in the World for the Glory of God	8
6. Standing Out As Different	9
E. Conclusion	9
3. Lesson Title: “Planning for the Future”	10
A. Scripture Text:.....	10
B. Objective:	10
C. Lesson:	10
1. Point #1: Begin with the End in Mind	10
2. Point #2: Submit Our Plan to the Lord	10

- 3. Point #3: Fill the Gap 11
- 4. Point #4: Filter Through the Word 12
- 4. Your Responsibilities to your aging parents 13
 - A. Scripture Text: 13
 - B. Thesis Statement: 13
 - C. Lesson: 13
 - 1. How does God view honor..... 13
 - 2. Our personal responsibility to our aging parents. 13
 - D. Conclusion:..... 14
 - E. Additional Suggestions to add to lesson: 14
- 5. The Importance of Education 16
 - A. Scripture Text:..... 16
 - B. Focus Verse: 16
 - C. Objective: 16
 - D. Lesson..... 16
 - 1. What is the Definition of Education? 16
 - 2. What is the Purpose of Education?..... 16
 - 3. Other important things to remember about education..... 17

1. Lesson Title: “Not Always Young”

Prepared by: Jana Coleman

A. Objective:

The purpose of this lesson is to:

- Admonish the youth to make the most of their time while they are young
- Show youth the importance of forming good habits now that will follow them into adulthood
- Encourage youth to form and cultivate good relationships now
- Demonstrate the blessings of enjoying their youth and not rushing into adulthood
- Show youth they are not too young to understand Jesus and make a difference in their church, community, and school
- Stress the importance of taking care of their health beginning at a young age
- Show that the foundation of our lives is laid when we are young. Therefore, we must spend this time creating the best foundation that we can because we will not always be young and have time to work on it
- Show that the things we do as a youth may seem to be insignificant now, but it will have a large impact on your lives when you are no long a youth

B. Lesson

1. Youth should make the most of their time while they are young

- When you are young you have fewer responsibilities
- Time should be invested by a young person to develop themselves spiritually, intellectually, physically, and emotionally
- Proverbs 20:29 - Youth should use their strength to the benefit of themselves and others

2. Youth should form good habits now that will follow them into adulthood

- When investing in themselves, youth should follow the example of the good steward in Luke 19
- Teach youth that they will reap what they sow, so they should sow good seeds now (Galatians 6:7-9, II Corinthians 9:6)
- Decisions and habits made now will follow them into adulthood (Proverbs 4:5)
- Examples of good habits youth should focus on:
 - Reading their bible
 - Praying
 - Giving to God (time and money)
 - Giving to others
 - Saving money
 - Etc.

3. Encourage youth to form and cultivate good relationships now

- Young people should seek God early and start forming a relationship with the best friend they will ever have
- Youth need to have a healthy relationship with their parents and other adults
- Young people should have good friends that will not corrupt their good manners (I Corinthians 15:33)
- Psalm 101 can be used to describe the qualities of good and bad friends/relationships

4. Youth is a blessing that should be enjoyed – no need rushing to be an adult!

- The Bible says a young person should rejoice in their youth (Ecclesiastes 11:9)
- Youth can enjoy their youth and be holy
- Help youth understand that God has a plan for their life, so they should seek God for his guidance instead of rushing to make their own plans (Jeremiah 29:11)
- Redeem the time now in your youth while you have the energy and the time

5. While youth will not always be young, they are not too young to know who Jesus is and make a difference in their church

- First, ask youth how they feel they can contribute in their church
- Ask youth, what can they contribute to their community and school
- Encourage youth to ask questions about Jesus and their church – they are not too young to understand

6. Build a Strong Foundation in Your Youth by being Nurtured by the Word of God

- We are blessed if we hunger and thirst for righteousness – Matthew 5:6
- Desire the Word so that you can grow by it – I Peter 2:2
- Jesus showing interest at a young age and being about the business of God – Luke 2:40-42; 46-49
- Joseph – Grew strong from being righteous as a young and using the gifts that God gave him as a youth. People saw the Spirit of God in him and making him a Leader – Genesis 41:38-40
- Samuel growing strong as a youth and growing in favor – Samuel – I Samuel 2:18; 26; 3:19-20

7. You will Reap in Your Adult Life what you Sow in Your Youth

- We will be judged for the things that we do in our Youth so we should remove the evil from us - Eccl 11:9-10
- Beware of things, people, and places that can Corrupt us as youth and have much bigger consequences as an adult
- Be aware of the Environments and People you are around as a youth. These things can influence you to do wrong as a youth and the fun that you are having as a youth can create roadblock as an Adult - Evil Communication Corrupts Good Manners – I Cor 15:33
- Our health as a youth can affect our health as an Adult

8. Redeeming the time of Your Youth so That You Will Not have Regrets

- Remembering the Lord in the Days of Your Youth – Eccl 12:1
- Redeeming Time in School knowing that it opens doors to future job and quality of life opportunities
- Daniel and the three Hebrew Boys studying as a youth opened doors for him – Daniel 1:3-4; 17-20; 2:47-49

C. Conclusion:

- Youth is a great blessing – a time to develop many lasting connections, habits, and memories.
- Youth should cherish this time in their lives to learn about themselves, their world, and most importantly, their God.

- Youth should understand that decisions they make in their youth, whether good or bad, will follow them into adulthood.
- Youth should follow God's lead for their life.

2. Lesson Title: “Come Taste and See that the Lord is Good! Drawing Others to God”

Prepared by: Christopher Jenkins

A. Scripture Text:

Matthew 5:13-16; Psalm 34:8

B. Focus Verses:

Matthew 5:13; 16

C. Objective:

- To discuss Matthew 5:13-16 and explain how God has called us to make the world better and stand out so that others will be drawn to do the will of God.

D. Lesson:

1. Called to Make the World Spiritually Palatable

- Jesus talks about the importance of the savor or flavor of Salt.
- Salt as a seasoning was valuable. It enhances the attributes of food and makes it taste better - Job 6:6
- Salt is a seasoning that has a larger impact on food than any other ingredient and it enhances the natural flavors of food
- Salt not only makes food taste salty but it can balance sweetness and suppress other flavors like bitterness
- Salt can also enhance the smell of food which enhances the taste of food
- Salt can motivate people to crave food and to eat and drink more
- As children of God, we should be the ingredient that makes everything in the world better
- Our current world as many “distasteful” things in it that goes against the will of God. We enhance the goodness and joy in the world and we suppress the bitterness and evil in the world
- The salt in us are the attributes of godliness and holiness
- We should motivate people to have a hunger and thirst for righteousness and spiritual food
- We should let our speech be “seasoned with salt” so that it will bring grace to the hearer – Col 4:6

2. Being Seasoned with Salt Makes Us Acceptable to God

- Romans 12:1 state that we are to present our bodies as a “living sacrifice” and that we should be “acceptable” to God. Every sacrifice offered to God had to be seasoned with salt (Lev 2:13). Jesus made reference to this in Mark 9:49-50. We must have “salt” in our lives which is influencing the World to be better and come to God.
- Our whole duty or purpose is to serve God and keep His commandments – Eccl 12:13. If we can’t do this, we have lost our savor or purpose in the world.
- If salt has no flavor or influence, it is good for nothing and will be casted out from the presence of God – Luke 14:34-35

3. Remaining “Salty” By Being Sanctified and Holy to God

- As a child of God, God has given us the ability and purpose to influence the World. However, we can lose this ability by being corrupted by the world.
- We must understand that the world and the evil in it can corrupt us – I Cor 15:33
- Because God is Holy and “set apart” from anything or anyone that is not Holy, We have to be Holy to be in His Presence - I Peter 1:15-16; Hebrews 12:14
- Sanctify means – to set apart as or declare holy; to make something or someone holy
- There is a process or steps you take to be anything in life and sanctification is the process of becoming Holy
- Sanctification makes us salty and we can do the following to sanctify ourselves:
 - Daily Prayers
 - Daily Scripture reading
 - Dedicate Time for the Service of the Lord
 - Fasting
 - Learning of God by attending Church services, Sunday School, and meetings
 - Obeying the word of God – John 17:17
 - Keeping ourselves uncontaminated by the world
- Once you are Sanctified, you are Holy or **dedicated** to God
- Before We are Born, God Called Us to be Dedicated to Him and to Do His Will - Jeremiah 1:5
- We must not conform to the world because if we do, we will not be able to do the will of God. Instead, we must continually renew our minds so that we can do the will of God – Romans 12:2

4. Called to Help the World See Spiritually

- Light allows us to see and observe the world around us
- Light helps us to identify things, identify people, see dangers, see the path that we should take, communicate, and enjoy the things around us
- Without light, our eyes would be useless and we would be blind...seeing nothing
- God has called us to be spiritual lights to the world so that the world can be saved
- Our light helps the world see what is good and evil and what is acceptable to God.
- Our light shows the stumbling blocks in life and the path to righteousness
- We are call to help open the spiritual eyes of the blind to show them how God can deliver them from a world of sinful darkness, spiritual suffering and spiritual death into His light of peace and joy.

5. Shining in the World for the Glory of God

- God is light and people should be able to see God in us – I John 1:5
- We shine in the world by doing good works – Matthew 5:16
- Our light should draw others to God –
- Paul and Barnabas were sent to be a light to Gentiles that they may have salvation. When the Gentiles heard this, they glorified the word of the Lord. Acts 13:46-48

6. Standing Out As Different

- As the light of the world, we cannot be hidden and we must be seen of people
- We are a peculiar or different from what is normal and expected. We are called out of darkness into the light – I Peter 2:9
- We are not to walk as other people in the world – Eph 4:17
- We cannot be ashamed to stand out for God and the Gospel – Mark 8:38; Romans 1:16
- We cannot be surprised if the path that we are on is not the “popular” path. We are different and our path or way of life is “narrow” and not the “popular” way. For narrow is the way that leads to life and few shall find it. But, broad is the path that leads to destruction and many shall follow that path. Matthew 7:13-14
- We should not hide our light or be sad if people make fun of us because of it. For we are blessed when we are persecuted for righteousness sake and we should rejoice and be exceedingly glad for great shall be our reward in heaven. Matthew 5:10-12

E. Conclusion

- God has called us to make the world better with our presence and godliness.
- The godliness or saltiness that we have makes us acceptable to God
- If we lose our saltiness, we are not fulfilling our purpose and we are good for nothing in the sight of God
- We must be aware of things that cause us to lose our effectiveness as salt and we must remain effective by sanctifying ourselves daily
- God has called us to be a spiritual light to the world to help save them from darkness
- We must not hide our light or be ashamed of it
- We must use our light of good works to bring others to God
- Although there are many distasteful things in the world, our job as Children of God is to show and invite others to taste and see that the Lord is Good!!

3. Lesson Title: “Planning for the Future”

Prepared by: Sterling Reese

A. Scripture Text:

Ecclesiastes 11:1-2, 6; Proverbs 16:3, 9; Luke 14:28-30; Proverbs 3:5-6; 2 Kings 13:14-17; Proverbs 11:4; 1 Corinthians 13:11; Luke 7:35

B. Objective:

If it is the Lord’s will, our futures on this earth are inevitable. Thus, we must be proactive in planning what we want our future to look like and include God within said plans.

C. Lesson:

1. Point #1: Begin with the End in Mind

A principle of planning is presented by Jesus in Luke 14:28-30

- We should plan with the end goal in mind (i.e. “counting the cost”)
- This applies naturally and spiritually.
 - o What do I want my family to look like?
 - What will be our core values?
 - How do I want to show up in my future family?
 - o What kind of lifestyle do I want to live?
 - What kind of job do I desire?
 - What are the habits of people who currently live the lifestyle I desire?
 - Health habits?
 - Financial habits?
 - o What do I want my walk with God to be?
 - Do I want the kind of faith that keeps me from worrying?
 - Do I want the kind of faith that provides true peace?
- The goal of these questions should lead us to examine if our current habits are what will lead us into the future we envision.
- God always plans with our end in mind.

2. Point #2: Submit Our Plan to the Lord

For any plan to truly succeed, it must be in the will of God.

- Our only choice is to either participate in or oppose God’s will.
 - o He will use either for His purposes.
- Proverbs 16:3
 - o We commit our plans to God through prayer and wise counsel.
 - o 2 Kings 13:14-17 provides a brief example of the results of seeking godly counsel.
 - Jehoash sought the assistance of Elisha even to the point that he trusted his hand on his own hand.
 - Jehoash achieved success but would have achieved even greater success had he fully trusted in what God spoke through Elisha.

- Proverbs 16:9
 - No matter how detailed or thorough our plan may be, God will always have the final say in how the course is done.
 - Proverbs 3:5-6 is further advice to trust in God completely.
 - Notice verse 6 makes no mention of us knowing that the “path” but simply that He directs it.
- This step is practically:
 - Lord:
 - Where do you want me to work?
 - Where should I live?
 - Who should I marry?
 - Where should I go to school?
 - We naturally have our own answers or preferences for each of these questions but God’s choice on these is infinitely more beneficial for us to experience.
 - What He has prepared from eternity will always be better than what I can prepare in the present.

3. Point #3: Fill the Gap

There is an inherent gap between “here” and “there”. What lies within this gap is far more than time. In this gap is the need for knowledge, maturity, and strength.

Knowledge:

- To properly manage finances, we must learn what it means to be a good steward in our culture:
 - Learn about different investing opportunities:
 - 401k
 - Roth IRA
 - HSA
 - CDs
 - Stocks and Bonds
 - The stock market
 - Learn how to obtain multiple streams of income if possible:
 - Real Estate investing
 - Entrepreneurship
 - Learn how our income relates to our society:
 - Taxes
 - Tax benefits and available deductions
 - Learn wise money habits:
 - Zero-based budgeting
 - High-yield savings account
 - Emergency fund

- Each of these are biblical principles:
 - o Ecclesiastes 11:1-2,6
 - This passage relates to wise financial practices
 - Verse 1: Investing
 - Verse 2: Emergency fund
 - Verse 6: Diversification of income
- If there is a job we desire, learn what the position requires:
 - o Trade school certification
 - o 2-year degree
 - o 4-year degree
 - o Graduate degree
 - o Books from individuals in those fields

Maturity:

- 1 Corinthians 13:11
 - o Paul shows us here that adults are distinguished from children through their speech, their understanding, and their thoughts. (Brief example for each)
 - Speech:
 - What do I talk about?
 - Understanding:
 - How do I process information?
 - Thought:
 - What am I thinking about during the day?

Strength:

- Learn to be okay with failing.
 - o Failures are steps on the path to successes
- Learn how to have difficult conversations
- Learn how to apologize when wrong

4. Point #4: Filter Through the Word

- As we plan properly and submit said plans to God, we must then walk in faith as God directs us
- How do we know if a particular event or outcome along the path is of God?
 - o Most of the time we won't know.
 - o We must instead rely upon what God has promised to those who continually seek to live in obedience to Him.
 - Requires knowledge of His Word and thus His principles
 - Read the bible daily
 - Take notes during messages
 - o Wise living is proven by the results
 - Luke 7:35

4. Your Responsibilities to your aging parents

Prepared by: David Johnson

A. Scripture Text:

Exodus 20:12 Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

B. Thesis Statement:

Honoring parents is something God both commands and rewards. This blessing was originally given to Israel, but the application of this blessing upon those who honor their parents clearly extends to believers today.

- Our parents are gifts from God that we don't have the liberty to choose. As we honor our parents we both honor God and keep his commandment.
- Honor for our parents is not limited to age or status but we must continue to do so as long as they live.
- The book of Ephesians tells us that honoring our parents is the first commandment with promise. And that promise is attached to having a well and long life.

C. Lesson:

1. How does God view honor

- The word honor means to demonstrate high respect or great esteem for someone.
- By honoring another you are saying you see great value in them
- Our parents should always be seen as valuable in our lives even when they grow old.
- Proverbs 14:31 esv states Whoever oppresses a poor man insults his Maker, but he who is generous to the needy honors him
- As our parents grow older they become more needy and dependent. By putting our own agenda to the side and helping them we show honor not just to them but also to God.
- God don't want us to get so high that we forget to honor where we came from.

2. Our personal responsibility to our aging parents.

- Elderly parents can be seen as burdens rather than blessings. Sometimes we are quick to forget the sacrifices our parents made for us when they are in need of care themselves. We must remember that the same love that God allowed them to pour into us, we must pour that same love back into them
- When we honor and care for our parents, we are serving God as well. The Bible says, and I paraphrase, "The church should care for any widow who has no one else to care for her. But if she has children or grandchildren, their first responsibility is to show godliness at home and repay their parents by taking care of them. This is something that pleases God very much....But those who won't care for their own relatives, especially those living in the same household, have denied what we believe. Such people are worse than unbelievers" 1st Timothy 5 3-4,8
- Jesus Christ himself said we are his disciples by the love we show one to another. What greater way to display the love of Christ than through loving on and caring for the ones that first loved you?

- Not all elderly people want to live in their children’s homes. They may prefer to live in a community with other people their age, or they may be quite capable independence. Regardless of the circumstances, we still have obligations to our parents. If they are in need of financial assistance, we should help them. If they are sick, we should take care of them. If they need a place to stay, we should offer our home. If they need help with household and/or yard work, we should step up to assist. And if they are under the care of a nursing facility, we need to assess the living conditions to make sure our parents are being properly and lovingly cared for.

D. Conclusion:

We should never allow the cares of the world to overshadow the things that are most important serving God through serving people, especially the people in our own families

E. Additional Suggestions to add to lesson:

Additional Suggested from Christopher Jenkins:

SCRIPTURE TEXT:

Exodus 20:12; Ephesians 6:1-3; Matthew 15:4-6

OBJECTIVE:

- To show that it is our responsibility to honor our parents and obey their godly training in order to be successful in life
- To show that honoring our parents doesn’t stop when we become adults but extends throughout our parent’s lifetime as they grow old
- To show ways that we honor our parents now and as they grow older

What does “Honor” mean?

- Honor means – to regard or treat with high respect; to give special recognition to

How do we Show Honor?

- Being Respectful even when you disagree
- Being Thankful
- Obeying and working hard to fulfil their request
- Treating them special and showing them that you care
- Having good manners and behaving good towards them
- Not arguing and raising our voice at them
- By not bringing Shame to them
- Developing a Positive Attitude towards them
- Listening and paying Attention to them
- Not Making Fun of them or Making Hurtful Remarks
- Give Them Gifts

What are Our Responsibilities Towards Our Parents?

- Yield and Submit to our Parents because it is their responsibility to train us and we are to obey their rule over us - Hebrews 13:17
 - Train up their children in the Word of God – Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Proverbs 22:6
 - Correct their children if they do wrong – Proverbs 29:17

- How? Proverbs 13:24, 22:15; 29:15
 - Not to be unfair to their children and cause them to sin – Colossians 3:21; Ephesians 6:4
 - Provide for their children – II Corinthians 12:14; I Timothy 5:8
- To hear and keep their instructions – Proverbs 1:8-9; 6:20; 23:22
- Obey your Parents – Colossians 3:20
- Honor our Parents so it will be well with us – Deuteronomy 5:16
- Obey and Honor our Parents because it is the first commandment with Promise – Ephesians 6:1-3

Consequences of Not Honoring our Parents

- Honoring Parents is the “Fifth” of the “Ten Commandments” Exodus 20:12 and it has a Promise - Ephesians 6:2
 - What was the covenant and who was it with?
 - Conditional or Unconditional?
 - What can we learn from this?
- Old Testament Punishment for breaking the Covenant – Exodus 21:15; 17
 - Being stubborn and rebellious – Deuteronomy 21:18-21
- New Testament Reminder – Romans 1:30; 32

Obeying the Commandments by Continuing to Honor Our Parents as they Grow Old

- Jesus’ rebuke of adults breaking the commandment by saying that they are free from honoring their parents by being unprofitable to their parents - It is our responsibility and a commandment of God to care for our parents and be profitable to them even as they grow old...**we can’t be excused of this duty** - Matthew 15:4-6; Mark 7:9-13
- Honoring our parents by being profitable or beneficial to them as they grow older
- What are ways that we be beneficial to our parents as they grow old?
 - **Protection** - Children are an heritage of the Lord and gave to parents to make them strong protected – Psalm 127:3-5
 - **Aid, Provider if need, and Company** – Ruth and Naomi...Ruth followed Naomi after the death of Naomi’s husband and sons. Ruth help Naomi and provided food for her by working – Ruth 1:18; 2:11
 - Assistance
 - Caregiver

5. The Importance of Education

Prepared by: Chazare Riley

A. Scripture Text:

Proverbs 1:1-9; 8:10-11; 33-36; 20:15;

B. Focus Verse:

Proverbs 1:5

C. Objective:

- To show how secular education and careers enhances and benefits both our natural and spiritual lives

D. Lesson

Begin with an anecdote or ice breaker emphasizing the importance of education.

1. What is the Definition of Education?

Definition of Education:

- the act or process of imparting or acquiring general knowledge, developing the powers of reasoning and judgment, and generally of preparing oneself or others intellectually for mature life.
- The act or process of imparting or acquiring particular knowledge or skills, as for a profession or career.
- information about or training in a particular field or subject
- the process of receiving systematic instruction

2. What is the Purpose of Education?

- Education gives us the knowledge and skills to operate and navigate in the world and Church
- The world is enhanced and made better through the right applications of education
 - Inventions
 - Improvements in medicine and healthcare
 - Understanding the world around us
 - etc.
- What are some basic skills that we need that education gives us?
 - Reading
 - Math
 - Health and safety
 - Good Reasoning and Good Judgment
- Education is also used in the church for:
 - Reading
 - Finances and Accounting
 - Building Projects
- Education makes us wise and gives us life – Ecc 7:12
- Education is a requirement for us to advance in certain areas – Daniel 1:3-4
- Education helps us to get and maintain natural blessing and increases our strength – Proverbs 24:3-4

- Education prepares to have a career so that we can earn money

3. Other important things to remember about education...

- What we learn will last forever and no one can take it from us
- Educate yourself on yourself
- Education is a lifelong process
- You will never know it all
- Proverb 3:5-6

End with time for questions and comments.