

Handout: The Garden of the Heart

Alternate Title: The Divine Harvest: Education as Redemption

Scripture Reading: Proverbs 4:13

Opening Hymn: SDAH #308

Closing Hymn: SDAH #193

For Reflection

“In the highest sense the work of education and the work of redemption are one, for in education, as in redemption, ‘other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.’ ‘It was the good pleasure of the Father that in Him should all the fullness dwell.’ — 1 Corinthians 3:11; Colossians 1:19, R.V.

Education, p. 30

- True education aligns with God’s plan, as in the Eden school.
 - Teachers are co-workers with Christ when they guide students toward Him.
 - Principles of education are eternal, based on the character of God.
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Introduction: Learning from the Master Teacher

- Jesus spent three years teaching His twelve disciples. At the cross, they had not fully understood His message.
- Humanly, it may seem wasted effort—but Jesus looked to **long-term transformation**, not immediate results.
- Christian education works similarly: we often cannot see the full impact of our labor in short-term outcomes.

“All the perplexities of life’s experience will then be made plain... Parents and teachers lie down in their last sleep, their lifework seeming to have been wrought in vain; they know not that their faithfulness has unsealed springs of blessing that can never cease to flow; only by faith they see the children they have trained become a benediction and an inspiration to their fellow men, and the influence repeat itself a thousandfold.”

Education, pp. 305–306

- The same idea above is echoed in many other Christian authors

Prayer for guidance in teaching and learning

Goal of Education and Redemption

Key Scriptures:

- 2 Corinthians 3:18 — Transformation into Christ's image
- Ephesians 4:13–15 — Unity in faith, spiritual maturity, growth in Christ

Main Point:

- Education and redemption are inseparable. Both aim to **restore God's image in humanity**.

Holistic Salvation

- Salvation is **whole-life transformation**: spirit, soul, body, and mind.
- God desires well-being here and now, not only in eternity.
- John 10:10 — Jesus gives abundant life today.
- 3 John 1:3; 1 Thessalonians 5:23 — Spiritual growth impacts all aspects of life.

Discipleship: Learning and Teaching

- Matthew 28:19–20 — “Make disciples... teaching them to obey all I have commanded.”
- Disciple = learner and follower; education is relational and practical.
- **Lifelong cycle**: Receive instruction → Apply it → Teach others.

Example: Mentorship in daily life can impact spiritual and professional growth.

“Every true disciple is born into the kingdom of God as a missionary... The receiver becomes a giver.”

The Desire of Ages, p. 195

Discussion Question:

- How are you mentoring or discipling someone today, spiritually and personally?

The Role of the Home, Church, and School

- **Home**: First school and first church. Parents are primary educators (Deut. 6:4–9).
- **Church**: Reinforces God's teachings and nurtures faith in community.
- **Adventist Schools**: Extend the work of education, providing a Christ-centered environment.

The eternal interest should be the great matter of concern to teachers and students... The object of the Great Teacher is the restoration of the divine image in the soul... There is no half-service in pure, undefiled religion.

Key Idea: The threefold cord (home, school, church) strengthens children to grow into faithful servants of God.

Practical Steps for Everyone

Parents: Dedicate your children to God, guide their hearts, teach His ways.

Teachers: Sanctify your work, focusing on students' spiritual restoration.

Church Leaders: Partner with families and schools to nurture Christ-centered growth.

All Believers: Be a disciple-maker. Guide, mentor, and teach someone today.

Discussion Question:

- In what ways can you participate in God's work of redemption through teaching or mentoring today?

Conclusion

- Education is **redemption in action**.
- Learning from Jesus and teaching others is our sacred calling.
- Every act of guidance plants seeds that will bear **eternal fruit**.
- Trust God for the unseen results, and recommit to nurturing minds, hearts, and souls for Christ.

Christian education is inseparable from God's work of salvation. Let us work together in the home, church, and school to guide children and youth to Christ.