



Love is Lesson One

It has been simply yet wisely stated, “The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing.”

When it comes to teaching children, *education* of itself is actually not “the main thing,” though it is an incredibly powerful context for demonstrating it. Neither is *success* the main thing, nor *happiness*. Even teaching *religious faithfulness* and *personal spiritual devotion* fall short in their qualifications.

In Matthew 22:34-40, when the expert in the law asked Jesus which commandment was the greatest, Jesus answered with Deuteronomy 6:5 which says, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.”

Jesus made it clear that the greatest commandment of all was that we *love God*. He then identified the next greatest command, inseparable from the first: that we *love one another* as we love ourselves. The one who loves demonstrates that he knows God. *God is love*; so, when true love is present, God lives in the middle of it, and His love covers a multitude of sins. If love is not present, then even if a person speaks with angelic tongues, understands all of life’s mysteries, has faith to move mountains, gives away all he has to the poor, and offers himself up to suffer a martyr’s death, it will all add up to a big fat *zero* on his final exam! (1 John 4:7-8, 11-12; 1 Pet 4:8; 1 Cor 13:1-3)

Loving God is the main thing. Through it, even the most devastating loss can be turned into something profitable. Apart from it, even the most incredible gain is headed for bankruptcy. *Loving God* is Lesson One. In fact, immediately after God gives us the Great Command, he instructs the teaching of it as top priority. “And these words ... shall be on your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your children and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.” (Deut 6:6-7)

What an all-encompassing exhortation! For children to grasp “the main thing,” they need far more than just information about it through lectures, reading books, or writing papers. True love is beyond comprehension! Children may learn *about* loving God through certain well-directed activities, but to learn love *itself*, they need more. They need experiences. Love is caught more than taught. Children learn to love by *being* loved. Even if they are not fortunate enough to have parents who love God, their lives can be powerfully transformed the moment they awaken to the awareness that they are, right now, being loved by a Heavenly Father who is actively pursuing a real and living relationship with them. How much more, then, will children learn to love God when their parents purpose to keep the main thing the main thing in their homes every day?

This is why your University-Model School® exists: to give you more time to teach Lesson One to your children in the way God intended, in the safety of a daily relationship with you. Learn as much practical information as you can through this training module, but stay focused on what it is all about. This is not just “schooling.” This is about loving God with all your heart and investing that love into the treasure chest of your children’s memories. As you do, rest assured that your Father in heaven is faithful to empower what He has purposed. Every step of your obedience to Him will be met with His enabling grace. Now go with joy into your life’s greatest work!