

Homeheading 1 of 13

#0792

Study given by W.D. Frazee

In this class we're studying what we call the home training plan: the utilization of homes for the training of students. This involves, of course, a study of homes in general, the work of parents, and the relation of parents and children, teachers and students.

But those are vast subjects, and in these few classes we'll not attempt to cover all that. Rather we will focus on the plan of training students as members of the home instead of in large dormitories or instead of their simply occupying rooms somewhere and coming to class.

In our work here, the training home, as we speak of it, is basic to our total plan. Nearly all our students who go through our training at Wildwood have the advantage of participation in this plan.

I thought this afternoon it would be interesting to us to see why we use this plan. There's always a reason, or should always be a reason for doing anything, shouldn't there? This plan is not a plan that somebody thought up. It is not peculiar to Wildwood. It didn't originate here. This plan is as old as the world.

And when I say that, let me hasten to add that there are many adaptations and applications of the plan. And we don't pretend that the particular pattern that is followed at Wildwood is the only one. But, we simply say that the way we're seeking to do it at Wildwood is one adaptation, one application of a great plan that God has had from the beginning.

In Ministry of Healing, one sentence:

"He who made us ordained that we should be associated in families" Ministry of Healing, page 203.

Who is that, the One that made us? God and He ordained, that is He arranged, He planned, He purposed that we should be associated in what? In families. This is His plan, the family plan. So it originated with God.

Now if you will turn in the book Education (a number of you brought that book with you and I would invite you to bring that book from time to time to the class), the very first sentence in this chapter:

"The system of education established in Eden centered in the family" Education, page 33.

Now, when we think of Eden, we think of what part of the history of the world? The beginning. This is the beginning. This is the pattern. Was Eden a school? Yes, and the system of education established in Eden centered not in a classroom, not in a building, not in some big assembly. But it centered where? In the family.

“The system of education established in Eden centered in the family. Adam was ‘the son of God’ (Luke 3:38), and it was from their Father that the children of the Highest received instruction. Theirs, in a sense, was a family school” Ibid.

Who were the students in that school? Adam and Eve. Who was the teacher? God. Now when you turn to the third chapter of Luke, you find a very interesting statement. This is tracing the genealogy of Jesus back through the various generations, on back through David and Abraham and Noah, and finally it comes to Adam. And whereas it speaks of Seth as the son of Adam, notice the last line of this third chapter of Luke, when it has traced the human line back through, as I say, David, and Abraham, and Noah, and finally back to Seth, it says:

“...which was the son of Adam [And what is the next line?] which was the son of God” Luke 3:38.

Adam was God’s son, and God had a family school in Eden. Adam and Eve were the first parents, so that was the first training home.

Dear homeheads, and those who are in training for this line of ministry, what greater inspiration could we have, you and I, than to be following in the footsteps of God in seeking to share with others that which heaven has shared with us?

Now, back to *Education* page 33: First, before we leave the Garden of Eden let’s go to page 21 of *Education*. Notice something about this garden school, this Garden of Eden. We’ll begin with page 20, first paragraph:

“The system of education instituted at the beginning of the world was to be [What?] a model...” *Education*, page 20.

It is to be a what? A model. What is a model? Yes, something, in this case, to pattern after.

“The system of education instituted at the beginning of the world was to be a model for man throughout all aftertime” Ibid.

So today the Garden of Eden is speaking to us after 6,000 years, telling us how to carry on a family school.

“The system of education instituted at the beginning of the world was to be a model for man throughout all

aftertime. As an illustration of its principles a model school was established in Eden, the home of our first parents. The Garden of Eden was the schoolroom, nature was the lesson book, the Creator Himself was the instructor, and the parents of the human family were the students" Ibid.

So here we see that in God's plan the home is a place to live and learn. That's what a training home is. It's a place to live and learn, not simply to live, not simply to reside, certainly not just to board. One of the saddest travesties I can think of is a training home degenerating into just a boarding house, a rooming house, a place where students sleep and eat. In fact, if that were to be the experience, I'd rather put them in big dormitories. No. A home is a place to live, not simply to board and living includes a great many activities, a place to live and learn.

Eden is called a what? What does the Bible speak of as Eden? What's it called? A garden, the Garden of Eden. Now, this is not accidental. God put the first training home in a what? In a garden. Isn't it a wonderful thing that we can approximate that location; that we can seek to get as close to it as possible? And a garden is a place to work and learn. So in the garden home we live and learn, we work and learn.

Now, what does it say was the lesson book in this training school home? Nature. Is that what it says there? Yes, nature was the lesson book. And what a beautiful lesson book it is. Every page is illustrated, pictures on every page. Students like that, don't they? Yes, and teachers do to. And may I say right here at the beginning in our first class, you and I are challenged to find in the nature around us something more than merely some parsley on a plate to garnish a dish. We are to find in it a lesson book. That's what we are to find.

The book Christ's Object Lessons is a wonderful help in this. The early part of that book is filled with precious lessons from nature. And of course, these are to stimulate our minds to find still other lessons.

This book Education has some wonderful lessons from nature. Starting on page 113 and running over to 120, we have a whole chapter dealing with various lessons that may be drawn from nature. And some of the chapters that precede it are full of lessons.

So the Garden of Eden, as the object lesson of the home training plan, is located where? (Now this is a class and you can help me by answering.) In a garden, thank you. That is right. This school, this home is located in a garden, and the garden furnished a place to learn. What else does the garden furnish? A place to work; a place to work, a place to learn. And, I may add, a place to enjoy. And in Eden there was nothing but a blend of this. After sin came in labor was attended with weariness. And this is all a part of God's blessing and plan for us today. But in the original garden every moment was a delightful one.

Let's turn to Education, page 33, again. We'll notice that first paragraph:

“The system of education established in Eden centered in the family. Adam was ‘the son of God,’ and it was from their Father that the children of the Highest received instruction. Theirs, in the truest sense, was a family school. “In the divine plan of education as adapted to man’s condition after the Fall, Christ stands as the representative of the Father, the connecting link between God and man; He is the great teacher of mankind. And He ordained that men and women would be [What?] His representatives. The family was the school, and the parents were the teachers” Education, page 33.

Let’s think of this little individual family, the father and mother and their children. The father and mother are what with reference to God? His representatives. Isn’t it a wonderful thing, dear fathers and mothers, that every bit of authority you exercise is the authority of God? When you smile, the child is to get the reflection of the smile of God. When you are firm, the child is to get the picture of the strength and authority of God.

What about when you scold? Or is that something else? How often are we to scold? The prophet uses the word, “N-E-V-E-R.” And as a friend of mine says, “That is not very often.” Firmness? Yes. Sternness, even at times displeasure? Yes; but scolding? No. Irritation? No.

All this is on the basic principle that leaders in the home, whether parents with their children or teachers with their students, are the representatives of Whom? The representatives of God. This is the only way the little child knows God, through the father and mother.

And if you are homeheading very long, students will come into your home as a part of your household that do not know God. And the way they will get acquainted with God is by getting acquainted with you. What a privilege, but what an awesome responsibility. We might flee from it because we think, “Who is sufficient for these things.” But I want to tell you something, dear friends, if God has called you to that responsibility, and if He hasn’t don’t ever take it, but if He has, don’t run away from it. Jonah tried to run away from a divine call, and you know where he landed. And he had a little prayer meeting down in that big stomach and got back on the path of duty.

Now, as I say, never accept the homeheading responsibility of either your own children or anybody else’s, students young or old, unless you know that God has called you. If He has, then you are the representative of God, and He has promised to be with you.

Turn please to Matthew 28:18-20:

“...Jesus came and spoke unto them, saying, All power [All authority] is given unto me in heaven and in earth

[What's the next word?] Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you [And now the last part] and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world" Matthew 28:19-20.

Is He with you as you wake in the morning to help you plan the day? Is He with you as you gather your group in family worship? Is He with you at the meal table to guide in the conversation, to make it helpful and productive? Is He with you as you meet the emergencies as well as the routine problems of the day? Is He? Isn't that wonderful? Jesus and you are a team, teaching, teaching, teaching.

"Oh, but," somebody says, "I am not a teacher, I am a homehead." Well, if you're a homehead, you're a teacher. That's what we are studying. And this type of education, God's ideal education, centers not in the classroom, but in the home; and so you are basically, primarily and fundamentally a teacher.

And you say, "Well, what will I teach?" Well, I hope you'll teach dish washing. I hope you'll teach gardening. I hope you'll teach bed making. I hope you'll teach nutrition. I hope you'll teach time planning. I hope you will teach how to get along with one another. I hope you will teach soul winning. And first of all and most of all and through it all, I hope you will teach fellowship with God, the sense of God's presence, the actuality of God's, guidance in the daily experiences of life.

In fact, dear friends, in a properly run home here at Wildwood, a student would receive a valuable education if that were all he got during his time at Wildwood. Just to live in one of our well organized, well regulated, training homes is an experience in education, an experience in Christian life that is most valuable.

So, you are teachers. And as I said, if God has not called you to that, never accept the responsibility. Never accept homeheading for any other reason than the divine call. May I repeat that? Never accept homeheading for any other reason than the divine call. Then, as you meet problems, you can look up to God and say, "Lord, You called me. You gave me my commission, and You promised to stand by me, to be with me. And so I know you will."

Looking back to page 33 of the book Education; we've looked at the Eden school as the pattern, now, the next sentence says:

"The education centering in the family was that which prevailed in the days of the patriarchs" Education, page 33.

When you hear that word patriarch, what name or names come to your mind? Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Enoch, and Noah. Yes, you know there's a line of 20 men from Adam on down to Abraham. We think of those as the great patriarchs, and then on down through Isaac and Jacob. What was God's plan of education in that patriarchal time?

“The education centering [Where?] in the family [In the home] was that which prevailed in the days of the patriarchs. For the schools thus established, God provided the conditions most favorable for the development of character. The people who were under His direction still pursued the plan of life that He had appointed in the beginning [Where was that? In the Garden of Eden] those who departed from God built for themselves [What’s the next word?] cities...” Ibid.

Who was the first city builder? Cain. He built the first city. That’s what the fourth chapter of Genesis says.

“...and congregating in them, gloried in the splendor, the luxury, and the vice that make the cities of today the world’s pride and its curse [What’s the next word?] but the men who held fast God’s principles of life dwelt among the fields and the hills” Ibid.

Do you know where to go to find some? Are there some fields around here and some hills? Thank God.

You know dear folks, let me put this in parenthetically, but really this is a preface to our whole series of classes. Anything that is worth learning or copying or following here at Wildwood has a reference in the Spirit of Prophecy to support it. And may I make this suggestion to you? Some of you have not been here very long, and even those of us who have been here should follow this suggestion. Never rest content to follow some plan here at Wildwood merely because it is the plan. It isn’t wrong just because it is the plan, but do not follow it just because it’s the plan.

Don’t throw the plan in the garbage can or pitch it out the window, but be curious enough, with sanctified curiosity, to dig into the books and find out the reason for the plan that’s followed. And you would be surprised how many scores and literally hundreds of things that are done on this campus, many of which are different from conventional life the way it is made today, that those who understand the plan can give you a reference for in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy.

So as you mingle with life as it is lived on this campus, I repeat, don’t be content to merely pattern after the plan. Dig. Dig to find the reason, the reference. And is what God says, is that reason enough? Oh, yes. We don’t need any greater reason than that. There could not be any greater reason than that. God says so, for when He speaks it is that way. He spoke and it was.

“...the men who held fast God’s principles of life dwelt among the fields and hills. They were tillers of the soil and keepers of flocks and herds, and in this free, independent life, with its opportunities for labor and study and meditation, they learned of God and taught their

children of His works and ways” Ibid., pages 33-34.

What’s another name for His works? What does that mean, “the works of God?” We won’t be able to teach our students what this is unless we know, will we? Now, let me read this sentence again:

“They were tillers of the soil and keepers of flocks and herds, and in this free, independent life, with its opportunities for labor and study and meditation, they learned of God and taught their children of His works and ways” Ibid.

What’s another name for “His works?”—Creation, nature, the birds, the trees, the flowers, the growing plants, the rocks, the sky. Are those things available to us here? Yes, but mere availability does not teach. As Paul says, “How shall they hear without a preacher?” And the Ethiopian said to Philip, “How can I understand unless somebody guide me?” One of your greatest privileges, as a homehead with your own children or with others, is to guide them in an appreciation of the works of God in nature, and His ways in human experience.

What was one of those men that you mentioned as the example of the patriarchal group? Abraham. Let’s turn to Genesis 18:19. Let’s take a look at Abraham. Will you read this verse with me? This is God speaking of Abraham. All together:

“For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him”
Genesis 18:19.

Notice that God, speaking concerning Abraham, speaks of his children and his household. How many children, born to him, did Abraham have at the time these words were spoken? Anybody know? He had one. Yes, he had one. That wasn’t a very big family. But do you know how big a household Abraham had at this time? Over a thousand.

Now let’s turn to the book Education, page 187 and we’ll read this. I don’t suppose any of us would want to tackle a training home with a thousand people in it, but then, perhaps none of us have the talents of Abraham. He had problems at times.

“God called Abraham to be a teacher of His word, He chose him to be the father of a great nation, because He saw that Abraham would instruct his children and his household in the principles of God’s law. And that which gave power to Abraham’s teaching was the influence of his own life. His great household consisted of more than a thousand souls...” Education, page 187.

My, my, it would take several Wildwood campuses to make up a training home for Abraham, wouldn't it?

"His great household consisted of more than a thousand souls. Many of them heads of families..." Ibid.

So is it all right for heads of families to be students in a home training plan? Is it? They were in Abraham's school. In fact, a similar statement, similar to the one we're reading:

"He was training heads of families..." Patriarchs and Prophets, page 141.

So the training that you and I are getting in this class has a wonderful predecessor, a wonderful example. Here at Wildwood we're training heads of families. I hope we can do as good a job as Abraham, did. What do you say?

Now, you notice that this greatly enlarges our concept of the home training plan. Abraham's campus had living on it how many people? Over a thousand. And some of them where what? Heads of families and he was training heads of families. But over them all in the general leadership was Abraham and he was training them to be homeheads after the divine example, not merely parents, but teachers.

Back to Education, page 187:

"His great household consisted of more than a thousand souls. Many of them heads of families, and not a few but newly converted from heathenism. Such a household required a firm hand at the helm. No weak vacillating methods would suffice. Of Abraham God said, 'I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him.' Genesis 18:19. Yet his authority was exercised with such wisdom and tenderness that hearts were won" Education, page 187.

Oh, dear parents, dear teachers, dear homeheads, I pray that God may give every one of you that winsomeness, that firmness guided by wisdom that only the Holy Spirit can inspire, so that as you deal with the various minds you can accomplish with your little home what Abraham did with his great household.

What was the result? God said, "I know him. He'll get the job done, and his children, his household will keep the way of the Lord."

Does God have a way? He doesn't want it to be lost. Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. Keep the way of the Lord. Wouldn't it be too bad if these beautiful principles should die out when the people that are now living them die out? Wouldn't it? What's the hope? Others must be trained.

You see then your job, my job is not merely to secure cooperation but to inspire appreciation; not merely to keep in line with established rules those who come and go on this campus, but to so lead them into the experience of knowing the beauty of these principles that they will carry them out no matter where they go; that they love them so much that they wouldn't part with them anymore than they would part with their own lives by choice.

“For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment; that the Lord may bring unto Abraham that which he hath spoken of him”
Genesis 18:19.

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