

Lesson 8 is a very important lesson, yet in many ways it is a very simple lesson.

The main thrust of Lesson 8 is to emphasize the need to develop a strong personal relationship with God. However, the teacher needs to be aware that a lot of foundation is being laid in this lesson for the Sabbath.

Remember that the Sabbath is presented in this series of lessons as a way to help people develop a relationship with God.

You will want to make certain that you emphasize that relationships take time. Of course, when we get to Lessons 10 and 11, that time will be clearly identified as Sabbath time. But at this point you will need to give strong emphasis to the fact that relationships take time.

Another area that needs to be strongly emphasized in this lesson is that Satan attacks those areas that deal with developing a relationship with God. Since the devil does not want us to have a deep personal relationship with Christ, he will attack those things that will help us to take time with God. Obviously you can see that that kind of a statement helps prepare for the Sabbath.

You are also laying foundation in this lesson as you did in Lesson 5 for the mark of the beast. In Daniel 3 false worship is commanded, but in Daniel 6 true worship is prohibited.

The last great crisis under the mark of the beast will be a combination of these. Revelation 13 indicates that people will be commanded to worship the beast (false worship). Finally they will be prohibited from the true worship of God. Remind your students that the focal point of Daniel is the time of the end.

Question 3

Here is an excellent opportunity to draw some parallels for Christians today. They should be known as people who can be trusted. The reason they can be trusted is their relationship with God.

Daniel was not just a moral man, he was a spiritual man. God's people in the last days are not just going to be good moral people; they will also be deeply spiritual people.

LESSON 8 CONFLICT OVER TRUE WORSHIP Answer Key

1. Hundred, twenty
2. Three
3. Daniel
4. No
5. Law
6. Petition, lions
7. Three
8. Prayed
9. Displeased, deliver
10. Continually, deliver
11. Fasting
12. Shut, mouths
13. Thrown, lions
14. Living, destroyed, rescueth, signs, wonders
15. Eternal, know
16. Three
17. Scriptures, wise
18. Doctrine, reproof, correction, instruction
19. Perfect

During the Prophecy Seminar they are studying diligently and therefore their relationship with God is increasing. But after the seminar is over they must not neglect to continue to study the Word of God, because the relationship with God is going to increase as one hears God speaking to him through His Word.

Question 19

Note the last sentence in the note. Use that question to make your appeal. indeed we are living in the last days.

If we as Christians are serious about being ready for the Lord to come, then we need to spend a lot of time building a relationship with God.

Encourage your students to make a commitment to spending time with God and developing a relationship with Him.

Response Questions:

1. If this lesson has helped you see that a relationship with God is the most important thing in the world, put a check in Box #1.
2. If it is your desire to spend quality and quantity time with God, so that you might develop this relationship and be prepared for the last days, put a check in Box #2.

Question 4

Could these things be said about us as Christians? If people investigated our books, could they find no fault?

Question 5

Note that the only issue over which there is conflict is the law of God. Again and again throughout the book of Daniel, the main issue of controversy is God's law.

Lesson 10 will further go into the controversy over God's law. So lay a little foundation here. Remember to review the issues in the controversy, which are worship and obedience. We now find that the obedience issue is over the law of God.

The same issue is found in Chapter 3, where the three Hebrews were commanded to worship contrary to the law of God. Now the same thing happens to Daniel in Chapter 6.

Do not neglect to draw the parallel to last-day events, that the issue in the last conflict will also be over God's law and how people worship God. This question is preparing the way for the presentation of the Sabbath truth.

Question 7

Give heavy emphasis to Daniel's prayer life. inspire your students to spend time with God in prayer themselves. Talking with God is part of developing a relationship with God. The spiritual person is a praying person.

Note also the second paragraph under this note. This paragraph is also laying foundation for the Sabbath truth. The test to the Christian many times will come in areas that people who don't know the Lord will think is a small matter. To the Christian no matter involving the' law of God is small.

Remember, this is laying foundation for the Sabbath truth. Many people think it is a small matter which day you devote to worshipping God. However, no issue is small when it involves obedience to the law of God, especially if it has anything to do with the relationship with God.

Keep emphasizing throughout this lesson the need of a relationship with God and how important it is to have this relationship.

The only ones who make it through the final crisis will be those who have a strong personal relationship with God; just as the only ones who made it through the crisis in Babylon were those who had a relationship with God.

Here is another area where you need to sound like a broken record. People need to hear it again and again and again. A relationship with God is the most important thing in the world.

Question 9

The penalty for praying was death. No wonder Darius was upset. He was going to lose his best friend and chief counsellor.

Note that Darius did not realize the full intent of the decree that he signed. Likewise, in the last days when that final death decree is passed, many people will not realize the real intent of the final death decree.

Read Revelation 13:15 and let your students see clearly that the last crisis also has a death decree. The issue then as in Daniel's time was over worship.

Question 12

Just as God delivered Daniel out of the lion's den, God will deliver His people in the final crisis when the death decree is passed.

Read Revelation 15:2. God will have a people that have gotten the victory over the beast, his image and his mark.

Just as Daniel was victorious, so God's last-day people will be victorious.

Just as Daniel did not yield to the death decree, neither will God's last-day people yield to the death decree.

Why? They feel that a relationship with God is more important than life itself. God honours their commitment and delivers His people.

Question 15

Let your students know how important a relationship with God is to you. Share your own experience and how important it is for you to spend time with God and have this relationship with Him.

Question 16

This is the time to really emphasize the need of spending quality time with God in developing a relationship. The lesson mentions the husband and wife relationship.

You might mention other relationships that you've had.

The point is that all relationships require time. If I spend only a few minutes each day with my wife or husband, our relationship will not grow deep. Relationships demand more than brief encounters.

Relationships demand that people spend quality and quantity time with each other. If Jesus is our best friend, then we must spend quality and quantity time with Him.

Please note that you are not identifying the Sabbath as quantity time now. You are talking about the daily relationship.

However, in addition to this daily relationship time there is quantity time. That quantity time is the Sabbath. This question is the foundation for the Sabbath truth. Please do not fail to give strong emphasis to this question.

Question 17

Share with your students the need of regular, detailed Bible study.