



Sabbath Keeping Youth

Eight Qualities

In the following four issues there will be eight different topics discussed. These topics are qualities we should possess and acts to perform on a daily basis.

1. Leadership and Co-operation
2. Community Service and Personal Growth
3. Faith and Accomplishments
4. Courage and Peace.

For each topic discussed your child should do an act that demonstrates it. Once the act is demonstrated he or she can cut out the puzzle piece for that topic. The puzzle pieces can be colored and glued onto a piece of construction paper. Your child can hang it in his or her room to remind him or her of the qualities he or she should possess and acts to perform on a daily basis.

A New Writer

I am pleased to announce that as of January 2004, my daughter Elizabeth McVey has taken over the duties of producing the SKY Newsletter. You may have already noticed a change in style and a fresh new approach.

Elizabeth has grown up in God's church and spent much of her childhood Sabbaths and Holy Days in Sabbath School. Elizabeth is a graduate from San Diego State University and is currently a first grade teacher.

Engaging, genuine and intense are three words I use to describe my daughter's teaching and organizational style. Committed, sincere and charming describe her

personality. Elizabeth has already begun to meet the challenges of producing the SKY Newsletter and she has done it with enthusiasm.

If you have suggestions, comments or topics you would like to see covered in the SKY Newsletter, please feel free to contact Elizabeth. Her email address is Elizabeth@cgi.org. Her mailing address is Elizabeth McVey, P. O. Box 223675, Carmel, CA 93922



The Parents Corner

Create opportunities for your child to be a leader and work as a team showing co-operation. Remind your child that they have to show co-operation on a daily basis. Their family is a team as well as the students in their class have to work together as a team.

- Have your child get involved in a team sport.
- Give your child a responsibility to do at church or in Sabbath school where he or she can be a leader.
- Have your child become involved in a club.
- Give your child a responsibility at home to do.
- Include your child in some important decision making during a family meeting.

Leadership

“We are the leaders”

Leadership comes in many varieties and intensities. It is sometimes defined as the ability to create in others the desire to follow. People tend to follow men and women who know where they are going and why.

Whenever others will follow your direction or your thinking, you are in a leadership role. Therefore, leaders need to know what they believe and why. As a Christian you are meant to lead others in the truth and will of God.

“Using the gift of God gave me, I laid the foundation of that house like an expert builder. Others are building on that foundation, but all people should be careful how they build on it. The foundation that has already been laid is Jesus Christ, and no one can lay down any other foundation. But if people build on that foundation, using gold, silver, jewels, wood, grass, or straw their work will be clearly seen, because the Day of Judgment will make it visible. That Day will appear with fire, and the fire will test everyone’s work to show what sort of work it was. If the building that has been put on the foundation still stands, the builder will get a reward. But if the building burned up, the builder will suffer loss. The builder will be saved, but it will be as one who escaped from a fire.” (1 Corinthians 3:10-15)

The task of Christian leaders has not changed. Toward what goal is your work leading? Upon which foundation are you building? And where do you look for the master plan?



Co-Operation

Teamwork is an important part of spreading God’s word. Working together can accomplish great things that could not be accomplished if everyone pulled in different directions. Teamwork is essential in most sports as well. Coaches don’t emphasize rugged individualism; they focus on teamwork, the ability to cooperate to achieve a common goal, to work together for better advantage. Relationships also require teamwork. In fact, almost every activity involving more than one person requires teamwork or cooperation. Even living the Christian life requires a cooperation with God’s plan and obedience to His word.

“As iron sharpens iron, so people can improve each other.” (Proverbs 27:17)

A friend sharpens a friend. Disagreements can produce a positive result, to introduce new ideas that may challenge and stimulate our thinking.

Sabbath Keeping Youth

The Ministry of John the Baptist

Matthew 3:1-17

John the Baptist was a prophet who preached the word of God. He baptized many people who wanted to change their ways and turn to God including his cousin, Jesus. Throughout his life John the Baptist showed leadership and co-operation.

When John the Baptist was a young man he began preaching the word of God in the desert near the Jordan River. He lived very simply eating locusts and wild honey and wearing clothes made of camel's hair and a leather belt. Men and women from the whole region came to the desert to hear John preach. He said, "Change your hearts and lives because the kingdom of heaven is near." John told all that would listen to repent of their sins, share what they have with others and treat people fairly. There were many who were sorry about their sins, confessed them and were baptized by John in the Jordan River.

The Pharisees and Sadducees went to John when he was baptizing people. "When John saw them he said, 'You are all snakes! Who warned you to run away from God's coming punishment? Do the things that show you really have changed your hearts and lives.'" The Pharisees and Sadducees thought that they taught God's laws but what they really taught was like poison. John warned them to not think that just because they were Jews the things they were doing were pleasing to God and right.

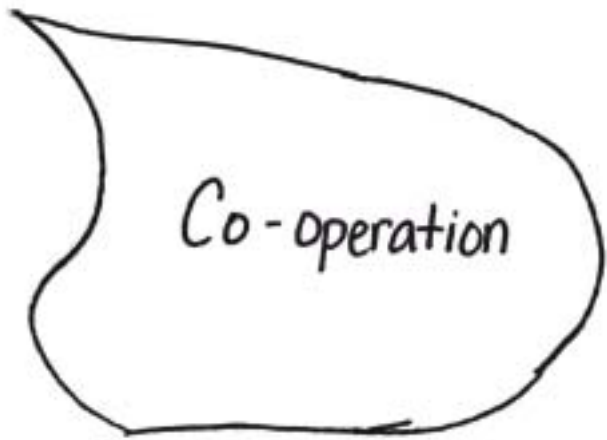
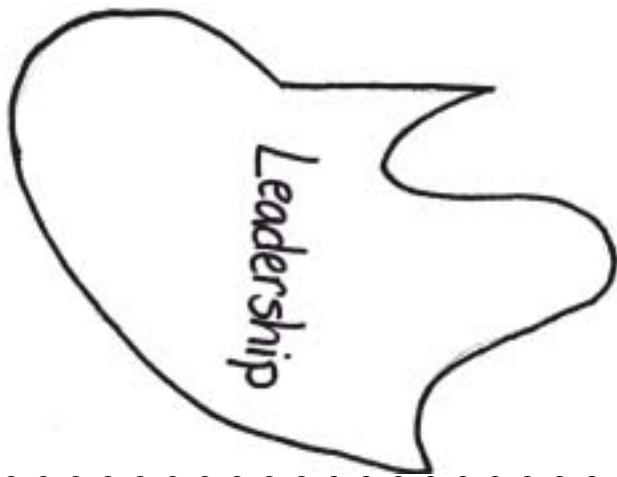
John explained how he baptized using water as a sign of a person's repentance. There were those who believed John was the coming Messiah he told them, "But there is one coming after me who is greater than I am, whose sandals I am not good enough to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

When John was baptizing one day, Jesus came and asked to be baptized by John. At first John refused to do so. Jesus insisted saying "Let it be this way for now. We should do all things that are God's will.' John agreed to baptize Jesus." As soon as Jesus had been baptized "a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, whom I love, and I am very pleased with him.'"

A good leader is someone who is able to create the desire in others to follow them. A leader also stays firm in their beliefs, they do what is right even if it is difficult to do at times, are good listeners and take responsibility for their actions. John had many followers some were disciples of Jesus. This shows what a great leader John was. He was able to create in others the desire to follow him and turn their hearts to God. He also stood firm in his beliefs when times got tough. A good leader will not fall under peer pressure. John was able to create a team with his followers that worked together to spread God's word. Are you a leader? Are you spreading the word of God?



Sabbath Keeping Youth



What was John's mission?

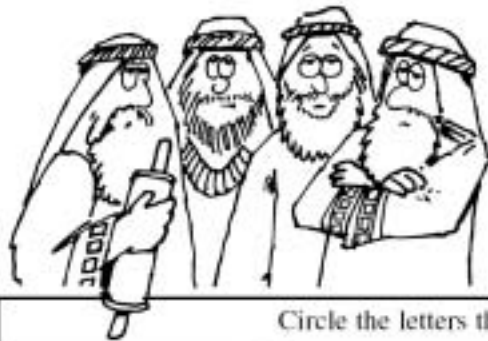
Use the code to find the answer.

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To _____ the _____ to _____ Jesus' _____ and to _____ with _____.

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The Pharisees and Sadducees were the religious leaders. They did not teach the people what God wanted them to. John warned them about this. What did he call them?

Circle the letters that are out of order. Write them on the lines.

ABC ADE BEFGHRIJOKOLDMNOPOQFRVSTIUPVEWXRY SZ

“ _____ ”



Noni McVey
 Youth Director
 Church of God, International
 P.O. Box 223675
 Carmel, CA 93922