GOD AND EDUCATION

LEARNING FROM GOD’S EDUCATIONAL STRUCTURES AND STRATEGIES
ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:

• What has been God’s purpose in educating His people?

• What structures and methods has God used to grow His people, first the children of Israel, and then His church?

• How has God sought to develop a Christ-like character in His people, that will be a witness to the nations, drawing them to the glory of God, and revealing the true nature of His goodness, power, and love to the universe?
GOD AS A PARENT AND EDUCATOR

- Infants in the Desert 0-2: Amoral
- Prophets and Kings 2-7: Expedient
- Jesus Faces His Nation 7-12: Conforming
- The Young Church 12-30: Altruistic
- The Mature Church 30+:
GOD’S CARE FOR THE INFANT NATION: CONCRETE AND CONSISTENT

• Coming through the Red Sea was liking being born.

• Cloud by day, and pillar of fire by night.

• Manna

• Water from the rock

• God dwelt with Israel in the sanctuary.
GOD’S DISCIPLINE IN THE DESERT: IMMEDIATE AND CORPORAL

God used
- Plagues,
- Fire
- Earthquakes
- Snakes
to punish the spirit of rebellion and murmuring.
Submit the Will to God
GOD CHANGES METHODS: USING CONSEQUENCES

God used consequences such as allowing Israel’s enemies to overrun the land.

When they would repent and turn back to Him, He would send a deliverer.
FROM EXPEDIENT TO CONFORMING BEHAVIOR

• While young children may need lots of external guidance, the goal of discipline is to help children want to follow God’s laws on their own.

• Ez. 11: 19 says, “I will give my people hearts that are completely committed to me. I will give them a new spirit that is faithful to me. I will remove their stubborn hearts from them. And I will give them hearts that obey me.”
CREATE THEIR OWN KNOWLEDGE

DEVELOPMENTAL CHALLENGE 2-7

Submit to the Law of God
A TURNING POINT FOR ISRAEL: THE EXILE TO BABYLON

• After the seventy year exile, those who returned to Jerusalem, stood from daybreak until noon and listened to Ezra reading the law.

• They wept as they realized the loss that disobedience had brought, and solemnly promised to keep God’s law. (Nehemiah 8)
FROM CONFORMING TO ALTRUISTIC BEHAVIOR

• “You tithe the mint and cumin, but neglect the weightier matters of justice and faithfulness and mercy” Matt. 23:23

What are the principles behind the rules?
BAPTISM

NEW BIRTH

BAPTISM BY THE HOLY SPIRIT
DEVELOP COMPETENCE

DEVELOPMENTAL CHALLENGE 7-12

Submit to the Cross
FINDING THEIR CALLING
THEIR PLACE IN THE BODY OF CHRIST
SEARCH FOR IDENTITY

Identity diffusion
Moratorium
Foreclosure
Identity Development
FIND THEIR NICHE

DEVELOPMENTAL CHALLENGE  12-30

Submit to the Work God Has Called Them to Do
KEEP THE FAITH

DEVELOPMENTAL CHALLENGE 30 +

Submit to Pruning That Promotes Growth
The Commandments for Education

I
Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind. Luke 10:27

Love, the basis of creation and of redemption, is the basis of true education. To love Him, the infinite, the omniscient One, with the whole strength, and mind, and heart, means the highest development of every power.

II
Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.
Matthew 22:39

The law of love calls for the devotion of body, mind, and soul to the service of God and our fellow men. And this service, while making us a blessing to others, brings the greatest blessing to ourselves. Unselfishness underlies all true development.

Education, p. 15, 16
ADVENTIST BLUEPRINT

• Family at the Center

• Developmentally Appropriate
  • Experience It
  • Create Their Own Knowledge
  • Develop Competence
  • Find Their Niche in the Body of Christ
  • Keep the Faith

• Person-Centered rather than Program-Centered

• Practical