

## LEADER DEVOTIONAL

*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction. Proverbs 1:7*

Ever thought that teaching children to view the world from a biblical perspective could be summed up with the adage, “Give ‘em the old one-two”? Not in the sense of punching or hitting anyone, of course. Instead, the one-two punch informally refers to an “especially forceful or effective combination of two things.” Notice how this applies to what Paul wrote to the people in Corinth:

“For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:4–5).

Paul exhorts his readers to cast down false arguments and build up the true knowledge of Christ. Elsewhere he continues this one-two punch approach when he encourages the Christians in Ephesus to “put off” sinful behaviors and “put on” Christ-like behaviors (Ephesians 4:21–31).

The first “punch” comes when we show the problems with “every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God.” Rather than shielding our children from what the world teaches, we need to point out what’s wrong with such anti-God philosophies as evolution and long-age ideas, as we’re doing with today’s lesson.

However, being “anti-evolution” or “anti-millions-of-years” isn’t enough. In addition to tearing down, we also need to build up. The second “punch” comes when we build up the biblical worldview. We need to carefully explain what the Bible actually teaches, and then what we would expect to see as a result of this teaching. This is what we worked on yesterday and will continue working on for the rest of the week.

If we were to completely shelter our children, never teaching what the “other side” believes, how will they

react when they stumble upon an anti-God message when we’re not around? How have they already reacted to what they’ve heard in school, from books, in movies, or on TV?

Just as we use the Bible to teach children morality (e.g., it’s wrong to hit, but right to be kind to others), so we need to use the Bible to teach children an entire worldview by tearing down for them the wrong view of history and building up the correct (biblical) view of history.

It is inevitable that our children will be exposed to ungodly and flawed ideas, so as you read and study today’s lesson, think about the responsibility you have to train these children to respond in a God-honoring manner. As the Puritans did, may we embrace the entire counsel of God’s Word and may we always say with confidence, “The Bible says it; that settles it!”

In a world of created changeable things, Christ and his Word alone remain unshaken.

O to forsake all creatures, to rest as a stone on him  
the foundation, to abide in him, be borne up by him!  
Let me know that he is dear to me by his Word;  
I am one with him by the Word on his part, and by  
faith on mine;

If I oppose the Word I oppose my Lord when he is  
most near;

If I receive the Word I receive my Lord wherein he  
is nigh.

O thou who hast the hearts of all men in thine  
hand, form my heart according to the Word,  
according to the image of thy Son,  
So shall Christ the Word, and his Word, be my  
strength and comfort.

—Arthur Bennet, *The Valley of Vision*  
(The Banner of Truth Trust: 2005), p. 17.