

Momentum For Life 3
Daniel 1&12
Jan 18 2009
Roger Miller

Intro: Here's a question you may have never considered; why do you educate your children the way you do? Have you ever considered that? As you look around at the traditions that we have, especially those regarding educating our children, you have to wonder, where did it all come from? Why do we educate our children this way? Well, just like many other "traditions", this one too has been influenced by many different factors. But I would say; there is no other single factor that has had greater influence on our modern educational system than that of historic Judaism. Judaism you ask? That's right, we as Christians can thank or despise, our Jewish brothers for many, if not most, of our religious and educational traditions. Children and I am sure Jewish children were geniuses for coming up with an excuse why they can not go to school. But I found Actual School Absence Excuse Notes from parents even more hilarious here are three.

Please excuse Lisa for being absent. She was sick and I had her shot.

Please excuse Ray Friday from school. He has very loose vowels.

Please excuse Jennifer for missing school yesterday. We forgot to get the Sunday paper off the porch, and when we found it Monday, we thought it was Sunday.

Last week we looked at how the four Hebrews in Daniel kept their devotion to God. Today the quest is to understand how you and I can get ready for lifelong learning.

Momentum For Life 3

Daniel 1&12

Jan 18 2009

Roger Miller

The series momentum for life is all about the fact that we need to put our life into drive and not neutral or reverse to fulfill God's purposes. That is how I got the acronym D.r.I.V.E.

D.evotion to god

R.eadiness for life long learning

I.nvest in Key Relationships

V.ision

E.at and exercise.

So let's get to it and see how Daniel and the boys learned over a lifetime so you and I may be ready for lifelong learning.

I. 4 Hebrews education in youth

Here is the motive, rust belt people: you've got one life. That life is supposed to be an honorable, excellent offering to God. The greatest expression of worship is your work. You're all full-time. The four Hebrews were from royal or upper crust families. They were in the mid-teens as such they were already well educated. what they had learned to this point was probably an extensive knowledge of the first five books of the bible called the torah.

scriptures were foundational to the Jewish concept of education and were the primary principles that the Jewish people used to create their own educational systems.

Momentum For Life 3

Daniel 1&12

Jan 18 2009

Roger Miller

Hebrew children were taught these laws and statutes from a very early age. Even before they could read, Jewish children were exposed

to the Holy Scriptures through many different instructional means.

One such means was all of the symbols that was from the temple to

the home they lived in that had divine meaning. For example the

Mezuzah was a small scroll that contained two Torah portions, the

Shema (Deuteronomy 6:4-9) and the Vehaya (Deuteronomy 11:13-21).

These were two of the most important scriptures for the Jews

concerning God and the way He expected them to educate their

children.

That is also how they were taught even before they could read by

Momentum For Life 3

Daniel 1&12

Jan 18 2009

Roger Miller

memorization. The shema and vehaya were said daily. There were also

many other repetitious scriptures used in the culture.

The four Hebrews were likely educated by their parents. They were

the one's who carried the primary responsibility for seeing that their children were properly educated. Although this was a joint effort, it

was ultimately the responsibility of the father.²

But even though the father was ultimately responsible, the mother

was still very much involved in the educational process. From birth to

about 5 years old, the mother was the primary care giver and the

primary educator.

Momentum For Life 3

Daniel 1&12

Jan 18 2009

Roger Miller

This was the basic formula for Jewish education! It started in the home with the mothers and fathers depending on the specific needs and abilities of the child, and it continued during the day as they went along their way, and concluded at night when everyone went to bed.

Then it started all over again the very next morning. It was a continual cycle that did not end until the children left home to start a family of their own. Learning was simply part of the Jewish lifestyle. The

Wealthy to poor knew how to write-but most also knew how to read.

The culture of the Jewish home is a reminder of how much God loves his children to learn.

Momentum For Life 3
Daniel 1&12
Jan 18 2009
Roger Miller

Where ever Judeo-Christian faith has been established, education has grown as well.

But since 1960 in our country our education system has been in decline. *Scholastic Aptitude Test was seventy-five points higher in 1963 than it was in 1990. A high school senior ranked at the 50th percentile on the SAT in 1990 would have ranked around the 33rd percentile in 1963. American students trail most of their international counterparts in mathematics and science achievement. Recent comparisons of industrialized countries place the United States between tenth and fifteenth in these economically vital fields.*¹

There are a myriad of reasons for this reality. From a Christian World View point they major reason is the departure in 1963 from a classical education that emphasized Judeo -Christian values and Literature to a more secular world view with it's emphasis on man. This also means for children to get a Christian world view it will not come for our public education system. The only one who will be able to educate our children in a Christ centered world view is their parents; they will not get it from the school, from media or their friends. But during this

1

THE CONCISE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ECONOMICS

Public Schools

by John E. Chubb Copyright ©2002
[Liberty Fund, Inc.](#)

Momentum For Life 3
Daniel 1&12
Jan 18 2009
Roger Miller

period of time the family has also been disintegrating.

To ensure readiness for life long learning Christian Parents must educate and support the church in educating their children in Christian tradition.

In fact George Barna's research group has found that the younger a person is, the less likely they are to trust the Bible as their source of moral guidance or to believe that absolute moral truth exists. For instance, 20% of adults 60 or older base their moral choices on the Bible and 18% of Baby Boomers do so, but only 13% of Baby Busters and a mere 9% of Mosaics follow suit. In the same manner, while four out of ten Boomers and Builders say moral truth is absolute, just 32% of Busters and 25% of Mosaics hold that view. Part of the reason is we no longer have the support of public schools, media and culture to build a moral world view let along a Christian world view.

Here is what we need to do-become a church that teaches all ages! Only about 25% Christians attend Sunday school, that must increase if we are ever to counteract the ignorance of our children on God and the Bible.²

Sadly, most parents though view Sunday School and youth groups as extra-recreational opportunities-not a necessity to produce a way of thinking that will

² Most Adults Feel Accepted by God, But Lack a Biblical Worldview

Momentum For Life 3

Daniel 1&12

Jan 18 2009

Roger Miller

protect them and their children. As your pastor what I hear more than anything else is we do not make it fun enough. Let me share a quote with you: I found myself taking a stand for Christ, usually alone in these classes, and had to wonder what happened to all the fine students our churches sent off to the universities.

Where are the believers who are ready to destroy speculations and every lofty thought raised up against the knowledge of our God? Where are our disciples?

Well the answer to that is easy. They're primed and ready to put into practice that which we've disciplined them in: opening bananas with their toes and playing hockey with paper plates. Or perhaps our young world-changers are exploring how many Vienna sausages they can fit in their respective mouths.

We can also say our students are apt at achieving emotion³al highs and have a distinct capacity to get fired up in a worship setting—or at least can fake that passion.

Yes, these are our disciples. Armed to the teeth with—what? The experience of inane pep-rallies and a rudimentary knowledge of the Scriptures? (Scriptures, I should add, that are viewed as devoid of authority outside of Christian circles.)

Look out, world!⁴

³ Ibid

⁴ **More Than Fun and Games**

Ben Walker

11/30/2008

Christian standard

Momentum For Life 3

Daniel 1&12

Jan 18 2009

Roger Miller

Some say students leave their faith in college not so much because of contrary ideas, but because they want to be liberated from Christian morality (primarily in regard to sexual autonomy). While there is truth in this, the lack of knowledge among these students makes it easy for them to frame an intellectually and emotionally gratifying reason to dismiss their former faith.

I'd rather our students who walk away from the faith have no comfortable delusions about what they're doing (abandoning the infinite God for some temporal fleshly gratification). Such students seem far more likely to return when the flesh has let them down and the knowledge of God remains.

The Key for anyone to be ready for life long learning is to have a great foundation in their youth. The fact is parent I do not believe most Christian youth are getting that, from us. When we are requiring them to go to basketball practice and 4-h- but Sunday school is optional what is the message we are sending?

ECC's Sunday school attendance for the youth is declining and certainly could be better on Sunday night-we can not ready our children for lifelong learning with out your willingness to teach and without your support for them to be a part of the church. Our church must know the truth of Christ-it must start at home and supported in the church. We become ready for lifelong learning just like the four Hebrews by starting early, reinforcing often and repetitious memory.

4 Hebrews Education in captivity

Momentum For Life 3

Daniel 1&12

Jan 18 2009

Roger Miller

The first hurdle for scholars in Mesopotamian schools during the era of Nebuchadnezzar was to master cuneiform. Cuneiform was extremely complex, involving five hundred separate signs many of which had multiple meanings. A typical school text that students copied and memorized presented a cuneiform list of Sumerian words together with their translations in Akkadian, the language of Babylo. In Daniel's day, however, when Aramaic was replacing Akkadian as the Babylonian vernacular you needed to know both. Besides sign lists and word lists, students studied moral fables, proverbs, and literary classics, as well as works on history, law, and mathematics. The Babylonians were proficient at solving problems in astronomy and engineering at a level comparable to modern high-school algebra. Looking at the requirements of Babylonian education I am certain all of the four amigos agreed with Solomon: *Of making many books there is no end, and much study wearies the body. Ecclesiastes 12:12*

Let's look at their report card in scripture: To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds.

18 At the end of the time set by the king to bring them in, the chief official presented them to Nebuchadnezzar. 19 The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king's service. 20 In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and

Momentum For Life 3

Daniel 1&12

Jan 18 2009

Roger Miller

enchanters in his whole kingdom. Daniel 1:17-20

Now understand that to master just cuneiform it could take a life time-the four amigos in a short time beat them at their own game. You and I are not held captive by Babylonians-but captive by responsibilities of earning a living and raising a family. The middle years of life just completing our responsibilities takes most of our time-and unless we daily push ourselves to learn it may soon become neglected. In fact One in four adults read no books at all in the past year, according to an Associated Press-Ipsos poll.⁵ Those in the survey who said they never attend religious services read nearly twice as many books as those who attend church frequently.⁶ I find that disturbing-we who have chosen to follow Jesus the truth-the foundation of all knowledge being out read. We can not allow our captivity to our midlife responsibilities-to lead us into ignorance.

All leadership begins with self-leadership. We cannot lead our children into

⁵

One in four read no books last year
Updated 8/21/2007 USA Today.

- ⁶ [Culture](#)
- [Books](#)

One in four Americans read no books last year

- AP
- guardian.co.uk, Wednesday 22 August 2007 10.44 BST
- [Article history](#)
-

Momentum For Life 3

Daniel 1&12

Jan 18 2009

Roger Miller

readiness for life long learning-unless they see us making the time and effort to continue our learning. But it is not Just book knowledge and God Knowledge. The earning years are also were divorce and family break downs happen- we get so focused on chasing the buck-we loose the knowledge of who we love and what their needs are.

Parents who learn to text-to tell their children they are loved are learners. Those who put their to do lists down to find out what is going on in the sixth grade, are lifelong learners. Couples emotional intimacy actually grows in a marriage where they learn together new interests-new points of conversation. Couples keep their

independence and sense of self worth when they continue to grow in the knowledge of god's world. When we started as parents all we needed to know was the top 40 to know what music our kids were listening too-but today most music is found on

the internet-meaning to know what they are listening to you needed to know their bands. The information we are receiving each day is growing in quantum leaps, to keep up means we must continually learn. It also means that not every thing we read is true, we must also despite our responsibilities learn to be better at figuring out what is true and what is bunk!

You probably heard of the child who came home from his first day at school. His

Momentum For Life 3

Daniel 1&12

Jan 18 2009

Roger Miller

Mother asks,

"Well, what did you learn today?" The kid replies, "Not enough. They want me to come back tomorrow." The reality is it never stops-we must daily be Ready for life long learning.

Four Amigo's learning their Golden years

It is after chapter 3 it all becomes about Daniel. We do not know much about the other three Hebrews in the later years. But we do see that Daniel's later years were spent as a Time of growing in Wisdom and character. Our later years after we have got our foundation in our youth and have succeeded in our careers we no longer need to learn in order to earn. WE yearn to learn to make sure we do not leave a legacy of foolish regrets.

If you study the last years of Daniels life you will find a man less and less afraid of man and more respectful of God. A man less busy and spending more time in communion receiving visions of God's future. Daniel 12:10 describes the readiness for life long learning in Old age when it states: *Many will be purified, made spotless and refined, but the wicked will continue to be wicked. None of the wicked will understand, but those who are wise will understand.* Old age and it's trials reveal the refinement of lifelong learning. Or a life time of foolishness establishes of a legacy of wickedness. There is maybe some truth in what Billy Crystal had to say: by the time a man is wise enough to watch his step, He's too old

Momentum For Life 3

Daniel 1&12

Jan 18 2009

Roger Miller

to go anywhere. Truth be told some one who is 45, will live a lot longer than their grandparents and have a greater quality of life. So we might be the generation wise enough to watch our step and still be able to go some where. But it depends on our willingness to be ready for a life time of learning.

Daniel should be a model for us, as we grow older we should be less afraid of what people think and more respectful of God's laws. Less busy more thoughtful of how to live God's word. And the trials of this life should refine us from the pursuits of the flesh. We should learn to spend life of significance, rather than the pursuit of wealth and recognition.

How do we do that, since I have not made the trip myself I can not fully explain myself. Sripturally it talks about studying and emulating men and women who became wiser with age. That is why it is wise to have a regular plan to read the bible, the bible is full of example growing wiser with age.

But we also need to be involved in church and invest time with those older saints who have much to give. Our small group discussed private disciplines and gained much information from Jerry and Shirley Wichaël who shared as a couple what worked for them. During Helene's long illness I have had many in the congregation say to me: wow warren is so dedicated to Helene-He is such a good husband.

Truth be told that is probably because Helene has been good to him and Just as dedicated. But you do not just wake up one morning and become a loyal devoted

Momentum For Life 3

Daniel 1&12

Jan 18 2009

Roger Miller

person it is being ready for a lifetime of learning on what is devotion and we can do that by getting to know people like Warren and Helene better. But learning God's wisdom, character and purposes just like Daniel take a life time to master.

Conclusion: Here is the motive, for life long learning you've got one life. That life is supposed to be an honorable, excellent offering to God. A great expression of worship is your work and learning. You're all full-time ministers. The motive for lifelong learning is being committed every day to some practice of learning in order to make me more useful in God's service to other people.

Gordon McDonald says, *"The development of the mind makes it possible for men and women to be servants to the generation in which they live."* Some of you are stuck in the 90s. It's not the 90s anymore. Jesus said, *"God can't put new wine into old wineskins."* Do you know why God chose Moses? Remember, Moses was eighty years old before he was ripe enough to be used.

Moses was a student of lifelong learning. Look at what it says in the book of Acts, **"So Moses was instructed in all of the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was powerful in his words and deeds."** Moses like Daniel was a powerful instrument in the hand of God because he stretched his mind by learning the culture in which he lived. So ask yourself are you ready for life long learning? If you are not in your youth, do you have a plan to help the youth you know learn? Are you held captive right now by the earning years? If so what plan do you have to continue to grow in knowledge? Are you in your last 30 or 40 years, do you have plan in place to become more godlike? (would echo come up at this time.)

Momentum For Life 3

Daniel 1&12

Jan 18 2009

Roger Miller

ECC seeks to reach the lost and make them fully devoted followers of Jesus-one way we do this is to make our people ready for a life time of learning. If you need a church home, and you are looking for a home that challenges you to never stop learning, and feel called to ecc come up front as we stand to sing, so you can Join. Maybe, you have never given you life to God, and you are compelled to begin a eternal learning Journey about God and his way. If that is you please come up front as we stand to sing-so I can explain how to Give Jesus your heart.