

Topic: Proper Humanity – Forbearing (Lesson 122)

Note: The practical applications provided in the lesson are offered as suggestions to help the saints in their preparation. They are not meant to direct or limit the ways in which the focus of the lesson can be applied. The saints are encouraged to pray and contact the Lord to receive His burden and guidance in teaching and applying the lesson. Fellowship with other saints, and inquiring of the children themselves, may also bring out many helpful applications.

Elementary:

Verse: “With all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, bearing one another in love” (Ephesians 4:2).

Focus: We need to bear others by being patient.

Practical Application: Discuss with the children situations where they may become impatient with others. For example, you may be playing with a toy and a younger child takes the toy from you. What would you do? Would you grab it back or let the younger child play with it and wait until they are done? What if you ask your mother for a snack and she has been too busy to get it. How do you react? To be forbearing means that we patiently wait for others. We do not get angry or frustrated.

Intermediate:

Verse: “Bearing one another and forgiving one another, if anyone should have a complaint against anyone; even as the Lord forgave you, so also should you forgive” (Colossians 3:13).

Focus: We bear others by forgiving them.

Practical Application: Consider discussing some examples of forgiving others. For example, suppose a friend comes over to play and destroys one of your Lego masterpieces that took a very long time to build. What is your reaction? What if someone hurts you by saying something mean to you? To be forbearing is to forgive others even when you have been wronged.

Advanced:

Verse: “Let your forbearance be known to all men. The Lord is near” (Philippians 4:5).

Focus: To be forbearing is to be pleasant to others, even when things do not turn out as you expect.

Practical Application: Many things may not turn out the way we would like them to: our team loses a game; our teacher gives us extra homework; our class gets in trouble even though you did not do anything wrong. How do you react in those situations? If you lose a game, are you still a good sport and pleasant toward the other team? Do you complain about the extra homework or getting in trouble? To be forbearing is to accept the situation, and even be pleasant to others, without arguing, complaining, or being upset when things do not go our way.