



2021 3Q Rest In Christ: Lesson 6 Finding Rest in Family Ties

by Tim Jennings (announcements last page)

Because we didn't get to lesson 5 last week, I want to share just a couple of high points from lesson 5 and then go into lesson 6, and especially because lesson six is about families and these principles apply to our family relationships.

MONDAY

The lesson focuses on Christ saying to us, "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Mt 11:29–30 NIV84).

What is a yoke? What does it do?

A yoke is not a bridle, it is not a bit, it is not designed to compel or to force or to inflict pain. What is the function of a yoke? It shares the load!

Jesus is saying that we are to yoke up with Him, to join forces with Him, to be united with Him and He will help us carry the load and only with His yoke can we succeed!

What is the yoke that joins us to Christ, that relieves the burdens of life, that lifts the weight, that energizes us, invigorates us, gives us life and makes life easy? The law of love!

It is the yoke of love, love for God and love for others that joins our hearts and minds to Jesus and relieves us of fear, guilt, shame and the need to force our way. The duties of life become joys as we carry them out in love.

This is from the book *The Desire of Ages*:

The yoke that binds to service is the law of God. The great law of love revealed in Eden, proclaimed upon Sinai, and in the new covenant written in the heart, is that which binds the human worker to the will of God. If we were left to follow our own inclinations, to go just where our will would lead us, we should fall into Satan's ranks and become possessors of his attributes. Therefore God confines us to **His will, which is high, and noble, and elevating.** He desires that we shall patiently and wisely take up **the duties of service.** The yoke of service Christ Himself has borne in humanity. He said, "I delight to do Thy will, O My God: yea, Thy law is within My heart." Psalm 40:8. "I came down from heaven, not to do Mine own will, but the will of Him that sent Me." John 6:38. Love for God, zeal for His glory, and love for fallen



humanity, brought Jesus to earth to suffer and to die. **This was the controlling power of His life. This principle He bids us adopt.** DA 329.3

This is design law—it is how God built life to operate. We cannot grow, develop, advance through being idle, through lack of exercise, through allowing others to solve our problems, fulfill our duties, do our work. It is for our health, wellness, development that we are each given burdens of life to fulfill and we are to unite with Christ in carrying out these responsibilities in life.

Practices and protocols that remove life's responsibilities from people destroy character, undermine health, wellness and inflame selfishness. People who are not united with Christ, working with the yoke of loving service in life, will be yoked with great burdens of this world that crush them.

From the same author who wrote *The Desire of Ages*:

But instead of taking the yoke of Christ, [which is the yoke of God's law of love which motivates us to live lives of loving service] how many bind upon their souls a galling yoke, a grievous burden. Many wear a load of care, worldly perplexities are accepted, worldly customs are followed, worldly fashions practiced, and their character is marred, their life made a weariness. **Jesus would have them lay aside this yoke of bondage, and take upon them his yoke of love,** that they may learn to be meek and lowly in heart. The weakest soul, wearing Christ's yoke, bearing his burden, may become strong in his grace, and he will find the yoke easy, the burden light. ST January 19, 1891, par. 5

LESSON 6 SABBATH

The lesson states in the last paragraph, "Family relationships often are complicated and painful, leaving us restless, hurt, and carrying loads of emotional baggage that we, in turn, off-load on others."

Have you had some family relations that were painful, and hurt you and left you with baggage? I think everyone has.

What are we to do when we have someone in our family—an adult—who is acting in ways that are harmful, injurious, painful, hurtful to others, someone who doesn't shoulder responsibility for themselves, someone who pursues the easy road not the healthy road and despite much resources provided they still haven't matured, haven't grown up, haven't learned self-governance, personal responsibility?

1. Assess their capacity—their innate ability to grow and mature. If they are like my aunt Sandy, mentally handicapped, and don't have capacity then it would be wrong of us to expect more from them than they are capable of achieving. But within their capacity, we absolutely should expect them to achieve up to what they are capable. So my aunt was able to become a person who was helpful, would make her bed, do her own hygiene, do simple chores around the



- house, volunteer at the Samaritan Center under supervision. But she required external oversight and supervision her entire life. But love sought to help her grow to the fullest extent she was capable of achieving. And she loved Jesus, she loved going to church, and she loved people.
2. Love provides people opportunity for development—this would include:
 - a. during childhood—love, affection, security, food, clothing, shelter and appropriate boundaries and discipline
 - b. education/instruction followed by opportunity to apply and feedback and re-opportunity to learn and apply
 - c. eventually love sets free those who have capacity to self-govern even if they don't develop or use that capacity and then allows them, when of appropriate age, to reap the results of what they have chosen. Consider the story of the Prodigal Son.
 3. Love sets boundaries—with everyone—love decides on who enters the inmost affections of our hearts and circles of trust and this is based on the trustworthiness of the other person, not on how they are related to us. While we may love a child deeply, we may not be able to let them into our circle of trust if they have proven themselves untrustworthy.

MONDAY

The title of the day's lesson is Dysfunction at Home and focuses on Abraham and Sarah and the conflict that occurred with Hagar and then with Isaac and Esau and Jacob and then with Jacob's children.

What lessons in family governance, family leadership, family dynamics do you learn from Abraham's family?

Why do you think the stories of Abraham's dysfunctional family are recorded?

These are lessons to us to teach us the reality of the two antagonistic principles contending for supremacy in the hearts and minds of all human beings since Adam's sin.

These Bible stories reveal that without God's love working in our hearts then fear and selfishness (sin) corrupts us and we will betray and exploit others, even those closest to us—our own families. These stories reveal the unavoidable results of sin—which is anti-love, selfishness and fear, the survival drives.

These stories document that sin destroys, not God, and how that destruction happens. Further they reveal that the only solution to sin is God's law of love, God's methods and principles applied to the life.

Joseph's brothers allowed their fear, selfishness, and jealousy to take control of their hearts, minds, and actions. Had they truly loved Joseph, they would have celebrated him and rejoiced when their



father honored him. But they loved themselves more. So they sold him as a slave and misled their father into believing Joseph was killed by wild animals.

Joseph suffered terrible injustice. Injustice from his brothers. His human rights were violated. He was not treated as an individual, but as property. He was taken by slave-traders and sold in a slave market to Potiphar.

There is no question that what happened to Joseph was wrong; it was sin; it was unjust. Yet, Joseph had no ability to stop it. He could not control the choices of others. Joseph had to decide, how he would, in governance of self, deal with the injustice:

- Would he become resentful, bitter, hateful?
- Would he fantasize about getting even with his brothers?
- Would he pray to God to take vengeance upon the Egyptians?
- Would he seek to sabotage and injure those who treated him as a slave?

- Or would Joseph surrender his life to God?
- Would he seek God's presence, God's methods, God's law, God's purpose in his life?
- Would he trust God to right his wrongs and would he refuse to become bitter, angry, and let selfishness corrupt his character?
- **Would Joseph, in the face of injustice, become corrupt or would he become more just, more righteous through living out God's methods in his life?**

Joseph chose to trust God and apply God's methods to himself. And how did Joseph treat Potiphar? Joseph was faithful, loyal, reliable, diligent, true, dedicated, honest, and carried out all of his *slave* duties with integrity. This is incredible. It is anti-culture, anti-worldly, anti-human justice.

Why would Joseph do this? Potiphar was an Egyptian. He wasn't a member of Joseph's family. He wasn't a descendant of Abraham. He wasn't a worshipper of Yahweh. He was a pagan, an idol worshipper, but worst of all—he was a slave owner! He must be a corrupt person and certainly buying Joseph and owning him as a slave makes Potiphar undeserving of Joseph's loyalty—right?

Was Joseph loyal to Potiphar because Potiphar deserved it, or was Joseph loyal because Joseph deserved it, because of who Joseph was—a loyal subject of the Creator God who sought to honor God by living out God's law of love in the face of injustice?

One of Satan's biggest traps in this world is to incite real injustice and then get people to seek justice through the application of Satan's methods, Satan's laws, Satan's principles of inflicted punishments and retaliation—because they deserve it. It is right, Satan says, for us to be angry, resentful, bitter, to harbor fantasies of suffering toward our enemies. It is right in the world's system to use whatever means necessary to ensure those we decide are bad get what they deserve.



So, it is just to riot, to destroy other's properties, to shoplift, to disrupt traffic, to drag people out of their cars and beat them, to lie, to falsely accuse, as long as it advances our social justice, then it is right and just to behave this way—oh how Satan rejoices.

But Joseph didn't seek to undermine his slave master. Yet despite Joseph's high moral standard, his faithful and loyal service, he suffers more injustice. Joseph is accused of sexual assault and imprisoned for crime he did not commit. What an outrage, falsely accused, falsely imprisoned after years of loyal and faithful service. Certainly now it is right and just for Joseph to be resentful, angry, bitter and to seek justice.

But how did Joseph respond? Did he become bitter, angry, hateful? Did he seek to retaliate? Did he fantasize about getting even? No, he lived out God's law of love in governance of himself and trusted God with the outcome. And eventually, through God's miraculous interventions, Joseph is elevated to the second most powerful position in the world—second only to Pharaoh himself.

And once Joseph had real power, what did he do? Joseph had the authority to right all past injustices against him. He could have punished Potiphar's wife and Potiphar if he wanted. By today's world's standards it would have been just and right to put them in prison or fine them or make them pay reparations. Why didn't Joseph do it, he had the power?

What would have happened to Joseph, to his heart, mind and character if he practiced the methods of this sinful world in seeking justice? What kind of person would Joseph have become had he harbored resentment, anger and bitterness and longed to retaliate, had he sought to make Potiphar and his wife pay or later sought to make his brothers pay?

What happens to the hearts of people in society today when they focus on past wrongs (real wrongs just like Joseph or imagined) either to them or to their ancestors and they hold to anger, bitterness, resentment and seek to use the governments of this world to make others pay? That is Satan's goal to corrupt character through embracing his methods of justice!

Do you see how all the kingdoms of this world are Satan's and that using human governments to inflict punishment to make others pay only spreads sin, causes more hatred, division, conflict, impairs the gospel from advancing and corrupts character?

If Joseph would have applied the philosophy of today's world and rebelled against Potiphar in overt or covert ways—say had the affair with his wife. What would have been the likely outcome? Joseph would most likely have been executed. And then he wouldn't have been there to protect his family during the famine and Satan would have succeeded in terminating the family line that would bring the Messiah.

God cannot win His cause through people whose hearts harbor resentment, anger, bitterness, a desire for retaliation, people who long to inflict punishment on others or seek to force reparations. God can only win his cause through people who trust Him and allow Him to eliminate fear, selfishness, anger, bitterness, jealousy and the desire for retaliation from their hearts and minds



and restore His love, His character within so that we love our enemies as Christ loves us. This is the only way forward and the social justice movements of the world are traps of Satan designed to inflame selfishness, incite division, cause more hostility between people and corrupt character—all under the name of justice so people can feel good while they do injustice. It is the exact same trap of the Dark Ages Church, burning people at the stake in order to save them.

Only God's laws of love, truth and liberty heal and unite, only as we trust God with our lives, our futures, the outcomes and stay faithful in governing ourselves in harmony with His principles can we overcome Satan and the powers of this world.

As I was thinking about Joseph, about the threats from society, government, the abuses and injustices he suffered and how today we are faced with threats that are designed to incite fear, to inflame our desire to protect self, to use the survival mechanisms of this world, I read Psalms 27:1-6 in *The Remedy*:

*The Lord enlightens me and heals me —
Why should I be afraid? The Lord keeps me safe —
Why should I be afraid?*

*When selfish people attack me and try to destroy me,
they will stumble and fall.*

*Even if surrounded by an entire army,
I will not be afraid;
even if the army attacks,
I will trust the outcome to God.*

*There is one thing I desire from the Lord;
one thing my heart truly wants:
to be part of the Lord's family and live in his house all my life,
to gaze upon his beauty,
to have him as my teacher.*

*He will shelter me from danger;
he will keep me safe in his home
and will establish me, secure, on the immovable Rock.*

*My character will rise above the selfish enemies around me.
With joy I will offer my heart as his temple;
I will sing — yes! — I will sing praises to the Lord. Psalms 27:1-6 REM*

We like Joseph, when faced with injustice must decide, whose methods will we practice, whose principles will we advance—those of this world or those of Jesus Christ? And by choosing Jesus and His methods our characters grow to be more like Him!



So what are the principles we are to apply in our own families—that we can see in the life of Joseph?

- Healthy **relationships** require healthy people and healthy people are in governance of themselves
 - Joseph didn't have authority over what his brothers did; he didn't have authority over what the slave traders did; he didn't have authority over what Potiphar or his wife did or what Pharaoh or his cup bearer did. And he certainly didn't have authority over what God did. Joseph only authority over what he did in governance of self. Would he trust God? Would he surrender his life to God? Would he trust God with outcomes? Would he, in his own heart and mind and practice the methods of God? Would He forgive those who wronged him? Would he let fear and selfishness control his decisions, or would his love for God and others direct his actions?
 - Consider his decision with Potiphar's wife—how was Joseph's decision and outworking of love?
 - Was his refusal of Potiphar's wife an action of love for God?
 - Was it an action of love for Potiphar?
 - Was it an action of a healthy self-love—protecting his own integrity, heart, mind, character?
 - Was it action of love for Potiphar's wife? How? What would happen to Potiphar's wife's character if she carries out her adultery? So, if Joseph loves Potiphar's wife, like Jesus, does Joseph collude with actions that sear her conscience, harden her heart and corrupt her character?
 - But if Joseph is motivated primarily with fear and selfishness to protect Joseph and get whatever Joseph can get, or perhaps with anger and resentment at Potiphar for being a slave and wants to get back at Potiphar, what action would Joseph take?
 - Healthy relationship require healthy people—and healthy people are in governance of self—so Joseph demonstrates healthy self-governance. Did that mean his relationships were all healthy relationships? Why not? Because others were not healthy!
 - Understand this critical point—you cannot have healthy relationships with others if you yourself are not healthy if you do not live out God's principles and methods in your own life. But even when you do, you cannot have healthy relationships with others who are unhealthy!
- Healthy **relationships** require healthy people and healthy people are in governance of themselves
- Healthy people own their shortcomings
 - The unhealthy, unconverted, immature, blame others, deny, distort, project, but don't look in the mirror and seek to own their own problems and through God's grace overcome them.



- If we want healthy relationships we must deal with our own selves first and ensure we are owning our own shortcomings and through God's grace working to overcome them. We must stop trying to blame our spouse or children or parents for our problems
- Adam – it wasn't me it was that woman....

Healthy **families** require healthy parents and

- healthy parents are in governance of themselves and practice God's methods and principles
 - Abraham brought conflict into his family by surrendering his decision-making to Sarah and violating God's methods and principles in taking Hagar. It was NOT Sarah's decision with whom Abraham slept—it was Abraham's. But Abraham surrendered that choice seeking to placate and appease Sarah, seeking to accommodate her, seeking to make her happy. And worse he sought it through a pagan custom that violated God's design, methods and plans.
 - Healthy parents will work together, will seek unity, will seek to find agreement—but at the end of the day, each person must govern themselves in accord with their own conscience and not surrender their decision making to their spouse.
 - Questions about this?

Healthy **families** require healthy parents and healthy parents are in governance of themselves, practice God's principles and

- set healthy boundaries and enforce the boundaries they set:
 - never set a boundary they are not willing to enforce
 - Spelling B analogy
 - Boundaries provide structure and safety & security
 - Baby born cries, unless wrapped tight....
 - Same rules which say you can't go out into the street in the child's mind says the street can't come in to harm them. But what if you never enforce your boundary? No security, increased fear and acting out and undermined trust

Does setting healthy boundaries apply only to parents and children or to all relationships?

Read fourth paragraph, "Some cultures emphasize..." What is the relationship between personal commitment and corporate or community commitment?

Can there be community or corporate commitment without personal commitment?

Can corporations or institutions be saved or only people?

Can corporations love?

I have heard a lot about corporate repentance growing up. People refer to Daniel's prayer as an example of this in Daniel 9. However, as I reread Daniel 9 with design law in mind my view of this



passage has changed. Daniel's prayer is not about corporate salvation, because corporations are not saved, only people are saved. Daniel's prayer is about corporate mission—about Israel being put back on the field, getting off the bench, of God fulfilling His purpose to bring the Messiah through Israel and complete the plan of salvation to save people. That is the focus and that is the answer Daniel gets from His prayer. God gives him the vision that through the remnant of Israel, God's promise in Genesis 3:15 of the Seed of the woman who would crush the serpent's head would come. That the promise of the Seed of Abraham who would save the world would come through this remnant. That is it. There is nothing in the process that says corporate Israel will be saved, only that corporate Israel would fulfill its purpose of being the avenue for the Messiah, and also protecting the Scriptures and teaching tools given to them.

So, in regard to corporations today, such as Come and Reason Ministries, it is the people who are saved and the corporation is only as effective in carrying out God's purposes as the people who make up that corporation are. It is as we commit ourselves to God and work in harmony with His methods and principles and follow His leading and trust Him with outcomes that God is able to use our corporation and the resources He has blessed us with to fulfill purposes for Him.

And what do we see as God's purpose for His people at this time in human history?

To present the final message of mercy to the world—the truth of His character and methods of love in the setting of the message of the 3 angels!

Read the last paragraph, "To find rest..." What do you think of this idea that God has only children no grandchildren? What does it mean? It means we cannot pass along salvation to our children, each person must accept Jesus for themselves, to die to selfishness and be reborn as a child of God.

But does that mean we cannot pass along advantages and disadvantages to our children and grandchildren?

The commandment says that sins pass down 3-4 generations—what does this mean?

This is an outworking of design law—God created Adam and Eve with the ability to procreate beings in their image. This means that as they lived their lives and through life experiences changed themselves they would have children with characteristics similar to them.

This is not just the genetic sequences that code for things like height, eye color, skin color, shape of the face, structure of the hands, the various physical characteristics. No, we also pass along the epigenetic instructions telling the various genes how to express themselves.

Our choices in life change us epigenetically and we pass along to our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren either advantages or disadvantages through molecules that attach to the DNA.

In my lecture [The Developing Brain](#), which is on our website and the link is in the notes, I give many scientific examples of this and explain it in detail.



Here are some comments by one of the founders of the SDA church, written back in the 19th century, before the discovery of DNA, before the discovery of epigenetics, and some historically scoffed at these insights, but science has proven them to be exactly correct.

- **The nobler the aims, the higher the mental and spiritual endowments, and the better developed the physical powers of the parents, the better will be the life equipment they give their children.** In cultivating that which is best in themselves, parents are exerting an influence to mold society and to uplift future generations.... {1MCP 139.1}
Through the indulgence of appetite and passion their energies are wasted, and millions are ruined for this world and for the world to come. Parents should remember that their children must encounter these temptations. **Even before the birth of the child, the preparation should begin that will enable it to fight successfully the battle against evil.** {1MCP 139.2}
- **The physical and mental condition of the parents is perpetuated in their offspring.** This is a matter that is not duly considered. **Wherever the habits of the parents are contrary to physical law, the injury done to themselves will be repeated in the future generations. . . .** {AH 172.1}
- **A genuine conversion changes hereditary and cultivated tendencies to wrong.** --Lt 105, 1893. (6BC 1101.) {1MCP 145.4}
 - Studies document that:
 - Pregnant mothers with negative thinking patterns, pessimistic, critical, depressogenic thought patterns, alter the developing brain of their children increasing the risk of depression in them later in life
 - (Am Journal of Psychiatry 2013; 170:434-441).
 - If mothers are highly stressed during pregnancy their stress hormones cross the placental barrier and alter, epigenetically, the braking mechanism of the fetal brain and child is born less capable of calming themselves, more irritable, anxious and socially impaired than that child would have been if mother was not highly stressed during pregnancy
 - Medina, J. Psychiatric Times, April 2010, p. 16
 - <https://www.psychiatrictimes.com/view/transgenerational-transmission-of-resilience-after-catastrophic-trauma>
 - What one eats alters their epigenetics and this passes along and what one eats while pregnant alters the gene expression of the fetus
 - Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, DOI: 10.1073/pnas.0806560105
 - Biology Published 2008 <https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/Jacob-and-the-Spotted-Sheep%3A-The-Role-of-Prenatal-Backon/194ef71dd0af81f87cebdeda41ac64a85bc44a74>
 - Eur J Hum Genet. 2006 Feb;14(2):159-66.
 - <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/16391557>



- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy in trauma survivors epigenetically alters the genes controlling resilience and stress response restoring the brain function back to pre-trauma activity, i.e. restoring health.
 - Biological Psych, Vol 74,(1) Dec 2013 p. 793-800

So while we cannot pass along salvation, we can pass along healthier equipment that enhances the ability to make healthy choices.

TUESDAY

Read bottom green section, “There are many groups...” Why does healthy God-like love not accept ourselves as we are?

But does healthy God-like love devalue us or consider us worthless or wormlike?

Why or why not?

From where does our value and worth originate or come? The lesson says it comes from outside of ourselves, if they mean by that that God is the source of all creation and everything that exists was created by Him and ultimately has its source and worth in Him, then of course this is correct.

But if they mean that we have no worth as individuals in ourselves because we are sinners would that be correct?

Or do we have worth in who we are because we are God’s creation, human beings created in the image of God to be temples for the Spirit of God. So we have inherent worth as humans regardless of any good we have done, it is built in by God in our creation.

But, does that inherent value or worth, which God demonstrates in that “while we were yet sinners Christ die for us” mean that we are healthy or good or righteous? No—we have worth in who we are, creations of God, but we are sick in sin, terminal and dying and our worth won’t change that.

So, love looks in the mirror of God’s design law and acknowledge there is something wrong with us, something we did NOT choose that will kill us unless remedied. And God so loved the world, valued us so much, that He sent His only Son so that whoever trust Him He will heal, cure, and restore to eternal life.

So, I see worth and righteousness as different things. We have inherent worth has human beings, but we are still terminal and have no righteousness within us, nothing good in ourselves or any ability to restore us to goodness or godlikeness—all of our goodness is a gift received through Jesus via the work of the Holy Spirit in us.



THURSDAY

Read last paragraph, “Our relationships are miniature reflections...” What are the two antagonistic principles raging in the Great Controversy?

- love versus selfishness

What are the primary methods of these two principles?

- love operates on truth and liberty
- selfishness operates upon lies and coercion

What is the principle emotions of the two?

- love operates on desires to benefit others, for the welfare of others, compassion, and joy in the welfare of others
- selfishness operates on fear of loss, fear of rejection and lust or longing to protect or get for self, which brings relief and pleasure. So it operates on the pleasure principle, what feels good.

Do we see these two principles at war through human history?

Do we see them coming to a final confrontation in the world today?

Why do so many people prefer the methods of Satan, lies and coercion of others?

Because they are motivated by fear and selfishness. Fear is a powerful motivator, when people are afraid they will sacrifice principles to feel safe. They will give up liberties, they will lie, deceive, cover up, blame others, allow others to take the fall for them.

So, Satan is described at the end of time as a roaring lion—a lion’s roar doesn’t actually harm, it incites fear. And when animals are afraid they respond with:

- Freezing—they stop doing what they would normally do, stop gathering nuts, stop building their nests, stop their service for others—we are afraid, we stop ministry, stop meeting, stop choir practice, stop visiting shut ins, we freeze when we are afraid.
- Flight—the animal who hears the lion’s roar if it doesn’t freeze, then may flee, run away, seek to hide, seek to avoid the threat. So many when they hear fear messaging today are seeking to run away, to hide, to avoid the conflict. Just be silent, don’t speak up, don’t stand for truth, don’t resist the liars, just hide in the crowd.
- Fight—or if cornered, if freezing doesn’t work, if fleeing doesn’t work, then when cornered animals will fight. How many Christians are being tricked into fighting, but not fighting with the weapons of God, but fighting with the weapons of the world. Paul said,
 - “For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ” (Co 10:3–5 NIV84).



- We are to fight with truth, love and liberty, presenting the truth about God and His methods in love, but leaving others free. We are not to seek to take control of governments to force our way, but we are to present the corruption of Satan's methods that people use to take away liberties of others all in order to make themselves feel safe.



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Vision for Come and Reason: Good News—we are now the owner of the property at 4922 La Collina Way, Collegedale, TN



It is a two-story building with over 14,000 square feet. We will occupy the first floor, which is a little over 7000 square feet. But before we move in, we need to do renovations to prepare for our classes and ministry production. We will have a theater studio that can seat up to 130 people, so we can record and broadcast programs with a live audience. We will have a kitchen, so we can have regular potlucks. There's also a large, ready-to-use room that we plan for children, so parents can come to our class while their children have a meaningful program and time for them.

The next step in the process is to get contractors to bid on the renovation, choose one, and get the space prepared for our occupancy.

It is not our way to do fundraisers and we will not do a fundraiser or send out donation requests, however, several people have asked if our ministry has any needs and recommended that we make our vision and plan to have our own facility public, so that anyone who want to support us in this endeavor can do so.



So, please keep us in your prayers that the Lord will lead us to find the contractor and bless the process, so that the resources you bless us with will be spent wisely and most economically to further increase the outreach of this ministry.

NEW RESOURCE SOUTH AFRICA: *Could It Be This Simple?* is now available in Afrikaans. We want to give special thanks to Jacques van den Heever, who spent many hours proof reading and working with editors and translators to get this resource available. Thank you Jacques!

It is available as a FREE download on our website, but if you are in South Africa and would like one in print, then email Jacque at comeandreason.sa@gmail.com

There will be a small postage charge of R50 (around \$4) or you live near Somerset West you are welcome to pick one up in person.

South Africa also has some newly printed materials including tracts, meditation guides, and CIBTS. If you are interested in getting copies for yourself or to share, please email comeandreason.sa@gmail.com

Special Baker Books has made the digital version of *The God Shaped Heart* available for a short time for \$1.99 for either Kindle readers on Amazon or Nooks at Barnes and Noble.

God is Love Children's Book Available on Amazon! We are happy to announce that our children's book, *God is Love*, is now up on Amazon and is available for prime shipping! You might have trouble finding it at first because it's new and doesn't have any reviews yet. Reviews are paramount in helping others search for and find items on Amazon. If you search "God is Love Stephanie Land" you should be able to find it. For a limited time, we are offering it on Amazon for only \$10, which is cheaper than it is currently being sold on our ministry website. If you purchase it through Amazon, you can leave a "verified purchase" review which will help to get the book to populate when people do a search. The more reviews the better!