Sharpening the Sword

#11 (v1.0)

Golden Scripture #1

John 3:16

16 ¶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Application:

Christ is the savior of the world and is the literal son of God the Father.

Golden Scripture #2

Alma 34:16

16 And thus mercy can satisfy the demands of justice, and encircles them in the arms of safety, while he that exercises no faith unto repentance is exposed to the whole law of the demands of justice; therefore only unto him that has faith unto repentance is brought about the great and eternal plan of redemption.

Application:

Faith tied to repentance is the only way in which we qualify for redemption via the Savior.

Story/Scripture Chain #1:

1st Mark 14:32-35

32 And they came to a place which was named Gethsemane: and he saith to his disciples, Sit ye here, while I shall pray.
33 And he taketh with him Peter and James and John, and began to be sore amazed, and to be very heavy;
34 And saith unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death: tarry ye here, and watch.
35 And he went forward a little, and fell on the ground (Matthew pg. 1235)

2nd Matthew 26

39 And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.
42 He went away again ***the second time***, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.
44 … and prayed ***the third time***, saying the same words. (Mark 14 pg. 1267)

3rd Mark 14

36 And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me:

nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt. (Luke 22 pg. 1318)

4th Luke 22
43 And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him.
44 And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground. (3 Nephi 18 pg. 442)

Application. Teaching the atonement was one of the most effective ways I found at getting "fence-sitting" investigators to come to church… If people have a testimony of the Savior and they understand that there is only one way for them to show the Lord they remember that sacrifice (i.e. "taking the sacrament") they are left with having to make a choice.

Story/Scripture Chain #2:

3 Nephi 18 (pg. 442)

3 And when the Disciples had come with bread and wine, he took of the bread and brake and blessed it; and he gave unto the Disciples and commanded that they should eat.
4 And when they had eaten and were filled, he commanded that they should give unto the multitude.
(Bread)
5 And when the multitude had eaten and were filled, he said unto the Disciples: Behold there shall one be ordained among you, and to him will I give power that he shall break bread and bless it and give it unto the people of my church, unto all those who shall believe and be baptized in my name.
6 And this shall ye always observe to do, even as I have done, even as I have broken bread and blessed it and given it unto you.
(Church)
7 And this shall ye do in remembrance of my body, which I have shown unto you. And it shall be a testimony unto the Father that ye do always remember me. And if ye do always remember me ye shall have my Spirit to be with you.
(Cross)
8 And it came to pass that when he said these words, he commanded his Disciples that they should take of the wine of the cup and drink of it, and that they should also give unto the multitude that they might drink of it.
9 And it came to pass that they did so, and did drink of it and were filled; and they gave unto the multitude, and they did drink, and they were filled.
(Wine in glass)
10 And when the Disciples had done this, Jesus said unto them: Blessed are ye for this thing which ye have done, for this is fulfilling my commandments, and this doth witness unto the Father that ye are willing to do that which I have commanded you.
11 And this shall ye always do to those who repent and are baptized in my name; and ye shall do

it in remembrance of my blood, which I have shed for you, that ye may witness unto the Father that ye do always remember me. And if ye do always remember me ye shall have my Spirit to be with you.
(Commandment [Stone Tablets])
12 And I give unto you a commandment that ye shall do these things. And if ye shall always do these things blessed are ye, for ye are built upon my rock.
13 But whoso among you shall do more or less than these are not built upon my rock, but are built upon a sandy foundation; and when the rain descends, and the floods come, and the winds blow, and beat upon them, they shall fall, and the gates of hell are ready open to receive them.
(House Built on Rock)

Application. Teaching the sacrament obviously has many applications, but the most effective way I found to teach it was connected with the atonement above. I would actually make this a lesson on my mission… The first 1-3 visits I taught The Restoration over and over again in different ways until they had a testimony of it, then I would (most of the time) move into The Gospel of Jesus Christ followed by this lesson, what I called "A Walk Through the Garden", in which I would walk the investigator/family through the garden and then through the sacrament- the best time to give this lesson was obviously on Saturdays (I'd see ALL my investigators on Saturday and teach specifically this lesson if they hadn't had it yet).

Fire Scriptures of the Day:

Alma 34:30-37

30 And now, my brethren, I would that, after ye have received so many witnesses, seeing that the holy scriptures testify of these things, ye come forth and bring fruit unto repentance.

31 Yea, I would that ye would come forth and harden not your hearts any longer; for behold, now is the time and the day of your salvation; and therefore, if ye will repent and harden not your hearts, immediately shall the great plan of redemption be brought about unto you.

32 For behold, this life is the time for men to prepare to meet God; yea, behold the day of this life is the day for men to perform their labors.

33 And now, as I said unto you before, as ye have had so many witnesses, therefore, I beseech of you that ye do not procrastinate the day of your repentance until the end; for after this day of life, which is given us to prepare for eternity, behold, if we do not improve our time while in this life, then cometh the night of darkness wherein there can be no labor performed.

34 Ye cannot say, when ye are brought to that awful crisis, that I will repent, that I will return to my God. Nay, ye cannot say this; for that same spirit which doth possess your

bodies at the time that ye go out of this life, that same spirit will have power to possess your body in that eternal world.

35 For behold, if ye have procrastinated the day of your repentance even until death, behold, ye have become subjected to the spirit of the devil, and he doth seal you his; therefore, the Spirit of the Lord hath withdrawn from you, and hath no place in you, and the devil hath all power over you; and this is the final state of the wicked.

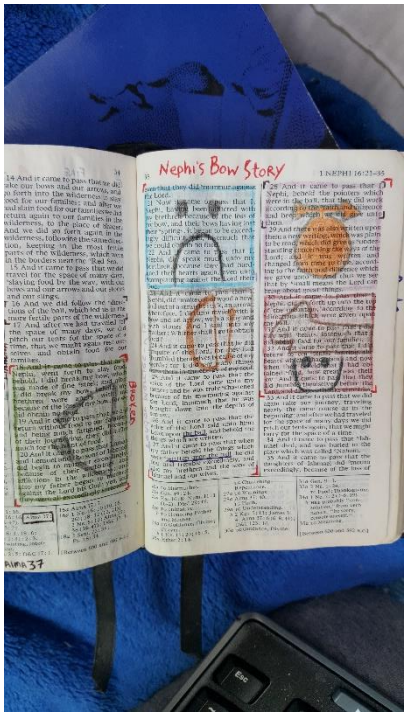
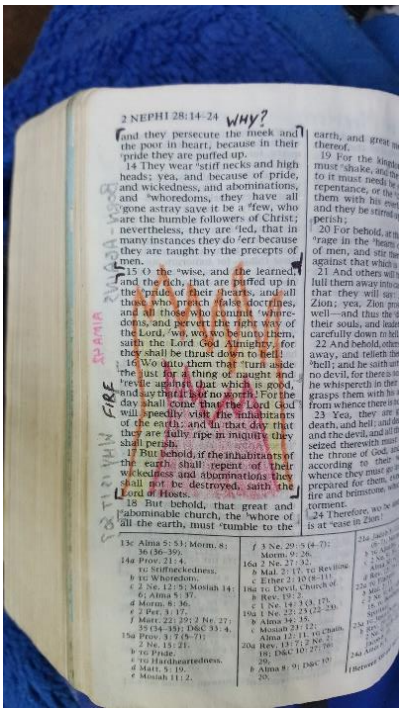
36 And this I know, because the Lord hath said he dwelleth not in unholy temples, but in the hearts of the righteous doth he dwell; yea, and he has also said that the righteous shall sit down in his kingdom, to go no more out; but their garments should be made white through the blood of the Lamb.

37 And now, my beloved brethren, I desire that ye should remember these things, and that ye should work out your salvation with fear before God, and that ye should no more deny the coming of Christ;

Application.

Warnings against procrastination such as wanting to delay going to church, a baptism date, delay repenting of a sin etc.

Example of "story drawing images":



Example of "Fire":