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URANTIA

Sample

November 30, 1981

Mr. David Sterr
R. R. 4 - Box 141F
Bemidji, MN 56601

Dear Mr. Sterr:

Marian Rowley has forwarded a copy of your letter to me for some suggestions as to how you might use URANTIA Book teachings in your Sunday School class. Since I have been sharing these insights in sermons and Sunday School discussions for twenty-five years, I find it a natural thing to do.

You may have already discovered that as you share values and insights from The URANTIA Book people readily accept them if they are in harmony with the basic teachings of the Bible; but if you attempt to quote other sources not accepted by your denomination, you meet resistance. So my first suggestion is that you share values and insights that are rooted in Biblical frames of reference and scholarship.

It is then very easy to extrapolate, amplify, and speculate. Phrases like "What if...", "Do you suppose...", "Did you ever wonder...", and other narrative techniques can lead you to almost any kind of consideration or discussion. A good teacher uses the Socratic technique of asking disturbing or challenging questions - even playing the devil's advocate to get people to think and discuss. Many of these questions can be in line with URANTIA Book insights.

If anyone should object to this type of thinking and speculation, you can always quote the last verse in the Gospel of John (John 21:25): "There are also many other things which Jesus did; were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written."

After a class gets used to this approach, you can periodically bring in outstanding quotes from various sources and religions of the world. Read them and engage in a discussion before telling the source of the quote. Some of these can be from The URANTIA Book. After a time your class will not be bothered by these "different ideas." Always finish the discussion by tying in these ideas with Biblical or Christian frames of reference.

If your class is composed of older young people or adults, you may notice certain individuals are hungry for new truth and ready for spiritual growth. Sometimes such persons can be privately introduced to The URANTIA Book. If you get a number of such people in the class, references to The URANTIA Book will be more frequent until it can be "another frame of reference" to consider. Care should be taken, however, not to refer to the book as an "authoritative" source but as an idea to think about.

Never push people too far past the degree of openness and speculation with which they are comfortable. You can always remain at the level of value and insight sharing which is Biblically acceptable. If you should be familiar with the history of the church and theology, you have a great resource to help you in presenting these ideas. Almost every position of The URANTIA Book is paralleled by ideas of a historic or contemporary theologian or by modern science.

We are delighted that you have discovered The URANTIA Book and wish you well in sharing its truths in your Sunday School class. They are truths which our world is hungry to hear. If we can be of further help, please contact us.

Cordially,

Meredith J. Sprunger

Meredith J. Sprunger

Marian, hopefully the foregoing may be of some help to David Stern. Any time I can be of assistance, call on me. Another way to handle correspondence where my experience might be helpful is to send me a copy of the letter and then I could write an answer and send it to you and you could use as much or little of it as you desired in writing to the person. This has the advantage of keeping all correspondence in the Brotherhood office.

Although the Charter Committee meeting is cancelled, we had scheduled a get-together with my sister Thursday evening and a meeting at Chicago Theological Seminary Friday morning. Since we are in Chicago, we thought we would come down to 533 Diversey and visit all our friends there Friday afternoon. See you then,
Meredith