



Teaching with a Golden Thread: Modeling an Integrated Christian and Classical Homeschool with Danielle Bennette Dukes

Unit 2: The Golden Thread and the Four Guiding Questions, Lessons 6-10

Outline:

Lesson 6: What is the Golden Thread?

Use the Golden Thread to weave people, places, and times together and pointing us home. This is the story of the salvation history of world.

What is the essential thread which is the Odyssey?

- What is home?
- Odysseus is on a journey to home from war? He is encountering hurdles on his way home.
- Home is our place, which is our native land, Heaven.
- Home is such a great logos to contemplate. It is always pointing to the abiding place of God.
- As we are journeying with Odysseus, we are distracted by our desires and our forgetfulness, and we must remember. We have friends who can help us on our journey home.
- In the journey home there are suitors trying to overtake our place. We can learn from the wise Penelope about weaving and keeping our homes together. We are not at home, no matter how nice the suiters are acting on a particular day.
- When we contemplate, “Who is my neighbor?” we continue to welcome.
- My identity is fully and truly in Christ. All else pales in comparison to who I am in Christ.

Lesson 7: The Four Guiding Questions

Who do you say I am?

- This is the question that Jesus asked his apostles.
- This is a question that we ask ourselves. We look to others and things for our identities. Christ asks his apostles, “Who do you say I am?”
- Who do we say who God is? God does not change.
- This is a grounding question of our faith.

Who is my neighbor?



- Can we know God separate from our neighbor?
- Can we know ourselves separate from our neighbor?
- If we claim we love, love is never abstract (Wendell Berry).
- This extends into the books we read. We look for stories of neighbors, and neighborliness.

Can anything good come from Nazareth?

- The questions being asked in the scripture is about Jesus.
- Nazareth is not a place of repute.
- This roots us into who we see God is.
- The children were moved to tears by the story of Pip and his pain of being treated less than.

What must I do to obtain eternal life?

- This is from the young rich ruler. Christ says to sell everything you have and follow me.
- This question is rooted in our attachments to people, things, affiliations, associations, and material things.
- In order to seek that face of God, we have to let go of those things and the Lord needs to be the center of our lives.

Lesson 8: Using the Guiding Questions

The four grounding questions fit the four cycles of the school year.

- Things organically come together. My end is that you see, “Can anything good come from Nazareth?”
- The guiding questions help you to see sacramentally.
- Wendell Berry’s logos is the same across forty years. He has integrity of thought.

Lesson 9: Using Guiding Questions to Avoid the Control of Ideologies

What attachments do we have that distract us?

- We are in an ideological war. All ideologies are in opposition to the gospel.
- What are ideologies?
- What must I do to inherit eternal life? We must look at our attachments in order to detach.

Lesson 10: Guiding Questions as Means to Being Rooted

You are on a journey, and the thing that is going to tether you is to remember that you are loved and who you are in Christ.

- The way we live is to root us to help us to remember, recover, and reconcile.
- Grace is new every moment of the day.
- Love always brings you home. You bring your whole self and give it to God.
- You can be rooted in your whole complete human self.