

“There comes a time in every man’s life, and I’ve had plenty of mine.”

Casey Stengel

Lessons of Life

This third section of the book is called “Lessons of Life.” It is intended to take elements of the game of baseball, and the Word of God, and relate them to everyday events and occurrences that happen in all of our lives. At the end of each of the lessons are discussion points for children and parents to use in helping you communicate better, build stronger relationships with each other and with God, and deal with the life situations that each of us face every day.

I have certainly had my Lessons of Life from the good and bad events that have occurred over the years. Dealing with change. The death of a loved one. Winning a big contract. Getting fired from a job. Facing rejection and dealing with disappointment. Causing conflict, or hurting someone’s feelings – or having them hurt mine. The birth of my two children, and my new granddaughter, Blair. Losing the big game. Forgiveness – both giving, and receiving. Failing to live under God’s Ten Commandments. Having prayers answered, but also having them not answered. Winning the big game. Financial hardship. Incredible travel to wonderful places. Bigotry and prejudice. Facing life threatening situations. Having a complete stranger come to my aid, and returning the favor for someone else.

The list goes on and on. The older I become, the more lessons of life I have received. Some lessons occur only once or twice, others on an almost daily basis.

It is what we learn from these Lessons of Life and how we apply the learning that determines our success.

Lessons of Life (cont.)

Some of the things that help develop a bond among baseball players are the ups and downs that happen in the course of a ball game. Strike outs. Game winning hits. Errors. “Highlight reel” plays. Disappointment and frustration. Rules. Losing the big game. Sacrifice. Teamwork. Coming from behind. Winning the championship. All of these parts of the game teach us things about ourselves and others, and about what we should and should not do in certain situations.

The Bible also teaches us about what we should and should not do, and how we should think of ourselves and others. It teaches us about sin and forgiveness, and about love, joy, and hope. In his teachings, Jesus used many parables – stories the people could understand and relate to occurrences in their everyday lives. The parables gave Jesus’ followers insight into what He was trying to teach them – but without always giving them a direct answer to their questions. They had to think and reflect to understand the meaning.

Here is an interesting thought - if the game of baseball had been invented over two thousand years earlier, might there have been a parable about baseball in one of the Gospels?

I hope the writings on the following pages help children and parents have discussions about life, your relationships with each other, and your interactions with friends and family. Hopefully you will read each of the lessons and relate them to your own personal experiences from life and the game of baseball.

Additionally, I pray that these Lessons of Life lead you to further Bible study, a better understanding of His will and His way, and a closer relationship with God through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.