

Education and life

Biblical Material: Proverbs 27.17

‘People learn from each other just as you use iron to sharpen iron.’

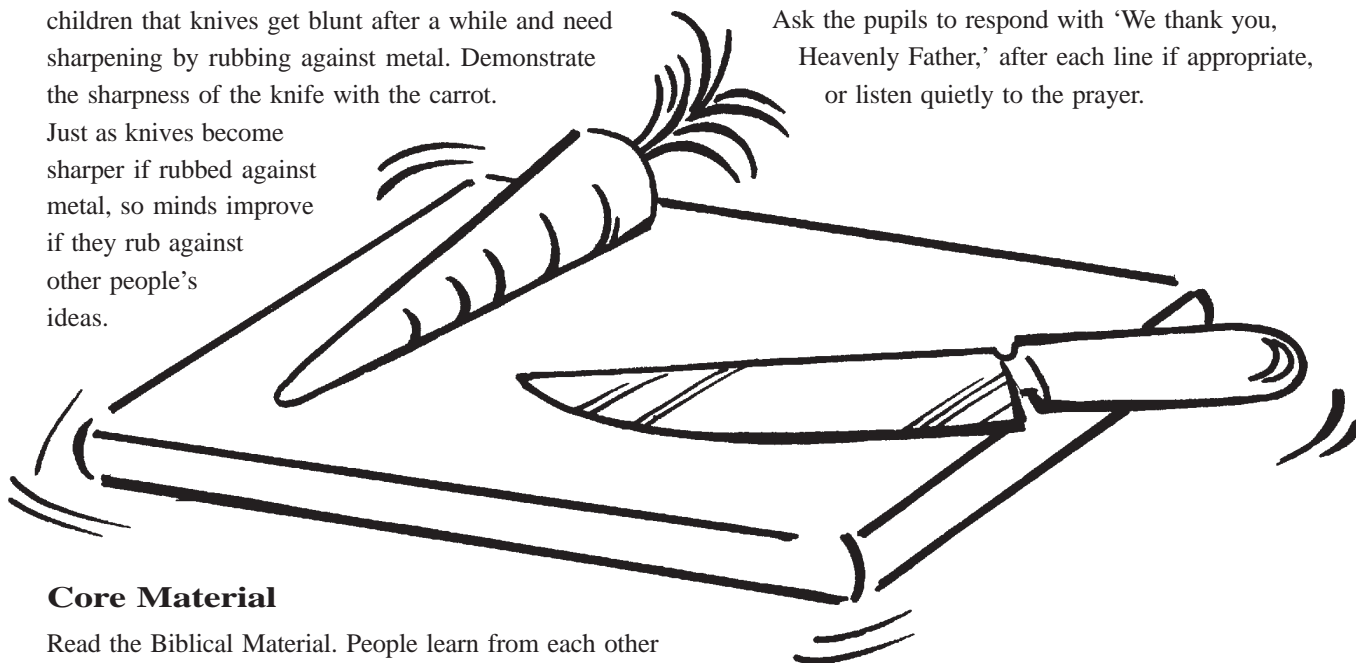
You will need:

- A knife sharpener (optional).
- A knife (make sure it is kept safely).
- A carrot to chop.
- A chopping board.

Introduction

Show the knife and sharpener (if available) and demonstrate it. Talk about how it works. Explain to children that knives get blunt after a while and need sharpening by rubbing against metal. Demonstrate the sharpness of the knife with the carrot.

Just as knives become sharper if rubbed against metal, so minds improve if they rub against other people’s ideas.



Core Material

Read the Biblical Material. People learn from each other and that can improve their minds. Just as metal needs other metal to become sharp, so we need other people’s ideas to help our own thinking. In the Bible, learning is not just learning facts such as $12 \times 12 = 144$. Ask pupils for more of this type of facts or use some of those listed.

Facts

- The capital of Mongolia is Ulaan Baator
- The largest diamond was found in 1905. It was as big as a man’s fist.
- The Netherlands grow more flowers than any other country.
- India has the most languages in one country.

Education is not just what goes on in school. In the Bible, learning (education) is about relationships as well

as facts, and it includes learning about God and his world. The word ‘knowledge’ in the Bible is used of the closest friendships. The idea of just collecting information would have seemed strange to people in Bible times. The whole purpose of education in the Bible was education for life - a life lived in friendship with God and others.

Prayer/Reflection

Ask the pupils to respond with ‘We thank you, Heavenly Father,’ after each line if appropriate, or listen quietly to the prayer.

For all we can learn about your world. ‘We thank you, Heavenly Father’.

For knowledge we gain from books and television. ‘We thank you, Heavenly Father’.

For knowledge we gain from sharing ideas with others. ‘We thank you, Heavenly Father’.

For a world full of things to learn. ‘We thank you, Heavenly Father’.

Note. For guidance on prayers and reflections see pages 9-11.