

April 13<sup>th</sup>

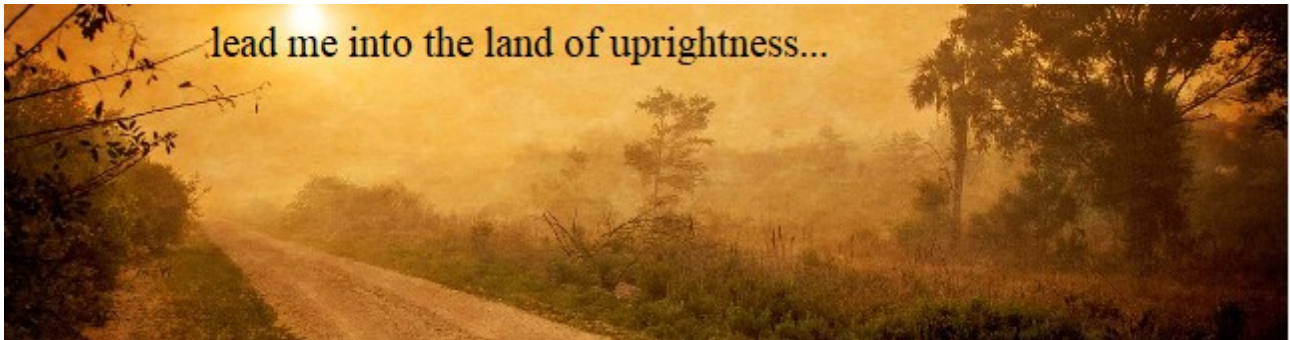
**Memory verse for the week:**

**Teach me to do thy will;**

for thou art my God:

thy spirit is good;

lead me into the land of uprightness. Psalm 143:10



There are four sections to this week's memory verse. The content seems to me to be in the pattern: AB | B'A'.

Teach me to do thy will;

for thou art my God:

thy spirit is good;

lead me into the land of uprightness.

The individual lines could be written on four separate flashcards, learned by different small children and recited in turn.

**Something to Read Aloud from History**

On **April 13<sup>th</sup>** 1657 Oliver Cromwell refused the crown (which means he was asked to become king but declined).

We have in Britain the blessing of parliamentary democracy. This means we are ruled, not by a king who can do whatever he wants, but by a parliament of members chosen at elections where we can each vote for a member to represent us.

Oliver Cromwell was the leader of the Parliamentary army in the Civil War (1642-51). The war came about because the King Charles I tried to rule without parliament. He managed to do this for eleven years by imposing illegal taxes. When he had to call parliament again it would not do what he wanted and so he raised his standard at Nottingham calling for soldiers to fight for him against parliament.

In the end the king was defeated. Eventually Oliver Cromwell reluctantly became head of state with the title "Lord Protector". He was offered the crown but refused it. Under Cromwell things were very different to how they had been when Charles I ruled. Under Charles everyone had to go to the same kind of church, the



Church of England. Anyone who did not was punished. Cromwell allowed everyone to go to their own church. Charles I had put godly ministers in prison or treated them cruelly by branding them with hot irons or cutting off their ears if they objected to an altar instead of a communion table or a priest in a special robe instead of a minister in ordinary clothes or complicated music instead of ordinary singing. All this persecution was over when Cromwell was in charge.

Did you know that before Cromwell people only had one day off from work each week, Sunday? Cromwell ruled that employers should give their workers another day off each week too, though it was not necessarily Saturday. He made sure criminals were fairly punished and did his best to make sure people behaved well towards each other. But people did not always like Cromwell. He was very strict and people were not allowed to play games or sports on Sundays – though they had another day off for that now, of course. He also forbade cruel sports such as bear baiting and cock fighting. In the end, after Cromwell died, people wanted a king again and called Charles's son back to be king. The new king promised not to persecute but he did not keep his word. Christians were fined, imprisoned, tortured (especially in Scotland) and put to death for another twenty eight years before there was a revolution which put a good king and queen (William and Mary) on the throne.

### Something to do

You can hold an election or even a parliamentary debate! Of course it helps if there are a number of you. Remember though that being elected as a member of parliament is being chosen for a lot of hard work! You might like to choose a job that needs doing round the home. Then if you would like to be a candidate for the job you can explain to other family members how you would do it as well as you can. You need at least two candidates, of course. A vote can be by a simple show of hands or you can have a secret ballot with a box and voting papers. It is important that the loser(s) has a good attitude. After the Second World War, Winston Churchill lost an election. He said, “This is democracy. This is what we have been fighting for,” this shows the right attitude!

Another way of doing this might be to choose a favourite book or story by means of a ballot.

Debates should have carefully chosen topics that will avoid anyone having to defend something that is wrong so it is best not to choose political or moral topics. The merits of various hobbies or sports can be good e.g. “Swimming is the healthiest form of exercise”. Older children might like to choose some monarchs, present some information on each to each other about them and then vote for which monarch was the best or which monarch was the worst.<sup>1</sup>

If handled with care this can be an opportunity to learn to be a good loser or a modest winner and to treat others courteously even when you disagree with them.



### Something to Read

April 13<sup>th</sup> 1970 “Houston we've had a problem!”

This is one of the most exciting stories in the whole of space history. The Apollo 13 mission to land on the moon went smoothly at first. Apollo 13 consisted of two spacecraft joined by a tunnel, the orbiter Odyssey and the landing craft Aquarius. The launch went well and the three astronauts were on their way to a moon landing when a fault caused an oxygen tank to explode. Odyssey was designed for the crew to live in on the journey but now they needed to use the cramped Aquarius which was

<sup>1</sup> Another possible topic for debate is “should we stop the clock?” see the lesson for 3<sup>rd</sup> April about Harrison and his clocks then look at the video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0hNVmaetPoE>.

undamaged but not yet prepared for use. The astronauts had to work hard getting Aquarius prepared quickly. One remained on Odyssey to shut down the systems ready for re-entry into the earth's atmosphere and the other two got into Aquarius. Now they had to balance the challenge of getting home with the need to conserve power. Soon all three were squashed into Aquarius. The crew pointed the space craft in the right direction for earth and then turned off everything that was not completely essential. The temperature dropped nearly to freezing because of the need to conserve power. Even water had to be rationed so that there would be enough liquid to cool the spacecraft's equipment during it's re-entry into the earth's atmosphere. Now the astronauts were cold and very uncomfortable. Would they survive? They did not have equipment to keep the air clean and carbon dioxide was already building up in the air they were breathing. Back at Mission Control in Houston, Texas, the team were already working on the problem. They managed to quickly find a way the astronauts could adapt some of the equipment they had on board to make a “scrubber” to clean the carbon dioxide out of the air.

While the spacecraft was passing through the earth's atmosphere there were a very tense few moments when nothing could be heard by Mission control in Houston from the craft. You can imagine the relief of the staff at Mission Control and the astronauts' families when they heard the astronauts' voices again and watched them safely “splashdown” in the Pacific Ocean near Samoa, nearly four days after the explosion.

### Something to think about

Astronauts train very carefully, learning how to manage isolation (being alone) and being cooped up in small spaces. They have to learn how not to become irritable and grumpy with one another. This is a problem we sometimes have to face. We need to be extra careful to be kind to one another and to put up with each other's niggling habits or annoying tendencies if for some reason we are stuck indoors together for a long time. If you have ever wanted to be an astronaut, such training is just what you need. Astronauts on the international space station have to spend about six months on board. During that time they have only each other's company.<sup>2</sup>

### Something to make

So many things get delivered in big cardboard boxes these days that you may be able to find one at home. If so you can make yourself a space rocket – with a little bit of help! Plenty of sticky tape, paint - a stapler is very useful too if you have one – see what you can come up with.<sup>3</sup> If no big box is available use a small one to make a model space rocket. If you take a cereal box apart carefully you can turn it inside out, giving you a nice grey surface to draw or paint on. Or you might be able to get hold of a cardboard tube for your rocket model.

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<sup>2</sup>You can watch a lovely interview with a Christian astronaut who holds a record for time spent on the Space Station here: <https://www.icr.org/article/above-all-earth>

<sup>3</sup>Here is one idea that might give you some inspiration: <https://www.instructables.com/id/How-to-build-a-cardboard-Rocket-ship>