

Future Division and Parents Group Study Curriculum

Future division and Parents Group members are studying Ikeda Sensei's encouragement to future division members during their monthly Soka Family Day activity. Here are the study topics for the February meeting.

Elementary School Division Study

Winning in Our Studies

I am sure that all of you sometimes struggle with your daily studies and other activities. But please keep in mind that every effort you make leads to making your dreams come true. Please keep on challenging yourself cheerfully. Believe you are now working on building your own grad castle.

The kind of hopes and ideals you cherish, and the purpose you strive for, will make a big difference in your life. (Soar Into the Skies of Hope, pp. 175–76)

Discussion Question: Why do you think our studies in school are important? Is there a goal or a hope you keep in mind to help you breakthrough when studying something challenging?

A truly smart person is not someone who simply has a lot of knowledge. A truly smart person is someone who has lots of questions and continues asking “Why?” or “How is that so?” It is someone who keeps thinking hard, even when a quick answer can't be found. ...

The more you struggle and the more effort you make, the greater your joy will be when you come to an answer. (Soar Into the Skies of Hope, pp. 145–46)

Discussion Question: Was there ever a time that you had a really difficult assignment in school? How did you challenge it?

Everyone has something they aren't good at or times when they just don't want to do what needs to be done. It may seem easier to put off the things we aren't good at or that we don't want to do. But the reality is that the more we delay, the more those things weigh on us and the harder they become. ...

If you study hard and do your homework when you are supposed to, then you can use the rest of the time to do the things you enjoy. That is much more productive. ... When you make good use of your time like this, you can add many more enjoyable and satisfying hours to your day. (Soar Into the Skies of Hope, p. 68)

Discussion Question: Why is it important to do things right away according to Sensei? What is one area in your studies where you struggle to complete things on time and how could you challenge it?

Junior High and High School Division Study

Win in Everything - How can I succeed in all my responsibilities?

Key Points

1. Chanting Nam-myoho-renge-kyo allows us to change our perspective on challenges.
2. Always give 100% effort to the task at hand.
3. Each moment is a new opportunity to redetermine!

Do you look at going to school as a right or something that you're being forced to do? Do you see school as liberating or stifling? It all depends on your personal philosophy, on your wisdom. If you're passive, you'll feel trapped and unhappy in even the freest of environments. But if you take an active approach and challenge your circumstances, you will be free, no matter how confining your situation may actually be. (Discussions on Youth, p. 282)

SUB Discussion Question

How do you view your responsibilities? (i.e. school, work, friends, SGI activities, extracurriculars, etc...)

Instead of worrying about whether you can do something, just go ahead and try. Resolve to do your best in both your studies and your extracurricular activities. Then chant Nam-Myoho-Renge-kyo, bring forth your wisdom and resourcefulness, and challenge yourself. Through diligent trial and error, you'll find a way forward.

Mr. Toda often used to say to us youth: "First, make a firm determination. And when you've done that, set out courageously." Throw yourself 100 percent into the tasks at hand. Giving 100 percent to everything you do is the key to winning in youth. (You Can Do It!, pp. 56-57)

SUB Discussion Questions

Is there anything holding you back from giving 100% to the task at hand? What kind of impact does chanting Nam-myoho-renge-kyo have on navigating your responsibilities?

The times we experience the most intense suffering, unbearable agony and seemingly insurmountable deadlock are actually brilliant opportunities for us to carry out human revolution.

If you're the type whose resolve tends to melt away easily, if you find it difficult to stick to your goals, then just renew your determination each time you find yourself slipping. You will achieve your human revolution without fail if you keep struggling valiantly, pressing forward despite setbacks and disappointments, always thinking: "This time I'll make it! This time I will succeed!" (Discussions on Youth, p. 265)

SUB Discussion Questions

What is one goal/determination that you want to renew?

Treasures from Nichiren Daishonin

"Hungry spirits perceive the Ganges River as fire, human beings perceive it as water, and heavenly beings perceive it as amrita. Though the water is the same, it appears differently according to one's karmic reward from the past." ("Reply to the Lay Priest Soya," The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin, vol. 1, p. 486)

SUB Discussion Question

What do you think Nichiren Daishonin means by this quote? Have you ever been able to change your perspective on a particular circumstance?