



Sample — *TruthQuest History: American History for Young Students II (1800-1865)*

Enjoy this sample! How does it work? *Easily! Naturally!* Just as you discuss life with your kids as an innate part of parenting, simply gather on the couch and together read aloud the commentary which begins each lesson. It won't ask kids to “passively” accept a worldview “download;” rather, the commentary's subtle hints at biblical principles will have them “actively” hunting for truth—little by little, lesson by lesson. By the end of each guide, the lightbulb will be full-on! The kids *will* absorb innumerable brain-facts; but more importantly, they'll develop spiritual eyes to seek God's powerful truths at work in history. This will show convincing proof that He is, and always has been, real *and* right! They will no longer think (as we were taught) of “history” as merely human names and dates (utterly devoid of culture-healing power), but will instead relish the engaging, eternal, worthwhile, inspiring, life-changing, unforgettable heart-story of God and mankind!

After the commentary has been read and discussed, each child is ready to dig into the historical event/personage being studied by enjoying a great book for their age level (from our lists here, or whatever resources are at your library). Thanks to your “priming” time in the commentary, they can probe almost any book and find surpassing lessons. Alternatively, you may wish to read aloud a single book for all to enjoy. Too, Dad can launch a great historical-fiction read-aloud at evening time—the older book gems are especially thrilling adventures—for everyone's enjoyment and his participation in the kids' learning/thinking/believing. (*Starred books were in-print at time of writing, but the older the book, the better, usually.)

Some lessons include a (strategically-placed) *ThinkWrite* exercise, deepening their spiritual insights through writing. Most lessons have them simply talk, read, and think...for these require time, peace, and relationship. Because “out of the heart the mouth speaks,” you'll hear their learning bubble up in conversation, play, etc. Hands-on activity resources are cited at many junctures. Feel free to use them, or not, as desired. You may also enjoy the companion notebooks/lapbooks/timelines created for *TruthQuest History* by AJTL, but all are optional. Walking and talking together, reading God's word: this is how Jesus taught the disciples the most important truths of all times, and enabled them to turn the world upside down. That is good enough for us! He created families as the place for teaching the young, and He authored the ultimate Book. So, family discussions and riveting reading are the heart of the matter!

26. Ideas about Progress

So, are you figuring all this out?! Are you seeing the big picture? America was growing like your big avocado is growing. But, was it *healthy* growth? Was America rooting deeper and deeper into the godly principles that had brought success in the first place? Now, you know I've never said that every early American was a believing Christian, but *most* Americans did

have a sense that God's basic laws were decent and good, and that they should make themselves behave accordingly.

But it seems that success affected the Americans just as it did the Israelites. They began to get a bit full of themselves and were thus less careful to resist the *Godless* ideas of their neighbors. Yes, they thought it safe to ride the bandwagon of European ideas which sounded good to their own minds, no matter what the Bible said about them. Alas, America was now sipping the *progressivism* which I mentioned earlier. Since people had tamed great distances with the locomotive and the telegraph, had quelled a few diseases, had eased some of the age-old difficulties of hard farm labor, and had subdued the old governments which had long held people in bondage, they began to think God could retire and they could fix the *rest* of the world's problems! They began to buy into the growing idea that mankind was getting better and wiser all on its own!

Remember! What really matters in history is what God is doing, and what He says is right, good, beautiful, and true. He gives us a choice about whether or not to believe Him, and our choice has a powerful impact on ourselves and our world! That is the power we have...and we have it only because He has given it to us.

There were indeed Americans in the mid-1800s who claimed that only mindless simpletons would now choose to be Christians since anyone 'in the know' had learned God meant for us to take over as soon as we were smart enough. But *here's* the truth: as much as God wants us to be good learners, the smartest thing of all is to admit we can't know as much as God! I'm glad He is

bigger and smarter than I can even imagine! That makes Him so great...and so wonderful to 'explore' and obey! And we have the joy of knowing His Word teaches us the secret truths people can't figure out on their own! (Do *ThinkWrite 2* now.)

ThinkWrite 2: "Smarty Pants!"

Can you find a verse in the Bible where God tells us that to know and serve Him is the smartest thing we can do?!

Yes, there was a real battle in America and in America's churches, for even many pastors were preaching about the power of human progress, and many well-meaning churchgoers believed what they said! Other folks and their churches rightly saw the Bible's claim—which is always clearly visible—the God alone is the way, the truth, and the life. They also knew that the good things—the progress—which had grown in America came from following His principles to some degree.

For two very different reasons then—either *progressivism* or a passion for God—nonbelievers, Catholics, and Protestants began addressing some of the problems around them. There was an effort to 'reform' the country and help the poor, disabled, and needy. There was even a huge wave of missionary zeal in the church! (It started in England with William Carey.) The first American missionary to go across the oceans to a foreign land was Adoniram Judson. Many of these missionaries who wanted to serve God with all their hearts had been influenced by the revivals we talked about earlier in this unit! That good seed was bearing more fruit! Keep that in mind, especially since there isn't much reading you need to do in this section. I just wanted you to know about the creeping idea of *progressivism*, even if it is a big word! Got it?

Dig in!

26a Charity work—such as by Dorothea Dix, Charles Brace, and Elizabeth Seton

<i>Dorothea Dix</i> , by Grace Melin (Childhood of Famous Americans)	Gr. 1-6
<i>Mother Seton and the Sisters of Charity</i> , by Alma Powers-Waters (Vision)	Gr. 3-12
* <i>Dorothea Dix</i> , by Barbara Witteman (Let Freedom Ring)	Gr. 4-8
<i>Angel of Mercy: Dorothea Dix</i> , by Rachel Baker (Messner)	Gr. 4-12
<i>Dorothea Lynde Dix</i> , by Gertrude Norman	Gr. 5-12
* <i>Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton: Daughter of America</i> , by Jeanne Grunwell	Unknown

Fiction/Historical Fiction

* <i>Roundup of the Street Rovers</i> , by Dave & Neta Jackson (Trailblazer)	Gr. 3-8
Fictional kids meet the real Charles Loring Brace, who founded the Children's Aid Society in 1853, the chief sponsor of the Orphan Trains. (We'll meet the kids on the Orphan Trains in the next unit since most of them went to communities in the Great Plains, and we've not yet covered Plains pioneering.)	

26b Missionary work—such as by Adoniram Judson

* <i>Hero Tales: Vol. I</i> , by Dave & Neta Jackson	Gr. 3-6
One of the chapters in this first volume covers Judson.	
* <i>Adoniram Judson: God's Man in Burma</i> , by Sharon Hambrick	Gr. 3-7
<i>Fire Upon the Earth</i> , by Norman Langford, Ch. 17b	Gr. 4-12

Fiction/Historical Fiction

* <i>Imprisoned in the Golden City</i> , by Dave & Neta Jackson (Trailblazer)	Gr. 3-9
Fictional kids meet real heroes in this much-beloved series; this one is about Adoniram Judson! It provides a good introduction to this important missionary, even if it does include fictional children!	

1839 was a great year for kids! Baseball and bicycles were invented!

* <i>Abner Doubleday</i> , by Montrew Dunham (Childhood)	Gr. 1-6
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