

SHARPEN YOUR AX!

SCRIPTURE:

Iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another. (Proverbs 27:17).

MATERIALS LIST:

- (1) Whetstone (sharpening stone)
- (1) Small pocket knife

MAIN MESSAGE:

We must encourage and sharpen each other in order to win this battle just as whet rock sharpens a dull knife.

SONG: "A Common Love"

LESSON:

One thing I learned quickly in Boy Scouts was that a dull knife or ax is more dangerous than a sharp one. Why is that? The answer is because a dull knife (ax) will slip on you causing you to cut yourself. Dull knives are also frustrating because they don't do the job they were created to do. The knife needs to be sharpened on a whetstone. A whetstone is sharpening stone that you push the knife blade over, causing friction which in turns sharpens the blade.

Whether it's a pair of scissors or a saw, you must take time to sharpen the blade, or the tool will eventually be of no use!

Once upon a time, a very strong woodcutter asked for a job with a timber merchant, and he got it. The salary was really good and so were the work conditions. For that reason, the woodcutter was determined to do his best. His boss gave him an axe and showed him the area where he was supposed to work. The first day, the woodcutter brought 18 trees. "Congratulations," the boss said. "Go on that way!" Very motivated by the boss' words, the woodcutter tried harder the next day, but could bring 15 trees only. The third day he tried even harder, but could bring 10 trees only. Day after day he was bringing less and less trees. "I must be losing my strength", the woodcutter thought. He went to the boss and apologized, saying that he could not understand what was going on. "When was the last time you sharpened your axe?" the boss asked. "Sharpen? I had no time to sharpen my axe. I have been very busy trying to cut trees..."

The point is, we can try to live for Christ and bring others to him, but if we are not intentionally studying and fellowshiping with other Christians who are strong, we will become weak! So, make sure to put yourself around others who will (as iron sharpens iron) strengthen and bless you!

PRAYER: Help us to encourage and sharpen others and please place strong Christians in our lives that sharpen us!