

# The **KEY** Pattern of Learning

Using God's Patterns  
an LDS Learning Guide



by  
*Tresta Neil*

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*Developed for the Theology Tree*

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For Personal Use

# Introduction

As a young homeschool mother teaching and learning along with my children I began seeing a pattern. It started out with a feeling of “there’s got to be more.” I began teaching my children with pictures, games, sounds and stories. As they got older I added words and dates and times. I was teaching them as I had learned in school. But, I kept remembering that as a child in the gospel I wanted to know more about patterns, I longed for the “whole picture.” When my Young Woman’s teacher asked what we wanted to learn I was excited to tell her I wanted to know how all the scripture stories fit together. For one reason or another, she never taught it and I continued to be hungry. The thought occurred to me, “Why not learn it as I am teaching my children?” Of course!

I opened up the Old Testament (along with the institute manual) and began teaching ancient history. We started with the Creation, the Fall and went through all the scripture stories. We would put pictures on the wall to “see” the whole picture. Finally, my hunger was being satisfied.

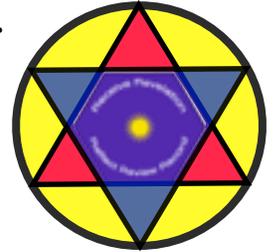
I noticed that there were levels of learning. 1) Telling the story, giving the facts, 2) Understanding the principles of each story and 3) Having the principles change us individually. This became my goal, getting to level three every day. After all, life was the time we are to learn to become like Christ.

This proved to be harder than I had originally thought, “How do I help them get to level three every day?” As I continued to experiment with ways I wrote down the pattern of learn - knowledge - apply - understand - share - wisdom. This book is how that simple pattern has developed into *The Key Pattern of Learning*.

The Key Pattern of Learning incorporates the *Come, Follow Me* curriculum and the *Duty to God* program of learn, act and share from *The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints* with the framework of knowledge, understanding and intelligence/wisdom from Elder David A. Bednar’s book, *Increase in Learning*.

# The KEY Pattern of Learning

The KEY Pattern of Learning is seen with two overlapping triangles. The blue, Receiving Triangle points down as if God is giving you gifts. The red, Action Triangle is pointing up showing the actions you give back to him and points you in the upward direction toward God. The center hexagon is purple and is centered on Receiving Revelation. Revelation is needed throughout the whole learning process just as the hexagon touches each of the six triangles or learning points. You reflect, review and record your learning in each of the points. The six learning points on the circle creates a cycle and sets “in motion” permanent learning.



This pattern helps mothers become better homeschoolers or teachers, it creates an environment where the spirit speaks to all individually and at their own level. It is a pattern for finding answers to all types of questions and creates order in learning. It brings you closer to God and to one another.

This pattern allows you to create fun, new and lasting memories. For example, while we were learning about the tongue, God's symbol for language, we learned that the word language means “to lick.” My younger son asked, “Do you mean when I talk to other people it is like I’m licking them?” Our entire family burst out laughing for several minutes and it became our new family joke and a permeant learning experience. These memories will last forever and they bind us together.

Begin following this pattern by teaching who is at the center of all learning - Jesus Christ. Without Christ this pattern could not exist. The center is what holds the shape, the pattern and frankly all learning together. Whenever anyone tells me they haven't felt the spirit I ask them if they have ever learned something new. Of course they have and I share with them that learning is a witness of Jesus Christ, it is the Holy Spirit bringing this learning into their hearts. No one can learn without the spirit and the more we understand how the spirit speaks to us individually and follow it the more we learn and the faster we can grow.

# The Purple, Revelation Hexagon



At the center of The KEY Pattern of Learning is Christ and the Holy Spirit. No matter where you start your studies, reading, writing or researching, always keep in mind that Jesus is what holds it all together. Just outside the yellow center is the purple, revelation hexagon. Learn how you personally receive revelation. Learn how the spirit guides your studies and follow it. Ask yourself, “What does God want me to study?, What makes my heart sing? What am I anxious to learn?”

Revelation is communication from God to his children. You can receive revelation to help you with your specific personal needs, responsibilities, and questions and to help you strengthen your testimony. Receiving revelations is receiving lasting strength to stay true to the gospel and help others do the same. The most common way to feel the spirit is through quiet spiritual promptings. Revelation will often come line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little and there a little.

Here are some more common ways the Holy Spirit communicates:

- He speaks to the mind *and* heart in a still, small voice. (D&C 8:2-3; Helaman 5:30)
- He prompts us through our feelings.
- He brings peace. (John 14:26; D&C 39:6; D&C 6:23)
- He reveals the will of the Lord to us
- He brings ALL things to our remembrance
- He sends messages through movies, songs and poetry and witnesses to us that its true

# Reflect, Review, Record (RRR)

The second part of the purple, revelation hexagon in the 3 R's, Reflect, Review, Record.

## **Reflect**

God said that all things are spiritual and testify of Him (Alma 30:44, Moses 6:63). This includes your research, your writings, your activities, your learning, etc. Knowing how to find the spiritual meaning in all things is a gift from God. It is a gift we can ask for and develop.

When Joseph Smith read James 1:5 its message "seemed to enter with great force into every feeling of [his] heart. [He] **reflected** on it again and again, knowing that if any person needed wisdom from God, [he] did" (Joseph Smith History 1:12.)

The best way to develop this gift of seeing all things as spiritual is by conducting reflections. A reflection is a spiritual discussion held immediately after an experience or activity. This makes the experience more meaningful and effective. Reflections provide an opportunity to ponder the spiritual application of temporal or physical experiences. It is not a review.

A reflection is the catalyst that provides an environment where you can talk about or ponder on spiritual things. You should leave the activity thinking about the spiritual application not just that "it was fun."

After each assignment or activity reflect on how God was there, what the spiritual aspects were and how it relates to your personal life.

# Conducting a Reflection

## Preparation

Choose a leader for the reflection. This should be done before the activity begins. This is so they can be thinking about the spiritual applications during the whole activity.

## Simple ground rules

1. no putdowns are allowed; every response is welcome and valid.
2. the person conducting the sessions should not show disapproval of a response or person, either verbally or nonverbally.
3. There are no right or wrong answers.



## Evaluation

Actively plan time during which **everyone** gets a chance for input

Ask good questions using "What?," "How?," "When?," and "Where?," "Tell me about..."

Begin with positive questions like, "What was good about the way decisions were made?" or "What did the group do well?"

Then ask about improvement: "What was the problem with the way you were communicating?" or "Were there any problems with what happened?"

## Conclusion - Recognize the spiritual application

"What might the tree represent?," "Can you think of anyone in the scriptures that had a similar experience?" . . .

"What did you learn from this activity?"

## **Review or Repeat**

The Stripling Warriors reviewed all that their mothers taught them to Helaman. "They rehearsed [or **repeated**] unto me the words of their mothers,.. that if they did not doubt, God would deliver them." (Alma 56:47-48.) Reviewing helped them to remember what they were taught and it was their reason for helping with the battles. Many believe it the reason that none of them were killed.

Repeating helps to **retain** learning so you can easily recall it. Joseph Smith experienced this repetition when the Angel Moroni came to him 4 times and told him the same things with little variation. "But what was my surprise when again I beheld the same messenger at my bedside, and heard him rehearse or repeat over again to me the same things as before;" (JS-H 1:46) Remember he was able to retain and write it all down word for word after he heard it the fourth time.



Repetition is a **pattern of revelation**. David A Bednar, of the quorum of the twelve, gave a talk in 2016, to the youth at BYU Idaho where he said, "Repetition is a vehicle in which the Holy Spirit can enlighten our minds, influence our hearts and enlarge our understanding." He added, "Repetition is an important aspect of ordinances. The line upon line *pattern of revelation* can invite, renew, enrich and enlarge knowledge we already have obtained. It can also bring new knowledge into our minds and hearts." This pattern can easily be utilized in your homeschool.

Prophets have said that reading the Book of Mormon will bring the **spirit of Revelation** and prophesy.

Your **attitude** toward repetition and review is key to retention. When you hear the typical topic of a lesson or presentation think *not*, "I already know this" or "I've heard this before." This type of attitude stops our learning. Be open to repetition and know that it facilitates revelation!

Studies have shown that we recall only 75% of what we learn in a class and when we study within the first ten minutes we can remember almost all of it. However, with only one review or repetition a month later you only remember 10%. The good news is you can remember up to 75% of the information when you repeat that review within 24 hours and again in one week and again at one month. How incredible repetition is when it is consistently used. :)

Remember that repetition should be of relevant things. Things that will bring you closer to God, strengthen you or help you fulfill your personal mission. One of Satan's greatest tools is to get you to forget the virtuous, lovely and things of good report. Focus on the praiseworthy and the relevant in your learning.

## Record

Record all of your research, reflections, and your memories in a memorandum. A memorandum is a Latin word for a **record made for future reference** it literally means, "something to be brought to mind."

Records are important to God. He has had all of His prophets throughout the ages keep records of their revelations and experiences (2 Nephi 4:2.) He commanded Adam and Eve to write down their revelations and to use them to teach their children (Moses 6:5-6.) He also uses the records to benefit his children. Nephi went back to get the records so that they would not suffer in ignorance by not knowing the mysteries of God (Mosiah 1:3.)

President Joseph Fielding Smith said, "The importance of written records of the lives of men and the activities of nations is apparent to everyone, because through them we have advanced in knowledge and power. We profit by the thoughts and actions of those who have gone before, because their experiences become ours as we put them into action. We profit by their mistakes and by their successful achievements. We accept the actions of the ages past, and thus, using our judgment, we gather out from that which has been recorded that which will be of benefit to us, and so we incorporate it in our lives."

The latter-day prophets and scriptures ask us to keep a record for 1) our posterity, 2) bearing of testimony (Ether 5:4), 3) for a remembrance (Moses 6:5), 4) to stand as a witness against the world (Ether 5:4) and 5) to receive more inspiration (Richard G. Scott, *To Acquire Spiritual Guidance*, Oct. 2009.)

When you make your own **record** of your learning, you form character traits that help you achieve your God-given potential and accomplish great moral feats.

When you create a record of your research, how it relates and affects you, you are creating a personal "living" textbook for later learning and remembering. This approach to learning fosters opportunities for accountability, productivity and character. The more detailed and exacting the **record**, the greater the mastery of order attained.

Also, your thoughts, actions (see "Book of Life" in Bible Dictionary) and your testimonies are "**recorded** in heaven for the angels to look upon; and they rejoice over you." (D&C 62:3)

"The purpose of the [memorandum] is to record notes, impressions, plans, pictures, experiences, and progress related to the teaching the Gospel." (*Teaching, No Greater Call*, pg. 189.) A memorandum is producer oriented rather than consumer oriented. It is both a tool and a method which establishes: skill, character, testimony and permanent record.

# Creating a Memorandum

Use a three ring binder for your Memorandums. Organize it with:

**Title page** (placed in plastic sheets)

## Tabs

1. Theology: God's purpose, word studies, character studies, time line, research.
2. 4 - 7 branches of that subject each with their own tab.
3. "My Creations" - what I have learned and created while I studied this subject. Drawings, essays, maps, art work, charts, pictures, and fun.

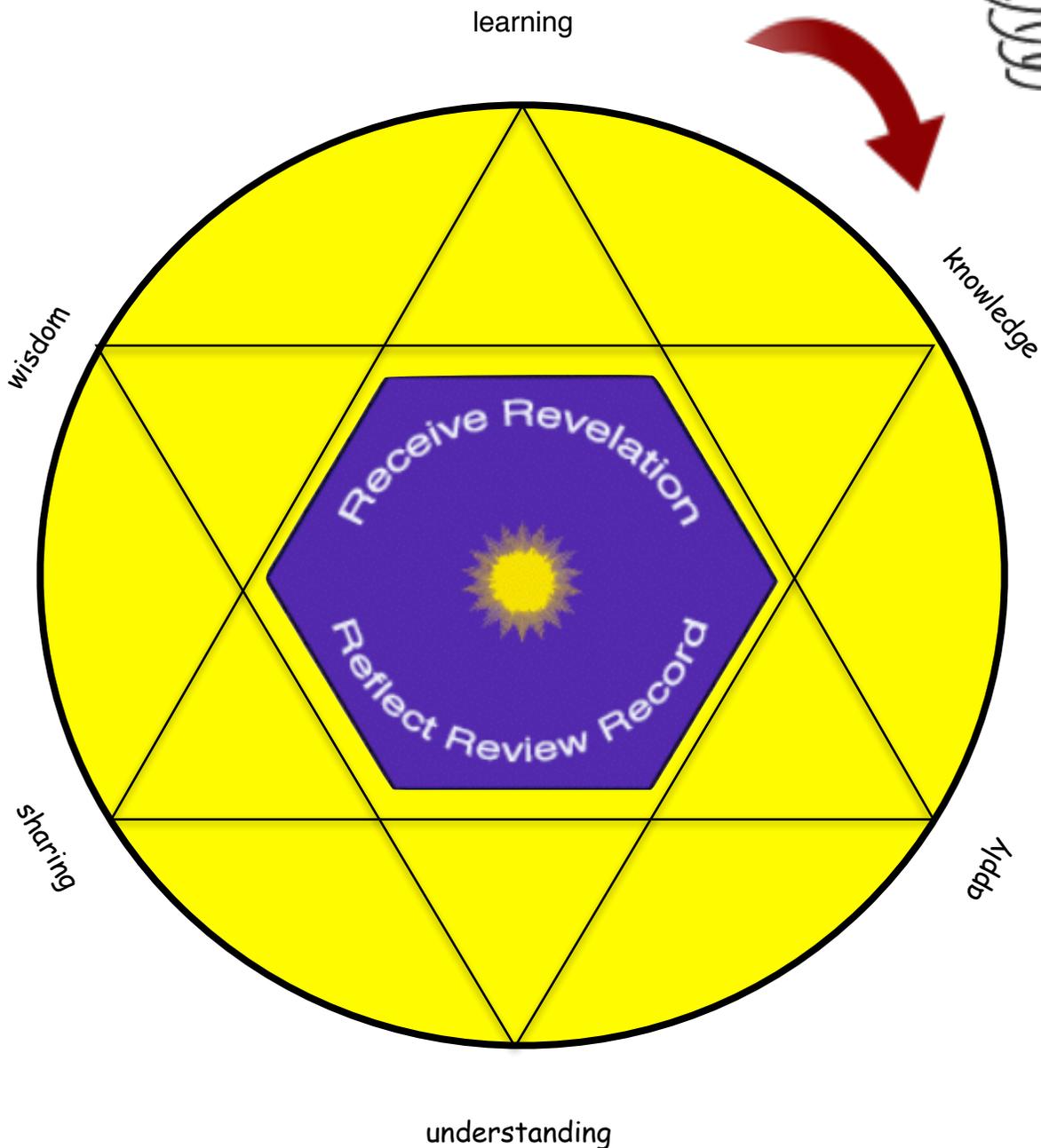


## An Example Language Memorandum:

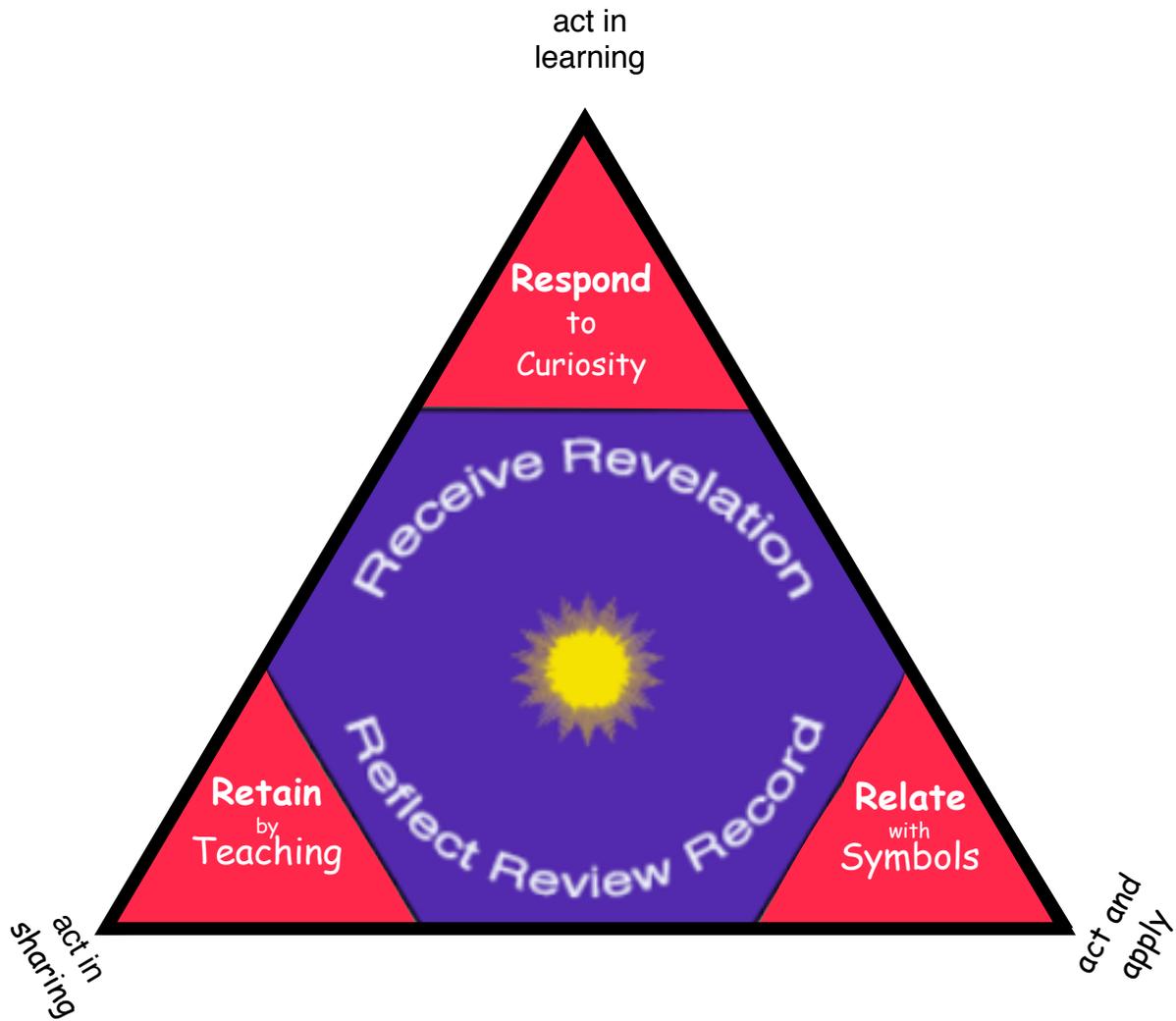
- \* Title Page with author as the child
- \* Theology of Language
- \* Sounds of English Language
- \* Words (origins, meaning, etc.)
- \* Phrases (samples, rules, etc.)
- \* Sentences (parts of speech, diagraming, punctuation, etc.)
- \* Styles of Language (poetry, pros, etc.)
- \* Complete Works (essays, narratives, etc.)
- \* **My Creations** (examples of my work)

# The Learning Spiral

Beyond the Revelation Hexagon in the yellow, learning Spiral. Starting at the top of the cycle with learning. As you learn, you receive knowledge in your mind. When you apply your learning you receive understanding and as you share it with others you receive wisdom and light. And you begin again. It is like an upward, increasing spiral.



# The Red Action Triangle



# **The ACTION Triangle**

The Action Triangle is about taking responsibility (action) for your education and learning. It is represented by an upward pointing, red, equilateral triangle. It is the actions you take on earth and directs them toward heaven. The red color represents the energy and effort we put into becoming like God, imagine a fire, it is thick at the bottom and narrow at the top. Red is the color of fire and blood (mortality).

## **Act in Learning by Responding to Curiosity**

It is your responsibility to learn. Christ said, "Learn of me, listen to my words, walk in the meekness of my spirit and ye shall have peace in me." (D&C 19:23) He is asking you to 1) learn, 2) study, and 3) act so you can become like Him.

Curiosity is a strong desire to know or learn something. It happens when you observe and ask questions. A baby observes others walking and practices until he/she masters walking. We begin learning by observing, playing, and paying attention to the world around us and then ask questions about what we observe and practice what we see and want to mirror in our life.

When you respond or act on your desire you receive answers, knowledge and where to go next to learn more. What are you curious about? What do you love to do when all the "have to's" are done? You learn when you act on your curiosities.

## **Act and Apply by Relating with Symbols**

Satan has a plan to stop you. He is doing everything he can to get you to forget who you are, where you are going and most importantly what you are to accomplish on this earth. His greatest tactic is to stop you from thinking. That's right, if he can get you to stop thinking, he wins. One of the ways he does this is by taking the language of symbolism out of schools and churches, all learning. If you want to fight back hard, learn this language and apply it to everything you know. Beware of the evil symbols and those that distract you from the truth. Use the spirit as you study.

Symbols are things that represent something else; usually a physical object that can represent something spiritual. God said that everything is spiritual and everything witnesses of him. Learning the language of symbolism is learning how to see and think like God. You increase your understanding and comprehension when you relate your learning to something material or physical, reflect its spiritual meaning and likening to your life.

To get started in learning the language of symbolism 1) begin with a physical (concrete) object, an everyday object like a blanket, a light bulb or ball. 2) Talk about its function, its purpose, why it was invented, what it does, etc. 3) Then compare it to other things that are like it or in the same shape or color or has the same function. 4) Next, reflect its spiritual image by observing the object and

comparing it to something spiritual by asking, “What word best describes this object?” “Why?” “What could you relate it to spiritually?” Other questions could include, “How does it relate to the words of the prophets? the scripture stories? principles of the gospel? Christ? 5) Relate it to your life, your circumstance, your family. How can you apply the principle you learned in the reflection in your life? or in your family’s life? How does knowing this reflection (spiritual relationship) affect you? enhance your understanding? brighten your life? 6) Record what you have discovered or learned. Come up with, record and commit to an action step. (See Appendix for an example)

Going the opposite direction also works. Take an abstract word like, “temperance” and find a physical (concrete) example like “tempered glass - glass that won’t break off in large pieces.” (See the Appendix for an example)

### **Act in Sharing and Retain by Sharing**

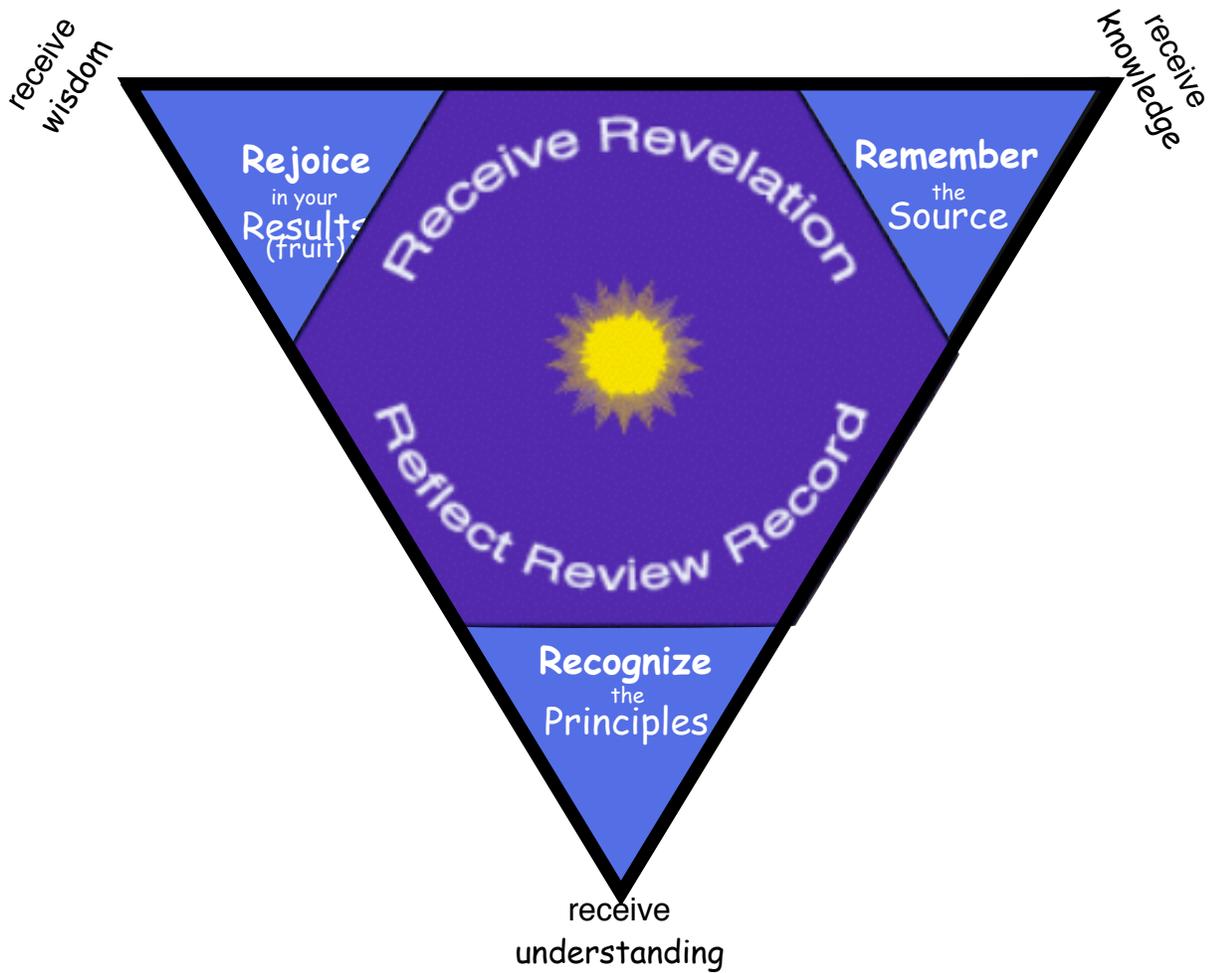
The third point is sharing what you learned with others. God asked us to "teach one another the doctrine of the kingdom" (D&C 88:77) and "words of wisdom" (D&C 88:118.) He also asks that when we have received understanding to go "into all the world...that the testimony may go from you into all the world unto every creature." (D&C 84:62)

To teach means to enlighten the understanding, to communicate divine instruction to the mind and to inspire. Inspire means to infuse, to breathe life into another. When you share what you have learned with another using the spirit then both of you are edified and you learn more. The fear of sharing stops many people. “Don’t give heed to your fears, give heed to your prayers.” Use faith to share and you will receive more light for your path.

The process of teaching takes on many forms. Here is one way to organize your teaching. Go through your Memorandum, 1) choose two or three **ahas** or new realizations you wrote down. 2) Plan out what you will teach, remember to include communication with God. 3) Choose someone to teach and 4) share with them what you have learned.

In the process of learning, applying and sharing you retain what you have learned and your heart is open to receive more. As you show courage in sharing, you actually step into the role you and God planned before this life. Remember God is anxious to hear what you have learned.

# The Blue, Receiving Triangle



# **The RECEIVING Triangle**

The Receiving Triangle works together with the Action Triangle. As you learn you receive knowledge, as you act on your learning, you receive understanding and as you share it with others you receive wisdom and light. As you continue to act/give and receive your whole body will be filled with light and you will eventually comprehend all things (see D&C 88:67) and shines for all to see (Luke 11:36).

The Receiving Triangle is God's reward for the action you show in your learning. The Receiving Triangle is a downward pointing, blue, equilateral triangle. The direction of the shape represents God pouring down blessings as if He was holding a bucket. The blue color represents the sky above and water being poured down.

## **Receive Knowledge when you Remember the Source**

God reminds you of the doctrine and gives you knowledge in your minds as you research and act on your curiosities. God said, "I would that ye should always remember, and always retain in your minds what those gifts [and doctrines] are." (D&C 46:10) He asks you to "remember the New Covenant, even the Book of Mormon" (D&C 84:57) and to "act in doctrine and principle" (D&C 101:78.)

Knowledge is Truth "and truth is knowledge of things as they are, and as they were, and as they are to come," (D&C 93:24-25)

The doctrine of Jesus Christ is the foundation upon which all other teachings, principles and practices rest." (Daniel Ludlow, Encyclopedia of Mormonism, 1:39094) Think of doctrines like a ship. It is the whole thing and principles are pieces of the ship like the rudder that helps guide, the sail that helps it move, the mast that holds the sails, etc. Doctrines are few and complete, principles are pieces of the doctrine, like body parts are to a body. But neither one of them are the action steps to make the ship or the body go. L. Tom Perry put it this way, "Doctrine is to the Church like a battery is to a cell phone."

Remember and act on the doctrines, to receive knowledge in your minds through observing and asking 'why' questions. "Why do I want to study this subject?", "Why did God create this subject?", "Why is it in the Plan of Happiness?" Look the answers up in the scriptures, do a word study or look in good books. Through remembering the true source of Jesus Christ you receive truth and knowledge in your minds.

## **Receive Understanding by Recognizing the Principles**

God reveals the principles to your hearts and you receive understanding when you recognize them. Parents are given the law to teach their children to understand (see D&C 68:25-6). Understanding is a spiritual outcome to learning.

When a spiritual environment is present, the Holy Ghost brings conviction to the hearts and teaches both learner and teacher to understand. When the teacher teaches with the Holy Ghost, he brings understanding **unto** the hearts of the learners and as the learner listens with the spirit, he brings understanding **into** his hearts. The greatest thing you can do is learn how to understand by knowing how to teach and learn with the spirit of God.

In the scriptures the word "understanding" is described in relation to the heart. (Job 38:36; Mosiah 12:27). When the Holy Ghost confirms in your heart that which is true, what you know in your mind, becomes understanding. You experience a mighty change of heart as your testimony moves from your mind to your heart. You feel more deeply about what you have learned.

Learning to recognize principles God has revealed is part of creating a spiritual environment leading to understanding. Richard G. Scott said, "Principles are concentrated doctrines packaged for application." They grow out of doctrines, they are enduring truths, laws or rules you can adopt to guide you in making decisions. They help you apply doctrines, illuminate your path and point you in the right direction. They are not action steps or applications, only pointers.

You recognize the principles to receive understanding in your heart through reading and study. As you learn, search for principles and choose the ones that you like, are interested in or ones that apply to your family or your individual circumstances. Write down, discuss, share them and discover how they relate to a doctrine(s) and possibly choose a few applications to work on. Learn what the subject is, how God used it and what is his purpose. Knowing how to recognize the principles brings understanding to your heart.

### **Receive Wisdom in the soul and Rejoice in your Results**

God asks that you become like him and, "seek diligently to learn **wisdom**" (D&C 97:1) and be intelligent. Then your "wisdom shall be great, and [your] understanding reach to heaven" (D&C 76:7-9). When you live righteously God says, "Hold a meeting and **rejoice** together" (D&C 62:4), "Go on your way rejoicing" (D&C 84:105). When you bear testimony it is recorded in heaven and the angels "rejoice over you, and your sins are forgiven." (D&C 62:3)

Elder Bednar in his book, "Increase in Learning", said that as you learn you receive knowledge in your mind, then understanding in your heart and next you become intelligent throughout your whole body. Intelligence is "the application of knowledge you obtain for righteous purposes." (Increase in Learning, pg. 73) Intelligence also means living in such a way that the doctrines and principles are active in you, "part of who [you] are, and what [you] are, and what [you] do, and what [you] think." (*Increase in Learning*, pg. 75)

One of the greatest ways to remember what you have learned is to memorialize your knowledge and understanding. God gave you and the Israelites an day to celebrate so you can remember his hand in all things. "This day shall be unto

you for a memorial...keep it a feast by an ordinance forever." (Exodus 12:14) The church keeps this ordinance by gathering together at General Conference.

There seems to be a stigmatism around rejoicing, recognition and the celebrating of your own accomplishments. This may stem from the fear of being prideful or selfish. Celebrating and receiving recognition for your accomplishments are not an act in pride or selfishness it is receiving joy and energy. When you eat fruit from a tree you are sharing in the results of the works of the tree and the nurturing of it. The fruit represents joy, it is a celebration of the work that it took to grow the fruit. You also receive energy and nourishment from the fruit. Learn a lesson from nature and celebrate (eat the fruit of) your successes (no matter how small) and receive the joy and the energy it gives you to accomplish more.

You can celebrate and rejoice in your learning by having a party, making a video or writing a report and preforming or reading it to an audience. Rejoicing in your results solidifies the learning into your memories and you gain wisdom. You become a new person with a changed heart and ready to begin a new experience, to start again at the curiosity and learning point.

The Lord teaches or lights your path (mission). It is a cycle. We act, then receive, we act, then receive more. All you have is what God gives you, so remember to give the glory to God, he deserves all the credit. However, this does not mean you should not rejoice in your results, your works and your creativity. Think of a child who has drawn a picture and is showing it to you, he is smiling and happy with his creation and you rejoice with him in his efforts and in his creation. This is just as God does, he wants to see and hear about our results.

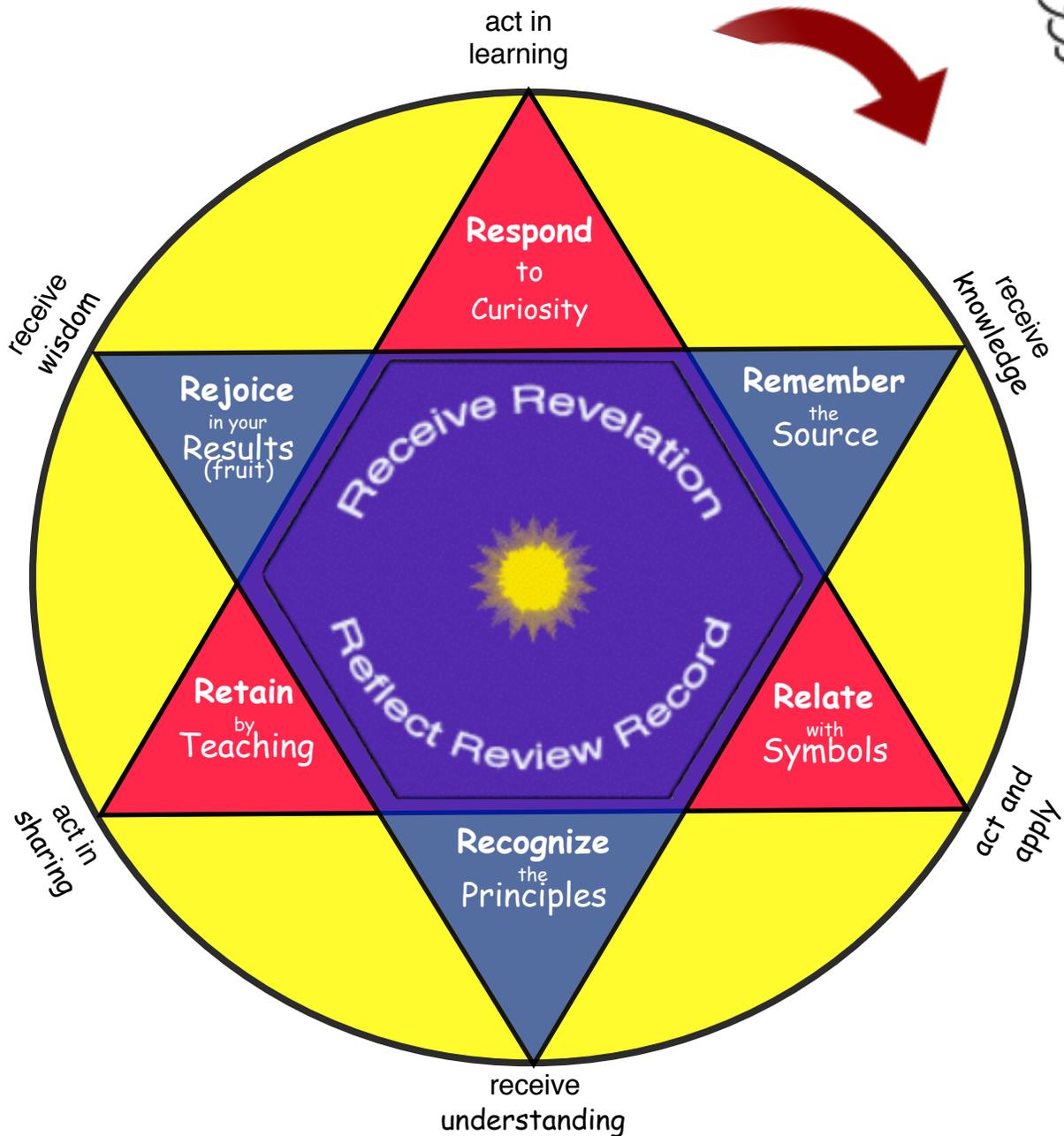
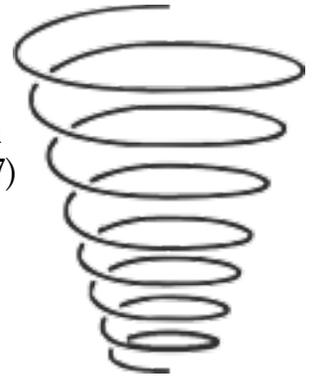
# Celestial Learning Pattern

Lehi's Vision teaches us about a pathway to the tree of life and happiness. It is a pattern for our earth life and back to Heavenly Father AND it is a pattern for each day. We can choose to reach the love of God each day. In the previous pages you were taught how *The KEY Pattern of Learning* can be looked at as daily steps repeating over and over or spiraling upward. You can also, look at it as a life long progression, like the Plan of Happiness. As a child we learn from our parents and after baptism we receive the spirit and knowledge of how to act on those promptings. As a youth we begin to understand our personal mission and develop our talents. Then, as an adult we share those talents and help others develop theirs until we die and receive Celestial wisdom and become a god or goddess.

1. I **LEARN** daily and remember I am a child of God  
(0-8)
2. I **RECEIVE KNOWLEDGE** through the promptings of the spirit (8-12)
3. I **ACT** on those promptings by applying my knowledge and relating to symbols
4. I **RECEIVE UNDERSTANDING** of my mission and my talents (12-18)
5. I **SHARE** and develop my talents and help others (18-100)
6. I **RECEIVE WISDOM** and become intelligent, Celestial

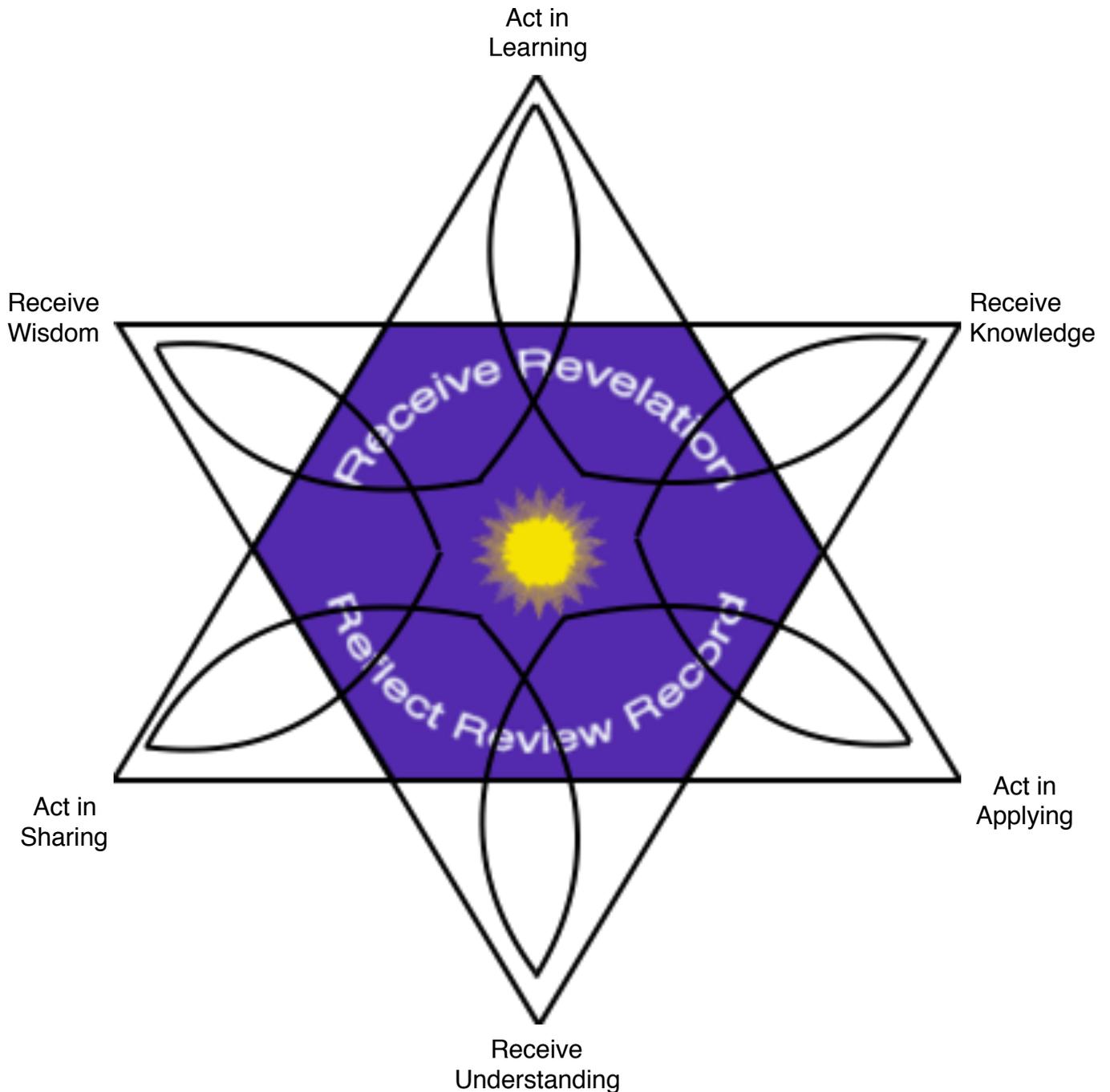
Now that you have learned all of the parts, put it together. Follow the cycle.

Starting at the top of the cycle with act in learning by Responding to Curiosity. As you learn, you receive knowledge in your mind. When you live and act and apply your learning you receive understanding and as you act in sharing it with others you receive wisdom and light. And you begin again, it is like an upward, increasing **spiral**. You are always learning. As you continue to act and receive your whole body will be filled with light and until you eventually comprehend all things (see D&C 88:67) and shine for all to see (Luke 11:36).



# The Learning Flower

The pathway to true learning is Action (or giving) and Receiving. Follow the lines on the learning path. See how they touch each point and return to the center? It goes out to an action or receiving point and returns to center for more guidance and record keeping. This pattern appears in the shape of a cyclical flower.





## **Recognizing Principles and Relating with Symbols**

This is a Head, Heart, Hands Model (are you thinking 4H?) I will tell you how (head), then give you an example of one of our days (heart), this is for you to see (head) and feel (heart) it, so you can experience (hands) it with your family.

There are two ways for relating with symbols:

- (1) Begin with the physical or concrete example and discover the spiritual or abstract meaning. For example, look at an anchor, learn its purpose of keeping the boat secure. Then search for the spiritual meaning, like, be “anchored or secure with Christ.” Now relate it to your life, “When I pray I am anchoring myself to Christ.”
- (2) Begin with a spiritual or abstract word and find a physical or concrete example. The word “temperance” is an example. Search its meaning to discover a concrete example. Tempered glass is glass that won’t break off in large pieces when broken because it is heated a certain way. Now relate it to your life, “I gain temperance when I go through trails or heat.”

### **Example of Beginning with an object:**

“Let’s practice Relating with Symbols.” I tell my children. They all gather together, curious by this invitation.

“What am I holding in my hand?” Steve is the first to speak, as he has had his eye on the object the whole time everyone gathered. “A ball.”

“Describe the ball to me.”

Everyone begins to talk at once. The answers were combinations of, blue and red, round, spherical, smooth, etc.

“What is the function of a ball?” I add, for the sake of the younger children, “What do you use a ball for?”

Neil says, “Fun!” We all laugh and the others add, “Bouncing, rolling, throwing, kicking, passing, tossing, hitting, bouncing, spinning, dipping, shooting.”

“What else has this same shape?” Tasha was the first to think of something. “The earth and other planets.” Tenn, the oldest, adds, “If you don’t think of it as a sphere, but as a round object then there are many, many things, probably more than you can count in this room. Think about how many screws put up these walls.” We all stopped to think about how many round things could be found in the room.

“What word best describes this object?” Steve says, “Round.”

Neil sticks with his last word, “Fun.”

Tasha says, “eternal.”

I ask, “Why did you choose eternal?”

“Because I remember being taught that round means eternal because it doesn’t have a beginning nor an ending.”

“True, thanks for sharing that is a good spiritual meaning, let’s find more.”

I continue, “What makes the ball fun, move, or fly?”

“My foot.” Tayla yells, she loves to kick things.

“Yes, it needs the help or force of another object for it to move and accomplish its function.” It was silent for a moment while everyone thought about it. It was time for the big question, “A ball cannot move without another force. What is something else that needs force to move?”

“Everything.” Neil said.

“Yes, that is true, so what force makes you move?” The room was silent.

Steve, the youngest, said, “I do!”

“Yes, you do. What force or power make you go?”

Tenn answered, “Life, the power that God gave us.”

“Good. Know that a ball can’t move without a force and we can’t live without force. What can we learn spiritually?”

Tasha answered with, “We all need help to live, so we can’t live without the help of others.”

Neil added, “Playing ball with friends is even more fun than by myself.”

“I’m glad mom makes dinner so that I can eat. I can’t do that by myself yet.” Steve says.

“What do the scriptures say about force?”

Tenn answers with, “We can either act or be acted upon.” He is a deep thinker and it would have been a great discussion if I had been alone with him. But since I wasn’t I agreed with him and asked him to put it into easier terms for the little children. He thought a moment and added, “We can choose to use our own force or we can do nothing and have the devil use his force on us for bad.”

“What do you think that means?” I asked Neil, he needed some coaxing to get thinking.

“It means we should be doing good things all the time so that we don’t let Satan make us do bad things.” It always surprises me how well he can think when he wants to.

“Great, each of you think of one thing you can do this week to “do good.” Then I want you to write it down in your Memorandum under Relate and report your experiences back to us next week. What is one thing we can do good as a family?” . . .

This exercise can take you in many different directions depending on the person and their experiences. Remember what you come up with is usually where God is leading you. This is why it is important to allow the thoughts to come, be organic and allow God to teach you.

**Example of an activity:**

Imagine you planning a leadership activity and prepping the youth leaders who will be directing a large group activity.

1. Ask, “what is leadership” - the position of a leader who guides or goes ahead or gives direction to others.
2. Ask, “What symbol represents a leader?” This is often different for everyone. For example, Tasha came up with a captain's hat, Matt thought of a head, like a head of a body and Elsie thought of a person up front giving orders to the group. Your group will come up with different things too just allow all answers.
3. Ask for more, sometimes you'll need to dig a little deeper. Tell them about the origin of the word leadership is pathfinder. Ask, “Does this change or enhance your symbol?”
4. Ask them to come up with a new definition of leadership. An example could be, "one who helps guide you on or to your individual path." Tasha said it reminded her of the early settlers asking the Indians to help them find paths to water or food. Elsie said it reminded her of a “talking stick.” New symbols will come up as you give them more information and as the discussion develops.
5. Ask them to apply it to their life, tell them that most people feel called to help others and learning about leadership may be good because as they find you own path they can then help others find theirs by using the skills they have gained and lessons they've learned. Then have them do the activity.
6. Encourage them to write down the details of the activity so they can use it with someone else later. They may also want to write down their experience and what they learned. You may want to too. :)

This method can take you a few minutes or days depending on how much time you want to take on the experience. Learning about leadership will help them become better leaders. Remember, the more enthusiasm, emotion and passion you put into finding the symbols and/or story while you learn, the longer the knowledge and its message will stick with you. Plus you are learning to think, your greatest weapon against Satan!

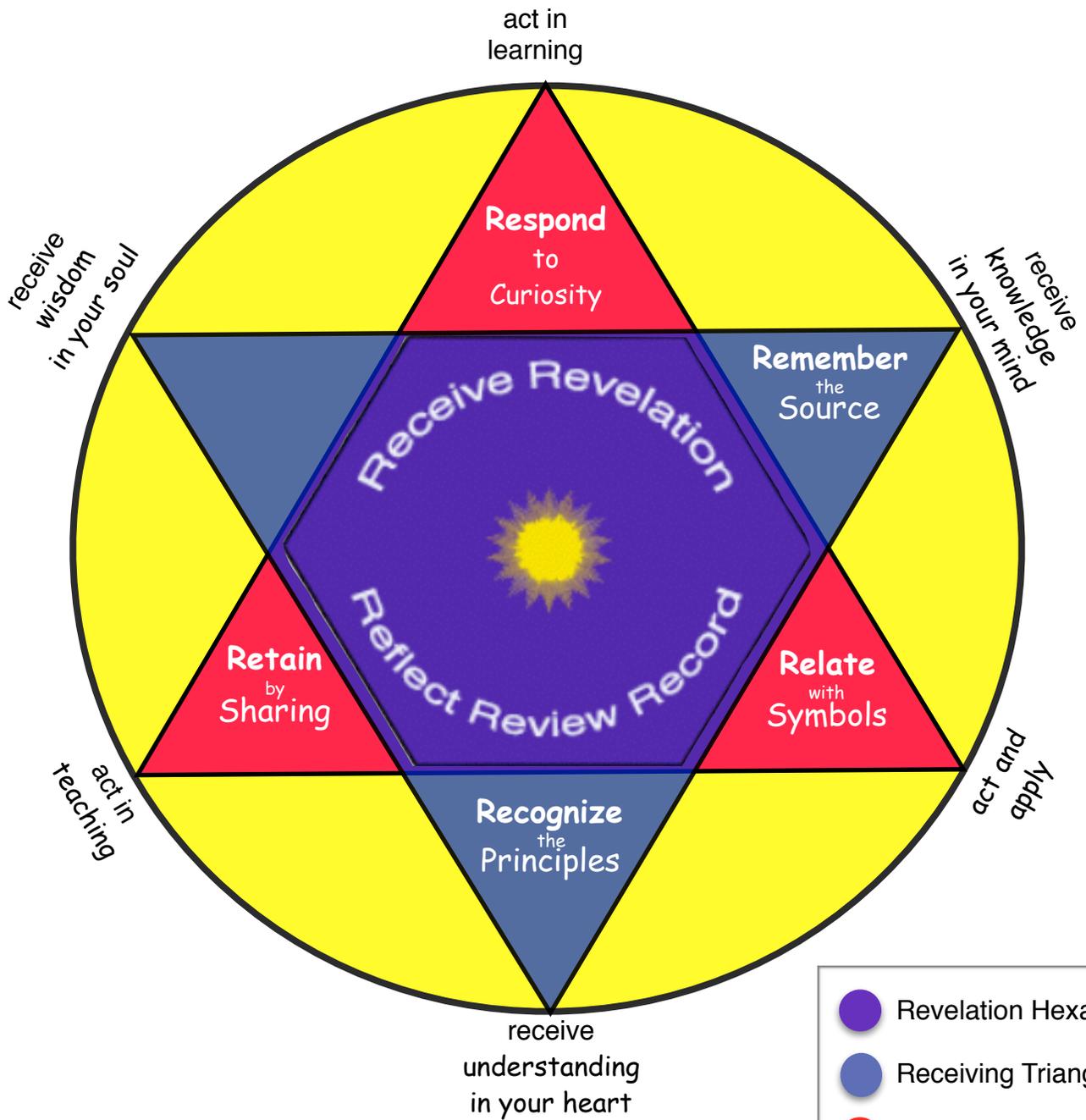
## **Example of Beginning with a Principle:**

Another way is to begin with a doctrine, principle or one of the teachings or stories of Christ and have them find an object that represents that principle, teaching or story. Examples of this are found in the scriptures through parables, analogies and allegories.

- First learn about the principle, tell the story, introduce a subject or have an activity.
- Ask them to think of a physical object or symbol or story that could represent the principle, story, subject or activity.
- Ask for more. Keep them thinking.
- Reflect a spiritual meaning.
- Relate it to you, to your life, to your family.
- Record what you discover.

\* \* \* \* \*

# The KEY Pattern of Learning Diagram



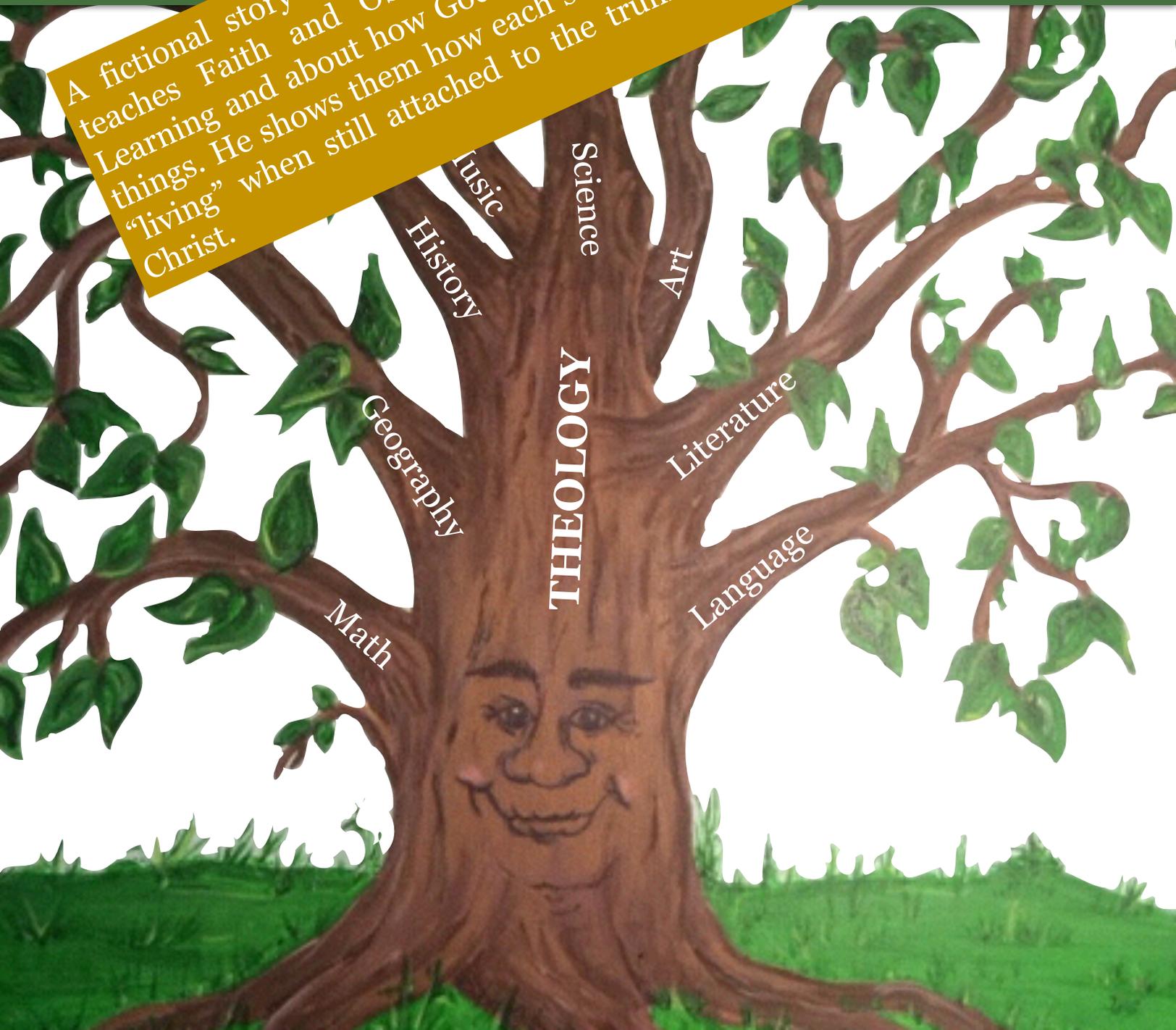
- Revelation Hexagon
- Receiving Triangle
- Action Triangle
- Learning Circle

# The Theology Tree

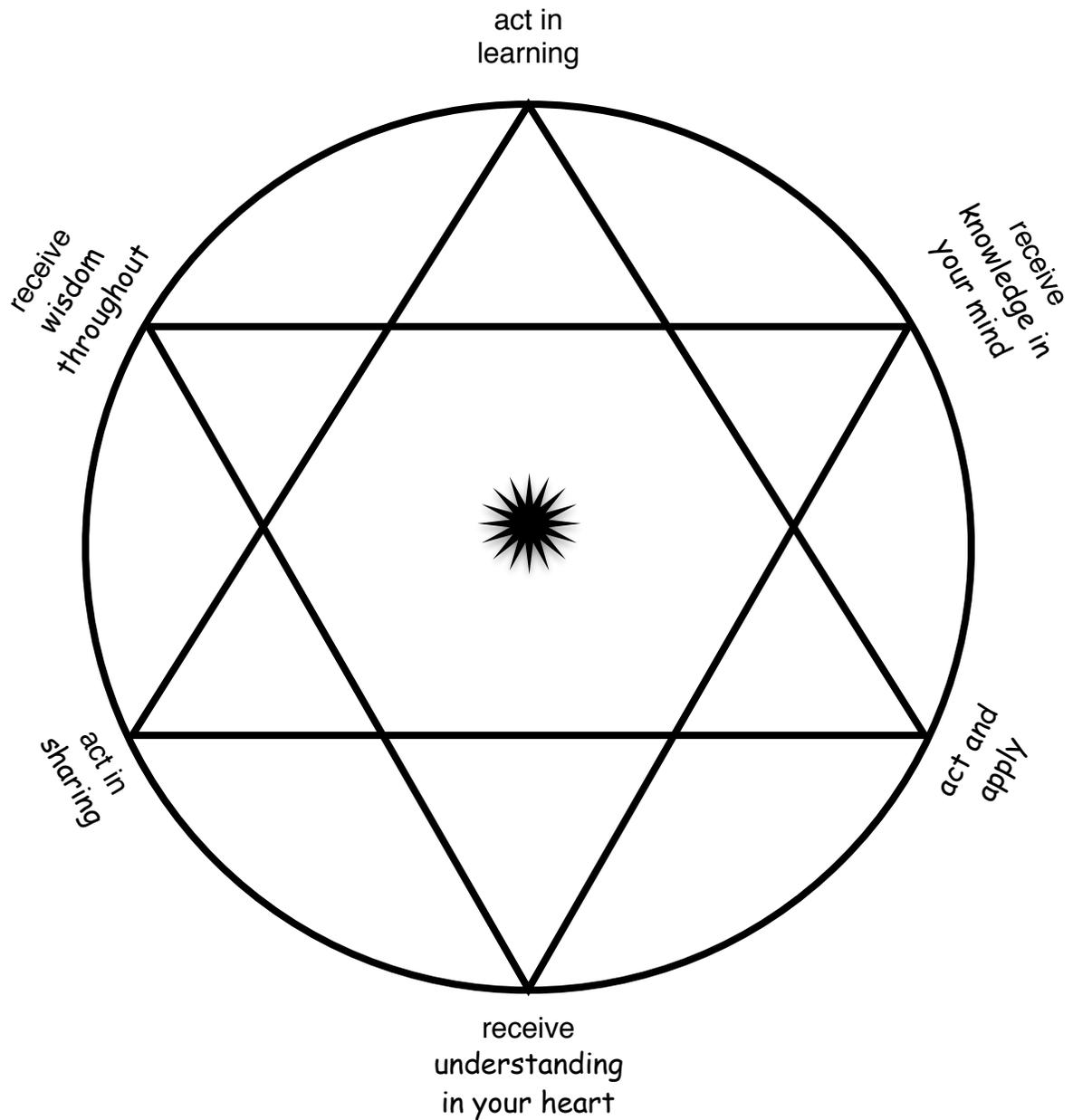
Theo explains the Key Pattern of Learning

Tresta Neil

A fictional story about Theo the Theology Tree who teaches Faith and Obee about the Key Pattern of Learning and about how God intended us to learn ALL things. He shows them how each subject branch is only "living" when still attached to the trunk, representing Christ.

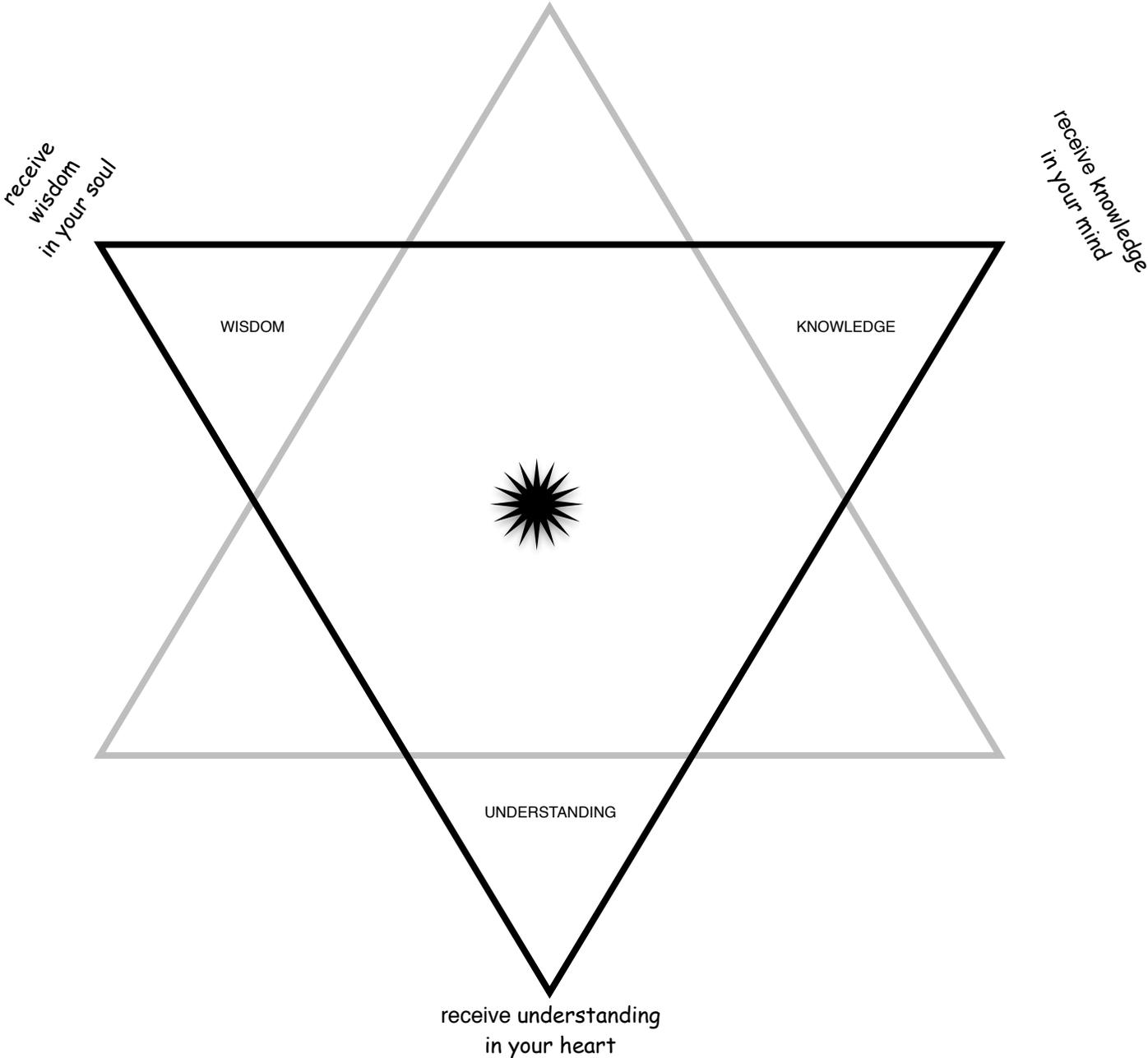


# Pattern of Learning



# The Blue Receiving Triangle

Receive Knowledge, Understanding and Wisdom



# The Red Action Triangle

Act in Learning, Applying and Sharing

