

t_{he} Chalkboard

A Quarterly Publication of Children's Ministries
Zion Assembly Church of God



The Path of Righteousness

When I was a young girl, my two sisters and I rode the school bus home every afternoon. The bus could not travel our road because we lived on a dead-end street. A large wooded field separated our street from the lower road where the bus traveled. This thicket stood between us and home. My parents could have allowed the three of us to scavenge through the field, but they were concerned about the hazards we might face. So, at the end of each summer, they would clear a path from our house to the lower road. My mother always used a hand sling to cut down briars, weeds, and even small trees. My father followed closely behind her with a push mower in order to make the path smooth for walking. As we exited the bus at the end of the day, we could look up the path and clearly see our way home.

Now that I am a mother, I ask myself this question: "Am I clearing a path for my children to follow?" The route I want to make is not a physical path, but a spiritual one. There are many roads which children can choose for their lives, but most lead to destruction. I want my children and those to whom I am ministering to see a clear view of Heaven as their final destination. I want to guide them on the right path and remove hazards which might obstruct their safe passage.

As a Children's Minister, how can I clear a safe trail for children to follow? First, I must revere God's Word as the only true standard. By teaching children to live according to the Truth (Psalm 25:4-5), the path of righteousness will become illuminated before them (Psalm 119:105). Second, my teaching must be purposeful. Every moment of class time should be spent teaching the Word of God effectively (Deuteronomy 6:5-7). Third, my teaching must be applicable. As children apply the Scriptures to their lives, they learn how to overcome hardships and trials. Finally, my life must model Christ. If I fail to follow the straight and narrow path, I cannot lead children in the way of righteousness. Since children learn by example, my lifestyle and behavior must provide guidance to them on their journey.



Ideas to Illuminate

The following activities will help to reinforce the path of righteousness for children.

"Follow the Leader:" Place glow-in-the-dark stars or inexpensive click-on lights in a path on the floor throughout the classroom. Read aloud Psalm 119:105. Turn out the lights in the room and lead the children on the "lighted" pathway. At the end of the journey, discuss with the children how difficult it would be to walk in the dark room without the lights brightening the way.

"Obstacle Course:" On one end of the room, put up a poster on the wall which says, "The World." On the other end, hang a poster which says, "Heaven." Set up multiple obstacles, such as tables and chairs, throughout the room, which children will maneuver around, under, behind, and through. Before the activity begins, read Matthew 7:13-14. Explain that only by knowing Jesus as our Savior and following His Word can we receive eternal life in Heaven. Beginning at the poster of "The World," allow the children to walk through the obstacle course until they reach the poster of "Heaven." After the activity, discuss how the obstacles made it more difficult to reach the destination. Help the children to list things which hinder them from living a victorious Christian life.

Chalk Talk

Let's Talk! I want to hear from you. Please forward information of your weekly ministry, as well as special events in your local church. E-mail your creative ideas which could be used in upcoming newsletters.

Cheryl McDonald

Cheryl H. McDonald, International Children's Ministries Director
115 Heatherwood Court NW
Cleveland, TN 37312
423-473-1761
youngdisciples@att.net

