

the Chalkboard

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



Building on the Rock

Many important truths can be taught in a simple children's song. When I was a little girl, I learned a familiar song about building on the rock. The song contrasts the wise man who built his house upon a rock and a foolish man who built his house upon the sand. The house that was built upon a rock endured harsh winds and raging flood waters, but the house built on the sand could not stand in the face of a storm. As the tune says, "the house on the sand went – Splat!"

Jesus taught this truth in a parable which is recorded in Matthew 7:24-27 and Luke 6:46-49. The story parallels the wise and foolish man. Jesus said a wise man digs deep and lays a foundation on a rock (Lu.6:48). When the storm came the wise man's house was not shaken. However, the foolish man's house had no foundation. His house fell immediately, "and great was the fall of it" (Mt. 7:27).

As Children's Ministers, we do not want to set our children up for a great fall. Rather we want to prepare them for future success. How can we help them to succeed in their Christian life? We must give them a firm foundation. We must teach them God's Word at every opportunity. In addition to reading the Scriptures to them, there are many other approaches to teaching the Word. We can teach the Truth through songs, drama, flannel graph, games, and storytelling. Whatever method is chosen, we should ensure that our children are learning and applying God's Word to their daily lives.

Wise men not only hear the teachings of Christ, but they also do them (Mt.7:24). Those who are Christians in name only and not deeply rooted and grounded in His Word are blown about by every wind of doctrine (Ep. 4:14). Therefore, children need a deep relationship with Christ. Jesus is the Rock on which their lives must be built (1 Co. 3:11; 1 Pet. 2:6).

How can we encourage children to develop a deeper relationship with Jesus? Children's Ministers must plan purposefully. What do we want children to learn from our lessons? We should plan with intent. When a man builds a house he follows a strategic plan. All of the lessons should build on one another. Teaching

should have continuity. A house that will stand through storms is built on a rock, a solid foundation – one block at a time. Therefore, it is important to provide as many opportunities as possible for children to learn more about Jesus. Each local church should offer on-going training through Sunday School, Children's Church, and mid-week Bible Classes or Clubs. As we disciple children, we should build our house on the Lord.

Children's Day 2009

Sunday, June 7, 2009 will be the 2nd Annual Children's Day in Zion Assembly Church of God. Let's begin praying and planning now for this special event. Our theme will be "Building on the Rock" (Mt. 7:24-27).

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School is an excellent outreach ministry for local churches. It can be held for five consecutive days or nights and can be customized to fit the needs of your local congregation. This year, I am planning a weekend event. I will be using Crocodile Dock by Group Publishing. It is a versatile curriculum for any size church. The format is a rotation plan where groups of children "rotate" between several learning stations. The kit can be purchased for \$139.99. To order from Group, call 1-800-447-1070 or go online at www.groupvbbs.com/crocodiledock. I typically purchase crafts and decorations from Oriental Trading (1-800-228-0475) or www.orientaltrading.com. For an overview of the VBS curriculums on the market, visit <http://www.vacationbibleschoolnut.com/2009-vacation-bible-school-curricula.htm>.

Chalk Talk:

Let's Talk! In preparing for Children's Day, if you need ideas or have ideas to share, I would like to hear from you. Also, to subscribe to this newsletter, please send your request for "The Chalkboard" to youngdisciples@att.net.

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