

t_{he} Chalkboard

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



Get Set for Children's Day

The time has come to make preparations for Children's Day: June 3, 2012. This year's theme is "Follow the Shepherd – John 10:27." As we begin to organize, let's get ourselves **set** on making Children's Ministry more effective. The word "set" means to put things in order or to place in an arrangement or position. To move us in the right direction, we can apply a descriptive word to each letter.

S	–	Shepherd
E	–	Evangelize
T	–	Teach

These three words give us a plan of action to improve our weekly ministries and help to prepare us for this special event.

Shepherd

A shepherd is a care giver. He meets the immediate needs of those under his supervision. So often in Children's Ministry, we focus on the Bible story or activity to be used to engage children in learning. We often neglect to spend time getting to know each child individually. However, we should be aware of each child's specific interests and talents. He may have personal or family problems which require special prayer and attention. In John 10:14, Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine." Shepherding is not a general "hit or miss" class session. Instead, it is developing a personal relationship with the children we teach and structuring the lesson and class time to fit their particular needs.

Evangelize

Children's Ministry is not entertainment. Instead, it is sharing the gospel with those under our care and leading them to a vital relationship with Jesus. Jesus said, "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that

which was lost" (Luke 19:10). Jesus was enthusiastic about sharing His message of salvation. He knew it was life-changing. He came to redeem mankind from sin and give him new life (2 Corinthians 5:17). Jesus told His disciples, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). As Children's Ministers, we should be excited about evangelizing the children in our weekly ministry. We should also be actively reaching out to new children in our community with the message of Jesus.

Teach

When thinking of Children's Ministry, this is the word that most often comes to mind. As we often quote, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6). Children must be taught the Word of God. Each lesson should convey the Scriptures in terms a child can understand. Bible study does not have to be boring. A good teacher should be enthusiastic about sharing her faith in Christ with children, as well as establishing them in the knowledge of the Truth. Being effective means bringing this excitement into every lesson while using a variety of methods to communicate the message of the Gospel.

As we begin to shepherd, evangelize, and teach the children in our church and community, we will see amazing results. This plan of action will create excitement in our ministry and will bring lasting effects on the individual lives of each child under our care. Let's get **set** for Children's Day.

Chalk Talk:

Let's talk. I want to hear from you. How will you celebrate Children's Day with the children in your local ministry? E-mail your ideas to youngdisciples@att.net.

Cheryl McDonald

Cheryl H. McDonald, International Children's Ministries Director

P. O. Box 2398
Cleveland, TN 37320-2398
423-476-3337
youngdisciples@att.net

