

t_{he} Chalkboard

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Zion Assembly Church of God



His Touch

When children are small, they want to touch everything. Think about it. They love to get their little hands into mud, paint, glue, clay, or sand. It is often hard to get them to eat with utensils since their fingers are so much more accessible. They seem to enjoy their food the most when they can handle it first. It has been proven by psychologists and educators that children learn through touch. For example, when a child finger paints, the sensation of touching and smearing the medium creates a lasting impression in his brain. This is why so many art projects are created during the elementary school years. The main problem with tactile activities is getting those hands clean afterward. You can look around the environment where children are busy at work and find finger smudges and sticky handprints on doors, tables, and walls. Of course, these are just friendly reminders that learning has occurred.

Some teachers do not enjoy the mess and chaos of hands-on activities, but others take great delight in the disorder. Jesus was a teacher who was not afraid to get His hands dirty. When a blind man needed healing, Jesus spit on the ground, made mud, and smeared it on the man's eyes. At Jesus' command, the blind man washed and came back seeing (Jn. 9:6-7). One day, children were brought to Jesus so "that He should touch them" (Mk. 10:13). The disciples became cautious of the whole situation. However, Jesus said, "Suffer the children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God" (Mk. 10:14). Then Jesus lifted up the children in His arms and blessed them.

Today, children are in need of a touch from Jesus. Our world is filled with children who are emotionally neglected and physically abused. They desire to be loved and treated with respect. As Christians, we are commissioned to be Jesus' hands reaching out to minister to hurting little ones. Each year, Zion Assembly sets aside the first Sunday of June as Children's Day. This unique event is a day to bless the children and focus on ministering to their specific needs. Plan a special service filled with activities which will forever touch the hearts of children. Do not be afraid of getting your hands dirty. Organize a picnic or fellowship meal. Take time to play games and interact with the children. Better yet, prepare a meaningful craft to make as a keepsake.

From science, we have learned that every individual has a one-of-a-kind fingerprint. This unique impression is left on everything we touch. Many of us have a special individual who has touched our lives and left a lasting impression. Maybe it was a parent, aunt, grandparent, Sunday school teacher, or youth leader who took a vested interest in us. That person's involvement in our daily lives shaped us into the individuals we have become. This influential person did not encourage us to become famous in Hollywood, pursue a career on Broadway, or start a million dollar business. Instead, his or her spiritual guidance and teaching directed us onto "the path of righteousness" (Ps. 23:3). Are you willing to be the kind of person who leaves his fingerprint on the lives of others? Stretch out your hand and touch a child in Jesus' name.

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