

# t<sub>he</sub> Chalkboard

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



## T.E.A.M. Zion

Each year Zion Assembly sets the first Sunday in the month of June as a special day of ministry to children. This year Children's Day will be observed on June 5, 2016. Our theme is "Team Zion." This sports theme is kid-friendly and should create excitement in your local church. If your ministry morale is running low, it is time to get out those pompoms and stir up some T.E.A.M. spirit. In order to build a thriving and exciting children's ministry, we will have to work together as a team. As we pray and prepare ourselves for this upcoming event, let's think about what makes a great ministry T.E.A.M.

T: Truth  
E: Evangelistic  
A: Active  
M: Motivation

**T is for Truth.** There are so many social organizations whose goal is to shape and train children to become future civic and political leaders. However, in Zion Assembly the distinguishing mark which sets our children's ministries apart is teaching the truth of God's Word. We cannot shy away from this responsibility. As children's ministers, we must hold up the standard of truth (Ps.60:4). In today's world, children need to know what they believe and "be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear" (1 Peter 3:15). A couple of years ago, I was the lead teacher for a children's Bible class during a summer youth camp. As I was teaching about sin, I made a general reference to cursing and lying. I opened the discussion for the students to add to the list of sins. I was humbled when a young boy raised his hand and said, "Adultery!" He was so confident in his answer that I felt more like the student than the teacher. Knowing that he had not come to this understanding on his own, I realized the importance of teaching children the weighty truths of the scriptures such as the sacredness of marriage. Of course, I not only want to display the ten commandments as a negative list of don'ts, but also as a positive reminder of how we should live as God's "chosen

generation" and "peculiar people" (1 Peter 2 :9).

**E is for Evangelistic.** Teaching God's Truth is not enforcing a list of dos and don'ts to adhere to. Instead, we should lead children to Christ. As teachers of the Truth, we must help our students to apply what they know in their daily lives so they can grow in a personal relationship with Jesus. We must give our students the opportunity to make a public declaration of their faith and commitment to Christ. Often times, it seems as if the children are not listening when an altar call is given. After teaching one night, I gave the children in my class an opportunity to make the decision to give their heart to Jesus. I did not think the Lord was at work, but I made the offer. I was thrilled when a little girl raised her hand to acknowledge that she had given her heart to Jesus during my prayer. As children's ministers and teachers, we can never underestimate the power of God's Spirit drawing souls to repentance.

**A is for Active.** I am not referring to the active nature of the children but rather helping them put their faith in action. Children should not only sit on the bench and listen to a pep talk. They want to be in the game. Provide them with loads of opportunities to share their faith at church and in their community. Children need a chance to sing, testify, and witness. For example, take them to a local nursing home to deliver homemade cards and crafts to the residents. It will be an unforgettable experience!

**M is for Motivation.** Give me an M! Our actions must flow from an inner motivation. When Jesus was questioned about the greatest commandment, he replied. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind" (Mt. 22:37). Love should be the motivation for all that we do. Jesus also said, "By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love one to another" (Jn. 13:35). Our love and commitment to work together to build God's church is a banner to the world that we belong to Him.

Let's begin now preparing for our upcoming Children's Day. God will do great things if we will stir up our spirit and work together as T.E.A.M. Zion!

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