

the Chalkboard

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



ARMED and READY!

It's time to put on our camo, lace up our boots, and grab our Sword (Bible). Each year, Zion Assembly observes Children's Day on the first Sunday in June. This year's celebration is set for June 3, 2018. The theme is "Armed and Ready." The key verse is Ephesians 6:11 – "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." This should be an exciting and fun theme for kids of all ages. So let's start planning our celebration and make it the best Children's Day ever!

Children's Day is a wonderful opportunity to give special attention to the children of Zion. Our children are vital to our local churches. On Children's Day, we should put forth extra effort to recognize them and to make them feel important. We have some really smart and talented children in Zion. We should consider ways to showcase their talents and abilities. The more we get them involved, the better the celebration will be.

In addition, Children's Day is a great opportunity to reach out to the children of our communities. Let's reach out by mailing invitations, by emailing and texting, by putting up yard signs, and by inviting children in the church community. In other words, we should publicize and promote it, building excitement and expectation. Let's challenge our church families to reach out and bring at least one child with them. Let's work toward a successful day, covering our efforts with prayer. Then when the children come, we must be armed with God's Word and ready for action.

We should never underestimate the impact of children's ministry. Frederick Douglas, a leader in the abolitionist movement, once said, "It is better to build children than to repair men." Too often, adults

are bound in relationships and habits they just don't want to give up. However, their children deserve something better. Children need faithful role models who will guide them into the right path. We often preach the words of Jesus, "Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 19:14). But children need someone to reach out to them extending both hand and heart. They need to know that our churches are open to them and welcome them. On this Children's Day, let's rally the troops and reach out to the children in our community.

As we get ready for this celebration, we should remember that children's ministry is unlike any other ministry in the church simply because children are impulsive, inquisitive, and unpretentious. This ministry therefore requires a lot of flexibility and spontaneity when teaching the Word of God. But it also requires a lot of advanced preparation and creative ideas to keep children engaged. Ministry to children is sometimes packed with loads of activities and lots of fun, but it's not a baby-sitting service. Children's Ministries is reaching young souls and making young disciples. In Zion Assembly, we are raising up soldiers in the army of the Lord. This is our goal. As such, this ministry is a viable arm of the church for reaching both the children and their families as we minister to these little ones.

We are engaged in an epic battle for the souls of our children. Who will join the fight? Children's Day is almost here. We must be armed and ready for the challenge. Without delay, let's plan for success, promote it in our community, prepare ourselves in the Word of God, and pray for God to give us a victorious day.

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