

t_{he} Chalkboard

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Zion Assembly Church of God



A Positive Influence

There are many methods for ministering to children. Throughout the years, I have used a large variety of them, including object lessons and visuals, dressing as a clown, directing plays and dramas, learning sign language, teaching songs, presenting puppet shows, planning group activities, and organizing Vacation Bible Schools. But, I am realizing a flurry of activities can become just that...Activity. Children are active creatures by nature and do not enjoy being idle. They desire relationship. For years however, I have been busy in children's ministry. I have taken advantage of any avenue which might lead children to a personal relationship with Jesus and strengthen their walk with Him. Yet, children need to know they are loved. They need significant individuals who will listen to what happened at school or home during the week. Children need someone they can depend on.

If you grew up in church, as I did, you learned many valuable lessons from God's Word, although you may not remember any lesson in particular. You possibly remember those faithful adults who cared enough to get down and look you straight in the eyes. They were always prepared to make class exciting because they loved ministering to children.

Jesus took time to minister to children. He went over to a small boy and used his child-sized lunch as an object lesson to feed thousands. When the disciples were too busy about the Father's business to stop for children who had assembled in the crowd, Jesus took time to bless them (Matthew 19:13-15). As a discussion arose over who would be the greatest in the kingdom of Heaven, Jesus called a small child over to Him for an example. Our Lord taught the adults a lesson on child-like faith. He told them to become humble as little

children (Matthew 18:1-5).

Children are not raised like eggs in an incubator. They are heavily influenced, like it or not, by media, public school, and peers. They are pressured by individuals with whom they have no relationship. These influential persons tell them what to wear, eat, and believe.

Children need a positive role-model. They desire guidance and mentoring from those whom they respect. While they often idolize action heroes, sports celebrities, super models, and movie stars, they need a Children's Minister who genuinely cares for them, will take time for them, and will pray with and for them. Children need dedicated ministers who will teach them about Jesus and take time to disciple them in His teachings. Are you positively influencing the lives of the children to whom you minister?

One Hundred Years From Now

One hundred years from now,
It will not matter what kind of car I drove,
What kind of house I lived in,
How much money I had in the bank
Nor what my clothes looked like
BUT
The world may be a little better
Because, I was important
In the life of a child.

- Author Unknown

Chalk Talk

Let's Talk! Children's Day is here! Please send me details of how you celebrated Children's Day. Send photos of the service and activities to be included in the Assembly program. E-mail me at youngdisciples@att.net

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