

# t<sub>he</sub> Chalkboard

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



## On Your Mark, Get Set, Grow!

As a Children's Minister, my most important responsibility is teaching children the Word of God. Although there are many methods in ministering to the younger congregation, one purpose stands apart from the rest. At the end of every class time, I must ask myself, "What did the child take home today?" Now, many might think, "I sent him home with a coloring sheet or craft." However, I do not mean something held in his hand, but rather I am referring to what was carried home in his heart. When we plant the truth of God's Word in a child's heart, he will have something to grow and build on.

Jesus taught the crowd a parable about planting seeds which is recorded in Matthew 13:1-23, Mark 4:1-20, and Luke 8:4-15. He illustrated how a farmer scattered seeds across a fresh-plowed field. Jesus explained how some of the seeds fell on the edge of the field and was eaten by birds. A few of the seeds landed in the rocks. There was not enough soil for the seeds to take root. So in the heat of the day, they withered and died. Some of the seeds ended up among thorns. They could not receive nourishment and were choked by the weeds. The last of the seeds settled into good ground. In the moist soil, the seeds were protected from the hungry birds, the scorching sun, and the devouring weeds. These seeds sprang up into tender plants and began to produce fruit.

Jesus wants us to hear and understand that the Word must be planted deep in our hearts. Some may lead us to believe that children only need activities to keep them involved in church. Others declare the need for a caring relationship to nurture students. Activities and relationships are both important to engage children in learning, but if God's Word is not central in our ministry we are missing the mark. Only by purposefully teaching children the Scriptures, can we be sure they are learning the Biblical principles to grow up in Him. Plant the Word. On your mark, get set, grow!



### Ideas to Illuminate

To help the Scriptures come alive for your students, alternate your teaching method each week. Use a flannel graph to retell the lesson. Act out the Bible story by using drama or puppets. Children will retain more when they actually become a story character. Games and activities are also useful to reinforce the memory verse or Bible point. Try these:

#### Scripture Relay

Form two or more teams of equal number. Have each word of the memory verse written on separate pieces of paper. Give a signal to begin. The first team to put the words in order correctly is the winner. To make this activity thematic, use paper cut-outs which reflect your verse. Example: If you are learning the Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23), use colored paper cut into the shape of lemons, oranges, or apples.

#### Pass the Word

Seat the children in a circle. Hand one child a Bible. Have him pass the Bible to the person beside him, then on around the circle while music is played (Play like the game "Hot Potato."). Stop the music abruptly. Whoever is holding the Bible must quote the memory verse aloud. Continue the game until everyone has a chance to recite the Scripture.

### Chalk Talk

Let's Talk! Children's Day is June 5, 2011. Please send me photos and information concerning your local Children's Day activities. I want to include them in the *Voice of Zion* and also in the General Assembly children's program. E-mail me as soon as possible at [youngdisciples@att.net](mailto:youngdisciples@att.net)

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