

Introduction to Children Ministry and Protection

1. Why teach the Children?

Psalms 78:1-8

- ❖ Listen and tell the glorious deeds of the Lord to them. Vs.1-4
The glorious deeds are the event of the Exodus that Asaph the writer is meditating about. The Big Rescue the Lord did for them
- ❖ It's God's Model [vs.5-6] Telling it to the next generation is God's Model of letting people know what He did.
Teaching Children God's word is mainly parent's responsibility but unfortunately in our context this work has been left to the Sunday school teachers. The glorious deed are to be told from one generation to another and this can only happen if parents teach children God's word and the children when they grow up they will keep telling it to the next generation.
As teachers we should take it as privilege that we can tell the children the glorious deeds of the Lord but again wherever we will be teaching we should encourage parents to take this mandate that the Lord has given them.
i.e You can encourage the children to be sharing to the parents what they have learnt in Sunday school or encourage their parents to be reading God's word with them.
The challenge with Christians in our context have is that we don't read the word of God for ourselves which makes it hard for such parents to read God's word with their children. But as teachers we have the privilege to show the parents that this is their main responsibility.
- ❖ The end goal - Vs.7-8 - So that they may set their hope in God (and not forget the works of the Lord)
This is the End goal, and this can happen when we teach them God's word and nothing else. Sadly this is not what happens in most Sunday schools. Sunday school has been taken as normal school or baby-sitting. What most teachers do is lots of activities in the name of teaching the children but this will not help the children set their hope in the Lord. We don't want to teach them anything but show them the Glorious deed of the Lord so that they may set their hope in the Lord.
Vs.8 shows us the results of what happened to those who forgot the glorious deeds of them Lord, ".....a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation whose heart was not steadfast, whose spirit was not faithful to God"
Choose to teach the children the word of God rather than fun (will not help them set their hope in the Lord)

2. We have looked at why Children ministry, the next should be what then should we teach them?

Vs.4 Says "the glorious deeds of the Lord and his might and the wonders he has done"
What then are the glorious deeds that the Lord had done to them and what he has done to us now?
Deut 6:20-23.This was the big rescue that the Lord did to the children of Israelites. Rescuing them from being Pharaoh's slave to the Promised Land and so it is the same with us.

Through Jesus Christ we have been rescued from our rebellious and sinful nature that we may have hope in God. This is what the parents want to tell their sons.

- ❖ Point Jesus to the children through God's word-Show them Jesus Children to need to know Jesus. They need to be shown Jesus because they too are sinners. People think that children are innocent, yet they misbehave. Romans 3:10-12,23 reminds us that no one righteous and that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Therefore children to a sinners and they need to be told what Jesus did for them on the cross. We must be Honest about the ugliness of sin and what it caused to the relationship between God and Man. In knowing this then you help them realise what Christ came to do especially by death on the cross. Sin a matter of the heart; therefore by avoid teaching the morals. Morals won't change their hearts but Christ will do. It's not that Morals are bad but they should be the motivation that comes as result of knowing Jesus and that we saved by Grace not good deeds. Read Titus 2:11-12.
- ❖ When teaching Children make the word of God Central to them. Open the Bible with them. This help see that the Bible is the final authority and we get all the truth from it. We want to show them where it comes from not how clever we are. 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Isaiah 55:11
- ❖ Give an example with Noah's story and show how Christ comes in.
 - The Flood - God's Judgement. God was angry because of man's Sin
 - The Ark - God's Rescue of Noah's family
 - The Rainbow - The Sign of God's Big Promise fulfilled through Christ.
 - The story of Noah shows us what God is like, it is a scary story. God's Judgement is real. His judgment is real and God is angry at our sins. Yet God has made a way to save us from the Judgment. We don't need the Ark to be saved, but rather we need to trust in Jesus. When we trust in Jesus it's like we are in Jesus and so Jesus becomes like our Ark. All who trust in Jesus are safe from God's Judgment just like Noah and his family were safe inside the Ark. And so everyone who doesn't trust in Jesus is in danger, just like all the people who were outside the Ark.

NB: Use illustration as you explain the story

3. How then do you teach them / Prepare?

- ❖ Pray and ask the Lord to help you grow personally and prepare to teach others
- ❖ Read the passage at least 3 times, write down the big themes or the ideas from the passage.
- ❖ Make the story simple from the passage without losing the meaning for the children to understand better. Don't use Abstract concepts like everything/everyone/All or when you use them explain it further .e.g God created everythingme ,you, your dad ,mum, friends, people in Africa, China, America. This will help them identify with the story. Use short words, repetition - Children understand better when we things are repeated to them.
- ❖ Use Visual aid if necessary. Children need visuals to keep their concentration and to assist their memory afterward. This can be drawings, printed pictures or physical items.

- ❖ Games and activities use help the children remember what they have learnt .For example when doing Drama/memory verse/game it should be in line with what they have learnt from God's word.
- ❖ Ask the Lord to help you as you practice the Story.
- ❖ Remember, the children's span of getting things isn't like for adults.10-15 minutes is good for giving a story again depending on the age that you teach.
- ❖ Pray and ask the Lord to help the children have ears to hear what God has to say and to apply it in their lives.

4. Protect the Children

- ❖ Matt. 18:5-6 – children are very precious to God.
 - Avoid being alone with a child – Wherever possible be visible to other adults when working and talking with children. Especially do not: Spend time alone with children away from others, Take children to your own accommodation.
 - Avoid unnecessary physical contact – Especially do not: o Touch or show affection when in isolated areas when alone with child – a hug in public is very different to a hug in private.
 - Engage in any prolonged touch – a brief hug is very different to a lingering hug
 - Initiate touch – the initiative should almost always come from the child
 - Do things for the child that they can do for themselves – e.g. toileting, washing, dressing once old enough
 - Hit, slap, pinch, push, hold against their will, or administer corporal punishment o Touch buttocks, chests, genital areas, or thighs or anything could be possibly be construed as sexual
- ❖ Take complaints/reports/accusations very seriously.
 - Children will almost never be lying.
 - Say, "I take this really seriously. I'm really sorry. You did the right thing to tell me. This isn't your fault. I'm going to try to get you help so you can be safe."

References

1. [iServe Africa Introduction to Children's Ministry and Child Protection](#)
2. [Show them Jesus: Teaching the Gospel to Kids by Jack Klumpenhower](#)
3. St. Helen's Bishopsgate Sunday school Training resources