



Assisting Children's Evangelists Worldwide

Devotional:

Read John 21:1-19

God the Son, the Lord Jesus, has called us to teach and evangelize children, and He wants to bless us and use us in that ministry. But He makes it clear in His Word that our first requirement, and qualification, for that ministry is not our training or ability or expertise. He is more interested in us, as individuals, than in how we are teaching. His main requirement for a children's evangelist is that he/she should have a good relationship with Him, and a personal life which reflects that relationship.

In John 21:15 the Lord Jesus asked Peter the question "Do you love Me more than these?" When Peter answered "Yes", the Lord Jesus commanded him to "feed My lambs." He did not ask him about his ability to do so. He wanted to ensure, first of all, that Peter loved Him and that he was in a good relationship with Him. **And our relationship with the Lord**

Jesus starts when we, as guilty sinners, trust Him as Saviour and receive Him into our lives, and become children of God. (John 1:12) Have you done so? Our service for Him starts with our salvation by Him.

Likewise, back in the Old Testament, God (through Moses) emphasized how important it was for the teachers of children, first of all, to "take heed" to themselves, that they were in a right relationship with Him, before teaching the children. (Deut. 4:9, 6:4-7, 11:16-19)

In the months which follow, we will endeavour, in our devotionals, each month, to understand all that He has done for us, so we can have a good relationship with Him, and to see, more clearly, what He wants us to do to establish, and build up, that relationship.



We welcome all children's evangelists to our first Mini-Mag. Its four pages may not qualify it to be a Magazine but we trust that its contents are Maxi and not Mini!! Our plan is to produce it on a monthly basis. You may want to retain each monthly Mini-Mag and, at a later date, put all of them, together, into a Maxi Mag.

Explanations must come first. **ACEW** Trust was founded by veteran Child Evangelism Fellowship® missionaries 25 years ago and became known as the CEF Specialised Book Ministry. Our purpose, in ACEW, is to help children's workers all over the world (especially CEF workers) in their evangelistic ministry to boys and girls by producing, and providing them with, training manuals and booklets, and series of visualised doctrinal lessons. Our latest project is to produce these monthly Mini-Mags, each with a magazine style format containing a number of sections, to inspire, instruct and inform children's evangelists in their lives and in their ministry to children.



GOD THE SON SPEAKS TO US

Your very first step in preparing for a ministry to children must be to understand what the Bible teaches about children. Your understanding of children, and their needs, should be based on the clear teaching of the Word of God.

The first lesson we learn from God's Word is that ALL CHILDREN are born with a sinful nature which will manifest itself in sinful actions. The Bible teaches that EVERYONE is a sinner. (Romans 3:23, Isaiah 53:6); and David gives examples from his life and experience which emphasise that children are born with a sinful nature. (Psalm 51:5, 58:3) As a result, ALL mankind are spiritually dead, and that includes children (Ephesians 2:1 with 6:1); and, because of our sinful nature, we are ALL separated from a Holy God. (Isaiah 59:2, Rev. 21:27) Therefore we ALL need to be born again (John 3: 3) if we are to "see the Kingdom of God," and we must remember that this also includes children.

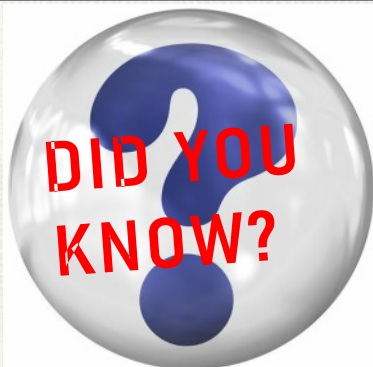
Bible Study:

Understanding Children

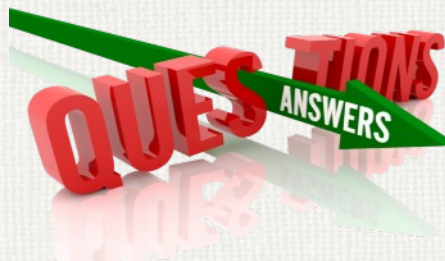


Understanding this first biblical truth about children gives us the incentive and desire to evangelize them. Our responsibility is to teach them the message of salvation and show them how they can be saved and born again.

If you want to understand and learn more about the biblical teaching that ALL children are spiritually dead and need to be saved, go to www.ccfbookministry.com on the Internet and read pages 64 to 69 of our book "U can Know God's Plan for Children." or locate and read our 8 page booklet "God, Children and the Kingdom of Heaven" also on our Internet.



- That ACEW Trust has written, published and distributed, during the last 25 years, many thousands of 8 devotional books for children's workers, 15 training manuals for children's workers, 13 series of visualised doctrinal lessons to teach Bible doctrine to children, and 52 instructional booklets.
- That over 6 million of the above items have been distributed, free of charge, to children's workers in over 70 different countries.
- That many of these are available on the Internet, and can be downloaded at www.CEFBookMinistry.com
- Praise God that He has made all of this possible.



YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Question:

"Could you give me a few tips which would help me tell a good Bible story?"

Answer:

- 1) Take lots of time to prepare your story. Study the passage thoroughly and make a brief written plan of what you will say. This plan should have four parts. Firstly an **INTRODUCTION**, then an outline of the main **EVENTS** in the Bible passage, rising to the **CLIMAX** and followed by a brief **CONCLUSION**. Then stick to that four-point plan as you tell your story.
- 2) Live your story. Be enthusiastic and keep the story moving. Children like action. Don't feel self-conscious or worry about what other adults might feel about your presentation.
- 3) Vary the use of your voice –slow, fast, quiet, loud - according to the story. Use simple words with short sentences. Avoid theological or "old-fashioned" words unless you explain them. What do children understand by "Gideon's pitchers" or "a caravan of camels?"
- 4) Use some carefully planned illustrations or visual aids to help you explain what you are saying.

Your ministry:

Teaching Children

If God has called you to teach His Word to children, there are two abilities you need to learn, practise and develop.

1) YOU NEED TO BE ABLE TO TELL A BIBLE STORY, based upon a passage of Scripture, effectively and attractively. Bible stories play a vital and essential part in the written Word of God and in the spoken Word of the Lord Jesus when He was here on earth, and they should be a vital and essential part of your ministry to children. Everyone loves a story, and most people (especially children) will listen to a story when they will listen to nothing else. Your teaching ministry to children should be based on the telling of stories from God's Word, (which is a veritable mine of stories.)

Therefore your first responsibility is to learn the art of story-telling, and to know how to prepare and tell a Bible story. Some teachers say "I was never any good at telling a story," but most of us are able to tell stories to friends about incidents in our daily lives. With preparation and practice, we can use the same skills to develop the narrative of a Bible passage and tell its story attractively, using language and concepts which the children understand. Later issues of Mini-Max will give you more help in how to do this.

2) YOU NEED TO BE ABLE TO TEACH A BIBLE LESSON.

Your goal is not just that the children should LISTEN to a story; you want them, on the basis of that story, to LEARN a truth. You are not just a TELLER; you are a TEACHER. And the main function of a teacher is to help others TO LEARN. A Bible story is basically a narrative of connected and related events. A Bible lesson uses that narrative to teach and apply truth which is contained in the story, which, when learned and believed, will lead to a change in what the children think and in what they do.

Your second responsibility, therefore, is to learn how to develop your Bible story into a Bible lesson and use it to teach and apply truth to the children.

The next issues of Mini-Mag will show you how to do this and will help you to be an effective teacher of Bible truth. In the meantime, lest we become discouraged at the enormity of our task, we remember that the Holy Spirit helps us to teach, (Ephesians 4:11, 12), and helps the children to learn. (John 14:26)



**thank
ACEW
you!**

Comments from those who
have used our publications

I have discovered many Bible truths from your books. They have greatly helped me in my ministry as a child evangelist. I have learned the simplest way to teach the message of salvation to boys and girls." (Ghana)

"Thank you so much. These supplies have helped build up our Sunday School." (USA)

"700 of our volunteer CEF teachers are using your visualised doctrinal lessons to teach the great Bible truths to over 100,000 children in 84 schools. Thank you for providing them for us." (CEF in the Philippines)

Please let us know if our publications have helped you in your ministry to boys and girls.

**HELP
WANTED?**

ACEW CAN HELP YOU

You can get more help in "the mechanics" of how to tell and present a Bible story in chapters 3 and 4 of our training manual "U can Teach a Bible Lesson to Children" and in the two booklets entitled "It's the Way I Tell Them Part 1 and Part 2."

All these are available to download from
the Internet at

www.CEFBookMinistry.com

History of Children's Evangelism:

We, who evangelise children today, owe a great debt to those heroes of the past who were involved in a ministry to children, and evangelised children, in the face of the hesitant and even sceptical attitude of many Christian leaders. We feel it is appropriate to institute a Hall of Fame in our issues of Mini-Mag and name some of these heroes, one by one. **CHARLES HADDON SPURGEON** was the outstanding pastor of a Baptist church with a congregation of well over 5000 in 19th century London, and a highly regarded theologian. One of the main parts of his ministry was his continual emphasis on the need to teach and evangelise children. He developed

a vast Sunday School and built an orphanage to reach and teach multitudes of children. He, himself, took many opportunities to speak to children about salvation—often from his Sunday pulpit. He was the first to use the colours black, red and white to explain the Gospel. He regularly spoke about, and wrote many pages about the spiritual needs and great potential of children. He said “I most firmly believe in the salvation of children. I have more confidence in the spiritual life of the child than that of the adult.”

WE SALUTE YOU CHARLES SPURGEON AND WELCOME YOU INTO OUR HALL OF FAME. Your teaching about the salvation of children, and your ministry to them, have influenced so many people—past and present.



The Mini Mag HALL of FAME

Personal Advice from the Author:

GOD CHOOSES AND USES THE WEAK

Has God called you to teach the Gospel message to children? Are you hesitating to obey Him because you feel too weak and inexperienced to do so? I know how you feel from personal experience. I was in the same position many years ago. My wife and I had just been saved. We had been evangelized and led to Christ by a young missionary couple. Our Bible knowledge was extremely limited and we had no background or experience in an evangelical church. But God spoke to us through His Word and laid a burden on our hearts to bring the Gospel message, through which we had been saved, to children. Our first reaction was “That is impossible. We have no training, no experience and little Bible knowledge.” But we made a decision to do it—in some way.

So, we started a weekly meeting in our home for the children in the area. A friend gave us a manual with lesson outlines and some flannelgraph figures. The children came, we followed the manual's instructions and, several weeks later, five children came to us after the meeting and said they would like to trust the Lord Jesus as their Saviour. We did not know what to do. We had not yet reached that page in our manual!! But we did our best to show them how they could receive the Lord Jesus into their lives, and all five said they would like to do so. We will never forget the joy of what happened that day—the joy of having obeyed the call of God and the joy of having led our first souls to Jesus Christ. **God chooses the weak and then He uses us to fulfil His purposes.** So don't hesitate to do what God wants you to do.



The Mini-Mag is published by Assisting Children's Evangelists Worldwide and written by Sam Doherty with the assistance and advice of Terry Flannigan, Director of the ACEW Trust, and Kenneth Martin, Chairman of the ACEW Trust.

All of them have occupied leadership positions for many years in the worldwide ministry of Child Evangelism Fellowship®. The contents of each Mini-Mag are based upon the author's 70 years of experience working with Child Evangelism Fellowship, successively as national director of Irish CEF, as European CEF regional director and as founder of the CEF Specialised Book Ministry. Contact can be made at www.CEFBookMinistry.com.

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