



Assisting Children's Evangelists Worldwide

Devotional:

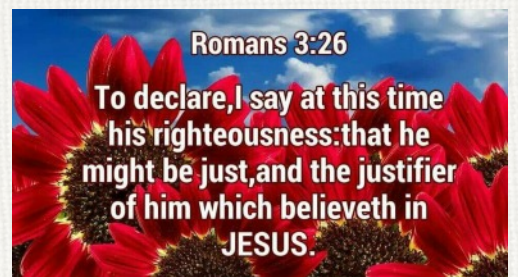
Many of us did not realise how wonderful our salvation was, when we trusted Jesus Christ as our Saviour. It is only after we have grown in our faith, that we have come to understand all that took place in our lives on that great day. Salvation includes many great truths. It is like an umbrella with many spokes. As we discover and understand these "spokes," we praise the One Who made it all possible and we get to know Him better, and love Him more.

The moment we put our trust in Jesus Christ as Saviour, God the Father immediately JUSTIFIED us. (Romans 3:26, 30) Justification is the first of these great truths. It is a DECLARATION by God the Father that all the sin of the believer—past, present and future—is completely FORGIVEN, once and for all (Acts 13:38,39) because of the death of His Son and our faith in Him. But justification is more than forgiveness. When the Lord Jesus

went to the Cross, God the Father placed all our sin on Him. He put our sin "into His account" and He took the punishment for all that sin. When we trusted the Lord Jesus as our Saviour, God the Father put the righteousness of His Son "into our account." From that moment on He sees us as RIGHTEOUS as His Son. (2 Corinthians 5:21) Justification not only means that all our sin is forgiven. It also means that the righteousness of the Lord Jesus has been "imputed" to us. **We will never be condemned for our sin, because God the Father has DECLARED that, on the basis of the death of the Lord Jesus and our faith in Him, we are righteous and NOT GUILTY. (Rom 8:1, 33) What peace you can have, knowing that all your sin has been FORGIVEN, and that God sees you as RIGHTEOUS. What a wonderful and so great salvation!**



Welcome to the third issue of the ACEW Mini-Mag. We would appreciate it if you could let other children's workers know about these mini-mags, and how to receive them. It is our desire to give help and encouragement to as many children's workers as we possibly can. The task of teaching God's Word to children is vital and we want to encourage all who seek to serve God in this way. We trust you will find the articles in this issue helpful as you keep on learning.



GOD THE FATHER JUSTIFIES US

Bible Study:

We have seen that, according to God's Word, we are ALL born with a sinful nature, that we are ALL, by nature, spiritually DEAD and that we are ALL LOST, in the sense of being OUTSIDE God's Kingdom. We have also seen that the word "ALL" includes children. The Lord Jesus saves and brings into His Kingdom ALL those who put their trust in Him and that includes the children, as we can see in Mathew 18:11-14, where the lost sheep is the picture of a child who is found and brought into the sheep fold. The word "LOST" is also used in Scripture as a word of judgement and punishment. The Greek word translated "lost" or "perish" carries the idea of "destruction." The sinful nature we received at birth will eventually show itself in sinful actions and disobedience to God's commands, and make us guilty before God. The guilty person is now LOST and under God's condemnation, and if he dies in that condition he is LOST forever.

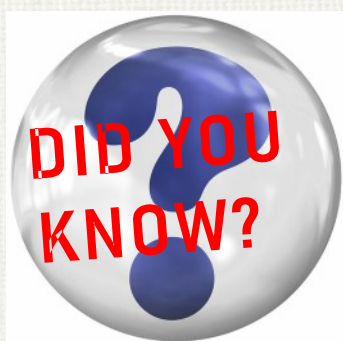
Infants and young children are LOST in the sense of being outside God's Kingdom, but because they have no understanding of sin and cannot be guilty of it, they are not LOST in the sense of condemnation. The Bible makes it clear that condemnation is the result of deliberate sin (John 3:19) and conscious rejection of Jesus Christ (John 3:16, 18) and neither of these apply to infants and young children. But there will come a time when they will

Understanding Children

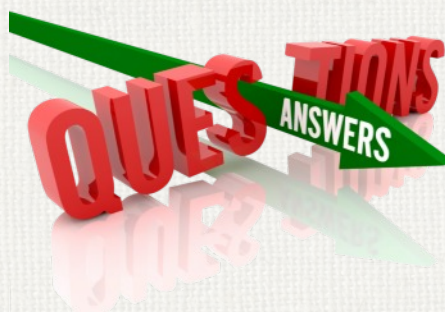


reach the age of accountability, when they will understand and deliberately commit sin, and are able to reject and disobey God. They will then be accountable to God for their disobedience, rejection and unbelief and will be LOST in the sense of condemnation. The problem is that we do not know when that age is. Therefore, as children's evangelists, it is our responsibility to evangelize ALL children. (Mark 16:15)

We need to see ALL children as accountable (even if some are not), and leave the results in God's Hands. He knows if they are accountable or not and He will do what is right.



- That ACEW recognises the great need to teach Bible doctrines to our children.
- That ACEW has produced a manual entitled *"How to Teach Bible Doctrines to Children."* It is the most requested and most used of all our training manuals. You can download or request a copy of this important manual at www.cefbookministry.com
- That ACEW has produced 13 series of visualised doctrinal lessons (each with 5 - 20 lessons) to teach children the great truths of the Bible in an interesting and systematic way.
- That several of these are available as PowerPoint presentations can be downloaded at www.cefbookministry.com. Titles include "Salvation - The Gift of God" and "Growth - The Plan of God"



YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Q: "Where, in the lesson, should I teach the central truth?"

A:

- ▶ Weave your central truth into your lesson plan or story and teach it throughout your story, whenever the Bible passage allows you to do so.
- ▶ Use each scene of your story or passage to develop and explain the truth to the children.
- ▶ Blend your narrative and your teaching together so that when your narrative is completed your central truth has been explained in a way they can understand.
- ▶ You also need to include applications of that truth somewhere in your story or lesson. (as we will see next month.)

Your ministry:

Teaching Children

In our last issue we concluded that the effectiveness of our teaching ministry depended on how we understand and follow the basic principles of teaching. We looked at, and examined, one of the most important of those principles –the **PRINCIPLE OF CONCENTRATION**-- and we saw how vital it was to teach and apply ONE TRUTH –the central truth of the Bible passage or story on which our Bible lesson is based. The second major principle to understand and follow is closely related to the first one. It is the **PRINCIPLE OF EXEGESIS**. What does that mean? Exegesis is a theological word which describes the ability to understand a passage of the Bible and to GET OUT OF IT what God is saying to us and teaching us through it. The word “exegesis” means “to guide or lead out of.” The ONE central truth in my Bible lesson, on which I wish to CONCENTRATE my teaching, is the main truth of the passage on which my lesson is based, and I find this truth using the principle of EXEGESIS. I pray and study the Bible passage and ask myself the question “What is the main truth in this passage which God wants me and my children to understand?” I find that truth by patient and prayerful exegesis. When I teach THAT TRUTH to the children, I am truly teaching what God has said, and THAT is the teaching He has promised to bless. Consequently every teacher of children needs to be an exegete, or have a good manual which helps him in his exegesis.

So, as you read and study the Bible passage on

which your story and lesson are based,

you ask yourself the questions - “Does this passage contain a truth, a central truth? Does it teach something about God, about sin, about Jesus Christ, about the way of salvation, or about the Christian life?” There will probably be a number of such truths in the passage. Write each of them down in a short simple sentence, and then select the one which is most evident and which will be the greatest help to the children.

For example, if you were teaching the lesson on Noah and the flood, you could find a number of truths which the passage teaches. “God is just and must punish sin” or “The person who trusts God is saved and blessed by Him”, or “God is faithful and always keeps His promises” or “There is only one door (one way) of salvation.” Any one of these could be your central truth. **You will concentrate on teaching that one truth you have chosen as you tell your story and you need to apply it, at different times, to both types of children.** Other truths could be mentioned which would help you teach and apply this truth. In this way you have, by exegesis, found a truth which God has put in this passage, and, when you teach it, you are therefore teaching the very Word of God to the children.



“Your book on “How to Teach Bible Doctrines to Children” has been very helpful.” (Vietnam)

“Thank you for your wonderful lessons on basic doctrine for children.” (A CEF Chapter in Pennsylvania, USA)

“The books you have sent have met our needs exactly. They have given to our teachers a better understanding of the Bible and its doctrines.” (Australia)

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

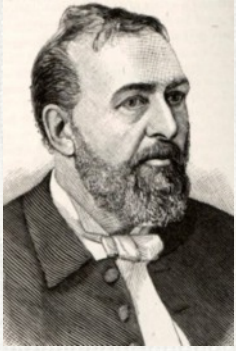


ACEW CAN HELP YOU

If you would like more information on what the Bible teaches about children being lost and the age of accountability go to “U can Know God’s Plan for Children” on the Internet at www.cefbookministry.com and read pages 64-85. If you wish to study “justification” as an integral part of “salvation” read pages 111-113 in “How to Teach Bible Doctrines to Children” on the same website.

All these are available to download from the Internet at
www.CEFBookMinistry.com

History of Children's Evangelism:



The next Hero, and Lover of the souls of children, to be installed in our Hall of Fame is not very well known. His name was **EDWARD. PAYSON HAMMOND.**

Have you ever heard of him? He was ordained as an evangelist by the Presbytery of New York in the mid-19th century. He was greatly used by God in his evangelistic ministry, and he worked for a time with D.L.Moody. He was different from the usual evangelist because

his evangelistic ministry was directed primarily towards children, and this was at a time when very little evangelistic ministry was directed towards children. .

In 1867 he spent six weeks in London and conducted great evangelistic meetings for children in several churches. These meetings were based on his conviction that children, even little children, could truly be saved. And he saw many amazing results. Years later, it was discovered that many of the best workers in the churches he had visited in London were converted as children under his ministry. It was his visit to London, and the results of these meetings, which encouraged two men, Josiah Speers and Thomas Hughes, to start the work of CSSM (Children's Special Service Mission), which

was to play a major part in the evangelism of children in England. He also wrote several books to encourage the evangelism of children which have influenced many. In them he wrote "no other work brings such immediate and lasting results as the evangelism of children." We say "amen" to that.

WELL DONE PAYSON HAMMOND. WE IN MINI MAG SALUTE YOU AND WELCOME YOU INTO OUR HALL OF FAME.

The Mini Mag HALL of FAME

Personal Advice from the Author:

Last month I wrote about my search to find the best way to teach a Bible lesson. For years, in my enthusiasm as a young children's evangelist, I tried to teach as many truths as possible in every Bible lesson – six Gospel truths for the unsaved children and one quite separate truth for the saved children. But I then discovered that it was a better and more effective way to teach a lesson when I concentrated my teaching and application on **ONE TRUTH. I had learned the principle of concentration.** But my second problem with my earlier method of teaching a lesson was that I had to find those seven truths in the text of the Bible passage from which I was teaching. I generally found this to be impossible, and, as a result, I often had to "put truths into" the Bible passage rather than "bring them out" of it. I was doing what the theologians call "eisegesis" (putting truths INTO the passage)

rather than "exegesis" (getting the truths from the passage). I now had learned that the truth I should teach from the passage should be determined by the passage itself and my exegesis of it, and not by a predetermined list of truths. **I had learned the principle of exegesis.**

Don't misunderstand me. There could, and should, be other truths in your lesson apart from the central truth but you are only **MENTIONING** these truths to help you teach and apply the central truth. And it is helpful that these "other truths" do not need to be in the text of the passage itself. The result was that I found it easier and simpler to teach my lessons. Instead of having to both find and teach seven truths in a lesson, which I had always found difficult, I now had the freedom to teach the one main truth, which God had put in that passage, to all the children, helped, if necessary, by the



mention of other truths, and then to be sure to apply that truth, simply and directly, to both the unsaved children and to the saved children.

I am convinced therefore that the most effective way to teach a Bible lesson to children is to find by exegesis the main truth of the passage, and to concentrate my teaching on it.

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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