



Assisting Children's Evangelists Worldwide

Devotional:

Last month we discovered how important it is to teach doctrine to children, and to help them understand the great biblical doctrines about God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, sin, salvation, and Christian growth. We concluded that the characters and conduct of the children are based, to a large extent, on what they believe about such truths. But we need to realise that these discoveries and conclusions equally relate to us as their teachers. Our understanding, belief and application of these doctrines will help us in our devotional lives, our practical, every-day lives, and in our ministry to the children. Therefore we need to study and understand these great doctrines and apply them to our lives and ministries; and we will do this in our Mini-Mag devotionals during the coming months. **The greatest and most important of all doctrines is THE DOCTRINE OF GOD.** Therefore we will start our doctrinal studies by seeking to find out, from the Bible, all we can about GOD, and, as we do so, we will ask ourselves the

questions: "How does this truth affect me?" and "Does my understanding and belief of this truth result in a change in my life and in my ministry?" A study of the greatest doctrine of all should result in the greatest blessing of all.

As we prepare for this exciting "Voyage of Discovery" let us meditate on these wonderful biblical exhortations:

"This is **life eternal**, that they might KNOW You, the only true God and Jesus Christ Whom You have sent." (John 17:3)
 "Let him who glories **glory** in this -that he understands and KNOWS ME." (Jeremiah 9:24)

"The people who KNOW THEIR GOD shall be **strong** and carry out **great exploits**." (Daniel 11:32)

"That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ may give you the spirit of **wisdom and knowledge** in the KNOWLEDGE OF HIM." (Eph 1:17)

Let us pray this prayer of Moses: "Now, therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in your sight, show me now Your way, that I might KNOW YOU" (Exodus 33:13), adding these words "Yes Lord, show me the way and help me to follow it."



We would like to give a special welcome to those who are starting their ministry to children. We trust that the Mini Mags will help you in your ministry. The three of us who are responsible for the production of Mini Mag are at the other end of the life scale from you, with, in total, almost 200 years of experience in this ministry. However, we can still remember the help we got in those early days from our parent organisation Child Evangelism Fellowship. We, in turn, want to give you as much help as we can for your life and ministry. Please let us know if we are succeeding.



THE KEY TO LIFE AND MINISTRY

Bible Study:

The main passage in the Bible about children is Matthew 18:1-14. We saw, last month, that the Lord Jesus, in the first four verses, uses a little child to teach His disciples that they must be humble like this little child to enter His Kingdom, and that they must be humble like this little child to be great in His Kingdom. And now, from verse 5 to verse 14, the LORD Jesus takes this opportunity to teach His disciples about little children like the one in His arms.

"Whoever receives one little child LIKE THIS in My Name, receives Me." (Verse 5) What a promise!

First of all, we need to look at, and examine, the child who is the centre and focus of His teaching:

- He uses the Greek word PAIDION for this child in verses 2,3,4, and in this verse 5. It literally means LITTLE child.
- He uses the Greek word MIKROS ("LITTLE ones") to describe children like this one in verses 6, 10 and 14.

• But this child was not an infant like those the Lord Jesus TOOK UP in HIS ARMS in Mark 10:16 . He took this child IN HIS ARMS and put His arms around him. (Mark 9:36) This child was LITTLE but also old enough to come when he was CALLED (verse 2) –a GREEK word which demands an intelligent response. (as in Acts 16:10)

How old was he? He could have been anywhere between 5 and 10 years old.

Secondly, we need to see what the Lord Jesus wants us to do with children like this. He wants us to RECEIVE THEM. The word "receive" means WELCOME. He wants us to invite them and welcome them into our church or home, and to do so "in His Name." That means that we should welcome them for His sake and in accordance with His desire, so that we can tell them about Him and His love for them.

Thirdly, He promises that if we do, we will, at the same time, receive or welcome Him into our church, or home, or Good News Club. He identifies Himself with little children. 'What you do to them you do to Me'. 'When they come in to hear, I WILL COME IN TO BLESS.' **HOW SHOULD WE REACT TO SUCH A PROMISE?**



Understanding Children

Your ministry:

Teaching Children Part 1

It is very important that you PREPARE your Bible story/lesson thoroughly and PRODUCE a simple organized plan to help you teach it. You will be greatly helped in the preparation of your plan by following these twelve easy steps.

Step 1: Read the passage at least three times and study it prayerfully to find out what this passage is teaching.

Step 2: Write down, in short simple sentences, all the truths you can find in the passage.

Step 3: Choose the truth you feel your children most need to hear. Write it, as your central truth, at the top of your lesson plan, with the letters CT.

Step 4: Decide what you will say when you apply this truth to the unsaved children and summarise it, briefly, on the next lines, with the letters CTU. (CTU=Central Truth for the unsaved child.)

STEP 5: Decide what you will say when you apply this truth to the saved children and summarise it, briefly, on the next lines, with the letters CTS. (CTS=Central Truth for the saved child.)

STEP 6: Write a brief summary of the **beginning** to your story on the next lines on your page.

STEP 7: List all the **events** (the things which happen) which take place in the story, one below the other, and line by line, under your beginning. This list will guide you in the telling of your story.

STEP 8: Choose the event(s) in that list where you could introduce and clarify or teach your central truth. Write the letters CT beside the event(s) concerned.

STEP 9: Decide the event(s) where you will apply the CT to the unsaved children and add CTU to any such event on your list.

STEP 10: Decide the event (s) where you will apply the CT to the saved children and add CTS to any such event on your list.

STEP 11: Write MYA at the point in your outline where you would Make Yourself Available to children for counselling

STEP 12: Decide how to **conclude** your lesson with a challenge, and add a brief summary of it at the end of your list.



History of Children's Evangelism

Just as an army of frontline soldiers need a support staff, so does the great army of children's evangelists. Their ministry would be difficult, even impossible, if they did not have a "support staff." It is that support staff we salute in our history of children's evangelism. We especially want to honour and salute a special, and often overlooked, section of that vital support staff. They are the older people who, after retiring from a long term, busy, and full-time occupation, feel called by God, not to settle into an easy comfortable retirement, but to offer their services to support, help and make it possible for others to carry on the ministry to the children. We would like to include several of them in our Hall of Fame—all of them from my personal experience.

- My wife and I began the ministry of Child Evangelism Fellowship in Ireland at the age of 23. We were young, enthusiastic but very inexperienced. God raised up an older retired man called **HERBIE GREER**, to do all the needed background work and "help the army move forward." His HELP was invaluable to us in those early days.

- The work grew in the years which followed and its administration became more complicated. Herbie was with his Lord, when **LILLIAN SHARPLES** returned to Ireland to retire after many years of service on the mission field. God laid a burden upon her heart to HELP us and take over our administration, which she did for a number of years.

- Purchasing Kilchzimmer in Switzerland, as the regional office and



KILCHZIMMER

training centre for European CEF, was one of our biggest ever projects. But that was just the first step. We desperately needed staff. And we especially needed house parents to look after the work of the centre. Just then **BOB and EARLENE SPENCE**, an older couple from Illinois USA, contacted us unexpectedly to find out if they could HELP at Kilchzimmer. Bob

had just retired from a good business position and God had laid this on their hearts. Loved by everybody, they became our house parents and kept the whole house running smoothly for many years, until they retired for health reasons. Their retirement left a big gap.

- Shortly after their retirement, I received a telephone call from **DAN AND PETRO DU PLESSIS**, a retired pastor and his wife in South Africa, who had been students at Kilchzimmer. They enquired if they could HELP in any way at Kilchzimmer, and, as a result, they became, for a number of years, our equally and greatly loved house parents **HERBIE, LILLIAN, BOB, EARLENE, DAN AND PETRO WE WELCOME YOU (AND MANY OTHERS LIKE YOU) INTO OUR HALL OF FAME, AS SUPPORT STAFF for "OUR ARMY," WHEN YOU COULD HAVE BEEN RELAXED RETIREES AT HOME.**

The Mini Mag HALL of FAME

Personal Advice from the Author: **DON'T LET IT FRIGHTEN YOU**

Does the thought of taking twelve steps to prepare a Bible lesson frighten you? However, the steps are easy to follow. They have all been explained and taught in previous issues of 'Mini Mag'. If you take these steps carefully and prayerfully, and one at a time, you will have a plan which will help you in your lesson presentation. You will find an example of such a plan on the next page.

Remember that **THOROUGH PREPARATION** will result in **EFFECTIVE PRESENTATION**, and the main purpose of your preparation is to create **A PLAN**, write it on a small sheet of paper, and place it inside your Bible to refer to as you teach. Chapter 10 in ACEW's "U-can Teach a Bible Lesson to Children" at www.cefbokministry.com could give you further help you in your Bible lesson preparation and the steps to follow.



YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

"I find it difficult to follow your teaching that I should have only one truth in every Bible lesson"

I would also find that difficult; but it is not what I am teaching. I believe we should only **TEACH** and apply one truth in every lesson; but we can **MENTION** other truths, provided these truths help the children to understand the central truth. Your objective is to teach and apply your central truth, but you should be free to choose and use other truths to help you do so; and, to make it easier, the other truths which you mention do not need to be in your Bible passage



- Your resources have been a huge source of help for me in my Sunday school teaching, VBS and also for my bible study. Yes. I received the books last week. Thanks very much. - UAE

- I am glad to inform you that I have received the books you sent and have used them to train 100 pastors on how to evangelise children. 30 youths have also been trained to do outreach - Uganda

- I was so thankful to find your website where I could get some downloads to work with kids. I so badly want to help them grow in their faith and our focus this year is on discipleship so your materials will come to great use! Thanks for all you do to help the children know and love the Lord Jesus! - USA

Your ministry:

Teaching Children Part 2

My first step was to study the passage (Luke 19:1-10) and find the truth I would teach. My second step was to find and write down the truths in the passage, and my third step to select the one truth the children needed most as my central truth (CT) and write it at the top of my teaching plan (See below). I have added, in small red type, how I would begin the lesson and how I would end it, and also indicated what I might say when applying the CT to the unsaved children (CTU) and to the saved children (CTS)



MY LESSON PLAN: (Check if, and how, I have followed the 12 steps given on page 38.)

CT: The Lord Jesus INVITES sinners to come to Him for salvation.

CTU: The Lord Jesus INVITES you to come to Him to-day and receive Him into your life.

CTS: When you receive the Lord Jesus He changes you, and your friends will see the difference.

BEGINNING:

EVENTS:

1. Jesus came to Jericho. **CT**
2. Zacchaeus, the hated tax collector, wanted to see Jesus.
3. He was a small man and could not see over the people's heads.
4. He ran ahead and found a big sycamore tree beside the road.
5. He climbed up into it and hid himself behind the leafy branches.
6. Jesus invited him to come down and receive Him. **CTU1**
7. He also told Zacchaeus that He would like to come and stay at his house.
8. He came down quickly and received Him joyfully and without hesitation. **CTU2**
9. Zacchaeus welcomed the Lord Jesus joyfully into his house (and into his life.)
10. All the people were upset because Jesus had come into the life and house of such a sinner.
11. But that is the kind of person Jesus came to save. **CTU3 MYA**
12. But the Zacchaeus who received Jesus into his life is now a different person. The Lord Jesus has changed him.
13. He gave half of all he possessed to the poor. **CTU4**
14. He also gave back to the people four times what he had stolen from them. What a change! **CTS1**
15. The Lord Jesus told him "This is the day of your salvation." **CTU5**

CONCLUSION / CHALLENGE:

BEGINNING: Have you ever received an invitation card like this one here (Show one). The little man in our story to-day received a very special invitation (Show card with words COME TO ME) from a very special Person.

Who was this Person? What was the little man invited to do? What was the result? Let's see!"

CT: The Son of God came to give a man an invitation, and He also comes to you with an INVITATION. "COME TO ME." (Show card) "There is something very special I want to do for you."

CTU1: He INVITES YOU to come to Him and RECEIVE Him into your life. If you do, He will forgive your sin.

CTU2: He is INVITING YOU to RECEIVE Him. Don't wait. Ask Him to come into your life NOW.

CTU3: He died for sinners like Zacchaeus (and also like you) and He wants to save you. (Make Yourself Available here)

CTU4: When He comes into your life He will change you and make you a better person. Do you want to be changed?

CTS1: Have there been changes in your life since you trusted the Lord Jesus? Can others see them?

CTU5: Don't hesitate. Receive Him. To-day could be the day of YOUR salvation

CONCLUSION / CHALLENGE

"Have you ever accepted this invitation from the Lord Jesus to come to Him for salvation? If not, you can do so this very moment, by turning away from your sin, and by receiving the Lord Jesus into your life as Zacchaeus did. He will forgive your sin and change you. You could ask Him to come in right now as you sit there, or you could do it after the meeting, or later on at your bedside. The important thing is to do it and to do it as soon as possible!"

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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