



Assisting Children's Evangelists Worldwide

Devotional

So far we have discovered and described three great truths about God –three of His attributes. These attributes or qualities can be divided into two groups. There are, firstly, the attributes of God which He wants to communicate or impart, to some extent, to us. These are attributes or qualities which God wants to see in our lives so that we will be like Him. Then, secondly, there are His attributes which are His and His alone and which cannot be imparted or communicated to us in any form. Into which of these two groups would you place the three attributes we have studied? His Sovereignty, His Wisdom and His Love? He wants us to be as wise and as loving as a saved sinner can be; but we can only worship and trust a God Who is sovereign. To-day we study God's fourth attribute which, the theologians tell us, is the divine attribute which is mentioned or referred to more times in the Bible than any other attribute. Which group does it belong to?

Isaiah would never forget that wonderful day when God spoke to him and called him into his ministry as a prophet. (Isaiah 6:1) King Uzziah had just died after 52 years on the throne of Judah, but on

that day, in a vision, Isaiah saw THE LORD on His "high and lifted up throne". He saw the angelic seraphims above that throne and heard them crying to each other "HOLY, HOLY, HOLY IS THE LORD OF HOSTS, the whole earth is full of His glory" (Isaiah 6:3). This great truth about God, repeated three times to emphasise its importance, (and, perhaps, to refer to the Divine Trinity)

"BE HOLY FOR I AM HOLY"

would dominate Isaiah's spoken and written ministry in the years which followed. The apostle John records in his vision of Heaven that the four living creatures around the throne of God also echo the same three words "HOLY HOLY, HOLY, LORD GOD ALMIGHTY Who was and is and is yet to come" (Revelation 4:8) as they lead the worship of Him Who sits on that throne.

GOD IS HOLY. He is perfectly pure and completely free from any kind of sin and uncleanness in His nature, His character and His actions. He is entirely separate from, and apart from, sin and evil and all that is impure or makes unclean and He cannot allow sin into His presence. He wants us, who serve Him in our ministry to children, to

Welcome

We welcome you to the 18th issue of Mini Mag, the "little magazine" which aims to help children's workers in their lives and ministries. All the seventeen previous monthly issues are available for downloading and, together with this issue, you can have a Maxi Mag or "big magazine." We will, God willing, continue to add monthly issues so that you can have a Maxier Mag!!!

Do please let us know if you are finding our "little magazines" helpful in either your life or your ministry (or both); and please indicate if there is any subject related to the evangelism of children you would like us to deal with in future issues. We only want to help you.

see Him in His Word as He really is and worship Him, our Holy God, as all those angelic beings did. But He wants more, much more, than that. **HE WANTS US TO BE HOLY.** His Word proclaims "As He Who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct" (1 Peter 1:15), "You shall therefore be holy for I am holy" (Leviticus 11:45) and "Be holy for I am holy" (1 Peter 1:16). We cannot ever be as holy as He is, but He wants our lives to reflect His holiness.

Children in the Bible

Matthew 18:1-14 is the main passage in the Bible about children, but the best known passage concerning children must be Matthew 19:13-15 (along with Mark 10:13-16 and Luke 18:15-17). It is the story of PEOPLE who brought CHILDREN to the Lord Jesus for Him to bless them, of the DISCIPLES who rebuked them for doing so, and of the reactions of the LORD JESUS to what they did.

■ **The children who came to the Lord Jesus.** They were a mixed group of children. Some were babies (BREPHOS in Luke 18:15); the others were little children (PAIDION in all the other verses), but whether they walked or were carried, they came. We have already learned that little children (PAIDION) find it simple to come to the Lord Jesus.

■ **The people who brought them.** We are not told who they were. Perhaps it was their mothers or their fathers or their grandparents. Perhaps their neighbours. But they all wanted the Lord Jesus to bless, and pray, for the children they brought. We can bring our children and other people's children to the Lord Jesus by praying that He will bless and save them. We can also bring them to the Lord Jesus by teaching them how they can come to Him for salvation.

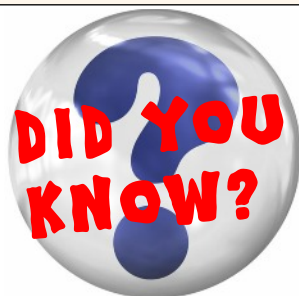
■ **The disciples who rebuked them for doing so.** How sad that these dear people were criticised and not commended, and that by the disciples of the Lord Jesus. Why did they do so? Did they feel it was a waste of time, and that there were more important people to be blessed and helped? But the



tragedy is that there are believers to-day who do not see the need for an evangelistic ministry to little children and can even be sceptical and critical of those who do.

■ **The Lord Jesus and His displeasure.** The Greek word used is the strongest word used in the Gospels to describe the emotions of the Lord Jesus. He was "greatly displeased" with the action of His disciples. Why? Because He had recently taught them in Matthew 18:5 and Mark 9:37 how important it is to "receive little children." So it was an act of disobedience. He told them that they should not hinder or stop children from coming to Him, but, instead, that they should let, or allow, them to come. The Lord Jesus wants children to come to Him. It is our responsibility to help and encourage them to come, and not hinder or prevent them from doing so.

"AND, AS THEY ALL WATCHED, THE LORD JESUS LAID HIS HANDS UPON ALL THE CHILDREN AND BLESSED THEM."



that we had TWO main reasons for starting the ministry of ACEW. Firstly, as we saw last month, we realised that there was a shortage, or even a lack, of simple but thorough BOOKS available to help children's workers in key areas of their lives and ministries. We have now written and published a wide range of these BOOKS, and made them available all over the world. Secondly we saw a need to write and publish visualised series of flashcards which could be used to teach children the basic truths like justification and adoption in an attractive way. There also seemed to be a shortage, even a lack, of such teaching materials. This was another "gap" which we wanted to fill. The result was thirteen series of visualised doctrinal lessons, with 5, 10 or 20 lessons in each series, with eight flashcards for each lesson and a detailed teacher's manual. These have been used by thousands of children's workers all over the world. You can find out more about them on our website at www.CEFbookministry.com, where you can download the PowerPoint presentations and use them.



YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Q; Do grandparents have a role which includes a spiritual responsibility towards their grandchildren?

A::Yes, they certainly do! If God has given you the privilege to have grandchildren, He expects you to help them both physically and spiritually, as you have opportunity. You now have the time to do so, and the experience to do so. You can have the joy and privilege of building close links, and a special bond, with each of them. In 2 Timothy 1:5 we read about Timothy's mother Eunice, but we also read about his grandmother Lois and her influence on him. She was a godly grandmother who taught him the Word of God from his earliest days. She influenced him greatly and helped prepare him for his conversion and his future ministry.

There are several ways you can help and influence your grandchildren:

- You need to understand the needs they have, the mental needs, the physical needs and especially the spiritual needs for salvation and growth.
- You need, as you have opportunity, to help meet those needs, especially the spiritual needs.
- You need to pray for them by name at least once or twice daily.
- You need to build a good relationship with them by listening and talking to them, and by playing games with them.
- You need to tell them Bible stories, teach them Bible verses and sing choruses with them.
- You need to evangelise them gently and with no pressure.
- You need to help them grow spiritually.
- You need to be involved with them but not too involved. Remember that they are their parents' children, not yours.

PRAISE GOD FOR GODLY GRANDMOTHERS AND GRANDFATHERS WHO LOVE AND CARE FOR THEIR GRANDCHILDREN.

Your Ministry:



Teaching Children

Here are some tips to help you in your use of the flannelgraph:

- Your board should be at an angle and not vertical so the figures don't slip.
- Make sure that the board is high enough or low enough so that all the children can see it clearly.
- Have your figures ready to use, and place them, in the order you will use them, where they will be within reach.
- Teach, and place your figures, from the side of the board. Don't walk in front of the board.
- Face, and talk to, the children and not the board, and don't turn your back on them.
- Keep talking as you change, and as you move, figures. Don't hold a figure in your hand for a long time.
- The overall picture on the board should keep changing to hold the children's attention.
- Move your figures when necessary. Substitute new figures at the right time.
- Place the larger figures towards the bottom of the board and the smaller ones higher up in the background.

Don't forget that you are the best visual aid of all. The way you speak, the way you move, and your facial expressions will be the final ingredients in a well presented Bible lesson

We saw, last month, how important it is for you to use visual aids in your ministry to children. Visuals help the children understand what you are teaching, encourage them to remember what they have heard and seen, and hold their attention while you are teaching. The main visual aid for most of us has, for many years, been the flannelgraph; and even to-day, it is effectively used by a number of children's workers.

You need a board of light wood or heavy cardboard (90cm X 70cm) covered with cloth which has a "fluffy" surface like flannel or flannelette. You will cut out the figures or word strips you will use, and cover their backs (or parts of them) with the same cloth. Or you may be able buy figures with backs which are already covered. These figures will adhere to the board and can be placed to form pictures as you teach.

- You can use figures of people, animals, and objects as you teach your lesson.
- You can use word strips to visualise Bible verses, or when teaching older children, to verbalise your main points.



Comments from those who have used our publications

"I am very thankful for the six books you sent me. Through these materials I am very encouraged, motivated, educated, improved, and strengthened by you to obey the heavenly vision and the great commission." (Zambia)

"Thank you so much! I can't tell you how much I appreciate this. I am teaching children in a remote location who have no Bible background whatsoever. I will devour this book to make sure I am teaching the children correct doctrine." (Canada)

"I am discovering lots of biblical truths from your books which are helping me as a child evangelist and helping my ministry too. I have learned the simplest way to teach the message of salvation to boys and girls. And I have gained understanding that it is right to allow the Holy Spirit to convict them of sin and not take advantage of the openness of the children." (Ghana)



THIS TIME WE CAN'T HELP YOU

We in ACEW do not produce flannelgraph figures. Therefore, regretfully, we cannot supply you with any. You can, of course, produce your own figures, or find figures suitable for use, but that is difficult. You can, however, make your own word strips quite easily and use them. Our parent organisation, Child Evangelism Fellowship, used to produce vast quantities of flannelgraph series but they no longer do so. The only organisation I can find which still produces them, and which I can personally recommend, is BCM International, formerly known as Bible Club Movement. They have produced 8 series of "Full Color Felt Figures and Word Strips". Each series comes with a teacher's text book. These can be purchased from them, but they are expensive. You can contact them for more information at info@bcmintl.org or by mail at 201 Granite Run Drive, Suite 260, Lancaster, PA 17601, USA.

History of Children's Evangelism

Last month we started to study the PLACES where children have been taught the Word of God down through the years. We saw that God's plan for them in the Old Testament was that they should be taught personally by their parents in their HOMES. (Deut 4:9, 6:7, 11:19) and that teaching them should result in them "keeping the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just." (Genesis 18:19) God's plan for them in the New Testament was similar. Parents should teach their children in their HOMES and "bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord!" (Ephesians 6:4) We conclude that Christian parents to-day should follow these biblical examples and instructions, but they have a fuller message, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to teach and, with it, to evangelise their children.

In the Old Testament there was a SECOND PLACE where children could, and should, hear what God wants them to understand, believe and do. They should be taught in their individual HOMES, but they should also be taught by attending and being part of the COMMUNITY or ASSEMBLY of Israelites when they were being addressed or taught. The Old Testament specifically states that children were present when God's people were brought together to receive direction and teaching.

- Children were present when the Israelites en masse confessed their sin before God. (Ezra 10:1)
- Children were present when the Israelites prayed en masse for defence against their enemies. (2 Chronicles 20:12)
- Children were present when the Israelites listened to the reading of the Law. (Deut 31:12,13, Joshua 8:34,35, Nehemiah 8:3). The older children (Neh. 8:3) could understand and participate in all



these assemblies, but the little ones who did not understand could still be influenced by what was happening. So all the children should be there.

The situation in the New Testament is basically similar. Children were taught by parents in their HOMES; but they should also be brought by their parents and attend together with them in the meeting of the COMMUNITY of believers, otherwise known as THE LOCAL CHURCH. We can even see that the letters of Paul which were read in the local churches addressed the children there directly (Ephesians 6:2, Colossians 3:20). It is obvious that children were accepted as part of the CHURCH COMMUNITY and received help and teaching there as well as in their home.

As a result there are two places to-day where children should receive spiritual help and instruction –HOME and CHURCH. The first responsibility of parents is to teach and evangelize their children in their HOMES, and their second responsibility is to bring them to CHURCH, where they will receive further teaching. The very youngest, who don't understand, will still be blessed by the consciousness and influence of being in God's house with God's people.

The Mini Mag HALL of FAME

Personal advice from the Author

ADVENTURES WITH MY FLANNELGRAPH BOARD

When I began my ministry to children MANY years ago, the main (and often the only) visual used was the flannelgraph. Our ministry began when a CEF missionary came to visit us in our home in Northern Ireland and introduced us to children's evangelism, the ministry of Child Evangelism Fellowship and the flannelgraph. My wife and I had only been recently converted, but we had already felt God wanted us to work with children. He had a flannelgraph board with him and some brightly coloured biblical figures, and he gave us a demonstration of how to use it to teach a Bible lesson to children. We were fascinated. He encouraged us to start a Good News Club in our home (the first in Ireland) using the flannelgraph board and figures he had brought with him. And that was when our adventure started. The local children all came to our weekly Good News Club, enjoyed the flannelgraph stories and a

number trusted the Lord Jesus as their Saviour. I am still convinced of the value of the flannelgraph as a great aid in teaching a Bible lesson, and I am sorry that it is not used as much to-day as it was. Children love it, and I have found that to-days children are no exception. I used that board for years. At first I carried it under my left arm while steering my bicycle with my right hand in my journeys to our Good News Clubs; and then, later, I transported it in my car. I also used it in the open air when the wind and weather allowed it, and in church services when I spoke to the children. It was my faithful friend and assistant for those early years. It had its problems but they were far outweighed by its possibilities. I look back over those years and I salute you my old friend. You were a great help in my ministry.

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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