



Assisting Children's Evangelists Worldwide

Devotional

I studied Latin in school for five years, but I have forgotten most of it. But I do remember the Latin word “omnis” which means “all” or “everything” and that helps me to remember these three attributes or qualities of God, all of which start with these three Latin words.

▶ **GOD IS OMNISICIENT** (omni plus Latin word for knowledge) He knows everything about everyone and everything.

▶ **GOD IS OMNIPRESENT** (omni plus Latin word for presence) He is everywhere and is in every believer's life.

▶ **GOD IS OMNIPOTENT** (omni plus Latin word for power) He has absolute power and can do anything. One of the most wonderful psalms written by David was Psalm 139 (Please read it). In that psalm he identifies these three attributes of God, and he applies each of them to himself and to us as believers.

THE THREE DOCTRINAL OMNIS

GOD'S OMNISCIENCE (verses 1-6)

TRUTH: God knows me (verse 1). He knows what I am doing, (verses 2 and 3a), what I am thinking (verses 2b and 4), where I am going (3b), and what I am saying. (verses 4a and 5) Nothing is hidden from Him and all these activities are under His control (verse 5).

APPLICATION: (verse 6) I am amazed at what He is able to know, and this challenges me to be careful in my thoughts, my words and my deeds even though I am so limited in my knowledge and strength.

GOD'S OMNIPRESENCE (verses 7-12)

TRUTH: God is present with me at all times. I can never get away from Him and His presence (verse 7-9).

APPLICATION: No matter where I go, His hands guide me and protect me (verses 9,10), and His presence will take away the darkness, give me light and help me shine (verses 11,12).

GOD'S OMNIPOTENCE (verses 13-16)

TRUTH: God is able to do whatever He wishes to do. Nothing is impossible for Him.

APPLICATION: God is able to meet EVERY need and solve EVERY problem in my life and ministry. “His works are wonderful” (verse 14), and they display His power, even in me. One of the most wonderful of those works is that He formed me and made me in my mother's womb (verse 15.). I can truly say that “I am fearfully and wonderfully made” (verse 14) and that You formed me Lord, as You wanted me to be. In addition, You had ordained and planned my future even before I was born (verse 16).

Welcome

The greatest ministry in the world is a spiritual ministry to children, and the greatest privilege for a Christian is to be called by God into that ministry. Are you one of those special people? Are you looking for an opportunity to get involved in this ministry? Do you already, or would you like to, teach Sunday School or Good News Club? WE WELCOME you to Mini Mag .We have already written 22 four- page Mini Mags to help you and encourage you in such a ministry and they can all be downloaded from our website at www.cefbokministry.com, completely free of charge, and more issues will follow. If you are an experienced children's evangelist, you will also find them helpful for your teaching of others.

David records three immediate results in his life as he meditates on these three great truths about God:

- He loves and worships God (verses 17, 18.). This should be our response as we study God's attributes.
- He expresses his righteous anger (verses 19-22) that wicked men would speak evil of God and hate Him.
- He closes with a four-fold prayer which we could all echo:

SEARCH ME TEST ME SEE (EXAMINE) ME LEAD ME

Children in the Bible

In the last 22 issues of Mini Mag we have studied the four most important passages in the Bible about children – in Matthew 18, Mark 10, Deuteronomy 4,6,11 and 31, and Psalm 78 - and we have learned many helpful and challenging truths about them. But there are very many more passages and verses about children in the Bible. I will give you the Bible references for those Bible verses in the Old Testament with the truths about children which I feel they teach or imply, and you can study them for yourself.

CHILDREN LEARN THROUGH WHAT THEY SEE.

(Exodus 10:1,2, 13:7,8,9, 13:13-16. Deut. 6: 20---25, Joshua 4:5-9, 20-24).

CHILDREN NEED TO HEAR ABOUT GOD'S JUDGEMENT.

(Joshua 8: 34,35 Jeremiah 6:11. Ezekiel 9: 6)

BABIES WHO DIE GO TO BE WITH THE LORD. (2 Samuel 12:20-23).

CHILDREN CAN DO EVIL (2 Chronicles 36:9).

OUR CHILDREN NEED OUR PRAYERS. (Ezra 8:21).

WE NEED TO TEACH TRUTH TO OUR CHILDREN. (Psalm 34: 11-14. 71: 5,17).

CHILDREN CAN PRAISE GOD (Nehemiah 12:43. Psalm 8: 2, 148:12,13. Zechariah 10 :7).

GOD LOVES CHILDREN. (Jonah: 4:11)

GOD HAS A WONDERFUL PLAN FOR CHILDREN. (Psalm 78:5-8, Psalm 71:6, Jeremiah 1:5).

CHILDHOOD IS THE BEST TIME TO TRUST CHRIST. (Psalm 78:7,8, Ecclesiastes 12:1).

GOD CAN WORK IN THE HEARTS OF CHILDREN BEFORE AND AFTER BIRTH (Jeremiah 1:7, Luke 1:15) .

CHILDREN BRING JOY. (Zechariah 8: 4,5).

CHILDREN CAN BE SAVED (Zechariah 10: 7,8).



There are also passages and verses in the Old Testament which command parents to teach and guide their children so that they will trust and follow God.

EACH GENERATION SHOULD TEACH THE NEXT GENERATION (Psalm 78:4-8, Joel 1:1-3).

PARENTS HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO GIVE THEIR CHILDREN SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE (Genesis 18:19)

IT IS A PRIVILEGE TO BE BORN INTO A CHRISTIAN FAMILY (Genesis 7;1 and Hebrews 11:7)

CHILDREN SHOULD ALSO BE ENCOURAGED TO PRAY AND SEEK GOD. (Joel 2:15-17)

In addition there are 23 instructions and 1 promise for children, plus 9 instructions and 1 promise for parents, in the book of Proverbs.

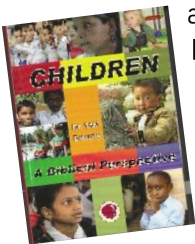
We will outline the verses and passages about children in the New Testament in our next issue.



DID YOU KNOW?

The greatest need and challenge for every children's worker is to fully understand what God has recorded about children in His Word, the Bible. To help you do this, we have written and produced a book entitled "*Children - a Biblical Perspective*." In its 350 pages you will find the help you need. This book will give you all the biblical facts about children in detail. You will find the

Biblical answers to many questions about children, and about our ministry to them. You will find outlines of messages you could share with others about children. We do not know of any other book which goes into as much detail on all these subjects about children, and our ministry to them. And it is available for you free of charge on our website at www.cefbokministry.com.

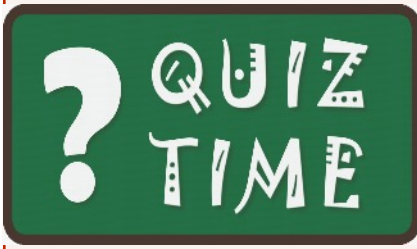


YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Question: What should I do with a child who is unruly every week and upsetting the meeting? Should I ask him/her to leave the meeting and not come back?

Answer: There are several steps you can take in a situation like this.

- ▶ Pray for him/her personally and frequently and ask others to pray for him/her.
- ▶ Arrange for an adult to sit beside him during the meeting.
- ▶ Talk with him personally and on his own, and explain how wrong it is for him to do what he does. He may be more open to guidance and help when he is on his own and not the centre of attention. Try to locate any problem he has and help him with it.
- ▶ Give him some responsibility as your helper. For example, he could mark the names in your roll-book, or hang up coats or supervise the seating for the other children or clear up after the meeting is over.
- ▶ Speak with his parents and let them know what is happening. Let him know you are going to do this.
- ▶ As a very last resort and only if all these other attempts have failed, tell him that you want him to return to your club each week but that he cannot do so if he is not prepared to behave himself. Make it very clear that he will always be welcome if he is willing to behave himself and not disturb and spoil the club.



In our previous issues we have been studying how to plan a programme for a

Good News Club or Sunday School class, which will be varied, interesting and helpful. To do so, and to ensure the needed variety, you should plan a number of different but linking sections, three of which we have studied in recent issues. These included singing in different parts of the programme, the memorisation of a Bible verse, and the teaching of a Bible lesson. We need to understand that what has been learned can easily be forgotten. Therefore, it is necessary to keep revising and reviewing what has been taught. One of the best ways to do this is to include a review or revision section in your programme. This will be your fourth section. The main method of review is a Bible Quiz. Your Bible Quiz will be a series of questions mainly about last week's lesson and memory verse, but you can ask these questions about other parts of the programme as well. In preparation for your meeting, ask God to guide you in your choice of questions. And prepare about ten of them. There are two types of questions. Firstly, there are questions of knowledge (who, what or where questions) which review the facts of what was taught last week; and secondly there are questions of

understanding and application (why questions) to see if they have understood what was taught last week.

Try to make your quiz/review both attractive and effective.

1) You could have a competition on an individual basis, giving a point to whoever raises his/her hand first and gives a correct answer.

2) You could have two teams, like boys and girls, competing against each other. You could display two cars or aeroplanes or the pictures of a boy and girl on the flannelboard, and advance the figure used one space with each correct answer for the team. The team with the most points wins.

3) You could give statements and ask if they were true or false.

4) You could give a brief outline of last week's lesson letting the children fill in the blanks you leave in the lesson.

5) You could ask a child to put on the flannelboard the figures used in last week's lesson with him/her, or you, or another child telling the lesson.

We wish you success with your Quizzes.



Comments from those who have used our publications

"Your Mini Mag has been received and I love your content. I live in New Jersey and I am a Bible teacher in my Christian church. Thank you so much for your wonderful doctrinally sound and encouraging resources. I use my lessons from your materials to reach children with the Gospel "(From USA).

"I would like to inform you that I have received the books which you sent,. Thank you so much. These books really helped me a lot. Not just in teaching children but also in evaluating myself as a teacher. God bless you and your ministry as well. To God be the glory" (From the Philippines)

"I received, with much joy, the delivery of books I requested for. I'm immensely grateful and would trust The Lord to help me go through them and use them in my children ministry." (From Nigeria)

History of Children's Evangelism

We have been studying, in the last 22 issues of Mini Mag, the history of children's evangelism. We have seen a number of key PEOPLE whom God called and used in this ministry down through the years, and we have discovered the only two key PLACES where children were evangelised in all those early years. But we also saw that, in the 18th and 19th centuries God raised up, in England, two massive worldwide ORGANISATIONS, the Sunday School Movement and the Children's Special Service Mission, to reach teach and evangelise children worldwide. In the 20th century God has also raised up, in the USA a third such organisation, in addition to Child Evangelism Fellowship.



Miss Bessy Trabant had gone from USA to be a missionary in the Philippines. She returned to USA in 1962 because of her health and shared with much joy the great blessing of her ministry to children in the Philippines through Bible Clubs. The young people in Philadelphia pleaded with her to give them such Bible Clubs, and she fulfilled their request, and seeing the great need and potential of this ministry she, with others, started a Mission with the name Bible Club Movement or BCM. Over the following decades, BCM expanded, firstly all over USA and secondly all over the world.

BCM has now got over 850 missionaries serving in 60 countries and in the islands of the Pacific and Caribbean. They are reaching, teaching and evangelising 1.3 million children

worldwide in Bible Clubs and schools, and they have established and developed camping programmes in over 25 countries. These ministries have led to the foundation and growth of more than 5000 churches worldwide. Two other essential and fruitful parts of their ministry has been well organised training programmes for both volunteers and fulltime staff, and the publication and printing of a wide selection of excellent visualised materials and flashcards to teach children.

They decided to adopt a new name but still with the letters BCM – BIBLE CENTRED MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL ---which would show their involvement in other ministries like church planting and church development and to emphasise that they were a worldwide ministry. But they have made it clear that their main focus continues to be upon children, their needs and their salvation through the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. **WE WELCOME BCM AND Miss Betty Trabant (now with her Lord) INTO THE MINI MAG HALL OF FAME.**

The Mini Mag HALL of FAME

Personal advice from the Author

I, and many other teachers, have found that the biggest problem we have in teaching a Good News Club is that of bad discipline. This problem is greater to-day than ever before, because many children are not disciplined as much at home or in school or in the community as they used to be. I have found that many of these problems can be prevented if the following three conditions are understood and put into practice.

SPEND MUCH TIME IN PRAYER. And ask others to pray concerning this specific problem. Prayer changes things.

SPEND MUCH TIME IN PREPARATION If you don't, you will have restlessness and lack of interest in your club.

KEEP CONTROL

YOUR PRESENTATION SHOULD BE ATTRACTIVE. If the children are interested in what they hear and see, they will listen. Most children will listen and be reasonably well behaved if the presentation is interesting and relevant. It is better to make your meeting and lesson so interesting that discipline problems will not arise rather than trying to solve them when they do. Prevention is better than cure.

If the discipline in your club is still not good, subject yourself to a process of self-examination, or discuss the problem with a co-worker, until you see any weaknesses or problems in your teaching. Ask God to reveal these to you and then ask Him to help you overcome them.

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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