



Assisting Children's Evangelists Worldwide

Devotional

Our theme, in our devotions, for several months, has been God's desire to make us like His Son, and His plan to do so, step by step, through His works of predestination, regeneration, sanctification and glorification. But we also saw last month that the Word of God also gives us specific commands and practical examples of how we can be like the Lord Jesus TO-DAY in our everyday lives. Last month we studied Paul's words in Philippians chapter 2, that God wants us to be HUMBLE, UNSELFISH, and LOVING as THE LORD JESUS WAS, when He was here on this earth. He is our example.

Then in John 13:1-17 the Lord Jesus gave His disciples a very clear and practical demonstration of what they should be, and what they should do, if they were going

BE THOUGHTFUL LIKE THE LORD JESUS

to be like Him. The Lord Jesus and His disciples had just come from Bethany. Their feet, exposed as they were to the sand and dirt,

were dirty, and they were usually washed on arrival by a servant. There were no servants there, and at least one of the disciples should have performed the task; but none of them were willing to do so. They were all THOUGHTLESS. They were not thinking about the needs of others. As a result of their thoughtlessness, none of them saw the need to wash the dirty feet of the others, and even the feet of the Lord Jesus. And then, before their very eyes, the Lord Jesus got up, laid aside His outer garments, wrapped a towel around Himself, and proceeded to wash the feet of all the disciples. And He dried them with a towel. Could anyone imagine God the Son with a towel around His waist, washing dirty feet!

He then asked them "Did you see what I have done?" They certainly did, and they would never forget what they had seen. He reminded them that He was their Lord and Master but He also told them that He was their Example. He had washed their feet. Now they should imitate Him. They should be THOUGHTFUL, see the needs of others and find a way to meet those needs.



We want to wish all our readers and downloaders A HEARTY WELCOME to the first issue of the fourth year of our little publication. We trust that you will be helped and blessed as you read it. We pray that it will answer some of the questions you may have about your ministry to children. Please remember that if you have any unanswered questions about your ministry, send them to us and we will try to answer them.

What an example this is for us. We also should see the needs of our fellow believers and co-workers, and do what we can to help them and serve them. And the Lord Jesus promises in verse 17 to bless us if we do. The world thinks that happiness is the result of others serving us; but real joy and happiness comes when we serve others in the name of Christ.

RHODA THE GIRL WHO BELIEVED THAT GOD ANSWERS PRAYER

It was one of the most critical times in the early church. Herod the king was persecuting them and killing their leaders. We read in Acts 12:2 that James had been executed and, in verse 3, that Peter was in prison, in chains, awaiting execution. But, in the home of Mary, in Jerusalem, Christians were praying –especially for Peter's release. God wonderfully answered their prayers and an angel released Peter from his chains and his prison cell. (Acts 12:7) Peter went immediately to Mary's home where they were praying for his release and knocked at the door. A girl called Rhoda heard the knocking and came to the door. She is called a "girl" or "damsel" (Acts 12:13). The Greek word used here is PAIDISKE which can be translated a "little maid" or "young child" or "servant girl". So, the words "young" and "little" would indicate that she was a teenager, perhaps an early teenager, who was serving as a maid in Mary's home.

Rhoda recognised Peter's voice and was so excited that, instead of opening the door, she rushed into the house to tell those who were praying that God had answered their prayers, and that Peter was at the door. But they did not

believe her, and even told her she was mad. (Acts 12:15) Eventually the door was opened, and Peter stood there. How happy they were that their prayers had been answered. But Rhoda had believed and known all along that Peter was there and that he was free, and that God had answered their prayers. She reminds us of two other young girls in the Bible who demonstrated their faith. Miriam showed her faith by playing a key role in God's plan to protect Moses and prepare him for his future ministry (Exodus 2:4,7). Naaman's maid showed her faith by directing Naaman to a man in her home country who, she believed, could be used by God to heal him. (2 Kings 5:3) Can you think of any other young girls in the Bible who demonstrated their faith?

This story shows us that Christian children and teenagers are often more believing, less sceptical and more trustful than adults. Their faith is simple but profound and they can put adults to shame. We could well remember the words of the Lord Jesus in Matthew 18:10.

"TAKE HEED THAT YOU DO NOT DESPISE ONE OF THESE LITTLE ONES WHO BELIEVE IN ME"



KEY QUESTIONS ABOUT A MINISTRY TO CHILDREN

Question: What does it mean to evangelize children? I am a Sunday School teacher and it sounds scary for me to evangelize my children. How could I do it?

Answer: This is a good question to start the fourth year of our publication and transmission of Mini Mag. It is a question which brings us back to "the basics", and one which many teachers have asked.

WHY SHOULD WE EVANGELIZE CHILDREN? We need to remember, first of all, that the Lord Jesus in Mark 16:15 commanded us, as His disciples, to "preach the Gospel to EVERY creature." Children are included in the word "every." Therefore, it is His command and His will that children should be evangelized.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO EVANGELIZE? Evangelism is the sharing of the "Good News" or Gospel message with others, and we have seen that it is to be shared with the children.

HOW CAN WE SHARE THIS MESSAGE WITH CHILDREN? There are three basic steps to be followed:

- **1) Teach the Gospel Truths to the children**

The Gospel message contains many truths such as the holiness and love of God, the sinfulness of mankind, the life and death of Jesus Christ, His resurrection, faith in Him, and the results of that faith.

A very simple outline of this message which is easy to remember is:

> **You NEED to be saved** – because of the holiness of God and your sinful nature.

> **You CAN be saved** – because the Lord Jesus died for you so that He could forgive all your sin.

> **You WILL be saved** – if you ask Him to be your Saviour and Lord and if you really want to start a new life.

You cannot, of course, TEACH all the gospel truths at any one time. It is better to concentrate on one truth, and teach it well. When you study the Bible passage you will be teaching from, look for the one central gospel truth in that passage, and teach it as you tell your Bible story. You can MENTION other gospel truths which will help you teach this central truth. You will teach these other truths in future lessons.

- **2) Challenge the children to respond** to what you have taught by trusting the Lord Jesus and asking Him to be their Saviour. Do not put any pressure on them to do so. Do not ask for some form of a physical response. Trust the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts and pray that they will trust the Lord Jesus even as they sit there.

- **3) Tell the children** that you would be glad to help any of them who wants to trust the Lord Jesus but does not know what to do. Let them know that, if they want this help, they should wait after the meeting is over, and that you will speak with them then.

- **4) Take time to counsel** thoroughly any child who waits behind for you to help them.

THE MASTER TEACHER'S USE OF QUESTIONS

For months we have been studying the principles of teaching which, if understood and followed, will make us better teachers. We then started to study the teaching ministry of the Lord Jesus, the Master Teacher, to see how He used these principles in His teaching ministry. This month we examine how He used the principle of **PARTICIPATION**. He wanted His listeners to become involved in what He was teaching, and He encouraged this primarily by the use of questions. Some of these questions required answers, but the aim of many of them was to stimulate thought and bring conviction. I have read that the Lord Jesus asked 173 questions which are recorded in the Gospels. These questions could be classified according to their purpose.

1) QUESTIONS TO START OR STIMULATE DISCUSSION

"What do you think?" (Matthew 17:25) "What do you think about the Christ?" (Matthew 22:42)

2) QUESTIONS TO HELP THEM WITH THEIR LIVES

"Why are you so fearful?" "How is it that you have no faith? (Mark 4:40) "Do you believe in the Son of God?" (John 9:35) "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" (Matthew 14:31

3) QUESTIONS TO HELP THEM AVOID WORRY

"Are you not of more value than the birds and lilies?" (Matthew 6:26,28)

"Which of you, by worrying, can add one cubit to his stature?" (Matthew 6:27)

4) QUESTIONS ABOUT HIMSELF

"Who do you say that I am?" (Luke 9:20) "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" (Matthew 9:28)

5) QUESTIONS ABOUT HIS MINISTRY

"Do you know what I have done to you?" ((John 13:12)) "What do you seek?" (John 1:38)

6) QUESTIONS TO CHALLENGE AND INVITE

"Do you want to be made well?" (John 5:6) "What do you want me to do for you?" (Matthew 20:32)

7) QUESTIONS TO CONVICT AND CONDEMN

"Why do you call me Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46) "Why do you think evil in your hearts?" (Matthew 9:4) "Have you never read in the Scriptures.....about the rejected stone...?" (Matthew 21:42)

8) QUESTIONS TO INTRODUCE, OR FOLLOW UP ON, A SUBJECT HE WANTED TO EXPLAIN.

"What is the Kingdom of God like?" (Luke 13:18) "Have you understood all these things?" (Matthew 13:51)



Are there some of these classifications of questions you could use when you are teaching children, especially the older children? I believe that a number of them would be appropriate if used at the right time and adapted to the children and their needs, and that they would encourage the children **TO PARTICIPATE**

HELP!



ACEW CAN HELP YOU

We have written and published two books which will help you in the evangelism of your children.

1) U CAN EVANGELISE CHILDREN The subject of evangelism, especially as it is related to children, is studied and explained in this

book's 100 pages. If you want more help and guidance concerning this important part of your ministry, you can download the whole book at www.cefbbookministry.com

2) U CAN LEAD CHILDREN TO CHRIST This book of 80 pages is a step by step guide for counsellors of unsaved children, and it gives a detailed outline of what to say and what to do when leading a child to Christ. It also answers a number of questions which have been raised concerning the counselling of children. This book is also available on the Internet at the address given above.



THE BIBLE IS TREASURE AND SPIRITUAL FOOD

*Illustrations
for children*

for his kindness, she set out on her long journey home carrying her treasure -- her precious Bible. God had given her the desire of her heart. Do you have a Bible? Do you treasure it like Mary? Do you read it?

Max watched his mother read the Bible every morning. "Why do you read the Bible so much?" he asked his mother.

Mary Jones was a little Welsh girl who lived 300 years ago and who really loved and treasured the Bible. She did not own one, because Bibles were so expensive in those days. She was able to read one at her rich neighbour's house, but she wanted to have one of her own. So, she started to work, mending clothes, cleaning houses, keeping chickens and looking after children. After six years, she had enough money to buy a Bible in the Welsh language. She had to walk 25 miles to buy one, and she walked in her bare feet because she did not want to wear out the only shoes she had. When she got to the house of the man who sold them, he told her that there were none left. Mary burst into tears and sank into a chair. She was in such distress that the man made sure she got a Bible. What joy Mary felt in her heart. And so, after thanking the man

His mother smiled and asked him a question: "Why do you drink so much milk, and eat so much toast and a large bowl of Rice Crispies every morning?"

"Because I am hungry, and if I didn't eat my food every morning I would get sick and die," he replied. "Yes, you are right," his mother said "And I read my Bible every morning for the same reason. I have a desire or hunger to know more about God, and I have a desire or hunger to live for God. Reading the Bible satisfies my hunger and gives me the spiritual food I need to be a strong Christian. If I didn't read it, I would become a weak and sickly Christian."

Do you read your Bible every day? Is it good spiritual food? Does it make you stronger in your faith?

72 Years and Still Learning:

Personal Advice from the Author

NEVER NEVER NEVER GIVE IN

We, as Christians, are "saved to serve." God wants each of us to serve Him. He has a ministry and a place for all of us in His plan and He will show us what that place of service is if we ask Him. This does not only apply to missionaries and full-time Christian workers. It is equally applicable to those whom God wants to teach Good News Clubs, or Sunday School classes, to witness to workmates, to give out tracts, to take on a responsibility in church, to spend more time in prayer or to give more to the Lord's work. God has, I repeat, a place of service for each of us and He wants to call us and show us where that place is, and help us to find it and fill it. Are you engaged in the ministry for which God has chosen you, and to which He has called you? It is so important to be obedient to God's call and to be doing what He wants you to do, because He will surely bless you and use you in THAT ministry.

That does not mean that you will have no problems. Abraham obeyed God's call and experienced famine; Moses obeyed God's call and encountered criticism; Nehemiah obeyed God's call and faced opposition; Paul obeyed God's call and found himself in prison. You and I should not be surprised or dismayed when we face problems in our God given ministry. Have you experienced any problems in your ministry? Have you experienced discouragement, disappointment, difficulties, depression, defeat or doubts? Have you encountered criticism, misunderstanding, financial

shortage, or seeming lack of success? What has been your reaction to these problems?

My advice to you (and to myself) in any such situation is twofold:

1) **TRUST GOD** to bring you through victoriously. He has promised "to supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:19) This has been called the greatest promise in the Bible.

2) **DON'T GIVE UP.** When God calls you to a ministry He commits Himself "to meet all your needs" in that ministry as He did with Abraham, Moses, Nehemiah and Paul. He in His wisdom has a purpose in allowing problems to occur in your ministry. He knows what He is doing. You may not. You should put your hand into His hand, trust Him and He will bring you through--stronger than ever. You should **NEVER** give up.

Winston Churchill, the famous war-time Prime Minister of the United Kingdom during World War II, spoke to the students in his former school in 1941, during one of the darkest and most depressing periods of the war, to give them and the nation as a whole, encouragement and strength. In his speech he used these words with great passion; "**NEVER GIVE IN; NEVER GIVE IN; NEVER, NEVER, NEVER**" We can well repeat these words with regard to our ministry, and really mean them, despite any difficulty or seemingly impossible situation.

The Mini-Mag is published by Assisting Children's Evangelists Worldwide and written by Sam Doherty with the assistance and advice of Terry Flannigan, Administrator 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.

Copyright © 2023 - All rights reserved Permission is given to CEF workers to copy and distribute free of charge.