



## **Assisting Children's Evangelists Worldwide**

### **Devotional LORD, HERE AM I. USE ME**

This devotional takes us back to the beginning of our ministry to the children. Qualifications are always required for anyone wishing to start in a job or occupation of any kind. Everyone who wants to teach and work with children needs to examine themselves before the Lord and ask themselves the question "Am I really qualified to start such a ministry?" You do not need to be a great speaker or teacher. But you need to know the basic qualifications which God expects and which He has given in His Word.

► **The first and most important qualification** is that those who want to teach children must know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour. They cannot introduce or lead children to Jesus Christ unless they know Him themselves. Every teacher of children should have put their personal trust in Him as the jailer did in Acts 16:31. How tragic it is that there are teachers trying to instruct children about the Lord Jesus when they themselves have not called on Him for salvation. (Romans 10:13)

► **The second qualification** is a desire to live a holy life, and a desire to love the Lord Jesus and become more like Him. The Lord Jesus only asked Peter to "Feed His lambs" after Peter had assured Him that he loved Him. (John 21:15) We will never be perfect of course, and we will often sin and make mistakes, but we need to be growing and "heading in the right direction."

► **The third qualification** is to have the assurance that the Bible is inspired and without mistake. How can we teach something when we are not sure that it is true. Paul exhorted Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:15 to "rightly divide (correctly handle) the Word of truth." There are many things in the Bible we do not understand but there should be nothing in the Bible we do not believe.

► **The fourth qualification** is the necessity for all those who teach the Word of God to children to have love and compassion for the children they teach, and a burden for their souls. They might not be very good speakers, but their love and compassion will overcome many failings and encourage the children to listen. Many people came to, and listened to, the Lord Jesus when He was here on earth because of His love and compassion for them, and because He really cared for them.

► **The fifth and absolutely essential qualification** for every teacher of children is to know that God has called them into this ministry. It makes all the difference when you know that this is God's work, that He has called you into it and that He will supply all you need. This assurance will keep you going when difficult circumstances arrive as experienced by Paul in Acts 14 :19-22.



A very special welcome to everyone who downloads this fifty-seventh issue of Mini Mag. I am linking this issue 57, with the following three issues 58,59, and 60 to form, in the first three sections of each issue, a brief consensus and reminder of some of the main teaching of the previous 56 issues. You could then download these four issues and combine them into a little 16-page magazine which you could give to someone starting to work with children or to those thinking of doing so.

Everyone who would like to start teaching the Word of God to children should examine himself/herself in the light of these qualifications. Even those who have been teaching children for years should examine themselves and ensure that all the qualifications are still valid.

All of us should come to the Lord and pray - "Lord here am I; use me in the lives of many boys and girls."



In this issue of Mini Mag and the following three issues we will return to the four main passages in Scripture which teach us about children and our ministry to them. This month we will remember the important commands God gives to us teachers in the book of Deuteronomy.

**DEUTERONOMY 4:9,10.** In **verse 9** God, first of all, reminds the Israelites to examine themselves to ensure that they are spiritually ready to teach their children. He then commands them (and us) to teach their children and grandchildren that which they have learned about Him, and the statutes and judgements He has given them. In **verse 10** God repeats His command to teach their children.

► **We need to examine ourselves first of all and then “feed My Lambs” (John 21:15)**

**DEUTERONOMY 6:1-3, 7-9.** In **verse 1** God commands the Israelites (and us) to keep and obey the statutes and commandments He has given them.

But in **verse 2** He adds that their children and grandchildren should (through their teaching) also know and keep His statutes and commandments, fear Him and have longer lives.

In **verse 3** God promises that, if they and their children do this, they will be blessed in their new land.

► **This promise is also applicable to us. Our land will be blessed if our children trust the Lord Jesus.**

In **verses 7-9** God commands the Israelites (and us) not only to teach His words to the children, but to do it diligently and thoroughly and to take every opportunity to do so, inside or outside the home, in the morning or evening, and in different places.

► **Church on a Sunday is not the only place for the children to be taught God’s Word.**

**DEUTERONOMY 11:18-21** In **verse 18** God encourages the Israelites (and us) to know, remember and obey the words He has taught them. In **verses 19 and 20** God commands the Israelites again, (and us) to teach His Word to the children at every opportunity inside and outside the home. In **verse 21** He tells them again that if they do this and teach the children, He will multiply them in their new land.

► **In the same way the future of our land lies in the hands of our children.**

**DEUTERONOMY 31:12,13** In these two verses God gives two wonderful results if the “little ones” are taught along with the rest of the Israelites to hear God’s Word, to fear Him, and to obey Him. Firstly, these verses show that “little ones” can fear God and obey Him. This is the first time in Deuteronomy that it is made clear that little children can have an experience with God and be saved. In **verse 13**, secondly, we see another result which will follow the obedience of these children. When they grow up, they can teach THEIR children so they can trust God, and this process could continue from generation to generation.

► **Teaching children is not just your ministry for the present. It is your investment for the future.**

**These four passages remind us firstly that we should be thorough in our teaching of the children; secondly that we should take every opportunity we can to teach them; thirdly that we should have full knowledge of what we are teaching, and fourthly that we should believe that they can be saved, and make that our goal. We should pray and expect that many children will be saved through our faithful teaching and that the community and nation will be blessed as a result of it.**



## KEY QUESTIONS ASKED

### BY CHILDREN’S WORKERS

**Question:** Should I teach my children about creation and that God created the world in six days? How should I do it?

**Answer:** YES, you should definitely teach this great truth to the children and you should show them that creation is an act of God and completely true, and the greatest display of His almighty power. The basic truth of creation is that God created the universe in which we live in six days.

The first two chapters of the Bible tell us the story of Creation and we learn and teach from it:

- that our God is so very powerful. He is able to do anything He wishes. Nothing is too hard for Him.
- that God created our universe from nothing in six literal 24 hour days. He only needed to speak.
- that God made all living creatures, and the first man and woman on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> days.
- that God made the first man on the sixth day of creation out of the dust of the earth.
- that God made the first woman from the rib of the first man, also on the sixth day.
- that the first man and woman were created perfect and without sin.
- The Bible tells us that we ourselves are all the result of God’s creation. (Psalm 139:14)

This brief account of creation will fascinate the children. You could go into more details and describe the first four days if you wish. The big question is “How can we know that this is what happened and how can we be sure about it?”

If there is a car accident, or any other incident, the only people who can describe fully what happened are those who were there and saw it happen. The only one Who was there when the world was created was God. God saw what happened, in the beginning, at creation, because He was there, and because He was responsible for all of it. He saw it all happen. No-one else did. We can depend on the One Who has complete knowledge of all that happened. Others might give their theories or ideas on how and when the world was created, but I believe the words of the One Who was there and Who did it. But how can we know exactly what happened? We ourselves can know because God asked Moses to write down under His direction and guidance what exactly happened during those six days. Moses has written an account of what happened day by day as God directed him. We can read what he wrote, and God’s exact account of creation in the first two chapters of God’s Word, the Bible. God said it; we believe it. You could tell the children that there are many people who do not believe that God made our world in six days. They say that everything just somehow happened. You could use the illustration of a computer or wristwatch and ask the children what they would say if you told them that no-one made this computer or this watch. They just happened. How silly! Both of them had makers. So, the world and we ourselves must have had a maker and that Maker is God.

I think that the best way to teach creation to your children is to use a series of pictures and words on each one. We have produced a series of ten such lessons in a PowerPoint presentation plus a teaching text. You can download free of charge at [www.revivalmovement.org/teaching-children](http://www.revivalmovement.org/teaching-children).

The first and most important fact to remember is that there are two different groups of children in your club. There are the unsaved children who need salvation and need to be evangelised; and there are the saved children who need to be taught how to grow. Therefore, in every meeting, and especially in every Bible lesson, **you will aim to minister to, and meet the needs of, both groups.** This month we concentrate on the unsaved children. Next month we will consider the saved children. You have four responsibilities to fulfil for them in each of your regular meetings.

**1) TEACH THEM THE MAIN GOSPEL TRUTHS.** It is only possible to really teach one of these gospel truths in each lesson, the truth which is the central gospel truth of the Scripture passage. You can mention other gospel truths if they help you teach this main truth. There are four main groups of gospel truths:

- a) **TRUTHS ABOUT GOD.** Teach especially that He is HOLY, and that He is LOVE. His holiness makes salvation necessary; His love makes salvation possible. Teach also that He is the Creator and an all-powerful God.
- b) **TRUTHS ABOUT SIN.** Teach especially that we have all sinned and that our sin separates us from a holy God. Our sin, if not forgiven, will keep us out of Heaven
- c) **TRUTHS ABOUT JESUS CHRIST** Teach especially that He is the Son of God, and that He came to our earth to save us. He took the punishment for all our sins on the cross so that those who trust Him will be saved from that punishment. And He rose again from the dead. He is alive to-day



and ready and willing to save us and forgive all our sins.

d) **TRUTHS ABOUT SALVATION** Teach especially that if a boy or girl trusts Jesus Christ and asks Him to save them, forgive their sin and change them, He will do so. All their sin will be forgiven, and He will also change them and help them to become the people He wants them to be.

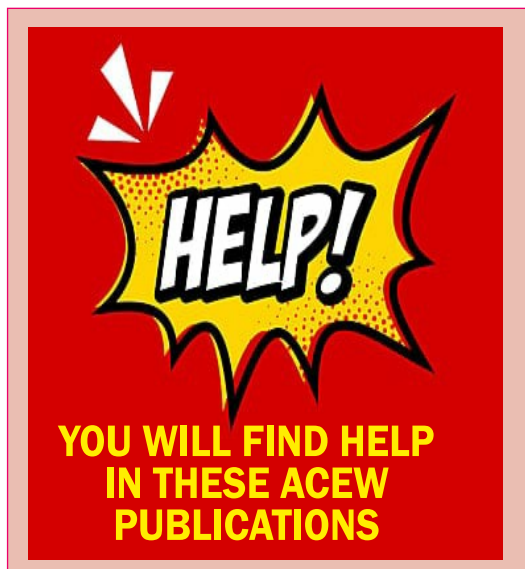
But do not forget that, to be an effective teacher, you can only REALLY teach and apply one of these many truths in a lesson. That is the best teaching method in a regular ministry.

Remember, however, that if you have a once for all opportunity to speak to unsaved children, you need to use a different method. Use Bible verses instead of a Bible passage and teach three truths as well as you can. **“YOU NEED TO BE SAVED** because God is holy” **“YOU CAN BE SAVED** because the Lord Jesus **took the punishment for your sin on the cross.”** **“YOU WILL BE SAVED** if you trust Him.”

**2) APPLY THE TRUTH YOU HAVE TAUGHT** to the unsaved children. Challenge them to respond to it in their hearts and **INVITE** them to trust the Lord Jesus as their Saviour. This invitation to come to the Lord Jesus is part of your gospel message and not a physical response to be added on at the conclusion of your meeting.

**3) MAKE YOURSELF AVAILABLE** at some time in your meeting. Let them know that if they want to be saved and they don't know what to do, you would be glad to speak with them after the meeting.

**4) BE READY TO COUNSEL** thoroughly any child who waits behind and wants help.



We have been working with our partner organisation Revival Movement Association to make our publications available to a wider group of people. You can now access many items for immediate download at [www.revivalmovement.org/teaching-children](http://www.revivalmovement.org/teaching-children)

RMA are involved in publishing Christian literature in many languages and shipping all over the world. They are based in N Ireland and have a real desire to help children's workers particularly.

We trust these publications will help you teach Bible truths to the boys and girls to whom you minister.





## ILLUSTRATIONS OF JUSTIFICATION FOR CHILDREN

1) When you get older, you may want to keep some of your money in a bank. So, you would open up an account at that bank and put your money into that account. Let's pretend that you have an account in that bank and that I also have an account there. It is possible for you to ask the bank to transfer some of your money into my account and it is possible for me to ask them to transfer some of my money into your account. So, one day you transfer £10 into my account. That £10 is now mine. Then the next day I transfer £100 into your account. That £100 is now yours.

Now imagine that there is a big heavenly bank. You have an account there which is full –completely full of sin. Sin is what God sees in your account. The Lord Jesus also has an account in that bank and it is also full - but full of His purity, goodness and cleanness. Now God shows you that two transfers can be made. Firstly, all your sin can be transferred into the account of the Lord Jesus. That sin now becomes His and when He

died on the cross, He took God's punishment for all that sin. But secondly, when you trust Him, His purity, cleanness and goodness are transferred into your account. When God looks now at your account, He does not see the sin which has been transferred out of it; but He sees the perfect cleanness of Jesus Christ which has been transferred into it. Therefore, if you trust the Lord Jesus, all your sin will be completely forgiven, and God will see you as perfectly clean.

2) You will need two pieces of cloth -one white and one black or dark in colour.

Hold up your right hand and put the white cloth over it to represent Jesus Christ and His purity.

Hold up your left hand and put the black/dark cloth over it to represent you and your sinfulness. (Explain your sinfulness and why the cloth is black/dark)

Explain that when Jesus Christ died on the cross your sin was transferred to Him and He took the punishment for it. As you do so, transfer the black/dark cloth from your left hand to your right hand. Explain that when you trusted the Jesus Christ as your Saviour, His purity was transferred to you. (Transfer the white cloth from your right hand to your left hand). God now sees you as pure and as sinless as Jesus Christ.

## 75 Years and Still Learning:

*The author's experience and the lesson he learned*

I am fascinated by the subject of names, they are so important in everyday life. They identify us and we are known by them. We love to hear our names. We are disappointed when people forget them, and people are very disappointed when we forget their names or if we call them by the wrong names. Most of us have two names –a personal name and a family name. Many have a third name in between the other two— often the name of a grandparent or family friend. One person was asked why he did not have a third name and he said that he could not afford a third one!!

But I have learned that, although I only have two names, God has, in the Bible, given to me, and to all who have trusted Christ, SIX NEW NAMES.

➤ **WE ARE CALLED BELIEVERS** (2 Corinthians 6:15, 1 Timothy 4:12) This is the name on which all the following names are based. Our Christian life starts when we BELIEVE in the Lord Jesus. (Acts 16:31)

➤ **WE ARE CALLED SAINTS** (Philippians 1:1) This name reminds us that we are “set apart” to display holiness in our lives, and that we are being sanctified.

➤ **WE ARE CALLED BROTHERS (AND SISTERS)** (Acts 13:38, Philippians 4:21) This name shows us that we are now

## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

in, and part of, a special community, and that we can enjoy family fellowship.

➤ **WE ARE CALLED CHRISTIANS** in three places. (Acts 11-26, Acts 26:28, 1 Peter 4:16) This name identifies us with the Lord Jesus Christ. We are “CHRIST'S. What a privilege.

➤ **WE ARE CALLED DISCIPLES (LEARNERS)** (As in Matthew 28:7,19). The primary meaning of the Greek word “disciple” is “learner.” The Lord Jesus is our teacher, and we learn from Him. (as in Matthew 11:29)

➤ **WE ARE CALLED DISCIPLES (FOLLOWERS)** (as in Matthew 16:24) The secondary meaning of the word “disciple” is “follower.” On the basis of what we have learned from Him, we are to “leave all” and follow Him in service and ministry. (Luke 14:26,27, John 8:31) The Lord Jesus is our Leader, and we follow Him and obey Him. “Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men.” (and children) (Matthew 4:18-20)

**BE PROUD OF THE SIX NAMES WHICH GOD HAS GIVEN YOU AND REJOICE IN EACH ONE OF THEM**

The Mini-Mag is published and written by Sam Doherty with the assistance and advice of Terry Flannigan, and Kenneth Martin.

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 75 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 TFACEW@aol.com.

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