

# iLIGHT

EUD CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES BULLETIN

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## Children are a gift from the Lord

### Praying with and for our kids

Practicing the habit of structured prayer builds a much-needed spiritual discipline into your children's lives.

**Sweet Hour of Prayer.** The best guarantee for making prayer a daily discipline is to set aside an appointment for prayer—then keep it! Just as you would schedule an appointment at work, your child's medical checkup, or a gymnastics class, you need to teach your children the blessing of disciplined prayer by planning for regular times of prayer. The immediate benefit of a regular time of prayer promotes growth in relationship with God. The long-range benefit includes the subconscious prompting from somewhere deep inside—the still, small voice, whispering, "Keep your commitment to pray".

from: "Praying with & for your kids. The Pocket Guide for Parents" Bordon Books, Bloomington, Minnesota, USA, 2006

In Psalms 127:3 we read there that 'Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him.'

Have you ever felt like returning the gift?

I mean it's all well and good to receive gifts from the Lord, however, have there been any times in your child rearing seasons, when you have felt that you were just not cut out for this type of life?

Perhaps it was when you were taking your two and a half year old shopping and they had a melt down in the shopping center. All that screaming and the tantrum flailing arms had you questioning why you made the decision to be a stay at home parent.

Maybe, when you had a teenager in the house and the bills were high and they just kept eating and eating and outgrowing everything you bought for them. Can you remember a day when you asked them to help out with some chores in the house and their response was less than polite? Perhaps you had to bite your tongue to keep from lashing out at this ungrateful individual before you.

How does one, reconcile, a child being a gift from God with the reality that the parenting journey is at times difficult? May I suggest some wisdom from Ecclesiastes 3:1 'To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under heaven...'

Parenting and the challenges associated with it is seasonal. As a step parent to three children, I joined the child rearing journey fully aware of what I was getting myself into. I'd been teaching secondary school children for thirteen years, sharing in my students' dreams and accomplishments, introducing some to Jesus, being involved in their behavioural management, so I felt that I was somewhat prepared for the parenting journey ahead.

A few things which I found to be beneficial during the parenting season of my life was that, children really do appreciate parents who make time for them. Investing in your child's good health emotionally, physically and socially ensures a stronger and healthier next ▶

## INSTILLING A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW



### Introduce them to others who have a strong faith

Parents should be the primary spiritual nurturers of their children, but others can also have a valuable influence.

Do your kids like sports? Are there any sports heroes they admire who have a strong faith? (This could be a professional, but it might be a high school kid in your own church who's a star on the school team.)

Is there an older lady in your church who has always taken an interest in your daughter? You know the lady reflects Christ in all she does, so why not encourage your daughter to volunteer to help her clean her house or weed her garden a few hours a week and develop an inter-generational friendship? Does your child know your pastor? (Or, if you go to a mega-church, does your child know a staff member?) Kids who feel comfortable asking their pastor questions, kidding around with him and seeing him as a mentor are less likely to walk away from church when they get out on their own.

These types of people can be huge influences on kids.

In addition, teach your kids that they can also be examples to younger siblings or children at church. Knowing that someone admires your child can encourage him/her to take his/her faith seriously.

Show your child Paul's words to Timothy: *Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.* (1 Timothy 4:12, ESV)

From: Weddle, L.: *10 Ways to Instill a Biblical Worldview in Your Kids*. Awana Clubs International, Streamwood, IL, USA, 2013

generation. The greatest gift which a parent can give his or her child, however, is the gift of a personal relationship or walk with Jesus.

By intentionally creating an environment for these experiences to occur mums and dads can help shape their child's spiritual health. It is unfortunate that current research says that many of our children are walking away from their faith and church in their adolescent years. In order to look after the gift that our children are, we need to expose them to 7 Essential Faith Experiences. These faith experiences may be quickly learned using an acronym of the English word S.H.A.P.I.N.G.:

- **S** is for Service and Mission. Children involved in acts of service along with their parents will grow in their faith and values. As they involve themselves in being the hands and feet of Jesus they are more clearly able to see who and why Jesus came to serve and save.
- **H** is for Homes Empowered. Empowered homes where children are loved and given boundaries, yet encouraged to continually grow are the best kinds of homes to shape the faith and belief systems of a child.
- **A** is for Authentic Relationships. Children who at home, church and school encounter real and authentic relationships are blessed. As it is important for

children to rub up against real people dealing with life and the challenges which are a part of everyday living. Authenticity and to be able to connect with like-minded people allows a child to gain a true picture of who God authentically is.

- **P** is for Participation. Every person young and old has a part to play in the church family. Therefore, it is important for a child's faith development for them be able to participate in the life of their church, to be involved, to be listened to and to also learn and grow from the wisdom of others.
- **I** is for Intergenerational Connections. Children need to know who they are and where they fit into the family. Within the church there is much wisdom to be gained from the older generations just as there is much that the younger generation may teach the older people. Instead of constantly separating the generations a young persons faith is strengthened when they learn to listen to each other and work collaboratively together. ♦

Litiana Turner

South Pacific Division  
Children's Ministries Director



## Hugs from JESUS

### God cares about lizards, too

Michael was playing in Grandpa's backyard. Suddenly Michael shouted, "Grandpa, there's a dinosaur on your woodpile!"

Grandpa came to look. It did look like a dinosaur, but it wasn't. It was a lizard. "I think this is an iguana," said Grandpa, "although he isn't very green, and it is way too cold for iguanas here." They picked him up and took him into the house in a box. He was very stiff, but his eyes were open.

"Is he OK?" asked Michael.

"Not right now," said Grandpa, "but I think

he's going to be. He must have been somebody's pet and got lost accidentally. Poor lizard. He's cold and skinny, and it looks like something bit him on his back. The owners are probably worried about him."

"Maybe that's why God has us find him," suggested Michael. "Isn't it neat that God cares about lizards too?"

"Yes, it is," said Grandpa. "And I'm sure this lizard will be very glad."

"I'm glad too," said Michael.

Thank you, Jesus, for looking after little lizards and for looking after me, too. Amen.

From: Dillon, Sally D.: *Hugs from Jesus*. Review and Herald, Hagerstown, MD, USA, 2001

# I AM Urban

**M**y name is James. I've moved house 3 times since I was 5. I have a Mum, and a brother and a baby sister, who are four and nine months old. We live in rooms that are pokey and small and that smell very bad. The rooms have rats and cockroaches and my youngest brother is always getting sick.

I was so happy when they told us that we were going to move away, but the new place was worse.

I saw my Mum crying. The room was rather sparse, just a small bed and a tiny cot with two chairs. My brother and I would fight over who will use the chairs to do our homework. Sometimes, my brother wins and sometimes I win.

I can't sleep much a night as my baby sister cries a lot. So, when I go to school I'm really tired and can't concentrate much.

My brother gets shouted at if he sleeps on the bed. And, my mother doesn't have money to buy soap. Everything smells because we are all in the same room all the time.

We have no TV or phone. It's so boring. I love reading but I'm not able to do that much as my brother always wants to play with me. I have no table so it's really too hard to do any kind of homework. And, we have to take off the lights early to save electricity.

During lockdown, we couldn't go to the park and we aren't allowed to go into the hallway of the house, because the landlord and the other people who live in the house will shout at us.

James and his family now attend the E5 Mother and Baby Bank, Hackney, East London, supported by ADRA-UK through their I AM Urban initiative where they can access clean clothes, shower gel and good quality toys and books.



## About "I AM Urban"

**What comes to mind when you hear the word 'Urban'? Graffiti? Street culture? Dance music? The word 'urban' is defined as 'relating to cities'. People who live in urban areas don't live in ghettos, as is often mistakenly projected by the media; one of the key characteristics is that inhabitants in most urban areas have non-agricultural jobs.**

Urban areas are often densely populated, highly developed and the centre of commerce and economics.

At the end of 2018, the 'I am urban' initiative between Adventist Development and Relief Agency-UK and Adventist Community Services (British Union Conference) was established to encourage the millennial generation to connect with the General Conference's vision for Total Member Involvement. 'I am urban' exists to mobilise members to be the voice of the marginalised, oppressed and forgotten members of our society, especially in our urban areas. In other words, we see their humanity, voice their need for justice and follow up that voice with practical service. After trying to understand why more people were moving into an urban environment, a few patterns and trends began to emerge. Firstly, it is a place of refuge: density creates safety for many vulnerable groups, including immigrants, the poor, and those living by themselves. Urban spaces have more crime, yet you will find high concentrations of these groups, because it allows them the opportunity to stabilise their lives.



The second reason is that urban spaces are cultural and creative hotspots: density also creates diversity. This diversity allows humans to express their culture in a variety of ways, and to expose others to that culture in enriching ways. God created us in His image, and this is evident in our human interactions. We were made to live in a community, just as God lives in community. We were also

created to explore our vibrant and creative potential, just as we acknowledge God as the ultimate Creator. However, sin has distorted that image. Where there is diversity we also find racism, classism and inequality. The presence of creative expression has allowed greed, exploitation, overworking and pride. It is from this that the idea of 'I am urban' came about. 'I am urban' exists to mobilise each local church to recognise our call to urban spaces. We invite all our churches to become involved in social justice and support God-centred change to society through loving service.

The I AM Urban team works with grassroots urban community hubs, civil society organisations and faith-based groups to address issues of poverty, inequality and deprivation and the intersectionality between the three that can hinder people in the UK to thrive.



Catherine Anthony Boldeau  
ADRA-UK  
Development Education Officer



Thank you for supporting ADRA's Advocacy campaign: **We reached 1 million signatures**, which allows us to approach the UN asking to intervene accordingly.



## Let's talk about it...

As parents of extraordinary children we often have the impression that people don't dare to talk to us, but in the end, do we dare to talk about it? For the same reasons? Afraid to disturb, afraid of the reaction of others? Because we tell ourselves that in the end, it is up to them to start the discussion, to show interest, or maybe we just don't find the space to do so? If that's the case, then let's make the space! As parents of different children, let's express ourselves, let's show ourselves! Let's show ourselves in churches, let's speak about and express the needs we have, that our child has, but not only that. Let's be actors to make things happen...!

I know it's not easy. Writing these texts here for the past few months has not been easy to do, especially at the beginning. Either for fear of disturbing, or being intrusive, or being too exposed, but in the end, I decided to write. I wanted to share, to transmit my reality through these texts, so that our churches may evolve, but also to help, by representing all those parents who need help without being noticed, so that differences may be utterly embraced...

We are "transparent"; many church members do not even know that we are in their church with our specific needs. Let us make known to our com-

munity, our pastor, the church committee, our conference that we exist, that we are there and that we are ready to accompany, to help the church take care of us... Okay, you may say, but how do we do it?

First of all, as I said above, by showing that people with special needs are present in the church community. Then, maybe churches and/or conferences could create a "special needs database" to raise awareness, for example. Second, by explaining what we and our children need (because we know better than anyone else what we need). Specific help can be provided and/or fostered in collaboration with the church, the Conference, the Union.

Alone we will not be able to change anything. We need the church. At the same time, without our help, the church will not understand how to do it, because, in the first place, it must realize that we exist, that we are there. Working together is the only way that things can start to change.

While waiting for those days, I can only suggest to us, as families with special needs, to manifest ourselves in our churches so that the people can acknowledge the reality we are living, and then change can begin.



© Photo: Daisy Delameillieure Rivero

Daisy Delameillieure  
Rivero  
Belgium  
Pastor's wife



Children are committed to their parents as a precious trust, which God will one day require at their hands. We should give to their training more time, more care, and more prayer. They need more of the right kind of instruction.

Remember that your sons and daughters are younger members of God's family. He has committed them to your care, to train and educate for heaven. You must render an account to Him for the manner in which you discharge your sacred trust.

The Adventist Home, p. 161



Bible Passage

Read Mark 16 with this devotional.

The word *gospel* means "good news," and wherever the gospel is preached, it makes people happy. Not everyone can preach this good news from a pulpit in a church, but everyone can preach it in his or her daily life by speaking words of kindness and good cheer, which will make people happy. Kind words passed along throughout the day make a lot of people happy.

One morning the manager of a big city store said to one of his department heads, "Mr. Parker, you always keep things running smoothly in your section. I like the way you do it."

The kind words didn't cost the manager anything, but they made Mr. Parker very happy, and it wasn't long before he said to one of his clerks, "Miss Belle, you have a very successful way of handling difficult customers. I'm so glad you're in my department."

Miss Belle's eyes sparkled with pleasure,

and when she went to lunch she couldn't help saying to the girl who filled her order, "It's great of you to be so prompt. Now I'll have time to do a little errand during this noon hour."

The heart of the little server sang all the rest of the day, and when she got home that evening she said to her young brother, "Jimmy, I'm so proud of you—working on your homework the way you do. It isn't every girl who has a brother she can be proud of."

Jimmy looked up in surprise, and all he could say was "Aw, now." But there was a warm glow in his heart, and the next day, after his teacher had explained a problem to him, he said, "You surely know how to make it clear. I wish I knew as much as you."

The tired look vanished from her face. When the teacher bought her newspaper on the way home, she smiled at the newsboy and said, "Billy, you surely are dependable. You'll make a good businessman someday."

And Billy Whistled all the way home. At



supper he said, Mother, you sure are a good cook. A guy can't help working hard—with a supper like this and a mom like you waiting for him at home." And Mom smiled and wasn't quite so tired. And so many people were made happy, yet nobody thought they were preaching the good news.

When Jesus said to go and preach the good news, He meant you, too. Are you doing it?

Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

Mark 16:15

From: Hare, Eric B.: *Skyscrapers. Daily Devotions for Juniors.* Review and Herald Publishing Ass., Hagerstown, MD, USA, 2009

TOUGH QUESTIONS & POSSIBLE ANSWERS



Does God ever talk to people out loud so they can hear him?

Preschooler

Write a note to your preschooler and offer to read it to him/her. Tell him/her that often speaks to his people through the Bible—his giant note to the world. Yes, God can speak out loud... but he usually uses the Bible.

Elementary Age

The short answer: Yes... though God usually "speaks" through the Bible. Your child may be wondering why, if God wants us to do what he wants, he doesn't just *tell* us what he wants... audibly. After all, that's what parents do! But God also speaks to us through our hearts sometimes. Ask your child if he/she wants to hear God's voice speaking to him/her and, if he/she does, pray together that he/she will always have a

heart that is listening for God's voice.

Preteen

Yes, God can speak audibly—the Bible documents examples of that happening and some Christians report hearing God speak. But having that experience doesn't mean someone is more spiritual than others. Through the Holy Spirit, God speaks into the lives of all Christians. What sets some Christians apart is that they actually *listen*—and *obey*. Ask your child if he/she is willing to obey when God speaks to him/her through the Bible or within his/her heart.

Related

Scriptures

God speaks through the Bible (2 Timothy 3:16-17) and the Holy Spirit (John 16:13).



From: *Trust Us... They'll Ask. Answers to your kids' toughest and most awkward questions.* Group Publishing, Inc., Loveland, Colorado, USA, 2011

# Good Ideas for Bad Behavior: Disobedience

**Question:** How do I handle a child who repeatedly disobeys me? Nothing works! I'm about to remove this child permanently.

**Answer:** Although none of us wants to admit defeat, there are times we have to ask for help. When you've reached a roadblock with a child, arrange a private meeting with the parents and your leader at a time and place where you won't be rushed or interrupted. Explain the specific challenging behavior to parents. Don't try to "diagnose" the child's behavior or any underlying cause for it. Ask parents for suggestions to help their child be successful in your class. Create an agreement of expectations and consequences, and then ask the child to come into your parent meeting.

Present the new expectations and consequences, and ask the child whether he or she can abide by these guidelines; if the answer is yes, then create a contract for behavior that includes specific action steps to take when problems arise. Keep a copy for your records and give a copy to the family and to the child.

### What you should do

- Take a serious tone about the situation so you're not sending mixed messages.
- Emphasize that you, the child, the children's ministry, and the parents are all on the same team.
- Consult with children's ministry leaders or professional teachers for suggestions.

### What you should not do

- Don't let conflicts become personal.
- Don't try or expect to change everything at once.
- Don't alienate the family by threatening to dismiss the child.

### Decoder

A child who continually disobeys may actually be seeking attention at any cost—even if it's negative attention. Make a point to personally connect with the child and let him or her know you love and appreciate him or her. If the child is starved for attention or experiencing some other trauma, knowing you're a safe, caring adult may make all the difference.

From: *The Quick Guide to Discipline for Children's Ministry. 101 Good Ideas for Bad Behavior.* Group Publishing, Loveland, Colorado, USA, 2009

## KIDS & FAMILY

BY RAINER WANITSCHKEK,  
EUD FAMILY MINISTRIES



### Our family gates—The 8<sup>th</sup> gate: The Horse Gate

"Above the Horse Gate, the priests made repairs, each in front of his own house." (Nehemiah 3:28, NIV)

Horses can inspire. Back then they were indispensable. On the one hand they were the means of transport for the king (and wealthy people) to demonstrate strength and to be victorious in battle. Even today, many monuments in the cities show important personalities on horseback. On the other hand, they were the tractors of that time: important means of transport. The "Horse Gate" is meant to remind families of these two important functions:

First, that daily struggle is normal, but needs to be positively addressed; and second: it's all about service.

First: After having assured our and God's love to our children through the Water Gate, we help them in their daily struggle with themselves, the influences of the world and the implementation of the Word of God, to take up the real struggle, the spiritual struggle, and to be victorious. For we

are all in a struggle:

for our own health, the loving care in our marriage and family, financial problems, the spiritual and physical well-being of our children, regular time with Jesus, just to name but a few. We will never escape from our struggles during our entire life on this earth. But from our side as parents, we want to do everything we can to help to end the fight victoriously. We have to learn to fight the "good fight" (1Tim 6:12) and to support and encourage our children by: having good communication with them; meeting with them regularly (food, devotional time, etc.); sharpening their eye for others, their needs and wants; and supporting them to practice charity with small gestures and help.

The second meaning: The horse was one of the main means of transportation, a worker in the service of the people. In the same way, this gate teaches us that it is our task to serve other people. The Water Gate encour-

ages us to have regular conversations with God, the Horse Gate reminds us to be there for other people, to serve them. For example, self-created pictures could be given to seniors; help with food donations for the needy; or now with the action: "Children help children" pack one (or more) packages (maybe the whole school class will join in ...).

Even today, many Christian families and parishes are a blessing to others. As a family, think about how you can be such a "Horse Gate" for the people near you. There will certainly be a good opportunity to tell about the One who does good to you and who has promised never to leave you alone, Jesus, through your loving nature and your words.

The Horse Gate? Create the memory not to give up and also to learn to strengthen our muscles of love through daily service for others and through good habits.



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## DEVELOPING AN URGENCY FOR GROWTH

The evidence of a strong leader is in the team they lead.

From: Bealer, J. & McClain, G.: "Don't Quit." Orange, Cumming, GA, USA, 2017

### QUICK AND EASY WORSHIP IDEAS FOR KIDS

#### Seasonal changes—God changes us too

##### Bible Stories

- Zacchaeus—Luke 19:1-10
- Peter—John 21:15-23
- Paul—Acts 9:1-31

##### Things you need:

- Place to walk with evidence of the changing seasons
- Bag for collecting interesting things

##### Worship activities

1. Go for a walk with your child. As you walk, talk about the approaching season.
2. Look around with your child to find different signs that the season is changing. Look at the leaves on the trees, the flowers, the ground, any birds and animals you might see, seeds and nuts, and other seasonal indicators.
3. Talk about the changes you can see, and how God uses the changes to help things rest and then grow again.
4. Look out for the lovely things that come with each new season, and your child to find them.
5. What changes are you noticing in your child as he or she grows and masters new skills? Tell the child about the changes you have noticed.
6. Praise God for the changes in the

seasons. Thank Him for helping us to change as well.

##### Another option:

Create a nature basket in your home and place in it the things that you and your child find during each season.

**"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven."**

Ecclesiastes 3:1



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#### Just for you

Which of the seasons is most like your experience of life at the moment? Which season would you like to experience next? How has God been helping you to change? What other changes are you hoping to experience?

**Experiment #7: Drawings that come alive**

*Jesus answered: If you only knew what God gives and who it is that is asking you for a drink, you would ask him, and he would give you life-giving water. (John 4:10)*

This eye-catching experiment is very simple and can be done with kids of any age. You can use it to teach them about Jesus being the source of life, both physical and spiritual.

**Materials:** Tray or plate with smooth surface (white or light-colored), dry-erase markers, cup with water, syringe (no needle) or eye-dropper.

**Time:** 10 minutes

**Safety gear:** In this experiment, no dangerous tools or substances are used.

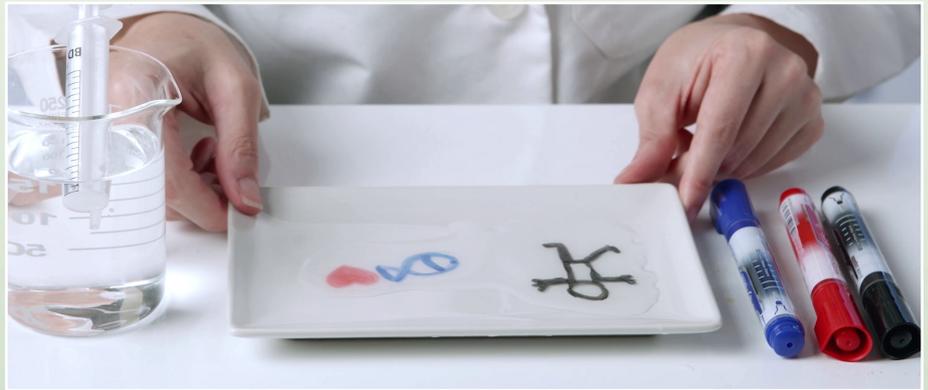
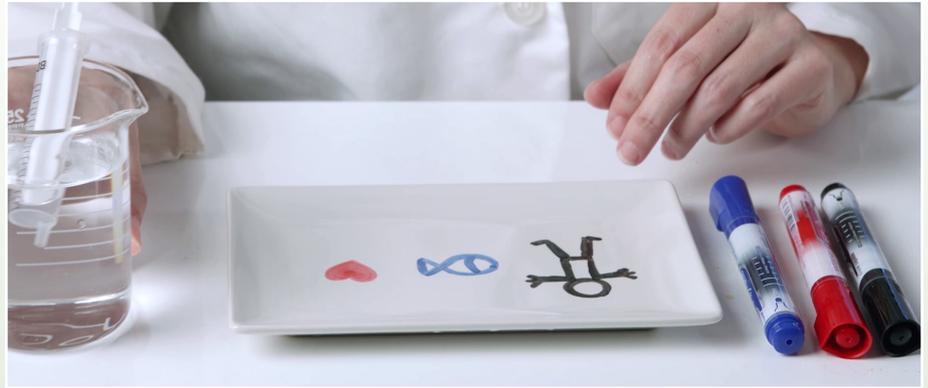
**Values:** Jesus is the source of life. During his ministry on earth, He healed many sick people and even brought some back to life. He also provides spiritual life to our hearts hardened by sin.

**Procedure:**

You can introduce this experiment telling your audience about Jesus' miracles. Several of them show that Jesus was God and therefore capable of creating life. The most evident examples were the resurrections of Lazarus, the widow of Nain's son, and Jairus' daughter, but other miracles such as the healings of the blind men, the lepers, and the man with the withered hand show that Jesus was able to restore dead tissue into healthy one. Likewise, Jesus can restore a sick mind into a healthy one, and a hard stony heart into a fleshy, loving one.

This illustration will remind us that Jesus can give life to those who ask him for it.

1. Use one dry-erase marker to make a drawing on the tray or plate. It can be a stick figure or a simple form like a heart. It is important that all the parts of your drawing are connected and that you draw it using thick lines. Tell your audience: *This figure represents a person (or a person's heart) that feels lifeless because he or she is very sad, or sick, or has done something wrong and feels the burden of sin. Jesus can help by giving new life to this person. In John 4, Jesus met someone who felt that way, the Samaritan woman at the well, and he offered her life-giving water. Let's see what*



*happens when we pour Jesus' life-giving water on our drawing.*

2. Using the syringe or the eye-dropper, pour water very slowly around your drawing, until the water covers it completely. Be careful not to pour the water directly on top of the drawing. The drawing should detach from the surface and start floating and moving. If this does not happen, shake the plate or tray gently. Tell your audience: *With the help of the water, the figure has been released from the hard surface that kept it prisoner and motionless, and now it can freely move around. You know that this drawing is not really alive but it is fun and reminds us that Jesus is the source of life, happiness and freedom.*

**The Science Behind The Experiment:** In order to make them easy to erase, dry-erase markers contain special ingredients. These include an oily silicone polymer, which acts as a "release agent." This makes the ink of the marker very slippery and prevents it from sticking to the whiteboard's surface. This is why the ink can easily be wiped off from a very smooth surface such as a whiteboard, or detached from a ceramics or glass plate just by adding water.

Noemi Duran  
Geoscience Research Institute  
Director of the European  
Branch Office



*Children's Devotions*

**BAPTISTE (5 YEARS)**



Cold War is when you fight with snowballs.

From: Perles d'enfants 2010. Editions 365, Paris, France, 2009



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# From the HANDBOOK

## on Children's Ministries

### Learning Styles (part 3)

Let's apply these three learning styles (tactile-kinesthetic, visual, auditory) to the planning of a lesson that will teach the importance of following God's rules even when it demands courage. The Bible story used to illustrate the concept will be Daniel's interpretation of the writing on the wall (Daniel 5).

- **Auditory:** Learners listen to taped interview with Bible characters; highly descriptive words are used in the telling of the story.
- **Visual:** Maps show the locations of sites in the story; pictures illustrate events and trace chronology.
- **Tactile-kinesthetic:** As paint is applied, a way-resist are project dramatically reveals the message written in white cray-

on on white paper; props and costumes enhance the learners' dramatization of the story.

For learners who enjoy reviewing facts, objective questions will suffice. Subjective questions will be fielded by those who prefer to discuss motives and emotions. Role play will help physically oriented learners to apply the new concept to real-life situations. Brain research bears out other principles that teachers will recognize:

- Review "resets" the mind to continue learning.
- Repetition enhances memory.
- Memory tends to retain material heard at the beginning and end of a presentation.
- A change of activity rests the brain.
- Anything heard after the attention span

ends will be forgotten.

- A learning context outside the classroom, but similar to that in which a lesson was learned (e.g., dramatizations and stories of real-life application), will stimulate memory.
- Rhythm and rhyme are memory aids. Some memory devices involve visual imagery.

In his letter to the church at Corinth, the apostle Paul went on to say he was willing to "become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some" (1 Cor. 9:22). We must teach in a variety of styles so that we may, by all possible means, reach each of our learners most effectively with the Word of God.

From: Choun, R. & Lawson, M.: *The Christian Educator's Handbook on Children's Ministry*. Baker Books, Grand Rapids, MI, USA, 2002

## PARENTING TEENS

### Part-time jobs

If the teen has a part-time job it will offer him or her a sense of prestige as well as a source of income and may help him or her to choose a career.

### In trouble

A study among teens indicated that almost 88% of those who had been in trouble with the law had answered 'Nothing' when asked this question: 'What do you do in your spare time?'

### How to motivate a teen

The teen years are a self-centred time of life when rewards appeal to young people. If you feel that your teen needs motivating, the following may be helpful:

#### 1. Choose a motivator which is important to your teen

Motivators can include limited use of the car, a special article of clothing, and arrangements such as, 'Yes, you can have what you want, but you will have to earn it.'

#### 2. Formalise the agreement

Draw up a written contract which both teen and parents sign. Driving a car calls for accountability, and if your teen is to drive he or she must demonstrate responsibility in other areas of life. Some parents even introduce a points system.

#### 3. Establish a method of providing immediate rewards

Most of us need something tangible to sustain our interest as we move towards a goal. Give teens points according to a fixed scale for each chore. Establish in advance the number of points he or she will require to earn in order to achieve his or her objective (driving lessons, an article of clothing, and so on).

#### Rules for parents: Respect your teen's privacy

Allow your teen his or her own space, and do not interfere with personal letters, diaries and phone calls. If you suspect you teen is doing drugs, search and seizure is in order, but not



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the confiscation of diaries and mail.

#### Rules for parents: Make the home attractive

Neat personal appearance, making beds, and a clean kitchen can save a teen embarrassment when friends visit. Remember: a teen is keenly sensitive to his or her peers' reaction towards his or her parents.

#### Never stop doing things together as a family

Some teens have splendid parents, but the only time they see them is when they are being corrected or criticised. Family games, camping trips, holidays, hikes through the woods, building projects and friendly debates create an atmosphere in which young people naturally want to share.

From: Van Pelt, N.: *Parenting Teens*. Autumn House Publications, Grantham, Lincolnshire, UK, 2009



# ACTIVITY REPORT



## News from the Romanian Union

### Music and ministry

I remember with emotions the music event of last year, created by the music team of the North Transylvania Conference. Almost 100 kids, prepared by parents and their music leader, participated at the 'Inimi la Unison' festival. It was a great time. In front of the audience of 400 people, in majority parents and friends, the kid's choir sang beautifully.

But, this is only a little part of the program. The festival was dedicated to special kids. Two weeks earlier, the music team had visited three locations dedicated to disabled kids. It was our wish to invite some representative people to our festival. We think that Adventist children, with their talents, can use music to communicate their love and goodness to disabled kids.

So, during almost two hours, the audience and our special guests enjoyed the waves of notes, melodies, emotions, tears, happiness and a consistent spiritual message. As youth director of the North Transylvania Conference, I had the privilege to meet the group of representatives of disabled kids. I changed some words with them. The group leader told me "I never thought that a church can realize with their children such a powerful program, and dedicate it to us, special kids." I knew, that was a good time to underline our believe in the Almighty God. I encouraged them.

You can see in the picture, the music team. I want to thank them for their dedication. By their kind character, patient work, beautiful love for music and kids, this project helped us to understand that music and children can touch softly and warmly the live of kids who lost mobility, health and capacity to be like us.

I am so glad to be part of Adventist church. To stand, by conviction, in middle of kids and unite their innocent acts in a great event of emotions, ministry and festival. God be blessed for his love and his talents.

Doru Parascinet  
Youth Director, North Transylvania Conference



### Sabbath Psalm

In the Oltenia Conference of the Romanian Union, a greater involvement of the young generation in the divine services was desired. Thus, the children promoted the study of Holy Scripture by presenting one Psalm each Sabbath. The idea quickly caught on and emerged under the title "Sabbath Psalm."

The project started in November 2016 and was completed in the summer of this year. Every Saturday at the divine service from 1100 o'clock children presented a psalm. The psalm was sometimes read, sometimes recited from memory. In order to avoid monotony, all the children were involved by making lists with the children involved. The elders of the church always made sure to schedule each child and the special time allotted for the presentation. In case of non-appearance another child was called to present the biblical passage from the psalms. Every Sabbath there was continuity and so all the psalms were recited one by one.

The large number of children involved, the consistency of the presentation of the psalms and the beautiful reactions of those present at the divine services, made this project a well-deserved success.

At the same time, it was very important that the children were able to accumulate and pass on Bible principles in an interesting and enjoyable way.

Augustin Angheluta  
Oltenia Conference



### "Lecturici"

6 years ago, in the Muntenia Conference, a program to stimulate children to read was born, called "Lecturici" ("Reading fireflies"). With the help of the Fireflies clubs, preschoolers and primary school students receive books that they read, and at the end they upload a reading sheet.

The average participation was about 500 children, and the number of books they read ranged from 5 to 28 during 4 months. The year 2020 affected this project, because the club meetings, where children were stimulated to read, were canceled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. But as an opportunity arises in any crisis, the team serving this department was inspired by a new project, aimed at improving family worship. Thus, the "Altar" project was born, in which families received a daily guide to worship.

Each material contains discussion questions based on a Bible verse, the story of the day, "Did You Know..."-column, the song of the day chosen for the topic, and a hands-on activity or experiment. Every morning, the families in the church received this material, and the reactions from them were delightful: most admitted that they needed this help because they could no longer find the resources to help them be creative in worship.

Although the isolation period has passed, to continue this good habit, the organizing team continued to produce this material, so now it has reached the 220th day. The testimonies that come back to us are fascinating: this material also reaches families who had no religious interests and did not attend the Seventh-day Adventist Church, but were won over by such a spiritual practice.

The resources from "Altar" are distributed by parents like a "pandemic", through state schools in Romania, groups of parents from virtual communities, families of Romanians in other European countries and even overseas.

This initiative proved that where there is passion for children, regardless of the critical period we live in, God brings ideas and willingness to sacrifice. The blessing of this project can be seen now, but the true effects over time can only be seen in eternity.

Muntenia Conference





# CHM 25TH ANNIVERSARY



Special Invitation from the GC for all children worldwide

## Kids Talents for Jesus

Children's Ministries is celebrating 25 years of ministry to children and adolescents!

To commemorate this event, we called all children and teens from around the world to show their talents and gifts and share them participating in the **Kids Talents for Jesus** program: **Jesus is My Best Friend**.

Children and teens from EUD got inspired, and boldly send their creative masterpieces.

Here are their names:

### Drawing and Painting

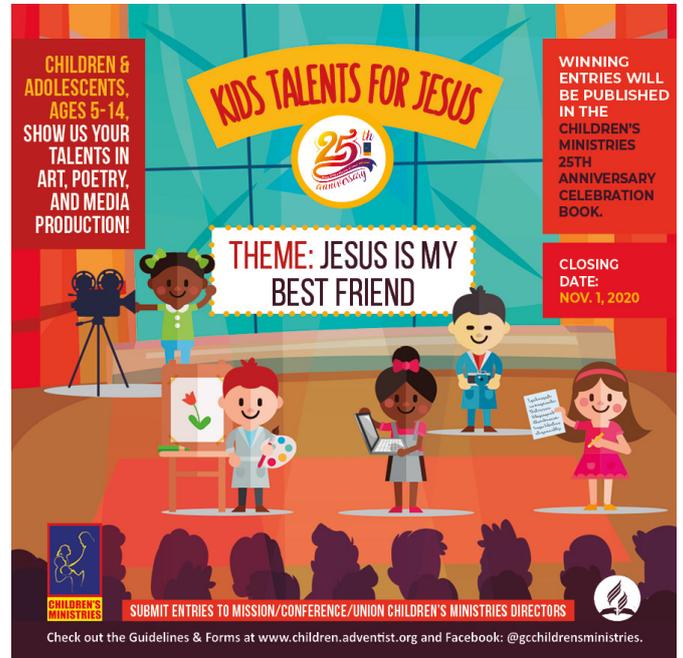
- Alexandra Stancu, 14
- Amy Bosqued Roth, 10
- Christine Mazza, 10
- David Nicolas Ionescu, 9
- Jazmin Cruz, 7
- Lara Alvarez, 7
- Luca Norbert Ionescu, 6
- Marian Florin Suciaghi, 13
- Miriam Hutanova, 5
- Queralt Kathayat, 13
- Raisa Maya Moraru, 11
- Timotei Hutan, 9

### Poetry

- Ionatan Magdiel Avram, 11
- Sephora Gelabert, 9

### Media Production

- Alison Laura Morales, 7
- Amber Bosqued Roth, 7
- Angelo Legian, 14
- Casandra Lis Morillo, 8
- Emanuela Giosu, 13
- Marco Sayko, 12
- Miriam Alves, 14



## Keep in Mind

EVENTS FROM THE INTER-EUROPEAN DIVISION

# 2020



### November 1

Kids Talents for Jesus  
GC Submission Deadline

### November 21

Orphans and Vulnerable  
Children's Sabbath



DUE TO THE CORONA VIRUS ALL PLANNED EVENTS HAVE BEEN CANCELED OR POSTPONED. WE OBSERVE THE DEVELOPMENT AND INFORM ABOUT EVENTS AS CIRCUMSTANCES PERMIT.

HELP US PRAY FOR ALL WHO ARE AFFECTED IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER BY THIS EXTRAORDINARY SITUATION.



# The Importance of Intergenerational Worship

A few years ago, a graduate of the University at which I teach, named Madelyn, contacted me and asked if we could meet as she was passing through town. I was delighted, of course and upon meeting, we exchanged small talk for a few moments, catching up on the years that had passed since her graduation and reminiscing about her years at the University. Then, without much warning, Madelyn looked me straight in the eye and stated bluntly:

“I’ve decided not to attend church anymore. I just don’t fit in. I don’t understand what’s going on in worship and it’s frustrating. Don’t worry, I am a Christian and will continue to be—just not in the church, it’s not for me. I just wanted someone to know.”

Believe it or not, this is a conversation I’ve had with college graduates several times in the past many years—terrific young people who grew up in the church and who regularly referenced things they’d learned from the flourishing children’s ministries they’d grown up attending. These same young adults shared countless faith-building experiences they’d had as leaders of youth groups throughout their middle and high school years and most of them were active in college ministries at local churches throughout our University community. They were gifted leaders who spearheaded new efforts geared toward reaching and discipling their peers.

But these individuals were also similar in that they’d never regularly participated in the worshiping life of an intergenerational church. They’d been sent off to children’s church or youth services while their parents worshiped in “big church,” and, even in college, they were offered the option of sleeping in on Sundays and attending a collegiate

service at night where the music and message were geared toward their specific demographic—their stage in life.

This all seemed great, until the generation-specific worship services were no longer offered for their post-graduate season of life. As Madelyn explained to me, “After college, I was suddenly expected to attend worship with the ‘adults,’ but I had no idea how to participate or fit in because it was all so foreign to me. I didn’t know anyone around me and they didn’t really know me either.”

While there is great value in offering ministries that are geared toward reaching and discipling people with age-appropriate tactics, the importance of intergenerational worship cannot be understated. The corporate worship gathering of the church should be the place where we collectively gather and respond to the invitation of God—to encounter His revelation. It is the place where, regularly, songs are sung, prayers are offered, creeds are professed, and the Word is proclaimed. Furthermore, in most churches, it is the place where people of various races, ethnicities, socio-economic statuses, and seasons of life (i.e. ages) gather together and are given a common language—engaging in a conversation which has threads connected to the past while also looking forward into the future. It’s the place where this diverse array of God’s children interact, not only with the Living God, but also with one another.

So how do we, as worship leaders, facilitate intergenerational worship? Here are a few suggestions for getting started:

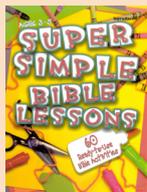
1. **Keep God’s story central to your worship planning** – don’t allow worship style to dictate what you do in worship. This can lead to isolation of one generation or another

based solely on familiarity with a particular, stylistic approach. Rather, center your planning on various ways of facilitating God’s revelation and the congregation’s response. Doing so allows congregation members to learn from one another and find commonalities in recognizing their place within the story of God verses a specific worship style.

2. **Involve people of all generations in the leading of your services** – from senior adults to young children, include representatives from each generation in leading singing, prayer, readings, dance, serving, etc. This way, those attending the service have someone they can readily relate to in the leadership of the service.
3. **Encourage the horizontal relationship of your congregation both inside and outside the worship gathering.** In the worship service, create space for people to greet one another (i.e. passing the peace, extending greetings, etc.) or even time for congregation members to pray and share with one another (sharing testimonies is a wonderful way to facilitate these relationships!). Outside of the worship service, create opportunities for intergenerational engagement whether that be through fellowship meals or intergenerational small groups. Provide opportunities for the congregation to live life alongside one another instead of always sending each generation to their own, age-appropriate activities. People are far more likely to engage in new or unfamiliar worship practices if they have relationship with those whom they’re worshipping alongside.

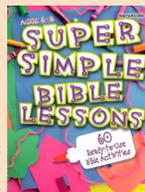
Taken from: Emily Vermilya, <https://www.seedbed.com/the-importance-of-intergenerational-worship/>

## RECOMMENDED RESOURCES



### SUPER SIMPLE BIBLE LESSONS (AGES 3-5) Abington Press

Have you ever needed a Bible lesson QUICKLY? This resource solves your problem. This booklet contains sixty Bible lessons covering both the Old and New Testament. Each lesson includes a story, a Bible verse, and a super simple craft activity that will reinforce the story. Each craft activity is reproducible. Make as many copies as you need for your class of two or twenty. An easy-to-use index helps you locate specific stories for the children.



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