



Sabbath Teacher's Newsletter

The Church Of God
International

TEEN INSPIRATION

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

by Samar Smith, Ontario

Growing up, many children are told they can accomplish anything they put their minds to. This is true, but with the power of Christ who strengthens you, you're able to succeed at things that you couldn't even imagine were possible.

Making daily decisions can be very difficult. You don't always know where decisions will lead you, either towards the right or the wrong direction. There's only one way to go – always turn to the Lord Jesus Christ first. He will never lead you down a path that is wrong and has no meaning.

In Matthew 19:16 we read, "Jesus looked at them and said to them; with men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." (You can read the rest of this story in Matthew 19:23.) With God anything is possible, and this encourages us to trust in the Lord and let our faith comfort us. "Now David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and daughters. But David strengthens himself in the LORD his God" (1 Samuel 30:6).

**NEXT PROJECT:
PASS ALONG CARDS
*SAMPLE SUPPLIED TO
ALL REGISTERED GROUPS**

Steps to Teaching

by Noni McVey, Youth Director, CGI

At this year's Feast of Tabernacles, our children will be hearing the story of Ruth. There is great encouragement in this story because it is about the grace of God who is our redeemer and kinsman. God can use anyone to fulfill His purpose. One just needs to have an open and willing heart.

Below are seven steps that will assist you in how to use the prepared Feast lessons to their full potential.

Step 1– Prepare Your Heart and Mind

Pray for yourself and for your students. Ask God to give you the understanding and Godly wisdom needed to teach the lessons. Ask that He guide you when you're teaching. Begin your prayer for guidance now and continue the prayer as you're preparing the lessons and teaching each day of the Feast.

Step 2– Read All the Scriptures and Communicate the Meaning

Facts of the Bible Story are important however, it is understanding how that story affects the students personally that will be most beneficial. Your students need to know how that story can be applied to their life. Communicate more than facts. Communicate the meaning of the scripture.

Step 3– Answer the Who, What, When, Where & Why

Always read the entire lesson first. After reading the entire lesson, ask yourself the following questions:

1. When and where does the story take place?
2. Who are the characters? Who is the main character? Is the

main character an individual or a group (i.e. Israelites)?

3. Who are the secondary characters?

4. Who are the believers and nonbelievers?

5. What is the main character learning, or what is it that you want your students to learn from the main character?

6. What are you learning from the story? Sometimes the theme of a lesson may not be the theme you are getting personally.

Step 4– Consult Bible Commentaries and Other Resources:

While some background is given in each lesson, it is not comprehensive. Look up any and all scriptures quoted. Make sure your theological interpretation of a scripture or passage is sound. As you study, make notes on additional background information. This information will aid you in explaining the story even better to your students.

Step 5– Encourage Participation and Make a Schedule

Each Feast site has its own unique situation. If possible, conduct class every day (except on the first Holy Day, the Sabbath and Last Great Day) for the entire time services are in session. Encourage our young men and women to help with teaching our young students. Make a schedule for those who are teaching, so everyone has time off to listen to more than three services.

Step 6– Enhance the Bible Lesson

While suggestions and ideas have been provided, you may have a better idea. Use your ideas to make the lessons come

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alive for you and your students.

Introduction – Plan an introduction that is brief, and will create interest in what you plan to teach. Here are three ways you could introduce the story.

1. Ask a question(s).
2. Give a short illustration that relates to the lesson.
3. Start by relating an event that takes place later on in the story, and then begin the lesson.

Step 7– Explore the Subject/ Respond and Reinforce – Above all Make it FUN!

There are many ways to explore the subject with your students. We have provided questions for you however, you are not tied to just those questions. Allow your students the opportunity to ask questions and respond to what they have heard. Allow them to share their thoughts with you. In doing so, you build trust where they are comfortable asking questions and receiving direction.

Always close your class with prayer. You may want to ask one of your students to pray. It is another opportunity to teach.

The story of Ruth is easy to relate to and is full of rich symbolism. The characters in the book of Ruth are ordinary people with the same desires and needs we experience today.

God did not use Ruth, Naomi and Boaz because they were great, but because they were open to being used to achieve His purpose.

Thank you for allowing God to use you to share your love of the gospel message with the future harvest.

Being Useful To Our Youth

by Georgia Williams, Michigan, USA

When Jesus said it was better to give than to receive, He wasn't just referring to money or material substance. Our time and talent can be one of the most generous gifts we can give. At best, our days on earth are short and while we are here, it is important we make the effort to serve others in any way we can.

Volunteering to work with children at the Feast and at weekly Sabbath services can make such a difference in the lives of our youth. Talk to any Sabbath school teacher, and she will tell you of the rewards that come with teaching. One reward is bonding with other teachers and quickly becoming heart-to-heart friends. Another reward is the joyful experience of teaching a young child about God and His plan. Perhaps the biggest reward of all is the way you feel about yourself after

servicing others.

This little poem by an unknown author says it so well.

*One hundred years from now
It won't matter what kind of car I drove,
How much money was in my bank account,
Nor what my clothes looked like.
But the world may be a better place
Because I was important in the life of a child.*

In conclusion, let us remember I Corinthians 15:58, "Always give yourselves fully in the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain."

**NEXT ISSUE:
SONG LESSONS by Virginia**

Teacher to Teacher

THE NAME GAME -Lu Copeman, Ontario

I must confess, I am in need of help when it comes to remembering names. I have no sure-fire method! The best I can come up with is to relate the names of my students to celebrities. For instance, at one feast I had Bryan Adams, Wesley Snipes and Lori Partridge in my class. So I send out this plea – anyone with a proven method or wacky idea for remembering names please send them in.

We want to hear from you!

Email your ideas and stories to Ruth at rakerr2@telus.net or mail them to either address in the right hand column and we will publish your ideas in the next issue.

FROM THE EDITOR

My first-grade teacher was Mrs. Garvey. I loved Mrs. Garvey because she seemed to be genuinely excited about the topics she was covering. Looking back, I can see how tough it would be to get excited about teaching the alphabet every single year. But Mrs. Garvey was more excited about giving her students the skills they needed in life. That's what made her special.

You have decided to teach our youngsters because you believe in them and because you want to give them a love for God's word. It's a big job – and one that's not always easy. But thanks in part to you, a new generation of believers can develop their own relationships

FROM THE EDITOR –Ruth Kerr, Alberta

with our Creator. *May God richly bless you and your hard work during this Fall Festival Season.* –Ruth

A couple of letters from our readers:

From Lisa Thatcher, Ontario "My mother-in-law teaches children and has a very successful method I'd like to share. She employs teenagers or adult friends to dress the part and act out the bible lesson. This works best when the story has a simple lesson to be learned, such as the Good Samaritan. The teacher begins by narrating the story and the actors interject the actions and lines. In this example, she might have a child play the role of the victim, later extracting the child's feelings to drive home the point. With more intricate stories she will dress and play the part of one character, allowing the students an interview with the character, at the end of the story. This style of teaching makes comprehension for all ages easier and enjoyable."

From Lisa Campbell, Ontario "At the end of each season I like to play a game with my children based on the bible stories they have recently studied. We call it "Guess the Artefact". I place an object, picture of an object, or phrase into a covered box. I create 3 unnamed witnesses and a few lines for them (one who may have visual information, or one who may have heard something but not seen anything, or one who may have actually been a partici-

WANTED



Project:Let's Participate

We are in need of groups to sign up for future class projects. It is our goal to co-ordinate a number of group projects that will create awareness and unite the small Sabbath groups and classrooms that stretch beyond our own borders and waters. The STN staff will match your class with another class of similar size and age, and pass your project along to them.

To register your Sabbath class for the upcoming projects contact our office at the address/email listed below.

Please provide a mailing address and email (if available), the average number of students in your class (e.g. teens=5, youth=11), and your congregation location. Small groups are also welcome.

The summer project Prayer Exchange got off to a slow start. To date we have had only three classes sign up. Our winter project will be announced in November and we would like to encourage you to sign up your class now.

part in the event, or in the creation of the artefact and one celebrity/expert witness who can authenticate and provide historical information on the subject (Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and the Lost World perhaps). The witnesses can only reveal the information I've written on their fact card. The other children will pose questions to each witness, gathering clues to help them discover what is in the box and which bible story it relates to. Examples: a brick from the Battle of Jericho, a horn from the first Pentecost celebration, a jar of grain from the story of Ruth, etc.

My husband has turned into a great expert witness and the children can't wait to see what funny voice or outfit he is going to come up with next. We have turned this into a fun family night, but I am confident it will work well in the classroom too."

**The Church Of God
International**

PO Box 223675
Carmel CA 93922 USA

PO Box 33034
1299 Oxford Street East
London ON N5Y 5L4 CANADA

E-mail: rakerr2@telus.net