

iLIGHT

EUD CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES BULLETIN

November 2020

N° 10 · VOLUME 5

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I Will Go... Sharing, Giving, Loving

Praying with and for our kids

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

Holy Ground. Just as important as scheduling a time for prayer, the place of prayer is critical. It can become a very special altar in your children's experience. It would be wise to have your children help you pick out a special place in your home to which you can retreat for prayer. It may be a place conducive to kneeling, (...) or even furnished with a big fluffy rug where all of you can recline in prayer. Whatever place you choose, make certain that it is comfortable, clean, and appealing to your children. You will discover that it will become a hallowed place in your home—a very sacred place where you and your children meet and talk with the Almighty.

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

As we are fired up with the new slogan "I Will Go," it is evident that the program *The talking backpack* was created with this in mind, even before it became the church slogan. Children and adolescents involved in this initiative will be able to go with the message of love, as well as grow and nurture themselves, as they show others how they can become better persons and friends of Jesus.

This program has already proved that it is meeting the objectives in mind. It helps any child/adolescent who is not prepared to share publicly especially in environments not necessarily conducive to talking about Christianity.

I will share with you a few points that are vital for this and any project with the inclusiveness and appeal that younger generations are more likely to embrace.

1. **Target audience.** This program should be developed with a specific purpose, for the children and adolescents of the church, Adventist schools, and the community: church neighbors, members' neighbors, and community at large.

2. **Purpose.** To involve every child and adolescent in mission, using methods and materials that would appeal to that specific generation to share, study, and live biblical lessons of eternal values.
3. **Objectives.** That they may:
 - a. Experience a personal encounter with God
 - b. Serve to represent Christ's character
 - c. Live a lifestyle through the practice of values
 - d. Be active in sharing the truth of Christ's second coming
 - e. Be a blessing and be blessed through this study

As we minister to those from birth to 15 years, our biggest challenge is to set a base of love, reaffirm and at times, introduce a loving God to the impressionable and eager minds of young children and help them to learn to trust and obey His Word. This requires study of the Bible, love, dedication, taking time to prepare

INSTILLING A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW



Serve together

A lot of children's lessons end with the application to serve the Lord. We need to teach them how to do that. We need to model what service is all about.

Paul commends Timothy's worth because he served with Paul in the gospel. Paul says their relationship during that service was as a son with a father. *But you know Timothy's proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel.* (Philippians 2:22, ESV)

Sometimes kids think that because they went on a week-long missions trip, they have served the Lord. But service is a lot more than that. Service is a lifestyle.

Mission trips are great experiences and if your church offers a family trip - go for it. However, during the months between trips to exotic places, make sure you serve in your own community.

Can your child mow the neighbor's lawn?

Teach a backyard Bible club?

Bake cookies for the new mom down the street?

Send newsy emails to a missionary?

Take advantage of church family service opportunities whether that's packing food for the needy or painting a classroom. Teach your kids to serve wherever they are ... and do so with them.

Serve the Lord with gladness!

Come into His presence with singing! (Psalm 100:2, ESV)

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

ourselves as teachers and leaders to not only be exposed to these aspects but also to live accordingly. This is the right time to involve them in service/missionary work, both inside and outside the church. As you get them involved early in their Christian life, they will continue to serve with the same spirit of love.

But what happens when we have not been able to be part of their Christian growth in a positive way? There may be a number of reasons for this. It maybe because they are new in the church, or lack a proper foundation, example and lack of intentional spiritual teaching for their particular age and phase in life, or because of their daily challenges and lack of direction, or secularism and their environment result in a visible apathy for spiritual learning and behavioral changes.

I believe and it has been proven that this initiative with the *Talking backpack* has awakened their interest to grow and share in a way with which they feel comfortable. This program, designed to enhance and develop the right Christian values will result in a better attitude, more conducive to a life governed by Jesus.

As we talk about moral/ethical (Christian) values we may ask ourselves:

- Can one have good moral/ethical values without God?

- If so, is there a difference between a person with sound moral/ethical values without God and one with God?
- Which value cannot be taught with paper and pencil or a measuring tape?

Yes, love, and love makes the difference, a difference that is learned in the cross of Calvary and will make a difference in our behavior. I dare to say a life and death difference, because only when we act in love and teach them to do the same will our goal of eternal salvation be fulfilled.

Our Seventh-day Adventists beliefs have the purpose of permeating our entire life. Borne from the Scriptures, revealing the immutable and trustworthy character of God, inviting us to explore, test and know the One that wants to restore each one of us to His liking. And yes, this includes every child and adolescent who, when given a chance will be a powerful agent for restoration and change for many. They are eager to do something and we should do everything in our power to facilitate their interest of sharing God's love with others. ♦

M Dinorah Rivera

Inter-American Division
Children's Ministries Director



Hugs from JESUS

A Squirrel's Tail

[Watch a real squirrel or show the child a picture of a squirrel.] Squirrels were made on the sixth day. The squirrel has something special—a big fluffy tail. It sometimes twitches or shakes its tail to give messages to other squirrels. It also uses its tail to help it keep its balance. The most important thing a squirrel uses its tail for is as a blanket. *[Tuck or pin a towel or corner of a receiving blanket into the back of the child's waistband.]* Now you can pretend that

you are a squirrel with a big fluffy tail. It can help you keep your balance while you run around. *[Have the child run.]* But the most important thing is that your tail can keep you warm. You can pull your fluffy tail over yourself like a little blanket, and it will keep you warm.

Jesus knew that squirrels would need a blanket when they hibernate (that means sleep during cold weather), so he gave them big fluffy tails. God thinks of everything. He is so good!

Dear Good, thank you for giving the squirrel a fluffy tail. And thank you for giving me a blanket instead. Amen.

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

A Well-Lived Life

The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honourable, to be compassionate to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well.'

- Ralph Waldo Emerson



Beautine (on the left), ©ADRA

I first met Beautine many years ago before either of us were married. Her beaming smile was the first thing I noticed about her as well as her ability to make those around her relax. I met her again a few years later when our children attended Stanborough School and were in the same class. Once again her beaming smile shone through in our interactions and conversations.

But what struck me about Beautine was her immense passion for people and her desire to help those in need. While her children were at school, she joined the Parent and Teachers Association and led out where able and contributed much to the extra-curricular fund-raising activities. However, her love for ADRA has long been evident and she has been on several Connections trips with ADRA-UK over the past few years. As she tells me, 'ADRA-UK is in her blood'.

But it was in July 2020, noticing the challenges that young families were facing with the fallout from the contagion COVID-19 that her volunteering

activities exploded and the E5 Baby and Children's Bank was birthed. The Clapton Seventh-day Adventist Church, where she attends, was closed due to the national lockdown in the UK. In-person worship was replaced by worship on virtual platforms. However, church doesn't just happen within the four walls or confines of a building, often church at its best is where our hands and feet become 'the hands and feet of Jesus' to those who are in need.

E5 has served over 538 families during its short existence. It started off by providing baby and children's clothing for children in the borough where it is based and it has grown rapidly. Many of the service-users and beneficiaries are people who have no recourse to public funds.

During the lockdown, under her leadership, the E5 hub has supported many women fleeing domestic violence and abuse along with their young children. She supports women like Rose, who was a victim of domestic violence and who is now one of the volunteers. The E5 hub has also supported Hanifa and her children. They were traumatised by the ordeal of a drug-addicted husband and father and were signposted to local agencies that could rehouse them.

Beautine's infectious smile and her passion for the E5 project has attracted attention from local companies



Rose, ©ADRA



Hanifa and her children, ©ADRA

such as Deloitte and Rolex. She is also inundated with referrals from statutory services not only in her region but further afield. The E5 Baby Bank is one of the 73 grassroots hubs that ADRA-UK supports through their I AM Urban initiative that supported both by the Trans-European Division and Barclays PLC.

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.



A path that lasts

To the question, do you have children with disabilities, children with special needs in your church? What would you answer? What would your Sabbath School teachers say? If you can't answer this question, ask yourself why. Often the problem is that we don't dare to ask. I know that it is for a good purpose, not to disturb, not to embarrass the family, which I understand, but honestly, don't be afraid to ask! To communicate! Dare to ask, how is your son doing? What can we do to help him? To accompany him? What can we do to help you, as parents? Actually, few people dare to ask! Luckily, there are still a few who do, and I thank them from the bottom of my heart.

One day, for example, when I was participating without my son in an activity as an Adventist Youth leader, two young leaders came to ask me if it bothered me to talk about my little one and our story. It was a joy for me to be able to share, to feel listened to, to be able to answer their questions, to see that their view of my son, of our family and of the brothers they have in their pathfinder groups has changed.

I participate in a discussion group for parents of children with cognitive disabilities. Some specialists are supervising this group, who welcome us in our reflections and our questions, who advise us on administrative, organiza-

tional and emotional levels... This is the group's aim: to be able to speak, to ask questions, to feel listened to, because the people around us don't do it (any-more). This because they are used to see our child and us on a daily basis, it's easier to see us in this way, we become part of the landscape, ... but our daily life doesn't become less difficult for that!

I was told one day that when something difficult happens to someone, some people mobilize at the beginning to help, but pretty few do it in the long term. Imagine a child with a rare disease! He becomes transparent, he disappears in the eyes of others, he becomes just a child like many others.

A mother from my church came to me one day to offer to take care of my son during the preaching once a month. What a beautiful initiative! It worked 2-3 times before my son came back looking for me... every time. It was a wonderful idea that didn't last, but it worked in spite of everything because now my son knows this mother well. Moreover, this lady's children asked me questions about my son, why doesn't he talk like a 10 year old child? Etc...

And what if, in our churches, we also cared on the long term? What if we organized and gave space to



©Photo: Daisy Delameillieure Rivero

groups' discussion? To exchanges on the different health situations of the members? What if we gave room for differences? What if we asked families to share their new vision of life? Wouldn't our church be even richer? Let's not be afraid to enrich each other.

Daisy Delameillieure
Rivero
Belgium
Pastor's wife



In their early years children may be useful in God's work.... He will give them His grace and His Holy Spirit, that they may overcome impatience, fretfulness, and all sin. Jesus loves the children. He has blessings for them, and He loves to see them obedient to their parents. He desires them to be His little missionaries, denying their own inclinations and desires for selfish pleasure to do service for Him; and this service is just as acceptable to God as is the service of grown-up children.

The Adventist Home, p. 486



Bible Passage

Read 1 Samuel 15 with this devotional.

How hard it was for Saul to learn to obey the voice of God! Because he didn't know all the reasons God had told him to destroy the Amalekites, he pleased himself. We must learn to obey, whether we understand the reason for the command or not.

An Eastern king needed a faithful servant, and two men applied for the position. The king paid both men the day's wage in advance, then took them to a well and put a basket down beside it. "Now, men," he said "try your best to fill this basket with well water. I'll be back this evening to see how you have gotten on." So saying, he went away; and the men began to work. It wasn't long before one man said, "What a silly business—trying to fill a basket with water!"

"But we've been paid our wages," said the other. "He knows why he told us to do it. That is not our business."

"Well, I'm not going to keep on doing such foolish work," said the first man, and throwing down his bucket, he went away. The other man worked on faithfully, lowering his bucket, drawing up water, and pouring it into the basket. And just before sunset the well was dry. Looking down into the well, he saw something shiny. He let down his bucket, moved it carefully this way and that, and drew up a beautiful diamond ring! "Ah, now I see why the king wanted us to pout water into the basket," he said. "If we had brought up the ring before the well was dry, it would have been found in the basket!" Just then the king came back. The man showed him the ring he had just drawn up. The king smiled and said, "It's yours. You have been faithful in a little thing; now I see I can trust you in great things. Henceforth you will stand at my right hand."

Life is just like that. Often we're told to do something that doesn't make sense to



us, but that doesn't mean it's wrong. For example, thousands of people have died because they thought it was silly to keep the speed limit when they drove. And even today, despite all the evidence of its dangers, people still start smoking.

You may be tempted to think that some commands your parents and teachers give you are foolish. But be wise! To obey is better than sacrifice.

To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams.

1 Samuel 15:22

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

TOUGH QUESTIONS & POSSIBLE ANSWERS



Why do my church friends act just like my friends who don't go to church?

Preschooler

Preschoolers are unlikely to make this distinction, but note: Preschoolers have a way of being themselves no matter where they are. Avoid forcing your preschooler to be one way at church and allowing him or her to be another way elsewhere. "Being good only while at church" set up double standards.

Elementary Age

Acknowledge that going to church doesn't make someone a Christian. It doesn't even necessarily change a person's behavior. Your child is old enough to understand there's a difference between following Jesus and going to church, obeying rules an, and saying the right words. Encourage your child

to follow Jesus, letting him guide his or her behavior. He or she doesn't have to be like his or her church friends whose lives don't reflect God's values.

Preteen

Ask your preteen how he or she thinks Christians should act...and what influences them to act otherwise. What does your preteen think fuels authentic life change that's visible? Rather than deliver judgment, suggest your preteen be an example—to both church and unchurched friends.

Related Scriptures

Read and discuss Romans 2:13; 3:22-24; and James 1:22-24.



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: Visitor Demands

Question: Sometimes visiting families insist on their kids being in the same room, even though they're different ages. The younger sibling always struggles with activities when we allow this, and usually the siblings end up doing their own thing. How can we avoid this problem?

Answer: Although most children will be happier in an age-appropriate class, you'll appear hard and uncompromising if you insist that guests follow room assignments when they're bent on keeping their children together. Try this: Tell parents you understand children's first visits can be uncomfortable, so this time they can go to the same class. Place siblings in the younger child's classroom. An older child can better adapt to a younger room

than a younger child to an advanced class. When the family returns the next week, accompany them to the age-appropriate rooms their children will go to, and introduce them to classroom volunteers.

What you should do

- Let families know that for all kids it's better to be in an age-appropriate room.
- Stick to the policy: After the first visit, kids go to their appropriate rooms.
- Train volunteers to personally welcome all kids and get them engaged in class activities within one minute of when they enter the room.

What you should not do

- Don't allow exceptions for some families and not others
- Don't argue with families. If a family seriously resists, ask your leader to take over.
- Don't assume families understand why you have certain rules and processes in place. Instead, take the time to kindly explain them.

Decoder

Families who insist that their kids stay together may do so out of insecurity about the safety of their children. Take care to explain your check-in/check-out process and the safety measures you have in place.

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 WANITSCHK,
EUD FAMILY MINISTRIES



Our family gates—The 9th gate: The East Gate

The 9th gate is the penultimate of our suggestions for our "gates" for families. If we, as family members, have learned to share our good and failed moments of our "life with Jesus"—that is what the Ross Gate reminds us of,—then the East Gate wants to remind us about what the goal of our togetherness is: to live the values of God already now and prepare ourselves for the return of Jesus, the King of Kings. This gate is the most "exciting" of all gates. It was located east of the Temple Mount in the wall of the city. It was, in relation to the geography of the city, on the same level as the eastern gate of the temple district, only slightly lower in level. The East Gate was the most decorated and most important of all the gates. In later times, it was also called the "Golden Gate".

For the Jewish people, the East Gate was a symbol that one day the Messiah would enter Jerusalem through this gate. East, that is the where the sun rises every morning - the beginning of a new day. One day the new beginning will take place with the Messiah.

He will then sit on the throne in the temple.

Unfortunately, the Jewish people did not perceive Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on a donkey's back as the fulfillment of this prophecy, and are still waiting for this fulfillment today. For us as believers (families), this gate stands first for the hope of the return of the Messiah, the King of Kings, Jesus Christ. This hope must be passed on and is expressed, among other things, by the fact that we use the Sabbath hours together every week. The Creator of this world will one day return and create a new earth and a new heaven for us. There will be no more suffering, death, tears, weeping, parting and pain. The King of all Kings, Jesus Christ and the Father will visibly live there with us forever. On the other side, we need this door of "hope". Whatever has happened, it reminds us that our family members need to know that there is hope whatever happens to us in our life. We have a forgiving and encouraging Lord and Saviour. If we come to him, he will forgive.

How could we keep this hope alive? How about the family "dreaming" together: what do you wish for the new home? What would your room there look like? What will you do, play with, eat, ...? Tell each other about it and listen to each other. And then: which of these things could your family already create and implement right now, to make your hope clear to your family members and others who know you or have to do with you, and perhaps to encourage them to get to know this Jesus? Maybe you have great artistic ideas to keep this alive.

I have a painting by an Adventist artist hanging in my office that describes the moment when Jesus will take us to Himself on the new earth after His return: it shows a little boy on the new earth, who got up from his wheelchair and lies in Jesus' arms. This hope encourages me again and again and makes me courageous to look for ways to be of help for other people already here—as a foretaste of the new world.

Do you also have an "East Gate" in your family?

GET GRIT



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We don't lead in a bubble. When we choose to remain on the wall—to face what needs to be faced, open ourselves up, and become ridiculously teachable—those we lead are inspired to do the same. Grit is contagious.

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

QUICK AND EASY WORSHIP IDEAS FOR KIDS

God makes everything beautiful

Bible Stories

- Creation—Genesis 1; 2
- Esther—book of Esther
- Joseph—Genesis 37; 39-48

Things you need:

- Child's scrapbook with a plain cover
- Or a cylindrical cookie or potato chip tube that is the right size to become a pencil pot
- Pile of interesting paper scraps
- Glue stick
- Transparent, protective plastic with adhesive backing

Worship activities

1. Give your child the plain looking book or tube.
2. Provide an interesting selection of papers and the glue stick, and let the child cover the whole tube or book cover with the paper scraps so that the book or tube looks attractive.
3. Use the transparent plastic sheet to cover the book or tube, to protect the paper and add an attractive sheen.
4. Admire your child's work and talk about how he or she transformed something ordinary into something beautiful.
5. Talk about how the world was very plain and ordinary until God made it beautiful with His creation.

6. Thank God for making ordinary things beautiful, and caring enough to create a beautiful world.

Another option:

If you have time for a longer activity one day, create a model garden in a

"And God saw all that he had made, and it was very good."

Genesis 1:31

shoe box or other sturdy box with low sides.



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Just for you

What are the beautiful things God has done in your life? Perhaps you could draw your life like the design for a garden. What kind of water feature is refreshing you? Where can you find shade and shelter? Which parts of your life do you think are the most beautiful? What flower might be planted in those areas? Which are the areas that need weeding, or that are still bare earth and waiting to be transformed? Invite God to be the Gardener in your life's garden.

Experiment #7: the parable of the sower, with fire!

Once there was a man who went out to sow grain. As he scattered the seed in the field, some of it fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some of it fell on rocky ground, where there was little soil. The seeds soon sprouted, because the soil wasn't deep. But when the sun came up, it burned the young plants; and because the roots had not grown deep enough, the plants soon dried up. Some of the seed fell among thorn bushes, which grew up and choked the plants. But some seeds fell in good soil, and the plants bore grain: some had one hundred grains, others sixty, and others thirty. (Matthew 13:3-8)

In this experiment, we will go over the parable of the sower, but using lights and fire instead of seeds and plants.

Materials: Two small candles, matches, pliers, small metal container, transparent glass cup, lighter, and an oil lamp.

Time: 15 minutes

Safety gear: This experiment uses fire and flammable substances so you should take all the necessary precautions. I recommend using it as an illustration (performed ONLY by the educator) and NOT as an actual experiment performed by the children.

Values: There are different ways to respond to the Bible and Jesus' calling to us, but there is only one right way that will produce fruits for eternity.

Procedure:

Preparation: Scrap the phosphorous of about 30 match tips and put it into the metal container. An easy way to do this is by crushing the tip of the matches with a pair of pliers. Do not cut the tips because even a small amount of wood will prevent the desired effect (see step 2).

Performance: You can introduce this illustration reviewing the parable of the sower with your audience. How many types of soils were there? What happened in each of them? What do they mean?

Then, explain your audience that you are going to tell the same story with a different theme. Because the Bible is supposed to be a lamp in our lives, we are going to use different types of lights, instead of seeds and plants, to teach the same lesson that Jesus taught in the parable.



1. Light the first candle and after a few seconds, blow it out. Explain to your audience that this candle is like the seeds that fell along the path. The flame of the Bible illuminated us momentarily but the softest wind quickly extinguished it.



2. Take the metal container with the phosphorous in it. Light them with a long lighter. A large flame will form for a moment but it will soon disappear. Tell your audience that this represents the seeds that fell on rocky ground. They produced a brilliant light but just for a brief time, and then it was gone, because it did not have enough fuel (roots) to keep it on.



3. Light the second candle and cover it with the glass container. As soon as the oxygen is consumed, the flame will go off. Explain to your audience that the glass container is like the thorn bushes that choke the plants in the parable.



4. Take the oil lamp and light it. Tell your audience that the lamp represents the good soil, and that it will keep illuminating those around it as soon as we keep putting oil in it. You can connect it with the parable of the ten virgins, and explain that the oil represents the Holy Spirit. If we want to be good soil, we need to allow the Holy Spirit to work in our lives on a daily basis.



Noemi Duran
Geoscience Research Institute
Director of the European
Branch Office



Children's Deviations

CLAIRE (6 YEARS)



I can't sleep. I've tried to count sheep, but they just don't stop moving.

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



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From the HANDBOOK

on Children's Ministries

Social Skills Development

As children's awareness of peers increase, they should become more accountable for the ways their behavior affects those around them. Observant teachers can help learners to develop appropriate social skills by doing the following:

- **Provide opportunities to practice taking turns.** Early on, children develop strong feelings about fairness—but they are usually quicker to demand fairness than to dispense it. Not all children develop social skills at the same rate, and those who misbehave must be corrected firmly but lovingly.
- **Praise cooperative effort.** Point out incidents of harmonious and productive cooperation. Actions that receive praise will be repeated.

- Help students learn that individual abilities can benefit the group. Children need to appreciate not just their own talents but the talents of their classmates as well.
- **Encourage independent thought.** Guide and facilitate, but allow choices. Use guided conversation to indicate correct behavior.
- **Provide fellowship opportunities.** Giving children the chance to work and play with others in a Christian atmosphere is an important factor in their developing acceptable social behavior. Children involved in a club program may be able to develop leadership abilities. The democratic process and the acceptance of responsibility are important factors in learning to shape.

- **Develop social awareness through service.** Find a service project appropriate for the age group of your learners. Every church has simple but time-consuming jobs that occupy the staff. Senior adults are burdened with tasks they can no longer perform. Children can help.
- **Do not encourage competition between boys and girls.** Opposite-sex antagonism appears in the middle elementary years. Respect for peers should be taught to extend beyond a child's gender group. Competition is not as valuable as cooperation. In all things, teach children how to apply God's Word to their relationships with others. Show them by example how to demonstrate his love—and so guide them in following Christ's call to love our neighbor.

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

PARENTING TEENS

Rules for parents ...

Supervise subtly. A teen does not respond to a parade of don'ts, yet inwardly he or she craves guidance. He or she is caught between opposing forces. On the one hand he or she resents spineless parents, but on the other he or she rebels at the infraction on his or her freedom, especially when parents become arbitrary over things which he or she feels he or she can handle him-/herself.

The anchor of discipline

A teen needs the anchor of parental discipline to hold him or her. And, as always, discipline should be fair and never divided. No teen should be allowed to play one parent against the other.

Rules for parents ...

Respect his or her cry for independence. A teen needs bonds but not bondage, and parents must distinguish between the two. Everything parents do from infancy on works towards making a teen more dependent or independent—until they work themselves out of a job, not out of a relationship.

Experimentation

When your teen indicates that he or she wants more freedom, step back a little and experiment with limited freedom—for a limited period.

Rules for parents ...

Maintain a sense of humour. Managing a teenager successfully means balancing love and discipline on a scale of good humour.

A light touch

A teen, or an adult for that matter, will do almost anything within a reason when a request or a suggestion is made with a light touch. A sense of humour is an antidote for taking the teen years too seriously.

Laughter

Laughter in the home creates an atmosphere of acceptance and joy, and a teenager needs to learn to enjoy family living and laugh with others and at him-/herself.

Rules for parents ...

Discuss changes that may take place. Casually discuss with your teen the changes that take place in adolescence. It is years too



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late to begin sex education, but sex education should continue through the teen years.

Rules for parents ...

Enlist sibling understanding. If you discuss privately with younger members of the family areas of conflict, understanding can be achieved and trouble lessened.

Rules for parents ...

Listen to your teen. Presenting your teen with a closed mind and the attitude 'He doesn't know what he's talking about' is destructive of people and families.

Active listening

Listen without getting angry, without blaming and judging and without name calling. Active listening becomes increasingly important during teen years in attempting to close the generation gap.

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



SPECIAL ACTIVITIES



Season's Ideas and Crafts

Reverse Advent Calendar



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What is a reverse advent calendar?

Reverse advent calendars work by you filling them every day with items of food or clothing that can then be taken to a food bank or charity in order to help those less fortunate that are struggling at Christmas time.

After gathering helpful items during the determined time, you can take everything you've saved to your local help scheme, homeless shelter, church, charity, etc. on Christmas Eve and know that you've given a Christmas present to someone that really needed it.

Not only is this a fun thing for the whole family to do together, from creating the advent calendar structure itself to picking the goodies to go in it, it more importantly teaches your kids the importance of helping others and seeing the bigger picture at Christmas.

How to make your own reverse advent calendar

Start either 24 or 12 days before Christmas and decide whether you're going to collect food, clothes or presents.

Pick something to collect your advent calendar gifts in. This can be something really easy like a basket or cardboard box, or alternatively you could make individual pockets for each day using strips of cardboard and even add some paint and glitter to jazz it up.

By Mariana Cerqueira
on: <https://www.goodtoknow.co.uk/family/reverse-advent-calendar-94087>



©Shutterstock.com

Popsicle Stick Snowflakes

Here are the supplies you'll need to make your own Popsicle Stick Snowflake Ornaments:

- Popsicle Sticks (we used colored ones but plain would work too, you would just need to paint them)
- Tacky Glue
- Hot Glue Sticks and Hot Glue
- Christmas Bells
- Glitter Stickers
- Silver Glitter
- Tinsel Pom Poms and/or craft foam balls
- Fabric Snowflakes
- Twine for hanging

<https://www.thebestideasforkids.com/popsicle-stick-snowflake-ornaments/>



thebestideasforkids.com



No-Sew Sock Snowman Craft

This craft is perfect for everyone who has been experiencing the missing sock phenomena (which is everyone really) as now you know what you can do with all the odd socks.

What you need:

- 1 white sock
- 1 sock in color for the hat
- rice
- rubber bands (or thread)
- colourful buttons
- ribbons
- glue gun
- markers or paint
- orange pom poms

For instructions, please visit:
<https://www.easypeasyandfun.com/no-sew-sock-snowman-craft/>



Easy Peasy and Fun



SPECIAL ACTIVITIES



Season's Ideas and Crafts

Tea Light Snowman Ornaments

Here is what you need:

- Battery operated tea lights
- A Black Sharpie
- Red Ribbon
- Red Pipe Cleaners
- Red Pom Poms
- Black Felt
- Orange Sharpie
- Glue Gun

For instructions, please visit: <https://onelittleproject.com/tea-light-snowman-ornaments/2/>



Nativity Story Stones

With story cards that can be used apart

Here is what you need:

- Rocks
- Acrylic paint
- Good, quality paint brushes. Get a tiny detail brush!
- Sharpie Oil Based Paint Markers

I used the paint markers for the star and for the words on the rocks that have words. The other details were all painted with a brush as I feel like I have more control with a brush. However, you can use the paint markers for almost everything if you prefer those!

I think it's always best to sketch out your design with pencil first. Even if you think the paint will cover up the pencil details, it always goes better if you plan it out first.

For instructions and additional printable story cards, please visit: <https://frugalfun4boys.com/nativity-story-stones/>



Nativity Story Stones
with printable story cards



FrugalFun4Boys.com

Children's Play Nativity

Here is what you need:

- Printed set of nativity figures
- Laminating set (optional)
- Super glue
- Popsicle sticks
- Scissors

For instructions, please visit: <https://biblelovenotes.blogspot.com/2011/03/play-friendly-nativity.html?m=1>



Other ideas

Card Paper Candle Holder



Wrap with hand shapes



Wrap with white plastic cups





ACTIVITY REPORT



News from the Romanian Union

The Living Bible

I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. (Psalm 119:11)



Bible passages memorizing project

There is no such thing as an empty mind and it's impossible not to think. If we're not filling our mind with God's word, other thoughts, secular or even vulgar ones will flood in. Memorizing passages from the Bible it's not just a matter of knowledge acquirement, even if this aspect alone is sufficiently important to motivate us! Even more, memorizing the Bible can protect us from sin and strengthens our spiritual life. This is truly the big win, the big blessing that we all need.

Testimony from the Spirit of Prophecy

Do not think that the Bible will become a tiresome book to the children. Under a wise instructor the word will become more and more desirable. It will be to them as the bread of life, it will never grow old. There is in it a freshness and beauty that attract and charm the children and youth. It is like the sun shining upon the earth, giving its brightness and warmth, yet never exhausted. By lessons from Bible history and doctrine, the children and youth can learn that all other books are inferior to this. They can find here a fountain of mercy and love. (SP 171.3)

Children's Ministries in collaboration, with Youth Ministries of Banat Conference, invited children to sign up and get involved by participating in the Scripture passages memorizing project: **The Living Bible**.



The "Living Bible" project has been conceived for children ages of 6 to 14 (with some flexibility).

The involvement of parents and Children's Sabbath School teachers was essential to the success of the project, because the children received a number of Bible texts to memorize and the evaluation was done monthly within Sabbath School time, or within local church's youth programs.

The children were regularly appreciated for the progress they made, and encouraged to continue. They were rewarded every quarter (or half-yearly, depending on the local church. The conference provided diplomas of participation and appreciation for



every child involved in the project.

Some children who participated in this project were included in the other projects of the conference, such as: "Waldensian Child", "Children's Festival", as well as "Adventurers and Pathfinders Camps", so that they could share their knowledge, and other children would get inspired. Children received diplomas for the Bible passages they memorized.

25 Bible verses were proposed for this year, coming from Proverbs, and were sent out weekly, from January until July 2020.

The ultimate goal for the children was to be able to recite from memory, as many of the biblical passages as possible, and their biblical reference.

The year 2020 in the missionary plan of the Romanian Union was the Year of the Bible.

Banat Conference

Going forward towards Canaan!



Between the 17th and the 20th of August 2020, the Youth Department of the South Transylvania Conference along with the Solomon Pathfinder club in Brasov organized the Joshua backpacking camp under the motto "GO, LOOK OVER THE LAND..."

With the purpose of covering a section of the Curvature Carpathians' crest trail located between the peaks Lacauti (in the Vrancea Mountains) and Penteleu (in the Buzau Mountains), the participants covered around 60 km in three days.

The organizers aimed at developing the pathfinders ability to use the map, the compass and various clues found all around them, at fulfilling the requirements for honours such as hiking, camping, itinerant camping, life in wilderness and cooking in wilderness, at creating an opportunity for pathfinders to apply the theoretical knowledge acquired beforehand, at improving their fitness, as well as at creating an opportunity for them to befriend new people and to know and to develop a personal relationship with God.

The hike was everything except smooth. On their first day, the pathfinders came across an area covered in fallen trees following the storms in February, which made them set up camp in the dark, under fallen fir trees and the stars. On their second day, the pathfinders came across a farm where they lent a helping hand and were repaid by being fed, as well as accommodated in the hayloft.





ACTIVITY REPORT



News from the Romanian Union

The third day held a special meaning for the pathfinders, as they hiked along the *Creasta Transeelor* (the ridge of the trenches) up to the Penteleu peak (1772 m), the meeting point of the three Romanian regions – Moldavia, Wallachia, and Transylvania – and the peak where many Romanian soldiers lost their lives during the First World War. The nights spent under the fallen fir trees and in the hayloft the pathfinders spent the third night in hammocks, in the middle of an orchard.



After three days spent in wilderness, days when they conquered their fears, they were exhausted, and they helped and encouraged each other they discovered the beauty of life while sleeping under the starry sky, while sharing food, while crying, and laughing together. They have become stronger, more united, and more determined to move forward.

The last day brought them to the bank of a river, reminding them about Joshua and the Israelites on the bank of the Jordan River. But, unlike Joshua, they tried rafting on the Buzau River – the longest rafting route in Romania. „We have experienced pure adrenaline, and we are glad that it ended well. And we know that all that was beautiful lingers in our hearts. It grows and prepares us for even greater challenges,” concluded one of the participants.

As Romanian Pathfinders would say, FOR THE LORD... WE'RE ALWAYS READY!

South Transylvanian Conference



New Youth Center inaugurated



Moldova Conference inaugurated “Cosna Youth and Mission Center” in a ceremony held on Saturday, September 12, 2020, starting at 10.00. “I have no words for what you have accomplished here. Indeed, you have done something beautiful, you have made a sacrifice to the Lord, which I believe, is without flaws. And for the sacrifices you have made, may He bless you,” said Aurel Neatu, president of the Conferences Union of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Romania.



The main building of the Youth Center, completed a few days before the event, has the capacity to accommodate 144 people in 36 rooms with the possibility of up to additional 200 places in the future, and with about 1,500 more places in tents, Cosna is becoming one of the largest centers of its kind in Europe. The Center has also received financial support from the Union and the Inter-European Division over the eight years of the building process.

“I like to believe that Cosna Youth and Mission Center will not only be used for camps, but also for the mission. Jesus says in Matthew 4:19, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men” and I believe that this center will indeed succeed in training fishermen of men,” said Jonatan Tejel, director of the Youth Department of the Inter-European Division, in a video message.

In addition to accommodation, Cosna Youth and Mission Center includes spaces

for preparing and serving meals, an attic chapel, administrative offices, specially arranged playgrounds, a sports base and a park. “What has happened in the last decade in Moldova has laid the foundations for an infrastructure through which Christian values can be transmitted. Glory be to God for the vision He has inspired in these people and may He bless those who have donated their small share for the construction of this place. (...)” explained Gelu Poenariu, director of the Youth department of the Union of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Romania.



“Cosna is an instrument in God's hand through which parents are helped to form the little ones for life. It is the place where Church leaders receive a divine mandate to build biographies of people and characters for heaven. Here we recall the Savior's command to go into all the world to proclaim the message of Matthew 28:18-20,” said Tiberiu Nica, President of Moldova Conference.

Moldova Conference





ACTIVITY REPORT



News from the Swiss Union

Opportunities in the gap

In March 2020, the lockdown in Switzerland was declared, and from one day to the next, schools, communities and various stores had to close and nobody knew how long this state of affairs would last!

For many people the lockdown was a very difficult time! But for us as a family with two children (11 and 13 years) it was also a time of opportunities to slow down and to spend more time together again!

Since the churches were closed, it was important to find new ways quickly. Since we didn't want our kids to spend the Sabbath morning in front of the TV (the Hope Channel program was still very valuable for the sermon time), we took an extensive excursion into nature after breakfast and dedicated ourselves to a popular activity! We created a biblical scene, each one of us individually, using the natural materials



Torn Curtain in the Temple



Samson

available, and then let the other family members guess what it was. There were no limits to our creativity and everyone was enthusiastic about it! There were some really tricky pieces among them and I was again amazed at how many events from the Bible are known to our children! Do you recognize what is shown in the these pictures?

If the weather was rather wet, we grabbed the Lego boxes and simply recreated the biblical scenes with Lego! We got inspiration for this from ideas from the Internet like *The Brick Bible*.

But now it was also very important that the children stay in contact with each other, so the offer of a Zoom Sabbath school was born. The kids from 11 years on enjoyed seeing each other and exchanging experiences. I was especially pleased that

even kids who had rarely been in the Sabbath School class before took part!

I am very thankful that in Switzerland the churches are open again in the meantime - even with restrictions! Now I hope that the (new) normal situation will soon return and that all children will be able to participate in the church services again! Nevertheless, I think it is incredibly important that we do not leave the religious imprint of our children to the congregation, but rather that we really take them into our own hands as parents and try out new and different ways to allow our children to experience the faith holistically!

Simone Studer
German Swiss Conference



Tower of Babel

Lockdown—and now?

March 16, 2020. Everything is closed. Schools, clothes stores, libraries, concert halls, restaurants - and also the churches. After the first shock and also the short-term joy about the "school-free" time, it is time to get organized. Home office, home schooling, everything parallel and everything new. Quickly we notice that we missed the relationships with others. Be it at school, with family or friends—but also in the church.

For the children, Children Sabbath School is the most important, most exciting and most beautiful moment in the church. This is THEIR time. How can we as leaders support the parents to find suitable material to make Sabbath School? How can we still get in contact with each other?

A WhatsApp group is being formed with all the Sabbath School leaders and especially with all the parents of the

children in our church. The RPI Homepage provided great resources. We decided to work with the material of the Austrian Union, a great weekly family service, so that all age groups could work with the same topic. Based on this template, we determined 2-3 tasks, which everyone should solve and then could put them in the chat with a photo. This way we could have a little worship service together and above all see each other! Already on the first Sabbath we were enthusiastic about the feedback. Not every Sabbath the same families participated. Not every task was equally appealing. But we as a family were always looking forward to seeing how the others had solved the task. And we were happy to see the others and to be part of their worship / Children program. And last but not least, we discovered very creative parents, a treasure and a potential that we will gladly fall back on.

As a conclusion, each child was allowed to tell their favorite story and the others had to guess it.

Christine Buchli





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, all children and teens from around the world have been invited 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.

GC will soon give feedback on the chosen masterpieces to represent talents from children all over the world.

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

2021



January 6-16

10 Days of Prayer

Join us in this prayer initiative - material is being prepared - contact your CHM Division Director

March 20

Global Youth and Children's Day

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.



15 Encouraging Keys (And 10 Benefits) to Family Worship

Churches across the world have incorporated new approaches to keep their congregations connected to God's Word and to each other in the midst of stay-at-home orders. These approaches have included emphasizing and encouraging family worship at home.

Certainly many families have enhanced their family worship time during the quarantine and have taken advantage of the opportunity to intentionally disciple their children. Other families may have tried to use this time to establish a family worship rhythm but have felt frustrated and defeated.

No matter which camp your family finds itself in, here are:

15 keys to family worship time

1. Pick a convenient time free of distractions that fits the rhythm of your home.
2. Choose a devotional or resource that you can make "your own."
3. Before you begin, pray and ask the Holy Spirit to be your teacher
4. Keep your presentation short.
5. Prepare open-ended questions and invite discussion.

6. Expect questions you cannot answer.
7. Don't be afraid to say, "I don't know." Then respond, "But let's find out together."
8. Have fun, be silly and creative.
9. Don't expect perfection.
10. Don't expect perfect behavior.
11. Look for teachable or "ah-ha" moments.
12. Don't be afraid to go down rabbit trails.
13. Have everyone keep a journal.
14. Pray for specific needs of family, neighbors and friends.
15. Make this a recurring time with your family and strive to protect it.

So families, take heart! The items in the list above don't emphasize perfection, but consistency. Here are some:

Benefits to putting these ideas into practice.

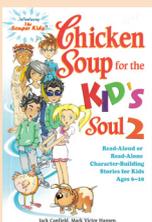
1. You get to bond with your spouse in a special way.
2. You get to bond with your children.
3. Your children will bond with you.

4. You and your family will grow in your knowledge of the Lord together.
5. You get to watch the Lord working in the hearts of your children.
6. You give the Holy Spirit space to teach, convict and challenge your family.
7. Your children get a front row seat in watching you strive to live out God's Word in your life.
8. The atmosphere of your home will transform.
9. The way you love your neighbors will change.
10. Sabbath morning worship will never be the same.

While there are many concerns about the current situation with COVID-19, there's also an opportunity for pastors and church leaders to help families establish and strengthen habits from Deuteronomy 6. Help families in your congregation confidently step into this moment. We can come out stronger on the other side of this crisis if habits found in Deuteronomy 6 become the epicenter of the home.

Taken and adapted from: Mark Smith, <https://www.renewingworshipnc.org/15-encouraging-keys-and-10-benefits-to-family-worship/>

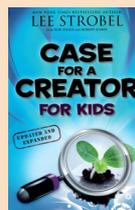
RECOMMENDED RESOURCES



CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE KID'S SOUL

Jack Canfield et al.

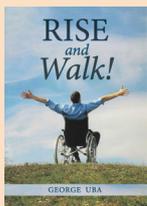
Most people would agree that a kid who makes healthy life choices has a happier, better childhood. And, what kid wouldn't want to have a great time reading while learning a good life lesson from real kids their own age? That's exactly what this book was created to do. Whether reading the stories alone, or having the stories read aloud to them, kids are sure to gain wisdom from this book which is filled with true-life stories for children ages six to ten.



CASE FOR A CREATOR FOR KIDS

Lee Strobel

Answers to questions about creation that even adults struggle to answer. You meet skeptics every day. They ask questions like: Are your science teachers wrong? Did God create the universe? Is the Big Bang theory true? Here's a book written in kid-friendly language that gives you all the answers. Packed full of well-researched, reliable, and eye-opening investigations of some of the biggest questions, this book uses up-to-date scientific research to strengthen your faith in God's creation.



RISE AND WALK

George Uba

The life stories of the persons with disabilities are a powerful source of inspiration for all—with or without physical limitations, as there is no limit in regards with the soul. Their stories are a medicine for the depressed and disappointed hearts. A mature society will use this argument for promoting the healing through relationships and rehabilitated perceptions.



IF IT HAILS IN MAY - When handicap comes after God

Rolando Rizzo

There are two fundamental types of handicap: one caused by narcissism and irresponsibility and the other that belongs to the chromosome lottery. Both often devastate happy families, or in any case force them to remodulate their whole existential path sometimes with heroic and, otherwise, desolating results. This novel speaks of solidarity and betrayal. Of lives that interweave, that are lost, that are redeemed, that in being irreconcilable are all reconciled, some to trace new seasons of love and freedom. Available also in Italian and Spanish.



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