

iLIGHT

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Children Discipleship

God gave the model of discipleship. Deuteronomy 6:4-9 enunciates important principles of infant discipleship, related to an intentional and regular plan of teaching the Holy Scriptures, in a familiar climate that promotes a personal relationship with God. We will be modeling a Christian character and making our children disciples of Christ when we affirm moral and spiritual values in the family. As we create the opportunities for spiritual growth in the heart of children with this biblical vision, we will be modeling disciples with a solid foundation that will stand during the storms of life (Matthew 7: 24,25).

In the biblical model, we highlight some priorities:

Discipleship in the family. The family is certainly the place where discipleship is most effective, but few parents are involved in transmitting spiritual values intentionally. The task is demanding, and most parents feel incapacitated and refer this task to the church. However, recent research shows parents as the most influential people to inculcate spiritual values. The family functions as a school of formation of spiritual values in a climate of emotionally safe and positive reflection that promotes daily spiritual growth. Spiritually strong parents are the best teachers (mentors) to lead their children in this personal relationship with God. The spiritual values consistently lived and acquired in childhood are guidelines based on the biblical principles that define a life in service. It is at the age of 4-14 years that the spiritual identity is formed that is particularly important to create habits of faith

and active participation in the church that will hardly be changed later.

Continuous discipleship. The regularity of the transmission of spiritual values is presented as a daily, uninterrupted and continuous construction. Parents and the surrounding community need to be together to give sustainability to a project of this dimension. The transmission of spiritual values is not a finished task, but it is a cycle of continuous resumption that reminds us that collaboration is necessary. This task entrusted to parents, educators, and church leaders is not a one-off, punctual action but a well-structured plan, present in family and church design. Parents should plan discipleship with the natural rhythms identified by the Bible (time of awakening, meals, travel, and bedtime) as vital times for passing spiritual values regularly. As these routines are established and essential to life, meeting with God and His Word in prayer should also be part of life's fundamental habits. These routines provide moments of intimacy with God in the family. This is a simple but intentional plan that involves simple and easily executable changes.

Practical discipleship. The news of the gospel are not unattainable ideas, but they are a practical experience that manifests itself in a lifestyle that responds to the challenges of everyday life. The values taken from the gospel must be meaningful and pertinent. It is important to provide differentiated methods of studying the Word of God to interest and elicit the learning of everyone. At these ages, Bible study should be practical, shared, short, and interesting. This was the counsel

God's Bible Promises for kids

Being truthful will always be fruitful.

"Truth will last for ever.

But lies last only a moment."

Proverbs 12:19

An encouraging word
deserves to be heard.

*"Say what people need—words that will
help others become stronger."*

Ephesians 4:29

from: Daly, R., "God's Little Book of Bible Promises for Children". Autumn House, Grantham, Great Britain, 2000

CARING FOR KIDS



What do children truly need to grow up happy? To feel that they fit in and matter? To believe that they are loved? They need you—you and other caring adults to genuinely be there for them as they're growing up. They need to know you care, not just on special occasions, but *every day*.

How do you do that? By accepting, guiding, and loving them in simple, yet meaningful ways.

You don't need a lot of time and money; you don't have to be a parent, teacher, or coach. Sincerely showing children you care can make a difference, helping to bring out the best in them—and in you.

Give them space when they need it.

Contribute to their collections.

Discuss their dreams and nightmares.

Laugh at their jokes.

Be relaxed.

Kneel, squat, or sit so you're at their eye level.

Answer their questions.

Tell them how terrific they are.

Create a tradition with them and keep it.

Learn what they have to teach.

Use your ears more than your mouth.

Make yourself available.

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given by the servant of the Lord; "Let the worship be brief and full of life, adapted to the occasion, and varied from time to time.

At the age of 0-6, visual supports, sensory histories and games with the biblical text should always be used as the main message. For older children (age 7-14), you can use graphics, drama, life cases, object lessons (experiences), and testimonies that allow you to discover the biblical text as a response to real situations. Simplifying the language, illustrating and experiencing the biblical text allows us to create meaningful experiences as a response to the practice and experience of the child and the adolescent. A practical relationship with God and His Word reinforces the bonds of personal intimacy with God, the sharing of faith, and service. Above all, it will help them to organize time alone with God and develop a habit of a daily encounter until they can be autonomous in their personal choice for life.

Practical Child Discipleship Tools

We have available materials that structure the growth of the disciple in the family and church:

Kids in Discipleship, a discipleship project for children and adolescents with a family-centered methodology. Parents are trained to be the spiritual mentors of their children at home and in small groups for the transmission of relevant spiritual values in spiritual growth (relationship with God, biblical beliefs, and testimony).

Regular family worship. This is the best context to undertake the divine plan and order in families for the transmission of spiritual inheritance, but also for continuing education in the presence of family members and the heavenly Father.

Christian service. Engaging children

and youth in service for the sake of others is the key to integrating spiritual values into a Christian lifestyle and applying it in a practical way. The value of service is the expression of God's love in us and the fulfillment of His purpose for our earthly existence and preparation for His kingdom. Since the law of service is the basis of God's government, whatever we do to bring children to this value will project them into the kingdom of God.

Discipleship of the heart. God has a plan for our children to be His sons and daughters and heirs to His promises. Isaiah 49:15,16 mentions the strongest bond of love symbolized in the relationship between mother and child as the image of Jesus' saving love. This bond of genuine love that binds us to God must be the mark in the hearts of our children to be disciples and followers of the Master. Children growing up in this discipleship environment generate faith and trust in God. Families and the community of faith, generating relationships of acceptance, security, and integration are necessary to create disciples who can lead safely to the saving grace of Christ.

Let us try to paint by love and words the love of Jesus, our friend who delights to accompany us and make us happy. Let's remember the Bible stories, the life of Jesus, the salvation and the eternal life that He gave us. Let us engrave this love in the hearts of our children so that they feel incomplete without this friendship. ♦

Paula Amorim

Portuguese Union

Children's Ministries Director



JESUS

wants all of me

Child of God

The Bible has many stories of great men and women of God. Enoch was a man of God. He reserved some time to spend with God and talked to Him every day. One day God must have decided that it was time for Enoch to stay with Him once and for all. Enoch didn't even

die; he just went straight to heaven!

Are you a child of God? When you grow up, will you be a man or a woman of God? The decision is yours. If you choose to pray and learn from the Bible, then you will be a great child of God.

"Enoch lived 365 years, walking in close fellowship with God. Then one day he disappeared, because God took him."

Genesis 5:23, 24

From: Ferreira de Oliveira, S. *Talking with God*. Editorial Safeliz, Madrid, Spain, 2015

LEA (3 YEARS)



I don't want another brother, I want to keep Alex.

From: www.enfandises.com/en/bibliotheque/cat-21-brother/phrase-22091.html

IN SYNERGY

ADRA and Children Changing the World with a Pencil and a Textbook

Teacher, teacher! I will go on the school trip in nature! My dad just told me last night. He found the money to pay for me. I am soooo happy! I will join my friends!" Little Eric jumped into the office of school adviser, Irene. She looked at him with a big smile on her face. "Oh Eric, I am so happy for you!" She was trying to look surprised and at the same time, she was trying to hide her tears of joy. She didn't expect such an outburst of joy and feelings of happiness

overwhelmed her. Earlier in the month, ADRA offered to support a certain number of children with financial support to enable them with equal access to all school activities. But ADRA's condition was to support them in a way that children will not know they are being supported by ADRA. Eric's father struggled to provide means for his children as a single parent. He was one of the first parents Irene called.

As the world becomes increasingly connected and conscious of both the positives and negatives of our societies, it is time we address a massive elephant in an increasingly small room; the fact that education for every child is not a fact. In many countries (including European) children don't have the basic school equipment and they lack funds for school activities to enable them to succeed in their school career.

All too often, they have the bricks and mortar that provide the buildings but the tools to learn are absent.

With bags, pencils, textbooks and paid school activities the teachers can do their jobs creating independence, understanding, and futures for those that sit down each morning and leave each evening. Stationery alone won't change everything but it is a start. We make a change and they get a chance. Simple as that.

What can I do?

- Organize school supplies gathering at your home, school, church, office.
- Donate funds or school supplies to an organization that supports school children.
- Advocate for every child everywhere to have access to education by signing the petition at <https://inschool.adra.org/>
- Pray for every child everywhere.



Maja Ahac
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Overestimated "IQ"

Some children learn faster and easier, while others learn slower and with more difficulties. This may be caused by various factors, but it usually brings a certain disadvantage of a child among other peers. Both children and adults are expected to be able to quickly solve complex problems and manage challenging situations, as well as show a high stress resilience and successfully compete with others. A high IQ level is particularly valued in society today. But what about those who achieve lower results in the IQ tests, who solve the problems more slowly than others, and who are not even able to cope with some life difficulties at all?

It is a mistake to underestimate children with intellectual or learning disabilities and consider them worse than others. They may not achieve such good results in activities related to quantitatively measurable intellectual performances as their peers, but this layer of intellect represents only a small part of the real image of their personality. IQ tests reflect our ability to combine, think in a normative way, and solve tasks in a performance-based manner using the proven procedures and formulas. However, it cannot adequately reflect our emotions, social competences or communication skills—that what is related to so-called emotional intelligence.

The phenomenon of emotional intelligence has been described quite recently—psychology began to address it more intensively about twenty years ago¹. Thus, it is not yet a deeply explored and defined area of personality, but many experts agree that emotional intelligence includes such skills as self-awareness, self-control, empathy, reflection of feelings and emotions, and other social skills that we can trace at ourselves and others, distinguish them and respond to them in our thinking and action. Obviously, emotional intelligence is difficult to quantify and measure—yet there is an overall expression of it in the form of an emotional quotient (EQ), which is indicative of the degree of these competences for a particular person. It is very interesting that the level of EQ of an individual is not directly proportional to the level of his or her IQ, so we can meet a person with high IQ and low EQ and vice versa. Emotional intelligence is also much less conditioned by inheritance than IQ. While each person has an inherent limit of the IQ level that can be achieved through learning and exercise, emotional intelligence can be significantly increased by social learn-



ing throughout the whole life. This also applies to individuals with lower IQ level.

Finally, the most interesting knowledge: for a happy and quality life, the EQ level is much more important than the IQ level. This is not only true for the individual itself, but everyone around is happier as well! Even a child with learning disabilities can grow into a socially responsible and nice adult - which is always much better than raising an arrogant and intolerant person with a high IQ level.

¹Goleman, Daniel (1996). Emotional Intelligence: Why It Can Matter More Than IQ. Bantam Books.

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The highest class of education is that which will give such knowledge and discipline as will lead to the best development of character, and will fit the soul for that life which measures with the life of God. Eternity is not to be lost out of our reckoning. The highest education is that which will teach our children and youth the science of Christianity, which will give them an experimental knowledge of God's ways, and will impart to them the lessons that Christ gave to His disciples of the paternal character of God.

Child Guidance, p. 296



Priceless in God's Eyes

Incredi-Biblical

"See, I [God] have engraved you on the palms of my hands."

Isaiah 49:16

How much do you think you're worth? According to the United States' White House Office of Management and Budget, if you're under 70 years old, your life is worth \$ 3.7 million. In some cases, the government decides whether or not to enact an environmental protection, such as an anti-pollution regulation, based on the dollar value of the lives it would impact and whether or not the protection would be "worth it."

Magazines talk about business people in terms of their net worth. In other words, how much money or assets a per-

son has left after all their bills are paid.

Television advertisements try to sell us things by telling us we're worth it. Report cards, sports statistics, video game scores, the number of friends on Facebook or Instagram, how many people sit next to you during lunch at school—all of those things can contribute to your own opinion of what you're worth. But these things can be deceiving.

God doesn't measure you the same way that your friends, parents, teachers, or your government do. He measures you by how much He loves you. He created you, and He's re-creating you to look just like Him—inside and outside.

Think about it. The Creator of the universe loves you, He likes you, He's proud of you, and He's stuffed you full of potential. Now how much do you think you're worth?



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Info Splat

Priceless, the award-winning campaign of MasterCard, has been seen in more than 97 countries and heard in 47 languages.

React now!

Do you ever think negative thoughts about yourself? When that happens, interrupt yourself with conscious thoughts about how much God says you're worth.

From: Bockmann, M. et al.: *Elasti-Brain. 365 Devotions to Stretch your Mind and Shape your Faith*. Review and Herald Publishing Ass., Hagerstown, MD, USA, 2008

SECRETS FROM THE TREASURE CHEST



How do you get girlfriends?

– Boy, 12

Here's a guy who doesn't beat around the bush! Notice he wants girlfriends—with an "s."

To get a girl to like you more than all the other guys isn't difficult. Just be more. More what, you ask? More thoughtful, forgiving, understanding, gentle, trustworthy, clean, respectful, encouraging, even-tempered, helpful, and generous (very generous), and like the girl's dad a lot.

Notice, nowhere did I say more strong, handsome, smart, or talented. Any girl worth getting would rather have a kind, thoughtful boyfriend than one who looks like a movie star and treats her like dirt.

And don't use TV or magazines as

your guide to catching a girl's attention. They'd have you believing you're a loser unless you drive a certain car, wear certain clothes, or smell like a Colorado tree.

Girls like to be treated with respect and courtesy. Boys, too, for that matter. So if you want girlfriends, make yourself attractive, starting on the inside and working your way out.

When I was your age, I had lots of girlfriends. We'd pass notes in class, share lunches, and do science projects at the same table. To this day I remember their laughter and sweet smiles. Girlfriends are a

beautiful part of growing up.

The Bible says, "My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth" (1 John 3:18).

Always make sure your actions speak louder than your words.



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From: Mills, C.: *Secrets from the Treasure Chest. Questions Kids ask about Life*. Review and Herald Publishing Ass., Hagerstown, MD, USA, 1996

Moving

Helping Children Adjust to a New Environment

The Basics

Moving can be an unsettling event in the life of a child. Overall, the single most important factor that determines how well a child copes with a move is the parents' attitude. If Mom and Dad introduce the moving process as an exciting adventure, then children will be much more likely to accept the relocation in a positive manner. Also, it's important to remember that the reason for the move influences how quickly children adjust—for example, a family may react differently if the move is a result of a disappointing job loss rather than if the family excitedly chooses to move closer to extended family members.

Generally speaking, younger children cope with the transition of moving better than older children—however, very young children can be easily confused as they watch strangers packing and unpacking their belongings and as they encounter strange surroundings. The biggest concern for school-age children is usually whether they will make new friends and fit in.

Care Tips

When you find out that a family in your church is moving, you can use the following ideas to ease the transition

- **Give the child a goodbye token.** Find a soft stuffed animal or little pillow to send with the child. This can be a comforting object to hug as a reminder that God (and your thoughts) will be with the child.
- **Provide closure.** On the child's last day in your class, use a disposable camera to take pictures of the child with classmates. Send the camera with the child. You might also provide a small address book in which students can write contact information and goodbye messages.
- **Research the new area.** Encourage the moving child to share any information he or she has about the new house or city. Talking about upcoming changes will help the child adjust.
- **Send a postcard.** A few weeks after the move, have the class sign and send

a postcard to the child who moved. Remember to keep the message positive: "We will always remember you, and we know you will have a great time in your new Sabbath school class!"

What not to say

- **"After you move, you'll make new friends and forget all about your old ones."** God considers friendships far too valuable to simply cast aside. Friends are irreplaceable. Although most children quickly adapt to new settings, they should be encouraged to maintain their old friendships through letters, phone calls, and e-mail. Teach kids to value both old and new friendships.
- **"Don't be sad."** Like many things in life, moving is an adventure filled with many emotions. Leaving friends and familiar places can be sad, especially for young children. Allow a child the freedom to experience a move however he or she desires.
- **"Moving is no big deal."** This comment minimizes the apprehensions a child may be experiencing. Regardless of the circumstances surrounding it, a move is a huge deal and affects each family member in a different way.
- **"God wouldn't want you to be upset."** Saying this leads the child to believe that feelings of sadness, anger, or loneliness are somehow wrong. It may also convey to the child that God only loves us if we act happy. A child should be allowed to experience and express his or her emotions, positive and negative, with the knowledge that God's love is constant.

What to say

- **"When you move, God packs his bags and comes along, too."** Reinforce trust in God's unfailing presence. Knowing that God is right beside the child wherever he or she goes can

stabilize changing circumstances and build faith.

- **"It's OK to be upset."** This statement is best shared with a hug. Situations surrounding a family's need to relocate can vary greatly, and a move can be quite traumatic for some children. Even in a best-case scenario, there will be changes ahead that may make a child feel insecure, angry, or confused. Help children verbalize their feelings, and encourage them to express their fears and concerns.
- **"I'm glad God brought you here."** Welcome a new student warmly, and thank God aloud for bringing him or her to your classroom. Encourage other kids to be friendly and to share information that will help the newcomer feel at ease. Even the courtesy or wearing name tags for a few weeks can help a new child begin to feel a part of the group.
- **"Tell me about ____."** Inviting a child to share memories of his or her old house, church, and friends communicates your interest in the child and his or her experiences.





Redeeming the time (6)—The role of the father

This time we will further analyze the decisive value of father's involvement in parenting, aspect neglected so far. Jeremy 31:29 "the fathers have eaten a sour grape and the children's teeth are set on edge", is an illustration of the power of the father as a primary authority of the family over the centuries. However, the world began to radically change and this brought a modification in the structure and function of the family. Unfortunately, the father's role was seen as a minor one and his importance was defined by how well he provided for the family. In the past, research studies did not place much importance on the role of the father and his influence on the development and growth of his child. These were reported as 'insignificant'. In the 1970s, however new studies began to analyze the impact of the fathers in parenting.

Over the years, the research regarding the active presence of the fathers has significantly developed. From the studies run, it is obvious that the engagement of the fathers is decisive in terms of through-out development of their children.

According to a report in "Fathers and their impact on children's wellbeing", "even

from birth, children who have an involved father are more likely to be emotionally secure, be confident to explore their surroundings, and as they grow older, have better social connections." "The way the fathers play with their children also has an important impact on a child's emotional and social development. Fathers spend a higher percentage of their one-to-one interactions with infants and preschoolers in stimulating, playful activity than to mothers. From these interactions, children learn how to regulate their feelings and behavior." "Children with involved, caring fathers also have a better educational outcomes. The influence of a father's involvement extends into adolescence and young adulthood." Numerous studies find that an engaged and fostering style of fathering is associated with better verbal attainments, intellectual functioning and academic accomplishments among adolescents.

Gemma Sicouri, Lucy Tully and Mark Dadds aimed to qualitatively analyze the parenting interventions. According to them, father involvement in parenting is likely to be critical for optimizing child outcomes. Evidence suggests that the participation of fathers in parenting

interventions can lead to improved outcomes for children (Lundahl, Tollefson, Risser & Lovejoy, 2008). "The majority of studies affirm that an involved father can play a crucial role, particularly in the cognitive, behavioral and general health and well-being areas of a child's life; having a positive male role model helps an adolescent boy develop positive gender-role characteristics; adolescent girls are more likely to form opinions of men and are better able to relate to them when parented by an involved father." It is generally accepted, under most circumstances, that a father's presence and involvement can be as crucial to a child's healthy development as a mother's, and experiencing validation of their importance in the general parenting literature has made fathers much more conscious of their value, which, in turn, leads to their greater desire to be involved.

These studies have proved that the Bible is right in highlighting the responsibility of fathers in growing up godly children despite the immorality and wickedness of the day, creating a strong connection between a father and his children all the days of their life.

CREATIVE WORSHIP IDEAS FOR BUSY FAMILIES

We can choose to follow Jesus

Bible Connection

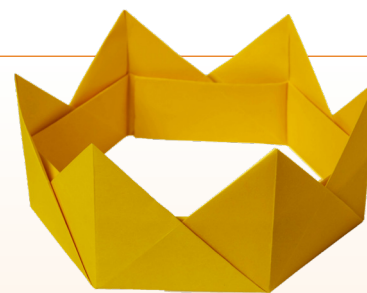
"To all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God" (John 1:12).

Things you need:

- Gift-wrapped treats that your children will really enjoy, such as favorite food or a special beverage or a small faith-related gift
- A gold crown for each child, with his name written on it
- Gems and craft supplies to decorate the crowns
- Invitations that say: "Dear child, I hope you will choose to follow Me because I love you and I want you to live with Me in heaven forever."

Worship activities

1. Find a suitable place to hide the gifts and crowns before worship—preferably in an attractive place.
2. Read John 1:12 and explain what it means—that if we choose to accept Jesus and follow His leadership in our lives, we become children of God.
3. Tell your children that they can choose what to do during worship time. They can do a chore they don't enjoy, without any reward, or they can follow you on an adventure with a treat at the end. Ideally, they choose well!
4. Go on a walk through your home, garden, or neighborhood. Go under and over things to make the walk interesting, and into places where your children might not usually go.
5. Ask them to follow you closely and to go wherever you lead them. If you wish you can give them some extra treats along the way, such as a special juice drink or pack of stickers, etc.
6. Finally lead them to the place where you have hidden the crowns and the treats. Crown them as children of God and give them their gifts.



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7. Talk about how this activity helps them to understand the choices they are making and the wonderful rewards of choosing to follow God.

Prayer

Give each child a handwritten invitation to follow Jesus. Give them the time and space to think about their answer and write it down privately, if they wish. They may also choose to share their answers and choices with you. If this isn't the right time for your children, that's fine. Keep praying, and let the Holy Spirit prepare them for the time that's right for them.

Experiment #6: The Power of Fire and Water

This experiment illustrates the power of the Holy Spirit in the life of a Christian. We all have bad habits, character flaws, or recurrent sins that we would like to remove from our lives but cannot get rid of by our own will power. When we turn to Jesus for help and open our lives to the influence of the Holy Spirit, even the hardest sins can be removed.

Materials: Glass bottle (Coca Cola glass bottles work better than others), alcohol, string of wool or cotton, wide plastic container (diameter 25 cm), tall plastic container (taller than the bottle), water, ice, scissors, lighter

Time: 5 minutes

Safety warning: This experiment uses fire, so it must be performed at a safe distance from children.

Values: God's power to change our character through the Holy Spirit

Procedure:

1. Before the performance of the experiment, prepare the following items: (a) Pour water into the wide plastic container (2 cm from the bottom); (b) Cut a 40-cm string of wool or cotton thread; (c) Fill the tall container with cold water mixed with some ice up to ¾ of its capacity.
2. Ask the audience if they have anything in their lives, a bad habit or a character flaw, that they would like to change but feel incapable on their own. Tell them that we will represent this bad habit, so hard to break, with a hard object such as a glass bottle (show the bottle). Explain: *To try to break this bottle we can use violence but it will likely turn it into useless, harmful pieces. Is it possible to break a hard material like glass without the use of violence, turning a bad habit into something useful? Let's see if we can do it using only fire and water.*
3. Wrap the string around the base of the bottle neck. If you are using a Coca Cola bottle, wrap it just below the upper ridge of the tag space. Tie the string with a tight knot and cut the excess ends as close to the knot as possible.
4. Soak the string with alcohol. Try to be precise, not pouring alcohol on the rest of the bottle. Do this step on top of the wide container so any alcohol leak drops inside it and dissolves in the water.
5. Light the string on fire. Hold the bottle by both ends and rotate it constantly over the wide container until the flame dies off.

6. Quickly, put the bottle inside the tall container with water and ice. The bottle will break where the string was, turning into a cup.

7. Ask the audience what water and fire may represent in this experiment.

Explain: *When we decide to follow Jesus, we show that decision by being baptized in water.*



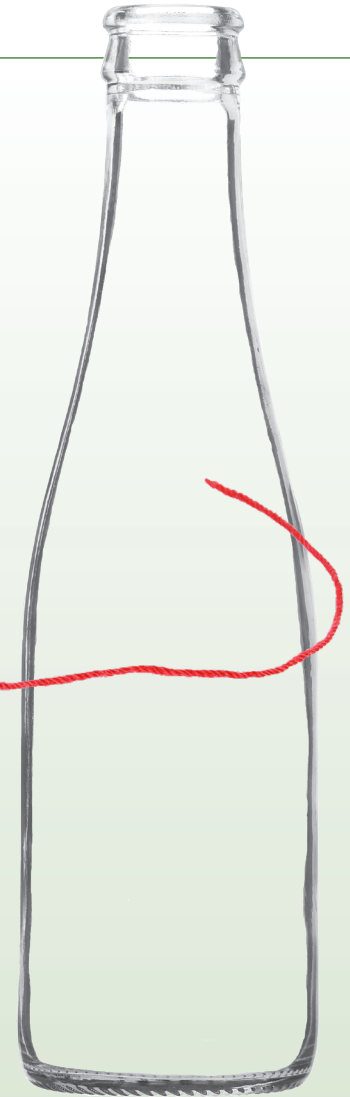
Baptism is a symbol of a radical change of life, and Jesus himself said that it should be accompanied by our surrender to the action of the Holy Spirit, which in the Bible is sometimes represented by fire. We don't need to be stronger than our sins on our own. Jesus already won the battle against sin and He promised to give us the Holy Spirit to clean us and transform our lives into vessels of honor, prepared for every good work (2 Timothy 2:21).

The Science

Behind The Experiment:

Most materials expand when exposed to heat and contract with cold. In this experiment, the section of the bottle where the string is tied is subjected to high temperatures (dilation) and suddenly changes to very low temperatures (contraction), what causes it to break.

Note: This experiment is a little tricky, so it is recommendable to try it at home several times before performing it in front of an audience.



Noemi Duran

Geoscience Research Institute
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TURBOCHARGE

your Children's Ministry

Trust Your Team

You can't make a real impact—or start seeing real change—until you learn to duplicate yourself. For example, as your role evolves and grows, your responsibilities will also scale up accordingly. You'll find yourself tied up in meetings, on the phone, on the computer. But you have so much to do! Identify others who can do with excellence the things that you no longer have time for. Better yet, find people who can do those things better than you could.

Identify what only you can do.

As the leader, there are certain things that only you can do. Maybe it's ministry visits, meeting with leadership, or handling a disgruntled parent or volunteer. Identify what those *specific* things are.

Be wise. Prioritize. Make the most of your time.

Delegate your weaknesses. If you can't quickly reconcile a budget or write a mailer paragraph, find someone who can. Better still, find someone who's (a) great at it and (b) enjoys it. Seek win-wins. Set your expectations clearly. Just because you're not doing it doesn't mean you should neglect it. Ultimately, you'll have to answer for all the work under your charge. You're not delegating the responsibility ... just the execution.

Enable failure. Encourage it if you have to. Promise your team that if they'll play within your leadership, with integrity, always giving their best work, then you'll always publicly support their

efforts. You can handle any adjustment, correction, or reproof appropriately: in private. Dirty laundry belongs in the hamper, not in the living room. Create an environment where it's safe to reach big ...and to fail just as big.

Get out of the way. You can tell when you have the right people. How? Because they'll exceed your personal ability. Water your team. Then let it flourish. Let it grow.

The people serving with you want to be a part of big things. They want to please you. They want to succeed. Let them. Then you can focus on the things you really need to, secure in the knowledge that your team's got your back.

From: Hudson, D. & Werner, S.: *100 Best Ideas to Turbocharge your Children's Ministry*. Group Publishing, Loveland, Colorado, USA, 2013

52 WAYS TO PARENT HAPPY CHILDREN

Managing conflicts peacefully - finding creative solutions (1)

When you're angry and upset it's hard to think clearly. The very first thing to do is to help people calm down to prevent the argument from getting out of control. When everyone has calmed down, invite each person involved in the disagreement to talk about how the problem or conflict affects them. You can't solve a problem until you know what it really is, and what everyone involved is thinking, feeling and hoping. Here are simple ways to help everyone understand the problem better:

Loving Listening

Use a small piece of cloth, like a handkerchief, scarf, or even a sock.

Speaker rules

- You can only speak if you have the cloth, and you must take it in turns to hold it.
- When you have the cloth you can speak up to three sentences at a

time, but only about your own ideas, hopes, and so on.

- After you have spoken, stop and let the listeners repeat what they think they have heard you say. This makes sure that they are listening carefully, and you can check that they've heard what you meant to say. You can then clarify what you were trying to say, if they didn't quite understand your meaning.
- You are not trying to solve the problem by talking like this. You are just making sure that the listeners understand you feelings, needs, hopes and ideas.
- After two or three speaking/listening turns, the speaker hands the cloth to the listener/s

Listener rules

- You need to listen very carefully when the speaker is talking.
- After they have said a few sentences



they will stop and you will need to summarize what you heard them say.

- Only summarize what they actually said: you don't argue, comment, interpret, or even agree with them.
- You are not trying to solve the problem. You are making sure that you understand the other person's feelings, needs, hopes and ideas.
- When they have spoken and you have summed up several times, they will give you the cloth and then it's your turn to talk about your ideas, needs, concerns, fears and hopes.

To be continued in the next issue.

From: Holford K.: *52 Ways to Parent Happy Children*. Autumn House Publications, Grantham, Lincolnshire, UK, 2016



ACTIVITY REPORT



News of the Portuguese Union

K.I.D. Trainings

CAOD

There is a clear teaching in the Bible to make our children disciples. In the present context of the aging church and with a marked loss of youth, we are called by Jesus to make disciples: *"Go therefore, teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19).*

Jesus left us with the mission of making disciples, teaching and baptizing them to have access to salvation. On an ankle of reaching souls for Christ, seeking out those who do not know or have ever heard of a God of love, we have somehow neglected what we already have within our church. Children are potential citizens to the kingdom of heaven but as we can see through the current percentage, half of them leave the church. Is it not important for these children to be disciples of Jesus?

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is aware of this troubling situation and seeks to address it through the realization of the KID project. KID, is an acronym for the division project called Kids In Discipleship. From 3 to 5 March, the Children's Ministries of the UPASD in partnership with the Division conducted training for various groups of various churches from around the country. This KID training aims to train and prepare a group of 3 or 4 people from 10 pastoral districts per year. These KID teams will then work with mentoring groups and discipling parents who in turn have trained churches to reach families, parent

training, and mentoring on discipleship methods for children. The main goal being the growth of disciples by the transmission of important spiritual values not only in Adventist belief domains but also in testimony and relationships.

It is important to keep in mind that our church children are potential future disciples of Christ. It is from 0 to 13 years that the human being is more interested in spiritual matters. Children are the important disciples of today and tomorrow, and even more so because the population of our Adventist church in Portugal is aging, that is, the average age of church members in our country is 44.41 years. An aging, less dynamic population will have more difficulties and challenges to complete the mission that Christ has given us. Making disciples also goes into preparing these children today, the KID is the current method of making disciples among the younger ones. May the Lord God bless this project.

Nuno Venâncio

Pastor of the churches of Corroios and Paivas

the same time, which served to educate and motivate the brothers for this important work that will be developed with parents and families who wish to participate in this project. They were moments of reflection, of prayer, of closeness to God and to each other. The strong component of formation was the understanding of the vital principle of: making our children disciples, we must also be on a journey of discipleship with Jesus. At the moment we are already working towards the implementation of this program in the churches of Madeira Island. We pray that God will help us to be a blessing to the families of the church.

José Lagoa

Regional Director of Madeira and the Azores



Madeira

From April 8 to 10, we had the KID training in Madeira. In this formation, we had the trainers: Elsa Cozzi, Paula Amorim, Samuel de Abreu, José Lagoa. In this formation we also had the churches of Funchal and Caniço, along with the respective trainees and pastors José Lagoa and Eurico Correia. It was a training course, but time was profitable, with a theoretical and practical component at

EXPOKID

"Do you not know that your body is a sanctuary of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have from God, and ye are not your own? Because you were bought at a price. Now therefore, glorify God in your body" (1 Corinthians 6:19, 20).

On March 27, 2019, the church of Pinhal Novo held Expokid at the College of Discoveries in Montijo with the participation of children from the 1st and 2nd cycles of a total of 115 children.

It was a wonderful day when we were able to share and teach the children the 8 natural remedies, encouraging them to a

healthy lifestyle, as our Lord Jesus taught us.

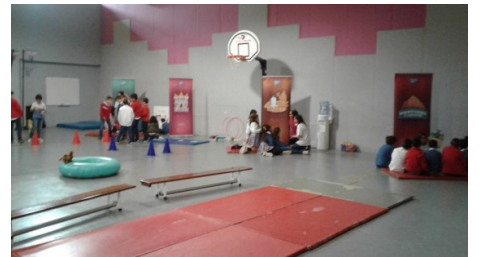
We had the participation of 11 volunteers from the church of Pinhal Novo, 1 volunteer from the church of Setúbal and 1 volunteer from the church of Corroios, a total of 13 volunteers. We also count on



the collaboration of Pastor Daniel Bastos and Pastor Paula Amorim.

It was with great joy that we carried out this project that we hoped would have been the first of many.

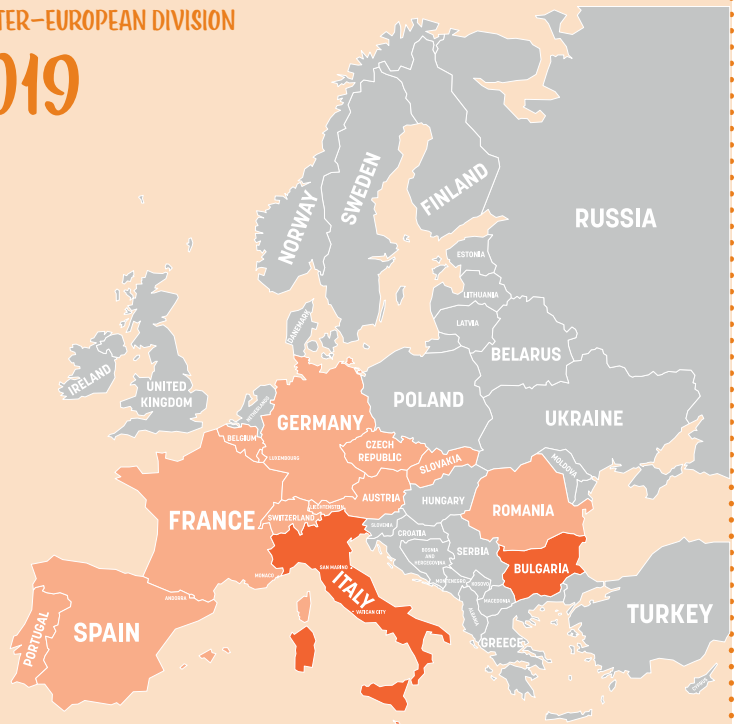
Ana Sofia Tigol de Matos



Keep in Mind

EVENTS FROM THE INTER-EUROPEAN DIVISION

2019



October 3-6

Deaf Interpreters Training
Milano, **Italy**

November 15-17

CHM Training Course
Sofia, **Bulgaria**

September 18-22

People 7.0. Forward Together
Interministries Summit
Organized by
Children's / Family / Women's Ministries
Lignano Sabbiadoro (Venice), **Italy**

DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY!

Visit
people7.net
for more information
and registration.
Registration still possible!

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PEOPLE 7.0

Forward together

REGISTRATION OPEN

LIGNANO SABBIAORDO
ITALY

18-22
SEPTEMBER
2019

Registration
www.people7.net

Seventh-day
Adventist Church
INTER-EUROPEAN DIVISION

More information: People7@eud.adventist.org.net • [+41] 31 359 15 55



BELLA ITALIA VILLAGE



A MULTigenerational church is not an INTERgenerational one

Not necessarily.

In a MULTigenerational church, the generations can show up on the same day and in the same place, can all be in the attendance rolls and partner files, but not be interrelated or interconnected in life or experience.

This is the *illusion of a multigenerational church*. What's underneath may show some deep needs to meet, and obstacles to overcome.

Here are just a few of those:

- Older generations have the money and resources to keep the lights on, so their preferences, advice, and past experiences hold more weight in the direction of the church.
- OR
- Younger generations are “the future,” so massive shifts in worship, style, look, and structure of the church are risked to head towards that future.
 - Older individuals in leadership create programs and resources FOR, not WITH, younger generations.

AND

- Younger generations don't feel lis-

tened to, valued, or heard.

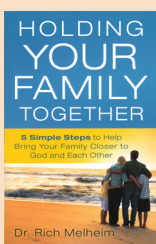
- Separate church and worship experiences are created, so each generation can be in their comfort zone more often.
 - Small group-based multigenerational churches are sometimes life-stage oriented, separating needed wisdom from needed energy.
- In an INTERgenerational church, the opposite of the above are true.
- Older and younger generations are “in the trenches together”—taking time to be together consistently and talk about difficult church and cultural topics from their different generational perspectives. Emphasis is not on who's “right,” or “experience,” **but a genuine desire to learn, discover, and come to useful agreement.**
 - This **communication** is not accidental or inconsistent or random, but **facilitated intentionally and prioritized by church leadership.**
 - Younger generations feel like they have a clear pipeline for communicat-

ing ideas and feedback to older and leadership figures. But they are humble and honoring of older generations while doing it.

- Older generations don't feel like they have all the answers or all the best ideas, but put themselves in a posture to learn relationally with younger generations.
- The Sunday [or Sabbath -- Ed.] morning experience is a shared one. With loving and humble intergenerational relationship as the fuel, younger generations honor the traditions and heritage of older generations in some style and worship, while older generations get excited about fresh (and spiritually healthy) worship and ministry expressions.
- Elder generations are not something to be moved on from, and younger generations are not something to be moved towards – the necessity for all to serve and minister together, and to be honored by the other as Christ loves all His church, is not just said and believed, but also practiced

From: http://collegiatecollective.com/multigenerational-intergenerational-churches/#.XVxfilBS_MI (accentuation by editor)

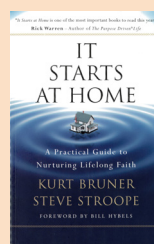
RECOMMENDED RESOURCES



HOLDING YOUR FAMILY TOGETHER

Dr. Rich Melheim

Imagine a home where every person feels loved, valued and heard. Imagine a family that seeks God's wisdom, will and Word together. Imagine an intimate, affectionate community where every night is an experience of caring, sharing, comfort and peace. You can make this beautiful picture a reality in your home. But it won't happen by accident—you need a plan! This book is a workable, powerful plan based on a simple nightly routine: Share, Read, Talk, Pray, Bless.



IT STARTS AT HOME

Kurt Bruner & Steve Stroope

Faith must be nourished in the rich soil of a God-honoring family. The church's role is to provide the water. But lifelong faith requires deep, abiding roots. This book is a wakeup call for us to recognize a dramatic generational shift and respond with workable, realistic, and biblical strategies for spiritual formation at home. The authors encourage leaders, couples, parents, and grandparents with unique clarity on how to achieve success where it matters most.



FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE! Parenting preschoolers faithfully

Marilyn Sharpe

A realistic, encouraging, and supportive book for all who want to nurture faith in Jesus Christ in the home—while using proven methods for raising great preschoolers. Full of practical suggestions for daily life together, this book will be your companion and guide as you navigate this formative time in your child's life. Ideal for parents, grandparents, teachers, and childcare providers.



THE CHILDREN'S MINISTER

Rita B. Hays

Whether clergy or lay, serving on a church staff or in volunteer ministry, those who work with children will find themselves facing several of the situations outlined in this book. Here is a highly practical guide to ministering with children and their families. However, this book isn't simply a book focused on crises. The author points out opportunities for ministry through recognizing the importance of pets to children (and adults as well!), and the importance of birthdays.



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