

CONTENTS

Inward Beauty.....	1
Praying with and for our Kids.....	1
Instilling a Biblical Worldview.....	2
Hugs from Jesus.....	2
Kids & ADRA.....	3
Adventist Possibility Ministries.....	4
Ellen White on Children.....	4
Teens Devotional.....	5
Questions & Answers.....	5
Quick Guide to Discipline.....	6
Kids & Family.....	6
Hints about Leadership.....	7
Worship Ideas for Kids.....	7
Kids & Science.....	8
Children's Declarations.....	8
Handbook on Children's Ministry.....	9
Parenting Teens.....	9
Activity Report.....	10-11
Keep in Mind.....	11
Intergenerational Discipleship.....	12
Recommended Resources.....	12



©Shutterstock.com

Helping Children to Value the Inward Beauty

The promotion of self-identity and self-admiration through media have provoked people to place much of their attention and judgment on the outward appearance than the inner self of a person. The world is reinforcing the unnatural and outward beauty trend among us, placing our children and teens in a position of greater risks making them feel less content with who they are and how they look. This may greatly affect a person's mental health and possibly deter spiritual well-being (Jennings, 2012). In addition, the rapid growth of the market and the increasing demand of plastic surgery (Yue, 2017) signify that a great number of people in this era embrace the unnatural beauty trend with open arms and it is here to stay.

The Culture of Upgraded and Unnatural Beauty

The pursuit of being beautiful and charming has always been part of man. The quest for what one does not have, however, has been continually reinforced by media and society collectively for the past decades. Chinese and Korean parents are now making beauty pursuit for their children a combined effort (Yue, 2017). Cosmetic surgery being gifted to the children after high school graduation continues to rise as a popular option for self-confidence and possible job employment in China (Claudia, 2016). The country which is also fast speeding toward the world's top destination for people contemplating on having some procedures done on their bodies is South Korea. And the primary reason for its suc-

cess, according to Stone (2013), is the continual reinforcement of themes for "insecurity, social awkwardness and body awareness - resonated deeply within South Korea, a culture where children are bred to be brilliant, in both studies and appearance" (para. 1). And according to press release of International Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery or ISAPS in 2017, the demand for plastic surgery procedure is skyrocketing worldwide (ISAPS, 2017). A very important question remains: How could children, and teens without being in a family with financial capability to go for one deal with such tremendous pressures?

Bridging the Gap Through an Open Dialogue

The society is slowly leaving the natural or inborn beauty behind and embraces the cosmetic trend. While it is impossible for us to do away this trend, we must make sure that the emphasis on inner beauty has more significant value and of great worth among children and teens. The inner quality can bring on admiration in everyone including God Himself. Thus, having an open dialogue with children and teens on any issue of life is very essential. In doing so, we create and facilitate opportunities for children to reason and elevate their understanding. By doing so will enable them to come up with sensible options through their moral and Spirit-led conscience. This is called discernment or God's given capacity for every child, and the experienced and capable adults must take time to nurture, guide, and help develop them to bulge into full capacity and effective use.

Praying with and for our kids

The reciprocity of conversational prayer allows your children an opportunity to speak to God about their personal, private concerns. Since the Almighty is their *Father* in heaven, it is important that they learn to talk to Him about anything and everything that is on their hearts or on their minds.

A child's whole existence will benefit from being taught that he can tell the Lord anything on his heart with the very expressions with which he feels it. (...) God can handle anything that your children need to say. He simply wants them to trust Him enough to say it to Him.

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

INSTILLING A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW



Teach during the teachable moments

In Deuteronomy 6, the children of Israel were instructed: *And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise* (vs. 6-7, ESV).

Paul is telling Timothy to be prepared to teach those to whom he ministers, but this is also good admonition for today's parents. We, too, need to be prepared at all times.

We often talk about teachable moments in a child's life, but the truth is, for those teachable moments to be worth anything, we actually have to take advantage of them. We might be walking past a squirmy caterpillar with our child and think how this would be a great opportunity to talk to our child about creation. We might listen as our daughter tells us that her friend's little brother was diagnosed with leukemia and think it would be a good opportunity to pray with her- We might listen to our teen high school kids discuss a humanistic philosophy they heard from a teacher at school and think it would be good to guide them toward biblical conclusions. But if we don't actually do anything about these teachable situations, we haven't accomplished a thing. We need to be ready and prepared to take advantage of teachable moments.

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

Let Us Reason with Our Children

The Bible is God's Given Directives. Although the Bible does not provide us a definite answer in this regard, we can still find God's word directing us toward needed wisdom. Pertaining to Proverbs 1:4, the Bible is "to give prudence to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion". It is rational for us to consider ourselves as young in knowledge and less wisdom regarding many issues in life. The central part of being prudent is to carefully analyze the available options before decision making. Psalms 119:105 assures us that God's word is given to guide and direct our path when we face darkness and uncertainties.

The Motivation of Beauty Enhancement:

The Bible does not specifically address that God is displeased with cosmetic surgery or beauty enhancement of any kind. However, the purpose of plastic surgery, if we consider a go-option, should have more to do with what we "need" and not what we "want." We certainly need to have our disfigured nose fixed due to accident and our gigantic mole be removed from our face as it could turn cancerous. These are considered corrective procedures for "an abnormality resulting from defects at birth, health condition, or accident" (Cosmetics, 2011, para 1). And instead of going for risky and expensive anti-aging cosmetic procedures, we might as well take the option of slowing it down naturally such as eating healthy, exercise, and having enough sleep daily. Besides, we must realize that underneath thick layers of cosmetic covering and skilled facial make up or with an enhancement of any kind, we are still same individuals. God surely does not want us to feel less content and ponder that He has made a mistake in our distinctiveness (Romans 9:20, 21). Trying to appear like someone else in appearance costs a lot of money, time, and many health risks. And when it does not bring satisfying results, our self-concept spins downward causing our mind and spirituality to become marred.

The Fulfillment of Emotional Need: Children must realize that emotional fulfillment that comes from social approval and positive public recognition are common to all of us. Through media, we value the instant approval and positive gestures of people outwardly. When a person has less or gets none, he or she might find himself/herself psychologically withdrawn. It is not easy for a person to feel worthy and content with worldly perspective. And if it is continually found lacking and a person is unable to replenish in the effort of boosting self-confidence, he or she might be driven toward emotional voids, dissatisfaction, and sense of worthlessness. Living in such mindset is never healthy. We must ask our children an introspective question or something of similar nature: *Do we really need to be outwardly beautiful in order feel good about being God's children?* ♦

To be continued in the next issue

References

- Claudia, N. (July 4, 2016). More Chinese Students are Going for Plastic Surgery After School Exams. Retrieved from <https://www.worldofbuzz.com/chinese-students-going-plastic-surgery-high-school-exams/>
- Cosmetics (September 10, 2011). The Difference between Plastic and Cosmetic Surgery. Retrieved from <http://www.cosmetics.com.au/news/the-difference-between-plastic-and-cosmetic-surgery/>
- ISAPS (June 27, 2017). Press Release- ISAPS Statistics 2017. Retrieved from <https://www.isaps.org/medical-professionals/isaps-global-statistics/>
- Jennings, T. R. (2012). *Could it be this simple? A biblical model for healing the mind*. Chattanooga, TN: Lennox Publishing.
- Stone, Z. (June 27, 2013). South Korean High Schoolers Get Plastic Surgery for Graduation: It is common to change one's face in Korea. Retrieved from <https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2013/06/south-korean-high-schoolers-get-plastic-surgery-for-graduation/277255/>
- Yue, P. (August 9, 2017). About Face: China's Plastic Surgery Market Grows Six Times Faster than Global Average. Retrieved from <https://www.chinamoneynetwork.com/2017/08/09/about-face-chinas-plastic-surgery-market-grows-six-times-faster-than-global-average>

Orathai Chureson-Saw
Southern Asia-Pacific Division
Children's Ministries Director



Hugs from
JESUS

God Loves Me All the Time

God loves us all the time. He loves us when we are good. He knows that loving Him will keep us safe and happy. God loves us when we have been naughty,

too. It makes Him sad, though, because He knows that when we disobey, we can get in trouble and, sometimes, we can get hurt.

Thank you, Jesus, for loving me, no matter what. Amen

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

A Girl Returning to Abstinence

A young girl, a student in Assahoun (Togo, Africa) secondary school tells her story:

My name is Agbagno Afi. I am from Assahoun. I'm 19 living with my parents who are farmers in Assahoun. I discovered ADRA in 2017 when I was in 5th grade. An ADRA field agent came to teach us about STI / HIV / AIDS in the classroom. What always shocked me and always stayed in my mind were the images of sexually transmitted infections that he showed us. They created fear in me.

I had my first sexual intercourse at the age of 17. I was in 4th grade. A friend of my dad's, who was 42 at that time, often came to the house. In fact, he visited my father as they are friends, but he was interested in me and gave me a lot of gifts (money, fabrics for sewing clothes, perfumes etc.). It is difficult for me to say the circumstances under which sexual intercourse took place but it was at his house. It's unbeknownst to my father, my mother and my siblings. 5 Months after our meeting, when his home visits became rare, my father told our family that this friend of his was seriously ill, and asked me, in particular, to take care of him. This inquiry touched me and plunged me into a reflection, *Why did my father speak to me particularly? Did he learn that I slept with him?* Another day, my father told us that his friend had done some tests, including the HIV test, and that the result was positive. This information shocked me a lot. I remember we had protected intercourse and then he unpacked a condom in front of me. I spent the night wondering, *Am I also infected because I slept with him? What to do? To whom do I confide, my parents, someone in the family?*

I was lost all the time in reflections, wondering about my fate. I didn't say anything to anyone. I had become sad and quiet. I had lost my appetite and ate very little. Many questioned me without receiving an answer. One day, after a talk



©Photo: private

on the need to know his HIV status, the idea came to me to confide in the ADRA field agent. I restrained myself. During a home visit, being alone at home, I decided to speak to him. I first took care to get from him a promise and a commitment not to tell anyone about what I was going to tell him. And in tears, I told him my story. He took it easy to listen to me and reassured me. He convinced me and took me to the Assahoun hospital for testing. The result was negative. What a relief! It's the end of a nightmare. I am reborn.

I resolved afterward to keep myself from any relationship with any man. I asked to join the girls' club created in my school. In the club, all the girls learned to carry out an income-generating activity for financial autonomy. With the help of the field agent and the head of the girls' club who gave me 5,000 CFA francs (ca.

10 Euro). I started selling pure water on market days and on Sundays in front of churches and other gathering places. It works well! Today, no man can have me with money. I no longer have a boyfriend. I am free in my head and I work well in school. I am well engaged in the girls' club and the anti-AIDS club in my school. I educate my comrades to keep their virginity until their marriage, and I tell them about my own experience. In the club, we learn a lot. Already, I watch over my 2 little sisters so that they do not live my experience.

©Photo: private

Please support ADRA's Advocacy campaign.

Web: <https://inschool.adra.org/>

Catherine Anthony Boldeau
ADRA-UK
Development Education Officer



"Daddy, I don't want to go to church."

Every Saturday in the fifth row of the pews of a church, a 12-year-old deaf girl and her family are sitting trying to listen to the sermon.

Every second the girl sits there, she looks at her watch and watches the hands go by. Tick-tock, tick-tock...

I feel like going home now and doing something useful. I can't stand people looking at me and all they can do is give me a smile, have compassion for me and sometimes not even that. For me, the Church is a bore. I don't feel comfortable, Dad. I want to go home!

Her parents are already desperate to try to get her to love God and they don't know what else to do. There's no one to preach to her in her language, in sign language.

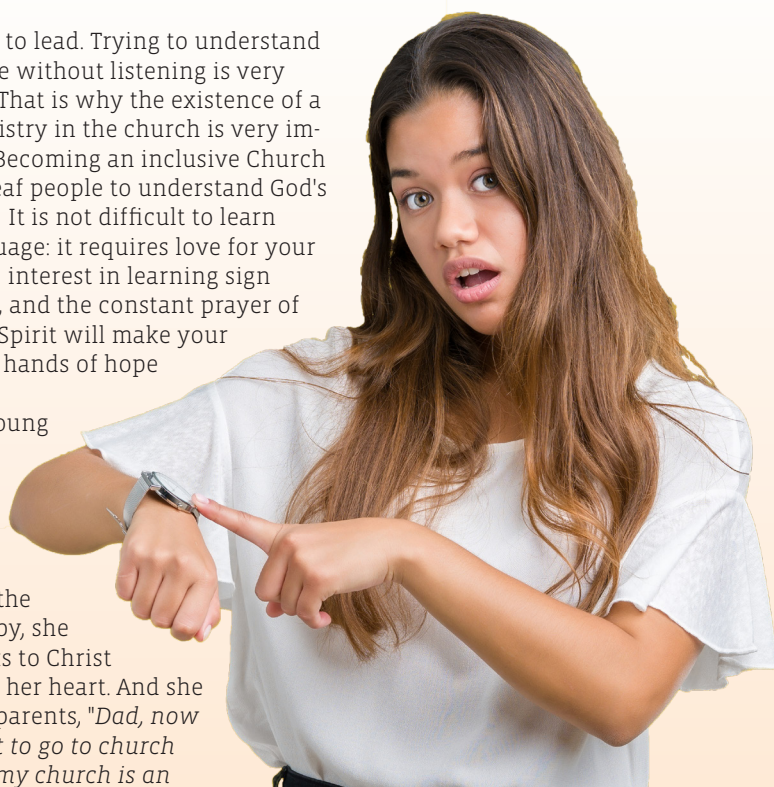
Why go to church if I don't know what's being preached? Moreover, I have no friends, because no one wants to come near me or talk to me, because neither do I understand them nor they understand me. Sitting here, as if I were an object—what for, I wonder. To listen to the message of a Savior? To listen? I don't mean to offend anyone. But if there is no one who speaks in my language, how can I understand a God who supposedly died for me?

These kinds of thoughts and behaviors are repeated over and over again in churches where there are deaf children and youth. A life of silence

isn't easy to lead. Trying to understand a message without listening is very difficult. That is why the existence of a Deaf Ministry in the church is very important. Becoming an inclusive Church allows deaf people to understand God's message. It is not difficult to learn this language: it requires love for your neighbor, interest in learning sign language, and the constant prayer of the Holy Spirit will make your hands be hands of hope for them.

This young girl is no longer alone, she no longer watches the clock go by, she now looks to Christ who is in her heart. And she asks her parents, "Dad, now I do want to go to church because my church is an inclusive church, can I invite my deaf friends from school?"

From the Deaf Ministries, we propose to transform your church into a church that truly preaches with the love of Christ.



©Shutterstock.com

Taida L. Rivero Herrera
Spanish Union
Director of Deaf Ministries



It is right to love beauty and to desire it; but God desires us to love and seek first the highest beauty, that which is imperishable. No outward adorning can compare in value or loveliness with that "meek and quiet spirit," the "fine linen, white and clean" (Revelation 19:14), which all the holy ones of earth will wear.

The Acts of the Apostles, p. 523



Bible Passage

Read 1 Samuel 16 with this devotional.

No doubt Eliab thought he was bigger and better and stronger than his smallest brother, David. His father, Jesse, may have thought so too. Samuel certainly did, for when he saw Eliab he said to himself: "Surely the Lord's anointed is before Him" (1 Samuel 16:6). But the Lord wasn't looking at the outward appearance. He was looking at the heart, and the Lord chose David, the youngest of eight brothers. God's choices are often big surprises to grown-up men and women.

Once upon a time, away over in a little church in Scotland, was a discouraged preacher. He had tried for an entire year to invite people to unite with the church, but the only person to accept and openly confess Jesus as his Savior was a little lad. The church officers weren't happy. One morning one of them went to the pastor and said, "There must be some-

thing wrong with your preaching, for only one person has taken his stand all year long, and he is *only a boy*." The poor preacher felt so discouraged, and after everybody had left the church, he stayed there, wondering why he had failed. He didn't notice the door open. The first thing he knew, the boy—the only one who had responded to his preaching—was standing beside him. The boy put his hand on the preacher's hand, and said, "Do you think that if I am willing to work hard I could become a preacher?"

"A preacher!" said the minister.

"Yes, and perhaps a missionary," said the boy. Tears came to the pastor's eyes as he said, "May God bless you, my boy. Yes, I think you can become a preacher."

That little lad was Robert Moffat, who became one of God's great missionaries to South Africa. God used him mightily in Africa, but not only there. Once when he was back in England he was telling of the land where he saw "in the morning sun the smoke of a thousand villages where no missionary has ever been," and David Livingstone responded to the call!

But once Robert Moffat was only a boy, a boy who responded to God's call.

Never mind your looks—whether you are tall or



short, fat or thin. Keep your heart right, for "the Lord looks at the heart."

The Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.

2 Kings 6:17

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

TOUGH QUESTIONS & POSSIBLE ANSWERS



Why am I ugly?

Preschooler

Help your preschooler discover God made him or her just the way he or she is—which is wonderful!—on purpose. Your complete acceptance and affirmation, communicated through word and deed, will go a long way toward instilling confidence and a positive self-image.

Elementary Age

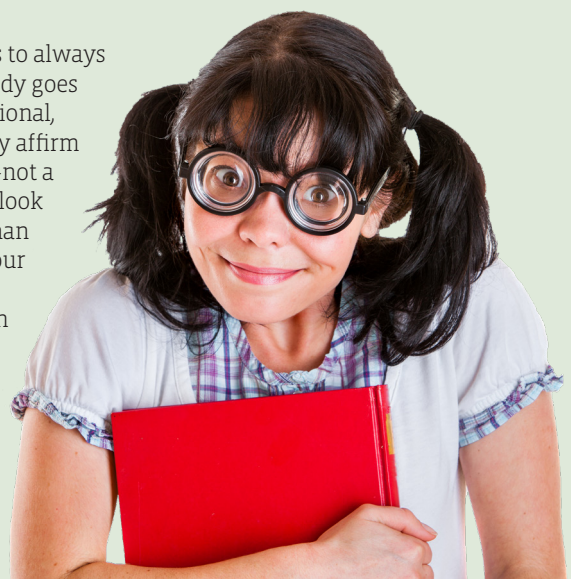
Help kids focus on who they *are* rather than how they look. Teach them to value character in themselves (and others) over outward appearances, and to do as God does: Look at the heart. Help them know that true beauty is on the inside. The foundation you're building now must support your child through his or her preteen and teen years.

Preteen

Your child is being pressures to always look good, even as his or her body goes through intense physical, emotional, and social changes. Consistently affirm your child's value as a person—not a pinup—and help your preteen look to God for affirmation, rather than the mirror. That said, do help your child with basic fashion and hygiene; most bad hair days can easily be avoided.

Related Scriptures

Read 1 Samuel 16:7 and Psalm 19:13-14 with your child for God's take on lookin' good.



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: Dress Codes

Question: The girls in my class come with too much flesh showing, and the boys' pants are about to fall off. Can I lay down the law, or am I being lame?

Answer: First, pray for discernment. Make sure the way your kids dress is truly inappropriate and not just a fad that annoys you. Dressing "differently" is one way preteens express their developmentally appropriate need for autonomy.

Next, gather input on appropriate dress from parents. Parents are on the front line, setting and enforcing standards. As much as possible, allow them to drive standards.

Finally, share apparel standards with your entire preteen group. For

special events, such as camps or overnights, specifically state what attire is appropriate, such as "only one-piece bathing suits allowed." Without gentle guidance, your preteens may well gravitate toward the lowest fashion standards. Your willingness to address the issue will help kids learn to dress appropriately.

What you should do

- Set a personal example of appropriate and comfortable attire.
- Talk with preteens about the message their attire can send to others.
- Compliment kids on the way they dress.

What you should not do

- Don't judge trendy attire as a sign of a troubled child.
- Don't embarrass kids by publicly criticizing or teasing them about their clothing choices.
- Don't assume kids know the messages they might be sending with their clothing choices.

Genius Tactic

Host a preteen fashion show with modest clothing borrowed from local retailers. Kids will see firsthand how they can dress respectfully and still look "cool."

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

KIDS & FAMILY

BY RAINER WANITSCHKEK,
EUD FAMILY MINISTRIES



Our family gates—The 4th gate: The Valley Gate

Jerusalem was the capital and meeting place of the Israelites in the Old Testament. This had to do with the temple, the sanctuary, the visible residence of God on earth. God wanted to dwell among his people. He wanted to be with his children, his family. Everyone was invited to this. The meetings in the city should encourage people to trust their God. The various gates still show us today what our family life should be shaped by. After the "Sheep Gate" (God's Lamb, Jesus, bore the guilt of the world and invites us to entrust our lives to Him), the "Fish Gate" (we should be fishermen of men for our Saviour and God), the "Gate in the old wall" (always reminding us how God led His children in the past and wants to continue to lead them), we now come to the "Valley Gate" (Nehemiah 3:13).

This gate led out of the city into the valley plains. This gate was the first gate of the nightly inspection of the city wall of Jerusalem by Nehemiah, who went through it to see the damage of the wall (Nehemiah 2:13). Nehemiah knew he was carried and commis-

sioned by God. Therefore, he took this quiet time without distraction to get an idea of his task.

We also need this quiet, distraction-free time with our God. Every day so much is flowing in on us. And as long as everything goes well, we hardly take notice of the really important things in life. The Valley Gate reminds me of Psalm 23, especially the passage in verse 4: "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death..." At the moment, more than 180 countries on this earth are fighting with Covid-19. For a few weeks now we have to stay at home, public life is totally restricted. Many have fallen ill. Some - especially many elderly people - have died (lonesome) of the Corona virus. Many more people are affected by unemployment. Children cannot go to school, nor can they meet their friends. Some of them just have the opportunity to share with each other through the media. All events such as concerts, church services, meetings, celebrations, etc. are canceled until further notice. Suddenly our world is changing - our

families too: we are very close together in our homes. What for some people means to finally be able to spend time together, for others it means highest stress times: domestic violence, being lonely, ... just to name a few. The "Valley Door" however, wants to encourage us to seek help. Psalm 23 reminds us in verses 4 and 5: "I will fear no evil, for you are with me..." Perhaps this time for our family is a reminder that we take time for the really important things in life: to create a place, a family, where no one has to fear. Even when circumstances are stressful. Where we are there for each other. The best way to do this is to take Jesus at his word, who said He'd be with us! Let us as families again consciously plan time with Jesus. With a morning or evening prayer together. And then let us learn from his story with people who trusted him. Like David, Esther, John. And many others. And as God has led us as parents and families up to this point. Even through dark (Corona-) valleys.



©Shutterstock.com

DEVELOPING AN URGENCY FOR GROWTH

God has woven within each of us the desire to stretch and reach toward the potential He invested in us.

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

QUICK AND EASY WORSHIP IDEAS FOR KIDS

Prince or princess for a day!

Bible Stories

- The New Jerusalem—Revelation 22
- Mephiboseth—2 Samuel 9
- King Joash 2 Kings 12
- King Josiah 2 Kings 22; 23

Things you need:

Anything to make your child feel like a prince or princess for the day!

- crown
- special clothes
- your child's favorite foods for every meal
- special cloth to cover your child's chair

Worship activities

1. Help your child feel like a prince or princess:
 - a. Let the child dress up if he/she likes to.
 - b. Serve his/her favorite foods (whatever they are).
 - c. Grant three special requests for the day. (Offer the child five possible choices to limit the requests to things you would be willing to do!)
2. In worship time talk about how this is a special day and your child is being a prince or princess just for today.
3. Tell your child that in God's eyes he/she is a prince/princess every day, and everybody else is a prince/princess in His eyes also.

4. In heaven everyone will be princes and princesses forever, and they will have a real gold crown and special clothes to wear. In heaven they will have all the time they ever need to do what they want to do. Their choices won't be limited in heaven!
5. Thank God that we are all princes and princesses in His kingdom because He is the King and we are all His children.

"So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir."

Galatians 4:7

Another option:

- Do this on your child's half birthday, or on any other day that suits you as a family; it doesn't have to be limited to birthdays.



©Shutterstock.com

Just for you

What does it mean for you that you are also a prince or princess in God's kingdom? What difference can that thought make to you today as you celebrate with your child?

Experiment #3: All that glitters is not gold (or silver)

Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean. In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness. (Matthew 23:27-28 NIV)

Jesus was kind and loving with everybody but he had some harsh words for the religious leaders of his time because they were not fulfilling their duties. Instead of drawing people closer to God they were scaring them away. One of the things that Jesus reprimands them for is hypocrisy: they pretended to be pure and faithful to God but in fact most of them were only concerned about external appearances and their hearts were full of wickedness. The following experiment is a simple way to show that appearances may deceive us but not Jesus, because he knows the heart.

Materials: A candle, a transparent glass bowl, lighter or matches, one raw egg, metal tongs.

Time: 10 minutes.

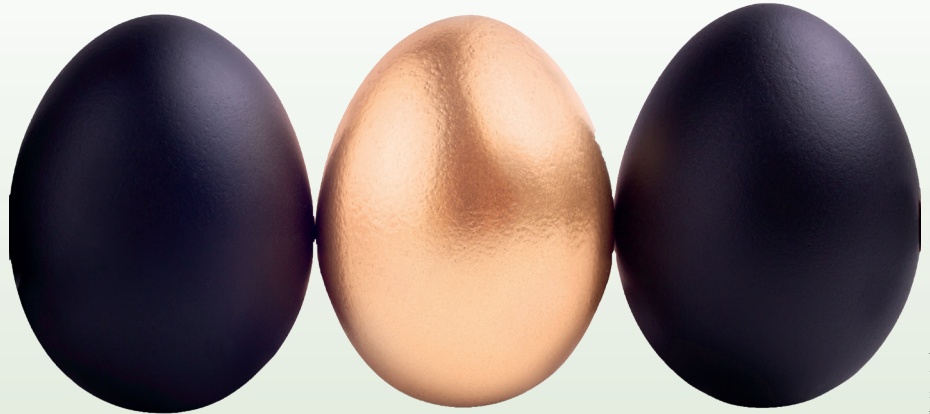
Safety gear: In this experiment you will use a lighter or matches to light the candle. Keep them and the ignited candle away from small children.

Values: Integrity and honesty versus hypocrisy. Appearances may be deceitful. Jesus' love and forgiveness.

Procedure:

You can do the entire experiment in front of your audience or prepare it in advance, show them the result first, and then show them the procedure.

1. Pour water in the bowl, enough to cover the egg you will use for the experiment.



2. Light the candle.
3. Hold the egg with the metal tongs and place it over the flame to cover it with soot. Turn the egg until it becomes completely black.
4. When the entire egg is coated in soot, gently immerse it in the bowl of water. When looking through the glass, the egg will look silvery and shiny.

If you decide to prepare the experiment away from your audience, directly show them the egg immersed in water and ask them what they see. Or you can make up a story and tell them, for instance, that you have found a rare gem, an old silver egg made by a jeweler artisan of the 15th century. Then, take the egg out of the water and show them that it is just a burnt hen egg. If you used the gem story, explain the audience that it was false, and that you used it to show that sometimes we are easily tricked by shiny objects. Explain: *Some people care a lot about looking good to others so*

they work hard to have a neat and shiny appearance but they do not care much about being actually good. In Jesus times, most religious leaders tended to act like that and Jesus severely reprimanded them. Jesus came to earth to save sinners. He wants us to go to him with all our faults and problems because He will forgive our sins and help us to overcome them. But when people "cover" their sins with a clean appearance and do not want to change, they will stay burnt and dirty despite their outer false shine.

The Science Behind The Experiment:

The carbon in the soot is hydrophobic (water repellent), so it stays away from water by holding a thin layer of air around the egg shell. This air reflects light rays and makes the egg look silver.

Noemi Duran

Geoscience Research Institute
Director of the European
Branch Office



Children's Declarations

THAIS (3 YEARS)



When you're old, I'll still love you, 'cause it won't be your fault.

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



©Shutterstock.com

From the HANDBOOK

on Children's Ministries

Discipline

Discipline can be a problem for teachers in clubs, classes, or camps. Teachers often ask themselves, How much obedience should I demand? How permissive should I be? Sometimes a situation with a student can get out of control and almost beyond endurance. An undisciplined class is demoralizing to the child, teacher, and other children. Here are some preventive keys to ensure productive classtime:

- **The Teachers Attitude.** This is the first key. Be genuine. Show a sincere interest in the children. Be accepting of them and love them unconditionally, just as God loves and accepts us. Develop a positive attitude toward the students and try to make positive comments on their behavior. Always be in control of your temper and your tone of voice; never allow anger to flare up in the heat of the moment—no matter how hot it gets! Pray for yourself and your children. If you are too busy to pray for your Bible teaching ministry, then you are just too busy.
- **Preparation.** This is the second key to good discipline. Prepare well in advance—and adequately. Preparation will give you confidence and develop the children's trust in you as their leader. A warm, caring environment helps children know they are loved and accepted. Understand how God has designed your learners—physically, mentally, socially, emotionally, and spiritually—and equip your surroundings to meet their needs. Many teachers have to expend most of their time and patience struggling to keep learners seated in chairs that were not designed to hold children their size. Know your learners' home situations. Insight in this area will help you understand their backgrounds and perhaps their negative behavior. Learn the names of all your students—not just the ones of those who get into trouble.
- **An Age-Appropriate Schedule.** Gearing your schedule to your class's age is the third key. Children are not miniature adults. They are children with specific needs. To avoid

feelings of pressure, allow children plenty of time to move from one activity to another. Provide them with choices to motivate their interest. Encourage those who are reluctant to join in. Provide movement that engages both large and small muscles. Variety in the type and pace of activities helps to eliminate boredom and restlessness. Involving learners in activities as soon as they arrive is especially crucial in averting any likely trouble. Always be ready and waiting for the first arrival.

- **The Teacher's Behavior.** Be a model in all you say and do. Direct learners by statements rather than by questions. Make good use of nonverbal communication—eye contact, a smile, a touch on the shoulder, a stern look. Take time to listen to your learners. For many of them, negative attention is better than no attention at all, and they'll do what they have to in order to get it. Encourage your learners through praise of specific positive behavior.

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

PARENTING TEENS

Abnormal rebellion

Involves a total refusal to co-operate in family or social responsibilities. Rebellion becomes abnormal when a teenager refuses to abide by reasonable household rules: ignores curfews, habitually experiments with alcohol, drugs and/or sex, or has repeated brushes with the law.

By the book?

It is a mistake to believe that when you've raised your children 'by the book' there will be no problems. Begin by separating what you are responsible for and what your teen is responsible for. You can only do so much. And you can always pray.

Does abnormal rebellion reflect on the parent?

Not necessarily. It can happen in the best-regulated homes of the most devout Christians. You need not feel responsible for *everything* an irresponsible teen does. If he chooses to make irresponsible choices regardless of your warnings, then he must reap the consequences of his own decisions.

You can only do your best.

'The family that prays together...?'

The Bible, family worship, Christian schools, regular church attendance, parental example, and consistency are essential and helpful in rearing children, *but these do not guarantee that our children will turn out well*. In parenting there are no guarantees.

No control freakery

No parent can or should control his teen's destiny. Just as God leaves us free to make certain choices, so we should allow our teens freedom to make some decisions,

Be ready to forgive

God always welcomes us back when we repent and ask for forgiveness. Be quick to forgive your prodigals!

Unconditional love

What do you do when teens test their religious values by attempting to reject yours? You make sure they understand that they are still part—and a valued part—of the loves family circle.



©Shutterstock.com

Family evenings

In the week there may be heated words or a bad scene or two. But on Friday evenings we should always embrace all members of the family. All need to know that they are loved and that they belong.

No matter how rebellious he is

Make sure that your teen receives the message of unconditional love. Even if he does not return it, it means more than you can ever know. God never withdraws his love from us. And since parents, in a sense, stand in the place of God to their children, they must be bale to demonstrate this kind of unconditional, indestructible love to a rebellious teenager, no matter how difficult it may be.

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



ACTIVITY REPORT



News from the Franco-Belgian Union

CHM Meeting

SMS (Real Time Faith) and Connecte-toi (Cornerstone Connection)

Paris, 15 February 2020

On a beautiful winter's day, when the sun was shining and the cold was biting, the Children's Ministries Department of the North France Conference (NFC) invited the SMS and Connecte-toi students from churches in the heart of Paris.

More than 190 young people were participating, accompanied by their teachers!

The registration was open from 8am for the early birds. Françoise Toniolo had prepared everything: a room where chairs were arranged as islands awaited the different groups of young people, a platform, badges, various materials and above all a warm and relaxed atmosphere. The technical team was totally involved, as well as the guests.

The morning program was held by

Françoise herself. To introduce the theme "Go with your potential", she based the message on the story of Gideon, making the link with our own realities of life, our brakes, our fears, but also and above all the call of God and his help. Her interventions were interspersed with moments when the groups could exchange and apply the different challenges of this message.

The young people also had the opportunity to reflect on a concrete commitment in which they wished to engage in the service of God and his witness.

After a convivial and relaxed meal time, the floor was given to the guests during the afternoon.

Pedro Torres shared a powerful and concrete spiritual message about the way we look at ourselves and its transformation under the influence of the divine spirit. With humour and emotion, he knew how to challenge us and touch our hearts.

Sékinah Todesco explained to us that we all have potential, that each one of us, according to our temperament, has

specific strengths and that we are all complementary. In a very concrete and pragmatic way, she gave us the opportunity to see ourselves as we are and if possible understand us better, in order to commit ourselves in a deeper way.

Philippe Aurouze, finally, ended the day with a presentation of spiritual gifts. He used some sequences from the film Rasta Rocket. The importance of the coach - the Holy Spirit, the importance of a team—the church, and the indispensable place of each one, within this team, with the gifts that the coach attributes to him, allows the team to fulfil its mission and win!

This day was rich in various stimuli, both spiritual and relational. Thanks again to Françoise Toniolo and the guests for such a proposal. And thanks to each young person and each leader for their presence and their commitment which made this moment possible. Go with your potential, now!

Ana Aurouze
Family Ministries, Franco-Belgian Union





ACTIVITY REPORT



News from the Franco-Belgian Union

Concert

On February 29, 2020, Children's and Youth Ministries of the North France Conference (NFC) presented the second edition of a "Farandole Musicale" at the MAS in the 13th district of Paris.

In this edition, the puppet Auto invited us to contemplate the beauty of nature and to admire by God's creation.

Auto wanted to teach us to look around us, he proposed to question ourselves about the nature around us and what we do with it.

To do this, he was surrounded by several choirs of children and young people who gave their voices to praise God.

We had a very good time with Auto and the different choirs.

Who are these choirs?

There was the Speranta choir, Angélique Harmonie, Chanterelle, Mantes la Jolie, Franconville, and a group of young people from Celle St Cloud, even the Lille choir that came from far away to share with us this delightful moment to give glory to the Lord and to thank Him for all the wonders of His creation.

Many testimonies came up the next day:

- I was discouraged / I came out of it strengthened...
- I was desperate / I took courage
- I was sad / I came out happy

This is what the voices of children and young people can bring by singing praises. Thanks to you!

In addition, the day has been a good moment for exchange. Several churches invited the choirs to come and sing in their home churches.

In spite of many obstacles, the

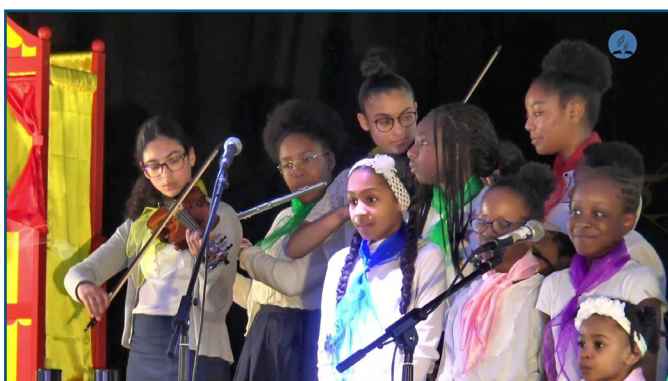
Lord encouraged all of us (leaders) by the care he took to bring down one by one the walls of resistance.

Thank you to the parents, friends and visitors who were present. Thank you to the choirs and their leaders, to the supervisory, nursing, security and technique teams, and to the Zagara family for the riddle.

The concert was followed by 700 persons on Internet on the CHM (MAE) website and the meter is still running—www.mae-eds.fr

It's time to sing together: Great is the Lord!

Severine Raquil
Drancy Church





ACTIVITY REPORT



News from the Franco-Belgian Union

Family Meeting

Meeting for the families of the South France Conference

At the end of October 2019, a dozen families met in the Valencia region to spend a weekend with Marc and Rachel Paton (the ZAP, Priority Action Zone, the family).

Following these shared moments, the testimony of some of our children was a source of encouragement. Some young children did not want to leave once the weekend was over, while others asked that this style of meeting may be repeated several times during the year.

Young parents expressed their pleasure (and their need) to find times of sharing that mixed playfulness and spirituality, which they had experienced during youth meetings and which they aspired to live

and share with their children once they became parents.

This meeting also raised questions: how to live as a family within the church, by being at the service of God but also by considering their specific needs?

What tools do we have at our disposal in our task as parents to help children grow in faith?

Mark and Rachel gave us some answers. Having lived a family ministry for many years, they are committed to equipping whole families for God's service. They accompanied us through times of reflection, praise and games so that we could find ways to witness to the gospel in every moment of our daily lives, through the situations we experience in our families. They made us aware of the importance of spending time playing with our children, in order to create bonds with them and to develop our pleasure in being

together. What a joy it was to see our children and teenagers enthusiastic and to share these "out of the ordinary" moments together, united in Jesus Christ!

Transmitting faith, at any time, in order to bring our children to Christ during the time they are entrusted to us... It is a great responsibility that must not overwhelm us because God is at our side, every day. Let us not be discouraged in front of the difficulties we encounter, but "in everything, through prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let us make known to God our requests, and the peace of God, which surpasses all thought, will keep our hearts and minds in Jesus Christ". According to Phil 4:6-7

Frédérique Dinsenmeyer
CHM, South France Conference





ACTIVITY REPORT



News from the Franco-Belgian Union

CHM in "Confinement" Mode

CHM of the Collonges Church in "Confinement" mode

We've been on the alert for a few days now. Some of us were talking about canceling youth activities because of the risks of coronavirus, others preferred to wait for the government's direction... It didn't take long. On Thursday, March 12, the verdict was in: The schools were going to close their doors and the churches followed suit. All youth activities were canceled or postponed, no more Sabbath School classes, no more worship sitting next to each other.

Soon ideas began to flow. Since the campus church already had all the material to film and broadcast the Sabbath program, the adult Sabbath School and worship would be filmed as usual and posted on YouTube.

What about the kids? What did they need? How to make them actors of our Church in this particular context?

More than ever, the Internet is overflowing with ideas of things to do, from stories to listen to and Do-It-Your-

self tutorials, to the point of sometimes feeling overwhelmed. The resources for the Sabbath School are already online, so parents just need to read the stories and follow the proposed schedule. The textbooks are already well done, what more can we offer?

It then came to us the idea of calling families to check in and encourage them to take time with their children to praise God and study the Bible together. Those we contacted by phone were happy to share a little. We realized that it was important to nourish our community spirit and these exchanges confirmed our intuition. We suggested that we create WhatsApp groups for each class to keep in touch and schedule sharing times on Zoom.

Over the past few weeks, several Sabbath School classes have been meeting on Sabbath mornings. The children enjoy seeing each other, sharing songs, stories, and even prayer. The Pathfinders also meet on Zoom on Sabbath afternoons for Bible studies.

As for the time of worship, each Sabbath we have a time of "talking to the children" with a story especially adapted for the youngest (although it generally pleases the older ones as well). In addition,

for more than a year now, we have been distributing a card to the children every Sabbath just before the preaching. This card is created in connection with the shared message. Colouring is proposed according to the theme, as well as other activities such as word scramble, verses to complete, etc. The card can be adapted to different age groups. The aim of this sheet is to create a link between the children and what happens during the preaching. While colouring, young people are often more attentive and can even retain things, which is a good habit to develop from childhood. In addition, this sheet can allow parents to discuss the topic later on.

Since the confinement, the sheet can be downloaded from www.egliseducampus.org and the Church's Facebook page and we invite children to send us their colouring by e-mail (mae.collonges@gmail.com). This way, each Sabbath we can recall the theme of the previous week and show the images received. It is always a pleasure for the children to see their colouring on the screen.

To our great delight, also some adults would like to participate. We therefore suggest that they let themselves be inspired by the worship service and send us drawings, paintings or photos. There is no age limit to be creative!

The CHM aims to offer a framework so that the youngest can get to know God and develop a relationship with him. To do this, we collaborate with the different departments of the Church for their integration in the different areas of activity. We rejoice because even during this time of confinement, we see that our young people continue to be involved in worship, be it with their musical instruments, drawings, small videos, etc. Our community remains a place of meeting and sharing, even during the time of confinement.

Cette fiche a été préparée par le Ministère Auprès des Enfants et des jeunes
Prédication de Sandra Gonçalves – 18 avril 2020

« Affronte tes géants ! »

Même quand on est jeune, on peut faire face à des difficultés, en faisant les devoirs par exemple ou en apprenant à gérer ses émotions... La Bible nous raconte beaucoup d'histoires de gens qui ont eu des défis. Les enfants d'Israël se sont même retrouvés face à des géants. Comment s'en sont-ils sortis ?

Tu peux m'écrire et envoyer ton coloriage à mae.collonges@gmail.com.
A très vite !
Gillianne

Coloriage

© Myriam Chaton

Ressources pendant le confinement
Le site de la fédération a beaucoup de belles idées pour toi et ta famille !
<https://ffs.adventiste.org/ressources-confinement/>

Les manuels de l'école du sabbat pour les 0-9 ans : sélectionner la tranche d'âge désirée, descendre à la section « français » puis cliquer sur « étudiant » et choisissez date de la leçon souhaitée.
<https://www.gracelink.net/>

Église Adventiste de Collonges-sous-Salève mae.collonges@gmail.com <http://www.egliseducampus.org/>

Cette fiche a été préparée par le Ministère Auprès des Enfants et des jeunes
Prédication de Sandra Gonçalves – 18 avril 2020

Un message à découvrir

Voici une grille avec des mots à trouver en lien avec ce qu'on peut vivre parfois...
Les lettres restantes révèlent un message de Jésus, une promesse d'un lieu où nous voulons tous aller !
Tu peux retrouver ce message dans la Bible, dans le livre de Jean.

N E S O Y E E Z P A R S S I N Q U I U E
T S C R O C Y E Z E S E N T D I E U N E
T C R O H Y E Z C E A U S S N I E N N M
O I D O A N S O T L A M A E I A S O O N
D E U M O N H L P E T R C E I L E Y C A
B E E A U M U C O E U N P D E N D G N R
R O I T E C S P S R A O U R H A B I I D
T E R N I C E T S I U D T P O U R Q E C
U O C F I J E E F V O E E U S A I F D H
I E F T J R E N V A I S P V V O I U S O
R I P R E P O A R E R U N E O S P L A I
D C E E T C E R D N E R P P A I Q U A X
F N D J E S E S R A I A L L E V R O U S
P A R E P A R E S R U N E P L A C S E J
E R C E V I E N D A R A I E T J E V O U
S P R I E N D R A I Y A V E C M O I D E
C E T T L E F A C O N E V O U S S E R E
Z V O U S E A U S S I L R A O U J E S U
I S J E A N Q U A T O R Z E V E R S E T
S U N A T R O I S E N C O R E

Mots à trouver

APPRENDRE
CHOIX
CONFIDANCE
DEFIS
DEVOIRS
DIFFICULTES
ECHOUER
ENCORE
ESSAYER
FACILE
GEANTS
INCONNU
PEUR
RECOMMENCER
TESTER

Église Adventiste de Collonges-sous-Salève mae.collonges@gmail.com <http://www.egliseducampus.org/>



ACTIVITY REPORT



News from the Franco-Belgian Union

Training on Adolescence

On the weekend of 15-16 February 2020, the CHM Department offered a special training course on adolescence at the Church of Woluwe, with the appreciated guests Elsa Cozzi (CHM EUD), Pascal Rodet (CHM FBU), and Mariarosa Cavalieri (CHM-Italian Union).

In addition to members of the local church, many of us came from other French, Spanish and Romanian speaking churches in Belgium to participate in an intergenerational Sabbath School. Mariarosa demonstrated the principles of the "Gracelink" manual in modeling a Bible lesson on Daniel's life in a playful, lively and captivating way for both

adults and children present. Elsa Cozzi and Pascal Rodet held a sermon about the importance of raising spiritually strong children based on the story of Joseph.

After having had a meal together, the guest speakers shared with the 50 participants topics on suicide prevention, sleep deprivation and the 5 languages of love in adolescents. On Sunday, in spite of being less participants, the quality of the presentations was excellent.

I would like to warmly thank the leaders of the Church of Woluwe for their warm welcome and their involvement in the preparation and success of this meeting.

Elizabeth Gonzalez-Liénard
CHM Belgo-Luxembourg Conference



Confinement with teenagers

Each person lives this situation differently. It all depends on individuals, their history, and their tolerance level. The confinement can create tensions if there is neither emergency exit nor outside refuge.

How to avoid tensions?

We can try to stick to a certain schedule, but everyone has their own, according to their own rhythm. We have to accept that the teenager gets up later; and lives at night to have more peace.

It is also necessary to ask everyone to be responsible: We shall ask adolescents for help, asking them to take responsibility, to participate in household chores, because when we are in lockdown it quickly becomes messy. Most teenagers need a little distance from their parents. So we respect their need for privacy, we don't open the door without knocking, we distribute in a fair way everyone's spaces, we accept that they isolate themselves in their rooms, that they use the screens—we can help them by advising to do something other than playing all day long, e.g. do some research, or watch documentaries. There is a distance, a space to be respected to limit conflicts, especially when you are a single parent with a teenager.

According to family psychologist François de Singly, one of the difficulties of the confinement is the school-family relationship. Usually a lot of the work is done in the classroom. And suddenly, parents are asked to become teachers' assistants, and

this in a context where some teens are in crisis.

The situation can quickly become explosive. First of all for parents who do not have the necessary tools to support their child. It is difficult to constantly switch caps, from being the fussy supervisor who ensures that the exercise is well done, to slipping into the parent's shoes playing cards. It's even more difficult in a single parent family where you must play both roles.

However, we have to try to balance things so that everyone can find their place between shared and private moments.

Enclosed between four walls all day, and for an unknown term of time, families must manage the first conflicts and clashes in time of confinement. To overcome them, let's learn to carry them out, and especially to forgive.

It is useless to deny the dissensions or to try to hide them under an apparent cordiality: it is much better to learn to deal with them. Now, what is it to bring them to fruition, if not to ripen them to pardon?

There is no fraternal life without forgiveness. No conflict is really serious if it leads to the forgiveness exchanged. On the other hand, the family atmosphere can be poisoned by seemingly unimportant small disputes, which are opportunities to accumulate injuries that may never be forgiven (and which persist years later, consciously or unconsciously, but always destructive).

Do not judge things too quickly, but put yourself in the place of the people concerned. What appears to us as a harmless

incident may be felt by the "victim" as a personal tragedy, especially among the young, and may be remembered years later.

It is important to express forgiveness. Asking for or granting forgiveness, goes without saying sometimes ... but it gets so much better by saying it! The opening of the lips to say "I ask your forgiveness", "I forgive you," is the sign of the opening of the heart.

In some cases, it is difficult to distinguish the offender from the offended—usually in cases where the wrongs in the disputes seem widely shared. We can then apply the advice of this mother who has many children: "I don't want to know who was stupid enough to start, but who is smart enough to stop first."

In summary, the most important elements in this period of containment are:

- The mutual respect;
- Communication: talking to each other and avoiding arguments and insults;
- Preserve our spaces both in terms of time and place whenever possible;
- Respect the moments when we can / want to be together and those when we prefer to be alone.

SOURCES

<https://www.estrepublikain.fr/edition-belfort-hericourt-montbeliard/2020/03/18/comment-gerer-le-confinement-il-faut-creer-son-espace-de-vie-a-chacun>

<https://www.europe1.fr/societe/parents-adolescents-les-conseils-de-stephane-clerget-pour-survivre-au-confinement-3958075>

<https://www.famillechretienne.fr/famille-education/rerelations-familiales/confinement-en-fa>



ACTIVITY REPORT



News from the Franco-Belgian Union

Children's Sabbath 2019

On November 19, 2019, the leaders and parents of the Church of Namur worked together to prepare a special Sabbath; offering the whole community a moment where children and young people were the actors. They shared their little light with the grown-ups. We are proud to be their parents. It was a Sabbath that made us long for Jesus to return soon.

Children's Sabbath is a day for all our communities to highlight the importance of children in the life of the church. A Sabbath where children have the opportunity to go up to the pulpit and preach the gospel according to their feelings.

It is a day when a future teacher or leader or pastor will discover his or her vocation.

Songs of praise and dialogues connected the three parts of the preaching led by our young people. The theme focused on the miracles of Jesus at the seaside, the healing of the woman with blood loss and the resurrection of the daughter of Jairus. Today we are his hands to bring hope to the suffering people around us, to comfort them and to show kindness and love as Jesus did more than 2000 years ago.

In spite of the closure of our churches because of the Covid-19 pandemic, we keep the contact between CHM leaders and the chil-

dren by offering weekly meetings by ZOOM or WhatsApp to families.

But this period of confinement has opened up new perspectives for us to work with families, and the children greatly appreciate this interactive method. We offer liturgies, online videos, testimonies, biblical readings, letters sent to isolated people and elderly members of the church, as well as the sharing of documents and ideas to improve the quality of the meetings.

We pray that we can meet physically again to worship and praise our Lord.

Elizabeth Gonzalez-Liénard
CHM Belgo-Luxemburg
Conference

Keep in Mind

EVENTS FROM THE INTER-EUROPEAN DIVISION

2020



May 30

World Day of Prayer for Children at Risk

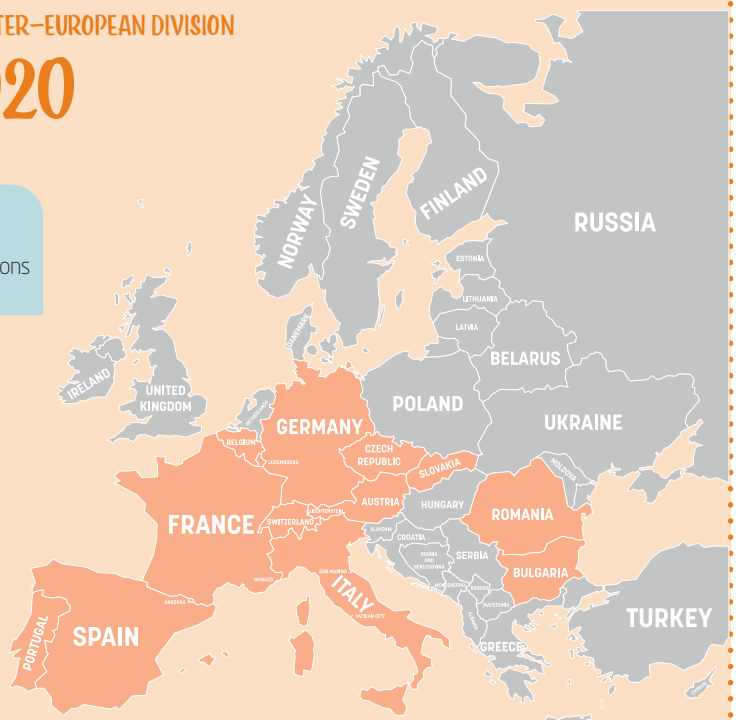
July 25

Children's Sabbath

This date is set from the GC. EUD Unions can choose a more suitable date.

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.



Caring for our Children's Spiritual Wellbeing in a time like this

Since some weeks already, as the COVID-19 pandemic increases across all countries, families are experiencing a new daily lifestyle filled with anxiety, fear, social distancing, and home quarantine.

As we are facing this totally new way of life: parents managing to work from home; children having web classes; churches organizing worship sessions online... all are doing their best to be resourceful, productive and keep the flow. One thing is clear: Covid-19 has a great impact in our lives and is changing our daily routines.

Every political, economic, social and spiritual organization has been involved in this new asset of our world and it is interesting to see the impact this have in the society.

UNICEF organization is also concerned for children that are involved in this pandemic challenge and recently released the **Global Multi-Religious Faith-in-Action Covid-19 Initiative Faith and Positive Change for Children, Families and Communities**, a special document regarding Covid-19, children and spiritual care.

"As the pandemic continues wreaking unimaginable sickness and increasing death tolls, we are particularly aware of the increased vulnerability of children, families and in particular girls. Children are facing a range of challenges to their health and safety: school closures, high levels of emotional distress, higher risks of violence and increased food insecurity. We are also seeing an increase in the number of orphans and in the incidence of other diseases due to the break in vaccination services. And we are seeing a growing need for financial and material support for households hardest hit by loss of income and resulting strains.

(...) Religions for Peace (RfP) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), are joining forces to launch a global Multi-Religious Faith-in-Action Covid-19 Initiative to raise awareness of the impacts of this pandemic on the world's youngest citizens.

The Initiative reflects the unique and critical roles played by religious leaders and actors, in influencing values, attitudes, behaviors and actions that affect the development and wellbeing of the world's children. (...)"

One of the main concerns is also the need to "provide active engagement of networks of religious communities including faith-based women, and youth, in collaboration with local governance structures, and organized voluntary services in:

- *Spiritual and emotional care and support for parents, children, the elderly and those experiencing disruption and distress in order to provide a source of support, peace, comfort and hope.*
- *Positive age-specific and gender-responsive parenting guidance and support to families in relation to the health, development, protection and social and emotional wellbeing of children and young people, particularly those in low-income families and those most vulnerable and hardest to reach.*
- *Youth-friendly communication and engagement including their support with more systematic use of technology and social media as a connective communication platform for communities during periods of physical distancing and beyond."*

For the whole document, visit: <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/launch-global-multi-religious-faith-action-covid-19-initiative>

While it seems that life as we knew is not coming back, this may be an appropriate time to be creative in faith formation. Churches and spiritual leaders are doing their best to provide children and families good tools and material to continue keeping connected to God and enhance their spiritual life. In this totally new asset parents have the opportunity to mentor their children and model faith formation in the home.

Some days ago I read the following statement on the social network:

"COVID-19 will produce a new generation of Christian parents who read the Bible and pray with their children and teenagers".

In fact, the confinement weeks and months are a great opportunity for parents to set new patterns of beliefs that can remain once the busy life returns. By staying at home, parents can no longer delegate discipleship process to be the responsibility of church leaders, teachers and programs. While at home children and young people need their parents to bring them up in the discipline and instruction of God's will. It is in this particular time that parents can help their children know that the Lord is a loving God and how vital is to love our God with all their heart and soul and strength.

Let's put our energies in inspiring parents to disciple their children: encouraging, challenging and equipping them to read the Bible with their kids of 5, 10, 12 and 17 years of age. In doing so, let's remind them the biblical truth that they are the primary disciple-makers of their children.

With prayers and support, parents can overcome their fears and limits to experience the joy of listening to God's Word and praying together with their children.

Text: Elsa Cozzi, with excerpts from: <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/launch-global-multi-religious-faith-action-covid-19-initiative>

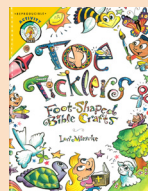
RECOMMENDED RESOURCES



STORYTIME

Michelle C. Petz

You want your children to develop a good character, and stories are the best way to teach them. Stories offer a safe way for boys and girls to learn how to deal with various situations they might encounter—the temptation to cheat in school, peer pressure from friends, finding courage to act positively toward others, and more. As your children read this book, thoughtful questions will help them reflect on these lessons and apply them to their own lives.



TOE TICKLERS

Lori Mieschke

Here are 30 fun ways to teach children how to walk with Jesus. These unique projects begin with a Bible verse and reproducible foot-shaped pattern, and end with a creative reminder of the Scripture passage. These great crafts for 4- to 7-year-olds are designed to be completed in one setting with minimal help from adults.



Producer: Elsa Cozzi
Editor: Regina Fleischmann

Contact: elsa.cozzi@eud.adventist.org | regina.fleischmann@eud.adventist.org