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## Sharing the Good News of Salvation with others

### Prayer Activities

#### Hearty Prayer

Cut out a large heart. Think of a person you'd like to share Jesus with and write the person's name in the center of the heart. Then write a prayer for him or her, asking God to help you as you witness to the person. Start at the edge of the heart, and write the prayer in a heart-shaped spiral towards the person's name.

Jesus called us friends, and friends talk to each other anytime about anything.

from: "My Quiet Time with Jesus. Prayer Calendar & Journal".  
Copyright © 2014 by CHM Department, GC, USA

**S**o in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets" (Matthew 7:12).

We so much appreciate those who share with us what they know about matters that have proven to be of help to them. For example, if there is a certain shop that sells good products with reasonable prices, it would be so kind of our neighbors and friends if they let us know about it so that we can also go to buy and benefit.

We, as Christians, have something valuable and magnificent to share, the Good News that Jesus loves us all as human beings. As believers in Christ, we know this. However, those who do not know Jesus yet, are unaware of this wonderful truth and they need to know it so that they as well can experience the joy that we enjoy by calling upon Jesus. Nevertheless, "How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone

preaching to them?" (Romans 10: 14). Here comes our mission. We need to preach the Gospel to those who have not heard it yet, so that they may believe in Jesus Christ and call on Him as their personal Savior.

Some of us were privileged to be born into Christian homes where we knew about Jesus since we were children. However, there are millions and millions of children and adults who do not know about Him. It is my mission and yours to make Him known to them. Jesus said to his followers "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." (Mathew 5:14-16) We as Jesus' followers are to be the light of our children, our homes, our neighborhood, our community, and to the whole world. We are to be His reflection in everything we do so they may see our good works and

## SHARING VALUES WITH CHILDREN



### FRIENDSHIP

Today we commonly hear anyone referred to with the word “friend”, and on the other hand, there are those who reserve this title for people very close to them. Certainly not everyone can be called friend because not everyone has a genuine interest in us and in this regard, we must be very cautious and careful. Observing people helps you to realize their true interests and intentions, and in the way they treat others, you will realize how sincere they are. The important principle that you should consider is the genuine interest, which is accompanied by positive emotional support. This is what the Bible refers to when it says: “A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity (Proverbs 17:17).

Jesus always showed this interest when He was on this earth and even today, He is your Friend in all circumstances.

As followers of Jesus we must be loyal, do good to everyone, and genuinely care for one another (Galatians 6:10). Keep in mind that not all people can be your friends. The Bible says that there are selfish people who are interested only in earning more and more money, proud people, who believe themselves more important than others. Pay attention to these characteristics and avoid the people who have them. You should be careful and selective about them and acknowledge that this does not mean that you are unkind to them. It is a warning so that you avoid getting involved in their activities.

*Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me (Matthew 25:40).*

From: *The Talking Backpack 2 Learning Values with Estela & Mateo*. Developed by CHM of the Inter-American Division.

give glory to His name. We God's promise, “I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations.” (Isaiah 42:6). We are therefore God's missionaries to the world, and we ought to share the Good News of salvation that brings light and joy into the hearts of the people.

Since I would like others to make known to me the things that would make my life better and give me hope for tomorrow, I would be so grateful if I am introduced to someone who can help me overcome my weaknesses and handle my burdens. As Christians, Jesus invites us saying, “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28). On the other hand, this invitation is not only for Christians, but also for all humanity. “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16). So, now I know what I would do to others which I would have loved to have them do to me. I will share with them the Good News that Jesus loves them. I will show Jesus' love for them through my words and actions. I will follow Jesus's example by serving them. And when they ask me why I am doing so, I will quote Jesus' words, “Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve ...” (Matthew 20:28). We live in a troubled world filled with all sorts

of discomfort and despair. Wars, diseases, famines, and natural disasters are going almost hand in hand. People are suffering from the consequences of all of this. We hear and watch the news about those who are without homes or shelter. Some of us see them face to face because they live among us or nearby us. We realize their needs and sense their longings. They yearn to be cared for and loved. Let us therefore go and serve those who need to see Jesus' love in us and through us. Let us do to them that which we would like them to do to us if we were to be in their place. Let us love them as Jesus loves them and us. We, as “Christ's followers are to be more than a light in the midst of men. They are the light of the world. Jesus says to all who have named His name, You have given yourselves to Me, and I have given you to the world as My representatives. As the Father had sent Him into the world, so, He declares, 'have I also sent them into the world.' John 17:18. As Christ is the channel for the revelation of the Father, so we are to be the channel for the revelation of Christ.” (Ellen G. White, *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, Page 38). So, let us make Jesus known to others through our words and actions. ♦

Amal Fawzy

Middle East and North Africa

Union

Children's Ministries Director



## Talking with GOD

### Good Helper

Look at what I discovered: God uses both adults and children for all kinds of work. Samuel was a very young boy. Even so, he helped in the work of the church. Samuel didn't do any other job—he worked for God. And his work was so well done that God was always pleased with him.

If you also want to serve God, you can start by doing to in your own home.

There are many things that you can do to help your parents, such as cleaning something that is dirty, making your bed in the morning, helping your mom wash the dishes, or helping your dad wash the car. You will never be too small or young to help. Your parents will be happy if you help, and God will be happy too!

But Samuel was ministering before the Lord—  
a boy wearing a linen ephod.  
(1 Samuel 2:18, NIV)

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



# Helping Around the World

## Romania: I want to go to school



©ADRA Romania

**F**lorin, an orphan child of only 8 years old, but with great results in school, needs your help!

Florin Giurgiuveanu, a 8-year-old boy, a second-grader, lives in a modest clay house, in Zimnicea, Teleorman county. Florin has a brilliant intelligence that you can read in his eyes, but also a communication capability that conquers you. From the first discussions, you can't help but notice his highly developed vocabulary and maturity. He is determined and clearly knows what he wants to become: a policeman or a firefighter.

Born into a very modest family, Florin's childhood was marked by many lacks and hardships. Not much is known about his father, because he left his family when Florin was just a few years old. However, his mother speaks with love and is glad to finally be back home. He's missed her quite a lot in recent years, being off to work abroad, but now he considers himself a happy child because he has his mom by his side. His grandmother, an almost 85-year-old woman, is a wise woman who gave him more than a piece of bread from her pension. She taught him to be diligent, to respect people, to speak nicely and especially, to love school.



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## Romania: "Home at last!"



©ADRA Romania

**A**DRA is there for Codruta Bodor and her 3 children who became the new owners of a building in Brasov through the project "at last, home!"

On Thursday, 21 January 2021, the miracle happened! The joy is immeasurable in the family Bodor, who became the new owner of the house in the commune of Tarlungeni, Brasov county.

The property of a donor was granted/donated to ADRA Romania during summer 2018 then Codruta with her three children have been living there since the summer of 2020. Completing the legal documents and the fitting out and sanitation of the new home took several months. At the third appointment for the donation contract, a miracle happened: with the support and involvement of ADRA Romania, Codruta Bodor and her three children found peace of mind in a warm home through the project "Home at last!"

Codruta Bodor has never felt the warmth of home. Abandoned by her mother and unwanted by her grandmother, she took her life into her own hands from a very young age. Aged of only eight years old, Codruta left her grandmother's house, where

she received hard-to-bear words at a much too young age. Corduta lives at the mercy of people, taking shelter wherever she can but continuing her schooling. When she came of age, she became the mother of a little boy called Codrut. Abandoned again, this time by the man who was supposed to be by her side in her new experience of parenthood, without shelter and a stable income, she chooses to raise her child alone to give him what she had, namely her love.

"I'm glad we have a house of our own and we don't have to move anymore! I can't even believe I'm out of stress that I have to move again and I don't know where. Kids are used here, made friends, enjoyed the yard, love school. We have a new beginning and I want everything to be fine, find work, make the kids feel good. I can't thank ADRA Romania and God for being good to us and taking care of us!" said Codruta Bodor, a beneficiary in the ADRA project "Home at last!"

Delia Farâmita  
ADRA Romania  
Communication Director



## Silent Communication...

Speech is one of the most important, socially conditioned human abilities. Without the spoken language, we are very limited in our communication opportunities in contacts with other people, even with our loved ones. Anyone can encounter such a situation in his or her life, but there are also children who, for various reasons, cannot use their speech at a sufficient level, or who cannot learn to speak at all. And there are also those who can speak, however, they are not able to use the spoken language adequately as a communication tool in social contact. How can we support these children and what kind of communication forms are available in these cases?

Surprisingly, there are numerous tools and even some complex alternative or augmentative systems suitable for children with specific commu-

nication disorders. It's usually recommended to select an appropriate method according to the individual child's abilities, needs and preferences. It is always good to choose the method which is easy to use and easy to understand for most of other people, too. Very often, the signs (gestures) are used, either as an official sign language for the Deaf people, or as a "sign in speech" system. Pictures and pictograms (icons) are also very popular (e.g. Blissymbolics, or PECS - Picture Exchange Communication System), and there are even the systems combining the signs and the pictures altogether (e.g. MAKATON). We should not forget also the other elementary communication strategies like the eye-contact or the touches (tactile communication systems, used even by deaf-blind children and adults). All this in an effort to understand each other and to prevent the child's social deprivation.

For us, there is a clear Biblical requirement in Proverbs 31:8 to 'speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights

of all who are destitute'. However, we should never speak 'instead' of a child who cannot speak! It's always necessary to respect his or her wishes, needs and decisions. And we can be sure that God is able to find His way how to communicate even with those who cannot use the regular spoken language. Nevertheless, we should look for ways to convey the story and the essence of the gospel to these children as well, and involve them in the fellowship of our Church and their peers. God assumes that we will be creative in overcoming the communication barriers as well.



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The Bible enjoins courtesy; and it presents many illustrations of the unselfish spirit, the gentle grace, the winsome temper, that characterize true politeness. These are but reflections of the character of Christ. All the real tenderness and courtesy in the world, even among those who do not acknowledge His name, is from Him. And He desires these characteristics to be perfectly reflected in His children. It is His purpose that in us men shall behold His beauty.

The Adventist Home, p. 425





# To the rescue!

**M**y good buddy Tom and I were cruising with authority down Highway 31, enjoying our newfound teenage freedom this particular summer. At about the same time, we both spotted a humorous yet potentially dangerous sight. A John Deere lawn tractor was careening about a nearby home's front yard—minus a driver! Running behind in hot pursuit of the runaway mower was an overweight man dressed in bib overalls and a T-shirt. The poor man was no match for John Deere's yellow-and-green creation.

But more interesting than all this was Tom's reaction. In a flash he pulled to the side of the road and hopped out. I figured I should do the same, just in case we'd be getting our picture in the newspaper or something. Shortly both of us were running at full speed toward the tractor to try to bring the beast to a halt. However, I ran out of gas before the lawn tractor did.

But while I couldn't catch the thing, Tom kept right on moving in high gear, and had soon put an end to the lawn tractor's wild ride. The owner huffed and puffed on over to Tom and thanked him for his heroic deed. With that, we were on the road again. (Later someone with whom we'd shared the incident called our attention to a letter to the editor in the local newspaper. It was written by the tractor driver's wife, describing the ordeal and thanking the two teens who'd done the valiant deed. No fame by name, but I did get more press than I was entitled to.)

I'm glad to have a friend such as Tom, someone with heroic instincts, willing to help without thinking of himself first. I guess that's what this thing called Christianity is all about.

## Power Burst

"He almost died for the work of Christ, risking his life to make up for the help you could not give me."

Philippians  
2:30



From: Fishell, Randy: *Supercharged! Fast-moving, eye-popping, heart-changing devotional stories.* Review and Herald Publishing Ass., Hagerstown, MD, USA, 2000

## TOUGH QUESTIONS & POSSIBLE ANSWERS



### Do Pastors and Sabbath School Teachers do bad stuff, too?

#### Preschooler

In a word: yes. Even people who help us learn about God make mistakes and do things that make God sad. Share with your preschooler that God is always willing to forgive us and help us do better.

#### Elementary Age

Your elementary-age child has probably heard about sin entering the world through Adam and Eve, but may not have connected the dots all the way to him- or herself—and the Christian leaders in his or her life. Assure him or her that while people may disappoint us, God never will. Encourage your child to be forgiving and have grace for those who stumble—just as God has grace for him or her.

#### Preteen

Remind your preteen that having a leadership role is no guarantee of perfection. Even the Apostle Paul considered himself "chief among sinners." If this question arose from a sense of personal failure, reassure your child of God's forgiveness and the Holy Spirit's intent to give him or her power to live a faithful life. If criticism is fueling the question, pray together for your fallen leaders. Model grace.

#### Related Scriptures

We all sin: See Romans 3:23 and 1 Timothy 1:15.



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: Manners

**Question:** I have a class of preteens whose behavior is so bad that it seems as though their parents never taught them any manners. Am I wrong to expect these kids to have manners and self-discipline by this age?

**Answer:** Expectations are very appropriate in any classroom. However, mismatched expectations can cause discipline problems that leave kids and teachers frustrated and bewildered.

All children—especially preteens—test their boundaries, which is actually healthy. They need to do this testing for their emotional health and development.

In *Understanding People*, Christian psychologist Larry Crabb states that all kids need parents and significant adults to answer two core questions. First, "Am I loved?" The correct answer is "Yes, deeply—

and here's the unmistakable evidence of my rich, committed involvement with you." Second, "Can I get my own way?" The correct answer is "No, not without cost—and here's a sample of the consequences that result from bucking against God's plan."

Teachers face this questions over and over. Your role is to answer correctly each time. By doing so, you create a safe classroom and loving place where kids want to live up to your expectations. That means you may be in the position of correcting kids' poor manners or establishing that, yes, boundaries will be enforced.

### What you should do

- Assume the responsibility of training kids in the manners you expect to see in your class.
- Explain your expectations clearly.
- Address kids' poor manners on the spot.

### What you should not do

- Don't assume that children know proper manners and simply aren't using them.
- Don't expect all preteens to have the same level of self-discipline or maturity.
- Don't shrink from confronting poor manners or boundaries-testing.

### Caution

When you correct a child, focus on the child's poor behavior choice rather than the child as a person. For instance, rather than saying "Tom, you're rude" (which focuses on the child), say, "Tom, you're a great kid but you made a poor choice in the way you spoke to Mrs. Andrews. I'd like you to apologize and make better choices in the future" (which focuses on the behavior).

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

## 360° CHILDREN'S LIFE ISSUES

### GLOBAL STATUS REPORT ON PREVENTING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN 2020

#### MAGNITUDE

**1 out of 2 children** or **1 billion children** suffer some form of violence each year



**Nearly 3 in 4 children** or **300 million children** aged 2–4 years regularly suffer physical punishment and/or psychological violence at the hands of parents & caregivers



**1 in 4 children** aged under 5 years live with a mother who is a victim of intimate partner violence



**1 in 3 students** aged 11–15 years suffered bullying in the past month:

Boys 35%  
Girls 30%

**1 in 3 students** aged 13–15 years were in a physical fight in the past year:

Boys 45%  
Girls 25%

**120 million** girls and young women under 20 years of age have suffered some form of forced sexual contact



#### CONSEQUENCES

**40 150 deaths**

per year in children 0–17 years of age: Boys 28 160  
Girls 11 990



Children aged 11–15 years who are bullied at school are:

**13% less likely to graduate from school**



Adults who experienced 4 or more Adverse Childhood Experiences (including physical, sexual & emotional abuse) are:

**7X** more likely to be involved in interpersonal violence as a victim or perpetrator

**30X** more likely to attempt suicide



Adults who were physically & sexually abused as children are:

**Men** more likely to perpetrate physical & sexual intimate partner violence  
**14X**

**Women** more likely to suffer physical & sexual intimate partner violence  
**16X**



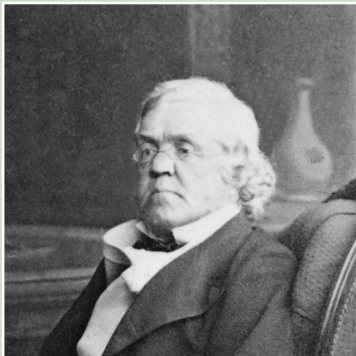
Economic costs per year of the lifetime consequences of violence against children:

USA, child maltreatment only:  
**US\$ 228 billion**

South Africa, all forms of violence against children:  
**US\$ 13.5 billion** (4.3% of GDP)



<http://www.who.int/global-status-report-on-violence-against-children-2020>



©Jane Nelson, Ed.D. - on <https://happychildsummit.com/>

"Mother is the name for God in the lips and hearts of little children."

—William Makepeace Thackeray.

From: <https://www.shutterstock.com/ideas/mothers-day-quotes/>

## QUICK AND EASY WORSHIP IDEAS FOR KIDS

### Love

#### Bible Connection

"Now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love" (1 Corinthians 13:13, NIV). If love is the greatest, how can we love each other better?

#### Things you need:

- Paper, pens, colored cardstock, scissors, hole-punch, and yarn
- Coloring pencils or marker pens in red, green, blue, yellow, and purple.

#### Worship activities

1. Read the Bible verse about love.
2. Ask everyone to draw a large heart on their sheets of paper. Then ask them to write inside their heart six to ten things other people have done that made them feel especially loved.
3. Give them the coloring pens and ask them to circle the examples of love with different colored pens:
4. Draw a red circle around the times someone said or wrote something that helped you to feel loved.
5. Draw a green circle around the times when someone helped you in a practical way.
6. Draw a blue circle around the times when someone showed you love by hugging you or touching you (patting, tickling, etc.).
7. Draw a yellow circle around the times when someone gave you a thoughtful gift.
8. Draw a purple circle around the times someone spent time with you, doing something you enjoyed.

9. Discuss what you have learned about how you like to be loved. How do the rest of the people in your family like to be loved? What can you do to help them feel especially loved?

Of all the character strengths, love is the greatest. The more we learn how to love, the richer and more beautiful the rest of our character strengths will become.

#### Another idea:

Make a list of special things you do to help each other to feel loved. Try

to do something loving for each other at least once a day.



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#### Prayer

Thank God for loving you in all kinds of ways. Make a garland of cardstock hearts, each one describing a special experience of God's love.



## God's signature inside you

"He blessed them all and told the creatures that live in the water to reproduce and to fill the sea, and he told the birds to increase in number." Genesis 1:22 (GNT)

When God created the animals, He commanded them to reproduce and fill the earth. Before that, when He created plants, He had designed trees, shrubs, flowers, and grass with the capacity to produce fruits and seeds, also to reproduce. Animals and plants can produce offspring similar to themselves but, how does that work? How does a bird know how to make a baby bird inside its eggs? Why is a lioness pregnant with baby lions and not with baby bears or baby elephants? Same with plants. The Bible warns us that "Thorn bushes do not bear grapes, and briars do not bear figs" (Matthew 7:16). But how does the vine know that it has to make grapes, and the seed of the grapes that it has to become a new vine? The answer to all these questions is DNA, God's signature inside every living being.

During the last months, I have recommended you to organize activities that help children to connect with nature and to feel responsible for the care of other organisms. We will insist in that in the future but in this occasion, I want to share with you an easy experiment to illustrate that all living beings – plants, animals and humans – bear God's signature inside them in the form of an amazing molecule called DNA.

To introduce the activity you have to explain what DNA is. Depending on the age of the children, you can do it in a simpler or in a deeper way. The basic facts that they should know are:

- DNA contains detailed instructions to build a living being, with each and every one of its parts. It is like a blueprint or a recipe. Just as the blueprint of an airplane is not the same as the blueprint of a car, or the recipe of a soup is different from the recipe of a cake, the DNA of each organism is different. The DNA of a giraffe contains instructions to make a giraffe and the DNA of a dog contains instructions to make a dog.
- All organisms are made of small pieces called cells. The DNA is stored in a special

compartment of the cells, called nucleus. Each cell of an organism contains an entire copy of the DNA with all the instructions to make the organism.

- Cells are very small so they cannot be seen with the naked eye. DNA is even smaller. The DNA molecules have the shape of a ladder. They are very long and thin. One molecule of DNA is microscopic but if many DNA molecules are entangled together they can make a fiber bundle visible to the naked eye.

The experiment consists of extracting DNA from strawberries and precipitating it so it can be seen.

**Material:** 2 large strawberries, zip lock bag, cup, dishwasher, salt, alcohol (preferably cold), gauze or coffee filter.

**Time:** 10-15 minutes.

**Safety Warning:** This experiment uses alcohol. Adult supervision recommended.

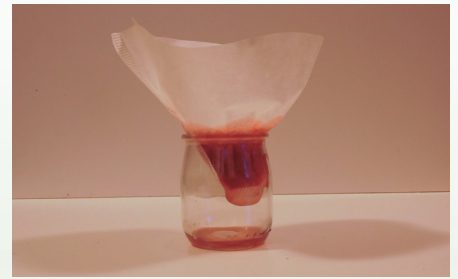
**Values:** God's great intelligence and creativity to make so many different life forms and give each of them the instructions to make more copies of themselves.

### Procedure

1. Remove the green leaves and stems from the strawberries.
2. Add the strawberries to a zip lock bag. Seal the bag and squish the strawberries into a pulp.
3. Add ½ cup of water, a tablespoon of dishwasher and a teaspoon of salt to the bag. Seal the bag and mix well.



4. Put the gauze or the coffee filter in the mouth of one of the cups. Pour the content of the bag into the filter and wait for the liquid to go through and fall to the bottom.



5. Remove the filter and discard it.
6. Very slowly, add some cold alcohol to the cup sliding it along the cup wall.



7. Some whitish viscous material will appear at the top. You can take it out carefully with a toothpick. This is the strawberry DNA.

After doing the experiment, remind your students that they also have DNA in each of their cells with precise instructions to build their bodies and each of their parts: eyes, muscles, brain, mouth, bones, heart... God is a fabulous designer who put a lot of effort into each of His creatures and specially into humans. Our DNA is kind of the signature or seal of our Creator, which we carry in each of our cells.

**The Science Behind The Experiment:** The dishwasher breaks the cell membranes, which are made of lipids (oils), and releases the DNA. The coffee filter helps to separate the DNA from larger molecules like proteins and other cell components. DNA is soluble in water but insoluble in alcohol. Salt and alcohol help to precipitate DNA.

Noemi Duran

Geoscience Research Institute  
Director of the European  
Branch Office



## Children's Deviations



## MOTHER'S DAY

Me: What should we get Grandma for Mother's Day?

Child: She's not a mom. She's a grandma.

Me: She's a mom. She's your father's mom.

Child: Well, that sounds like his problem.

From: <https://withlovebecca.com/funny-kid-quotes/>





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## From the POCKETBOOK

### for Peer Helpers

## Covering the issues: Self-Esteem

Self-esteem is a feeling of personal self-worth.

People who have high self-esteem feel good about themselves, while those with low self-esteem usually find life to be unfulfilling.

As a peer helper, you will want to support your helpees in developing confidence and courage to face their situations. Many problems which will be

presented to you will result from the person having low self-esteem. Any way you can help the person to raise his or her self-esteem will fortify the helpee against future potential problems. However, this process must come from within each individual. It is not derived from external sources. No one can create this experience except the individual himself. You, as a peer helper,

can be there to listen and support while the process is taking place.

The importance of supporting a helpee in his or her goal to raise self-esteem cannot be overstated. Healthy self-esteem gives a person the ability to respond to the opportunities in life in an active and positive way. You can make a difference in someone's life by helping that person realize how important self-worth really is.

From: Sturkie, J. & Gibson, V.: *The Peer Helper's Pocketbook*. Resource Publications Inc., San Jose, CA, USA, 1992

## BENEVOLENT EDUCATION

### The fundamentals of a gentle approach

**Quarrels, conflicts, tantrums . . . Ever thought about putting yourself in your toddler's shoes to see things from a child's perspective and handle difficult situations more effectively? This is the idea behind positive parenting.**

Last September, Livia, age 5, started attending nursery school. After a few days, she began pushing her four-year-old sister, Doralie, when she got home from school. "It was obvious that something was bothering her," says her mother, Sandra. "After speaking with Livia, I learned that starting school, taking the bus, and being with a group all day was a lot of changes for her. She figured out what would help her feel better all on her own—playing by herself in her room after school."

Positive parenting is mostly about listening to and respecting your child's needs. "This approach teaches children to be more confident, to talk about their feelings, to communicate in a respectful way, and to acknowledge other people's feelings," says psychoeducator Marie-Hélène Chalifour. "It helps children learn to be independent and accountable for their actions."

Positive parenting hinges on a body of research on the importance of empathy in communication. It is also based on the latest findings regarding brain development. "In young children, the frontal lobe—the part of the brain associated with reasoning, problem-solving, and impulse control—is still developing," says Chalifour. "The same goes for the limbic system, which is responsible for managing emotions. Certain neural connec-

tions still need to be formed. The brain's immaturity explains much of a child's behaviour, and gentle guidance takes this into account."

#### Teaching your toddler

"With positive parenting, parents focus on guiding their children as opposed to controlling or dominating them," explains Marie-Hélène Gagné, a professor at Laval University's School of Psychology who is studying the Triple P (positive parenting program) approach. "Children are a little like plants, and parents are like gardeners who do all they can to help them grow."

According to positive parenting, toddlers misbehave when they need something. "A three-year-old who hits another kid isn't mean," explains Gagné. "He's frustrated and doesn't know how to express himself. It's up to the adult to teach him how to behave properly." Positive parenting advocates trying to see things from your child's point of view.

#### Fewer power struggles

Parents who use positive parenting are still in a position of authority, but they wield it gently. "When there's a problem, they involve their child in finding a solution," says Chalifour. "Parents want their children to learn accountability, not obey out of fear."

This approach does away with punishment on the premise that it makes children feel bad and humiliated instead of teaching them proper behaviour. Positive parents implement a logical consequence or encourage some form of apology when their child misbehaves.

Some people feel that this parenting method is overly permissive. Chalifour disagrees. "Gentle

parents don't let their children run wild. There are rules. However, rather than confronting their children, they get them to cooperate."

While not everyone thinks that positive parenting is the way to go, those who subscribe to this approach appear to be satisfied. According to a study of 295 parents who completed Triple P training, the approach made them feel more competent. "Parents also say they feel less stressed and that they notice a drop in their children's problem behaviour," adds Gagné.

#### The "perfect parent" trap?

Be warned: positive parenting is not a miracle solution! It may result in fewer tantrums and arguments, but these won't disappear altogether. And, it won't suddenly make you the world's best parent. "Set the bar too high and you could wind up feeling incompetent and guilty," warns psychoeducator Stéphanie Deslauriers. "In the long run, that can lead to depression or parental burnout."

Parents need to know it's okay to make mistakes. It's normal to be irritable sometimes, to get fed up with constantly repeating yourself, or to lose your cool over your child's behaviour. "Not being a positive parent 100% of the time does not make you a bad parent. What matters is that you believe in yourself and do your best. If you catch yourself yelling at your child, you can admit that you were in the wrong and say you're sorry," Deslauriers adds. "That way, you become a role model by demonstrating how to own up to mistakes."

From: <https://naitreetgrandir.com/en/feature/positive-parenting-explained/fundamentals-of-a-gentle-approach/>



# CRAFT IDEAS



## Easy-to-do crafts with & for kids

### Egg Carton Flowers



#### Things you need

- Cardboard egg cartons or an alternative
- Paint
- Glue
- Scissors
- Paint brush
- Canvas or cardstock

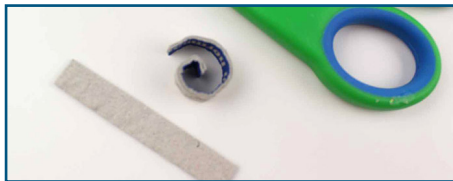
#### Procedure

1. If working with egg carton cut the “cups” – each cavity makes one cup. If working with any other carton, like cup holder, cut in the same manner. Cut the sides of each piece, this being the first step into shaping your egg carton flowers. Also cut leaves,

stems and a short straight strip from the flat top of the egg carton.



2. Shape the sides, make them round. You will need three cups, one with smaller “petals” and two with larger ones for this project, so keep this in mind as you shape your petals. If crafting with younger kids, let them just use one or two cups for one flower as this will make it easier for them.
3. Roll the short straight strip into a spiral.



4. Bring out your favorite floral colors and paint all the petals. Don't forget to also paint the stem and leaves green.



5. Glue two egg carton cups one on top of the other. Glue the twirled circle into the center of the smaller, shorter flower piece.



6. You can leave the rolled spiral as it is or you can color it too. Either paint it in the color of the flower or in different colors.
7. Glue the flowers on the canvas (painted or white) or on construction paper.

From: <https://www.easypeasyandfun.com/egg-carton-flowers/>

### Plastic Spoon Flowers



#### Things you need

- 3 plastic spoons – I used purple for one flower and yellow spoons for another
- Floral tape
- Green pipe cleaner cut into thirds
- Yellow pipe cleaner cut into halves

- 1 clear 9oz. cup
- Crinkle cut brown paper shavings
- A low temp. glue gun and glue sticks or an alternative to the glue gun



#### Procedure

1. Face all 3 spoons inward, forming a triangle with the handles.
2. Start wrapping the middle with floral tape and go all the way down (this first part is just to get a good hold with the floral tape, so the spoons are held together).

3. Wrap the spoons again, going all the way up to the end of the handle



4. Now insert your green pipe cleaner into some spaces on the tape.
5. Insert the yellow pipe cleaner down the center of the spoons so some of the yellow is sticking out of the top
6. Glue the spoon bouquet to the bottom of the cup and fill with brown paper.

From: <https://kidfriendlythingstodo.com/a-plastic-spoon-spring-flower-craft-for-kids/>





# FOCUS ON...



## Special Activities & Events



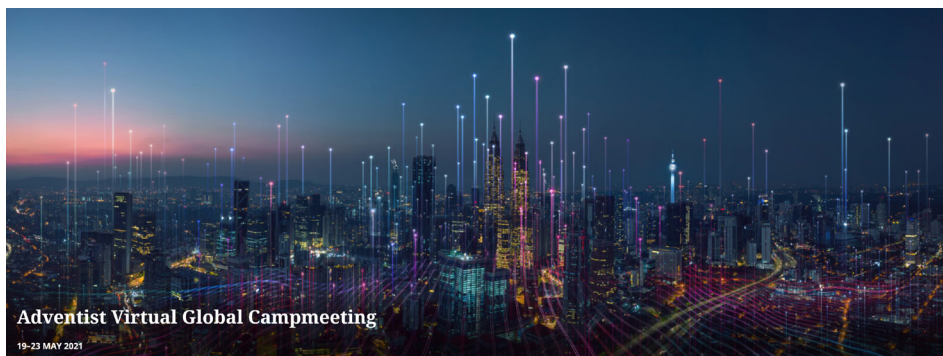
### Adventist Virtual Global Campmeeting 2021

May 19-23, 2021

The Adventist Virtual Global Campmeeting brings the entire world church together to worship, be inspired, and learn. This event showcases the incredible breadth and depth of Adventist ministries around the world.

**The first Adventist Virtual Global Campmeeting features many exciting events:**

- Hundreds of presentations, seminars, and workshops on the following subjects:
  - Discipleship
  - Education
  - Health Ministries
  - Media
  - Missions
  - Theology
- Round table discussions with church leaders
- Continuing education credits for pastors and teachers
- Exhibit hall with Adventist organizations sharing their resources for mission
- Free attendance



Make the Adventist Virtual Global Campmeeting your spiritual highlight of the year. Join us at the Adventist Virtual Global Campmeeting to fulfill our mission to Reach the World with the gospel of Jesus, and be ready to say, "I Will Go".

**For more information and registration visit <https://www.campmeeting.com/>**

## Keep in Mind

EVENTS FROM THE INTER-EUROPEAN DIVISION

# 2021



**January 27-May 12**

**Faith & Science Fundamentals**

Webinar, every Wednesday

<https://www.facebook.com/GRI-Live-Creation-101992155041587>

**May 6**

**Kids' Talents Contest Award Ceremony**

Online, Zoom (if you're interested write to [kid.eud@eud.adventist.org](mailto:kid.eud@eud.adventist.org))

**May 19-23**

**Adventist Virtual Global Campmeeting**

**May 22**

**Special Day of Prayer for Children at Risk**



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



# The Bright Red Tie

Often God's answer to our challenges has come from the least expected source. God loves to take care of us in ways that will focus our eyes only on Him. Sometimes I think He has a lot of fun in orchestrating His Providence!

One morning several years ago, I awoke with a strong impression to wear a jacket and tie on my flight home from San Diego. I usually dress casually for my flights. On this particular morning, I was impressed to wear my bright green jacket and my bright red tie with children of the world marching across it! I felt like God was impressing me that I would meet someone on the flights for His purposes.

I raised my eyebrows as I quickly tied a knot in my "kid-friendly" tie "What was God up to today?" I wondered. I flew from San Diego to Dallas. I looked at the strangers seated to my right and to my left. Was the person I was to meet on this flight? We circled around and around over Dallas. I looked at my watch. I had a tight connection for my flight to Chattanooga. "It's going to be wild trying to get there on time!" I thought to myself. As we landed much later, I mused, "I'm going to have to run to have any chance to catch this flight!"

I hurried off the plane and hit the ground running, laptop in one hand, duffle bag in the other. I ran for what seemed a few miles and finally found my gate. "Can I still get on?" I asked. There was no plane in sight. In my mind, I prayed, "God, please get me on that plane and home to my family!" "OK!" said an attendant. "We'll get you on that plane.

Ready for a ride?" Another attendant took me for a quick ride on a golf cart out to the plane on the tarmac.

As I ran up the steps and onto the plane, I was greeted by several pairs of eyes glaring at the stranger who had held up their flight. "I love your tie!" gushed the woman on the seat behind where I would be sitting. "Does it mean anything?" she asked.

I looked down at my bright red tie with red, brown, yellow, black, and white children marching across it. "Yes! It means that I love working with children. I direct a ministry that helps parents mentor their children." As the plane taxied down the runway, I wondered, "Lord, is this the person You planned for me to meet?" But she buried her face in a book for the rest of the flight.

Fifteen minutes before our flight landed in Chattanooga, the man across the aisle turned to me and said, "I heard you tell that lady when you came late onto the plane that you direct a ministry for mentoring children. Would you please tell me about that?"

As the plane began its final approach, I shared God's call on my heart to equip parents and all other potential mentors to disciple children to Jesus Christ. I told him that God was calling me to risk my comfort and security to share God's dreams for children around the world.

He listened with rapt attention and asked deep questions. By this time, our plane had landed. "Thanks for what you're doing for children," he said. We shook hands, and then he hurried off the plane. I gathered my luggage and walked

into the terminal. There, leaning over the counter was the man I had just talked with on the plane. He was busy writing something.

"Here. I hope this helps," he said as he casually folded a small piece of paper and handed it to me. I thanked him and he walked away.

My wife and children were watching for me on the other side of the security checkpoint. They began to wave. I jogged to them and pulled them close to me. After lots of hugs, I whispered, "I think God just did something special to show us how big He is! Let's look at something a man on the plane just gave me." I took the folded piece of paper and held it up. "I don't know what is on this, but let's look at what the man handed me." My family gathered around me.

I unfolded the paper. It was a check for \$3,000!

I looked for the man and he was long gone. At the bottom of the check, he had written "For the Cause of Christ." We gaped at the check. "Wow! God really is big!" we exclaimed.

With passengers hurrying past our little family circle, we bowed our heads and thanked our great God for providing everything we needed to do what He was asking us to do! We never heard from or have seen that man again. I wear that bright red tie with the children marching across it often. It makes me remember that God loves to set up Divine Appointments and to provide for us in the least likely ways.

From: MacLafferty, D. *Inside Out. Children and Families Trusting, Following, and Sharing Jesus.* College Press, Collegedale, TN, USA, 2015.

For more helpful resources to disciple your children, youth, and family, go to [www.indiscipleship.org](http://www.indiscipleship.org)

## RECOMMENDED RESOURCES



### GOD LOVES ME AND ALL MY FEELINGS Tara J. VinCross

This book gives children language to name their feelings and empowers them to know what to do in response to what they feel. This book sets a foundation of God's acceptance and love for the whole range of their human experience, building resilience and a willingness to face feelings that are sometimes difficult.



### LET GO & RUN BESIDE Sean Sweet

This is your guidebook for intentional preteen ministry! It's the only way it works. Preteens are beyond elementary ministry once their brains start changing, and the way they do everything becomes new. Behavioral problems are just the beginning, but that really isn't the problem. They are ready for more and need intentional preteen ministry. Seize this short window of time. You won't get this chance again. Written for ministry leaders and their teams, this book will provide a practical foundation as you grow a ministry in which 9-12 year olds take ownership of their faith in Jesus Christ.



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