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Helping Children to Value the Inward Beauty (part 2)

Praying with and for our kids

Children learn more from your spontaneous reactions than from any of the well-planned words you speak. Develop the habit of prayer, and teach your children the joy of spontaneously speaking to God. **The habit of seeking help.** Frequently, you find yourself in a crisis. It may be related to health, finances, relationships, time constraints, or any number of other issues. Children have the opportunity to learn more about true faith in these situations than in most others. Imitating your reactions to life's stresses and crisis, they learn to lean upon the Lord—or to ignore Him altogether

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

Physical Beauty is Unique, Diverse and Incomparable: God created various physical features even within the same racial origin. While we believe in uniqueness and witness diversity in creation of God's intelligent designs, we are also trying hard, with human effort, to come up with the same beauty measures for outward appearances in countless beauty contests; and in this process, we accept the man-made unnatural beauty through surgical procedures and multiple layers of make-ups. We cannot avoid but to accept the fact that we will continue to be judged by people as good or bad; negative or positive; attractive or the opposite; therefore, we need to keep our priority right. Perfect Brazilian butt lift or breast augmentation might not be a necessity if one shares the same belief that actual beauty transcends the physical. If parents and guardians fail to facilitate children and teens in developing the sense of contentment, self-respect and self-reliance, our children and teens could easily be misled into chaotic life in this competitive society.

God's Warning and Reprimands: Christianity promotes the inward and lasting kind of beauty; however, it takes much more time to recognize it. Although the world is offering the opposite, people are being attracted and infatuated by the instant recognition, positive feedback, and communication. The famous network and social media with the likes and

dislikes buttons under the photos displayed can powerfully influence people's mood (Booth, 2014). When we are programmed to be very responsive, we can be easily misled. Owing to lack of thoroughness and discernment, the embrace of unnatural and outward beauty trend may lead us towards unhealthy emotional well-being. Proverbs 31:30 reminds us that, "charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but woman who fears the LORD is to be praised." Genesis 1:27 also reminds us that we are God's masterpiece for a good work that He has intended to accomplish through us (Ephesians 2:10). 1Peter 3:3-4 adds, "Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes. Rather, it should be that your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight."

By Beholding One Becomes Beautiful. True beauty does not fade away with time. Although physical beauty is unique in its kind and full of preferences and diversity in which the same measures cannot be applied, however, God applies the same assessment and measures for inward beauty. Though the society is fast leaving the natural/inborn beauty behind and embracing the cosmetic trend, God desires us His children to be consistently and inwardly beautiful. As our relationship gets more intimate with the Lord and our spiritual

INSTILLING A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW



Explain that the Bible is alive and relevant

God's words are living words. *For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.* (Hebrews 4:12 ESV). Whom does your family know who has died? Do you have any old letters from that person or something else that person has written? For instance, perhaps you have a letter from great-grandpa written when your child was younger. Read the letter with your child. Emphasize that great-grandpa loved your child and even wrote words of love in the letter. Even though he meant every word he wrote when he was alive, he is no longer here on earth and isn't thinking about those words today. But God's words are living. God's words are just as real today as when the Bible was first written. When we read the Bible, we can imagine the Lord sitting right across the table from us saying the words. Read a few verses with your child and talk about the Lord sitting with you, actually talking to you and your son or daughter. You can choose verses that talk about the child/parent relationship, like Ephesians 6:1 or verses that talk about the Christian life, like Galatians 5:22-23. Choose verses that mean a lot to you and your child. Ask your child what verse they would like to thank the Lord for including in the Bible and then pray together and thank God for giving us His Word.

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

walk is closer to Him, we will be remodeled and changed by His glory (2 Corinthians 3:18), the true everlasting beauty that can only be found in character, mirroring from a person inner self or soul.

Children Must Take Pride in Their Lineage.

Although the outward appearance undoubtedly has something to do with self-confidence of a person, it should never be the primary determining factor to how we collectively feel and perceive ourselves. Knowing that we have been created by God and we are biological wired and patterned after our ancestors and parents, this should bring in sense of self-identity and pride. This realization should help us develop a positive self-worth. A person with healthy self-perception should find no necessity to look different and disregard what has been embedded in us through our genealogy. True and lasting self-confidence and self-satisfaction can only come from knowing God and having a constant intimate relationship with Him (Psalms 107:9). The powerful God who created all of us is full of love and beauty. He is the "bright morning star" (Revelation 22:16) that outshines other beauty. Adults must impart this attitude and understanding in the children's minds that God intentionally brought each one of us into the world for even hairs on our heads are counted by Him (Matthew 10:30).

Conclusion

The saying, "Beauty is in the eyes of the beholder," reminds us that beauty is idiosyncratic and personal. What we consider attractive in a context might not be the same viewpoint in another. The Bible tells us that worldly charm is misleading, and outward beauty is short-lived; but "a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised" (Proverbs 31:30). God wants us to be concerned with spiritual things and not the physical aspect of our being. "Therefore, we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day" (2 Corinthians 4:16). God sees us through Christ who reconciled sinners

to Himself (2 Corinthians 5:18). Although our original beauty bestowed by God was marred, yet through Christ's redemptive act of sacrifice, He made it possible for us to reflect His beauty. Children and teens must be given the gift of understanding and appreciation of real and inner beauty for it surpasses all types of physical beauty.

Although, cosmetic enhancement trend is here to stay, parents and guardians of the children must make sure that the focus on inner beauty is never absent in your effort of spiritual mentoring. It must be emphasized and given a more significant value and of greater worth among children and teens as it brings on genuine admiration from everyone including God Himself, because He "looks at the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7). Therefore, in God's eyes, we are made perfect through Christ (Hebrews 10:14). Understanding the true concept of beauty, will bring a greater joy, self-contentment, and genuine self-satisfaction that persist regardless of circumstances in life. Children should be guided to develop self-respect, self-reliance, and place more focus and time on developing inward beauty among them. They must be led to the source of beauty which is Christ and experience His power and love and be drawn to His everlasting beauty and charms. God wants all of us to be able to proudly say, "I am God's child; therefore, I am happy to be me." ♦

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Hugs from
JESUS

Body Parts

[Use the child's name as you point to each body part.] Jesus made *Vanessa's* hair. Jesus made *Vanessa's* nose. Thank you, Jesus, for making *Vanessa's* hair, and thank you for making her nose. Jesus made *Vanessa's* ears. Thank you, Jesus, for

making *Vanessa's* ears, etc.

[It can generate great merriment for the older preschooler to identify a body incorrectly and allow the child to decide if you are right or wrong and give the correct answer.]

Thank you, Jesus, for having made me as I am. Amen.

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

A Vow to Make a Difference

Tracy Hamulwa is a very lively woman living in Kamanga. Earning a decent living for her family is what drives her everyday. But when an opportunity to work for Habitat for Humanity, an international Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), within her community came up she had no idea it would change the course of her life for the better. Tracy was working on a project that was targeting children who were orphaned by the HIV pandemic and whilst there, one particular story of a 16 year old girl who became a breadwinner for her siblings after the death of their parents caught her attention. She took keen interest in this particular teenager and found out that she was providing for her family through prostitution, putting her at high risk for contracting HIV. Since then Tracy vowed to make a difference in her community. She dedicated her life to work with young people within her own community because she could see desperate young people ignorant about protecting themselves and unable to resist peer pressure.

Immediately after her job ended with Habitat for Humanity, Tracy took an initiative to become a child counsellor and afterwards began volunteering for the local Health Center in her community and that is when she heard about the My Health My Responsibility YEP (Young and Empowered Project) project during a church sensitization meeting in Kamanga.

Tracy says “I was intrigued when I found out about who mentors ought to be! It is as if this project was speaking directly to what I wanted to achieve for the young people in my community and decided to volunteer as a Adult Mentor”.



©Photo: ADRA

So many changes have happened in Tracy's life since joining the project as an adult mentor. Since she no longer volunteers for the clinic, she has focused her attention to volunteering for the YEP project. She owns a shop and a saloon that is frequented by many young people from her community and she says each time a young person enters her shop she feels the need to “mentor” them and talk to them about their future. She says “I feel as if my responsibility to serve young people in the community has become so urgent since joining the YEP project”. Tracy laughs and says “I like to think of myself as a community mentor because of the way I probe and talk to the young people who frequent my shop”. Tracy said that

she attributes her new found courage in engaging in this type of deliberate mentorship to the YEP project through the mentorship training that she underwent and the training on Child and Youth Psychosocial care after she became an Adult mentor.

The next step for her she said, was to impact the lives of as many children and youths who are registered in her friendship groups and learn as much from them as she can because she believes learning is a two-way process.

Please support ADRA's Advocacy campaign.

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

Siri Bjerkan Karlsson
ADRA Sweden
Country Director



"How to communicate with them?"

The stage from 0 to 6 years old is the so-called early childhood: wonderful years in which parents have a lot to enjoy, many important moments to tell your child with everything you love him or her. We know that communication with a deaf child is different, but don't let these years escape: sign, speak, sing to your child... Here you will find information on how to do it, tips, ideas and resources to continue to enjoy your deaf child and especially teach him or her the love of God.

Deaf children from 0 to 6 years old Communication at this age.

"When we found out she was a deaf girl we didn't know what to do or whom to turn to. It's something you can't imagine and don't expect.

When you start to realize it you have millions of doubts and one of them is how you will be able to communicate with her".

At first, you see it as very difficult, almost impossible, but it is not. You have the most important tool to start communicating with her or him: all your love and the enormous desire you have for them to be happy, and the blessing of God.

Let's get to work Before you start

The stage from 0 to 6 years old is

full of discovery, of special moments that are shared in family. From the time they wake up until they go to bed you can tell them many things, make signs of things that are important to them. And it will give you a lot of joy.

Where to start? First, it will be important to know what is involved, whether or not your child has hearing aids or a cochlear implant.

A deaf child will find it difficult... if you talk to him without him seeing your face or when his back is turned. If you show her something and while she is looking at it, you tell her or give her signs she is not going to be able to pay attention to you.

A deaf child will not find it difficult... to understand the expressions of your face, if you vocalize well, if you share with him or her, if you give him or her time to see your face and see his or her toy... in short, if you adapt to his or her characteristics. Bible stories should be illustrated, accompanied by body expressions. You should represent the stories as if it were a play where you assume the roles of the characters in



the story and tell them in an expressive way.

Moms and Dads

Receiving the news that your child has a hearing loss can leave you feeling powerless and unsure where to start. These first moments are completely normal. If it gets worse one day, it's OK to try it again. Besides, I'm sure you're already doing a lot of great things. Especially remember that God is with you, guiding and caring for the steps of your deaf child.

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God, who created everything lovely and beautiful that the eye rests upon, is a lover of the beautiful. He shows you how He estimates true beauty. The ornament of a meek and quiet spirit is in His sight of great price. Shall we not seek earnestly to gain that which God estimates as more valuable than costly dress or pearls or gold? The inward adorning, the grace of meekness, a spirit in harmony with the heavenly angels, will not lessen true dignity of character or make us less lovely here in this world.

Testimonies for the church, vol. 3, p. 376



Bible Passage

Read Exodus 9 with this devotional.

Pharaoh hardened his heart, and all the world has heard the story. But if Pharaoh had softened his heart and obeyed God, and allowed the children of Israel to go in the first place, the mercy and greatness of God would have been told around the world just as much and maybe more.

A few years ago I was visiting our Sabbath schools in the land of the pharaohs. At one place, I met a strong, muscular young man with a handshake like a grip of iron. "Who is that young man?" I asked. "His name is Adlai Botross," our leader told me. "When I first came here and hired this hall in which to hold meetings, he was the worst man in town. He used to be a prize-fighter, and when he got drunk he was the terror of the town. Of course, we had some enemies in this place, and they promised Adlai some money and some whiskey if he would

disturb the meetings. He was glad for the chance. So at the very first meeting, there he was, sitting under the light switch, ready to turn out the lights and shout. Then the others were to come in and beat me up. But the singing touched his heart, and he listened all the way through.

"What's the matter with you?" said our enemies to him after the meeting. 'Here we promise you money and whiskey, and you just sit.'

"Oh, I forgot all about it,' said Adlai. 'That man is a good preacher, but I'll do it tomorrow night.'

"The next night he came again, and again sat quietly all through.

"What's the matter with you?' asked our enemies again after the meeting.

"Listen,' said Adlai. 'I don't intend to disturb that man tonight or any night. He is preaching the truth, and you know it. I'm going to come to every meeting, and if any of you want to disturb that preacher, you'll have to disturb me first.'

"He did come to every meeting. Our enemies were too afraid of him to try disturbing the preacher anymore, and Adlai Botross was the first to be baptized."

God sees in every one of us something



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worthwhile—something He needs. Won't you let Him show His power in you?

But indeed for this purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth.
Exodus 9:16

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

TOUGH QUESTIONS & POSSIBLE ANSWERS



When is it okay for a girl to start wearing makeup?

Preschooler

Your preschooler might enjoy playing with makeup, especially if she watches Mommy apply lipstick. Fine—but don't communicate she needs makeup to be beautiful to you. Your approval matters, so give it often and accompanied with hugs.

Elementary Age

Affirm that your daughter's natural beauty as God's wonderful creation is already remarkable, but don't expect that to satisfy her. If you've decided on an age at which makeup can be part of your daughter's life, tell her when it is. It's likely to be a few years, but you might allow your daughter to practice applying makeup on rare occasions for wear around the house. And be sure

your daughter learns how to apply makeup well—in moderation. A friend who sells Mary Kay or another skin care product can teach your daughter how to use minimal makeup for maximum impact. These early foundations will help you when your daughter reaches the age to wear makeup.

Preteen

Many of your daughter's peers are wearing makeup and it's likely your child wants to fit in, so see the advice in the paragraph above. Like it or not, your daughter seeks the approval of her friends and the attention of boys. If her mother uses makeup and she can't, expect to hear about a double standard and plan your response. Stay focused on your daughter accepting that true beauty is internal—

and given by God.

Related Scriptures

1 Samuel 16:7 and Proverbs 31:30 address true beauty.



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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: Broken Hearts

Question: How do I handle broken hearts when preteens "split up"?

Answer: During the preteen years, kids have multiple fractured relationships—whether in standing friendships or in budding romances. You can't prevent these painful experiences, but you can help kids through them.

- **Listen.** Don't pry for information, but when preteens talk, pay attention.
- **Focus on understanding.** Avoid sarcasm or trite responses. Yes, we adults may know that "this too shall pass," but for preteens, the world has just come to an end. Making light of the situation may

embarrass kids and keep them from coming back to you in the future.

- **Pray.** Rather than try to give "right" answers, simply offer to pray for God's comfort. Encourage kids to lean on God for emotional support.

What you should do

- Give preteens space.
- Be alert for signs that a preteen is having trouble coping after a breakup.
- Offer many opportunities for preteens to build friendships at church.

What you should not do

- Don't minimize what kids are going through.
- Don't try to "fix" the broken relationship.
- Don't talk about your own preteen experience—this isn't about you.

Decoder

You may never even realize two preteens are a "couple"; often these kids may all but ignore one another. Despite a lack of physical proximity or obvious relationship, the breakup is still traumatic. Don't downplay it because you didn't "see" it.

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 WANITSCHKE,
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Our family gates—The 5th gate: The Dung Gate

During the last months, we took a look at the doors of ancient Jerusalem at the time of Nehemiah. We discovered a secret for our family life: The various gates still show us today how our family life should be shaped. On our tour along the wall we are now passing by at the so called: "Dung Gate", the fifth door (Nehemiah 3:14).

At that time, it was important for the people in Jerusalem that rubbish and dung from animals and people did not remain scattered everywhere, but was collected in one place. This protected from contamination and disease—and the smells of this place should not be spread within the city walls. That is why we have a separate place in our apartments, a washroom and toilet, with its own door and ventilation. Nobody likes it when "unpleasant odors" spread in our rooms and apartments. In Genesis 23:13-14, God gave his people hygiene measures so that people do not pollute or even infect themselves with harmful substances. Many of these hygiene measures are taken for granted today—or had to be learned again during various pandemics: Washing hands when coming home from school, or having been to the toilet, or be-

fore eating, in order not to get sick from harmful bacteria. And if we are sick, we need help at our home or outside (doctor, hospital, ...) to get rid of the "crap" again.

Do we have such hygiene measures for our spiritual life, or do we have a place in our families where we can "dump" the harmful things? I can still remember an experience from my primary school days. I was in 2nd grade. In the schoolyard, I played a game that my mother had forbidden me to play. She said it was too dangerous. "You could fall and hurt yourself." But Rainer didn't listen to it. And then it happened: I hurt the back of my head during this game and was bleeding. When I came home from school that day, I already knew what would happen. Mum asked me what had happened and if it had happened at the game she had forbidden me to play. Rainer quickly said: "No, I just fell." Mum didn't say anything, but cleaned the wound and put a plaster on it. Then the days, weeks and months went by. The wound had healed, but I hadn't been able to forget the lie I told. Again and again my conscience reminded me that it was better to confess to my mother and ask

for forgiveness. This dung (trash, rubbish) was simply still in me. Finally, after a long time, I went to my mum: it was very uncomfortable for me. But when mum took me in her arms after I confessed it to her and asked for forgiveness, I felt all the burden (this crap) taken away from me and I was free again. My mother forgave me. This is what God does! He wants us to bring him all the "crap" of our lives. John once put it this way: "If we say we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:8,9). Finally we can be clean again!

How good God has a dung gate for us! Do we have one in our family? All the stories in the Bible about marriages and families show very clear: there was never a perfect family or marriage. We all fail! Actually, we all need a "Dung Gate", so that we can get rid of things that hinder us to have close, happy and healthy relationships with each other and with God again—because the trash is gone. Don't wait. Talk with each other and use this special gate. That's the only way to get rid of the "crap"!



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BALANCE IN MINISTRY... AND OTHER FUNNY JOKES

The key to longevity is not balance. Balance implies that both the personal and professional areas of your life receive equal time and attention. And that simply isn't the case. More times than not one side of the scales are tipped.

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

QUICK AND EASY WORSHIP IDEAS FOR KIDS

God gave me eyes to see when other people need help

Bible Stories

- Jesus feeds five thousand hungry people—Matthew 14:13-21
- Jesus washes the disciples' feet—John 13:1-17

Things you need:

- Cup half filled with water
- Dry dish towel
- Hand fan

Worship activities

1. Place the items on a low table close to where you will do the worship. Do this in a place where it doesn't matter if water spills.
2. Talk about how God gave us eyes so that we can see when other people need help.
3. Jesus was always looking around for people who needed His help.
4. Show your children the cup of water, dish towel, and fan. Show your children how the fan works if they haven't seen one before, and how it creates a cooling breeze. Ask them if they know when a dish towel is needed. Go and sit at a table or counter where you can safely spill something.
5. Pretend to be very hot, tired, and thirsty.
6. Can your children see your needs? If they are not sure how to help you, ask them to look at the objects on the low table for some ideas.
7. Perhaps they could fan you to cool you down, or bring you a drink.

8. When they bring you a cup of water, spill it a little and see if they will bring you the dish towel and help you wipe up the spill.
9. Each time your child helps you, thank them for noticing that you needed help, and for bringing what you needed.
10. Think together of a time when you needed help and Jesus gave you what you needed—money, food, lost keys, etc.
11. Pray, thanking God for noticing when you need help and providing what you need.

Other op-

tions:

- Look together at pictures of people needing help. Talk about the kind of help they need.

"Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality."

Romans 12:13

- Mime situations in which you might need your children's help and see if they can guess the kind of help you need.



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Just for you

Remember a time when someone has noticed your need and helped you. How did that encourage you?
Is there someone close to you who has a need? Ask them, "If I could do one thing to help you today, what would you like it to be?"
What one thing would you like God to do for you today? Ask Him for His help too.

NEW COMIC BOOK SERIES: THE CREATION DETECTIVES

Look at the birds: they do not plant seeds, gather a harvest and put it in barns; yet your Father in heaven takes care of them! Aren't you worth much more than birds? (Matthew 6:26 GNT)

Look how the wild flowers grow: they do not work or make clothes for themselves. But I tell you that not even King Solomon with all his wealth had clothes as beautiful as one of these flowers. It is God who clothes the wild grass—grass that is here today and gone tomorrow, burned up in the oven. Won't he be all the more sure to clothe you? What little faith you have! (Matthew 6: 28-30 GNT)

During his ministry on earth, Jesus frequently advised people to look to nature in order to learn about God. In the two texts above, he used the birds and the flowers to teach how much our loving God cares for his children and that he will always provide for our needs.

This month I do not have an experiment for you. Instead, I want to share a great resource for those who work with older children and teenagers: a new comic book that encourages looking at nature with Jesus' eyes, trusting the Bible in all circumstances, and persevering in faith until finding the answers.

The comic book *The Flooded Desert* is the first issue of the series *The Creation Detectives*, which features the adventures of a group of Christian teenagers and their dog who travel the world investigating nature from a

Biblical perspective with the help of a retired pastor. Although the comic characters are fictional, each of the issues covers a real scientific research project carried on by creationists researchers in the past. The observations, data, and conclusions presented in the story are based on the actual studies and show that careful science based on the Bible can yield successful results and publications in main scientific journals.

The Flooded Desert describes the research done by Dr Leonard Brand and Dr John Whitmore on a Grand Canyon geological formation called the Coconino Sandstone. This comic book was released a few weeks ago and hundreds of teenagers have already enjoyed reading it. These are some comments from these first readers:

"I liked the story and the graphics. It looks so real!"

"I learned that a small group of people can succeed if they keep working despite the problems and trusting what God said"

"This story taught me that sometimes scientists may be wrong and that I do not need to doubt the Bible just because science says so".

The comic series is produced by the Geoscience Research Institute and the Spanish lay ministry *Naturaleza y Creación* (Nature and Creation), with the support of the Faith and Science Council. For now, *The Flooded Desert* is available in English and Spanish and it can be downloaded for free at the GRI website: <https://www.grisda.org/creation-detectives-flooded-desert>.



Shortly, it will be available also in French, Portuguese, and German. We would like to translate it to as many European languages as possible so, if you or someone you know can help with the translation to your language, please contact Noemí Durán at noemi.duran@eud.adventist.org

Noemi Duran
Geoscience Research Institute
Director of the European
Branch Office



Children's Devotions

LOU (3 YEARS)



So the bees make honey. Do the butterflies then make jam?

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



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From the HANDBOOK

on Children's Ministries

Discipline

Plan for Discipline Problems

When discipline problems arise, take remedial action immediately.

1. **Deal with the child individually.** Scolding a child in front of classmates may lead students to side with their friends against you.
2. **Ask the child to describe his or her actions.** Sometimes the teacher witnesses only the effect and not the cause of misbehavior. A child may not be able to articulate why he or she misbehaved but should be able to describe what he or she did. If two children are involved, be sure to get both sides of the story.
3. **Define limits.** Post rules in the classroom. Make it clear why certain kinds of behavior are unacceptable. Sometimes discipline problems arise simply because children have stumbled over invisible limits. Be consistent.

4. **Redirect the child into positive behavior.** Once a child has been corrected, allow the youngster to rejoin the class. Make a note if the same misbehavior is repeated. A pattern of disobedience is worth discussing with parents.
5. **Allow the child to experience the consequences of misbehavior.** This might mean making the youngster clean up the mess made as the result of rowdy play or having the child apologize to the offended party in a fight. The punishment should fit the crime. Usually, a delay in correction or unrelated punishment keeps the offender from connecting it with the misbehavior. Don't threaten what you can't deliver. Sometimes a child behaves in a manner so defiant or violent that it exceeds normal misbehavior and the average teachers' ability

to cope. Often the answer is to employ an adult helper who can work individually with the child. A teacher who takes the time to check up on a problem may find the child has a history of emotional disturbance or abuse, or a tendency to forget to take doses of prescribed behavior-modifying medication. Any teacher faced by unusually defiant behavior, however, should get help from the Christian education specialist or the pastor. The problem may call for pastoral counseling, referral to a Christian counseling center, or intervention by social services.

At all times, remember God's dealing with Moses, David, and Peter. Moses whined and complained. David fell into spectacular disobedience. Peter denied Christ. Despite their behavior, God used them all. Every Sabbath School curriculum features these three as heroes of faith—but few teachers would have wanted them in their class!

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

PARENTING TEENS

Broad principles

There are several broad principles that may help you as you guide your teen through this demanding period. The first principle: Learn to communicate. Set aside the endless verbal battles that tend to leave you exhausted and discouraged.

No shouting

Shouting only weakens your authority and provides a strategic advantage for your teen. Look for better ways.

Serious conference

A crisis situation demands a serious conference with your teenager. Don't conduct it in a public place. Convey, without blaming or judging, the seriousness of the situation. Explain the need to establish one's own identity and values.

The limits of freedom

Your teen desires more and more freedom. Explain that you cannot set him free to do whatever he wishes. As a parent you have a God-given responsibility to guide and protect him—even though he's a teenager.

Apologize when you're at fault

Sincere parental apology can go a long way with a teen. It actually builds his re-

spect for you and restores the bond between you. Apologize when you lose your cool, overreact, or act unwisely.

Clarity

Aim for clarity in all your communication with teens. State your intentions to correct unacceptable behavior and explain exactly what is wrong with it.

Frontiers of behavior

Define the frontiers of behavior. Set limits. Let your teenager know that even though he is growing up and will soon be on his own, this does not mean that he can be on his own in your home.

Rules and sanctions

All must abide by certain general rules for family living in order for peace and harmony to abound. Make the rules clear and simple. Innumerate the rules on which you will not compromise. Then calmly let your teen know that if he chooses deliberately to disobey you from this point on, you will have to resort to drastic measures. You may have to explain what these are.

Love

Convey your entire message in love. Reassure your teen of your concern and deep love. Tell him that you want a happy



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home during your few remaining years left together as a family.

Ask for co-operation

Ask for your teen's co-operation in achieving a peaceful family atmosphere and in shouldering his responsibilities around the home. If you respect him, his respect for himself and for you may be fostered.

Tough love

If you do all this and your teen remains hostile and defiant, you may have to resort to tough love. Indeed there is an organization called ToughLove. It is an international framework for support groups of parents who draw a tough line for problem teens.

The final sanction

The final sanction is to say, 'You have to live in our family as a decent human being or you have to leave.' Parents then give their teens the choice of living with friends, relatives, or other ToughLove parents..

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



ACTIVITY REPORT



News from the Czecho-Slovakian Union

Union meeting for teachers

A meeting for Children's Sabbath School teachers took place from November 22-24, 2019, in Moravian Beskids near the village Visalaje. The whole weekend was carried by the topic "Christ in Teacher's Heart- In His Power and Love to Be Here for Children."

The meeting started Friday evening with introductory information, a presentation of speakers and lecturers, an icebreaker activity and a bedtime story. The Sabbath morning was dedicated to discussion in groups on the topic of the meeting and to the Bible message delivered by the President of Czecho-Slovakian Union, Mikulas Pavlik.

On Sabbath afternoon and Sunday morning, the workshops were held to the problematic issues that teachers are currently facing, such as: How to attract older children, Working with problematic children (especially in foster care), The Children's Sabbath School (ChSS) mission overlap, Adventist identity of children, How to start ChSS with little ones, Searching for a younger surrogate teacher and mentoring him by an older and experienced one. The workshops were lead by speakers with experience in the field.

On Sabbath evening, there were several presentations for the following time period of the Conference: first was presented the Church vision for the ChSS, then plans of the union and particular conferences of ChSS for the year 2020, an information to exhibited materials, a presentation from the conference "Children in NET", an activity called "White stone"- a prayer for a sad child and again, a bedtime story.

On Sunday, after morning devotional and workshops, it was the time to thank all speakers and volunteers, because without them this meeting would not have taken place. The whole programme was accompanied by Slamka's family worship, by prayers and by short videos from the production of the mime Carlos Martinez. While adults enjoyed the programme, children had several activities (stories, crafts, walk, games...) on the topic "Friends", provided by volunteers of Club Pathfinder that were helping there.

In this event participated a total of 103 persons, of which 64 were teachers and volunteers, 12 adult family members and 27 children.

The next Union meeting is scheduled for 2021. Meanwhile, during this period, several trainings for teachers in both Conferences of the Union are going to take place.



Lýdia Grešová
CHM Czecho-Slovakian Union

Bible competition in Slovakia

The Biblical Seeker is a children's biblical knowledge competition organized by the department of the Children's Sabbath School of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Slovakia in cooperation with the Pathfinder Club.

The aim of the competition is to teach children to take their Bibles into their hands and read them regularly. We want to use this activity to motivate children to build this habit.

In the school year 2019/2020, the 5th year of this annual competition took place. Children from 3 to 18 years of age studied the second half of the book of Genesis, chapters 8 and 9 of Acts and older children also Proverbs 1.

Children compete individually or in groups in 4 categories according to age. In December, they wrote the 1st competitive test, in April the 2nd. Both 1st round tests were written by children in local churches and competitors received a metal badge for participating in the 1st round. The badge changes colour every year and its design is based on the triangle of the Pathfinder Club.

In May 2020, the 2nd (final) round of the Biblical Seeker was to take place in Bratislava. Traditionally, the contestants meet together in one church, the test is corrected on the spot and after lunch there is an evaluation, handing over diplomas and books. The best competitors will also receive a gold metal badge. Due to circumstances around COVID-19, the final was cancelled

and the competition ended in the 1st round.

I am grateful for each child who completed the first round at home and took the time to read the Bible, as well as for the parents and teachers who guided and cared for the children during this period.

We want to motivate children to use the time they spend at home to read the Bible. We are preparing a "replacement" for an incomplete year called Mini Seeker.

The Mini Seeker is a study of 5 chapters of the Bible. Each week one chapter is to be studied. We choose motivational and encouraging chapters. After a week of study, we will open online competition.

The winners will be the contestants who answer as many questions as possible in the given time. There will be 1 winner in each age category. Winners of each week can choose

a book from our church publishing house Advent Orion.

The Mini Seeker begins the last week of May with the study of Psalm 23. Other texts to be studied are Psalm 91 and 1 Corinthians 13

Lýdia Grešová
CHM Czecho-Slovakian Union





CHM 25TH ANNIVERSARY



Special Invitation from the GC for all children worldwide

Kids Talents for Jesus

Children's Ministries is celebrating 25 years of ministry to children and adolescents!

To commemorate this event, we are calling all children and teens from around the world to show their talents and gifts and share them participating in the **Kids Talents for Jesus** program. The theme is, **Jesus is My Best Friend**. We would love to see all children and teens send in their best piece of art, or poetry, or media production.

All winning entries will be featured in the *General Conference Children's Ministries 25th Anniversary Kids Talents for Jesus* publication.

For rules and guidelines and the submission form, you can download this from the General Conference Children's Ministries website and Facebook page at:

<http://children.adventist.org>;

Facebook@gcchildrensministries.

Additional information for EUD territory will come soon.

If you are interested, please connect with your CHM leaders at church, conference and union level.

Don't be shy; be creative, share your talents!



Keep in Mind

EVENTS FROM THE INTER-EUROPEAN DIVISION

2020



May 23

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.

August 22

End It Now Emphasis Day

Resources will be available at: <https://women.adventist.org/enditnow-day>

October 24

Creation Sabbath

Material will be provided.

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.



Returning to churches after Covid-19 lockdown experience

As the pandemic is getting to its next step of actions and measures, church leaders and members are trying to figure out how they will manage the return to church attendance and worship, being respectful of the state restrictions they have to comply with.

During confinement, several actions and activities have been put together in every single family, church, conference, union... to be able to cope with all the challenges that such situation brought to every single inhabitant of the planet.

From one Sabbath to the other, churches have had to adapt and respond to COVID-19 in their own way and allow their members to keep being connected and able to worship and adore God on Sabbath.

Church attendance and relationships changed frameworks. Many have “migrated” their services and groups onto digital platforms, and all were more than grateful to Zoom and similar live-streaming platforms to have provided them opportunities for regular corporate worship and connections. Intergenerational service was looking different in lockdown season, given the limitations from our governments. Most probably, some churches have been still considering how they could be more intentionally intergenerational despite the fact that their members were participating in a virtual way.

As Sabbath services were provided for adults through Internet, we as Children’s Ministries leaders and Children’s Sabbath School teachers did our best to provide to children and parents ideas, videos and any other useful tools to continue discipling

their children as they were confined at home. It has been a very special time for families and churches to understand the value to connect with God as a family. It was, actually, the smallest nucleus of an intergenerational worship: a family joining to pray, sing, read God’s word and sharing faith experiences together. If at the beginning it probably seemed difficult and demanding, after some weeks it turned being part of “normal” way to worship on Sabbaths. Finally, with all those possibilities and choices, for some this turned out to be too many options, and they felt even overwhelmed.

Now, after several weeks or months, restrictions are starting being put apart and “new” rules and actions are put in place. One of those is the “after-pandemic-return-to-church” attendance experience, keeping respectful of all the rules and conditions given by laws and regulations.

As I was considering this “return to church” from the children’s and Children’s Ministries side, some simple but challenging questions came to my mind:

- How will the return to church for children be?
- How will the Children’s Sabbath School leaders and teachers organize their classes to comply with government requirements on health protection?
- What are the main challenges in church facilities in regard of the children’s activities and rooms?
- Will children be allowed to access to the church facilities and mingle with older generation’s members?

- How can the worship time still be “intergenerational” in that new church framework?

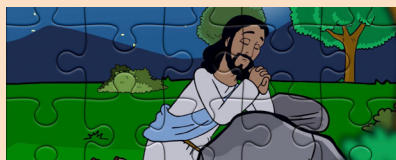
...
I have to say that some of my questions are still waiting for an answer, as the return to church is not yet a reality. However, I’m concerned as I’m thinking and empathizing with many children who, from one Sabbath to another, have been locked down without having the possibility to meet again with their friends at church and are longing to see them and play with them again.

They also look forward living the Sabbath worship together with all other brothers and sisters as they were used to. Will it be the same? Will they be allowed to be part of the church life as before? And then, I wonder if and how the worship time can still be “intergenerational”, having to keep the distances or having to respect a maximum number of participants. Will the children be asked to stay at home with their families because they are increasing the number of participants and hindering some other adults to participate?

The answers will come in a near future, but in the meanwhile, I dare to appeal to all decision-makers in our churches to keep in mind the needs and the desire of children to be part of their church. This is also a way to “let the children come to Jesus and not hindering them”.

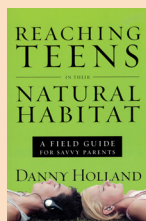
Elsa Cozzi
EUD CHM Director

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES



ONLINE JIGSAW PUZZLES

GC Children’s Ministries
Children’s Ministries of the General Conference has created and put online jigsaw puzzles connected with the GraceLink Curriculum. You access the puzzles on: <https://children.adventist.org/online-jigsaw-puzzles>



REACHING TEENS IN THEIR NATURAL HABITAT

Danny Holland

With their incomprehensible lingo, often bizarre fashion fixations, technological plugins, and ever-changing moods, teenagers can seem like an entirely different species. Connecting with them on meaningful levels—let alone actually influencing them—can seem beyond the realm of possibility. What do advertisers and entertainers who grab the attention of teenagers know that you don’t? This book helps you to successfully connect and communicate with your teenager, bridging the gap to build a relationship of lasting influence.



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