

# iLIGHT

## EUD CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES BULLETIN

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## God's Word—His Gift to Us

### Learning memory verses by heart—important or outdated?

**D**euteronomy 6, 7 says: “You shall teach them (his words) to your children, and you shall talk to them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.”

How can we achieve this? It is only possible if we keep the word of God present in our minds!

Ellen White wrote: “The word of God is to be our study. We are to educate our children in the truths found therein. It is an inexhaustible treasure; but men fail to find this treasure because they do not search until it is within their possession” (COL 109.1).

When we think about the times when we memorized our favorite bible verses, we realize that it was during our childhood! The golden age of learning memory verses is between the age of 7 and 10! That’s when we memorize the fastest!

If we keep these Bible verses in mind, we will be constantly reminded of them by the Holy Spirit!

#### **The Word of the Lord causes us to change**

Even if we cannot remember the exact words of a bible verse, or if we get frustrated because we keep forgetting it, we can be certain that God’s word will cleanse and change us! If we spend time with the Lord, it will be reflected in our thoughts and actions. Also, we will see the change in our children. As they look up to us and see us be patient, kind, loving and responsible towards them, they will take us as their example and want to learn about this God who has the power to change us and them. This may not happen straightaway, as we know from our own experience, however, God

has promised that he will give us a new heart and will put a new spirit within us.

#### **God’s word can help us not to sin**

Psalms 119, 11 says: “Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against you.” (NKJV)

But how can we show our children, without moralizing, how the Bible can help them not to sin?

Ellen White says: “The reason why the youth, and even those of mature years, are so easily led into temptation and sin, is that they do not study the word of God and meditate upon it as they should” (MH 458.2).

But how can we actively help our children to invite God into their hearts and make him the guide of their lives? To help them discover that God’s word will aid them to defeat sin?

A possible answer to these questions is found in Ellen White’s book “Education”: Our heavenly Father, in giving His word, did not overlook the children. In all that men have written, where can be found anything that has such a hold upon the heart, anything so well adapted to awaken the interest of the little ones, as the stories of the Bible? (Ed 185.2)

In these simple stories may be made plain the great principles of the law of God. Thus by illustrations best suited to the child’s comprehension, parents and teachers may begin very early to fulfill the Lord’s injunction concerning His precepts: “Thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.” (Ed 185.3)

## God's Bible Promises for kids

When there's nothing to hide,  
you have peace inside.

*"If you forgive others for the things they do wrong, then your Father in heaven will also forgive you for the things you do wrong."*

**Matthew 6:14**

Jesus ALWAYS keeps his promises.

*"The Lord is not slow in doing what he promised."*

**2 Peter 3:9**

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

## CARING FOR KIDS



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

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

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

Let them make mistakes.

Notice when they grow.

Wave and honk when you drive by them.

Give them immediate feedback.

Include them in conversations.

Respect them.

Join in their adventures.

Visit their schools.

Help them learn something new.

Be understanding when they have a difficult day.

Give them good choices.

Respect the choices they make..

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### God's word offers comfort

"I remembered Your judgements of old, O Lord, and have comforted myself" (Psalms 119, 52 NKJV). Or in verse 50, the NKJV says: "Even in my suffering I was comforted because your promise gave me life".

Many times, we don't find the right words to speak to God, but the Bible is full of people who put their sorrows and their pain into words. Especially David has expressed the comfort he received from God in times of tribulations through songs, which can be found in the Psalms. Encourage your children to memorize bible verses, which are encouraging and comforting! It won't stop the suffering, but it will help them to look beyond the pain.

### The Word of God helps to lead a successful life

Be sure that the book of the Law is always read in your worship. Study it day and night, and make sure that you obey everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. (Joshua 1: 8 NKJV)

God's holy word tells us that we are on the winning side! If we live our lives according to God's will, we will be successful. But what kind of success are we speaking of?

True success is based on the principle of giving, not taking. We may and should have goals in life, however, our success should be in honor of God. Success will only gain value if it is seen from the perspective of eternity.

Everything we plan and try can only be successful through the constant guidance of God. This means that everything we identify as success (being patient and polite, ...) has to be done in accordance with the word of God. Proverbs 3, 5-6 says: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him and he shall direct your paths" (NKJV). Therefore, if we know God's will and live according to it, he will give us

true success in our lives. We should impart this knowledge to our children! We aren't a failure, but with God we are on the winning side.

### Memorizing relevant scriptures

This is not about having children chant memory verses on Sabbath morning, in order for them to receive a reward for their effort. In fact, the memorization of Bible verses is crucial for spiritual growth. Through the memorization of relevant scriptures, we further the learning capacity, the analytical thinking ability and it will enhance their judgment and their understanding of God and his actions.

But how can we motivate our children to memorize Bible verses? Children link the action of learning memory verses with certain feelings towards it. Rewards or too much pressure can cause feelings of stress or being overwhelmed and result in viewing the memorization of bible verses as a burden. These emotions are then transferred to God's word. We want our children to read the Bible with joy and excitement and view it as a present help in times of trouble. Therefore, it is essential to develop new methods that make the memorization of Bible verses positive and appealing. Obviously, stickers and other little rewards can serve as incentives to memorizing a Bible verse. However, this can cause rivalry amongst the children and may lead to frustration. A better solution would be to address the group as one (e.g.: Today we will all say the memory verse together!), or in the form of games or other activities which simplify the process of memorization. And not only children will benefit from it! ♦

Brigitte Zachhuber

Austrian Union  
Children's Ministries Director



# JESUS

wants all of me

## Never Alone

Feeling lonely is the worst thing in the world. This can happen when we move to a new house, a new church, or to a new school. But it can also happen when we don't move anywhere and are next to many people we know. Feeling alone is painful! Ask God to help you find a Christian friend who will make

you feel like you are always in good company.

Now, regardless of what happens, remember: you will never be truly alone, because God will always be with you. He will never leave you, because He promised that Himself.

God fulfills everything He promises.

“Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”

Hebrews 13:5

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

## MARTINE (6 YEARS)

Bring my little brother back to where you bought him, and take one that doesn't make so much noise.

From: [www.enfandises.com/en/bibliotheque/cat-21-brother/phrase-22093.html](http://www.enfandises.com/en/bibliotheque/cat-21-brother/phrase-22093.html)

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### IN SYNERGY

# A Canceled Wedding Education can change everything

**D**jama lives in a rural farming village in the West African country of Niger. After going to school for only 2 years, she had lost interest. The school was only a small hut made of sticks and mud and she didn't like sitting on the dirt floor. Her parents decided to let her stay home and start learning the domestic tasks that she would need to know to become a wife.

By the time she was only 12 years old, plans were being made for Djama to be married to an older man who already had three wives. "We didn't mean to cause here any harm," her mother said. "It is quite common in our culture for girls to marry early. We didn't know how dangerous it could be for our daughter. In the past, only those girls who really excelled in their studies stayed in school. The rest of the girls dropped out early to help their parents at home and get ready for marriage. We just didn't understand the importance of education or how it can help girls have better opportunities in life. From what we believed at the time, getting Djama married would provide her security and resolve many concerns for us."

The story of Djama and her mother is representative for many families.



Photo: Frank Spangler

However, thanks to an education program involving whole communities, sponsored and cooperated by ADRA, things are starting to change.

Djama's mother continues her story: "ADRA came and started the education project in our community. .... Then ADRA built a beautiful set of classrooms for us, with desks, blackboards, proper floors and windows! They have given the children everything that they need to learn—like backpacks, textbooks, exercise books, pens and pencils, and a solar lamp so that they can study their lessons at night! ADRA also worked with the teachers to im-

prove the whole education system."

Djama loves her new school and is doing very well with her studies. Her wedding was cancelled.

Every child, everywhere - has the right to a quality education. You can also help! You have a voice. You can help the children in many other poor countries by speaking up for their right to education. Sign the petition at: <https://inschool.adra.org/>

See also page 11 for QR code.

Gray Haugen & Frank Spangler  
ADRA

**Before you get angry with kids...**

Not every child who distracts, fidgets and cannot concentrate is naughty and rude. Especially in children with hyperactive syndrome (ADHD), this is an unintended behavior that a child cannot control much. However, the response of some adults to such children is sometimes inadequate. If we often admonish, reprimand or even punish these children, they do not understand it correctly. Such child does not mean it wrong, often trying to do just the best to gratify parents, teachers or other adult authorities. It usually fails and the negative reaction then only leaves a sense of failure and disappointment. Many of these children live with the feeling that they are incompetent, unaccepted, inferior, problematic, or even that no one likes them. They are right in the fact that they are often not very popular in their surroundings, and they receive many negative labels.

So how to approach such children? It is important to consider their possibilities and limits. These children are only capable of short-term concentration – they need more interesting and short activities at short intervals of time. Therefore, every bigger task needs to be phased into some shorter sections and it is important to check thoroughly that the child has correctly finished all steps. We should commend (or even reward) the child for a success-

fully completed task. It is advisable to include some physical activities regularly in which a child can release the accumulated energy. In hyperactive children, often perception begins with touch (for example, placing a hand on his shoulder). In general, regularity and the establishment of rules that bring the child a rhythm, calmness and the associated feeling of safety are very helpful. We should create rules together with children so that they are easy to understand for them and not just the plain commands.

It is also necessary to control the impulsive behavior of these children in high-risk situations so that they do not inadvertently hurt themselves or anyone else. At the same time, however, we should strengthen their self-confidence (these children often experience depression and deprivation because they hear much more criticism and rebuke than praise). As recommended by the excellent Czech psychologist Zdenek Matejcek, “we should always



try to prepare a task for these children so that they can successfully handle it, and then praise them for that”.

It is better to treat hyperactive children as those who are lively, active and spirited, rather than being unmanageable or disturbed. A positive attitude helps us to love these children more and to appreciate their better side. They are worthwhile children with a great potential!

**Josef Slowik, PhD**  
University of West Bohemia  
Department of Pedagogy



God Himself established the family relations. His word is the only safe guide in the management of children. Human philosophy has not discovered more than God knows or devised a wiser plan of dealing with children than that given by our Lord. Who can better understand all the needs of children than their Creator? Who can feel a deeper interest in their welfare than He who bought them with His own blood? If the word of God were carefully studied and faithfully obeyed, there would be less soul anguish over the perverse conduct of wicked children.

The Adventist Home, p. 306



# Night of the Sword



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## Incredi-Biblical

"For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than a double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit."

Hebrews 4:12

When Jagger woke up, his heart was pounding inside his rib cage, and his throat was dry. Even though the nightmare was over, his skin tingled with pinpricks of sweat. He could sense a dark presence in the room as he lay in his twisted sheets, staring into blackness.

Overriding his instincts, Jagger slowly sat up and touched his feet to the floor, then stood and walked across the shadowy carpet to turn on the light and pick up his Bible. Opening the pages to Psalms, he read, "Then he rebukes them in his anger, and terrifies them in his wrath"

(Psalm 2:5). Something about imagining God rebuking the enemy and giving the evil spirit a taste of his own medicine made Jagger feel less afraid. In fact, when he turned out the light and crawled back into bed, instead of a dark presence he could almost sense warrior angels standing by to protect him.

The next morning he told his dad about the experience. "Jagger", his dad said, eyes bright, "you used your sword of the Spirit—the Word of God."

Jagger sat down, smiling as the realization dawned on him. He remembered reading in Ephesians about putting on the full armor of God, including the sword of the Spirit. Inwardly he vowed to spend more time sharpening that sword—like a soldier preparing for battle—by reading his Bible every day.

## Info Splat

Thirteenth-century Japanese swordsmiths were serious about swords. Before forging a blade, they would go through a ritual purification and achieve a state of mind that they believed would breathe their spirit into the sword and give it mythical qualities.

## React now!

What verses from your sword of the Spirit (the Bible) could you use to fight against fear or other negative experiences?

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

## SECRETS FROM THE TREASURE CHEST



### How can God, who loves everyone, stand back and watch people suffer?

– Joseph, 15

Joseph, listen to me. Listen very carefully to what I'm about to say. God is NOT standing back and watching people suffer. He's doing something about it every minute of every day.

First, most suffering on this earth is the result of the choices men and women make. They damage their bodies through unhealthy habits such as smoking, drinking, and eating foods that do more harm than good. The Bible and Ellen White's books are brimming with sound health advice and life-enriching ideas provided by God to ease suffering and pain.

Second, the Holy Spirit is *constantly* at work trying to direct minds heavenward. You won't find too many

active criminals who have a loving relationship with God. Painful violence happens when people reject the gentle voice of conscience, choosing rather to live by Satan's rules.

Third, even death itself has been overcome by the sacrifice of God's own Son. At this very moment, He's preparing a home for us far from this house of horrors we call Planet Earth.

Standing back and watching? Hardly! Heaven is buzzing with activity designed to end our suffering as quickly as possible.

I like the way The Living Bible paraphrases 2 Corinthians 4:17: "These troubles and sufferings of ours are, after all, quite small and won't last very

long. Yet this short time of distress will result in God's richest blessing upon us forever and ever." He's working hard for you, Joseph. Trust Him.



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

# Terminal Illness

## Supporting Suffering Children or Their Family Members

### The Basics

A child who is dealing with terminal illness, their own or that of a loved one, has the same need for love, emotional support, and normal activities as any adult. The idea of children dealing with terminal illness is difficult to acknowledge and talk about, but a child should never have to deal with any difficult situation alone—especially terminal illness. Reactions to coping with a terminal diagnosis follow a fairly typical pattern.

- **First thoughts.** A common first reaction is to think, "This is all a bad dream." Next, the child may act as if he or she had never been told of the terminal illness. Denial is a protective emotion when a life event is too overwhelming to deal with all at once. As the illness progresses, the child may grieve the loss of childhood. He or she may grow too tired or lethargic to play with friends. Medications may make the child too ill to engage in favorite activities, and hospitalizations may rob the child of time with friends and family.
- **How kids react.** The age of the child will determine, in part, how he or she reacts to the news of a terminal illness. Young children (up to age 8) will not need a great deal of detailed information regarding the illness or that of a loved one. Older children (ages 8 to 13) will have more questions and concerns. All children will want to know the name of the illness, the body parts involved, and how the illness will be treated. Children are often unable to express themselves through words. Many express their emotions through their behaviors. It's not unusual for normally well-behaved children to act out or for outgoing children to get quiet.
- **Dealing with fear.** Children will have many natural fears as they face terminal illness. They'll worry what will happen to their family once they're gone, or what will happen to them after a loved one dies. They may also have fears about physical pain as the illness progresses. Children seek a beginning, middle, and end to a story. Often children will be afraid and believe the

worst if they are not given complete information. If they sense they are not being told the truth, they will fill in the gaps on their own. Give the child information in a simple and direct manner. When answering questions posed by the child, be sure you understand what is being asked, and provide only the information he or she needs at the time. Let him or her know that all feelings are OK to have and to show.

### Care Tips

- **Communicate.** Use language a child can understand, and avoid giving information not requested. Kids often prefer to communicate by nonverbal means. Encourage children to draw pictures of how they feel, of times spent with someone they love who may be dying, or anything they want to express about their illness or that of a loved one.
- **Listen.** One of the most helpful and healing things you can do for a child is to listen to his or her story without judging or offering advice. Never underestimate the importance of a non-judgmental and caring presence. Use open-ended questions such as "What has it been like for you?" or "What would help most?" Provide a safe place for the child to share concerns, feelings, and fears.
- **Address spiritual needs.** When talking to children about death, share what the Bible says about heaven and the hope we have as believers in Jesus. Reassure the child that Jesus loves him or her. Explain that when we believe in Jesus, we are never alone because he is always with us, no matter how difficult the situation. And when we believe in Jesus, our sins are wiped away and we can live forever with him in heaven. Explain that the Bible says that in heaven there will be no more sickness and no more tears.
- **Listen.** Let the child tell his or her story. Talking about what happened helps children organize their feelings and process emotions. Don't judge or give advice—just listen. Because each child's timetable for recovery is differ-

ent, follow the child's lead. Encourage the child to share pieces of the story as he or she is ready.

### What not to say

- **"Time heals all wounds."** Time may dull the pain, but the pain of losing a child is beyond comprehension. This trite expression will ring hollow to someone facing such an enormous loss.
- **"God never gives you more than you can handle."** While true, this statement isn't the best thing to say to a family already feeling overwhelmed and stressed by the diagnosis. Some may be angry at God or wonder why he would bring something so difficult into their lives. Making this statement may increase anger and resentment.
- **"Be brave."** It's natural for a child to have fears after a tragic personal loss. Telling the child to be brave can give the impression that those fears are not OK to have.

### What to say

- **"I remember all the fun things we have done together."** It's perfectly acceptable to talk about fun you experienced with the child and family members. Reviewing fond memories reminds children and families of good times shared together.
- **"I'm here for you."** Most people in this amount of pain cannot express themselves at first. Knowing you're there to hold a hand, to sit quietly with them, or to listen when they're ready to talk is one of the greatest gifts you can give. Prepare to be there over the long haul. Recovery can take time, and they will need you down the road, too.
- **"What do you need?"** At a time like this, everyday life can be overwhelming. Meals are often the first things people offer, but there needs to be a plan for their delivery (no one can eat 40 casseroles in one week). In addition to bringing meals, offer to baby-sit the other children, mow the lawn, clean the house, or do the laundry. Helping with mundane tasks can be a huge gift.





## Redeeming the time (8)—“Talk about them... when you get up”

In his wisdom, God planned the family as the most important educational entity. A family is the starting point of the children’s training for life. The educational influences of a family are an influence either to life or to death, being many a times discrete but crucial. In this first rank school (home), the teachers (parents) should be extremely clever and determined to address the physical, intellectual and spiritual needs of their children, aiming at providing the requesting conditions to germinate a Christian character.

As each building starts with a foundation, the character training starts early in life and early in the morning. “For some, education should be second to religion, but true education is religion itself. The Bible should be the first handbook of a child.”<sup>1</sup>

We, as parents should take upon ourselves the responsibility of providing our children with such an education having every necessary component, among the first being family worship at the beginning of the day. According to E. G. White, the family morning worship is

first a way to honor the Lord. Secondly, this is a way to encircle our children with a divinely protective atmosphere, asking for God’s protection over the new day. Thirdly, at home, in a stress less context, the children might get accustomed to simple words of prayer and trusting in God. Fourthly, this is a way to train the spiritual capacities of our children.

How did this idea of morning worship start? “Now this is what you shall offer on the altar: two lambs of the first year, day by day continually. One lamb... in the morning, and the other lamb... at twilight” (Exod. 29:38, 39, NKJV). The daily sacrifices, morning and evening, were to teach the people their continual need of God. “God never intended the daily offering of a lamb to be simply a ritual or routine act. It was to be a time of “intense interest to the worshipers,” a time of preparation for worship, in silent prayer and “with earnest heart searching and confession of sin.” (see Ellen G. White, Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 353) Neither the moment of prayer nor the content are significant through

itself, but the presence of God and the fact that worship moment takes place according to His advice.

In any kind of relationship, communication is the key factor. God promised His children not just His presence, but also His readiness to dialogue with them as He guides them on the paths they should follow. Learning from early morning to submit themselves to the Lord, our children learn that everything starts with God, uttering their need to be lead and learn to be open to His leading process. They learn for the rest of their life the true meaning of trust and obey.

Therefore, since we have just answered to the question why should we have morning worship with our children, from this point on make the most of the abundance of resources<sup>2</sup> about what could be done during these precious minutes.

<sup>1</sup>EG.White, “Counsels for parents, educators and students”, p. 108

<sup>2</sup> <https://thetuis.tv/workbooks/tuis-23-family-projectile.pdf>, <https://ministry-to-children.com/family-worship/>; <https://digitalcommons.andrews.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1048&context=christian-ministry-pubs>; <https://thetuis.tv/>

## CREATIVE WORSHIP IDEAS FOR BUSY FAMILIES

### Put God First

#### Bible Connection

"You shall have no other gods before me" (Exodus 20:3).

#### Things you need:

- A plastic container
- A collection of rocks and small stones. One must be much bigger than the others, but it must fit inside the plastic container in such a way that if you don't put it in first, it will be hard to get it in.
- Permanent marker pens and white sticky labels.
- Gold cardstock and craft supplies to make and decorate a crown.

#### Worship activities

1. Read the Bible verse and discuss why God wants us to put Him first in our lives. What happens when we don't put Him first?
2. Take the large rock and let your children write "God" on it. Then pick up
3. Pick up the smallest stones and write on them some of the things that can distract us from putting God first, such as TV, computers, games, sport, hobbies, shopping, etc.
4. Take the plastic container and ask your children to put the smallest stones in first. Add all the small stones, even if you haven't written on them. Then add the larger stones, and finally try to fit the "God" rock into the container. Check in advance that it won't fit!
5. Talk about what's wrong. Then fill the container again, putting the "God" rock in first, then add the smaller rocks, and finally the smallest stones.
6. Make a crown together to show that God is King of your lives.
7. As you work on the crown, think about the ways you can make sure God is

the larger stones and write on them the other important things in your life, such as work, school, family, and friends.



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first in your lives. Write them on the inside of the crown or on sticky labels that can be placed inside the crown.

#### Prayer

Give each person a stone. Pray silently that God will help you let go of the things that prevent Him being first in your lives. Then drop your stones in a garbage can. Pass the crown around the circle. Invite each person to pray that God will be King of their lives.

## Experiment #8: The Hidden Message

This experiment can be used for illustrating almost any topic. It involves a white piece of paper that will show a hidden message when touched by a flame. The message can be a short word (such as God, Love, Jesus, Sin...) or a simple drawing (cross, heart, Christian fish symbol...). You can choose and prepare the message according to your topic.

**Materials:** Thick paper, potassium nitrate, water, cup, cotton swabs, disposable aluminum tray, metal grid (larger than the tray).

**Time:** 15-30 minutes for preparation, 5 minutes for the experiment.

**Safety warning:** 1) This experiment uses fire so it should be performed at safe distance from children and following appropriate safety precautions. 2) The combustion of the potassium nitrate produces some smoke, so it is better to do the experiment outdoors or in a well ventilated area.

**Values:** God's love, Jesus' sacrifice, Christianity, spiritual gifts, the problem of sin...

### Procedure (preparation):

1. Make a saturated potassium nitrate solution. Pour a small amount of warm water (40 ml) into the cup and add a table spoon of potassium nitrate. Mix it until most of the salt dissolves. It is fine if some potassium nitrate remains undissolved at the bottom.
2. Dip a cotton swab (or paint brush) into the solution and use it to write a message on the paper. Tips: 1) Start the message or design at the edge of

- the paper. If possible, try to finish it at the opposite edge of the paper. 2) The message must be continuous; the letters must be connected. 3) Retrace the message two or three times. 4) Use short words or simple designs. 5) Try to avoid very angular words or drawings, round designs work better.
3. Let the paper dry completely. If you are in a rush, use a hair dryer with cold air.

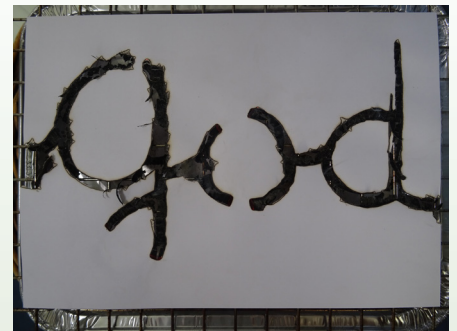
### Procedure (Experiment):

4. Place the metal grid on top of the aluminum tray. It is important to have at least a small space (1 cm) between the metal grid and the bottom of the tray.
5. Touch the edge of the paper (where the word/drawing starts), with the flame of a lighter. If the design reaches the other edge of the paper, you can ignite both ends.
6. Place the paper horizontally on the metal grid. The message will ignite until it is completely revealed, the rest of the paper will remain intact.

**Note:** This experiment is a little tricky. You will probably need to try it a few times at home before performing it in front of an audience.

### The Science Behind the Experiment:

Potassium nitrate ( $KNO_3$ ) is a strong oxidizer. When heated above  $400^\circ C$  (with the flame), it breaks down and releases oxygen that reacts with the paper producing carbon dioxide, water, charcoal and ash.



Noemi Duran  
Geoscience Research Institute  
Director of the European  
Branch Office



## REFUGEE SUPPORT PROGRAM

### SDA Church in Mödling, Austria

About ten years ago, we had a large home for asylum seekers in our town and the social welfare office in Mödling approached the community with the request to take up study tutorials for refugee kids.

Our family was one of those who offered their help and so we started to supervise four children from Chechenia and Afghanistan. We assisted them with learning German, doing their homework and preparing for exams and tests. Several other refugee families got to know about our tutorial lessons and asked us if we could also help their children. So we transferred our support program to the Adventist Church in Mödling and from

that time on we have been offering free extra tuition two afternoons a week.

We are very grateful for the joyful support of many volunteers. There are approximately 15 children and teenagers who are attending these afternoon lessons. Most of them are originally from Afghanistan, some from Syria. Especially the kids from Afghanistan didn't have the opportunity to attend school in their home country. So they not only face the challenge to learn a new language but also to cope with subjects like Maths and History. It is a great joy for us volunteers when the kids can obtain good grades and get the possibility to go on with high school or a vocational training school.

The families really appreciate our help because they could never afford costly tutorial lessons. During the holidays, we make trips with the kids and show them the beautiful nature in our vicinity. Many precious friendships resulted from this tutorial program and we are thankful for the opportunity to share Gods love with these refugee families.







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# TURBOCHARGE

*your Children's Ministry*

## Burnout Blues!

Unless you have a strategic plan, the “Relentless Return of the Sabbath” can have your volunteers singing the burnout blues. We jokingly say that church choirs are full of AWOL children’s workers. Here are some ways to help your volunteers avoid the burnout blues:

### Place them where they are gifted.

Nothing leads to burnout faster than people trying to serve where they are not gifted. Serving will quickly become a dread which will lead to them dropping out. Take time up front to help volunteers find their gift mix, and place them in a position that is a good fit for them.

### Set a definite time period to

**serve.** Many people think if they serve in children’s ministry they will be tossed in a classroom, the door will be locked behind

them, and they’ll never be allowed out again. Ask people to serve for a specific time frame.

**Teach them to serve from the overflow.** Burnout occurs when people are trying to serve from an empty spiritual tank. Teach people to fill their spiritual tanks and serve from the overflow of what God is doing in their lives.

**Ask them to serve in only one area.** Every church has a few. They walk around with an S on their shirts. They are super volunteers and are so committed that they serve in several ministries simultaneously. The problem is that after awhile, the S falls off their shirts and they aren’t serving anywhere. They over-commit and burn out. Encourage your volunteers not to serve in multiple areas.

**Give them time off.** When volunteers feel like they can’t take a Sabbath off, it can lead to burnout. Volunteers should be able to take a Sabbath off when needed. We ask our volunteers to be here at least 85 percent of the time during the school year. That’s 34 out of 40 weeks, meaning they can take off six weeks if needed. Build a strong enough team so when people are gone, your ministry doesn’t miss a beat.

**Have them serve in community.** Serving alone can lead to burnout, but serving with a community of friends can be energizing. When you see volunteers developing close friendships, it’s a great sign of team health. They will be there to encourage one another when someone gets weary.

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

## WAYS TO PARENT HAPPY CHILDREN

### Happy and confident: Skills for life (1)

Some of the most rewarding moments for parents are when they teach their children skills that will stay with them for life: skills that will help them lead useful, productive, healthy, creative and happy lives. You might think you’re not a good teacher, but you probably taught your child a thousand things before he or she started school: how to put on their shoes; how to talk; how to make their bed; how to tidy their toys away; how to eat a banana; how to clean their teeth; and hundreds of other things. If you made a list of all the skills you’ve taught your child, it would be very long!

### Parenting—preparation for life

Parenting isn’t just about looking after your children when they’re young, and keeping them safe and healthy. Wise parents, who care about their children’s long-term happiness, look to the future and prepare their children to be respected, capable, confident,

loving, kind and hard-working adults.

The skills your child needs to prepare them for life will be different depending on where you live. A child in a city with a complex transport system needs different skills from a child who lives on a farm, or by the sea.

### Benefits from teaching your child like skills

Teaching any useful skill to your child, in a fun, relaxed and encouraging way, has many positive effects on their life. Life skills will:

- Build their confidence
- Help them to feel good about themselves
- Enable them to help you
- Save them money
- Prepare them to manage their own home
- Protect them from harm and acci-



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dents—because they will know how to fix things and use tools safely

- Give them the deep satisfaction of doing ‘adult’ tasks on their own
- Enable them to help others
- Develop some skills they’ll need for their future employment
- Give them the joy of doing a job well, and being a useful and capable member of society

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



# ACTIVITY REPORT



## News of the Austrian Union

### Vacation Bible School in Vienna

#### Did you WOW today?

*BE AMAZED* was the motto of this year's Vacation Bible School in a small SDA church in the suburbs of Vienna. For over 40 years, this church has been organizing a colorful and special program for kids, aged 5-15, in the last week of summer break. Back then 30 kids per day attended, now up to 90 kids come every day. The majority of kids (80%) are non-Adventists and find out about the event through distribution of flyers and posters, our homepage or word of mouth recommendation by excited children.

Monday through Friday, the kids are waiting in front of the door early on, in order not to miss our fun competitions at 08.45. Each day they start the day accomplishing 10 exciting and challenging activities, which require skill, creativity, teamwork and commitment. Most of all it is FUN, though! After this energetic start, all kids meet to sing rousing Christian songs and watch an entertaining skit introducing the daily theme. This year the kids were confronted with WOW moments which left them amazed! Afterwards, we split up into six groups by age where each day another aspect of this year's motto was discovered. The goal was to help them understand that all the AMAZING things created in this world can

be traced back to an AMAZING God who is revealing himself and teaching us about him. It was our ambition to have a practical approach where the spiritual input comes alive for the kids through word, pictures and action. It became clear to them, it needs time, an open heart and open eyes to be amazed. Nowadays even kids have trouble with that, but by the end of the week, they were all MASTERS in BEING AMAZED.

After so much talking and thinking, one gets hungry and so we have a yummy snack followed by crafting and sports. The kids switch doing a different cool craft work each day or fun sports games. This year we crafted our own rubber stamps, created multi-functional pinboards, made fun games out of self-painted stones, formed squishy anti-stress-balls and designed cloth with tie-dye. The day ends at 12.30 with delighted and exhausted kids eager to come again.

Our dedicated and experienced team is made up of professionals from various fields (teachers, psychologists, nurses, social workers,..) as well as (grand)parents and students. The common characteristic is the heart for children and the joy of telling them about Christ. All help comes from volunteers who want to make sure that socially disadvantaged kids can also attend. Therefore, the event is free of charge and sponsored by the local

church and donations.

The week concludes in our traditional farewell party, which takes place the following Sunday. The kids invite their parents and friends to present the theme of the week, sing together, show their amazing artwork and look at pictures and videos from the week. This year's eventful Vacation Bible School was attended by 103 children and left us all in AMAZEMENT filled by all the wonderful gifts of our AMAZING God – his creation, our life, human capacities, God's love and grace, hope of a new life with Him. We were amazed at how GOD can work through us to fill these children with WOW moments that bring them closer to Him. A 7-year-old girl summed up the week saying: "Vacation Bible School is a trace to God!" Isn't that AMAZING! All praise be to HIM!



### L17—Learn to Guide Kids to God

A weekend full of fellowship, education and fun! Young adults between 14 and 22 spend time together, to learn how to inspire children to choose a life with Jesus! Also, they will experience the beauty of using their gifts and talents to serve God!

We experienced:

Spiritual growth:

- We engaged in the story of Daniel and his friends, and Joseph; learned from their experience and at the same time tried new, creative methods how to study the bible more effectively. Which questions would I like to ask Joseph? How can I change the text, so that the important aspects will catch

the reader's eye instantaneously? Which positive facets are included in the text?

- We realized the importance of pressing the "pause button" in difficult situations, through the example of Joseph and his brothers. We are not merely subjected to all stimulations and distractions of the world, but we can decide ourselves how we react to them.
- We learned that even though we all have different personalities, we can work together effectively, just as a body needs all its parts to function, we also need the abilities of every single one in order to be successful.

Joyful fellowship

- We have turned from many different in-

dividuals to one cheerful group, who was inseparable even during the meals, where we joined at one big table for fellowship.

- Later in the evening, some of us enjoyed playing the game "Personality", which helped getting to know each other even better.
- We practiced to tell the stories of the bible in a creative, varied and exciting manner, which is appropriate for children. The children who will experience this new way of listening to bible stories can count themselves lucky!

Activate brain cells

- We spent time together, thinking, tinkering and testing how we can get the



# ACTIVITY REPORT



## News of the Austrian Union

water out of a bottle into a glass using only rubber bands and a cord.

- We found out that children of different ages also have different needs when it comes to Sabbath school. That there are many possibilities to give children an understanding of the bible and Jesus, that they get to know Jesus as their friend and implement his advice into their lives.
- We planned Sabbath school lessons and looked at age appropriate methods, so that we can convey our intended message successfully.

### Physical needs

- We enjoyed amazing food. In the morning, at noon and in the evening we had a buffet! The huge pile of pancakes for 22



people should receive a special mention at this point!

- We tested out different games on a sunny day, where we not only activated our circulatory system but also improved our team-working skills and trained our muscles used for laughing!
- Finally, we worked together to clean the house and leave it in a spotless condition!

In the book Education, E.G. White talks about the importance of keeping a balance between spiritual, social, mental and physical education during the coinage of children

And last but not least, this was not an end in itself but we did this weekend with the intention to serve others; to serve the children in our church.



And the joy of serving is the core of our concept of education.



## Keep in Mind

EVENTS FROM THE INTER-EUROPEAN DIVISION

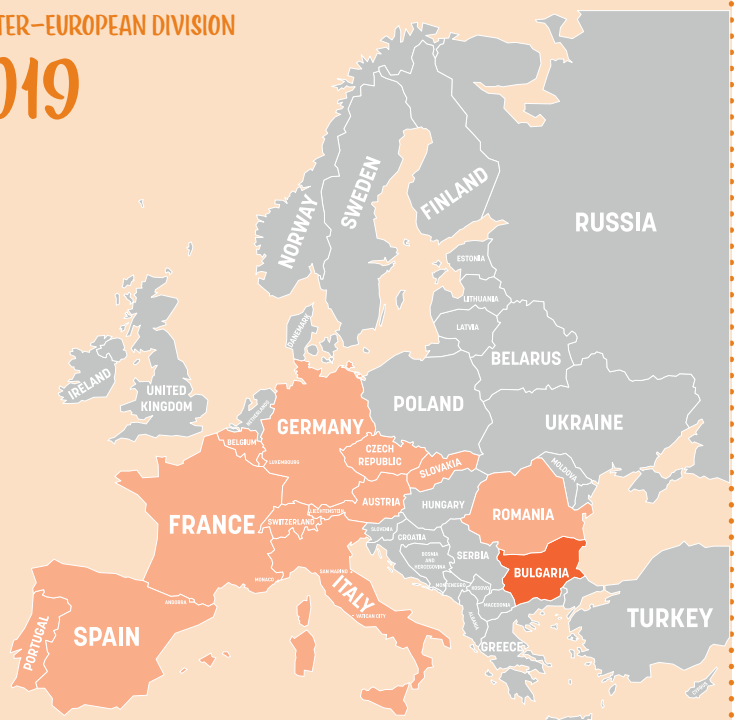
# 2019



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HELP US GET TO 1 MILLION SIGNATURES



# Discipleship necessitates a Teachable Spirit

Little boys grow up playing baseball with the big dream of making it to the professional league some day. A very small percentage of boys actually see that dream realized. However, upon arriving at their first big league ball practice—they suddenly discover that they still have coaches. In fact, they have more coaches as a professional than they did when they were playing at lower levels. They still are required to practice the fundamentals of the game. In short, professional baseball players never reach a place where they arrive at full development, knowledge, and wisdom so that they do not require a coaching staff.

The best athletes are those who always keep a teachable spirit and are willing to make necessary adjustments as they continue to develop even as a professional player. One of the most discouraging things to watch is someone who has a massive amount of talent, but they suffer from the “know it all” syndrome which plagues them and consistently holds them back.

Within the church, we must approach discipleship with a teachable spirit. First of all, the members of the church are placed under the leadership of pastors for the purpose of spiritual development. In Ephesians 4, Paul wrote these words to the church in Ephesus (and the surrounding cities):

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge

of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and for by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes (Eph. 4:11-14).

Notice the language of equipping, building up, unity of the faith, attaining knowledge, and mature manhood. This is the process of discipleship. As a disciple (which means learner) develops, he or she is able to avoid the traps of the wicked one which may include temptations to sin or temptations to embrace false teaching. If a Christian ever arrives at a place where he or she believes that the church is not necessary or that they've arrived at a level of knowledge that's superior so they don't need the teaching ministry of local church pastors—they've arrived in a very dangerous place. The “know it all” syndrome plagues and hinders Christians too—not just budding baseball players.

Another thing to remember about discipleship is that teachers need to be disciplined too. One of the great joys of my life has been to see our church embrace an eldership that involves the preaching of fellow pastors on Sunday evenings that allows me to sit under the preaching of the Word on a regular basis. It's important for me to learn too. God's blueprint for the local church is critically important and a plurality of elders who oversee the church is vitally important for the development of a pastor's spiritual growth. A “know it all” pastor is dangerous! Remember what Paul said to

the Ephesian elders when he called them to himself before his departure:

You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house (Acts 20:18-20).

In Psalm 119, the psalmist makes a statement that's really a picture of discipleship 101. He writes the following in Psalm 119:12-13:

*Blessed are you, O LORD; teach me your statutes! With my lips I declare all the rules of your mouth.*

Notice how the psalmist prays to the LORD to teach him his statutes. In return, the psalmist commits to teaching the rules of God. If you know much about Psalm 119, all of the synonyms such as rules, statutes, testimonies, and commands are pointing to the sufficiency of God's Word. Interestingly enough, long before Acts 1:8 or Matthew 28:18-20 was uttered and eventually penned down—we find a simple blueprint for discipleship. We are to be consistently learning God's Word in order that we can teach others. Discipleship involves making disciples who go and make disciples who make disciples.

Are you a know it all? Do you suffer from a lack of teachability? Don't hinder your growth and your ability to make disciples for the glory of God.

by Josh Buice

From: [www.deliveredbygrace.com/discipleship-necessitates-a-teachable-spirit/](http://www.deliveredbygrace.com/discipleship-necessitates-a-teachable-spirit/)

## RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Also available:  
Companion CD



### UNLOCKING CHILDREN'S HEARTS for Intimacy with God Linda Mei Lin Koh

This book was created especially for children's leaders who want ideas for organizing prayer conferences for children. Try out the prayer stations with the kids. Get them excited about the prayer walks. Inspire them to have TAG (Time Alone with God) every day! May their little hearts respond to the loving Jesus who is their Forever Friend.



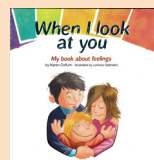
### STEPS TO CHRIST Activity Book Saustin Sampson Mfune

This book is based on the book Steps to Christ by Ellen G. White. Each chapter includes a summary of the original chapter's content and several activities to help the young reader grasp the main ideas. Although it has been prepared with the elementary age group in mind, all ages will enjoy navigating through the activities of this book. This interactive approach gives a new way of enjoying a book which has been translated into more than 165 languages, with several million copies in print. It is suitable for family worship, schools, Sabbath activities, Children and Youth Camps, and other settings.



### FISH DON'T NEED SNORKELS Karen Collum

Fish don't need snorkels. Elephants don't need drinking straws. And giraffes definitely don't need ladders. Through delightful illustrations and simple text, your toddler will learn that God made each animal just right. And he made every boy and girl just right, too. This book is a wonderful reminder of something every toddler needs to know—"God made you in his image. And he loves you just the way you are."



### WHEN I LOOK AT YOU. My book about feelings Karen Collum

A smiling mouth, a frowning mouth. Bright eyes, crying eyes. Jumping feet, stomping feet. Excited? Nervous? Angry? Help your child understand and name their feelings (even the tricky ones) with this read-together book. Complete with relevant Bible texts and engaging illustrations, this book is a must for every parent's toolbox.



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