

# HIS CHILDREN

PUBLISHED BY THE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY OF CALVARY CHAPEL OF COSTA MESA

## *From My Heart ...*

### *Weary And Tired?*

Have you been feeling weary and tired? Maybe it's time for a foot check. Now I don't mean, go and make an appointment with a podiatrist (foot Dr.). But what I do mean is, it might be time to check whose feet you are sitting at.

Jesus said, "*Come to Me all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*" (John 11:28) Sometimes we can get so involved with doing "other things" for the Lord and in doing so we squeeze out our time with the Lord. And at that point we will become weary.

It's the love of Christ which compelled each of us to the ministry He has given us. That compelling can diminish when our time at the feet of Jesus diminishes. The question each

of us need to ask is, am I regularly in fellowship, am I going to Bible studies, do I have that time set aside each day to spend with the Lord?

We can make so many appointments each day and sometimes in doing so we squeeze out our appointment with the Lord. And then little by little, we become weary and heavy laden and start to question whether we should even be in ministry.

*"Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her*

*to help me."* And Jesus answered and said to her, "*Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.*" (Luke 10:38-42)

Yes, the Lord is pleased that we are serving Him, but He desires that we would not become distracted so much that we don't enter in to "that good part" of spending time with Him. We need to purpose in our hearts (make an appointment) to be at the feet of Jesus. As you spend time each day with the Lord, may His love come flowing forth through each of your lives to those around you.

God bless each and everyone of you in Jesus' name!

## GETTING TO KNOW YOU ...

### **Sunday Morning First Service Children's Ministers**

*(Note: There are other faithful servants who were unable to attend this photo session.)*

## CM Announcements and Volunteer Needs ...

June 1	<p><b><u>Baptism at Pirates Cove</u></b>                  This is the first baptism of the summer at Pirates Cove in Corona Del Mar. Please announce to the children in your class!</p>
June 23	<p><b><u>Children moving to the next grade</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This will be your first week with your new class!</li> </ul>
June 24-28	<p><b><u>Junior Camp</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For children entering 4th through 6th grades at Calvary's Youth Camp near Green Valley! A life-changing experience as the children draw closer to the Lord through Bible studies and other fun activities!! If you have children in this age group, please pray about their participation.</li> <li>• Please pray about serving as a Camp Counselor -- you will be blessed!! Sign up in the CM Office.</li> <li>• There will be a meeting for potential counselors and support staff on <b><u>June 1st</u></b>. Please check in the CM Office.</li> </ul>
July 15-19	<p><b><u>Vacation Bible School</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For children kindergarten through 6th grade. A great opportunity for children to bring unsaved friends and neighborhood children.</li> <li>• Sign up in the CM Office to teach or help out.</li> </ul>
July - August	<p><b><u>Family Camps</u></b>                  Each camp session is held from Sunday through Saturday at Twin Peaks. Sign up in the CM Office if you would desire to minister to the children during the adult Bible study sessions.</p>
	<p><b><u>Seeking Volunteers in CM Office</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you have time during the day and would like to help, please see Pastor Larry.</li> </ul>
To Be Announced	<p><b><u>CM Summer Fellowship and Potluck</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Date and place to be announced. Please look for flyer which will be coming out.</li> <li>• A great way to meet and better know your fellow Children's Ministers!!</li> </ul>

### Drawing Near To God In Prayer ...

There is so much that we can learn from Jesus' many teachings and examples on prayer. As Jesus prayed to the Father in the Garden of Gethsemane shortly before His arrest and crucifixion [John 17], He continued to show that servant's heart -- He prayed that the Father would be glorified, He prayed for His disciples, and He prayed for *us* ("... *those who will believe in Me ...*").

As God's servants ministering to His children, let us also have that desire for Him to be glorified in our lives and in the lives of those children He has placed in our care. For God to be glorified in our lives, we need to know Him and His will for our lives. But how can we know Him? James 4:8 tells us to "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you ..." We develop that close friendship and intimacy with God by *drawing near to Him in prayer*.

As we pour out our hearts to God, He will reveal more of His nature and plan for our lives through His word -- He will bring it to our remembrance and He will reveal Himself to us. One teacher shared that for the longest time, he wanted to know the

children in his class better but had a hard time doing so because he only saw them once a week. Another children's minister suggested that the teacher should pray for the children in his class! "I wasn't sure how praying for the children was going to help me get to know them better but it certainly did," the teacher remarked later.

As you pray for the children in your class during the week, the Lord will give you such a heart for them and you will find yourself drawing closer to the Lord and to the children. You will have an increased sensitivity to God's nature and also to the character of the children and what motivates them. Paul writes in Philippians 3:10 "... *that I may know Him and power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death ...*" Let us all seek to know Him better and to share with the children what the "power of His resurrection" means to us! Psalm 73:28 reaffirms that as we draw near to the Lord, He will help us to declare His works to the children. "*But it is good for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the Lord God, that I may declare all Your works.*"

**To Glorify God ...**

Have you ever found yourself wondering after class “Why am I here? I don’t think a single word sank in!!” Those attending the Children’s Ministry Seminar on March 16 were encouraged as Pastors Don McClure and David Rosales exhorted us to be strong, diligent vessels consecrated unto the Lord.

They shared that we’re ministering to children because God has placed that burden in our hearts! *“For the love of Christ constrains us ...”* (2 Corinthians 5:14) -- we have been touched by God’s love first and, in turn, we have this “burden” to share His love with others, especially the children in our classes! This “burden” of ministry, however, is not a weight -- it’s a joy and a blessing!!

Those in attendance came in cars, vans, and buses from California, Arizona, and Nevada -- united in a common purpose: to glorify God through their ministry to children. It was a tremendous day of encouragement, fellowship, and practical training!!

Sometimes we may feel we don’t have the resources or the ability to

minister but God is our resource and our strength. *“... Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord of Hosts.”* (Zechariah 4:6) Indeed it is God’s Spirit that gives us love for His children!

We were exhorted to pray for each other and to pray for the children in our classes. And as we pray, the Lord will give us that love and understanding for each child.

In addition to prayer, we need to prepare ourselves through the study of His word: *“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”* (2 Timothy 2:15)

Pastors Don McClure and David Rosales both shared of experiences in their early ministry years when they were not fully aware of the profound and far reaching effect that the planting of God’s word could have on young people’s lives. Both of them related how years down the road, young people they had ministered to earlier, returned to tell them how God had used their faithfulness to impact their lives!! [“I’ve led hundreds to the Lord, so now you’re a grandpa!!” a former

Sunday School student told Don McClure!]

As the children’s ministers left for the day, they were enthusiastic about how God had revitalized their hearts through the special guest speakers and the practical classes -- *“For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, you are God’s building.”*

*(1 Corinthians 3:9).*

Like Nehemiah, may each of you continue to be “wall builders” planting the Word of God in the children’s hearts and thus establishing the solid foundation for the future!

**Scripture Corner ...**

**Cure For Captivity**

*“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. I will be found by you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back from your captivity.”*  
*(Jeremiah 29:11-14)*

**CHARACTERISTICS OF CHILDREN ...**

*“How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them!”* (Psalm 139:17) The reassurance that God loves and continually thinks about us, His children, is something that He wants us to show to the children in our classes. Children love for us to pay attention to them as they share their knowledge and experiences. Let’s try to ask each one how their week went and to stop whatever we’re doing to pray for them when they’re hurting.

Children six to seven years old especially respond to that pat on the shoulder or when we call them by name or take notice of their hair, clothing, or shoes. Children of this age may initially be shy but warm up when we walk over to talk to them and let them know that they are special!

Some things to consider for this age group are:

- Many love to share prayer requests.
- Many are able, and willing, to pray themselves.
- This age group can readily understand that God cares about their needs and is able to help them.
- As they receive the salvation message, they begin to recognize their responsibility for their spiritual walk.
- They are very capable of sharing during discussions.
- This is a great age for action games and songs.
- Many in this age group enjoy leading worship.
- Children in this group enjoy interaction and question and answer activities/games.
- This age group responds well when activities are varied.

**More ANECDOTES ...**

***His Hands***

His hands which span the universe,  
Potter's hands molding us,  
Hands that broke the bread for the multitude,  
His hands which gave sight to the blind man,  
Hands stretched to heal the leprous man,  
Hands that washed His disciples' feet,  
His hands pierced by nails to the cross,  
Reassuring us -- we're in His hands!!

**More GETTING TO KNOW YOU ...**

**Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday Evening Children's Ministers**

*(Note: There are other faithful servants who were unable to attend this photo session.)*

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## Making the Lesson Come Alive -- The Heavy Burden of Sin

### Scripture Reference:

*"There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the spirit." (Romans 8:1)*

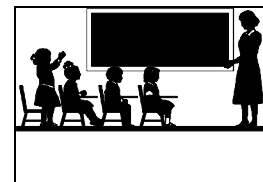
### Materials Needed:

1. Six to seven cans of food (any kind) covered with contact paper.
2. Label each can using 3 x5" index cards (or regular paper) taped to each can.
3. On each label, write down a sin (e.g., stealing, lying, cheating, disobeying, mean, selfish, etc.).
4. One backpack (hidden from view).

### Object Lesson:

1. Discuss with children how all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.
2. Place the backpack on a volunteer and place several cans in the backpack.
3. Talk to the children about how God loved the world and sent His Son to die for the sins of the world. Thus, He took upon His shoulders the heavy burden of all our sins represented by the weight of the cans.
4. Discuss salvation [this could be a lesson on its own]. Discuss how we continue to sin, even as Christians.
5. Pick up the can labeled "selfish" and place it in the backpack. Make the statement, "I am not going to share my treat/toys."
6. Continue until all the cans are placed in the backpack.
7. Discuss with the class the heavy burden of sin weighing our spirits down. The only way to lift the burden is to confess our sins to God and ask for forgiveness.
8. As you lift each "sin" out of the backpack, pray for forgiveness: "Lord, I'm sorry I was so selfish and would not share. Please forgive me. I will share with others."
9. The children will really get involved with this object lesson! At the end, let them come up and feel the heavy weight of the backpack loaded with "sin".

## Bible Password Game



### Rules:

1. Divide class into two or more groups.
2. Select one child from each group to sit in a chair with his/her back to the white/chalk board facing his/her group.
3. The teacher will start by writing on the board a word selected from the Bible or from your lesson.
4. Each group will take turns providing a one-word clue to the child on their team who is facing away from the board. The one-word clue cannot be a form of the word that is on the board (e.g., "fish" for *fisherman*)
5. The child whose back is to the board will attempt to guess the word on the board based on previous clues and/or the clue provided by his/her team mates.
6. Clues are given until the word on the board has been guessed.
7. The child who guesses the word on the board will have the opportunity to put the next word on the board.
8. Change the children who are sitting in the chairs after each word.
9. You can start off with easy words like Bible, Jesus, cross, love, etc.
10. Have a child write the clues on the board and repeat them when needed so that the children who are sitting in the chairs can put all of the clues together.

## Fun Activity -- Names and Titles of Jesus!

### Materials Needed:

1. White board and dry erase markers **-or-** large sheet of white chart/butcher paper and regular markers (use different colors)

### Activity:

Ask children to write names and titles of Jesus on the white board or chart paper. The children can use their Bibles, song sheets, or even get their parents involved [if the game is still in progress when the parents arrive]. As each child thinks of a name and/or title of Jesus, have everyone say it aloud and praise God!

Jesus	Wonderful
Light Of The World	
Good Shepherd	Door

## Making the Lesson Come Alive -- An Imaginary Journey

### Scripture Reference:

*"Then he commanded them to make them all sit down in groups on the green grass. So they sat down in ranks, in hundreds and in fifties."* Mark 6:39-40

### Materials Needed:

1. Pictures from different scenes from the Bible drawn on large construction paper **-or-** large picture flash cards (available in CM Office).

### Object Lesson:

1. As you tell your Bible story, help the children "paint a mental picture" of the story and the people involved. Use the pictures to help the children visualize the people, the land, and the culture of the time. Take the children on an "imaginary journey" to visit that time and place. For example, let's visit the sights and sounds where Jesus fed the five thousand.
2. The people followed Jesus and His disciples to a deserted place. They were far away from any town or city. All that was around them were probably rolling, grassy hills and, perhaps, a few trees. [Show the class pictures of a deserted place far away from civilization. Ask them what they might see and hear. There may be a gentle breeze as the sun is setting; there may be the sound of crickets since it's late in the day; there may be the low murmur of the crowd.]
3. The people were in such a hurry to see Jesus that all they brought were the clothes on their backs. One little boy, however, brought a little basket containing five loaves of bread and two fish. [Show picture(s) of all the people and the boy holding a basket containing five loaves of bread and two fish. Ask the children how they might have felt if they had been there all day with nothing to eat.]
4. Jesus knew that they were too far away to buy food for the people. [Ask the children whether they can see any places where they can find food.]
5. It was customary for the disciples and the people to stand while Jesus taught them. Jesus had them sit down in groups of 100 or of 50 so they could be served. [Have the children sit on the floor in small groups of 5. Have them imagine five thousand people sitting in groups of hundreds and fifties.]
6. Jesus looked up to heaven, blessed and broke the bread and gave them to His disciples to pass out to each group. They took up twelve baskets full of fragments left over. [Show children pictures of the twelve baskets and discuss how God cares and provides.]

