

# HIS CHILDREN

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

## *From My Heart ...*

Many times as I talk with those who are involved in the Children's Ministry, the subject will come up pertaining to whether they are really *needed* in this ministry. Have you ever had any of these thoughts? Thoughts like, "You know, I don't think I'm really needed," or "Someone else could teach a lot better than I do," or "I've been doing this thing of teaching too long," or ... you can fill in the next thought.

These thoughts tend to be so simple and natural that they seem to be our own thoughts. Are they? Where did these thoughts originate from? We need to be "*Casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.*" (II Corinthians 10:5).

I believe the answer to the question of where these thoughts come from can be found in the understanding of what is happening when someone says, "Yes, Jesus, I want to be used. I'll go and teach the little ones."

We're told in the scriptures, "... The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth labourers into His harvest." (Matthew 9:37-39)

It's the Lord's harvest, and every time someone is willing to step out and be used by God as a "worker," it is pleasing to the Father. But as people step out to do the Lord's work, the enemy comes against it because Satan does not want us to follow God.

As Nehemiah purposed in his heart to rebuild the wall, we read about Tobiah the Ammonite making fun of the work and ridiculing Nehemiah for trying to rebuild the wall. In Nehemiah 4:11 we read, "*And our adversaries said, 'They shall not know, neither see, till we come in the midst among them and slay them, and cause the work to cease.'*"

The enemy wants you to *fear*, he wants to *ridicule* the work, he wants to *discourage* you. The enemy is still at work. Don't buy into his lies. "... greater is He who is in you, than he that is in the world." (I John 4:4)

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand." (Ephesians 6:10-13)

## GETTING TO KNOW YOU ...

**Wednesday Evening Children's Ministers**

**Friday Evening Children's Ministers**

(Note: There are other faithful servants who were unable to attend these photo sessions.)

## CM Announcements and Volunteer Needs ...

David T. Moore Series (Friday Evenings)	<p><b><u>Additional CM Volunteers for David T. Moore Series</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If you are available and desire to assist in the ministering to the children during the “Love For A Lifetime” series on Friday evenings, please contact Barry Villines or the CM Office.</li> <li>Series dates are: 9/13, 9/20, 10/4, 10/25, 11/8, 12/7 (Saturday), 12/20, 12/27.</li> </ul>
Sept. 24 - Nov. 12	<p><b><u>Children’s Ministry Training</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An eight week training session for those desiring to serve in the Children’s Ministry. From 7-9 PM on Tuesdays.</li> <li>Practical study and application in areas of lesson preparation, creative story-telling, discipline, effective use of the curriculum, and many other topics of interest!</li> <li>Current Children’s Ministers are <u>always</u> welcome to attend for “refresher” training!!</li> </ul>
Oct. 19	<p><b><u>Story-Telling Seminar</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From 8:30 AM to noon. Practical ideas and hands-on application of story-telling techniques to enhance the presentation of your Bible lessons!! Please look for upcoming flyers!</li> </ul>
Nov. 15-17	<p><b><u>Children’s Ministry Retreat</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At the beautiful Murrieta Conference Center. We’re looking forward to a time of refreshment and encouragement!!</li> <li>For Children’s Ministers, support staff, Nursery staff &amp; their families. Please look for upcoming flyers and turn in sign-up slips to the CM Office.</li> </ul>
Nov. 19 -	<p><b><u>Children’s Ministry Training</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>New</u> training session begins!!</li> </ul>
Dec. 7	<p><b><u>Christmas Craft Seminar</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From 9 AM to noon. Great craft ideas for presenting and reinforcing the Christmas story!!</li> <li>A super time of fellowship and hands-on craft making!! Please look for upcoming flyers!</li> </ul>
Dec. 7	<p><b><u>Children’s Ministry &amp; Nursery Christmas Fellowship &amp; Potluck</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We’re looking forward to setting time aside from our busy schedules for fellowship and feasting with our fellow Children’s Ministers!!</li> <li>From 6 - 9 PM. Please look for upcoming flyers!</li> </ul>
Dec. 24	<p><b><u>Volunteers for Christmas Eve Children’s Ministry</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If you are available and would like to help on Christmas Eve, please see Pastor Larry.</li> </ul>
Dec. 31	<p><b><u>Volunteers for New Years’ Eve Service</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If you would like to minister to the children during the New Year’s Eve service, please see Pastor Larry.</li> </ul>
Weekdays	<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 in the office, please see Pastor Larry.</li> </ul>

### *Prayer ... An Attitude Of The Heart*

God’s word is so vivid as it describes prayer. We see prayer as an action: Nehemiah was “... *fasting and praying before the God of heaven*” (Nehemiah 1:4); Daniel “... *knelt down on his knees ... and prayed and gave thanks ...*” (Daniel 6:10); in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus “... *fell on the ground, and prayed ...*” (Mark 14:35).

As we reflect on God’s word, we note that prayer is also an attitude -- an attitude of the heart -- the desire for His will to be accomplished in our lives! In John 5:14, we are assured that “... *if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.*” In John 5:30, Jesus reinforces His desire to do His Father’s will: “... *I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.*”

Jesus also prayed for the believers “*that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.*” (John 17:21) But what does it mean that we would be one with the Father? Again, Jesus’ prayer reminds us that we should desire God’s will: “... *nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.*” (Luke 22:42) Prayer, then, is not to accomplish *our* desires but for the Lord’s will to be accomplished in our lives -- that we would be ONE in purpose with Him!

### *Scripture Corner ...*

*“Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy, meditate on these things.” Philippians 4:8*

*Encouraged By The Lord ...  
Adventures From Junior Camp*

I had always heard that to effectively minister to children, I needed to “get down to their level.” Little did I know that I would *literally* be getting down to the children’s level at Junior Camp when I awoke one morning with lower back spasms which left me doing a Quasimodo impression! (I was wondering if the Lord wanted me to spend time studying the book of Job!)

Other counselors had earlier “encouraged” me to serve at Junior Camp because they said it would be a “blessing I would long remember.” At this point, however, I was remembering, that I was far from *prepared* for this “experience.” At our pre-camp counselor meeting, we had discussed the possibility of homesickness, heat exhaustion, and other “adventures” to look forward to. By the second day of camp, my worst fears had come true when I realized I was the only one in my cabin who was *homesick*!!

After the initial set of devotions and Bible studies with our campers, I had thought to myself that it would be an uphill struggle for my campers to truly comprehend and practice “sowing to the spirit.” As the week went on, I realized that the Lord wanted ME to grow from this experience as well. I needed to “... *lift up my eyes to the hills -- from whence comes my help? My help comes from the LORD ...*” (Psalm 121:1-2)

Little did I know (better put, little do I know) that throughout the week, God was using Junior Camp to *encourage* me to serve Him more! Whether it was witnessing the staff loving and ministering to me and to each other, or seeing counselors letting God use them to minister to the kids, or being blessed by that great group of junior support staff (ages 11-15) giving their time to serve and minister to all the counselors and campers, I saw (and I know the campers noticed also) this group of individuals from diverse backgrounds serving together with a common desire: to serve Him through serving others!! It was a blessing seeing Romans 12:10-11 unfolding before me. “*Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love; in honor giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord ...*” It is my prayer that God will use me and my family to serve Him with the same heart!!

As the week went on, I continued to be blessed to see the Lord working in the campers’ hearts as they responded during the Bible studies and practiced examples of “sowing to the spirit.” As my campers drew closer to God, they also drew together as a “family.” “*For as we have many members in one body, but all members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another*” (Romans 12:4-5). Yes, Junior Camp is a blessing and an experience I will long remember!!

**CHARACTERISTICS OF CHILDREN ...**

The psalmist reminds us that “...*children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb is His reward.*” (Psalm 127:3) Children are our heritage and future and it is so gratifying to see them grow in the Lord and share their excitement about Jesus!

As we minister to children ten and eleven years of age, we note that they tend to be self-conscious yet desire to be recognized as individuals. The following are some characteristics to consider as we minister to children of this age:

- There is a difference in growth rates as girls often forge ahead

in height and weight. Boys still, however, tend to play “rougier” than girls.

- Children in this age group are beginning to recognize application of the Bible lesson to their individual lives.
- Many understand Biblical symbolism and want to tell friends about God.
- They enjoy competition but have a strong sense of “fairness” and can become upset, for example, when peers do not follow the rules of a game.

- Many enjoy the opportunity to express their individuality through class projects.
- Children of this age tend to be easygoing; class participation can be very stimulating for this age group.

In whatever age group the Lord has us ministering, let us continue to sow the seeds of God’s love. “...*One sows and another reaps. I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors.*” (John 4:37-38)

**“God Tells Me ...”**

*[The following is a fascinating testimony from a senior saint as retold by Romanian-based missionaries. This senior saint describes how God has been working in the lives of her countrymen even before the democracy movement in Eastern Europe.]*

“I had just come out of a market where I had spent my remaining money for groceries. I noticed a woman looking through the market window with a longing expression. Two small, poorly clothed children were clinging to her. They looked so pitiful and hungry, that I was overcome with compassion and gave the woman my bag of groceries. She thanked me but hurried away.

At home I fell on my knees and prayed for her. The more I prayed, the more God spoke to me to help her again. But I didn't know where she lived. A few days later, I saw her walking alone through town and secretly followed her to her house. While I was in prayer a week later, I felt compelled to take her some shoes. So I went to her house, knocked on the door, and when she answered, I handed the shoes to her. She looked surprised but took the shoes and thanked me. I didn't say a word to her; I just gave her the shoes. That's all the Lord wanted me to do. A few days later, the Lord impressed upon me to take her a child's sweater. I took the sweater to her house, but still didn't say anything to her about Jesus Christ. I just handed her the sweater and left.

Shortly after that, God impressed upon me to take her some handkerchiefs. So I did. Then one day while I was

in prayer, I *knew* I was to buy her some new underwear. They *had* to be brand-new. Again, I delivered them to her house. When she opened the door and saw me with another package, she seemed angry, but accepted it. When she looked inside, she began to cry but started to scold me. ‘Why do you come over here at night and listen to what my husband and I argue about?’ she demanded. Of course, I didn't know what she meant and asked her why she would think such a thing. She told me they were so poor because her husband was a heavy drinker and continually spent all the money he earned on alcohol.

One day as she was running to jump onto a moving street car, the woman had stepped out of one of her shoes. She couldn't jump off quickly enough and she never found the missing shoe. Those shoes were her only pair and that evening she pleaded with her husband to give her money to buy shoes. He was drunk as usual and cursed her. The very next morning I had brought her a pair of shoes which fit perfectly. Her eldest son was starting school but had no sweater. The weather was getting colder and she had begged her husband for money for a sweater. As usual, he refused but the next morning, I had brought her a warm child's sweater. Later, she and her children had colds, and she begged futilely for money to buy some handkerchiefs. The very next day I had brought the handkerchiefs.

After sharing her story with me, the woman asked, ‘If you weren't peeking in the windows and listening to what we said, then who tells you to bring these things-just when we needed them?’ ‘*God tells me,*’ I replied.”

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## Attention-Getting Teaching Ideas -- Children In The Bible

### Scripture Reference:

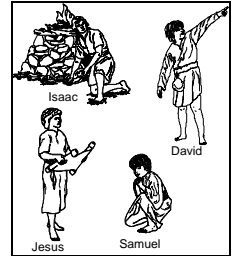
*“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.” (Proverbs 22:6)*

### Materials Needed:

1. Flannelgraph or large flash cards of children in the Bible.

**Objective:** Showing the relevance of the lives of children in the Bible to the children in your class

- This can be a lesson in itself or used periodically as a topic of interest.
- Use the natural interest and curiosity that children have about other children, especially those children of a different culture or from a different time period. Prepare a short narrative describing a child in the Bible and how God used each child for His glory!!
- Examples include:
  - a. Isaac - He was obedient as he allowed himself to be laid on the altar to be sacrificed; Isaac asked “... *but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?*” (*Genesis 22:7-9*)
  - b. Samuel - Even as a child, he ministered before the Lord. (1 Samuel 2:18); Samuel learned to listen to the Lord when he was a child and the Lord was with him (1 Samuel 3)
  - c. David - He was but a “youth” but the Lord delivered him from the hand of the giant Goliath (1 Samuel 20-51)
  - d. Jesus - when He was twelve years old, he was found in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers both listening to them and asking them questions; Jesus told His parents that He was about His Father’s business. (*Luke 2:40-50*)
  - e. A young boy - He had five barley loaves and two small fish which Jesus used to feed the five thousand. (*John 6:1-14*)



## Making The Lesson Come Alive -- Using A Diorama

### Scripture Reference:

*“And when they could not find how they might bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the housetop and let him down with his bed through the tiling into the midst before Jesus.” (Luke 5:19)*

### Materials Needed:

1. Medium-sized cardboard box cut so that it can be folded flat. The cardboard box will be used as a “diorama,” or portable stage.
2. Different background scenes which can be temporarily affixed to the back of the cardboard box stage.
3. Self-standing Bible characters on stiff paper. (e.g., disciples, Pharisees, Jesus, Mary & Joseph, John the Baptist, a paralytic on a bed)
4. One small table on which to place the diorama and characters.

### Sample Lesson Narrative:

1. Jesus was teaching and friends of a paralyzed man sought to bring the man to Jesus and lay him before Him.
2. There was such a crowd that the men could not get through.
3. The men decided to climb to the housetop and remove some tiles from the roof.
4. Slowly, the men lowered the paralyzed man right before Jesus.
5. When Jesus saw the men’s faith, He said to the paralyzed man: “Man, your sins are forgiven you.” (*Luke 5:20*)
6. The scribes and Pharisees ask: “Who can forgive sins but God alone?” (*Luke 5:21*)
7. Jesus told the paralyzed man to take up his bed and walk. The man took up his bed and departed to his own house, glorifying God.
8. All were amazed and glorified God!

